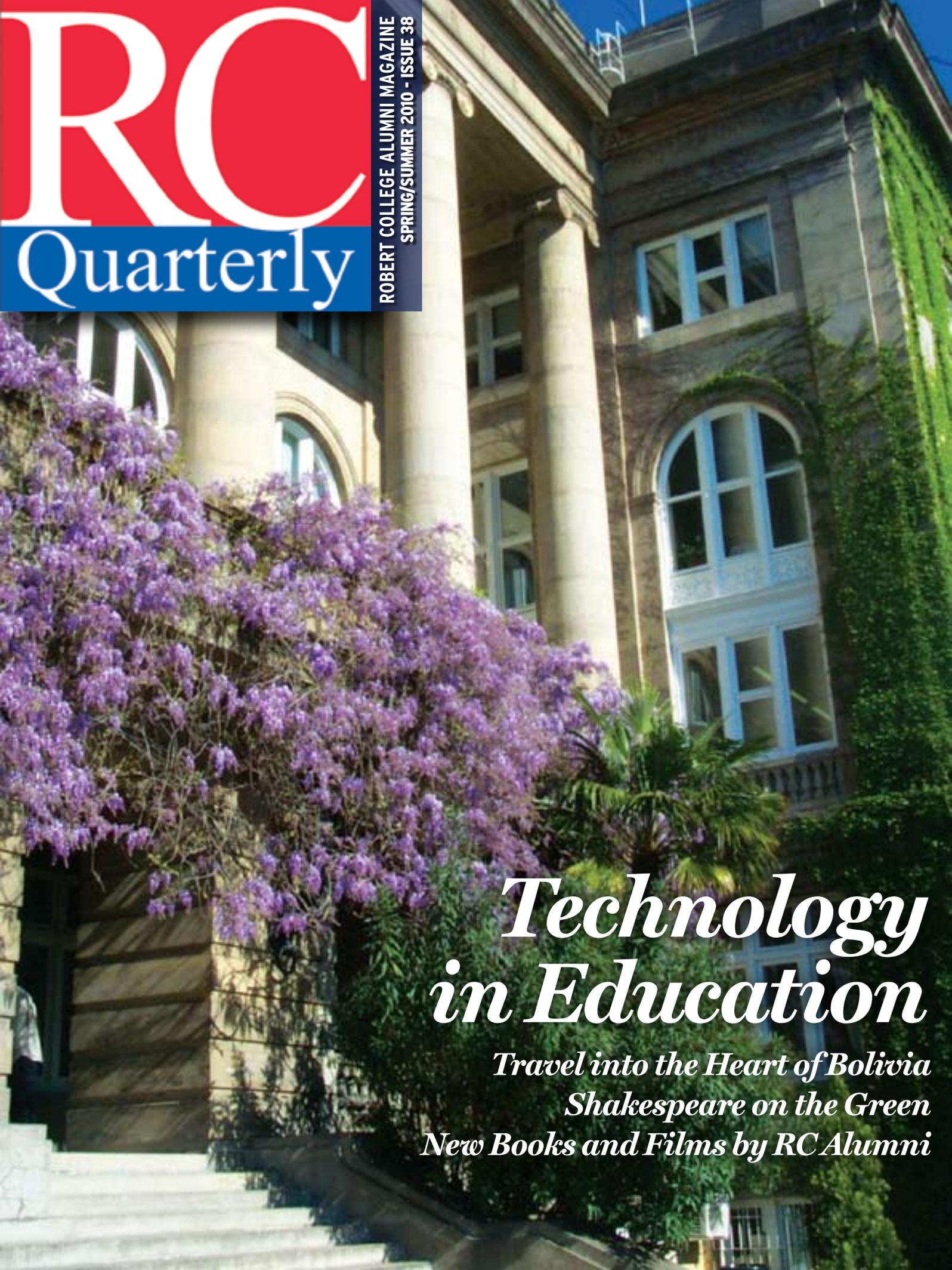


The logo consists of the letters 'RC' in a large, white, serif font, set against a solid red rectangular background.

Quarterly

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE  
SPRING/SUMMER 2010 - ISSUE 38

The background of the cover is a photograph of a grand, classical-style building with large columns and arched windows. In the foreground, there is a large, dense bush of purple flowers and some greenery. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

# *Technology in Education*

*Travel into the Heart of Bolivia  
Shakespeare on the Green  
New Books and Films by RC Alumni*



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## ABOUT THE RC QUARTERLY



Spring brings with it a sense of renewal and activity that feels an appropriate match for this issue's focus on technological developments at Robert College that are changing the face of education as we know it. Over the past decade, RC has quietly become a pioneer in adapting the latest educational technologies to its curriculum and staff. This issue will introduce you to some of the most exciting of these changes. Find out why photocopying and class attendance sheets are a thing of the past, how an integrated platform called Moodle is transforming the classroom environment, what progress has been made in the digitalisation of school archives and more.

As always, we look forward to hearing your news. Our community is rich with interesting individuals spread out across the world in all kinds of fields and we take pride in being able to cover the variety of their involvements in these pages.

Best wishes for a happy summer!

**The RCQ Team**



  
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*jewellery*

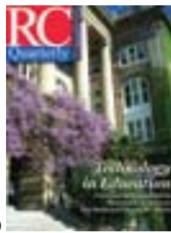
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## Nina J. Köprülü Elected New Chair of the Robert College Board of Trustees



*The RC Board of Trustees in May 2008. From front to back: Sukey Wagner, Şefika Pekin Barlas, Emre Gönensay, Feyyaz Berker, Jim Maggart, Martina Albright, Leyla Tara Suyabatmaz, Selen Ünsal Jacoby, Nina Köprülü, Oya Başak, Elif Bilgi Zapparoli, Öner Akgerman, David Cuthell, Ahmet Demirel, Nuri Çolakoğlu, Halis Komili, Bill Williams, Emre Derman, Landon Thomas Jr., Erkut Yucaoğlu, Üstün Ergüder, Muharrem Kayhan, Nedim Ölçer, Marc Grossman, Mehmet Betil, Elsie Vance, Sedat Ergin and Tad Ogen.*

The Robert College Board of Trustees has elected Nina J. Köprülü, a board member since 1994, as its new Chair. She replaces Jim Maggart, who takes up position as Vice-Chairman. Köprülü brings a wealth of experience with involvement in education to her new position. She is currently also Board Chair of the American Community School in Beirut, Lebanon as well as the Nightingale-Bamford School in New York. In fact, she was first introduced to Robert College through the late RC Trustee Joan Mc Menamin who was a long-time headmistress at Nightingale-Bamford, of which Köprülü is also a graduate.

Köprülü has been fascinated by Turkey and the Middle East since childhood due to her family's work-related travels in the region. She is the president and director of the non-profit Joukowsky Family Foundation, an organization which allocates funds in support of educational and cultural institutions worldwide. She is also a Trustee of the American Center of Oriental Research in Jordan and President of the American Friends of Aphrodisias, a non-profit organization based in New York and established in 1977 to support archaeological excavations in Aphrodisias, Turkey. Köprülü serves as a board member of the American Research Institute in Turkey, and is a Trustee of the World Monuments Fund as well as a committee member of the Archeological Insitute of America. Nina Köprülü, who previously served as the Vice Chair of the Robert College Board of Trustees, enthusiastically refers to her new role as "the swap" with Jim Maggart, who in turn will be the new Vice Chair.

Jim Maggart, who first came to Turkey in 1968 as a faculty member, became the Lise Director and the Director of Studies in 1971. In 1974, he left to complete an MBA at Stanford University, returning to RC in 1977 as Headmaster, a position he held until 1981. He has served as a trustee of Robert College since 1988, becoming Board Chairman in 2003. Throughout his career, Mr. Maggart has served education in many capacities, and continues to bring his experience, wisdom and insight to the governance of Robert College.



*The Chair of the RC Board of Trustees, Nina J. Köprülü*

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## RC NEWS

### RC Orienteering Team Wins in Antalya

The RC Orienteering Team grabbed three medals at the International Orienteering Races held February 25-28th in Antalya. Team members Burak Özçelik (L-P), Zeynep Özarda (L-9), Ebrar Bahçivan (L-9), Akın Akkan (L-10), Ahmet Utku Akbıyık (L-10), Kaan Bulut Tekelioğlu (L-10), and Canberk Yalçın (L-11), Andrew Tingleff (Math Dept), Gencer Emiroğlu-Coach (Outdoor Education Dept.) were among the 700 participants from 12 countries.

At the Day 2 Sprint Race, Canberk Yalçın (L-11) was awarded for his victory in M18. Bulut Tekelioğlu (L-10) and Ahmet Utku Akbıyık (L-10) got awards for 1st and 2nd place respectively in M16 class. Gold winner in men 35 category coach Gencer Emiroğlu, silver winner Ebrar Bahçivan (L-9) and bronze winner in women 16 category Zeynep Özarda (L-9) brought Robert College 3 medals in total.

What is Orienteering? It is a fast growing sport where you navigate between checkpoints of a set course using a special map. It is like cross-country running but instead of a set course

you need to find your own way from one checkpoint to the other. RC has been using orienteering for eight years. It is the first school in Turkey to have an orienteering map of the school campus. Every year 200 prep students learn about the campus and meet staff by participating in a campus orienteering event. The Orienteering Sport Team was established two years ago and competes in major National Championships. Orienteering is not just a sport for a healthy body and mind. It is proven to develop students' decision-making skills and curriculum skills (math and geography). It is challenging and fun. The events are organized in Turkey's most beautiful natural settings.

A sport for all RC Community members: Come and join The Orienteering Team! The team is not just for RC students. It is a sport for all ages. Every participant can compete in her/his age category. It is registered as a branch of "RC Spor Kulübü" and welcomes all RC community members, parents, alumni, staff. Training sessions are held in the Belgrade Forest. If interested, contact Coach Gencer Emiroğlu gemiroglu@robcol.k12.tr.



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\* Bu prim, 6 - 17 yaş aralığındaki bayan sigortalılar için İstanbul dışında geçerli olup, ayakta tedavi teminatı 30.06.2010 tarihine kadar satın alınan poliçelerde 250 TL limit ve % 80 ödeme oranıyla bir yıllık poliçe süresi boyunca geçerlidir.

**Allianz**

### Artists in The Gallery

The 9th Annual Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Art Competition award ceremony was held in The Gallery (the Theater foyer art gallery) on April 21. The competition is sponsored by the Class of 76 and is held in honor of their classmate who loved art and was an amateur artist himself. Attended by members of RC 76, Demirkan Aşetey's father Halis Aşetey, faculty and staff members as well as students and finalists of the competition the event was also special this year in that it was the first time it was held in the new art gallery of Robert College, of which John Dew, a member of the RC Arts Department is the curator.

The competition was judged by Özden Şahin an artist, translator, curator, and teacher. She researched censorship on visual arts and its political implications in contemporary Turkey and teaches Contemporary Visual Culture and Translation at Okan University. The second judge was Joe Anthony Brown, an artist and teacher, who works in painting, drawing, printmaking, and graphic novels. He teaches art at MEF International School, and served as judge for the second time for the Demirkan Aşetey Art Competition. The third and final judge was Julien Poulson, an artist traveller who sometimes writes, photographs, videos and records aspects of the life and the people he meets on the road. He has worked variously as a cartoonist, guitarist, writer, photographer and filmmaker.

As for the winners; the awards were carried off by Ekin Göksel who placed first, İtir Akgun who placed second and Nazlı Ercan, who came in third.



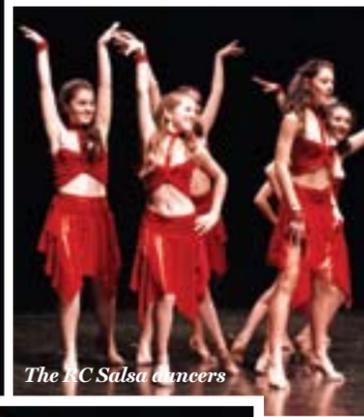
*Ekin Göksel with her award winning work.*

*Nazlı Ercan placed third with her work of art.*

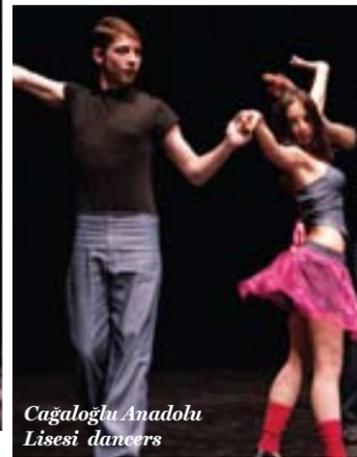




*The RC Tango dancers*



*The RC Salsa dancers*



*Cağaloğlu Anadolu Lisesi dancers*

## And the Dance Goes on...

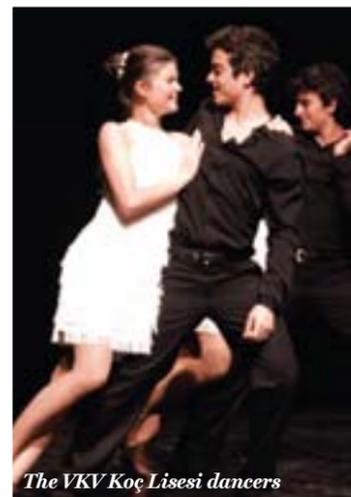
On April 18th, 2010, Robert College once again celebrated the Berkol RC 98 Latin Dance Festival. Compared to last year's festival, RC hosted a larger number of guest schools this year, including Özel Enka Lisesi, Adapazarı Enka Anadolu, Habire Yahşi Lisesi, Kartal Anadolu, Cağaloğlu Anadolu, Üsküdar Amerikan and VKV Koç Lisesi. Students from the participating schools presented brilliant tango, salsa and cha-cha shows among other dance styles. The young dancers were very well prepared and their exceptionally good performances caused the audience to frequently break into applause. Vanessa Gauch Arabacıoğlu, a much loved member of the tango scene, was among this year's festival guests. Two of Vanessa's students presented a spectacular dance routine choreographed by their instructor. During the

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

day-long workshops, the participating students were offered the opportunity to learn beginner's tango from Vanessa Gauch as well as salsa from Suzan Erdim and Onur Mergen, well known members of the professional latin dance scene. Another pleasant surprise of the day was the salsa show by Suzan and Onur, who were also the dance instructors and choreographers of the RC dancers.

It is the hope of Berkol's family and friends and organizers that this festival, organised in memory of Berkol Doğan RC 98 who died in the tragic Isparta plane crash in 2007, passes Berkol's enthusiasm and passion for dance on to the young. Once one gets to dance on stage, it is not easy to give up dancing. I hope the young dancers who helped this special day to turn into a festival will experience those unique feelings. Every year, we organise this event with the same sort of enthusiasm and excitement one feels when one goes on stage. Sharing such enthusiasm with participating students and the audience is as valuable as the applause that follows the dance shows on stage.

Contributed by Bülay Doğan



*The VKV Koç Lisesi dancers*

### CORPORATE SUPPORT

Robert College gratefully acknowledges the following corporations and foundations in Turkey for their generous support during the 2008-09 fiscal year.

- Akbank A.Ş**
- Garanti Bankası**
- İzmir Palas Oteli**
- Nahum Family Foundation**
- Suna and İnan Kıraç Foundation**
- Söktas A.Ş**
- Vehbi Koç Foundation**

## RCAAA 2010 Spring Dinner



*From L TO r: Selin Somersan RC 95, Ersin Karaoğlu RC 95, Okan Ergin, Nil Kılıçay Ergin RC 95, Füsün Leventoğlu Noyan RC 95*

The RCAAA dinner took place at New York's Domenico's Restaurant on May 6th. Around 35 Alumni from different classes joined to enjoy each other's company and listen to RC 75 Graduate Cihan Sultanoğlu who was recently appointed Director of the Office of Human Resources, Bureau of Management by the Administrator of UNDP in January 2010. Cihan began her career with UNDP in 1981 as an Administrative Trainee in New York and Thailand and then continued as an Administrative Officer in Malawi in 1982. Everyone had a great time at the dinner and enjoyed Cihan Sultanoğlu's wonderful speech



Ege Yalçınbaş,  
Melis Özsoy and  
Özge Sever

# A "Thriller" of a Show

The Robert College Orchestra, under the direction of music teacher Deniz Baysal gave its ninth performance during the last week of May 2010. The orchestra performed songs in English and in Turkish to the enthusiastic applause of a full house three nights in a row. The opening number, "Thriller" sung by RC 10 alum Cem Necefbaş sent shivers down peoples' backs as they eagerly awaited the rest of the show. While some members of this talented group are graduating in June 2010, many younger students are showing promise and filling in their spots. The orchestra has also been a popular part of assembly hour during Homecoming. If you have not been a part of the magic yet, make sure to reserve a spot next year or come see them at Homecoming 2010.



Vocalist  
Cemre Necefbaş,  
Lise 9

"Whatever you do, do it with love... you are being trained in the orchestra environment with that secret... Because music requires effort. Love requires effort." **Deniz Baysal (RC Teacher and Orchestra advisor)**  
"I can't think of my high school life without the orchestra." **Berfu Negiz RC 10 (Clarinet)**  
"I can say with confidence that becoming a part of this orchestra has been the best choice I've made so far in Robert College". **Deniz Bakkalcı RC 13 (Keyboard)**  
"It is hard to describe the incredible feeling you get when you successfully play a difficult solo, and smile back at

the vocalist who has been grinning at you. It's a bond of friendship fed by music." **Ahmet Ali Arslan RC 10 (Guitar)**  
"I understood that we are indeed a family and a family that -no matter who comes or who leaves- will never disappear; and the respect and love we feel towards each other will never cease." **Baturay Türkmən RC 12 (Accordion)**



Ozan Dikilitaş (kanun), Altan Ünsal (bass), Tolga Tolguy (drums), Deniz Can Bakkalcı (keyboard), Anıl Akarsu (guitar)

Melis Özsoy, Cemre Necefbaş, Özge Sever, Yankı Yarman, Ege Yalçınbaş and Oğul Girgin with his violin.

Cem Necefbaş RC 10

Ezgi Sönmez RC 10



Percussion show @ forum

# Fine Arts Festival 2010

FAF 2010, the Fine Arts Festival organised by the RC Student Council had another fine day on Sunday, May 30. Held annually since 1982, this always cheerful event is usually attended by more than 2.000 people every year. The Fine Arts Festival is a big event in which many student groups can perform on its stage. Various art exhibitions, dance shows and entertaining extras take place and add color to the event. The closing show of the day is usually a big name music group and this year the Turkish band Bedük, took stage. Photo credits: Ahmet Utku Akbiyik RC 12



Former RC faculty member Robert Johnson (center) performed with RC faculty member Colin Edmonds, far left, and Ahmet Ali Arslan, RC 10



The New RC Student Council Presiden Volkan Sipahioğlu Lise 11, with Elif Kınlı Lise 9 and Başak Yalman Lise Prep



Ahmet Ali Arslan RC 10, Cemre Necefbaş Lise 9, and Cem Necefbaş RC 10



From L to R: RC Faculty members İzzet Dodurgalı and Mehmet Uysal and Göktuğ Karataş RC 03 enjoying the FAF activities.

