# RC Quarterly

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE
WINTER 2007/8 - ISSUE 33

- Homecoming 2007
- Summer Reunions
- Tanzania off the Beaten Track with Burak Doğansoysal RC 96

## The Good Life Boarding at RC

Üff napiim...
Dayanamadım yedim!

Sütlaç

Sakızlı Muhallebi

Krem karamel

Keşkül

Geleneksel lezzet

Yeni takıntı, Eker sütlü tatlı...

# ABOUT THE RC QUARTERLY

Up until the 1970s, Istanbul's Bosphorus shoreline –today a crowded hub of apartment rows, cafes and busy roads- was a sleepy string of coastal villages. One bus ran from the city's center to Arnavutköy and Bebek. Every Sunday, College students would pile into it, heading back to campus after a weekend at home. Back then, even students who lived in Nişantaşı boarded.

Boarding life has always been at the heart of the College. As times changed, so did the elements of the residential life program at RC. One of the most significant changes in recent history has been the implementation of "Seven Day Boarding", the results of which are proving well worth the effort and cost of the commitment.

As we mark the 10th year of this program, we decided to take stock and an in depth look at the thriving Boarding Program at Robert College today. This issue of the RCQ may prove more than a little nostalgic for boarders of yesteryear.

Best wishes for a joyful 2008.

**The RCQ Editorial Board**

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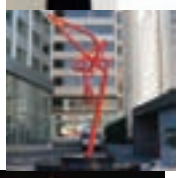

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# Family Creates Scholarship in Memory of Ayla Gökay ACG 54

Prof. Hüsameddin Gökay with his sons Kerim and Ahmet Gökay

Signing the guest book

On a lovely, warm fall evening in September, a group of people came together to commemorate the second anniversary of the passing away of Ayla Gökay, ACG 54, and to celebrate the establishment of an endowed scholarship in her memory.

Ayla Hanım's husband Prof. Hüsameddin Gökay and her sons Kerim Gökay RC 80 and Ahmet Gökay RC 84 set out to establish an endowed scholarship fund at RC in the spring of 2007. With a donation of $100,000 to RC they created an endowed scholarship fund in her name. From now on, there will always be a student at RC studying with funds generated by this generous gift.

Ayla Hanım was much loved by family and friends, as shown that evening on the steps of Marble Hall. They gathered to celebrate the establishment of this fund and to share memories of a kind, loving and extremely talented woman, a devoted wife, mother and friend. As her favorite music played in the background, family and friends who came for the event were greeted by the Gökay family as well as Headmaster John Chandler, who gave a short speech to express his appreciation for the establishment of this fund. "At this time, when scholarship needs are at an all-time high, choosing to establish a scholarship fund to honor the memory of a loved one is a most generous gift and most fitting for someone like Ayla Hanım who had many fond memories of her alma mater," he said.

Headmaster Chandler's speech was followed by Prof. Gökay, who spoke movingly. His speech gave even those who didn't know her the feeling that she was truly very special. This point was further highlighted by Ayla Hanım's friend Ayhan Gökay Busch who said, "Ayla was a wonderful, wonderful person and words are not enough to express how special she was."

Prof. Hüsameddin Gökay greets guests in front of Gould Hall

Ayhan Gökay Busch talking about her beloved friend.

Büyük küçük tüm finansal ihtiyaçlarınızın karşılığı

# Deniz'de...

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# RC NEWS

In recent issues of the Quarterly we brought you news of the Community Involvement Project (CIP), an ambitious campus-wide program for students to become involved in volunteering and social outreach. This issue, we bring you two stories by students recounting their summer volunteer experiences.

# RC Community Involvement Project Takes Off

**Taking CIP to Tirebolu**
**By Mert Karakuş, RC 07**

We came up with the idea of Tirebolu CIP in October 2006. Our goal was to organize a one week educational project in the Eastern Black Sea Region. We chose that area to create a cultural exchange between RC students and local students. We knew that working with kids who have a very different background would enable both parties to learn about each others' cultures and bring them closer.

Since most of the RC group consisted of senior students, we had to do the project during the summer of 2007. Finding a location was tough since students in that region move to "yayla" (the hills) during the summer. Finally, we contacted Biltan Nakipoğlu with the help of our two great CIP coordinators, Jennifer Sertel and Güler Karabatur. She helped us find students and arrange an activity site with accommodation in Tirebolu. We asked for 40 middle school kids from different schools of Tirebolu. In order to catch students' attention, we designed posters and sent them to Tirebolu to be distributed in different schools.

The second step was preparing activities. Besides creating a cultural exchange, our main goals were to introduce different subjects in our activities and help the students discover new areas.

Our goal was not just to introduce new subjects but to allow these kids to find out different interests and talents within themselves. We decided on music, mathematics, social sciences, creative problem solving, drama, sciences, studio art, dance and sports. We decided to apply the station system, where we would have five activity stations of RC group and five teams of Tirebolu students. Each day, a Tirebolu team would visit a different station and try its activities. By the end of five days, all students would have tried each activity.

By the end of April, we were on track. The dates were set for July 1-8 and our activities were planned. However, in order to buy materials, we needed financial support. Our desperate days ended with the support of two generous people; our beloved anonymous RC 07 donor and a businessman from Tirebolu, Mete Nakipoglu. We also had book donations from RC students and a significant contribution from Emel Kantarcı. These books helped us execute another goal, which was creating a sustainable resource for the students who would like to continue the activities that we introduced.

The second big issue was transportation. Besides taking our group to Tirebolu, a shuttle service was needed for Tirebolu kids. We also wanted to visit some other places in Eastern Black Sea region. We decided to rent a minibus for our trip. After some research, we agreed to work with Sembol Turizm which offered us the cheapest price for our two weeks journey.

Eventually, school ended and we left Istanbul as 16 RC students with our advisor Tulu Derbi.

Our schedule in Tirebolu consisted of eight days from July 1st to July 8th. The first day of our program was a parent meeting day. We organized such a meeting in order to discuss their questions or concerns with the parents. The next five days were the workshop. The students from Tirebolu were divided into five teams as planned and each team visited a different station each day. We worked with them from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Our daily program consisted

of a morning session, a lunch break during which we offered sandwich lunches, an afternoon session and an elective part where the kids chose the program that they would like to attend. The final day of our program was a celebration, where parents were also invited to watch their children. Tirebolu students presented the pieces that they prepared throughout the week and performed their musical, dance and drama work.

On the closing day of our CIP, we watched the performances of the Tirebolu students. It was astonishing to see what the kids achieved in only one week. Even the quietest students gained the courage to come up to the stage. They were from different ages and different parts of the town but they became a good team by the end. Most importantly, they had a huge potential waiting to be discovered. When the day was over, everyone was crying and we promised each other that we should repeat this project.

Although the CIP for the Tirebolu kids ended with closing day, our CIP continued for a few more days. After Tirebolu, we kept going eastward. We discovered more about different people and places while we were listening to the guide in Sümela Monastry, having a conversation with an old lady in Ayder or enjoying the beauty of the Eastern Black Sea once more in a rafting boat.

Tirebolu CIP was in Tirebolu for only one week. However, it spanned an entire year for us at RC. It started in October 2006 as a dream. For us, Tirebolu CIP was getting excited for people that we didn't even know. It was sitting in the library, looking at the map and figuring out where we were going. It was the relief of knowing that we weren't bankrupt yet. And finally, it was the joy of watching a little girl who only encountered a transverse flute a week earlier, successfully playing "Telli Turna".

**Kırıkkale Youth Project**
**by Burcu Kasap, L 12**

Everything started with a question; could we do that? Could we create a group of young people eager to improve themselves both intellectually and academically? From June 25th to July 4th, our dreams came true and we managed to gather approximately 25 people in the center of Kırıkkale.

Each morning, first of all we read the daily newspapers and shared our ideas about what's going on in our country. At the end of the project everyone, even the ones who were laughing at us, brought their own newspapers and tried to be active in those conversations. Each day we had different activities such as discussing global issues, finding solutions to environmental problems while accompanying TEMA, playing various sports, acting, preparing educational conferences, visiting nearby villages in order to witness different lives.

In that short period of time, I believe that we managed to trigger our peers to do something for both our country and for themselves. Nowadays what seems more important to us is that the change we made in Kırıkkale should keep going on even if we don't live there anymore. To make that progress in youth continuous, we will do whatever we can do as the ones who had a chance to make that progress before the others...

Guest speaker Nuri Çolakoğlu, RA 62, addressing guests at Bizim Tepe

# RC Launches 2007-08 Annual Giving Campaign

Robert College launched its 2007-2008 Annual Giving campaign on November 5th with its annual Kick-off Dinner at Bizim Tepe. The event was attended by Class Agents, High Honor Donors, Scholarship Donors, representatives of Corporate Donors as well as RC Trustees and Administration.

The past campaign year was one in which RC achieved new records in support from its Alumni and friends. In total, the effort received $1,767,020, an increase of 16% from the previous year, with 1,932 contributors worldwide, an increase of 11%.

The launch of the new campaign brings with it new goals; that of increasing the amount raised and the number of contributors. This is always a challenge but the results are well worth the effort as every contribution only serves to strengthen Robert College and its commitment to excellence.

Guest speaker at this year's event was Nuri Çolakoğlu, RA 62 and RC Trustee. As the Chairman of the Executive Board of Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture, Çolakoğlu gave his audience firsthand information about Istanbul's new title; "European Capital of Culture" for the year 2010. He explained how this project, launched in 1985, was seen as a way of bringing together people of Europe and to highlight the richness and diversity of European cultures and the features they share, as well as to promote greater mutual knowledge and understanding among Europe's citizens.

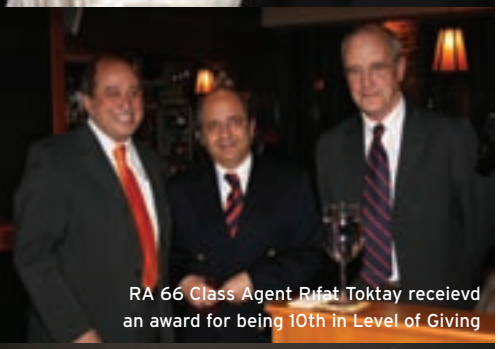
Çolakoğlu went on to describe how through a group effort of Turkey's NGOs, Istanbul Municipality, the Governor's Office and later the Ministries in Ankara, Istanbul bid for and was awarded the title. He then explained how the process is to be run and what this exciting project has to offer for Istanbul and Turkey as a whole.

From L to R: İlgin Özden RC 84, Murat Dayanıklı, Tankut Gürsoy and Nevin Gürsoy

RC 91 Class Agents Ahmet Alp and Cüneyt Soydaş received awards for their class's success in being the third highest in level of participation.

From L to R: Mehmet Baytas RC 07, Berkcan Ibili RC 07, Ilyas Safa Urganci RC 06, Ozan Emre Sönmez RC 04, Mert Önen RC 03 and Ayşegül Kurşun RC 03.

Aydan Söylemez ACG 71 Jr. and Osman Macit Söylemez



RA 66 Class Agent Rıfat Toktay receievd an award for being 10th in Level of Giving

From L to R: Ali Levent Orhon RC 85, Daver Rızvani, Gamze Weber RC 86, Bilge Rızvani RC 85

From L to R: İzi Kohen RC 83 , Ebru Kohen, Leon Amram RC 82

Eren Özgür RC 95 and his father Nuri Özgür RA 70

# OUTSTANDING CLASSES OF 2006/2007

**LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION:**

**1. RC 76**
Class Agents:
Nedim Ölçer
Yasemin Palandüz Kahya

**2. ACG 61**
Class Agents:
Sezen Tezcan Malta
Leyla Batu Pekcan

**3. RC 91**
Class Agents:
Ahmet Alp
Cüneyt Soydaş

**4. RC 90**
Class Agents:
Okan Atilla
Meltem İnce Okvuran
Mete Tuncel

**5. ACG 53**
Class Agent:
Suna Özyiğit Gürçay

**6. ACG 46**
Class Agent:
Mübeccel Uz Versan

**7. RA 68**
Class Agents:
Behçet Demircan
Rıfat Karakimseli

**8. RC 92**
Class Agents:
Duygu Alptekin
Coşkun Baban
Kaan Okurer

**9. RA 61**
Class Agents:
Y. Aydın Bilgin
Hasan Subaşı

**10. ACG 45**
Class Agent:
Necla Solak Kavala

**LEVEL OF GIVING**

**1. RC 76**
Class Agents:
Nedim Ölçer
Yasemin Palandüz Kahya

**2. RC 85**
Class Agents:
Bilge Yavuz Rızvani
Ali Yılmaz
Ayşegül Şengör Yürekli

**3. RC 75**
Class Agents:
Cihan Uzunçarşılı Baysal
Engin Özkaraca Ölçer

**4. RC 74**
Class Agents:
Metin Mansur
Rengin Akün Kevenk

**5. RC 89**
Class Agents:
Mert Tarlan
Başak Ertuna Yalman
Zümrüt Alp Yalman

**6. RC 90**
Class Agents:
Okan Atilla
Meltem İnce Okvuran
Mete Tuncel

**7. RC 83**
Class Agent:
Serra Mansur Soysal

**8. RC 92**
Class Agent:
Duygu Alptekin
Coşkun Baban
Kaan Okurer

**9. RA 64**
Class Agent:
Ateş Güneş

**10. RA 66**
Class Agent:
Rıfat Tokyay

RC 83 Class Agent Serra Soysal received an award for her class's achievement in being the 7th in level of giving. She is pictured here with guest speaker Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 and Headmaster John Chandler.

L to R: Ayla Gümüşlügil ACG 55, Sevil Tansal and Leyla Pekcan ACG 61

From L to R. Sibel Arıkan RC 73, Class Agent Harika Ahmet RC 73, Muharrem Kayhan RC 73, Trustee and Class Agent Nevzat Fresko RC 73.

RC 89 Class Agents Zümrüt Yalman and Mert Tarlan pictured with guest speaker Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 and Headmaster John Chandler, receieved awards for placing 5th in Level of Giving

# RCSummer Travels Back Through Time

By Joe Welch, RCSummer Program Manager

Campers cheering.

Counselor and camper enjoying the party

The RCSummer program, sponsored by the RC Alumni Association, for kids age 9-14, took a trip this summer with its theme: "Flashback: Travel Through Time". Participants found themselves immersed in the decades: 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s or 90s; surrounded by the sounds of Elvis, the Beatles, Disco mania, Madonna and Kurt Cobain and images of Marilyn Monroe, John F. Kennedy, Darth Vader, Maradona and Michael Jordan. And of course much, much more!!

Led by an incredibly energetic, knowledgeable and motivated international staff, the kids enjoyed a summer filled with English and took a look back at personalities, events and moments in the past that helped shape their world today. As is the case every summer, the RCSummer program also offered some amazing activities, including "Creative Problem Solving", "Stadium Day" and "Carnival Day". A trip to Burç Beach was also on the itinerary as was an afternoon disco party at "Lounge" in G-Mall, where the kids came dressed in their decades fashion and danced the day away.

Over 350 young people took a ride on the Flashback blimp with the elephant, Pintokrono, the program mascot and had the time of their lives. Music, theater, arts, community service and sports remained the core elements of the program, but, of course, participants were also able to tailor many activities to their liking during "Club Time" and "Happy Hour". Each session was concluded with the "Big Show" which returned to the Suna Kıraç Theater and showcased the talent and efforts of the participants and counselors. Plans are already underway for the RCSummer Program '08, when we explore the universe, the final frontier . . See you then!

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A toast to the wonderful teachers of RC, past and present.

From L to R: Retired Geography teacher Tanşu Aksoy, retired English teacher Güler Hill, Turkish teacher Adil İzci and retired English teacher John Hill.

# Teachers Day 2007

Present and former RC faculty members got together to enjoy a memorable event when Teachers Day was celebrated on November 23 with a delicious lunch hosted by the RC Parents Association Bizim Tepe. The RC parents went all out, cooking their homemade specialties. The event was held in Bizim Tepe. There was live music and much laughter and conversation.

Turkish teacher Esra Ürtekin, retired English teacher Gökçen Başkan and History teacher Nükhet Eren Üstel.

From L to R: Computer Science Coordinator Colin Edmonds, Science teacher Clem McDonnell and German teacher Renate Hinkel.

German teachers Başak Toprakkaz and Süheyla Soğancılar (formerly Yenerer)

Former RC teachers and most senior members present that day, Nihal Pulat and Nuran Demircioğlu, cut into the special celebratory cake while the youngest members of the RC Faculty , Turkish teacher Eda Yurdakul and English teacher İrem Eren look on.

