

RC QUARTERLY

WINTER 2013/2014

ISSUE 45

# RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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4 Aylık

## In this issue...

The cover story of the RCQ is dedicated to the ongoing celebrations of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Robert College. There is a sense of history in the making as significant events continue to mark the milestone academic year, 2013-14.

The celebrations started with the RC 150 Exhibition at the Pera Museum, and continued with the two memorable weekends in New York and in Istanbul last October that reunited generations of alumni, friends, as well as faculty and headmasters past and present. All of these events and more are chronicled in the following pages. Be sure to check out more information, photos and videos through the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary website - 150.robcol.net.

We are happy to announce that it is now possible to read the RCQ on an iPad via the Newsstand app, or Android tablet via the RC Quarterly application.

Stay tuned for the upcoming issue of this magazine, which will include more festivities in the works: The Benefit Gala in Istanbul on Wednesday, May 21, followed by the Fine Arts Festival & Field Day on campus on Sunday, June 1. Come celebrate!

The RCQ Team

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by Yona Sonman Eligoulachvili RC 72

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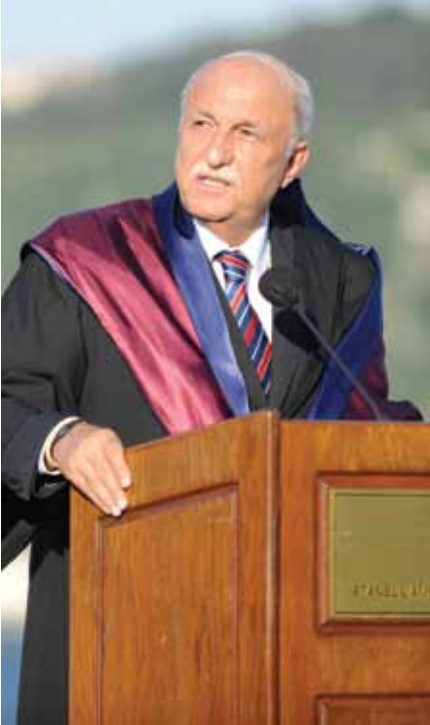
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Your feedback on the RCQ matters! Did you enjoy this issue? Write to us at: [alumni@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:alumni@robcol.k12.tr)



## Class of 2013 Heads Out Into the World

The 2013 graduation ceremony was held at Konak Terrace on Monday, June 24. Commencement speeches were given by businessman, philanthropist and university founder Hüsni Özyeğin RA 63, music teacher Koray Demirkapı, and student speakers Cemre Necefbaş and Özkan Okan.



Commencement speaker Hüsni Özyeğin RA 63

Headmaster Anthony Jones opened this year's graduation ceremony by saying that he hopes the graduates look back on their time at Robert College with many happy memories, and that they will see these memories as a vital part of themselves.

Keynote speaker Hüsni Özyeğin began his speech by saying, "It is an honor [to deliver the graduation speech today] because you belong to a group of the most successful, most accomplished youth in Turkey. It's emotional because I graduated from this school exactly 50 years ago. The years I spent here were perhaps the most decisive for me. Half a century later, in this 150<sup>th</sup> year of the school, it's an incredible feeling for me to bid farewell to our students on the threshold of the next step in their lives." He told students that they are the fortunate people who have a considerable key in their hands, which they should use not only for themselves, but also for those less fortunate. He closed his speech with advice on what he's learned over the past 50 years, including to not give up on their dreams, to aim for long-term success while learning from failures, to experience a variety of things while they are young, and that they will be rewarded by a job that excites them and gives them joy.



Music teacher Koray Demirkapı

After Özyeğin, music teacher Koray Demirkapı took the podium and said how he felt like he had become a student again at Robert College, because he is constantly learning from his students. He closed with these moving words: "They say that a person can only be considered



Headmaster Anthony Jones







Student speaker Cemre Necefbaş

as having left a place when his/her name is not truly recalled. Know that you will never leave this school. Your voice is hanging from the ceiling of the theatre; your smiles are engraved on the trees on the Plateau. They will be waiting for you when you come back. They will never go away."

Cemre Necefbaş followed Demirkapı. She remarked that she would never have



The 2012-13 faculty on graduation day

imagined a standardized test could bring so many different characters together, and that they could blend together so well. "Our spirit did not come from being or acting the same," she said. "Our spirit showed itself through understanding and willingness to help one another. I am confident to say that even if nothing sticks, no physics formulas or five point essay formats, that this culture will stick with us."



Student speaker Özkan Okan

Özkan Okan finished the speeches by saying "With its mix of conflicting methods, Robert College is a school which educated us as individuals who will make a difference in society." He continued, "We, the RC graduates, have the duty to appeal to the instinctive goodness in people. I have total faith that we possess the power to offer a solution after we criticize something."

## New Graduation Award Established by the Koç Foundation

Robert College will launch a new award at graduation, starting with the upcoming commencement ceremony on June 24, 2014. The top ten students with the highest grade point average of every graduating class will be honored as the recipients of the Koç Family Award.

The school has established this prestigious award in grateful recognition of a major gift to the scholarship fund by the Koç Foundation on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Robert College.



## The 2013-14 Annual Giving Campaign Kicks Off in Style

The traditional Annual Giving Kick-off dinner was held in real style on November 25, 2013. The evening saw award-winning class agents, the RC administration, Trustees, High Honor donors and scholarship donors gather under the roof of Istanbul's famed Sunset restaurant. The evening was

held to honor all the hard-working class agents who volunteer so much of their time to help in the Annual Giving Campaign as well as those who donate significant funds to strengthen the RC budget. It also served to remind all that the campaign is never over - a most significant year, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of

RC, is underway and there is a lot more to be done!

Headmaster Anthony Jones, microphone in hand, gave the welcome remarks and proceeded to announce the 2012-13 campaign year award-winning class agents.

Award Winners in Level of Participation		Award Winners in Level of Giving	
<b>1- RC 79</b> <b>Class Agents:</b> Suzan Levi Alalu Attila Cömert	<b>6- ACG 55</b> <b>Class Agent:</b> Ayla Ün Gümüşlügil	<b>1- RC 85</b> <b>Class Agents:</b> Bilge Rızvani Ayşegül Yürekli Şengör Ali Yılmaz	<b>6- RC 74</b> <b>Class Agent:</b> Metin Mansur
<b>2- RC 91</b> <b>Class Agents:</b> Ahmet Alp Cüneyt Soydaş	<b>7- RC 93</b> <b>Class Agents:</b> Can Önen İrem Kızılviranlıoğlu Önen	<b>2- RC 76</b> <b>Class Agents:</b> Nedim Ölçer Yasemin Palandüz Kahya	<b>7- RC 90</b> <b>Class Agents:</b> Okan Atilla Mete Tuncel
<b>3- ACG 61</b> <b>Class Agent:</b> Leyla Batu Pekcan	<b>8- RC 90</b> <b>Class Agents:</b> Okan Atilla Mete Tuncel	<b>3- RC 91</b> <b>Class Agents:</b> Ahmet Alp Cüneyt Soydaş	<b>8- RC 93</b> <b>Class Agents:</b> Can Önen İrem Kızılviranlıoğlu Önen
<b>4- RA 61</b> <b>Class Agent:</b> Y. Aydın Bilgin	<b>9- ACG 62</b> <b>Class Agent:</b> Gürsan Cümbüş Şeyhun	<b>4- RC 88</b> <b>Class Agents:</b> Gülruh Tayan Turan Deniz Yıldız	<b>9- RC 83</b> <b>Class Agent:</b> Serra Mansur Soysal
<b>5- RC 76</b> <b>Class Agents:</b> Nedim Ölçer Yasemin Palandüz Kahya	<b>10- RC 88</b> <b>Class Agents:</b> Gülruh Tayan Turhan Deniz Yıldız	<b>5- RC 79</b> <b>Class Agents:</b> Suzan Levi Alalu Attila Cömert	<b>10- RC 92</b> <b>Class Agents:</b> Onur Özgen Emin Sağlamer Bora Samman

RC gratefully recognizes Sunset Restaurant's generous contribution which made this evening possible.



Class Agents Ahmet Alp RC 91, Leyla Batu Pekcan ACG 61 and Y. Aydın Bilgin RA 61 receiving their awards for Level of Participation from Headmaster Anthony Jones



Headmaster Anthony Jones with some of the award winners. From L to R: Yasemin Palandüz Kahya RC 76, Bilge Rızvani RC 85, Ali Yılmaz RC 85, Ayşegül Yürekli Şengör RC 85, Suzan Levi Alalu RC 79, Leyla Batu Pekcan ACG 61, Nedim Ölçer RC 76, Y. Aydın Bilgin RA 61, Ayla Ün Gümüşlügil ACG 55, Gürsan Cümbüş Şeyhun ACG 62, Deniz Taşkent RC 88 for class agents Gülruh Tayan Turhan and Deniz Yıldız, Serra Mansur Soysal RC 83.

Make your gift to the Annual Giving Campaign. Visit the Giving menu at [www.robcol.k12.tr](http://www.robcol.k12.tr)



# GARANTİ DAİMA TÜRK BASKETBOLUNUN YANINDA!



## RC Trustees Visit the President

A delegation of Robert College Trustees made up of Nina J. Köprülü, Üstün Ergüder RC 57, Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62, Sedat Ergin RC 75, Şefika Pekin Barlas and Elif Bilgi Zapparoli RC 85 paid a courtesy visit to President Abdullah Gül on January 20, 2014, in commemoration of the school's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

RC graduates who are currently serving as Members of Parliament, Nursuna Memecan RC 75, Sedef Küçük RC 77 and Aykan Erdemir RC 92, also attended the meeting which took place on January 20, 2014 at the Çankaya Presidential Palace. President Gül commented, "An

educational institution reaching 150 years is something very significant and meaningful. You should be proud of your graduates' successes." Gül said that during his visits to the Balkans in his capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs and the President of the Republic, he has met with counterparts who proudly spoke of the fact that their grandfathers were Robert College graduates. He added, "Robert College has made major contributions to Turkey. I would like to express my thanks to Robert College for its current services, as well as the services it has provided throughout its history. I would like to see these contributions continue. Robert College



President Abdullah Gül and RC Board Chair Nina J. Köprülü

today has many alumni serving in areas such as politics, culture and media. You have a Nobel laureate among you. You should not be modest in taking pride in your successes.



From L to R: Üstün Ergüder RC 57, Elif Bilgi Zapparoli RC 85, Nursuna Memecan RC 75, Şefika Pekin Barlas, Nina J. Köprülü, President Gül, Sedef Küçük RC 77, Aykan Erdemir RC 92, Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 and Sedat Ergin RC 75

## RCQ On the Go

The RC Quarterly is now available for iPads and Android tablets! The free Newsstand and RC Quarterly applications allow readers to access current and past issues 24/7.

The RC Quarterly is available in a new medium. In addition to the print and online versions, the RCQ can now be accessed through Apple and Android app stores.

Mehmet Özdemir, Computer Center Coordinator and an Apple Distinguished Editor explains the rationale for the new medium: "Following the iPad's introduction in January 2010, digital publishing gained a new dimension. Many publishers began to produce content for tablets and offer them for a fee or free of charge. Nowadays we don't only read, but also experience digital magazines. We can also watch videos, move objects 360 degrees with a simple touch, and contribute to the content as readers."

As a leader in many fields, Robert College introduced a Digital Publishing Club for the students - a first in Turkey - during



the 2012-2013 academic year. The iPad and iPhone Applications and Development Club was subsequently founded and

currently has 20 members. Lise 11 student Metin Say, the initiator of the club, is currently working on developing an iPhone application for RC alumni which will allow them to learn about events, access them via a map, sign up, see who else will participate, and even send messages to other alumni.

After the initial work of launching the RC App Store was completed by the Robert College IT Department, the RC Quarterly App was produced by the RC Quarterly Editorial Team using third-party software.

The magazine now awaits RC alumni, their families and friends via the free Newsstand app on the Apple App Store and the RC Quarterly app on Android app stores.



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of some  
grasp only  
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Some also  
reach out to  
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## Real-time Help from the Student Tech Crew

With the number of students participating in the 1 to 1 laptop program increasing each year, a “super team” has become an invaluable part of the technology landscape: the Student Tech Crew (STC).

A total of 68 members, 38 of them Lise Prep students, make up the STC, which has been running since December 2011 under the leadership of Erica Hoffman, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Coach, and Metin Ferhatoğlu, IT Director. There is a crew member in almost every section of Lise Prep, Lise 9 and Lise 10 who provide immediate assistance to students or teachers when they have questions or problems with their laptops, in addition to STC members being available during breaks. They are easily identified in the canteen, library or other venues by the STC sticker on their laptops.

“More than 90 percent of problems that teachers and students encounter in the classroom can be resolved in less than two minutes,” says Ferhatoğlu. So all STC members go through “first aid training” on how to help students and teachers resolve such issues on a variety of devices, including laptops, projectors and adaptors.

Teachers find it very helpful. “Student Tech Crew members often solve technical problems for their classmates without interrupting the lesson,” says Prep English teacher Cecile Popp. If the problem cannot be resolved, the teacher decides if the student should share a laptop with a classmate for that period, or get help from the Student Help Desk. “The idea is to keep the focus on the learning, not on the technology that is there to support it,” says Hoffman. STC members teach students how to fix the problem themselves so they are able to solve the problem on their own the next time.

The STC receives training on software and operating systems, and one recent Saturday, many attended an all-day

workshop at school offered and sponsored by BilgeAdam on Microsoft Windows 8 and Office Professional 2010 Suite.

STC members were also a vital part of Back2School Day for alumni (see page 31) and Autumn Teachers Conference (see page 8). During both of these events, students solved tech-related issues to ensure the presenters could focus more on instruction.

STC members receive Community Involvement Project (CIP) hours for their service. While this provides a bit of extra motivation, it does not capture the invaluable service the students provide to their community.



The Student Tech Crew ready to help at the Autumn Teachers Conference

## RC: The Moth Explores Storytelling

There is an adage that says the shortest distance between two people is a story. Storytelling is something that connects us, helps us heal or process things that have happened and helps us develop empathy for others. It was this connection that Lise 9 students, who had completed a unit on storytelling, wanted to share with the RC community when they created the *RC: The Moth* series with English teacher Shirin Shabdin in the fall of 2012.

The series was inspired by the Moth ([www.themoth.org](http://www.themoth.org)), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the craft of storytelling that was formed in the US in 1997. During the storytelling unit, Lise 9 classes listen to stories from The Moth as models of storytelling.

Each *RC: The Moth* has a theme, and Shabdin works with theatre director Darcy Bakkegard to tie the theme into the concurrently-running play. The fall

semester’s theme was “duty and desire”, which also related to Federico Garcia Lorca’s *Blood Wedding*. “Giving themes to the talks gives a thread to the stories, and a deeper understanding of the theme emerges,” says Shabdin.

During the recent event, students and faculty stepped up on stage to share their stories about times when they followed their heads or hearts. Narrators told stories from their own lives where they chose to follow the path of duty or desire, or situations where they struggled to choose between the two, ending up in internal turmoil.

“What always amazes me is how well the kids are able to share their experiences, not in their native language, with so much meaning,” Shabdin says. “These are not superficial stories – they are stories that are personal and have depth, so to be able

to tell them both clearly and artistically is incredible.”

*RC: The Moth* is held twice a year; in the fall and spring. In addition, people can view previous stories and more information about the event at [rcthemoth.weebly.com](http://rcthemoth.weebly.com)



A student telling a story at the *RC: The Moth* event



# BİLGİ'de Lisansüstü

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

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- Kültürel İncelemeler
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- Uluslararası Ekonomi Politik
- Uluslararası Finans
- Uluslararası İlişkiler

## Doktora

- İşletme-Organizasyon Yönetim
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- Kamu Hukuku
- Siyaset Bilimi

**Başvurular  
devam ediyor.**



## Students Invoke Change: Plastic Bottle Project

Robert College started the school year with less – plastic, that is. When students arrived on campus, they were greeted by water fountains specially designed for reusable water bottles. The new system was installed as a result of a project conceived and run by two English Prep classes to reduce the use of plastic water bottles on campus.

“During our expository unit, where students research a topic and support it with facts, the problem was brought up about how many plastic bottles are used each day on campus,” explains their teacher, Amy Callahan. Students decided to tackle the problem of how to reduce the amount of plastic waste the RC community produces and educate people on the negative impact of plastic on the environment.

“Up to 300 bottles of water are sold per day in our canteen, and even one plastic bottle can be very harmful to nature,” said Beliz Su Gündoğdu L9. “We wanted to make the water fountains taste better,



One of the 13 new water fountains around campus

increase the number of water fountains, and provide a reusable container in order to decrease the number of plastic bottles sold, eventually eliminating sales of bottled water.”

Students had different roles in the project including PR, research, finance, looking for best carrier solutions and finding out if regular water is safe enough to drink. They brainstormed different ideas and found the filtered water fountain solution was the best.

The students received funding from the Berker Fellows Fund, which allocates money each year for a school or community improvement project. Thirteen new water stations were installed at key points around campus. A sensor regulates the water flow when a bottle placed under the fountain, or removed, so there is less waste. And a counter at the top of the fountain indicates how many plastic bottles are saved by using the fountains.

Lise 12 student Alpcan Evren says, “I think the new fountains are great. They help me save money; I no longer have to buy water from the canteen.” Any reusable bottle can be used at the water stations, but students can also purchase New Balance water bottles with the RC logo in the canteen during lunch breaks.

## Collaborating with NY School to Discover Terra Firma

In the winter of 2013, Robert College worked together with the Dalton School of New York City on a unique interdisciplinary collaboration between Turkish contemporary art students and American students studying ancient languages. Using archeological approaches, the students first explored Ephesus then applied these approaches to analyze modern-day artifacts. The project culminated in an exhibition in New York City combining artifacts and urban grid plans entitled *Terra Firma*.

The project started from a dialog between Robert College and the Dalton School called International Initiatives, whose purpose is to explore meaningful connections for all RC students with students at other schools around the world. “The goal for RC International Initiatives advisor Cyrus Carter and the Dalton teachers was to take advantage of Istanbul's wealth of ancient culture and New York City's wealth of modern and contemporary art culture,” explains art teacher and project director Jeffrey Baykal-Rollins. “I thought we could take it further by designing a project that began with research in an ancient culture,



RC Students preparing the *Terra Firma* installation at the Dalton School

and culminated with an art project in a contemporary art context.”

Beginning at archaeological sites in Ephesus, students from both schools researched historical material and collected data together. This part of the project was under the guidance of Dalton teachers, two of whom are former archeologists who had worked on excavations in Turkey. The investigative process continued in Istanbul at SALT Museum of Contemporary Art, with students analyzing contemporary cultural material and artifacts from the city's urban environment using archeological approaches they had learned while at Ephesus. “We thought we could play with this idea of exploring what's really on the surface of the city,” says Baykal-Rollins. “After Ephesus, we had a workshop

where we scavenged on the surface of Istanbul for everyday objects that were just lying around.”

The resulting art installation combines the layers of cultural material collected throughout the process into rich strata of image and text covering multiple geographies, peoples, and millennia. Seventy digital photographs from the ancient sites of Ephesus, Miletus, Didyma and Priene (the birthplace of the urban grid) were layered with images of urban grids from New York City and Istanbul, forming a visual structure for the 70 contemporary artifacts, each covered in Anatolian clay dust.

“We wanted to emphasize the similarities and differences between cities and were inspired by the grid plans of the cities because they were actually very similar to each other,” says Deniz Demir L12, co-curator of the project.

The artifacts and images, which were printed on paper the same color as the Anatolian clay, were installed by RC and Dalton students at the Dalton School. The exhibition will move to Robert College in the spring.



## Poetry and Tragedy on Stage: Blood Wedding

**F**ederico Garcia Lorca's tragedy *Blood Wedding* was performed by the RC Theatre Company at Suna Kiraç Theatre as last year's fall play. This poetic drama is written in both verse and prose, and explores the themes of duty and desire through the story of a marriage in a small village. As the characters are brought closer together through events, they are individually being torn apart by the inner struggle of choosing whether to follow their heads or their hearts.

"I chose this play because I wanted the RC Theatre Company to explore how to tell this classic story in a way that made it interesting and relevant to a modern audience," says theatre director Darcy Bakkegard. As this year's Company has a large number of members, she also wanted a play that would give more students the opportunity to develop their acting skills on stage. "This is a very mature play, and the actors handled it quite well," explains Bakkegard. "Some of the actors were put into very challenging



A tumultuous moment between former lovers Leonardo (Sarp Çelikel L10) and the bride (Selin Özülkü L11)

roles, but the lead players rose to the occasion to tackle emotionally challenging roles, and they brought great depth and reality to the characters." Three seniors who had never done theatre before had significant supporting roles.

Original music, composed by English teacher Michael Hays, and performed by Hays and students, helped highlight the poetic sections of the script. There were three main songs in the play: a lullaby, the wedding song and a mood-setting song that accompanied the moon and death. Music was also used to transition between scenes.

*Blood Wedding* was previously staged at RC in 1966, under the direction of Dorothy İz, and again in 1996 in Turkish. Several alumni contacted Bakkegard when they received the announcement, telling her about their memories of the play. Vesile Kulaçoğlu ACG 68 wrote, "I acted in the 1966 production of *Blood Wedding*, directed by Mrs. Dorothy İz with Can Savran RA 64 in the leading part. The poetry of Lorca, 'Blessed be the fields of wheat, because my sons lie under them. Blessed be the rain, because it wets the faces of the dead,' remained in my ears and heart. I wish you all the best for your presentation."

*where are you going this summer?*

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## Teachers Teaching Teachers

Robert College teachers are renowned for cultivating students' minds. But in the fall they had several opportunities to share their experiences with other teachers while also learning from their peers.

### Autumn Teacher's Conference

The Autumn Teacher's Conference (ATC) was held this fall as it has been for the past 16 years, only this year something was missing – paper. RC was the host of the conference, and the organizers worked with an app design company called Core-apps to create a program that attendees could use on their Apple and Android phones and tablets. It was also web-based for those who preferred using laptops. All materials including the program, hand-outs, videos, photos, evaluations and maps were available through the app created just for the event.

The conference is an opportunity for teachers around Turkey to share best practices with their colleagues, and this year 1000 teachers from 50 schools were able to choose from 330 presentations throughout the day. Presentations were made in English, Turkish, French or German.

"We wanted to use an app at this conference for three reasons," explains one of the ATC organizers, Cyrus Carter. "We wanted the conference to be

paperless, we wanted to push teachers' comfort zones with technology, and we wanted to create a living document that could be used by other teachers around Turkey and the world."

The conference materials are available on the app throughout the year. The organizers hope participants share them with colleagues and that state schools that did not attend the conference will also be able to use the information for professional development.

To download the app, search for "sonbahar" in the iTunes Apps Store or Google Play and click on the app with the words "Sonbahar Öğretmenler" in the title. To view materials from your laptop visit: [app.core-apps.com/atc2013](http://app.core-apps.com/atc2013)

### Mini-Course

A workshop to share activities with English teachers in Turkish schools also added an online component this year. Started in 2009, the Mini-Course, run by teachers Jennifer Sertel and Erica Hoffman, brings together state school teachers from Istanbul for one- to two-day intensive workshops, focusing on activities that build speaking, reading and listening skills. But until now they were not able to track how successful participants were in applying the activities once they left the workshop.



Teachers from Istanbul during the Mini-Course

This year, they started an online component which allowed attendees to plan the activities they would implement back in their classrooms, post what they have done and get feedback from other participants as well as Sertel and Hoffman.

By tracking feedback and comments, Sertel and Hoffman have seen how empowered participants feel by this new system.

