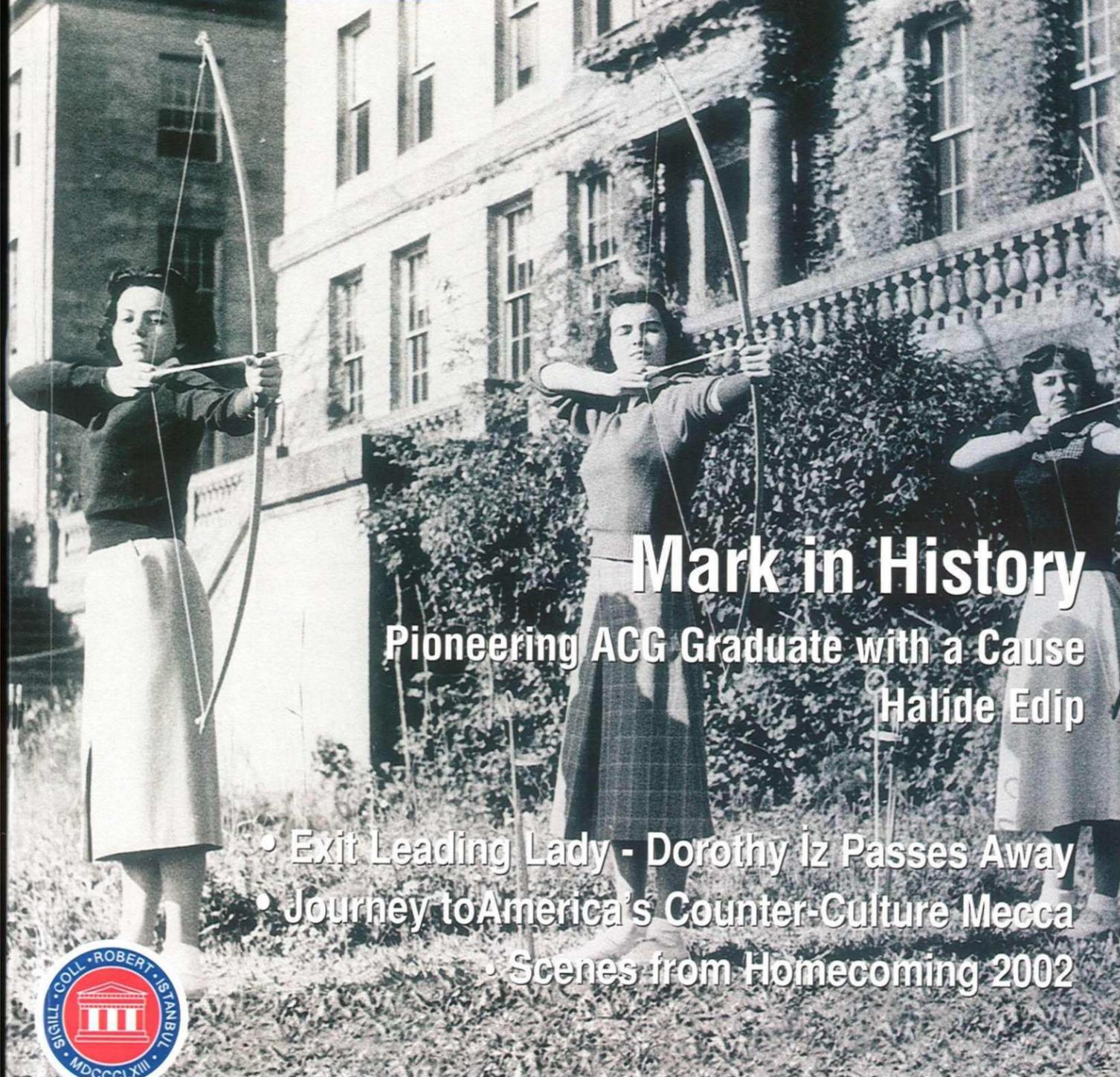


# RC Quarterly

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE  
Winter 2003 • Issue 21



## Mark in History

Pioneering ACG Graduate with a Cause  
Halide Edip

- Exit Leading Lady - Dorothy İz Passes Away
- Journey to America's Counter-Culture Mecca
- Scenes from Homecoming 2002



Uzmanlarımız önerileriyle sizi biraz şaşırtabilirler.



Türkiye'nin gerçek anlamda Private Banking hizmeti sunan ilk ve tek bankası olarak, müşterilerimizi iyi tanıdığımızı inanıyoruz. Onlara ne kadar özel ve ayrıcalıklı hizmetler götürmemiz gerektiğini iyi biliyoruz. Müşterilerimizin sadece Türkiye'den değil, dünyanın her yerinden yatırım önerileriyle ilgilendiklerinin ve gerçek bankacılık uzmanlarıyla çalışmak istediklerinin farkındayız. İşte bu yüzden, onları, "onlara özel" şubelerimizde ağırlamayı tercih ediyoruz.

Size özel, sizin kadar özel.

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## ABOUT THE RC QUARTERLY

C

all us escapist! Caught up in an unusually bleak and snowy Istanbul winter, with the prospect of war looming large on our doorstep, it seemed only appropriate to cast back in time for stories of inspiration. And whom more inspiring than Halide Edip - a pioneer of the Turkish women's liberation movement, a powerful orator, prolific writer and tireless revolutionary? To mark the occasion of International Women's Day - celebrated throughout the world on March 8- we are delighted to be able to commemorate the life and times of Halide Edip Adıvar ACG 01 with a special cover story.



Also in this issue, we commemorate the lifelong achievements of another female powerhouse. Dorothy Iz, a longtime theater director at RC who nurtured generations of Turkish theater talent, sadly passed away last December.

Your wish is our command, dear reader, and on suggestion by several grads we introduce a new section aimed at fostering your connection to your alma mater- Who's Who on Campus. Future issues will feature a different component of the complex organism that is RC. Our inaugural section is dedicated to the library and its staff. Many of you may not be aware that these impressive facilities are open to graduates too.

Many thanks to all who wrote in with kind words for our revamped publication. Do you write? Have you got a good RC story to tell? We are always on the prowl for contributions or ideas that reflect the diversity and rich tapestry of the Robert College community. Happy reading!

The RCQ Editorial Board

## LETTERS

Sevgili Leyla,  
Yeni formatı ile RC Quarterly iki üç gün önce elime geçti. Uzun süredir önce elime geçti. Uzun süredir ilk defa, tüm yoğunluğumun arasında elimden düşürmeden okuduğum bir dergi oldu. Gerek görüntü, gerekse içerik kalitesi açısından son derece kaliteli ve içine çeken bir dergi yaratmışsınız. Derginin yeni halinin mezunlar arasındaki haberleşmeyi arttırmak hedefiniz yolunda son derece faydası olacağını düşünüyorum. Serra, Pelin, Refika'nın ve senin ellerinize sağlık.

Robert College'e hakettiği kalitede bir mezun dergisi kazandırmışsınız. Devamlılığı ümidiyle... Hepinize iyi seneler.

Alp Aksoy RC 90

RC Quarterly'nin sonbahar 2002 sayısını birkaç gün önce aldım. Editörlere ve yardımcılarına en candan tebriklerimi sunarım. Mecmuanın hazırlanışı, baskısı, renkleri, resimler ve yazıları birbirinden güzel. İnsan her tarafını zevkle okuyor. "obituaries" hariç; orada maalesef tanıdıklara rastlanıyor. New York'tan sevgi ve tebrikler. Prof. Senih Fikri RC 46

Congratulations on RCQ!  
Beautifully produced, great design and layout, very readable and very worth reading. (And the English was well proof-read too!) Thoroughly enjoyed it. Please congratulate everyone involved.

John Royce  
RC Head Librarian

Yalman Onaran RC 87

To the Editor;  
I would like to congratulate you for the new format of the quarterly; it is absolutely wonderful. The quality of this publication follows that of RC as an exquisite school which most of us consider as our true alma maters. The articles that follow the lives of those alumni who have been successful and productive and reached prominent positions in society make all of us proud. I must add, however, that I wish RC would also be loyal to its not-so-successful-in-life graduates and that the quarterly would also publish articles about them. This would help the rest of the alumni to become aware of the grit and hardship these, our one time friends and classmates, are going through and maybe to find ways to help them.  
Another suggestion I have is for RC web master to add an alumnus section to the RC web site and put up a submissions web page where alumni can enter their current addresses and other relevant info. This would enable the former graduates to find each other by search engine searches through the web.

Sincerely,  
Zeynep Altun RC'79

Yeni RC Quarterly elime geçti. Okudum ve çok beğendim. Dört dörtlük bir ürün olmuş. Elinize sağlık. İçerik güzel, design güzel. Çok rahat insanı içine alıyor. Son yıllarda Kolejde gördüğüm en iyi ürün bu.

Sevgilerimle,  
Behçet Demircan RA 68

RCQ biraz evvel elime geçti, ortaya süper bir şey çıkarmışsınız, tebrikler. Yani nasıl ifade edeceğimi tam olarak bilemiyorum ama "I felt proud of being an alumni"....  
Sevgiler,

Zeynep Muşkara RC 75

I have read the latest RC Quarterly with delight and I've been proud of being an RC graduate once again. The pages helped me relive the campus life and I felt very happy.

Congratulations sevgili arkadaşlar!

Nilhan Fidan RC 97

The RC Quarterly team would love to keep hearing from you - comments, suggestions, stories... Please write to us.

alumni@robcol.k12.tr  
laktay@robcol.k12.tr  
cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr  
info@ifistanbul.com

# Bu yağmura tutulan, kazanıyor.

worldpuan

- Worldcard'ıyla alışveriş yapanlara her yerde Worldpuan var.
- World amblemlilerde yağmur gibi, kat kat Worldpuan var.
- Üstelik Worldtaksit'ten yararlanırken bile Worldpuan var.
- Yağmur gibi Worldpuan'lar, hemen birikiyor. Para yerine geçiyor. Paranın aldığı her şeyi alıyor.
- Türkiye'de en çok noktada World olduğu için yağmur gibi, kat kat Worldpuan her yerde yağıyor.





**6 RC News**



**24 Cover Story**

• Mark in history:  
Pioneering ACG graduate  
with a cause



**37 Once Upon  
a Time**

• Exit Leading Lady: Dorothy İz,  
legendary drama teacher  
passes away at age 82.

**14 Who's Who**

• A new section: In this issue,  
featuring the Library and its  
staff.



**32**

**Around the  
World**

• Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93  
shares his adventures at  
Burning Man - America's  
top counter-cultural festival.

**42 Reunions**

• Homecoming 2002  
• Classes of 92 & 98  
celebrate reunions.



**18 Graduates in  
the News**



**46**

**RC in the  
City**

• YogaŞala / On The Way to  
Clarity of the Mind

**22 Ones to  
Watch**

• Keep an eye on these new  
ventures!

**35 RC Reaches  
Out**

• Efforts of Aslı Özyürek RC 85  
and Deniz İlkbaşaran RC 98  
to make Turkish sign language  
accessible to the deaf  
community.

**47 Alumni News**

**51 Obituaries**

**Şimdi goller renkli, sesli  
ve hareketli olarak  
cebinizde! Üstelik maç  
sırasında.**



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students, faculty,  
administration, parents and  
friends.

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Sayı 21.

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## RC NEWS

### LISE DIRECTOR PELOSI TO DEPART FOR PAKISTAN

Lise Director Dr. Peter Pelosi has accepted the position of Superintendent of the International School of Karachi and will take up his duties this coming summer. The school has a fine reputation and is one of the leading international schools in Pakistan. This will be a challenging position, and we wish him every success in the coming years there. Dr. Pelosi has been an administrator at Robert College since 1998. He was first head of the Orta. Last year he became Director of the Lise with responsibility for all classes in the College. One of his most remarkable qualities has been his closeness to his students. Dr. Pelosi knows most of the students by name and is familiar with their personal and academic circumstances. His concern for the students will be greatly missed.



Dr. Pelosi has been an administrator at Robert College since 1998.

### MARIA ORHON TO BECOME LISE DIRECTOR

Maria Orhon, who is presently the Dean of Studies, will take up the post of Lise Director in August. Previously she served as Assistant Lise Director. In addition she has had experience as head of the English department and concurrently she has served as Chair of the Board of the Istanbul International Community School. Mrs. Orhon brings with her a great warmth and concern for the students and the teachers. Her command of the Turkish language will make it even easier for the administration to communicate with parents.



### EARLY DECISION ACCEPTANCES COME THROUGH



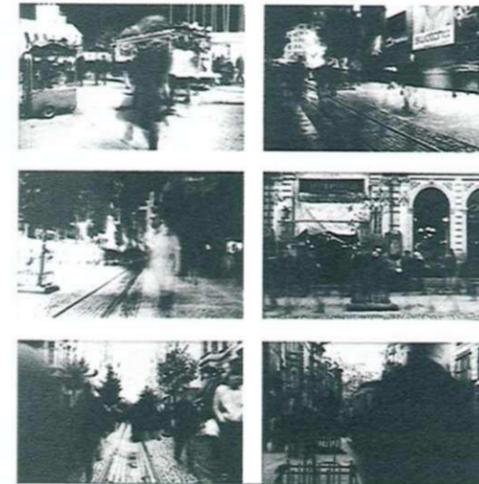
The RC campus was delighted by early decision acceptances. Congratulations to the following seniors who received early decision acceptances from universities in the US and Europe.

Aysegül Altıntaş	Yale University
Deniz Dişçioğlu	Washington University
Deniz Oran	Washington University
Dünya Önen	Dartmouth University
Ege Duruk	Columbia University
Emre Çiçek	Columbia University
Eytan Daniyalzade	Stanford University
Merve Ünsal	Princeton University
Metin Kandiyoti	Bentley College
Sinan Onan	Bentley College
Şirin Neyzi	Duke University
Tuğba Çolak	International University of Bremen
Zeynep Yenigün	University of Pennsylvania

## ALUMNI ART COMPETITION

Annual Art Competition in Memory of Demirkan Aşetey RC 76

Last year, the class of 76 came up with the idea of holding an annual art competition among RC students in honor of their late classmate, a keen amateur artist, Demirkan Aşetey. Organized by the Arts Department and the Alumni Office, the theme of the first Annual Art Competition was "Life" and over 110 artworks from the RC student body were submitted. Works were exhibited in Marble Hall for the duration of two weeks last May. The winners, Mustafa Altay Sönmez, Bihter Yasemin Adalı, Burcu Delen in the 2D category; Emine Gökçek, Burak Pekoğlu, Yavuz Can Parlar in the 3D category; and Artun Törenli, Mehmet Saraçer, and Uluç Pamuk in photography may still be viewed in the library.

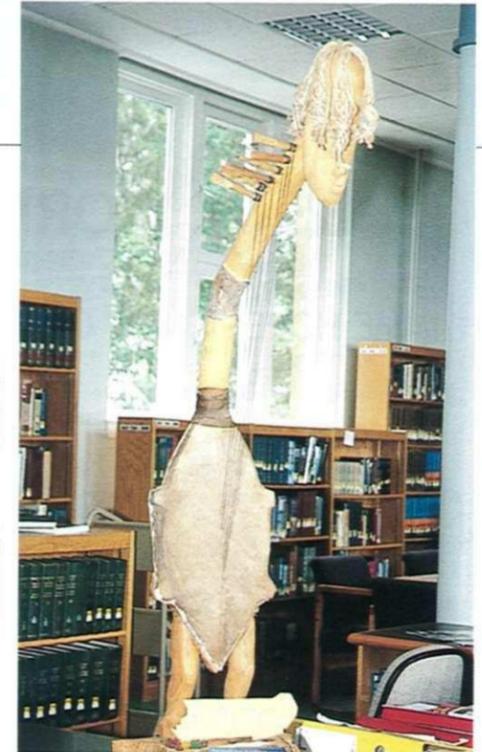


Photography winner: Artun Törenli, Lise II

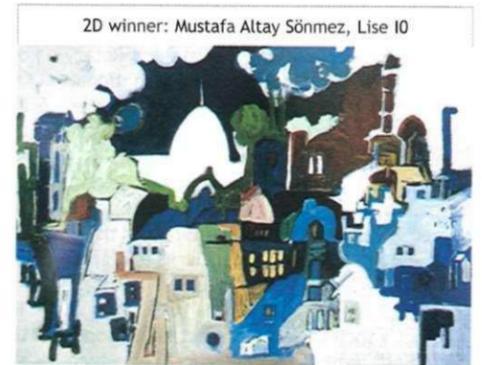
The award ceremony will take place on the 8th of April. The jury consists of artist Can Göknil ACG 66, former RC art teachers and artists Maria Sezer, Nancy Atakan, and as last year, a relative of Demirkan Aşetey.

This year the theme is "Change" and the last day for entry is March 28th. There is one additional category, Digital Imaging. The exhibition will be up on April 7th, and

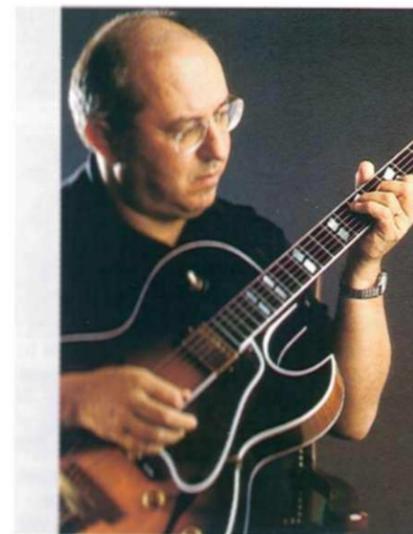
The prize for the "Best of the Show" is \$250, 1st prize for the four categories are \$100, the runners up in each category win \$50, and \$20 for the "highly commended".



3D winner: Emine Gökçek, Lise 10



2D winner: Mustafa Altay Sönmez, Lise 10



### MUSIC TO BE HEARD AND LEARNED

Jazz Musician Visits the RC Campus

Önder Focan, the well-known jazz guitar player visited RC for a small concert and a workshop for RC students interested in jazz on December 13th, 2002. Accompanied by a student of his, Focan played several jazz songs and jazz versions of folk songs, and briefly talked about the basics of jazz. The Music Department, impressed by the growing number of contemporary music lovers among the students, wish to organize a Turkish-American evening, and an orchestra concert in the near future.

## CLUBS AT WORK

### GIMME HOPE: A NEW CLUB ON CAMPUS

"To travel with hope is much more enjoyable than reaching your destination" said Robert Louis Stevenson. Such might be the motto of the new Hope Club, established by 15 students under the guidance of Dean of Students, Diana Noonan, as an outreach project to work with homeless children. By forming lasting friendships with homeless children in

Istanbul, the students hope to be able to help ease their pain and psychological scars.

The club also carries out fund raising activities to buy clothes, books and electronic equipment that are urgently in need. It also arranges for visits by the children to the campus to share in activities such as picnics, football matches and more. If only for

a few hours, the children are given the chance to have fun and make new friends.

A future goal of the club is to offer courses to enable the children to gain a skill they might eventually use to generate income, but at the present this is difficult because different children come to RC each week.

### YOUNG ROTARIES TAKE ROOT

The Interact Club was established at the beginning of this year as the youth branch of the Rotary International, the largest community service organization in the world. Sponsored by the Istanbul Rotary Club, it aims to complete one international and one social service project each year. For this year, the club is planning a trip to Çanakkale on March 18th. On that day, many descendants of Australian and New Zealander soldiers come to Çanakkale to remember their ancestors. Interact aims to encourage bonding between Turks and these visitors.

Interact's social service project is in cooperation with the Istanbul Rotaract Club which has chosen to help support a school in one of Istanbul's underprivileged neighborhoods. They have made a list of all the missing supplies at the school and aim to complete them by the end of the year. If successful,

next year they hope to extend support to all the schools in the district. Interact is seeking five usable computers in order to start a computer lab in this school and is open to donations.

Interact started off with over 90 members, which could be considered a school record for a newly established club. It is made up of four main committees, the International Service Committee, the Social Service Committee, the Finance Committee and the Club Services Committee.

The club is always open to guests who wish to attend their meetings, make speeches and give seminars. They are very enthusiastic to build a bond between the alumni and the students. If interested, you may contact Zeynep Yenigün, the club president by Tel: 0532 666 4848 or via e-mail: zenigun@hotmail.com



### GROWING UP AS ECO-WARRIORS



RC Clubs are opening many doors to the students, offering ways for them to live new experiences in many different places of the world. 3 years ago Young Reporters for the Environment Club (YRE) was established at RC under the supervision of RC geography teacher Necla Sönmezay. Five students, who initially had no idea about how reporters should approach their tasks, aimed to participate in a project organized by the Foundation for Environmental Education in Europe.

