

RC QUARTERLY

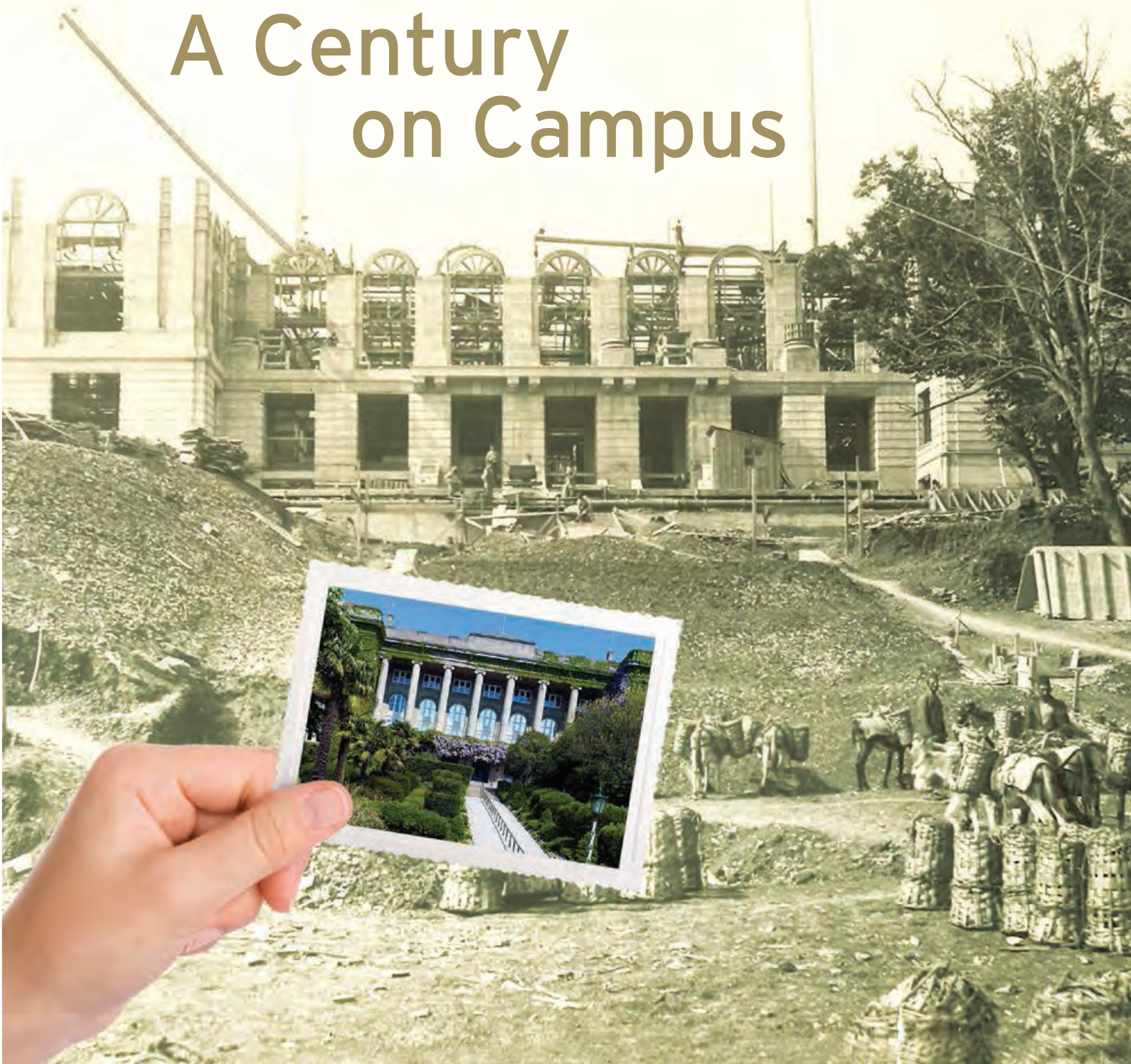
FALL / WINTER 2014

ISSUE 46

RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

# A Century on Campus



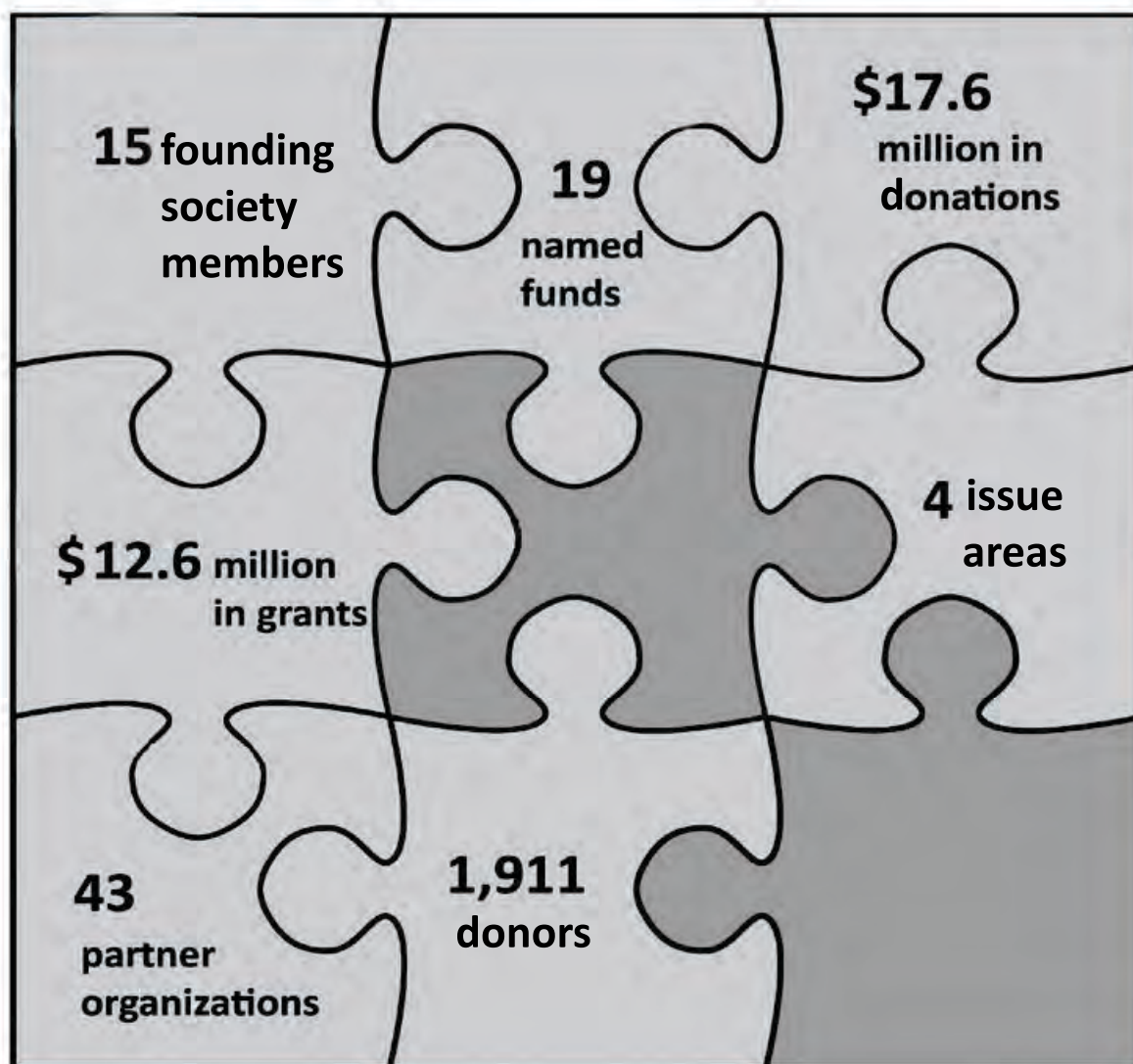




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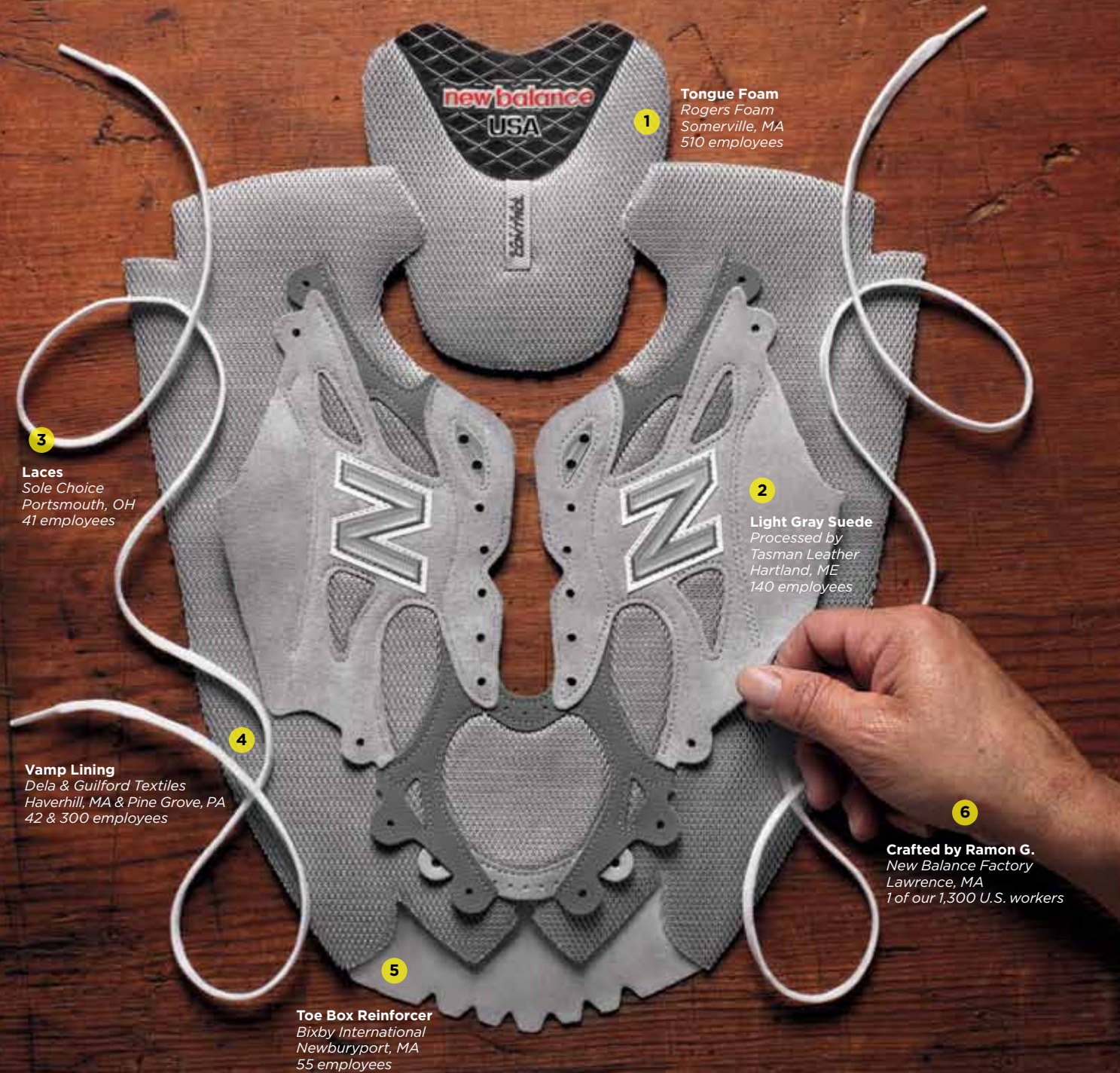
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İstanbul, Aralık 2014

#### Yayın Türü

Sürelî

#### Yayın Periyodu

4 Aylık

## In this issue...

A venerable institution like Robert College has many milestones to celebrate. The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events of the past year elevated the RC spirit and served as a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and strengthen RC ties. The year is coming to a close and you can read about the final celebratory event, the very successful 150<sup>th</sup> Benefit Gala held on November 6, starting on page 32.

We could not let this year pass by without highlighting another remarkable milestone in the illustrious history of the school. 2014 marks a hundred years on the Arnavutköy campus. The cover story in this issue of the RCQ, starting on page 38, focuses on the very beginnings of the campus funded and built to house the American College for Girls, a century ago.

What is for us today a glorious past was an uncertain future for Mary Mills Patrick, especially at the onset of World War I, only a few months after moving the school to a new campus. Imagine the pride of our founders today, if they could only read about the school and its alumni in the RCQ, as Robert College continues to thrive through one milestone after another.

Happy reading,

The RCQ Team

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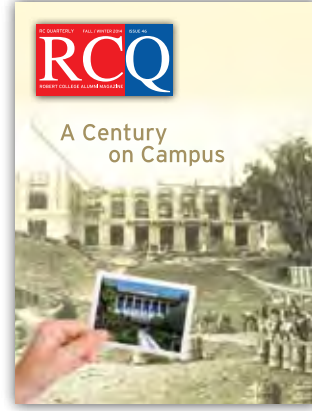
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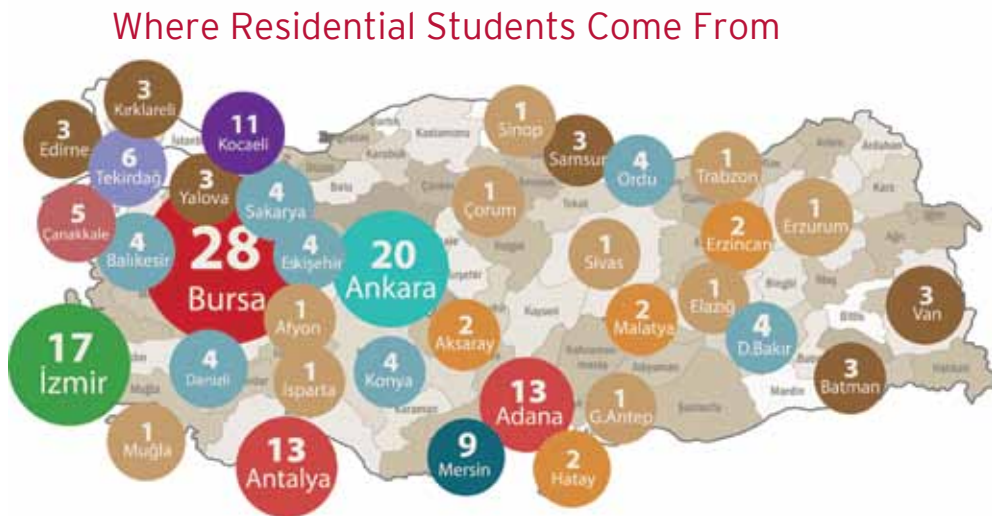
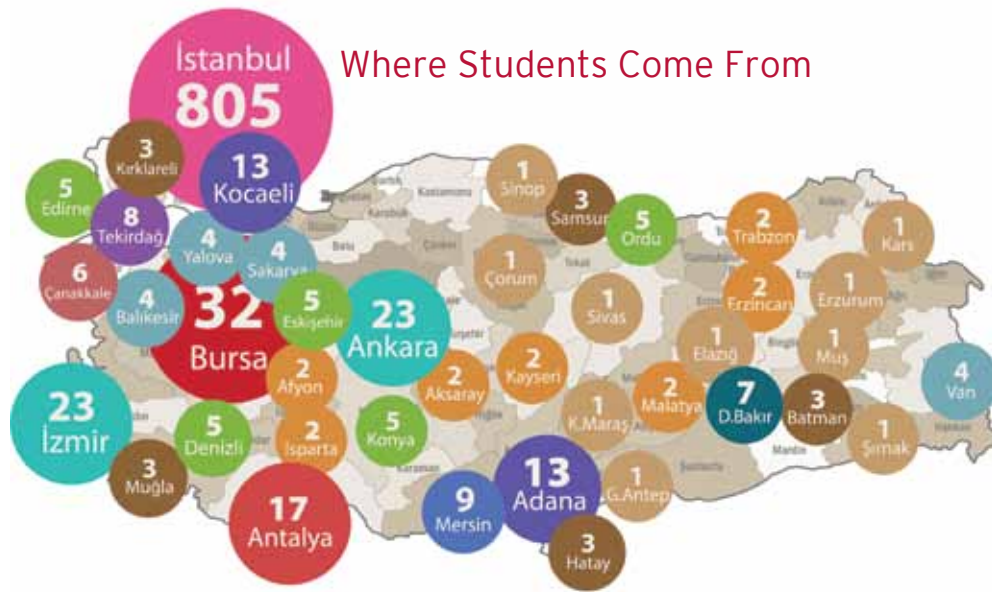
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# 2014-15 School Year at a Glance

**D**uring the 2014-2015 academic year, 1036 students from 48 cities throughout Turkey are attending Robert College. The residences are home to 185 students - 100 boys and 85 girls - from 42 cities. Twenty-five percent of students (263) receive financial aid.



**Number of Scholarship Students through the Years**





# GARANTİ DAİMA TÜRK BASKETBOLUNUN YANINDA!





## A Grand Farewell to the Class of 2014

The 2014 commencement exercises, held on Tuesday, June 24, were a spectacular end to the school year. The audience was made up of family members, teachers, alumni and trustees who came to see the Class of '14 graduate. Speeches were given by businessman-turned-social entrepreneur İbrahim Betil RA 64, retiring English teacher Michael Hays, and graduating students İpek Kahraman and Sıla Küçükosmanoğlu.

Headmaster Anthony Jones began the ceremony, saying that over time friends, teachers and the school will seem to change while remaining the same. He urged the graduating class to maintain relationships with them, to embrace change and reach out to new people in their class, and to help shape the future of the school.

The next speaker, İbrahim Betil, stood out from the crowd wearing the famous crimson blazer that belonged to a man who had a profound influence on Betil's life - former RA Headmaster Neil Bull,

also known as "red jacket". Speaking on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his own graduation, Betil noted that people who leave an imprint on the world are not necessarily those who become something, but those who accomplish something. He said that as graduates of the best school in the country, RC students have a responsibility to society and the people living on the planet, and urged them to reflect on what they can do. He added that the main difference between achievers and others is persistence and determination. Betil advised the class that they should strive to blend happiness with success while taking interest in what is happening in society, be sensitive to what is going on around them, respond to negativity, and decrease criticism by focusing on recommendations for change.

Following Betil, Michael Hays said that over the past five years, instructors at RC have been working on developing different aspects of the students' personalities. To continue this

development, Hays recommended that the students appreciate people who are different from them, spend time with art and literature, and spend time on a practice of self-expression outside of their careers.

Student speaker İpek Kahraman, who entered film school this fall, described her and her classmates' years at RC as a movie script about their class and their strict teacher "Robert", who the students loved and hated very much "because he had pushed them out of their comfort zone, taught some life skills, and with his help, the students were able to make unforgettable friendships." She closed her speech saying, "Even though this is the final scene of our high school life, it is only the trailer for the rest of it. You are the director my fellow classmates, make it a good one."

Student speaker Sıla Küçükosmanoğlu reflected on how her class had changed during their time at Robert College, and said, "during the last five years we



İbrahim Betil RA 64 wearing former RA Headmaster Neil Bull's legendary red jacket



The famous red jacket as worn by its original owner, Neil Bull







Headmaster Anthony Jones



İpek Kahraman RC 14



Sıla Küçükosmanoğlu RC 14

were always given responsibilities that exceeded our capabilities, and this is the hardest one. The School tells us to say 'good bye, bid farewell to the Plateau where you enjoyed the best view, to the second floor of the library where you fell asleep while reading poetry against the view of the Bosphorus, to the Forum where the cats rubbed against your leg, to the forumball tournaments, and to the wisteria whose smell captured the whole school.'"

The ceremony ended with a lively reception at Konak where students, families and teachers enjoyed one last opportunity to mingle.



Faculty in their graduation gowns on the steps of Gould Hall

## Top Ten Seniors Receive Koç Family Award

Established by the Koç Family on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Robert College, the Koç Family Award was given for the first time this year during graduation to the top ten senior students with the best academic average throughout their entire Robert College career.

The award was presented by Erdal Yıldırım, General Manager of the Vehbi Koç Foundation, to Göksenin Akdeniz, Afşar Onat Aydınhan, Mert Dilek, Elif Magemizoğlu, Mert Uşşaklı, Emre Tayakısı, Tülay Çalışkan, Ecenur İzzete Derelioğlu, Ege Bıçaker and Gamze Büşra Kaya. The students received a personalized key holder and a letter from Semahat Arsel ACG 49, Chair of the Vehbi Koç Foundation.

Arsel wrote to the students, "We wanted to embellish this gesture, which makes us extremely happy, with a small but special gift. Today you graduate from here with an 'important key' in your hands. As you pass through each stage of your life, you will be given another key, and I'm certain that with this equipment you will become a very successful and happy person. So, on this occasion, we would like to present you and your friends with a personalized key holder. I hope you will enjoy using it."



2014 Koç Family Award recipients at graduation



Robert College 2014 Turkish University Results				
Name of University	Without Scholarship		With Scholarship	
		Accepted Overseas	Accepted Overseas	TOTAL
BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY	20	5		25
İSTANBUL UNIVERSITY	12	2		14
İSTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	11	1		12
MARMARA UNIVERSITY	5			5
GALATASARAY UNIVERSITY	2			2
MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	2			2
YILDIZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY		2		2
EGE UNIVERSITY	2	1		3
TRAKYA UNIVERSITY	1			1
ANADOLU UNIVERSITY	1			1
KARADENİZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	1			1
CUMHURİYET UNIVERSITY	1			1
<b>TOTAL - PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>69</b>
KOÇ UNIVERSITY	8	1	30	43
SABANCI UNIVERSITY	2	1	8	11
YEDİTEPE UNIVERSITY	3		4	7
ACIBADEM UNIVERSITY	3	3	1	7
İSTANBUL BİLGİ UNIVERSITY			5	5
OKAN UNIVERSITY	2		1	3
İSTANBUL MEDİPOL UNIVERSITY			1	1
İHSAN DOĞRAMACI BİLKENT UNIVERSITY	1			1
İSTANBUL BİLİM UNIVERSITY	1			1
UNIVERSITY OF TURKISH AERONAUTICAL ASSOCIATION	1			1
<b>TOTAL - PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS PLACED</b>	<b>95</b>		<b>54</b>	<b>149</b>

Robert College 2014 Foreign University Results	
University Name	Total
Art Center College of Design	1
Barnard College	1
Universita Bocconi	1
University of Bristol	1
University of British Columbia	1
Brown University	2
Bucknell University	1
University of California, Berkeley	1
University of California, Los Angeles	1
Carl Benz School of Engineering	3
Carnegie Mellon University	2
University of Chicago	1
Columbia University	3
Cornell University	2
Duke University	5
Franklin and Marshall College	2
Georgia Institute of Technology	2
Harvard University	1
Illinois Institute of Technology	1
Imperial College London	1
Jacobs University	1
Lafayette College	1
Lehigh University	1
University College London	1
University of Manchester	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1
McGill University	1
University of Michigan	2
New York University	1
Northwestern University	1
University of Nottingham	1
University of Pennsylvania	1
Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University	1
University of Southern California	2
University of St. Andrews	1
Swarthmore College	1
University of Toronto Undergraduate Only	1
Tufts University	4
University of Oxford	3
Vancouver Film School	1
Vanderbilt University	1
University of Warwick	1
Wellesley College	1
Williams College	1
Yale University	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67</b>

## Where is the Class of 2014 Now?

Similar to previous years, 64 percent of the Class of 2014 will remain in Turkey and 31 percent will study abroad. Five percent of this year's graduates were not able to enter the program of their choice and have decided to retake the entrance exams next year. Similarly, 2013 graduates who retook the entrance exam this year were all placed in the program of their choice.

