


ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE
WINTER 2007-ISSUE 31

RC Quarterly



**Celebrating Turkey's
First Nobel Laureate
Orhan Pamuk RA 70**



**Commemorating
Two Political Leaders,
Bülent Ecevit RC 44
and İsmail Cem RA 59**

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ABOUT
THE RC
QUARTERLY



In this edition, the Quarterly salutes three College graduates who have made exceptional contributions to their country, and the world. We proudly celebrate the achievement of Nobel prize winner, novelist Orhan Pamuk, RA 70 -the first Turk to ever receive the honor- while also commemorating Bülent Ecevit, RC 44, one of modern Turkey's most influential political leaders, and former foreign minister İsmail Cem, RA 59, both of whom passed away in recent months. The unique achievements of these truly gifted alumni remind us once again of the far-reaching impact of qualities like individuality, perseverance and personal integrity that Robert College is dedicated to fostering among its students. We hope that 2007 brings you plenty of good news to share with your College community... Happy reading!

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Winter 2007



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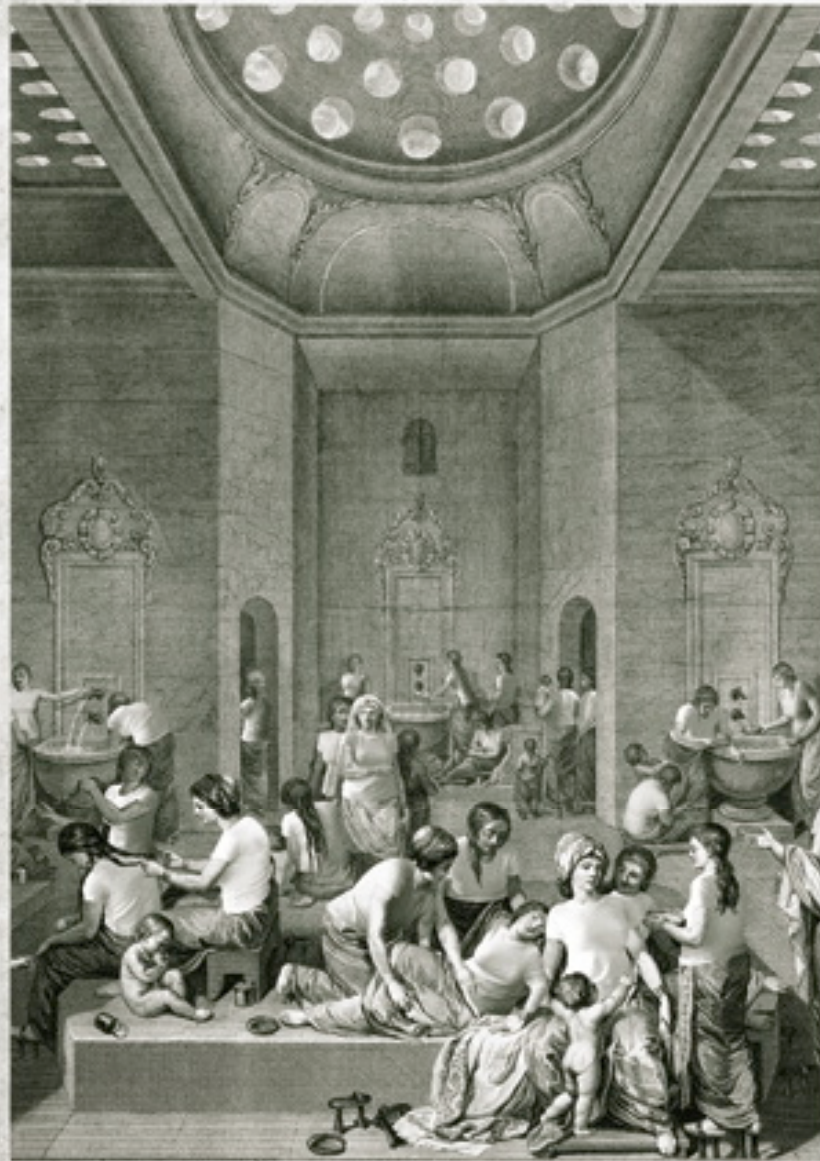
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RC Student Wins National Science Bronze



RC senior Cihat İmamoğlu became the first Robert College student to win an award in the computer science branch of the TÜBİTAK National Science Olympics, picking up a Bronze for his efforts in a five-hour nationwide competition in December.

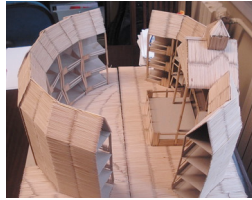
Cihat was nominated to take part in the competition by his teachers and computing staff last year. In May, he passed the first stage of the contest, a two-hour exam consisting of 50 multiple choice questions. In December, he took part in the second stage, a grueling five-hour exam in which he was asked to solve three real-life problems by creating a series of algorithms with the help of the C computer language.

Cihat's success earned him a place on a special program run by the Middle Eastern Technical University (ODTÜ) to take place at the end of February. If successful on this program, he will join Turkey's four-person computer Olympics team and attend the International Science Olympics in August. The exams put to him during his two weeks at ODTÜ will be designed and run by university professors. If he succeeds, he will also have eight points added to his ÖSS score. If he then wins at the Olympics, he will be allowed to enter any university department of his choice in Turkey. Ideally, he wants to study computer engineering at Boğaziçi. We wish him the best of luck!

Students to Create Nationwide Audio ÖSS CD Program for the Blind

For most high school seniors in Turkey, their last year is a time of intense stress and self-focus as they spend it preparing for the highly competitive nationwide university entrance exam, ÖSS. But at Robert College's Braille Club, the exam preparation process triggered thoughts of an entirely different nature. "We realized that we have all these resources at our disposal to help us prepare for the exam," says club head Ayca Nur Sağır, L12. "But there were none at all for students in Turkey who are blind." To compensate for this glaring inequality, club members created a project to make audio records of ÖSS preparation books, along with an accompanying web site to serve as a guide. The CDs would be sent out to associations for the blind in every province, and also be ordered online. They organized a troop of student volunteers who spent their free time in the computer labs recording the material.

Perhaps not surprisingly, this enterprising scheme which they called "Engellere Takılmadan Üniversite" (Getting to University without Encountering Barriers) was singled out by the Hayata Artı Youth Fund, a joint project of Coca Cola, the United Nations Development Fund and the Youth for Habitat Association. It was one of just 12 projects nationwide to win funding, as well as valuable advice on how to plan, manage and publicise their project. Armed with this information, the group decided to approach some celebrities to read parts of the CD, and help them publicise their cause. They managed to persuade actress Doğa Rutkay to do a test reading, which was then broadcast as part of a TV show on CNN Türk. "We wanted to level the playing field," says Sağır. "We wanted to help the best we could." Sağır added that 25% of the 50 books have been read and completed. **If you would like to be involved in the project, please contact brailleoffice@gmail.com or aycannursagir@gmail.com.**



A Model Globe Theatre

Faruk Pinar, Lise 11, made a remarkable model of the Shakespeare Globe Theatre, mostly out of toothpicks. The model was part of a final project for the English Literature Shakespeare class. Students were asked to create a Director's Folio in which they adapted one of Shakespeare's plays and created their own theatrical vision. They were also required to major in set or costume design. Faruk created the Globe Theatre as part of his project. "It took him many weeks to complete it and no doubt it will stand the test of time and be a great resource to show others how the Globe Theatre worked in Shakespeare's day", says Drama teacher Vanessa Johnson.

Siz nereye, sigortanız oraya!

Koç Allianz Seyahat Sağlık Sigortası, yurtiçi ya da yurtdışı seyahatleriniz sırasında meydana gelebilecek sağlık risklerine karşı sizi koruyor. Size de tatil keyfini çıkarmak kalıyor. İyi tatiller!

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Taking Turkey Forward, One CIP at a Time

In her autobiography *Ömründen Uzun İdeallerim Var*, leading businesswoman and renowned philanthropist Suna Kıraç, AÇG 60, credits the College with having instilled a strong sense of social service in her. At the behest of her teachers here, she spent a summer volunteer teaching at the impoverished Kadirga primary school. "Despite being very young, I felt the weight of the country's poverty and the sorry state of education here," she writes. It was to be the beginning of a lifelong campaign for better education in Turkey. Many RC alumni can recount similar experiences. That tradition of social service has now become official school policy in CIP, or the Community Involvement Project. Last year, the Ministry of Education issued a decree making community service compulsory for every high school student as of 2006. There was however little information by way of structure - where would the students go? What projects would they take on? Who would supervise them? To this end, RC organized a staff and faculty committee that spent all last year drawing up a structure that they felt would be effective, provide lasting benefits for all parties involved and ensure that the experience would be genuinely transformative for students.

The system they set up works as follows: students who share an area of interest - the environment, children, animals, the elderly - come together in smallish groups of between 3-10, and appoint a student leader. They then find themselves a faculty advisor, interested in the same issues, who can give them guidance when necessary. Next, the group decides what their project should be - from volunteer teaching at an underprivileged primary school, to developing multimedia educational materials for an environmental advocacy group

to rehabilitating a rundown park, eg. They then develop a project proposal which is submitted to CIP leaders Güler Karabatur (the former German language teacher retired from teaching last year and is now CIP coordinator) and English teacher Jennifer Sertel, who is also RC's Outreach Coordinator.

The students then approach the institution they want to work with, and try and get them on board. "This involves making real contact with very different kinds of people and trying to persuade them to sign on. For the kids, it teaches them something very valuable about the way the real world operates," says Sertel.

Once the institution is on board, the students sign a contract with CIP pledging the extent of their commitment. (The requirement is a total of 50 hours annually.) They must also begin to keep a journal recording their experiences; being a PC-savvy generation, some chose to post a blog instead. Their advisor periodically monitors the journal to see how they're getting on. But that's the extent of "adult" involvement - the onus is always on the students. "They develop a sense of responsibility, not least because they realize that they are representing Robert College when they go outside and work on their projects," says Karabatur.

Karabatur and Sertel quoted Suna Kıraç when launching the project at the start of this school year to current students. They expected to receive around 100 participants. To their complete surprise, 350 students signed up. The students are deeply enthusiastic. They enjoy the challenge of getting a project off the ground, and they are genuinely sensitive to issues about the world around them," says Karabatur. On a typical school day, Karabatur and Sertel now

An excerpt from the project start-up kit, advising students on how to go about recording their volunteer experiences for their CIP journal.

- What did I learn today?
- What did I feel today?
- Did anything meaningful happen?
- Something that surprised me was.....
- Something that upset me was.....
- Did anything interesting/wonderful/strange/ horrible/ funny/ [your adjective] happen?
- Did anything out of the ordinary happen?
- Did anything happen that I didn't plan? Was it positive or negative? What did I do about it?
- Something I noticed today was
- What is going well?
- What isn't going well?
- If something didn't go well, how did I handle it?
- What sort of solutions for this are possible?
- Is there anything else I need to learn?
- Is there anything else I need to do?

You could just try to describe what happened in as much detail as possible and let your thoughts come. Don't be limited by the above questions. They are guides only. Write whatever you want, but you must write. And it must be both what you did and your thoughts about it. This is a record of YOUR project.



spend their breaks and all three lunch periods talking to CIP volunteers in Marble Hall and trying to figure out how to solve problems that come up. One group, for example, began giving music lessons at a primary school where no music program. But the problem now is that there are no instruments for the kids to practice on. "Where can we get second-hand instruments do you think?" muses Karabatur. A long list on the wall proclaims a host of interesting projects - from teaching ballet (the primary school students at a public Ortaokul school asked for it) to a group that is compiling an inventory of all the historic trees in Istanbul, beginning with RC and its famed Cedars of Lebanon. Beril Pelenk, a L11 student, comes in to give Karabatur and Sertel good news. She's managed to find a sponsor to fund 200 kilos of paint which will go towards painting a dilapidated park in Arnavutköy. Pelenk and her resourceful team began by persuading municipal officials to agree to the project, then they found a sponsor to pay for it. They are now planning a timetable to get the painting done. "When we're finished, we're planning to have an opening with all the people that live in the neighbourhood," she says.

Another group of three students approaches Karabatur to report on their progress. They have been trained by the environmental group TEMA to teach others about erosion and what can be done to prevent it. "I had heard about TEMA and knew they did good work, but I was ignorant about the issues, which is why I wanted to work with them," says Seda Çimen, L11. "The biggest eye-opener was learning about the huge



economic cost of erosion. Now we are developing multimedia educational materials to take to other schools to pass on what we know."

CIP has given the school a whole new buzz. The students are eager, enthusiastic and ready to take on new challenges; many are already talking about what to do over the summer holidays. In fact two groups have already made arrangements to volunteer teach at schools in Trabzon and Kırkkale. "This is an extraordinary school, but it was like a closed box," says Karabatur. "These experiences outside the school have opened the students up to the realities of the world outside, and they are incredibly motivated to do more." Watch this space for more CIP news as RC students take on the world around them!



RC students volunteering at Moda Primary School in December 2006.



NYC Fireside Chat at the Double Knot rug gallery

Winter Get-togethers in the USA

Washington DC

Unfortunately we got snowed out in Washington DC due to one of the biggest snow storms of the winter and so the event planned there had to be cancelled. Nevertheless Semahat Demir, RC 84, was able to make it to the reception in San Francisco while visiting her sister Siddika Demir, RC 89, in California. Headmaster John Chandler was present at every event and answered everyone's questions about the school. Thank you to all who came and we hope to see more of you next time!