This club examined important environmental issues, learning to look at it from multiple perspectives by meeting people from many different professions (from politics to fishing, law to psychology, sociology to city planning, garbage plant managers to environmental activists). Over the past years, YRE's projects included pollution in the Bosphorus, solid waste collection and recycling in Istanbul, and shanty town houses and their effects to the environment. In the year 2000, the RC YRE club won the YRE



## SILVERSEA

*All inclusive, Always exclusive...*

Mükemmellik tutkusuyla birleşen bir hizmet anlayışı...  
Güverteye adım attığımız anda başlayan ultra-lüks bir atmosfer...  
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En iyilerin seçimi olan Silversea Cruises'un 6 yıldızlı muhteşem gemilerinde, sahip olduğunuz ayrıcalığı her saniye hissediyorsunuz. Davidoff Cigar Lounge, Bvlgari Boutique, Moët & Chandon Şampanyaları, Relais & Châteaux Restoranları ve Mandara Spa, Silversea'yi seçkin yapan yıldız isimlerin yalnızca bir kaçı...

#### Adriatic Treasures

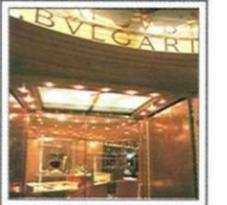
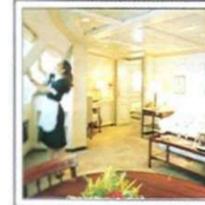
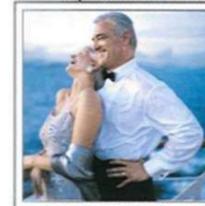
2 Mayıs 2003 (8 gece / 9 gün)  
Venedik (2 gün), Split, Dubrovnik, Corfu, İtea, Katakolon, Atina

#### Iberian Interlude

10 Mayıs 2003 (11 gece / 12 gün)  
Barcelona, Malaga, Gibraltar, Lizbon, Oporto, La Coruna, St. Malo, Honfleur, Zeebrugge, Amsterdam

#### Images of Italy & Spain

15 Mayıs 2003 (7 gece / 8 gün)  
Roma, Sorrento, Porto Cervo, Portofino, Monte Carlo, Palma de Mallorca, Barcelona



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## RC NEWS



award with their article titled "Waste not Want not".

YRE encourages its members to attend other activities related to the environment. Deniz Oran, one of the founding members of the club, attended the Cathay Pacific International Wilderness Experience in the summer of 2001 in South Africa's Rustenburg Nature Reserve to educate "eco-warriors" dedicated to spreading the word about conservation and other environmental issues. Deniz was proud to be chosen to be the Turkish representative as a result of an international competition.

This summer, she also attended LIFE

(Leadership Initiative for Earth) Quest, a one-month program in the wilderness of the British Columbia sponsored by the UN Environment Program, UNICEF, Apple Inc., and the Canadian government. She attended this program on the strength of an application that she prepared which included a storyboard for an environmentally themed documentary. LIFE accepted only twelve students from all around the world. The program focused on promoting awareness of sustainability as a conservation strategy. Deniz prepared a documentary at LIFE, which was later screened on CNN Turk along with an interview.

"Living an utterly new and different life on Flores Island and adapting myself to a routine that in no way resembles the life I have always lived, I saw that people are not only free to live in any way that they choose, which is widely known, but that they also



are free to choose a way of life based on values different from those that dominate society," says Deniz Oran. The RC Young Reporters Club's next project is a study of the Golden Horn.

They are currently researching how the Golden Horn was cleaned up and whether the same approach could be used to solve other polluted estuaries in the city. The Club members are sure that this article will also be a winner!

For more information:  
Young Reporters web site is  
[www.youngreporters.org](http://www.youngreporters.org)

## INTRODUCING THE IB: RC PREPARES TO LAUNCH INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Robert College has applied to join the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, a world-renowned high school curriculum system. The IB grew out of international schools' efforts as early as 1924 to establish a common curriculum and university-entry credential that encourages the development of critical thinking and intercultural understanding - both of which are dominant features of an RC education. The IB is now offered in hundreds of leading schools worldwide and is accepted for credit by many top universities in the US and UK.

Margaret Halicioğlu



The diploma model incorporates the best elements of several national systems, without being based on any one. The grading system is criterion-referenced and each student's performance is measured against well-defined levels of achievement. Top grades reflect knowledge and skills relative to set standards applied equally to all schools.

The IB Program is a comprehensive two-year curriculum, available in English, French and Spanish, that generally allows students to fulfill requirements of various national education systems. The program allows for development regarding three main areas, which involve the work for "extended essays", a good preparation for the kind of independent research and writing skills which are expected at university level, "the theory of knowledge", which stimulates critical reflection on knowledge and experience gained both inside and outside the classroom, and "creativity, action and service" aiming to challenge the individual students, improve their self-confidence and inspire a sense of responsibility towards the local and international communities.

There are currently 1,365 IB schools in 112 countries. IB diploma holders are admitted to universities in more than 110 countries including the most selective. With IB's growing popularity in the United States, over 100 post-secondary institutions in the U.S., including several Ivy League universities, now grant a full year of credit to students who have earned the IB Diploma. British universities also widely recognize the value and the standard of the IB diploma.

Some Turkish universities, such as Sabanci University, offer scholarships to successful IB students who are also successful in the ÖSS exam. This system is now spreading to other leading Turkish universities, which could provide them with a new way to take their own initiative in choosing their students.

IB officials visited RC in February to assess the school's application to join the program, coordinated by Arts Department Head Margaret Halicioğlu. If given the go-ahead, a pilot IB class will start next fall, with plans to expand in following years.

## REWRITING HISTORY, UNDERSTANDING MULTICULTURALISM

RC History Teacher Nüket Eren Participates in International Efforts to Rewrite History



Since 1999, the History Education Committee of the Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe held a series of seven workshops under the title "Teaching Sensitive and Controversial Issues in the History of South-East Europe".

The workshops aimed to address the problems of history teaching in primary and secondary schools in the region, and to investigate the possibilities of eliminating 'conflict-producing' national stereotypes from textbooks. During the workshops, papers on historiography, other school subjects apart from history, media, the process of nation-building and of the construction of national identities were also presented. The results of these workshops are included in the publication *Clio in the Balkans*.

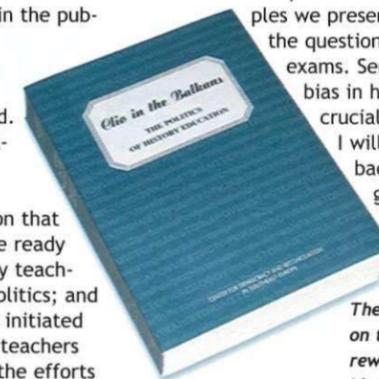
The same year, a History Education Committee was formed. "Perhaps the most important outcome," chair of the History Education Committee Christina Koulouri said, "was the realization that in every country there are people ready to work for the revision of history teaching, sometimes against official politics; and that reforms and changes can be initiated by civil society, by intellectuals, teachers and academics." Today, through the efforts of the Center and committed historians

around the Balkans, more than 130 academic teachers, school teachers, curricula developers, textbook authors and ministry officials from eleven countries of the region participate in efforts to include multiculturalism in history teaching.

The History Education Committee, the second-vice chair of which is Prof. Halil Berktaş RA 64 from Sabancı University, addresses issues concerning history teaching. The committee has formulated two new project proposals, one about producing history textbooks, and one about producing additional teaching materials for all Balkan countries based on topics common in all curricula. The History Education Committee includes 17 members representing all Southeast European countries.

Nüket Eren from the RC History Department took part in these meetings and gave several presentations on issues which, she acknowledges, still remain controversial. In Sofia, she spoke about the experiences of immigrants during Turkey's early republic years, in Thessalonica. She gave a presentation on the details of the Balkan Wars in Turkish textbooks and in London, and debated the intricacies of the Cyprus conflict. Currently, along with other Turkish representatives, she is contributing to an Interim Report, headed by Prof. Halil Berktaş.

Eren said, "I've always tried to find alternative ways to teach and to be as objective as possible. However, this project has certainly led me to be suspicious of even the examples we present in class, and the questions we ask on exams. Sensitivity towards bias in history teaching is crucial, and I hope that I will be able to give back what I have gained from this work."



The first book on the attempt of rewriting the history of the Balkans.

## Keriman Dağdevirenöğlü

Long Term Administrator Retires

Keriman Dağdevirenöğlü, a staff member at RC, recently retired. Dağdevirenöğlü joined RC Bebek campus in 1959 as secretary to the Business Manager. She moved to the Arnavutköy campus in 1960. In 1966 she became administrative assistant to the Dean and in between 1971 and 1990 she worked in the Business Office as administrative assistant in charge of personnel and purchasing. As of 1990, she became director of personnel and purchasing and worked in this capacity until her recent retirement in December 2002.



Keriman Dağdevirenöğlü now has more time to spend with her grand-daughter Ekin, born in 1998 to her daughter Fatos Karahan RC 85.

## TURKISH THEATER FESTIVAL - TİFES



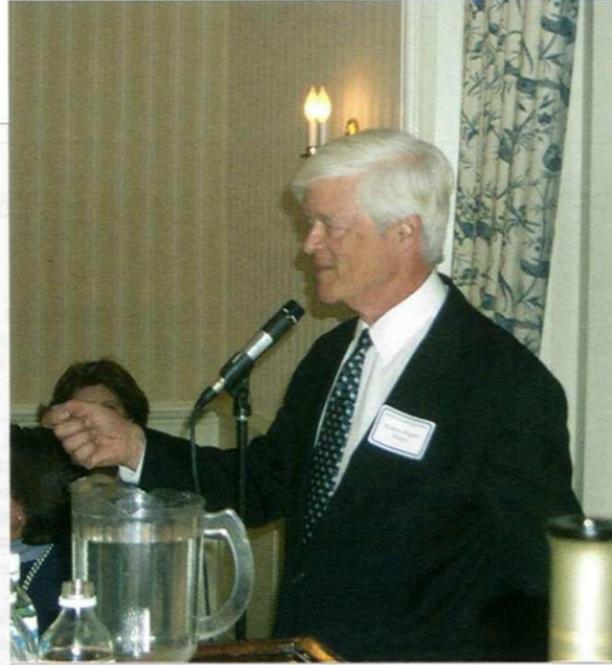
Robert College will host the Turkish Theater Festival (TİFES) this year, between the dates of May 4 - 10, 2003. Theater groups from various participating schools will perform their plays on the Suna Kırac Theater. The event is being organized by the Robert College Drama

Club and is open to all spectators. For details on the schools participating and the plays to be performed please visit their site on [www.robcol.k12.tr](http://www.robcol.k12.tr). Just click on Turkish Theater Festival.

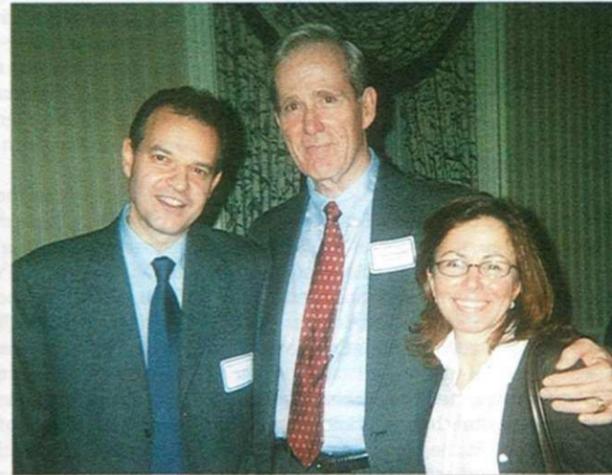
For questions you may e-mail [theater@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:theater@robcol.k12.tr)

## COCKTAIL RECEPTION IN NEW YORK HONORS BOARD CHAIRMAN

A cocktail reception was held in New York to honor outgoing Trustee Board Chairman, Rodney B. Wagner, and incoming Chair, James R. Maggart. Over 140 alumni/ae, Trustees and friends of Robert College gathered on December 2, 2002 at the Yale Club of New York for this very special evening. Margaret Mathews, RC 75 and Trustee, welcomed everyone and introduced the guests of honor. Mr. Wagner, who served as Chairman from 1979 to 2002, reminisced and reflected on the changes and progress that had come to the School during these years. He said that he looked forward to continuing involvement with the Board of Trustees and with all of the Robert College family. Mr. Maggart who had served previously as teacher, administrator and headmaster of Robert College acknowledged the changes in the School since he had led the women's basketball team to victory. He said that he was accepting the Chairmanship of the Board at a difficult time, but looks forward to these challenges and working with his fellow Trustees and the School administration to meet them. He asked for support from alumni/ae to help meet funding needs at the School and said that he looks forward to dialogues with alumni/ae.



Rodney B. Wagner served as Chairman of the RC Board of Trustees from 1979 to 2002.



Chairman of the Board, James R. Maggart with his former students Viktor and Lynne Baruh, both RC 73.



Headmaster Livingston Merchant and Christa Merchant with Kaye Maggart.

## THIRTEENTH ANNUAL YOUNG ALUMNI/AE RECEPTION HELD IN NEW YORK

Young alumni/ae gathered in New York on November 2, 2002 for the Thirteenth Annual Robert College Reunion. Under the sponsorship of the Robert College Alumni Association of America, the reunion drew more than 120 alumni, many of whom are attending US colleges and universities or starting their careers. A substantial and delicious Turkish buffet was offered for everyone's enjoyment.

Special guests that evening were new Trustee Board Chairman James R. Maggart and his wife Kaye. Mr. Maggart said how much he was enjoying the evening and the opportunity to meet so many of the RC grads. He thanked the RCAA President at

the time Özlenen Kalav ACG 67 and her Board for their work in organizing the reunion. Mr. Maggart praised the students graduating from RC and the honor they bring to the School. He also spoke about the financial challenges that must be faced at this time and stressed the importance of alumni/ae support during this difficulty period.

Members of Classes from 1941 to 2002 were represented in this happy and congenial group. The reunion has become famous amongst new graduates and the new alums eagerly anticipate attending this now traditional event.

NIVEA  
deodorant

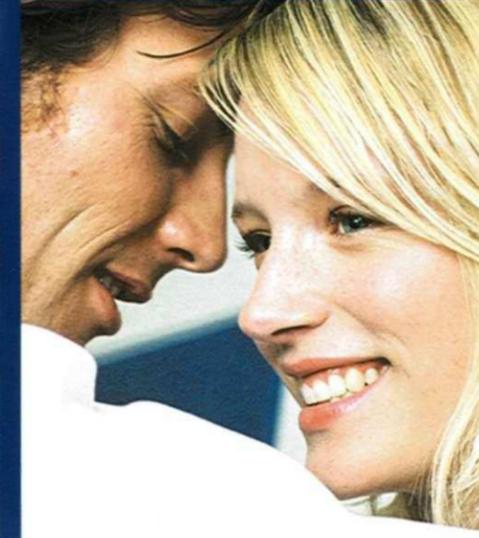
# HERKESE ÖZEL DEODORANT KORUMASI...



FRESH

**FERAHLATAN ÇÖZÜM**  
Fresh serisi tazelik hissi ve ter kokusunu önleyen formülü ile sabaktan akşama, gün boyu ferahlık sağlıyor.

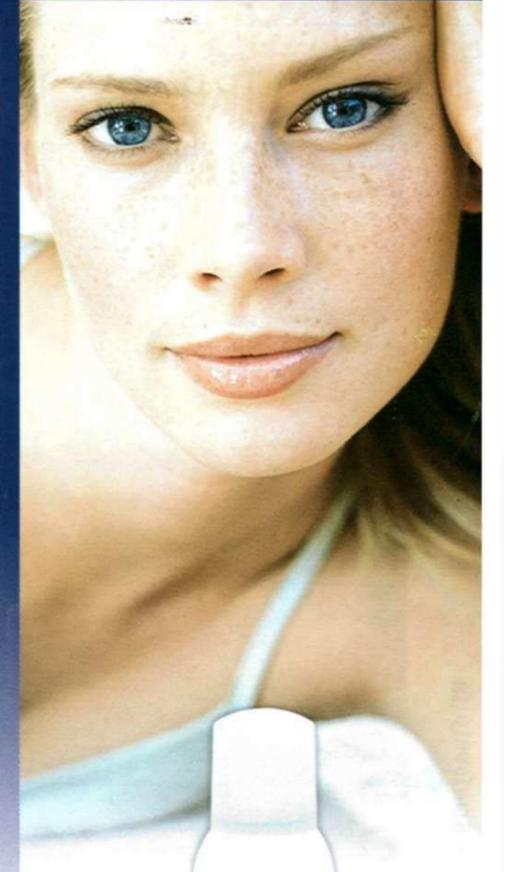
- aerosol sprej
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Antiperspirant özelliğe sahip Dry serisi terlemeyi düzenleyerek, gün boyu kuruluk sağlıyor.

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- stick



# WHO'S WHO ON CAMPUS

## THE LIBRARY: Womb and Window to the World



Perhaps no space on campus is as readily associated with RC as the library. Though as old as the school itself, the library has steadily kept abreast of the changing times and offers sophisticated services and a selection of titles on a par with any university library in Turkey. Best of all, the library is also open to RC alumni!

When Cyrus Hamlin and the Dwight brothers of the American Missionary Organization decided to establish a school in Istanbul in the 1850s, they had to persuade C.R. Robert, whom the school is named after, to provide funding and financial support. Their correspondence made the school's library a priority. Even though Robert College had only four students when it was opened at its temporary building at Bebek in September 1863, it had a \$22,120 budget for the library. It received 200 books from Harvard University as an inaugural gift. In May 1871, the school moved to the Hisar campus, where the library was located in the single educational building, Hamlin Hall. By then,

the number of books had already reached 5,000.

That same year, in October, the American College for Girls was established in Üsküdar and by 1914, had moved to Arnavutköy. The opening ceremony for the library, next to the meeting room, was held in Gould Hall, the central building, with a dazzling speech by Halide Edip Adivar (ACG 01).

At the Hisar campus, C.F. Gates, the director of boys' school, managed after years of effort to open the Van Millingen Library in April 1932. Alexander Van Millingen, who was born in Istanbul, was professor of history at the college between years 1897-1915 and donated both his fortune and personal collection to the library. This library, which soon became legendary for the RC boys, also received financial support from the Carnegie Foundation. Today, this building serves as the administration compound of Bosphorus University.

By 1957, the RC library had

reached a respectable 111,598 book titles and 214 periodicals; and the ACG library held 27,163 books and 108 periodicals.

By 1963, the library of ACG, located in Gould Hall, expanded into two stories through a donation in the name of Anne Taylor Case. The new panoramic library allowed the ACG girls to read books and magazines or listen to LP's while gazing at the expansive Bosphorus view.

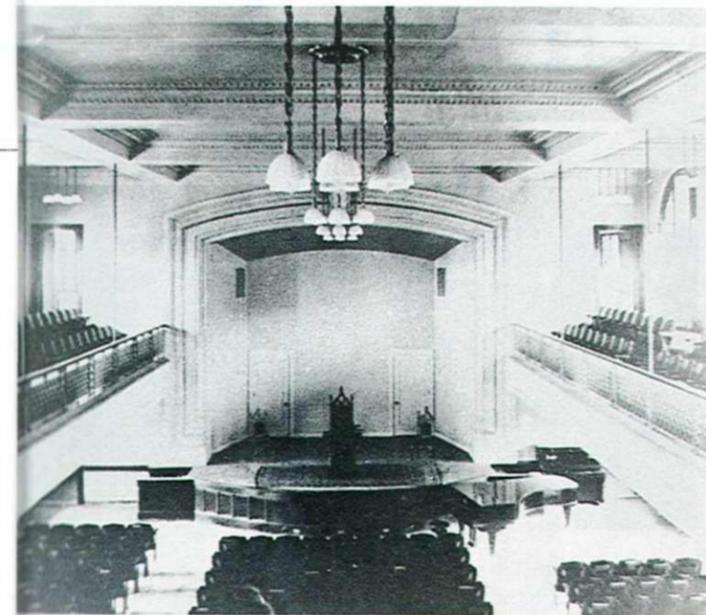
In 1971, the Bebek Campus



Orta Library in Bingham Hall. May Fincancı with orta students in 1980. (above)

The ACG reading room. (below)

became Bosphorus University and the high school boys arrived at the Arnavutköy Campus for coeducation at Robert College. The books for higher education were left at the nationalized university campus while the high



The ACG Assembly Hall before 1971. (left)

The Assembly Hall turned into a gym after 1971. (below)

The RC Library today. (bottom)

school level books were moved to the Arnavutköy library. The library for the girls' secondary school, which was started in Bingham Hall in 1925, merged with the Lise library in 1992.