"As a teacher I used to feel that I should always have control over the class. I always wanted total silence so that everyone could hear what a student said and I was sure the answer was correct. Now I see that letting them speak in groups encourages them to speak in English and is more fun." – Mini-Course participant

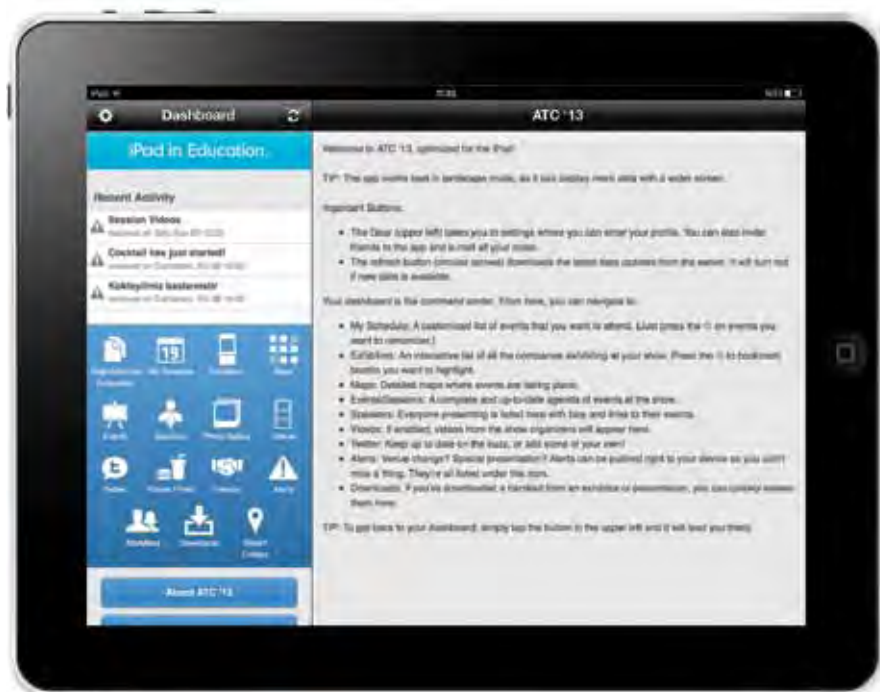
"We also learn from them," says Sertel. The online system means they can track what participants have done in their classrooms, and what's worked well, so they can continue to improve the workshop.

### Teachers Development Day

There are teacher-in-service days throughout the year, and this year RC faculty have used these days to interact with colleagues from different departments and share best practices, the most recent being on December 2. Some of the sessions were informational, while others were discussions around different education topics such as "The Brain and Block Scheduling" and "Why Kids Need to Be Creative".

Math teacher Andrew Tingleff, who was both a presenter and a participant said, "For me, the most important part of the sessions was the ability to talk to and listen to other teachers from other departments about block scheduling strategies, something which doesn't really happen during a normal school day."

Some of the workshops provide hands-on activities and strategies that teachers were able to use in the classroom the next day. With the wealth of knowledge RC teachers bring, they are all looking forward to the next workshop.



Screenshot of app developed for ATC



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# 75

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## CIP Activities Go Public with Project Websites

By Metin Ferhatoğlu, RC IT Director and Selin Şen, RC Counselor

Robert College students spend their weekends, after-school hours and summers carrying out Community Involvement Projects (CIP) throughout the year. Our students connect with their peers and have real life experiences. They create projects with other students in public and private schools, teaching one another.

All parents are curious and interested to see what their daughters and sons are up to during the day. When they ask, most children reply, "Everything is okay mom, we are doing great." But the children do not provide details. This is the same for the students that we work with.

During our Samsun Tekkeköy CIP in the summer of 2013, we aimed to address these needs. We started building our CIP website and discussed what we should share through the website. Sometimes words are not enough to explain what our students achieve, while photos and videos can easily summarize what you cannot express on a two-page document. So we decided to take photos every day and share them with the parents at the end of that day - with comments added.



We announced the website to our parents via SMS and had 186 unique visitors in a single day. Both parents and students proudly shared with their friends. We found out that the local Ministry of Education authorities and mayor were excited to see the photos and they wanted us to share more.

We also decided to add daily journals to share the personal experiences of students. We added our sponsors to the site to recognize their contributions. After two days, two new companies approached us offering sponsorship. This was a nice surprise.

In addition, local newspapers and news channels visited our website and then came to the school to interview us and take pictures. We also created a section to include their coverage on our website.

Another summer project that used a website to communicate its activities was the Erzincan CIP. Similar to the Samsun project, local students were led through a variety of activities during the week by RC students. Family and friends could follow what the students did through photos, journal entries and media coverage posted to the site.

Having a website for every project will soon become a tradition at RC. Our students do a great job, and by sharing their efforts with the community, the projects will continue to grow and get more support. Although it has been a few months since we completed the project, we're happy to see that we still have 25-30 visitors per day.



To view photos, videos and journal entries of the Samsun Tekkeköy CIP project visit:  
[samsuncip.weebly.com](http://samsuncip.weebly.com)

To learn more about the activities during the Erzincan CIP project, visit:  
[erzincanrkanep.weebly.com](http://erzincanrkanep.weebly.com)

Stay tuned for upcoming projects like the Zara CIP in July 2014:  
[zaracip.weebly.com](http://zaracip.weebly.com)





# The Robert College Alumni Association (RKMD)



The RA 69 rock band Renkler ended the year with a colorful concert on December 21, 2013 at Bizim Tepe



Mustafa Sarıgül, District of Şişli Mayor at the time, spoke about "Local Administration: the Şişli Model" on December 17, 2013



Alumni and friends did some early holiday shopping at the Bizim Tepe Bazaar on December 4, 2013



Alumni catching up at the Homecoming Reception on October 5, 2013



At a poolside dinner on September 27, 2013 Turkish Bar Association President Dr. Metin Feyzioğlu spoke about democracy



*RC gratefully acknowledges the support provided by the Alumni Association through the RC Summer project.*



Scenes from RC Summer 2013





Bülent Şenver RC YÜK 74 revealed the "Secrets to a Successful and Peaceful Lifestyle" on May 26, 2013



Tanju Sürmeli spoke about "Maximizing Performance by Training Your Brainwaves" on May 18, 2013



Friends met up while shopping at the Spring Kermes on May 8, 2013



Professor Nurhan Atasoy spoke about an "Ottoman in the Harem" on April 23, 2013

## New Faces at Bizim Tepe

You can always count on seeing the smiling faces of friendly RKMD staff when you visit Bizim Tepe. Two RC alumni who definitely fit this description have recently joined the RKMD team. Ayşe Atilla Gökalp RC 89 spent two decades in finance positions working for companies in different industries including Chase Manhattan Bank, Pfizer, Coca Cola and Sanofi Group. In 2013 she left Sanofi intending to spend more time with her family, but fate had other plans for her. "Leaving behind 20 years of corporate experience in my career, and excited to open a fresh page in business, I happily accepted the position offered by the Robert College Alumni Association as the General Coordinator of RKMD and Bizim Tepe," Gökalp says. "I'm feeling back at home after 25 years."

Nilgün Orhan RC 95 also came from a finance background, having worked at



Ayşe Atilla Gökalp RC 89

PricewaterhouseCoopers, Pepsi and Finansbank. She brings her extensive experience as a product manager and vendor manager to the team as the



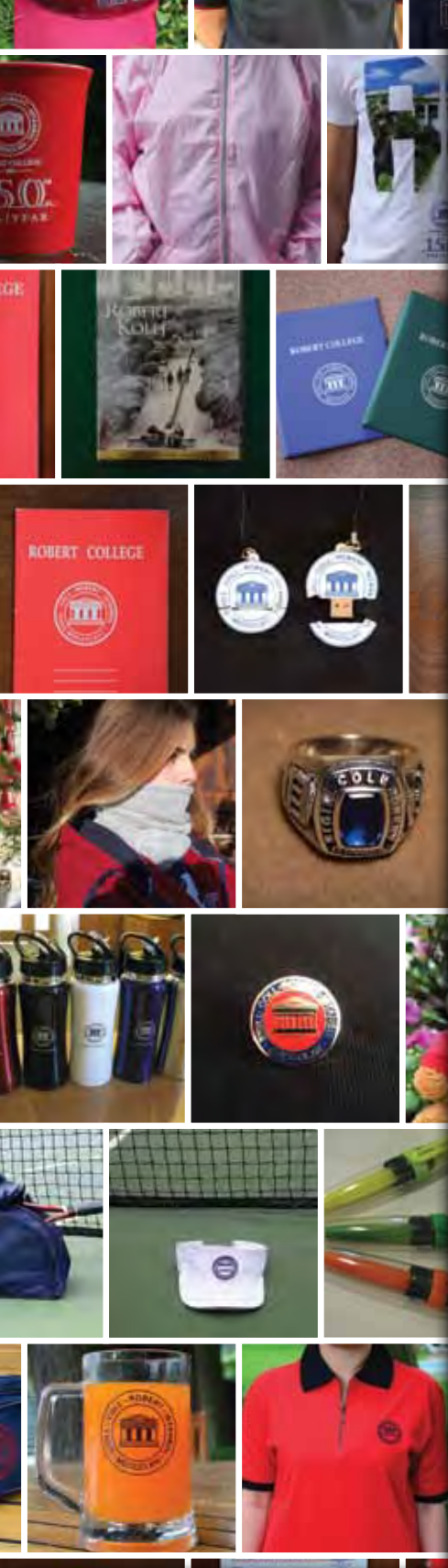
Nilgün Orhan RC 95

RKMD Member Relations Responsible. Nilgün echoes Ayşe's sentiments, saying "I am very happy to be returning home after 18 years."





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## Don't miss out on the RC 150 Exhibition Catalog!

Limited copies are left of this publication which portrays the fascinating history of Robert College. It contains original essays from renowned figures like Ayşe Kulin, Zafer Toprak, Üstün Ergüder and Cem Kozlu, and unique photos from the Robert College archives as well as private collections.

Available through the RKMD online store and at Bizim Tepe.



<http://store.rkmd.org.tr>

## Headmaster Welcomes Alumni in Boston

Graduates from the '50s up through 2013 met up at a lively reception at the Harvard Faculty Club on January 31, 2014. Also in attendance were former headmasters and teachers, descendants of RC founder Cyrus Hamlin, and friends of the school. Some of the RC students who were participating in the nearby Harvard MUN that week were also able to join the festivities.

In his speech, Headmaster Anthony Jones said, "For how many schools anywhere could it be true that half way around the world from the school we could gather together this number and this varied a group of graduates and friends of Robert College? It speaks volumes to the importance of the College in each of our lives and to the belief we have for what it represents and stands for. A toast to RC - long may she be."



From L to R: Chris and Lori Wadsworth, Anthony Jones, Tania and John Chandler, and Mimi Bull, wife of the late Cornelius Bull

## Bay Area Alumni Group Growing

While California may appear as one of the furthest destinations from Turkey, the RC alumni network in the San Francisco Bay Area has been growing steadily over the past two decades. As of January 2014, over 200 alumni live in California.

Several classes of RC graduates have high representation and have been holding

local, informal get-togethers for years. In early 2013, a couple of long-time RC friends started organizing structured events, ranging from a happy hour at a San Francisco restaurant to a weekend barbecue in Menlo Park. The most recent event, sponsored by RCAAA, was held on Saturday, January 18, featuring a Turkish buffet dinner, Napa wine and famous Turkish DJ Aykut playing music. This

event was the most popular to date, with 30 alumni (RC 69 to RC 09) and 35 of their guests.

This group plans to organize similar events every quarter. If interested in hearing more, please contact RC 90 alumna Sanem Alkan at [sanem@samadvisory.com](mailto:sanem@samadvisory.com). We look forward to seeing everyone in California!



RC Alumni and friends at the dinner and party with DJ Aykut in January 2014



## Mentorship Program Celebrates Fourth Year

The RCAA Mentorship program, now in its fourth year, continues to thrive. For the 2013-2014 academic year 19 graduates of the Class of 2013 who are attending college in the US have been matched to mentors. The program takes place in several cities in the US, including Boston, New York, Chicago and Houston.

Mentors and mentees meet up regularly individually, and RCAA organizes events throughout the year for all participants in the mentorship program. The most recent event was a dinner in Cambridge, MA on November 9, 2013, attended mostly by freshmen mentees and their mentors.

The previous mentorship event was a brunch held on a snowy New England Saturday, February 23, 2013, also in

Cambridge, MA. Ten mentors and mentees attended, including RC 10 mentees Tolga Zeybek, Mine Kansu, Berfu Negiz, and Berk Sarioz, who are currently in their fourth year of the program. Over the years, they have teamed up with their mentors, who give them guidance about college life in the US, and help them get ready for life after graduation. Mentors agreed that they also have so much to learn from their young peers while guiding them.

The RCAA mentorship program aims to connect RC alumni attending college in the US with RC alumni who are established in their careers. If you are interested in mentoring a young RC graduate, please contact Elif Şıkoğlu RC 97 at melifs@yahoo.com or Alpdoğan Kantarcı RC 86 at alpdogankantarc@gmail.com.



From L to R: Alpdoğan Kantarcı RC 86, Ezgi Hacıoğlu RC 06, Elif Şıkoğlu RC 97, Setenay Gel RC 13, Erkut Eronat RC 86, Tolga Zeybek RC 10 and Elif Kınlı RC 13

## Descendants of Hamlin Attend Boston Dinner

The Boston chapter of the RCAA organized their annual spring dinner on May 18, 2013. The event was attended by about 45 RC alumni and friends, and took place at Boston Rustic Kitchen Bistro. A descendant of Cyrus Hamlin and former Robert College Trustee Robert T. Hamlin Jr., and his son, Robert T. Hamlin III, honored the dinner.

Nusret Cömert, CEO of Shell Turkey, was the guest speaker. Mr. Cömert has been a fellow at Harvard University's Leadership



From L to R: Alpdoğan Kantarcı RC 86, Nusret Cömert and Robert T. Hamlin, Jr.

Academy since 2012. In his talk, he mentioned different types of leaders and emphasized the difference between a leader and a manager. He underlined the value of Robert College in educating and incubating leaders that play important roles in Turkey.

The evening also was an opportunity to celebrate the start of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Robert College.

## New York Area Alumni Get Together

Over 15 RC alumni got together at this fall's bar night, which took place at Pierre Loti Wine House on December 5, 2013. Compared to other

Robert College events that took place in New York in 2013 such as the 150<sup>th</sup> year celebrations, the Bar Night kept a smaller, more informal profile. Alumni from a wide range of professional backgrounds

and ages got together over happy hour. Attendance was high among recent graduates and from the classes of 1976 and 2006.

### Welcome to USA Awards

Congratulations to the Class of 2013 recipients of the Welcome to USA Awards!

**Setenay Gel** - Harvard University  
**Dinç Çiftci** - University of Richmond  
**Kutay Onaylı** - Brown University

The Welcome to USA Awards were started in 1993 to give support to recent RC grads going to the US for college. Every year the RCAA board selects three seniors for the award, and recipients are announced at graduation.

If you'd like to find out about upcoming events, make sure to like the RCAA page on facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/RCAA](http://www.facebook.com/groups/RCAA) and check out RCAA's website at [www.rcaa.org](http://www.rcaa.org).

## Representing Turkey at the Venice Biennale

The Turkish Pavillion at the 55<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale presented Ali Kazma's new video series *Resistance* from June 1 - November 24, 2013. Shown for the first time at the Biennale, *Resistance* is a multi-channel installation that explores the discourses, techniques and management tactics developed for the body today and focuses on the interventions and strategies that both release the body from its own restrictions and restrict it in order to control it. Curated by Emre Baykal,

the Turkish Pavillion was located at Artiglierie, Arsenale, in the main venue of the Biennale.

Kazma says, "There are more than 200 biennials in the world today. Each one is different. The Venice, Sydney, Istanbul, Berlin, Sao Paulo and Lyon Biennials are some of the better-known ones. These biennials and some others are usually interested in opening new aesthetic and ethical spaces for contemporary discourse and therefore are relevant in

social and historical terms. Of course, biennials are subject to the same types of distorting neo-liberal influences dominant today. To varying degrees they suffer from these damaging influences which push public discourse towards superficial, shiny spheres. Even so, I believe biennials and contemporary art still provide some space where meaningful discussions and discourse can happen."

Kazma's work has received positive reviews both in Turkey and abroad.



Ali Kazma's video series on view



Ali Kazma RC 89

## Transform Your Life One Step at a Time

If you want to make changes in your life but have not been able to start, or if you want to find deeper peace and self-understanding, hypnotherapist Esra Üstar Oğuz RC 87 has prepared a guide for you. *The Turquoise Ripple: Life Changing Journeys in Unified Consciousness* is Oğuz's first book and it explains different methods of self-discovery and transformation through life-changing examples from her own experiences and those of her clients.

Oğuz has observed that the key trigger to self-transformation is the intention to change. "Once the intention is set," she says, "all we need to do is stay aware and allow the transformation."

Oğuz's own story is motivational in itself. A successful international executive, she received a wake-up call in her mid-30s when she was diagnosed with melanoma. She then started exploring ways to heal and find balance and deeper meaning in her life. In her book, which is like a



Esra Üstar Oğuz RC 87

"Spirituality 101", she shares her story and helps guide others on their journey to self-discovery. The content is deep, but easy to read. Whether at the beginning of self-discovery or further along, readers who want to open their minds, understand their spirituality and transform their life will find guidance on how to achieve this through compelling cases of hypnotherapy and meditation.

"My self-transformation is my inspiration to write the book," says Oğuz. Throughout my journey, walking my own path, I accumulated a lot of techniques for effortless self-transformation and decided to share it so others can also change and transform in any way they want." Many people are able to relate to the feeling of dissatisfaction in their daily lives that was the catalyst for Oğuz's transformation. Creating a more fulfilling life is just as possible for them as it was for her.

"Everyone wants and needs to change," she says. "For this, it is key to set your intentions, open your mind and play the energy game."

*The Turquoise Ripple* is available on Amazon. To find out more about the book and Oğuz's work visit [www.turquoiseripple.com](http://www.turquoiseripple.com).



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**İNANLAR**

Geçmiş okuyarak geleceği yazar

49 yıldır...

## RC Poets Feature Prominently at the Istanbul Biennial

The 13<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Biennial, which was held from September 14 to October 20, 2013, took its title, *Mom, Am I Barbarian?*, from a book by Turkish poet Lale Müldür RC 75. The curator of the Biennial, Fulya Erdemci, stated in the catalog that she aimed to explore the theme of the public domain as a political forum. The word "Barbarian" is used in this instance to signify people who are marginalized by society: the anarchists, revolutionaries and outcasts - be they artists, demonstrators or poets.

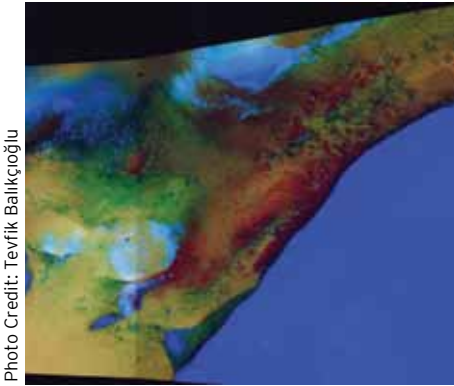


Photo Credit: Tervik Balıkcıoğlu

Video image from the Biennial opening show

The opening show of the Biennial, a video installment called "Pivot" by American-Pakistani artist Shahzia Sikander, also incorporated poetry by Lale Müldür, who is arguably one of the most celebrated Turkish poets alive today, and Efe Murad Balıkcıoğlu RC 06. "Pivot" opens with Müldür reciting her poem "Waking to Constantinople" and transitions into the young poet Firat Demir's voice. This synchronicity between sound and image is intentional in the animation; it is the result of collaborative research by artist Shahzia Sikander and composer Du Yun. Sikander's animated drawings and Du Yun's musical score abstract the visual and aural commutations of roughly ten poems by Efe Murad, Nâzım Hikmet, Lale Müldür and Ahmet Güntan. The music creates tension and rhythm while oscillating between audible texts, operatic sounds and soprano singing. As the recitations transition into singing and the treatment of music and poetry becomes fluid, the poems can be experienced by all, without a translation. Poetic recitation



Video image from the Biennial opening show

Photo Credit: Tervik Balıkcıoğlu

combines with the mutability of the visual into an immersive experience.

The Biennial featured 88 artists and artist groups from Turkey and around the world, whose practice examines issues of barbarity and civilization, occupation, isolation from society and persecution by authorities. It took place at five venues: Antrepo No. 3 next to the Istanbul Modern, the Galata Greek primary school, Arter in Beyoğlu, Salt Gallery and 5533.

## Bilge Adam Receives Microsoft Award

Bilge Adam A.Ş., founded in 1997 by RC 87 graduates Hakan Çevik, Furkan Fırat and Haldun Pak, has received Microsoft Turkey's "Partner of the Year for Learning Solutions". The award was announced at the annual Business Partners Award Ceremony, which is organized by Microsoft Turkey to recognize its successful partners.

Microsoft Turkey views its partners as instrumental to the company's success. The performance of the partners is evaluated according to various criteria like sales, growth, solution development, cloud technology and customer satisfaction, and awards are given to winners in the public, small-and-medium-sized businesses, device manufacturers and distributors sectors.

Robert College works closely with Bilge Adam on the school's learning solutions. The IT firm provides the Student Tech

Crew training on Microsoft Office Adobe products and programming. They also sent trainers to teach teachers about OS 7 and Microsoft Office when the version was first implemented at the school. They have provided support with the student information system and also worked on the communication portal.

IT Director Metin Ferhatoğlu says, "Bilge Adam is a great partner for us. They not only provide software but also give training to our users and share their know-how with our tech team and Student Tech Crew. None of the other providers give us that. They have been in this business for over 15 years, and they are clearly the most experienced company providing this."

Bilge Adam IT Group, which offers services for specialist resources, software and infrastructure, is the largest company in Turkey in the area of IT training and integration.



Hakan Çevik RC 87 (inset), "Partner of the Year for Learning Solutions" award from Microsoft





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# Noteworthy News

## Zehra Tonbul RC 94



The Turkish Cultural Foundation awarded Zehra Tonbul the Fellowship in Turkish Culture and Art for 2013 for her research on "German Academic Formalism and its Influence on the Historiography of Medieval Art and Architecture of Turkey". The Turkish Cultural Foundation sponsors research on subjects related to the art and culture of Turkey, and to studies related to the preservation of Turkey's artistic and cultural heritage. Tonbul is a PhD candidate at Boğaziçi University in the Department of History of Architecture.

## Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93



Çağan Şekercioğlu received the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Whitley Gold Award which recognizes an outstanding past recipient of a Whitley Award who has gone on to make a significant contribution to global conservation. Şekercioğlu has played a key role in gaining international Ramsar recognition for Kuyucuk Lake in Turkey, home to 227 different bird species, and also initiated the country's first-ever wildlife corridor for large carnivores. Şekercioğlu received his first Whitley Gold Award in 2008, and is the first person ever to win two Whitley Gold awards.

## Cem Kurtuluş RC 05



Cem Kurtuluş directed the animated film *Hungry Boy* with Jake Nelson. Shown all around the world, the five-minute film is about a boy on a quest for his next meal. In order to find his way to the family supper, he lives a whole life in seconds and overcomes challenges against his own existence.

## Neslihan Stamboli RC 79



The latest book by Neslihan Stamboli, *Rüya*, was published by Altın Kitaplar in 2013 as a continuation of her previous book *Kırık Rapsodi*. *Rüya* is the journey of Rüya, who finally decides to finish her book about her great grandmother Alexandra, after seeing her in a dream. It was the sad ending which stops her from completing the book at first. But she eventually continues, and discovers that if one aims to live a dedicated life over a regular one, that it is definitely worth living even if the aim will not be accomplished in the end.

## Erdem Helvacıoğlu RC 94

Award-winning Turkish composer and guitarist Erdem Helvacıoğlu, and critically-acclaimed percussionist Stuart Gerber released their first collaboration album *Esther's Memory* from Aucourant Records. The album merges the guitarviol with a variety of percussion instruments to create a unique sound environment. Recorded during two days of improvising, *Esther's Memory* explores the line between reality and illusion, memory and hallucination through the eyes of an elderly lady with dementia.



## Tolga Örnek RC 89



Director Tolga Örnek released his latest movie *Senin Hikâyen* (*The Story of You*), in December 2013 starring well-known actors including Nevra Serezli ACG 65, Timuçin Esen, Selma Ergeç and Sait Genay. The movie is special because Örnek's son Derin also takes part in it. The film is about a couple in their mid-thirties who have been married for seven years. They come to a point where they have to make a decision: to have a baby or not. The story circles around the couple as well as the husband's parents. Full of surprises and humor, the movie has been praised by critics and viewers.

