

RC QUARTERLY SPRING / SUMMER 2012

ISSUE 42

RCCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE



the renewal issue

Residential Life Keeps Improving at RC | Community Involvement Projects | RC in the Skies
| Journey to Indonesia | Rites of an Aegean Spring

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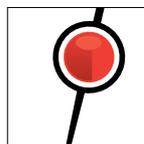
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Basım Yeri ve Tarihi

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Yayın Türü

Süreli

Yayın Periyodu

4 Aylık

About the RCQ

Our first ever themed issue last spring - Inspiration- was such a resounding success, with so many people sharing their inspired stories, that we decided to make it a tradition.

While mulling over different themes, other things coincided. After a long and dreary winter, the campus burst gloriously into flower around us. Meanwhile, as we began planning for the school's 150th year celebrations (starting in fall 2013, watch this space), we found ourselves asking how it is that this grande dame of an institution has succeeded so well in rolling with the times. A theme thus naturally presented itself - Renewal!

How, we wondered, do others do it? And so we spoke to career coaches and pilots, bankers who became philanthropists, IT specialists who became photographers, engineers who became eco-activists, institutions on the move like Açık Radyo and more. We found out about new professions based on a more holistic understanding of the mind-soul-body-earth connection, babies born knowing how to swim, and Indonesian after-life beliefs.

Most importantly, we discovered the myriad ways in which the College keeps itself renewed. From better dormitory living to classrooms of the future, our dedicated educators and administrators shared their vision of how the school keeps moving forward.

Renewal, it began to seem, is a part of who we are, whether we are aware of it or not. With a bit of courage, we can bring conscious focus and creativity to that process. Happy reading!

As always, we look forward to hearing your news. Please write to us at cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr

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Embrace Destiny

Science Award Donor Advises RC Students



Award-winner Nazlı Ercan L11 with award-founder Güneş Eğe Akter ACG 52

On stage to present the award, Güneş Eğe Akter gave a moving and motivating speech as she spoke briefly about destiny, which she said Seyhan firmly believed in as a guiding principle in her life.

In her advice to RC students, Güneş Eğe Akter said, "You students of RC are exceptionally gifted, multi-talented, highly motivated young men and women destined for great achievements. You likely believe that having applied yourselves diligently under the guidance of your teachers and parents, nothing is beyond your grasp in fulfilling your youthful ambitions. But there will inevitably be times when you will be thwarted by events. Don't despair and rail against what seems an injustice. The door which seems to be closing is in fact a door opening to your true mission and calling. Embrace the opportunity gladly and move forward confidently."

The third annual Prof. Seyhan Nurettin Eğe ACG 49 Excellence in Science Award for Girls award ceremony was held on March 19, 2012.

Nazlı Ercan, L 11, became the proud recipient of this year's award in front of an audience of her family, classmates and Dr. Güneş Eğe Akter ACG 52, founder of the award who traveled from Canada to be a part of the event. Founded in memory of her sister Prof. Seyhan Nurettin Eğe, the ceremony was also attended by friends and family of Eğe's, namely Ayfer (Doğan) Neyzi ACG 49, classmate of Seyhan Eğe; Güniz (Günay) Büyüktur ACG 60, Prof. Emerita at Boğaziçi University and student of Seyhan Eğe; and Emine Yeğen ACG 70, Professor at İstanbul Teknik University and cousin of the family. The award recognizes excellence in science while honoring Seyhan Eğe; who was an educator of organic chemistry as well as an author of a book on the same subject.



L to R: Ufuk Ercan, Nazlı Ercan L11, Güneş Eğe Akter ACG 52, Güniz Büyüktur ACG 60, Emine Yeğen ACG 70, Süheyla Ercan and Ayfer Neyzi ACG 49, after the award ceremony

In Case of Emergency...



To ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff on campus, Robert College initiated a more comprehensive emergency plan following the 1999 Marmara earthquake. The plan is reviewed and updated on an annual basis.



Student Emergency Package



First Aid Team during a drill

The Robert College Emergency Preparedness Plan was put together with the help of an engineering consulting group. It addresses four types of emergency: fire, earthquake, lockdown and bomb threat, with easy to follow step-by-step instructions and flow charts on what to do in the event of an emergency.

There are emergency response teams who are responsible for ensuring that the school is prepared and is in the best possible position to respond to an emergency when it occurs. Responsibilities are divided between different teams including Search and Rescue, Security and Damage Assessment, First Aid, Support (psychological), and Shelter/Food/Water teams. Each team has a leader and substitute leader, along with several support staff. Response team leaders hold meetings throughout the year to update their procedures, share new information,

and check their supplies to replenish them as needed. Each team has a dedicated site on campus that is their meeting and action point during an emergency. Each team also has dedicated locations where supplies and equipment are stored. The most important job is to account for all students, oversee their safety and well-being, and release them as soon as possible to their parents.

The school stores a special emergency package for each student that contains a blanket, windbreaker, bed roll, hat, gloves, socks and a flashlight. Procedures are clearly explained to all students and there are emergency procedure signs posted around school, including pictures of how to create a safe triangle during an earthquake in the residences.

"Drills are conducted throughout the year according to the emergency plan and feedback is collected from faculty and

staff in order to improve the procedures," explains Director of Business and Finance, Ümran Üngün ACG 70. "At the beginning of each year, all faculty and staff are given a presentation, reviewing the emergency response management plan and preparations to date. During the course of each year, team leaders are asked to review the procedures, check their supplies and get ready for the drills."

In addition to the development of an emergency management plan and emergency response teams, emergency preparedness to date also includes seismic reinforcement of buildings, non-structural mitigation, securing furniture and equipment, installing emergency boxes in classrooms and common areas, and training and simulation for the Search & Rescue and First Aid teams. RC hopes it will never need to implement the plan, but in the event of an emergency, the school is well-prepared.



Search and Rescue Team made up of RC Staff

Students Play Challenging Diplomatic Role at THIMUN

By Göksenin Akdeniz L10

THIMUN, The Hague International Model United Nations, was first organized in 1968. As the oldest and largest conference in Europe, THIMUN 2012 was a great success both for the THIMUN Foundation and the Robert College delegation who represented the United States of America. Nearly 200 schools from 100 countries attended the conference which took place January 22-27, 2012. There were 142 delegates from Turkey, 25 of which were RC students.

As one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, USA is a hard Member State to represent. Nonetheless, RC students successfully carried out this burden; many of them were main submitters of resolutions tackling different issues in different committees. A resolution submitted by the USA delegation in GA1 was even debated in the General Assembly. Many other resolutions were debated in other committees in which USA was represented: The Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, strengthening cooperation and international security in the Mediterranean region, strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women,



use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights, realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond, financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa were just a few of them. USA delegates in the Security Council also debated serious recent issues such as the situation in Syria and successfully represented the USA both in SC sessions and P5 (Permanent 5) meetings.

In addition to the USA delegates, Robert College also had three Advisory Panel members representing Egypt, Greece and the USA. These members attended debates on issues pertaining to the theme of the Question of the Mediterranean Region. A senior from RC, Uğur Koçak, attended the conference as the President Chair of the Environment Commission which contained nearly 200 delegates. Overall, the Robert College team represented United States of America successfully at the XLIV Annual Session of THIMUN and RCMUN members experienced the atmosphere of the biggest conference in Europe.

RC Brings Back Second Award from Harvard MUN

By Paulina Schenk L11 and Umutcan Gölbacı L9

The 59th session of the Harvard Model United Nations Conference (HMUN) that took place in Boston, Massachusetts from January 26-29 was a success in every aspect. The diplomacy simulation included around 4,000 high school students from 37 different countries.

Sixteen Robert College students represented the delegation of Ireland, and we managed to reflect our policy successfully, often spending sleepless nights to perfect our resolutions and arguments. Because the conference functions on an award basis, it is extremely competitive with many highly motivated students. HMUN also has a structure of continuous lobbying and short speeches, which is very different from the European-style MUN conferences, which RCMUN is much more accustomed to. In addition, a large number of the RC team was made up of

newcomers. Though it was challenging to keep up with the different proceedings format, the team embraced the switch from our classical debating style to a more unconventional style, and we were effective in working within the unfamiliar structure. This adaptation process allowed the entire team to truly invest time and effort in developing themselves as debaters and lobbyists.

Two Lise 11 students, Dinç Çiftçi and Kutay Onaylı, were selected as members of Specialized Agencies, representing the Minister of Finance and Treasury at Taiping Heavenly Kingdom 1853, and Marcus Aurelius at the Council of Pompey the Great, respectively. In these sessions, delegates work ad through scenarios from historical crises. Kutay Onaylı won the Best Delegate award for the second year in a row, which is a reflection of how the RC team is improving.



Not only was the experienced we gained at HMUN indispensable, but we were also quite successful. While RCMUN is strong at European conferences, by adjusting our style a little more to the American-style MUN we believe that the same level of achievement will be seen in no time. This year's conference was a huge step in this pursuit, and we could not be happier with the effort and hard work that delegates put into the preparation process. And the fact that this is the fourth year we have attended HMUN, and the second time we won a major award, and it looks like we are off to a good start!

Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Art Competition

The 11th Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Art Competition took place in the Gallery at Suna Kiraç Theatre on April 25, 2012. Demirkan Aşetey's father, Halis Bey, and several of Demirkan's classmates were there to share the excitement of the day with RC students, faculty and staff.

This year, the panel of judges brought a variety of expertise to the competition. Bora Fer RC 03, is a multimedia designer and graphic design specialist for İKSV. Fer won this competition in 2003 and has been on the judging panel several times. Özden Şahin is the co-editor of Leonardo Electronic Almanac, and a curator and Vice Director at Sabancı University's Kasa Gallery. This is the third year she has judged the competition. A new judge was Duygu Demir RC 04, who

works in programs and research at SALT. Previously, she was the editor of RES Contemporary Art Magazine, and worked as a curatorial intern at the Guggenheim Museum. Demir won the competition in 2004. Another new judge who lent her valuable time and expertise was Nuran Terzioğlu ACG 65, the owner and founder of Apel Gallery in Beyoğlu. Terzioğlu has curated more than 100 exhibitions for more than 60 artists.

The talented bunch who received recognition from this impressive panel of judges were Meriç Arda Eren L11 (first place), Özen Uğurlu L11 (second place) and Pelin Asa L12 (third place). Gülmin Coşar L11, Mert Dilek L10, Ece Tarhan L10, Leyla Levi L12 and Parla Buyruk L12 also won highly commended awards.



First Prize Winner
Meriç Arda Eren L11

Transparency: An Artistic Interpretation

By Jeffrey Baykal-Rollins, Art Department

This year's Art Excellence Project, which took place on April 18, 2012, was done in collaboration with SALT and the Silsila Collective. Eighteen students worked on the project which investigated the idea of transparency in relation to democracy by weaving together images from past and present media, creating an open archive that was transported through public space.

This work of visual art and public performance was both a re-appropriation of and response to the current exhibition, *It Was a Time of Conversation* at SALT Galata in Istanbul. The exhibition examines three collaborative exhibitions in Turkey from the 1990s by providing access to the original documents from each of these exhibitions' archives. *Transparency*, was a student response to this exhibition which brought this "open archive" out into the open of public space.

The students created a large transparent banner using imagery from the SALT exhibition, cross-woven with images and text from a wide-range of media coverage of current events. The banner

the students constructed mirrors the "Gar Sergi" banner installed in SALT's exhibition, and was completed at SALT Galata during the last of a series of workshop sessions. Students then carried the banner in silence, from the space of the exhibition back into the public domain.

It Was a Time of Conversation highlights the emerging role of curatorship these three exhibitions pioneered in the 1990s (*Memory/Recollection* was the first curated exhibition ever in Turkey), so too *Transparency*, draws from a curatorial framework designed here by Leyla Levi L12, co-curator of this project with Jeffrey Baykal-Rollins.

The Art Excellence Project is funded by an annual contribution from Barbara Platt-Willenborg RC YÜK 70. An artist herself, she created the project in 2006 as a way to support the arts at RC. The Art Excellence Project allows promising, talented students to extend their creativity beyond the classroom.

Adapted from the Silsila Collective blog silsilacollective.blogspot.com



The Sentence That Makes RC Different: "What More Can We Do?" Residential Life Keeps Improving



Everyone knows it's a privilege to be a boarding student at RC. But why is this so? Is it the wonderful Bosphorus view? Or the facilities offered to the students? It wouldn't be wrong to say a big part of it is due to the team working day and night to improve students' residential life on campus.

At the beginning of March, RC hosted a symposium called "Living and Working in a Boarding School: What Can We Do?" which was the first of its kind. The symposium, organized by Margaret Halicioğlu, Dean of Student Affairs, RC Residential Life staff and the Counseling Office, was open to staff, administrators, counselors, teachers and health personnel working in boarding schools. Participation was a lot higher than expected - staff from 16 schools from across Turkey came to spend a full day sharing ideas and experiences, brainstorming and doing workshops.

Halicioğlu says: "It's a huge responsibility having 185 students living on campus. We all have to work hard to make sure we are doing the best job possible. Unfortunately there is no professional training on residential life for those people working in boarding schools in Turkey, so what we tried to do with this symposium was to gather ideas from all over Turkey, sharing best practices. We will organize some form of professional development for boarding staff every year from now on, since the participants were so keen to learn."

RC is so committed to enhancing boarding life for students that the administration provides supervision for the residential staff. Residential heads and assistant heads for both girls and boys are separately supervised by specialized psychologists. A survey was also conducted last year to evaluate students' perspectives on their school. The goals were to understand the interaction between the boarding students and day students, to observe each group's relationship with their school and to evaluate the seven-day boarding program. Questions were put to graduates from the past five years and their parents. The results were shared with the trustees and a professional development program was designed accordingly.

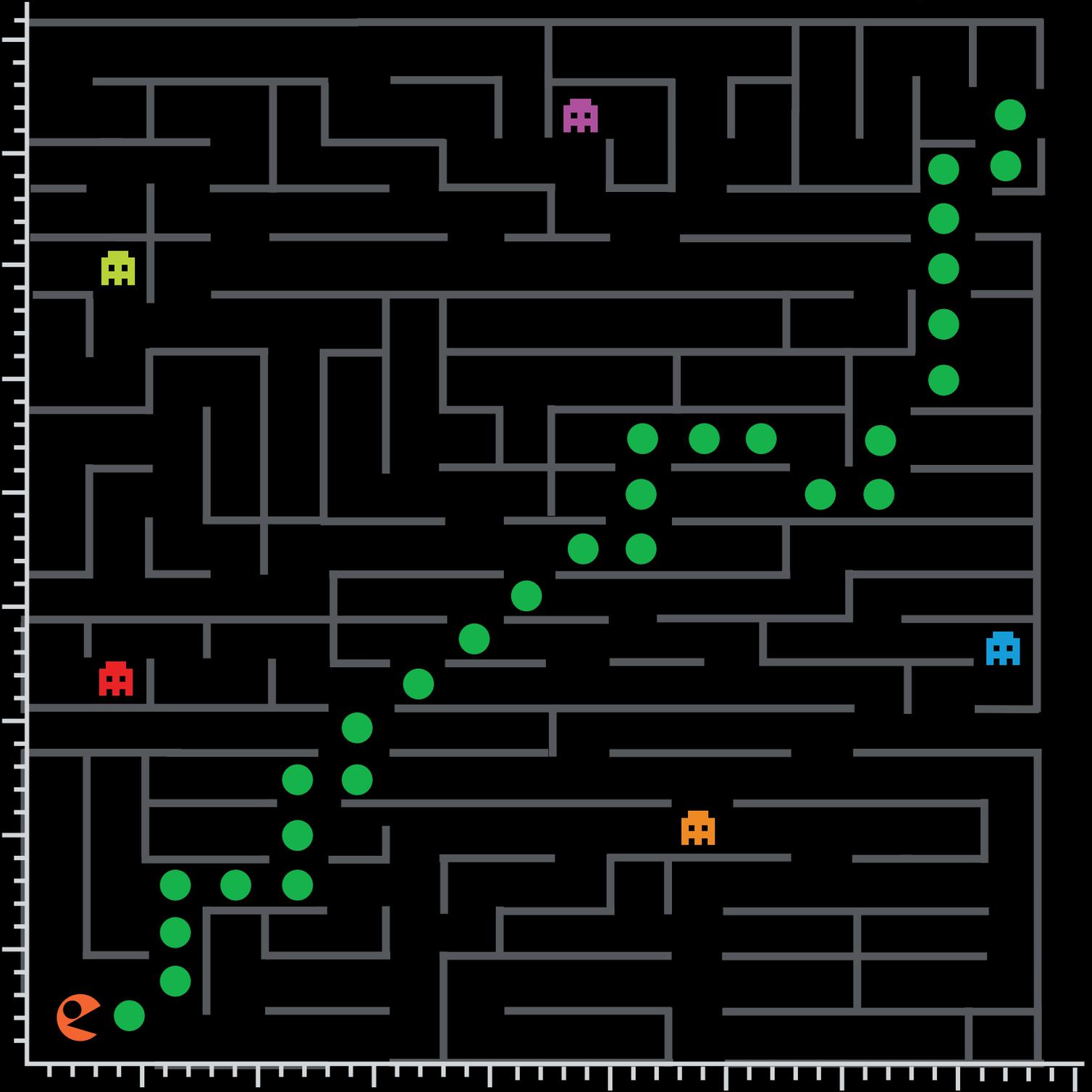
Prep parents entrust their kids to RC in full confidence since there's a very successful orientation program for the newcomers. The orientation program includes learning how to use public transportation, a guided Istanbul tour and introducing the students to one another. The newcomers take a detailed tour around the neighborhood and have breakfast by the Bosphorus.

Onur Ünver RC 06, boys' residential advisor, says the administration cares a lot about the residences being safe, healthy, modern and egalitarian. The dorms were renovated so that the students have more space. Each student has his or her own fully equipped study unit. He mentions that the residential administration trusts the students and

does not lock up shared appliances like the fridge or stationery cupboard. Also healthy food for the students is available, so that if they study late they don't have to eat junk food; the evening snack is fruit and a healthy sandwich.

Özdemir Vayisoğlu, a Lise 12 student who has been a resident of the dorm for five years, explains the changes: "I have observed continuous progress in all aspects of residential life with the constant support of Mrs. Halicioğlu and Murat Özyiğit (or Murat Abi, as we call him). I should also say that our class witnessed a revolutionary period at the Boy's Residence, as the bedrooms and common rooms were restored two years ago thanks to the generous contributions of the Board of Trustees. The change was not restricted to this restoration though; the transformation from 'dormitory' to 'residence' was an important action that redefined the perspective towards residential life."

Girls' Residence Head Berna Yeşilova, who has been responsible for the residence for eight years, also agrees that residential life keeps getting better. She emphasizes the importance given to the students' physical and psychological health and the convenience of their study environment. She says the administration and residential staff is always looking to further improve the conditions of the residences, which already conform to European and American standards.



GARANTİ İLE BORSALARDA ALIM-SATIM YAPMAK ÇOCUK OYUNCAĞI!

Garanti'ye gelin, hisse senedi alım-satımlarında ve VOB işlemlerinde Yatırım Uzmanlarımız size yardımcı olsunlar. Öngörülerini ve tecrübeleriyle yatırımlarınıza yön versinler, kazancınıza kazanç katsınlar.

RC Hosts First High School TEDx in Turkey

By Ege Yumuşak L12 and Mert Çelebi L12

The first high school level TEDx event in Turkey took place on April 12th in Suna Kiraç Theatre. TEDxRobertCollege was then mentioned in the TEDxSummit in Doha, Qatar as the most recent TEDx in MidEast. The organizers of this event were two senior students, Ege Yumuşak and Mert Çelebi, who also served as on-stage hosts of the night.

The event was held in two sessions and revolved around an apple under the theme of "Doublethink: Tampering with Reality". The students explained, "George Orwell's 1984 has been part of the Robert College curriculum intermittently. It's one of those works of literature that almost all members of the RC community have read. Therefore, we wanted to borrow an expression from the book." It proved a good pick since all six of the talks that were featured in the event were related to this theme and yet, very diverse.

The apple imagery was introduced by the first speaker, Türker Bulut, L12. Türker explained the "doublethink" in the very nature of drama and demonstrated how an apple can be anything onstage. He called for the abolition of limits of reality and asked the audience to not be so rigid, and apply drama in their real lives to get something real out of something surreal.

The second speaker was writer and columnist Perihan Mağden RC 79. Mağden provided astonishing statistics regarding the case for conscientious objection. Her call to action for anti-militarism was one that we hear a lot but do not respond to as often.

The third speaker was Meriç Ateşalp, L11. Meriç asserted that restraints in communication as a result of technological advancements brought forward constraints in our feelings. Through comparative examples, he showed how we stopped being gloomy, mortified or solemn to be only sad, or how we felt "amor" once and now it's only "luv" -not even love. "So next time, you're sad, try to be more than that," he concluded.

The first session ended with a screening of Elizabeth Gilbert's famous talk and a



Değer Turan L12



Perihan Mağden RC 79



Türker Bulut L12

performance by Off Keys with Cemre Necefbaşı, the Nardis-award winning jazz vocalist from the class of 2013.

The second session opened with another screening, Daniel Gilbert's "Why Are We Happy?". Faculty member Jake Becker took the floor next. Becker took his cue from Darwin and the evolution of facial expressions and asked everyone if they knew what their facial expression was at that moment. In his groundbreaking talk, he analyzed the sincerity, the effectiveness and the originality of our facial expressions. How much do we borrow from others? Do we grow out of them? He ended his talk on a thoughtful note: "So my call to action is this: Before every face you've made has been made by another face, take yourself back to that beautiful place where joy, even anger was not censored, where what you felt in your stomach and heart was translated honestly by your face. Dare to walk into the costume ball without a mask."

Esin Asan L11, then took the floor to talk about game theory and encouraged the audience to consider the consequences of their decisions not only for themselves but for those around them.

The last talk was given by Değer Turan, L12, who related his experiences as a sound-to-color synesthete to arrive at a grander message to humanity. He talked about how he discovered this 'condition' and how it has changed his life. He concluded his talk by stating that

everybody's reality is different and we should consider the objectivity of any reality before taking a firm stand.

The evening ended with a performance by the Boğazici Classical Music Choir, who sang choral adaptations of Turkish tunes. The organizers expressed their thanks to all those who have helped in the organization of such a remarkable program: "We would also like to thank the Robert College administration, Mr. Chandler, Ms. Kamer, Mr. Welch; our teachers Mr. Becker, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Carter, Mr. Downs and Murat Abi for all the help that they have given to make this event happen. We would also like to thank the audience for being here with us at the first TEDxRobertCollege. Today we have listened to the speakers of this community who have demonstrated an unwavering confidence for our future. They have shared with us their most genuine ideas worth spreading in the spirit of TED. But you have made this night special with your presence. We know that being part of this audience has been a manifestation, in all accounts, of your dedication for being part of the change."

The first TEDxRobertCollege was, thus, a success. The organizers look forward to hearing from interested alumni who want to help the organization by donating, attending, or better yet, as a speaker next year. If you think you have an idea to share at TEDxRobertCollege 2013, please contact them by e-mail at tedxrc@robcol.k12.tr.

What's On at RC... It's been a busy few months! Check out what's been happening around campus.

Nesin?



Photo credit: Meriç Arda Eren L11

The Turkish Theater Club premiered a special performance based on stories by Aziz Nesin, master of Turkish humor, on World Theatre Day, March 27th. The group performed such classics as "Once Upon a Time", "What a Change", "Twilight" and "Much Conversation" during the show, appropriately entitled *Nesin?*

Death and the Maiden



The Senior Drama performance staged Ariel Dorfman's play, which focuses on the after-effects of political torture and the contentious issue of how you achieve justice in a society emerging from violent dictatorship. The audience was on the edge of their seats throughout the play thanks to the powerful performances of the three Lise 12 actors: Leyla Levi, Türker Bulut and Berk Çoker.

Teacher's Live



Photo credit: Alex Downs

Seven acts, made up of teachers and students, took to the Suna Kiraç stage on February 24th for the second Teachers Live, organized by the Student Council. A crowded audience was entertained with jazz classics, Turkish pop, rock and musical favorites.

Lise Live Turns 25!



Photo credit: Alex Downs

Students lit up the stage with an eclectic show featuring rock, latin, funk, hip hop and jazz performances, a comic skit and a Michael Jackson-style dance performance during Lise Live XXV. Twenty-five student acts were packed into a two-hour long energy-filled event that gave the performers and audience a chance to let their hair down.

Harem



Photo credit: Meriç Arda Eren L11

The audience was enchanted throughout this spectacular musical, co-written by Değer Turan L12 and music teacher Koray Demirkapı. The show intertwined intrigue at the Seraglio with lavish costumes and stage design, and a unique blend of rock-arabesque music.

Musical Evening



Photo credit: Meriç Arda Eren L11

An eager audience witnessed just how strong the musical talent is at RC during this spring's Musical Evening. Skilled students from Lise Prep through L12 entertained the crowd with jazz favorites and stirring classical pieces as well as a modern dance performance.

Collectors Changing History



In March, famous collector Mert Sandalçı came to talk to students about why collecting matters. He gave examples of how information compiled in collections has helped to re-write history, including by proving that there was an Ottoman March. Sandalçı has written numerous books and articles about late Ottoman and recent Turkish life, and also teaches the subject at Eskişehir Anadolu University. In the week leading up to the presentation, history teacher Önder Kaya displayed historical documents and photographs relating to schools in Turkey from his personal collection.