## Young Writers Honored at Second Jane Page Writing Contest

The Jane Page English Writing Contest is now an established part of the RC school year. This year, there were numerous entrants in the three categories: dramatic script, short story, and poetry, all vying for the top prize of three-hundred dollars per genre.

The second annual awards ceremony took place on Thursday, March 18 in the fiction section of the library. Much of the faculty and student body were present to recognize the winners.

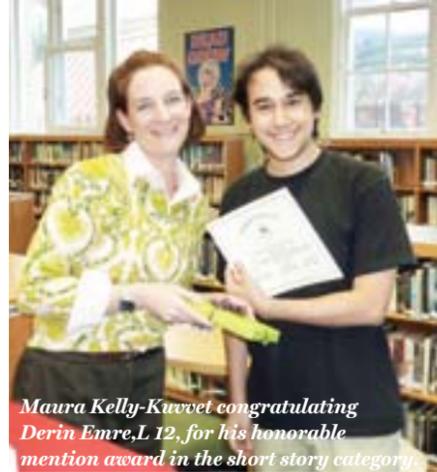
The judges: Charlotte Şamlı, Jason Shulha, Marita O'Neill, Jameson Vierling, Jake Becker, Philip Gee, Jamilah Lajam, Andrew Laraia and Alison Standley found it difficult to narrow their selection of the distinguished writing.

As was done last year, a current English teacher of the entrant read a passage or the entirety of the winning piece.

The judges awarded Deniz Can's play, "Heaven Above," with an honorable mention. Comments made by the judges regarded her dramatic work: displayed a clear vision and a commitment to realizing that vision, a sense of wit, and originality in character choice. Robert College's Dramatic Troupe performed the play in its entirety in Bingham 1 on March 25th and 26th.



From L to R: English teacher Maura Kelly-Kuvvet and the three young poets awarded honorable mention: Kutay Onaylı L9, Ceren Soylu L10 and Pelin Asi L10



Maura Kelly-Kuvvet congratulating Derin Emre, L 12, for his honorable mention award in the short story category.

This year's winner, "The Strawberry and Death" by Batuhan Başerdem baffled and intrigued the judges. A strong sense of theatricality is present throughout the script as the artistic choices are bold and daring. Characterization is stripped to the bare minimum and the actors and the audience find themselves in a Godot like world. Threads are begun and left unfinished, the play pushes forward culminating in the statement "THIS IS ART"; the audience is left wondering "Is it?"

The judges commended two students with honorable mentions for the short story category. Those students are Derin Emre, for his story "Backdraft", and Zeynep Ali for her story entitled, "Raindrops."

The judges found Derin Emre's story clever. His writing possesses a strong voice and gripping narrative structure. Zeynep Ali was described by the judges as a talented writer who crafts her imagery with such precision that the reader's senses are awakened.

The first prize winner of the Short Story category is Ege Yalçınbaş for her short story, "The Gravedigger." The judges described her language as technically perfect. Her characters are rendered with depth and the use of irony and foreshadowing is sophisticated.

Three poets were awarded honorable mention by the judges: Kutay Onaylı, Ceren Soylu, and Pelin Asa.

Kutay's poem "The Overheard Prayer" shows wonderful promise and the judges all wish to read more of his well-crafted work. "Never Rely on Snow" by Ceren Soylu was described as clever given its juxtaposing forces of the beautiful and the terrifying. The images of the poem were described as gorgeous. Pelin Asa's poems "Extinction of the Heart" and "Invasion of the Invisible" were found to be sparse yet searingly impactful; each line was found to be as powerful as the last.

The winner of the poetry category is Değer Turan, with his poem "Goldfish." The praise for this poem was effusive for its musicality of internal rhyme, for the elegant use of enjambment, and clarity of diction.

Look for these great works and those of other participants in the Jane Page Writing contest on the Kaleidoscope web site soon at [www.rckaleidoscope.org](http://www.rckaleidoscope.org)

A sponsor or sponsors are still needed to ensure that this great contest continues. If you are willing to donate towards this vital cause, please contact [cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr). The running costs are about \$1,000 per annum.

## Excellence in Science Inaugural Award



Ege Yalçınbaş accepting her award from Dr. Güneş Ege Akter, ACG 52, as Headmaster John Chandler looks on.

The Prof. Seyhan Nurettin Ege, ACG 49, Excellence in Science Award for Females has found its first recipient. Multi-talented Lise 11 student, Ege Yalçınbaş received her award on March 22, 2010 from Dr. Güneş Ege Akter, ACG 52. Dr. Ege travelled to Istanbul from Toronto where she lives to be present at the inaugural awarding of this award.

### Excerpts from her speech made during the ceremony:

"At ACG Seyhan Ege was an outstanding student in every respect, and in the course of her future higher education and career as Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Michigan, she evolved into a distinguished and innovative educator. In her quiet, determined and persistent way and by example, she championed women's rights, their recognition and advancement. Despite many obstacles at the time she achieved success in what was still a man's domain. Seyhan's life and career were also the embodiment of the unique relationship between student and teacher, where there is mutual stimulation and growth. And throughout her career, by listening to, recognizing and appraising the intellectual needs of her students, she brought about the innovations in chemical education for which she was renowned. After her official retirement from teaching at the university, Seyhan volunteered to teach high school chemistry, which she did with great pleasure, saying it was such joy to teach students before they acquired the bad habits she noted by the time they had reached university. So dear students, your "lise" years are particularly precious ones, when lifelong friendships are made, enduring memories are gathered and most importantly the foundations of good scholarship are laid. There will be obstacles ahead but you will overcome and learn from them. The award we are inaugurating today will honor Seyhan Ege's legacy as an outstanding student, teacher and mentor. Scholastic achievements are the fruit and culmination of the affection and sacrifices of parents, the dedication, wisdom and guidance of teachers, and the hard work, boundless energy, discipline, diligence, joyful adventures, high aspirations and intellectual curiosity on the part of students, all of which we salute with the Prof. Seyhan N. Ege Excellence in Science Award for Girls at Robert College."

ACG 52 graduate and sister of Prof. Ege, Dr. Güneş Akter established the award to be presented each year to a Lise 11 female student who has excelled in the field of science and comes with a sizeable cash gift.

This year's winner Ege has 'ten talents on ten fingers'. She played the lead in the musical production of AIDA last spring on the RC stage. (See RCQ, spring/summer 2009, issue 36, page 40.) This year she won first prize in the short story category of the Jane Page Writing Contest as well as this newly established award. She is not yet decided but is thinking of doing a double major, pursuing her love of music as well as her interest in neuroscience.

## Correction: Foreign University Acceptance Results for RC 09

Out of the 97 RC Seniors who applied to go abroad for higher education, 92 received one or more acceptances. Of these 76 made a decision to attend US, Canadian or UK universities and have started their freshman year. 25 were awarded financial aid. Of this group, 14 students were on scholarship while at Robert College.



Teachers prepare to read the prologue.

Elizabethan dancers in all seriousness

Shylock "lords it over" Portia, an astute attorney

"Double, double, toil and trouble..."

Faerie King Oberon resists the charms of Titania

Bottom revels in Titania's adoration

A female Falstaff down a brew with her cronies.

Shylock and Peaseblossom focus on the dance

The "Duke", Bassanio, and Antonio in The Merchant of Venice

Squire Jake fawns on his coy mistress

The witches welcome the ghost of Banquo

Sir Joseph decries the Seven Ages of Man

Bottom the Weaver transformed "to an ass"

Romeo speaks lovingly of his Juliet

The marriage pact is shared

Juliet on her wisteria-laden balcony

Faerie Queene Titania is sung to sleep by her faeries.

A sleepwalking Lady Macbeth scrubs at her guilty hands

L to R, Oberon, Bottom, Mr. Shulha, Ms. Şamlı, Squire Jake and Sir Joseph

# Shakespeare on the Green

Contributed by RC teacher Ann Marie Mershon. Taken from her blog which you may follow at: <http://amershon.edublogs.org>

Robert College just treated me to the most magical theater experience of my life. Really. And—it was SHAKESPEARE!!!

It was the brainchild of Charlotte Şamlı with Jason Shulha and a host of teachers and students. I'd love to share the enchantment of this production that showcases not only the talents of RC actors, but the stunning beauty of our campus in bloom.

Come, join me for this tribute to the bard, "Shakespeare on the Green"...

We begin our evening at 6:30 in a small outdoor arena known as "The Maze," where our student body gathers for the first day of school, fire drills, and emergencies. Teachers in Elizabethan garb welcome us with an enigmatic program on a full-color map. Hmm... We seat ourselves on bleachers under spreading chestnut trees (I kid you not—in full bloom), wondering what adventures await.

The air fills with trumpets announcing our actors, who file in to perform an Elizabethan dance, precisely executed.

No one cracks a smile.

Actors exit.

Teachers remain (six).

They read from scrolls—a Shakespearean prologue? We are then divided into three more-than-curious groups. Ours is lead by Lady Marita, who regally guides us up the walkway to an outdoor arena.

Lady Marita announces the evening's festivities

And we wait.

Finally, a swell of Elizabethan music announces the beginning of the festivities, and we're treated to the courtroom scene from A Merchant in Venice. We are engrossed in Portia's clever machinations as she first permits Shylock his demand of his adversary's pound of flesh (from his chest), then specifies that he must do so without shedding a drop of blood. From there she executes his financial ruin. The acting is superb, and even the shakiest English speakers in the audience are enjoying themselves.

We are greeted by another "guide" (Lady Alison), dressed in gilt red, who leads us up a road through the woods. Our small group is divided in "twain". Once we find seats on a small deck, she VERY clearly explains the plot of Macbeth. Before we know it, actors appear from behind a building. Lady Macbeth is sleepwalking again—wringing and wrenching her hands to rid herself of that "damned spot". A compelling performance, absolutely.

Afterwards, Lady Alison performs a short soliloquy while Squire Jake (another teacher/guide) fawns on her from a nearby railing.

After that, the squire launches into his own monologue before leading us through a narrow woodland path, pointing out plants and waxing prosaic as we walk. We pass an actor in red (Macbeth?), frozen in the brush with his back to us.

What scene but the witches could lie ahead? We buzz with excitement as we round a curve to be met by three yowling and screeching green-faced witches. "Double double toil and trouble.

Fire burn and cauldron bubble!"

Another amazing performance as they taunt Macbeth and as Banquo's ghost reveals the prophesy that "no man of woman born" can harm him, that he will be safe until "Burnam Wood comes to Dunsinane." Not good news for Macbeth (at least for those of us who know the rest)!

It's growing dark, and the air is cooling. I'm thankful to have gloves and a warm scarf as we are taken to meet the other half of our group for the next stage (pardon the pun) of our adventure. Sir Joseph Welch downs a swig of liquor and jumps atop a picnic table to begin his monologue—a drunken soliloquy on the seven ages of man. Ah, Much Ado About Nothing—and it is!

Totally entranced, we follow him to lawn chairs arranged at the bottom of the hill below Sage for...it HAS to be A Midsummer Night's Dream. What else could it be with a bower of velvet cushions under boughs strung with ribbons and streamers (and wine corks)? The sun is setting, and our woody "set" is illuminated from multiple directions.

The first to emerge are the Bard's whimsical woodland faeries, Peaseblossom and Mustardseed, soon joined by Puck, the rascally imp who delivers a magic potion. Remember the story? Titania the Faerie Queene is tricked by her lover, Oberon with a potion that will make her fall in love with the first being she sees.

Bottom the Weaver comes to practice his play (art teacher John Dew), and he is magically transformed into a donkey, which Titania falls madly in love with. Enough said—it was HILARIOUS! Bottom has us in stitches, and the talented ensemble holds us

entranced through the entire antic-filled scene. BRAVO!!!

We hardly notice that we're shivering, yet we're thankful for a break to get hot drinks in the Maze. WHEW!

After intermission everyone is gathered at the bottom of the Gould Hall walkway for a boisterous performance of Falstaff—including the entire acting ensemble. Hilarity abounds, and we try to follow Falstaff's ribald humor as best we can.

After that we move en masse up the hill to seats arranged beneath the Gould Hall steps. The air is heavy with the sweet scent of wisteria, and Lady Marita emerges to introduce her ninth grade class's Ottoman rendition of Romeo and Juliet—the fight scene where Tybalt kills Mercutio and Romeo revenges his death by slaying Tybalt. As dramatic as it is, it's hysterical with all the Ottoman twists—the local sultan scolds the Kapul and the Mantuk families. We cheer wildly, amazed that these actors have stayed in character in spite of everyone's mirth.

Last, but certainly not least, is the Romeo and Juliet balcony scene, expertly choreographed and executed. Juliet opens the scene sighing from her balcony above the wisteria ("Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo"), while Romeo fawns on her from below. "Oh, that I could be a glove upon that hand..."

Juliet suddenly—magically—appears beside Romeo on the Gould Hall steps, and they entrance us with their passionate performance. At last, a scene that we all know and love.

Thanks for joining me for this stunning performance. And kudos to the creative spirits who made it possible. Incredible!



Moderator Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 with guests Ersin Özince and Ergun Özen.



NetwoRC guests Serpil Timuray and Galya Molinas



The first guests of the NetwoRC series; Faruk Eczacıbaşı and Süreyya Ciliz

## NetwoRC Evenings

A new speaker series on campus, designed exclusively for RC alumni of all ages, aims to create a Robert College Business Network. Each NetwoRC event hosts two prominent speakers with a diverse range of competencies in their fields. RC alumni enjoy the privilege of listening and asking questions to the speakers, and learning about exciting, up-to-date, and contemporary issues, meet and greet fellow RC graduates in the business world before and after the event, accompanied by cocktails. Details and photos of the past events can be found on the RC Website. The first three of these events were held on December 24th, 2009, January 20th and April 19th with the moderation of Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62, graduate and Trustee of Robert College. The first topic was on IT and Telecommunications and hosted Faruk Eczacıbaşı (Head of Türkiye Bilişim Vakfı) and Süreyya Ciliz (CEO, Turkcell) as speakers. The second one was on Business and Marketing, with the speakers Galya Frayman Molinas (Coca-Cola) and Serpil Timuray (CEO, Vodafone). The most recent one was held on April 19th with Ersin Özince (General Manager, İş Bankası) and Ergun Özen (General Manager, Garanti Bankası) on Banking and Finance. The event is a good medium for those who want to meet and do business with fellow RC graduates. Attendees leave their business cards at the registration table, which are afterwards shared. This way, attendees have the opportunity to scan through the list to find out what they can do, with whom.

The events were sponsored by Barici Sandwiches and Mey İçki - Terra Wine.



Adil İzci, seated far left, with former students Mine Gündoğdu RC 84 and Mehveç Dramur RC 96, Turkish Department colleagues, retired RC teachers Münir Aysu, seated far right, and Aydın Ungan, standing in the middle



## Adil İzci Pens New Book

Adil İzci, Teacher of Turkish Literature at RC, has published his new book "Evler Sokaklar Kitabı" (Book of Houses, Streets). This book is the second of a series, after "Ağaçlar Kitabı" (Book of Trees), and seventh in the past 28 years of his teaching career at Robert College. What is special about this particular book is, that it is dedicated to two former RC faculty members: Münir Aysu, a legendary Turkish literature teacher and Aydın Ungan, much loved former RC dorm father, photography teacher and audio visual head. Mr. Adil İzci invited the two doyens, along with some of his former students, and fellow faculty members to a tea party at the Turkish Literature department, to share the news and to celebrate the new book, that came out of Yitik Ülke Yayınları.

## Counseling Department Visitor at RC

During the week of April 19-22, Robert College welcomed Dr. Catherine Steiner-Adair, a Clinical Instructor in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, and Director of Education and Prevention at the Klarman Eating Disorders Center at McLean Hospital, Boston's leading psychiatric hospital. She also maintains a private practice as well as consulting to a significant number of private schools in the US.

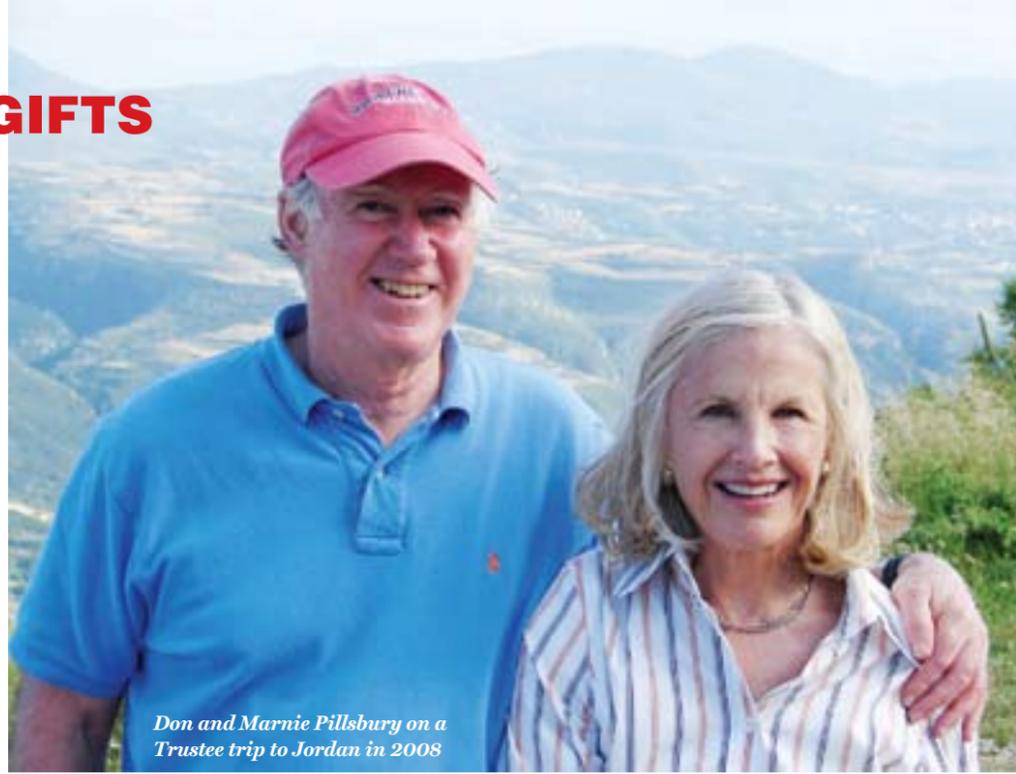
Dr. Steiner-Adair stayed on the RC campus for four days, during which she met with the counseling team, students, parents, administrators and faculty. When she met with Lise 9s and 10's (freshmen and sophomores) she talked about the influence of media on teenagers' lives and values and her speech was very well received. Then, she met with a group of Lise 11's and 12's (juniors and seniors) and talked to them about how to get prepared for college life abroad. It was a very informative talk and students had the opportunity to ask her questions about college life in the US. Dr. Steiner-Adair had a productive time with RC parents, speaking to them about important parenting issues, and answering their questions. She also met with a group of RC faculty before she left, sharing a valuable discussion with them on the effects of technology on school life. She not only met with groups but also visited some of the RC offices and tried her best to spend time with RC faculty individually.

