

RC QUARTERLY

WINTER 2017 / 2018

ISSUE 51

# RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

## Sharing the RC Community Involvement Experience



The Özbal Family Legacy | Class Reunions | 2017-18 Giving Campaign Kicks Off



# TO MAKE SURE YOU GET INTO YOUR DREAM SCHOOL, VISIT THE PRINCETON REVIEW TURKEY



## COUNSELING

OUR CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS TEACH STUDENTS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES FOR LANDING COMPETITIVE SCORES ON THE ACT, SAT, AND TOEFL. OUR EXPERIENCED COUNSELORS INFORM STUDENTS ABOUT UP-AND-COMING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, DESIGN RATIONAL APPLICATION STRATEGIES, AND CRAFT UNIQUE APPLICATION ESSAYS TO ENSURE THE BEST RETURNS FROM COLLEGE APPLICATIONS.



## COACHING

WE WORK TOGETHER WITH OUR STUDENTS AT EVERY STAGE OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS. STARTING FROM AS EARLY AS 9TH GRADE, THE PRINCETON REVIEW TURKEY OFFERS INTENSIVE ACADEMIC COACHING, ADVISING STUDENTS IN THEIR HIGH SCHOOL STUDIES ABOUT THE MOST FITTING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, STANDARDIZED TEST OPTIONS, AND SUMMER SCHOOL CHOICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR ACADEMIC GOALS.



## COMPETENCE

THANKS TO OUR STUDENT-ORIENTED APPROACH AND COLLABORATIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT RUN BY SEASONED ACADEMICS, THE PRINCETON REVIEW TURKEY HAS PLACED THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS INTO THE MOST COMPETITIVE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS IN THE US, UK, AND CANADA IN THE PAST 18 YEARS. TO BE PART OF THIS DYNAMIC AND RESULT-ORIENTED COMMUNITY, GET IN TOUCH WITH US ASAP.

Gökercan Göker L9 and fellow RC students learn organic lavender farming practices in Burdur



Photo: Aydan Erdin

# RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Alumni Journal published periodically by the RC Alumni & Development Office for approximately 10,000 members of the RC community: graduates, students, faculty, administration, parents and friends.

## In this issue



Learning to give back to others has always been at the heart of a Robert College education. The long-established community service tradition at the school continues to shape students by preparing them to take responsibility, lead others, and tackle tomorrow's social and environmental challenges.

In this issue, the RCQ focuses on how the community involvement program (CIP) has evolved in recent years. Students and faculty, grateful for the opportunities they gained through this initiative, sought ways to share their experience with others. The accumulated knowledge on how to set up and run community involvement projects is now available as an online resource that can be accessed by interested schools nationwide. Find out more in our cover story (p. 26).

Another wonderful example of giving back is the Özbâl Family Scholarship Fund that was set up this year. Read about the inspirational legacy of a Robert College family, and the way they chose to support the institution that has played such a transformative role in their lives (p. 12).

As always, we look forward to hearing from you. If you have comments on this issue or news you would like to share, please write us at [alumni@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:alumni@robcol.k12.tr)

Happy Reading!  
The RCQ Team

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Your feedback on the RCQ matters! Did you enjoy this issue? Write us at: [alumni@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:alumni@robcol.k12.tr)

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**Çeşit çeşit lezzet  
Yudum yudum sağlık!**





# RC Board Elects Jean Manas RC 83 as Chair



Jean Manas speaking at his Orta graduation in 1980



Jean Manas at the 2017 Graduation Ceremony

Nina J. Köprülü, who served as Board Chair from 2009 to 2017, was honored at a reception hosted by fellow Trustee Stephen Clement in November 2017.



**The Robert College Board** of Trustees announced Jean Manas RC 83 as new Chair in May 2017. His election marks a milestone as he is the first graduate of RC to serve in this capacity.

Manas started at RC in the fall of 1976 in Orta Prep. After graduating in 1983, he went on to Princeton where he got his BA from the Woodrow Wilson School and to Harvard Law School for his JD. He was an editor of the Harvard Law Review. After a few years practicing as a lawyer, he became an investment banker, initially at JP Morgan, then at Goldman Sachs and more recently at Deutsche Bank where he oversaw the M&A business in the Americas. In 2009, he founded and currently serves as CEO of Foros, a strategic financial and M&A advisory boutique in New York City, where he resides with his family.

Manas joined the RC Board in 2014 and has served on many of the Board's committees.



Group photo of Trustees taken during the May 2017 Board Meeting. **Back row, from L to R:** Jean Manas RC 83, Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62, Bill Williams RC YÜK 70, Stephen Clement, Ayşe Yüksel Mahfoud RC 87, Nedim Ölçer RC 76, Halis Komili RA 65, Patrick Dore, Emre Derman RC 84, Hakan Çevik RC 87. **Front row, from L to R:** Mark Butler, Üstün Ergüder RC 57, Kemal Aşkar RC 94, Şefika Pekin Barlas, Işık Keçeci Aşur RC 85, Nina J. Köprülü, Elif Bilgi Zapparoli RC 85, Kenan Şahin RA 60, İpek Cem Taha RC 85.



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# Kicking-off the 2017-18 Annual Giving Year

**At the Annual Giving Kick-off Dinner** held at Bizim Tepe on November 7, 2017, Robert College thanked its hard-working Class Agents and High Honor, Leadership Circle and College Council donors.

Trustee Advancement Committee Chair İpek Cem Taha RC 85, took the podium to talk about RC today and the value of engagement and community involvement.

One of the highlights of the evening was Headmaster Charles Skipper's announcement of the wonderful gift from the Özbal family of \$150,000 to establish the Özbal Family Endowed Scholarship Fund. "The roots of the Özbal family at RC are deep, and as Diane said to me yesterday, 'RC has touched and changed the lives of three generations of our family.'" (See the story of ties between the Özbal family and RC stretching back to 1931 on p. 12) Former English teacher Diane Özbal and Hadi Özbal RC YÜK 67 were present to receive an ovation for their generosity.

Also recognized on this evening were the award-winning class agents commended for their roles in Levels of Giving and Participation. Thanks to the efforts of the Class Agents and supportive alumni, there was a significant 22% increase in participation and 7% increase in giving from the previous year.

Last but not least, long-time member of the Alumni & Development Office, Sema Sarpman, was recognized and bid a happy retirement

in front of all those she had worked together with for many years: RC administration, donors and Class Agents, as well as Hasan Subaşı RA 61, the first co-chair of the Annual Giving campaign, who was on hand to present Sarpman with a gift in appreciation of her dedication over the years.



Hasan Subaşı RA 61, the first co-chair of the Annual Giving Campaign, and Sema Sarpman, who retired this fall after more than 30 years in the Development Office



Many RC Class Agents and donors convened at the end of the evening for a 2017-18 Kick-off memento. Center, in red is former English teacher Diane Özbal with Hadi Özbal RC YÜK 67 on her right. The Özbal family set up the new Özbal Family Endowed Scholarship Fund at RC.



RC 2000 showed they were in the running by placing 10<sup>th</sup> in Level of Participation. From L to R: Trustee Advancement Committee Chair İpek Cem Taha RC 85, RC 2000 graduates Alara Orhon Özşeker, Esra Yalçınalp and Zeynep Kayhan, and Headmaster Skipper.



ACG 67 Class Agent Gülçin Ülgezen (left) with ACG 68 Class Agents Selmin Altınordu (right) and Nimet Karan (in the background)



### LEVEL of PARTICIPATION

#### 1-RC 93

Class Agents:  
Can Önen

İrem Kızılviranlıoğlu Önen

#### 2-RC 91

Class Agents:  
Ahmet Alp  
Cüneyt Soydaş

#### 3-RC 76

Class Agents:  
Nedim Ölçer

Yasemin Palanduz Kahya

#### 4-RC 82

Class Agents:  
Damla Yaraş Birol  
Nahit Karslı Seçkin  
Yeşim Yağcı Silahtar

#### 5-ACG 67

Class Agents:  
Hüldan Gürsel Dereli  
Zühre Çubukçuoğlu  
Mısırlı  
Gülçin Ülgezen

#### 6-ACG 61

Class Agent:  
Leyla Batu Pekcan

#### 7-RA 61

Class Agent:  
Y. Aydın Bilgin

#### 8-RC 87

Class Agents:  
Burak Pekcan  
Gaye Erkuloğlu Tabağ

#### 9-RC 03 L12

Class Agents:  
Onur Eren  
Ayşen Nergiz

#### 10-RC 00

Class Agents:  
Zeynep Kayhan  
Alara Orhon Özşeker  
Esra Yalçınalp



Husband and wife team, RC 93 Class Agents Can and İrem Önen, pictured with Trustee Advancement Committee Chair İpek Cem Taha RC 85 and Headmaster Charles Skipper (center), won first prize in participation and 10<sup>th</sup> in level of giving



New Class Agents Onur Eren and Ayşen Nergiz put RC 03 L12 on the award-winning list for the 2016-17 campaign year



Alumni from the 80s hung out together, with Nahit Seçkin RC 82, Gülden Çelebi RC 81, Seval Subaşı RC 80, Yeşim Silahtar RC 82, Güney Akdora RC 82 and Damla Birol RC 82

Special recognition goes to ACG 55, led by Ayla Gümüşlügil, for their achievement in percentage of participation.

### LEVEL of GIVING

#### 1-RC 96

Class Agents:  
Orhan Ayanlar  
Erez Navaro

#### 2-RC 97

Class Agents:  
Özge Karadağ Çaman  
Emre Hatipoğlu  
Bora Tokyay

#### 3-RC 76

Class Agents:  
Nedim Ölçer  
Yasemin Palanduz Kahya

#### 4-RC 83

Class Agents:  
Emine Umur Çobanoğlu  
Pınar Boncuk Dayanıklı  
Serap Ebubekir Kantül  
Serra Mansur Soysal

#### 5-RC 94

Class Agents:  
Özen Bozçağa Bezirci  
Nevra Eker Güryel

#### 6-RC 85

Class Agents:  
Oya İnal  
Didem Soylu Muslu  
Bilge Yavuz Rızvani

#### 7-RC 88

Class Agents:  
Deniz Yıldız Edin  
Gülruh Tayan Turhan

#### 8-RC 91

Class Agents:  
Ahmet Alp  
Cüneyt Soydaş

#### 9-RC 87

Class Agents:  
Burak Pekcan  
Gaye Erkuloğlu Tabağ

#### 10-RC 93

Class Agents:  
Can Önen  
İrem Kızılviranlıoğlu Önen



# Class of 2017

## Heads Out into the World



**The 198 members** of the Class of 2017 were lauded by the school community, their families and friends during RC's 150<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony, on June 20, 2017 at Konak Terrace.

RC Trustee and parent Emre Derman RC 84 delivered the keynote speech, offering humorous predictions of the graduating class's future. Derman was introduced by RC Board Chair Jean Manas RC 83, who asked the graduates to look around at their classmates and to be aware that these are the people who will give them the most support throughout their lives.

Headmaster Charles Skipper told the students, "I know you have been given the tools of knowledge, of analysis, of empathy, of service, of reason, and of integrity to name but a few that will help you choose your path and achieve your goals. I am confident that the Class of 2017 will make a difference in the world in part because they have made a difference in the life of our school community."

The graduating class was also addressed by Turkish Director Nilhan Çetinyamaç, faculty speaker Aydemir Doğan and student speakers İlayda Orhan and Yiğit Koçaş.







Headmaster Charles Skipper



Student speaker İlayda Orhan



Student speaker Yiğit Koçuş

Commencement speaker  
Emre Derman RC 84

### Where is the Class of 2017 now?

Out of the 198 graduates of the Class of 2017, 113 students placed into Turkish universities. 34 students were accepted to both foreign and Turkish universities. 50% of graduates will continue their education in Turkish universities. 6% of those who decided to study in Turkey will retake the entrance exams next year in order to be placed in their preferred university and program. The remaining 50% of our graduates have decided to continue their education abroad.

### Turkish University Results:

55% of the graduates studying in Turkey

will continue their education at private Turkish universities while 45% will attend public universities. 48% of the students who will attend private universities gained placement with scholarship.

2017 graduates have been accepted to the following faculties:	
FACULTIES	NUMBERS
Faculty of Engineering	33
Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences	27
Faculty of Medicine	16
Faculty of Law	15
Other programs (chemistry, physics, psychology, sociology, foreign language, etc.)	13
Faculty of Architecture	5
Faculty of Dentistry	3
Faculty of Education	1

2017 ÖSYS UNIVERSITY RESULTS						
Name of University		Without Scholarship		With Scholarship		TOTAL
		With acceptance to universities abroad		With acceptance to universities abroad		
İSTANBUL UNIVERSITY	İstanbul	7	7			14
İSTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	İstanbul	6	4			10
BOĞAZİÇİ UNIVERSITY	İstanbul	5	3			8
MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	Ankara	4	1			5
YILDIZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	İstanbul	1	2			3
GALATASARAY UNIVERSITY	İstanbul	2	1			3
DOKUZ EYLÜL UNIVERSITY	İzmir	2	1			3
HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY	Ankara	1				1
MİMAR SİNAN GÜZEL SANATLAR UNIVERSITY	İstanbul	1				1
MARMARA UNIVERSITY	İstanbul		1			1
AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY	Antalya		1			1
ÇUKUROVA UNIVERSITY	Adana		1			1
<b>PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>			<b>51</b>
KOÇ UNIVERSITY	İstanbul	14	3	9	1	27
YEDİTEPE UNIVERSITY	İstanbul	6	1	2		9
SABANCI UNIVERSITY	İstanbul			5	2	7
İHSAN DOĞRAMACI BİLKENT UNIVERSITY	Ankara	5	1		1	7
İSTANBUL BİLGİ UNIVERSITY	İstanbul	1		2	1	4
ÖZYEGİN UNIVERSITY	İstanbul			1	1	2
İZMİR UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS	İzmir			2		2
ACIBADEM MEHMET ALİ AYDINLAR UNIVERSITY	İstanbul			1		1
BAHÇEŞEHİR UNIVERSITY	İstanbul		1			1
IŞIK UNIVERSITY	İstanbul			1		1
MALTEPE UNIVERSITY	İstanbul			1		1
<b>PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS PLACED</b>		<b>83</b>		<b>30</b>		<b>113</b>

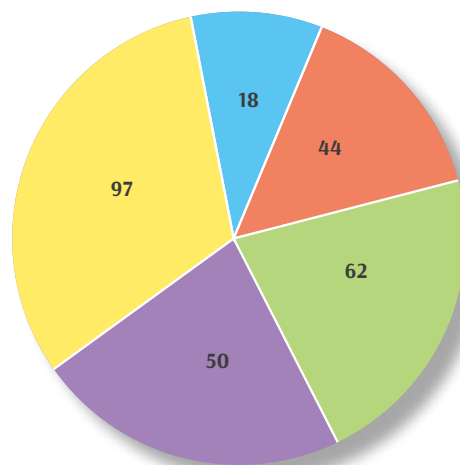
Robert College 2017 Foreign University Placement	
UNIVERSITIES	Number Of Students
Amherst College	1
Babson College	2
Barnard College	1
Boston University	1
Brown University	2
Carl Benz School of Engineering	1
City University of Hong Kong	1
City University of London	1
Claremont McKenna College	1
Columbia University	1
Cornell University	3
Dartmouth College	1
Drexel University	1
Duke University	1
Durham University	1
Georgia Institute of Technology	1
Goldsmiths, University of London	1
Imperial College London	2
Indiana University at Bloomington	1
Lafayette College	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1
McGill University	3
New York University	5
Northwestern University	2
Princeton University	2
Purdue University	1
Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen	1
Sciences Po - Columbia University Dual BA Program	1
Stanford University	2
Swarthmore College	1
Technische Universität München	1
The University of Edinburgh	2
The University of Texas, Austin	1
Tilburg University	1
Tufts University	2
Tulane University	1
Università Bocconi	7
Università degli Studi di Milano	2
Universiteit Leiden	1
University of Bath	1
University of British Columbia	3
University of California, Berkeley	2
University of Chicago	2
University College London	2
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	1
University of Michigan	1
University of Oxford	1
University of Pennsylvania	2
University of Richmond	1
University of Rochester	3
University of South Florida, Tampa	1
University of Southern California	2
University of Toronto	6
Vanderbilt University	1
Vassar College	1
Yale University	2
York University	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94</b>

# Where is the 2017-18 Student Body From?

1042 students from 47 cities throughout Turkey are attending Robert College this year.



Twenty-five percent of students (271)  
receive financial aid



- 25% Scholarship
- 50% Scholarship
- 75% Scholarship
- 85% Scholarship
- Full Scholarship

The residences are home to 190 students - 100 boys and 90 girls - from 42 cities



# Excellence in Science Award 2017

**The eighth annual** Professor Seyhan Nurettin Ege ACG 49 Award for Excellence in Science, given to a female Lise 11 student each year, was presented on March 24, 2017. For the first time since its founding in 2010, the founder of the award Güneş Ege ACG 51 was unable to travel from Canada to give one of her memorable speeches. In her place, Seyhan Ege's classmate, friend of Güneş Ege and staunch supporter of Robert College, Ayfer Neyzi ACG 49 delivered an inspiring speech and presented the award to the winner, Nazlı Uğur Köylüoğlu L11.

In a brief but loving tribute to her friend Seyhan Ege, Neyzi said, "...Seyhan was loyal to her values. She was honored with many awards throughout her career. She was always in tune with the modern world of thought and action - new technologies, education, politics, the latest publications, new movies, current issues, current trends...she was incredible. Before I finish, it is a moral obligation to emphasize our gratitude to the great Atatürk, under whose reforms and leadership, women like Prof. Seyhan Ege were able to receive the education and experience they deserved for study and careers at prominent centers of science, education, arts... and other fields at home and abroad."



Standing L to R: Hümeyra Gücük, Güniz Büyüktur ACG 60, Nazlı Uğur Köylüoğlu L11,  
Headmaster Charles Skipper, Ayfer Neyzi ACG 49 and Emine Yeğen ACG 70  
Seated: Yağmur Erhan L12 and chemistry teacher Sibel Sebüktekin



# Art is Always a Good Idea

**The 16<sup>th</sup> annual** Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Art Competition awards ceremony was held on April 26, 2017 in the Suna Kırac Foyer. Established by RC 76 in 2001 to honor the memory of classmate Demirkan Aşetey, who enjoyed painting as a hobby, the competition continues to attract various mediums of art from RC students.

The ceremony was jazzed up by a performance by the international award winning RC Singers Choir. Judges Bora Fer RC 03 L12, Mira Modley and Diana Page presented the awards while also explaining why each piece of art was recognized.

First prize went to Başak Özşaraç L10, second to Beyza Günaydın L11 and third to Yiğit Yüce L10. There were also six highly commended winners: Yusuf Ziya Hayırlıoğlu L12, Aslı Doğa Munzur L12, Lorin Kaygalak LP, Kristal Doğa Mengüç L10, Polen Güzelocak L12 and Efe Doğruöz L10.



Başak Özşaraç L10 with her first prize-winning piece



Second prize winner Beyza Günaydın L11 with some of her sketches

## Jane Page English Writing Competition

**The spring sun** and scent of wisteria created the perfect atmosphere for the ninth annual Jane Page English Writing Competition Ceremony, held on April 27, 2017 in the İbrahim Bodur Library.

This year's entries were testament to the strength of RC students' writing. One piece had already won an international award. Several winners had received Jane Page recognitions in previous years. Most notably, there were several Lise Prep students among the talents recognized, ensuring a rich literary future for years to come.

The top prize in the dramatic script category went to the short, crisp play by Kaan Ertaş L12, *It's All a Metaphor*. An honorable mention was awarded to Mehmet Doruk Eliaçık L11 for *Cold Soup*. Both scripts were performed during the RC Theatre's spring production.

The top prize in the poetry category went to L10 student Mehmet Tüfek, for the honest, intimate, humorous and intellectual voice found in his poem, "Hamburger." The poem was previously awarded the Columbia University Granger's World of Poetry Prize. Mehmet was also honored in last year's Jane



One highlight of the event was teachers Jameson Vierling, Jake Becker, Rick Hummel and Maura Kelly reading Lise 12 student Kaan Ertaş's script, *It's All a Metaphor*.