Retired History teacher Zuhal Dabanovitch and English teacher Phillip Esposito

Faces from past and present: Nesrin Gülsoy Lise office assistant, Cengiz Pektaş, Security Manager, former Lise office assistant Tülay Zoroğlu, former Turkish office assistant Figen Önder, Counselling office assistant Gülcan Üçok and former Lise office assistant Medi Koen.

From L to R: Turkish teacher Günseli Duraklı, Math teacher Carol Murphy, English teacher Cyrus Carter and Math teacher Paul Murphy.

Retired Turkish teacher Nuran Demircioğlu and Religion teacher İzzet Dodurgalı

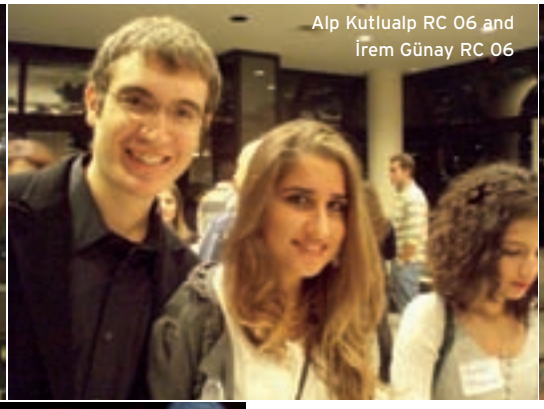
From L to R: Geography teacher Ferda Sezer, retired Turkish teacher Bilgi Haner and History teacher Candan Basat.

# TUBITAK Winners from RC

Three RC students did extremely well in the 2nd stage of this year's TUBITAK (Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Araştırma Kurumu, The National Scientific Research Foundation) competitions. Yiğit Aytan (L-12) won a silver medal in computer science, Emir Salih Mağden (L-12) won a bronze medal in physics and Özdemir Vayısoğlu (Lise Prep) won the silver medal in mathematics, all competing against some very stiff competition. Yiğit and Emir Salih have been invited to the winter camps and the 3rd stage of the competition in the spring during which the teams are chosen for the International Olympiad competitions. RC students have been doing extraordinarily well in the previous years' competitions as well. In 2004, Emrah Balcıoğlu and Alican Gök won medals for Physics, and Emrah went on to South Korea to represent Turkey. In 2005, Özgür Tekin won a silver medal for Physics, and in 2006, Cihat Imamoğlu (L-12) won a bronze for Computer Science.

Yiğit Aytan, L 12 (left) with Emir Salih Mağden, L 12

Yasemin Arık RC 97, Burcu Rodopman and Elif Şıkoğlu



Alp Kutlualp RC 06 and İrem Günay RC 06

Metin Kandiyoti RC 03, Ayşen Nergiz RC 03, Firdevs Abacıoğlu RC 03 and Melike Abacıoğlu RC 05.

Emre Hatipoğlu RC 97, Jiso Yoon and Eda Uykal RC 04

# Alumni Receptions in New York City

November 2007 was a busy time for RC Alumni in New York City. Yearly events such as the RC alumni, administration and trustee cocktail party at The Yale Club and the Young Alumni dinner both held in Manhattan filled the fall social calendar.

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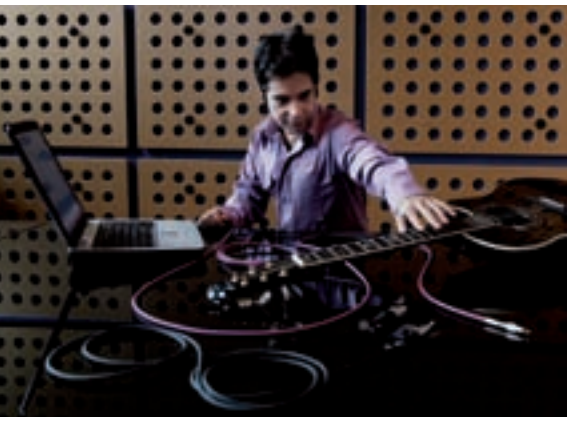
# GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

## Musician Helvacıoğlu, RC 94, Captures an Istanbul Landmark in Sound



Erdem Helvacıoğlu RC 94

A grand symbol of Turkey's Western-oriented modernist aspirations, Istanbul's Atatürk Cultural Center (AKM) has long been a city landmark. Located in the middle of Taksim Square – the heart of Istanbul- the building was originally an opera house and later transformed into a state-run cultural center in 1969. Plans by the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) government to destroy the AKM and replace it with a mall-cum-business center met with massive public outcry.

Against this backdrop, sound artist and musician Erdem Helvacıoğlu, RC 94 recently unveiled *Memories of Silent Walls,* a sound installation for the 10th Istanbul International Biennial that captures the feelings of a city's residents when their landmarks, which are repositories of common memory, face destruction. The 58-minute work consists of recordings of dozens of people speaking about the AKM – its history, what its demolition might mean and Turkey's cultural policies. Installed on the second floor of the AKM for the duration of the Biennial in September-November, the piece was a progression from gentle ambient sounds to the crescendo of an imploding building.

Acclaimed by critics, Helvacıoğlu's piece managed to capture both the sense of collective memory embodied by the AKM, and as well as the destruction that global capitalist growth entails. "People really responded to the piece," says Helvacıoğlu. "Mostly because it was very much related to the site, and also because it was a political statement."

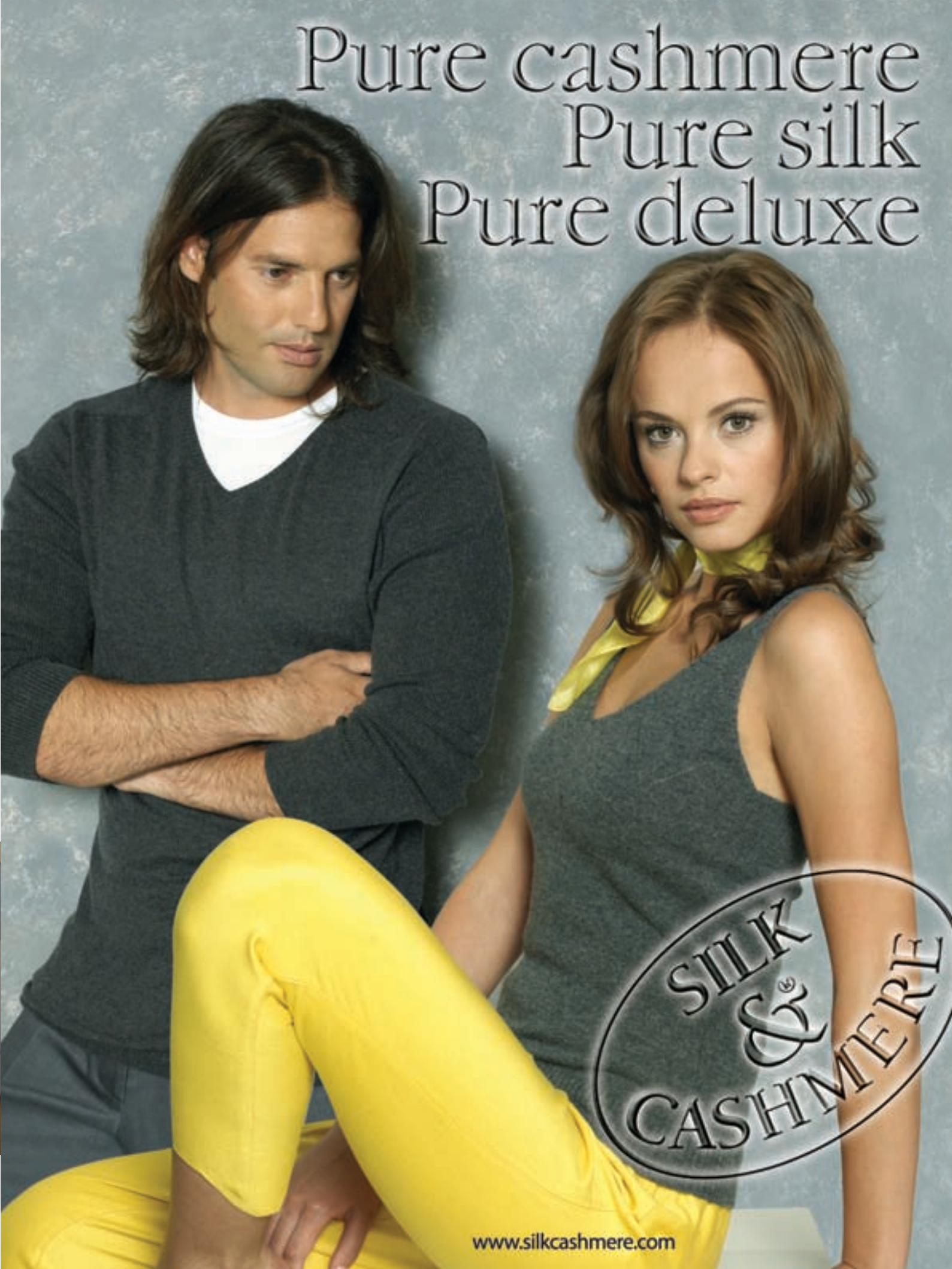
In the face of public opposition, the government has since abandoned plans to demolish the building, but Helvacıoğlu says the issue could yet resurface. "You never know what will happen in Turkey," he says. "It's been temporarily granted a reprieve, but that could change at any moment." His work will be shown in New York next year. In addition to his work as an artist, Helvacıoğlu -who has been playing music since he was an 11-year-old at RC- is also working on a new electro acoustic album to be released in 2008, as well as composing tracks for dance pieces and films and touring the world playing concerts. "All of my work complements each other," he says. "Doing all this different work helps me to be creative."

## Engineer Elkabeş, RC 72, Debuts with Moral Thriller

Vitali Elkabeş RC 72

An engineer by training, at 54, Vitali Elkabeş, RC 72, has made a striking literary debut with *Şeytan Oradaydı* (The Devil Was There), by Goa Basım, a gripping read that is also a take on contemporary Turkish society. Numan, a wealthy lingerie manufacturer, embarks on an affair with a young woman, Didem, and a series of catastrophes ensue. Love, passion and murder combine to slowly tear apart his perfect familial life, complete with a lovely wife, bright child and fabulous villa in a leafy Istanbul suburb.

First-time writer Elkabeş writes with a keen eye for detail, humor and manages to keep the reader hanging in suspense until the very end. "I wanted people to think about what they were reading," Elkabeş said. "My motivation was not to write a murder mystery, but to examine why spouses cheat on each other. Under what circumstances? I wanted the reader to put himself in the shoe of each character and think about how he or she would act in that situation". Much like the film *Seven*, the book is structured to echo the Ten Commandments, which lends it moral depth. Readers are asked to examine the choices they make, and their responsibility for the events that ensue. "The book's main philosophy is to show that the small mistakes people make can make them complicit in a serious crime, in this case, murder," says Elkabeş.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# GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

## New Book Charts Modern Turkey's Music History

Renowned music historian Evin İlyasoğlu ACG 66, recently published a definitive history of contemporary Turkish music, *71 Türk Bestecisi* (71 Turkish Composers), by Pan Kitap. The book, which is in both Turkish and English, furthers her well-known 1989 study *25 Türk Bestecisi* (25 Turkish Composers), and 1998's *Çağdaş Türk Bestecileri* (Contemporary Turkish Composers). "In the last 10 years there has been an increase in the number of young generation composers, who are making themselves heard all over the world," says İlyasoğlu. "I wanted to add this new generation to the ones that came before them." The book begins with the early Republic composers -Cemal Reşit Rey, Ulvi Cemal Erkin, Ahmet Adnan Saygun, Hasan Ferit Alnar and Necil Kazım Akses- and travels through time to newer names like Zeynep Gedizlioğlu, Bekant Gençkal and Mahir Cetiz. In addition to lengthy biographies, the book also lists information on firms holding the rights to their albums.

İlyasoğlu says the book was published in English as well as Turkish to better serve as a resource for scholars abroad. "Through my previous books, many music aficionados or composers contacted our composers. I hope this book will enable the world to better know our younger generation."

İlyasoğlu began piano lessons at the age of seven and studied music at the Istanbul Municipal Conservatory. She graduated from ACG in 1966 with the Halide Edip Adıvar Literature Prize. She has produced and presented numerous music programs on the radio and TV and is the author of many books on Turkish and world music history. She is currently a lecturer at Boğaziçi University, as well as a critic for the *Cumhuriyet* newspaper.

Evin İlyasoğlu ACG 66

Gurur Ertem (left) and Aydin Silier at the iDANS Gala

## Istanbul, Dance Your Heart Out

Two Robert College graduates, Aydın Silier RC 79 and Gurur Ertem RC 94, have teamed up to take dance to new heights in Turkey. Their Bimeras Cultural Foundation, an organization based in Istanbul to promote international collaboration in contemporary dance and performance, this year organized the first-ever iDANS International Festival of Contemporary Dance and Performance. The festival took place September 20 - October 20, 2007 at various venues in Istanbul. "We focus on international works that question and explore taken for granted definitions of the body and of dance," says Ertem. The theme for this year was "solo", an exploration of the possibilities the solo form offers to both artistic and social issues. "We were really pleased with the interest shown in the festival," says Ertem. "We managed to move beyond the traditional dance audience. More than half in the audience were new to this kind of work, and a large number were international." Ertem went to New York after the festival to attend a performance biennial and says she was happy to see that iDANS was being talked about. The festival will continue annually and will also feature a conference and lecture/performance series which address related themes in order to create an informed discussion about the questions and concerns raised by contemporary dance. For more information please visit: www.idans.org.

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# Burak Yetişkin RC 02 Has a Lens on the World

Burak Yetişkin RC 02

Photographer Burak Yetişkin RC 02, currently a senior at Sabancı University, is taking his unique vision of human beings and their urban landscapes to cities around the world. Fresh from an exhibition in Singapore in June, he is now preparing for two more shows in Moscow and Berlin. "My work is about the alienation of individuals in cities, and their search for identity among ruined urban landscapes," says Yetişkin. He has worked in industrial wastelands across Russia and Germany, and returned last month from a similar trip to Poland. The Singapore exhibition consisted of 48 photographs, titled "Faces & Scenes", from around the world. Following the exhibition, the photographs were auctioned off, with proceeds going to various local charities.

Born in 1985, Yetişkin began his fine arts education while a student at Robert College, studying with the Turkish sculptor Hakkı Baha Çavuşgil from Orta 2 to his graduation. At RC he also became interested in photography, under the tutelage of instructor Geoffrey Harley. After graduating, Yetişkin attended Tufts University. When a photograph of his was chosen for the cover of the school magazine *Outbreath*, Yetişkin decided to transform his hobby into a career as a photographer. He suspended his education at Tufts and returned to Turkey, where he teaches studio photography at Sabancı University. "My biggest goal is to create a place for myself within the ranks of art photography, by working with international galleries and participating in international competitions and projects," Yetişkin says.

# Early Acceptances Announced

This was another exciting fall for early foreign university acceptances. Approximately the same number of RC applications were submitted this year as last year. However the biggest change from last year was that both Harvard and Princeton University decided to discontinue their early application option. This resulted in keener competition at top tier schools, particulary at Yale University where there was a 30% increase in early applications overall. We are very proud of all of our student acceptances It should also be noted that three students received acceptance offers from Oxford University and one student was accepted to Cambridge University. This represents the most acceptances to Oxford in recent history.

**Contributed by RC College Counselor Anne Seasholes-Kozlu and Assistant College Counselor Staci Petrich**

From L to R: Cem Okkan, İrem Bilgiç, Sinan İlter, Önder Polat, Öykü Akkaya and Berkin İlbeyi

**2008 EARLY ACCEPTANCES**

İrem Bilgiç – *Columbia University*
Cem Okkan – *Brown University*
Emir Okan – *Brown University*
Sinan İlter – *U of Edinburgh*
Burak Bayaz – *U of Essex*
Kerimhan Nahum – *UPenn*
Deniz Kahramaner – *Stanford*
İpek Nergiz – *Lehigh*
Önder Polat – *Yale*
Sinan İlter – *Yale*
Öykü Akkaya – *Yale*
Ezgi Bereketli – *U of Michigan*
Ezgi Bereketli – *King's College*
Sina Zeytinoğlu – *Reed College*
Sinan İlter – *Oxford*
Berkin İlbeyi – *Lafayette*
Ezgi Bereketli - *Imperial College*
Seda Kozan – *Cornell*
Cem Okkan – *Oxford*
Nil Madi - *Purdue*
Ece Aygar - *Oxford*

# GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

## Industrialist-Novelist Gürsoy, RC Eng 45, Probes Workaholism in New Book

Melih Gürsoy RC Eng 45

Adding to the intriguing list of fictional heroes associated with Robert College, meet Dündar and Rıza, the two appealing young men at the heart of *İşkolik* (Workaholic), a novel by industrialist Melih Gürsoy RC Eng 45. The book follows the two friends as they graduate from RC, make their way to the US, return to Turkey, change and evolve. Rıza becomes a high-powered businessman and wealthy factory owner, while Dündar chooses passionate love, and peace of mind.

