

RC Quarterly

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE
SPRING/SUMMER 2009 - ISSUE 36

The sound of music on campus



- *Campus news*
- *Cambodia travels*
- *Job hunting in a crisis*

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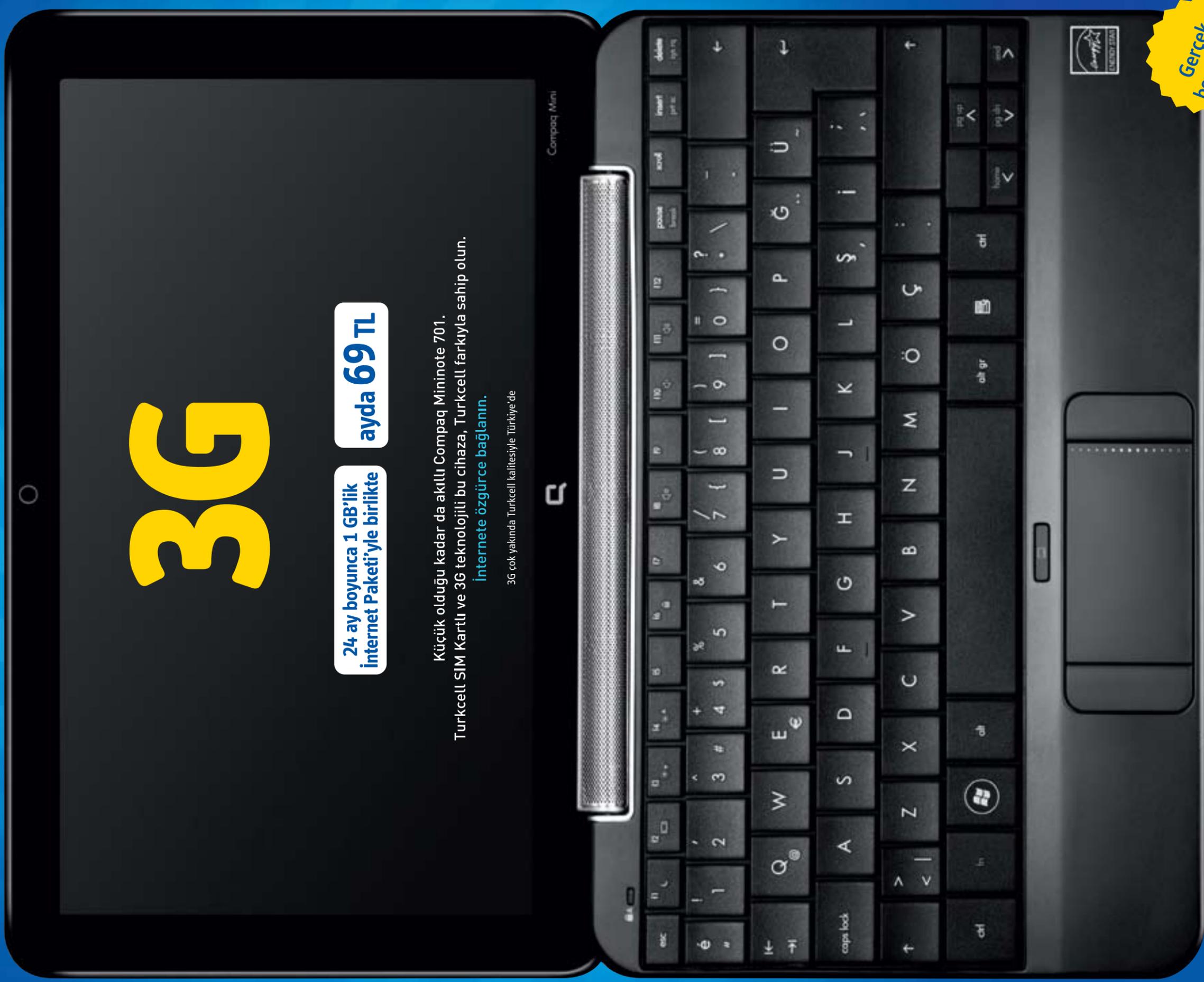
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ABOUT THE RC QUARTERLY

As students count down to the end of the academic year, the campus is alive with rehearsals for end-of-the-year concerts, performances of the musical Aida and numerous spring festivals. In this issue, we showcase the thriving music scene on campus. From a sophisticated school orchestra to clubs for every imaginable instrument, the school is helping to nurture a diverse range of new musical talent. This year, several seniors have won scholarships to study music at the undergraduate level at prestigious schools in the US. You can catch some of these budding talents around town, as they perform at venues like Nardis jazz club and Studio Live.

Please do keep your news coming. We love hearing about what you're up to in your corner of the world.

Happy reading!

The RCQ Editorial Board



The Editorial Board. Clockwise from left: Sedat Ergin RC 75, Elçin Yahşi RC 79, Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62, Leyla Aktay RC 72, Nükhet Sirman RC 72, Zeynep Kayhan RC 2000, Mehveş Dramur Yardımcı RC 96, Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu, Pelin Turgut RC 92, Deniz Alphan ACG 67.



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Spring/Summer 2009
Cover Photo by Mahmut Yıldırım
Scene from AIDA

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Candan Basat, seated second from left, with her colleagues.

History teacher Candan Basat retires

Much-loved Turkish history teacher Candan Basat retires in June 2009 after 30 years at Robert College. It's hard to count how many students this respected, loved, determined, calm, helpful and sensitive teacher graduated.

Basat is known for her dedication to Atatürk's legacy and her attention to keeping alive its linkages to the present day, even beyond the school. Her careful attention in preparing the *Tarih* (History) magazine, her sensitivity in planning her lessons and her serious but sincere relationship with her students will not be forgotten. Her department colleague Hafize Değer contributed the following: "My dear friend Candan and I first crossed paths at RC thirty years ago. Despite our different backgrounds we soon realized we had so much in common. Respect towards our work, admiration for Atatürk, a sensitivity towards country and world issues, our ability to get things done and so many other common points. The years made us more like each other. It always gave me confidence to know that there were people with whom I shared common denominators. Thank you for being a dear friend and like a big sister to me."

Turkish Literature teacher Ersin Aybars said: "I have always respected your professionalism and your heartfelt loyalty to your career. You were like a lighthouse to many students in the course of your long career. This isn't my personal view, it's the sincere belief of those students who were lucky enough to have studied with you."

One of her students was Hakan Kızılkum, RC 2010. He said, "When I first met her in my prep year her sincere approach helped me to choose my first club in RC; the History Club. She portrayed my own perception of an ideal teacher: sensitive but authoritarian; funny but at the same time has a natural relationship with her students. Her unique way of sharing information with students and perhaps, most importantly, her approach to students in general as if they're her own children

is an unforgettable fact about Mrs. Basat for me personally. When at last, I reached the honor of being her student in class, I realized that if I know anything about history the most significant contribution certainly belongs to her.

Mrs. Basat, I hope I was able to have enough virtue in comparison to your great character. I would like to thank you for all your valuable efforts with me."

Another one of her students was Cansu Korzay RC 06: "I've felt it all, each and every day... The warmth and tenderness of my beautiful, inspiring teacher..."

Candan Hanım is an unforgettable memory for many in RC. What she leaves behind are not only foot prints, because she has made remarkable differences in our lives. I feel the foot prints may eventually fade, but the memory remains... Candan Basat is more than a teacher for me; she is a life-long friend, mentor, companion..."

Of her students, İlgin Özden RC 84, who studied with her in 1983-84 and is a university teacher said: "Our bond was never lost. I would like to mention three aspects of my teacher, which I only fully appreciated after becoming a university teacher myself. The first was that even though she only taught students in their last years, from the start of the school year I realised that she more or less 'knew' us. The second is that although she encouraged active participation in her classes, she would sometimes become distant. She had no tolerance for rudeness or disorder in her class, and we were 16-17 years old so we sometimes crossed the line. As long as there was no obvious problem, she would change the subject, not allow for slacking off but she would also not 'dominate' us or cramp our energetic approach. The third is that as much as possible she would track her students. This was natural in terms of human relations. But in our conversations, she would question her guesses as to the people she raised, to see whether she had been a good guide."



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Turkish lit teacher publishes two books

Aşk İmiş (Supposedly Love), by Yapı Kredi Yayınları, is first of two books by long-time RC Turkish literature teacher Adil İzci to have recently been published. The second is called "Eski bir Niğde" (An Old Niğde) and was published in February by Heyamola Yayınları as a part of their "Turkey's Cities" series. Adil Bey told the RCQ that he wrote "Aşk İmiş" over the course of 2006 where "Eski bir Niğde" took about nine months between the fall of 2007 and summer of 2008. "Eski bir Niğde" required special research, due to its theme. The book begins towards the end of 1950s and ends in the fall of 1972. Because it is based on Adil Bey's memories, he needed to make sure that he had really experienced these events. This was not an easy task as it required deep digging. Another obstacle he faced was to align these memories chronologically because although remembered he events and places clearly, they were in a jumbled up order in his mind. When asked about his inspiration, he says that he does not believe in inspiration but in hard work. He likes to determine



a context and write around that. Whatever comes to his mind during this period of concentration on that focus, is what he calls "inspiration". As for his future projects, first in line is the second book in a series he's creating, "Evler Sokaklar Kitabı" (The Book of Houses and Streets). The first book of this series was "Ağaçlar Kitabı" (The Book of Trees) that came out in 2004. The third book "Kuşlar Kitabı" (The Book of Birds) is just finished, and he's planning "Şarkılar Kitabı" (The Book of Songs) as the fourth link of this chain, however, he does not think he'll be able to complete that. Instead he might add a "Zamanlar Kitabı" (The Book of Times). He's also writing a book of poems that will be called "Haiku's".



The closing ceremony of the 2008 Turkish Youth Chess Championship. From L to R: Turkish Chess Federation President Ali Nihat Yazıcı, Pinar Karayaylalı, Melodi Dinçel

Chess champion

Pinar Karayaylalı, Lise 11, came second in Turkey's national chess championship in the under-18 age group. Pinar has been playing chess since 2000, when she was in third grade at Adana Koleji and she chose chess as an elective course. Her first chess tournament was the Adana Youth Chess Championship and she placed second in the age 10 girls division. Her family was surprised and they realized that chess for Pinar was not just a passing fancy. She went on to compete in the Turkish Youth Chess Championship at 2001, but was not placed. This did not dampen her spirits. The years 2001-2003 saw her competing and placing each time in the top ranks in Adana. 2004 was when she placed 4th in Turkey in the 14 age group. After 2004, Pinar was in the top 8 in her age group in Turkey and because of her top rankings each year she attended the national team's chess camp. She later placed first in 2008 in the 18 age group, after which she went to Vietnam in October 2008 for the World Youth Chess Championship. In addition, she played at Türkiye İş Bankası Chess League (Super League of Chess) and she was in the Truva Chess Club which last year placed first at the 2008 Türkiye İş Bankası Chess League.

Pinar says that summer holidays for her do not mean sitting on the beach. Rather she goes to 3 or 4 different chess tournaments, because she enjoys them so much. "It isn't only playing chess that makes tournament so much fun," she says. "Friendship is an important factor in chess tournaments." After eight years of playing chess, Pinar says she sometimes thinks of stopping but it's not an easy decision to make. She can't seem to give it up and continues to play at tournaments. Pinar is also a member of the Kingdom Robertea club which publishes a student science magazine and a member of the folklore club. She wants to be an engineer and hopes to continue playing chess.

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Scott Ludwig with RC students

RC launches resident artist program with US printmaker

Robert College launched the first of its new Artist-in-Residence program this spring with the visit of Scott Ludwig, an artist and printmaker who teaches at Appalachian State University in North Carolina. On campus for two weeks, Ludwig helped set up a printmaking program and directed well-attended workshops in "hi-tech/low-tech" printmaking applications.

"The goal is to be able to offer unusual experiences to our students and increase our professional expertise," says Art department head Merill Hope-Brown. "Inviting experts to the school is both financially more efficient and practical as the workshops related directly to our facilities and courses."

Ludwig, who has exhibited his work throughout the United States and in Canada, Turkey, and Cuba, said it was an enriching experience. "Many of these students intellectually rival if not exceed freshman level students at my university," he told the RCQ. "They are outstanding, gracious, energetic and very engaged."

Ludwig is an innovative, mixed medium artist. His recent work consists of "hybrid prints" that combine ultra chrome prints with monotype and etching on handmade surfaces that are mounted to rag paper. The program will hopefully become an annual tradition.



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Sezen Ertürk retires after 22 years

For years, she has been one of the first people at Robert College that new students meet, and usually one of the last people that graduates see when returning their gowns and receiving their final report cards.

It's hard to believe, but Sezen (Ersan) Ertürk, Lise Office administrative assistant, who has walked these halls since she was a student at American College for Girls will be leaving RC this spring to enjoy an early retirement. Her dedication and love for the school and its students have impressed members of the RC community for many years, and she will be sorely missed.

A graduate of 1966, she speaks fondly of her early years as a student, and recalls that her favorite subjects were math,

Turkish literature and history of art.

After graduation, she married and raised two daughters, and worked for five years at the Turkish National Coal Company in the purchasing department. She returned to the school, now called Robert College, in 1987. Her first position was as a part-time assistant in the Orta Counseling Office with Bike Edmonds, and she remembers that she was very impressed with the way Ms. Edmonds worked with students and parents. She remained in this position until 1998, when she joined Dr. Peter Pelosi in the Orta Office in Woods (which

is now the Counseling Office). Sezen Hanım says she will never forget Dr. Pelosi's colorful personality and his ability to deal with students who had problems. When asked about outstanding memories, she talks about a time when a man came into the office during the registration cycle and showed her a picture of his son. He proclaimed, "Ablası, look at his sea-green eyes, isn't he handsome enough for this school?" When Sezen Hanım asked about the son's score on the entrance exam, it became

clear to her that the father had never heard there was an exam to enter Robert College. This was his fifth son, and he finally had the money to educate one of them, and understood that Robert College was the best school in Turkey. And he tried very hard to talk her into accepting his son. Needless to say, the son didn't enter, but she has many, many stories to tell about the registration cycles she has witnessed since that time.

Sezen Hanım has worked in the Gould Lise Office since 2001, as office manager in charge of ongoing operations in the Lise Office. This included an array of duties that encompassed everything from writing and translating the very vital homeroom announcements to orchestrating registration and graduation and arranging school visits and tours. She has delighted most in having daily contact with students and some of her most satisfying moments include arranging field trips for the teachers and students. In the past few years, Sezen Ertürk has become famous outside of RC as well, as she has slowly developed a program for students from primary schools to come visit RC and find out about the facilities and the curriculum. In this capacity she has spent a good deal of time answering phone and e-mail inquiries from schools and parents, and she has run regular tours, with the help of student volunteers, on Wednesday afternoons during club time. As a graduate of the school and a member of the RC community for many years, she has been the perfect, gracious face to represent the school to visitors. Asked what she would miss the most, Sezen Hanım replies, "Everything. The students, the gardens, walking in the buildings and on the campus, my colleagues and friends. Talking to visitors about the school." Although she will leave with some regret, she is happy that she will be able to have more time to spend with her family, especially her grandson and granddaughter. She will finally have time to travel in Turkey and to the U.S. any time she wants, and not worry about who will run things when she is away.