The RC community was very happy to meet her and has very much enjoyed having her on the campus. We're thankful to our Chair of Trustees Nina Köprülü for all her support and contributions in arranging Catherine Steiner-Adair's visit to RC.

Contributed by the RC Counseling Office



Dr. Catherine Steiner-Adair



*Don and Marnie Pillsbury on a Trustee trip to Jordan in 2008*

## Donaldson C. Pillsbury Scholarship Established

Robert College rarely receives a scholarship gift sufficient to cover all costs for a full time residential student in perpetuity. It did this year, thanks to a \$500,000 endowment established by the Stuart Family in honor of Donaldson C. Pillsbury, a much-loved Trustee of Robert College from 2002 until his untimely death in 2008.

"This is a fitting tribute to a man who was so passionate about the mission of Robert College," said Nina Köprülü, chair of the Robert College Board of Trustees. "We are deeply grateful to Marnie Stuart Pillsbury, the Stuart family and in particular to Robert D. Stuart, Jr., who led the effort to establish a fund in honor of his late son-in-law."

Added John R. Chandler, Headmaster: "This endowment provides an extraordinary enhancement of our mission to provide a first-class education to young people from among the

The first Pillsbury Scholar is Ömer Faruk Şerifoğlu, from Kuşadası. Always at the top of his class, Omer has been a member of the Student Council and was elected to be its Secretary in the 2009/2010 school year. He is also a member of the Varsity Basketball team and was chosen as one of four dormitory prefects. Omer is also a "Berker Fellow", a Robert College honor society whose members are chosen for their outstanding character and leadership.

"Ömer is the first to benefit from the generosity of those who loved and admired Don and what he stood for," said Headmaster Chandler. "This permanent endowment means that there will be Pillsbury Scholars for generations to come."

best and brightest students from all over Turkey, regardless of their financial situation."

A distinguished lawyer who had served as Sotheby's General Counsel before becoming Chairman of Sotheby's North and South American operations, Pillsbury was also committed to education.

In addition to Robert College, he served for many years on the board of the Nightingale-Bamford School in New York City together with Robert College Chairman, Nina Köprülü. Among his other civic commitments, he led the board of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center as chairman for eleven years and was also a Director of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. He also served as a member of the Advisory Board of the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota from 1994-2003. As a Robert College Trustee, he was head of the Institutional Advancement Committee.

"Don worked tirelessly on behalf of the School," said Leyla Aktay, Head of Development. "Coming from an independent school tradition, having studied at St. Paul's and Yale, Don knew full well the difference a Robert College education could make in the life of a young Turkish student."

The Pillsbury scholarship is to be given annually to a seven-day residential student in the Lise 11 class. It will be awarded on the basis of the student's performance in his or her first three years at Robert College, taking into account academic achievements, leadership and service to the school and community. Over the years, recipients of the Donaldson C. Pillsbury Scholarship will form a community of outstanding Robert College alumni who will serve as models of the highest ideals of the school.



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### "The City" On One Side And "The Garden Of My Life" On The Other... I Wish My Kids Would Grow Up Here...

With its proximity to Maslak, the financial center of Istanbul, and its rapid process of modernization, Sariyer, is being considered one of the most precious locations of Istanbul today. The exit of **Sariyer - Cayirbasi Tunnel**, located on the 3rd Bridge connection road is **only 2 minutes to Terrace Bahce**. **With the Taksim - Maslak Metro**, which is reached to **Sishane**, Sariyer is just becoming **more and more precious**.

With its minimalist architecture, Terrace Bahce is welcoming you to homes between **56 - 258** square meters and from **1+1 to 4+1**, where you can live happily with your family. By convenient payment terms during the construction period, Terrace Bahce is turning **your small monetary investment into a big asset that will secure your and your children's future**.

## GRADUATES IN THE NEWS



Ismail Cem RC 59

### Turkey's Inaugural TV Awards Named After Ismail Cem RC 59

To honor its burgeoning TV industry, in April Turkey launched the annual Ismail Cem TV Awards, an event producers hope will become Turkey's answer to the Emmys. The event is to be held each year in Antalya, already home to the Golden Orange Film Festival and National Film Competition. The decision to name the awards after Ismail Cem was made by Antalya mayor Mustafa Akaydin and approved by Cem's family. "Ismail Cem's name is synonymous with utmost respect," the mayor's office said. "By bestowing his name on Turkey's only television awards, the extraordinary contribution he made to Turkish television 35 years ago will live on."

The awards were held on April 24th and broadcast nationally. Ismail Cem died in 2007, aged 66. He was best known locally and internationally as the foreign minister who

helped end decades of feuding with neighbouring Greece.

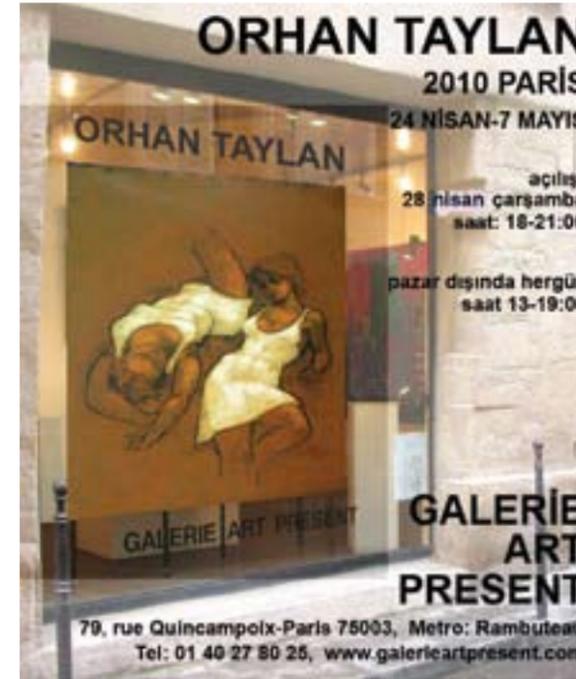
After Robert College, Cem studied law at the University of Lausanne and the Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques in Paris. When he returned to Turkey, he joined Milliyet newspaper and soon became one of the country's most prominent columnists. He also wrote a series of books about Turkey's social and economic problems. When Bulent Ecevit RC 44 came to power in 1973, he appointed Cem to head Turkey's state radio and broadcasting corporation (TRT). Cem strove to improve the quality of TRT's output and introduced documentaries and sophisticated news coverage. After Ecevit fell from power in 1974, he was ousted and returned to journalism until 1980 when a military coup forced him to stop writing.

He became a MP for the first time in 1987 and in 1996, switched to Ecevit's Democratic Left Party (DSP). From June 1997, he served as minister of foreign affairs, a post he occupied continuously for the next five years. He took office at a time when relations between Turkey and Greece were at an all-time low and forged a new policy of dialogue and cooperation, one which has continued ever since.

RC graduates also numbered among the winners of this year's Ismail Cem TV awards. Kerem Deren RC 90 won for his script of the popular TV show Ezel while well-known doctor Aytuğ Kolankaya RC 80 was singled out for the TV show 'Doktorum' which he co-presents.



The cast and crew of Kerem Deren's RC 90 award-winning show Ezel



### Orhan Taylan Painting Show Opens in Paris

Artist Orhan Taylan's (RA 60) latest exhibition of large-scale oil paintings opened in Paris on April 24th at the Galerie Arte Present art venue in the trendy Marais district.

"Art is often perceived as a foreign language in our country," says Taylan. "People often say: 'I don't understand paintings'. Our artists aren't valued until they're paintings are seen like van Goghs or Gauguins. But today we do not have to be either impressionist or cubist. We are free to speak a new and universal language in our paintings and therefore do not have a problem with being understood. We can speak the same language as a south American or Indian artist and depict the universal human drama with the particularity of our own lives. For these reasons it is especially significant and pleasant to me to be opening an exhibition in Paris not as a 'stranger' to the contemporary art world but from right inside it." The show ran through May 7th.

### Berklee Freshman Hand-picked for Grammy Charity Performance

Sirma Munyar RC 2009 was one of 16 young music artists from around the world who were specially selected by Pepsi to accompany Keri Hilson, the GRAMMY-nominated star, on Akon's new charity single "Oh Africa".

Munyar, a multi-talented performer and composer, is currently a freshman at the Berklee College of Music. "First they told me it was a worldwide charity project. Then I found out we were going to sing with Akon, which was a big surprise," she says. "It is everyone's dream to take part in such a project in Hollywood. Akon was around the whole time while we recorded the video. The hardest part for us was singing in an African language." The African-inspired track is written by hip-hop duo and hit songwriters Rock City and produced by PrettiBoifresh, and also features the GRAMMY-winning Soweto Gospel Choir. Pepsi markets from around the world scoured their respective countries searching for the aspiring music artists featured on the track with Akon. Each of the winners received a return ticket to Los Angeles with accommodations and a date with Akon and Keri Hilson in the recording studio, all courtesy of Pepsi.

The video to accompany the song saw its world premiere on Sunday, January 31, following the live stream of the GRAMMY Awards. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the track will go towards helping underprivileged African youth.



Sirma Munyar RC 09



Zehra Aktay RC 81



Refika Birgül's RC 98 book cover

## Two New Cookbooks Showcase Turkish Food with a Contemporary Spin

Turks are notoriously as conservative as the Italians when it comes to Turkish cuisine - nobody cooks as well as their mother. But in recent years, fuelled by the rapid global spread of different ingredients and cooking techniques, a new generation of more daring chefs is emerging to inject traditional flavors with a contemporary twist. Two recent cookbooks highlighting modern cooking were penned by RC graduates Zehra Aktay RC 81 -whose All Sports Cafe is an Istanbul landmark- and Refika Birgül RC 98.

Author of *All Sports Café Sevgiyle 99 Tarif*, Aktay's is a classic institution with branches in Nişantaşı and Etiler that was a pioneer of quality comfort food 16 years ago. The cafe is renowned for its excellent bistro-style cooking. Aktay gave up a seven-year career in textiles to open the first café in Etiler together with her husband Aydın. "I had to block out the voices of my parents who said 'Did we send you to RC and Boğaziçi only for you to open a cafe? And those of my colleagues who predicted direly that we would get divorced within six months,'" she says, laughing. "Etiler is where I learnt everything. How to fix an ice machine, how to cook when your cook runs away, how to make good cappuccino foam, how to balance a budget..." she says. In time, the kitchen, recipes and menu became her province while Aydın took on the management of the business. Her father Rasim Kartal eventually came to help out after retiring, allowing Aydın to take on more work as a trainer for young sportspeople. Soon after came All Sports Catering, on the insistence of customers. "My experiences grew to include where the dinners sets are kept in various houses, who has an

electric oven, where not to fry, how to be both guest and caterer, how to set up a portable kitchen..." Her most recent 'adventure', as she puts it, is Bakery'Z. "I keep learning the joys of creativity, working with my mother Yonca again, taking pictures of cakes, making dreams come true, the importance of friends' support. My life is my work and vice versa. I am happy and love what I do."

The author of *Refika'nın Mutfağı: Cooking New Istanbul Style*, Birgül left her position at the helm of the family-run Doğan hospital group to finally make a dream come true. She had been experimenting in the kitchen since she was a teenager at Robert College, but it took her a while to realize that the kitchen was where her heart lay. In the interim, she dabbled in cultural events organizing before becoming marketing director for Dogan Hospitals and eventually director. Birgül is devoted to reinventing traditional Turkish recipes and local ingredients. "Can kadayıf be used differently from its traditional desert form? Can the versatile and delicate güllaç be used in a different way, and year-round?" she asks. Her recipes reflect years of experimentation in the kitchen. Unique entries like Turkish sushi, made from yufka, have already proved a popular hit with those in the know.

"The recipes are tasty, creative, aesthetic, easy to make, economical and based entirely on using the best of seasonal local ingredients," she says. "I've always worked so I know what it is to be short on time and come home after a long day at the office. The recipes are all designed for modern urban living. I hope to help people see how living in Istanbul can be a privilege and a joy."

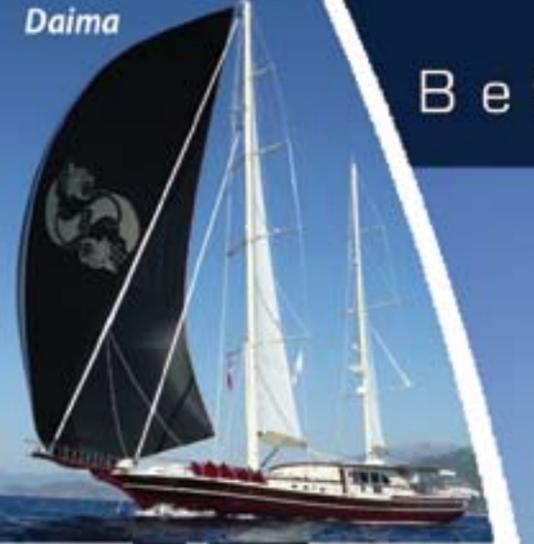
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## GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

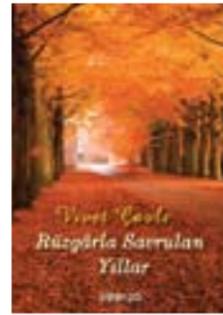
### Vivet Çavlı ACG 71 Pens Memoirs

Vivet Çavlı ACG 71, wrote to us with news of the publication of her book "Rüzgarla Savrulan Yıllar" (Years Gone with the Wind). It tells a deeply personal tale of her journey through life. "My story begins with memories from my childhood as I recollected them through the mist of the years," she says. "I described the happy summers I spent with my parents in our summer house in Suadiye. That was a long time ago. That was a time when Istanbul was so beautiful, when life was so meaningful. Those were happy years when the tallest building in Suadiye had only three floors, when every summer house had a garden full of vegetables, fruit trees and colorful flowers. I tried to describe Teşvikiye, Nişantaşı, Suadiye, Levent, Beyoğlu, Tünel as I remembered them. I also wrote about my happy and unforgettable college years in ACG from 1965 to 1971."

Çavlı also recounts her marriage, describes her husband's diagnosis with lung cancer, subsequent treatment efforts in Chicago and, sadly, his untimely death at the age of 52. "My story is a mixture of great happiness and tremendous pain and despair," she writes. "The reader will laugh as well as cry as the story proceeds since life IS a mixture of hope, happiness, remorse, disappointment, pain, rebellion, submission, defeat, glory, laughter and tears. I showed that life never goes in a straight line. It rises and falls, still forming a perfectly balanced pattern. It is actually like the ocean, with its hide tides and low tides, calm seas and rough seas, weak waves, big waves, strong waves, huge waves, storms and sometimes even tsunamis. I wrote about my years, the happy ones, the less happy ones, the sad ones, the painful ones, from my birth, to the day I lost my husband, only six months after his sickness was diagnosed. With his death, as my life went upside down, I had to end my story, since without him my life could not continue."



Vivet Çavlı ACG 71



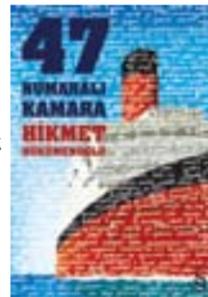
### Hikmet Hükümenoğlu's (RC 89) Third Novel Out

Hikmet Hükümenoğlu's new novel, "The Cabin Number 47" ("47 Numaralı Kamara"), hit the shelves last March. It tells the story of a best-selling novelist, also named Hikmet, travelling with his lovely wife and his ghostwriter on the final voyage of an old cruise ship. Secrets, lies and deceptions lurk in the shadowy corners of the ship's empty corridors, as well as the characters' troubled pasts. The Cabin Number 47 is published in Turkish by Everest Yayınları. It received great critical acclaim from Turkish national newspapers Radikal and Cumhuriyet.

Hikmet Hükümenoğlu was born in Istanbul in 1971. After studying physics and management at university, he worked in the finance sector. He eventually abandoned the corporate world for literary pursuits. He has published three novels. Hükümenoğlu also writes short stories and dabbles in electronic music. One of his short stories was recently featured in BBC Radio 4's Young Turks program, a series of readings marking Istanbul's tenure as European City of Culture.



Hikmet Hükümenoğlu (RC 89)



### PepsiCo Taps Ümran Beba RC 82 For Top Position

She is one of the top business women in Turkey and has been working for PepsiCo for 15 years. Ümran Beba, RC '82, who was formerly South East European region president, was named PepsiCo's Asia Pacific President in February. She will be responsible for strategy and business development for 18 countries including New Zealand, Vietnam, Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines and more. PepsiCo's EMEA CEO Saad Abdul-Latif described Ümran Beba as a leader who approaches business related problems and opportunities with a long-term vision, and PepsiCo's CEO Indra Nooyi described her as a potential future PepsiCo CEO. We asked our alum a few questions about her new exciting assignment at PepsiCo and her experiences at Robert College.

**Firstly, congratulations on your achievements and recent promotion with PepsiCo. Could you describe how you have moved to an international platform at Pepsi? Was this progress part of your career plan?**

PepsiCo is an international company with \$60 billion in revenues, ranked number two in the global food and beverages industry, active in 200 markets and growing each day. PepsiCo has a vision of performance with a purpose of delivering results, focusing on human, environmental and talent sustainability. Leaders develop with significant experiences offered as part of talent sustainability. Thus, it was important for me to take a role outside of Turkey and grow further. When this opportunity in Asia Pacific came up, I gave it serious thought, consulting my husband. Finally, we decided that it was a great opportunity for my career and Hong Kong was a place that we could all enjoy as a family. On the other hand, the previous roles I held, including Turkey General Manager, East Mediterranean Business Unit General Manager and South East Europe President prepped me for this new assignment.

**What is your perspective on "business women who are at the C level" in Turkey? What does it take to achieve such a "title"?**

It takes passion and determination. It is definitely not easy and requires a lot of commitment and sacrifice. However, if you are determined and if you have passion for what you do, you can overcome all the barriers and establish a support system that helps you to achieve your goal. I mentioned that without the support of your family and husband, this is not possible. For effective business results, being strategic, visionary and inspiring the teams working with you are extremely crucial.

**Could you describe your Robert College days? Any particular class or club you loved to attend? Any teacher that inspired you?**

I joined Robert College in prep. I had been folk dancing for many



Ümran Beba RC 82



years before that, so I was determined to continue my hobby at RC. Unfortunately, prep students were not normally involved in social activities, probably as it was the first year. However, this never discouraged me from insisting on joining the Folklore Club and I became an active member for 4 years. I even became the President of the Club during my senior year. Folklore was not my only stage passion, I was also involved in Musical Activities Club and acted as Yente in the "Fiddler on the Roof" and even contributed to the choreography of "King and I" musical.

