

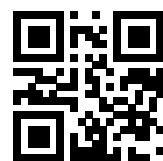
RC QUARTERLY SPRING / SUMMER 2019

ISSUE 54

RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

the **Technology** issue



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RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Alumni Journal published periodically by the RC Development Office for approximately 10,000 members of the RC community: graduates, students, faculty, administration, parents and friends.

In this issue

Robert College has diligently kept up with technology, throughout its 156-year history. In this issue, we explore the latest technological developments that impact both teaching and learning at RC (see p. 24).

Our alumni are at the forefront of technological innovations all around the world. Their views on areas as diverse as robots and games shed light on future careers, as well as help interpret our experiences today (see p. 31).

As always, RC alumni and students have been prolific in their outputs, and there are many awards, honors, books, and exhibitions to celebrate.

Just as we did with science and technology at RC, we will continue to turn the spotlight on different aspects of the RC experience, such as music and art. To that end, we would love to hear from you. If you have any comments or would like to share news, please write us at alumni@robcol.k12.tr

Wishing you a good summer!

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Robotics Club Explores Equality in STEM

By Dilara Anabolu L12

ARC 6014, RC's robotics team, hosted the first-ever student-based STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) conference at school, on February 16, 2019. With the theme (In)Equality in STEM, the event included a design thinking workshop to find solutions to inequalities in this area.

The team invited experts to speak about gender biases, financial obstacles and prejudices in STEM. Among the speakers were Mete Atatüre, professor of physics at the University of Cambridge; Melek Pulatkonak, founder of TurkishWIN, a networking and cooperation organization for women; futurist Murat Şahin; Social Maker Lab founder Özge Özmen; and Nurten Sancak, a clinical psychologist who is one of the role

models in the Girls in STEM project founded by Aziz Sancar. In the design thinking workshop, facilitated by RC English teacher Aybike Oğuz, students from several schools had the chance to create ideas together and get inspiration from each other.

The speakers underlined the importance of getting rid of gender taboos. They also noted that the creation of new jobs and fields in the near future constitute an excellent opportunity to prevent further male-female inequality. They emphasized the importance of women being realistic role models and counseling youth.

The participants also learned that STEM disciplines could be used to prevent social inequalities and gained

insights into the future. Robotics team captain Enes Arda Özgür L11 talked about his research on the impact of the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC), in which ARC 6014 participates. In addition to the engineering and teamwork mentality which FIRST helped develop among high school students,, he mentioned topics like gracious professionalism, community involvement and sponsor seeking which still stand to improve in Turkey.

A couple weeks after the conference, ARC 6014 competed at the FRC Bosphorus Regional with a robot they previously built, winning them a place at the world championship. Having run several projects with sponsors and RC alumni, ARC 6014 eagerly awaits ideas and support. For more information, visit www.arc6014.com



Students from high schools around Istanbul came to campus for the (In)Equality in STEM conference

Leadership Changes at RC

Dr. Charles Skipper, who has been at the helm since 2015, is leaving Robert College. His successor is Adam Oliver, who will become the new Head of School on July 1, 2019. RC wishes Dr. Skipper farewell, and welcomes Adam Oliver as new Head.

Dr. Charles Skipper, who came to Robert College as interim Head of School in 2015 and became Head of School in 2016, is off to the US and to new educational ventures. "Joining the RC community represented a long time personal and professional goal of serving at a school I had heard so much about for many years," said Dr. Skipper who focused on maintaining and building on the excellence that is RC during his time here.

One of his main projects was developing the Robert College Strategic Plan. After extensive interviews, discussions and workshops with students, teachers, staff, alumni, parents and Board members, the Strategic Plan was finalized in 2018. Board of Trustees Chair Jean Manas RC 83 commented, "I'm grateful to Charlie for reminding us during his tenure, the importance of students, faculty, staff and community. As Robert College, we have always aspired to create a tight knit community, and Charlie helped us understand what more we could do to achieve that goal. Under his leadership, our school has adopted a strategic plan singularly focused on better fulfilling our aspirations in this regard." Manas added, "Dr. Skipper has effectively led the school through a period of important transformation for which I know you will all join me and our Board of Trustees in expressing our appreciation." During his final year at RC, Dr. Skipper focused on the implementation of various stages of the plan.

In an interview he gave to RCQ when he first came to the school, he had said that among many other goals, his



Dr. Charles Skipper has served as Head of School since 2015

overarching goal was to be an effective ambassador for joy. His enthusiastic presence at school became a part of the fabric of RC. Dr. Skipper reaffirmed that RC is not an island; it is an inspiring place, and that RC students and alumni have a leading role to play in larger educational and societal groups.

Adam Oliver will be Dr. Skipper's successor, assuming his position on July 1, 2019. Mr. Oliver, who is 51, was most recently the Vice Principal and Head of Schools at St. George's in Rome, Italy. He studied English Language and Literature at St. Andrews University, where he received an MA with first-class honors. After St. Andrews, he received his teaching certificate from Keble College, Oxford University. He completed the



Adam Oliver will take over as Head of School starting in the 2019-2020 academic year

National Professional Qualification for Headship, the professional standard for head teachers in England, through the Institute of Education, which is part of University College, London. He also holds a master's degree from St. Edmund's College, Cambridge University in creative writing, for which he also received first-class honors.

"I am absolutely delighted and very honored to have the opportunity to lead a school with the global profile and reputation of Robert College," Mr. Oliver said. "The Robert College community has already been incredibly welcoming. My wife Rima and I look forward to sharing their commitment to academic excellence, holistic development and an education that values curiosity and the pleasure of learning."

A Decade of Honoring Girls in Science

The annual Prof. Seyhan Nurettin Ege ACG 49 Excellence in Science Award for Girls was presented on March 18, 2019. Now in its 10th year, the award recognizes a female Lise 11 student with exceptional aptitude in science, while honoring the legacy of Prof. Seyhan Ege, who was an educator of organic chemistry. The founder of the award and sister of Seyhan Ege, Dr. Güneş Ege Akter ACG 52, traveled from her home in Toronto, Canada, to present the award to this year's winner Şevval Akkaya L11. In the audience were Şevval's parents, peers and teachers, as well as guests of Güneş Hanım. The recipient of last year's award, Ebru Ermiş L12, was also present at the ceremony.

In her speech, Güneş Hanım underlined the generosity of spirit exhibited by so many teachers



Teachers joined Güneş Ege Akter ACG 52 to celebrate the 2019 Excellence in Science Award recipient. From L to R: Sibel Almas, James Butterworth, İpek Tingleff, 2018 recipient Ebru Ermiş L12, Güneş Ege Akter ACG 52, 2019 recipient Şevval Akkaya L11, Ece Kara, Sibel Sebüktekin, Cem Pulathaneli, Stuart Arey, Sean Vander Meulen, Dünya Önen RC L3 03, Nathan Harris and Gölde Mediha Kamer.

in recognizing and nurturing the potential of a student. She fondly recalled that her sister was generous in other ways as well, sharing a favorite quote of Seyhan Ege: "Be generous in giving credit, there is always enough to go around". Güneş Hanım emphasized that excellence in science alone is not enough, and striving for moral excellence is also critical. She ended

her speech with a quote from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: "Lives of great men and women all remind us; We can make our lives sublime. And departing, leave behind us, Footprints on the sands of time". The Seyhan Nurettin Ege ACG 49 Excellence in Science Award for Girls will continue to help students leave their "footprints on the sands of time" for years to come.

RCIMUN 2019 Highlights Technology and Development Issues

550 students participated in the 13th Robert College International Model United Nations (RCIMUN) conference that took place April 2-6, 2019. The participants came from over 40 schools from all around Turkey as well as Kosovo, Qatar and Azerbaijan. A team of 100 RC students worked on the organization and running of the successful conference.

This year RCIMUN chose the theme, "Political Innovation: Strengthening Diplomacy in an Evolving World". In the theme letter for the event, the rationale behind this choice was stated as follows: "From the rise of AI in the workplace in developed countries to the widespread use of cell phones in the most rural areas of African countries, rapid technological change has now become a reality in every part of the world. As a result of this rapid development, economic, social, and political problems started to rise all



RC MUN members Ayşem Sipahioğlu L12 and Gökercan Göker L10 with keynote speaker, former Turkish Ambassador, Prof. Dr. Ali Engin Oba

around the globe. It is time the global community reconsiders its stance on the problems that emerge with rapid technological development and on the newly emerged questions of data privacy, micronations, economic inequality, and climate change."

In line with the MUN conference format, there were different committees discussing issues and proposing resolutions to help societies move to a more responsible and inclusive form of development. For instance, the Disarmament Committee worked to find solutions around cyber-attacks and cybercrimes. The suggested measures included the establishment of an educational organization which will assist countries on ameliorating their education systems to accommodate issues of cyber security.

The theme of "Political Innovation" had not been addressed before at any other MUN conference. Public Relations Manager for the event, Ülgen Yıldırım L11 believes that more and more conferences will tackle the complicated issues that technological advancement raises.

Turkish Culture and Literature Symposium Explores Magazines

Literary magazines were the topic of discussion at the 14th annual Turkish Culture and Literature symposium which took place on campus on March 2, 2019. Organized by RC's Turkish Literature and Language Department, the symposium hosted teachers from Turkish state and private schools.



From L to R: Turkish Department Head Mehmet Uysal with Ali Ayçıl, Semih Gümüş, Handan İnci, Turgay Fişekçi, Murat Yalçın and Mehmet Erte

Turkish department head Mehmet Uysal said, "We view the magazines in the Turkish literary scene in two groups: classical literary magazines and those with totally new approaches." The opening speech was delivered by Prof. Dr. Handan İnci, Rector of Mimar Sinan Güzel Sanatlar University. The guest speakers during the morning session, titled "The Editors' Panel", were Mehmet Erte (Varlık), Semih Gümüş (Notos), Murat Yalçın (Kitap-lık), Turgay Fişekçi (Sözcükler) and Ali Ayçıl (Dergâh). The afternoon session was

titled "Changing Magazines, Changing Readers", and the guest speakers were actor Ahmet Mümtaz Taylan, Dündar Hızal (OT magazine publisher) and Mustafa Köz (poet and President of the Writer's Union of Turkey).

The Turkish department teachers said, "It was an honor and a pleasure for us to host them all together at Robert College." Following their talks, the guest speakers answered questions from the audience. Speaking on behalf

of the department, Mehmet Uysal emphasized, "The Symposium is in line with the mission of Robert College to contribute to Turkish education and culture environment. This activity allows Robert College to enrich the training of teachers in Turkish state and private schools. For the first time ever, students from other schools were also able to attend, allowing RC's and other schools' students to interact on a literary platform."

Dormen and Kortay Back on RC Stage



Haldun Dormen RC 49, Göksel Kortay ACG 55 and Hakan Altın on the Suna Kırac stage

On March 1, 2019, Haldun Dormen RC 49 and Göksel Kortay ACG 55 were back at their beloved school, performing Molière's *Kibarlık Budalası* at an evening organized by the RC Parents Association.

Dormen credits Robert College for his love of theatre and acting career. Influenced by fellow alumni Şirin Devrim ACG 46 and Tunç Yalman RC 44, he studied at Yale Drama School and then returned to Turkey in 1954 to found Dormen Tiyatrosu in 1957. Since then, he has produced and acted in many plays as well as films and TV shows, receiving numerous accolades. Göksel Kortay studied acting and directing at Boston University after ACG, and also has an English degree from the University of Michigan. As well as acting, she has translated numerous plays into Turkish. Dormen and Kortay have been collaborating for many years, acting together in Turkey and abroad.

On the day of the performance, Dormen and Kortay, along with their fellow cast members had dinner with RC students from various drama clubs. The students' enthusiasm was reciprocated by the actors. Kortay, who is always backstage at least three hours before a play, broke her rules to spend more time with the students, and went backstage only 90 minutes before the show. Ever the gentleman, Dormen wouldn't leave the cafeteria without escorting his classmates Güner Fansa ACG 49 and Nadia Bensusen ACG 49.

The RC Parents Association annually donates to the Robert College Scholarship Fund through fundraising activities such as concerts and theatre performances, the New Year's Bazaar, and day excursions.

Contributed by Özlem Mutlu Yalçın RC 89

Celebrating Life Through Art



Yiğit Yüce L12, Ramazan Efe Doğruöz L12 and Selen Öncüoğlu L11 were the winners of this year's Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Art Competition

Over 50 pieces were submitted, and 20 finalists were selected for the Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Art Competition held April 24, 2019, in the Suna Kırac Theatre Foyer. In her address to attendees, RC Art Department Head Merrill Hope-Brown echoed the thoughts of many: "Demirkan Aşetey is a graduate of 1976 who lost his life far too early, and we celebrate that life of loving art

every year with this small competition kindly sponsored by the Class of '76. Remembering a Robert College graduate through arts and music... What better way could there possibly be?" Hope-Brown's speech was followed by a performance by the RC Singers choir.

In addition to the works of art that were submitted to the competition,

on display in the foyer were works by previous years' winners, as well as two watercolor paintings by Aşetey. Joining the judging panel this year were Bora Fer RC L12 03, Hande Versat RC 01 and Arda Eren RC 13, each a professional in the field of education, design and visual arts respectively.

First prize went to Lise 12 student Yiğit Yüce for his piece "Tarla", a large mixed media work which aims to show the relationship between artists and the city. Yiğit was the second prize winner in last year's Demirkan Aşetey Art Competition.

Second and third prize went to Lise11 student Selen Öncüoğlu and Lise12 student Ramazan Efe Doğruöz, respectively. The five honorable mentions were awarded to Nabi Efe Çekirge L12, Pamira Yanar L11, Sude Metin L10, Bengi Ada Tüfekci L10 and Selin Karadeniz LP.

Ceren Özerdem RC 09

Joins the College Counseling Office

Excerpts from the **BOSPHORUS CHRONICLE** article by Ezgi Polat L10

The newest member of the College Counseling Office, Ceren Özerdem, adds value to the Robert College community with a stellar art background. She was the first recipient of the Robert College Özlem Akçakuş scholarship (see RCQ 48, p. 44). This scholarship enabled her to participate in the Maryland College of Art and Design's Pre-College Summer Program. She also won the Demirkan Aşetey Art Competition a few times during her high school years. Her favorite subject was Studio Art, and she describes her teachers Mr. Harley and Ms. Hinds as "her second family."

Özerdem graduated from the Brown and Rhode Island School of Design's Dual Degree Program with a BA in the History of Art and Architecture and



Ceren Özerdem RC 09

a BFA in Painting. During her college years, she was a Brown International Scholar, and she traveled to Iceland with a backpack for her thesis research. She also studied a semester abroad in Florence, Italy, to learn about traditional silk painting techniques.

Özerdem interned at Dieu Donné and at Ralph Lauren on the design team, and presented a fashion collection to Ralph Lauren himself.

After graduating from college, Ceren Özerdem continued her art, as well as working as an Admissions Consultant. She discovered that she loved getting to know students from different backgrounds and helping them reach their dreams. This discovery led her back to Robert College, Özerdem's "happy place." Ten years ago in the college counseling office, director of College Counselling Tamara Türeli told Özerdem about the Brown and RISD Dual Degree Program. Now they are working together to assist Robert College students with their high school lives and college journeys.

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Students Help Make Istanbul Accessible to All

İmeceLab, an open innovation lab enabling solutions for social, cultural, and environmental issues, recently held the Smart and Sustainable Urban Mobility Challenge. Several RC teams participated, along with teams from other high schools and universities. One of the winners of the challenge with their project called B-Point was the RC team named Kunduz, consisting of İhsan Uyan L12, Handan Dilara Bıkmaz L9, Umay Phildius L9 and Fikri Şan Köktaş L10. B-Point is a mobile application that aims to spot the locations that are accessible and suitable for disabled people. With their win, the team earned the sponsorship and technical support of the Beşiktaş Municipality to turn their project into a real app.

At the heart of the challenge was the drive to create a project with a human-centered design approach, that improves one aspect of urban mobility in Istanbul. Team Kunduz decided to focus on inclusive mobility. This decision was fueled by the large number of immobile people in Istanbul. Immobility brings isolation and social exclusion, especially to disabled people - a problem the team decided to focus on, in order to help create an inclusive social life in Istanbul for this segment of the population.

RCQ asked Team Kunduz about their process:

"The longest process in our project was identifying the main problem because, in order to make the project sustainable, it was essential to understand the challenges our audience was facing. We talked with physically handicapped people from various NGOs, analyzed the data, and worked on how to approach the problem."

