

RC QUARTERLY

FALL / WINTER 2012

ISSUE 43

RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Gearing Up for a Celebration



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Alumni Journal published periodically by the RC Alumni & Development Office for 10.000 members of the RC community: graduates, students, faculty, administration, parents and friends.

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(0212) 264 33 11 • www.topprint.com.tr

Printing

APA UNIPRINT Basım San. ve Tic. A.Ş.

Hadımköy Mahallesi 434 Sokak No:6

34555 Arnavutköy, İstanbul

Tel : (0212) 798 28 40 • www.apa.com.tr

Basım Yeri ve Tarihi

İstanbul, Aralık 2012

Yayın Türü

Sürelî

Yayın Periyodu

4 Aylık

About the RCQ

There is nothing like the excitement of planning for a big celebration. Anticipation is building as Robert College gears up to celebrate the 150th year of its founding, throughout the 2013-14 academic year.

The school has commemorated many significant milestones until reaching its sesquicentennial. In this issue of the RCQ, we revisit some of the previous jubilees at the college. We also take a peek at some of the upcoming highlights of the special year ahead. Save the dates and stay tuned for detailed information to be mailed, e-mailed, and posted on the website, and for updates to arrive through social media sites like the RC Facebook pages and Twitter account. The months ahead will provide wonderful opportunities to reconnect at Robert College; providing exemplary education for a century and a half is cause to celebrate!

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

We wish you a happy and healthy 2013!

The RC Quarterly Team

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Photo design: Yona Eligoulachvili RC 72

1930s photo from the RC Archives

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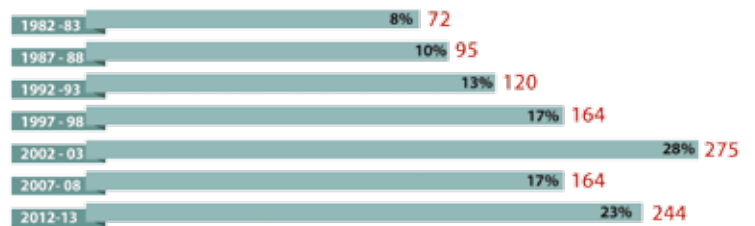
RC in Numbers

Where Students Come From

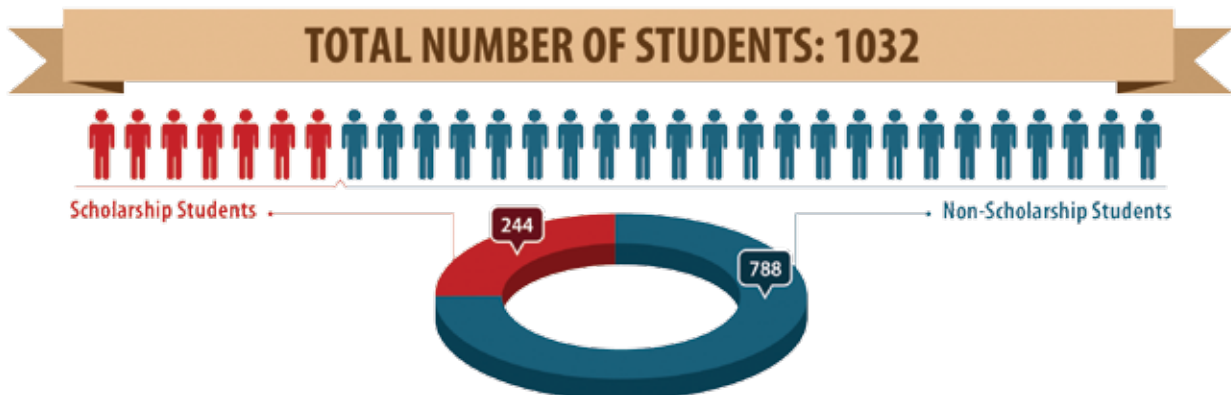


During the 2012-2013 academic year, 1032 students from 50 cities throughout Turkey are attending Robert College. This is an increase over the previous school year when we had 1018 students from 48 cities. The residences house 185 students - 100 boys and 85 girls. Twenty-four percent (244) of our students receive financial aid.

Number of Scholarship Students through the Years



Number of Scholarship Students 2012-13



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Headmaster Anthony Jones Takes the Helm



Anthony Jones

New RC Headmaster Anthony Jones has worked and lived in six countries, been an administrator and teacher for nearly 30 years, and even played professional football. The RCQ asked him to tell its readers more about himself.

How did you hear about RC?

Teachers in international education work with colleagues who have taught all across the world. I knew three who taught at RC that I respected greatly and all said the same thing: "Best place I ever taught." I did my research and put it on a short list

of schools I would want to be a part of. I feel exceptionally lucky.

What do you think makes RC unique?

Its sense of mission, its evolution as an institution and its fascinating and adventurous history are unique.

RC has an unwavering and unapologetic desire to reach its potential and have students strive to find their potential within them. Its goal to challenge students in the broadest manner of ways and to guide and support them while doing so is unparalleled.

RC's place in Turkish society and its role in the country's history, its meritocratic admission policy, liberal funding of scholarship students and thus its residential aspect that allows students from all over the country to come here and students in turn learn of their country from each other, and our ambitious CIP program should also be noted. Each of these ingredients alone is not unique, but the RC recipe most definitely is.

How has being a football player affected your managerial approach?

Sports have definitely influenced my standards for success and observations on how organizations become and are successful. As a boy I attended two of the best rugby schools in England and a high school in America with a champion football team. Without these experiences, I would never have glimpsed excellence or what it meant or required, and I would probably have never developed the determination and self-discipline that kept me going through bleak times and that I

eventually applied to my studies.

Two of the most influential lessons I learned from my former coach Tom Bass were that once the season starts, you win with the team you have so all focus and energy shifts to the maximization of every individual's talents and the fullest expression of their personalities, and that all the above must integrate into a seamless simple ethos, ethic and way of doing things, collectively built and expressed by the team.

Who are your real-life heroes?

In one of my favorite classes we debated the role of and need for heroes. Since we were about to do *The Odyssey*, I described Odysseus, probably my first and only hero. My students' responses surprised and delighted me: their heroes were real people who they knew well and whose flaws and shortcomings they accepted - family members, teachers, coaches and neighbors. I reflected why I chose a fictitious one, and I started appreciating the quiet heroes all around us - the retired man who volunteers at a grocery store reading soup cans to blind people, nurses and aid workers whose small acts go virtually unnoticed, random acts of kindness to strangers.

I was reminded of three remarkable teachers - my real-life heroes who altered my life at critical stages in my primary, middle and secondary school years.

What are your favorite things about RC?

Unequivocally the laughter of the students, their clear enjoyment of each other's company and their spirit even in this somewhat intense academic environment, which is sustaining to everyone at RC.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch Helps Students Stay Connected

A generous grant received recently from Bank of America Merrill Lynch has given the school a much-needed technological boost.

Part of the grant was used to purchase a portable video system that helps RC students communicate with other students around the world. "We are using the technology to enhance our international projects by adding meaning to our communications," explains Cyrus Carter, head of the International Initiatives program. "Some examples of how we've used the new video system include a shared real-time lesson in French, discussions around shared readings accessed beforehand and with essential questions, as well as cultural sharings."

Students have been able to connect to schools in the US and Europe. "Students are excited to take part," adds Carter. "Because of better access to technology, it is now easy to promote such discussion groups among a broader spectrum of the student body."



The remainder of the grant was used to upgrade the computer room in the boys' residence, which had been relocated to create more dorm space. The students had been using an outdated network and computers that weren't compatible with the school's new operating system; the grant provided new computers and a printer-scanner which have helped them be more productive.

"We had one scanner which was connected to only one computer. If somebody was using it, you had to either wait or request him to use another free computer (if there was any). But now, we do not need even computers for



scanning," explains Alp Akın L11. They also weren't able to use all the computers at the same time. "Think about it: four computers are free but you are waiting for somebody to finish off his work. These new computers and the scanner save a lot of time and are more user-friendly," adds Alp.

Lise 9 and 10 students can easily access the computers, printer and scanner for the homework since the computer room is next to where they study. "Since homework is mostly done with a computer, it's a huge benefit," says Alp.

Residential students don't only use the computers for school work, but also to listen to music and watch films and TV programs. So the computers have not only helped them be more productive, Bank of America Merrill Lynch's grant has also helped improve the quality of life for them.

Going the Extra Mile: Berker Fellows Make a Difference

The Berker Fellows who were selected in May 2012 mark the fifth year of students to be honored with this role. The fellows are Cansu Sarıkaya L11, Ayşenur Biçen L11 and Ayça Ersoy L10.

Established in 2008, the Berker Fellowship recognizes students who demonstrate integrity and maturity, have a strong sense of social responsibility, contribute to the community, have a positive spirit and are involved in school activities. Lise 9-11 students are chosen so they can continue to be a leading example for other RC students.

Student Council President Ali Can Söylemezoğlu L12 became a fellow in 2010 and it has greatly influenced him and his desire to help others. "Before being a fellow, I was only helping my friends at exam time. As I began to be involved in larger projects, my appetite to serve my community grew vastly," he explains. "It probably fueled my desire to help others in the Student Council as well. I met with past fellows who are now at the



Berker Fellows old and new, Berker Fellows with co-advisor Jenny Sertel and former Headmaster John Chandler in May 2012

best universities around the world and I noticed how everyone was in top places and still helping their community. It gave me hope that the next generation was doing everything they could to change something that wasn't going smoothly."

Every year a sum of money is drawn from the fund, and members of the fellowship decide how the money will be used for the school or community at large. In 2011, the funds were used to install electronic sign boards in high traffic areas for school announcements, emergency information as well as to better communicate with the

school community. For the 2012-13 school year, the Fellows have set up study sessions to help students who need academic assistance. In the past the Fellows have looked into other activities including solar panels, distilled drinking water stations, and disabled accessibility for school facilities.

Fellows also work closely with the administration heads to give input on various topics such as the homeroom program, Prep-level English classes, CIP, and the school dress code.

Caps off to the Class of 2012!

The Class of 2012 attended their final ceremony as RC students on June 25, overlooking the Bosphorus on Konak Terrace. This year's speeches were given by author **Ayşe Kulin** ACG 61, retiring PE teacher **Dave Phillips**, and students **Mehmet Can Burdu** and **Baturay Türkmen**.

After Headmaster John Chandler welcomed Istanbul Governor Saadetin Yücel, İlçe MEB Müdürü Necati Özçolak, trustees, faculty, students, friends and families of the graduating class, the retiring head of the school thanked everybody for the opportunity to share the past few years with them.

Ayşe Kulin took the podium next and reflected how, although student life has changed since she graduated due to changes in technology and social norms, certain things didn't change at all. "We didn't memorize the content, we learned. We didn't repeat what we learned, we presented. We had fun while we learned. There were some students who found it hard to learn, but even they showed poise."

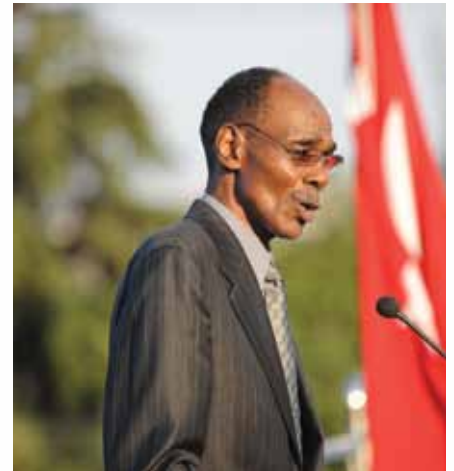
She closed her speech advising, "You are the grandchildren of Ata (Atatürk) who had an extremely broad vision. In addition, you attended a school where east meets west, where two world perspectives and two souls come together, as it says in our college song. Choose a balanced mix of both approaches; don't neglect your heart when using your brain. Be conscientious and sensitive, value foresight and

integrity. Be sure of yourself, but at the same time be modest and compassionate; and always embrace the world with love." Next Dave Phillips mentioned three areas that will help grads through hard times. He encouraged students to thank their parents for all they have done for them, appreciate the school and their teachers for the type of person they strive to develop in students, and to be responsible and compassionate Turkish citizens.

Mehmet Can Burdu followed, telling his classmates, "I certainly liked you five years ago. But to be honest, now I like you even more. I like what we have done to each other, and I like what five years in this school together has done to us." He also talked about how groups dissolved and the class became one over the past five years.

A teary-eyed Baturay Türkmen finished off the speeches by talking about how each member of the Class of 2012 helped shape each other and how they shared so much together.

All graduates headed off to university this fall with most staying in Turkey and others studying overseas.



PE teacher Dave Phillips Jr.

Where is the Class of 2012 now?

Similar to previous years, 74 percent of the class of 2012 will continue their university studies in Turkey and 26 percent will study abroad.

Of the 180 members of the class of 2012, 134 students were accepted by Turkish universities and 57 were accepted by universities abroad. Seventeen students have been accepted to both foreign and Turkish universities.



Robert College 2012 Turkish University Results				
University Name	Without Scholarship		With Scholarship	
		Accepted Overseas	Accepted Overseas	TOTAL
BOĞAZIÇI ÜNİVERSİTESİ	32	5		37
İSTANBUL TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ	12			12
MARMARA ÜNİVERSİTESİ	2	2		4
İSTANBUL ÜNİVERSİTESİ	2	1		3
GALATASARAY ÜNİVERSİTESİ	3			3
NAMIK KEMAL ÜNİVERSİTESİ	2			2
ODTÜ	1	1		2
DOKUZ EYLÜL ÜNİVERSİTESİ	1			1
EGE ÜNİVERSİTESİ	1			1
ATATÜRK ÜNİVERSİTESİ	1			1
KIRKKALE ÜNİVERSİTESİ	1			1
MIMAR SİNAN GÜZEL SANATLAR ÜNİV.		1		1
HACETTEPE ÜNİVERSİTESİ	1			1
TOTAL - GOVERNMENT UNIVERSITIES	59		10	69
KOÇ ÜNİVERSİTESİ	7	1	35	46
YEDİTEPE ÜNİVERSİTESİ	4		1	5
SABANCI ÜNİVERSİTESİ			3	4
BEZM-İ ALEM VAKIF ÜNİVERSİTESİ	4		1	4
İSTANBUL BİLGİ ÜNİVERSİTESİ			2	2
ACIBADEM ÜNİVERSİTESİ			1	1
ÖZYEGİN ÜNİVERSİTESİ			1	1
İ.D. BİLKENT ÜNİVERSİTESİ	1			1
YAKIN DOĞU ÜNİVERSİTESİ		1		1
TOTAL - PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES	16	2	42	65
TOTAL	87		47	134

Turkish University Acceptance Results

Graduates chose evenly between government and private universities. Fifty-one percent chose to study at government universities, while 49 percent are continuing their education in Turkey at private universities.

Twenty-eight students placed among the top 1000 in the 2012 YGS, and 99 placed in the top 1000 in the language section of the LYS exam.

Abdullah Hanefi Önalı and Kaan Bulut Tekelioğlu, who are studying Computer Engineering at Boğaziçi University, earned extra points on the exams because of their results in the TÜBİTAK Olympics.

The preferred programs of RC 12 are: Engineering (50), Business Administration (35), Medicine (22), Law (14), other programs including Physics, Psychology, Sociology, Molecular Biology and Genetics, Dentistry, Architecture and Communications (13).

Foreign University Acceptance Results

All 66 students who applied abroad were accepted by various schools and 46 have registered at universities in North America and Europe. Of the 20 graduates who are studying on scholarship, 12 of them were scholarship students while at RC.



Commencement speaker Ayşe Kulin ACG 61

Robert College 2012 Foreign University Results

University Name	Total
Amherst College	1
Boston University	1
Bucknell University	1
Columbia University	2
Cornell University	1
Emory University	1
Georgia Institute of Technology	2
Harvard University	2
King's College London	1
Lafayette College	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1
McGill University	2
New York University	1
Newcastle University	1
Princeton University	2
Sciences Po	1
Skidmore College	2
Stanford University	1
Texas Christian University	1
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	1
Università Bocconi	1
Universiteit Utrecht	2
University College London	2
University of California at Berkeley	1
University of Chicago	1
University of Edinburgh	1
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	1
University of Oxford	2
University of Pennsylvania	1
University of Richmond	1
University of Southern California	1
University of St. Andrews (Scotland)	1
University of Wisconsin, Madison	1
Washington University in St. Louis	1
Wellesley College	1
Yale University	3
TOTAL	47



Student speaker Baturay Türkmen



John Chandler and the Class of 2012



Student speaker Mehmet Can Burdu

Recipe for Success at the Annual Giving Kick-off Dinner



Receiving their award for sixth place in level of participation and second place in level of giving from guest speaker Dr. Gülay Barbarosoğlu (far left) and Headmaster Anthony Jones (far right) were, Meltem Kayhan, Özlem Özbek and Tan Taşçıoğlu from the Class of 86 (in center from left to right).

The 2012-13 Annual Giving Campaign was given a kick-off on October 14, 2012. Class agents, trustees, RC administrators, high honor and scholarship donors enjoyed the festive air as the 2011-12 campaign year's success was celebrated and the new year was launched.

Warm late summer weather allowed the group to enjoy cocktails around the pool. It was difficult to persuade guests to leave this lovely setting and sit inside for dinner but they were soon rewarded with a stimulating speech from guest speaker Dr. Gülay Barbarosoğlu RC 74, recently appointed Rector of Boğaziçi University. She elaborated on the responsibilities we face with a younger generation in this age of technology. As one student out of fifty at BU are RC graduates, she drew upon the parallels between BU and RC, traditions of the past 150 years, being the

most prestigious institutions of learning in Turkey, the responsibilities of giving the best education to the best students, the leadership qualities RC students are engrained with and carry over to their university and how they continue to make a difference at BU. Her final points on the importance of scholarships to cultivate all talented youth for the benefit of this country hit the mark when she added that she herself had been a scholarship student at RC.

These final words were also fitting since a very special touch to the evening was the sale of a cookbook written by Melahat Kınöğlu ACG 44 to benefit the RC Scholarship Fund. Kınöğlu has been a fervent supporter of the scholarship program and her book, *Bir Ömür, Bin Tutam Lezzet* a labor of love filled with delicious recipes from family and friends,

was hot off the press and on exhibit at Bizim Tepe for guests to browse through and add to their collection. The Kınöğlu family has pledged all proceeds of this book to the RC Scholarship Fund.

The dinner ended with the traditional awards ceremony during which class agents are recognized for their outstanding contributions to the campaign. The Class of 91 continued its winning streak by placing first in level of participation. The Class of 85 improved its record by jumping from third place in level of giving to first place. As for the Class of 86, they made a major effort and it paid off. Their performance made them one of the outstanding classes, placing them in the top 10 in both level of participation and level of giving for the first time ever.



A very special touch to the evening was the sale of a cookbook written by Melahat Kınöğlu ACG 44 to benefit the RC Scholarship Fund. She is seen here with her daughter Mehveş Pisak, who was a major driving force in the preparation of this book, and her husband Cezmi Kınöğlu. The Kınöğlu family has pledged all proceeds of the book to a scholarship for a female student.



Clockwise from the front, center: Trustee Şefika Pekin Barlas, Engin Ölçer RC 75, Haluk Kilimci RC 50, Trustee Emerita Oya Başak ACG 55, Rukiye Ergüder ACG 70, Trustee, Chairman of the Annual Giving Committee and class agent Nedim Ölçer RC 76, Nilgün Yücaoğlu RC YÜK 73, Trustee Emeritus Üstün Ergüder RC 57, guest speaker and Rector of Boğaziçi University Dr. Gülay Barbarosoğlu RC 74, RC Headmaster Anthony Jones, Esin Pere and Trustee Emeritus Erkut Yücaoğlu RC ENG 69.



A table full of winners! From L to R: Aysan Sinanlıoğlu RC 90 (seventh in level of giving), Sotirios Sarmpezoudis, class agent Zümrüt Yalman RC 89, class agent Ahmet Alp RC 91 (first in level of participation and fifth in level of giving), Neslihan Sadıkoğlu, Melis Şeyhun RC 91, RC 88 class agents Gülruh Turhan and Deniz Yıldız (tenth in level of participation and third in level of giving) and, Doğan and Zeynep Taşkent RC 88.



From L to R: Class agent Ayla Gümüşlüğil ACG 55, Mıhrican Havens ACG 55, Gülşen Göcek ACG 55, Turgut Şeyhun, class agent Gürsan Şeyhun ACG 62, Trustee Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62, Development Office director Leyla Aktay RC 72 and Trustee Sedat Ergin RC 75.



From L to R: ACG 59 class agents Sevim Berker and İffet Azak with friends Nil Bezman Büyükgürel ACG 59 and Prof. Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı ACG 59 during the poolside cocktail hour.



RC 92 class agents Bora Samman and Onur Özgen receive an award for placing eighth in level of giving.



RC 85 placed first in level of giving. Receiving the award from Dr. Barbarosoğlu and Headmaster Jones were class agent Ali Yılmaz, and Oya İnal Gölhan for absent class agents Bilge Rizvani and Ayşegül Şengör.

The Spirit of Dance Comes to Campus

Berkol RC 98 Dance Festival 2012



In between dance workshops students gathered in the Forum

The fourth Berkol RC 98 Dance Festival, named after Berkol Doğan who died in the Isparta plane crash in 2007, was celebrated on April 29. Students from Adapazarı Özel Enka Anadolu Lisesi, Özel Enka Lisesi, Cağaloğlu Anadolu Lisesi, Galatasaray Lisesi and of course, Robert College danced all day not just on-stage but also in workshops and at the daytime dance party which took place at the Forum.

Well-known tango dancers Erdal Atik and Nora Şigaher came as volunteers to teach their style and performed a fascinating tango show. Seda Alpay gave a workshop with Mercan Gümüş on *chacarera*, an Argentinean folk dance, which was highly popular among students. At the dance party later, many students and teachers managed to dance *chacarera* steps they learned that day.

This year instead of a second session of workshops, we held a daytime dance party. The idea arose because many high school students are unable to attend dance parties or *milongas* held mostly in bars at night. We wanted to give students a taste of these parties that are so important for the dance community. It also helped them to overcome stage fright because the party was right before the dance shows.

Festival fans say this year's performances were the most impressive thus far. The show began with Seda Alpay's students dancing a choreography prepared specially for the festival. Blending modern dance and *chacarera*, young dancers beautifully conveyed the sensation of the loss of our beloved Berkol and the

joy of the dance festival that we hold to commemorate him. Many thanks go to Seda for this moving effort. After this meaningful dance, high school dancers staged their year-long efforts. All the dances were well thought out and executed. We congratulate the students and their teachers.

During the professional performances, Erdal Atik and Nora Şigaher were amazing. A tango by RC's much loved dance teacher Mercan Gümüş and her partner Emrah Gümüş was also splendid. We are grateful to all the professional dancers for their support.