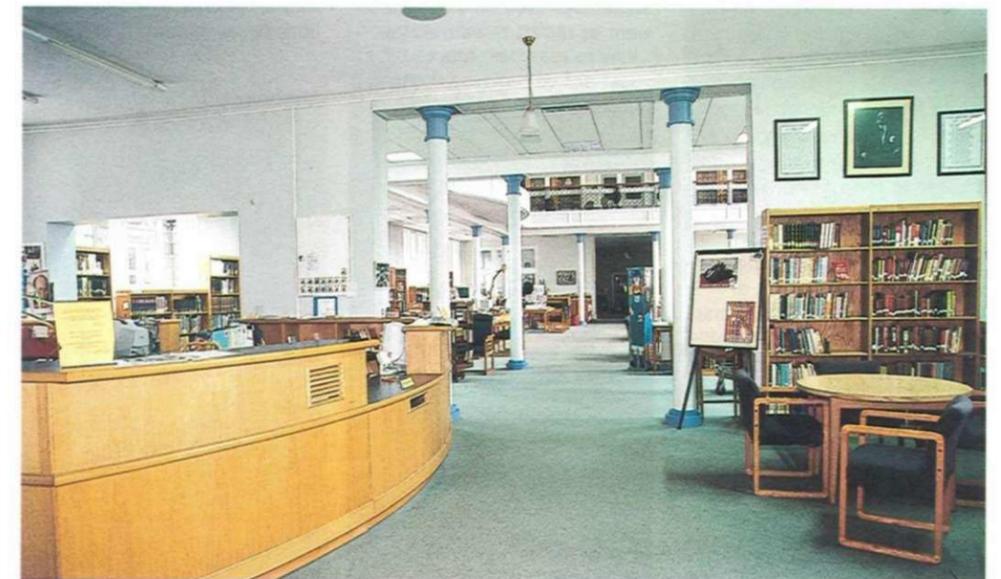
The space of the old Assembly Hall, which was turned into a gym for the newcomers in 1972, was eventually incorporated into the present two-story library in 1996.

The changes that both the school and the library have undergone over the last century have been described by former RC headmaster Harry Dawe as a mutual relation between the structure and the people, with the structure constantly transforming the mentality.

RC continues to expand and update its library. A Turkish law passed in 1999, making compulsory education eight years as opposed to five, led the Orta school to close, and books of that level were distributed to various other schools in the country.

Today, the RC library has 90 seats and 700 square meters of space, approximately 43,000 books, 110 CD-Rom, 40 VCD's, 70 CD's, 120 tapes, 144 periodicals and 2 on-line databases.

This piece was compiled from an article written by Ayşe Yüksel ACG 69 for the April 2003 issue of the 4. Kat published by Yapı Kredi Publications.



RC is hosting the first of a kind:

Ayşe Yüksel is leading the organization of the first National School Librarian's meeting on July 5, 2003 at Robert College. It will be a one day event with workshops and seminars. If you would like to sponsor this first event please contact Ayşe at (0212) 359 24 43 or ayuksel@robcol.k12.tr.

## WHO'S WHO ON CAMPUS

### RC LIBRARIANS SSHHHH!!! SSSHHH!!!!

*Dedicated RC staff; the librarians never tire of saying "ssshhh!!!!!!!"*

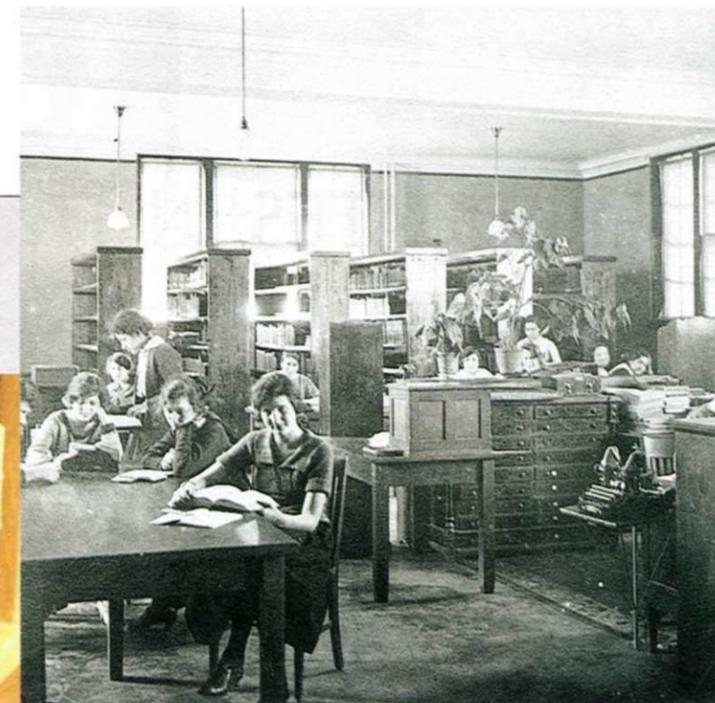
*At the heart of an educational institution lies the library collection. And the librarians are the bridge between the knowledge on the shelves and students. The RC library staff is made up of interesting individuals, all of whom share a whole-hearted dedication to their jobs.*



Our usual suspects!



The library has held a National Geographic collection since 1908.



Mary Berkmen

**Mary Berkmen:** Ms. Berkmen started working at the RC Bebek campus in 1965. Her responsibility is to select the latest books with reference to curriculum, in order to support the education. It is necessary to encourage teachers and students to use on-line databases for research. A longtime staff member, she points out that while the automation system renders things easier, there is also the emotional side of change in the system. She keeps one of the card catalogue desks there, as a symbol of the old days. Becoming computerized required a lot of effort, but network usage has resulted in an increase in the efficiency of library circulation and coordination. In these times of information overload, she focuses on ways to access relevant knowledge. Ms. Berkmen is also something of a classical music fan - pianist Fazıl Say is a particular favorite.

**Ayşe Yüksel:** As technology coordinator of the RC library, Ms Yüksel is one of its most dynamic staff members. When she graduated from ACG in 1969, Ms Yüksel wondered if she would ever return. She had very fond memories of the library, especially because of all the time she had spent there as a boarding student. At that time, there was an LP collection of jazz, classical and ethnic music. In the evenings, she remembers losing herself among the shelves, discovering new worlds. After studying fine arts, she received a call from Zeynep Man Durukan, ACG 57 then head of the alumni office. Surprisingly, the offer was to work as a librarian at RC. That is how she began working at the library in September 1980. In 1997, she went to the US to earn a mas-

ter's degree in library studies. There, she enjoyed special courses on the selection and purchase of books. She is involved in the suggestion of new titles, especially Turkish ones. Ms Yüksel's job requires her to keep up with the latest book reviews and literary trends. One of her most important contributions is to organize the art book collection, which RC is proud of. She led the computerization process and still runs the web-site of the library and keeps it up to date. She was also heavily involved with the planning of the current library. Ms. Yüksel says she likes dealing with teenagers and creating a space in which they can feel comfortable and relaxed.

**Nilüfer Göksan:** She became a librarian in response to an

advertisement in October 1984. Her relationship with RC was based on her mother's and aunt's education. She started at the Orta Library and then transferred to the Lise library after the two merged. She enjoys being in a school environment, she never thought of corporate life as a profession. The hardest working period was moving the Orta library, she says. To merge both collections took a year, because the circulation of the library continued at the same time. Although it has been 18 years since she began, she still loves coming in to work. Ms Göksan is in charge of processing the books.

**Şiir Türsan:** With a school reputation for being the most fierce librarian, it comes as a surprise to many graduates that Ms.

Türsan has a fantastic sense of humor! She had to leave ACG in 1966 because of poor health but always felt that there was something unfinished in her relationship with the institution. When she saw an advertisement in the newspaper she immediately applied, and began working at the library in October 1988. Being a librarian, particularly being a librarian at RC, creates addiction, she says. A romantic at heart, she is in love with the harmony of the book and the shelf. So she misses the old system, although the computerized system saves time. Ms. Türsan is in charge of the purchasing and classification of books.

**Iffet Özseven:** Ms. Özseven ACG 66 fell in love with the library when she was at school.

After seeing an ad in the alumni news, she applied for the job in September 1988. She describes the school environment as another universe. She chose to work at RC as a way to contribute to the education given at RC. Ms. Özseven says being amongst youngsters in a school environment is a great way to stay youthful, but she does miss the Orta students. Much of her job requires constant communication with students as she is in charge of periodicals, which are used for research.

**John Royce:** Head Librarian at RC since 1999, Mr. Royce became a librarian quite unintentionally during a teaching stint in Zambia. He was, however, quickly won over and has never looked back. "School librarianship is dynamic, unpre-

dictable and ever-changing," he says. After working in Zambia, the UK and a school very similar to RC in Malawi, Africa, Royce settled in for a 12 year posting in Hamburg, Germany where he picked up much of his expertise in computers and technology. Even so, he says he enjoys a greater degree of maintenance support at RC. A firm believer in the saying "You don't have to be ill to get better", Royce taught himself to keep abreast of the latest technology.

"Robert has an excellent library and a well-qualified, experienced staff. Stock, staff, facilities, direction: together they add up to a great program. The library is well used, with more than 620 users coming through our doors every day, and more and more classes using our facilities and resources as well. I am really excited by the fact that year on year the number of books we lend out is increasing, and this despite the Internet," he says.

Royce also has a particular interest in literacy and in information literacy, believing that reading helps not just to improve reading skills but also comprehension skills, language skills and life skills. While excited by the potential of the Internet, he says that without basic literacy, information literacy can become very difficult as the Internet remains heavily text-based. "If you cannot read properly you cannot



Studying is constant but methods change.



Ayşe Yüksel



Nilüfer Göksan



Şiir Türsan



Iffet Özseven



John Royce

not get best use from the internet and you are less likely to find good, reliable information. Thus my pleasure in those borrowing figures," he says. A man of many interests, Royce also enjoys writing, travel, photography, bridge, crossword puzzles, and -phew- being with his wife.

# GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

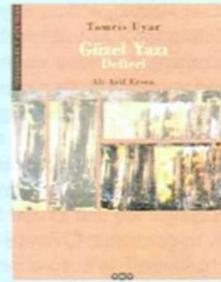
## AUTHOR UYAR WINS AWARD FOR NEW NOVEL



Tomris Uyar ACG 61

**T**omris Uyar ACG 61 was awarded the Dünya Book Prize in November for her latest novel, *Güzel Yazı Defteri* (*The Calligraphy Book*). Born in 1941 in Istanbul, Tomris Uyar has been an important contributor to the Turkish literary scene since 1965 when her first short

story was published in *Türk Dili* (*Turkish Language*) journal. Her works include short stories, essays, and diary compilations as well as translations of authors such as Virginia Woolf, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Juan Rulfo, Lewis Carrol, Kurt Vonnegut, Julio Cortazar, Jorge Luis Borges and Doris Lessing. In 1999, she received the Best Translation Award for her work on Tennessee Williams' short stories. In her latest book, Uyar, who has likened the life of authorship to a life of disciplined insanity, once again deftly captures the passion and betrayal inherent to human relationships.



## ACTOR GENCO ERKAL TAKES ANTI-WAR SENTIMENT TO THE STAGE



Genco Erkal RC 57

Nazım Hikmet, Bertolt Brecht, Euripides, Karl Valentin, Aziz Nesin, Ferhan Şensoy and Wolfgang Borchert.

**Y**aşasın Savaş (*Long Live War*), renowned actor Genco Erkal's RC 57 new play compiled from texts of various authors, met with enthusiastic reception at its first run between January 17th and February 23rd. The play, which opens with an act of *Trojan Women*, includes texts in reference to wars which affected the world throughout history from a variety of authors including Aydın Engin,

"The aim of the play is to highlight the mechanisms which have rendered war inevitable throughout world history," Erkal told a daily newspaper. Although the texts were written in different periods, they preserve their validity and timeliness, he added. Optimistic nonetheless, Erkal said that with 90% of the world population against war on Iraq, anti-war sentiment might be able to prevent it.

## GÜLAY BARBAROSOĞLU TAKES OVER KEY EARTHQUAKE POST



Gülay Barbarosoğlu RC 74

Department since 1985, has done extensive research on theories of mathematical planning and optimisation as well as manufacturing resources planning.

**A**hmet Mete Işıkara, the portly professor who became a public figure following the 1999 Marmara earthquake, resigned his post as the head of the Kandilli Observatory, to be succeeded by Gülay Barbarosoğlu RC 74. Barbarosoğlu, who has been teaching in the Bosphorus University Industrial Engineering

She is also currently involved in a project with the collaboration of the Turkish Chief of Staff and NATO on disaster management and logistic system planning. Barbarosoğlu's commitment to research and background in logistic systems is bound to result in new developments at Kandilli.

## KULIN'S LATEST NOVEL TACKLES WWII



Ayşe Kulin ACG 61

**P**rolific author Ayşe Kulin ACG 61 released her latest book *Nefes Nefese* (*Breathless*) in December, only to hit the best seller list at number one in a few days. Her fifth novel, *Nefes Nefese* is a love story in which history and love collide. Based on the tortured love affair between Selva,

the descendant of a royal Ottoman family, and Rafael, a Jewish young man, the novel eloquently brings to life social issues of ethnicity and discrimination during the hard days of World War II.

Kulin illuminates not only the Turkish government's wise decision to stay neutral during WWII but also the heroic efforts of Turkish diplomats who managed to save hundreds of Jews from the Holocaust by boarding them on trains from France. *Nefes Nefese* will grip you from the start as you travel with its authentic characters from Istanbul to Marseilles.



# GOLDAS



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## GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

### HÜLYA UÇANSU LEADS NEW EFFORT TO PROMOTE TURKISH FILMS



Hülya Uçansu ACG 71

**H**ülya Uçansu ACG 71 is the formidable powerhouse that has built the International Istanbul Film Festival up from tiny beginnings with just six titles in 1981 to an internationally acclaimed popular event that runs for two weeks, screens some 150 films and hosts world famous actors and directors. Uçansu was recruited by Onat Kutlar in 1983 to work on what was then called the Istanbul Film Days. In 1988 the event became the Istanbul Film Festival and gained accreditation by FIAPF, the association of international

film productions. Until that year, Uçansu and colleagues had to battle severe censorship, with films being banned for scenes in which a man was seen bathing nude, or a woman seen saying erotic words behind the door. The festival was strengthened further by the introduction of a national and international competition.

Petite and brimming with energy, Uçansu says running a major cultural event in a developing country has not always been easy. "My challenges when doing this work are trying not to lose a positive outlook and maintaining my endless enthusiasm in a country where every two years brings a new catastrophe," she said. The festival, run under the auspices of the non-profit Istanbul Culture and Arts Foundation, survives on sponsor contributions, and is thus exceedingly vulnerable to the negative economic developments that regularly plague Turkey.

This year, the festival will run between April 12 and 27th in Istanbul's Emek, Atlas, Sinepop, Beyoğlu and Reks cinemas and will feature approximately 180 feature length films from 40 countries. In addition to film screenings, it will feature a photography exhibition entitled *Artists* by photographers Ara Güler, Şakir Eczacıbaşı and Jerry Schatzberg.

Uçansu says this year's most exciting development will be the introduction of a Turkish film market. A feature of major world film festivals, the market will be organised for the first time in Istanbul and aims to promote the sales of Turkish films to international distributors. "When you live in a country like ours, it is inevitable that you find yourself meeting new challenges," she said. For more information, see [www.istfest.org](http://www.istfest.org).



Dikmen Gürün ACG 61

### DİKMEN GÜRÜN PAVES WAY FOR NEW PINA BAUSCH İSTANBUL PIECE

**F**or the past decade, Dikmen Gürün ACG 61 has steered the Istanbul International Theater Festival through tumultuous times. Financial setbacks and sponsorship difficulties have forced the event to downsize from an annual to a biannual one but it is not lacking in star power - last year featured performances from world renowned artists, the likes of The Wooster Group and Heiner Goebbels.

Gürün is now preparing to launch an extraordinary event this spring. She is handling the international premiere of a new production created by contemporary dance-theatre legend Pina Bausch especially for Istanbul. Bausch, the world renowned dancer turned choreographer, is known for innovative productions that are a kaleidoscopic montage of stories, sounds, images and gestures. Her pieces deal with fundamental issues of human existence, particularly the clash between the desire for love and the fear of intimacy.

Seen recently in the opening piece in Pedro Almodovar's film *Talk to Her*, Bausch is no stranger to Istanbul audiences. The choreographer known for such groundbreaking works as *Café Müller*, *Legend of Chastity*, *Carnations* and *Bluebeard* twice brought her Tanztheater Wuppertal to the festival here.

The visits spawned a love for the city. "On her last visit two years ago, she told me that she wanted to create a choreography about Istanbul. This was, of course, a thrilling piece of news," said Gürün, who also heads the theater department at Istanbul University.

The new piece will first be unveiled, like all Bausch productions, at the Wuppertal in Germany, before travelling to Istanbul for four performances from May 29th. For more details, see [www.istfest.org](http://www.istfest.org).



Bausch's 2000 Istanbul performance of *Masurca Fogo*.

### VİKİ HABİF CHOSEN ONE OF 2002'S MOST SUCCESSFUL WOMEN



Viki Habif ACG 71

**V**iki Habif ACG 71 was chosen 2002's most successful woman in advertising in annual awards held by the Dünya economic daily earlier this year. Habif is president of the Simge Group, which controls advertising for five of Turkey's leading newspapers, from the more highbrow *Radikal* and *Milliyet* to the mass market daily *Posta*, the football

daily *Fanatik* and the business-oriented *Finansal Forum*. The awards are given out annually by a 13-person jury to celebrate Turkey's top women achievers.

Habif, who studied advertising at Strasbourg University, says accurate brand positioning is of paramount importance in her job. "It is very important to be able to position and explain your brand in the right way and to make sure that

all of your subsequent promotional activities tie in to those strategies," she said. But the energetic mother of two also says attitude is key. "If you're working on the client side of advertising, you have to be outgoing by nature," she said. Habif certainly practices what she preaches - known by her co-workers for her lively personality, she even helped pioneer a theater production put on by Doğan group employees.



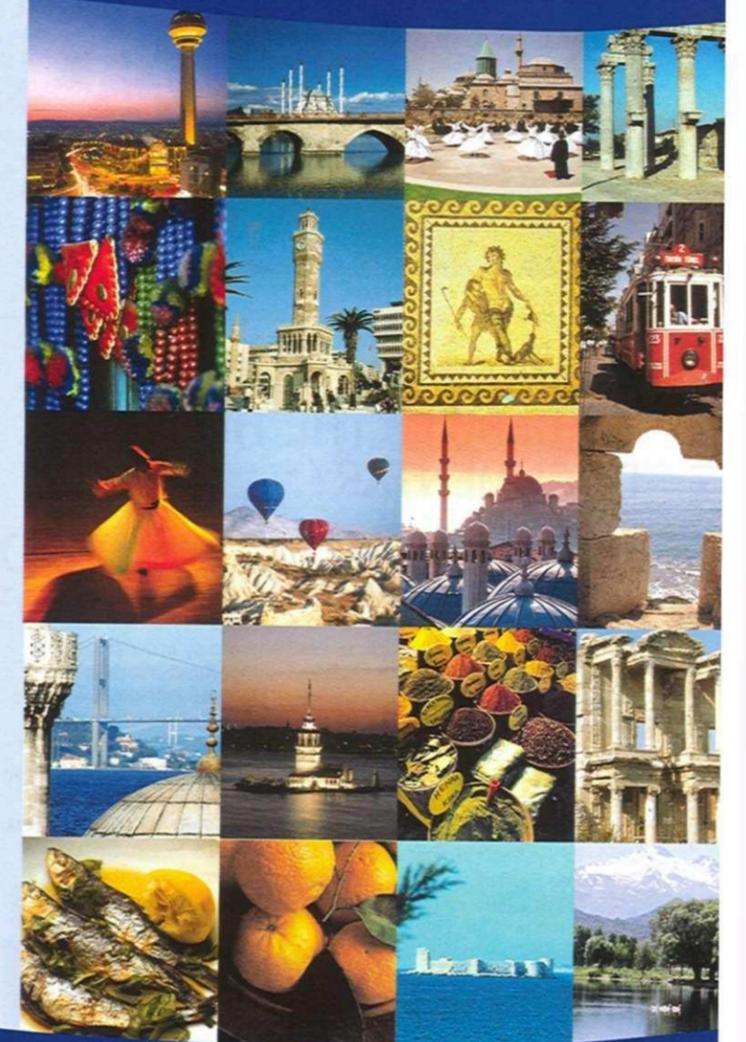
# Colours of Turkey 2003

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# ONES TO WATCH

## INDIE FILMS COMING SOON TO A THEATER NEAR YOU

Istanbul moviegoers more accustomed to having to choose between the latest Hollywood blockbuster and Jackie Chan vehicle have been



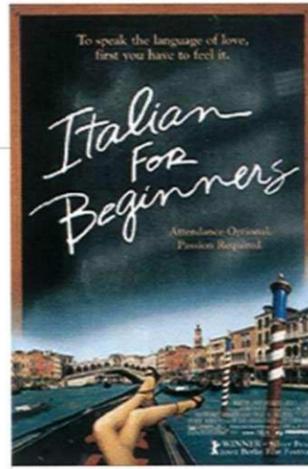
pleasantly surprised by a trickle of quirky, original, non-Hollywood films screening at their local cinemas. The company behind titles such as *Thesis*, *Italian for Beginners* and *Tape* is a young and alternative film distribution venture launched last May by Ersan Çongar RC 90 and three of his friends.

