

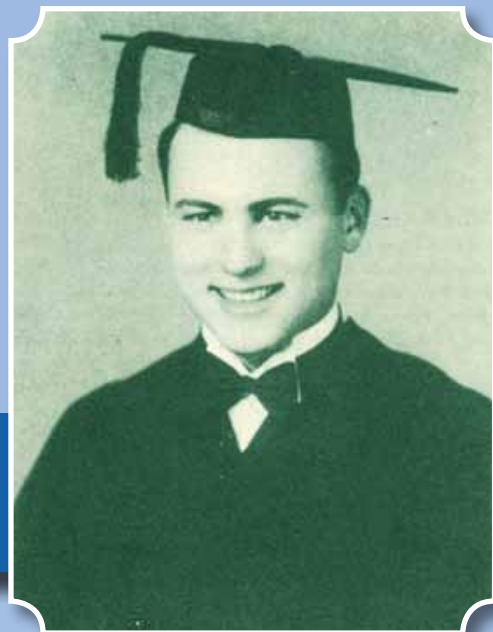
RC QUARTERLY

FALL / WINTER 2015

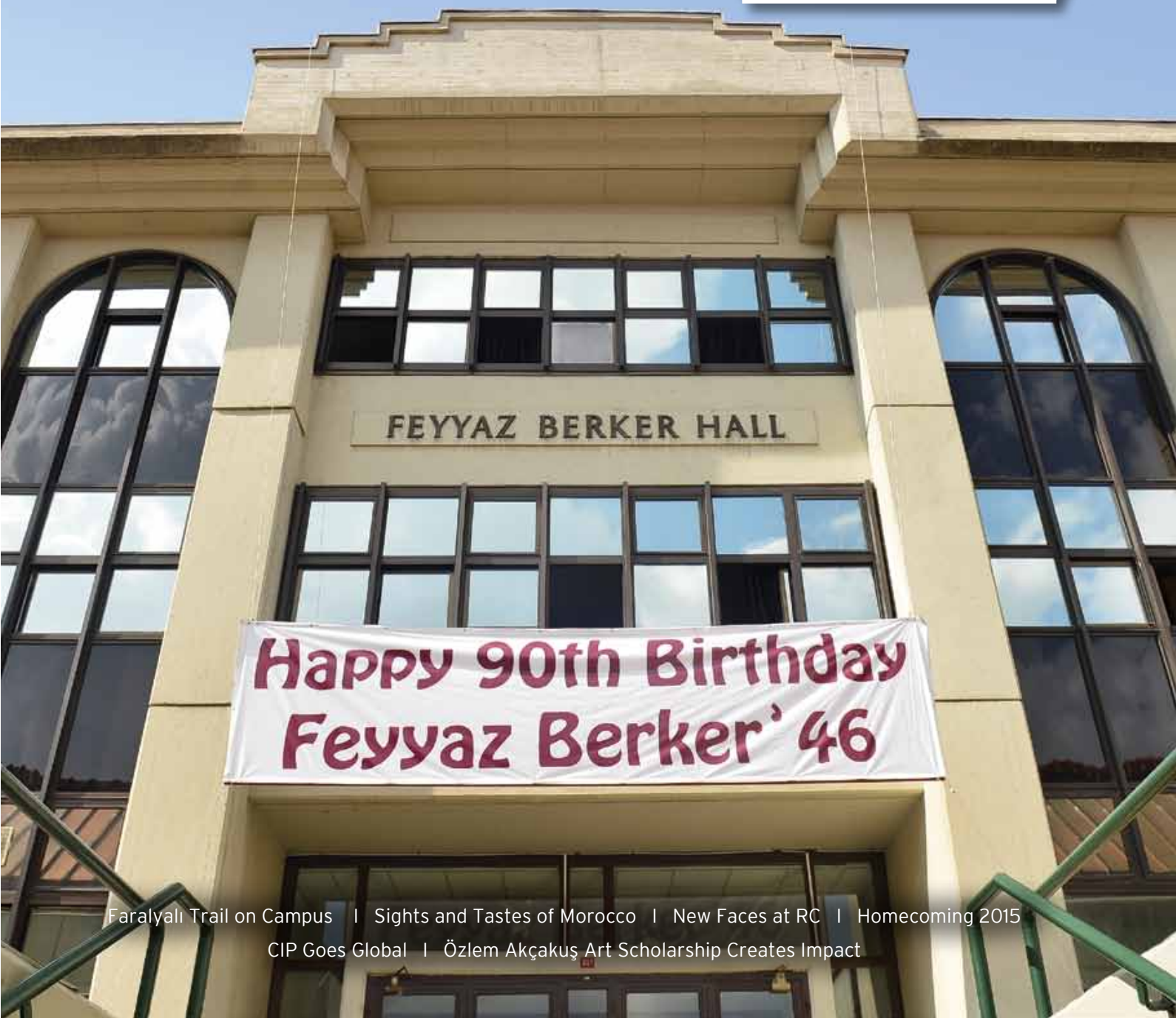
ISSUE 48

# RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE



## Tribute to a Legend



FEYYAZ BERKER HALL

**Happy 90th Birthday  
Feyyaz Berker' 46**

Faralyalı Trail on Campus | Sights and Tastes of Morocco | New Faces at RC | Homecoming 2015

CIP Goes Global | Özlem Akçakuş Art Scholarship Creates Impact

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**Basım Yeri ve Tarihi**  
İstanbul, Aralık 2015

**Yayın Türü**  
Süreli

**Yayın Periyodu**  
4 Aylık

# In this issue...

An iconic name on campus, Feyyaz Berker, who has helped the school reach many milestones throughout the years, has recently reached a major milestone of his own. This issue of the RCQ pays tribute to Feyyaz Berker RC ENG 46, trustee emeritus, community leader and philanthropist, on the occasion of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday (p. 32)

The following pages also include stories of several other names, whose impact makes the school a better place. The launching of the new Faralyalı Trail, thanks to a generous 150<sup>th</sup> year anniversary gift by Ahmet Faralyalı, has added a challenging cross-country trail through the wooded, and secluded areas of the campus (p. 18). The Özlem Akçakuş RC 97 Summer Art Scholarship, created by the Class of 97 in memory of their friend, has provided invaluable experiences for aspiring artists to explore art studies further (p. 44). Likewise, Burcu Betni Mirza RC 94 talks about how reviving the Banu Büyükkunal RC 85 Scholarship led her to devote her time to philanthropic organizations (p. 50).

We wish you a happy, healthy and peaceful 2016.

The RCQ Team

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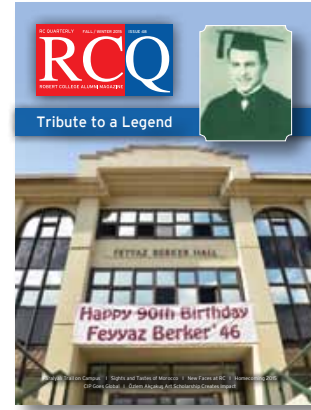
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Your feedback on the RCQ matters! Did you enjoy this issue? Write to us at: [alumni@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:alumni@robcol.k12.tr)





# RC 2015 Heading Out Into the World

The graduation ceremony for the 218 members of the Class of 2015 was held on June 23 at Konak Terrace.

Headmaster Anthony Jones invited Boğaziçi University Rector Gülay Barbarosoğlu RC 74 to deliver the commencement speech. Barbarosoğlu



Gülay Barbarosoğlu RC 74, Rector of Boğaziçi University, delivering her speech at the graduation ceremony



Faculty in their graduation gowns on the steps of Gould Hall

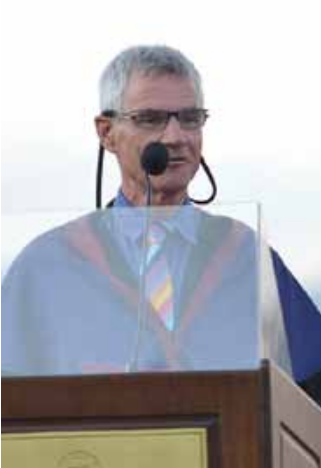
spoke about how rapidly social, political, economic and technological life will change in the next 20 years. She quoted from Douglas Adams' *The Salmon of Doubt: Hitchhiking the Galaxy One Last Time*, saying, "Anything that is in the world when you are born is normal and ordinary and is just a natural part of the way the world works. Anything invented between when you are 15 and 40 is new, exciting and revolutionary and you

can probably get a job in it. Anything invented after you are 40 is against the natural order of things." Also quoting Apple CEO Tim Cook, she said, "There are problems that need to be solved, injustices that need to be ended, people that are still being persecuted, diseases still in need of a cure. No matter what you do next, the world needs your energy, your passion, your impatience with progress. History rarely yields to



Caps in the air for the Class of 2015





Philip Gee



Güler Kamer



Barışcan Göç RC 15



Deniz Vural RC 15

one person, but think and never forget what happens when it does. That can be you. That should be you. That must be you."

Drawing from her experience in academia, Barbarosoğlu added, "I wish for all of you a university environment that respects differences and diversity, and doesn't deviate from human rights, ethic values, freedom and equality, and liberal practices." She closed her speech saying, "Dear Class of 2015, my last word to you: forget everything I told you... Trust your inner energy, trust your skills, be brave, don't hesitate to take risks and make decisions at the right time. Have a safe and bright journey!"

Retiring English teacher Philip Gee spoke about the importance of kindness. He

highlighted the inspiring amount of community service several members of the class had carried out. He also named teachers and fellow classmates who exemplify selflessness, duty and politeness, who they could look to as role models.

Student speaker Deniz Vural echoed Gee, speaking about how kind and supportive their class is, and how helpful and generous the teachers and the school were to them. Vural was followed by fellow classmate Barışcan Göç, who said that their time at Robert College taught them the meaning of love and appreciating the efforts of others. He said, "This school taught us to create value. Our next mission is pursuing it. So, having a passion, believing in something and having hopes... Resisting,

if necessary; continuing even if you stumble, and always renewing yourself. This is what we owe to our teachers."

Turkish Director Güler Kamer, who also retired at the end of the school year, recited a poem she wrote titled "Oyun Bitti (The Play is Over)". "For you a five-act, for me a twelve-act play has been staged and is over," she began, and continued with memorable moments from the students' days throughout. A tearful Kamer finished her final address to the school with these words: "This year we are leaving together. Our compass and light will be the RC spirit which will light and show the way. ...I'm not looking back, but I'm leaving my heart behind. Half of me will always be with Robert College."



The Class of RC 15 on the way to graduation, led by teachers Önder Kaya and Esin Pulathaneli

## Where is the Class of 2015 Now?



Turkish universities while 45 percent are attending public universities. Sixty-nine percent of those studying at private universities are on scholarship. Nine graduates scored among the top 1000 in the 2015 YGS exam, and 54 graduates scored among the top 1000 on the LYS (the language section is included in this number).

The preferred programs for RC 15 graduates are: Engineering (48), Business Administration (28), Medicine (26), Law (18), and other programs including Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Sociology, Foreign Languages, Architecture and Dentistry (26)

### Foreign University Acceptance Results

Out of the 97 RC Seniors who applied to go abroad for higher education, 90 received one or more acceptances. Seventy-eight made a decision to attend US, Canadian, UK or European universities. The students who chose not to study abroad were all successfully placed in Turkish universities.

From the students attending universities abroad, 22 have been awarded financial aid from the colleges they were accepted by. Nine students from this group were on scholarship while at Robert College.

Similar to previous years, 61 percent of the Class of 2015 is studying in Turkey and 36 percent are studying abroad. Three percent of this year's graduates did not get into their first choice, and have decided to retake the entrance exams this year.

Out of the 218 graduates of the Class of 2015, 146 students successfully placed into Turkish universities. Nineteen students were accepted to both foreign and Turkish universities.

### Turkish University Acceptance Results

Fifty-five percent of the graduates are continuing their education at private

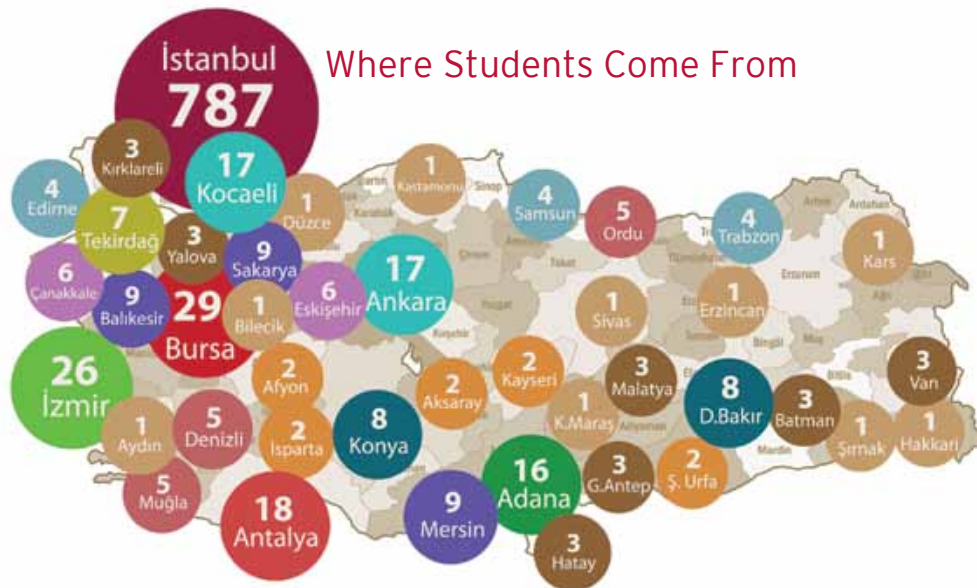
Robert College 2015 Foreign University Matriculation	
University Name	Total
Babson College	1
Berklee College of Music	1
Boston University	2
Bowdoin College	1
Brown University	2
Brunel University	1
Carl Benz School of Engineering	2
Carleton College	1
Carnegie Mellon University	1
Columbia University	1
Cornell University	2
Davidson College	1
Delft University of Technology	1
Drexel University	1
Duke University	2
Durham University	1
Emory University	2
Georgia Institute of Technology	1
Harvard University	2
Humboldt University of Berlin	1
Johns Hopkins University	1
King's College London	4
La Rochelle Business School	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1
McGill University	1
New York University	1
Northwestern University	1
Pennsylvania State University, University Park	1
Pratt Institute	1
Princeton University	1
Purdue University	1
Rice University	1
Sciences Po	1
Stanford University	3
Syracuse University	1
The University of Texas, Austin	1
Tufts University	1
Universita Bocconi	1
University of Bath	3
University of California, Berkeley	2
University of California, Los Angeles	2
University of Chicago	3
University of Edinburgh	1
University of Michigan	1
University of Oxford	3
University of Pennsylvania	1
University of Richmond	1
University of St. Andrews	1
University of Surrey	1
University of Virginia	2
University of Warwick	1
University of Wisconsin, Madison	1
Vanderbilt University	1
Washington University in St. Louis	1
Yale University	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78</b>

Robert College 2015 Turkish University Results				
Name of University	Without Scholarship		With Scholarship	
	Accepted	Overseas	Accepted	Overseas
				TOTAL
BOĞAZİÇİ UNIVERSITY	22	3		25
İSTANBUL UNIVERSITY	10	2		12
İSTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	8	3		11
MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	5	1		6
MARMARA UNIVERSITY	4	1		5
GALATASARAY UNIVERSITY	2			2
ULUDAĞ UNIVERSITY	1	1		2
YILDIZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY		1		1
KOCAELİ UNIVERSITY	1			1
GAZİ UNIVERSITY	1			1
<b>GOVERNMENT UNIVERSITIES</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>66</b>
KOÇ UNIVERSITY	10	1	28	41
YEDİTEPE UNIVERSITY	5		3	8
SABANCI UNIVERSITY	1	1	4	6
İHSAN DOĞRAMACI BİLKENT UNIVERSITY	4		2	6
İSTANBUL BİLGİ UNIVERSITY	3		1	5
ÖZYEGİN UNIVERSITY			4	4
OKAN UNIVERSITY			3	3
ACIBADEM UNIVERSITY			2	2
BEZM-İ ÂLEM VAKIF UNIVERSITY			1	1
İSTANBUL KEMERBURGAZ UNIVERSITY			1	1
İSTANBUL AYDIN UNIVERSITY			1	1
NEAR EAST UNIVERSITY			1	1
YENİ YÜZYIL UNIVERSITY			1	1
<b>PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS PLACED</b>	<b>91</b>		<b>55</b>	<b>146</b>



# 2015-16 Student Body at a Glance

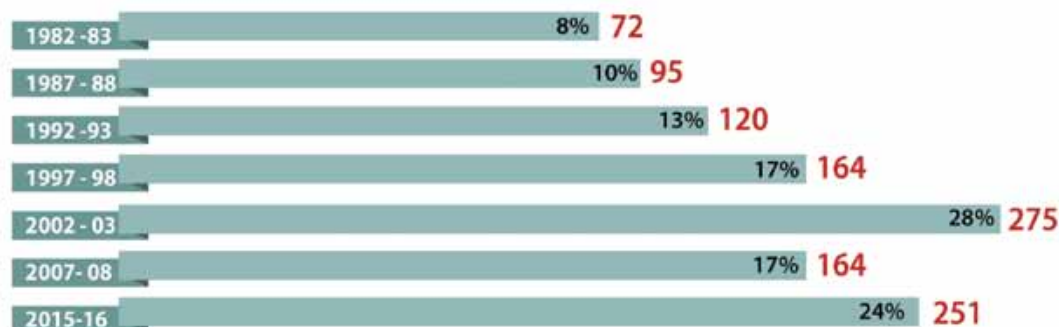
**D**uring the 2015-2016 academic year, 1040 students from 43 provinces throughout Turkey are attending Robert College. The residences are home to 185 students - 100 boys and 85 girls - from 42 provinces. Twenty-four percent of students (251) receive financial aid.



## Where Residential Students Come From



## Number of Scholarship Students through the Years



## Nilhan Çetinyamaç Welcomed as New Turkish Director

This September Nilhan Çetinyamaç came to RC as the new Turkish Director, taking over from Güler Kamer who retired in the summer of 2015 (see RCQ 47, p. 59). She also hails from Izmir, where she had been the principle of Özel İzmir SEV Primary School since its founding in 1997. She tells the RCQ about how she entered academia, her impressions of RC and how she thinks education will change in the next five years.

### What are your favorite memories of your own high school experience?

I am a graduate of American Collegiate Institute in Izmir, which was an all-girls school at the time. Some of my sweetest memories include our cooking lessons where I learned how to bake chocolate chip cookies, our hiking club when we hiked with our dear teacher Mrs. Scovel,



Nilhan Çetinyamaç

visiting my “sisters” – girls who we tutored at the orphanage on Saturdays, my drama performances and our success at folk dance competitions.

### How did you become a teacher?

I did not plan to be a teacher. I studied English language and literature at university and was not sure how I was going to use my knowledge in this field. I started to work in education and I think that it was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I realized that teaching and working with children makes me very happy.

### When did you first come to RC and what were your impressions?

The first time I came to RC was two years ago, for the Autumn Teachers Conference. I had no idea that one day I was going to work at RC. I was very impressed with the historical feeling of the buildings, the campus and the level of technology at the school.