Gürsoy, who describes himself as a workaholic, says the book was prompted by his own soul-searching. "I asked myself why we become workaholics," he says. "We couldn't spend the money we earn and save even if we live for hundreds of years. Instead, we can travel the world. We can write a book, or draw a picture." The book draws on Gürsoy's own colorful life; in fact, he says one of the characters is heavily based on a close friend, now deceased, whose name he doesn't reveal.

Born in Izmir in 1924, Gürsoy was a contemporary of RC alumni Bülent Ecevit, Feyyaz Berker and Nihat Gökyiğit. After graduating he went to the US, where he specialized in refrigeration technology. He began working as an installation engineer near the Mexican border and then, for 2,5 years, on the construction of a massive refrigerated depot in Dallas. He returned to Turkey only to find that there wasn't a single refrigerated depot or ice factory in the country. To develop these facilities, he chose to work in the public sector and was involved with the setting up of the Et ve Balık Kurumu (Meat and Fish Institution) branches in various locations and depots for the Toprak Mahsülleri Ofisi (Agricultural Products Office), before branching out into the private sector in 1963. He built and ran industrial machinery factories, and created his own brand of compressors called Lupamat, which were sold to Europe and the US. Gürsoy's other books include *Krizlerin Etkileri, Havanda Su Dövüyoruz, İşadamının Köşe Yazıları, Bizim İzmirimiz* and *İzmir Mozaiğinde Belirgin Taşlar.* He lives in Izmir, a city he loves, and writes from a small office opposite the Alsancak Station.

## Sufi Spirit Inspires an Artist's Work

The state of transcendence and harmony hinted at by the Mevlevi sema ritual, with its whirling dervishes, mystical music and words of prayer, has captured the imagination of many an artist. Semra Özümerzifon ACG 70, is one of these. Her Sufi-inspired paintings have been shown across Europe, most recently in the Rhodes Art Museum.

"I began working with the theme of semazens (whirling dervishes) in the middle of the 1990s," says Özümerzifon. "At first the mystical atmosphere, music and aesthetics of the performance of a sema ritual were a source of inspiration to me. The longer I worked on this theme, the more my style began to change. The concreteness of outside perspective was replaced by an internal perspective, the abstract, the emptiness and colors describing the state of "attaining truth". It's as if, through my pictures, I have experience a sema process lasting many years."

When UNESCO declared 2007 the year of Mevlana (Rumi), the Turkish Foreign Ministry asked for artistic contributions to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the spiritual leader's birth. As part of these events, this summer Özümerzifon held a show of Sufi-inspired paintings in Rhodes, with the cooperation of the Rhodes Municipality and the Turkish Consulate there.

After graduating from ACG, in 1980, Özümerzifon settled in Geneva, where she studied fine arts at the Academy there. Until her return to Istanbul this year, she worked and exhibited in galleries across Europe. Her pictures of semazens won her several awards in France and Italy.

To see Özümerzifon's pictures or for more information on the artist, visit: www.lebriz.com/semraozumerzifon.

Semra Özümerzifon ACG 70

# Nursuna Memecan RC 75, the Only Female RC Graduate in the Current Parliament

Nursuna Memecan RC 75 at the Turkish Parliament

Nursuna Memecan RC 75 is about as far removed from the stereotypical Turkish politician as you can get. Frank, funny, and down-to-earth, the 50-year-old businesswoman shuns big cars and bodyguards and admits to being happiest on Istanbul's teeming Istiklal Caddesi, where she and her husband, the caricaturist Salih Memecan, live. In July, Memecan became the first RC graduate to join the ranks of the ruling AK Party (AKP). The RC Quarterly caught up with her in Istanbul.

**How did you get involved in politics?**

To tell you the truth, I never had any intention or ambition to become a politician. I still don't! I'm an engineer by training, I run our business (Mart Ajans, which publishes Memecan's cartoons). But I have always been sensitive. There is a side of me that wants to be of use to people, I feel socially responsible. It probably runs in my family. My grandfather Nuri Demirağ was the founder of Turkey's first opposition party, Milli Kalkınma Partisi, and later became an MP for the Demokrat Party. He established Turkey's first railroad, which is why Atatürk gave him the last name "Demirağ" (translated, literally means "rail network"). I would never have considered getting involved in politics if it were not for the AKP.

**How did that happen?**

I have always been involved in social projects. I volunteered for Beyaz Ay, the society for the blind, which was headed by Lokman Ayva, an advocate for the blind who is now an AKP MP. Elections were coming up and he told me he was going to vote for the AKP. I asked him why, and he said 'They're the only party that helps us.' I worked with him closely for some time and saw firsthand how involved the AKP were in that cause, and how helpful (Prime Minister) Tayyip Erdoğan was on a personal level. I saw that the AKP had good intentions and were very open-minded about what needs to change in Turkey. In time as a family, we became very friendly with Abdullah Gül and his family. That allowed me to get to know them intimately, to see how open-minded they are.

**How much did you know about the AKP?**

I doubt that there is anyone who has spent as much time as me studying the AKP closely, and also as involved with the party's leadership on a personal level. I know how they work and I admire it. They are democrats who are also religious, that's my view. I see the AKP as a big opportunity for Turkey.

**How so?**

They are reformists, number one, and they're democrats. They're doing what needs to be done in Turkey. They have a liberal economic view, which I agree with. They are hard-working, and socially responsible. I would never have considered going into politics with any other party. They are pro-EU. They want more rights and freedoms for individuals. These are all goals that I share.

**You're a first-time MP. How do you see your role evolving?**

My main focus is on foreign relations. I was just in Brussels for two days for EU meetings. I am on the EU commission. Many people think that Turkey's EU process has stalled. This isn't the case at all. At a technical level, there is a highly specialised team of bureaucreats in Ankara working day and night on this. New chapters in negotiations have been opened, we have done very well in terms of completing previous chapter requirements. It's just that the public don't really know about this. I also plan to focus on women's issues. Women in Turkey have a lot of rights on paper, but they need to be supported in practice too.

Memecan at her RC graduation

# "Good Morning, Turkey!" Amateur Radio Enthusiasts Turn Serious

Bekir Kemal Ataman RC 78, standing, and Tevfik Aydın Kazancıoğlu RC 85 (in front of the equipment) training with 180 emergency workers in Antalya

Bekir Kemal Ataman RC 78 and Tevfik Aydın Kazancıoğlu RC 85 broadcast to radio amateurs across the world from a wireless station set up in memory of slain soldiers in Çanakkale

Bekir Kemal Ataman RC 78 testing the antennas and generators in the International Radio Amateurs Assocation (IARU) competition

Experts agree that at some point in the next 30 years, Istanbul is due for a massive earthquake, on the scale of the tragic temblor of 1999. Yet little is being done to prepare the city. Fortunately, a handful of dedicated individuals are keeping the concern alive. Two of these are RC graduates Bekir Kemal Ataman RC 78 and Tevfik Aydın Kazancıoğlu RC 85, amateur radio enthusiasts who have become emergency communications specialists.

Bekir Kemal, an Associate Professor at Marmara University's Department of Industrial Engineering, got involved in search and rescue operations after the 1999 quake. In the course of his training, amateur radio became his prime interest and he began to specialize in emergency communications. In doing this, his path crossed with Tevfik Aydın, a medical doctor at Sabancı Holding. Aydın was involved in amateur radio throughout his years at RC and medical school and had developed an expertise in emergency communications by the time he completed his specialization in family medicine.

The two have been active as volunteer emergency communications specialists at the Istanbul Governor's Disaster Management Center, helping in several operations like the heavy snow crisis in 2003 and the Pamukova train accident in 2004. "During an emergency there is no communication system but the two way radios," continues Aydın, "and relief organizations cannot talk to each other because they are all on different frequencies. If their repeaters fail, they cannot communicate with their own team members, either. That is where we step in. We can maintain the communication links between the radio systems of different organizations, even at an international scale, when needed. "Each of the team members' vehicles are well equipped to solve the communication needs of a disaster management center. (To see details of Kemal's vehicle, visit http://www.archimac.org/ TA2RX/Arac/index.html.) "We are all ready to move, fully loaded, within a couple of hours in case of an emergency, but how many crisis centers can we serve, when there is just a handful of us?" says Kemal.

To overcome this shortage, the pair decided to organize a series of training sessions and train emergency communications specialists from within each relief organization. Kemal had written a booklet on emergency communications for AKUT and Aydın had written another for the ambulance service staff. Combining the two, they prepared a more comprehensive one on emergency communications for relief organizations. Unable to find a sponsor, they financed the printing themselves and sent the book out to more than 100 relief organizations. The first to

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respond was the police force, with a total of 610 prospective students. "Our team was a little scared when faced with this challenge", says Kemal. "Thanks to my and Aydın's experience in education and training we quickly worked out a formula to get over this load within a month and a half. However, the burden was on our shoulders because the other team members were rather busy at work during that time."

Since then, they have trained several other groups, including more than 1,000 public employees in Antalya, responsible for disaster relief operations. The pair is intrepid- for them, any mass event is a good excuse to further hone their skills. To practice learning to manage a pileup (a situation where everybody tries to talk at the same time on the same frequency), for instance, they even used the 100th anniversary of the Fenerbahçe sports club.

Fortunately, it's not just about disasters. As amateur radio enthusiasts, they also have a lot of fun. Aydın explains: "The third weekend in August is International Lighthouse Weekend. Radio amateurs all around the world go and set up stations at lighthouses on that weekend. We have been activating several lighthouses in Turkey for this purpose. The one at Karaburun has been our favorite for the last few years. [Details and photos are available at http://tc1lhw.tripod.com/.]"

Tevfik Aydın Kazancıoğlu RC 85 setting up a shortwave antenna in Antalya

Dr. Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93

# Global Warming Creates an Escalator to Extinction

**By Dr. Çağan H. Şekercioğlu RC 93**

*Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93 is a conservation ecologist, ornithologist and nature photographer based at Stanford University. He focuses on the causes and consequences of bird extinctions around the world and has conducted fieldwork in Alaska, Angola, Colorado, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Turkey and Uganda. He is also currently conducting community-based conservation projects in Ethiopia and Turkey, to increase the contribution of ecotourism, especially bird-watching, to community-based conservation in the developing world, and to improve the role of the private sector in the conservation of biodiversity. The alarming findings he reports below on the effects of global warming were widely reported in the world press.*

Climate change is leading to increased temperatures, especially noticeable in mountains and other cooler climes. Many animals and plants, especially in the tropics where temperatures are more uniform, prefer certain temperatures and may even die when it gets too hot. Because it gets cooler as one goes up a mountain, many plants and animals are moving higher to compensate for increasing temperatures. That means they have less area to live in and their numbers go down, which increases the chances of them becoming extinct locally or globally, especially in flatter areas where there are fewer mountains, and organisms can be "pushed off" mountains into extinction by global warming. I call this effect "the escalator to extinction".

The rainbow billed Toucan Ramphatos is under threat of extinction

Currently, 21% of world's bird species face a risk of extinction, defined as being threatened or near threatened with extinction according to the World Conservation Union (IUCN). In our recent paper in the scientific journal Conservation Biology, titled "Climate change, elevational ranges, and bird extinctions" (Sekercioglu, Schneider, Fay & Loarie, in press), we show that bird species' elevational ranges have a positive correlation with improved conservation status. Therefore, reductions in birds' elevational ranges caused by climate change are likely to increase the extinction likelihood of a bird species. The increased risk of extinction can be calculated by using the relationship we describe in our paper and extinctions can be estimated by modeling elevational shifts that will be caused by climate change. These relationships are likely to apply to other terrestrial organisms (amphibians, mammals, etc), but more research is needed on this.

Habitat change makes the situation worse because there may be no habitat to move into in many places, even if the mountain is tall enough. We combined habitat loss and global warming scenarios for 2100 to estimate the numbers of land bird species that will be threatened and/or driven to extinction by climate change by 2100. Our best guess is that climate change effects, exacerbated by habitat loss, will result in about 400–550 land bird extinctions by 2100, based on a best-guess of 2.8 °C warming. This is 5-7% of all land bird species. With 1 °C surface warming or less, bird extinctions are likely to remain below 100 species. In the worst case, however, with 6.4 °C warming and extensive habitat loss, as many as 2500 land bird species may be committed to extinction, 30% of all land birds. Aquatic birds, such as penguins, are also threatened by climate change, but we did not estimate their extinction likelihood, due to the different dynamics involved.

Each additional degree of warming will have increasingly devastating effects. Bird extinctions increase faster than climate change, so even slowing down climate change by a few degrees will save hundreds of bird species.

The take home message is that, climate change, exacerbated by habitat loss, will reduce the ranges of hundreds of bird species, sometimes to the point of extinction. With increasing warming, the extinctions will

The Resplendent Quetza

increase in an accelerating fashion, not linear, and will be especially severe for tropical mountain species, most of which are endemic and have small ranges. The worst case scenario predicts about 2500 bird extinctions, 30% of all land bird species or 26% of all bird species.

Until now, habitat loss, exploitation (e.g. hunting, pet trade), and introduced species (e.g. cats, rats, dogs, pigs) have been the main drivers of species extinctions. These factors have mostly affected islands and lowlands, and mountain species have been relatively safe. However, climate change will affect intact montane (and polar) habitats most and its victims will mainly be those species not presently threatened by habitat loss or hunting. Large numbers of species, thus-far largely unaffected by human actions, are in danger of extinction from climate change.

If we do not slow down climate change, we can expect hundreds of bird extinctions. At the very least, that means the disappearance of many fascinating life forms and the world will be the poorer for it. Birds are one of the best conserved groups and most other groups (e.g. plants, amphibians, fish, mammals, mollusks) are more threatened with extinction than birds. The same extinction dynamics apply to many of them and many of these species will also disappear due to the combined effects of habitat loss and climate change. The disappearance of so many species will also have long-term ecological effects that are very hard to predict, but are unlikely to be favorable to humanity.

# How Facebook Transformed the Internet in 2007

By Barış Karadoğan RC 90

*Baris Karadogan, RC 90, is a venture capitalist in Silicon Valley. A Stanford graduate, he is currently a partner at Comventures, a leading venture capital firm with $1.5B under management. Baris writes about technology and its social impact on his blog, "From Istanbul To Sand Hill Road"at http://baris.typepad.com.*

Without a doubt, the Facebook platform is the most impactful event that happened in the internet in 2007. A lot has been written about it. But what is the big picture? What does it mean to venture capitalists investing in social networks and the entrepreneurs running them?

To start, let's define two things that make a social network; the application and the underlying social graph. On a site like dogster, the application is "dogs" and the social graphs are the groups, the messages, the profiles, friends and comments. Features are added to the application by the company, and users add to the social graph. "Dog of the week", "dog blogs", "dog videos", "local dogs" are all features of the application, while how the users interact with each other, what friends they make are the social graph. In the case of myspace, the application started as voyeurism and music, but the social graph grew so big, it spawned many other applications. In the case of youtube, the application of sharing videos got so big that the comments and profiles, ie the social graph, got dwarfed.

What's important is that regardless of the outcome, a lot of companies got funded as "social networking for X" where X could be fantasy sports, trendspotting, dogs, cats or vampires. The formula that got venture capitalist funding was, "take an application that people know, and build a social graph around it,". The hard part wasn't building the application, but getting the users and building a social graph.

What Facebook did was turn this upside down. They said, "we have a social graph, why don't you build an application on it". Since the hardest part of building a social network is getting the social graph, Facebook effectively gives this to an application. This is what's so impactful about the platform.

It's because of this paradigm shift that there are applications with 9 million users in under 2 months. Facebook gives the application maker a social graph to work on, the application maker grows fast, adds back to the social graph, grows it a little bigger, benefiting the next application and most importantly, Facebook, that owns the social network. They own the most important, hard to do, defensible, valuable piece of any social network, their users.