Through their research, the team discovered that the main factor preventing disabled people from



Handan Dilara Bıkmaz L9, Fikri Şan Köktaş L10, İhsan Uyan L12 and Umay Phildius L9 at the Smart and Sustainable Urban Mobility Challenge

going out was the lack of accessible places (cafes, restaurants, cinemas, etc.). Thus, they decided to focus on identifying those places, which they call 'B-Points.' "The term B-point is derived from thinking of mobility as the movement from an A point to a B point," says the team. "We decided to develop an app that evaluates social places in terms of their accessibility for disabled people."

The team envisions B-Point as a special rating, like Michelin, that makes accessible social places more visible and distinguished from their competitors. They are also working on

a wide set of accessibility criteria that should be taken into account when designing for urban mobility.

With this encouraging win under its belt, Team Kunduz is ready to focus on the next steps: "Now we are going to work with İmece and Beşiktaş Municipality to decide our future strategy: with which organizations we are going to develop partnerships - including NGOs who are working with disabled people, how we are going to deal with the financial issues, how we are going to promote it, and by which way we're going to evaluate all of the places according to our criteria."

B - POINT

"Hareketlilik içindeki hareketsizliği yenmek"

A

Problem

İstanbul'daki 670 bin görme, işitme ve ortopedik engelli bireyin sadece 55 bini İstanbul kalabalığında görebiliyoruz. Yani %8'ini.

Hedefimiz: Topluma ve ulaşmaya değer "B noktaları"na olan güveni eksilmiş ve toplumdaki soyutlanmış olan engelli bireylerin elverişli ortamları bulmalarını kolaylaştırmak.






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B-Point will help people with disabilities access social spots around Istanbul more easily

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Jane Page Competition: Ten Years of Celebrating Student Writers

Robert College celebrated the 10th annual Jane Page English Writing Competition on April 26, 2019, in the grand hall of the Library. The tradition of having the works of winning writers read by their English teachers once again delighted the winners and the audience alike.

The Poetry Category was won by Deniz Yağmur Ürey L11 for her finely crafted "Villanelle" that circles around a philosophical idea. Honorable Mentions were given to Defne Gündoğdu L11 for "Rapunzel Retold" and Nil Funda Kınca L11 for "The Language of Senators and Nerds".

The Short Story Category recognized two winners who displayed superior control of language and risk taking. L12 student Atlas Kaan Yılmaz's story, "All the Little Lights" is a tale of a loner and his obsessive relationship with his city. The second winner was Su Doğa Karaca



Some of the students who were recognized for their submissions to the 2019 Jane Page Writing Competition, from L to R: İlgin Sezer L11, Kristal Doğa Mengüç L12, Selen Öncüoğlu L11, Azra Haseki L11, Elif Naz Ervatan L10, Su Doğa Karaca L11 and Atlas Kaan Yılmaz L12

L11 for "Eight to Nine" - her story about a child losing a parent. Three Certificates of Merit were awarded to İlgin Sezer L11 for "Blue," Kristal Doğa Mengüç L12 for "Your New Home," and Elif Naz Ervatan L10 for "Cirque du Poisson." Two additional stories were recognized with Honorable Mentions: L11 student Azra Haseki's "Movement II" and L11 student Selen Öncüoğlu's "This is a Train Ride from Ankara to Tbilisi."

Finally, the Short Script Category produced two winners. Atlas Kaan Yılmaz L12 won once again for his

script "Welcoming," which takes the audience to an alternative reality through the use of mythological, symbolic, religious, and holy characters in a contemporary situation. The second winner was Gizem Doğan L11 for her complex and smartly-packaged short play, "The Interrogee." An Honorable Mention was awarded to Mehmet Tüfek L12 for his play titled, "The Execution." Mehmet has been recognized several times before at the Jane Page Ceremony as well as by the Columbia University Granger Poetry Competition.

RC Theatre Stages Sherlock Holmes with a Twist

Putting on a play with one of the most iconic couples in literary and recent television history is not exactly elementary. However, with the gender of the roles swapped, it is without a doubt fresh and entertaining.

RC Theater Company completed its season with a witty and provocative performance of Christopher M. Walsh's *Miss Holmes*. In this version, Holmes and Watson are women in Victorian London, facing obstacles a male Holmes and Watson never could have imagined. Sherlock (Öykü Ertay L10), for example, is committed to a mental hospital for enthusiasm in solving crime. Watson (Zeynep Soydan L11) faces the prejudice of being a doctor in London's only hospital for women. Both Mycroft (Mert Yapucuoğlu L12)

and Holmes took on British accents, distinguishing the brother/sister team as unique from the rest of the cast.

For the modern Sherlock audience, RC Theater Company had some treats, including amplifying the brother/sister rivalry. As the audience entered the theatre, they met a very young Sherlock (Ezo Elif Takmaz L10) and Mycroft (Salim Sinan Tüncer LP) playing a slow game of chess interspersed with Sherlock playing violin. The scene is returned to in a flashback at the end of the play where Sherlock finally gets the best of her brother and says, "checkmate." Before the play began there was a sequence (choreographed by Gizem Doğan L11, who also played Dr. Anderson) lit in dim blue where all possible suspects crossed the stage in a London rush to the music of Vivaldi.



The roles of Holmes, Watson and Mycroft were switched in *Miss Holmes*

Other surprises included Maria Orhon (Dean of Academics) and English teachers Maura Kelly and Melissa Altıntaş appearing different nights as Ms. Professor Moriarity.

Miss Holmes delighted its audience and joined RC's long line of brilliant student theater productions.

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Girls' Volleyball Team Set and Spike

Their Way to Nationals

The RC Girls' Volleyball team achieved a first this year – their skills and teamwork lead them to the Turkish National Semi-finals this spring.

Following an exciting and successful season playing in regional competitions, the RC Girls' Volleyball team finished the first semester in the Istanbul championship rounds. Robert College placed sixth among 220 schools, qualifying for the national championship. The accomplishment is especially noteworthy as they competed against schools that attract top players through scholarships.

They then advanced to the Turkish National Championships, where they represented Istanbul. After winning matches against teams from Kütahya, Afyonkarahisar and Antalya in the quarter-finals, they advanced to the

semi-finals. In March they headed to Erzurum where they won three matches to become first in their group.

"The girls truly showed tremendous effort and performance on and off court as a team," said coach Aslı

Temel. "They did the best possible as a non-professional team of student athletes. I'm proud to say that we ended the season as the only amateur team in Turkey to make it in the top 12 teams." The RC Volleyball team placed 9th overall.



The RC Girls' Volleyball team celebrate their success in the Turkish National Quarter-finals



Scholarships

Make the School Stronger

Thanks to its donors, Robert College today is a meritocracy that attracts the most accomplished and deserving students from all over Turkey.

RC is a private school with a public mission.

Many students who excel on the entrance exam and qualify for RC find tuition an insurmountable obstacle. RC believes in equal opportunity in education and strives to provide scholarships for these students to attend and experience a life-transforming opportunity. Educating the brightest students regardless of their financial means serves not only those individual students but the whole country. Currently 277 of 1042 students (26%) receive financial support. Scholarships allow students from all over Turkey to join the school, creating a diverse student body that promotes open-mindedness and personal growth.

RC's yearly fundraising efforts include large gifts which are directed towards

scholarships and/or the endowment fund and individual gifts collected under the Annual Giving Campaign. Should an individual, a class or an organization wish to name a fund, they can either set up an endowed or an annual scholarship.

Named Scholarships

Endowment Fund

A minimum gift of \$150,000 is required to name an endowed fund. This amount may be paid over a three year period. The income of the fund is topped up by Robert College to cover the yearly tuition of one student. Named endowed funds continue in perpetuity.

Annual Scholarship Fund

Setting up an annual scholarship fund requires individuals or classes

to donate the amount of a full tuition each year. As sustainability is important, the gift should be renewed each year until the designated student graduates.

Named Scholarships 2018-19

- 13 Annual Scholarships established by classes
- 5 Annual Scholarships established by individuals or corporations
- 18 Endowed Scholarships established by classes
- 41 Endowed Scholarships established by individuals or corporations
- 4 Annual Sponsorships established by individuals

Annual Sponsorship

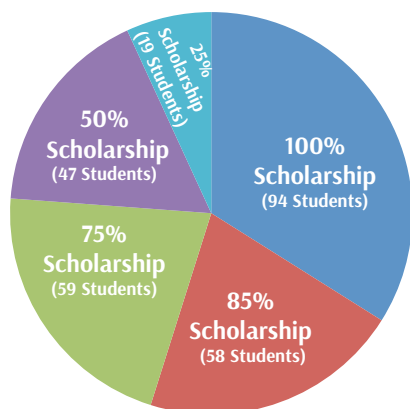
A new naming opportunity was introduced during the 2018-19 campaign year: Annual Sponsorship. When a donor pledges to make a gift of \$30,000 for at least five years, they can sponsor a seven-day residential student including their incidental expenses such as co-curricular travel activities, programs, and food.

All scholarship donors receive yearly reports about the students their gifts

are directed to, and are invited to their graduation ceremony.

To learn more about how to create an Endowed Scholarship, start an Annual Scholarship Fund or be part of the Annual Sponsorship Program at Robert College, contact Mehveş Dramur at mdramur@robcol.k12.tr or +90 212 359 2436, or Eren Kaya in the New York office at erenkaya@robertcollege.org or +1 212 340 7061.

277 Students Receive Need-based Scholarships



1 in 4 Students Receive Financial Aid



New Endowed and Annual Scholarships as of 2018-2019

Endowments:

ETOR Foundation
Class of RC 89
Derin Uras

Annual Scholarships:

Class of RC 99
Class of RC 09
Class of RC 11



Scholarship Fund Established in Memory of Derin Uras

The RC community was shaken with the news of a tragic loss in January 2019. Derin Uras, son of RC Finance Director and Associate Head Ümran Üngün ACG 70, passed away during a business trip to Miami, due to complications from pneumonia. He was 34. Derin is survived by his mother Ümran, wife Duygu Yıldız Uras RC 02 and their two year old son, Can.

Upon news of his passing, friends, family and members of the RC Board of Trustees came together to establish the Derin Uras Endowed Memorial Fund at Robert College. Over \$175,000 has been raised to date. Contributions may be made by contacting the Development Office at alumni@robcol.k12.tr or +90 (212) 263 4239, or the New York office at erenkaya@robertcollege.org or +1 212 340 7061.

This scholarship will benefit RC students for generations to come and ensure that Derin's name will always live on at Robert College.

RC Students Share Their Love of STEAM

Recognizing the need of many schools to integrate technology into their curriculum, RC students have channeled their skills and enthusiasm towards creative STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) activities for their Community Involvement Projects (CIPs).

Returning to a school in Balıkesir where they taught makers and coding skills in the fall, RC students facilitated an interdisciplinary Robert College Alternative Education Program (RKANEP) under the theme of Artificial Intelligence (AI) over the semester break. The student leaders explain:

By giving the project the theme of AI, we wanted the students to gain a vision about the developing world of technology and also imagine their role in the future. We applied the theme “AI” in various sub-groups such as English Drama, Art, Music and Dance, Science and Makers. In Art, we designed robots from recyclable materials that they had been collecting throughout the week, and in Music and Dance we introduced different music and dance genres while also discussing whether robots can dance like humans or whether they can move their body according to the emotion the music evoked in them.

We noticed one issue among the students: gender timidity. The girls were reluctant to participate in the activities fully whereas most of the boys were very willing. For example, one of our friends brought his trumpet and in each group, he asked whether someone wanted to try it. Every time the boys raised their hands first, whereas the girls needed encouragement from us. Throughout the week, we tried to alter this situation by encouraging the girls to participate in the activities. We had the girls and boys interact more during activities and it really helped to change their perspectives.



A girl works on a challenging maze

During the semester break another group of students facilitated a colorful and engaging coding project for kids based at Ataşehir Municipality's Ferhatpaşa Center for Arts and Sciences, which also included fun and challenging brain games. In the words of the student leaders:

Our project's main focus was coding with Scratch, a coding language specifically designed for children. The second focus was brain games. Our project is sustainable: The children still have access to the tools in the center to continue their coding projects and create new ones, as well as solving and learning new brain games. We were overjoyed to hear children saying, “I never knew the things I could do with a computer,” and, “From now on, I will not only play video games, but I will start making them.”

The project was an amazing experience for us leaders. We realized how big a difference could be made by someone taking initiative. After the final day's presentation many parents were eager to find out about other programs the center offers throughout the year. So, we also helped the Ferhatpaşa Center for Arts and Sciences reach more people. This was our first time as leaders, and the experience was such a memorable one that we are arranging another summer workshop for kids in Ferhatpaşa in cooperation with the center. We are proud of everything we achieved over the semester break, and are optimistic about what we might achieve over the course of the summer.



A group of kids use Kapla blocks to create unique structures

CIP Leadership Training Program



Former CIP Co-Coordinator Jennifer Sertel facilitates a leadership exercise

The CIP Leadership Training Program was initiated in the fall of 2018 with the aim of better preparing students to facilitate meaningful and impactful community involvement projects. Lise 10 students were invited to apply, and a total of 36 students participated in the program.

CIP staff led five training modules based on the CIP Curriculum (see RCQ 51, p 26). Modules provided training in areas such as communication, team building, needs and resource analysis, defining aims and outcomes of projects, logistical and curriculum planning, and facilitating reflection. This is what some participants had to say:

- “I have realized that leading is harder than I thought. It involves being aware of potential problems and how to solve these problems using different approaches.”
- “I am less stressed and feel ready for and excited about the process of becoming a leader.”
- “I am more aware of my own identity and clearer about how I think and what I want to do. I am starting to feel the responsibility that comes with leadership.”
- “Coming together with my peers to share our ideas and brainstorm helped me understand different perspectives and also helped me realize that I am not alone in my anxieties and concerns.”

Participants were able to use what they learned on projects during the fall and semester breaks.

Zeynep Basmacı RC 06 Joins the CIP Office as Advisor



Zeynep Basmacı RC 06

After graduating from RC, Zeynep Basmacı studied Industrial Product Design at İTÜ while working as an advisor in the girls' residence and as a counselor for the RCSummer Program. After completing her degree and working at design firms in Istanbul, she returned to RC as the co-coordinator of the RCSummer Program. Zeynep joined the CIP Office in the fall of 2018. She brings her skills in project management and creative problem solving to CIP, helping students develop and implement their projects. In the future, she would like to facilitate more ecology-focused CIPs. In addition to her professional experience, Zeynep has volunteered on local farms, traveled around South and Central America, and is an avid practitioner and trainer of aikido.

Always Something Interesting at Bizim Tepe

The Robert College Alumni Association organizes numerous events throughout the year, with something for everyone. Here are highlights from happenings at Bizim Tepe over the past few months.

Gatsby Night

To end 2018 in style, RKMD threw a Gatsby Party with the groups Flapper Swing, Flapper, Istanbul Dans, and Jack in the Box as DJ. The turnout was great, and everyone got into the Roaring Twenties mood with elegant, Gatsby-themed costumes.



Alumni with the Roaring Twenties spirit

Philosophy with Children

RKMD organized a four-week philosophy workshop for children aged 9-12. The workshop was run by Berke Şerbetçi, a philosophy for children facilitator. The critical thinking activities that the children engaged in during the workshop enhance their self-esteem, speaking, listening, and thinking skills.



Canan Altındaş RC 07: Technology Addiction of Children and Teens



Clinical psychologist Canan Altındaş RC 07 held an interactive talk at Bizim Tepe on why children and teenagers become addicted to technological tools. Attending parents had the chance to ask questions.

Board of Directors – Alternate Members	
Name	Title
Yaprak Kılıççı RC 89	Alternate Member
Ömer Önen RC 88	Alternate Member
Alp Gözaydın RC 15	Alternate Member
Ali Tuğrul Alpacar RC 86	Alternate Member
Erol Altıntuğ RC 86	Alternate Member
Koray Yaran RC 86	Alternate Member



For details visit; www.rkmd.org.tr or
call +90 212 287 00 78

From Coast to Coast, Keeping the RC Spirit Strong

Alumni across the US had several opportunities over the past few months to catch up and make new connections. Events on the East and West Coasts are highlighted.

Philadelphia Alumni Enjoy a Day at the Museum

Alumni in Philadelphia visited the Middle East Galleries at UPenn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in March 2019. ACG 61 graduate Dr. Ayşe Gürsan-Salzmänn, Deputy Director at UPenn Museum, took the group for a private tour in the galleries. This was an excellent venue to bring some of the RCAA members together. Aysegül Soyer RC 74 traveled from Virginia knowing that her classmate Neslihan Jevremovic was going to be at the event. In addition, family and friends learned more about the history and art of Turkey. The event ended with a dinner at a nearby restaurant.