New York City

In New York, a youthful crowd of contributors to the Annual Fund came together in a cosy atmosphere in Tribeca and feasted on Turkish food and wine in Murat Küpçü's fabulous Double Knot rug gallery on Tuesday, February 6, 2007. The size of the event and the intimacy of the venue make this a wonderful event for those who want to learn about what is going on in RC. Trustees Sukey Wagner and Margaret Mathews, RC 75, president of RCAA Mete Tuncel, RC 90, and his wife Burcu Üstüner Tuncel, RC 97, were among the attendees.

Boston

February was a get-together month for RC alumni and friends living in the US. Around sixty people attended the meeting in Harvard Club of Boston on February 8, 2007. Among our guests was Esther Vail Falk, great granddaughter of Cyrus Hamlin, the founder of Robert College, trustee Stephen Clark, previous Lise Director Whitman Shepard, former math teacher Selim Tezel, RC 83, and friends and alumni of all ages and classes. Following the reception, many went out into the streets of Boston to celebrate longer.



RC Founder Cyrus Hamlin's great-granddaughter Esther Falk.



Defne Bozkurt RC 2000, left, with Ovid Sezer, RC 06.

San Francisco

Barbara Platt-Willenborg RC Yük 70, hosted a spectacular reception in her house in San Francisco on February 17, 2007. Everybody had a great time, meeting friends whom they didn't know lived in the area, learning about the school and reminiscing about Istanbul while overlooking the beautiful Golden Gate Bridge. There were many former student council members in the crowd, including former president Cem Albayrak, RC 01. Classes present ranged from Helen Invancho, RC 50, to Eytan Daniyalzade, RC 04. Many alumni and friends met Headmaster John Chandler for the first time.



RC Alumni enjoying the cozy get-together at the home of their hostess Barbara Platt Willenborg, RC Yük 70.



Barbara Platt Willenborg, RC Yük 70, welcomed RC Alumni to her home in San Francisco.

FROM THE BOSPHORUS CHRONICLE

RC received a bumper crop of new teachers this year. Twenty people joined the teaching staff over the summer, in fields as diverse as PE, Turkish Literature and Drama. Below, student writers from the school newspaper, *The Bosphorus Chronicle*, introduce some of the new faces on campus.

Vanessa Johnson, the New Drama Enthusiast

By Alp Özçelik, Lise 10 and Lale Tekişalp, Lise 11

As per tradition, a new year means new teachers, as well as new students. One of these teachers is Vanessa Johnson, the new Director of Drama. Ms. Johnson is from Sydney, Australia. She has been a teacher for six years, but was an actress before starting her career as a teacher.

As a student, Ms Johnson promised herself that no matter what she did, she would leave Australia in five years to work overseas. So after five years of teaching, one night before going to bed, she asked herself, her inner self, "Where am I supposed to go?" When she woke up, Turkey was the first place that came to her mind. "Where in Turkey?" was her next question and the answer was Istanbul. After searching the internet for some time, she e-mailed John Chandler, and told him about herself. He replied to her in an hour and well, we can all guess the rest. Besides being involved with drama, she also teaches Film & Lit, Shakespeare, and prep creative arts. Ms. Johnson is also forming the RC Theater Company now, "to revitalize drama" in the school, "to give it more structure." Her aim is "to create something that would continue for years, to start a tradition." The RC Theater Company's goals are to produce two English speaking plays a year and to work on original plays that reflect the world today. She also wants to give professional training to students who are interested in drama.

For the first semester the RC Theater Company has already started to work on an Australian comedy called "Cosi." The play is about "a drifter in life, finding a job in a mental hospital to put on an opera on stage." Ms. Johnson already has some ambitious plans for next year. She hopes to produce a bilingual play about the battle of Gallipoli. She's planning to get help from Tolga Örnek RC 90, director of the famous documentary Gallipoli, and create big publicity for the play.



Aslı Temel Brings Positive Energy to PE

By İrem İrdem, Lise 11

Volleyball, skiing, dancing, fencing, tennis, swimming, aerobics... and through it all, she just keeps smiling! Aslı Temel, Robert College's new PE teacher, the owner of the fifth desk in the PE office, explains: "I am always like that. I want to approach everything from the positive side. Why frown and make things worse when you have a chance to smile?" Although she is new to her students, she is actually not new to RC. Back in high school, she was in the drama club of her school and even performed a play in RC. "Back then the campus fascinated me," she says.

Deniz İnal, Lise 10 one of the major players of the RC volleyball team says "We are really happy and lucky to have a professional and experienced volleyball player at RC. As the volleyball team, we believe that she will help us a lot in our practices and games." Aslı Temel is indeed a very experienced player and a coach. "I started volleyball in Fenerbahçe. I went to the Winter Sports Camp of Fenerbahçe. The coach of the team picked me immediately, because I was tall and very thin. I started from the youngsters and went up to the professional team. I was there for nine years. Those were very special years for me. I quit because I couldn't train and attend university at the same time."

Ms Temel is a big fan of the team sports experience. She says: "If I was born again, I would play in the same team for the same amount of time. Sharing love, pain, happiness and being together at all times is what teaches a person. It was the major event in my life which made me become who I am."

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Eda Yurdakul Brings Love of Story Writing to Turkish Lit

By Sinan Alp Kazaklar, Lise 9 Ahmet Ali Arslan, Lise 9

Eda Yurdakul joins RC's Turkish Literature Department. Not surprisingly, her favorite pastime is reading. She has a lot of favorite writers but when pressed, mentions Behçet Necatigil, Haldun Taner, Nazım Hikmet, and Tomris Uyar. She also enjoys Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar's stories because of his ability to combine the future and the past. She has written some short stories, some stories for children, some of which were published in a magazine called "Yalınayak."

Her interest in the arts comes from her family. Her mother is a painter, and her sister is a flutist at the State Opera and Ballet. She says: "I always wanted to have a job related to literature. Although we are all artists in our family, I am the only one whose branch is about the pen." She says she plays with words, much like her mother knows how to play with colors, or her sister knows how to play with notes. Ms Yurdakul graduated from Hacettepe University's Turkish Literature department and she got her master's degree from Bilkent University. This is her first job after her internships at BUPS, TED, and the American College of Izmir. Her students love her. Oğuz Özmen (L9) says: "She is really frank and I love her style of teaching." Mehmet Alper Yıldırım (L9) says: "She has a wisdom beyond what you would expect from a teacher of her age, and at the same time she is energetic because of her age. She has those two important advantages." Pürnur Dikbaş (L9) says: "She is really sympathetic. She understands us and respects us as students. I love being in her class." She reciprocates her students praise: "I was impressed by the efficiency of the RC students. It is not hard to see why RC is different from the others."

Şengül Toprak Joins the Turkish Literature Faculty

By Tansu Daylan, Lise 11

"I am very glad to be a part of the Robert College community," comments Şengül Toprak, who joined Robert College this year as a Turkish language and literature teacher. As she is at the beginning of her Robert College career, BC interviewed her about herself and her first impressions of Robert College.

Born in Izmir, Ms Toprak studied Turkish Language and Literature at Ege University. After her university education, she received her graduate license in Ancient Turkish Literature and is currently expecting to receive her PhD. She worked at several schools before she came to Robert College, most recent at Şişli Terakki Lisesi. She says: "The reason I chose to teach here was that Robert College is a school intending not only to teach superficially, but to give knowledge, experience and responsibility in order to prepare the students for future life. It houses very talented students and experienced teachers, a community which, I thought, could help me improve myself." When asked her impressions about RC students, she said that students were very intellectual. She was very glad to see the majority of the students reading, listening, questioning and assimilating thoroughly. She added, "Another surprising aspect of the Robert College students is that they do not solely study; they can balance their social life with their academic responsibilities, while still remaining academically successful."

Ms Toprak also says as an avid reader, her first stop of discovery at school was the library. "All students and teachers are very lucky to have such a large library, the kind of which is not available in many universities," she said.



Nerede kalmıştık?

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GO BEYOND

Önder Kaya Inspires with Passion for History

By Can Akçevin, Lise 10, Can Efeoglu, Lise 10



“I decided to study history when I was 12,” says Önder Kaya, one of the 20 newcomers to the Robert College faculty this year. “That’s because of the historical atmosphere in Aksaray (a district in Istanbul), where I was born and raised. The environment there aroused my interest in history.” Önder Kaya has been teaching history at RC for a few weeks now and already, he is becoming known as one of the most humorous and positive teachers at RC... “In daily life, I’m a cheerful person; I try to engage students in lessons by keeping that part of me just the same.”

Önder Kaya is a graduate of Marmara University and earned his master’s degree in medieval history. “My intentions in the long term were to stay at the university after graduation and to teach there. I didn’t have teaching in high schools in mind,” he says. However, he followed his heart and spent the next seven years teaching: first at İstek Schools, and then at Şişli Terakki High School. In addition, he published many articles in various history journals (including Hürriyet Tarih) and he has a number of published books. “Robert College is a school that most teachers want to work at, not because of its fame, but for the academic quality and attentive students,” comments Önder Kaya. L11 student Melda Nil Esenalp praises him; “Önder Kaya is a teacher who destroys the common history teacher stereotype that students usually have in mind, with his humorous and unorthodox approach to history.” Now, it’s time for the big project! Önder Kaya intends to establish a history club, which will mainly focus on historical events and sites in Istanbul. The origins of the idea go back to the days Önder Kaya was at Terakki High School. Being one of the co-founders of the History Club of the school (Terakki Tarih Topluluğu), he also wants Robert College students to have the same opportunity. We talked to a former student of Terakki High School, who was fortunately in the history club, Ece Hakan: “The history club was a wonderful experience for me. It was both educative and entertaining at the same time. We used to go to the historical places of Istanbul; for instance we went to Balat. There, I felt that history was set in motion once again before my eyes, as Önder Hoca narrated stories and told us about the history of the place.” Hopefully, we will be having a popular club in a few years.



The Rau Couple Return to Istanbul

By Deniz İnal, Lise 10, Cansu Günel, Lise 10

“Istanbul is a city that calls you back, no matter how.” So says Mr. Rau, who has returned to Turkey with his wife after spending seven years in the USA: this time to join the RC family! The Rauses met when Mr. Rau came to teach in Turkey in 1994. Until they left for the USA in 1999, they both taught at Üsküdar American Academy. One of their former students, Lale Tekişalp (L10) expressed her feelings towards them by saying that she felt really upset when the day came for Mrs. Rau’s departure while she was in elementary school in UAA. “I remember we got her autograph when she was leaving because she had a very beautiful voice and we were sure that she would be a famous singer one day!” Last August they decided to return because Mrs. Rau felt very homesick. When asked if he also felt comfortable in Istanbul, Mr. Rau said, “It is always a love and hate situation with Istanbul. Either you love it or you hate it, with everything it has...” but as he also stated that Istanbul called him back, it is obvious that he is fond of this city!

What do the Rauses like to do in their spare time? As the son of a diplomat, Mr. Rau adores traveling. In the summer, they love going to historical places. Mrs. Rau’s biggest passion is for music. She used to have a semi-professional band and she emphasizes that she wants to be involved in a classical Turkish music choir. Lastly, a reminder for tennis players of our school: Mr. Rau is looking for tennis partners!



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Bend it Like the Boys RC Girls Form Soccer Club

By Şeyda Ece Sarıbaş, Lise 9 Merve Haklı, Lise 9

One of the year’s most challenging clubs is the brand new girls’ soccer club. This club is the result of the efforts of a group of girls who insisted that girls could play soccer as well as boys. The idea first arose out of an argument that the boarder preps had last year. The girls said that they were good at playing soccer, but boys thought it was all nonsense; boys were the only ones who could play soccer properly. To prove their point, Zehra Burcu Yılmaz (Lise 9), Gökçe Türkmen (Lise 9) and Begüm Ağça (Lise 9) and their friends from the dormitory, set up a Girls Soccer Club. Actually, this club is not the first of its kind. There was a girl’s soccer team four years ago, coached by Ms. Balkas. However, since there was not a girls’ league available for high school students, that team was not able to work officially. The schools like Alman Lisesi and Koç Lisesi used to have official teams, but people are no longer interested. The hardest problem they faced was that they could not find any girls teams to play against. Ms. Balkaş thinks that it is because these kinds of issues are not found very popular by the press. This year, Ms. Altıntaş is coaching and seems happy about being with these girls. “I know many of these girls from their prep year,” she says. “When I heard that they felt bad about the lack of such a soccer club for girls and needed an advisor, I decided to help them. They need to be encouraged. There are many successful players; some of them were basketball players before. I have plans like joining competitions in other countries such as Germany, because we don’t have the opportunity to play games in Turkey. We’ve started slowly; the girls are running around and having fun for the time being.” The soccer playing girls are happy. They meet in club time and play as much soccer as they like. They think that their accomplishment was a great answer to those students who argued that soccer is only for boys; “We do not want to talk much, we will show how talented we are,” they say with mischievous smiles on their faces. Whatever the boys think, girls play soccer differently from boys; but it is a lot of fun to watch them playing soccer, everyone should admit that.