I mostly enjoyed Turkish Literature classes and it was Münir Bey who made this class quite an experience.

**What role do you think RC has played in your life? What were your career goals while at RC? Were they any different from what you do today?**

RC represents the balance between education and social activities, self-expression, searching, exploring and questioning. I decided to be an engineer while at RC and, eventually, I studied Industrial Engineering at Boğaziçi University. Once you are equipped with an analytical background you can always build on it with an MBA or a work experience. Engineering is a very good background that you can build on in various areas.

**Any RC significant memoir you would like to share with us?**

I was studying at Ankara Deneme middle school when my religion teacher encouraged me to take the exam for RC high school prep class. My family supported this initiative and as a result of the exam, I got in as the sixth student. It was a great time of change, from Ankara to Istanbul, to a great school that earlier I was not even planning on entering. I arrived on campus with my father for registration, my home as a boarding student for one year, sharing a room with five other girls. Wonderful experiences! My husband sometimes reminds me of the saying "chance turns out for prepared minds" and, it is true, I was prepared for this experience.

**Finally, any other information you would like to add or a message you would like to pass on to RC Alumni?**

RC constitutes an important period in my life. It is an exceptional school and outstanding experience. Coming from Ankara and adapting to Istanbul, the different life styles and the people coming from a variety of backgrounds, at that time, was a significant experience and I am very appreciative of those times. If you know the destination, RC is a great stop, where taking the most is a personal choice.

Thank you Ümran Beba and congratulations!

**Contributed by Pelin Seyhan, RC '03**

## GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

### Nuri Özgür RA 70 Elected Istanbul Rotary Governor



Nuri Özgür RA 70

Veteran textile businessman, professor and educational consultant Nuri Özgür RA 70 was elected head of Istanbul's Rotary Club for the 2009-2010 year. Founded in Chicago in 1905 by lawyer Paul Harris and his three friends, Rotary International brings together people from different occupations to serve their environment, country and humanity. It is one of the world's oldest and strongest NGOs with offices in 168 countries and 1.2 million members worldwide.

"The district that I serve as the Governor of for this year is known as D2420, and covers a geographical area that spreads from Edirne to Izmit, containing 76 clubs and 2,300 Rotarians," says Özgür, who has been involved with the Rotary group in Turkey since 1985. The first Rotary Club in Turkey was founded in 1955. Today there are 3 Rotary districts, 235 Rotary Clubs and 6,300 Rotarians nationwide. The group also has clubs for younger members. "I am proud to say that in 2002, while president of the Istanbul Rotary Club, I founded the RC Interact Club - the most active Interact Club in our district," says Özgür.

Özgür has a strong connection to RC. "My strong ties with RC began long ago with my father and uncle," he explains. "It continued with me, my cousin, my son, and two of my nephews. I consider my family lucky, as for generations we have had the privilege of being educated in this prestigious institution."

Özgür graduated from RA in 1970. He studied engineering at Boğazici University, married his wife Rona in 1974 and then moved to the US. There he received an MS in Industrial Engineering, an MBA, and later, a PhD from IU Business School in 1980. He worked in the textile industry for 24 years as a general manager and was also a part time professor at IU, a position he still holds. Since 1995 he and Rona have been operating the Princeton Review franchise in Turkey, an educational counseling office.

Being part of the Rotary group appeals to Özgür's sense of giving back. "Rotarians are individuals who cherish the ideal of "Service Above Self", and have reached the point where they contribute to society rather than just receive from it."

He urges other RC graduates to consider becoming involved: "It is crucial that the next generation of business and social leaders understand the importance of social and corporate responsibility. Success in business is dependent on the "triple baseline": people, planet and profit. To become a successful leader in tomorrow's world it is essential that you have this vision, and Rotary, by means of social and corporate responsibility, is one of the most developed global structures helping people who have such vision contribute to the betterment of society."



Perihan Mağden (RC 79)

### Novelist Perihan Mağden's (RC 79) Latest Book

Perihan Mağden's (RC 79) latest novel Ali ve Ramazan (Ali and Ramazan) takes a tragic real-life page three story as its departure point. The book tells the story of two young men on the margins of Turkish society. The tale of their relationship begins in an orphanage and ends in tragedy. Consumed by poverty and Istanbul, the two men's lives are cut tragically short. "These characters are orphaned, poor, without any support system or sense of belonging... How much lower can you get in society? That's probably why their story moved me so much," Mağden said in a recent interview. Mağden, who quit her position as a leading columnist for Radikal newspaper last year, says she has no immediate plans to return to media. "Being a columnist was an exhausting thing," she says. "It required too much involvement in politics and politics in Turkey is unfortunately a vicious cycle."

### Director Karaevli's Latest Documentary Spotlights Turkish Women



Binnur  
Karaevli,  
RC 84

Award-winning US-based documentary producer and director Binnur Karaevli's RC 84 latest project Voices Unveiled: Turkish Women Who Dare is an intimate, feature-length documentary that explores the relationship of Islam and the West through the lives of three modern Turkish women - a dancer, an artist, and an activist. The three women -Belkis, Nur and Banu- contradict the familiar stereotypes of "Muslim Middle Eastern women." Courageous, sharp-witted, and often provocative, they are not afraid to weigh in with opinions on religion, politics, men, and gender roles.

Beginning with the Rome Film Festival, the film is currently being screened at film festivals around the world and will also be shown at Robert College as part of the Community Involvement Project (CIP).

The main characters are fascinating. Nur received her MBA from University of Illinois and now works as a feminist activist. Belkis, a textile artist, was a museum curator for years and Banu is studying for her Master's degree in Psychology. Belkis and Nur have built good careers and overcome the conflict between their Western education, their family traditions and societal demands. In private, Belkis and Nur air their frustrations with the patriarchal traditions and encourage the younger generations of which Banu is a member, to be less burdened by dictates of tradition.

Karaevli has always been engaged with social issues. After RC, she received her BFA from Carnegie-Mellon University in Drama and started her career as a theatre director in 1989. She received the prestigious Bud Yorkin Directing Award, for her work in theatre. During her tenure at the San Diego



Repertory Company, she co-founded and co-produced "WordWorks", a literary theatre laboratory for new plays. She worked at the Los Angeles Theatre Center as a director and a literary manager. In 1991, she founded the "Platform", an acclaimed political cabaret. She attended University of Southern California's Graduate Film School and earned her MFA in 1996.

Her short narrative films, Dance of the Whirling Dervish and Evelyn of the Desert received top prizes from several festivals. She has worked on many independent documentaries and narrative films in the US, Germany and Turkey. She is currently in development for a narrative feature based on fellow College graduate Alev Croutier's ACG 63 book Palace of Tears, to which she holds the rights. The story is set in the 19th century and will partly be shot in Turkey.



Aytuğ Kolankaya, RC 80

## A Doctor to Millions - Aytuğ Kolankaya RC 80

We know him as the “doctor on TV” who fields health questions from millions across Turkey and recently received an Ismail Cem TV award for his hit show. However, there is a lot more to learn about Aytuğ Kolankaya, RC 80. He is a pioneer in IVF treatment, a book lover, professional bridge player, passionate fan of the arts and more.

Kolankaya’s medical education and professional experience includes a long list of excellent hospitals and universities including Istanbul University School of Medicine, GATA, Wienn University, Zeynep Kamil, International, Kadir Has University, Johns’ Hopkins, Nene Hatun and Medical Park. He is an expert in fertility-aid techniques, laparoscopic and hysteroscopic surgery, reproduction endocrinology and embryology. The RCQ’s Pelin Seyhan RC 03 recently sat down with him for a chat.

**We know that you co-host a very informative health program on TV in addition to your current job at a reputable hospital. Can you please tell us more about what else you are working on? Do you have any other activities such as conducting seminars or getting involved in other organizations?**

I educate nearly 200 gynecologists on practice updates and new technology twice every year as part of a daily gynecology updates seminar series. In order to prepare for these seminars, I read about 1000 to 1500 page of journals everyday and compile the seminar content. In addition to these seminars, I participate in monthly open-to-public meetings, to which about 300 people attend, to educate on infertility and answer questions.

I also have a PhD in Social Anthropology. So, I have also spoken on Philosophy and Anthropology at several universities. However, the TV program left me no choice but give a break to these activities this year. I wake up at 5:30am to rush to the TV studio, then run to the hospital at 1pm and stay there up to 10 pm. I get about 4.5 hours of sleep everyday but it is sufficient for me to face each day full of running around. I am doing what I love to do and I have been doing it for such a long time that my mind and body are disciplined around my work clock.

**Let’s talk about your RC memories. What kind of a student was Aytug Kolankaya at RC?**

I think we were about 130 people in my year and I was like the 30th when it came to the GPA. I never learned to sit and study on schedule, which I suffered from during my years at medicine school. I would rather pay attention to the class and could get okay grades.

I was a boarding student because I wanted to enjoy the campus and take lots of photos as I participated in the photography club. Boarding also helped me to spend more time at the library. I could easily declare that I have read all the books in both the middle and high school libraries. As you can imagine, I was the “it” student for my literature teachers, both English and Turkish. I recall taking on the class and talking about epic theater while my teacher and the rest of the class would sit and listen for the entire period. I was also an active member of Philosophy, Folklore and Soccer Club.

**Did you have being a doctor in mind when you were attending RC? What inspired you to become one?**

As I said, I was very active in social studies and literature. However, at those times, social studies were not considered to be a profession with long-term success or that could support you financially. I most certainly could not be an engineer, I hated it. My father was a gynecologist, but he tried to encourage me to be a journalist. He thought it had a future. Now that I think of it, he had such a long-term vision; I could have had many good opportunities to become a journalist now if I had chosen to study it at the time. Nevertheless, I chose medicine, which I loved and am so happy to have pursued. Medicine, aside from being a father-to-son traditional profession, was appealing to me because of some medical books I read while at RC.

**Do you have any interesting or life-changing memory from Robert College times that you would like to share with us?**

I had very good SAT scores so, although I did not apply to any schools, I received some scholarship offers through my counselor. However, I never thought of studying in the USA and there were no scholarships available to non-citizens for medical school at that time, so I rejected them. Actually, I have a lot of memories, but most important of all, I have a lot of RC friends that I am still in touch with. I used to hang out with my seniors at RC and today, we still feed off each other’s knowledge and humor.

**Your resume is highly impressive. Can you tell us a little about what it took you to become such an inspiring doctor?**

To be honest, I was quite unlucky. I didn’t have the pleasure of going to medicine school because the year I got in, the coup of “September 12th” took place. I was very disappointed since we had minimum social life, short and unpleasant classes, a lot of restrictions under the custody of police and soldiers. I had to be more active and learn or I would have quit the school, so I volunteered at the Göztepe Hospital every summer. That kept me going and wanting to learn more. I was planning on becoming a brain surgeon but I changed my mind when I learned the 50% patient survival rate at the time. I had to go to Yozgat for my obligatory service. I’ve seen it all, the hardship and poor conditions. Later, when I could not get into the gynecology school I wanted to attend, I got into a pharmaceutical company and climbed the career steps pretty quickly, thanks to my education and second language I learned at RC.

Meanwhile, I studied for the exams that I had to pass to be able to continue my education outside of Turkey, but “to my luck again” the Gulf War happened so the exams got cancelled and I quit studying for them. Later that year, they reinstated the 16 hours long exams, I took them and surprisingly- though I had not been studying for months, passed them. My passion for being a surgeon was ignited when I learned of my success



Aytug Kolankaya, RC 80

at the exams, so I took a chance, quit my job and grant offers to become a vice-president at the pharmaceutical company and continued my education in Vienna with my wife at the time. Those 2.5 years were wonderful until I was called back from Turkey stating that “doctors should now return or never.” So, my wife and I came back and I completed my equivalency at Zeynep Kamil hospital. I established the first IVF treatment center on the Anatolian side in 1998. I founded 4 out of current 16 centers / clinics on this side of Istanbul.

**RC alumni are often known for being multi-talented and interested in more than one hobby. Can we name you as one of these multi-talents?**

I am an arts lover and a high contributor to Istanbul Culture and Arts Organization. I try not to miss any arts festivals’ activities. I was a national bridge player in 1985 and although I had to quit it for about 19 years, I picked it up again and played it professionally until this year. In the past years, I went pro in an international Texas poker tournament and was the third runner up. I also own a professional pool table at home.

Other than these hobbies, I am an avid reader with a library of 5,000 books. I love to read books on science, philosophy and history. I guess that is one hobby that I’ve never quit since Robert College.

**Contributed by Pelin Seyhan, RC’03**



*Smartboard 101: The basics at a glance, a demonstration for alumni during Homecoming 2007.*

# RC Embraces 21st Century Learning

*A digital revolution transforms the ways of instruction and learning*

Robert College has always been an educational pioneer. In 2008, it quietly became one of the first schools in Turkey to adopt Moodle, a deceptively breezy sounding abbreviation for a virtual course-management system that is changing the face of education worldwide.

Formally called Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment, Moodle allows teachers to create a virtual

classroom in a safe online environment where students can access assignments, quizzes and other materials. It is the kind of program that has been the foundation of online classes at universities and was launched at RC thanks to a 25th Reunion Gift by the Class of 1983, led by Jan Manas.

"All teachers have a page in Moodle that their classes can access," explains Metin Ferhatoğlu, the school's IT Director. "Class notes, academic content and references, homework, papers in Word or Power Point documents can all be seen and shared on this platform."

This is only the beginning of an investment in the future that may make exams, presentations and evaluation as we know them a thing of the past. "Moodle has been in place for all teachers for almost two years now and it has a 60 to 70 percent usage rate. We have even started to carry out exams using it," says Ahu Özkarahan, Educational Technologies Coordinator.

Sending papers or receiving notice of grades via Moodle sounds simple enough, but it is harder to imagine administrating exams online. What about cheating? "It is not tricky at all," explains Özkarahan "and it works perfectly for multiple choice



*Computer Lab 1, attending Alison Standley's writing class*

exams. We put questions into a pool with teachers beforehand and prior to the exam choose as many as we like. The exams are held at the computer labs at school and questions are sorted separately for each student. Computers are monitored from the teachers' laptop with a program called Lanschool. As soon as they submit their answers they get their results."

### Hassle-free and Green

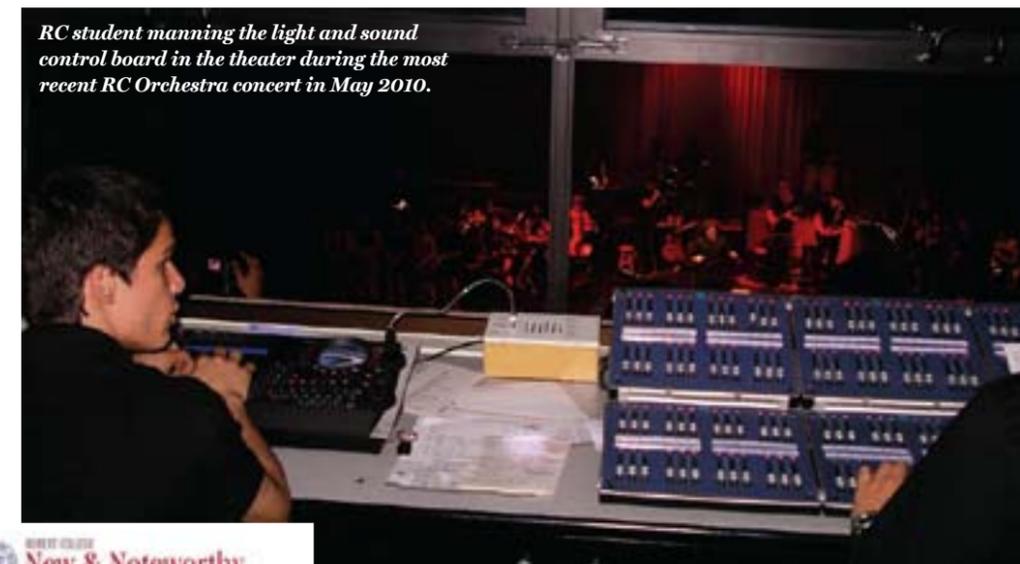
The system is also ecologically sound. The era of photocopying notes from the hardest-working students or teachers weighted down by reams of term papers could soon be over. Not quite yet for lengthier term papers, according to Ferhatoğlu, but paper usage on other forms of homework and photocopying in particular is decreasing. RC is dedicated to recycling paper and electronic waste and works with Turçek and HP, respectively.

One of the most attractive aspects of Moodle is the forum, where a teacher can start a discussion and students join in. These online debates are very stimulating, according to Süheyla Soğançılar, a German teacher. Another great feature is the calendar, which shows students the date of their exams or papers as soon as they log in - they remain there as a reminder, like a teacher's triumphant grin. Classic excuses like "I wasn't there when you announced the date" are gone forever. Or take the source database, where teachers and students can create their own archives, or the dictionary where teachers and students enter the meaning of a term and the best definitions are selected.

### Classroom facilities

Moodle is only efficient and so easily accessible thanks to advanced classroom technology. Each teacher is provided with a laptop which they can plug into the school's automation system from every classroom of RC, enabling teachers to connect their laptop, projector, camera, iPod or Smartboard and also connect them with each other.

Projectors help the teachers display the lessons prepared on the laptop on the board, and they can easily add sound or visuals. In the same way, classwork written on the Smartboards can be shared online. The answer to a physics or math problem,



*RC student manning the light and sound control board in the theater during the most recent RC Orchestra concert in May 2010.*



*The RC e-newsletter*

or a student's Power Point presentation with the teacher's corrections, can be saved and shared on Moodle or sent as emails. At the moment there are 19 Smartboards in the school and all the computer labs are equipped with these devices.

"I teach every lesson in a computer lab and have done so since about 1990," says Computer Science Coordinator Colin Edmonds. "All my lessons involve student use of individual computers. When I give a quiz or test, I design it to be 'open book/open Internet.' I make extensive use of the projection systems, and the Smartboards since the school installed them."

Then there are the modern Over Head Projectors (OHPs), otherwise known as document cameras, which are now used mostly in science classes, though they'll be introduced to the English, Turkish Literature, Social Sciences and Foreign Language departments next year.

They are attached to projectors which then project the documents onto the white board. Changes can be saved on teacher laptops and shared in Moodle.

### Mapping the curriculum

Curriculum mapping is another milestone according to Ferhatoğlu, though it is a long-term project. RC has started implementing Rubicon Atlas software starting this academic year. Putting curriculum into this system will allow it to be shared by all departments. It is the latest development in RC's technology infrastructure and offers the potential for cross-curricular projects: for example, the art department will be able to follow what the English department is doing and suggest joint projects.

The Film & Lit lessons -- elective, but universally popular -- enable students to shoot their own films with one of the school's 10 HDD cameras and then edit them at 10 powerful workstations. There are also two film rooms with full multimedia

Did you know the RCQ is online?