We wish her the best of luck and hope that she will come back to visit RC often.

Contributed by Maria Orhon, Lise Academic Director



Sezen Ertürk during her farewell party at RC

Teacher receives tribute from Stanford student



Sandra Çorbacıoğlu

Mathematics teacher Sandra Çorbacıoğlu recently received a Teacher Tribute for exceptional teaching from Stanford University, nominated by Deniz Kahramaner RC 08, as part of the Teacher Tribute Initiative. All members of Stanford's incoming freshman class were given the opportunity to acknowledge a former teacher who played a significant role in their intellectual, academic, social and/or personal development. In his nominating letter, Deniz wrote "Ms. Çorbacıoğlu was a great role model for me and she loved what she did. The example she gave to me has continued to influence my decisions and she has been my inspiration to succeed." Sandra is completing her fifth year in the Mathematics Department at RC. Prior to that, she taught for 10 years at Üsküdar American Academy and SEV Elementary School.

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Seyhan Ege at her ACG graduation

Professor Seyhan Nurettin Ege Excellence in Science Award for girls

Robert College is delighted to announce the establishment of the "Professor Seyhan Nurettin Ege Excellence in Science Award for Girls", to be given in honor of one of Turkey's pioneering female scientists and educators. The award comes on the 60th anniversary of Seyhan Ege's graduation in 1949 from the American College for Girls and is generously provided by her younger sister, Dr. Güneş N. Ege-Akter ACG 52.

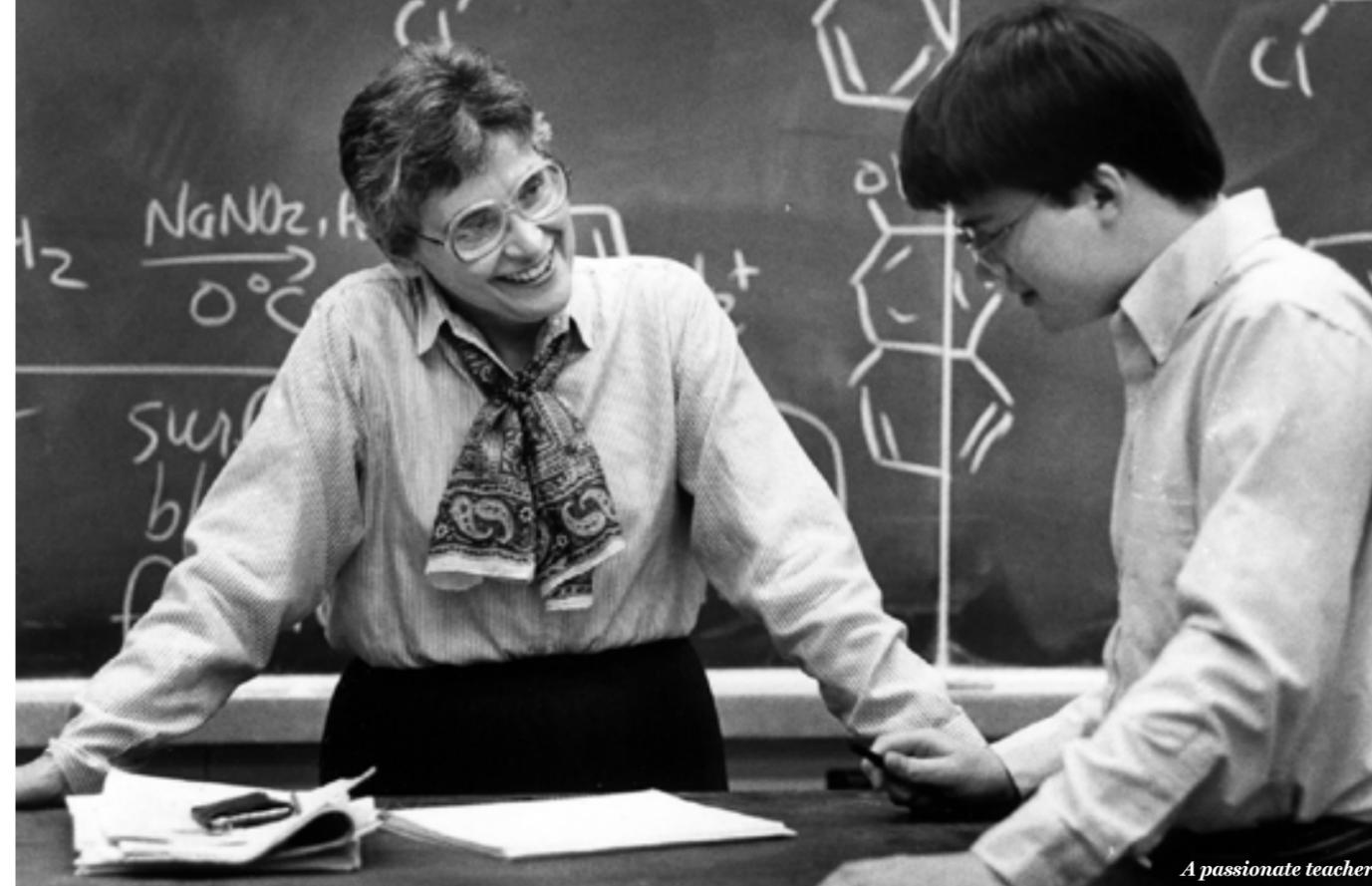
A brilliant and colorful figure, Ege's dedication to education, academic excellence and the pursuit of gender equality both in Turkey and the US was exemplary. The following biographical account was provided by her sister.

"Seyhan was born in Ankara in January 1931 where her educator father was employed at the Ministry of Education. In 1934, the family sailed to New York as part of a government effort to establish educational links with the United States. There, Seyhan began her education at Lincoln School. With the onset of WWII, the office was closed, and the family returned to the homestead - a big historic 'köşk' on an 8 acre spread of land - in Erenköy, at the time a remote corner of Istanbul. The children thrived in the big garden and developed their interest in the natural sciences through raising pet sheep and chickens, harvesting wool, milk and eggs, as well as a profusion of fruits and nuts gathered from the orchards.

When it was time for Orta Mektep, the family chose ACG, but there were logistical problems. Commuting as day students from Erenköy to Arnavutköy in the 40s was unthinkable and boarding school was prohibitively expensive. A solution was found by renting the 'müştemilât' or servants' quarter of the köşk of Giritli

Hasan Vafi Bey, on top of a hill not far from ACG, where the children lived with their annesane all week.

Seyhan was an exceptional student. She always credited the nurturing and mentoring she received from two of her teachers at the ACG for her interest and aptitude in the sciences. Many years later, in 1984, she dedicated the first edition of her text book of Organic Chemistry as follows: "To E. Katherine Wright teacher of chemistry and Rachel L. Smith, teacher of geometry who combined intellectual rigor with generosity of spirit to start a young scientist on her career". In her commencement address to a high school in Michigan in 2004, she expanded further on the debt of gratitude she felt towards Miss Wright. "The American College for Girls in Istanbul was a small college. I was the only student in the senior year who wanted to take the elective course in Quantitative Analytical Chemistry. The College Administration told the Chemistry Teacher Miss Wright that they could not afford to pay her to teach a single student. She decided I could teach myself. She gave me the key to the small laboratory next to her office, the textbook, the directions for the lab experiments, the chemicals and told me to go at it and ask her if I had any questions. So I did. I have never forgotten how empowered I was, and have always been conscious since of how important it was every time I handed over the keys to my research laboratory to an undergraduate at the University of Michigan." After graduating with Honors from ACG in 1949 and on the strength of the elective courses in chemistry she had taken, Seyhan completed a masters program at Smith College and received her MA with Distinction in 1952. She chose the University of Michigan for graduate work, which she pursued while honing her teaching skills. After receiving her Ph.D. with Distinction from the University of Michigan in 1956, Seyhan returned to Istanbul and taught chemistry at ACG from 1957 to 1959. "I have provided Turkey with 14 women chemists in two years; let's see what will come of it" she said at the time. Several of those students have gone on to distinguished careers in chemistry, amongst them Prof. Güniz (Günay) Büyüktür, Demet (Dinçer) Gürel, Oya Korman, Oya Bilen and Fortüne Kohen. She returned to the USA in 1959, spent two years at Boston University and then one year teaching at Mount Holyoke College. After two years doing research in photochemistry at



A passionate teacher

the University of Toronto, in 1965 she returned to the University of Michigan. At the time academic opportunities for women, especially in the sciences, were practically unheard of, and in academic programs, research was valued above teaching. One of her senior colleagues put forward that Seyhan be appointed Assistant Professor in tenure track. She became the only woman in the tenure track in the departments of chemistry, physics, mathematics and geology at the University of Michigan and would continue to be so for another twenty years. A precedent had been set. She went on to promotion through the ranks and was appointed Full Professor in 1980.

Seyhan always felt that teaching was a two way process and acknowledged having learned much from her students. She came to the realization that there were other and better ways of teaching chemistry than the standard curriculum of the time and through the five editions of her text book on organic chemistry, she transformed the way organic chemistry is taught. Her evolving philosophy was widely acknowledged and adopted by many universities although some resisted initially because the author was a woman. In 1978 Seyhan received The Amoco Teaching Award, and in 1987 The Phi Lambda Upsilon Outstanding Professor Teaching Award. She was named The University of Michigan Arthur F. Thurnau Professor in September 1990 and in 1993 she received the National Catalyst Award of the Chemical Manufacturers Association.

She was a strong advocate for women and one of the founders of WISE - Women in Science and Engineering Program - at the University of Michigan. The WISE Program provides an annual undergraduate award in her name. In 2003 she was named the recipient of the Sarah Goddard Power Award from the Academic Women's Caucus of the University of Michigan.

Professor Emerita Seyhan N. Ege passed away in Ann Arbor, Michigan in September 2007. It is fitting that with the 'Excellence in Science Award' in her name, Seyhan Ege's legacy should come full circle to where her career started in the mid 1940s on the campus of the American College for Girls, so that it lives on through the acknowledgement of the achievements of young women at Robert College who will follow in her footsteps."



Teacher Seyhan Ege with her student Demet Dinçer Gürel ACG 59 on the steps of Gould Hall during Commencement 1959. Behind them with the white hat is Seyhan Ege's mother.



The Ege family

Tennis team serves a winner

The first tennis tournament of the year was the Istanbul schools Ministry of Education Tennis Tournament and was held from March 2-6. RC took a girls team of four and a boys team of five. The girls placed 4th and the boys placed first, beating Koç School who placed second. Thanks to this victory RC went forward to the National Schools Tennis tournament in İzmir, at which 240 students from all over Turkey competed to go on to the International Schools Tennis Tournament in Germany.

The National Tournament took place in İzmir and the boys team came second, losing to ODTÜ in the final. Cem Gülboy, Lise 10 won every single one of his singles matches throughout the tournament and Sinan Alparlsan, a prep student, beat everyone apart from Ahmet in the ODTÜ team who was an older player at 17 and a member of the Turkish national team.

This is a great success for an after school club which started to make good use of the courts at Robert College. English teacher and Director of Drama at RC, Charlotte Şamlı, herself a county champion in the past, acts as coach and advisor to the team. She is very proud of their success and hopes to take a team abroad in the not too distant future.



The girls and the boys team at the close of the Istanbul Tournament. Top row, from L to R: Sinan Alparlsan L Prep, Murat Bulanduoğlu L 10, Timuçin Balkan L 10, Gediz Morgil L 9, Cem Gülboy L 10. Bottom row, from L to R: Begüm Batmanoğlu L 10, Begüm Deveci L 9, Nilifer Cimsit L 9 and Elif Nalbantoğlu L 10.

Boarding students will miss their Cahit “abi”

Cahit Can, who has been the Head of the Boys' Residence for the past seven years at Robert College, has saddened his students by deciding to leave his position as of June 2009.

In 1982 Can started to work in the RC science department as a part - time lab assistant while studying physics at Boğaziçi University. In the same year, he first entered the RC dormitory as a surveillant working with other unforgettable members of the residential team Aydın Ungan, Mehmet Uysal and Adil İzci Two years later, in 1984, he graduated from BU, started to teach physics, became a full - time lab assistant but left his job as a surveillant in the dormitory. Although Cahit Can is a physics teacher he is best known, by most of the RC family members, as the trainer of the soccer team. In 2002 he returned to the dorm as the dorm father and after seven years of hard work there he decided to leave his position at the end of this year.

When we asked him the reason of this decision, his answer was: “It was the appropriate time to do it. It was not such an easy decision but one that had to be taken.” When Cahit “Abi” is asked to describe his feelings about his decision, he says: “I was also a boarder in my university for six years and I knew quite well how the dorm life was. As a dorm father I treated my students as if they were my sons. That's why I already feel that a big part of my life is missing. This is both emotional and also it is the emptiness caused by leaving my job. I will always remember the time I've spent in the dormitory.”

When we asked Can to share one of his memories in the Boys' Residence it was this story he chose. “May 9th is my birthday. On May 8th after bed-time, at around midnight, I heard some noise coming from the hallway. Two students, shouting and yelling walked into the lounge. Naturally I walked behind them, quite angry, ready to scold them. Suddenly the lights of the lounge were on and all the boys were wishing me happy birthday. At that moment I got very sentimental.”

Can added that being the Head of the Boys' Residence is a huge responsibility and that when a student of his makes a mistake, he himself also suffers as if he was also the culprit. “Therefore”, he adds, “this position requires a great deal of patience. But of course it is at the same time very pleasant that one can feel so proud when one of your students does something good.”

Cahit “Abi” may be breaking the hearts of male residential students by leaving Bingham Hall, but the good news is that he will still stay at Robert College as the science department technical director and the coach of the soccer team.

“How can I forget his famous song, Şam'a Doğru, when he



was waking us every morning in the dorm. Cahit Abi is much more than a dorm father, he is a real teacher and mentor who shaped my life style. He always showed us how to become reliable and strong men in real life.

His discipline and decisive manner impressed me greatly. I will really miss hearing past stories of the dorm from him and also his comments on Fenerbahçe matches.”

İlyas Urgancı RC 06

“When I first got here, he was my sponsor. Since then we have been good friends, as a matter of fact he is an “abi” for me just like for the others. He has been serving the school in so many ways. His skills allow him to do many things at the same time. People love and respect him. He is clever, honest, well organized and hard working. I have been working with him at the Boys Residence for the last three years. It is fun to spend time with him. If you want to watch a Fenerbahçe game on a big screen and eat delicious barbecue, you should visit him at his new house in Arıköy. We are going to miss him in the dorms but we are very happy that he is going to be in the school for his other responsibilities. Take care Cahit abi and enjoy your new life.”

