

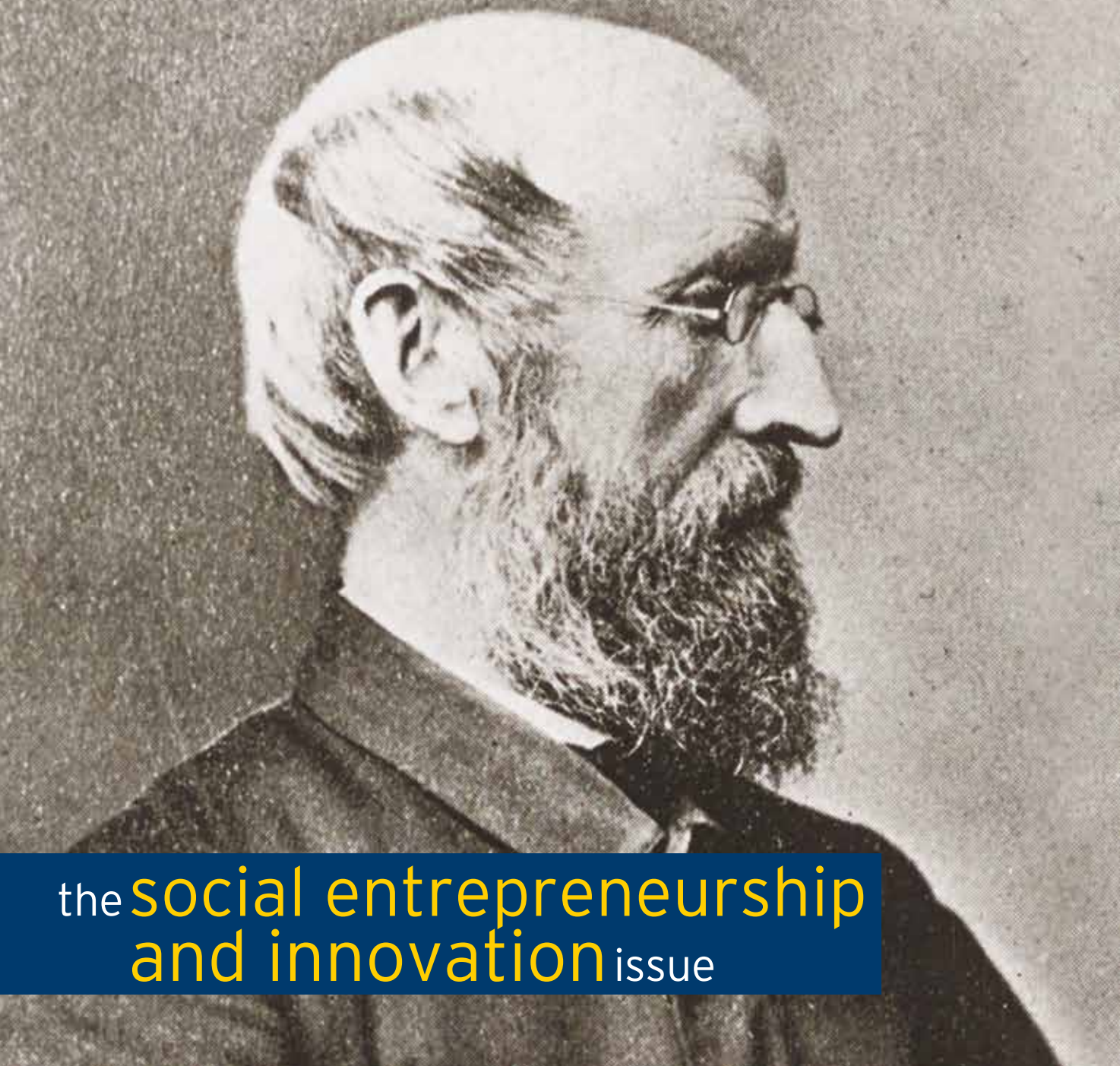
RC QUARTERLY

WINTER 2021 / 2022

ISSUE 59

RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE



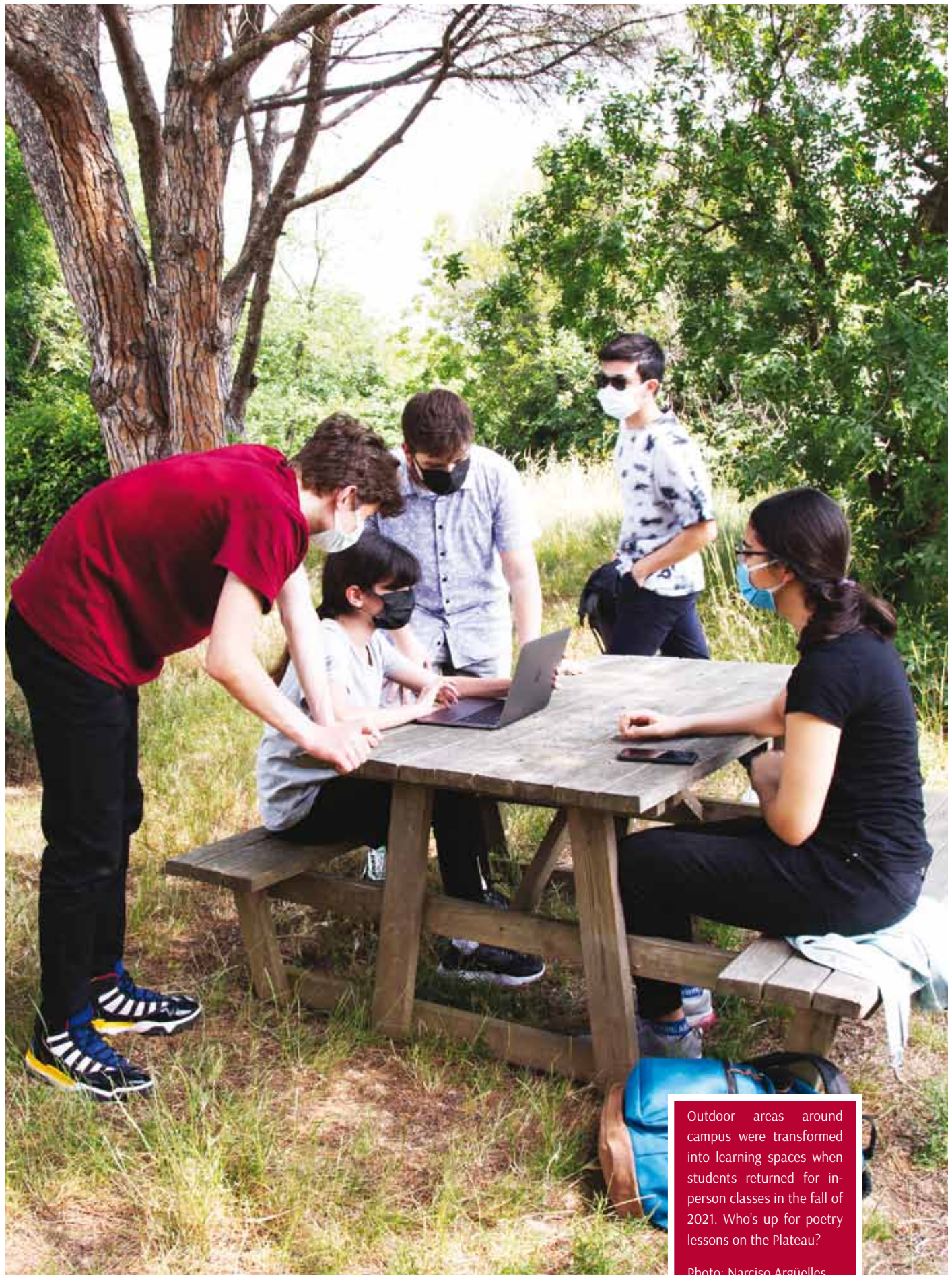
the social entrepreneurship
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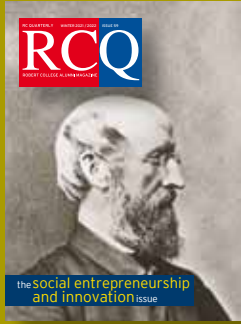
TEPTA 30.yıl
AYDINLATMA



Outdoor areas around campus were transformed into learning spaces when students returned for in-person classes in the fall of 2021. Who's up for poetry lessons on the Plateau?