If you wish to join events in Philadelphia, please contact the RCAA at nyoffice@robcol.org



From L to R: Defne and Kumru Kastro (daughter and wife of Sabi Kastro RC 85), Okan Ergin, Nil Ergin RC 95 and Ayşe Gürsan-Salzmänn ACG 61

Bay Area Alumni Ring in the New Year

San Francisco Bay Area alumni came together to celebrate the holidays and the new year on December 16, 2018. Over 50 alumni of all ages met at Noosh, the new restaurant of alumni chef Sayat Özyılmaz RC L12 04, to catch up with old friends, make new connections and enjoy delicious appetizers and cocktails. The party was quite lively and a great time was had by all. Alumni new to the area expressed their joy at the camaraderie of the group. To learn about more Bay Area events, join the Robert College Bay Area Facebook group, or contact Sanem Alkan RC 90 at sanem@samadvisory.com



Alumni of all ages met at Noosh, the new restaurant of Sayat Özyılmaz RC L12 04

Dün, bugün, yarın, BİLGİ.

BİLGİ ilk günden beri, kendine ve hayata güvenle bakabilmen, geleceğine ve dünyaya yön vermen için var.

Burada, hayallerini gerçeğe dönüştürecek ve seni hedeflerine ulaştıracak kişiyi; kendini bulacaksın.

Çünkü yapabileceklerini keşfetmen için 23 yıldır, BİLGİ var.



A Tribute to Üstün Ergüder RC 57

An ongoing series which pays tribute to faculty members who continued to carry the Robert College values into the future at Boğaziçi University was initiated by a group from the Robert College Class of Yüksek '71 members, the last University Class to graduate from RC. The series most recently honored Prof. Dr. Üstün Ergüder RC 57, who served as the Rector of the university from 1992-2000, after being a professor for over two decades at the school. The ceremony for Ergüder was held in Albert Long Hall on December 6, 2018. The event started with an address from Prof. Dr. Zeynep Atay, the current vice rector of Boğaziçi University, followed by speeches by colleagues, family and friends, and a video showing highlights from his career.

Üstün Ergüder entered the Robert College Orta school in 1948. After graduating in 1957, he received his bachelor's degree in economics from Manchester University. He continued his education at Syracuse University where he received his master's in public affairs, followed by his PhD in political science. He returned to Robert College as an economics professor in 1969. "I still remember the students I had at that time," said Ergüder. "There were many colorful people, such as Burhan Karaçam and Mehmet Yaltır. The most outstanding feature of that class was

that they attached importance to Boğaziçi and its values."

Ergüder was witness to the merger of RC with ACG in 1971, and the transformation of RC Yüksek into Boğaziçi University. In 1988 he became the head of the Political Science and International Relations Department. In 1992, he was elected Rector of Boğaziçi University and served in that capacity for two terms, until 2000. Among his significant accomplishments were important fund raising initiatives he undertook, such as the Superdorm. The legendary Quadrangle on campus carries Üstün Ergüder's name as a fitting tribute to his life time of service.

"I have deep ties to this institution, and being the head of it has meaning beyond the title of Rector," Ergüder explains. "I think about the fact that I entered this institution in 1948 as a teenager, and I left in 2000 as a grandfather. It was an immense 52 years which, without a doubt, left a deep trace on my life. It became my family, had a huge influence on my life, and striving to make a difference became a lifestyle for me."

The group of graduates who lead this initiative included Mehmet Yaltır RC YÜK 71, Ekrem Ekinci RC ENG 71, Burhan Karaçam RA 68 – BU 72, Ahmet Aydede BU ENG 74 and Nuri Çolakoglu



Üstün Ergüder RC 57

RA 62. Iconic names honored in this series to date include Oktay Yenal RC 51 who was the founder of the RC Business Administration School, Mustafa Dilber RA 63 who was a former BU Dean of Students in the 1970s, Vedat Yerlici RC ENG 51 who was the first Dean of the Engineering School and elected to the post four times by the faculty, and the inimitable Oya Başak ACG 55, who headed the English Literature Department for years. During each ceremony, family, classmates, colleagues and co-workers of these legendary faculty members shared their memories, following a short documentary of the honoree's life.



Fellow alumni, colleagues, family and friends attended the ceremony in Ergüder's honor

Batu Erman RC 87 Creates New Weapons in the Fight Against Cancer

Prof. Dr. Batu Erman, a faculty member in the Molecular Biology, Genetics and Bioengineering Program at Sabanci University, is among the trio of bioengineers who recently published a groundbreaking research article in the *European Journal of Immunology*. The team, which includes bioengineers Tolga Sötlü and Adil Doğanay Duru, has worked out how immune cells can be re-programmed to identify and target cancer cells. What distinguishes Dr. Erman's work is that it makes it possible to target not only the surface of cancer cells, but also the molecules that are inside. The RCQ asked Erman to explain the discovery:

"We use the HIV-derived lentivirus to transfer genes into specialized immune system cells called natural killer (NK) cells. We take all the genes that make the HIV virus dangerous to humans and replace them with



Batu Erman RC 87

the genes in which we are interested. When this genetically modified virus infects, these genes are inserted into the genome of the NK cells in the laboratory. Now the NK cells are engineered to seek out the melanoma cancer. When we mix the engineered NK cells and the melanoma cells together, we find that the target cells are killed specifically by the NK cells."

Sabancı University and Nova Southeastern University have together applied for a patent to protect the commercial uses of this discovery. The conversion of this discovery into administrable therapy takes 3-5 years, many clinical trials, and requires investment from biopharmaceutical companies. Immunotherapies, several of which are in clinical trials, are the future for targeted and personalized therapies.

Erman credits his years at RC as having a strong influence on his career: "I first learned about molecular biology from my teacher Eşref Sakarya in middle school. And I first learned about immunology with fellow students taking an advanced biology class from Erol Altuğ. I chose to become a molecular biologist so that I could modify the immune system using molecular tools."

Ümit Özkan RC 73 Honored with Endowed Professorship

Ümit Sivrioğlu Özkan was honored by an endowed professorship established in her name at the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Department of the Ohio State University. The Ümit S. Özkan Professorship will be used to support a young faculty member at the start of his or her career.

Özkan is a trailblazer in chemical engineering. She is an internationally recognized expert in catalysis and electrocatalysis with six patents and over 200 refereed publications. She achieved this status at a time when women chemical engineers were few, and mentoring opportunities were scarce.

To honor a professor who is still actively working is a first at the

university. But then again Ümit Özkan has accomplished many firsts in her career. She was the first woman to join Ohio State's Department of Chemical Engineering, remaining the sole female faculty member for 19 years. She was also one of the few female full professors in the College of Engineering for many years and the first female associate dean for research. In 2018, she became the first female to receive the American Chemical Society's Energy and Fuels Division Henry H. Storch Award (see RCQ 51, p. 23).

The Ümit S. Özkan Professorship is supported by an endowment of \$1.5 million given by William and Ernestine Lowrie, long-time supporters of the Ohio State's Department of Chemical


Engineering. Özkan continues to lead in her field, and will be better able to help other scientists advance their work through this professorship.



Ümit Özkan RC 73

Technology at RC

Does Robert College, with its 156-year heritage, run faster than the dizzying pace of technology? This question instigated the RCQ Technology Issue. While the RCQ reviews Robert College's technology vision and its practical educational applications, it also takes stock of the impressive achievements of our students and alumni active at the forefront of technology.



A computer class in the late '70s
try out the school's state-of-the-art
Commodore PET computers

RC has always been an early adopter. Computers, the most obvious symbols of technology, have been used at Robert College since 1977. The first programming classes started in 1984 and revolved around Basic, Fortran, and Pascal languages. Faculty and staff were also given word processing and programming training

with the hopes that they would write their own software and be able to evaluate educational software.

In 1985, a computer class was added to the Orta prep curriculum, and the Sait Halman Computer Center came into existence, named in memory of the son of Talat S. Halman RC 51, who

had shown great promise in Computer Science (see RCQ 47, p. 51). The students were increasingly interested in using the center. They were mainly interested in the word processor, a database called College Explorer, and an SAT program. From those early years onwards, the role of technology in education at RC grew.



Coding is just one of the subjects that is taught in the Sait Halman Computer Center



Computer teacher Colin Edmonds (center) explains the components of a motherboard to students

The technology vision statement of the school asserts that RC community members are purposefully engaged in ongoing learning, supported by the use of integrated technology to model citizenship, leadership, critical thinking, creativity, global awareness, communication and collaboration. In conjunction with the new strategic plan, this vision includes not only adapting to the new world but also shaping it. Specifically, the vision addresses the expectations of the students, faculty and staff by focusing on:

- **Ensuring technology fluency:** Students graduate from Robert College with a sophisticated technological competency and skills. Teachers have professional development opportunities to blend teaching with new technologies.
- **Enabling new and changing technologies:** Technologies such as augmented reality, virtual reality, artificial intelligence, big data analysis and the internet of things are and will be incorporated to enhance both teaching and learning.
- **Building student communities:** Student communities will contribute to the next disrupting technologies.

An example of one of the practical applications of this vision is that all the classrooms were equipped with smart screens in November 2018. Teachers can now access course



A class learns how to design and create objects using a 3D printer

material and corresponding resources on the internet instantly during class. This technology enables saving classroom content for later use and provides remote access for students to participate live in the classroom. Also in line with this vision, Tanol Türkoğlu joined Robert College as Chief Technology Officer in 2018 (see box on p. 30). Türkoğlu underlines that, “Even more than selecting the right devices for the classroom, professional development for teachers is the key ingredient for successful technology projects in school.”

New ways of teaching

RC teachers are exposed to many methods to transform their teaching with technology. Department training programs, monthly TechWeek sessions covering the tips and tricks for technological tools, and Teacher Teaching Teachers (TTT) sessions, where teachers share best practices with their colleagues, constitute just a few of the practices ensuring professional development. In addition, the Technology Leadership Team, comprised of both teachers and IT staff members, work on establishing minimum use standards for all the new tools. The hard work around incorporating

technology pays off in terms of results: The joy and passion in both learning and teaching are even more amplified. While Turkish Literature teachers use storytelling tools to provide creativity and communication skills to students, math teachers give mathematical modeling lectures with 3D printed products. Science teachers even held an Augmented Reality Science exhibition with students.

Same Library space with more resources

How does The İbrahim Bodur Library fare in the whirlwind of change? The Library has extended its services, providing remote access to resources, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. New eBook and audio book collections, online newspapers, databases, popular eMagazines, and research tools and guides can all be



The use of smart screens in the classroom provides students with a richer learning experience



The Robotics team poses with the robot they built at the FIRST Robotics Bosphorus Regional competition

accessed by RC students while on and off campus. Despite the various ways the RC community use online resources, people still very much value the physical space and print resources. “Technology has not changed the Library’s fundamental purpose of bringing together people, information and ideas to inspire for the future,” says head librarian Cara Keyman. “It is the center of creativity, research and collaboration at Robert College.”

Balancing quality of life

Amid the increased access to technology in and out of the classroom, can students fight off technology addiction - now a growing concern around the world? It is reassuring to know that the RC curriculum includes an introduction to digital citizenship, addressing issues like cyber bullying and device addiction, with reminders that continue throughout high school. Erkan Uğuzalp from the RC Counseling department states that internet addiction is not a serious concern among RC students. Even so, the school focuses on pre-emptive measures and raising awareness.

Students at the forefront of tech activities

In the meantime, many RC students are on a variety of interesting

technology-related quests. The RC Robotics team ARC6014, participated in FIRST Robotics Competitions (FRC) in Turkey and competed at the World Championship in Houston. The Student Tech Crew (STC) are a team of on-site technological problem solvers. This team received training for the smart screens at the same time as the teachers, so that they were able to anticipate possible problems during class time and help the whole school navigate them. The RC Makers club, which currently boasts more

than 50 members, is working on an underwater robot, a mine detector robot, and a system where students can make canteen payments with their ID cards. Students interested in filmmaking bring their concepts to life with the state-of-the art hardware and software available at the Serdar Bilgili Film Editing Center. University professors and filmmakers who visited the center have all stated that this technologically advanced facility is one of a kind in Turkey.

From students to teachers, from vision to execution, Robert College embraces technology as a tool to support the overall goal of learning and personal development. The dual effort from students and teachers allows Robert College to live up to its standards of excellence: RC teachers take care to understand and adapt new tools to enhance the learning experience, while students learn to use these tools innovatively and also responsibly.

Robert College has and will continue to use the most up-to-date devices and applications. However, there is one thing that teachers and administrators all agree on: while technology is a tool for learning that will change over time, the fundamentals that have been part of the curriculum for RC students since the start - critical thinking, collaboration, leadership and global citizenship - will always stay the same.



Members from the RC Makers club present their underwater robot at the MATE ROV competition



(MİLLİYET)
ROBERT KOLEJDE KURULAN, TÜRKİYEDEKİ İLK ELEKTRONİK BEYİN...

Türkiyede ilk elektronik beyin kolejde kuruldu

YÜKSEK RİYAZİYE PROBLEMLERİNİ SÜR'ATLE HALLEDEN ELEKTRONİK BEYİN HAKKINDA DÜN BASIN MENSUPLARINA İZAHAT VERİLDİ

Professors at RC's engineering school created an "electronic brain" that was able to compute complex math problems (clipping from Milliyet newspaper, May 14, 1958)



Mühendis Yılmaz Gültekin, koku ölçme âleti hakkında izahat verirken...

İlk koku ölçer âlet Türkiye'de yapıldı

Bu âletin inkişafı sayesinde evlenmelere mâni olan ağız kokusu da önlenecek

Necmi Tanyolaç, Director of the Research Center at RC, invented the electro-odocell, a device used to detect odors (clipping from Milliyet newspaper, March 13, 1964)



A language lab in the 1960s. Students today listen to foreign language files through their laptops.



A student using an IBM computer in the 1970s



Girls in a surveying class work on the Plateau in the 1920s



Students gain hands-on engineering experience while building a robot



Virtual reality programs give students an immersed learning experience without leaving the classroom



21st century learning tools allow students to be in class while enjoying the outdoor spaces around campus



Students are working more and more with augmented reality. Here they prepared an exhibition on medical history that included videos which were accessed by scanning photos via a mobile application.



Student Tech Crew members are always ready to solve tech issues during class

Meet RC's CTO, Tanol Türkoğlu

"It is technologically augmented education now."

In 2018, Tanol Türkoğlu joined the Robert College community as Chief Technology Officer (CTO). A computer engineer by education, Türkoğlu worked at some of Turkey's leading banks as part of their technological transformation teams. He is the author of six books on technology, has contributed to Cumhuriyet newspaper's information technology supplement for years, and now also writes for Herkese Bilim Teknoloji (Science and Technology to All)



Tanol Türkoğlu, RC's Chief Technology Officer

magazine. RCQ asked him about the vision for technology at RC:

"RC assumes that learning in the 21st century is a never-ending journey, and technology should be the main leverage to support it. The RC culture empowers learners through rigorous and relevant programs which are enhanced by current and emerging technologies and fosters responsible, ethical use of digital resources and tools. It is technologically augmented education now, and RC is ready to take an active role in this journey."

The Evolution of Biology Classes

Photo: Tan Aydemir L10



A vintage skeleton and a state-of-the-art smart screen both play important roles in İpek Tingleff's biology classes

Biology teacher İpek Tingleff has been teaching at RC for 19 years, and is on the Technology Leadership Team. The RCQ asked her about the changes in teaching and learning she has witnessed over time:

"When I first started teaching in Feyyaz Berker Room 203, the technology in the classroom was a portable TV, a VCR, an overhead projector, and the giant disc player! Today, it is equipped with a smart screen, and everybody has a laptop.

"Through tools like EDpuzzle and Screencasts, it is now possible to 'flip

the lessons' (the lecture portion of the lesson is done at home as homework via video or other media, so that the time in class can be used for discussions, lab and group work). Even though lessons are now more student-centered, the heavy curriculum and time available inside and outside the classroom are still constraints.

"The online availability of teaching-learning material for the students and the ability to give immediate feedback via Google classroom constitute the biggest improvements. All work is online, and I can type comments visible to students at all times. I

have the screencasts of some of my previous lessons, and students like listening to the lesson anytime they want with the ability to stop and watch again. I am saving and posting my lecture notes via the smart screen and now it is possible to even record the lessons. That is my next goal.

"I still use precious real bone specimens and a skeleton along with microscopes and other lab equipment. The smart screen and the real skeleton are juxtaposed in my room - the fancy yet soon to be replaced short term technology opposite a timeless, priceless teaching tool."

Glimpsing the Future of Technology with RC Alumni

There are so many Robert College alumni who have chosen careers in technology. From robotics to biotech, from artificial intelligence to fintech, here is a tour of the future with RC grads and advice for those interested in these fields.