### Has anything here surprised you or been different from what you expected?

I think every school has its own culture and dynamic. Many things about school life and school culture at RC are similar to my previous experiences but still they are all new to me because of the different context. Every day is a learning experience, which is good; there is no end to learning. One thing that I will remember is my first day, which was very positive. I was so excited about the opening ceremony and wondered if 1039 young people would listen to my speech. I was very impressed that the entire school was so respectful at the ceremony and it gave me such a positive feeling.

### What are your favorite books of all time?

I still remember *Lord of the Flies* and *Macbeth* from my high school years very clearly. These days, I love reading contemporary Turkish fiction and also

books about personal growth.

### Do you have a goal for yourself at Robert College?

I believe that once we stop setting goals for ourselves, we stop growing. First, I need to observe the strengths of the RC system, as well as the areas that are open to improvement. With information technology and 21<sup>st</sup> century needs, education has become so dynamic that we need to keep up. My goal is to be aware of contemporary education approaches and be a leader in implementing them to the best interest of the students, while keeping the traditional values of RC.

### Are there any graduates whom you admire?

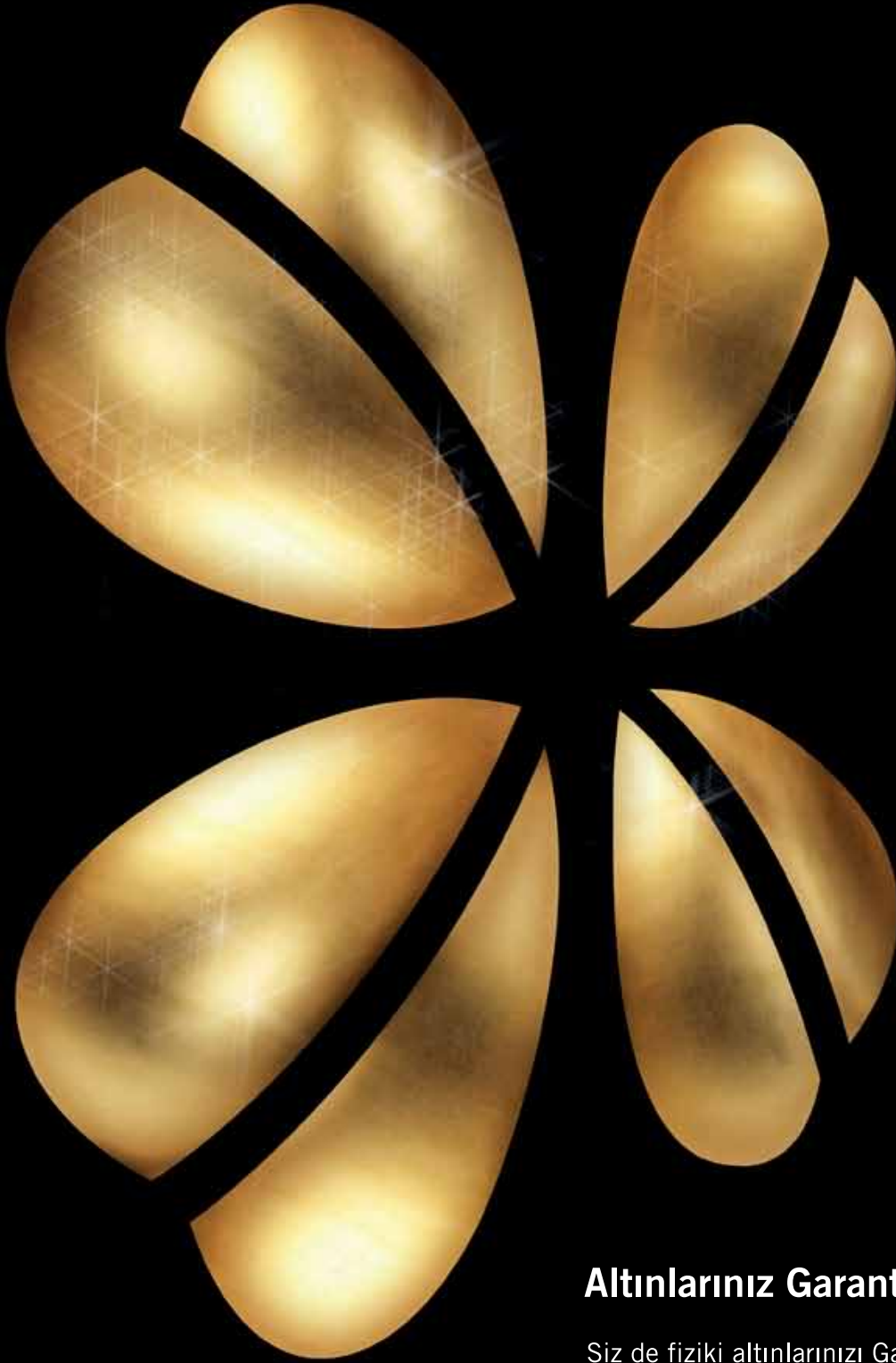
Actually, I admire the spectrum of RC graduates who are successful in many different areas. There is no typical graduate profile; there are many graduates to admire in business like Rahmi Koç RC 51 and Hüsni Özyeğin RA 63; or in performing arts, like Genco Erkal RC 57; or in politics like Bülent Ecevit RC 44; as well as in literature like Ayşe Kulin ACG 61 and Orhan Pamuk RA 70. This is something very special about RC.

### You entered with the class of RC 2020. What kind of future do you predict for this graduating class?

There could be some changes to the university entrance exam. I am sure that their choice of career may differ; they may be more interested in some careers related to technology or project-based areas. The communication skills and channels will be different. There may be more students who are interested in studying abroad. But still, the core values will remain the same because they are universal.

*Contributed by Academic Director  
Maria Orhon*





## Altınlarınız Garanti altında.

Siz de fiziki altınlarınızı Garanti'ye getirin, size özel altın eksperleri değerini belirlesin, gram altın olarak hesabınıza yatıralım. Birikimleriniz Garanti'yle güvende olsun.

## Dr. Charles H. Skipper Appointed Interim Head

With 30 years of teaching and administrative service in schools around the world, Dr. Charles H. Skipper has taught a variety of courses at both the high school and university level on subjects such as history, civics, education and philosophy. He has now arrived at Robert College as interim headmaster. The following is an excerpt from the interview prepared by Lise 11 students Özsu Rişvanoğlu and İdil Kara for Köprü student magazine.

### Welcome to Robert College! How does it feel to be a member of our school community?

I feel incredibly honored, privileged, and excited. I heard about Robert College for the first time 20 years ago. My admiration for the school grew over time and now, actually being part of the RC community has heightened my admiration for RC.

### How did you hear about Robert College?

I have been involved with international schools for many years, and teachers and other Headmasters regularly talk about their schools. Robert College ranks among the best schools by any measure including perspectives among international teachers and administrators. My eldest son, Benjamin, is the Director of the Undergraduate and Graduate Jefferson Scholars Program at the University of Virginia. The Jefferson Scholars Program is one that seeks to recruit outstanding young men and women from around the world. When I told Ben that I was joining Robert College, he was very happy and said, "RC is a great school Dad. You are going to love it."

### Did you have any preconceptions before coming to Turkey?

I have taught in various parts of the world, and I have toured many regions, including Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. I realize that there are many issues in Turkey at the moment. We are all aware of the situation, but we need to balance our desire for safety with the need to avoid the paralysis created by fear. If we don't go places because there is unrest, it makes it difficult to communicate with that country, and our interactions with people suffer. How can there be interaction between people if we don't communicate? Based on my experience, I can say that communication and solidarity across cultural boundaries is a passion

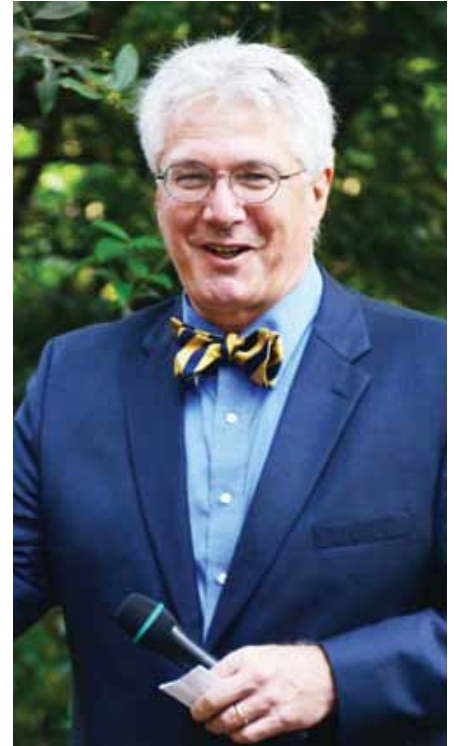
of mine; I have enjoyed doing this for years; this is something magnificent and important. My family will come to RC next summer for an extended stay, and my brothers and their families are making travel plans as well. Everybody wants to come here.

### Have you always been a teacher, or did you do other jobs?

I have had many jobs over the years. My first was mowing grass when I was 12 years. I spent many years working as a. I was a substitute teacher for most of my undergraduate life and my first year of graduate school. I am the first in my family to finish college. I had wonderful teachers and coaches, and they all mentored me. I began coaching my first team when I was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade (4 and 5 year-olds playing basketball), and I served as a camp counselor and the Scout Master for a troop of special needs young boys when I was a teenager. I have always loved to learn, and teaching follows learning in a natural way.

When I was in graduate school, I began working at my family's bakery while I was also a substitute teacher, a coach, and in graduate classes at night. I got up at 3 a.m. and went to the bakery, where I made cookies, croissants and doughnuts until 7 or 7:30 then off to school, coaching and my classes. One of our customers was the director of the school down the street. One day he told me that one of the teachers had mononucleosis, and asked if I could work as substitute teacher for six weeks. I said, "Of course! That's my job." At the end of the six-week period, they gave me a contract to sign for the next year.

Later, the teacher who had mono, Will Stacey, became my department head,



Dr. Charles H. Skipper

and subsequently was appointed a school director. Afterwards, I became the director of a school, and Stacey began his doctoral studies. He received his doctorate and shortly thereafter I finished my PhD degree. Towards the end of his professional life, Will came and worked as my High School principal. You will notice that I regularly wear bow ties. Several of these belonged to Dr. Will Stacey. When he fell ill, he said he didn't need them and gave them all to me. This is how I started my collection.

The short story is that making good doughnuts led to my first job in education. I have spent my life in teaching and schools because it is the best work, and life, in the world - at least for me.



Residential students learn the art of doughnut-making from Dr. Skipper

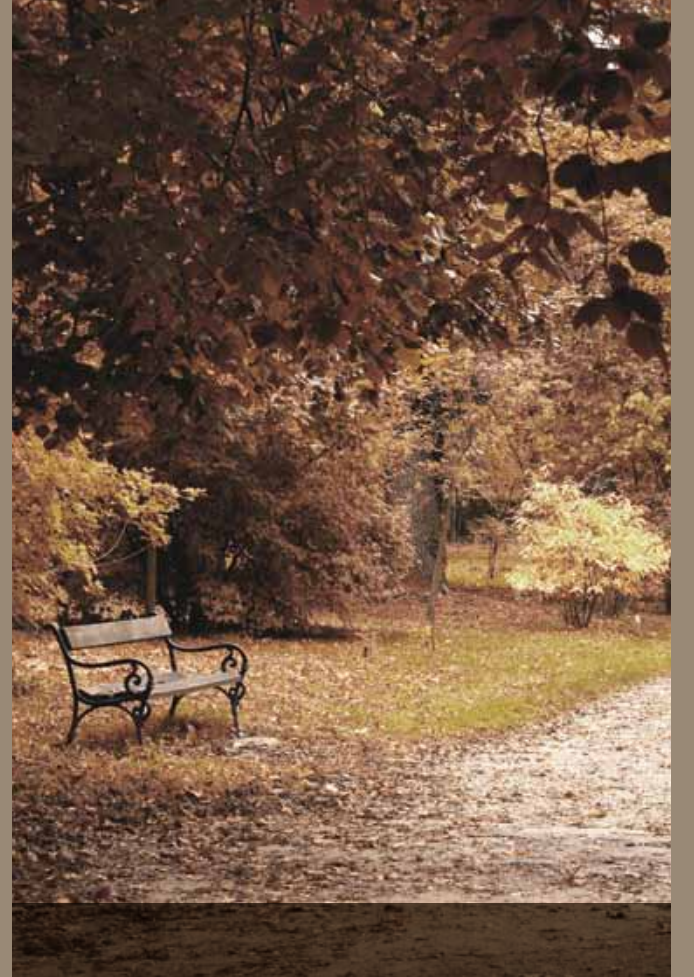


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**İNANLAR** 50  
1965

# 2015-16 Annual Giving Campaign Kick-off Dinner

October 19 saw RC Class Agents, High Honor Donors, Trustees and the RC Administration at a dinner to recognize outstanding participation and performance by generous donors and hard working class agents. RC gratefully recognizes Sunset Restaurant's contribution which made the evening possible.

İpek Cem Taha RC 85; Advancement Committee co-Chair, gave the welcome speech and presented awards for outstanding class agent performances. When it was time to announce the champions for level of participation and level of giving, Haluk Kilimci RC 50 was invited to do the honors. Kilimci himself is a generous donor who has made outstanding contributions to his alma mater over the years (see RCQ 42, p. 14), so it was only fitting that he give out the awards to the winning class agents of RC 85 and RC 91.



Annual Giving Committee Chair Nedim Ölçer RC 76, with Advancement Committee co-Chair İpek Cem Taha RC 85 and class agent Yasemin Palanduz Kahya RC 76



Class agents gearing for the 2015-16 campaign year



Award-winning class agents and high honor donors kicking off a new campaign year. It's a team effort!

## Award Winners in Level of Participation

### 1- RC 91 Class Agents:

Ahmet Alp  
Cüneyt Soydaş

### 2- RC 76 Class Agents:

Nedim Ölçer  
Yasemin Palanduz Kahya

### 3- RA 61 Class Agent:

Y. Aydın Bilgin

### 4- ACG 61 Class Agent:

Leyla Batu Pekcan

### 5- RC 79 Class Agents:

Araks Akdemir Büyüktaşçıyan  
Tuğrul Kihir

### 6- ACG 55 Class Agent:

Ayla Ün Gümüşlügil

### 7- RC 95 Class Agents:

Fulya Çanakçı Güçlü  
Memet Ünsal

### 8- RC 90 Class Agents:

Okan Atilla  
Aysan Sinanlıoğlu Sarmpezoudis  
Mete Tuncel

### 9- RC 88 Class Agents:

Deniz Yıldız Edin  
Gülruh Tayan Turhan

### 10- ACG 60 Class Agent:

Şeyma Bilimer Arsel



# Tüm İstanbul için daha fazla BiLGİ

## BiLGİ Kozyatağı Merkezi açıldı.

BiLGİ'nin şimdi Anadolu Yakası'nda da bir merkezi var. Sayısı her geçen gün artan yüksek lisans programları, BiLGİ Eğitim programları, öğrenciler için çalışma alanları ve daha fazlası burada BiLGİ'lileri bekliyor.

● BiLGİ Akkoza

santralistanbul

● BiLGİ Kuştepe

● BiLGİ Dolapdere

● BiLGİ Kozyatağı





Haluk Kilimci RC 50 (far left) and İpek Cem Taha RC 85 (center), presented the first prize in level of giving to RC 85 class agents Ali Yılmaz, Bilge Rızvani, Didem Muslu and Oya İnal



RC 79 class agents Araksi Büyüktaşçıyan and Tuğrul Kihitir with İpek Cem Taha RC 85 (center)



High honor donors, class agents and Alumni & Development Office staff members make a great team



From L to R: Trustee Mark Butler, Nedret Butler, Trustee Ahmet Demirel RA 62, Nevra Demirel and RC Director of Business and Finance Ümrün Üngün ACG 70



Yusuf De Eskinazis RA 61, Jeni De Eskinazis, class agent Y. Aydın Bilgin RA 61, Nesliğül Durak, Turgay Durak RA 70 and class agent Nuri Özgür RA 70 share a table

#### Award Winners in Level of Giving

##### 1- RC 85 Class Agents:

Oya İnal  
Didem Soylu Muslu  
Bilge Yavuz Rızvani  
Ali Yılmaz

##### 2- RC 91 Class Agents:

Ahmet Alp  
Cüneyt Soydaş

##### 3- RC 90 Class Agents:

Okan Atilla  
Aysan Sinanlıoğlu Sarmpezoudis  
Mete Tuncel

##### 4- RC 76 Class Agents:

Nedim Ölçer  
Yasemin Palanduz Kahya

##### 5- RC 88 Class Agents:

Deniz Yıldız Edin  
Gülruh Tayan Turhan

##### 6- RC 84 Class Agents:

İlgin Özden  
İclal Büyükdevrim Özçelik

##### 7- ACG 61 Class Agent:

Leyla Batu Pekcan

##### 8- RC 83 Class Agents:

Gökçen Albayrak  
Emine Umur Çobanoğlu  
Serap Ebubekir Kantül  
Serra Mansur Soysal

##### 9- RC 93 Class Agents:

Can Önen  
İrem Kızılviranlıoğlu Önen

##### 10- RA 64 Class Agent:

Ateş Güneş



Burası yapabileceklerimi  
keşfettiğim yer

# Burası BİLGİ

Benzersiz şehir kampüsleri, 100'ü aşkın  
öğrenci kulübü, her yıl 1000'i aşkın  
etkinlik BİLGİ'de





## RCSummer, Unplugged

With this summer's theme, "Move! Act! Make A Difference!" RCSummer was again a smashing success. More than 450 participants over two sessions challenged themselves through fun and exciting activities.

The focus of the theme was to show what one can do without the need for a smartphone or some kind of electronic device, and to rediscover the joy of

dancing, singing and getting out in nature while learning about the surrounding community. Counselors from the US, UK, Ireland, Canada, Holland and Turkey led activities that motivated and inspired participants to look at the world around them with open eyes. They were also encouraged to make a difference in their own lives and the lives of others through acts such as fair play or doing good deeds in their community.

### New this Summer: RCS Academy

A program that piloted this summer, RCS Academy, gave participants hands-on experience with unique subjects. Over 70 kids, aged 13 and 14, took part in various courses, including "Making a Digital Film" and "Crime Scene-RCS Academy", led by Robert College faculty. RCS Academy is the start of another RCSummer tradition that will keep growing.



From seed to sapling, campers learn about working at a nursery during Apprentistanbul



The Lego station was a popular spot



RCS Academy participants learned ways to analyze clues



Kids learn about teamwork while trying cross-country skiing near the Plateau



## Fazıl Say Plays at RC

At the end of September, the RC community was treated to two concerts by world-renowned pianist and composer Fazıl Say. Performing at the Suna Kıraç Theatre, Say played completely different programs each day which included masterful interpretations of compositions from Gershwin, Mussorgsky, Beethoven and Mozart, as well as his own compositions.

Following his performances Say proceeded to the foyer, where he autographed his CDs and records.