Page Competition for his poem, "Requiem Black." Honorable mention awards went to Kerem Baran Bali L10 for his poem, "Not Much", İnci Analı L10 for "Dead Lake" and Gülbin Hazal Karaağaç L9 for "The Broken String of a Cello". A new recognition, Certificate of Distinction, was added to the poetry category, acknowledging how difficult it was to select only a few of the many impressive poets at RC. The recipients were Ramazan Efe Doğruöz L10, Hüseyin Kerem Yanık L9, Doğa Ayar LP, Özgür Kara Karabulut L12, Ali Çataltepe L11, and Nisan Şele L12.

The short story first prize was given to L11 student Kaan Tarhan, for "Familia es Todo". Honorable mention prizes were awarded to Elif Naz Ervatan LP for "Saxophonist", Elif Hamutcu L11 for "Spring", and Aslı Doğa Munzur L12 for "The Third Punch."

*Contributed by English teacher Maura Kelly*

**Established in 2009 by English teacher Maura Kelly, the Jane Page Writing Competition recognizes the top creative writers of the RC community.**

# The Özbal Family Legacy at Robert College

The highlight of the Annual Giving Kick-off Dinner in November 2017 was an announcement by Headmaster Charlie Skipper of a new scholarship. The Özbal Family committed \$150,000 to establish the Özbal Family Endowed Scholarship Fund.



An Özbal family affair. Back row from L to R: Fokke Gerritsen, Rana Özbal Gerritsen RC 93, Hadi Özbal RC YÜK 67, retired RC English teacher Diane Özbal, Can Özbal RC 88 and Teresa Özbal. Front row from L to R: Berent Gerritsen, Altan Gerritsen, Samet Özbal and Ayla Özbal

**The announcement** of this new endowed scholarship at the Annual Giving kick-off dinner created excitement among attendees, who included former students of Diane Özbal, a long-time English teacher at the school, and Hadi Özbal RC YÜK 67 who has been a chemistry professor at Boğaziçi University for over 40 years.

The roots of the Özbal family are deep, and as Diane Özbal states, “RC has touched and changed the lives of three generations of our family.” She shares their story.

“In the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the United Church Board sent many dedicated teachers and medical personnel to staff their schools and hospitals in Turkey. Dr. Fred Shepard was sent to Gaziantep, then known only as ‘Aintab.’ He was a surgeon and general practitioner who became a legend in the town. He worked tirelessly in the hospital and offered clinics in the surrounding villages. He traveled by

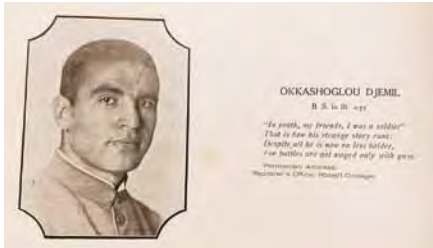


The four Aintab boys who studied at Robert College

horse, equipped with his doctor’s bag and his pistol, sometimes needed to ward off bandits.

“The hospital was active in the community. For example, they set up English lessons for a few interested young boys, one of whom was to become my father-in-law, and after a few years organized a town scholarship to send the most promising pupils to Robert College in Istanbul. The idea was almost unheard of at the time. Istanbul was two and a half days away by steam train and there were no other ways to travel there—no roads, no busses. Even more difficult, the train could not be taken from Gaziantep. One had to travel a day by horse to get to the closest train station! Robert College at that time was really a school serving the minorities of the Ottoman Empire. My father-in-law’s RC yearbook, Class of 1931, shows young men with Greek, Armenian, Russian and Jewish backgrounds—and then these four Anatolians from Gaziantep.





Cemil Özalp's photo in the 1931 yearbook

"The four Aintab boys set off on a real adventure. Their parents had to be brave and trust that their sons were being offered an amazing opportunity. They were partly reassured because Dr. Fred Shepard's son, Dr. Lorrin Shepard, was the director of the American Hospital in Istanbul and would help the boys. These four Aintab boys stuck together.

"My father-in-law, who eventually became Dr. Cemil Özalp, was then known as Okkashoglu Djemil. Turks did not yet have last names and the Roman alphabet was also not in place. His yearbook lists him as 'Djemil,' the best English spelling the American teachers could come up with for his name. When Dr. Lorrin Shepard and his wife had their son Fred (named after his grandfather in Gaziantep), they wanted a live-in babysitter. Cemil said he knew a great young girl, Seher, daughter of the farm attendant where he picnicked on Sundays. He brought her around and she was hired.

"Mrs. Shepard took an interest in Seher's education, and sent her first to Gedik Pasha and then on to Üsküdar American



Hadi Özalp RC YÜK 67 and Diane Özalp in June 2017



Can Özalp RC 88 and former RC Lise Director Whitman Shepard visit Cyrus Hamlin's grave in Maine in the summer of 2017

College for Girls. Seher, who married Cemil seven years later, was my mother-in-law, and often told me about the fabulously expensive Üsküdar tuition: three gold Turkish liras that Mrs. Shepard paid out for her. Both Cemil and Seher had perfect English, Seher because she lived for seven years with the Shepard family and Cemil because RC's student body came from such diverse backgrounds that the students' common language among themselves was usually English.

"Dr. Lorrin Shepard and his wife had five children, all of whom learned Turkish from Seher. And I think many RC graduates will know Fred's son Whitman Shepard, who started teaching math at RC in 1983 and served as RC Lise Director from 1994 to 2001. Cemil, inspired by both Dr. Fred and his son Dr. Lorrin, also became a surgeon.

"Cemil and Seher had four children, three born in Istanbul and their youngest, Hadi, born after their return to Gaziantep. Their eldest child, Sevim, went off on the train at age 11 to board at Üsküdar and spent weekends with the Lorrin Shepard family. The two boys became boarders at RC. Orhan Özalp graduated in 1958 and stayed on in the RC dorm as a Resident Advisor and assistant dean while he attended medical school. Yes, one more doctor inspired by the Shepard family! Hadi followed his older brother, started RC as an Orta Prep in 1955, graduated Lise in 1963, and then continued

at RC Yüksek, Class of 1967. Those were important years. 1963 was the Centennial year of RC. The US Ambassador to Turkey was their graduation speaker. 1967 was the 100<sup>th</sup> RC Commencement Ceremony.

"How do I fit into this saga? In 1961, my family hosted an AFS student in our home for a year. She happened to come from Gaziantep. She told me that her brother's friend, Hadi, wanted a pen pal in America and I began to write him.

"Hadi and I married in the US right after we graduated from university in 1967. Hadi started his PhD in chemistry and I started a master's in Literature. In 1971, Hadi was about to finish his PhD and was hired by RC Yüksek's chemistry department. He signed his contract in April but by the time we were ready to pack up and move to Turkey in August, RC Yüksek had closed! What a shock that was. We had a three-month-old baby, Can, plane tickets to Turkey but no school for Hadi to teach at. Always adventurous, we came anyway. Negotiations were furiously going on and by the end of October, RC Yüksek was re-opened as Boğaziçi University and Hadi had a job after all. I started teaching English on the Arnavutköy campus in 1972. In between then and now, both our children, Can and Rana became RC grads: Can, Class of 1988 and Rana, 1993. I am still at RC as the testing coordinator, and Hadi is still associated with Boğaziçi."

# A Lifetime of Support for Robert College

Robert College gratefully acknowledges the Wagner family, who has recently bestowed their Istanbul home to the school.

## Rodney and Sukey Wagner's

ties to Turkey began in the 1960s, when Rodney worked with USAID and the family lived in Ankara, between 1962-65. He joined the RC Board of Trustees in 1968 and became Board Chair in 1979, a position he held for 23 years. The school saw major changes during these years, including the Robert College - ACG merger, the construction of the Feyyaz Berker Science Building, Suna Kıraç Theatre and Nejat Eczacıbaşı Gym, as well as the closing of the Orta school and transformation into a new Lise. Rodney, with his guidance and persistence, played a key role in ensuring these transitions went smoothly.

Upon stepping down as Board Chair in 2002, Rodney made a gift of \$1 million to Robert College and also pledged to give the school their family home in Ortaköy, which they had purchased in 1986.



Rodney and Sukey Wagner

After her husband passed away in 2004, Sukey Wagner continued their family's dedication to Robert College both by

becoming a Trustee and by establishing the Sukey N. Wagner Endowed Scholarship during Robert College's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Rodney and Sukey have also made a bequest to the school as members of the Elizabeth Dodge Huntington Clarke Society.

This latest gift, of bestowing their home to RC, is a remarkable testament to their unwavering support of Robert College and its students from all around Turkey. The Wagner legacy, entwined with the illustrious history of the school, continues to provide an invaluable opportunity for the future generations who will benefit from an RC education.



The Maze at Robert College was named in honor of Rodney Wagner



Rodney Wagner showing off his newly purchased home in Ortaköy in 1986

## How to Make a Bequest to Robert College

The Elizabeth Dodge Huntington Clarke Society was established to recognize those who have made commitments of financial support to Robert College in their wills or estate planning. The Society honors the memory of a woman who was devoted to the School and sought to ensure its future by providing Robert College with its largest bequest, a sum over \$2,087,000.

To discuss making a bequest, please contact the Development Office in Istanbul at +90 212 359 2289 or the New York Office of the Board of Trustees at +1 212 340 7014.





## BAZEN HIÇ YAŞAMADIĞIMIZ ANLAR EN DEĞERLİ ANLARIMIZ OLABİLİR

Bizim için yenilenmek demek, sadece teknolojiye değil, insan hayatına odaklanmak demektir.

Örneğin 1950'lerde üç noktalı emniyet kemeri ile yeni bir çağ başlatmamız gibi...

70'li yıllarda sunduğumuz arkaya dönük çocuk koltuğu ve 2000'lerin başında tanıttığımız kör nokta uyarı sistemi gibi...

Ya da 2008 yılında otomatik frenleme teknolojisiyle insan hayatına odaklandığımız gibi...

Bizi bugün Volvo yapan değer, merkeze insanı alarak güvenlik teknolojileri ile yenilenmek. Atacağımız her adımın, her düşüncenin ve geliştirdiğimiz her yeni teknolojinin merkezinde insan var. Saf teknolojiye odaklanmayı bırakıp, insan hayatını düşünmeye başlayınca sorumluluğunuzun kaza anında ya da sonrasında değil, kaza olmadan önce başladığını anlıyorsunuz.

Çünkü gelecekte yaşanabilecek tüm güzel anlar, o kaza olmazsa yaşanacak.

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# UniRC

## The Young Face of the Alumni Association

UniRC is a subcommittee under the Robert College Alumni Association, formed and managed by RC Alumni who are university students.

**Many graduates** remember their days at Robert College vividly; dear friends, enjoyable classes, and entertaining campus life. Graduating from RC feels like leaving home, but soon a new home opens its doors to welcome everyone back - UniRC.

One of the main purposes of UniRC is to create a connection between RC grads.

### Connection between students and alumni

Career Days are some of the major events that UniRC organizes. They have changed over the years to meet expectations of new members, but one thing has never changed - bringing older and newer alumni together. Young university students have the opportunity to meet experienced graduates, successful in their fields. Their academic and career journeys inspire a lot of new graduates.

Unifuar, UniRC's university fair, builds a strong link between graduates and RC juniors and seniors. During Unifuar,

recent grads share their experiences with university preparation and selection, as well as information about their school of choice. Senior students can contact the graduates during their year of university preparation. This mentorship program helps them prepare for their journey and gives them confidence during this stressful period.

Besides academic and career activities, UniRC arranges fun social events such as parties, concerts and tournaments. The annual New Year party brings together recent graduates from the last five years to have fun. Gradlive is the annual, Lise Live-like concert that reunites beloved high school bands. The Football Tournament takes place each autumn on the upper field, with teams made up of graduates from the last 15 years.

### UniRC's unique community project

Türkiye'nin 7 Rengi (Seven Colors of Turkey), will complete its 11<sup>th</sup> year this June 2018. With the support of Çağdaş Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği (The Association

for Supporting Contemporary Life), 56 children from seven cities in seven different regions are chosen to come to RC each year. The weeklong summer program creates a unique bond between participants and expands their horizons. Every year sponsors help to make this project possible.

### What does UniRC expect from RC alumni?

By creating bridges, UniRC is very happy to see how it brings the alumni community together, strengthens friendships and creates fun memories. UniRC's goals can only be accomplished if graduates attend UniRC events. There is an endless source of connections in the Robert College Alumni Association and all grads are welcome to join the activities. United, RC alumni are stronger.

### Find out more:

[f /unircrkm](https://www.facebook.com/unircrkm)

[t /unircrkm](https://twitter.com/unircrkm)

[i /unircrkm](https://www.instagram.com/unircrkm)



UniRC members enjoy meeting at BizimTepe on Saturdays



# Dün, bugün, yarın, BİLGİ.

BİLGİ ilk günden beri, kendine ve hayata güvenle bakabilmen, geleceğine ve dünyaya yön vermen için var.

Burada, hayallerini gerçeğe dönüştürecek ve seni hedeflerine ulaştıracak kişiyi; kendini bulacaksın.

Çünkü yapabileceklerini keşfetmen için 22 yıldır, BİLGİ var.



## Bizim Tepe: The Place to Be for RC Alumni



The traditional reception at Bizim Tepe at the end of Homecoming was a wonderful end to a beautiful day. Alumni of all ages enjoyed music and drinks with friends.



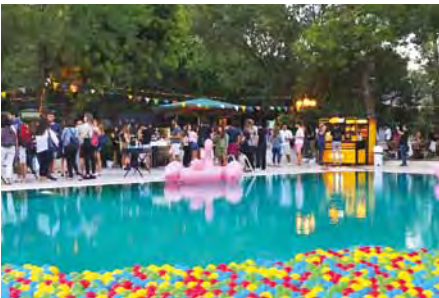
The Akbank Jazz Festival Brunch enraptured guests for the third year in a row. On November 12 jazz group NewPel was on stage.



The 94<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Turkish Republic was celebrated on October 28 with a dinner reception. Ömür Göksel RC ENG 60 filled the room with nostalgic songs and marches.



Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93 led a discussion about Anatolian predators, lynx, grizzly bears and wolves on September 21. A viewing of his BBC documentary was followed by Q&A's.



Gradlive took place on August 25 with 300 attendees who enjoyed the music of alumni groups Atiba Haçinsın, Kaldırma Kuvveti, Kafalar, and Lava



Bizim Kamp 2017 hosted 140 students aged 4-8, offering them a variety of sports and activities.



In July 2017, the Alumni Association, with special help from the Class of 85, provided a wonderful day for graduating students from neighboring Şehit Hüseyin Tunç Özel Eğitim Okulu for kids with high levels of autism.





From June 13-23, the TEB-BT Tennis Tournament, sponsored by TEB, Zumasol, Pernigotti, UBER, Tepe Majeur and Gümüş Su, was held for the 27<sup>th</sup> time. There were 194 players this year.



Now a tradition, the Lise 12's came for a swim, snacks and a welcome to the Alumni Association at the end of the school year.



Özlem Alkan RC 87, author of bestseller *Ağır Bir Şeyin Fazla Gürültü Çıkarmadan Devrilişi*, held a discussion at Bizim Tepe on June 1. There was a group of Alkan enthusiasts waiting to have her sign their books.



Prof Dr. Sami Gülgöz RC 80 from Koç University's Psychology Department led a discussion on "how to talk to your children about their career" on May 31. Proceeds from this event were donated to the RC 2016-17 Annual Giving Campaign.



Aslı Erdoğan RC 84, human rights activist and author of novels, short stories and columns, gave a talk on May 17, moderated by Hülya Adak RC 89. Later in the evening Erdoğan signed her books.

RKMD's new e-commerce site is here! Visit [rkmdstore.com](http://rkmdstore.com) for a colorful variety of RC gear and gifts.



Özüm Kudat RC 16, Osman Demir RC 16, Çağrı Akçürin RC 05 and Ceymi Doenyas RC 08 model the latest RC merchandise



## Alumni-Trustee Reception in New York



Headmaster Charles Skipper addresses RC alumni and friends

The Board of Trustees hosted their annual reception for alumni and friends of RC at the Yale Club on November 20, 2017.

Board Chair Jean Manas RC 83 addressed the group, followed by Headmaster Skipper

who gave an update on the school. Both emphasized the importance of showing support to RC.

The evening was a wonderful opportunity for alumni and friends of all ages to meet and share their love for their alma mater.

If you'd like to find out more about activities in the US please contact RCAA President Alpdoğan Kantarcı RC 86 at [alpdogankantarci@gmail.com](mailto:alpdogankantarci@gmail.com)

## Boston Fall Gathering

On Sept 26, 2017, a beautiful summery evening in Boston, RCAA members gathered to kick-off a new season while tasting the wines of Piedmont. The event was organized at

the Urban Grape and their host was Ms. Chelsea Bell, who is an amazing expert on the wines of Italy. The wonderful white and red wines of the region were paired with delicious appetizers and an informative

lecture about the soil, climate and grape varieties of the wine country. As always, it was an evening of learning, connecting, celebrating life and bonding among the RCAA community.



An evening of wining, dining and learning in Boston



# Bay Area Alumni Get a Special Treat

**RC alumni in the** Bay Area met in San Francisco on March 26, 2017 for a delicious meal prepared by the first professional chef from the Bay Area alumni network, Sayat Özyılmaz RC 04 L12, and his wife and fellow chef, Laura Millan. It was a great networking opportunity for alumni ranging from recent graduates to those who have been living in the US for over 25 years. The multi-course dinner included unique recipes, which Özyılmaz described prior to each serving.



Chef Sayat Özyılmaz RC 04 L12 and his wife Laura Millan prepared a special dinner for Bay Area Alumni

Özyılmaz and Millan started their married lives on a road trip across the US and Mexico, “staging” at some of the best restaurants in each city they visited. Millan suggested one day that they needed to cook Turkish food, especially since no one in that part of the hemisphere was doing anything cool with the cuisines of the Eastern Mediterranean. After moving to San Francisco at the end of the trip and receiving support and encouragement from RC alumni in the Bay Area, they decided to start their business, Istanbul

Modern SF. When Neşe Özler RC 03 L12, an alumnus active in this area, approached Özyılmaz with the idea of an exclusive dinner event, he said he had goosebumps with excitement.

The chef duo has received great critical reviews since they started cooking

professionally, but viewed this event as one of the turning points of their careers. Özyılmaz added, “Laura and I were both incredibly excited to cook for RC alumni and end the beginning of Istanbul Modern SF’s journey with this incredible group of people.”

## Eren Kaya Joins the RC NY Office

**Eren Kaya** started working as the Director of the Office of the Board Of Trustees in New York in November 2017. She has been living in the US since 2001. Eren has nearly 20 years of business and volunteer experience. She received her BA in Economics from Koç University and an MPA from NYU Graduate School of Public Service. She is thrilled that her experience has led her to Robert College. Eren can be reached at: [erenkaya@robertcollege.org](mailto:erenkaya@robertcollege.org) or at +1 212 340 7014



## London Alumni Meet with Headmaster Skipper



Headmaster Dr. Charles Skipper made a visit to London on November 29, 2017. The reunion presented a unique opportunity to see familiar faces and to make new acquaintances. The event brought together around fifty alumni from different graduating classes, giving very recent graduates as well as graduates from ACG a chance to mingle and reminisce about RC. Overall, the event was also a testimony to the lifelong bond RC graduates share.

The link for the Robert College Alumni Club of London is: [www.facebook.com/groups/rcalumnicluboflondon/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/rcalumnicluboflondon/) If you want to get involved in organizing future events or have any questions regarding the Robert College Alumni Club of London you can get in touch with İrem Günay RC 06 via [iremgunay@gmail.com](mailto:iremgunay@gmail.com).

## Olcay Neyzi ACG 46 Honored for Lifetime Achievement

**A pioneer in her field**, Prof. Dr. Olcay Neyzi was given the Eczacıbaşı Medical Award of Honor in October 2017 in recognition of her work in pediatrics, both nationally and globally. Neyzi is the second recipient of this prestigious award.