## Gülây Yurdal Richards ACG 64



Gülây Yurdal Richards, author of the poetry book *Dahaca*, began writing poems when she was a student at ACG and won the Poetry Award of the school magazine, *Spectrum*, two years before her graduation. She currently lives in London and nowadays spends her time translating her Turkish poems into English.



## An International Tribute to Atatürk

Robert College Trustee, journalist and broadcaster Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62, is in the news with the reprint of his book, *Dünya Basınında Atatürk (Atatürk in the International Media)*. The RC Quarterly spoke to Çolakoğlu about the extensive research process.

### Please tell us a little about *Dünya Basınında Atatürk*

The book is a study on how the global media reported the death of Atatürk. In 1987, as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Atatürk's death was approaching, I was living and working in London and the British Library's Periodical Section was very nearby. I spent three months there, going through dusty volumes, microfiches and microfilms of existing copies of newspapers in their collection that were printed in November 1938. I found 117 newspapers printed in 47 countries. Remember, in those days computers did not exist. So I had to do the research manually. That meant looking in the card files for papers that had articles on him, then going through each one and searching for the name Atatürk in languages that I had no clue about. Finally, I found 285 articles in numerous languages from English to Russian, Ukrainian to Hungarian. I had photocopies of all these taken and started looking for translators. It was a challenging project but I loved every moment of it.

### What inspired you to write this book?

Atatürk was a great leader who inspired the whole world during his time. He started with a very backward country in the 1920s and in 15 years he ended up with a very modern one, bringing about very major changes from attire to alphabet, from calendars to time. It was an enormous success and has not been repeated in any other country since. Although today some can argue about these accomplishments, in those days the whole world was awestruck by them. This is very evident in every article I found. Although they may be of different and conflicting ideologies such as democracy,

communism, fascism and nationalism, all are united in praising Atatürk's accomplishments.

### What was the time frame for writing it?

I did the research in three months and brought stacks of rolled up photocopies that looked like medieval canons to Turkey. But they got lost when I was moving house. So I had to do the research all over again. By then, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Atatürk's death had passed. So I put it aside for another 15 years. Finally, it appeared in 2002 in the form of a coffee table book. We had to do a reprint a year later. Doğan Kitap did a smaller, more economic version while keeping the content intact. Now Hürriyet is giving away this version.

### Where do you prefer to write?

The simple answer is everywhere. I work from a mobile office that fits into my handbag. Wherever I am with my computer is my office; it can be my home or Bebek Kahve or a shady spot by the sea. Finding time is more difficult than finding a place. Noise does not disturb me, music or newscasts can be in the background.

### Tell us about "A day in the life of Nuri Çolakoğlu".

I start fairly early, 3 or 4 am, watch different newscasts such as BBC, CNN International, Euronews, and then Turkish channels. As I do this I check my emails and go over various things that need to be read or written. After a light breakfast I leave home around 8 am, heading to my offices - I work out of various offices in Kabataş, Mecidiyeköy, Bağcılar, Beylerbeyi - or to appointments. As a rule I prefer to visit people who ask for an appointment rather than invite them to my office. This way I can stick to my quite crowded daily agenda. I can leave the place I am visiting in time to keep to my schedule. Of course this means going through the heavy traffic of Istanbul, but I think me and my driver have managed to find several short cuts which help us make our appointments on time. At 6 pm I start unwinding by visiting art galleries, exhibitions or movies or having a bite with friends. I try to make it home by 1 am so that I can hit the sack for four or five hours of sleep.



Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62



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ROBERT COLLEGE  
— 1863 —

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

## History in the Making

What a year it is! The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Robert College is in full swing.

The 2013-14 academic year has included festivities on both sides of the Atlantic, with a lineup that continues into the spring: the Istanbul Gala on Wednesday, May 21, and the Fine Arts Festival & Field Day on campus on Sunday, June 1.

The following pages recount events that have already taken place, where alumni and friends reconnected to celebrate a remarkable milestone.

An unforgettable two-day Homecoming Weekend in October had about 2,000 alumni return to campus. Former students flocked to the "Back2School" event, an amazing opportunity for life-long learners of all ages to reclaim their classrooms. Many different lessons were taught by RC graduates who are experts in their fields.

A celebration weekend in New York followed, with a Decades Party hosted by the RCAAA, a symposium and a Robert College archives viewing at Columbia University, as well as a Benefit Gala to raise funds for scholarships.

The following pages are devoted to the people and events making history this year, celebrating Robert College and its first century and a half!



# The Anatomy of a Tradition: 150 Years of Robert College Exhibition

The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities kicked-off in May with the opening of the RC 150 exhibition at the Istanbul Research Institute (IAE) in Pera. Curated by Cem Akaş RC 86, it was made possible by the Suna and İnan Kırac Foundation. The exhibition, which continued at IAE until

the end of August 2013, was viewed by members of the RC community and the general public. It moved to campus on September 16, 2013, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first day of school at Robert College, and was on display through the Back2School weekend. The exhibition

then moved to Boğaziçi University where it was on display at the end of 2013 for six weeks. Selected photos and press clippings from the exhibition can be seen in RCQ issue 44, p. 24. You can read the issue online at: [www.robcol.k12.tr](http://www.robcol.k12.tr)



From L to R: RC 150 Co-chair Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62, Exhibition Curator Cem Akaş RC 86, RC 150 Coordinator Sima Benaroya RC 78, RC Development Director Leyla Aktay RC 72, historian and Cyrus Hamlin descendant Ted Widmer, Suna and İnan Kırac Foundation Director M. Özalp Birol, RC 150 Co-chair Nina J. Köprülü and Headmaster Anthony Jones.



From L to R: Ümran Üngün ACG 70, former Headmaster and Trustee Jim Maggart, Trustee Hakan Çevik RC 87 and Mike Maggart



RC Singers performing at the exhibition opening



From L to R: Nilgün Yücaoğlu RC YÜK 73, Trustee Marnie Pillsbury, Headmaster Anthony Jones and Trustee Elsie Wagner

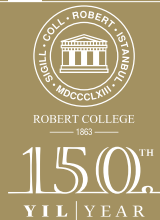
## RC 150 Exhibition Catalog

This rich publication portrays a vivid image of the power of education to bring people together. It contains original essays contributed by renowned figures as well as unique photos from the Robert College archives and private collections.



Cem Akaş RC 86 *The Synergy of Contradictions*  
Ted Widmer *The Center of the World*  
Funda Soysal RC 92 *The Ottoman Period of Robert College*  
Zafer Toprak *The Question of an American University in Turkey: Democratic Party, Treaty of Lausanne, and Robert College*  
Üstün Erguder RC 57 *Robert College and the Education System of Turkey: A Gathering of Paradoxes*  
Herkül Millas RA 61 *Robert College Students and National Identities / 1863-1938 History of Robert College*  
Mahmut Önder Hortaçsu RA 62 *School of Engineering*  
Zeynep Çelik ACG 70 *The Campus, the City, and the Empire: The Early Architecture of Robert College and the American College for Girls*

Dağhan Irak *At the Heart of Sports: Robert College*  
Özdemir Ültay Nutku RC 50 *'Robert College Players' 1924-1990 and the Renowned Thespians of RC*  
Semih Gümüş *A Grand World: The Literary Figures of Robert College*  
Nuri M. Çolakoğlu RA 62 *History of Publishing at the American Colleges*  
Ayşe Kulin ACG 61 *It Was a Summer Day*  
Erkut Yücaoğlu RC ENG 69 *Remembering Humanities*  
Cem Kozlu RA 65 *My Robert College Years*  
Nükhet Sirman RC 72 *The Women of Robert College*  
Kanat Emiroğlu RC 86 *A Boy, a School, the World, and Their History*



On October 5-6, alumni filled the halls for a very special Homecoming event - Back2School Weekend. In addition to the traditional Homecoming celebrations on Saturday, members of the RC community came back to campus the following day for Back2School Day, where alumni and former faculty were both teachers and students. In addition, the RC 150 Exhibition and an exhibition of works from alumni artists were on display. A special performance of the RC Student Orchestra included Renkler - the legendary group made up of RA 69 graduates. Alumni spent an unforgettable weekend catching up with classmates, many who had flown halfway around the world to attend the commemorative events.

# Homecoming



The start of the Homecoming Football Tournament finals on the Dave Phillips Field



Old friends catch up



RC 150 Exhibition on campus



Headmaster Anthony Jones and Dave Phillips Jr. at the inauguration of the Dave Phillips Field



Young alumni pose with cutouts of Cyrus Hamlin, Christopher Robert and Mary Mills Patrick



The Class of '64 decked out in graduation outfits during their 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion celebration at Homecoming



Despite the cold weather, alumni came to honor their beloved teacher, Mr. Phillips



The RC Orchestra and legendary RA 69 rock band Renkler performing "Unchain My Heart"





## back 2 school



Hüsnü Özyeğin RA 63 giving the Opening Speech at Back2School Day



Gülüstü Kaptanoğlu RC 85 - "Preparing for Aging"



Hakan Binbaşgil RC 79 - "Banking in Turkey"



Soli Özel RC 76 - "Hitting the Wall: the Disintegration of a Vision from Syria to Egypt"



Ayşen Zamanpur RC 76 and Cüneyt Yavuz RC 86 - "Being a Global Brand"



Former Student Council Presidents from L to R: Refik Erduran RC 47, Hasan Subaşı RA 61, Neriman Ülsever ACG 71, Ali Alpar RC 61, Ahu Bilgin RC 84, Nedim Ölçer RC 76 and Sinan Ceylan RC 78



Refika Birgül RC 98 - "The Unbearable Lightness of Discovering the Kitchen"



Reception in Marble Hall





Former RC teachers Hafize Değer, Aydın Ungan, Whitman Shepard, Betsy Göksel and Dave Phillips



Serdar Erener RC 79 - "Intelligence or Emotion? Eyes or Ears?"



Burhan Karaçam RA 68 - "Banking, Yesterday and Today"



Emre Derman RC 84 -  
"Sailing Competitions and Team Spirit"



İşıl Esen Andağ RC 78, Zeynep Yalın Uzun RC 86  
and Ercüment Şener RC 88



Nursuna Memecan RC 75 - "Being a Member  
of Parliament in Europe and Turkey"



Aykan Erdemir RC 92  
- "Hate Crimes"



Ahmet Uluğ RC 81 -  
"Art and Entertainment for Change"



Hülya Uçansu ACG 71 -  
"The Love of Cinema from  
Generation to Generation"



Starting from third from the left: Nihat  
Berker RA 67, Şule Kut RC 75, Semahat  
Demir RC 84, Ahmet Acar RA 67 and Gülay  
Barbarosoğlu RC 74



Mithat Alam RA 64 -  
"I Confess: I'm a Cinephile"



Ömer Madra RA 64 - "About the Birds and Bees  
v.2 (In a Way that Changes the Story Slightly)"



Robert College thanks the following people for their contribution to **Back2School Day**, either as speakers, workshop leaders or by sharing their artwork in the alumni exhibition.

**Şermin Abdullah** ACG 67  
**Ersu Ablak** RC 98  
**Ahmet Acar** RA 67  
**Cem Akaş** RC 86  
**Nazan Akpınar** ACG 64  
**Mithat Alam** RA 64  
**Avi Alkaş** RC 75  
**Ali Alpar** RA 68  
**Serdar Arat** RC 73  
**Birand Ardiç** RC L3 04  
**Işıl Arıdağ** RC 78  
**Hale Arpacioğlu** ACG 71 Sr.  
**Tomur Atağök** ACG 59  
**İzak Atıyas** RC 77  
**Betül Aydın** ACG 69  
**Aydan Baktır** RC 77  
**Gülşay Barbarosoğlu** RC 74  
**Oya Başak** ACG 55  
**Reyhan Baylan** RC 99  
**Eti Behar** ACG 70  
**Nihat Berker** RA 67  
**İbrahim Betil** RA 64  
**Serdar Bilgili** RC 81  
**Ahu Bilgin** RC 86  
**Hakan Binbaşgil** RC 79  
**Seda Binbaşgil** RC 79  
**Refika Birgül** RC 98  
**Metin Bonfil** RC 79  
**Cem Boyner** RC 74  
**Sinan Ceylan** RC 78  
**Serra Ciliz** RC 92  
**Ergun Çağatay** RC 58  
**Rahel Çikvaşvili**  
**Nuri Çolakoğlu** RA 62  
**Hafize Değer**  
**Semahat Demir** RC 84  
**Emre Derman** RC 84  
**Gül Derman** ACG 62  
**Abidin Dino** RC 33  
**İpek Duben** ACG 61  
**Fehya Duru Kısakürek** ACG 70  
**Emre Eczacıbaşı** RC 02  
**Neşe Erberk** RC 82  
**Aykan Erdemir** RC 92  
**Ferhan Erder** ACG 59  
**Refik Erduran** RC 47  
**Nükhet Eren**  
**Serdar Erener** RC 79  
**Reyhan Erez** ACG 59  
**Üstün Ergüder** RC 57  
**Nazan Erkmen** ACG 65  
**Ayşe Erzan** ACG 68  
**Jale Erzen** ACG 62  
**Şenes Erzik** RA 61  
**Seniye Fenmen**  
**Moris Gabbay** RC 44  
**Gülnur Geriş** RC 78  
**Can Göknil** ACG 66  
**Betsy Gökse**  
**Cenk Gümüşçüoğlu** RC 97  
**Hale G. Oppenheimer** RC 2000  
**Dikmen Gürün** ACG 61  
**Erdem Helvacioğlu** RC 94

**Sibel Horada Coşkun** RC 98  
**Suzy Hug-Levy** ACG 65  
**Hikmet Hükümenoğlu** RC 89  
**Evin İlyasoğlu** ACG 66  
**Fırat İşbecer** RC 98  
**Özer Kabaş** RC 57  
**Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı** ACG 59  
**Özlenen Kalav Eser** ACG 67  
**Gülüştü Kaptanoğlu** RC 85  
**Burhan Karaçam** RA 68  
**Hakan Karahan** RC 79  
**Ali Kazma** RC 89  
**Selma Kenter** RC 73  
**Deniz Koen Fletcher** ACG 67  
**Aytuğ Kolankaya** RC 80  
**Nihal Koldaş** RC 75  
**Jak Kornflit** RA 69  
**Aslı Kortan** RC 93  
**Cem Kozlu** RA 65  
**Ayşe Kulin** ACG 61  
**Kaan Kural** RC 92  
**Kerem Kurdoğlu** RC 81  
**Şule Kut** RC 75  
**Sibel Kutman** RC 92  
**Ömer Madra** RA 64  
**Güneş Mavituncalılar** RC 99  
**Nursuna Memecan** RC 75  
**Ayşe Odman Boztosun** RC 90  
**İpek Ongun** ACG 61  
**Rina Onur** RC 04  
**Nedim Ölçer** RC 76  
**Soli Özel** RC 76  
**Batubay Özkan** RC 93  
**Yeliz Özsoy** RC 02  
**Yeşim Özsoy** RC 90  
**Semra Özümerezifon** ACG 70  
**Sedat Pakay** RA 64  
**Dave Phillips**  
**Whitman Shepard**  
**Berna Sidi Adatoz** RC 87  
**Nükhet Sirman** RC 72  
**Hasan Subaşı** RC 58  
**Ercüment Şener** RC 88  
**Tamer Tamar** RC 92  
**Lale Tekişalp** RC 09  
**Bora Tokyay** RC 97  
**Fatma Tülin**  
**Hülya Uçansu** ACG 71  
**Osman Ulağay** RA 61  
**Ömer Uluç** RC ENG 53  
**Ahmet Uluğ** RC 81  
**Aydın Urgan**  
**Mehmet Uysal**  
**Cüneyt Ülsever** RA 70  
**Neriman Ülsever** RC 71  
**Hande Varsat** RC 01  
**Gündüz Vassaf** RA 64  
**Zeynep Yalın Uzun** RC 86  
**Nur Yalman** RC 50  
**Cüneyt Yavuz** RC 86  
**Cem Yeğül** RC 78  
**Gökçe Su Yoğurtçuoğlu** RC 97  
**Ayşen Zamanpur** RC 76



## back 2 school Alumni Exhibition

Color was added to the campus with the Alumni Exhibition, which presented art by alumni in many different media including painting, sculpture, photography, film and literature. It was curated by Suzy Hug-Levy ACG 65, who also prepared the displays together with Tony Hananel ACG 69.



Hayri Erenli RC ENG 69 browsing through books by RC alumni in the Library



"Kaftan", Suzy Hug-Levy ACG 65



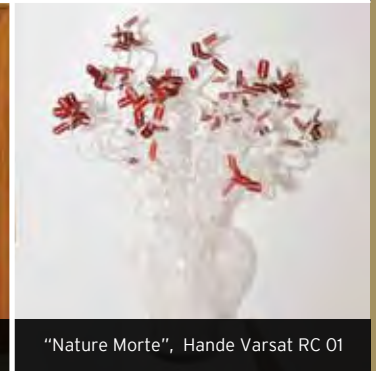
Photograph by Serdar Bilgili RC 81



"All Mornings" and "Requiem", Serdar Arat RC 73



Photographs by Ergün Çağatay RC 58



"Nature Morte", Hande Varsat RC 01



"Ceramic Kite", Ferhan Taylan Erder ACG 59



ACG 70 classmates Gönül Germeyanoğlu and Beyhan Yeğen enjoying the exhibition in the Museum

# "Teachers"

## Share Their Impressions About Back2School



Soli Özel RC 76



Gündüz Vassaf RA 64



Ayşe Kulin ACG 61



Rina Onur RC 04



Ayşen Zamanpur RC 76



Semahat Demir RC 84



Hülya Uçansu ACG 71



Metin Bonfil RC 79



Seda Binbaşgil RC 79

I was elated to be back on campus to teach where I learned so much. The mood everywhere was very festive and I had the impression that all the temporary teachers were very excited about this job. The corridors were full of excited "students" unable to decide which course they should take. Watching people run into one another who have not seen each other in a while was also wonderful to witness.

**Soli Özel RC 76**

The Back2School event was unique in the sense that I found myself not only teaching my classmates but also those older than me. But, more than that, given the stifling environment in an intolerant outside world, there was this feeling of a comfort zone under our own roof.

**Gündüz Vassaf RA 64**

It was nice to be where I belonged! There was certainly more to it, that day. Young at heart people of all ages, mingling with a shared feeling of belonging to the same "home"... that is what RC is to all of us - home!

**Ayşe Kulin ACG 61**

It was an incredibly humbling experience to sit in front of RC grads, both older and younger, in addition to current students, to share our relevant experiences.

**Rina Onur RC 04**

Everything about our school where I spent the four most important years of my life makes me happy. Being there, smelling the familiar smells, walking down the stairs and dorms is exactly what a Pisces like me thrives on. I'm so happy that you organized something like this; thank you to everyone involved.

**Ayşen Zamanpur RC 76**

I felt very much honored to be a "teacher" at RC. We, the RC alumni who are university presidents, shared a lot about our wonderful RC experience and our own career journeys.

**Semahat Demir RC 84**

First of all, I extend my most sincere gratitude to everybody who worked on that wonderful project. Besides being a significant anniversary itself, I enjoyed

just being there. Those hours made me realize how much I have missed those wonderful years at ACG.

**Hülya Uçansu ACG 71**

Every opportunity to visit the campus, to meet old friends and to participate in fun events is a celebration. We leave our own daily routines to go and feel how lucky we have been, and still are, to be part of a great tradition in education. The 150<sup>th</sup> year is a strong reminder that this tradition is spanning many generations indeed. Getting "educated" in a classroom setting is fun. Of course we used to think exactly the opposite when we were students. I have an innate desire to seek more knowledge every day. Maybe it's our RC formatting. However, one rarely gets an opportunity to learn something new during the second half of life, so it was great overall.

**Metin Bonfil RC 79**

It was certainly extraordinary to return this time as "teacher" to my school, of which I am always proud to be an alumna. That Sunday morning, I think that we all felt the same anxiety while we were waiting for our "students" on the top floors of Gould Hall. "Will anyone be interested in my lecture, among so many other interesting sessions held simultaneously?" But of course, those who felt the same anxiety as I, forgot a reality, perhaps because of excitement: our "students" were also graduates of this school, and the wide range of interests and knowledge of the "teachers" naturally extended to them as well. Eventually all the classes were full with those who were interested in the respective topics. I think that the majority of the speakers weren't teachers by profession, but for someone like me who has been involved in this for years, words would not suffice to describe how special and precious were the attention, the questions and the contribution of the "students" of all ages and professions. It was a true privilege for me to teach a class to a group of alumni of this prestigious school. There is no doubt that, when I will look back years later, this experience will occupy a most valuable and unique place among my memories.

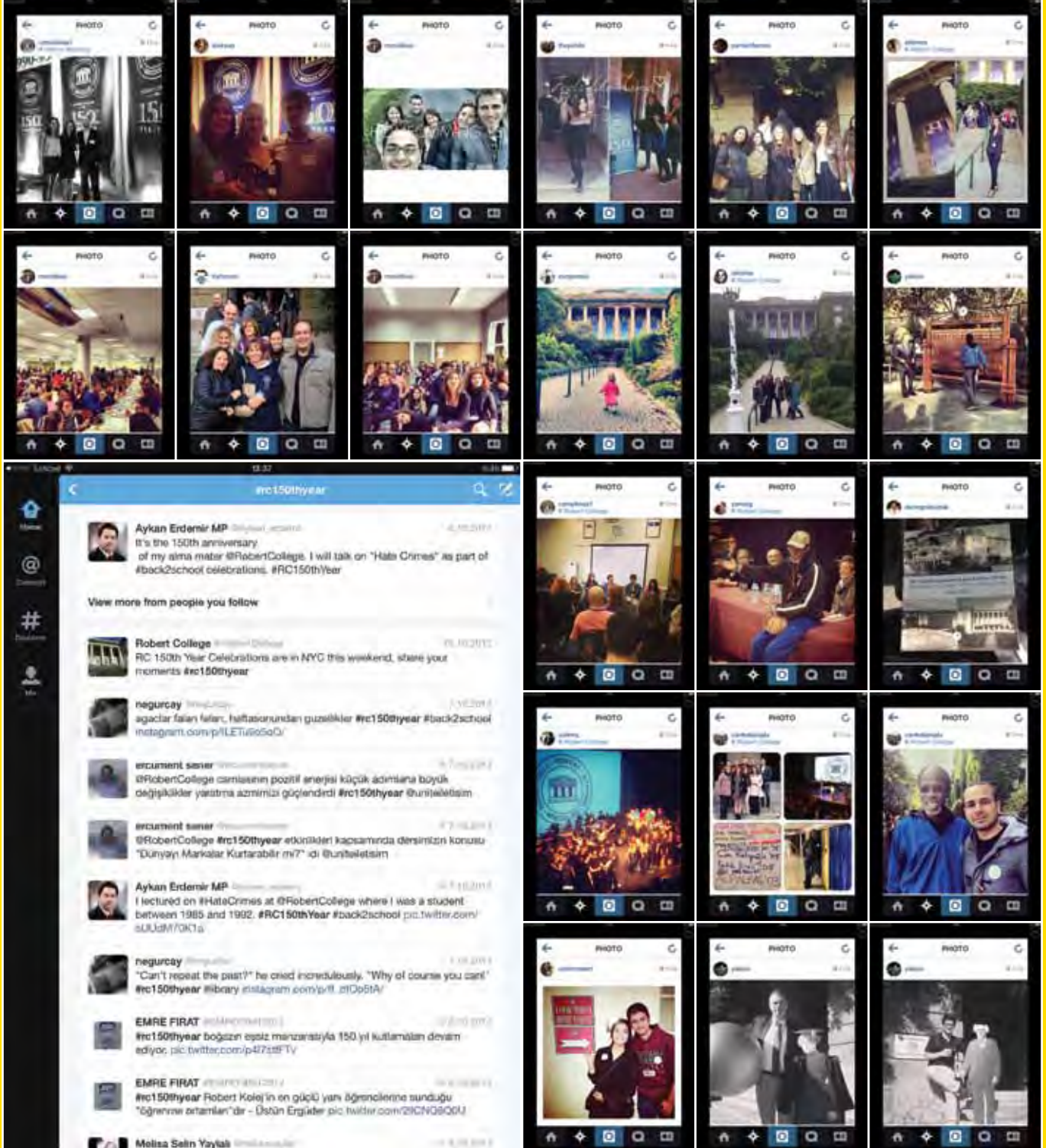
**Seda Binbaşgil RC 79**



# The 150<sup>th</sup> Year in Social Media



#rc150thyear  
#robertcollege  
#rc150





ROBERT COLLEGE  
1863150<sup>TH</sup>  
YIL | YEAR

# Decades Party in New York

Two weeks after the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary events in Istanbul, celebrations moved to the other side of the Atlantic for the New York Celebration Weekend. Festivities kicked off on the evening of Friday, October 18, 2013, with the Decades Party at the Altman Building in Chelsea. Alumni from almost every class

from the '50s to 2013 were present, and turnout was especially high among recent graduates, who stayed on well after the party ended to catch up with their classmates. RC graduates also enjoyed seeing former headmasters John Chandler, Christopher Wadsworth and Jim Maggart.