The Power of Biotech

Yusuf Yazıcı RC 88, Arman Oruç RC 88, Osman Kibar RC 88, and Cevdet Şamikoğlu RC 89 - Founders of Samumed

“We will be talking less about ‘lifespan’ and more about ‘healthspan.’”

Founded in 2007 in California, Samumed is a leader in medical research and development for tissue-level regeneration, discovering and developing drug candidates. RCQ asked Yusuf Yazıcı, MD, to shed light on the biotech field, where they seem to be trailblazing.

What led you to focus on the biotech sector?

There is a huge unmet need in many common degenerative conditions. The targets we have discovered allow us

to develop drugs that not only treat the symptoms of the disease but also are potentially “disease modifying”, meaning changing the course of the disease, allowing for regeneration of damaged tissue, with an impact on millions of patients’ lives.

We have multiple programs in the clinic, developing treatments for different diseases: osteoarthritis of the knee, both solid and hematological cancers, neurodegenerative disease and Alzheimer’s being the most common, tendinopathy, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and alopecia - also

known as male pattern baldness. We hope to have our first approval in the next 2-3 years.

What changes do you envision in our lives in the next decade in terms of health?

In the future, we will be talking less about “lifespan” and more about “healthspan”, allowing people to live their life to the fullest, still being active into their later years, able to do what they want to do when they want to do it.

What do you recommend to young alumni looking to work in bio-tech-related fields?

Working with some of your best friends, people you knew and who knew you when you were 11 is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and frankly a privilege. For alumni looking to work in bio-tech related fields, we say, “Luck favors the prepared mind.” Hard work, imagination, a lot of luck, and working with people who are trying to do their best, have similar outlooks and goals in life, day in day out, though not unique to this field, are good starting points.



From L to R: Osman Kibar RC 88, Cevdet Şamikoğlu RC 89, Yusuf Yazıcı RC 88 and Arman Oruç RC 88

AI Will Create Entirely New Jobs

Nedim Fresko RC 88 - Vice President Alexa Devices and Developer Technologies

“AI is not different from the industrial revolutions of the past.”

Nedim Fresko traces his interest in computers all the way back to his first computer class at Robert College 35 years ago. He now leads a team at Amazon, building the Echo device portfolio and also building software tools for developers who want to extend Alexa capabilities through new skills.



Nedim Fresko RC 88

What kind of changes in our daily lives do you envision in the next decade?

With the advent of artificial intelligence (AI), I expect personal assistants to be everywhere we are. They are ever-ready to get us information, assist us in routine tasks, and connect us to other people and devices. AI can also use algorithms to sort through the immense amount of data generated with our digital interactions, spotting patterns and making predictions, in

ways that humans can't. The impact of AI can already be felt across industries, from farming to defense to healthcare. We are still in the early days of realizing this potential, and I am excited to see what comes next.

Are there any myths that need to be debunked about AI?

It is best to think of AI as built by humans for helping humans. AI helps automate repetitive and mundane

tasks, helps us spot patterns in large amounts of data, and frees us to do more with our time. It is a driver for change, and might eliminate some jobs, but only to help create entirely new ones. In that way it is not that different from the industrial revolutions of the past.

What do you recommend to RC students looking to work in technology-related fields?

Focusing on science, technology and math classes obviously helps with the basic foundations of the work. But it is also important to be always curious, always be learning, and to embrace constant change; to have a broad perspective, to be collaborative and creative. Those are essential ingredients for adapting to a fast-developing technology landscape, and to be part of the diverse problem-solving teams common in high-tech today.

A Case for Letting Kids Play Computer Games

Yusuf Pişan RC 88 - Academician

“Playing a game can be deeper and more engaging than books or movies.”

Yusuf Pişan is a pioneer in teaching gaming at the university level, and is currently working at the University of Washington Bothell. He credits his teachers at RC for inspiring him to become a teacher himself. RCQ spoke with him about a divisive subject among parents and kids: gaming.

What are the misconceptions about gaming?

The image of a gamer in most people's minds is the 16-year-old boy playing in his room. This could not be further from the truth. Most gamers are over 18, about half are women, and today's games are all about being part of a community. Games are slowly being accepted as a valid form of entertainment, just like books and movies. Yet playing a game can be deeper and more engaging than books

or movies, since it requires creative problem solving, being active, learning new things, and developing and testing models in order to achieve goals.

Parents are often concerned about how much time their kids are devoting to games. Can you describe the positives of the gaming experience?

Most people play a very narrow set of games and then mistakenly make generalizations about all games based on their experiences with Candy Crush.

Have you ever organized a 40-person raid on Molten Core and then decided how to fairly divide the loot at the end of a four-hour gaming session? It is similar to running a small business; lots of decisions, lots of constraints. If things go well, your group succeeds and grows; otherwise, it dwindles and dies. We learn best from failures, and games provide safe environments to fail.



Yusuf Pişan RC 88

Building a town in Minecraft is a collaborative construction project and getting your team through a maze requires skill, planning and problem solving. The sense of satisfaction you share after days or weeks of working on a game project is not any different than successfully completing a work project. Games can help us grow, learn and experience worlds we'd never know otherwise.

The Future of Finance

Firat İşbecer RC 98 - CEO of Commencis

“The sharing economy will be embedded in every part of the financial system.”

Firat İşbecer is an expert on technology used to support or enable banking and financial services, an area referred to as fintech. He was one of the founders of the successful mobile technology company, Pozitron. He co-founded and is the CEO of Commencis. RCQ asked him about the future of finance.



Firat İşbecer RC 98

What are the trends in fintech?

Digital is now the main channel in the finance world. The user experience thus becomes a matter of great importance. Customers demand not only seamless experiences, but also innovative solutions for their ever-changing needs. With the effective use of customer data through big data analytics and adoption of AI, fintech provides more personalized and smarter offers, digital financial coaching, and seamless omnichannel engagement for users.

Another critical subject in the finance industry is cross-border payments. There have been significant steps towards borderless payment thanks to fintech.

Companies like Transferwise, Revolut and Stripe offer revolutionary solutions in cross-border payment and can compete with banks.

Cash and use of banknotes will be banned by at least 20-30 countries in 10 years. Today's bank branch will disappear very soon. Cross-border transfers will be free and instant. The sharing economy will be embedded in every part of the financial system.

Any recommendations for young people thinking of going into tech-related areas?

Learn to unlearn and learn to adapt. Start with a multidisciplinary approach, find your core skills, and become an expert in something you are passionate about. Later on, become a generalist again. Learn to share and collaborate. Keep in mind that you can't solve complex tech problems without team work.

Robots Will Improve Welfare

Müfit Ferman RC 89 - Director of Software for Mobile Robotics at Omron Adept Technologies (OAT)

“Reports of an impending Robot Apocalypse are greatly exaggerated.”

Müfit Ferman is currently working on OAT's autonomous industrial vehicles; covering areas, such as driving, path planning and fleet management.

What are the things laymen need to know about robots?

I just want to reassure people that reports of an impending Robot Apocalypse are greatly exaggerated. Robots have the greatest impact when they are used to perform complex yet repetitive tasks that require high speed and precision. Deployed in such roles, robots have already revolutionized manufacturing and logistics, increasing productivity while improving safety. We will soon see many appliances designed to perform a specific everyday task really well – in addition to vacuuming floors, they

will perform security patrols, make package deliveries and even fold laundry. Concerns about robots taking over jobs and causing widespread unemployment are legitimate. Yet I consider this an opportunity to improve the quality of life and welfare of a large swath of society, rather than something that is to be feared and rejected.

What do you recommend to RC students looking to work in robotics?

Robotics draws inspiration from many different fields, and provides numerous entry points for people with different backgrounds and training. An analytical mind and an interest in tinkering are traits that serve people well in robotics. I would encourage students interested in the field to take a hands-on approach and start building their own robots



Müfit Ferman RC 89

or applications – with open source software, hobbyist kits and available online resources it has never been easier to put together surprisingly sophisticated robots.

Reflecting on Technological Entrepreneurship



Zeynep Atabay Taşkent RC 88



Aytül Erçil RC 75



Gülin Yücel RC 88

The RC community includes both entrepreneurs and investors and, hence, has amassed much valuable experience and advice around the start-up world. The RCQ asked Aytül Erçil RC 75, Kerim Baran RC 89, Rina Onur Şirinoğlu RC L3 04, Zeynep Atabay Taşkent RC 88, and Gülin Yücel RC 88 to open a window to this alluring world, where technology plays a pivotal role.

Private know-how helps start-ups

Zeynep Atabay was involved in her family's business, Atabay ilaç ve Kimya - an 80-year old player in the Turkish pharmaceutical industry - from the very start of her career. She augmented this experience by branching out as an angel investor in the last decade for a practical reason - the wish to help facilitate commercially viable products through cutting-edge innovation in her own industry. "Entrepreneurship has gained momentum in Turkey especially in the past nine years. I focus on collaborations between academia and industry," says Atabay. "I believe it is important for academics to start exploring whether a product is commercially viable before they start developing a patentable product. As an angel investor, I would like to help evaluate the initial concept, provide support when, for instance, TÜBİTAK support will not suffice, use our own company's technology muscle to propel the idea's technological maturity, and get a university engaged into the process, when necessary. In

short, entrepreneur, angel investor, university labs, governmental support (TÜBİTAK), and our company's commercialization expertise all come together to realize the entrepreneur's dream, as well as our needs."

Technology convergence will unlock value for businesses

Aytül Erçil is the partner and CEO at Vispera, a retail visual intelligence company. As a professor at Sabancı University, she has been teaching computer vision and pattern recognition. She is also part of the Keiretsu Forum, an angel investment platform. Erçil has been on both sides of the table, as an entrepreneur and investor. Looking towards the future, she believes the "hot" areas in terms of technological entrepreneurship are artificial intelligence, blockchain, internet of things, big data and analytics, and cybersecurity. "The buzzword-loaded, hyped areas of artificial intelligence machine learning, blockchain and augmented reality are all impressive in their own right, but were previously siloed," explains Erçil. "Convergence between these technologies will unlock an incredible amount of value for business, as they become integrated into standard processes, leading to unprecedented productivity gains."

Angel investors provide capital as well as know-how

After many years at IBM, Gülin Yücel, is now a sustainability consultant

and also part of the Keiretsu Forum. She underlines the support of angel investors for entrepreneurs: "Seed funding often comes from entrepreneur's savings, close relatives or friends. Angel investors come into the picture when the idea blooms and needs more capital. Not only do angel investors provide the capital, but they also give advice on how to establish the idea into a healthy business model."

Advice for Entrepreneurs

Rina Onur Şirinoğlu started out as a private equity investor and became an entrepreneur, co-founding Peak Games and Hemenkiralık.com. She is now a general partner at 500 Istanbul, a venture capital firm backing start-ups from the Turkic region. When trying to evaluate a startup and see if it's a good fit for them, she looks at five T's:

- **Team:** Who is building this product and why are they the right people to execute on the communicated strategy?
- **Target Market:** Is this big enough of a market? Is this the right time for the proposed product to succeed?
- **Technology:** What does the competitive landscape look like and does this team have a defensible moat against the market and players?
- **Traction:** What has the team accomplished thus far? Is there momentum with the product?

- **Terms:** How much is the team raising and on what terms?

Erçil's recommendation to alumni on the entrepreneurial path is to, "Focus, focus, focus. By nature, a startup is extremely resource constrained. If you are not passionate about the idea, if you cannot see yourself working on it for the next decade or so, if it does not have a revenue stream, if the idea is not unique or better than what is out there, ditch the idea." Onur's recommendations to RC entrepreneurs also underline the importance of the idea: "Build 'antibiotics', not 'painkillers' in big markets. Think global and try to answer the question of why you can do what you set out to do, better than anyone else in the world. Launch fast and keep iterating based on customer feedback. Do not sit on your ideas and pre-launch products forever."

Be an agent for change

So should aspiring entrepreneurs, when generating ideas, only think about the "hot" areas coming up or



Rina Onur Şirinoğlu RC L3 04

what investors are looking for? Kerim Baran RC 89 has a striking answer. Baran was the founder of Yonja, one of the first social networks in Turkey. He is now the co-founder at CivicSolar, a solar distributor, and has been an independent angel investor for many years. Looking back, he believes his career choices were fueled by a yearning for a more connected, fair, equitable and healthy human society and planet. Therefore, he challenges young RC entrepreneurs:



Kerim Baran RC 89

"Most educated and privileged people generally tend to follow traditional secure career paths that will give them a sense of security, power, and self-worth. Unfortunately, most of these paths end up as boring jobs, filled with political in-fighting, where you spend most of your time worrying about your personal downside instead of your creative upside. I'd recommend young RC students and grads to be the change they want to see in the world." ■

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Lise 11 Students Develop Algorithm to Help Diagnose Pneumonia

Lise 11 students Yağmur Ürey and Can Jozef Şaul have been making waves in the science world with their paper “Early Diagnosis of Pneumonia with Deep Learning”. They most recently placed first at the Turkish Science and Technology Research Organization (TÜBİTAK) Science Competition in the Europe region, and in Turkey, out of 17,000 projects presented. Prior to that, the students received the “Best Presenter Award” at the IEEE 4th International Conference on Computer and Communication Systems in Singapore, in February 2019.

Yağmur is highly interested in biology, whereas Can Jozef is intrigued by deep learning and artificial intelligence. After they heard about the dataset of x-ray images with and without pneumonia published by the Radiological Society of North America, they joined skills to work on an algorithm proposal for pneumonia



Can Jozef Şaul and Deniz Yağmur Ürey at the TÜBİTAK ceremony

diagnosis. Using preprocessing techniques and neural networks on X-ray images, their proposed algorithm ended up achieving 82.3% accuracy, the highest accuracy rate to date. They were also able to detect the region of pneumonia fluid from an x-ray image.

Yağmur got hooked on molecular biology while doing a lab internship during the summer of her prep year and has continued to work in medical centers and labs. She says that her biology teachers were very supportive

in terms of the research she did outside of school, and during her internships. Can Jozef’s passion for technology began when he first acquired a personal computer. He started with basic web development and design and joined the IOS App Development Club at Robert College. He has developed mobile apps and websites for various clubs and organizations. Then, he started working on artificial intelligence and deep learning. Since 10th grade he has worked at three different universities as a research assistant.

RCQ asked them what is next. “We can work in cooperation with a research hospital to integrate our algorithm to the diagnosis process of actual patients. Also, if we get chosen by TÜBİTAK for the Intel ISEF International Science Competition, we’ll be developing our project to represent Turkey next year,” say Yağmur and Can Jozef. In the long run, they both want to become academics.

Lise 12 student Tan Gemicioğlu Receives Prestigious TÜBİTAK Award

Tan Gemicioğlu received a bronze medal in Informatics at the 2018 Turkish National Olympiad, organized by the Turkish Science and Technology Research Organization (TÜBİTAK). During the Informatics Olympiad, students are expected to write code that can solve every possible case for a given problem.

When asked about how he prepared for the exam, Gemicioğlu explained, “There are online platforms with problems and graders like Codeforces and the USA Computing Olympiad. While preparing for the exam, I solved problems from these websites and read up on dozens of algorithms and their implementations. During the summer and at TÜBİTAK camps, I usually spent 10-12 hours per day



Tan Gemicioğlu L12

writing code, trying to find solutions on paper or sometimes just staring at the problem.”

Gemicioğlu learned programming in 8th grade. He took part in several math competitions during middle school and learned about the Olympiad in Informatics and the study group

at RC in 9th grade. His algorithmic understanding dramatically improved thanks to this group. There has been an active Informatics Olympiad circle at RC for a decade, with a tradition of students teaching each other. Gemicioğlu himself is currently teaching younger students what he has learned at TÜBİTAK camps.

“At RC, I’ve had a diverse view of computer science through the various clubs I’ve been involved in, from Android App Development to Robotics,” says Tan. “I’ve always worked between the practical and theoretical sides of computer science, while my focus has been in AI and robotics for a long time.” After studying computer science at university, Tan plans to get a PhD and continue as an AI researcher.

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“The Run of My Life” in the Hermit Kingdom

Alican Ayanlar RC 93 shares his unique insights into his visit to North Korea in April 2019 for the Pyongyang Marathon.

It's said that nothing exciting ever comes over eating salad. I don't know if there's any truth to that, but it does sound something like the late Anthony Bourdain would have said while eating fermented shark or feral pigeon. But, my adventure begins with kimchi. And as much of a salad as it may be, I can assure you that I was going to experience the forbidden fruit of travel.