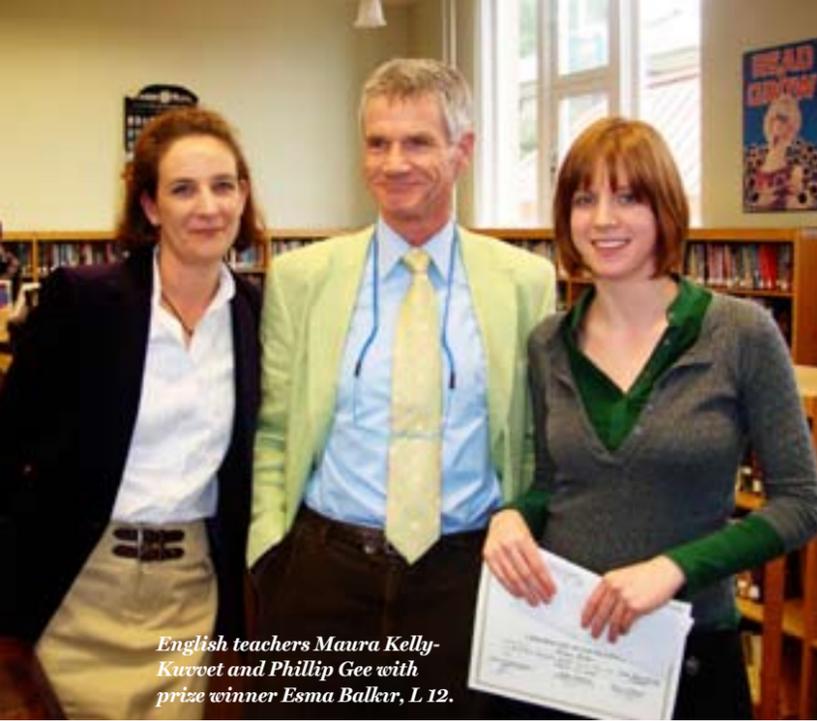
Murat Özyiğit (RC PE Teacher)

“Cahit Abi, in other words “the emperor”... Living with Cahit Abi in the dormitory was more than staying in Bingham Hall. It's hard to choose the right words to describe what we all learned from Cahit Abi. It was his joy, sense of humor, experience, mercy and wisdom that could help all those people who lived in the dormitory. And I was one of the lucky ones who could spend time with him both in the dormitory and the football team. We all are going to miss him and his splendid voice in the dormitory.”

Erdem Sağır RC 09

“Cahit bey has devoted seven years of his life, 24 hours a day, to our residential boys. He truly cares about those for whom he is responsible, and for those with whom he works closely, and the boys appreciate his efforts to guide them. The responsibility he has had on his shoulders is immense: looking after 98 boys this year. He will be much missed, but never forgotten.”

Margaret Halicioğlu (Dean of Student Affairs- Music)



English teachers Maura Kelly-Kuvvet and Phillip Gee with prize winner Esma Balkır, L.12.

A new literary tradition takes root

The first annual Jane Page English Writing Contest was started in the hope that even just a few students would be inspired to lift their pens or press their computer keys to create something new. Not as a requirement or an assignment, but as an individual attempt to render believable a character, a scenario, an idea - that is to publicly share the very personal and imaginative act of writing.

Having three possible categories, Short Story, Poetry, and Dramatic Script, students were offered a range in which to showcase their talents. The entry pieces were scored by several judges, including current English teachers and two esteemed retired teachers, Belinda Atay and Gökçen Başkan. The winners were not easily selected given the wealth of entrants, perhaps due in part to the considerable prize of \$300 for each category.

The award ceremony took place on Tuesday, March 17th, 2009 in the fiction section of the Library. Much of the faculty and student body were present to recognize these writers. For each category, an English teacher was asked to select a passage from the winning work to read aloud to the audience. What was read was just a tantalizing taste of what will be published in the upcoming Kaleidoscope Literary Magazine.

Esma Balkır's winning dramatic script, "Thoughts before Sleep" was described by the judges as having been written in the tradition of Samuel Beckett, full of symbolism and the essential dilemmas of life - love, loneliness and existence. Phillip Gee, Esma's current senior English teacher, had two students enact part of her script at the ceremony. The Drama Class will perform Esma's script this spring.

The judges found it difficult to name a single poetry submission as the winner; two poets were awarded first prize. The co-winners were Lise Twelve students: Ayşe Bursalı and Feride Eralp. Ayşe's poems "Reminisce" and "Blue at the Tragic Lights" were described as: emotionally expressive, having a strong authorial voice, and using crisp, crystalline, and precise language. Part of Ayşe's poem was read by her previous English teacher, Jennifer Sertel. Feride's poem "Geometrically Geographic" was identified as sophisticated, cerebral, as being

full of creative risk taking and of a professional caliber. Jason Schulha expressively read part of Feride's work. Both Feride and Ayşe read their poems at the Poetry Reading which took place on April 22, also in the library, in conjunction with the Şiiristanbul Festival.

The first prize winner of the Short Story category was Lise Eleven student, Berfu Nergiz. Berfu's short story, "Dare Not Break the Circle" according to the judges was impressive given its subject matter which delved outside of her own experience by creating a character from a different gender, culture and age. Her language was described as lucid, controlled, and powerful. A selection from Berfu's short story was read by Alison Standley. Additionally, the judges commended tenth grader, Berkan Uze, with an honorable mention. A selection from Berkan's story "A Routine" was read by his current English teacher, Jamilah Lajam. The story was identified as: bold, complex, psychologically scintillating.

Writing contests have inspired numerous writers to try their best. James Joyce won, at the early age of fifteen, a writing contest which named him the best English composition writer of all of Ireland for his age group; he went on to write Ulysses and Finnegans Wake thereby inaugurating literature into the modern age.

Sylvia Plath was published by the time she was ten, and won an important short story contest in 1953 for the Mademoiselle Magazine which gave her the chance to both publish a short story and to be a guest editor for a year. The range and power of Plath's poetry and prose have placed her firmly in the echelon of great artists.

The participants and winners of the 2009 Jane Page Writing contest are in great company and their names will surely be appearing on our book shelves soon. The contest is funded to take place for the next two years; thereafter, the support of a generous benefactor is needed. Please help us keep this new literary tradition alive.

Contributed by Maura Kelly-Kuvvet, English Literature teacher



Don't you think that it would be great fun to arrange your annual class meeting there ?



Saklıköy was settled in 1993 by a RC 77 graduate on an area of 70.000 square meters as a "gentlemen's farm" with an amateur yet discerning taste far off from commercial cares. From the day, the first stone was placed, nature loved Saklıköy and Saklıköy loved nature. Our principles have not changed; it is just like it was that first day: to know that we are a part of nature and to live



with it in harmony. Saklıköy was built of eco-friendly materials such as sun-dried brick, stone and wood.



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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP)



Rize

Our Rize CIP group, 14 students, one teacher and 2 adults, returned from Yamaçköy primary school with lots of gain and value added. According to the scope of the project all the students shared valuable knowledge and experience on various subjects. They accomplished science experiments, sbs preparation, sports, music, dancing, art, and activities developing self confidence and creativity.

The primary school students showed from the first minute to the last how happy they were that the project team came to visit from 1200 km to spend their vacation working together. The emotional situation at the time of departure was perhaps the best indicator of how remarkable the gains were for both sides.

On the first day of the visit the good physical situation of the school and the open and warm communication between the teachers and the students was a lovely surprise. This positive situation also motivated us. It made us feel the responsibility to present our school in the best way.

We were visited by municipality representatives and local educational authorities while we were working on the project and also hosted in their offices. We were also invited to a "horon" evening at the culture house and had the chance to try this local dance.

The local trips were also interesting. We saw Ağaran springs, Ayder plateau, Sümele Monestry, Rize Castle, Trabzon city center. On the way to these places we saw the beautiful green tea and kiwi plantations and took many photos. We also tried delicious local food such as famous beans, rice pudding, fish, mihlama, akçaabat meetballs, laz börek, stuffed black cabbage and drank lots of tea. We experienced East Black Sea hospitality all week. We were happy to serve the community, meet and get to know new people, teach them and learn from them, see new places and taste local food. We understood once more the important role of goodwill, responsibility, discipline, giving, open and honest communication for good relations. We realized again how teamwork and organized effort help us gain better results. In this project we all saw that there are so many ways to support community development. There are so many people who would like to learn from us. When we share our values through CIPs, not only do we add value to a community but we also grow. We returned tired but happy and proud. We know that this is the beginning of lifelong friendships.

Contributed by Pınar Türkoğlu (RC Parent)



Tunceli

We did a CIP far from Istanbul, in a different world; Tunceli - Hozat. We went with Veli Topcu, our Military Science teacher. He made contacts with the schools in this area. In the end, 8 students and one parent decided to go. There were 7 lise 10's and a lise prep, Tutku, who we believe to be the bravest of us since it is her first year in RC. Thanks to Mr Topçu's background, we were hosted by the military stationed in Hozat.

There were two goals of this project. One was to help in a material way. Mr. Topçu used his contacts and asked the principals of the schools what they would need most. The answer was a photocopy machine, a computer and a projector. To raise money for these things, there was a second hand kermes, we received the proceeds from a free dress day and we sold cakes and refreshments for a Theatre Company show and at school. The school donated 3 used computers and 3 microscopes. At the end we had 4 computers, 3 microscopes, a photocopy machine, a projector and some preparation books for the exams. The other goal of the project was to see what it was really like in that part of Turkey and to interact with the people there. We tried to broaden their horizons as well as our own. I believe we succeeded. We met every Wednesday to plan all the fundraising and details of what we would do there. We wanted to do something that would interest the students there. We heard that the literacy level of Tunceli is quite high so we thought about doing something about the entrance exams to high school and university. After we got there we learned this was pretty accurate. We were impressed with the large number of motivated students. One of our other plans was to do DI (Destination Imagination) which fosters children's creativity in a fun way. The students had great fun doing these activities and so did we.

The second night of our trip, the highest ranked general, Orhan Paşa, invited us to dinner. He made us realize that what we indeed were doing was being ambassadors; ambassadors between our culture and theirs. I had never looked at it that way, but it was true. It was so amazing that such a different culture and society existed in our own country just 500 km. away. Our CIP was more about talking, interacting and learning about the people there than trying to teach something to others. We visited 3 schools; two primary schools and one high school. I was hesitant because we were from a college in Istanbul and I was not sure if we would be taken seriously, especially in the high school. Well, I was wrong. They listened to us patiently and asked serious questions. The seniors even invited us to their class for they had prepared delicious food for us. We played volleyball and football with them. The last school we went to was a boarding school. The government has a service to go to 110 small villages to pick up students on Monday mornings and bring them back on Friday nights. The school was needier than the other but the warmest students were there. After we finished our presentations, we talked, sang and joked together.

Why was it different than other CIP's?

Going to Tunceli- Hozat was unique. They said that no similar visit had been made from a big city. Some schools had made donations but no one had ever gone there to visit them. We were so warmly received. They even put up banners on the road, 'Welcome to Hozat, Robert College students! Hozat welcomes Robert College!'. We want to believe that we took the first step in dissipating any prejudice against the eastern part of Anatolia and Tunceli.

Contributed by Aral Sürmeli L10, leader of the Tunceli project

GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

'Esquire' rug by Esti Barnes ACG 71 triumphs as British Design of the Year

Esti Barnes ACG 71, founder and design director of leading rug design house Top Floor, took center stage recently when the company's elegant 'Esquire' rug was announced as British Design of the Year at Elle Decoration's British Design Awards 2008. Barnes was presented with the award at an evening of celebration in central London and attended by the Who's Who in UK design excellence.

Chosen by popular vote from a shortlist of 15 products by key names in British design, including Barber Osgerby, Tom Dixon, Matthew Hilton and Ron Arad, 'Esquire' caught the imagination of Elle Decoration's readership and carried off the prize. Elle Decoration described 'Esquire' as "strikingly sculptural". Executed in Esti Barnes' signature technique of hand-carved wool pile, the rug is geometry in wool. Pyramids are cut from the surface resembling to some the facets of a crystal, to others the effect of moonlight on sand-dunes. Whichever image is truest, the rug was an instant success with interior design professionals on its launch at the end of 2007, and has proved a best seller with Top Floor's design-savvy retail clients in the course of 2008.

"To be nominated for a shortlist consisting of so many other designers whose work I have admired for years was a huge thrill. It's an overwhelming honour to win it," said Esti Barnes.



Esti Barnes ACG 71



Emrah Güler RC 88

Author makes debut with book on pop culture phenomenon 'Lost'

Emrah Güler (RC 88) recently published his first book, *Lost Başucu Kitabı* (The Lost Companion), a comprehensive guide to the cult TV show for both fanatic followers and those newcomers wondering what all the brouhaha is about.

Güler has been writing on cinema, TV and popular culture for various publications, newspapers as well as magazines since 1996. His debut book is an entertaining, information-packed guide to *Lost* which examines the mysterious island at the heart of the show and the mind-boggling events taking place there. The book, published by Doğan Kitap, is a complex analysis of the episodes, characters and events in the series.

"I have been watching 'Lost' since its first episode, and following its transformation," says Güler. Writing and researching over 20 articles on *Lost* over the past four years has turned him into "a modest *Lost* expert", he says.

Do the books we see Sawyer reading on the beach have any larger significance? How does the constant clash of faith and science in *Lost* mirror the fall of the Western civilization as we know it? Why does the island heal some while making others sick? Which Arab philosopher paved the way for desert island literature six centuries before Robinson Crusoe? Above all, why is *Lost* the biggest pop culture phenomenon of our age? *Lost Başucu Kitabı* aims to answer these and many other questions.

"*Lost* reflects the anxieties of our age, such as the crisis of faith, growing mistrust in modern technologies, the fall of patriarchal institutions and loss of connection with nature," Güler explains. According to him, the plot mirrors the fall of Western civilization, which is why it has gripped people across the globe.

Turkish *Lost* fans, it appears, are many. The book has already become a national best-seller.



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GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

Maverick banker turned novelist Hakan Karahan moves to film

Hakan Karahan (RC 79) was never the average banker, when that's what he was. Now, in a new life, he is far from the typical film producer. At age 50, Karahan is embarking on what he calls his "third life" - that of a producer, director and actor. His first feature film *Gölgesizler* (The Shadowless) is an adaptation of the acclaimed novel by Hasan Ali Topbaş and showed in April at the Istanbul International Film Festival.

"If I knew now that my life would be about film and literature and art I wouldn't have taken so many business classes at school", Karahan said in an interview after a *Gölgesizler* showing in Istanbul for media in mid April. "That stuff doesn't interest me anymore." After graduating from Robert College, the University of Miami, in Florida, and a brief stint working in Switzerland for U.S.-based chemical company DuPont, Karahan returned to Turkey and embarked on what he calls his "first life", in the corporate world. He began selling tires for a company that was part of the Sabancı Group, and eventually moved to Akbank, rising through the ranks there until he was one of a handful of executives steering the bank's operations. On the way, at age 35, he met and began dating Turkish singer Candan Erçetin. They are still together, and the relationship got Karahan thinking about how long he wanted to stay in banking, and whether he might rather swap his suits and cufflinks for pen and paper, and become a writer - his "second life". Eight years later, he did, and managed to write five books, including a few crime novels, over the course of seven years. He also wrote 43 episodes of the Turkish TV serial *Sağır Oda*. He acted in 38 of those episodes, and then felt ready to move on to film, his "third life". He intends to continue producing films with a philosophical bent, and acting.

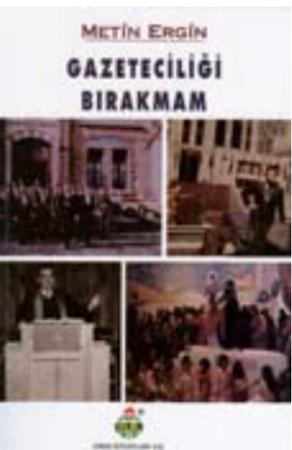
Karahan says his time at Robert College helped him to understand that it's possible to make changes in one's life, and to pursue dreams instead of practicalities. "Robert College helps you to understand how to run away from the herd," he said. "It made me a solid person and a dreamer at the same time."