Photo: Narciso Argüelles

The cover for this issue celebrates RC's founding father Cyrus Hamlin, whose principles as an early social entrepreneur were woven into the school's culture.



RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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

RC has provided the ideal environment for the development of entrepreneurial skills for decades. However, there is now a new perspective to entrepreneurship: creating social impact. RCQ's 59th issue focuses on social entrepreneurship and innovation, areas in which RC is trailblazing in Turkey. RCQ reviews the amazing initiatives implemented at RC and the wonderful directions RC students are exploring. As ever, RC alumni are leaders in social entrepreneurship and innovation, and this issue highlights their inspiring work as well.

In this issue

The RC community ended the year in full force, with exciting news of awards, books, and appointments. This issue once again provides a window to gaze at this amazing range of accomplishments.

- • • Hearing from you enriches the content of RCQ. If you have any comments or would like to share news, please write to us at rcq@robcol.k12.tr

Here is to a happy, peaceful, and industrious 2022!

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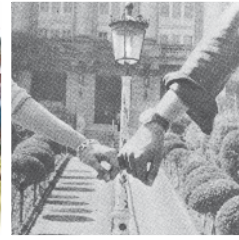
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Your feedback on the RCQ matters! Did you enjoy this issue? Write us at: rcq@robccl.k12.tr

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Message from the Head of School

Social Entrepreneurship is in RC's DNA

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this edition of the RC Quarterly. Its focus on social entrepreneurship could not be more timely. Now is the moment for all nations to establish new models for doing business that will enable people across the globe, in every occupation, to thrive in work that allows them both dignity and opportunity, and which collectively forms closed-circle models of production and consumption. Concepts such as “waste” need to be consigned to the metaphorical scrap bin, as we try to find generous and generative ways of thinking and interacting.

This may sound utopian, but I believe RC is well placed to play a significant part in bringing us closer to this reality. After all, social entrepreneurship is in our DNA: I am sure that were Cyrus Hamlin with us today he would be at the forefront of such thinking.

We believe that the rising generation of RC students needs to be the best prepared to quickly adapt to both unexpected challenges and unprecedented opportunities. That is why, in 2020, we created the role of Head of Social Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity (SEIC). Building on work begun in the Social Entrepreneurship Club in 2013, we now have a dedicated teacher leading



Head of School Adam Oliver

this work as her main remit. SEIC's impressive work is detailed elsewhere in this magazine, and whenever I have worked alongside its student members I have been profoundly impressed by their emotional maturity, soft skills, and ability to think laterally - and often diagonally too.

Much has been achieved, and there is even more to come. As just one example, next year will see us introducing a new social entrepreneurship course targeting the kind of hard and soft skills we feel will help RC students to thrive. Based on the work of MIT Professor Otto Scharmer, our Theory U elective will help students develop skills of silence, stillness, deep listening and looking, so that the traditional repertoire of leadership skills will be enriched with the kind of wisdom that in the past took much longer to acquire.

Socially-minded business, based on a foundation of moral engagement and a commitment to sustainable, generative entrepreneurship, offers us the best hope for our collective future. As an institution, RC is committing itself to such work: Project Hummingbird, our Sustainability Plan, will help us to reappraise everything we do, and from these challenges we will establish new socially-grounded approaches to how we operate and what we expect from our partners. Our students seeing us practicing what we preach will in turn become a powerful part of their learning and growth.

Exciting times! I hope you enjoy reading about our work and our plans, and I look forward to sharing with you the remarkable journey ahead.

New Publication Promotes Education Best Practices

By Allison Finn, Head of Education Research



Scan to read Impact

RC faculty and staff are committed to keeping our students at the center of our work. Our professional growth is focused on effective student learning, and it is guided by the most recent and relevant research. After a five-lecture series given by Dylan Wiliam, one of the world's leading researchers on feedback and formative assessment, we have reinvigorated our desire to look closely at these things.

During the last school year, our student-led Make Learning Better Team conducted research focused on the most effective feedback practices at RC. In the latest issue of Impact, RC's

new journal of teaching and learning, a selection of faculty whose feedback practices were identified by students as highly effective shared their methods. You can read about what feedback practices are happening in Burcu Çingay Culha's economics classes, Emre Ilker's practical music class, and Alex Downs' art classes; what quick formative assessment strategies are used in Angela Shockley's ASL and English classroom; and how Dylan Wiliam's lectures inspired new learning constructs in Metehan Ince's Prep English class. Scan the QR code above to read more.



RCS Academy: Creative Courses for Kids Year-Round

RCS Academy, part of the RC Summer program, aims to create learning opportunities for participants and offer exciting courses that are new and different from what they experience during the school year. The half-day programs are conducted in English, with a variety of courses in the field of technology, math, humanities, literature and music.

In 2020 RCS Academy moved online, and this year it brought together 60 participants ages 12-16 from 11 cities in Turkey. The courses were led by 10 Robert College teachers and co-curricular advisors.

Courses offered in 2021 included: College Counseling: What Do College Admissions Really Want?, Creative Problem Solving, Cryptography: The Math of Secret Codes, Electronic

Music, Finding My Artistic Voice – Towards A College Art Portfolio, Introduction to Microcontrollers via Arduino, Intro to Python Programming Language, Philosophy with Youth – Think & Create!, RC Wizarding World and Script Writing 101.

Participants were able to practice their English as well as expand their interest in different topics during the two-week sessions. With this year's online courses, RCS Academy offered highly sought-after subjects, and our instructors were able to give even younger participants a head-start in different fields.

For the first time, RCS Academy also offered online courses during the 2022 semester break. Participants enjoyed two different courses in the field of programming, art and college



preparation along with online games and activities.

The new RCS Academy courses will be announced in March on the website. Stay tuned for summer opportunities.

www.rcsplus.org

Melisa Korkmaz RC L12 03

Back at Home at RC



This fall, Melisa Korkmaz returned to her alma mater as Donor Relations Coordinator, a member of the Institutional Advancement team. The RCQ asked her impressions of being back on campus:

What is it like being back on campus?

I was a boarding student at RC, so in a way, RC was my home for five years. Now I feel like I'm back home!

What is your role at RC?

As the Donor Relations Coordinator, I am responsible for expanding and strengthening the fundraising capacity of the IA team. I am managing a global portfolio of major gift donors and prospects, assisting with the creation of campaigns, and stewarding our donors. As an alumnus, I feel the importance of giving back to our

school in every capacity. Having just moved to this side of the table, I can tell my fellow alumni that both the IA team and the school are working very hard with great commitment to make opportunities expand for our students.

What has surprised you most being back?

I am thrilled to see the commitment and continuous support of our donors and the RC community. It is truly wonderful to see how their contributions are changing the lives of our students.

I am also surprised by, as well as pleased to see, how much co-curricular activities have grown both in number and content. It is amazing to see students' continuous interest in such a rich variety of clubs, initiatives and community programs.

Photo: Müge Ayma Kelem



Things You Forgot in Our Library Books

Photographs, tickets, postcards, maps – these are just some of the items that librarian Gözde Zengin has come across in returned books.

She started collecting these “bookmarks” in 2017, and the collection has grown with the help of the library team and students.

An exhibition featuring a selection of the items was held in the İbrahim Bodur Library in October.


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2021-22 Annual Giving Kicks Off



Keynote speaker Rina Onur Şirinoğlu RC L3 04

RC class agents, high honor donors and RC administrators gathered for brunch at Bizim Tepe on October 24, 2021, to kick off the Annual Giving Campaign.

The keynote speaker this year was Rina Onur Şirinoğlu RC L3 04, who is the co-founder of gaming companies Peak Games and Spyke Games, as well as the co-founder of venture capital firm 500 Istanbul. In her speech, she talked about her journey from student to entrepreneur. She credited her humble beginnings for her success, saying, "People with nothing to lose aren't risk-averse." She also underlined the importance of diversity, which she feels is an important part of the companies she has founded, as it allows people to grow and learn, and pushes them to do their best.

Following the speech, awards were presented to the leading classes of

the 2020-21 Annual Giving Campaign, in appreciation for their performance which helped Robert College have another successful fundraising year.

After the ceremony, attendees continued to mingle and enjoy the day at Bizim Tepe.