Thanks are also due to Galip Tekin and Birol Caymaz who created striking festival posters for the past two years. We hope to see them with us in following years too. We try to organize this joyous festival every year not just to cherish the memories of Berkol but also to give unforgettable memories to all who participate. Everyone who loves dance is invited to join us next year.

Contributed by N. Bülal Doğan

All expenses for this event were covered by Berkol's family through a fund created specifically for this purpose. Some of the funds are used for the Latin Dance Training club of current RC students. If you wish to help you can call the RC Alumni & Development Office at +90 (212) 359 2289. All donations are appreciated and will ensure the continuity of the Berkol RC 98 Latin Dance Festival as an annual RC tradition. The festival organizers also solicit creative people to help with the preparation of t-shirts, posters, plaques or web design.

A Week of Literary Celebrations



Students dressed up as their favorite literary characters

In honor of International School Library Month, new head librarian Karen Lindsay, English Department head Maura Kelly and Science Department head Alison Oğuz coordinated a week of activities that got everybody excited about reading.

In Marble Hall throughout the week a tree with people's favorite books written on the back of old library catalogue cards was displayed and used books were on sale with proceeds going to CIP. At

lunchtime in the library students and faculty read excerpts from their favorite books, did "book reports" where they tried to sell the audience on a book, and read original works.

On Wednesday there were "Random Acts of Poetry" throughout campus, with poems posted on walls and doors, and distributed to people at random. "One of my favorite stories from the week was when a student 'poemed' a teacher by passing her a copy of Robert Frost's 'The

Road Not Taken,'" explains head librarian Karen Lindsay. "It happened to be the teacher's favorite poem and they stood in Woods reciting it at the top of their voices together. I had actually 'poemed' the student with it earlier in the day, so he was paying it forward."

At the end of the week, students and teachers dressed up as their favorite literary characters from a multitude of books including *Harry Potter*, *The Outsiders*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, *Dracula*, and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

"Perhaps best of all was the conversations," Karen noted. "All through the buildings, all week long, students and teachers were talking about books - what they were reading, what they had read, what they wanted to read. I hope that it encourages a few more students to put aside some time each day to get lost - or get found - in a good book."

As a lasting legacy of the week, budget permitting, the library will ensure they have a copy of each book that was noted on the reading tree.



Teacher Alison Oğuz and Librarian Karen Lindsay in front of the Reading Tree



Old library books for sale



RC student reading from her original work

Project "for Dave"

RC alumni from the past 33 years raised \$150,000 in honor of their retiring teacher Dave Phillips, Jr.

It all began when Mehmet Pekarun RC 87 heard the retirement news about his beloved basketball coach. He contacted the school about doing something for him as a present from his old students. As the ideas came in from the ex-basketball team players, the goal was decided: to renovate and name the upper field in Mr. Phillips' name.

Yonca Ulusoy Zaimoğlu RC 93 and Cüneyt Yavuz RC 86 took the lead for the fundraising efforts along with Mehmet Pekarun and the project "for Dave" began in October 2011. It didn't take long for the alumni to respond, as they wanted to be a part of the project and make "the legend" proud.

The main challenge was to keep it secret from Phillips, for his players wanted to surprise him on the RC Olympics Day, May 18, the day he calls "the Dave Ball". When it was finally time to announce the present, his former students from various years came running on stage wearing t-shirts specially made for this day. Phillips was utterly surprised and speechless. He was presented with a huge mock-up check for \$150,000 signed by him to be presented to Robert College, and the news that the upper field would be named in his honor. It was an extremely sentimental moment for his former students who were able to



Project "for Dave" team members preparing for the surprise

reach their goal, his colleagues and RC students, as well as Dave Phillips himself. The day ended in a happy cry-fest.

The next part of the project was the Farewell Party for Dave, held on Saturday, June 16. Many of his faculty and staff friends, former students and close friends came together to celebrate and have fun. One of the surprises of this evening was a video, prepared by Emine Noyan RC 93 and Tamer Üner RC 91. The video started with photos from the days of his arrival to RC, and continued with a group of his ex-team players all thanking him and reminiscing about the old times through photos and videos. Everybody, especially Phillips himself, had a blast. Some highlights of the evening were when letters from Dave's family were read aloud and when

the RC graduates who made the project a success each received a medal. Dave was presented with a special basketball jersey with all the names of the contributors to the project on it and a big trophy that read "Most Valuable Coach Dave Phillips".

The final surprise was a belly dancer to make this a typical Turkish farewell. This put an even bigger smile on Phillips' face, as he loves to dance so much.

The other "Project for Dave" team members were Kaan Kural RC 92, Ebru Nuhoğlu RC 92, Nevra Eker RC 94, Moris Abravaya RC 94, Ersan Öztürk RC 94, Pınar Arı RC 96, Mehveş Dramur RC 96, Nilhan Ulusoy RC 96, and Zeynep Özoğul RC 2000.



Despite so many participants to the project, it was a closely guarded secret from Dave.



Farewell Dave Phillips!

Bülent Ezal RC 56

Remembering a Son through a Scholarship Fund

“The past is never dead, it is not even past,” Bülent Ezal RC 56 quotes William Faulkner and then adds, “RC and my son are always with me. Scratching the surface brings me to my conscientious belief in education and my love of Turkey. Consequently, the higher the education level and availability is, the brighter the future of Turkey will be.”

This is how Bülent Ezal RC 56 explains why he established the Nejat B. Ezal Endowed Scholarship Fund at Robert College in memory of his son Nejat who was a first-year PhD student in Marine Biology at the University of California Santa Barbara when he died in a diving accident on April 23, 1994.

Bülent continues to add to the Nejat B. Ezal Endowment every year and his genuine interest and love for his school is evident when he visits Istanbul and the RC campus every summer. He has many special memories of his years at RC where he was a boarding student on “the Hill” for 11 years. “I left for the USA at age 21. So I practically lived on the Hill as long as I lived with my family at Nişantaşı. In fact, my RC friends became my family as well - so much so that at our son Kenan’s wedding in the USA, his Turkish side was proudly represented by 17 RC/ACG graduates and their spouses.”

He adds that, though he has degrees from the University of Michigan and UCLA, his values, ethics and standards were acquired on the Hill thanks to the RC curriculum and his dedicated teachers. “...during those wonderful years at RC I was introduced to and taught, at very high standards, music, literature, theater, sports, public speaking, writing, arts and, believe it or not, chess - all of which



From L to R: Bülent Ezal 56, Kenan Ezal (Nejat's older brother), Jazlyn, daughter-in-law Carin and Tarkan

helped me to stand on my own feet in various social environments in life. I was fortunate to live and work in four different countries with very different cultures. I felt quite comfortable socially and professionally in all of them. Additionally, like most of us, my life had its very lows and highs.

When I ask myself why and how I was able to get along and I was able to pull myself up by my bootstraps, the answer was always in those 11 years spent at RC; namely, exceptional education along with exceptional friends all on the same Hill.”

Bülent Ezal is also a member of the Elizabeth Dodge Huntington Clark Society, established to recognize those who have made a commitment of financial support to Robert College in their wills or estate planning. The Society honors the memory of a woman who was devoted to the school and made its largest bequest received to date, a sum of over \$2 million.

Ezal’s philosophy behind his generous donations to his alma mater has been, “Robert College, as it has done for 150 years, will continue to educate the young minds of Turkey in its exceptional way as long as we support this institution of ours according to our ways and means.”

On the Road to Zara

Headmaster Anthony Jones accompanied RC students to the Community Involvement Project (CIP) in Sivas in July 2012.

By Anthony Jones, RC Headmaster

The road to Zara offers little variety, mostly endless waves of dusty brown hills and barren fields rolling eastward. The hills narrow and there Zara sits tightly squeezed like a cork in a bottle with hills to either side and mountains grey, brown and black looming ahead. I estimated a couple of thousand inhabitants; the mayor later corrected me, "Actually two hundred thousand. But 99% of them live in Istanbul." The day before I was in New York City; literally and metaphorically I was coming from the West. I came for the opportunity to observe our students in a CIP program but also because of the irresistibly kind invitation and the hauntingly enigmatic allure of someone's remark that if I went I would "experience the 'real Turkey'."

On first glimpse, Zara offered little to match her pretty name: dust, heat, tractors, and the next glimpse caught the palpable sense that the town was managing to make the best of its situation: the bins at the store overflowed with dried apricots and brightly colored spices and the watermelons were proudly stacked shoulder-high, an elderly white-whiskered man alone at the street corner saluted acquaintances, two elderly ladies clung stoically to a mountainous stack of hay pulled by a tractor speeding through town driven by baked-brown bean-thin boys who in turn waved and smiled vociferously at us. Even the stray dogs had optimistic eyes and often the smell of baked bread beat back the acrid scent of dust. I watched the students hoping they would see and appreciate these clues. Day by day they looked.



RC students visit Divriği Great Mosque and Sanitarium

Their main focus was on the middle school children of Zara whom they taught subjects they thought would enrich their lives - music, theatre, sports, and art.

The eight- to fourteen-year-old boys and girls often came in their best dress, ribbons in their hair, bright shoes, and a new sweat-shirt despite the heat. It was a wonder so many children appeared each day: Ramadan left them exhausted, many went home to work in the fields, and some

walked several kilometers to and from adjacent villages. Our morning warm-up combination of charades, stretching and singing seemed a particular laugh-inducing moment for them. They wanted to use their English but often all they could muster was "hello" which came out in all kinds of ways and always with a smile. The condition of the school was humble and yet the walls overflowed with students' projects, their math problems and history reports, teachers celebrating the successes of their students; even the art room was painted by the students and beautifully. No doubt the principal and teachers were doing their best and our being there was a part of that.

By the end of the week I could not help feeling that our students had probably learned far more from those children than those children could possibly have gained from us.

The last day it became manifest in tearful farewells, the photos we took of the Zara children and the promises we made to return. As the plane ascended from that brown plain I wondered if I finally understand Alexandre Dumas's quotation that "there is neither happiness nor misery in the world; there is only the comparison of one state with another", and still not sure, reassured myself that hidden in a remote corner to the east, is a town of kindness, hospitality and humanity, a very special town called Zara.



Exhausted but happy RC students sleeping at the airport on the way home



Anthony Jones (back, right) with RC students in Zara



A lovingly decorated classroom at Zara Elementary School

Supporting Migrant Workers in Amasya:

Joint project between RC and Acibadem Medical School



RC students with children of migrant workers



A boy proudly shows his work

Aral Sürmeli RC 10, together with Güler Karabatur, Community Involvement Project (CIP) Coordinator, organized a joint service project between Acibadem Medical and Nursing School and RC. Aral, a medical student at Acibadem, in Ibrahim Betil's words, "caught the service virus" while participating in many CIPs at RC. The project brought RC and Acibadem Medical and Nursing School students together with the migrant workers in the fields of Amasya for one week.

Medical students gave free health check-ups to the migrant workers and their families, while RC students did educational and creative activities with the children.

The Amasya CIP team thanks Ayten Çöl, the owner of Amasya Kılçak Çöl Farm, for supporting the project.

One of the advisors of the project, RC Philosophy teacher Serap Yılmaz Karaman gave her account. "From July 28-August 5, I accompanied nine RC students to Amasya. We offered a program to the children of migrant

workers who came from Urfa, Adana and Antep to harvest onions at a farm in Amasya. The kids were barefoot. Their hands, feet and faces bore traces of wounds and bruises. But these kids still smiled; smiled at life and smiled at us. They lived in makeshift tents in the middle of the field. Living conditions for their most natural needs - sleeping, bathing, going to the lavatory - were primitive indeed. Their lives consist of migrating from city to city, farm to farm, working in the fields with their families. Thus, they have no way of going to school; no way of using their right to education which is probably the only way out of this life.

Robert College students offered workshops focused on creative activities such as drama, painting, batik, face painting, book reading and music.

Our students displayed patience and dedication as they talked with the kids and listened to their problems. They acted like mentors and gave hope to the children. They didn't complain about the heat or the invasion of mosquitoes every evening. They returned home feeling a little melancholic but proud at the same time. Our students' perspective on life and humanity will never be the same after this experience."

"The world of the migrant workers was a very different world than mine. My mother has always taken me to see different countries but this was like a different country in my own country. I saw a very different lifestyle."

Irmak Pakiř, L9

"In these few days, I felt happiness, sadness, desperation and hope all at the same time! I don't want to sound like I found the meaning of life because I didn't, but I believe that these five days changed my life."

Melis Gökdemir, L9

"The Amasya experience reaffirmed my decision to go into medicine"

Bilge Su Çelikten, L9



Migrant families received free medical check-ups (background) while children did different activities



Singing and dancing next to onion fields



The week was full of smiling faces

RCAAA Mentorship Program Into its Third Year



From L to R: Erkut Eronat RC 86, Alpdoğan Kantarcı RC 86 and their mentee Tolga Zeybek RC 10

Mentorship runs in parallel with RCAAA's career planning program for RC alumni who are fresh college graduates in the US. Career panels are organized with experienced RC alumni from various fields such as finance, medical research, marketing or engineering, who briefly talk about their careers. Question and answer sessions provide young alumni with further networking opportunities during these events.

"All the mentors are very impressed with the knowledge and maturity of the new graduates. We envision that the mentorship program will inspire a new generation of RC graduates to become members of a strong RC alumni family, giving back to their alma mater," says RCAAA Mentor Program Supervisor Alpdoğan Kantarcı RC 86. He adds "Elif Şikoğlu and İrem Metin RC 02 have been the foundation of the success of the mentorship program, and we are grateful to RCAAA President Kemal Karakaya RC 95 for his continuous support and leadership."

"Needless to say, RC college counseling and the former Headmaster John Chandler have been great resources to us," add Alpdoğan and Elif. "In fact, without the efforts and support of Mr. Chandler, we couldn't have achieved our goals with the program. We also want to thank the RC community for all their efforts."

RCAAA is always looking for new mentors and are in the process of expanding the coverage of the program to the entire US. To get involved, contact Elif Şikoğlu RC 97 at melifs@yahoo.com or Alpdoğan Kantarcı RC 86 at alpdogankantarci@gmail.com

The RCAAA mentorship program has been running for three years and it continues to gain momentum each year. The program was originally established to give new RC alumni doing undergraduate degrees in the US a "just like home" feeling through discussions on everything from career planning to adapting to life in the US. Since then, it has evolved and grown to achieve so much more, contributing RCAAA's efforts to create bonding and a stronger network among the RC alumni in the US.

Started in 2009, the mentorship program has matched 20 students coming to the US for undergraduate education with mentors. Through networking events, the programs went beyond what RCAAA had envisioned. "In the beginning, we thought about having a one-year mentorship. Now, we are proud to see that each mentee-mentor relationship turned into a lasting bond," explains RCAAA Board Vice President Elif Şikoğlu RC 97.

Young RC graduates studying in the US have benefited from the program and adjust more smoothly as a result of mentor-mentee relationships.

Some found internships and experienced professional life outside of college through this network. Such experiences help them to broaden their understanding of the kind of career that they plan to pursue. Tolga Zeybek RC 10, a junior at Tufts University says, "I found the mentorship program very helpful in terms of adjusting to life in Boston and the US. It is a great experience to meet the alumni who have been living here. The program linked me with RC alumni in the New England area, with whom I go on bicycle rides and talk about anything and everything."

HTC, Turkcell teknolojisiyle 2 kat hızlı!

Türkiye'nin ilk Windows 8 işletim sistemli akıllı telefonu Windows Phone 8X by HTC'yi Turkcell'le kullanın, Turkcell'in Çift Taşıyıcılı İnternet Teknolojisi sayesinde internetin keyfini 2 kat hızlı yaşayın.

Gold Plus
Paket'e ek
24 ay boyunca
ayda sadece

55TL



Windows Phone 8X by HTC,
Turkcell'in Çift Taşıyıcılı İnternet Teknolojisi'ni
desteklemeyen akıllı telefonlara göre 2 kat hızlıdır.

 Windows Phone **8X** by htc

turkcell.com.tr | Müşteri Hizmetleri: 532



Turkcell Çift Taşıyıcılı İnternet Teknolojisi (Dual Carrier Technology), bu teknolojiyi destekleyen cihazlara aynı anda iki farklı taşıyıcı üzerinden veri transfer imkânı sağlar. Böylece bu teknolojiyi desteklemeyen cihazlara göre iki kat daha fazla hız sağlanabilmektedir. Turkcell 3G sebekesi % 99'un üzerinde bu teknolojiyi desteklemekte ve Turkcell, Türkiye'nin 81 ilinde bu hizmeti verebilmektedir. 05.11.2012-31.03.2013 tarihleri arasında geçerlidir ve stoklarla sınırlıdır. Kampanya kapsamında aylık ek ödeme Hepsiz Tarifesi ve Full Paket için 69 TL, Gold Paket için 75 TL'dir. Kampanyadan, Turkcell bireysel faturalı hat abonelik süresi 12 aydan fazla olan, son 6 ay fatura toplamı 250 TL olan ve ödenmemiş faturası bulunmayan aboneler yararlanabilir. Bu koşulları sağlamayan aboneler için "Kredi Kart" tahsilat seçeneği sunulacaktır. 24 ay boyunca cihaz taksiti kredi kartından çekilecek, servis bedeli faturaya yansıtılacaktır. Geçerli banka bilgilerine www.turkcell.com.tr'den ulaşılabilir. Banka, müşteri ekstresine ayrıca yansıtılacak şekilde faiz uygulayabilir. İlgili bedelden Turkcell sorumlu değildir. TC kimlik numarası bazında bir abone kampanyadan en fazla 2, tek hat için en fazla 1 adet cihazlı tekliften yararlanabilir ve kampanyayı en fazla 2 kez iptal edilebilir. Kampanyada belirtilen paket bedelleri için HTC Windows Phone 8X modeli aylık cihaz taksiti tüm vergiler dahil 75 TL'dir. Tüm vergiler dahil HTC Windows Phone 8X toplam bedeli 1.800 TL'dir. Paketlerdeki kullanılmayan internet, ses ve SMS bir sonraki aya devretmez. Tüm kullanımlar yurtiçinde geçerlidir. Paket tekliflerinin ayrıntıları www.turkcell.com.tr'de yer almaktadır. Tarife içeriklerinde sunulan faydalarda oluşacak değişiklikler tekliflere yansıtılacaktır. Taahhütnamede belirtilen yükümlülükler kısmen ya da tamamen uyulmaması durumunda ve/veya seçilen kampanyanın süresi sona ermeden kampanyadan ayrılmak istenmesi durumunda ve/veya taahhütnamede belirtilen her bir mobil hattın başka bir mobil operatöre taşınması durumunda söz konusu ayrılmışlığın gerçekleştiği aydan itibaren faturalı tahsilat seçeneği için sözleşme süresi bitimine kadar ödenmesi gereken vergiler dahil kalan cihaz taksitleri toplamı ve o güne kadar verilen indirim bedelleri Turkcell mobil hizmet faturasına söz konusu tarihi takip eden fatura döneminde bir kerede yansıtılır. Kampanya kapsamındaki paket/tarife paket aşım ücretleri ses aşımı için 41,5 Kr/dakika, SMS aşımı için 41,5 Kr/SMS ve internet aşımı için 0,000049 TL/KB'dir. Paket aşım ücretleri güncel internet ve tarife paket aşım ücretleriyle aynıdır. Aşım ücretlerindeki değişikliklerden kontratlı aboneler de etkilenir. Kampanyaya katılan abonelerin abonelikleri, 24 aylık kontrat bitiminde, kontratta seçtikleri tarife ve/veya internet paketleriyle devam eder ve aboneler www.turkcell.com.tr'de yer alan güncel tarife ve/veya internet fiyatlarıyla ücretlendirilir. Kontrat süresince paket değişikliği yapılamaz. Kampanya başka bir telefon hattına ya da üçüncü şahıslara devredilemez. Sözleşmeden doğan Damga Vergisi tek seferliğine faturaya yansıtılacaktır. Damga Vergisi her paket için farklılık göstermektedir. HTC Windows Phone 8X Bireysel Cihaz Kampanyası'na kaydolun abonelerin 3G üyelikleri de ücretsiz ve otomatik olarak başlatılacaktır. Aboneler istedikleri zaman 2G yazıp 2222'ye ya da 7777'ye ücretsiz kısa mesaj göndererek 3G üyeliklerini sonlandırabilirler. Fiyatlara tüm vergiler dahildir (ses, SMS ve data için % 18 KDV, ses ve SMS için % 25 ve data için % 5 ÖV). Ayrıntılı bilgi www.turkcell.com.tr'de.

Welcome to USA Awards

One of the major programs RCAA runs is the Welcome to USA Awards, which have been given since 1993. Every year RCAA supports three recent RC graduates who are accepted to college in the United States with a “happy landing” check. Any RC senior who is planning to attend college in the US and who demonstrates the need for support can apply for this award. The candidates describe their backgrounds, future career aspirations and needs through written statements, which are combined with their transcripts and recommendations from the college counselors, and evaluated by

RCAA Board Members. Recipients are announced at graduation.

The RCAA award committee received impressive applications for the 2012 awards and after long discussions, chose Nur Yazır (Amherst), Ege Yumuşak (Harvard) and Feyza Haskaraman (MIT) as this year’s recipients. In 2011, Gökçe Gökmenoğlu (Trinity), Gizem Sakallı (Cornell), and Selen Uman (Yale), received this award.

Gizem is currently enrolled in a double major program combining Economics and International Relations at Cornell University. She believes that studying in the US with scholars from around the world is an invaluable experience. Gizem learned about the Welcome to USA Awards from the college counselors’ e-mail. It was very exciting for her to get a letter from RCAA upon her arrival at Cornell University. She is hoping to get involved in RCAA in the coming years.

Selen remembers reading about the possibility of studying in the US through RC Quarterly during her prep year and through alumni. Welcome to USA awards presented a motivation and support for



Gizem Sakallı RC 11



Selen Uman RC 11

her. Selen said that she is well adapted to Yale University, her classes and her new circles of friends. She is planning to pursue an academic career in biomedical sciences while continuing the community service projects that she got involved with at RC.

24th Annual RCAA Young Alumni Dinner

RCAA held the 24th Annual Young Alumni Dinner on November 10, 2012 at Turkish Kitchen, bringing together RC graduates from the past 15 years. The guest of honor was Robert College’s new Headmaster Mr. Anthony Jones who was on a tour of the US cities that have strong RC alumni presence.

On this chilly New York evening, the RC spirit warmed up the dining room as everyone chatted, enjoying the familiar dishes served by Turkish Kitchen.

The event began with a cocktail hour where guests arrived and mingled with their classmates and met other alumni who live and work in and around New York. Guests took their seats in the private dining room and RCAA President Kemal Karakaya, opened the evening with a speech. He noted the importance of this annual gathering in bringing the alumni together to connect with our alma mater and elaborated on RCAA’s efforts and activities in supporting it. Mr. Jones followed him with an inspiring update about the changes in our school and his observations on what it truly means to be an RC alumnus.