Petroleum Industry Awards Nansen Saleri, RA 66, for Work on Global Reserves

Nansen Saleri RA 66, one of the most influential names in the petroleum industry and head of reservoir management at Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil company, was recently awarded the prestigious John Franklin Carll award in honor of his contributions to the industry. The award is given by the Society of Petroleum Engineers for technical contributions to the industry that leave their mark. At the ceremony, Saleri was commended for "his impact on global reserves and his pioneering work in shaping modern reservoir management".

Saleri attended Robert Academy (1961-1966) and then Robert College (1966-1970), where he received his B.S. in Chemical Engineering. In 1970, he married his wife Marina, and the couple headed to the USA where he pursued M.S. and PhD degrees at the University of Virginia. Although an internationally renowned expert in the petroleum industry, his degrees are all in Chemical Engineering. "What it says is that it matters a lot more what you do with your degree and yourself than what degree you have," he says laughingly. "I owe the choice of petroleum engineering as a career somewhat to my wife Marina," he says. "When I was nearing graduation with my PhD and looking desperately for a job (we had two children by then), Chevron Corporation (then called Standard Oil of California) made me two job offers. One in Los Angeles, in Petroleum Engineering research, the other in San Francisco, in refinery research, which was related to my doctoral work. I was fascinated by both jobs and was neutral, but my wife was strongly in favor of the southern California position because she was terrified of earthquakes and firmly argued against the S.F. job thinking (naively) that L.A. was earthquake safe. Anyway, that was the tie-breaker that shaped my career. I picked L.A. and hence petroleum engineering."

Saleri worked for 18 years for Chevron at various locations worldwide then joined Saudi Aramco in Dhahran in late 1992. Saudi Aramco is the world's largest oil company and accounts for 25 % of global crude oil reserves and roughly 15 % of global daily production of crude oil. As head of the Reservoir Management department, Saleri's responsibilities are to make sure that the Company's reserves are managed properly and all its production commitments are met. Saleri says he "credits Robert Academy as well as Robert College for teaching me how to think more than anything else". He and Marina have three children, the eldest of whom, Sy, has coincidentally just started teaching English at the HEV school in Istanbul.



Nansen Saleri, RA 66 with his wife Marina.

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Novelist Alev Lytle Croutier, ACG 63, Spins Tales of East and West

The Robert College network can move in mysterious ways. Renowned author Alev Lytle Croutier, whose work has been translated into some 27 languages, has recently been twice lucky with her alma mater connection. After a stint at Oğlak, she is now published by Remzi publishing house, owned by Ömer Erduran, RC 81. Subsequently, through her international publishers, she was randomly assigned another fellow alum, Leyla Özcengiz Ismier, RC 72, to translate her latest book *Üçüncü Kadın* (Third Woman). "It's all a happy coincidence!" Croutier told the RCQ in an interview.

Croutier was in Istanbul to promote her latest novel *Üçüncü Kadın*, a tale of three headstrong women and their relationship to the famed writer Pierre Loti in turn of the century Istanbul. Although she has lived in San Francisco since 1975, Turkey is a recurring theme throughout her novels, starting with her debut *Harem - The World Behind the Veil*. "All my books have something to do with Turkey, it inspires me," she says. "It's not a deliberate decision. My early impressions have so etched themselves onto my psyche, it just keeps coming back". In real life, Croutier was able to reestablish a connection to her homeland after many years abroad when her class decided to hold a reunion in Basel, Switzerland, a few years ago. Seventeen women turned up. "I got a chance to see friends I hadn't seen since graduation," says Croutier. "We bonded in a miraculous way." The meetings became more frequent, sometimes twice annually. "It was how I fell in love with Turkey again. I felt a great joy at finding roots again, it has been like a reconciliation". Croutier initially went to the US to study art history at university. She returned to Turkey but quickly became disillusioned by the limited opportunities available to women in the film industry. She became good friends with James Baldwin, living in Istanbul and a frequent visitor to RC, and at his urging, returned to the US. She worked in film for 15 years, writing screenplays in Hollywood. In 1983 she was offered a position to found a publishing house, which she took up, and stayed at the helm of Mercury Publishing until 1991. Meanwhile, she started writing, and with *Harem*, her literary star was born. Croutier says her education at ACG has been "an enormous influence". "At ACG, I began to have a concept of the world as part of a bigger universe, which has shaped my world view greatly. I feel blessed to have gone to a school like that."



GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

Nilgün Güresin, ACG 69, Appointed to Turkish-American Business Group

Nilgün Güresin, ACG 69, has been appointed coordinator of the Turkish-American Businessmen's Association (TABA). A communications executive with extensive experience working abroad, Güresin hopes to bring her expertise in cross-cultural communication to bear on TABA's work promoting better business ties between Turkey and the US.

After graduating from Robert College, Güresin studied communications at the University of Toronto. She began her career working at Eczacıbaşı Holding, and then worked for nine years as public relations manager at Goodyear Tires and Yaşar Holding. She then founded her own PR agency, working for clients like Nixdorf, Pirelli and Vepa. In 1990, Güresin decided to move abroad and spent time in both Amsterdam and Paris training executives from multinational companies in cross-cultural communications and the finer details of relocating to a new culture. She was actively involved with the US chambers of trade and commerce in both the Netherlands and France. Güresin recently moved back to Turkey and takes up her position at TABA, reporting to the president Uğur Terzioğlu, RC 54 Ex. TABA is a 20-year-old organization with close to 600 members, dedicated to furthering Turkish-American business ties.



Nilgün Güresin, ACG 69

Debut Novel Revisits the 60s

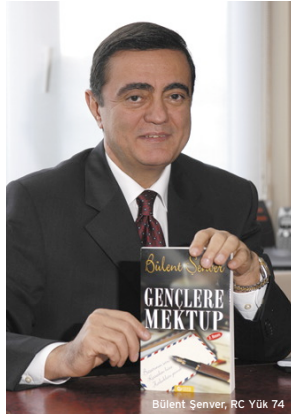
Levent Güleri, RC 76, recently published his first novel, *Yank on the Hill* (Trafford Publishing), a rollercoaster of a ride, spun across three continents, about the growing up of two brothers. Güleri describes it as a "raw political novel which examines the 20th century through the eyes of an activist". A young American attempts to leave the Plains behind as the 60s end on Long Island with on-campus lunacy and off-campus opulence. This bookworm is turned on his head by the militant faculty, the police raids, and the needy Turkish girl who abandons him. Steeped in counterculture, looking to renew the adventure beyond graduation, he takes his act on the road to Istanbul as a teacher of English literature. His idealism comes up against his elder brother throughout their asynchronous journeys.

Güleri says, "I was born in Istanbul, raised in Nisantasi, well immersed in arts and entertainment. At Robert, I really grew to like the theater of the absurd, thoroughly influenced, challenged and polished by Mrs.Iz, RIP. I gave up my drama ambitions even before graduation under parental pressure and ended up with an engineering degree from SUNY Stony Brook in 1981, followed by dropping out of an MBA program at Hofstra U. Adopting a bohemian lifestyle, I sold light fixtures in the Bowery, free-lanced as a translator/interpreter, did standup at various NYC clubs and sold jokes to more established comics, worked as a porter at Madison Square Garden, generated a video biography of Frank Sinatra, wrote poetry, two screenplays, and *Yank on the Hill*. I got married in 1983 and became an American citizen in 1992. After finishing my novel in 1995, I never really pursued its publication because our family was due to grow once again, and instead, I found my first and last engineering job, promising myself that I'd do it for 10 years, and the Lord held me to that, promptly laying me off after 10. Currently, I am working on my second novel while selling the first." Spun across three continents along the whims of the governments, and the diverse women of the prairie, the continent and the exotic east, *Yank on a Hill* slowly tells the tale of two brothers' emotional baggage through sex, war, drugs, patriotism, and upbringing. All this takes place against a backdrop of student demonstrations, sensual excesses, living with an oil embargo and Nixon's last days...



Levent Güleri, RC 76

Veteran Banker Writes Book for Youths



Bülent Şenver, RC Yük 74

A key figure in Turkey's recent banking history, financier Bülent Şenver, RC Yük 74, recently published a book *Gençlere Mektup* (Letter to Young People) by Güncel Yayıncılık.

In *Gençlere Mektup*, Şenver has brought together letters addressed to young Turks and written by an impressive roster of 52 prominent personalities including Rahmi Koç, Jak Kamhi, Hüsnü Özyeğin, Yılmaz Uluosoy, Uğur Dündar, Mehmet Ali Birand, Arzuhan Yalçındağ, Dilek Sabancı, Muhtar Kent, Can Kırac, Betül Mardin, Ege Cansen, Sinan Aygün, Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, Ethem Sancak, Cengiz Kaptanoğlu, Murat Vargı and Mehmet Ali Yalçındağ. They speak of the challenges they have experienced, and offer their own suggestions for professional fulfillment.

Şenver says he was inspired to put the book together because "Turkey needs strong young leaders, in every field". He is also the founder of the web site www.turkclider.org, which has a similar purpose. Şenver penned the first part of the book himself and introduces his own tips and techniques for personal success. All proceeds from the book go to the "Türkclider Eğitim Fonu" (Turkish Leader Education Fund).

A former head of Pamukbank, Şenver was an innovator behind the introduction of such practices as credit cards with photos, 24-hour telephone banking, special fan cards for football team supporters, Migros card. He was twice chosen Banker of the Year. He currently teaches at Istanbul's Bilgi University.



Zeynep Gürsel, RC 90, with a character from "Conversation Piece V" by sculptor Juan Munoz, at the De Young Museum in San Francisco.

Zeynep Gürsel RC 90, Publishes Her First Children's Book

Camilla Millicuori is a kindergarten student who doesn't always like to go to school, is more than a little mischievous and has a knack for collecting friends, adventures and questions on her many travels.

The star of the Italian language *Pronta Per La Scuola* (Edizioni Lapis), Camilla is in fact the creation of Zeynep Gürsel RC 90, who describes her first book as "a children's book for not-too-perfect kids". Camilla was originally born in Zeynep's mind as Cornelia Dearhart and her stories about wanderlust were first put to paper in December 2003. The following year, Gürsel was in Paris doing fieldwork and decided to translate Cornelia Dearhart into Italian. Thus, Cornelia became Camilla Millicuori.

"After having been rejected by a dozen American, a dozen Italian and three dozen French publishers, Camilla Millicuori was welcomed into the world by Edizioni Lapis in Rome, a publishing house established by two women who left academia in order to publish curiosity inspiring children's books," says Gürsel. Illustrated by Ursula Bücher, a Swiss artist, *Pronta Per La Scuola* was published in September 2006.

Gürsel is thrilled the book is out, and hopes Camilla is helping some children get over their dread of school, or their fears about their first year at school. Laughing, she adds: "Furthermore, though Turkey's EU accession talks will continue for the next decade and walls will continue to be built on borders around the world, at least in the world of the imagination, a Turkish girl born in LA who learned English in Athens can write a book, translate it with a friend in Paris and have it illustrated by a Swiss German for an Italian publisher."



Celebrating Turkey's First Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk RA 70

The College community rejoiced alongside Turkey's first ever Nobel prize winner Orhan Pamuk RA 70, as he travelled to Stockholm to receive the prestigious award. The prize in Literature was a huge honor for the author of such best-selling novels as *Cevdet Bey ve Oğulları* (Cevdet Bey and His Sons), *Kara Kitap* (The Black Book), *Benim Adım Kırmızı* (My Name is Red), *Kar* (Snow) and *İstanbul: Memories of a City*, which have been published in some 50 countries worldwide, and for his country. "It was a very moving, majestic and incredibly impressive

ceremony," says Zeynep Pamuk, a L12 student at RC and the novelist's niece, who attended the event in Sweden. "Presided over by the King and Queen of Sweden, it is the biggest event of the year there and taken very seriously. The ceremonial proceedings, the gowns that people wore, and the sheer grandness of it made it feel like being in another world. We were very proud." To celebrate Pamuk's achievement, the RC Quarterly asked members of its community involved in literature and writing to comment on Pamuk's unique place within the world of Turkish letters.



From L to R: Aylin Türeğün, Rüya Pamuk, Orhan Pamuk, Zeynep Pamuk and Şevket Pamuk, in Stockholm.

Perhaps most significant among these is the following contribution by **Maureen Freely, ACG 71**, Literature Professor at Warwick University, author and translator of Pamuk's most recent two novels. She wrote: "In the late 1960s, when we were sitting in our classrooms at Robert Academy and ACG, the centre of the world seemed a long way away. The arbiters of western culture were only barely aware of Turkey's existence. Now, thanks to Orhan Pamuk, it is back on the literary map. But that's not the most important thing. Orhan's main achievement is to have cut through national and ideological barriers to speak directly to readers all over the world. It has been a long and fascinating conversation. For me it began in the very early 90s, when I happened onto a copy of *The White Castle*, his first novel to be translated into English, in the book room of the Independent on Sunday in London. I picked it up in curiosity, asking myself what Şevket's (Şevket Pamuk RA 68) brother was doing writing a novel. I was soon to find out! Over the next 12 years, I continued to read, review, defend, and extol each new novel as it appeared, and I was also in regular contact with the small but influential group of London-based writers and critics who thought as highly of the books as I did. Our view was that he was on a level with Marquez, Calvino, Eco, Borges, Coetzee, Ondaatje, Oe, Rushdie, and Auster. Faber and Faber, Orhan's publishers in England, were in close touch with us throughout this long waiting period, and with each new book they would invite us to a small and select supper at which we would ask ourselves how much longer it would be before the rest of the world woke up.