Of the 219 members of the Class of 2014, 149 students were successfully placed in Turkish universities and 83 received one or more acceptances to universities abroad. Twenty students were accepted to both Turkish and foreign universities.

### Turkish University Acceptance Results

Fifty-four percent of students continuing their education in Turkey are attending private universities, while 46 percent are studying at public universities.

Fifteen graduates scored among the top 1000 in the 2014 YGS exam, and 91 graduates scored among the top 1000 on the LYS (the language section is included in this number).

The preferred programs of RC 14 graduates are: Engineering (50), Medicine (34), Law (22), Business Administration (21), other programs including Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Sociology, Foreign Languages, Architecture and Dentistry (22).

### Foreign University Acceptance Results

A total of 67 graduates are attending universities in North America and

Europe. Of the 16 graduates who are studying on scholarship, 10 of them were scholarship students while at RC.



1996 yılında kurulan

İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi

18 yılda 20 bini aşkın mezun verdi.

Bugün 150'nin üzerinde programıyla,

18 bin öğrenciye kendilerinin ve

Türkiye'nin geleceği için

en geniş olanaklarla eğitim veriyor.

BİLGİ'nin gücü, gençlerimizin ve

ülkemizin gücü olmaya

devam ediyor.

# Bazılarının

# kökleri

# sadece

# geçmişe

# uzanır.

# Bazılarının

# aynı zamanda

# geleceğe...



## Alumni Perform with RC Orchestra

Robert College's history of musical excellence was highlighted at the RC Orchestra concert on May 29-31, when several alumni performed along with students.

The famous Renkler group, made up of RA 69 grads Osman Dinç Kermen, Osman Kermen, İbrahim Büyükyüksel, Mehmet Yucad, Oktay Özinci, Şadi Burat and Selim Kalafat, have become a regular act on the Suna Kırac stage, performing at last year's concert and Homecoming in 2013. They proved that they are still going strong with their performances of "Whiter Shade of Pale" and "Hotel California".

Renkler percussionist Selim Kalafat said of this year's concert, "To have the opportunity to play together with the Robert College orchestra under the expert direction and friendly attitude of Deniz Hoca was actually beyond our dreams. To practice along with the young musicians, to share the same stage with them and to enjoy the applause and appreciation of the audience was really an exhilarating experience for all of us. We cannot thank enough Deniz Hoca and administrators of the Alumni office for these wonderful and unforgettable concerts."

Orchestra director Deniz Baysal also contacted other alumni who he had worked with in the past. Genco Gencay RC 06, who gave an upbeat performance of Jamie Cullum's "Twenty-something", said, "I was working at the hospital when Deniz Abi called. He told me that he was planning to have 'Twenty-something' performed, and asked me if I'd like to sing it. We had planned on performing almost a decade ago, when I was still at RC as a student and I said 'yes, sure' in an instant. I miss the orchestra, and I miss Deniz Abi, so it was a chance to have some fun and see the wonderful people I don't get to see as much as I'd like to."



Bülent Kalafat RC 04

The concert was also a chance for friends to reunite. RC 04 graduates Barlas Günay, Bülent Kalafat and Kaan Karamancı had not been on stage together in a decade, when they had a band while at RC. Together with fellow RC 04 graduate Ali Çakıcı they performed The Red Hot Chili Peppers' "Dani California" and Muse's "Hysteria" as City of Brass. Bülent said, "It was absolutely fantastic to be a part of the RC Orchestra concert this year. I had the opportunity to reconnect with Kaan, Bülent, Ali, and Deniz after 10 years, visit RC, meet the current students who are just awesome, and play to a great crowd for three consecutive nights."

**"The students at RC are so amazingly talented, and the whole time we jokingly kept telling each other at the backstage, 'yeah, we were probably not this good ten years ago when we were in high school!'"**

Bülent added, "It looks like Deniz runs a really tight ship, which is great, and each and every year RC gets super talented students who just love music and arts. We were thankful to Deniz and the RC students for welcoming us back into the



Director Deniz Baysal conducting the orchestra

Orchestra family."

In addition, RC 12 graduates Tolga Tolgay, Cem Ergin, Ece Ergin, Emre Kaya and Alp Paksoy, and RC 13 graduates Egemen Genç, Cemre Necefbaş and Oğul Girgin performed with the RC Orchestra.

To prepare for this year's concert, the 56 orchestra members worked long hours with Baysal over several weekends. When asked about the addition of alumni this year, he said, "It was nice for me to work with alumni. What created a beautiful atmosphere was that the musicians were the alumni from various years. It also allows people to watch the school spirit being reflected on stage."



The famous RC rock band of the late 1960s, Renkler, proved they are still going strong

# BİLGİ'de Lisansüstü

Alanlarının önde gelen akademisyen ve profesyonellerinden oluşan öğretim kadrosu BİLGİ Lisansüstü Programları'nda! Siz de lisansüstü eğitimi için İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi'ni tercih edin, bir adım öne geçin.

## Yüksek Lisans

- Akıllı Sistemler Mühendisliği (Akıllı Üretim ve Karar Sistemleri Mühendisliği / Akıllı Hesaplama Mühendisliği)
- Avrupa Etüdları
- Avrupa Etüdları Çift Diplomalı Program (BİLGİ ve Europa - Universität Viadrina Frankfurt - Oder)
- Bankacılık ve Finans
- Bankacılık ve Finans Uzaktan Eğitim
- Bilişim ve Teknoloji Hukuku
- Biyomedikal Mühendisliği
- Ekonomi
- Elektrik-Elektronik Mühendisliği
- Enerji Sistemleri Mühendisliği
- Felsefe ve Toplumsal Düşünce
- Finansal Ekonomi
- Fizyoterapi ve Rehabilitasyon
- Halkla İlişkiler ve Kurumsal İletişim
- Hukuk (Ekonomi Hukuku / İnsan Hakları Hukuku)
- İnsan Kaynakları Yönetimi
- İnsan Kaynakları Yönetimi Uzaktan Eğitim
- Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat
- Klinik Psikoloji (Yetişkin / Çocuk - Ergen / Çift - Aile Terapisi)
- Kültür Yönetimi
- Kültürel İncelemeler
- Matematik
- Mimarlık Tarihi, Teorisi ve Eleştirisi

- Mimari Tasarım
- MBA (Türkçe)
- MBA (İngilizce)
- İşletme Uzaktan Eğitim - Türkçe (e-MBA)
- İşletme Uzaktan Eğitim - İngilizce (e-MBA)
- Medya ve İletişim Sistemleri
- Muhasebe ve Denetim
- Örgütsel Psikoloji
- Pazarlama
- İnteraktif Pazarlama / Next Academy
- Pazarlama İletişimi / Marka Okulu
- Sağlık Yönetimi\*
- Sinema ve Televizyon
- Sosyoloji
- Sosyal Projeler ve STK Yönetimi
- Tarih
- Türk - Alman Ekonomi Hukuku Ortak Program (İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi - Köln Üniversitesi)
- Uluslararası Ekonomi Politik
- Uluslararası Finans
- Uluslararası İlişkiler
- Yapım Yönetimi

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- Ekonomi
- İletişim
- İşletme - Organizasyon Yönetim
- İşletme - Pazarlama
- Kamu Hukuku
- Özel Hukuk
- Siyaset Bilimi

\*Yükseköğretim Kurulu'ndan onay beklenmektedir.





## Excellence in Science Award

On the morning of March 24, the 2014 winner of the Prof. Seyhan Nurettin Ege ACG 49 Excellence in Science Award, now in its fifth year, was announced during what has become a traditional mini-ceremony within the flag ceremony. This year's award was presented by Güneş Ege Akter ACG 52 to Lise 12 student Ilgın Nas, who was a Lise 11 student at the time. Special guests who come to this ceremony every year to honor the memory of Seyhan Ege, to support Güneş Ege's initiative to recognize excellence in science in women, and to congratulate the winner, included Hümeysra Güçük, Güniz Büyüktür ACG 60, Emine Yeğen ACG 70, Ayfer Neyzi ACG 49, Neyran Akgün, faculty members of the science department as well as past winner Elif Magemizoğlu RC 14 and Ilgın's mother Nilgün Nas.

In her speech to the assembly, Güneş Hanım commented on Robert College's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and said, "Fifty years from now, when the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RC is celebrated, the Seyhan Ege



Participants of the 2014 Excellence in Science Award ceremony gathered to commemorate the event

Excellence in Science Award will have highlighted the significance of the educational opportunities, inspiration and nurturing in the sciences provided on this campus. Thus as we gather each year to welcome another aspiring young woman scientist to the pursuit of a critical and rewarding career, we're unwitting participants in a new phase in the annals of RC. Alumni - men and women - with distinctive careers in the sciences will be a stellar credit to their alma mater and will likely outshine the politicians and statesmen of their times!"

The coffee and chat hour following the ceremony was held in a new location this year - the foyer of the science building, Feyyaz Berker Hall. The reason for this was a brand new plaque, bearing the names of all those who play an important role in this award: Prof. Seyhan Nurettin Ege ACG 49, in whose memory this award was created, Güneş Ege Akter ACG 52, whose support of the sciences and whose generosity made the award possible, and our young and bright RC students who, by merit of their success in the sciences while at RC, won this award during their Lise 11 year.

## A Visit by Renowned Education Technologies Leader

By Burcu Aybat, RC Educational Technology Coordinator

Alan November, world-renowned education technologies leader and author of the best-seller *Who Owns the Learning?*, visited classes, talked with the students, and delivered an inspiring presentation to teachers on September 22.



Alan November visiting an RC class

November decided to come to Robert College after being impressed with the work of students involved in the CIP project "Seen with Other Eyes" (see RCQ 40, p. 14) who developed a geometry curriculum for visually impaired children. At a workshop held with the CIP students, he motivated them to bring a global perspective to this project. He also invited them to his Building Learning

Communities conference this year, where they will present the project to over 1,000 educators.

November spoke with Kaan Göksal L 12 (see p. 45), the student who founded the RC Maker Club, and discussed how the IoT (Internet of Things) technologies became popular. He stressed that entrepreneurship, creativity and

production are becoming increasingly important in present times, especially in education. Kaan related his experiences from the "3D Design and Printing" class that he led at the RC Summer School, introduced the Maker club, and talked about his future projects.

At a presentation to RC teachers, November quoted his conversations with the students he met that day. He remarked that he was impressed with RC students, saying that they have the energy, skills and possibilities to achieve many things, and that teachers should offer them increased opportunities, encourage them, and recognize their abilities and achievements.

## RC Receives USAID Grant

Robert College has received a \$200,000 matching grant from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to support the physical education program and promote renewable energy on campus.

Part of the grant will be used to upgrade the Eczacıbaşı Gym, which has been the center of sports life and has hosted numerous school events over the past 25 years. Funds will also be used to install solar panels on the gym roof, which will reduce dependency on other forms of energy by up to 30%.



## RC Summer: The Place to Be

One of the most popular English immersion programs in Istanbul this past summer was RCSummer 2014, with its motto, "The place to be...".

This year's theme was "RCSummer Phenomena". Participants chose one phenomenon offered by the counselors, and at the end of each session were able to display what they learned at the Big Show either by performing dances, songs, or skits on stage, or exhibiting their creative pieces of visual and media works.

The biggest addition to the program this year was the improvement of the outdoor adventure challenge facilities, where the camp participants had more adventure challenges and activities. They had the opportunity to improve their self-confidence with a new climbing wall and high ropes courses. Campers learned how to survive in nature by building shelters and mastering orienteering skills, and were involved in many team building activities.



Campers learning outdoor survival skills



Learning the classic art of block print making

Another improvement to the program was "ApprentIstanbul", where participants discovered real behind-the-scenes details of occupations they are interested in. They visited the workplaces of masters and witnessed the processes which end up as products and services for customers.

and their newly acquired friends, a wonderful indication of how RCSummer touched their lives. If interested, be sure to follow the summer camp website [www.rcplus.com](http://www.rcplus.com) in spring 2015 for details on how to be a camper next summer.

The summer's biggest hit was the Wobble Dance, which turned into a flash mob event every time it played during the "hangtime" after lunch, during morning and afternoon socializing time, on carnival day and at the Big Show.

On the last day of each session, tears were shed because campers did not want to say goodbye to their counselors



Kids enjoyed hands-on experience with pottery making



The new climbing wall in the outdoor adventure challenge area was a big hit



## Girls' Residence Named for Hüsni Özyeğin

Robert College is proud to acknowledge a very generous gift from Hüsni Özyeğin RA 63 on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, by naming the girls' residence in Sage Hall after the dedicated graduate.

Özyeğin, who was a boarding student during his eight years at RC, is an enthusiastic supporter of girls' education. Through the Hüsni Özyeğin Foundation, 26 dorms have been built throughout Turkey for female high school students who would otherwise not be able to continue their studies due to economic and social constraints. The dorms, which house over 4000 girls each year, provide safe and comfortable accommodation which supports their access to education.

Therefore, it was not surprising that Özyeğin chose the girls' residence - which houses 85 girls from 29 cities around Turkey - from the naming opportunities available through the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign.

The residences at RC are a welcoming and homey environment for students to continue their studies away from their families. Without the opportunity to stay in the residence, many girls who do not have other housing options in Istanbul would have to forego the chance to study



Hüsni Özyeğin RA 63 with Headmaster Anthony Jones

at Robert College.

"The residence can never be same as home, but the values of home life we try to create here make them feel at home," says Berna Yeşilova, head of the girls' residence. "We have caring staff who live in the residences with them, and who are always there for the students."

She adds, "Even though their life is very different than being home, they know they have many advantages as residential students, like always having someone around who can help them with their homework or to study with for exams, never being alone if they want to go out and do something, and lots of fun experiences on special days like Prep Night, Gym Night and Sports Night." In addition, regular social activities are planned for residential students to help them become familiar with Istanbul, gain exposure to different cultural activities and get to know other residential students better. Throughout the year

students have a chance to go to a variety of events including concerts, sports events and theatre productions, as well as visiting historical sites around the city.

"In their home away from their families they grow and learn together, and create great memories and wonderful friendships which last forever," says Yeşilova.

Özyeğin is a long-time supporter of the school, which he says defined him. In his speech given at graduation in 2013, he said, "RC has a very significant place in my life. First of all, it taught me to stand on my own two feet. It injected self-confidence, it showed me that achievement is rewarded, it taught me bi-culturalism, it opened new perspectives."

His gift for the girls' residence is very much appreciated by all the students who are spending their RC life in this nurturing environment.



The residences provide a comfortable home away from home for students



The entrance to the Hüsni Özyeğin Girl's Residence

## Film Editing Center Named for Serdar Bilgili

When asked what motivated him to make a major gift to his alma mater, Serdar Bilgili RC 81 said, "She played a leading role in shaping who we are today. We have a responsibility to contribute in order to keep her strong enough to educate future generations."

Setting an example for his fellow alumni, the acclaimed photographer and entrepreneur chose to give his name to the Film Editing Center in Mitchell Hall through his major gift to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign.

Film has long been a favorite subject of Robert College students. During film classes, students watch and critique well-known movies and previous students' work. But it is during the production and editing of their own films, which takes place in the Film Editing Center, that students really blossom. "This is a learning skill that clicks with some students," explains Film Lit teacher Jameson Vierling. "This art involves writing, drawing, acting, being in front of and behind a camera, and being a team player, a leader and a follower."

The film program keeps getting better, and is inspiring more students to consider a career in film. In fact three 2014 graduates – Derin Çelik, Dara Eminazade and İpek Kahraman – have gone on to study film at university. When



Serdar Bilgili RC 81

asked about how her experience at RC helped her prepare for the School of Cinematic Arts at USC – one of the top film schools in the US – Kahraman said, "I understand now that I was so privileged to take Film and Literature courses at RC. Not only has it helped me analyze movies and put them in a historical context, it made me one step ahead in terms of

technical equipment and moviemaking experience. There are no opportunities like that in any of the high schools I have encountered here. Thanks to the movies I made at RC, I already know what kind of movies I want to make and I am ready for my film school career."

The equipment available to students at the Film Editing Center is a key component to the success of the program. Upgraded in 2012, the hardware is more robust and the editing software allows students to try out different effects on their films. "The equipment the students work with is state of the art," says Film Lit teacher Rick Hummel. "University professors and film makers have visited and said there is nothing like this in Turkey."



One of the rooms in the Film Editing Center



State of the art equipment allows students to learn the latest effects while editing their films

"The students discover new editing features that nobody else knew about, share them, and everybody then uses them in the next project. They all get better because they share their discoveries with each other," says Vierling. "For students, presenting and editing is the heart and soul of the class. Without the rooms they can't finish their films."

Students are extremely grateful to Bilgili for his support of this crucial aspect of the film program, which will provide them and future generations the opportunity to stay on the leading edge of film production.



## Alumni Share the Service Tradition

For many graduates, the passion for of giving back to the community started at RC. Now in its eighth year, the Community Involvement Program (CIP) frequently gets support from alumni, who pass on the tradition of service to students from RC as well as those from other schools in Turkey. Here are highlights from projects run during the 2013-14 academic year.

### Sharing the Passion for Healing

Students aspiring to be doctors got first-hand experience at Çapa Hospital's gynecology and obstetrics ward under the supervision of Dr. Cem İyibozkurt RC 92. "Being a doctor was always a dream of mine since my College years," explains İyibozkurt. "Back then I did not have the chance to take a closer look at the profession: it is really challenging, but the feeling you get by being able to help cure someone is simply indescribable. It was exciting to help future doctors understand the profession from a doctor's point of view."

RC students had the chance to help patients and also help doctors during patient evaluations. "They had a chance to observe how things work in hospitals," said İyibozkurt. "Both emotionally and practically they gained tremendous experience. This will help them decide whether they want to be doctors in the future."

In her journal, Lise 11 student Fatma Nur Yokuş wrote, "Everyone in the hospital tried to change my mind about being a

doctor. They said you need to sacrifice your whole life and you need to be so patient. It was true. I saw how you must always be on call. During the CIP, I asked myself, can I really do this? The answer was always a definite yes. This CIP should continue because so many students want to become doctors without knowing the real difficulties."

Greti Barokas L11 wrote, "My biggest fear was that I would have problems communicating with the patients. But by watching the doctors and hospital workers on the first day, and trying to behave like them, I was able to quickly get over my fear and realized that it was unfounded."

Dr. İyibozkurt has recently moved from Çapa to a private hospital. **If you are a doctor at a public hospital and would like to work with RC students on a similar project, please contact Elif Sönmez at [esonmez@robcok.k12.tr](mailto:esonmez@robcok.k12.tr)**

### Sharing the Love of Teaching and Learning

The Baksı CIP, now in its second year, saw RC students working together with students from Enka, under the supervision of RC teacher Necla Sönmezay and Enka teacher Gülten Karabulut ACG 71. The CIP took place at the Baksı Museum which was founded by painter Hüsameddin Koçan, and won the 2014 Council of Europe Museum Award. It is a space where traditional and modern art come together, and one of the goals of the museum is to cultivate traditional arts, while opening

the world to the children of the village through various activities.

**The goals of the week-long project were to help another school learn how a CIP is done, and to provide the children of the village as well as the students from Istanbul with a different experience.**

The CIP team ran music, art, drawing, and other cultural activities for 7-14 year-olds who were eager to learn right away. For the RC and Enka students, it was a chance to discover a new culture, which has rich shamanic influences, to meet the children's families who subsist off the land and through husbandry, and to take a break from city life and technology.

"Apart from the experiences gained through working with village students, Enka students also learned how to be a part of a team they have formed with their counterparts at Robert College and work efficiently in their groups," says Karabulut. "As a teacher, I also experienced how to work efficiently and actively with a teacher leader of another high school. Keeping pace with the Robert College CIP preparation cycle and making commitments also contributed to my improvement as a project advisor."

Project leader Derin Arduman L12 wrote, "To participate in a joint project with Enka has been an experience full of opportunities for all of us. I think that the project gained depth with the collaboration of students with different ideas and perceptions, from different schools."

### Sharing the Fruits of One's Labor

Robert College has cooperated on different activities for years with Gaziantep College Foundation Private Schools (GKVO), and this year they worked together on the Adana Migrant Workers Children's project. The younger children of workers who come to harvest cotton spend their days killing time on the edge of the field or cooking, cleaning and looking after babies. This project, now in its sixth year, aims to give these



Dr. Cem İyibozkurt RC 92 with RC CIP students



A breathtaking view of Baski accompanied by music

children, who are out of school from April to October, a different experience. CIP advisor Önder Aksoy wrote the following about the week's activities.

"The children were taken to a nearby primary school where they had a chance to participate in t-shirt painting, drawing, sports, and music. A carnival was held on the fourth day with the students competing in their area of interest. On the last day, the RC and GKVO students picked tomatoes together with the older children and saw how difficult their work is. The children, who work tirelessly every day from morning to night, were surprised that the RC and GKVO students could only keep up with them for half an hour before giving up. At the end, clothes, school materials, toys and other items were distributed to the children, as well as food and cleaning products donated by Unilever to their families."

Of the joint collaboration, GKVO Chairwoman Nüket Ersoy ACG 50 said, "Robert College, my alma mater of which I am always proud, instills social service awareness, one of the primary

elements of personal development, in all its graduates. Gaziantep College Foundation schools, founded by late Cemil Alevli, also operates as a community service institution, and therefore we believe strongly that it is imperative to teach this awareness to our students. The joint CIP projects involving students from our two schools have been very effective in fostering this awareness, and the community service concept became increasingly widespread over the years. We look forward to continuing this collaboration."

#### Sharing Care for Nature

After hearing conservationist Dr. Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93 speak on campus in 2012, RC 14 graduates Elif Naz Samancı and Esra Demirhan were inspired to visit the KuzeyDoğa bird center on the Aras River in Kars in the summer of 2013. They subsequently organized the CIP during their spring break in 2014, so that others could experience their passion. CIP advisors Celeste Pierson and Jack Hoos wrote about the project:

"The focus of this project was to work with experts who capture, document, ring and release migratory birds. This process, carried out all around the world, is vital for identifying migratory flyways, monitoring species' populations and health, and many other purposes. Because the Aras River is one of the few green spots in this region that can supply food, water, and shelter to migrating birds it is a key stopover for the already stressed birds that have been able to fly thousands of miles from Africa and Asia. It is an oasis through which many species must pass and upon which they rely. This also makes



Studying migrant birds at the Aras Bird Station in Kars

it an ideal spot to catch and ring birds for scientific studies.

"As the week progressed, everything seemed to change. The snow on the ground and surrounding mountains melted, the river rose and fell with the run off, species appeared and disappeared as their flocks moved on. As for the students, they transitioned from observers to active workers.

"Over forty species were seen. The students were able to hold some of the smaller birds in their hands. They commented on both the fragility and tenacity of the birds, and were saddened that this critical link on the migratory flyway will soon be gone because the Aras River is scheduled to be dammed, which will flood the thicket, the research center, and the surrounding villages."

#### CIP makes a difference!

CIP changes students. CIP is education beyond academics. Students face real problems and try to deal with them constructively. They thus develop communication, problem solving and business skills that they will need in their professional and personal lives. They develop a sense of responsibility to others. RC students often are leaders in their fields after they graduate and the CIP program helps to start them on the path to becoming socially responsible active citizens.