From 1979 to 1994, Neyzi was the Head of the Department of Pediatrics at the Faculty of Medicine, as well as the Director of the Institute of Child Health, both at İstanbul University. During that time, she initiated the Woman and Child Research and Education Unit within the hospital area of the İstanbul Faculty of Medicine. She also initiated the Family Health Department

with a multidisciplinary team within the Institute of Child Health of İstanbul University. As the author of the first and most comprehensive pediatric textbook in Turkish, she greatly contributed to improving the level of medical education in Turkey.

In speaking about her career, Neyzi said, “I worked for 50 years as a pediatrician. Pediatrics is a subject with many aspects, and as a medical branch, the social aspect is particularly emphasized. This is why I tried to put the social and educational aspects of pediatrics at the forefront of my career.”

Since 1959, the Eczacıbaşı Group has supported and rewarded scientific research through its medical awards, which it renamed the “Dr. Nejat F. Eczacıbaşı Medical Awards” in 2013 to commemorate the Eczacıbaşı Group’s founder who passed away 20 years earlier.

During the ceremony, Bülent Eczacıbaşı, Chair of Eczacıbaşı Holding, emphasized the importance of recognizing the works of scientists and students for almost 60 years through these awards.



Olcay Neyzi ACG 46 (center) receives her award from Eyüp Gümüş, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health (left) and Bülent Eczacıbaşı, Eczacıbaşı Holding Chair (right)



## Documentary Explores a Fading Language and Cuisine

The long-time editor of Milliyet newspaper's weekend supplement, Deniz Alphan ACG 67ex recently directed her first documentary, *Kaybolan Bir Dil, Kaybolan Bir Mutfak* (A Fading Language, A Fading Cuisine). It looks at a culture that has existed in the Near East for 500 years through the Judeo-Spanish language - also known as Ladino - and Sephardic cuisine, both of which are in danger of becoming extinct.

The project originally started as a book, but Alphan realized that it needed sound to bring the language to life. The film also portrays the story of the Sephardic Jews who came to the Ottoman Empire in 1492 from the Iberian Peninsula, and looks at the cultural transformation taking place. It features interviews with academics, writers and native speakers such as historian İlber Ortaylı, academician Soli Özel RC 76, Sephardic Cultural Research Center coordinator Karen Gershon Şarhon RC 78, food writer Aylin Öney Tan and native speaker Mari Toledo Benmayor ACG 49.



Deniz Alphan ACG 67ex

According to Tan, when the Jews left the Iberian Peninsula, they weren't allowed to bring any valuables with them. The only "treasure" they could bring was their traditional cuisine - and their mother tongue.

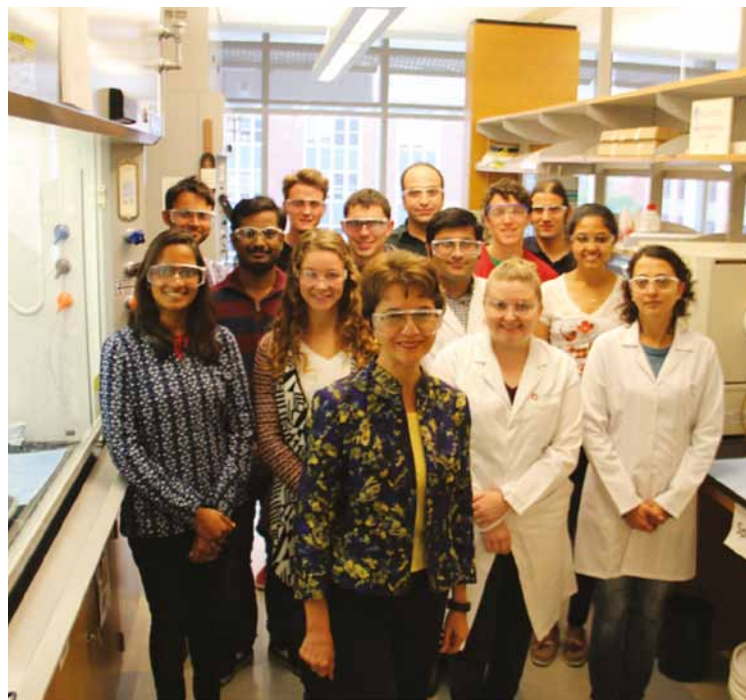
But the treasure that lasted for generations is becoming lost. "The decline of the Sephardic-Turkish culture in the 60's coincided with my teenage years," says

Alphan. "I am part of the generation that first refused to speak the language. It felt like it was only spoken by old people, and was therefore unpopular among youngsters. We did not want to speak a language that was often ridiculed, but it nonetheless 'filled our ears and minds'. We understood everything, but could not speak. Today, our children do not know a word. Our grandchildren are nearly unaware of its existence."

Sephardic cuisine is also fading from daily life. "The flavors that sprang from kitchens have slowly disappeared as the language died out," explains Alphan. "Our grandchildren only taste them on special occasions. As the final moments of this evanescent culture approach, it seems all the more difficult not to feel bitter regret for its irreversible decline."

The film also discusses efforts to preserve the language and cuisine for future generations. The film debuted at the Istanbul Film Festival in April 2017, and was also shown at the TÜVSAK Randevu festival in December 2017.

## Groundbreaking Engineer Recognized for Fuel Science Research



Ümit Özkan RC 73 with her research group at Ohio State University

An accomplished engineer and trailblazer for women in her field, distinguished professor Dr. Ümit Özkan RC 73 recently added another honor to her list of firsts. She is the first female to receive the American Chemical Society's Energy and Fuels Division Henry H. Storch Award, which is given annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to research in the field of fuel science. During the American Chemical Society's National Meeting in August 2017, where she was presented the award, Özkan was also honored with a special two-day symposium.

Özkan is recognized as a leader in heterogeneous catalysis and electrocatalysis both nationally and internationally. She is head of the Heterogeneous Catalysis Research Group at Ohio State University's College of Engineering, where she focuses her research on fundamental questions regarding surface chemistry and heterogeneous kinetics. Her research addresses many critical problems in the energy and environmental protection areas and is funded by US federal agencies as well as industry.

In her research group, Dr. Özkan has advised and mentored over 100 graduate students, post-doctoral researchers and honors students.

## Arwa Damon RC 94 Honored for Children's Advocacy and Courageous Reporting



Arwa Damon RC 94

**Journalist Arwa Damon** has received numerous awards over the past few months for her courageous reporting from conflict areas, as well as for her work with children impacted by war through INARA, a non-profit she launched in 2015 (see RCQ 49, p. 54).

The prestigious Peabody Award went to Damon for "28 Hours Surrounded by ISIS", a

harrowing account of her and cameraman Brice Laine being trapped in late 2016 during the Mosul offensive. They were both recognized for their "calm clarity and razor-sharp photography". Damon and Laine were also given two Edward R. Murrow Awards for the same segment from the Radio, Television Digital News Association, which honor outstanding achievements in electronic journalism. They received their

accolades for Excellence in Video and Hard News reporting.

Damon was also one of the recipients of the 2017 James Foley Humanitarian Award. Diane Foley, mother of the slain conflict reporter who the award is named after, said "[Arwa] continues Jim's legacy of courageous commitment to bearing witness, reporting the truth on the ground around the world, and compassionate advocacy for those suffering amid conflict worldwide." In her acceptance speech Damon said, "With the impact that we have, we do change a child's narrative, and when we change a child's narrative we change so much more than that."

In addition, Damon was given the first ever World of Children 2017 Crisis Award for her courageous dedication to vulnerable children in war-torn areas. "I'm honored. This is a real recognition of our hard work to help these children in their most desperate time of need," commented Damon during the ceremony.

Arwa Damon is a senior international correspondent for CNN, based in Istanbul.

## Physics Researcher Chosen for UNESCO-L'Oréal Award

**Scientist Bilge Demirköz** RC 97 was chosen as an International UNESCO-L'Oréal "For Women in Science" Rising Talent. The accolade is given annually to fifteen promising young women, three from each world region, in order to support and encourage them to pursue their scientific careers. She received her award in a ceremony in Paris in March 2017 for her work on the radiation environment in space. In December 2017 she presented her research to RC students as the Senih Fikriğ Science Lecturer for 2017-18.

Demirköz's interest in physics began after a visit to CERN while she was a student at Robert College. She studied physics at MIT, as well as mathematics and music, and completed her PhD at Oxford University. An astro-particle physicist, she founded and heads a research lab at Middle East Technical University (METU) in Turkey where 15 people work.

Her lab is currently studying cosmic rays that can cause a radiation environment around Earth which can damage satellites and spacecraft passing through it. In order to test equipment and materials in a radiation environment equivalent to that in space, she and her research team are building a proton irradiation facility in Turkey.

In an interview with Turkish columnist Ayşe Arman in the *Hürriyet* daily, she said, "I love the work I do, and I am dedicated to bringing more young people into this field. I look at this [award] as an opportunity to bring a love of science to more young people. That's my main concern."

When she's not in the lab, Demirköz is busy sharing her enthusiasm for physics with young people. In 2012 she brought CERN's traveling exhibition "Acceleration Science" to METU, which was visited by 37,000 people. She also organizes IPPOG



Bilge Demirköz RC 97

(International Particle Physics Outreach Group) Masterclasses in Turkey every year, and gets high school students to link live to CERN during these events. She spends a lot of time with interested girls, encouraging them to pursue a career in science. She also writes frequently for popular science journals and gives talks to high school students and women's forums.



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# Generating Changemakers

The Community Involvement Program (CIP) at Robert College has impacted thousands of students around Turkey since it was formed in 2007. Striving to make this program a possibility in other schools, RC has developed an online course curriculum, based on its own experience over the last decade.

**Giving back** to the community and doing volunteer work are a must in today's world, where there are vast inequalities and sustainability issues. Starting out on this path as early as possible to create lifelong values is important. Robert College has been a trailblazer in this area for many years. A mandate in 2006 by the Ministry of Education to implement

community service hours in all high schools enabled RC to restructure and enhance its pre-existing programs in this area and share its experience widely.

The Community Involvement Program (CIP) allows students to work together to implement projects that fulfill a need in the community.



RC students working on a village road in 1965. Community outreach has always been a part of the Robert College culture.



These projects range from creating libraries and improving conditions of rural school buildings to providing support for orphans, animal shelters and nursing homes. These projects are life-changing for the students, as they learn empathy, self-awareness, communication and problem-solving skills, develop a sense of responsibility to others, and become socially responsible, active citizens.

With an astounding 450-plus projects completed in the last decade, an immense amount of know-how has accumulated at RC. In order to share this expertise with the rest of the country, RC created a community involvement curriculum, with a view to share the life-changing CIP initiative with other schools. CIP coordinators Jennifer Sertel and Elif Sönmez saw firsthand the powerful and positive impact the program had on RC students, and hence wanted to expand this influence across the country.

The RC teachers in the CIP office - Sertel, Sönmez and İzzet Şengel - contributed to the creation of the curriculum, by writing a set of manuals. Prior to the curriculum, only 200 people each year from other schools around the country were introduced to the RC model of community involvement, through RC's CIP symposiums or by taking part in RC-run projects. The manuals will expand that outreach to other schools by providing interested public and private school teachers all over Turkey basic information on how to set up community involvement programs in their own schools.

Aiming to reach as many teachers and students as possible, the community involvement curriculum offers two levels - one for university instructors and students in faculties of education, the other for high school teachers. The manuals are available online in English and Turkish.

By sharing this know-how with schools across Turkey, RC hopes the quality and quantity of community programs will increase. The manuals are available on the RC CIP website [rccip.org](http://rccip.org)

#### Program Piloted at Boğaziçi University

All faculties of education in Turkish universities must offer a practical course in social service (*Topluma Hizmet Uygulama*), but there has been a lack of material for instructors to use. The development of the RC curriculum has helped fill that gap. This resource allows university students, who will soon become teachers or counselors, to benefit from an experience-based program that has already been applied around the country. The curriculum teaches prospective teachers how to put together a community involvement program. Once they start their careers, they can use this training as a foundation for creating a community service program at their own schools and run projects.

The program was piloted at and is now part of the curriculum of Boğaziçi University's Faculty of Education - a prestigious kickstart that will hopefully help spread the use of the program.

#### RC's know-how is available to all

The manual for high school teachers, on the other hand, is designed as a resource that can be used to supplement the yearlong elective that the Ministry of Education offers in 9<sup>th</sup> grade to promote social awareness and responsibility (*Sosyal Etkinlik Dersi*).

It contains active educational games, communication exercises and simulations, as well as sound examples of community service to inspire students. It also includes an introduction to the concept of needs analysis, and guides students on how to conduct modified field research, design a project and create a budget for their project.

The ideas and activities that the high school manual contains can be incorporated into many courses, especially English or Turkish language, and social studies. These activities would work well in social responsibility, social service, or community involvement clubs. They can also be done during counseling hours or as the basis for a community involvement-type program such as the one at Robert College.



An award in the name of Güler Karabatur, one of the driving forces of the CIP program, is given to students who have put in over 350 volunteer hours

#### Service is in RC's DNA

The CIP curriculum project is only another step forward in RC's long history of community outreach, which started with Cyrus Hamlin helping the small Bosphorus village of Bebek when the school first opened its doors. By the 1950s RC students and graduates had spread the reach of community service projects, such as building and maintaining schools as part of the Village Improvement Group. In the early 1960s the group changed its name to the Social Service Club, and the first Bookmobiles, run by



Jennifer Sertel facilitates a course on the CIP curriculum at Boğaziçi University

RA students, traveled twice a week to villages around Istanbul, lending books to local elementary school children. Over the following decades, students worked with a variety of groups including visiting the elderly in retirement homes, preparing libraries for schools in Anatolia, and creating audio books on cassette tapes for visually impaired children.

### From Outreach to Community Involvement

In 2006 the Ministry of Education (MEB) made community service compulsory for all high school students. A faculty and staff committee led by Jennifer Sertel, Güler Karabatur and then Headmaster John Chandler reviewed the existing efforts and formed a community involvement program designed to be effective, provide lasting benefits for all parties involved and ensure that the experience would be genuinely transformative for students. Previously, many students wanted to do projects but didn't have the time. This new program, with projects beginning in 2007, became part of the RC curriculum, and gave all students the opportunity to do community work. (see RCQ 44, p. 12).

### CIPs Over the Past 10 Years

Total projects: 450+  
Number of man-hours: 135-140K

Initially RC required that students do a minimum of 50 hours to graduate. However, students enjoy the program so much that more than 65% do well over the minimum. The Ministry recently recommended that RC increase the minimum hours to 75.

From debriefing sessions, student journals and final essays, and from comments from graduates, the CIP team witnesses first-hand the powerful positive impact that the program has on RC students and on school culture. Students become more aware of the realities of the world they live in while learning vital social and problem solving skills. They become empowered and see they can actually do something, albeit small, about the environment or about inequalities as they have an impact on the lives of others. They learn empathy and responsibility.

**Students learn not only through experience, but by reflecting on experience. During projects, they keep a journal to help them actively reflect on what they are learning. The following quotes are excerpts from their project journals.**

I realized that the biggest difference between the mentally handicapped kids and normal kids is that these handicapped kids support rather than compete with each other. *Engellilere Destek in Luleburgaz, 2010*

I believe what we do is very important and helpful not only for the blind kids and but also for us. We teach them math and they teach us how to hold on to life and never give-up. I learned a lot of things from them... *Seen With Other Eyes CIP, 2011*

From then on, I didn't think that they were different than us. We were being the obstacles in their lives by judging them without knowing anything about them or knowing how much we might enjoy our time with them. ...For example at the beginning, I thought that correcting their mistakes would be rude but soon after I understood that not correcting their mistakes is the real mistake. We should be able to evaluate them like we would do to any person that we would normally teach. *Teaching English at 6 Nokta Körler (foundation for the blind), 2013*

One of the kids mothers told us that she really appreciated the work we have done because the kids hated to go to the hospital but now they were enthusiastic about our stay. I think I'll go back because they make me have a look at my own self and get to know myself better. This whole CIP process was not only about them, but it was also about me. *Göztepe Hospital CIP (endocrinology pediatric dept.), 2010*



Preparing and teaching a math curriculum for visually impaired students



Working with migrant workers' children in Adana



Teaching girls self-empowerment through soccer



Helping students in Soma prepare for high school entrance exams



## RC Students are involved in a wide variety of community projects



Working on organic farms



Cataloging and setting up renowned poet Can Yücel's library as a public museum



Running a week-long art, sports and drama program for elementary students in Sivas



Establishing a permaculture garden in a village in Bolu



Teaching the history of Beyoğlu to local elementary students

I had an experience that I wouldn't probably have had if I didn't do this project. I felt the feeling of happiness when you help someone and make them happy. It makes you so calm and proud and happy at the same time. I wouldn't trade that feeling for anything in the world. I was anxious about meeting them but I learned how to communicate with old people. This is important because they have a lot of experience in life and they can really help you to make healthier decisions" *Istanbul Convalescent Hospital and Rest Home Foundation Project, 2017*

In the end, probably the most important thing I learned was to not discriminate against people. What does it matter where we were born or who our ancestors are? In the end aren't we all human? If we all experience the same excitement, and share the same feelings, it means we are all part of the same community. *Project for Children of Seasonal Migrant Workers in Adana, 2015*

The second most important thing that I experienced with the children was being a teacher. I had never experienced this before, and during the CIP it was possibly the most important experience, because it not only helped me understand what it means to be a teacher; at the same time it gave me empathy for my own teachers. *Göğdes Alternative Education Project (RKANEP) 2016*

Even after my 5<sup>th</sup> CIP I am still astonished at how we can form new and genuine bonds with people in such a short period of time. How it is actually easy to connect to a person you have seemingly no similar interests with continues to remain a mystery to me. – *Samsun ZİÇEV (an organization that strives to educate the mentally challenged), 2017*



## Changing Perceptions in Turkey and Beyond

In addition to projects that impact local communities, Robert College teachers and students share their experiences through outreach programs run in different parts of the country. A perfect example would be the WINPeace workshop, which creates a dialog for understanding between students from Turkey, Greece and Cyprus (see RCQ 41, p. 12).

The successful program has had such an impact on participants that CIP Coordinator Elif Sönmez wanted to create a similar peace education camp for different local groups. Hence, the Umut Halkası (Circle of Hope) was born, providing an environment for groups from the east and west of Turkey to come together, share experiences, and develop an understanding of each other's realities. Aybike Oğuz, former RC Social Entrepreneurship Club advisor explains.

"Umut Halkası was funded by a grant from Bank of America Merrill Lynch, and took place between August 21-28, 2017 at Afacan Youth Center in Aliğa, İzmir. Twenty girls participated in the workshop; 8 from Robert College, 2 from Korkmaz Yiğit Anatolian High School in Arnavutköy, İstanbul, and 10 from Mardin Science High School selected by PAYDA, a civil society organization founded by RC alumni that supports the education of girls in southeast Turkey (see RCQ 43, p. 44).

"The students participated in workshops on peace education by Jennifer Sertel, body awareness and movement by



Aybike Oğuz leads a session on social entrepreneurship

dance therapist Defne Erdur, and social entrepreneurship, which I led. During these workshops, the participants practiced communication techniques and skills such as identifying their physical, mental, and emotional state and needs, expressing their requests, discussing issues of identity and reflecting on the nature and stages of conflict resolution and negotiation.

"The participants were also asked to identify a social problem that breaks their heart. They formed teams, and using the design thinking framework, they presented a sustainable project that contributes to the solution of the problem. They shared their artistic talents by acting out the reality that wanted to create as a result of the implementation of their projects.

"Some of the students from Mardin Science High School were seeing the sea for the first time in their lives. During their free time, they took on the challenge of learning how to swim. They impressed everyone with their commitment, dedication, and competence in mastering a new skill in such a short time. By the end of the camp, the students from İstanbul and Mardin were swimming side by side.

"At the end of the camp, the participants were asked to summarize their experience using three words. The most commonly mentioned were sisterhood, believing in your dreams, alternative realities, overcoming prejudice, self-awareness, and hope. It was truly a transformational experience for everyone involved."