Computer Lab 3, attending Cengiz Agalar's computer class

facilities, mostly for use by Film & Lit but available for bookings by others. The Fine Arts Festival this spring will launch a short film competition to showcase students' prolific output, and already at least one CIP project has made extensive use of the cameras and equipment.

### Technology strengthens connections

Technology can also take a big administrative load off teachers' shoulders. Gone are roll call sheets. It now takes 10 minutes to find out who is in school on any particular day: attendance lists are taken by teachers on their laptops and connected to the RC Student Information System (RCSIS) so parents can be informed by the Lise Office. "This is a very big improvement in terms of the security of our students and emergency situations," says Ferhatoğlu.

Parent-teacher meetings on Skype are another simple way of bringing parents deeper into their children's school lives -- especially for parents of residential students. In the 2009/2010 school year the school set up a computer especially for this purpose, and the same system is used in recruitment of foreign teachers.



Troodle - RC Learning Management System

### Alumni benefit from technology, too

The Robert College Alumni and Development Office rely on state of the art technology to help graduates stay in touch with their Alma Mater, through the RC Website and a mass e-mailing system. For several years now, Euromessage has been the sponsor to send alumni mass e-mails. People who receive e-mails through this system can share them via Facebook, Twitter, Friendfeed as well as Euromessage. They can also update their information with one click. This has helped the Alumni Office to maintain an up-to-date database of alumni contacts. The RC e-newsletter, which is mailed every 6-8 weeks, is also sent through this channel, along with online fund appeals, upcoming event announcements and any information of interest to the RC community.

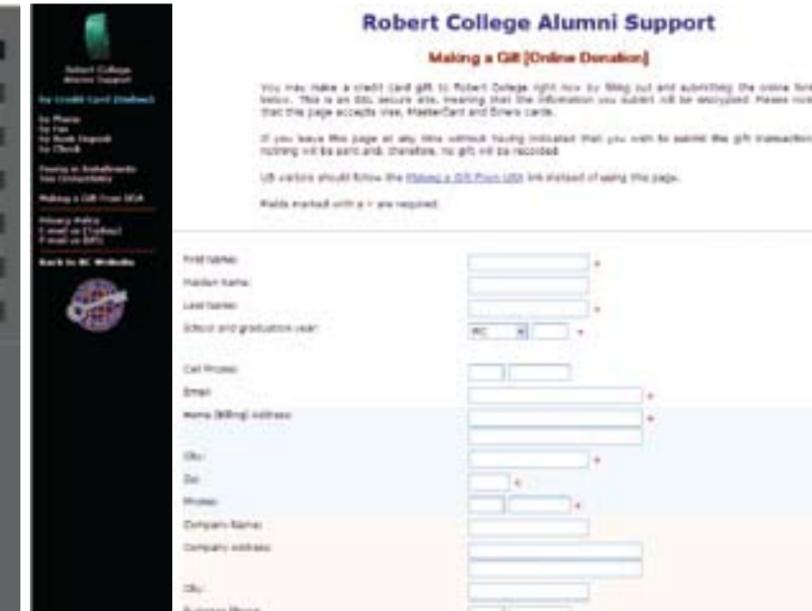
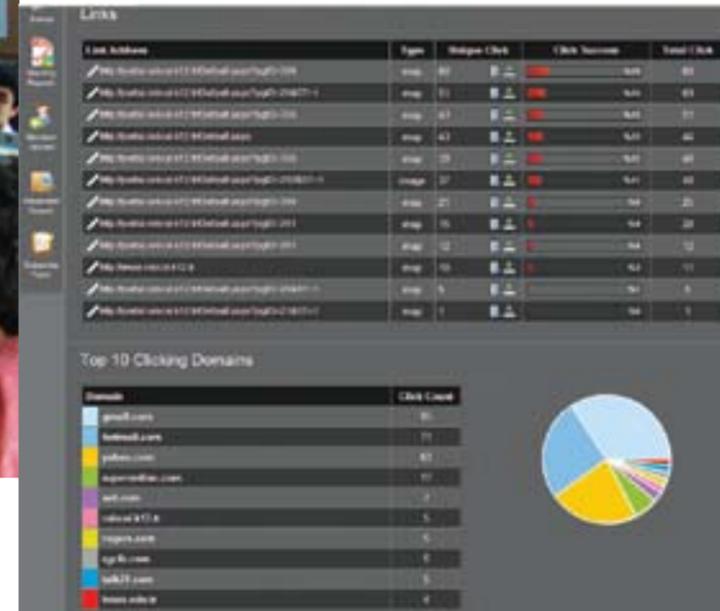
Another significant achievement has been the custom built, web based data management system now in the works. Bilge Adam, a leading software company started by Hakan Çevik RC 87, is assisting RC in creating a data management system for tracking alumni, addresses, communications and donations, which will significantly improve the school's ability to stay in touch with its community. The new consolidated database is now accessible from both Istanbul and New York, and plans are underway to get it online for the direct use by RC alumni in the near future.

The school has recently also undertaken a major project to scan all hard copy archives- documents, photos and publications- into a searchable Xerox DocuShare archiving system. This includes copies of documents dating to the school's founding in 1863. Scanned pictures are being tagged, and publications are converted into pdf documents. This formidable digital project aims to ensure the preservation of the institution's veritable archival heritage.

### Teaching responsible technology use

What is next for Robert College, a school that's now online 24 hours a day across 32,000 square meters? At the moment students are not allowed to bring their own laptops

The back office of the Euromessage e-mailing system



The online Annual Giving page

to school, though residential students are allowed after school use. Of course, there are plenty of PCs available for students who need them -- 75 in the computer labs, 25 in the boys & girls residences and 25 in the library, whose 50,000-volume catalogue is, needless to say, online.

Learning to use technology responsibly is also an important part of education. "One concern that I have always had, and that has not diminished over the years, is the need to continuously work with students to help them understand how best to use a computer in a class situation," says Edmonds. "There is certainly a need to help students understand that there are times when they would be better off to "tune out" or simply turn off the monitor in front of them when they are in

a computer lab classroom."

As students keep pace with today's fast-changing world, their teachers are not far behind. The developments of the last 20 or even 10 years have left older generations in awe. An extensive teacher training program is in place, Özkarahan says. "We choose a leader or two from each department, who also receive professional training at least once a year. The leaders become mentors to other teachers in their departments for trouble-shooting and consulting. I also offer a weekly program to instruct teachers."

According to Özkarahan, interest is growing every day. "We encourage teachers to explore the use of technology in the classroom because our students will encounter these things at universities if not here, especially if they study abroad." Soğancılar agrees: research shows that computers have important benefits in teaching skills like problem-solving, developing models, critical thinking, experimenting, and decision making. As teachers realize the gains, integrating technology into the curriculum becomes both meaningful and fun.

Integrating technology into the curriculum goes hand in hand with RC's goal of instructing and learning anytime, anywhere. This will be strengthened in future by further integrating Moodle into every teacher's classroom, discovering together the further charms of Atlas Curriculum Mapping and allowing new developments into the RC system, which is designed to always be ready for them.

RC System Room in 2010



RC System Room in 2000





*Hanzade Özerten RC 98*

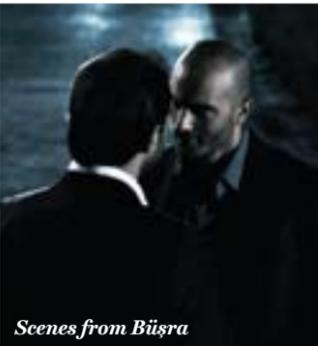
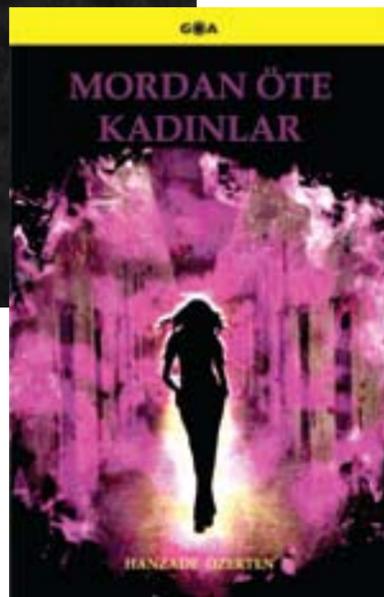
## *Debut Novelist Takes on Contemporary Istanbul*

**H**anzade Özerten RC 98 delves into the complexities of modern relationships in her debut as a writer with *Mordan Öte Kadınlar*, published by Goa in February 2010. A contemporary novel set in Istanbul, it addresses issues of friendship, working life, money and sexuality through the tale of a couple, Belgin and Selim. 'The book is about the daily lives of people at a certain career level and lifestyle in an urban context,' Özerten told the RCQ. 'In addition to relationships between couples, its also about individuals relationship to themselves, the impact of their pasts on their daily life. Though it might seem that men and women have very different demands, the clash is often because of the differences in how those requests are expressed.'

Özerten says she has written since she was a child. This novel began four years ago when a chance sentence uttered by a friend set sparks flying in her mind. 'Inspiration can be anything,' she says. 'A couple arguing in the middle of the street; a granddad smiling at a baby in a pram, the majestic Galata Tower, the smell of seaweed by the Bosphorus...'

Özerten graduated from RC in 1998. She studied business administration at Yıldız Technical University. After graduation she started working in the communication and public relations sector. She credits RC with inspiring her to write and giving her a strong foundation as a reader. 'Winning the small Literature Award' played a part in my passion,' she says.

Özerten is currently at work on a second novel while working as a communication consultant at MESE.



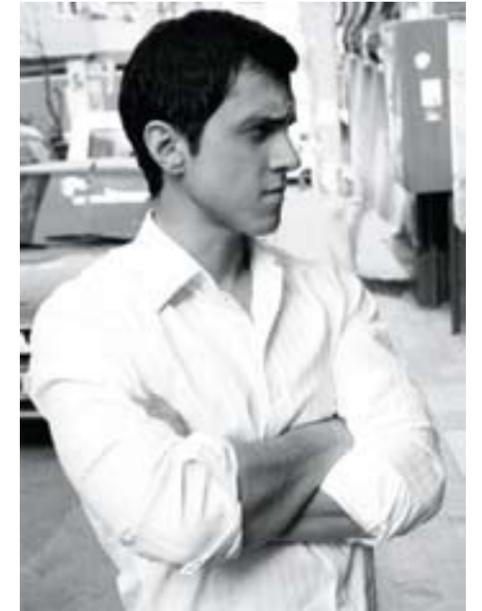
*Scenes from Büşra*

## *Young Director Makes Feature Film Debut with Büşra*

**O**ne of this year's most talked-about films, *Büşra* marked the big-screen debut of young scriptwriter-director Alper Çağlar RC 98. The film tells the tale of a love story between a feisty young woman, who is a devout Moslem and wears a headscarf, and a liberal journalist. "It is actually a classic storyline, all the way back to Romeo and Juliet, of a love which must overcome society's opposition," Çağlar told the RCQ. "In the context of Turkey today, this is the big barrier." The story is based on a cartoon strip by well-known caricaturist Bahadır Boysal. Çağlar came to the story via an independent producer who contacted him shortly after he returned from completing his military service in May 2008. "At first I was reluctant, because the kind of films I want to make are more science fiction and action based. I'm not the kind of director who can work with someone else's script. But I got permission to rewrite the script from scratch and in this way realised I could make the material my own."

To make the storyline authentic, Çağlar spent weeks researching young women with a similar background to his protagonist. "There were all sorts of details I didn't know. Like when she's chatting on the webcam, does she wear a veil or not, for instance." (In the film, in the end, he had Büşra take off her headscarf but keep the underlying cap on.) The film does away with many stereotypes- Büşra comes from a wealthy Istanbul family; she is well-educated, spunky and articulate.

The film scored well with critics from both the mainstream and Islamic press. "If people were expecting a political film, they were pleasantly surprised to find a love story. It simply asks what might happen if these two characters met and fell in love. It looks at that process without taking sides. I wanted to hold a mirror up to society, not to forcefeed viewers a political message." But Çağlar, who studied media at Bilkent and the University of Virginia, says his real dream is still to make a big budget action blockbuster. "That's the masterplan," he says, laughing. "I want to make a film that's Turkey's equivalent to Bladerunner." That dream comes with a hefty price tag - an estimated budget of 5 million TL- but Çağlar is hopeful that as the industry in Turkey grows, so too will funding. In the meantime, he's making inroads into the advertising sector to help with the financing.



*Alper Çağlar RC 98*



# The true “Americans”

It's high up here, 4000m above sea level. I am cycling/dying uphill in the Bolivian Andes on a cold winter day. Just as the obvious question of “Why me!?” crosses my mind, a truck passes centimeters away leaving me in the dust. Moments later, I overtake an Israeli cyclist who had stopped to throw up, a just retribution maybe? I guess all that military training did not help much. Two hours and tons of lactic acid later, I am finally descending a steep cliff-side. Sounds more comfortable than before, but going 50 km/hr on a 3m-wide dirt track dubbed “El Camino de la Muerte” (aka death road) is a hair-raising experience, especially when you whizz by cross signs marking fatal accidents. It is a rush I have to admit, but this is not why I am here. I travelled to Bolivia to learn about the true “Americans”...

I have always been fascinated by “indigenous peoples”, true owners of a land. Wikipedia defines indigenous as “any ethnic group of peoples who inhabit a geographic region, with which they have the earliest known historical connection”. It is this connection to the land that has always attracted me to indigenous cultures. As a kid, I often cheered for Apaches and their bow & arrows while everyone else liked pistols and John Wayne - had they known his real name was Marion Morrison, maybe they would have changed their mind!

Bolivia is South America's poorest country, larger than Turkey in size, but with a population of only 10 million, majority indigenous. That seems like a lot of land for not many people; yet it is a landlocked country with extremely harsh conditions induced by the high Andes and the humid Amazon rainforest. People eat whatever they can find, and that means needing to know the land inside out. They even eat their way out of altitude sickness in the Andes by chewing on coca leaves (basis for cocaine) or drinking coca tea - I tell you, I am not drinking English breakfast tea anymore!

I decided to camp out in Bolivia for two weeks without any plans and basically made up my itinerary on the fly. It meant I had to be prepared for any type of discomfort, and discomforts there were. Armed with a camera, an unnecessary number of lenses and some necessary pieces of clothing, I packed light. After 24 hours on a plane, I landed in Rurrenabaque, the gateway to Madidi National Park, an Amazonian reserve known for its biodiversity. Immediately, I was attacked by blood-thirsty “indigenous” mosquitoes. I decided to take a “Batti balik yan gider” approach soon after my ankles became as thick as a rhino's! I focused my attention on the gem that was the Amazon. The reason why I was in Madidi National Park was the Chalalan eco-lodge located deep in the jungle. This unique

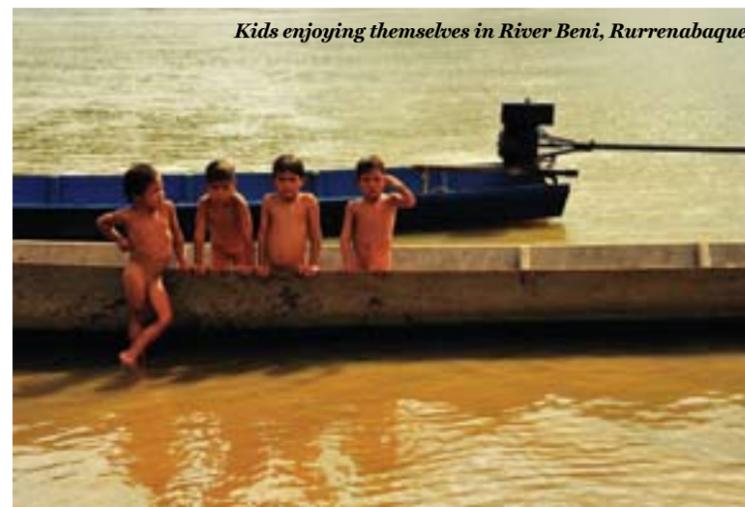


Contributed by Tamer Tamar RC '92

place is operated and marketed solely by Amazon communities who use the earnings to develop their villages cut off from civilization. Chalalan was the brainchild of a foreign adventurer who got lost in the park and almost died of starvation before he was rescued by tribes-people. He paid back his debt by creating this eco-lodge 20 years ago. Through Chalalan, he did a good job simulating his own episode of “Lost”, as it takes a 6 hour canoe ride up-river and a 1 hour trek through the jungle to get there! Chalalan was the perfect start for my photography mission to grasp what it means to live off the land. After three days of snakes, tarantulas, caimans, cannibal ants and other

nameless creatures, I started seeing everything as a source of food or antivenom. The guides from the village were born in the Amazon and even they admitted the toughness of their conditions. Where else in the world do you play football in 100% humidity and worry about kicking the ball “out” into the jungle because you are scared of getting bitten by a snake amongst the trees? Well I guess, I was the only one who was worried, and only one playing with shoes on!