So what does this mean for a social networking site? The days of starting a site to build a user base on your own is over. You will have to do it on Facebook, otherwise your competition will and they will grow faster. For those sites big enough to have a decent social graph, they still have to have a Facebook presence, not to be left out, and their current user base might not remain relevant if the Facebook user base grows fast. Every independent social network has to keep a good eye on what's going on at Facebook.

By becoming the operating system for social networking, the Facebook platform became the most relevant thing that happened to the Internet this year. They are on their way to becoming a Microsoft of sorts.

# African Jewels Travels Across Tanzania and Zanzibar

By Burak Doğansoysal RC 96

I made sure that my luggage was safely secured on top of the bus, along with assorted other stuff people carried along. Then I chose a seat which seemed comfortable enough for the eight hour trip from Nairobi, Kenya, to Arusha,Tanzania. A very crowded bus, extremely hot weather and the heavy smell of food may not seem the best way to travel, but I chose this method of transportation not because of its ridiculously cheap price but to understand local people better by traveling like one of them.

Along the way I was gripped by one question: "Will I be able to see Kilimanjaro, the roof of Africa, once again?". Although Kilimanjaro lies in Tanzania, Kenya's Amboseli National Park offers the best view of this mountain. During my three week Kenya trip the year before, I had visited this magnificent mountain but unfortunately, was unable to take any photos due to cloudy skies. This time, I was hoping to see the giant in its homeland and hopefully take a nice photo.

After a relatively comfortable trip, I arrived in Arusha. Arusha is the gateway to all safari destinations in Tanzania which also serves as a hub for climbers since it lies on the skirts of Kilimanjaro. It is the third largest and fastest developing city in Tanzania. Yet when you travel just ten minutes out of the city center, you see that majority of the homes are lit with candles.

After a good night's sleep, I, as a msafiri, was ready to begin my safari. "Safari" is a word associated with Africa and wildlife across the world. It is derived from "sefer" which is used in Turkish as well and means "journey / travel". And "Msafiri", a word which also sounds familiar to us, means "traveler".

I met my guide / driver Issa in the lobby and after loading my bags in the Land Cruiser, we were ready to hit the road. Our first destination was Lake Manyara, described by Ernest Hemingway as the "loveliest lake in Africa". Covering an area of 231 kms (70% of the Lake Manyara National Park), this shallow fresh water lake is home to about 400 species of birds along with hippos, impalas, elephants, giraffes, warthogs and buffalos. Lake Manyara NP is said to have the densest population of baboons in the world. The lake is also very famous for its "tree climbing lions". As a bird enthusiast, I spent some great time in Manyara and achieved my goal of seeing the African Fish Eagle.

Next stop was the natural wonder, Ngorongoro Crater. This crater is situated in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, which is a World Heritage Site. The Conservation Area is very important to the history of human evolution because hominid skulls dating back 1.8 million years, and footprint fossils dating back 3.7 million years have been discovered here. Some of the oldest evidence of Homo Sapiens has also been discovered in Ngorongoro. The crater is situated at about 2,200 meters but in order to observe the wildlife, we had to go down 600 meters to the bottom of the crater. A width of about 20 kilometers makes Ngorongoro one of the largest calderas in the world and it is packed with wildlife: cheetahs, lions, rhinos, elephants, hyenas, warthogs, antelopes and many species of birds are present in the crater. Despite the steepness of the crater, animals can move in and out of it but most of them prefer to stay there. Grasslands, swamps, forests, saltpans and a freshwater lake supply enough food and shelter for the animals.

Other inhabitants of the area are the Maasai tribesman and they share the crater with the wildlife. They have grazing rights of the grasslands and I came across the Maasai tending their cattle many times. Maasai are originally warriors and they are very colorful and brave people.

After spending two wonderful days in the crater, we left Ngorongoro to our last safari destination; Serengeti. The Maasai people name Serengeti, which comes from the native word "Siringitu", describes it perfectly: "infinite". No matter which direction you look, the horizon never ends, which is

terrifying. Combined with the deadly silence broken only by the occasional roaring of lions or elephants, Serengeti feels timeless and out of this world.

The Serengeti plains are home to millions of creatures. The annual migration of wildebeest and zebra herds in search of better grazing takes place here. The sight of two million animals moving from one place to another following the rain and fresh grass is a phenomenon to see. Serengeti is also famous for its lions and cheetahs.

On our way from Ngorongoro to Serengeti, we could see dark clouds pouring rain on the plains. We learned that it had been raining in Serengeti for over a week and this caused the Grumeti River to flood. The tented camp that I was supposed to stay was on the other side of the river but it was impossible for us to cross it. Even some main roads were flooded and most of the bridges were now underwater. What used to be the road to our camp was now a hunting ground for crocodiles. Issa dispatched a radio message to the ranger-post and since we could not make it to our camp, they arranged a place for us to stay during our visit in Serengeti. Unfortunately, the only place available was on the other side of Serengeti. It was almost dark and it would take about four hours to get there. Later on, we realized how lucky we were because on our way to the camp, we spotted almost all the nocturnal species that inhabit Serengeti.

After days of wandering around the endless plains of Serengeti, it was time to go back to Arusha. I had a plane to catch to the beautiful island of Zanzibar. The flight lasted about 45 minutes and I was amazed by the breathtaking view from the plane; turquoise sea and powdery white beaches.

Formerly belonging to the ancient Kingdom of Oman, Zanzibar is a mixture of Indian, Persian and Swahilian cultures. At the heart of Zanzibar lies the Stone Town with its labyrinthine streets and glamorous architecture from the Sultan's times. Beautiful wooden doors reflect various cultures and also have hidden details revealing the social status of the people who live behind them. Some streets take you to palaces and some take you to beaches. But there is one important street that takes you to the house of Freddy Mercury. I was surprised to learn that soloist of the famous rock band Queen, was originally from Zanzibar.

The best part of Zanzibar for me was its cuisine. Freshly caught fish and octopus is cooked with many different spices collected from the island's world renowned spice farms. I tasted many different spices and sea creatures that I didn't even know about.

The sunshine, endless beaches, snorkeling and diving opportunities, history and gastronomy make this island a very special one. Being so close to Kenya and Tanzania, it offers tourists a perfect spot for resting after a tiring safari vacation.

Time flows differently in Africa. In just two weeks, I felt as if I had been there my whole life. When it was time to go back, I felt saddened as though I was leaving my homeland behind. On the plane from Zanzibar to Nairobi to catch my Istanbul flight, Africa had one more surprise for me. I was dozing off when I heard the captain announce that we were flying right above Kilimanjaro and the sky was crystal clear. I took out my camera and took several pictures of this enormous mountain.

As we were passing by, I looked down at its highest point, Uhuru Peak, and then I understood why they named it Kilimanjaro; meaning "the Shining Mountain".

If traveling as Burak describes it sounds like your cup of tea, do check out his company, Ecologic, which specializes in quality vacations around the world for nature, wildlife, photography and adventure enthusiasts. For more information on destinations and activities, visit www.ecologic-travel.com.

# Boarding at RC Takes On New Life

Boarding has always been an important feature of the College. While it has undergone many changes as it adapted to the historical transitions at the school over the years, dorm life has been at the core of the campus. The inception of a formal "seven day boarding program" at Robert College ten years ago only served to strengthen that core element. For many decades, up until the 1970s, there was only one bus which ran through Taksim, Nişantaşı and central Istanbul along the quiet coastal road to Bebek. On Sunday evenings, it would be packed with boys heading back to Robert College after a weekend at home. It's hard to imagine, but back then, unless you lived virtually in the neighborhood, there was

## Distribution of the 163 RC boarders in the 2007/08 academic year

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Adana | 12 | Istanbul | 5 |
| Adapazarı | 4 | İzmir | 18 |
| Afyon | 1 | İzmit | 2 |
| Anamur | 1 | K. Ereğlisi | 2 |
| Ankara | 9 | Kayseri | 3 |
| Antalya | 4 | Kırıkkale | 1 |
| Aydın | 4 | Kocaeli | 2 |
| Ayvalık | 1 | Kuşadası | 1 |
| Balıkesir | 4 | Kütahya | 1 |
| Batman | 1 | Kütahya | 1 |
| Bursa | 23 | Malkara | 1 |
| Çanakkale | 1 | Manisa | 1 |
| Çankırı | 1 | Mersin | 3 |
| Çorlu | 1 | Muğla | 1 |
| Çorum | 4 | Nazilli | 1 |
| Denizli | 10 | Ödemiş | 1 |
| Dıyarbakır | 1 | Sakarya | 1 |
| Düzce | 2 | Samsun | 1 |
| Edirne | 8 | Tekirdağ | 3 |
| Erzincan | 1 | Trabzon | 1 |
| Erzurum | 3 | Tuzla | 2 |
| Eskişehir | 2 | Uşak | 1 |
| Gaziantep | 4 | Yalova | 2 |
| Gebze | 2 | Zonguldak | 1 |
| Isparta | 3 | | |

**1.** Selin Narter L 10 from Bursa and Burcu Yılmaz L 10 from Denizli **2.** From L to R: İpek Yıldız L 11, Demet Şahinkaya L 11, Gülşah Ekiz , surveillant , RC 04 and Arzu Basmacı, surveillant, RC 04 in the girls' lounge. **3.** Tis the season to be jolly! Boarders celebrating the holiday season in style. **4.** The Turkish National Day celebratory dinner for boarders in the RC dining hall. **5.** Boarding life adds a whole new dimension to the RC experience. **6.** Engaging in "Uzun Eşek" (Long Donkey). The tradition lives on. **7.** Study hall is an important aspect of the dorm experience.

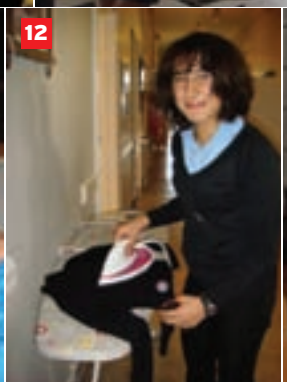
no option but to be a weekly boarder.

In their memoirs, many a graduate has written of legendary all-night soirees with Professor McNeal (who served at RC between 1923-1962) discussing French philosophy and listening to Wagner recordings. Passionate teachers like art history professor Godfrey Goodwin (at RC between 1958- 1967) were famous for taking boarders on adventurous expeditions into unexcavated ruins across Istanbul. Well known graduates like Serdar Bilgili RC 81 and Cem Boyner RC 74 credit Aydın Ungan, who headed the boys dorm from 1972 to 1985, for making them into photographers through his after-school photo lab programs.

As the times changed, so did the school. By the 1980s, Istanbul-

## A sample of the variety of boarding activities on offer in November 2007:

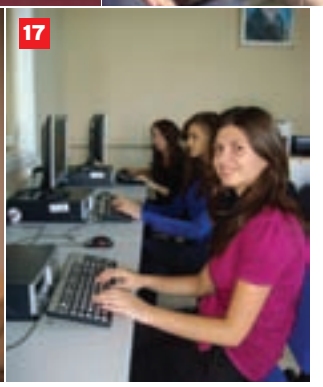
- SAT., NOV. 03: TÜYAP İstanbul Book Fair: 13.00 to app. 17.00 (Beylikdüzü Exhibition and Congress Center)
- SUN., NOV. 04: İdil Biret (piano recital): 18.00 (Notre Dame de Sion Lisesi Konser Salonu)
- WED., NOV. 07: UEFA Champions League soccer match: Fenerbahçe vs. PSV Eindhoven: 21.45
- WED., NOV. 07: Euroleague Basketball: Fenerbahçe/Ülker vs. Lottomatica Roma: 20.15
- THURS., NOV. 08: UEFA Cup soccer match: Galatasaray vs. Helsingborg: 20:00
- THURS., NOV. 08: Fuego! (dance performance): 21.00
- WED, NOV. 21: "Evlilikte Ufak Tefek Cinayetler" (Theater in Turkish): 20:30
- WED., NOV. 21: Helloween and Gamma Ray (hard rock): 19.30
- THURS., NOV. 22: Euroleague Basketball: Fenerbahçe/Ülker vs. Brose Baskets: 20.15
- SAT., NOV. 24: Spectacular Acrobatics (Chinese acrobatic performance): 21.00
- TUES., NOV. 27: "Beni Ben Mi Delirttim" (Theater in Turkish): 20.30
- WED., NOV. 28: UEFA Champions League: Beşiktaş vs. Marseille: 21.45
- THURS., NOV. 29: Ladysmith Black Mambazo (African music): 20.00
- THURS., NOV. 29: Euroleague Basketball: Fenerbahçe/Ülker vs. Panathinaikos: 20.15



based students no longer boarded. Under financial pressures, the school cut back on scholarships. The number of boarding students was around 200 per year, but they came almost entirely from Bursa and Adapazarı and returned home for the weekends. Those few students who came from further away regions had to have an Istanbul guardian; as staying on campus on weekends was not an option.

The 1997-98 academic year marked a significant change in the boarding program. The Board of Trustees instated the current comprehensive "seven day boarding program", fuelled by an ambitious school outreach program to attract students from all over Turkey, supported by an increased number of scholarships made available in the budget. Thus, in the last ten years, the body of boarding students has diversified. Currently 20 percent of the school body is a boarder and come from as far away as Van or Erzurum. The last ten years have witnessed physical improvements. More importantly, program changes have been implemented to provide a nurturing residential life to students. There is a vast array of supervised arts, cultural and sports activities on offer that boarders are encouraged to take part in. (See box.) The infirmary now operates round the clock, dorms have more staff. Joe Welch, a German teacher who is also Dean of Student Activities, his wife Berna, Housemother in the girls' dorm and an English teacher by training, and Cahit Can, Housefather in the boys' dorm help create a vibrant and nurturing atmosphere for kids in their home away from home. The Welches live with their two young sons in the girls' dormitory as supervisors. Their apartment is self-contained, but as Joe Welch says, laughing "That door is hardly ever closed," One student drifts in asking for permission to tape her favorite TV show. A Galatasaray fan wants to attend a football game later in the week, while a third student wants some good old-fashioned boyfriend advice. "We're like a big family," says Berna. Their job is made easier by the fact that because RC is

The girls' dormitory in Sage Hall, was recently renovated. Gone are the 1970 style brown carpets and hospital-white walls. Funky orange sofas, minimalist pine wood furniture and boldly colored prints create a trendy effect that wouldn't look out of place in Wallpaper magazine. Each of the dorms (boys and girls) has a state-of-the-art computer lab with wireless access, a large-screen television and even an electric piano where students launch into impromptu concerts. The only unchanged feature of life on the top floors of RC is the views- sweeping, uninterrupted vistas of the Bosphorus waters and Asian shoreline. "We have the best view in Istanbul," says Nur Yazır, Lise 1, who comes from Denizli. Her friend, Beril Mat, chimes in: "Sometimes we walk round the school and night and feel really fortunate that we can be here. We joke that it's like our very own Hogwarts [Harry Potter's famous school]."



**8.** Boarders at the New Year Party **9.** Preps and their parents in the student lounge. **10.** Güzelsu Bali from İzmir, Mine Loyan from Bursa, Nur Yazır from Denizli and Dilşad Özen from Çorum. **11.** Preps at the traditional Gym Night **12.** Dilara Karakuzu, Prep boarder from Erzurum. **13.** DJ'ing during Gym Night **14.** The boarding boys and their housefather Cahit Can. **15.** Preps at the traditional Bosphorus boat trip held during orientation week. L to R: Müge Oral, Dilşad Oral, Naz Kılıç, Güzelsu Bali, Feyza Haskaraman and Beril Mat **16.** Laundry day in the boys dorm **17.** Busy in the girls's dorm computer lab.

now a Lise only, new incoming students are older at age 15, and are that much better equipped to handle life away from their families. "The parents have a lot more trust in their children because they are older. And the kids find it easier to adapt," says Berna Welch. The transition can still be daunting. Dilara Karakuzu, Lise Prep, is the first student from Erzurum's Özel Aydınlar Ilkokulu to ever attend RC. "I had never seen the school, or been to Istanbul," she says. "But for two years, I dreamt of coming here. I knew that RC students were encouraged to develop strong personalities and I liked the sound of that. Being away from my parents is hard, but I know I made the right decision."