Dave Phillips Cup



The RC Boys Basketball Team beat İstanbul Erkek Lisesi to win the second Dave Phillips Cup, which took place December 10-13, 2011. The tournament included eight teams from six schools. Many alumni came to watch the games and see their favorite

former coach, Dave Phillips. Before the awards ceremony, Phillips thanked the Student Council for organizing the event and RC for the opportunity to be a teacher and coach for almost 33 years. The crowd returned their thanks to Sir with a standing ovation. Then Kaan Kural RC 92 - a well-known basketball commentator- said a few words about his beloved coach. "He has given so much of himself, expecting nothing in return and touched many lives. He never expected us to win a game but always expected us to do our best. That was a personal life lesson for me, and I will always treasure him just like all his 'daughters' and 'sons'."

Photo credit: Meriç Arda Eren L11

Record Participation in Annual Jane Page Writing Competition

By Maura Kelly, English Department

Despite the many doomsayers who are predicting the death of literature or at least the death of printed text, we can find solace in the number of writers in our midst. The fourth annual Jane Page English Writing Competition set new records with entry numbers. In particular, I recognized in this year's submissions the quality of risk taking. The willingness to experiment and push oneself to the very limits of ability is the only way to grow and mature as a writer and even as a person. I hope we continue to see such bravery of the pen... or more likely bravery of the keyboard.

The ceremony took place on March 20th in the library. Keeping with tradition, this year's winners had selections of their work read by their current English teachers.

For short story, Lise 9 student Ezgi Su Korkmaz won an honorable mention for her tightly constructed short story, "Different." The winning short story was by Lise 10 student, Hande Güven, for "What if We Could?". The judges found her work to be "brief, but written with the intensity and the emotional impact of a much longer work."

Two students were awarded honorable mentions for their poetry: Lise 11 student, Esin Asan, for her poem "The Pompous Mirror." The work was described as academic in theme with its homage to Sylvia Plath. The second honorable mention went to Lise 11 student, Meriç Ateşalp, for his poem "Aqueous Ecstasy." The judges found his poem humorous given its mock irreverence. Kutay Onaylı, a Lise 11 student, was named the winner. The judges found his poem, "sophisticated given its command of figurative language and concrete imagery."



Maura Kelly with Kutay Onaylı L11

This year's winning script was a group effort including Lise 11s Cemre Paksoy and Berk Çoker and Lise 12 student Türker Bulut for their script, "When We Lose It." The judges found this experimentally exciting given the elements of magical realism present that are relatively new to theater.

The ceremony closed with a reading by guest author, Valerie Miner. She is currently the Artist in Residence at the Michelle R. Clayman Institute for Gender Research in Stanford University's Department of English. She is a prolific writer of short fiction, essays, and novels: *After Eden*, *Range of Light*, *A Walking Fire*, *Winter's Edge*, and *Blood Sisters*, are a few of her titles. Valerie spoke about the craft of writing and responded to questions from the audience about the enigmatic nature of literary creation. Ms. Miner gifted the school with several of her

works, signed, which may be found in the library.

The literary magazine, Kaleidoscope, will be released this spring. Please look for these and other talented writers in print.

Keep the Tradition Alive

This is the final year of funding for the Jane Page Writing Competition, which was created by English teacher Maura Kelly, who generously used her stipend from the Jane Page Award for excellence in teaching to fund the competition. We are looking for a new supporter of this event which promotes and recognizes creative writing among our students. For more information please contact Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu at cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr

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Haluk Kilimci RC 50 Top Donor in 2011

The Scholarship Fund received a huge boost in 2011 thanks to a very generous donation by Haluk Kilimci. This gift, which was the largest one RC received last year, was the latest of Haluk Kilimci's generous contributions to his alma mater over the years. Kilimci started his own tradition of contributing to Robert College in 1993, and has been a consecutive high donor ever since, through good times and bad.

"With his generous contributions to the school over the past 20 years, Haluk Bey has helped so many students. He is truly one of our heroes," said Headmaster John Chandler.

Kilimci, owner of Izmir Palas Hotel, went on to get his master's degree from Wharton after he graduated from RC.

"I give regularly to the campaign because I feel the school has made a valuable contribution to my vision."

"It's a great school, and it trains you to easily adapt to real life through practice and knowledge that you get from books and activities," he said.

In recalling his days at RC, Kilimci added, "There were so many activities that were happening; I couldn't participate in all of them. I was active in the Student Council, RC Handbook, and I was the General Manager of the Record, for which I was able to raise a lot of money. RC helps you transition to the outside world through participating in such organizations while at school. You learn how to convince other people and turn ideas into successful achievements."

"We have to continue helping this great establishment to survive, so all alumni should participate in supporting the school."



Haluk Kilimci RC 50 and Headmaster John Chandler

RC Hosts Social Service Learning Summit



Twenty Istanbul high schools attended a Community Involvement symposium entitled "We Can Make a Difference" on Saturday, March 3rd at RC. The idea was conceived by two Lise 11 students, Tilbe Çağlayan and Derya İnal. It was organized by a student team led by Tilbe, Derya, and Ibrahim and Engin Polat with help from the CIP office.

In his opening speech, which was infused with his personal experiences as a social activist, İbrahim Betil RA 64 explained the value of helping people and advised students about possible mistakes they might encounter. He emphasized the importance of orientation for volunteers, distribution of tasks, and consideration of the real needs of the target group while planning the CIP.

ENKA, Kabataş, Koç, MEF, RC, Şişli Terakki and Üsküdar American Academy came on stage to present the projects they are doing at their schools. CIP counselors

Güler Karabatur, Jennifer Sertel and Elif Sönmez gave a presentation on how to design a successful service learning project. In the afternoon, in sessions facilitated by RC students, participants put this knowledge to practical use in interactive workshops where they planned and came up with a real social service project. They presented these future projects in the closing session.

"It's very important to be organized while setting up CIPs or other social service projects, this is what we tried to explain at this symposium" says Güler Karabatur.

"Also team work is really important for a successful CIP; organizing and realizing these projects, the students find a chance to develop their skills of group work. During the workshops, students from various schools - mostly public

schools - had the opportunity to create projects with other students they've never met before. It's essential to have good communication skills, and I believe the symposium workshops helped them develop these skills," adds Karabatur.

"The student organizers and the facilitators did a great job. The projects the students came up with were quite original. For example, one of the projects, now in the organizing phase, teaches gender awareness using drama techniques and role play such as forum theater and theater of the oppressed" says Jennifer Sertel.

Congratulations to Derya, Tilbe, the Polat brothers and all the RC students' facilitators and helpers on a successful symposium.

Discovering Beyoğlu

By Mehmet Göral, Philosophy Teacher

When Güler Karabatur from the CIP office asked me to join a walking tour project the ninth graders were carrying out, I accepted with pleasure. I was so happy when I heard the nature of the project for it's my field of interest to pace the streets of Istanbul. I was happy to be a part of a project where I would discover Beyoğlu, which I hadn't seen for a long time, with young and curious minds. The project was to show the Beyoğlu area to the students of Hüviyet Bekir Primary School in Dolapdere.

The CIP team met at 9am on April 4th in front of the Atatürk Culture Center which is unfortunately inactive for the moment. We were really lucky with the weather; it was sunny and warm. We met with 40 fourth graders from the primary school, together with their teachers. We were also accompanied by Sara Şahinkanat, author of the children's book *Bilgi Avçıları Gizli Görevde / Beyoğlu Macerası (Knowledge Hunters on a Secret Mission / The Beyoğlu Adventure)*.

We introduced ourselves, put our knowledge hunters' badges on, and headed to the Square to see the Atatürk Statue.



Overhearing the kids talking to their teachers I realized this was their first time in Taksim.

Our CIP team had prepared riddles about every monument to make the kids have fun while learning about Beyoğlu. Ege Güller asked and answered the first riddle about the Atatürk Statue. Walking on İstiklal Street, we passed the French Consulate, Rumeli Passage, and stopped by the historical Hacı Abdullah Restaurant. Here from the chefs we learned about the rich Ottoman cuisine. In order to keep moving, Laden Akşam

L9 asked the Galatasaray Bath riddle and then we headed towards the Galatasaray Lycee and the Turkish Bath. Lunch was followed by a visit to Çiçek Passage and then Saint Antoine Church. At Tünel, the kids were amazed to see the Tünel Metro Station, the second metro station in the world. Mevlana and the Mevlevi culture were interesting to hear for the kids as we toured the Galata Mevlevihane.

Our trip lasted about four hours. The kids' happiness was worth all the fatigue. In my opinion, it wasn't just the kids who benefitted from the trip, but our students also for they learned how fun and valuable it is to teach.



A Community Involvement Project (CIP) in Denizli

By Serap Karaman, Philosophy Teacher

I served on many CIPs and I am proud to say that our students are always successful. Denizli CIP was another very successful program. It was inspiring to see once more the level of their communication skills while talking to the children, the teachers and the heads of the related school. They are mature, determined and disciplined.

The objective of CIPs is to find students who are less privileged in life and touch their lives in a positive way. The cities we go to are sometimes decided by an RC residential student according to his or her hometown. The Denizli Project was of this kind. Saygın Yıldırım was our leader. He planned the project, found the sponsors, arranged accommodation and transportation, and communicated with local authorities.

Our target group was 60 students from Denizli Emsan Primary School. Our students developed five different workshop programs in music, painting, English, theatre and sports. The project was designed in such a way that every student had a chance to attend each workshop.



Our students were in the position of teachers. It was impressive to see how quickly our students found solutions for the problems they faced. They were always very patient and positive.

The brisk weather gave us a hard time, it was the coldest days of the winter and we couldn't warm up yet everyone, both RC students and the primary school students, was so eager to continue the workshops. They were so happy to learn and have fun at the same time. The reaction of the students' parents was no different from the kids'; they were also very excited about the program. Here are some inspiring quotations from our students:

"This CIP has shown me how hard it is to be a teacher, and yet how satisfying it is. It was really hard and tiring to try to make every kid happy but when I heard them say 'you made us love theatre, please come again next year', I forgot all the tiring moments."

İpek Kahraman L10

"We were moved by the kids' being so eager to learn and share. On the last day of the project we were feeling satisfied since we knew that we enriched their lives. What I realized after the project is that it's important to make a difference in other people's lives no matter how small or insignificant it seems. Every little thing you do for another person is a seed you plant that will definitely expand and flourish at some point. We tried to plant that seed."

Merve Patat L10

The hardest part of this project? It's leaving. They were really sad that we were leaving, they wanted us visit them again. Now I have 100 students waiting for me in Denizli - that was the best part of the project for me."

Akarun Ayça Ersoy L9



RCAAA Chicago Chapter Annual Spring Dinner

The Chicago Chapter of Robert College Alumni Association of America (RCAAA) held its Annual Spring Dinner gathering for RC alumni living, working, and studying in the Chicago area on March 15th, 2012. Key highlights of the event included brief speeches by trustee Mr. Don Sackman and Mr. John Notz, a friend

of RC, on the history of Robert College and notable alumni; a rare presentation drawing from the early planning stages of the campus that was recently discovered by Mr. Notz; and of course the legendary Daniel Burnham deep dish pies that were served as the alumni enjoyed the wonderful views of the Lake Michigan

and the Chicago skyline. RC Chicago Club is planning further events for Fall 2012. Alumni interested in participating in future events or organizing activities are encouraged to get in touch with RCAAA Chicago chapter representatives at rcaa.chicago@gmail.com.



L to R: Sinan Keten RC 01, Serhan Açıköz RC 92, Saadet Ulaş Açıköz RC 98 and Burak Cendenk RC 2000



L to R: Trustee Don Sackman, Kate Sackman, Jan Notz and John Notz

DC Grads Catch Up

Twenty members of the RC community in Washington, DC gathered at Levante's in Dupont Circle on April 26th for a happy hour sponsored by the DC Chapter of RCAAA. The group dined on Turkish mezes while sharing memories of their time at RC and exchanging stories about their lives since graduation. Alumni from the 60s through 2001 were there. Attendees spoke about many different topics including the newest additions to the RC family, updates on RC teachers and plans to attend the 150th year celebrations next year. The group expressed excitement about future RCAAA Local Chapter events in DC!



L to R: Zeynep Güven RC 98, Leyla Erk McCurdy ACG 68, Justin Reed, Sinem Arisal Reed RC 98, Sena Eken RC YÜK 71 and Mine Özgül RC 01

Defne Dinler RC 04 Renewal of the Soul Through Awareness of the Body



By Müge Mengü Hale RC 92

Psychology is the examination of mind and spirit, but from Hindu Yoga to Sufi teachings many cultural teachings involve a deep focus on body in the renewal of the mind. Defne Dinler RC 04 who is studying somatic counseling psychology at Naropa University, a Buddhist University in Colorado is on her way to becoming an expert of body psychotherapy that approaches body and mind awareness as a whole.

"The idea is new even in America" says Defne referring to the fact that psychology has traditionally been associated with cognitive therapy. "Psychology has established itself as a mainly cognitive profession. A client speaks to the psychologist and they come to their decisions based on this conversation, and the body is mostly excluded during this process."

Body psychotherapists incorporate the body into the healing of the soul. "This school of thought accepts that everything is interconnected in the human psyche. Physical body is not separate from our emotional, mental and spiritual bodies," Defne says.

Body psychotherapy investigates a person's body language when they are in therapy. "We take the body cues as information. It might be a physical hand gesture saying no, which is associated with an emotion not expressed." Awareness of the body's movement and reactions empower the person, who then starts to trust his/her body. "This puts the client in control" says Defne, "It builds the muscle to trust these bodily messages."

"Toddlers have temper tantrums that release the emotional pressure out of the body. Grown-ups slowly shut down their physical coping mechanisms and get unaware of their bodily reactions and the body, and the body feels like an enemy."

"For example, a person in depression might tend to rationalize everything and not get in contact with own feelings. When we observe that someone's energy is all in his head or trapped in the head, we can work on spreading this energy to



An ardent believer in healing powers of animals such as horses and dogs, Defne Dinler RC 04 is training her puppy as a therapy dog to assist in sessions

the entire body, and as a consequence they might be able to cry or unlock their emotions, and release these emotions in a healthy way" she explains.

People who go to body psychotherapy can range from those with deep traumatic experiences to ones who yearn for a happier life or simply want to have a deeper connection with their inner selves.

"Psychology is good for the soul. Anyone can benefit from therapy," Defne says.

Encouraged to learn through memorizing most of her life, Defne realized a physical component was missing in the learning process in her primary education.

"Reading textbooks and taking exams never motivated me. It has to make sense in my body" she says. Robert College was an exception in Defne's life where she was exposed to more tactile and creative learning methods for the first time in her life. "I got my passion for art in RC. The theater and musical clubs were very influential. RC is where I started to find myself" she says.

After graduating from Robert College, Defne received a dual degree in painting and clinical psychology at Washington University-St. Louis in 2009. She worked as an Art Therapist intern at the Barnes Jewish Hospital, Siteman Cancer Center at the Washington University School of Medicine, where she helped cancer patients ease their pains through artistic expression and witnessed dramatic changes in terminally ill patients through the expressive arts.

Encouraged by her mother to pursue her interests in alternative therapies, Defne completed a four-year healing science practitioner certificate at the Barbara Brennan School of Healing in Florida in 2010. This hands-on healing system works with an individual's energy consciousness system to create physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health and this alternative education taught Defne how to track energy in human body.

Studying body psychotherapy is not only a professional goal for Defne, this unified approach benefits her in her personal life. Her experience of Buddhist psychology, an Eastern take on Western science taught her "mindfulness", or to be more aware of herself. "It taught me to replace the thought of 'everything is happening to me' with 'I have a choice in everything'," she says. Learning to observe herself without judgment is what gives her power and control of herself, a principle that she also practices for her clients in her profession.

Yeşillikler içinde hayat Ormanada'da 12 ay sonra başlıyor!



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Ormanada'yı kurgularken, ilhamımızı hep doğal olandan aldık. Sürdürülebilir bir çevre anlayışıyla, yeşillikler içinde "yaşayan bir mahalle" tasarladık.

Özgün mimarisi, eşsiz peyzajı ve sunduğu üstün yaşam kalitesiyle hayalleri süsleyen Ormanada, 12 ay sonra gerçek oluyor.



Capturing the Timeless



Evrim İçöz RC 92 found his passion after he left corporate life to become one of the most sought after professional wedding photographers in the world.

By Müge Mengü Hale RC 92

Everything was picture perfect for Evrim İçöz RC 92 when he started to work for Intel Corporation in Portland, Oregon in 1998. After graduating from Boğaziçi University with the highest rank, Evrim received a master's degree in computer engineering from Duke University in Virginia. Upon his graduation, he received offers from both Intel and Goldman Sachs. "I knew that I wanted to live in a more peaceful city so I accepted Intel's offer," says Evrim, who moved to Portland, Oregon, known as the City of Roses, one of the greenest cities of America.

Evrim worked for Intel Corporation, the world's largest computer chip maker, for seven years. He contributed to the creation of Intel microprocessors, which he describes as "some of the most complex projects of humanity."

Corporate life, however, was not all roses for Evrim. He felt the need to be more outgoing and creative. "I felt my contribution to life was very limited, the corporate world had little to do with personal development," Evrim says, and he looked for ways to enrich his life.



One creative outlet for him was swing dancing, a hobby he started at Duke University. It was a hobby that won him medals and some artistic self-confidence, and this helped introduce him into the artistic life of Portland.

Yet, it was a photography exhibition that he visited that would eventually change his life and steer him in a new direction. "I thought I could start taking photographs as a hobby, bought my first Canon camera, and read almost all the books about photography in the public library," says Evrim.

Evrim took his first pictures on the light rail train on his daily commute to Intel, where he felt his life was passing him by. He documented the life around him capturing lovers hugging, birds singing in the trees and raindrops falling on the light rail's windows.

Evrim's background in dance became a major inspiration for his photography. He worked tirelessly to master his skills to capture the energy, movement and dynamism involved in dance. The atmosphere of dim lights and the swing dancers' vintage clothes added a timeless feeling to his photographs. This unique focus suited his character. "I like to listen to the rhythm of life. Swing dancing reflects the romance and the drama of people," says Evrim.





A photographer's grandson, his other inspirations were masters of world photography including Henry Cartier-Bresson, Robert Cappa and Brassai. Particularly, Cartier-Bresson's concept of the "decisive moment", a single moment that captures the whole truth about the subject, deeply influenced Evrim.

"In order to capture the right moments, one has to know when to pause and press the shutter at 'the decisive moment'. It is almost like anticipating when the moment will happen and being one step ahead" says Evrim.

Evrim began to work as a wedding photographer, "a photographer's day job" in order to support his hobby while continuing to work at Intel. His unique style attracted many couples from across the United States and eventually wedding photography became a full-time profession garnering enormous success.



Evrim achieved the leap from corporate life to an independent artist-entrepreneur. Over the past 11 years, Evrim Icoz Photography has photographed 350 weddings around the world, from the beaches of Mexico, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic to his hometown, Istanbul. Even though Evrim shoots a lot of weddings, he is also in demand as a photographer for many corporate and commercial shoots such as Microsoft events, Fortune 500 clients and family portraiture.

When working for wedding clients, Evrim spends an entire day accompanying every stage of the process. He carefully observes every step in the preparations like a "fly on the wall" photo-journalist.

In this process, he continuously positions himself to capture natural and truthful interactions between family members. Everyone becomes part of the wedding story from children of the guests playing outside to the cousin of the bride getting a hairdo and the groom and his best men watching sports. After an entire day of shooting, Evrim's final stage is editing extensively in his digital dark room, utilizing old style techniques, at times spending over 30 hours in one sitting. He sometimes even photographs "The Day After," with the couple in a more relaxed time frame, capturing "epic" scenic shots.

"For many people, their wedding is the most important day of their life," says Evrim. "Women especially think about the details of their dream wedding sometimes from their childhood."



Evrim Icoz RC 92

A special wedding for Evrim was his classmate İdil Çakım's RC 84 that he shot in New York City at another classmate Burak Karaçam's RC 92 restaurant, Pera, that he calls "a truly RC experience". "RC is a very special school that taught me to think analytically and gave me a broader perspective on life. You can become an engineer or a photographer, and you will always be doing your best," Evrim says.

Evrim feels rewarded for following his passion. "My job now affects the people around me, most important of all, my job affects me," says Evrim, who won the Best Photojournalistic Wedding Photographer in USA in 2006 (runner up in the world), Best Wedding Vendor in Oregon in 2009 and WPPI Worldwide first place in 2004 and 2007. "We remember our memories frame by frame," Evrim says. "A picture is worth a thousand words." ■

Müge Mengü Hale RC 92, is a freelance writer residing in New York. You can reach her at: www.mugemengu.com



Philip Mansel's Acclaimed Levant History now in Turkish

Turkish readers can now enjoy Philip Mansel's latest book *Levant: Splendour and Catastrophe in the Mediterranean* thanks to a new translation by Nigâr Alemdar ACG 66. *Levant, Akdeniz'de İhtişam ve Felaketler* was published by Everest in October 2011.

Mansel, who was recently awarded a royal prize in London for "A Life in Literature", turns history into a fascinating and entertaining read, says Alemdar. With hundreds of quotations from first-hand accounts of western merchants and their communities in the major ports of the Ottoman Empire, such as Smyrna (İzmir), Alexandria, Beirut and Thessaloniki, one gets a colorful picture of the times. Poetry and music intertwine with history. There is even gossip in quotations from dairies.

Through Mansel's careful and detailed study, we see that the Ottomans were actually the pioneers in free trade and globalization in the old world. It was Süleyman the Magnificent

and his successors who gave trade and settlement licences, the famous capitulations, first to the French, later to the British, and then to the Dutch, to trade in the Mediterranean basin.

The Levant, writes Philip Mansel, "is an area, a dialogue and a quest ... a western name for an eastern area, the Levant is also a dialogue between east and west."

According to critic Simon Sebag Montefiore, Mansel analyzes the "soft power of cities" as much as the "hard power of states" in a quest for "that elixir of co-existence between Muslims, Christians and Jews for which the world yearns".

Alemdar says translating was a pleasure, although the language and style of some of the quotations from 17th and 18th century English tried her linguistic skills at times. Some quotations also meant a lot of

research. Mansel's quotes from the Turkish journalist Falih Rifkî Atay, for example, meant Alemdar had to speed-read Çankaya at a bookshop, find the exact quotations, buy the book, and insert the original Turkish quotes into her translation.

Alemdar also translated Mansel's *Sultans in Splendor*, his first book to appear in Turkish as *Sultanların İhtişamı*, reprinted in 2011 by Everest.



Nigâr Alemdar ACG 66

Finding Renewal in the Sea: Neslihan Zabcı Erdal RC 75 Draws Inspiration from the Big Blue for her Mosaic Exhibition



Neslihan Zabcı Erdal RC75

“What inspired me in preparing for this exhibition was of course nature; specifically, anything to do with the sea - above it, underneath it,” says artist Neslihan Zabcı Erdal talking about her latest exhibition “Derindenizler” at Bakraç Art Gallery from March 24-April 13. A Bodrum resident, she has a burning passion for the sea. Previous work always included details related to this interest but this exhibition was dedicated solely to the sea. “The sea is freedom, solitude, life,

aspiration, hope; the sea is depth; it is infinity's reflection on earth” says Erdal.

Neslihan Zabcı Erdal is a talented designer, painter, illustrator, sculptor, ceramic and mosaic artist.

She loves combining various art styles and techniques in her works. “It all starts with a pattern, then they intertwine and create a whole” the artist says, “Every step in creating a mosaic excites me, since I never use only one technique or material; it feels like a jigsaw puzzle, finding the first piece. It's my emotional state that decides that first element, whether it's glass, ceramic, pebble, or seashell.”

After graduating from RC, Erdal studied Graphic Design at De Montfort University in Leicester, UK. Then she moved to the US to continue her studies. In 1982 she opened the Eflatun Ceramic Workshop in Turkey which continued until 1993. After this, she did art direction for many movies and designed two children's books. Her works were displayed in many international exhibitions. In 2000, she moved to Bodrum with her two daughters Leyla and Nil. She has been displaying her pieces and doing workshops at BUKALEMUNART Atelier which she opened in Ortakent, Bodrum.

“No matter how hard I try I know it won't be enough but I will do my best to tell the story of the deep blue of the deep water,” says the artist.



Renewal Through Film: Mehmet Betil RA 60 Launches Education Center on the Aegean



If proof is needed that a person need not be constrained to a single field, look no further than Mehmet Betil. A well-known businessman, Betil allows his keen sense of curiosity and conviction in working for the enrichment of society to take him down little known paths. Despite considerable risk, for instance, he became a supporter of the independent newspaper Taraf.

In recent years, Betil's interests have expanded into film. It began one summer a few years back when he met the filmmaker Reha Erdem in the tiny Aegean village of Kozlu, where both have a house. One thing led to another, a friendship grew and Betil became a producer of Erdem's films.

In 2009, Erdem convinced Betil to buy up a number of houses in Kozlu to avoid the village being spoiled by developers. "Then we said, 'OK so what do we do with these buildings?'"



Script writing workshop with Columbia University Prof. Nick Proferes (second from right) and Mehmet Betil RA 60 (far right)

"That's how the idea began to form of a place dedicated to workshops, lectures and so forth, all related to cinema, theater, perhaps other art forms." Meanwhile Betil's son Ali had also studied film - he was recently producer on the award-winning Ira Sachs film *Keep the Lights On*. He also joined the team, arranging for film professionals from New York to come and give classes in Kozlu.