An exercise to promote awareness of interconnectivity, focus, and teamwork



## Continuing a Life of Service

The CIP program has a profound impact on many students. Here are stories of alumni who have founded outreach programs as part of their careers.



### Aral Sürmeli RC 11

"My work as an MD and a humanitarian is rooted in CIPs"

Aral Sürmeli, a recent graduate of Acibadem Medical School, is a co-founder of Medical Rescue Association of Turkey (MEDAK). MEDAK provides support for medical personnel to operate on ground zero of natural disasters, civil disturbances and rural search and rescue situations. MEDAK handles their logistic and coordination needs in the field and provides training and off-the-field support for them to acclimate to the difficult conditions they will encounter.

Sürmeli started doing CIP projects at RC 10 years ago, and for the past six years has been doing on-site research about the health rights and issues of vulnerable groups. In particular, he is working with refugees in Istanbul and border cities. He is focused on vulnerable groups' health, rights and global health access.

Sürmeli says, "Participating in the CIP program made me realize what I want to do for the rest of my life. I consider myself to be extremely lucky that I went to RC and the most important part of it was CIPs."

For more details visit [www.medak.org.tr](http://www.medak.org.tr)



### Mine Ekinci RC 09

"The CIP projects gave me the chance to experience working with children for the first time and helped me to discover my passion for children and education."

Mine Ekinci completed her undergraduate studies at the Political Science and International Relations Department of Boğaziçi University, and received her graduate degree in Education Policy from Harvard University's School of Education. For the last three years, she has been working on education in rural areas and doing research. KODA (Köy Okulları Değişim Ağı, Village Schools Exchange Network) is a team of about 50 volunteers, and is a brand-new social initiative for village teachers from Turkey's various towns. While questions are often raised about Turkey's village schools only because of their needs, KODA believes that these schools also have a great potential for quality education: small class sizes, the setting in nature, the physical proximity of the parents to the school, and the close relationships between teachers and families. They aim to make the most of the existing opportunities without ignoring the differences between schools or their needs, and to make it possible to offer an alternative student-centered education at the village schools, suitable for rural conditions.

Ekinci recalls, "In the very first year of CIP, I had the chance to lead two different CIP projects: A 10-day-long youth project in Kırkkale and a one-year-long project where we gave drama training to public middle school students in Ortaköy. These CIP projects gave me the chance to design, lead and organize projects for social impact at a very young age. As the founder and coordinator of a young but ambitious NGO now, I still greatly benefit from what I learned in those days."

For more details visit [www.kodegisim.org](http://www.kodegisim.org)



### Edipcan Yıldız RC 11 and Eray Erdoğan RC 11

"The first notion of individual social responsibility came from CIP projects. We were taught to care for the environment and what is going on around us" – Edipcan Yıldız

"After a couple of years, we integrated our learning from CIPs into a unique approach." – Eray Erdoğan

Eray Erdoğan and Edipcan Yıldız are two of the founders of reflect, an organization that uses fashion as a medium for social impact. For each collection they identify a social challenge. Using the healing power of art, they organize art therapy programs with people who are at the core of the challenge. The creations are then used to develop the clothing design. The stories and design are transformed into sustainable products, using organic production methods. The proceeds from purchases are invested into the organizations they work with, and into the next identified challenge. Their first collection 'Solidarity' focuses on inequality in education by integrating Syrian children into the education system. The organization reached 120 Syrian refugee children through the art therapy workshops. The founders chose responsible consumption and production as their starting point. They believe in slow fashion – long lasting, all-season items produced in limited quantities. They also offer unique custom-made products for special events or gifts.

The organization plans to work in five more countries both online and offline, especially Northern Europe and the US where there is an understanding of sustainable fashion. In the future they hope to combine the design and production process, as well as virtual and augmented reality together with the art workshops.

For more details visit [www.reflect.ist](http://www.reflect.ist) and follow [Instagram.com/reflect.ist](https://www.instagram.com/reflect.ist)

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## Innovating the Education Sector

**Lala Eğitim**, founded by RC 11 alumni Eray Erdoğan, Furkan Taşel and Tekin Öztekin, recently acquired Lidenö—a mobile application that enables students to access class notes for free. With this new acquisition, Lala has reached 250,000 users.

The departure point for the founders was the needs of students. Every year, over two million students prepare to take the university entrance exam and these students need the basic tools of information and counseling to make the right decision at this critical juncture in their lives.

Lala's strengths are follow-ups with students on different subjects, preparing ideal work plans, assigning homework and offering trial exams to project their ranking across the country. With the Lala Lidenö app, students are able to have access to class notes for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

In addition, the application lets teachers give specific assignments and follow the students' performance, also integrating parents and administrators who can then be aware of the processes that the students undergo.



Lala Eğitim founders, RC 11 alumni Tekin Öztekin, Eray Erdoğan and Furkan Taşel

Erdoğan highlights that the focus of their team is local, trying to offer solutions for the high-pressure environment of the education system in Turkey. He also points out that once they are able to offer customized tools that help students in Turkey, they can then expand to create solutions for students across the world, creating a more global product.

In 2016 Lala Eğitim received funding from İlberk Andican RC 09 and BIC Angels.

The premise of Lala Eğitim is important both in terms of its social impact and also for its innovative approach in using an application to create an interface that is used by all the stakeholders in education, ranging from the teacher to the student to the administrator. Lala aims to reach more students by remaining free of charge.

For more details visit [www.lalaegitim.com](http://www.lalaegitim.com)

## Internship Leads to Prize-Winning Research Project

**A research project** about using holography to detect deficiencies in biomedical implants, conducted by Lise 12 student Baran Abalı, has been making waves in the science community. The project won first place in the physics category of TÜBİTAK's regional (Thrace and Istanbul) high school students' research project competition in March 2017. In addition, Baran's paper on the project has been published in the esteemed Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) index.

Baran came across the idea while doing an internship in the mechatronics, biomedical laboratories at Yıldız Teknik University. The lab was asked to analyze biomedical implant samples whose surfaces were eroded due to frequent sterilization. Baran had been working with holograms in the lab, and suggested they use the technology to examine the samples.



Baran Abalı L12

During his research, he made holograms of the implants and examined the film to spot deficiencies that could not be seen with the naked eye. He and the holography expert he was working with compared the

results with actual deficiency values of the implant surfaces gathered by an optical-profilometry machine. After collecting enough data, he was able to write his paper titled, "The Observation of Imperfections in Medical Implants by Holographic Interferometry and the Comparisons of These Observations to Other Methods".

Baran says he approached his internship with a goal to, "merge analytical skills with the aim of being beneficial to society, by pioneering innovations related to health, biomedicine and energy." After RC he plans to gain financial, social and technical knowledge, then pursue a career in engineering. He says, "I hope to become a fully competent electrical - electronic engineer, who is open to producing, managing, pioneering and propagating social awareness."



## Learning the Art of Research from MIT Mentors

**Last summer** Emin Berker and Begüm Ortaoğlu, both Lise 12 students, were accepted to the highly competitive Research Science Institute (RSI) program at MIT. During the five-week science and engineering program they learned from leading professors together with some of the most accomplished high school students from around the world.

When Emin and Begüm found out they had been accepted to RSI, they were thrilled. “We knew this was an extremely prestigious program and one that we would benefit greatly from,” they said. “We felt like this experience would be life-changing and challenging.”

The first week of the program, they each had two STEM classes, covering a variety of topics including particle physics and dark matter, power consumption and how to make systems more efficient, fundamentals of organic chemistry and how chemistry affects the body and the lives of individuals. During the remaining four intense weeks, they conducted research projects under

the guidance of an MIT faculty mentor. Working with the Arduino platform, Begüm developed a program to teach children engineering and computer science without overwhelming them. Emin’s project took place in the MIT Department of Physics, where he analyzed the time allocation patterns of students taking online physics courses and determined how these patterns affected their learning success.

In addition to gaining profound insight into their fields, by the end of the program they each had produced a comprehensive research paper, and presented their project to their peers and tutors. During the program they also attended lectures by experts such as mathematician and chess master Noam Elkies, Physics Nobel Laureate Wolfgang Ketterle, and Economics Nobel Laureate Eric Maskin.

“The friendly environment of RSI taught us how collaborative research is,” Emin and Begüm said. Both have applied for university, where Begüm hopes to study electrical and electronical engineering and Emin is aiming for a double major in physics and chemistry.



Lise 12 students Emin Berker and Begüm Ortaoğlu at MIT

## L12 Student Pens Ode to Her Youth

**A collection** of poems that Lise 12 student Ezgi Okutan has written over the years was recently published as *Gençliğime Seranat* (Serenade to My Youth, Cinius Yayınları). She spoke with the the RCQ about the book and her sources of inspiration.

### What is the theme of the book?

As the title hints, the theme is youth. I have been writing these poems for the last five years, since eighth grade. At this point in our lives, we teenagers are experimenting with who we are, what we want, and what we like. Just like everyone else, I am building my identity, which, I believe, is a painful process: everybody goes through a lot of molding. Poetry had been my way of reflecting on this growing-up process, while helping me generate aesthetic power during hard times. I tried to convey my thoughts and emotions as a teenager candidly, and I believe my poetry thematically contains a youthful hopefulness. We have just started our lives, and whatever hardship we may be dealing with, good days are ahead!



Ezgi Okutan L12 with her collection of poems

### What inspired you to write these poems?

Personal problems I deal with are potent inspirations for me. Pain, especially, is a very powerful one. My favorite painter Van Gogh directed his pain to his canvas and created aesthetic beauty - that's the way I work. My heartbreaks when I've fallen out of love and my times of loneliness definitely catalyzed my poetry. Everyday news is a source of inspiration; hearing about tragedies provokes me to write poetry, as a way of showing my concern and creating awareness about things I value.

### What are your plans for the future?

I think of poetry as a friend that always stays by my side, listens, and understands, thus, I will keep writing. I am looking forward to starting a new chapter in my life and in my literature. I look forward to publishing a second book, maybe after I graduate from college.

# Visual Arts Publication Receives Grant

**Online visual arts** publication m-est.org, co-founded by RC 03 L3 alumni Merve Ünsal and İpek Kuran, recently received a sustainability grant from the Foundation for Arts Initiatives in the US. The grant will be used to further the goals of supporting the visual arts in Turkey.

Merve Ünsal is the main editor of the artist-centered initiative, closely collaborating with the managing editor Özge Ersoy, contributing editors and artists. By involving multiple authors who are from different fields and positions in the cultural production field, the online publication strives to take the institution out of the publication format, experimenting with language as a means of communicating on, around, and about art. With works by artists from Turkey as



Merve Ünsal, "İş (birliği) (One work)", 2014

an anchor, m-est.org tests the limits of an artist-driven publication; what goes and what does not? What happens if an artist's project historizes another artist's work? The editors seek to employ different

writing methodologies to reflect on how narrations are created.

Works by artists, studio visits, articles based on and related to conversations on visual practices are published on m-est.org, imagined as a virtual discussion space. Artists and cultural practitioners trace issues of concern or curiosity publicly on the platform. The focus on artists from Turkey reiterates a widening network of people, starting with where they are. One of the founding principles of m-est.org is that it is and always will be free to access online.

The publication previously received the Grant for the Sustainability of Independent Art Initiatives 2015-16 from SAHA Association, an organization that supports contemporary arts from Turkey.

## Zen and the Art of Box Making

**After a successful career** in the banking and internet sectors, Recep Göknil RA 63 has been focusing his energy on his hobby and his passion – the unique craft of box making.

The first box he ever made was a jewelry box, crafted in their New York apartment for his wife Can Göknil ACG 66, in 1970 while he was doing his master's at Columbia University. "Our income was extremely limited so the only tools I had were a hand saw and a hammer," says Göknil. "We still have the box and the tools. Of course, with that kind of a budget no jewelry went into the box, only trinkets."

During his retirement, he turned his pastime into a unique art form, creating a portfolio of boxes that he now sells online. Remarkable about Göknil's oeuvre is the combination of a craft and historic knowledge, as the inspiration for his objects hail from many different cultural and historic contexts. Some functional, some sculptural, the boxes that Göknil makes show a meticulous craftsmanship and a deep understanding of the material culture of this object. His work is also reminiscent of how much a quotidian object



Recep Göknil RA 63 in his studio

like a box can hold cultural and historic meaning while serving a specific purpose for its owner. Göknil comments on his inspirations, "I'd like to think that my craft is closely related to Far Eastern aesthetics. They are not really related to historical events but rather to periods in history in Chinese and Japanese cultures, as well as Western building techniques. I very much like the symbolism in the Kanji alphabet. I use them in carving amulets and titles on boxes." The synthesis of Göknil's research and involved creative process are seeped into each box that he makes. He held his first exhibition in May 2017 at Galeri Selvin,

a prominent gallery focusing on sculpture. The theme of the exhibition was "Ki" which embraces the meanings of soul, energy, breath and tree in Chinese and Japanese cultures, embodying Göknil's approach to box making. While he has some boxes that interested parties can purchase, he prefers to handcraft each piece after talking with the purchasers about what they want, so that he can incorporate his artistic vision into the commission.

For more of Göknil's work, please see: [kutuzade.com](http://kutuzade.com)



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## A Story Spanning Three Centuries: *Tepedeki Okul*

**Cem Akaş RC 86** was the curator of the 150<sup>th</sup> Year Exhibition of Robert College held at the Istanbul Research Institute in 2013. The rich material which was exhibited and many additional items that had to be left out due to space restrictions, compelled Akaş, a prolific writer, to pen a book that focuses on the history of the late Ottoman Empire, young Turkey and Robert College. After five years of work, *Tepedeki Okul - Robert Koleji'nin Üç Yüzyılı* (*The School on the Hill - Three Centuries of Robert College*) was released in the spring of 2017. It is a narrative of the school's illustrious past, spanning three centuries.

*Tepedeki Okul* contains previously unpublished documents and photos that have been unveiled for the first time, and is the first study on the school of this scope in Turkish. In addition to the Robert College archives, Akaş drew from archives from the Ottoman Empire, the Republic of Turkey, Bulgaria and the US, as well as from private collections. Documents from 150 years ago

shared by descendants of the school's first administrators are also brought to light. The book reveals the founding values of RC that have carried the school through centuries.

*Tepedeki Okul* is not only about the history of a school; it is also a reflection of the history of Turkey through the years. The book examines how Robert College has contributed to Turkey, serving as a leading educational institution in the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

Cem Akaş is the author of over twenty books in various genres such as novels, short stories and essays. He has also edited the published histories of well-established institutions like Petrol Ofisi and Fenerbahçe.

*Tepedeki Okul* is available at Remzi and Pandora bookstores, Bizim Tepe and online at [rkmdstore.com](http://rkmdstore.com)



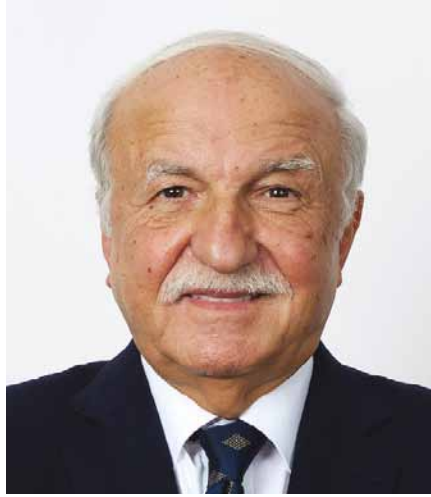


## Hüsnü Özyeğin RA 63 Creating a World

“His first capital was his diplomas,” reads the press release for *Bir Dünya Kurmak* (*Creating a World*, Özyeğin University Press). Written by journalist Rıdvan Akar, the biography details the life story, philosophy, and work habits of prominent businessman Hüsnü Özyeğin.

Özyeğin cites a good education, hard work, persistence in pursuing dreams, and the value of good relationships, especially with classmates of Robert College, as the most important factors in his success.

His life has been full of intense work, unconventional management techniques, and lots of resilience. The many challenges he faced during times of change or crisis show that such great success does not come easily. For example, when he was trying to establish Finansbank, Özyeğin took a huge risk and sold all his belongings to raise the capital, moving his family into a rental home. When regulations changed at the last minute - doubling the capital requirement - he was able to act fast and call upon his associates and friends who trusted him implicitly. Through Özyeğin's perseverance, Finansbank was created in exactly 41 days, a record for Turkey.



Hüsnü Özyeğin RA 63

Once established, Özyeğin's innovative management techniques came into play as he traveled through Turkey to speak directly to customers, enacted a flat organization by following up with branch managers in person and modelled a dynamic approach, even approving credit requests after-hours or on weekends. He also weathered many economic crises not only in Turkey but in several other countries such as Russia and Ukraine, but with careful navigation managed to emerge stronger.

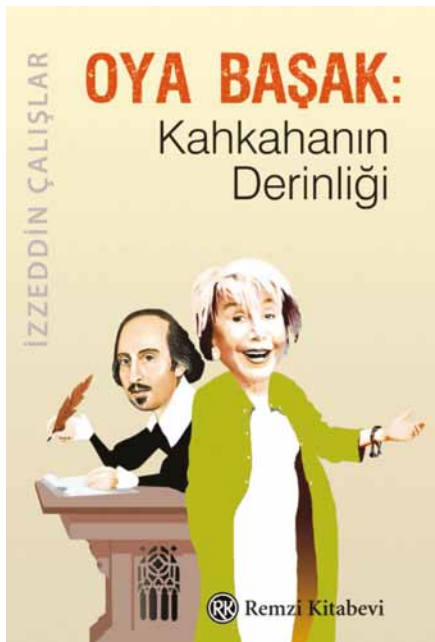
After selling Finansbank for a record amount to the National Bank of Greece (it was the single largest foreign investment transaction in the history of the Turkish Republic), Özyeğin has continued to be a dynamic player in Turkey's business life through Fiba Holding. He is also known to be an active philanthropist through his foundations Özyeğin Foundation and AÇEV. In 2007, he established Özyeğin University, which he considers to be his “most important and impactful endeavor.”

Born to a middle-class family in Izmir, Özyeğin graduated from Robert Academy before studying engineering at Oregon State University and continuing his education at Harvard Business School. He returned to Turkey at 29, upon which he started working at Pamukbank, becoming the bank's general manager at 32.

“Find what excites you and that which you love” he says. “This is the very first step to success. Work very hard, never give up and you will certainly be rewarded.”

Contributed by Yasemin Sim Esmen RC 93

## A Whimsical Look at an Extraordinary Life



RC Trustee Emerita, Professor Emeritus of English Literature at Boğaziçi University, and a member of the Board of Trustees at Boğaziçi University Foundation, Oya Başak ACG 55 is that rare gem in the world of academia: An academician not only interested in her own area of expertise, but also a vibrant community leader, dedicated to giving back to it in many creative ways. *Oya Başak: Kahkahanın Derinliği* (Oya Başak: Deep Laughter, Remzi Kitabevi), written by İzzeddin Çalışlar, is a delightful overview of her rather extraordinary life.

The book is a series of anecdotes about a trailblazing and self-deprecating woman. Her famous absentmindedness is the catalyst of many great stories. Her friendships with literati, her interactions with the people of theater, her boundless enthusiasm for travel, and her love of Shakespeare help shape a colorful and exemplary life. Her recounting of her classes and her obvious affection for her students would make any reader wish that they had taken her legendary humanities class.

Perhaps what is most striking about Oya Başak's life is her unlimited desire to contribute. She was instrumental in the founding of a film center at Boğaziçi University, as well as a girl's dorm. She gives or encourages others to give scholarships and grants. She sponsors cultural events; she even supported the launching of a theater company. Her recounting of all this effort is matter-of-fact. She belongs to a special generation of women who have a deeply instilled love for their country and a dedication to help Turkey develop. All this heavy weight lifting is lightened with laughter and a sense of mischief.

Oya Başak's life teaches how art can enrich a life and be the guiding light for creating meaning not only for oneself, but also for one's outer circle, and therefore is a lesson on its own. The book feels like an overview and leaves the reader with a wish for a follow-up.