The biggest challenge for students like Dilara who come from cities outside of Istanbul is that the level of their English is often less advanced than those of other students. "It's hard for students who have been top of their class at another school to come here and find that they are at the bottom," says Welch. They are given special tutoring and work double-time during their first year to catch up. "I spent hours and hours in the library practicing English," says Dilara, who started in September. "But it's slowly coming together."

The challenges can be daunting, but the positive side is the camaraderie the students build up. Boys' dormitory Housefather and Science teacher Cahit Can says that even though they come from vastly different places, geographically and culturally, the students generally hit it off straight away. "The environment they find themselves in is quite different, and often challenging, so they tend to bond very quickly," he says. That bond seems to be a constant. Times may change, but the fun and lasting friendships of life as a boarder are unchanging. Aydın Ungan, who is now retired, says not a day goes by without a former student calling him up. Today's boarders are already appreciative. "The best part about our lives is when the lights go out, and we chat in our beds. I wouldn't change those conversations for anything," declares Beril Mat. Many RC alumni would say the same.

## Do you have fond memories of life as a boarder? Funny anecdotes? Hair-raising escapades and pranks to retell?

If so, please do write in to the RCQ. We will be publishing alumni anecdotes about being a boarder at the College in the next issue. Send submissions in either English or Turkish- and photos to:
Cigdem Yazicioglu, Alumni & Development Office
Email: cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr Fax: 212 265 63 99
Mail: Robert Kolej, Kuruçeşme Cad. 87, Arnavutköy 34345

# Young Writer Chronicles Crimean Tatar Tragedies

Buket Coşkuner, RC 06

Buket Coşkuner, RC 06, currently an undergraduate at Oberlin College, is already a published writer. Coşkuner's first book, *Sibirya'dan Nazi Kamplarına* (From Siberia to Nazi Camps), came out this summer.

The book is the result of research Coşkuner began while still a senior at Robert College. "Inspired by my Crimean Tatar grandfather, I started doing research about the Crimean Tatars," she says. "I was fascinated by the tragic history, so I decided to turn my interest into an oral history project. For almost two years, I interviewed the Crimean Tatars, who survived the Deportation camps in Central Asia and the Nazi camps, and immigrated to Turkey and the US after the 1950s."

Crimea is an autonomous republic in Southern Ukraine. It was inhabited by the Crimean Tatars for more than nine centuries until 1944, when all Crimean Tatars were deported to Central Asia by the Stalin regime - a day that is still called the 'Black Day' by Crimean Tatars.

One of the Coşkuner's interviewees, Arire Nezetli, recalls: "When the war began, I was thirteen. When we were deported, I was fifteen. I remember Kara Gun ('Black Day'-the day of Deportation as Crimean Tatars call it) very well. I forget the name of that street (showing me the street in front of her house) but I cannot forget those days. On the day of Sürgün (Deportation) we were cleaning the house. One of the Russian soldiers approached and said 'Why are you cleaning so elaborately? Maybe something happens and you would have to leave...' ... That day at about 4 am, the Russian soldiers knocked at our door. They said that we were going to be taken to Akmescit (the city in Crimea where all the Crimean Tatars were gathered on 18th May 1944, the day of deportation). They said that we didn't have to take anything with us since we would be coming back to our house. I heard we were going to get on a train. I had never been on a train and I was very excited. So I got my favorite book by a French author and I rushed to the train to get the best place by the window. Without knowing where we were taken, we traveled on a train, for herds, for twenty eight days. It was all old people, women and kids. They would stop on the way and separate kids from their mothers, take them to different wagons. Old people would die and they would pull them out of the wagons..."

After the deportation, the Crimean Tatars lived in squalid conditions and many of them died from diseases such as malaria, Coşkuner says. They were not allowed to go back to their homeland until the end of the 1980s. Other Crimean Tatars were taken to Nazi Camps when Crimea was invaded by Germans.

Coşkuner recounts: "Inayet Arikan was pregnant when she was put in the wagon to be taken to a Nazi camp. She gave birth to her first child during this trip. She says that the train stopped, and a short, nice Jewish doctor 'came out of nowhere' and he said that he was going to help her give birth (Inayet Arıkan depicts this appearance of the doctor as a miraculous event). The doctor told people to dig a hole in the soil where the birth would take place. Thus, the topic of Inayet Arıkan's story in the book was 'Birth in the Ground'."

The book is on sale in Turkey, as well as the Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania, Germany and New York City and has been warmly received by the Crimean Tatar Diaspora. Coşkuner is currently studying Economics and Sociology at Oberlin, as well as learning Arabic and Persian. She hopes to complete a graduate degree in Middle Eastern Studies and work in the field of international relations.

# Turkey's Top Female Rally Driver

Burcu Çetinkaya, RC 99 and Çiçek Güney

Burcu Çetinkaya, RC 99, is well on her way to becoming one of the world's premiere female sport drivers – if she isn't already. Turkey's women's rally champion was, with Çiçek Güney, the first Turkish woman to race in foreign countries in 2007. She took the top prize for ladies in the Barum Rally in the Czech Republic in 2007, which Burcu counts as one of her sweetest moments as a rally driver. "There was group of 7 guys screaming for us `Turkey! Turkey!' after the race," she recalled. "They were all from Czech Republic and they followed us to our hotel." Her performance over a series of races with the Sonax Rally Team guaranteed the team's status as Turkish Ladies 2007 champion, and she aims to finish in the top three in the class for the year. Her tenth place finish among 20 competitors for Belgium's Ford Fiesta Trophy will help, along with her finish in the Czech Republic. Burcu dreamed of being a rally-car driver since she was 12 years old. Her father`s position as the chief executive of Audi, Volkswagen, Porsche and Seat in Turkey was a great influence on her career goal. Some of her other mentors include Serdar Bostancı, who heads Ford Motorsports Turkey, and *Volkan Işık,* one of the country's top drivers.

She remembers her time at Robert College for the courage and experience gave her: "RC taught me to go and get what I wanted. I learned to be confident, to be open to all ideas and overcome difficulties." Burcu said her basketball coach, Mr. Phillips, was her favorite teacher at school, along with biology teacher Mr. Altuğ, who had sage advice on life and ethics. And what advice does she have for all the regular drivers, who must pilot about chaotic Istanbul without her expert knowledge? "In Turkey, people should be prepared for obstacles. Have patience and positive energy, because traffic means a fight for everyone. I think the solution is in people respecting each other."

# RC Student Cartoonist Publishes First Book

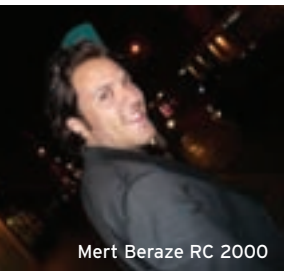
Furkan Diker L 12

RC students are familiar with Furkan Diker's (L12) quirky cartoons from the school newspaper, The Bosphorus Chronicle, where he has had his own Rcartoonia strip since he was in Lise 9. From the stress of studying for finals to in-jokes about school events, Diker infuses the newspaper with a unique sense of humor. Supported by renowned cartoonist Salih Memecan (husband of Nursuna Memecan RC 75), Diker decided last year to compile his drawings into a book. "I had to have a theme," he told the RCQ. "In order for the book to appeal to everyone, and include a wide range of jokes, I decided to make all the cartoons related to animals." It took him a year and a half of preparation, but the book finally came out in August 2007. This past summer, Diker worked as an intern at Leman, Turkey's top-selling cartoon weekly. At university next year, he hopes to study animation, but is as yet unsure whether his passion for drawing will translate into a professional career. "Even if I end up choosing another career, I know that cartoons will always be a hobby in my life," he says.

# ONES TO WATCH

## Mert Beraze's, RC 2000, Fashion Line a Hit with LA Fashionistas

Mert Beraze RC 2000 has tapped into Turkey's natural affinity for textiles to build a multinational fashion brand called Raison d'Etre. Beraze specializes in creating luxurious linen clothing designed to meet both the demanding standards of the high-end fashion world and the laid-back lifestyle of Los Angeles, the city Beraze bases himself in and draws inspiration from. He draws a parallel between LA and St. Tropez, where he was on vacation when he first came up with the idea of making his own line of clothing: "LA has a very unique style in clothing," he said. "People do not dress up as much as other metropolitan cities in the US, and the beach culture has a major impact. Comfort comes before everything, but at the same time, everyone wants to look trendy." Beraze hopes to meet these twin goals with his linen creations. He uses Belgian linen woven in Turkey, and flourishes such as hand embroidery, real Swarovski crystals and silver threads. He was raised in a family in the textile business, and said he is now bringing that background to bear. He returns to Turkey about every other month to supervise weaving operations here, making sure that time-honored tailoring techniques are used to make Raison d'Etre's clothing a good fit for its customers. The brand is starting to attract attention, with actors and celebrities such as Alana de la Garza, Jenny McCarthy, Sophia Bush and Debbie Matenopolous modeling Raison d'Etre clothing in major media. With a young and developing brand, getting famous people to wear his creations is crucial to future growth, Beraze said.


Mert Beraze RC 2000

Beraze credits Robert College for its encouraging atmosphere. "We get pumped with self-confidence at Robert College; we always want to be ahead of the game, no matter what we do," he said. "These are great qualities to have when you want to start out as a young entrepreneur, especially in a foreign country."

## Sırma Munyar L11 Wins Arif Mardin Scholarship

In June, Sırma Munyar L11, became the first Turkish student to receive the Turkish-American Society's Arif Mardin scholarship to attend the Berklee summer music school program in Boston. The fellowship was set up after Mardin's death in 2006 to encourage one young Turkish musical talent each year to develop their skills by attending the prestigious institution.

Sırma wowed the jury with her entry, which she put together on campus. Together with RC music teacher Deniz Baysal, she recorded a jazz standard, *Don't Explain,* and also *Lullaby of Birdland,* with Alican Çamcı L 12 on the guitar. Burak Tahmazoğlu L 12 helped her with the recording. Munyar says the Berklee program was "great"- a rigorous schedule of musical theory, different musical styles and vocal development. She joined three ensemble groups. "I was really lucky in that because most people only had one or at most two ensemble groups. The experience of being in an ensemble and working with other musicians really helps you to grow musically. The people there took their work very seriously and being with other musicians at my level allowed me to advance more easily."

Sırma Munyar during a performance

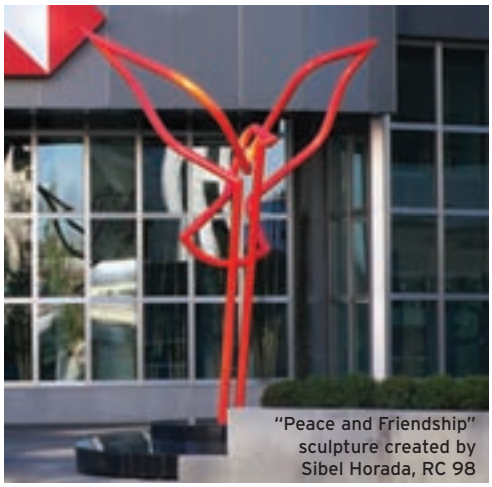
The 5-week program culminated with "a blow-out performance" to which selected student musicians were invited. Sırma was chosen to participate with her jazz vocal ensemble. "It was lovely. We sang eight vocals and it was a great experience," she says.

Munyar hopes to pursue her singing career as a jazz vocalist. Trained in classical piano, she recently started to play jazz piano and hopes to continue that too. She says she occasionally feels anxious about embarking on a musical path but says "I feel that Berklee opened new options for me and the scholarship really helped me to develop."

Sibel Horada RC 98

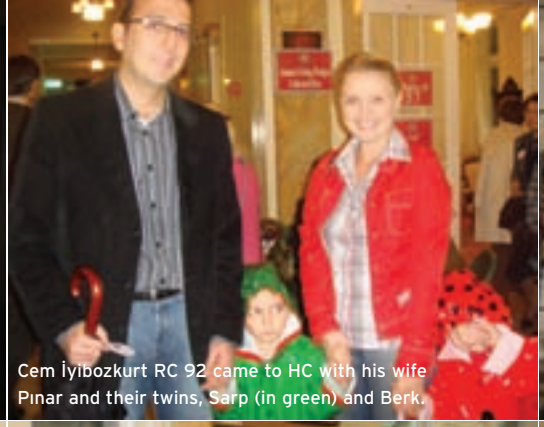
# Sibel Horada RC 98, Awarded for Imaginative Peace Sculpture

Sculptor Sibel Horada RC 98, recently won a national competition by HSBC Bank to create a sculpture of "Peace and Friendship". Horada was chosen for her striking modern sculpture, an imaginative take on the classic dove of peace. Made from metal piping, the sculpture is a curving red line which rises to a height of 5.5 meters. It looks different from every angle, and from one particular vantage point, reveals itself as a stylized dove of peace. "In an age where violence is on the rise, and the cracks caused by terrorism and war deepen and become harder to repair, I didn't want to make a peace memorial as it is classically understood," says Horada. "Instead I wanted to show that art means something different depending on what angle you look at it. What seems intractable or unsolvable, might present its own solution if you look at it from another angle." Horada's winning entry will be place outside the HSBC headquarters in Esentepe, İstanbul. The competition, for artists under the age of 35, is designed to bring art into the city. The sculpture is meant to be interactive, reminding viewers that "to create peace, requires the active participation of each one of us." After graduating from RC, Horada studied visual arts at Brown University. She worked in the US modeling characters for a stop-motion animation series, and in a company creating special effects make-up for film and theater. Horada presently lives in Istanbul, where she works in her studio.



"Peace and Friendship" sculpture created by Sibel Horada, RC 98

RC 89 graduate Hülya Adak with (hopefully) RC 2023 graduate Aral Cihangiroğlu.



Cem İyibozkurt RC 92 came to HC with his wife Pınar and their twins, Sarp (in green) and Berk.

From L to R: Melisa Yılmaz Özgür, Levent Özgür RC 97, Burcu Tuncel RC 97, Mehmet Can RC 97 and Emre Kaya RC 97

Another signature on the "Who is Here Today?" wall.

Members of the "Atatürkçü Düşünce Derneği" Berk Can Gürer, Sercan Güngörmüş and Gizem Genoğlu also had an impressive display in the library for visiting Alumni.

Members of the Destination Imagination Club

Homecoming wouldn't be the same without student volunteers who greet and register visiting Alumni

The day started off with rain but soon stopped and enabled alumni to enjoy the fresh air in front of Gould Hall.

# HOMECOMING 2007

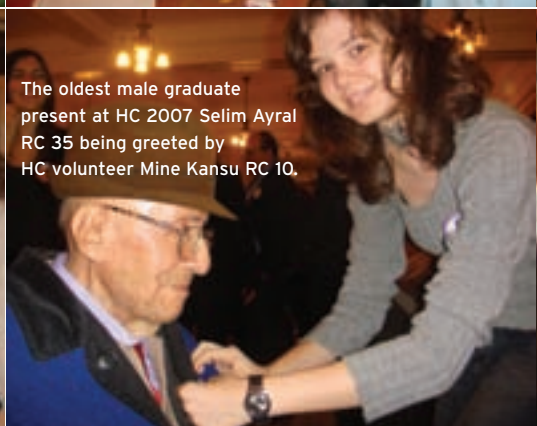
RA 62 graduates Haldun Taşman and Noyan Ardan with their wives Nihal Taşman and Janice Arsan.

Ercüment Seber RC 50 came from İstanbul while Neville Damlouji RC Eng 52 joined us from the United Arap Emirates.

Fethi Pirinçcioğlu RC 45 and Malik Görgün RC 46 were greeted at the registration desk by HC student volunteers Özge Armutçu and Burcu Kasap.

RC 98 classmates Onur Kuzeyman, Fırat İşbecer, Sertan Şener, Oral Bozyiğit, Mehmet Arıkan, Ertan Akdağ, Emrah Gürsoy, Tuğçe Üstüngel and İpek Ersavaş.

Present RC Student Council members Emir, Zeynep and Lale get a visit from Nezir Kırdar, RC 51, the Student Council president of his times.



The oldest male graduate present at HC 2007 Selim Ayral RC 35 being greeted by HC volunteer Mine Kansu RC 10.