Burcu Berent RC 96 and Mehves Dramur RC 96 from the Institutional Advancement Office accept the award presented by Monika Mraz, Director of Institutional Advancement, on behalf of their class agents



Class agents from outstanding classes pose for the traditional family photo

LEVEL of PARTICIPATION

- 1| **RC 76 Class Agents:**
Nedim Ölçer
Yasemin Palanduz Kahya
- 2| **RC 91 Class Agent:**
Cüneyt Soydaş
- 3| **RC 90 Class Agents:**
Okan Atilla
Aysan Sinanlıoğlu
Sarmpezoudis
Mete Tuncel
- 4| **RC 89 Class Agents:**
Mert Tarlan
Zümrüt Alp Yalman
- 5| **RC 00 Class Agents:**
Zeynep Kayhan Kantaşı
Alara Orhon Özşeker
Esra Yalçınalp
- 6| **RC 73 Class Agents:**
Rezan Benatar
Nevzat Fresko
- 7| **RC 88 Class Agents:**
Arif Akdağ
Aslı Berkol
Mehmet Cemalcılar
Gülin Yenigün Yücel
- 8| **RA 61 Class Agent:**
Y. Aydın Bilgin
- 9| **RC 93 Class Agents:**
Can Önen
İrem Kızılviranlıoğlu Önen
- 10| **RC 78 Class Agents:**
Semih Aksu
Selma Şaşmaz Somer
Haluk Şardağ
Doğan Şenocak



Şeyma Arsel ACG 60 and Çelik Arsel



Melisa Korkmaz RC L12 03, Oral Bozyiğit RC 98, Fırat İşbecer RC 98, Baki Kantaşı RC 98, Zeynep Kayhan Kantaşı RC 00, Esra Yalçınalp RC 00 and Can Kurtuluş RC 00



RC 81 class agent Gülden Küçük Çelebi and RC 82 class agent Nahit Seçkin



ACG 69 class agent Nur Edil with her classmate Nazan Kabatepe

LEVEL of GIVING

- 1| **RC 91 Class Agent:**
Cüneyt Soydaş
- 2| **RC 89 Class Agents:**
Mert Tarlan
Zümrüt Alp Yalman
- 3| **RC 96 Class Agents:**
Orhan Ayanlar
Erez Navaro
- 4| **RC 95 Class Agents:**
Melis Alemdar
Fulya Çanakçı Güçlü
Memet Ünsal
- 5| **RC 82 Class Agents:**
Damla Yaraş Birol
Nahit Karşı Seçkin
Yeşim Yağcı Silahtar
- 6| **RC 87 Class Agents:**
Burak Pekcan
Aylin Barlas Sarıcı
- 7| **RC 88 Class Agents:**
Arif Akdağ
Aslı Berkol
Mehmet Cemalcılar
Gülin Yenigün Yücel
- 8| **RC 94 Class Agents:**
Özen Bozçağa Bezirci
Nevra Eker
- 9| **RC 93 Class Agents:**
Can Önen
İrem Kızılviranlıoğlu Önen
- 10| **RC 90 Class Agents:**
Okan Atilla
Aysan Sinanlıoğlu
Sarmpezoudis
Mete Tuncel

Marking 25 Years of the Osman Evran RC 90 Scholarship

By Class Agent Okan Atilla RC 90

With the 2021-22 school year we are setting off for the 25th consecutive annual scholarship committed by RC 90, established in the name of our dear classmate Osman.

Osman Evran, born April 7, 1972, was a boarding student. He came from Denizli at the age of eleven and spent seven wonderful years at RC. He was a master of math, played competitive basketball, spared time for drama, always spearheading any kind of ventures be it social, academic... anything. He was there when anyone needed support.

Osman unfortunately passed away after a car accident the summer we graduated. For most of us it was the biggest loss we had encountered until then; it probably still is for many.

In the days following summer, we gathered on campus and planted a blue spruce in front of the Forum, with a granite plaque bearing a poem Osman wrote. The class also raised some funds for an obituary. The following year there still was a remaining sum which we wanted to give back to the school for a good cause. Annual Giving was started right before we graduated, so it was humble beginnings for both the Campaign and our efforts. It took a couple of more years as we finished undergrad, started work and were able to commit to something bigger while Annual Giving itself was becoming significantly more substantial.

We obviously wanted Osman's name to be remembered, but also wanted this to give way to a cause we very much cared about: supporting talent and diversity at Robert College, the



Osman Evran RC 90



A tree was planted in Osman Evran's memory by the Class of 90 shortly after he passed away

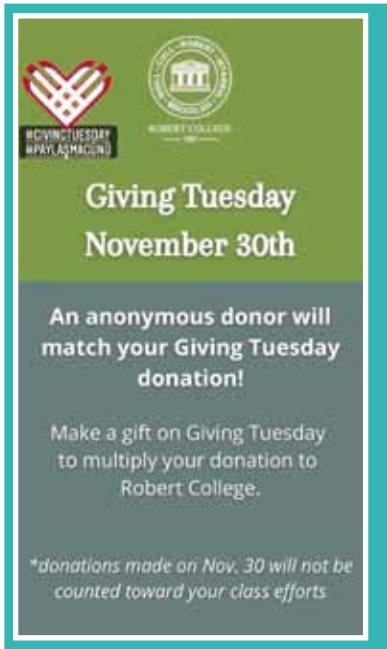
very notions we ourselves brought with, benefited from and cherished greatly during our time on campus.

With the guidance and invaluable support of Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu from the Development Office came the idea to underwrite as a minimum, a day student's tuition every year (not a target but rather a threshold) as a class scholarship. So ten years into the Annual Giving Campaign, our first scholarship was sealed along with a perpetual pledge letter. Scholarship funds, endowed or annual, were much fewer then and we, obviously not the first to start one, probably became the youngest to make the commitment.

All the class members have contributed over the years with quite a lot of classmates giving consecutively 25 years out of 25. Over \$400,000 has been raised in these years and so far four students who received the Osman Evran scholarship have graduated, one 7-year and three 5-year terms with a fifth recipient currently in 10th grade.

Despite the cause beyond this effort being very personal and dear to us, its longevity is very much intertwined with that of the school, itself still going forward with the aspiration from the days of its humble beginnings.

The Osman Evran Scholarship, marking 25 years in 2022 is quite possibly the longest commitment most of us have kept up within our lifetimes. It is also a sweet coincidence that 2022 will mark Osman's 50th birthday. We hope the campaign named after him will hit that very number as well.



Matching Gift Doubles Impact on Giving Tuesday

Inspired by the global movement on Giving Tuesday, an anonymous donor pledged to match gifts made to RC on November 30th. The news created quite a buzz with almost 50 donors accepting the matching gift challenge, knowing their donation would be amplified. Firat İşbecer RC 98, revealed as the anonymous donor, was so inspired by the results he increased his matching gift to bring the total raised for Robert College in one day to \$17,000.

Scholarships are a Class Act

You may know that donating to scholarships is an important part of the Robert College development program. But did you know that classes play a key role in helping bright deserving young people get a world-class education at RC?

For the 2021-22 academic year, 18 classes have raised a full or partial scholarship to help students. “Creating a positive impact and change in a young person’s life is invaluable,” says class agent Gülin Yücel RC 88, whose class raises a full scholarship each year in memory of their classmate Gaye Eslen Özerkan. “Most of the members of our class were able to gather around a common purpose and over the years we thought together how we could increase this contribution.” RC 00 class agent Zeynep Kayhan Kantaşı states, “It has been an incredibly enriching experience for us, as it allowed us to get back in touch with so many beloved classmates. Our class spirit has never been stronger! We feel proud to renew our commitment to RC through this gift every year.”

Besides annual scholarships, 11 classes have raised 19 endowed scholarships. Cüneyt Soydaş, class agent for RC 91, who set up their endowment in 2014, explains: “Our main motivation has been to help those kids in need and our



school in general. We recently decided as a class to increase our contribution beginning with our 30th anniversary in 2021, and will continue until at least our 35th anniversary, increasing our annual contribution by five times. It is the least we can do to help our alma mater.”

To learn more about setting up a scholarship at Robert College, contact Mehveş Dramur at mdramur@robcol.k12.tr

CIP Fosters a Life of Social Responsibility

The Community Involvement Program (CIP) develops social responsibility at RC by actively engaging students, faculty, and staff in service projects with diverse communities in Turkey and abroad. By participating in these projects, students stretch beyond their comfort zones, building empathy for and connections with their peers and community members while developing their communication and creative problem-solving skills. For faculty and staff, advising for CIP projects provides a unique opportunity to engage with students outside the classroom and to connect with communities beyond RC in meaningful ways. In this RCQ issue, Umut Türk RC 19 and Mehtap Kaya, Turkish University and Career Counselor at Robert College, share how social responsibility has become a part of their lives.