On my last evening at Chalalan, one of the guides told me, “White people come here all the time from charity organizations and say they will help us, but they always take and never give back”. He was talking about students coming in for volunteer work, and then frequently leaving to help entrepreneurs launch similar eco-lodges throughout the world. Although I responded that the students' Chalalan experience helps develop many other communities out there, it was not enough to dispel their mistrust of “outsiders”. Indigenous people are known not only for their connection to the land, but also for their mistrust of white colonial outsiders. The conflict between indigenous and ex-colonial groups still exists today despite the election of Evo Morales, Bolivia's first indigenous president. When I was in the capital La Paz, there was a high-tension demonstration by thousands of street sellers protesting against government plans to move their stands outside the city. The demonstrating



Kids enjoying themselves in River Beni, Rurrenabaque



*Street sellers in La Paz not happy about government plans to relocate them*

Aymara Indian women make a subsistence living selling goods to richer city dwellers on the streets at the cost of urban "looks". Posing as a journalist in the midst of the demonstration, I could feel how decades of injustice was boiling the blood of the Indians. But nowhere was this mistrust more pronounced than in Potosi, my next stop after countless hours of bone-crushing bus rides. At 4000m, Potosi is a typical Bolivian Andean town, yet it has a sad past unlike any other. In the 17th century, Potosi was one of the highest, richest and most populous cities in the world, made possible by abundance of silver and copper in the mountains. After centuries of over-mining, greed soon followed; Spaniards forced workers into extracting more from mines, and hundreds of thousands of locals died from exhaustion. Locals say with the silver extracted, a bridge could reach out to Spain, but ironically, with the bones of the dead, a bridge back to Potosi could be built! After the silver ran out, Potosi became a



ghost town and is now one of the poorest in the country. What a tragedy... Yet, despite the poverty and a dark past, Potosi is a true testament to indigenous generosity, which I experienced myself. One late evening, I was resting by a church exhausted from walking in the altitude when a little kid approached me. Before I could mumble something in Spanish, he reached out and offered me a handful of pistachios (anyone from the RC dormitory can tell you how much I love pistachios by the way!) He was also holding on to heavy grocery bags. I returned the favor by carrying his groceries home, and entertaining him with my digital camera. What a kid. Leaving behind the silver mines of Potosi, I took the road again, and this time ended up in a cold small town named Uyuni, famed for being at the edge of Salar, the world's largest salt desert. Around Salar, there is nothing but beautiful white salt plains. Uyuni; however, is one big market where everything is up for sale despite



*Women in Potosi and Uyuni spend most of their time in the markets with their children*

freezing temperatures and dust/salt storms. Yet again, the resilience of Bolivians was on show here. The salt desert was their land providing them salt to eat and trade in bulk. Even teenagers chose to live in Uyuni, working as jeep drivers/guides taking tourists on multi-day tours to Salar and surrounding Bolivian Andes. I took one of these solo jeep tours with Jorge on a three-day drive across the desert. For 3 days, we passed by volcanoes of indescribable colors, helped hitchhiking locals, and dodged geysers at 5000m altitude. Nature at its most hardcore was passing in front of us, yet the extremeness seemed quite serene. In his broken English, Jorge told me about his plans to start a travel agency. In my even more broken Spanish, I told him about my plans to become a photographer one day. Many hours passed in silence, with only Tarkan or Sertab as music in the background, mixed in with vocals from the running lamas. At the end of it all, Jorge asked, "Would you live in my



town?" Two weeks of Bolivian generosity still fresh in my mind, I couldn't just say No, so muttered "Es muy dificil aqui". After a meaningful pause, Jorge responded, "I know... it's difficult for us, too... but I was born here". To me, this last sentence summed up everything I hoped to learn about Bolivians. They are one with their land, and no matter how harsh it gets, they will stay, and it is this indigenous loyalty I have come to love. Tamer Tamar RC '92 first started taking photographs at RC in 1989 from the window his dormitory room. He continued his passion through lessons from Aydin Abi and the yearbook photographer gig, which also provided him a regular excuse to cut classes! He is a documentary photographer by preference and keeps his passion alive through the inspiration of his life, Başak Yıldızbayrak RC '93, and now baby Göksu. His next assignment will be in India to photograph the Kumbh Mela festival.



Sabiha Paktuna Keskin RC 74

## Rethinking Children's Education

Pediatrician and neurologist Prof. Sabiha Paktuna Keskin is the author of numerous popular books on child development. She has acquired a fan following among parents and educators for her down-to-earth and intelligent approach to child-rearing. She recently published *Beyni Keşfetme ve Geliştirme Metod Kitabı (A Method Book for Discovering and Developing the Brain)*.

I believe that today's models of raising a child go against what we know about the natural development of the human brain. We now know a lot about the neural routes of achievement in the developmental milestones of a baby and about the brain. My collectivist approach to child development combines pediatrics, pediatric neurology, neuro-psychiatry, and behaviorism to suggest that education in this country goes against the grain of natural development.

Every child's potential resides within the third compartmental level of the brain. Let's call it the third floor. A baby's brain

consists of only the first floor, the sensorial cortex and limbic system. Indeed, the first three years of human life is the sensory-motor period, during which behavior is a compulsory response to sense stimuli. There is no structure between the sense input and motor response, which is behavior. The idea of self is not present at that level of the nervous system since self-recognition resides within the associative cortex, the second compartmental level. The activity of the first floor results in prototypic adaptive behavior which enables an individual to survive by adapting to the environment, though it clearly has limitations in shaping it. This type of adaptive behavior dates from the era of

reptiles. Take a close look at expectations of the human baby at this primitive stage of development and it is astonishing. Mothers expect babies to be able to thank or apologize right after they start babbling. But because language develops before the mind and self recognition, a baby cannot perceive others' as separate from himself to thank or apologize. The motherly urge is possibly to teach by practice. But can a baby walk before his motor system naturally allows that level of walking? Teachers, pedagogues, psychologists and even psychiatrists are often the same. It is not uncommon for a baby to be pushed to sleep alone or attend nursery, no matter how much he or she resists, in the name of 'not spoiling a child'. It is however well documented that the human brain develops with a secure base of attachment to the mother during the first three years. That sense of safety is the baby's primary need and is destroyed in the name of avoiding spoiling. Similarly, it is not uncommon for a child of three and a half to be forced to memorize such statements as 'The Equator is the line which divides the earth in two equal parts.' The child brain has a tendency to encode abstract with fear, which is a cut off of the signalling for exploratory joy. Or the kindergarten teacher informs

a mother that her child is not good at reading two digit numbers. But the attention systems enabling a graphical understanding of the writing process start at the age of six. It is destructive for neural structures to be stimulated prematurely. There are many examples of this kind of destructive teaching in elementary school too. Consider those 'nth of nth', 'heads and feet', and 'pool problems'.

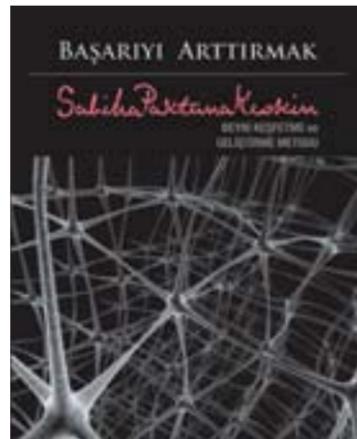
Mothers know instinctively not to make a baby sit before that ability comes naturally. The same mother however resorts to teaching by exercising the abstract on an immature brain. A plausible explanation for this might be an inadequate understanding of how the abstract necessitates the use of the mind. Motor development is concrete after all, but not a baby's mental development. Schools also often have a similar misunderstanding in their approach which dictates theorems and is based on the system of memory, which has completely different neural roots than the mind and intellect, namely understanding the abstract and manipulating it.

The major neural route of current education in this country is memory. Thus, students here are good at tasks necessitating the act of memory, however they clearly have a harder time with tasks which require hypothetico-deductive thinking. The power of the intellect is obviously being underestimated within this model. In fact, the system destroys it. I think that we are at a point of radical change in understanding the education for our times. We must abandon methods favoring memory and choose those which motivate the

development of the mind and intellect, like developed countries. My suggestion is that we make radical changes to the educational approach which is based on bombarding a child with knowledge regardless of his or her developmental level. My book provides a methodological up-to-date summary of literature on neuro-psychiatry related to raising a child. I designed exercises derived from scientific data both to test and improve each specific part of the brain. The first part deals with the chronological order of development of the child brain in areas such as movement, mind, language, social adaptation and includes exercises by age. The second part deals with the development of learning, namely attention, memory, language, mind and execution. The third part has exercises grouped under each place of a specific ability within the brain. Thus, one can detect the talents and shortcomings of the individual according to age and type of activity.

The neural systems of academic achievement start developing from birth. I offer the book as a tool for those of us who seek to shape a future with a potential far beyond what our present minds can imagine.

To contact Sabiha Paktuna Keskin: [bilgi@sabihakeskin.com](mailto:bilgi@sabihakeskin.com)



Details from a recent Depo exhibition on rethinking urban spaces



Osman Kavala RC 75 with Istanbul Büyükşehir Kültür A.Ş head Nevzat Bayhanan



## Historic Istanbul Tobacco Depot Becomes Vibrant New Cultural Center

Depo is tucked into a busy street off Tophane, Istanbul's latest up-and-coming arts district, where nascent galleries rub shoulders with traditional metalwork ateliers and carpentry shops. The elegantly restored two-storey building is an exciting new cultural center spearheaded by Osman Kavala RC 75, a businessman and leading philanthropist in the area of arts, culture and development. It is a natural extension of Kavala's Anadolu Kültür, a not-for-profit organization he established in 2002 with the backing of a broad coalition of businesspeople, artists and intellectuals. Anadolu Kültür has been a driving force in facilitating cross-cultural collaboration and circulating art throughout Anatolia, particularly in Diyarbakır, where it runs the highly successful Diyarbakır Art Center, and Kars. Now one of Depo's specific goals is on building artistic and cultural exchange with the Balkans and the Caucasus region. "Turkey's relationships with the countries in the Caucasus is going to increase greatly with time," says Kavala. "There are already strong relations with Azerbaijan, Georgian relations are good too and I anticipate serious development with Armenia once diplomatic relations are established. I think these kinds of artistic and cultural collaborations allow us to build a broader perspective." Depo is housed in a former tobacco warehouse (Tütün Deposu) close to the city center. The building was first used as part of the 9th International Istanbul Biennial in 2005. In 2008, it was renovated in keeping with its original features and has since been host to numerous international exhibitions, film screenings and debates.

"The Tobacco Depot had been home to some events and Biennales, so we had the thought of opening it up to permanent use. At the same time, we developed relationships with institutions in the Balkans and Caucasus," says Kavala. "Then last year's (Istanbul) Biennale also had a regional emphasis which showed us that the curators shared this belief and this emboldened us further to decide that the Depot could play this kind of a role."

The Tütün Deposu also hosts an international art gallery called Rodeo.

### Depo Activities

- Exhibitions, film & video screenings
  - Conferences, panel discussions, workshops, artist talks
- These address issues concerning contemporary art practices and socially and politically relevant themes; organized with partners from the region.
- E-journal: 'Red Thread' / [www.red-thread.org](http://www.red-thread.org)
- The quarterly e-journal 'Red Thread' is an active network and platform for exchange among artists, curators, academics, social scientists and others from the Balkans, the Middle East, the Caucasus and North Africa.

**Visiting hours:** Tuesday through Sunday between 11.00 - 19.00  
All activities of DEPO are free of charge.  
**Address:** DEPO / Tütün Deposu  
Lüleci Hendek Caddesi No.12  
Tophane 34425 İstanbul  
[www.depo.com.tr](http://www.depo.com.tr)

# Once upon a time

By Nedim Göknil RA 60, RC Yük 65

Once Megara, then Constantinopolis, then Istanbul...In 1863, "high above the pontic current", a school came to life, ROBERT COLLEGE...From its first year on, until today, it has been a fountain of education, creativity and inspiration for all for almost hundred and fifty years.

Every generation can speak for itself and I can only speak about the '50s.

RC was the hub of culture in those years, in all avenues. Like a baton passed in relay races, the tradition of drama, with names like Haldun Dormen, Tunç Yalman, Refik Erduran, Nüvit Özdoğru and Şirin Devrim, was passed on to the 1950's generation and reached its peak during this decade. Plays, never before viewed by Turkish audiences were performed by the RC Players, by names, who later became landmarks in the annals of Turkish Drama... Beklan and Ayla Algan, Engin Cezzar, Genco Erkal, Göksel Kortay, Çiğdem Selişik, Spiro Kostof, Berent Enç, followed by Nevra Serezli (Şirvan), Ali Taygun, Hasan ve Ahmet Levendoğlu, Melek Ulagay, etc.. etc., under the auspices and tutorship of legendary names like Hillary- Sumner Boyd, Michael Austin, Godfrey Goodwin ...That was the age of theatre.

RC in those times probably had more publications in sheer quantity than the number of newspapers published in İstanbul, some with news, some with literary content. İzlerimiz, The Spectrum, Reflection, The Bosphorus, Campus News, College Times, The Drama Review, The Record and stenciled bulletins for special occasions. One has to read the content of the articles in these publications to understand the extent of creativity which probably laid the grounds for RC to have a Nobel Laureate in years come.

Albert Long Hall was host to so many world renown artists, orchestras, recitals. Remember, there was no AKM, no Açık hava Tiyatrosu, no Lütfü Kırdar, in actual fact there was nothing except for the Tepebaşı Theatre and a number of private

theatre houses. So the elite of İstanbul used to come to the RC Campus to attend these performances. I am talking about The great Robert Shaw Chorus, I am talking about organ recitals on one of the largest pipe organs in Europe, equal to the one in the Salisbury Cathedral. It is a fact that Muhsin Ertuğrul, when he was staging Hamlet, with Ayla Algan in the lead, asked for the help of Robert College for lighting systems and technical support.

The societies...These clubs where students, male, female from both hills, came together to share the same interests and the same hobbies. Within the context of universal culture, these people listened and discussed classical music masterpieces, they listened to recordings of plays performed by Lord Laurence Olivier, Sir John Gielgud, etc. They discussed issues on Turkey's agenda in "The Current Affairs Discussion Club". In the "Debate Society" they had a chance to freely express their opinion and to impress on their counter parts what they thought was right.

And then came the exhibitions, photography and paintings both of students and reknown artists like Aliye Berger, in Social Hall. This modest building which housed the theatre also became a gallery at the end of the 50's when Özer Kabaş became Art Director and house master. Once a great athlete, a good student, this wonderful alumnus later became one of Turkey's finest painters. Not only did he tutor students in the art of painting, he also helped design sets for the plays staged.

The great bard, William Shakespeare, in his play "As You Like It" says and I will quote some of his lines at random...

"All the world's a stage,

And all the men and women merely players,

They have their exits and their entrances,"

So was Robert College...We had our entrances and our exits.

But the Bard goes on to say...

"At first the infant,

Mewling and puking in the nurses arms,

And then the whining school-boy, with his satchel

And shining morning face, creeping like snail

Unwillingly to school."

That was us...Unwilling at first, maybe...But willing and on the go in years to come.

For this institution, in its uniqueness and unparalleled tradition, was the bastion of discipline and culture, befitting Atatürk's Turkey once upon a time...

22 January 2010

*Well known RC Theater greats Nedim Göknil, Genco Erkal, Göksel Kortay, Engin Cezzar, Can Gürzap, Ali Taygun, Esin Eden, Nüvit Özdoğru, Nevra Serezli, Oya Başak, Haldun Dormen and Yağız Tanlı pictured here with legendary RC Drama teacher Dorothy İz during the opening of Suna Kıraç Hall in April 1991.*

# Andrew Finkel's Eloquent Tribute to Joanne Greenwood

Columnist Andrew Finkel, who studied briefly at Robert College, wrote the following tribute to Joanne Greenwood, who was an integral part of the extended College community for many years. It was originally published in Today's Zaman newspaper.

The dead watch over the city of İstanbul. Or at least we should be grateful for the cemeteries which dot the city, which remain green and leafy and which make a stand against the trespass of construction and blight. I had somber reason to rediscover their value this past week at the Protestant graveyard in Feriköy while bidding farewell to someone I've know for the better part of my life. Joanne Greenwood first came to İstanbul in 1949. She found her niche teaching generation after generation of children in what started as a modest community school, founded to educate the offspring of the foreign faculty attached to the American college and high schools (today's Boğaziçi University and Robert College). She was not my teacher. I came to Turkey as an adolescent and spent a year in the boys' lycée. But she was the mother of my classmate and he in turn went on to become a distinguished Ottoman historian and colleague of my wife. Joanne had a determined loyalty to İstanbul and reflecting at her graveside, I realize that this made an enormous impression, not just on me, but on many of her children's friends who came to regard İstanbul as a place they too could never quite leave. Her husband, Keith Greenwood, was a professor of humanities at the university and who died suddenly in 1971. This was the start of an inhospitable decade in Turkey, of violence and shortages of even the most basic commodities; İstanbul was no expatriate fantasy of the easy life. I suppose there were many points then, and in the nearly four decades that followed, when Joanne could have found reasons to return to America. Instead, she found better ones to remain. As long as she was in residence on a hill overlooking the fortress in Rumeli Hisarı, I thought I had in İstanbul a second home. I returned here myself in 1981, a no more cheerful period in Turkish history and Joanne befriended me during those lean graduate-school days. I looked after her home one summer when she was away, cooking pots of spleen and lights to feed her cats. We even had our wedding party in that same house one violent, wintry night in January when the only hurricane warning I've ever known in İstanbul, kept most of the guests away.

From one perspective, Joanne was a foreigner living in a strange land, but given that the mean age in Turkey is 28.3 years the odd truth is that she knew İstanbul decades before



Andrew Finkel

all but a modest percentage of the population were born. The city I first met, too, has long since disappeared. There were just over a million people, the paved road stopped in Etiler and there was no Bosphorus Bridge. But of course, İstanbul is a city where you learn to forgo nostalgia. You either embrace change or drift away.

While life in İstanbul means a constant battle not to become sentimental about the past, after a visit to Feriköy cemetery it is almost impossible not to admit defeat. The graveyard was once on the outskirts of town, but has long been engulfed by busy streets. It is a stone's throw from Şişli, itself no longer the fashionable shopping district I once remember. The graveyard is a small United Nations sectioned off into nations and different faiths. But it is also a secret garden. For some reason, or at least on the occasions I've been there, the skies are perpetually blue and the weather crisp. It is not too wild but pleasantly unkempt and, unlike almost anywhere else for miles around, preserves a sense of what the land was like before the city came along.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" reads the psalmic inscription on the stone of the late, great Hillary Sumner-Boyd, another Robert College professor and cataloguer of İstanbul monuments. He is buried next to friends -- Robert Avery, editor of the Redhouse Dictionary, Lee Fonger, the college chief librarian and David Garwood, another professor at Robert College as well as his daughter Ann, who died much too young. Joanne Greenwood lies beside her husband. The irony, of course, is that she had after long deliberation decided to resettle in San Francisco. Her belongings had already been dispatched. Just like Joanne to find one final reason to remain.



*Berber performing a robotic procedure by controlling the robotic system from the console.*



*Robot 1, shows Eren Berber next to the robotic system.*

## *RC 88 Graduate Eren Berber Pioneering Robotic Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic*

**A**fter graduating from RC in 1988, Eren Berber finished Istanbul University Istanbul Medical School in 1994 and did a general surgery residency in the same faculty in 1999. Due to the lack of academic positions in Turkey, he went to the USA and did a laparoscopic surgery fellowship, followed by another general surgery residency at the UCSF and Cleveland Clinic. He has been an assistant professor of surgery at the Cleveland Clinic since 2005.

Berber specializes in endocrine surgery, minimally invasive liver surgery and robotic surgery. He has been interested in developing minimally invasive surgical techniques, with smaller scars. In addition to his pioneering work on laparoscopic radiofrequency ablation of liver tumors and liver resection, he has been spear-heading the robotic surgery program in the same institution. He has performed one of the first robotic thyroidectomies (removing the thyroid without making a scar in the neck) in the US, the first laparoscopic liver resection in Ohio, and the first posterior robotic adrenalectomy (removing the adrenal gland without entering the abdomen) in the world. He is considered to be one of the leaders of laparoscopic radiofrequency ablation of liver tumors and his papers have been widely cited in distinguished journals.

Eren Berber is married to Betül Berber, and they have a 4-year old son, Beren and a 1 month old daughter, Zeynep.

"I have always felt that there was nothing I could not achieve after the education I received and the self-confidence I acquired at Robert College," says Berber. He sees his college years as the one of the best periods of his life. One of his aspirations is to see more RC graduates go into medicine and surgery to be leaders of the future.