Their company, Bir Film, seeks to provide cinema goers with alternatives to the mainstream Hollywood movies that currently dominate Turkish cinemas. It will be an uphill task, but they believe there is a real need for independent films, and so far

their releases have performed respectably.

Çongar took an unusual route to Bir Film. An architecture graduate, he started writing film reviews on the side while working as an architect. Eventually his hobby took over and his love of cinema overcame his interest in his original profession.

Bir Film started last May with *Italian for Beginners*, a Silver Bear winner at the Berlin Film Festival and one of the hits of last year's Istanbul Film Festival. Their latest release, *Tape*, was likewise sold out during its 16



A movie poster for Bir Film's debut release.

2003 screenings and looks poised to do well at the box office. Çongar hopes to expand Bir Film releases to other Turkish cities in the near future. *Italian For Beginners* has already been screened at six cities across Turkey, and he hopes others will follow suit.

## AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR TO DEBUT "THE HITTITES" DOCUMENTARY

Tolga Örnek RC 89, director and producer of five documentary films in the last four years, is currently finalising work on his latest project, *The Hittites*.

His first documentary, *Atatürk*, in 1998 was widely acclaimed in Turkey and also screened in the US and Europe. In the same year, Örnek went on to write and direct a documentary on Fenerbahçe and produced an interactive CD-ROM on the Topkapı Palace.

Sixteen months in the making and shot in fifteen different locations in Eastern Turkey, his second award winning documentary, *Mount Nemrud: The Throne of the Gods* debuted in Turkey in 2000, won first place in the history/biography category of the US International Film and Video Festival in Chicago and was also picked up by the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Tolga Örnek on the set of *The Hittites*.



A scene from *The Hittites*.

His current project, a documentary on the Hittites, is a spin off of the ancient remains they encountered while shooting *Nemrud*. The new million dollar drama-documentary project shot in Anatolia, Syria and Egypt features well known actors such as Haluk Bilginer, Sanem Çelik, Fikret Kuşkan, Burak Sergen and Cüneyt Ürel, makes use of state of the art 3D animation, and brings to life extensive research on the Hittite language, civilisation and cities. To be premiered in Los Angeles on April 4th and in Istanbul on April 22nd, *The Hittites* will also be shown theatrically and on TV in Turkey and around the world.

Örnek, pointing out that making money from documentaries is almost impossible, emphasises how much he loves what he does: "I simply have a passion for making films. Documentary making is especially interesting, since you get to learn about things in great detail, visit incredible places and meet incredible people. What people do on their vacation is what I do for work. What else would I want?"

After graduating from RC, Örnek went on to study Metallurgical Engineering at the Istanbul Technical University and later got his master's degree in engineering from the University of Florida. He later stayed true to a childhood passion for film and got another master's degree in Film and Video Production from the American University in Washington.



## MAVI JEANS CONTINUES TO CONQUER THE USA

Last year the influential men's fashion weekly DNR chose Ersin Akarlılar RC 87 one of "the top 100 people in men's fashion" for his success with Mavi Amerika. The magazine's criteria was not just a brand's sales, but also its effects on cultural behaviour and marketing creativity.

Creative success is one way to describe the story of Mavi, the Turkish jeans brand which has grown in leaps and bounds from its inauspicious 1996 beginnings as a little known name sold in a handful of department stores, to becoming one of North America's most popular jeans brands. Their low cut denim creations are now favoured by teenagers and celebrities alike.

"It all started," Ersin Akarlılar said, "when I saw a young girl wearing a pair of Mavi jeans at Milan airport." After he finished his master's degree in the US, it took Akarlılar a few years and a few business enterprises to decide that he wanted to market his father's brand in the US. Since its establishment in 1991, Mavi Jeans had already become a name in the Turkish market, but to try and sell



One of the Mavi Jean's stores in the USA.

jeans to Americans seemed a futile effort to many at the time.

But Akarlılar's creative marketing efforts and key business strategy to aim for the top rather than lower-end price market, paid off in no time at all. A pair of Mavi jeans sells for about \$60 these days, compared to around \$40 for a pair of Levi's. Last year, Mavi Amerika sales surpassed two million pairs of jeans, with \$45 million in revenues. The brand is now sold in more than 1,200 stores in North America.

This spring, Mavi Amerika will open its first flagship store in New York. "Department and specialty stores will remain our main outlets," said Akarlılar. "However, our flagship store will allow us to present the brand as a whole. We felt after six years in the U.S., this was the right time for Mavi to extend the brand." The 500 m<sup>2</sup> bi-level space near Union Square offers customers the brand's full line of tops, accessories and denim, as well as regularly scheduled events and exhibits at the store featuring emerging artists. The company has also been establishing a roster of up-and-comers in the art world, from painters to DJs.

## NEW FESTIVAL ON THE BLOCK !f ENJOYS SUCCESSFUL SECOND YEAR RUN



public relations, 16 screened 40 films, under seven themes designed to highlight current trends in cinema, and was attended by some 32,000 Istanbul movie goers. Many of its hit films were sold out in advance, and additional screenings had to be scheduled.

The end of January saw Istanbul enlivened by the second run of the city's youngest film festival, the AFM International Independent Film Festival, popularly called !f and dedicated to cutting-edge, independent cinema from around the world. Kolektif Productions, run by Serra Ciliv RC 92 and Pelin Turgut RC 92, launched !f Istanbul last year in collaboration with AFM Cinemas.

In its second year, also joined by Refika Birgül RC 98 for press and

Festival favourites included David Cronenberg's latest opus *Spider*, *Novo*, *Intacto*, *24 Hour Party People* and *Ken Park*. Japanese animation master Miyazaki's *Spirited Away* drew audiences of all ages. The highlight of the festival's new political section - prepared under the shadow of 9/11 and an imminent war on Iraq - was Michael Moore's *Bowling for Columbine*, preceded by a provocative special address by well-known commentator Murat Belge.



A scene from festival favourite, the Japanese animation *Spirited Away*.

# COVERSTORY

## Mark in history: Pioneering ACG graduate with a cause

To celebrate International Women's Day this year, we chose to take a brief look at the founding years of the American College for Girls, and commemorate the moving views and deeds of one of

its first Turkish graduates, Halide Edip Adivar ACG 01.

Robert College founder Cyrus Hamlin described his vision of a school for girls to be established in Uskudar in 1871 as "... a female college or institution, which shall hold the same relation to female education that Robert College does to male..." His vision would eventually be fulfilled by Mary Mills Patrick, a scholar, administrator, fundraiser and a firm believer in the modern ideas of the day. Together with Caroline Borden, an American philanthropist, Patrick transformed the Home School into the American College for Girls, an institution of higher learning, in 1890, obtaining a charter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and empowering her school to confer the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

### ACG founder



Though documents which have survived from the early years of this new institution portray the difficulties of educating girls through the last years of Sultan Abdulhamid, the onset of the Young Turks revolution, the Balkan Wars and the War of Independence, they do not say much about the philosophy of education which these women dreamed of. There are references to notions such as the equality of nations and sexes, but the effects of these on the school's educational philosophy for girls is hard to grasp in the early documents.

We do know, however, that the school was intended as more than just a "finishing school". In Patrick's words, it was to provide "... not only practical courses in Domestic Science, (but) instruction in all arts and professions now open to women, and an adequate fitting for efficient service in such business careers as are already inviting the help of educated women." In these "inviting"

professions she included medicine and dentistry, for which she planned a medical school. Today, we know that Patrick's vision of women's education was more advanced than many in her homeland, let alone the possibilities open to women in the Ottoman Empire.

Readings in early ACG history reveal hardships; they mention buildings constructed merely for shelter and insufficient for academic studies, no lighting, heating, or running water, a few hundred books in the library, and a small gallery containing a small selection of science apparatus. Patrick also mentions the difficulty of recruiting female Turkish students, especially during the reign of Abdulhamid, who disliked missionary schools. By 1901, her exuberance at the increasing number of Turkish girls is palpable in a letter she wrote to Borden:

"And now, I must tell you some wonderful news," she exclaims. "We have nine Mohammedan boarders from the best families in the city, and seven of them are over fourteen, or perhaps six, for one is thirteen. Four are mature young ladies, who have polite manners and much refinement and a certain kind of culture, but so little education that they have gone into the lowest preparatory class. They are not special students, but wish to take as much of the regular course as possible before they leave to marry, and say they intend to stay for several years... These girls are very bright and at Christmas will pass from the preparatory class to the next higher one. I will not say much about this, for we are afraid that we may lose them at any moment. It must not get into print. Even if we keep them a short time, I



ACG teachers and children, 1881-1882: Mary Mills Patrick (standing, left), Mary Hamlin (standing, right), Clara Hamlin (seated, right), and Mrs. Williams (seated, left) with her children.

shall always be glad of the opportunity that I have had to become acquainted with such delightful families as these Turkish families are."

Patrick's excitement nevertheless does not reveal enough about the kind of women these pioneer women hoped would graduate from ACG. The specific goals of the founding administrators remain open-ended questions. It is only through reports on big events, such as the fire which destroyed Barton Hall in 1905, that we get some clues as to what Patrick believed ACG had managed to do with the girls' education.

"Some of the students were in their night clothes and some were without shoes, but all were perfectly calm and quiet. The nine members of the senior class helped carry water while there was hope of extinguishing the flames, and calmness prevailed among the others even though they were suddenly awakened to danger. The courage and self-possession of the girls in such an emergency in this land of childish and hysterical women was one of the best proofs that we have had of the fine training that our College gives..."

Courage, self-possession and calmness were then attributes which Patrick saw in her girls. Patrick may have left us little else, but testimony of the qualities of an ACG education can be found in the lives and works of generations of women graduates who were pioneers in their fields. It is no small coincidence that one of the first Turkish girls to graduate from ACG should later lead the post-Independence women's emancipation movement. A colourful character and outspoken activist who courted controversy, Halide Edip Adivar ACG 01 would set the tone for generations of women to come.

### HALIDE EDIP ADIVAR A CANON OF HER OWN

"Without knowledge and learning for its own sake, humanity will deteriorate, and will eventually create a species with high practical capacity, perhaps, but with no ability to think deeply and highly. The superiority of the human species is in their capacity for pure thought," was the address Halide Edip gave at the 1940 graduation ceremony of her Alma Mater.

Often deemed the epitome of the "Republican woman", her life, work and approach to the women's issue made her one of the most controversial characters of her time.



Son 28 yıldır dünya daha hızlı dönüyor!

## COVER STORY



Students in a classroom in the first ACG campus in Üsküdar.

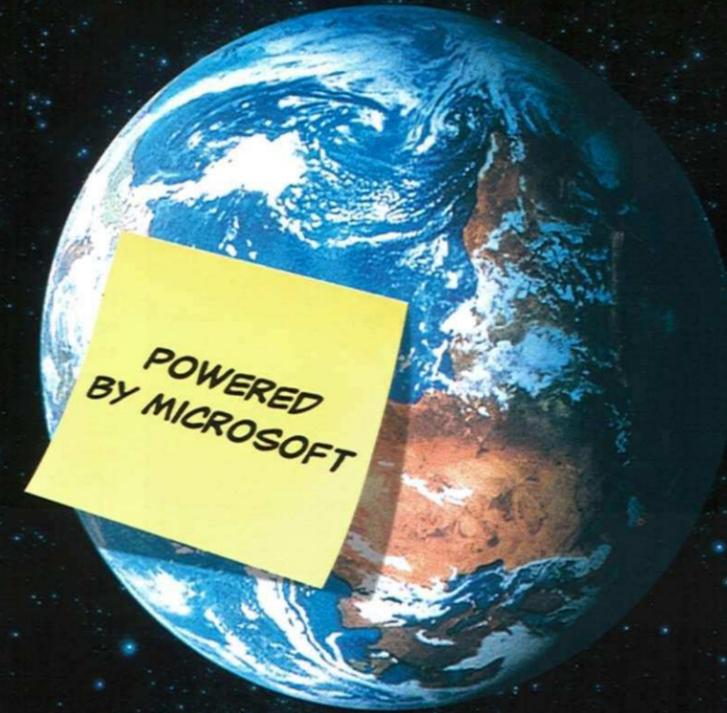
She had had to go to some trouble to graduate from her school. Her father, a palace official and trusted servant of the sultan, enrolled her at eleven, but his initiative was not well received at the palace. She stayed for a year before Abdulhamid's displeasure led her father to withdraw her from the school, during which time, "she had learned to read and write in English"<sup>6</sup>. It is often said that it was her diligent and successful translation of the book *The Mother in the Home*, which compelled the Sultan to decorate her, and allowed her to return to school.

Her graduation in 1901 was the beginning of an eventful life and career in which she would often be called one of the pioneers of Turkish feminism. Often deemed the epitome of the "Republican woman", her life, works and approach to the women's issue made her one of the most controversial characters of her time. Courage and self-possession, yes, calmness maybe not, but Halide Edip - "a shy and modest girl with bright and shining eyes"<sup>7</sup>

at the time of her entry to ACG, was certainly one of the women who voiced new concerns for the new republic, and its women. She was, after all, one of the very few Muslim women who had graduated from a school with a vision for girls' education.

Before the War of Independence, Halide Edip was already known for her nationalist and feminist activism, writing in daily newspapers on issues of women's education and the problematic aspects of polygamy. In 1911, she was among the founders of the Society for the Development of Women and of the Turkish Hearths which would for years to come provide a cultural script for Turkish nationalism. But it was her fiery address to the people of Istanbul at the famous Sultanahmet meeting of 1919 following the occupation of Izmir which left the strongest mark on people's minds. From that point on, we can safely say, she was no longer a private individual:

"I believe that the Halide at Sultanahmet was not the ordinary Halide. I was con-



Microsoft

## COVER STORY



Halide Edip before she enlisted in the army.

vinced that sometimes the humblest and most anonymous individual could represent the high ideal of a great nation. The heart of the Halide of that day was beating in response to all Turkish hearts, warning her of approaching disaster... I was but a part of this sublime national madness. Until we recovered Izmir in 1922 nothing else mattered for me in life at all," she later wrote in her memoirs.

It is not surprising therefore that she was among the few women who participated in the War for Independence as a translator and corporal after enlisting in 1919. In her memoirs of the war, she puts forward the

primacy of the national cause, eclipsing all other concerns, including her own private ones, within the collective goals of the nation.

Halide Edip's view of the world, partly shaped by her Western education and the utopian revolutionary ideas of the Young Turks, but also informed by her reading of mystical Islam, was a utopia that had elements of both east and west. In this utopia, men would be less manly and women would be less "childish and hysterical," in Mary Patrick Mill's words. Together, they would be equally responsible for their own emancipation as well as that of their country. In

her memoirs, Halide Edip reveals her hatred for the war and its masculine atrocities, but also describes her role in it as a woman who moved out of the sphere of what she saw as the weaknesses of her sex, replacing them with the courage of the brave citizen. By the end of the war, while Halide Edip's public persona would function as a real life model for the new post-war Republican woman, she was also theorizing about the role of women in the new republic.

The new woman, like the heroines of her later novels, would be a strong woman of resolve. But that strength and public presence would come at a cost. In Halide Edip's world, a woman would have to sublimate her own desires and passions in order to become a responsible and rational public person. In her analysis of Halide Edip's heroines, anthropologist Nükhet Sirman RC 72 illustrates how both the happiness of women and the Turkish nation is seen dependent on women's ability to domesticate their sexuality, passion and desire through rational, conjugal love. Restraint, duty and compassion are Halide Edip's most valued characteristics.

Halide Edip carried the restraint and resolve she expected of the new woman into her private life. Her theoretical advocacy against polygamy became all too real when she divorced her first husband Salih Zeki, her math tutor and famous positivist of the time, despite her great love for him, when he took a second wife. The historian Arnold Toynbee, one of her ardent admirers commented later: "In parting from her first husband, she had been fighting a battle for a vital human right in the teeth of the law that was then in force, and she had not been fighting simply for her own hand. It had been a battle for all the women in Turkey and, indirectly, for all the women of the rest of the Islamic World as well."

Many years later, Halide Edip would describe this painful decision to her assistant Mina Urgan ACG 35:

"I've only loved one man in my life. And

### Risk riskdir.

İş dünyası risklerle dolu. Ama biliyorsunuz, önemli olan riskin ne kadar büyük olduğu değil, kimin, nasıl taşıyacağıdır.

Koç Allianz size, işinizin taşıdığı her riske cevap veren birçok özel çözümü bir arada sunar. Riskinizi kontrol altına alır. Ve daima kontrol altında tutar.

Güçlü sermaye yapısı, teknik uzmanlığı ve uluslararası Allianz deneyimi ile Koç Allianz aradığınız güçlü desteği arkanızda hissetmeniz için sizi bekliyor.

Yanınızdaki güç  
Koç Allianz

## Halide Edip carried the restraint and resolve she expected of the new woman into her private life.

that one man grew tired of me after six months. He began cheating on me. I was aware of everything, and resigned to it all. All I wanted was to be able to see him and touch him. But when he decided to marry a second woman, I decided to get a divorce. Don't even think that I did that out of pride. But I had two sons, and my instincts as a mother weighed in. I could not take the idea of two little boys growing up in such an ugly situation, with their father living with two women in the house. I got a divorce. I thought I was going to die, but one doesn't die so easily."<sup>10</sup> In her memoirs, Mina Urgan stresses the passion with which Halide Edip spoke to her, woman to woman. Nevertheless, maybe because she believed in the same ideas of resolve and strength for women as Halide Edip, Urgan remembers telling her professor that she deemed her relationship with her new husband, Adnan Adıvar, "a man who combined the best in a real Istanbul gentleman and a European intellectual in himself,"<sup>11</sup> much more valuable. No doubt Urgan believed in the same notions of self-possession and sacrifice which would make a respectable mother and citizen. To be a happy woman, one needed a stable and congenial relationship where she was not slave to her desires but one of two equals.

A new generation of women who would value self-possession, courage and resolve had arrived in this "land of childish and hysterical women". Such was the vision of Mary Mills Patrick, and Halide Edip certainly put it into practice. In so doing, she would pave the way for generations of women to come, illustrating the torturous, yet compelling private-public balancing act through which women could make their voices heard and change the world.



Halide Edip and her horse Doru.