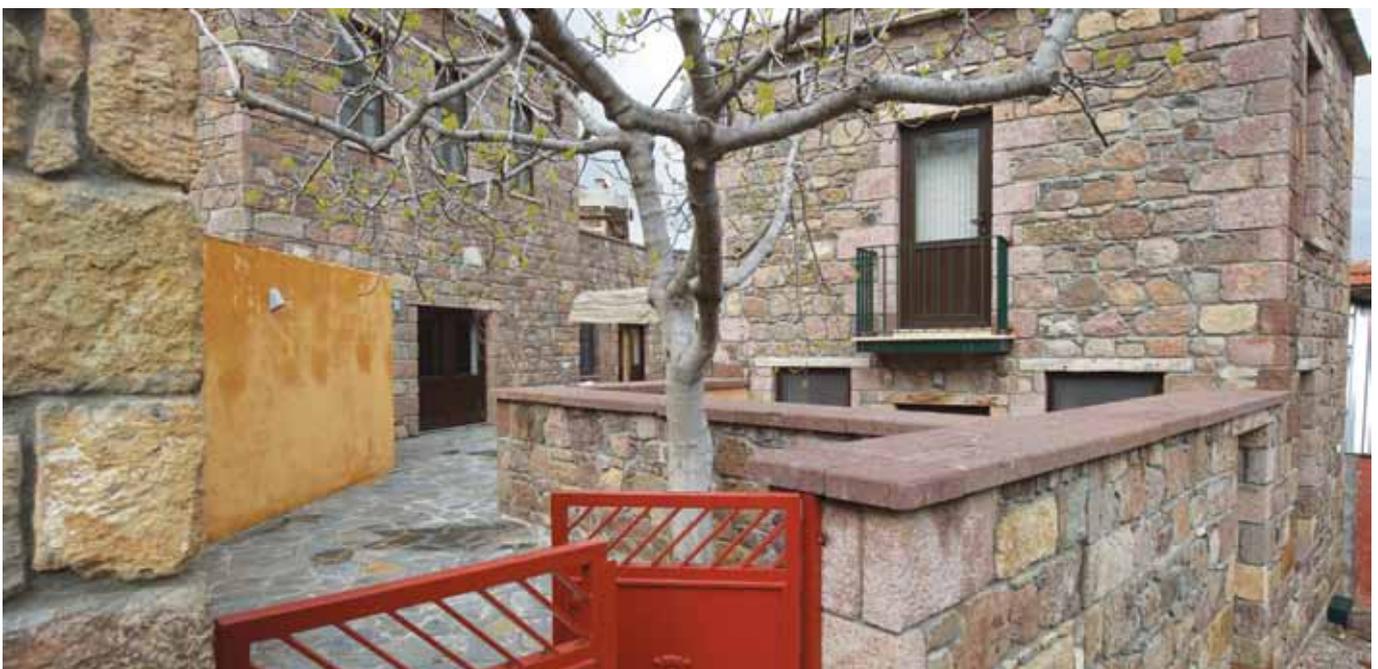
But the endeavor is not just about education. Betil hopes the project -

which has now spread to include three more buildings - will set an example for that region, which is forever under the threat of mass touristic development or money-making schemes. "We thought that if we can make something work that is education and culture-based, and show that a different source of income is possible, then the surrounding area would take note. Instead of becoming just another tourist center, it is possible to become a tourist center with a difference."

This will be the third summer of operations at Akademida. Already directors like Erdem and Ümit Ünal, scriptwriter Feride Çiçekoğlu and actress Derya Alabora are lined up to deliver classes and workshops.

The programs are open to anyone with an interest in film and there are a number of scholarships for young people with insufficient means.

For more information, visit www.akademida.com



Akademida workshop building (left) and minidorm (right)

Açık Radyo Finds Renewal in New Premises



Açık Radyo is more than just a radio station. One of Turkey's few truly independent media outlets, for almost 17 years 94.9 has represented a spirit of diversity and united a large and engaged alternative community of people. But even rebels sometimes need a change. In May Açık Radyo left its Harbiye premises for a new home in Tütün Deposu - an art and alternative research space owned by Osman Kavala RC 75 - in Tophane. On the eve of the move, the RCQ spoke to Ömer Madra RA 64, an Açık Radyo founder, much beloved by listeners for his early morning news program.

Açık Radyo is quite unique in terms of its structure. Could you tell us how it works?

Açık Radyo is one of the few truly independent media outlets in Turkey, where the media - as pretty much everywhere else in the world - is under increasing pressure from the concentration of ownership of financial and power centers. She isn't owned by a company or special interest group - nor, of course, is she in any way financially affiliated with the state. She is a private company as required by law but functions like a non-profit organization, or a collective body, with nearly 100 partners holding almost equal shares.

To date Açık Radyo has summoned the talents and efforts of more than a thousand "programmers" of all ages (from 9 to 75), from all walks of life, and from a rich variety of professions - as well as those of a few unemployed. With very few exceptions, almost all of these Açık Radyo programmers, producers and DJs are volunteers. And this, as far as we can tell, makes both Açık Radyo and her programmers part of a unique global phenomenon. Currently, 200 programmers contribute nearly 140 different programs each week. If you count "guest speakers", every week roughly more than 300 individuals occupy our tiny studios and narrow corridors, thus contributing to the general "uproar".

What about operational costs? How does Açık Radyo keep going?

For nine years, Açık Radio's many programs have been sponsored by her own listeners.

At present, we are proud to count on the support and sponsorship of around 4,500 individuals from almost all walks of life.

These individuals are our "listener-supporters" who have very consciously chosen to pay from their pockets for a public service completely free of charge! They have deliberately chosen to make a contribution to the radio station with a view to help protect the planet, the economy, our communities, our - still fledgling - democracy, and pretty much everything else that we all share... It can be argued that this constitutes a rare case for individual participation in the Turkish media, if not unique.

However, there is another aspect of this matter that I want to stress: Açık Radyo is free of charge - as it should be. Anyone wishing to listen to her can do so, either on their radio receiver sets, or online. Nonetheless, we should not make the rather "comforting" but also self-deluding assumption that independent media will always exist and will always be there. This is not an automatic process. Ergo, it should be supported all the time. Açık Radyo has to be - and I hope will always be - sustained by generous contributions from her listeners. If somehow contributions dwindle along the way, then I'm afraid it is quite possible that our broadcasts could prove to be unsustainable in the long run.

Seventeen years is a long time. How do you manage to keep a fresh perspective?

Talking about renewal (the central theme of this issue), I would prefer to use the term "regeneration". And by that I don't just mean a new venue, a new way of life or thinking for our modest little radio station. I try to look at life somewhat from a broader perspective. At present I am immensely inspired by a small, great book very recently penned and published by two very old and - at the same time - very young thinker-activists of our time. This is *The Road to Hope* by Stéphane Hessel and Edgar Morin. These two great writers discuss the possibilities of a global policy that would also blaze a path toward a



Ömer Madra RA 64

radical regeneration of our society. The last chapter of the book (which is aptly titled "Regeneration") calls for "a political rebirth by drawing on three sources of inspiration that have traditionally fed the political left: libertarianism, which focuses on the liberty of individuals; socialism, which concentrates on the bettering of society; communism, which emphasizes the brotherhood of a community." To these the writers add a fourth: "environmentalism, which restores our ties to and our interdependence with nature and, on a deeper level, with Mother Earth, as well as recognizes in our sun the source of all living energy,".

Hessel and Morin urge political parties to aid in the creation of "a powerful citizen movement, a broad insurrection of conscience that alone can engender a form of politics that is equal to the challenges that now face it." The book speaks about the great need for a new form of politics, based on a yearning to live and restore life, a politics that uproots us from our present-day apathy and mortal resignation.

On this bright note, I think there is nothing we the "denizens" of Açık Radyo could agree upon more! I would humbly and in all earnestness add that we strive to be a miniscule, yet - for us at least - highly significant part of that global struggle for "regeneration". Granted, it may well be, as the Blind Bard Veysel sings, "a long and narrow" road! Yet Açık Radyo is always willing - as ever - to accompany her listeners and friends on it.

Tell us about the move! What is it like to pack up after 17 years?

After broadcasting for more than 16 years from its present studios in Elmadağ, Açık Radyo is moving to its new location in the Annex Building of DEPO (Tütün Deposu) in Tophane. It is an opportunity to take a new look at things. It has been a complicated process - as I assume, all moves are. Special mention should be made of our long-time programmer and dear friend Cem Sorguç whose architectural company contributed hugely to the renewal and retrofitting of our newly leased building. Numerous listeners and supporters graciously added their knowledge and/or skills to the effort, helping us make "barter" agreements with various firms. All of this goes to show that, to a certain extent, Açık Radyo is becoming - in the eloquent wording of one of our listener-supporters - like a living organism, a "listener-centered" organism.

The new building is owned by our friend and supporter Osman Kavala. Strangely enough, 19 years ago, when we had this idea of founding a free and independent

radio station, but unfortunately it was not allowed by the powers that be, I remember having a curious meeting with Osman at his office. The Kavala group was at the time also involved with renting yachts. I asked him if it was possible for us to "charter" a boat to be turned into a radio station and broadcast "offshore", in the high seas, away from government interference. (The model we had in mind was the Voice of Peace, an offshore radio station founded by the late Abie Nathan and the New York-based Peace Ship Foundation that served the Middle East for 20 years from the former Dutch cargo vessel MV Peace anchored off the coast of Tel Aviv.) Well, Osman promised to think about our "proposal". Fortunately, the Government ceded to the protests soon afterward and gave the green light to private radios once again. We then opened the studios not somewhere in the raging Black Sea outside national territorial waters but in the relatively calm of Elmadağ-Taksim. Thus, both Osman Kavala and we were spared the considerable potential risks the adventure might have entailed.

Any anecdotes you'd like to share with us about the move?

One day during the hectic process of endlessly drawing and redrawing plans for the Açık Radyo studios and offices in the new building, our young architect friend from Cem's office encountered Ayşe, a friendly little girl of eight, the daughter of another friend who works at DEPO. Ayşe asks the architect what she's doing. Our architect friend doesn't really know how to explain. She stumbles over words and says that she's drawing a "radio", somehow hoping the little girl would understand.

"A radio? You mean something like Açık Radyo?" Ayşe says. The architect is flabbergasted: "Umm, yes, exactly... But how on earth did you guess?" Ayşe keeps her cool: "Well, my mom receives invoices from Açık Radyo all the time. That's how." Then she smiles and sails away. Well, that is our Açık Radyo. Keeps sending invoices regularly to little girls' moms, y'know, thanking them for their cooperation and support. ■

Theater Director Kerem Kurdoğlu RC 81 Speaks of Artistic Renewal

Kerem Kurdoğlu is one of the first 3-D animators and visual effects artists in Turkey. He is the director of ABT, visual effects production studio, and teaches visual effects and post-production at Bilgi University, Istanbul. But this successful animator has another passion in life: theatre. Kurdoğlu is a well-known playwright and, together with his wife Nazlı Erayda, founder of the Kumpanya theatre troupe. The RCQ spoke to him about theatre, cinema, and how he renews himself as an artist after years of producing.

You have been producing and writing plays for a long time. How does an experienced artist like you keep oneself so "new"?

One danger that looms over artists who have been producing for a long time is apathy. You might get accustomed to what you are doing, those experiences you have, the maturity you have, might become a threat. After staging the musical İstanbul'da Bir Dava (A Case in Istanbul) at Garajistanbul for the İstanbul Theatre Festival in 2009, I clearly felt this. The play received the Best Play of the Year Award from Theatre Magazine. After that play I felt the need to stop for a while to find that fever, that excitement again.

How did you get rid of the apathy?

I found excitement in cinema. I started a movie project and wrote the synopsis for it. I am in the process of building a team. Not losing an amateur spirit is very important to be good at any type of art. Cinema, although I had enough experience with visual effects and animation, is new to me.

What kind of difficulties you think you might face in this new field?

There are some main differences in the two fields of theatre and cinema. One is of course the budget. As you might guess making movies is not cheap. Even a low budget movie costs 100,000 TL. Another difficulty is that since cinema is really accessible; you might think you came up with a great, original idea. In theatre you can always find an audience who's going to be seeing it for the first time, whereas in cinema, that's not really an option. Theatre also lets you be more experimental; you might not want to take this risk in cinema.

How do you think will you stand out as a movie director?

When I directed plays, the reaction I usually received was "It was like a movie". I think the reason behind this is that I like quick scene transitions, because



Kerem Kurdoğlu RC 81

Photo credit : Maya Kurdoğlu

that's how my brain works. I don't like stagnancy. I especially like movies or plays that do not try to hide that they are in fact fiction. That's why I love musicals; people start dancing and singing all of a sudden! I don't like movies or plays which are too "real". Actually, people will probably say "it was like a theatre play" this time when they watch my movies!

How can we follow your productions these days?

You can't! I will be back with my movie in 1.5-2 years.

Hakan Binbaşgil RC 79 Appointed CEO of Akbank



By Pelin Seyhan RC 03



Hakan Binbaşgil RC 79

What was Hakan Binbaşgil like in high school? Which classes did he like? What were his hobbies?

He was always a good student with good grades but was particularly active in extracurricular activities. He was a member of both his school football and volleyball clubs. He was a keen tennis player outside school as well. He spent quite a lot of time at the Plateau as well as at the gym. That is why he probably won the 'Harold Scott' Award at graduation.

Any memory that you cannot forget from while you were at RC?

I was in the folklore club. I was playing the drums along with the professional *zurna* player. Both of us were working on this wholeheartedly. The day after our performance, I heard that in the other section, our dear literature teacher Nurseli Hanım told the class 'Did you see the drum player last night - he really looked like a

nice guy. I wish he had the opportunity to study like you' and the class told Nurseli Hanım 'Hocam, he is in the next section'. That was funny.

Your bio is by now well-known, but we would love to hear about the journey after RC from you.

After I graduated from Robert College, I went to Boğaziçi University (BÜ). I earned my BS in mechanical engineering and then went to the US, to Louisiana State University, to study for my MBA. I double majored, an MBA and an MS in Finance. While at Louisiana State University, I was offered a part-time position teaching undergraduate students Operations Research courses. This way, I managed to waive my tuition fees and also earn some income.

Then came professional life. I started my career as a management consultant

at Andersen Consulting's (now called Accenture) London Office. There were very few MBA graduates at that time in the UK and I had the privilege of working on some excellent banking projects in the city. I then moved to Accenture's Istanbul Office to lead the financial services practice in Turkey. After several years, I moved across the table to become a banker. At quite a young age, I was in charge of Pamukbank's Retail Banking. It was the beginning of the modern banking era in Turkey - ATMs, credit cards, and telephone banking were emerging and we had quite a strong team which pioneered many innovative solutions and brought new banking systems to Turkey. I joined Akbank about ten years ago to lead the transformation program.

Akbank was already a robust and successful institution - very strong, very profitable. However, the dynamics of banking in a low inflationary environment were different. We, therefore, prepared Akbank for a much more competitive environment.

It was a very comprehensive program. The results were extraordinary; later, this transformation story became a Harvard University case study for two consecutive years, which was a real source of pride.

Then, I started running the retail banking business of Akbank. About four years ago, I became Deputy CEO, before becoming CEO at the beginning of this year.

You pursued mechanical engineering at BÜ. However, you have become a well known executive in finance & banking. What motivated you to pursue such a career change?

Engineering and banking are not actually very different disciplines. Both need systematic thinking and analytical skills. I was always good with numbers, so banking made sense to me as a career choice.

It was also an exciting time for the banking industry in Turkey and I wanted to use my education and skills to help bring innovation to the country.

Let's talk a bit about your new position at Akbank. Firstly, congrats! How has t his new position affected your life so far?

I was already familiar with the bank, so the transition was very easy. I also have the great benefit of a very strong team. This is actually the only way you can run a big business, especially if you're after sustainable leadership.

In terms of transition, it is the same lifestyle, the same types of hobbies, interests, friends, but nowadays I have less time outside work. A lot more attention is needed to further progress an institution which is already excellent. In the upcoming months, I am sure the workload will be more reasonable.

We know that jazz is one of your hobbies. Actually, you performed as part of last year's CEO Club event. Can you still spare time to work on your piano skills? Are there any more events that you are planning to perform at?

Music is an important part of my life. I started at a very early age. Nowadays, I have less time, but I will continue to invest in this hobby. I still take jazz lessons from Baki Duyarlar. Baki made a significant contribution to how I play. Very recently, I was awarded 'Musician-Businessman of the Year' which was wonderful. In the Vodafone High School Music Competition, I had the privilege of receiving the award from Ian Paice, the legendary drummer of Deep Purple, who I used to listen to at my very young age. What a small world!

I don't suppose being at Akbank, which is a strong supporter of jazz and arts, is a coincidence? Are you planning on organizing new events as part of Akbank Jazz and Akbank Sanat?

I am a firm believer in social responsibility and feel strongly that successful institutions should reinvest some of the money they earn back into their communities. In this sense, I am probably the luckiest CEO in the

country as Akbank has been investing in social responsibility since the very beginning. In particular, Akbank invests extensively in the arts and culture and Akbank Sanat has become one of the most prominent names in the Turkish art world. Similarly, Akbank has been investing in jazz for more than 20 years, which coincidentally, as you mentioned, is also one of my great passions! As a leading and responsible bank, going forward, I can assure you that Akbank will continue to be a very prominent name in terms of social responsibility.

Is there anything else you would like to say to our alumni around the world?

I have always been very proud of the fact that I studied at Robert College. Having remained in touch with so many close friends, not to mention my wife, who was a former classmate, I am fortunate to have a constant reminder of the great memories of my time there. It is truly a privilege to be a Robert College graduate! ■

Toygun Yilmazer RC 96 Picked for European Jury

Toygun Yilmazer RC 96, who's been the Executive Vice President of the TBWA\ Istanbul agency since 2009, was recently picked to serve among the jury of the EACA Euro Effies 2012 competition in advertising. The award ceremony will be held in Brussels in September 2012. Toygun has himself been awarded 7 Effies himself in the Turkey competition before, with the - 'Be good to non-Avea customers' Avea relaunch campaign, Fiat 'Large Family' New Doblo campaign, Fiat sales promotion campaign (the kid planning to buy a Fiat), Aygaz Euro LPG+ relaunch campaign (the boss being tossed around in the back seat), Beko Notebook campaign -the first usage of the new jingle, Beko Refrigerator campaign (pregnant woman), and yemeksepeti.com radio campaign.

His previous jury duties include Boğaziçi University Adfest 2009, Cannes Lions Young Marketers 2010, Hürriyet Kırmızı Press Awards 2011, Cannes Lions Young Marketers 2011.

Toygun actually started his career back in the 9th grade as an intern at Show

TV, with the help of the RC Counseling Office. In the summer of 10th grade, he worked as an intern at Borusan Holding, again as a part of the program run by the Counseling Department.

"RC played a vital role in my life; it showed me the business world and helped me decide on my career path."

In the course of 11 years at TBWA, he played a vital role in carrying TBWA\ Istanbul to the top spot and making it the biggest and the most awarded agency in Turkey. Toygun started his career at IXIR, the disruptive ISP company when internet was new and rising. He joined TBWA\ Istanbul as an account planner towards the end of 2000. He gained experience in TBWA's London & Hamburg offices. He worked with international accounts such as Nivea, Henkel, Adidas, Absolut, Nissan and with local accounts such as Beko, Avea, TNET, Turk Telekom. He has also been organising and moderating Disruption workshops for clients. Besides advertising, Toygun is passionate about



Toygun Yilmazer RC 96

film and music. He has an MA in Film & Television and tracks new artists in mainstream and avant-garde music.

He completed his undergraduate degree in economics at Istanbul University, and holds a graduate degree in film from Bilgi University. As an account planner himself, he's also lecturing a mandatory class for seniors at the advertising department of Bilgi University Faculty of Communications with 3 other managers from the same agency, which is called TBWA LAB.

Actress Nihal Koldaş RC 75 Finds Renewal On-Stage



Nihal Koldaş has been in the news recently for *Ford Mach 1*, a theater performance that has garnered strong reviews. Along with the play, she is composing, writing, translating, directing, etc. The RCQ caught up with the multi-talented actress in Istanbul to find out what's her secret in finding the energy to do all.

You are an actress, writer, translator, as well as a musician. Where do you find the energy for it all?

I guess theatre has been my main medium all through my life. It covers all the disciplines in my definition. I prefer to be called an amateur theatre person. So from fixing the lights, to directing, acting, writing texts and music, I do whatever needs to be done. I believe stage people get ill without it, so perhaps the strength comes from the craving for recovery.

Is it a need for you to be versatile?

Yes, I think I cannot express myself sufficiently in a single medium.

Which of all do you feel most inclined to?

In my lise years, I quit playing the piano because my life then revolved around sports. So the choice changes according to different stages of my life. Now getting physically more and more tired each year, I'm more inclined to writing and music.



Nihal Koldaş RC 75 on stage in 2011

Which projects are you working on at the moment?

We performed a musical adaptation of Sevim Burak's novel *Ford Mach 1* this season. I had adapted the novel few years ago and staged it only for the International Istanbul Theatre Festival. Then I wrote music for it and Çelik Kasapoğlu made the instrumental arrangements. It has become something like an ironic cabaret. I always liked singing. In my orta and lise years, I leaped into almost every choral activity.

As for my relationship with cinema, I used to work as an art director for TV and cinema in the early years of my career.

I happened to be the co-director of *Masumiyet* (by Zeki Demirkubuz) and had a small part in the film. In the last few years, I acted in the first films of young directors like *Kavşak* (*Cross Road*) and *Çoğunluk* (*Majority*). The last one was *Kuma* which was the opening film in the Panorama section of Berlin Film Festival. It's an Austrian film by Umut Dağ. It has an interesting story with unexpected twists and turns. The script, the role and the shooting period all were very satisfying. The Vienna premiere was at the end of April. I hope we might see it in Turkey also.

Could you tell us a bit more about *Ford Mach 1*?

I was always a great fan of Sevim Burak; beginning with her play *Here is the head, the Body, and the Wings* we have performed as a group. She has a very special way of searching for the truth. She is ironic, funny, sad, seems absurd yet, for me very real. I feel very close to her. *Ford Mach 1* is the last and the most politic text of hers. The setting of the novel is Bagdat Street October 29, 1973 - also the opening day of the Bosphorous Bridge. Two old

ladies, whose houses and gardens are under the threat of building contractors, meet a mechanical clown from the back streets of the city. Their enemy is Ford Mach 1, a charismatic yet merciless American car whom they all fall in love with at the end. It's a love story of the losers of society. We tell this unrequited love story on stage with music. I used to play classical piano when I was a child. Several years ago, I dared to learn music programs on the computer. Little by little I made electronic music for a Beckett play in 2005. So for *Ford Mach 1* project, because the text had a peculiar rhythm, I tried to bring that rhythm onto the stage with melodies.

And how did audiences react?

I was really scared of negative reactions because Sevim Burak is a bit of a taboo among a small group of intellectuals. But surprisingly we got very few negative reactions. Generally the music was accepted and moreover some people said they could understand the world of the author better with music. So I'm glad I took the risk.

How did RC influence your career?

RC was the hub where my interests could be shaped freely. When I look back, I see myself as a timid child in prep school, yet my introvert character didn't prevent me from taking part in the activities within the campus. You could sneak into any extracurricular activity (as it was called then) after classes were over (if you were good enough, even during class hours). So I could test myself almost in every discipline before I was 20. Later in life, I realized how I could use those experiences in my projects. I also work as an exhibition design coordinator in national and international exhibits and museums. I always remember my long hours in the library, idly turning pages of art history and design books and how those lazy hours have built up in me a sense of style and design.



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Turkey's First Female Film Critic Sevin Okyay ACG 63 Receives Honor

The Istanbul International Film Festival chose to award Sevin Okyay, film and music critic and a prolific translator, with a lifetime achievement award. She was given the award by the writer Murathan Mungan at the festival's opening ceremony in April. "I thank my mother for first taking me to the cinema, Enis Batur for forcing me to write reviews, SIYAD, of which I am proud to be a member, IKSU and festival viewers," she said, accepting the honor.

Okyay began translation work in 1964, moved to journalism in 1975 and in 1984, published her first review at the insistence of her then editor Enis Batur. It was of a Fellini film showing as part of the 1984 Film Festival. Okyay later also carved out a name for herself as a jazz music critic.

It was the masterful and inspired translation of the Harry Potter book series that brought her widespread fame.

In an interview with Radikal newspaper, she spoke of her time at ACG: "The school grounds were beautiful and we didn't have to wear a uniform. There was some rich kids' groups and then we had our own little group: Senar, Leyla, Zeynep. And, as a boarder, Beyhan and Sirel. If I hadn't gotten in I would have gone to Beşiktaş Kız Lisesi. Our Turkish teacher in Orta 1, Halis Bey, taught me aruz. He used to say he was only able to teach that to two students in the whole class. I loved our Prep teacher Miss Avis Gray. And the lise psychology



Sevin Okyay ACG 63

teacher Dr Haines, thanks to whom I was awarded a scholarship from the University of Michigan (I didn't go, it seemed too far). He was a great teacher. And it was possible to do many different kinds of sports: basketball, volleyball, badminton, tennis, field hockey... I can't forget our gymnastics teacher Siret Uncu Aybar either."

"Angels?... No Way!" Beki İkala Erikli RC 86 Speaks of Renewal Through Angelic Guidance



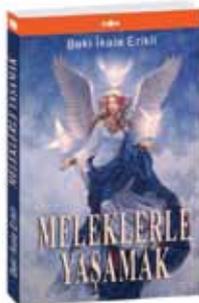
The RCQ team spoke to Beki İkala Erikli, angel- life coach whose first book *Meleklerle Yaşamak* (*Living with the Angels*) became a huge success shortly after its release.

How did your book come about?

It was a long journey. I graduated from Boğaziçi University and had a full-blown career as a marketing director at Procter&Gamble. After 13 years of moving up the corporate ladder I wanted to be closer to my son, so I took a three-month sabbatical. I never went back to work! It was then that a friend passed me a book about 'angels'. My first reaction was: "Angels?... No way!" But from that day on my life has never been the same. At first I decided to ask for angels' help on small issues.

I experienced so many miracles that I decided to research what the world had to offer about angels.