Eren Berber says he welcomes the opportunity to mentor RC students and graduates at the general surgery department at the Cleveland Clinic and to help them with their careers. He can be contacted at [berbere@ccf.org](mailto:berbere@ccf.org).



## *A Passion for Dance*

**P**rior to coming to Robert College in 1990, Seçil Bayraktar Kazozcu RC 97 had no interest in dance at all. In 1996, during high school, she began dancing and made rapid progress. "When I realized I was good at it, dancing became a part of my life. I used to watch the international competitions broadcast on Eurosport and knew even then that I wanted to take place in them and become a choreographer. But given the way art is seen in Turkey, in order to 'get a real career' I felt I needed to get into a good degree program at university." She got into Boğaziçi, which fortunately also had an excellent dance club. She studied psychology for a year and then transferred to business administration. At the same time she was a trainer with the Boğaziçi dance club and a performer at their shows. Dance slowly became a professional possibility and a career she could support herself by. She began teaching at social clubs like İstanbul Yelken Kulüp and Büyük Kulüp and studied with the best national and visiting teachers to further her own dancing.

After graduating she began working in market research for AC Nielsen and then completed a master's degree in marketing at Marmara University. She then became a project manager at an interactive advertising agency. She continued to teach dance and together with her husband and partner Erdiñ Kazozcu, participated in numerous national and international dance competitions as licensed competitors. The couple was considered a pioneer in Turkey and worked as choreographers and coaches on many local TV versions of Shall We Dance. In 2007 they formed Latin Forever Dance Company. "Subsequently I came up with an idea that combined both my career and dance: dance education for professionals. Instead of the routine internal company dance activities, we set up an initiative called Smart Steps which uses dance as a way to develop communication, team skills, creativity and leadership through programs which last one or two days." ([www.kurumsalegitim.com](http://www.kurumsalegitim.com)) The idea of using dance in this way is new to Turkey and has featured in various magazines.

As well as teaching dance at various schools and universities, Bayraktar Kazozcu is also completing her doctorate on Organizational Behavior at Boğaziçi.

"For a long time I experienced a dilemma. The inevitable pressure that a Robert College and Boğaziçi graduate should aspire to certain positions caused me to question whether I should be doing that instead of dancing. This tug-of-war continued for a long time but I think I found the right way. Being able to do what I love and continue with my profession makes me much happier than any other business field or position."



*Seçil and Erdiñ Kazozcu*





## Suna Kili ACG 46

The Atatürk Society of America decided unanimously to bestow its annual Republicanism Award on Prof. Dr. Suna Kili. Dr. Kili is a professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Bogazici University. Her main areas of specialization are political theory, models of development and modernization. Throughout her academic career Prof. Kili has brought her expertise in these areas to analyze Atatürk's system of thought (Kemalism) and Atatürk's model of modernization. Her efforts in this direction have been nationally and internationally recognized.

In her articles and books Prof. Kili argues that "republicanism" is key to understanding the Atatürk Revolution and Atatürk's system of thought. Prof. Kili's writings have shown that republicanism is a precondition of democracy, and that the goal of a republic should be towards its further democratization. In her writings, she emphasizes that the utmost care must be given so that in the process of democratization republican values are not undermined. Prof. Dr. Kili, emphasizes in particular the commitment of the republic to sovereignty of the people, to public good, and to the secular basis of political authority. It is within this context that she concludes and demonstrates that, in essence, Atatürk's system of thought is Republicanism.

## M. Kemal Ateşmen RA 61

Completed his high school studies at Robert Academy in Istanbul Turkey in 1961. He received his B. Sc. degree from Case Western Reserve University, his M. Sc. degree from Stanford University, and his Ph. D. degree from Colorado State University, all in mechanical engineering. He is a life member of ASME. He initially pursued an academic and an industrial career in parallel and became an associate professor in mechanical engineering before dedicating his professional life to international engineering project management and engineering management for thirty-three years. He helped many young engineers in the international arena to bridge the gap between college and professional life in automotive, computer component, data communication, and offshore oil industries.

He published two books, sixteen technical papers, and has four patents. His books are "Global Engineering Project Management", CRC Press, 2008 and "Everyday Heat Transfer Problems - Sensitivities To Governing Variables", ASME Press, 2009.



## Evren Paçaloğlu Töre RC 93

Evren and Ömer Töre welcomed their first baby: Leyla Töre was born in London on December 9, 2009, weighing 4.2 kilograms and 54cm tall. Mom and Dad were ecstatic over her arrival and travelled to Istanbul during April to meet great grandfathers and other third and fourth generation family members. Evren is currently on maternity leave from her position at Goldman Sachs, and Ömer continues to work in the hedge fund industry in London.



## Ayşegül Tuncer Topal RC 98

Ayşegül and Ekrem Topal are very happy to welcome baby Zehra to their family. Zehra was born on March 12, 2010. Ayşegül says they are over the moon and going through so many wonderful and different feelings.



## Burak Doğansoysal RC 96

After graduating from the Business Administration Department of Marmara University, Burak established a trading company and worked in the field of chemicals. As part of his business of trading post-harvest agricultural chemicals, he worked with African companies and visited Africa several times before falling in love with the continent. He closed his company in 2006 to pursue his dreams and combine two of his passions: Africa & wildlife photography. Burak visited many African countries before turning his passion into his business and established a travel agency in 2007 that specializes in wildlife & culture tours. His company, Ecologic Travel, organizes tours to small groups of 8 to 12 people and designs tailor-made programs in 4 continents and 15 countries, adding at least one new destination to its portfolio every year. Searching for the elusive jaguar in the wetlands of Brazil, having a bush breakfast on the plains of the Serengeti, trekking up the volcanoes of Rwanda to interact with the mountain gorillas, diving with the whale sharks in the pristine waters of Seychelles are just some of the Ecologic Travel experiences. You may reach Burak and Ecologic Travel through [www.ecologic-travel.com](http://www.ecologic-travel.com) or [www.dogansoyosal.com](http://www.dogansoyosal.com) Tel: 0216 456 7522 Email: [burak@ecologic-travel.com](mailto:burak@ecologic-travel.com)



## Işıl Tümer RC 97

Ada Floden joined parents Işıl Tümer and Andres Floden on January 15th in Bogota, Colombia, where the couple has recently transferred to from London with work. Ada was born measuring 50 cm and weighing 2,965 grams. She is likely to be the first Turkish/Norwegian/Ecuadorian born in Colombia."



## Alara Orhon RC 2000

Alara graduated from Cornell University in 2004, receiving her B.A. in Psychology and Visual Studies, focusing largely on the perception of art and media. She then dabbled in film production, arts management and publishing before deciding that advertising fed her multiple interests. She worked on award-winning brands ranging from Vitra to Istanbul Modern in client relations at rpm/radar and in 2008, moved into strategic planning at an international network, helping multiple brand teams at Grey Istanbul navigate creative strategies for Allianz, Samsung, HSBC, Ülker, Nike, Turkish Airlines, Vodafone and co-leading various new business pitches. Leaving Grey as Strategic Planning Director to pursue other interests, she recently helped the re-positioning of Skylife and Skylife Business magazines before returning to manage marketing communications in a field that has always been close to her heart. Currently she is Marketing Director at Pozitif, happy to be contributing to the growth and retention of a most valuable asset, live music, through the annual Akbank Jazz Festival, Efes Pilsen Blues Festival, Efes Pilsen One Love Festival, FreshTival, RocknCoke as well as one-off concert productions such as Bob Dylan and U2. Pozitif, an international live music entertainment company, is also the parent of Babylon, which continues to feed Istanbul and international cultural circles through its multiple live music venues. Alara is especially excited about the growth of the Babylon brand, which now has its own quarterly magazine and will soon launch a cross-platform radio. RC has taught her to never stop learning and she is a firm believer in remaining flexible, especially in the digital age. Alara is glad to have experienced a time when writing a class paper required hard-copy research in the RC library. In her free time, she likes to think about the effects of social media on how we live now, photography and writing. Alara enjoys bouncing ideas off of close RC classmates, all of whom ended up in some form of the arts; most recently guest lecturing for Irmak Ertuna RC 2000 at ITU on the nostalgia mega-trend in advertising and design. She especially encourages young RC alumni to explore what absorbs them, to not be afraid of not knowing what they want to do yet, and to learn to make new connections between disciplines. <http://fuzzyradio.blogspot.com>

## Ebru Özsoy Korneş RC 03

Ebru Özsoy Korneş, RC 03, said "I do" to Hür Korneş at the Conrad Hotel, January 2nd 2010. Ebru met Hür while working at IBM and after 4 months of dating, they decided they were meant to be! Hür, who has been working for IBM for the past 7 years, is a graduate of Bilkent University with a Computer Engineering BS. Ebru has been at IBM for 2 years and she attended Gettysburg College after RC to receive Management and German degrees. The couple went to Ko Samui Island, Thailand, for their honeymoon. Congratulations!



## Bade Ceyda Kirali RC 04

After graduating from Robert College, Bade Ceyda Kirali (RC 04) went to Babson College, Massachusetts, to study entrepreneurship. Before she graduated she met Fatih Kanberođlu, who while attending Bođaziđi University had started his own business and presently is the founder and CEO of Eduka Ltd. It took Fatih less than 15 dates to propose to Ceyda on the shore of a lake with a ring in his hands. "It wasn't love at first sight, but it was at the second," he says. In less than a year Ceyda graduated from Babson College and they got engaged in 2008. "Although it looked like they were taking it slow it was a sudden marriage announcement that gladdened yet shocked us all," says Işıl Toprak (RC 04), Ceyda's roommate in Robert College, and continues "One day she called me and told me she was getting married - in a month!" They had two weddings: One was a quite traditional fall wedding that took place in Düzce with 1500 guests. The latter, during which they actually got married took place 3 days later in Four Seasons at the Bosphorus with 600 attendees, 25 of which were RC members, including teachers and administration. Now Ceyda and Fatih are partners in business as well as in life. They manage a primary school and two tutoring centers under the name Modafen ([www.modafen.com.tr](http://www.modafen.com.tr)).

### Here are some of the comments made by RC alumni about Ceyda and Fatih's wedding:

Beliz İşcan (RC'04): This was the first RC'04 wedding that I attended; hopefully it is the first of many to come.

Merve Üçer (RC'04): Considering the fight (!) for the bouquet, I believe we won't wait long for the next one!

Canan Çetinkaya (RC'04): The graceful gliding of the bride and the groom across the dance floor accompanied by the Waltz No:2 of Dmitri Shostakovich, which is a great choice for such an elegant wedding dance, was definitely worth watching.

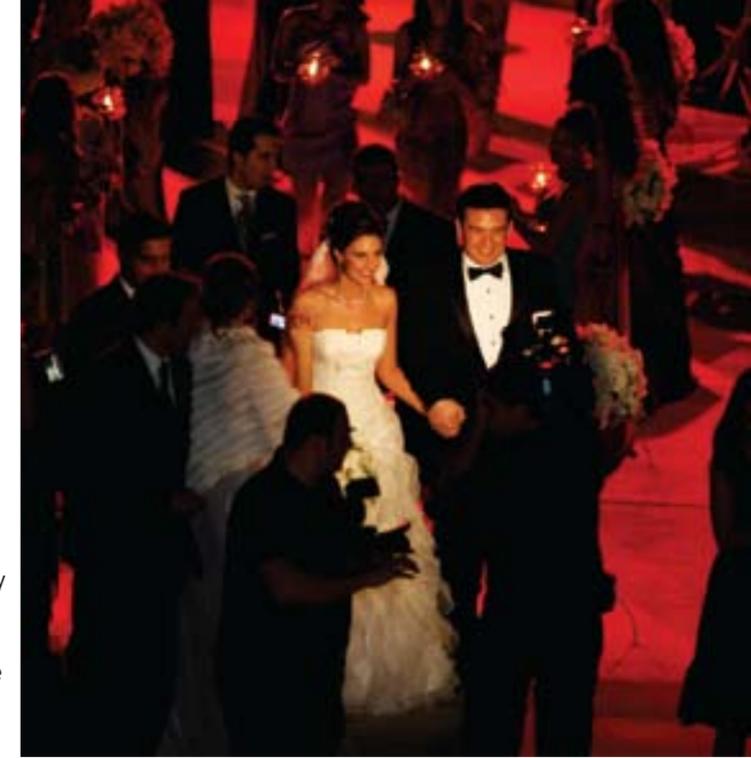
Treysi Jebahar (RC'04): Instead of the classical wedding candies, you could find an open buffet of all kinds of candies, to make your own wedding candy pouch. So lovely and colorful - it was my favorite part. That's what you would call a creative RC wedding, and no surprise it was Ceyda's!

Özge Esirgen (RC'04): This was a wedding you could see a fairy in a wedding gown; one that gave you the chance to cry over something beautiful and to be there on a day you have dreamt before and to dream for future. The Wish Tree on which you could wish for your own wedding was one of the loveliest, most sincere things I have ever seen in a wedding.

Serli Küçükyan (RC'04): It was amazing to watch the bride and the groom walk from one table to another, kissing each and every one of the guests, and still having the biggest smile on their faces. The greetings took almost two hours but the delicious food and the shows during this course made the time fly. I also have to add, besides looking beautiful, the Wish Tree brought me good fortune. My wish already came true, I hope everyone else's will as well.

Sayat Özyılmaz (RC'04): I'm trying to come up with something profound to say about the night but my memory of it is too clouded to remember anything but the beautiful smiles of two wonderful people.

Ozan Emre Sonmez (RC'04): At the end, there was no single alumni who didn't lost his/her consciousness due to alcohol-heavy drinks initiative led by Can Yurdakul RC'04.



## Efe Murat Balıkçiođlu RC 06

Efe Murat is graduating with his BA in philosophy at Princeton this June, with a certificate from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs School there. He has recently been accepted to do his Phd. in Middle Eastern History at Harvard University

# OBITUARIES

## **Muzaffer Erselçuk, RC 38**

Dr. Muzaffer Mehmet Erselçuk, a retired professor of economics at Purdue University and airline executive, died on January 17, 2010. He was 93. During his tenure as professor of Economics and Industrial Development at Purdue he became involved in the aviation industry and was instrumental in the formation of Lake Central Airlines, the first employee owned airline. While at Purdue, Dr. Erselçuk was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, which took him to Burma where he founded the school of business for the University of Mandalay. In 1969, after teaching nearly thirty years at Purdue, he joined Trans World Airlines as Director of Market Development, setting up the airline's first General Sales Agencies around the world, an innovative concept at that time. While at TWA, he served two terms as Chairman of the Finance Panel for the Military Airlift Command. After retiring from TWA in 1982, he continued to serve as advisor to foreign governments, oil companies, and airlines. After earning an A.B. at Robert College of Istanbul, in 1938, he received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at Indiana University, graduating in 1945. He is survived by his wife, Gail Lois Erselçuk, five children and two grand-children.

## **Yıldız Sertel ACG 43**

Passed away on December 18, 2009. Born in New York in 1923 to parents Sabiha Sertel one of Turkey's pioneering female journalists and father Zekeriya Sertel, a leading Turkish journalist and publisher of various newspapers and magazines, Yıldız Sertel completed her secondary school education at ACG and went on to London during WWII to study at the London School of Economics. She then continued at Columbia University in the USA where she obtained a Masters Degree in sociology. A period of living in Paris was followed by her settling in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. Upon her mother's death in 1968 she returned to Paris with her father Zekeriya Sertel and spent the years between 1971 to 1989 giving Ottoman and Middle Eastern History lectures at the Vincennes University. Upon her father's death in Paris she returned to Turkey in 1991 and founded the Sertel Journalism Foundation in 1996. The foundation which involved itself in social, economic and political issues shut down



in 2007 and a new formation, the Sertel Journalism Platform was created in its place.

Yıldız Sertel was a person of endless energy and of outstanding efforts. She possessed infinite knowledge and wisdom on world affairs. She stood firm behind her beliefs. She shall always be remembered as a true intellectual.

Her published works include: Baban Zekeriya Sertel, Susmayan adam, A.B.D ve serbest Piyasa Ekonomisi Masalı, Ardımdaki Yıllar, Annem Sabiha Sertel Kimdi, Neler Yazdı, Setellerin Anılarına Nazım Hikmet ve Babalı.

Contributed by Nimet Erenli, ACG 43

## **Neşe Deriş RC 44**

Neşe Deriş passed away on the 6th of January 2010 at the age of 87. A graduate of the RC 44 class he later studied in the University of Michigan where he received his Master's degree in mechanical engineering. From 1958 to 1961, he was the lead engineer involved in the HVAC project of the United Nations Building's Grand Assembly Hall in New York City. Upon his return from the USA in 1961, he set up his own plant in Istanbul, which was one of the first plants to produce heating, ventilating and air conditioning devices where components of the entire product were provided locally.

Alongside his professional activity he was also involved in academic research. He wrote and published two books on solar energy and gave lectures on the subject at the Technical University of Istanbul, Boğaziçi University, SEGEM (Sinai Eğitim ve Geliştirme Merkezi). He published many articles in professional journals. A few years before his death, he published his third and final book on hydrogen energy.

He developed and manufactured the first artificial lung in Turkey, which was successfully tested at the Çapa Faculty of Medicine of Istanbul University in 1973.

A conscientious citizen, he was on the Board of Directors of the Şişli Terakki Lisesi for long years and is renowned as having initiated the project of the present campus of Şişli Terakki High in Etiler. He also worked on educational reform issues, wrote articles on education, economic development, rural development programs in YÖN magazine in the 60s.

An amateur painter in his spare time and especially during the last decades of his life, he recently held an exhibition of his collected works.

He is survived by his wife Emel (ACG 44) and his children Nur, Can and Gül.



## **Şakir Eczacıbaşı RC 49**

Businessman, philanthropist and acclaimed patron of the arts, Şakir Eczacıbaşı passed away on January 24, 2010 in Istanbul. His funeral was attended by hundreds of mourners

Below is a piece written by Sedat Ergin, RC 75 and first published in Hürriyet newspaper.

### **İstanbul, before and after Şakir Eczacıbaşı**

By Sedat Ergin

When looking at Şakir Eczacıbaşı's life, we need to start with the tension between his identity as a businessman and as a person of arts and culture, and the way in which the former gradually turned into a hobby -in his own words- while the latter took up central spot. We also need to ask a fundamental question: if Şakir Eczacıbaşı hadn't taken on arts and cultural issues and personally left his mark on this field, what would be missing today, or not yet have been done?

To answer this, begin by going to the newspaper archives of the 1950s when a young man who studied pharmacology in the UK returned to Turkey, started in journalism and began producing an arts and culture supplement to the Vatan newspaper called 'Sanat Yaprağı'. His subsequent role in the establishment of the Cinematheque and start of his journey as a photographer are equally significant.

But any response to the question above needs to emphasize the pioneering role he played in taking forward and transforming the Istanbul Foundation for Arts and Culture founded by his visionary elder brother Nejat Eczacıbaşı and associated with the family name.

