

# RC

## Quarterly

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE  
FALL / WINTER 2009 - ISSUE 37



*RC Acts for  
Climate Change*

*Homecoming  
2009*

*Celebrating  
the RC  
All-stars*



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**GÜCÜ**  
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**ÇEKİM GÜCÜ**

## ABOUT THE RC QUARTERLY



*A group of RC teachers, past and present, celebrating teacher's day at Bizim Tepe.*

**A**s an institution of learning with exacting standards of excellence, RC is as much about its teachers as it is about its students. Every graduate cherishes memories of particular teachers - from art history to mathematics-who inspired him or her to higher levels of learning. In this issue we celebrate the "RC All-stars", those dedicated faculty members who have been at the school for 20 years or more. We asked them to tell us, how they have evolved as teachers, what memories they cherish and about that intangible essence that defines the Robert College culture. To read their replies, dive into our cover story. Happy reading!

*The RCQ Editorial Team*



  
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İffet Özseven (front right) with librarian colleagues

## Much-loved Librarian İffet Özseven Retires

After more than 20 years of service, İffet Özseven retired from the Robert College Library Media Center in June 2009. Her connection to the school went back even further, to the 60s, when she was a student at the American College for Girls, graduating in 1966.

Her colleagues at the RC Library Media Center wrote the following tribute: "During İffet's career here, the library changed in many ways. It "grew," for instance, from about 200 quadmeter to nearly 900 qm. She was here when the Orta library moved from the third and fourth floors in Bingham to merge with the Lise library. She was here for the grand renovation of the library when, over a summer, the library staff, with the help of many teachers, including the Headmaster, packed and later unpacked 40,000 books for the new facility. She helped as the books were "entered into the system," as the library moved from a card catalog to an online catalog. Indeed, the library staff well remember their sorrow as they gave up the old card catalog, and the difficulty of getting used to doing without it. İffet was a rock of steadiness, and many people, students, teachers and staff, as well as library colleagues, will remember İffet for her care and concern, her warm, welcoming nature. She also loved being part of the RC family, for instance joining a long-distance hiking party which crossed the Kaş mountains in the east of Turkey, and several times taking part in the annual turtle expedition to Dalyan. She will be missed, and already is, for many reasons - not least for her lovely "early morning cookies" which she brought in at just the right time, just when they were needed!"

## Öğretmenim Ersin Aybars

Her öğrencinin okul yaşamında diğerlerinden ayrı yeri olan bir öğretmeni vardır, işte benim için o öğretmen Ersin Aybars'tır. Üniversite giriş sınavının baskısının yoğun olduğu lise son sınıfta Ersin Hoca ile edebiyat dersi yapmak, o yıl benim ve sınıf arkadaşlarım için büyük bir şanstı. Onunla birlikte edebiyat, ÖYS'de yapmamız gereken soruların ve sınav için öğrenmemiz gereken konuların dersi olmaktan çıkmış; 18 yaşındaki genç bir insan olarak yaşamdan tam olarak da ne beklediğimi anladığım, hayatı keşfettiğim, okumanın tadını aldığım saatlere dönüşmüştü. Sanırım bunda Ersin Hoca'mın kişiliğinin etkisi büyüktü.

Ersin Hoca, her şeyiyle önce insan olmayı önemseyen, sonra da birey olarak var olmayı hedefleyen bir öğretmendir. Derinliği sizi kendine çekiverir. Birçok insan için hiç de önemli olmayan bir konu, onunla konuşunca önemini fark ettiriverir sizlere. Bildiklerini bilgiçlik taslamadan paylaşır; gün içinde yaptığı ince nükteleriyle güldürürken düşündür çoğu zaman. Bencil olmadan "ben" olabilmenin önemini bilir, bunu da öğrencilerine yansıtır. Bunların yanında en önemli özelliği ise yaşamının değerini bilen ve her anını dolu dolu yaşamak isteyen bir hayat insanı olmasıdır. O, biz öğrencilerinin gözünde yıllar önce dersini aldıkları öğretmenimiz değildir sadece; zaman içinde, dertlerimizi ve mutluluklarımızı paylaştığımız, akıl danıştığımız en değerli arkadaşlarımızdan biri olmuştur. Her zaman, çalıştığı kurumlar arasında apayrı bir yeri olduğunu söylediği Robert Kolej'de Ersin Hoca'yla birlikte çalışmak da benim için çok değerli bir deneyimdi. Geçirdiğimiz iki yıl sonunda anlıyorum ki Ersin Hoca sadece biz öğrencileri için değil, öğretmen arkadaşları için de çok değerli bir "öğretmen". Nükteleriyle günümüzü şenlendiren; omzunda çantası, elindeki sarı kahve fincanıyla koridorda yürürken yaşam keyfini söylediği şarkıyla bize yansıtan Ersin Hoca'yı hepimiz çok özleyeceğiz.

Melek Giray İnce

Türk Dili ve Edebiyatı Öğretmeni



Ersin Aybars

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Neşe Seren

## Neşe Seren retires from RC

The move from working in the RC library for 19 years to working in the College Counseling Office allowed many more people at the school to get to know what a special person Neşe Seren is. Originally from Mersin, Neşe went to university in Istanbul and ended up settling in this city with her husband Ender, and later their two sons Alican and Fırat.

Neşe began working in the library in 1983 where she made many close friends. Through difficult times this community gave her support and through happy times they would often laugh and meet outside of school for pleasure. Ayşe Yüksel remarked what a good sense of humor Neşe has. Another colleague, Nilüfer Göksan, emphasized what a caring and unselfish character she has.

When the library was extensively remodeled in 1994-1995 Neşe worked untiringly to pack and then resettle over 40,000 books. Şiir Tursan remembered that Neşe successfully bribed Headmaster Chris Wadsworth with a sandwich to enlist his help in unpacking the books.

Neşe has an abiding love of nature. Hence for many years she was a member of the recycling committee at RC. She also joined hikes and camping trips organized by Gaby McDonald and Elvan Kesim. "When we camped overnight on the Müdürü hike we were tent mates. Ahead of time, we spent an enormous effort organizing the food. Once there we thought that our dream of a delicious, peaceful dinner under the stars was about to come true when a group of cars parked next to our tents and blared loud music for hours!"

Neşe also joined with her RC friends on trips in Turkey and abroad. Wherever she went she was always a positive, calm and interested participant. If help was needed, people around her always knew they could count on her. John Royce recalled how unselfishly Neşe worked in the earthquake relief of 1999.

Neşe is not sure what is in store for her in this new chapter of her life. She will undoubtedly remain close to her RC friends as well as stay active in nature and the cultural life of Istanbul. There is no doubt that the inner light in Neşe Seren will continue to glow and touch the lives of others at Robert College and beyond.

Contributed by Anne Seasholes-Kozlu



Günseli Duraklı

## Günseli Duraklı için birkaç söz

Doğrusunu söylemem gerekirse Günseli Hocamı biraz geç keşfettim. Düzgün, akıcı konuşmasının, sohbetlerinin hoşluğunun ayırımındaydım ama düşünme hızını, o hıza karşın tutarlı bir düşünsel sonuca rahatlıkla varabildiğini anlamam, biraz zaman aldı. Ondan sonra da usuma takılan bir düşünceyi, bir kavramı, bir olguyu sık sık ona sorar; kısacası danışır oldum. Minnetle belirtmeliyim ki kafamdaki belirsizliği gidermeyen bir yanıt almadığım neredeyse olmadı. Tıkanan bir iki yazımı konuyu birlikte irdeledikten sonra rahat rahat tamamladığımı elbette unutmam. Dostluk dediğimiz, biraz da budur aslında: Varlığıyla aydınlanmak. Günseli Hocamı bu bağlamda da zaman zaman arayacağımı biliyorum. Dilerim yeni görev yerindeki arkadaşları insanî değerlerini, olgunluğunu... benden çok daha çabuk anlarlar...

Adil İzci, Türk Dil ve Edebiyatı Öğretmeni



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*Ece Marcelli on the streets of New York City*

## *A new recruit for Development Efforts*

**E**ce Marcelli RC 02 joined the Robert College development team in the USA, taking over from classmate Oya Nuzumlali at the New York Office of the Trustees. Ece studied Mathematics at Brandeis University, graduating in 2006. After college, she moved to New York and spent two years at a biotech private equity firm. Even though she misses Istanbul, her family and friends, she loves living in NYC. One of her favorite things to do is to bike around New York and enjoy every bit of sunshine in the city. Ece is filling the position that her RC classmate Oya Nuzumlali held for three years. Since Ece moved to the States, she kept close contact with many RC alumni, but she is hoping to meet many more.

Oya moved back to Istanbul for an exciting new life. She and her husband Chris Schooley moved into their new home in Moda and are enjoying their new neighborhood. They already discovered some fabulous local restaurants.

Oya started her Masters Degree in Cultural Studies at Sabanci University. Chris is now teaching Physics at Hisar Egitim Vakfi. RC welcomes Ece and says farewell to Oya as they both embark on new adventures.

## *RCAAA and the Welcome to USA Awards*

**F**ounded in 1959, Robert College Alumni Association of America (RCAAA) is our U.S.-based organization providing information and services to RC, ACG and RA alumni living outside Turkey. RCAAA's main goal is to support the RC community by keeping alumni and friends in touch with the school and one another, as well as by supporting the efforts of Robert College Trustees. In addition to organizing social and cultural events such as Young Alumni and Spring Dinners, Bar Nights and other regional get-togethers, RCAAA provides Welcome to USA Awards to select RC graduates planning to attend colleges in the U.S.

The Welcome to USA Awards have been an annual RCAAA tradition since 1993, and are \$1,000 grants made possible by contributions of RCAAA members. This year's recipients were Dilşad Anil, Ceyda Erten, Emre Turan and Emircan Uysaler from the RC Class of 2009. RCAAA provides a select number of RC graduates planning to attend US colleges with Welcome to USA Awards to help with their first year expenses at their schools.



*RCAAA member Mehmet Özpınar RC 79 presented awards to (from L to R) Emircan Uysaler; Ceyda Erten, Dilşad Anil and Emre Turan at Graduation.*



## *UNIRC Hosts Kids from Across Turkey*

**B**etween June 22-28, 2009, the RC Campus hosted a very different and unique group of people: 49 children from 7 different corners of the country. Aged between 11-13 years, these 6th and 7th grade elementary school students from the cities of Kırklareli, Afyon, Sinop, Konya, Hatay, Van and Diyarbakır, were selected to participate in the community involvement project of the Üniversiteli Robert Kolejiler Komitesi (UNIRC), called "Türkiye'nin 7 Rengi". As a part of the project program, participants were taken to several touristic spots in Istanbul such as the Topkapı Palace, St. Sophia Museum, Rahmi Koç Museum, Miniaturk, and took part in workshops about science, computer, sports and arts on campus. They were also taken to the Fındıkzade Eğitim Parkı of Türk Eğitim Gönüllüleri Vakfı (TEGV) and Bilgi University Santralistanbul campus in order to participate in workshops about acting, arts and sports organized by professional educators. Apart from these activities, the students had a chance to interact with their peers from opposite corners of the country and form lifelong friendships.

UNIRC is a subcommittee under the Robert College Alumni Association, formed and managed by RC Alumni who are university students. Amongst their annual activities such as job and university fairs, the Community Involvement project is probably the biggest and can be organized only thanks to the generous support of sponsors, as a result of fundraising activities managed by UNIRC. Their past two projects, "Karadeniz'den 40 Yağmur Damlası" and "Türkiye'nin 7 Rengi", have been successfully run with the efforts of the active members of UNIRC and the help of RC students assisting them under the CIP program of RC. Such a wide scale project has been able to go on only because the organizers of UNIRC are really dedicated to the aims of the project and do want to make a change in the lives of these kids.

The coordinator of the project, Emre Tekişalp (RC 07), says "We are a very fortunate group of youngsters in terms of the schools we have been to and continue to be educated in. However in our country, especially in the East, there are millions of kids who unfortunately are not as lucky. We wanted them to see Istanbul and Robert College in order for them to experience a different style of education and help them acquire the tools to develop themselves." RC alumni and students who took part in the project learned many new things through this experience and they said, "We learned from our guests at least as much as they learned from us."

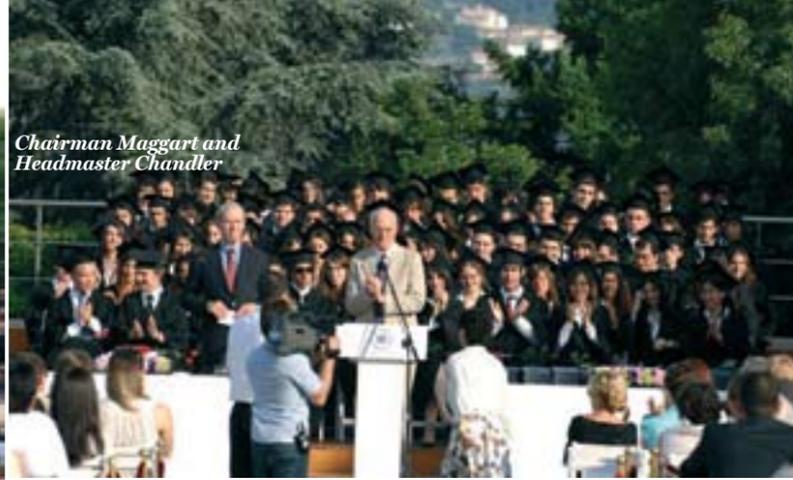


An obvious indicator of the success of the project was how each participant was reluctant to leave Istanbul and their new friends, how they excitedly exchanged phone numbers with each other and hugged their new big brothers and sisters as they said their farewells. UNIRC hopes to be able to continue this annual project and help prepare a better future by hosting many more kids from the far corners of our country.

### ***Upcoming UNIRC Events***

Robert College Alumni Association's young team UNIRC began the 2009-2010 season with a vibrant party which took place in "Refresh the Venue" on November 12. As the new executive council, we have upcoming projects among the bill that will possibly be of great aid in achieving two of our major goals: Maintaining the strong bond between young graduates, and helping RC students via the transfer of all profit to the scholarship fund through RCA. UNIFUAR, which has become a traditional event for our committee, took place on the 2nd of December. Similarly, Career Day was planned for the 27th of December. We're also planning on organizing "fasıl" nights for recently graduated classes as well as a grand New Year's party and a small gig for alumni (hopefully around May), much like our beloved Lise Live. CIP, now in its 3rd year, will be subject to developments that will take us one step closer in realizing our vision of "81 Students, 81 Provinces".

Unfortunately, Unique, our primary form of communication with the RC community over the last few years, will no longer be published due to the immense burden it has placed upon us. Meanwhile, look for future news in the RC Quarterly, and stay tuned at <http://www.rkmd.org.tr/unirc>



Chairman Maggart and Headmaster Chandler



Feride Eralp '09



Philip Gee

# The Absolute Crowd Graduates!

Class of 2009 a.k.a The Absolute Crowd graduated at the new venue in town, the Konak Terrace, located on the eastern part of the campus, adjacent to the Deanery. It was renovated by the Parents' Association in time to accommodate the graduation

ceremony of the most crowded class in the history of RC. 242 members of this class gathered in their caps and gowns to fill up the benches prepared for them. For those who are used to graduation ceremonies being held at the Rodney Wagner Memorial Maze, this was

quite a different experience. This new open venue has a fantastic view of the Bosphorus. As the sun set behind the school buildings, warm colors of the start of summer reflected from the Asian side and created a festive atmosphere. Parents, faculty, trustees and administrators took their seats to enjoy the moment, and watched the seniors walk for the last time as students of Robert College. Once the tassels were passed from left to right, they were no longer students, they became RC Alumni.

Graduation speakers were James Maggart (Chairman of the Board of the Trustees), Philip Gee (English Teacher), Feride Eralp and Gökçe Türkoğlu (student speakers). Maggart first came to Turkey in 1968 and taught mathematics in the orta of ACG until 1971. He was also the basketball coach for the girls' team which showed much success at several championship matches. In 1971 he became the Lise Director and the Director of Studies. In 1974, he left to complete an MBA at Stanford University, returning to RC in 1977 as Headmaster, a position he held until 1981. He has served as a trustee of Robert College since 1988, becoming Board Chairman in 2003.

Throughout his career, Mr. Maggart served education in many capacities, and he brought his experience, wisdom and insight to the governance of Robert College. In a recent note to the school, he said, "I first came to ACG in 1968 as a math teacher 'for an adventure' and became so attached that here it is 41 years later and I am still fortunate enough to be involved in RC."

He started his speech by making a

reference to the moniker of the class, and what he thought the word "ABSOLUTE" really characterized about the Class of '09. Then he explained the conclusion he came to: "In the end I somehow got the idea that no one really wanted to tell me where the label ABSOLUTE CROWD actually came about, but what was ABSOLUTELY clear when I asked your teachers and the administration about your class is that they are ABSOLUTELY very proud of you! .....The Class of 2009 certainly deserves high praise for your part in a number of outstanding drama productions including wonderful plays written by students in this class. And I have witnessed first-hand the talent of some extraordinary musicians in this class. It's not surprising that eight students in this class were offered scholarships to some of the top art, design and architecture schools in the world. .... So you can see--we are all ABSOLUTELY very proud of you! It looks like you will always be known as the ABSOLUTE CROWD."

James Maggart also relayed one story which surprised the audience and many alumni who will read it here in the RC Quarterly: "I could also tell you many stories about faculty who intended to stay for 2-3 years and remained for many more. I well remember interviewing a young man in Massachusetts in 1979. In those days we asked teachers to sign a two year contract, but he wasn't sure he wanted

to commit for two years. He asked if I would agree to a one year contract. After considerable discussion he finally agreed on two years, but said it would definitely be for only two years. That was our good friend, Dave Phillips, who is completing his 30th year at RC this year. ....You students, of course, are the center of the RC family. And for the Class of 2009, like all classes before you, your closest RC family members will most likely be your classmates, and in many cases, your teachers. You are very fortunate to have spent the last five years with a talented, intelligent, motivated peer group and an outstanding, caring faculty. I know you have made many new friends at RC and I know you have learned a great deal from each other. I urge you to stay in touch with your classmates and your teachers and get together as often as you can."