Children of migrant workers in Adana





# The Robert College Alumni Association (RKMD)



A farewell cocktail was held for Meral Özdemir, on June 26, 2014 at BizimTepe. Meral retired after serving RKMD for 25 years



The annual bazaar, held on May 7, 2014, attracted many visitors who enjoyed shopping while contributing to RKMD



Sedat Ergin RC 75 and Aslı Aydıntaşbaş RC 89 held a panel titled "Turkey Between Two Elections" on May 3, 2014



Gülsin Onay gave a spectacular piano recital at Suna Kiraç Hall on April 7, 2014



Beki Erikli RC 86 spoke about "Hearing Our Inner Voice: Achieving the Impossible with Angels" on March 29, 2014



Türkan Bayülken

## Newcomer to RKMD

Türkan Bayülken joined the RKMD team in May 2014, and is responsible for member relations. After graduating from Üsküdar American Academy in 1992, Türkan studied at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, where she received her BA degree. She returned to Istanbul in 1996 and worked for nine years at Ernst & Young in various departments, then at SpenglerFox as the Office Administrator. After taking a couple years' break from business life when she had her daughter, she returned as Managing Partner at Balıklı Audit & Advisory before joining RKMD. "I am very happy and excited to be back at Bizim Tepe, since I spent my childhood days here playing tennis and enjoying the swimming pool," says Türkan. "I am also glad to be here as my daughter will be growing up here just like I did."



## What's New at Bizim Tepe



With the new play platforms, Bizimköy is now more attractive and exciting for kids



The new pool shower and changing cabins

## RKMD Summer Camp

Children aged five to nine had an entertaining time at the RKMD Summer Camp sessions in June and August. There were different activities each day such as

swimming, English art, mini science, Brain Gym, mandala, dance, music, and ball games, some of which took place on the RC Campus. The campers had a great time

during these sessions. On the last day of each session, the campers performed a show for their parents. We look forward to the new campers next summer!



The RKMD Summer Camp made sure it was a summer to remember



## RCAAA's First Mentees Graduate



Berfu Negiz RC 10



Mine Kansu RC 10



Tolga Zeybek RC 10

For the last four years, young RC alumni going to the US for college have been welcomed by the RCAAA through the mentorship program.

**The goal of this program is to provide guidance and support upon arrival in the US and the opportunity to meet with and connect with their mentors who have established their lives in the US.**

Each incoming freshman RC graduate is matched with an alumna/alumnus based on the location and career interests of the mentees. This year, the first class of mentees has graduated from university and will become mentors themselves. Based on the experience of the past four years and feedback by the mentors, the RCAAA has now decided to expand the scope of the program to cover more locations across the US. The program will also assign two mentors to each RC 14 graduate mentee. This year, there

is record number of 22 mentees. The mentor teams include a young alumna/alumnus and a more experienced alumna/alumnus to provide support at multiple levels. The program is expanding quickly.

We asked recently graduating mentees from the Class of 2010 about their experience.

Tolga Zeybek studied at Tufts University and is working as an Electrical Design Engineer at Sensata Technologies. "My first months in the US were the most challenging," he says, "especially getting used to how things work here. I did not sign up to the program initially but heard from other friends who signed up and invited me to come to the first meeting. I ended up being one of the students who benefited from the program most. I also started long distance biking with my mentors and it has been a fun and demanding passion for me."

Berfu Negiz just finished Brown University and is working at Decision Resources Consulting. "Being away from friends and

family in a foreign country was the most challenging part of my first year, until I got adjusted to living in the US and made good friends," she explains. "Elif Şıkoğlu emailed me about this program and I gladly accepted to be a part of it. I'm in Providence, RI, so I could not take part in many of the events in Boston, but knowing that an RC support system exists nearby was relieving. I hope to be more involved next year when I move to Boston."

Mine Kansu also graduated from Tufts and recently moved to New York to work in finance. "The mentorship program was very helpful. The first night Tolga and I arrived in the US, two RCAAA members hosted us at their house. From then on, we had the constant support of all members whenever we needed guidance. I also received mentorship, especially during my internship search."

For more information about the program, contact Elif Şıkoğlu Morrissey RC 97 at [melifs@yahoo.com](mailto:melifs@yahoo.com) or Alpdoğan Kantarcı RC 86 at [alpdogankantarci@gmail.com](mailto:alpdogankantarci@gmail.com)

## Welcome to the USA Awards

Started in 1993, the Welcome to the USA awards are given each year to three RC seniors who will attend college in the US. Recipients are selected by a committee of alumni based on applicants' achievements, aspirations and need. Tolga Zeybek RC 10, who was a recipient of this award four years ago, presented the awards to Bita Koç (attending MIT), Elif Naz Samancı (attending Wellesley College) and Berkay Güldür (attending Cornell University) at graduation on June 24, 2014. RCAAA wishes all the graduates best of luck in college!



Tolga Zeybek RC 10 with two of this year's Welcome to the USA Award winners, Elif Naz Samancı and Berkay Güldür

## RCAAA Spring Dinners

### Boston

The annual RCAAA Boston Spring Dinner was held this year on March 29, 2014. The venue was a Persian restaurant on Beacon Hill where RC alumni and friends enjoyed a private dinner with excellent food reminiscent of Turkish cuisine. The guest speaker was Dr. Orhun Muratoğlu from Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Muratoğlu, husband of Tonya Oya Orme RC 87, is a professor of orthopedic research and has been part of numerous substantial advancements in biomaterials used in orthopedic prostheses including knee replacements. His lecture was followed by a Q&A session, and received significant interest. In addition, trustee Martina Albright and her husband honored the dinner. The evening, as always, was a great opportunity to connect with RC alumni living in Boston and New England.



Dr. Orhun Muratoğlu and Alpdoğan Kantarcı RC 86

### New York

RCAAA hosted its Annual New York Spring Dinner on April 3, 2014, at the Penn Club of New York City. The guest speaker was Landon Thomas, Jr., who is an economy and finance reporter for The New York Times and a

Robert College Trustee since 2005. Mr. Thomas talked about the importance of revitalizing entrepreneurship in Turkey as a means for sustainable economic growth. His remarks were followed by an engaging Q&A session with questions that mostly

focused on the current economic and political situation in Turkey. The dinner was a wonderful opportunity to bring together RC alumni, trustees and students of all ages.

### Washington DC

Over thirty alumni of all ages and their families got together on April 10, 2014 at Café Divan in Washington, DC, for a reception and dinner in honor of the school's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Most of the attending alumni live and work in the greater Washington, DC area. There were also several alumni in town for the annual Turkish American Conference and they were able to join in the evening.

The event started with drinks and appetizers and continued with a delicious Turkish dinner and lively conversation. On the occasion of RC's 150<sup>th</sup> year, this was a great opportunity for everyone to catch up with each other and reflect on the wonderful times spent at RC. Special thanks go to Özge Gürel RC 93 for her efforts in organizing this event. The Washington, DC chapter of RCAAA will be organizing more events in the future for alumni in the area. If you have ideas for events or if you would like to help out, please email [rc\\_alumni@yahoo.com](mailto:rc_alumni@yahoo.com)



Alumni and family in the Washington, DC area enjoyed a night out



## Developments in the UK Alumni Community

At the end of the 2014 spring term, Headmaster Anthony Jones made a surprise visit to London. He was invited to Oxford University, where he was once a post-graduate student, to take part in a debate concerning the extent to which governments should be involved in controlling education. At Oxford, he also had a chance to discuss with the current postgraduate students in the Education Department the possibility of a collaborative project with Robert College.

Apart from his visit to Oxford University, Mr. Jones also succeeded in setting up Robert College UK as a registered charity during his trip, thereby making it possible for the alumni who are employed by a UK taxpayer to make a payroll donation to RC.

To celebrate all these wonderful developments, Eren Özgür RC 95 arranged a get-together in Chelsea on June 13, 2014. The event brought together around 20 alumni from different graduating classes, giving very recent graduates as well as graduates from ACG a chance to mingle and reminiscence

about the school. Seeing familiar faces, making new acquaintances, and sharing memories about teachers (some of whom apparently taught at RC for decades) made the evening fun and memorable. The event was also a testimony to the strong RC spirit, which gives the graduates a sense of belonging and feeling of "at-homeness" wherever they go.

At the end of this casual evening, the alumni who came to the event decided to establish a Facebook group with the goal of organizing more fun activities for RC graduates living in or near London. The link for the Robert College Alumni Club of London is: [www.facebook.com/groups/rcalumnicluboflondon/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/rcalumnicluboflondon/)

If you want to help organize future events or have any questions regarding the Robert College Alumni Club of London you can get in touch with Eren Özgür RC 95 at [erenozgur@gmail.com](mailto:erenozgur@gmail.com) or İrem Günay RC 06 at [iremxgunay@gmail.com](mailto:iremxgunay@gmail.com). Everyone looks forward to seeing new faces and reconnecting with old friends at future events!



### Save the Date!

A very special evening at the House of Commons for alumni and friends in honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Robert College sponsored by Robert Walter MP

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

Churchill Room / 19:00 - 22:30

Space is limited. For more details visit [robcol.k12.tr](http://robcol.k12.tr)

## Giving in the UK

Robert College UK has been established as a registered charity in the UK, and there are two convenient ways for UK tax payers to support the school. Contributions can be made through Natwest Bank, or for those employed by a UK tax payer, donations may be made through payroll giving. Donations can also be made to Robert College UK through Gift Aid.

For more details, visit the [Make a Gift page](#) under [Giving at robcol.k12.tr](#)

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## Dikmen Gürün ACG 61 Receives IKSŞ Honorary Award

**P**rof. Dr. Dikmen Gürün, the iconic name of the Turkish theatre world, was given the İKSŞ (Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts) Honorary Award in March 2014. She was director of İKSŞ's Istanbul Theatre Festival for 20 years, until she stepped down in 2013.

When asked about her experience at the foundation, Gürün said, "For over 20 years I directed 14 festivals; due to the 2001 economic crisis, the festival became a biannual event. All these years, I anticipated that the Istanbul Theatre Festival would be a window to the world. I tried to open new doors for our audience and artists by inviting many world-renowned directors and choreographers and some of their most powerful productions to Istanbul. Our vision expanded. I placed emphasis on international co-productions and of course always supported our young theatre community. I think that the future of contemporary Turkish theatre is in the safe hands of our dynamic theatre artists, our creative directors and playwrights." She adds, "It is a fact that Turkey's current conservative cultural climate doesn't allow artistic productions that fail to fall within the government's acceptable categories. The government is aiming at restricting the state-funded theatres through the hybrid



Dikmen Gürün ACG 61 (right) and İKSŞ Chairman Bülent Eczacıbaşı

'TÜŞAK' (Turkish Arts Council) Project and, on the other hand, they are exercising artistic censorship via economic penalties against private companies. Yet, I believe that theatre - being a critical and protesting mechanism by itself - will continue its struggle and will also be equally supported by the audiences."

When asked about her experience at her alma mater, Gürün commented, "I deem

myself fortunate to have studied at ACG. It was an enlightening school that engaged students in research and discussions. Today, if I have attained a certain status, being from ACG has of course a share in this, at least as much as my parents who taught me to have confidence in myself from an early age." Gürün currently serves the foundation as a consultant and teaches at Kadir Has University.

## Esra Gençtürk RC 77 Appointed Hüsnü Özyeğin University Rector



Esra Gençtürk RC 77

**E**sra Gençtürk, was appointed Rector of Özyeğin University in February 2014. She was previously acting rector and assistant rector at the university.

Speaking about her appointment, Özyeğin University Board of Trustees Chair Hüsnü Özyeğin RA 63 said, "I am pleased to announce that Prof. Dr. Esra Gençtürk, who has contributed valuable work to the university and who has filled the role of deputy rector over the last six months, has been officially approved as Rector by the Board of Higher Education (YÖK). Together with very positive evaluations from the university community, Prof. Dr. Esra Gençtürk has had a successful performance and provided positive additions to important aspects of the university's vision during her

time as Assistant Rector and Acting Rector, and we believe this will continue during her time as Rector. I congratulate her and believe that this will be positive for our university."

Gençtürk received her BS from the University of Southern California and her MBA and PhD in marketing from the University of Minnesota. She was on the Marketing and International Business Finance Faculty at the University of Texas at Austin, before becoming a full-time faculty member of the College of Administrative Sciences and Economics at Koç University. Gençtürk was Assistant Rector of Özyeğin University from its founding until 2010, after which she was elected President of the American Marketing Association Global Special Interest Group.

## Sedat Ergin RC 75 at the Helm of Major Daily Newspaper

Sedat Ergin was appointed Editor-in-Chief of the daily newspaper Hürriyet in August. During the announcement to the newspaper's staff, Hürriyet chairwoman Vuslat Doğan Sabancı said, "As a master journalist who knows jazz and polyphony very well, Sedat Ergin, who never abandons basing his commentary on facts in an ethical style, will now conduct the polyphonic orchestra of Hürriyet."

Prior to this appointment, Ergin was a regular columnist at the paper since 2009 after having serving as Milliyet newspaper's Editor-in-Chief for five years.

Upon graduating from Robert College, Ergin's goal was to become a diplomat, and he studied literature at Boğaziçi University while working part-time for the Foreign News Service at the Turkish



Sedat Ergin RC 75

News Agency (THA). He was accepted to the International Relations Department

of the Political Sciences Faculty at Ankara University, and continued working full-time for THA as the Ankara office's diplomacy, prime ministry and parliamentary reporter. Following THA, he worked at the Ankara office of Cumhuriyet newspaper covering the foreign ministry and parliament news.

Following university, Ergin decided to forego his dream of becoming a diplomat and continued his career as a journalist. However, his education served him well, as he spent many years covering political news as Hürriyet's Washington representative, and then as the paper's Ankara representative. Ergin underlines that a good journalist must be more than simply honest; they must also have a strong conscience. Over the years, he has received a number of notable awards in the realm of investigative journalism and on the subject of freedom of the press.

## Firat İşbecer RC 98 Takes mCommerce to the Next Level

Firat İşbecer RC 98 recently became COO of MEA for Monitise, after their acquisition of Pozitron for \$100 million. Pozitron was started in 2000 by İşbecer's brother Fatih, and Firat İşbecer joined in 2006, helping the company become the leading mobile commerce technology partner in Turkey. The RCQ asked him about the acquisition.

### How many people work for the company?

In 2006, when we first moved to mobile, we were seven people. At the time of the acquisition, there were 138 people in two offices. Now we are 183 people.

### What does Monitise do?

Monitise is a world leader in mobile money: banking, paying and buying with a mobile device. Leading banks, payments companies, retailers and mobile networks use Monitise's technology platforms and services to securely connect people.

### How did Monitise become interested in Pozitron?

As Monitise grew into a billion-dollar company, they expanded to new regions



Firat İşbecer RC 98

through key partnerships. Pozitron seemed like a perfect fit for Monitise due to its first-in-class talent, good set of clients and the targeted region. Since both companies were operating in the same field and had similar

customers and mindsets, the acquisition went very smoothly.

### What's the vision of the acquisition?

To make money totally mobile. We're responsible for the creation and ongoing development and design of an increasingly rich and diverse mix of mBanking, mPayment and mCommerce solutions around the world. We want to make a global impact with technology built in Turkey.

### Is the name Pozitron gone forever?

The name is still alive as our trade name - Pozitron Yazılım A.Ş. - while Monitise is our new brand. As part of Monitise, our scale grew even larger. Now we are addressing more global clients.

### What are your future plans?

I want to raise awareness of the startup and entrepreneurship ecosystem in Turkey, and do my best to attract more VCs and investors. I would like to be a role model, an example and hopefully a mentor to the upcoming generation.



## Serap Aksoy RC 74 Discovers Tsetse Fly Genome

A disease that kills thousands each year is closer to being eradicated thanks to the work of a team of Yale scientists led by Dr. Serap Aksoy. Their 10-year effort has resulted in the decoding of the genes of the bloodsucking tsetse fly, whose bite transmits sleeping sickness - a parasitic disease that drives its victims mad before they go into a coma and die.

"I wanted to work on a problem that was important for public health and one that was truly neglected and under investigated," explains Aksoy. "Also around the time I started my scientific career, parasites transmitted by tsetse flies were killing tens and thousands of people in Africa and almost no molecular information was available on tsetse flies and tsetse fly-parasite biology."

The discovery came about despite numerous obstacles. "I like challenges so this was a great system for me - but was more difficult than I entertained because it is a quarantined insect and one that is fastidious to rear," says Aksoy. "This fly



Serap Aksoy RC 74

gives birth to a live offspring - and only produces 8-10 in their whole life. So you have to be patient and take care of the mothers. For many years (over 30 now), we were the only facility in North America that maintained tsetse flies - lucky for me two of my students have set up their own labs and rear tsetse flies." Another issue was funding. Aksoy explained in a New York Times article that early federal grants for

gene sequencing all went to mosquitoes since mosquito-borne diseases are the major threat to Americans, and some of the diseases had bioterrorism potential. "Sleeping sickness is a neglected disease, an African disease," she said, "so we didn't get those funds."

Now that the genome has been discovered, epidemics may be a thing of the past. "Getting the genome blueprint opens the avenue to many future discoveries for disease control," explains Aksoy. "We now know about the proteins that are essential to keep this fly fertile, about the microbes that they rely on since they only feed on blood, the proteins involved in smell and vision that helps them locate their host for feeding, along with many other factors. All of these are great targets to interfere with in order to reduce the fly numbers or eliminate fly populations. This fundamental information will surely lead to the development of many new approaches - hopefully in my lifetime, but if not, I hope again soon before the next epidemic kicks in."

## Arwa Damon RC 94 Wins Prestigious Journalism Award

Risking her life to tell the stories of people living in war zones is a common activity for CNN senior international correspondent Arwa Damon. This bravery has won her the 2014 Courage in Journalism Award from the International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF).

Damon, who is of American and Syrian decent, identifies herself as Arab-American and grew up in Turkey, the US and Morocco. She took a bold step when she began her journalism career in 2002. "I grew up deeply entrenched in both cultures and felt an inexplicable sense to a certain degree - a desire, a need, to go out there and because of my own personal life experiences, and try to build cross-cultural bridges of understanding and compassion," explained Damon in an interview with IWMF. She spent three years covering Iraq and the Middle East freelancing for news organizations such as PBS, FOX and CNN before joining CNN in 2006 as a reporter.

Wherever there is turmoil in the Middle East, Damon is there. She has come under fire by numerous government forces, risked capture and arrest, lived trapped in buildings that were being shelled for days on end, and continues reporting events while bullets are whizzing around her. She says her coverage of the siege of Homs, Syria, in 2012 was one of the scariest assignments in her life. Damon was smuggled illegally into the country and had to keep moving between safe houses because the area was under heavy sniper attack and bombing.

A trademark of her reporting style is her ability to tell stories of people affected by both sides of the war. One such tale was about Youssif, a 5-year-old Iraqi boy who was severely burned in an attack. Damon sought medical treatment for the boy in the US, and followed his story for four years. It was the first time the network has portrayed such a strong connection between a reporter, their subject and the audience, which won her wide acclaim.



Arwa Damon RC 94 reporting from the field

Speaking with IWMF, Damon said, "I think I ended up being the accidental war correspondent. I didn't set out to have that be a focal point of my career. I most certainly am not an adrenaline junkie, but what really keeps me going out there every single day is those human stories."

You can read about Damon's experiences during the Iraq War in RCQ issue 23, p. 46 at [www.robcol.k12.tr](http://www.robcol.k12.tr).

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## Mehmet Fatih Ceylan RC 75

### Permanent Representative of Turkey to NATO

**M**ehmet Fatih Ceylan is a Permanent Representative of Turkey to NATO, making him the leader of the Turkish delegation to the organization. A career diplomat, Ambassador Ceylan entered the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1979. He has served in numerous positions in the ministry prior to this, including deputy undersecretary for Bilateral Political Affairs, director general for Bilateral Political Affairs for Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia and Ambassador to Sudan. Before being assigned to NATO he was deputy undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he was in charge of Bilateral Political Affairs for Asia, Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and Northeast Mediterranean; Cyprus, Greek and Maritime

and Aviation Affairs; and International Security and Defense Affairs.

As a diplomat, Ambassador Ceylan has specialized in NATO affairs and has a vast knowledge and experience in NATO and security and defense issues, making him one of the top NATO experts at the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ceylan has also served in a number of other posts since entering the foreign service in 1979, including third and second secretary at the Department of Greece and Cyprus Affairs, first secretary at the Turkish Embassy in Islamabad, Consul at the Turkish Consulate General in Deventer, Consul General at the Turkish Consulate General in Dusseldorf, and head of department for Human Resources.



Mehmet Fatih Ceylan RC 75

Ceylan graduated from Ankara University with a BA in Political Science and received his Master's degree in International Relations from Rutgers University.

## Marsel Mesulam RA 64

### Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

**T**he American Academy of Neurology and the American Brain Foundation, has awarded Dr. Marsel Mesulam, director of the Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease Center at Northwestern University, the 2014

Potemkin Prize for his work in helping advance the understanding of neurological disorders like Pick's and Alzheimer's. The award recognizes lifetime achievement, and has become an international tribute for advancing dementia research.

Mesulam's research has focused on primary progressive aphasia (PPA), a disease that he discovered in the early 1980s. PPA is an independent form of dementia which impairs a person's ability to access words, rather than memories. His work has discovered new insights into Alzheimer's disease and has showed that this language disorder can manifest differently in people with Alzheimer's and frontotemporal dementia.



Marsel Mesulam RA 64

"It was not all that long ago when the terms 'dementia' and 'Alzheimer's' disease were used synonymously and when memory loss was considered an invariant feature of dementia," said Mesulam. "This is no longer the prevailing opinion. We now know that there are multiple diseases that can cause dementia without Alzheimer's pathology or memory loss. Conversely, we are also finding out that Alzheimer's disease comes in different forms, some of which leave memory intact."

Mesulam believes Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are one of the greatest health care challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. "Understanding the complex brain abnormalities in dementias is an essential precursor to discovering means for prevention and treatment," he said.

## Rana Özbal Gerritsen RC 93

### Discovers 8,400 year-old Human Footprint

**K**oc University Assistant Professor Rana Özbal Gerritsen RC 93 is the co-director of excavations at Barcın Höyük, a Neolithic settlement in Bursa which, during the 2014 season, yielded numerous important discoveries. The most notable of these is a set of adult footprints that have been estimated to date back to 6,400 BC.

"Houses in the mound were built adjacent to each other in rows, a feature we see in Neolithic sites in this region" says Özbal Gerritsen. "We discovered ceramics in the lower layers indicating that pottery had started in the region by that time. The discovery is important since it was a first for the Marmara region."

The team also discovered footprints at the entrance of one of the houses in the mound. Özbal Gerritsen said that a large number of Neolithic footprints were discovered during the Yenikapı excavations associated with the Marmaray Project. However, the footprints from Barcın Höyük are not only older but extremely clear, such that the impression of all five toes can be seen.



Rana Özbal Gerritsen RC 93

This, and the fact that they come from an enclosed living space, make the Barcın Höyük footprints special. The footprints were consolidated, lifted and then given to the İznik Museum. The discovery is important because while it is common to discover pottery, architecture, small finds and other remnants of the ancient past, finding the actual impressions of the inhabitants themselves is exceptional.

Hadi Özbal RA 63, RC YÜK 67, Professor Emeritus at Boğaziçi University who conducts research at the site as a specialist in archaeometry and archaeological sciences, assisted with the

conservation efforts of the footprints. This makes the Barcın project a family endeavor. The excavations at the mound have been carried out since 2007 under the auspices of the Netherlands Institute in Turkey and with the consent of Turkey's Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Özbal Gerritsen received her BA in Anthropology at Bates College and her PhD at Northwestern University. Her career is full of fellowships and academic awards. She hopes to continue to excavate in Turkey, a region blessed with archaeological richness, and to make a long lasting contribution to Anatolian archaeology in the years to come.



