

RC QUARTERLY SPRING / SUMMER 2015

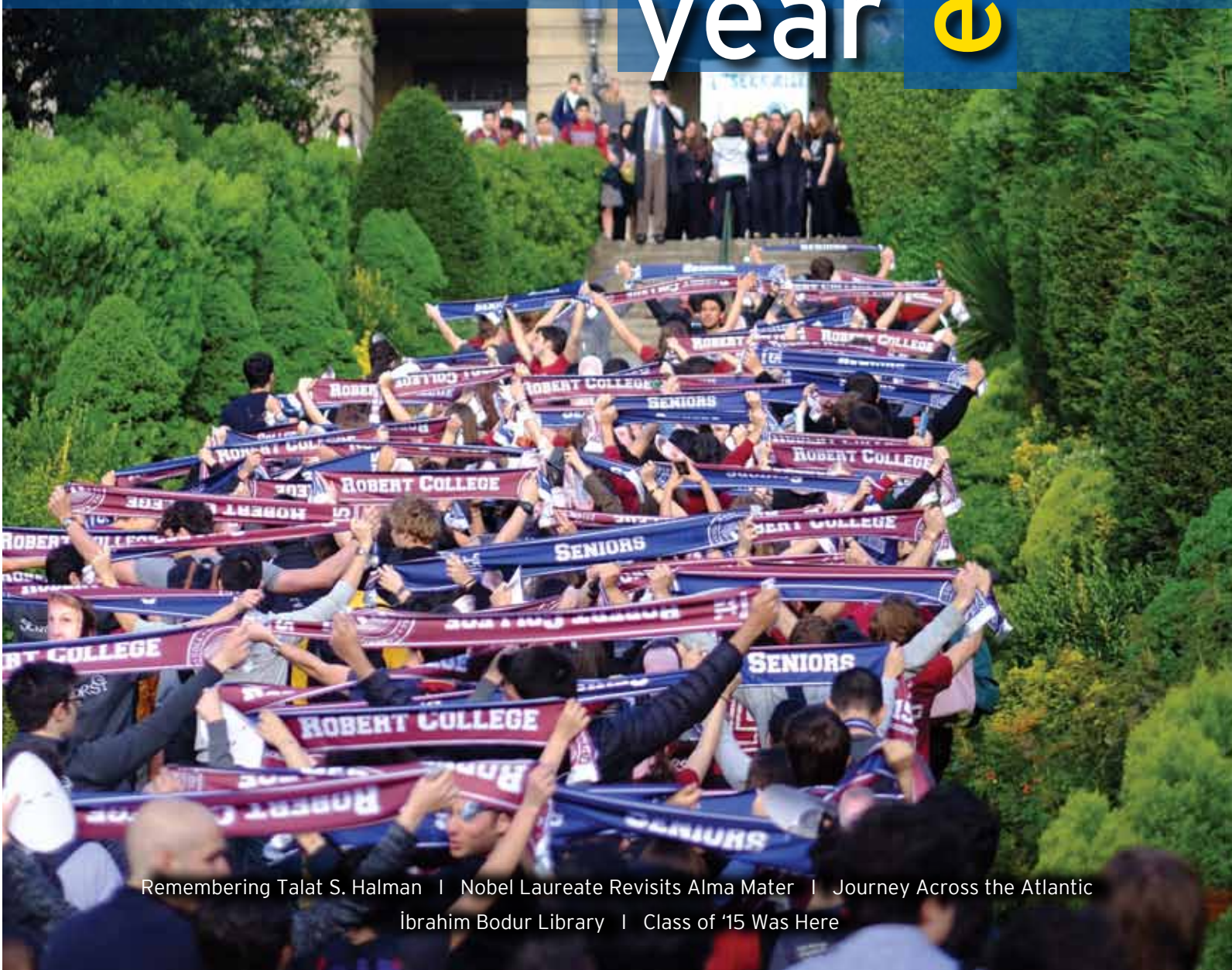
ISSUE 47

RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

end of year

events



Remembering Talat S. Halman | Nobel Laureate Revisits Alma Mater | Journey Across the Atlantic
Ibrahim Bodur Library | Class of '15 Was Here

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İstanbul, Temmuz 2015

Yayın Türü

Sürelî

Yayın Periyodu

4 Aylık

In this issue...

Robert College becomes a place of fresh wonder during the spring months. It is a time to witness the culmination of much hard work, talent and accomplishment. The campus springs to life with events, musical performances, plays, exhibitions, competitions and celebrations.

This issue of the RCQ provides a glimpse of year-end activities, starting with a symposium that brought Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk RA 70 back to school, which you can read about on page 4, and ends with images of the memorable Senior Day as the Class of 2015 bids farewell (see the cover story, page 26). "I don't know why you say goodbye, I say hello" was one tune played during their closing ceremony that echoed the sentiments of the graduating class, as they prepared to join the ranks of alumni.

"Once a Kolejli, always a Kolejli", proclaimed Talat Halman RC 51, during his legendary lectures on "The World of Robert College". We pay tribute to the great scholar and true friend of RC, who passed away in December 2014, on page 50. His legacy will live on to guide new generations.

Happy reading!

The RCQ Team

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



Nobel Laureate Revisits Alma Mater

Novels of Orhan Pamuk RA 70 are the subject of
10th Annual Turkish Culture and Literature Symposium

Excerpt from the article by Özsu Rıřvanořlu L10 in the May 2015 issue of Köprü student magazine

April 18 was quite an extravagant day, and also a source of pride. The Turkish Language and Literature Department organized the 10th Annual Culture and Literature Symposium, and the theme was "Orhan Pamuk's Novel Writing".

Two sessions took place in the morning, with Prof. Dr. Nükhet Esen ACG 69 from Boğaziçi University as facilitator. Associate Professor Dr. Özlem Öğüt from Boğaziçi University and Engin Kılıç, Faculty Member at Sabancı University, participated as speakers in the first session, and Prof. Dr. Sibel Irzik from Sabancı University and Prof. Dr. Besim Dellaloğlu from Sakarya University in the second session. They talked about Orhan Pamuk's novel writing style, and each speaker analyzed and commented on a book by Pamuk.

At these morning sessions, I was most impressed by Prof. Dr. Besim Dellaloğlu's comments on the Museum of Innocence. Orhan Pamuk said that his initial idea was to create a museum that would represent life with artifacts. He first found a building suitable for the museum and made the plans, then he started working on the book and creating the characters. Even if *The Museum of Innocence* were just a novel, it would still be one of the major works of Turkish literature; but, as Prof. Dellaloğlu said, never before has any book been made into a museum. Prof. Dellaloğlu believes that the Museum of Innocence marks a milestone, and predicts that, when talking about the history of museums



From L to R: Nisan İğdem L11, İrem Turgut L11, Leyla Ok L11, Zeynep Naz Türkmen L11, Orhan Pamuk RA 70, Sabancı University faculty member Engin Kılıç, Ferhat Karademir L11, Ayşegül Ersin L11

in a couple of centuries, two eras will be defined as "before" and "after" the Museum of Innocence.

Upon arrival at RC, Orhan Pamuk was met by the students on duty, and led to the Turkish Language and Literature Department's office. The Turkish teachers were delighted and proud to host him, after all these years of wishing to organize such a meeting. While sipping his coffee, Pamuk talked with Department Head Mehmet Uysal about their encounter in 1983. Mehmet Bey recalled that, after Pamuk's first novel *Cevdet Bey and His Sons* was published, he was invited to school on the initiative of Natali Medina RC 85, a member of the Çağrı club advised by Turkish Language and Literature teacher, Adil İzci. When we later questioned Mehmet Bey about this first meeting, he said, "If my memory serves me right, he met with the students in one

of the Woods classrooms overlooking the Bosphorus. It should be 1983 or 1984."

The department members presented Pamuk with the 11th grade students' works on *Silent House*. He was quite pleased and touched. Photos were taken, with the model of the house and the jewel box in the foreground. Pamuk also visited the newly renovated Library, took a close look at the books and periodicals, and expressed his admiration. Our friends who were lucky to be there, asked Pamuk to sign his books for them, and to get their pictures taken with him.

Orhan Pamuk began his talk with his years at Robert Academy. When asked which books a high school student should read, he said without hesitation: "Albert Camus' *The Stranger*." He added that a short novel by Tolstoy could also be recommended, and suggested some masters of Turkish Literature like Sabahattin Ali, Sait Faik and Ömer Seyfettin. He noted that other writers, such as Oğuz Atay, are best to read after age 22. As for his novels, he said that *Silent House* and *The White Castle* would be appropriate for high school students, and that *The New Life* and *Snow* would convey more meaning if read in later years.

The symposium gave us the chance to meet a celebrated and Nobel Prize winner writer, and offered an opportunity to Orhan Pamuk, who said "I feel at home" at the beginning of his talk, to reminisce about his school days.



Orhan Pamuk RA 70 (center) with members of the RC Turkish Language and Literature Department and academicians who participated in the symposium

Excellence in Science Award 2015

The sixth annual Prof. Seyhan Nurettin Ege Excellence in Science Award for Girls was presented to Şule Kahraman L11, in a mini ceremony on March 23, 2015.

In what has become a tradition, the founder of the award, Güneş Ege Akter ACG 52, travelled from Canada to attend the flag ceremony presentation followed by the plaque dedication in Feyyaz Berker Hall.

This year it was Şule, a boarding student from Mersin, who was deserving of all the attention. Members of her family as well as special guests of Güneş Hanım's witnessed what has become a gathering dedicated to commemorating the memory of Seyhan Nurettin Ege ACG 49, a trailblazer among high-achieving women in the sciences.

In her address to the audience, Güneş Hanım kept listeners enthralled by her speech on serendipity. "What is serendipity?" she asked. "Put simply, it



Excellence in Science Award recipient Şule Kahraman L11 with Güneş Ege Akter ACG 52

is the faculty or phenomenon of finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for. Some consider it a manifestation of inspiration or of 'being in the right place at the right time.' For some it has a certain magic about it that suggests predetermination or destiny. Another way of putting it is the 'faculty of making happy and unexpected discoveries by accident'. Though it may seem that way, it is really not by accident; it is because chance favors the prepared mind. To

quote Joseph Henry, a physicist and the first Director of the Smithsonian Institute, 'The seeds of great discoveries are constantly floating around us but they only take root in minds well prepared to receive them.'

"Science is full of serendipitous discoveries," Güneş Hanım continued. "But why are we talking about serendipity this morning?" she asked. "Because Seyhan Ege also had an open and prepared mind. Instead of sticking doggedly to the standard curriculum while teaching her students chemistry, through her observations and interactions with students, she soon realized there was a better, more logical and intuitive way and sequence of teaching chemistry and thus she brought about a quiet revolution in chemistry education. That is serendipity." Güneş Hanım ended her address by saying, "I would urge you to keep not only an open mind but one prepared to recognize and respond to serendipitous opportunities."

Jane Page English Writing Awards

By Maura Kelly, English Department Head

Celebrating the creative writing of our students, we held the seventh annual Jane Page English Writing Award Ceremony in the main hall of the newly renovated library on April 14, 2015. There are three categories: short story, poetry, and dramatic script. Each category offers a top prize of three hundred dollars. Additionally, honorable mentions are also recognized with certificates and gifts.

This year there were an impressive number of entries submitted by students representing all grade-levels of the school. As per tradition, the current English teacher of each winner read the recognized creative piece. Each winner's submission will also be published in the Kaleidoscope Literary Magazine.

The winner of the Short Story Category was Lise 10 student, Azem Bartu Yıldırım, for his highly-charged, "Grey, Black, Red." Two students were recognized with honorable mentions: Lise 9 student, Ece Akçay's story of epiphany, "The Insignificantly Significant," and Lise 11 student, Barış Heybeli, for his unique and oddly fun story, "Voice Death."



From L to R: Kenan Sarp Çelikel L11, Umutcan Gölbaşı L12, Ece Akçay L9, English Department Head Maura Kelly and Azem Bartu Yıldırım L10

Umutcan Gölbaşı, a Lise 12 student, won the Poetry Category for the second year in a row for his evocative piece, "Portrait of a Young Man as Himself." There were again two students recognized with honorable mentions: Lise 11 Barış Özakar's spiritually powerful poem, "From Pillar to Post," and Lise 12 student, Damla Su Özer's vividly haunting, "Eight."

There was only one entry recognized for the Dramatic Script Category, Lise 11,

Kenan Sarp Çelikel's, "Why Tangerines?" Sarp's short-play was dramatized by Jake Becker and Jameson Vierling at the event. It is an ambitious play within a play, within a character's subconscious.

The event closed with tea served on the balcony to the scents of the newly budding wisteria vines. We look forward to the eighth Jane Page English Writing Awards next spring.

Class Agents Honored

Hard-working RC Class Agents and generous donors in the high honor and significant gift categories celebrated the success of the past annual giving year at an event at the Raffles Hotel in December 2014. Award-winning class agents who demonstrated outstanding performances in terms of level of participation as well as level of giving from their classes were recognized, and generous donors were thanked.

RC gratefully recognizes the generous contribution of the Raffles Hotel which made the evening possible.



Award winning Class Agent Ahmet Alp RC 91
with Headmaster Anthony Jones



Bilge Bahar RC 93 received special
recognition for her leading role in the 150th
year Significant Gift Drive



Esin Pere with Haluk Kilimci RC 50, who is one of the most
dedicated supporters of the Annual Giving Campaign



Headmaster Anthony Jones thanked hard-working class agents and generous donors



Class Agent Oral Bozyiğit RC 98 accepted the award in memory of classmate Berkol Doğan



Serdar Sunay and Gülseren Sunay RC 76



RC 96 grads Orhan Ayanlar, Erenşah Ayanlar and Emin Güvenç



From L to R: Nimet and Tahsin Karan, Selmin and Serhan Altınordu



Melahat Kınöğlu ACG 44 (seated, center) flanked by Cezmi Kınöğlu, Rukiye Ergüder ACG 70, Aslı Alpay ACG 70, Ümran Üngün ACG 70, Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu, Alim Kınöğlu RA 68, Nuri Özgür RA 70 and Rona Özgür

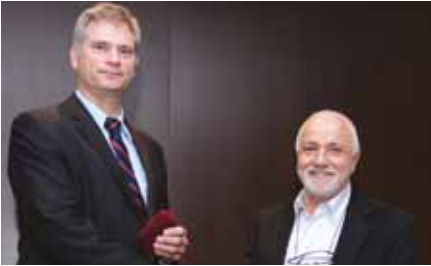
Class agents pictured with Headmaster Anthony Jones



Birgül Akşehirlioğlu RC 79 and Serdar Gökcan RC 79



Ali Yılmaz, Oya İnal and Bilge Rızvani from the class of '85



Ateş Güneş RA 64



Deniz Yıldız Edin RC 88 and Gülruh Tayan Turan RC 88



Okan Atilla RC 90 and Aysan Sinanoğlu Sarmpezoudis RC 90



Suna Gürçay ACG 53

Outstanding classes in Level of Giving:

1- RC 91 Class Agents:

Ahmet Alp
Cüneyt Soydaş

6- RC 93 Class Agents:

Can Önen
İrem Kızılıranlıoğlu Önen

2- RC 85 Class Agents:

Oya İnal Gölhan
Bilge Yavuz Rızvani
Ali Yılmaz

7- RC 76 Class Agents:

Nedim Ölçer
Yasemin Palanduz Kahya

3- RC 84 Class Agents:

İclal Büyükdervim Özçelik
İlgün Özden

8- RC 90 Class Agents:

Okan Atilla
Aysan Sinanoğlu
Sarmpezoudis
Mete Tuncel

4- RC 88 Class Agents:

Deniz Yıldız Edin
Gülruh Tayan Turan

9- RC 87 Class Agent:

Burak Pekcan

5- RC 79 Class Agents:

Birgül Tepeköylü
Akşehirlioğlu
Serdar Gökcan

10- RA 64 Class Agent:

Ateş Güneş

Outstanding classes in Level of Participation:

1- RC 79 Class Agents:

Birgül Tepeköylü
Akşehirlioğlu
Serdar Gökcan

6- ACG 55 Class Agent:

Ayla Ün Gümüşlügil

2- RC 91 Class Agents:

Ahmet Alp
Cüneyt Soydaş

7- ACG 53 Class Agent:

Suna Özyiğit Gürçay

3- RC 76 Class Agents:

Nedim Ölçer
Yasemin Palanduz Kahya

8- ACG 62 Class Agent:

Gürsan Cümbüş Şeyhun

4- ACG 61 Class Agent:

Leyla Batu Pecan

9- RC 92 Class Agents:

Onur Özgen
Ermin Sağlam
Bora Samman

5- RC 61 Class Agent:

Y. Aydın Bilgin

10- RC 98 Class Agents:

Zeynep Baylan
Oral Bozyiğit

Storytelling through Photography

■ Class project explores stories of the people in the neighborhood

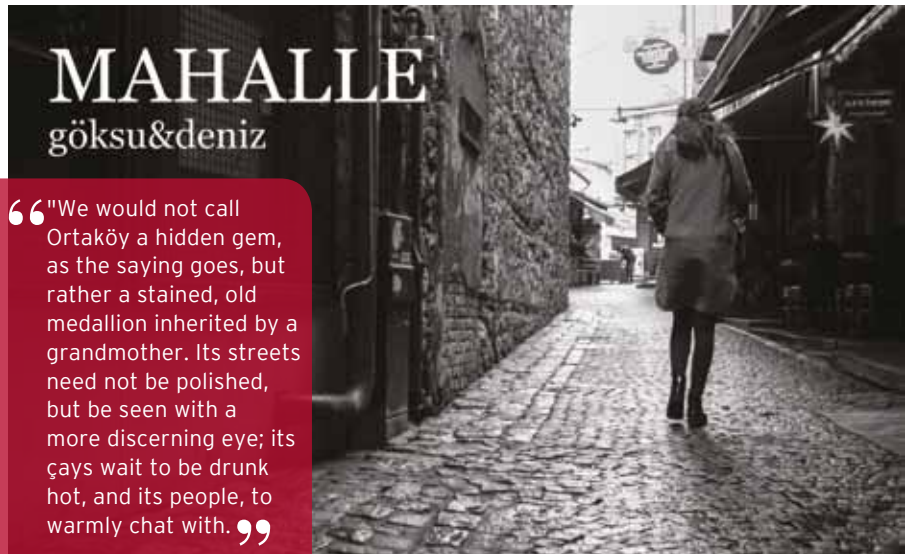
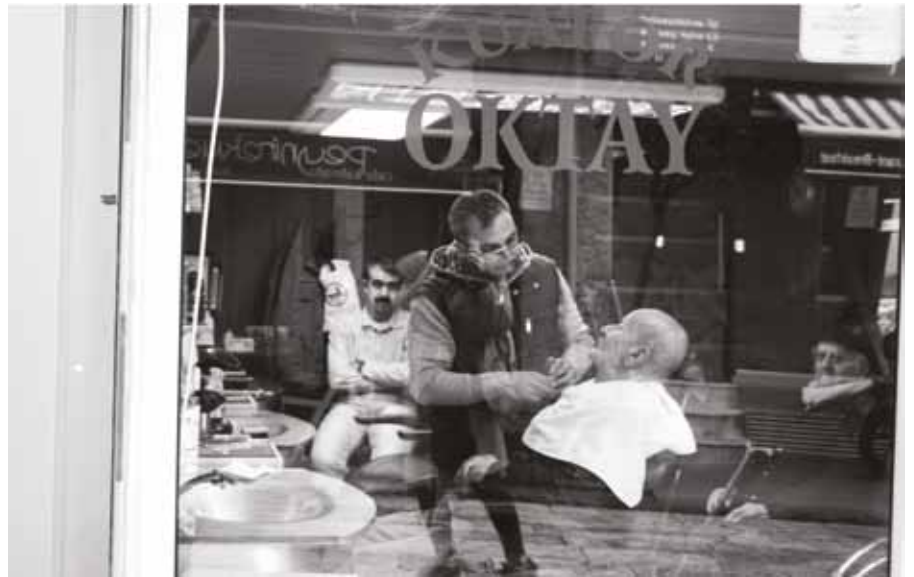
Students have a chance to see the city they live in from a new angle and learn to tell stories through their pictures during Documentary Photography, a unit in second semester photography classes. Lise 11 and 12 students spend an hour with somebody they do not know in a neighborhood close to school and document their visit through both notes and photography. The outcome is a unique photo journal of their experience.

The unit begins by looking at work by other people who have photographed Istanbul. "A common criticism is they are outsiders looking in," says photography teacher Alex Downs. The class discusses the ethics of documenting, and the fact that there is no one truth; storytelling is subjective and they can tell their own perception of truth knowing that others may experience things differently.

The most significant part of the unit is the students' encounter with a stranger. They take time to get to know somebody before documenting their visit. The students meet all kinds of people; some are warm and responsive, and some are cold. The students are asked to observe details about the person and the way they approach their work and life, so instead of presenting them as a *yufka* (phylo dough) maker or clock repairman, they portray the character of their subject. The students pull together their notes and photos into an album, which they take back to the person they photographed.

The unit not only teaches students a different approach to photography, it also gives them skills that they can apply to other classes and areas of their lives. "Some students feel that interacting with a stranger is the most difficult thing they've ever done," says Downs. The students learn about documenting, different perceptions of truth, how to engage people they've never met, and working with somebody who is very different from them.

Boris Esenkaya RC 15, who met with a tailor, said, "This was a different side of photography for us: We learned about the person we photographed and represented his personality in the photos as well. He liked the fact that the students are not just taking his photos, but that they are also interested in him and his work."



"We would not call Ortaköy a hidden gem, as the saying goes, but rather a stained, old medallion inherited by a grandmother. Its streets need not be polished, but be seen with a more discerning eye; its çays wait to be drunk hot, and its people, to warmly chat with."

Photos and text from the project journal by Göksu Kalaycı L11 and Deniz Özcan L11

GARANTİ DAİMA TÜRK BASKETBOLUNUN YANINDA!



Library Named For İbrahim Bodur

RC 50 Graduate gives a Major Gift for the 150th Anniversary

“I have one wish for the present and future students of Robert College. Enjoy your time in the school, go and visit the library often. Don't just see it as a place to study but a place to explore, discover and learn. Never forget that great minds are those who never stop learning.” These words of advice are from İbrahim Bodur RC 50, the Kale Group Founder and Honorary President, after whom the Library has been named in recognition of his major gift to Robert College.

One of the focal spots on campus, the Library went through a transformation over the 2014 summer break to address increasing demands for resources and space. The renovations have resulted in an area that is light, inviting and up-to-date.

Starting with the 2015-16 academic year, all students will have laptops, resulting in an increased demand for electrical outlets and internet access. To address this, the floors were raised, allowing wiring and cabling, as well as the heating and cooling system, to be housed underneath. The new system hides cables away neatly, and allows for easy upgrades in the future. An added bonus of the raised floors is that the space is closer to the windows, bringing more natural light into the rooms.

The heavy bookcases were replaced by lighter, more flexible shelving, making the print collection of approximately 37,500 English and Turkish volumes, appear to

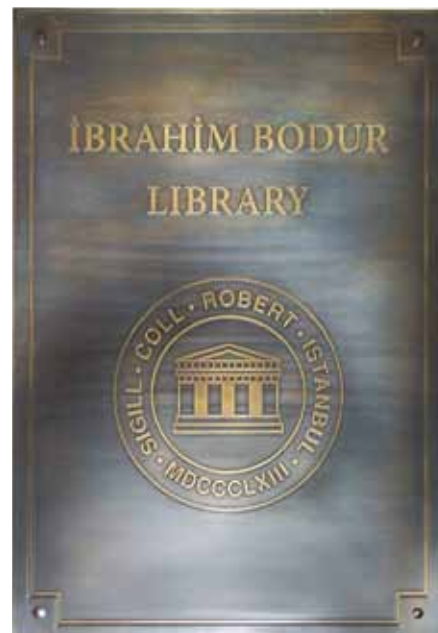


İbrahim Bodur RC 50

be almost suspended in air. More efficient shelving has opened up space for more work areas. Moveable furniture was selected in order to create small group or individual settings, depending on learning needs. The classroom space within the library has a partition wall, making it easy to accommodate large classes or smaller groups.

The wood from the old shelves was recycled and transformed into beautiful tables that are ergonomically designed, and can be easily moved into different sized groupings. The wood has also been used for accents on the shelves and around the main room.

Bodur says, “I dearly thank Robert College, my beloved school, for bestowing this honor on me and my family. To know



Plaque hanging in the Library

that from this day on, students who have been and will be a part of this school will get inspired by a story that is not only mine but what this country, Turkey, has accomplished, is so gratifying.

“I loved Robert College, loved every minute of my time there and cherished all that this school has given me. I still hang out with my friends and we remember those days as if they were just a few years ago.”

The İbrahim Bodur Library is sure to be a source of memories for new generations of RC students.



A view of the newly renovated RC İbrahim Bodur Library

BİLGİ'de Lisansüstü

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

Yüksek Lisans

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- Bankacılık ve Finans (Ataşehir)*
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- e-MBA (Türkçe)
- e-MBA (İngilizce)
- Ekonomi
- Elektrik-Elektronik Mühendisliği
- Enerji Sistemleri Mühendisliği
- Felsefe ve Toplumsal Düşünce
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- Fizyoterapi ve Rehabilitasyon
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- Hukuk (Ekonomi Hukuku / İnsan Hakları Hukuku)
- İnsan Kaynakları Yönetimi
- İnsan Kaynakları Yönetimi Online
- İnteraktif Pazarlama / Next Academy
- İslami Finans Online*
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- Kültür Yönetimi
- Kültürel İncelemeler
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- MBA (İngilizce)
- MBA (Ataşehir)*
- MBA (Bursa)
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- Mimarlık Tarihi, Teorisi ve Eleştirisi
- Muhasebe ve Denetim
- Örgütsel Psikoloji
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- Pazarlama İletişimi / Marka Okulu
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- Sağlık Hizmetleri Yönetimi Online*
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- Sosyoloji
- Sosyal Projeler ve STK Yönetimi
- Tarih
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- Uluslararası Finans
- Uluslararası İlişkiler
- Yapım Yönetimi
- Yönetim Bilişim Sistemleri Online*

Doktora

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- İşletme-Pazarlama
- Kamu Hukuku
- Matematik
- Özel Hukuk
- Siyaset Bilimi

**Başvurular
başladı.**

*Yükseköğretim Kurulu'ndan onay beklenmektedir.



150th Anniversary Major and Significant Donors Honored

Bronze plaques were put up to honor the names of major gift and significant gift donors in commemoration of the 150th Year of Robert College. A dedication ceremony was held on campus, on May 12, 2015, following the Annual Meeting of the

Board of Trustees. The ceremony kicked off with an *a capella* performance by the award-winning RC Singers choir. There were short speeches given by Board of Trustees Chair Nina J. Köprülü and Headmaster Anthony Jones who expressed gratitude to the special

group of donors in attendance for their outstanding support to the school. Everyone enjoyed the lovely spring evening, chatting and taking photos with family and friends, and visiting the İbrahim Bodur Library.



The RC Singers Choir



The 150th Year Major and Significant Gifts Commemorative Wall



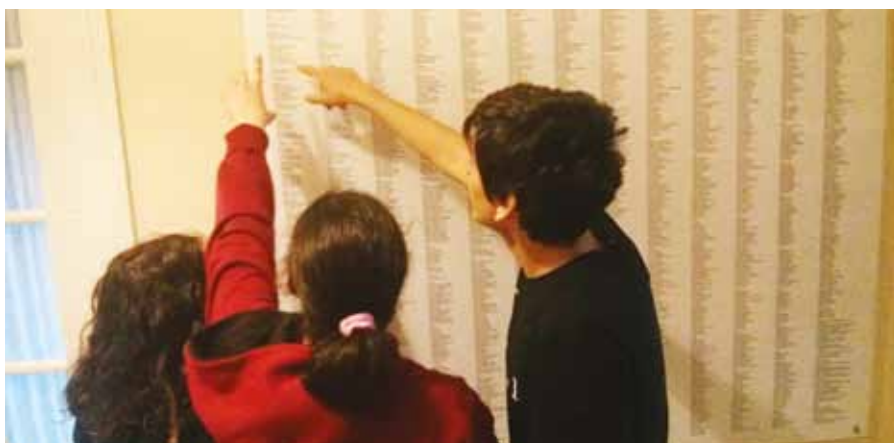
A group of friends and supporters of the school at the dedication ceremony

You Are Here: Showcasing Annual Giving Support

A large list of the 2089 individuals and organizations who gave to the Annual Giving Campaign in the previous year is displayed prominently in Marble Hall. The list will change next year to showcase the 2014-15 contributors.

Located in the busiest corridor of the school, students and faculty enjoy browsing through the names of supporters whose generosity and thoughtfulness provide so many of the unique opportunities they experience at Robert College.

The list shows the alumni who gave to the 2013-14 Annual Giving Campaign according to their class years.



Students enjoy seeing names of alumni and reviewing which classes participated the most. They are inspired by the loyalty of the RC community and look forward to having their own names included here one day.

Burası yeni bir hayatın
başladığı yer

Burası BiLGİ

150'den fazla bölüm, öncü akademisyen
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Guests of Can Yücel

Excerpt from the article by Leyla Ok L11 in the March 2015 issue of the Bosphorus Chronicle

“**A**kdeniz yaraşıyor sana / Yıldızlar terler ya sen de terliyorsun” (The Mediterranean sea suits you/ You sweat as the stars sweat) wrote Can Yücel, almost describing the Datça Canevi Community Involvement Project (CIP) members who worked long hours for the love of literature. From February 2-8, 2015 CIP members went to Datça to organize Can Yücel’s “Canevi Library” and digitally catalog it. Robert College assistant librarian Atakan Aydın was the advisor and the perfect fit for the project with his love of libraries, books, and Can Yücel.

Before going to Datça, Lise 11 student Kutay Serova developed a program which allowed the group to digitally catalog nearly 5,000 books. On November 24, the group visited Can Yücel’s daughter, Su Yücel, and got information about the library in Datça. The CIP members learned that the project was going to be filmed as a documentary for İz TV.

Semester break finally came and it was time to go to Datça and to start experiencing the best part of the project. The CIP leader Gökçe Özer L11 and Kutay Serova went two days before to organize the library and prepare the computers. The rest of the group arrived late when



Güler and Su Yücel with project members

their flight was canceled. However, when they entered Canevi, they forgot all about their stress by looking at the incredible, warm home of books. “The books had a strong magnetism that pulled people. With the effect of this spell, we worked for many hours, each day,” said Vera Can L11. Aydın described the experience: “Students had the opportunity to ‘meet’ important people from Turkish and world literature, felt the happiness of touching works from important writers, took part in the adventure of establishing a library, saw how group dynamics can result in outstanding success, experienced a

professional documentary shoot and performed with extraordinary motivation.”

On the last day they worked non-stop for 16 hours. They all wanted Canevi to be ready for the final day to show it to Can Yücel’s wife, Güler, and Su Yücel. With the help of Datça High School students, they succeeded in cataloging his books and created a place to be proud of.

The project changed many people’s lives including the participants, Can Yücel’s family and the new generations that will get to know him better and be inspired by him.

Exam Support for Soma Students

During the semester break, a group of 21 RC students went to Soma, Manisa, the site of last May’s tragic mining accident, to help 8th grade students prepare for the TEOG exam (the Turkish national high school entrance examination). English teacher İrem Eren and CIP coordinator İzzet Şengel accompanied them as advisors. The RC Students worked for six days with 60 students from 13 Eylül Gama Primary School.

During the project, RC students experienced teaching and being a teacher, despite the fact that for many there was only a year’s age difference between them and the Soma students. CIP members expressed the difficulty of teaching and stated it would be challenging to teach the same subject



RC students worked with 60 students in Soma

again and again. RC students not only empathized with their teachers, they also empathized with their peers in Soma who were trying to succeed in the exam.

On the last day of the project, teachers from the school in Soma organized a trip to the historical neighborhood, Darkale, and to the graves of the 301 mine workers who died in the disaster. RC Students not only supported their friends in Soma academically, they also learned firsthand about one of the biggest mining accidents in Turkey’s history.