Enthusiasm for Service Began at RC for Umut Türk RC 19

An avid participant in the CIP program throughout his five years at Robert College, Umut Türk completed 285 hours of community service and earned a Distinguished Humanitarian Award in his senior year. Taking a different path from many of his peers, Türk took a gap year after graduation, dedicating much of his time to volunteering as well as mentoring younger students at RC. He was a guest speaker at assembly time, a guest trainer in the CIP Leadership Training Program, and a volunteer at the BU Paws dog shelter at Boğaziçi University where he had already dedicated many hours during his senior year. He was also a mentor at both online and in-person summer camps for disadvantaged youth in Turkey through Gönüllü Hizmetler Derneği (Volunteer Services Association).

Umut Türk brought his passion for and dedication to community service to Davidson College, where he is



Umut Türk RC 19 during the BU Paws CIP in 2017 at Boğaziçi University

now a sophomore in the Computer Science program. He is also in the Bonner Scholars Program, a four-year scholarship program that supports and engages students in community service and action research. He has found this to be a unique opportunity to combine his academic and professional interests in computer science with his passion for social responsibility.

As a Bonner Scholar, Türk has tutored primary school students in math and science, developed websites to be more accessible to hearing-impaired people, and has trained companion dogs for veterans with PTSD. Next semester, he plans to work with a professor collecting data on the impact of sex education programs, whereby he will gain more experience in applying machine learning to solving social problems. According to Türk, social responsibility is “a mindset... a way of life.”

Mehtap Kaya Finds Fulfillment in Community Projects



Elif Sönmez (front left) and Mehtap Kaya (front right) visiting Bergama with RC students and participants in the Düşlerim Gerçekleşiyor (My Dreams Become Reality) CIP in 2017

When Mehtap Kaya joined RC in 2008 as the Turkish University and Career Counselor, she had already been volunteering with the Özyeğin Foundation supporting high school girls from Anatolia to explore possible university and career options in İstanbul. Kaya asked herself, “Why don’t I carry this project to Robert College?” and thus started the El Ele Üniversiteye (Hand-in-Hand to University) CIP project at Robert College, through which over 70 high school girls from around Turkey met with RC girl students to explore university education and future career possibilities together.

Mehtap Kaya explains: “We started a project journey where we brought

high school girls from Anatolia and Robert College together whereby they not only shared their visions for the future but also learned about each other’s lives and experiences. This project gave RC students the opportunity to travel to cities such as Şanlıurfa, Samsun, Amasya, Aksaray, Artvin, and Adıyaman where they stayed in the dorms with local peers. Students from these cities then stayed with RC students for a week, visiting universities and seeing İstanbul, which was for most of these girls the first time they had visited a city outside their hometown.”

Although this project ended in 2015, Kaya has continued her dedication to social responsibility and service at RC

as an advisor for over 26 CIP projects. She says that “when I am not in a CIP project, I feel something is missing, like I did not fulfill something that needs to be done, though I do this because I want to, not because it is a duty.” For Kaya, the benefits of advising for CIP projects include learning to use new digital tools to track projects and give feedback on students’ reflective journals and essays, as well as having the opportunity to meaningfully collaborate with students and contribute to society. She also mentions the strong emotional bonds students build with their peers and community members while working together, repeating a common phrase among CIP participants that, “if there are many tears shed at the end of a project, it was successful.”

Ms. Kaya also emphasizes the importance of social responsibility to personal, academic, and professional development and how participating in CIP projects helps students gain valuable life skills. She says, “One of the core values of Robert College is balance, and social responsibility is one of its important elements throughout a student’s academic journey and professional life. Through the social responsibility projects that students do at Robert College, a perspective and vision of sharing with others is fostered. I find it very valuable to be a part of this.”



El Ele Üniversiteye (Hand-in-Hand to University) CIP visiting İstanbul University in 2010

What's New at RC Alumni's Second Home: Bizim Tepe

Robert College Alumni Association is one of the pillars of the Robert College community, and Bizim Tepe is the focal point where all RC classes can get together.

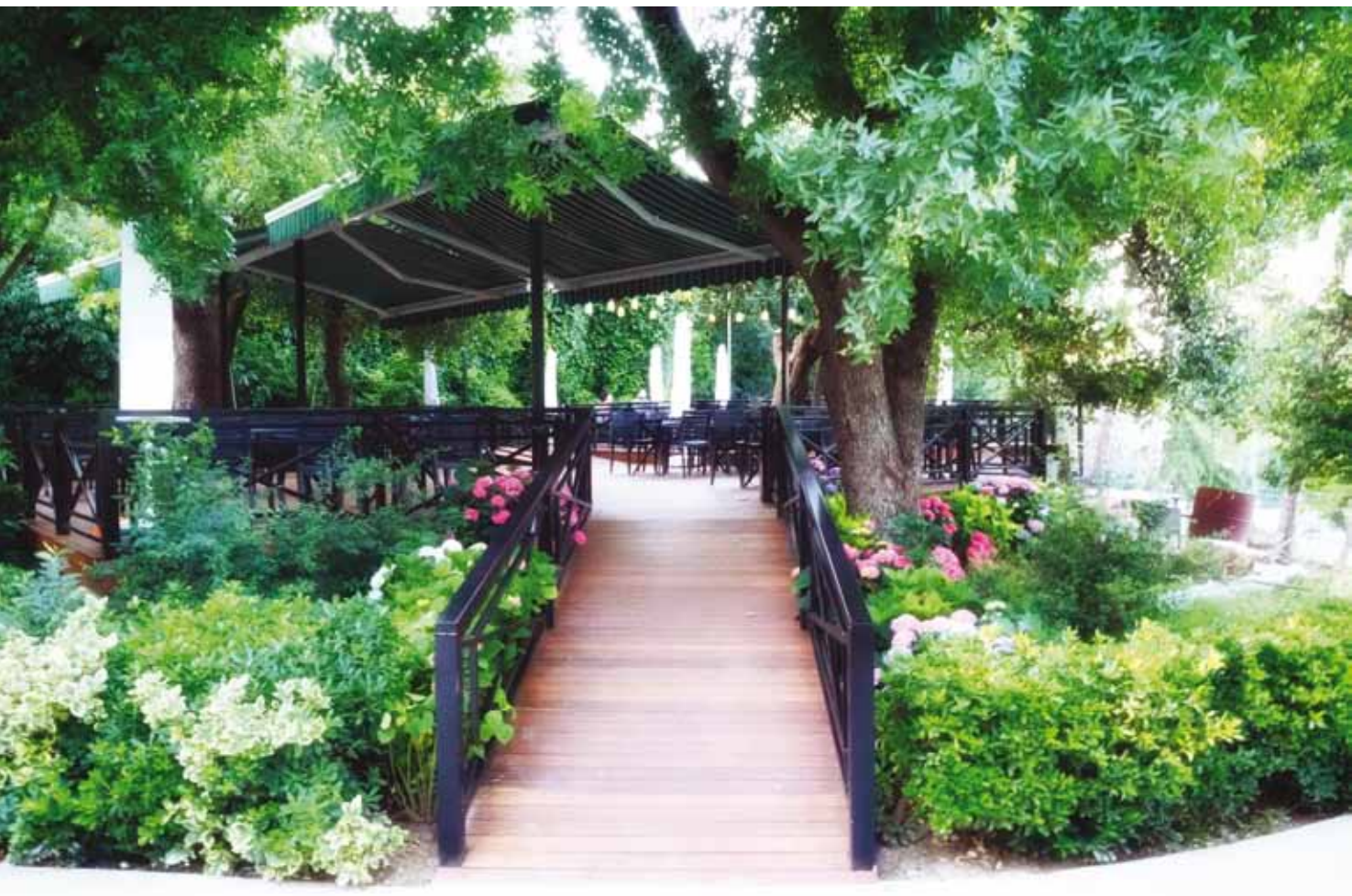
As the effects of long and mandatory separation from classmates and loved ones during the unusual global pandemic period linger, Bizim Tepe continues to be a good venue to

connect, particularly through the many renovations it has recently undergone both inside and out, and with new additional spaces.