There were, I now know, groups just like ours in the more than fifty other countries where Orhan's books are available in translation. I woke up to this myself after I rashly agreed to translate *Snow* into English. This was the breakthrough

"As you know, the question we writers are asked most often, the favourite question, is; why do you write? I write because I have an innate need to write! I write because I can't do normal work like other people. I write because I want to read books like the ones I write. I write because I am angry at all of you, angry at everyone. I write because I love sitting in a room all day writing. I write because I can only partake in real life by changing it. I write because I want others, all of us, the whole world, to know what sort of life we lived, and continue to live, in Istanbul, in Turkey. I write because I love the smell of paper, pen, and ink. I write because I believe in literature, in the art of the novel, more than I believe in anything else. I write because it is a habit, a passion. I write because I am afraid of being forgotten. I write because I like the glory and interest that writing brings. I write to be alone. Perhaps I write because I hope to understand why I am so very, very angry at all of you, so very, very angry at everyone. I write because I like to be read. I write because once I have begun a novel, an essay, a page, I want to finish it. I write because everyone expects me to write. I write because I have a childish belief in the immortality of libraries, and in the way my books sit on the shelf. I write because it is exciting to turn all of life's beauties and riches into words. I write not to tell a story, but to compose a story. I write because I wish to escape from the foreboding that there is a place I must go but - just as in a dream - I can't quite get there. I write because I have never managed to be happy. I write to be happy."

- From Orhan Pamuk's Nobel Lecture, translated by Maureen Freely, ACG 71

book for Orhan in both England and the US, and since its appearance my inbox has been flooded daily by readers from six continents. The messages they ask me to forward for them cover a multitude of subjects, but the common thread is their gratitude - first for opening their eyes to an overlooked land and its forgotten history, second for giving voice to the pain felt by all those living in countries consigned to the margins, and third by creating in his fiction a new world where the characters, like the author, can move beyond national categories to speak of the dreams, dashed



L to R Orhan
Pamuk RA 70,
Maureen Freely,
ACG 71

Pamuk's eloquent Nobel acceptance speech was in many ways a moving tribute to his father, his first reader, who died four years ago. "I had often thought that if I had, from time to time, been able to draw from my imagination, be it in freedom or childishness, it was because, unlike so many of my friends from childhood and youth, I had no fear of my father, and I had sometimes believed very deeply that I had been able to become a writer because my father had, in his youth, wished to be one, too."

Years earlier, his father had contributed an article to Güneş newspaper in which he described his son, and referred to his education at Robert College as a key formative influence. "Both my children studied at Robert College. Their mother had studied there too. I never used to think this was that important but I now see that receiving an Anglo-Saxon education is something else entirely. That's where democracy begins. You know that show on TV, White Shadow (Beyaz Gölge) where the children says what they think, they're allowed to object, if they cannot agree on something they pool their thoughts and suggest different solutions... That's the kind of democratic education my children received at Robert College. I think this is very necessary and useful. It determines people's characters. If you continuously tell a child "This is how it's going to be, don't argue, just do it! Then in time, when they get given an opportunity, they will respond in that same way."

- Original Güneş article reprinted by Açık Radyo
(www.acikradyo.com.tr)

hopes and sorrows that afflict us all. "

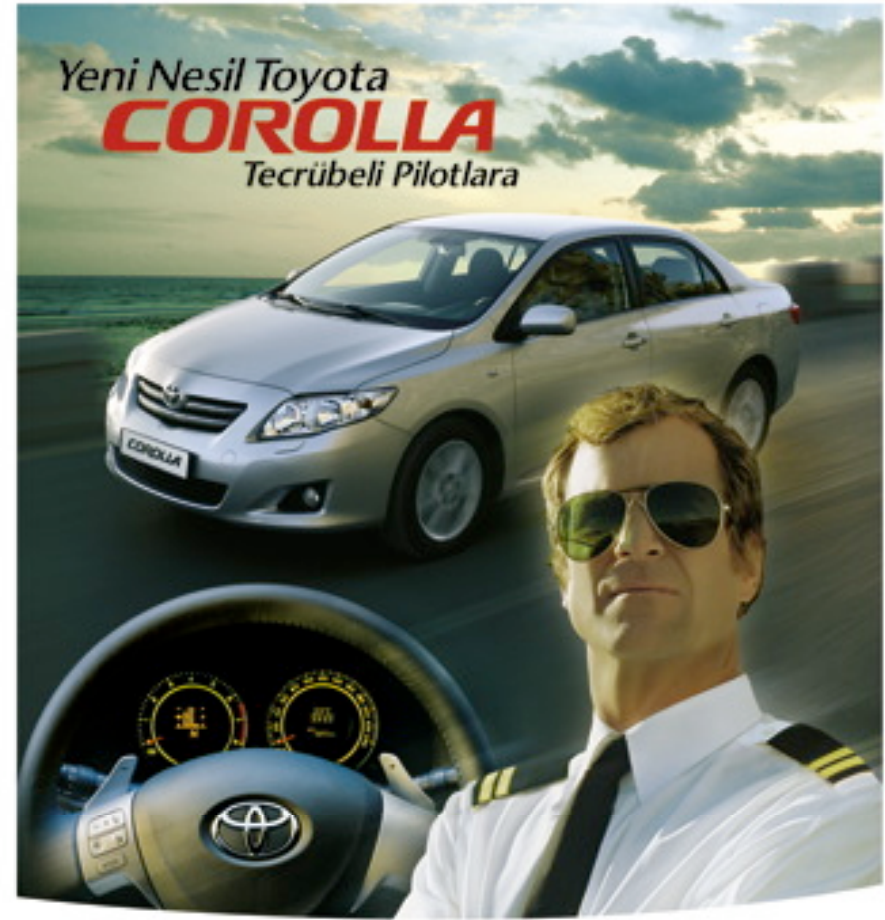
Jale Parla, ACG 64, Literature Professor at Istanbul's Bilgi University, says of Pamuk: "Orhan Pamuk's success lies in his awareness of the main features of the Turkish novel tradition, his using both the obvious, but also the lesser known themes and motifs of this tradition, forging these with his own style, yet managing also to capture a global style. When I read an Orhan Pamuk novel, I find the first requisite for any novel, that of an author's perfection. I also find the secret fine touches of the art of the novel, from its adventure in both Turkey and the world. But most importantly, in those novels I find a perfect fiction alongside a historical and existentialist irony- and for me, those qualities are what makes a novel superior."

The essayist **Gündüz Vassaf RA 64**, wrote of Pamuk's effect on subsequent generations of writers in Turkey. He said: "With his ever developing and changing genre, Orhan has incalculably enriched Turkish literature and single handedly brought it to the world's attention. Also, by openly sharing with us his solitary writing ordeal, he has shown that even when it comes to creative writing, hard, diligent, consistent work is as important as inspiration. I could see this in him, when we first met in 1983, during the September

12 military regime, to escort Arthur Miller and Harold Pinter, who had come to Turkey to show their solidarity with writers. Although one would think, that for an aspiring young writer like Orhan, every moment spent with these giants of literature would have been irresistible, he chose to spend most of his time at home writing, often leaving me with our guests. It's this trait that may be at the root of his success as well as controversy. In spite of demands on his time, he is as solitary an individual as there is. In contrast to many other writers in the past, not belonging to any particular group with a political agenda makes his work uniquely individual, but this is also perhaps one reason why he was so isolated in his controversial remarks about the deaths of Armenians and Kurds. I hope that his lasting influence on future generations of Turkish writers would be for them to take as example his discipline, dedication and love for literature, but, as beautiful as it is, not to emulate him as the melancholic voice of Istanbul or take his works as the gospel of East meeting West. Istanbul has many voices waiting to be discovered, and culture, to paraphrase a song, is indeed a many splendoured thing. I can well imagine many a parent now, hoping that their child, too, may one day become a writer. This country is accustomed to writers facing one grief after another rather than being financially rewarded for their work. In his Nobel acceptance speech, Orhan said that of the things that sets countries apart is how they treat their writers. It is thanks to him that many more in this country will now secretly dream that, one day, they too will become a writer."

Similarly, writer and commentator **Perihan Mağden RC 79** said: "The award given to Orhan Pamuk will greatly increase interest in Turkish, Turkey, Turkish writers and artists. It will pave the way for other writers. It will even pave the way for our classics. This is very important because Turkish literature is deserving of this interest. Turkey has a singularly important literary vein running through it, and for it to come to the world's attention in this lovely way is an exceptionally good thing."

Commentator and essayist **Şahin Alpaz RA 63** spoke of Pamuk's universalism. "Orhan Pamuk is the person who has created a place for Turkish literature on the world stage as never before. He is a successful writer who has managed to make lives lived and imagined in Turkey relevant to people reading him in 49 different languages. In the words of the head of the Swedish Academy Horace Engdahl: "We found Pamuk deserving of the prize for enriching the roots of the contemporary novel in both West and East. This means that he has stolen the novel, one can say, from us Westerners, and has transformed it into something different from what we have ever seen before." No doubt one secret to Orhan's being able to capture this universality is his having grown up in Nişantaşı; the other is doubtless his having studied at Robert College. Our pride in him is boundless." The College community's pride in Pamuk is indeed boundless. His tremendous accomplishment will no doubt serve as an inspiration for generations of RC students to come.



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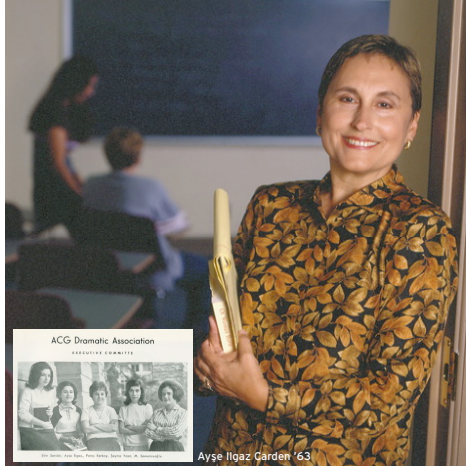


Endowed Scholarship Honors Ayşe Ilgaz Carden ACG 63

Ayşe Ilgaz Carden, ACG 63, described by her colleagues and friends as a champion for women's achievement, learning and cross-cultural understanding, dedicated much of her life to education. So it is most befitting that her family chose to honor her memory by establishing an endowed scholarship at RC in her name. The income from this endowment, established in the winter of 2006/2007, will go towards the scholarship of an especially talented female student at RC.

Ayşe herself loved theater as well as academics and was a member of the executive committee of the ACG Dramatic Association and many other student organizations like Izlirimiz, Classical Music Club, and the House Council. Ayşe was a contributing member to the life of the school she cherished, and this generous scholarship endowment in her name reflects a continuation of that contribution.

Ayşe died on February 4, 2004 (see obituary in the RCQ, winter 2004, issue 24, page 37). This scholarship will allow generations of new students to benefit from an RC education, and enable Ayşe Ilgaz Carden's name to be honored in perpetuity at her Alma Mater.



own expense.

SI teach because I cannot stand a world that does not value Scholarship, does not encourage in the individual a sense of wonder and commitment to continuing the search for answers and forming of new questions and the enjoyment of the process.

CI teach because I cannot stand an individual who does not value Community; does not work for a better life for all; has no sense of responsibility or commitment; feels no shame for transgressions.

OI teach because I cannot stand a world without Optimism. I want a world where people believe that tomorrow can be better than today, a world where we will be even better human beings in spite of the mistakes of yesterday, and that we will create better lives for all.

TI teach because I cannot stand a society without Tolerance, based on assertions, open or veiled, that there is only one correct way of believing, one correct way of doing, one correct way of caring and only one group of people worth caring for.

TAnd finally, I teach because I cannot stand a society where Teaching is devalued and separated from doing; a society where teaching and learning are considered to take place in the classroom, and doing, outside it; where doing is better even when it is not informed by reflection or wisdom.

I have been a member of the Agnes Scott community for a long time, first as a student, later as an alumna and currently as a faculty member. I like all my colleagues here, have been a learner, a teacher and a doer-in and out of the classroom. I have taught and learned from my students; many are here as alumnae today. Through the reflection and actions of all whose lives intersect at this place, our community continues to be a better place for the development of more meaningful and responsible lives. Now, the challenge is: Can we keep on working with intelligence, creativity and tenacity to achieve the goal of widening the limits of our community and to contribute to the creation of a world more hospitable for life and well-being of all its peoples? Agnes Scott's legacy says we can and we must."

The following remarks on teaching by Ayşe Ilgaz Carden '63, professor of psychology, were made during the Founder's Day Convocation on Feb. 24, 2001 as part of the Bold Aspirations weekend at Agnes Scott.

"Those who can, do; those who cannot, teach. From the original quotation by George Bernard Shaw, "He who can, does; he who cannot, teaches," this gender-neutral version of our society's attitude toward teaching has persisted over time into the new millennium. I have taught at Agnes Scott for 24 years because I am one of "those who cannot."

I Teach Because

"AI teach because I cannot stand a life lived without Awareness, an unquestioning existence, a life lived according to unexamined roles and values; a life without considered choices and options.

GI teach because I cannot stand a world without Generosity of spirit and means; a world where people do not care to share with each other, shrink away from giving freely—their resources, their love, their dedication, their time; a world where the focus is "me" instead of "us."