RC students continued communicating with the Soma students through an internet video chat program to mentor and support them until the TOEG test at the end of April.

Sharing Knowledge about Sustainable Living

Students from Robert College and seven other schools in Istanbul are learning about sustainable living, and sharing their knowledge with others through the Permaculture Community Involvement Project (CIP). The long-term goal of the project is to help students learn about sustainable agriculture while helping to revitalize a historical village that will teach others about earth-friendly living through eco-tourism.

The first phase of the project was educating participants about permaculture and sustainable living. In December 2014, renowned environmentalist and permaculture practitioner Taner Aksel RC 87 (see RCQ 42, p. 33) gave a talk on permaculture to 120 students and teachers from 11 schools in Istanbul. Those who wanted to learn more participated in the Introduction to Permaculture course given by Aksel in March. They then put their knowledge into practice by starting permaculture gardens at their schools.

In addition to learning in their own backyards, the schools take turns visiting the village of Alpagut in the Seben area



Villagers and members of the project in Alpagut

of Bolu, transforming it into an example of sustainable living. The village has historical wooden buildings and very rich soil, so it is an ideal location for eco-tourism. An elevated garden was built in the spring, and the first crops - vegetables and greens - were planted. Two schools visit the village at a time from Istanbul and keep the other schools up-to-date on their activities through their Facebook group and other social media. The local government, local offices of the Ministry of Education and schools from the area have shown great interest in the project, and the villagers and local students are also maintaining the garden. There is a plan to renovate

nearby dorms so visiting schools can stay longer.

"The area is historical and full of old wooden houses. However, the village is dying out as the young population has migrated to the cities," explains CIP advisor and geography teacher Ferdağ Sezer. "We not only hope to show the people living here how to grow their own produce organically, we also hope that the revitalization will bring back young people."

For more details on the project visit <http://permakulturlise.wix.com/permakulturkoyproje>

Girls on the Playing Field

This spring, girls 7 to 10 years old learned to play soccer from the Lady Bobcats, the RC girls' soccer team, during the Kızlar Sahada (Girls on the Playing Field) Community Involvement Project (CIP). The program took place over five Sundays at the Dave Phillips Field and in the Eczacıbaşı Gym.

The project was a collaboration with AÇEV (Mother Children Education Foundation), which runs a parenting education program for fathers. Fathers from Istanbul's Bayrampaşa and Gaziosmanpaşa neighborhoods who attended the program accompanied their daughters each week to campus, and supported them from the stands. On the field, the girls went through a Lady Bobcats soccer practice with RC students and their advisor, Lady Bobcats coach Lisa Seed Trujillo.

The project was born when CIP leader and Lady Bobcats member Evşen Güleş L10 participated in a Women's Day father-daughter soccer event that was hosted by Actifit and AÇEV. Evşen had been wanting to run a girls' soccer program



Learning to play soccer on the Dave Phillips Field

CIP, so when she saw that the response to the one-day event was so positive, she decided to continue it.

"We met for two hours on Sundays, and each time there were a couple of girls that were too shy or not confident enough to play," says Evşen. "After two hours they all became very passionate about soccer. Each time they left exhausted, but happier, stronger and more confident. I knew we were doing something incredible."

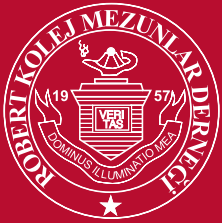
The fathers gain a new perspective on what their daughters can accomplish. "Some of the fathers told me that they are very proud of their daughters. Some

cheered when there was a goal, as if they were watching a professional game," adds Evşen. "We can make them feel strong and smart and capable. That's the best gift we can give them," says Seed Trujillo.

There are two other programs that promote women's soccer under the Kızlar Sahada program run by Actifit. The annual Gençlik Kupası (Youth Cup), featuring high school girls' soccer teams, was hosted by RC this year in March, with 16 teams participating. The Adult Tournament took place in Istanbul and Ankara in May. Audience revenues from the tournaments were donated to AÇEV.

A Brand New Bizim Tepe

A new look and feel for Bizim Tepe, the RC alumni club, was revealed at the end of March with the opening of the Tepe Majeur restaurant, managed by Elchyn Catering. The new management team, decor and menu have created a refreshing atmosphere.



What's Happening at RKMD



A panel discussion with Cüneyt Ülsever RA 70 on March 11, 2015 was attended by many alumni.



The traditional Spring Bazaar before Mother's Day took place on May 7, 2015. As usual, it was a great shopping spree for alumni, their friends and other guests, and the perfect chance to contribute to RKMD.

Bizim Tepe Open is Back!

After a seven-year interval, the Bizim Tepe Open continued this year. The tournament started on April 30, 2015 with 204 players in 16 different categories. Prizes were given to the finalists at the award ceremony on May 10.



From L to R: Erden Emanet RC 89, finalist for +45 category Saruhan Oğuz and Gökhan Girgin RC 89

Tours

"September Events from From Galata to Pera" / "Galata'dan Pera'ya 6-7 Eylül Olayları" on **February 28, 2015**



RKMD held a walking tour from Galata to Pera, the vibrant area with hundreds of little shops and cafés endless churches, synagogues, consulates and old palaces serving as embassies, as well as art nouveau residences.

"Every Nook and Cranny of the Golden Horn" / "Köşe Bucak Haliç" - April 4, 2015



Yet another great visit with RC alumni to one of the most historical vistas of the city - Haliç (The Golden Horn) and its surroundings.

Art Exhibitions

Hardan Art Group's *Ben Beni Kendimi/Me, Myself, I*
September 26-October 6, 2014



One of RKMD's social responsibility activities, this exhibition organized by Hardan Art Group was attended by 31 artists who showed their paintings and photography. There was also an exhibition of 13 paintings by children with Down syndrome.

İZEV Benefit Exhibition - Çağla Göksu *Gölgeler/Shadows*
November 15-18, 2014



RKMD hosted the watercolor exhibition *Shadows*, to benefit İZEV, as another social responsibility project.

New Member on the Alumni Relations Team

Nil Sarrafoğlu RC 89 joined RKMD in March 2015, and is in charge of alumni relations. Nil studied Motion in Film in San Francisco, where she lived for eight years. When she returned to Istanbul, she became a managing partner and producer at EmotionGraphics. After having her son in 2007, she started writing about environmental issues at Yeşilist, Turkey's first and only green-living and sustainability network. She also took part as an activist in environmental campaigns run by various NGOs, and worked as an editor. "I find it an opportunity to apply my experiences and feed my curiosity at every step of the way, and I'm eager to do the same at RKMD. I am happy to be here in this friendly environment."



Nil Sarrafoğlu RC 89

As a result of the elections in March 2015, the following alumni are serving on the **RC Alumni Association (RKMD) Board** this term:

Gökhan Girgin RC 89 - President
Arif Akdağ RC 88 - Vice President
Ahmet Alp RC 91 - Secretary
Erden Emanet RC 89 - Treasurer
Barış Güner RC 89
Çağrı Akçurum RC 05
Zeynep Özyürek Acar RC 91
Hülya Adak RC 89
İgal Zakuto RC 90
İlke (Nikelay) Demir RC 89
Ersu Ablak RC 98
Nigar Alemdar ACG 66

Young Alumni Dinner NY

On November 8, 2014, RCAA hosted the 24th Annual Robert College Young Alumni Reunion in New York City. This year, alumni of the past 20 years (RC classes 1995-2014) were especially encouraged to plan a fall weekend in New York City to get together with friends, catch up and share recent experiences. A total of 74 RC graduates and their guests travelled from various locations in North America for the event. As the guests enjoyed delicious Turkish food at the Turkish Kitchen, they had the opportunity to listen to the Young Alumni Career Panel, where several alumni from various fields,



Özlenen Eser Kalav ACG 67 was honored at the event

ranging from biomedical engineering to finance and law, talked about their careers and answered questions.

This year's event also recognized Özlenen Eser Kalav ACG 67, who completed her 20th year on the RCAA board in 2014 and has made significant contributions to the board and the RC community during her tenure. Kalav, a retired Citibank executive, is the former Chairman and CEO of Turkish Philanthropy Funds (TPF), of which she is a founding partner. She continues to serve TPF as an advisor on their Council of Trustees.

Washington, DC Alumni Reception



RC Alumni enjoyed catching up at the reception co-sponsored by the RC Board of Trustees and the American Friends of Turkey

The Robert College Board of Trustees and American Friends of Turkey (AFoT), a Washington based non-profit organization, co-sponsored an alumni event on January 27, 2015. RC alumni and friends welcomed Headmaster

Anthony Jones at the Cosmos Club. The reception was also attended by RC Trustee Marc Grossman, former U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, and Robert Hamlin III, great-grandson of Robert College founder Cyrus Hamlin. The Washington, DC chapter of

RCAA will be organizing further events in the future for alumni in the area. If you have suggestions for events or would like to help out, please reach out to Sinem Reed at sreed@iie.org or Can Akcevin at can.akcevin@pascalmetrics.com

Boston Alumni Reception

Graduates from the 1950s up through 2014 met up at a lively reception at the Harvard Faculty Club on February 5, 2015. Former teachers and friends of the school, including trustee Martina Albright and Hamlin's descendants Robert T. Hamlin and Sally and Michael Leahey were present at the gathering. Headmaster Anthony Jones updated Boston alumni about the recent news regarding the school.



From L to R: Former Headmaster Christopher Wadsworth, Nilgün Gökçür ACG 70 and Hadi Özbal RC YÜK 67

Bay Area Alumni Reception



RC alumni and friends at the Bay Area reception



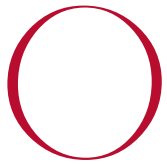
On February 12, 2015, the Robert College Board of Trustees hosted an alumni event at the Oberndorf Event Center at Stanford University, welcoming headmaster Anthony Jones to the San Francisco Bay Area. Around 30 alumni from RC ENG 56 to RC 13 from around the Bay Area and California gathered at the reception, some driving

up to five hours to attend the event. With the presence of Headmaster Jones the evening lasted almost twice the time it was originally planned for. John Francis Powers, Professor of Finance at the Graduate School of Business at Stanford, helped organize the event. Mr. Powers is a friend of the RC community who recently visited the RC campus to learn more about his great aunt who served as a

member of the RC faculty from the 1920s to 1950s.

The San Francisco Bay Area chapter of RCAA will be organizing further events in the future for alumni in the area. If you have suggestions for events or would like to help out, please reach out to Batu Sat at batusat2002@yahoo.com

NY Bar Night



On February 12, 2015, RCAA hosted the first Bar Night of the year in New York City. Around 40 alumni got together at Pera Mediterranean Brasserie, run by Burak Karaçam RC 92, to enjoy a night with old friends, delicious Turkish appetizers and great wine. Our first Bar Night of the year was also attended by quite a few Columbia and NYU freshmen, who graduated from Robert College last June. RCAA usually hosts around 5-6 Bar Nights a year in New York, where there is a strong alumni presence.



RC alumni at the NY Bar Night



Clockwise from Left: Roza Oğurlu RC 14, İpek Emekli RC 14, Oğul Girgin RC 13, Orkun Tibet RC 12, Feyza Haskaraman RC 12, Setenay Gel RC 13, Hande Güven RC 14 and Elif Kınlı RC 13

Boston Spring Dinner

The RC community in New England welcomed spring after the snowiest winter of Boston on record, gathering at Rustic Kitchen on March 28, 2015. RCAA hosted guest speaker Hilary Rantisi, who talked about the work she is leading at Harvard University's Middle East Initiative. The friendly atmosphere helped the alumni of all ages, ranging from the 1960's to 2014, to mingle.

RC Grads in the House

The House of Common's Churchill Room provided a cozy setting to over 100 alumni and friends who gathered there on January 21, 2015 for a very special evening in honor of Robert College's 150th Anniversary. The event was sponsored by Robert Walter MP, who opened the evening with a letter from London mayor Boris Johnson, who was not able to attend as he was leaving for Iraq that evening.

Headmaster Anthony Jones also addressed the group, talking about the newly formed RC UK Foundation. Speaking on the 50th anniversary of Sir Winston Churchill's death, he expressed his gratitude to those who support the school with Churchill's famous phrase "Never was so much owed by so many to so few".

The evening was a unique opportunity for alumni in the UK and around the world to come together and celebrate the school's legacy.



From L to R: Burak Günay RC 14, Barış Uslu RC 14, RC Headmaster Anthony Jones, Erk Şimşek RC 14, Tutku Bektaş RC 13, Ali Girayhan Özbay RC 14



From L to R: Fırat Erel RC 05, Nuri Özgür RA 70, RC Headmaster Anthony Jones, Burcu Tuncel RC 97, Mete Tuncel RC 90, Şehnaz Sabuniş Dölen RC 84, Eren Özgür RC 95



From L to R: Tolga Tuğlular, Emre Derman RC 84, Yeşim Aksoy RC 84



From L to R: Feride Alp Walter RC YÜK 71, RC Headmaster Anthony Jones, Robert Walter MP, Kemal Aşkar RC 94



The historical venue was a perfect setting for talks by Robert Walter MP and Headmaster Anthony Jones



From L to R: Michel Grünberg RA 67, Barış Trak RC ENG 71, Theresa da Silva, Usamah Farah RC ENG 64

Giving in the UK

Robert College UK has been established as a registered charity in the UK, and there are two convenient ways for UK tax payers to support the school. Contributions can be made through Natwest Bank, or for those employed by a UK tax payer, donations may be made through payroll giving. Donations can also be made to Robert College UK through Gift Aid.

For more details, visit the [Make a Gift page](http://www.robcol.net/uk) under Giving at www.robcol.net/uk

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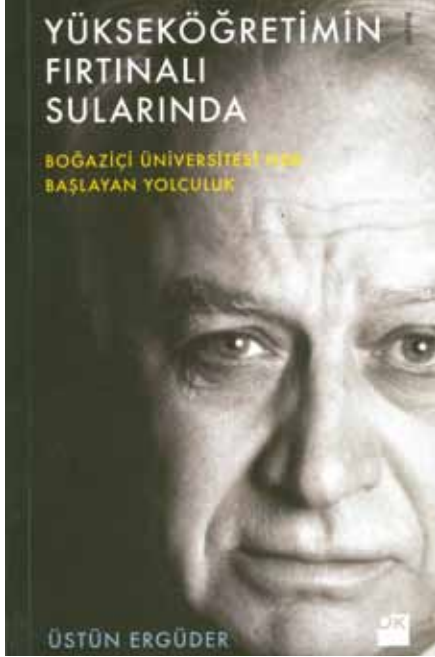
2015 ilkbahar yaz



Turbulent Waters of Higher Education

■ Üstün Ergüder RC 57 chronicles a journey that begins at Boğaziçi University

In his recently published memoir, *Yüksek Öğretimin Fırtınalı Sularında* (Turbulent Waters of Higher Education), Prof. Üstün Ergüder has charted the tumultuous course of higher education in Turkey, extending over fifty years.



Ergüder begins his story on a plane as it starts its descent into Ankara airport in 1960. He goes back to the 40s, his childhood years in Ankara. Turning away from the grey skies of the bureaucratic elite, he directs his gaze, as a child, towards Istanbul and Robert College's liberal environment. He describes the experiences of a youth going abroad for higher education, first at the University of Manchester in England, then at Syracuse University in the US.

We follow him through his illustrious career, beginning at Robert College in 1969 and continuing at Boğaziçi University after 1971. His election as rector of Boğaziçi University in 1992 expands his role into academic leadership.

During our journey with Ergüder, we cruise along the crucial ports of call of higher education and civil society. We make stops at Sabancı University's Istanbul Policy Center of which he was a founding member, the flagship institutions of the global higher education system like the European University Association and the Magna Charta Observatory, foundations like TESEV (Turkish Economic and Social Studies



Rukiye Ergüder ACG 70 and Üstün Ergüder RC 57

Foundation) and TÜSEV (Third Sector Foundation of Turkey) that he supported as they were being established, the foundation universities where he has served as a trustee, and the Education Reform Initiative that he transformed into a leading educational institution.