Contributed by Zeynep Başaran RC 88

## Traveling and Living: Cultural Tourism at its Best

**The latest book** by Faruk Pekin RC YÜK 69, *Gezmek Yaşamaktır (To Travel is to Live)*, Hil Yayıncılık brings together his previously published writings, as well as never-before-published works. Pekin explains his approach to cultural tourism and travel culture, discusses the founding of FEST Travel, and provides examples of his travel writing in and outside of Turkey. The book also includes a section dedicated to previously published interviews and articles about Pekin.

A professional guide, Pekin founded FEST Travel in 1985. He became a pioneer in Turkey who paved the way for travel to lesser-known places, an effort that he also supported through his writings. Over the course of three decades, he led thousands of groups of both local and international travelers.

In Pekin's own words, "I became interested in cultural tourism during my years at RC Yüksek. In 1965 and 1966, my friend Teoman Ermete and I would guide tourists in Sultanahmet. In 1967, 1968 and 1969, as the vice-president, then president of the RC Student Council, I was instrumental



Faruk Pekin RC YÜK 69

in the projects carried out during a three-week culture program. These gave me much experience and the term 'cultural tourism' gained more meaning in Turkey.

"While a student, I used to wander around Istanbul with RC teachers such as Hilary Sumner-Boyd, Keith Greenwood, John Freely, Mike Austin and Godfrey Goodwin. In 1972, Sumner-Boyd and Freely wrote *Strolling Through Istanbul*, a book still considered to be among the best ever written about the city. In this book, 20 itineraries were defined and these itineraries formed the basis of FEST's core program 'Adım Adım İstanbul' (Istanbul Step by Step)."

Pekin, who is also on the board of the International Social Tourism Organization has written articles for a number of publications including *Skylife* magazine and *Cumhuriyet* and *Hürriyet* newspapers. He has had many books published on a wide range of topics. He was also a presenter for the TV programs, *Travel in History* and *Secrets of the City* in 2011-13 on Skitter, and has made many documentaries for İZTV.

## Leyla Pekcan ACG 61 Pens Family Memoir

**The latest book** by Leyla Batu Pekcan, *İşte Benim Hayatım (This is My Life)*, Pan Yayıncılık, now in its second printing, is a biographical memoir that sheds light on the daily lives and values of a Turkish family, starting from the early days of the Republic until today.

Pekcan's classmate, prominent author Ayşe Kulin says, "Leyla's book of moments and memories opens with a photograph of her mother taken in 1929 and moves on to the present. While conveying, from the viewpoint of a woman raised with Republican values...of my generation, the efforts of middle-class families to prepare girls and boys alike, to a more beautiful world, of honest and hard-working patriotic fathers overcoming hardships with zero concessions...it is also a document of social history... for future generations."

Another classmate, young adult fiction writer İpek Ongun adds, "Pekcan's last book has such an absorbing language, that I read it all in one breath. And that very



Leyla Pekcan ACG 61 (far left) with husband Tunç Pekcan RC ENG 59, their daughter and grandsons

moment, I just remained, astonished. Just as you have a dream and are still under its spell after you wake up, such was my exact sentiment...having kept her diaries with great care, she manages to present this valuable work to future generations."

*İşte Benim Hayatım* is the third memoir by Pekcan. The first – *Atatürk'ü Yaşayanlar* – has been translated to English as

*Memorable Encounters with Atatürk* (Peter Lang Academic Publishers). Co-authored with Gönül Bakay ACG 64, it is available as an e-book, and contains recollections and photos of people who knew Atatürk (for more details, see RCQ 40, p. 25). She also composed *Annem Masume Hanım* (Pan Yayıncılık), which includes selections from her mother's memoirs (see RCQ 47, p. 25).



## From the Library of Cem Kozlu RA 65

**Former head** of Turkish Airlines and senior consultant for Coca-Cola, Cem Kozlu is also a prolific writer. His 10<sup>th</sup> book, *Liderin Kitaplığı* (*The Leader's Library*, Remzi Kitapevi) is the sequel to *Liderin Takım Çantısı* (*The Leader's Toolbox*, Remzi Kitapevi), and was triggered by questions from its readers about further resources on the subject.

In *Liderin Kitaplığı*, Kozlu shares the books he found to be helpful in becoming an effective manager and a powerful leader. Among them, he mentions the titles that he uses in strategic planning, decision-making, and decision implementation as well as those that had helped develop his worldview. When asked how he chooses which books to read, Kozlu says, "I read book reviews, browse in bookstores, talk to friends, chase my favorite authors; then, one book leads me to another."



Cem Kozlu RA 65

Reading about a subject is one thing, but applying the knowledge learned is another. To employ a book's concepts Kozlu suggests underlining, annotating, taking notes, answering the question "What have I learned from this book?", and maybe putting the answer into writing, explaining it to a friend and using learnings from it in a course or discussion. "It all helps," he says.

In talking about his inspiration to write, Kozlu explains, "I write in order to discover what I know, and therefore, what I need to learn. Basically, curiosity about a subject leads me to start research, and then the desire to share what I discover triggers the writing process."

Through his writing Kozlu aims either to help young people develop their leadership potential, or to contribute to the discourse on Turkey's growth and development.

## A Handbook for World Languages

**During the forty years** he spent traveling the world in the Turkish diplomatic service, Nuri Yıldırım RA 62 was exposed to a wide variety of languages and dialects. In *Babil Kulesinde Buluşalım – Dünya Dilleriyle Tanışalım* (*Let's Meet in the Tower of Babel and Get to Know the Languages of the World*, Demkar Yayınevi), Yıldırım shares his personal recollections and insights into world languages with a warm and genuine tone.

Although he is not a linguist, sociologist, or anthropologist, Yıldırım wanted to share his observations about the languages that he encountered during his career, compare languages, and examine their relationship to each other and to Turkish. The book also includes personal anecdotes, including references to some of his teachers and schoolmates at Robert College. This is the first of two books, with the second book taking a closer look at Turkic languages, as well as Turkish literature.



Nuri Yıldırım RA 62 with his daughter Ege

In the introduction Yıldırım writes, "My true purpose is to leave a legacy of a kind of handbook that can serve as reference to young generations about various world

languages and Turkish. Hopefully the contents of these books will also serve as a starting point for young diplomats to know the languages they will come across in the countries where they will be assigned. I am hoping that these books will be perceived as a reference document compiled like an anthology or brief encyclopedia by an amateur, and will also be a source of inspiration for a better understanding and appreciation of the Turkish language.

"Even though all these past encounters in my professional life seem like a fairy tale now, I felt it a sacred duty to compile these memories and the related scientific data, and to pass them on to future generations who may be interested in this topic."

The second book in Nuri Yıldırım's two-part series is titled *Tonyukuk'tan Selam Getirdim Dede Korkut'a* (*I Brought Greetings to Dede Korkut from Tonyukuk*) and will be published in 2018.

## Improving With and Through Soccer



Edip Uras RC 85

Combining personal improvement with soccer, *Futbol Terapi* (Soccer Therapy, Destek Yayınları) by Edip Uras RC 85 brings together two seemingly divergent topics. Uras melts self-improvement and soccer together in one pot, using soccer to explore the symbolic values of the game in order to improve relationships. He also underscores the importance of creating a game out of life, which is an important element in the lives of successful individuals.

"We have lost our quality to express ourselves through games, which used to be our natural state when we were kids," says Uras. "*Futbol Terapi* makes an effort to see life through the lens of the most beautiful game of all: football."

Noting that people think that they have to engage in some sort of hardship, quarrel or fight every moment of their lives, he notes, "Nothing can be as serious and at the same time as fun as a game. In order to perceive life as a game and to be successful in all areas of life, one needs to know this game well, and understand the underlying philosophy. Wouldn't we enjoy life much more if we didn't feel as if we had fought a war after losses or failures, but got ready for another game instead?"

Uras believes that the only way to achieve a harmonious society is by improving relationships on smaller scales. It is only through understanding each other on the micro level of the personal relationship that people will be more at peace with themselves.

## The Bleakness Hidden in the Mundane

In her debut novel, *Ağır Bir Şeyin Fazla Gürültü Çıkarmadan Devrilişi* (Something Heavy Falling Quietly Down, Doğan Kitap), Özlem Alkan K. RC 87, introduces us to a complex, self-contradicting, modern protagonist, Mine. Trying to defy the status quo while living smack in the middle of it, Mine questions what it means to be a woman - particularly a woman in Turkey - and explores the boundaries of love and marriage throughout the novel.

Mine appears to have a perfect life: She lives in a gated community, hangs out at the hippest places in Istanbul, attends parties, knows the "right" people, can afford not to work, and works on her nail polish blog intermittently. She also has a loving, handsome, successful husband. This seemingly perfect tableau starts crumbling, when Mine meets a strange woman at a restaurant. Following her down a rabbit hole of sorts, she becomes inundated with questions: How satisfied



Özlem Alkan K. RC 87

and fulfilled is she? Is her life something she barely tolerates through the numbing help of TV series, alcohol, Ciprax, and Prozac? Is her love of her husband

authentic or merely a fiction she has to incessantly feed? Is she able to have sincere relationships with others based on real emotions and truthful experiences? Is she free in sex? Are these even possible in Turkey?

*Ağır Bir Şeyin Fazla Gürültü Çıkarmadan Devrilişi*, is driven by Mine's inner voice. Alkan K. favors a style that renders the writer's presence invisible. These stylistic choices provide the reader with an almost voyeuristic experience. This experience is enriched by a gaggle of interesting side characters who join Mine's journey to the physical and mental boundaries of faithfulness. Alkan K. uses the intelligence and sarcasm of Mine to draw attention to a wide spectrum of issues, from hypocrisy in relationships to the stranglehold of corporate life. With a feminist sensibility, she examines the conundrums of the modern, urban individual.

Contributed by Zeynep Başaran RC 88



## An Extraordinary Tale of Chess



Ezgi Emel RC 10

The story of *Piyon Poi'nin Okyanus Macerası* (Chess Pawn Poi's Ocean Adventure, İş Bankası Kültür Yayınları), written by Ezgi Emel RC 10, is a read for all ages. Adopting a non-linear plot, the adventures of a pawn that falls into the sea make zig-zags, provoking readers to think outside of the box.

Adopting perhaps one of the most significant and stable intellectual icons of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, chess, this book also serves to educate young readers on this board game. By working both short and long-term memories and learning in children, the book succeeds in becoming a tool and a pleasure to keep coming back to. Weaving together chess rules with the unpredictable life of underwater, Emel combines unlikely realms to make an expedition in children's imagination. In addition, the illustrations of Emel's book are a breath of fresh air that play with color and form.

The philosophical underpinnings of Emel's work are crucial for development. Since most school-age children are squeezed by standardized tests and higher expectations in terms of their performance, books like Emel's become even more important in contributing to the imaginary world of young readers.

## The Politics of Secularism

Murat Akan RC 91, an associate professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Boğaziçi University, published *The Politics of Secularism: Religion, Diversity, and Institutional Change in France and Turkey* (Columbia University Press) in September 2017.

*The Politics of Secularism* uses France and Turkey to analyze comparative discussions of secularism and struggles for power. Akan lays out the institutional struggles between three distinct political currents - anti-clericalism, liberalism, and what he terms state-civil religionism - detailing the nuances of how political movements articulate the boundary between the secular and the religious. Disputing the prevalent idea in European academic and public discussions that diversity is a new challenge to secularism and focusing on comparison itself as part of the politics of secularism, the book contributes to understanding secular politics and its limits.



Murat Akan RC 91

Akan's work has already met with great critical acclaim. Cihan Tuğal RC 92, associate professor at UC Berkeley says, "*The Politics of Secularism* is comparative

history at its best." One of the most prolific and well-known scholars and public intellectual of secularism in France, Jean Baubérot commented that, "Akan's is the best book I have read on the subject and will significantly refresh global conceptions of secularism." Peter van der Veer, director of the Max Planck Institute at Göttingen remarked that, "this book will clarify many misunderstandings in the comparative study of secularism and multiple modernities. It is a must-read for scholars from a wide range of social sciences as well as for an informed public."

Akan received his PhD in Political Science from Columbia University in 2005. He held post-doctoral positions with the University of Amsterdam and the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen. He recently gave talks on his book at the University of California at Berkeley, Davis and Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California.

# Impact Hub: A Network for Social Entrepreneurs



Ayşe Sabuncu RC 04 L3 (center) with students from RC and Bilkent Erzurum Laboratory School

When social programs are starting out, it can be a challenge to find the support needed to grow the program. Enter Impact Hub Istanbul, part of a global platform that brings together and supports impact-driven individuals, co-founded by Ayşe Sabuncu RC 04 L3. With a mission to empower entrepreneurs and innovators who move society forward, the co-working space offers a unique ecosystem of resources, inspiration and collaboration opportunities.

After graduating from Johns Hopkins University with a degree in computer science, Sabuncu started her career in the banking industry at Citi in New York where she served at different levels for five years. It was after a trip to Mt. Kilimanjaro (see RCQ 41, p. 16) that she decided to point her life in another direction. Ayşe and her friends dedicated the Kilimanjaro challenge to an important cause, and fundraised for the “Gençlere Değer” (Value for Young People) project started by Toplum Gönüllüleri Vakfı (Community Volunteers Foundation), which focused on empowering underprivileged youth.

Shortly after this experience Sabuncu left Citi to pursue a new life goal of creating social impact in the world. Her first stop was an MBA program at New York University's Stern School of Business to advance her knowledge on social impact, innovation and

entrepreneurship. She specifically focused on social entrepreneurship, microfinance and social investment. In the summer of 2014, she started working with the peer-to-peer microfinance platform Kiva in Zimbabwe and South Africa where she was introduced to Impact Hub.

After that experience Sabuncu returned to Istanbul and immediately started mapping the social innovation ecosystem in Turkey. Her aim was to support and strengthen social entrepreneurship as well as introduce an impact-driven approach in conducting business. Bringing Impact Hub - a global community present on five continents with over 15,000 members - to Istanbul was the first step toward this goal.

Today a multi-disciplinary group of individuals and companies work together under one roof to create synergies and influence co-creation.

A year after Sabuncu founded Impact Hub Istanbul, she succeeded in creating a meeting point for impact-driven individuals and an inspirational space to foster social innovation.

The community itself is comprised of entrepreneurs, freelancers, techies, consultants, investors, creatives, artists and many RC graduates: Güçlü Talu RC 03 L12, Founder of Smartup Network; Sarp Süerdaş

RC 03 L3, founder of Kutuda Sanat Var; Esra Yalçınalp RC 2000, General Manager of BanttanCanlı; Rana Babaç RC 04 L12, Founder of BrandCritique Communications as well as Cats of Istanbul; Cengiz Gürsoy RC 04 L12, founder of Polenio, and Hande Yalınzoğlu RC 04 L12, PhD student at Oxford University, are all a part of the Impact Hub Istanbul Community.

With the aim of promoting social entrepreneurship and building professional capacity, Sabuncu and her team is curating and creating various inspirational and business events and acceleration programs.

Sabuncu has also been incredibly passionate about supporting the next generation of social entrepreneurs at Robert College. The RC Social Entrepreneurship (RCSEC) club's existence and its projects are exemplary, and there was an instant connection when Sabuncu visited the RCSEC club as a speaker during the RC - Bilkent Erzurum Laboratory School Exchange Program. Following her presentation, the connection led to multiple Impact Hub visits by Robert College students. Sabuncu started consulting with RCSEC teams to help them build student-driven social entrepreneurship projects.

Later in the year, the Artisans Online Shop project, created by RCSEC students Arya Nur Gümüştas L9, Serdil Tinda Yalçın L11 and Deniz Cengiz L12, was selected for an international accelerator at Impact Hub Istanbul. Their project's focus was on Diyarbakır, a rich region for artisans, craftsmen and shopkeepers that has been truly damaged by political challenges and the economic situation of recent years. Their project proposal was to establish an online shop that would catalog, categorize, photograph and sell these products to customers who are not in the region.

The RCSEC-Impact Hub collaboration even went beyond the school's gates. Two RC students, Rabia Demirelli RC 17 and Mert Özbay L12, did summer internships working on a large Impact Hub project.

For more details about Impact Hub visit [impacthubist.net](http://impacthubist.net)

Contributed by Rana Babaç RC 04 L12



# FEST Travel ile



20 yıllık  
FEST  
klasiği

Küba

Her zaman renkli ve canlı başkent Havana, tarihi bir filmin setinde gibi hissedeceğiniz kolonyal şehirler Cienfuegos, Camagüey, Trinidad, Santa Clara, denizin ve güneşin tadını doyasıya çıkaracağınız Varadero, bir zamanlar köleliğin ve ticaretin kalbinin attığı Şeker Kamışı Vadisi, geleneksel tarım yöntemleriyle üretilen tütünleriyle Viñales Vadisi...

Fidel Castro ve Che Guevara'nın ayak izlerini takip ederek 1 Mayıs coşkusunu yaşamak, şarkı söyleyip dans ederek sokakları karnaval alanına çeviren Kübalılarla müziğin ritmine kendinizi kaptırmak, eski Amerikan arabalarıyla sokak sokak dolaşmak, günün yorgunluğunu birbirinden leziz kokteyllerle atmak...

Müziğin, dansın ve devrimin ülkesi Küba'da nereyi, ne zaman, kiminle birlikte görmek istediğinize karar verin, ister bir grup gezimizle isterseniz "sadece size özel" çizeceğimiz rotayla Karayiplerin gerçek ruhunu içinize çekin.



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# Homecoming 2017

Alumni from eight decades  
came back to campus on  
Sunday, October 22, 2017  
for the Annual  
Homecoming Day

Graduates from the Class of 1944 to the Class of 2017 reminisced about their school days and celebrated years of friendship during a beautiful fall day on campus. The festivities included the traditional 50<sup>th</sup> reunion luncheon and Roll Call as well as lunch in the Murat Karamancı Student Center. It was a day to remember!







RC student volunteers: The day would not be the same without them running the registration process in Marble Hall



Gülğün Üstündağ ACG 44 was recognized during the traditional Roll Call for being the oldest graduate present at Homecoming



ACG 46 ladies Gülsersen Artunkal, Nuran İsvan and Ayhan Amal enjoyed their day together at Homecoming



From L to R: Füsün Güven ACG 67, İlhan Güven, Ferdin Hoyi RC 58 and Ayşe Doğruer ACG 63



A small group from the Class of '67 with their specially designed 50<sup>th</sup> year reunion hats, saluting the world





Cem Akaş RC 86 was at the İbrahim Bodur Library, signing copies of his book, *Tepedeki Okul* (*The School on the Hill*), detailing 150 years of the history of Robert College



Mehmet Uysal (center), Turkish Language and Literature Department Head, teacher and former housefather caught up with his former students



From R to L: Math teacher Rina Kapuya and biology teacher Dünya Önen RC 03 L3 had the younger generation grads by their side



Turkish Language and Literature teacher Aydemir Doğan caught up with former students too



Alumni from all years were on campus for Homecoming 2017



Emin Veral RC ENG 54 saluting the Roll Call audience



The RC Singers gave a stirring performance for alumni



## The Boys and Girls of '55 Meet at Bizim Tepe

Any meeting with old classmates after several decades is special and memorable and I am very pleased and honored to have had that experience. I felt very lucky, emotional and excited upon my invitation to the special meeting at Bizim Tepe, on October 17, 2017 to have dinner with my ACG 55 sisters and classmates of RC ENG 55. My wife Zeynep and I spent unforgettable hours with friends and the event turned out to be one of the highlights of our summer. Everyone felt rejuvenated by re-establishing and reinforcing friendship bonds as well as for sharing the latest developments in our lives. The unforgettable and invaluable impact of RC on our personal lives was clearly visible. The dinner meeting ended with sincere hopes that we can do this again in the future. Many thanks go to Ayla Gümüşlügil ACG 55 and Haluk Emiroğlu RC ENG 56 for organizing this outstanding event.



The Class of '55 at Bizim Tepe

Now, we are looking forward to our 65<sup>th</sup> reunion in June 2020. I am sure that our organizational leader Armağan Çağlayan RC ENG 55 will once again organize a special plan for the forthcoming reunion with the full cooperation of our ACG 55

sisters. We all need to be healthy and optimistic for that very special and historic day.