### Where is the class of 09 now?

Of the 184 seniors who took the OSS - including 22 students who later decided to further their studies abroad - 94 were placed in State Universities and 90 placed in Private Foundation Colleges. A striking number of students entered Bosphorus University ( 39 ), Koç University ( 37 ), and Sabancı University ( 29 ). 90 % of graduates who took the exam were placed in their first five choices. Med Schools continue to lead choices as in the last few years. ( See p 14. )

### FOREIGN UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCE RESULTS FOR RC 09

Out of the 97 RC Seniors who applied to go abroad for higher education, 89 received one or more acceptances. Of these 76 made a decision to attend US, Canadian or UK universities and have started their freshman year. 25 were awarded financial aid. Of this group, 14 students were on scholarship while at Robert College.

UNIVERSITIES	NO.OF STUDENTS
Architectural Association School of Architecture	1
Art Center College of Design	1
Berklee College of Music	1
Boston University	2
Brown University	3
Carnegie Mellon University (College of Fine Arts)	1
Central St. Martin's College of Art & Design	1
Columbia University	1
Cornell University	2
Davidson College	1
Drexel University	3
Duke University	1
Georgetown University	2
Grinnell College	1
Lake Forest College	1
Lehigh University	3
London School of Economics	1
McGill University	7
McMaster University	1
Michigan State University	1
Northwestern University	3
Penn State University	2
Princeton University	3
Purdue University	1
School of the Art Institute of Chicago	1
Stanford University	1
The George Washington University	1
Tu Delft	1
Tufts University	2
University of Chicago	2
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	4
University of Manchester	1
University of Nottingham	4
University of Oxford	2
University of Rochester	1
University of South Carolina	1
University of Southampton	1
University of Toronto	2
University of Virginia	4
University of Warwick	1
Vassar College	1
Washington University in St. Louis	1
Yale University	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76</b>

UNIVERSITY	WITHOUT FINANCIAL AID		FINANCIAL AID		TOTAL
		foreign acceptance		foreign acceptance	
BOSPHORUS UNIVERSITY	36	3			39
İSTANBUL UNIVERSITY	17	5			22
İSTANBUL TEKNİK UNIVERSITY	11	2			13
ODTÜ	5	1			6
MARMARA UNIVERSITY	3	1			4
EGE UNIVERSITY	2				2
YILDIZ TEKNİK UNIVERSITY	1	1			2
TRAKYA UNIVERSITY	1	1			2
GALATASARAY UNIVERSITY	1				1
DOKUZ EYLÜL UNIVERSITY	1				1
ÇANAKKALE 18 MART UNIVERSITY	1				1
MİMAR SİNAN GÜZEL SANATLAR UNI.		1			1
<b>STATE UNIVERSITIES</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>15</b>			<b>94</b>
KOÇ UNIVERSITY	10	5	18	4	37
ACIBADEM UNIVERSITY	3	1	3		7
SABANCI UNIVERSITY	12	3	11	3	29
YEDİTEPE UNIVERSITY		1			1
BİLKENT UNIVERSITY	1		1		2
İSTANBUL BİLGİ UNIVERSITY			8		8
İSTANBUL KÜLTÜR UNIVERSITY		2			2
KADİR HAS UNIVERSITY	2				2
BAHÇEŞEHİR UNIVERSITY	1	1			2
<b>FOUNDATION UNIVERSITIES</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>184</b>



# RC Hosts Istanbul's Latin Dancers for Commemorative Festival



**R**obert College sashayed into samba mode this May with the first-ever Berkol Doğan RC 98 Latin Dance Festival. The event was organized to honor the memory of a beloved friend, Berkol Doğan RC 98, a physicist who died tragically in the Isparta plane crash of 2007. Berkol's family, the RC community and friends all agreed that a dance festival would be an ideal way to honor Berkol, who was an extremely devoted member of the dance club in high school and who loved latin dance. The day-long festival on May 3rd consisted of tango and Latin dance workshops; dance performances by students from around Istanbul including Kartal Anadolu Lisesi, Cağaloglu Anadolu Lisesi, Üsküdar American Academy, ENKA Schools, Galatasaray Lisesi and Robert College; followed by tango and salsa shows by two professional couples, Suzan Erdim and Onur Mergen (Latin dance) and Melin Yuna and Selim Yuna (Tango).

The morning was spent with final rehearsals for participating schools and organizers. While they rehearsed in the theater, a team of volunteering organizers decorated the venue. Berkol's family had posters and t-shirts made for this special event. Guests and performers wore colored t-shirts and organizers wore black t-shirts printed with a stylized photograph of Berkol. Remaining t-shirts were sold by volunteers who also worked very hard to welcome RC's guests and worked in cooperation with Robert College Alumni, Student Activities, Theater and and Arts departments.

Following the final dress rehearsal, our professional guests led

workshops in the Forum and the dance studio. Dance enthusiasts learned new techniques from Suzan, Onur, Melin and Selim and had lots of fun. Dance instructors from guest schools also took part in these workshops and danced with the pros.

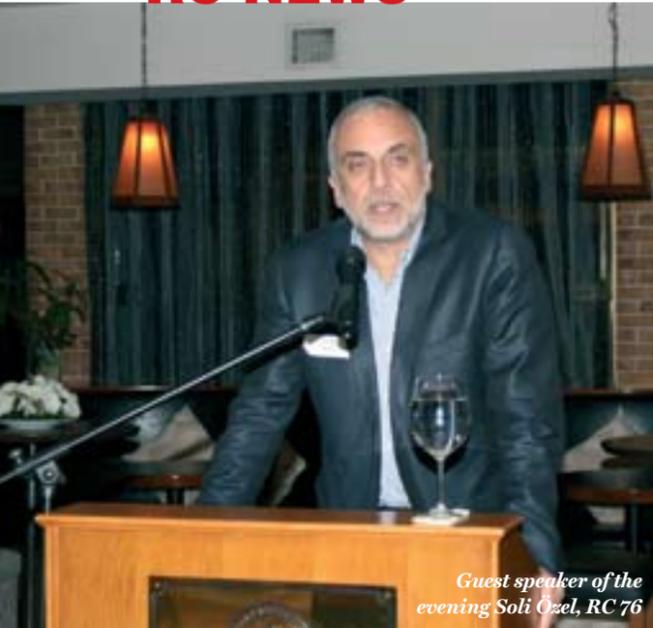
After the lunch break came show time! The house was practically full and the dancers were very excited. Master of Ceremonies Eylem Çeliker hosted the show. RC Headmaster John Chandler made an opening speech followed by a video presentation featuring clips of every participating school's dance group.

Performances ran smoothly and the audience was impressed by the high quality, disciplined and colorful student dancers. The Kartal Anadolu Lisesi's samba was one of the most outstanding shows with its costumes, large ensemble of dancers and vivid choreography.

Student shows were followed by two wonderfully original salsa and tango performances from the professional couples. The dancing concluded with a brief awards ceremony that brought all participating groups to the stage where they were introduced and then awarded plaques and framed pictures. The festival was a labor of love for many at RC. It was sponsored by the Doğan family and Berkol and his sister Bülay's friends volunteered to make sure that the day was a success. Beloved friend, exceptional gentleman, where words fail to tell how lonely your loss makes us feel, we, as your family and friends, commemorate you and honor you with a festival that we know you would love and enjoy. Contributed by Aslı Salarvan RC 98

*Onur Mergen, Nevzat Doğan, Bilay Doğan, Ferhan Doğan and Suzan Erdim*

All support and contributions are welcome. All expenses for this organization were covered by Berkol's family through a fund that was created specifically for this occasion. Some of the money collected in this fund was and will still be used for the Latin Dance Training club of current RC students. If you wish to help you can call the RC Alumni & Development Office at 212 359 2289. All donations will be appreciated and will ensure the continuity of the Berkol RC 98 Latin Dance Festival as an annual RC tradition. The festival organizers also solicit creative people to help with the preparation of t-shirts, posters, plaques or web design.



Guest speaker of the evening Soli Özel, RC 76



Class agent Bülent Kıymır RC 75 with Soli Özel RC 76 and Headmaster John Chandler.



From L to R: Melek Necipoğlu ACG 52, Şevki Figen RC Eng 48, Üzeyir Necipoğlu RC Eng 47, Sezen Malta ACG 61, Serra Subaşı ACG 64



Soli Özel RC 76 and Headmaster Chandler with RC 88 Class Agents Deniz Yıldız and Gülruh Turhan

# Kick-off Dinner Launches 2009 / 10 Annual Giving Campaign

Robert College launched its 2009/10 Annual Giving Campaign on October 12, 2009, with the Kick-off Dinner at Bizimtepe, the RC Alumni club. Attended by class agents, high honor donors, scholarship donors, representatives of corporate donors, as well as RC trustees and members of the administration, the dinner was a spirited affair. RC junior and senior class volunteers from the newly established PR Club helped out throughout the evening. Their presence also allowed graduates to catch up with goings-on on campus.

Headmaster John Chandler welcomed guests and congratulated everyone on the success of the past campaign, stating that over two million dollars was raised from 2033 graduates and friends worldwide despite the tough global economic conditions last year. He reiterated that funds from the Annual Giving campaign help ensure the financial strength of the institution, and continue to offer a Robert College education to the brightest students nationwide. Guest speaker for the evening was Soli Özel, RC 76, distinguished professor of international relations at Bilgi University, a columnist at Habertürk newspaper and senior advisor to TÜSİAD. Özel spoke about the changing political landscape of Turkey and why Robert College continues to be an influential institution through the values it nurtures in its students.

The speech was followed by the awards ceremony during which class agents from the best performing classes were recognized for their dedication and hard work.



From L to R: Ayta Gümüslüğü ACG 55, Nur Edil ACG 69, Güner Fansa ACG 49, Melahat Kınoğlu ACG 44



From L to R: Ali Yalçın RA 69, Murat Güneysu RC 04, Nevzat Fresko RC 73 and Çağlar Urcan RC 03



Soli Özel RC 76, Headmaster Chandler, and RC 79 Class Agents Murat Akanlar, Aylin Tankut and Metin Bonfil

## Outstanding Classes of 2008/2009:

- Level of giving**  
 RC 76: Class Agents: Nedim Ölçer, Yasemin Palandüz Kahya  
 RC 85: Class Agents: Bilge Yavuz Rizvani, Ayşegül Yüreklü Şengör, Ali Yılmaz  
 RC 88: Class Agents: Gülruh Tayan Turhan, Deniz Yıldız  
 RA 64: Class Agent: Ateş Güneş  
 RC 83: Class Agent: Serra Mansur Soysal  
 RC 91: Class Agents: Ahmet Alp, Cüneyt Soydaş  
 RC 75: Class Agents: Cihan Uzunçarşılı Baysal, Bülent Kıymır  
 RC 89: Class Agents: Mert Tarlan, Zümürüt Alp Yalman  
 RC 90: Class Agents: Okan Atilla, Aysan Sinanhoğlu, Mete Tuncel  
 RC 87: Class Agent: Burak Pekcan

- Level of Participation:**  
 RC 76: Class Agents: Nedim Ölçer, Yasemin Palandüz Kahya  
 ACG 61: Class Agents: Sezen Tezcan Malta, Leyla Batu Pekcan  
 RC 79: Class Agents: Murat Akanlar, Metin Bonfil, Aylin Tankut  
 RC 91: Class Agents: Ahmet Alp, Cüneyt Soydaş  
 RC 90: Class Agents: Okan Atilla, Aysan Sinanhoğlu, Mete Tuncel  
 ACG 530 Class Agent: Suna Özyiğit Gürçay  
 RA 61: Class Agents: Y. Aydın Bilgin, Hasan Subaşı  
 RC 88: Class Agents: Gülruh Tayan Turhan, Deniz Yıldız  
 RC 92: Class Agents: Duygu Alptekin, Coşkun Baban, Kaan Okurer  
 RC 75: Class Agents: Cihan Uzunçarşılı Baysal, Bülent Kıymır



RC 92 Class Agents Coşkun Baban, Kaan Okurer and Duygu Alptekin share a table with Pelin Turgut, RC 92, Mete Önal RC 92, and RC senior Sinan Kazaklar.

# FROM THE BOSPHORUS CHRONICLE

The Bosphorus Chronicle is a student-produced newspaper printed monthly during the school year and supervised by English teacher Jonathan Rau

## The most popular club: DI

At the beginning of the year, there was a long line of students who wanted to join Destination Imagination. The Destination Imagination club is a popular club at RC. However, do most people know what DI really is? And how should its motto "Think outside the box" be interpreted?

**For those people curious about the origin of DI, here is an interview with the founder of DI Turkey, Joseph Welch.**

At the beginning of the year, many people lined up to join Destination Imagination Club. What is so special about it?

I personally think that it is a club in which people have the opportunity that they can't get during the regular school day in class, because it brings learning and fun together. If one talks to anyone who has done DI, the first thing they say: 'It's a lot of fun and work.' The thing that is special about DI is that the students are able to take risks. Each and every student in DI has the opportunity to perform in front of the other kids who love doing DI. Lastly, when they hear that they have the chance to go to Globals, DI becomes even more appealing.

**Think outside the box... How did you achieve this goal with people used to thinking "inside the box" for years?**

Schools supply the students with many things, but DI allows them to focus on their creativity and to take risks without terrible consequences. Sometimes this isn't always the case with schools. In DI, participants get to hang out with people interested in being with them and they too get to do really cool things that they can never do in class. To open up one's mind with a different way of thinking is an opportunity one has in DI, even if it's so simple and a Dler never has to be worried about getting a bad grade; because the important thing is what they learned from this experience to get better at DI.

**How did this famous club start in Turkey?**

It started at Tarsus American College. I had heard of a school program called "Odyssey of the Mind" at a summer camp in the US but I really didn't know what it was. Someone told me about it a little bit. In TAC, the college counselor said: "Why don't you do Odyssey of the Mind, you have the personality and the teaching style?" Then I read about it and thought it was cool. I took a team from TAC to Odyssey of the Mind in Tennessee. They came in last place and for the first time in my life, I saw Turkish kids not caring. That year some of the board members left Odyssey of the Mind and created Destination Imagination. Odyssey of the Mind still exists but I prefer DI because DI is a nonprofit organization. When I moved to Robert College, I continued working for DI and offered it as a club. I had around 12-14 kids and no material. At World Finals we came in dead last place with kids. Then I understood that this is what Turkish kids need. In DI, the process is what it's all about; one's success is just the bonus. In other words, what one learns during the journey is important. On the contrary, Turkish exams are more

Green Zeppelins



A scene from Destination Imagination World Finals

about results.

**There were five lucky high school teams representing Turkey in the Global Finals and the four of them were from RC. What do you think the secret of this success is?**

Good and hard-working kids is the main thing. Also, having DI as a club every week and being led by very determined advisors, Mr. Light, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Becker, and last year Ms. Gaby. They really make sure that the Dlers stay focused on their challenges. On top of all that, a little bit of luck also helps the Dlers. Besides, Robert College wasn't the only school which sent many teams to Globals; Takev izmir also sent 4 teams to Tennessee.

**You are the founder of DI Turkey, how does it feel to be the most important person for all DIers?**

It's cool but it's not that big of a deal. Destination Imagination takes a lot of time, energy, and money. When one watches the Team Challenge performances, and sees all the hard work and dedication the team has given, it really has a strong impact. Moreover, it shows how much they are learning and that they are having the time of their lives. Then when those few teams are selected to go to Globals, the atmosphere is magic! Everyone is excited for the lucky five teams. That's the best feeling in the world, when one can put on a show like that.

### Turkish DIers in the US

After a year of toiling, five high school teams made it to the Global Finals. Four of those five teams were from Robert College. It's amazing to see the competition between those teams, because DITURKEY was a club that was started with only seven members, and turned into an ultimate creativity machine representing Turkey.

**Still wondering how great Destination Imagination is?**

**Akın Akkan:** DI Global Finals was one of the most enjoyable events of my life. I love DI so much and I was so excited to be invited to the Global Finals; however the Globals was not all about DI. It was about sheer friendship and fun. I still talk to the people I met in the Global Finals. I hope to go to DI Globals Finals 2010 too.

**Dilşad Özen:** One understands how it is totally worth working so hard on one's team challenge, after getting the chance to represent their school and country in Global Finals. Even though none of us does DI just to go to the Global Finals; I can say that the most incredible way of awarding hard work was the opportunity to be in that environment and make new friends all around the world.

**Ege Bezci:** All we had to do was eat, have fun, make as many new friends as we could and represent our school and Turkey in the best way. It was like a limitless utopia in which one would like to live forever.

**Deniz Akkaya:** The Global Finals was an amusing and unforgettable experience for me. I still keep in touch with a lot of DIers who I met from all around the world. My friends from other countries and I are planning to meet again this year in Tennessee.

## Day of Action for Climate Change

By Elif Erez, Lise 11

Experimental evidence suggests that the safe upper limit for CO2 concentration in the atmosphere is 350 parts per million (ppm), which means that 350 out of every million particles are CO2 molecules. This rule - that the concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere must, at most, be 350 ppm - also known as the '350 rule', is where the environmentalist campaign "350" gets its name from. Run by an international team of scientists, writers and organizers, "350" aims to raise climate crisis awareness by encouraging people around the world to gather in large groups on October 24th for this cause.

Any concentration above the value 350 ppm is considered dangerous for the sustainability of the environment, and potentially catastrophic for many ecosystems, including the human population.

The problem is that right now, the atmosphere's CO2 concentration is 390 ppm!

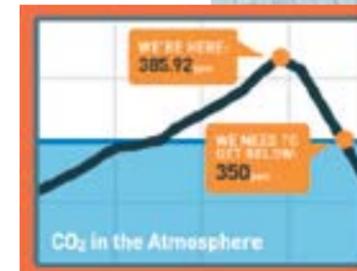
Already, many alarming events are happening around the world- today everyone probably knows about melting of the Arctic ice sheets and steadily rising sea levels. One point some may not know about is that the oceans are becoming increasingly acidic as they absorb CO2, and this not only disintegrates the coral reefs slowly (which are known to host the most amazing biodiversity on Earth), but it also jeopardizes any sort of marine life.