Late in February, I acted on a spur-of-the-moment decision and registered myself for the Pyongyang marathon - North Korea's premier sporting event, as it was advertised on

their website. I had always enjoyed leisurely runs, but never attempted anything near the distance of a marathon. But I convinced myself that this was the time and place to do it. And after weeks of trying to persuade North Korean officials that I wasn't going to engage in any rouge journalistic activities, I was granted a visa and my application to run in the Pyongyang marathon had been accepted.

My journey began at Shanghai airport. Not only was it a first chance to meet my fellow runners/adventurers who had traveled from all corners of the world, but also attend the



Alican Ayanlar RC 93 at the Pyongyang Marathon's opening ceremony



North Koreans leaving the mausoleums of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il at Kumsusan Palace of the Sun after paying their respects

mandatory debrief session on the dos and don'ts of our trip. I had a sense that a lot of what was about to be said was going to sound non-sensical, comical in fact. But, I knew that I had to take it seriously. Not abiding by their rules could very well mean the involuntary extension of my North Korean "vacation". The rules were strict. Stricter than any other place I had visited. Rule # 1: Do not, under any circumstance, disrespect the supreme leader(s). Rule # 2: For your own safety, you are not allowed to leave the hotel unaccompanied. Rule # 3: Only take photos of what your guides allow. The list goes on, but it was clear. I was to be a model citizen and only see the North Korea they wanted me to see.

As an aviation enthusiast, I was very much looking forward to my flight with Air Koryo, the state-owned national flag carrier of North Korea. And...the world's only one-star airline. A claim to fame that I wasn't entirely comfortable with on the last leg out to Pyongyang. Because of decades of international sanctions, I was expecting a dilapidated relic from the Soviet era. But, much to my surprise we boarded an aircraft that was actually made in this century. We were unemotionally greeted by stewards wearing oversized dark-lensed aviator sunglasses like they were part of some Top Gun

program. And the stewardesses... well, for lack of a better way to describe them, were oddly similar to the Fembots from the spy spoof Austin Powers. For most of the 2-hour flight, my eyes were inexplicably glued onto the propaganda video being played on the cabin screens. Amateurly produced video proudly displaying the country's military might and national pride. And shortly before dawn, our eagle had landed in the "Land of the Morning Calm." We had arrived in Pyongyang, North Korea.

After clearing immigration, our personal items were thoroughly checked by customs officers who were dressed in oddly overly decorated uniforms, as if they single handedly won some battle. Over on landside, I was immediately approached by Ms. Pak and Mr. Cho. They were going to be my shadows for the next three days. Having a tendency of saying some socially awkward things to break the ice, I was praying to myself not do to so. I politely said, "Hello, I'm excited to taste your spicy cabbage". Way to go Alican! Two minutes in the country and already you've made a fool of yourself. Ms. Pak replied with: "I hope you will not finish last in the marathon."

Or what? I thought to myself... I felt as if I was starring in the North

Korean version of Bill Murray's *Lost in Translation*.

Once everyone cleared customs, we were divided into smaller groups. Our group of 20 boarded a bus and soon we embarked on our way to the hotel. Cities often invest a lot to clean up the area around their airports. You never get a second chance to make a first impression as they say. One of the first things we saw was a giant mural of Kim Il-sung, North Korea's founding father, smiling alongside his son Kim Jong-il. Both enjoy god-like status within North Korean society. I had heard urban myths, just to name of few, of them scoring 38 across 18 holes of golf with 11 holes in one and being so biologically "supreme" that they did not need to ever use the toilet. Today, in fact, both are "technically" not dead, with the former still referred to as the President and the latter as the Chairman. So, the country still operates under the rule of dead leaders. I thought to myself...this must be the world's only necrocracy.

After a quick shower and breakfast, our tour guides ushered us back onto the bus for our day trip to the village of Panmunjom and the DMZ, a small area of neutral land between North and South Korea (after nearly 70 years, the two countries are still technically at war).

The streets of the capital were eerily empty. I asked Ms. Pak why that was. She said that everyone was busy working for the improvement of the country. At some point we took a right turn onto the six-lane Mirae (Future) Scientists' street. A stretch of road with impressively modern looking buildings designed to look like ICBMs that housed the country's scientific elite. Quite befitting I thought. If you're going to build it, might as well live in one. But as smooth as the pavement was on that street, the highway down to the 38th parallel was filled with potholes. Three hours of a bumpy roller coaster like drive. The kimchi



Pyongyang Marathon's starting venue, Kim Il-sung Stadium



DMZ propaganda poster of One Korea symbolizing the hope for reunification

I had eaten for breakfast was going onto a second round of fermentation in my stomach.

With North Korea being a communist country, I was surprised by how eager they were to show off their capitalistic side. As soon as we arrived at the DMZ we visited a souvenir shop. North Korean stamps and propaganda posters were just some of the items for sale. Panmunjom is famous for its ginseng. The shop even had ginseng-flavored cigarettes, with the sales people claiming that they were "good" for cancer. Again, one of those Lost in Translation moments.

The following day was dedicated to a Pyongyang city tour. We were going to really jump into the deep end of the country's Juche philosophy. Personally, I was most excited about seeing the square that hosted the country's infamous military parades. But upon arrival, it was actually quite anticlimactic. An empty square never gives off the same feeling of awesomeness. Every so often hundreds of tanks and missile-loaded vehicles would roll in unison between towering Soviet style government buildings with tens of thousands of patriotic by-standers cheering on. But we did get a chance to ride the beautifully decorated subway transit system, pay our respects in front of the giant bronze statues at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, that serves as the mausoleum for the country's eternal leaders, as well as visit the War Museum; a chance to hear first-hand the atrocities committed by the "imperialistic aggressors".

Our final day in North Korea was M-day or Marathon day. I hadn't slept much the night before and wasn't feeling particularly at my best. Not the ideal condition to attempt tackling a physically daunting challenge with little training. I remembered to have a light breakfast and after a good stretching session we were off to Kim Il-sung stadium, the starting point

of the marathon. We all lined up in military form outside and waited for the opening ceremony to begin. At 08:00 sharp we, the runners, were led into the arena. And what we encountered was beyond belief! 40,000 enthusiastic spectators had taken their places in the stands and were putting on a synchronized show of a lifetime to welcome us to their country. I knew there and now that this was going to be the closest I'd ever get to being a professional athlete attending the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games.

I left the country more confused than I arrived. Wonderfully kind people living a life blissfully unaware of the things going on outside their borders with the sole desire to see the peaceful unification with the South as their ultimate goal.

Thank you North Korea! Good luck with your dreams.

Oh, if you're wondering...I completed my first marathon in just over four hours. I didn't place last, which was probably a delight to Ms. Pak. And suffice to say that I probably will never attempt this distance ever again.

Alican Ayanlar RC 93 is a journalist with TRT World.

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The Bosphorus Turns 60 It All Began in the Attic of Anderson Hall

This article was originally prepared for the Bosphorus Chronicle in honor of the 60th anniversary of its founding newspaper, The Bosphorus.

By Nuri Çolakoglu RA 62 and Ömer Bilgin RA 62, co-founders of The Bosphorus

Summer of 1959... It was sixty years ago, and we had just graduated from Robert Academy, which was the Orta school of Robert College. During the Orta years we had a publication named The Echo, which we were producing together with of a bunch of other journalism enthusiasts (about 15 guys). Back then it was printed on a mimeograph, a rather primitive machine

with a special waxy paper wrapped around its cylinder into which you first hand-feed paper and then turn the handle of the cylinder. Bingo! One page of the paper appears with whatever you had written on the special waxy paper. You have to do this six or eight times, depending on how many pages that issue is, and you do that as many times for each copy. So if that week you have

Nuri Çolakoglu RA 62 (seated) and Ömer Bilgin RA 62 working on one of the first issues of The Bosphorus newspaper





The Bosphorus was first published in 1959



It was followed in the early '60s by the Campus Chronicle on the ACG campus



When the schools merged in 1971, so did the student publications, to become the Bosphorus Chronicle

an eight-page paper with 250 copies to be produced you turn the handle 2000 times. Actually one of us, Nuri Yıldırım RA 62, started turning this handle in 1954 when he was a Prep 1 student and carried on after that.

When we arrived to Lise we found out there was no Lise paper as the College was going through an evolution period, with Orta classes being dissolved and a Yüksek Okul being created.

The Orta had their paper, the Yüksek had something, but there was nothing for the new Lise. However, two of us were adamant to start a paper. So we first went and got the blessing of the Lise administration, and persuaded them:

- A. To give us some money to buy paper and have a masthead printed on them
- B. To give us a room to work in.

They were kind enough to allocate the end of a corridor at the entrance level of Theodoros Hall which later become the girls' dorm of Boğaziçi; a full 3m2 where we were able to fit two tables – one for the mimeograph machine and one for the typewriter. The question was where could we

find a typewriter and a printer. The school gave us permission to ransack the attic of Anderson Hall where at the end of every school year all the leftovers of boarding students were stuffed away – since the beginning of the 20th century.

There we were able to find two museum pieces: A typewriter manufactured in 1905 and a very old mimeograph machine from 1911. When we were typing the whole building would hear the clatter of this old typewriter.

After a year of squashed life in that cubicle - because that was what it was - and having produced a paper every other week, the school administration took pity on us and offered a large room on the lowest floor of the building, which used to be our sandwich shop run by İbrahim Efendi and his wife.

After they moved us it took a long time to clean up the space, as the rats had their nests where they were happily nibbling İbrahim Efendi's cheese, salami and sausages. After a safari of a week or two we were able to rid the place of the rats and started our new publishing facility (again with the same old typewriter and mimeo machine).

Meanwhile let us a rewind a little. When we had everything we needed, we had to come up with a name for the paper. We do not remember whose bright idea it was to call it The Bosphorus. For the masthead we went to the library and found a graphics book with different fonts. For some inexplicable reason we chose The Times newspaper's gothic Old English font, and with a semi-transparent paper we copied the letters one by one to form The Bosphorus. When that was done, we ran downtown to Cağaloğlu where all the printers were and had the masthead printed in red ink on yellowish samankağıdı (a poor quality A4 paper). And then we were able to print the very first The Bosphorus, or as we called it among ourselves, Bosfor.

We were keen to improve our technology. So a year later, in 1961, we dropped the old technology to start printing Bosfor at a printing house in Cağaloğlu where we had to learn the typesetting machines and tying up pages (as the pros say) and with our past expertise persuade the school to foot the bill.

Good old days – hard to forget.

Relationship to Technology Explored through Art

Visual artist Hayal Pozanti RC 2000 explores our relationship to technology, and how that has shaped our culture and our connection with the natural environment. After Robert College, Pozanti received her BA from Sabancı University and MFA from Yale. She has been exhibiting ever since, most recently at the Jessica Silverman Gallery in San Francisco at the end of 2018. The RCQ asked her about her work.

Where do you get your inspiration?

I am fascinated by cyborg anthropology which explores technological advances and their effect on society. Formally, all my work is based on a set of shapes I created. There are 31 individual shapes in this set and each shape stands in for number or a letter from the English alphabet. I call this alphabet Instant Paradise. I use Instant Paradise as a substitution cypher to encrypt information into my paintings, sculptures and video works.

Can you expand on Instant Paradise?

I was interested in how my work would compete in an ever-expanding attention economy. I thought that the only way to slow people's attention and to distinguish my work visually was to come up with something completely new. Something completely abstract that did not resemble anything else that people would see on their timelines. I decided to focus on inventing new shapes that had not existed before. I researched ancient writing systems around the world and discovered a method for creating shapes that made sense to me. After that, I just started making hundreds and hundreds of shapes. After some years I realized I was using some shapes more than others so I edited them to 31 shapes that I liked best and have since been using only those. I had a huge sense of relief when I discovered my alphabet. This is why I decided to call it Instant Paradise.

The titles of your work present interesting statistics. How do you choose which information to use?

My interests have encompassed everything from digital surveillance to artificial intelligence. According to the subject I choose, I do extensive research. Once I feel I have gathered enough information, I will do an edit and pick the the most compelling numbers.

How did your education at RC influence your life path?

I was always encouraged to be a free thinker; to question everything and everyone before making up my own mind. There can be no superior tool given to an artist than that.

To find out more about Hayal Pozanti's work visit www.hayalpozanti.com



Hayal Pozanti RC 2000

Tomur Atagök ACG 59

Honored for Work with Women in Art

Prof. Dr. Tomur Atagök

received an honorary award in recognition of her leadership in women-centric projects, as part of an exhibition called Women Reflected in Art, held by Nişantaşı University on March 8-12, 2019, for International Women's Day. The exhibition itself called attention to violence against women, female empowerment and gender equality.

The illustrious artist and academician has made women's issues a focal point in her work from the beginning. "Having completed both my undergraduate and graduate studies in the US, I came back in 1973 and was delighted to find that many women artists were aware of what was happening in the art world. But then I discovered that the leading museum that was under the Academy of Fine Arts (now called Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts) did not have many works by women artists." This awareness informed her



Tomur Atagök ACG 59

career. Atagök organized exhibitions of women artists from 1983 to 2001 and contributed to women artists by writing about them, while producing her own much-awarded work.

Atagök remembers her time at ACG as having taught her to question any statement of experience before she makes a final decision. She says, "It is very important for each of us to see what is right or wrong before we rush to accept all that we face." When RCQ asked about her focus on women's issues, Atagök explained, "Women are looked down upon because motherhood is an obstacle for them in any field, including art. Whether in professional or artistic life, people do not stay together. If we observe women in the Western world, we will find that they stick together and get their place in any field. I am very sorry to say that in Turkey we do not hang together and lose out."

Retrospective Showcases the Pioneering Photography of Yıldız Moran ACG 51ex

A retrospective of Yıldız Moran's photography, *A Mountain Tale*, was held at Istanbul Modern Museum between November 2018 and May 2019.

Yıldız Moran is the first female professional photographer in Turkey with a formal education in the field. She left ACG during her final year to study photography at Bloomsbury Technical College in the UK. From 1950 to 1962, Moran dedicated herself only to photography, and her contribution to the development of this art form in Turkey is significant.



Self portrait of Yıldız Moran ACG 51ex

Her photography is most known for portraying people integrated with their geography, with a lyrical and impressionistic aesthetic.

Her style is ahead of her time and predictive of contemporary photography. Curated by Merih Akoğul, the exhibition showcased 86 of Moran's photographs, many of them shown for the first time, in honor of the fact that she would have been 86 at the time of the exhibition, had she lived. The continuing universal admiration for her art is the most powerful validation for the humanism in her work.

Elif Uras RC 90 Explores Heritage, Productivity, and Labor in Latest Exhibition

Contributed by Didem Sezer Manecolo RC 90

Elif Uras first monograph and site-specific installation *The Source* was on view between November 24 and December 30, 2018, in Galata. Seen by hundreds of visitors, *The Source* drew from various historical and cultural references. It was realized under the leadership of Galerist, supported by the Kale Group.

In her installation, Uras examined concepts such as shared heritage, hybridity, productivity, tradition, and labor. The monograph that accompanied it was part of Kale Group's 2018 project in support of ceramics in art, and it explores critical issues around the feminist undertones of the artist's practice, her interest in utilizing "traditional" techniques in ceramic works, and the interplay between her paintings and ceramics via her unique patterning and ornamentation. It also includes a conversation between the editor and the artist, and an extensive visual documentation of Uras's works. Published bilingually in



Elif Uras RC 90 with a work from her exhibition

Turkish and English, the monograph was distributed in Turkey as well as worldwide.

Kale Group's President and CEO Zeynep Bodur Okyay states, "Kale Group has made it their mission to promote ceramics in art and to support artists through the resources they provide for arts and culture. We are proud to be supporting the publication of the first monograph of our internationally-renowned contemporary artist Elif Uras. The ceramic works, through which we can witness the artist's distinct imagination, generate an exceptional experience for us. Uras's first monograph sheds light on her practice through texts by distinguished writers, facilitating further recognition of her practice within Turkey and beyond. Uras traces the diverse traditions of our geography and transforms them into something unique and contemporary, which I believe is a critical contribution to our global discourse."

Tarık Bayazıt RC 79

Plays Art Matchmaker Through Beach Upcycling

After studying engineering and obtaining an MBA in the US, Tarık Bayazıt worked at multinational firms for many years as an executive. But he is perhaps even known more for the immensely successful restaurant Changa, which he launched and ran for 18 years. He was always interested in ceramics and painting, and in 2017 he started working with stones and waste material, under the concept of "Beach Upcycling".

"I have become a matchmaker of a

variety of materials, as I am interested in mash-ups that wouldn't have happened naturally," says Bayazıt. "I have named my work 'Beach Upcycling' as it is one step beyond recycling, taking the material beyond its previous function and establishing the work in a way that speaks to emotions."