Metin Ergin RC 46 continues personal account of Turkey's recent history

Veteran journalist Metin Ergin RC 46, continues to publish his tales of life at the top of Turkey's lively media sector with *Gazeteciliği Bırakmam* (I Won't Quit Journalism) which follows the earlier *Dünyada 30 Bin Gün Ben de Vardım* (I Too Was There for 30,000 Days), *İşte Biz Böyleyiz* (That's How We Are) and *Basında Hapse Girmeden 70 Yıl* (70 Years in the

Press Without Going to Jail), by Altın Kitaplar.

The books cover hundreds of anecdotes, including 30 stories about Atatürk that have never been told before. Little-known interesting details about business leaders like Sakıp Sabancı, Nejat Eczacıbaşı, Üzeyir Garih are included alongside anecdotes about studying at RC and later, Istanbul University. Ergin, who became a journalist in 1946, is the holder of an Honorable Press Card.



Hakan Karahan RC 79

Yeşim Arat honored for work on women

Yeşim Arat Pamuk RC74 was given the 2008 Duygu Asena award for best research on women's issues, for her work on violence against women in Turkey. The award is named after the late Duygu Asena whose landmark book *Kadının Adı Yok* (Women Have No Name) made her one of Turkey's best-known women activists. The Women's Commission of the International PEN Club instituted an



award in her name in 2007 with the goal of promoting work on women by women. Arat's award was presented by İnci Asena, Duygu's sister, poet and Miss Turkey for 1967. Yeşim Arat has been teaching political science at Boğaziçi University since 1983 and was appointed provost in August 2008. She is well known for her work on the position of women in the *Turkish Republic* (published as *The Patriarchal Paradox*) and her study of Islamist women in Turkish politics.

İpek Ongun ACG 61: Inspiring young readers

The transition from childhood to adolescence is famously never easy. İpek Ongun ACG 61, author of numerous well-loved books for children and young adults, has built a career around offering young people a helping hand. Ongun's most recent novel, the eighth in the popular *Bir Genç Kızın Gizli Defteri* (A Young Girl's Secret Journal) was published earlier this year and rapidly sold 20,000 copies. Ongun's involvement in literature began while at ACG when she translated several books for publication, including L M Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables*. After graduating from university, she was encouraged by Nilgün Himmetoğlu, an editor at Altın Kitaplar, to try her hand at writing. Her first children's book *Mektup Arkadaşları* (Pen Pals) was published in 1980. That was followed by *Kamp Arkadaşları* (Camp Buddies) and *Afacanlar Çetesi* (The Mischief Gang). "In that time, my daughters had grown up and reached adolescence," recalls Ongun. "They were no longer kids, nor adults. So what were they going to read?" Thus she began writing fiction for young adults and in 1987 published *Yaş On Yedi* (Age Seventeen) about a young girl who has to cope with a death in her family. The book quickly became popular through word-of-mouth and Ongun followed it with *Bir Genç Kızın Gizli Defteri* (A Young Girl's Secret Journal), the first in what would become a series. It was not always easy going. "At that time publishers said they didn't know how to place the book," she says. It took two years for the book to make it to the shelves. "The message in both books was the same," she says. "Don't let problems get you down, you have to keep going. It's your life. You have to learn to accept your pain and focus on the future." Ongun subsequently published three self-help books for teens, and one for parents. "Young people asked me to write something for their parents," she says. She asked youths from across Turkey to contribute letters with their thoughts, feelings, worries and expectations. Gradually, a book emerged, written by "İpek Ongun & Young People". In total, Ongun has published thirteen books to date. She also writes for Turkish newspapers. "Writing for young people looks easy but its actually hard," she says. "Nobody likes to listen to advice. So you have to find a way of communicating knowledge without being didactic." For more information, visit the author's website at www.ipekongun.com



İpek Ongun ACG 61

The man with the bowtie: Arman Manukyan



Arman Manukyan RC 51

Sporting a trademark bowtie, Arman Manukyan RC 51, is something of an institution on the Boğaziçi University campus. The thousands of students -including business leaders like Güler Sabancı and Cem Boyner- who have taken his accounting classes over the past 50 years speak reverently of "Arman Hoca". A new book *Efsane Papyon - Arman Manukyan Kitabı* (The Legendary Bowtie - An Arman Manukyan Book), issued by İş Bankası Publishing introduced this legendary character to a wider public. It comprises a series of interviews journalist Nuran Çakmakçı held with Manukyan on subjects ranging from his teaching career to his professional insights. Manukyan entered RC in 1945, where he was close friends with classmates Talat Halman, Rahmi Koç, Mahmut Öngören and Oktay Yenal. He was a keen sportsman, photographer and writer. One magazine he put out with Halman, *The Tower*, was deemed so good it was sent to universities in the US to read.

He first donned the bowtie for which he is famous in 1949 at a dinner dance with ACG. His collection now numbers in the hundreds, but red bowties still occupy a special place. After graduating from RC with a degree in Economics and Trade in 1951, he began working with his father, importing spare machinery parts. A chance meeting with his old RC buddy Oktay Yenal in September 1955 changed his life. Yenal had received news of a posting to Erzurum and asked his friend to fill in for him as accounting teacher at the College, today Boğaziçi. Manukyan agreed, began a few days later and rapidly became one of the most popular teachers on campus. "Accounting is not much fun," he says. "It's the job of the teacher to make the course enjoyable. You need to get the student interested and committed." Manukyan retired in 1982, although he still teaches once a week.

He is also an active member of the Armenian community. He served as a member of the Patriarchate board for many years, as well as Yedikule Armenian Hospital.

He offers three keys to success: "Be patient. Be tolerant. Be well-intentioned."

GRADUATES IN THE NEWS



Berceste Anter with her daughter
Ülkü Kolatan, ACG 52



ACG girls practicing archery



Feride Eralp RC 09 and Berceste Anter ACG 31

100 birthday candles: Interview with Berceste Anter ACG 31

By Feride Eralp RC 09

For this issue, Robert College senior Feride Eralp interviewed the school's oldest living graduate that we know of, Berceste Anter ACG 31, in her Istanbul home. Feride, daughter of Boğaziçi sociology professor Nükhet Sirman RC 72, is a keen anthropologist in the making.

"I remember our president Ms. Adams' talk on our graduation day. She said "Don't ever think that you have finished learning in college... College education gives you only a key to open the door to knowledge." Only the key to knowledge...I realised the meaning of that later. The key was not only to open the door to knowledge, but to solve problems I encountered in my life. This key solved many problems for me.

College taught me to love mankind, to be helpful, to think independently, to be broad minded and think freely. It gave me the courage to face the difficulties of life and stand on my own feet. In short, it had a great influence on my character building. So, I owe very much to this college and I'm thankful."

Inside Selek Apartment on Güzelbahçe Sokak, I heard these sentences from Berceste Anter, a remarkable ACG graduate of 1931 who has turned 100 this year and is the oldest person alive to have studied within the halls I am now about to leave... It was deeply moving to hear her humorous manner dissolve and her voice tremble ever so slightly as she thanked the college which she believes has formed her character- and what a character that is! - and given her the strength to face life. After 78 years away from ACG, she still considers the place her home, where age-old structures meet new students and house

new memories each year. Assembly Hall was where she read the speech containing the excerpt quoted above, almost 30 years ago. Assembly Hall, which has now become our library... The gym she knew of is now our dining hall and the First Dining Room and the French Dining Room she remembers no longer exist. "The First Dining Room was for the seniors and there, they would dine with Ms. Burns, our dean. We used to dress up for meals, yes, nobody was allowed to go to the dining rooms dressed casually." The pink pyjamas with small giraffes and zebras, so cute, worn by our girl boarders for dinner, float before my eyes and I think of all that has changed in the home of this grand lady sitting before me. She too was a boarder and she slept in ("What was the name of that last building?") Sage Hall. That much is still the same...

She then tells me how exactly she came to reside in our school. She started her education in the French school in Bebek, but then "Atatürk banned turbans on the street with a new law. In French schools the priests could no longer walk outside with all their jingly jangly stuff. They could wear them inside, of course. He did what he did to his own, to foreigners as well, that is. Then the French schools resisted for a while and when they did, their schools closed down. My parents decided that school had begun and I needed a place to go. Selami Pasha, my doctor grandfather pestered them into giving me to the American school. "Don't dismiss her because she is a girl. You must send her to this school." he kept saying. First special, second special, third special, C class, B class, A class, subfreshman, freshman. Until subfreshman we would be in

a yellow building at the Arnavutköy gate. I lived in Emirgan then, so when I had to move up for subfreshman, I became a boarder." A boarder from Emirgan! Only one person had a car in the whole school then...

Even though hearing everything that has changed since her time shocked Berceste Anter quite a bit, knowing that there was still much that remained from her period did soothe her. She asked about Field Days on the Plateau, for instance, and I told her that they still existed. "Did you do any sports?" I asked her.

-Yes.

-What did you do?

-Hockey.

Hockey! A young woman playing hockey in the 1920's... Then I started to realise that this is the kind of opportunity this College created for people. I started to understand why she was thankful.

I understood what Berceste Anter meant when she said the College had taught her to think independently and have courage to face the difficulties of life and her mundane words were transformed from just words into magic. "After leaving College I decided to go to America with my best friend, Behice Boran, the communist. I wanted to go to university." What did she want to study, I was curious. "Sociology."

"My parents didn't let me go, but if I had I would have been a communist like Behice. I would have been in jail with her because I think the whole communist order is quite nice with people helping each other all together, but it just could

never be practiced correctly. There is the flaw. Anyway, when I couldn't go to America, I just couldn't sit home so I went to the university in Beyazıt and started studying education." She left school when she decided to marry the father of her 75-year-old daughter sitting next to us. "Leaving school was my biggest mistake." she says. "I don't call it a mistake because I had three beautiful children, raised them and was happy, but..." It is clear that she expected much more after the "key" given to her by ACG was in her pocket.

If you even try to criticize the college in her presence she will stand up and defend her school with all her might, because she still believes it was the most incredible experience she had in her life. This belief has been handed down the generations, as nearly everybody in her vast family is an RC or ACG graduate. I leave her presence intoxicated by the loyalty and love she has for this place I am also part of or, in comparison, merely passing through. The halls she believes are home to her are also mine, I suddenly realise. I never knew, never ever knew how much the college meant to me and her wistful look reminds me of my own hidden attachments. My own departure. I am in my grandmother's house close by, after leaving Berceste Anter, still under the spell of this 100-year old young woman who still rushes to the door on high heels upon hearing the bell. I tell my Nonna, my grandmother (ACG'46), that Berceste had deeply moved me with her gratitude to the place I've always taken for granted.

"Well of course," Nonna says, "it taught us how to stand on our own two

GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

Q & A with Hadi Özbal RA 63, RC Yüklü 67 Turkey's only official international marathon course measurer

How did you become an official course measurer?

As someone who loves running, I had a natural interest in the subject. In 1998, they opened up a course in Istanbul. 15 people took part and at the end of it, I was given a class C license which certified me as a national course measurer. Together with two other interested friends, we began measuring marathon courses in Turkey.

How do you measure a course?

It requires a lot of careful attention. We do it with a Jones counter, attached to a bicycle. (A Jones counter keeps track of each revolution of the bicycle's wheel.) There are many details you have to watch out for. Even a 5 degree change in temperature can make a difference, for instance, since it affects the air pressure in the bicycle's tires.

How long does it take?

Before measuring a course, you need to prepare a 400 or 500 metered calibration course. This is where the bikes are calibrated. They need to be calibrated twice, before and after measurement. Measuring a marathon course takes 10 to 12 hours. That involves measurement of a course, determining the exact distance and then the kilometers in between. A 10 thousand meter course takes three or four hours.

When did you become internationally certified?

In 2004, supervised by two international experts, we were given a test measuring the Eurasia marathon course. As a result, I was promoted to B class, becoming an international



Hadi Özbal (far right) with colleagues in İzmir before the University Olympics

measurer. This means the courses I measure are eligible for international competition. Two other friends are C class measurers; I'm the only B class measurer in Turkey. There are only around 200 B class measurers in the world. When a course is being measured you need at least two, preferably three measurers. If the tire on a bicycle goes bust, you have to start all over again.

Which course in Turkey do you most enjoy?

I think Turkey's most beautiful course is in Antalya. For four years, it has been supported and maintained by Oger Tur under the slogan Runtalya. It's 10 kilometers. The half marathon course starts in front of the Antalya Museum, head out to Lara beaches and then returns to the city, ending in front of the stadium. This group has a lovely website, www.oger-maraton.com. Istanbul's Eurasia Marathon and its 15 kilometer course are also lovely. The hills make it a tough course.

How do Turkey's courses compare to other countries?

There are three courses in Turkey that I've measured which are of international quality; Eurasia, Antalya and Izmir. There are half marathon courses of this quality in Tarsus, Antalya, Trabzon and Istanbul. Compared to countries which are advanced in terms of athletics, unfortunately this means we lag quite far behind.

Do you still run?

I still run but haven't been able to run a full marathon for three years. I run half marathon competitions.



Hadi Özbal (left) measuring the Trabzon course



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Taking a stand, artistically

To her classmates, Çağla Cömert RC 04 was a quiet, petite girl with big green eyes who was both passionate about the arts and gifted. When she expressed herself in the form of words, her articles were picked up for publication in various newspapers and magazines. She also placed fourth in the 2001 and second in the 2002 Turkish Philosophy Olympiads. When she expressed herself in the form of painting, she was accepted as a gifted student to an atelier at the age of fourteen and sketched her way through high school. Cömert has pursued her passion and is currently in Vienna doing her masters in photography in conjunction with Sabancı University. She says she initially had a hard time persuading her family to support her. "I had to fight them since arts was looked upon as a waste of time or a profession that society degraded." But she was adamant that she wanted to be an "activist-artist" and first completed an Art-Design, Photography & Video degree at Yıldız Technical University. She was later admitted to the European College of Liberal Arts in Berlin while at Marmara University's Photography Department. She also won several photography awards including HSBC Young Photographers Best Portfolio Award in 2008 and the "Are you Aware?" Photography Competition. She exhibited locally and internationally at venues like Karga Art Gallery, Hafriyat Gallery, Karşı Sanat, Fotoğrafevi, Fişek Institute and Airport Koltsovo. Her work currently on show includes "Manhood is an Exceptional Case" at TOG (Toplum Gönüllüleri Vakfı) and "Unjust Provocation" at the Hafriyat Gallery in Karaköy.

"My motivation for choosing photography was my desire to familiarize myself with the realities of my country," says Cömert. "The lives of a street boy or drug-addict I photographed have taught me a lot about life that I would not be able learn any other way. That's why I never use a long-focus lens in my shoots; I love to get to know the people I photograph." She calls herself a photo-activist and hopes to create work that has a social impact. She can be reached at caglacom@gmail.com

Contributed by Pelin Seyhan RC 04

Examples of Çağla's photo-activism



The photographer with her subjects

Soaking in conceptual music

Balamir Nazlıca RC 97 manages to juggle several different hats. A graduate student in International Relations, he works in the marketing department of Societe Generale and somehow also manages to find the time to direct his passion for music into a band.