On behalf of the RCAA board, Eylül Kayın and Ayşegül Duru kicked off the third year of the Young Alumni Mentorship Program. The program focuses on pairing successful RC alumni of various fields with RC graduates who have recently completed or are in the process of completing their undergraduate studies. This year’s panel comprised of six representatives from different age groups and career paths.

Semahat Arsel ACG 49 Awarded Honorary Doctorate in Recognition of Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Nursing

“Receiving such a distinguished honor has greatly added to the pride and joy I derive from contributing to a cause I believe in with all my heart.” These were Semahat Arsel’s gracious words, as she accepted the Honorary Doctorate conferred upon her by Istanbul University in May 2012 for her outstanding and continuous contributions to the field of nursing in Turkey.

Arsel’s legacy of supporting nursing education and the profession of nursing for nearly forty years has been transformative. Arsel first became interested in the nursing profession shortly after graduating from ACG, when she became seriously ill. “I was preparing for the university entrance exams, at the same time as studying for my driver’s license. I was young and wanted to travel and enjoy life,” she recalls. “However, one night I awoke with a terrible pain and could not breathe. Research showed that I had problems with my liver.”

Medical treatment in the UK, with subsequent operations abroad and in Turkey followed. Arsel’s experience as an intensive care patient for stretches at a time enabled her to observe the nursing profession from a different perspective. “This is a profession requiring self-sacrifice and devotion, where mistakes are not acceptable,” she explains. “I came to understand what a difference skillful nurses with good education can make.”

After her mother passed away following a long illness, Semahat Arsel decided to make nursing her prime philanthropic focus. To support the effort, Arsel’s father and leading industrialist Vehbi Koç established a fund for nursing in 1974 within the Vehbi Koc Foundation. Semahat Arsel formed and headed a committee that included representatives



From L to R: Dean of İstanbul University’s Florence Nightingale School of Nursing Prof. Dr. Nezihe Kızılkaya Beji, Semahat Arsel ACG 49 and Deputy Rector of İstanbul University Prof. Dr. Kamil Adalet

of the ministry of health and nursing associations, as well as heads of nursing schools. “In 1974 the nursing schools in Turkey had many shortcomings. There were no text books or learning materials. Lessons were given with hand-outs. The teachers were not from the nursing profession.” The first task the newly formed nursing committee achieved was obtaining two course books from the US which were translated into Turkish. Sixteen text books were subsequently created and distributed to schools. Scholarship funds and symposiums about the nursing profession paved the way to much needed change in the field.

A partnership started with Admiral Bristol and Houston Methodist Hospitals in 1979, resulting in the first intensive care nursing course in Turkey. Consequently, nurses became an official part of the intensive care team.

In 1992 Arsel established the Semahat Arsel Nursing Education and Research

Center (SANERC) to support the further development of the nursing profession. The institution is Turkey’s only post-graduate further education and research center for nursing.

The honorary doctorate was presented to Arsel by Istanbul University’s Assistant Chancellor Dr. Kamil Adalet. Arsel’s acceptance speech stressed that the work continues.

“There are many significant challenges that need to be overcome. We need to correctly define the standards of nursing and adopt international standards.”

Semahat Arsel was given a standing ovation by all present, for persistently raising the standards and being a major driving force behind the significant strides the nursing profession has made over the years.

A Fighting Chance for Turkey's Large Predators

Wolves Send SMS's, Promote Conservation

Turkey has one of the richest levels of biodiversity in the world, yet it ranks 121st out of 132 countries in biodiversity and habitat conservation. This is why a wildlife corridor in northeastern Turkey that was announced in June is making headlines.

KuzeyDoğa, an environmental organization founded and directed by Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93, recently covered in RCQ issue 39, used results from their long-term wildlife research on large predators such as brown bears, wolves, wild cats and lynx to convince the government to create the country's first such corridor. Wolves were fitted with GPS/GSM collars provided by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry that sent text messages to KuzeyDoğa staff with their GPS coordinates. KuzeyDoğa was able to track their movements and show that in only two months, the area that wolves use is 13 times larger than their protected area in the Sarıkamış-Allahuekbar National Park.

"We have repeated this project with brown bears, and six have National Geographic Crittercams, a first for Turkey, so we also see the world through the bears' eyes," says Çağan. "They surprised us by covering large areas; one bear went from Kars to Ardahan to Artvin in only two days, exactly covering the corridor route. This shows that we chose the right route and wildlife will use it."



Wolf caught on a KuzeyDoğa camera trap

Lack of sufficient habitat, hunting, and poaching of their natural prey leads wolves and brown bears to feed in garbage dumps and on livestock, which increases the human-carnivore conflict in the region.

Larger in area than the 22,900 hectare national park it connects, this corridor will provide additional habitat for large carnivores, connect their isolated populations, and hopefully also reduce the local human-carnivore conflict. The corridor covers over 23,500 hectares and extends 82 km, from the Sarıkamış-Allahuekbar National Park through Kars, Erzurum, Artvin and Ardahan up to the Georgia border where it connects with Georgia's Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park, helping to promote trans-boundary

conservation in the region. Soil analyses have been taken and reforestation will begin next spring.

"We started suggesting a Black Sea corridor from Georgia to Istanbul," says Çağan. "Most of the Black Sea is forested so this is feasible. We need corridors all across the country. Nature conservation in Turkey is dismal and we need to do a lot more."

As he learns more about the habitat of these large predators, Çağan becomes increasingly concerned about their future. "Sarıkamış Forest is 400 km² but 340 km² of this is being officially and actively logged. Its trees are being cut as timber, legally. This is unacceptable and all of Sarıkamış Forest should become a part of the existing national park."

Çağan also warns about the unprotected Aras River wetlands. "We recorded 51% of Turkey's bird species (240 species) in only 7 years but it will be destroyed by the Tuzluca irrigation dam project."

How you can help

Çağan encourages RC students, alumni, and faculty to write to the President, Prime Minister and Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs, Veysel Eroğlu to ask that the Sarıkamış Forest be protected and the dam projects in the area stop. "If you can only choose one cause," says Çağan, "this is it! Please write letters, preferably handwritten because in the age of the internet, a handwritten letter carries more weight."

For more information, visit www.kuzeydoga.org



National Geographic's Greg Marshall and Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93 (center) attach a crittercam to a brown bear with the help of the KuzeyDoğa team



Brown bear wearing a Crittercam

Memo Akten RC 92

Turning Athletic Performance into Art

Thousands of athletes were on the move in London this summer. But a select few had their performances turned into art for visual artist Memo Akten's installations at the London Cultural Olympiad. Shown at an exhibition called *In the Blink of an Eye* at the National Media Museum, Memo collaborated with fellow visual artist Quayola to create "Forms", a visual interpretation of athlete's movements.

"For a number of years, my work has revolved around researching new ways of creating, manipulating, and performing moving images and sound.



Memo Akten RC 92

I've worked with dancers on a number of projects, but how the body looks and moves is the primary focus in dance," explains Memo.

"With sports the primary focus is about winning. With this project we wanted to investigate what athletes' bodies looked or moved like, while pushing their bodies to be the fastest, or jump the highest."

Using archival footage of athletes from the National Media Museum, Memo and Quayola had the clips developed into animated models. They then looked at the dynamics and what sort of trails the movements would leave to create three-dimensional volumetric sculptures.

When asked about his favorite subjects at RC, he says "Without a doubt science, physics, chemistry and math; topics which are about digging deeper to understand the nature of the world around us. This is



also at the heart of all of my work today. Ultimately I'm trying to share my passion for the observation and understanding of nature, in the hope that it will encourage and inspire others to pick up where I left off, create new work, which in turn inspires others, but of course inspires me again, in a beautiful feedback loop."

Memo Akten also does commercial pieces including music videos, iPhone/iPad applications and musical performance visuals.

For more information about "Forms" and other works by Memo Akten, you can visit his website www.memo.tv

Orhan Pamuk RA 70 Creates Museum Based on Novel

While many novels prominently feature museums, Orhan Pamuk has opened possibly the first ever museum based on a novel. The Museum of Innocence, nestled in Istanbul's former working-class neighborhood of Çukurcuma, opened in April and displays objects featured in the eponymous novel.

The museum houses 83 displays, one for each of the 83 chapters of the book. In the novel, the objects are collected by the fictitious main character, Kemal Basmacı, the son of a wealthy industrialist. He has a brief affair with a shop girl, Füsun Keskin, which triggers a life-long obsession for her. As his infatuation causes his life to unravel, he begins removing things from the Keskin household that belong to Füsun and her family, and collects other memorabilia that remind him of the times they spent together, such as Füsun's hairbrush, Füsun's mother's quince grater and cinema posters.



Orhan Pamuk RA 70 in front of the museum

The museum showcases mainly everyday items that reflect life in Istanbul during the period in which the novel takes place - the mid-70s to mid-80s - a time in Istanbul's history when the city's elite were striving to embrace Western values. "On a modest scale," says Pamuk, "this is Istanbul's first city museum."

The museum was conceived at the same time as the novel. Pamuk started to collect objects before beginning the novel, and continued to look for items while writing. Some objects were collected after he had written about them, while others inspired him to include them in the storyline. In total, the project cost him about as much as he won with the Nobel Prize - \$1.5 million. Pamuk conceptualized each display, which helps explain why the museum opened four years after the book was published. He says that he spent as much time putting it together off and on over the past dozen years as he would to write half a book.

Semahat Demir RC 84

Appointed Rector of İstanbul Kültür University

Coming from a family of academicians, Demir has been familiar with lives dedicated to education since she was a child. Demir's sister Siddika Demir Velipaşaoğlu RC 89 was the first foreign president of SWE (Society of Women Engineers) in the US (Semahat Demir is also on the board), and brother Asım Demir RC 82 is a successful private sector manager who worked overseas for many years.

Semahat Demir has an astonishing academic background. After graduating in electrical engineering from İstanbul Technical University she studied biomedical engineering at Boğaziçi University. In the US she got her master's degree and Ph.D. from Rice University, in electrical and computer engineering and received her post doctorate degree from Johns Hopkins University in biomedical engineering.

She stayed in the US for 23 years doing academic research, teaching, and administering research funding for the US government. She most recently was the director of the National Science Foundation, reporting to the White House. The RCQ editorial team talked to Semahat about her motivation for coming back and her future goals.



From L to R: Siddika Demir Velipaşaoğlu RC 89, Asım Demir RC 82 and Semahat Demir RC 84 during Homecoming 2012

You have been in the US for a long time, how and why did you decide to come back?

My work experience has provided me with comprehensive technical expertise, as well as different industry, academic and government perspectives. I felt ready to take on new challenges with my unique set of technical, professional and leadership skills.

I received Chancellor offers from two Turkish universities, and accepted the one from İKÜ where I was an advisor to the President and the Chair of Board of Trustees for the last two years.

How do you feel about your new responsibilities?

My goal is to take İKÜ to its next level in the next 15 years. I am very humbled, honored and excited. I know it is a big responsibility and I am ready to face the challenges.

What do you think is the importance of your new position for Turkey's educational arena?

My goal is to leave the world better than I found it, which is my definition of being a good global citizen. My siblings and I believe that Robert College has really allowed us to develop more and become better global citizens and leaders.

As a scientist and academician, my goal has been to become a world-class scientist and to educate my students so that they can be better than I am. I want to contribute to Turkish higher education with these same values. As a woman university president I would like to be a role model, for I believe women leaders have to pave the way for future



Prof. Dr. Semahat Demir

woman leaders. My sister Siddika and I have volunteered for SWE for 22 years with similar goals in the US and have been successful in raising awareness, inspiring and advancing women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and celebrating their achievements.

What are your future plans?

The goals that I set up for my university are to educate future leaders, to develop and find solutions to the challenges that Turkey and world are facing, and to make my university the sought after university for education, research, arts, sciences and technology. As I stated in my inaugural speech, I have plans and projects for organizational excellence, 21st century office models, a project development and coordination office, a center for industry relations, a career center, international dual degree and exchange programs, academic mentoring, customized dual degree programs, a Dean of Students, a PhD program in Industry, etc.

Demir has received 72 science awards. She has 130 publications and there are over 200 international articles written about her.

Aylin Küntay RC 84 Appointed to Prestigious Dutch Chair

Professor at the Department of Psychology at Koç University, language researcher Aylin Küntay was appointed as the Prince Claus Chair in Development and Equity at Utrecht University in September 2012. Küntay works in the area of language and socio-cognitive development of young children. She will hold this position for two years and will conduct studies on language in collaboration with researchers at Utrecht University. She is expected to hold her inaugural lecture in spring 2013 at the Academy Building (*Academiegebouw*) in Utrecht.

The Prince Claus Chair in Development and Equity was established by Utrecht University and the Erasmus University Rotterdam in early 2003 in honor of Prince Claus of the Netherlands (1926-2002). The establishment of the Chair attests to the appreciation of the academic community to ideas promoted by Prince Claus, namely, development and equity in the world. The aim in establishing this Chair is to promote research and education in international development in accordance with the views and ideas of Prince Claus. Outstanding

young academics from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean or the Pacific are eligible to hold the Chair.

"I was appointed to this position because of my research focus on early development of communication and language across languages and cultures. Early language and communication capacity is an important human resource that predicts later well-being indicators such as academic success and social competence" mentions Küntay. "Along with my colleagues and students in the Language and Communication Lab at Koç University, we study how babies, toddlers and preschool-age children put together social interactional and family resources with their socio-cognitive skills to build their communication and language abilities," she explains. "For example, does early pointing at 9 to 12 months predict concurrent and later emergence of vocabulary knowledge? Why do some babies point and talk earlier than others? Do socio-cognitive skills of children lead to changes in rates of language learning? Do early communicative competence and oral language skills predict ability to read and write?"



Aylin Küntay RC 84

In order to answer such questions, Küntay and her team investigate children's social and cognitive skills, social-interactive experiences, and family resources. She adds, "We use semi-naturalistic observational techniques, naturalistic recording, and parental reports in addition to experimental paradigms such as preferential looking, eye-tracking, and social-visual perspective taking."

Hülya Uçansu ACG 71 Tells the Story of IKS

Hülya Uçansu ACG 71 was the founding director of the Istanbul International Film Festival and served as director for 24 years before she took off for new ventures.

A graduate of Istanbul University, Department of English Language and Literature, she worked for several film festivals and at the Ministry of Culture before the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV) appointed Uçansu as its director in 1983, a position she ably filled until 2006. During this time she also either chaired or was a member of the jury in over 10 festivals, including Edinburgh, Rome, Montpellier, Venice, Chicago and Montreal.

Her first book, *Bir Uzun Mesafe Festivalcisinin Anıları* (*Memoirs of a Long Distance Festival Runner*), came out in June 2012. She wrote about the history of IKS and the founding of the International Istanbul Film Festival which is one of IKS's leading events.



Hülya Uçansu ACG 71

Uçansu felt it was her duty to tell the story of this cultural event's history to all young cinema students. She wanted to depict the conditions prevailing in the country at the time, and about how a small group of cinema lovers did their best to create an international film festival under difficult conditions.

When asked if RC had any influence on her chosen career path she said, "No doubt, yes. I completed middle school in

a completely different milieu: St. Georg, the Austrian College for Girls. I wanted to continue my education at ACG. That decision was the best thing for a young girl of fifteen; to leave the Catholic education system for the inspiring and motivating American system. It bestowed some significant features on my development such as enthusiasm for learning, curiosity for research, self-confidence, discovery of self, the habit of thinking systematically and creating new ways of efficiency. All of these contributed greatly to my performance in my career."

Uçansu left IKS in 2006 and teaches Cultural Activities Management at Kadir Has University. She is also on the Executive Board of the Mithat Alam Film Center at Boğaziçi University and strives to be an advisor to young cineastes attending world festivals with their films.

Cem Kozlu RA 65 Describes a New Approach with Europe

By Ömer Erduran RC 81

Cem Kozlu RA 65 published his eighth book *Avrupa'ya Hayır Diyebilen Türkiye* (A Turkey Which Can Say No to Europe) when Europe was reeling from the deepest economic crisis it has suffered since the Second World War. *Avrupa'ya Hayır Diyebilen Türkiye* recounts the tortuous journey the country has made over the span of half a century in order to become a member of the European Union - unsuccessfully, so far. Kozlu sees full membership as a mirage



Cem Kozlu RA 65

that recedes the closer you approach it. He cites scores of nations such as former members of the Soviet bloc that have cut in line ahead of Turkey, and claims that at the end of the tunnel will be not light but another dark tunnel unless the current accession process is altered.

He blames the rejection front of France, Austria and Germany and is concerned that their enmity is whipping up anti-Turkish and anti-Islam sentiments in Europe. He fears that, this in turn, will provoke an anti-Western wave in Turkey. He proposes to alter the arduous negotiation process that has come to a standstill; most of the 34 chapters or *acquis* that Turkey has to reach an agreement on with the EU have been blocked by France, Germany, Cyprus or the EU Commission. Kozlu suggests that an international conference be convened to discuss EU members' objections and issues and agree to an admission deadline. Otherwise, he feels Turkey should put the EU relationship on the backburner by pursuing a policy of

"benign neglect" of the EU as a bloc, while doing triage with the individual members. Countries of the rejection front would see their enmity responded with "aggressive reciprocity" while members supportive of Turkey's membership would benefit from its double digit economic growth and active presence in the region.

Additionally, Turkey would accelerate internal reforms in politics, human rights, education, etc., in a manner espoused in some of Kozlu's earlier books such as *For a Turkish Miracle* and *From Anger to Solution*.

His first book, *International Marketing* celebrated its 30th anniversary and 12th edition last year, the same year CNN-Turk did a miniseries based on his book *Leaders Toolbox*.

Kozlu is a well-known businessman, a political figure and a prolific writer.

Broken Rhapsody

Neslihan Stamboli RC 77 completed her second novel, *Kırık Rapsodi* (Broken Rhapsody) in 2011. We asked her to tell us about the book.

Love of letters... Love at first sight? Maybe so. Or maybe it is love discovered through a lot of bedtime stories from your parents followed by a good deal of reading crowned by the teachings of someone like our unforgettable Münir Bey, whom I always reminisce with gratitude and a warm smile, showing you the beauty of literature, and a school like Robert College instilling in you that insatiable curiosity to look courageously beyond and beneath the surface of things to search for the truth.

It took me many years, a degree in Business Administration, a career in the financial sector, another degree in French Literature from the University of London, an attempt to study for a postgraduate degree in Occupational Psychology and



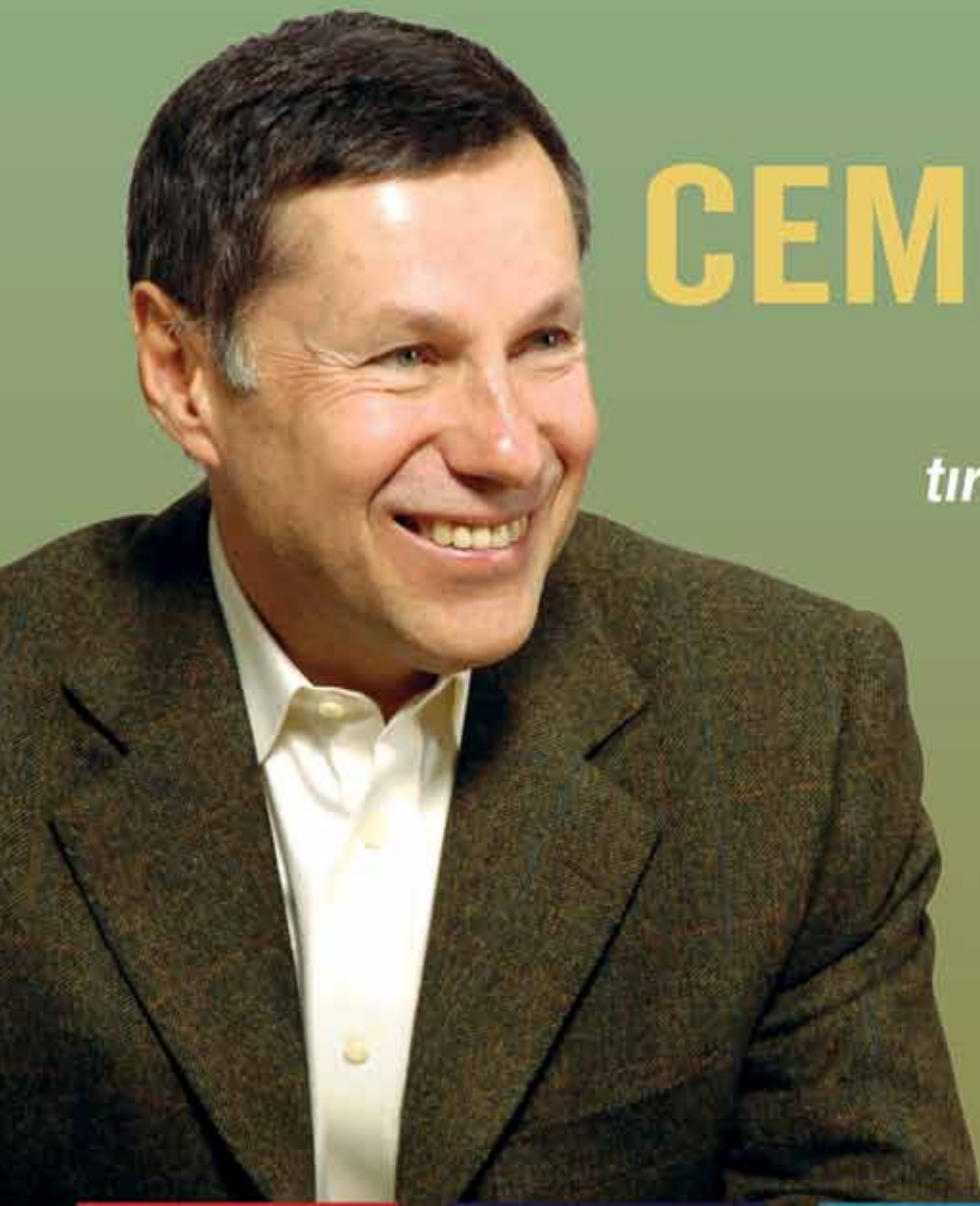
Neslihan and former RC English teacher Angela Roome at Neslihan's book signing for *Kırık Rapsodi*

Organizational Behavior and two decades of translations before my love of letters found expression in 2007 when I wrote my first published book, *Beyaz* (White), which portrays a modern interpretation of the psychological aspects of the Samkhya philosophy. *Kırık Rapsodi* followed suit in 2011.

Loosely based on a true story, *Kırık Rapsodi* is the first part of an epic novel,

which seeks to evoke in its readers a deeper understanding of the various meanings of freedom through its multi-layered narrative spanning a hundred years and four generations of a family as they live in various locations in Europe. The frame story focuses on the transformation of Rüya as she writes a novel, which constitutes the main story, about the personal dramas, inner conflicts and artistic quests of the members of an aristocratic Hungarian family against a backdrop of social and political changes in Hungary and the tragedies faced by humanity.