- 1 "Celebrating the Past 1863, Building the Future 1988" brochure prepared for the 125th anniversary of the founding of Robert College.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Mary Mills Patrick, *Under Five Sultans*, as quoted in *History of Robert College* by John Freely, YKY, 2000, Istanbul, p.189
- 4 Ibid. p. 189
- 5 From "Celebrating the Past 1863, Building the Future 1988".
- 6 Mary Mills Patrick as quoted in *History of Robert College*, p. 187
- 7 Ibid. p.187
- 8 Halide Edip Adıvar, in *The Turkish Ordeal*, as quoted in <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/grupc/cj/cja/HEAdıvar.html>
- 9 Arnold Toynbee, as quoted in "Another Kind of Love" by Mushirul Hasan, <http://www.indianexpress.com/columnists/mush/20010822.html>
- 10 Mina Urgan, *Bir Dinozorun Anıları*, YKY, Istanbul, 2000, p. 204 (editor's translation)
- 11 Ibid. p. 199

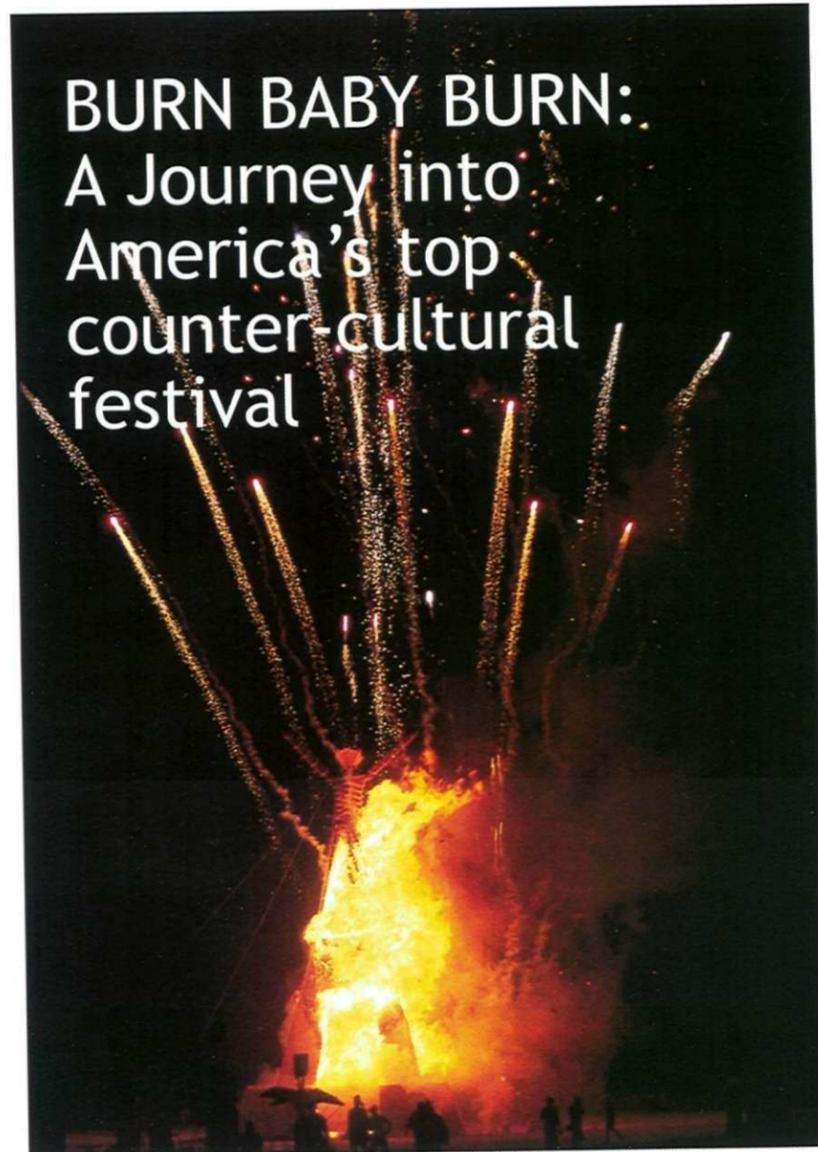
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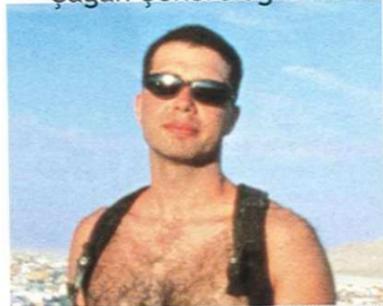
Eczacıbaşı AVON



## BURN BABY BURN: A Journey into America's top counter-cultural festival

Hundreds of fireworks let off from the Burning Man light up the desert sky.

Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93



Burning Man has been called America's largest countercultural event. It was started by Larry Harvey, a San Francisco artist who in 1986 gathered some friends on a beach and burned an effigy of a man in honor of a soured relationship. The crowd multiplied each year after that until police forced a move to the Black Rock Desert in Nevada in 1991. Every year, thousands of people descend on the desert on the last weekend of summer and create a temporary metropolis-- "Black Rock City," the sixth-largest city in Nevada for as long as the party lasts--filled with huge and elaborate art projects, many of which are destroyed by week's end. In the midst of the circular encampment stands the Burning Man itself, a 40-foot-tall blank neon-lit wooden effigy that will eventually be ignited before the crowd. The festival's under-

lying philosophy is to blur the line between audience and art, between spectator and participant, and to create an alternative to the capitalist way of life in an entirely non-commercial environment. Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93, a Ph.D student in ecology and evolution at Stanford University and an avid photographer, travelled to Burning Man last summer to find out what it was all about.

I am driving at 150 km/hour, on an empty desert road as flat as a table top, to the soulful moans of Radiohead. It occurs to me that perhaps I have been fooled. There is not a single person around, let alone thousands. Only weathered hills rising out of a harsh land. This is the real Wild West. But I am used to this sage-covered wild land and to me, it's beautiful. The sage desert covers hundreds of thousands of square kilometers, pretty much all of Nevada and more. For me, the smell of sage is the smell of freedom, and once again I am happy to be in my '84 Dodge Colt on a long desert trip.

But this time it is different. I am not running away from people as usual. I am heading to a city of 30,000. Black Rock City is not your typical city. It rises for one week of the year, out of the alkaline dust of the nothingness of a 1000 km<sup>2</sup> dry lake in the middle of the desert, a lake that is almost identical to the nothingness in the heart of Death Valley. Once one of the frequent dust storms subsides, a city appears. It is hard not to think it is a mirage because this city is many times more fantastic than a mirage. It has everything a normal city has, but it is different. Buildings are 3-story red dice. Flags of imaginary countries flap in the dusty wind. There is a wedding salon where the only witnesses are the cracked hills in the distance and the dust devils blowing around. There is a playground with a swing that turns 360 degrees. Public transportation is a 20-meter long steel dragon that breathes fires and carries two dozen people in it.



The Black Rock desert could easily be on another planet but the welcoming committee does everything to make you feel at home. At the entrance, I get out of my car and a man wearing a skirt and a gas mask and a girl naked except for a pair of gossamer wings, shout "Welcome home" and hug me like a long-lost friend. I play the bell set aside for first time Burning Man'ers. The people around me scream and hug me again. Then I jump into my old car which is now white with dust and look for a place to pitch my tent. I decide to stay at Hush village, at the intersection of 7PM and Enlightenment. Even though the thought of non-stop raves is exciting, I know that I will go mad if I don't sleep for six days in a row. After all, one of the things I prize most about the desert is the unequalled silence. Only the distant bass interrupts the silence. This is the heart-beat of Burning Man and it's a welcome interruption. My excitement mounts. After drinking

the beer offered by my new neighbors who seem very excited to see me, I stake my one-person tent with sixteen 3 cm.-long stakes to prevent it from blowing away in a desert storm, put on my janissary (Ottoman soldier) costume and pedal to the heart of Burning Man on my rusty old bike.

What I see is so extraordinary, I cannot stop myself from laughing. For a photographer like me, this is paradise. A car shaped like a shark. A tuba that squirts flames. A man in a gorilla suit and a naked woman covered in green paint, dancing. I shoot some pictures, dance for a while, then shoot some more.

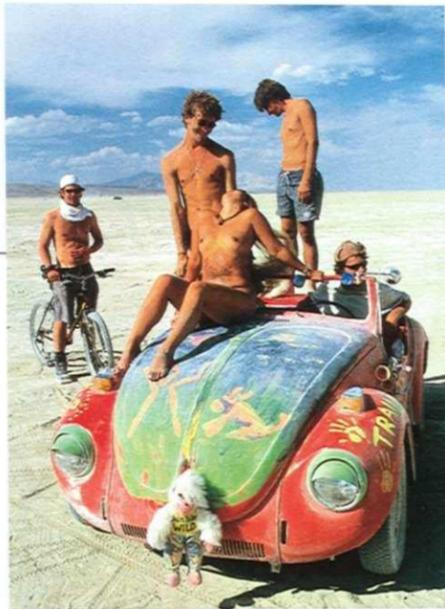
That night, I am not sure what I dreamt, and what were the real yet dreamlike things I saw. Thousands of people in fantastic costumes, dozens of techno parties and many art exhibitions. This is a million times better than a science fiction movie. The best part is that everyone is very friendly and open. The people who come to Burning Man tend to personify its philosophy of tolerance and creativity. Though I know no one here, I do not feel a stranger. I belong here.

My road fatigue only lessens as the night wears on and I begin to wait expectantly for the desert sun to rise over Burning Man. The sun rises through the dust, casting a pastel light over the exotic city - people greet the sun by dancing, trance-like. I finally succumb to 48 hours of sleeplessness and find my way back to my tent. Despite all my precautions, a finger thick layer of dust has settled inside the tent. But I am too tired to care.

Just an hour later I wake up, sweating, as the desert sun scorches my tent. I am covered in grey dust. Time to use my portable shower. The most important preparation for Burning Man is to bring enough water. My special portable water container carries 110

"The people who come to Burning Man tend to personify its philosophy of tolerance and creativity."





Non-stop rave in the Nevada Desert



litres, so I can look forward to showering every morning. I fill the shower depot with 10 litres of water, toss in the battery powered small pump and take one of my most satisfying showers ever. The dust will cover me within the hour, but for now, it feels great to be clean. I take up my new friend Chantal's invitation and continue sleeping on a chaise-longue underneath a canopy.

Upon waking, I don my cameras and begin shooting by daylight. Words cannot describe what I see. Burning Man is a fantastic event that everyone should experience at least once. But despite all the visual and aural pleasures, the real aim of Burning Man is not to have fun but to share. Burning Man founder Larry Harvey sought to create an alternative to an excessively individualistic and egoistic society. Even though it is growing in size, and being attended by more and more yuppies in search of a good time, his utopian vision remains tangible.

Tickets are compulsory, and necessary to help meet the operational costs of this mammoth organisation, estimated at between \$4-5 million. They cost \$125 in advance and \$250 at the door. To prevent daytrippers from coming just for the finale, no tickets are sold after Thursday.

Nothing is sold at Burning Man except ice and coffee. In fact, the use of money is forbidden. If you need something, you barter. Many people give random strangers spontaneous gifts. I have brought two crates of beer, chapstick (all important in the desert) and

polaroid film to be able to hand out instant photos. One night, in exchange for a drink at a bar, I was asked to howl like a wolf. I did. The aim here is to have fun and support each other.

The other crucial thing to remember about Burning Man is the desert. Daytime temperatures can reach 40 degrees, so drinking lots of water, wearing sun cream and using chapstick are a must. Random desert sandstorms can wreak havoc, causing poorly secured tents to disappear. I was prepared however, and had no problems.

Don't let the exacting conditions scare you off. If, as some people do, you come in an expensive multipurpose caravan, you will have missed out on both the tough beauty of the desert, and the anti-consumerist philosophy of Burning Man. Bring enough water, sun cream, moisturiser and a secure tent and let nature do the rest. You will feel a different sense of liberation.

The final night at Burning Man was an unparalleled spectacle. For safety reasons, guards kept everyone 100 meters away from the burning man. First dozens of fire acrobats appeared, followed by a show of fireballs. A

minor disaster was averted when one of the fire ball producing machines stalled, producing an intense heat that I could feel burning on my skin. Fortunately, its fuel ran out and I was

saved from being scorched.

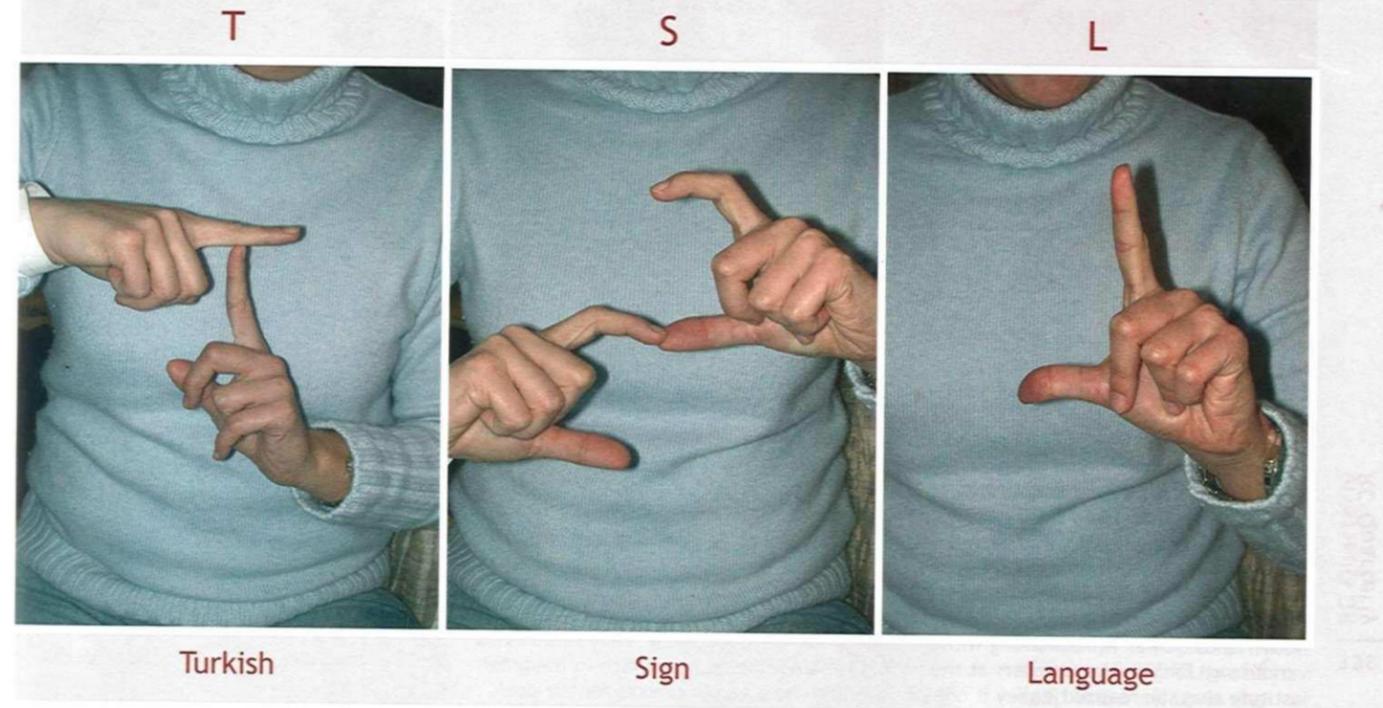
Then, hundreds of fireworks let off from the Burning Man and the structure lit up the desert sky. At the same time, the effigy began burning slowly, and soon was covered in flames. Suddenly, the Man's left leg broke. We were all chanting: "Collapse, collapse, collapse". But the Burning Man was determined to enjoy being the center of attention as long as possible. He did not collapse despite his broken leg. All things beautiful must come to an end and so too, despite his struggle, the Burning Man, after briefly illuminating us with the light of hope for an ideal society, collapsed with a sound reminiscent of a sigh, raising a 20-meter cloud of dust and smoke.

Everything happens at once and I find myself in the midst of a crowd of people dancing around the flames. There is no end to the stream of clothes, and even wallets, being thrown into the flames. Though sorely tempted, I refrain from tossing my camera into the fire. But my Janissary costume is not so lucky, and goes into the flames. I abandon all my prejudices and surrender to the feeling of freedom. I imagine it similar to that which our ancestors must have felt thousands of years ago, dancing around the fire under the African sky.

Eventually, exhausted, I lay down on the hot sand and close my eyes. Just as I am about to doze off I feel a soft touch. It is Chantal, smiling, and dressed in nothing but a fur bikini. I am underneath the stars and a desert sky, by a huge fire, surrounded by friends, and free as a lark. This must be happiness.

## RC REACHES OUT

### TOWARDS A LANGUAGE FOR TWO MILLION DEAF PEOPLE IN TURKEY



Turkey is one of the few countries in the world without an official sign language, making it very difficult for a vast majority of deaf children to be educated through a readily available medium for communication. Since %98 are born to hearing parents, deaf children in Turkey cannot fully develop the concept of a language, unless they are involved with activities in the deaf community.

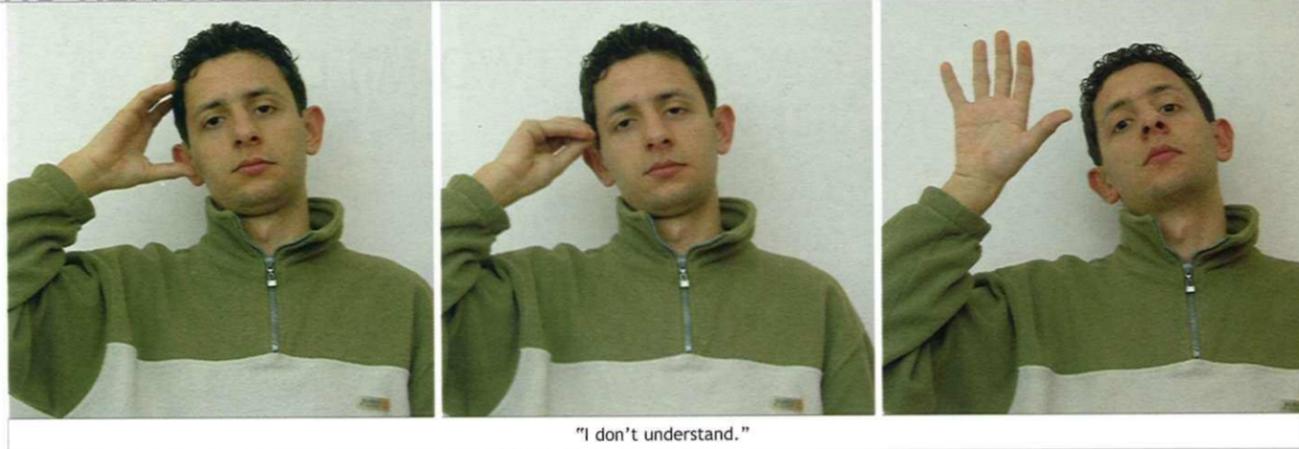
According to the Ministry of Education (MEB), sign language slows down the process of learning Turkish spoken language and destroys the connection between the individual and the hearing community, a view that has been scientifically proven wrong. Currently, schoolteachers teaching the deaf are not allowed to use sign language as a medium of communication. They use the "oral approach" by trying to make deaf children speak through various methods of speech exercises and lip reading. Moreover, there are many teachers who do not use any special technique, but simply teach classes as if the children can hear! It has scientifically been proven that oral therapy alone can not provide a

language needed for the cognitive and social development of deaf children, and that it has to be taught together with sign language in the classroom. However, this approach is not accepted by MEB in Turkish schools for the deaf.

Aslı Özyürek RC 85, assistant professor of Psychology at Koç University, has been working with the deaf community in Istanbul for several years. At the moment, together with her assistant Deniz İkkbaşaran RC 98, she is analyzing extensive data collected in recent years, in order to prepare the first academic website on Turkish Sign Language. This website, an online Turkish Sign Language dictionary, includes visual representations of an alphabet, a number system, as well as the important nouns and verbs used by the deaf community. This website is intended to be a starting point in the scientific documentation of the Turkish Sign Language (TİD), perhaps to be used also as course materials to teach sign language to children, and also to parents who have deaf children.

Aslı Özyürek RC 85





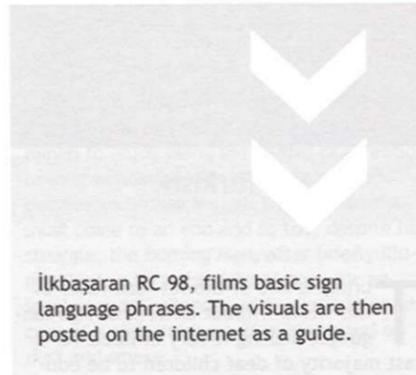
"I don't understand."

Özyürek studied psychology at Bosphorus University after a two year period at Cerrahpaşa Medical Faculty. Later with a full scholarship she started her PhD program in developmental psychology and linguistics at the University of Chicago. In 1997, Özyürek received a double PhD degree in Psychology and Linguistics where she worked on the relationship between gestures and speech from a cognitive perspective. She was then invited to the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in the Netherlands. It was while working with various sign language researchers at the institute that she realized Turkey is one of the few countries without an officially established sign language.