I attended Dr. Doreen Virtue's Angel Therapy course in Hawaii. By then, my life had changed so much through the miracles of angels that I wanted to share



this knowledge with everyone. Then came my first book, *Meleklerle Yaşamak*.

***Meleklerle Yaşamak* sold 100,000 copies; what is behind its success?**

The fact that it works! Asking your angels for help truly brings miracles into your life. I was bombarded with news from people healing from diseases, getting their dream job, having children after trying for ten years without success. Just as it happened with me, almost everyone who truly gives the angels a chance, witnesses amazing miracles.

Most of us believe in God, the quantum field, or a higher force. Angels are part of that wonderful energy that is at our service if we ask. And here is the caveat: if we ask. Here is an amazing source, ready to help, that can enact miracles for us, but in order to receive that help, we need to ask angels for it. This is because we have free will and angels cannot override our free will.



Beki İkala Erikli RC 86

Together with her colleagues, Beki gives private and group training, as well as corporate training. If you want to contact Beki or read more about her work, visit www.meleklerleyasamak.com. She also has an upcoming book, out in June 2012, which will talk about angels and the corporate world.

Renew Yourself and Mother Earth: Taner Aksel RC 87 Explains How



A successful engineer specializing in structural reaction to earthquakes, Taner Aksel RC 87 is also an environmental activist who genuinely practices what he believes. The founder and general manager of Benko Engineering and Software Company, Aksel was struck by the similarity between how buildings react to earthquakes and how people react to climate change. This idea led him to write his first book *Kritik Eşik (Critical Threshold)* which was published in May 2011.

Although Aksel is a theorist, you won't see him sitting at his desk writing books and developing his theories. Instead you will see him with his hands in the dirt, working on his land and tending his fields. Or you might see him collecting used cooking oil for his car. (Yes, it is actually possible!)

"Humanity has already reached the critical threshold" says Aksel. The term critical threshold refers to a limit beyond which the size or the timing of destruction can no longer be estimated. Beginning with the Industrial Revolution we've been polluting the soil, the air and the waters. The impact of this behavior on nature first became apparent 20-30 years ago and ever since the earth has exponentially degenerated. "But," says Aksel, "though the scope and threat of climate change are potentially devastating, there is a glimmer of good news: there is a solution."

Taner Aksel has always been a man of nature, but reading Carl Sagan's *Billions and Billions: Thoughts on Life and Death at the Brink of the Millennium* was the first turning point in his life. It was then, at the beginning of 90s, that his awareness and care for healing the environment started. He first began living earth-friendly at his house in Beykoz, Istanbul, where he started an ecological life by cultivating food for him and his family and heating and cooling the house using geo-thermal energy and solar panels. One year, he lost his crops due to unfavorable weather conditions caused by climate change. It was this moment when he decided to do more.



Aksel's garden in Beykoz

Taner Aksel's life changed when he took a two-week permaculture course in 2010 in İstanbul by Bill Mollison. Permaculture is a theory of ecological design which aims to develop sustainable accommodation for people and agricultural systems modeled on natural ecosystems.

"Experience is essential," says Aksel, explaining his first experience with permaculture. He started using it at his house, and seeing how quickly the land responded, he fell in love with the system. "It's no longer enough to not have a carbon foot print; you have to heal the earth. That's what we are doing with permaculture" says Aksel. "When you start applying permaculture to a certain piece of land, if you are doing everything correctly, you get results in six months. If you are patient enough, and do everything you should do, you will have a natural ecosystem in about six years. In 15 years you will have a natural food jungle."

Aksel now spends most of his time on his land near Uludağ where he puts permaculture theory into practice. "Uludağ is a lab," says Aksel. "We are creating diversity with animals, food,

waterfalls and lakes. It's a project." The Uludağ project has a purpose; he is trying to prove that sustainable life is not a dream. "If I can show that it's possible to have a sustainable system around Uludağ, where the climate is really challenging, then I can convince everyone to give permaculture a try."



Taner Aksel RC 87

Aksel would like to share his experience with anyone who wants to heal the planet. Information about his project, experiences, pictures and tips are available at www.suyapo.com. Suyapo stands for "Sürdürülebilir Yaşam Portalı" (Sustainable Life Portal). His door is also open to anyone who wants to see or be involved in the project near Uludağ.

Artapot Art Gallery Stands Out

There has been a growing interest in affordable art around the world in the last decade. The Affordable Art Fair created in 1999 in the UK is now held annually and bi-annually in fifteen different cities worldwide. Prestigious galleries are developing print editions of their most famous artists in an attempt to market them to a wider audience, emerging artists now benefit from real representation platforms and doors are open for new ideas. One no longer needs to be an art expert or rich to buy and enjoy art.

Artapot - artapotgallery.com - is the name of a new affordable art venture that Bora Samman RC 92 launched with his wife Stephanie in Istanbul during the Contemporary Istanbul Fair in November 2011. They represent a Parisian collective of artists promoting a non-elitist, fun and witty approach to art. The collective's members are all trained in fine arts and seek to bring a wide audience quality oil on canvas paintings that resonate with their desires and emotions at an affordable price.

The paintings are inspired by the collective's favorite cult images, such as iconic album covers, famous movie stars, superheroes, art history classics (Magritte, Duchamp, Man Ray, Boucher) or legendary ads. The collective also creates customized paintings for brands or individuals based on creative briefs. Perrier, Nespresso, Orange and Intercontinental Hotels are some of the international clients Artapot has been working with.



Bora Samman RC 92

Artapot signs their paintings as a group with an octopus inspired logo or symbol depending on the artwork.

Playful, able to hide in its environment and unpretentious, the octopus is a perfect symbol for the versatile and ironic spirit they aim at promoting; hence the name "Artapot".

Within the collective, there's a creative group that creates images inspired by popular culture, while another group of craftsmen paint the image on canvas and create beautiful, quality oil on canvas paintings.

Each artwork is re-painted a maximum of five times, called "versions". The price is around 1.000 Euros for a 1x1 meter oil on canvas painting.

"We work out of an atelier in Besiktas where we varnish and frame the paintings and don't have plans to open a gallery yet," says Bora. "We launched our collections at Contemporary Istanbul last November and have been exhibiting and selling in Biber Bar, Nişantaşı since January. We are working on exciting collaborations with boutique hotels and concept stores, expected to materialize in the coming months. There's also growing interest from companies in the food and beverage industry."

Bora met and married Stephanie Triau in 2008 while working in Hong Kong. The couple entered the art world largely due to their common passion for visual culture and arts. After moving to Istanbul from Hong Kong in 2010 with their newborn son Teo, they both decided to step away from corporate life and take a more adventurous entrepreneurial path. While working for luxury brands in France, Stephanie had become close friends with some visual arts professionals with whom they always had this idea about starting a creative business together. After a few months of discussions, the couple and the artists decided to launch Artapot in now trendy Istanbul.

In addition to Artapot, Bora is the co-founder of Bioserie (bioserie.com), a Hong Kong-based company in plant based, bioplastic consumer goods and YOYO (driveyoyo.com) Turkey's leading car-sharing company.

Singer Onur Mete RC 92 Releases New Album

"All I needed for a new album was motivation and a good team," says Onur Mete RC 92 speaking of his third album, *Ben Onur Mete* (I am Onur Mete) which he released after 10 years of silence. Meeting Zuhul Karadeniz, his producer, was a milestone for the artist; she listened to his songs and kickstarted the project immediately. The greatest difficulty was picking which songs to include on the album. He has stars in his eyes when he talks about the time they spent in the studio. He worked with very successful, well-known musicians and it took them about four months to complete.

Onur Mete is effusive when he speaks of his love for music, that can be traced back to RC: "My ideals... I have many; the biggest was singing and I can easily tell you that I've been sleeping, waking up and living with music. This is and has been my whole life and will be hopefully.

My idol, one of the musicians I'd really be eager to share a stage with, is Paco De Lucia and this still has not happened! I also want to compose a film score.

I remember a boy with glasses singing Grease songs in the corridors and around the campus. We staged it with our

wonderful musical club in 1992. Love to RCQ and love to all the RC family. As we always sing together; "Alma mater and the blue, we all love thee ever..."



Onur Mete RC 92

Ayşe Odman Boztosun RC 90 Picked for European Patent Office Advisory Role



Ayşe Odman Boztosun RC90

Ayşe Odman Boztosun, a law professor, has been appointed a member to the Economic and Scientific Advisory Board at the European Patent Office (EPO) supervised by the Administrative Council; the EPO is the executive arm of the European Patent Organization.

The organization is centered in Munich, and Turkey has been a member since November 2000. Its purpose is not only to provide patent protection for the applicants, but also to augment the number of innovations by increasing competition. One of the aims is to support innovation in Europe to boost economic growth. In order to investigate the effects of the patent system in economic and social areas, the Economic and Scientific Advisory Board was formed. Made up of internationally recognized experts with a global perspective and an emphasis on Europe, the board advises the EPO on economic and social research, including

which studies to conduct, evaluation of the studies and recommendations for implementation. Using research and analyses supplied by the EPO and external partners, the board also provides early warnings on sensitive issues and makes policy recommendations.

Supported by the EPO's chief economist, the Advisory Board is composed of representatives of research establishments, universities, companies, and other institutions in Europe, Asia and the US who are familiar with the patent system.

The board meets once a year and holds workshops on different subjects a couple of times each year, bringing in experts from around the world. Appointed for a three-year term, Boztosun is one of the first members.

Boztosun holds a BA degree from Istanbul University Faculty of Law, MJur and MST degrees from Oxford University and a PhD from Istanbul University. She also has a BA degree in Business Management from Anadolu University Faculty of Management, Eskişehir. She has been

chairing the Commercial Law Division at Akdeniz University Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences since 2009. She is a member of the Istanbul Bar Association. She serves as referee to various national and international journals. Boztosun launched the first national annual symposium on recent developments in competition law in 2003, which is still being held. She provides reports to the Turkish Competition Authority on draft legislation and serves as Turkey's news correspondent for the European Competition Law Review. She recently joined the Intellectual Property Working Group of TÜSIAD (Turkish Industrialists and Businesspersons Association). Boztosun is also an expert on corporate law, providing guidance and giving seminars to the business community on the recently adopted Commercial Code.

At Akdeniz University, Boztosun takes part in decision-making and also serves on the University Board of Ethics. She is also a member of the International Advisory Board of the Institute for Consumer Antitrust at Chicago, Loyola School of Law, a research affiliate with the Intellectual Property Law Institute at Osgoode Hall Law School, Canada and an NGA (non-governmental advisor) member of the ICN (International Competition Network) Unilateral Conduct Working Group.

Live Your Own Life, Not That of Others, Says Novelist Hakan Karahan RC 79

Hakan Karahan is no stranger to wearing many hats; a former bank executive, he has written novels, screenplays, acted on screen and produced a film. His latest novel *Nehirde Kayan Yıldızlar (Falling Stars on the River)* is an inquiry into what life is really all about. Its protagonist, Cem, comes from a repressive family and has designed his career and life planning up into his old age. When his father contracts cancer, Cem starts evaluating his past and everyone in it.

Karahan's novel makes us confront our values and life choices. "It's always life that says the last word," says the author.

"You know what success, a good family and a good spouse bring to your life, but you don't know what they take from you."

Karahan was born in 1960, Istanbul. He studied business administration at Miami University after graduating from RC.

After twenty years of senior management, he devoted himself to literature. He has several poetry books and novels. He is the author of *Yeni Başlayanlar İçin Aikido (Aikido for Beginners)*. He also has various scripts that have been adapted for movies and TV series.



Hakan Karahan RC 79

New Albums From Talented Musician Erdem Helvacioğlu RC 94

Erdem Helvacioğlu, the well-known contemporary music composer, was in the news with two recently released albums *Eleven Short Stories*, released in the US, and *Timeless Waves*, released in Belgium. Helvacioğlu in *Eleven Short Stories* makes a dramatic and sensuous connection between Turkish music and the prepared piano. *Eleven Short Stories* is a set of nearly a dozen atmospheric vignettes for prepared piano, paying homage to some of his favorite film directors: Kim Ki-Duk, David Lynch, Krzysztof Kieslowski, Theodoros Angelopoulos, Jane Campion, Anthony Minghella, Ang Lee, Atom Egoyan, Darren Aronofsky, Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu and Steven Soderberg.

As for *Timeless Waves*, it was inspired by W. Gerrod Parrott's book *Emotions in Social Psychology* and commissioned by Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary for *The Morning Line* - an interdisciplinary art project by Matthew Ritchie, Aranda/Lasch and Arup AGU - and premiered in May 2010, when the project was exhibited at Eminonu Square in Istanbul.

The prolific musician also contributed to the exhibition at Arter, Istanbul, in February with his sound work "Freedom to the Black". He also gave a concert at SALON IKSU, Istanbul, on April 11th with world renowned musicians Nina Persson (vocalist of the band The Cardigans) and Nathan Larson. He also gave a workshop on contemporary film music during the Istanbul Film Festival.

Helvacioğlu is an ambitious and accomplished composer, as well as a captivating performer. He has several works to his credit and has performed all around the world.

His music has been broadcast world-wide from BBC, ABC and WDR to Radio France. His compositions have been included



in most prestigious festivals in countries such as America, Europe, Argentina, New Zealand, Canada and Korea. He has received numerous international awards for his electronic music. He has received commissions from the 2006 World Football Championship, TBA 21-The Morning Line, Borusan Center for Culture & Arts, Arter "Space for Art", The Association for the Art of the Harp, Novelum Contemporary Music Festival, International Istanbul Biennial (IKSV), and the world-famous New Music ensemble Bang On A Can All-Stars. His

sound installations have been included at such museums and galleries as the 10th International Istanbul Biennial, Los Angeles Track 16, Indonesia Soemardja, Köln Museum für Angewandte Kunst, London Menier Gallery. He is also actively involved in composing for films, multimedia productions, contemporary dance and theatre. His film music has been heard at Cannes, Sarajevo, Locarno, Seoul, Sao Paulo, and Sydney film festivals and he received the "Best Original Soundtrack" award at the 2006 Mostramundo Film Festival.



Erdem Helvacioğlu RC 94



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Renewal at Robert College



If proof were needed that renewal is always at hand, and always for the better, look no further than your alma mater. In 149 years of service, part of the secret to Robert College's enduring success has been the school's sure-footed way of moving with the times. Maintaining a sense of tradition and core values while meeting the changing educational, physical and other requirements of a fast-changing world is one of the biggest challenges for an old and well-rooted institution such as ours.

From desks to digital infrastructure, from water to student welfare, Robert College is continually updating its facilities and infrastructure to provide the best foundation for learning, and keep the school a leading center of education. Here, we guide you through some recent changes.

A More Student-Friendly Schedule

In December scheduling consultant Simon Jeynes visited the campus for a week, and what he observed and recommended has had the school buzzing ever since.

“Companies that have survived for 149 years are not doing things the same way, so once again it was time for RC to rethink the way we do things,” says Maria Orhon, Academic Director.

“We had a sense that the schedule isn't ideal; it's not student-driven.”

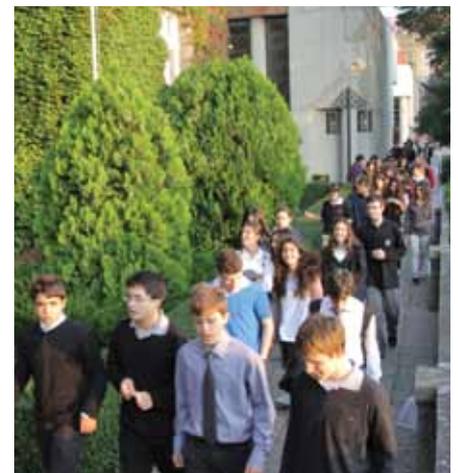
The company Jeynes works with, ISM, has done schedule consulting with hundreds of private and independent schools in

North America and around the world. He spent the week meeting with faculty, staff, students and parents to get their insights into various aspects of the school and how they affect student life. The schedule was invariably a big part of that since it impacts on different aspects of student life during the day.

As part of his study, Jeynes conducted a survey with 32 students from all grade levels, the responses to which have led the administration to conduct a similar survey with the entire student body in order to better understand how the students perceive their Robert College experience.

One point that came up frequently throughout the week was how fast-paced the school day is. “With the current schedule, 1000 people move between nine buildings in 4-5 minutes, nine times a day,” explains Orhon. “There are points around school where there are human traffic jams.” Students feel the long break and lunch periods are too rushed as well. The frantic pace adds to students' already high stress levels.

“There is also a psychological transition for students between different spaces, different subjects and different teaching styles,” Orhon adds. “Of a 40-minute period, a teacher only gets the attention of a student for 32 minutes; they lose eight minutes while the student is mentally transitioning in and out of the present class. Reducing the physical and psychological transition would increase concentration and quality of learning.”





In an effort to make students' lives at RC less stressful, the administration is discussing making changes to the way students spend their day. More time between classes would make the transition between subjects and places easier for students. Increased double periods would give students more time to focus and teachers more opportunity for greater interaction in class. And giving students more break time will make their day feel less rushed.

"We are trying to make the system more student-friendly, not just student-centered," says Orhon. **"We want to improve the experience for our students."**

A Laptop in Every Backpack

With the increasing need for students to access online information and academic resources, RC decided to start a laptop project whereby, in the near future, all RC students will be using their own laptop as a study tool. The project started in October 2011 with prep students following a "Bring Your Own Device" model. Students can use their own devices at school as long as they meet the minimum specifications, or can buy the tablet PC that is recommended by the school. Scholarship prep students have their laptops financed by the school.

RC administrators and teachers believe that technology will not replace the teachers or learning; on the contrary, it will enhance learning in the classroom by offering the possibility for more student-centered learning and more collaboration opportunities.

"I've been able to become much more of a resource for students as they discover things on their own, instead of the source of information," explains prep teacher Cecile Popp. "Classes are indeed more student-focused as I'm now able to give my students hands-on challenges to work on in class. Furthermore, with the laptops

at their disposal, students can access an internet resource, use PowerPoint to make a visual aid for a presentation, or log on to Moodle (the school's virtual course management system) and download a worksheet instead of me having to bring paper handouts to class."

Upgrading the IT Infrastructure

In order to accommodate the increased number of users on the RC network the IT infrastructure needed to be upgraded. The previous wireless system, installed in 2004, had limited coverage and capacity, and needed to be expanded.





RC decided to work with Cisco Systems, who conducted a site survey over three months. The original plan was to add wireless access points to the prep building, Woods, in the first year, and add the rest the following year. However, upgrading the entire school at once meant a significant cost savings. RC now has access points in every classroom and in common study areas around the school - 280 in total. The backbone was also expanded to support the new capacity to 21 switches in nine buildings. Although the current capacity should support all students, faculty and staff, the new network setup can easily be expanded if needed.

With the increased number of users, the internet bandwidth also needed increasing, so the school upgraded its connection to 120Mb/second from 30Mb/second. The radio-link connection for wireless is backed up with a fiber optic metro Ethernet connection. The network security systems have also been upgraded to accommodate the increase in users.

"The networks are like highways. When the students have their own devices, we had to increase the number of lanes to provide a high quality network and internet service. Since more and more streaming and Web 2.0 technologies are

being used in the classroom, increasing the internet bandwidth was crucial. We were lucky to get support from Cenk Bayrakdar RC 87, Chief New Technology Business Officer at Turkcell Superonline, and increased our bandwidth to 120 Mb/second. It made a tremendous difference," says Metin Ferhatoğlu, IT Director.

Revolution in the Classroom

Although students and teachers have access to new technology, and the infrastructure to support them, traditional teaching and learning methods will not help teachers and students make the



most of all the knowledge that is now available to them. There not only needs to be a change in how they teach and learn, but also in the methodology and physical space where learning takes place.

Teachers are continuously being given training and information on how they can better harness the knowledge available to them and use it in an engaging way with the students. For example, earlier this year, the school brought in Mark Prensky, an education and learning consultant who specializes in learning in the digital age. He spoke to faculty and staff about how enduring skills can be taught to digitally-savvy students using the latest technological tools.

Instead of sitting in rows and being lectured to by the teacher, students need a set-up that allows them to collaborate with fellow students.

RC is upgrading classrooms to accommodate this new learning style and the influx of electronic devices. Instead of having chairs with attached writing tables, classrooms will have chairs with wheels and tables that can easily be moved. This will allow teachers the flexibility to change the set-up of the classroom depending on the lesson. There will also be power outlets throughout the classroom for students to charge their laptops.

"The teacher's role is changing from the 'Sage on the Stage' to 'Guide on the Side' and technology is one aspect of this beneficial mind-shift," says prep teacher Cyrus Carter.

A More Comfortable Home Away from Home

For residential students, Robert College is their home away from home. When they are finished with classes at the end of the day, it's where they go to relax, catch up with friends and do homework. The environment was less cozy until recently when both the boys and girls residences went through a major overhaul. Previously called dorms, the students themselves asked that the boarding halls be renamed residences because the

environment felt much more like home after the improvements.

"We renovated the residences in two phases," explains Nejat Öztezcan, Plant Manager. "We started with the bathrooms and toilets, and then continued with the furniture and floors." The old wooden beds, cupboards and desks, which had been in use since 1992, were replaced with "living units" that have a more contemporary design. In addition to a bed and cupboard, the study space in the rooms was changed so that each resident has a desk under their bed. They also have more storage space with a better lock system, making the rooms, each of which houses four students, easier to keep tidy.

"The students love being in their rooms," says residential advisor Berna Yeşilova. "They all have their own study area which gives them more privacy. Their individual living units include a desk lamp and a reading lamp, which is very safe in the sense that they do not have to worry about plugs or cheap study lamps. And for the first time they can read in bed which is very peaceful - before they go to sleep they all read books."



"The room is brighter and a better study area because the tables are bigger," explains Lise 10 student Bige Özkan. "Previously there was almost no space to work, the desks were small and the room was dark." Lise 10 student İdil Gençosmanoğlu adds, "I'm more motivated to study because of the bigger desks. The overhead lamps are really great for reading in bed."

Making Music More Intimate

Music is one of the most popular electives at RC. In addition to two



Mert Can Mutlu L11, Uygur Özdemir L11 and Music Teacher Koray Demirkapı

classrooms and a band room, there are also six practice studios. With all the musicians at RC, this is often one of the noisiest sections of the school.

In 2011 the soundproofing in the music classrooms was upgraded. Where previously wooden blocks hung, there are now colorful textile-covered panels. Double-paned windows were installed to further block noise between the rooms.

"The acoustics were adequate, but now they are better," explains music teacher Koray Demirkapı.

"The students can practice their music more easily without being distracted by the other rooms. Students feel like they are in a real studio."

"We are going to re-record some of the Harem pieces and now we can use our own rooms - there is no need to go to an outside studio."

Demirkapı also says the rooms are lighter and livelier and provide a more motivating environment for the students.

Strong Bodies Support Strong Minds

Physical education has always been an important part of the curriculum at Robert College. Former RC librarian May Fincancı writes in her book *The Story of Robert College Old and New*, "A supporter of the

theory that for a complete education the training of the body is equally important as the training of the mind, Cyrus Hamlin started a physical education program at Robert College simultaneously with the opening of the school. This program which he started on a modest scale was to grow and gain impetus over the years until participation in athletics became one of the major requirements in the overall education of the Robert College student."

The building of the Nejat Eczacıbaşı Sports Facility in 1988 played a major role in the advancement of the physical education program at RC. The fitness center, which is part of the facility, was renovated last year and additional equipment was added, making it a more exciting place for students to keep fit. New stationary bicycles and a rowing machine were added. A new free weights stand was added and is especially a hit with the male students. A television and laptop have also been installed in the fitness center and students have a variety of fitness programs and videos they can follow on the TV screen. New mirrors have been installed, the heating system has been decentralized and the floor has been resurfaced.

The fitness center is being used by more students and the residential students especially take advantage of the renovated facilities. "The fitness center renovation has given us more exciting activities to add to our workout, like the P90x computer program that we can follow on the new TV screen," says Bige Özkan. PE Department Head Burçin Balkaş adds, "Since we've renovated the fitness center, the room is used more often. Students like to be here."

From Infirmary to Health Center

No longer just a place to go for ice and band aids, the infirmary has recently been renamed the Health Center to reflect the range of services they offer. In addition to treating minor illnesses and sports injuries, the center now administers more in-depth diagnoses for illnesses and also organizes activities that focus on illness and injury prevention.

"The number of patients we've had to send to the hospital has decreased,"

explains Dr. Onur Başımeç. "In the past two years there has been a 70 percent reduction in the number of students who were sent home or to the hospital for treatment because the Health Center is now able to do a more comprehensive diagnosis and treat many more problems on-site. If patients do need to go outside for further treatment, we can measure blood pressure, blood sugar and do an EKG here, so they can be treated more quickly at the hospital." The Health Center also has medicine delivered to the school, so patients can start their prescriptions right away.

Dr. Onur and his staff are able to start the blood work process here, and send off samples to a lab to be analyzed. They also have a nebulizer, which is used to more effectively administer medications for problems such as allergies and asthma. The Health Center is prepared for emergencies and has one of two defibrillators on campus (the other is at the Bridge) with voiced commands that explain how to use it, and oxygen for emergencies such as asthma attacks and heart attacks.

This year the Health Center started giving vaccinations. In addition to the flu shot and HPV vaccination, Health Center staff also administer DTP, hepatitis A and B (especially useful for students and teachers going to overseas events), and tetanus. At the beginning of the school year they organized a talk for parents on adolescent vaccinations given by pediatrician Ener Çağrı Dinleyici, MD.

The Health Center focuses on prevention in other ways as well. They organize seminars for students on different topics, the most recent ones being "Healthy Eating" presented by dietician Fatma Turanlı Varderer, and "Computer, Internet and TV Addiction" given by child and adolescent psychologist Arzu Önal, MD. In the fall the Health Center arranged for Dünya Göz Hospital to come give free eye check-ups to students, faculty and staff. Every year prep students are given a lesson on first aid basics. Free books on healthcare are available in the Health Center lobby. In addition, the team organizes blood drives once a year administered by the Red Crescent.