### Students who had the opportunity to usher for the concerts, shared their impressions:

"The concert was beyond my expectations. He is such a successful musician that during the concert he made everyone in the hall, even my friends who sleep during orchestra concerts, listen to him in complete silence and awe. He was feeling the notes and music; and making us feel them too. By the movements that he was making while playing the compositions, we clearly saw his passion and the bond between him and music itself. It was like he was leading an



Fazıl Say on the Suna Kıraç Theatre stage at RC

orchestra inside the piano; it seemed like he was talking with it. I even heard him singing along with the music; he was stomping his feet and shaking his head with the melody.

"I have been playing the piano since childhood and even for a person who is not interested in music, it's impossible to not be impressed by his talent and his passion for music." - *Beyza Günaydın L10*

"Listening to a world-renowned pianist live is inestimable. He was in touch with the notes. It was like there was an imaginary orchestra and he was guiding them just like an orchestra conductor, using hand movements and expressions. I think the pieces that he recomposed were really admirable." - *Elif Cengiz L10*

## New School Year Begins with Inspiring Messages

The Maze was abuzz with excitement about a new school year during the opening ceremony on September 7. Students and teachers gathered to listen to speakers share their visions for the coming year.

Not only was it the first ceremony for incoming preps, it was also the first time new Turkish Director Nilhan Çetinyamaç addressed the students. In her speech, she told them that the core values of the school - excellence, responsibility, leadership, respecting diversity and balance - should be their guide throughout life. She closed by saying, "the Turkish nation needs knowledgeable, skillful, sensitive and democratic leaders who possess a high degree of social awareness. Always remember, through the knowledge and skills that you will gain throughout your education, you will become young people capable of leadership; and that you are the youth whom Atatürk entrusted with the secular and democratic Turkey."

Drama director Jake Becker shared pearls of wisdom about the importance of making mistakes. "We know that the greatest work we do is messy. Mistakes come from the courage to risk; being wrong leads to creative problem solving; failure should result in double-checking and strengthening our work. As Mr. Welch, Dean of Activities and a man who has watched many students evolve at our school said, 'RC can give you the opportunity to fail in a safe place and the tools to deal with failure. You will have no choice but to get better.'"

In the final speech of the morning Student Council President Yasemin Kirişcioğlu RC 16, spoke about her impressions of RC on her first day of prep year and how the school has helped her grow. Reminiscing, she said, "I remember what graduates said: I will only realize Robert College's uniqueness when I step into life and when I throw my graduation cap. I will understand that this is an oasis, that my days at RC have perhaps been the best



Drama Director Jake Becker

time of my life. When I get to the end of the road, I will understand that my difficult days were actually part of the RC path with its ups and downs."

# New Trail Named for the Faralyalı Family

Most alumni and students think they know every inch of the school. Walkers and runners can now discover new and enchanting spaces around campus on the recently opened Faralyalı Trail.

Ahmet Faralyalı's thoughtful and generous 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gift to Robert College in honor of his family has resulted in a new cross-country trail throughout campus that is as stunning as it is challenging. His late father Ersin Faralyalı RC 58 and uncle Hikmet Faralyalı RA 64 were both avid sportsmen while at RC, whose achievements are still remembered by their classmates. The naming opportunity was a befitting one, given the distinguished sports legacy of the family.

The Faralyalı Trail was officially opened at Homecoming on November 8. At the event, Trustee and friend of the Faralyalı family,



Ersin Faralyalı RC 58



Hikmet Faralyalı RA 64



From L to R: Faruk Faralyalı, Ebru Ansel Faralyalı, Serdar Faralyalı, Sinan Faralyalı (on shoulders), Begümhan Doğan Faralyalı, Melisa Faralyalı, Ahmet Faralyalı, Ayşe Naz Faralyalı (on shoulders) and Headmaster Dr. Charles Skipper listen to RC Trustee Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 speak





For a magical trek, just follow the arrows through the trees and over the hills on campus

Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 made a sentimental speech about his childhood friend Ersin Faralyalı: "Ersin was a great man and a great sportsman. He was the captain of the varsity football team, and also on the basketball team. He was elected king on Field Day. He was a very good friend until his last days. He passed away very young. I wish he were here. It's great to recognize him as someone who had contributed a lot to Robert College, and to Robert College's sports heritage, by naming the trail after him."

The trail starts at the Plateau and

goes through a lovely field toward the Bosphorus before turning back to campus. It continues through the woods behind the Plateau, then up through the woods behind the former Yuva building, now named Hillside. Along the trail, trekkers can see a variety of wildlife, diverse trees and wildflowers, as well as an old wall which divided properties in the area before the land was purchased for the campus. The easy trail is about 1 km long, while the difficult level is 1.2 km and includes steep inclines and various obstacles. Total trail length is 2.2 km,



Cross-country team members Egecan Aktan RC 20 and Doruk Giray Aktepe RC 20 on the trail

usually completed twice, with the addition of the Plateau track at the beginning and at the end to make it a full 5K. The trail is like a fairyland that sometimes makes trekkers feel like they are not in Istanbul and at Robert College, and at other times gives unique views of the campus and its surroundings.

At the opening, athletic director Mauricio Araya said that over 300 students had already competed on the trail. The Cross Country Club is one group who uses the trail regularly. Students shared their impressions of the route with the RCQ:

"Nature doesn't let you stop while running. Although it is really hard to jog on those steep hills, nature and the greenery gives you its energy to keep you going. That feeling the one of a kind, and every time I run on the trail, I am always astonished by what nature can give us."  
- Doruk Aktepe RC 20

"Embrace The Hill That Defies Geometry, Gravity's Alter-Ego, sometimes simply called I-can't-see-the-top. Enjoy it. Rinse and repeat. It is like Stockholm Syndrome, you always want to run it again. Curious indeed."  
- Kutay Serova RC 16



Ahmet Faralyalı with his daughter and nephew officially opening the Faralyalı Trail



# Summer for RC Students Means CIP



A warm memento from Yenişakran



RC students were seen as big brothers and sisters by children in Kars

**Keşan Sports** - Students promoted healthy living and sports in Keşan.

**Robert College Alternative Education Projects (RKANEP)** follow a model created by students in 2007, which has further developed over the years. There were 19 RKANEPs this year. Through them, RC students have touched the lives of 1,330 public school children. Two RKANEPs took place in Istanbul, in Mecidiyeköy and Kuzguncuk. The rest were in Arhavi, Trabzon, Kastamonu, Merzifon, Mersin, Silifke, Amasra, Artvin, Sındırgı (Balıkesir), Tire, Kızılcahamam, Gördes, Kocaeli, Eskişehir and Baksı (Bayburt).

In all RKANEPs, the timidity of the little ones quickly changes into laughter as joyous sounds resonate within a couple of hours. As the games progress, they feel the RC students are like big brothers and sisters, from faraway Istanbul. Activities are based on art, music, drama and sports; subjects sorely lacking in their schools. The week culminates in a cheerful performance for the parents. The obvious pride of the parents and the joy of the children in what they have accomplished confirm once more the significance of the CIPs.

From Eastern Turkey to the Aegean, from the heart of Turkey to the heart of Istanbul, 460 RC students were busy throughout the summer in 27 Community Involvement Projects (CIPs). Here are some highlights:

## Working with Orphans in Yenişakran, Izmir

RC students cooperated with TOÇEV BizSiz Çocuklar project and spent a week with little ones from an orphanage at Afacan Gençlik Evi in Yenişakran. During the winter, RC students visited the orphans at their institution to get to know them, assess their needs and develop a curriculum for the summer camp. During the camp there were Destination Imagination activities, dance and music, t-shirt painting and lots of games, which helped everyone to improve empathy and self-confidence, while strengthening friendships.

## The Lisinia Project

Lake Burdur is drying up and if nothing is done it will suffer the same fate as the Aral Sea; becoming a carcinogenic wasteland. This ecological project which aims to save the lake was established by Öztürk Sarıca, a local vet who started drip irrigation and sowing plants that need little water. Throughout the week, RC students learned about permaculture and natural farming. They worked in the fields and translated for the international volunteers. They also experienced a natural lifestyle by cooking for the whole camp and staying in wooden huts. For more information about the Lisinia project visit [www.lisinia.com](http://www.lisinia.com)



Children enjoyed fun art activities in Amasra

**Painting a School in Derentiköy, Çanakkale** - Students painted an entire public village primary school.

**Adana Migrant Workers' Children** - This is the seventh year that RC students have given a ray of hope and happiness to the children in the fields of Adana. (see RCQ 39, pg 16-17)

**Supporting Math Teachers** - RC students demonstrated how they were taught math using IT to math teachers in Denizli.



RC students immersed themselves in nature at Lake Burdur



58

Bu topraklarda yaşamak vefa ister.  
Geçmişin bize verdiği sorumluluklarsa  
aklımızdan hiç çıkmadı.

58 yıldır Çanakkale'nin ruhunu  
yaşatmak için çalışıyoruz. Ülkemiz ve milletimiz  
için hep daha iyisini hedefliyoruz.

Biz

Bu ülke için canlarını veren evlatların evlatlarıyız.

— BİZ —  
**ÇANAKKALE'NİN  
EVLATLARI'YIZ**

58 YILDIR BU TOPRAKLARIN KALESİYİZ!

**"Kale Grubu**

"Çanakkale Seramik "Kalebodur "Kalekim "Kale edillcuoghi **EDILGRES**



"H. İbrahim Bodur Holding "Kale Holding "Kale Seramik "Kalekim "Kale Havacılık

"Kale Maden "Kale Nakliyat "Kale Frit "Kale Kalıp "Kale Pratt & Whitney "Kale Italia "Kale Arge

"KSV



# Math Project for Visually Impaired Goes Global

“Seen with Other Eyes” (SWOE) is a Community Involvement Project (CIP) initiated by math teacher Özgür Akas in 2009. It is now RC’s first global community service program.

It began as a yearly homework project on geometry that Akas developed for her 9<sup>th</sup> graders. After being inspired by a friend who taught visually impaired children, she decided to start a program in which her students would create lesson notes and audio lessons for visually impaired children, and re-design the curriculum so it would be more suitable for them. She knew that it would be difficult to achieve, so she first had her students visit Veysel Vardar Primary School for visually impaired children, to get a sense of how visually impaired students learn mathematical concepts.

In 2010, they started working with a foundation for visually impaired children called Kabartma Düşler (Embossed Dreams). RC students are not only helping these students with their homework, they also teach practical skills such as folding clothes, pouring water into a glass, walking on the street safely and how to make grilled sandwiches.

With the insight and experience the RC students gained, they created a curriculum and helped the visually impaired students understand abstract concepts in both math and geometry such as sets and Venn diagrams. Their innovative and creative thinking has led to an extensive collection of lesson notes and recordings. The recordings



RC students help teach visually impaired children how to safely navigate the streets



Students use cylindrical blocks to teach weight



Musical instruments are used to teach children to sense rhythm and harmony, and to help develop listening skills

give friendly, informative directions and explanations such as, “Get a tray and put some toys on it. These toys are the elements of the set. Touch the edges of the tray, which is a closed curve, called a Venn diagram.”

They have also been able to redefine some of the geometrical terminologies such as a line: “Have somebody hold a string at both ends. Feel it and imagine it going on forever in both directions.” The RC students go over the lesson notes with the visually impaired child at the center to make final edits. All of the lesson notes that have been prepared over the past five years are printed in braille.

In 2011, the RC students won second place in the Istanbul University Economics Faculty High School Projects Competition among 99 projects from all around Turkey (see RCQ 40, p. 14).

“What makes SWOE unique is the element of design, both in terms of curriculum and tools used to teach. This requires expertise on the topic and a creative approach, both

of which RC students have been able to merge in this project,” says Akas.

## SWOE goes global

Last year, students started to share their materials outside of Turkey. Through Twitter, they began following some important foundations and people who are working with visually impaired children, and also promoted their website where they upload audio files of all their lessons. They currently have over 700 visitors from more than 60 countries visiting the site. In July, Akas presented SWOE to 1000 educators from around the world at the Building Learning Communities Conference.

Students are in touch with well-known schools for the visually impaired such as Perkins School for the Blind in Boston and Washington State School for the Blind (WSSB). This year, RC students are giving online lessons to WSSB students via Skype and Google Hangouts.

To find out more, visit the project website [www.seenwithothereyes.org](http://www.seenwithothereyes.org) and follow them on Twitter @seenwothereyes



From L to R: Yiğit Poyraz RC 14, Iğın Nas RC 15, math teacher Özgür Akas and Berke Büyükkuçak RC 14 pose with the award from Istanbul University in 2011



# LISYA

— B E A U T Y —

## TEKNOLOJİ GÜZELLİĞİN EMRİNDE.

SELÜLİT VE SIKILAŞMADA **VELASHAPE III**  
ELASTİKİYET KAYBINDA **ALTIN İĞNE**  
YÜZ GENÇLEŞTİRMEDE **DERMAPEN III**  
HOLLYWOOD BAKIMI  
BİTKİSEL PEELİNG **GREEN PEEL**  
LEKE-AKNE BAKIMI  
OKSİTERAPİ  
BOYUN VE DEKOLTE BAKIMI  
GÖZ BAKIMI  
VİTAMİN UYGULAMASI



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# The Robert College Alumni Association (RKMD)

## Sunday Fundays

During the summer, the Youth Commission of RKMD planned Sunday Funday parties by the pool.



## Bar Nights

Traditional "Bar Nights" are back again at Bizim Tepe with the good ol' music of our "resident DJs" Mert Tarlan RC 89 and Burak Süsoy RC 91. Entertaining cocktail workshops are a fun part of the program.



## Akbank Caz "Jazzy Brunch" at Bizim Tepe

Alumni and their guests were treated to a special brunch at Bizim Tepe on October 25, as part of the Akbank Jazz Festival. The crowd was entertained by the group JazzMatiz while enjoying a delicious spread at Tepe Majeur.





## Summer Camp

This year's Summer Camp was a blast for kids. They played Go, tennis, basketball and brain games, camped out on the Plateau, toured around Sultanahmet and swam at Bizim Tepe...everything kids would want to do at summer camp!



## Football Nights

Alumni and friends get together at Bizim Tepe to watch Champions League and European League matches on the big HD screen and cheer on their favorite teams.



## Courses at Bizim Tepe



### Yoga

The morning classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays are going strong with our yoga instructor, Seher Mısırlı. Come join one of our yoga classes and feel the difference!

### Go for Kids

Kids love this 4000 year-old board game that started in China and has captivated children all around the world. It is a mind workout game that increases brain power. The founder of Istanbul Go School, Mehmet Emin Barsbey, is our instructor on Sunday mornings at Bizim Tepe.

### Improving Your Photography

This class is designed for any photographer at any level - whether you are simply trying to figure out what all those buttons and dials on your machine can do or are looking to take your current skills up a notch. You can also bring just your cell phone. Our instructor is Robert College Photography teacher Alex Downs.

### Script Writing

This course is for writers of all levels and abilities, from seasoned professionals to aspiring amateurs. We cover both basic rules such as screenplay formatting, as well as more advanced writing techniques. Writers can learn methods to enhance their writing with this course, taught by Haluk Özenç RC 88.

## Overseas Education Seminar

International education expert Meral Bolak RC 81 discussed the application process for overseas undergraduate education, and shared her expertise.

## Mentors and Mentees Hit the Road

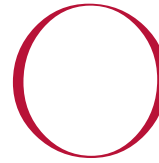
For the past four years, mentors and mentees who are connected through the RCAA mentorship program have also come together for long bike rides. It started when Tolga Zeybek RC 10 began studying at Tufts University and joined the Boston RCAA community. He teamed up with his mentors Erkut Eronat RC 86 and Alpdoğan Kantarcı RC 86 to become a part of the regular RC cycling group in Boston. The team has a pretty loose structure where RC graduates as well as their friends explore back roads and enjoy long bike rides, great conversations, ice cream at local farms, stop-overs in scenic New England towns, locally grown apples, peaches, and blackberries on weekends. In September, they did a century ride (100 miles) to New Hampshire.

Eronat, who was a passionate cyclist since his RC years, became the natural leader of this group and was joined by his classmate Kantarcı. Other RC graduates who occasionally ride with the group are Mehmet Genç RC 86, İzi Bruker RC 74, Karen Habip RC 79, Atilla Habip RC 80, and Fuat Koro RC 93. Needless to say, they are all also mentors to young RC alumni. So, if you happen to be in Boston, chances are high that you will see a few familiar faces on the bike paths or along the Charles River. Just grab a bike and join; you will not be disappointed.



Erkut Eronat RC 86, Tolga Zeybek RC 10 and Alpdoğan Kantarcı RC 86 enjoyed fall foliage during a century ride (100 miles) from Boston to New Hampshire

## NY Bar Night



In October 9, alumni in the New York area bid farewell to summer at RCAA's "End of Summer" Bar Night in New York City. Around 40 alumni gathered at Pera Mediterranean Brasserie, run by Burak Karaçam RC 92, to enjoy a night with old friends, delicious Turkish appetizers and great wine. RCAA usually hosts 5-6 Bar Nights a year in New York, where there is a strong alumni presence.

## Washington DC Reception

Alumni enjoyed a reception on June 4 at the Turkish Coalition of America, a non-profit organization raising awareness on US-Turkish relations, located in downtown Washington just a couple of blocks from the White House.

As always, the evening was a great opportunity for our guests to reconnect with their fellow alumni living and working in the greater Washington, DC area.

The Washington, DC chapter of RCAA will be organizing further events in the future for alumni in the area. If you have suggestions for events or would like to help out, please contact Sinem Reed at sreed@iie.org.



From L to R: Sinem Reed RC 98, Can Akçevin RC 09, Ömer Şerifoğlu RC 11, Leyla Uran ACG 64, Ahu Kürk RC 99, Selçuk Özgediz RA 62, Onur Kuzeyman RC 98 and Melek Özgediz



## Behind-the-Scenes Tour at the American Museum of Natural History



From L to R: Dr. David Kirizian, Miya Seren (daughter of Sumru Arıcanlı RC 86), Zeynep Çilingiroğlu RC 84, Kaya Sanan RC 77, Demirtaş Bayar RC ENG 52 and Denise Bayar

Most visitors to the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York City are unaware that research goes on behind the scenes. On May 30, alumni and their families visited the AMNH's Herpetology Department where they saw a sampling of the 366,000 specimens of amphibians and reptiles in the research collection. The collection includes specimens from nearly every country on Earth and is used by scientists around the world to understand biodiversity. During the tour with Dr. David Kizirian, Curatorial Associate, RC grads saw specimens of some of the world's largest reptiles such as Galapagos giant tortoises, a Komodo dragon in a 300-gallon tank of alcohol, and Samantha, the 20+ foot reticulated python that was previously on exhibit at the Bronx Zoo. There was also an opportunity to handle live snakes, though not everyone did! Dr. Kizirian's tales from the field in Vietnam, Mexico, Ecuador and Peru were a topic of high interest.



Alumni, Trustees and their guests listen to Interim Headmaster Dr. Charles Skipper

## Yale Club Reception

The RC Board of Trustees held their annual Trustee-Alumni cocktail reception on Monday, November 23 at the Yale Club of NY. A fun gathering of about 100 attendees, it was a time to reconnect as well as an opportunity for alumni to meet Interim Headmaster Dr. Charles Skipper, and hear his initial impressions about Robert College.

## Changing of the Guard in the NY Office

Lynne Prevot has retired, after serving in the office of the Board of Trustees in NY for 26 years. Lynne was a friend to all RC alumni in the US, keeping them informed and keeping track of their many moves, while also supporting the activities of the Board of Trustees. We wish her the best in her retirement.