2009 graduates Nazlı Erel, Ege Gülcan and Tan Albayrak



From L to R: Tamar Manuelyan Atınç RC 75, Engin Ölçer RC 75 and Deniz Özkaraca Seden RC 73



From L to R: Baran Güvenal RC 11, Feza Güvenal RC 80, Jim Maggart, John and Jan Notz





RC 99 grads Batu Şat from California and Tolga Gönemli from İstanbul meet up in New York



RC 83 classmates from L to R: İzi Kohen, Nadire Berker, Meltem Kadioğlu Küçükkoğlu, Suzan Penso, Jean Manas, Başak Kotler, Oya Avunduk Yürekli and Bige Doruk



Friends from the Class of '79 from L to R: Erol Keçeci, Emel Güveniş Tambor, Fidan Genç, Dilek Diltemiz, Karen Gorştayn and Sertaç Kip



Trustees Emeriti Charles Hoppin and Öner Akgerman  
RC YÜK 65



From L to R: Bülent Akgerman RC 88, Michelle Tully, Ali Şevket Karaca RC 85, Ersin Akarlılar RC 87, Levent Kahraman RC 88 and Murat Özen RC 88



Generations of RC families enjoyed the evening together. Bedia Berker, Emin Berker RC 18 and Oya Başak ACG 55



Recent graduates catch up in NY: Feyza Haskaraman RC 12, Meriç Ateşalp RC 13, Mine Lozan RC 12, Leyla Levi RC 12 and Baturay Türkmen RC 12



ACG 70 classmates from L to R: Şeyla Benhabib, Ayşe Yönder, Ümran Üngün and Nilgün Gökğür





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



# New York Gala Dinner

“ Fifty years ago, President John Kennedy marked the college's centennial by citing its many contributions to economic and social progress in the Near East; and tonight, we look forward with anticipation to the future, in which we can expect it to play an even more important part. ”

- Former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright

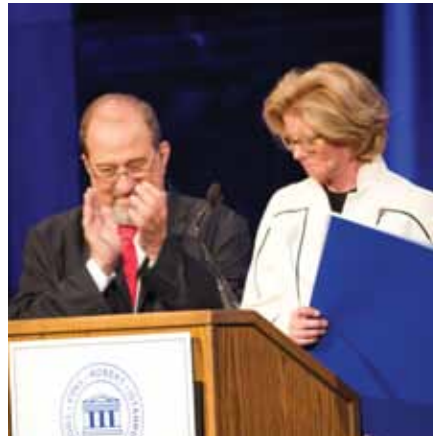
Former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright praised the school and its accomplishments in her insightful keynote speech to a crowd of over 450 at the benefit dinner for the Robert College Scholarship Fund. The evening, held on Saturday, October 19, 2013 at Cipriani 42<sup>nd</sup>

Street, provided a wonderful opportunity for alumni and friends of Robert College, who had traveled from all over the world, to come together and celebrate the legacy of this special school. Among the many highlights of the evening was an announcement that Mayor Michael Bloomberg had proclaimed the day as

Robert College Day in the City of New York. The 150<sup>th</sup> Committee Co-chairs, Nina J. Köprülü and Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 read the proclamation to an audience that included descendants of founders and early leaders of Robert College.



Headmaster Anthony Jones, Rahmi M. Koç RC 51 and former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright



150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Co-chairs Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 and Nina J. Köprülü reading the proclamation from NY Mayor Michael Bloomberg declaring October 19, 2013 Robert College Day in the City of New York



Former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, keynote speaker





Classmates and friends catching up at the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner cocktail reception



Headmaster Anthony Jones



150<sup>th</sup> Campaign Co-chair and Trustee  
Ipek Cem Taha RC 85



Serpil Güran, Refik Güran RC 60 and Ayşe Onat  
Doğruer ACG 63



Russell Barnes, Murat Şehidoğlu RC 72, Ali İz RC 72,  
and Esti Barnes ACG 71



Sinan Tümer RA 69, Nilgün Tümer RC 74, Belgin Balin  
Akgerman RC YÜK 66 and Nuri Akgerman RA 62



From L to R: Banu Tansever Roso RC 89, Juan Leon,  
Moris Roso, Deniz Razon RC 89, Gautam Chawla and  
Bahar Kural Chawla RC 90



Nancy Hoppin, Charles S. Hoppin (Trustee Emeritus),  
former Headmaster John Chandler, Tania Chandler  
and Attila Aşkar



From L to R: Jak Barbut RA 70, Belkis Emory, Denise  
Barbut RC 72, Trustee Margaret Mathews RC 75 and  
Cihan Sultanoğlu RC 75

## New York Gala Dinner Benefit Committee

Öner Akgerman RC YÜK 65, Neşe

Akgerman and Bülent Akgerman RC 88

Leslie Armstrong

Semahat Arsel ACG 49

Kemal Aşkar RC 94 and Shirley Au

Işık Keçeci Aşur RC85 and Mustafa Aşur

Feyyaz Berker RC ENG 46

Nuri M. Çolakoğlu RA 62

Catherine and David Cuthell

Arwa Damon RC 94

Emre Derman RC 84

Anne Dias Griffin

Oya and Bülent Eczacıbaşı

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The Family of Barbara L. Zinsser

## Columbia Symposium and RC Archives Viewing

Columbia University was the host of a unique symposium and an exhibition of Robert College archival material on Saturday, October 19. The panel speakers for the symposium, titled "The Center of the World: RC at 150", were historian and Cyrus Hamlin

descendant Ted Widmer, Trustee Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62, Trustee İpek Cem Taha RC 85, Ömer Alaettinoğlu RC 12, and Headmaster Anthony Jones. The speakers shared their memories of the school and discussed its impact on their lives and society before answering questions from the audience. Across

campus in Butler Library's Rare Book and Manuscript Library, where the Robert College Archives are held, visitors were able to view and browse through seldom-seen documents, correspondence and photos from the early years of the college.



Symposium speakers from L to R: Headmaster Anthony Jones, İpek Cem Taha RC 85, Ted Widmer, Ömer Alaettinoğlu RC 12 and Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62



Members of the RC community pore over a special selection of documents and photos at the Archives Viewing in Butler Library's Rare Book Collection at Columbia University



# RC Speaker Series at Pera Museum

As part of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, the RC community and friends are coming together for RC Talks.

The speaker series is part of the theme of "Life-long learning" that began with the Back2School (B2S) event in October, and takes place twice a month at the Pera Museum. Audiences have the opportunity to listen to various RC alumni who are experts in their fields. The talks are open to the public. RC would like to thank the Istanbul Research Institute and Pera Museum for their generous support.

The series started with **Cüneyt Ülsever RA 70** on December 3, 2013 with his talk titled "Where is Turkey Headed?" The talk drew a lot of attention, and those who missed his presentation on B2S day were glad to have a second chance to hear him.

Ülsever was followed by well-known figure **Ömer Madra RA 64** with his talk titled "Climate Change as a Business Model: Can Capitalism Change or Create Change?" on December 17, 2013. A diverse audience filled the auditorium to listen to Madra, curious to know how to slow down climate change.

The third talk was given by academician, writer **Nükhet Sirman RC 72**, on January 14, 2014 on "Women in the Peace Process". Sirman talked about women and the role they play during war and peace periods.

**Gündüz Vassaf RA 64** discussed "Where Did We Come From, Where Are We Going: a Look at Our Species From the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century" on January 28, 2014. Vassaf, the respected writer, academician and journalist, drew a large audience.

The fifth talk of the series was given by **İbrahim Betil RA 64**. He spoke to a large audience about "Sustainability and Social Responsibility". Also attending were many RC students who are involved in CIPs at school.



Cüneyt Ülsever RA 70



Ömer Madra RA 64



Nükhet Sirman RC 72



Gündüz Vassaf RA 64



İbrahim Betil RA 64

# Communicating a Tradition

■ Işıl Arıdağ RC 78 and Ercüment Şener RC 87 are volunteering their expertise to spread the word about RC's 150-year-old tradition of taking responsibility for the future.

**W**hen I took the Robert College Exam, for my family, any option other than Robert College was out of the question. But what had started as an inherent mission, steadily gained a meaningful depth and I realized that Robert College had much more to offer.

At RC each individual was raised as a leader. I witnessed no paradox between freedom and discipline, between winning and losing, between doubt and confidence, between safety and risk. On the contrary, I found that they all supported each other.

In this dynamism, I discovered my talents at a very early stage, and I became 'myself' with each new experience. I continue to discover myself at every moment and wake up every day knowing that "there is more Işıl" in me. With this strength, I feel a great sense of responsibility to leave a positive impression through what I do.

Would I be myself today, had I not studied at Robert College? Honestly, I do not know. But I am aware of the advantage in being an RC student. I believe that deserving

youth should benefit from this advantage. I therefore happily accepted being a part of the 150<sup>th</sup> Year Committee. I have invested my time gathering RC graduates together, to ensure that the school's values live on, and are communicated to the masses. I believe our efforts will provide opportunities to talented youth who are qualified to study at RC.

With all my heart and soul, I want to take responsibility for young people who want to attend Robert College with great determination, just like I had done. The RC mission instilled in me as a child, now survives within another generation and I believe this will last for many more.

## Işıl Arıdağ RC 78

After graduating from Robert College, one of the first assets that I realized RC gave me was the ability to communicate seamlessly with the world around me. It gave me the self-esteem to express myself freely and clearly, and the tolerance to listen to what others have to think, believe or say. Looking back, I believe that my choices in life were more conscious and educated, thanks to a method I owe to RC's educational system and to my teachers at RC. My choices

seem to have worked out quite well. I chose to become a communicator, a mediator in a sense. I chose my business partner, an RC graduate as well. I chose my life partner and chose to have two kids. I chose to become friends with them while building a relationship based on trust and respect. I chose to take them to the RC campus, let them breathe its air and maybe sense the values that made me.

That's my responsibility to my children. But what about the millions of parents and children outside of the RC circle? What if they were given the chance to pursue a better education? What if they had an equal opportunity for higher standards in education regardless of social and economic status or geography? Wouldn't they want to use that opportunity to create a better future for themselves, their loved ones and their society at large? That might sound like an ideal, but wasn't it an ideal that was fulfilled for me and a lot of my friends at RC?

I thought somehow I could take responsibility to spread that information, or in my words, infect greater crowds for what RC stands for. That's what urged me to volunteer for the RC 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration efforts the moment the opportunity arose. Thanks to wider, faster and more efficient means of communications the RC message can spread to more remote places and minds that we wouldn't even think about reaching a decade ago. Change is irreversible and thanks to RC's prospect for the next 150 years, there's more hope for a prosperous future for my family and my country.

In the end hasn't it always been, for the past 150 years, an RC tradition to take responsibility for our common future? I was just fortunate enough to do my share. So let's unite for the next 150.

## Ercüment Şener RC 87



Schoolmates and business partners Ercüment Şener RC 87 and Işıl Arıdağ RC 78



# Because the School Deserves It

■ Two members of the amazing Back2School volunteer team explain why they give back.

As I look back 40+ years, I still marvel at the scope and quality of the education I was privileged to get. The knowledge we amassed was immense, yet the ACG education was not limited to lessons and textbooks; indeed what distinguished it from other high schools were the subtly served “asides”.

For example: During class discussions, whether it be a literature/philosophy/history/sociology class, we were urged to never ever accept facts without questioning their validity. Hence, we developed a critical mind; a trait I value



so much. A second “aside” which also came out of class discussions was not to be frightened to take the “road less traveled”. This is why you meet RC graduates in all walks of life.

I feel I have been given so many free bonuses at ACG, which have followed me throughout my personal journey that I find it only natural to give back. I sincerely believe that RC has not yet reached its final destination and will continue to educate generations to come.

**Tony Hananel ACG 69**

Volunteering for RC 150 was the least I could do for the school which I believe has given me so much.

Today, when I think of what it was about RC making it so special in my eyes, the first thing coming to my mind is the natural acceptance of each and every student as a valuable human being. For me, the air we inhaled was full of love,

understanding and respect; our personalities not being suppressed; on the contrary all the necessary conditions were there for us to flourish as assertive, creative, competent, open minded grown-ups.

Thank you dear teachers, thank you dear friends, thank you RC.

**Verda Habib Falay RC 80**



## Upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration Dates

**Wednesday, May 21**  
**Gala Dinner @ Rahmi Koç Museum**

Chaired by Rahmi Koç RC 51, the proceeds of the benefit gala will go to the RC Scholarship Fund.



**Sunday, June 1**  
**Fine Arts Festival & Field Day**

The annual Fine Arts Festival (FAF), traditionally organized by the RC Student Council for students, alumni, faculty, and staff, combines with a Field Day, taking on a new dimension in honor of RC's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. All members of the RC community are welcome to this event where arts and sports will take over the entire campus for a day. There will be opportunities for the whole family to view and create art, watch musical performances by RC students, alumni and staff, and participate in sports activities.



**Save the date!** - Homecoming 2014 - Saturday, November 8

# New Faces of UNIRC Kick Off the Year!

Contributed by Deniz Can Bakkalcı RC 12

Having late breakfasts and tea around the meeting table at Bizim Tepe and coordinating the next activity of the year is the most rewarding and pleasant routine of a UNIRC member's Saturday mornings. After the new executive board of UNIRC was elected, we participated in the entertaining TV show 3+1 on Star TV to introduce our annual Community Involvement Project named Türkiye'nin 7 Rengi (7 Colors of Turkey) to the public.

Annually, UNIRC organizes events such as the University Fair (UNIFUAR), Career Day & Academies, university parties, GradLive and Türkiye'nin 7 Rengi. Activities conducted throughout the year and sponsorships help raise funds for the project. Here are some highlights of the last season.

## Türkiye'nin 7 Rengi now hosts 56 students!

UNIRC's Community Involvement Project completed its 6<sup>th</sup> year with 56 students instead of 49 students as in previous years. Participants were from the provinces of Balıkesir, Muğla, Ankara, Giresun, Malatya, Adıyaman and Kahramanmaraş. The project is conducted in coordination with Çağdaş Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği (The Association for Supporting Contemporary Life), as they provide the contacts and choose the candidate students from the provinces. Students who are successful in their courses but do not have social and financial opportunities, are chosen to be hosted in the RC dorms for a week. Our activities include orienteering,



Türkiye'nin 7 Rengi participants and group leaders in front of Gould Hall

computer education, film recording, science experiments, percussion lessons, art activities, Destination Imagination activities and many more. Students also have the opportunity to tour Istanbul's main sights and museums such as Hagia Sophia, Topkapı Palace, Istanbul Archeological Museum, Istanbul Modern Art Museum, Turkuazoo and the favorite: a Bosphorus tour! With this project, UNIRC aims to touch as many children's lives as possible, to enrich their experiences, meet with other cultures, bond with new friends, and motivate them to continue their education to the university level.

We started the preparation for the 2014 project months ago. The provinces are already determined: Erzurum, Siirt, Ordu, Osmaniye, Çankırı, Sakarya and Kütahya. As you might know, every year our sponsors help us greatly to touch a child's life and make the project possible. If you would also like to contribute to our

2014 project in any way you can imagine, contact UNIRC at [unircrkmd@gmail.com](mailto:unircrkmd@gmail.com).

## Career Day

One of the signature events of UNIRC took place on December 21, 2013, with participation by the following companies: AVL Engineering, Birsell Law Office, Ernst & Young, ELIG Attorney Partnership, Gün Law Firm, Hergüner Bilgen & Özeke Attorney Partnership, HSBC, ING Bank, Koç Holding, Mazars/Denge Denetim, McKinsey & Company, Oliver Wyman, Peak Games, Shell and Unilever. Moreover, the Fulbright Office made a presentation about its scholarship services and Lena Dmitrieva, founder of Bridge Careers, informed the participants about correct CV writing and internships. We hope that it was a useful event for our alumni to navigate their career path.

## RC Alumni celebrate 2014 early at our traditional New Year's Party

On the night of December 28, RC alumni met at R2D2 in Taksim to enjoy the music and dance. Since our friends studying abroad had returned to their hometown for the holiday season, they also joined the party to catch up with their schoolmates. As UNIRC we are glad that our party brought us together to strengthen friendship bonds and also provided additional income to help fund the Türkiye'nin 7 Rengi Project.

We work hard to contribute to Robert College and our society. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and our website to find out about our future events!

[unircrkmd.org](http://unircrkmd.org) [/unircrkmd](https://twitter.com/unircrkmd)



UNIRC board on the set of 3+1



# Telling the World's Stories Through Photography

Mehveş Konuk RC 09 has captured people's stories in Beijing, Rwanda and most recently the Balkans for National Geographic. She spoke with the RCQ about how she got started and what inspires her, and shares tips on how to take good photos.

## How did you get interested in photography?

My senior year I received the Özlem Akçakuş grant for visual arts. I knew that I would study visual arts at university, but felt I needed some direction into a specific field as well as some sound instruction to advance my skills. I enjoyed photography that year but had not considered pursuing it as a career. I used the grant for a two-week photography workshop in Iceland. I did not own a DSLR so the art department lent me one of theirs. Iceland is naturally breathtaking so even though I wasn't particularly good then, I was happy with my work and it really encouraged me.

## How have your studies influenced your photography style?

University of Chicago's visual arts program was very conceptual, and I realized that was not a good fit for me; I was more interested in doing documentary work. So I changed my major to Political Science, which proved extremely valuable because I could more knowledgeably place myself within or outside schools of thought as they relate to current events, lives and shapes of people, even the human condition.

## What have been your favorite projects and why?

I just finished a project on Bektashi (a branch of Sufism) lodges in the Balkans on a grant from National Geographic. I traveled through Macedonia, Kosovo and

Albania, visited operational lodges (*tekkes*) and tried to document how they mitigate an ascetic life in an ever-connected world, and how they are dealing with a history of banishment from and return to several geographies. I previously spent two summers in Rwanda documenting the lives of university students who were orphaned in the 1994 genocide, which spoke to many things I had been thinking about - was university education essential? How was this East African country dealing with its youth? The entire experience was very humbling. Another favorite project was documenting urban villages in Beijing - slums outside the city limits, where seasonal workers lived. It helped me become less self-absorbed and more thoughtful. Looking back I can see that my entire personality started changing as a result of these projects; I became more contemplating, more self-monitoring and definitely more fatalistic.



Mehveş Konuk RC 09

## How do you tell stories through photography? Do you have any tips you could share with readers?

I mostly follow my instincts. I like to wait a few weeks before viewing the photos I have taken so I can look at them more objectively. I would encourage photographers to spend a lot of time with their subjects, to get used to them but still retain a stranger's perspective.

Try not to fall into the trap of essentialization - an image cannot possibly stand for all truths about a subject. Finally, stories come by themselves. I spent a lot of time googling things and current events and tried to make stories out of them. But it did not work because I did not have a deep intellectual investment in them and my engagement was insincere.

## How did RC influence your decision to pursue photography?

The art department has been so wonderfully resourceful - not just towards me but towards everyone with the slightest interest in the arts - and I am really thankful for their encouragement. I do not think I would be so inclined to find opportunities for myself and be open to a lot of things if not for those five years. Being around my fellow students was also very nice; it created a very driven, inspirational atmosphere. I look at their work today from time to time and it makes me proud to have been around them.

Marie, an elderly Gisenyi resident, in her living room.



Konuk's piece on the Bektashi lodges will appear on the National Geographic Young Explorers/Adventure blog in March, and in National Geographic magazine in the near future. You can see more of Konuk's work at: [konukmehves.carbonmade.com](http://konukmehves.carbonmade.com)

# Tales of the Unexpected: Travels in China

■ On a recent visit back to Istanbul, former photography teacher Anne Hinds and her family stopped over at a place that felt more like Turkey than China.

By Anne Hinds, former photography teacher at RC from 2004 to 2010

**M**y family and I have been living in the southeastern corner of China for the past three years, in Fujian province. While looking at flights home to Istanbul in the summer of 2013 we found a cheap one that stopped in Urumqi, China.

We booked it and decided to have a longer layover than just a few hours. We ended up staying for five days. It was an almost surreal experience since it was nothing like the China you imagine or we thought we knew.

When we walked off the plane after a six-hour flight, we knew we were in a

different world. Here the people looked more like my Turkish husband than the typical Chinese Han person you picture when you think of a citizen of the Republic of China.

Let me give you a bit of history of this part of China, which is off the beaten track for the average tourist. Urumqi is the capital of Xinjiang (Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China), in the northwest corner of the country. It was a major hub on the Silk Road during China's Tang Dynasty, and developed its reputation as a leading cultural and commercial center

during the Qing Dynasty. This remote corner of China does not look like China, taste like China or even sound like China. This autonomous region consists of many different Chinese minorities, mostly of Central Asian origin. The citizens of the minority groups do not have to adhere to the rules of the Han Chinese. For example, they are exempt from the one child policy; they can have as many children as they choose.

A friend of a friend, Bahtiyar Abi, picked us up and took us to our hotel. Bahtiyar

Anne Hinds with her daughters  
Lulu and Fiona in the Turpan Desert







Orçun Dirilgen RC 05 and Anne Hinds with their daughters Lulu and Fiona

Abi spoke Mandarin, English and his dialect, which has similarities with Turkish. We could communicate with him much better than with our neighbors in Xiamen, Fujian. On our first day, we went on a walking tour around Urumqi. It was cool, dusty and grey, as if it were a part of the former Soviet Russia, and reminded me of the Balkans or Azerbaijan. There wasn't a lot of color, with grey, dusty buildings and a lot of construction. We heard that the Han Chinese are being sent to live there to spread out their ethnic group and make the Uyghur people even more of a minority. You could say there is a lot of tension in the region among the minorities and the Han, but it did not affect us in the least bit.

That first day we had a quiet day of just wandering around and eating different foods that reminded us of Turkey; from *pide* in the street to olives and white cheese. Again, I had to tell myself I was in China and not in Turkey or Central Asia. Being that we were traveling with our one year and five year old daughters we went back for a nap, to continue exploring later in the day. The sun didn't go down until 9 or 10 pm, giving us long days to discover more.

On our second day we traveled by car to where the Kazak people live in the summer. These Kazaks are nomads who move with the seasons and go to where they are needed. We visited a waterfall and were out in wide-open green space with beautiful fields of flowers,

surrounded by snow-capped mountains. Again, was this China? It is not the China I know. There was no pollution, no crowds of people, just nature and wide-open spaces. We had a lovely lunch in a *yurt* (a traditional tent) of *tavuk şiş*, *çoban* salad, *pide* and fresh fruit.

The next day we drove from Urumqi to Turpan, which took approximately 3.5 hours by car. In Turpan we checked into a fabulous B & B called the Silk Road Lodge located down a dusty road surrounded by grape vines. This is the raisin capital of China. The streets were empty because of the heat (40° C). There is no air conditioning so people lie on homemade wood beds under the shade of trees. It is nap time during the hottest part of the day and people get up and moving again in the late afternoon. After a lovely lunch we went back for our nap (after all, we were on holiday!). That afternoon we visited a local mosque made of clay, a simple yet stunning building.

In the next few days we explored more of Turpan, visiting a desert with camels by essential dune buggy. We saw more of the Uyghur neighborhood in Urumqi, and while walking around I had to keep reminding myself we were in China, not



A view from the outskirts of Urumqi

Turkey. Unfortunately we didn't make it to Kashgar, another stop on the Silk Road, where there is a famous Friday meat market. We will just have to go back someday.