Professor Ergüder, who is a member of the Robert College Board of Trustees, is married to Rukiye Ergüder ACG 70, to whom the book is dedicated.

Biologist Becomes Youngest Recipient of Science Award

Utah University biology professor, National Geographic photographer, explorer and "risk taker" Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93 became the first biologist and the youngest person to win the TÜBİTAK Special Science Award, equivalent to the US National Science Medal. Şekercioğlu, who is one of the most cited 1% of the world's scientists of the past decade, was among five researchers picked for the top 2014 awards by TÜBİTAK, the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey. Three researchers won the Science Award and two - including Şekercioğlu - won the Special Award, equivalent to the Science Award but for scientists who are from Turkey and working abroad.

"I am humbled to be the first biologist, ecologist, ornithologist or conservation biologist to receive Turkey's highest scientific honor," Şekercioğlu says. "In Turkey, young people interested in science often choose engineering. I hope this award will inspire more young people

to choose natural sciences in general and environmental sciences in particular. My education at Robert College and my science teachers there were critical in my deciding to pursue my passion in biology. With their help and encouragement and Robert College's stellar educational system, I was able to study biology and anthropology at Harvard University, do my PhD in biology and ecology at Stanford University, and become a biology professor at the University of Utah."

Şekercioğlu received the award from Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on December 24. While receiving the award, Şekercioğlu had a single request: "The biggest award you can give me will be to save from destruction eastern Turkey's richest wetland for birds, the Aras River Bird Sanctuary, that I discovered and where I do my science," Şekercioğlu said, and gave President Erdoğan over 55,000 signatures and 4,000 comments he collected with his petition at www.savearas.org. Şekercioğlu



Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93

donated his 50,000 TL award money to the University of Utah Department of Biology, to be used in his ecology, ornithology and biodiversity conservation projects in eastern Turkey.

At the award ceremony, Şekercioğlu also met Prof. Ümran İnan, President of Koç University. Following their discussion, Şekercioğlu became the first biologist Distinguished Visiting Fellow of Koç University, where he will visit twice a year to teach and inspire students. You can read about Şekercioğlu's research at <http://bioweb.biology.utah.edu/sekerocioğlu/> and follow his National Geographic wildlife and travel photos on Instagram @natgeoexplorer

Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı ACG 59 Appointed to UNESCO

Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı is an internationally recognized academician, researcher and author who is known for her studies on building a scientific understanding of human behavior across cultures. She was recently selected as a General Assembly member of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO. The RCQ Editorial Team talked to Kağıtçıbaşı about her new position.

Please tell us about this new position.

UNESCO is one of the most prestigious organizations in the United Nations. Its mandate is to enhance education, science, and culture globally, and it is supported by the national commissions of UN member states. Gender equality is currently one of the two priority areas of UNESCO (the other being environment). I have been selected for this position mainly for my life-long theoretical and applied work in family, women's studies, human development and education, as well as in



Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı ACG 59

my capacity as the Director of the Center for Gender Studies at Koç University (Koç-Kam). I have done research and developed theoretical perspectives on family and human development in the context of socio-economic change and development. On the basis of this work I have also contributed to large-scale efforts to enhance women's, children's and families' well-being, mainly as a co-founder of the Mother-Child Education Foundation (AÇEV).

What are the main responsibilities this new assignment involves?

The Commission serves as a liaison between UNESCO and the Turkish public and private sectors. Participation in the General Assembly involves contributing to various activities of the Commission in order to promote education, science and culture in Turkey. I will take part in these efforts in my capacity as a researcher, educator and academic.

How do you think this new responsibility will affect your studies?

I have been nominated by Koç University and supported by the UNESCO Turkey Commission to hold a UNESCO Chair position at Koç University. If it is endorsed and established, it will greatly enhance my academic and policy-relevant applied work, as well as contributing to Koç-Kam's endeavors. A UNESCO Chair can bring stature and influence, both to its holder and to the University where it is established, helping to contribute to science, education, and social well-being.

Ekranela: A New Way of Watching TV

Contributed by Nükhet Sirman RC 72

I am writing this only for TV watchers, not for those who are proud of not watching TV.

Browsing through Twitter, you might come across an account named Ekranela. Look at it and then be so bold as to look up Ekranela on Tumblr and on its own web page. (I am sure she is also on Facebook, but I am not.) That will change your whole experience of TV watching. You will find that the sense of anxiety you felt watching *Poyraz Karayel* was also shared by Ekranela, that she was also bored by the last episode of *Karağül*, and that *Paramparça* is marketed as *Shattered* in international markets.

I call Ekranela "she" in the singular not because I know that Elçin Yahşi RC 79 started it all, but because the feeling that I get reading the material is of one woman writing. This is totally wrong. There are many people writing for the blog and not all are women. Anyone can send in a piece on anything to do with TV shows - their stars, news, series, episodes and their interpretations. You can write in too, using your name or a pen-name!



Read about your favorite TV shows on Ekranela

But you have to read the page first. You may agree and you may disagree with the way they relate the stories, you may find details that you had not thought of, you may catch a trailer you keep missing on TV, browse through behind-the-camera shots, you may read the synopsis of an episode before watching it, or after having watched it (both are interesting experiences). But it is always like you are talking to yourself. That is why Ekranela is a singular "she."

But this is a multi-layered self. When TV becomes a multimedia experience through sound, image and writing, the viewer's relationship with the content is irreparably altered. The distance between the image and the viewer increases and other voices get in between. You read and think and talk to yourself. Ekranela is right when she says: "Okuması izlemesinden daha heyecanlı!" (Reading about it is more exciting than watching it!).

Identity Formation in the Age of Globalization

Gönül Pultar, ACG 62 ex and RC YÜK 66, published her 14th book, *Imagined Identities: Identity Formation in the Age of Globalization*, a collection of essays, edited by Syracuse

University in 2014. The book is based on papers presented at a symposium on ethnic identity organized in Istanbul by Kültür Araştırmaları Derneği (KAD, Cultural Studies Association of Turkey) of which Pultar is the founding president, and the Heidelberg-based Society for Multi-ethnic Studies Europe and the Americas (MESEA), where Pultar was an Advisory Board member. The 456-page volume contains 18 chapters and a foreword by Nur Yalman RC 50, professor emeritus of Social Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University. In her introduction, Pultar discusses the theme of the book asserting that identity is to current postmodernist vision what nation or nation-building was to modernist vision.

How are identities being forged during the age of globalization? That is basically the question the scholars from various disciplines and regions of the

world authoring the essays attempt to answer. "*Imagined Identities* offers a rich kaleidoscope of contexts - disciplinary, geographic, and ideological - in which restless analysts of cultural identity focus on beguilingly tiny yet sometimes enormously revelatory detail. Their concertedly mischievous tactic enables them to upset various epistemic apple-carts. The challenge they pose to received (and often imposed) wisdom will fuel critiques and positions for years to come," writes Michael Herzfeld, professor of Anthropology, Harvard University.

Pultar, who graduated from Robert College with a BA in Languages and Literature and did her PhD at METU, went on to teach there, and then at Bilkent University. She was a research fellow at Harvard University, and has held positions in international associations such as MLA, ASA and MESEA besides being the vice-president of the American Studies Association of Turkey, and the founding editor of the *Journal of American Studies* of Turkey. An American Studies scholar specializing in twentieth-century ethnic fiction, she took early retirement and now lives in Istanbul (with husband



Gönül Pultar RC YÜK 66

Mustafa Pultar RC ENG 60). She is busy with KAD activities, editing yet another collection of essays, and writing. She is also a creative author, having published two novels, *Dünya Bir Atlıkarcınca* and *Ellerimden Su İçsinler* and a short story, "Leda and the Swan."

From Izmir to the Baltics: Memoirs of a Diplomat



Ömer Altuğ RA 65 served as a Turkish diplomat for 41 years before his retirement in November 2012. *Hatırimda Kalanlar* (*Things that Remain in my Mind*) recounts colorful memories from his life, starting from his childhood along the Aegean shores in Izmir to his final postings on the shores of the Baltic as ambassador to Estonia and Lithuania.

Altuğ writes about life within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and interesting observations on international relations, including a close look at the Islamic Revolution in Iran. There are snippets from the adventures of a Turkish diplomat in Germany, Italy and Egypt, and there is also fascinating information on two countries that are not well-known in Turkey: Estonia and Lithuania. "All my posts were more interesting than the others. But my four years in Estonia, where I had to create a fully-functioning embassy from scratch, were the most challenging," says Altuğ.



Ömer Altuğ RA 65

"I believe that each and every career depends heavily on experience in the field; this is even more so with diplomacy," says Altuğ. "By writing my memoirs I thought I would be making a contribution - albeit modestly - to young Turkish diplomats. Besides, the book would be something tangible for my future offspring who might wonder who their great-grandfather actually was!"

A Life: My Mother Masume Hanım

Annem Masume Hanım (*My Mother, Masume Hanım*) is a book of memoirs compiled by Leyla Batu Pekcan ACG 61. The book follows in the footsteps of Pekcan's previous books, *Yemen Seyahatnamesi*, the memoirs of her grand-father İbrahim Abdüsselam Paşa, which she had translated from the Ottoman language, and *Atatürk'ü Yaşayanlar*, which she, together with Dr. Gönül Bakay, compiled from various interviews.

This time Pekcan's efforts are concentrated on her mother Masume Batu's memoirs. In the foreword written by author Hıfzı Topuz we learn that the book is composed of two parts, intertwined with one another. In one, Masume Hanım writes of her life in the past century. In it are traces of the last throes

a privileged life of servants, nannies, chefs, foreign private teachers, piano lessons and private schools. She witnesses and writes of the last Ottoman sultans and the transformations the young republic of Turkey goes through. In the second part, Leyla Pekcan adds her own memoirs to those of her mother. Pekcan, too, traveled to all the places written up by her mother, albeit 30 years later. Her words depict the changes, compare and observe all that Masume Hanım went through in her youth.

An especially interesting detail of this book is how it came to be. Pekcan and her family found the neatly typed notebook of Masume Hanım's memoirs, titled *My Life*, upon her death in 2003 at the age of 98. Pekcan then added her own sections, thus creating a delightful book of memoirs.

Well known author Ayşe Kulin ACG 61 says this book reminds her of her own family story, a family with the right values, made up of honest and unselfish parents who know full well the importance of a good education. She adds how wonderful it is that Masume Hanım kept a diary and her daughter shared it with the rest of us, thus enabling us to see the differences between generations.



of the Ottoman Empire as well as glimpses of a cosmopolitan lifestyle. She writes of days spent in grand old homes in Koska, Süleymaniye and Kızıltoprak. She describes



Leyla Batu Pekcan ACG 61, author of *Annem Masume Hanım*, pictured with classmate and renowned writer Ayşe Kulin

Another ACG 61 author, İpek Ongun, adds that a special aspect of this book is that the details of everyday life and the cultural descriptions of those years are embellished with feminine touches, creating in us feelings of nostalgia.

Poems of Ecstasy

A poet who describes herself as a poet beyond her will, Gül Özseven RC 86, published her first book, *Poems of Ecstasy*, in 2014.

An Istanbulite by birth, Gül attended the High School for Girls followed by Robert College. It was at RC that her vocation as a poet took wing. During her first year of high school, in Münir Aysu's Turkish Literature class, she was given an assignment to cover Turgut Uyar, the modernist representative of a younger generation of Turkish poets. His work inspired her and drove her to write using his simple and modern style. Her first attempts at poetry won her an award in Çağrı magazine's poetry competition that same year.



Gül Özseven RC 86

After graduating from RC, Gül attended Bryn Mawr College for two years followed by Boğaziçi University, completing her Sociology degree in 1992. It was during this period that she wrote English poems for the first time. In 1992-93 she was at Warwick University in England for her MA

in British Cultural studies during which she won a commemoration in the Scottish International Open Poetry competition. Upon her return from England, Gül continued to write poetry in English and in the early part of 2014 published her first poetry collection, *Poems of Ecstasy*.

Gül Özseven says her willingness and inspiration to compose poetry did not diminish over the years as she sometimes suspected it would, hence her reason to describe herself as a poet beyond her will. Her poems have a simple but lyrical style, almost musical at times, dealing with all aspects of life. They reflect the artist's views on issues concerning herself, vivid with intimate detail.

Year-end



Festivities

Marble Hall overflowed with balloons, as colorful and uplifting as the seniors who put them there in celebration of their last day at school.

The balloons, a farewell surprise by the graduating class, were a perfect way to mark the end of another busy year at Robert College. Each spring, the campus comes alive with a flurry of activity showcasing the achievements of

the students in plays, musical performances and more. These past few months were no exception; the following pages highlight a campus in full bloom.



Faculty, staff and students give Seniors an ovation on their last day

Seniors' Last Day - the Spirit of '15

Lise 12's had a memorable last day of school, with activities organized around campus throughout the day which had Marble Hall bustling with balloons. A corridor of students, faculty and staff applauded the Class of 2015 as they made their way from their awards ceremony in the theatre, to graduation practice at Konak Terrace. The traditional Senior Film produced by the members of '15 followed as an official farewell; the RC spirit in Suna Kırac Hall was palpable.



The Class of '15 bids farewell



The festive day ended with surprise games on the Plateau and a DJ performance

RC Orchestra Concert

Over the past couple months, the Suna Kiraç Theatre was filled with drama, music, art and film.

Alumni once again joined the 56-member student orchestra conducted by

Deniz Baysal on stage, and bedazzled audiences during the RC Orchestra concert performances on May 28, 29 and 30, 2015. Among former RC Orchestra members who took to the stage were RC 04 grads who formed the band City of Brass: Barlas Günay, Bülent Kalafat and

Kaan Karamancı. Gonca Artunkal RC 85 and her classmates Gülüstü Kaptanoğlu, Oya İnal and Sırma Olcay Kefeli got the audience dancing in the aisles with "Yar Saçların Lüle Lüle", which was written by Artunkal's uncle, Yesari Asım Arsoy.



RC 04 classmates Kaan Karamancı, Bülent Kalafat and Barlas Günay performing as City of Brass



Gonca Artunkal RC 85, her classmates Sırma Olcay Kefeli and Oya İnal, get the audience up and dancing at the RC Orchestra concert



The RC Orchestra, with their conductor Deniz Baysal

RC Singers Concert

The award-winning RC Singers Choir, directed by Koray Demirkapı gave a magical a capella performance of songs in English and in Turkish on May 21 and 22, 2015. The RC Singers won the silver cup at the Verona International Choir Festival in April, among 22 choirs from 10 countries. This is the second year that the group of 34 RC students has taken part in the festival, which is one of the most prestigious in Europe, and has both professional and amateur choirs with members of all ages competing.



RC Singers Choir perform at their spring concert

Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Art Competition

Art students submitted a variety of works to the Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Art Competition held on April 22. Bora Fer RC 03, Mustafa Ergül RC 03 and Merve Sendil made up the panel of judges who selected this year's winners.



Mustafa Ergül RC 03, Bora Fer RC 03 and Merve Sendil (right) announce winners of the 2015 Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Art Competition

Fine Arts Festival (FAF)

The RC Community enjoyed a colorful day of art, drama, games and music on campus at FAF on Sunday May 31, organized by the Student Council. This year's main event was a concert by the popular band, Mor ve Ötesi. Festival-goers created their

own works of art at ebru, clay, mandala, glass blowing and tie-dye stations, enjoyed playing lively games on the Plateau and experienced up-and-coming technology trends at the RC Makers fair in the Bubble.



An enthusiastic crowd enjoyed the much awaited concert by Mor ve Ötesi in the Maze



Expressing creativity through mandalas



A student tries glass blowing



Using classic techniques to make modern designs at the ebru workshop



The FAF board became more colorful as the day went on

Dramatic Arts

The Shakespeare Festival on March 23 gave Lise 9 students a chance to show off their knowledge of the Bard's works

on stage with skits that they produced themselves. The RC Theatre Club, led by Jake Becker, had audiences roaring with laughter during their performance of

Gogol's *The Government Inspector* on May 7 and 8, while Film students showcased their talents during the RC Film Festival on May 21.