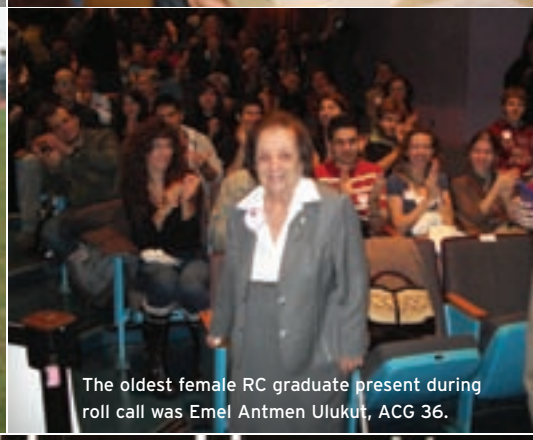
From L to R: Ayşe Kora RC 77, Gülnur Tansel RC 78, Fatma Artunkal RC 77

ACG 67 continued their 40th year celebrations in style.

Members of RC 01, Hüseyin Kılıçtuğ, Berkay Mimaroğlu, Buğra Tıraş and Deniz Güncelen registering at HC.

From L to R: Salim Salih RC Eng 45, Rachel Zivli, Nadia Baruch and David Baruch RC Eng 48 came to İstanbul from Tel Aviv to attend Homecoming 2007.

The HC football tournament organized by Kadir Bahçecik RC 94 was colorful and well attended. The RC 04 team was the champion of the day when they beat the +30 group champions RC 90/91 . The player with the most goals was Can Sezer RC 98. The HC spirit was further enhanced by donations made to the RC scholarship fund by the RC 90/91, RC 94, RC 98 and RC 2000 teams. Now that was an act of true champions!

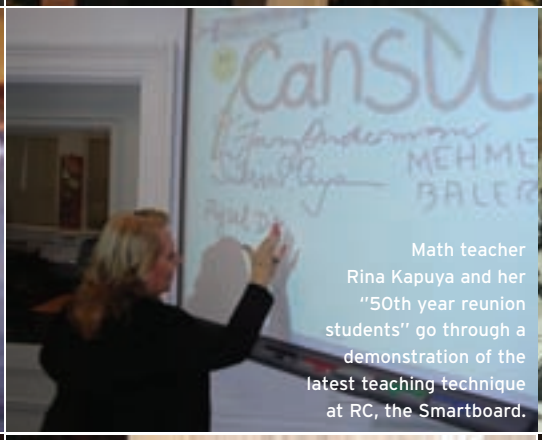


The oldest female RC graduate present during roll call was Emel Antmen Ulukut, ACG 36.

The oldest male RC graduate present during roll call was Selim Ayral RC 35.

The Class of 57 celebrated their 50th reunion during Homecoming too.

English Department faculty member Phillip Esposito with RC 93 graduates Vehbi İnan, Utku Gülmeden, Eren Mantaş and Emre Deliveli



Math teacher Rina Kapuya and her "50th year reunion students" go through a demonstration of the latest teaching technique at RC, the Smartboard.

Former faculty member Aydın Ungan, present Turkish teacher Adil İzci and former faculty member Münir Aysu catch up.

From L to R: Güner Germen Acar ACG 43, Nimet Erenli ACG 43, Oya Erenli Sezer ACG 69, Nilüfer Adakan Cansever ACG 43, Hale Acar Ebussudoğlu ACG 44.

The handsome trio from RC 92, from L to R: Genco Serpen, Onur Özgen and Aydın Sencer

Prof. Talât Halman RC 51

# An RC Man at UNICEF

How long is a second? One second: as long as a snap of the fingers or a heartbeat. And long enough for three babies to come into the world. All over the world, 'round the clock, every second, three babies are born. More than ten thousand every hour – and over a hundred million every year. A hundred million new babies who need food and care, protection from disease and danger... and who must be educated and prepared for life."

This observation, accompanied by the sound of a single finger click, opened Professor Talât Halman's script for a broadcast on UNICEF, Not by Milk Alone, which aired on United Nations Radio in 1963. The founder of Turkey's Ministry of Culture, currently Dean of Humanities and Letters at Bilkent University in Ankara and President of the Turkish National Committee for UNICEF, Professor Halman, RC 51 has been involved with UNICEF from its beginnings.

"I was aware of UNICEF from the earliest days it was established, which is how I came to write the radio program. The idea was that UNICEF should and would do many constructive things for children the world over, which of course is what happened," he says.

Since those early days UNICEF has expanded. It now reaches children in more than 150 developing countries and is the world's leading children's organization. The organization is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and strives to establish children's rights and enduring ethical principles and international standards of behaviour towards children. "If I were asked", says Halman, "to choose a single ingredient that would improve the lot of children. I couldn't answer because I want everything for children. I want a well-integrated program of health care, education and psycho-social support that will provide them with all the opportunities they need to develop into happy, fulfilled adults. I want all of the ingredients together – they can't be separated. Poverty is a problem, for instance, but communicable diseases is a major problem too and there are so many dangers for children, that we need to fight against: I wish it were possible but I don't think any one factor can be isolated."

## What UNICEF Does

UNICEF helps children receive the support, health care and education they need to survive the threats of childhood poverty – such as preventable disease and malnutrition – and grow up to become healthy adults.

UNICEF encourages families to educate girls as well as boys, so both men and women can play a full role in family life and broader society.

UNICEF strives to protect children from violence and abuse, and from exploitation through child labour or trafficking. The organisation also protects children in the midst of war and natural disasters, and provides emergency assistance.

## UNICEF in Turkey

As an intergovernmental agency, UNICEF works with its public and private sector partners through a five-year cycle or programme of projects agreed with the government of the host country. The first Basic Agreement with the Government of Turkey was signed in Februrary 1951. Over the decades, such basic agreements have evolved into the more complex format of the Country Programme of Action Plan.

UNICEF will contribute to the following expected results to reach the Millenium Development Goals in Turkey by 2010:

- Under-Five Mortality Rate reduced to less than 25 per 1,000 live births;
- Gender parity in primary school enrolment achieved;
- Primary school drop-out rates reduced by 10%;
- 30% of children aged 3-6 complete pre-school education;
- Exclusive breastfeeding rate of 40% for infants aged 0-6 months achieved;
- Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) eliminated and iron deficiency anæmia reduced;
- Measles eliminated;
- 30% of parents and caregivers using positive child rearing practices;
- Minimum standards for children in need of special protection adopted and implemented;
- Adolescents empowered to protect themselves from violence, exploitation and HIV/AIDS.

**About the Turkish National Committee for UNICEF**

Turkish National Committee for UNICEF is one of 36 UNICEF National Committees around the world. The National Committee creates public awareness and supports health, education, equality and protection projects in Turkey. At present, the Committee focous is on UNICEF's campaign for Girls' Education, the construction of pre-fabricated classrooms and schools, measles eradication and child friendly cities.

Prof. Talât Halman RC 51

Another important function of the Committee is to provide support for major emergencies around the world.

**Funding**

UNICEF is not funded by the United Nations. Instead, it relies on voluntary donations. The National Committee raises funds for the above programs through donations, the sale of cards and gifts, partnerships with companies and special events.

The Turkish National Committee for UNICEF is a registered charity.

Prof. Talât Halman suggests that members of the RC community seeking to obtain more information about UNICEF's work for the benefit of the children, can visit the website www.unicefturk.org.

To reach Turkish National Committee for UNICEF:
UNICEF Türkiye Milli Komitesi Evi
Bilkent Üniversitesi 06800 Bilkent – Ankara
Tel: 0312 290 33 90 – 290 34 19
E-mail: unicef@unicefturk.org
satisistanbul@unicefturk.org
İstanbul Office:
Meşrutiyet Caddesi Çağdaş
Apt. No: 68/3
Tepebaşı 34430 İstanbul
Tel: 0212 252 52 22 –
249 66 86

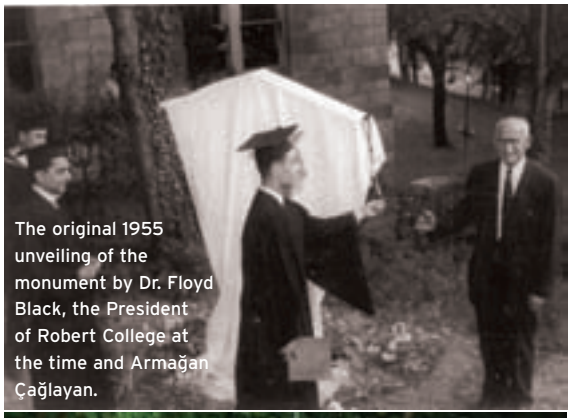
In the back row: David Ebeoğlu and Edib Kırdar, in the middle row: Ara Arman, Ural Belgin, Besim Bilman, Asım Yeğinobalı, Armağan Çağlayan and Viron Sendukas, and in the front row: Manos Valsamakis, Isy Haas, Yaman Tarı and Adnan Aswad. Sokrat Kiritsis is in front of Armağan Çağlayan and Viron Sendukas.

# RC Eng 55 Meets Up in Canada

The RC Eng 55 class held a reunion in Montreal, Canada between June 14-17, 2007. This reunion was prompted by the fact that many members of the class who live in North America could not attend the 50th reunion in Istanbul in 2005. Thirteen classmates participated in the Montreal reunion together with eight loved ones. The attendees enjoyed visits to various attractions of the city, a cruise on the St Lawrence River and many meals together. Above all, they had the great joy of seeing each other and remembering shared memories of their Robert College years.

In the above photograph, the small icon being held in peoples' hands is a replica of a full-scale reinforced concrete monument which was erected in 1955 in front of the Robert College Engineering Building on the former Bebek campus. This monument has always been a symbol and legacy of the Eng 55 Class. It symbolizes the graduation of an engineering student. His head and shoulders are represented by a French curve (a drawing tool routinely used by engineering students). The head wears the graduation cap. The bow tie represents the graduation gown. In September 2006 the monument was rebuilt using aluminum and marble. It was also repositioned in front of the new Engineering Building at Boğaziçi University, which is now located on the former Robert College Bebek campus. The monument has been designated the official symbol of the Boğaziçi University School of Engineering. Both the 1955 and 2006 versions of the monument were designed and constructed by Armağan Çağlayan, a beloved Civil Engineering classmate.

**Contributed by David Ebeoğlu RC Eng 55**



The original 1955 unveiling of the monument by Dr. Floyd Black, the President of Robert College at the time and Armağan Çağlayan.

Armağan Çağlayan and his daughter Berrak in front of the 2006 version of the monument.

# RC Eng 62 Reunion

On July 9, 2007, a group of RC Eng 62 graduates and spouses got together at Fethi and Serpil Gogen's home for a 45th year reunion. We had a great time, but then this is a group of friends who have always kept in touch with each other, and visit each other often. Çetin Karabulut and Azer Kehnemui live in the USA and were in Turkey for a visit.

**Contributed by Azer Kehnemui**

Standing left to right: Sinan Köseataç, Haşim Erim, Samim Uygun, Avni Atam, Tolga Cubukçu, Çetin Karabulut, Fethi Gogen. Seated left to right,: Erdinç Kötehne, Azer Kehnemui, Sinan Tolga.

# RC 77 Celebrates 30th Year Reunion

RC 77 came up with an ingenious solution when they found out that the RC dormitory was full with another group on July 7. They celebrated their 30th reunion on July 6th and 7th, 2007. Lika L. Levi contributed the following about the celebrations: "Friday July 6, about 50 of us plus Münir Bey were on a boat trip with dinner and music on the Bosphorus, organized by our dear friend in the tourism business, Selin Rozanes. At night, girls and boys slept in the respective dormitories, but not before a walk in the dark to the Plateau. Those of us too sleepy at night walked in the morning.

The next morning a brunch was held at Bizim Tepe where spouses and children were also invited. It was a wonderful affair and a great formula for this class that would not take "No" for an answer."

# RC 82 Reunites for 25th Anniversary

On July 14-15, 2007, RC 82 celebrated its 25th reunion. There was a great turnout with 72 classmates getting together for an evening of dinner, dancing and karaoke followed by a slumber party in the dormitory. Some of the more energetic ones who were among the great athletes of our class, decided to come together for a co-ed basketball match in the afternoon prior to the dinner. Unfortunately, our dear friend Andrea who had traveled from Brussels to be with us for this reunion tore her tendon and had to be rushed to the hospital for surgery. While she couldn't physically be with us for the rest of the weekend, she was in our hearts and thoughts the whole time. The remaining of us first met in front of Suna Kıraç Hall for a class picture. We all looked "slightly" older in our cap and gowns but the spirit of our graduation day was still with us after 25 years. After our caps were thrown up in the air and numerous pictures taken, we moved on to the maze for cocktails. Our own "Cem Yilmaz" of RC 82, Can Altıkulaç, kept us laughing for quite some time while we reflected on some of the most joyous memories of our seven years on this campus. We also remembered those who were no longer with us and paid tribute to Altuğ, Ali and Meltem.

Dinner was set up on the terrace in front of Gould Hall. It was a great evening with a cool breeze from the Bosphorus. Before long, the 80's music was much too lively to keep us in our chairs. Most of us spent the rest of the evening on the dance floor. We all realized that dancing was like riding a bike - the moves all came back and soon "Saturday Night Fever" was everywhere! The night started wearing away but our energy didn't. When we were no longer allowed to play music outside, we moved into Marble Hall. We hadn't realized how many of us were great fans of Elvis, the Beatles and Frank Sinatra. The karaoke kept us going for another hour or so before this part of our entertainment was "shut down" due to a "power outage". Thank God, by that time, Güven came to the rescue with his guitar. That was a terrific way to end our long day before we headed back home or to the dormitory. Those of us who wanted to extend the night even further, accompanied by Güven and his guitar, moved on to the Plateau and enjoyed the music and view until the break of dawn.

The next day, many of us came back with our families. Some of us (Fatih) had kids old enough to be an RC student while others were new parents. It was wonderful to get acquainted with the extended families. The Plateau was at its best with its breathtaking view of the Bosphorus and we were all glad to see that our families could relate to the magical atmosphere of our school. All in all, it was a splendid get-together thanks to the efforts of the Reunion Committee headed up by Dalya. We are very grateful to have friends with such creativity, wisdom and talent to make this event an unforgettable one. We all promised to stay in touch and get together more frequently than every five years when we have a "big reunion". We know it will be difficult to keep those promises; but to know that people do mean it is enough to keep us going for the next five years.

**Contributed by Dilek Özoklav Mutuş**

Sinem Yelkikanat Yıldırım, Şafak Aldoğan, Bora Tokyay, Melissa Gönceer, Suat Görgülü, Seda Gül, Jabağı Kök

# 10th Year Celebration for RC 97

RC 97 graduates gathered together in Bizim Tepe on October 20th for dinner. Attendance at the reunion was high, with class members travelling from abroad to join us. It was the first get-together since we graduated, so everyone was excited. Attendees traded news of the past 10 years and caught up with the developments in each other's lives. It was a wonderful and emotionally moving occasion on which RC 97 graduates proved once again that the RC spirit is always with us. **Contributed by Şafak Aldoğan RC 97**

Left to right: Emre Akgül 2003, Can Ergodan 2002, Zeynep Öz 2000, Sevin Yüksel 2002, Selen Sarıoğlu 2002, Burçin Ikiz 2003

left to right: Banu Bargu 93, Ayça Ergeneman 93, David Hananel 93, Ayşe Wieting 93

# Bar Night in NYC

New York alumni gathered for a festive evening at a bar night arranged by RCAAA. Sixty people showed up at Pera Restaurant, the latest Turkish restaurant in New York, run by Burak Karaçam RC 92. Along with recent news, news of newly-borns and newly-weds, people reminisced about their years at RC, the sweet morning rush of the canteen, simit and çay, Mr. Mallinder's laps around the campus, hanging out by the lockers, the folklore team, class trips, and the Gould Hall fourth floor classrooms with Istanbul beneath their wings. RC 02s made up the biggest crowd although RC 93s were the most delighted at having found each other.

# ALUMNI NEWS

## Andrew N. Vorkink, RA 65, RC 68

"It's great to be back in Istanbul after an absence of more than forty years. Of course I have lived in Turkey for several years since I completed my studies at Robert College in the 1960's and have also visited Istanbul and the campus often since then, but there is no substitute for actually being a resident here. My years in the Orta Okul, Lise and Yüksek Okul were very dear to me, especially the many friends I met. When I had a chance four years ago to return to Turkey as country director for the World Bank, I did not hesitate a second to agree even though the posting was to Ankara. I soon found on arrival in the capital that there is a Plaka 06 group there of RC alumni who, while perhaps not as vocal as the Plaka 34 crowd, find occasion to get together and reminisce about RC days. When we gathered at Bizimtepe for our 40th RA reunion in 2005 the 06 group held its ground against Istanbul alumni – after all we could drive to work in less than 15 minutes from any point in our city while our colleagues took that long to get out of their driveways!