NI teach because I cannot stand a world where New ideas are resisted, not because of their lack of merit, but because they are new and challenge the vested ways of seeing and doing.

EI teach because I cannot stand a society where Ethical values are ignored or manipulated; a society where equality does not represent a goal; a society where recognition of different needs is deemed to be inconsistent with equality or fairness.

SI teach because I cannot stand a person who goes through life without a Sense of humor, without the flexibility and confidence of self that allows for laughter especially at one's

VENUES WE RUN

Restaurateur Karaçam, RC 92, Takes Turkish Kebabs to New York

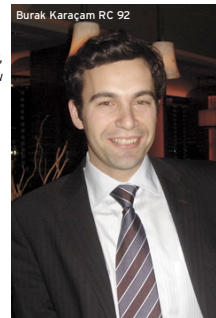
Pera Mediterranean Brasserie is the new hot topic on the agenda of New York's food mavens. The restaurant is managed by a group of Turks including founder Burak Karaçam RC 92, and specializes in grilled meats. Pera's dining room opened in November on Manhattan's Madison Avenue. The centerpiece is a 10-foot-long open grill, allowing customers to watch Karaçam's chefs at work, while they dip into their mezes. "The lack of a modern, upscale and fun Turkish restaurant had always presented itself as a social void in our lives," Karaçam said. "The one major goal here is to break Turkish cuisine out of the narrow ethnic mold it has developed itself into, particularly in the U.S."

Karaçam, who grew up in London and Istanbul, was once headed for a career in banking. After leaving Robert College he graduated from North Carolina's Duke University with a degree in economics and math. He took a job with the U.S. investment firm Lehman Brothers, becoming the vice-president for capital markets before returning to school. It was at Harvard University's Business School that his entrepreneurial passion led him to decide to open a restaurant, and he believed that Turkish cuisine needed better representation in New York's upscale-dining scene. To help with this goal, Karaçam and partner Cem Erenler, a veteran of New York's hotel-service industry, hired Sezai Çelikbaş as executive chef. Çelikbaş is known for his cooking at Köşebaşı, the pioneering upscale chain of kebab houses in Turkey, which was named one of Europe's best restaurants by the Zagat restaurant ratings group. Karaçam inherited his interest in food from his father Burhan Karaçam, RA 68, RC Yûk 72, who grew up in Tarsus. He developed a business plan as part of his studies at Harvard by studying Brazilian and Argentinean steakhouses, which have become popular in the U.S. Pera Mediterranean Brasserie, has put some of those South American strategies to use. He drew encouragement from American friends who told him that they discovered Turkish food during trips to Turkey, but did not get the same enjoyment from New York's existing Turkish restaurants. If he's successful, Karaçam thinks he can make Turkey's versions of kebabs as popular as pizza or pasta - ethnic foods that have become so common in the U.S. that they are no longer thought of as Italian food, but part of America's cuisine. Karaçam has lived in the



U.S. since he left Robert College, but says he's got an endless stream of Robert College memories. He feels that Robert College has helped him to think broadly and to have the courage to take risks like opening up a restaurant in one of the world's toughest markets. "RC has always been a model for being unique," he said. "Add to this the true friendships you cultivate over the RC years and beyond, and the continuing support of not just these close friends but the RC community as a whole, and suddenly you have all the resources to rise to the challenges that could seem daunting to others."

ANew York Times review in February urged readers to hustle over to "Pera" "... where cubes of lamb and chicken are front and center. Reflecting the spirit of Turkey and often doing just to it, Pera excels at grilled meats, a noteworthy sampling of which are available as part of a family-style meal called 'the Pera tradition' ... Its jazzy look and feel are unmitigated delights, and jazzy isn't so easy to come by on its patch of Manhattan, in the shadow of Grand Central Terminal. Pera has a spacious bar area up front, an open kitchen positioned like a stage in the back and, in between, a long, tall orange-tinted dining room filled with a good-looking polyglot crowd."



Imagining Hospitals of the Future-Refika Birgül RC 98, Transforms a Family Business

Refika Birgül was practically born into the world of medicine. Her mother is a pediatrician, her father an internist - the pair met at Çapa medical school- and together, the couple are the brains behind the flourishing Doğan Hastanesi, which recently opened its second branch in Beylikdüzü, İstanbul.

The family's business decisions have been unconventional. Seeking to get away from the hustle and bustle of downtown İstanbul, her parents started out with a private practice in Küçükçekmece, on the outskirts of the city. In the absence of any other decent medical facilities in the Trakya region, through word-of-mouth alone the couple carved out an excellent reputation. Gradually, the practice grew into a clinic, and then a polyclinic, and eventually in 1991, the fully fledged Doğan Hastanesi, the 14th private hospital in the İstanbul area.

The hospital chalked up a series of firsts, including opening Turkey's first private tomography and Betamar imaging centers. It was the fourth hospital to be awarded the prestigious ISO qualification.

Like most children, Birgül resisted going into the family business for several years. She worked in the arts and culture industry, making a name for herself as a savvy public relations personality. Two years ago, she finally gave in, joined her family (including her brother, also a doctor) on the hospital board, and started as marketing director.

Market research showed her that most of their patients

chose the hospital because of its proximity. Based on this, she created a publicity campaign entirely focused on the surrounding region, using buses, taxis and billboards to communicate the message "We're close to you". It took a while to convince her parents that marketing deserved a decent budget, so much of her first year was spent striking barter deals with advertising venues.

In just eight months, the hospital's turnover rose 1.5 times and Birgül soon became communication and marketing director. Convinced of the potential in online and telephone access, she set up a call center (444 0911), becoming only the third hospital in Turkey with a dedicated call center, staffed by 12 people. The hospital's web-site was also revamped to allow, for example, for e-consultations.

"A lot of my efforts are towards institutionalization," says Birgül. "Transforming a family business into a professional one is key to healthy growth."

Last year, Birgül became convinced the time was ripe for expansion. She persuaded her family likewise and the Doğan group acquired a 9-storey, 2000-square meter building in Beylikdüzü on the E-5 highway. On a tight budget, Birgül and a friend designed the entire interior themselves, using a soothing, artistic approach far removed from the classic dullness of hospital wards. "This project is like my baby," says Birgül. "In the future I also want to be able to open an IVF center here."

Turnover at Doğan is now twice what it was when she first started, and Birgül doesn't show any signs of stopping. "Turkey is in a great position to become a health hub not just for the Middle East, but for elderly Europeans as well. I see a lot of potential for growth," she says. She hopes to create several new Doğan centers and specialized branches in central İstanbul, and to someday, open a big hospital with an international partner.

"This is partly a result of my RC education," she adds. "Robert College encourages you to do away with what's unnecessary, and to use the time saved by not doing those things, to do something that's never been done before. To me, being challenged is as vital as breathing or eating."



Refika Birgül, RC 98



Tankut Erinc, RC 91

Helping Forge Turkey's Nascent Animation Industry

After a career designing computer games, training systems for Turkey's military and the country's first flight-simulation project, Tankut Erinc, RC 91, is building a new business on his own creating computer graphics and animation for television advertisements and films. Erinc's website, www.3dunya.com, displays his latest creations. They can also be seen in television commercials for products like Cheetos, Ipana toothbrushes, and Ruffles chips. After leaving Robert College, Erinc studied physics at İstanbul Technical University, and briefly considered a career as an academic. He instead began working creating visual reality graphics at a company called InfoTRON. The company worked on a project to create Turkey's first flight simulator in hopes of convincing the Turkish military that such a complex project could be produced in Turkey. Erinc also worked designing training programs for the Turkish military and government. He and some pals built their own company doing similar work until 2004, when the administrative demands of running the company took too much of his time.

"I realized I was spending way too much time buried in paperwork, chasing contracts, attending long meetings," he said. Being a freelancer gives him the freedom to focus on the creative aspects of digital design. Now his work has shifted from physics to animation, illustration and art. "This is a whole new field for me, and in many ways a lot more

demanding than the sterile world of visual simulations."

Erinc, in 2005, helped create a U.S.-produced short film called "Should Heaven Fall", adding the special effects for the movie. He has also created a ten-minute animated section for a movie about the apostle Paul produced by a group of Turkish Christians.

Erinc would like to do longer movies in the future, which he feels would be remembered longer than a television commercial. He's considering teaming up with some other freelancers to form a production company to facilitate movie production.

Being a freelancer has both good and bad sides, he said: "It's your reputation at stake each time. But there are times I get to go on holidays when almost everybody else is working."

Though he has taken a different tack than he thought he would back at Robert College - shifting from physics to film and advertising - Erinc credits his high-school education with providing him the intellectual flexibility to shift his goals and efforts in the ways he has needed to.

"Being an RC grad probably helped most with my outlook on life," Erinc said. "It made me realize I do not have to tread the well-trodden path. We do have the choice to dictate our terms for our lives, if we are willing to work for the privilege."

Ömer Madra, RA 64, founder and head of the non-profit radio Açık Radyo, is a man with a mission: to raise consciousness about global warming. In addition to lecturing on the subject at Bilgi University and other institutions, Madra is making the rounds of TV stations and newspapers to increase awareness of an issue that he says "could mean the end of the world as we know it by 2015".

- NASA's James Hansen says the world is experiencing its hottest days in 1 million years. Hansen says we won't live to see 2015 unless something is done soon.

-
- Ömer Madra, RA 64

The burden rests with our generation. Not our children or grand-children, because we just don't have time. The Kyoto Protocol on everyone's lips, signed by a majority of the world's countries but not us- is mostly of symbolic value. Even if everyone complied, gas emissions would go down 5 percent. But what is the number needed by the world? 60 percent. Or in the case of the USA - 90 percent!

- At home, don't use Tungsten lightbulbs. Replace them with energy efficient bulbs, available everywhere, which use 75 percent less energy.

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REUNIONS

RC, RC Eng, ACG 1946 Celebrate 60th Year

A joyous and very special celebration was generously organised on behalf of the Class of 46 - of which I am a representative - together with classes two years older and younger than us by my close friends Feyyaz Berker and Nihat Gökyiğit on November 11, 2006, at Bizim Tepe. During World War II, at a time when the world was ravaged by conflict, our country was under threat of attack, bread was rationed and food shortages were common, the RC and ACG administrations, with tremendous skill and self-sacrifice, continued to give us the best possible education, and also to keep up our extra-curricular activities, particularly sports. The energy, enthusiasm and desires of our youth were no doubt tremendously enhanced by what we learnt from the College. This was confirmed to many of us who went on to study for a Masters degree and who were proud to discover the world class standard of our education. Unfortunately, 60 years after our graduation, our country's changing profile suggests to us that we must continue to make big strides, despite our age, to ensure that the light of progress continues to shine.

Our real task is to take this culture, which is deeply rooted in us, forward. As long as our health permits, of course!

Contributed by, Fazıl Amal, RC Eng 46

Turning Back the Clock

An invitation from Feyyaz Berker and Nihat Gökyiğit, both RC Eng 46, to attend a class reunion in November 2006 for alumni who graduated in 1944, 45, 46, 47 and 48 took me to my native city of Istanbul with great joy and excitement. Needless to say, after so many years some of my classmates as well as other Alumni from other classes gave me a sense of immense pleasure. Most of us recognized each other even though we had some grey on our heads as well as traces that time had left on our faces. November 11, 2006 was certainly an unforgettable evening at Bizim Tepe. We reminisced, anecdotes were told, we broke bread in a warm atmosphere that we "Koleji'li's" can feel and enjoy. For me, coming from New York, to celebrate that joyous affair was certainly very nostalgic.

Thank you Feyyaz, Nihat and everyone who took part in the success of an evening that I shall not forget as long as I live.

Contributed by Joseph Farhi, RC 47



Guests enjoying the 60th reunion dinner at Bizim Tepe



Guests at the 60th reunion dinner



Mr. of the evening Nedin Göknil, RC Yök. 65, with ACG 47 guest Ayten Poroy Dinc



The hosts of the 60th reunion evening were Nihat Gökyiğit and Feyyaz Berker, both RC Eng 46.



Class of 56 Celebrates 50th Reunion

The 50th reunion of the Class of 1956 was held in September 2006. The organizing committee kicked off the planning of this event in early March 2006 and announced it to over 100 graduates of the three classes that graduated in 1956, ACG, RC and the RC Engineering Class.