One of the recovery rooms was upgraded thanks to a generous contribution by ACG 61 for their 50th Anniversary.

In trying to make the room more like home rather than a hospital room, it has automatic adjustable beds which are more comfortable, over-bed lighting so students can read while recovering, and new bed tables. The students say the only thing that's missing is a TV! Dr. Başımeç is hoping other graduating classes will help with the upgrade of the other two rooms.

Putting Wastewater to Good Use

In 2008 Turkey faced a serious drought, and Istanbul was on the verge of water



Recovery room, refurbished by a contribution from ACG 61

rationing. "RC uses about 100 tons of water every day, so such a crisis would have seriously affected the school," explains Plant Manager Nejat Öztezcan.

The wastewater treatment facility was built in 2011 under the supervision of a group of professors from İstanbul Teknik University (İTÜ)'s faculty of environmental engineering, who are well-known for their work in this field. The facility is a membrane bioreactor (MBR) that can process 14.5 m³/day. Wastewater (from showers, sinks, toilets, etc.) from all facilities around the school (including school buildings and faculty housing) is recycled through a process of filtration and purification. The recycled water is currently used for irrigation. This summer the school's restrooms will be changed so that they use recycled water for toilet flushing, helping the school conserve even more water.

To make sure the water is suitable for reuse, water quality is checked daily at an on-campus laboratory by a lab technician.

RC produces 80 tons of wastewater each day. The treatment facility is designed so that the school can easily increase the capacity if it needed to be able to process more water. There are only a couple such facilities in Turkey, and RC gets many visitors interested in seeing the site.

Disabled Accessibility

RC has made some helpful adjustments to areas around campus in order to accommodate people with disabilities. Three bathrooms have been equipped for disabled users - two in the Health Center and one in the theatre. Ramps have been added from the road parking lot and back of Sage Hall so people can easily access the cafeteria and main levels of the school. And special parking spaces for people with disabilities have also been allocated and marked for this purpose.

Smarter Heating

The heating system was also recently upgraded in order to make it more efficient and effective. The old system was centralized, with steam being sent underground to all school buildings. This meant that if one building needed to be heated over a school break or on a weekend, all buildings would have to be heated at the same time. The new system has individual heating units in each building, allowing energy to be used only where and when it is required. In the residences, the heating system has been even further decentralized so that students can adjust the room temperature as needed. This improvement has reduced the school's gas consumption by approximately 25 percent.

The heating system, renovation of the residences, and building of the waste water treatment facility was made possible through matching funds from USAID. ■



The Robert College Alumni Association (RKMD)

From experiencing the culinary and cultural delights of Hatay to learning about living with angels, from discussions on Turkey's position in the world to talks about women's roles in Turkey, it has been a busy few months for the RKMD. Graduates continue to enjoy strengthening their ties with fellow alumni through a variety of social activities including sight-seeing tours, insightful presentations and panel discussions, and entertaining music and dance evenings at Bizim Tepe.



A group of RC graduates in front of the Beşikli Cave, Samandağ, Hatay



Timsal Karabekir Yıldırım (right), daughter of General Kazım Karabekir, with Birgül Somel ACG 67, Ful Duran ACG 63, Ayla Karanis ACG 63 and Fügen Ünal Önder ACG 63 after the event entitled "Don't Forget Yesterday, So You Can Deserve Tomorrow"



Sedat Ergin RC 75 and Aslı Aydıntaşbaş RC 89 discuss "The 2012 Domestic and International Forecast for Turkey"



Dr. Gülüstü Kaptanoğlu RC 85 at her talk entitled "Preparing for Aging" with Ali Akef RA 64, Dilek Gündoğ ACG 71 Jr., and Fatma Artunakal RC 77



Minister Fatma Şahin and Parliament Member Nursuna Memecan RC 75



Şirin Pancaroğlu playing the harp at Minister Şahin's presentation

Bahadır Balban RC 2000

B-Labs

After graduating from Robert College Bahadır Balban went to the UK where he got his college degree and masters in computer engineering from the University of Essex and Imperial College respectively. Bahadır then worked three years at ARM, a world-leader in microprocessors. However, his free-spirited nature wouldn't let him rest. In 2007, Bahadır left ARM to found his own software start-up, B-Labs.

B-Labs provides baremetal hypervisor software for mobile devices. Put more simply, B-Labs technology enables multiple operating systems to co-

exist on mobile devices. Personal and business information can be kept separate on one device, eliminating the need for people to carry more than one mobile device while keeping sensitive business information secure.

B-Labs was one of 10 start-ups to present their concept to a panel of venture capitalist judges at Mobilize LaunchPad 2011 which is part of Mobilize, one of the largest mobile events in the Silicon Valley.

For more information on B-Labs see b-labs.com



Bahadır Balban RC 2000

Lise 11 Student Wins Nardis Jazz Award

Cemre Necefbaş L11, a talented young singer with a charming voice, made the RC Community proud by winning the 2011 Nardis Jazz Award. The youngest of the 41 competing singers, aging from 17 to 35, she was one of three singers to capture a prize. The award includes a workshop with

Sibel Köse, a famous Turkish jazz singer, and a chance to be a guest on the NTV Radio show *Cazın Büyüsü (The Charm of Jazz)*. Cemre is happy to have won these prizes; however, she says, the most important thing for her is to have gained the recognition of good musicians.

Having started singing and playing the violin during her primary school years, Cemre never stopped dreaming of becoming a professional singer.

"Coming to RC is one of the best things that has ever happened to me because of the RC Orchestra," she says. "By joining the orchestra I started to think more professionally; I now know the capacity of my voice, my likes and dislikes."

Most importantly, she now knows that she is going to study music at university.

Cemre has been taking singing lessons from an opera singer, as well as piano and theory lessons from Nail Yavuzoğlu, a well



Cemre Necefbaş L11

known Turkish musician. Her goal is to study jazz at the Berklee College of Music in Boston.

What's more, musical talent appears to run in the family: Cemre's brother Can Necefbaş RC 10, is also a singer.



Scenes from Esra Saydam's thesis film *I Am John Wayne*



Esra Saydam RC 04

Finds a Home in the US Indie Film Industry

A recent graduate of Columbia University's MFA Film Program, Esra Saydam has produced and co-produced over ten short films in recent years and is busy carving out a place for herself in New York's independent film world. Her thesis film, *I Am John Wayne* (2012) directed by Christina Choe, won the Grand Jury award at Slamdance 2012 where it premiered last January. During her studies, Saydam was also awarded The Hollywood Foreign Press Association Fellowship. Her first feature film as a producer was *The Happy Sad* - an indie film exploring the relationship problems of New Yorker couples.

Saydam also directs films. Her short film *Fair Lawn* (2010) was screened at the Seattle International Film Festival, If Istanbul (Istanbul Independent Film Festival) and broadcast on NYC TV. She has four film and TV projects in development both in the US and Turkey.

"I am very intrigued by character-driven, psychological stories regardless of their genre," explains Saydam. "Anyone who watches my films will notice that I try to tell stories of people from everyday life. They might be doing extreme things like murdering someone during the film, but they are really no different from us in terms of normal habits. They fall in love, regret, cry, and feel pain and guilt like us. In my films, I try to create a personal connection between the audience and an antihero and not make them judge him/her based on his/her political or social label."



Esra Saydam RC 04

Award-winning director and producer Saydam volunteers in the production office of the independent film producers Jay Van Hoy and Lars Knudsen (a.k.a., "her mentors").

Their films include *Beginners*, which won an Oscar this year, and *The Loneliest Planet*, which won the Golden Tulip (Altin Lale) award at the 2012 Istanbul International Film Festival.

"They are never afraid of sharing their knowledge," she says. "They have this open-door policy which allows the interns to hear everything they discuss in their

rooms: conference calls, investment meetings, casting ideas, development meetings. An A-list actor can come into the office and have a script meeting and I can hear everything (I can actually see too because they have glass walls now). So I feel like I am in the heart of independent world cinema even though I am just a beginner. I've gotten so much wisdom thanks to them."

Saydam lives in the US. After graduating from Robert College she studied at Northwestern University where she received her B.S. degree in Communication Studies with honors.

Princeton Senior Awarded Fellowship for Autistic Children's Education Project

Ceymi Doenyas RC 08 a senior at Princeton University majoring in Psychology, with certificates in Neuroscience and Near Eastern Studies, was awarded the "Reachout International Fellowship", given to one student out of the 1200-person senior class to do a public service project internationally. She is planning to use part of the funding to purchase ipads for Tohum School for Autistic Children and help bring this innovation in the education of children with autism to Turkey.

The Princeton Child Development Institute (PCDI), one of the leading schools in the US in the education of children with autism, began using ipads as an educational tool last year. They use ipad applications to help children organize their lives, become more independent by following their activity schedules without needing a caregiver to tell them what to do, learn life skills with visual instructions such as brushing teeth, and improve social communication skills through applications that teach them how to initiate and sustain conversations with others. Having witnessed the benefits of using tablets and ipads with autistic kids in the US, Ceymi started wondering if she could do the same in her home country. Next year, she will use these ipads at Tohum and see how they benefit the lives of children with autism. If substantial improvements are observed, other donors will be contacted for more ipads for more children in the school.

Ceymi traces her interest in special needs education back to Community Involvement Projects at RC. She says: "I graduated from RC in 2008 as third in my class. Community Involvement Projects (CIPs) started when I was a junior and I was asked to be a leader on one of the projects. I also volunteered to be a part of the group that worked for Tohum. We translated the special educational curriculum for children with autism prepared by Princeton Child Development Institute from English to Turkish so that Tohum could start accepting students with autism and commence its education. After the translation was finished, I volunteered at the Tohum School and after undergoing special training, I accompanied instructors of children with autism."

"Children with autism have social communication problems and are not usually interested in other people outside of themselves and do not pay attention to others. So, it was a very rewarding experience to have some students look at me, talk to me, even hold my hand and walk with me, after I spent a year working with them."

"I really enjoyed helping kids with autism and I continued doing that when I came to



Ceymi Doenyas RC 08

Princeton University. I have volunteered at the Eden Institute for Children with Autism and took the students to fun afterschool activities such as bowling or dance, music, video games. I also volunteered in Fashion Speaks, a fashion show organized to raise money for the largest science and advocacy institution for autism in the US, Autism Speaks. I volunteered at Princeton Disabilities Awareness conferences, where we organized informational seminars for the parents of children with disabilities and fun stations of sports and arts and games for those children"

Ceymi's dream for the future is to go to medical school, become a psychiatrist and work in Turkey to help those with disabilities lead better and happier lives. She thinks there is nothing nobler than using a college degree from one of the best universities in the world to help others in need in her country, and show that there is someone who cares for them and their happiness.



Ceymi Doenyas RC 08, using an iPad to teach a student with autism

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Journey to the Joyful Land of Death...

Güzin Yalın RC 75 travels to Indonesia and discovers a vibrant island culture surrounding the after-life

By Güzin Yalın RC 75

As a fervent lover of traveling, I often find myself on the road to faraway lands and not long ago, I made such a trip to Indonesia, the intriguing island country of South Asia. What remains incredibly fresh in my mind are the thick forests, impressive enough to enchant even someone like me whose preference usually lies with city life. The forests are very dense, very deep and truly majestic in Indonesia. The minute you turn your head away from the surrounding cacao and coffee trees, very tall palm trees of many sorts, clusters of bamboo trees and thickets of one of the most interesting tree in the world, the banyan, your eyes catch sight of huge wild versions of plants we kill, then grow tiny versions of in pots in our geography. And I must admit I have never come across flowers so beautiful and so colorful as the ones I saw in Indonesia.





The most bewildering spot in Indonesia that has since stayed with me is the island of Sulawesi, in particular, the Christian region of Toraja in the mountains. The adventure started with the bus trip, as is often the case in those parts of the world, because we completed a drive of around 300 kilometers in 13 hours due to the condition of the roads and the incredibly colorful heavy traffic on them. The true excitement, however, started at the top of the mountains: I found myself blinking with great astonishment as we drove up, having seen clusters of boat-like constructions above the trees in the distant end of the forest. Boats sailing over trees on top of a mountain? Too supernatural even for a fairy tale country like Indonesia! And yet, this was exactly what I kept seeing all around me: in a short while, I realized with amazement that what created this image was not real boats but the traditional village houses of Toraja. Their architecture is unique because they are constructed with boat-shaped roofs!

The people of Toraja, in their initial trip to the area from China, which they had left to flee the oppression of the Han Dynasty, paddled across the sea in boats of a very specific shape.

Upon their arrival, they lived under their overturned boats for a while until they built houses, which they made to resemble those boats. They thus created one of the most interesting styles of residential architecture in the world.

As for their Christianity, one immediately understands that it is clearly something they have pretended to accept in order to be rid of the imposing missionaries in the area.

The people of Toraja still continue to carry out the rituals their animistic belief demands. The most interesting of these rituals are those dealing with death.

The Torajans lead a life very much at peace with death, to the point that they actually don't bury their dead right after death takes place. Instead, they mummify them to prevent decay and continue living with them for a while. The mummified dead dressed in their usual attires are placed in a corner of the house, sitting with their hands in their laps, palms facing up. This is done because the belief is that the soul of the dead person rises to the sky and eventually moves on to a different



Güzin Yalın RC 75



dimension of peace and happiness. The challenge is to be able to help the deceased in their endeavor to achieve this and since the other world is full of mighty mountains and deep valleys one has to

travel through before reaching the happy end, a strong carrier is what is needed most. The Torajans look to the most powerful animal they know for this; the buffalo. For this reason, as many buffalos as possible

are slaughtered at funerals so that their souls also go to the other world and unite with the soul of the deceased to help him. People are thus buried only two or three years after they die, by which time their families put together enough money to afford the necessary number of buffalos.



The ceremonies that take place after the correct number of buffalos is secured are a perfect showcase of tradition, so I was overjoyed by the news that I would be able to attend the funeral of a dignitary of Liatu village.

It turned out that the ceremony was not for one person but for two; a mother and a son were about to be sent together on their final journey, after waiting as mummies for three and two years respectively. Even though I couldn't bear to look at the buffalos being slaughtered and skinned one by one, other aspects of the ceremony such as the ritual rhythmic boat-beating carried out by the women of the village, the huge red coffins covered in satin in which the deceased had finally been placed, the ancient women with mouths bright red from betel-chewing who guarded those coffins, the traditional



clothes of the beautiful young girls attending the funeral and the food the family of the deceased kept preparing in the huge makeshift kitchen behind the ceremony area were unforgettable.

This funeral ceremony was to continue for ten more days during which 60 buffalos and twice as many pigs would be slaughtered and sent to heaven to serve the deceased. However, for me it was time to continue my journey, going up the mountain to visit another village where another aspect of striking Torajan tradition awaited in the Lemo village. This part of the country is completely rocky and as we descended towards the rocks, hidden among the large trees, we suddenly came across one of the most bizarre scenes I have ever seen. From the many balconies covering the surface of the high rocks, a large number of people with colorful dresses were staring at us! Frankly, the sight was at first quite eerie... As I continued my timid descent, I saw the many holes that existed beside the balconies on the surface of the rocks and realized that they were actually graves, I then slowly understood that those looking so intently at me from above were in fact human-size wooden puppets made to perfection, so much so that it was almost impossible to differentiate them from the real thing. I was in fact in a rock-cemetery

where hundreds of bodies per each grave, or rather the bones that remained of them, had been buried in the rocks. As for the puppets, they were placed in front of the graves to represent the dead within those graves as a requirement of the animistic belief of Torajan people; a tradition which I was told had been in existence for hundreds of years.

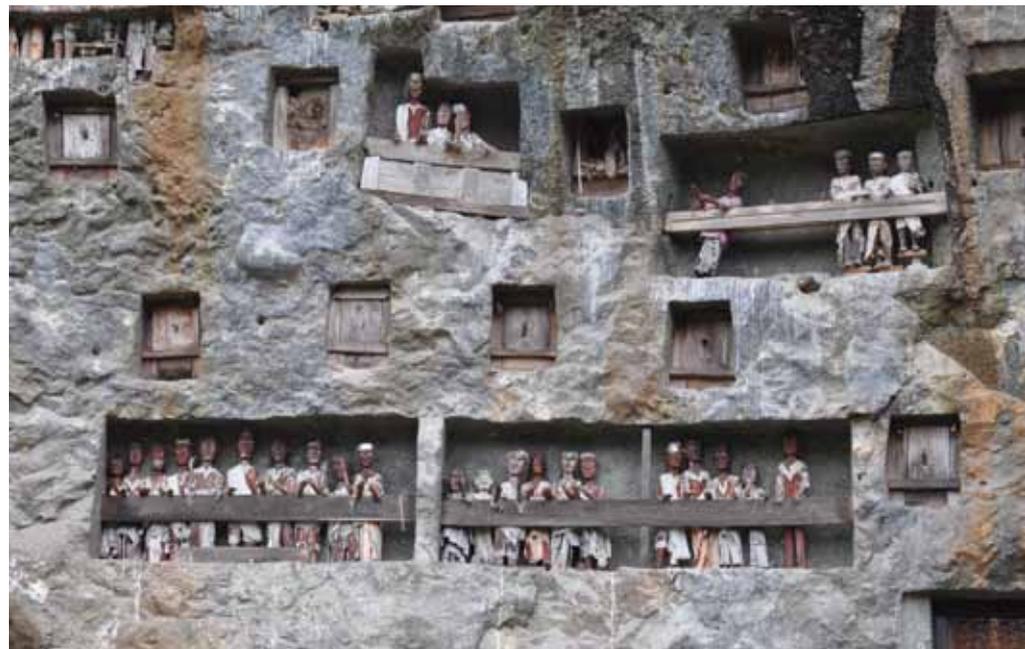
Everywhere around me were bones and skulls scattered on the ground or falling



from the coffins that had been left hanging from the top of the rocks instead of being placed in a cove.

The strangest part of the whole experience was not feeling at all ill at ease in the presence of so many "deadly objects"! It was one of the most peaceful places I have ever been to.

Becoming aware of this thought prompted me to move on... Indonesia had many more islands, each with a different culture and lifestyle and maybe it was time to take a look into customs that did not have anything to do with the other world! Deep inside though, I knew that the island of Sulawesi had become a part of my memory whose place no other experience could easily take. ■



insparkus.com: Helping You Find a Career You Love



Vivi Soryano RC 76



Yüstra Soyak RC 77



Miryam Anjel RC 79

10 Tips to (Re)Start Your Career

1. You don't have to settle for what you have if you are not happy with it.
2. First start to define the life you want to live. Career comes second; it is a means to serve the life you want to live.
3. Allow yourself to dream. Don't stop yourself. Remember you are only dreaming.
4. Know what you don't want. This helps you in focusing on what you really want.
5. Look for what makes you forget time. This is the area where you will thrive. Then find a way to put that theme in your career.
6. Every single experience that you have had is your richness and it will make a difference.
7. Work on your values. Knowing your values helps you to choose the systems whose values are in line with yours.
8. Make a plan: take one step at a time!
9. Always remember that you are the leader of your own life.
10. If you say "Yeah, I know all these but I still can't decide and take action"; know that you are not alone. Get support. Work with a coach.

Founded by Vivi Soryano RC 76 and her partners, insparkus.com is an online career management system based on the founders' extensive career counseling and coaching experience. "The cause" of insparkus.com is to support individuals for self-actualization in the work they love to do, hence increasing the overall "gross national happiness" of society. As providers of coaching services to university students and young professionals, Vivi Soryano and her partner Özlem Sarioğlu realized that young people needed this service to be economically affordable, geographically reachable and flexible time-wise. So they teamed up with an industrial designer to transform their career counseling know-how into an "e-coaching system", an investor who believed in "the cause" and an industrial engineer to implement the design.

insparkus.com enables students and professionals to define their vision, find their values and strengths as well as their boundaries and limitations. As they proceed in the system, they list career alternatives they want to pursue, conduct role model interviews and explore what kind of a workplace they enjoy.

Once the students or young professionals conclude the 17-step insparkus career navigation system, they report that they have a clear vision, a plan and a well-

organized sense of what their values, strengths and experiences are for any job interview.

insparkus.com now offers the once "geographically expensive limited-availability constrained" career counseling service to anyone who has internet access. Hence people all over Turkey can benefit from it at a significantly lowered price.

Having completed its launch phase, insparkus.com is now making its services known to a larger population. Currently, it is strengthening its network and ecosystem with employers and employees in Turkey, from NGOs to entrepreneurs, students to academics. The next phase will be to provide their services overseas to the international market.

insparkus.com has a specifically trained coaching team to serve their clients. Miryam Anjel RC 79 and Yüstra Soyak RC 77 are members of this team and they have been on board from day one to co-create the online coaching manual of insparkus. Enjoying co-creation with the team, Miryam and Yüstra have provided their unique contribution to "the cause" of insparkus. The tips you'll find in this article on (re)starting your career are a product of this contribution.

In the new business climate, career management has a new meaning. "The pace of change in the economy and lifestyle creates a chaos for the future of the business world. A new approach is needed to thrive in this climate" says

Vivi Soryano, co-founder and chairman of the company. "As individuals, we need to endure the unknown and manage the ambiguity, while contributing our unique values to co-create within the system. I believe our methodology provides this mindset so that one can flourish in this new work environment."

insparkus.com appeals to GenY (aged between 18 and 35), a population of more than 20 million. "Being online is something preferred by our clientele over being offline" says Vivi Soryano. "Due to the lifestyle transformation taking place with GenY, people prefer services that are brought to their laptops or mobile devices, rather than using them in traditional ways. This is how we adapted to this new world: by offering futuristic career counseling methodology to GenY, while meeting them in their own media".

Enkuba:

Planting the Seeds of Success

Founded by Piraye Antika, Pınar Kapralı Görsev RC 84 and Ufuk Kayserilioğlu RC 93, Enkuba provides a supportive environment for entrepreneurs to develop and grow their ideas.

Before companies like Dropbox, Reddit and Airbnb became big names, they were incipient ideas whose founders worked with start-up accelerators who provided seed funding to help develop their products. Although the concept of seed funding has been around for a few years, Enkuba is the first using this model in Turkey.

Started in September 2011, the founders have the right mix of expertise to help entrepreneurs make their ideas reality. Piraye Antika has worked over 25 years in banking and finance. She is also the parent of an RC graduate. Pınar Kapralı Görsev has over 20 years of experience in the software industry and is a "serial entrepreneur" having started up several ventures including Turk Nokta Net, one of Turkey's first internet service providers, and PhonoClick, a network-based business solution developer. Ufuk Kayserilioğlu brings his many years of programming and project management experience to the team, having also worked on web and mobile phone application development.

"With its highly developed infrastructure and intellectual capital, Turkey has a great potential to be a center of innovation. Unfortunately, there are no organizations that can support people who want to leave their regular job so they can work on their dreams," explains Kayserilioğlu. "Nobody helps start-ups from proof of concept to market. There is a lack of financial and mentorship resources."

Enkuba works with projects that are either new concepts or existing products that may have launched but didn't get traction for various reasons. They provide office space, initial funding, technical expertise, networking opportunities, mentorship and investment support. They also help with financial and legal issues such as incorporating a business. In exchange, Enkuba becomes a minority investor. Not all companies Enkuba works with need financial support. Some companies may



Pınar Kapralı Görsev RC 84 and Ufuk Kayserilioğlu RC 93

be looking for advice on how to make their concept marketable, or want to connect with potential investors.

Enkuba helps business founders grow their ideas to the angel investment stage or until they can run on their own. "Founders don't have to worry about financial and legal issues; they can just focus on building their product and getting it to users," says Kayserilioğlu.

"As a minority partner, Enkuba gives start-ups guidance, but we don't force them to implement our suggestions. We don't want to kill the creative process."

One company that has recently entered the market with the help of Enkuba is Carlo's Game Studio. Their product, called AI, is a location-based alarm application for Apple products. They are also finalizing a game that will soon be available on Apple Apps Store. "Enkuba gave them shared office space and shared equipment for development and testing, incorporated their company, and gave them legal and financial support and guidance," describes Kayserilioğlu. "We worked with the development team and went over code and game architecture.

Most importantly, we got them in touch with Enkuba mentors that know the gaming industry very well. Their input and feedback on certain aspects of the game were invaluable. They particularly gave the team insights into how to self-publish and how to deal with game publishers."

Enkuba is also currently working with an online education platform and an online startup focusing on arts, antiques and collectibles.

When selecting companies to work with, Enkuba doesn't only look at the product or idea. They can help entrepreneurs hone their ideas to make their concept more marketable. What's more important to the success of a project is the team - they should be driven, resourceful, and work well together.

Enkuba is currently looking for new teams and ideas. Interested parties can visit their website at www.enkuba.com to find out more and apply. They are also interested in working with mentors who are entrepreneurs or can give a view of what investors are looking for, and that can spend a few hours per month with new and exciting ideas while imparting their knowledge.

For more information contact info@enkuba.com

The Times Were a-Changing

Remembering the Last Years of the “Girls School”

This is the second installment in a lively personal account of the College in the 70s written by Betsy Göksel, long-time and much loved English teacher. She is retired and now lives on Bozcaada.

The resident “local” faculty were another cup of tea entirely. Of various ethnicities—for such was the wealth and depth of Istanbul at that time—they resided on the third floor of Gould Hall and exuded strength, intellect and culture. To name a few: Mrs. Yalkaya, Lise math, Russian, stout, gray-haired and all-knowing; Madam Dik, Armenian, French teacher, whose underpants had once fallen off in class so it was said; Bayan Çilli, Turkish; Emine Şükür, Armenian, Biology teacher; Peggy Tregilis, American, Lise math; Mrs. Millicent Kent, British, Orta principal and soon to be Headmistress, strict and reserved, of whom I was greatly in awe (years later a disgruntled former music teacher referred to her as “Moldy Millie” which even then shocked me).