*Contributed by Edib Kirdar RC ENG 55*

## ACG 63's Rosy Get-together

On our 40<sup>th</sup> year graduation anniversary, 20 classmates re-discovered and appreciated our close friendships from so many years ago.

In May 2017, we planned a trip to experience rose harvesting in Isparta, a major rose oil exporter in the world as well as a city of historical and archeological sites.

Before the trip, it was announced that the harvesting day would be our Pink Day and everyone would wear pink survivor bracelets, hats and outfits. And in the evening, we would choose the person with the best pink outfit, to be crowned the "Pink Queen".

On the day of rose harvesting we were at the fields bright and early in the morning with our guide Selçuk Yiğitsoy RC 84. Rose gathering has to be done very early in the day when the scent of the flowers is at its peak and soon we started to gather roses according to picking instructions. We felt dizzy with the scent and the beauty of the vast rose fields and dizzy with everything one can hope for in heaven: love, friendship, beauty, sharing, caring, goodwill...

After this heavenly experience, we visited the factory where rose oil and rose water are extracted.



Life was a bed of roses during the '63 reunion trip

In the evening, we enjoyed the Pink Queen Contest at the Sagalossos Lodge & Spa Hotel. Though we were anxious about disturbing the hotel guests, contrary to our fears, they joined in the fun and appreciated the College Spirit we still carried after so many years.

The next day saw us visiting and being highly impressed by the amazing antique city of

Sagalossos and the Burdur Archaeology Museum as well as the giant statues and items excavated from the ruins. We also enjoyed the beautiful lakes of the region; Gölcük, Burdur, Eğirdir, Salda and hiked through the amazing Yazılı Canyon.

We are looking forward to new adventures!

*Contributed by Seres Başak Ener*

## Magical Mystery Tour for ACG 67

**When we graduated** 50 years ago, back in 1967, our school was called The American College for Girls. It seems only yesterday that we stood in the Auditorium with our caps and gowns. Time has flown by bringing major changes in every aspect of life. The Class of ACG 67 changed too, in a very positive way. Half a century later we have stronger bonds of friendship, we meet more often, we have our own tradition of an annual Spring visit to the Erguvanlik on the Plateau and now, 50 years later, we love our College a thousand times more.

ACG 67 celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with several events from June to December 2017. We designed a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ACG 67 logo for printed material and memorabilia. Now, we have a doré clutch bag, a tote bag and nightgowns we originally planned to wear at the dormitory. When we realized that the units with a bed on top of the wardrobe were designed for teenagers, we gave up on the idea!

In spring, a campaign was launched with the motto "50. Yilda 50 Bin TL" to raise funds for our Golden Anniversary Gift to the RC Annual Giving Campaign. Another 5,000 TL was donated by our wonderful classmates as a thank you gift for the Organizing Committee and we ended up with a total of 55,000 TL.

The first event took place in June on a beautiful sunny day with a luncheon on the Plateau. The popular song of the 60s, "Lemon Tree" by Peter, Paul & Mary was the inspiration for the theme. Kilos of lemons were used for the centerpiece, the drinks and the cakes. It was a colorful day full of fun and surprises and the best surprise of the day was definitely the visit by Headmaster Dr. Charles H. Skipper.

In July, ACG 67 returned to campus for a Champagne Toast in Marble Hall and a Black & White Gala Dinner under the stars. The years had flown by like a film, so the Gala theme was 60s movies. The music, menu cards and table centerpieces

were all related to films and the movie stars of our youth. The trip down nostalgia lane began with a collage of six 1967 film trailers and ended with our photos taken from 2017-1967. The last photo showing us with our caps and gowns on Gould Hall steps evoked distant memories and mixed feelings in all.

The Golden Anniversary celebration continued in September with a 2-day trip to Cunda and Ma'adra Vineyards. October saw us once again on the RC campus for Homecoming, with the Beatles' 1967 film, *Magical Mystery Tour*, and to end the year, 2017's final get together in December was scheduled to coincide with Emine Nur's solo jewelry exhibition.

Despite all these events it is very hard to believe that we graduated 50 years ago, back in 1967!

*Contributed by Gülçin Ülgezen ACG 67*



ACG 67, 50 years before and 50 years later



Headmaster Skipper (far right) joined in part of the celebrations



Special events call for special outfits



## Triple Celebration for RA 67

50<sup>th</sup> anniversary took place in three phases



Phase I was a gala evening of 78 classmates and their spouses with the participation of two former faculty members, Peter I. Kuniholm and Richard Reed. There were cocktails, dinner and dancing on the shores of the Bosphorus at Feriye Restaurant.



Phase II was a "Boys & Girls Night Out – No spouses allowed" attended by over 50 "Boys and Girls" of RA 67 and ACG 69. Kebaps were enjoyed and needless to say the group had a lot to catch up on.



The third phase of the reunion was a four-day trip. Thirty-six classmates and spouses attended the trip under the sun and sky of Cyprus.



Top photo: Taken in 1967 on the Bebek campus, Prof. Dr. Peter Ian Kuniholm (English teacher and housemaster of Anderson Hall) and Timur Tuğrul RA 67 are preparing a rather makeshift exhibition in the basement of Anderson Hall where Timur was exhibiting his works.

Bottom photo: The two got together at the RA 67 reunion fifty years later, in the summer of 2017, and struck the same pose. Time wasn't that cruel after all.

At present, Prof. Kuniholm is a research professor at the University of Arizona and Timur continues to create and work in Munich as a sculptor.



## Class of RC 72 - 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion

Rediscovering each other and the joy it brings

**The first co-ed class** to graduate after the merger of ACG and RA, RC 72 has a special place in the history of the school. The class reunites regularly and this time, the kick-off for the get-together was the RC campus; the beloved Plateau and the Murat Karamancı Student Center, followed by the Şile Gardens Hotel near the Black Sea.

The organization committee, Nesligül Demirer Doğançay, Melek Yaşar, Ayşe Sümer, Lale İhtiyaroğlu Ekinci, Coşkun Mançuhan and Mehtap Özgün Özönat, with the support of Ruşen Eşref Yazgan from Ankara, worked hard to make the event memorable. Nilgün Tuncer Şancı and Aylin Arıcan McCarthy also assisted during the last stages of the preparations.

Banu Tansuğ, our creative artist, designed the beautiful “45’likler” t-shirts and the meaningful merger bookmarks. Müjdat Tohumcu created the humorous magazine, Reunion Post which was distributed at the hotel. Mehtap Özgün Özönat chose the music for the dinner and together with Melek Yaşar, prepared an “Oldies but Goldies” CD for the whole class.

It was a great pleasure to see friends from abroad. Güner Tuğrul Ayter, Esat Ali İz, Haim Baruh, Cihan Bilginsoy, Ömer Eğecioğlu, Emine Aras Kumcu and Sinan Cebenoyan came from the US, and Meral Demirbağ Büyükkurt came from Canada. Murat Nişancıoğlu and Saadet Borar from London, Merih Tanrısever Guglielmetti from Switzerland, Cem Öcal from Italy and

Elian Arditti Koronel from Tel Aviv were also present.

Though the majority of the class was from Istanbul, Kadir Ateşok, Elife Ünal, Perihan Uzdil, Hasan Aktaş and Gülten Özveri joined the fun from various cities in Turkey. Ruşen Eşref Yazgan, Müjdat Tohumcu, Mustafa Dağdelen and Hüseyin Okçu came with their wives.

Ruşen gave a meaningful speech in which he acknowledged the hard work behind the scenes and the joys of rediscovering each other. It felt great to be with friends again for the 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion, just before the Golden 50<sup>th</sup> on the horizon.

*Contributed by Nesligül Doğançay*





## A Night of Surprises for RC 77's 40<sup>th</sup>



An evening of fun and laughter for RC 77

Growing up in the 60s and coming of age in the 70s amidst political turmoil, economic instability and streets full of threats, we were never a very tightly knit class. Even our yearbook confirmed this when we could not decide if our photos would be informal or formal with caps and gowns.

Forty years on, our reunion took place at Bizim Tepe on August 4, 2017 thanks to the efforts of Levent Gürkan who wrote, called, stalked and pestered each class member. His efforts paid off in the end with 80 '77 graduates attending the cocktail followed by a buffet dinner. The first surprise of the night was the *Ablalar Korosu* who had rehearsed dutifully before their gala! To honor their Orta School music teacher Mrs. Pliatska, they sang songs from the early 60s. Moreover, they had composed their very own original song, The Bingham Song, specifically for this event. *Ablalar Korosu* sang their hearts out and loved being on stage even if for only eight minutes. Who knows, they might even have an album out soon.

The second surprise of the night was the 15-minute video prepared by none other than Levent Gürkan, the architect of the night and the president of the AV Club 40 years ago. This film was a tear-jerker for most of us as we watched our innocence, naivety and youth pass before our eyes accompanied by our favorite tracks from the 70s. The third surprise came all the way from the States: Can Ertem and Kaya Sanan had created a film featuring our graduation



The *Ablalar Korosu*, was the first surprise of the celebration

ceremony and field day events of the late 70s. With the surprises and dinner over, everyone was on the dance floor, moving to the familiar rhythms of times long gone, happy, full of energy and on a natural high.

The morning after was a totally different story. At Bingham Hall trying desperately to get down from the bunk beds with our swollen feet, most of us had a hard time walking to the Plateau for breakfast. Once there however, it was back to the 1970s again with new faces that could not join us at BT, harmless gossip and cheerful banter.

Some of us had to go to work, some of us had to look after their grandchildren and some new dads had to take care of their own toddlers! Thus, our mini weekend came to an end as we left to keep up with the demands of the "real" world. However, none of us was the same after experiencing that delightful feeling of togetherness, belonging and being accepted, warts and all, as we promised to get together for a 41.5 reunion some time next year.

Contributed by Ayşe Kora RC 77

## Mark the Date! RC 82's 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion

It was right before the celebration of our 20<sup>th</sup> graduation anniversary in 2002 that we set up an email group to keep in touch. The group was almost obsolete for the past few years when in late 2016, someone started a WhatsApp group, which everyone joined in no time and were communicating day and night. Thanks to friends living abroad, the group was live almost 24 hours a day. It was a new-found joy; talking about the past, the present and sometimes even the future. Come 2017, we remembered our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It wasn't easy getting volunteers to organize the event, but finally they came along and planning commenced. Bringing together a group of people who live all over the world is rather difficult and setting a date to accommodate very busy schedules is even harder. Everyone wanted this reunion to be special and memorable. So the organization committee rolled up its sleeves and explored possibilities. However, the path ahead was full of unexpected obstacles. One of us fell from a height of eight meters and ended up with multiple fractures all over her body and neck, one of us had a gallbladder operation, yet another had to take over the sudden responsibility of important family health issues. And one had to leave the committee. It was all devastating. However, new members stepped in and continued with the mission. In the end, the whole event became a communal success.

As the long awaited day arrived, everyone



...and where have you been all these years?!

gathered around our traditional meeting point on the steps of Gould Hall to take a group photo and to walk together to the main venue, the Plateau. Friends who now live in various cities of Turkey and in many different countries - Austria, Brazil, Canada, Norway, UK, US and Switzerland - showed up one by one. Friends who hadn't seen each other for many years and friends coming home for the first time in almost 20 years got together. One could hear the laughter of the 11-year olds from forty-some years ago echoing on campus once again and could almost breathe in the joy in the air.

Strolling the familiar paths of our childhood brought upon a shower of memories. Flowers, ribbons and twinkling trees through a softly illuminated walkway to the Plateau welcomed us to this transformed and magical corner of our shared past.

Amusing quotes put smiles to our faces and the loss of loved ones brought tears to



RC 82 honored classmates no longer among us

our eyes as we honored friends no longer with us. We toasted to their memories, to hope and faith and to the past and the future but most of all to that very moment of our reunion, we will keep for the rest of our lives as a reflection to cherish.

There were no professors, doctors, CEOs, engineers, architects, bankers, managers, business owners, designers, artists, parents or grandparents on the Plateau that night. There were a bunch of teenagers, blessed with the gift of turning the moment into a most magical memory, posing for a snapshot, enjoying the freedom that comes from togetherness and the spirit of life-long friendship, expecting nothing but to share the moment.

Cheers! "Here's to our prosperity. Our good health and happiness. And most important, To life, to life..." - *Fiddler On The Roof*

Contributed by the RC 82 Reunion Committee



The traditional meeting point on the steps of Gould Hall



## Love is in the Air... for RC 87



RC 87 on the "old and wise stone steps" of Gould Hall

*"Love is in the air, everywhere I look around / Love is in the air, every sight and every sound / And I don't know if I'm being foolish / Don't know if I'm being wise..."* But I can be as foolish and as wise as I want, 'cause it's Reunion time!

I can tell you how, on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of July, we gathered on the steps of Marble Hall, about 70 of us from all around the world, and that we were all excited to actually physically get together after six months of intensive deliberations on WhatsApp. I can swear every one of us looked marvelous, and I can recount whose watch was more admirable or whose Botox more inconspicuous, who was working out and whose hairdresser was a magician. I can positively prove to you that one was the exact same gentleman 30 years ago but another a shy little girl, contrary to today; that one had the exact same warm smile on the very first day of school. But it doesn't really matter. I can go on recounting the cocktail hours in front of Marble Hall and the lovely photo shoot, the smart setup in front of Suna Kiraç Hall that allowed for

maximum mingling and inevitable dancing, the delicious finger food and the incredible speed of drinks being refilled, how many seconds it takes for the Class of '87 to go from 0 to 100 when "Big in Japan" begins to play - and how many in that class know by heart the lyrics to "La Isla Bonita" or "Self Control". I can question, at the end of the night, who didn't talk to whom and why, or ask those with sharper eyes "who was sittin' under a tree and k-i-s-s-i-n-g". I can joke about the absurdity of one dancing away with her walking stick and Robocop boot, and another inheriting the ominous gear at the end of the night after she broke the same foot on the Plateau.

But it doesn't really recap our 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion. What we had that night, the morning, and waking up the next day, was pure and absolute love: Real and unconditional love, for each other, for our alma mater, for life! During those magical hours, no one ever "tried to be" anything. No one felt the need to, because we were family. We were sisters and brothers, separated as teenagers, reunited. Filling each other with love, touching each others' hearts, reminiscing

each tiny word and each subtle move that turned us, more than 30 years ago, from a bunch of kids into individuals, under those old trees, in those long corridors, on those same stone steps. Bridging all those years that went by, feeling once more as invincible as we did back then, ready to take on the world.

So you can look at our lovely photos and marvel at our youth, question if it's good genetics or advanced medical cosmetics or masterful photography techniques. But the answer is none of those. It's love. Love for our own beings, love for each other, love for our school and most of all, love for life.

This, our 30<sup>th</sup> reunion as well as this text, is a testimony and a toast - to our home, Robert College, to our sisterhood and brotherhood, to love and to life. Because at the end of the day, success is nothing but love and happiness, and we are so very lucky that our foundation for success is as solid and dependable as the old and wise stone steps of our beloved Marble Hall.

*Contributed by Candan Turhan RC 87*



Scenes from a great night, a night of "Love is in the Air"



## 20<sup>th</sup> Year Celebrations for RC 97



RC 97 in the Forum

On July 14, sixty RC 97 graduates celebrated their 20th year. But the preparations started long before, with Bora Tokyay and Özlem Eren Hanoğlu, leveraging the momentum from the successful RC 97 20<sup>th</sup> Year Scholarship Campaign to increase participation.

The class began gathering at the old Bubble, now the Murat Karamancı Student Center. Ali Baba köftes arrived just as tummies started to rumble. Eating delicious köftes at such a wonderful venue, it was impossible

not to compare it to the köftes we ate in the old cafeteria.

As people finished their dinner and received their 20<sup>th</sup> year RC 97 Limited Edition t-shirts designed by Nil Deniz Ogay, they headed over to, of course, the Plateau.

In the meantime, just like the balls we had in high school, our DJ, Cenk Gümüşçüoğlu was setting up the music. Unlike high school, this time, beverages were being set up too – and there were no chaperones – a warning sign for the rest of the evening. As the sun set, the good times began for us at the Forum.



Arkin Balıkçioğlu, giving the details of the hard disk and cloud storage gifts in the lottery (no, thankfully he wasn't singing)

One of the highlights of the evening was the cake, hand-made by Elif Oğralı with the RC Logo and a graduation cap. The cake cutting ceremony was followed by the lottery where some of our lucky classmates won 4-night stays at a newly renovated B&B in Ayvalık, free (real - not chewing gum type) tattoo of choice and external hard disks & cloud storage space, thanks to the generosity of Işıl Tümer Floden, Tufan İlksöz and Arkin Balıkçioğlu.

Numerous group photos and 90s songs later, midnight arrived all too soon. As some left to go home, the majority headed over to Bingham and with Okan Sayıt's persuasiveness, we were able to bring the music with us, too. The rest of the night is a bit blurry for most. But the 4 am



Just getting started...

kokoreç delivery, the traditional yatakhane pranks the *Yatılıs* played on the sleeping *Gündüzlüs*, the sudden re-appearance of Emre Kir after three hours and "Le ve" will definitely be remembered for years to come.

The fresh air of the campus made waking up after such little sleep much more manageable and one might even say, enjoyable. Some were lucky enough to stay together a little longer for brunch at Bizim Tepe before getting back to the "real world".

Thanks to the efforts of our classmates who organized the event we had a night to remember. The question now is, how will we wait for five more years to do it again?

Contributed by Bora Tokyay RC 97



## Summer Fun as RC 02 Celebrates Their 15<sup>th</sup> Reunion

The “Bayram” holiday did not deter the Class of RC 02 alumni from gathering on campus on July 1, 2017 for their 15<sup>th</sup> graduation reunion.

There were many special moments that evening but some highlights were:

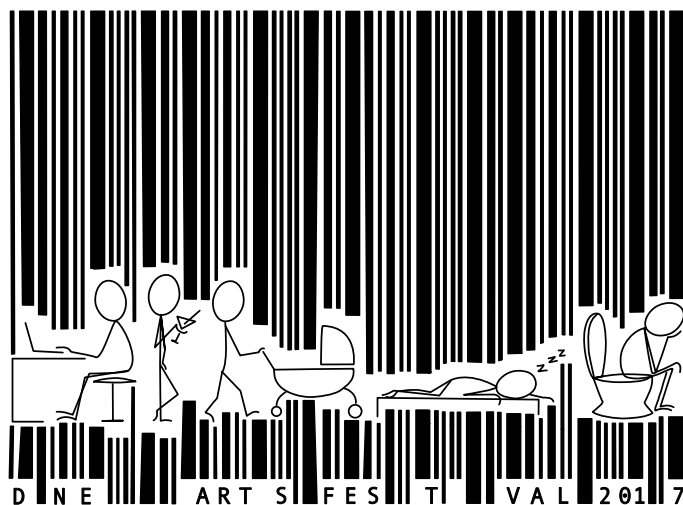
It was the hottest night of the summer!

Classmates from near and far met on the steps of Marble Hall to get their special memento t-shirts designed and manufactured by fellow classmates and modelled after their FAF '02 shirts.

Shortly after dinner, the party began with a live band. The band grew throughout the night, showcasing some of RC 02's unforgettable musical talents.

Most alumni receded to their beds in the dormitory. One alumnus got lost on his campus tour, just as he had in prep year. Thankfully, he emerged for food the next morning. The class was proud to see business was as usual, even during the summer months.

The craze continued when former students gathered in front of Marble Hall for a class photo. What happened then, in front of Marble Hall, stays in front of Marble Hall!



The reunion t-shirt design was inspired by their FAF '02 shirts



The Murat Karamancı Student Center hosted the Class of 02 at their 15<sup>th</sup> reunion.



If only the steps of Marble Hall could speak, how many stories would they tell about RC 02?

## Ayşen Keskin Zamanpur RC 76



Silk and Cashmere, founded by Ayşen Keskin Zamanpur, is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The company's journey started with Zamanpur's restless entrepreneurial instincts. Silk and cashmere, two luxury materials that are also natural and stylish, were unattainable by most customers; the good products were too expensive and the rest only had a fraction of cashmere or silk. The idea was to bring the two materials together at an affordable price and position the company as an international brand.