I have traveled to over 45 countries, and lived in six, and I have to say that this little corner of China has been one of the most interesting trips I have ever taken. I think it is because I was expecting one thing and got another. This is one of the best parts of traveling; the unexpected. Traveling with young kids is another aspect of dealing with the unexpected and I plan to keep traveling with family in tow; there is a lot I still need to learn! ■



A native woman of Urumqi





# "Know Thy Life"

## Now, There is a School for It

A new school opened its doors in February 2014. Aptly named Hayat Bilgisi (Knowledge of Life), it offers a variety of original and interesting courses.

Contributed by Cem Akaş RC 86

As a concept, *hayat bilgisi* dates back to the Renaissance, when scholastic knowledge began to be replaced by another type of knowledge based on observation, experiment, and experience. One of the first to realize the importance of such knowledge in education was François Rabelais, who in *Gargantua* (1534) wrote about an imaginary child called Gargantua and his tutor Ponocrates, and their discussions about food, plants, the making of bread, various occupations, etc. Later, Johann Amos Comenius wrote his *Orbis Sensualium Pictus* (1658), covering topics for a child's education such as God, the earth, the sky, elements, animals, plants, minerals, the human body and spirit, occupations, books, schools, the arts, morals and virtues, family, city, state, countries, religions, and judgment day. In 1762, Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote *Emile*, his famous book on education, which he believed ought to be rooted in nature, physical

environment, and the elements that surround a child. This trend was picked up in Germany in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, giving rise to *Anschauungsunterricht* (object lesson), *Arbeitskunde* (work study), and *Wirklichkeitsunterricht* (reality lesson).

Similar classes were seen in the Ottoman education system towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1893, two classes were introduced to cover the life in the village (*malumat-ı dihkan*) and life in the city (*malumat-ı belediye*). In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, lessons about objects and the physical world of children (*eşya dersleri*) were introduced. In 1927, the first *hayat bilgisi* classes were held in primary schools all over Turkey. By the time I entered primary school in 1974, these classes were nostalgic and naïve, to put it politely, describing a life and a world already out of synch with the realities "on the ground."

### Fast-forward to 2014

There is a new school in town, and it does not look like a school - Hayat Bilgisi on the corner of Istiklal and Asmalımescit in Beyoğlu. Its location is serendipitous - this is one of the top spots in Istanbul where "life happens" - the demonstrations and the tear gas are the latest additions to the repertoire, but Istiklal has always been the gravitational center of the city, and Asmalımescit has been the center of "merriment" for the last thirty years. In its first term, which began in February, Hayat Bilgisi offers 20 courses in all; among them are media studies, advertising, art history, art management, business strategy and leadership, publishing, literature, Ottoman and Republican history, the music industry, theater, photography, graphic design, and yes, even magic. It is an eclectic structure, and we hope it will become even more so, with the addition of courses in sciences, medicine and practical philosophy.



The Hayat Bilgisi building in Asmalımescit



We are a group of five (Azmi Karaveli, Esra Aliçavuşoğlu, Esra Özdoğan, Zeynep Ögel and me), and during our respective years in college, we all attended various unofficial "knowledge sharing" institutions, taking part in them as organizers and program developers later on in professional life. Founding a different type of school that may one day turn into something like the New School of the 1930s - a more contemporary and less Enlightenmentist version of it - was something we had been discussing for a while, and in the spring of 2013, we decided to take the plunge. First, we worked out a program that would be variegated and interesting for many people; students getting ready for their professional lives, professionals looking for ways to improve themselves, people on the verge of making career changes, and others who are simply curious about



## SINIFLAR



Some of the classes offered during Hayat Bilgisi's first term

the way we live and work now. Then, we matched these topics with the leading names in these fields, and all of them were kind enough to accept taking part in this endeavor. While we worked on the program, we also searched for a place that would be big enough, centrally located, and have the right feel. We were lucky to find such a place, and grabbed it. It turned out that the owner was another RC graduate – Oya İnal RC 85.

In the process, it occurred to us that there was another, more personal type of “knowledge of life” that we could also address – the type of knowledge that would make our personal lives richer and more satisfactory. Things like which books to read, movies to see, music to hear, and places to go. Or even like what to do when you get stuck while writing your novel. These would naturally have to be tailored individually, and so we came up with a series of consultancy services.

Among the instructors during the first term are several RC graduates, including Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 (So You Want to Establish a TV Station?), Ahmet Levendoğlu RA 64 (Theatre as Stage Action), Kanat Emiroğlu RC 86 (What a CEO Should Think About) and me (Translation from English, Publishing and Editing, and Writing – Story Management).

This is, of course, a work in progress. As Theodore Roethke said, we learn by going where we have to go. Some of the courses offered during the first term probably will not be there the next term, and new courses will appear on the program, depending on what it is that people actually want to know about. And that's what makes it exciting for us – Hayat Bilgisi is a living organism, a center for adapting to a rapidly changing life and its knowledge. ■

To learn more about Hayat Bilgisi visit [hayatbilgisi.co](http://hayatbilgisi.co) or call 0212 251 4846



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## "Enter the Boys"

This is the fifth and final part of the personal recollections of Betsy Gökseel, former English teacher at ACG and RC from 1962-1997.

The year 1971 marked a dynamic new phase of the oldest American school abroad. Shed of the university, the merging of the RC faculty and administration on the Arnavutköy campus was an enormous task. Because of the disparity of salaries, the RC teachers would have their salaries frozen for years, while we poor relatives received gradual increases until equality could be reached. Most of the old RC faculty left before that point. Headmaster, headmistress, double principals, equal but not equal - it was all very confusing. The faculty restroom in Marble Hall became the boys' bathroom, and we kept blundering in, to our embarrassment. The third floor of Gould, which had housed the aristocratic long-time lady teachers from such varied ethnicities, was converted into the girls'

dorm. The intellectual elders of ACG were either given small apartments in the newly-built concrete blocks, or gently retired. It was very confusing and, from the first, obvious that the heavier-weighted men were going to dominate.

However, academically, the girls held their own, and more. The standard of English on the Bebek campus was so far below that of our girls' English that in the Lise there had to be separate English classes for years. The Lise boys - there was no Orta school on the Bebek campus - had been through a one-year crash course called SEFT - "Spoken English for Turks" - written by Sheldon Wise, whereas our girls had had five years of rigorous native-speaker English before Lise. Somehow the powers-that-be decided that we would

now use SEFT, a course devised for pre-university students, absolutely unsuitable for 11 year olds, in the new Robert College at both the one-year Lise-prep and Orta-prep levels (goodbye "Special One" and "Two"). The Lise no doubt had enormous problems both academically and socially with an influx of red-blooded young male students into what had been a female sanctuary. The administration also had to figure out how to house all these teachers who were used to luxury apartments on or off the Bebek campus. But, my memory source is the Orta school.

The decision to take boys into the Orta school was made during the summer of 1971, with a hurried entrance exam. So our first little boys were a group of 15 eleven-year-olds, five in each section to



Boys arriving for the Orta entrance exam, July 1971



add to the 45 girls already enrolled. The very idea of boys sully the sacred halls of Bingham filled most of the old-time teachers' hearts with gloom, dooming the poor boys to Coventry even before they arrived. Added to this sacrilege was the phonetic language course now followed, with emphasis on American colloquial English - "can" became "kin", for example - filling all of our ears, accustomed to teaching, and hearing, proper formal English, with horror. We rolled our eyes at each other.

I didn't teach Orta Prep, but I was the sole English teacher of all three sections throughout their Orta years, and I loved the boys from the start. They added zest, humor, and even depth to our classes. Though our girls had had their naughty moments; one year on April Fools' Day the entire Orta II class wore pajamas to school, one year a group rang the fire bell, one fiery Orta III student had muttered, "Go to hell," in Jim Maggart's math class. The boys excelled in rowdy naughtiness - locking "Squeaky Gökhan" in his locker and threatening to throw it out the 3rd floor window of Bingham - more destructive, louder, but also fun and, yes, sweet. I spent those three years trying to wipe out the sound of SEFT and was fairly successful. The worst was yet to come.

What came were classes where the number of boys greatly exceeded the number of girls, as the entrance exam took the top 110 students regardless of gender. Apparently during the merger it had been written in the by-laws that there would be equality for the girls, so several years later this wrong was righted and the top 55 boys, top 55 girls were taken, balancing the numbers. Meanwhile, however, with an inappropriate language course and a handful of girls in each class, the behavior and the standard of English was dropping. I remember my dear friend Ainslee Walls having a tantrum and throwing books all over the class when one of her boys asked what the point of studying poetry was. No longer did we even try to maintain an English-speaking rule. A very few years later SEFT was overthrown and more age-appropriate English-teaching methods adopted. Perhaps because of this short-time overabundance of boys, the boys took

over the leadership in Student Council and continued to dominate in this area.

With the boys came the cafeteria; no more formal tables with polite dinner conversation but a loud rowdy large room where Tuna Bey served delicious hearty food and the teachers sat in a separate area. Our stately auditorium became a Gym. The old purple curtains still hung, hiding the old stage, but were only rolled open for a play or a patriotic assembly on holidays when chairs scratched the gym floor. With so many boys, the one gym wasn't sufficient so the "powers-that-be" soon made the decision to abolish the Rose Garden and put up the "Bubble". We tried to stop it. A petition was circulated to keep the Rose Garden, with new and old teachers all signing, but to no avail. And certainly the Plateau—our shining star—had to be renovated. A few of us old-timers thought of lying down in front of the bulldozers, but there were too few of us left who cared enough (the current teachers were more pragmatic than idealistic).

To be fair, with the boys also came some of the old Robert College traditions, such as Field Day, which added enthusiasm and the joy of competition. And theatrical performances were definitely more fun and more flexible with actors as well as actresses. Class discussions were livelier, Chaperones at the Orta 3 and Lise "balls" enjoyed the gyrations and innocence (some not so innocent) of young love. In spite of the fancy running path and later the grassy, expertly-tended play field, the Plateau remained ultimately a place of beauty, and to the beauty was added romance, as couples sat together on the grassy slopes or under the pine trees, or on the old Société Française stone bench.

Yes, great changes came when the boys conquered, and many more changes in the following years, the greatest - to my mind - being moving the Orta School from Bingham to Woods to integrate with the Lise. The old Orta "family" atmosphere was gone, but in its place was a dynamic air. How we ageing teachers had to run from one building to another, up the heavy marble stairs and down! There was no longer a strict line between Orta and Lise teachers; we taught at all



Girls and boys studying together

levels. The headmaster at that time told me the change was made to shake up the school; "change for change's sake," he said. Perhaps he was right. The new theater (Suna Kırac Hall), the Feyyaz Berker Building, the Computer Center, the renovated library - all these modern facilities have kept the school up to the most modern and highest level of international schools.

Still greater changes took place after I left in 1997 with the abolishment of the Orta. Yet Robert College remains a school of excellence, quality and beauty. The Plateau continues to draw old and new lovers to look out over the orange rooftops of Arnavutköy, the sparkling blue Bosphorus and the now-crowded Asian hills. Many traditions are gone, but many remain and new ones are being created. We say the name of our school with pride: "Robert College." ■

The first four parts of Betsy's article appeared in RCQ Fall/Winter 2011, issue 41, p.40, RCQ Spring/Summer 2012 issue 42, p. 54, RCQ Fall/Winter 2012, p. 40 and RCQ Spring/Summer 2013, p. 42. You can read them online at [www.robcol.k12.tr](http://www.robcol.k12.tr)

# Cracking the Code to Better Decisions

How do our decisions affect our happiness and productivity?  
The results from research at Duke University may surprise you.

By Lalin Anik RC 02

One question keeps me up at night:

"How can I help people make better decisions?" We make countless decisions every day.

Some of our decisions, such as where to sit and what to eat, are less complicated, while others, such as which house to buy or who to marry, are more complex. All of these decisions are affected by social, emotional and cognitive factors, such as who we are with, or even whether someone has just treated us to a drink. As a result, our choices are often less than ideal.

Maybe you want to exercise more, avoid procrastination, or decide how to invest your money; or perhaps you are managing a business and want to figure out how many products to market or how to attract investors. No matter the context or how complex the decision is, my job is to find creative solutions.

After Robert College, I studied social psychology at Brandeis University and received my PhD in marketing from the Harvard Business School. Currently, I'm working with Dr. Dan Ariely as a post-doctoral fellow at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. In addition to conducting empirical studies, I advise companies and not-for-profit organizations around the world to integrate findings from behavioral economics into their business models. I help to answer questions like, "How can we increase employee motivation and productivity?", "How can we increase customer loyalty and repeat purchases?", or "What can we do to spread happiness and social responsibility in organizations and society more broadly?"

## Shifting the Focus from Ourselves to Others

Many of our biggest decisions involve how we spend our money. The widespread belief is that spending money on yourself, by purchasing the latest phone or remodeling the house, makes you happy. The pleasure vanishes quickly as the novelty fades, however, and soon it's part of the status quo of our conscious experience. Our research suggests that next time you have



Lalin Anik RC 02

some money burning a hole in your pocket, try spending it on someone else rather than purchasing yet another "thing" for yourself. It could be as simple as paying for your friend's meal or buying a cup of coffee for a stranger. We find that such acts of kindness not only make you happier, they might even increase your satisfaction and productivity at work.

In three countries we partnered with companies to explore how different kinds of bonuses affected their employees. These companies gave their employees money to spend on charities or on their colleagues (as opposed to themselves). We called the bonuses spent on others "prosocial bonuses". In one experiment, an Australian bank gave some of their employees a charity voucher to be spent on a cause they personally cared about. Compared to their co-workers who didn't receive a charity voucher, bankers who redeemed their prosocial bonuses reported increased job satisfaction and were happier overall.

Next, we examined whether prosocial bonuses were still effective if they were

spent on familiar faces. In two very different settings - a recreational dodge ball league in Canada and a pharmaceutical company in Belgium - we encouraged spending on co-workers and teammates. In both cases, we gave cash (approximately \$10) to some members of each team to either spend on themselves or on their teammates. Again, spending on others was more effective than spending on oneself, such that prosocial teams performed substantially better than teams who spent on themselves.

It is usually difficult to measure the return on investment of bonuses. With prosocial bonuses, however, we were able to measure the dollar impact on the bottom line—on sports teams, every \$10 spent prosocially led to an 11% increase in winning percentage, and for the sales teams, every \$10 spent prosocially earned an extra \$52 for the firm. Even small changes that shift the focus from ourselves to others leads people to be more altruistic, satisfied, and productive.

The act of matchmaking—introducing strangers or mediating preexisting romantic interests—is yet another act of kindness with surprising effects. Imagine introducing two lonely friends who start a happy relationship or two colleagues who start a successful business together; how would you feel? Across various scenarios, we asked people to play "matchmaker" and found that playing cupid promotes happiness. We are currently examining the power of matchmaking in the workplace. By getting employees to play "matchmaker" - introducing employees who do not know each other - we test the downstream consequences of matchmaking on employee satisfaction and productivity.

These are a few examples of the interventions we have developed to improve decisions and behaviors at the individual and organizational levels. The human mind is a staggering puzzle, one that I am excited about tackling one decision at a time. If you would like to learn more, contact me at [lalin.anik@duke.edu](mailto:lalin.anik@duke.edu), and let's develop creative ways to improve your decisions.





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# Paying it Forward through SEN DE GEL

For nearly 20 years, Ibrahim Betil RA 64 has been devoting his life to social causes such as improving the education system, empowering youth and ending pressure on women. His latest project, SEN DE GEL (Come Join Us), focuses on sustainable improvement in social and economic living for people in the world's least developed countries.

When Betil was approached by two Gambian men for help in developing their country, he had to look up Africa's smallest nation on the map. With no natural

resources except a river that runs through the center of the country, the Gambia is one of the poorest countries in the world, and by 2012 estimates nearly 50% of the population lives in poverty. In 2010, the UN recorded that one out of 10 children die before they reach the age of five.

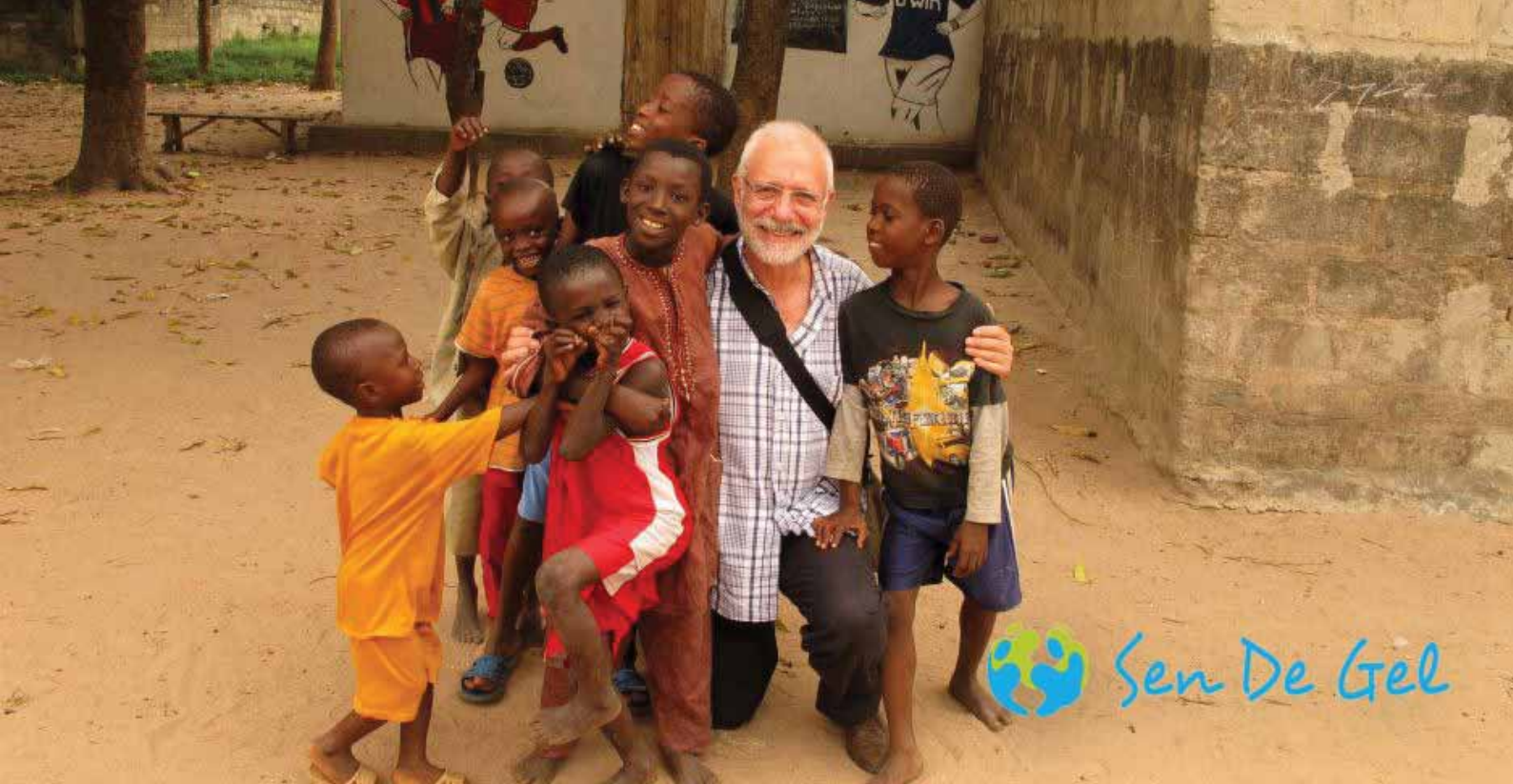
The proverb "Give a man a fish and he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime," reflects the model that SEN DE GEL has created which allows Gambians to become self-sufficient while increasing the number of people who participate

over time. For its first project, SEN DE GEL tapped into the Gambia River and, with the support of several corporations and individuals in Turkey as well as the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), they gave four villages seven fishing boats, nets and engines. As of January 2014, the villages had caught over 17 tons of fish. Part of the fish go to the fishermen, a major part is given to the villagers and 15% is sold, with the revenue going into a bank account to purchase new boats for other villages. To date, the program has impacted the lives of 30,000 people.

Children tending their goats, given by  
SEN DE GEL







Ibrahim Betil RA 64 with Gambian children.



Fishermen on the Gambia River with Ibrahim Betil

SEN DE GEL also set up an animal husbandry program whereby families are given 2-5 sheep or goats for breeding and milk. Each family is responsible for giving one out of two newborns to another family in the village. As of December 2013, the number of animals had increased from 315 to 1067, reaching 386 families in 41 villages.

In recent months, programs have expanded through microcredit loans. Five villages built new poultry farms, five rice mills have been provided, and 25 women have bought refrigerators to better preserve food and fruit juices that they sell in the market. A carpentry workshop

for youth employment and a large refrigerated depot and two restaurants for the poultry farmers have also been established through the microcredit program. New projects that are planned include beekeeping, solar-powered refrigerated depots and wells for villages without nearby water sources. In addition to investing proceeds back into new projects, SEN DE GEL uses funds for community development projects on an as-needed basis. For example, \$500 was used to repair a well pump in a village where 50% of the children had died because of lack of drinking water. They have also built public toilets,

provided funding for fishing farms and distributed sewing machines, sewing materials and computers.

SEN DE GEL, in cooperation with a local civil society organization, WACC (Women Advancement and Child Care), pays strict attention that their projects are monitored and reported in a proper way. SEN DE GEL has a team of four local coordinators and one Turkish coordinator who stays on for four to six months at a time.

Betil says, "Instead of criticizing, it is up to us and it is under our control and our personal decision to step forward to make a change in this world. In order to leave a better, comfortable, peaceful world for the coming generations, it is necessary that we should move forward to serve humanity by respecting all differences without any segregation by belief, ethnicity, personal thoughts and preference. Let's not wait for the state to make a change in community development. Civil society initiatives should take the lead towards the change. "As fortunate individuals who benefited from this school's environment and the opportunities that were presented to us, by sharing them with the local and international communities, we can make a difference." ■

SEN DE GEL aims to increase the number of members in the association, expand the projects and use the model in other least developed countries. For more information on SEN DE GEL's projects, or to become a member, please visit [www.sendegel.org.tr](http://www.sendegel.org.tr)

# The Amazing Class of ACG 63

Written by Alev Aksoy Croutier ACG 63  
Coordinated by Seres Başak Ener ACG 63

On a typical autumn afternoon at my home in San Francisco, I received an email, an invitation to spend a pre-Christmas week in Basel. I was not the only one. Every woman from the Class of '63 received the same email simultaneously. Our classmate Mehveş Arel (Geyer) now owned a lovely hotel, St Gotthard, in Basel and she had this intriguing idea of calling out to her classmates and treating them to an unforgettable experience.

I had left the country and had not seen most of them for forty years. The faces imprinted on my psyche were of girls with youthful innocence and shared stories. We had bonded inextricably during our teenage years, the most impressionable time of our lives. We all followed our fated paths, got married, had children, raised them, some pursued life-long careers, others artistic lives. Now that the kids were gone and most of us had retired from the professional world, we were looking for meaning and connections in our past.

Seventeen of us showed up at Mehveş's hotel, warmly welcomed by her entire family. We occupied two floors of the hotel and turned it into a week-long slumber party, staying up late into the night talking, sharing, gossiping and having a drink or two. What made it very special was that we were able to spend an extended time together without husbands, kids, away from our lives - what's more, in the snowy wonderland of Switzerland. This magical



Ayşe Doğruer addressing her friends at Marble Hall

week cemented our deep and palpable connection to one another.

The Basel experience began a whole ritual of annual travels and other gatherings. More classmates joined in the fun. Thanks to the brilliant efforts of Seres Başak Ener, a seasoned traveler who unselfishly organized our trips—Bodrum, Çeşme, Cappadocia, Eskişehir, the Black Sea, Kars, Urfa, Mardin, Diyarbakır Gaziantep, Antakya, Mersin, Tarsus.... What can be better than traveling in Turkey and discovering the immense wealth it has had for millennia?