A tense moment during *The Government Inspector*



Lise 9s performing "Good Monk, Marry Us", a Bollywood version of *Romeo and Juliet*

Berkol RC 98 Dance Festival

The Berkol RC 98 Dance Festival on May 9 featured a variety of workshops and lively performances by students from around Istanbul. The festival, which is named in memory of Berkol Doğan RC 98, is a showcase for Latin dance.



Doing the salsa on the Suna Kırac stage during the Berkol RC 98 Dance Festival



Solî Özel RC 76 addressing the Security Council at RCIMUN

RC Olympics

The RC Olympics on May 15 was an enjoyable outdoor celebration for students and teachers. The morning started with the traditional marathon through campus, followed by competitive games, track and field events and activities around campus. The day wrapped up with RC athletes being honored at the traditional awards ceremony in the Maze.



RC students played a special form of soccer against a visually impaired team during the RC Olympics



Racing toward the finish during the track and field events

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Coding a Program for Success

Today's students are naturally quick at adopting the latest technology trends. But one young man is taking his passion for technology to a new level.

Metin Say RC 15 has designed phone apps, founded a club for other design enthusiasts, was recognized by a prestigious technology firm, and did an internship at a Silicon Valley start-up—all before he graduated from RC!

"From a very young age I was interested in technology," says Metin. "My first iPhone was what triggered the desire to start learning how to develop an app." With the encouragement of his mother, he took a speed-programming course for mobile application development. "At that time, iOS Development courses were new and difficult to find. I didn't learn that much but I had a great time with the teacher. He inspired me to do more," says Metin.

During his junior year, he founded the iOS App Development club, to create an opportunity for others. He organized weekly classes for the club of 20 students and taught them to program and develop iOS Apps, preparing the lesson content himself. "It made me happy even if only a couple of my students continued, because to improve your programming

skills you have to put in a lot of hours and not everybody is willing to make that sacrifice," he says.

In April 2014, while he was still a junior, Metin was notified that he won a scholarship for Apple's Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC), and was able to attend the event in San Francisco that July. "Apple gives you only one week to design and program an app that showcases yourself. Because I was preparing for my AP tests, I was not very pleased with the outcome of the app, knowing I was capable of doing a much better job," Metin explains. "I think what Apple really liked were the apps I developed since I started coding, one of them being the Robert College Alumni App prototype. It included a chat feature that was challenging to develop." Other apps that he had developed by then include Shades, SAT Cards and query apps. About the conference, he says, "Being with so many diverse people from all over the world that share the same passion was very exciting. I learned many things and met so many people in one week."

After winning a place at WWDC, Metin started to receive project offers from companies. He was able to hang his resume at 500 Startups, a Silicon Valley-based incubator. He ended up with a paid



Math Swap app developed by Metin Say RC 15

internship at Puzzlium, a puzzle social network. They asked him to create a new puzzle concept called Math Swap which develops math skills and logical thinking. "Developing and coding your own apps is nice and relaxing in a way, but to develop and program for a company with almost no help in a different country was stressful," explains Metin. "The game needed to be finished in eight weeks. I was happy to find out that they were very pleased with my work and that they wanted to continue when I was back in Turkey. The nice part about being a programmer is that you can work from out of your home."

Metin will continue his education at MIT, studying computer science. When asked where he sees himself in the next decade, he says, "In the fast-changing world of technology you cannot predict where you're going to be 10 years from now, but I know it will be very exciting."

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Across the Atlantic Ocean

By Reşit Yıldız RC 91

Having worked hard for almost 20 years after graduation and sparing very limited free time for myself, I wanted to take an interesting break during which I could focus on one of my hobbies while enjoying a good mental rest. Therefore, I joined a sailing journey where we crossed the Atlantic Ocean from west to east. It was part of an international training program for sailing

which I started in 2012. It turned out to be the journey of a lifetime which included a great sailing experience, a long break, being part of nature, sight-seeing in heavenly places, and complete teamwork.

Including the two instructors, we were six in total on board a 49 ft sailboat. On April 26 we started from the British Virgin Islands (BVI) in the Caribbean and



Reşit Yıldız RC 91



Almost every day, dolphins journeyed with the crew



Twenty-five wishes from 25 friends were released into the ocean

40 days later, on June 3, we reached Lagos, Portugal. We sailed almost 4,000 miles, with short breaks on three islands: Bermuda, Faial and Sao Miguel.

For many, ocean sailing may seem like an adventure. To be honest, I had thought the same before the journey. However, this is a total misconception. The main goal is not to turn it into an adventure. Consequently, our philosophy was safe and comfortable sailing. This meant full harmony with nature. In order to achieve this, we mainly concentrated on meteorology and waves, as they are the two key elements that bring hazards if not taken into consideration properly. Therefore, we regularly received weather forecasts through our satellite connection. From there we would closely monitor the movement of air masses, and low and high pressure areas. However, this by itself was not enough. We continuously focused on elements of nature: waves, winds, temperatures of air and ocean, air pressure, clouds, sky, sun and stars as they helped us assess the existing conditions and predict what was ahead of us. Some of these elements even helped us find our coordinates. For example, at noon we were able to determine our latitude and longitude from the sun using a sextant. At night, we could determine our latitude from Polaris. Being so involved mentally in nature took us to a totally different level.

Despite our efforts to avoid adverse weather and sea conditions, there were times when we encountered very strong winds and high waves. But we were well prepared since we could predict what we were going to face. Now having the experience, I know that nature is too powerful to fight against. We need to be



Land visits were part of the trip

in full harmony with nature and even be obedient at times.

Only three to four days after leaving the Caribbean, we forgot about our daily routines on land and had fully adapted to our new lives on the ocean. While we were sailing we had no internet connection which meant not following what was going on in the world. Like the airplane mode on phones, I named our status "ocean mode". I really liked it. Once you are free from internet for a while, you notice how much time you waste with unnecessary searches and follow-ups.

Our focus on nature was not only for sailing purposes. The inhabitants of the ocean were extremely interesting to watch. We enjoyed dolphins the most. Almost every day, we had lovely dolphins as our smiling, friendly guests. Actually, we were their guests since the ocean belongs to them and their relatives. They were playful and free as they could be, unlike their poor friends who are seized to entertain us artificially. A simple jump of a dolphin in the ocean looks much more impressive than the complicated loops performed in pools.

Unlike the dolphins, the whales were cool and just passed by us. As they would not jump, we would notice them by their spouts.

Though the whales never got so close to us, at night we were afraid of hitting



A bird that appeared hundreds of miles from land

one since sometimes they sleep near the surface. Similarly, we were concerned about the possibility of hitting a floating container that had fallen from a container vessel. Especially when there was no moonlight, we had to sail in complete darkness, as in ocean sailing there is no place to drop anchor or moor to for a rest.

Birdwatching at sea

After leaving Bermuda, for four days - around 550 miles - a brown bird followed us. It consistently showed up around noon and then disappeared.

I was also surprised to see a bird as small as my hand landing on our boat 400 miles from the nearest piece of land. The bird could not land on the water. It always had to be in the air. It was unbelievable to see such a small bird that had flown such a long distance.

Whenever we saw a bird or a dolphin, we took our fishing hook out of the water so they would not try to eat the fake fish we used as bait.

When we reached the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, I had a special ceremony. Before leaving Istanbul, my friends gave me 25 small bottles in which they put pieces of paper with their wishes written on them. I recorded a video for my friends where I named them one by one, and another video of each bottle being released. I later shared all the photos and videos with them. It was a great memory for all of us.

Land ho!

Ocean crossing is not all about sailing and sea. We also visited very beautiful islands. The first was Bermuda.



Bermuda's Horseshoe Bay

The second Island was Faial which has a famous town named Horta. It is a symbolic place for Atlantic crossers as almost all sailboats crossing the Atlantic from west to east stop there. You notice this as soon as you moor to Horta Marina, because the ground and walls of the marina are full of paintings which have the names of the boats and crews members crossing the Atlantic. We also painted the names of our crew members.

The last Island we stopped at was São Miguel, a great location for hiking with very beautiful lakes, my favorite being Fogo.

Like everyone, I was curious about how the personal and social relationships would be among the crew. When you are on a small boat on the extensive ocean you unite very strongly and quickly with the rest of the crew. This is what we experienced even though four of us had

never met. We never had any tension. I noticed that you become much more tolerant and understanding when you have limited options and you feel you really do need each other.

Sailing across the Atlantic Ocean turned out to be the journey of my life. It took me to a totally different environment. Therefore, I am happy that I made it. We should all have similar experiences in our own fields of interest. We should take the time required for this, because we are worth it.



Crews who have crossed the Atlantic leave their names at Horta Marina



"Ocean mode" on the Carribean

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a Platform for Young Art Enthusiasts



RC 07 classmates Ece Çokar, Esra Eczacıbaşı and Cem Yılmaz together with their friend Berrak Kocaoğlu



A talk with artist Mehmet Gülerüz at Genç Modern

Young people interested in modern and contemporary art now have a platform thanks to RC 07 classmates, Esra Eczacıbaşı, Cem Yılmaz, Ece Çokar, who founded Genç Modern (Young Modern) in 2013 together with their good friend Berrak Kocaoğlu. The organization brings together audiences between the ages of 21 and 40 under the umbrella of the Istanbul Modern, where they have the opportunity to meet young artists and be part of Istanbul's art community.

During high school, Esra, Ece and Cem enjoyed art classes and were actively involved in several art clubs. RC was greatly instrumental in the trio's pursuit of art. "There was a club for every interest at RC. Whatever you wanted to be involved in, it was really easy to get together with the people who shared your interests," says Esra, adding that it has been hard meeting new people with the same passion and excitement in professional life since everybody has different priorities. She says they founded Genç Modern as an art club for young people, following in RC's footsteps.

After graduating from Harvard, Esra interned at the Museum of Modern Art in New York (MoMA) where she learned about the membership program for those between the ages of 21-40. Upon her return to Istanbul, she recognized the exciting transformation in Turkey's artistic circles. The four friends who wanted to share in this transformation but wondered where to start, embraced the idea of Genç Modern. "Our dream was to place art in the daily lives of young professionals, who either can't find the time or do not want to visit galleries or museums alone," says Esra.

The other purpose is to facilitate interaction and create lasting bonds between artists and the young art audience, and to increase exposure to art and artists, which they hope will transform this community.

"We live in a world where interdisciplinary perspective is of high importance. We want our members to be a part of this world and play an active role in the transformation of the art scene," says Esra, when asked about the group's vision. Genç Modern organizes two events every month, including talks with artists, visits

to art galleries and private collections, guided exhibition tours, film previews, and Thursday meet-ups which provide an opportunity for closer interaction with mostly young artists. In addition to fairs, biennials and many other local and international art events, Genç Modern collaborates with art institutions abroad and hosts a New Year's Party fundraiser. The Genç Modern team also organizes travel programs including last year's trip to London for the Frieze Fair, and this year's visit to the 56th Venice Biennale.

The organization currently has 10 ambassadors, and close to 200 members. There have been several RC graduates among the ambassadors since the start, including Selen Sarioğlu RC 02 and Emre Eczacıbaşı RC 02, who are still active.

The member profile is quite diversified, and includes collectors, amateur artists, designers, and art lovers. Resources generated from membership fees are channeled to acquire works of young and emerging artists to be added to the museum's main collection.

To find out more about Genç Modern visit: www.istanbulmodern.org/gençmodern

New Forum Features All Things Art

The art press in Turkey received a boost in January 2015 with the launch of sanatonline.net, a website started by Yasemin Elçi RC 03 and Müge Yaşar which is an extensive guide to art news. The website includes articles from a variety of contributors on the latest happenings in theater, cinema, music, literature and contemporary art, as well as a discovery section where people can learn about up-and-coming artists in Turkey. "An art enthusiast is always interested in more than one form of art, so a website that she or he will frequently visit has to cover different areas," says Yasemin.

Sanatonline.net also aims to create a new audience for art and dispel the belief that art is only for certain people. Therefore, the extensive educational content is presented in a language that everyone can relate to. There is also a calendar



Yasemin Elçi RC 03

which lists plays, concerts, movies and exhibitions, and an option within each article to receive an email reminder about specific art events.

After graduating from Dartmouth College, Yasemin decided to pursue an occupation which she was passionate about, rather than what was "supposed to be next"

for a typical economics and psychology major. Her passion for art was ignited in art clubs and classes while at RC. Then at Dartmouth her photography education brought out the desire to be around art, talk and write about art, and work in a creative environment. Yasemin has been working as an art gallerist for six years. She is currently the director of Gallery x-ist and writing freelance for several Turkish newspapers and magazines including Milliyet Sanat, İstanbul Art News, Radikal and Harper's Bazaar. At x-ist, Yasemin Elçi helps discover and promote young Turkish artists both domestically and internationally.

Yasemin is happy to answer any questions about collecting contemporary art, where to start and who the upcoming talents of Turkish art are now. She can be reached at elciyasemin@gmail.com

Retelling Women's Stories

Turkish artists received greater recognition thanks to a conference given by Nazan Erkmén ACG 65 at the Orient exhibition in Rome in November 2014. Prof. Erkmén's conference was on "The Rights Given to Turkish Women by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk", and introduced works by important Turkish women painters since the founding of the republic. There was also great interest in Erkmén's works at the exhibition.

The aim of the exhibition was to retell the stories of women through the works of women artists from the Middle and Far East, and to underline their relationship with society. The exhibition was organized by master's students at UILM (International Media and Languages University) in Milan and Rome, who presented artists who have devoted their lives to protecting the rights of women



Nazan Erkmén ACG 65

and children, both in their art and in their way of living.

Prof. Erkmén is head of the Graphic Design Department and a faculty

member at Doğuş University. She was previously the acting Dean of the Art and Design faculty at Doğuş, and the Dean of Marmara University's Faculty of Fine Arts. While serving in these roles, she has organized numerous symposiums on women, including Women Rights, Outrage against Women, The Women Artists of the Republic of Democracy, and Child Marriages, as well as international exhibitions to present the problems of women in Turkey and around the world to the public. Most recently she was named Leader Woman Artist 2015 by the Turkish Association of University Women and Best Artist of 2015 by the Visual Arts Foundation. Erkmén prefers to illustrate legends and presents her references to women in her paintings. Her subjects include the aim to protect women, children and nature, and she presents them as legendary figures and symbols.



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Reflections, Revelations and Rules

By Egemen Erden RC 89

The alarm buzzes at 5:00 a.m. By the time I manage to locate the phone and hit snooze, the voice in my head is wide awake: "Don't be a fool," it says, "the bed is warm, you're tired, go back to sleep." It takes a while to register that this is not me talking. The key is not to be tricked into falling asleep during those few seconds, and this is where memorized habits help out. Mine is to put my feet on the ground, act first and ask questions later. By the time I manage to tiptoe across the bedroom without stepping on the squeaky tiles carefully laid out by some idiot to make life hell for the ironman-wannabe-husband, I'm fully awake, alert, and in attack mode. Having hopefully passed the hardest challenge of the day, I gear up in whatever was laid out the night before and sneak out like a professional burglar into the darkness. I leave my ego sound asleep, nicely tucked in, to watch out for my family. I may be a self-proclaimed warrior of some sort, but this is training day - not war, and the ego may be excused for some more rest. So far, it's an ordinary day.

What makes this day less ordinary is that it's the last to end yet another chapter of my life, to which I will attach four numbers as is the custom: 2014. The clock is still ticking for the last 24 hours and I know that this is the time reflect on the past 364 days of life, and the choices that accompanied it. As I step out of my car into the cold rain, I feel that this will not be an ordinary training run - and not because of the foul weather.

The menu of the day is a 10K aerobic run, typically a great dish for reflection. Today, however, it's served cold. At 1°C to be precise, with a rainstorm on the side that's delivering 40 knot winds with raindrops in the form of bullets. As I set out for the run with my running group, the



Egemen Erden during the Barcelona Marathon in 2014



Senin için önce onun istekleri bu yüzden “Önce Sen”

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Egemen Erden crossing the Galata Bridge during the Istanbul Marathon

last thing on my mind is indeed reflection. I struggle to sink my teeth into this one and quickly realize that the process will require a little bit more than an aerobic effort. Some 10 minutes into the run, I check my heart rate. It's approaching my lactate threshold as we're fighting ferocious Black Sea headwinds in an effort to keep moving forward. The group calls it even and turns back at kilometer three. But I can't turn back yet. I haven't even warmed up yet let alone reflect. Plus anyone in the group can quote me for my famous big words, "I don't get out of bed for anything less than 10K and I don't get on the plane for anything less than 42.2." I need to stay true to my words.