Kristen Kupjian has replaced Lynne as the Director for the Board of Trustees office. Growing up in the Boston area, Kristen moved to NYC after receiving her communications degree at Ithaca College. While living in NYC, Bermuda and Boston, Kristen worked at top creative and financial firms. She is thrilled that her experience has led to her to Robert College.



Lynne Prevot



Kristen Kupjian

## Philadelphia Hosts First Event

RCAA Philadelphia had its first get-together at City Tavern on Sunday, November 1. If you have suggestions for events with alumni in Philadelphia and surrounding areas, please contact Nesrin Asya Young ACG 69 at [nesyoung@yahoo.com](mailto:nesyoung@yahoo.com)

# Şirin Tekinay RC 85

## Appointed Rector of Işık University

After starting her career as a electronical and electronics engineer in the US, Şirin Tekinay moved into academia and has been on the administration team of some of the leading private universities in Turkey. Tekinay is also on the boards of the European Society for Engineering Education and the Global Engineering Deans Council. In June she was appointed rector of Işık University. Tekinay tells the RCQ about how her experience at RC is helping her to prepare her students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Işık University's slogan is "Önce iyi insan" ("raising good people, first and foremost"). How will you leverage your experience, including your education at RC, to help develop good people of the 21<sup>st</sup> century?**

For 130 years, the Fevziye Education Foundation (FMV) has upheld the aim of "raising good people". FMV Işık University has the academic responsibility of raising good scientists, engineers, artists, managers, architects, designers and entrepreneurs. The university has to keep re-defining what "good" means in the context of graduating students onto the ever-changing global stage, and into the future: the attributes have to include ethical, inquisitive, creative, well-rounded individuals equipped with scientific method, a keen sense of justice and a general care for all life on Earth. These attributes are the same as those that became part of our intuition and perception of the world back at RC.

**What is your vision for Işık University?**

STEAM- IŞIK summarizes our education and research agenda for the next five years. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) is the new frontier for university education where innovation and creativity are considered to be the driving force in design, entrepreneurship and general productivity of the individual in art, science and technology alike.

Education and research are merged in this vision where students are colleagues in training. The university's output, other than "good people," is tangible, useful knowledge transfer. "Local contributions



Şirin Tekinay RC 85

at global quality standards," is the principle that has made up the new term "glocalization," and Işık University aims to be the university in Istanbul that represents this.

**How did you decide to change careers from the business world to academia?**

Coming from a family of academics, it was always in the cards for me to teach, research, publish, file for patents and raise students. I spent three years in the telecom industry as an engineer and researcher after I completed my doctoral studies. After I joined academia, I continued to work closely with the sector through university-industry relationships. In addition to obtaining university sponsorship for my research and my students, I joined forces with small and medium sized enterprises and big international firms to obtain state funds or share infrastructure and other resources.

**After 20 years in the US, why did you decide to return to Turkey?**

The landscape of higher education in Turkey has been developing fast. I don't consider my relocation a "return," as it's a new landscape. I came to Istanbul in

2008 as a new university's founding vice president for research and technology, a position created for the first time in Turkey. It was an opportunity to create a research agenda towards the global urbanization problem in a unique megacity that serves as an urban laboratory for all disciplines. Every day I am thrilled to find the marginal impact of my experience and expertise is higher here than ever before.

**How did your experience at RC influence where you are today?**

At RC, questioning was more than encouraged, self-realization was a virtue, respect for diversity and difference was a rule. It was not familiarity with American culture, rather the very responsibility of existence and of world citizenship that gave me strength and motivation in my moves through different geographies.

Since I moved to Istanbul, I have been enjoying the warm welcome of old classmates, the wider RC network of friends and colleagues. I cannot stress how vital our RC family is in my life. I am grateful to be a part of it.





*Yeni yıldan bolluk diledik,  
güzelliği evinize getirdik.*



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## Nigar Alemdar ACG 66 at C20 Summit Focusing on Impacts of Mega Projects

Nigar Alemdar was a part of the debate on “Mega Projects in Istanbul and Alternatives to Mega Projects” at the C20 Summit in Istanbul on September 15 and 16.

Speaking under the theme of “Sustainability”, one of the four key issues taken up at the C20 Summit, Alemdar represented the Platform for 11 Bosphorus Villages (BODEP) and Bebek Semt Girişimi (Bebek Neighborhood Initiative). In her presentation, she focused on how the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality’s “Mega Marina Project” for 5000 boats will increase navigation risks and endanger sustainability of safe passage through the Bosphorus, regarded as the most dangerous natural sea passage in the world. Under the Montreux Convention, ensuring the sustainability of safe passage through the Turkish straits is Turkey’s responsibility.

Because of their ecological, social, and economic impact on the city, Istanbul’s four interconnected mega projects - the third bridge, the third airport, Canal Istanbul, and the 11 marinas on the Bosphorus - are causing great concern among scientists and

Istanbul citizens. Alemdar called attention to the environmental destruction that the Mega Marina Project brings. For each marina, hundreds of fifteen ton concrete blocks are dropped to the bottom of the Bosphorus to hold floating pontoons in place. The sea bed will not only be covered by concrete, but there will also be serious pollution created by these 11 marinas, as İstinye and Tarabya marinas have proven. The nine more to be built will multiply this pollution nine-fold.

Nergis Yazgan ACG 67 was also a delegate at the C20 Summit, representing WWF. As a member of the Bebek initiative, she gave full support to Nigar Alemdar.

The C20 Summit called G20 leaders to shift investments from unsustainable mega projects to decentralized, local infrastructure projects, and to grant representation to NGOs in policy-making and legislative processes at the national, local and regional level.

The C20’s final diplomatic communiqué to be submitted to heads of state said, “Investment in megaprojects is



Nigar Alemdar ACG 66 and Nergis Yazgan ACG 67 at the C20 Summit

counterproductive and unsustainable when economic gains are privatized, and social and environmental costs and damages are socialized.”

C20 is the civil society pillar of the G20. The Summit was attended by over 500 civil society delegates from 52 countries.

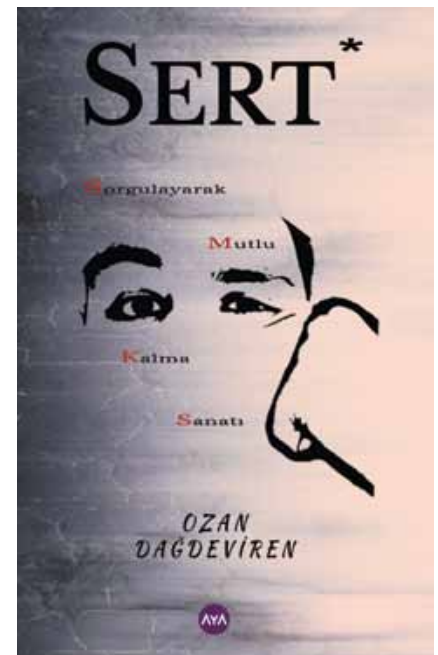
## Ozan Dağdeviren RC 06 on Happiness

Ozan Dağdeviren RC 06 recently published *Sert*, a book that combines sociology, psychology and philosophy to answer questions about happiness. “Questions on how to think, be happy, and live a fulfilling life deserve to be answered in the most clear, analytical and scientific way possible. This has been lacking so far. *Sert* is an attempt to accomplish that,” says Dağdeviren when asked how the book serves society. “It is subtitled ‘Happiness through Critical Thinking’. It defies the notion of ‘bliss through ignorance’ and suggests that happiness relies on critically deconstructing and decimating misplaced beliefs about the world, and replacing them with stronger, dialectically tested and thought-out beliefs. In a world in which we are bombarded with messages that suggest more consumption for more happiness, the only way to break free is a stronger value and belief system achieved through critical thinking. This book aims to be a guide in the suggested

personal transformation process, which can ultimately only be accomplished by the readers themselves.”

The reason behind his search is that Dağdeviren is inspired by human behavior. He especially likes the terms “human analyst” or “behavior analyst” because they are vague and do not swear loyalty to one discipline. He believes the way we live as a species has irreversibly changed and we need more inter- and cross-disciplinary studies to understand what is going on.

Dağdeviren is currently working at Turkcell’s Human Resources department. “I chose my vocation carefully and enjoy it thoroughly. It complements what I like to learn about: human behavior,” he says. When asked about his future plans he states, “I am finalizing a recruitment model called ‘The Peak Model of Recruitment’. It is a candidate psychology centric model for conducting job interviews and is based on seven principles. Once it is finished, I plan



to hold workshops about utilizing the model.” He can be reached at ozan.dagdeviren@gmail.com



## Memoirs from an Era Long Gone

■ Froso Sendukas ACG 56 shares her memories of growing up Greek in Turkey

Froso Sendukas takes readers on a nostalgic journey to the Istanbul of her childhood in her book, *Bridging the Aegean: Growing Up Greek in Turkey*. Her stories are full of vivid images that bring to life the Princes' Islands, Yeşilköy, Fener and Beyoğlu of the 1940s and 50s.

The idea to pen her memoirs came when she was working on a creative project to share with friends. In her foreword she writes, "Thus a project was born, that with time took on more significance and became a long but fruitful journey of mind and heart." She had been jotting down her stories for the past twenty years, and told the RCQ, "A couple of years ago, I decided to get serious about the book. Through the years, I have not seen anything in the English language press about the personal experience of growing up in the Greek community of Istanbul in the '40s and '50s. At that time, the community was quite large (about 100,000) and thriving." Woven throughout her stories are hints of Sendukas' love of learning. She

elaborated, "I loved the eight years I spent at the American College for Girls. The years at ACG made it possible for me to attend graduate school and become a psychiatric social worker and licensed psychotherapist in a profession I dearly love. Most of my memories from my years at ACG were happy ones. I made some good friends, and met my future husband, Viron E. Sendukas RC ENG 55 there."

"I have returned to Istanbul many times over the years. Going back is an emotional experience for me. I am always homesick for my beautiful hometown and the islands, especially Burgaz, where I spent so many wonderful summers."

Sendukas's memoirs are written with humor and dramatic impact, and cover a wide variety of topics - from folk rituals to religion, from meeting her first love to meeting important leaders. They highlight the joys and difficulties of growing up in the context of a traditional yet changing society.



Froso Sendukas ACG 56

## Tales from a Beautiful Garden

Dünya Önen RC L3 03 has penned her first book, *Güzel Bahçe Masalları* (*Tales from a Beautiful Garden*), about two children who use their imagination to travel to faraway lands.

After graduating from Robert College in 2003, Dünya followed her curiosity for nature and studied biology and environmental science at Dartmouth. Her love of research and adventure took her to places like Australia, Costa Rica, Alaska and Hawaii. While living in Hawaii, Dünya started to write stories to share with her nephew who was far away in Istanbul. During her journeys around the world she was inspired to write a children's story about two children who experience boredom with their lives inside a high-rise apartment building in the city.

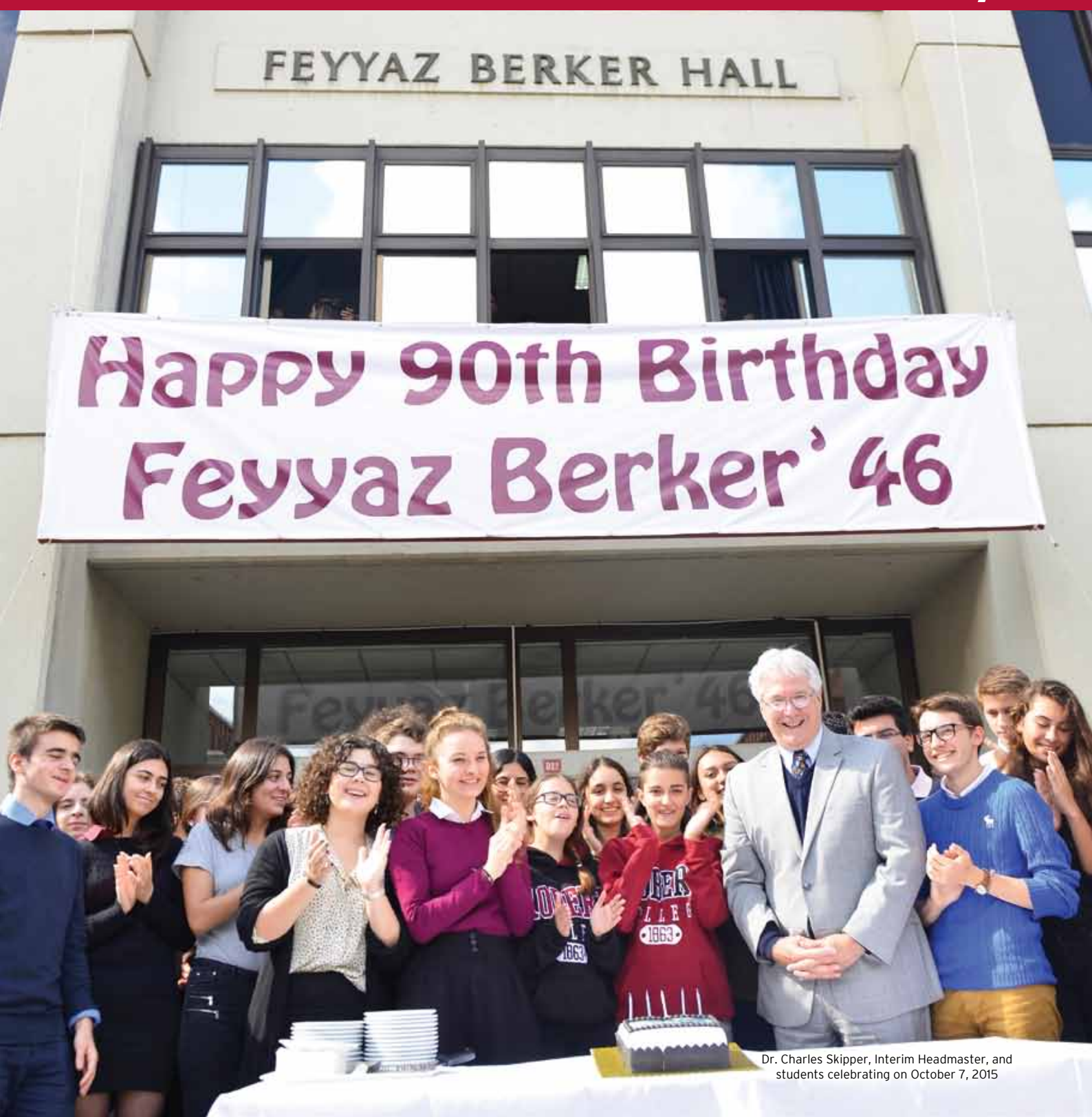


Dünya Önen RC L3 03

In *Güzel Bahçe Masalları* the two children venture out of their confines on a journey to a boundless place they create through collaborative storytelling. In this place they name Beautiful Garden, they encounter the beauties, as well as the challenges of life and friendship together. They are accompanied and guided by many different creatures of the land and seas throughout their adventure. *Güzel Bahçe Masalları* is an invitation for all to jump in a hot air balloon filled with their own imagination to discover and share the joys of looking at life through different perspectives.

After returning to Turkey, Dünya's path has crossed with children and teenagers through teaching. Her interactions with children continue to fuel her imagination to write and share stories to quench their curiosity as well as her own.

# Celebrating a Milestone Birthday



Dr. Charles Skipper, Interim Headmaster, and students celebrating on October 7, 2015





On October 7, 2015, members of the RC community gathered to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Trustee Emeritus Feyyaz Berker RC ENG 46, who is one of the most dedicated and generous supporters of the school, and who continues to lead by example. Students representing Berker Fellows (more on this initiative on the following pages) and the

Student Council came together in front of Feyyaz Berker Hall which was wrapped in a giant "Happy 90<sup>th</sup>" banner. "Happy Birthday" was sung, with some of the classes in Feyyaz Berker Hall spontaneously joining in. Photos of the activities on campus, including the cake cutting ceremony, and messages from students and alumni were sent to Berker as a birthday surprise later that day.



Berker at the RC 125<sup>th</sup> Year Exhibition in 1989 which was held in Feyyaz Berker Hall

## from the Berker Fellows

In 2008, Robert College initiated the Berker Fellowship, as a way to honor and support students whose character lives up to the highest ideals of Robert College. Students chosen as Berker Fellows are honored in the school community as models of the personal qualities for which Berker, himself, is known and which are valued as essential to a civilized society. Here are some of the birthday messages sent to Feyyaz Berker on October 7, 2015 by Berker Fellows.

The Berker Fellowship was like an application ground for all the values that RC taught us. As one of the first Berker Fellows, I remember how hard it was for us to settle on an idea (when we were asked to come up with a project) since there were so many great ones and we had an appetite to do so much! Thank you Feyyaz Bey, for honoring that feeling of enthusiasm and giving us the grounds for turning it into something useful and beautiful.

*Lale Tekişalp RC 09*

I have been a Berker fellow for over seven years now. I had heard of you as a resilient businessman. Yet, it was during our lunches together that I came to know you as a resolute trustee of RC and Turkey. Standing in absolute humility, I feel honored today to congratulate you on the 90<sup>th</sup> year of your inspiring life.

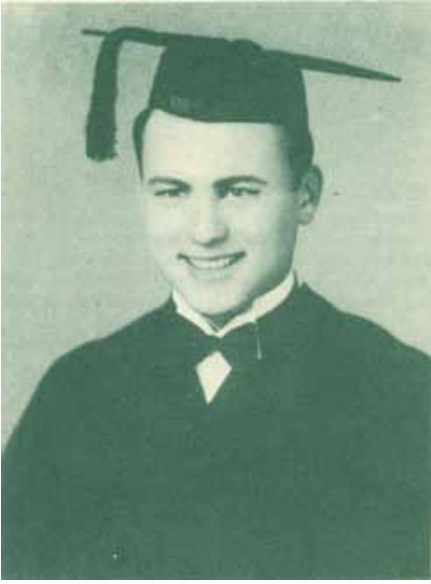
*Ömer Şerifoğlu RC 11*

For me and my peers, RC has been a unique opportunity to dive in, explore and unlock our potential. You not only bolstered this vision but also your stance encouraged the spirit of giving, social responsibility and loyalty to one's alma mater. Living up to your legacy is a goal we shall strive endlessly to achieve.

*Ayşenur Biçen RC 14*

Thanks to our supporters like you, our school has been teaching the values of respect for differences, the culture of being "we", a desire to live together in spite of differences of opinion, in short, humanity to its students for 150 years, and brightens our country's future. This is why I am proud to be a Berker Fellow. How fortunate we are to have you, how fortunate that you do so much for us to be who we are!

*Yunus Emre Erdölen RC 15*



Berker's graduation photo from the 1946 Record

When Feyyaz Berker graduated from Robert College in 1946, writers of his yearbook profile assured readers that this "handsome, healthy and cheerful" young man would have "a bright future playing an important role in the development of this country."

Little did they know how much they had hit the mark. Berker, an engineer, would go on to become one of the country's most respected businessmen as a co-founder of Tekfen Holding as well as a founder and at various times head of Turkey's prestigious business organizations TÜSİAD and DEİK. In 1997, he was awarded Turkey's highest honour for outstanding service to his country.