2013 was a much more significant year: our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the 150<sup>th</sup> of our alma mater, and turning 70 - a numerological wonder. At a New Year's Eve party, we decided to celebrate extravagantly throughout the year and spend more time with our sisters. It began with an exquisite dinner at Marble Hall accompanied

with music, a DJ, and the singer Atila Demircioğlu, who mesmerized us with French *chansons* played on his guitar. A few days later, we were on our way to Montenegro and Croatia - awed by the beauty of Budva and Kotor. In Dubrovnik we climbed the walls of the city and sipped cold drinks along the Adriatic Sea. In Bosnia, despite the rain, we stared at the Mostar Bridge in amazement.

Then we headed on a blue voyage on a luxurious yacht sailing from Göcek. After Homecoming, it was off to Edirne led by art historian classmate Filiz Kantoğlu Özer. After that, who knows - we'll probably begin planning our adventures for the next years. Meanwhile, Filiz, Nur Bilimer, and Seres have graciously collected images from our classmates spread out all over the globe and created an awesome DVD, reflecting on our past at ACG a half a century ago and our incessant reunions in the past ten years. It pays homage to nine classmates who have passed away but still live within us and follow us at the Assembly Hall.



A classic pose in front of Gould Hall



A souvenir from Budva, Montenegro



# Creating New Memories at the RA 63 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion

**G**raduates of RA 63 celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 29, 2013, at the Caliente Hotel in Cumhuriyet Köyü. The evening started with cocktails at 7:30 pm, and continued past midnight with dinner and dancing. The alumni and their spouses who spent the night at the hotel met for brunch the next morning, and promised to get together again in five years.

Around 50 graduates and their spouses talked about past days, and danced with enthusiasm and energy to the orchestra Trio Esinti, who excelled in the oldies but goldies of the '60s.

The highlight of the evening was the chorus singing, accompanied by Ali Yalman on the piano: "RC Alma Mater", "Old Mac Donald Had a Farm", "Oh My Darling Clementine", "Oh Susanna", "Yankee Doodle", "Santa Lucia", "Auld Lang Syne", "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow", "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean" and "Row Row Row Your Boat" were strong favorites. Tolon Teker contributed to the celebrations with three folk songs and as the evening drew to a close, all the alumni sang "Old Friends" in unison.

Halit Kurdoğlu spoke of how this event was made possible with the help of Kayahan Tolunay and Kemal Dülger. He added, "We



The RA 63 Organizing Committee

began in December 2012 to collect contact information of the 82 RA 63 alumni and of our other 70 friends. Unfortunately 32 of them had passed away. Following a lengthy telephone and mail communication process, we reached 112 people. About 50 of our friends came with their spouses, some of them traveling from abroad for this celebration. A number of them hadn't seen each other in those 50 years. Consequently, this turned out to be a truly nostalgic evening. Meanwhile, we started to prepare the Reflections 2013 planned for print and to be sent to our friends. This will be a token of our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. Finally, I want

to point out that we, the 1963 graduates, celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> year along with our school's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This is also a source of great pride for us."



The Chorus



The Class of '63

# Once Every 40 Years

Contributed by Yasemin Alptekin RC 73

June 28, 2013 marked one of those lifetime events that come only once every 40 years, the 40<sup>th</sup> reunion of the Class of '73. Time flies, seasons change, years keep adding up and there you are: 40 years later reuniting with most of the same bunch of guys and gals you graduated with.

Forty is a precious number in many cultures. "The friendship built over a cup of coffee lasts for forty years," a Turkish saying goes. In the case of the Class of '73, the number of cups of tea and/or coffee consumed in the company of old classmates are enough to make the friendships last forever. It is a well-bonded class, reunited via an e-mail group back in 2001, thanks to technology we discovered in our middle age, and through social media in more recent times. In that sense, the reunion was very much like crowning a lifetime of friendship. The organizing committee, led by Ayşe Kocamaz, went overboard to make it a memorable time, and the whole event was a huge success. The music, food, bag of treats (almost too heavy to carry with books written and autographed by writers among us, a collection of forty DVDs with the songs of our times, just to name a few) and partying on the beautiful school grounds were all wonderful details of the night.

According to an informal count, the class numbered 192, and already eight among us no longer reside on this planet, but they are definitely in our hearts. We remember them dearly: Hülya Tezakın, Melike Altinkemer, Ayşe Erten, Berin Karlıbel, Bülent Asöcal, Fikret Aksoy, Feyza Akbay, and Gülten Üstünel. They were with us in spirit the whole night, surely dancing to the tune in the heavens, if not drinking. Of the 184 alive and still kicking - we used that metaphor at our



Hale Bolak and Feyza Gönül sharing a big hug.

30<sup>th</sup> reunion, a decade too early I should say - 102 turned up. Girls outnumbered the boys three to one as if we were counting the days to be back at school after a long summer vacation: bubbly, a bit giddy and silly, hugging and kissing the first person in sight crying out loud their name with teary eyes. "Oh my gosh, look at you, you've hardly changed at all," was a big fat lie overheard often; although we were not all fat and big but changed quite a bit. The rest of the conversations were mostly true to the bone, that we all went through similar gains and pains during those years. Wrinkles on the faces are like traces of the maturing years; all had happy times, or at times maybe not so happy times, and forty years later, everyone seemed a lot nicer and gentler to one another. Obviously, time is the great equalizer whether you join the party from Ortaköy, Kadıköy, Canada or Australia.

By the end of the night, maybe with the help of an extra glass of rakı or wine, everyone put all worries and shyness

behind and danced together as if that was what we had been all waiting for for 40 years singing, "Oh, let the sun shine; yes, let the sun shine." There we were young again. This was all so well received that there is now talk of throwing another reunion party on the forty-first to be able to say "forty-one times mashallah." The treat then will be, most probably, an "evil-eye" for us all so that we can make it to our fiftieth safe and sound with no broken bones.



Dancing in the Forum



From L to R: Ferda Tuncer, Nilüfer Çağlar, Nilgün Beykont, Leyla Doğan, Nihal Sirman and Figen Vinçoğlu



From L to R: Gürol Irzik, Süha Demirbağ and Ari Haddeler



From L to R: Ayşe Ertür, Feyza Gönül, Senay Haznedaroğlu and Alex Orailoğlu



# How to “Carpe” the “Diem”

## RC 78's Post-Reunion Thoughts

Contributed by Prof.Dr.Doğan Şenocak RC 78

Looking through the beautiful pictures our dear friend and professional photographer Kayacan Uğurluer took of our 35<sup>th</sup> reunion during the summer of 2013, the joy in everyone's face, the intensity of long lasting friendships, the comfort of being at home in every sense, can clearly be seen. Parting at the end of the day, or attending the usual brunch the next morning is always the same “sweet sorrow”. Promises made to make an effort to see each other more often, visit the campus more regularly, to make sure to see the wisteria in bloom this coming spring usually start fading with the rest of whatever life imposes on us sooner rather than later... only to be slightly refueled by singular attempts to bring us together maybe once a year, until the next reunion in five years starts emerging on the horizon.

But then, there are rude awakenings, reminding us that there may not be a “next” of anything, let alone a class reunion. We lost our dear friend Mehmet Uluğ soon after the reunion and another friend, Efsane Karapazar Sinayış, recently in December 2013. For many who did not know Memo's struggle with his illness,



The classic Gould Hall pose

his loss came as a shock, yet it was a great opportunity to see him for the last time, and embrace him while he was embracing life as joyfully as he always did. Unfortunately, Efsane was not there that night; it was a missed opportunity for all.

Sadly, such losses are bound to happen,

perhaps more regularly than we are prepared to face; yet there should be joy in reminiscing as well sharing new moments and capturing the day with age-old friends as much as we are able to, and maybe a tad more as well. As they say “It ain't over until the fat lady sings” and we haven't got any fat ladies singing yet.



Front row, from L to R: Albert Sarda, Haluk Şardağ, Faruk Özcan, Ani Yalçın İçliyürek, Naciye Çakır, Gülbin Ezer. Back row from L to R: Emine Tiralı, Saba Başbuğ Kocaaydın, Kayacan Uğurluer, Güliden Leblebicioğlu Ünal, Barlas Ertüküner



From L to R Doğan Şenocak, Selim Öztrevés, Ahmet Aldıkaçtı, Nil Ülken Yahyaoğlu, Nezih Canal, Kayacan Uğurluer, Hülya Öncül Kefeli

# Back Together After 30 Years

What a blessing to be on campus after 30 years to celebrate our friendship.

Contributed by Serra Mansur Soysal RC 83

The Class of '83 always took reunions seriously. Meticulous preparation and planning was made by the committee which, more or less, was made up of the same core group! When these great people get together every five years with the intention of not only catching up but also having fun, it is a real treat for everyone.

Sixty-five alumni were at the 30<sup>th</sup> reunion festivities, which started with a cocktail party on the Gould Hall steps. An excellent buffet prepared by one of our own, Alparslan Sukan's company, was delicious and the music, somewhat nostalgic, pleased everyone. Gossip, jokes and stories filled the air; no one had a minute to breathe. So many of us, in different walks of life representing a wide range of professions, living in different countries with so much to talk about. Those who had joined us from the US - Tuba, Nurhan, Arzu and Biykem (fresh off the plane!) - and Europe were especially popular!

The committee had prepared a gift pack and many changed into their new t-shirts with a huge 30 printed on them.



From L to R: Pemra Doruker, Binnur Karademir and Deniz Genay Akata



From L to R: Nurhan İshanyanoğlu, Alparslan Sukan and Nurdan Seferoğlu



From L to R: Berna Ateşer Kocasoy, Arzu Çalış and Biykem Bozkurt

Upon request the film prepared for and shown at the 25<sup>th</sup> reunion was shown again, bringing tears to everyone's eyes as we saw ourselves running around the campus, playing sports, even being serious at our graduation so many years ago.

After midnight, the party moved to the Forum where everyone enjoyed one more drink, while chatting on the steps. Some enjoyed a walk to the Plateau on this sweet warm summer evening while others preferred the Bingham Hall dormitory. Many stayed the night so they could wake up on our beautiful campus. The next morning we awoke to birds singing and fresh pastries, but that wasn't all, because we joined our families at Bizim Tepe for the rest of the morning.

It was a reunion to be remembered and repeated, hopefully without letting another five years pass!

We hope that some classmates whom we haven't been able to get in touch with will make it to the next one!



Class of '83 on the steps of Gould Hall



From L to R: Verda Kıvrak, Tuba Göksel Malinowski and Serra Mansur Soysal



## RC 93 Celebrates Its Twentieth

The Class of '93 celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> reunion on June 29. The usual ingredients for a good time were there: Nostalgic

Gould Hall location, 65 classmates, catching up, good food and drinks, Lise Ball memories, laughter and good

cheer. The launch of a class scholarship to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> reunion was another reason to celebrate.



RC 93 early in the evening

## RC 98 Comes Back To School

Contributed by Oral Bozyiğit RC 98

The magic of the numbers made it even more exciting for RC 98 graduates in 2013; it was their 15<sup>th</sup> reunion in RC's 150<sup>th</sup> year. Therefore they decided to celebrate in a more special way than the traditional Bizim Tepe reunion parties. The festivities kicked off with the pool party at Bizim Tepe and the "15" celebration cake followed by the "legendary" soccer match on the courts. The RC 98'ers then went down the hill to Arnavutköy, to the good old Ali Baba *köfte* house for dinner. Afterwards, the class got together at the



Front row from L to R: Firat Orhan, Emrah Gürsoy, Oral Bozyiğit, Sertan Şener and Berk Balcı. Middle row from L to R: Emre Dilber, Üstün Oral, Haluk Koçak, Murat Borovalı, Barış Bayraktar and Gülin Ekinci. In the background: Ersu Ablak and Atilla Yılmaz

Forum to join the party fueled by music and drinks. The event that everyone was getting impatient for eventually came; the "march" to the Plateau started late at midnight. The graduates enjoyed the spectacular Plateau view until *mantı* was ordered and consumed at the Maze car park. Dawn was already breaking when everyone was back at the dorm. The chitchat continued for a while until sleep prevailed, accompanied by the peace and happiness of being back home; or you might say, our beloved school.

## London Alumni Meet with the Headmaster

Nearly 80 alumni came together at the Orange Pub in Chelsea, London, on Friday, January 20 to meet with Headmaster Anthony Jones. There was representation by every decade from the 60's to 2013. Some recent graduates studying in the UK traveled from outside of London for the event. The casual pub atmosphere was enjoyed by all.

Anthony Jones, who was in town for a conference, was pleased to meet so many dedicated alumni who care deeply about

the school. Thanks are due to Eren Özgür RC 95 for his support in organizing such a spirited gathering.

If you would like to find out more about upcoming events, please contact Eren at [erenozgur@gmail.com](mailto:erenozgur@gmail.com).



# Expression and Exploration Through Photography

Görkem Ünal RC 93 lives and works in Paris as a freelance photographer and teacher.

Since early childhood, Görkem Ünal has been engrossed in arts and crafts. It was her strongest subject matter at school. When she was 13, she was introduced to photography during a summer workshop in Atlanta. The real revelation, however, came with the black and white photography elective taught by Mr. Damon during her senior year at Robert College. It was a decisive moment where she chose photography as a medium of artistic expression and exploration. She continued her photographic development through various classes at Georgetown University, where she completed a bachelor's degree in marketing, and later at the School of Visual Arts in NYC while she was working at Young & Rubicam in Account Management. Although she did not find in advertising the kind of artistic involvement she was hoping for in a career, she did get the opportunity to work with different kinds of photographers. This exposure to the commercial potential of photography gave her the courage and conviction to make a change, and after four years in New York, she quit her job and moved to Paris to pursue a degree in professional photography.

Görkem has been living in Paris since 2001 as a freelance photographer and artist, working primarily in fashion and advertising, and participating in solo and collective exhibitions in Paris and Istanbul. In 2008, she decided to take a break from commercial activity to dedicate more time to her personal



Untitled, Istanbul, 2006

projects, and around the same time was offered a teaching position at Spéos Paris Photographic Institute. She has been a member of their permanent staff since, teaching studio photography for the Full-time Professional Photography and European Master's Programs. Görkem has continued accepting press assignments, mainly in portraiture, and has photographed icons like Claudia Cardinale, Pierre Hardy, Alev Ebüzziya Siesbye, Nedim Gürsel, Nilüfer Göle, Dice Kayek, Hakan Yıldırım and Yazbukey for Vogue Turkey and other magazines.

Teaching has had a profound impact on her personal work. Performing a creative act and having to transmit the process to young aspiring photographers has forced her to develop the inner discipline to constantly consider photography in relation to other art fields like cinema,

painting, sculpture, poetry, music, dance, theater and performance art. Following great masters like Minor White and Bresson, she has taken an interest in meditation and the artless arts of the far-eastern philosophies in order to develop a deep understanding of creative manifestation.

Görkem's personal work explores the relationship between the self and the other, and the duality inherent in our existence in an attempt to reveal an alternate reality beyond the constraints of the physical world. She is drawn to silence and emptiness and the energy fields present within which resonate with individual and collective consciousness. Görkem exhibited her latest body of work, *Mythologies*, at a solo exhibition in 2012 during Paris Mois de la Photo, the biennial photography festival. More recently, her work was featured in the *Second Eye, Women Photographers from Turkey* exhibition organized by Laleper Aytek and curated by Ahu Antmen as part of the Semiha Es International Women's Photographers Symposium in Istanbul in December 2013.



Self-portrait, Berlin, 2005



From the series *Mythologies*, 2012



## Elif Şıkoğlu RC 97

Elif Şıkoğlu and Mike Morrissey met in the summer of 2008. It took them only six months to have their first date and start their journey together. The happy couple said their "I do's" at Moda Deniz Kulübü in Istanbul on July 12, 2013. RC presence was dominant at the wedding, especially on the dance floor.

Elif studied electrical engineering at Işık University and completed her PhD studies in Biomedical Engineering at Boston University. She is working as a postdoctoral associate at the University

of Massachusetts Medical School, specializing in neuroimaging. Mike completed his PhD in Applied Physics at Harvard University and is pursuing cancer research at the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research. The couple lives in Watertown, MA. In addition, Elif has been an active board member of RCAA since 2007. She played roles in establishing the Boston chapter and the Mentorship Program. Since June 2013, she is the President of RCAA and can be reached at melifs@yahoo.com.



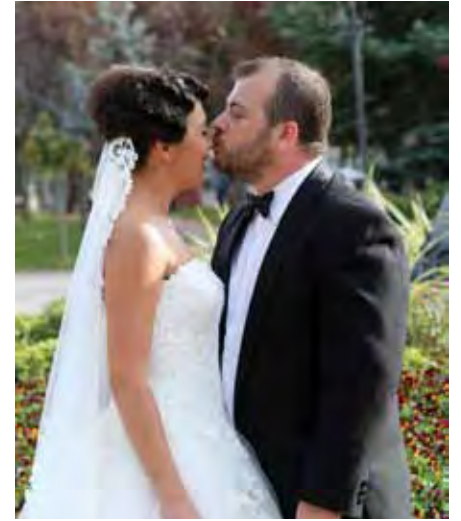
## Yasemin Sıralı RC 97

Yasemin Sıralı and Orkun Altuğ got married on May 4, 2013 at the Galatasaray Suada Club in Istanbul. The couple was very pleased to be accompanied by their loved and respected ones from RC, including Hüsnü Özyeğin RA 63 who honored the couple as the bride's witness, Ergun Çağatay RC 58, Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı ACG 59, Leyla McCurdy ACG 68, Ayşen Topay RC 76, Hakan Habip RC 80, Ayşe Tekiner RC 95, Meltem Aran and Kutlu Kazancı RC 96; Class of '97 alumni Batu Şat, Bilge Demirköz, Çevrem Çelik, Elif Oğralı, Elif Şıkoğlu Morrissey, Işıl Tümer Floden, Kaan Karataş, Nilhan Fidan, Nilüfer Aydınoğlu, Özlem Eren Hanoğlu, Seçil Bayraktar Kazozcu, Selçuk Bayraktar, Şermin Sesören, and Sinem Yelkikanat; Haluk Koçak RC 98, Emine Fişek RC 99 and Yasemin Özer RC 03.

Yasemin obtained her honors diploma in economics and French literature at Swarthmore College and completed her MBA at Harvard Business School. She is International Programs Advisor at AÇEV (Mother Child Education Foundation) and is currently assisting with the development of the Özyeğin Social Investments platform. Orkun studied Economics at the University of Texas at Austin and is a Partner at N+1 Daruma Corporate Finance.



## Hanzade Özerten RC 98



Hanzade met Emre Urul at a Galatasaray game since he is a big fan. Their relationship started on August 23, 2013 at the wedding of their friends. Love followed the next day and Emre proposed on August 30. They got married on November 24 - their third-month anniversary. Emre is an IT Manager and Hanzade owns a PR Company, AIDA COOP. They would like to highlight the fact that none of their friends and families could believe their fast act since neither of them believed in marriage. It the shock of the year for all. They believe that it is a big blessing for them, both "to be in love with" and "to love" someone at the same time.

## Betigül Onay RC 02 and Barış Özman RC 02

Even though they first saw each other when they were 11 years old, and spent time in the same corridors for seven years, Betigül and Barış only started talking to each other during university, and have not stopped since. On June 14, 2013 they got married, accompanied by many RC graduates. The ceremony became a little reunion for some of them.

After Barış studied engineering and marketing, and Betigül economics, they spent some time in Spain, the Netherlands and Malaysia, and are now finally settled in Istanbul. Barış is working for Shell in retail, and Betigül is working for YADA Foundation, coordinating corporate responsibility projects.

If you would like to contact them, they can be emailed at [betigulonay@gmail.com](mailto:betigulonay@gmail.com) and [barisozman@gmail.com](mailto:barisozman@gmail.com)



## Esen Şefik RC 05



Esen Şefik and Kutay Karatepe were married on October 24, 2013, in a civil ceremony performed by the city clerk in Boston. They met the first day of classes in an immunology class at Harvard Medical School in 2010, but it was not until a year later that they started dating. What brought them together later in 2011 was a combination of a breach in Esen's immune system by the flu virus and Kutay's exceptional tarhana soup.

They are both still continuing their

graduate studies at Harvard University and aspire to be research scientists upon completion of their PhDs. Esen's studies focus on understating how "good" bacteria, which reside in the human gastrointestinal tract, affect the development of the host immune system. Her new groom, Kutay, is interested in how stem cells differentiate into a first responder immune cells known as neutrophils, and how these neutrophils control bacterial infections.

## Ayşe Wieting RC 93

Ayşe Wieting tied the knot with Andrew Stenner in July 2013. The pair met while working for Fox News Channel - Ayşe was in the New York office and Andy in Washington, D.C. What started out as a friendship soon blossomed into a long-distance romance that got even longer when Ayşe returned to Turkey to work for The Associated Press.

They decided to get married on one of Ayşe's trips back to the US and Andy moved to Istanbul shortly before the Gezi

protests erupted, and the couple barely saw each other since Ayşe was working constantly. Even though wedding plans were well underway, the groom had not yet had the chance to formally propose. Andy finally got to pop the question to his bride one week before the big day.

The wedding brought together many people from all over the globe, including classmates of the bride's mother, Seçkin Özbilgin Wieting ACG 69.



## Reyhan Baylan RC 99

Reyhan Baylan married Kemal Sadıkoğlu on June 28, 2013. The couple's wedding took place on the *Savarona* with 380 guests. Since both the bride and the groom spent many years abroad both for their education and professional lives, a third of their wedding consisted of foreign guests.

Reyhan graduated from RC in 1999 and attended Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore where she obtained a dual degree in Applied Mathematics and Economics. After graduating in 2003, she started a rewarding career on Wall



Street at Lehman Brothers. In 2009 she left to pursue her MBA at Columbia Business School. After her MBA, she then returned to Istanbul where she became an entrepreneur, and she is now the Founder and CEO of StilSOS.com, one of the first online fashion and style aggregators in Turkey. Reyhan's husband Kemal has a passion for extreme sports such as kitesurfing, snowboarding and mountain climbing and has started his own sports companies, Optimal Group and Adrenaline Sports, turning his passion into business.



## Giray Pultar RC 90



Giray Pultar RC 90 married Meltem Arioğlu on August 24, 2013 at a civil ceremony in Istanbul, followed by a wedding reception on August 31 at the seaside Delfinia Hotel in Molyvos, on Mytelene Island, Greece. The bride is a product manager at the pharmaceutical company Actavis. She holds a BA in Economics from Boğaziçi University and an MA in Gender Studies from Central European University. Giray graduated in 1994 from Swarthmore College with a double major in Engineering and Economics. He is the CEO of Parkyeri, a software company he co-founded, which won the 2007 Deloitte Prize for the fastest growing technology company in Turkey. His most recent project has been developing

software for a GSM company in Thailand. He is also a partner, with brother Selçuk Pultar RC 94, of İntimatek, an online business software development company. Classmate Tolga Uzuner RC 90 acted as Giray's witness at the wedding ceremony. On both occasions the couple were surrounded by Selçuk and his wife, Giray's parents Mustafa Pultar RC ENG 60 and Gönül Ayda Pultar ACG 62 and RC 66, sister Eren Pultar RC 93, aunt Gülnur Ayda Üçok ACG 64 and her family, and cousin Ayşe Şahin Kutlu RC 83 and her family, as well as many of Giray's classmates from the RC 90 class.

## Berk Özdoğan RC 04 and Gülru Öğüdücü RC 07

Gülru and Berk got married at Le Meridien Hotel Istanbul on December 28, 2013. The couple went back to work in New York after the wedding. Berk is a trader at JP Morgan Chase New York and Gülru is a program manager working as part of the regional management team for BNP Paribas US. After graduating from Robert College, Berk studied Electrical Engineering at the University of Texas in

Austin, and Gülru studied Economics at McGill University in Montreal. Berk and Gülru first met by the lockers in Mitchell Hall in 2002, but lost touch with each other after Berk graduated from Robert College. Their lives crossed again in New York in 2011 at a Halloween party thrown by another RC grad and eventually converged to their union.



## Fulya Çanakçı RC 95 and Burak Güçlü RC 92



Fulya Çanakçı and Burak Güçlü met during the summer of 2011 on Facebook as they had many shared friends. After dating for about a year, they got married on September 16, 2012, at Bizim Tepe. Their daughter was born on September 10, 2013. Since they both love nature and spring, they named her Nisan. Following her graduation from Robert College, Fulya studied psychology at Koç University and currently works for Philip Morris International as a Human Resources Manager. Burak has a neuroscience PhD degree from Syracuse University and is an associate professor at the Institute of Biomedical Engineering at Boğaziçi University.