"The only true voyage would be, not to visit new landscapes, but to have new eyes," wrote Marcel Proust once. Writing, for me, is one such voyage opening one door after another to a myriad of surprising discoveries and helping me give voice to voiceless or muted individuals and societies while willingly or unwillingly exposing my own voiceless or muted innermost self.



CEM KOZLU

*Bulutların üstüne
tırmanan bir kolejli...*



**Avrupa'ya Hayır
Diyebilen Türkiye**
(2. Basım)



**Bulutların Üstüne
Tırmanırken**
(8. Basım)



**Liderin
Takım Çantası**
(11. Basım)



**Rising Above
The Clouds**
(2. Basım)



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Journey on the Cashmere Road

Ayşen Keskin Zamanpur RC 76 wrote the story of her passion: Silk&Cashmere, the company she founded in 1992. Her book *Kaşmir Yolu (The Cashmere Road)* is getting a lot of attention. Herald Tribune talks about Zamanpur as “The cashmere maker who conquered the world”. *Kaşmir Yolu* describes the dreams of a young woman and how these dreams come true. It’s the story of a daughter, a mother, a businesswoman and a brand that is present in 26 countries world-wide.



Ayşen Keskin Zamanpur RC 76

Zamanpur started to write her novel in 1999 after coming back from an 11-day journey in China which affected her deeply.

One night she suddenly felt the urge to write, without knowing the pages would end up as a novel. She shared the piece about her journey with friends and their reactions made her decide to continue the story. She started to add details about her life and her past. Memories surfaced, she started making connections, and discovered more memories of her childhood and family.

When asked how it feels to have written this novel she says, “The reactions I get are so warm, so candid; ‘I laughed so hard while reading’ or ‘I cried so much’. Hearing these words from readers I don’t know personally assure me that I did the right thing. I am very happy I wrote this book”.

The novel has a section where Zamanpur talks about her life at RC and how the school influenced her life and career.

“Is it the majestic smell of the wisteria, or the glorious presence of Gould Hall, Mitchell Hall, Woods, Sage, Bingham...? Is it the breathtaking view from the Plateau? Or was it leaving home for the first time to live elsewhere? Maybe it was the Maze... Was it gaining friendships that were to last a life time? Or the comprehension that it is indeed possible; such an education, such a residential life? I don’t know what it was exactly that caused such a miraculous change in me. The four years I spent at RC... If only those benches could speak...” (from *Kaşmir Yolu*, p.30)

When asked how important RC was in her life, she answers, “When asked where I’m from, I say I’m from RC. Would this be enough?”.



Gündüz Dağdelen-Ast ACG 56 Releases First Album

An accomplished architect and former art gallery owner, Gündüz Dağdelen-Ast segued into a new direction this year when she released her first album, *It’s Time to Start Living*.

Dağdelen-Ast started taking voice lessons in 2003 when she realized she had stopped singing. She explains in further detail on the album cover.

“I come from a family in which singing was an integral part of daily life. My most vivid memories of growing up in Istanbul are all linked to the songs of my childhood. When my father was in a good mood, no one left the dinner table after the meal ended; we’d all linger on, happily singing songs.”

In 2011, with the encouragement of her vocal coach Gwen Pippin, she produced the CD.

The whiskey-voiced Dağdelen-Ast performs a mix of cabaret songs that is as eclectic as the Istanbul in which she grew up.

The album features a mix of songs including “Those Were the Days”, “Les Feuilles Mortes”, and “Üsküdar Giderken”.

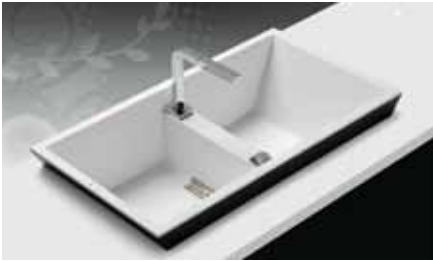
Dağdelen-Ast lives in Chicago and performs regularly with We-Haven’t-Quit-Our-Day’s-Jobs-Yet and the



OpportunityKnocks Singers. When she’s not crooning on stage, she works alongside her husband, Bruno Ast, at their architectural firm Ast+Dağdelen.

Defne Dilber RC 93 Wins Red Dot Honorable Mention

Design team Defne Dilber and Davide Stolfi were recently nominated for the prestigious Red Dot Design Award, for which they won an honorable mention. Their entry was the Dogma 100, a space-saving sink which uses an innovative drainage system. The drainage frees up more than 90 percent



Red Dot Honorable Mention-winning sink designed by Defne Dilber RC 93 and Davide Stolfi

of the space under the sink, which means it can also be installed on a kitchen island. Defne and Davide met at Milan's Domus Academy, where Defne studied for her master's in Industrial Design after receiving her bachelor's degree in architecture from ITU. Davide, who was her teaching assistant in Milan, followed her to Rome and they worked together at the architecture office of world-renown Massimiliano Fuksas.

In 2003 they got married on a boat on the Bosphorus. In 2006 they took their union one step further by opening their office Dilber & Stolfi Architetti in Rome. They are currently working on new architectural projects including a 200-unit housing complex in Pisa.



Defne Dilber RC 93 and Davide Stolfi

In 2010 they welcomed their twins, Asia and Denis. They live in Rome, but keep coming back to Istanbul, hoping to create a second home there soon.

Hikmet Hükümenoğlu RC 86 Pens 04:00

Hikmet Hükümenoğlu's fourth novel *04:00* is part noir detective story, and part dystopian science fiction. It takes place in a poisonous and overcrowded Istanbul, perhaps in an alternate universe, a more dangerous city than our own Istanbul - but somehow exactly the same. We asked Hikmet about the book and what inspired him to write it.

What is the story about?

One ordinary winter afternoon, a three year old boy and his Russian nanny disappear into thin air from their expensive, high-security apartment. It

soon turns out that they are not the only ones missing. During the search for the lost children, the hero must travel not only to the darkest corners of the city, but also to his own troubled sub-conscience.

What inspired you to change genres with this book?

I've always liked to mix and match different genres in my novels but this is the first time that the fantastical themes are quite prominent. Perhaps I needed a new voice to talk about the depressing times that we are currently going through.

What does the title signify?

Many people consider 04:00 to be an hour lost between night and day, between consciousness and sub-consciousness. It's the time of the cold and the uncanny. And actually it's the title of a poem by the Polish Nobel laureate Wislawa Szymborska.

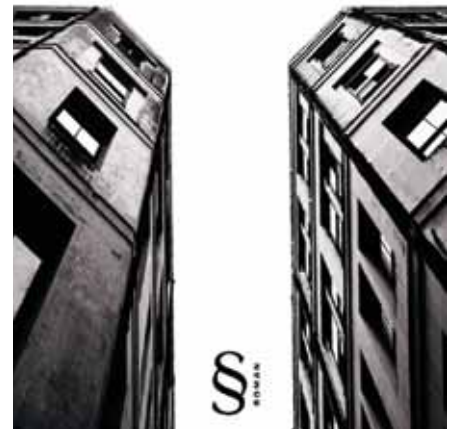
How was the writing process?

For me, it was the hardest, most disturbing novel to write, but I understand that the readers liked this one the most, so I'm very happy.



Hikmet Hükümenoğlu

04:00



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Hikmet Hükümenoğlu RC 86

Gearing Up for a Celebration



ROBERT COLLEGE
— 1863 —

150TH
YIL | YEAR

Nearly 150 years ago, when Christopher Robert, Cyrus Hamlin and Mary Mills Patrick started their schools in Istanbul that would become the foundation of today's Robert College, their goal was to provide an excellent education for all the different nationalities in the Ottoman Empire. Far-sighted as they were, could they have anticipated that the fruits of their efforts would survive a century and a half, evolve into one of the leading educational institutions in the region, and graduate students who have gone on to make notable contributions to Turkey and the world?

Through the dedication of these visionaries, as well as the generosity and commitment of the countless individuals who supported them, the schools thrived, overcoming numerous challenges over the years. Robert College today still bears the stamp of the resourcefulness, brilliance, ingenuity, and vision of its early leaders.

The 2013-14 school year marks the 150th anniversary of Robert College. As we approach this remarkable milestone, we are gearing up to celebrate as a community in many wonderful ways. We aim to reconnect and renew awareness about our distinguished heritage, while

Celebrations Throughout the Years

The 125th Year

The 125th Anniversary of Robert College lived up to its theme "Celebrating the Past, Building the Future". It was a fortuitous moment in the history of the



Rodney Wagner, Chairman of the Board of Trustees from 1979-2002, at the ground-breaking ceremony in 1989

school because two important things came together. The launch of a building campaign as well as the RC annual giving program in Turkey, were major building blocks for the future of the school. Under the leadership of Rodney Wagner, Chairman of the Board of Trustees from 1979-2002, a campaign to erect three new buildings was begun. The campaign was headed by Feyyaz Berker RC ENG 46. The outcome of this major effort - Nejat Eczacıbaşı Gymnasium, Suna Kıraç Hall and Feyyaz Berker Hall - marked the first time the names of Turkish philanthropists found their places along their American counterparts on campus buildings.



The Annual Giving Campaign was initiated under the leadership of then headmaster Harry Dawe and trustees Kutsi Beğdeş RC 38 and Hasan Subaşı RA 61. Raising a modest \$50,000 from 650 alumni the first year, the program has gained momentum over the years and now raises close to \$2 million each year for the school.

planning for the future. We will join forces to make this “once-in-a-lifetime celebration year” full of exciting events, and projects, paving the way for the next 150 years.

Celebration Highlights

Under the leadership of the Robert College 150th Anniversary co-Chairs, Nina Köprülü and Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62, a stimulating program is taking shape, with activities for the entire community during the sesquicentennial. Detailed information will follow and will be regularly updated on the RC website - www.robcol.k12.tr - as well as through social media like our Facebook page and Twitter account. In the meantime, please save the dates for the following events:

• May 2013, Istanbul

The celebrations will be launched in Istanbul with the RC 150 Exhibition, in collaboration with the Suna and Inan Kirac Foundation Istanbul Research Institute, which will open on May 15, 2013. With archival photos and artifacts, some on loan from the Columbia University collection, the exhibition will showcase the impact of Robert College in Turkey and abroad. Two publications will

accompany the exhibition: an exhibition catalogue and a coffee table book. The exhibition will also be available online.

• October 5-6, 2013, Istanbul

Alumni of all ages will flock back to campus and reclaim the classrooms, during the 150th year “Back to School Weekend.” Classes on a variety of subjects will be taught by graduates who are experts on their fields. Some current and former longtime RC faculty members are also looking forward to teaching a class or two, to their former students. Stay tuned for the full schedule of classes, for which advance sign up will be required.

• October 18-19, 2013, New York

The festivities in the US focus on a Celebration Weekend in New York, which includes an alumni reception on Friday, October 18. A fund raising gala dinner, “Creating 150 years of Opportunity”, will be held on Saturday, October 19. The weekend will serve as an opportunity for many RC alumni from all over the US to come to New York as a destination to reconnect with friends. At the same time, the Bayram holiday in Turkey will provide a break for interested alumni from Turkey

to travel to New York for the occasion. Special activities like day tours to lesser known New York destinations are being organized for groups of RC alumni during this time period.

• December 12, 2013, Istanbul

A fundraising gala dinner in Istanbul will be held on the shores of the Golden Horn at the Rahmi Koç Museum.

“A 150 year tradition of taking responsibility for the future”

The theme of the 150th anniversary of Robert College reflects the fact that the institution, since its founding, has focused on the future, remaining at the forefront of education for a century and a half. The school has graduated students who have not only gone on to become leaders in their fields, but who have also shaped the communities and countries where they live. Having this sort of influence is a privilege, and with that privilege comes responsibility. During this special year, we are reminded that Robert College has always been, and continues to be, a community that takes responsibility for the future.

The 125th anniversary was celebrated with a dinner in New York, an Alumni Arts Festival (with works by alumni writers, journalists and artists) and an Istanbul dinner. Headmaster Dawe talked about the influence of RC on its graduates in his remarks about the Arts Festival: “This exhibit is a stunning manifestation of the profound success of Robert College, for it shows the tangible accomplishments of its graduates in artistic and intellectual fields, and is a true measure of that creative spirit which had its initial spark at Robert College or the American College for Girls. The Robert College of today is pleased to honor those graduates in a way in which the products of their creativity and accomplishments have come home to where it all began. The spirit of Robert College has lived for 125 years, and is going strong.”

Centennial Celebrations

The 100th anniversary was full of festivities in which members of the school



The Centennial Dinner at the Waldorf Astoria in New York, October 1962

community took part, both in Turkey and the US. The celebration began in the fall with a Centennial Dinner that was held at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York. Speaking at the event, Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs W. Averall Harriman noted, “Robert College is the oldest American institution of higher learning in the Near East – the first American college founded overseas. The establishment of Robert College marked the beginning of awareness among Americans, a hundred years ago, that higher education is a powerful force in providing a helping hand to other countries in their own development.” The dinner was attended by the Turkish Ambassador to the US Turgut Menemencioğlu RC 35, Board of Trustees members, school President Patrick Malin Murphy and previous RC presidents.

The celebration year closed with a Centennial Week on both campuses.

Save the Date!

Detailed information on RC 150th celebrations will soon be posted and updated regularly on the RC website - www.robcol.k12.tr - and through social media like our Facebook pages and Twitter account.

May 2013	Sept 2013	Oct 5-6, 2013	Oct 18-19, 2013	Dec 12, 2013	May 2014
RC 150 Exhibition at the Istanbul Research Institute	RC 150 Exhibition moves to campus	Back to School weekend on the RC campus	Celebration Weekend in New York	Gala Dinner in Istanbul	Closing Celebrations in Istanbul

Telling the Story of the First Century and a Half

In Spring 2012 Cem Akaş RC 86 was brought on board as curator of the RC 150 Exhibition and related historical projects. An author, historian and editor, Akaş's experience is helping him bring the archives of the school's history to life.

"Going into the project, I was somewhat indifferent about the RC legacy, its claim to greatness, and the graduates of the school in general," explains Akaş. "After having spent a month at the Butler Library of Columbia University, New York, where the RC archives are kept, a very peculiar thing happened to me. I was humbled by all the passion, perseverance, faith, goodwill, and the determination to be a better school that I saw on page upon page, document after document."

Akaş became aware that many people have done so much for so long to keep



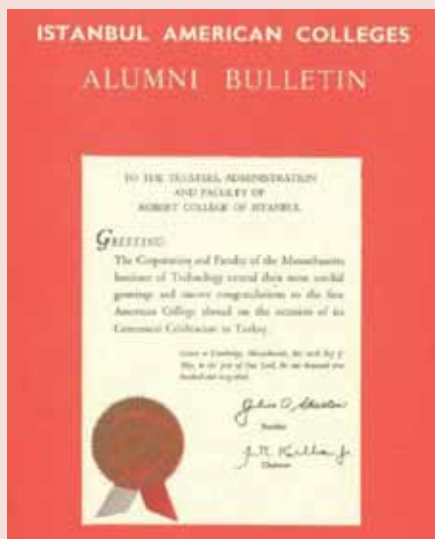
RC 150 Exhibition curator Cem Akaş RC 86

this institution thriving. It gave him an entirely new perspective about the school and what it represents, but also about what its mission today should be. "Robert College is an important

institution not only for Turkey but also in the history of Bulgaria, Greece, Albania, Russia and the Middle East," says Akaş "Among its graduates are three Turkish Prime Ministers, but also two Bulgarian Prime Ministers. At a time when the region is undergoing immense restructuring, Robert College can do much in the way of helping the people of the region become leaders of change."

Akaş is working with the Istanbul Research Institute to prepare a comprehensive catalogue of the exhibition. He is also preparing another publication that is close to his heart. "Most of my energy is going to the RC 150 Book. This will be a coffee table book rich in photographs and full of interesting items from the history of the school. At this stage, I am gathering and selecting all the raw material that will go into the exhibition and the book and will soon start the actual production process." ■

Celebrations Throughout the Years, cont.

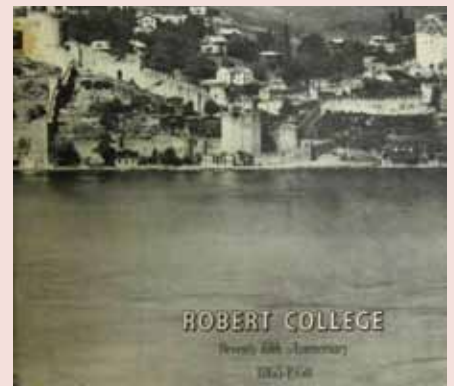


The cover of the June 1963 Alumni Bulletin with a congratulatory letter from MIT in Massachusetts

The week began with a panel discussion in which Trustees Faruk Kardam RC 32 and Ahmet Şeci Edin RC 47 talked about "A Hundred Years of the Colleges and their Contribution to Modern Turkey". An all-day program including graduation took place at the end of the week. Many notable guests were present including Cyrus Hamlin's grandson, Dr. Marston Lovell Hamlin, and former Engineering Dean Lynn Adolphus Scipio, who at 86 had traveled over 10,000 kilometers to attend. The festivities ended with a Centennial Ball at the Istanbul Hilton. Earlier in the year the Alumni Association of ACG held a gala benefit performance of Clare Booth Luce's "The Women" at Istanbul Municipal Theater, proceeds from which went to the scholarship fund.

75th Anniversary

A booklet was produced for the 75th anniversary which was a pictorial history of Robert College with photos dating back to the early days of the school.



75th anniversary brochure

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Young Faces of RCAA

Bringing together RC graduates in university life for the last five years, UNIRC (RCAA Committee of University Students) has become a vital part of the life of recent graduates. In September, UNIRC started the academic year with a brand new executive board.



UNIRC organizes traditional events such as Career Day and Academies, UNIFUAR, university parties and GradLive, and it is planning to add new ones to the list. 2012 was a successful year for the committee.

Some of the highlights of the first half of the year were:

GradLive II

When the first GradLive took place in 2011, it was a big hit. UNIRC decided to organize it every year in May, when the graduates studying abroad come back home.

GradLive aims to bring back the Lise Live spirit so it is hosted by the teacher who started Lise Live, Merrill Hope-Brown.

At GradLive 2012 five bands took to the stage, whose members included graduates from RC 03 to RC 11 and even some RC teachers. The event brings a large number of graduates together and it is a great chance to see how talented RC alumni are and how they still continue to make music a part of their lives.

Türkiye'nin 7 Rengi (The 7 Colors of Turkey)

UNIRC's special community involvement project is now in its 5th year. Each June, UNIRC hosts 49 elementary school students at RC for one week. The students come from the seven geographic regions of Turkey and are selected according to their socio-economic status and academic achievements with the help of ÇYDD (Association in Support of Contemporary Life). UNIRC offers the students an unforgettable experience on the campus, introduces them to different cultures and motivates them to continue on to university.

In 2012, UNIRC hosted seven students from seven different cities thus creating a diverse environment.

The students were all amazed by the spectrum of activities they did and the

places they visited; they experienced a different world.

What's next?

One of UNIRC's fall events is UNIFUAR. Organized for the students of Robert College, it is a university fair where students get a chance to talk to the representatives of around 15 Turkish universities, and learn about what they offer. Students get to ask questions about university life while preparing for it. Another anticipated UNIRC event is Career Day. About 15 companies participate each year and graduates get a chance to learn about internship opportunities and the recruitment processes of these firms. The companies get to meet graduates who are high potentials for recruitment. Stay tuned for even more activities in 2013!

You can follow UNIRC at unircrkmd.org or on their Facebook page.



From L to R: Aydan Ulus RC 11 - Career Day Coordinator, Elif Nalbantoğlu RC 11 - PR Coordinator, Elif Köse RC 11 - Growth & Development Coordinator, Lale Tekişalp RC 09 - Vice President, Aykut Akşit RC 10 - President, Onur Sağır RC 09 - Vice President, Cansu Şenocak RC 11 - CIP Coordinator, Öykü Üner RC 11 - UNIFAIR Coordinator



Türkiye'nin 7 Rengi participants enjoying a trip on the Bosphorus



The Robert College Alumni Association (RKMD)

Bizim Tepe continued to buzz with activity over the past few months as RKMD organized new activities for alumni and their families including workshops, presentations, panel discussions, cultural sight-seeing tours, fun-filled evenings and workshops for graduates.



Alumni had many unforgettable, happy moments during sight-seeing tours to Gaziantep and Adiyaman in June 2012 (pictured) and Urfa and Mardin in April 2012.



Panel Discussions were held, including "The Recent Build-up of the Constitution" by Av.Doç. Dr. Ümit Kocasakal Head of the Chamber of Lawyers of Istanbul in April 2012.



Spectacular show of the unforgettable award-winning RA 69 school orchestra "Renkler" - still dynamic, still attractive!



Recent workshops have been on patchwork quilting, painting, Greek dancing and reiki.



Summer spirit at Bizim Tepe



Alumni continued celebrating Homecoming at Bizim Tepe following Roll Call on campus.



The new Junior Program was a huge success thanks to the efficient cooperation of RKMD and RC Summer. We look forward to seeing 2013's RC Summer participants!

The Neighbor that Once Was...

In 2010, just a month before war broke out in Syria, RC 92 graduates Tamer Tamar and Bora Samman took a photo expedition to Aleppo

By Tamer Tamar RC 92

They often say "*Ev alma komşu al*" (don't get a house, get neighbors), and when Syria and Turkey bilaterally terminated visa requirements for their citizens, Bora Samman RC 92 and I took the opportunity to visit our mysterious neighbor on a photo expedition. We knew little of Syria and Aleppo. Thanks to our geography teacher's maniacal obsession with memorization, one fact was clearly etched in our minds - at 877km, the Syrian border was the longest of any of our neighbors. What became more significant in our journey through Hatay and Aleppo, however, was not the length of the border, rather its "depth".

I had often heard of Hatay as one of our most progressive cities due mostly to the numerous minorities living peacefully together. This feature was something we were reminded of time and again as we devoured our way through kebabs and *künefes* there. Ever since Hatay - a source of French-incited contention between Turkey and Syria - became part of the Republic, the relations between the two countries were strained. People, of course,

had different views and agendas than those of self-interested governments.

Many of Hatay's residents have relatives living in Syria, mostly in Aleppo, which binds them culturally. And when visas were abolished, trade through the 877km border exploded, true to Middle-eastern style.