The celebration program included a luncheon kick-off at Kennedy Lodge in Boğaziçi University on September 4, followed by dinner at Bizim Tepe on September 5 and a Moonlight Tour on the Bosphorus the evening of September 6. Following the official program some graduates continued with a four day retreat in Divan Mares Hotel in Marmaris. The kick-off luncheon at Kennedy Lodge was attended by 41 graduates and spouses. The opening welcome address by Boğaziçi University President Ayşe Soysal and the informality of the organizing committee members quickly warmed the air, and this dignified warmth continued throughout the program. After the luncheon some of the attendees stayed on and reminisced about the good old days for hours. On Tuesday, September 5th some 60 celebrating graduates and their spouses met at Bizim Tepe to spend an evening of togetherness. Roughly one third of the attendees had come from the United States for this occasion. About six friends couldn't make it from the US due to last minute health reasons. The joy of being together

was very much in the air again. RC's Headmaster John Chandler gave a very warm and welcoming speech, in which we were reminded that despite these tumultuous times of a world in crisis, a better future can always be hoped for. The evening cruise on the Bosphorus was the high point of this program. There were over 70 people, graduates, spouses, sons, daughters that boarded the cruise boat at two locations. For four hours, as the boat went up and down the Bosphorus, the attendees danced, socialized, joked and remembered the good old days. The official program over, some 20 graduates and spouses took off to spend four lovely days at Divan Mares in Marmaris. Intentionally, nothing had been programmed, except a last day cruise of the lovely waters around Marmaris, and this actually worked very well, with everybody spending the daytime as they chose to, but getting together at dinner, and afterwards for some lovely reminiscing. All told, this was a grand event, so grand that most of those who attended asked that we do it again next year. We have since been saddened by the deaths of two of our friends, who participated in our celebration, Güner Üstünipek Benker (Üstün) and Aqop Aqacan (Zurnik). We all wish them, and all our other dearly departed classmates, whom we always remember at our get-togethers, eternal peace. Ahmet N. Taşpınar, RC Eng 56

Reunion Notice for the Class of 57

The Class of 57 will be celebrating their 50th year in 2007, beginning with a series of events in June. The organization committee has announced the following program.

June 1, Friday: Open buffet dinner at Bizim Tepe to start off the events

June 2, Saturday: Spend the morning on the Bebek and Arnavutköy campuses, Have lunch either at Bebek or on the Plateau at Arnavutköy. Spend the afternoon and evening, including dinner, on a Bosphorus cruise.

June 3, Sunday and June 4, Monday: Spend both days and nights at a resort hotel (possibly Klassis in Silivri)

June 5, Monday: have breakfast at the hotel and say farewell Please contact members of the organizing committee for more information and to make the necessary arrangements.

Sevil Erel Bleda Tel: 0 212 299 9601 , fax: 212 299 9600, tbleda@superonline.com, **Aysel Baban Köylüoğlu**, Tel: 0 216 349 9137 fax: 0 216 349 9136, **Esin Toksoy Eden**, Tel: 0 216 354 4810 fax: 0 216 375 1767



RC 59 Reunion in Miami Beach

Cent Ardan organized and hosted this memorable reunion in Florida U.S.A between Jan. 10 - 17, 2007. Coincidentally, the same group celebrated the 60th year (1946) of their 1st. grade in their elementary school, Aydın Okul at Taksim Meydanı. "We were in many restaurants in Miami Beach, reminiscing our 60 year old memories while enjoying the beautiful weather. The attached picture shows us in front of the world famous Joe's Stone Crabs Restaurant after our dinner. Attendees were from different parts of the world. From L to R : (Mustafa Dilber (RC - Istanbul), Neziğ Günel (RC and wife Volkan - Los Angeles), Birsen Erses (ACG - New York), Leyla Dilber (Mustafa's wife), Alp Yalman (RC - Istanbul), Cent Ardan (RC and wife Nur - Miami Beach), Demirhan Hakimoğlu (RC and wife Pat - Melbourne Beach, FL are not in this picture) We are planning for the 100th year reunion!" Contributed by Cent Ardan, RA 59

The Class of RA 71

The Class of RA 71 celebrated their 35th reunion on July 22, 2006. Gathering at a motel near Rumelifeneri on July 22-23, the group spent a weekend reminiscing, singing, and catching up with old friends. The reunion was attended by 60 classmates from Turkey and abroad, with eight coming from the US. Attendees were each given a commemorative 35th Year plaque and RC memorabilia. Organizing committee member Levent Alpay says that approximately 25 percent of the class lives outside Turkey. Some 16 graduates live in the US and Canada, while 11 reside in Australia, Bulgaria, Greece, the UK, Switzerland, Spain, Israel, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. Buoyed by the fantastic weekend, the Class of RA 71 is already planning a big reunion for their 40th and is even looking into possible locations in the States. A group of RA 71 graduates living in Istanbul meanwhile have set a record of sorts by meeting up every Tuesday night for the past 35 years. They can be found every Tuesday at either Bizim Tepe or one of the fish restaurants in Arnavutköy.

RA 71 at Rumelifeneri on July 22, 2006



Reunion Notice for the Class of Eng 59

The Class of Eng 59 is happy to announce that there will be a reunion on May 19, 2007. They would also like to extend an invitation to the Class of RC 57, ACG 57 and anyone else who would like to join them. Information for those wishing to attend:

Date: Saturday, May 19, 2007

Location: Sarıgerme İberotel. Sarıgerme is a small village near the sea, about a 20 minute taxi ride from Dalaman International Airport, (4.5 hours by car from İzmir). The hotel itself is located in a large park with a beautiful beach and lovely gardens. Those wishing to attend should make their own reservations, making sure it includes May 19th.

For those who plan to stay longer, there are possibilities of day trips around the area such as Köyceğiz, Dalyan, Göcek and Fethiye. Sarıgerme İberotel is a four star hotel with a capacity of 700 guests and will open the season on April 23, 2007. You may make your reservations directly with the hotel or with ETS Tour for a possibly better rate.

You may obtain more information regarding flight and hotel reservations from Seda İltilbay, seda@etstur.com This reunion is being planned so that only the date and location is organized by the Class of 59. All transportation, hotel reservations, duration of stay etc. are to be taken care of on an individual basis. For more information please contact: **Sina Serinken** sina.serinken@isbank.net.tr, tel: 0232 421 5185 cell: 0542 763 4569

New York Hosts RC Alumni

The 17th Annual Young Alumni Reunion honoring the classes of 1991-2006 was held in New York on Saturday, October 28, 2006 and attracted over 100 alumni.

This year, Headmaster John Chandler and his wife Tania were able to greet the alums as they arrived, and Mr. Chandler graciously offered information on the latest news from RC. Oya Nuzumlalı, RC 02, who recently joined the staff of the RC New York Office, provided a non-stop slide show of scenes of Robert College life with some of the guests finding themselves in the pictures. A good time and a good dinner of döner were had by all. Thanks go to RCAA and its Board for their sponsorship of this event and for all of the hard work they do to make this a continuing success. On Monday, October 30th, 2006, the Trustees of Robert College hosted a Cocktail Reception at the Yale Club of New York. Over 120 Trustees, Alumni, former Faculty members, and Friends gathered for drinks and good conversation and to get an update on RC from Headmaster John Chandler. RC classes from 1934 to 2006 were represented among the mingling guests.



RCAA president Mete Tuncel RC 90 with his wife Burcu Üstünel Tuncel RC 98

A New Tradition: Meetball

The first "MEETBALL @ RC" was held on Sunday, December 24, 2006. Members of the Classes of RC 03, 04, 05 and 06 who are now in colleges at home and abroad, gathered in the foyer of Suna Kıraç Hall between noon and 3:30 pm. Over 150 recent graduates reunited with familiar faces and friends back on campus and had an enjoyable time catching up with one another. Those graduates studying abroad were especially happy this event took place since they are not in Istanbul for Homecoming.

The date coincided with Christmas and so made it a bit difficult for RC teachers to attend. From the faculty, it was great to see Allison Oğuz, Anthony Baker and Philip Esposito joining their former students and enjoying the day too.

Throughout the years, RC graduates in colleges abroad have always complained about not being able to attend Homecoming. Now that they have a special event of their own, we hope this will be the beginning of a new tradition that our newest alumni will look forward to every year. You can visit our website for more pictures from this day.



From L to R: İtir Güvenc, RC 03, Kerim Nalham Lise 11, Özcan Argüden, RC 06, İrem Günay RC 06 and Sinan Temo, Lise 11



From L to R: Chemistry teacher Tony Baker, Emre Özoran, RC 03, Can Kavaklıoğlu, RC 03, and English teacher Philip Esposito

From L to R: RC 05 graduates Duygu Saatçioğlu, Senem Kaya, Nur Kızıltan and Ziya Duru



HOMECOMING 2006

1. Cenk Türeli, RC '91 brought along his then 4 month old daughter Lara to her first RC Homecoming. We hope to see her (and Cenk too, of course) at all future homecomings. 2-4. The RC Class of 56 members celebrating their 50th reunion at Homecoming, had a special luncheon held for them on the Gymnasium. 3. The Roll Call during assembly hour in Suna Kıraç Hall was followed by a performance of the RC Student Orchestra. Music teacher and orchestra advisor Deniz Baysal (left) looks on as soloist Deniz Taşar, Lise 10, sings her piece. 5. From L to R: Members of the Class of 98, Refika Birgül, Elif Yavnik, Aslı Salarvan, a visiting friend, Hanaze Özeren and Işıl Bayram enjoy the day. 6. RC student volunteers manning the 1990's & 2000's registration desk. Homecoming wouldn't be the same without them. 7. One of the most colorful aspects of HC is seeing former teachers and staff members. Those who joined us that day were seated in their usual front row seats. 8. The plateau was the scene for an exciting football tournament. This is the RC 94 team made up of standing from L to R: Kadir Bahçecik, Güçlü Özyiğit, Eren Çelik, Ersan Öztürk, Zeki Sabah. 9. L to R: Former faculty member Münir Aysu, Bekir Kemal Ataman, RC 78, and former AV director and faculty member Aydın Ungan catch up with each other. 10. UNIRC, the group of young RC graduates-most of who are currently university students-organized under the auspices of the Alumni Association had their own stand during HC to introduce themselves to those who haven't discovered them yet. 11. L to R: Mehmet Arnoğlu, Murat Kulaçoğlu, Toros Korkmaz and Serdar Evman, all from RC 96 strike a pose for the roving Homecoming camera. 12. The oldest male graduate present during Homecoming in 2006 was Ethem Aral, RC 37. 13. Esin Eden, ACG 54 and Moris Farhi, RC 54. 14. There was a record crowd at HC and most were centered around the entrance of Gould Hall. It was estimated that around 800 visitors came on campus that day. 15. Bülent Ezal, RC '56, came to Homecoming all the way from California and won an award for being the male graduate to come from the farthest away. Here he is receiving his prize from Emir Memişoğlu, Lise 9.



Homecoming 2007
Save this date!
Sunday, October 21, 2007



Neşe Deriş RC Eng 44

Mr. Deriş, an MS graduate of the Univ. Of Michigan is a retired engineer with a professional background in heating and AC contracting. He is the father of three children, and his hobby is painting. Neşe Deriş is also the author of three books, two on solar energy and one on hydrogen energy. The latter titled, *Geleceğin Yakıtı*, Hidrojen (The Fuel of the Future, hydrogen) was published in the summer of 2006 by Birsan Yayınevi. The first two, *Güneş Enerjisi* (Solar Energy) was published in 1979 and the second, *Güneş Evleri* (Solar Homes) was published in 1984.

Theodore N. Anthony RC 46

Known as Todor Antoniadis during his years at Robert College, Mr. Anthony wrote to the RCQ from Boca Raton, Florida where he now lives. After RC, he continued his studies at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania and received his MBA in 1950, majoring in international trade. A self employed businessman who started his own company, Hermes Trading Co., he is now retired. The father of four children, he enjoys tennis and backgammon as well as trips to Europe every two years.



Ayhan Hakimoğlu RC Eng 49

Ayhan Hakimoğlu is an adventurer. Soon after his graduation from Robert College in 1949, he left for the USA. He received his Masters degree in Electrical Engineering in August 1950 from the Univ. Of Cincinnati. After returning to Turkey, he completed his military service and worked for three Turkish government institutions including Etibank. He married Meral Cumaoğlu, also from ACG, and had twin daughters. At the end of 1955, he immigrated to the USA with his family. He worked as Head of Engineering for some large companies such as Bell Labs and IBM and for several smaller companies. Learning from the mistakes of the companies he worked at, he founded Dynaplex his first company in 1962, with borrowed money. He sold it in 1966 to Teledyne and with the profits made from this sale he formed Aydin Corp., which grew to 2000 employees and 200 million in yearly sales. Aydin Corp. Stock was traded on the NY Stock Exchange. Ayhan held the position of CEO and President for about 30 years. In 1996, he sold his shares at Aydin and retired. After his divorce from Meral, with whom he had four daughters (Zeynep, İncigül, Deborah and Leyla), he married Geraldine, an Irish-American. Upon his divorce from her, in 1997, Ayhan married Rachida, a Moroccan lady with whom he had Ayhan Jr., his only son, at the age of 74. Ayhan Hakimoğlu has received the following awards: "Distinguished Alumnus Award" in Oct. 1991 from the University of Cincinnati "Turkish - American of the Year Award" in May 1985 and May 1989. He was also elected chairman's advisor by the "United States Congressional Advisory Board"



Ayhan Hakimoğlu and his son Ayhan Jr.

Abdullah Canlıgil, RA 68

Mr. Canlıgil contributed the following:

"I receive and read your magazine with great delight. I hear the news about my friends whom I have lost contact with and the events at RC, which bring back fond memories.

I was sorry to hear about the passing of several teachers, especially our beloved Sociology teacher, Dr. Mediha Esenel--she was a great educator who made me like sociology, a course I did not want to study while in high school. I graduated from RA in 1968 and BU in 1972 (3 yrs at RC, senior year BU).