RCAA Bizim Tepe facilities include two indoor and two outdoor tennis courts, a green playground for kids, pools for children and adults, an amphitheater, a restaurant, gym and conference halls, and all are open seven days a

week from 9am until midnight. The new and improved Tepe Bistro-Bar is well worth a visit for breakfasts, afternoon teas and dinners. The chic Deck Lounges provide a totally new experience.

Bizim Tepe continues to be a beloved hub of good memories and friendship and a second home to the RC community.





The Homecoming After Party 2021 at Bizim Tepe was another “one to remember” bringing together alumni of all ages. It was a celebration among alumni from different decades after almost two years of being apart due to the pandemic.



The last few years, RCAA has been hosting the Akbank Jazz Festival brunches at Bizim Tepe. On October 3, after a year’s pause, the acoustic jazz band Flapper Swing was on stage by the pool for a memorable and delightful brunch.



This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Bizim Tepe Open Senior Tennis Tournament. The long-anticipated tennis tournament took place Sept 30 - October 13, with the registration of a record-breaking 990 tennis players in more than 20 different categories.

General Assembly

The Robert College Alumni Association General Assembly was held on September 26, 2021 at Bizim Tepe. The new Board is:

RC Alumni Association Board Members

Arif Akdağ RC 88 - Chairman
 Ali Sancar RC 86 - Vice Chairman
 Çağrı Akçurum RC 05 - Secretary General
 Dila Şirin RC 15 - Treasurer
 Ersu Ablak RC 98
 Aslı Berkol RC 88
 Barış Güner RC 89
 Damla Ilıca RC 15
 Meltem Kayhan RC 86
 Yaprak Kılıçcı RC 89
 Erşan Öncel RC 91
 Zeynep Ülkü Kahveci RC 12

RC Alumni Association Alternate Board Members:

Can Yurdakul RC L12 04
 Mehmet Önder Dalkıran RC 89
 Ömer Önen RC 88
 Ahmet Özdemir RC 90
 Ender Özeke RC 87
 Ceren Acar RC 12



Hayal Pozanti RC 00

Has a Permanent Installation at the New York Public Library

The New York Public Library's newest branch, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library (SNFL) opened in June 2021, and Hayal Pozanti's piece "Instant Paradise" is a permanent part of it. Pozanti states that she was chosen for this honor because of her interest in humanity's relationship to technology and exploring that through language and encryption.

The piece encrypts dates that are twelve milestones for the global history of written communication and

is comprised of 95 individual pieces of fiberboard that come together like a puzzle in an 85 x 17-foot space. Pozanti says she chose these milestones to celebrate written communication as a global phenomenon that the human species developed together.

The relationship between Pozanti's invented language (also called Instant Paradise), her research process and the fact that the piece was going to be displayed at a library rendered the work a perfect meeting of art

and writing. Pozanti is exhilarated by the fact the piece will be there for hundreds of years - a time scale hard to comprehend.

Pozanti relays that she fondly remembers the RC library. "Having access to that library while growing up has informed my love of libraries and books and has contributed to my passion for this project." She recently displayed new paintings at Art Basel Miami and a solo exhibition in the beginning of 2022.

Hayal Pozanti RC 00 with her permanent installation "Instant Paradise" at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library in New York City

Şevket Pamuk RA 68

Elected to the British Academy



Şevket Pamuk has become a corresponding fellow of the British Academy, a world-renowned institution for the humanities and social sciences, an honor which

recognizes his lifetime achievements. This prestigious award is granted to leading academics in the UK and around the world for their distinction in their work - in Pamuk's case his research, books and articles dating back to the 1980s on the economic history of the Ottoman Empire, Middle East, Turkey and Europe, exploring money, wages, prices, trade, state finances, economic growth, institutions and institutional change.

Pamuk states "Historical research and writing is often hard work and one appreciates the recognition." He is currently interested in the history of economic institutions and in the history of economic inequalities since the Ottoman times, as he believes

these are key issues for our region. Pamuk credits Robert Academy as opening new worlds to him: "Robert Academy gave me the necessary skills and the frame of mind to pursue my interests. It also made it possible for me to continue to get a good education. Along the way, I never felt I was unprepared for whatever challenges came up. I am also glad I made the decision to come back and live and work in Turkey."

Though retired, Pamuk continues to teach part-time and conduct research at Boğaziçi University, where he has been a professor of economics and economic history. He is also a member of Science Academy in Turkey and Academia Europea.

Elif Bilgi Zapparoli RC 85

Named Among the Most Powerful Women in Finance

Elif Bilgi Zapparoli's stellar career has been recognized by American Banker magazine, which profiled her as one of the most powerful women in finance. Currently co-head of Global Capital Markets for BofA Securities with a team of over 700 people, Zapparoli's illustrious career has spanned decades and continents.

In her current position Zapparoli is very much involved with technology, pioneering efforts to involve artificial intelligence and machine learning for the benefits of clients. She has become particularly interested in blockchain technology and cryptocurrency assets, and not just for the obvious reasons. Zapparoli believes the advent of this new technology offers interesting opportunities for women: "In many



ways, the emerging focus on crypto assets and blockchain technology is generating new constructs for delivering financing to clients - along with a new approach to jobs, services and products. In doing so, they also are giving women new constructs for

establishing ourselves as the leaders in an emerging industry."

Zapparoli prides herself on making sure she paved the way for other qualified women to advance in their careers, as she advanced in hers: "Given these fintech and digital sectors are so new, women have nothing to lose and everything to gain by embracing the learning, pushing for opportunities and making ourselves the experts and leaders of this next generation of financial services and banking."

Zapparoli has also been instrumental in expanding BofA's environmental, social and governance practice and dedicates time to diversity initiatives in the company.

Zeynep Çelik ACG 70 Appointed Sakıp Sabancı Visiting Professor

Zeynep Çelik has been named Sakıp Sabancı Visiting Professor of Ottoman and Turkish Studies at Columbia University. The appointment recognizes the value of the multidisciplinary nature of her work. Çelik was trained as an architect, turned into an architectural historian, an urban historian, a visual culture historian, and a social and cultural historian. Çelik states she is, “especially pleased that my rather eclectic and unusual career was acknowledged as an asset.”

During the fall semester at Columbia, Çelik taught a graduate seminar titled Reading Orientalism from the Orient. She also taught an undergraduate seminar, Istanbul: Places, People, Everyday Life. In the spring semester, she will be teaching graduate seminars



on the politics of archaeology and colonial cities. As the Sakıp Sabancı Visiting Professor of Ottoman and Turkish Studies, Çelik also plays a major role in the activities of the Sakıp

Sabancı Center at Columbia University, in addition to teaching.

Çelik credits her literature courses at ACG for giving her the research bug: “To this day, I remember how much I learned from a fifteen-page paper on the Lost Generation. I understood what original research meant, what constituted primary sources, how to construct arguments, how to use secondary literature, and how to contextualize.” Çelik also remembers her teachers fondly: “Our math teacher Behire Yaltkaya’s dictum ‘Calculus is economy of thought’ engraved the importance of that concept in my mind. Neyire Baysal’s brilliant Logic course complemented Mrs. Yaltkaya’s premise.”

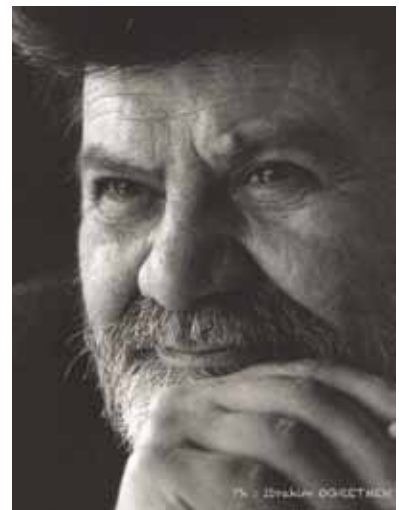
Cevat Çapan RC 53 Receives Distinguished Poetry Award

The Yunus Nadi Award given by Cumhuriyet newspaper is one of the most prestigious literary honors in Turkey, and this year Cevat Çapan received the award in the poetry category, with his poetry collection *Bir Başka Coğrafyadan*, (*From Another Geography*, Yapı Kredi Yayınları).

Çapan states that the award came as a surprise: “I never thought the jury would consider an old fellow of my age as a suitable candidate for the prize, and I hadn’t sent my book for the prize anyway. The source of inspiration of the poems in the book is mostly the people I have known, the places

I’ve seen, and the events I’ve been through.”