While studying at Bilgi University, Nazlıca tried performing with a couple of different groups but none fit his style. In 2006, he started working on his own project, which he named Soaked. He set up a studio at home, worked on music programming for a year and eventually felt ready to write and compose his own songs. That took a year, after which he had to find other people to help play the tunes. "That didn't work out as well as we had hoped," says Nazlıca, and eventually the group disbanded. In October 2008, a chance encounter with bassist Yiğit Özkul, someone he had met once, four years prior, led to a new band. Keyboard player Deniz Kunay, back vocalist Berrak Pabuçoğlu, guitarist Emrah Akar and bassist Yiğit Özkul are all students of Istanbul's music conservatory. The drummer is a fellow banker, an ex-banker in fact. Balamir is the lead vocal, writer and composer of the project.

As for the genre of their music, "it's very difficult to both perform and explain it to the Turkish crowd" says Nazlıca. He calls it conceptual music, rather than rock or electro rock. What they do is combine different elements, like audio (music) and visual (drawings) together to bring you to a "feeling of sensation". Listening to their music and seeing their visuals at the same time creates an atmosphere.

The group recently performed at Tamirane - Santralistanbul, in front of Who Made Who. Hipster guide LeCool Magazine has said Soaked is the group to follow in Istanbul's crowded underground music scene. You can listen to their first two songs Light and New Try on their Myspace page at www.myspace.com/soaked2009. The group also has a Facebook group with hundreds of fans.

And as for the band's name, Soaked? After listening to their music, if you have not already, you will get it.





Brighter spots: A headhunter's take on the current job market

By Kaan Okurer RC 92

The Turkish economy has no doubt been seriously impacted by the global economic crisis. Official unemployment numbers are indeed startling. Sectors such as automotive, textiles and real estate are suffering greatly, companies have announced hiring freezes and there is no immediate recovery in sight.

However the picture is not completely dark. Energy, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals and certain segments of fast moving consumer goods are still relatively robust. Local "white collar" hiring has slowed down considerably, but so far, we have not experienced the dramatic lay-offs of corporate professionals that have characterized the crisis in more mature markets such as the UK or US. Even in hard-hit sectors, companies are continuing to hire for strategic positions.

In large part these results have to do with the fact that, this time, Turkey was not the cause of the crisis per se. Ironically, we benefited from being an emerging economy with limited exposure to mortgages and sophisticated financial instruments. Economists have remarked widely, and more eloquently, on this

topic. Here, I would like to highlight three main dynamics that specifically affect the current job market in Turkey.

Foreign & Local Investment

Between 2004 - when European Union accession talks started -- and 2009, Turkey received a record total foreign direct investment of almost \$66 billion. To put this into context; between 1984 and 2004, foreign direct investment in Turkey totaled only about \$13 billion. (source: www.tcmb.gov.tr) Although new foreign investment has been slowing down since the summer of 2007, we are still benefiting from the ripple effects of the tremendous recent inflow. Companies that have invested in the Turkish market naturally want to recoup their investment as soon as possible. In order to do this, they need to put in place the right people, technology, and strategy/processes.

For example, a number of multinational banks have invested hundreds of millions dollars to acquire banks in Turkey. Given these figures, the additional cost of investing in the right management is not only necessary but also negligible. As such, multinational companies are continuing to recruit for

key positions even as they exercise a hiring freeze. As for sub-executive levels, new positions are rarely added today, but hiring continues to address turnover.

Similarly, local firms that have entered the crisis in a cash-rich position are seeing an opportunity in the current environment. Since strong multinational competitors are now forced to focus on their main/home markets, there is a rare window for Turkish companies to gain market share both locally and abroad. Therefore some local firms are continuing to invest through the crisis by upgrading their talent base and their infrastructure.

Crisis Policies of Turkish Companies

Undoubtedly, containing cost is a priority for any company under current market conditions and employees are a major source of cost. Turkish companies seem to have learned some hard lessons from the 2001 crisis. They know that what goes down will eventually come up. They also recall how hard it was to find and retain talent after the 2001 layoffs. Hence, during this crisis, companies that have a long-term strategic focus are trying to contain their costs while also holding on to their people. A number of companies have asked their employees - including executives -- to take a voluntary pay cut. Most of these are smaller firms but there are also household names that are exercising this option. Some companies have also asked their staff to work part-time or to take voluntary time-off.

Hiring for Difficult Times

When the economy is growing at 6% per year it is naturally easier to be a leader. However, during a crisis period, leadership gets tested. Companies that do not have strong leadership in place are forced to make some hard decisions. For instance, capable Chief Financial Officers are in particular demand given the specific nature of the present crisis. Also, partly driven by regulatory requirements, especially large corporations are increasingly recruiting for a related but relatively new function in the Turkish market: Chief Risk Officer.

Another trend is the merging of positions in a key area where leadership is required. Rather than two managers overseeing two separate but related areas, companies opt for a strong leader who can manage both. This is a result of increased focus on the bottom line.

The above dynamics drive hiring particularly at the executive level of the job market. It should be noted however, that the present activity is for the most part one of upgrading, changing or replacing existing positions. In other words, new positions are seldom being created. The best medicine for businesses - and certainly for headhunters! - is growth. Companies that invest, typically hire from the top down. As such, executive search firms are one of the leading indicators of macroeconomic activity. There is a lag in response time of job markets between

North America and Europe, and then again, between Europe and Turkey. From my seat, it seems that things will be at best stagnant before they improve. On a more positive note, if companies can continue to hold on to their employees, they will be in a good position to leverage when the market comes back up. From the standpoint of employees, one fact will remain the same: talent will continue to be in short supply globally, and particularly, in Turkey.

Closing remarks for job seekers

In a crisis, the poor performers or unlucky employees may be made redundant. These are also hard times for those still employed. To begin with; there is more work to be done by less staff. Furthermore, a slower economy means fewer challenges and less opportunity for professional development.

Hence, for professionals in

general, these periods bring about introspection regarding their careers. This is a welcome activity that many of us are too busy to make time for during a thriving economy. As a result, individuals may choose to explore new opportunities and directions. I hope the remarks above demonstrate that there is some activity in the job market that could benefit both forced and unforced job seekers. However, one should keep in mind that, on average, it takes six months to find the right job under good economic conditions. Therefore, especially today, one needs to be patient. Now is a great time to plant seeds, to develop oneself, to refresh and to network in a targeted fashion in order to be well-positioned for the upturn.

Kaan Okurer RC '92 is a Partner with Korn/Ferry International



Kaan Okurer RC 92



Selin Maner RC 94



A dreamer in Cambodia

By Selin Maner RC 94

Chou, the three-legged baby Asian elephant, was noisily snuffling at my neck, her damp trunk blowing hot air into my ear. The odd part was that I was loving every minute of it. Chou remembered me, and it made me smile. I was in a Cambodian animal rescue center, as a recent partner to the Southern Coastal Cardamom Mountains Conservation Project. I was meeting some new friends and some old ones, members of species I would be attempting to help save from extinction: Asian tigers, hornbills, macaques, and elephants like Chou.

A few nights later my team and I unwound at a small riverside bar in the village of Chi Phat, a regional hub for the Cambodian illegal animal trade. We were in the middle of the Cardamoms rainforest, many kilometers from any paved road. We had spent the day slogging through muddy cattle paths and leech-filled streams - on dirtbike and on foot - and we had witnessed with our own eyes the gashes and scars inflicted on the jungle by the illegal logging of giant hardwoods. As I sipped my drink, it occurred to me that seated at the next table could be the very logger who had killed the trees, or the poacher who

had lost Chou her leg in a tiger trap.

But somehow I felt no anger. Most of these people had never been farther than the next village. The rainforest was their home. How could they have any conception that, to those of us living in the industrialized world, their backyard was a precious and dwindling resource? The villagers were merely earning their living as best they knew how. I had to wonder how this cycle could be stopped without taking away someone's livelihood. It was a sobering question. After all, I was only an architect, not Supergirl.

The next morning at sunrise, however, my spirits were lifted. I found myself atop a hill overlooking the entire Cardamoms mountain range. Rose-tinted mists rising up from the forest floor filled shallow valleys fanning out in all directions. Surrounding me were foxholes - dug not by foxes, but by the Khmer Rouge, the brutal regime that ruled Cambodia from 1975 to 1979. In fact, the only reason the Cardamoms region had remained relatively untouched by development was that it was the last stronghold of the Khmer Rouge.

The hill I was standing on had only recently been de-mined. I remember hoping they hadn't missed any. I also remember feeling that there was nowhere in the world I would rather have been at that very moment. Stretching far down the slope were lines of budding saplings, recently planted by a reforestation project working in association with our team. I thought back on the strange path that had brought me to this place. It all seemed a bit like a dream.

I guess I've always been a dreamer. Back in 2006, when I hopped off the plane in Bali, Indonesia - a suitcase in one hand and a job offer in the other - little did I suspect that three years later I would still be still be working in South East Asia. And if you had told me back then that I would soon be running my own architectural practice from a rooftop office in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, I would have said you were crazy. "Crazy" was exactly what most of my New York City friends had pronounced me when I told them I had decided to give up a comfortable Manhattan office job and take off blindly for the far east. I had been working for nearly the last decade for celebrated artist and architect Maya Lin, and I'd had the good fortune to be involved in many exciting high-end projects, both residential and monumental. But eventually my wanderlust got the better of me. I longed to interact with the rest of the world. Travel has always inspired me, keeping alive that sense of childlike discovery we are born with, but often lose.

I have always been a bit of a fighter as well. I enjoy rising to a challenge; building in the middle of the Cambodian jungle would clearly be a big one. The main goal of the project is to uplift the local economy by introducing eco-tourism to the area, building eco-resorts to draw tourists and their money. This would reduce villagers' reliance on the illegal trade in animals and hardwoods. Poachers and loggers would become expert guides. Traditional skills and crafts, lost during the disruption of the Khmer Rouge years, would be re-introduced. Locals would come to realise

that their backyard was a goldmine - but one that was only profitable if the "gold" was left intact. In eco-lingo it's known as 'sustainable development'. I don't think I truly understood what the words meant until I went to Chi Phat.

Luckily for me, one project has led to another. In addition to our ongoing work in Cambodia, my company is now involved in eco-development projects in Malaysia, Mozambique, Nigeria, and southern Turkey. Despite the fact that I'm always somewhat sleep-deprived these days, my work excites and challenges me. I am buoyed by the opportunity to make a difference - however small - in the lives of ordinary people, as well as in the lives of wild animals. I am glad that I am able to translate the practical experience I gained in NYC into the grass roots eco-projects my company is focusing on now. As an architect I am inspired by the wonderful ideas I am gleaming from traditional construction methods and regional architectural styles. I am excited to have the opportunity to bring this knowledge back to Turkey.

I have always felt that anyone can project a positive effect on the world around them, merely by doing what is possible at any given moment. You don't have to be Mother Theresa to make a difference. Every juncture in one's life can be a leaping-off point for something else, some new direction, a new adventure. When a roadblock bars your path, it's merely an opportunity to explore a new course. If Chou can do it, so can I. So can you.

While attending Robert College (1987-1994) Selin Maner introduced recycling to the school, as well as starting a student tree-planting organization. After graduation, she earned a B.Arch from Cornell and an MSA in Advanced Architectural Design from Columbia. She now runs her own architectural practice, Selin Maner Architects, Singapore. Selin currently divides her time primarily between Istanbul, Bali and Phnom Penh.



*The sound of
music at RC*

**COVER
STORY**



Music Theory Club



Musical Orchestra Club



Guitar Club



Electro Guitar Club



Flute Club



Ege Yalçınbaş RC II and Alperen Ergin RC II

A scene from AIDA the musical, performed on May 12, 13, 14 by Robert College students in Suna Kirac Theater. Members of the Musical Orchestra Club and the Choir made up of Prep students, shared the success of an outstanding cast.



Merrill Hope-Brown, Department Head

Ask any RC student the best place to hang out on campus and they point in one direction: the Music Department, a collection of rehearsal rooms and offices looking out onto the grassy front lawn. It's not hard to see why. On a sunny April morning, the department is teeming with activity. In the main office, a group of Lise seniors are engaged in a heated discussion with teachers over jazz standards. In the practice room next door, a band belts out Pearl Jam. A group playing the Turkish ney awaits their turn. Clusters of youths drift in and out, checking the line-up for a Lise Live medley performance night that Thursday. Enthusiasm and energy ripple through the air.

A small but dedicated team of teachers are steadily transforming the school into a hub of musical production, raising world class young musicians.

Deniz Baysal, a former professional musician, joined RC in 2001. He brings a wealth of experience to his position, from playing with rock bands at Garage and Mojo, to composing soundtracks for film and theater. He is joined by Koray Demirkapi, a youthful teacher whose taste in music runs the gamut from Anatolian folk to Nirvana and Merrill Hope-Brown, department head and a UK-trained musician herself.

"Four or five years ago, Advanced Music didn't even run as an elective because there was so little interest," says Hope-Brown. "But for the last couple of years we've averaged about 80 students. The number of students taking music electives has

rocketed." This year's graduating seniors include Sirma Munyar, a jazz vocalist who won a scholarship to attend the Berklee School of Music in the fall. She plans to double major in vocal performance and music synthesis. Last year, she became the first recipient of the Arif Mardin music scholarship to attend a summer music school in the US. Although she could play the piano, it wasn't until Lise 9 that Munyar began taking music seriously. Encouraged by Deniz Baysal, she started studying jazz vocals with well-known musicians Aydin and Randy Esen. She now holds her own concerts in Istanbul.

"The music department here is like a mini conservatory,"



Ceyda Erten RC 09



Drum club



Saxophone Club



Music teacher Deniz Baysal with Surma Munyar '09



After the final performance of Aida: Musical Director Koray Demirkapı, Director Jason Shulha



Ney club

says Munyar. "There are lots of people interested in music. You're encouraged to develop yourself."

There is something for everyone in terms of musical offerings on campus. Headed by music teacher Koray Demirkapı and English teacher Jason Shulha, a cast and crew of over 50 students are rehearsing the Tim Rice and Elton John Broadway version of Aida for a performance in May. Performers are selected by audition. "It's an ambitious project," says Demirkapı, who sticks to the original score, making minor adjustments only to replace one or two instruments like the French horn. "But I am never worried that the kids won't be able to manage. They work hard, and we have a lot of fun." Sunday rehearsals frequently end in a lively picnic under the trees outside the Music Center. Then there is the orchestra - an ensemble of around 50 students who perform a range of work, from classical to Big Band, Goran Bregovic to little-known Turkish folk songs. They rehearse for an entire year on Wednesday afternoons and most Sundays in order to play three performances in May. An orchestra of some form has usually existed at the College, but Baysal reorganized and gave it new life when he took over in 2001. "The standard of our musicians excels anything I've seen in any other high school," says Hope-Brown. "The quality of the

musicals and orchestra easily competes with any professional company. The kids are talented, hard-working and dedicated."

Membership in the orchestra is by audition only and competitive because slots are limited by the number of instruments. "They need to be able to read music and have intonation," says Baysal. "It can take time for a student to get to that level." There are other, more relaxed events too. Twice a year, more than 100 students get together for Lise Live, a medley of dance, pop, folk and Turkish music performances. December features a Music Evening, showcasing the best of student talent. And students regularly get together casually to hold Lunchtime Concerts in the canteen.