I have been living in Fort Lauderdale since 1997 with my wife, Zühre. My daughter Sedef Melisa graduated from Cornell Univ. BA in Industrial and Labor Relations and Wayne Univ. Law School. She is an attorney in Florida working for a NYC law firm and is married. My son, Erim is a junior at Purdue Univ. studying Political Science. Since 1986, I have been working for Bristol-Myers Squibb pharmaceutical company. My most recent position is Senior Key Account Manager in the Virology division, covering the Southeast. Zühre and I enjoy traveling, reading, cooking and visiting Turkey every year. We try to see as many friends and family while we visit different parts of Turkey. In 2004, my book, "Mersin Yılları" was published in Turkey; I donated all the proceeds from the sales to Türkiye Kanserle Savas Vakfı, (Turkish Fight with Cancer Foundation) in memory of my late mother who died of breast cancer in 1984. You can get more information about the book and me at www.Mersinyillari.com "Mersin Yılları" generated great interest in Mersin when it was published. The local "Hürriyet" and Çukurova Radio, Mersin Kızıkaiesi Rotary Club and Mersin Sanat Derneği featured articles/book signing and interviews with me. The book is about life in Mersin in the mid-1950s and early '60s whereby I wanted to bring to life some of the culture and lifestyle of the south which have disappeared."



Saniye Gülser Canivar-Corat, RC 74

After Robert College, completed her B.A. at Boğaziçi University (1978), her M.A. at Collège d'Europe, Brugge, Belgium, her M.A. at Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada and PhD studies at the Political Science Department, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada.

Since September 2004, Gulser Canivar-Corat is the Head of Women and Gender Equality Section at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. In this capacity, she is responsible for ensuring the integration of a gender equality perspective in programming in all UNESCO domains (education, the sciences, culture, communication and information) with the objective of contributing to women's empowerment and gender equality in UNESCO's 191* Member States and six Associate Members (* as of March 2005). Before taking up her present post at UNESCO, Gulser Canivar-Corat's professional career focused on international development both as a practitioner and part-time university professor. As a university professor, she taught international development courses from a political economy perspective at the undergraduate and graduate levels at Carleton University and the University of Ottawa, Canada. As a development practitioner, Ms Canivar-Corat was the Chief Executive Officer of a consulting company in Canada from 1991 to 2004 (ECI Consulting Inc., Canada) where she developed, implemented, monitored, evaluated and refined programs and projects in a broad range of sectoral areas. She performed these tasks and functions for various departments of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme. During her academic studies and career, Ms. Corat was the first foreign student in Ontario to receive the Ontario Graduate Scholarship (1985-86) and the first graduate student to teach a graduate level seminar at Carleton University and the University of Ottawa. For her doctoral research, Ms. Corat was awarded the Young Canadian Researchers Award by the IDRC, first time this award was granted to a non-citizen.

As a development practitioner, Ms. Canivar-Corat was one of the Asian Development Bank's first woman team leaders from the private sector to lead an ADB project in Cambodia. She was also one of the first woman social scientists selected for a World Bank "Panel of Experts" as an international expert for a national water resources policy and planning project in Bangladesh.

Dilek Gençer RC 81

"I joined Servus International, an international consulting firm on Development and Management of Hospitality entities. I work as Consultant on Human Resources, Executive Search and Selection, Mystery Shopping and Quality Audits projects and Development of Systems and Standard Operating Procedures for hotel chains, with the objective to develop the brand equity. Having studied Tourism & Hotel Management at Boğaziçi (Bosphorus) University, I pursued my career in hospitality operations at leading international hotel chains and as General Manager at boutique hotels. I take active role in Training & Development and Publications groups of Peryön, Türkiye Personnel Management Association and work on my life-long dream of writing a novel, thus hoping to be named among RC graduates in Turkish literature. Enclosed is a photo taken at our 25th reunion, enjoying brunch at the Plateau after a sleepless and enjoyable night in the dorm after 25 years."



Gizem Özkülahçı RC 90

Gizem married Jan-Willem Weggemans in September 2006. She has her master's degree from Johns Hopkins and bachelor degree from Tufts University. For a time, she worked as a strategic consultant for AT Kearney in Washington, DC and she is now in London, working for Corporate Executive Board as the Research Director of Europe. Her spouse, Jan-Willem Weggemans is a management consultant working for Boston Consulting Group.

Berfu Örmən Akandil (RC 93)

Berfu is a Senior Manager at Ernst & Young Audit Division. She and her husband Oğuz Akandil welcomed their first baby, Serra, on October 9, 2006.



H. Hüseyin Gürsoy RC 95

After RC, I graduated from Istanbul University, Medical School of Cerrahpasa in 2001. Between 2002-2006 specialized in eye diseases and surgery at the same university, and won the first place in thesis competition in 2006 with my thesis "on diode laser retinopathy". Finally I became an ophthalmologist in March 2006. At the moment I am working in Şişli Government Hospital as an ophthalmologist because of my obligatory service. During such tiring years, I married my colleague Özlem Özgür, who will complete her assistantship in gynecology and obstetrics a year later. On 03/11/2006 we welcomed 2 sweet babies. Lara is one minute older than Ilgin, and also weighs 250 gram more. They look quite different, but both look around with 2 big smiling eyes. (hhgursoy@hotmail.com)



Tuğçe Dereboy İşler RC 94

Tuğçe and Tayfun İşler (Galatasaray '90) got married on October 28, 2006 after three years of meeting and working together at Areya, a French company dealing in electric transmission and distribution. Tayfun continues to work at as Project Manager for distribution transformers while Tuğçe has transferred to another French company, Schneider Electric as Medium Voltage Product Manager. After the wedding and a honeymoon in Barcelona, the İşlers have settled in Suadiye, Istanbul.

Aslı Arlı Eti RC 96

Following her graduation from RC in 1996, Aslı Arlı Eti attended Marmara University to study Radio & TV production. After a year she transferred to Bosphorus University to study Philosophy and graduated in 3,5 years. As of January 2001 she began her career in client relations at Güzel Sanatlar Saatchi & Saatchi advertising agency. In 2003 she worked for Rafineri Advertising Agency for a couple of months, then continued working for Güzel Sanatlar until August 2006 as an account director. Since then she's been working as a senior planner for Spark which is also a subsidiary of Güzel Sanatlar and specializes in strategic planning. She got married to Cem Eti who is also in advertising on July 15, 2006. The couple met in 2004 when they were both working for Güzel Sanatlar. Since March 2005, Cem has his own production company, Daylight Films.



Elizabeth Sucuyan RC 05

Elizabeth is a sophomore at Princeton University. She is majoring in psychology and following certificates both in Hellenic Studies and Urban Studies. She is learning her sixth language (Italian) and will be going to Italy this coming summer through a Princeton program to improve her Italian. Elizabeth will also participate in a psychology research and internship this summer. After Princeton, she plans to pursue a PhD in clinical psychology in the USA.



Selin Urcan RC 98 and Cem Acarsoy RC 96

Another schoolmate couple, Selin and Cem got married in Istanbul in the fall of 2006, on September 2nd. The couple met in Boston almost four years ago - when Cem was working for Braun Consulting and Selin was getting her master's degree in finance at Boston College. Cem worked for Braun Consulting for 3 years after

graduating from Franklin & Marshall College in 2000. Since his return to Turkey, he has been working for Helix Management Consultants/Booz Allen Hamilton, both in Turkey and the Middle East. Cem will start his new job at IMS Health, beginning in 2007. Selin completed her master's degree at Boston College in 2003, after graduating from Boğaziçi University's Business Administration Department in 2002. She has been working for Citigroup's Corporate and Investment Banking Division since her return from the States. Their immediate plans are for Cem to travel less for work and spend more time in Istanbul so they can enjoy their time together.



Zeynep Kısakürek Paker RC 94

Zeynep and Sinan Paker welcomed their first baby. Their son Murat was born on December 25, 2006. Murat is a very healthy and adorable boy who was born 49 cm and 3045 gr. Zeynep claims that she's loving every moment of motherhood and she wants to live every single moment again. Zeynep is proud to have formed a "very RC" team with her son. Her doctor is Prof. Dr. Ergin Bengisu, the father of Hande Bengisu RC 94 and Hale Bengisu RC 97, and Murat's doctor is Dr. Nesim De Eskinaz, the father of Selin De Eskinaz, RC 94.



OBITUARIES

Alumni

Melek Mesud Sevgin, ACG 31

Passed away on the 18th of August 2006. She was 98 years old.

As a dedicated and much-appreciated English Teacher, she served Turkish National Education for 38 years. She was dearly loved by her students, as well as by all who came to know her. Melek Hanım is survived by her daughter, Sıral Özer, ACG 54 and grandchildren, Meral and Murat Ülkü.

Our condolences go to her family and we wish our beloved Melek Hanım a peaceful rest in her final destination.

Nakibe Topuz Uzgören ACG 32

Died on November 11, 2006. A graduate of Istanbul University, University of Michigan and Harvard, Prof. Dr. Nakibe Uzgören was among the first group of faculty members of Istanbul University when the Faculty of Economics was founded in 1936. The department opened its doors to the study of economics on February 4, 1937 and she was a lecturer at that time.

Mübecce Kipman Kardıçalı ACG 39

Died in a tragic car accident on June 7, 2006 in İzmir. She was the sister of the late Nebil Kipman, RA 40 ex, and the late Enis Kipman, RC Eng 41 and is survived by her sister Mualla Kipman Akbağ, ACG 43, her sons Faruk Kardıçalı, Esat Kardıçalı and her daughter Serra Gürbüz.



Albert Anavi RC 48

Died in Switzerland in 2005.



Güner Benker ACG 56

"On November 22, 2006, we were devastated to learn that our beloved classmate Güner Üstüpek Benker, aka Üstün had died in New York, USA. She had been diagnosed with lung cancer in April and had been in and out of the hospital since then. She was too ill to participate in our 50th anniversary activities in

September, although she had started to help Mine Bektaş with the arrangements.

Üstün left ACG at the end of our sophomore year to get married to Dr. Mehdi Benker. They lived in the USA for two years and came back in 1958. She then joined the Ecza cıbaşı family and worked there for over 30 years. After the death of her husband, she used all her free time, energy and resources to further the aims of her Fatih Kız taşı Lion Club. She was the recipient of many awards by her local chapter. She was also given the International Lion Club award for the "Sight First" Project.

Üstün is survived by Bengü -Efları Benker and their daughter Yaşemin as well as Ayşe Banu - Cevdet Şamikoğlu and their sons Apolo and Orion. Farewell good friend and see you sometime, in the future."

Contributed by Çiğdem Sunguroğlu, ACG 56

Ağap Ağacan RC 56

Ağap Ağacan, beloved husband of 48 years to Beti Kocumyan Ağacan and father of Mona Ağacan Khorozian, recently passed away in New York City. Ağap's many accomplishments include a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Columbia University, 25 years in senior management positions at AT&T, as well as work for the General Services Administration division of the US government. Of his proudest accomplishments, Ağap counted his family and, having celebrated his 50th year graduation with friends in Istanbul in 2006, his years at RC. To his friends and family, Ağap will always be remembered for his quick wit, generous spirit and wonderful sense of humor. Ağap is survived by his wife and daughter, son-in-law Raffi Khorozian, grandchildren Zachary, Samantha and Jake, and his sister Susan Ağacan Avedissian.

Mina Tanalay Tokdemir ACG 63

"Our dearest classmate, suffered a brain stroke (cerebral hemorrhage) and passed away on December 7, 2006.

After graduating from ACG in 1963, Mina attended the University of Istanbul to study Pedagogics. Following her graduation in 1968, she married Güner Tokdemir (Chemical Engineer, MSc.) After settling in Mainz, Germany in 1969, their twins Hakan and Baran Tokdemir



Former Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit, RC 44, Passes Away

Fivetime former Turkish prime minister Bülent Ecevit, a charismatic figure who made his mark as a key political leader through nearly 50 years in Turkey's turbulent political life, died on November 5, 2006. Ecevit, 81, never fully recovered from a stroke-induced coma he suffered last May and died of circulatory failure in an Ankara hospital.

Born in Istanbul in May 1925, Ecevit graduated from Robert College in 1944, where he was renowned for his love of poetry. A class yearbook description wrote that "a cup of tea, a piece of paper, a pencil and a poetry book are the most faithful friends of Bülent".

His father was a professor of medicine and his mother one of the first women in Turkey to become a professional painter. He was their only child.

It was at Robert College that Ecevit met his wife Raşan Aral, ACG 44, while rehearsing a play. A key political player in her own right, she was an important confidante throughout his career.

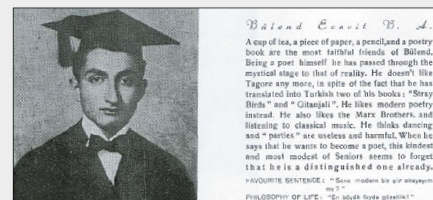
Altınur Kılıç RC 44 describes the couple's meeting as follows: "Bülent and I were in the same class. Occasionally there would be dances organised with the girls. But Bülent was a bit of an introvert. He wasn't that interested in girls. I wrote a play called *İnsanlar Niçin Yaşar* (Why Do People Live), in which Bülent had a speaking part. Raşan was doing the set design. Bülent asked me to introduce her to him, and that's how it all began."

Interested in journalism, Ecevit began working as a press attaché at the Turkish Embassy in London in the late 1940s. During this period, which he later described as one of the happiest times of his life, Mr Ecevit studied art history and Sanskrit at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies.