Çapan is one of the foremost poets in Turkey, as well as a translator and academic. *Bir Başka Coğrafyadan* is comprised of three sections and 26 poems and takes his poetic storytelling to another level. During his years at RC and beyond, Çapan surveyed British, American and Turkish literature over the ages, and his passion for poetry as well his mounting knowledge were the fuel to his own body of poetry. Çapan has also meticulously translated many foreign poets’ works and introduced them to Turkish readers.

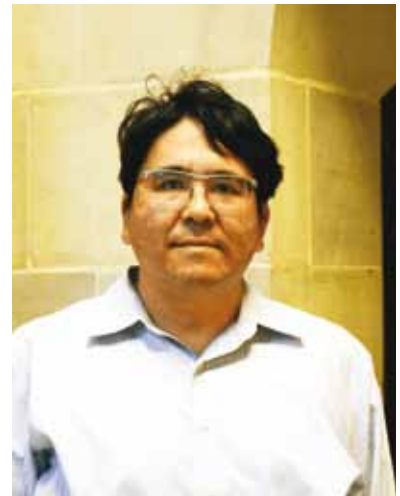


Ali Hortaçsu RC 92 Awarded Rahmi M. Koç Medal of Science

Ali Hortaçsu, the Ralph and Mary Otis Isham Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a fellow of the Econometric Society, received the 2021 Rahmi M. Koç Medal of Science from Koç University. The prestigious award is given to Turkish individuals under 50 who have demonstrated outstanding success and significant progress in their field. The recipient is chosen by a special panel of academic experts; this year's panel included Prof. Daron Acemoglu from MIT and Prof. Filiz Garip from Princeton University, both previous recipients of this award.

Hortaçsu's work focuses on market mechanisms and the efficiencies of markets. Indeed Hortaçsu was one of the earliest academic researchers of internet auctions. His later work focused on auctioning of government debt and energy markets.

Upon receiving the accolade, Hortaçsu stated that the award encourages him to work further with scientists, people in his discipline in Turkey and to strengthen his ties here: "I think that's a big function of the award. It made me really think about what I have done and where I should go next."



Pelin Doğan Schönberger RC 08 Wins ARD/ZDF Award

Pelin Dogan Schönberger, postdoc with the Media Technology Center (MTC) of ETH Zurich, has received the first prize of the ARD/ZDF Förderpreis "Women + Media Technology" for her doctoral thesis titled "Automatic Alignment Methods for Visual and Textual Data with Narrative Content." Schönberger was inspired by science and technology from early on. Her passion for technical subjects naturally led her to engineering, where she believes "creativity is used to solve technical problems in practical ways to improve people's lives." She studied electrical and electronics engineering and computer science, focusing on signal processing, computer vision and machine learning. Schönberger states that she is very happy to



receive the award as a final touch to her thesis: "I had a chance to meet and connect with great people from different media companies in Germany. I take this recognition as

a motivation in my future work to find smarter solutions for general multimodal tasks concerning various forms of digital media."

Schönberger sees RC as pivotal in her journey: "RC provided me great opportunities to explore my interests and strengths through its rich curriculum. I remember having my first engineering projects in Feyyaz Berker Hall in the Electronics class. In addition to the great academic environment, RC also opened the doors to experiencing different cultures, staying open-minded and learning to live as an international person which are very valuable assets in both academic and professional life in today's globalized world."

Biykem Bozkurt RC 83

Heads Up Cardiology Magazine

Robert College trustee Biykem Bozkurt is a prominent heart failure and cardiac transplantation specialist who served as the President of the Heart Failure Society of America from 2019-2020. She was appointed as the senior associate dean and associate provost at Baylor College of Medicine in 2020, and now has become the editor-in-chief of JACC: Heart Failure magazine, a specialist journal launched by the renowned Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC). The first issue under Bozkurt's editorship will be out in July 2022.

Bozkurt has been recognized numerous times for excellence in clinical care, education, and leadership. The Web of Science, the global citation database,



has identified her as one of the highly cited researchers (top 1% of Web of Science) in both 2019 and 2020.

Bozkurt perceives RC as one of the most important catalysts of her success: "In addition to the solid foundation for education, it instilled the drive to seek excellence, help others, and take responsibility to make a change. The depth and diversity of knowledge combined with cognizance of being an RC graduate has been empowering. I am grateful for the values and insights instilled in the historical tapestry of enlightenment among RC graduates. It makes one feel plural across generations, decades and continents."

Boyner Launches Eco-Friendly Store



Boyner Cadde has an eco-friendly design

The innovative spirit of Cem Boyner RC 74 is evident in Boyner Group's latest concept: Boyner Cadde. Focusing on art, sports and technology with a sustainable approach, the store was designed to become an intimate living space with a minimal carbon footprint.

Boyner Cadde will also generate its electricity with solar panels placed on the roof.

Elif Ateşok Şatıroğlu RC 96, VP of Strategy and Business Development at Boyner Group explains their

strategy: "Our Zero Waste project aims to reduce waste generation to zero and to raise awareness among all employees and their families. Trainings on this issue in the supply chain, consultancy services, audit activities, and regulatory action plans have been implemented since 2013. We are committed to reducing our plastic consumption by 11.5 tons by 2023. We are also increasing the sustainable and nature-friendly collections within our Boyner private brands."

Şatıroğlu feels the RC experience factors in greatly with these initiatives: "RC taught us the importance of protecting nature, that we are not the only ones on this planet and we should respect all living creatures. It is the education system at Robert College that taught us to think not only of the present and ourselves but also of future generations. We owe our courage to act responsibly to the education we had at Robert College."

Two Alumni Honored at Crime and Punishment Film Festival



Sargun Tont RC ENG 59 ex

Two alumni have been recognized at the 11th Istanbul Crime and Punishment Film Festival organized under the guidance of Istanbul University's Faculty of Law. The theme of this year's festival was Environmental Justice for All. The Academic Honorary



Hülya Uçansu ACG 71

Award was presented to Sargun Tont RC ENG 59 ex for his work in ecology, writing, teaching, and advocacy. Hülya Uçansu ACG 71 was presented the Contribution to Cinema Award for her decades-long work in cinema in various roles, most notably as one

of the founders of the International Istanbul Film Festival. Sargun Tont also gave the opening speech of the festival conference, titled "The Evaluation of Crime in the Context of Ecology". In his presentation, he drew attention to how far back in time the fight for environmental justice goes and how courts in different countries granted legal rights to natural objects such as trees and animals over time.

In her acceptance speech, Hülya Uçansu said, "justice is an indispensable need like bread and water and cannot be under the monopoly of anyone."

Documentary maker and film professor Can Candan RC 87 was the head of this year's jury.

Alumni Recognized with Sedat Simavi Awards

The Sedat Simavi Awards, presented by the Turkish Journalists' Association, honors individuals who have contributed to art, culture, science and sports in a variety of categories. In 2021, two alumni were recognized for their contributions to society.

Notable writer and Nobel Prize winner Orhan Pamuk RA 70 was awarded in the literature category for his latest novel *Veba Geceleri* (*Plague Nights*, Yapı Kredi Yayınları). During the award ceremony, Orhan Pamuk noted that he had been dreaming of getting the Sedat Simavi Award since the 1970s. He also emphasized how proud he was about receiving this award from journalists who fight for freedom of expression in their profession.

Eren Berber RC 88, from the Cleveland Clinic, was recognized in the health category for his research



Orhan Pamuk RA 70

on developing algorithms using autofluorescence patterns to identify abnormal parathyroid glands. Berber stated that his research is an extension of the advanced technology being used in endocrinal surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. The artificial



Eren Berber RC 88

intelligence model developed in the research will significantly increase the success rates of surgeries used to treat hyperparathyroid disease, which causes high calcium rates and bone damage.



RC Leads the Way in Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation

The entrepreneurial spirit of the RC community is the stuff of legend. From the earliest years, when the school ran a farm and sold the surplus produce, to the alumni who founded some of the best companies in Turkey, there are countless examples of entrepreneurship in the RC community. Now, however, the word “entrepreneurship” has a significant qualifier: Social entrepreneurship is coming to the fore. This issue showcases how the RC community engages with this important concept.