The way to reduce the CO2 concentration is to stop using energy resources that emit CO2 (like coal) and use renewable ones, like solar energy. Naturally, CO2 will be added to the atmosphere no matter what since billions of living creatures do aerobic respiration that releases carbon dioxide - but this way, if we can manage to stop releasing all the carbon trapped in fossilized forests, the carbon levels will gradually reduce as plants photosynthesize CO2 out of the atmosphere.

The people who really need to be warned are the nations' policy makers, leaders who are responsible for all the big decisions on issues such as energy resources and emission limits. The United Nations has an annual global meeting called Conference of the Parties (COP), which will take place in Copenhagen in December, when they will decide on new policies



The crowd!



CO2 concentration levels in the atmosphere

that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and keep the climate crisis from getting out of control. And we, as the public, need to ensure that this new treaty complies with the '350 rule'.

Robert College also participated in this global cause, thanks to Mrs. Tingleff - beloved Biology teacher - who organized our very own "Day of Action" on October 21st. The RC community was informed beforehand by various posters designed by students,

and even by creating a Facebook event page. As a result of all this effort, the day of action was a remarkable success! Scores of students rushed in enthusiasm to the steps of Gould Hall, on the columns of which the giant "350" banner was wired. The immense crowd, united in concern for the environment, stretched all the way from the very front of the building, across the entire length of the slope leading down to the light pole by the Bridge. Everyone raised their hands in the air, making 3's, 5's and 0's while the photography teacher Mr. Downs, who was on a tall ladder in front of the gathering, photographed this important moment for environmentalist activism in RC history.

## GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

### Turkey's First Private University Nursing School Turns Ten

Semahat Arsel, ACG 49, first became interested in nursing as a student at ACG, when a classmate's mother introduced her to a working committee to establish Turkey's first nursing school as part of the Florence Nightingale hospital complex which was then being built. In 1959, Arsel was diagnosed with a critical illness and spent many years abroad undergoing nine different operations and extensive medical treatment. "I was able to witness first-hand what a difference good nurses can make," she recalls. Arsel has since dedicated herself to improving the profession of nursing in Turkey. A leading businesswoman, Arsel is the daughter of business mogul Vehbi Koç and has invested \$20-25 million of her own personal fortune funds for advancements in this area over the past 35 years.

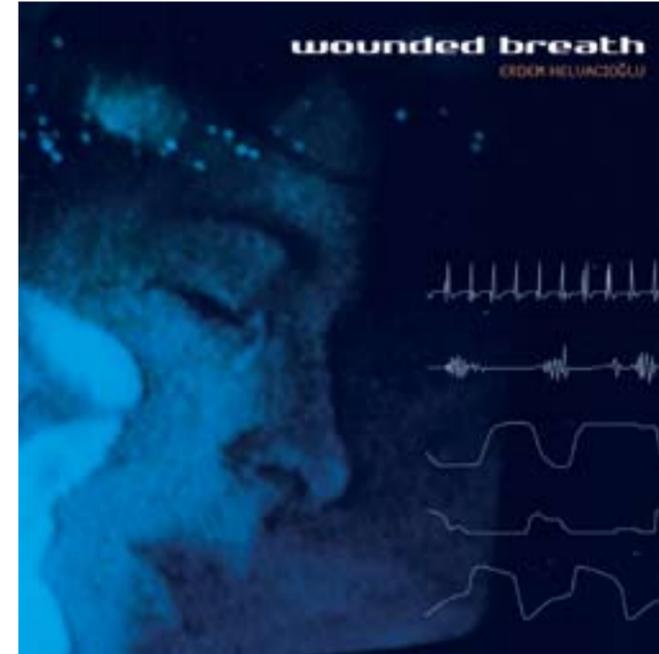
In Turkey, nurses used to be called "hastabakıcı" (caregivers) and to Semahat Arsel it symbolized a simplistic attitude towards a crucial and often overlooked profession. Supported by Vehbi Koc, then head of the Koç group of companies, in 1974 she launched a fund to allow 70 students each year to study nursing. Following that, the Semahat Arsel Nursing Education and Research Center (SANERC) was established in 1992 to support further development of the nursing profession in Turkey. It is Turkey's only post-graduate education and research centre for nursing and implements a wide range of sophisticated educational and training programmes across various areas of expertise. SANERC helps nurses in their further education by providing training courses for working nurses in various nursing specialty practices. Beginning with two courses, SANERC today offers courses in 23 specialized nursing disciplines. Thus far approximately 7,500 nurses and healthcare workers from many different public and private hospitals have taken part in training seminars both in and outside of Istanbul. SANERC has also started to provide consultancy services to hospitals, helping them to efficiently organize and manage their nursing departments.

In 1999, Arsel also opened the Koç University Nursing Faculty, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. "My goal is to enhance the learning and skills of nurses," says Arsel. "I'm interested in training nurses of the future." Of the 258 students who have graduated from the university, 173 were on full scholarships.

Arsel believes the profession is hampered by inadequate legal grounding. The current law regarding nursing dates back to 1954. She has worked with the Health Ministry to revise it, but those changes have yet to be passed. "The duties and responsibilities of nurses should be defined according to their educational background and specific professional capacity," she says. "But this requires the necessary guidelines to be instituted."



Semahat Arsel, ACG 49



### Musician Helvacioğlu's New Album Lauded in the US

Wounded Breath, the latest solo album released by electronic music producer Erdem Helvacioğlu RC 94 has been nominated one of the best albums of 2009 by the music magazine Culture Catch. Published by well-known editor Dusty Wright, the list also includes bands like Radiohead, Bob Dylan, A Camp, Miranda Lee Richards and The Takeover UK. Wright says: "Five tracks, clocking in at just over an hour, of haunting ambient electronica sound sculptures by this award-winning Turkish new music composer. It requires no stretch of the imagination to understand why his work has been featured in films, multimedia, dance, and theater productions. The opening track, "Below the Cold Ocean," could have easily been utilized in any of the *Alien* movies or as a sound installation at MoMA. Relax and float upstream..."

For more information about Helvacioğlu's projects, visit [www.erdemhelvacioğlu.com](http://www.erdemhelvacioğlu.com) or [www.myspace.com/erdemhelvacioğlu](http://www.myspace.com/erdemhelvacioğlu).

### Researcher Tamer Önder RC 98 on New Cancer Treatment Finding Team

RC 98 graduate Tamer Önder is part of a multi-institutional team of Boston-area researchers that has discovered a chemical that works in mice to kill the rare but aggressive cells within breast cancers that have the ability to seed new tumors. These cells, known as cancer stem cells, are thought to enable cancers to spread – and to reemerge after seemingly successful treatment.

Researchers previously struggled to study cancer stem cells directly in the laboratory. The ability to generate such cells in a laboratory was what made it possible to identify this chemical. "A critical aspect of our work was to generate relatively homogenous and stable populations of cancer stem-like cells that could then be used for screening," says Önder, a former graduate student at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research and co-first author of the study. He is now a postdoctoral research fellow at Children's Hospital in Boston.

The chemical compound discovered, called salinomycin, kills not only laboratory-created cancer stem cells, but also naturally occurring ones. Compared to a common chemotherapeutic drug prescribed for breast cancer (known as paclitaxel), salinomycin reduced the number of cancer stem cells by more than 100-fold. It also diminished breast tumor growth in mice.

Although further work is needed to determine whether this specific chemical holds therapeutic promise for humans, the study shows that it is possible to find chemicals that selectively kill cancer stem cells.



Tamer Önder RC 98

### Koç Family Awarded Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy

The Koç Family was awarded the prestigious "Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy" at a special ceremony held in New York in September. Presented every two years in commemoration of the philanthropist-businessman Andrew Carnegie, this year's award was received by Koç Holding Honorary Chairman Rahmi Koç RC 51 on behalf of the Koç Family with these words: "To receive this award at a time that coincides with the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Vehbi Koç Foundation is particularly symbolic and meaningful. Our father Vehbi Koç subscribed to Andrew Carnegie's belief that 'Spending money wisely is harder than earning it.' We as his children have perpetuated his legacy and philosophy."

The award is given out since 2001 by more than twenty organizations and institutions founded by Carnegie.



Ömer Koç RC 80,  
Semahat Arsel ACG 49,  
Rahmi Koç RC 51

## GRADUATES IN THE NEWS



Gülden Teztel RC 90

### RC Pianist Duo Celebrate Turkish Season in France

Pianist Gülden Teztel (RC 90) has had a love affair with the ivory keys since a student at Robert College. In the past two years her career has soared to new heights internationally, with performances in Germany, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Kuwait and in many festivals within Turkey, such as Istanbul Music Festival, D-Marin Turgutreis Classical Music Festival and Mersin International Music Festival.

In November, Teztel will perform with pianist Ilgin Aka (RC 87) in Toulouse, France as a part of the Turkish Season in France (Saison de la Turquie) activities. Aka is a Juilliard graduate. The pair formed a piano-duo and started performing about two years ago. Their recent concert at the Austrian Cultural Office received strong reviews. In France, they will play pieces by U. C. Erkin, W. A. Mozart, F. Schubert, G. Bizet and C. Debussy. They also have plans to perform in the United States, where Aka now resides.

After RC, Teztel graduated from Oberlin Conservatory's "Piano Performance" program. She returned to Turkey and began working as artist faculty in the piano department at the Istanbul University State Conservatory, where she also completed a master's. She recently received a doctorate degree from MIAM at Istanbul Technical University. A highlight of the past two years was performing with world-renown violin virtuosos Alexander and Albert Markov in Istanbul in February 2008, she says. Teztel is also pleased when her performances help open up cultural communication between countries. Last December, she performed with the Armenian violinist, Eduard Tadevosyan, principal violinist of the famous Komitas String Quartet, as part of a cultural exchange between Armenia and Turkey. As part of that exchange, she also performed with violin virtuoso Cihat Aşkin in Yerevan. "I believe that these events were important steps towards building communication between the Turkish and Armenian cultures that had been missing for so many years," she says. "Both concerts received standing ovations on both sides."

To contact Teztel, please drop a line to gulden@guldenteztel.com.



Ilgin Aka RC 87

### First Ever Yunus Emre Poems In Hebrew

Dr. Avram Mizrahi (RC 74) and two of his friends Selim Amado and Denis Ojalvo made a very old dream come true when they translated and published the first-ever Yunus Emre poems in the Hebrew language. Titled, *Antologia Şel Şirim Sufiim Me Et Yunus Emre - Oti Şiga Avavatha* in Hebrew, the anthology of poems was introduced on May 14, 2009 at a reception in Tel Aviv's important literature center Beit Bialik. This literary soiree was attended by academic and literary circle figures and animated by Sufi music. The reception was inaugurated by Mr Namik Tan, Ambassador of Turkey in Israel, who expressed his satisfaction over the work done and his expectation of seeing other Turkish literary works in the Hebrew language. Dr. Avram Mizrahi, a pediatrician in daily life, has lived in Israel since 1980. His love for the Turkish literature and language has been a constant in his life. Translating Yunus Emre's universal and everlasting message of love and friendship was a lifelong challenge for him, particularly since it would be the first Hebrew translation of the Anatolian poet and mystic's works.



Dr. Avram Mizrahi, RC 74 (center) with Selim Amado and Denis Ojalvo



Ayşe Kulin ACG 61

### An Activist's Life

Novelist Ayşe Kulin's (ACG 61) latest book *Türkan: Tek ve Tek Başına* (Türkan: One and Alone) hit the best-seller charts in October. Part biography, part fictionalisation, it is an account of Türkan Saylan's life. Saylan was renowned first as a campaigner who successfully managed to nearly eradicate leprosy in Turkey, and later as a champion of girls' right to education. She founded and ran the Modern Education Volunteers Foundation up until her death of cancer earlier this year.

Kulin first met Saylan while working on her previous book *Kardelenler*, about young girls from Anatolia who were given an education through Saylan's ambitious nationwide campaign. "I was expecting someone in a grey suit but I met a young woman with bright, lively eyes," she told the *Hurriyet* newspaper. Kulin originally turned down Saylan's request to write about her life, but later changed her mind when Saylan became ill. "It became a debt of the heart that I owed her," she said. After Saylan died, missing pieces such as the 50s and 60s were completed when she was given a book of letters written to a friend of Saylan's. The letters helped Kulin write the book from a personal interior voice. "She was the kind of person who only comes to this world once every one hundred years," says Kulin. "If you asked me what kind of a person could save the world, I'd say only people like Turkan Hanım." The book is currently being serialised for TV.

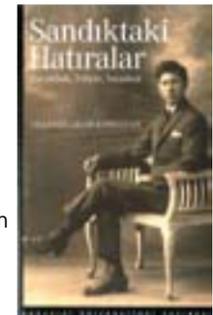


### Former RC Teacher Ohannes Kondayan's Short Stories

Contributed by Nüket Tezcan Esen (ACG 69) \*

Ohannes Kondayan taught mathematics to many generations of Robert College students, for 41 years to be precise, from 1927 to 1969. His wife Betty Kondayan taught English language and literature to many ACG girls between 1955 and 1970. The pair met at school and got married in Marble Hall in 1958. The little book I talk about here is their shared endeavour. Ohannes was born in 1905 to Armenian parents in Bardizag (Bahçecik) in İzmit and in 1915 deported towards Syria with his family. In Konya the family was rescued by Protestants because Ohannes' father had been converted to Protestantism by American missionaries. After the war, Ohannes came to İstanbul, to Robert College and became first a student and, after graduation, a math teacher and stayed on until his retirement in 1970. After the Kondayans moved to the US in 1970, Ohannes Kondayan began to write autobiographical short stories about his life in Turkey. He passed away in 2002, aged 97, in Virginia. Betty Kondayan edited the stories Ohannes wrote and published ten of them as a booklet in Virginia in 2007 entitled *May His Soul Lie in Light: Stories of his Youth in Turkey*. Through Betty Kondayan - my beloved literature teacher at ACG - I read these stories and loved them. I thought Boğaziçi University Publishers was the appropriate place to publish this little book because many of the professors at the university today are either RC or ACG graduates and therefore, either Mr. or Mrs. Kondayan was their teacher at some point. Karin Karakaşlı did a great job with the translation of the stories from English into Turkish. I wrote an explanatory introduction.

What came out was a little book of soft and loving stories told by a sensitive man. Fascinating in a subdued way, these stories offer us a glimpse of both Ohannes Kondayan's youth and of the Turkey of those years. The book by Ohannes Aram Kondayan is called *Sandıktaki Hatıralar: Çocukluk, Tehcir, İstanbul*, published by Boğaziçi Üniversitesi Yayınevi. \*Prof. Dr. Nüket Esen is the chair of the Department of Turkish Language and Literature at Boğaziçi University.



Nüket Tezcan Esen ACG 69

## “I see a...” *Coffee Futures: a different kind of film about Turkey and Europe*



It was while living in Paris in 2004, researching the history of photojournalism, that Zeynep Gürsel (RC 90) was initially inspired to make *Neyse Halim Çıksın Falım* (Coffee Futures), a savvy, humorous short documentary about Turkey’s tortured European Union relationship. “Everyone I met there wanted to discuss Turkey’s EU membership with me,” she recalls. “That’s when I got the idea for this film. I wanted to be able to convey to them the feeling of having to encounter this question a few times every day, and even more, being put in the position of having to represent an entire country.”

In Turkey, fortune telling by reading coffee grounds is common, used to help a troubled friend, the employer whose house one cleans, the indecisive lover, the unmarried granddaughter, the bored neighbor. Like any language it has its own rules and tropes and yet simultaneously each telling bears distinct marks of the teller’s personal style.

*Coffee Futures* weaves individual fortunes with the story of Turkey’s decades-long attempt to become a member of the EU. Promises and predictions made by politicians, both foreign and domestic, are juxtaposed with the rhetoric of everyday fortune telling.

The film is especially timely, as July 31, 2009 marked the 50th year anniversary of Turkey’s application to apply to the EU, originally the European Economic Commission. On this long and seemingly endless path the film recalls promises, protests and obstacles and descriptions of

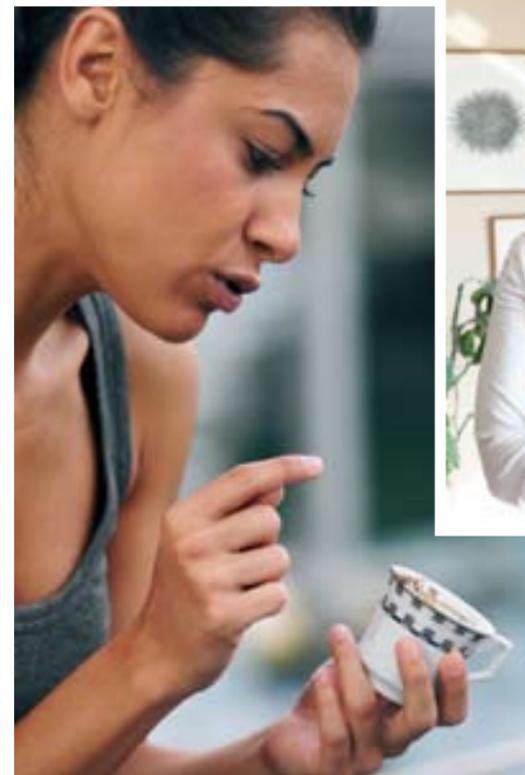
the constantly invoked but not yet attained future.

“The film is an ethnographic documentary which tries to convey society’s state of mind regarding this age-old question of “is it going to happen or not”,” says Gürsel. “In keeping with the Turkish adage “Gönül sohbet ister, kahve bahane” (the heart longs to converse, coffee’s just an excuse) I hoped the film would help both Turks and Europeans in creating a more open discussion platform.”

Gürsel, an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Michigan, says the experience has whetted her appetite. “As someone who teaches visual anthropology and ethnographic film, I enjoy being able to practice in this field. I have some ideas but making an independent documentary is not easy, particularly not in Turkey. I will try, though, because film allows for a different kind of interaction. It is collaborative and I have to think about a different audience than say one whom I write an academic book for, which is stimulating. I hope to have more opportunities to continue with film.”