There were many layers of faculty categories, with varying privileges and salaries unrelated to the individual’s skills and service to the school. In addition to resident faculty whose privilege of living on campus was somewhat balanced by duties such as eating all meals with the students, there were the local faculty, also divided into two categories: local foreign and local Turkish. Local foreign were mainly British or American women, many of whom were married to Turkish men, such as Dorothy İz, Oxford graduate, who made our theater the great heritage it is today, and Betty Kondayan who upheld the high standard of Lise English. The local Turks provided the school with its only male faculty members as well as many time-tested women. Notorious Fatma Hanım was already in full command of Geography. There was Turan Bey in the Orta school - tall, dignified, romantically handsome, with a mysterious family tragedy in his past - something about a fire - which kept him a humble Orta School Turkish teacher all his days. And in the Lise the poet Halis Bey, very short, very round, one of the legendary poets who used to gather under the Çınar tree at Emirgan to recite poetry. The separation between Orta and Lise was strict in those days, both physically with the sports courts between the buildings and



Betsy and her "girls" in 1968

academically, with few, if any, teachers teaching in both schools. As an Orta teacher for my first decade, I only knew the Lise teachers in faculty meetings, where I looked upon them with respect and awe, never presuming that I could reach their exalted heights.

The essence of a school, the “raison-d’etre” of the buildings and the flowers, and the staff and the teachers of various ages, cultures and knowledge is the students, of course.

Students enter and for a few years they rush along the halls, dash up the stairs, wander hand in hand along the Plateau path, sleep in the narrow dormitory beds, listen to the nightingales in early spring, tremble before stern glances and sly questions, giggle at mistakes, blush at embarrassments, become so fluent in a language that once twisted the tongue and blistered the ear that they dream in that language, and then they graduate. Off into the world, but forever stamped with the imprint of the school as the school is imperceptibly stamped with

theirs. Individual students are transitory, unlike the buildings, the ivy, the long-time adults. Yet they are the school. They remain individuals, yet they also take on the common characteristics of those who came before and one can say “ACG (or RC) students were such-and-such...”

“The Girls’ School” - as we called ACG - had two preparatory years before the three year Orta School - “Special One” and “Special Two”. Virtually all of the Orta school students were from old Istanbul families, as there were no boarding facilities for the Orta girls. After the two “prep” classes with 22 hours of English each week and a couple of hours of math for the vocabulary, the girls were fluent in English and prepared for the rigors of English literature, science and math as well as the standard Turkish curriculum. The system was rigid and ruthless. A student failing one of the Special years was out of the school - no make-up exam, no repeating. A huge responsibility lay upon the heart of the sole English teacher and no doubt led to injustices, depending on the softness or hardness of that heart. There were three sections of 20 students at each level. We knew all the students, whether they were in our

section or not. The Orta School was one large family; Bingham was our home. The Lise expanded, taking students from other English-teaching schools, such as the English High School, as well as boarding students from Anatolia. It was a four-year Lise, equivalent to an American Junior College. I was a mere two years older than a Lise senior student, and much less sophisticated.

The names, faces, characters of my first class of little 11-year-old girls are forever etched in my memory. I can see them all, know where they sat in our classroom on the third floor of Bingham, remember which ones had trouble with the "v" sound, which with "th". As the least experienced teacher I, "Miss Boatwright," was assigned the advanced class of Special One, those who knew a little English. They were adorable in their navy-blue smocks, with their big eyes and long braids. The smocks were replaced by navy skirts for the Orta girls with burgundy jackets to be worn to Assembly and at special ceremonies. Uniform inspection was regular, mostly sock inspection. Only solid color socks were allowed and a demerit was given for the smallest infraction. I remember giving an Orta I student (Coya) a demerit for striped socks and having her break down in hysterical sobbing. The English-speaking rule was also strictly enforced in the Orta, with demerits looming in every corner, every teacher's ear attuned to the difference in intonation of Turkish and English. I have forgotten what the feared punishment was for an accumulation of demerits, but I remember the reward for no demerits—an ice cream party given by Mrs. Kent! M. Lubimoff made delicious homemade ice cream at a time when ice cream was not common in Turkey. Of course, the attendees of this coveted party were only the lucky ones who had not been caught. Lise students had no uniforms and dressed in skirts and blouses of their choice. Many of them wore high-heels and sophisticated attire, and seemed very grown-up and beautiful to me.

Filled with enthusiasm and delight at my class of bright and perfectly behaved little girls, I breezed through our textbook - until the first common test. My class-the advanced-got the lowest grades of all. I was devastated. Confessing my failure at evening tea in the parlor, I was comforted by the wise and wonderful elders. "Go very slowly," they advised, "quiz regularly

and repeat over and over again." I took their advice, went back to the beginning of the book, drilled the boring drills, and my students began to get the grades and the skills which they deserved. Meanwhile I faced another grave situation: the weekly Orta 2 double-period study hall I was assigned to.

Before the boys came to usurp behavior issues, our girls were perfectly capable of wild, unruly behavior, and this Orta 2 class took full advantage of my youth and inexperience.

They called me "Civ-civ" to my face, and never stopped laughing and shouting in spite of my pleas for silence. This time a Special One colleague with years of experience in the Anatolian Mariif schools came to my rescue. Elizabeth Hill was British, a local hire who lived with her "young man" - they were both in their 40's - in Taksim. She had a broad face and bulging blue eyes. For several weeks she marched into the study hall with me and glared, daring one peep from my tormentors. None came. I credit Elizabeth Hill for the reputation I later deserved as "strict."

Fourth period on Mondays was Assembly for the Orta School. It was held in the grand old auditorium - now the library - with its majestic stage and elegant purple curtains and rows of seats, including a balcony. Each Orta class would line up IN UTTER SILENCE and march SILENTLY from Bingham to Gould where the national anthem would be sung, announcements proclaimed, and some kind of program offered. National holiday ceremonies were held there, with speeches always by someone who had actually known Atatürk. I remember my first November 10 commemoration. All the girls and many of the teachers wept as they marched by the bust of Atatürk in Marble Hall before the assembly began, laying flowers in front of the bust. That year the ceremony included excerpts of old movies of Atatürk speaking. Mrs. Kent was sitting beside me and I was surprised to see tears running down her stern cheeks. "Atatürk reminds me so of my father. The same eyes," she whispered.

Lunch followed Assembly for the Orta school, with Lise students the next period. The dining hall was on the first floor of Mitchell Hall. There were separate tables



Betsy and her Orta I, June 1970

with starched white linen tablecloths. One teacher and students from various levels were seated at each table. It was the teacher's duty to maintain polite conversation and proper table manners. An Orta student once told me that her father complained that she was hiding her left hand under the table at meals and demanded to know why. The gourmet meals were served by white-uniformed waiters. Dinners in the evening followed the same pattern but we campus residents sat at tables with the Lise boarding students, maintaining the same polite conversation and proper table manners. Gracious living indeed, but very confining for an adventure-seeking 22-year-old.

This was ACG 50 years ago. Proud and poor, elegantly shabby, carrying on the traditions and high academic standards set by the founders of the school, under the administrative umbrella of our richer, stronger cousin, Robert College, a few hills over up the Bosphorous, whose president, Dr. Patrick Malin, a Quaker, knew all his teachers, even me, the lowest of the low, by name. Sheltered and guided by the campus elders - Mrs. Sims called me into her office and told me I was NOT to go to a notoriously wild party given by Sheldon Wise on the RC campus - yet managing to escape from their cautions also - I had met the Turkish man I was later to marry - I was becoming a Teacher. Many changes were on the horizon for myself as well as for the school. ■

To be continued...

The first part of Betsy's article appeared in RCQ Fall / Winter 2011, issue 41, p. 40 You can read it online at www.robcol.k12.tr

Rites of an Aegean Spring



By Candan Turhan RC 87

Candan Turhan, living in Şirince, İzmir since 2003, writes about spring in the mountains, nature and solitude for the RCQ.

Now that the elderberries are blooming again...It's always a surprise. During the barren winter months, you forget they were ever there, as winds and rains take over the days of sun and stillness. In time, the naked woods look away from you, hopeless. The fowl of the air scatter away and hide. Colors fade, voices hush, everything comes to a halt.

And then one day, boom! Spring almighty! The dark browns and the light browns that were once trees suddenly begin to show all shades of green and white and pink; little spots grow bigger day by day, even hour by hour, and cover the barrenness. Each and every color seems brighter, washed clean by many weeks of rain and snow and dew.

First it's the almond trees, always the almond trees, with their pinkish white flowers. Next come the plums - green ones, of course. The bigger, red Italian plums come around later, before the pears and the quinces. Peaches - now they are the real feast, beginning with their branches turning a dark pink, then gradually lightening before finally getting rid of the colors and growing their shiny green baby leaves. And picture this in many fields side by side, filled with different kinds of peaches blooming a couple of weeks apart.

Pomegranate sleeps silently while all this action is taking place around it in such an organized manner, slowly growing its tiny

leaves. The lovely, naive shade of red that is known as "pomegranate flower" will honour us with its presence a bit later. Its white body proudly glowing, the fig tree, whose essence is hidden deep inside the smooth whiteness, will slowly release its green jewels one of these days.

The elderberries are among the last of the Aegean plants or trees to bloom in spring. Having spent the winter disguised as a very ordinary bush, once they are sure the cold days are gone for good they hurry to first go green and then bloom away their white, large, conical flowers. The flowers may look ordinary but make no mistake: one whiff of their scent confirms that the elderberry bush, growing wildly near small creeks and water sources, is a miracle of nature. You look forward to the time "thou shalt meet again".

"There can be no very black melancholy to him who lives in the midst of nature and has his senses still," wrote Henry David Thoreau.

Living alone in nature, he says, we come to know that we are never alone. Yes! This is what I've been trying to get across all these years. At some odd moment, when you're talking on the phone in your living room and absently gazing around, something outside catches your eye: It's a tiny mouse hurrying back and forth, carrying mouthfuls of grass leaves and dropping them, presumably in its nest for



Candan Turan RC 87

its yet-to-be-born babies. Or a weed in the backyard makes a weird movement, and you know it is being pulled inside a nest by another hard-working mouse.

The number of roadkill, mostly hedgehogs, increases this time of year - spring fever! More and more small mammals are found around my very domestic dogs in unfathomable shapes and forms, having surrendered to the inevitable cycle of life and death. Some baby turtles make it on their own among the endless weeds of the mountains while some, with their soft shells about the size of two quarters, are saved from inquisitive and intrigued dogs' nozzles. As for lizards, they can fall on your head when you open a door abruptly or on your plate from the roof when there's some tag and trouble up there.

There's always a question, it's true, of whether I or the likes of me are escaping or searching, whether this is loneliness or just solitude, whether it's okay to live like this - obeying only Mother Nature. And living "in the midst of nature and having my senses still," I receive the answer every day, from Mother Nature herself: in the change of the seasons, in the birth of new generations of wildlife, in the fruit growing on my trees, in the planets and constellations I follow from east to west, in the full moon rising behind the pine trees, in the smell of the earth after the rain...

She whispers to me: Beloved child, how precious it is to have you find your way back to me!





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Music and the Brain*

By Deniz Baysal, Music Teacher



Deniz Baysal

them. Studies revealed that musicians possess a high degree of perception and awareness. A study by Bradley Folley demonstrated that a different network forms in the brain of musicians, making them able to think differently. They approach everything, from science to human life, from a different perspective than other individuals.

It is a proven fact that artists use mainly the right brain, and that the brain hemispheres of musicians function differently from other people.

While I was looking at the functions of the right and the left brain, I thought of the imagery of angels on the right shoulder, and demons on the left shoulder. We, the musicians are usually on the good side, but we also know very well how to use the other side.

Functions of the left side of the brain

1. Logical thinking
2. Keeps track of details
3. Factual
4. Speech and language
5. The present and the past
6. Math and science
7. Concrete
8. Information
9. Verification
10. Naming objects
11. Fundamental truth
12. Strategies
13. Practical
14. Trust
15. Analysis

Functions of the right side of the brain

1. Emotions
2. Holistic approach
3. Imagination
4. Symbols and images

problems? In order to answer this question we must look across various disciplines like neurology, psychology, endocrinology and musicology.

The reason behind this is that musicians have a different way of perceiving events and the environment around

Studies show that people involved in arts are ten times more likely to face serious depressive and psychological problems than those in other professions. If music is food for the soul, then why do musicians rank at the top of professions that experience psychological

5. The present and the future
6. Philosophy and religion
7. Abstraction
8. Belief
9. Appreciation
10. Dimensional perception
11. Awareness of the functions of objects
12. Probability
13. Impulsion
14. Risk taking
15. Music

As seen in the list above, all the functions related to beauty and moral values are grouped in the right hemisphere. Most importantly, creativity is a product of the right brain. The left is more materialistic.

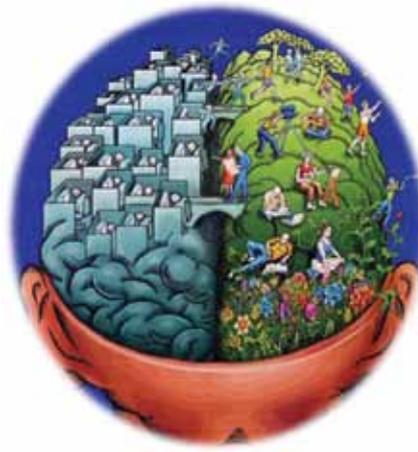
The result of dichotic listening tests showed that the left side of our brain is quite important for the perception of rhythm, the temporal dimension and the analytical structure of music, whereas the right side plays a role in the perception of pitch, melody and harmony.

Studies demonstrate that music stimulates many areas in the brain, like memory, motor control and language.

According to research by Dr. Charles H. Limb, people enjoy improvisation because it's new. When they monitored a jazz musician as he played spontaneously, they made an interesting observation: the medial prefrontal cortex was highly activated. During improvisation, "a musician shuts down his inhibitions and lets his inner voice shine through."

We often see that musicians almost reach a state of trance when improvising. Their mimics, their body movements change. They look as if they don't care about anything at that moment. This is true, because they get rid of any self-censuring during improvisation.

The corpus callosum is stimulated during composition and improvisation. It is a structure that connects the two hemispheres of the brain. The scans revealed that, as this structure becomes active, data transfer occurs between the two hemispheres during improvisation.



This is important for musicians in terms of creativity and composition.

According to a study published in Brain and Cognition, those who receive musical training are able to use their creative thinking skills to a higher degree. An explanation for this is the motor activity between the two hemispheres of the brain during thinking and playing.

With many instruments, it is impossible to use both hands, and sometimes the feet, simultaneously but for different functions. When reading the score, a musician must think of several things at the same time. Let's take the piano as an example. A music student who performs a piece of music of standard level must do the following:

1. Read the right and left-hand notes and the rhythmic structure
2. Pay attention to fingering
3. Keep track of two different melodic and harmonic scales in C-clef and F-clef
4. Follow the various indications of accent, rhythm or various techniques - for both hands, simultaneously!
5. Notice the nuances which may be different for each hand
6. Balance the nuances between two hands
7. Grasp the tempo variations and render them immediately
8. And last, to be able to integrate his interpretation, while doing all of the above

When we look at this list, we can see that it isn't an easy task for a normal person,

and we are only talking about an average piece of music.

People who use the right side of their brain develop higher awareness and sensibility. They feel their emotions more deeply. Such individuals discern many details, and they try to express their perceptions via their instrument. Musicians who don't always have a balanced lifestyle may sometimes feel as if they are drifting through life. They are overwhelmed by the duality of making music and having to earn a living. Those musicians, who lose their dreams, their creativity, their love, their time, in short, their personality in the pursuit of money, may experience greater psychosomatic and psychological disorders than other people.

Yes, music is food for the soul; in fact, it is a need. And musicians are the hands that deliver this food.

The profound life experienced by musicians, by those who are dedicated to music, is unique beyond description, in spite of the difficulties. And it is a privilege to be part of this uniqueness.

*This article first appeared in Drum and Bass Magazine issue: 13; translated and adapted for RCQ by Neyran Akgün.



Renewing Hope One Thread at a Time



By Servet Harunoğlu RA 64

Ülya, 13, moved to Van when her family was forced to leave their village in southeast Turkey. Of her family of 11, she is the only breadwinner. This is the story of most of the women at the Van Kilim Workshop, part of the Hisar Anatolian Support Society (HADD). Servet Harunoğlu RA 64, head of HADD, talks about their initiative.

The documentary *Girls and Roots* by Ümit Kıvanç was brought to our attention by Ahmet Okan, RA 64, through our RA 64 Yahoo group. I was impressed and deeply moved by the efforts of Enver Özkahraman who was helping poor families who were forced to migrate from their villages. The group responded with enthusiasm when I said we should help Enver Bey. At that time, his project was facing financial and marketing difficulties and he was considering closing the workshops. He welcomed our support and this is how Hisar Anadolu Destek Derneği (www.hadd.org.tr) got started.

HADD's aim is to improve the socio-economic means and the hand skills of young women, adhering to the traditional techniques of kilim weaving.

We use kilim weaving as a tool to get young women out of their homes and socialize with others in a working environment. They attend our workshops during their free time and weave kilims or join the classes that are offered (literacy, hygiene, health and mother and baby care). We encourage the women to continue their education and give monetary incentives to those who receive good grades.



Servet Harunoğlu RA 64 (left) and Enver Özkahraman



Since 2010 we have organized four new workshops in different ghettos around Van and increased the number of women attending to 120. The women are between the ages of 14-22 and are often the only one in their family of 10 or more people earning money. The family lives in one house and the girls are not let out of their homes too often. People in the region trust Enver Bey and let their daughters join his workshops. This is a great relief for the girls and they adapt to the new environment very easily. I learned that our girls are called er-çatlatan (rank-breaker) in their neighborhood.

Passing on an age-old tradition

The women produce three types of kilims: classical regional Van-Hakkari kilims, replicas of kilims in museums and collections, and Designers Collection kilims that are designed by contemporary artists. Our production starts with buying, washing, combing, spinning, and dyeing the wool. Only natural wool and dyes are used in our workshops, helping to continue the craft of their grandmothers.

Helping earthquake survivors

Three of our ateliers were damaged in the Van earthquake and we had to reduce the number of attendees to 60. However everyone who stopped working was able to give hope to their environment.

Enver Bey immediately organized groups of girls in each ghetto where we have a workshop and helped needy families. We sent merchandise and provisions from Istanbul and the girls distributed them; they were able to help 450 families through the winter.

We sometimes take the girls to meetings in Ankara, İstanbul, İzmir and Mersin. For them it is a great experience and is often the first time that they see the world

outside Van. Two of our girls have been selected as artists to represent Turkey in the Santa Fe Folk Art Fair in July 2012 and will travel to the US. I am sure that they will have a lot to tell their friends and family on their return!

We have received great recognition and support from national and international sources such as Turkish Philantropy Funds, Soroptimist International, Anatolian Artisans, Olof Palme Fund, Turkish Cultural Foundation, ODTÜ Alumni, International Women of İstanbul and Turkcell. This support has increased our confidence in the project.

Next steps

We have raised enough money to build two prefabricated workshops which will be constructed in May on land that the Van Municipality gave us. This will help us increase the number of attendees to 150. We are also considering building a 1,200 m² art center for teaching and researching traditional Van-Hakkari kilim weaving. The women usually stop attending the workshops once they get married, so we are also planning on building day care centers next to our workshops so they can come with their children.

The kilims can be bought at:

HADD
Sezai Selek Sok. 15/3
Nişantaşı.
0212 2464279
Or from the website: www.hadd.org.tr

How you can help

HADD is looking for dedicated volunteers. If you are interested in making a difference in the future of families in Anatolia, please contact Servet Harunoğlu at info@hadd.org.tr.

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profesyonel bir yaşam koçu,
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Volkswagen ailesinin sedan ruhlu coupe'si Yeni Volkswagen CC, sade ama etkileyici hatlarıyla tüm bakışları üzerinde topluyor. Üstelik 1,4 lt TSI 160 PS DSG, 2,0 lt TDI 140 PS ve 170 PS BMT DSG, 2,0 lt TSI 210 PS DSG motor seçenekleriyle farklı sürüş ihtiyaçlarına cevap veriyor. Yeni Volkswagen CC, standart olarak sunulan Bi-Xenon farlar, LED stop lambaları, yorgunluk tespit sistemi gibi yenilikçi teknolojileri ve geniş kişiselleştirme olanakları sunan opsiyonel ekipman seçenekleriyle Volkswagen Yetkili Satıcılarında sizi bekliyor.



Das Auto.

Class of 1951 Celebrates 60th Anniversary

The idea for the 60th anniversary celebrations of the Class of '51 (RC and ACG) came about after a lunch organized by Teoman Onat held in January 2011. The reunion was so successful that we decided to repeat it the following year with several activities.

The first event, also organized by Teoman Onat, took place at Boğaziçi University's Kennedy Lodge on May 24th and was a sort of homecoming after six decades. The occasion started with a long outdoor cocktail party overlooking the Bosphorus, each encounter bringing pleasure and cheer. That joy increased during the dinner held on the bottom floor of the restaurant. The evening was a pleasant memory decorated with speeches and narrated stories.

The second activity was a boat trip with the MSC Magnific to the Adriatic. We started from Istanbul and visited Dubrovnik, Venice, Bari, Catalonia and İzmir.

In July 2011, Rahmi Koç invited classmates to a dinner at the Rahmi Koç Museum restaurant. Haliç's ambiance was perfect



with the old boats, midsummer night and the quality of service, beverages and food.

The yearly autumn meeting, organized by Aysel Dümer ACG 51, took place at the Meryan Hotel in Alanya, Oct. 1-5, where a real summer vacation was enjoyed by the 20 or so attending classmates and their spouses: Şehvar Çağlayan, Şükran and Yılmaz Uslu, Şükrü Server Aya, Orhan and Aynur Doğruol, Niri and Miri Eser, Nurettin Sabuncu and his wife, Elhan Usman, Necat Cilasun, Meral Silaharoğlu, Nurver and

Aydan Nureş, Teoman Onat and others.

Two dinner meetings were also held at the Moda Club organized by Oktay Yenal and Nezih Kırdar. The class of '51 was the class with the highest attendance at Homecoming 2011.

May all RC graduates experience happy and healthy 60th Anniversaries, as we did in 2011!

Contributed by Teoman Onat RC 51



Enjoying the Bosphorus together at Kennedy Lodge

Renewal Through Dance

Ersin Seyhan RC ENG 66

Uses His Passion to Bridge Cultures



Ersin Seyhan started dancing at home with his mother when he was a child. His first stage performance was when he was eight years old. While at RC, he was part of the Istanbul Robert College Turkish Folk Dancing Assembly and participated in performances throughout Europe and Turkey.

Seyhan moved to the Netherlands in 1966 to continue his engineering education but he never parted from his first love. He performed in Rotterdam and Amsterdam, and began teaching folk dances from Turkey and lecturing on Turkish folkloristic culture throughout Western Europe.



Ersin Seyhan RC ENG 66

In 1984 he started his own Turkish folk dancing foundation, OZAN (epic-singer), performing dances from all over Turkey that he choreographed himself. In completely authentic folk costumes and embroideries, they present theater acts and folk dances (some of them more than 900 years old) from more than 40 regions in Turkey. The group has placed first in many competitions.

"The creation of a harmonious multi-cultural society is not a spontaneous process," says Seyhan.

"The basic philosophy and aim of OZAN is to unite dancers in a common activity through which they can discuss and compare their cultural patterns, and eventually understand each other better."

"Cultural integration can be a reality and folk dancing is one of the best ways of achieving it."

In 1985, Seyhan was recognized as an expert in teaching Turkish folk dances by the Dutch government for his knowledge and practical experience. Since 1991 he has been working as a guest associate professor of Turkish Dance at the Dance Academies of Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Tilburg (Brabant). In 1994, the



Turkish government awarded Seyhan a culture prize for his achievements in Turkish folklore.

Seyhan has published two books on Turkish folk dancing culture. He has also published articles about the traditions, beliefs, music and dances in Turkish folklore. Believing that folk dancing is one of the best forms of human communication which unites people through the common feeling of enjoyment, Seyhan continues teaching folk dancing with great enthusiasm.

RC in the Skies

Catching Up with Three Top Pilots

Though we speak often of RC graduates in the finance world, as leaders in politics, artists, writers and journalists, there is one profession we were thrilled to recently discover several RC graduates. Pilots İlyas Çağlar Koçer RC 03, Süleyman Can Erşen RC 83 and Sabit Can Altinkum RC 80 talked to the RCQ about their choice of career.

Sabit Can Altinkum has been flying professionally for Turkish Airlines (THY) since 1994. Explaining how he decided to become a pilot, he says "Becoming an airline pilot was the only profession I thought of since I was three; mainly due to the fact that my father who's an attorney travelled very often by air and took me along on his trips. He frequently mentored me about the different facets of aviation especially with technical details. During that time I became fascinated with aerospace technology, mainly commercial airplanes. I was also told by my parents that as a child, I first started walking in an aircraft aisle during one of our trips." He never wanted to be anything but a pilot. He remembers spending most of his leisure time during his school years watching airliners take off and land at Yeşilköy Airport.

The first time Süleyman Can Erşen flew on a plane was when was 10 years old, for

an operation in Germany. The captain's invitation into the cockpit was a milestone for him. He decided to become a pilot then and there. "My only toys were airplanes from then until 1979. That year I graduated from Italian Middle School in Istanbul and my family and I moved to the USA. When I found out that the University of Illinois had a Flight Training School, I insisted my parents enroll me in flying lessons. I was just 14 when I first sat at the controls of an actual aircraft. It was the start of a never-ending love and passion. Many years later an investigative journalist working in one of the major newspapers in Turkey told me that I was the youngest Turk ever to actually pilot an aircraft," says Can Erşen.