Returning to Turkey he took up politics with the CHP in 1957. After serving as labor minister in a government headed by the CHP, he became secretary general of the party in 1966. But the early 1970s were a time of political turmoil in Turkey and the army eventually intervened in March 1971. After defeating İnönü, then 87, in 1972, Ecevit became party chairman, and, two years later, Turkey's prime minister. He made his mark internationally in 1974 when he ordered the invasion of Cyprus in response to a Greek-backed coup in Nicosia that led to the division of the Mediterranean island.

He resigned as prime minister in September 1974. From then on, Ecevit's political career was turbulent. He served as prime minister twice briefly during the late 1970s, but was also in and out of prison following coups.

In 1980, he stepped down as chairman of the CHP in



protest at military rule. Banned from politics for 10 years, he remained active and his opinions were sought after. In the late 1990s, he staged a political comeback and was re-elected to power from 1999-2002, when he lost in general elections.

Ecevit was widely respected for his honesty and modest, down-to-earth lifestyle. Early in his career he donned a symbolic workman's cap and was rarely seen in public without it. He shunned luxury cars and big apartments and was unimpressed by accusations of corruption that plague many other politicians.

OBITUARIES

(Industrial engineering, M.B, MBA) were born.

Between 1973 - 1992 Mina was a lecturer in Turkish language at the University of Mainz, while also teaching at the Neutor High School. She was an active member and president of the German- Turkish Cultural Relations Society. She was also a recognized expert and translator for the municipal civil courts of Mainz.

In 1993 the family returned to Istanbul and she became the President of the family owned group of companies: BETEBE Mosaic and Ceramic Industries, IDOL Pharmaceuticals, FEGET Pharma Packaging, and SETE Plastics Industry Inc.

She was a member of the ACG 63 Reunion Club where we got to know her better and discovered a true friendship after forty years."

"I was with her during her most happy events in her life, like her graduations, her wedding and unfortunately during also one of her most unhappy events like the death of her beloved husband, Güner. I will never forget Mina's modest behavior toward everyone and her devotion to her family." Ümit (Necipoglu) Daşlıgil.

"Mina came to our get-togethers a few times during the recent years and we were so happy that she was feeling better and could join us. We will always remember her elegant smile..." Ful Korman Duran

"Because of my primary goal to adapt to ACG after spending six years in the States, I had few opportunities for social connections in my college years. I recognized Mina's beauty forty years after our graduation when we started to meet frequently with our classmates.

The strong and mature light which reflected from her affected all of us. We will miss her very much!!" Seres Başak Ener

"Mina's passing away made me very sad that I did not get to know her better and the importance of reforming old bonds and renewing past relationships which make the true matrix of our lives." Alev Aksoy Croutier

Bülent Asöcal RC 73

Bülent Asöcal passed away in Istanbul on May 22, 2006 after a long period of illness. During his RC years Bülent was one of the most popular students and a good athlete. He excelled in both tennis and basketball. Bülent will always be remembered as a warm and reliable friend and a devoted husband and father. He is survived by his wife, Pinar, and daughter, Bahar.



Nevra Okman Çiçek RC 74

"Nevra left us after a long struggle with cancer on 27.01.2007 in Istanbul. There was a big crowd at her funeral with those she loved, those who loved her, and those who touched her life. We shall remember her stamina, energy, love of life and love of friends. She kept in touch with fellow classmates until the end. Twenty of her classmates visited her in January 2007, and despite her condition she asked each one of them how they were doing and was very much involved with everyone. She used to say that friends made her feel alive and so she was the social butterfly of our class.

She was always in the organizing committees for class reunions and made the special effort to participate in the US reunions. She was also the organizer of monthly gatherings for our class at Bizim Tepe for many years.

She cared very much for social get togethers and she hoped to celebrate her 50 th year which we regret she could not do. Yet, once again she had us all gathered at her funeral and we all believe she was there to embrace us. After RC, Nevra studied chemical engineering and color chemistry at Leeds University in the UK.

She worked as a professional for a short period and later founded her own company in the textile business. She represented a number of major textile firms and was very proud to be bringing international business to Turkey and to being a part of the export chain.

Nevra was a member of the Maslak Rotary Club and served as president during 2000-2001. Last winter on Women's Day, her friends at Maslak Rotary awarded her with a resilience award due to her courage and love of life. She was a member of KAGİDER (Kadın Girişimciler Derneği), GSD (Giyim Sanayicileri Derneği) and HEV (Hırsar Eğitim Vakfı Yürütme Kurulu Üyesi) She is survived by her husband Zafer Çiçek, her elder son, Emre Çiçek (21) RC 03, who is currently studying at Columbia University and her younger son Emir Çiçek (14) who is a student at Koç High School. Her loving sister Naciye Sonbay was with her at all times during her struggle."

Contributed by RC 74 Friends

Quote from the the yearbook, Record 1974, for Nevra "Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long or hard the road may be, for without victory there is no survival."



Ismail Cem, RA 59, Bids Farewell

Former foreign minister, politician, journalist and writer, Ismail Cem passed away on January 24, 2007.

Born in 1940, Cem graduated from Robert College in 1959. In his introduction to John Freely's "A History of Robert College" (Yapı Kredi Yayınları, July 2000), Cem wrote of his alma mater: "The American College for Boys, as it was known then, was where I spent the most pleasant, and perhaps most fruitful, eight years of my life, embracing Prep, Middle and High School. In the years which followed my 1959 graduation, two things became clear: First, I came to realize that the College years had had more of an impact than I'd supposed on both identity and the formation of personality. And secondly, that Robert College graduates had more in common than I had previously thought. Perhaps it is not true of every single alumnus, but there are qualities the College gave, or at least tried to give, to most of us. What had the greatest impact on me was the habit of questioning and examining. Examining prejudices, ideas, what we knew, and most important of all, ourselves. To question is the first step on the road to self- development and the search for truth; while continuing to question oneself means continuing to develop. This, I believe, is the most important lesson the College taught me." Cem subsequently studied law at Lausanne University. His career as a journalist began at Milliyet in 1963, where he soon became a columnist, an editor and later, editor-in-chief.

Cem's many attributes were soon noticed and when Bülent Ecevit became prime minister he appointed Cem head of the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) where he served as director from 1974 to 1975. He managed to bring vibrancy to the dull state broadcaster but soon fell afoul of nationalists. Commentator Can Dündar wrote: "When this handsome, 34 year old man took over [at TRT] a wave of freedom crossed the screen, something we weren't used to. It didn't last long of course, but Turkey had gotten to know his talents."

In 1979, Cem's cousin Abdi İpekçi was killed as he was returning home from his work as Milliyet's editor-in-chief. This prompted Cem to leave Turkey for Paris.

Following the September 1980 military coup in Turkey, Cem returned from France and became involved in politics as a social democrat. He was elected as an Istanbul deputy for the Republican People's Party (CHP) in 1987 and as a Kayseri deputy for the DSP in 1995.

Cem's first governmental position was minister of culture

in 1995. Two years and five governments later, he became foreign minister, holding the position from 1997 to 2002, the longest period the post was held by an individual in recent times. Eventually Cem formed his own party, the New Turkey Party (YTP), in July 2002 and resigned from his position as foreign minister. However, in the November elections of that year the YTP didn't get enough votes to enter Parliament

and Cem eventually returned to the CHP.

Without a doubt, Cem's lasting legacy was creating a new era of warm relations with Greece after many years of mutual suspicion. His counterpart in Greece at the time, George Papandreu, became a close friend. Upon news of Cem's passing, the Greek politician issued a statement of how the two men had shared a great dream and how they had worked hard for their vision of peace. The strengthened relations between the two countries resulted in Greece's supporting Turkey's accession to the European Union.

Cem had recently published the first two volumes of an analysis of Turkey's foreign policy, titled "Türkiye, Avrupa, Avrasya" (Turkey, Europe, Eurasia) and

"Avrupa'nın Birliği" ve Türkiye" (The 'Union' of Europe and Turkey). He was at work on the third and final volume "Ortadoğu" (Middle East) when he passed away. Ismail Cem once said "Everyone in our generation dabbled with poetry, even if only in their early youth. But I've only written two poems my whole life. And there were 40 years between them." The first poem was one he wrote at Robert College when he was just 16 years old. It was written for a poetry competition held by the middle school yearbook Reflections and won him first prize. It was called "Sabahleyin Sokaklar..." (The Streets in the Morning).

We reprint the poem here in the original Turkish.

Bambaşka olur sabah sokakları
Çöpçü vardır sokaklarda
Ve üşiyen ameleler.
Çöpçüler vardır sokaklarda;
Hepsi sıra hasreti çeker.
Türkü söylerler
Bıyık burur, çöp koka elleriyle
Küfrederler.
Pislik ve ümit kokar sabahleyin sokaklar,
İnsanların yüzlerinde okunur iyilik.
Çöpçülerle ameleler vardır sokaklarda,
Yüreğime dokunur
İstanbul 1956

Cem is survived by wife Elçin Cem ACG 60, daughter İpek Cem Taha RC 85, and son Kerim Cem.



OBITUARIES

Özlem Akçakuş RC 97

"We were only twelve, when we learned Ozlem had a serious health problem. All through Orta School, Lycee and University, we witnessed her big talent and success in arts with great admiration just as we witnessed her unbelievable fight against her disease (a devastating brain tumor). Neither any of her disabilities nor any strong medications could have stopped her from laughing and painting.

I wrote back in 1997 in the yearbook, "... you remind me of romantic duchesses of Europe. Dressed with attention, always in order and with recognizable smile between the lips..." And I wished her merry days in the future, with love... Only nine years later, after the future is over, I'm writing this page for her. It's one of those times when I often find myself asking the unanswerable question; "why her?" Then I remember the times when we walked around chatting and



laughing in Orta school and Lycee... How she recovered so fast from the operation she had in Orta 1. Her energy and bright smile during university when she studied architecture at ITU... The days when she cooked tiramisu and delicious pastries and we talked over tea at her house...

Our last happy picture together dates

back 1999 when we celebrated my twentieth birthday. Next year we got the news that "how long" was unknown. The past six years have been the name of struggle and it got tougher every time. Yet she never gave up or cried on my shoulders. She only whispered her thoughts now and then about the difficulties but never hopelessness. I brought her flowers; she loved the smell of carnations. We always hugged each other strong and we had our fist fights before each operation. She always won. She always found a way to make fun of the most difficult situations and made us laugh...

We sometimes sang songs together and looked at the magazines or watched TV together. She showed me her paintings, the brightest colors you can ever see... They were

all very beautiful. The last time she could talk with me at the hospital, she asked me to tell her a fairy tale, the story of Cinderella. She was already asleep when the prince found Cinderella.

A couple of weeks later, on November 6th 2006, she passed away. Now all I can think of is how strong she was all these years. She was a hero, a hero of life... She probably was here to teach us what hope and courage really means and she did succeed. During her short journey, she touched our lives deeply. She taught us how to stand on our own and to smile at the bitter. That's how I'll remember her, with the sweetest smiles over her face...

May she rest in peace..." Nilhan Fidan RC '97

Faculty & Friends

Donald Hoffman

Donald Hoffman, who taught music and English at ACG between 1957-63 and music at RC between 1965-71, died on October 31, 2006 at the age of 75. He had played the part of Dracula in the Freely and McGowan stage production during his years in Istanbul and he put on several musicals, some at the (then) Robert College Community School, including "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat". Below are excerpts from a tribute written by Karen Herzog for his local newspaper, the Bismarck Tribune.

'Renaissance man' was a friend of the arts ...Singer, music producer, theatrical director, composer, poet and writer, Hoffman was a great friend of the arts, said David Swenson, of Makoche recording studio in Bismarck.

Known for his wit and quick sense of humor, "the man was a quiet giant supporting the arts, and artists, in Bismarck," Swenson said. "He quietly had a lot to do with supporting a lot of local artists. He will be sorely missed."

A Fulbright scholar, Hoffman studied voice, viola, piano, composition and choral conducting at Dartmouth College and Harvard and Oxford universities. He spent 21 years in Turkey teaching music, English and composition, performing, and organizing professional and student concerts. He also wrote a children's book there.

Hoffman did many local voice-overs and produced, directed and acted in numerous plays for Dakota Stage Ltd., Bismarck's community theater, as well as on Community Access Television. He launched his own Verda record label and publishing company in the late 1990s.

He worked with radio stations in Washington, D.C., and Ohio, before taking a position as music director at Prairie Public Radio, where he also served as host for a classical music program for about nine years and helped build the station's record library, said news director Dave Thompson.

"He was very much a Renaissance man," Thompson said, and "he was very loyal to his friends, and he had a pretty good cadre of friends, and a great sense of humor,"

Aygaz, Kültür ve Sanat'a destek veriyor.



Birebir bankacılık, bire bin hizmet...

Birikimleriniz yüksek ve farklı yatırım beklentileriniz var. Bu nedenle de subenizde daha yakın bir ilişyi hak ettiğinizi düşünüyorsunuz. "birebir bankacılık", Akbank tarafından sizler için özel olarak geliştirildi. Uzmanlarımızın deneyimlerinden yararlanacağınız, yatırım seçeneklerinin ve bankacılık hizmetlerinin size özel avantajlarla öncelikli sunulduğu ve Müşteri İlişkileri Yöneticinizle daha yakın iletişimde olacağınız özel bir hizmet...

"birebir bankacılık" Akbank'ta sizi bekliyor.



birebir bankacılık