Active clubs include Flute, Saxophone, Drum, Guitar Musicianship and Theory, Electric Guitar, Ney, Violin and A Capella. If the demand is there, the department makes every effort to secure outside experts for subjects outside their fields. Throughout the year, well-known names like jazz keyboardist Darius Brubeck, violinist Ayla Erduran and critic Evin İlyasoğlu ACG 66, hold workshops on campus.

Ulya Soley, another senior, is a violinist who plays for the orchestra and enjoys improvising ways to blend Turkish motifs with Western forms in her spare time. She completed a

conservatory education parallel to her studies at RC.

"The conservatory provides a very classical education," she says. "It was here that I was introduced to a broad range of styles." Last year, Soley helped found Composition and Improvisation, a 10-person club which meets once a week to practice fusing jazz and Turkish rhythms. Last summer, she was chosen to attend a program at the New England Conservatory where she became concert master for the orchestra.

In terms of structured education, RC currently offers three music courses. Practical Music, which is an introductory class, Advanced Music and Orchestra. The level of education in the latter two is on a par with Turkish universities. Prep students are required to take up an instrument for one year, a task which often leads to greater musical engagement.

In years to come, we will hear a lot more of these budding talents. Students like Munyar and Soley who have bravely decided to pursue professional careers in music are leading the way for others. "Parents tend to put financial security at the top of their priority list for their children," says Hope-Brown. "A career in the arts is seen as a risk. But more and more students are now choosing to pursue a future in music and I am fully confident that they will be very successful."

Physics or Music? Lise student makes music with everyday objects

Few people associate music with physics. But it is physics which explains why some sounds are noise and others melody. Intrigued by this connection, Lise 10 student Ogeday Rodop - also a pianist- chose to make music with everyday objects for his Physics Yearly Homework Project. He composed a short song based on chords which used three different instruments; the choir, the harp and the oboe. The choir played the chords, the harp played the three notes from which the chords were formed, in an alternating way, and the oboe played the melody. His instruments were glasses and bottles. He began with the basics, producing the chords, for which he employed three different types of wine glasses, one type of cognac glass and one type of cocktail glass. He made them produce sounds by filling them with varying levels of water and then measuring the maximum and the minimum frequencies that could be produced with each, the notes that corresponded to these frequencies and recording them. Then, using the same glasses, but hitting them this time, he played the harp. Creating the oboe was hardest. He explains: "This time I used the bottles. As everybody knows, when you blow air from the top of the bottle it produces a sound. According to the wave theory in physics the velocity of sound equals frequency times wavelength. ($v = f\lambda$) One forth of a wavelength can be formed in the empty part of the bottle. So when you blow a bottle of which the empty part (in the y direction) is long, the wavelength increases. So when you increase the water level, the one forth of the wavelength decreases, therefore the wavelength of the sound decreases. However, since $v = f\lambda$ and v (velocity of sound) is constant, if the wavelength decreases, the frequency increases. If the frequency of a sound increases it will be high toned. So, you can get notes of higher pitch if you fill the bottles up with more water and blow from the top." He produced the nine different notes that he needed, recorded and placed them according to their arrangements in the original composition. "The only thing to do now was to put these three parts together and there you are- music with bottles and glasses!" he says. To listen to both the original composition and the bottles and glasses version, visit: http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x98h7y_music-with-everyday-object_s_music

Ogeday Rodop L 10





Aydın Karlıbel RC 76

Karlıbel writes Yahya Kemal oratorio

Yahya Kemal is one of Turkey's best-known poets, whose work has been scored to music countless times. But for the first time this spring, an oratorio based on his poetry, written by pianist and composer Aydın Karlıbel RC 76 made its premiere. The Yahya Kemal Oratorio, written for soloists, a choir, Turkish saz and orchestra, is the result of five years work by Karlıbel. It runs more than half an hour and comprises 12 poems. Karlıbel jokes that "Kemal said some of his poems took more than 40 years to write. Seen from that perspective, you could say I was speedy!" The oratorio's first performance was on May 15th at ITU's Maçka campus followed by a June 4 performance at the Austrian Cultural Center. Karlıbel's other current work includes the re-orchestration of his first opera Eyyubiler and ongoing composition of an opera about the explorer Piri Reis. He recently obtained his doctorate degree from Istanbul Technical University with a dissertation on famous composer Cemal Reşit Rey's Çelebi opera.

Karlıbel says his connection to Rey goes back to his days at school. Rey visited campus on invitation by then headmaster John Chalfant. He was also honorary speaker at Karlıbel's graduation in 1976. Karlıbel credits Robert College with having encouraged his passion for music. "In particular, our headmaster John Chalfant, the late Dr. Sheldon Wise and Mr. Grady Hobson, whom we called 'baba'. Mr. Hobson lived near the Plateau and taught us math but playing Bach on the piano was also a great passion of his. I also remember gratefully that Mr. Chalfant once brought me the notation for a Chopin work from a visit to the US." Karlıbel notes that he also recently put music to Desiderata, by Max Ehrmann and the Class of 76's graduation poem. He can be reached at a.karlibel@superonline.com.



Celebrating 20 years of bringing world music to Turkey

Cem Yegül RC 78, Ahmet Uluğ RC 81, and Mehmet Uluğ RC 78 have made it their mission to promote musical diversity in Turkey. Twenty years ago, the trio started out organizing world music concerts in Istanbul. At the time, there were only a handful of concerts on offer in the city. They expanded by teaming up with leading Turkish companies to organize traveling jazz and blues festivals, both of which are still going strong. In 1999, they opened Babylon, a music club which has hosted hundreds of world class names in jazz, rock and electronic music. The venue features regularly in the global press as one of the best clubs in the world. Today their company Pozitif also owns Doublemoon, a record label created to promote new and interesting Turkish music to the world. Babylon has been joined by Babylon Lounge next door, and Babylon Alaçatı, on the Aegean coast.

Ervin İlyasoğlu ACG 66 pens history of music reference book

Well-known music critic and author Ervin İlyasoğlu ACG 66, recently published *Zaman İçinde Müzik* (Music Through Time) from Remzi Kitabevi, a sweeping overview of the history of Western music which is the result of two years of research. The book -her 18th- comes with 10 reference CDs. İlyasoğlu is currently working on a portrait of composer Nevit Kodallı.

Nilgün Güresin ACG 69, recently sat down with İlyasoğlu in Boğaziçi's Albert Long Hall for the website Tek Satır. Below are excerpts from their conversation:

NG: Why did you write this book?

El: In our society classical western music is construed as a heavy, serious, inaccessible art form. People often say 'Oh, I don't understand it'. They think that to appreciate its beauty you need years of training; to know how to read notes, what partition is, play an instrument. But those are a completely different dimension. To be able to appreciate a branch of music, you need someone to give you some clues.

NG: There are many clues in the book for readers. "The timelines" around music look at societal events, discoveries and gossip of the period in question as part of a whole.

El: "Timelines" are an important part of the book. I wanted to introduce the human side of composers. For instance after finishing the Rites of Spring, Stravinsky wrote a footnote: "Today, I have completed this work with an absolutely terrible toothache."

NG: So is *Music Through Time* intended as a bridge between the listener, reader and composer?

El: Yes, that was my goal. That's why I wrote it. I wanted people to focus in on places, listen to the work being discussed and understand what kind of emotions, style it was written with and become curious as to what came next.

NG: It seemed to me this book isn't just about music, it also gives us clues as to life. What do you think music is?

El: Music, when it enters your daily life, has the effect of beautifying life. I would feel sad for someone who has never listened to Mozart to understand the secret to enjoying life. I'm fond of an Aristotle quote: "Just as a person needs physical education to develop a sound body, to develop a sound spirit, he needs to listen to music of a high quality."

NG: The last section of the book is devoted to Turkish composers...

El: Yes, that's something I'm proud of. The chief quality of this book is that it covers all musical eras, beginning with antique Greece and ending in the 21st century with post-minimalism and post-modernism. In fact the last artist I cover is an American-Chinese composer, for the reason that current trends are moving towards the Far East, more mysterious musical forms. We're seeing and hearing a lot of different musical techniques coming together, trying to get beyond continental Europe.

NG: Can you speak a little about the Music in Turkey section?

El: I begin with the roots of contemporary Turkish music. I talk about how music evolves from Turkish folk music to classical Imperial music, rooted in the Middle East and the rhythms of the mehter and saz, to a polyphonic period which begins just before the Republic and then spreads under orders from Atatürk.

When it comes to the 'Turkish Five', I think the pioneer was Cemal Reşit Rey. He studied in France and Switzerland and was taught by Gabriel Faure. The others are our great composers Hasan Ferit Alnar, Necil Kazım Akses, Ulvi Cemal Erkin and Ahmet Adnan Saygun. They each created hundreds of works but most of us don't bother to find out about them. For instance Necil Kazım has a fantastic work called 'Bir Divandan Gazel' inspired by a poem written by Kanuni to Hürrem Sultan. It's a boisterous adaptation of a poem, with terrific polyphony.

To read the full text of the interview, please visit: www.teksatir.com.tr



Ervin İlyasoğlu ACG 66



Nilgün Güresin ACG 69 and Ervin İlyasoğlu ACG 66



Pinar Dayanikli RC 83

Klinilk: Changing healthcare for children

Turkey is changing fast; all agree. In the medical field, one of its key reformers is Dr. Pinar Dayanikli (RC 83). The specialist in newborn care is one of four doctors at the year-old Klinilk, a comprehensive polyclinic for children in the Ulus district of Istanbul. Dayanikli and her partners founded Klinilk to use what they'd learned in medical jobs abroad, including an emphasis on teamwork, recordkeeping, communication, and offering a pleasant alternative to hospitals. The polyclinic is armed with enough medical equipment to keep a child in observation for as much as eight hours. That, Dayanikli says, can avoid going to a hospital, which can be a memorably bad experience for young children. Dayanikli and her partners make communication a priority with monthly seminars and website articles (www.klinilk.com) on topics such as breastfeeding, newborn care and vaccinations. And the clinic itself is a bright and fun place, with a library stocked with children's books. "Pediatric wings are stuck in the back corner in hospitals," she said. "It can be depressing for children. This is a better alternative."

Klinilk
Adnan Saygun Caddesi No 21/G
34340 Ulus, Istanbul
Tel: 212 263 6500
www.klinilk.com



Dayanikli's path from Robert College to Turkey's medical frontier began at Istanbul University's medical school, and then, after six years of study, took her to the U.S. She took a position at Massachusetts General, the venerated and Harvard University-affiliated Boston hospital. From there she moved to San Francisco and a University of California-San Francisco hospital, where she developed her expertise in neonatal care.

But the plan was always to return to Turkey to apply at home what she'd learned abroad. When Dayanikli returned to Turkey, American Hospital in Nişantaşı was looking to improve its neonatal-care facilities. She helped to design the pediatric wing, and spread what she'd learned in the U.S. into the medical culture at American Hospital and beyond. She left the hospital last year to help start Klinilk.

Dayanikli credits her success to years of maximum effort. A formative experience came at Robert College, which she recalls as a place where accomplishment was always noticed and teachers were masters at instilling confidence. "I remember during an exam the teacher walked out of the room," she recalled. "When someone puts that kind of trust in you, it makes you work harder - or, at least, that's what it did for me."

Class of RA 69 remembers their PE teacher Abbas Sakarya

The Class of RA 69 is celebrating their 40th year of graduation. The last time the class got together four years ago, Mr. Abbas Sakarya, who was their PE teacher at the Bebek campus, was their guest speaker. He very eloquently reiterated the importance of staying fit and the value of health to his group of 55+ years old former students in the Study Hall of Anderson Building. His audience was deeply impressed by the excellent physical condition of their 90+ years old teacher on the podium and appreciated the wisdom of his words.

RA 69 did not forget their teacher who passed away last year in February 2008 (see Obituaries, RC Quarterly, Spring-Summer 2008 issue) and initiated a project to erect a marble grave over his burial site at the Hasdal Cemetery in İstanbul. With contributions from M. Aktay, M. Ar, S. Avdan, V. Aydın, N. Azakoğlu, J. Balül, R. Benbasat, K. Dörter, A. Elhadeif, M. Kahya, A. Koman, S. Özoğan, S. Özmucur,, O. Özinci, Y. Pasadeos, Ö. Tanoğlu, S. Tuğtekin, S. Tümer, B. Üstiken and A. Yalçın, the grave was completed this year in April.

RA 69 will be announcing other activities as part of their 40. graduation anniversary. The Class unanimously believes that as alumni they have continuing responsibility in supporting the school through their Alumni Fund contributions and, in addition, cares for their past teachers who have had an enduring and profound effect in shaping their lives.

Contributed by Ali Yalçın RA 69

Memorial services on April 25, 2009 at the Hasdal Cemetery for Mr. Abbas Sakarya attended by (left to right): A.Yalçın, V. Mangır, S. Tuğtekin from RA 69, Liz Molton and Dave Phillips from RC, three participants from BJK and İ. User from RC73 (far right).





ACG 63 explores Eskişehir

What is your image of Eskişehir?

An arid land in the center of Anatolia famous for its meerschaum pipes and open university. Almost every house has one of these pipes, with the head of a turbaned man carved at the end. That's about all.

Well, Prof. Yılmaz Büyükerşen, the mayor, has radically changed this image! Eskişehir is now one of the most popular destinations for domestic tourists. People go there to see the miraculous transformation. This is why we, the Class of ACG 63, decided to explore this rapidly changing city. Our tour was organized by Yöre Tur, an excellent agency in Eskişehir.

After a four hour nostalgic train trip, thirteen of us arrived at Ibis Hotel. The hotel was renovated from an old storehouse, and some of the rooms were round. We were amazed by the modern image of the city and the parks created by Prof. Büyükerşen's municipality. Two sides of the Porsuk river which crosses the city are covered by flowers, trees and statues. People sit on the banks and enjoy the view of the different colored bridges on the river. Many cafes are situated all over the city where students play chess while sipping coffee. Lots of old houses are restored to their original beauty.

Everything is planned to enhance the life of the residents. There are many pedestrian streets and small statues are placed cleverly in the middle of the street to prevent cars from entering. At the magnificent Cultural Center we met conductor Ender Sakpınar at rehearsal. The center has been meticulously designed to the minutest detail. There are plasma TVs in the foyer for late arrivals. Our eyes were filled with tears while listening to the manager of the cultural center explaining the functions. There is even a different theater for children with small seats designed for their comfort and stage view.

One of the highlights of our trip was visiting the ancient Phrygian King Midas's city Yazılıkaya, about 75 kilometers from the city. It was an unforgettable experience for all of us to be there during the most beautiful season when all the fruit trees were in bloom in the Phrygian Valley. We were so happy to have included Eskişehir in the class excursions that our class has been planning almost every year. Previous trips included Basel, Bodrum, Cappadocia and Çeşme, as well as exploring the art and architecture of various historical sites in Istanbul.