My running buddy Emil gives me a thumbs-up when I signal my decision to continue diving into what now looks like a black hole. So we carry on with music in our ears, in search of the rhythm of the storm. I'm glad I chose my water-resistant trail running shoes in anticipation of some snow on the ground. Feet are important. They can make or break a man on the run. The warmth of my feet thus fuel a sense of inner peace and it doesn't take me long to find my zone.

As we climb the only hill to hit the five-kilometer mark, a lamppost at the top of the hill, I realize that these few short kilometers have been my past 364 days summed up into 30 minutes. That's what 2014 has been for me. A cold and rainy year, with strong headwinds shooting

bullets at my face. And a hill to climb in the end for some added fun.

It's the climb that makes the peak. Just as I celebrate the five kilometer turn with a fist bump with Emil, I also begin celebrating the journey that got me to the end of 2014. I must be at the peak of that hill now. It's been tough, but my feet are dry and I'm proud of my choices. The circumstances and the rain don't matter anymore. It's all about where I am despite of them. The thought warms my heart, and sometimes that's all you need.

Emil unplugs his earphones and cries out, "Enjoy the tail wind on the way back!" to which I reply, "You bet!" There's a rule about running. The uphill always slows you down more than the downhill speeds

you up; and headwinds always slow you down more than tail winds speed you up. That may be true, and it certainly is, but I don't care. It's nice to have both of them behind me for a while.

If this is my revelation of the day, that the first five kilometers were a summary of the year behind, then the last five kilometers must have been a sign of what's to come in the next. The rain picks up, a passing car gives us a wash-down splash. But my feet are still dry, my pace is steady and strong, with a sweet downhill beneath my legs and tailwinds patting my back. My choice of not quitting the run with the group was a good one. I'm now dancing to the rhythm of the storm and boy, am I enjoying it.

High-fives mark the end of the run in Bebek. We dive into the coffee shop we frequent for a change of dry clothes and warm hugs. And then the party starts. We celebrate in our own and uncommon ways the end of a year, and the beginning of another. That is the excuse, of course. What we actually celebrate is another year of friendship, wingmanship, uncommon ways and the path less beaten, so long as they are traveled together. Not a bad way to end the year. Any year.

As I said, I feel good about my choices - and my rules: I don't get out of bed for anything less than 10K and I don't get on the plane for anything less than 42.2. I'm done reflecting. End of story.



Weather conditions on the last day of 2014

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Peace and Unity through Music and Art

Gül Yılmaz Gürsoy RC 76 quit a career as an IT executive to be a part of a social responsibility project that aims high: to establish the roots of a good, peaceful, happy community built through arts, music and sports.

In May 2014, she moved to Ayvalık to start the *Zeytin Çekirdekleri* (Olive Pits) project, whose aim is to strengthen the social development of Ayvalık's socio-economically and culturally disadvantaged children by providing them with free music, art and sports education.

The project is the Ayvalık Municipality Culture and Social Affairs Department's flagship project and is developed in close collaboration with the Ayvalık governor's office, the Ayvalık Ministry of Education and the Ayvalık Managements of Public Schools. All the teachers who take part in the activities are volunteers. It has reached hundreds of children in one year and is aiming to reach at least 3000 children in five years. *Zeytin Çekirdekleri* is a long-term project; children who join the program can participate in it until they graduate from high school.

Components of the project are summer and winter youth camps and events, concerts and sports events, after-school education programs, and participation in national and international events and concerts. After-schools activities, counseling support, English as a second language support, reading



Gül Yılmaz Gürsoy RC 76 (center, in gray shirt) with a group of children during an art workshop

children's classics, watching musicals and classical films, playing percussion instruments, dance and yoga classes, fine arts workshops, and attending to environmental events and workshops, are only some of the courses offered. Different groups of children from age 2 to 19 benefit from these courses.

An important aspect of the project is using art activities to introduce important subjects such as environment, waste management, recycling, sustainable resources and living, and positive thinking and philosophy.

Most of the teachers are from universities either in Turkey or abroad. There are many music classes because music is considered by the project advisors as one of the best ways to express and to communicate values like peace, unity and justice. Most teachers are academicians from conservatories or orchestra members. They mainly come during the weekend from cities like İstanbul, İzmir, Zonguldak and Balıkesir. Lessons related to music

include introduction to music, singing, drums, musical games and short films, children's orchestra education program for strings, strings education, classical guitar education, rhythm education, chorus singing, and music therapy.

Children from 17 public primary schools of Ayvalık benefited from the classes in the past year. Courses are held at different locations, mainly at the schools or the public culture and art centers of the area. The children who participated in courses gave more than 10 concerts last year and did several art installations around the city.

"I believe if you start a good project touching the lives of disadvantaged children, help them through art and sports, and start social action through music, it touches everyone," says Gürsoy. "You heal and feel much better than them; they make you happy. Actually, I believe we receive more than we give. I do recommend and encourage that everyone should experience this beautiful feeling."



Zeytin Çekirdekleri participants and advisors visiting a senior center



NUMARALAR SADECE NUMARALARI TERCİH EDER

Ağaçtan süngere, kumaştan metale tüm mobilyalarımızda sadece
1. sınıf malzemeleri seçiyoruz. 1. sınıf tasarımcıların hayallerini,
1. sınıf ustalarla gerçekleştiriyoruz. 1. sınıf ürünleri size böyle sunuyoruz.

A Kaleidoscope of Homecoming¹⁴ Memories



Homecoming wouldn't be the same without the student volunteers, pictured here prepping for the registration process



Esin Eden ACG 54 was one of the first visitors to sign the "Look Who's Here" wall



Suzan Yalman Okurer RC 95 and Rana Özbal Gerritsen RC 93 brought their children along to show them what RC is all about

The "Boys" on stage with the RC Orchestra, singing their school song



ACG 64 on the steps of Gould Hall

The RC Orchestra has become a popular part of Homecoming celebrations



Bilge Rizvani RC 85 runs into former teacher
Hafize Değer



Younger alumni in a queue to sign the
"Look Who's Here" wall



The Faculty Parlor in Marble Hall continues to be a
popular spot to catch up



Mert Önen RC 93 says hello to former teachers
Ayşe Güven and Yıldız Düzköylü



The cafeteria lunch hour is a great time to catch up



Visiting the recently renovated library was a
popular part of Homecoming



The Class of 64 celebrating their 50th Reunion



Demir Karamancı RC 48 enjoying the
RC Orchestra's performance



Saluting fellow alumni during the popular Roll Call in the theater

RA 62 Celebrates 60 Years of Friendship

By Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62

Those who graduated from Robert Academy in 1962 held a rather unusual reunion. Instead of celebrating their graduation, they gathered to celebrate the 60th anniversary of meeting each other. The weekend-long celebration started on the evening of October 17, 2014 with a dinner at Bizim Tepe with spouses.

The next morning they met at Bebek Kahve, where Özsüt Pastanesi stood in September 1954. Frequented by many students and parents, this is also from where big *dolmuş*es called *strapontenli* transported them to the top of the hill.

When they got up the hill they went to Albert Long Hall Auditorium where they used to listen to the Academy principal, Willard Whitman. Like at any school assembly, they started the meeting with the National Anthem after a moment of silence for those who passed away. A slide show from their school days was great fun. At each slide everyone was jumping up and down trying to recognize who was in the picture, which proved difficult since everybody had some extra kilos and a bit less hair on top.

The grand finale was a Bosphorus tour on Ataman Onar's boat *Orcan*, with nice food and drinks and a beautiful panorama of the shoreline, cracking jokes and telling stories of a bygone era which brought back fond memories. They were together from age 11 to 19, throughout Orta Prep, Orta and Lise, having joined Robert College as soon as they finished primary school. Studying together for eight years bound their friendship, which has lasted to this day and hopefully will last for many more years.



Remembering the good old days on the shores of the Bosphorus. From L to R: Mahmut Hortaçsu, Şerif Egeli, Osman Pulathaneli, Ahmet Demirel and Noyan Tanberk



Reconvening in Albert Long Hall for Assembly



A bunch of septuagenarians look as if they were on the steps of Anderson Hall on another hill in September 1954



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Remembering Talat S. Halman

Professor Talat Sait Halman RC 51 was Turkey's first Minister of Culture and a distinguished man of letters renowned worldwide for his extensive studies on both Turkish and English literature.

Trustee Emeritus Talat S. Halman was born in 1931 in Istanbul and passed away on December 5, 2014. He was 83.

A great friend and supporter of Robert College, he was commemorated on campus with a program organized by the Turkish Language and Literature Department in February 2015. Ayşe Duygu Yavuz, one of Prof. Talat Halman's last PhD students, spoke eloquently about one of RC's most brilliant intellects, a man with diverse talents and accomplishments, the embodiment of grace, humility and humor.

After graduating from RC in 1951, Halman went to New York for graduate studies at Columbia University. He stayed in the US for four decades, where he had a distinguished career at Columbia, Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania and New York University.

The following are highlights from the December 16, 2014 New York Times death notice contributed by colleague and family friend Dr. Jayne L. Warner, former director of the NY Office of the Board of Trustees.

[Halman served] ...as his country's first Minister of Culture (1971); in the 1980s he served as Turkey's first and only Ambassador for Cultural Affairs, stationed in New York. At this time he also served as Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Halman was appointed as



a delegate to UNESCO in 1989 and later was elected to the Executive Board and served with distinction as president of its primary commission, Programme and External Relations; since 2003 he served as president of the Turkish National Committee for UNICEF. Among myriad awards, Halman received the Knight Grand Cross, G.B.E, from Queen Elizabeth during her 1971 state visit to Turkey. After 45 years in the United States, Halman joined Bilkent in 1996 as founding chairman of the university's Department of Turkish Literature and most recently had also been serving as Dean of Humanities and Letters.

It was Halman's humanism and cross-cultural approach that is his most lasting legacy. In 1976 he arranged a Middle Eastern Literature symposium that took place both at

the New York Public Research Library and Princeton University. It was the first such conference that included both Israeli and Arab writers. He opened the way for the teaching of Turkish literature and culture at major universities in the U.S. Before that, Middle Eastern studies departments concentrated primarily on Arab and Persian studies.

Halman published nearly 3,000 articles, essays, newspaper columns, and reviews in English and in Turkish. He translated over 10,000 poems from English into Turkish and Turkish into English, and wrote over 80 books, including 11 volumes of his own poetry. ... Translations of Shakespeare's "Complete Sonnets" count among his major achievements and have been published in many editions. This was the first time that the sonnets had been translated into Turkish using meter and rhyme. Earlier this year his translations of Shakespeare's long narrative poems, again into meter and rhyme, were published in Istanbul. Halman also wrote an original play about Shakespeare, his plays, and Turkish productions; the play was produced to the acclamation of Turkish theater audiences.

...The world's literary and cultural stage has lost a truly unique and irreplaceable talent-poet, translator, columnist, belletrist, accomplished academic, diplomat, charismatic public speaker, social and cultural critic, writers' activist, and much more. All of these contributions plus his willingness to share his wisdom and knowledge will be remembered by the countless audiences he enlightened, the numerous students he inspired and encouraged, and future generations who will benefit from this legacy. Talat Halman is survived by his wife Seniha, daughter Defne, son Hur (from a former marriage), and grandchildren Melissa, William, and Olivia. His son Sait predeceased him in 1983.



Talat Sait Halman at graduation in 1951 with his mother, Fatma İclal Halman and sister, Leyla Halman Gökse ACG 47

The World of Robert College

Talat Halman was a staunch supporter of Robert College; he was elected to the Board as a Trustee in 1983 and served as Trustee Emeritus since 2007. His efforts on behalf of his Alma Mater will always be remembered with gratitude. A charismatic public speaker, Talat Halman created a lecture series titled, "The World of Robert College" which he delivered to audiences in major cities in Turkey and the USA. In his inimitable way, he evoked the "sights, sounds and stories of Robert College" rallying alumni and friends around a cause dear to his heart.



Listening to Talat Halman in the Gymnasium in May 1985. From L to R: Former Head Margo Johnson, Board members Oya Basak ACG 55, and Rodney Wagner, former Chair, among the audience

Below is an excerpt of the memorable talk he delivered on campus on May 10, 1985.

"Welcome to the World of Robert College... There is a special and altogether appropriate reason for the choice of this specific title for my slide presentation... "The World of Robert College"... because for 122 years now, Robert College has been a world in itself, a microcosm of the world at large, with its international faculty and student body, a sort of small-scale United Nations, the way the UN should have been, but much more successful than the UN. "The World of Robert College"... because our alma mater has maintained a very impressive tradition of teaching - not narrow nationalism, not the strict values of any set system, not a rigid body of thought - but the widest scope of the world's intellectual heritage in its diversity and dynamism with good will to all nations, to all faiths, to all creative aspirations... "The World of Robert College"... because the graduates of our college have gone out to the far corners of the world... they have left their imprint not only on Turkey herself, but all over the Balkans and the Middle East... North Africa and Western Europe... and in a highly significant way... in the United States of America. In 122



years, RC has produced about 10,000 graduates - there are colleges in the U.S. that produce 10,000 in one year. So, we are a very small college, but our impact has been great, far beyond our numbers. One could easily say (paraphrasing Churchill): 'Seldom in the history of education so few have given so much to so many countries.'

Sait Halman Computer Center Turns 30

The first of its kind in Turkey, the Sait Halman Computer Center has introduced thousands of students to the world of technology since it opened in 1985.

The center has been used for a variety of classes, from creative writing to

geometry, and is currently used for courses like programming, web design, social issues in computing and computer skills for prep students. It is also in high demand for clubs like RC Makers, who work with sophisticated design software, and the TÜBİTAK Computer Club.

The center was founded in memory of Sait Halman, beloved son of Talat and Seniha Halman, who had shown great promise in computer science. The center was established with initial funding by the Halman family and their friends.



Talat Sait Halman and Defne Halman at the dedication of the Sait Halman Computer Center at RC, May 9, 1985



English Teacher Philip Gee with students in the Sait Halman Computer Center

A Passion for the Greater Good

■ Mete Meleksoy RC 84 follows his dream to help others

He calls himself the “village fool”. Well, he’s anything but a fool! Mete Meleksoy RC 84 studied at leading universities and later had a successful business career at several international companies, but his heart was always in non-profit organizations and doing things for public welfare. Now he is following his dream as General Manager of one of the best-known non-governmental organizations in the country - the Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey (TEGV).

TEGV started out of the belief that lack of education is the basis of most of the problems Turkey is facing today, and it is not possible to reach a high level of civilization without solving this issue. The NGO was founded in 1995 by a group of industrialists, managers and academics, with the aim of supporting the basic education provided by the government. A Robert College presence is felt at the organization, as it was founded by another graduate, Suna Kırac ACG 60, who believes that education comes before everything else. In addition, Oktay Özinci RA 69, Sami

Gülgöz RC 80, and Hüsnü Okvuran RC 90 are members of the board.

TEGV focuses on after-school educational support for elementary school children. In 20 years it has become the foremost non-governmental organization operating in the field of education in Turkey. When asked how he ended up at the organization, Meleksoy summarized his journey starting from his years at Robert College. He learned to respect different points of view, accept the fact that people are different because of their background, and mastered the ability to tolerate these differences at RC. He drops some names thinking about his days at the College. “Teachers like Münir Aysu, Hafize Değer, and the Galloways have had a huge influence on me,” he says. The roots of his love for helping others can be traced back to the community service projects he participated in during his school years.

A love for social projects runs in the family; his wife Arzum Meleksoy worked at UNICEF for years. Together they founded Alış Bağış in 2000 which was a good

example of social entrepreneurship on the internet. Alış Bağış was a website that raised funds to support social aid projects embracing children, disabled people and the environment. More than 30 NGO’s including AÇEV, TEMA, ÇEKÜL, UNICEF and WWF Turkey were members of the website. The members’ projects were funded by private companies. Individuals shopping online could match companies they were purchasing from with NGOs and raise funds for the projects they wanted to support without making a donation. The website reached 1.6 million users in six months; however, the 2001 financial crisis hindered its continuation.