His surprising and lovely work found the perfect space at ECNP Galeri, Turkey's first and only design gallery, where it was exhibited in February 2019.



Tarık Bayazıt RC 79

RC alumni continue to write prolifically. From biography to philosophy, there is no genre uncovered and much to discover in the latest batch of books from RC writers.

Evin İlyasoğlu ACG 66 Creates and In-depth Look at the Life of Leyla Gencer



In her latest book, music critic and educator Evin Sander İlyasoğlu turns the spotlight on national treasure and opera legend, Leyla Gencer. *Ben Leyla Gencer- La Diva Turca* was published at the end of 2018 by Yapı Kredi Yayınları, coinciding with the tenth anniversary of Leyla Gencer's death. İlyasoğlu uses reviews, letters, and photos to tell Gencer's life story. She also creates inner monologues based on Gencer's interviews and video recordings: "One should never deny one's roots. I did not become Europeanized when I came to Europe. I always preserved my Turkishness...

I did it all with tremendous effort. How was I loved so much? Destiny. Yes, a marvellous destiny." The result is a book that humanizes this legend and shows the tremendous resolve Gencer has shown in achieving her extraordinary success.

Having written over twenty books, received numerous accolades, İlyasoğlu continues to teach, write, and review as a beacon of classical music in Turkey. Her latest work introduces Leyla Gencer to new generations in a comprehensive and inspiring way.

Şevket Pamuk RA 68 Examines Turkey's Economic History

RC students taking economics and business administration courses had the opportunity to meet with Prof. Dr. Şevket Pamuk at school on March 5, 2019. "The four years I spent at Robert College have always been very special for me and it is always a pleasure to return to campus," said Pamuk.

Şevket Pamuk spoke about his latest book, *Uneven Centuries: Economic Development of Turkey since 1820* (Princeton University Press), which examines the economic growth and human development of Turkey over the past 200 years. The book is the first comprehensive history of the Turkish economy. Pamuk explains, "In this book, I tried to evaluate from a comparative international perspective what Turkey's economic development has achieved and the reasons why the record has not been stronger."

Harvard economist Dani Rodrik RC 75 writes about the book, "From the late



Şevket Pamuk RA 68 spoke about his book with RC students who are taking economics and business administration courses

Ottoman period to the contemporary Republican era, Turkey's economic fortunes have fluctuated widely. There is no one better to tell this rich story than Şevket Pamuk, the doyen of Turkish economic historians. Beyond providing a comprehensive statistical portrait of the last two centuries, Pamuk places Turkey's experience in comparative perspective and links it to deeper institutional transformations."

Şevket Pamuk is a faculty member at Boğaziçi University's Atatürk Institute for Modern Turkish History and Department of Economics. He graduated from Yale and received his doctoral degree in economics from the University of California, Berkeley. Pamuk has been a faculty member at many universities in Turkey and abroad. He has written many articles and books in Turkish and English on Ottoman-Turkish economic history.

Ezgi Emel RC 10 Introduces Ethics to Young Children



Aiming to educate kids on ethics in a fun and light-hearted way, Ezgi Emel has published a series of four books, covering self-confidence, responsibility, cooperation and courage. Emel was encouraged to write the series by her editor who

felt there was a need for non-didactic books, giving ethical guidance to young children.

Emel credits Robert College with her interest in philosophy. "As philosophy is not a really popular subject to study due to the limitations in employment, many people criticized my decision to study it," she explains. "RC gave me enough confidence to believe in myself, to make something out of my philosophy degree."

Besides teaching and writing, Emel has also been facilitating an education program called Philosophy for Children (P4C) for the past five years. "P4C is all about integrating critical thinking skills

into the K-12 curriculum. It is a goal that I still feel passionately about and will continue to work on," she says.

Emel also became a member of the Robert College faculty in the fall of 2018. On working at her alma mater, she says, "It feels great to be back at school early enough so that my former teachers became my colleagues. Having philosophy and psychology discussions with my brilliant students is a constant intellectual stimulant for me that I truly enjoy."

Ezgi Emel is also the author of the philosophical book for young readers, *Piyon Poi'nin Okyanus Macerası* (see RCQ 51, p. 43).

İbrahim Sözen RC 86

Gives Sound Advice on a Common Problem



İbrahim Sözen, MD graduated from Istanbul University Cerrahpaşa Tıp

Fakültesi in 1993 and completed his obstetrics and gynecology residency at Yale University in 1999. He has authored 15 international scientific studies in leading American medical journals, and been cited in over 780 medical articles worldwide. His book, *Kadınlarda Vajinismus ve Ağrılı Cinsel İlişki Tedavisi (Treatment of Vaginismus and Painful Intercourse)*, has been recently published by İstanbul Tıp Kitabevi and can be found in major bookstores. "I wrote this book to draw attention to a major medical and

social problem in Turkey that is highly prevalent, but rarely articulated," says Sözen. The incidence of vaginismus among women is estimated to be 10-15% in Turkey, a very high percentage compared to Western societies. He adds, "Very effective evidence-based treatments are available but women are not even aware of these solutions. My book may teach them the basic principles of treatment modalities and encourage them to seek medical advice from real experts."

Ali Perşembe RC 78 Provides Fiscal Inspiration

Ali Perşembe's book *Paranın Kuralı (The Rule of Money; Scala Yayıncılık)* is a compilation of aphorisms, apothegms and quotations, and a vast collection of principles, doctrines, maxims and rules of thumb used by those wizards of the dog-eat-dog world of stock markets, commodity exchanges, banks and brokers. It is the modus operandi of people at the peak of their careers and a manifestation of the foundations of their trade. Perşembe says he has accumulated these gems in bits and pieces throughout his career and long wanted to organize and collect them in a book. Perşembe

has a career that has spanned more than 35 years in the Turkish financial markets. He is the founding partner of Turkey's first and leading local credit rating agency. He writes as a columnist for Turkish dailies, as well as financial newspapers and periodicals. He also teaches at İstanbul Bilgi University. He has written and edited numerous books in his area of expertise, but a special mention should also go to his book *Dünya Küçük (The World is Small; Scala Yayıncılık)*. In this book Perşembe targets a broader audience and attempts to re-kindle readers' thought processes for honest soul searching.



Orhan Pamuk RA 70 Shares Unique Views Of Istanbul

Orhan Pamuk's first photobook, *Balkon*, has been published in conjunction with his photo exhibition by the same name, which took place at Yapı Kredi Kültür Sanat from February 6 - April 27, 2019. The book was published by Steidl, one of the most respected printers in the international publishing world, and the exhibition was curated by Gerhard Steidl himself. Pamuk said, "Our book pays respect to the possibility of representing the moment."

In 2012, over a five-month period, Pamuk took more than 600 pictures

from his balcony in Istanbul because he had a bout of writer's block. Looking at these photographs years later, he realized that they were indeed a record of his sorrowful mood during that time.

Though the Nobel Laureate has sold millions of books worldwide, his engagement with visual arts should come as no surprise, as his youthful interest in painting is well-documented; in fact, he had his sketches featured in the 2015 Istanbul Biennale. He said, "To those who ask why I took these photographs, I can now confidently

say: To see them printed, on paper, as this book."



Photo credit: Yapı Kredi Sanat ve Kültür

Yasemin Alptekin RC 73

Shares Life Lessons from Cross-Cultural Moves



Having long worked as an academic and translator, Yasemin Alptekin has written her first literary book: *Gitmek mi Zor Kalmak mı?* (*To Leave or to Stay?*; Gece Kitaplığı). Alptekin states that the book is, "the story of the journey of a woman as a mother, a spouse and an educator, an autobiographical account of a life full

of hopes, disillusionments, challenges, and mistakes, reflected upon the decision-making process of moving from one country to another." The social, political and personal events of an era that contribute to one's decision-making are presented as the background to the story. *Gitmek mi Zor Kalmak mı?* questions the discrepancy between the dreams and realities at different phases of life.

Alptekin emphasizes, "This book is not a simple autobiography. I tried to share some of the life lessons I've learned as I struggled through the tough times of my life. Once you share your story with happy and or painful memories, you also encourage the readers to be positive about overcoming their life

barriers." It was Alptekin's classmates who encouraged her to write this book. When she moved to the US, she wrote to the class e-mail group every day. The book evolved from that online sharing.

Alptekin currently resides in Seattle, where she acts as a court interpreter for the Turkish community, while continuing to translate as well as volunteering. She is working on two more books. Alptekin credits Robert College for giving her the stamina for life-long learning and outdoing herself: "As RC graduates, we are purpose-driven individuals. We like challenges and learn never to give up. RC pushed me to grow constantly."

Mehmet Yaltır's Story of Strawberries from Adana

The memoir of Mehmet Yaltır RC YÜK 71, *Çukurova'da Yetişen Çilek* (*The Strawberry Raised in Çukurova, New Media Company*), tells the 150-year story of a Turkish family during a chaotic period extending from 1850s to today. Yaltır shares of the story of his family, originally from Crimea, who migrated to Ottoman land and settled in Adana. They started off in agriculture and then moved on to

industry. When the family members decided to sell off their assets and take different roads, Mehmet Yaltır stuck to his family tradition of agriculture but in a different way. After extensive research he started to cultivate strawberries and developed this into an agroindustry, becoming Turkey's top producer and exporter.

Mehmet Yaltır's memoirs are edited by Nuri Çolakoglu RA 62.



Bridging the Skill Gap Through Coding

In 2016, Emre Şarbak RC 08 and Onur Ünver RC 06 founded Kodluyoruz Derneği (We Are Coding Association), a non-profit social enterprise, working to make Turkey a talent hub by creating pathways for driven people seeking careers in software and technology. They were later joined by Birce Başak Özsviri RC 06, and together they are making strides in bridging the gap between the skills university students have and what companies expect from them.

Kodluyoruz Derneği focuses on creating equal opportunities for youth who cannot have the career they wish due to socio-economic constraints. It organizes free boot camps around Turkey on subjects like mobile programming, artificial intelligence and virtual reality for adults, with workshops and networking events for its alumni, and technology training for children. The organization partners with and gets support from Global Center for Youth Employment, the European Union, the US Embassy, Microsoft, BSH, Otokar, İTÜ Arı, TEB and KWORKS.



RC alumni making a difference through coding, from L to R: Emre Şarbak RC 08, Birce Başak Özsviri RC 06 and Onur Ünver RC 06

Kodluyoruz Derneği has been listed among Amaphiko's "6 Incredible Ventures Solving Social Problems in Turkey", was a finalist at Accelerate 2030 and won the 2018 PwC Social Impact Lab in Rotterdam. It also cooperates with other NGOs. For example, it worked together with Engelsiz Pedal Derneği (Pedals without Obstacles Association) to build an application that brings together visually impaired people with friends so that they can ride tandem bicycles together.

Many aspects of their RC experience contributed to the team's current

endeavors. Apart from creating the old RC website, they took Cengiz Ağalar's coding classes and worked with Colin Edmonds on programming projects. Ünver, who is now an assistant director of college counselling at RC, says, "We came to RC as residential students, with the support of an RC scholarship, and that opened up a whole new world to us. We have a responsibility to do our best with the opportunities presented to us, and to work to contribute as much as we can to society."

For more information, check out www.kodluyoruz.org

A Life Dedicated to Children's Rights

Şiyma Barkın Kuzmin RC 87 has devoted her career to child protection, and the seed of this cause was planted at Robert College. She took psychology classes with Sema Ulcay, and spent time at the Child Development Center that was part of the RC campus. She followed up on her interest by studying psychology at Boğaziçi University, while doing volunteer work with street children at the same time. These experiences led her to commit to working with vulnerable populations, focusing in particular on children's rights issues. What led her to UNICEF is a lesson for students and young alumni in taking initiative. "I started working as a community organizer in NY City," says Barkın Kuzmin. "One day I noticed a person from UNICEF was giving a speech. I had referenced his work in my thesis, so I went, introduced myself and talked about my work



Şiyma Barkın Kuzmin RC 87

with street children in Istanbul. He was coming to Turkey to start a project on street children and told me to apply for a 9-month consultancy position. Now I've been with UNICEF for 20 years."

In her work with UNICEF, Barkın Kuzmin worked in different countries and is currently UNICEF Tajikistan's Officer in Charge. She feels particularly proud of starting the field of social work around child rights and childhood justice in Uzbekistan. "Constantly seeing the discrepancies between what we have in our lives and what children around the world suffer through is challenging to experience," she says. "How the justice system can hurt children in the name of protecting them, and how it differentiates between those with means and those without means. Seeing how children are abused by people close to them. Structures aren't in place to protect children; people aren't trained to identify abuse. Giving adults training and having them in the system in a sustainable way, having legislation to make sure the process supports children is really important."

Ankara Alumni Stay Connected



Alumni in Ankara meet up regularly.

From L to R: Lale Arat Sirmen ACG 63, Emel Göksel Salih ACG 50, Gören Eti Önay ACG 50, Ayşe Mete RC 74, Pelin Çubukçu Köseoğlu ACG 59, Sirel Ecer Karakaş ACG 62, Serpil Bozer (spouse of Aktan Bozer RC 58), Gazal Özbay ACG 59, İncila Diker ACG 59ex, Melih Ağusman RC ENG 65, Nuri Yıldırım RA 62 and Fevzi Yalım RA 63

For more than 20 years, graduates living in Ankara have been keeping the school spirit strong through monthly alumni luncheons. In the beginning, Türkkaya Ataöv RC 51 coordinated the events, and inspired the group to sing old College songs. In recent years, Sirel Karakaş ACG 62 organized the luncheons. As of last year, Pelin Köseoğlu ACG 59 took over the organization with Fevzi Yalım RA 63 providing assistance.

The group meets at various venues, with past locations including the Ankara Palas State Guest House, the Ankara University Social Club and the tennis club in Kavaklıdere. If you are interested in joining, please contact Fevzi Yalım RA 63 at fyalim@hotmail.com

Save the Date!

Homecoming 2019 will take place on

Sunday, November 17

Congratulations to the Class of '69 on your 50th reunion!

Stay tuned for more details.



Class of '49 to celebrate
70th Reunion at
Homecoming 2019

To celebrate graduation from RC and ACG seven decades ago, the Class of '49 is organizing a special program for Homecoming 2019. Stay tuned!

For more details contact
Güner Fansa ACG 49.



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Library in Beylikdüzü named after Nuri M. Çolakoğlu RA 62

Nuri M. Çolakoğlu RA 62 donated his 30,000 plus books collected over some 50 years to the Atatürk Culture and Art Center in Beylikdüzü, Istanbul. A library and conference room is now named after him at the center, and the collection is open to the public. Çolakoğlu, a writer, journalist and a broadcaster, said, "All my life I have been reading and collecting books which traveled with me to Izmir, Ankara and London, finally coming to rest in Istanbul. Packing, unpacking and putting them on shelves had been quite an endeavor, so at this age I thought my books and I need a little rest. They will be more useful for those who may need them for their research." The new library was inaugurated in March 2019.



Akay Taşkintuna and Fatma Çolakoğlu pose with Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 (center) in front of the library and conference room dedicated in his name

Author of Short Story Books Sedef İnkaya Betil ACG 66

Sedef İnkaya Betil is the author of two short story books: *Kısa Kısa Karanlıklar* and *Kirginliğin Kuytusunda*. Her third book will be published in 2019. She is delighted to have found writing late in life. Of her work, Betil says, "I write about ordinary people that I encounter in cafes, ferry boats, malls. I try to share their deeply felt but hidden feelings. Most



of my characters have covered scars." She credits ACG with instilling in her a love of reading: "I read a lot while not writing. ACG taught me how to express my thoughts precisely which I find very helpful while writing. I write short texts. ACG has also allowed me to believe and trust in myself, to stand up and say my own words."

Nurhan İshanyanoğlu RC 83 Brings the Taste of Home to LA



Nurhan İshanyanoğlu RC 83 has launched a restaurant, Nick's Kitchen, in Los Angeles. At RC, his English teacher Mr. Lovett used to tell İshanyanoğlu that he should go into the hospitality business, and he finally took Mr. Lovett's advice. İshanyanoğlu and his family have been living in LA for more than thirty years. He says, "All this time I had been looking for a true Mediterranean restaurant, reflecting

the taste and flavors of where I grew up. I finally found the courage to launch it myself." Nick's Kitchen offers tasty food with a home-made spin, using family recipes and specially chosen ingredients. From *İskender* to *künefe*, many beloved Turkish dishes and desserts can be found here. Alumni in the area now can now enjoy the excellent food as well as İshanyanoğlu's hospitality.