Contributed by Seres Başak Ener, ACG 63

New school head at Hisar School

The Hisar Schools' first Head Ms. Ayfer Yeniçağ is retiring at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year. As of next year Ms. Yeniçağ will act as Educational Consultant to Hisar Educational Foundation. Ms. Feza Güvenal, RC 80, who is currently the Institutional Development Coordinator at Hisar School, has been appointed as the new Head of School effective July 1st, 2009. Hisar Educational Foundation Trustee and General Secretary Hasan Subaşı RA 61 points out "Our priority while managing the change of position was the continuity and the sustainability of the institution. There will be adherence to the philosophy which the Foundation has adopted, developed and implemented since the establishment of the school." Founded by Robert College alumni and trustees, Hisar Educational Foundation established Hisar School in 1996 with the aim of nurturing the same educational values of RC to a broader group of children and at a younger age. With its progressive, student-centered educational philosophy, Hisar School focuses on academic excellence, character-building and competency in English. Hisar School graduated its first class of seniors in 2008, as academically competent, morally upright, productive individuals, who are sure to take on active roles in the global world. In addition to its rigorous academic curriculum, school life at Hisar is vibrant. There are a wide variety of extracurricular activities and community service projects and students are active participants in international activities. Last year, Hisar School's excellence was internationally recognized when it earned accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) as well as the Council of International Schools (CIS). Ms. Yeniçağ joined RC as a biology teacher in 1971. She soon undertook administrative responsibilities and served as the High School Principal from 1979 to 1996 after which she set off to Kemerköy to start Hisar School. Ayfer Yeniçağ expresses her feelings by saying "As for me, a new era is beginning: I am truly dedicated to the school, and I will continue to support it in the coming years as educational consultant to the Foundation."

Following her graduation from RC, Ms. Feza Güvenal received her BS in Industrial Engineering and master degree in Business Administration at the Bosphorous University; she then worked at the Tekfen Group for nearly ten years. Ms. Güvenal initially got involved with Hisar School voluntarily as PTA, Advisory Board and Executive Board member, and has assumed an executive position as Institutional Development Coordinator since 2002.



Ayfer Yeniçağ and Feza Güvenal RC 80



Alumni Dinner in the USA

Alumni around New England got together for a Turkish Dinner in Boston on April 11th, 2009. More than 30 alumni and friends, spanning a wide range of graduation years (1957-2008), attended this dinner. The food was delicious, and conversation was cheerful.

ALUMNI NEWS

Matthias Neumark RC 47

Mr. Neumark who lives in Charlottesville, Virginia celebrated his 82nd birthday in February 2009. He continues to enjoy traveling. In March he went to Washington State to visit two sons and seven grand-children and in April to celebrate his 25th wedding anniversary to his wife Ann.

Lika Lale Levi Yenni RC 77

Lika has recently started teaching Introductory Astronomy at Manhattan College in the Riverdale section of New York in the Bronx while continuing to be a volunteer Earth and Space Explainer at the American Museum of Natural History.



Mete Tuncel RC 90 and Burcu Tuncel RC 97

Su Tuncel decided to join the family earlier than planned. She was born April 20th, 5:10 pm at New York Presbyterian Hospital. She was 48 cm tall and weighed 2.56 kg. Mother and daughter are doing well. Father is clueless.

Zeynep Kısakürek Paker RC 94

Zeynep and Sinan Paker welcomed their second son, Selim. Selim was born on November 5th, 2008. He looks just like his older brother Murat, who is his senior by two years. Selim was born 50 cm and 3870 gr. The Paker couple is over the moon having had their second child. Grandmother Feyha Kısakürek ACG 70 is also ecstatic after the birth of her second grandson. The Kısakürek duo is hoping that Selim and Murat join them in their "RC Alumni Team".



Kaan Erbahar RC 96

After getting his undergraduate degree in Business Economics at Leicester University, UK, Kaan has found his vocation. Turkey's increasing role in the global luxury market has motivated him to start a new business, Yirmibirgram, Turkey's first and only luxury marketing communications agency. The agency, established in September 2008 with an operational base in Istanbul, provides marketing communication services to numerous brands from a wide array of sectors. And did you know how much your soul weighs? Yes, it weighs presumably 21 grams, hence the name Yirmibirgram.

Yirmibirgram is very new in the market, however they have already made a name for themselves in the media. Sabah, a Turkish daily newspaper, news website Haberturk, and monthly magazines like Platin, Mediacat and Robb Report have carried Yirmibirgram to their business headlines.

The agency claims that personal satisfaction that defines the new structure of luxury has a simple but profound formula: A 5 carat ring, a 500 thousand dollar car, or a 50 meter yacht... Every figure that expresses luxury today is only destined to reach a single number: Twenty-one grams (Yirmibirgram)!

Articles that ask you a question tend to be more attractive, says Erbahar. You will now be asked a completely different, intriguing and thought-provoking question: While the world economy, in other words the global capitalist system is struggling against the biggest financial crisis ever known to mankind; wouldn't it be too much of a "Luxury" to even be talking about the concept of luxury?

Or in other words, while gigantic economies such as the USA and Europe are accepting defeat in the hands of this financial situation and trying to cut down all expenses, setting up a brand new agency that specializes solely on luxury marketing should be called "adding fuel to the fire"... right?

Kaan and Yirmibirgram have answers to all these and more. Visit their website www.yirmibirgram.com or write to Kaan at kaan@yirmibirgram.com



Sanem Erucar RC 94

Sanem and Mischa Matthews were married on August 2nd, 2008 at Les Ottomans Hotel in Istanbul. Derin Altan, Kemal Aşkar, Selim Berent, Nevra Eker, Emre Eren, Barış Gen, Selin Maner, Zeki Sabah, Evren Sarıgöl, Aylin Somersan, and Fatih Yörük, all from RC 94 attended the intimate ceremony and reception. The couple met in New York 10 years ago and they currently reside in New York. Sanem works for the internet conglomerate, IAC, advising 30+ portfolio companies. Mischa works for Goldman Sachs in their investment banking division. Sanem can be reached at sanem.erucar@gmail.com.



ALUMNI NEWS

Treysi Kazmirci RC 99

Following her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Koç University in 2003, Treysi got her master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She worked with addicts and clinical patients in the Bayridge Hospital during her stay in the USA. Following her return, she started working at the Mezura Clinic, which specializes in weight loss. Her practice at the clinic covered helping patients keep their target weight by changing their behavior and approach, since motivation during dieting is essential. She also worked on patients with eating disorders, helping them to adopt healthy eating habits. Treysi is currently working for Mezura Clinic and Yedikule Psychiatric Center.

Lately, she relaunched her website, www.treysikazmirci.com, where she's trying a new technique, online therapy, to provide counseling to a wider crowd. As counseling or therapy is traditionally practiced face to face, this new method she's introducing is much easier to access as she explains on her website. Online therapy is not an alternative, it's just a new way which has its advantages. She emphasizes that people living abroad might have difficulties communicating their problems through foreign languages, and might seek counseling in their native language. That's when online therapy comes into the picture. Sometimes people feel more comfortable writing their problems, instead of communicating face to face, or sometimes a person might be away for a certain period of time, but still needs to consult a therapist. These are all situations in which online therapy, via messenger or e-mail, will come in handy. Please do visit her website and get more information about this new way of counseling.



Faculty & Friends

Ayşe Güven

Turkish Language & Literature teacher Ayşe Güven retired in 2008, after having taught at RC for 13 years, from 1995 to 2008. In her 36 years of professional life, Ayşe Hanım spent the first two years working in the dictionary section of the Meydan-Larousse Encyclopedia while at the same time putting her thesis together. As for teaching, her first experience was in the Özel Hürriyet College, a school no longer in service. Her two years in the Turkish Language and Literature department there were followed by nineteen years in the French girls only junior high school of Sainte Pulcherie. The next and last step in her career was Robert College. During the farewell ceremony in June 2008 for teachers leaving RC, two of her colleagues shared their thoughts with the rest of their friends. "We graduated from the same school. After many years we worked together at RC for twelve years and we also shared the same office for many of them. Thanks to your freindliness and sincerity and your soothing presence our office always felt as comfortable as home. Not everyone has the great luck of feeling home comfort at work. (...) Ersin Aybars "(...) Your thriftiness, environmentalism, interesting trips, the way you patiently listen to everyone, your exemplary politeness will never be forgotten. With your unwavering stand in what you believe in, and your ability to defend your beliefs even if left alone in that belief you are a true example of a real teacher. (...)" Mehmet Uysal. One of Ayşe Güven's former students in the 1996-97 school year wrote her the following lines. 'My Dear Teacher, You taught me something I had forgotten about for a long time; the feeling that one can love without reciprocation. Also, boundless thanks for teaching me about literature and humanity.'



Ayşe Güven (seated in the middle) with colleagues and friends.



Troop meeting, 1955. Top left: Ercan sayari, Joe Dodds, Ergül Aybay. Seated left: Hakki Ögelman, Yura Sihon, Ali Muslubas

Arthur Whitman and Joe Dodds

September 2008 saw the reunion of Robert Academy teachers from the 1950's. The teachers got together in Maine and among them were Arthur Whitman and Joe Dodds, former teachers of English and science. Whitman, the founder, in 1950, and the first scout master of Boy Scout Troup 58 at Robert Academy and Dodds, second scout master from 1953 until 1955 sent readers of the RCQ a brief history of the Scout Troup. Dodds says the relationship between scouts and leaders is very different from the usual classroom relationship between students and teachers because hiking, camping and special projects bring them together in informal ways where close bonds can form. He adds that Whitman and himself have kept in contact with a number of former scouts over the years. Since his days at RC, Joe Dodds has been in Turkey four times, most recently in 2003 and on each visit has gotten together with some of the old scouts such as Ali Muslubas RC 59, Samim Uygun RA 55, Ergül Aybay RC 58, Tosun Sezen RC 58, Mustafa Pultar RC Eng 60, Yura Sihon RA 65 ex. The Boy Scout Troop of Robert Academy was started by Academy tutor Arthur Whitman in 1950. Mustafir Yeşim, then the Turkish Vice Persident, was instrumental in steering the application for a new troop through the bureaucracy in Ankara and Troop 58 became official. The teachers at Robert Academy were asked to recommend for membership those boys with leadership qualities. Arthur Whitman left RA in the summer of 1953 and Joe Dodds, the new science tutor, became the troop Scoutmaster. From the beginning, the focus of the trop was more on learning outdoor skills and practicing camping than on marching and parading. A good example was Ahmet Gogen. Several years after graduating from RA he rescued and resuscitated a young swimmer. All those sessions practicing resuscitation techniques on a dusty Academy floor at the winter troop meetings paid off! Needless to say, Ahmet's fellow scouts, teachers and parents were proud of him. Many of the friendships that formed between the scouts in those days have remained strong throughout their adult lives. Arthur Whitman and Joe Dodds still have fond memories of those scouting days and would like to hear from any of the old scouts. Contacts are: Arthur Whitman, 235 Oak Hill Rd., Auburn, ME 04210-16538, USA., tel: 207 783 7865, ahwhitman@verizon.net Joe Dodds, 1565 S. Dexter Way, Denver, CO. 80222, tel: 303 756 0150, jdodds@du.edu

OBITUARIES

Selim Ayrıl RC 35

Passed away on February 11, 2009 following a heart attack.

After his education in an American School in Mardin; his life led him to the İzmir American College - followed by RC in his last year.

After RC, he continued his studies at the İstanbul University, Faculty of Law which he finished in 1939.

While studying at the University, he also taught English at RC, and was the teacher of then students Bülent Ecevit and Ahmet İsvan. After graduation, he never practiced law; he imported chemicals and machinery. He also carried out international contacts for Deva Holding up to the age of 95.

Other than English, he could speak Arabic, French and a little German.

He was distinguished by his unique memory and was known as a "walking encyclopedia" because of his vast knowledge of everything. People loved his company because of the facts and stories he could recount about his exceptional life and the world in general. A colorful person with hobbies like playing bridge, traveling and reading; he was also very happy to get the "oldest male graduate" award on Homecomings which he attended faithfully every year, including the last one in November 2008 pictured above.

He traveled to many countries, including Japan which had impressed him very much. In fact he was talking about Japan just two hours before the heart attack on his last night.

He is survived by his daughter Lemis Ayrıl Ünel ACG 71, his son - in - law and grand-daughter.

Iffet Aslan ACG 43

Journalist Iffet Aslan passed away on December 19, 2008. Iffet Aslan was born in Bulgaria in 1923 and graduated from ACG in 1943 with a Bachelors degree. Then she spent one year at İstanbul University, Faculty of Law, the time at which her articles started appearing in Tan and Tanin newspapers constituting her first steps in journalism.

A turning point in her life was when she attended a lecture at the London School of Economics (LSE) by Professor Harold Laski, a political theorist and a leading British intellectual of the twentieth century. This



experience made her enroll at LSE from which she graduated with honors in 1950 with a Bsc (Econ) specializing in Political Science. Being the only Turkish student in Prof. Laski's class gave her the opportunity to air in the BBC's Turkish broadcasting department, as well.

Upon her return to Turkey her first job was at the "Devlet Denetleme Kurumu" (Government Inspection Institution) followed by a conference on "National Income" and "National Income and Depth Balancing Accounts". These conferences opened the doors for becoming one of the founding members of the "National Income Commission" followed by acting as the head of the Commission. Among her experiences in that department was being sent to IMF headquarters to work in its different departments. She also aired on Ankara Radio with a program "İktisatçının Köşesi" (The Economist's Corner). Iffet Hanım was also involved in the first project to create the 'Devlet Planlama Teşkilatı' (Government Planning Organization).

1956 was the year she resigned from her government posts and gave herself to journalism full-time. Her journalism career as a columnist began with Ulus newspaper and ended with Barış with columns titled, "Gerçek Peşinde" (Chasing the Truth) and "Arayışlar" (Searches). As a reporter she assisted Time and Life Magazine's Turkey correspondent and later she represented England's News Chronicle. From 1957 to 1966 journalist Aslan served as the Ankara correspondent of Associated Press.

In 1967 Aslan started "Gerçek Arşiv Yayınları" which garnered much interest, filling a large gap.

Between 1977-1980 she was involved in the administration of the Turkish National Committee of the 1979 International Year of the Child" as well as being its spokesperson.

Receiving the Honorary Press Card (Basın Şeref Kartı) in 1981 and celebrating the "50th year in journalism" in 2006 she retired from active journalism and concentrated in writing her books until the last day.

Her published works:

İktidar Adayları 1965, Gerçek Arşiv Yayınları (1968-1974), Atatürk'ü Anlamak 1981, Dünyanın İlk Çocuk Bayramı 23 Nisan ve Uluslararası Çocuk Yılı 1983, 23 Nisan Çocuk Bayramına Çağrı 1985 (Resimsiz ilk baskıları Türkçe, İngilizce, Fransızca ve Almanca olarak), 23 Nisan Çocuk Bayramına Çağrı 1986; Resimli Toplam 7 baskı, S.A. Zenkovsky's "Rusya'da Türkçülük ve İslam" kitabına onsoz 2000, Yarınların Enerji Kaynağı Gunes + Hidrojen Enerjisi ve Biz- 2007,

Kuresellesme Ne Getiriyor Ne Goturuyor - 2008

Most of her work may be viewed in at her web page at www.iffetaslan.gen.tr

Iffet Aslan is survived by what she always described as her most valuable "works of art": her daughters Rüya Belkis, now Prof. Belkis (Temren) Menemencioglu of the Faculty of Languages, History and Geography, Social Anthropology and Ayşe Aslıhan, now Dr. Aslıhan Turhan at the Harvard School of Medicine.