On Christmas Day 2010, a month before the conflict in Syria erupted, we took a short flight from Istanbul to Hatay with no proper plans on how to undertake the 100km to Aleppo. To our surprise, we were greeted at Hatay's Uzun Çarşı by a large banner message from Hatay's mayor wishing his fellow Christian citizens a Merry Christmas! Where else in Turkey would you see this type of progressiveness? After a quick lunch at the famed Anadolu restaurant, we let a quick-witted teenager take us to Osman Abi, a frequent day-tripper to Aleppo. Osman Abi possessed remarkable poise

and tolerance, a trait we frequently noted in people of Hatay and Aleppo. We didn't need to convince him to take us to Aleppo, since the trip meant he could fill up his tank with petrol in Syria at a quarter of the price of Hatay, thus making the journey very profitable for him. When you see with your own eyes the petrol price disparity separated by only a kilometer, you realize the ridiculousness of the situation. We have the highest petrol price of any country in the world, and you bet somebody is profiting handsomely from this.



Tamer Tamar RC 92 with his daughter Göksu

We genuinely did not know what to expect of Syria once we crossed the border where roads became rougher and villages poorer. It is strange how changes in landscapes bias your expectations of people. When we arrived late at night into Aleppo's eerie old town, everything seemed foreign. It soon changed though, as we ventured into the labyrinths of the night with our cameras, and started photographing in coffee houses and dark alleys. In a matter of hours, we met Armenian shop owners, *nargile*-sipping Muslims, Iraqi Kurdish refugees and Jewish teenagers. Even more pronounced than in Hatay, people of all faiths and origins seemed to be able to get along in one of the world's oldest continually inhabited cities. Yet, one common aspect across all the people we met in Aleppo was their genuine fondness of Turkish people.

I have to say, this is something new for me. As you travel abroad and mention you are from Turkey, you don't usually get a warm reception (except maybe in Korea where we fought a meaningless war for them!). Yet, trade brings people together, and trading is in Syrians' genes. Many shop owners could speak Turkish, often accentuated by a sense of humor that goes deep into our cultures. (One shop owner had a sign that read, "Buy a present for your mother-in-law" – of course I did not need a sign to remind me to buy that present!). And the cultural parallels did not end at the approach to family values. We saw many Syrian teenagers preferring Turkish soap operas to Hollywood movies. Across from the citadel of Aleppo, when we talked to people watching "soaps" in cafes, their first words usually were, "Turkish girls are so hot". We agreed of course.

Although similarities between our cultures were apparent, sometimes Aleppo made us feel like we were in the Turkey of the 1930's. The authenticity of its ancient labyrinth-like bazaars makes Istanbul's Grand Bazaar look like Disneyland. You marvel in envy at the hospitality and sincerity of their tradesmen and wish sometimes that those values were better preserved in our own culture. There is, however, an undercurrent of repression that may be at the heart of all this. During the day, when bazaars were bustling with energy, I never felt there was a heavy-



Friendly and hospitable Aleppo residents are easy to find

handed government watch, despite many Assad posters adorning walls of shops. On the contrary, there seemed to be a genuine fondness of him. Yet, at night, when I wandered through the dark narrow alleys, there was a *V for Vendetta* feel about the place. Osman Abi had mentioned that Aleppo was perfectly safe as long as you keep out of trouble, but that once you were in it, you could forget about your rights.

Aleppo is (or was) a special place with special people living in peace with each other regardless of their origins.

The harmonious existence of many different faiths and cultures were visible in their mosques, churches and food;



Hatay's mayor wishes the city's Christians a Merry Christmas

although Bora may disagree with this after his kebab binge followed by *künefes* in Hatay led to some weight loss!

It is both sad and surprising for me to see the troubles in Syria. Having been to Aleppo and experienced the tolerance and peace there weeks before the events unfolded, I find it very difficult to believe what's happening there is not without external influences. Most of all, however, I am disappointed that the wonderful coming together of our two cultures was interrupted so brutally, against the wishes of residents of Hatay and Aleppo. I hope that the beautiful ancient city of Aleppo with its narrow alleys and mysterious houses won't be destroyed to rubble. After all, destroyed houses can be rebuilt, but lost neighbors may never be replaced. ■



Shop owner in Aleppo shows his sense of humor with a sign that says "Buy your mother-in-law a gift!"

Living and Learning a Whole New Way



It will be a social community, where people interact, get to know each other, study together, share experiences from different universities, network for jobs, and continue this network once they “graduate” from Republika.

When asked how the first reactions were he says, “Fantastic. We have received very positive reactions from the management of various universities. At the end of the day, no university really wants to focus on accommodation - they want to focus on teaching and research.”

Republika’s current capacity is 1300 students with about half in Ortaköy, and the other in Büyükçekmece. They intend to increase this figure to 4-5,000 students in the next 4-5 years.

To learn more about Republika Academic Apartments, go to:
www.republika.com.tr
info@republika.com.tr

An interesting enterprise in town, Republika Academic Apartments is an accommodation solution for undergraduate and graduate students, academicians, as well as young professionals. It aims to enhance the academic experience with a setting that provides an excellent environment for both studying and socializing.

Bilgili Holding, whose founder is Serdar Bilgili RC 81, cloned the idea from the United Kingdom, where there are a number of companies that create similar accommodation environments. Bilgili Holding hired the top executives of the biggest UK company as consultants in order to utilize their experience in this sector, which is brand new for Turkey. “We are, however, improving the product as we clone it” says the sales and marketing director of Bilgili Holding Onur Özgen RC 92. He adds, “So maybe

it is more appropriate to say that we are evolving it to the needs in Turkey. Serdar Bilgili, the visionary developer that he is, saw the gap in the market and decided to develop it here. The number of university students in Istanbul increased about three fold in the last decade, thanks largely to private universities, and while this happened, accommodation was not sufficiently addressed. Combine that with the fact that Istanbul is now becoming a higher education center for the region, and there is a huge demand that needs a solution. That’s what we aim to be.” Özgen says they plan to make Republika more than just a bunch of buildings.



Serdar Bilgili RC 81



Onur Özgen RC 92



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Changes in the Air

This is the third of five installments in the personal account of Betsy Göksel, former English teacher at ACG and RC.

Changes were in the air at the "Girls' School" when the 1963 school year began and were to continue throughout the sixties, growing in immensity. The school was poor; lack of money began to assert its claims. Though the ivy was as russet, the fall flowers as colorful, the campus was down to one gardener-Şükrü Efendi. Mrs. Sims retired to the US (her last cross words to me, spoken in the corridor in late August '63, were, "Ankara is no place to spend the summer," having heard through the campus gossip, which, with so many single women living in close proximity was always saucy, that I had indeed spent the summer in Ankara.

The new headmistress would be Dean Eleanor Romig, young for the position, inexperienced, unfortunate. Resident faculty would no longer be required to eat evening meals with the Lise boarders, but in the small faculty dining room. Also, no longer would new teachers be housed in Bingham Hall in tiny cell-like rooms, but in bland concrete apartments which had been built in the place of the dilapidated wooden buildings where old campus workers had lived their lifetimes. İrini and her aged father would be evicted and their dwelling renovated. Hard-hearted decisions were being made. Gradually the veils of gentility were being blown away in the winds of expedient change.



Betsy and Burcu Gürsel RC 94



Betsy Göksel in the Bingham English Office in the mid-seventies

This year I had become an "old" teacher - as blasé and self-confident to the new-comers as the resident faculty had seemed to me just a year before.

I was sharing an apartment with three of my old suite-mates in the charmingly decrepid Barton Hall, near the Plateau. As no repairs had been done to this 150-year-old *köşk* for years, it was a blatant fire hazard. No cooking was allowed in the building. Our floor had a large roomy kitchen, which we couldn't use, and a bathroom with stars on the dark-blue ceiling and a faraway view of the Bosphorous with its twinkling lights. A huge ancient Tree of Lebanon stood guard outside.

I faced another class of 20 darling little girls; this year I had advanced to the intermediate class of Special One. Again I can list each one in her seat and see

the rosy cheeks, the shy smiles, the long braids, the dark curls. One day in December I explained - in English of course - that I was going back to South Carolina during winter vacation to see my sick father. One by one the students began to sob. They thought I was leaving forever. I soon reassured them, telling them I was engaged to a Turkish man and would be here forever. Later at the end of that year I invited my class to my apartment in Barton Hall for a little party, and, full of enthusiasm at my own slowly growing knowledge of Turkish, suggested we speak Turkish together. "Oh, Miss Boatwright," they all giggled, "we couldn't speak Turkish with YOU." Such was the bond of language and love.

The first general faculty meeting set the tone for the year. In Mrs. Sims' time meetings had been organized and boringly efficient. This year they became unruly and unsettling. Among the new teachers - all women, as the Board had set - were two friends, a Chemistry teacher and a Psychology teacher, both in the *Lise*. They began even at this first meeting to question Dean Romig on petty parliamentary procedural points, causing her to become rattled and defensive. As the year progressed they would become more vocal and Dean Romig would become redder in the face and less in control. The climax came before the end of first semester. ■

To be continued...

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

Yatırım aracı olarak emlak...

Sizin kadar sahiplenecek
birinin yatırımlarınızda
danışmanlık yapmasına
ne dersiniz?

Yaşam alanı olarak emlak...

Sizin gibi hissedebilen
birinin arayışlarınıza yardım
etmesine ne dersiniz?

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

*Sizin gibi düşünebilen,
güvenebileceğiniz biri...*

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So, You Wanna Be a Rock 'n Roll Star...?

Bruce Springsteen didn't make me want to be a rock star; he convinced me I *could* be one.

By Andy Laraia, RC English Teacher

Bruce Springsteen's critical and commercial mega-hit *Born in the USA* was released in June of 1984. By December of that year, I was already trying to talk, act and dress just like him.

The video for the title track was released in December of 1984. I saw it in my friend's basement, where we played Dungeons and Dragons, making swords out of wood, and otherwise living in a fantasy world of knights, elves and wizards.

Dungeons and Dragons was dark, but it let me be something other than myself. Springsteen was different. There was a raw, emotional gut to *Born in the USA*, and Springsteen sang with an intensity that communicated believable passion. And it seemed he could change things with that passion.

Dungeons and Dragons was OK—but that video showed me that something much more real and urgent was going on in the world.

The video was concert footage of Springsteen cut in with images of 1980s America; a realistic slideshow of a country suffering the economic problems of the Reagan era. The image Springsteen was perfecting of the young man with a need to be heard placed me firmly in world that did not concern itself with dungeons or dragons anymore. Everyone has a catalyst for growing up; Springsteen was mine. His music told me to wake up—rock 'n' roll was deliverance. I had discovered something that spoke to me in a language I didn't necessarily comprehend—on a level I had not yet been introduced to—yet understood complexly. And the man in the white t-shirt and blue jeans, standing at a casual attention in front of the American flag was my patron saint.

I wore deep grooves into my vinyl copy of *Born in the USA*, and watched the video over and over again. Seeing the man on stage, in his ragged glory, struck me with an intensity unlike anything I had yet encountered.



There was a guy I could be, that probably wasn't that different from me. In the years since, it is that voice of the everyman he uses which has made Springsteen into a true legend. Why I chose to identify with him so personally has something to do with that sense of his shared standing with everyone else. You don't have to like his music to acknowledge he will remain a cultural American icon. If you do like his music, then that sense that you are listening to something of the greatness of rock and roll - music that will endure, because it speaks to the listener, like the greatest creative masterpieces do, of the mundane and the glorious business of our lives - is undeniable.

His music forms connections, like great art does, and like great artists, his power comes from not being an image or an idea, but being real. Given the talent, the voice, the vision, and probably the luck, Springsteen is, or could be, you. Me, actually.

I followed up *Born in the USA* with everything else he had recorded, with *The River* and *Nebraska* holding particular sway over my heart and imagination. "The Ties that Bind", the opening cut on *The River*, featured a 12-string guitar riff that rang out like a rifle shot, and when I first heard it, I ran downstairs with about \$60 I'd been saving and told my mother I was going to use it to buy a guitar.

Why I chose Springsteen to identify with, over countless other icons of childhood—sports stars, my own father—has something to do with electricity of hearing music, something I will always love. Yet I try not too hard to identify that quickening, that pulse, that music still sets off in me, for caution, that if by examining it, I will take away some of the power. Some things don't need to be understood to be known.

And I knew I could be just like him, and by the age of 13, I had a closet full of flannel shirts, had torn holes in my jeans, and was dropping Springsteen lines into conversation whenever I could. I was in 8th grade, but I was going to be a hard-soul poet if it killed me.

Springsteen and I diverge here. His mother bought him his first guitar and he played it non-stop, learning to "make it talk". His rock and roll dream was absolute; he literally never stopped pursuing it once he started. The irony is that for all that Springsteen's image speaks of him as the common man, he never really held a job, and when he was a starving artist, trying to make it in the New Jersey bar scene, he really was a starving artist. So add authentic to his list of saintly attributes.

Me? I never had the discipline, and while I babbled away on a guitar, I always let stupid things like ego and self-confidence keep me from really getting good. That and my interest in girls kicked in around the same time. Stupidly, I never put that age-old rock truism to use: that playing the guitar will get you girls. I guess I was afraid to work that hard. Or afraid of girls. Or both.

That's where my hero and I diverged. He worked at it, starved for a dream no matter the terms, despite the costs.

My life turned out different than I imagined, and to think I would even draw a comparison between myself and

Springsteen probably speaks to the delusions that drove me, might still be driving me, actually, rather than any kind of reality.

I'm 40 now; Springsteen's music still moves me in a way that little else does. I had a poster of Springsteen on my wall from sixth grade until I left for college, and I spent hours staring at that picture of him burning up the fret board on his iconic honey blonde Fender Telecaster. When I finally bought my own Fender Telecaster, the first song I played on it was his "Atlantic City". Seemed like a tribute.

Nowadays, I play in a band in Istanbul that gigs regularly. We have a video online, recorded an EP, have fans that come

and see us, and I complain about the late nights that come with the gigs. But, that's the extent of my connection to Bruce and the realization of my rock and roll fantasy. Some dreams fade, I guess. The key is replacing those dreams with more realistic ones.

Funny the places you end up: from a basement in suburbia, to being 40 and still dreaming with my headphones on, to feeling, in a small way, like maybe I did get part of my dream right, even if it didn't turn out exactly the way I thought. Making music is a gift; so is listening to it. But, then, it's also a gift to know what makes you happy and to keep hold of the magic that moved you, and still recognize it, even when it moves you in a different way.



Andy Laraia still plays his first guitar



Biz Türkiye'nin En Büyük Sağlık Marketiyiz.



Supporting Girls' Education through Mentoring

To anyone entering Mardin's Cerciş Murat Konağı restaurant on October 25, 2012, the two long tables with 30 girls aged 7 to 16 might have looked like a regular school outing. But it was actually the first meeting of students from the Payda Supporting Students Project (SSP), spearheaded by RC 79 grads Peri Holden and Aylin Tankut, and RC 97 grads Anıl Atılğan and Bora Tokyay. Each student at the table was chosen for her exceptional qualities, outstanding academic achievement, and determination to pursue education regardless of the obstacles, and is receiving financial, material and emotional support from Payda volunteers to help her stay in school.

Fifteen year-old Leyla, from the village of Kaynakkaya, travels 10 km of rugged country roads on the bus to attend Mehmet Kavak Lisesi. She is one of six children and the only girl from her village of 2,000 to attend high school. Hidden behind her quiet, shy demeanor and inquisitive green eyes is a strong will to go to university. Like many villages in this vulnerable area, terrorism is a constant concern, and the demands of family life create another hurdle. Leyla's mother complains that Leyla does not help enough with childcare, farm work, and housework - because of her schoolwork. Respectful yet determined, Leyla attempts to balance it all and knows that her dreams are only possible with a university education. Her story is representative of other girls in the program.



Payda Treasurer Anıl Atılğan RC 97



A Payda student with RC 79 alumni Aylin Tankut and Peri Holden

The students all share hopes and ambitions of becoming doctors, lawyers, teachers, police officers, politicians, and more. But nothing will come easy to them.

They all come from very poor households where attending school is a luxury. Their mothers are illiterate, and three have severely handicapped siblings. Having visited their homes and seen their circumstances, one cannot help but be inspired to do much more for them. This is why SSP's volunteer mentors are invaluable. Mentors provide emotional support, educational advice, and a window to other regions in Turkey through regular phone conversations and emails using SSP-provided laptops.

SSP came about at an RC 79 class dinner in April 2012, with the modest aim of sponsoring two students. Now 30 students strong, SSP is more than an educational funding project. Its aim is consistent with Payda's overall objective of bringing together groups within our society who have become distant from each other, to create an environment of greater mutual understanding and empathy. Payda's message to the girls is simple and sincere - "we are here for you".

Payda's projects allow multiple non-profits to collaborate. For SSP, Payda is collaborating with US-based A Chance Through Literacy (ACTL) and ÇATOMs (Multi-Purpose Community Centers)



Payda President Bora Tokyay RC 97

which are set up by the GAP Project to help educate and empower women. Payda connects the girls' mothers with ÇATOMs where they can learn to produce handicrafts which help earn money for their families.

"The goals of SSP fit seamlessly with the mission of ACTL: to help women and children in war-torn and poverty-stricken areas gain access to quality educational experiences," explains RC teacher and ACTL Board Chairwoman Janelle Bondor. "Grants have been awarded to young women in Kenya, Indonesia, China, Ethiopia and now, in Turkey." The two groups were brought together through the RC Community Involvement Project office.

How you can help

Sponsor a student by covering their expenses for one academic year

Provide a one-time donation which goes towards additional expenses such as transportation fees, university preparatory courses and supplemental books.

Volunteer as a student mentor, one of the most valuable aspects of the SSP project.

Purchase handicrafts made at the ÇATOMs, which are available at RC Kermeses, at festivals throughout Turkey and online.

For more information visit www.paydaplatformu.org or e-mail: ogrencilerle@paydaplatformu.org
Learn more about ACTL at www.achancethroughliteracy.org

A Venue for Young Voices from Eastern and Western Turkey

Tahayyül ve Karşılaşmalar Arasında: Diyarbakırlı ve Muğlalı Gençler Anlatıyor (*Between Imaginaries & Encounters: Young People from Diyarbakır and Muğla Speak*) is a website prepared by an interdisciplinary team directed by Sabancı University Faculty Member Leyla Neyzi RC 78. It includes selections of past memories, life experiences, future aspirations, and perceptions and interpretations concerning Turkey's current agenda, from 22 young people with origins in two Turkish provinces.

"Although young people constitute the majority of the population, there are few studies about youth in Turkey. This study attempts to bridge this gap by conducting research using ethnographic and oral history methodologies to create trust and a space within which young people can develop their own narratives, tell their life stories, and speak about their everyday lives and concerns in the way that they choose," says Neyzi.

The main subject of this project is youth in Turkey who are positioned to determine the country's future, but remain constrained by adult society and

are insufficiently able to make their voices heard. Oral history, which conventionally focuses on elderly witnesses to historical events, is used in this project to learn more about youth. This stems from a growing realization of the importance of post memory, which concerns knowledge of the past based on diverse sources such as intergenerational transmission and the media, in addition to direct experience.

One of the goals of the project is to share the oral history interviews with a wide audience in Turkey.

Oral history is an important tool in the expansion of civil society. It is based on the premise that ordinary people are the agents of history and that it is critical to take ordinary people's representations and narratives concerning the past seriously.

"For a comparative approach to young people, and taking into account the growing perceptual divide and conflicts between east and west that are high on the agenda in Turkey today, we chose a province in eastern Turkey (Diyarbakır) and a province in western Turkey (Muğla), interviewing young women and men mostly in their twenties from different social classes and cultural identities in urban and rural settings. In addition, we spoke to young women and men with origins in Diyarbakır and Muğla in a transnational metropolis (Berlin). We conducted of 200 interviews with 100 individuals," Neyzi mentions.

In addition to the website, the exhibition, *Between Imaginaries and Encounters: Young People from Diyarbakır and*



Leyla Neyzi RC 78

Muğla Speak is at the Hamursuz Fırını in Galata, Istanbul between November 30 and December 29, 2012. Exhibition events include a panel with some of the people interviewed for the project, and the launch of the project book. Designed by the project team, the book, which will include visuals, aims to make the voices of young people reach a wide readership.

For further information visit
www.genclerlanlatiyor.org

Between
Imaginaries
&
Encounters

HOMECOMING'12

They say a picture is worth a thousand words...



Hugging friends was the theme of the day at Homecoming 2012, held on Sunday, November 4.

The "Look Who's Here?" wall at the start of Homecoming 2012 and then at the end of the day. This was a good wall to see... well what else, who showed up at Homecoming! If you were there but did not sign make sure you don't miss it next year.



Melike Bayazit RC 76 and Ayşen Keskin Zamanpur RC 76 enjoying the Homecoming crowd on the steps of Marble Hall.



The Class of 62, celebrating their 50th reunion showed up in full force. Over 80 class members, the biggest number celebrating their 50th to date, made up a large part of the Homecoming celebrations.





Nuri Çolakoğlu, RA 62 was one of the architects of the 50th year celebrations. The final moments of the Homecoming assembly had him singing the boys "Alma Mater", accompanying Mehmet Baler RC 51 who performed solo on stage.



Youngest RC alumni Beren, Beril and friends from the Class of 2012.



Homecoming would not be as special without our teachers! Aydın Urgan, Yıldız Düzköylü, Gülhiz Yüksek and Ayşe Güven catch up with each other and salute all former students at the assembly.



Varak Pogaryan RC 42 was the oldest alumnus present at Homecoming.



The oldest alumna present at Homecoming was Nimet Erenli ACG 43. Her son, daughter, son-in-law and grand-daughter are also RC graduates.



Melahat Kınöğlu represented ACG 44 at the assembly. She received applause when Headmaster Anthony Jones announced that her cookbook, *Bir Ömür Bir Tutam Lezzet* was being sold with all proceeds to benefit a scholarship for a female student.



The RC Orchestra gave a brilliant performance during Homecoming.



Many decades of grads catch up with friends outside of Marble Hall.



The younger classes fill up the balcony of the theater during the assembly hour.



The registration process in Marble Hall ran smoothly thanks to student volunteers.

Class of ACG '62 WELCOME!



Five Decades of "Together"

The Class of ACG 62 celebrated its 50th graduation anniversary with a series of colorful events throughout the year. The "girls", as they still prefer to call themselves, stand testimony to the solidarity and class spirit that our nearly 150 year-old alma mater advocates.

Members of ACG 62 are known for their dedication to each other and genuinely enjoy spending time as a group. In fact, on their 25th reunion, they blazed a trail for other years by initiating the tradition of staying overnight at the dorms as part of their reunion festivities. Fueled by the thrill of having reached their 50th year together, they were even more eager to participate in the series of events organized in celebration of this important milestone.

These events included a series of trips throughout the year. The first stop was the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. A group of 28 class members from Istanbul, Ankara, the U.S., and even Cyprus visited Lakota and other parts of the island, wined and dined throughout the trip, and mused over their time together at school amidst lots of laughter and some inevitable tears!

Next on the map was Konya. This time 30 of us visited Rumi's tomb and several museums and then sampled the local delicacies before heading off to Eğirdir, Isparta, for some R&R. Graciously

accommodated at the house of Ayşegül Yürekli Şengör RC 85, the daughter of class member Dilek Erim Yürekli, the "girls" had the unique opportunity to observe a rose harvest, visit a rose oil factory, and roll in beds of rose petals—a great treat for both the skin and the spirit!