Binnur Karaevli RC 84

Showrunner of First Original Netflix Series Set in Turkey

Excerpts from the **BOSPHORUS CHRONICLE** article by Zeynep Demirkol L10, Lara Sakarya L11 and Nur Sude Topraktepe L10



Binnur Karaevli RC 84 (center) with director Umüt Aral and actor Hazar Ergüçlü

The creator and writer of *The Protector*, the first original Netflix series set in Turkey, is Binnur Karaevli RC 84. Karaevli's interest in theater bloomed at Robert College through the musical theater club, which led to a career in theater and film. When asked about *The Protector*, she explains, "I asked Netflix what they would like to do in Turkey. They were looking for an authentic series with universal themes. I had already read İpek Gökdel's book

Karakalem and liked the central idea, which was, 'a young man inherits a talismanic shirt and fights evil forces bent on destroying Istanbul with the magic of the shirt'. I optioned the book. Then I wrote a story for a 10-episode series based on it, and attached the production company as well. I proposed it to Netflix, and they decided to go for it." The second season of *The Protector* was released in April 2019.

Uğur Kırçal RC 02 Takes on Senior Insurance Role

Uğur Kırçal has been appointed as executive vice president of BNP Paribas Cardif, the insurance arm of the largest European banking group. Kırçal has not always been in the world of finance. Following RC, he first studied mechanical engineering at İTÜ and joined the product development department at Mercedes-Benz to pursue his childhood dreams. He then

moved to Kazakhstan and spent four years in the oil and gas industry. Before moving back to Istanbul and joining BNP Paribas as a strategist in 2012, he spent two years in the UK, earning an MBA at the University of Manchester, Manchester Business School while also working as a strategy advisor at multinational companies like British Gas and American Express.



Mehmet Can Aslantaş RC 02

Joins GSK Turkey Leadership Team



With his 12 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, Mehmet Can Aslantaş was recently appointed to the board of GSK Turkey as the Respiratory and Critical Diseases business unit director. After receiving his BS in industrial engineering, he started his professional career at Pfizer in 2006. His passionate work in marketing and business development

provided him with powerful steps in his career journey, and he was leading the Pfizer Rare Diseases business unit since 2014 before joining GSK in July 2018. As a member of the executive board, he is responsible for both sales and marketing of the Respiratory and Critical Diseases businesses under GSK Turkey.

Sevinç Yüksel RC 02 Welcomes Baby

Sevinç and Jason welcomed their son Kai Yüksel Tavarez on December 2, 2018. Jason and Sevinç's sister Sevgi (RC 00) had a bet on Kai's arrival date and time. Kai arrived exactly on the due date (punctual like his mother) and Jason won the bet.

Sevinç, Jason and Kai live in New York City. Sevinç received her BS and



Sevinç Yüksel RC 02, Sevgi Yüksel RC 00, Jason Tavarez and Kai Yüksel Tavarez

MS from Columbia University in civil engineering and now works for Related Companies, a real estate developer.

Kai has already mastered smiling and tummy time and is now focusing on rolling over. He's being raised in a trilingual (Turkish, Spanish, English) family, and the next big bet is in what language his first word is going to be.

Do you have news to share with the **RC Community**?
Send a short write-up along with a photo to
alumni@robcol.k12.tr

Elçin Akturan RC L12 04 Explores Healing Through Dance Therapy

Elçin Akturan is a dance movement therapist and the secretary general of the Turkish Expressive Arts Therapies Association. She discovered expressive art therapies while working with schizophrenia patients and started working with patient groups using dance movement therapy (DMT) together with her co-therapist. It had an incredible effect on the patients' psychological, cognitive and mental development.

She then applied DMT to birth psychology. "When I was pregnant, I became interested in natural birth

and birthing rhythms. I adapted DMT for pregnant women and birth health staff with a colleague. There was wonderful feedback from participants. I gave birth at home using my DMT training. I developed the technique further and presented my work in 2016 at the European Dance Movement Association Conference, and in 2017 at the Association of Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Health." Elçin currently practices individual and group therapy at Lapsus Psychology and Self-Development Center, which is owned by her colleague Gonca Akkaya RC 97.



Pelin Oğuzer RC 06 and Kerem Alkim RC L3 04 Tie the Knot

Pelin Oğuzer and Kerem Alkim were married on September 7, 2018. They met on the elevator of an office building where their offices temporarily shared a floor in Akmerkez back in 2016. It was a little surprise to later find out that they both went to RC and even to the

same elementary school, yet never met before! After visiting several wedding venues, they decided to go back to school, to celebrate their marriage with friends and family at Bizim Tepe. Pelin practices as a lawyer and Kerem works as a management consultant in Istanbul.



Pinar and Aykut Pekdemir RC L3 04 Welcome Baby

When Pinar and Aykut met in math class in 1999, they had a mutual admiration for each other but never fathomed they would end up together far away from their homeland. Aykut moved to the US for his master's degree in 2009. When Pinar moved to the US, their friendship took a more serious turn. They were married in New York City in 2017, and shortly after, learned that their baby was on the way. They now live in Brooklyn with their son, Erdem Kaya Pekdemir.

Aykut received his architectural engineering master's from Illinois Institute of Technology. He works at BuroHappold Engineering in NY as an associate energy analyst. Pinar received her marketing and communications master's from Bilgi University. She worked at Estee Lauder as a marketing executive for seven years, and in NY at the Marmara Park Avenue Hotel as a sales coordinator. Currently she is a stay-at-home mom and enjoying every minute with her baby boy.



Pinar and Aykut Pekdemir RC L3 04 with their son Erdem Kaya

Müge Çıkrıkçioğlu RC 07 Discovers Talent for Animal Portraits

Müge Çıkrıkçioğlu was working as a lawyer in October 2017, when she started sharing her animal portrait paintings on Instagram. Even though she had no formal education except for the studio arts class at RC, the positive reactions she got encouraged her. After painting different wildlife, she started receiving special requests from friends for paintings of their own pets. Soon she found herself registering her trademark – ArtMuguet – and launching her website,

where she now receives orders online. ArtMuguet is not Çıkrıkçioğlu's only job. Since last year, she has also been working for her family's business, which carries out real estate development projects. She says, "Studying at Robert College gave me the self-confidence to pursue what I want to achieve, and be creative about what I do." You may find more about Çıkrıkçioğlu's work on her Instagram account @artmuguet and at www.artmuguet.com



Başak Demirci RC 07 and Mehmet Ali Anıl RC 07 Get Married

Classmates from RC 07, Başak and Mehmet Ali got married on July 22, 2018 shortly after celebrating two years in their relationship. This past year Mehmet Ali, holding a dual bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and physics, completed his master's at İstanbul Teknik University by presenting a thesis on spiking neural networks. The same year Başak, an industrial engineer, received



a master's degree in organization studies from Tilburg University in the Netherlands, receiving the J.J.J. van Dijck Organization Studies Best Thesis Award with her comparative case study on for-profit social enterprises. The couple has been living in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, where together they run a technology firm named Grus that is engaged in machine learning hardware design.

İdil Seveda Öksüz RC 11 Creates Playful Startup



Families searching for educational play activities for their kids need look no further. Boni'nin Kutusu (Boni's Box), started by İdil Seveda Öksüz, prepares monthly activity boxes for children aged 5-9. The educational activities are designed around various themes such as animals, countries, professions, pioneers, or space. All materials required for these activities, which are designed by experts to support children's intelligence, are included in the box. Children learn and develop self-confidence and self-reliance.

After graduating from Sabancı University, Öksüz got her master's degree from Brown University's Program in Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship. "I have always been interested in crafts and kid's games since I was a child," says Öksüz. She worked for a company with a similar business model in Washington, DC, and decided to create a product for the Turkish market. She started Boni'nin Kutusu in March 2018. They are now a team of five and organically growing the company. For more details visit www.bonininkutusu.com

Wedding Bells for Seher Elif Köse RC 11

Elif met Levent Özgüç in a criminal law course when they sat next to each other. Their small talk turned to dating in 2013. Levent proposed to Elif in Paris and the couple got married on their 6th anniversary. The couple both have LLB and LLM degrees from Koç University. After a year abroad, during which Elif



worked in the field of international arbitration in Brussels and London, they now reside in Istanbul. She is working as an attorney at law in a major law firm.

Önder Kaya Releases Book on European History

Based on the **BOSPHORUS CHRONICLE** article by Mehmet Tatoğlu L11



RC History teacher Önder Kaya is a prolific author

RC history teacher and prolific writer Önder Kaya published his thirteenth book, *Avrupa Tarihi - Roma İmparatorluğu'ndan Hitler'in Almanyası'na* (European History - From the Roman Empire to Hitler's Germany; Kronik Kitap).

He states that the driving motivation behind writing this work is lack of sufficient knowledge about the subject. "European history is not well-known here in Turkey, yet it is also one of the topics that we constantly give judgement on," says Kaya. "I wanted to write a book that appeals to readers with an interest in history, rests on the foundational turning points of European history and makes it as easy for readers to read and understand as possible." While some of the articles in the book had previously been

published in magazines, much of the material is freshly written and spans centuries, from ancient Greece to the Second World War. Many interesting anecdotes are covered in the book, such as the one about the writer Hammer who is credited for having introduced Evliya Çelebi to the West, the Boxer Rebellion, and the relation between Sadrazam Ragıp Paşa and Frederick the Great of Prussia. The book also reviews movies like 300 from a historical perspective.

When asked for advice for readers interested in history, Kaya had this to say: "To awaken a sense of curiosity, be selective with your sources, and realize that not everything is to be used as a reference in the general scheme of things."

Çağdaş Yüksel's New Book Release: *İpek Yolu Günlüğü*

Based on the **BOSPHORUS CHRONICLE** by Açelya Kızgın L11

RC geography teacher Çağdaş Yüksel came up with the idea to write a book with an interdisciplinary education approach at the Autumn Teachers' Conference. He was struck by the serious lack of creativity in education, as well as innovative educational models and tools. He felt compelled to do something about it and reached out to his colleague, Nuh Bektaş, a public high school teacher, to discuss what they could do about this problem. This discussion led them to write *İpek Yolu Günlüğü* (Silk Road Diary - Altın Kitapları).

İpek Yolu Günlüğü is an original tale that asks the question, "How well are we aware of the connection between science and life?" The book

encompasses the complete sixth- and seventh-grade curriculum, based on the learning objectives determined by the Turkish Ministry of National Education. It also delves into literature, geography, and history at the high school level. An interdisciplinary STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) approach is used in the book, by coupling challenging academic concepts with real-world examples and lessons. The book offers numerous activities, meant to be done before, during, and after reading the story, as well as a board game.

There was tremendous positive feedback on the book in the education community, and Yüksel is excited to hear that many schools intend to use



RC Geography teacher Çağdaş Yüksel writes first book in a series

İpek Yolu Günlüğü in their curriculum; in fact and some high schools already are. *İpek Yolu Günlüğü* is the first book in what is planned to be a series.

Bercestese Selek Anter ACG 31

Our beloved Bercestese Selek Anter passed away on February 2, 2019. Mother of Ülkü (Evrenol) Kolatan ACG 52, Önder Evrenol RC ENG 57, and Alp Evrenol RC 59, she is survived by four generations of her family, and continues to live on in their hearts and minds. Bercestese, daughter of Sezai Selek, National Minister of Palaces, was born on March 27, 1909. A proud alumna of ACG, acknowledging her education allowing her to “stand on her own feet”, she epitomized what it means to be a modern, strong Turkish woman. She was the oldest living



alumna of ACG and one of the few remaining witnesses of the Atatürk era and the founding of the Turkish Republic. Up until her last days, family and friends enjoyed listening to her personal experiences and stories about Turkish history.

Adored by everyone who knew her, she was not only loved but admired for her grace, resilience and optimism. She will be remembered eternally.

Contributed by her Great Granddaughter Melda Alaluf

Melek Necipoğlu ACG 52



Melek Necipoğlu passed away on April 4, 2019. Among her ACG classmates, she is best remembered as an active Class President which typified her strong sense of responsibility apparent through the rest of her life. In her graduating yearbook it was said of her: “Melek is one of the most sensible girls in our class, kind to everyone and eager to help anybody who is in trouble. She has a strong sense of patriotism and cries with the singing of our national anthem. Contrary to her name she is

very stubborn underneath and will do only what she thinks is right.” Melek always maintained her strong friendship with her classmates. After ACG, Melek married Üzeyir Necipoğlu RC ENG 47. She had two children, Zeynep and İhsan, and one granddaughter, Asena. She will always be remembered by her family and friends as a true Angel, totally in line with her name.

Contributed by her children Zeynep and İhsan

Sabit Sabır RC 52

Sabit Sabır passed away on April 23, 2019. He was born in 1932 in Trabzon. After graduating from RC, he was involved in leather export until 1956. He studied for his master's at the University of Pennsylvania between 1958-1961, on a Fullbright Scholarship. In 1964, he started to work in the nuts industry. He was a

partner in and General Manager of Sabırlar Fındık İhracat. Sabır was one of the founders of the sports club, Trabzonspor, and a board member of the Black Sea Hazelnut and Hazelnut Product Exporters' Association. He was married with two children. May he rest in peace.



Şükrü Server Aya RC 53

Translating from his poem in Turkish, Şükrü Server Aya wrote, “I go, my name remains; may friends remember me... soul doesn't stay in a cage, it flies away”. Indeed, he passed away on January 26, 2019, age 89. Şükrü Server Aya was born in 1930, in Romania. He started in engineering at RC, however had to interrupt his studies to work and support his family. He returned to RC and graduated in 1953. After graduation, he formed his business and started



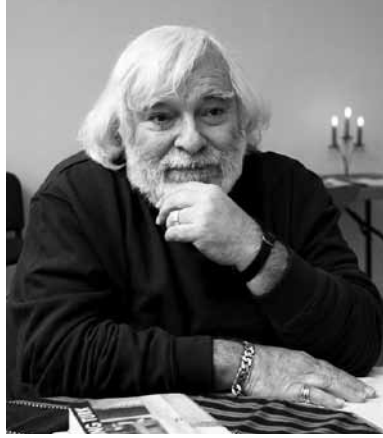
international commerce, and for close to 50 years, he traveled around the world. After dissolving his business, he started researching about Turkish and Armenian history. He wrote books and articles about the matter and gave numerous talks, basing his data on sources in libraries and museums all over the world. He will be remembered and greatly missed by his friends and family.

Compiled from a tribute by Sevgin Oktay

Musa Moris Farhi RC 54

Musa Moris Farhi was born in 1935 in Ankara, Turkey. He died on March 5, 2019, in Hove, East Sussex, England. Author of many novels and plays, he was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2001 Queen's Birthday Honors List for his services to literature and for his dedication to the freedom of expression.

After graduating from Robert College, Moris went to the UK to continue his studies and build a career as an actor and author of books. His attachment



to the land of his birth brought him to Turkey to attend cultural events for many years. He was described by a colleague as charming, funny and incredibly kind. He was a loyal friend, as well as a dedicated husband and father. He is survived by his stepdaughter, Rachel Sievers, and granddaughter Zara. His warm smile and gentle personality will be missed by many people.

Contributed by Ahmet N. Taşpınar RC ENG 56

Öztürk Işıkpınar RC ENG 56

Öztürk Işıkpınar, passed away on December 12, 2018, at 85, due to heart failure. He was the son of Prof. Hasan Halet Işıkpınar, the first Turkish electrical engineer to graduate from RC Engineering School ('16), and the first Turkish graduate of MIT ('28), and Muazzez Işıkpınar, the first woman criminal judge in Turkey and in the world ('31).

Öztürk was an excellent student, quiet, hardworking person, a true unbendable gentleman. He loved history and had a strong memory. He was a student leader representing his

class in the RC Student Council. Öztürk received an MSc at the University of Wisconsin. He was respected as an excellent engineer by his peers and clients and was actively working until his last days.

Öztürk was a voice of reason and moderation in a turbulent world. His honesty, competence and dedication to excellence will be missed by all who loved him dearly.

Contributed by Ahmet N. Taşpınar RC ENG 56, Ertürk Işıkpınar RC 58 and Göktürk Işıkpınar



Recep Gökçe Erdal RA 62



Gökçe, better known by his classmates as "Bombili", passed away in Seattle on February 17, 2019. The nickname "Bombili" had been attributed to him not only for his round face as well as his friendly and lovable appearance, but also because of his overall soft and gentle approach to life. He never lost the smile on his face, not even when he found out that his most beloved "pastramis" were continuously being stolen.

He studied civil engineering and graduated from the Graz University of Technology in Austria. He was engaged in the shipping and forwarding business

until retirement, after which he settled in Seattle.