Güsfer Yamut Şahingiray ACG 45

Passed away on March 30, 2008. Her classmates remember her with great fondness for her devotion to her Alma Mater and her love of family and friends. She was a very loyal and consecutive contributor to the RC Annual Giving Fund and her thoughtful gifts to the fund will be remembered with great appreciation always.

She is survived by her husband Tarık Şahingiray, son Haldun and his family.



Nazan Kalmuk ACG 48 ex



Nazan Kalmuk was born in İzmir in 1926. After completing her primary education in her hometown, she enrolled in her beloved Arnavutköy College for Girls, which she usually referred to as "the college". The memories she cherished the most were the ones of her witnessing the blossoming love between Rahşan & Bülent Ecevit (ACG and RC 44)

Her whole life was defined by the American way of life, something that she got from ACG. She spent most of her professional life at TUSLOG, a company that carried out the logistics services for the USA Government. Following her retirement from TUSLOG, she went back to her "college" to work in the Lise Office. She spent the second, and the best part of her professional life at RC.

Nazan Kalmuk was an absolute sea lover. She would pass every minute of her free time at the Galatasaray Island to swim and sunbathe. She was one of the symbols of the island, and is often remembered gazing out to sea at sunset, with a glass of whiskey in her hand. Nazan Hanım was a bookworm, a habit she adopted during her ACG years. Her greatest passion was to read and reread the English Western books that filled up the shelves of her library.

Unfortunately she had been suffering from dyspnea for a long time -a disease that affected her ability to breathe- and passed away as a result of the illness during one of the last days

of 2008.

Nazan Kalmuk is survived by one of her sons Mehmet Emin Kalmuk and her grand-son, Emre Kalmuk.

Ali İrfan Ashaboğlu, RC Eng 53

Journeyed away on November 16, 2008.

Ali İrfan Ashaboğlu was born on November 3, 1930 in Denizli. He attended Robert College from 1945 through 1953 receiving his B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering. He continued his studies at Purdue University where he graduated with a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1954. His first work experience



was at Massey Harris Ferguson in Racine, Wisconsin as Product Development Engineer between 1954 thru 1956. Upon his return to Turkey, served in the Turkish Armed Forces in their newly founded Research and Development Division. After his military service, he stepped into the Turkish industrial life with excitement and vision. He either founded or co-founded many well known businesses: Çanakkale Seramik Fabrikaları A.Ş. in 1957, Pancar Motor A.Ş. in 1958, İdaş A.Ş. in 1965, and Trakya İplik Sanayi A.Ş. in 1970, serving on their boards actively many years.

İrfan was very fond of his family: His soul mate Asal, and three sons Hilmi (University of San Francisco MBA 87), Hakkı (RC 85, Indiana University MBA 92) and Fehmi (Stanford, PhD Management Science), daughter in laws Maria, Cindy and Ayla, grandsons and granddaughters Arman, Rona, Hakan, Sophia, Selin and Saide.

He was also a travel enthusiast, visiting the world's many countries and regions with Asal. Member of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and San Francisco Zoo Society, they proudly represented the intellectual Turkish culture in the United States and many other countries.

İrfan will be remembered as an honest and visionary businessman, a caring family man, a loving person and friend.

If one could design one's own life, many of us would choose the life İrfan enjoyed, in so many ways. He left a marvelous legacy in the beautiful family he and Asal created.

Contributions in his memory can be made to the RC scholarship fund.

(Robert College Account, Garanti Bankası - Bebek, account no: 6299404 or call the Alumni & Development Office at 212 359 2439 for more information or for a credit card donation)

OBITUARIES

Çisel Sunguroğlu ACG 56

Much loved by her friends and family, Çisel Sunguroğlu died of lung cancer on January 15, 2009. After ACG she attended Oxford Women's College where in her senior year she received a medal from the National Institute of Chemists for high scholastic records in chemistry. She later completed her masters degree at the University of Minnesota and worked in a managerial position at Shell Company until 1987.



She was active at her Alma Mater, and served as a class representative for many years. Her classmates say that when her name came up one of the first things that would come to mind was English. She loved to read and did a lot of reading. She was also a wizard at playing scrabble, a game in which she beat many native speakers. Very modest and very smart is how she was known to all those who will miss her very much.

Çisel Sunguroğlu was predeceased by her brother Önder Sayit RC Eng 61 and is survived by her brother Faruk Sayit RA 65, RC Eng 66, her husband Nurhan Sunguroğlu RC Eng 56, her daughter Sirel Özsoy, her son Serhan Sunguroğlu as well as two grand-children.

Contributed by Fatoş Bereket ACG 56

"My beloved friend Cisel was like wine !

The longer you knew her the more you respected and enjoyed her.

In fact that was just a part of her. She was a pillar of strength and an icon of sincerity & truthfulness. She was as unassuming as she was unusual. She was never afraid to speak out when she perceived deeds which were against her code of life. In her "doing the what comes naturally" way she kept all of us (her friends) honest. I was privileged and blessed to be one of them."

Contributed by Bülent Ezal RC Eng 56

Halil İncealemdaroğlu RA 62

RC graduate and much loved, popular biology teacher of RC in the 80's, Halil İncealemdaroğlu passed away on December 18, 2008.

He is survived by his sons Kerim and Murat İncealemdaroğlu, his sisters Ayşe İncealemdaroğlu Çolakoğlu ACG 55 and Esin Jah ACG 54, as well as niece Evin Çolakoğlu RC 84.

Prof. Dr. Rıza Alsan Meriç RC Eng 67

Prof. Dr. Rıza Alsan Meriç, passed away on November 25, 2008. He was 63 years old. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Neslihan Meriç and daughter Beril Sebla Meriç RC 98, as well as his elder brother Aydın Meriç, RC Eng 63, his sister Ayten Kök (Meriç) ACG 61, RC Yük 65, and his twin brother Yusuf Altan Meriç, RC Eng 67.



Alsan Meriç, got his first degree in 1967, a B.Sc. in Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, from RC Engineering (now Boğaziçi Üniversitesi) in Istanbul, Turkey. Then in 1969 he got his M.S. degree in Dept. of Mechanical Engineering from the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH, USA. Prof. Meriç then earned his Ph.D. in Dept. of Mechanical Engineering in 1973 from Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

Prof. Meriç, was a Senior Research Fellow between the years of 1973-1988 in Dept. of Mathematics, TÜBİTAK - Marmara Research Center in Gebze, Turkey.

Prof. Meriç was a full professor in Department of Aerospace Engineering at Faculty of Aeronautics and Astronautics of Istanbul Technical University from 1988 until his retirement in 2005.

As an Adjunct Professor and a Visiting Exchange Scholar, he taught and researched in the following Universities and Research Institutes in Turkey, USA and Canada.

Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Turkey, Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Turkey, Işık University, Istanbul, Turkey, TÜBİTAK-Feza Gursey Institute, Istanbul, Turkey, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA, USA, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, Canada, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey, TÜBİTAK- Marmara Research Center, Gebze, Turkey.

Prof. Meriç was a dedicated scholar. His high academic capability and achievements were evident in his publications that received over 60 citations and were published in international journals, books, and conference proceedings.

Alsan Meriç was a true gentleman. He faced his illness with serenity. During his retirement, despite his deteriorating health, he continued to teach part-time and play tennis, a sport he greatly enjoyed since his RC Engineering years.

As his family, we will forever be inspired by Alsan's courage and dedication. While we mourn his loss, we will cherish the wonderful memories we made together.

Saffet Suha Uluçay RC Eng 66

Saffet Suha Uluçay passed away at the age of 64 in Houston, Texas on November 20, 2008. He was being treated for lymphoma at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

He was among the first graduates of Kadıköy Maarif Koleji, followed by Robert College Civil Engineering in 1966 and received his MSci degree in the same field in 1967. After completing his Military Service, he went to Chicago, USA, where he worked as a civil engineer at a consulting company. During his stay, he also received an MBA degree at the Roosevelt University.

After six years in the USA, he returned to Turkey, where he worked at various construction companies, the last one being Antel Uluslararası A.Ş.

In 1990, Suha Uluçay established Ziebart Turkey, the leader of Auto Appearance and Protection Sector, as the master franchisee of Ziebart International, a fifty-year-old American Company. Over the years, he expanded the business, reaching 19 locations throughout Turkey.

He is survived by his brother Reha Uluçay, wife Gülay Alptekin Uluçay ACG 71 and BÜ 79 (MSci) and daughter İpek Uluçay.

Suha Uluçay's dear friend Kemal Tümerkan BÜ 76 and 79 (MSci) expressed his feelings for Suha below:

"Most of our loved ones leave behind a significantly bigger space than they had once occupied. Suha was not one of them. The space he occupied in our lives was already very large when he was, physically, with us.

He consciously chose to take part in our lives, to influence our lives and to try to make our lives better. He did this so sincerely and so naturally that it was a pleasure to let him enter our lives, influence our decisions and let him become a natural leader of our get-togethers.

I keep remembering him so often after he left us. In the hotel we went sometime after his death, some friends did not want to tip several of the hotel workers because they thought they did not get proper service one night. Almost all of us thought it was too harsh a reaction, but nobody could say it out loud. Suha would have spoken and the workers would have gotten the tip



Suha judged appropriate.

Anyone whose path crossed with him would feel that he cared deeply for every single gift - people, animals, plants, oceans, sunset and such of the earth. You could feel that he was always searching how he could contribute to another person's life.

He enjoyed going into details and he was never tired of searching, understanding and controlling each and every smallest part of whatever he was doing.

He was a very fond supporter and admirer of Atatürk. It was such a dominant part of his life that any remembrance of him should reflect this side of his personality too.

I have never seen another person who had such valuable knowledge on literally everything. When we had a problem, we were sure that he would have the solution or at least would direct us to the solution. That's why it was such an unpleasant surprise to witness that he could not find the solution to his own illness. Sometimes I can not help myself thinking that if it were one of us who had his illness, he would have led us to recovery.

He was witty. I remember him in one of the ski resorts, shocked by the low quality of the pizza and writing on a piece of paper; "The World's Worst Pizza is Served Here" and showing it to the crowd.

When my father died, I had noted a few words down and these words I would repeat for Suha as well: "We die, and only then die our dead ones!"

Levent Sunal RC 78

Passed away on January 27, 2009, in İstanbul.

A few words in Levent's obituary in one of the national newspapers summed up his interrupted life fairly well, he "... found peace after a life of hardship.."

His youth and school years, however, predicted a happier future. Levent was born in Adana in 1960, and came to RC for Lise after graduating from Tarsus American College. He was a successful and inquisitive student, and the most considerate friend one could hope to have. He was not overly cheerful, but his smile went ahead of him, and he was a joy and privilege to be around. Although he would go on to study medicine in university, he was also very much interested in literature, started writing poetry in the later years of his life. He had several books of poems published.

Levent graduated from Istanbul Medical School in 1984 and worked as a general practitioner for most of his adult life. He was diagnosed with a severe chronic condition while he was still in medical school and had to undergo various extensive courses of therapy. There were periods when he could not work, but, as one of his classmates from medical school and a colleague mentioned at his funeral, "he loved his patients to the point of wishing he could take them home with him". Surely, his patients adored him too.

Levent is survived by his mother and his two sisters, Emine and Fatoş.

OBITUARIES



David Çikvaşvili RC 79

It is always too early when death knocks on the door, no matter how late that is! David departed too soon, on February 11, 2009, in Los Angeles, after a twenty-month battle with metastatic melanoma. In the face of difficult reality, he always remained optimistic and positive about his treatment, until the end. He handled his illness with a sense of humor, courage, and grace.

David was an avid reader. He loved making friends. He loved music and dancing, both gifts which he has passed on to his children. Most of all, he was a grand dreamer! Always aiming for the best and highest, and at the same time always staying in the moment!

After graduating from Robert College, he went to study Economics at the University of Houston and later at Hunter College in New York City. While in New York, he worked as Technology/Business Consultant for Baker Robbins and Co. His last professional position was Senior Director of Software Release at Thomson Reuters.

David met his wife Susan on Fire Island on 1996. They got married in 1999 in San Francisco and in the same year moved from New York to California, where their two boys were born and raised. The family enjoyed playing sports at the sunny beach, or Scrabble at home. David loved playing and watching his boys play soccer. He was an awesome father and husband. He always kept thinking about his next step. Even as he was struggling with his illness, he did all he could to contribute to planning his family's future. His love for his wife and his children is his enduring legacy.

David loved Istanbul and had a strong desire to be close to the city. He said that he wanted to transfer his work to Europe in order to be nearer. According to his sister Judith, Istanbul was for him an out-of-reach lover who never got old and never lost her beauty, and he always felt her warmth. In fact, what he longed for most in America were his family, RC friends, his city, and his

Büyükada! The house of his childhood, the streets he strolled as a child, were precious to him. He wished to visit Istanbul one more time before he died and wanted to meet with his RC friends.

In RC, David was a brilliant student! When his father brought him to the entry exam, and they were climbing the hill to Marble Hall, David looked up and said, "Here's a school to go to, Pappy." His father remembers his voracious reading habits, his favorites being *The Adventures of Tintin* and *Milliyet Yayınları* weeklies. He had a brilliant memory: one of his teachers said he was the only student whom she couldn't persuade to take notes. He was the golden-haired "American" in his class! He had the perfect American accent, thanks to his American mother. He was very smart and outspoken, and brave enough to confront more senior students. He was the same inside and out. (that's why he kept losing in poker!). He was a good basketball player. He was warm, friendly, and funny, a sure-footed dancer, and he surely liked girls! Later in his life, David loved dining in great restaurants, cooking gourmet food, drinking good wine, wearing beautiful clothes, as well as maintaining his passion for music and soccer.

David's mother Miriam passed when he was still in high school. He mourned her death until his own passing and missed her very much. He is survived by his wife Susan Black and their children David Abraham Çikvaşvili (7) and Benjamin Edward Çikvaşvili (5) of Los Angeles, his father Berto Çikvaşvili of Washington, D.C., and his sister Judith Kumru of his beloved Istanbul.

May you rest in Peace, David!

Contributed by Oya Elmastaşoğlu

Faculty & Friends

Ilse Schulz

A nurse at the ACG infirmary from 1953 to 1967, Ilsa Schulz passed away at the age of 84 in Ulm, Germany on January 31, 2009. With her devoted nursing care, she touched the lives of many ACG faculty and students.

After leaving ACG in 1967 and going to Ulm, Miss Schulz became the nursing coordinator for the sick in the Zentraloberin. After she retired from that job, she

found herself an entirely new career. She became a historical writer, specializing in the lives and contributions of women who lived in Ulm in earlier centuries. Her first book was "The History of the Nursing for the Sick in Ulm" and the second was "Verwehte Spuren" a book about unremembered female nurses in the Middle Ages. For her work, Miss Schulz received many awards, notably the prize of the Baden-Württemberg State for Studies in Local Heritage.

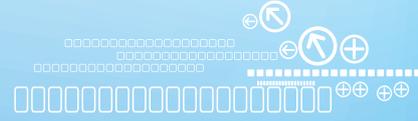
Contributed by Betty Kondayan, English teacher at ACG from 1955-1970 and Bill Steltzer, former orta school science teacher.



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