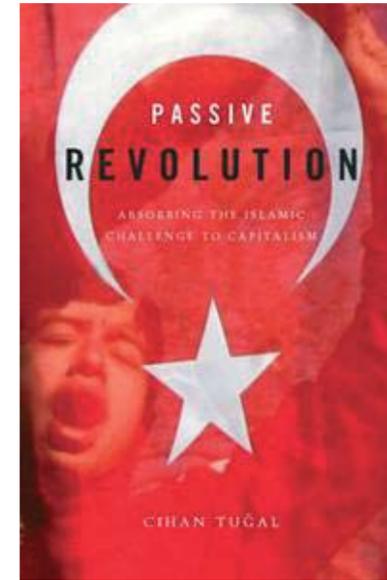


Zeynep Gürsel RC 90



Stills from the film

## *Passive Revolution: A Sociologist Looks at Turkey’s Changing Islamic Politics*



Cihan Tuğal (RC 92), professor of sociology at Berkeley, has published his first scholarly book on the transformation of Islamic politicization in Turkey- *Passive Revolution: Absorbing the Islamic Challenge to Capitalism*, Stanford University Press, 2009. The book is based on two periods of fieldwork in Sultanbeyli, a squatter district on the eastern border of Istanbul, was known in the late 90’s and in the early part of this decade as the centre of Islamic radicalism. Indeed, in the words of the author, Sultanbeyli was “one of the largest experiments to build an Islamic political society” (p.59). This meant putting in place an anti-capitalist, anti-secularist social order that had been able to create its own structure of political authority and leadership, (what Tuğal calls ‘political society’) as well as its own ‘civil society’ defined by Tuğal as a system of “networks that regulate everyday life, social space and people’s relation to the economy” (p.8). And yet by 2006, the district had turned into what Tuğal describes as a conservative society well integrated into the neoliberal capitalist system of the country. The book is an attempt to explain this transformation. According to Tuğal, the main reason for the failure of the experiment was the RP’s (Welfare Party) inability to connect the political and civil system of the district to the state. The AKP (The Justice and Development Party), by contrast, was successful in establishing this connection, thus being able to forge its hegemony not only in Sultanbeyli, but also in other Islamicized parts of the country. By reintegrating the radical elements of the Islamic movement into an Islamized model of life style, social space and the economy and using Islamic strategies for non-Islamic ends, the AKP was able to absorb the radicalism of Islam. This well-argued thesis sustained through careful ethnographic data, in-depth interviews, and comparative analysis shows that Islamism in Turkey will not result in an Islamic revolution in the Iranian style and explains why the ‘moderate’ Islam of Turkey might be so acclaimed by different political actors in the world. Contributed by Nükhet Sirman (RC 72)

## *İsmail Ertürk’s (RC 77) New Book on Economics, Culture & Aegean Civilization*

When the RC Quarterly asked me what had inspired me to write this book I immediately thought of my scribbles for Spectrum, the literary magazine at RC during my years. One can not help feeling literary and fanciful on the RC campus. One of the essays in my book is inspired by an unhappy neighborhood of ours- Tefik Fikret’s “Aşyan”. In this essay I contemplate writers’ reasons for leaving home and searching for places of voluntary self-exile. But the book’s title itself is not as unhappy: Şen Burgaç (Vivacious Vortex) is inspired by philosophers F. Nietzsche and M. Serres. The book is a collection of essays on some of the contemporary Turkish writers and literary and cultural topics that interest me. This is my second book from Yapı Kredi Yayınları, after one on cinema published last year. It is not usual for a financial economist to write literary and cultural essays. But given the current criticism of financial economists as detached mathematical modelers involved in socially useless financial engineering, this book shows that economists come in various shapes and sizes. For me economics has always been ultimately a subject embedded in cultural realm as I argue in one of my essays in the book where I draw attention to the works of writers as diverse as Sabri Ülgener, George Bataille, Ezra Pound and Enis Batur. Bilge Karasu, Edip Cansever, Yusuf Atılgan are other Turkish authors who are my subjects in the book. One of the essays is about Aristides of Miletus who is believed to be the author of Miletian Tales, an influential book in ancient literature. I was born in Söke, right next to this great ancient city of Miletus, and was struck by the aura of the ruins on my first visit when I was six. In this essay on Aristides I muse about where and when the West and the East actually culturally meet and challenge the common wisdom that Istanbul is the cultural border in Asia Minor. I take up the same theme in my other essay on the Roman philosopher king of North Africa, Juba II, and his wife Selena, daughter of Cleopatra. Literary biographies, capital cities and provincial towns, cultural industries, internet and art, are other topics that I turn into vortices and vivaciously write about in this book.” Contributed by İsmail Ertürk RC 77





RC teachers who have been here 20 years or more celebrating Teacher's Day at Bizim Tepe at a luncheon event hosted by the Parent's Association. From L to R: Colin Edmonds, Diane Özbal, İzzet Dodurgah, Mehmet Uysal, Nüket Eren, Hafize Değer and Dave Phillips (missing from this group photo are: Cahit Can, Adil İzci, Tony Baker, Phillip Esposito, Clem McDonnell, and Alison Oğuz)



Celebrating Teacher's Day: As is tradition, the youngest and most senior teacher present, Jennifer Pool and Nuran Demircioğlu, this year cut the cake.

# Lifelong Learning: Robert College's Treasured Teachers

Take any three or four Robert College teachers and you will probably get a century's worth of teaching experience -- yet most say that they are still learning. In fact, if there's one thing that unites this group of teachers who have been at the school for at least 20 years, it's their devotion to learning -- learning, that is, not teaching, because their philosophy of teaching is based around learning how to learn.

"You just need to learn how to use your brain to learn, because you'll learn your whole life," says Diane Özbal, after 37 years of teaching English at Robert College. For facts, she says, there is always the internet.

"We want students to have enough confidence in themselves and the skills to approach and handle new situations they may not even have come across before," says Alison Oğuz, physics teacher of 22 years.

The intelligence of RC students is a blessing for teachers, but since even the brightest is accepted through an entrance exam which is based on memorizing, "the secret is to get them to understand the concepts that they already know," says Oğuz, who has been doing just that in science for 22 years. "Our purpose is to prepare them for university, not the university exams."

The success of this teaching-and-learning process, and the kind of students it helps to create, seems to be one reason why teachers like to stay at RC for so long. "I have been overwhelmed over the years by the kind of questions students ask, even teaching the same course for several years," says Oğuz. "I can't always answer all the questions. If it wasn't for the students, teaching would be extremely boring."

## All About Interaction

Clem McDonnell, who has been teaching science for 25 years, agrees. "Sometimes students say: You teach the same stuff, don't you get bored? But you don't. It is how they perceive and question the material, how they interact." Colin Edmonds, who teaches computer science, also thinks teachers today should be "less 'sage on the stage' and more 'guide by your side,'" because, "education should be a pleasant process."

Adil İzci considers himself lucky to have been teaching such a select group of students for 30 years, and adopts a philosophy of collective learning. He takes his Turkish literature course as an arts class and allows his students to pursue their own tastes in the texts. "I don't distance myself from them," he says. "I like discovering things together, without having to reach absolute conclusions."

For McDonnell, one of the nicest things about working with intelligent students is that you pick up interests from them. The school's 85 student-led clubs also allow teachers a chance to try new hobbies. "When you see all those things going on, it keeps you young at heart," says McDonnell, who originally planned to stay for one

year while on leave of absence from a school in Ireland. Now, he's lived longer in Turkey than in his native country. Why did he stay? As well as enjoying RC, McDonnell sees similarities between Turkey and Ireland: the sense of humor, the love of dance and music are alike, he says.

## Cultural Mix

Some teachers, like Diane Özbal, describe themselves as "100 percent RC." She is married to a graduate Hadi Özbal, who is the son and a brother of a graduate, and her children Rana and Can are graduates too. Özbal isn't a RC graduate herself, but she's taught more than three generations at the school and seen more than 10 headmasters. "Headmasters don't stay but I do," she remarks.

Others like Mehmet Uysal entered RC "from totally a different world." Uysal now proudly identifies himself with the culture of RC, which he joined at the age of 23, more than a quarter-century ago. "RC does not just train its students, it creates its own type of teacher in time" he says. "Your vision of the world changes fundamentally in this multilingual and multicultural environment. You become much more free



This dedicated group of RC Staff has also been at RC for 20 years or more, keeping the school running behind the scenes. Standing from L to R: Şen Onganer (Business Office), Güneş Savas ACG 68 (Turkish Office), Ayşe Yüksel ACG 69 (Library), Ümran Üngün ACG 70 (Business Office), Sema Sarpmen (Alumni & Development Office), Leyla Aktay RC 72 (Alumni & Development Office), Fatoş McDermott (Business Office). Seated from L to R: Özge Arapkirli (Business Office), Nesrin Gülsoy RC 74 (Lise Office), Gülcan Üçok ACG 66 (Counseling Office), Nilüfer Göksan (Library), Şiir Türsan ACG 70ex (Library), Çiğdem Yazacıoğlu (Alumni & Development Office) Missing from this group photo are Bürgül Hasırcioğlu (IT Department), Emel Göktürk RC 74 (Lise Office) and Meral Gündüz (Business Office)

thinking and much more tolerant."

Nüket Eren Üstel remembers, as a fresh history teacher in 1987, her excitement when she realised she could use the audiovisual center, library, sports halls and stages for lessons. "I grew up here," she says. "It's great to learn by living every moment."

## Always Something New

"Whenever you try something new you put yourself in a slightly uncomfortable situation of not quite knowing how it's going to work out," Oğuz says. "That is the time when you grow as a person, and here there is always something new happening."

For Phillip Esposito, who has seen many changes in teaching techniques in 35 years, one key element remains intact: a group of happy, interested students. "Basically I respect the intelligence of the kid. Especially at RC they know much more than we assume they know." He says teaching English has become less about correcting mistakes and more about

encouraging students to make their points. "I believe that if the student feels it is important he will find the language to say it. If he finds it boring, he won't be concerned about how to say it."

Cahit Can, also at RC for 28 years, welcomes the school's flexibility in adopting new teaching materials and techniques. "Teaching is not like computer technology, it does not change every three four months, but it changes nevertheless and it is easier to follow and adapt to these developments here," he says. "The core of education should be helping students realize their capacity to change themselves and the world," says history teacher Hafize Değer who admits she would like to have started with the benefit of all the training that helped her develop later in life.

Dave Phillips, who's been keeping fit for 30 years as a PE teacher, advises future teachers to come to RC with an open mind, respect the culture and the students, and appreciate the opportunity. "Then, everything will be fine," he guarantees.

## Is it a cocoon?

There are drawbacks to RC's distinctive culture, Esposito says. "RC is a cocoon. It is separated from the rest of the city. It is not like living in Istanbul." Students at the top German, French or Italian schools are more sophisticated, he says, identifying two reasons. One is cultural: "Americans tend to keep you a child longer." But there's also a geographical cause: "If you go to school in Beyoglu, your daily existence is in the center of the city, whereas if you come here, you come into a beautiful park by minibus and then go home. I have many students who never take buses, they don't know where Fatih or Aksaray is. Students uptown have a better sense of what Istanbul is."

But that cocoon effect is also changing. Alison Oğuz thinks that a government decision to extend primary education, thereby removing the first three years of high schools, had a positive effect in making RC more of a national school. She says parents in Anatolia were unwilling to send 11-year-olds to RC

even if they won a place, but at the age of 14 parents are more confident in letting go for the sake of a good education.

## How has RC changed you?

Asked whether his time at RC had been transformative, Cahit Can replied in trademark humorous fashion: "By approximately 30 kilos!" In a more philosophical turn of phrase, Mehmet Uysal described the school's impact by saying "You became a man of the world and a teacher of the world." Turkish literature teacher Adil İzci -also a poet- spoke of the "shared sense of gratification" he and his students feel they have shared a particularly illuminating learning experience. For nearly three decades, these special personalities have helped shape the school, educating legions of RC graduates, and in turn, the school has shaped them, mutually reinforcing a vibrant and unparalleled culture of learning.

## Favorite Memories



Soli Özel RC 76 and Diane Özbal

### Diane Özbal

"At a fundraising dinner, there was an elderly gentleman with a grey hair and beard who was the speaker of the event. And he turned out to be my student, in my very first class!"

### Mehmet Uysal:

"With a passion to stage our play, we patched up a stage at the old gym, which is now the library. There were basically four planks, a curtain on top of them and wooden cubes as the floorboards, covered by a big carpet. The floor was pretty unsound as you might imagine, and our main actor, Cevdet Samikoğlu RC 89, was pretty large. Not surprisingly, but still very spectacularly, he smashed all the wooden cubes during a heated chase scene."



Mehmet Uysal

### Cahit Can

"I get annoyed when I'm interrupted while teaching. Thirty seconds into one class, there was a knock at the door and in came a late student. I swallowed my annoyance and started over. A minute later, another walked in, I let out my annoyance this time but still started over. When two more showed up 10 minutes into the class hour, I was beside myself. I didn't let them explain themselves, told them off, sent them to their seats. When I finished explaining and their experiment time started, those two raised their hands. I presumed they wanted to hear the first part that they'd missed, and told them off again. Fifteen minutes later a girl approached me and said: "Those two struggling to do the experiment are not from this class." Apparently, they were student council members who came in to make an announcement, but decided they'd rather do the experiment than hear me shout again."

### Alison Oğuz:

"When students get so stressed in a test, they sometimes end up writing the most ridiculous things. How high above the earth is a satellite orbiting? 1.352 millimeters. How much does it cost to use your iron for an hour? 27.35 billion liras!"



Cahit Can



Alison Oğuz

### Phillip Esposito:

"I've had a moustache since I graduated from high school. The only time I ever shaved it was after September 12 1980 because of the decree banning moustaches on teachers. Two weeks later they withdrew the decree so I grew it back again."



Phillip Esposito



Adil İzci

### Adil İzci:

"In my first year at RC, I was giving a speech and warning the third years to be quiet. They all fell silent. But each time I stopped talking, the crows would start cawing loudly. They would stop as I spoke and caw as I stopped. This went on for 10 minutes!"

### Dave Phillips:

"In 1984 roads were covered with ice in Istanbul for a month and I had boys and girls in the Istanbul Finals. For one week we had to hitchhike to Beşiktaş every morning, take the ferry to Üsküdar and hitchhike to Burhan Felek. Another memory was in Cyprus at the nationals with my boys: One day they said I was the best coach in Turkey, the next day they threw me out the gym."



Dave Phillips back in the old days

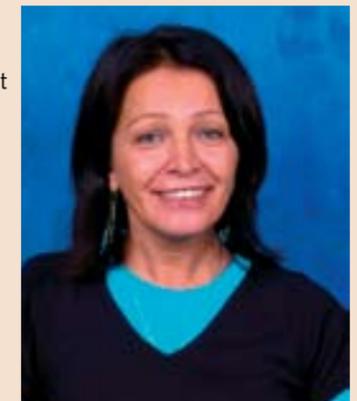
### Colin Edmonds:

"The gym, now the library, was host to some of my fondest early memories: faculty-student basketball matches, concerts by MFO and Robert "One-Man" Johnson in the gym had an atmosphere that we cannot bring back. In light of memories of that particular space, I should note that my memories of RC (ACG) go back even farther. When I was a pre-teen at RCCS (Robert College Community School) in the 1960s, I remember attending one of my first concerts in the old theater balcony (approximately where the Foreign Languages classrooms are now); it really was a classy theater."



### Nüket Eren Ustel:

"The year that they stopped admitting the first three classes at RC. We celebrated the 23 April Children Festival with children from Kasımpasa Orphanage at the Maze. I don't remember a ceremony more beautiful, meaningful, touching in the 30 years of my working life."



## ONES TO WATCH



*Ispanak rocking out*

### *A New Musical Flavor: ISPANAK*

Some of you may remember the music band SFT playing at various Fine Arts Festivals from 2000 to 2003. Those SFT heroes Ali Halit Diker RC '03 and Emre Tandar RC '03 recently united with some other friends to form the music group Ispanak and have just gotten themselves into the "pro music league".

After getting his BA in Visual Arts and Visual Communication Design at Sabancı University the group's guitarist Ali is now pursuing his MA at Yıldız Technical University and working as an Art Director. He explains: "After a short break from playing music, Emre and I picked up our group SFT that we created at RC. We performed at different locations like Bronx and Balans. Unfortunately, when our lead singer quit to fly out to England, it was the end of SFT. However, Emre and our former guitarist Can had not given up music and continued on recording some music. About a year ago they came to me asking to join them to start a new group. I said yes without hesitation. It took us a year to put together a collection of songs and record them. Our first performance took place at Sabancı University. That concert was followed by many others at Gitar Café, Dogzstar, Peyote and one at Mimar Sinan University." The group's music can be classified as Psychedelic / Experimental Rock. However, they refuse to put a label on their style since they try to integrate every kind of style into their music that they enjoy. A variety of guitar tunes combined with different sound effects constitute the "experimental" portion of their music. There are very few lyrics; their songs are mainly instrumental.

The group is composed of Can Yıldızlı - Guitar and Vocals; Ali H. Diker - Base Guitar and Vocal Support; Emre Tandar - Guitar, Kaospad and Vocal Support; Aydın Aysu - Synthesizers, Sound Effects and Vocals; Tayfun Gür - Drums.

Ispanak was recently featured on Kanal 24. They have a facebook group and are on twitter and MySpace, <http://www.myspace.com/ispanakband>. Looks like we will hear more about them in the days to come. Contributed by Pelin Seyhan RC'03



*Gülferm Demiray RC 07*

### *Behind the Scenes at Vogue Magazine*

Ever since she was a teenager, Vassar senior Gülferm Demiray RC 07, has dreamt of working at Vogue magazine. This summer, after three rounds of interviews, the enthusiastic young writer was selected from among hundreds of applicants to become a fall intern at the magazine's swank New York city offices, where she now works three days a week.

Demiray has always been a writer. Despite being a science-track student, at RC she contributed to Kingdom Robertea, the science magazine, and to Kaleidoscope. In her final year, a collection of short stories she wrote about the lives of handicapped people was published by Bulut Yayıncılık. "I was inspired to write *Engelleri Aşmak* (Surmounting the Obstacles) by a summer spent volunteering at a handicapped rehabilitation camp in 2006," she says. "I had always written stories and poems for fun, but getting some of my stories published gave me an incredible feeling of accomplishment. The book has been reprinted twice, so the third edition is currently in bookstores."