The RC Social Entrepreneurship Club on a break during the 2016 Global Social Entrepreneurship Summit in Mumbai

Cyrus Hamlin: Any review of social entrepreneurship at RC would be remiss if it did not start with him. A man of many talents, Hamlin was an educator, physician, architect, electrician, mechanic, inventor of laundry devices, operator of a bakery and co-founder of Robert College; in a sense, he was the ultimate entrepreneur. The seminary he set up in Bebek in 1840 had a workshop component for needy young men to learn trades such as making iron stoves. Hamlin enabled them to earn their living and finance their studies, creating social impact, many decades before this term was coined. His vision, determination and innovative spirit continue to live on at Robert College today, particularly through RC's unique focus on social entrepreneurship.

Social entrepreneurship is an approach to develop, fund and implement sustainable solutions to social, cultural, economic, or environmental issues. Social enterprises are quite different from NGOs, with which they are sometimes confused. Social enterprises are independent and have clear business models, and they do not depend on government support. More importantly, for a company to be considered a social enterprise, its programs and projects need to include social impact, ethical fiber, and sustainability.

Social entrepreneurship has its roots in development economics and philanthropy, and it is a response to the "wicked problems" the world faces. "Wicked problems" is in itself a new concept. It refers to those problems that resist resolution and that have no simple answers. The death of nature, inequality, and power and corruption constitute some examples of wicked problems. These problems are so entrenched and complex that one discipline alone cannot address them. Different disciplines, such as

social responsibility, philanthropy and law, need to collaborate to solve them. Social entrepreneurship grows from this inherent understanding of complexity; it focuses on developing social impact-driven, ethical and sustainable solutions to wicked problems, when developing a new business.

At RC, It All Started With a Club That Continues to Thrive

RC's Social Entrepreneurship Club (SEC) was established in 2013 when there were no other similar models at the high school level. Deniz Cengiz RC 17 lit the fire for forming this club with encouragement from RC English teacher Aybike Oğuz. During the first year of the club, the members worked closely with Ashoka, an international organization that promotes social entrepreneurship. Aybike Oğuz became the SEC advisor and co-wrote

a guidebook with Ashoka Turkey on teaching college students about social entrepreneurship, building upon these initial trainings: *Üniversiteli Sosyal Girişimciler İçin Yol Haritası, Hızlan Fark Yarat (A Map of Social Entrepreneurship for College Students, Accelerate, Make a Difference)*.

The Social Entrepreneurship Club opens space for RC students who would like to deep dive into this concept. Most of the club members start SEC in Grade 9 and continue until they graduate and even after they graduate. This commitment gives them at least four years to discover their authentic selves, learn and practice the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and design thinking, and organize events and projects on social entrepreneurship.

The club has been very active over the years. For example, a group

Did You Know There is a Rabbit Hole at RC?

RC's new SEIC Office is a wonderful space open to faculty, students, and staff who would like to design and deliver social entrepreneurship, innovation, and creativity events and projects. The latest publications and books on social entrepreneurship, as well as magazines like Stanford Social Innovation, are on the bookshelves for those who want to learn more about these topics. Having this space makes the social entrepreneurship philosophy even more accessible to everyone.



The SEIC Office hosts a variety of events, such as On Wednesdays We Wonder

of students from SEC traveled to India in 2016 to attend the Global Social Entrepreneurship Summit hosted by the American School of Bombay. The students observed life in various communities of Mumbai and considered ways of bringing about social change through social entrepreneurial projects. The students at the time described this experience as nothing short of transformative. At the beginning of the summit, the students visited Dharavi, one of the largest slums in the world, and engaged with locals as part of an important exercise in community needs assessment. At the conclusion of the summit, they presented project ideas. Rabia Idil Demirelli RC 17 and İdilsu Güney RC 18 received special recognition for their work in designing water filtration systems that demonstrated great innovative potential.

Rabia Idil Demirelli speaks for many and remembers her time at SEC as revelatory. Her experience exemplifies how the impact of SEC extends well beyond the students' time at RC:

"We worked on so many different projects. I remember early on we worked on a poster campaign to raise awareness on gender stereotypes. It was quite a hit in Mitchell Hall. Later, we traveled to India to receive Design Thinking Workshops. We implemented what we learned in Mumbai to create

an exchange program between Erzurum and Istanbul. Throughout all these, I was able to meet with so many different social entrepreneurs, passionate thinkers, and great friends.

"When I went to Lafayette College after graduating from RC, right away I started looking for a place where I could surround myself with people who are passionate about social issues and entrepreneurship. I found my place as a fellow at the Dyer Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. I worked there throughout my college years to create programming for the Lafayette community. Also, I took a social entrepreneurship class in my junior year, and that lead me to write a thesis on social entrepreneurship education as my economics honors thesis."

Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Are Integrated into the Educational Fabric

Ever in step with the times and always forward-thinking, it was unimaginable that RC would not integrate this crucial concept into the educational experience of RC students, building upon the successful activities of SEC. The Social Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Creativity (SEIC) Office was established for this very purpose. Founded in 2019 and the only one of its kind among high schools in Turkey, the RC SEIC Office is a student-

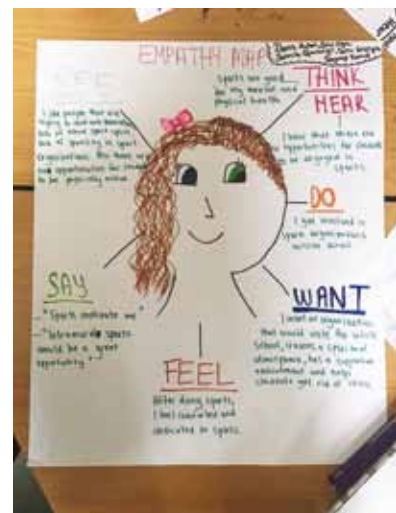
The Design Thinking Mindset

RC students embrace these key principles when they work on social entrepreneurship and innovation.

- **Learn from Failure:** Embrace those times when things just didn't work out.
- **Make it:** Gather the idea. Gather the ideas in your head and create something meaningful.
- **Create Confidence:** You have big ideas and the ability to act on them.
- **Empathy:** Step into another person's shoes, understand their lives and solve problems from their perspective.
- **Embrace Ambiguity:** We don't have to have the answer. We just have to give ourselves permission to explore.
- **Optimism:** Believe that we can build a better future.
- **Iterate:** Understand the value of feedback to any process.
- **Collaboration:** Understand the value of work with others.



Students from RC and Bilkent Erzurum Laboratory School met in Istanbul in 2016 as part of a social entrepreneurship exchange between the schools. Impact Hub co-founder Ayşe Sabuncu RC L3 04 (front row, center) shared her story of social entrepreneurship at the event.



An empathy map is the first stage of design thinking

AI for Social Good Summit: A Great Example of Capacity Building

Technology for social good is a common discussion topic among social entrepreneurs, as new technologies need to build in social good, democracy, and diversity for a better future.

The seed for the RC summit “Artificial Intelligence for Social Good” was planted when a student team conducted a series of interviews with RC Chief Technology Officer Tanol Türkoğlu. These interviews were followed by student discussions on technology for social good. Each

talk focused on a particular aspect of technology such as Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, Internet of Things. The SEIC student team facilitated the interviews to clarify what these technologies are, how they can be used for social good, and what ethical concerns need to be taken into consideration in designing the implementation of these technologies at schools.

The summit was an organic result of these talks. The team and the participants agreed that opening up a

discussion and design space for high school students in Turkey was a clear need.

With the help of Prof. Cem Say's talk and RC students' facilitation, 60 students from 13 high schools designed and co-created a policy document on a very complex issue. This summit demonstrated that high school students don't have to be just consumers of technology. They can be designers of these technologies and determine how they will be used to create the communities of the future.

facilitated innovation platform to design, experience and develop transdisciplinary, collaborative, diverse learning and creative responses to local and global issues.

The SDGs are at the heart of the SEIC experience. Also known as the Global Goals, they were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. There are 17 SDGs, and they are integrated in recognition that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. Creating knowledge around SDGs is something RC prioritizes through SEIC. For example, during the 2021-22 school year, SDG 3 on health and well-being is the main focus.

RC SEIC strives to achieve its goals via initiatives focusing on well-being, community building, capacity building (developing skills, instincts, processes, and resources) and sharing individual and organizational learning with the local and global ecosystem

For community building, On Wednesdays We Wonder, Innovation Ecosystem Talks, Innovation Alumni Talks, and Innovation Sense Making Den are the leading initiatives

On Wednesdays We Wonder challenges the typical student-teacher learning dynamic by flattening learning hierarchies to create a learning experience where anyone can hold a space and everyone can learn from each other. It focuses on how to learn in a student-facilitated format. Since December 2020, interested people from the RC community meet for twenty minutes on topics as varied as children's rights, toxic positivity, escapism in literature, and school spirit.