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After Şakir Eczacıbaşı took on the leadership of IKSVM in 1993, the institution blossomed much like branches multiplying over a tree's trunk. Some of the events started by IKSVM prior to that were also initiated by Şakir Eczacıbaşı. For instance the Istanbul theater festival which began in 1989 owes much to his personal interest and attentiveness.

During his period at the helm of IKSVM, Şakir Eczacıbaşı took events within the institution to greater heights and ensured that



each was individually institutionalised. The Istanbul Film Festival becoming more internationally renowned and the Istanbul Biennale's great progress owe much to his driving energy. The Istanbul Jazz Festival which began in 1994 and is now accepted as one of the world's leading jazz music events is also a product of his era.

His final work, Deniz Palas, which became the new home of the IKSVM, is one of his most enduring projects and has already ensured that the memory of Şakir Eczacıbaşı's is imprinted on Istanbul's future.

You might say that under his leadership, Istanbul's artistic and cultural life, from jazz to the plastic arts, cinema to theater, and countless new disciplines, diversified and became enormously richer.

He brought the world to Istanbul and made a unique contribution towards making this city transcend its boundaries to take up its rightful place on a world scale.

No doubt the role of Nejat Eczacıbaşı vision and the contributions of IKSVM's youthful and dynamic staff shouldn't be underestimated, but it is impossible to miss the traces of his decisions and the steps he took while looking at each of these important events.

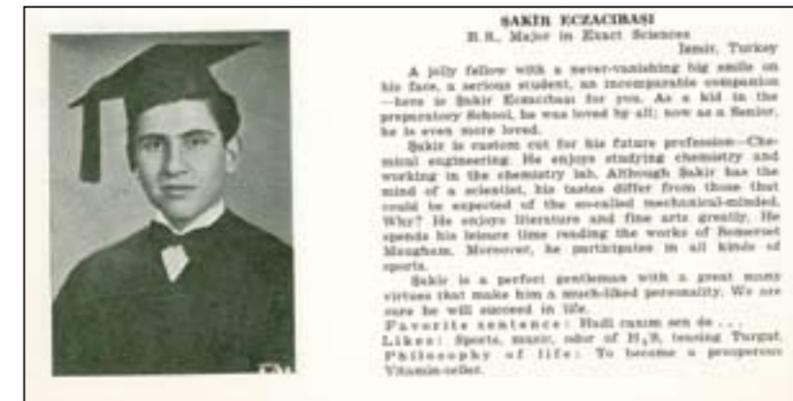
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In an interview given years ago to Fotoğrafya magazine, Şakir Eczacıbaşı quoted Bernard Shaw when asked his view on life and art: "Without art, the crudeness of reality would make the world unbearable".

His life, in summary, was about introducing more arts and culture to Istanbul and Turkey and thus making it more bearable.

Some people have an ability to change things that separates them from others. Their constitution does not allow them to stand by and watch the way their society goes, they have to intervene. Their strong personalities enable them to change the environment and places they are in, and they do change them.

The Istanbul on which Şakir Eczacıbaşı left his mark is one that is more embracing of the world, more self confident, more modern and more 'bearable'.



# OBITUARIES

## **Filiz Ofluoğlu ACG 49**

ACG graduate and former RC Trustee, Filiz Ofluoğlu died after suffering a heart attack in January 2010. She was 79. A renowned literary translator, Ofluoğlu was born in 1930. After ACG, she obtained an MBA from UPenn's Wharton Business School and later completed a doctorate degree at Columbia University. She was a professor at ODTU and Boğaziçi, a consultant to the Koç Group and Enka group and a board member of Milliyet newspaper. She translated 28 plays by writers such as David Mamet, Tennessee Williams and Edward Albee which were staged at theaters across Turkey. She also translated some 30 books and stories by famous authors such as Truman Capote, V.S. Naipaul, F. Scott Fitzgerald and more.

## **Emin Doybak RC 51, RC Eng 55**

Olympic athlete Emin Doybak, graduate of '51, died on November 13, 2009 at the age of 79. He also graduated from both Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering of Robert College in 1955.



Emin Doybak had won many national championships in 400 meters, 400 hurdle, and 400 relay. He had also represented our country in many international athletic competitions and won many medals. Some of the competitions he had attended include the first Mediterranean Olympics in Alexandria, 1951, the Helsinki Olympics in 1952, the Balkan Athletics Competition in Belgrad, 1954, and the competitions in Egypt, 1954, and Athens, 1955. He also represented Turkey in many international athletics organizations as a member of the Army Team during his military service between 1955 and 1956. In his words, 'he wore the national athletics uniform about a hundred times and took more than 50,000 photographs in the girls' and the boys' college which is another record to be noted.'

He had been living in Bursa with his wife, economist Leyla, and daughter Ayşe who is a pediatrician. He was deeply loved by his family and friends, and especially his two grandsons Alp and Mete. Emin Doybak's achievements both academically and athletically set an excellent example for the new generations about efficiency in utilizing time and energy. His loss is a major one for the history of Turkish athletics.

## **Turan Uygur RC 53**

Passed away on October 17, 2009. He is survived by his wife Şener Uygur and his daughters Sema Uygur and Ayşe Semra Uygur.

## **Ömer Uluç RC ENG 53**

Ömer Uluç, one of modern Turkey's most important artists, passed away on January 28, 2010.

Uluç was born in Istanbul in 1931. He completed RC in 1953 and then went to the US where he studied engineering and then art. In 1953 he became a part of the 'Tavan Arası Ressamları' (Attic Painters) group founded by Nuri İyem. His first solo exhibition was in Boston. In 1965 he stayed in London and Paris for a year, in 1972-73 he spent time in the US and Mexico and in 1973-77 in Nigeria. From 1983, he lived in Paris but spent a considerable part of each year in Istanbul. He held many exhibitions at numerous galleries and museums across the world. His medium was not just painting and he experimented with a variety of different materials.

In his book of monologues 'Heves Kuşu Durmaz Döner' he wrote: "I have always changed. There has always been a life I live and the work I do, they intersect each other. Sometimes apart, sometimes reunited, but both change."

In the same book, he also said: "Molecules rain down from stars; as you know, the human brain is formed of carbon molecules which fall from the stars. On the other hand Eastern thought holds that everything changes, is transient and without continuity. Everything is founded on a doctrine of emptiness -not nothingness. Emptiness and nothingness are not the same. There is emptiness in the cosmos, not nothingness. This is the arena of art, where subjectivity thins...Artists are well aware of this. They know that the new subject is not monolithic, like the Renaissance subject, Enlightenment subject; these have been gone a long time."

In a moving tribute in the Radikal newspaper, columnist Cengiz Candar wrote of Uluç: We have known each other for a quarter century. I think we must have always been close friends because from the very moment he was always 'Ömer' and stayed 'Ömer'. He never told me but I knew from what I had read that I hadn't even started primary school when he was finishing university. It doesn't matter. Because he was always ageless, we were always peers and unflinching close friends. (Candar then quotes from Uluç's book.) "Us artists should know alongside Stephen Hawking that 'We live in a star galaxy that stretches a thousand light years from one end to the other and turns slowly; stars in its spiral arms only rotate around the core of the galaxy once every few hundred million years. Our sun is a medium-sized, yellow star close to the interior edge of one of those spiral arms.' Isn't that a sufficient explanation to make art? he used to say. Someone who says this cannot have an age. Someone who gets what he says is similarly without age. They become peers."



## **Ali Taygun RA 61**

Passed away on December 16, 2009.

His long time friend and classmate Y. Aydın Bilgin shared the following:

Sitting down to write about one of your dearest classmates after his unexpected loss is most difficult and distressing. I shall nevertheless try to start from the beginning.

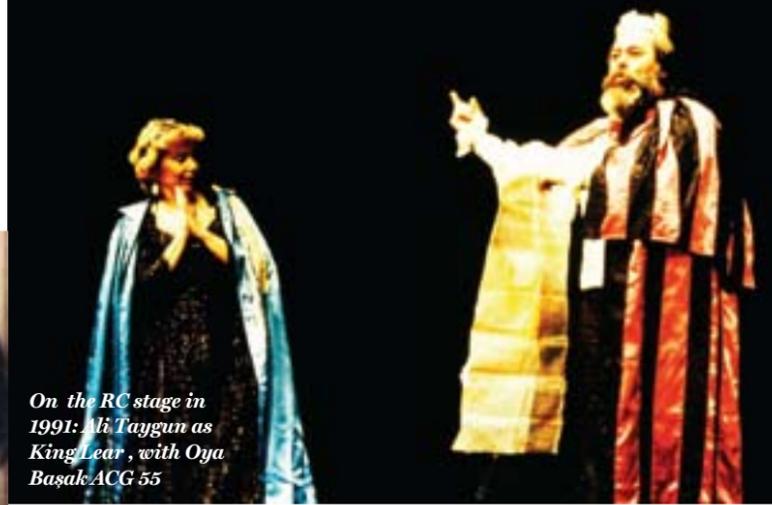
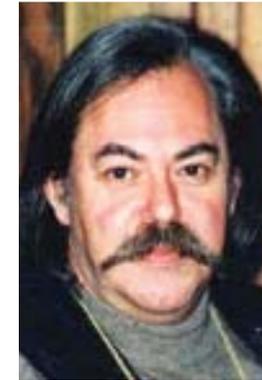
We were all brought up in a community where minorities were not humiliated, where there were no "others" but only "we". We all lived happily together without any prejudice. Later on, the question of "who are we?" started to obsess Ali and remained with him throughout his entire life.

Ali's command of language enabled him to skip a year in prep. Even in those early years, whenever he was late to class, his influential act of imaginary scenarios, based on his teenage heartbreaking love affairs, were so convincing that he always managed to cut the class. After finishing RA in 1961, Ali started studying to become an engineer, then he switched to the Sciences and Languages Faculty. Right from the early stages of his education he was an active member of RC Players as director, player, decorator, writer and translator. In 1963, four girls and four boys - one of them was Ali - aged 19 and 20, represented Turkey in the Theatre Festival of Nancy in France and acted in the presence of Jean Paul Sartre, Jules Romaine and Eugène Ionesco. Forming a single file of 22 university theater players led by Ali and his friends, they all marched through the streets of Nancy singing "Hava Nagila."

He embraced all aspects of a theater life right from the start. In fact, this attitude became his life style and, in search of perfectionism, he was involved in the minutest detail of every work he took the responsibility of. Ali finally ended up with a "Master of Fine Arts" degree from Yale University in 1969.

After staging various plays in regional and college theaters in the USA, in addition to those he staged in the Yale Repertoire Theater, where he spent a season as resident director, he returned to Turkey. He directed many plays in various theater houses and in 1974 he joined the Istanbul Metropolitan Theaters in 1974 where he became a resident director.

Ali became a member of the Peace Association in late seventies and was taken under custody in 1982 as an executive member of the association. In his long defense in the Military Legal Tribunal he stated the main reason for joining the Peace Association as: "Somebody forced me to become a member. This person was eight and half years old going to third grade. That somebody was my daughter Ceren. I didn't want her and other children like her to witness destruction and war. I support pacifism because I, as a father, wish to see all children not only physically but mentally fit as well."



*On the RC stage in 1991: Ali Taygun as King Lear, with Oya Başak ACG 55*

After long trials and spending nearly four years in prison he was finally acquitted in 1989. Ali was honored as one of the top ten human rights monitors of the world - a list that included Vaclav Havel among others - by the "Human Rights Watch" the same year. Returning to his theater that year, he directed numerous plays, acted in many, produced and wrote plays for TV serials. Ali had two major obsessions in life: peace and art (the theater in particular). He believed these could only be achieved through being a man with worldly values and through love and through being passionately involved in one's work. In his defense while he was in custody he said: "Art and culture are based on life whereas death feeds on war. The by-product of art is love of human beings and joy of living. Art is after beauty. How can you find beauty in war? Art aims supremacy of humankind; battle on the other hand, is a primitive motive. That is why peace implies life and being humane whilst war is death." Ali, with his baritone voice, always took place in the chorus of pacifists and never wavered his stance. He sang in English, in Turkish, in body language, giving voice to partitions he believed in. He was a hard worker; in his vocabulary "difficult" meant simple, "impossible" meant it would take some time to accomplish.

When invited to stage a spectacular opening night for the Habitat II Conference in 1996, Ali Taygun and his wife Yekta Kara came up with the idea of staging a Lyrical History Show which they produced with a cast of nearly 400 performers that included a symphony orchestra and a chorus, a classical Turkish music ensemble and a chorus, the Ottoman military band, the whirling dervishes, modern and folk dance groups, ethnic and pop singers, all fused together. Ali's life-long question, "who are we?" was finally answered. When asked to evaluate the performance, he said: "The Lyrical History Show is a proof that our culture is like a diamond; it is formed of many faces which we cut and polish constantly. How many cultures with such wealth are there in the world?" Ali was a dedicated RC supporter, participating in various fund raising activities to build a new theater for Robert College during the 125th year Campaign. (He is pictured here with Oya Başak ACG 55 as King Lear in a humorous skit on the night of the grand opening of the Suna Kırac Theater, April 1991)

I wish to extend my deepest condolences to Yekta Kara, his ex-wife Meral, his children Ceren and Haydar Can, to Canan Değirmenci who dedicatedly took care of him, to all his students, his friends and to our mutual friends.

The rest is silence.  
Y. Aydın Bilgin

## OBITUARIES



Monique Benardete (left) as an ACG student with classmate Aygen Meserretçioğlu.



### Monique Burla Benardete ACG 69

Passed away peacefully on April 11, 2010 only two weeks shy of her sixtieth birthday. Her mother Yvette Burla, daughters Aylin Saruhan and Rezzan Bitargil were at her bedside together with her husband Jerry and her friends who dearly loved her. Monique came to ACG after graduating from the English High School for Girls in 1965 and married her first husband Adil Benardete shortly after graduating from ACG. Monique will surely be affectionately remembered not only by her classmates, teachers, administrators alike who were with her during the four years she was at the college, but also by all the people she met, befriended and whose lives she touched throughout her life. Above all, Monique loved living. Life meant her family, her friends, her beloved Istanbul and her many personal

interests starting with art, antiques and cinema. These fields of interest she followed with great enthusiasm, not only in her own country but all over the world. Monique gave seminars for Kūsav on antiques and art nouveau. You could also run into her giving guided tours in the back streets of Beyoğlu, giving explanations to her students about the architecturally and historically important buildings, which she knew all too well since her childhood. Upon meeting Monique for the first time you would immediately become aware of her sharp intellect, sense of humor, her great memory and knowledge. You would also adore listening to her many stories and adventures. Monique was a great hostess, preparing perfect gatherings for her many friends coming from various backgrounds and age groups, thinking of the smallest details, always adding unique personal touches. Making people happy and seeing them having a good time made her happy. But apart from her colorful and charming personality she was also a friend you could count on forever. She would always protect you and watch out for you and would be by your side whenever you needed her. Monique's life, though not a long one measured in years was a rich and full life. Her greatest blessing and joy were her beautiful daughters Aylin and Rezzan. She lived her life as she desired and I believe she got all she asked out of life. She lacked for nothing. We therefore have no reason to feel sorrow for her, but only for ourselves for having lost her. Our lives will never be the same without her, even Istanbul will never be the same without her. Monique is quite irreplaceable, there will never be another like her. We all miss her dearly, may she rest in peace. **Contributed by Aygen Meserretçioğlu ACG 69**

#### Faculty & Friends

### G. Peter Shiras

Died in the USA on Feb. 9, 2010, at the age of 83.

He taught English at Robert Academy from 1964-66 and was interim headmaster in 1966-67. Peter was an educator and a teacher and he spent 58 years teaching English. Excerpts from his obituary (<http://www.bracketfuneralhome.com>) are below:

He served in the U.S. Navy in World War II and then graduated

from Yale University. After a year as a journalist he began his teaching career at the Nichols School in Buffalo, New York, in 1952. He spent a year in Athens, Greece on a Fulbright grant to teach at the Polytechnion University, and then become the headmaster of the Potomac School in McLean, Virginia in 1961. During these years Peter played an active role in the civil rights movement. In 1964, Peter and his family moved to Istanbul, Turkey where he taught at Robert Academy. In 1966, he became interim headmaster of Robert Academy. From 1967 - 1975, he taught at Eastern High School, the Hawthorne School, and the Sidwell Friends School, all in Washington, D.C. In the summers, he and his wife, Rosie, taught at the Salisbury Summer School in Connecticut. In 1975, Peter moved to Lincoln, Massachusetts and taught at the Cambridge School of Weston until his retirement in 1990 to Norfolk, Connecticut and Orr's Island, Maine. Peter continued teaching adult education courses and served on the board of trustees of the Dublin School from 1980 - 1992, and he received the Paul W. Lehman Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1994 from Dublin School. He also volunteered at the Mid-Coast Medical Center in Brunswick, Maine during the last year of his life. He was a teacher his whole life, a master story teller, a font of knowledge with an insatiable curiosity, a lover of boats and birds, opera and the sea, poetry and Shakespeare, golf and his golden retriever, Jamie. He was devoted to his wife of 58 years, Rosie Shiras, who pre-deceased him, and he was loved dearly by his family and a wide circle of friends. He is survived by his daughter, Natalie his son, Peter and four grandchildren.

### Frederick B. Utley, Jr.

Emeritus Trustee Frederick B. Utley Jr. died on April 12, 2009. He was 93 years old and was buried in a private family ceremony in Dublin, New Hampshire, where he made his home. Frederick B. Utley Jr. was elected Trustee of Robert College in 1960. He served as Treasurer from 1960 to 1976 and 1982 to 1988. He was Vice Chairman (Finance) from 1976 to 1988, as well as serving on other Board committees. Prior to joining the Board of Robert College, he served on the Board of the Near East College Association. A Yale Class of 1938 graduate, Fred joined Manufacturer's Hanover Trust Company in 1946. He remained a loyal supporter of Robert College, making generous annual contributions and supporting special projects. He is survived by his wife Barbara and his son Frederick B. Utley, an attorney in New York City.

### John Coburn

Former RC faculty member Rev. John B. Coburn, died on Aug. 8 2009 at his home in Bedford, Mass. He was 94. John Bowen Coburn was born on Sept. 27, 1914, in Danbury, Conn. In 1931, he graduated from the Wooster School, an independent Episcopal school in Danbury founded by his father, the Rev. Aaron C. Coburn. At Princeton, he played varsity lacrosse and earned a bachelor's degree in politics in 1936. He spent the next three years in Istanbul, where he taught biology at Robert College, At RC, he met his wife Ruth Barnum, daughter of Harry Barnum, who was professor of Math, at RC. They got married in 1941. Ruth Coburn predeceased her husband in 2002. They are survived by four children, nine grand-children and six great grand-children. For a more detailed obituary [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/15/us/15coburn.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/15/us/15coburn.html?_r=1)



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