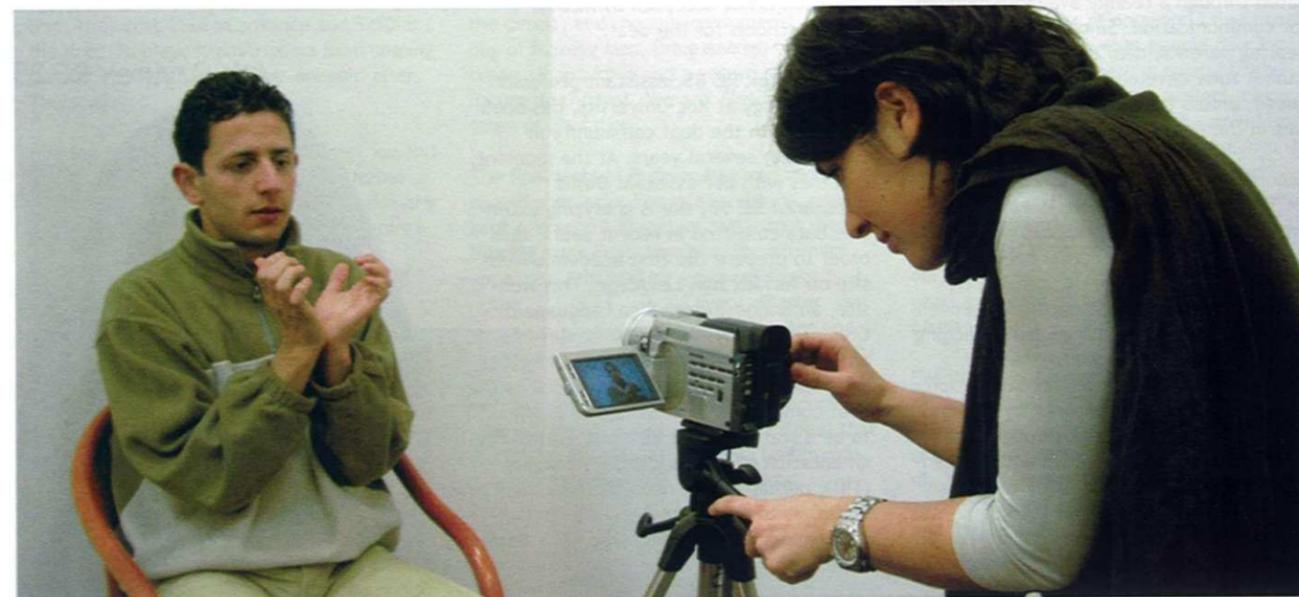
In her current TID project, she is collaborating with Ulrike Zeshan, a German

researcher and Marry Essex, a deaf American, who is an expert in teaching sign language to children. So far, they have convinced the Ministry of Education to start a pilot TID education programme at Göztepe and Karamürsel schools for the deaf. They have also prepared an official manual alphabet of TID to be posted at these schools, and with associations for the deaf. The online Turkish Sign Language dictionary will be posted both in Turkish and English, hopefully by April 2003. "The Ministry of Education is ready to accept a shift from the oral approach to the usage of sign language in schools for the deaf, but a lot of work has to be done to prepare full and correct documentation of TID, develop teaching materials, and finally to train teachers," said Özyürek. If you would like to help the development of this

project in any way or need further information please contact Aslı Özyürek aozyurek@ku.edu.tr and Deniz İlkbaşaran at Koç University on tel: +90 212 338 10 00 or dilkbasaran@ku.edu.tr.



İlkbaşaran RC 98, films basic sign language phrases. The visuals are then posted on the internet as a guide.



## ONCE UPON A TIME

# EXIT LEADING LADY

Legendary drama teacher Dorothy İz passes away at age 82.



The curtain is closing on an era with the death of Dorothy İz, the legendary Drama and English Literature teacher at ACG and RC. An inspiration to countless students for nearly four decades, Mrs. İz was a larger than life figure on campus. The following tributes by former students and colleagues capture the essence of her devotion to theater at the school.

It all began in the old ACG auditorium with no proper lighting. Soon after Dorothy İz's arrival on campus in 1956, girls in ACG were participating in four assembly plays a year and two major productions, all in English. Students also began to script their own plays.

In 1965, the staging of "My Fair Lady" brought the ACG theater 10.000 TL profit to keep the work up in the later years.

When the campus became co-educational in 1971 and the auditorium was torn down, Dorothy İz continued staging productions in the makeshift gymnasium on six platforms made from the wood of the old assembly hall. In 1989, English Drama produced seven plays, two of which traveled to New York and Washington.

Before she retired in 1991, Dorothy İz witnessed the building of the new theater at RC. On the inauguration of Suna Kırac Hall, on April 1 and 2, 1991, she took center stage with famous alumni who had gone on to become great actors and actresses of Turkish theater. Dorothy İz brought the house down, receiving standing ovations from the audience. Her wonderful stage presence will always remain a part of the campus.

## ONCE UPON A TIME



Dorothy İz and former faculty member Aydın Urgan at Commencement in 1985.

With the passing of Dorothy İz, a light has gone out over Arnavutköy itself, but hovers just this side of the rainbow. We shall continue to think of her often, with fondness, respect and appreciation; great teachers never really leave us.

Dorothy gave so much to so many, and was the personification of the "College Spirit" at both schools - a stimulating teacher, an energetic producer of "cutting edge" plays, and a fount of intellectual vitality who inspired all who worked with her. She was also a force for good in everything she did. We can never have too many like her around us.

ACG/ RC had and still holds a well-deserved reputation for quality theater. For over forty years Dorothy was supreme in the breadth and depth of her productions. Let the "bravos" and the "encores" ring out in her praise, now and evermore.

John Chalfant  
Former RC Headmaster 1971-77

Dorothy İz is the main reason behind my 35-year theater career. At first, she was my English teacher, fuelling my interest in literature and art. When one day in class she asked who would be interested in participating in a play, I jumped from my seat. That was the beginning of decades of friendship between us. She used to live in Bebek, and so did I. For

years, after rehearsals, we would take a cab together, and she would drop me home. Soon, we started talking about anything and everything; friends, family, home, secrets. She was my teacher, a member of my family and a very good friend. Today, after so many years in theater, I sometimes wonder whether my role in *My Fair Lady* was



actually my main role in the whole of my career since people still remember her production, and remember me as Eliza Doolittle. She taught me discipline, to live with the discipline of a sportswoman in order to be not just an artist, but also a good, decent one. 'Till the end of her days, I sent her special invitations to each of my plays after which she would surely stop by backstage. Let me put it this way: in all these years, every time I receive an offer for a play, I think of her and ask myself whether she would approve. She was a yardstick for quality and sincerity in my life, one that I ceaselessly try to be worthy of.

Nevra Serezli ACG 65

It was the fall of 1980, my first year at RC as a transfer Lise I student from Ankara. One day after classes I was climbing up the hill to the Ulus gate, and came across Mrs. İz who was also undertaking the laborious task. She cheerfully introduced herself to me and we started talking. My English was not very good and I was very shy, but I was trying to keep up with the conversation (and her walking pace). At one point she told me about RC, how and when it was founded (1863) and not having understood exactly what she said but anxious to ask a "clever" question I asked her "Wow, have you been working here since then?" She broke into lovely laughter and said something like "dear, do I look so old?", then she gently explained again the roots of our beloved school. I was so embarrassed by my blunder, but she comforted me and made me feel OK. This loving casualness generated intense love and trust within me towards her, which gave me the courage to audition for her play *Saturday, Sunday, Monday* later that year. For someone with broken English, with much lack of self-confidence this was no ordinary leap. I got a small part (as the sad clown Pulcinello) and this amazing event launched my theater journey, which continues till today. Through Mrs. İz I found a community at RC, was no longer a lone stranger, and witnessed firsthand the creation of great art. Thank you Mrs. İz. Your gentle love for us and passion for theater still burns within me; your light continues to light our ways.

Selim Tezel RC 83

Nevra Serezli then Nevra Şirvan in *My Fair Lady*.

## ODE TO AN ENGLISH ROSE

*This is a story that changed my life.*

After a night of particularly severe German bombardment, morning in London finds a young woman before the rubble heap that was once her home, picking up pieces of her life and looking for her dead father. Suddenly a young Turkish man appears on the scene and gently asks "May I be of help?"

That is how Dorothy İz met her future husband, Professor Fahir İz, and eventually made her life with him in İstanbul. I heard the story from her, and it always remained with me, even though after all these years I might be fuzzy in some details.

More than anything, this story was for me proof that here was a lady who had moral as well as intellectual courage. These were the qualities which made her a great educator and set her apart for those of us in Robert College who were lucky enough to have her as our English and drama teacher. While others stuck with the classics, with Shakespeare, Marlowe or Goldoni, she alone forayed into the unknown and opened before us the wonderful spaces of experimental theater and avantgarde literature.

There was no conventional clutter either in her life or in her mind. No Victorian cobwebs for her. She was a thorough modern. The best of English tradition was combined in her with the best of English modernism. She was a warm and glowing human being, the most accessible teacher I ever had. A great Thespian, she awakened in me a passion for the theater. Under her direction my years in the Drama Club at RC became a rite of passage, a step from convention to freedom. I could never forget how free and easy she made us feel, admitting us into her luminously white and turquoise house in Bebek. We had the use of her vast library, we could wander about, make ourselves tea, and tea was taken seriously in Dorothy's house, she would have all sorts of blends brought from all over the world. We would read through plays, discuss and rehearse. By opening up her home to us, she had opened the world, she had brought equality and ease to our lives, there was no teacher-student boundary, we were all theater people! For that feeling of confidence and that first taste of respect for individuality, I shall be forever grateful to her. During



my teens she was the most formative influence in my life, and through her the experience of high school was light years beyond the ordinary, we were already at university.

Anyone who awakens or nourishes our creativity lives on within us in many forms. This, I think, is the only sort of immortality that matters. It is like a chain of sharing, a token that travels from hand to hand, from heart to heart. Through the hundreds of lives that she touched in this way, Dorothy shall live forever.

In our Shakespeare class, she would have us enact key scenes. I remember carrying on excitedly, mispronouncing names. "Sirrah Worcester!" I would exclaim. She would correct me gently, "It is pronounced Wuster, dear, Wuster." I had not even tasted Worcester sauce yet, but that gentleness



Nedim Göknil RC Yük 65 and Dorothy İz in the Suna Kırac Theater.

touched me and is always with me. What a beauty she was! That tall graceful figure with the wild hair flowing down, she always reminded me of the women in Julia Cameron's pioneering photography, or the women in pre-Raphaelite paintings.

When she first saw me smoking, she disapproved with that same gentleness and said "A woman should always smell like a rose."

You were the rose Dorothy. You were the best. And now, the dream play starts. The bell rings, the rod is struck, the audience is hushed, the curtain rises. Enter an English rose. Our lives would never be the same again.

Nilüfer Kuyaş RC 73

Though I never had the chance to work with Dorothy İz personally, I have fortunately had the chance to get to know her. I've watched her transfer the mysteries and beauty of drama onto her students; hence, I'm fully aware of her contributions, not only to drama within the RC community, but also to Turkish theater. Her death is a great loss to us all.

Haldun Dormen RC 49

Dorothy was to ACG Drama, what Hilary Sumner-Boyd was to RC. What a loss. She was staging *A Far Country* a play in which I was Sigmund Freud. She chose the stage design for the play from the cover of the *Drama Review*. We had a lot of problems with that set because there was an extra room for which there was no use. A month later in the next issue of *The Drama*



Dorothy İz and members of ACG 61 on the steps of Gould Hall.

Review there was an apology for printing the wrong photograph. Apparently, they printed the photograph of a set, which belonged to an entirely different play. Dorothy was heartbroken. God bless you dear mentor. I am going to miss you.

Nedim Göknil RC Yük 65

Part of the glamour in stage acting is the raised platform a play or musical is performed on, which makes the actor feel as if he or she is above the crowd, more powerful and like a leader. At least for me it was.

That was a big part of the allure that drew me into acting during my Orta school years - although it was small, Bingham 1 had a stage that was almost a meter raised from the ground and helped me fulfill the need to preach, so to speak.

So I was pretty disappointed to find out in my first weeks in the Lise, that the Drama Club met in small classrooms in Mitchell Hall, rehearsing after pushing some of the chairs to the side. The glamour was greatly reduced. After a few rehearsals, I told Mrs. İz about my concern.

"Why can't we practice in a place where there's actually a stage?"  
"Because we don't have one, dear."  
"But here it doesn't feel like we're acting on stage."

At this point, Mrs. İz gave one of her "don't you really understand" gazes, which I didn't really know the meaning of at the time but came to learn very well soon afterwards, looking over her thin-framed reading glasses. She took her glasses, put them in their light blue hard-cover case -- her ever-present toy she'd fiddle with while observing us or use as a prop while explaining something -- and moved to the middle of the tiny classroom we were rehearsing in.

"Look dear, you have to imagine."  
She drew an imaginary line with her foot on the marble floor.  
"Imagine this is the end of the stage. Always keep the line in mind so you

**"Anyone who awakens or nourishes our creativity lives on within us in many forms."**

don't fall over onto the audience." She pointed the empty chairs huddled into the back of the classroom, some of them shoved on top of each other to make enough space so we could move around more freely.  
"And imagine those are the audience watching you. The spot lights are glaring in your eyes." She squinted and put up her hand above her eyes as if to cast a protective shadow from them.  
"You just have to make believe. Theater is the art of make believe. If you cannot convince yourself you're in the world's most beautiful playhouse, you can't ever convince your audience you are the clown in *King Lear* or the new immigrant from India arriving in London."

Those weren't her exact words of course. I'm recalling this purely from memory. But they're true to the essence of the brief conversation we had on a September day in 1984, which contained the first lesson I learned from the mother of theater at RC. Despite the little lesson she'd given me that day, Mrs. İz herself wasn't happy that RC had no real stage. That it was taken down to make room for the gym where boys could play basketball when the two schools merged. But she never made us aware of her resentment while we were there. I learned about her bitter feelings years later when I came back to visit, after the new Suna Kiraç Hall was built, boasting a new state-of-the-art playhouse.

**"Through the hundreds of lives that she touched... Dorothy shall live forever."**

Mrs. İz was very proud of the new theater. She talked on and on about its computer-guided lights, the acoustics, the number of people it can seat and other specifications I can't recall. Then she spilled her past anger with "the boys" taking over her stage at ACG. We laughed together at memories of how we had to make do with the remnants of the ACG stage -- wooden blocks put together to resemble something of a stage, just a few days before show time. How one day, two adjacent blocks had separated a bit and an actor's foot slid in between, forcing him to limp with a swollen ankle during the rest of the performance.

Then she told me she was upset that she was being asked to retire due to Ministry regulations. To leave this beautiful new stage. It was like giving up her child, she said. And just as we got a real stage, she said.

Mrs. İz never tired. She always had an amazing energy we couldn't fully figure out where it came from. Now I realize she could make believe better than all of us and that gave her enormous strength. I'm sure thousands will remember her for decades to come -- for the lessons in acting and living she gave us.

Yalman Onaran RC 87

**"B**etter. Now do it again. Make your voice heard. It has to carry out to the audience. Right now you sound like a weasel." *Sarcophagus* was my first play with Mrs. İz. In the role of a scientist 40 years my elder, this scene required me to come on



Dorothy İz in May 2000.

stage and reprimand the patients in my ward. Mrs. İz made me repeat the scene, more than 20 times that afternoon, until I stopped squeaking and learned to project my voice in a way that kept it from getting buried by the half dozen male voices on stage.

RC Drama club was the first to perform *Sarcophagus*, a play about the Chernobyl accident, after its debut in London's West End. Mrs. İz always encouraged us to perform not traditional school plays but contemporary plays that spoke to our lives in some way. She had us convinced there was no task we couldn't take on. Who else would have dared to take four 16 year olds on a fundraising trip to America and have them perform at the UN and Georgetown's International Center? But we did go- and we shone. Again and again Mrs. İz brought out my personal best, as she did for others. And there is no gift as valuable as a moment when you are young and you are suddenly surprised by your own accomplishment, not out of big headedness (for she was the first to burst our bubble) but out of a sense of wonder at how far one can grow.

Almost every Saturday morning of high school I got to Mitchell 203 just as Mrs. İz arrived with large boxes of pastries to get us started. Everything about Mrs. İz was a little larger and fuller than life and perhaps that is why her voice, her laughter, and her directions - everything about her carried over so many generations. She had also directed my father years earlier so I saw her as a theatrical grandmother. As a teacher, I hope someday to be able to emulate her: her generosity of spirit, her wit, her playfulness, her intellectual precision, her ability to connect to young people, and the way in which she made us believe anything was possible. For, at that time in our lives when we needed it the most Mrs. İz took our aspirations and us seriously. Sixteen years after that first play every time I manage to make my voice heard over voices larger and more numerous than mine, I am indebted to Dorothy İz. For in that makeshift theater in the gym, Mrs. İz taught us not how to intonate a specific line but rather how to bring to life something that existed only in our imaginations so that it could be shared with others.

Zeynep Gürsel RC 90

# HOMECOMING 2002



Over 600 alumni and their families came back on campus for Homecoming 2002 held on Nov. 17.



The oldest ACG graduate present, Vecher Karamehmet ACG 30 talking of her days at school.



Homecoming volunteers working at the registration desks were busy, busy, busy!



Younger graduates hang out in front of Marble Hall.



RC Friendships are forever.



Visiting alumni made the most of the fine weather during Homecoming by going to one of their nostalgic spots, the Plateau.



ACG 45 ladies keep in touch and have frequent lunches together. Pictured here are from L to R: perihan Barlas (standing) Leyla Sert, Gülistan Yılmaz, Selin Karadas, Samiye Sar Tan, Nihal Yegincobal, Valentina Schon Goldenberg



The "Look Who's Here Wall" grabbed everyone's attention including future RC hopefuls.



The front of Gould Hall is always a colorful spot to gather and chat the old fashioned way, face to face.



The class of 52 enjoyed a special lunch with their spouses at Homecoming to celebrate their 50th reunion. From L to R: Elhan Usman, Betül Çağrı Akman, Tunca Koruk Temer, Emin Veral, Sevim Insel Çağlar, Melahat Mısır, Suna Yavaşlar Taner, İiner Erke, Nuri Seyral, İncir Erke, Ayten Mırganoglu, Ayda Polat, Oya Soner, Engin Asıl, Ali Harunoglu, Yılmaz Soner, Fikri Ögüt and Oktay Hanhan



Malik Görün RC 46, Handan Baykal Emiroglu ACG 44, Altınur Kılıç RC 44, Gülşen Başman Usundag ACG 44 and Fehi Pirincioğlu RC 45

Photo credits:

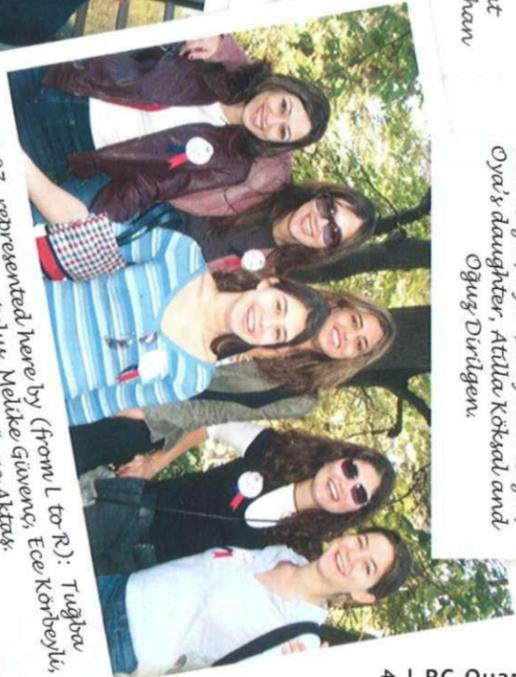
- Leyla Aktay RC 72
- Elif Oğuz Lise 9
- Ceylan Ölcer Lise 11



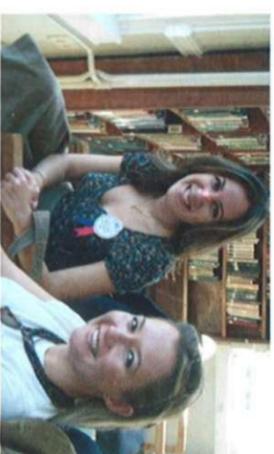
Lunch break on the steps of Gould Hall. Are those future RC students with their RC alum parents?



RC 76 class rep Nedim Ölcer (far right) with friends (from L to R) Can Koçlu, Oya Güneşman Koçlu, Oya's daughter, Atilla Kocaol and Oğuz Durügen



RC 97 represented here by (from L to R): Tuğba Coşkun, Melis Kurtuluş, Melike Güvens, Ece Korbeyli, Gülnur Kültür and Ögür Aktar.