Finally, as a third destination, a smaller group of 12 flew to İzmir and headed to Alaçatı, where they enjoyed the end of summer at the lovely Port Alaçatı hotel owned by class member Gülçin Soyak Mutlu and her husband Aykut.

Last but not least, the class members marked their five decades together with a Gala Dinner after the Homecoming festivities on November 4.

In my opinion, the bonds of friendship formed in early adolescence are unique. As people grow older and wiser, they

make new friendships, reach out to new horizons and seek different venues. Yet, the innocence of youth and the formation of those first memories together compare to little else. The ease of not having to pretend, not having to explain oneself keeps people close despite the passing of years without actual contact. Five decades is a very long time and we are lucky to maintain this bond and build upon it after half a century!

Yes, as the Class of ACG 62, we enjoyed a wonderful reunion year. We reminisced about the old days, strengthened our present bonds and vowed to stay close together in the future.

Thanks for all the memories!

**Contributed by Gürsan Cümbüş Şeyhun
ACG 62**



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47 yıldır...

A Special Time for All at the 50th Year Celebrations



RA 62 in conversation



RA 62 still swinging after all these years

RA 62 classmates came from all over the world... Demir Bükey from Australia, Haldun Taşman, Semih Şinik, Noyan Tanberk, Koray Sürsal and Nuri Akgerman from the USA, İlkin Esen from Kuwait, Cengiz Ertuna from Singapore, Abdullah Postacıoğlu from Switzerland and many others from all over Turkey.

The group of over 90 people also included spouses and all classmates who had studied with them at some point between 1954 and 1962. In honor of this special anniversary the celebration was a weekend affair held at the Saklıköy complex in Polonezköy, İstanbul. Because many had not seen each other for years, name tags were needed in order to recognize who was who. The first afternoon together was spent among shouts of surprise, astonishment and hugs as well as conversations on the veranda and poolside.

The main surprise was no doubt Reflections 2012, an updated special edition of Reflections 1962, the yearbook of the time.

The editorial team made up of Nuri Çolakoğlu, Nutki and Günseli Aksoy, Nuri Yıldırım and Ömer Bilgin worked like social archeologists. They put together photos and write-ups taken from the Reflections of 1954 through 1962 of all their classmates and added present day photos of each and every family. Not only that, they used very persuasive methods to gather updated information on what everyone had been up to since graduation. All the hard work paid off as the end result helped everyone catch up with each other's lives.

The catching up continued over cocktails and dinner. A moment of silence was observed for those not among us

anymore followed by a documentary on Hüsni Onaran, our concert pianist classmate who passed away in New York the past year. Nostalgia was on full blast with Beatles songs and dancing. Sunday noon was the time to say goodbye for now with hopes of other celebrations for the 55th and 60th anniversaries.

On a special note: The Class of 62 has teamed up to lend support to Robert College's Community Involvement Project (CIP) by creating a special fund. Two classmates made leading gifts of \$5,000 each and contributions by other class members continue to come. This is truly a wonderful way to celebrate; by supporting a worthy cause at our alma mater.

Contributed by Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62



Once in Forty Years

The class of RC 72 is special as they were the first co-ed class to graduate after the merger. They became much closer after their 30th reunion, thanks to technology. With the help of their Yahoo group, they communicate more and meet regularly. However, Yahoo group or not, they always hold a reunion every 5 years. The 35th was "Once in a Blue Moon" as it was on the night of the blue moon in June 2007. The 40th Reunion, held on June 16, 2012, was "Once in 40 Years" and was at the Legend Hotel in Cumhuriyet Köyü near Polonezköy.

The organization committee made up of Oğuz Peker, Nesliğül Demirer Doğançay, Melek Yaşar, Zeynep Gençsoy Sohtorik and Perihan Karatay met almost every week for three to four months to make the event a memorable one.

Banu Tansuğ joined the group at a later stage but worked very hard as the artistic advisor. She designed the coffee cups and bags with the 40th year theme which were distributed at the registration desk. The majority of the class was from Istanbul but it was an extra pleasure to see many friends from abroad, and also a big surprise to see some friends for the first time in 40 years. Vartan Paylan and his wife came from the US. Sinan and Fatma Ergene Cebenoyan, who live in New York, changed their travel plans to be able to attend. Zeynep Tus Schleicher and Şermin Üren Vanderbilt travelled from the US. Elian Arditti Koronel, from Tel Aviv, made it at the last minute. Saadet Borar Toker didn't miss the chance to be with classmates again either and came from London. Ömer Egecioğlu, who normally lives in Santa Barbara, came from Stockholm where he was on a sabbatical this past year.



Class of RC 72

Another group of classmates, Ruşen Eref Yazgan, Müjdat Tohumcu, Mustafa Dağdelen and his wife, Elife Ünal, Perihan Uzdil, Hasan-Nihal Aktaş, Gülten Özveri and Kadir Ateşok came from other cities in Turkey.

Almost everyone was surprised to see Gülşen Gürbüz for the first time in 40 years. Another surprise was Ayla Danon, a classmate from *Orta* who didn't graduate the same year, who came from the US with her daughter.

Even though her daughter had her appendix removed that day, Oya Idemen was still able to make it.

The venue was a relaxed one where classmates could meet, talk and share stories and photos of their lives and families.

Everyone was a photographer that evening but the group photograph

was taken by Ismail Turfanda with his professional camera followed by Oğuz Peker's humorous speech at the pool bar. The gala dinner was held in the garden, followed by "*sucuk-ekmek*" served by the fire. Lizet gave a short but memorable concert accompanied by the hotel's guitarist.

Everybody was happy to see each other and want to meet again for their 41st reunion which will be called "*41 Kere Maşallah*".

On a sad note: Renin Eczacıbaşı, despite feeling tired after a serious illness, was also able to join us for cocktails and dinner that evening. Unfortunately, she passed away in September, three months later. The Class of '72 is saddened by their loss.

Contributed by Nesliğül Demirer Doğançay RC 72



Though the majority of the class is from Istanbul, many classmates came from abroad to join in the festivities.

Thirty Years Later RC 82

Here I was - granted a little overweight - but in my prime. I leaned back by the tennis courts and took a look at the majestic, old but beautiful building. As I was trying to take a good look at it through the trees, I saw them.

They were wearing old people clothes. They had old people bodies. Some were fat, some were bald. Walking towards them I heard old people voices laughing at each other's old people jokes. How inappropriate! Who do these people think they are? Teenagers? These people are at the same age as my parents. These people should be world leaders, politicians, CEO's, surgeons... But for that moment, they were exactly like when they were students. Would I and my buddies ever be or act like them? Oh, who cares, I am young, and don't have time to think about stuff like this.

And then it happened.

All of a sudden, I realized it was exactly 30 years ago. It was my 30th reunion. I have - along with all my friends - become "them". And I did not care.

First, a small group of us met on the Plateau. It was hot. One of us, whose name shall remain anonymous, brought some Bloody Marys. In this heat, it was a very interesting moment for me in which I was torn between greeting friends I had not seen for a while and the magnificent view of the Bosphorus spreading as glorious as always in front me.

We paid a visit to the buildings and classrooms where we started to become who we are today. In our former chemistry lab, we could practically hear the instructions for the next experiment. We all agreed it was a good thing that the days of chemistry labs were behind us.

We then gathered around the steps of Gould Hall. Every time I see this building, I am amazed at how magnificent it is. Over drinks and dinner it was pretty apparent that we were enjoying each other's company by bringing up old stories. I could not believe how many extraordinary stories we had; no wonder the Class of '82 had become a phenomenon.

As the night progressed and the music got louder and the dancing started there was

not one single soul who was not smiling, laughing or singing. These people were our dear friends who knew us from when we were little kids; the people we grew up with.

We reminisced about our friends who departed this world and then proceeded to talk about other friends who could not join us that night. I guess it was a good thing I was not among them.

On leaving the campus in the late hours of the night, several thoughts accompanied me. I considered myself privileged to be an alumnus of this great institution; especially after realizing what we had achieved with our lives. Another thought that hit me was that although we were approaching our fifties faster than we realized, when together, we were still those innocent little kids, full of hope and mischief and pranks.

Yes, we were one of them. We were one of those people who visited our school once every decade. But not today, not tonight.

Contributed by Can Altıkulaç RC 82



Class of 82 on the steps of Gould Hall, where it all began

The Class of 92

20 Years On "Ain't No Pipe!"

The Class of 92 always did know how to have a good time



from L to R: Funda Soysal, Sinan Kadayıfçı, Koral Akman, Bora Tekay, Görkem Işık, Uluç Ayık and İklim Türkoğlu Viol

It is hard to capture the innocence and joy of a reunion with former classmates. The bond runs deep; you pick up easily with one another as if the years had not intervened. Jobs, responsibilities, parenthood - all those adult identities peel away instantly in the light of a natural love and affection you have for people with whom you shared your formative years.

Many thanks to class reps Bora Samman and Onur Özgen for their seamless and thoughtful organization of this beautiful weekend in June.



From L to R: Mete Önal, Duygu Alptekin, Coşkun Baban, Didem Gürbey, Kaan Kural, Selim Sanver and Ali İnan in the front center



From L to R: Çiğdem Alkanç Kaplangı, Burcu Gürkan Marshall, Sibel Kutman Oral, Merve Berkant Tezel and Emine Fetvaci

The "Nerotik" Phenomenon

An RC 85 Classic

By Şirin Tekinay RC 85



Think of a childhood friend you haven't seen for years, one you shared those complicated, fun, crazy years of growing up with. Imagine the conversation you'd have if you run into them: "How long has it been? So where do you live now? Wow, you haven't changed a bit! I'm on Facebook. Email me. We should definitely get together ..." Then you'd part, and contacting that old friend rapidly loses priority to other aspects of life.

In recent years, we came to trust our social lives to social networks. But why aren't our evenings filled with long leisurely dinner conversations with friends like in the old times? I am lucky that way. I am sharing my daily life with a group of my middle and high school friends that I shared those enjoyable but difficult years of growing up. So how did we break the mold?

We, the RC 85s, were already a tight knit bunch; maybe because until we made it

to seventh grade, there was blood shed outside our gorgeous campus so maybe we were all children taking refuge in a slice of heaven. Or maybe it's because we were exposed, together, at an early age, to American culture that was presented to us in a smiley faced way.

We can come up with many more retrospective analyses but none of them will fully explain the Nerotik Phenomenon.

Early in 2010, four RC 85s, "Vik," "Ataman," "Can Baba" and "Edo" started meeting on Thursdays 7:30 - 8:30 am at Caffé Nero in Bebek. Then the rest of us started to frequent the meetings, and almost instantly became regulars. As a respectful nod to our meeting place, and a reference to our sweet madness, we named our group "Nerotik." Nerotiks

update all others on "nerotik yahoogroup" when they are at a café or restaurant, referring to Caffé Nero in Bebek as "the basecamp." These emails serve as invitations to nearby Nerotiks who might be available for a spontaneous coffee break.

Our enjoyment of "Nerotism" has spilled over to evenings, at Asmalı Mescit or at the homes of our legendary hostesses, Gülden Akdemir, Teri Tamfranko, Nazan Akman and Didem Muslu, who opened their beautiful homes and their even more beautiful hearts to RC 85. Another tradition we have adopted is celebrating Istanbul visits with our friends who live abroad.

Just one word from Ataman and eighteen of us packed up to spend a weekend in Amsterdam for forty eight hours of nonstop laughter.

Here, there is none of the groupings or polarizations there might have been in high school. We are getting to know each other as we are today, but through the unprejudiced eyes of the children we still are. It is as if life has given us the gifts of our friendships all over again. We are cuddled up in the friendships and care about each other's health and happiness, and run to meet each other's needs.

To be a Nerotik is to attend Thursday mornings enough times to not be considered a guest. Non-RC 85 alumni became regulars on Thursday mornings; in fact, they are welcome guests of honor.

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Aydan Baktır RC 77

From Painting to Helping Women Prosper

Aydan Baktır had a successful career in communications, but she always felt she had a lot more to say and do.

She always knew she was born lucky and she appreciated her life, the family she was born into, and the chances she was given. This feeling of appreciation brought responsibility. She decided to do something that touched others' lives, something permanent and consistent. Ten years ago, she became a part of an organization that was planning to work on the inequalities between men and women of Turkey in the business world. Together with 29 other businesswomen, in the steps of TÜSIAD's (Turkish Industry & Business Association) gender inequality commission, she founded KAGİDER (Türkiye Kadın Girişimcileri Derneği - Women Entrepreneurs Association of Turkey). KAGİDER is a non-profit non-governmental organization which has approximately 250 members.

"In Turkey and everywhere else, one has to have a political presence to express oneself. When your presence doesn't have political representation, civil society becomes your only chance," says Baktır, describing why she became a part of this organization.

She adds "I always believed in and supported women's entrepreneurship in

Turkey. It has developed and will keep developing. At KAGİDER we use funds provided by prominent institutions and the European Union to initiate and develop projects that prompt women's entrepreneurship. For instance, with the support of the World Bank and help from certain companies, we created a certification program called FEM (*Fırsat Eşitliği Modeli* - Model of Equality of Opportunity). This certificate is to prove that a company adopts the model of equality of opportunity in principal. The more companies try to get this certificate, the more equality of opportunity is provided in business life in Turkey. Another project was the *Genç KAGİDER Projesi* (Young KAGİDER Project) which we coordinated with JP Morgan Chase Foundation. This was a study to prompt youth entrepreneurship. Thanks to the meetings organized as part of the program, college students found the opportunity to meet with pacemakers. KAGİDER now has 300 members and 30 ongoing projects."

Painting Dreams

Not only does Aydan Baktır have a successful advertising agency, Ring. She is also an artist and graduated from Mimar Sinan University, Academy of Fine Arts. Her first exhibition was in Ankara in 1992 and she has had many more since. Combining her talent with her business knowledge for a social responsibility project, she teamed up with a woman's clothing store and created a collection with her paintings reproduced on the clothes. Proceeds from the collection benefit KAGİDER.



Aydan Baktır RC 77

Baktır says "With this project we were able to point out the importance of solidarity. It is the first of its kind, and similar projects have already started to come to life."

Baktır underlines that she gained the discipline of shouldering responsibility during her high school days. "At RC our greatest dream was to work to make the world more caring, more humane and to make it better. The main reason of our existence was to be beneficial for society. Everything I do has this philosophy behind it. Art is the tool I choose."



One of Baktır's paintings reproduced on a dress



Baktır (left) speaking at a KAGİDER conference

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**Başvurular
devam
ediyor.**



Aslı Tunçbilek RC 08

Aslı and İlker Sözdinler tied the knot in Istanbul on August 24, 2012. The wedding ceremony, held at the Four Seasons Hotel, was a mini reunion of sorts with many classmates in attendance. The couple traveled to the US for their honeymoon and then settled in Istanbul to continue their respective careers.

Aslı, who completed two majors at Koç University, Industrial Engineering and Economics, presently works in the corporate finance division of PricewaterhouseCoopers. İlker on the other hand, graduated from Penn State University, and is a managing partner of Birleşik Ödeme Sistemleri and NGN.



Aylin Çalışkan İslam RC 04

Aylin Çalışkan and Seha İslam met while getting their bachelor's degrees in Information Systems Engineering at Binghamton University and became close friends. Aylin went on to get her master's degree in Robotics from the University of Pennsylvania while Seha worked as a financial consultant in New York City. This led to an enormous amount of roundtrip New York - Philadelphia tickets.

At present Aylin is pursuing her PhD degree in Computer Science at Drexel University with an amazing advisor

while Seha is still working as a financial consultant at Ernst & Young. The couple tied the knot on a magical September 2012 evening in Istanbul with many RC alumni and faculty present. They live happily in Princeton where one commutes to Manhattan every day while the other goes to Philly.

Aylin would like to get in touch with RC alumni and she can be reached at aylinaliskanislam@gmail.com



Zeynep Özkartal RC 97

Zeynep Özkartal RC 97 got married to Orkun Soylu on September 19, 2012. They were introduced by a friend two years ago, at a Mimar Sinan University party where Zeynep got her undergraduate degree.

After graduating from university in 2002, she continued her education at Koç University and completed her MBA degree in 2004. She now works at Blab İstanbul Advertising Agency as an account director.

Her husband, Orkun Soylu is an Austrian High School 1994 graduate, who got his undergraduate degree from Marmara University in Management Information Systems in 1998. He now works for Barilla as an IT Cluster Manager for MEA & Turkey.



İtir Güvenç Müngen RC 03

İtir and Berkin met at a friend's birthday party in London in May 2009. Berkin hassled all of İtir's friends for her phone number and eventually succeeded! They have been inseparable ever since their first date.

Berkin arranged a trip to the US in August 2011 with the pretense of helping his brother move and asked İtir to meet him in Miami. When she arrived, she was surprised that Berkin had already booked dinner. After a romantic meal, Berkin took her hands into his, looked her in the eyes and asked, "Ms. İtir Güvenç, will you do me the honor of becoming my wife?"

After the formalities of *kız isteme*, the party prep started! İtir and her



bachelorette crew (including Yasemin Kural RC 03, Fulya Kardaşlar RC 03, Deniz Oran RC 03) went to Mykonos, while Berkin and his buddies (including Egemen Edgu RC 97, Pirgun Akinal RC 99, Berke Biricik RC 00, and Osman Can Ongun RC 01) went to Hvar & Split.

For the big day on June 23, 2012, İtir and Berkin shared their happiness with family and friends at Çubuklu 29 in Istanbul. After a very relaxing honeymoon in the Maldives, İtir and Berkin returned to London, where she works at Morgan Stanley Markets and he works at Unicredit Principal Investments.



Doruk Kadioğlu RC 01

Doruk and Şanda Alpaslan got married on July 21, 2012 and are now settled in Istanbul after Doruk spent 10 years living and working in the US. He completed a BFA in computer animation at the Ringling School of Animation in Florida and then worked at K2 Network, an online game company in Los Angeles. At present, Doruk is the product manager of the Istanbul branch of Riot Games, a company based in LA.

Zeynep Ülker RC 2000 - Sinan Gümrükçüoğlu RC 97

Another pure RC couple getting married might not be such big news, however, having their love blossom at Homecoming is a rare event.

In 1997 Zeynep was finishing Orta, when Sinan was already a senior, so it was perfectly natural that they barely knew each other's names, until they met in Alaçatı 12 years later. Although Sinan had to return to work abroad after a couple of days, the interest they had for each other was not going to be lost.

Fate played its role; Sinan's sudden decision to come back for good was great news for Zeynep when he told her about it at Homecoming. Sinan started practicing architecture in Istanbul, while Zeynep was

working at Einhell İntratek A.S. and simultaneously doing her Masters degree in Financial Engineering at Boğaziçi University.

Almost a year later they were off to Paris to celebrate Sinan's birthday when he pulled the ring out of his pocket to pop the question on a Sunday morning in Jardin de Luxembourg. On July 5, 2012, with joy written all over their faces, Zeynep and Sinan got married at Moda Deniz Kulübü.

If you'd like to contact them, their email addresses are: Zeynep: zeynepulker1@gmail.com Sinan: sinan@tsg-arch.com



Emir Kefelioğlu RC 97

Emir Kefelioğlu and Selin Varon tied the knot on August 5, 2012 among friends and family at Fransız Bahçeleri in Tarabya, Istanbul. The couple met eight and a half years ago at Babylon through a mutual friend.

After RC, Emir studied business management at Koç University. Selin graduated from Marmara University where she studied econometrics. Emir is currently the regional manager for the Middle East at Donaldson Company, Inc., and Selin is the television advertising sales director at Kanaltürk.



Burcu Özüpak Güleç RC 96

Burcu Özüpak Güleç and Ali Güleç were married in 2008 and recently welcomed the first addition to their family. Their daughter Rüzgar was born on October 23, 2012, measuring 50 cm and weighing a little over 3 kg.

Burcu Saraçoğlu Berent RC 96 Selim Berent RC 94

Burcu Saraçoğlu Berent and Selim Berent, who have been married since 2006, had their first child. Baby Eda Berent was born on September 24th, 2012. She was 50 cm and weighed 3.4 kg.



Selin Küçükoğlu Şimşek RC 99

Arda Fuat Şimşek was born on March 21, 2012, in Washington, DC, with a full head of hair that still makes everyone jealous. Joyous parents Selin Küçükoğlu Şimşek RC 99 and her husband Ergün Şimşek announced the new addition to their family to their family and friends minutes after his birth. At their DC home Arda Fuat welcomed his mother's friends from RC, Sait Kurşuncu RC 99, Onur Okutur RC 99, Bahadır Balban RC 2000, Melis Yılmaz RC 04 and Mine Özgül RC 01, who gathered to celebrate his arrival.

Selin and Ergün met at Duke University, Durham, NC, while doing their graduate studies. After six years of courtship, and a return to Turkey in 2008, they got married in Bursa on July 11th, 2009. In 2011 the winds changed direction and they found themselves moving to a new home in DC. Selin, a professional in payment cards, currently enjoys being a full-time mom. Ergün is a professor in Electrical Engineering at the George Washington University and a full-time dad. Arda Fuat, continues discovering a new way to be impish every day.





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Okan Atilla RC 90

Yelda and Okan Atilla's second child and first baby girl, Irmak, was born on June 28, 2012. She was 51 cm tall and weighed 3,160 grams. Irmak was very happy to meet older brother Sinan, who is looking forward to talking to his sister soon.



Eda Yıldırım Büyükkayalı RC 95

Eda Yıldırım Büyükkayalı RC 95 and Deniz Polat Skidmore, her friend and colleague of 9 years, started a partnership in April 2012 called ActioLegal Turkish Law Consultancy.

Eda lives in London while Deniz is in Datça and they both travel as work requires. The third member of their team, Mr. Erdoğan Yıldırım, works from the main Istanbul office. The team is connected to international and local law firms in Europe and Turkey, facilitating the delivery of legal services to Turkey-related matters.

Eda and Deniz believe that happy lawyers lead to happy clients and one way of achieving this is to not sacrifice work/life balance while pursuing career goals. Their shared beliefs in work ethics and discipline convinced them that the team could work seamlessly despite being



Eda Yıldırım Büyükkayalı RC 95

located in different cities and countries. "Big firm lawyers cannot possibly continue practicing in the orthodox way they have been practicing for the past several years; it simply isn't a good long-term strategy," notes Eda. "Contrary to what some might believe, lawyers interested in work/life balance aren't afraid of hard work; they're simply looking for better ways to incorporate both the personal and the professional into their lives in a meaningful way."

The team's judicious use of technology enables them to work efficiently, and provide professional and high-quality service to their clients without a big law firm's onerous costs. Eda says that her RC experience always prompted her to seek innovative ways of doing business and her recent venture is a good example of this.