Meleksoy received his BA in Political Science from Boğaziçi University, and his MA from Marmara University’s European Union Institute. Before joining TEGV, he had a diverse career, with positions at the European Commission in Brussels and the European Union Delegation in Ankara, as well as working in investment and private banking. He’s currently enjoying focusing his energy on helping the children of Turkey attain educational equality.



Mete Meleksoy RC 84 followed his heart to do good through public welfare projects

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Ceylan Özerengin RC 74

Who said women are not interested in soccer? Well, Ceylan Özerengin certainly is! She was elected as one of the board members of Fenerbahçe Sports Club Kadıköy Branch in February 2015. Özerengin worked as a journalist for 27 years and, as she puts it, "retired herself" in 2013 because she believes her service as a journalist is not needed anymore. Soccer has always been a part of her life as her late father was an utter soccer person and had taken her to her first match at the age of five. "My dad was an ophthalmologist but also played soccer at university, then became a licenced referee. He served as vice-chairman of the Turkish Soccer Federation for many years and became Turkey's first UEFA representative," says Özerengin. "So soccer was always a hot topic at our family dinner table. I used to be an ordinary Fenerbahçe fan in my youth

but my love grew deeper when my son became a crazy Fenerbahçe supporter! Now I can say I am much crazier than my son is!"

Özerengin's attachment to Fenerbahçe intensified after July 3, 2011, when the club president and several members of the board of directors were arrested and later detained for a year on charges of match-fixing. "I was certain the accusations were baseless and false so I joined all the marches and demonstrations that fans organized. I was preparing for a quiet and easy retirement but instead found myself marching and chanting Fenerbahçe songs in front of the court house and prison gates, and in stadium stands," says Özerengin.

Fenerbahçe Sports Club Kadıköy Branch is first of its kind in Turkey, with the board



of directors, being elected by a plenary assembly. Its first and foremost objective is to give full support to Fenerbahçe SC's campaign, "*Hedef 1 Milyon Üye*" (Target: 1 Million Members) and set up club branches in other cities around Turkey. "Fenerbahçe is not only a sports club but also an NGO; our main aim is to leave to future generations a stronger and wealthier club that millions of fans own and run."

Hayal Koç RC 98 ex

Following a successful career in investment banking and strategy consulting in the US and Turkey, Hayal recently entered the start-up world as Partner and VP of Sales and Business Development at Expertera, a network that connects companies with subject matter experts.

As a strategy consultant, Hayal noticed the global shift towards on-demand services and felt that the investment world was due for a disruption, so she joined the team at Expertera. Their model gives clients - who include global private equity firms, venture capitalists, consultancies, corporations and



startups - rapid access to the foresight and experience of experts, in order to make better informed business decisions. The short-term, on-demand projects are also beneficial and enjoyable for the

experts, who include retired executives and academicians.

Hayal says, "Expertera's mission is to foster the advancement of the Turkish investment community by serving as the gateway to niche, customized information that enables decision-makers to make better, more informed decisions."

Hayal is thrilled to report that several RC alums are currently her clients or have served as experts. If you'd like to find out more about Expertera, please contact Hayal at hayal@expertera.com.

Hilal Koç RC 98 ex



Hilal Koç has recently become the Head of Europe, Middle East & Africa Partnerships for LinkedIn. In her new position, she oversees business development

opportunities with media, content and technology providers.

Hilal has over a decade of experience in management positions in established organizations and in the start-up world. She began her career in banking covering technology and internet companies, then joined Google after working on its IPO team at Credit Suisse. She earned her MBA at the Ross School of Business and went on to advise Fortune 100 companies while at Accenture.

Upon returning to Istanbul, she joined Eczacıbaşı Holding's Strategy & Business

Development team and stayed close to the start-up world by joining the Keiretsu Forum, the world's largest angel investment network. She has invested in and actively advises several start-ups globally, one of which she also joined as the VP of Business Development & Operations. That start-up, Annelutfen.com, was named Red Herring's "Top 100 Start-ups in Europe" and recently completed its Series A round of funding.

While she has enjoyed her time in Turkey, Hilal is looking forward to having a more regional impact in her new role.

Deniz Taşer Çetinok RC 97



From L to R: İsmail Seval RC 96, İdil Şanal, Deniz Taşer Çetinok RC 97, Burak Çetinok, Toygar Dinçer RC 96 and Süreyya Yörük

Deniz and Burak met in Bodrum through their mutual friends from RC in August 2012. Their long distance relationship went on for almost 3 years, with Burak living in London and Deniz living in İstanbul. Burak proposed in Bodrum in May 2014 and they had a fun RC wedding in October 2014. The couple now lives in London.

Kerem Turgay RC 01



Kerem met Ayça Demirci just a few days after New Year's Eve in 2014. In April, he proposed to her and they got married on June 6, 2014 after a month of preparations for the traditional procedures. The wedding took place with the participation of their beloved family members and friends, including some from RC. His mother is H. Sülün Bilgin Turgay RC 76 and his uncles are Ömer İltan Bilgin RC ENG 66 and Mehmet Emin Bilgin RA 68. Kerem got his BS degree from Boğaziçi University in 2005 and his MS degree from Harvard University in 2006 in Electrical Engineering. He worked at Siemens R&D in Zurich for five years and currently is a partner of Arneca Technologies Co., a company which deals with mobile applications for communication. The couple lives in Acarkent, İstanbul.

Aziz Berk Erten RC 98



Aziz and Zita first met in London in 2008, where Aziz was working at a concert by Turkish rock band maNga; and Zita, having been the band's guide at Sziget Festival 2006, was visiting them. It took some years for romance to fully flourish between the two. After trading long emails and subsequent visits to Budapest and İstanbul, Zita moved to Turkey in 2012. The couple got married at Bizim Tepe on August 29, 2014. The event featured performances by Gripin, maNga and Model, as well as the reunion concert of Aziz and friends from RC. A late-night dive into the pool by the RC 98 crew and friends concluded this night of love, fun and laughter. Aziz studied film at Bilgi University, but soon realized his true ambition was to work in music. After getting a diploma in sound engineering from SAE Milano, he continued his master's studies at İTÜ MİAM. Since 2007 he has recorded and mixed many hit albums by bands such as Gripin, maNga, Seksendört and Emre Aydın, as well as working as their live sound engineer during festivals and concerts. He also recorded and mixed Turkey's 2010 Eurovision song by maNga, which won second place in the competition. Zita is originally from Budapest and currently works as a translator for an American company.

Başak Ötüş RC 06

Alpay Koraltürk RC 04



Başak and Alpay got married on October 10, 2014 in New York City. The couple first met about 12 years ago when they both attended the Winpeace Summer Camp in İzmir. Başak and Alpay ran into each other again in 2012 at a dinner organized by a common friend, and began dating shortly afterwards. Başak is an engagement manager at Oliver Wyman Financial Services, a global management consulting firm, and Alpay is an entrepreneur, preparing to launch a new business in NYC.

Onur Ünver RC 06

Onur Ünver and Fatma Demirbaş got married on April 18, 2015 in the presence of loved ones from the RC family. There were two wedding parties, one in Bursa and the other in Afyonkarahisar, Fatma and Onur's hometowns respectively. The couple met while pursuing their master's degrees in cultural studies at İstanbul Şehir University. Fatma is continuing her career in academia as a research assistant at Üsküdar University and Onur is a college counselor at RC.



İda Sevilya RC 08 Orhun Dirilgen RC 09



After a seven-year relationship that started while they were both still attending RC, İda and Orhun made an on-the-spot decision and got married in Rhodes on October 16, 2014. They started their honeymoon from there.

Pelin Kansu Lemons RC 09

Pelin Kansu met David Lemons at Drexel University in the first month of her freshman year. After four years together, the couple wed in Morristown, NJ on December 29, 2013 with their US family and friends in attendance. They had a second celebration in Ankara on September 6, 2014 accompanied by more family and friends including RC 09 alumni Banu Saraç, Gizem Bartu, Gökhan Demir, Selin Çakmak, Makbule Can, Selin Göksel, Cansu Günel, Burcu Kasap and Duygu Derya Üzün. Pelin completed her master's degree in Materials Science and Engineering at Drexel University and entered a rotational development program at Johnson Matthey as a Materials Engineer. David completed his Architectural and Civil Engineering degrees at Drexel University, and is currently working at Bala Construction Engineers.



Sandra Eskenazi Levi RC 96



Sofia Levi was born on November 3, 2014 while her sister, Olivia, excitedly waited outside the delivery room to be the first one to greet her baby sister. Sandra and Metin are grateful for the crowded home and have adjusted well to the new dynamics. Sofia is now 8 months old, full of curiosity, energy and smiles.

Yatırım aracı olarak emlak...

Sizin kadar sahiplenecek
birinin yatırımlarınızda
danışmanlık yapmasına
ne dersiniz?

Yaşam alanı olarak emlak...

Sizin gibi hissedebilen
birinin arayışlarınıza yardım
etmesine ne dersiniz?

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

*Sizin gibi düşünebilen,
güvenebileceğiniz biri...*

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Retiring Faculty

The end of school means a new chapter in life for not only students, but some teachers and administrators as well. Among those leaving RC in body, but not in spirit are physics teacher Ernest Verbowski, English teacher Philip Gee and Turkish Director and teacher Güler Kamer.



FROM THE BOSPHORUS CHRONICLE

Colorful Socks, Interesting Ties, Purple and Blue Glasses: Philip Gee

By Ezgi Yazıcı L11, M. Miraç Süzgün L11 and Melis Şingir L11

After spending 17 years in Robert College as an English teacher, Philip Gee talks about the time he first came to RC and how he became a student-favorite teacher.

BC: How and why did you come to Turkey years ago?

Philip Gee: I took a year off at the school I worked at in Sweden and did a master's degree. I should have gone back to the school where I worked, but I decided to have a year off. During that year I got bored, and I started sending my CV all over the world. I was particularly looking for schools where it said they have very smart children. It's easy to work with clever kids. Then I saw this school

advertised in a conference, it was Robert College, and it said "We take the best and the brightest." I contacted Mr. Edmonds; he forwarded my e-mails. And then, the school asked me if I would be interested in working for two months, because two teachers were ill. That's how I came. April of 1998.

BC: Students say that you are one of the best teachers at RC now, is it true?

PG: In the world . . . I'm just kidding. I don't really, but I think I am the best teacher at making contact with students and understanding how they feel. I think I've got a gift for being in the classroom. It is like "I just said the right thing at the right moment to a certain person that can inspire him."



Philip Gee, much-loved English teacher

BC: If you were to define yourself with three adjectives, what would they be?

PG: Considerate (people keep saying that to me, so I will say that), irreverent, cantankerous.

F=m • a ... and the Rest is Math: Ernest Verbowski

By Zeynep Türkarslan L10

BC: What do you enjoy the most about your lessons?

I enjoy interacting with the students and also getting responses from them in class.

BC: Have you participated in any of the activities/clubs in RC?

EV: I've been a judge in Destination Imagination competitions for quite a long time, about 6-7 years. I've been doing floor hockey since it was introduced to the school. Also I enjoy the Lise Live concerts if I'm able to attend them. End of the year concerts are the ones I enjoy the most. Sometimes I attend some of the sports events. It's fun to watch the soccer games.

BC: How was living in Turkey for you apart from Robert College?

EV: I actually enjoyed the Turkish culture a lot. What kept me here was Turkey more so than the school. I found the culture and the city very interesting when I came here. Most of the people I socialize with are not other teachers in school; they are people outside of the school. I spend most of my time on the Anatolian side. There are very few foreigners there. Some people think I'm a Turk.

BC: What are your plans after leaving Robert College?

EV: I've been here so long that I'm used to it and I've got attachments to many Turkish people. So I'll probably live here



Physics teacher Ernest Verbowski, retiring after 18 years at RC

roughly half of the year and the other half in Canada mainly because my children live there. I'll spend my time in between the two.

The full articles and news about other parting faculty can be found in the May 2015 Bosphorus Chronicle at www.robcol.k12.tr

Finding the Glass Slipper: Farewell to Güler Kamer

Excerpt from the article by Lise 9 students İdil Korkut and Zeynep Sabuncu in the May 2015 issue of the Bosphorus Chronicle

Turkish Director Güler Kamer is a beloved person who has been in charge of our school for many years. She is known for her eloquent speeches in ceremonies and kind-hearted behavior toward students. She is also a successful and well-known director who cares about other people's feelings and is open to new ideas.

Tulu Derbi, the Headmaster's assistant, says, "She has a very big, compassionate heart. She is also passionate about her job. She loves people, and she wants the best for people." Tulu Abıla is not the only one who appreciates Güler Kamer's heart. Margaret Halicioğlu, Dean of Student Affairs, says, "Güler Hanım has taught me so much and she has always been willing to support and guide me. We are all learning new things every day and Güler Hanım has been a very influential teacher for me."

Güler Hanım talked about being a Turkish director in the book *Memories at RC*, prepared by RC 07 graduates Levent Keser, Cansu Aydede and Levent Tüzün: "Today I feel the responsibility and the pride of being the Turkish Director of the most respected school in Turkey. I teach the most intelligent and perceptive



students and enjoy my profession. Who knows, perhaps I made a subconscious wish from my heart on the day that I strolled through this green paradise with Güliz Hanım... and somebody heard this wish." After that she completes her thoughts with these two sentences, "In short, I was offered to try on the glass slipper that I had left behind, years ago, in a hurry. And, I think, it fit me..."

Turkish Department Head Mehmet Uysal, shared his thoughts about Güler Hanım, with whom he has worked since she joined RC in 2003



Güler Kamer and Mehmet Uysal

Güler Hanım cared about being close to those with whom she worked. She took the time to listen to them and share with them. She worked with us like a colleague rather than a director. We initiated many good projects together, one of which is the annual RC Culture and Literature Symposium that we organized for the tenth time this year.

Güler Hanım: We wish you health, happiness, lots of reading, and many trips in the future!

English Teacher Wins Norman Mailer Award

English teacher and assistant department head Andrew Jones had just started working at RC when he was announced the winner of the 2014 Norman Mailer Award for non-fiction writing by a high school teacher. Jones was presented the award at a ceremony in New York in October, where he also read an excerpt from his winning story, "The Inca Champions League".

When asked about the award, Jones said, "The award is a great honor and serves as motivation to keep writing. It's nice to know someone else thinks what you're writing is meaningful—especially when it's being judged by a panel of authors. I feel lucky that writing is something I enjoy so much—and then to have someone else notice it and give me an award, that's just a really cool bonus."

Jones finds inspiration for his writing from working and living overseas. "I really enjoy trying to piece together the experiences we've had abroad into the broader context



Andrew Jones (left) accepting the Norman Mailer Award from movie screenplay writer James Toback

of how the world works—and how that differs from place to place." He recently had a cultural exploration piece published about Ukrainian grandmothers smuggling cigarettes across the Romanian border. Jones has also written about climbing a jungle mountain full of snakes in Vietnam and about being stuck in a desert hurricane in Bolivia.

Andrew Jones currently teaches Lise 9 English and World Literature, and coaches girls basketball. Prior to living in Istanbul, he taught in California and Illinois, and internationally at the American College of Sofia in Bulgaria and Colegio Americano de Quito in Ecuador. In 2012, he published *Two Seasons in the Bubble*, a memoir about his experiences coaching basketball in Bulgaria.



Fikret Şeneş ACG 42

An iconic figure of the Turkish pop music scene, Fikret Şeneş passed away on February 16, 2015 at the age of 94. She was the first and the most well-known female Turkish lyric writer, who wrote lyrics for close to 300 songs. Sung by Turkish pop music artists like Erol Bükür, Ajda Pekkan, Ayla Dikmen, Zerrin Özer, Nilüfer, Tanju Okan and Gönül Yazar to name a few, her lyrics are timeless and will most likely continue to be well loved and performed to for years to come.