At Vassar, Demiray joined the staff of the student newspaper, The Miscellany News, and the school yearbook Vassarion during her freshman year. Shortly after contributing to the paper as a staff writer, she was promoted to the Assistant Arts Editor position in the paper and named to the editorial board of Vassarion.

That summer, she began interning at TimeOut Istanbul, whose editor-in-chief was then Özlem Alkan Karakuş, also an RC graduate. Shortly afterwards, she was made Arts Editor. "That summer I had no summer holiday and worked straight full time

for 3 months," she says. "But I was really enjoying working at the fast-paced office of TimeOut so I didn't mind not sunbathing at the beach. I contributed to the magazine by writing articles, briefs, advertorials, taking pictures, doing interviews with artists and celebrities, and many other tasks. In my third month, I wrote the cover story!"

Returning to Vassar, Demiray continued writing for both the newspaper and the yearbook. A highlight was interviewing visiting bands like Beirut. (To see her work, visit [www.miscellanynews.com](http://www.miscellanynews.com)) The following summer she interned at Kanal 1 as well as the contemporary art gallery Galerist to sample other fields. "At the end of the summer, I realized that working at a magazine is what I enjoy doing the most," she says.

Demiray graduates this year with a double-major in Economics and Art History and hopes to pursue a Master's in journalism at the Columbia School of Journalism next year. She currently commutes into NYC three days a week to work at Vogue, where she helps editors and assistant editors in preparation for the shoots, creating story boards and lookbooks, contacting PR agencies and assisting in office activities. "It really is a demanding internship," she says. "But I'm loving it so much that I don't mind taking the train to Manhattan at 6:50 am three days each week and being extremely tired at the end of the day when I get back to my dorm at around 10 pm. It feels so great to be working in the same office and assisting the editors that I've been admiring for such a long time. It literally is a dream come true for me."

## An ACG Pioneer

Talking to Afife Sayın, ACG 36

Anne Irvine, who works with the US State Department, managed to track down Afife Sayın ACG 36, a longtime family friend on a recent visit to Istanbul. She contributed the following story.

I have many ties to The American College for Girls, now Robert College, including my mother, my great grandmother, my aunt and a longtime family friend, Afife Sayın, class of 1936. During a recent two month assignment at the U.S. Consulate in Istanbul, I was able to explore and revisit many of these connections.

First, I wanted to find Afife, as I had lost track of her when she retired and returned to Istanbul. After many false starts, I located her through the Alumni & Development Office of RC, and we met in June 2009 in her sunny apartment in Beşiktaş. There, at 94, she meets with students, friends and neighbors, still as vibrant, challenging and emphatic as I remember her when visiting our home when I was a girl. With my daughter and my husband, we had a wonderful tea, reminiscing and catching up. I presented her with a copy of my mother's book, *Missionary Daughter, Witness to the End of the Ottoman Empire*, which my brother and I published in 2002, after my mother's death.

After graduating from ACG in 1936, Afife went to the U.S. to earn a Masters degree from Brown University and then to enroll for a PhD at Bryn Mawr College. There, one day, she was visited in her dormitory, Radnor Hall, by my mother, Dorothea Chambers Blaisdell, 1919 graduate of Bryn Mawr, who spoke to her in Turkish. Afife was very surprised that she spoke Turkish. My mother took Afife under her wing and she would often stay at our apartment in Washington, D.C. or our summer home in Maryland. They remained friends until my mother's death in 1985. I remember her at our home, with my mother, two outgoing, energetic, stimulating women, discussing, over tea, family, friends, Turkish history and current events.

After getting her PhD in Economics and Social Economy from Bryn Mawr College in 1945, Afife pursued an academic career mainly in the U.S. The only woman in a team of five, she helped establish the Institute of Business Administration (now faculty of business administration) at the Faculty of Economics, University of Istanbul, in cooperation with Harvard Business School and with funds from the Ford Foundation. Upon retirement from Howard University, Washington, D.C., Afife returned to Turkey to be with her two sisters.

At 94, Afife continues to give yoga lessons to her friends in her apartment and tries to keep up with what is going on in the



Anne Irvine with Afife Sayın, ACG 36



Portrait of Kate Williams

world. So why did my mother speak Turkish? She was a descendant of a missionary family whose roots in the Ottoman Empire go back to 1858, when her grandfather, William Frederick Williams, came to Mosul to work with the Armenian churches. She herself, grew up in Adana where her father, a Canadian missionary, William Nesbitt Chambers, served with the Mission Board until 1922. After graduating from Bryn Mawr College in 1919, my mother herself returned to Turkey to work with the YWCA, and then to teach History for two years at ACG, where she met my father, Donald Blaisdell, an engineering professor at Robert College. They returned to the U.S., but the family connections to ACG continued through her sister, Kate Seelye, who taught there for 15 years during the 1940s and 1950s, while her husband, Laurens Seelye, taught at Robert College. Afife met with them when she was back in Turkey.

My mother's family story was that when she was recruited to teach at ACG, she sensed she was being groomed to be the future head of ACG, following in the footsteps of her grandmother, Kate Williams. Kate had come to Turkey as a missionary teacher, married William Frederick Williams in Mardin, but after his death, took her two children back to the U.S. In 1875 she returned with her mother and children to become the Principal of the Home School in Üsküdar, the forerunner of ACG. She served as Principal of the Home School until illness forced her to retire in 1883. Whether true or not, my mother foiled any plans when she married my father in 1926. My mother always told me that there was a portrait of Kate Williams at ACG, and in 2006, on a visit to Istanbul, I took a chance and went to meet Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu, in the Alumni Office, and asked about the portrait. She said they would check with the archivist. When I returned to the U.S. she emailed to say they found it in the archives. So on this visit, I was pleased to meet with Çiğdem and President John Chandler, to see the portrait. I also presented President Chandler with a copy of my mother's book for the Robert College Library, so my connections will still be there. I hope that Afife may have a chance to see Kate Williams portrait someday soon.

Anne Irvine, June 2009

## She'll forget thee, never

By Çağıl Kemerli L11

"Oh, our College, tried and true,  
We will love thee ever,  
Alma Mater and the Blue,  
We forget thee, never."

Selma İris ACG 31, currently known to be the oldest female graduate of Robert College sang her high school's anthem looking right into my eyes, a 17-year old RC student, who came to her house to interview her. It was very apparent that she loved the memories she had of Robert College, and that singing the anthem was some kind of a ritual to go back to those days again. On my side, to see her proud expression and to listen to her great voice took me instantly on a journey back to her memories from the 1920s.

"During World War I, when I was very young, because Greek soldiers were about to invade Bursa where I lived with my family, we had to move to Antalya. One day when we were still in Antalya my oldest aunt, Halide Edip Adivar, came to visit us with an American missionary, Dr. Crane, who was looking for students to enroll in the school that he was working with, which was Robert College," said Mrs. İris. She then said that because her mother looked very young, Dr. Crane first asked her mother if she wanted to be enrolled in the school. However this funny little misunderstanding was solved when Mrs. İris's mother told him that she had already been a student in Robert College and she was old enough to have a daughter. Then she suggested him to enroll her daughter instead. That was how Mrs. İris's journey to RC started.

In those days not many people seized the opportunity to be an RC student; but it wasn't surprising that Selma İris had a chance to become one, since her family was already full of RC graduates. Mrs. İris's mother and her aunts had all graduated from Robert College, including her oldest aunt Halide Edip Adivar who was the first Turkish RC graduate. That is very impressive since Abdul Hamid II, who was sultan of the Ottoman Empire at that time, didn't allow Turkish girls to go to school. Most of the daughters of wealthy families had to take private lessons at home instead. However, Mrs. İris's grandparents got special permission from Sultan Abdul Hamid II which allowed her four aunts and her mother to go to Robert College. That was how the chain reaction by which members of the family



Selma İris ACG 31 (center) with her daughter Nilüfer İris and RC student Çağıl Kemerli



Selma İris at graduation

started becoming RC students over generations began. Even though Mrs.İris's enrollment in Robert College seemed a coincidence, it was very likely to happen even if Dr. Crane hadn't come to Antalya and enrolled her in RC.

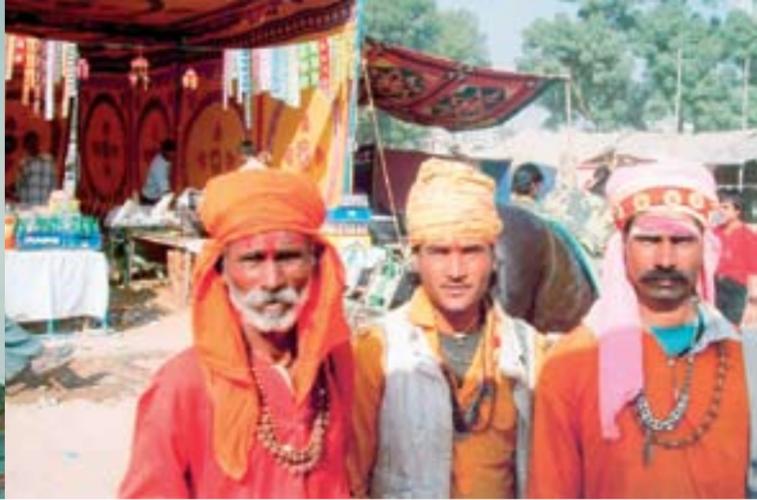
When she went to İstanbul to become a student in Robert College her beauty attracted a lot of attention on campus. "I was the most beautiful girl in college

then. Because there were no second names, my friends and even my teachers would call me 'Selma-the beautiful one'." Mrs. İris said to me with shining eyes. Her beauty drew a lot of attention outside the school too. For instance, one day when her cousin was taking her picture in the balcony of their house, a door to door meat seller who was walking through the street saw her posing and couldn't help but put his meat down on the street and stare at her. He was so hypnotized by her beauty that he didn't even realize that the cats were eating the meat.

Nilüfer İris, ACG 68 ex, Mrs. İris's only daughter adds that Mrs. İris was also known for her sociability. She used to play basketball, do folk dancing and get involved in nearly all of the other social activities. In those days, Turkish girls playing basketball was not very common and Mrs. İris being able to play basketball at that time proves that Robert College was giving a lot of chances for the female students to get involved in the most extraordinary activities even then. "Robert College was raising ladies. It was helping young girls learn a lot of the things that the society wouldn't teach them, and become well-developed women." said Nilüfer İris .

When our journey to her memories from the 1920s ends, and we are back to 2000s, I see a proud lady in front of me, whose head is always held high in a polite manner. She appreciates the things her school taught her. Even though she is 102 years old and walking is a big issue for her, she insists on visiting her alma mater nearly every week. Nilüfer İris says it is very hard to convince her not to. If she can't visit her school because of her health issues, she tries to go back to those days by singing the school's anthem at home, proving that she "Forget thee, never."

*Scenes from fort palaces and of local color*



*Mine Tasçioğlu ACG 61*



# *Journey Through Rajasthan from the Heights of Fort Palaces*

*Contributed by Mine Tasçioğlu ACG 61*

**N**eemrana, Mandawa, Nawalgarh, Pushkar, Jodhpur, Nimaj, Juna Mahal, Dungarpur..... Am I talking gibberish? Certainly not! These are the venues we were going to see during our trip to Rajasthan in India. Our group, composed of 20 well travelled ladies and headed by Ayla Gürsoy, would be spending nights in fort palaces. What an adventure it turned out to be!

The fort palace of Neemrana, near New Delhi was a sight to see. It was huge, built on the majestic plateau on the sylvan hills of Aravalli Ranges. We were driven high up, and then had to walk even higher up to reach the main gate. Once inside the castle gates, we continued the upward road of cobblestones, wide enough for a car or a cart and then there we were.... Refreshing drinks in our hands we gazed around for quite a while at the valley below us, the castle above us, while quite a number of porters carried our baggages up.

Fort-palaces have a way with them. Their first duty is to be a fort, a castle to preside and protect the people. Their second task is to provide a 'home' for the rajah and his entourage. This has been slightly changed and now turned into a 'hotel' environment. Thus, the older the castle, the more protective devices are found in them. We soon learned that steps of any sort and stairs are considered an essential part of these fort-palaces. (No need to say that there are no elevators.) In addition to there being a great many of them, they have a certain structure. In the first place, in such a vast building one wonders why the stairs are built so narrow. And when going up one notices that the ceilings being already quite high start getting even higher after the 7th or 8th step. At Juna Palace in Dungarpur, for example, (the old 7 story palace which is a museum right now) we sort of crawled up on fours to reach the next floor. We were told that this was for safety purposes. In case of an invasion, only one soldier could run up to attack because of the narrowness of the staircase, and when weighed down with battle equipment as well, it would be very difficult to climb up steps near the top of the stairs. A single guard at the top would be able to do away with the panting and struggling attacker. Thus said, the guests have great difficulty reaching their rooms, and an even harder time descending, but oh, the rooms are so worth all that trouble...

As the days passed by, we were driven from one city to

the other, seeing and staying in one marvelous fort-palace after another. Another interesting sight was the hotel castle Mandawa, a sprawling structure of white overlooking the valley, and a small village around it. We were on the third floor, so one had to think before leaving the room just for the fun of it! The semi-desert Shekhawati region is renowned for its magnificent painted havelis, or houses, built by wealthy merchants. These houses, whose streets full of them, are just like museums, and while some are museums, others have people living in them. All the walls are painted with pictures of daily life, their neighbors, their way of life, the arrival of the British, the use of cars, the telephone, people gathered around a game, you name it, they have it on the walls. Some are better preserved than the others, but it is like a huge photograph album on walls.

Another striking place was Pushkar. There used to be 52 palaces around the Pushkar lake we were told, very few now, but the Te Brahma temple is erect and the most important one. Pushkar was also important because there was the camel festival, or a festival in which camels play a prominent role. From our castle-palace-hotel we took off in our camel driven cart. Having taken our places on the canopied cart embellished with curtains, and seated on plush cushions, we were driven to the area where the festivities were held. The whole place was ablaze with all sort of camels, their keepers in matching liveries, the 'dressed up' riding camels with tourists and many more munching, sitting, standing camels, camels, camels...I had not seen so many camels in my whole life all in one place, nor am I going to see such a sight again. The whole city was a maze of colors, banners, and flags as you looked around, but on the ground level it was also filled with gurus who had come to participate in the prayers and ask for food or money.

Later we proceeded to Jodhpur, a distance of 215 kilometers. It is easy to say it can be covered in two hours. You would be very wrong. Traveling distances in India has a mind of its own, especially in between-city roads. There are all sorts of obstacles in the forms of motor vehicles as well as holy cows basking in the sun. It takes hours and hours of patient driving meanwhile enabling you to have a good look around you as well as passing out candy or whatnot to the children surrounding the bus. Some are so lovely. (Our bus was air conditioned and new, so we were lucky.) Jodhpur was founded in 1459, and during the British

Raj the state of Jodhpur prospered and was the richest city in Rajasthan. Riding breeches originate from this city and some of our group had them custom made by tailors. There is beautiful jewelry both in gold and silver. One enterprising jeweler brought most of his goods to the garden of the palace and did quite a lot of business with the Turkish group. One of the unforgettable sights was the Meherangarh Fort. What a magnificent place. It sits on a 125 meter-high hill, and is vast. Nearby were the royal cenotaphs (tombs for royalty) in white marble. Some were made for the rajahs by their wives or relatives, but one has to see those to believe that out of marble slabs one can carve out lattices and floral shapes so that the sun can light the whole structure. Mind boggling, time consuming works of art. The last of our stops was Dungarpur Palace, in immense forest-like grounds. The last raja still lives in some part, but has turned it into a luxurious fort-palace.

We were issued 'rooms' and I can only describe our behavior upon entering our room by saying that we resembled children let loose in a playground. Each 'room', originally built for former ladies of the palace, was different. The door to my suite was wood carved with flowers, had an old fashioned wooden latch and no lock. That was the custom. It is hard to do justice when describing the room. First there was an entrance complete with pictures of the rajah's family and a living room area. Then the bedroom which on one side overlooked the dining area with the gardens on the other side. A huge marble fireplace carved with wildlife took up one wall, and in the middle were two brass and mirror adorned double beds. The beds stood on what looked like mirror floor stones at first glance and on the second look, we discovered that they were indeed mirrors. What intrigued us most was the door leading off the bedroom - very ornate and carved wood with embedded mirrors, with a sign 'Prayer Room'. We were advised to take our shoes off when entering. We did so and what do we see? A small room covered completely in mirrors, from top to bottom.



After the initial 'royal'shock we went to friends' rooms and were just as impressed by their 'accommodation'. The whole place sang with riches and beauties. But the most (if possible) impressive

feature was the dining room and table. The walls were covered with white pebbles with dark ones making up floral designs. I have seen very simple ones in the gardens or entrances of old Greek churches both in Turkey and in the Greek islands. But this was high up on three sides, and when our gaping mouths took in the sight of the marbled table embedded with various colored stones to resemble flowers, we stopped. That marble table in itself was a work of art. It had a flowery design on all four sides which were around 50-60cm wide, the table itself was around at least four meters long and in the very middle of the table was another design, a zigzag black and white one, and, to top it all, it was in the shape of a small pond filled with water and lighted in blue. During dinner, with lit candles, dim lighting all round, and the blue water in the middle of the table swirling in waves and add to that the melody of an aria one did not really need food. Just looking around and listening would have been enough. And so it felt as if we were living in heaven while still on this earth. All twenty of us felt like maharanis, if only for the duration of this magical trip.



From L to R: RC 91 members Ömer Mısırlı, Zeynep Grantay, Hilmi Lus and Leyla, Ömer's daughter.



From L to R: Oral Bozyigit, RC 98 with present teacher Mehmet Uysal and retired teachers Münir Aysu and Nuran Demircioğlu.



Back: Serdar Evman 96, Mehveç Dramur 96, Nina Zumwinkel, Emin Güvenç 96, Orhan Ayanlar 96, Mehmet Ariogul 96 Front: Deniz Taşer 97, Zeynep Dikey Baykut 96



Roll Call started off with the Turkish National Anthem.