## Aslı Tekin Rozental RC 95

On the evening of September 27, 2013, Aslı and Cem welcomed their baby daughter Karla Serra Rozental. Aslı was ecstatic about her natural birth experience as she had wanted to bring her baby into this world without any pain medication. The couple briefly met in NYC in 1998, but it wasn't until thirteen years later that they got together. Aslı and Cem got married in 2013 in Venice, Italy, in the presence of their closest family members and friends. The groom's witness was his uncle, Dani Rodrik RA 75, and the bride's was her sister. Aslı and Cem are now over the moon about having their first baby and can be seen taking long strolls with Serra on the RC campus!



## Nuray Ersözlü Pakkan RC 04



Nuray Ersözlü met Kaan Pakkan, whom she refers to as "the greatest guy in the world", while she was working at her first job in 2008. After chasing him for several months, she claims to have become lucky, and after a month of dating, he was crazy enough to propose. She said yes without thinking twice. They got married on June 20, 2010 and 2.5 years later on October 17, 2012, their baby girl Lâl was born. Nowadays they are enjoying her first words and steps!

## Defne Yavuz Kazan RC 96

Defne and Emre Kazan welcomed their first child Atlas Kazan on November 5, 2013. Atlas, in a great rush to see the world and meet his parents, arrived four weeks ahead of schedule. He was born flinging his arms around and testing out his lungs and his parents are very proud of him. Defne is enjoying some time off from her strategy consultancy job while Emre is working hard to expand plentiful.com which he co-founded in late 2012.



## Deniz Yıldız RC 88



Are you looking for someone to take the load off your shoulders? Are your to-do lists getting longer with no end in sight because of lack of time, energy, motivation or resources? Are you desperately seeking time to share with your loved ones, to relax and reconnect with yourself?

Bird of Paradise may be your solution. The company was established by Deniz Yıldız, who, after 20 years of professional life, decided to apply her corporate experience, network, knowledge and competencies to help people with their personal lives. The company's motto is "Your personal concierge, giving you the gift of time". Bird of Paradise can organize the time, expertise or contacts that individuals may lack to make planning easier for themselves. The company is a pioneer in personal concierge services in Turkey.

"Being a personal concierge involves one-to-one communication with the client, to get to know the person's preferences better," says Yıldız. "My goal is to be the first person that comes to mind in various fields and, in time, become my client's right-hand person. Hence, I do not have an assistant. I, myself, am the solution provider." Bird of Paradise provides hourly services or hourly packages,

similar to services you would get from a personal trainer, language course tutor or by attending workshops.

The areas Yıldız concentrates on are hosting guests, special occasions and events/celebrations, gift creation/buying and sending flowers, home improvement and interior design, researching the internet for travel itineraries and other personal requests, personal shopping, and moving including relocation services. However, she can provide other services depending on what clients need assistance with.

You can reach Deniz Yıldız at +90 530 010 3090, [denizyildiz@birdofparadise.com.tr](mailto:denizyildiz@birdofparadise.com.tr) or [www.birdofparadise.com.tr](http://www.birdofparadise.com.tr)



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If you don't have your username and password, please click the "forgot password" link at the upper right hand corner of the page.

## Derya Erdemli RC 03

After over 10 years in the US, Derya has recently left her investment banking career at JP Morgan's Manhattan office to join Lidyana.com as the company's CFO & Partner. Founded by her friend from Cornell University, Hakan Baş, soccer player Arda Turan, and prominent businessmen including Yemek Sepeti's CEO Nevzat Aydın and Markafoni's CEO Sina Afra, Lidyana.com has quickly established a leading spot in the online shopping arena. Derya has helped the company raise its Series B capital, receiving a \$6 million funding from the German media giant Burda Group. Offering a rich selection of fashion products, ranging from apparel and footwear to jewelry and accessories as well as perfume and cosmetics, Lidyana.com has grown to become a major shopping portal for the fashionistas, as well as busy working individuals.

"Lidyana is a very dynamic place, and our day-to-day actions matter a lot, which gives me great satisfaction", says Derya, who adds that the dynamic team is able to make fast decisions and execute in a matter of minutes. The team is comprised of many individuals from top high schools from Turkey such as Robert College and Üsküdar American Academy, as well as top international colleges such as Cornell, Yale and Duke. The company is also getting a lot of attention internationally, and hosted a team of interns from the Harvard Business School in January. "We are on a very exciting journey, and hope to eventually become an internationally recognized shopping portal" says Derya.

Derya adds that the fast-paced Manhattan lifestyle was a lot of fun and her Wall Street experience was a great base to build on. She believes that her experience



in the US really helped her develop as a person and gain vision. "It feels great to come back home and try to bring in some of the things I learned in the US," she adds, and considers herself "very lucky" that the team at Lidyana shares a similar vision and mindset as her, which allows the team to make fast progress.

## Emir Salih Mağden RC 08



Salih graduated from Tufts University in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. During his studies at Tufts, he developed a keen interest in optics due to its wide variety of applications in communications, computing, sustainable energy, and metrology. He worked at The Renewable Energy and Applied Photonics Laboratories as an undergraduate

researcher, and investigated novel solar cell designs and various optical characteristics of semiconductor materials. For his work as an undergraduate student, he received the SPIE Scholarship in Optics and Photonics in 2011 and 2012. At Tufts, he was also the recipient of James Stern Scholarship, Amos Emerson Dolbear Award, and IEEE Richard Merwin Scholarship. In addition to his involvement in research, he also believes that teaching is essential for the continuity of information, and is an avid teacher himself. He considers that his tutoring experience at the Academic Resource Center at Tufts has been one of the most exciting opportunities he has had so far. "It is one thing to be listening to a lecture and another to be the lecturer yourself. Just the change of perspective or an unexpected question can throw you off, but those are also what make it so exciting!"

Salih appreciates the quality of RC education, pointing out the chances

he had been given to freely pursue his interests within classes. He says, "A lot of the electives I took were those I signed up for without exactly knowing what I was interested in. What mattered though, was that regardless of what I class I took, I was given not only a thorough overview of the material, but also an appreciation for the value in that discipline. This value is what makes people interested in what they are doing; and that is also what prepared me for the years ahead."

Salih is currently a Ph.D. student at Research Laboratory of Electronics at MIT. He is working on developing integrated lasers for communication applications that can enable unprecedented computing powers. In the future, he plans to pursue an academic career to conduct application-driven research for the needs of today's increasingly information-dependent society, and to impart the knowledge to future generations.

# From History to Poetry

## Hafize Değer Retires after 34 Years at RC

**H**afize Değer, the legendary history teacher of Robert College, retired in June 2013 after 34 years of teaching at the rather young age of 55. She started in 1979 and taught non-stop until 2013. The RC editorial team asked her about her retirement decision as well as her life at RC.

### How did you decide to become a teacher?

Actually, I didn't choose to be a teacher; the profession chose me. The Turkish educational system requires you to take a national exam, and my grades were just enough to become a teacher. I was dreaming of becoming a lawyer, or studying international politics, even medicine was on my list. But then, I became a teacher, which afterwards I loved. Being a teacher fits me. My classrooms became my stage, my temple, my lab. Now, looking back, it was the best career for me.

### What kind of qualifications should a teacher have? How do you become a good teacher?

In order to become a teacher, one must be understanding, quick-witted, and in love with his/her work. A love for people and nature is a must.

### How about teaching at RC? Can anyone teach at RC?

RC is a school that shapes its teachers.



A student interviewing Hafize Değer

Even if you don't come here "ready", it prepares you. When I started working here, I wasn't strong, or ready. It was very difficult at the start, but RC pushes you, it makes you want to be good, it becomes a must to be better; you learn to assess yourself, RC strengthens your self-control. Also, the students at RC motivate you to be better; they oblige you to be a good teacher. The student profile of this school that makes RC different, and teaching them is a privilege. They have such strong perception; they are brilliant, capable and responsive.

### Tell us a bit about your retirement plans

I could have worked for another 10 years; I legally had that right. But I was feeling very tired; I didn't want that routine anymore. So now, my priority is to rest. Every day since I retired, I have been

expecting after-retirement depression to knock on my door. Well, it never came!

I am writing. I always thought I'd be writing prose; but surprisingly, I started writing poems. I am planning to work on my poetry.

### Students share their memories of Hafize Hoca:

"At the heart of a great educational institution are its great teachers. Hafize Deger was one of those people who made RC an exceptional place for learning. She has inspired generations of RC students with her inexhaustible enthusiasm for transmitting knowledge. She had not only a very strong command of her field but also a very distinct manner of narrating, which left all of us mesmerized in each and every class. In contrast to the official curriculum, which reduces history down to technical recitations of names and dates, Hafize Hoca would always encourage us to explore more and ask critical questions about the human past. She educated us in many others ways, which I cannot possibly wrap up in a few sentences. Although she has retired, I believe that her legacy will always remain a part of RC tradition."

**Özdemir Vayisoğlu RC 12**

"Maybe it is simple to describe an unknown teacher. However, if a teacher changed the lives of many during her 34-year career at Robert College, words are inadequate. Hafize Değer has been the legend of Robert College with her *sui generis* style and alacrity. She was not only a teacher, but also a commander at Sakarya Battlefield, a senator for the Roman Empire, and a Hittite farmer. She is the hero of Robert College's history. Without her history lessons at Robert College will be different, yet her presence will always be remembered. As RC 14, we were lucky to be her last students. We are grateful for her contributions to us as a history teacher and as a life mentor."

**Berfin Torun L12**



Hafize Değer with her final class



# Faces Who Will Be Missed On Campus

## Nejat Öztezcan

RC's Plant Manager for 40 years, Nejat Bey played an important role in many of the developments on campus. He was very much loved and respected. He shared some thoughts about his life at RC:

happy to serve and to be part of this distinguished school – you made me feel so. Now it's time for me to sail away from this port. My freight is huge: I will carry my memories and my compassion for you all, till the end of my days."

## Ayşe Yüksel ACG 69



Ayşe Yüksel worked at the RC Library for 30 years. After graduating from ACG she studied sculpture at the National Fine Arts Academy. Ayşe worked with the American Library Association as the head of the European section of the International Relations Round Table in 2008 and 2010. In September 2010 she was appointed the International Association of School Libraries (IASL) Director for the Middle East and North Africa. She also acted as the executive member of the Turkish Library Association in Ankara. Her former colleagues at the RC library say they feel her absence.

## Burçin Balkaş



Burçin Balkaş with former PE teacher Dave Phillips

The PE Department's beloved teacher Burçin Balkaş worked at RC for ten years. Before coming to RC she worked in different high schools in Ankara and at Koç High School. Her former colleagues Aslı Temel and Murat Özyiğit shared their thoughts about her:

"Burçin has always been a sister, a good friend and a model to us. Whenever somebody needed help, she was there. We know she'll still be there even now that she is retired. She was always very inspiring in many ways. If we needed know-how, she found resources and teachers. She herself was a very great resource with her knowledge and experience. She always smiled, and with her reassuring tone of voice she gave us positive energy. She has great communication skills; all her colleagues love her deeply. Not only was the PE department, but the whole school was sad when she decided to leave."



Nejat Öztezcan (sixth from right) with his team

## US Universities Recognize RC Teachers

Ask any graduate about their days at RC, and the conversation will inevitably turn to a teacher or teachers who made a difference in their lives. RC teachers spend their career not only imparting knowledge, but also guiding students, helping them learn lessons about real life, and often directing them to their future fields of study and career.

To acknowledge this key role that teachers have in the development of students, some universities give incoming freshmen the opportunity to nominate teachers who have made a difference in their lives for recognition awards. This year three RC teachers received such recognitions.

Turkish teacher Mehmet Uysal was nominated for recognition through Stanford's Teachers Tribute Initiative by Ali Murat Gali RC 13. In his nomination, Gali wrote, "[Mehmet Uysal] shaped Turkish Literature in a way that made the hours of linking ideas from the past and



From L to R: Önder Kaya, Güler Kamer, Anthony Jones and Mehmet Uysal

present day exciting. Along this process, many of his classes were discussions of controversial events, during which everyone's opinion was valued. Thus, he created a tolerant intellectual atmosphere that no student wanted to leave."

History teacher Önder Kaya was nominated for the Outstanding Educator Award from the University of Chicago by several RC 13 graduates. Can Uğur RC 13 said, "Önder Kaya is an outstanding educator, because he lives with the purpose of enriching other people's lives. What makes Önder

Kaya especially important for me is his love for the city of Istanbul. Since I met him, I have grown fonder of the city that I live in. My interest in social sciences and especially sociology has been combined with Istanbul and now I am thinking about continuing my academic pursuits in urban sociology along with cultural sociology."

The only recipient in Turkey of the 2013 Yale Educator Award was English teacher Andrew LaRaia. Mr. LaRaia's nomination was from Taha Ramazanoğlu RC 13, who said "I don't think I'll be able to thank him enough for all the invaluable life lessons he taught, but I see this as an opportunity to express my gratitude to him."

In 2012, Music teacher Koray Demirkapı was nominated for the Stanford award by Değer Turan RC 12. In addition, Physics teacher Nesibe Nuhoğlu received recognition from MIT, and was nominated by Feyza Haskaraman RC 12.

## Adil İzci Dedicates Book to Students

Former Turkish teacher Adil İzci released two new books recently; a poetry book entitled *Haiku's*, and a prose book entitled *Kuşlar Kitabı*. *Haiku's*, İzci's sixth volume of poetry, is dedicated to his students, and includes over 138 haiku-like verses that are about birds. It is published by Yasakmeyve Yayınları.

"I dedicated *Haiku's* to my students because the people around us throughout our lives are constantly contributing something to us, our lives gain something from them, and when the right time and place occurs, we should give back to them; isn't giving them something in return and thanking them the most natural thing to do?"

His other recent release, *Kuşlar Kitabı* is already in its second printing. Published by Sıcak Nal Kitapları, it is the third in a

series which includes *Ağaçlar Kitabı* and *Evler Sokaklar Kitabı*.

İzci says he got his inspiration for *Haiku's* and *Kuşlar Kitabı* from nature, with the Plateau holding an important place in both books.

**Dur n'olur  
Kime baka baka  
Dinginlik bulacak kuşlar?**  
- from *Haiku's*

When asked if he prefers writing poetry or prose, İzci replied, "It's not a question of preference. I choose the style that suits the subject. For example, poetry suited the subject of *Haiku's*, while prose was more fitting for *Kuşlar Kitabı*. However, I can say that I've been happier working with prose over the past few years. I think that going forward more of my work will be written in this style."



Adil İzci, former Turkish language and literature teacher at RC



## Halet Çambel ACG 35



One of the most important figures in the archaeology world, Istanbul University's retired academic Professor Halet Çambel, passed away on January 12, 2013, aged 98. She was one of the best known Turkish archaeologist and one of the most important researchers for primeval and ancient history as well as the most knowledgeable Turkish Hittite expert.

After ACG, Çambel received undergraduate training in archaeology at the Sorbonne University in Paris, and in 1940 received a doctorate from the University of Istanbul. She was also a fencer for Turkey in the 1936 Summer

Olympics in Berlin, becoming the first Turkish woman ever to represent the country in an international sports competition. On returning to Istanbul after the Olympics, she began her association with Nail Çakırhan, a poet and architect. They were married for 70 years until his death in October 2008.

After World War II she began studying with German professor Helmuth T. Bossert. In 1947, both came to Karatepe-Aslantaş in the southern province of Osmaniye, and Çambel went on to dedicate almost her entire life to this region. She spent a long time in Karatepe-Arsantaş, first living in a tumulus and then in a modest two-room house. Çambel played a key role in the understanding of Hittite hieroglyphics by discovering a tablet with the Phoenician alphabet, which permitted philologists to decipher the inscription.

Çambel was also active in promoting the preservation of Turkey's cultural heritage. In the 1950s she resisted the government's attempt to move the artifacts from Karatepe to a museum. The government eventually agreed and in 1960 established an outdoor museum (with

some buildings designed by Nail Çakırhan) on the site. She also fought efforts to dam the Ceyhan River, which would have flooded many archaeological sites. She was able to have the proposed water level reduced sufficiently to save the sites.

Çambel was one of the recipients of the 2004 Prince Claus Awards. The jury report cited her "for conducting rescue excavations of endangered heritage sites, introducing stone restoration and ensuring proper conservation of significant cultural heritage in Turkey," for founding a chair of prehistoric archaeology at Istanbul University, and "for her dedicated scholarship and unique role in expanding the possibilities for interaction between people and their cultural heritage."

In an interview Özdemir Vayisoğlu RC 12 conducted with Halet Çambel for the RCQ in 2010, Çambel said her interest in archeology started when she was still a student at ACG and she was inspired by her art history teacher at the time. For the interview please see RCQ Fall/Winter 2010, issue 39, p. 44.

## Mergube Göknıl ACG 35

Mergube Göknıl passed away on June 3, 2013 at the age of 99. At the time, she was one of the oldest living alumni of ACG. An English teacher for over 35 years at different institutions, she also worked as an assistant librarian at the ACG during the fifties and early sixties.

In her later years, she wrote a book about Bebek. Below is her introduction to the book.

"My beloved village Bebek, I am neither an author nor a poet. I am just an old person who truly loves you. I am part of you and you are a part of me. I owe you all the days I lived with you and the memories that go with them. My mother, father, me, my



children, my grandson and some other members of my family were all born and grew up here in this village. Never being

elsewhere, I grew up here and I became old. All my memories, happy or sad, belong here with you and the white wooden house I could never forget. I did not have the heart to ever leave you, to be away from you. I searched for solace in every corner; in the hills or along the shore, I have always been with you. And I will be with you until I die. When in my final resting place at Aşıyan I will again be with you, my beautiful village..."

That's exactly how it turned out. She passed away peacefully in her sleep and is now resting at Aşıyan cemetery together with her beloved husband Halil.

**Contributed by Recep Göknıl RA 63**

## Hale Acar Ebussuudoğlu ACG 44

Hale Ebussuudoğlu passed away in June 2013. She was the sister-in-law of Nimet Ebussuudoğlu Erenli ACG 44 and Güner Germen Acar ACG 43, and her sister was the late Jale Acar Akman ACG 43.

Hale, a passionate world traveller her whole life, was very proud of her Alma Mater and her ACG education, believing

it was a privilege to be a part of the RC/ACG community.

She is survived by her sons Can and Halil as well as two grand-children, Serra and Ali.

**Contributed by Nimet Erenli ACG 44**



## Latife Mardin ACG 45

Latife Mardin, 89, author and playwright, passed away on August 19, 2013 in New York City. After graduation, she worked as assistant director on various independent Turkish films and as a simultaneous translator at the ILO (Institute for Labor). She came to the United States in 1958 with her husband, aspiring musician/arranger Arif Mardin, settling first in Boston and then in New York, where she worked at the United Nations, also completing her first book, *Of Emeralds and Kings*, a romance/spy novel set in post WWII Istanbul. Her play, *The "A" Word*, set in 1968, about an unwanted teenage pregnancy, examined the moral and social hypocrisy surrounding abortion in the pre-Roe v. Wade era and stimulated a lively dialog

in the press and social media. A quartet about the later years of the Ottoman Empire, including *East is East and West is West*, evolved into *An Ottoman Saga*, which was published in Turkey in 2009. Energetic, brilliant, compassionate and generous, she was at the center of the Turkish community in both her adopted country and in Turkey, and was the proclaimed wind beneath the wings of her late husband, Arif Mardin, whose many production credits included the song of the same name. She is survived by children Nazan Joffre, Joe Mardin and Julie Mardin, son-in-law Hugues Joffre and granddaughter Lara Agar Stoby.

**Obituary originally published in the New York Times on August 25, 2013**



## Necla Erez ACG 45

Necla Eriş Erez passed away in Istanbul on September 10, 2013. She was born a "real *hanımefendi* (lady)". She will always be remembered for her mini piano concerts performed in the Yellow Parlor during the after-dinner coffee hours of our senior year.

She was scholarly as well as good in sports, being especially gifted in tennis and swimming.

Necla was married to the distinguished former Turkish Ambassador İsmail Erez who predeceased her. She was always a great asset to her husband in

representing the modern Turkish woman abroad in their diplomatic postings.

Necla Erez is survived by her two daughters Canan and Nazan, three granddaughters and two great grand-sons.

**Contributed by Suzan Renda ACG 45**

## Gün Bozkurt Tekant ACG 46

Gün Tekant passed away on June 12, 2013. She was a much loved member of her class and was my beloved friend for many, years.

Gün had four children; her eldest Gün Güner is a professor of biochemistry in the Faculty of Medicine of Dokuz Eylül University in Izmir. Her second daughter Nur Akgerman is a graduate of Boğaziçi University and a successful businesswoman. Her only son, Prof. Dr. Yaman Tekant, is a professor of general surgery at the Faculty of Medicine at Istanbul University. Her youngest daughter Günsel Tekant studied English Literature at Dokuz Eylül University.

Gün was a devoted mother and throughout her life she contributed materially and mentally to the furthering of educational life in Turkey. She built schools and aided needy children. I would label her as a philanthropist in

her own right. Gün was the daughter of legendary Minister of Justice, the great law-reformer Mahmut Esat Bozkurt. With Atatürk, Mahmut Esat Bozkurt changed the entire legal system in Turkey: the Sheria system, religion-based legal system was abandoned in its entirety and the European Codes of Law were adopted. All this, especially the new Civil Code contributed to the emancipation of women and to the raising of the common man to citizen status. His books and writings are still studied at most law faculties in Turkey. And Gün did very much towards keeping alive her father's much-deserved legend. She was instrumental in the new publications of her father's books and essays.

Gün Bozkurt Tekant was very much a by-product of the Atatürk era. We shall all miss her dearly.

**Contributed by Prof. Dr. Suna Kili ACG 46**





## Lillian Leyla McGovern ACG 49

Lillian Leyla McGovern passed away on March 15, 2013 in Portland, Oregon. Born and raised in Istanbul, she was an accomplished student and a very proud ACG alumna. She met her husband of 60 years Walter, a US naval officer in Istanbul and moved to the US in 1952 where she had been living ever since. A master of languages, speaking French, English, Turkish, Italian and Greek, she was also a talented pianist and shared her gift of music and piano with her three children Noreen, Eileen and Jim and grand-children, Michael, Anna and Ryan.



## Halide Almas Yalkın ACG 51

Halide Yalkın passed away on April 26, 2013 in Istanbul. Born in Kobe, Japan in 1930 she and her family moved to Istanbul when she was 11. Her brothers Fuat Almas RC 51 and Rauf Almas RC 57 also completed their education at Robert College.

Halide was a charming and polite person throughout her life. She enjoyed acting during her school years, performing in the comedy *Outward Bound* by Sutton Vane in 1951. She was also the president of the sportsmanship club and her lively spirit helped win many a game.

She married architect Erdoğan Yalkın in 1955 and had two sons, Ömer and Tunç

and two grandchildren Ali and Maya. Halide worked as an English language teacher in high schools and traveled a lot with family and friends. She always enjoyed singing Japanese songs, even during classes when she was a student, because her friends told teachers that she could sing in Japanese, a rare talent indeed!

**Contributed by Sibel Almas, RC Biology Teacher**



## Zeynep Aysel (Dümer) Keremoğlu ACG 51



Aysel Keremoğlu passed away on October 8, 2013. Aysel spent most of her childhood in Anatolia since her father was a governor. She was sent to Istanbul to live with her grandparents where she attended Maçka Elementary School, later enrolling at ACG where she enjoyed music, poetry and literature.

Aysel married Metin Ayar RC ENG 50, with whom she had two children. She re-married, Nihat Keremoğlu RC 51, giving birth to another boy. Aysel always spoke fondly of both of her spouses and considered them true friends. Her college friends were also crucial for her through her entire life.

In 2001, with Şükrü Server Aya, she gathered '50s graduates and their families, forming the group RC-ACG 51-2001, and contributed to organizing group gatherings, where friendships and communication flourished. To this very day, the RC-ACG 51-2001 group still gets together.

"Her flower boutique built a bridge between her friends and was a means of communication with them. She was a member of many clubs, but, if asked, she

was most proud of her Galatasaray Board Membership".