Eser Gürocak RC 74

Eser Gürocak celebrated the 10th anniversary of the founding of her company EG Consulting with an exhibition in September 2012.

This private exhibition, entitled *Papillon* (Butterfly), was composed of her paintings which she says express the



Eser Gürocak RC 74 far left, with her sons Efe, Ege and her husband Can

colors of her inner world. "The written word cannot keep up with the speed of my thoughts," she said, "whereas my fingers make paint brushes dance and I have the freedom to put my thoughts on the canvas. This makes me happy. My paintings have the ability to reflect my inner world; my happiness, fears, worries and hopes in a sincere way that relaxes me."

After RC, Eser graduated from Boğaziçi University in Business Administration in 1978. She started her professional career at Koç Holding as a management trainee in 1979 and was promoted to human resources coordinator in 1982. As the coordinator of 100 companies and 16,000 employees, Eser executed fundamental human resources operations like

recruitment, remuneration, performance management and succession planning as well as directing the coordination of human resources processes between the headquarter and the Holding companies.

In 2002 Eser founded her own company, EG Consultancy, and she continues to be its General Manager. The company specializes in staffing and human resources management.

Its core business is dealing with executive search and selection while also providing middle management recruitment and entry-level staffing.

Eser is married and is a mother to two children.

Meral Bolak Gürol RC 81



After RC, Meral studied English Literature at Boğaziçi University where she received her undergraduate degree with honors in 1985. Upon the recommendation of her professors she was granted a full scholarship by Southern Illinois University at Carbondale where she received her MA in English Literature and went on to work on her PhD at the same school and department. As part of her scholarship

package, she was employed as a teaching assistant in the English department during her four years at SIU.

After completing her studies and returning home to Istanbul, she decided to pursue a career in what she loves most - education! Recently, she has combined her interest in this field with counseling students who plan to study abroad after high school. She has worked with the UCLA Extension program for college counseling, and has been collaborating with TIPPS (Turkish International Prep Schools) on several projects. Founded in 1998 by Tamer Gürsoy RC 77, TIPPS offers each student top-notch personalized assistance in choosing foreign universities, preparing for entrance exams, and dealing with the college application process as a whole.

Meral finds it immensely rewarding to be working in college counseling - a fascinating area that allows her both

to indulge in her lifelong passions of reading, writing and learning, and also to share those passions by teaching others. Through education, she has the satisfaction of observing and being inspired by young minds on a daily basis as they, in turn, are inspired by her contributions. It is a source of joy for her to be able to help students achieve their full potentials with her support.

Over the years, Meral has also taught at various universities in Istanbul, including her own alma mater, BU. She has been a part of various creative writing projects, and her travel articles appear regularly in an online publication.

Meral lives in Etiler, Istanbul with her husband Işık. Outside of education, her biggest interests in life continue to be literature, music, art, and travel.

Hale Güngör RC 2000

Hale Güngör, who continues to live and work in Stockholm, Sweden, is preparing for her new solo exhibition, to take place in March 2013 at PG Art Gallery in Istanbul.

After RC, Hale moved to Paris to study fine arts at Parsons School of Design. In 2004, she returned to Istanbul where she established her own studio (not far from RC in Arnavutköy) and started exhibiting internationally. She hit the road once again to focus on painting at Pratt Institute in New York in 2008 before relocating to Stockholm in 2010. She is now a member of Platform Stockholm, where she has her studio and is just about to get her master's degree from the Swedish art academy, Konstfack.

"Whether living or inanimate, elements in Hale Güngör's paintings are more than often where they do not belong. Through the use of physical and intellectual



collage, she queries ease and disturbance in the cultural sense while using the space in between reason and oddity as a guideline."

Having spent about half of her lifetime outside her home country and not speaking her mother tongue; the questioning of belonging versus

alienation, as well as the concern of how to reconstitute a home have come to surface in Hale's paintings. In the last few years, she has been focusing on the concept of the "shell of a home" and dislocation in an attempt to channel the mind of a migrant through her work.

Hale has had solo exhibitions in Istanbul, Paris, New York City and Stockholm, and she has participated in numerous international group shows. Since spring 2012, she has been represented by PG Art Gallery in Tophane and exhibited with them at *Contemporary Istanbul* in November 2012.

For more information about the artist and her works, please visit: www.halegungor.com

Pinar Bilgiç RC 08

Pinar is a graduate of Boğaziçi University Computer Engineering and in December 2009, she joined Social Entrepreneurs Young Leaders Academy (SOGLA) as a member of the Founding Board and, whenever possible, committed her time and energy to entrepreneurship and social work. SOGLA's vision of developing sustainable systems that ensure social transformation with professional coaching and personal development systems has become one her priorities.

Under the roof of SOGLA, Pinar served as the leader of the social entrepreneurship *Hayatımın Lideriyim* (I Am the Leader of My Life) that organizes personal development seminars and life coaching sessions for high school and university students in Istanbul. All members of her team have become professional peer to peer life coaches and have served around 120 young people. As the team leader,

Pinar gave four personal development seminars at various vocational high schools and a motivational speech during the SOGLA Social Entrepreneurship Conference in 2010, to 550 people consisting of students, professors and professionals from NGOs. She describes this as one of the most challenging but enjoyable events in her life. Last summer, she studied social entrepreneurship and leadership at the University of Texas, with a US State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs scholarship and had the chance to enhance her knowledge on social business with a global perspective.

While continuing her efforts to spread the concept of social entrepreneurship, Pinar is determined to generate a disruptive social media idea. As a result, in September 2011, she founded wish-let.com with two of her classmates from Boğaziçi. "Making



a wish is a natural consequence of our culture. Whether it is the fortune cookie in the Far East or the wish tree in Islamic nations, we are surrounded by wishes. As <http://www.wish-let.com>, we are carrying the wish culture to an online platform. Wish-let is the new wish ritual," says Pinar. They now have around 4,000 users and are working passionately to expand Wish-let to new customer segments.

Derya Erdemli RC 03



Derya with her partner Andrei Kazlouski at New York City Ball, May 2012

Derya Erdemli RC 03 lives in Manhattan, and like many fellow RC alumni, works on Wall Street as an equity research analyst at JP Morgan. After her usual 12-hour work day that begins at 6am, she starts

the second half of her day ballroom dancing, which she calls her "second job". She pursues ballroom dancing with a lot of passion and discipline, training every day, usually 3-4 hours at a time. "Competitive ballroom dancing is as important to me as my career," she says.

She started dancing only a few years ago in New York, and danced her way from the beginner level up to being an "open gold" competitor, the most challenging level among ballroom categories. Her specialty is the five Latin dances: *cha-cha*, *samba*, *rumba*, *paso doble* and *jive*. She finds dancing is a great way to balance her life explaining, "When you step on to the dance floor, everything else in life goes away."

Derya says it takes a lot of mental and physical discipline to practice for a competition and adds, "Work might have been intense, you may have had a bad day, you might be sleep deprived, but there is no excuse to lose your focus."

Derya has participated in several ballroom competitions throughout the US, and

competes in the "Pro-Am" division, where a professional/teacher partners with an amateur dancer, similar to "Dancing with the Stars" or "*Yok Böyle Dans*" it's called in Turkey. In a ballroom competition, a lot of couples take position on the floor at the same time and dance five consecutive dances. Competitors know the beat of the songs, but do not know which particular songs will play, or whether they will be fast or slow.

"It's so satisfying to see yourself and the overall dynamic of the dancing improve week in and week out, and it adds to the joy when the judges appreciate your work too," says Derya.

As much as she enjoys Manhattan and both of her jobs there, Derya plans to come back to Istanbul in the next couple of years. "Since I can't quit dancing, I will hopefully bring it with me, and pursue a career around dancing," she says. Her dream is to open her own studio in Istanbul, and help make dancing a more widely known and pursued activity among children as well as adults.

Dave Phillips Retires

When Dave Phillips headed for Istanbul in the summer of 1979 with a two-year contract, he never expected to stay for over three decades. And he had no idea of the impact he would make on sports in Turkey or the lives of thousands of Robert College students.

During his interview, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Jim Maggart, told him he could be both a teacher and play professional basketball in Turkey. He played basketball for Beşiktaş. "It was a great experience because it gave me a chance to see more of Turkey as well as some parts of Europe," says Dave. "But my job at RC was always top priority."

He says it wasn't his experience that influenced how he coached but the education system. "Over 100 teams would register for the league, and if they lost the first game their season would be finished." A student's uncle asked Dave to coach the Zeyrek team, and in return Dave asked Zeyrek to sponsor his students so they could play more games under the club system. The girls and boys volleyball and basketball teams played under the Zeyrek name from 1985-96, when they formed the Robert College sports club.

Building bridges through sports

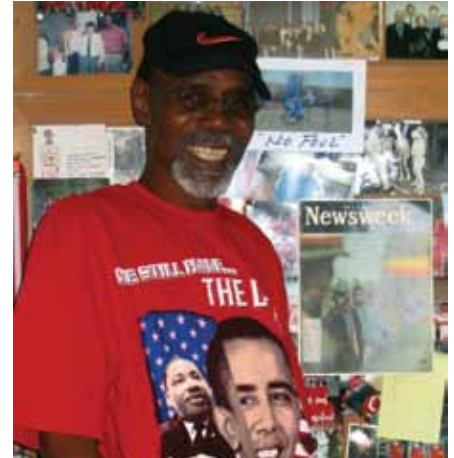
Dave introduced many new activities to RC including the athletics team and the RC Olympics. He also organized intramural programs at RC which brought schools together. "I wanted to share our facilities with the community and show people that RC students weren't spoiled." He also saw sports as a way to change Robert College's image throughout Turkey. "One of my goals was to make sure our students' behavior in public was

better than other students', because what RC did was always magnified." One of the ways he did this was to teach his team to win and lose gracefully. "I didn't put pressure on them to win. Sometimes when we lost I was devastated, but I wouldn't let them know. We had many positive experiences whether we won or lost. And we were able to change the image other schools throughout Turkey had of RC."

In May 2012, alumni and friends held several events to bid him farewell. One of the activities was a campaign to raise money to rename the upper field after him (see page 14). There was also a farewell dinner on campus with a video featuring messages from his former students and players, a belly dancer and he was given a trophy.

Erenşah and Orhan Ayanlar, both RC 96, summed up people's feelings for their coach when they said, "You are the ultimate definition of Mr. Cool, Sir, and we hope our son is going to be like you. We were very lucky to have had you as our teacher. Thank you, we will seriously miss you."

Fellow teacher and friend Colin Edmonds echoed their sentiments, "To me Dave Phillips embodied 'cool'. I cannot



Legendary RC PE teacher Dave Phillips Jr.

remember a time when I saw him freak out. There were times when I would have lost my cool in the face of the situation at hand: star players with discipline problems that prevented them from playing in a critical match, referees who specifically targeted him for one reason or another. Through them all, Dave maintained his dignity. I wish I could have half these qualities when I face frustration."

When asked about what his lasting legacy would be for his students, Dave says, "Because of the students, there was never a day I didn't want to come to school."



Dave and Kaan Kural RC 92



Dave and his Orta students in the 1970's

Charlotte Şamlı Life as a Country Bumpkin



In 2012 I finally did it, I gave up my 32 year teaching career to start a whole new life in the small Aegean village of Şirince. My first look at the village in 1999 took my breath away and we found ourselves bargaining with a shepherd to buy his dilapidated but charming old home on the side of a hill. We explored the downstairs of what was to become Grapevine House with a box of matches as there were no windows, and we trod carefully on the soft and warm soil underfoot recently vacated by its resident sheep. The ceiling in the main

bedroom was sagging badly and next door we disturbed a nest of swallows that flew in and out of the broken window frames... we were not put off.

We enjoyed New Year 2001 in our restored home and found that we were addicted not just to the village but to the art of restoration itself. We then embarked on six years of planning, building and decorating two more houses at the same time as continuing our careers in Istanbul and trying to navigate the stormy waters of two teenage daughters. Summer holidays were spent amid rubble and dust discussing the difference between the plans and the results and trying to work out how to put together the stainless steel kitchen units.

We then found ourselves in a new place where people actually came and joined us on our terrace and admired the view. While we had been renovating, Şirince itself had been undergoing changes and suddenly there was a lot of interest in the cobble streets and local wines!

The next phase involved moving into the untested waters of running the houses we had built.

Full time teaching continued, but there were hurried weekends away to mend washing machines, plant herbaceous

borders and snatch moments with friends around a roaring fireplace or walks in the rain. Summer holidays became a charm offensive for the whole family, basic cookery skills were required, those of us who claimed to speak French were put to the test and even the dog learned not to bark when new people arrived on our terrace.

Finally I am here and we have left Istanbul to our daughters. In my new environment I am on a steep learning curve, I am finding out how to sun dry tomatoes, create 20 Aegean *meze* specialties, understand the local lingo and 25 things to do with lavender. This is only the beginning but every day brings new excitement.

I have two new restoration projects to do but red tape moves slowly in this part of the Aegean so no one is expecting anything to be done in a hurry. Meanwhile this year we have our olive grove harvest and the boughs of the trees are laden down.

We are hoping that we will have the chance to share the beauties of this place with all members of the Robert College community and to encourage you we offer a 25% reduction for anyone who is connected with RC.

Please get in touch
www.ephesushousesirince.com, Terrace Houses Şirince, Tel 0532 263 7942.

Tamay Erdoğan

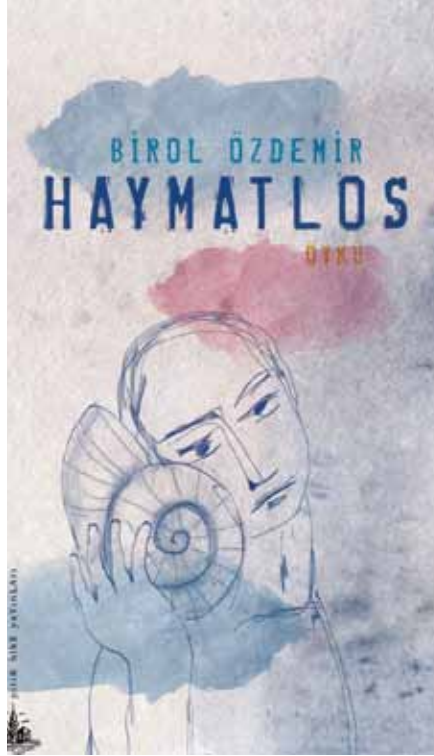
Tamay Erdoğan taught Social Studies and Geography at Robert College from 1970 until his retirement in 1979. Married with three children and three grandchildren, Tamay is proud to have contributed to the education of thousands of students and continues to be an educational consultant at Bakırköy Özel Taş Primary School in Istanbul.



Birol Özdemir Publishes His First Book

Released in October 2012, Turkish literature teacher Birol Özdemir's *Haymatlos* (Statelessness) is a compilation of short stories that he has written over the years. The first half of the book has longer stories and is described as more poetic, while the shorter pieces in the second half are humorous and ironic. He chose the title of the book because it raises curiosity and, as can be concluded from the stories, everybody inside houses a form of *haymatlos*.

"In 1990 I submitted some of my stories to the *Akademi Kitabevi Edebiyat Ödülleri* in the category of short stories and received an honorable mention. I was advised to wait to publish them until I had a chance to revise them, but I realized that was 22 years ago!" jokes Özdemir. His stories have actually been read by the public over the years. Özdemir published two literary magazines with friends, *Varoş* and *Vurgu*, and some of his stories appeared on their pages as well as in other literary magazines. When one of his students, Özen Uğurlu, helped him with the book's drawings, he felt like it was his responsibility to publish this book.



"Every story has a different premise, and that story's style is revealed through its premise," explains Özdemir.



RC Turkish teacher Birol Özdemir

He keeps journals and develops stories from ideas he writes in his journals. He has taught in different areas around Turkey, and tries to write about these areas. But one region that has greatly influenced his writing is Kırşehir, the area in central Anatolia from which his father hails. Rich in folkloric tales and traditions, Özdemir wrote his master's thesis on how folklore is woven into their lives and culture, from food preparation to weddings, poems and songs. Some folkloric elements and memories from his fatherland appear in *Haymatlos*.

He's grateful to his colleagues and some of his students who have critiqued his work, from which he feels he's benefitted a lot. "Our students are objective. If they like it, it means the story is good."

Münir Aysu Moves South

Beloved former faculty member Münir Aysu is known never to miss Homecoming. As a matter of fact, he is pictured here at Homecoming '09 with Oral Bozyiğit RC 98, faculty member Mehmet Uysal and retired faculty member Nuran Demircioğlu. When he was not spotted at Homecoming 2012 many of you may have wondered where he was.

The RCQ is happy to report that Münir Bey is well and enjoying the fresh air and relative quiet of the Bodrum peninsula.

We were able to catch up with him when he called the Alumni & Development office to inform us that he and his sisters had moved. Over the summer of 2012 they left their long time home on Valikonağı Avenue, Istanbul, and moved to the cleaner air, quieter and slower-paced lifestyle of Turgutreis.

Münir Bey says he welcomes phone calls and e-mail at 0252 382 0661, muniraysu@ttmail.com



From L to R: Oral Bozyiğit RC 98, Mehmet Uysal, Münir Aysu and Nuran Demircioğlu at Homecoming in 2009

Ayşe Şehime Day Ayanoğlu ACG 42

A. Şehime Ayanoğlu passed away on June 13, 2012, at the age of 90.

After graduating from ACG she studied English literature at the Faculty of Language, History and Geography in Ankara. In the meantime she got married and had a baby girl followed by her son 13 years later.

Her husband was a medical doctor in the army and in 1948 was appointed to Erzurum where they stayed for seven months. Afterwards, they were sent to the US for two years. Her husband practiced in different hospitals and this gave them the opportunity to visit many states. Upon their return they settled down in Ankara, where she supported her husband through his career, and brought up her children, infusing them with general



culture in every possible way. In 1986, they moved to Istanbul to be closer to their daughter Fatma Gül and her family. Her son Perçin had studied and

settled down in Germany, and although she did not mention it, she missed him a lot, as did her son.

Şehime was full of life with a very sharp mind. She enjoyed music and arts, and loved reading, learning and travelling;

traits, with which she also infected her children. She was very wise and intelligent. She was a devoted mother, a very good wife and also a loving daughter and sister. She tried her best to make everybody happy, thereby often neglecting herself.

Despite all her virtues, she was a modest person, and was always thankful for everything she had. She was a real lady and was respected, loved and cherished by all who knew her. We (her daughter Fatmagül and son Perçin, and grandchildren, Zeynep and Ekin) will always be very proud to be her children.

Contributed by Fatma Gül Dülger and Perçin Ayanoğlu

Üstün Üstündağ RC 44



Son of former Mayor and Governor of Istanbul Muhittin Üstündağ, Üstün Üstündağ passed away at the age of 87, on April 19, 2012.

Following his graduation from RC, he attended Yale University and then Berkeley to study economics. He married his high school sweetheart, Gülgün Basman ACG 44, in New York and stayed in the US for a couple of years where he worked for the Army School of

Languages in Monterey, California. Their first son Ali was born in 1950 in Carmel. An adventurous journey by car across the US to New York was followed by a job at the Voice of America. The family returned to Turkey in 1952 where he was enlisted and joined the Turkish Brigade in Korea.

After Korea, the family moved to Paris, where their second son Osman was born in 1955. Üstün spent the next 30 years working for NATO as a high level bureaucrat, and then for the OECD. During this time he also contributed to and supervised projects such as the Köyceğiz regional development project and the directorate of Turkish workers in Europe under the Minister of Labor Atilla Sav. In 1974 he became an advisor to the Ecevit government, but within the year he was back to Paris. Finally in 1985 the family returned to Istanbul.

Having lived a life across the globe, filled with interesting places and characters, Üstün was an inexhaustible source of stories. A great entertainer with a sense of humor akin to a Zen master, he remains in our memory as the greatest storyteller we have known.

A man of principle and of integrity who declared his own truths and proudly stood by them no matter what, he was immensely passionate about anything that was close to his heart. A man of extensive understanding of world affairs who diligently searched for answers and solutions till the very end. A refined gentleman who had a very unique perspective in life and made the most interesting critique of it. So distinct was his mark on our lives that we feel he hasn't left us.

Contributed by Can and Ali Üstündağ

Emel Uras Deriş ACG 44



Emel Uras Deriş passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loved ones in her home in Erenköy, İstanbul on October 12, 2012. Born in İstanbul at the dawn of the newly founded republic, of parents of Georgian and East Anatolian origin, she remained true to her cultural heritage while embracing the values of modernity throughout her life.

During her successful school years at ACG, she took part in the Drama Society and played in Sophocles' *Electra* staged by Muhsin Ertuğrul, on which occasion she met her future husband, Neş'e Deriş RC 44. Married in 1947, they had three children: Nur, Can and Gül. Gifted for the

fine arts, she participated in a ceramics workshop where she produced numerous stylized works inspired by Anatolian art, during their stay in the US between 1958 and 1961.

Endowed with remarkable intelligence of the heart and natural grace, she had the gift of seeing the beauty of the world and sharing it with her loved ones. She never ceased to feel empathy for the less fortunate and always contributed to charitable works in her discrete modesty. She will always be cherished for her kindness, compassion and forever loving nature.

Fethi Piriñcioğlu RC 46

Fethi Piriñcioğlu passed away on May 17, 2012. Born in Diyarbakır, his father was Fevzi Piriñcioğlu, Minister of Development and Construction who served in the first cabinet with the founder of the Republic of Turkey, Kemal Atatürk. In 1931, the family moved to İstanbul.

As a child Fethi's passion was sport - he excelled at basketball, volleyball and soccer, leading the three school teams to glory. As a young man he met the current belle of İstanbul, İnci Arkan, and decided straight away to marry her. Their love was legendary and a treasured story of family reminiscence. Fethi was working at Cumhuriyet Newspaper, and his characteristically clever columns were the subject of much public interest.

Their first son, Ateş, lived only five days and doctors told them they could have no more children. Receiving news that they could, in fact, have further children in the US, the couple responded with enthusiasm, each applying for places at American universities. İnci became the first ever international Fulbright scholar and went to Colombia, while Fethi won a place at New York University. While studying, Fethi started working at the Turkish Consulate as a press officer. Realizing the need for tourism

information on Turkey, he tackled this and gave advice to travelers to Turkey. He presented a radio program promoting Turkish travel, as well as providing news from Turkey.

Their daughter Yasemin was born in 1953 in New York. When the family moved back to Turkey in 1954, Fethi formed the first tourism information office. He initiated the institution of travel guides, pioneered the Turkish Guide Association and encouraged his wife to become the first official guide in Turkey.

Fethi was also involved in the inauguration of the first international Hilton hotel and was a founding member of SKAL in Turkey, the international tourism friendship club. In 1957 their second child Ceylan was born and the family went back to the US, as Fethi believed further promotion for Turkey was needed; he strongly believed that tourism would be the future of his country's income. After four years in New York they returned in 1961. Fethi was active in PR, becoming a founding member of the Public Relations Association and working at BP Turkey as the PR Director.