Even as an engineering student, Berker showed promise of his strong



Feyyaz Berker (front, center) and the RC basketball team played the visiting USS Missouri team in April 1946

commitment to promoting both industrial development and social welfare. In an article for the student publication İzlerimiz (Traces) he wrote: "The day that we understand that money and property

don't guarantee peace and that we must show compassion and aid towards people who are starving, is the day that industry can really help humanity. We must drive and direct our work bearing this in mind."



Feyyaz Berker (far right) leading fellow trustees Charlie Hoppin, Rodney Wagner, Şeci Edin, Cassandra and Nick Ludington, and Sukey Wagner on a tour of the construction site of the new buildings in the spring of 1989



Feyyaz Berker Hall under construction in the Spring of 1989



Berker is a lifelong passionate supporter of his alma mater. He often credits the school with having introduced him to free thinking, discipline, focus and a passion for social activities. As a student he was an avid athlete, skilled at a range of sports from basketball to tennis, and served as head of the Athletic Association. He felt strongly that the school's dedication to raising strong individuals, able to think for themselves and committed to values of social justice were ones that the relatively new Turkish Republic desperately needed to foster.

#### A Driving Force Behind Campus Expansion

Feyyaz Berker served as an active Trustee of the school from 1986 to 2006. His most lasting contribution was the key role he played in securing the funds for three new campus buildings in 1989 - the Nejat Eczacıbaşı Gymnasium, the Suna Kıraç Theater Hall and Feyyaz Berker Hall.

"I invited Nejat (Eczacıbaşı) to take a campus tour with me. I showed him the plans. I sought to convince him to invest in one of the buildings. We parted. That afternoon he called me to say 'I'm in'; he had decided to make a donation. That was the best part of the initiative, the sharing and feeling of accomplishing something together. Its not just about money; its about people coming together to support something they believe in. I think thats one of the best legacies that our education at RC gave us."

Never one to do things half-heartedly, Berker was a regular sight on campus throughout the long months of construction. He stopped off to check on progress every morning before going to work and never hesitated to share the wealth of his long experience as an engineer.

Today, the buildings bustle with students and are a daily reminder of the support that alumni like Berker bring to the school.



Trustees Feyyaz Berker and Suna Kıraç with Chair Rodney Wagner in the late '80s



Feyyaz Berker, Nejat Eczacıbaşı RC 32 and İnan Kıraç receive recognition for their contributions to the building campaign, at Homecoming in 1991

It is such an honor and privilege for me to be a part of this prestigious fellowship that aims to help the Robert College family. It still amazes me to see how much you contributed to the future of the eager young minds of Turkey. On behalf of the Berker Fellows, I would like to thank you again for all the help and support you have given us for many years. The school would not be the same without you.

*M. Miraç Süzgün RC 16*

We benefit from your influence at every corner. Your support of the Debate Society is undeniable, and, as seniors, we still get a chance to manufacture aspirin in the labs of the Feyyaz Berker building. It is probably a rewarding feeling to modestly and discreetly make a difference in the school life of hundreds of students, but we still wanted to tell you: many thanks for everything.

*Tayfun Gür RC 16*

You took great steps to further improve this beautiful school, not only during your school years, but also after graduating from Robert College. I would like to thank you personally, and also on behalf of all the students whom I represent as the President of the Student Council. We respect you for your lasting impact on the school, and you inspire us.

*Yasemin Kirişcioğlu RC 16*

It is a great honor to be one of the Fellows who are pursuing the pathway that you have set for us. It feels great to have a chance to act as a role model in this very distinguished community of intellectual individuals. We are trying to keep the school spirit up and thrive not only as single persons but collectively as a group, in light of you and all you stand for. Thank you a lot for all your contributions to the RC community.

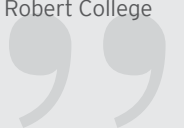
*Kaan Ertaş RC 17*

When I first arrived at Robert College, I realized that I would be part of a very special group of people, and success gained a new meaning for me. I aspired to be a person who makes a difference. Currently I am an officer in this club that was also your club once. This past summer, at a European tournament, our debate team, which had only one year of experience, made it to the quarterfinals. I cannot find words to thank you enough for supporting our school and the Debate Society with grants, and contributing to the education of a generation that will make a difference in the future.

*Dila Şaşmaz RC 18*

We can never thank you enough for the lasting legacies that you left at this school of long tradition. I strongly believe that it is these legacies that make Robert College unique and prestigious.

*Nazlı Uğur Köylüoğlu RC 18*





Berker with the Berker Fellows, Headmaster John Chandler and faculty advisor Rina Kapuya in 2010

### **Berker Fellows**

In 2008, Robert College initiated the Berker Fellowship as a way to honor and support students whose character lives up to the highest ideals of Robert College. Being a member is one of the highest distinctions for a Robert College student.

Criteria for selection include (though are not limited to): personal integrity and maturity, demonstrated high standards of personal behavior, demonstrated unselfish contributions to the community, strong sense of social responsibility, positive spirit and active involvement in school activities.

The Selection Committee is formed of representatives of the faculty, counseling staff, administration, school staff, and students already chosen as Fellows. Fellows are chosen from the Lise 10 and Lise 11 classes so that they will be known and respected within the school community as examples of the best of Robert College. Fellows are responsible to review various student projects and

decide on one that is worthy of the Berker Fellows yearly allocated funds.

### **Other Initiatives Supported by Berker**

#### **Debate Society**

An endowment Berker set up in 2008 established the Debate Society. Through the fund, the team has been able to compete in international tournaments, where they have met with great success against teams from all over the world. The fund also led to the establishment of the European Schools Debate Championship (ESDC) on campus. The tournament hosts about 25 teams from around the globe each year, and provides Turkish teams who would otherwise not be able to travel abroad the opportunity to compete in English on an international level.

As the RC Debate Society became stronger, it started to share its experience with other schools around Turkey. In Gaziantep and Bursa, they have introduced debate to schools and have helped them develop their own debate teams. They also work closely with 10-15 schools in Istanbul.

Today, the Debate Society is one of the most popular teams on campus. Starting with eight members in 2008, it now boasts a membership of 40, with RC debaters making it to the Turkish national team each year.

#### **Atatürk Studies**

An initiative to encourage the scholarly study of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the modern Turkish nation, was also created through a fund that Feyyaz Berker provided. Through the fund, the Social Sciences department organizes an Atatürk essay competition.

#### **Scholarships**

Each year, RC is able to provide scholarships to deserving students through the endowed scholarships set up by and for Feyyaz Berker. The Feyyaz Berker RC ENG 46 Family Fund was established by Berker in 2005. In gratitude for his ongoing extraordinary contributions to RC, the Board of Trustees established a special fund in Feyyaz Berker's name which provides several scholarships in his honor. ■





Eker'den lezzetin zirvesi  
**Meyveli süzme yoğurt ailesi**



**Bol Kayısıli  
Süzme Yoğurt**



**Bol Vişneli  
Süzme Yoğurt**



**En Ballı  
Süzme Yoğurt**



**Vanilyalı  
Süzme Yoğurt**

## Viewing the World through a Different Lens

This year's recipient of the Özlem Akçakuş RC 97 Summer Art Scholarship is going places, both figuratively and literally. Over the summer talented photographer and designer Tulya Bekişoğlu RC 17 studied in Chicago, took a photography road trip all over Turkey, and traveled around the Black Sea for her first professional exhibition.

You could say that art is in Tulya's blood. With an artist mother and a father who is an avid appreciator of art, Tulya was bound to develop a passion for creativity. She discovered her love for photography while in primary school, when she borrowed her father's digital camera to shoot backgrounds for her presentations. Next she joined photography groups taking day trips around Istanbul. She soon set up her own home studio where she started working on portraits, especially self-portraits.

This spring Tulya was awarded an Özlem Akçakuş RC 97 Summer Art Scholarship. She spent a month at the Art Institute of Chicago, taking courses in product design and visual communications.

While in Chicago, she was asked to create a photo exhibition for the Limen Project, which promotes the cultural heritage and cultural tourism of port cities around the Black Sea. "I was so excited because I used to have group exhibitions, but this was my first solo exhibition," she says. As soon as she returned to Turkey, she headed to Batumi with just her backpack, camera and tripod. Throughout August, she also visited Odessa, Thessaloniki, Kavala, Varna and Constanta for the project.

In her digital diary, Tulya wrote about her journey in preparation for the exhibition. She drew inspiration from Thatcher Cook and Sean Kernan, two instructors at winter photography workshops she had taken at RC over semester breaks, who taught her to "wander around through her lens" and connect with her subjects.

Tulya spent weeks on the road and several late nights getting the photos, posters and invitation cards ready, her exhibition, *3 Seas 7 Ports: Cultural Routes from the Aegean to the Black Sea*. It opened on August 29 at the Rahmi M. Koç Museum, at the end of a week-long symposium for culture experts from around the Black Sea region. "Being there with a lot of people who appreciate art and having them supporting me was better than I had imagined," she says.

Immediately following the opening, she took a road trip in a camper with her father around Central Anatolia. Stopping in Iznik, Yazılıkaya, Gordion, Cappadocia and Manavgat, Tulya captured the natural beauty of these areas while learning about their ancient history.

Back in Istanbul, she continues to use what she learned over the summer as head of the Digital Media club, and in designing school posters and publications. She also uses her art to



Tulya Bekişoğlu RC 17

raise awareness about social issues. She says, "Designers have the power to change the world but if they don't use it effectively, what's the point?"

Looking forward, Tulya sums it up. "This summer was like an experiment from the future. I realized that I want to go to art school and work on projects that allow me to travel."

### Tulya's teachers say...

"From Tulya I have come to expect the unexpected and I am never disappointed."  
*Merril Hope-Brown, Art Teacher*

"Tulya's artistic intelligence allows her to simultaneously facilitate and engage in a discourse with the material and her subject matter. She understands the importance of discovery, that process itself is art."  
*Justin Christensen, English Teacher*

"Tulya is intensely creative in everything she does. Because of that I tend to approach Tulya more as a fellow artist than as an art student. In our years together I have learned much from her."  
*Alex Downs, Photography Teacher*

"Tulya has always been an innovative and engaged student. I have enjoyed seeing her development in the arts, in particular photography, over the past several years."  
*Erin Power, Art and English Teacher*



A seaside view of Constanta, Romania, from Tulya's *3 Seas 7 Ports* exhibition





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# Morocco

## On the Trail of Tea and Tagines

Written by Alison Standley, RC English Teacher  
Photographs by Jülide Velicangil

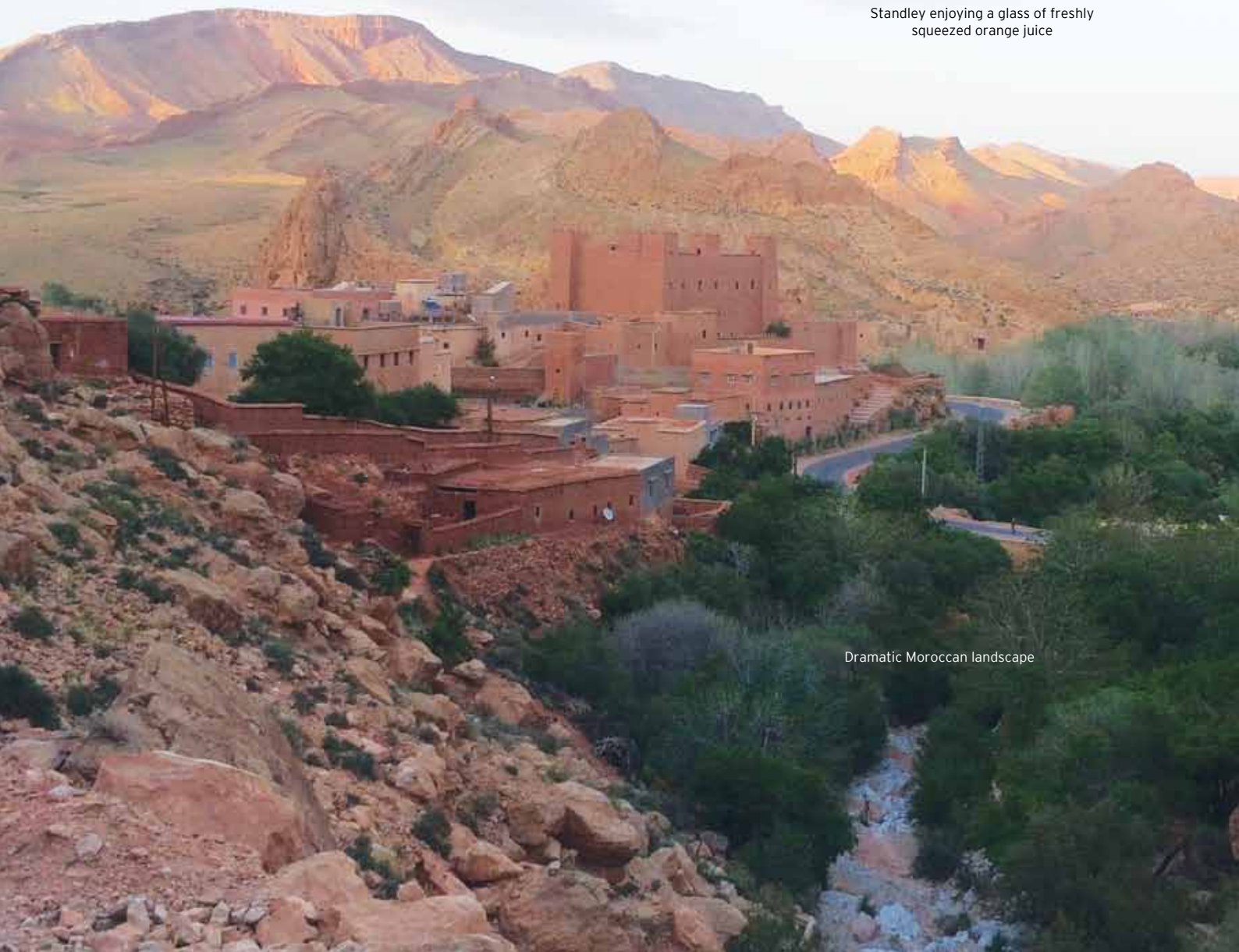
All the guidebooks advise travellers to avoid Casablanca but I hadn't realized that this advice included the domestic terminal at Casablanca airport, where our trip got off to a surreal start.

Our Marrakesh flight, scheduled just before midnight, was suddenly announced as canceled and we were told we would be bussed to a hotel and back the following morning. Then, quite by chance, we discovered that the flight would depart,

but it would be delayed. Matters were further confused by the fact that there were no information screens and no computers available so the ground staff did not have much of an idea what was happening either. There was only one snack bar but there was no way to buy anything unless you had Moroccan dirham in cash. We didn't. We were finally put in a bus to go to the plane, only to discover that no one at the airport, including the bus driver, knew where to take us. Several



Standley enjoying a glass of freshly squeezed orange juice



Dramatic Moroccan landscape



hours later, having trundled round and across the runway firstly to find the plane and then in the plane itself, we finally took off. Mystifying. And we could have done the journey by car in about half an hour!

However, once we arrived in Marrakesh it all seemed worthwhile. We stayed in Riad Mabrouk, one of the many *riads* near the *medina* (walled city). A *riad* is an old house highly decorated in the kind of distinct colors and geometric patterns which make your heart sing. A *riad* always has a central, tiled, courtyard and this is where we had breakfast, surrounded by a plethora of plants and patterns. Our room overlooked a street as wide and as busy as Istiklal Caddesi, with many pavement cafes and textile shops. This street led directly to the famous covered market known as the souk, which is smaller and narrower than Kapalı Çarşı. It was not at all difficult to find our way about and we were surprised and grateful not to be hassled. The traders were expecting an easy sell, as we spoke English initially, using Turkish to communicate privately. After the ritual of each sale they would blurt out: "...but where are you from?" And then tut, shaking their heads when we mentioned Istanbul. We were particularly taken with the beaten copper and metal lampshades and basins, the unusual silver jewelry with its geometric Berber designs and the aromatic and moth repelling blocks of amber and myrrh.

After shopping until we were drooping if not dropping, we decided to use a recommendation from one of the guide books and found our way to a nearby restaurant called Le Marrakchi, just up from our *riad*, providing not only belly dancers and local music, but also wonderful tagines and, most importantly, a good view over the famous square called the Djemaa el-Fna. Apparently the square was originally used for executions, and our guidebook explained that the name has a really interesting but spooky meaning: *Djeema* means "meeting place" and *el-Fna* means "the end" but also "death". Living up to part of its name, this huge square is one of the main focal points in Marrakesh. During the day it is mostly empty, just dotted here and there with a few ladies offering to henna your hands with intricate patterns, stalls



The inspiring Majorelle Garden

selling freshly squeezed orange juice and hawkers selling snacks of dates and nuts from barrows.

Passing though on our way to the souk, we had wondered why this square was so famous. However, later that evening we understood why. The aromatic smoke wafting from the many grills and the few lights made it seem like a hazy, dreamlike arena in which Moroccans of all ages and from all regions, some in the traditional long robes and turbans, congregated in groups to chat and to be entertained. Our guidebook had promised belly dancers, acrobats, and snake charmers. Instead, we came across many local musicians, who sat in several small groups so that there were gently competing styles and volumes of music floating through the warm air. There was also a continuous stream of traffic twisting through the square, so in the hazy twilight you twirl around the entertainers, traffic, food stalls and family groups as you kaleidoscope from one side of the square to another. As for the snakes, we didn't see a single one.

One of the notable places we visited in Marrakesh is called the Majorelle Garden. It is named after Jacques Majorelle, a French artist who, in the 1920s, acquired a large grove of palm trees just northeast of dusty Marrakesh. Gradually, over

the next decades, he turned it into a sensory, botanical haven. The occasional buildings and pergolas he painted in bold primary colors, mostly notably his signature electric blue, and used them as a backdrop for dramatic water features and bold landscapes of date palms, bamboo groves and outsize cacti. Later Yves Saint Laurent, the French designer, became the owner and continued to embrace Majorelle's vision. Walking along the brightly painted paths, the birds' chirping gives a sense of calm although



Shopping opportunities in the market





Standley's daughter Jülide Velicangil having a laugh and a glass of tea in the nomads' cave

you never know what to expect next: it could be a lily pond, or a lotus-filled water fountain, or a sudden splash of brilliant bougainvillea. It inspired us to develop our own garden on Bozcaada. The garden's sculpted composition and wide range of plants, which thrive in the almost desert-like conditions of Marrakesh, caught our imagination. We hope to replicate something of the magic of the Majorelle Garden; a picturesque space, which once

set up, requires little maintenance but provides great pleasure.

It was in Marrakesh that we first came across tagine, the dish that became our unrivalled favorite wherever we went. This refers to the wonderful slow-cooked stews they make from lamb or chicken, to which they add spices as well as fruits, nuts or olives. Each cook has his own way of balancing the spices and the sweetness of the fruit counteracts the blandness of the meat to create a unique experience for the taste buds. However, a tagine may also be sugary, as we discovered when we ordered a chicken and tomato tagine, which was very generously dusted with cinnamon and sugar! Morocco surprised us in many ways and one of these was the amount of sugar that is consumed. In one roadside café we asked for mint tea "without sugar". When it came, however, it was already sweetened. Always keen to help, our guide, Mohammed, tasted it, smiled and commented that since it is probably not possible for any Moroccan to imagine enjoying tea without sugar, they just added less sugar!

to be served *cacik* as a starter, but highly sweetened. One of the national dishes is a savory pie made with pigeon... and a lot of powdered sugar. So it was no surprise to learn from Mohammed about the high incidence of diabetes in the country.