The Class of 49, celebrating their 60th year were represented in full force.



Semahat Arsel ACG 49, gave a short speech during assembly hour.



Kadir Bahçecik and Eren Çelik, both RC 94, organized the ever popular alumni football tournament on the Plateau.



# Homecoming 2009



Mihrican Özdemir Havens ACG 55, travelled from South Carolina to be at Homecoming.



The RC Orchestra gave a short concert and accompanied ACG 69 in their own rendition of "Hello Dolly".



From L to R: Deniz Taşer RC 97, Ömer Donat RC 95, and Deniz İğdirli Şahbaz RC 96 playing ball with Zeynep Dikey Baykut RC 96.



Welcome to Homecoming 2009!



Nüket Eren, center, with former students.



Three of our student registration angels strike a pose.



It was a fine day to enjoy the steps of Marble Hall.



The RC "Boys" sing "High Above the Pontic Current"



The 50th year reunioners before they enjoyed their special cakes.



The oldest male graduate at HC was Ethem Aral, RC 37.



HC registration couldn't be done without our student volunteers.



I'm here!



Can Önen RC 91 with daughter, Lal.



A corner of the 50th year reunion lunch.



A big smile for everyone at Homecoming.



Enjoying lunch at the cafeteria.



Wall of Fame, the "Look Who's Here" wall.





Standing, left to right: Ertürk Isikpinar, Ferdin Hoyi, Ergun Çağatay, Mehmet Tümay, Tugrul Sirel, Müfit Samarai, Alpay Özelsel, Üstun Ergüder, Işın Erel, Yılmaz Tokgöz, Ergun Afşar, Nurtan Berker, Erol Abiral, Bilgi Denel, Can Ilker. In front: Üstün Batıca, Arman Azak, yours truly, Tunç Pekcan, Rasin Güven.

## RC 59 and Yüksek 63 Celebrate 50th Year Reunion

The Robert College Lise 59 and Yüksek 63 50th anniversary reunion was held at Bizim Tepe on May 8, 2009. It was attended by 51 graduates and their spouses. The reunion was made possible through the efforts of many including in particular Öner Hortaçsu, Aydın Meriç, Cahit Avunduk, Levent Birdinç and his wife Serşen, Mehmet Yeyinmen and Edis Erginler.

Ergun Dinçman wrote the following about the reunion:

"On the 50th stage of our Journey, we met up last night and had fun. Travelling along complicated highways we could never have imagined 50 years ago, we arrived at Bizim Tepe. I was just about to go in when a white-haired man with a slow gait approached the entrance too. Oh gosh, was he also one of us? We gathered first by the pool, and took photos. There was a full moon overhead, it was a wonderful Bosphorus evening. Then we sat down to dinner, in total about 120 people. It was a good turnout, largely due to the advance notice, good organisation, carefully planned and generously portioned food and drink.

One problem, you catch someone's eye, and he looks vaguely familiar, but sometimes they look at you blankly, as though passing you on the street. You go over and say I'm so-and-so, he then says, Wow, you used to be a plump kid, what happened? Yes, you say, a little embarrassed, but what was your name? Not every time, of course... There were lots of refrains of "Is that you?" Somebody says one of your dear friends has arrived. You go to greet him, but no, surely not. Is that him? Finally you find him, deeply amazed! This morning I woke up with a mental image of two of my old friends who no longer look like they used to. But who knows how long I will remember their new image for, what if I were to bump into them in the street? Ah well, you can't take it too seriously, such is life!"



Fellow graduate Stavros S. Papadopoulos, known as "Papi" during his years at RC, also contributed the following of two reunions of RC Eng 59 he participated in in June: "One of these reunions was organized by our classmates Oktay Orton and Sina Serinken and was held at Sarigerme in southwestern Turkey, on June 12-15. I am enclosing a photo of those few who participated. From left to right: yours truly, Oktay Orton, Erol Abiral, Coshkun Torunlu (in the back), Mufid Samarai, Uğur Shanda (in the back), Sina Serinken, Bedi Grantay, and Bilgi Denel. The second reunion, held in Istanbul on June 20, was organized by Alpay Özelsel with the support and sponsorship of BUMED. We met at the Bebek campus and toured our old stomping grounds, had a very nice lunch provided by BUMED, and were then filled in on progress at BU by the current rector and by the former rector, Üstun Ergüder, who was also a classmate during our early years at RC (before some of us left the lise for the engineering school). I had another commitment and I could not participate in the evening activity, but apparently the group had a very nice dinner at Balta Limani. I am also enclosing a photo taken at the terrace.

It was very nice to see old friends, and I really appreciated BUMED's and BU's "misafirperverlik" and willingness to entertain and adopt us."



## ACG 69 Toasts 40 Years

Thirty-two ACG 69 graduates gathered in Polonezköy, a picturesque village on the outskirts of Istanbul, on the weekend of May 23-24th to celebrate forty years since graduation. A five-person committee began preparing for the event months in advance. We created a special 40th year logo with the school insignia and printed it on commemorative shawls, bookmarks, stickers, champagne flutes and a cake. Classmate Tony Bornstein Hananel screened a power point presentation documenting the past 40 years. We toasted days gone by and commemorated friends who are no longer with us. The presentation ended with a look at where everybody is today - pictures of grandchildren and pets were broadcast onto the screen. Tony made a gift CD for each of us as well as a book.

When the show ended we sang the Alma Mater, drank champagne and sliced the cake. Then we sang karaoke to our favorite tunes from the 60s.

On Sunday we toured a museum displaying Polonezköy's history, did a little shopping and then left. On the way home, we stopped off at the Beykoz Glass Atelier and remembered a visit we had paid to the Pasabahce glass factory as Freshmen. We said good-bye, promising to regroup on November 15th at Homecoming, and on April 23 2010 in Cyprus, to say "41 Kere Maşallah". In total we collected 1.830 TL in donations for the school.

College friendships grow even more precious with the passage of time. We vowed to see each other more often!

Contributed by Nur Edil ACG 69

## REUNIONS



# Rejoining the crowd after thirty years: Impressions from the Reunion of the Class of 79

The plane had started its decent towards Istanbul Atatürk airport. As I looked out of the window, I saw the graceful silhouettes of Topkapi palace, the Hagia Sophia and Sultanahmet mosque. Soon I would rejoin my fellow students from the Class of 79 many of whom I had last seen at the commencement ceremony. My excitement mounted: would I recognize my former peers with the same ease as I had spotted Istanbul's main attractions? On the plane I had flipped through the old yearbook looking at the graduation pictures but would that be enough? By the same token, I wondered if anyone would still recognize me now that I could no longer hide the wrinkles around my eyes and the gray in my hair.

I stepped out of the taxi at the main gate. Looking up to the Greek columns lining Gould Hall and to the palm trees flanking the walkway, I felt the same admiration for this 19th century architecture I had felt as a boy. The campus with its majestic buildings overlooking the Bosphorus had lost none of its appeal since I had left to study abroad. Reaching the terrace, I soon clanked glasses with many of the seventy-five classmates who were engaged in lively chatter around the bar. Clearly, the organizing committee had done an outstanding job in convincing exactly half of the 150 graduating students to attend the reunion.

The badge with my name and graduation photo kept falling off the lapel of my jacket. It didn't matter, however, because so many of the elegantly dressed ladies and gentlemen came up to me saying: "But you must be Claudius!". I was being passed around like a long lost son who had finally returned home. Many of the classmates had not changed at all; they had only matured somewhat. When Münir bey, my former Turkish Literature teacher, came up to me I pulled myself together to show that my Turkish was as good as ever. I felt flattered when others said that they could not hear any accent and I decided to believe it.

The conversations revolved around jobs, marital status and children. Of course, closing the gap of the past thirty years was not feasible in a couple of minutes but it was a beginning. I was impressed to learn how many of us had attained eminent positions in business and public office, be it as plastic surgeons, bank presidents, judges or art fair organizers. I was saddened to learn that two people of our midst, Dora and Davit, had deceased and felt the same way about my outstanding English teacher Ms. McElroy and my former PE instructor Abbas bey.

The evening passed quickly. Dinner was interspersed with humorous anecdotes from school life. One speaker stood up to say that "soon Robert College will have forgotten us but we will never forget how Robert College shaped us for life".

We all moved to the dance floor of the amphitheater when the disc jockey started playing hits from the Seventies. We laughed when we saw teenage pictures of us projected on screen and were asked to vote on the most handsome boy and girl student at the time. The highlight of the evening came when four former classmates climbed onto the stage in shining silver outfits and began singing "Mamma Mia" and other hits from ABBA.

I began the next morning with a delightful jog along the coastal road from Bebek to Arnavutköy. I reached the lower gate of Robert College and ran up the hill to the Plateau. This was a routine we used to do with Abbas bey who taught us how to dig in our feet when the going got tough. At the far end of the Plateau I paused to look for the suspension bridges spanning the Bosphorus. I could still spot the bridges but the view was less sweeping than I recalled from my adolescence. Then I realized that the surrounding trees had grown taller in all those years.

## Misafir görüşleri

11-12 Mayıs günlerinde otuzuncu mezuniyet yılı kutlamalarının yapıldığı, kutsal yuvamız Robert Kolej'de, sizlerle birlikte olmanın büyük mutluluğunu yaşadım. Bana eski muhteşem günlerime dönüp, güzel hatıralarımı yeniden yaşamama fırsat veren RC 79 mezunları, hepimize gönülden teşekkürler ediyor, başarılarınızın devamını diliyorum. Sizleri çok ama pek çok seviyorum.

**Aydın Ungan**

Robert Kolej'e ilk kez 1972 yılının bir ilkyaz günü aşık olmuştum, yanımda Dora vardı. Son kez 2009'un 11 Temmuz akşamı aşık oldum, yanımda Dora vardı. Arkadaşları etrafımızdaydılar. Aydınlık, güçlü, esprili, pırlıtlı genç insanlar olmuşlardır. Görkemli, eşsiz okullarına yakışıyordu. Bu kusursuz geceye katılabildiğim için çok mutlu oldum. Teşekkürler ve sevgilerle,

**Gönül Aksoy**

Mezuniyetinizin ,çok içten ve çok doğal bir ortamda başta "şahane dans gösterisi" olmak üzere renkli programlarla süsleyerek kutladığınız 30. yıldönümünde gerçekten zevkli ve eğlenceli saatler geçirdim. Teşekkür ederim. Bu unutulmaz geceye emeği geçenleri, katkıda bulunanları kutluyor, assolist Suzan ve saz arkadaşlarının beş yıl beklemeden hemen önümüzdeki yıl düzenleyecekleri toplantının tarihini bir an önce bildirmelerini sabırsızlıkla bekliyorum. Sevgiler.

**Münir Aysu**

The plane climbed into the evening sky and this beautiful city receded to the horizon. I promised myself that it will not take another thirty years before I shall return to Robert College. I am determined to keep this promise.

Contributed by Claudius Wamlek

# REUNIONS



*The Class of 84 celebrated their 25th year reunion with a dinner and overnight dorm stay on campus on June 27, 2009.*



*25 years ago*



## RC 89 20th Reunion



It was the best of times, it was 20th of June 2009. It was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness. It was the after the season of "erguvan" (Judas tree), it was the season of "dut" (mulberry). It was the season of light, it was the season of moonlight. It was the spring of hope; it was the summer of joke. We had everything before us, we had nothing before us. We were all going directly to heaven, we were all going directly the other way- in short, the period was so far like 20 years ago... Charles Dickens (A Tale of Two Cities) / Zumrut Yalman (A Tale of a Reunion) Matching wavelengths after 20 years/ fascinating Marble Hall/laughter during slideshow/not enough dancing time/ Maze-Bizim Tepe-Plato-Çorbacı/wish we had done it before/oh, what joy we had!!!

**Ayşe T.**  
Although we were spread around with universities, careers, spouses, children etc., in the end, we came up to be belonging to the same place. If it were only for fun, could we have all sat together till dawn?

**Ipek**  
It was one of the two happenings where I felt gloom and pleasure at the same.

**Cengizhan**  
Einstein's subjective perception of time: 20th of June 2009 was real proof of this theory.

**Volkan**  
Within 20 years, girls had remained physically unchanged while most of the boys were pretty different...

**Hatice**  
It was a rest for my brain.

**Aptullah**  
Fascinating travel in time.

**Aykut**  
All you need for a novel: Love, remembrance, dialogues, monologues, yearning, friendship, betrayal, forgiveness, conviviality, beautiful girls, handsome boys, perfume, garlic, Viagra???

**Yaprak**  
As a matter of fact, we have not changed much...

**Mehmet G.**  
The real surprise for me was that everyone was there for the right reason: to see missed old friends; nothing else intended.

**Cem S.**  
It was as if we had never graduated. I realized I had not changed a bit and it

was RC that made "ME". It was one of the best days I have lived within these 20 years.

**Erden**  
I wish we could find a way to do this again: a way to go back to the unforgettable days. I believe I can always live the same excitement at least once in 5 years.

**Alparslan**  
I could not have imagined that after 20 years, I could have laughed and had fun as I did 20 years ago. My "good old days" became a part of my "present", even if only for a night...

**Egemen**  
Laughing, chatting, dancing (or not being able to dance?!?) with the songs of 80s was "something"; but doing this with good old friends and same old emotions with no concerns was "the thing".

**Barış**  
It was as if I had been living for this evening for 20 years.

**Selim K.**  
We now know that it is possible not only to recollect memories, but also to live them once again, at an un expected time.

**Hikmet**



## 10th year anniversary

This past summer on June 13th, we gathered on the plateau to celebrate our 10th reunion. While enjoying well-known tastes, Ali Baba meatballs, Dominos pizza & savoring beer against the beautiful Bosphorus backdrop, one more time we acknowledged that having experienced this school was by far one of the best things that had ever happened to each and every one of us. Diversity - one of the key values that Robert College has nurtured within us was clearly seen across our classmates many of whom have taken different walks of life: we've become entrepreneurs, academicians, writers, bankers, marketeers, visual artists, researchers... Some of us also exchanged exciting news of recent engagements & upcoming weddings.

With the music of our time, 90's tunes playing at the background, we reminisced about missing friends from an enlarged class photo of ours taken in 1999 in front of Gould Hall. This banner like photo was hung between centuries old trees on the plateau that have no doubt witnessed many classes like ours. With the warm feeling that comes from being a member of such an established & remarkable family, we headed towards another Saturday night at Taksim.

Contributed by Ahu Kürk RC 99



## Prof. Dr. Nadire Berker RC 83

After graduating from RC in 1983, Nadire Berker studied medicine at the Istanbul University Istanbul School of Medicine. She received her diploma from her mother Prof. Dr. Ender Berker (ACG 1958) and continued her residency training in the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department of Marmara University School of Medicine.

Nadire had been working with children in need ever since high school. At medical school, she worked in the child psychiatry department as a volunteer with autistic children. Upon becoming a specialist in 1994, she continued her studies in the field of pediatric disabilities. In 1995, she started Botulinum toxin injections in childhood spasticity. Together with her colleague and later husband Dr. Selim Yalçın, she founded the first ever multidisciplinary pediatric orthopaedic and rehabilitation clinic at Marmara University Hospital in 1997.

The growing numbers of children with various neuromusculoskeletal problems made them realize the lack of knowledge surrounding diseases which cause disability in children and the immense need for educational material. From then on, they co-wrote many books in Turkish and English, made documentary films, created websites and organised meetings towards the treatment of these diseases. Their first book 'Spina Bifida: Treatment and Rehabilitation' was (and unfortunately still is) the only book in Turkish on the subject. They wrote similar books for both physicians and the general public on cerebral palsy and computerised gait analysis. Their last book 'The HELP Guide to Cerebral Palsy' was in English and distributed worldwide. They also produced documentary films and CD-ROMs on Spina Bifida, cerebral palsy and gait analysis, and collaborating with Turkish Radio and Television, they helped produce a three episode documentary on Cerebral Palsy in Turkey. With support from the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Disorders of which they are active members, they held the first Eastern Mediterranean Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Disorders Congress in Istanbul in 2002 that continued on to become a biannual international renowned meeting in this region. In 2003, they became the Turkish representatives of the Global-HELP organisation,

founded to provide free health care information to developing countries. Nadire's grandfather Prof. Osman Cevdet Çubukçu was the founder of modern Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in Turkey and a famous university professor. He passed away whilst examining patients at age 70, handing over the flag to her mother, Prof. Dr. Ender Berker (ACG '58). Dr. Ender retired from the university after 40 years of teaching, but still actively practices medicine at the American Hospital. Nadire became a full professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in 2004, becoming the the third generation of physical medicine and rehabilitation professors in her family. Her only non-medical book 'The Story of the Turkish Medical School and of a Physician' is a tribute to her grandfather and, as she puts it, to all the long-forgotten heroes that made modern medicine possible in Turkey. Nadire now works parttime at the American Hospital Department of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, and in her private office. Even though she quit her training job at the Marmara University, she still continues lecturing at various meetings and publishing articles. Recently she co-edited a multi-author book on orthopaedic rehabilitation.

Nadire's life is not just medicine and disabled children. Over the years, she became a dedicated athlete, a runner and a rower, and she also returned to her old favorite, the sea. She goes sailing every summer with Selim and their 3 adolescent children on their large sailboat Ekip. Whenever they have the wind and the time, she and her husband race their children on their Hobie Cat on the Marmara Sea in front of their house. Her husband Selim has started her rowing and coached her for many years so she could participate this year in the World Masters Rowing Championships in Wien. To increase her conditioning she had to take up running and she now runs half and full marathons in Turkey and in Europe. The teaching and writing streak inside her pops out from time to time and she publishes articles on sailing and rowing in various sailing magazines

Nadire believes her life became richer and her work more fulfilling thanks to all of her patients, she is very lucky to have known them all.