As my time in Turkey with the World Bank came to end in late 2006, I knew there was really only one choice ahead – leave the Bank and return to the RC campus I loved so much. So I accepted to be a visiting professor of international law at Boğaziçi University for the 2007-08 year. Can any return be more nostalgic? I am teaching in the very same classroom in Washburn Hall where I took classes in the 1960's. And I live in an apartment on campus and walk up the Bebek hill (158 steps – yes, I take the steps not the road) every morning. Who did I run into my first week on campus – John Freely, my professor from RC, still active on campus! While Bebek is my main memory of RC, I also have fond recollections of the Arnavutköy campus. It was the "Forbidden Zone" to us before 1971 but somehow we managed to find a way to visit. Nowadays, going there for Homecoming or RA events and seeing such a bright group of students gives me hope that Robert College will play an even bigger role in Turkey's future than it has in the past. It's great to be home."

## Ayşe Demirel Atakan RC 99

Ayşe and Murat tied the knot on August 12, 2007 at a ceremony held at Esma Sultan, Ortaköy, Istanbul. It was a beautiful evening and their family and friends joyfully shared this happy moment with them. They met in Paris, where Murat had been working since 1996 as a chemical engineer and Ayşe was finishing her law studies in Universite de Paris I - Pantheon, Sorbonne. Ayşe and Murat now live in New York City where Ayşe began her new employment with Sullivan & Cromwell LLP. Murat has asked for his transfer to the US headquarters of his current employer, Arkema.

## Gence Alton RC 89

Gence and Elif Alton celebrated their daughter Bal Lila's first birthday in Istanbul this past summer. Gence's mother Tuvana Bilen Alton, ACG 64, organized the joyful party and her sister Oya Bilen Bain, ACG 58, joined them from Washington, DC. Gence and Elif met in 1990 and got married in 1999. They live in the heart of California's Wine Country. Gence works as a Senior Buyer at The Wine Spectrum. He also writes a weekly column and consults for Mey İçki's wine portal www.sarapgunlugu.com.

## İklim Türkoğlu Viol RC 92

İklim and her husband Gordon Viol celebrated the birth of Destan, a brother to Kaan. Destan was born on November 7th, at 52 cm and weighing 3 kilos 850 grams. Welcome baby Destan!

## Merve Berkant Tezel RC 92

Merve and her husband Selim Tezel (BU 94) welcomed their first child, Alp Tezel, on January 24, 2007.

## Kerem Dedeoğlu RC 92

Kerem wrote to say: "I had been a boarding RC student for seven years on that magnificent campus and was more than shocked when I first entered the Istanbul Dental Faculty (aka Çapa Dental School) building. It was 1995 when I almost quit dental school at the beginning of my 3rd year in Istanbul University because of the boring and monotonous time that I had to spend in the faculty building without having time or place for any extracurricular activity especially when compared with RC. The very first time I practiced dentistry on a real patient was the second semester of 1995 and that was the moment I knew I would really love my job. Seizing acute severe pain, giving people a more self – confident look, replacing one of the main functions they have lost, being a chair-side friend and a doctor at the same time was all in the field of dentistry...

After completing my dental school education in 1997, I continued my education in the field of oral and maxillofacial surgery and received my PhD in 2003 and became an Oral Surgeon and a dentist. I met my wife, Burcu –a 4th grade dental student at that time- when I was the chief assistant of the oral surgery clinic in Istanbul University and we got married right after I completed my military service in Ankara.

I have been in private practice as a partner in our clinic, Unident in Etiler, since 2004 and my wife Burcu Dedeoğlu joined our team as an orthodontist after having completed her PhD in Orthodontics. I have been studying dental implants and implant supported prosthetic restorations for over 8 years and I am actively taking part in an education program for dental practitioners in the field of dental implantology. I believe that dental implantology will definitely be one of the leading fields in dentistry as well as orthodontics.

Dentistry is really going through a tremendous revolution for the last two decades and biotechnology; various types of laser technology, improvements in dental materials have taken this field of medicine to a much higher and complicated level for the practitioners, but made the dental visit an easier experience for the patients. State-of-the-art dentistry can easily be achieved in a multidisciplinary clinic that is capable of following and applying the latest scientific and clinical information in daily practice. The vision that I have got from RC gave me a unique perspective to combine science and art in order to achieve the best result in an open field such as dentistry as well as social self-confidence to stand as a doctor before my patients. Thank you RC, once again for letting and guiding me to be what I can be."

# ALUMNI NEWS

## Selin Seferoğlu Yıldırım RC 93

"I'm the second generation of RC alumni in my family. Millions of nice memories in childhood and years at alma mater... Zillions! But as always does, eventually came the day to leave childhood... And I had to throw my graduation cap up into the blue sky at Maze.

After RC, I completed my undergraduate studies at Marmara University in International Relations and Political Science. And I started working, met a nice boy, did some back packing with my "so-called big fat" pay check, tried to learn Italian for a change, to get used to the taste of wasabi. I couldn't learn how to drive but managed to ski down a mountain with 2 meter sticks attached to my feet –life is ironic! Of course I always invested my money on the losing stock, gained weight, lost weight, gained again, changed my hair style, fell deeply in love with the nice boy I mentioned above and finally received the nicest proposal on earth in 2003... His name is Burç.

Well, I decided to take his last name and he decided to hold my hand and bring me out here to China in 2003. He accepted the offer from his company, I signed the contract with my current company and we took off. We were only 26. Simply, the heart has its own reasons, unknown to reason.

To tell the truth, however, the arrival came as a shock. My first reaction was, I'm back to age 2! I cannot talk, cannot read, cannot eat – chopsticks is a standard here, oh yes they are! Everything seemed to be in or on sticks... The food, the alphabet, the eyes of Chinese people... My life was like walking on those long long sticks tied at my feet; like the ones you see at the circus. Very hard to balance! Thank God, I didn't have to swallow fire.

To move here for a living is not like being on a business trip to Shanghai. Not like where you get to stay at a five star hotel, go out fine dining with your clients who speak Chinglish (not English) and in return they take you to exotic gardens and temples and everything is payable by credit card... No, no, no, when you move here; you need to learn cash management, you need to find a carpenter, dry cleaning, drug store, apply for your working permits, find real estate for home and office, be able to buy furniture and stuff including cheese grinder, figure out that parsley is not parsley, find a maid for your house, and when you do, tell her to change the sheets over the phone, go to Carrefour for shopping if you can manage to learn the Chinese name for it and find out where to pay for your electricity. Plus no bread, no dishwashing soap, no deodorant, no vacuum cleaning, no cheese, no nothing! At least that was my impression of China, 4 years ago.

Long story short, it was challenging.

But it turned out to be exactly the opposite after some 6 months. I learned survival Chinese; I got used to the culture, the daily life and finally lost the imaginary walking sticks on

my feet...After four years I'm currently running an office of 12 people, have increased my business operations five fold since I landed, (Selin is the LCWaikiki Shanghai office Chief Rep and China Sourcing Manager) established my network and most importantly; Burç and I now call our apartment "home" and Shanghai our 'hometown' ... If you ask how that happened:

Probably you've seen books on Game Rules in China. They're true... This is totally another world, where the relations, business, ethics, political correctness, flaws and trust issues are wired on a totally different algorithm in Chinese common sense. It's more like Machiavellian approach fused with poker face. I'd say Beijing Opera is the essence of it. Trust is not taken for granted, you have to fight for it for some good period of time and "guanxi" is everything. Guanxi is a crucial word meaning reputation, trust, friendship and network and the fine balance among these. And it's sine qua non.

After years here, one insight I've gained is guanxi is not only in business, but in every aspect of life.

This country is full of opportunities, not only for the 1 dollar shops or price cutting purchases in mediocre quality; but also by means of the infrastructure, banking, hi-end technology and source of information, design, expansion, R&D and the consumer markets. Retailing and real estate are the rising stars... And the dust of those stars is glimmering everywhere.

I'm now pursuing my career here but still get homesick every now and then. I can fortunately come to Istanbul almost every other month due to my job. Ah, one more thing, for diving enthusiasts like Burç and I, this country is only 5 hours to all the heavens in the Far East.

With all the positive vibes from Shanghai...

selin.yildirim.shanghai@gmail.com

## Özge Gürel RC 93 and Kıvanç Kırgız RC 91

Özge and Kıvanç had not seen each other for years after their RC days until they met in Washington, DC in 2005. The couple got married on October 9, 2006 in the Bahamas, and celebrated their marriage with friends and family on August 30, 2007, in Istanbul. The ceremony in the Bahamas was on a private beach at sunset. The Istanbul celebration was a party that brought together friends from RC and around the world. They are now back in DC. Since their wedding, Özge received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology and is practicing at a private group practice. Kıvanç continues to work at Cornerstone Research which he joined after receiving his Ph.D. in economics.

## Erez Navaro RC96

Erez, who received his degree in Computing and Information Systems from Northwestern University in 2000, met Serra Levi Navaro in 2004. An alumni of Üsküdar American Academy, Serra Levi completed her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Brown University in 2004. Erez had been a good friend of Serra's brother when living in New York. The couple started dating in January 2005 and got engaged in March 2006. They held their wedding ceremony on June 24, 2007 at Çırağan Palace. After working in exotic parts of the world following his graduation from college, Erez has been the business development manager at Ege Kimya since October 2004. Serra works for Zarakol Communications Consultancy. Serra and Erez could not go too far from RC, and now live in Arnavutköy right by the RC Alumni Club, Bizimtepe.

## Serra Meşulam RC 96

Serra completed her undergraduate degree at Bilkent University in 2000, in Tourism and Hotel Management. She continued her education at Johnson and Wales University, and got her degree in Culinary Arts in 2002. She met her husband Cem Erol while studying at Bilkent University in December, 1998. Cem is a graduate of TED Ankara College '96, and they both have the same undergraduate and graduate degrees from the same colleges.Serra works as the assistant chef cordinator at The House Cafe, and Cem is the chef coordinator of the Banyan Restaurants. The couple got married on June 9th, 2007 and currently live in Çengelköy.

## Merve Çetinkaya Orkun RC 96

Merve and Ertim Orkun, who is a 1996 graduate of Koç School, met while studying at ITU. Merve studied Chemical Engineering at a graduate level and Chemistry in undergraduate school, and Ertim studied Space & Aircraft Engineering. They have been together since 2001, and got married after dating for five years on August 27th, 2006. They both quit their PhDs and started working professionally. Merve has been working for Bericap for the last 2,5 years as a Business Development & Projects Specialist. Her husband Ertim works as a Research and Development Specialist at Parker.

## Egemen Edgü RC 97

The wedding ceremony of Nazlı Konaç and Egemen Edgü RC 97 was held on August 4th, 2007, in Bilkent Hotel, Ankara with the participation of many RC graduates. Nazlı and Egemen's relationship dates back to Spring 2005, when they met at their mutual friend, Melis Bilgin's (RC 97) house party. After their honeymoon in Italy, the couple started living in a cosy apartment in Beşiktaş, Istanbul.

Following his graduation from RC, Egemen studied economics at Bosphorus University and obtained an MSc in Economics at the University of Essex in the UK. He has been working as an investment banker since then and is currently employed at UniCredit Markets and Investment Banking. Nazlı is a graduate of TED Ankara Koleji. She studied economics at Middle East Technical University in Ankara and has an MSc degree from Warwick University, UK. Nazlı is currently working in Citi's corporate finance department in Istanbul.

## Meltem Aran RC 96 and Kutlu Kazancı RC 96

Meltem Aran & Kutlu Kazancı, both RC 96, got married on August 17th, 2007 at Hekimbaşı Salih Efendi Yalısı in İstanbul. Not surprisingly, the wedding was a small RC reunion. Their closest friends from high school told their own versions of how events unfolded over the years and the couple's best man and maid of honor were also RC 96 classmates. The highlight of the eveining was an authentic Indian dance performed by international friends. Meltem is a graduate of Brown University with a BA degree in Economics and she has a master's degree in International Development from Harvard University. Following graduate school, she worked for the World Bank country office in Jakarta, Indonesia. Kutlu left for Stanford after Robert College, to get an undergraduate degree in industrial engineering. Following graduation, he worked as an investment banker for JPMorgan and BCP Securities in the US. When Kutlu and Meltem got together in December 2004, over a Christmas break in Turkey, they were actually living a world apart, with 12-hours of time difference between NYC and Jakarta.

In Spring 2005, Kutlu made the critical decision to move from NY to Jakarta and the couple lived in Indonesia for a year before returning to Turkey. They currently live in Ortakoy, Istanbul where Kutlu works for Endeavor - Turkey and Meltem works for AÇEV. They are very happy to finally be living at home in Istanbul and would love to hear from you. They can be reached at: meltem.aran@gmail.com and kutlu.kazanci@gmail.com.

## Levent Özgür RC 97

Levent recently got married to Melisa Yılmaz Özgür who is a graduate of St. Georg Austrian Highschool '97 and got her Economics & Political Science Double Major degree in 2001 from Duke University. Levent is an alumnus of Northwestern University '01 and has a double major in Industrial Engineering and Management Science & Economics.He works for Atermit as an executive, which is their family-owned company. Atermit operates in the field of roofing-thermal insulation-food packaging materials. Melisa is currently writing her thesis for her MBA at Yeditepe University.

The couple met in Istanbul five years ago, and got married on June 15th, 2007. They live in Bebek, Istanbul.

## Lale Deliveli RC 98

"Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans." We all know this famous saying by John Lennon, but for some of us it manifests itself every day, reminding us how true it is. Lale Deliveli is one of these people. While she was busy working as a corporate attorney in the New York office of the law firm Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP, her partners at the firm realized the potential of the Middle Eastern and Central Asian markets and their booming economies and decided to take part of this development . At this point, Lale found herself splitting her time between New York and Istanbul.

After graduating from Robert College, Lale studied Economics and Germanic Studies at University of Chicago. After college, she attended Columbia Law School. While she was still at law school, she started working at Curtis. Upon her graduation and admittance to the New York Bar, she became an associate lawyer in the firm's international corporate division. Her practice includes a broad range of international corporate transactions, with a particular focus on merger and acquisition transactions involving parties and assets in diverse jurisdictions around the world. She loves the international aspect of her work. She spent last month in Kazakhstan working on one of the largest and most significant transactions of the world to date. Established in 1830, Curtis is an international law firm headquartered in New York, with branch offices in Houston, Stamford, Washington, Frankfurt, London, Mexico City, Milan, Muscat, and Paris. Recently, the firm opened Curtis Mallet-Prevost Danismanlik Hizmetleri Ltd. Sti. in Istanbul to serve its clients in the region. With the recent change in Turkish laws allowing foreign law firms to open their Turkish branches, Curtis is planning to register with the Istanbul Bar Association and become actively involved in this region very soon. Lale would like to get in touch with RC graduates who are interested in filling some positions at the firm. She can be reached at ldeliveli@cm-p.com.

# ALUMNI NEWS

## Oya Nuzumlali RC 02

Oya tied the knot this past August with Christopher Schooley. The couple met while they were attending Dartmouth College and resolved to share a lifetime soon after. They took the subway to their wedding, made their vows in front of their friends, and celebrated on a rooftop in Manhattan. Oya says that she never thought she would marry at an age younger than her mother's marriage age, but life has its mysterious ways! The happy couple live in New York. Chris is studying Philosophy of Physics at Columbia University and Oya is working in RC's New York Alumni & Development Office.

## Beyza Çiftçi and Can Kavaklıoğlu RC 03

Beyza and Can were wed on August 5th, 2007, Sunday evening at the İş Bankası Social Facilities in Çamlıca. The ceremony was the final step in their 6-year relationship which dates back to RC. The bachelor parties of the newlywed couple were as colorful as the marriage ceremony itself. Female giggles echoed in the dome of the Turkish bath, while the guys were making the most of the groom's last single night in the streets of Taksim. We hope the story of Can and Beyza's exchange of marriage vows will be told for years to come as they will most probably premiere the future marriages of the class of 04a. The couple now lives in Fulya, Istanbul.