**Ali Tarık Keremoğlu (son)**

"My mother went to boarding school and consequently grew to be almost sisters with her friends. They traveled, partied, shared good times, and bad times, involved their children, and created such a big family. My mother passed away, but left me a great big family."

**Serra Ayar (daughter)**

"My best friend of 70 years; you were always there all through my life. You've been always there for me, because I've never been without you. You will still be there for me, always."

**Necia Feridun Bayraktar ACG 51**

## Katy Dragati Dunathan ACG 52

Katy Dragati Dunathan passed away unexpectedly but peacefully on June 27, 2013. She loved her experience at ACG and shared happy stories of her time there with her family. Thanks to the College, she won a scholarship to study at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, and went on to have a family, continue her scholarship in science and English as a second language, and generally live

a wonderful life in the United States. Good at everything from science to art, she was never pretentious, always curious, always kind. Life took her around the world and eventually to a happy retirement near her daughters Christine, Susan, Amy and Andrea.

**Contributed by her daughter Amy Dunathan Hammer**



## Prof. Perihan Tolun ACG 55

Prof. Tolun passed away on May 27, 2013 at the age of 79 in Istanbul. After ACG, she studied physics on a Rockefeller scholarship at Bristol University, UK, where she earned her PhD. There, she worked with Nobel Prize laureate Prof. Cecil Powell's group, participating in experiments at CERN. This marked the beginning of her lifetime association with the center.

Invited by the eminent Turkish physicist Prof. Erdal İnönü, Prof. Tolun joined the Physics Department at METU (ODTÜ) in 1966, and became Turkey's first experimental particle physicist spending the rest of her career there until her retirement in 2001, with periods at Yale University and CERN. She remained an active researcher in the laboratory she had set up at METU right up to the beginning of 2013. She also led



Turkish scientific groups in numerous international projects at CERN and around the world.

Modesty was her way of life. She was a person of refined and classical taste. She

never stopped reading, even on vacation. Besides physics she was intensely interested in philosophy, literature, arts and classical music. Her endless optimism is an aspect of hers that I envy most. She always saw the glass half full and never fell into despair.

She dedicated her life to science and will be remembered by the Turkish particle-physics community, her students and colleagues as a brilliant researcher, an inspiring teacher and a wise adviser; and by her family as a compassionate, courteous, thoughtful and candid person. I consider myself very privileged to be her sister.

**Contributed by Müjde Tolun Simuhin ACG 70**

## Bilger Duruman RC 56



After battling cancer for 20 years Bilger Duruman passed away on May 20, 2013. Following his education at Kayseri Talas and Robert College, and a degree in Economics, Bilger Duruman worked in construction and real estate both in Turkey and Arab countries.

He launched the first highly-developed oncology center in cooperation with Florence Nightingale Hospitals and was

the External Affairs and Investment Coordinator of the group. He was instrumental in bringing world-wide innovations, including robotic surgery. Thanks to him, 1000 students got a university degree and he also granted scholarships to 150-200 students through his own means. He was awarded an honorary PhD from Southern New Hampshire University for his studies and hard work.

Besides his family, his passion was the Galatasaray Sports Club. He was a member of its rowing team in 1957 and introduced the "Galatasaray Island" to the club. In 2010, he was honored with a medal for having held a 50 year membership to the Galatasaray Sports Club.

In 1995 he wrote a book; *Oku (Read)*. With this book he aimed to provide a

better understanding of our religion to the youth of Turkey. As Chairman of the Turkish Cancer Society, he worked very hard to establish an end-point hospital for cancer patients.

He was a beloved husband, a wonderful father and a caring grandfather. He was a person filled with excitement and joy. He was always interested in innovations, always reading and doing research. He was an unforgettable person and will always live in our memories.

He is survived by his wife Renin Duruman, son Burak Duruman and daughter Gamze Vardar as well as grand-children Arzu, Ebru and Kaan.

**Contributed by Gamze Vardar**



## Erkin Üstar RC 56



Erkin Üstar passed away on August 24, 2013. Following Robert College, he studied at The Vocational High School

of Journalism (Gazetecilik Meslek Okulu) and upon graduation, worked with his father, Mustafa Faik Üstar, at their mohair export and trade business. He wrote regularly for over two decades for the Ticaret Newspaper about the mohair trade, as well as overall trade matters. Erkin was a council member of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce for over a decade. He married Figen Üstar in 1968 and had two daughters, Esra Üstar Oğuz RC 87 and Sema Üstar Wells. In 1989, Erkin co-founded the Vardar Palace Hotel in Taksim, Istanbul. He worked at this "Special Class" Hotel until his final months. Erkin was also one of the founders of

Özbi (Özel Belgeli Oteller) Derneği, its first President and a management team member for over a decade.

Erkin was a peaceful and loving person, who loved nature. He attended the Conservatory, where he played the piano for many years and enjoyed classical music wholeheartedly. A keen fan of Galatasaray, watching football was also a lifelong passion. He remained strong and optimistic during his months of illness, and is survived by his family and friends, who miss his warm heart profoundly.

**Contributed by Esra Üstar Oğuz RC 87**

## İris Barzilay ACG 59

İris Barzilay passed away on November 12, 2012. After ACG, she studied economics at Cologne University, where her graduation thesis was on "Turkish Workers in Germany", and worked at the National Productivity Center in Ankara from 1968-1969.

İris was a loving mother and my very best friend. Quite often, we didn't need words; we could feel each other's thoughts.

She was a kind, gentle, loving and very strong person. She lived by her principles and had an amazingly solid inner strength. She was a true lover of nature and was careful to conserve water and other

limited resources so as not to waste and save for future generations.

She reflected these values to others through her warm smile, optimism, self-respect and confidence. For me, she was always the best example of how to cope with welcome surprises, as well as the toughest challenges in life.

She was extremely fortunate to have lifelong friends by her side for over 50 years. At our home in Etiler and at Sedef Island where she loved to spend summers, the warmth and strong bonds of these friendships were with her. I feel extremely fortunate that İris was my mother, her



values and way of life will always be with me and guide me all my life. To her grandson(s) that she loved deeply, I hope we can be as great parents as she has been to me.

**Contributed by Emre Barzilay**

## Şerifnaz Güneş Bilgin ACG 60



Şerifnaz Bilgin passed away in July 2013. Her grand-daughter Serra Bilgin RC 13 and her classmate Hale Bilimer Bozkurt ACG 60 wrote the following tributes.

My dear grandmother always drew attention with her elegance and grace. Her final touch made the simplest floral arrangement a piece of art. Yet, she was a modest woman. During her long battle

with cancer, she never reflected her pain on family and friends. After her diagnosis, one of my grandmother's biggest wishes was to witness my graduation from her beloved school. Even at the last stage of her disease she found the strength to attend my graduation and sing "Alma Mater" one last time with the same passion she had 53 years ago.

Now that she's not with us, we have seen that she was the cement of the family binding us all together.

For Şerifnaz's write-up in the 1960 Record, I had emphasized her hidden virtues and hidden sense of humor. I was a witness to these and many of her other qualities like reliability, modesty, kindness and sensibility because we were very

close friends from the age of eleven and shared a room for the last three years of our College life. Şerifnaz enchanted everyone who knew her with her mild and angel-like personality. She had great tolerance towards life and people. She struggled without complaint and with dignity during her long and difficult illness.

She kept her smile and joy of life in spite of all the health complications she underwent and whenever she felt better, she did not miss any chance to be with her friends and loved ones. I do not know, how we, her friends will manage to get together and be merry again without her; but it is for sure that her place in our hearts will be forever.

## Tuna Çanakçılı ACG 60

Tuna Çanakçılı passed away in December 2013.

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, you took the one less travelled by. Then one afternoon hearing that you were gone like a breeze to find your way back to your homeland.

Tuna, you were a charming girl with your light green eyes and intelligent humor. Also, a good cook and irresistible storyteller.

Our days in school, our days in life, our memories with cheers and tears are all sealed in a tiny box and seated by me. I hope all my blessings will accompany

you through green, green fields, crystal clear waters, moonlight lit pathways.

**Contributed by Esin Şerbetçi ACG 60**

## Emine Durukan Bulutay ACG 63

We lost our dear friend Emine Durukan Bulutay on March 6, 2013. Emine was one of the truly estimable people. She always used her sharp mind positively and modestly. Our friend was a person of 'fine-tuning in all her relations; never asked personal questions or embarrassed her friends. When her friends received good grades, she used to rejoice by jumping up and down like a child. After all, she was one of the youngest among us! She was very angry when she was elected the most innocent member of our class. She sulked for about a week and when asked what she was doing, she told us "tosarıyorum" a term used in her beloved Giresun for "I am sulking". Her unforgettable observation about our College was "We learned that writing



too long on a subject is even worse than writing too little." This was, in fact the essence of our College education.

After ACG, Emine studied law at Istanbul University and worked at the Turkish Statistical Institute. For a while she also practiced law with high social consciousness.

She is survived by her husband Prof. Dr. Tuncer Bulutay who is establishing the Emine Durukan Bulutay Library at her primary school, Giresun Cumhuriyet Ortaokulu.

**Contributed by Nur Bilimer and Filiz Kantoğlu Özer ACG 63**

## Ahmet Serpil RA 64



Prof. Dr. Ahmet Serpil passed away on November 20, 2013. 1955 was a golden year for Şişli Terakki primary school, sending six of its graduates to RC. Ahmet Serpil, one of those six, started his education on the RC campus at the age of

10, where he would spend the remainder of his early youth. During our Orta years he was a participant of early morning soccer games played on the small field behind Anderson Hall. As the years advanced, our impatience for growing up led us to cigarettes. The grove just south of the present Boğaziçi computer building, named Keşhane, was our refuge for smoking and gossip. Ahmet, being an essential member and getting more than his fair share of coughing that goes with smoking, got the nickname "Verem Ahmet" which he would carry for a lifetime. After graduation Ahmet started his studies at İstanbul İktisadi ve Ticari Bilimler Akademisi, which later evolved into Marmara University. As he was acquiring academic titles, he also managed to shine as an administrator.

A full professor by 1988, he became the Founding Rector of Yeditepe University in 1996. Under his leadership, Yeditepe grew into a gigantic institution. Ahmet's style of modesty, cheerful attitude and display of affection made him a great administrator, friend, father and husband. In his relations with faculty, students and parents, he hugged his way up into the unique position of a "Rector with no enemies". As his friends, we will miss his patting our cheeks and asking "How's my brother doing?" Ahmet Serpil is survived by his wife Hülya and his sons Tarık and Faruk Serpil.

**Contributed by Haluk Beker RA 63**



## Eyüp İlyasoğlu RA 64

Prof. Dr. Eyüp İlyasoğlu passed away on December 17, 2013. I met him in his third year of middle school. We got engaged when he finished high school and I was in my junior year at ACG, and got married when Eyüp was a sophomore at RC's Business Administration School. We went to Michigan State for his MBA. He completed his PhD at Marmara University, and became a professor at the Production Management Department.

Our daughter Ekin was born in 1972. From 1975-1992, Eyüp founded and acted as executive director for various textile and *prêt-à-porter* companies focused on international business. He was the founder and co-director of Ribatek and Trio Çözümevi, and the Chairman of the Board of Tursoft IT Services. He was the founding trustee of the Marmara Education Foundation, Turkish Textile Foundation, and Turkish IT Foundation.

He worked with the Turkish Textile and Apparel Exporters Association, the Textile Industrialists Association and the Textile Employers' Association and assumed an active role in quota negotiations with the European Union. He wrote four books on industrial management, finance, information technology, textile-apparel and foreign trade relations with the European Union and the Customs Union.

In our youth there were no mobile phones, I would hear his voice over the phone in the booth in Marble Hall. There were no computers, but Eyüp possessed razor-sharp intelligence. There were no CDs, but we were in seventh heaven when we listened to "Greenfields" on a Grundig player. There was no TV, but the movies we watched holding hands at the outdoor cinema in Arnavutköy were special. Eyüp was RA's and RC's legendary goalkeeper. He also threw the discus and



played water polo. I played the piano, wrote poetry, and was the editor of *İzlerimiz*. We merged two different worlds and were married for 46 years. This time Eyüp didn't accompany me into 2014.

**Contributed by Evin İlyasoğlu ACG 66**

## Andre Dimitriadis RC ENG 64

Andre Dimitriadis passed away in June 2013. The following are excerpts from tributes written by his good friends Ali Haydar Üstay RC ENG 64 and Tahir Özgü RC YÜK 64.

September 1960... here I was on campus, moving to Hamlin Hall, with ten new students. Andre was one of them.... our friendship warmed up, we took a trip to Bodrum on Andre's scooter in the summer of '61. What a trip that was! We had breakdowns, slept on the beach and in the woods of Sındırgı Mountains, ate a ton of cherries...

Andre was fond of classical music, mathematic and electronics, even if they were not on my priority list we enjoyed being roommates. We graduated in June 1964 and went our own ways. Andre went to the US worked in airline companies and founded his real estate company.

He came to Istanbul often to stay at my home and we enjoyed many trips



Andre Dimitriadis (left) with good friend Ali Üstay

together. One of the most interesting is the one made to Bodrum 40 years later, on two rented Harley Davidsons.

Then we repeated such trips to Bodrum and Trabzon on two 1945 model Willy Jeeps. We climbed Bolu Mountain with Andre's twin daughters. We enjoyed days on the boat, in the beautiful bays of Göcek. Andre came to Istanbul for the last

time in June 2013 and he passed away a few months later.

Andre was buddy to most of us, with his fun teasing, but friendly ways. He was longing for his motherland and his wish was to enter Turkey, from the "Turkish citizens" entrance at the airport. His wish was granted and he was given a T.C. passport.

He visited TOVAK (Community Service Foundation) at Turunç, Marmaris, together with Ali Üstay, one of its founders. On his way back from the visit, he called and said, "Tahir, your educational and cultural activities are very impressive but I'm really excited about what you're doing to repair village schools, namely "İMECE". I am undertaking the repair of 100 schools." Then he sent the necessary funds. He lived long enough to see his wish fulfilled and most of his 100 schools repaired. TOVAK and his friends have decided to create an "Andre Dimitriadis Corner" at TOVAK, so that he'll always be among us.

## Nur Ener RC YÜK 65

Beloved husband, father and friend Nur Ener passed away in an unexpected traffic accident on January 22, 2014. Nur and his family had been living in Jacksonville, Florida for over 30 years. Well known in his community, Nur had his own portable garage construction business in Jacksonville and was an avid fisherman in both countries. He had moved from New York after being struck by a bullet in the gas station he worked at. The robber did not even ask for any cash before firing his gun. The bullet which did not kill him then, now found him in a traffic accident.

Nur's philosophy was "work as you were to live forever and live as you were to die tomorrow". Nicknamed "Balıkçı"

(Fisherman) among his friends he liked to share hundreds of photographs which we found after the death of his beloved mother in a historic waterside house in Bebek.

He is survived by his beloved wife Judy and children Erim, Emine and Kerim Kaplan aka K.K. His fellow classmates are in great sorrow over his loss and miss him already. We hope his noble soul is among us on the Bosphoros, a beloved place for him. His place is in our hearts where he will always be missed and cherished by family and friends.

**Mehmet Zafer Işık RA 62**



Nur Ener (right) with Mehmet Zafer Işık

## Fatma Füsün Tüzer Şeren ACG 67

Füsün Şeren passed away from cancer on March 14, 2013. She is survived by her husband Turgay Şeren, sons Can and Emre Şeren, brother Ferruh Tüzer, grandchild Derin Şeren, daughter-in-law Yonca Şeren, nephew and niece Ferit and Zeynep Tüzer,

aunt Selmin Tüzer, cousin Saffet Özay and nephew Ferit Tüzer RC 2000.

**Contributed by Ferit Tüzer RC 2000**

## Zeynep Doğan Kınöğlu ACG 70



Zeynep Doğan Kınöğlu passed away on November 5, 2013 at the early age of 63. She was a very good friend, an excellent confidante, a very devoted and amazing mother and a very giving and dedicated wife. She bravely and determinedly fought

cancer for four years. She is survived by her husband of 40 years, Alim, and daughters Aslı (34) and Ümit (24).

"It all started 43 years ago when you first appeared on the old Robert College campus, your long hair and long skirts swaying in harmony as you walked through the old football field. I will never forget the turning point in my life, full of everything we could have and did, lived and loved together with you. You are sorely missed and will always remain our number one. May your beautiful soul rest in peace."

**Contributed by Alim Kınöğlu RA 68**

Our friendship with Zeynep has been so long, so deep, and so fulfilling that she has left a great void. We are trying to fly, but our wings are broken.

We used to talk at school, only to come home and continue on the phone. Once I even got terrible sunburn because we kept on talking as Zeynep was rowing the boat. She was the one I called when I wanted advice, information, book reviews, gossip or to share a happy moment.

Whenever I take the phone in my hand, I think of how much I miss her. She was not a teacher, but raised and gave money for the education of so many girls. She was our mentor.

Lisianthus, flowing scarves, beautiful rings on slender fingers, laughing eyes containing so much love; you will always be with us Zeynep.

**Contributed by Aslı Alpay ACG 70**



## Mehmet Uluğ RC 78

Mehmet Uluğ, co-founder of Babylon and Pozitif, passed away on November 20, 2013. He is survived by his father Şahap Uluğ, his brother Ahmet Uluğ RC 81 and son Ali Uluğ. His business partner, classmate and close friend Cem Yegül RC 78 wrote the following tribute.

When I dig deep into what is left of the past, of our bond, our friendship, I'm left with an overwhelming sense of security, of trust, of serenity, of awe, of generosity, of true friendship and of his insatiable thirst for things to come; new things, new experiences, new music, new friends, new loves, new moments, bright moments. So genuine was his hunger for things new, he welcomed them with all their flaws. So it was with music. Good was good with all its imperfections. That's one of the reasons why he idolized Sun Ra; the

universe he offered for Memo was so vast and deep and new and beautiful, you had to accept it with all its defects. He trained himself to think through music. "New pathways, new doors for those who had the ears and the soul." he would say. Those doors shaped his life, his destiny.

He wanted to boldly live the life he engineered for himself. He was courageous and uncompromising. He had his ways and he always led the dance. He never felt completed. He was thankful for what he was blessed with. He was a sharer, a giver, a comforter. He had a healthy appetite for life. Joy never left him and bitterness never set in.

If I was to choose a memory out of many, I would certainly choose the night we both listened to Sun Ra for the first time



at Kilimanjaro. That was the defining moment of his life, our friendship, our future, our destiny.

May you rest in peace my dear friend and I truly hope there is a God.

## Almila Bal RC 79

In life, there are some people that bring out the worst in you and some that bring out the best. Almila Bal clearly, unmistakably belonged to the latter. Born in Buenos Aires in 1962 and having spent the first half of her formative years there, she could have become an outsider when she joined our class in 1975. Instead, due to her intelligence, quick wit and social aplomb she became one of us right away. She attended İstanbul Tıp Fakültesi where she found her calling in life in medicine. She was a conscientious student and a responsible citizen, outspoken about the political turmoil that engulfed the country then. She wanted to make this world a better place for everyone and her sense of mercy extended to those most in need. After graduation she became a specialist in OB/GYN at Şişli Etfal Hastanesi. She was a passionate, kind and caring



physician, dedicated to providing the best treatment possible to her patients. In the words of a friend, "I learn of the death (lessness) of a dear friend, a colleague, a true physician of the underserved, a fighter for freedom and equality, a socialist patriot, a feminist scientist and an exemplary mother for her children.

Death is a dystopic emptiness felt after the passing of a friend with whom you have shared a closeness that defies physical time and space. In Kafkaesque terms, when s/he was present nothing was too serious or too difficult in this world. It will not be easy to accept your death or to describe it in words, your love will always keep us warm as long as we live, and it will always remain fresh in our memories, our beloved friend, Almila. May you sleep in eternal light and in peace". She is survived by her children, Tuana and Onat, mother, Gülgün and brother, Altuğ. Dr. Almila Bal loved devotedly, lived thoroughly, laughed greatly and dreamt of a fair and just world. Without her, this world indeed is a lesser place.

**Contributed by Dr. Zeynep Altun on behalf of RC 79**

## Oya Güneyman Kozlu RC 79

A lot of people will tell you that it is tough to find your best friend, but no one ever tells you how hard it is to let go. I had to learn what it was like to lose a best friend on January 22, 2014 though I was lucky enough to have found one 45 years ago and to have spent those precious years with her.

Oya and I first met each other at Maçka Elementary School. We went to Robert College, then to Boğazici University together; and then off into the business world, side by side. We had never let go of each other's hands. We shared both happiness and sorrow all through our lives. We were hand in hand at the Bebek shores during the last few months of 2013 and on January 21 as I held her hand one last time.

Oya was more than a friend to me; she was the one who came up with my legendary nick-name, which became my



indispensable identity: "Bigo". She was not only my savior and confidant but she was also other people's hero and angel.

Throughout her life, Oya touched so

many people's lives. With her book *Çıplak Kanser*, she tried to spread hope for cancer patients. She managed to set an example for all of us, especially for her lovely children Ali and Ayse, with her strength and dignity in coping with her condition. She always tried her best to enjoy life, love and laugh; in her words to "celebrate life". From now on, we are going to celebrate Oya's life with toasts which will be testimonials to her beautiful years.

When I look back I realize how blessed I was to have had such a compassionate woman in my life; a woman who unconditionally cheered up everyone around her. Our dearest Oya will always be with us with her warm, beautiful and unforgettable smile and laughter.

May she rest in eternal peace and light.

**Contributed by Birgül Akşehirlioğlu RC 79**

## Dalita Berk Papazyan Çamlılar RC 80

Dalita passed away on May 3, 2013.

Dalita's parents had passed when she was still at RC, and as a student Dalita thought of school as home and schoolmates as her family. She loved making friends and with her sincerity, frankness and positive attitude, she was always surrounded by them.

After RC, Dalita got her degree in Chemical Engineering at Boğaziçi University in 1985. During the course of her career, she loyally worked at one

company, Boral Engineering, where she started as a Project Manager and continued as the Director of Projects until 2011. She was an honest, disciplined and hardworking woman. Dalita was someone that you could trust yourself with and her untimely death saddened everyone who had a chance to know her closely.

Dalita handled her long illness gracefully and was strong and hopeful until the very last day. She was lucky to have her friends and the best doctors by her side, but more than any of that, lucky to have the care

and attention of our dear classmate, Dr. Sevil Gökşen Bavbek.

Dalita is survived by her husband Sezer Çamlılar RC 73 and her 17-year-old daughter Zeynep.

May you rest in peace, Dalita. We will treasure your memory.

**Contributed by İpek Müstecaplioğlu RC 80 and Feza Güvenal RC 80**

## Paul Herman Nilson

Former math and physics teacher at Robert Academy, Paul H. Nilson, died March 19, 2013 at home in Chatham NJ at the age of 86.

Paul grew up in Talas (Kayseri), Turkey, where his father was headmaster at the American Board Mission School for Boys. He returned to the United States in 1943 to enroll in Wheaton College. He enlisted in the US Navy in January 1945, honorably discharged as an Electronic Technicians Mate in August 1946. He returned to Wheaton and received a BS

in physics with honors in 1949. He then returned to Istanbul Turkey to teach math and physics at Robert College Academy. He met Jean Boniface in church choir; they married in 1956 and raised their family in Istanbul. In 1972 the family moved to Jean's home town of Chatham and acquired what became the Nilson Insurance Agency in Morristown.

Paul is survived by his wife Jean, sons Geoffrey, Theodore and Arthur, and grandchildren Colin, Sarah, Brendan, Thomas and Jocelyn.

## Richard Dewey

Former Robert College librarian from September 1992 until August 1999, Richard Dewey passed away in November 2013 in California.

His wife Judith wrote, "Richard died peacefully last Tuesday morning after a long illness. All of you who knew him, knew what a funny sense of humor he had - you'll be delighted to know he kept it until the end. "



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**WINGS'LE, UÇACAĞINIZ HAVAYOLUNU SİZ SEÇERSİNİZ.**

Sezon farkı, kontenjan kısıtı olmadan, Alan Vergisi ödmeden uçarınız.  
Üstelik, gerekirse Avans Mil Puan da kullanırsınız. Şimdiden iyi yolculuklar.

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