## Leading a study abroad course: Mehmet Özpaya

Mehmet Özpaya (RC'79) left the field of architecture to manage large Corporate Real Estate projects at institutions such as JPMorgan, Goldman Sachs and MetLife. When we caught up with him recently, we were surprised to learn about his newest venture: Leading a Study Abroad course in Turkey for the New York School of Interior Design (NYSID). For two intense weeks in May, Mehmet took nine students on an architectural tour of Istanbul, Bodrum, Ephesus and Bursa. The group explored a wide variety of sites ranging from famous landmarks and historic neighborhoods to contemporary hotels and shopping malls. The trip also featured visits to local workshops and private homes, an exclusive treat for interior design students.

Mehmet has been teaching as an adjunct professor at the NYSID for several years in addition to his corporate job. Still, the opportunity of leading a tour of architectural sites in Turkey was unexpected. "When the Dean approached me about organizing this trip, I could not have been thrilled more. It was a dream assignment, combining my love of architecture and design, my new-found passion for teaching, as well as my cultural background. It took me five seconds to agree."

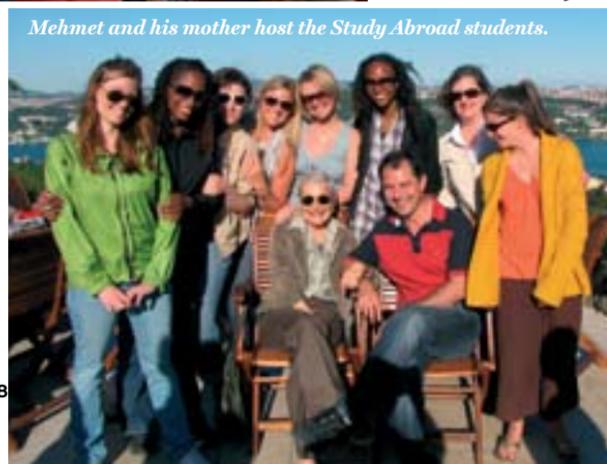
Putting together a Study Abroad itinerary - and making it inspirational - was challenging. But Mehmet had an idea about how to create a stimulating agenda and who to contact for assistance. "Since I wanted my students to have a unique experience, well beyond that of a tourist, I decided to pack the trip with private tours, behind-the-scenes visits, personal introductions, and special occasions that only insiders could arrange." And what better way than to reach out to the RC

community? Initial advice came from long-time friend Mustafa Kemal Abadan (RC'77), partner at the renowned architectural firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. Peri (Ataman) Holden (RC'79) provided practical input on the itinerary and went on to assist with hotel, flight

and transportation reservations through her company, Viking Turizm. Ahmet Ergelen (RC'79), who studied architecture with Mehmet at the University of Stuttgart, and Irem Maro (RC'79), professor of architecture at Bahcesehir University, separately conducted architectural sketching tours of Arnautkoy and Beyoglu. Bilge Ar (RC'99), architectural research assistant at Istanbul Technical University, led a walking tour of Byzantine structures in Sultanahmet. Burak Pekoglu (RC'04), who is working on his Masters in Architecture at Harvard, occasionally joined the group as Mehmet's assistant. Suzan (Levi) Alalu (RC'79) volunteered to guide a Jewish heritage tour that included a private visit to the Jewish Museum and a synagogue service. And the highlight of the trip was also made possible by RC classmates: Serdar Erener (RC'79), graciously lent his yacht for a day-long excursion along the Bosphorus, allowing the students to see Istanbul's extraordinary yalis and landmarks from the water. Tanju Kalaycioglu (RC'79), the naval architect who designed and built Serdar's yacht, joined the group as captain. "Being able to do this with so many friends from RC was a priceless gift for me" said Mehmet. "It was the perfect celebration of my 30-year graduation anniversary from RC." Individuals from outside the RC community were also generous in making the trip exceptional. Input from Fahriye Sancar, professor of architecture at the University of Colorado, and personal tours of boutique hotels by local architect Ahmet Igdirligil made the Bodrum trip memorable; so was participation from the architectural team of Arin Rubaci and Gul Okten in Bursa. In Istanbul, the group visited the office of Tabanlıoğlu Architects and the workshop of Autoban, two of the best-known design firms in town, met with model/stylist Ece Sukan at her boutique, and was provided a faculty-led tour of the Department of Interior Architecture at Istanbul Technical University. Perhaps the most unexpected treat was the private tours of two residences - one of them her own home in Bodrum - designed by the well-known New York designer Mica Ertegun, the wife of the late music visionary Ahmet Ertegun. "Tours of well-known architectural sites certainly created an impression with the students. But the private occasions made possible by RC friends and colleagues transformed the trip into a once-in-a-lifetime experience," observes Mehmet. "It was exhausting being the teacher, tour guide, interpreter, body-guard, social planner and host, but it was equally rewarding to see how every morsel of information was savored and appreciated - just like a home-cooked Turkish meal. My students are already asking about the next feast." Mehmet obtained his Masters (Diplom Ingenieur Architekt) degree in architecture from the University of Stuttgart in Germany. He has been active in the RC community as a board member of Robert College Alumni Association of America (RCAAA) for many years. Mehmet lives in Manhattan with his wife Meltem Tekeli Özpaya, and can be reached at mehmetozpaya@live.com.



Mehmet Özpaya leading the way



Mehmet and his mother host the Study Abroad students.

## Two RC Graduates Celebrate 40 Years of Marriage

Mustafa Pultar RC CE '60 and Gönül Ayda Pultar ex-ACG 1962 and RC LL '66 celebrated their forty years of marriage on July 19, 2008 in Alaçatı, surrounded by their children Giray Pultar RC '90, Eren Pultar RC '93, and Selçuk Pultar RC '94, family members and friends, among whom were a number of classmates. The couple, after having made their home in Ankara, interspersed with various stays abroad, now reside in Istanbul with long spells in Çeşme during the summer. Mustafa has retired as professor of building science from Bilkent University after having taught at METU, Princeton and Strathclyde universities; and been a visiting scholar at MIT. He has served as Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Vice-President of METU, and Director of the Building Research Institute of TÜBİTAK; and was the founding director of the Bilkent University Preparatory School (BUPS), the first IB (International Baccalaureate) school in Turkey. Born in Bostancı to a yalı (that is one no more), his lifelong love has been the sea, to which he is now able to devote his time and energy, cruising on his yacht Çilingöz, moored in Turgutreis. He has also been combining his love of the sea with scholarly endeavors, producing a multi-volume dictionary of the sea, two volumes of which, Yıldız Adları Sözlüğü and Deniz Balıkları Sözlüğü, are out; and transcriptions of Ahmet Rasim Barkınay's Adalar Denizi Kılavuzu, as well as of the first Turkish nautical dictionary, Süleyman Nutki's Kamus-i Bahrî. Mustafa also writes regularly for Yelken Dünyası on topics of nautical culture.

Gönül also retired from Bilkent University, after having taught at METU and Boğaziçi University and been a research fellow at Harvard University. Now busy chairing Kültür Araştırmaları Derneği, she has been combining motherhood with a dual career as fiction writer and scholar. She received in 1970 the Hachette-Larousse Literature Prize in Paris and published two novels, Dünya Bir Atlıkarınca and Ellerimden Su İçsinler. She held administrative positions in the American Studies Association of Turkey, the Modern Language Association, the American Studies Association and the Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas; and was the founding editor of Journal of American Studies of Turkey. The author of Technique and Tradition in Beckett's Trilogy of Novels, and editor of On the Road to Baghdad or Traveling Biculturalism: Theorizing a Bicultural Approach to Contemporary World Fiction, she has published scholarly work in Turkish as well—her most recent one is a collection of essays, Kimlikler Lütfen: Türkiye Cumhuriyeti'nde Kültürel Kimlik Arayış ve Temsili. Since the fall of the USSR, Gönül has found herself immersed in the life and culture of the Kazanlı Turks (within the



The Pultar clan

Russian Federation). For her efforts at promoting the culture in the diaspora, she received in 2005 by decree of President Putin a medal, and in 2007 a "Rehmet Hattı" (Testimony of Gratitude) from President Shaimiev of Tatarstan.

Giray graduated from Swarthmore College with a double major in engineering and economics, and started his career as a consultant at Motorola's Chicago headquarters. He later served as consultant at Abbott Laboratories in Chicago, and John Hancock Funds in Boston. Back in Istanbul in 2000, he worked as a technical director at Superonline, before launching Parkyeri A.Ş., where he now functions as president and CEO. The company, which provides services and partnered solutions in web and mobile media and technology to companies such as Turkcell and Genpa, was awarded in 2007 by Deloitte Inc. as the fastest growing information technology company in Turkey over the then past five years.

Eren, graduated also from Swarthmore College, with a double major in linguistics and philosophy, and studied literature at Paris University. She started her career working as a project manager in the information technology sector; and later provided consulting services, in project management and project development, at NGOs and organizations such as Tarih Vakfı and Toplum Gönüllüleri Vakfı. Currently at KONDA Araştırma ve Danışmanlık, Eren is one of the major actors behind the success of this company specializing in public opinion polls. Eren's main hobby is food writing. She regularly blogs about restaurants in Istanbul, and occasionally writes food criticism in periodicals.

Selçuk graduated from Wabash College with degrees in economics and computer science, and began his career at Surebridge in Boston where, as a member of the founding team, he played an important role in the company's growth. He continued his career in the New York offices of Arthur Andersen and KPMG Consulting, providing consulting and management services in business process management and enterprise resource planning to SMEs, as well as organizations and companies such as Harvard University, Hill Holliday, NBC, Moodys and Verizon Wireless. In Istanbul since 2005, Selçuk is currently the CEO of Intimatek, which he co-founded, a business consultancy company providing online enterprise resource management services for SMEs.



## Not Your Everyday Success Story

Zeynep Vural RC 81

Imagine how hard it is to be a good doctor. Then, think about what it would take to become an excellent ballerina. Now, picture these two exacting disciplines co-existing in one person. Impossible? Not for Zeynep Tuzcular Vural, RC 81. RC 81 boarders might remember Vural as the passionate girl sneaking out of Gould Hall, where the girl's dormitory was located at the time, and jetting down the hills to practice at the Ballet Conservatory. Vural, who turned every gym class into a ballet session whenever she saw anything that looked like a ballet bar, joined the Modern Ballet Company in Istanbul during her ballet education at the Conservatory while still at RC. She took part in several ballet performances including Ferhat ile Şirin, Giselle, Romeo and Juliet and Piaf Suite. Vural found herself designated choreographer for Robert College's "West Side Story" when she was just a Lise 1 student. She says: "Robert College made it so easy for me to explore my abilities in areas other than solely academic achievement. We were never discouraged to engage in new and creative activities. On the contrary, our teachers pushed us to explore what our hearts desire and find a passion in life and that's what we did." She recalls trying to persuade her teachers at RC to try performing a dance form called "art of the body." Her teacher Mr. Hepworth actually followed her to ballet classes and tried it out. "He put all his heart into the class but he was not cut out for it so had to quit. But, it always amazes me how open-minded and supportive that was of him."

The impact she made was not limited to her teachers. Vural was the inspiration behind dance critic Jak Deleon's passion for ballet and stage arts. She proudly declares, "I introduced him to ballet. We met at RC and became good friends. I had to take him to my ballet class one day. That day, he fell in love with the magic of dance and later became a great ballet critic."

Vural's family, however, was more conservative than she was and they wanted her to pursue a degree that was "socially accepted" and more "scientific." "My heart belonged to ballet but my mind was challenged by my family's concerns," she says. "Instead of choosing between the two, I chose to do both." At RC, Mrs. Vural loved literature and biology. Given the parallelism between literature and dance - one using words, the other movement, as a medium to describe emotions, it is not too hard to guess which "scientific profession" she would pursue as a biology loving student.

Vural completed her higher education in Haydarpaşa Numune's Family Medicine branch, which was followed by a PhD from Cerrahpaşa Hospital in 1995. She is widely published and has spoken at numerous international and national conferences. To advance her ballet career, she was not satisfied with just her conservatory degree so started taking classes at the Royal

Academy of Dancing both in Istanbul and London. Then, she pursued a graduate degree in Ballet and Stage Arts at Istanbul University and completed it in 1994. She did not stop there. Although she hadn't planned for it, Vural became a dance teacher when a close friend pressured her to try teaching after she graduated from the conservatory. This introduction to teaching became a passion and led her to pursue a teaching certification program and to receive the Royal Academy of Dancing Major Teaching Diploma in 1997. She says, "In time, I learned that my classes can change little dancers' lives; I saw them develop into great dancers. This is such a great feeling, like floating in the sky!"

Vural is currently teaching ballet and working as the Art Director at Kalamis Yelken Club for many dancers-to-be, including the grandchildren of some of her RC teachers and her classmates' children. In addition, she instructs in ballet at Istanbul Conservatory as well as managing the Family Planning Unit at Haydarpaşa Numune hospital. On top of all that, she is the editor in chief of Türkiye Aile Hekimliği magazine and is also a member of the European Society of Contraception (ESC), WONCA (World Organization of Family Doctors), EURACT (European Academy of Teachers in General Practice) and TAHUD. The doctor - ballerina says, "I had to rush to ballet classes after a full day at the college so I would be packed with academic stuff and ballet gear. I would often end up carrying bones in my backpack, which scared my ballerina friends. I am sure they all thought I was a weird one." Although she admits that it was a lot to go through trying to balance both lives, she is very thankful that she did it. "I am so grateful that my family urged me to be a doctor. I also have to admit that RC was the right place for me to be since everybody was encouraging me to pursue both interests. I learned how to organize my time efficiently and I learned a lot that I would not be able to learn if I just became a ballerina. I learned that nothing is impossible and that I should not give up on anything easily."

Info on Zeynep Vural can be found on <http://www.baleokulum.com/>

Contributed by Pelin Seyhan RC 03, and a former ballet student of Doc. Dr. Zeynep Vural

## Prof. Teoman Onat RC 51

On November 1, 2009, was awarded the Prize in the Field of Science and Research at the Annual Meeting of The World Brotherhood Union Mevlana Supreme Foundation after the International Panel "Call to World Peace from the Universal Brotherhood". The following paragraphs were read during the presentation of the Award (also published in the Panel Book of 2009). Prof. Teoman Onat is a distinguished scientist who has



contributed greatly to the Turkish and International Medicine with his research and valuable studies in Pediatrics and Pediatric Cardiology, and who has paved the way to the advancement in his branch of science in our country. He is an exemplary individual who showed that with original scientific research, one can contribute to the knowledge of the world from his own country. He is a pioneer individual being responsible to enlightening the society. Apart from being a medical scientist, he has shown a multipotent individuality by his contributions to medical philately, works of art in sculpture, painting, also as a biographic writer, amateur jazz pianist, photographer, he is a man of renaissance.

He was deemed worthy of the Call to World Peace from the Universal Brotherhood Award for his valuable efforts to produce knowledge with his infinite love for scientific research, despite of limited means; and also for becoming a role model with the successes he has achieved; and for his valuable contributions to the world of medicine by training innumerable scientists and doctors.

## Stavros Papadopoulos RC Eng 59

Papadopoulos was recently elected to be a member of the National Academy of Engineering of the United States. The official induction ceremony took place on October 4, 2009 in Irvine, California. He is the Founder and a Senior Principal of S. S. Papadopoulos & Associates, Inc., an environmental and water-resources consulting firm established in 1979. After RC, he received his M.S. degree in Groundwater Hydrology from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in 1962, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Civil Engineering from Princeton University in 1963 and 1964, respectively. Prior to founding S. S. Papadopoulos & Associates, Inc, Dr. Papadopoulos conducted research at the U.S. Geological Survey, taught at the University of Minnesota and the University of Illinois-Chicago Circle, and served as the Head of Hydrology Department for Harza Engineering Company in Chicago. His areas of expertise include the evaluation of the hydraulic properties of aquifers, the assessment of groundwater resources and of hydrogeologic and water-quality conditions at hazardous waste sites, and the design of monitoring and of extraction well systems for water supply or groundwater remediation projects. Dr. Papadopoulos has been involved in the evaluation of the hydrologic effects of groundwater development and of the impacts of the subsurface migration of contaminants at numerous sites in the United States, and in the assessment of the development potential of aquifers in Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Portugal, Guatemala, and Argentina. He has also served on advisory panels for corporations providing technical advice on environmental issues, and for the U. S. Department of Energy reviewing the hydrologic characterization of the Yucca Mountain, Nevada Site which is considered as a repository for radioactive waste. He often provided testimony in court proceedings and/or administrative hearings as an expert witness on environmental issues related to groundwater contamination and/or remedial actions for mitigating groundwater contamination. He is the author and co-author of publications on well hydraulics, aquifer test methodology, groundwater resource evaluations, and subsurface waste disposal. Dr. Papadopoulos is a Life Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, and a member of the American Geophysical Union, the Association of Ground Water Scientists and Engineers, the International Association of Hydrogeologists, and of Sigma Xi. He served on Advisory Councils to Engineering Departments at Princeton University and on the Geotechnical and Water Science and Technology Boards of the National Research Council of the American Academy of Science. He is the recipient of the U.S Department of Interior's Meritorious Service Award, the U. S. Geological Survey's Special Achievement Award, the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology Alumni Association's Distinguished Achievement Award, the National Groundwater Association's Life Member Award, and of several other honors.





A view of the exhibition during Homecoming.



Engin Cezzar

## "The Road Not Taken"

Alumni who returned to campus for Homecoming Day on November 15 were pleasantly surprised by a unique watercolor exhibition in The Gallery of the Suna Kıraç Theater, titled "The Road Not Taken". The art work on show produced over fifty years ago by the RC prep students of the era, made a big splash! The late İlhami Demirci, renowned artist and former art teacher at Robert Academy in the late 1950's and 1960's, recognized his students' talents early on and saved their work. The Robert Academy boys of the sixties have since gone on to pursue illustrious careers in many other fields to become businessmen, politicians, architects, academicians, actors ... The list goes on. Yet, a sample of the artwork created when they were mere high school students came back to light, displaying a wide variety of artistic talent with "The Road Not Taken".

The exhibition included a sample of work by well known alumni such as Zeki Alasya, İsmail Cem, Engin Cezzar, Cevat Çapan, Mehmet Emin Karamehmet, Cem Kozlu, Aydın Menderes, Herkül Milas, Hüsnü Özyeğin, Oğuz Öztuzcu, Hasan Subaşı, Rona Yırcalı and more.