Mohammed was 25 and declared himself to be a great admirer of Turkey: its leadership, the republic and Turkish history, as represented in the popular soap operas shown on Moroccan TV. Early on in the trip he suggested my daughter, Jülide, change her name to something more religious, such as Fatima! His English was nearly as fluent as his French even though he had had to leave school early to earn a living. He remained calm and good humored despite our many questions and the challenging driving conditions. Neither the twisting hairpin bends through the mountains nor the dusty red plains near the desert fazed him in the least. We constantly marveled at the big, bare landscapes of reddish, split rocks that formed such a stark contrast with the sudden brushes of lush green palm trees, and the cultivated fields of the oases.

Morocco turned out to be a land of dramatic contrasts, surprises and sensory wonders. We are already planning our next adventure; this time we hope to visit medieval Fez and the Middle Atlas. And this time we will avoid Casablanca entirely. ■



Street scene outside Djemaa el-Fna, Marrakesh





**SILK AND CASHMERE**

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# A Creative Force: Supporting Promising Young Artists

Since 2006, the Class of 97 has been raising funds to send art-oriented RC students to summer art workshops all over the world, in memory of their classmate Özlem Akçakuş.

Özlem was an art lover and it was only fitting her friends and family chose to honor her memory this way. Art Department faculty member Alex Downs gave the RCQ an overview of how the Özlem Akçakuş Art Scholarship has made an impact. The outcome so far is impressive.

Every summer several RC students are awarded funds to study at prestigious institutions with acclaimed artists and teachers. Over the years, more than 30 students have benefited from RC 97's generosity. The list of destinations ranges from California to London, from Maine to Tuscany, New York City and



Özlem Akçakuş RC 97 in whose memory the art scholarship was founded

the south of France. But what about the impact? How has this wonderful program affected the students?

One of the first recipients of the award was Nazlı Ceren Özerdem RC 09. When she applied for the scholarship she was not sure what she wanted to do after RC. "The scholarship I got meant so much to me and it was what made me decide to put together a portfolio and find a way to come to the US." Afterwards, she sent her portfolio to Rhode Island School of

Design (RISD) and Brown University for their prestigious double-degree program. Former Headmaster John Chandler recalls hearing from the admissions office at Brown that they had never seen such a strong portfolio. Nazlı Ceren says, "The Özlem Akçakuş Art Scholarship really changed my future. It led to an amazing double degree program, an internship at Ralph Lauren and a fellowship that enabled me to backpack around Iceland for three months while writing a thesis, plus spend six months in Florence." Nazlı Ceren continues to pursue her art in New York City.

Another of the early recipients was Mehveş Konuk RC 09. She says, "The Özlem Akçakuş scholarship began for me what would later turn into a professional career in photography. I attended a photography workshop in Iceland, which gave me technical skills and encouraged me to explore the medium. I met many photographers who were working internationally, and was introduced to their diverse and impressive work. After



"The Silence of the Sirens" by Nazlı Ceren Özerdem



Nazlı Ceren Özerdem RC 09



Mehveş Konuk RC 09





A street scene taken in Rwanda by Mehveş Konuk RC 09

the workshop, I started at the University of Chicago, and the workshop provided a good foundation to find photography gigs and a direction within the field of photography. Since then, my work has been exhibited internationally and I spent time in Rwanda, Morocco and the Balkans. The scholarship played a crucial role in helping me decide I wanted to pursue a career in a very challenging field and boosted my self-confidence. These days I am planning to start an MFA in photography, which is the next step in a journey started by a photography course at RC and the scholarship." Konuk has been awarded a National Geographic fellowship.

For each of these students, the scholarship played a pivotal role toward a career that they would not have been able to pursue without the award. Recipients have had a range of valuable experiences that have helped them to find their way. Yasemin Tekgürler RC 15 discovered that she did not want to pursue a career in architecture after a summer experience at RISD. Instead, she realized that she preferred design. Ulaş Aktok RC 11, who studied Documentary Photography, realized that although his English was excellent, it was very different being immersed in an English-speaking culture.

A more recent recipient, Arda Eren RC 13 remembers, "It is quite an experience for a teenager to travel overseas all by

himself." Eren took a Dance Photography course with renowned photographer Lois Greenfield. He was the youngest student in the class by about 10 years. "The students were almost all experienced professional photographers from all over the US, who specialized in different types of photography."

Later, the instructor invited Eren to come to her New York studio. "Lois' studio in NYC was the first professional artist studio that I was invited to. Not only did

she show me her working space and her setup, but she had clients coming in while I was there. I witnessed how she handled and negotiated with them."

He adds, "The workshops I took have profoundly affected me artistically. I remember struggling a lot while I was trying to figure out what I really want to do in college. The workshops and the classes I took at RC got me engaged, working and thinking...I am still intrigued."



Self portrait by Arda Eren RC 13

# Lifetime Achievement in Art Award goes to RC Alums

On April 15, World Art Day, Tomur Atagök ACG 59 and Orhan Taylan RC 60 were given the honorary UNESCO/AIAP award from UPSD (International Plastic Arts Association). The two masters received the award for their lifelong achievements in art. The International Association of Art (IAA/AIAP) was established in 1954 at the initiative of UNESCO and 92 National Committees; it is the largest non-governmental organization of visual artists.

Professor Tomur Atagök ACG 59 was the founder and chairperson of the first Department of Museum Studies in Turkey, at Yıldız Teknik University (YTÜ) in 1989. A vice-director of the Istanbul Museum of Painting and Sculpture between 1980 and 1984 and the author of numerous articles on aspects of Turkish art and museums, she was also a Fulbright scholar working at a number of museums in the United States. She completed her art education at Oklahoma State University, California College of the Arts and the University of California, Berkeley. She founded the Faculty of Art and Design at YTÜ in 1997, and served as the Dean from 2004-2006



Sculpture from the Nature's Call collection  
Tomur Atagök ACG 59

before she retired. Atagök believes that art is a conversation between the artist and the viewer. It changes every time it is viewed by others. It reflects the life, environment and thoughts of the viewer; it is not only aesthetic but social, political and emotional. The contemporary artist has opened over 40 exhibitions, both international and national, since 1966, and received many awards both in Turkey



"Untitled" by Orhan Taylan RC 60

and abroad during this time. She lives and works in Istanbul. Her art and further information can be viewed on her website at [www.tomuratagok.com](http://www.tomuratagok.com)

Born in Samsun to ACG 39 graduate, former art teacher at ACG, and painting and ceramic artist Seniye Fenmen, Orhan Taylan RC 60 received his university degree from Rome Academy of Fine Arts in 1965. Taylan says he, "does not care much about those who struggle to exclude him from Turkish art anthologies. He does not exhibit his work abroad; he does not participate in group shows. He does not take place among jury members of art competitions, because he disapproves of an artist judging other artists."

However, he does not underestimate the tradition of mastership in painting. He takes pride in not making multiples of any kind of artwork he produces. He creates paintings and sculptures, but never makes prints, nor does he use watercolor. He finds joy in preparing his own oil colors, being with his son Ferhat and using a Mac computer. He loves literature and uses a vast studio for his work. Taylan lives and works in Asmalımescit, Istanbul. His works can be viewed on his website at [www.orphantaylan.com](http://www.orphantaylan.com)



Tomur Atagök ACG 59



Orhan Taylan RC 60



# Have Art Crimes Become the Ultimate Art Form?

Currently a PhD student in both history of art and forensic science, Mustafa Ergül RC L3 03, tells us what's going on in the world of art crimes.

**Case I:** During World War II, Nazis plundered over 21,000 works of art from every territory they occupied. These art objects were also taken into consideration as part of the Nuremberg trials. The process of recovering these brought along exemplary court decisions.

**Case II:** On March 18, 1990, two thieves disguised as police officers stole several paintings including works of Rembrandt, Vermeer, Degas and Manet from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, Massachusetts. The paintings are yet to be recovered. Recently, 25 years later, in an effort to seek public assistance, the FBI released video footage of the robbery.

**Case III:** In May 2000, two well-known auction houses, Christie's and Sotheby's found themselves planning to auction off Gauguin's Vase de Fleurs at the very same time. As it turned out, one of them was a forgery linked to Ely Sakhai, a United States art dealer and civil engineer who owned Lower Manhattan art galleries the Art Collection and Exclusive Art.

Why do famous stolen paintings take many years to recover? What techniques can detect forged paintings? Why are museums the first to be looted in war zones or areas of conflict? The cases and questions above basically show relationship between art and criminology. These two notions interact through various events such as theft, wartime looting, archaeological looting, smuggling, forgery, fraud, and vandalism. As criminologist John Conklin states, art crimes are punishable criminal acts that involve works of art. According to FBI statistics, they generate an estimated US\$6 billion in annual criminal profit. The effortless transferring of art objects across borders, lack of security in museums, and lack of expertise in the field also allow art crimes to flourish. Furthermore, many art crimes are never reported due to the concerns on loss of reputation and value. This prevents us



Mustafa Ergül RC L3 03

from visualizing the entire situation as there is neither adequate information nor records. As observed in other countries in the Mediterranean region, Turkey has had a long history with the problem of illicit art trade. Since 2000, with the increase of investments in art, issues of forgery and fraud have been on the rise. The complexity of the subject matter leads researchers to evaluate related issues based on the relation between art, market, criminology and the law.

My academic interest and involvement in art crimes emerged during my master's study in art history at Istanbul University. While focusing on the representation of the village through paintings during the early Turkish Republic, I became aware that 675 out of 800 paintings produced between 1938-1944 during "Yurt Gezileri" (The Homeland Tours) were missing. The then project had aimed to form a

national canon in art. As evidenced in various cases, lack of documentation may provide and become an opportunity for forgers to generate reliable provenances. My research went further to focus on the main motivation of forgers, the conventional and scientific approaches of detecting forgeries, mapping possible ways and techniques for creating and distributing forged paintings, and what preventive measures should be taken. To approach the field from a criminological perspective, I completed my second master's study at the Institute of Forensic Sciences at Istanbul University, hence making it possible for me to correlate the information and knowledge that I collected from both areas.

Mustafa Ergül works at SALT Research and may be contacted about art crime issues at [mergul@gmail.com](mailto:mergul@gmail.com)

# Alumni Share Memories in Bangkok

Retired ambassador Nuri Yıldırım RA 62 reminisces about his relationship with Vahram Papazian RC 1913

I met Vahram Papazian in Bangkok, Thailand, during my tenure as the Chargé d'Affaires of the Turkish Embassy from 1976-78. Vahram Bey was living with his son Robert, who was the CEO of the Southeast Asia branch of American Company ITT. Although Vahram Bey was already quite old, he was a jolly good fellow who smoked and drank whisky.

Vahram Bey, who was born an Ottoman citizen, left for Crete in 1923 within the context of the Exchange of Populations Agreement signed between Turkey and Greece. (Turkish Armenians and other non-Muslim groups also left for Greece with the Turkish Greeks, under their own free will. As religion, rather than ethnicity, was taken into account in the Agreement, this allowed other non-Muslim individuals to leave Turkey.

Vahram Bey told me that after Crete, he went to Beirut and finally immigrated to the US. He became an electrical engineer and settled in Providence, Rhode Island. He came to Bangkok when his son was appointed as the vice-president of the ITT branch there. Vahram Bey told me that one of their close relatives had been the post and telegraph vizier of Sultan Abdulhamid II, so telecommunications was a family business.

The Papazians were popular among Bangkok's social circles. Vahram Bey had close contacts with the Turkish Embassy



Nuri Yıldırım RA 62 and Vahram Papazian RC 1913 at a reception at the Turkish Embassy in Bangkok in the late '70s

long before I arrived. I always invited him and his son to the Embassy's official and private receptions. We became good friends during the course of my stay in Thailand, and he told me many interesting stories.

He was a distinguished athlete at Robert College and participated as a runner in both the Athens and Stockholm Olympics. He told me that at the Stockholm Olympics in 1912 he participated under a Turkish flag and wore a Turkish jersey. He gave me a photograph of himself running with other athletes, which he signed "Muhterem evladım Nuri Yıldırım'a, yadigar olarak takdim ederim" ("I present this as a keepsake to my dear son Nuri Yıldırım").

When Ara Güler, the world famous photographer, visited Bangkok with a Turkish journalist and Prof. Dr. Recep Doksat, I introduced Ara Güler to Vahram "Amca" and they became friends. When I was dining at Ara Cafe opposite Galatasaray High School in Istanbul some time ago, I saw Ara Güler and we reminisced about those good old days.

I still remember, with a smile on my face, the many shared memories with Dear Vahram Bey who always had a very good sense of humor and an admirable objectivity towards life and political history. I learned that he passed away in 1986 when he was 92 years old. May he rest in peace.



Vahram Papazian RC 1913 (center, in dark shirt) racing in the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm

Muhterem Evladım Nuri  
Yıldırım'a yadigar olarak  
Takdim ederim.

Bangkok, Thailand 1/11/78



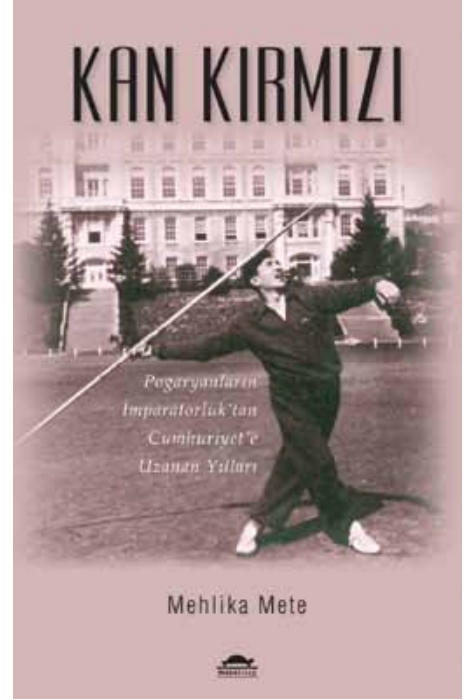
## A Pogaryan Family Tale

**K**an Kırmızı (*Blood Red*), written by Mehlika Mete, is a biographical novel of the Pogaryan family extending over a century, and thirty years of the life of Antranik Varak Pogaryan RC 42 (d. Oct. 1, 2014; see RCQ 47, p. 60).

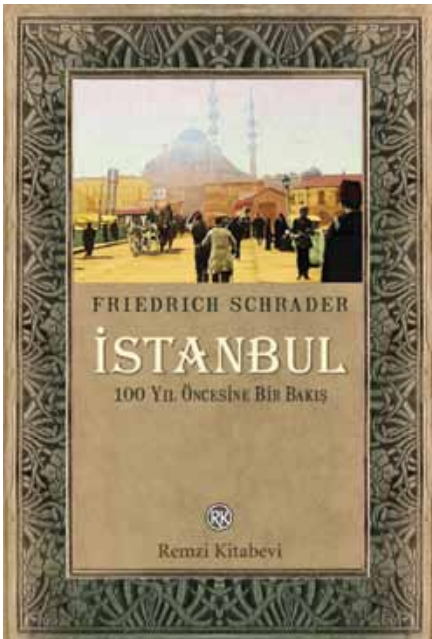
When the Pogaryan family left the Çırdak village of Şebinkarahisar, heading for Istanbul, they had no idea that they would settle in Rumeli Hisarı, and that Robert College would provide them with a job and education. Furthermore, they would be witness to the foundation of the Turkish Republic between the two World Wars, and live through the policies imposed on minorities. In order to survive the exile, the losses on the migration routes, and the wealth tax deducted from their salary which was already inadequate to meet their needs, they sought refuge in love and knowledge. From one generation to the next, they passed on their memories and traditions.

This is the story of people who valued warm relationships. It begins with the childhood years of Varak Pogaryan who was born in Rumeli Hisarı, and continues with his education at Robert College, his brilliant athleticism and javelin championship, the unforgettable memories of breakfast with Atatürk one Sunday morning, and finally his encounter with his first great love İra, the same İra Maslenikoff who also worked at Robert College through the late 1980's and 1990's.

The Pogaryan family had strong ties to Robert College; both Varak and his brother were graduates, and their father, also named Varak, was an administrator. Varak's second wife, Chilton Watrous, who predeceased him, was a teacher in the English Department. The school that was such an important part of the Pogaryan family's history features prominently in the novel.



## Travel Guide from a Century Ago



**B**efore travel guides became popular, many foreigners who were captivated by Istanbul wrote their impressions and memoirs, which today serve as a snapshot of city life in days gone by. One such book is *Konstantinopel in Vergangenheit und Gegenwart* (*Constantinople Past and Present*), which was written by former RC German teacher Friedrich Schrader while he lived in Istanbul from 1891-1918. The book was published only once, in 1917. It has recently been revived through a translation to Turkish under the name *İstanbul (100 Yıl Öncesine Bir Bakış)* (*Istanbul [A Look from 100 Years Ago]*). The book captures Istanbul in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, at a time when the city was going through dramatic changes, and also gives an overview of the city's rich past.

The story of how the book came to be is as interesting as the book itself. In addition to being an educator, Schrader was an eastern languages specialist, a writer, a journalist and the founder of the German and French language newspaper *Osmanischer Lloyd*. As a reporter he walked around the neighborhoods of Istanbul, travelling far and wide, from Pera to Hadımköy to Kayışdağı. He took notes on what he saw, where he travelled to and the interviews he conducted. He wrote about neighborhoods inside the old city walls, mosques, tombs and ancient sites, describing in his own particular manner, in an explanatory, story-like way, which has been described as a combination of Evliya Çelebi and Petrus Gyllius. His writing conveys his love for Istanbul and its people.

# Make Philanthropy Your Lever

**B**urcu Betni Mirza RC 94 is an excellent example of the power of philanthropy. A scholarship student while at RC, she now participates in a number of philanthropic organizations, and shares her experience with other philanthropists from around the world. She told the RCQ how she became inspired to give back, and what the power of giving means to her.

"Each of us has the potential to play a significant role in the life of another. Donating bone marrow to an American leukemia patient showed me how interconnected we all are," says Mirza. "When we were introduced to each other a year after his life-saving transplant, he expressed that knowing that a stranger cared enough to do all that it takes to save his life, still fills him with profound hope about the future of humanity. I knew then that this 'exchange of hope' forms the core of all philanthropic work and enables philanthropy to benefit not just the recipient, but also the donor. Since hope's multiplier effect is beyond measure, so is philanthropy's. Therefore, no philanthropic gift is too small and the best time to start is now."

Mirza, who serves on the Board of Turkish Philanthropy Funds (TPF) and Leadership Council of Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Public Service Center (MIT PSC), has shared her story with global audiences to inspire them to action. In June she was invited to speak at the Stockholm Philanthropy Symposium 2015 alongside Melinda Gates and Dr. Jane Goodall. Bolder Giving, an American non-profit, featured her as a Global Giver in March this year. She received the 2015 Great Dome Award from MIT in September and Alumnae Recognition Award from Mount Holyoke College in 2013 for her service. Her husband Agha's unwavering commitment

to giving strengthened her family's philanthropic work that has grown to include her school-age children who are volunteering for local causes in New York City.