Neolithic footprint found at Barcın Höyük

## İsmail Ertürk RC 77 Travels the World in Latest Novel

**İ**smail Ertürk's third book from Yapı Kredi Publications, *Yuvayönelik*, came out in June 2014. Ertürk is an academic at The University of Manchester, specializing in cultural economy and present-day capitalism, and at the same time publishes in Turkish on art and literature.

*Yuvayönelik* is his first book of fiction in Turkish that is composed of four interwoven narratives on traveling and self-reflection about leaving and returning to one's birthplace. The loneliness and mystery of migrating blue whales are constantly invoked in the narratives as a metaphor for subterranean fears about not belonging to any place. Martin Heidegger and Turkish philosopher Nermi Uygur are acknowledged philosophical influences in the book. The author's



İsmail Ertürk RC 77

favorite literary giants Jorge Luis Borges and Bilge Karasu encouraged him to take risks in content and form in writing fiction. In the short introduction, the author explains that the book's genre is an experimental hybrid that mixes the genres of storytelling, auto-biographical writing and literary essay. Four stories in the book are based on four experiences in four corners of the world- Frankfurt Airport, Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, Lantau Island in Hong Kong, and Essaouira in Morocco. But each visited corner leads the author to new journeys where he encounters the little known Roman philosopher-king Juba II, the re-discovered film of Orson Welles, Othello, the ancient Greek city of Aphrodisias in western Anatolia, and the overlooked cave paintings in South Africa, among others.



## Deniz Seviyesi by Esra Saydam RC 04

### Sweeps Altın Koza Awards

The star of this year's Altın Koza (Golden Boll) International Film Festival on September 20, was *Deniz Seviyesi (Things I Cannot Tell)*, co-directed by Esra Saydam and Nisan Dağ. The full-feature film won the Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Cinematography, Best Editing and Best Music awards, given by a jury that included Reha Erdem, Ahu Türkpençe, Gökhan Tiryaki, Mahmut Fazıl Coşkun, Nida Karabol, Ayberk Pekcan and Tamer Çiray.

Saydam and Dağ said of their film, "*Things I Cannot Tell* is a coming of age story about a woman who is stuck between her past and present and can't let go of her first love who is halfway across the world. In her journey from New York to a small coastal town in Turkey, the audience witnesses different kinds of love, subtle moments that make the characters humane and memorable, and the hardships and rewards of living



Esra Saydam RC 04

a cross-cultural life. In our first feature film, we did our best to tell this very personal story as wholeheartedly as we possibly could."

Saydam, who until now has focused on short films, told the RCQ about the directing process of her latest production. "From a psychological standpoint, a feature is four short films shot in a row.

At least this was what I told myself during production so as not to be overwhelmed by it. It worked nicely. For directors, 'a first feature' is very important because people who want to work with you on a project always want to check if you have directed a feature, and they get nervous if you haven't. Some directors are afraid to move onto features because the industry puts so much more value on them, but they shouldn't be afraid. They should care only about the stories they want to tell."

Saydam said she also enjoys being a producer in Turkey for independent American productions. "I recently worked as the field producer of a documentary about Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, and the filmmakers were last year's Oscar winners Morgan Neville and Caitrin Rogers. They are 'indie' and amazing, both professionally and personally. I will always try to collaborate with people like them when I am in Turkey and facilitate their productions here."

## A Story of Gezi through Photos

Tamer Tamar and Bora Samman, both graduates of RC 92, have collaborated on the recently published book *#direngezi: Spirit of Turkey's Gezi Uprising*.

"Gezi represented some of the most meaningful moments in our lives, and a spark we believe will change the country at some point. Therefore, it was a natural desire on our part to transform our images into something concrete and lasting. This wish to leave a legacy behind somehow crystallized in a plan to put together a book in December 2013. Once we converged on this idea of the book on the Gezi spirit, the rest was history," explains Tamar.

Tamar and Samman both started photography in their teens, with support from close mentors along the way. Tamar has been inspired and supported by the famous documentary photographer,



Hüsnü Gürsel, whereas Samman's influence came from his father who was an advertising photographer. They are both working full-time in the corporate world; through the need to balance out their lives, they have been taking frequent photo trips together since 2002 (read

about their trip to Syria in RCQ 43, p. 36). Tamar thinks working with a close friend had a lot of upsides. "Since we know each other inside out, the collaboration on the post-production phase of the book was quite seamless. We weren't burdened by artists' whims, and openly confronted each other about what formats did not work for the book or what photographs to leave out. This allowed us to select the right story and photographs without making the mistake of favoring our own photographs. Although our photographic styles are different, we do have very similar views about the political situation in Turkey and the debilitating impact of the global neo-colonial power structure."

Tamar and Samman are donating the proceeds of the book to families of Soma mining tragedy victims. The book can be found in all major bookstores or at [direngezibook.com](http://direngezibook.com)



Yoğurdun yeni formülü

(4 x 250g)  
yoğurt

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Rahmi M. Koç RC 51, Gala Chair

# Istanbul Gala Dinner

The RC 150 Benefit Gala in support of scholarships, held on November 6, 2014 at the Rahmi M. Koç Museum, was a resounding success. Close to 400 people attended the event chaired by Rahmi M. Koç RC 51, who addressed the guests, sharing stories of his school days as well as some great jokes.

Among the highlights of the evening was a Silent Auction that provided fun and funds by offering priceless experiences that money cannot buy. A surprise flash mob by RC Orchestra students playing "Celebration", followed later in the evening by musical performances from distinguished alumni together with

current students, amazed everyone in the room and added much to the festive air.

.....

Special thanks are due to Yasemin Piringcioğlu of VIP EVENT, daughter of the late Fethi Piringcioğlu RC 45, for volunteering her invaluable expertise to the Gala.

RC Trustees and members of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Major Gifts Committee, İpek Cem Taha RC 85, Işık Keçeci Aşur RC 85 and Leyla Tara Suyabatmaz RC 84 skillfully led the year-long fundraising effort, and awarded the highest contributors recognition plaques during the evening.



Osman Okyay (center) accepting the award on behalf of İbrahim Bodur RC 50



Murat Karamancı accepting the award from İpek Cem Taha RC 85 and Işık Keçeci Aşur RC 85



Urs Grunder (right) accepting the award on behalf of the Etor Charity Foundation from Leyla Tara Suyabatmaz RC 84



Donors were recognized also for their outstanding lifetime support to Robert College.

Accepting recognition plaques, from L to R: Leyla Aktay RC 72 on behalf of Sukey and Rodney Wagner, Süreya Köprülü RC 09 on behalf of the Joukowsky Family Foundation, Haluk Kilimci RC 50, Nina Joukowsky Köprülü, Esra Eczacıbaşı RC 07 on behalf of the Eczacıbaşı Family, İpek Kırış on behalf of the Suna and İnan Kırış Foundation, and Student Council President Yunus Emre Erdölen on behalf of the Pillsbury Family



From L to R: Leyla Tara Suyabatmaz RC 84, İpek Cem Taha RC 85, Hüsnü Özyeğin RA 63, Nuri M. Çolakoğlu RA 62 and Işık Keçeci Aşur RC 85

Robert College gratefully acknowledges:

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Class of RC 85

Class of RC 91

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Işık Keçeci Aşur RC 85

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Class of RC 88





The RC students' flash mob performed "Celebration" and got everyone in the mood



RC Student Council Vice President Zeynep Lal Toker and President Yunus Emre Erdölen, both RC 15



Su Özer RC 15



Headmaster Anthony Jones



Hakan Binbaşgil RC 79 on the keyboard and Erdal Karamercan RC ENG 73 on guitar



From L to R: Leyla Aktay RC 72, Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 and Ümran Üngün ACG 70



Volunteer RC students helped make sure the Silent Auction corner ran like clockwork



Beliz Özkan RC 15



Everyone was on the dance floor at the end of the evening





ROBERT COLLEGE  
1863

150<sup>TH</sup>  
YIL | YEAR

## *Istanbul Gala Dinner*



From L to R: Emir Nahum, Kerim Nahum RC 08, Cem Nahum RC 03 and Jan Nahum RA 67



From L to R: Nuyan Mansur, Metin Mansur RC 74, Serra Soysal RC 83 and Murat Soysal



From L to R: Erdal Karamercan RC ENG 73, Osman Arıdağ, Ahmet Esen RA 70, Işıl Arıdağ RC 78 and Zeynep Yalim Uzun RC 86



Conversation was flowing and the mood was festive and energetic



Guest speaker Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93 with classmate Bilge Bahar



Ömer Koç RC 80 and Çiğdem Feyzioğlu RC 79



From L to R: Ilanit De Nicola, Sima Benaroya RC 78, Selin Paksoy RC 02 and Selen Sarioğlu RC 02



From L to R: Semahat Arsel ACG 49, Ümran İnan and Lale Akkoyunlu Bulak ACG 61



From L to R: Hasan Çalışlar, Ahmet Alp RC 91, Melis Seyhun Çalışlar RC 91, Reşit Yıldız RC 91 and Zümrüt Alp Yalman RC 89 (sitting), and Ayşe Türkeri Zadil RC 89, Alp Saul RC 90, Cenk Türeli RC 91, Mete Zadil and Kaan Okurer RC 92 (standing)



From L to R: Demet Sönmez, Mete Sönmez RC 84, Oya Başak ACG 55, and Elize, Barış and Sera Tansever RC 15



From L to R: Yasemin Kahya RC 76, John Freely and Mehmet Kahya RA 69



Merve and Ali İspahani RC 96



## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Website Wins Prestigious Award

The special 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary website is the winner of the 2014 Golden Spider (Altın Örümcek) website award for best school website. The website was designed by Gri Creative and is a rich collection of photos, documents and videos from Robert College's past century and a half.

"We designed the website with the aim of winning an award, and focused on features like originality, content, design and usability," explained Onur Özdamar, managing partner of Gri. Robert College's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary team proposed the idea of publishing archival material online like an exhibit, and the Gri team worked on a design that reflects the RC spirit.

"This is our first award in the education-schools category, and the fact that it was won by one of the oldest and most respected schools, Robert College, is very important to us," Özdamar added.

The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary website can be seen at [150.robcol.k12.tr](http://150.robcol.k12.tr)



RC 150 web project leader Mehveş Dramur RC 96 accepting the award

## Rave Reviews for the RC 150 Exhibition Catalog

The catalog published for *The Anatomy of a Tradition: 150 Years of Robert College 1863-2013* exhibition has been a popular book, and has also received much acclaim in the media. Recently, the catalog was reviewed in Cornucopia magazine by Eleanor Shelton, who had the following to say about it:

"Seldom would a book about the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a college preparatory school deserve a review - but this is no ordinary school and this is no ordinary book. Described by its editors as a catalogue written by alumni, it covers not only the school's history but its place in national and international history, published alongside an exhibition last year at the Istanbul Research Institute, part of the Suna and İnan Kıraç Foundation.

"Beyond the history of the school, this catalogue, in its collection of essays, touches on topics spanning the cultural and political transformation of Turkey, ranging from the Treaty of Lausanne and the possibility of bringing nuclear power to Turkey to changes in women's attitudes to marriage. There are fun personal memoirs, as well as essays on sport, architecture and engineering.

"But perhaps it is the wonderful photos - from the late 1800s all the way to 2010 - that bring the history, educational plight and transformation to life, depicting the people, buildings and activity that made Robert College one of the most historically important schools in the world."



*The Anatomy of a Tradition: 150 Years of Robert College 1863-2013* Exhibition catalog can be purchased from the Robert College Alumni Association website at [store.rkmd.org.tr](http://store.rkmd.org.tr)

# HOTİÇ

2014-2015 Sonbahar Kış



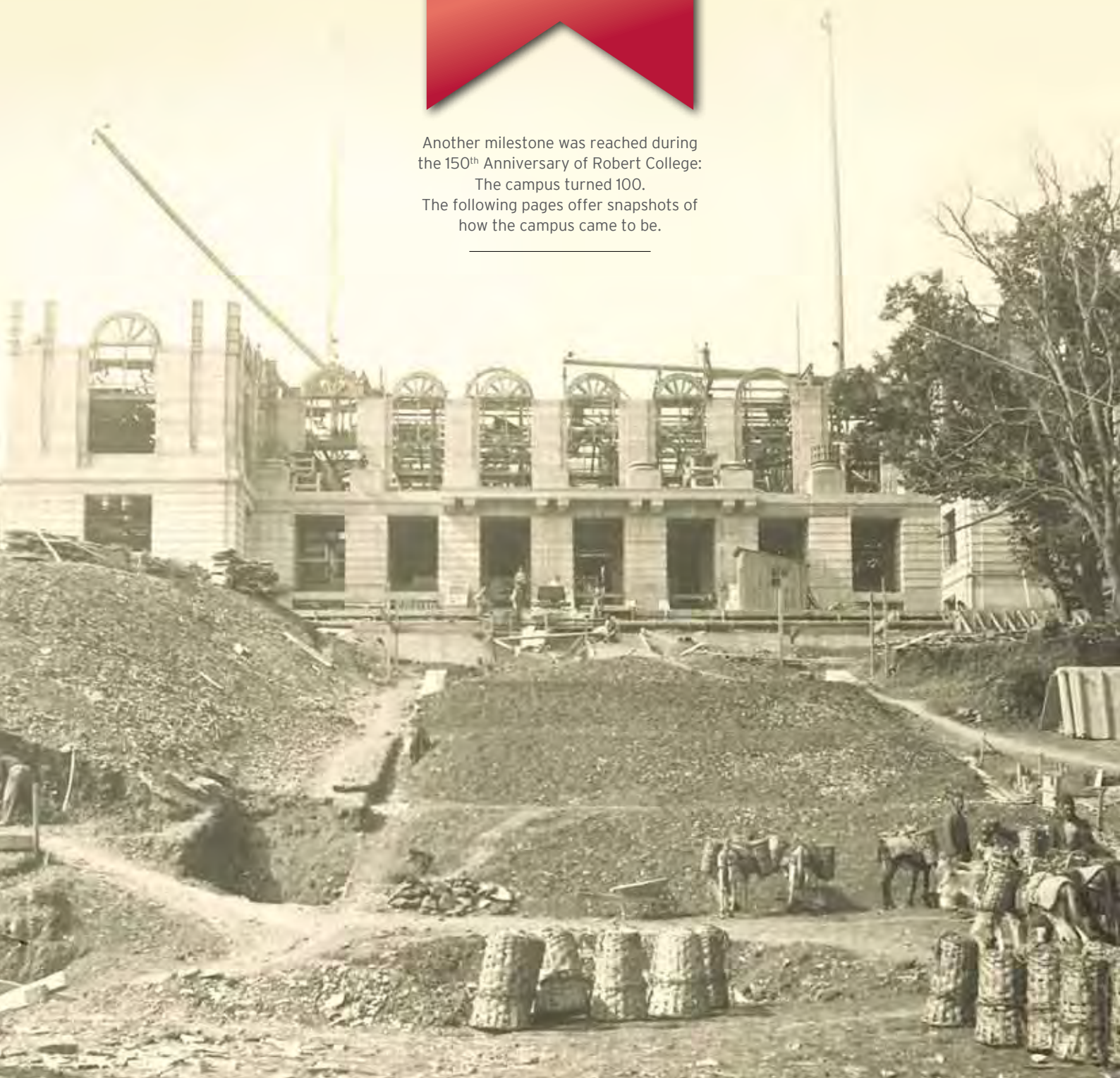




ROBERT COLLEGE

Another milestone was reached during  
the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Robert College:  
The campus turned 100.  
The following pages offer snapshots of  
how the campus came to be.

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The Boston firm  
Shepley Rutan & Coolidge  
Architecture's original plans

# a Campus Turns one hundred

On the evening of December 15, 1905, a fire broke out in Barton Hall on the American College for Girls (ACG) campus in Üsküdar, completely destroying it.

Barton Hall was the larger of two main buildings, and overnight the school lost its science labs, assembly hall, gymnasium, classrooms, dorms and faculty housing. A nearby house was rented for accommodation, and two old houses were purchased by the Alumnae Association for classrooms, but these buildings were entirely inadequate for the needs of the college.

## Finding a New Home

"We shall build again but this time not in Asia, in Europe," said the head of the school, Mary Mills Patrick, in response to the fire. ACG, whose roots began with the opening of the Home School in 1871 in Gedikpaşa, had moved to Üsküdar in 1876. Before the fire, Dr. Patrick wanted to expand the campus to better serve their ever-growing student body. The Üsküdar location was not easy to get to as it was separated from the center of the city by a wide body of water, and it did not cover a large enough area to allow for long-term expansion.

Two properties that would decades later become the Robert College campus were found in Arnavutköy. The deed from the first property was obtained in 1908. Belonging to the Düz family, it included the land from the sea road up to the Köşk, Barton Hall, the Plateau and the Maze. A



Sage, Woods, Mitchell and Gould Halls, as seen from the Bosphorus

second adjacent property belonging to the Musurus family, which started at the sea road continuing up the hill to where the Deanery and Konak Terrace are today, was rented in 1910 and the Introductory Department (Orta School) immediately moved to the magnificent Musurus palace. The land was purchased in 1920.

When the Düz property purchase was finalized, work on the design of the new campus and site preparations began quickly. The architects appointed to the project were the Boston firm Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge, led by ACG trustee Charles H. Rutan.

Construction began in May 1910. The campus design was unique in that the

buildings were built from the foundations up, according to one plan. At that time, very few schools could claim the same advantage.

The work was overseen by an American contractor and foremen, who brought special machinery from the US. A temporary pier was built on the Bosphorus to land the shipments, and the heavy equipment was carried up the hill by water buffalo. Dr. Patrick, describing the scene, said, "The first demonstration was dragging the large stone-crusher brought from America up the long, steep grade to the new site. This was accomplished by ten pairs of great buffalo oxen, bedecked with beads and bright-colored cords and tassels and with flowers behind their ears,





Gould Hall under construction with Mitchell close behind, 1913

according to custom. It was a difficult task for the oxen, even though they had flowers behind their ears."

### Placing the Cornerstone

On November 9, 1911, the cornerstone for Gould Hall was laid during a ceremony attended by local and foreign officials, representatives of the different communities and educational institutions in the city, and faculty and students. US Ambassador William R. Rockhill said a few words and placed a box into the stone containing college documents, an official copy of the deed of the land, newspapers from November 1911 in different languages, coins of the empire and the ceremony program. The cornerstone, inscribed with the roman numerals A.D. MCCCCXI, was then lowered into place. The other buildings were also observed during the ceremony, two of which were being constructed at the time.

### Moving to a New Continent

Using modern forms of transportation in those days - caïques and buffalo carts - to move the school across the Bosphorus, the students finally relocated to their glorious new campus in April 1914. In her book, *A Bosphorus Adventure*, Dr. Patrick said, "Four up-to-date buildings awaited our occupation, supplied by the power house with heat, light and electric power, and furnished with all necessary equipment. Beautiful grounds at an elevation of about three hundred feet above sea-level, a plateau overlooking the Bosphorus, winding walks beneath

overhanging boughs - all seemed to offer a prophetic vision of increasing progress. The nightingales echoed our emotion as they filled the air with exquisite music.

"Although one of the line of buildings was then only half completed, the architects had put the roof on the lower part, for those rooms were needed. Naturally, the result looked like a great joke, such as might have been planned by Nazr-ed-Din Hoja himself. The amusement expressed at the half building in our impressive plant was echoed even across the seas, and as a result the donor sent the necessary funds in time for its completion before the architects brought their work to an end."

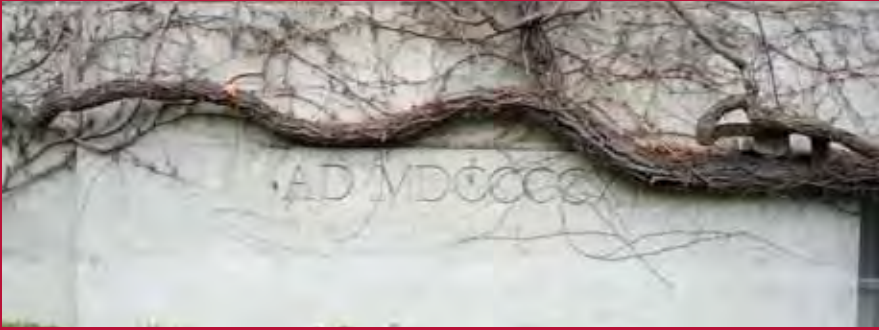
Explaining the reason for the mid-semester move, Mihri Pektaş ACG 16, one of the first female members of the Turkish Parliament, and wife of Hüseyin Pektaş RC 03, said in a speech to the Hisar Women's League in the Fall of 1962, "Dr. Patrick had wanted the seniors to enjoy at least their two last months in the new surroundings. Everything was in bloom - and the Plateau spread a different view of the Bosphorus at our feet."

### Dedication Ceremony

The official dedication of the buildings was a simple but momentous ceremony that took place in the Auditorium in Gould Hall on June 3, 1914. Dr. Patrick wrote, "The audience was an interesting one, as it included Turkish officials, church dignitaries in their robes, diplomatic

### Milestones from a Century

- 1910** Construction begins on the Arnavutköy campus. The Orta division (formerly known as the Preparatory) moves to the former palace of the Musurus family on the Arnavutköy waterfront as temporary quarters.
- 1911** The cornerstone for the four new academic buildings to be erected on the Arnavutköy property is laid on November 9.
- 1914** Gould, Mitchell, Woods and Sage Halls are officially opened on the Arnavutköy campus. They are gifts of Helen Gould Shepard, Olivia E. Phelps Stokes, Mrs. Henry Woods and Mrs. Russell Sage respectively.
- 1920** The medical school program is launched, offering two-year pre-med and four-year graduate programs.
- 1922** Construction is begun on the Arnavutköy campus for a medical building, with funds donated by ACG trustee William Bingham II.
- 1923** Mary Payne Bingham Hall is partially opened as the medical school building
- 1924** The ACG trustees decide to discontinue the medical school due to lack of adequate funds. Mary Mills Patrick returns to the US after 53 years in Turkey. Dr. Kathryn N. Adams becomes President of ACG.
- 1925** The ACG Orta (Middle School) is relocated to Bingham Hall, vacating Musurus Palace.
- 1932** Dr. Paul Monroe becomes the first joint President of RC and ACG.
- 1940** Dr. Mary Mills Patrick dies in Palo Alto at the age of 90.
- 1958** The Board of Trustees of RC and ACG are incorporated under the chairmanship of Alfred Ogden. The ACG Child Study Center, the first of its kind in Turkey, is established in Hillside House under the direction of Dr. Rebeka Shuey for children aged 4-6.
- 1961** The first references to co-education and the possible merger appear in the "Stevenson Report".
- 1963** ACG's Lise Library moves to improved quarters in Gould Hall.
- 1965** Dr. Dwight Simpson becomes President of the colleges. He reveals merger plans to the faculties of ACG and RC.



Gould Hall cornerstone inscribed with the date it was laid, 1911



Bingham Hall



Child Study Center in the 1960s



Clarke Audio Visual Center in the 1970s



"Gymnatorium" in Gould Hall in the 1980s



Suna Kırac Theatre, Feyyaz Berker Science Hall and Nejat Eczacıbaşı Gymnasium



Sait Halman Computer Center in the 1980s



Entrance to the Rodney B. Wagner Memorial Maze



Gould Hall



Headmaster Anthony Jones and PE Teacher Dave Phillips at the inauguration of the Dave Phillips Field

**1967** The Clarke Audio-Visual Center is established at ACG with funds donated by Goldwaithe Higginson Dorr, Trustee. It is named in honor of Elizabeth H. Clarke.