A. Varak Poğaryan RC 42

Varak Poğaryan passed away on October 1, 2014. He was a brilliant athlete with championship titles in pole vaulting and disc throwing and represented Turkey in the Balkan games in the 1940s. His father, also named Varak, served on the RC administration, and his brother was an RC graduate too. After RC, Varak attended İstanbul University, Faculty of English Language and Literature, and served as a translator during his military service in Ankara.

Varak worked at ICI (International Chemical Institution) before establishing his own

furnishing business. He and first wife, Irina Maslenikof, who worked at the RC Orta School for some time, had a daughter, Tamara. He moved to New York upon his second wife Chilton Watrous's retirement from teaching English at RC for many years, and returned to Istanbul after Chilton's death in 2005.

He will be remembered as the perfect gentleman (*İstanbul Beyefendisi*) by his friends and is survived by his daughter Tamara Salmaslı, son-in-law and granddaughter Caroline.



Haluk Ertuğrul RC 48

Haluk Ertuğrul died January 20, 2015. He was a kind, gentle person and an example to his family who, together with his many friends, will miss him dearly. After Robert College, he studied business at NYU. He worked at Voice of America before joining Irving Trust. His banking career took him to New York, Beirut, Paris and London. He subsequently engaged in property development in the French Alps. He is survived by his wife Fiona, and children, Leyla and Kent.

Obituary from the Wiegand Brothers Funeral Home in Florida

Julia Istavridis ACG 50

Mrs. Julia Istavridis, who had served as Biology teacher at RC for 25 years (1951-1976), passed away peacefully on December 15, 2014. Julia was a graduate of ACG (Class of 1950), as was her mother (Class of 1917). Julia was known as a cheerful, enthusiastic and spirited faculty member. She hoped to

instill intellectual curiosity in her students as she guided them through the wonders of natural life in plants, animals and humans. She is survived by her husband, son and daughter Eleni.

Contributed by Eleni Istavridis RC 75



Aysel (Sancar) Tursan ACG 52

Aysel Tursan passed away in February 2015. She lives on in the vivid memory of her friends and family.

Truthful and humble. No wonder why the boy inside me never needed to grow up. Your love was ever with me. Canım'ın içi. *Ali Tursan, son*
Always by my side, giving me strength at times of hardship. *Aslı Güran, niece*
A symbol of honesty and virtue. "God, do you always have to be right in the end..!" *Sima Eskenazi, friend*

A wise and loving woman. Humbleness, fairness and a sense of social justice at the highest level, yet teaching all of us quietly. A master teacher. *Dr. Zekiye Kural, Neurologist*
Her resemblance to Pier Angeli, her playing the piano, biking in her trousers, swimming fiercely, strong yet soft like cotton. And always smiling with her hair in a bun and cigarette in her hand. *Hande Şahin Celalayan, friend*



Yüksel (Rodop) Kenanoğlu ACG 54

My faithful friend Yüksel died in August 2014 in İzmir after a short illness. She generously supported many charities. In April 2014, her sons Ali and Osman flew Nili Bilkur and me to İzmir to join her on her 80th birthday. We shall miss her dearly.

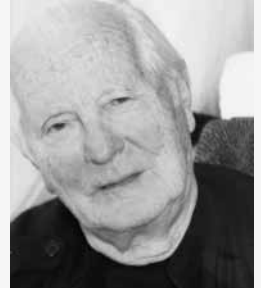
Contributed by Esin Eden ACG 54

Rauf Almas RC ENG 57

Rauf Almas passed away on January 4, 2015. Born in Japan in 1933, Rauf's family origins are from Kazan, Russia. Rauf was a nice, calm, and friendly person, but somehow we called him 'tough' Rauf, probably because the two words rhymed well. He was also a good basketball player like his brother Fuat (RC ENG 51), and we played together on the varsity basketball team. Rauf worked as the telephone operator, and had the night shifts. The operator's room was in the library building, which served his great appetite for

books. He boasted about finishing War and Peace over a night shift. Sometimes I stayed overnight in the operator's room, a small cubicle consisting of one chair, and one single bed. Even though the bed was his, we would toss a coin and whoever won slept in the bed, and Rauf would sleep on the chair. This was Rauf for you.

Contributed by Mete Yalçın RC ENG 56



John Önder Olcay RC 57

John Önder Olcay died peacefully at home in New York on October 17, 2014 at the age of 77. Excerpts from the NY Times obituary notice: International finance was central to his career. He also was dedicated to the communities where he lived, advising nonprofit

organizations in New York City, London and Point O'Woods, New York. John loved soccer, classical music and opera, theater, fine food and the rugged beauty of the far north of Scotland. Throughout a career characterized by many enduring friendships, John especially enjoyed

mentoring younger colleagues, always focusing them on the importance of ethics and integrity. He is survived by his wife Phebe, daughters Margot and Charlotte, grandson Christopher Kaya, sister Nükhet and cousin Attila.

George (Yorgi) Naku RC ENG 59

George (Yorgi) Naku, BSEE 59, MSEE 60, passed away on November 3, 2014. Besides his classmates, those who were at RC in the late 1950s would remember him from his work in the library. After getting his master's degree from RC, George worked in Istanbul for several years and married his childhood sweetheart Donna in 1963. In 1964, George and Donna immigrated to the United States and settled in Hartford, Connecticut. George worked in consulting engineering firms and received his Connecticut Professional Engineer's



license early in his career. In 1989, he joined the Connecticut Department of Public Works first as a consultant, and then as an engineering supervisor, a position he held until his death. In addition to engineering, George was fond of Byzantine music and served as a cantor in his parish church in Hartford as well as at another church in nearby Massachusetts.

Contributed by Stavros S. Papadopoulos RC ENG 59

Noyan Arsan RA 62

Noyan Arsan passed away in Atlanta, Georgia in January 2015. After a BA and MA in accounting from RC, Arsan received his PhD in finance and international business at Syracuse University. He taught at Boğaziçi University in the 1970s, co-founded a consulting company and introduced the concept of cost accounting, mostly unknown in Turkey at the time. In 1979 the Arsans moved to the US where Noyan taught at West

Georgia University and Kent State. Noyan also conducted professional development programs in banking in Istanbul, eventually expanding into other industries. Koç University recruited him to teach executive MBA candidates and to develop executive development programs. He introduced essential concepts in accounting and finance and wrote a number of handbooks. Upon retirement from being director of the Koç

University Graduate School of Business and Executive Programs, the Arsans moved back to Atlanta. While teaching was a passion, he also dedicated his life to beloved Beşiktaş, many dear friends and to family. Noyan Arsan is survived by his wife of 50 years, Janice, daughters Tanju and Yasemin and two grand-children.

Excerpts from a write-up in 2012 by Janice Arsan

Zeki Alasya RA 62 ex

Well known stage and screen actor/comedian Zeki Alasya passed away on May 8, 2015. His RA classmates reminisced:

He made us laugh so much. Kenan Tegin RA 62 and Mehmet Zafer Işık RA 62 He was my dorm mate and we had amazing pillow fights. Mehmet Tosun RA 63 He was a talented painter and did my art homework for me. He also recited poetry so well. Ataman Onar RA 62 He spread cheer and comedy around him his whole life, never hurting anyone. Yalçın Gürkan RA 62 I guessed he would be an artist of some sort but always thought he'd be a painter or a cartoonist! Nutki Aksoy RC YÜK 67

In Prep we created a stage from the tables in Anderson Hall lounge and staged vaudeville. Nuri Yıldırım RA 62 Every recess we played highly competitive coin matches. Arman Sabciyan

In 1970, in Ankara, Zeki showed up. 'Hi Zeki, do you remember me?' I asked. 'Of course Fahri Talib, why does everyone keep asking me that? I remember my RC days and all of you in minute detail' he replied. Fahri Talib RA 62

Last time I saw Zeki was in 2013 at the Fenerbahçe stadium with his FB friends. Ömer Bilgin RA 62

He was the co-founder of Devekuşu Cabaret Theater, the place we went frequently to laugh. M. Emre Bayındır RA 62



Cem Alptekin RC YÜK 65



Cem Alptekin passed away in April 2014 after a bravely-fought battle against brain cancer. Cem carried many fond memories of his time at Robert College, among which was his experience in the RC Players. Receiving his PhD from New York University, he eventually returned to Istanbul, joining Boğaziçi University as a professor of applied linguistics. He was Dean of the Education Faculty for 12 years. Cem was many things to many people: an internationally-recognized scholar known for cutting-edge research, a revered teacher and mentor, a valued

friend and colleague, a loving husband. He was known for his boundless energy, his creativity, his quick wit, his intellect, and his dynamic character, as well as for his loyalty to people and causes that were important to him. Research was his passion, but he knew how to sit back and appreciate a beautiful sunset and the sounds and silence of nature. Cem is survived by Peggy Alptekin, his wife and soul mate of 40 years.

Contributed by Peggy Alptekin

Hasan Boduroğlu RC ENG 67

Hasan Boduroğlu, RC 66 BSCE, RC 67 MSCE, passed away on April 8, 2015 after a short illness. Immediately after graduation, Esin (ACG 67) and Hasan got married and moved to the US to start a new life and continue further education. Hasan was an active pursuer of truth, an achiever and a dedicated soul who enjoyed all kinds of challenges in life. As if to prove this, he worked productively until the day he was hospitalized. He was passionate about his work, and loved mentoring young academicians. He relentlessly fought for what he believed was right. His sudden death deeply saddened many academicians, students and friends. He will be remembered for his efforts to increase earthquake preparedness and hazard management in Turkey. Hasan is survived by his loving wife Esin Güralp Boduroğlu, and daughters Aslı de Munnink and Ayşecan Boduroğlu RC 95. We cherish all the good memories.

Contributed by Ayşecan Boduroğlu RC 95



Levent Hekimoğlu RC 76

Levent Hekimoğlu passed away on February 16, 2015, in Istanbul. He joined Robert College in 1971 from Ankara and graduated in 1976. In 1980, he received his BA in Political Science from Boğaziçi University and moved to Canada to pursue his PhD at McGill University. During the early 1990s, Levent worked as the General Manager of Toros Menkul Kıymetler Ticaret A.Ş. in Istanbul. He also lived in Canada (Montreal, Toronto), and in the United Arab Emirates, where he worked as a chief operating manager of Nurol LLC in Abu Dhabi. He will be remembered as a true intellectual, nature-lover and great traveler. He is survived by his mother, sister, and daughter Asya. He will be missed deeply by his family and friends, and by his classmates of RC 75 and RC 76.

Contributed by Şule Kut RC 75



Işıl Şenel Barlan RC 76

Işıl Barlan passed away on April 14, 2015. A full professor at the School of Medicine at Marmara University, Işıl was a leading academician in pediatric



immunology and allergies, and was much respected and loved by her students, colleagues and patients. She wrote many internationally published scientific papers on immunodeficiency and allergy and left remarkable works behind. She was very creative and still had many projects on her mind. Her unexpected and sudden death deeply saddened those who knew her. In the words of her friends, "We had become sisters, Işıl's radiant face and looks, her intelligence, peacefulness and hardworking nature were some of the first perceptions we had of her." "Işıl was special, reasonable, hard-

working. In most miserable situations she looked for an exit by using a defense mechanism of intellectualizing. She established clear definitions about what is wrong and what must be done to put things in their right place."

Işıl Barlan is survived by her parents Zerrin and Cemal Şenel, her husband Dr. Metin Barlan, daughter Yasemin and son Okan.

Excerpts from messages contributed by RC 76 graduates Nilüfer Ülgener, Ayşen Zamanpur and Gülbin Gökçay

Talat Sözüner RC 76

Talat passed away in January 2015. He was an exceptional man and his loss is difficult to acknowledge. In his professional and private life he was unguardedly loved and respected.

Talat was a *bon vivant*. He rejoiced in the good things in life and shared them all. For many of his companions in mischief or his prey at the poker table, his sharp mind, the special language of his hands and quick and biting humor built up a treasure of unforgettable moments. We pressed him to get married, never really meaning it since, in our barely hidden jealousy or selfishness, we wanted to keep him for ourselves.

His presence at any gathering meant immediate joy, bountiful companionship and an endless stream of jokes.

Talat's lightheartedness disguised an immense inner discipline and sense of professional ethics. These were the keys to his success, making him one of the most respected members of the tourism industry, an industry that he helped build. We promise to keep his memory alive, his *joie de vivre* in our hearts and play poker the way he liked us to.

Contributed by Soli Özel RC 76



Metehan Davran RC 95

Metehan Davran passed away on October 24, 2014. Long before his days on campus, he was diagnosed with polymyositis, a disease cited to cause death at an early age. Yet, no one could claim that he was in expectation of dying young. Just like in the lyrics of famous songs, he lived life as if it was never to end, as if he would live forever. Despite all the troubles his illness caused, he was passionate about almost everything. He always had

something new to go after, sometimes a music video, sometimes another remedy trial, sometimes a way around the social security system. His passion for life, his perseverance and resolution has always reminded me what one tends to forget in the daily struggle for life. And I sincerely hope to continue being inspired by Meto.

Contributed by Ogun Alibeyoğlu RC 95



Ali M. Mansur, Trustee Emeritus

Ali Mansur passed away in April 2015 at the age of 90. Though himself not an RC graduate, he was a true friend of the school as the husband of Jacqueline Sigalla Mansur ACG 43, father of Metin N. Mansur RC 74 and Serra Mansur Soysal RC 83. He was born in Palestine, to a Russian émigré mother and Turkish father, the son of an Ottoman Pasha. He studied in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and attended the American College of Beirut, an equivalent of RC in those years and a school of similar foundations.

Ali Mansur served as the general manager of Arçelik in the 1960s but later pursued a career in the chemical industry and founded Ege Kimya, one of

the oldest plants in the field. Due to his international background and knowledge of many languages he was interested in international business and became an active member of Istanbul Sanayi Odası, DEİK (Foreign Economic Relations Organization) and TÜSİAD. In the 1980s he founded and became the chairman of the Turco-British Business Council. He was awarded the CBE (Commander of the British Empire) title by Queen Elizabeth II. Throughout his lifetime he contributed to society by volunteering in NGOs. He is survived by his three children, their spouses and five grandchildren.

Contributed by Serra Mansur Soysal RC 83



Gülçin Yılmaz

Former faculty member Gülçin Yılmaz died at the age of 85 in Istanbul on January 2, 2015. She had been suffering from Alzheimer's for the past 15 years. Gülçin worked at Robert College as a Turkish Language and Literature teacher until her retirement in 1981. She studied Turkish Literature at the University of Istanbul, with well-known Turkish linguist Professor Ahmet Caferoğlu. They were later to become neighbors in Istanbul where they continued their many valuable literature sessions.



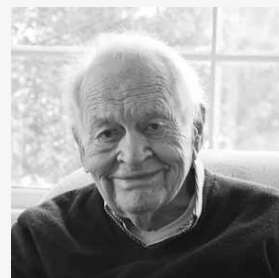
Gülçin was always proud of teaching at RC. She will always be remembered as a teacher with a smile, one who enjoyed helping and supporting students while making sure they enjoyed literature and had fun in her classes. Gülçin and Dorothy İz shared a passion for the theater and were lucky to be together with RC Drama Club students who went on to become leading actors in Turkey.

Contributed by Gül Yılmaz Gürsoy RC 76

Richard Morris Dunlap

Richard Dunlap, former thermodynamics teacher at Robert College for three years in the 1940s, died June 10, 2014 in Rhode Island at the age of 96. His daughter Rowena Burke wrote to the RCQ to say he lived a long and very rich life and absolutely loved the years he spent in Istanbul at Robert College. While in Turkey, Dunlap married Anne Slater, a biology professor

at the American School for Girls who predeceased him in 1968. Dunlap and his colleagues designed and built a three-blade wind generator high on the hill behind the college overlooking the Bosphorus. Rowena added that her father was a gentle and respectful father, patiently supporting his children in their activities, never demanding their success. He was also a superb pianist.



If you would like to share news of a deceased RC community member please send us a notice in English of no more than 150 words to cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr. Longer notices will be edited due to space restrictions.

Attached to the notice may be a photo of the deceased in high resolution (minimum 700 x 700 pixels).



KARTIM, KANATLARIM.

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