**Faculty & Friends**

## Nancy Atakan

An Art History teacher and College Counselor at Robert College for many years, over the past decade Nancy Atakan has carved out an exciting path for herself as a contemporary artist. During the 10th International Istanbul Biennial this year, she took part in a project to reinvent an old office space for art. Atakan says: "In 1976, using a block in Istanbul Manifatura Çarşısı (IMC) as his office, my husband founded the Atakan Company and began to represent and sell West German Durkkopp industrial machines to the Turkish garment market. In the 1980s and 90s the company grew and moved to a larger space. The spaces in IMC became a depot for old or left over machines and files. With only minimal changes, these offices were transformed by Esther Lu and Adnan Yıldız into Big Family Business (BFB), an open space for use during the 10th International Istanbul Biennial.

During the early months of 2007, for BFB, I visited several factories in Istanbul that use Durkkopp sewing machines to produce readymade clothes. As an authority, a stranger, an outsider, a spy, a public voyeur, someone that everyone wanted to impress and please, I entered the factories to take 'candid' photographs. From over 100 photographs of factory spaces, workers, and owners, I selected 21 portraits of the female workers to manipulate and present as digital portraits in BFB. On this trip to the unknown, a place I have never worked, a place I avoided, a place viewed as degrading, a place I feared (my father was a textile worker in the small town of Galax, Virginia), I imagined the female workers to be like light bulbs that are used as long as they perform brightly and are discarded when they start to fade. But, perhaps this is only my projection; perhaps I am describing myself, a sixty year old woman."

In 2008, Atakan's work will be included in an alumni show at Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, Virginia. She has had a busy year with shows including: "and", Proje 4L Elgiz Contemporary Art Museum, Artvarium, Istanbul; "Bad Luck Show", Marlan Gallery, Kentucky, "Big Family Business", autonomous program within 10th Istanbul Biennial, IMC, Istanbul, "Imagining the Book I", Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt; "From the Owners with a View", Ortaköy, Istanbul; "Everything's Going to Be Alright", Apartment Project, December 29, Istanbul.

# OBITUARIES

## Ferhunde Erkin ACG 28

*Farewell to Ferhunde Erkin, ACG 28 - Turkey's First Female Concert Pianist*

Turkey's first female concert pianist, a much-loved teacher to generations of Turkish musicians and an inspiration to us all, Ferhunde Erkin died on July 11, 2007 in Istanbul. She was 98 years old.

Ferhunde's father was a well-educated military officer with a keen ear for music who early on recognized the talent in his two children, Ferhunde and Necdet. While based in Bandırma, he ensured that Ferhunde took piano lessons and her brother began learning the violin. The pair continued their education in Istanbul where they moved in 1918, mostly from Karl Berger. They gave their first recital in Galatasaray High School on March 20, 1920 when Istanbul was under occupation after the end of World War I.

Ferhunde later enrolled at ACG. It was while a student here, in January 1926, that she first met Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. "I was studying at ACG. We went to Ankara to give a concert in Ulus, at the Park Cinema. When we went backstage between acts my father said that Gazi (Atatürk) was here, sitting in his box. I was very excited as you can imagine. After the concert we were brought a note inviting us to the köşk (presidential residence). Gazi told us that he was proud of us and said to the people surrounding him: "Any one of you can rise to any position, but you cannot become an artist". At that time I had a very fashionable fringe, inspired by the film star Louise Brooks. Gazi pushed my fringe aside and said "A Turkish girl needs to have an open forehead". I returned to the College. Everyone asked me what had happened to my hair so I boasted to them 'That's how Gazi wants it, he pushed my fringe aside". That night at dinner all my friends came down with their foreheads free of fringes, so I was an example to them."

(From Tuşlar Arasında, Erkin's biography by Filiz Ali)

In 1928, Erkin graduated from ACG magna cum laude. Her biographer Filiz Ali notes: "Neither her success at school nor at music ever turned her head, she always believed in being modest." Along with her brother Necdet she applied for and received the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation scholarship and went to the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Leipzig, Germany. They finished the three year school in two years and graduated in 1930.

Upon their return to Turkey, both started as teachers at Musiki Muallim Mektebi (Music Teachers School) in April, 1931. Ferhunde Remzi met the composer Ulvi Cemal Erkin on her first day and the couple got married in September 1932. They enjoyed a close relationship as collaborators as well as partners. Traditionally, Ferhunde always gave the first public performance of her husband's compositions. In 1943, she famously played his Piano Concerto in Berlin, as bombs rained down on the city.

"Ferhunde Hanım was a historical figure who represented so many of the new Republic's values," says music scholar Evin Ilyasoğlu, ACG 66. "She was a symbol of the new freedom that Turkish women gained in the transition from the Ottomans to the Republic."

Filiz Ali sums up Erkin's successes:

- Turkey's first female concert pianist;
- A pianist who played 22 piano concertos for the first time ever in Turkey;
- A teacher to generations of pianists for 36 years at Ankara's State Conservatory and Gazi Education Institute, including Hüseyin Sermet, Nimet Karatekin, composer Nevit Kodallı, Bilge Aydın, Kamuran Gündemir, Filiz Ali, Madlen Saydam and Alp Ulusoy;
- A renowned accompanist for 50 years.

Between 1961 and 1967, Erkin played with the violinist Suna Kan and the pair toured the world in concert. At a talk in Erkin's honor in 1991, Kan said: "I don't know whether to refer to you as my mother or teacher during our seven years together. I still travel the world frequently but have never had as entertaining a companion as you. I have never had a partner who enjoyed every moment to the fullest, and whose sense of humor and company I enjoyed as much." Erkin retired in 1967.

Erkin is survived by two daughters, Sevin Erkin Akçar, ACG 57, and İçten Erkin Sar, ACG 60.

# OBITUARIES

## Suzan Pamir ACG 30

Passed away in July 2007.

## Kevork Tasciyan RC 35

Kevork Tasciyan who had made contributions to the paint manufacturing industry passed away on Sept. 27, 2007 from kidney failure. He is survived by his wife Culya Gurun Tasciyan ACG 49, his daughter Dr. Talin Tasciyan RC 76 of Maryland and his son Garo Tasciyan RC 81

## Nihal Kazancı Evin ACG 43 Ex

Nihal Evin passed away on November 14, 2007. She was one of the ACG 43 class members with very strong bonds to her Alma Mater. She was full of love for her family and friends and at the 60th anniversary of the Class of 43 she clearly expressed her pride at being an ACG member.

Nihal Evin will always be remembered by her friends with great affection. She is survived by her daughter Tülin Kefeli , her son İzzet Evin and by four grand-children.

## Nuriye Gürsal Paksoy ACG 43

A very dear member of ACG 43, Nuriye Paksoy, passed away on October 17, 2007. She had a very positive personality and a heart of gold. She was dedicated to her Alma Mater and valued her school friends very much, always ready to help them with their problems. She was also an excellent hostess, entertaining her friends at unforgettable luncheon parties in her summer residence.

Nuriye Paksoy is survived by her sons Uğur Paksoy RC 69, Bülent Paksoy RA 66, BU 72, her daughters -in-law, Rengin Ateş Paksoy ACG 66, RC 70, Gülru Selek Paksoy ACG 70, BU 76 (MBA) and her grand-children Serra İncekara, Berna Tekinalp, Emre Paksoy, Ömer Paksoy and Can Paksoy.

## Vedia Şaylan Akansel ACG 44

Died in a traffic accident in March 2007.

## Handan Gökkan ACG 44

The Class of 44 is sad to lose another one of their dear friends. Handan Gökkan passed away in October 2007 . Many of her classmates were at her funeral ceremony held at the Erenköy Galip Paşa Mosque on October 16.

## Ayhan Hakimoglu RC Eng 49

Founder, President and CEO of Aydin Corp. (NYSE) died on Sept. 5, 2007. He was the loving husband of Rachida and the devoted father of 4 daughters and a son. He is also survived by 8 grandchildren.

## Seyhan Nurettin Ege, AGC 49

Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and Professor Emerita of Chemistry Age 76, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, passed away at her home on September 13, 2007. Born in Ankara, Turkey January 11, 1931, Seyhan Ege spent her early childhood in New York where her father Ragıp Nurettin Eğe represented theTurkish Republic as Cultural Attache to the United States of America. After returning to Istanbul upon the advent of WW II, Seyhan attended the American College for Girls, graduating with honors. In 1950 she came to the United States and attended Smith College, receiving a Masters Degree in Chemistry in 1952 and subsequently she received her Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Michigan in 1956. After teaching briefly at her Alma Mater in Istanbul and subsequently at Mount Holyoke College, Dr. Ege returned to the University of Michigan, becoming the first tenured woman and the first woman full professor on the faculty of the Chemistry Department. Her research interests involved the photochemistry of heterocyclic compounds and reactive intermediates in photochemical reactions. Professor Ege was a distinguished educator, promoting innovative approaches to the teaching of chemistry. She authored a textbook, "Organic Chemistry: Structure and Reactivity" which has appeared in five editions and has been translated into Spanish, Italian and Chinese. She served the Chemistry Department in many capacities, as a dedicated teacher and Associate Chairman as well as in curriculum reform. Professor Ege received the Amaco and Phi Lambda Upsilon, and the Chemical Manufacturers Association Excellence in College Chemistry Teaching Awards and was named Arthur F. Thurnau Professor. For her scholarship, innovation in teaching and tireless effort on behalf of women students, she was the 2003 recipient of the Sarah Goddard Power Award from the Academic Women's Caucus of the University of Michigan. As a strong advocate for women, she was one of the founders of WISE, Women in Science and Engineering Program. Annually female students interested in an academic career are given the Seyhan Ege Travel Award to

facilitate their attendance at a conference. During her long career, she has been a committed and inspiring mentor to students and younger colleagues. Those whose lives she touched were enriched by her energy, enthusiasm, wide and varied interests.

A long time member of the Anthroposophic community of Ann Arbor, Professor Ege was very active in the development of the Rudolf Steiner House and the Rudolf Steiner Schools. Following her 2001 retirement from teaching at the university, she devoted her pedagogic talents to teaching chemistry at the Rudolf Steiner High School. Professor Ege is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Güneş N. Ege M.D. ACG 52 and Turgut A. Akter of Toronto, her many relatives in

Turkey, her colleagues and students, and a wide circle of devoted friends. In her honor the University of Michigan Department of Chemistry has established a fund to create the Seyhan N. Ege Junior Faculty Development Award, which will be used to recognize junior faculty members for their teaching accomplishments. Memorial gifts may be made payable to the "University of Michigan" noting the "Seyhan Ege Endowment Fund" in the memo. Send to Mr. Tim Wade, University of Michigan, Department of Chemistry c/o Seyhan N. Ege Endowment Fund, 930 North University Ave. Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1055, USA. For further information contact Prof. Brian Coppola - bcoppola@umich.edu"

## Ali Alkan, RC Eng 51, MSc 60

Ali Alkan beloved husband, father and grandfather passed away on November 5, 2007. Alkan studied Electrical Engineering at RC and graduated in 1951. He received his Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering '60. After his graduation, he worked in the construction of Nato Military Airport in Akhisar. He, then, formed his own company and focused on trading and industry. Ali and his wife Gürhan celebrated their 50th anniversary on October 24, 2007. Ali Alkan is survived by his wife, his son Müjdat, his daughter Müge, his daughter-in-law Mehtap and his grandchildren Naz and Murat Can. He will always be remembered as a very considerate, kind and caring person.

## Silviyo Sarah RC 53

Passed away in June 2007.

## Özdemir Uğun RC 56

Passed away in July 2007.

## Ahmet Kunt RC 58

Passed away on September 22, 2007. He is survived by his wife Zeynep Kunt, his daughters Revan Kunt and Renan Tan and grandson Altan Tan.

"You left life, and us, too early.

Its been several months since we lost you, but the condolences are still coming in...

You were loved so much not just by your family, but everyone around you.

We wanted to notify your friends and acquaintances in the RC community.

You were always so proud of your school.

This isn't a nice piece of news, but...we wanted to share it.

We hope all your qualities, habits, helpfulness and pleasures will live on with us for another 50 years...

We love you."

Zeynep Kunt, Revan Kunt, Renan Tan and Altan Tan

## Bingül Yener ACG 58

Died in Ankara in May 2007. She is survived by her son.

## Selim Tanman RA 61

"The times I spent with Selim Tanman are now 50 years behind us. We first met in 1955 in Nişantaşı, English High School for Boys (EHSB). We studied together for five years and then met up in Robert Academy during Lise III. He came with Can and we became 61 graduates sharing days filled with Mac Neal, Behçet Hoca, "Gaga" Faruk Kurtuluş...

Graduates of the EHSB, Middle School Class of 58 have a unity and solidarity that is rarely seen. In that environment, Selim Tanman, having a very strong personality, was known as a studious, well-mannered, respectful, witty and always helpful. The remarkable teacher Mr. De Leon, who would pick on students, would pick on Selim for his calm attitude. Selim would always reply with great integrity. He was also known for his academic success. He carried all these notable qualities in RA as well.

After graduating we didn't see each other for many years. We last met in 2005 at a reunion where we hugged each other as two "High Schoolers" amongst the College graduates. The unshakeable spirit of friendship that has

# OBITUARIES

enriched our lives, that mischief approach among us were almost tangible. That day was immortalised in photos, in which Selim is seen making ears behind my head... As a member of the EHSB Class of 1958, I remember Selim Tanman with love."

**Contributed by Erdil Sever, RA 61**

## Ömür Karabi Göktuna ACG 68

After a year of struggle with illness, Ömür passed away on October 3, 2007. She left us, her ACG 68 friends, behind with many fond memories. In her all too short life span she accomplished so much for friendship.

She is survived by her husband Yıldırım Göktuna and daughter Zeynep. 'My dear Ömür, Compared to writing this, I realize now how easy it was to prepare your write-up in the Record 68.''

**Contributed by Emel Berberoğlu Temeller ACG 68**

## Berkol Doğan RC 98

Berkol Doğan was killed in the plane crash at Isparta on November 30th, 2007 at age 27. He was born on July 29th, 1980 in Ankara and following his primary education in Nurettin Teksan İlkokulu, he graduated from Robert College in 1998. He received both his BS and MS degrees from the Bosphorus University Physics department where he was working as a research assistant up until the accident. He was an active member of the explorers, tango, photography, and science fiction clubs during his years at RC. He used to perform tango at the Fine Arts Festival during his high school years. He is still remembered by so many people at RC, especially by those he worked closely with such as Allison Oğuz, his physics teacher and friend, Margaret Halıcıoğlu, his music teacher, and Metin Ferhatoğlu, IT Director with whom Berkol worked together with, as an assistant in the IT department.

Berkol was also the recipient of the Michael Hamilton Award for Outstanding Ability in Science upon his graduation from Robert College. As a result of a tragic coincidence, Michael Hamilton was a physics teacher at RC, who was also killed in a plane crash at Isparta in 1976 when he was 28 years old.

Berkol Doğan had also been participating in the ATLAS experiment at CERN laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland since 2003. ATLAS is a particle physics experiment that will explore the fundamental nature of matter and the basic forces that shape our universe. Among his professors who were also in the same experiment and who lost their lives in the same plane, was Prof. Engin Arık -mother of Yasemin Arık RC 97. The group of scientists were headed to Süleyman Demirel University to attend a workshop.

Berkol is survived by his parents Ferhan and Nevzat Doğan, and sister Bülay Doğan.

### Faculty & friends

## Ron Dettmers

Teacher of math and physics from 1996 to 1998 was killed last August, 2006 in a one-car accident on an Alaska highway. He was volunteering, as he so often did, on a wilderness preservation project and was driving between Prudhomme Bay and Fairchild. His friends and family, very much shaken up by this unexpected death agreed that Ron died doing what he loved best: traveling, seeing new country and doing some good. **Contributed by Marcia Swenson**

## Nancy Nielsen Williams

Nan Williams, wife of interim RC Headmaster in 1992- 93 Ben Williams died at home in Pomfret Center, CT, on July 29, 2007. Known for her boundless energy and her deep concern for the welfare of others, Nancy devoted her adult life to the care and support of her family and later to the education of young people. She partnered with her husband to lead Lawrence Academy in Groton, MA, demonstrating a level of commitment and compassion that resulted in her receipt with her husband in 2003 of the Founder's Day Award, the highest honor the school bestows. She taught at the Pomfret Community School and the Rectory School in Pomfret, as well as at Robert College in Istanbul, Turkey, always demonstrating an enduring interest in the lives of the students and adults she encountered.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Benjamin Williams III, Pomfret Center, CT, and their three sons, Benjamin Williams IV, Carpinteria, CA; Frederick Williams, Oakton, VA; and Joseph Williams, Meriden, NH, their wives and nine grandchildren.

**Kütüphanenizdeki gizli hazine: Troia Hazineleri**

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