Smiling faces were the order of the day: Neelhan Salkoğlu and Nag Alkan, both RC 89

## REUNIONS

### RC 92 CELEBRATES 10<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

After many a failed attempt - Duygu, it's our fault, you've tried enough times - approximately forty of us finally came together at Bizim Tepe on December 27th, 2002, thanks to Ekin's leadership. Those of you who were not present are probably curious to hear about the metamorphoses. There were many classmates whom I had not seen for ten years, and indeed, some changes were hard to miss. The gold medal goes to Özcan who had managed to grow by another 20 cm both vertically and horizontally. There were multiple contenders for second place, but my personal favorite was Jak (I trust his good humor) who gained in girth to become a 'real' Turkish dad. Then there were Iklım - joining us all the way from Zimbabwe - who preserved her proportions except that her belly was playing host to a five-month old...

As can be inferred from my commentary about Jak, in cases where friends had gone through a physical transformation of sorts, it was easier to view their persona in a new light as well. In contrast, with many others who looked more or less the same, I found myself switching back and forth between taking them in as they are today and superimposing my dated perceptions of who they were. Sure enough, many of us have

changed in some significant way since graduation. We maintained a certain core, but we have also made choices that have become the founding pillars of our adulthood. Murat Aslan and Görkem among them, a few of us have already formed a family. Many others are well on their way with their careers. Among those attending, business people were in the majority (Onur Özgen, Merve, Koray, Sibel, Sait...) followed by a large contingent of doctors (courtesy of the 'Yatılı '92' vintage: Kerem, Cem İyibozkurt, Murat Çen) and academic doctoral candidates (Baran, Emine, Dilek, Funda), a handful brave focused on the arts (Bora Tekay, Pelin, Serra), and finally a few with technical careers; an architect (Hasan) an engineer (Bora Yörükoğlu) and a programmer (Utku), to name a few I recall.

It looked like, for the most part, we did create successful personal and professional spheres, but of course, the picture is not all pink and rosy. Those who have been living in Turkey, complain primarily about the overall system or lack thereof. Some even go so far as to suggest that it was a mistake to not leave Turkey in the first place. As a member of the 'overseas' camp who has been living in the United States, I would like to say that while I



feel your pain, I want to reassure you that the grass is not any greener on the other side. I would agree that there are better opportunities, attractive pay and more jobs in the US or Europe, however, the trade off for those of us who live abroad is that we left behind our families, friends and social network at large. At the homes we built away from home, we learned to cope with being homesick and to be satisfied with imperfect replicas of relationships as we knew them. On the brighter side, no doubt, we also grew to first understand, then like and finally incorporate the ways of a different people. Nonetheless, with each trip back to Turkey, our emotions run high as we connect with all that we unknowingly miss so much, not to mention all the homemade 'dolmas' you all get to enjoy! By the way, this last point also serves to explain the general roundness of RC '92 males who are being fed by loving moms and wives in Turkey versus the fit(!), healthy(!), and yet single(!) state of the 'overseas' contingent!!!

Especially those of us visiting,

regrettably do not get a chance to regularly enjoy a night like the one we had at Bizim Tepe. Having said that, I want to emphasize that what made the evening special was more than just reuniting with old friends after a long time spent apart. I believe that as we grow to become more comfortable with who we are and carve out a suitable place for ourselves within society, in turn, we are able to view each other with a fresh eye. This change in perspective not only compels us to hold on ever so tightly to a close circle of old friends, but also allows us to rediscover classmates we have not kept in touch with. As a result, we also gain a new appreciation for the 'super glue' that is our shared collective experience at RC.

So after four hours of standing up for one warm conversation after another, to Uluç, I said, "See you later" and instantly became conscious of the fact that I unfortunately had no idea when again.

Kaan Okurer RC 92  
kaan12@yahoo.com

### RC 98 CELEBRATES ITS FIRST YEAR IN THE REAL WORLD

Just four years have past and now many of us RC 98 graduates have been swept up into a period of rapid change in our lives. Most of us have just taken our first steps in "the real world" and many others are about to. On December 29, about 60 of us reunited at Bizim Tepe. The mood was rather different from previous years. Those who were still at school were anxious to begin working while those who started to work still couldn't digest the idea that they had to work that hard and wanted to go back to university.

Ahmet Kurşun saw this as an anxiety that everyone shared about the future. I considered this rather a role conflict that we were

going through, where we were becoming some things and at the same time not there yet. Ayşegül Tuncer saw the reunion in a different way; she says that she felt the development in the maturing of faces! Possibly from the newly developing wrinkles! I was most struck by the crystal clear vision of yourself which reunion reflects back to you, reminding you of what you have been through, how far you have come, and also what your core is. All in all, a much better contemplative experience than yoga or a long afternoon at Hira mountain!

Refika Birgül RC 98

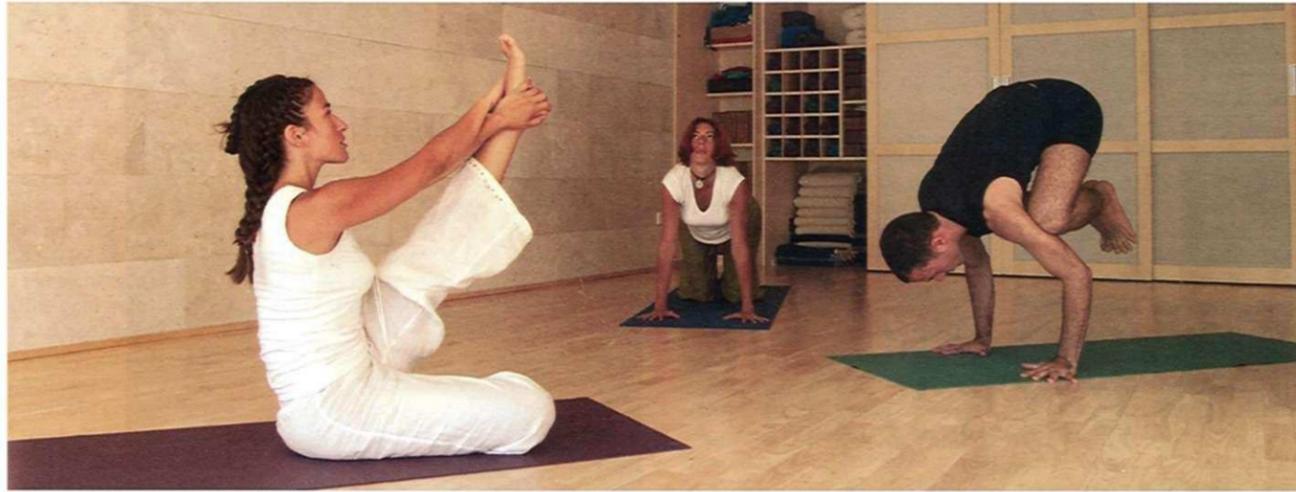
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## RC IN THE CITY: VENUES WE RUN

### YogaŞala / ON THE WAY TO CLARITY OF THE MIND



"Yoga is a state of clarity and full awareness," are the words which greet you on entering the website for YogaŞala, the bright and peaceful yoga center in the heart of Istanbul's bustling Nişantaşı district. In the two years it has been running, YogaŞala has already been changing lives, introducing a new lifestyle to those who attend their classes.

One of the two founders of the center, Zeynep Aksoy RC 88, took a roundabout way to opening this center, one which involved the east and the west, the most corporate of jobs and the most esoteric of travels. After graduating from the Illustration Department at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) in 1992, the lure of New York City led Aksoy to a job at Grey Advertising as an assistant producer. A few years at a midtown office job couldn't keep the diversity of the East Village at bay. Eventually, the most fascinating thing in her life became the yoga classes she frequented on St. Mark's Place. For her, she says, something more was needed than the promise of becoming an advertising executive, and the inner transformation beginning to take place with yoga offered true creativity. With a scholarship to study at the New School in Media Studies in hand, she quit Grey in 1997 to devote herself to a Masters Degree in media theory, and yoga.

Before long, thoughts of opening a yoga center in Istanbul were swimming around in her head. She, like many other RC graduates who seek variety in their lives, had already changed careers once. She decided that

going to India and immersing herself in the yogic path, and eventually starting a center in Istanbul would be the right thing to do.

She went to India after she graduated from the New School with a friend, Andrew Zions. The two friends spent 6 months in India with the conviction that renouncing worldly possessions, quitting alcohol and all attachments would make them "more enlightened". "Couldn't be further from the truth!" she exclaims today. "Reading Chogyam Trungpa's *Cutting Through Spiritual Materialism* helped give insight to the fact that attachments are present even on the spiritual path, that a war with the ego is certainly not going to bring acceptance or unity."

Now, looking back, she believes that their teachers in India were far from being awakened beings themselves, practically deepening the gap between the teacher and the disciple, as most Brahmin Indian traditions do. In June 2000, still completely convinced of the benefits of yoga, she started teaching in Istanbul at the Hillside City Club the week she got back from India. Andrew who was on a visit to Istanbul, also decided to start a new life here. So, the first steps for YogaŞala were taken and the space opened up by March 2001. By then, Zeynep had many students and the business took a fast start.

That summer, the two 'teachers' decided to head out for more yoga education and closed the center for two months. This time, the destination was the United States, where they encountered a yogic path which, in

their view, amounted to more than the dogmatic approach they started their education with. Though closing the center turned out to be a bad business decision, they returned to Istanbul with new insights and methods.

"There are as many interpretations of yoga as there are teachers," Zeynep says. Today she continues her yoga training with the British teacher Godfrey Devereux, who has also been a Zen practitioner all his adult life. The "here and now" Zen aspect, Zeynep explains, empowers the practitioner to see that being awakened to the Truth is not years of meditation away, or only on the condition that you lead a vegetarian life with no material possessions, but that it is already within. The Truth consists of freeing yourself with the identification of thoughts, and being with what is actually happening, being in the moment.

At YogaŞala Zeynep and Andrew teach three levels of classes which take the students through the physical method of yoga postures, including inner dynamics of breathing and relaxation. These are paths to take towards awareness of the movement of the mind. Of course, there are many health benefits to doing the physical practice, such as stress relief, lengthening the spine, balancing the hormonal system, as well as gaining strength, flexibility and balance. But do not worry, flexibility is not a requirement to start!

More information on classes can be obtained from their website [www.yogasala.com](http://www.yogasala.com)

## ALUMNI NEWS

### PROF. SUNA KİLİ ACG 46

The 7th revised edition of *History of the Turkish Revolution* by Professor Suna Kili was printed in November 2002. This book for which Professor Suna Kili received the Turkish Language Society's Language Award makes a historical, political and sociological analysis of the Turkish War of Independence. The book also evaluates developments in Turkey at the time of and since Atatürk's death, including recent elections, the Cyprus issue, and relations between Turkey and the European Union.

### ENGİN İNEL HOLMSTORM ACG 51

Wrote to us from Virginia where they moved to from Maryland in 2002. She and her husband Robert W. Holmstorm, who she met at ACG when they were both teaching there from 1965 to 1968, are retired now and live in Virginia, overlooking the Potomac River which in her own words "is not the Bosphorus but the nearest thing to it we can find here!" The Holmstroms still join the '51 graduates in their annual reunions in Turkey and keep in touch with most of them.

### ESİN ŞERBETÇİ ACG 60

Esin wrote to the RCQ about what she has been up to. In her own words: "It is a long way from the days of school. Marriages...some years in Florence, Italy, many long years in Bodrum where I used to have a lovely carpet shop selling mainly kilims. After 25 years, I returned to my hometown, Istanbul. For the past year my residence and my restaurant have been in Beyoğlu, where I was born. At "Şehbender 14", the name of my place, we serve cold and hot starters, pork chops, fish and all sorts of meat dishes and homemade desserts. It has a warm and antique atmosphere, combined with good food (people say so!), soft music and good service - all without 'burning your pocket'. RC graduates get a 10% discount on cash payments. You can also always contact us for group lunches and dinners with a fixed menu. I look forward to seeing you there for a warm embrace." Şehbender 14, Asmalı Mescit mah. Şehben-

der sok. No.14 Beyoğlu  
Tel: 212 292 73 14

### SEMA ÖZCAN ÖZSOY ACG 67 - BÜLENT ÖZSOY RC ENG'67

Sema and Bülent are providing training and consultancy services for the corporate world. Their company OGEM- Organization Development and Training Center-specializes in training programs for leadership, teamwork, stress management and sales. Sema, who is by training a chemical engineer, has a long record of volunteer service in non-governmental organizations. As a member of the Executive Committee of the RC Alumni Association, she served the RC Community for nearly 15 years. She is one of the founders of IZEV, a foundation for the education and support of mentally handicapped children. She is also the founder of a meditation association, which focuses on the development of a whole person. She is currently the Country (Turkey) Coordinator of Living Values, a New York based, and UNESCO supported program of world educators for the establishment of universal values like peace, love and cooperation at schools. Sema completed her NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming) studies in London and utilizes this technique in OGEM's programs as well as in private coaching.

Bülent and Sema enjoy preparing and presenting their training program together. One thing they enjoy even more is their 3-year old grandson, Sinan Can Gülan, son of Yesim Özsoy Gülan RC'90.

You can visit their website [www.ogem.com.tr](http://www.ogem.com.tr) for more information.

### NÜKET TEZCAN ESEN ACG69

Nüket Esen has become a full professor and head of the Turkish Language and Literature Department at Bogazici University. She specializes in the 19th and 20th century Turkish literature and particularly the Turkish novel. She can be contacted at [esen\\_nuke@boun.edu.tr](mailto:esen_nuke@boun.edu.tr)

### ROZ KOHEN DROHOBYCZER ACG 69

Roz is continuing her library studies in St. Louis, MO. She came to Istanbul on November 13th, 2002 to publicize the book *En tierras ajenas yo me vo murir* ("I Shall Die in Foreign Lands") at a special event organized by the Cervantes Institute. This book is an anthology of legends, short stories, poetry, memoirs, and a children's story to which Roz contributed with 11 memoirs and 60 illustrations. Published by ISIS in Istanbul, the 559-page book written in Judeo-Spanish, with 300 drawings and featuring 36 contributors, is a vivid and authentic expression of Sephardic life in Turkey, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Greece, Yugoslavia, Spain, Caucasia, and Morocco. The general editor and author is Gad Nassi. Roz also donated a copy of the book to the RC Library. For more information about the book please visit: <http://www.missouri.edu/~rd4b9/livro.html>

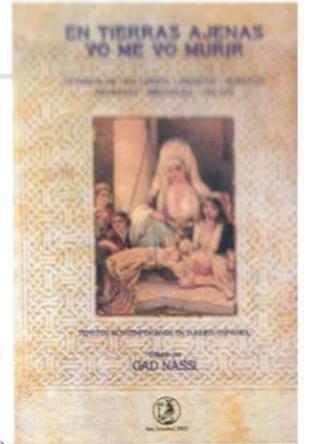
### TUNÇEL GÜLSOY, RA 70

Gülsoy works as the General Manager of Omco Istanbul, a branch of the Şişecam group. He is a member of the Istanbul HiFi club and every Saturday morning he has a radio program on 94.9 Açık Radyo, "Cazname" in which he hosts various guests. Also on Saturday mornings he hosts a show called "Evde Çalamadıklarım" on 102.8 NTV Radio. He has a monthly column in the Bümed magazine in which he writes about education.

Last but not least, his interviews with Turkish jazz musicians published in a jazz magazine, "Caz Dergisi" over the past seven years have been compiled on the net, under the names Cazname I and Cazname II, at [www.atkitap.com](http://www.atkitap.com). Currently he is busy at work on his third one.

### FÜGEN GÜLERTEKİN, ACG 71 AN UPDATE

As you will remember, we prepared a brochure titled "Things That Happened to One of Us", at the beginning of 2001 to inform you about what had happened to our ACG-classmate Fügen Gülerterkin, who was convicted of harming a child in her Ohio day-care center, and sentenced to eight years prison at the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville, Ohio. We mailed these



## SHARE YOUR NEWS

These pages will expand in future issues, as we hear from you. Let us know what you are doing. Pictures are welcome and will be published in the next issues of the RCQ as they are received.

Please submit your news by either:  
snail mail to Robert Kolej, Mezunlar Ofisi, 80820 Arnavutköy, Istanbul, or  
e-mail: [alumni@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:alumni@robcol.k12.tr) or fax: 0 212 265 6399

brochures to 4.950 ACG-RC graduates, and also announced in the RC Quarterly (Spring 2000 issue) and RC News that for the process of getting Fügen out of prison, approx. USD 100.000 was needed and we asked for contributions from you.

For this purpose, we opened an account at İş Bankası Balmumcu Branch, in May 2000, with the permission of Ministry of Internal Affairs, and by June 2002, only USD 5.200 was collected with the contribution of 56 people (one person donated USD 1.000). Again with the permission of Ministry of Internal Affairs, we transferred this amount on 16 August 2002, to compensate a part of her debt to her attorney, against an invoice. **On this occasion, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all of you, who kindly contributed.**

In the meantime, Fügen has languished in prison for the last four and a half years, accused of hurting the child when, in reality, she saved his life. This case has been a catastrophic miscarriage of justice.

In her recent letter, Fügen informed us that the Federal Court decided to hear oral defense, on February 7, 2003. This is a long-awaited piece of good news. Also, as she told us, if the court decides to see/hear evidence/witness, at this stage two doctors would be listened to. However, the financial dimension of this promising improvement is as the following:

- Attorney fee for oral defense - USD 3.000
- Attorney fee for evidence hearing - USD 3.000
- For the 2 doctors to evaluate the evidences at court - USD 6.000
- If the court leaves her to wait for the second trial at home - USD 5.000 as bail
- Current debt to the attorney - USD 3.000.

Your support is needed urgently to get the process of getting Fügen out of prison rolling.

If you choose to wire funds, the address is:

Fügen Gülertekin Trust Fund, CitiBank  
114 Seventh Avenue Brooklyn,  
New York 11215  
ABA Nr. 021000089  
Account Nr. 92484603

This is very easily done at Akbank branches by filling a simple form for transfer of money abroad and their charge is very reasonable.

Or we may collect your contributions if you give your addresses (in Istanbul), during working hours. The total amount collected will be sent to the same fund, controlled by Attorney Nancy Erickson, a close friend of Fügen, who is trying very hard to help her. We shall indicate the names of each of the contributors with the amounts separately and give feedback information to all of you.

We kindly ask our alumni to act generously. Every cent counts.

ACG '71 Classmates:

Güluy Alptekin Uluçay  
Phone: 0212-350 39 36  
Jülide Bayram  
Phone: 0212-350 39 01  
İşıl Tavlım Tümerkan  
Phone: 0212-350 39 11

#### A. FATİH YILMAZ RC 76

Fatih Yılmaz has been Assistant General Manager for Trade and Member of the Board in TUMKA Kablo Sanayi A.Ş. since 1994. As one of the leading cable manufacturers of Turkey, Tumka Kablo is exporting 75% of its products to the UK, Israel, France, Belgium, Australia, Ireland and various African countries.

www.tumka.com.tr  
fatih@tumka.com.tr  
Tel: 0212 320-0818

#### GÜLBİN GÖKÇAY RC 76

Prof. Dr. Gökçay finished Istanbul Faculty of Medicine in 1982 and spent two years doing her compulsory service as "Üsküdar Hükümet Tabibi" She then spent one year at the University of London completing a master's degree in Community Pediatrics. At present, she is a professor at Istanbul University's Institute of Child Health and Istanbul Faculty of Medicine Children's Health and Illnesses. Married with a son, she has recently contributed to the book Çocukluk ve Ergenlik Döneminde Beslenme ("Nourishment in Infancy and Adolescence"), published by Saga Publications in November 2002.

#### TANSES GÜLSOY RC 81

Tanses was profiled in Who's Who in the World 2003 just recently published. She wrote Turkey's first original and most comprehensive dictionary of advertising, Türkçe-İngilizce Dizinli İngilizce-Türkçe Reklam Terimleri ve Kavramları Sözlüğü which was published by Adam yayıncıları (2000). In 2002 she received an Honors award from Turkey's Association of Advertising Creatives.

In March 2002 she was profiled in newsweekly Aktüel as one of Turkey's "bright young minds" on account of her achievements in advertising, especially her dictionary. She set up her own communications firm last year, Tans Communications Consultancy, which is located at Adnan Saygun Cad. Çağ apt. 68/14 I. Ulus, Istanbul. Tel. 212 265 40 62

Münir Aysu, former faculty member and our favorite social events reporter has informed us of the following marriages. We are sure that there must be more of you out there who have tied the knot so won't you please let us know?