Flying runs in İlyas Çağlar Koçer's family. His father flew for the air force for 30 years and then for THY. Çağlar always knew he wanted to become a pilot just like his dad, though interestingly enough, he had to fight with the family for his choice. He loves his profession because he's never bored. He says since he gets to see different places of the world, life never gets mundane.

Of course life isn't always fun in the air; the profession has a lot of difficulties. For instance Altinkum says "The difficulties are mostly related to the extensive

amount of responsibility you carry on your shoulders as an airline captain and of course, having to go through numerous training, checking and strict medical exams until the day you retire!"

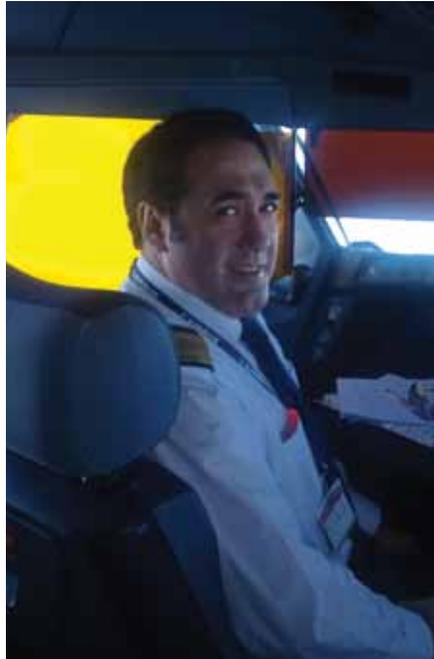
"Also, one might say, navigating tropical storms over the Atlantic ocean at night, with technical problems, and carrying 300 passengers is no fun!"

Can Erşen adds: "The worst part of the profession is you have to stay seated for long hours such as 11-14 hours. There's no such thing as "weekends" or "national holidays", we don't even have New Year's Eve for ourselves!" According to Çağlar, the profession challenges the pilot physically. "The body is exposed to various physical conditions that hurt us."

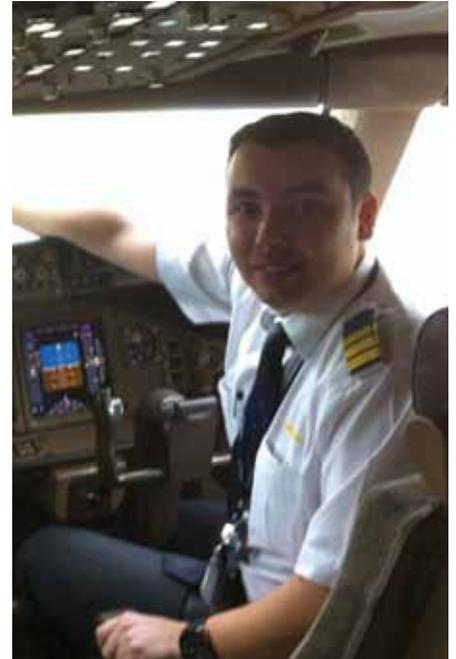
Yet despite the difficulties, when asked "Would you want your children to be pilots?", they all respond with a resounding "Yes!". The next time you fly, pay attention to your captain - he might just be a fellow alumnus.



Sabit Can Altinkum RC 80



Can Erşen RC 83



İlyas Çağlar Koçer RC 03

Renewal in the Water

Ayşe Turgut Akcan RC 93 Ex Launches Swimming Program for Babies



Ayşe Turgut Akcan RC 93 with her daughter Eva

Can parents feel safer with their children around water after participating in this program?

Regardless of whether they can swim or not, parents should never leave young children unattended around water. The main focus of Aquababies is teaching children to respect water and how to be safe in it. Among many other features, the Aquababies program teaches children to hold their breath, and swim to the side and hold on.

Are there any interesting stories or anecdotes since you started the program that you'd like to share?

I had a friend with a colicky baby and she was at her wits' end. She participated in the Babies program and after the second lesson, her baby slept through the night with considerably less wind.

From birth, babies are naturally able to hold their breath under water due to the "mammalian diving response". Aquababies, started in Istanbul by Ayşe Turgut Akcan, uses this response to help gain confidence in the water. She explains how she discovered the program and how babies and parents can benefit from it.

What made you decide to set up a program like this in Turkey?

I wanted my 9 month old daughter to learn how to swim as all of my friends with babies living overseas were taking these fabulous baby swim classes. I felt sure there would be an equivalent here in Istanbul but there was nothing available like what I had in mind. So I decided to do it myself!

How do babies and parents benefit from the program?

The benefits of baby swimming are numerous and include improved coordination, increased stamina and strength, better eating and sleeping patterns, and increased lung capacity among others. Weightlessness provides babies with freedom of movement in comparison to when they are on land. For parents, baby swimming provides a fantastic opportunity for bonding with their baby and interacting with other parents.

Are other areas of the baby's development affected by swimming?

Swimming encourages motor skill development. Research has indicated that babies who have swum display better balance and can grasp objects better in comparison with babies who have not swum.

If children are introduced to swimming at such a young age, are they able to learn to swim more easily later?

Absolutely. Aquababies lessons provide the foundation of future swimming lessons when young children learn style and technique.

About the Program

Aquababies programs are for babies from 0-12 months and toddlers from 12 months to 4 years of age, accompanied by an adult.

The program is taught in Turkish and English.

Please visit www.aquababies-tr.com for more information.



Babies enjoying their swim

Space Clearing



Do you feel like your relationships have become stale, or finances aren't going your way? It may be time to balance your environment with Space Clearing, a modern practice based on ancient energy methods, explains Aslihan Ekitmen RC 86.

What is Space Clearing?

When there is negative energy at home or work we cannot receive the support of our environment. If the environment is not balanced we tend to create blockages in different areas of our life (for example in financial situations, relationship issues and health issues) without there being a tangible reason.

Space clearing balances the energy in an environment while removing the negative energy. When negative energy and blockages are cleared a blank page is created. You have an open space with unlimited options, a zone to manifest your heart's desires or let go of the stuck issues in your life. It creates a possibility for new scenarios.

As an interior designer, how do you use this practice in your work?

I was introduced to *feng shui* during a trip in 1986 while I was studying architecture at Istanbul Teknik University. My interest in *feng shui* and other existing metaphysics topics continued. The people-space relationship is a subject I've always been interested in and studied.

Because I saw the benefits of this ancient knowledge first-hand, I decided to merge it with my interior design experience - the first person to do so in Turkey - and in the beginning of 2011, I established Spaceworks Danışmanlık (Consulting) so that everybody could benefit from this knowledge.

Using this knowledge while planning spaces supports the balance of existing energy for those living there, and increases the level of life energy. Different energy blockages open and energy flow increases. It opens the door to a more harmonious, tranquil, healthy, easy and prosperous life.

I also do an energy clearing on the client in person as well as the spaces that people want to buy or sell. Often

properties that don't sell are sold after I've done a space clearing.

Does this work require training, and if so, what type of training did you take?

Like every other job, Space Clearing needs a strong foundation, education and experience. The fact that I am an interior designer and can add this knowledge to my work brings together a rich viewpoint and different alternatives.

I've attended many workshops in more than 20 years, both abroad and in Turkey, given by foreign groups. Learning about this subject never ends. Knowledge isn't something that finishes like other things in life; it improves and evolves.

To work with energy fields, one needs training, consciousness, awareness and experience. It is done by having an open heart and a consciousness that can be one with the universe.

My work is a different, modern interpretation of the person-space relationship. It is an important part of the "Holistic Architecture and Interior Environments" trend that is growing around the world.

How do you do a space clearing?

It's similar to housekeeping you would normally do in a room. The energy and the cleaning that is needed differs from space to space. I do the clearing myself and use a pendulum and a small antenna as tools. Vary rarely, I will use additional tools such as scent, color and sound.

I can help people open a new page in their lives through their intentions by creating the proper flow of energy in a space and cleaning the items that exist in people's energy field. I am a vehicle which heals the environment and people.



Aslihan Ekitmen RC 86

The length of a space clearing depends on the size of the space and the weight of its energy. It could last one hour, or it could last a few hours.

Just like other holistic practices, space clearing happens at different levels. I recommend that people do it at least twice a year.

Is there anything I can do on my own to clear my space?

To do an effective space clearing you need to have knowledge and experience. However, there are some simple things you can do to improve the energy in your environment. Firstly, you can become more aware of what is really going on around you and use this awareness to discover and create an intention for what you'd like to change in your life. Beware of clutter - try to let go of everything which has no use. If you don't have experience working with energy, avoid trying more powerful energy practices on your own as they can harm you.

To find out more visit
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Ahmet Kurşun RC 98

Ahmet and his beloved wife Aslı welcomed the third member of their "core" family, Aras Kurşun, on December 17, 2012. Although there are heated debates on who the newcomer resembles, it is definite that he inherited the right genes from his parents.

Zeynep Güler-Tuck RC 98

On January 22, 2012, E. Zeynep Güler-Tuck and her husband, Joe Tuck, welcomed their bouncing baby girl Leyla Jewel Tuck into the world. At birth, Leyla measured 53 cm, weighed 3.6 kg, and had a full head of brown hair. Zeynep and her husband now live in their hometown Toronto, Canada. They moved back to Canada in August 2011 to prepare for the arrival of the new addition to their family. Prior to their move, they had taken a year-long trip around the world and then settled in Istanbul for two years. Now that they are home, they are overjoyed to be sharing their little

daughter with family and friends. Joe and Zeynep met after graduating from the same university (yet never meeting while they were attending school) in Toronto in 2004, traveled in 2008-2009, and got married on October 11, 2009 in Kingston, Canada, where many of Joe's family members live. Joe is a TV and film producer, and travel writer, and Zeynep is the associate editor of two trade and two consumer magazines. Zeynep and Joe look forward to embarking on many exciting adventures around the world with their new travel companion!



Aslı Salarvan RC 98

Aslı Salarvan and David Cousens were married on January 20, 2012, after two years of courtship filled with laughter, love, dreams, friends, and somewhat frequent nights of sangria and shrimp on Carcavelos beach in Lisbon, all of which brightened the many dull chores and troubles of daily life. True to style, one early Sunday morning they discovered that they wanted and hoped to spend the rest of their lives together and decided to get married. Their intimate wedding ceremony took place in Istanbul and both the bride and the groom looked gorgeous indeed.

The couple conducted a satisfaction survey after the wedding and asked their friends and family why they thought Aslı and David getting married was the best idea ever:

"...because Aslı has sufficient hair for both of them and also because Aslı's English developed more character as



the first American high school graduate with a now-British accent." (Emrah Gürsoy RC 98)

"...because when they face each other they both have the spark that you get when you flip to a radio station just as a song you love is starting." (Neylan Bağcıoğlu RC 98)

"God knows what she sees in him, because I don't." (Vera Cousens - David's mother)

But the last words must, of course, go to the happy couple themselves:

"Absolutely lovely darling, absolutely lovely." (Aslı and David Cousens)



Milen Bahar Mutluer RC 01

Milen met Timur Mutluer at a pharmaceutical congress. Opposites attract, and they found they had many things in common as well. They fell in love and decided to get married. Soon afterwards they wanted to have a baby. They welcomed their first daughter, Mira, on March 3, 2012. Now she is the sweet princess of their home!

Cenan Çivi RC 98

Cenan Çivi and Zeynep Başak set eyes on each other on a snowy day in Central Park in 2006 when Cenani, who lived in Chicago, was stuck in New York due to a snowstorm. After five years of courtship, they got married on October 1, 2011, at the Conrad Hotel. The wedding brought many RC alumni together, spanning from RC 44 to RC 04.

After RC, Cenani completed his undergraduate degree in Industrial Engineering & Management Sciences and Economics from Northwestern University. Upon graduating from college, he worked as an investment manager in Chicago. Cenani returned to Istanbul in 2007 and worked briefly at Standard Ünlü and Endeavor Foundation.

In 2008, he established Kronos, a hedge fund he has been running ever since. Cenani also currently serves as the General Manager of Gedik Investments' private equity company.

Zeynep holds a Master of Arts degree in Near Eastern Studies from New York University and a Master of Public Administration from Columbia University. She currently serves as the Director of Corporate Relations and Development at Koç University.

Cenani would like to get in touch with RC graduates. He can be reached at cenan.civi@kronos.com.tr or by phone at 0-533-349-0086.



Cem Kalpakliođlu RC 02 and Dađhan Yaziciođlu RC 02

Cem Kalpakliođlu and Dađhan Yaziciođlu, two close friends and both RC 02 graduates, started a partnership and established Akran.Yaziciođlu.Kalpakliođlu (AYK) Law Firm. Their third partner is Çađatay H. Akran, Dađhan's classmate from Yeditepe University.

While studying law at Istanbul University, Cem joined a well-known law firm in 2004 and focused on mergers, acquisitions and corporate law. Following his studies at Yeditepe University Faculty of Law, Dađhan participated in the International Business and Negotiations Programme at London School of Business and Finance. Upon his return to Turkey, he became an associate lawyer in the law department of a well-known audit firm and practiced corporate law for some years.

After gaining experience and assisting



Turkish and foreign clients, Cem, Dađhan and Çađatay decided to combine their experience and established AYK Law Firm in April 2011. The firm, focuses mainly on commercial and business matters and aims to resolve all kinds of local and international disputes while establishing solid long-term relationships with clients.

Dađhan and Cem can be reached at ayk@ayk-law.com or their personal e-mail addresses at www.ayk-law.com

Whose Silence Are You?

Art Teacher Jeffrey Baykal Rollins' Project in SALT's Permanent Collection

The contemporary art institution SALT has acquired a project by RC art teacher Jeffrey Baykal-Rollins, "Whose Silence Are You?", based on the poems of Thomas Merton, for its permanent collection.

"Whose Silence Are You?" are site-specific responses to poetic texts set in Istanbul's public spaces. These three installation and performance works are based upon the poems of Thomas Merton, an American writer and Catholic monk, who pioneered a dialogue between Christianity and other major religions, and helped create an awareness worldwide for issues of social justice.

"This project began as a dialogue many years ago between US-based artist Sean Culver and I," explains Baykal-Rollins. "We began with the title of our favorite Merton book, *Seeds of Contemplation* and started creating a series of small-scale projects which we call "seeds". One of us chooses a Merton text for the other to respond to.

These site-specific "responses" can take any form we choose, but should function as an anonymous gesture or intervention in public space. The seed should carve out a space for silence and contemplation for the viewer in a public space where it is least expected."

"The original version of the poem we performed at Dolmabahçe has the tone of a manifesto," says Baykal-Rollins, "so it felt to me like it should be proclaimed in a very formal public space, (and what is more formal than the gates of Dolmabahçe?). It also felt to me like the text should be performed as a dialogue rather than a statement, and should flow back and forth in Turkish and English." When he realized he needed another performer, Baykal-Rollins asked Lise 12 student Leyla Levi. "She did more than just perform," explains Baykal-Rollins. "She was a genuine collaborator with this piece, editing the text with me, translating it with Co Florentin L12, and discovering that December 10 was the annual Feast



Leyla Levi L12 (far left) and Jeffrey Baykal Rollins (far right) at the gates of Dolmabahçe Palace

Day for Thomas Merton, leading us to choose that day to do the performance."

The other two pieces are statements hung in areas where posters are normally put up. Baykal-Rollins collected pieces of posters, tape and staples from walls around the city, and created two collages: one in English and one in Turkish. The pieces were installed on walls where posters are normally hung.

Baykal-Rollins's works can be accessed through the SALT database at database.becomingistanbul.org

Turkish Teacher Yıldız Düzköylü Retires

Yıldız Düzköylü, RC's long serving Turkish Language and Literature teacher retired last summer after nearly 20 years. We talked to her about her teaching life in RC, and her retirement plans.

How would you describe your teaching years at RC?

I worked for 41 years as a teacher and spent 20 years of it at RC. For eight years I was the department head. At RC I was able to work in a free environment. There is freedom to teach at RC. Critical thinking is more than welcome at RC, cultivation targets productivity. By the end of each term I had also learned a lot of things. I learned while I taught. I was with the right people. "I engraved everyone's face in my heart" (from the movie *Freedom Writers*) I loved everything. I painted a picture of happiness at RC; goodwill, happiness, composure, love... I didn't need canvas or paint.

Could you tell us about some of the projects you realized at RC?

Together with our creative students, in 1993 we started the magazine "Martı" and I'm happy to see that it still comes out. Prof. Dr. Talat Halman, RC Trustee Emeritus, academic; he used to help us a lot with every issue. I feel proud because we helped raise young poets, authors and critics. I volunteered for at least 70 seminars and also wrote many public literature articles.

You received an award right before you retired, could you tell us a few words about that?

I was a teacher, also the department head for many years. When I retired, I asked myself, "was I successful at teaching freedom? Was I successful at teaching enlightenment?" RC gave me the best answer ever. I received the Faculty Peer Recognition Award, the most meaningful award I've ever received. This award was given to me because of my loyalty to my



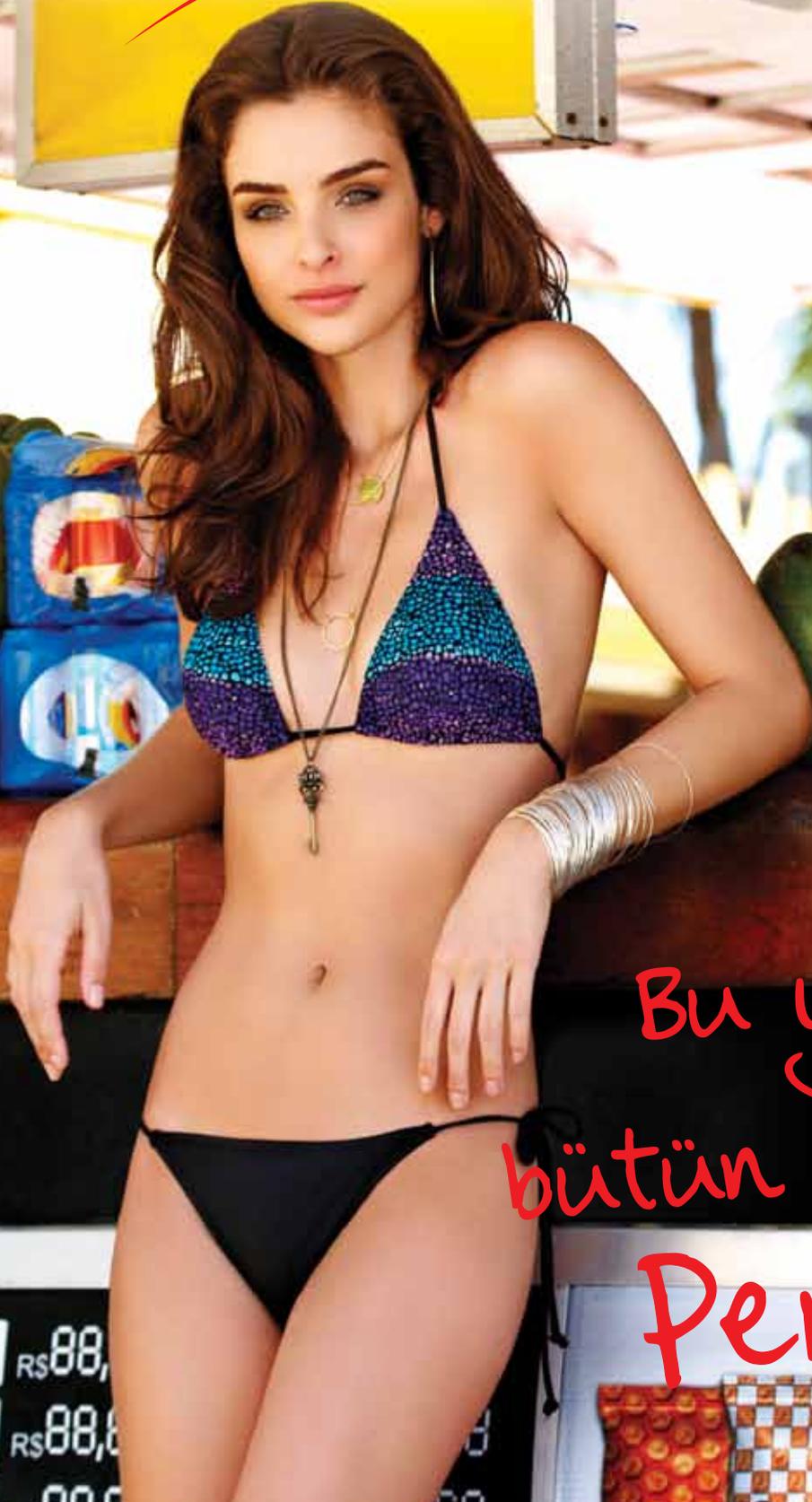
field, to my work and to my students. I am the first recipient of the award. Such an honorable farewell...

What are your plans for the future?

I'm closer to the end, but I still have dreams. I am hoping to work on cultural and social projects in the near future. I want to spend my days in a meaningful way, focus on more quality in my life and have productive days.

I am grateful to RC since it's there I spent the best days of my life. RC was my second spring.

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Selma (Baha) İris ACG 31



Hatice Selma (Baha) İris passed away in Istanbul on May 22, 2011. A graduate of ACG 31, she was one of the oldest surviving alumni of Robert College. She came from a long family line of

alumni: mother Fatma Nilüfer Edip; three aunts Halide Edip Adivar, Belkıs (Edip) Boyar, Nigâr Edip; cousin Vedide Baha and nephew Aydın Karadayı. She was married to Feridun İris who predeceased her by many years.

Those members of the next generation of ACG graduates who had the pleasure of knowing her through her daughter Nilüfer İris ACG 68, will never forget her anecdotes of her College years as a boarding student which she enjoyed telling with vivid descriptions as if they occurred yesterday.

A member of the basketball team with her cousin Vedide during her college years they were cheered as the “Baha” girls that worked miracles on the basketball court. A popular student both in her academic work and extracurricular activities including participation in plays, and social life, she was called “güzel Selma” by her teachers and elected May Queen on her graduation year.

A devoted alumna, she kept in constant contact with her classmates. An

accomplished singer with a beautiful voice and well trained in classical Turkish music, she was the joy of these meetings, and her daughter often witnessed the ladies in the gathering singing alma mater with pride.

Active until her very last years her favorite excursions were again to her old school. She would have her five o'clock tea in the alumni club and then with amazing energy in her late nineties she would make a round of the campus, tour the Plateau and tell the people in her company what each step and stone on the grounds were like some eighty years ago. What a pity that those amazingly vivid stories of everyday life in the history of our school were not recorded.

She is survived by her children Nilüfer, Bijen, Gün and grandchildren Ayşe Dinçer, Gündüz Başaran and Feridun İris and great grandchildren Kerim, Lara and Begüm.

Contributed by Nilüfer İris ACG 68

Sabire Hilkat Aral ACG 41

Sabire Hilkat Aral passed away in Los Angeles, California after a brief illness on September 28, 2011 at age 91. The oldest of 4 siblings, she was born in Istanbul to Namik Zeki Aral, a respected banking official and economist, and Zahide Aral. Her stories about encounters at ACG with classmates from throughout the country and abroad were fascinating. After graduation, she taught English at RC for one year. She married in 1944 and bore a son, Ahmet. After residing in Cairo, Madrid and Washington, D.C., she returned to Ankara in 1957 where she taught English at Ankara Koleji.

Hilkat began life anew when she moved to Detroit, Michigan in 1962. She earned a Masters in Education (1964) and a

certificate as Education Specialist in General Secondary Education (1967) from Wayne State University. After her son's graduation from medical school in 1970, the two moved to Los Angeles where she spent the rest of her life. In Detroit and Los Angeles, Hilkat worked in the health information field at, respectively, Henry Ford Hospital and Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

After retiring in 1983, Hilkat enjoyed reading (English lit, mysteries, amongst others), classical music and Impressionism (Monet especially). Late in life, she put her skill with numbers to use in clinical research projects. The meticulous care exhibited in her work was incredible. She considered it creative and challenging.

Her accomplishments are reflected in a number of papers she co-authored.

Hilkat was a strong advocate of a well-rounded education, the best means for dealing with life's challenges. Her admiration of Atatürk was reflected by this philosophy imparted to young people she met everywhere.

Mom was a quiet, private, generous person. Truly a remarkable individual, and an amazing life's adventure. Thank you, Mom, for all your support, guidance and sacrifice. You are terribly missed.

Until “next time”, Mom.

Contributed by Ahmet Baydur

Tuna Baltacıoğlu RC 44

Tuna Baltacıoğlu passed away peacefully at his home on March 15, 2012 at the age of 88. He was full of joy till the last two hours of his death. He never felt that he would leave. He was making plans for the future as he always did thru his life.

During his years at Robert College, he attended all sportive activities and was very successful in football and track&field, receiving medals during field days.

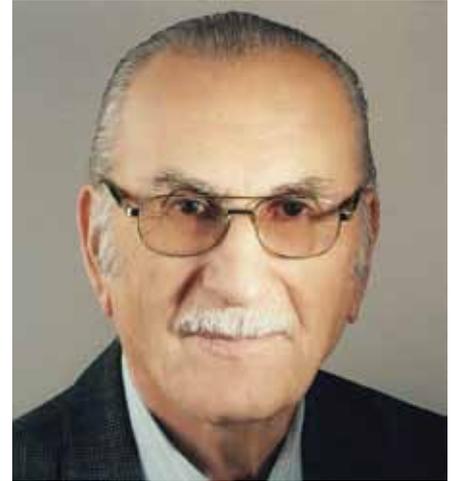
After RC, of which he was always proud of being a member, he attended the Faculty of Literature at Istanbul University. He worked for BP Petrolleri for 25 years, married his great love Nadire in 1953 and shared 50 years with her, with two children Dünya and Tansı.