Seeing the need for a travel company and developing a vision for congress



management and luxury group travel, the Piriñcioğlus initiated ABC travel with eight other partners. This later formed VIP Tourism, the pioneering company in congress tourism and VIP-style group travel. The company played a huge role in developing tourism between Turkey and the US and became a legend in congress tourism around the world. In its 45th year, VIP Tourism currently continues under the management of Ceylan and Yasemin Piriñcioğlu.

Notwithstanding his remarkable life and achievements, his most important titles were role model father and much beloved grandfather to five grandchildren: Emrecan, Selina and Firat Piriñcioğlu, and Kurt and Filiz Avunduk.

Contributed by Ceylan Piriñcioğlu

Sabahat Karahasan ACG 46

Sabahat Karahasan passed away on August 2, 2012 on Heybeli Island, Istanbul. She was one of the best students of the Class of '46, a very social person as well as a sincere friend with a wonderful sense of humor. She was very good at doing impressions and she enjoyed acting, having played Antigone and the head chorus in *Electra*. All who knew her

enjoyed her portrayal of Quasimodo on Charter Day.

Sabahat studied economics at the universities of Istanbul and Nottingham. She enjoyed Turkish music and American jazz and was also a supporter of the Turkish Society and Yeşilay. She not only taught social service courses at Istanbul

University she was also a devoted self-proclaimed social worker and gave moral, professional and financial support to all who needed it. She was much loved by her family, friends and students and is survived by three sons and five grandchildren.

Contributed by Viktorya Ovadya Kazez ACG 46

Nicholas Kamariotis Kamar RC ENG 46

The following obituary is from the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Nicholas Kamariotis died on October 12, 2011. He was 87 years old. Nicholas was a Civil Engineer and an associate of the McCormick-Taylor Engineering firm for 32 years and Chief Project Engineer for Veterans Stadium in South Philadelphia. He established his own engineering firm

from which he retired. "Nick" was a people person. He loved people and they loved him. He was "kind and generous to a fault" said his wife.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, daughter, Stacey Rohrbeck (Jeffrey); son, Nicholas (Lori); 5 grandchildren, nieces and nephews.



Mehmet Ragıp Devres RC 49



Mehmet Ragıp Devres passed away on April 22, 2012. The only child of Ragıp and Selma Devres, Mehmet was born on June 10, 1930 in Beyoğlu. He spent his childhood in Bebek, and attended Robert College as the youngest student in his class. Loved by his peers and teachers, he went on to study Civil Engineering at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich (ETH, Class of 1954) but kept close to the world of archeology, which

always fascinated him. He was a man who admired imagination and innovation and, with his love for knowledge and education, he provided countless anonymous scholarships internationally.

His close friends called him the walking encyclopedia, though his scrabble buddies called him the amazing dictionary. He had a great appreciation for etymology, which fuelled his success with any word game, especially the famous New York Times crossword puzzles.

A patron of archeology, he contributed to many excavations internationally and locally. A "Friend of Aphrodisias," he also continued his father's legacy in supporting the Side Museum, the Apollon Temple, and digs in the greater Antalya area.

His passion for the arts extended to classical music and opera and Mehmet was also one of the founders of the Istanbul Kültür ve Sanat Vakfı (IKSV) under the leadership of his good

friends, the late Nejat and Şakir Eczacıbaşı brothers.

After his graduation from ETH, Mehmet worked in Germany and then returned to Turkey to complete his military service. He then worked throughout Turkey with his father, where he built roads, dams, bridges, and US bases.

In 1960, he married Gülten Açıkalın, daughter of the late ambassador Mehmet (Cevat) Açıkalın and Rukiye Açıkalın. Apparently, Gülten refused to marry him unless he learned some proper dance steps, for which he went back to one of his favorite teachers at RC; Mr. Nadolsky.

In his spare time, he loved collecting stamps, reading, sailing and snorkeling off his beautiful mahogany boat, the Likya.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, his son Ragıp, his daughter Rukiye and his four grand-children, Selma, Suzan, Leyla and Altan Mehmet.

Sabri Şatır RC 49



Sabri Şatır, passed away on June 17, 2012. Before WWII, as a young boy, I befriended Sabri. Throughout those difficult years amidst the imposed wartime blackouts we studied together and received our diplomas in Albert Long Hall. Upon graduation he went with a group of school friends to study at Wharton where they rented a house and effectively created a vibrant intellectual home away from

home. I have always been jealous of those who were members of that group, namely Nuri Cerrahoğlu, Bülent Öktem, Özer Esen, Aslan Ersoy and Haluk Kilimci, to name a few.

Thirty of us from Robert College met up in Ankara to fulfill our military service together. During those days he would regularly travel to Izmir and I was always curious why he went there. I understood a few months later when he introduced Ayşe.

Sabri and Ayşe, Fatoş and I became a glorious quartet, often joining other mutual school friends. We all shared a passion to think critically and to conduct research. Sabri was able to develop his multi dimensional personality due to the education Robert College gave him. He was always interested in music. His passion incorporated classical Turkish music and jazz, opera and new hybrid melodies and tunes and he collected all his thoughts into books such as *Operada Gerçekçilik ve Beş Gerçekçi Opera* and

Richard Wagner - Opera'dan Müzikli Drama, among others.

He later directed his passion for learning and research towards philosophy and wrote about this in considerable depth. (*Başlangıçta Bilgisizlik ve Korku Vardı, Düşünmenin Öyküsü, Buda - Suyun Üzerindeki Lotus*)

He spoke English extremely well and whenever he visited London there was only one place that we could possibly meet; Foyles bookshop. It was a joy to listen to him and I consider myself very lucky indeed to have had the opportunity to have experienced countless conversations with him. I don't know if the world will ever experience someone quite like Sabri ever again.

Sabri Şatır is survived by his wife Ayşe Şatır, his children Esra Şatır and Figen Köprülü - Mustafa Köprülü RC 79 and his grandchild Tarçın Köprülü.

Contributed by Nuyan Yiğit RC 48

M. Jack Ohanian RC ENG 56

M. Jack Ohanian, former associate dean for research and administration and professor of nuclear and radiological engineering, died on October 31, 2011 at the age of 78.

Photo and excerpts courtesy of The Independent Florida Alligator and The Gainesville Sun.

Ohanian, who retired in 2001, was a professor emeritus of nuclear and radiological engineering and a passionate supporter of nuclear power.

He served the University of Florida for 38 years in many different positions including Professor, Department Chairman, Assoc. Dean for Research, Interim VP for Research, Dean of the Graduate School for the University and Interim Dean for the College of Engineering. Jack retired in

2001 as Professor Emeritus.

Jack was also active in Professional Organizations, especially the American Nuclear Society, where he was a member for 50 years and served as President from 1990-1991. Jack also served as chair of the American Association of Engineering Societies (AAES).

Jack was appointed by the Governor of Florida to be on the Board of Directors of the Florida Institute of Phosphate Research and served that position for nine years. He was also a member of many professional societies and was a member of the Rotary Club for almost 40 years.

Jack wrote over 60 technical publications on Nuclear Engineering and after retiring, wrote many articles that were published in newspapers promoting Nuclear Power. Jack was listed in Who's Who in America



for his professional accomplishments Jack is survived by his wife of 49 years, Sandy, his daughters, Heather Allen and Holly Welty and his four grandchildren.

Alp Evrenol RC 59

Alp Evrenol passed away on June 28, 2012. RC had a significant role in shaping Alp's character and he was a proud alumnus just like his mother Berceste (Selek) Anter ACG 31, his sister Ülkü (Evrenol) Kolatan ACG 52, and his brother Önder Evrenol RC YÜK 57, among others of his family. After RC he continued his higher education in civil engineering. Two years later, he transferred to Stuttgart Technical University and graduated with a Master of Engineering and Architecture degree. His life-long friendships with his dearest friends were established during his high school year.

From 1979-1990, he worked as the founding partner and project manager of Mimarlar A.Ş., then was the architectural project manager at Mimarlar-Workshop Ltd. Şti., of which he was a founding partner together with his beloved life companion and business partner Mehpare Evrenol.

He brought numerous grand scale projects such as Akasya-Acıbadem,



Ankara Altınoran, Antepia, Ottomare Suites, Bosphorus City, Bursa Modern and İstanbul Sarayları to life. His perfectionism, an inseparable part of his character, was reflected in his work in an effortlessly distinguishable manner.

The meticulous care he placed in the raising of his sons Can and Mete was also reflected in the care he felt for the hundreds of young architects who worked in his company, making him a teacher of great integrity both in his personal life and in his profession.

His passion for the sea and sailing nurtured his free soul and until the day he departed from among us he delighted in sailing his boat "MO", and leading a life in harmony with nature.

Contributed by Mehpare Evrenol

Excerpt from Nedim Göknil's (RC YÜK 65) eulogy to his friend of 60 years:

Inspired by Hamlet I say ALP EVRENOL, a man, noble in reason, infinite in most faculties, in form and moving always admirable, a friend of sixty years, a source of many memories, from childish pranks to adult experiences, is NO MORE...

All I want to do is raise my glass to my lips and drink to that wonderful, charming, smart, witty person called ALP EVRENOL and say let all the GODS, (Mayan, Indian, Egyptian, Greek, Norse and all the rest) BLESS YOU... You were special my friend...

Selahattin Sabuncuoğlu RC 59



Selahattin Sabuncuoğlu passed away on April 3, 2012. Selo, as he was known to his friends enjoyed life with good food, jazz, dance, bridge and backgammon, and watching sunsets on his boat.

He was grateful for the wonderful life he had; he cherished his family and good friends. He made friends easily and kept them for a lifetime. His sense of humor,

his cheerful character and his strong ethics and values always attracted people. Even in the few years he lived in New York with his family, he made many friends who remained lifelong ones. To this day, these friends remember him fondly, when they go to a good restaurant and at bridge or backgammon tournaments.

He loved the sea and being on his boat, especially in Göcek. His enthusiasm and love of life was contagious. He was the first person his friends sought advice from about anything related to the sea, whether it was about buying a boat or seeking advice about which bays to go to.

His most precious moments were sipping whiskey while watching the sunset on the deck of his boat with his beloved Rabuşka next to him, and dancing elegantly to the music of Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole.

He was an exceptional husband, father and grandfather. He was devoted to his wife Rabuşka, his daughters Handuş and

Neşoş, and his grandchildren Emre, Memo and Esra, who all miss him terribly. He was a true friend to all his friends, and widely noticed and respected whenever he walked into a room.

His motto was to live a life of good quality, even if it was short, which is what he did. He passed away peacefully after a fulfilled and wonderful life, having touched deeply all his friends and family.

He is survived by his wife Rabia Sabuncuoğlu ACG 66, his daughters Hande Erenler RC 87 and Neşe Çelebi RC 88 and three grandchildren.

We all miss you very much. In other words, we love you.

Contributed by Rabia Sabuncuoğlu, Hande Erenler and Neşe Çelebi

Ayşegül Güre RC 61

Ayşegül Güre RC 61 passed away on August 4, 2012 in Bodrum where she had been living for the past three decades. She will be missed by her classmates.

Gültekin Orhon RA 61



Gültekin Orhon passed away on June 1, 2012 in Istanbul at the age of 70 while very young and full of life with an unceasing energy to

share his knowledge with others and to learn from them.

If I didn't have to write this memorial for him, I would ask his advice to better formulate my thoughts and feelings. He was a generous man, giving knowledge, giving experience, giving

help, giving hope, giving confidence. He always felt responsible for his thoughts, for his behavior, for his surrounding, for his environment, for others and for the future. He believed in people.

He was a great teacher, having the endless joy to show, tell, demonstrate, guide, describe, question, discuss. He shared his know-how with endless people (people from very different generations, backgrounds, classes or cultures) resonating with them, sharing their language, sharing their history.

After Talas American College he graduated from Robert College. He received his second Master's Degree in Business Administration at Boston University. As the director of Yol Yapı, as project manager at Üçgen İnşaat and as

a project consultant he worked in many countries (Europe, Middle East, Russia and Turkic countries). He was one of the founders of the private resort Bizimköy and many years an active board member of Kuzguncuklular Derneği.

Suddenly diagnosed of a severe disease, he passed away in a very short period of time, yet was always very positive and strong. He will always be present in our lives and in our vivid memories.

His blogs can still be visited at www.orhon.wordpress.com and www.gultekinorhon.wordpress.com.

**Contributed by his daughter
Ayşe Orhon**

İsmail Faik Başar RC 63

İsmail Faik Başar passed away on December 2, 2011 due to a heart attack. It was an unexpected departure, as he had no health issues. Some years ago, a colleague said "Faik Bey, guys like us never retire, we just expire," which became true as he worked until the very last day of his life. He was making future plans and his agenda was full of appointments.

Faik was born in Istanbul. He was a hard-working, disciplined and successful student. He started his career at BP Turkey as a trainee while still a student at Robert Academy. In 1964 he started working for TAM Sigorta A.Ş. and became a marine manager. He married Nalan in 1970 and was sent to AIG headquarters in New York for training within the same year. His training continued in London and Munich.

Upon returning to Turkey, he served as an international relations manager.

Faik once said, "I always envied the insurance broker sitting on the other side of my desk, bargaining for the terms and rates and I decided to jump over the desk and became a broker". In 1973 he started his own company and became the second insurance and reinsurance broker in Turkey. Throughout the years he controlled major energy accounts like Botaş, Tüpraş and Petkim.

He was a workaholic but was never interested in how much money he made. He just enjoyed winning new accounts and the happiness could be seen in his eyes. Faik was also good at finding new talents in the London insurance market. He introduced many London brokers to



the Turkish market. He was a quiet, kind, noble, well respected man and will be missed greatly.

He is survived by his wife Nalan, his son Vedat and grandson Efe.

Contributed by Vedat Başar

Mehmet Dirisu RA 64

Mehmet Dirisu passed away on August 26, 2012.

His friend Mehmet Şahinbaş shared the following:

Two Mehmet

Two black guitars, identical twins.

Bought almost within the same week, at Beyoğlu.

Some 54 years ago...

Our music circle started discovering new guitar ventures as we used every opportunity to sound like something and someone, among the bunk beds of our dormitories. We made lots of music together, from glee-club to pop, but after Lise Graduation, our ways parted, as "life" introduced itself and I gradually lost contact with Mehmet. My 'black twin' was by then long gone and forgotten...



40 years later, as I was planning an easy-going retirement, a joyful Mehmet re-introduced me to his kind of lifestyle - always "Don't Worry, Be Happy", with a big, warm smile. We started to make music again in his combo "The Friends", and it was fun! In one of our last encounters, he

showed up with an almost mutilated hard guitar-case. Inside was his 'Black Twin'. I was so amazed and overwhelmed by this unexpected get-together. It was like meeting a precious part of my past after so many years! "I brought it for you, do you remember?" he asked.

This encounter was predestined, as I believe now. Mehmet passed away. But I now have his 54 year old black guitar - in my possession. Whenever I play something on 'his' black guitar, he will surely be looking over my shoulder with his big smile and a rich twinkle in his eyes. I want him to enjoy.

Memo, I will never be "whole" again, as one part of me will always be with you. Just remember; you took it and you bring it back every time I pluck on your 'Black Twin'! Let all lights up there shine on you.

Kleopatra Aymeloğlu Kallifrona ACG 67

Kleopatra Kallifrona passed away in Athens on June 10, 2012, after a battle with multiple sclerosis and ovarian cancer. She is survived by her husband Mikis and sons Angelos and Alexandros.

When I look back, candor, kindness, tact and tenderness are some of the marked attributes of Klea's. We first met in Mrs. Watters' math class and were classmates throughout our years at ACG. Our last get-together on the Arnavutköy campus was in 1992, at our 25th reunion. In the years that followed, we kept in touch. She always enjoyed news of our alma mater, but our favorite subject was always our sons, of course.

After ACG, Klea moved to Greece with her family. She went to law school but couldn't graduate due to financial



position in the IT department of the Lever Company, where she worked for many years.

She married Mikis Kallifronas in 1979 and had two sons Angelos (1981) and Alexandros (1982). She was diagnosed with MS in 1984 and was confined to a wheelchair in 2000. Six years later, she

reasons. She got a job as a translator then attended computer courses and forged ahead in computer programming. Her expertise helped her get a good

was diagnosed with ovarian cancer Alexandros says Klea never gave up throughout all those struggles. She had a large group of friends who were there for her and her aunt Zizika was like a second mother. Alexandros said, "She was always brave and happy in spite of all the problems and she was always surrounded by people who loved and embraced her dearly."

Her son said, "She didn't have another chance to visit Istanbul after 1992 but she always saved a special place in her heart for Halki (Heybeliada), where she spent the most beautiful summers as a child!"

**Contributed by Müberra Ekemen
ACG 67**

Ali Özlük RA 70

Prof.Dr. Ali Erhan Özlük passed away on March 1, 2012.

He always seemed to have something to talk about with all age groups, aged 7 to 70. He felt comfortable and was successful with all ethnic backgrounds and religions. He had a great sense of humor and he understood almost every science. He respected all living creatures and was a great humanitarian. He was often asked for advice for solutions in a variety of situations. He freely used and shared his intelligence and never bragged about his accomplishments. He was the world's most humble mathematical genius.

His colleague A. Knightly at the University of Maine, where Ali Özlük taught, added, "Ali was an exemplary university professor

in teaching, research and service. His success in the classroom is best conveyed in the words of his students, one of whom said, 'Özlük is the calculus God! He is an excellent teacher. He is very clear and concise about what needs to be known. I want him for all my math classes.'"

Knightly added that Ali spent much of his life thinking deeply about mathematics and did important research in analytic number theory and its impact on the field. He wrote that in recognition of all the work Özlük did in mathematics he was invited to chair a session at the 1998 International Congress of Mathematics in Berlin. The next year Peter Sarnak invited him to present his results at an international workshop at the prestigious Mathematical Sciences Research Institute in Berkeley, California.

Knightly writes that these great honors represented a crowning achievement in Ali's career and that he also authored or co-authored 18 publications of high quality.



He was a phenomenon and a true gentleman and will be missed greatly. Ali Özlük is survived by his sister Gülgün Özlük and his nephews and nieces Mert, Elvan, Alphan, and Alpkan.

Contributed by Mert Alp

Merin Tezal Çomu RC 82



Merin Tezal Çomu passed away on April 27, 2012. Born in Istanbul in 1964, she graduated from Istanbul University School of

Medicine in 1988. She received her MA in Internal Medicine from Marmara University. In 1994 she joined the International Hospital of Istanbul where she worked over 15 years, and where she reunited with Dr. Sinan Çomu, her classmate and future husband.

They got married in 1997 and had two children, Oktay and Sibel, who are

studying at Işık College. We will all miss her. Now Merin is sleeping in Zekeriya köy in her new silent world.

Contributed by her husband Sinan Çomu and her parents Kudret and Aynur.

Bige Akdeniz RC 91

Bige passed away on July 24, 2012. After graduating from Robert College, Bige studied economics at Vassar College in New York. In 1997, she was one of the first graduates of the Cinema and TV masters program at Bilgi University and published "The Ebbs and Flows of Turkish Cinema in the 90's", one of the first academic articles on the topic. Bige founded and managed a cinematheque at Bilgi, called "Bilgi'de Sinema". This made a significant contribution to Istanbul's cultural life, as it was one of the first of its kind where one could catch rare, alternative movies. She was also one of the first chief-editors and film critics of Beyazperde.com, penning articles for Hayalet Gemi and contributing to various documentaries. She finally took an academic position at Bahçeşehir University Faculty of Communications.

Bige was also a gifted singer. Her interest in music went way back to her years at Robert College, where she took on the leading role for the musical *Mikado*. During her collaboration with American keyboardist Kevin Moore, she appeared on four different albums: *Ghost Book*, *Graveyard Mountain Home*, *Free and Shine*. *Ghost Book* and *Shine* are both soundtracks to the Turkish movies *Okul* and *Küçük Kıyamet* respectively. She had the voice of an angel. Her voice on Chroma Key songs like "Come In, Over" and "True and Lost" not to mention the OSI song "Old War" and without doubt "Shine" will forever comfort all of us.

Bige had been fighting cancer since 2009. She had the courage to be 'first' in many things that touched and changed others



lives. During her last act, she once again is one of the firsts among our classmates reminding us to stay true to ourselves and pursue our ambitions in life. With her always bright smile, she is now shining in heaven.

Contributed by Ebru Güvenir and Sertaç Uysal RC 91

Alp Alkaş RC 03



On November 2, 2012, our dear friend Alp Alkaş lost his life to a sudden condition in his home in London, and on November 8 we said goodbye to Alp in tears at Neve Shalom Synagogue in Istanbul. He now lies in the Jewish Cemetery in Arnavutköy, not far from the RC campus where we all came to know and love him.

Alp's departure is our first loss from the Class of 2003, and it came just shy of our 10th reunion. The overwhelming gravity of our grief is beyond words. It is way too early for us to already lose a dear friend; and at the young age of 27, it was way too early for Alp to breathe his last breath. His death came not only too soon but also too suddenly.

We cherish Alp's memory as a daring, aspiring individual with a candid smile. Always keen to lead by example, often the first one to take a risk and ever-eager to support his peers, Alp approached all his endeavors with pure passion. His mere presence made one feel peaceful and happy, and there was no end to pleasant conversations and exuberant laughter with Alp in the room.

It became apparent to all of us from the time we met him in the classroom in Prep that Alp was not only a smart thinker but also a smart doer. He had the intelligence, the looks, and the

sportsmanship. He grew up to be a successful businessman - but he always remained our red-cheeked friend.

The Class of 2003 stands wounded by the insurmountable loss, but proud to have known and loved Alp as an irreplaceable class member and friend. Alp leaves behind a class that will never be quite complete without his presence at our reunions in the years to come.

There is one sentence Alp had a habit of saying to those dear to him, and now is our time to say it back: "You'll never walk alone." Where ever you are walking now, you are walking through our thoughts and hearts.

We already miss you. The world of RC will never be the same without you.

Class of 2003

"Özsıfırüç Ailesi"

Ahmet Sezer



Ahmet Sezer passed away on August 9, 2012 at the age of 86. He was a librarian at Robert College's boys' campus between 1955 and 1978 and was a vital part of the campus life during those years. He cared deeply about the students and Robert College.

Ahmet Sezer was also a dedicated athlete. He ran in many international runners' competitions and won prizes for Turkey in the Balkans, South Africa, Germany and Greece. He continued to run into his old age and won competitions even

in his early 80's. He also dedicated himself to training young athletes with much success.

His beloved wife Bedia Sezer died in 1981 and he never remarried. He is survived by his daughter, artist Gonca Sezer.

Those who know him will remember him for his quiet and determined demeanor with love and pride in their hearts. May he rest in peace.

Contributed by Gonca Sezer



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