One of the secret ingredients in Silk and Cashmere's success is the RC culture that teaches the value of effort, Zamanpur says.

In addition, she stresses the importance of teamwork and says that valuable team members are essential for brand value.

Since its founding, Silk and Cashmere has received many awards, has been examined by scholars for academic research and found its place in business textbooks as a case study. Zamanpur's two children are also working with her, representing the next generation. With their involvement, the company is preparing itself for the upcoming decades to be as innovative and competitive as ever.

## Merve Vardar Ashaboğlu RC 91 and Ali Murat Gali RC 13

In April 2017 Ali Murat Gali received the J. E. Wallace Sterling Scholastic Award for distinguished academic performance at Stanford University. The award is presented to the top 25 seniors in the School of Humanities and Sciences.

As part of the award, Stanford brings the high school or other pre-college teacher who was most influential in guiding the student during the formative stages of their academic career to the ceremony, where they are also honored. Gali invited college counseling advisor Merve Vardar Ashaboğlu to join him in California to receive the award. "Merve Abila created a unique, non-judgemental space of



reflection in her office that allowed me to connect with my deeper goals while making significant academic decisions," said Gali. "The open conversations we had in California that allowed intimate sharing and deep reconnecting attest for me to the continuity of this relationship."

Gali received the John Gardner Public Service Fellowship from Stanford, and is working at Transgender Law Center in Oakland as a fellow. Within the organization, he is assisting national community organizing and legal assistance efforts to support and empower trans communities across the US.

## Aslı Arlı Eti RC 96

Aslı Arlı Eti released her second book, *Dünya'nın On Dört Günü* (*Dünya's Fourteen Days*; Kırmızı Kedi Yayınları) in October 2017. *Dünya'nın On Dört Günü* tells the story of a girl whose world suddenly changes after she makes a wish. Her village becomes unrecognizable because strange things keep happening, and Dünya finds herself in the middle of mysterious and perilous events. While the adults disagree about what is going on and are polarized by controversy, Dünya and her friend Atlas pursue the truth behind the events.

The novel, written for readers of children's fiction, tells the heroine Dünya's journey on her path to discover herself and to realize that she has the power to change the world. It aims to remind readers of all ages that the key to creating a better world is hidden within people's hearts, and that every person can do something to change it. In our world, where transformation happens quickly at any moment, and many ignored values are at risk of disappearing from our lives, Dünya's experiences show how our inner transformation reflects on the world. Eti's first novel is *Unutma Beni* (*Forget-Me-Not*, see RCQ 50, p. 55).



Aslı Arlı Eti RC 96 (far right) with some of her readers



## Lale Deliveli Alp RC 98



Lale and Afşin decided to tie the knot in NYC where they met and lived some years ago. They had a small ceremony in which Lale's witness was her RC classmate Ezgi Çıldır Kurtkardeş. After the ceremony, Lale and Afşin returned to their busy lives in Istanbul where Lale runs her own law firm – Deliveli & Türkmen Attorney Partnership. They visit NYC regularly for both work and pleasure. They also continue to stay in touch with RC graduates scattered around the world and look forward to hearing from old friends. Lale can be reached at [ldeliveli@deliveliturkmen.av.tr](mailto:ldeliveli@deliveliturkmen.av.tr)

## Melis Kahya RC 2000

Recognized by the publication Turk of America with their 2017 “40 under 40” awards, and by the Financial News of London as one of their 25 Rising Stars of Private Equity 2017, Melis Kahya is a powerful player in her field. She currently works at General Atlantic in London as a Principal, where she has been leading their retail and consumer effort in Europe, the Middle East and Africa since 2016. One of her investments is Joe & The Juice, a Scandanavian healthy juice bar chain, of which she is also a board member. She previously worked in New York at TSG Consumer partners and JP Morgan.

Originally set on a career in academia, Melis is equally passionate about educating and creating opportunities for women and girls. While doing her MBA at Stanford, she and 10 other female classmates formed 11Empowered, a giving circle focused on the empowerment of females in underdeveloped parts of the world. Each year the group selects a different organization and does fundraising efforts for them. They focus on topics such as health, education and abuse. So far the group has worked with organizations in Kenya, rural Mexico and Lebanon (with Syrian refugees), and are currently working with a group in Rwanda.



## Emre Eczacıbaşı RC 02



İntema Yaşam, headed by Emre Eczacıbaşı, has recently opened a unique location in Kanyon shopping center. The İntema Yaşam concept store offers visitors a variety of experiences by combining kitchen space, dining, accessories, entertainment and lifestyle ideas.

“In our exhausting-paced lives, many of us have forgotten to try, feel or discover new things,” says Eczacıbaşı. İntema Yaşam is a social hub where people can discover new flavors, have new experiences and spend time with friends. The space is a physical manifestation of the company's mission to enhance both social interaction and productivity in the

kitchen. “Some people will come to have coffee; others will come to discuss their dream kitchen with designers,” Eczacıbaşı says about the concept.

In addition to showcasing İntema's kitchen designs, people can bring their friends together and try out İntema's products in their rental kitchens. They can also attend cooking workshops led by professional chefs. The space includes Gaea, a trendy restaurant that serves innovative seasonal dishes, a café and an “organic street” offering local products.

For more details visit [www.intemayasam.com.tr](http://www.intemayasam.com.tr)

## Nur Kızıltan RC 05

As a clinical psychologist, Nur recently founded Sankofa Psychological Services where she conducts individual and group psychotherapy sessions with adults in addition to providing seminars on mental health topics. Along with her clinical work, Nur has been teaching various classes in the Psychology Department of Yeditepe University as a part-time instructor since 2014.

After receiving her BA in Psychology with high honors from Boğaziçi University, Nur completed her MA in Clinical Psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. During her time in Chicago, she gained experience working with clients who were struggling with severe depression, trauma, suicidal thoughts,

anxiety, grief, cancer, eating disorders and personality disorders. Rather than specializing in any so-called disorder in her clinical work, Nur accepts any adult client who might be suffering from psychological symptoms, feeling challenged by daily life tasks or who is just looking for more self-awareness. Explaining her de-emphasizing attitude toward diagnosis she claims that the type and the level of psychological challenges might differ for each individual, but at the essence of the struggles we all try to deal with similar needs and each individual deserves to be heard without the limiting perspective of a diagnosis.

Providing her best work with sensitivity to ethical standards is her priority in the presence of her clients. Her clinical



education background embraced various psychotherapy approaches, helping her to work eclectically. She changes the process and the structure of therapy by the specific needs of the client. To learn more visit [www.sankofapsikoloji.com](http://www.sankofapsikoloji.com)

## Selin Çakmak RC 09 and Gökhan Demir RC 09

Selin and Gökhan first met in Prep class at RC in 2004, and have been together since 2007. They took a trip down memory lane during their "Save The Date" photoshoot on the RC campus on a sunny afternoon. The couple had the time of their lives at their wedding on July 23, 2017 in Istanbul, in the presence of loved ones, including many classmates from RC 09. Selin finished med school at Marmara University and is currently studying for her residency in internal medicine at Istanbul University Faculty of Medicine. Gökhan holds a BA in Management from Boğaziçi University and currently works in one of Turkey's leading fintech companies.



From L to R: Erdi Tuğmaner RC 09, Burak Aydın RC 09, Selin Çakmak RC 09, Gökhan Demir RC 09, Büşra Tanrıverdi RC 09, Renan Ovalı RC 09 and Miray Atacan.

## Begüm Ağca Okutgen RC 10



Begüm and Okan met through a common friend and decided to get married on their third date. They have been together since 2015 and got married on March 25, 2017 in Istanbul.

Begüm has a BA degree in both Management and Political Science from Boğaziçi University and worked as a consultant at Bain & Company before starting her MBA at Harvard Business School this past fall, as a member of the Class of 2019.



## Sema Sarpman Off to New Adventures

**A valued member** of the Alumni and Development Office, Sema Sarpman retired at the end of September 2017, after over 30 years of exemplary service to Robert College. She was honored at the Annual Giving Kick Off Dinner in November, in the presence of a group of class agents with whom she worked closely over the years (see p. 6).

It was a befitting send off, as Sema was an integral part of the RC Annual Giving Program since 1988, when it was first launched around the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the school. She helped provide a solid framework and was the backbone of the program. Sema was responsible for developing a database to store giving information and was very skilled at creating the systems required to keep accurate records and generating reports, at a time when such programs were not readily available. In the last few years, Sema was instrumental in the creation of and the seamless transition to a new development

database. Her enthusiasm for new things and the way she navigated challenges as they arose made working with her exciting and fun in many ways. The Alumni and Development team relied heavily on her institutional memory, and were in awe of her intricate knowledge that made it a breeze to match names and graduation years. She cultivated relationships with volunteers and donors and served as a wonderful advocate of the school. Her sense of humor and the interesting points of view she brought to the office on a daily basis will not be forgotten anytime soon and will be greatly missed. The school counts on being able to continue to lean on her and benefit from her guidance.

And what you may ask will Sema be doing next during her well-earned period of rest and relaxation? Travel has always been a favorite pastime of hers. She is sure to add new and interesting itineraries to her collection of places visited, in Turkey and abroad.



Sema Sarpman and her partner, former RC physics teacher Ernie Verbowski, are off to new adventures

## Kadir Şan “Kadir Abi” Tarhan Retires

**Graduates of the 80s, 90s and 2000s** will recall the days of hanging out at the RC phone operator booths (in different locations throughout the years) manned by none other than Kadir Şan Tarhan. Engineer by education but musician, intellectual and philosopher by lifestyle, Kadir “Abi”’s place was the cool spot to strum a guitar, philosophize about life in general, create and share. When he wasn’t skillfully diverting phone calls to various offices throughout the campus from July 1985 to June 2017, Kadir was composing and arranging music, telling ghost tales and writing plays. Who from the late 90s can forget his play *Gizlenmiş Gölgeler Senfonisi* (*The Symphony of Hidden Shadows*), a sweeping saga of love set in the days of the Russian revolution and staged in the Suna Kırac Theater in 1998?

The play brought together RC community members from all walks of life; alumni, students, faculty and staff members as well as campus workers such as the school drivers and gardeners. But then that sums up Kadir...bringing people together, emphasizing the importance of love and respect of nature and of each other. Anyone who has spent any time at all with Kadir Şan Tarhan has been touched by his gentle kindness, wise observations and creativity.

Kadir Şan retired from Robert College in June 2017 and with him an era of central phone operator booths came to an end. These days, Kadir Şan continues to collaborate with Hakan Yılmaz, a professor at Boğaziçi University’s Department of Political Science and International Relations, and also an active musician, founder and vocalist of Ezginin Günlüğü (Ezgi’s Diary), a Turkish



Kadir Şan Tarhan

folk-pop group since the early 1980s. Their first collaboration created the album *Sen Yoktun* (September 2015). Their second album, *Türkülerle Yeniden* was released in September 2017.

## Özge Arapkirli's New Life on Her Farm



Özge Arapkirli is enjoying the change of pace on her farm

**Although she may not** have been a familiar face to students during the 30 years she worked for Robert College, Özge Arapkirli, assistant to the Director of Business and Finance, has played an instrumental role in the day-to-day activity of the school.

Dean of Student Affairs Margaret Halicioğlu, who was her colleague for many years, said, "As a proud mother of an RC graduate (Emre Arapkirli RC 09), she had a very special perspective and dedication to the school. I miss picking up the telephone and asking for her opinion!" The RCQ asked Özge what she plans to do next.

"After 30 years of intense work life at Robert College, I had some worries about how I would adapt to this new life. But my transition to retirement was much easier than I expected. I think our farm in Salihli (close to Izmir), which we started years ago as our retirement project, and

our small brand Culina that we created for our farm products, had an effect on this smooth transition. Besides grapery and other agricultural activities, we have cows and chickens on our farm. I love to prepare different jams, marmalades, sauces and try various cheese types using our own farm products, and share these with people who care about healthy food. I am planning to increase these products and especially concentrate on cage-free chicken eggs. I will be going back and forth between the farm and Istanbul. I also plan to travel to the States to see my son, RC 09 graduate Emre Arapkirli, and my daughter-in-law and spend more time with them. The best part of retirement is becoming the 'master of your time' and the worst part is missing your colleagues, who are like family and with whom you have worked for many years. We will be happy to have you on our farm if you have a chance to stop by. With my love and greetings to all the RC Family."

### from the BOSPHERUS CHRONICLE

## Farewell to Jennifer Sertel

By Bilge Tatar RC 18

**Helpful, colorful, loving,** supportive... This is Jennifer Sertel! She has been at RC for 29 years, taught several levels and classes (such as Film&Lit and World Lit), and has been involved in special projects, including forming the CIP Office. "That was a need I saw in Robert College," Ms. Sertel remarks, "and I was lucky enough to get the support of the school." She also has been involved with projects such as WINPeace (a peace initiative between Turkish, Greek and Cypriot students) and SWETA (curriculum support for English teachers in Anatolia).

Perhaps lesser known, Ms. Sertel also has been heavily involved in promoting non-violent communication and peace education among high schoolers. Her expertise greatly influenced the curriculum that the CIP Advisory Board prepared, and a lot of activities regarding peace education have been implemented in various CIPs. She has also written a book on Peace Education and how it can be implemented in classes for middle school and high schoolers. Her



Jennifer Sertel with her husband, former RC chemistry teacher Michael Schneller

work in WINPeace, combined with her own expertise in this field, has provided the RC CIP Office invaluable insight in the creation of CIP projects.

The question we are all asking: Why is she leaving? She answers this by listing many reasons. "I want to get up when I want to get up, I want to travel, I want to see my son more and I'm hoping to see my grandchildren." After traveling, she'll be teaching two courses at Boğaziçi, based on the CIP manuals she wrote with Elif Sönmez and İzzet Şengel (see cover story on p. 26). No matter what she gets involved in, we are sure that she will accomplish what she sets her mind to and she will make an impact on the community as she did at RC.

Here is some final advice from Jennifer Sertel to RC students: "Be open to new experiences, and new friendships, don't prejudge others – try to learn about their realities and work hard. But have fun while doing it! It actually makes you feel good to do good."



## Farewell to Alison Oğuz

By Lara Sakarya L10

**Ms. Oğuz has been** at Robert College for 29 years. She started working in the classroom in 1983 when she was a graduate student, and an assistant to another teacher. Back then, her dream was to work in the “industry” before she figured out that she loved teaching and wanted to continue the path.

Both of Ms. Oğuz’s sons are Robert College graduates (Mete RC 09 and Eren Barış RC 13). She says that having her sons graduate from RC is one of the happiest memories she had in this school. She taught her son Barış since she was the only modern physics teacher at the time. With all the pros of having your mother as a teacher comes there are cons as well. Ms. Oğuz says that she was always “harder” on her son than she was on the other students.

The best part of teaching for Ms. Oğuz was the students. The moment of epiphany when her students understand a topic that they couldn’t before makes her cheerful.



Alison Oğuz

Her colleagues also made her years at this school more enjoyable.

Not only have the students learned a lot from her, but she also learned from them on “how to be a better teacher”. Some students also surprised her with their questions about physics and these affected Ms. Oğuz’s perspective on different kinds of topics and prompted her to think more about these and learn about new things. The students didn’t have the only impact on her. There are many teachers coming from different parts of the world to RC. Because of this, there are a lot of cultural differences which also taught a lot of things to Ms. Oğuz. Her last advice for students is: “Be confident, use your common sense, try and always step back and look at the bigger picture of whatever the situation is, don’t get too caught up in the details.”

Alison Oğuz is currently a faculty member in the Physics Department at Boğaziçi University, where she started her career before coming to Robert College.

## Farewell to Mr. McDonnell

By Derya Değerli L11

**If you haven’t** had Clem McDonnell as your science teacher in your prep year, “so sad, too bad, tell dad,” since you, unfortunately, missed the chance to taste the prep spirit of Robert College.

He was more than the mysterious man in the attic of Feyyaz Berker. He was the Irish dancer you met in the last weeks of your prep year when you were jumping up and down thinking you could do Irish dance, and he was watching your dance trying not to laugh. “Robert güzel ama İngilizce” says a senior idiom; as a matter of fact, English is the easiest language to learn here. Moreover, as soon as you learn about that additional language called “McDonnellish,” you will bless English. As soon as I stepped into my first science class prep year, I learned about this unofficial language of Robert. Initially, with all my ignorance, I attributed his original way of speaking to him being Irish. Every beaker broken was called “Disastre,” each banana we earned for orientation was called “Banananana,” and every quiz failed was called “Kawizzzz.” This special language is so embraced by



Clem McDonnell gives a captivating science lesson to prep students

the RC community that even after Mr. McDonnell is gone, I believe that it will continue. If a person’s originality is spread among people mouth to mouth, who can be called a legend, but him? His own language is not his only area of creativity; his vision of education is also unprecedented. To announce quiz grades meant flying paper airplanes in class. During the subject of “Bones Anatomy,” each bone had its own story: Some were old naughty RC students

who didn’t make it to the ninth grade.

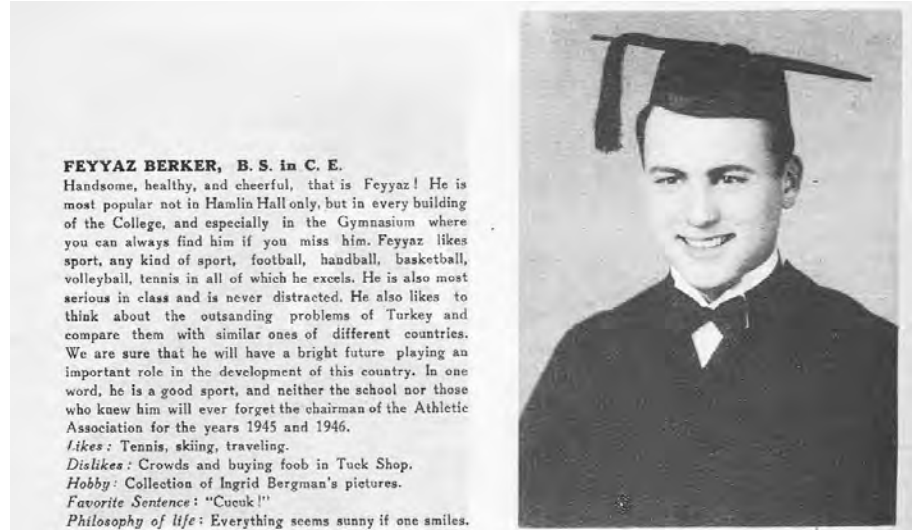
It seems that Mr. McDonnell has been at Robert College ever since recorded history. The disappearance of his familiar face from our halls will be like the loss of a family member. Therefore, whether you are one of his former students who will miss him or you have never met him, if you want to say goodbye to him, you might find him in the old canteen area busy with mosaic art.

If you would like to share news of a deceased RC community member please send us a notice in English of no more than 160 words to [cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr). Longer notices will be edited due to space restrictions. Please include a high resolution (minimum 700 x 700 pixels) photo of the deceased.

## Feyyaz Berker RC ENG 46



Feyyaz Berker in 2014



In the 1946 yearbook, classmates predicted that he would "...have a bright future playing an important role in the development of this country."

Feyyaz Berker, philanthropist, major supporter of education in Turkey and of Robert College, co-founder of the Hisar Educational foundation, the Hisar School, founding partner of Tekfen, prominent businessman and a person of many more titles and accolades, passed away in Istanbul on August 22, 2017. He was 92.

Feyyaz Berker was a touchstone for the RC community. As a member of the Board of Trustees from 1986 to 2006, he provided guidance and leadership on many important projects. Even though he had retired from the Board in 2006, Robert College occupied a very special place in

his heart and he continued to provide immeasurable tangible and moral support throughout the years.

Not a day goes by without his name being mentioned on campus whether it be because of the Feyyaz Berker science building, the Feyyaz Berker Scholars, the Feyyaz Berker Debate Program, the Atatürk Studies Fund, or the scholarships set up by him or in honor of him. The driving force behind the campus expansion of the late 1980s, his extraordinary contributions to his alma mater and to education in general were exemplary and hard to match. He had often said that education was Turkey's

number one priority, and he was dedicated to leading by example.