**1969** The ACG gym in Mitchell Hall is converted into a cafeteria seating 400, while the Gould Hall auditorium with the balcony removed becomes the gym/assembly hall.

**1970-71** The four-year lise at ACG is reduced to three years to conform with Robert Academy's curriculum.

**1971** The merger of ACG and RA as a co-educational institution on the Arnavutköy campus takes place in September. John C. Chalfant becomes the first Headmaster of the co-educational Robert College.

**1972** The first co-educational graduation on the RC campus is held in June.

**1985** The first at RC Computer Center is opened in Mitchell Hall and named in Memory of Sait Halman, son of Seniha and Talat Halman RC 51.

**1989-90** Three new buildings - the science building, gymnasium and theatre - are inaugurated as a result of the major fundraising campaign for the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They are named for their benefactors: Feyyaz Berker RC 46, Nejat Eczacıbaşı RC 32 and Suna Kırac ACG 60.

**1992** The Orta (Middle School) is moved from Bingham Hall to Woods Hall.

**1997** Due to the eight-year compulsory education passed by the Turkish parliament, the Robert College Orta is phased out as Robert College becomes a four-year Lise with a one-year Pre-Lise program.

**2001** Last Orta graduation.

**2005** The Maze is named in memory of Rodney B. Wagner, long time RC Board Chair and major benefactor.

**2013** The upper field is inaugurated in honor of PE teacher Dave Phillips, through contributions from 30 years of his former students.

**2013-14** Robert College celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with numerous events in Istanbul and New York.

**2014** The girls' dorm is inaugurated as the Hüsnü Özyeğin Girls' Residence, as acknowledgement of a substantial sesquicentennial gift made to Robert College by Hüsnü Özyeğin RA 63.





Ground-breaking ceremony in May 1910

representatives from different parts of Europe, as well as heads of other educational institutions, and most important of all, the relatives of the students of our college."

Speakers included leaders from the communities in Constantinople and members of the college community, including US Ambassador Morgenthau, trustees George A. Plimpton and Walter B. Walker, American Consul General Gabriel Bie Ravndal, legal advisor of the college W. W. Peet, President of the Armenian National Council, senator and former minister of foreign affairs Gabriel Effendi Noradounghian, Bulgarian minister Mr. Tosheff, the Grand Rabbi of the Jewish Community, Robert College President Dr. Caleb Gates, and ACG 01 alumna Halide Edip Adivar. The Greek minister was unable to attend. The speeches were a tribute the school's success over the past four decades, and the efforts of its administration.

Dr. Gates said, "This college has moved to another Continent, it is built on a new site, its buildings are new, its equipment and furniture are new, it seems to have cut loose from the past and to stand here as a representative of the modern spirit in education with no reminder of the past upon her campus."

The dedication of the new campus was equally a celebration of the accomplishments of Dr. Patrick. In addition to being given the keys to the new buildings, she was also granted an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Smith College, and the Order of Shefkhat in recognition for her services in the education of women from Sultan Mehmed V, presented by Minister of the Interior Talaat Bey.

"The exercises of the dedication of the buildings, to us who belonged to the old faculty of the Scutari days, seemed to be almost a miraculous culmination of our



The cornerstone for the new academic buildings to be erected on the Arnavutköy property was lowered on November 9, 1911



The back of Gould Hall during construction

deepest aspirations," said Dr. Patrick.

The ceremony was followed by a Pageant of Nations which took place in the Maze. Dressed in national costumes and outfits representing different aspects of their cultures, Turkish, American, Hebrew, English, French, Armenian, Serbian, Swiss, Bulgarian, Albanian, German and Greek students entered the Maze in procession and closed the ceremony by singing the College Song. A week after the dedication ceremony, commencement exercises took place in the Auditorium, with the Class of

'14 having the honor of being the first to receive their diplomas in the new buildings.

The jubilant end of the school year would be overshadowed by the outbreak of World War I just a few weeks later. However, the school opened as planned on September 15, 1914 and, despite many challenges over the years, never closed its doors.

What began as a girls' college evolved into a premier co-educational high

school. Over the last century the campus has hosted many changes including the merger with Robert Academy, the addition of faculty lodging and new academic buildings (Bingham Hall was completed in 1923; Feyyaz Berker, Suna Kırac and Eczacıbaşı Halls were completed in 1989), and the closing of the Orta division. Throughout these transformations, the college has not only prevailed, but continues to be a symbol of the modern spirit of education in Turkey and beyond.



Students dressed in their national costumes at the Pageant of Nations in the Maze on June 3, 1914



## Who Was Mary Mills Patrick?

**R**obert College would not be the world-class school that it is today if it were not, in part, for the foundation that was laid by Dr. Mary Mills Patrick.

Born in Canterbury, New Hampshire in 1850, Patrick grew up on a farm and was exposed to foreign languages and music from a young age. She graduated from Lyons Collegiate Institute in Iowa with the "Highest Honors of the Institute", and was offered a scholarship to Vassar College. However, she instead accepted an offer from the American Mission Board to teach in Erzurum. She spent the next four years learning the language and customs of her host country. As fate would have it, she was unexpectedly transferred in 1875 to Üsküdar as a temporary substitute at the Home School, where the Principal,

Assistant Principal, and last two American faculty members had left. She would stay with the school for nearly half a century.

Mihri Pektaş ACG 16 gave a fitting description of her character: "Now try to realize, from those humble beginnings how the birth and growth of the present College was consummated. Until her retirement in 1924, Dr. Patrick was the driving faith and spirit behind that phenomenal achievement. The story of the College illustrates her courage, her unselfish devotion, her power to convince other to invest in a faraway land, her absolute refusal to lose hope no matter how cloudy the sky. She was the one who had sublime confidence in women's power to think and achieve. Her ambition for her work knew no bounds. She always believed the best for everyone - including her faculty and her students... She was



Dr. Mary Mills Patrick

one of the lucky mortals to whom a worthy idea is given in early life, for which she works day and night all through that like, and finally given the greater luck of seeing that ideal realized."

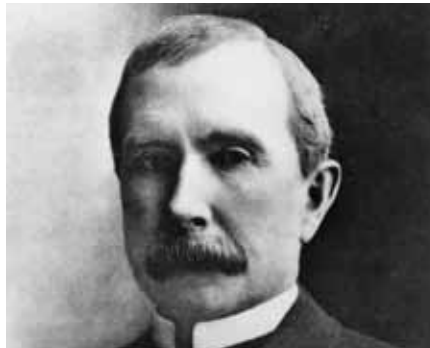
## Benefactors of the First Buildings



Helen Gould Shepard

**Helen Gould Shepard**, the daughter of Wall Street financier Jay Gould, she gave \$150,000 for the construction of Gould Hall, which she dedicated in memory of her parents.

**Mrs. Olivia Phelps Stokes** was a modest benefactor who never wanted the buildings she financed to be named after her. She asked that her \$100,000 gift be named Mitchell Hall after her friend, Sarah Lindley Mitchell.



John D. Rockefeller

**John D. Rockefeller**, the business magnate and philanthropist, gave \$150,000 for the power house that supplied the buildings with heat, light and water, and for restoration of the wall around the property.

**Mrs. Henry Woods** made a partial gift of \$58,000 to have Woods Hall erected in memory of her husband. The building was completed through the generosity of Helen Gould Shepard.



Mrs. Russell Sage

**Mrs. Russell Sage** was one of the wealthiest women in the world after her husband, financier and moneylender Russell Sage, died in 1906. She initially turned Mary Mills Patrick away, but later gave \$100,000 to erect the dorm building. She was 86 when the building was inaugurated.

**William Bingham** gave \$100,000 to build the medical building in memory of his mother, Mary Payne Bingham.



www.ruhungidasiseyahatler.com

**"Ruhun Gıdası Seyahatler"**, sanat, yemek ve müzik başta olmak üzere yaşam kültürünün her alanından beslenen ve bunun sonucunda **ruhu da besleyen seyahatler sunuyor**. Siz de, yemek yazarı, yemek kültürü uzmanı ve "müzmin gezgin" **Güzin Yalın (RC '75) tarafından dizayn edilen bu gezilerle dünyanın ruha gıda tüm boyutlarını keşfe çıkarın...**



**Lezzet Hasatları:** Şiari "Lezzet, Bereket, Gelenek" olan ve bu kavramları farklı yerlerde keşfetmenizi sağlayan seyahatlerdir. Bazen bir tarlada, bir bahçede ya da bir bağda gerçekten hasat yapar, bazen bir tapınakta yerlilerin bereket ayinine katılır, bazen de bir köy evinin sofrasında en eski gelenekleri tanır. Değişmeyen özelliği, her zaman değişik, özel, ilginç tatlar tattırması ve yaşattığı deneyimleri mümkün olduğunca gittiği yerin insanlarıyla paylaşarak yaşatmasıdır.



**Kentlerin Müziği:** Bu geziler "Müzik Ruhun Gıdası" gerçeğini özel seçilmiş kentlerde ve farklı boyutlarda yaşatır. Seçilen kent bazen çok büyük ve ünlü, bazen de minicik ve kendi halinde bir kent olabilir ama mutlaka katılımcılara sunacağı özel bir "lezzeti" vardır. Bazen gerçekten bir müzik konserinde, bir tanıdık ezgiyi, ünlü bir dünya starından dinletir; bazense bir kentin lezzet veren kendi iç müziğini dinlemek için bilinmedik ara sokaklarına dalar. Her koşulda, bir kentin turisti değil yerlisi gibi yaşamak isteyenlere birbirinden çok farklı keyifler sunar.

9-13  
NİSAN

## Girit

Ortodoks inancının en ilginç uygulamalarından olan Tanrının Cuması (Good Friday) ve Paskalya günü ritüellerini Giritliler ile birlikte yaşamak için...



LEZZET  
HASATLARI

20-25  
MART

## Londra



KENTLERİN  
MÜZİĞİ

Günümüzün müzik başkentlerinden birisinde, dünyanın en ünlü sahnesinde opera izlemek, pek çok sanatçının sahneye ilk çıktığı mekanlarda caz dinlemek ve meşhur "West End'de müzikal seyretmek için...



Mitolojik öykülerin beşiği olan İda Dağlarında doğanın coştugu mevsimi yaşamak; bin bir çeşit yabancı otu tanımayı öğrenmek; topladığınız otlardan eşsiz lezzetler yaratmak; benzersiz bir huzur mekanında kentin stresinden arınmak için...

## Kaz Dağları

8-10  
MAYIS

LEZZET  
HASATLARI

16-20  
TEMMUZ

## Parga Kofu Preveze



LEZZET  
HASATLARI

Bir yandan eşsiz plajlarda Ege Denizinin tüm güzelliklerinden yararlanıp doğanın tadını çıkartırken bir yandan da öyküsü tarihimize iç içe geçmiş bir kentin adetlerini öğrenmek için...



Avrupa'nın en pitoresk göllerinden birisi olan Konstanz gölünün kıyısında pek çok kaynak tarafından "ölmeden önce görülecek şeyler" listesine dahil edilen göl üzerindeki ünlü opera sahnesinde operanın en ünlü eserlerinden birini izlemek için...

## Bregenz

21-24  
AĞUSTOS

KENTLERİN  
MÜZİĞİ

11-15  
EYLÜL

## Mardin



LEZZET  
HASATLARI

Mardin'in insanı saran büyüsunü içinizde duyarak Suriye Ovası'na karşı gün batımını izlemek; yöre tarihinin izlerini çeşitli uygarlıklardan kalan kadim eserlerde sürmek; kentin çarşılarında ve daracık sokaklarında bir Ortaçağ masalı yaşamak için...



Birçoklarına göre dünyanın başkenti olan New York'ta kentin sunduğu tüm lezzetlerin tadına bakmak; ünlü Metropolitan Opera'da opera, Carnegie Hall'de konser, Broadway'de müzikal, Harlem'in caz kulüplerinde caz dinlemek için...

## New York

19-26  
EYLÜL

KENTLERİN  
MÜZİĞİ



## Rainbows at Robert College

Robert College was in full “rainbow mode” once again for UNIRC’s 7<sup>th</sup> annual *Türkiye’nin 7 Rengi* (The 7 Colors of Turkey) project, held during the last week of June 2014. Conducted in coordination with *Çağdaş Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği* who is of invaluable help in reaching students from the farthest corners of Turkey, UNIRC hosted 56 students from Ordu, Kütahya, Adapazarı, Osmaniye, Erzurum, Çankırı and Siirt. The 12 year-old youngsters show high academic success yet lack opportunities. After settling into the comfortable rooms of Bingham Hall, they spent a vigorous week at Robert College full of activities such as orienteering, computer education, film recording, percussion training, science labs, art workshops and Destination Imagination as well as city trips (Hagia Sophia, Topkapı Palace, Istanbul Archeological Museum,

Istanbul Modern Art Museum, Turkuazoo, Miniaturk and a Bosphorus tour). Well known anchorwoman and journalist Burcu Esmersoy visited *Türkiye’nin 7 Rengi* to meet the children. She answered questions, took lots of photos and danced with them. The project and her visit was featured in *Hürriyet* Newspaper.

The ultimate goal with *Türkiye’nin 7 Rengi* is to touch as many children’s lives as possible, to enrich their experiences, meet with other cultures, bond with new friends, and motivate them to continue their education at the university level. To organize *Türkiye’nin 7 Rengi*, UNIRC works as a team for a whole year to plan for students’ entertainment, education and safety. RC 12 grads Anıl Akarsu and Dilşad Özen, coordinators of the project, worked extra hard to ensure that everything was perfect.



Fifty-six students from all corners of Turkey during a city trip to Hagia Sophia museum

## The new Executive Board is ready for the next year

After a year of duties completed and missions accomplished it was time for old members to make room for the assistant members. The new executive board is comprised of Ufuk Serkan

Yıldırım RC 12, Ceren Acar RC 12, Anıl Akarsu RC 12, Ebrar Bahçivan RC 13, Sinan Tuna Alkan RC 13, Burcu Küçükoğlu RC 13, Damla Toprak RC 13, Emre Şahal RC 13 and Batuhan Sicimoğlu RC 13.

Congratulations on all their hard work and best wishes to all for an engaging and fruitful new school year.

UK

VISA

OPTIONS

The United Kingdom offers an unparalleled quality of life, boasting cosmopolitan cities, a world-class education system and a business-friendly environment.

DavidsonMorris Solicitors have over 20 years' experience providing specialist immigration advice to HNW individuals.

Are you looking to establish a business, purchase property or retire in the UK? We can assist you to secure residence under the Tier 1 visa categories.

Are you a student at Robert College who is looking to study in the UK? We can provide alternatives to a student visa which will allow you to secure permanent residence at the end of your studies.

We will guide and support you throughout the entire immigration process, from first-entry to British citizenship.

We would be happy to arrange a personal appointment in London or Istanbul to meet you and discuss your requirements.



Jemima Johnstone



Anne Morris



Adam Hoefel



## Young Singer Hits a Crescendo

15-year-old student Su Özer always knew she wanted to be in music. Her success over the past year is accelerating her toward that goal faster than she could have imagined. As the recipient of this year's prestigious Arif Mardin Music Fellowship at Berklee, the youngest winner of the Nardis Young Vocalist Competition, and President of RC Singers, Su has a bright future ahead of her. She tells the RCQ about her summer at Berklee, the challenges of polyphonic music, and what it is like performing in front of a panel of judges.

### What was the summer music workshop at Berklee like?

It was so great to see people who share your passion. It was not just about how you do academically, but about your dedication to your passion. I also saw people working on their music. I needed to see that musicians put in a lot of time practicing, and don't just go into a studio and record. It gave me drive and motivation to work myself.

I was scared before I went. Becoming a musician has been a goal of mine since I was eight, and when I understood that it was becoming a reality, I started to question if it was really what I wanted to do. When I arrived at Berklee, the first thing I did was walk into the 160

Massachusetts Avenue building, did a 360° turn and realized I was right where I have to be. Around that time a friend gave me some advice: don't ever be a musician unless you have to be one. I thought about this throughout the five weeks and it was a great revelation; I have to really want to be a musician. I think you have to have those dramatic epiphanies to decide to become an artist and actually become one.

### What did you do during the program?

I made it into the vocalist program, which was open to only 10 students out of around 300 who tried out. I was able to work with a lot of amazing Berklee musicians and conductors. I also got to see what everyone's mission in a group is and how they work together.

### What did you learn that you will bring back to the RC Singers?

Technique and stage presence, which is challenging to do for a choir because the dynamics are different than a soloist on stage. But I think we can do it because we have great artists in RC Singers.

### How did you feel when you heard you won the Arif Mardin Music Fellowship?

I was told on April 1, so I thought it was an April Fool's joke! I had applied, but since it is only awarded to one Turkish student,

I had made other plans for the summer. Luckily I was able to change my plans and go to Berklee.

### What was it like performing at Nardis?

Being in a small place and so close to the audience has always been a challenge for me. At the time, I didn't connect with the audience yet. The musicians and judges were very experienced, so it was scary. I was under a lot of pressure, and expected a far better performance from myself, but I was too excited and anxious. I plan to join the competition and win again this year, so I can go to the festival.

### How have music teachers Koray Demirkapı and Deniz Baysal helped you with your singing?

What I do now is because of them. I always wanted to sing and do music. Getting to know them and getting their advice on a variety of subjects, not just singing but on life, has changed me and has made me a different person. I grasped the idea of being an artist and a musician. Through RC Singers, Koray Abi taught me how to be a leader and arrange people and make them shine. As a choir everybody has to have a shining personality that makes them stand out in front of the judges.

### RC Singers has been successful at international competitions over the past couple years. What is it like competing outside of Turkey?

Polyphonic music is not a traditional style of music for us. Since we don't have that talent in our blood, we first have to understand the concept, then build on it and polish it. In international competitions, there are choirs from all over the world, and most come from a culture of polyphonic music, so they have an advantage. We have to make up for it in energy and that shine that I mentioned.

### Where do you see yourself going?

I know I want to be a musician and will apply to colleges accordingly. I know where I want to be in five years, which is a strange concept because RC teaches you to try many different things when you're my age before settling on one path.



Su Özer RC 15

## Creating New Trends in Technology

Like 12 student Kaan Göksal has dreams, he has a goal, and most importantly, he enjoys what he is doing. He learns from the past, and uses the present opportunities in the best way. He constantly invests in his future. He learns from his educators, and they learn from him. He is a young entrepreneur who brings to mind a question asked by Alan November, the renowned leader in educational technology, "Who owns the learning?" Kaan is the owner of his own learning.

Kaan has a business card; it doesn't say he is a student, because he is an entrepreneur. He founded a startup in March 2014 together with three university students he met at summer school. They designed a smart plug which has market potential. The Turkish Ministry of Industry supported his initiative, including covering the expenses of an office at Yıldız Technical University's TechnoPark.

The recent Internet of Things (IoT) phenomenon is based on the interconnection of devices over the internet and the intelligent analysis of data aiming to make life easier for users. This promises to be the future. These technologies are already used in everyday life. For example, with an activity tracker (e.g., Fitbit), one can view the analysis of distance walked in a day, compare it with others' weekly analyses, and make targets for a healthy lifestyle. Or, if the carbon dioxide level in one's home presents a risk, a message is sent to a smart phone. Life is full of IoT examples like smart homes, smart cars, smart watches, etc. So, why did the Ministry of Industry find Kaan's innovation worthy of incentives?

### Using the internet to conserve energy

The smart plug has several features. Everyday needs were thoroughly analyzed, then clever but equally simple and clear solutions were developed. Before starting the dishwasher, it asks, "In 30 minutes, electricity will cost less; would you prefer to start it later?" If the answer is yes, dishwashing begins 30 minutes later. The smart plug receives daily data from the internet about the cost of electricity and guides you to make wise decisions about energy

consumption. It costs close to \$300 per year to leave the TV on standby. This is called vampire power. The device designed by Kaan and his friends is



Electricity-saving smart-plug

equipped with sensors that switch your TV to standby function when you walk into the room, and turns the power off completely upon leaving the room.

### Teaching the next generation

Kaan also brings new perspectives to students' worlds. He developed and instructed a "3D Design and Printing" course for the RC summer camp. The students printed robots they designed on the 3D printer, and programmed them with codes they wrote themselves. He also founded the RC Maker club, and is currently advising over 20 students. Another of his amazing achievements is

that he designed and built a 3D printer - and it works!

One of Kaan's strengths is not just to notice needs, reflect on them, and work with others to find solutions; he also creates a learning network around them while doing so. He didn't learn how to use Arduino (an open source electronics platform based on software and hardware) in class; he learned it by watching videos on the internet and attending online courses. His educators guide his energy and interest in a way that will serve society, present him with questions and problems to encourage further learning, and create opportunities for him to get involved in different activities. For example, he was the first and only high school student to test the Galileo Gen 2, which is an Arduino certified development and prototyping board, at Intel's IoT Roadshow event in September. The project he developed with participants employed in the sector won second place in the "development" workshop, and Intel awarded Kaan with a Galileo.

Kaan recently shared his experiences as a maker and entrepreneur at the opening ceremony of the Turkcell Technology Summit and the SAP Forum Istanbul which were both held in November 2014.

To follow Kaan's latest developments, visit his website [www.kaangoksal.com](http://www.kaangoksal.com)

**Contributed by Burcu Aybat, RC Educational Technology Coordinator**



Kaan Göksal RC 15 presenting at the opening of the Turkcell Technology Summit in November 2014



# What is Your Little Paradise Kingfisher?

By Barış Karadoğan RC 90

The little paradise kingfisher is a very difficult bird to find in Papua New Guinea. You have to search for it in lowland tropical swamps, home to leeches, malaria mosquitoes and chiggers. While it is not certain that you will ever find it, it is certain that you will be knee-deep in mud and drenched in sweat every time you try. That's exactly what we, Dr. Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93, Ali Töre RC 90 and Barış Karadoğan RC 90, had to do to find and photograph that bird. It was well worth it.

Some of you may remember the birding trip Çağan and I made to the Philippines in 2008. This time we added another explorer, Ali Töre, to our gang, and with two other biologist friends from Australia we started our journey to the western lowland forests of Papua New Guinea (PNG).

**Why Papua New Guinea?**  
It is simply one of the least explored places left on our planet.



The birders, busy at work



A scene from "paradise"

I have always wanted to be an explorer, travel the world like Darwin, Wallace or Cook, and feel what they felt when they saw the pure size and beauty of the jungle. Also, PNG is home to the famous "birds of paradise". Most live high up in the canopy, and develop extraordinary plumes and dances to woo females. Their displays are spectacular. They were able to develop these extraordinarily lavish

feathers and behaviors, because in PNG there are no cats or foxes to threaten them, or monkeys to eat their food. With little danger and plenty of food, they have evolved spectacular behaviors. We were fortunate to see about ten different kinds of birds of paradise, all breathtaking in their own ways. The most notable ones were the king bird of paradise (BOP), greater and raggiana BOPs, Carole's parotia, magnificent BOP, 12-wire BOP, magnificent riflebird, glossy-mantle manucode, trumpeted manucode and curl-crested.

While the treetops may be a safe haven for birds, Port Moresby, the capital of PNG, is not so for people. It is severely underdeveloped and parts of the city remind you of the alien refugee camp in the movie, District 9. Crime is rampant and there are accounts of birders getting robbed and even raped. We did not stay long and took a flight to Tabubil, a mining town in the foothills on the western border of PNG.