Plans are underway to take an expanded version of the exhibition to a gallery in the city a few weeks after Homecoming. The works will then be auctioned to raise funds for the Robert College Scholarship fund.



Zübeyde Demirci (right) daughter in law of İlhami Demirci and her cousin pictured here in front of the temporary İlhami Demirci corner of The Gallery in Suna Kıraç Theater.



Mehmet Emin Karamehmet



Hasan Subaşı



Cem Kozlu

## Herkes evinde ne ister?

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**Keşke demeden önce.**

İndirim tutarı, satın alınacak yeni ev poliçeleri için 31.03.2010 tarihine kadar geçerli olup, yangın primi üzerinden hesaplanacaktır.



## Ferhat Esemem RC 77

After completing a junior college degree in Bosphorous University Occupational School, he graduated from the Economics Dept. of Administrative Sciences Faculty of the Bosphorous University in 1982. Ferhat has proven success in strategic business planning, application, change management and is a performance coach with very good skills & knowledge in training. He worked as the Training Manager of Abbott International Turkey between 1995-2006. Before Abbott, he held various staff and management positions in Eczacıbaşı Pharmaceuticals, Ciba\_Geigy Agro & Pharma, Bayer Türk, Apple Computer and Yüzyıl İşıl Schools. In 2008, Ferhat became the Turkish Representative of Learning Delta b.v - a world wide training & consultancy company in Holland and established Asteroidea Psikolojik Danışmanlık center in September 2009. Asteroidea, is a center that provides psychological consultancy and therapy services for infants, adolescents and adults with experienced clinical psychologists in their fields. As the Asteroidea team, their aim is to help individuals identify problems they come across in life, and discover ways to solve them. You may reach Ferhat and Asteroidea through the following site [www.asteroideapsk.com](http://www.asteroideapsk.com) Tel:0212 273 10 58 Email:info@asteroideapsk.com

## Kanat Emiroğlu RC 86

Effective August 1, 2009 Kanat Emiroğlu has been appointed Managing Director of BGB (British Gas Business) and member of the Centrica Senior Executive Group in London. This position places him among the top 5 Turkish professional leaders abroad in terms of the economic value or market capitalization of the led business. BGB is the UK market leader for gas, electricity and energy



services. With revenues of £4bn, it accounts for over 10% of parent Centrica's market cap. BGB serves about 860,000 small and medium sized enterprises, as well as about 150,000 industrial and commercial companies, BGB has grown rapidly in the last 3 years both organically and through M&A. The 2400 people within BGB have the highest employee engagement score within Centrica and have earned the FT's "Great Places to Work" award in 2007, 2008 and 2009. Before joining BGB, Kanat headed up the Group Strategy and Planning function in Centrica plc from 2002 to 2005. Prior to Centrica, Kanat spent 5 years in Procter & Gamble in pan-European marketing roles and R&D. He also worked as a corporate strategy consultant for 2 years. After RC, Kanat has an MBA with distinction from INSEAD and an engineering degree from Ankara's ODTU university. He has worked in the USA and various European countries. Kanat has been living in London since 10 years, enjoys the art and music scene, relaxes by playing golf in Ireland or visiting his olive grove on the shores of the Aegean sea.

## Gülden Kazandağ RC 84 and Dr. Mete Bengisu RC 84

Gülden, Mete and Dr. Caroline Moehring-Bengisu (pictured here in the home of Zeynep Çilingiroğlu, RC 84) These three completed the 40th NYC marathon on Sunday November 1st, 2009. Gülden completed it in under 4 hours so the NYTimes published her name! All three also completed the London and Berlin marathons. Gülden lives in London and Mete and his wife Caroline, who are both ophtamologists, live Muehldorf, Germany.



## Rana Raschid Çalışkan RC 93

Rana's children's book *Vinn* came out in the fall of 2008. National daily Sabah newspaper's Culture & Arts pages wrote, This is a book that both entertains children and holds a mirror to parents. In our day to day lives, we are confronted with an overpowering push to speed up. This books forces us to see from a child's perspective how we mercilessly sacrifice our free time for the sake of keeping up our daily pace. "*Vinn*!" invites us to extricate ourselves from this whirlpool style of living where we have unknowingly dragged our children into as well.



Serap Deliorman's whimsical illustrations have complemented the sweetness of the main character. "*VINN!*" is like a life vest thrown out to today's children who will no doubt empathize with the message and grab ahold of it firmly. This year, the English version, *Vroom!* is being published. At present Rana is working on her second childrens' book.



## Boston Alumni Opened the Reunion Season!

Fuat Koro RC 93 and Yonca Koro hosted the RC Boston alumni on September 12, 2009 and officially kicked off our alumni events season. Young alumni ( of all ages!) got together on a beautiful autumn evening to share stories from their past summer and plans for the upcoming year over tasty snacks and wine. There were more than 30 Alumni at the event. The Boston crowd welcomed the newcomers and everybody seemed to have a great time. We hope to see all of them and more at our upcoming events.

## Bulut Batum RC 95

Bulut and his wife Gülay were happy to welcome their second daughter into this world. Güneş, their new baby, joined her sister Yıldız in May 2009. Güneş's arrival date coincides with the birthdate of her uncle Ufuk Batum, also an RC graduate of 1987.



## Erenşah and Orhan Ayanlar, RC 96

Kaan Ayanlar, firstborn of Erenşah and Orhan came to the world on December 2, 2009. Weighing 3800 grams and 50 cm tall, he has already made his parents very proud. This little "muffin", as Erenşah and Orhan call him, is embraced by the whole RC 96 gang as their "nephew" because he is a pure Class of 96 product. We wish this trio a very happy and healthy life!



## Ayşegül Tuncer Topal RC 98

Ayşegül studied management at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul. She gave a break to her studies there for a semester at Georgetown University. She worked for Coca-Cola, the World Bank and PriceWaterhouseCoopers and then went on to Harvard University to study Public Policy. In 2004 she got married and started to work with her husband in their family business. She took over the retail operations of the 50 year old Topall Jewelry. Topall has two boutiques in the Grand Bazaar at the heart of the gold and diamond business. Its flagship store is in IstinyePark shopping mall. Topall has just finished renovating its new building in Nuruosmaniye. In this building there is a shop, office floors and workshops. The customers will be able to sit at the office, watch their jewelry produced upstairs on the a screen downstairs while enjoying a coffee. Ayşegül says RC Graduates have a special rate at all Topall boutiques. Also, by Christmas some of the Topall collections will be sold at Harrods in London. Recently, Ayşegül Topal has been appointed a member of TOBB Kadın Girişimciler Kurulu. She is also the Vice President of Geleceğimizin Çocukları Vakfı (Our Future Children Foundation) and a member of Türkiye İş Kadınları Derneği, (Association of Turkish Businesswomen).





## Melis Çetinkaya RC 2000

Melis, daughter of Oya and Nejat Çetinkaya (RC '75) and sister of Nilüfer Çetinkaya (RC 07) married Can Keşan on August 08, 2009 at Polonezköy. It was an extraordinary countryside wedding with an Aegean concept aptly named "An Aegean Fairy Tale". The décor was in colors of local Aegean towns; white and blue, combined with dark pink orchids. There were fruit baskets instead of flower centerpieces, old oil lamps and a short fairy tale book about the couple on the tables. Little olive oil bottles and thyme bags were given as gifts.

## Gökçe Günel RC 2000

Gökçe is an anthropology graduate student at Cornell University, who will soon leave the northern climates for the Middle Eastern desert, embarking on her fieldwork at the construction site of a habitable renewable energy plant in Abu Dhabi, called Master City. Her purpose is to analyze how, why, whether, and to what degree an oil-rich emirate can pilot alternative energy generation from its current surpluses. Masdar Initiative, the sustainable corporation set up by the Abu Dhabi government to build and manage Masdar City, aims not only at generating renewable energies for the city itself, but also at attracting manufacturers to produce such technologies within this free-zone, thereby creating an economic sector fully dedicated to alternative energy in the Emirate. Designed by the London-based architecture office Foster + Partners, Masdar City will eliminate the use of fossil based energies within its premises. Masdar Institute (MIST), the post-graduate research center established by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), is the leading technology developer of the ecological power plant. During her fieldwork, Gokce will be affiliated with MIST, located at Masdar City's center and housed on the construction site, from where she will conduct formal and informal interviews. Her subjects will be current executives and expatriates who have moved specifically to work within the multiple petroleum companies located in Abu Dhabi and of course the 250 engineers, architects, researchers and business personnel, the 200 graduate students who are enrolled at MIST, and about 5000 construction workers, who work two 12-hour shifts. She is keen to find out how corporate approaches are transformed within sustainable development models, the ways in which expectations of such inventions change during the process of construction, and how the oil complex with interact with clean energy alternatives.



## Curtis Fowle RC 33

Died on January 6, 2009, at the age of 94. He was a graduate of Williams College 1935, had retired from Mobil Oil and lived in Williamstown, MA. USA.

## Halit Refiğ RC Eng 55 Ex

Well-known Turkish director Halit Refiğ, died on October 11, 2009, at the age of 75. He had been undergoing cancer treatment at Istanbul's Memorial Hospital since the end of August.

Born in İzmir in 1934, Refiğ studied engineering at Robert College. He went to Korea to complete his military service and directed his first amateur film in Korea and

Japan. He began his career in cinema as leading moviemaker Atif Yılmaz's assistant in 1957 and directed his first movie "Forbidden Love" in 1960. He made 60 films including feature films, documentaries and TV series. His films represented Turkey in various festivals abroad. He won many awards including three Best Director titles at the Golden Orange Film Festival in the years of 1964, 1989 and 1990.

Refiğ was given the title "Honorary Professor" by Marmara University in 1997. In addition to more than 300 articles, Refiğ also wrote a book, "Ulusal Sinema Kavgası".

A ceremony honoring Refiğ was held at the Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University State Conservatory. The ceremony was attended by leading names from the Turkish art society, students, and his family and friends. Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University Rector Professor Rahmi Aksungur said the university bestowed the title of honorary professor on Refiğ for being one of the five people who had initiated cinema-TV education in Turkey. He said Refiğ was one of the school's best-loved lecturers.

## Ersin Pertan RC Yük 66



Filmmaker, screenwriter and critic Ersin Pertan passed away on July 23rd, 2009. He was 66 years old and on the cusp of releasing his latest film *Mazi Yarası* (Past Wounds).

Pertan was born in 1943 in Haskova, Bulgaria. He moved to Istanbul with his family at age seven. In 1962



he graduated from Kadıkoy Maarif Kolej and then completed his higher education at Robert College. From 1967-69 he served in the military as part of the Ergidir Mountain Commandos. From 1971-77 he wrote many film critiques and cinema-related articles for magazines such as Yeni Dergi and Yedinci Sanat. From 1977-82 he was a film critic for Dünya, Güneş and Milliyet newspapers. From 1983-88 he worked as the Turkey representative of the Hollywood Reporter. From 1981-1990 he was Assistant director or set photographer on 24 films. In 2002, he became the head of the Film Directors Association (FİLMYÖN) and in 2003 became head of the Cinema and Television Works Rightsholders Association (SETEM).

In 1991 he wrote and directed his first feature film "Law of the Wolves", and then went on to write and direct four more feature films: "The World Upside Down", "Love under Siege", "Crescent Heart", and "Tale of a Singer". He is a founding member and the President of SETEM, the Association of Film Directors, Writers and Composers. He is survived by his wife, art director and producer Annie Pertan, and son, Ersin Pertan Jr, who is also in the film business and based in LA.

## Dora Kohen Kalkan ACG 66

Passed away in London on July 11, 2009. She was a psychologist and a professor of psychology at Manchester University. Dora Kalkan is survived by her husband Karabey Kalkan, her daughter Cemile Kalkan and her sister Roz Kohen ACG 69.

## Ezher N. Üremes ACG 68

My mom accurately considered herself a "citizen of the world." She believed that people could be united through mutual understanding, shared cultural traditions and kindness; her life proved this to be true. She had a passion for living that was infectious and immediately apparent to all she met.



This passion manifested itself in countless ways: her dancing, her devotion to education, her generosity, and her parenting. She was one of a kind, and people never seemed to forget Ezher after spending even a little time with her. She was one of the exceedingly rare few whose inner beauty lived up to her physical beauty; she was always genuine and honest, with a keen eye for the character of those she met. The unfortunate and sudden loss of her father in front of her eyes at age 15 was a trauma that gave her an appreciation for every moment of life and for the human condition. She was both a student and teacher of humanity, always eager to learn even while teaching those around her

## OBITUARIES

more with her presence, grace and humility than she ever realized.

Ezher became fascinated with dance at a young age, beginning with dancing the Zeybek at home with her father. Selected by American Field Service to be a high school exchange student in Arizona, Ezher gave her first solo performances of Turkish folk dances that year, making an indelible impression on her classmates with her charming personality. The affection was mutual, and Ezher fell in love with the U.S. during that year.

Upon her return to Istanbul, Ezher enrolled at ACG, where she pursued her lifelong love of learning both in and out of the classroom. She joined the Robert College Turkish National Folk Dance Ensemble, giving performances across Turkey and Europe. In 1968 Ezher returned to the U.S., graduating from Wake Forest University with a B.A., cum laude, in History and Political Science. After earning her Master's in Education in Social Sciences from Bosphorus University, she returned to the U.S. permanently in 1976, where she earned another Master's Degree in Education and greatly expanded her dance repertoire. Over the next decades she became a master of hundreds of dances from all corners of the world, teaching and performing for thousands at a multitude of grade schools, universities and cultural festivals all across the U.S. She founded numerous folk dance performance groups in the U.S., and taught dance courses as a faculty member at the University of Rochester.

She passed away on September 29th, 2009 after a 16 year struggle with brain tumors. She was 61. Her inner strength and bravery was incredible; though the tumors inflicted an incomprehensible amount of pain and suffering, eventually paralyzing her, they could never take away her smile, her uniquely hilarious sense of humor and her zeal for living. She always followed her heart and her dreams, and allowed nothing to stand in her way. For all the lives she touched, for all the laughter and happiness she created, and for all the cultures she united, she will be remembered forever. She was a wonderful mother. She will always be loved.

Contributed by Emre N. İter

### ***Neyir Neyla Soysal RC 96***

Affectionately called "Sultan" by her close friends, Neyla Soysal died on July 14th, 2009. She succumbed to brain aneurysm when she was only 31 years old.

It is as if she said goodbye to us all at another RC 96 classmate's wedding just a couple of days prior to her death. She was looking gorgeous that night. As we then wished happiness to the newly weds, we were all feeling blessed to have been together through good and bad times in our lives all these years. Indeed she had to go through very

difficult times for the last few years but there she was stronger than ever, never losing that heart-warming big smile of hers and her mischievous sense of humor. She had lots of plans for the future, including her own wedding which was to take place on the summer of 2010. Isn't it unfair and cruel that we had to go to her funeral instead?

She will always be remembered by her friends with her unique and strong personality; her great affection for Marmaris; her being a huge fan of football and Beşiktaş to the point of mostly wearing black and white clothing; her enormous passion for cats and dogs even though it sometimes made people around her furious; her ability to cook delicious food; her fondness towards blondes; but perhaps above all with her naivety and ever-loving heart. Always ordering Turkish coffee with ice on the side; always finding a way to make an expertise comment about the subject in hand; she delighted us at all times. She could not be more genuine and colorful.

The loss of a precious friend at such a young age is deeply frustrating. The fact that she will no longer be around is simply unbearable. The tiniest bit of consolation we might have is the hope that now she is together with her deceased parents, resting in peace.

Neyla, we love you as always and miss you terribly.

Contributed by Pelin Oray RC 96



### ***Duygu Öztemir RC 2000***

Every death is too early they say. Hers was indeed so. A non-conformist, rebellious, free soul passed away on July 26, 2009 at the age of only 27. The emptiness left behind from her unexpected departure is felt deeply among us.

An inspirational individual, an avid empiricist, she was loved and shared a great affection with the world.

For those who had the chance of getting to know her, cherish the blessing; for those less fortunate, be open minded, look at people around you with an unbiased heart.

Her pain and energy was her creation and her creation was the life itself. As she did not live to die, she did not die to live. She just vanished in the light to which she was flying to.

Contributed by her friends

# Türkiye'de çevreye ve topluma umut taşıyan her yeni fikrin bir destekçisi var.

Coca-Cola Hayata Artı Vakfı, çevre sorunlarına toplumsal refahı gözeterek sürdürülebilir çözümler üretmek amacıyla kuruldu.

Vakıf, sivil toplum kuruluşları ile işbirliği içinde gerçekleştirdiği projelerle yaygınlaştırılabilir örnek çözümler üretiyor. Projeler nehirlerin bereketli toprakları sulayabilmesini, göllerin insanlara, kuşlara, balıklara, bitkilere ev sahipliği yapabilmesini, etkin sulama yöntemlerine geçilerek daha az suyla daha çok mahsul alınabilmesini sağlamayı hedefliyor.

Coca-Cola Hayata Artı Vakfı, başta gençler olmak üzere, ülkemizin çevre sorunlarını gündeme taşıyan proje sahiplerinin fikirlerine destek oluyor, örnek çözümleri birlikte hayata geçiriyor.

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### "SEYFE KURAK ALANI GÖL OLUYOR" PROJESİ

Türkiye'nin en önemli göllerinden biri Seyfe Gölü her yıl biraz daha kuruyor. Bozkır Çevre Derneği gençleri, kamu ve sivil toplum kuruluşları ile Seyfe Gölü'nü yeniden hayata döndürecek adımlar atıyor.



### "ADIM ADIM TEMİZ GEDİZ" PROJESİ

Dünyanın en önemli havzalarından Gediz Nehri kirleniyor. Ege Derneği gençleri, bu kirlenmeyi durdurmak için "Gediz Çevre İnisiyatifi" oluşturmak üzere harekete geçti.



### "BİR DAMLA BİN VERİM HER YERDE" PROJESİ

Türkiye'de her yıl tüketilen suyun % 75'i tarımsal sulamada kullanılıyor. Mıyca Çevre Derneği gençleri, tarımda etkin sulama yöntemlerini yaygınlaştırarak ülkemizin su kaynaklarının korunmasına katkı sağlıyor.

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