Gökçe was very fond of overseas trips with his wife. A gourmet, he always liked to try new tastes. He loved to watch NBA games with his grandsons, and went to their own tournaments to cheer for them as they scored. Gökçe will always be remembered for his big smile, kindness and warmth.

Contributed by his wife Nihal Sipahiler Erdal ACG 67, daughter Aslı Yurtyapan, grandsons Efe and Kerem, and his classmates.

Abdullah Atila Postalcioglu RA 63



Abdullah Atila Postalcioglu passed away on August 4, 2018. After graduating from Robert College, Atila travelled to England to further his studies. He completed his degree in mechanical engineering in Birmingham, where he met his wife with whom he was married for forty six years. Military service beckoned him to Turkey in 1975, following which he found employment in Istanbul with an American multinational company. They later transferred him to Athens, and finally to Geneva, where he set up his own successful steel trading company.

He was joyful, witty, always at the center of any social gathering. He was enthusiastic, a dedicated businessman, he worked tirelessly until the very end. His devotion to family, friends and colleagues was paramount. He will be sorely missed, and his sparkling, cheerful presence will remain in our hearts forever. His wife Janet, children Ela and Erol, grandchildren Lea, Emma, Eva and Aline, survive him. May he rest in peace.

Contributed by his family

Fikret Tevfik Alpaslan RA 65

Fikret Tevfik Alpaslan, father of Zeynep, Hande and Deniz, scuba diver and mountaineer, passed away on January 8, 2019, in Ankara at the age of 71. He had been battling cancer for over two years. He was a prolific reader, bridge player and a huge Beşiktaş fan. After graduating from Robert College, Fikret Tevfik went on to earn his BSc and MSc in civil engineering from METU and spent many years as an expatriate in the Middle East managing multiple projects. He is survived by his children and grandchildren.

Contributed by his family



Nur Balkan Atli RC 72

Nur Balkan Atli died on April 10, 2019, in Antalya, after a vascular operation. She was a graduate of ACG Orta School and Robert College. Nur was born on January 2, 1953 in Aydın.

Although a taciturn person her classmates enjoyed her sense of humor. Influenced by her father Lütfü Balkan, a well-known tourist guide who was fascinated by history, mythology and archeology, Nur decided to be an archeologist at an early age. After RC, she studied at the Prehistory

Department of Sorbonne University, where she received her PhD. Returning to Turkey, she joined the academic staff of Istanbul University's Prehistory Department, becoming a full professor. Nur was an expert on the Neolithic period of the Near East and a member of several field projects in Turkey, France and Syria. She directed groundbreaking research on obsidian studies and the Kaletpepe project. We will miss her dearly.

Contributed by Belgin Şahin RC 72



Sezer Rifat amlılar RC 73

Sezer amlılar passed away, all too soon, on January 30, 2019, at the age of 64. He had graduated from Boğaziçi University in environmental engineering in 1977, and subsequently worked on the protection of nature and the environment as a devoted

person and a skilled engineer. He will always be remembered by his calm character, coolness and unique sense of humor, as well as his all-time readiness for helping others. He was with us anytime; more unexpectedly, especially when he was needed, with

his famous smile on his face. He is survived by his daughter Zeynep. We will never forget his great legacy as he will continue to live forever in the memories of his RC 73 friends.

Contributed by Ayhan Sümerli RC 73

Leonor (Nora) Sayah Belman RC 73

Nora left us on April 3, 2019, after having fought cancer for barely a year. She is survived by her beloved daughters Suzan and Sibel, her much cherished grandchildren May, Aksel, Selen and Emir, and her sister Tilda Fresko RC 71. Leonor, as she was enrolled at school, ended up imposing the diminutive she preferred and became Nora for her classmates as well. We will remember Nora's smiling eyes behind her spectacles, a look that disarmed us, even when we disagreed with her! She had this incredible

capacity to persuade, softly but surely. This is how one would wind up going to a film of her choice. (She was a true cinéophile, never missing a single James Bond nor a Western.)

Refined, generous, helpful, industrious, modest, gentle ...she really was all that and more, but I wish to pay tribute to her "blonde's temper", her admirable diligence that led her through life's uneven paths.

Contributed by Sara Tonton RC 73



Nur Altinyıldız Artun RC 74



Nur passed away on April 9, 2019, at the age of 64. She was diagnosed with colon cancer two years ago and put up a gallant struggle against it. Nur studied architecture at İstanbul Teknik University and received her PhD there. She worked at Bilkent, Kadir Has and Bahçeşehir Universities. She was interested in urban history, issues of space, and collective memory. She coedited *Arzu Mimarlığı: Mimarlığı Düşünmek ve Düşlemek*, edited *Sürrealizm/Mimarlık*, wrote,

with Ali Artun, *Dada Kılavuz* and was an editor of e-skop. Nur lived as she chose. Serene and resilient, she was always honest to herself and to everyone around her. She had a great sense of style. She was much loved and respected by all her friends and students. She is survived by her husband Ali Artun, brother Murat, his wife Sanem and their son Kemal.

Contributed by Yeşim Arat RC 74

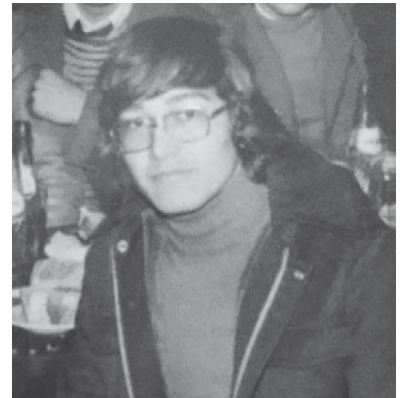
Fatih Yılmaz RC 76

Fatih Yılmaz passed away on February 7, 2019, after a long battle with cancer. After graduating from RC, he attended İstanbul Teknik University and earned his BS degree in electrical engineering. He was a hard-working and successful engineer working in Turkey and abroad until his last months, ignoring the difficulties of the treatment. He had a continuous positive outlook on life. All who had the opportunity of knowing Fatih will remember him as a considerate, gracious and kind

friend. He was a true gentleman in the best sense of the term; kindness and modesty were his most remarkable traits. We will always remember the wonderful memories we shared with him in our years at RC. He will be deeply missed and remembered by his friends and classmates.

He is survived by his wife Tülay and his dear daughter Bahar.

Contributed by Erdal Erel RC 76



Baran Akyol RC 11



Baran Akyol passed away at the end of January in New York, where he had traveled for a job interview. Baran completed his bachelor's degree at Boğaziçi University and received his master's in data science at Columbia University. He had a passion for learning. He wanted to contribute to the current knowledge on the human brain and artificial intelligence. He was fond of engaging in philosophical discussions and reflecting on deep topics. He regarded universal values

highly, and was a believer in science. He loved dark humor, compiling funny videos, drinking tea and eating sunflower seeds. Baran was a very sociable person, he will be remembered forever with his smile and high moral values by dozens of friends. He is survived by his loving mother Nimet Akyol, father Erol Akyol and his brother Talha Akyol.

Contributed by his classmates Furkan Taşel, Damla Sevgi and Batuhan Keleş

faculty and friends obituaries

Harry A. Dawe



Harry A. Dawe passed away after a short illness on January 5, 2019, in New York City at the age of 82.

Dawe served as Headmaster of Robert College between 1986 and 1992. Following his tenure at Robert College, he returned to the United States and served at Oberlin College and Ethical Culture Fieldston School in Riverdale, NY, until his retirement in 2017. He is survived by his wife, Nicolette Love, and six children.

Harry A. Dawe was instrumental during the 125th Anniversary Celebrations of the school and the Building Campaign that was undertaken at this critical milestone. He saw his role in the campaign as

one of continuity, fluidly managing a process that completed the original campus plan with the addition of much needed three new buildings.

Dawe also laid the foundations of the Annual Giving Program around this pivotal time, which was his legacy and a most meaningful way of building the future. Another critical initiative that Dawe started was a reform and renovation of the school's English program. He instigated a new curriculum, increasing the number of books read and the amount of writing undertaken because he felt long-term fluency and engagement with English was a critical learning outcome.

His decision to leave Robert College was announced in the Winter 1992 issue of the RCQ (issue 9, p. 16). On that issue, Dawe penned an essay on his decision. He stated, "Robert College needs to be aware of all contemporary approaches so as to remain on the cutting edge of the future. Only in so doing will it remain true to its own essential self. I can say that I have learned much about myself, education, Turkey and Robert College. I took a special interest in the history of the College not merely to learn of its accomplishments but to seek out its true and essential nature, the spirit which informs its life. Thus, I could become a good steward of that spirit. I believe that essential element is a spirit of innovation, a perspective which has always kept the eyes of those responsible for the School on the future, not on the past. Indeed, it has been that future vision which created the glorious past. I am proud to have participated in the evolution of this School, I am pleased to have been associated with so many good people and I hope that future leaders will be able to participate in building the history of Robert College by keeping it true to its heritage of building for the future."

Harry Dawe will always be remembered with gratitude, as future generations of Robert College students continue to benefit from his significant contributions to the school.

Ayfer Yeniçağ

Ayfer Yeniçağ passed away on January 15, 2019, in Ohio, after a few years of her valiant battle with cancer.

Yeniçağ started out in Robert College in 1971 as a biology teacher, and she credited the legendary biology teacher Armine Şükür as her mentor during those first years at the school. She soon became a special assistant to the Headmaster, where she became involved with the different communities of the school, as well as managing the school entrance exams, which were held separately by the schools at the time. She became the Director of Lycee in 1979, while Mr. Maggart was headmaster.

Before she left for the Hisar School as its founding Head in 1996, she was serving as Assistant to the Headmaster - Special Projects. During that time, she was part of the team that helped launch Bizim Tepe. The Fine Arts Festival also got a start during her tenure and with her assistance. Yeniçağ retired from the Hisar School in 2010, where she served for 14 years. In an interview

in the Summer 1998 RCQ issue, she reflects upon her time at Robert College. "The most enjoyment I got from RC was the joy of all the students and the professionalism of the faculty. Each year, each day, each hour has been a different experience. There is never a dull moment and what is positive is more than what is negative. It has been an excellent 25 years. I raised my child, Evren, here, and he is an RC 93 graduate. I don't want people to think that all my experiences here have been positive, of course there were very difficult times but I feel they have helped me build up my self-confidence. Therefore, I wouldn't want to change any of them. They have helped me to become a better person."

Ayfer Yeniçağ was a respected academician and a successful administrator with a generous heart. She devoted her life to education. She will be missed by generations of students whose lives she touched and influenced. She is survived by her husband Üret, son Evren, daughter-in-law Julie and grandson Lucas.



Waltraud Hanopulos

Waltraud Hanopulos, beloved German language teacher at ACG and Robert College from 1960 until her retirement in 1990, passed away on January 27, 2019, following a brief illness. She is survived by her two daughters, Iris and Diana, and three grandchildren.

Born in Braunschweig, Germany in 1925, she moved to Istanbul in 1955 to marry the love of her life, Basil Hanopulos, a French teacher at Saint Benoit. During her tenure at Robert College she also served as the head of the Elective Courses Department and

the head of the German Club as well as teaching German folk dancing.

So deep was her love of Istanbul that although her husband had passed away in 2011, and her two daughters had moved to Germany, she elected to stay in Turkey.

She will always be remembered as a loving person dedicated to her students, family and friends.

Contributed by her daughters Iris and Diana



Alfred T. (Tad) Ogden II



Trustee Emeritus Alfred T. Ogden II passed away in New York City on March 28, 2019, aged 79. The only son of Mary Fell Jordan Ogden and Alfred Ogden of New York, he grew up in New York City and was a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy, Yale University, and Cornell Law School. Mr. Ogden had frequently traveled to Istanbul with his father, who was also a member of the RC Board. He had been impressed with the quality of education and the impact the graduates had on Turkey's

development. After establishing himself in the practice of law in New York, he joined the Robert College Board in 1973 and was subsequently instrumental in raising funds for the school as the Chairman of the Institutional Advancement Committee. He was elected Trustee Emeritus in 2012. The Robert College community is grateful to Mr. Ogden's invaluable contributions to the standards of excellence that Robert College maintains.

Kadirşan Tarhan, a.k.a. "Kadir Ağabey"

Still rivers run deep. They impress the onlookers with their silence and their depth, and the more you approach, the more they embrace you. Kadirşan Tarhan came to Robert College from Boğaziçi University in 1985. He had become a veteran of the university: he studied mechanical engineering and had to pass two courses to graduate; these two courses kept him waiting for years, until he transferred to the sociology department thanks to an exemption granted by the university. He successfully completed his studies in this department, in spite of the difficulties due to his working life.

I naturally met him at Robert College. We worked together for many years. With his affectionate nature, his enthusiasm, his dedication, he was a special person for all of us. The switchboard operator's office was a chat room, almost a "home" for many



boarders who never failed to stop there after dinner every day. I believe that communication is the keyword to describe this. Kadir Ağabey valued

communication. He demonstrated this with his music, his drama activities, and as a sociologist.

Gölge Senfoni (The Hidden Shadows Symphony) was an extraordinary play written by him and performed by RC students, teachers, and staff in 1998. As playwright and composer of the play's music, Kadir Ağabey earned a special place in RC's history. The favorable impact of the play on school-wide communication is unforgettable.

We lost Kadir Ağabey on March 8, 2019. I am sure he will live forever in our memories, with his excellent music, his talent for the theater, and the affection in our hearts. May he rest in peace.

Contributed by Mehmet Uysal, Head of the Turkish Language and Literature Department

To share news of a deceased RC community member please send a notice in English of no more than 150 words to bonayozman@robcot.k12.tr

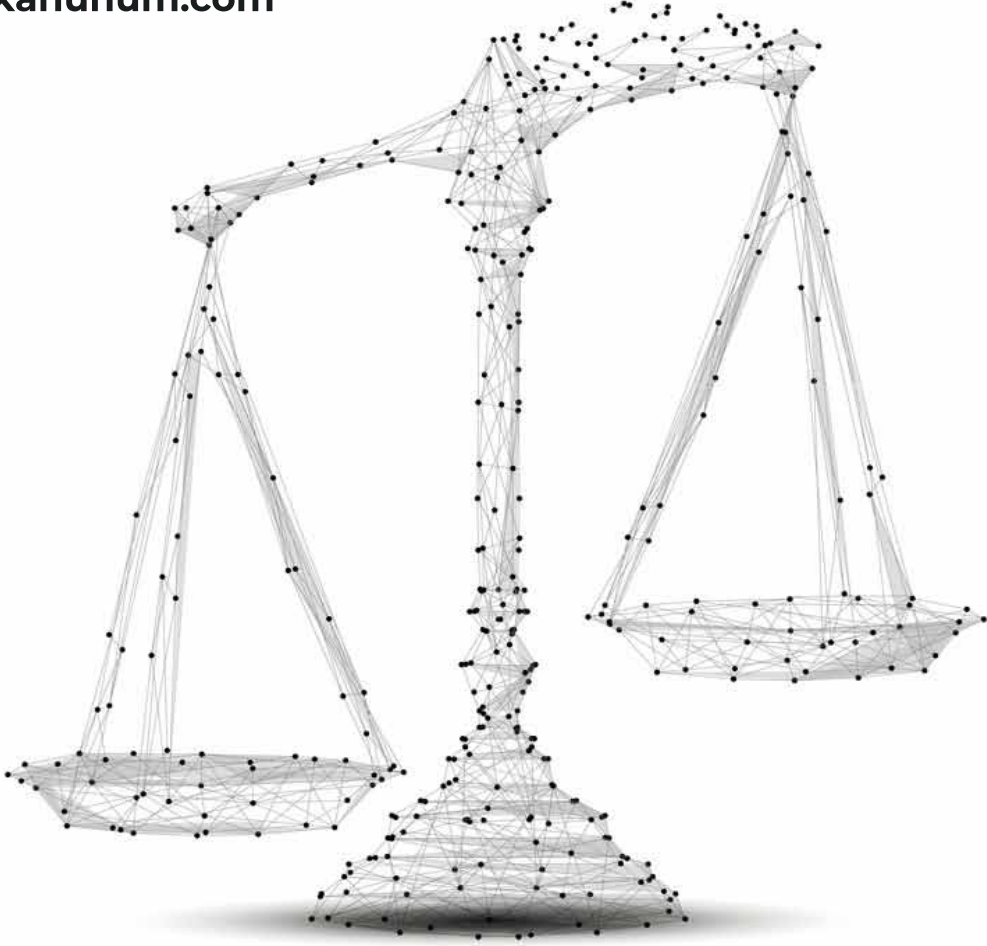
Longer notices will be edited due to space restrictions.

Please include a high resolution (minimum 700 x 700 pixels) photo of the deceased.

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