**Our plane made one attempt at landing, could not do it, but succeeded on the second attempt. The whole thing felt like a scene from Indiana Jones, or an issue of Mr. No.**

Yet, in order to see rare birds you have to be in remote places. That's what makes birding interesting and challenging.

In Tabubil we saw our first BOPs, along with a very special duck, Salvadore's teal, one of the very few ducks adapted to hunt in high-speed torrents in rivers. The story of Tabubil is a sad one. On one side of town is a virgin rainforest; on the other side is a mine that is destroying the forest near it, and you can see a river carrying all the mining waste. One of the locals pointed at the river and said, "all polluted." Mining is so important, that the mining company has its own airline, and anybody who arrives to Tabubil for reasons other than mining needs to be interviewed before being let into the city. Most certainly, they did not want us photographing the wrong people at the wrong places.

Later, we drove to the hot and humid city of Kiunga, situated squarely at the lowlands of PNG. There we saw even more birds of paradise and met Edmund who would be our tour guide in Kwatu, in the middle of the lowland jungle, accessible only by boat.

To go to Kwatu we took a boat from Kiunga for three hours. Our lodge was on Ketu River, a tributary of the Elevala,



From L to R: Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93, Barış Karadoğan RC 90 and Ali Töre RC 90



Kwatu tour guide Edmund with his two sons





Barış Karadoğan RC 90 and Ali Töre RC 90 deep in the rainforest

which is a tributary itself of the large Fly River in western PNG. For the next four days we woke up at 5 am and took the boat to a different part of the jungle. We saw water monitors, crocodiles, and all kinds of birds on the river banks. The best part of our trip was, after an exhausting day, shutting off the engine and letting the boat float in silence. With absolutely no human-made sounds or lights nearby, it was the moment we really felt we were connected to the jungle. It was during those floats that I could close my eyes and listen to the jungle, nothing artificial or animated about it, just our world as it is, as it was.

After our first night in Kwatu, we woke up with a visitor in our hut, a snake, who found shelter from the night rains in our lodge. I could not have thought of a better alarm; you do not snooze this one.

It was in Kwatu that we saw the rarest birds in our trip, especially the kingfishers, common and little paradise. The most charismatic bird of the lowlands is the

southern crested pigeon. It is a pigeon the size of a turkey (yet flies), and the males have the most interesting crown of feathers on their forehead, which the females look for.

In the dense swamp it is easy to get lost. Lose the trail or your guide and you are gone. We asked Edmund, our guide, "How do we find our way if we get lost?" He heard it as, "How do you find your way if you get lost?", gave us an empty look as if we asked something ridiculous and flatly said, "I live here."

On our boat trip back, we were all in awe of the power of the forest, and the sense of calm you find in it. While walking the trails, you really cannot think of much other than the animals you are looking for and the path you are on. You cannot think

of other things even if you wanted to, it just does not happen, you are too focused on what is in front of you. And if you are lucky you can see something wonderful that makes it all worthwhile.

**In birding you go through a lot of trouble and all sorts of problems. The secret is not to try to eliminate the problems, but focus on the rare and wonderful thing among the chiggers, mosquitoes, heat and rain.**

If your mind is on what leech is climbing on you, or how many mosquitos are near your ear, you miss the birds. You have to accept them. Much like life, we go through problem after problem, but perhaps the secret of happiness is not to try endlessly to prevent problems, but instead finding and cherishing those rare moments of happiness hidden among them. So it begs the question, "What is your little paradise kingfisher?" ■



The best alarm clock ever - a snake in the hut





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# Vahram Çerçiyen RC 1907

## The Man Who Created Atatürk's Signature

By Önder Kaya, RC History Teacher

When we look at Robert College's history we come across numerous prominent figures among the graduates, like Bülent Ecevit, İsmail Cem, Halide Edib Adivar, Şakir Eczacıbaşı, Ayşe Kulin, Suna Kıraç, Nejat Eczacıbaşı, Refik Erduran, Ülkü Tamer, Mina Urgan, Genco Erkal, Abidin Dino, Gündüz Vassaf, Nuri Çolakoğlu, Tolga Örnek, Orhan Pamuk, Pınar Kür, Haldun Dormen and Ömer Kavur to name a few. However we must also remember that some of its teachers are equally renowned. The first who come to mind are Tevfik Fikret, Rıza Tevfik, Recep Ülke, Behçet Kemal Çağlar, Necip Fazıl Kısakürek and Nurettin Topçu.

If we were to draw a list of teachers who served Robert College for the longest period of time, Vahram Çerçiyen would probably rank at the top. Born in 1887 in Istanbul, Çerçiyen taught calligraphy, algebra and mathematics for many years at Robert College and the American College for Girls. After graduating from Robert College in 1907, he studied at Packard Community School, and graduated in 1910. In addition to Armenian, his mother tongue, he spoke Turkish, English, German and French. He also worked on a book titled *Kolay Yazı* (*Easy Writing*). According to his personal files in the Robert College archives, he started to work at Robert College in 1907, and at the American College for Girls in 1932, and continued until his retirement in 1958.

Vahram Çerçiyen's name came to the attention of the public through polemics about whether he designed Atatürk's signature. Çerçiyen saw Atatürk from a distance a number of times. As he declared in an interview, he didn't have a chance to meet him personally. However his name was frequently mentioned in



Vahram Çerçiyen RC 1907

connection with Atatürk's signature. Interestingly, although at the time various newspapers and magazines conducted several interviews with Çerçiyen about the signature and these never constituted ground for discussion, the media brought

up this question of signature now and again after his death, and engaged in sterile discussions.

One of the major debates arose in 1995. In an article that he wrote shortly before

his death, Aziz Nesin noted, "It angers me that Atatürk copied his signature from someone else. Atatürk asked someone to sign for him, then copied it; this is an Armenian's signature." Cengiz Özakıncı retorted: "I studied Atatürk's handwriting, his signature is in his handwriting." Journalists and historians like Hıncal Uluç, Mete Tunçay, Toktamış Ateş and Abdurrahman joined in the debate.

Several others wrote about this question in the following years. Among those that I could access, I find that the article published in *Hürriyet* on June 6, 2001, is the most convincing. They interviewed some Robert College graduates who had been Çerçayan's students. Ersin Süren, who finished Robert College's middle school in 1952, noted that a photo in the school's yearbook "Reflections" shows Çerçayan as he wrote Atatürk's signature on the board. This photo was published in *Hürriyet*. It is indeed identical to Atatürk's signature. Süren also said that sometimes the students teased Çerçayan in class, challenging him to sign the signature, and that each time Çerçayan did it with satisfaction. Süren added that a calligraphic study would prove beyond doubt that the signature belongs to Çerçayan.

Pars Tuğlacı, renowned for his studies on Armenian history, intervened in the discussions to present conclusive evidence. He said that the five signatures that Çerçayan prepared for Atatürk were in his possession. As Çerçayan was his father's friend, he personally took these from him. These signatures were also published in the newspaper.

Murat Bardakçı also wrote in his column in *Habertürk* that the signature belongs to Vahram Çerçayan, and that he heard this from American College for Girls graduates who had been his students.

Besides, as mentioned above, Çerçayan was interviewed several times by newspapers, and those reports met with no objection or denial.

In 1969, *Milliyet* published an interview with Vahram Çerçayan who told the story. He received a phone call, telling him: "As you know, Mustafa Kemal took the



surname of Atatürk today. We would like to present him a signature that he can use from now on. We feel that you are the only person who can do it. You will design a signature tonight, and we will come tomorrow to get it." At the time, Çerçayan taught calligraphy at both colleges. Even though he didn't mention the name of the caller at this interview, it is believed to be a deputy who was one of his former students. According to what he said, the deputies wished to give a present to Atatürk to celebrate his new surname, and because they believed Atatürk wouldn't appreciate any material gift, they opted for something spiritual.

**Çerçayan had studied penmanship methods in the United States for two years, and was also the author of a book on writing styles, published by the Ministry of Education.**

Çerçayan received this request from Ankara at 9 pm and set to work on a number of signature samples. As his hands were shaking from excitement; to come up with a suitable signature proved to be a challenge. By 8 in the morning, he had discarded most of them, and was left with only five samples. Unable to choose, he gave all five of them to the officer who came to collect the work, leaving it to Atatürk to decide. Three days later a letter came from Atatürk, thanking him and informing that one of the signatures was selected.

Some people claimed that the said signature was designed by Sabiha Gökçen. Consequently, Vahram Çerçayan's son, Dikran Çerçayan, who was in his 90s at the time, was consulted in 2010. He declared that he didn't give credit to such discussions. He said that he was 13 years old then, and that he personally saw his father working on the signature. According to Dikran Çerçayan, the claims that Atatürk's signature wasn't designed by his father stem from the unease of some factions who find it discomforting that such an important symbol that represents the founder of the Republic was designed by an Armenian.

Dikran Çerçayan said that his father had been a teacher for 55 years, and had 25 thousand students. He added that Vahram Çerçayan gave this advice to his students: "write skillfully and legibly; it will give you a fifty percent chance of success." Well-known figures like Bülent Ecevit, Kasım Gülek, Selim Sarper, Celal Ömer Sarç and Behçet Ağaoğlu have also been Çerçayan's students.

In almost each interview, Çerçayan repeatedly expressed his admiration and respect for Atatürk: "Atatürk is the greatest person among Turkey's children. My biggest happiness is to have been able to offer him my services, even though it wasn't much."

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# Design to Improve Migrant Workers' Lives

Fahir Burak Ünel RC 04, Senior Project Architect at British construction and design firm Atkins in Beijing, uses his architectural expertise to improve the lives of socioeconomically disadvantaged groups across mainland China.

One of the most significant social phenomena associated with China's rapid economic growth in the past few decades is the movement of hundreds of millions of migrant workers from the countryside to the city. Despite the benefits, this trend poses structural challenges, from basic urban logistics and services, to integration and acceptance of the newcomers within the host city's civic and social frameworks.

To address these challenges, Ünel has been working with INCLUDED, which, since 2006, has been helping disadvantaged migrant communities in China to improve their lives, education and environment through aid and services ranging from early childhood education and after-school programs to adult vocational training and community social events – all run by volunteers working in their donor-funded community centers.

Ünel, and design partners Matthew Mueller, Stephen Gleadow and Solveig Suess, have collaborated on a series of projects including organizing large scale exhibitions that raise awareness of migrant issues, and designing efficient, scalable, and adaptable community buildings.

"As an architect, I volunteered my time toward the design and construction of a new generation of community centers, to be built entirely out of donated shipping containers and for which my colleagues and I designed everything using fully modular units; from the individual furniture employed in the center to the building itself," Ünel says. The first of these new centers opened in November 2013 in Shanghai.

By using shipping containers, not only are the components available inexpensively, but the buildings can be easily assembled, disassembled, and transported if the community they serve is asked to relocate, thus protecting the original investment.



Burak Ünel RC 04 (top left)

The final community center, roughly 150 square meters in area, uses eight shipping containers that are arranged to address the needs of different community groups, and can be internally reconfigured to create classrooms, dining spaces, a small library, a quiet play space, a computer area, and a place to pin up student work. "Everything from the wall surfaces to the furniture serves several functions", stresses Ünel. "The room dividers and cabinets have whiteboard veneer so they can be used as teaching surfaces. The furnishings are designed to nest on one side in order to create open spaces when necessary, or adapt to the needs of different age groups. The container doors can be used for climate and light control, while the large glass sliding doors allow

classrooms to open to the outdoors when weather permits."

Ünel's team and the staff at INCLUDED also organized a major art exhibit in May 2014 to showcase their work in China and raise awareness of migrant causes. The exhibit, which used modified shipping containers with interiors that each told a separate aspect of the migrant worker experience, took place at Sanlitun Village in Beijing, which has more than one hundred thousand visitors daily.

Ünel said, "We hoped the exhibit would allow us to educate the public about INCLUDED's extensive work, help the organization spread their message of 'inclusive cities' through a platform of volunteer-driven design, and showcase all the great architecture, graphic design, photography, video, and art installations our professional group put together in collaboration with well-known Chinese and international artists like CYJO and Lixin Fan. We were able to accomplish all that and more, and received a fantastic response from the general public and policymakers alike".

After Beijing, the traveling exhibit was displayed at the World Economic Forum in Tianjin, and showings in Shanghai and Hong Kong are planned.



INCLUDED exhibition in Beijing designed by Ünal and team

## Yatırım aracı olarak emlak...

Sizin kadar sahiplenecek  
birinin yatırımlarınızda  
danışmanlık yapmasına  
ne dersiniz?

## Yaşam alanı olarak emlak...

Sizin gibi hissedebilen  
birinin arayışlarınıza yardım  
etmesine ne dersiniz?

*Sizinle aynı sıralarda oturmuş,  
aynı havayı solumuş...*

*Sizin gibi düşünebilen,  
güvenebileceğiniz biri...*

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# Elder Rights Association

Contributed by Dr. Gülüstü Kaptanoğlu RC 85 and Prof. Alan Duben

Generations hand in hand - championing the right to a healthy and dignified old age for all.

The tradition of RC graduates doing pioneering work continues. Several graduates and spouses of graduates recently got together with other friends and professionals to initiate Turkey's first elder rights advocacy group. 65+ Elder Rights Association (ERA) is truly a broad-based enterprise, with members from different walks of life. The ERA brings together expertise and experience in medicine, law, psychology, the social sciences, economics, engineering, business, architecture, and other care-giving professions to the elderly, assessing the needs of this soon-to-be aging society and providing solutions to existing and future challenges.

## As Turkey begins to confront an irreversible shift in the generational balance, our responsibilities toward the elderly will increase.

While today just over six percent of the population in Turkey is over 65 as compared with 15 percent for Europe, by 2050 the elder population of this country will have risen to about 20 percent. As a society we need to focus on caring for the elderly both within the family and in institutions.

### Our approach

- builds on already strong Turkish intergenerational ties and responsibilities,
- is adaptive to changing needs in society and throughout the individual aging process,
- combines the approaches, experience, and methods of the medical, social scientific, entrepreneurial, legal, and charitable professions,
- brings together the family, the community, the state, the private sector, and civil society,
- is impartial with regard to political position, party or interest group,
- focuses on creating an awareness of age-related rights and gender issues and countering ageism, and
- seeks to build upon and contribute to the accumulation of experience and knowledge of international organizations focusing on elder issues.



Counterclockwise, from top left: Deniz İlkin, Gülce Fikirkoca, Aylin Kılıç, Bilge Rızvani RC 85, Ayşe Doğruer ACG 63, Nur Emiroğlu, Rana Tekcan, Gülüstü Kaptanoğlu RC 85, Esin Uslu RC 80

### We will be working in the following areas

- heightening awareness in Turkey of elder issues, including advance planning for old age and for an aging society,
- serving as a resource for policy-making on issues relating to the elderly,
- promoting an awareness of and serving as an advocate for elder rights,
- championing the best possible care for the elderly: developing alternative models for care at home, in day centers as well as residential institutions compatible with local traditions and needs,
- serving as a conduit for tools, expertise, information, and other resources in the service of the elderly,
- providing or promoting training for elder caregivers, both professional and familial, serving at home and in institutions,
- collaborating with universities in research on elder issues and on the development of sustainable alternatives for elder support and care,
- providing resources and capacity-building for and working in partnership with local and central governments, the private sector and other NGOs in support of the elderly, and
- facilitating collaboration with international organizations with similar missions.

Old age is a time of life when we are confronted with many changes: physical, social, psychological, mental, and financial, and with an increasing need for adaptability and flexibility. But the nature of old age itself makes many

people resistant to change. Old age may come with fear: fear of dependence, fear of disease (especially dementia), fear of loneliness, and fear of death. Though these may be valid fears, oftentimes they precede and exceed the reality of aging. There are many older people who continue to live relatively healthy, happy and productive lives. They should be our models. Being comfortable with old age requires foresight and the ability to cope with the changes aging inevitably brings. Organizations such as ours are here to ensure that the elderly no longer fear getting older, and to work as the voice of the elderly, making sure that their current and future needs are heard and met.

### Founding Members

**Dr. Gülüstü Kaptanoğlu** RC 85, Chairperson, **Prof. Alan Duben**, Vice Chair (husband of İpek Duben ACG 61), **Av. Ayşe Doğruer** ACG 63, RA Secretary General, **Deniz İlkin**, Treasurer (wife of Bilgin İlkin RC 64), **Mehmet Atakan** RA 63, Board Member, **Prof. Sevda Bekman**, Board Member, **Ferhat Boratav**, Board Member, **Prof. İpek İlkcaracan Ajas** RC 85, **Dr. Ufuk Akın**, **Gonca Artunkal** RC 85, **Prof. Ender Berker** ACG 58, **Güsel Bilal**, **Prof. Hale Bolak Boratav** RC 73, **Prof. Reşit Canbeyli** RA 64, **Prof. Banu Cangöz**, **Prof. Rümeyza Kazancıoğlu** RC 85, **Prof. Yahya Laleli**, **Neşe Ölçer**, **Prof. Günay Özdoğan** ACG 69, **Bilge Rızvani** RC 85, **Prof. Kaynak Selekler**, **Prof. Mehmet Şükrü Sever**, **Rukiye Devres Ünver**

# En zor şartlara uygun standartlar Tepe Home'da.

Tüm mobilyalarımızda 1. sınıf malzemeler kullanıyoruz.  
Ağacı, süngeri, kumaşı 1. sınıf malzemelerden seçiyoruz.  
Ortalama 10 yıl tecrübeli mobilya ustalarımızla hayat veriyoruz.





# ACG 64 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion

Contributed by Leyla Çizmeci ACG 64

It being the golden 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since graduation, the organization committee decided to celebrate it with several events.

The first gathering was a brunch at the Tarabya Hotel on April 27, attended by 25 classmates, including Hitay Kermen Yüksek from Canada. The surprise was a 50<sup>th</sup> year cake and champagne offered by the hotel. Everyone was happy as they gathered around an excellent buffet.

The main reunion was on June 21. Originally planned to start with the Headmaster's cocktail party in his garden, the unfavorable weather conditions changed it to Marble Hall. Fifty-eight ACG 64 ladies, all dressed up, enthusiastically shared their news. Meral Akev Stagoll from Switzerland, Yonca Nalçacı Hincer from Canada, and Tülin Nalçacı Tosyalı and Maya Karaca from the US traveled from abroad to join us that special day. There were also current RC students acting as hosts and helping out with name tags, photographs and guiding us around.

The cocktail party was followed by a slide show, organized by Zeynep Alp Çehreli. It was a lovely show of our nine years at the College, including mementos of all memorable social events and Commencement; in summary, our good old days. After the show, Zeynep gifted each of us with our own copy on CD. We owe her a big thank you.



From L to R: Vicdan Alaybek Nil, Duygu Şanda Alemdaroğlu and Serra Gogen Subaşı

Celebrations continued at Mia Mensa Restaurant off campus. Other colorful events included a trip to Cyprus for a couple of days, and a group of 14 also enjoyed a cruise around the Greek Islands. A sentimental stop at the Piraeus Harbor included getting together with Mary Markidis Papazoğlu, another classmate.

And that is not all... the end of August saw the group enjoying a Bosphorus cruise, and at the end of October the group

met in Antalya. Last but not least, the celebrations culminated with the special Homecoming get together in November.



ACG 64 on the steps of Gould Hall

# RA 64 Revisits Old Stomping Grounds

Contributed by Albert Hatem RA 64

It all began early in 2014 when we decided to organize an extended celebration for the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion of the Class of '64 on June 19 and 20. Around 52 people from all over the world met in front of Anderson for a group photo and took a guided tour through Anderson Hall, Big Gym, Washburn Hall and Albert Long Hall. A break at Anderson Hall gave us a chance to take to the stage and tell jokes, make confessions and share all sorts of memories.

Professional photographer Sedat Pakay had prepared a magnificent presentation with breathtaking black and white pictures from our years at RA, which we viewed in the library. This was followed by a solemn commemoration of 34 classmates who had passed away. When their picture was on the big screen, anyone who wished to would say a few words about



Classmates and their families sharing a day on the Bosphorus

those beloved friends. A final slide show prepared thanks to the endless archive of Ahmet Okan added a cheerful mood.

Everyone received a special certificate of attendance presented by BU Dean, Prof. Gülay Barbarosoğlu RC 74, who joined the gathering to our surprise and delight. The certificates contained a pledge that this class is to meet on "20/02/2020 at 20:00 at Kennedy Lodge". Our "Alma Mater" was sung thanks to the fact that it was reflected on screen. The library program ended with a poem written for this occasion and recited by İbrahim Kurtuluş.

Kennedy Lodge was our venue for cocktails and dinner arranged quite professionally by İhsan Poroy. An

authentic *midye dolma* stand and *lakerda* trolley to go with white wine were among the offerings. Just before dinner, replica copies of the Bosphorus Gazette, dated June 18, 1964, were distributed by a graduate in newspaper boy outfit.

To our surprise, everyone received a white t-shirt with the group picture taken in front of Anderson Hall printed on the back of the shirt. Other mementos included a key holder and a special RA 64 folder.

The next day saw about 25 of us, this time with spouses, at Bebek preparing to board a Bosphorus cruise, giving us an opportunity to meet each other's families as we enjoyed a delicious lunch. After lunch the professors among us wore their caps and gowns and presented certificates to those who could not make it the day before. The tour ended in Bebek in the early evening but not, of course, without the *çay* and *simit-açma-çatal* ceremony. Hugging each other with promises to meet again sooner but not later than 20/02/2020 was both funny and sad at the same time.

The Class of '64 now has unforgettable memories all compiled on CDs, and in a photo album, but most important of all, in our heads! Class of '64, see you in 20/02/2020. All present...



Servet Harunoğlu (right) receives certificate from Boğaziçi University Rector Gülay Barbarosoğlu RC 74 (left)



Members of the Class of RA 64 in front of Anderson Hall



# A 45<sup>th</sup> Year Dream for ACG 69

Contributed by Nur Edil ACG 69

ACG 69 graduates got together on Büyükdada to celebrate their 45<sup>th</sup> reunion over the weekend of May 3. The turnout was impressive and those who traveled from abroad to be there included Meri Laskaridu Kominou and her daughter from Greece, Şake Akkibrityan Mardirossian from France, Işın Ramadan Cemil from Cyprus and Nesrin Asya Young from the US. They came together at a coffee shop on Büyükdada. While enjoying beverages on the pier, Dilek Özmen Gündoğ ACG 71, who organized the reunion event, gifted the class with colorful flower crowns. Everyone looked very beautiful and enjoyed conversations while rejoicing in how nice it was to be together after all those years.

The day continued with a delicious lunch while enjoying the beautiful view from Aya Yorgi. A visit to the monastery and to Fethi Okyar's residence followed soon after. The group was fascinated by the Okyar family history heard from the mouth of his grandson who continues to reside in the house. Another stop included the Büyükdada Cemetery to visit the tomb of Füreyya, Turkey's first female ceramic artist, who created her own tombstone before she passed away.

Trekking down to the historic Splendid Hotel proved to be no easy task, yet the group passed with flying colors. A brief



ACG 69 spent a weekend creating new memories

rest was followed by a delicious fish dinner, yet again filled with reminiscing and laughter. It seemed ACG 69 had all graduated just a few years ago, not 45! A surprise party back at the hotel proved

the ladies all had energy to spare. Champagne and chocolates gifted by Işın, a special 45<sup>th</sup> year cake, Hülya's lovely voice and songs of old school days as well as the "Alma Mater" were all part of a beautiful night no one wanted to bring to an end.