Burcu believes education is key for developing a philanthropic mindset and credits RC for instructing her. "Not only does Turkish culture emphasize caring, but our teachers also taught us the importance of volunteering, fundraising and institutionalizing." In order to reciprocate, her initial philanthropic work targeted RC. She spearheaded the campaign to endow the Banu Büyükkunal Memorial Scholarship in 2008, of which she was the first recipient while at RC (see RCQ 34, p. 14). Through her role at the Leadership Council of MIT PSC, she connected RC students with MIT to work on a social impact project in 2010. "Connecting RC with MIT was truly rewarding and I am proud of the RC students who made an enthusiastic and successful partnership with MIT PSC."



Mirza speaking at the Stockholm Philanthropy Symposium

Long-term success in philanthropy requires maximizing collective action through institutionalization. Here, RC alumni take the lead in Turkey and abroad. Haldun Tashman RA 62, Özlenen Kalav ACG 65 and Mustafa Kemal Abadan RC 77 founded TPF - the leading philanthropic foundation in the United States focused on Turkey - to connect global donors to Turkish NGOs. "By helping Turkish NGOs



Burcu Betni Mirza RC 94

make donations to them tax-deductible in US, TPF has succeeded in directing \$14 million of philanthropic contributions from America to 45 proven, stable, vetted organizations that support education, gender equality and disaster relief in Turkey in the last eight years." Since RC alumni are active as founders or leaders of most of these Turkish NGOs, TPF is also strengthening RC's community ties. "Of course we all support Robert College," says Burcu who is joined by Bilge Öğün Bassani RC 66, Cihan Sultanoğlu RC 75 and Hüma Alpaytaç Guaz RC 85 on TPF's Board of Directors in addition to the founders. "During my speech at the Stockholm Philanthropy Symposium, RC and TPF produced immense interest from the European audience for being an exemplary school and an effective model of cross-border philanthropy. Both institutions underscore Turkish people's success at home and abroad."

Burcu concludes with Archimedes' famous principle. "I am proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with other RC philanthropists. If spreading hope, creating positive change and improving lives is how you plan to move the world, then make philanthropy your lever and join us."



Mirza (front row, second from left) with other TPF board members at NASDAQ





Mediterranean Cuisine by Fabrice Canelle - Director of Culinary Innovation  
Japanese Cuisine by Hiroki Takemura - Executive Chef  
Sushi Bar \* Dry aged Steaks \* Turkish Specialties



*"On a warm, starry night, nothing beats this terrace high above the Bosphorus for fantastic views over Istanbul"*

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## 60 Years and Going Strong

**R**C ENG 55 celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> reunion with their sisters of ACG 55 in an elaborate and memorable three-day event on June 27-29 in Istanbul. It was a joyful and well planned reunion with major credit for its success going to its organizer and implementer Armağan Çağlayan. The event took off at Boğaziçi University with a gathering at the memorable RC ENG 55 monument erected 60 years ago as a symbol of Robert College Engineering School graduates. Çağlayan, along with the support of his classmates, designed and constructed a concrete French curve symbolizing Engineering with a traditional graduation cap. It became known as the RC ENG 55 Monument. The symbol was later adopted by the Boğaziçi University Engineering Department as the BU Engineering symbol.

The first event was held at Kennedy Lodge, cocktails and dinner with past and present Deans of the BU Engineering Department as well as representatives of the BU Alumni Organization. The highlight was the presentation of a very special memento by BU to each attendee; a unique tile to commemorate the 150 years of RC-BU. This first get together had the impact of reviving memories and reinforcing ties of friendship. The



The Class of 55 revisited old memories and created new ones

presence of ACG 55 added much to the lovely atmosphere.

The second day saw everyone at a tea party at the beautiful home of Berrak - Cumhur Yeğen (Çağlayan's daughter) followed by dinner at Kandilli on the Bosphorus. Both events provided time to catch up and socialize.

On the third day, there was a full moon evening boat trip on the Bosphorus, in almost perfect Istanbul weather. A wonderful ending to the three-day event was a delicious open buffet and fish dinner.

The 60<sup>th</sup> reunion will be fondly remembered for a long time. RC ENG 55 attendees were Armağan Çağlayan with

his daughters, Asım Yeğinobalı, Besim Bilman and Patricia (from California), Dimitri Manias and Marionka (from Greece), Fikret Semin and Şaziye and Güngör Taşcıoğlu, Haluk Emiroğlu, Metin Çulha and Nuray, Ruçhan Bozer, Turan Enginol, Uğur Ersoy, Ural Belgin and Alev and Edib Kırdar. From ACG 55 came Evin Maraşlı, Gülsen Göcek, Manolya Kural, Ayşe Çolakoğlu, Ayla Gümüşlügil, Gülderen Grin, Göksel Kortay and Işık İplikçi.

Friends and classmates who were not able to join the group for various reasons as well as the dear departed were fondly remembered.

*Contributed by Edib Kırdar RC ENG 55*

## ACG 55 Reunion Trip to Adana



ACG 55 classmates took a trip to Adana

**W**hat a wonderfully lucky class we are," say members of ACG 55. After 60 years, their ties of friendship continue stronger than ever and the latest proof of this was a trip taken together to Adana in April 2015.

RC ENG 55 Uğur Ersoy's contributions to this trip made it unforgettable. Being from Mersin, he made sure the group experienced all there was to see and taste in the area while another friend, Nevin Etüz and family lent a hand in arranging comfortable accommodations.



# ACG 60 Catches Up at 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion

It was so much fun! So much joy! We all wanted to celebrate our 55<sup>th</sup> reunion at the Hilton Roof, in Istanbul, as we all felt that it would be very nostalgic. In those days, the Hilton Roof was very popular. Some of our friends organized music from the 50s and 60s which reminded us of our good old days.

Before we sat down to dinner, we enjoyed a cocktail gathering, during which we caught up with everyone's latest news and shared memories of our school days. It took us quite a while before we sat down to dinner as we were all eager to chat even longer with each other. Dinner itself was wonderful, seated in smaller groups. Finally, after dinner, we had a cake decorated with "ACG 60" which we cut with a big sword, giggling away with glee. Everyone was so happy and all



ACG 60 in a celebratory mood

claimed how lucky we were to have been able to study at ACG - Robert College.

With this reunion an absolute success, ACG 60 plans to get together once a year and hopes that those classmates living

abroad may be able to join the gathering. Indeed, we value our friendships more so than ever before.

*Contributed by Şeyma Bilimer Arsel ACG 60*

# RC 80: In Friendship We Trust

The RC 80 Reunion Committee worked with dedication to turn their 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion into an unforgettable one. They came up with party ideas, developed a concept and mirrored this concept throughout the party. "In Friendship We Trust" was on gift bracelets, banners and special photo frames.

Highlights included two films; one was about classmates who could not attend and who saluted their friends from abroad. The second was to lovingly commemorate the six classmates who had passed away in the past 35 years. Another highlight was a contest held to remember the best known characteristics of the classmates and included prizes of candy and badges for the winners.

Hilmi Güvenal delivered the opening speech while Gaye Bumin and Ayтуğ Kolankaya



The concept of the evening was loud and clear: "In Friendship We Trust"



The event started with cocktails at Marble Hall where the traditional group picture was taken. The celebration continued at Bizim Tepe for dinner.

spent the entire night on stage. With boundless energy they kept the evening flowing while their dialogue and jokes turned the event into a colorful show.

A jazz band of classmates Haluk Talu, Sevil Gökşen Bavbek, Osman Batur and Targan Şimşek, led by a well-known musician, Güç Başar Gülle, performed and Sevil sang fantastic jazz tunes. This was one of the most unforgettable parts of the night. Everyone was astonished by the talent of these 'musicians' who in reality are an ophthalmologist, oncologist, and businessmen.

Cüneyt Balıkcıoğlu put together a fascinating presentation about the amazing places he traveled to around the world. Everyone enjoyed the eccentric poses of polar bears, birds, lions, tigers and such, very much like a National Geographic documentary!

Elif Selvili and Haluk Talu put on a fabulous dance show followed by dancing to the tunes of the 80's.

After midnight, the venue was the Plateau where snacks were served under the light of red and white paper lanterns, the concept colors. The food, service and decor were impeccable, creating a lovely ambiance.

Close to 90 classmates came all the way from the US, Canada, Ankara, Izmir, Samsun, Adana, Antalya and Bodrum to join their friends and relive the great times they had at school together.

The evening ended with "There is no need to wait for another five years to have a spectacular night like this. We are going to celebrate our reunion every year".



# RC 85 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion

The 25<sup>th</sup> year was over and the 30<sup>th</sup> was approaching. The RC 85 Reunion Committee eagerly planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. Two Ali's and three prima donnas: Oya İnal, Didem Soylu Muslu, Bilge Yavuz Rızvani plus Ali Levent Orhun and Ali Yılmaz as the inevitable toppings.

Over the past 5 years, we were living happily ever after, forming e-mail, Facebook and infinite number of Whatsapp groups, and meeting at Nerotics, Cavitics and Youname'ics and counting the days towards the big event when the unimaginable and unprecedented happened.

Our dear friend Natali Medina passed away unexpectedly, shattering a part of each and every one of us. We were profoundly affected by this tragedy and the first unwelcomed class reunion took place, not at Marble Hall, but at the Ashkenazi Jewish Cemetery, less than a mile away from RC.

Yet, RC 85 resolutely chose perpetuity over transience and life over death. With their proven charity instinct, the RC 85 30<sup>th</sup> Year Natali Medina Endowed



Emek, Viktor, Gonca and Teri. The smiles speak for everyone.



Defeating the years



Never letting go

Scholarship Fund was established. Under the gracious coordination efforts of Ipek

Cem Taha a fund of over \$150,000 was created and the very first recipient of



Marble Hall welcomes the Class of 85





Melih, Koray and Sirma display  
50 ways to steal the limelight

the Natali Medina Scholarship Fund was awarded in the 2015-2016 school year.

And eventually it was the 4th of July. The school was ready, and RC 85 was even more ready. From San Francisco to Jeddah, from Moscow to Izmir, from Leipzig to Bursa, from New York to Istanbul, good old friends reunited once again on the RC campus. In the traditional soccer match, the "son of the wind" scored goals and a co-ed tennis tournament was held while others chose to have high tea and *elmali çörek* (apple tarts).

The year was supposed to be 2015, but for more than 90 people who were there, the calendars were all showing 1985. The Class of 85 was back at its factory settings. Chatting, schmoozing, socializing, eating, drinking, dancing, and acting like they were not a day older than 18.

The colorful cocktails, the class photo and the elegant dinner were topped by two shows; Gonca Gürsoy Artunkal and her



Blue attraction

Angels who performed a song composed by her great-uncle Yesari Asım Arsoy; and Ali Ataman and his Cork band singing the covers of the renowned Irish blues singer, Rory Gallagher.

The dorm welcomed its esteemed guests, most of whom were awake until dawn exchanging memories, some from more than 30 years ago and some from barely 30 minutes ago.

The morning after, spouses, children (no grandchildren so far) and all significant others joined the graduates for brunch on the Plateau. The analogue kids of yesterday had a great time with the digital adults of tomorrow and most of these priceless moments were captured on the mobile phones of these "beautiful beings" (a term coined by our dear Class President Oya Inal). The common sentiment was that the frequency of reunions must be less than every 5 years. In fact, a US reunion took place on the weekend of September 12-13 in New York City, in keeping up with the flame lit on the evening of July 4.



Blue attraction, part II



RC 85 spirits are this high; Esen, Haluk and Gülnaz

In general, the rule tends to be that if it's true it isn't new, and if it's new it isn't true. With everyone so true and their hopes kept anew, we might be the exception to the rule.

*Contributed by Viktor Bensusan RC 85  
Photos by Teri Tamfranko Erbeş RC 85  
and Fatih Küçük*



Just moved into the dorms

## Double Reunion for RC 95

The 20<sup>th</sup> reunion of RC 95 was full of firsts. For those who never spent a night on the Plateau during their school years, it was definitely worth the wait. For the day students who had never spent a night in an RC dorm before, they could finally savor the long awaited experience of brushing their teeth in front of the bathroom mirrors as they stood side by side in pajamas and had exceedingly serious conversations. Finally, it was the first time for almost all of the once “yatılı” boys to spend a night in the former girls’ dorm in Bingham Hall.

Around 50 of the RC 95 year came together this past summer in two different locations around the world. Ersin Karaoğlu who organized the get-together in NYC with Selin and Kemal Karakaya described the festivities: “The fun started with an afternoon boat tour around Manhattan and continued with a delightful dinner at Pera Soho, a Mediterranean brasserie run by RC graduate Burak Karaçam RC 92. The group, along with significant others and kids, met for a picnic the following day in Central Park to enjoy one of the last beautiful summer days”. Ersin concluded with a quote he probably still remembers from one of his prep English classes: “As the event drew to a close, RC 95 friends reminded themselves, ‘the pain of parting is nothing to the joy of meeting again.’”



The NYC leg of the reunion started with a boat ride around Manhattan



A reunion isn't a reunion without a photo on the steps of Gould Hall

Meanwhile, in Istanbul, Fulya Çanakçı, our devoted class rep, had planned a wonderful evening which started with a long dinner table waiting for us in front of the Gould Hall steps. Dinner was followed by music from our class DJ Zafer Tipigil and included 90s tunes not known for their musical quality but nonetheless guaranteed to instill nostalgia in those who grew up listening to them.

It was unanimously decided at breakfast the following day on the Plateau that spending a night on the RC campus was a wonderful way to catch up with classmates. I'll add to that, “and contemplate how the time we spent here shaped who we are today.”

*Contributed by Memet Ünsal RC 95*





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# Homecoming 2015

Alumni from the classes of 1944 through 2015 came back to campus on November 8 to celebrate Homecoming. From the opening of the Faralyalı Trail and the traditional football tournament, to the 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> reunion luncheons and Roll Call in the theatre, it was a festive day on campus. It really was like coming home!



The iconic image of Homecoming at RC



The first few steps of the inaugural walk/run on the Faralyalı Trail



A familiar and welcome sight during assembly hour; The RC Orchestra gave a mini concert followed by the alma mater songs.





Former faculty member Ayşe Güven and her RC 03 students in Marble Hall



The front of Gould Hall is one of the favorite places to catch up with friends during Homecoming



A selfie on the steps of Marble Hall during Homecoming? Check!



Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62, signing the "Look Who's Here" wall



The Class of 65, celebrating their 50th year, came out in full force with a representation of 60 graduates



The Class of 55, celebrating their 60th Reunion showed everyone what a close knit class they are



The oldest class represented at Homecoming was the Class of 44 with ACG graduate Gülgün Üstündağ and RC graduate Moris Gabbay



Dr. Charles H. Skipper, the newly appointed interim Headmaster of Robert College, gave his first welcome speech to alumni at Homecoming



RC 84 took their seats on the balcony of Suna Kiraç Hall and made the most of their moment of recognition during roll call



As always, past and present RC faculty and staff members received major applause during roll call. Seeing them is one of Homecoming's favorite aspects for returning alumni.



The Class of 65 enjoyed their 50th year Reunion lunch and topped it off with a celebratory cake

## Şiir Tursan ACG 70

Şiir Tursan retired in August, after 27 years as assistant librarian at RC. She first stepped on campus as a student in 1962 and left as an employee in 2015. The rest is in her words.

"The importance of Robert College, for me, lies in the fact that I received my fundamental education at the American College for Girls and came back to serve in the library. I received my first library education at ACG, from Miss Fincancı, who served as librarian at ACG and RC for 46 years.

"It was great to come back and work side by side with my former teachers. There are memories I will always retain such as Kirk Douglas' visit, the 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet's band concert, Berkant's concert and Nevra Serezli's first stage experiences. Special memories remain from the days of solidarity with Whitman and Bengü

Shepard after the 1999 earthquake. Another very special moment was when graduating seniors thanked me for my service on graduation day. I have many fond memories with head librarians Richard Dewey, John Royce and their spouses. I will never forget the devotion of my five colleagues, Ayşe Yüksel, Mary Berkmen, Nilüfer Göksan, Neşe Seren and İffet Özseven, with whom I shared joys, sorrows, hard work and the renovation of the library in 1995. During these 27 years, I survived two renovations and the merging of the Orta- Lise libraries. So did my health!

"It is time to move on with family and delayed projects such as renovating my father's library (on with librarianship!), publishing his memoirs of his military attaché days, and republishing my mother's transcription of military costumes from Ottoman script.



My son İlber's first remark upon news of my retirement news was, "Good, now you will have time for family". And they went on with planning a new life for me. My new career will be grandmotherhood."

## Sima Benaroya RC 78

While working on RC's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1987, Alumni and Development Director Leyla Aktay RC 72 and Ada Ajans staff member and project coordinator, Sima Benaroya RC 78, wondered who would be working on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Little did they expect that they would be reunited 25 years later! This time around, Benaroya became a member of the RC staff in 2012, and as the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration year coordinator, she spearheaded activities for the sesquicentennial, from events on

both sides of the Atlantic, to fundraising activities. Her practical, energetic and efficient style helped make it a celebration to remember.

Now that the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary is over, Sima has left RC for new pastures. She is spending her time between London, where she and her partner have relocated, and Istanbul where her new granddaughter Aria is. These days, Sima is wondering who will be coordinating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary!



## Barış Turan RC 94

After graduating from Istanbul Technical University as a mechanical engineer and working at his family's textile business, Turan finally decided to carry on with his dreams, and in 2012 enrolled in MSA, the Culinary Arts Academy. Upon receiving his diploma in food preparation and cooking in 2013, he worked at 8 Istanbul with Chef Maksut Aşkar, and Hotel Auris in Dubai with Chef De Wet van der Westhuizen.

Having gained experience in these kitchens, in September 2014 Turan set out to open his first endeavor on the historical Şimal Stairs of Pera with two of his foodie friends from MSA, Alp Türkmen and Özgür Önel: Belkis. Belkis' cuisine encompasses delicious mezes as well as a medley of forgotten tastes of Pera, all of which Barış would greatly appreciate sharing with RC alumni.

Belkis offers a 10% discount for Robert College graduates: [www.belkispera.com](http://www.belkispera.com)



# Eşsiz Bir İstanbul Yaşamı



## Bebek Sırtında Kortel Korusu'nda Boğaziçi Manzaralı Ferah ve Sakin

Kat Mülkiyeti, Net 350m<sup>2</sup>, Brüt 400m<sup>2</sup>  
5 oda + 1 salon + 1 galeri tipi çalışma odası, Sauna ve Şömine, 3 dairesel apartman, manzaraya hakim geniş teras ve 2 balkon.

Bebek'in en prestijli bölgesi olan Kortel Korusu'nda, yeşilin, ağaçların ve kuş seslerinin arasında İstanbul Boğazı'nın İstanbul kokan manzarasına sahip bir dairedir.

Kortel Korusu'nun en bakımlı ve nezih binalarından birinde olan bu dairemizde, Boğaziçi'ni ve İstanbul hayatını yaşayabileceksiniz.

Her metrekaresini değerlendirebileceğiniz geniş kullanım alanları mevcut. Dairenin içi komple masif meşe ile kaplıdır.