Members of the Robert College community are very sad Feyyaz Berker is no longer here in body though his presence is always felt. These who knew him are privileged and happy to have met such a wonderful visionary; a generous and kind person who RC is proud to have called its graduate, supporter, mentor and friend.

Feyyaz Berker is survived by his wife Alev, his daughters Meltem and Şebnem and two grand-children.



Feyyaz Berker always led ground-breaking initiatives at RC. Picture taken in 1988.



## Farnsworth Fowle RC 34

Journalist Farnsworth Fowle passed away on December 8, 2016, just a few days short of his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Born in Istanbul at the start of World War I, Fowle attended Robert College until the family returned to the United States, where he attended Deerfield Academy and Williams College. Upon finishing his studies in philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford in 1939, Fowle became a reporter

for Time magazine and CBS Radio before joining the New York Times in 1949. He was transferred to Germany in 1950 where he met and married Lt. Col. Phyllis Propp.

Fowle had an extraordinary career, covering WWII at battlefronts around the Mediterranean, the creation of the state of Israel, the death of King George I of Britain and the integration of the "Little Rock Nine" into Central High School.

Fowle is predeceased by his wife Phyllis (2000), and brothers Curtis Fowle RC 33 (2009) and James Fowle RC 35 (2015). He is survived by his brother Richardson and sister Helen Joy Smith.

*Excerpts from his obituaries published in the New York Times and the Valley News.*

## E. Eliot Benezra RC 43

E. Eliot Benezra, MD, a psychiatrist, passed away on October 2, 2017, at the age of 95. During World War II, he secured civilian passage from Alexandria, Egypt to America on a Merchant Marine ship. He graduated from Northwestern University Medical School, completed his residency in psychiatry and served as a captain in the US Air Force. Dr. Benezra settled in Chicago. He was a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric

Association. He loved to swim, play tennis, read and travel and had collections of antique clocks, artwork and fine wines. He was fluent in English, French, Greek, Ladino and Turkish. He was known as a gracious, caring physician and person. Dr. Benezra leaves behind his loving wife Barbara Benezra, children Philip (Felicia), Beth, and Thomas Benezra, stepchildren Charles (Lisa) Saletta, Jr. and Katherine Saletta, and eight grandchildren.



## Rezan Göker ACG 45



Rezan Göker passed away on March 28, 2017 at the age of 92.

She was always proud of being an ACG alumnus and said she spent her most beautiful years at ACG, where she began her education at the age of 12 as a boarder.

Before her long-lasting illness Rezan led a very active life as a travel enthusiast, traveling the globe. She was greatly loved by her classmates

and stayed in close contact with them. Going to dinners, traveling and enjoying life with them were her favorite pastimes. Good-humored and passionate about life, she will be greatly missed.

Rezan Göker is survived by her daughters Nevhiz Ergun and Nazan Harunoğlu and their families.

*Contributed by Nazan Harunoğlu*

## Asuman Ümügür Müftüoğlu ACG 46

Asuman Müftüoğlu, Professor of Internal Medicine, passed away in December 2017.

In our freshman year, we met this handsome young girl who joined our ACG class. She was a "farmer's daughter" from Eskişehir, where her family owned a large estate, but kept to their modest way of life. Asuman became quite popular due to her quiet friendly ways and success in sports. We got to know one another because we

both aspired to go to medical school and this evolved into a life-long friendship. In those days, nobody would have guessed that Asuman would become internationally renowned in the field of hematology-immunology, particularly for her pioneering research on Behçet's disease. She was highly disciplined, a fighter, with no tolerance for injustice or neglect. But she always had a soft spot for those in need of help. Asuman never lost her interest in

farming, living in and managing her farm after her retirement from academic life. She evolved into an enterprising and successful businesswoman. "Missing a good friend" hardly suffices to express what I felt when I heard of her demise.

*Contributed by Olcay Neyzi ACG 46*

## Nafia Semker Ülgen ACG 51

Nafia Ülgen, my best friend of 71 years, passed away on September 17, 2017. Nafya (my nickname for her) was quiet, polite and considerate. She was a perfect "old-fashioned lady" in the best sense of the term. She preferred listening, rather than talking and preferred helping, rather than asking for help. She was fiercely

independent, unflappable, and stoic. I never heard her complain. Although looking soft and vulnerable, she had a backbone of steel. After her beloved husband died in a traffic accident early in their marriage, Nafya raised two sons all by herself and it's a testimony to her that they both turned out to be wonderful adults. Whenever she talked about them and

her two grandsons, her face lit up with pride and pleasure. She was the sister I never had and the sister we all wished we had. "It's hard to imagine our world without Nafya", is what my husband said after hearing about her death. Sad but true!

*Contributed by Engin Inel Holmstrom, ACG 51*

## Sema Karaca Alada ACG 54

Sema Alada passed away on August 17, 2017. After the death of her husband Oğuz Alada in 1972, she joined the workforce and then upon retirement worked for many years in the Lions organization, heading it for some years as well. She is survived by two children, Prof. Dinç Alada and Gül Alada. She was my loyal, unselfish and intelligent friend. We miss Sema dearly and remember her always.

*Contributed by Günsel Baban Ober ACG 55*

## Ayfer Keskinel Hoffman ACG 55

Ayfer Hoffman passed away in New York on November 2, 2017. Ayfer was very much loved and appreciated as a friend. A determined and active person, she founded Sultan Bacı, a popular and well known fruit preserves company and helped young Turkish women find good jobs in Turkey as well as in the US. She is survived by her husband Eugene, her daughters Gül and Beril as well as 3 grand-children. Her ACG 55 classmates will always remember her in loving admiration.

*Contributed by Class of ACG 55 members*

## Altan Bakay RC ENG 58

Altan Bakay passed away on June 6, 2017 in Istanbul.

Bakay spent his childhood in Ankara where he graduated from Atatürk High School. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Robert College, he went to Stanford University for his MA. He worked at a construction firm in Palo Alto for 3 years after which he returned to Istanbul

and married Gönül Koyutürk Bakay ACG 64 in 1965. Together with his friend and classmate Tuncer Karakurt, he established Karakurt-Bakay construction company in 1972 and worked in various construction jobs in Turkey and in Libya. In the words of his close friend Tunç Pekcan RC ENG 59, "He was a loyal participant of all our class meetings in addition to being a member of social clubs like Galatasaray, Büyük

Kulüp and Istanbul Rotary Club. He loved to travel and was a constituent organizer. Altan lived as an "ehlikeyf" person. His kind and generous nature and his sense of humor will be missed."

Altan Bakay is survived by his wife, two children - Aylin Bakay Tercan and Engin Bakay - and three grandchildren.

## Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı ACG 59

Prof. Dr. Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı passed away on March 2, 2017.

Çiğdem had fond memories of ACG and was very grateful to her alma mater. "ACG was my life's turning point. My identity and personality were shaped during the six beautiful years I spent there," she wrote in *Lüla ve Ben*, her memoirs of her mother and herself. Çiğdem was a loving daughter, wife, mother and grandmother and a true friend to many. She was an inspirational role model to many students and colleagues at ODTÜ, Boğaziçi University and Koç University, as well as a globally

acclaimed scholar in social psychology with many local and international publications and awards. Çiğdem was a firm believer in having science serve society and she became a great example of that, especially through her work at AÇEV. She valued a life where one did worthwhile things for one's self and others and lived a life true to her values. She will be dearly missed yet her life achievement will remain well celebrated into the future.

*Contributed by Elif Kağıtçıbaşı RC 83 and Emrah Kağıtçıbaşı*





## Ayşegül Somersan ACG 60, RC YÜK 65

Ayşegül Somersan passed away in Sarasota, Florida on April 17, 2017. She completed her graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison under a Fullbright Scholarship. After receiving her PhD in international economics in 1969, Ayşegül became a faculty member of the same university and then dean and director of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension from 1988 to 1996. Upon retirement, she worked as an economics professor and vice-president of Koç University. A

champion swimmer, with 54 records to her name, Ayşegül clearly showed signs of future success in life while still a student. She was bold, self-confident, perseverant, loyal and above all humane. Lines she liked so much by poet Edna St. Vincent Millay represent her motto in life.

*I burn my candle at both ends;  
It will not last the night;  
But ah, my foes, and oh, my friends--  
It gives a lovely light!*

Ayşegül is survived by her husband Ergun Somersan RC ENG 63, daughter Zeynep, sons Mehmet and Deniz and grand-sons Ali, Dylan and Orman.

*Contributed by Hale Bilimer Bozkurt  
ACG 60 and Filiz Kantoğlu Özer ACG 63*

## Zerrin Çiğdem Katıman ACG 60

Zerrin passed away in August 2017, in Mersin, where she had her family roots.

In the early fifties it was not ordinary in Tarsus for a girl of 11 to be sent away from home for an education as a boarding student. Sadun Boro's mother, her uncle's wife, paved the road to ACG for her. The news spread, "Zerrin Kolej mektebine gidiyor!"

Zerrin had the extraordinary gift of making friends with all people, be it prince or pauper, and would adapt herself to all surroundings. When she moved from Mersin, her neighbors were up in the early hours of the morning to wish her a safe

journey and in her new home in Istanbul, the big city neighbors were ready with a freshly cooked meal to welcome her.

Thanks to Zerrin we got acquainted with Tarsus and Tarsus cuisine in which she excelled. Our visit to their ancestral home at the top of the Toros Mountains, in Namrun, will be a cherished memory for all time.

Zerrin is survived by her two sons Murat and Metin, their wives and two granddaughters.

*Contributed by Yüksel Rızvani Kılıçturgay  
ACG 60*



## Nazan Parlar Okan ACG 61

Upon hearing of Nazan's death on January 11, 2017, an image of the calm, sweet, caring and above all, elegant girl that I knew surfaced through my memories. Here was a young lady, polite, loving, considerate and composed, the only one with lovely shiny auburn hair in the class. She was also the only May Queen chosen from our class.

It was her elegance that must have left such a deep impression on me. I can still see her tall, rather pale figure smiling with serene dignity. I did not know her well but always thought she would be a good friend to have. Muallâ, a classmate and close friend of hers, told me that her tolerance and compassion came partly from her piety.

Nazan was born in Emirgan, she lived in Emirgan and was laid to rest near there. She is survived by her sons, Ömer and Osman. May she rest in peace, always alive in the minds and hearts of her nearest and dearest.

*Contributed by Esin Örucü ACG 61*

## Nural Yasin ACG 61

We were most upset by the unexpected loss of our dear friend on September 21, 2017. Nural was a sensitive, caring and loving friend; always there when any of us needed help. She always looked at life from a positive angle. We grew up together and shared countless happy, funny and sad memories. Closer to the

arts and having a deeper appreciation of it than many of her classmates, she had an inborn gift for seeing beauty. She herself produced interesting objects of art. Deep inside, she was a real activist but most of the time Nural embedded this attitude only in her soul and in her feelings. She also worked tirelessly for the empowerment of

women and took an active part in the Mor Çatı (Purple Roof) organization. Her dear memory will live with us always.

*Contributed by her High School and ACG friends*

## Ataman Onar RA 62



Ataman passed away on August 19, 2017. His final journey started from his home on Sedef Island, his favourite place, where he felt the happiest. His enthusiastic, passionate nature and high life-energy took him from his hometown of Tarsus to Robert Academy, to Istanbul University Law School, to an intense business life and to actively participating in ISO, ITKIB and many NGO's. In a booklet of fond memories, his RA 62 friends say he was a romantic, a poet, loved literature, enjoyed playing with words, had sparkling bright eyes, held a subtle mischievous smile on his lips- was a master of "out-of-the-box" thinking and

passionate discussions...A special friend who had genuine compassion and empathy for his friends, with an ability to react to any situation with a dry sense of humour...

Lately, his relentless mind was busy dreaming of new projects from gardening to how to install solar energy panels. His warm heart had a way of embracing; reaching out to people and making one feel special. His wife Çağlayan Erendağ Onar RC 72, two children Sedef and Levent, and grandsons Kaya and Aksel survive him.

*Contributed by Çağlayan Erendağ Onar RC 72*

## Nazan Otar Erkmen ACG 65

Maybe closer to the arts than most of her ACG classmates, for her yearbook graduation write-up Nazan chose a poem from Melih Cevdet Anday. There was no mention of herself nor were there others' comments about her. Yet years later, articles about her were everywhere in the media after her sudden death on October 16, 2017.

Nazan's illustrations gave life to animals and added dimension to colors, creating a dream world intertwined with animals. She illustrated more than 100 books for children and adults. Some of her important illustrations appeared in the



Turkish versions of *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, *Dede Korkut Stories*, and *Poetry of Omar Khayyam* and on stamps - International Intercept Stamps - Stories and Legends series, Atatürk and April 23<sup>rd</sup>, printed by the Turkish Postal Services. Between 2006-2012 Professor Nazan Otar Erkmen served as the first woman elected as Dean of Marmara University, School of Fine Arts. When she died, she was the Dean of Doğuş University, School of Arts and Design. She was a woman of Atatürk's Turkey.

*Contributed by Nigar Alemdar ACG 66*

## Haluk Günal RC 73

Haluk Günal, our dear "Aga" from Trabzon, passed away on July 25, 2016. The moniker "Aga" was bestowed on him by the Turkish Lit teacher Şefik Bey, and, as it represented his charming and generous personality, it stuck on well. Haluk was a most entertaining and humorous soul and played volleyball on the school team. His parodies of faculty and staff members were perfect. One time,

speaking on the phone like the English Teacher Carrie, he convinced the guards at the gate to allow his guests in. His imitation of Ekrem Yirmibeşin was legendary. Aga attended Manchester University and graduated as a polymer chemist. Upon his return he worked at Pimaş and then started his career at Dow Chemical as regional trade and sales manager. He led and managed

Dow's first investment in production facilities in Turkey. Recently, he was working with his own contracting company Gür İnşaat. Haluk is survived by his wife Figen, son Tolga and daughter Ebru. We will fondly remember Aga with his smiling face, quick wit and hilarious parodies.

*Contributed by İhsan Necipoğlu RC 73*

## Sevgi Silahtar Seba RC 86

Sevgi Silahtar Seba, fought a fierce battle with cancer for three years before she closed her eyes one last time on November 7, 2017, in Mill Valley, CA. Her final home is in Istanbul, as she requested, close to her family home and RC campus. Sevgi studied Economics at Macalester College and worked for Komili and Güzel Sanatlar before she decided to leave for Yale University for her Marketing MBA in 1993. A competitive, bright and rising professional, she led her career to Director of Marketing for Schwarzkopf and Henkel until 2004.



Family and friends were always her priority. She brought joy and laughter, love and passion, affection and tenderness, support and comfort to our lives even between the surgeries and treatments as she set an example to all of us with her courage and determination.

Sevgi is survived by her dear daughter Allyson Joyce, her soulmate and husband Freddie, her parents Ayten and Lütfullah Silahtar and her brother Fehim (RC 83).

*Contributed by Yeşim Yağcı Silahtar RC 82*



## John Freely

Physics professor at RC and Boğaziçi, prolific travel writer and history writer including the history of RC, John Freely passed away in England on April 19, 2017 at the age of 90. The following are excerpts from the eulogy delivered at his memorial service at Feriköy Protestant Cemetery by his daughter Maureen Freely ACG 71 Jr.

*All of you assembled here know my father's story. From his books, if not from the man himself. There is his childhood in Ireland and Brooklyn. There are his adventures during World War II. There is my mother, with whom he signed a pact in blood to travel the world, as soon as he finished graduate school. And the move to Istanbul, in 1960, with three children, aged 8, 5 and 1.*

*There are the travels along almost all the shores of the Mediterranean, always returning to Istanbul and the shores of the Bosphorus, where he and my mother made their home for most of the next 55 years. There are the legendary parties, most especially the St. Patrick's Day parties. And the books. 65 of them at the last count.*

*Those of you who worked with him or were taught by him will remember him also as a man of science, and as a dedicated chronicler of the history of science. But those of us who had the good fortune to accompany him on his travels either in person or in print will also remember that it was the poets, ancient and modern, who*

*fired his imagination and shaped his life.*

*His first guide was Evliya Çelebi. During our first week in Istanbul, in September 1960, he found a century-old translation of Evliya's Seyahatname in the Robert College library. Before another week was out, our father was leading us through the back streets of the Old City, and finding at every turn clear evidence that – four centuries on – Evliya's spirit still lived as it is in Strolling Through Istanbul, which he wrote with Hilary Sumner Boyd. And in Stamboul Sketches, Evliya Efendi is not just the ghost but the acknowledged co-author. For the aim of that book was, in my father's words, to "bridge the gulf of years that separate Evliya's time from ours, so as to reveal something of the continuity of human experience which seems to exist in this ancient city."*

*It was a young man who wrote those words. The young girl I was then did not really understand them. But I do remember our father's almost transcendent wonder, every time we found an old wooden house propped up by an ancient column, or walked through a fish market or a flower market or a cauldron market that dated back centuries and perhaps millennia, or happened onto a gang of street boys whose games and tricks and secret codes took him back not just to his own boyhood in Brooklyn, but also, perhaps, to the days when his own great grandfather had walked these same streets as a soldier during the Crimean War. It was in Evliya's Istanbul that he found clear evidence that*



John Freely

*the past was always with us, but not just in what we saw. It was also in the stories, and in the beautiful voice telling it.*

*During the last years of his life, John set out to make sense of his own journeys in four memoirs. One of these, still to be published, was Stamboul Ghosts, which was, in his own words, an evocation of his departed friends. 'They reappear to me from the night of time,' he says, 'in the lost city I once knew. Their shades still speak to me from beyond the grave, as did the comrades of Odysseus when he met them in the Underworld, the Country of Dreams.'*

*Many of those friends now rest in this very cemetery, alongside the plot that John will now be sharing with our beloved mother, Dolores. It was his final wish to be brought back here to rest alongside her. We have brought him back the city where he found his soul.*

## Barrie James Tranter



Barrie Tranter passed away suddenly but peacefully on July 22, 2017, in England, aged 73.

Barrie was husband of the late Armağan; beloved father of David and Daniel; father-in-law of Nancy and Nicole; and grandfather of Zoe, Leyla, Abigail, and Amelia. He taught physics at Robert College for twenty years, from 1977 to 1997, and was very fond of Robert College, his colleagues and students. After leaving Robert College, he returned

to his childhood home in Madeley, England where he spent his retirement with family and friends. He earned another degree (a bachelor's in history) and pursued his interests in film history, stamp collecting, gardening, crossword puzzles, sports, and reading. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends and will be remembered for his sense of humor, integrity and generosity.

*Contributed by Dan Tranter*

## Edgar Kirton (Kirt) Muhlhausen

Edgar Muhlhausen, RC faculty member between 1943-46 and 1957-61, passed away September 26, 2016 at the age of 97. He completed his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering at Lehigh University and during WWII he fulfilled his military service by teaching at Robert

College. He returned to the US where he taught at Lehigh for 10 years before going back to Robert College in 1957. After his return to Bethlehem, US, in 1961 he taught at Lafayette College before working for the City of Bethlehem as a Project Engineer until his retirement.

He was predeceased by his wife, MaryLou, and by his daughter Adrienne Shiner-Hursh, and is survived by his children - Caroline M. Kelley, Margaret J. Cistone, Eric C. Muhlhausen and Katherine M. McIntyre, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

# A Pre-cursor of the Industrial Chemicals Sector in Turkey

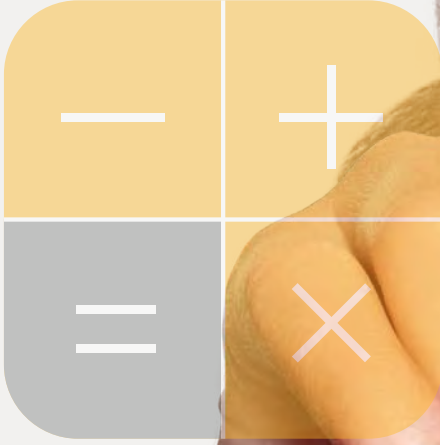
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