"Time passes like the wind," says ACG 69 and they sincerely hope they will all be together once more for the 50<sup>th</sup>.



In front of Fethi Okyar's home on Büyükdada (Prince's Island)



At Büyükdada, sipping our tea and wearing colorful flower crowns

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**İNANLAR**

49 yıldır...



# RC 74 Reunion

Contributed by Metin Mansur RC 74

Nearly 100 RC 74 classmates (out of a class of around 135) met for their 40<sup>th</sup> reunion on Friday August 29. Some joined the reunion with their spouses, but strictly speaking, it was a class affair. Many had come from the US and there were some who had traveled from

Germany, Israel, France and Sweden to be together on that meaningful night. Some people recognized each other, while others needed "gentle reminders", there were classmates who had not attended previous reunions and therefore had a most sentimental evening.

The group met in front of Marble Hall for cocktails, and then proceeded to the Maze for dinner and dancing. Dark clouds which appeared out of nowhere during cocktails dispersed during dinner and the evening came to an end with everyone looking forward to their "half-century" reunion in 2024!



The Class of '74 started the evening off in front of Gould Hall



Scenes from a joyful reunion, enjoying each other's company.



From L to R: Stella Kent, Nüket Erk and Rengin Kevenk



Nur Artun and Lale Gürel



# RC 79's 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion

■ A "happy" reunion was celebrated in style on August 8, 2014

Contributed by Ayşe Göksel Peker RC 79

It's hard to believe 35 years have passed! Having survived the hustle and bustle of the early years after graduation - university, building a career, marrying and having children - here we are, finally at calmer waters and able to look back.

We start missing old friends and good old school days more and more and realize that reunions gain a much deeper meaning with the passing years.

Suzan, Begüm, Gencay and myself, the organizing committee, came together with this feeling quite voluntarily.

In the course of the preparations, along with difficulties such as choosing the best suitable location, setting the date to ensure maximum participation and managing the limited budget, we admit we also had great fun, especially during the rehearsals of the Grease dance show and the shooting of the Happy video on campus.



The Grease dance was like a flashback in time



Making new memories, 35 years on

It was Gencay, our animator, who created the shows which was not at all easy considering the fifty-year old dancers!

It was Suzan who, with her endless energy, followed up details and chased fellow classmates for payments, sponsorships and most important of all, to attend the reunion.

It was Begüm who, by exercising her DJ skills, brought us the notes that touched our hearts, the Oldies and Goldies of our time. Her by now "traditional" RC 79 Oscar Awards Ceremony caused quite a

stir and gossip among the nominees and the crowd! And with her video, Zakkum, we commemorated our dear friends Dora, David, Şevket, Oya and Almila who are no longer with us.

We must thank our teachers Aydın Hoca, Rahel Çikvaşvili, Ayfer Yeniçağ and Münir Bey with all our hearts for joining us.

We look forward to being together once again in 2019.

Until then.



RC 79 had a wonderful time at Şile's Lavanda Hotel



# Young at Heart

## RC 84 at their 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion

Contributed by Emre Derman RC 84

On a stormy afternoon on September 27, sixty strong members of the class of RC 84 filled Marble Hall yet again for their 30<sup>th</sup> reunion. Following the obligatory class photo on the steps, their own rock band of four classmates kicked off the entertainment. No one complained of the weather, or the lack of alcohol. In fact, combined with the lousy acoustics in Marble Hall, the scene was reminiscent of the "balls" from their days when a makeshift disco would appear at the top of the stairs and they would dance into the night, well until midnight at least. The rain did however preclude the other well-known tradition of ball nights, the illicit walks to the Plateau.

The celebration then moved to a restaurant in Kuruçesme, where the wine flowed freely and the DJ had strict instructions to stick to the 80's. Everyone



RC 84, then...

danced, and it was summarily concluded that no one had really changed, no matter that 30 years had gone by. Cell phones were omnipresent, contacts were refreshed, kid's photos showcased and endless selfies taken.

rain. Even then a dozen or so hearty souls regrouped at an *işkembeci* nearby and continued to swap memories, afraid to end that one night when they truly felt like they were 18 again.



Past midnight, with no teachers to chaperone them, the Class of '84 refused to turn in and call it a night. Restless waiters circled around as the class jabbered on. Eventually, with much hesitation and many promises of more frequent gatherings, those young at heart walked off into the night and the pelting



... and now



Need help recognizing your classmates? Members of the Class of '84 had masks made from their yearbook photos.



## A Night on the Plateau

The Class of '89 was organized to the hilt when they decided to wine, dine and yes, sleep on the Plateau on the evening of

June 26, 2014. The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their graduation called for extraordinary planning and it was carried out in style.

The stars above were bright, the mood was cheerful and everyone had a good time.



RC 89 spent an evening on the Plateau to celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> reunion



Everything tasted better under blue skies, amid birdsong and trees.  
From L to R: Zeynep Şişman, Binnur Neidik, Ayşe Atilla (seated), and Turgay Aydınlar, İgal Ahitov and Hasan Yardımcı (standing)



Clockwise from top left: Sedat Ekici, Yusuf Pinhas, Simin Öz Gerards, Didem Durakbasa, and Hülya Adak



# Sedef Baykal Dördüncü RC 02

Sedef Baykal Dördüncü is an up-and-coming entrepreneur who left a successful career in finance to start a new path in life. The RCQ spoke to her about how she got started with juicing and its benefits.

## Tell us a little about your background.

After graduation from RC in 2002, I studied Information and Systems Engineering at Lehigh University on a full scholarship before I moved to New York to work at Ernst & Young. I went to NYU Stern School of Business for my MBA. After graduation in 2011, I worked at Barclays' investment banking division in New York. I was introduced to juice cleansing there when we cleansed for three days as a group of 24 bankers. In March 2013, I moved back to Istanbul to pursue this opportunity here and partnered with Deniz Derman, who complements me perfectly with her years of marketing and sales experience. We founded Juico in January 2014.

## What is juice cleansing?

Juicing is an amazing way to get live vitamins, enzymes, minerals and other nutrition. Cold-pressed juices are superior to what we get out of regular home juicers as they contain 2-5 times more nutritional value.

A juice cleanse is a detox over a few days with these cold-pressed juices. Juice

cleansing is a great way to rehydrate, alkalize and clean out toxins from the body, as well as help with the immune system. During a juice cleanse, the goal is to rest the digestive system for a few days and allow the body to use this excess energy to help with detox and rebuilding. It is a great idea to cleanse regularly, as often as the body sees fit, since we live in crowded, big, polluted cities and cannot avoid processed foods, alcohol and other harmful materials completely.

## How did you become interested in healthy living?

The year after college in New York was devastating for my body and health mainly due to eating out all the time. Only after moving in with my boyfriend for my MBA, did I start cooking and eating healthy. Raw food has been such a huge trend in the States that it is really easy to shop for vegan or healthy options there. When I decided to start a juice cleanse business, I became a certified nutritional consultant in the States before moving back.

## How have you experienced the healing effects of raw food?

Increasing the amount of raw food in my diet has made me stronger and healthier. Even though fruits and veggies have always been a big part of my diet, I was still experiencing nutritional deficiencies which manifested themselves mainly



Sedef Baykal Dördüncü RC 02

as brittle nails, low energy and gastrointestinal problems. Raw food and juicing has not only had a positive effect on my body but also made me a healthier person.

I would also like to add that I believe in eating everything in moderation so I never became a vegan during my discovery of the healing effects of a plant-based diet. I recently cut out red meat completely, which really makes me feel good and has dramatically improved my overall health, but I still eat fish and dairy products.

Sedef married Utku, the brother of her business partner Deniz, a year ago.

# RCQ On the Go

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## Serdar İnan RC 84

### Architect, Businessman and Poet

**S**erdar İnan is a man of many talents. He is well-known for his company İnanlar İnşaat, has investments in the automotive, energy and tourism sectors, and is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Mimar Sinan Foundation. However, this accomplished businessman has a lesser-known side, as a poet who has published five books to date: *Yansımalar*, *Doğum*, *Seninle Bensiz*, *Mahşer* and *Asl'ı Suret*. The RCQ talked to this multi-talented "Istanbul-phile" about his poetry.

**How did you start writing poetry?** One day in 1996 when I was driving alone in my car, I pulled over and wrote my first poem.

**How did you decide to gather your poems in a book and publish them?** My first book, *Mahşer*, was published in 2005.

I wanted to put together all the poems I had written so I could share them with the world and leave a memento for loved ones.

#### What does poetry add to your life?

Poetry is a need for me. When writing I feel as if I am surfing on the emotional spheres of life. Poetry adds depth to my life.

#### Any future plans to publish a new book?

Unfortunately I cannot find time to write poems these days. I'm writing more apothegms; they might become a book someday.

**Do you think studying at RC had a positive effect on your becoming so well-rounded?** Istanbul is the city of culture; a synthesis of east and west. This is just like melting two different worlds in the same pot as a result of its physical conditions and demographic structure.



Serdar İnan RC 84

Robert College has an important role of representing Western culture in Istanbul and opening Anatolian traditions to the west. I was born in Erzincan in 1965. I came to Istanbul in 1969 and started studying at RC in 1976. These were the years I started to blend the Anatolian culture that I was raised in with Western culture. This mixed culture had a great impact on my future.

## Melis Terzioğlu RC 96

### A Guiding Hand Through the Art World

**V**ou could say that art is in Melis Terzioğlu's blood. Having grown up in a family and environment where the visual arts were appreciated and valued, she always had a liking for art in the broadest sense. After years of experience in the art world, she is now sharing her passion with others who want to learn more.

Terzioğlu fell in love with art in the AP level Introduction to Art History course taught by Nancy Atakan during Lise 2. She double majored in art history and French literature at Skidmore College, which led her to spend a year and a half during college in Paris. She returned there for an additional year of studies in Fine and Decorative Arts at Christie's Education after graduating from Skidmore in 2000.

Upon returning to Istanbul in 2001, she entered the Istanbul art world. She first tried her hand at the non-profit side of the art community, then explored the commercial side and worked as assistant director at Galeri Nev, and later as gallery manager of Egeran Galeri.



Melis Terzioğlu RC 96

Recently, Terzioğlu has started sharing this wealth of experience with others. Teaming up with Selen Ataç, her former colleague from Galeri Nev, the duo offers advisory services to amateurs of the art world who are interested in learning more about art. "Unfortunately, in Turkey knowledge is traded very easily as hearsay, so inflated prices and untrustworthy relations are abundant in the art world," Terzioğlu says. "That's why we put special emphasis on the fair-trade side of our business, guaranteeing clients the best deals

without compromising the gallery or the artist." She believes that it is very important for people to support the system by becoming patrons or buyers because that is how artists can make a living and continue producing. She does not charge her clients for her services and know-how, but instead prefers that they spend the money to purchase a work of art in order to help artists sustain their production. She also deals only in the primary market, which creates a much needed transparency between the gallery and the client, thus creating further reliable relations. "The art world is very speculative, and when you don't know what to look at, where to go, or who to follow you can easily get tired before even taking interest in it. That's where we come in and facilitate everything for you, from viewing art to framing and insurance," says Terzioğlu, who firmly believes that any form of art should be engaging, thought-provoking and even challenging, extending you an invitation to step outside your comfort zone.

Melis Terzioğlu can be contacted at [melisterzioglu@gmail.com](mailto:melisterzioglu@gmail.com)



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## Güliz Özbek Collini RC 81 Founds Online Art Platform

Güliz Özbek Collini RC 81 has always had a passion for art. During her time at Robert College and Boğaziçi University she was instrumental in establishing and running the Fine Arts Club. She received her MBA in International Marketing from Indiana University and San Diego State University. Following a 25-year marketing career with corporations such as Pirelli, McCann Erickson, Toyota and Hilton Worldwide, she decided to pursue an active full-time role in art, taking e-commerce and entrepreneurship courses and receiving art market certificates from institutes such as Sotheby's and Skate's.

In the spring of 2014 she launched Art50.net, an online shopping and communication platform that unites artists, collectors and art fans. While providing a display platform, especially for young and emerging artists, Art50.net also features editorial content including



Güliz Özbek Collini RC 81

tips on how to start collecting, art book reviews and interviews with key players on the art scene.

Within the first six months, Art50.net expanded to feature over 20 artists and 200 pieces of art. Techniques range from mixed media such as oil-painting, collage,

stitching and neon as well as prints and photography. They organized their first physical exhibition in July in collaboration with Casa dell'Arte in Bodrum, and launched an online Instagram photography exhibition, a first of its kind in Turkey.

Art50.net works with art consultants, academicians and curators to ensure the quality of the art work on display and the content of the website. "So far we have established a very positive relationship with artists, collectors and key players in the art market," says Özbek. In the near future they are planning to feature new artists as well as new disciplines/ techniques of art such as drawings, objects, sculpture and new types of print.

Art lovers can visit [art50.net](http://art50.net), and contact her with any questions at [guliz@art50.net](mailto:guliz@art50.net)

## Eser Gürocak RC 74

General manager of her own consulting firm EG Consultancy, specializing in staffing and human resources management, Gürocak is also an accomplished painter. She recently exhibited 25 of her new oil paintings in a private exhibition titled *Fairy Tale* in April 2014.

The exhibition, which reflected the color of her inner world, attracted wide interest. She expressed her own feelings saying, "My paint brush is my pen, my colors are my words. Diversity makes the world colorful. Different people with ethnic, religious and physical differences, have



Eser Gürocak RC 74 with her sons

different beliefs, thoughts, ideas and opinions. Everybody has their own story, their own fairy tale. Time is like a stream flowing in its natural path. Life goes on and we pass through. We try to live in a way to harmonize the memories of the past with the hopes of the future. The soul and the body, hand in hand try to reach the love, the happiness. There are good people, beautiful lives and fairy tales in my paintings. When you look at them, maybe you can see yours."

Gürocak is married and has two children.

## Ayşe Yüksel Durukan ACG 69 Promoting Librarianship

Ayşe Yüksel-Durukan, former Turkish librarian at RC and current regional director of Middle East & North Africa for the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL), attended the IASL Conference in Moscow, on August 25-30, 2014. This was the first time in the history of IASL that the conference was held in Russia. It was the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual get-together with 300 participants from 44 different countries like Kamchatka, Siberia, Japan, Brazil, New Zealand, Canada, USA, Malaysia, Jamaica, South Africa, Italy, Portugal and Holland, to name a few. IASL is dedicated to the development of school libraries all over the world through

various activities including awards, publications, projects, and research. The theme of this year's conference was "The School Library in the Knowledge Society: Use of Cognitive Technologies, Form Creative Person". The Russian School Library Association (RUSLA) added much color to the success and network of professionals in the field. "In a world of different cultures, books link students and readers together and build bridges at intersections," says Yüksel Durukan. "This is even more important in the 21<sup>st</sup> century where learning has become digital and world citizenship has to be adopted."



Ayşe Yüksel Durukan ACG 69 at the conference with a colleague

## Tolga Birdal RC 04



In a spontaneous, surprising action and yet typically characteristic of the couple, Tolga Birdal and Cansu Güner got married on August 16, 2014, with joy, vividness and happiness. In no time, they left for new adventures in Germany. Cansu started her PhD at the University of Konstanz, and Tolga is pursuing his Doctoral degree at the Technical University of Munich, sponsored by Siemens Research, while supporting his own company, Gravi, from abroad. Instead of having a long distance affair, they decide to intersect their routes at a mutual point, as they did with their life. Now you can find them at their peaceful home in the center of Ulm.

## Cansu Korzay Aksoy RC 06



"Like he's been here forever..." This is what Cansu's friends, colleagues and every member of her family say without an exception. He just fit in her life, as if he'd always had a spot reserved. It was the beginning of 2012 - just a few days after New Year's Eve - and the law office Cansu worked for merged with another. She still asks herself what the chances were that Emre started working there two days before the merger. The next thing she knew he swept her off her feet and proposed on her birthday in April 2013. Soon after, they both resigned, and now Cansu is working for another law office, whereas Emre is flying solo. They had the time of their lives at their wedding on June 8, 2014, in the presence of loved ones, including some of Cansu's teachers: Candan Basat, Hafize Değer, Nüket Eren, Gülhiz Yüksek, Esra Ürtekin, Mehmet Uysal, Necla Sönmezay, Ayşe Güven and İzzet Dodurgali.

## Berke Özücer RC 04

Berke Özücer and İpek Kuşçu got married on August 30, 2014. They met at Cerrahpaşa Medical School, and have finished med school and received their MD degrees. İpek started her residency in child and adolescent psychiatry at İstanbul University. Berke is in the last year of his otolaryngology and head and neck surgery residency program at Bezmialem University Medical Faculty. The couple lives in İstanbul. If you would like to contact them, they can be emailed at berkeozucer@gmail.com or ipekkuscuozucer@gmail.com



## İlyas Safa Urgancı RC06

İlyas and Burcu met while they were preparing for their university entrance exams. After dating for about seven years, İlyas proposed at the Eiffel Tower on her birthday while Burcu was studying in France as an Erasmus exchange student. The marriage took place on August 3, 2014. The couple was very pleased to be accompanied by their loved and respected ones from RC, including former dorm father Cahit Can, who honored the couple as the groom's witness, and PE teacher Murat Özyiğit. Burcu studied law at Galatasaray University and has been working at Hergüner Bilgen Özeke Attorney Partnership since September 2012. İlyas holds a BA in Economics from İstanbul University and works as an equity research analyst at İş Investment.





## Duygu Kartol Budak RC 08

Even though Duygu and Ahmet Budak have been together for almost three years, they knew each other since 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The couple got married on June 26, 2014, followed by a honeymoon in Barcelona and Mallorca.



## Neslihan Akbulut Say RC 98

Neslihan and Baran Say welcomed their first child Yasemin on March 18, 2014. Her parents first met in 2008 on stage, Neslihan performing one of her first jazz gigs and Baran playing the double bass. Neslihan is currently working as a full-time risk engineer and trying to create more time for singing while Baran is running concerts as a sought-after double bass player. Yasemin has still a long journey ahead to decide what she likes to do, but she already shared the stage with her parents at Nardis Jazz Club just a few weeks before she was born.



## Aylin Koca Güleşir RC 98

Aylin Koca RC 98 and Gürcan Güleşir currently reside in the heart of Munich, where Aylin is the cofounder and managing director of her high-tech software startup UXsuite GmbH (uxsuite.com) and Gürcan is a senior software architect and project manager at BMW. The couple met during their Computer Engineering studies at Bilkent University. They were married on July 25, 2010, surrounded by friends and family, many of who are RC alumni, including Aylin's witness and grandfather Selahattin Kavuştu RC ENG 60. Their academic studies spanned countries such as England, the Netherlands, Singapore and the US, and yielded two PhDs. Lately, they are enjoying raising their little sunshine Leman!



## Şehnaz Kıymaz Bahçeci RC 01



Şehnaz and Devin met each other at ODTÜ where Şehnaz was continuing her masters in Gender Studies and Devin was studying Genetics and Molecular Biology. They got married in August 2008, but it wasn't until 2014 that their union was blessed with a wonderful little bundle of joy, Poyraz. Born on March 8, International Women's Day, Poyraz gave a wonderful surprise to her mother who currently works at Women for Women's Human Rights - New Ways Association, a women's human rights organization in Istanbul.

## Oya Nuzumlalı Schooley RC 02

Oya Nuzumlalı Schooley and Chris Schooley had twins on July 20, 2014. Little girl Pera and little boy Oskar Kaya are growing rapidly and having a blast, the couple says. Happy to be a family, albeit a sleep-deprived one, they are inviting all their friends to come visit them at their home in Üsküdar, as they will be immobilized for a little while, to meet and greet the twins. As does any RC graduate, Oya is wishing that one day the Schooley twins will be walking down the corridors of Woods Hall. She might be caught redhanded, trying to bury their umbilical cords on campus!



## Beyza Çiftci and Can Kavaklıoğlu RC 03

Beyza Çiftçi and Can Kavaklıoğlu welcomed their baby daughter İpek on April 15, 2014 after a 19-hour labor. The couple has been together since their high school years at RC and married since 2007. Playing along with the old Turkish tradition, they buried a tiny little piece of the umbilical cord stump in the RC gardens, wishing their beloved daughter will study at RC in the future. The happy family is spending most of their time in parks and gardens entertaining baby İpek, who seems to enjoy nature more than toys.





## FROM THE BOSPHORUS CHRONICLE

# A Farewell to Retiring Faculty

This year the school said goodbye to many retiring teachers. Below are excerpts from interviews with chemistry teacher Anthony Baker, Turkish literature teacher Esra Ertekin and geography teacher Gülhiz Yüksek, that were published in the June 2014 issue of the student newspaper the Bosphorus Chronicle. The articles were written by Ege Bıçaker RC 14, Lara M. Güneri RC 14, Ece Selin Timur L 12, Leyla Ok L 11 and Ezgi Yazıcı L 11.

## Anthony Baker, Chemistry Teacher, 1980-2014

All farewells are hard and sad; however, saying goodbye to Anthony Baker after 32 years of service to Robert College will be harder and sadder than a usual goodbye. We all know him from the corridors and the classes of Feyyaz Berker Building. Our memories of his classes are marked by his jokes and his idiomatic phrases. However, of course there is more to a person than his classes.

### What's the story behind your coming to teach in Turkey and at Robert College?

I first came to RC in 1980 with my future wife. We came here from Greece on holiday and she showed me Robert College. Later that summer we moved back to England where we got married. Life in England after two wonderful years in Athens was dull and depressing. I had caught the travel bug and tasted what it was like to work abroad. I had great expectations of what life could be like and I realized that as a teacher I could use my skills to live in and learn about another culture and experience a wider world.

### Can you tell us a few memories about your years at Robert College?

Class is always a place of bantering and joking; any of my students will tell you that. Therefore it's hard to find a specific memory. One can be this: Classes used to have 36 students, a number far too great for lab work. Therefore there used to be two teachers in the lab, myself and Ron Mallinder. The chemistry classes were on the top floor of Woods Hall with a beautiful view of the Bosphorus. Ron had told the students that at noon, after the lab class, he would announce the grades of the last test of the year by launching

a series of giant paper airplanes from our office window, each with the grades of a particular section written on it. So when the clock hit 12 o'clock, the paper airplanes were duly launched and they flew down to a large crowd of shouting and cheering students gathered on the ground below.

### John Freely, your father-in-law, is still a professor at Boğaziçi University and wrote books about the history of Robert College. How did your family shape your perception of Robert College?

The whole Freely family gave me a perception of Robert College even before I moved here. I am aware of how this place has changed over the years. Though my father-in-law's field is physics, he's very knowledgeable historically. He wrote two volumes on the history of Robert College.

### How would you describe yourself as a teacher and your relationship with RC students?

I'm definitely an old-fashioned teacher. I don't apologize for my style; it's the only way I know how to teach. I believe that if I engage my students, they will like to come to class and have a more positive attitude to learning. Overall, I really enjoy being in the classroom with a group of students, and I believe it comes across to the students. I am quite a serious person and I was a lot stricter in the old days, but the school atmosphere has changed, and so have I. I've mellowed with age (like a good Scotch) and my humor has become a little gentler (but not too gentle). I communicate naturally with students; some adults talk down to students or



Anthony Baker

they communicate in a style that's not natural when they talk to students. I'm not like that; if I'm fed up I tell them and I think they appreciate my style because students, like all people, don't like being talked down to.