Teras ve balkon mobilyalarınızı, fazla eşyalarınızı kaldırabileceğiniz, geniş çatı arası depolama alanları çok büyük konfor sunmaktadır.

Bakımlı bahçesi, nezih komşuları, kapının önünde 2 araçlık otoparkı olan bu binada, bakımından ve güvenlikten sorumlu bir apartman görevlisi vardır.

Bebek sahiline yürüyerek orman yolundan 7 dakikada inebilirsiniz. Spor kulübünüz ise yürüyerek 15 dakika mesafenizde.

Manzaraya hakim geniş balkonları ve terasında yaz mevsiminin keyfini doya doya çıkartırken, kışın ise şöminenizde çıtır çıtır yanan ateşin önünde huzuru bulacaksınız.

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## Güneş Sönmez RC 94

Güneş met Alana in the land of Alans, Alania, four years ago. He soon realised that Alana, the Caucasus charmer, was the love of his life he had waited for, for almost four decades. After the proposal in Yokohama, the "lightning love" turned into a "lightning marriage" in two countries within a few months. Their honeymoon ended in Australia, where Güneş' work had taken them and where they still live. Their marriage was gifted with their son Deniz in 2013 and recently in August with Mira, their daughter. May love and stars guide the Sönmez family.

## RC Sisterhood of Motherhood

When there's talk of the baby boom generation, generally those who were born after World War II come to mind. This is not the case anymore; the baby boomers of Robert College are the late 90s graduates who have boosted the population of RC babies significantly. Ayşe Baykut Dallal RC 98, Sibel Horada Coşkun RC 98, Aslı Salarvan Cousens RC 98, Balca Ergener Fennibay RC 98, Işıl Öge Özkula RC 99, İrem Oral Kayacık RC 99, Seda Sicimoğlu Yenikler RC 99, Ahu Kürk Cankorel RC 99, and Esra Erkman Dilber RC 01 form the RC sisterhood that has recently given birth in 2015. Not to be outdone by the girls, Emir Kefelioğlu RC 97, Metin Bencuya RC 98, and Cenan Çivi RC 98 are among the recent fathers, and there is a queue from the same classes expecting to become mothers and fathers before the year is over. Congratulations to all!



From L to R Ayşe Baykut Dallal RC 98, Esra Berkman Dilber RC 01, Işıl Öge Özkula RC 99, İrem Oral Kayacık RC 99, Ahu Kürk Cankorel RC 99



The babies of RC grads are becoming childhood friends

## Eda Sökmen RC 01



Eda Sökmen has established a travel agency called *istanbulite* which creates private tailored tours and activities mainly in Istanbul, Ephesus, Cappadocia and Bodrum. She not only takes her guests to famous sights, but also organizes fun experiences like Ottoman cooking classes. Her Fener and Balat tour was featured in *The Guardian* newspaper in 2014. She was also mentioned in *The Independent* newspaper in July 2015.

Sökmen has been a professional tour guide since 2007. She believes that Istanbul is the most beautiful city in the world, so she

promotes her passion and makes sure her guests enjoy every second of it.

Sökmen recently started organizing private trips to Cappadocia (where classmate Cansu Özer RC 01 leads most of her tours) and Ephesus, as well as private chartered yacht tours. She has also organized tours and accommodation for wedding guests of RC alumni coming from the US and the UK. In addition to wedding parties, Sökmen accommodates the needs of corporate clients coming to Istanbul for meetings.

For more details visit [www.istanbulite.com](http://www.istanbulite.com)



## Pelin Seyhan Kudar RC L12 03

Pelin Seyhan Kudar and Bulut Kudar welcomed baby Çınar Ata on August 4 in Kadıköy. After 10 years of dating, Pelin and Bulut were hitched last September. They hope to bury the umbilical cord on the RC campus, where Pelin spent five amazing years of her life. Çınar has already proved to be an impressive RC student candidate with his know-it-all looks.



## Esra Saydam RC L12 04



Accolades continue to roll in for Saydam's first feature film, *Deniz Seviyesi* (*Across the Sea*) (see RCQ 46, p. 30). After sweeping the 2014 Golden Boll Awards, the film went on to win the Leonardo's Horse for Best Director and Best Actress at the Milan International Film Festival in September 2015. It has also won several awards in the US.

Saydam recently finished writing her next film, *Soytarı* (*Clown is Down*). The story takes place in Turkey and is a crime thriller that focuses on the lives of three characters, including the murder victim. It will be directed in 2017. Saydam is also developing a TV program, to be released in Turkey next year.

## Barlas Günay RC L12 04



Barlas Günay has recently established his own psychology practice in Gayrettepe, Istanbul. After receiving his Honors BA in Psychology from Earlham College, he worked as a mental health counselor at the Methodist Hospital of Chicago. He returned to Turkey to complete his military service as a second lieutenant at Ankara GATA's department of psychiatry where he provided psychological services to military personnel. Following his military service, he studied at the University of Western Ontario where he obtained his master's degree in clinical psychology. He returned to Istanbul in early 2014 where he honed his skills as a clinical psychologist at some of Istanbul's foremost private practices. Günay specializes in the treatment of depression, anxiety disorders, and relationship issues with cognitive behavior therapy and mindfulness. He also gives seminars and workshops regarding psychopathology, psychotherapy, and personal development.

He can be reached at [barlas.gunay@gmail.com](mailto:barlas.gunay@gmail.com)

## Özgür Delemen RC 06

Delemen is the co-founder of a company that introduced Whittard of Chelsea, a tea, coffee, cocoa and fine bone china brand, to Turkey earlier this year. He first encountered the brand while studying at London School of Economics. "I have always been fond of tea and coffee tasting and the relative ceremonies. Whittard amazed me with its heritage, product selection and exceptional taste. This encouraged me to introduce the brand to Turkey," he explains. Delemen's company opened the first Whittard store in Akasya Acıbadem Mall, which is also the first Whittard Cafe in the world. Several UK stores have been turned into cafes after this concept started in Turkey. They recently introduced to-go service and plan to expand to more tea and coffee bars, hotels, restaurants and cafes.



After graduating from Robert College in 2006, Özgür attended Purdue University where he majored in BSc Economics, BSc Mathematics, and BSc Statistics with minors in Finance and Management. He graduated with Honors in 2009. He studied MSc Political Science and Political Economy at LSE.

## Berkay Tayşi RC 15



Berkay received an award from İş Bankası for being among the top-scoring students in the university entrance exam this year. In addition to a cash award, he also received an Inter-rail ticket for Europe. Robert College Turkish Literature teacher Müge Gümüş represented RC at the ceremony upon the special request of her student. Berkay is studying at İstanbul University, Cerrahpaşa School of Medicine.

## Ethem Aral RC 37

Ethem Aral passed away on August 30, 2015 at the age of 99. After RC he attended the Faculty of Law at Istanbul University. Beginning with the founding of the firm, he worked as a manager at Coats, Turkey until his retirement in 1978. He married Fatma Suat Aral ACG 42 and had two daughters, Suzan Akçora ACG 70 and Can Morali, and two grand-children, Bige and Yunus Emre Akçora.

Ethem Aral loved nature and people and had an undying zest for life. He never lost the sparkle in his eyes. He was a thoughtful, kind and giving person, very much loved by all his friends and family members. Born and raised in Rhodes, he was referred to by some friends as a Knight of Rhodes.

In a letter dated 1931, his teacher Russell B. Babcock wrote, "If you grow to be as fine and noble a man as you now are, I shall always admire you even though I am not near you." And he did grow up to be such a man.

*Contributed by Suzan Akçora and Can Morali.*



## Bill Z. Acar RC 42

Bill Acar passed away in Sammamish, WA, on March 26, 2015, shortly before his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. While at RC, he served as President of the Debate Union and the RC Players, and was a member of the RC Chorus. Following graduation from RC, he attended Istanbul University's Faculty of Economics. He then came to the US and worked for the Associated Press in New York. After becoming a US citizen, he joined the Army, and while serving in Japan, taught Turkish to other US service men, and later taught the same at UC Berkeley. Until his retirement, he was employed by the IRS.

Acar was known for his politeness, his intelligence and knowledge, and his life's philosophy, "Have you not lips to kiss with, hearts to love with, and eyes to see with?" He will be greatly missed by his brother Aydın Bill who attended Robert Academy and cousin Gülçin Akgün Brunson ACG 51 Ex of New York City.

## Fadıl Sabuncuoğlu RC ENG 46

Fadıl Sabuncuoğlu passed away on April 6, 2015 in Arlington, Virginia.

After their marriage in 1947, Fadıl and Selma (Kural) moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where Fadıl received his MS degree in structural engineering from the University of Michigan.

The family returned to Turkey in 1950 where Fadıl worked as a civil engineer through 1955. Subsequently, they moved to Texas and Fadıl entered the field of aerospace engineering at Convair Corporation. This was followed by Hiller Helicopters and Lockheed Missiles and Space Company. After Fadıl retired, the family remained in San Francisco for 32 years before moving to the Washington, DC area in 2008.

Fadıl loved jazz, dancing and skiing. He was extremely social and he never lost contact with his Turkish friends, or his love for Turkey. The fondly told stories of his RC days have been memorized by his family, and his and RC roommate Feyyaz Berker's legendary journey to the US in 1946 via Haifa and Cairo is an oft repeated story.

Fadıl is survived by his wife of 68 years, Selma, their daughter, Mine (James Kremen), and grandchildren Oran and Ayla.

*Contributed by Selma Sabuncuoğlu ACG 47 and Mine Sabuncuoğlu*





## Suna Kili ACG 46

Respectfully nicknamed "Teacher of Teachers", Prof. Dr. Suna Kili passed away on July 29, 2015. After ACG, Kili went on to receive her BA, MA, and PhD degrees in political science from Bryn Mawr College followed by further studies at UC Berkeley, London School of Economics, Columbia and Princeton.

Kili was a long time lecturer at Boğaziçi University, Department of Political Science and International Relations, specializing in political theory and models of development and modernization, especially modern Turkish political history and the Atatürk model of development. She was a visiting professor and lecturer at some 40 universities around the globe.

The recipient of countless awards, Kili authored over 25 books and hundreds of articles, and was an active member of the International Political Science Association (IPSA), International Association of Constitutional Law (IACL) and International Association of Political Psychology.



## Rıfat Esen RC 58

Rıfat Esen passed away in August 2015.

After completing RC with high honors, Rıfat attended Reutlingen Technical University to study Textile Chemical Engineering and returned to Turkey to become an important figure in the Turkish business community. He was an expert in the liberal arts and history, never missing seminars, concerts, theatrical and musical performances.

Upon retirement in 2006, Rıfat devoted more time to cultural and social past-times. At the age of 76 he was still attending "Executive Development" Seminars at Boğaziçi University. He was fond of traveling and enjoyed sharing his



knowledge with attentive listeners and these interested admirers never forgot what they learned from him. His ability to express himself analytically was probably due to his teaching experience during his younger years.

Rıfat was an easy-going and reliable character, loved by many. He will be remembered as a sincere friend and a gentleman. Rıfat is survived by his wife Ece, his brother Hasan Esen RA 63 and Hasan's wife Sevsu.

*Contributed by Hasan Esen RA 63 and Prof. Dr. Tunç Erem RC 58*

## Birgül Birol Büte ACG 62

Birgül Büte passed away on July 6, 2015, following an unexpected heart attack during a vacation in Rhodes. She died in the arms of her family, surrounded by love.

Birgül was a woman who knew the value of happiness and was grateful for having found it with her family and friends. She enjoyed life and greeted each day with thankfulness and love. She was a good listener and was there for her friends from the age of 12 until her last day. She was loving, graceful, caring and loyal. She

was dependable and brightened even the darkest days. We feel so lucky to have been friends with such a vibrant person. We will always love her with all our hearts and she will live in our memories as long as we do.

Birgül Büte is survived by two daughters, Didem and Sinem, her grand-daughters Ece and Tuğçe and her husband of 55 years, Şimşek Büte.

*Contributed by Sezen Oskan Koşdoğan ACG 62*



## Arif Ciliv RA 62



Arif Ciliv passed away on November 11, 2015. To his two loving daughters Alev and Serra, many friends, colleagues and possibly many other passersby, he passed on a silent awareness about subtle ways of loving without claims; about how life may get even more peaceful as one gets older; that one can always move to a smaller place and enjoy a simpler life; that illnesses and other defeats may come with the grace and the patience one needs; that the sun heals the soul, and so does water.

He fell in love many times, enjoyed many games of bridge, loved kabak kalya, liked sitting with his feet up, laughed when his daughters mocked him, and sometimes woke up early in the morning to feed the birds, but always cherished a good nap on the couch later. He said, 'I had a very good life, and it's all right if I have to go now,' before he left. He was beautiful and will be missed dearly.

*Contributed by Serra Ciliv RC 92*

## Elçin Yolaçar Birkan ACG 62 Ex

Elçin Birkan passed away on July 27, 2015 in Istanbul after a long battle with cancer.

She lived a full life, always seeking to expand her knowledge and loved the company of her Robert College friends. Elçin lived in the US, Saudi Arabia and Turkey and enjoyed traveling and exploring new places. She was a natural artist and a very creative person. She

painted professionally and attended several exhibitions in Turkey and the US. She was always generous, helpful and liked to share. A lover of nature, she enjoyed visiting the Robert College campus. Elçin Birkan is survived by her husband Prof. İlhan Birkan, two children, Şebnem and İlham, and three grandchildren.

*Contributed by İlham and Şebnem Birkan*



## İrini Melis Yankoğlu ACG 62



İrini Yankoğlu passed away on September 8, 2015 in Athens. With her tall figure, blonde curly hair, large eyes and sincere smile she was always kind and friendly and had a great sense of humour as well as a creative mind.

"My only wish is to be able to come to Istanbul", "I'm planning very seriously to come to Istanbul this summer for the school reunion", are words İrini used in almost all her letters.

Although we were together for only the last two years of school, bonding

as boarding students in Sage Hall had made us intimate friends and she was in great yearning for her native country, for Emirgan, her school and friends. Her favorite sentence, "Şekerim you see" is still in our ears.

İrini is survived by her husband Vasil, whom she had married right after graduation, and daughter Niki.

*Contributed by Birsen Börü Balkır ACG 62 and Suzan Yağlıyan ACG 62*



## İsmail Mehmet Yeyinmen RC ENG 63

Mehmet Yeyinmen passed away on October 19, 2015. After Kabataş Erkek Lisesi, he entered RC in 1958, received a BSc in mechanical engineering in 1963 and an MSc in 1964, followed by his PhD from Purdue and his master's in public administration from Harvard.

Mehmet distinguished himself as calm and confident with a sense of humor. There was nothing electronic or mechanical that he could not fix. And he was the undisputed unofficial photographer at all RC and ACG social events.

Mehmet served as Professor at Washington State and as Senior Lecturer at Marmara, ODTÜ, and Yeditepe

Universities. He introduced CAD, CAM and CAE in Turkey as CEO and founder of BYM Uygulamaları. He founded the Marmara U. Technology Foundation and was GM of the BURTRAK company. He served at TC Devlet Planlama Teşkilatı, as consultant in advanced technology and industrial investments and was the CEO of FORM 2000 Kalıp Sanayi Ticaret A.Ş.

Mehmet Yeyinmen is survived by his wife Çiğdem, son Ali and daughter Ayşe Weinberg, daughter-in-law Karen, son-in-law Michael and four grandchildren.

*Contributed by RC classmates and family*



## Natali Medina RC 85



Natali Medina passed away of sudden heart failure on June 14, 2015. She led a life of modesty, believing the least one

can do to change the world is to not cause more harm. She was our sanctuary. She kept her essence - fairness, integrity, sincerity in everything she did. An admirer of literature, she spent a great deal of time reading, reflecting and writing. She had friendships from all walks of life showing genuine interest in peoples' lives, making each feel special. Carrying contrasts in harmony made her unique: strong, yet graceful; demanding, but gracious; she was sincere and honest with all.

Natali was one of those rare people admired for who they are rather than what they do in life. Describing her would be incomplete without remembering significant highlights of her life;

undergraduate studies in political science at Yale, master's and doctoral work on political thought at CU Denver, journalism at various newspapers, her occupation as a conference interpreter and book translations from English and German including *Göçmenler, Bir Zamanlar Kırklareli'de Yahudiler Yaşardı* and *İstanbul'dan Kudüs'e Bir Kimlik Arayışı*.

Natali is survived by her parents, sister and nieces Edvina and Ceylin who treasured the magical times with their play-mate - witty teller-of-tales - charming Tata.

*Contributed by Gaye Oralkan RC 85*

## Akın Akkan RC 12

Akın Akkan passed away in a traffic accident on September 19, 2015. Akın...my dearest friend, Ever since you passed, I haven't been myself. The prematurity of your death is especially painful because you had many dreams and hopes to fulfill. I know that you'd be a great father and husband because once you take people in, you stop at nothing to protect your loved ones. Your quick and perceptive mind made you one of the funniest guys in RC 12 and you were known for your sincerity. Even when things didn't pan out like you pleased, you could keep smiling and emanating positivity. You used to say, "Live a little bit, you worry too much". It seems like you got it all figured out early and reminded your friends that life has so much to offer. If only you lived to see how wonderful a man you would become. Rest in peace my friend, may God bless your beautiful soul.

*Contributed by Yankı Yarman RC 12*



## Eser Göksel

Eser Göksel, beloved colleague and staff member in the RC College Counseling Office, died in İzmir on July 8, 2015. Eser received her BA from Boğaziçi University in English Literature and after teaching English in various private schools joined the RC community in October 1999. She soon made her way into the hearts of her colleagues and students with her wit, sense of style and warm personality. Her love of nature and especially of her cats, will always be remembered. Excerpts from faculty member Nüket Eren's tribute: "Eser would make a trip all the way out to Eminönü just to buy a pot of basil. She

read Selahattin Duman's articles daily and enjoyed discussing them. I remember our strolls along the Bosphorus as the evening lights would delicately illuminate the skies and the way she would decorate her cute garden with colorful bulbs."

Eser retired from Robert College in July 2012 and lived in Istanbul, then İzmir until her passing.

*Contributed by her colleagues and friends at Robert College*



## George Williams



Former RC English teacher and administrator George Williams passed away on November 18, 2015, at the age of 95.

George moved to Istanbul in 1942. In the words of Prof. Türkkaya Ataöv RC 51 he was, "a young but dedicated and fair-minded educator, a caring administrator and later a cordial friend in the autumn of our long life time." George was an expert historian on Turkey and the Near East covering the past 75 years. An athlete of several sports, he is remembered for his swimming, basketball, and tennis prowess.

A loving and expressive family man, George is survived by his wife of 71 years, Mary H. Williams, daughter Janice Kies, son Rodney Williams, three grand-children and one great-granddaughter.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Robert College of Istanbul, Office of the Board of Trustees, 520 Eighth Avenue, North Tower, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10018, online at [www.robcol.net](http://www.robcol.net) or in Turkey please call 212 263 4239

Online condolences may be offered at [www.nelsencares.com](http://www.nelsencares.com).

If you would like to share news of a deceased RC community member please send us a notice in English of no more than 160 words to [cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr). Longer notices will be edited due to space restrictions.

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





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# KARTIM, KANATLARIM.

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