He was the founder of Altinyurt Sports

Club and president for 30 years where he taught young people to be involved in arts, culture and sports.

He completed his military service in Korea between 1951-1952 as a translator and published his memories in a book called 'Peace in War'. He had six books and many articles published in various newspapers.

When I ask myself who he was, I can say that he was a beloved father and a great grandfather. He was the one who gave my name, taught us to be better persons and with a huge heart he loved the people during his whole life. He was called 'Dictator' among his classmates as he pushed them to often reunite at Bizim Tepe and kept them close and involved with his monthly bulletins full of humor. He pursued his dreams, was an optimist and a solution oriented person.



He will be remembered and missed a lot.

**Contributed by Tansı Baltacıoğlu
Yıldırım RC 76**

Leyla Serter ACG 45



Leyla Serter passed away in Istanbul due to heart failure on May 20, 2012. She will always be remembered as a true and sincere friend who was an outstanding scholar as well as a team leader in many sports activities all through her ACG years. Leyla was a true devotee of her alma mater and thus never missed Homecoming events where she spent a nostalgic day with many of her dear

friends whom she valued very much. Leyla is survived by her sons Nur and Ahmet, her daughter Zerrin and 3 grandsons, among whom Cem Yürür is RC 2009.

Contributed by Necla Kavala ACG 45

Joseph Shabi RC ENG 48



Joseph Shabi passed away in February 2012. One of his best friends, his classmate Fred Pokorny informed us of his passing and said "Joe Shabi's absence leaves a void in my life." He added, "Uludağ will miss him, as will the Kayak Evi - we used to be up there three times each year Shabi, Baruch, & VTY, when I was president of the RC Outing Club."

His daughter Anat Shabi added that Joseph continued working as an electrical engineer, even past retirement. In the last two decades, he loved coming back to Istanbul and did so annually, visiting special haunts and dear friends from his student days. He is survived by his wife, three children and grandchildren.

İnci Göreç Salepçioğlu ACG 49

Our beloved friend İnci passed away peacefully on March 13, 2012, after one week in the hospital following a sudden attack of hypertension and stroke. İnci was born in 1928 in Bursa and the family moved to Istanbul after a few years. In her teens, she was introduced to sports by her elder brother Samim, a professional basketball player, who acted as her coach. As a young girl, İnci was known in Arnavutköy as a proficient swimmer and trampoline athlete and was accepted to the national teams.

Aside from sports, İnci worked in tourism for a few years. In her later years, she became a bridge player, an exercise through which she enlarged her circle of

friends. She was well-liked by her friends, old and new, because she was a very gentle and considerate person. She was also much admired, even at her advanced age, for her good looks and elegant way of dressing.

İnci is survived by two daughters, Yasemin and Sibel, four grandchildren, Kadri, Zeynep, Kerem and Meryem, and two great-grandchildren, Zübeyde and Alize. May she rest in peace.

**Contributed by
Güner İzer Fanza ACG 49**



Semra Şatır Uluğ ACG 53



Our dear mother Semra Şatır Uluğ passed away on February 4, 2012.

It was an unexpected departure and we all try to find comfort in the belief that she exited this world in style.

She was born in Akhisar in 1932 to mother Zihniye Kayalı Şatır, father Mehmet Şatır and brother Sabri RC 51. The family moved to Istanbul in 1938.

Her school life started with elementary school in Şişli Terakki and then English High School for Girls.

Then came American College for Girls from where she graduated in 1953 with honors. In the yearbook, she is noted for her promptness, justice, corresponding with her pen-friends, traveling, drawing and her interest for all kinds of sports. She was fluent in English and German and intermediate in French.

She married our dad Şahap Uluğ in 1958. Mehmet was born in 1959 and Ahmet in 1962. It was her ambition that we would go to Robert College to get a good education and all the experience that comes with it. Thanks to her efforts we both found our way into Robert College.

She was a devoted wife and a wonderful mother. Her hobbies were her friends, the game of bridge and traveling. She rejoiced in her school friends and was always well connected. We have always admired them for their get-togethers, travels and good company.

Her unexpected departure has given sorrow to all her family and friends. Many of her friends from various periods in her life have shared with us their wonderful memories with her.

She was a gentle, loving, caring, good human and our shining light. Her genes live on with her grandchildren Ali (13), Selim (9) and Yasemin (9) who miss her very much.

**Contributed by Mehmet Uluğ RC 78 and
Ahmet Uluğ RC 81**

Ayla Karacabey ACG 54

Ayka Karacabey passed away on February 24, 2012.

My intimate relative, adorable classmate, and longtime affectionate friend. Intelligence, talent, perseverance, modesty and friendliness are only a few of the merits that help define our beloved classmate Ayla Karacabey, my blood relative and lifelong companion. Her loss deprived, not only us of her gratifying presence, but also the extensive world of architecture that has to endure now an irreparable depletion.

After graduating from the ACG, she stepped in full self-confidence into her future career at no less than the most respectful Vassar, probably impressed by the outstanding model of modern architecture that the inspiring Howard Roark had portrayed in the novel *The Fountainhead*.

Soon, she entered the Harvard campus on a rarely-given fellowship and eventually became the first female instructor in the Department of Architecture, achieving her Ph.D. with flying colors in the Urban Planning section of Columbia University, acclaimed as another seat of high learning.

While a resident in the United States, Ayla was remembered for a long time for her public talks on Turkish affairs as well as on architectural policy and practice. Her outstanding success was appreciated by President Carter who appointed her to a prestigious committee, on the basis of her far-reaching knowledge in architecture and urban planning.

After returning to her native country, she competently offered motivating courses at Yeditepe University, enchanting her students with her warm-hearted personality and phenomenal proficiency.

Considering her dynamic life, her final farewell to friends, colleagues and students came untimely and unexpectedly. One may say in extreme grief: Dear Ayla, everything you did so far was perfect, but this last stunning act does not become you at all...

Contributed by Candan Selek Ataöv ACG 54

Ayla Karacabey's close friend Esin Eden ACG 54 also contributed and below are excerpts from her thoughts:

"A legend. One of the few ACG graduates



with the highest average throughout her 8 years there. Besides being an extraordinary student she was good at everything she laid her hands on, be it basketball, public speaking, acting and even knitting. Above all she was a good friend ready to help those who needed it. I'm sure that a great many of her classmates will join me in saying that the Class of ACG 54 owed her a great deal. I'm sure that I speak on behalf of our class when I say that we will miss her greatly."

Milan Dabcovich RC ENG 56



Passed away on April 1st at the age of 77 following a period of declining health due to Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. Born in Istanbul on November 12, 1934, Dabcovich met his future wife Lydia there as their fathers were business acquaintances. He moved to the US in 1956 to study at MIT where he earned both a Master of Science and a Professional degree in Naval Architecture and Engineering. He and Lydia married in 1957, settled in Brookline, Massachusetts, and had two daughters and three important cats. Computers and engineering were his career focus. Dabcovich created two computer companies: Multi Logic, a computer generated design company, in the late 1960s; and Data Intelligence Systems Corporation (DISC), founded in

1972. He loved building things. He enjoyed inventing new solutions for household issues, such as a cat-door-bell that he installed at the front door and which their cats learned to use when they wanted to come in. A quiet, private man, Dabcovich had a quick wit and a sublime dry sense of humor. He loved maps, music, math, mysteries and discovering new and unique solutions to problems. He demonstrated true loyalty towards his wife, children, family and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife. He is survived by his daughters Meral G. Dabcovich and E. Wendy Dabcovich, and his grandchildren, Casey E. Nordberg and Lani R. Schilling.

Ali İbrahim Kerimol RC 58



Passed away on April 11, 2011 of lung failure, after surviving a major heart operation. He was 72 years old.

İbrahim was born in 1938 to an industrialist family, whose ancestors were immigrants from Montenegro and Albania. He attended Robert College and graduated in 1958. İbrahim was popular among his friends with his gentle, openhearted and friendly character and much so in ACG, being Prince Charming, a handsome young man. The story goes that his pictures were black market items among girls in those days.

In 1954, he was among the elected few to participate in the first AFS student exchange program from Turkey to study a year in USA.

It might be interesting to know that they travelled to the USA on a steamer boat in approximately two weeks, since

interatlantic flights were not available yet, in those days.

İbrahim spent a year in St. Mark School in Massachusetts and became popular there as well, playing in the school soccer team and scoring a direct goal from a cornerkick in an important interschooler game.

In his final lise years in RC, he was the chairman of the first AFS office in Turkey. İbrahim continued his education in Manchester School of Economics in England. In Manchester he met his future wife, Sylvia, and they returned together to Turkey after graduation.

Then he did his military service for two years as a teacher in a remote mountain village in Kayseri, where he had to travel on horseback on snowy mountain trails for three hours to reach the city on weekends.

İbrahim worked as a commercial manager in the family owned chipboard factory, Sunta Tahta Sanayi T.A.Ş., for nearly 8 years. Thereafter together with two other investors, they founded a small factory producing plastic bands for packing goods.

And finally until his retirement, İbrahim worked as the Turkish Commercial Attaché at the British Consulate in Istanbul for many years.

İbrahim was among the first to discover the beauty of Ağva, built a house near the picturesque green creek, and was very fond of hosting his friends there and rowing the small paddle boat, 'Brittanica'. İbrahim was a very wise man. But he was so shy a person that his wisdom was unknown to most who knew

him. He spoke only when essential. He was a gambler at heart. Had he enough resources, he would have been a real gambler, he once said. He was a thrifty man. He would not have his car washed during the winter. It will either rain or snow, why bother, he would say.

İbrahim was rock solid. He would support and offer solutions endlessly, if only approached. Otherwise his British education had taught him, it would be interference. He was generous at heart. Yet it was seldom that he could bring himself to manifest his feelings.

İbrahim lost his wife for forty years, Sylvia, five years ago, tragically through a bee bite and was heart broken ever since. He is survived by his daughter Jale and grandson Atilla.

He was my beloved big brother and I grieve deeply.

Contributed by Ahmet Kerimol RA 62

Halil Fırat RA 61



Halil Fırat passed away on July 9, 2011.

To a man of wisdom; To a man of truth; To a man of just; To a man of passion; To a man of patience; To a man of persistence; To a man of giving; To a man of caring; To a man of unconditional love; To a man of grace; To a man of dignity;

RC was special. His years there taught him to search relentlessly for surfacing the betterness of those that mattered to him and beyond. Those that mattered to him were so important, Halil always

took care of them, acting like a father figure. Soon enough they nick-named him "Baba" at RC, long before his first daughter was born.

After RC, he successfully found the meaning of his own life as evidenced by his relentless pursuit of his passion for his work, his success in being a good and just person, raising a happy family with his beloved wife Canan, living a decent, useful and productive life which is valued and appreciated by all those who matter to him and beyond. He was never in the spotlight, but those who mattered to him always knew he was there for them.

Halil demonstrated by all accounts the answer to the ubiquitous and mysterious question of the 'meaning of life' and why we are here. The search for meaning was essentially personal.

His life has undoubtedly touched and made a difference in so many lives. His last heart-rendering e-mail to a dear friend included this sentence: "I am nearly 70 years old and lived a wonderful life" - is most telling of what a successful life means. We could all learn from his philosophy and worldview many precious

lessons as to what life is about and hope to achieve the same level of success.

With the news of his illness and his long-endured fight at the hospital, his employees, sent him a letter. That letter sums up all that could be said about Halil.

"Halil Bey, siz bize... nasıl büyük bir aile olunacağını, dürüstlüğün ve ahlakın nasıl bir erdem olduğunu, nasıl çağdaş yaşanabileceğini, bilginin ve görgünün ne şekilde kullanılabileceğini, şirketin her kademesinde sevgiyi, görgüyü ve her türlü zorlukla mücadele etmeyi öğrettiniz...

Ve bizim için başımız her sıkıştığında yanaşabileceğimiz güvenli bir liman oldunuz."

Siz'siz olmak bizim için büyük bir mücadele olacak."

Halil is survived by his wife Canan, three daughters Felekşan Onar, Seyda Akdurak RC 88, Ceyla Borovalı and his six beloved grand-children.

Contributed by Seyda Akdurak RC 88

Fevzi Taşçı RC ENG 63

Fevzi Taşçı passed away in Istanbul on April 16, 2012. Born in Eskişehir in 1937, Fevzi graduated from Eskişehir Atatürk Lisesi and entered Robert College in 1958 receiving a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1963 and an M.S. in 1964. During his College years Fevzi distinguished himself as a hard working, serious person of integrity and his warm and loyal friendship will always be missed by his RC classmates.

After military service in the Navy in Izmir Fevzi started working as Project Engineer at the Türkiye Sınai Kalkınma Bankası (TSKB) in 1966. In 1972 he took special Industrial Project courses at the World Bank and served six years as the Technical Director of Afghanistan Industrial Development Bank from 1973 to 1979 when Afghanistan was a peaceful and glorious land to work in and to raise a family, making many lifelong friends. Fevzi continued his career at the TSKB from 1980 to 1993. The following two years Fevzi served as the Regional Trade

Director in Russia for a private firm. He then worked as consultant to several major firms, retiring in 1998.

Fevzi was fluent in English, Persian and Başkurt. He enjoyed his summers in Denetko, Burhaniye keeping busy with his hobbies of family, friends, gardening, charity, music and photography. He was intelligent, considerate, kind, sensitive and mature. He valued friendships, loved nature and people. Fevzi won many arguments by approaching the other party with a smile, gently touching and starting to make his case with a disarming *şekerim*. He often used to recall his fun days as a boarding student in Hamlin Hall. Fevzi was a man of faith and respected all religions. He was at peace with himself and his environment taking great care not to offend others.

Fevzi Taşçı is survived by his wife of 45 years, Dilek, two daughters Dr. Pınar Akan RC 84 and Dr. Banu Fresko and two sons Dts. Hakan and Murat, two son-in-



laws Drs. Kaya Akan and İzzet Fresko RC 79 and two daughter-in-laws Dts. Bircan Taşçı and Emine Taşçı and seven grandchildren: Ömer, Ali, Defne, Yiğit, Efe, Dilek Duru and Yasemin. He was laid to rest in Anadolu Kavağı.

Contributed by his family and RC classmates

Aydın Menderes RA 65 Ex



Son of former prime-minister Adnan Menderes, political figure Aydın Menderes passed away on December 23, 2011. Cem Kozlu, his classmate, recalls their first year at RC.

In the fall of 1957 about 80 boy students who had finished fifth grade started prep at Robert Academy on what is now the Boğaziçi University campus. Aydın, the youngest of three sons of the powerful

and popular Prime Minister at the time, Adnan Menderes, was in this group. We were both boarders. The first time I met him was when our families came with us to get us set up in dorm number 44 at Anderson Hall. He was taller than average, thin and had fair skin. His mother, Berrin Hanım, met our mothers while she was making Aydın's bed. I remember seeing the same scene at least 4 or 5 more times. I don't remember there being security guards or other helpers around them. They came by chauffeur-driven car. Both mother and son were unpretentious yet dignified. Berrin Hanım connected immediately with our mothers.

After school started, Aydın never behaved like he was privileged or different. During Prep II we stayed in a much smaller room downstairs. We got to know his honest, friendly, dignified and kind personality even better. He spent his life in learning centers, at study halls, on the football field behind our building and in Veli Efendi's cafeteria just like the rest of us. The last scene that sticks in my mind happened during the second semester

of Orta I, spring 1960, when they hastily took him out of school one day. The intensifying social events in the city were probably worrying his family. He had left for good.

A Yassıada commander had forcefully made his picture taken with the Menderes family after the 1960 coup; it would be enough to see this photo to understand the incredible pain the family was going through.

After losing his father and brothers one after the other, Aydın continued his studies from home for a while. When he later went into politics we met again, this time he was disabled as a result of a traffic accident. The times we met him after that, I saw that he continued to be the same polite, respectful, wise and resigned person that he was in middle school. He wasn't resentful, angry or bitter about politics; just like his father, he felt he owed something to his country and served it with love. May he rest in peace.

Contributed by Cem Kozlu RA 65

Moris Safirati RA 70

Moris Safirati was born on October 26, 1950, and passed away on November 29, 2011.

After completing English High School for Boys in 1967, he attended Robert College, from where he graduated in 1970. He studied for a year at Boğaziçi University and then transferred to Leeds University in 1971, where he studied and earned a degree in Computer & Statistics.

He married his lovely wife Meyzi, with whom he had been best friends and lovers since both were 13-years-old. They have two beautiful daughters, Lian and Yasmin. Both of them are happily married.

Moris started his professional career at Safa Konfeksiyon, an apparel manufacturer and later on founded a partnership with Interrul and Intertoy. During his last nine years he served as the General Manager of Newell Rubbermaid Turkey, founded in Istanbul in 1983, as the major importer of well-known brands of office stationery.

Moris, a very dear friend of our class for so many years, has been most notorious with his warm-hearted nature, politeness and grace in his professional life as well as his personal relationships. In addition to being a loyal, dedicated spouse, he was a perfect parent to his two daughters. He has truly blessed us, his friends, with his sincerity and candor. His good-humored and enlivening personality will always be deeply missed at our social gatherings.

To end with Meyzi's words: "My lover, my life partner, my support and protector, in short, my everything for the last 50 years; My dear husband, my Moris, the pain of separating from you and not being able to see you every day that I breathe, never eases, never goes away. You are and will be with me forever".

May he rest in peace.

Contributed by Nuri Özgür RA 70



Ali Eşref Turan RC YÜK 71

Ali Eşref Turan passed away on January 5, 2012. I met Eşref as an economics classmate at Robert College. My initial impressions of him were of his sincerity, intellectual curiosity and humility. I recall his amazing "multicultural experiences" as an AFS high school student in the US. My initial impression of him stayed constant and true over the years. Whenever I visited Turkey, he would have keen insights and forecasts of Turkish elections as well as important survey findings on Turkish economy, which he also published as books. He constantly updated his forecasts by his pragmatic observations, which he used to direct his marketing survey firm, Yönelim. One could always rely on Eşref to have read the most recent publication on economics, political economy, sociology or literature within weeks of circulation, to have gone to important musical concerts, to have read multiple news publications on any given day. He loved Istanbul and enjoyed the intellectual and visual opportunities it gave him. He kept

up with the world media as well as with developments in technology. I considered him as one of the most accomplished among my circle of friends.

His childhood as the son of a government medical doctor posted to different cities in Anatolia made him understand health, poverty, unemployment issues in Turkey at a very early age. He was a humanitarian, interested in alleviating poverty within the framework of his dedicated support of political transparency, freedom and democracy.

His loss was sudden and shocking. His classmates around the world learned of his loss within hours due to social media and were able to mourn for him in real time, which did not make his loss easier. Eşref was blessed with a wonderful marriage partner, Çimen, was proud of the accomplishments of his beloved son Ömer and later on, his daughter-in-law, Sevgi. I am sure my RC classmates join me in



wishing his family condolences in this very difficult time.

**Contributed by
Mine (Kantar) Çınar RC 70**

Çırnaz Tiryakioğlu RC 75



Çırnaz Tiryakioğlu died in a traffic accident in the morning of April 9, 2012 when the vehicle he was driving slid off road due to rain near İSTOÇ, at Istanbul's TEM highway. He graduated from Boğaziçi University, Business Administration Department in 1979, where he received his Masters degree in 1980. He retired from Arçelik where he was a Deputy General Manager. He is survived by his son Yaman Tiryakioğlu (17). His RC classmates shared their feelings:
"His loss was so sudden and tragic, its impact so violent, we started bleeding inside..."

We had so many more words to speak, so much more to share with him...
He left us the pain of his loss to share...
He came into our lives with a school bag as big as himself, climbing into Tevfik Efendi's school service;
He teamed with Kuthan in a funny effort to finish reading pieces before it was Oğuz's turn,
He was always ready to play mini-football, not caring that he had developed dents in his legs because of the kicks he received...
We remember his parka, his seriousness when he went out at nights to write political slogans on the walls.
He had burned his lips many times because he got carried away while smoking.

He was the indispensable member of the team that would sit up all night to play cards. He had subtle angles in snookers but was not able to see without his glasses. He had the right dose of Galatasaray fanaticism, never giving in to Fenerbahçe or Fenerbahçe fans. He was non-compromising in what he believed in or what he made himself believe in. He challenged himself to excellence as an

absolute must in everything he did. His stubbornness...

He never did wrong to anybody, never deceived anyone. His kindness, his honesty and his infinite reliability...

His devotion to his son Yaman,
His endless generosity,
Not showing his love,
His beard and glasses,

Yes, you were stubborn, yes, you did not like defeat. You did not like to lag behind. Yes, but again,
What was this rush to go ahead?

We loved him very much; we loved him with our souls.

Our minds might forget, our hearts might stop but our love will continue
Until our souls will eventually meet.
He will survive in our memories and with his dear son Yaman, his most precious..."

Contributed by RC 75

James Grady Hobson

James Grady Hobson passed away peacefully at his home in Selma California on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at the age of 85. He was born on February 5, 1926. He had been living in his family house with his niece's family taking care of him as he got progressively weaker these past couple of years. He suffered from diabetes, macular degeneration and emphysema, but stayed cheerful to the end, saying that having lasted past the age his father and grandfather passed, he was ahead of the game.

Grady first joined Robert College as a Math teacher in 1952. He taught at both RC campuses for a total of 20 years between 1952-60, 1962-68 and 1971-77, and also served as Housemaster at Theodorus Hall and Hamlin Hall in the 50's. When back in the USA, he taught at Verde Valley School in Sedona, Arizona (1968-1971), in St. Mary's Hall San Antonio, Texas (1977-1979), and Trinity School in New York City starting in 1979, until his retirement in 1991.

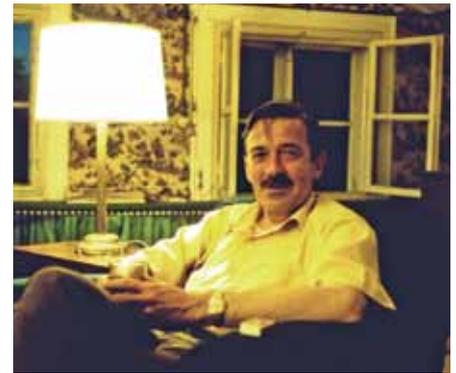
His world was wonderfully, serenely, unflappably orderly. In the complicated, conflicting, emotionally turbulent world of adolescence, Grady radiated calm and sensibleness. Failing grades, messy dorm rooms, infatuations, heartbreak, despair and disorganization were kindly, simply and with rare fine humor banished to other realms. He never scolded, never chastised, never condescended, never judged. Methodical, organized, exact, systematic, that was him, yet he was the warmest, easiest person in the world to get along with. Grady knew how to motivate by example. For him nothing was weighted or complicated or unsolvable.

As a housemaster his discipline was fair, and tinged with humor. Grady was able to allay your fears, affirm for you the beauty of the world, give you hope for the future. He was a sanity check for us students, a sounding board to reorient ourselves and face our problems. In our "Catcher in the Rye" days he was a panacea for our teenage angst. He took us seriously and he listened to us. He introduced us to good music, waffles and maple syrup, and he treated us as adults.

He always had a soft spot for Robert College and Istanbul. He repeatedly said that he felt privileged to teach and get to know so many smart kids in Istanbul. But Grady had many favorite cities! "Ah!" he would say "Istanbul, now that's a city. I would not mind spending the rest of my days there - except maybe in winter, when you wonder why you ever ended up in such a dreary, wet, dismal place. But then spring comes... and you remember why!" or "Portland is my favorite city, but it rains a lot there," or "I could live forever in New York City, I love that town. But you need a reasonable amount of money for fun and games on that island."

When he played all 13 Rachmaninov preludes one afternoon at his RC attic in Barton Hall in the 70's, I asked him in amazement how he was able to make it all seem so effortless. His answer was that he had taken piano lessons as a kid. Modest to a fault.

He loved jigsaw puzzles, crosswords, music, sunshine, naps, watching movies from his astounding collection, and people - family, friends and students.



He compiled a videotape of his days in Robert College and Istanbul, which is heartbreakingly nostalgic for me. He was an avid reader and letter writer. He had impeccable handwriting, but composed his colorful letters on a typewriter until his eyesight started failing near the end.

Grady Hobson was a legendary teacher and no one who knew him, was his student, or worked with him will ever forget him. His passing marks the end of an epoch for many people: his students, colleagues and many friends in Turkey and in the USA. To me personally, he was the last free-spirit, someone strong enough to stand tall, and lead the way by being stable, wise, kind and assuring. An extraordinary human being. He was an influential teacher, a role model and a dear friend to many. A charismatic person if there ever was one. Grady will live in our hearts always. May he rest in peace. Hepimizin başı sağolsun.

**Contributed by Ömer Eğecioğlu RC 72
For Ömer Eğecioğlu's interview with
Grady Hobson see RCQ, Spring/Summer
2003, issue 22, p. 46 You can read it
online at www.robcok12.tr**

Eleanor Romig Jaquinet

"Elli" Romig Jaquinet passed away on January 6, 2012 in Hyannis, MA. Her niece Diana Romig Mellin wrote to the RCQ to inform us of her death.

Elli graduated from Mount Holyoke in 1952 and from Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1956. She taught 'special English' at ACG between 1952 - 55 and returned to be the American Vice President and Dean of Women at ACG between 1963-66. It was at RC that

she met and married Louis E. Jaquinet, professor of French at RC who predeceased her in Nov. 2002 (see obituary in the RCQ, issue 22)

Elli was also Dean at Pine Manor and Douglas College, Rutgers University. She had a full life spending time between Turkey, Switzerland, Cape Cod and the U.S. Virgin Islands.





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