### Why did you choose chemistry and being a teacher?

Chemistry was my best subject at school and the subject that I was most interested in. Halfway through university, I realized the party was going to be over soon and I needed to find a way to earn a living. I dropped into teaching as I couldn't think of a better job elsewhere. Once I started, however, I realized it was a job that satisfied me. I'm a firm believer in "you work to live, not live to work."

### What is your advice for Robert College students?

Never take anything at face value, as things are rarely as they first seem. Develop a healthy skepticism about life.



FROM THE **BOSPHORUS CHRONICLE** continued**Esra Ürtekin****Turkish Literature Teacher, 1991-2014**

Esra Ürtekin is leaving Robert College after 23 years of teaching Turkish Literature.

**What are some unforgettable moments from the twenty-three years you spent teaching at Robert College?**

There was not an orientation program for new teachers when I started teaching at RC. My students taught the location of the theater and the printing room to me. Back in the 1990's many illnesses filled my life. One shares her pain as well as happiness with the people closest to her; I shared all my emotions with my students. One day, one of my students, Layza gave me a mug with an evil eye on it. She said that she did not want any more hardship to find me. Since that day, that mug stands on the coffee table, which you can see immediately after entering my house. Misfortune can not catch me anymore.

**What is the importance of Robert College for you?**

I was 26 when I started at Robert College; I grew up here. I got the chance of seizing my ideals and making friends here. I love this institution. I used to tell my students: "People do not have to love one another, but they must respect one another." However, I've loved each and every one of my students very much, I believe that it multiplied in me.

**As your students, we recognize you by your infinite dynamism. Could you share your secret to preserving this energy with the RC family?**

I've always loved my job. I love producing; it makes me energetic. I am just as energetic at home. I do not know what it means to get exhausted while doing the things I love. This does not mean that I



Esra Ürtekin

never get tired; there have been many times when I felt like going to sleep but still graded exams long after midnight.

**You contributed to the RC Community with your participation in TİFES and Community Involvement Projects. How much importance do these activities hold in your life?**

The projects I do teach people about using empathy, being free from greed, and understanding their environment while letting them get to know themselves better. My social service projects started in 1995 while I was teaching here. Back then a Red Crescent club was running. We provided many services with that club, namely, working for the disabled in Istanbul, helping students in the poorer regions with their studies, and constructing a pathology lab in Baltalimanı Osteopathic Hospital and a

children's room in the Child Oncology department of Çapa Research and Education Hospital. Moreover, we sent pens and pencils, clothes, cleaning supplies and books to schools in Eastern Anatolia and Southeast Anatolia. The books and encyclopedias were more valuable back then since internet was not nearly as accessible.

TİFES was a totally different event on a very large scale. I wish it could continue. Robert College held the first inter-high school theater festival in Turkey. Participating in this festival was a point of prestige for other schools. We gave everyone the chance to talk to many artists from our Robert College family. So many people were sorry that this event came to an end, namely students, teachers and administrators of other schools.

## Gülhiz Yüksek, Geography Teacher, 1995-2014

### What are your plans for future?

Music, which I can't spend much time on, will be an important part of my life after RC. I plan to improve playing kanun which I started practicing two years ago. I'd like to be involved with the two *Türk Sanat Müziği* choirs at Koşuyolu that I'm directing. I'll spend more productive time with my very precious friends and hopefully enjoy my time at my summer house on the Aegean surrounded by beautiful nature. But the most important thing is not to forget what John Lennon said, "Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans."

### What changes did you observe while you were teaching at Robert College?

Robert College is a school that I started teaching at after working in public schools for many years. With this transition, I had to develop new reflexes in addition to my experiences formed over a long period of time. An education system that was more research based, and more progressive, and working with children who are more receiving, confident and who have wider perspectives was new and enjoyable for me. It was a lovely journey, so that in the end being a teacher turned into a pleasure and delight. Even though the unpleasant situation in the education system affects



Gülhiz Yüksek

the school nowadays, I can say that it's an ideal environment for those who have high goals.

### Can you share one of the most unforgettable memories you had while teaching at RC?

In my first year I had two geography classes. Students were trying to stretch me out from my disciplined attitude and very low grades I gave while I was scrambling to make them accept my style. The same year I found myself in the "teacher evaluation system" which

was new to me. I distributed the exam papers in one class and we checked them; the grades were very low. At that moment our department head, dear Tansu Hanım, entered the classroom with "student evaluation forms" in her hand. Of course I found out that my other class's evaluation average was really high and that class's was really low. My dear students hadn't missed the opportunity and had taken their revenge. I was really sad that I disappointed Tansu Hanım who always supported me. However my department head filled her report for the administrators with compliments and by connecting the low average to the reason that the evaluation was made on an exam day, she relieved me. I still communicate with those students and dear Tansu Hanım is still my closest friend.

### What are the things you are going to miss most at RC?

I'm leaving a world that is decorated by thousands of colorful, sparkling and dynamic memories. I'm leaving the habits, sounds, colors, smells, the places where I've spent an average young person's life behind. All the things I have lived here, sweet or bitter, I'm going to miss you all.



Nesrin Gülsoy RC 74

## A Life Dedicated to RC

Nesrin Gülsoy RC 74 spent her Orta and Lise years on campus, then returned as staff for over a quarter of a century. She wrote the following about spending a large part of her life at the school.

"After having spent eight years on this campus as a student and 26 as a staff member, I can say it was a great experience. It's not very common to "feel at home" when you are at work, but this was actually the case with me. I always felt at ease being on the grounds I knew so well for so many years.

"RC is special for me with its unique ways of lifelong teaching. RC taught me to think and question in a way that almost always

paved the way for me to a point where I chose 'the road less traveled'. I feel that learning not to be a part of the crowd, but walking your own way is a precious attribute RC has taught me. Having lived through the transition when ACG was reborn as RC in 1971, the year I had graduated from Orta, was a very special part of my time here. I am a member of the first class that graduated with three full years of merger education.

"My plans for the future include being part of an art class where I want to enjoy drawing and painting, and being a member of a chorus where I can sing. Another is traveling with my husband and friends. I hope I can manage to attain my retirement dreams as much as I can".



## Irene Comninou Sinanoglou ACG 32

Irene Sinanoglou passed away at the age of 101 in Thessaloniki, Greece on September 12, 2014. Born in Paşabahçe, she attended ACG while living in her childhood home in Boyacıköy. Following a year's teaching in Albania, she joined the Dean's Office staff at ACG in 1933, working there until she moved to Greece with her family in 1959. She married Dr. Vasil Sinanoğlu in 1941.

They lived in Barton Hall on the ACG campus, while Dr. Sinanoğlu served as Comninou physician for ACG and Robert College from 1941 to 1956. After 1959, she worked as assistant to the President of Anatolia College in Thessaloniki until her retirement in 1977. She had many fond memories of ACG, always speaking with nostalgia for her years there, both

as a student and as a staff member. She is survived by her daughter, Marina Papaconstantinou; her son, Ioannis Sinanoğlu; four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

*Contributed by Yani Sinanoglou*

## Elizabeth Scipio Fisher ACG 33

Elizabeth Scipio Fisher died on September 20, 2013, at the age of 99. Born in Istanbul, she was the daughter of Margaret and Dr. Lynn A. Scipio (Dean of the RC Engineering School), and spouse of Prof. Sidney Fisher, (RC faculty member 1928-31 and 1936-37). Elizabeth was an accomplished pianist, watercolorist and

writer who started traveling as a young girl and shared this love with her children and grandchildren. She maintained a lifelong interest in world affairs, especially those involving peace and justice. Elizabeth was a gracious hostess to many in the academic and diplomatic worlds. She is survived by her children, Alan Fisher, Robert Lynn

Fisher, and Margaret Fisher McCarthy, and by 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

*(Excerpts taken from The Columbus Dispatch)*

## Fatma Nedret (Erker) Nişancı ACG 41

Fatma Nedret (Erker) Nişancı passed away on August 1, 2014. She was born in Istanbul in 1919, to Şükriye (Kösemihaloğlu) Erker and Zeynelabidin Erker.

After ACG, she graduated from Ankara University with a degree in English Language and Literature. All her life she was fond of literature, travel, crafts, arts, and archaeology. In 1945 she married Dündar Nişancı (1918 - 2001) who worked for İŞ Bank and retired as Foreign Operations Manager. They lived in Ankara, London, Cyprus, Frankfurt and Istanbul.



Nedret Nişancı is survived by her son, Emre Nişancı, RA 64, RC ENG 68, his wife Zeynep (Ata) Nişancı, ACG 66, RC YÜK 70, her grandchildren Mine Nişancı Garlin and husband Jeff Garlin, Ömer Nişancı and wife Elif Egeli Nişancı as well as great-grandchildren Ela and Kayra Nişancı Garlin and Lara and Selim Nişancı.

*Contributed by Emre Nişancı RA 64*

## Fatma Emel (Erk) Kozlu ACG 42

Emel (Erk) Kozlu, ACG 42 passed away on March 28, 2014, aged 94. Unfortunately, for over a decade she had suffered from Alzheimer's disease. Prior to that, she led a very active life, raising two sons after the early loss of her husband Bülent in 1966, traveling internationally, reading voluminously, attending classical music concerts, doing charity work, and spending her time with her school friends Henza (Solak) Türkkkan, Necla (Solak) Kavala,

Şehime (Day) Ayanoğlu and Benan (Guleman) Serdengeçti. She always felt and said that the happiest years of her life were spent at ACG. She would often quote poems by her favorite teacher Faruk Nafiz Çamlıbel. Born and raised in Kalamış, she enjoyed swimming, boating and fishing. She is survived by her sons Can and Cem (RA 65), daughter-in-law Anne, and four grandchildren.

*Contributed by Cem Kozlu RA 65*



## Eddy Benmuvhar RC ENG 44



Eddy Benmuvhar, passed away April 7, 2014. Born in Istanbul, Eddy immigrated to the United States and received a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois in 1950. He married Rosemarie Heisler who predeceased him in 1998.

Eddy was a Life Member of ASCE and the University of Illinois Alumni Association. He served as an instructor of civil engineering at Robert College and assistant professor at Lafayette College. During his work for several US firms, Eddy

resided in Spain and traveled extensively to Asia and Africa. He retired in 1988 and lived in Kansas City, Palm Beach and recently at Vi Lakeside Village in Lantana, FL. He was active as a volunteer for over 20 years with the AARP Free Tax Aide Organization and a member of the Lake Osborne Presbyterian Church in Lake Worth, FL.

Eddy is survived by two children, Rodrick (Janet) Benmuvhar and Audrey (Richard) Altman, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

## Ömer Yoldaş RC ENG 47

Ömer Yoldaş passed away on March 27, 2014, at the age of 88. He received his master's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Maryland in 1949, the first Turkish student to graduate from that institution. Ömer joined the RC staff in February 1958 as superintendent of Buildings and Grounds. After two years in that position, he became business manager for the College, holding that post for twelve years. In 1971,

he resigned his position to accept an appointment as Vice Counsel at the British Consulate in Istanbul. Following his services at the Consulate, he and his family lived several years in England before moving to Southern California. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Evin and their daughter Saba.

*Contributed by Edwin L. Crocker*



## Matthias Neumark RC 47

Matthias Neumark died June 10, 2014, at the age of 87. He was born in Frankfurt, Germany, and spent his childhood and youth in Istanbul, where he loved his adopted country and its people. After graduating from Robert College, he went to the United States in 1947 to attend Harvard Business School, receiving his MBA in 1949. His professional career

was in retail and, more specifically, the supermarket industry. Travel was an integral part of his professional and personal life. Matt focused on the positive and was truly an optimist. Competitive games, bridge at the senior center, backgammon, and reading were his passions. His kind and generous nature and his sense of humor will be missed

by Ann and his family and friends. In addition to his wife Ann, he is survived by his daughter, Dianna Johnson and sons, Dean Neumark and John Neumark as well as nine grand-children.

*Excerpts from The Daily Progress newspaper*

## Marsel Heisel Alazraki ACG 48

Marsel Alazraki died peacefully at her home on March 2, 2014, at the age of 85. After ACG, she continued her higher education at the University of Chicago, and then the

University of Wisconsin. She completed her PhD at Rutgers University, where she served as a member of the faculty of the Graduate School of Social Work. She was

a dedicated teacher and research scholar. Survivors include Donald, her husband of 58 years, her daughter Sylvia and her sister Raşel.

## Moris Bolay RC ENG 49

Moris Bolay passed away on February 24, 2013, in Istanbul at the age of 85. He graduated from RC Engineering in 1949

and went to the US for his master's degree. Then he returned to Istanbul and worked as a mechanical engineer for

many years. He will be missed by his wife Rozan Bolay and his friends.

*Contributed by Sibel Almas*

## Necati Kanatsız RC ENG 49

Necati Kanatsız passed away on July 28, 2014 in California with his daughter Leyla, his granddaughter and family at his bedside.

He graduated from Robert College engineering school and received his MS in civil engineering at Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy in Rolla, Missouri.

An eternal optimist with a great sense of humor, Necati was lovingly called "Shorty" by his classmates.

*Contributed by Candaş Tekeli RC ENG 49*



## Özcan Ergüder RC 49

Özcan Ergüder died peacefully at his home on July 28, 2014, surrounded by his loving family. He enjoyed acting and performed leading roles in many RC plays. His dream to study drama ended when, under parental pressure, he attended Ruskin College in Oxford and studied economics. In London, he worked part-time for the Turkish section of the BBC. Ahmet Emin Yalman, Publisher of

Vatan newspaper at the time, persuaded him to return to Turkey and become its editor-in-chief. His journalism career included the publication of Kim, one of the fiercest opposition publications during the ruling years of the Democratic Party.

In the 1970's, Özcan left journalism and went into business until his retirement in the 90's. He enjoyed reading and writing

and had a highly developed sense of humor. The entertaining letters he wrote to his son were worthy of publication yet the only book he wrote was *Masked Ball*, a collection of short stories. He was charismatic and enjoyed good company and good food. Not a keen traveler, he preferred time at home with family.

*Contributed by "a friend"*

## Yüksel Hakmen RC 56

Yüksel Hakman passed away on December 29, 2013. When we entered RC in 1947, Yüksel and I were members of the celebrated Prep One C section and shared the same dormitory. All through RA, we were in the same section and dormitory which forged a very strong bond between us. Though not a leader, he was a true "Kolejli" - loyal to his friends and school - and took part in activities. His phenomenal memory was a depository of RC lore and he came forward with facts or details whenever we needed them.

After graduation, he joined his ancestral business in Perşembe Pazarı, where we all found a warm welcome whenever we happened to be in the vicinity. Throughout the deterioration of his health he didn't lose his cheerful outlook and never missed our monthly "47'liler" get-togethers, asking us to fix the dates to accommodate his medical treatment schedules. He will be fondly remembered and missed.

*Contributed by Tunç Erkanlı RC ENG 58*



## Ahmet Yiğit Kerimol RA 62

**'Those were the days my friend, we thought they'd never end...'**

The lyrics of my parents' favorite song touch my heart more than ever. I had an impossible dream that the beautiful days with my father would never end. I was fortunate to be the daughter of Ahmet Yiğit Kerimol, who passed away on June 30, 2014 due to lung failure. My father, born to an industrialist family with roots in Montenegro and Albania, started RC at 11 where he formed friendships around athletics, running, and dormitory adventures. After his engineering



education at Rosenheim Hochschule he joined his father and brother (Ali İbrahim Kerimol RA 58) in the family

business, Sunta Tahta Sanayi TAŞ, and subsequently worked at Enka Pazarlama. Upon retirement, he ran the small family enterprise Ayker Trading Co. My father cherished summers in Datça, hosting friends, swimming, and lying in his hammock. Riding bicycles and asking him again and again how he taught me to swim as a child will be among my fondest memories. My mother Aysu Kerimol ACG 65, my brother Hakan, and I grieve for him deeply.

*Contributed by Yelda Kerimol Orçan*

## İlhami M. Karaca RC ENG 66



İlhami Karaca died in March 2014, at the age of 70. He attended the French high school, Saint Joseph, and graduated with a *prix d'excellence*, then studied at Robert College for his engineering degree. At school, he acted in several plays and learned classical guitar. He also worked on the construction of the first Bosphorus bridge. He left Turkey when he was 28 years old to move to the US, first to Chicago, then San Francisco. He got married in the US and fathered two children. He never forgot his native culture and eventually

returned to Turkey. İlhami read a lot and had an answer for everything. With time, I noticed his reactions to things, which were so typically Turkish that I thought this would be hard for a westerner to understand, even for his family! We were very close and spoke regularly on the phone and that always made me very sad, being so far away from each other.

*Contributed by his sister Leman (Karaca) Dorsay*

## Buda Güven ACG 1970

Buda Güven passed away after an unexpected heart attack in November 2013. Buda was the literal embodiment of both her first and last name: as wise and peaceful as "Buda," as reliable and sturdy as "Güven." She possessed a sharp sense of humor and yet was capable of being extremely gentle and caring. She had a depth of understanding which could perhaps best be explained by her devotion to the reading of great literature. Buda led a very productive life, one marked by her strong character and personality. She, more than most of us, made enormous sacrifices to raise her daughter, Ayça

Tekindor, and much she did entirely on her own after her divorce. This was not an easy task, particularly lacking a university education in the male-dominated working world of Istanbul in the 1970s. Buda was blessed with a beautiful voice. While she did not have the good fortune to develop her musical talents professionally, she nourished them in her daughter and sent her to the conservatory where Ayça excelled in violin and voice. Buda will continue to live on through Ayça and her many friends.

*Contributed by Nilgün Gökçür ACG 1970*



## Ziya Gökalp Boyacıgiller RA 70

An extremely successful international businessman, entrepreneur, angel investor, a talented and highly intelligent person, a righteous man, a wonderful husband, father, brother and colleague, Ziya Gökalp Boyacıgiller RA 70, BU 74, UCLA 76, passed away on June 19, 2014. Ziya was much admired by his friends and by the investment community and

accomplished much in his life. He has left his family and friends with the comfort of his accomplishments. Ziya was a mentor to many entrepreneurs both in the US and in Turkey. He certainly lived his life motto: create, make and let live. Among his many virtues, Ziya was an excellent violin player. In his later years, he took up

cello as one of his hobbies. Ziya left behind two wonderful girls and his wife Prof. Dr. Nakiye Boyacıgiller, a very successful scholar, and former Dean of Faculty of Management at Sabancı University.

*Contributed by Ahmet Esen RA 70*

## Sena Eken Schrieber RC YÜK 71

Sena Eken Schrieber, died peacefully at the age of 65 with her husband and brother at her side on June 3, 2014, in Washington, DC. After RC and receiving her PhD from Pittsburgh University, she worked at the IMF rising to the rank of Assistant Director, the highest for a Turkish employee in the history of the institution. She authored numerous articles and books on various country economic analyses and was an active speaker on the Turkish economy in the international lecture circuit.

An excerpt from Michel Grunberg's speech on behalf of the Class of 1971 at her memorial service:

Sena's life deserves tremendous recognition, respect and celebration. She was one of the leading, most popular, admired and loved members of our class, who excelled in all she did, whether it was in her studies or her career, and her personal life.



*Contributed by Fatma Esen Ülgenerk RC YÜK 71*

## Şerafettin Ünsal RC YÜK 71

Şerafettin Ünsal passed away on May 21, 2014, aged 66. After graduation Şerafettin worked in the pharmaceutical industry. His hard work found its reward in providing both his beloved daughter Eda and son Tuna with a good education, while raising them as responsible and enlightened citizens. One of his particular gifts was to liven up friends' gatherings

with his humorous, fun-loving, energetic and sincere personality. Another was his musical talent and he was very popular at social gatherings where he played musical instruments and enjoyed singing and dancing. A native of Isparta and Merzifon, Şerafettin was a proud supporter of his Anatolian culture which was reflected in his honest, generous and industrious

personality. He will be remembered as a lively, team spirited, humorous and musical friend. It is our deep regret that he took his virtues away with him forever so early in life.

*Contributed by Ekrem Ekinci RC YÜK 71*



If you would like to share news of a deceased RC community member please send us a notice in English of no more than 150 words to [cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr). Longer notices will be edited due to space restrictions.

*Attached to the notice may be a photo of the deceased in high resolution (minimum 700 x 700 pixels).*

## Ann Lockett Walko

Former English teacher at ACG, Ann Lockett Walko passed away on May 13, 2014, at the age of 92. She received a BA in English and journalism from Simmons College in 1943 and an MA in Education from Central Connecticut State College in 1965. During her lifetime she had a varied career as newspaper reporter and English teacher at various schools as well as serving in administrative positions at Yale University,

American School in Dubai and the Parent's Cooperative School, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, while accompanying her husband on his company assignments abroad. Her particular interest was in the preservation of native cultural traditions and she was the author of two children's books. Ann Walko is survived by three children, two grandchildren and a sister.



## John Roderic O'Connor

Former teacher at RC, John, known to all as Roddy, died on January 13, 2014, at the age of 81. Educated at Deerfield Academy and Princeton University where he earned both a BA in English and a PhD in 19<sup>th</sup> Century French Literature, Roddy was a noted scholar, raconteur, and bon vivant. He was fluent in French and could converse as well in Spanish, Turkish and German.

His insatiable curiosity was supported by extensive world travels and varied reading on a range of subjects from Aristotle and Montaigne to the history of Mexico, the anthropological work of Ruth Benedict, and the literature of Borges and Balzac. In retirement, Roddy continued to travel, read and learn. During his 53 years of marriage, he and his wife Olga shared a passion for

creating a life well-lived and for sharing their legendary hospitality with friends and family. Roddy is survived by his four children, Ania, Kolja, Nina, and Vania, and their families.

*(Excerpts from The Boston Globe)*

## David T. Porter

Former English teacher at Robert College in the late 1950's, David T. Porter died on November 16, 2013 at the age of 85. David distinguished himself in sports and scholarship at Elba Central High School and Hamilton College before traveling as a young man to teach as head of the English department Robert College. Later, he made a career of international prominence as a distinguished academic in Arts and Letters. He was known worldwide as a leading scholar of Emily Dickinson, joining the faculty at the University of Massachusetts,

where he taught literature courses. He wrote three very highly regarded scholarly works: *The Art of Emily Dickinson's Early Poetry* (1966), *Emerson and Literary Change* (1978) and *Dickinson: The Modern Idiom* (1981), all published by Harvard University Press, as well as many articles of literary criticism. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Rosalie, his three sons and five grandchildren.

*(Excerpts from Gazettenet.com)*



## Robert Frederick "Fritz" Cameron

Former math and PE teacher at RC in the early 1980's, 'Fritz' Cameron passed away on September 25, 2014 in Istanbul at the age of 65. Fritz joined the Peace Corps as a volunteer in 1979 and started teaching math in Ghana, West Africa. After two years, he moved to Istanbul to continue teaching math at Robert College, where he met his wife, Derin. In 1983, Fritz moved to Kuwait, to teach at the American School of Kuwait (ASK). Through the years, his role at ASK

changed from math teacher to PE teacher and finally Student Activities Director for close to two decades. He coached basketball, volleyball and softball through the years at different levels. He was also an avid softball player and participated in several international tournaments. Fritz Cameron is survived by his wife, Derin Dosdoğru Cameron, three children and four sisters.



A fashion advertisement for Mavi jeans. The scene is set on a rustic wooden staircase with a light-colored wall in the background. A man stands on the left, wearing a dark grey crewneck sweater over a white collared shirt and blue denim jeans. He has his hands in his pockets and is looking directly at the camera. A woman sits on the right, wearing a black quilted vest over a black long-sleeved shirt and dark blue denim jeans. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The Mavi logo is in the top right corner, and social media links are at the bottom.

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