Ömer Müftüler (RC 88) & Müge Yalçınkaya  
24.5.2002

Gülce Çini (RC 84) & Yusuf Şukal  
25.6.2002

İbrahim Sözen (RC 86) & Pınar Kıvanç  
3.8.2002

Ali Yılmaz (RC 85) & Elif Güven  
14.7.2002

## ON THE BABY FRONT

#### AHMET ULUĞ RC 81

Ahmet and Buğda are the brand new parents of twins Yasemin and Selim, born on January 23, 2003. The happy grandparents are Semra Uluğ ACG 53 and Şahap Uluğ and the twins' uncle is Mehmet Uluğ RC 78 who together with his wife Müge already has a son, Ali, age 4.

#### SAMİ LEVİ RC 83

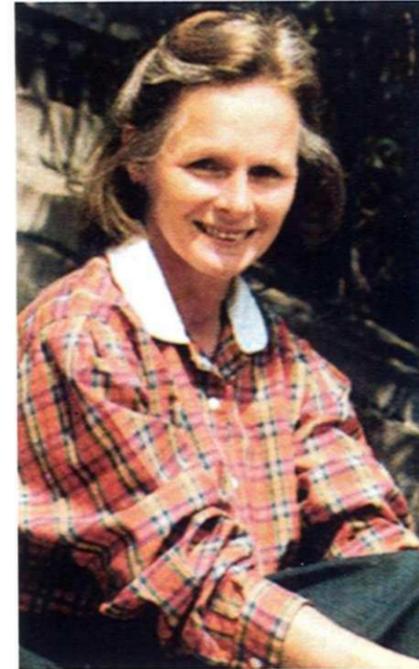
Sami is happy to let everyone know that with his new son's arrival in 2002, he is now the proud father of two children. Sami is presently the CEO of Aquatec Water Systems, Inc.

#### ELİF YILDIRIMBULUT RC 89

Elif Orbay Yıldırımbulut worked in the Human Resources area after graduating from Boğaziçi University Business Administration Department. She recently promoted herself to a new and exciting career as the mother of a son, Mert. He was born in November of 2002. Tel: home (0216) 441 25 16  
mobile (0532) 463 93 68.

## NEWS FROM RC FRIENDS

### BETSY GÖKSEL



Betsy Göksel, former English teacher at ACG and RC between 1962-1997 who retired from RC in 1997 and now lives in North Carolina, wrote to all her former students at RC:

"Since I left Robert College in 1997, I have been living in isolated natural beauty, only the sounds of tree frogs and crickets at night, bird calls by day. My days are spent hiking or horseback riding on the old trails of the North Carolina mountains where I spent my childhood summers. Now it is always summer-not in temperature certainly, but in the rhythm of the hours. Time to write, read, ponder...after so many years away, the American way of life seems alien to me, so I haven't really connected.

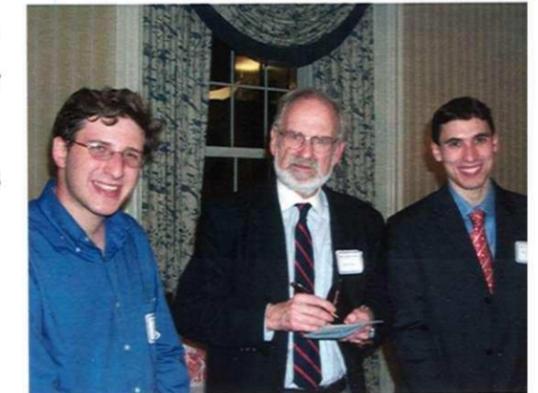
Though my family is near, I am most often alone, with several dogs, of course. But... every night my former students in wild, improbable dreams visit me. Students taught decades ago, mixed in erratic plots with ones taught in my last years. I wake with names - first and last - I had long forgotten, clearly matched with faces, even seating places in old, now razed classrooms. Of course, the faces are of you all when you were teenagers, boys hardly matured, and girls so intense. Levent leaning on Fatih, Zeynep, Didem with bright hair. I am usually not in a very secure position in these dreams - I face a Lise 3 math class and try to teach (ha!) - I am arguing with an administrator and my students are defending me. I am speaking Turkish and you are asking me why I'm not speaking English. I can't find my classroom, am horribly late, keep barging in on other classes. And on and on. Night after night. I love it. I wake feeling a part of my past, a part of all of you whom I knew for a year or so, when you were young and searching for meaning. Where are you now? Have you found it? The richness of 35 years has followed me here and enriches my life. I hope that you too, whomever you may have turned out to be, also feel enriched by your school years. I hope you are happy, healthy. I'll see you in my dreams."

#### THE DAMON FAMILY

George Damon, former Orta school principal between 1988-1998, sent us his greetings from İzmir, where he is the Headmaster of Işıkent School. He also gave us an update on what the Damon family has been up to lately: Arwa Damon RC 94, has recently finished a three-month internship at a media production house (BBN) in New York and is looking for a permanent job with a television news company Arusa that is based in Izmir last June.

Mawadda Damon RC 98, is in Washington D.C., settling into her work at AED, the Academy for Educational Development, learning Flamenco dance techniques and pursuing inquiries into the Peace Corps and graduate school for next fall. Joumana is a professor of French at the Ninth of September University's Business Faculty where she is teaching third and fourth year business French. She has a new horse 'Cavalier' on which she is training for dressage. George says Işıkent is in the fifth year of the school's development with 256 students in Prep to 6th grade. Two RC alumni and trustees are on its Board, Öner Akgerman RA 61 Yük 65 and Korkmaz Ilkorur RC Yük 67.

### HARRY DAWE



From left to right: Alp Can RC 93, Harry Dawe and Evren Yeniçağ RC 93 at an alumni event in New York City in the fall of 2002.

After leaving Robert College, Dawe, former RC Headmaster between 1986-1997, went to Oberlin College and served in three capacities from 1992-2002: Special Assistant to the President, Associate Dean of Students with a focus on Residential Life, and then in the Admissions Office with a focus on International Admissions and finally as Director of Admissions. For his work in Admissions, he traveled to East Asia, India, and several times back to Turkey where he visited with old friends and with his son Alex who is living in Arnavutköy.

In 1993 Nicolette Love and he were married. She worked at Oberlin as an Academic Dean with a special focus on International Students, and in 1995 they adopted a girl named Amber who is now 9 years old. Harry Dawe's work in Admissions also took

## WHERE ARE YOU @ ?

Drop us an e-mail at [alumni@robcoll.k12.tr](mailto:alumni@robcoll.k12.tr) so we can update our records. Please send:

• your e-mail address • name and graduation year • mobile phone number • business phone & address • profession

Thank you. RC Alumni & Development Office

## ALUMNI NEWS

him each year to New York City where he visited a number of secondary schools. Last summer, the Director of College Counseling at The Fieldston School asked him to join the staff as her colleague. In accepting this position, he has been able to return to a secondary school, to teach once again, and to live in his favorite city, (second only to Istanbul!) Nicolette is working also as a college counselor at Columbia Grammar and Prep School in New York. Just before moving, they took on two foster children, Micah and Harold, ages 2 and 1 whom they will soon be adopting.

Harry says they both miss living overseas and particularly miss Turkey. "My time at Robert College was, and remains, a significant part of my life. We live in a vibrant neighborhood, which in some ways reminds us of Istanbul. We welcome guests."

Address: 804 w. 180th St.  
New York, NY 10033 / Tel: 917-648-5812  
Email: Hdawe@ecfs.org Nlove@cgps.org

### BETTY KONDAYAN

Mrs. Kondayan former English teacher at ACG between 1955-1970 wrote to us from Lexington, Virginia. In March 2002 she lost her husband Ohannes Kondayan who was a beloved teacher of math at RC for 41 years, from 1927, when he graduated, until his retirement in 1969. He was also housemaster at Hamlin Hall and served on many committees.

Betty and Ohannes were married on Feb. 8, 1958 and their son Haig was born later that

year. In 1970 they returned to the USA, first to Madison, Wisconsin where Betty got her M.L.s, then to Lexington where she was a librarian at Washington and Lee University and in Baltimore. In his retirement years, Ohannes Kondayan did a lot of writing, reading, gardening and traveling. Gardening was perhaps his greatest love. Betty says she thought it appropriate to dedicate a corner in their yard to his memory and has planted some seeds there. She adds that working on it has been a major activity for her since his death. She was happy to find out that Serra Gogen Subaşı ACG 64 has donated rosebuds, and Gülay Yurdal Michaels ACG 64 has donated quince seeds to be planted in his memory. You may reach Betty Kondayan at bkondayan@hotmail.com, or 508 Taylor Street, Lexington, Virginia 24450, USA



Serra Gogen Subaşı ACG 64 with Kondayan's roses.

## NEW BOARD ON BOARD AT RCAA

Cengiz Hatiboğlu RC 81, President of the Robert Colege Alumni Association of America has announced that the new Board of Directors was elected in December 2002. The following directors and officers have been elected for a one year term.

Sumru Arıncı RC 86, Secretary

Neylan Bağcıoğlu RC 98

İdil Miriam Çakım RC 92,

Assistant Secretary

Zeynep Çilingiroğlu RC 84, Vice President

Birsen Erses RC 60

Senih M. Fikriğ RC 46

Cengiz Hatiboğlu RC 81, President

Ahmet İnal RC 61

Ekmel H. Kasaba RC 72, Treasurer

Kaan Nazlı RC 95

Melis Öngün RC 98

Mete Tuncel RC 90

Gül Seden Wines RC 51

## A Gift To RC is only a Click Away

Have you visited [www.robcoll.net](http://www.robcoll.net), the school's online giving site yet? Explore ways in which you can make a gift to your Alma Mater, online. Whether you wish to contribute to the Annual Giving Campaign, or support the Scholarship Program at Robert College, it is all at your fingertips. For questions, comments, or to make an "old fashioned" pledge call the Alumni and Development Office at (0212) 263 42 39, or (0212) 359 24 39 or send a fax to (0212) 265 63 99.

## OBITUARIES

### ALUMNI

#### Raşid Temel RC 36

Passed away on November 1, 2002

#### Esin Parmaksızoğlu ACG 53

Passed away on November 25, 2002. She is survived by her husband Ayhan Parmaksızoğlu and her daughters Aylin Uluşahin and Ayşegül Cebenoyan and grandchildren Mehmet and Yasemin Uluşahin and Elif Cebenoyan.

#### Kıymet Kayaalp ACG 53

Passed away on January 22, 2003.

#### Filiz Aydınıç Ertan ACG 58

Passed away in Germany on December 10, 2002. She is survived by her husband Erol Ertan and her sons, Kemal Topaç Ertan and Ömer Ertan. She was laid to rest in Türkbükü, Bodrum.

#### Ertuğrul İncekara RC 57 ex

Passed away in November 2002. He is survived by his wife Gülçin İncekara, his children Ömer Rıza-Nükte İncekara, Zeynep İncekara, and his grandchildren Melis and Eren İncekara.

#### İsmail H. Torun RC 37

Passed away in Maryland, USA, on February 24, 2002. Well known to many Voice of Turkey listeners, Mr. Torun served as Chief of the Turkish Service until his retirement in 1980. Born in Afyon, Turkey in 1915, he worked briefly for the Ankara Historical Society in Ankara. After graduating from RC, he earned his MA from the University of Missouri in 1941. Mr. Torun began his government career in 1944 and worked as feature writer at the Office of War Information and as a translator for the War Department until 1948. He joined the VOA as a Radio Information Specialist in New York in 1948. Among the many awards he received in recognition of his dedicated service at VOA, Mr. Torun especially cherished the Merit Service Award he received in 1962 from Edward R. Murrow, who was then Director of USIA. İsmail Torun is survived by his wife of 54 years, Eleanor Torun and two children, Suzan Natale and Erol Torun.

#### Orhan Barım RC Eng 39

Passed away on May 20, 2002. He is survived by his wife of 55 years Simin Barım, his daughter Selmin Barım Ergin and his grandchildren Sara and Selin.

#### Günay Çital RC 56

Passed away on May 1, 2002. He is survived by his wife Gülbün Çital and his children Feyza, Esra and Şükrü Çital.

#### Tuna Ölçüm Küçükay ACG 56

Passed away on December 10, 2002. Her best friend Sema Alada Karaca ACG 54 wrote to say, "A wonderful person passed away this last winter, my best friend Tuna Ölçüm Küçükay. A great heart full of understanding, full of attention, full of good will for everyone she knew and a very pious person. It is a great loss for all her friends and all the people who knew her." She is survived by her husband Nazif Küçükay, her daughter Gül Birgün, her son Mehmet Küçükay and two grandsons, Mustafa Kerim and Numan.

#### Veysel Bülent Oğuz RC Eng 61

Passed away on May 21, 2002.

#### Ojeni Becidyan (Jenny) Byfield ACG 61



Ojeni (Jenny) Becidyan Byfield, age 62, of Minneapolis, died August 5, 2002 surrounded by her family after struggling with lung cancer for three years.

Jenny was born April 20, 1940 in Istanbul, Turkey to Kevork and Dr. Hasmig Becidyan. She graduated from American College for Girls in Istanbul with a B.S. in chemistry and went on to pursue further studies at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI, where she met her husband, David Byfield.

After marrying, Jenny and David raised their two daughters while living in Evanston, IL; Dayton, OH; Brussels, Belgium and Minneapolis. Jenny was an assistant professor at the Minneapolis Institute of Art from 1975 to the time of her death and was a founding member of the St. Sahag Armenian Church in St. Paul, MN.

She enriched the lives of all who knew her with her knowledge and love of fine arts and textiles, international cuisine, languages, travel and history. For many years, she enjoyed helping her customers at Dell Fabrics in St. Louis Park, MN.

In addition to her husband, David, she is survived by daughters, Michele Byfield Stead, Dr. Sarah Byfield Mainguy (David); grandchildren, Sydney & Madeline Stead, and Luc & Nicholas Mainguy. She is also survived by her brother, Nurhan Becidyan, and mother-in-law, Elizabeth Byfield, in addition to many other family members and friends.

#### Erhan Etensel RC Yük 61

Passed away on November 12, 2002. He is survived by his wife Sara Etensel, his children Çela-Nedi Benbasat and his grandson Metin.

#### Murat Sertel RC Yük 63



Prof. Murat Sertel died of a heart attack in Marseille, France where he had gone for a conference in January 2003. With degrees from Robert College, B.A. (Econ.), 1963; B.Phil. (Econ.), Oxford U. (Balliol

College, Nuffield College), 1966; Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1971 and speaking English, French, German, Italian and Spanish along with his native tongue. Sertel was a Professor of Economics and Director, Center for Economic Design (CED), at Boğaziçi University, Professor of Economics at Koç University, Founding Member, Member of Council of the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TAS) and a visiting professor in foreign universities as well as the author of several books and numerous articles.

*"All the world a stage, and all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances and one man in his time plays many parts." so Shakespeare said. Murat Sertel exited never to enter again.*

*And in his short time he played many parts. The scholar, the genius, the eccentric, the boozier, the musician, the family man, the friend.*

*He was awake when everybody was asleep, and sleeping when everybody was awake. By the time you could drink a couple of bottles of beer, he could polish off a whole case.*

## OBITUARIES

*You could study for a tough exam for a whole week, and on that important day he would walk up to you bleary eyed and say "Can I look at your notes?". And after half an hour, he would take the exam and get the best grades.*

*He could move like an eel, like he had no bones in his body. This made him a great dancer - a great rock and roll roller. He could smile like nobody else could. His eyes would be closed yet you could feel the warmth and glee reflecting from his face...*

*He could sing and play the guitar. And sing we would, in the Glee Club, private parties and in night joints around Istanbul... You did not have to see him all the time. But no matter how long it would take to get together again, you could start where you left off.*

*He did not care how he looked. He would look unkept, dilapidated grubby when he should have looked his best. And sometimes he would be immaculate when he should have been in his jeans.*

*So, "our revels now are ended" with Murat gone... Shakespeare goes on to say, "These, our actors as I foretold you, were all spirits, and are melted into air, into thin air."*

*We, the actors, who shared the stage with Murat know that his spirit is still with us. And when the time comes all our spirits will unite again and we will go on with our revels. Wait Murat...*

*Nedim Göknil RC Yük 65*

Oxford University - English Language and Literature 1951, Iz served as teacher of English Literature and Drama at the American College for Girls from 1956 to 1988. From Dec. 1988 to 1991 she served as Lise English and Theatre Consultant.

She died in Istanbul on December 1, 2002 and is survived by her husband, Professor Fahir Iz and son, Tahir.

Please see page 37 for a tribute to Dorothy İz.

#### **Dr. John Scott Everton** (President of Robert College from 1968-1972)

Last to occupy Kennedy Lodge before the merger of RC and ACG, Everton served as president of Robert College from 1968 to 1972. He became a Member of the Corporation in 1972. Dr. Everton was

involved in many activities abroad, namely with education and world affairs, facilitating the exchange of personnel between American and overseas universities. He was also a U.S ambassador to Burma and was a member of the Council of Foreign relations and the American Philosophical Council Association.

Educator and diplomat Dr. Everton died in Cape Cod on January 23, 2003, at the age of 94 after a struggle with inoperable cancer. Friends and family remember that Everton remained young at heart in retirement, staying active as a volunteer and educator until his death. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Margaret, his son John Scott II, two daughters, MacMillan and Barbara Everton, six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

#### **May Fincancı**

Former Middle School Librarian and author of the book *Robert College Old and New*, May Fincancı died in Istanbul on January 8, 2003 at the age of 84. Born in Istanbul in 1919, she began working as the Middle School Librarian at ACG in 1946. Starting with Floyd H. Black, she served under five college presidents and two headmasters at ACG and RC during 34 years. After her retirement in 1980, May kept up her interests in the school, doing extensive work in the RC Heritage Collection and the RC archives thus keeping the "institutional memory" alive. She first wrote *Robert College Old and New* in 1982 and revised it in 2001. The "green book" as it came to be known recounts the history of the colleges since 1863.



#### **In Praise of May Fincancı**

*The longer my experience at schools, the more I appreciate those who, like May, give so much over so many years that they become ageless in our eyes; a comforting presence. May is, of course, more than a memory, leaving behind a solid history of the colleges, a valuable archives collection of collegiana, and an enduring reputation as our "institutional memory", custodian of traditions, and chronicler of anecdotes. May served the Colleges uncommonly well for virtually the whole of her long life. With a sharp eye, keen mind, positive and constructive attitude and a strong sense of the fitness of things, she was a fair but formidable teacher/librarian who looked after many generations of students. When the merger came to pass, in 1971, she was among the first to accept the new situation and to get on with the job of making it work; and by doing so, earning my eternal gratitude. May's legacy lies all around us and will survive. Fortunate is the school that inspires such loyalty, devotion and dedication and we owe her a great deal.*

*John Chalfant, former headmaster*

## FACULTY & FRIENDS

#### **Dorothy Raife İz** (former Lise English and Drama teacher)



Born on June 13, 1921 in London, England, Dorothy İz began to work at the American College for Girls in 1956.

With an educational background at

St. Hugh's College, Oxford University - History B.A - 1943, Dept. of Education - Oxford University - Diploma in Education 1944, Royal Academy of Dramatic Art - London - 1947 and St. Hugh's College -

## Alfa 147. Duyularınızı ateşler.



#### **Bak,**

Kompakt, kişilikli, kıskırtıcı ve dinamik görünüm... Alfa Romeo gücünün simgesi, özel V biçimli motor kaputu ve ön grili ile sportif ve orijinal bir tasarım harikası!

#### **hisset,**

120 ve 150 Hp gücünde, 1.6 ve 2.0 litre iki Twin Spark motor seçeneği. Standart 6 hava yastığı. ABS, EBD, ASR, MSR, VDC güvenlik sistemleri.

#### **dokun,**

Selespeed vites sistemi. Çift bölge otomatik klima kontrol sistemi. 8 hoparlörlü radyo-CD çalar. Alüminyum ön kapı kolları. Momo deri, kadife ve kumaş döşeme seçenekleri.

#### **kullan.**

Yol tutuşta sınıfında rekorlara sahip, macera dolu bir Alfa Romeo'nun eşsiz sürüş keyfini yaşamak için iyisi mi size en yakın Alfa Romeo Showroom'una uğrayın.





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Mesela Cosmo Shop'tan ruj  
bedavaya gelsin.

 Garanti

 **bonus card**

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