Innovation Ecosystem Talks is a platform enabling the exchange of ideas with leaders in social innovation. Zeynep Bodur Okyay, an activist, entrepreneur, President of Kale Group, and daughter of İbrahim Bodur RC 50, was a recent guest. The concept of conscious ecosystems, something Kale Group practices, was discussed at length at this gathering.

Innovation Alumni Talks connects RC student changemakers with RC alumni changemakers from diverse disciplines and backgrounds. This coming together allows participants to gain exposure to diverse ideas and to challenge those very ideas in the same sharing circle. The first meeting of the series was with Can Yeşildere RC 18 who took a gap year and discussed the benefits of this choice with attending students and faculty.



Innovation Sense Making Den is another initiative aiming to flatten learning hierarchies, trying to disrupt the binary student-teacher model. Students, faculty, and staff get together and review a piece of content on social innovation such as solutions journalism. This interaction enables the co-creation of a common understanding or language around social innovation.

For capacity building, there are two key organizations, RC SDG Challenge Program and Technology for Social Good Conference

RC SDG Challenge Program is an 8-month design thinking program for RC students who want to develop projects on SDGs. The first program that kicked off in October 2020 focused on SDG 13 - climate action. Four teams presented their projects at



Head Level Dean Koray Demirkapi

the end of the year, and each received funding to continue development. Projects include a food forest and a permaculture garden – both to be developed on campus, an app to track water consumption called Your Drop and an app called Naturavis that will help consumers make environmentally sound choices. This year the RC SDG Challenge is focusing on SDG 3 – good health and well-being

Technology for Social Good Conference is an initiative that questions the positives and negatives of the effects of technology on social good. Technologies such as AI, VR, ER and the Internet of Things are shaping the future. It is imperative that they are designed and used for



Head of Educational Research Allison Finn

social good, democracy, and diversity. The first conference of this initiative took place in May 2021 and hosted 60 students from 13 schools. The theme was “Artificial Intelligence for Social Good.” The output was a fundamental principles guide for schools, which play a leadership role in investing in and using artificial intelligence technologies. RC uses this guide as a policy document, and the guide is shared on the school intranet. It can also be used by other high schools. (see box on p. 25).

Offering a plethora of engagement areas, the flexibility of the SEIC Office makes these highly viable. The SEIC students work together with other students to build community and capacity. Also, an RC student on the SEIC team can participate in community building but choose not to do a project. SEIC offers different points of entry and opportunities for teachers, students, and staff members who have different interests and commitment levels.

All Aspects of the RC Experience Are Open to Innovation

Another remarkable feature of the SEIC Office is its scope. It serves almost the entire RC community - teachers, students, and staff members - and also facilitates their collaboration. Some examples: The SEIC Office worked with students on redesigning level



Lise Prep Coordinator Andrea Ball

assemblies, with a group of teachers to redesign the Teacher Growth System, and with Prep English teachers to integrate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and design thinking into the Prep English curriculum.

Re-designing level assemblies was a process that the SEIC Office helped tackle. Student voice and participation are strategically important at RC. Head Level Dean Koray Demirkapi thought that assemblies could be a good medium to hear student feedback and voices. To that end, he established a team of teachers and students and invited the SEIC Office to lead the design thinking process. A great amount of feedback and suggestions were gathered. Demirkapi relates: “One of the suggestions was having student involvement in the organization of the assemblies. At the beginning of 2021, we established an assembly committee. It was really good to see how L10 students were enthusiastic to be a part of it. They also brought many creative suggestions, and some of them are being implemented.”

The Teacher Growth System was an ambitious redesign, spearheaded by a group of RC teachers and facilitated by the SEIC Office. The team decided to focus on the research question, “How do we design a supportive, effective system of accountability for professional growth which centers on holistic student and teacher

Hüsnü Özyeğin Social Entrepreneurship Award

Established in 2014, the Hüsnü Özyeğin Social Entrepreneurship Award is presented at graduation to a student who has successfully brought business acumen and ingenuity to solving social issues. Recent recipients are Deniz Cengiz RC 17, Gökçe Güven RC 18, İhsan Uyan RC 19, Bilge Tayyar RC 20 and Barış Yazıcı RC 21.

learning?” Using the design thinking process, the team questioned how the current teacher evaluation system could be improved, ultimately arriving at a systems proposal that was growth-focused, rather than evaluation-focused. Allison Finn, Head of Educational Research, lead the research in the empathy phase of the design process. “I think research is a natural partner for the empathy stage of the design process; by following rigorous data collection and analysis processes, we were able to identify the needs of the current faculty,” she explained.

Lise Prep Coordinator Andrea Ball explains how SDGs and design thinking were integrated into the Prep English curriculum:

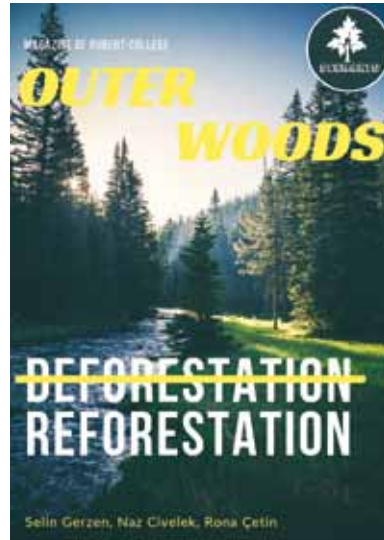
“In 2020 we started working with Aybike Oğuz, our Head of Social Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity, to integrate the SDGs into the LP Language curriculum. We started with SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) and 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions) because they seemed more comprehensive.

“During this unit, we asked the students to create a podcast that related to either SDG 10 or 16. We worked with the CIP Office to find local NGOs, and we arranged question and answer sessions for the students during their lunch. We not only wanted to introduce them to the SDGs, but we also wanted to connect them more to the RC community since we were online at the time and students had not had the same exposure to the altruistic nature of the school as they had in the past. We wanted them to start to see that, even though we were on our computers at home, we were

still part of an interconnected world.

“After the students’ introduction to the SDGs, we wanted to continue to build upon this work by integrating design thinking into our research unit so that the students not only conducted research about these ideas but that they also worked to build solutions. We structured our unit around the guiding question: ‘As RC students, how can we embrace our core values and work to better our community (RC, Turkey or beyond)?’

“The students identified problems that were both close to their hearts and related to any of the SDGs. Then they created a research question that would be the focus of their project. We, as teachers, learned along with the students about the process of design thinking and worked to help the students use their research to develop a prototype for their



A Lise Prep team created a magazine about deforestation which included their recommendations



Lise Prep teacher Kate Ready

solution. The prototype was either a product, CIP Project proposal, or school initiative. We had a variety of projects. At the end of the year, one group from each class presented their project to the Prep community in the culminating ceremony.”

Lise Prep teacher Kate Ready Highlights the Wide Range of Student Interests

Kate Ready underlines that all the projects started with ambitious research questions and ended with remarkably creative projects. She shares some examples:

“How can we use plastic in a better way for the world?”

This group created a fun video called “Alive in Wasteland,” a parody of Alice in Wonderland, to inform their peers of plastic use and suggest ways to reduce their usage.

How does deforestation cause serious damage in our world, and what could be done to stop it?

This group created a magazine intended for the RC community all about deforestation. Their magazine was impressive, and we had it printed and bound just for them.

What are the main causes of stress for middle schoolers and how can we help them?

This group surveyed 8th graders about the LGS exam and anxiety rates. They created a website designed to help

Sharing the Skills to Create Change

In the summer of 2017 Umut Halkası (Circle of Hope) was born, providing an environment for groups from the east and west of Turkey to come together, share experiences, and develop an understanding of each other's realities. Twenty girls participated in the workshop; 8 from Robert College, 2 from Korkmaz Yiğit Anatolian High School in Arnavutköy, Istanbul, and 10 from Mardin Science High School selected by PAYDA, a civil society organization founded by RC alumni that supports the education

of girls in southeast Turkey (see RCQ 55, p. 52).

The program focused on peace education, improvisation and social entrepreneurship. As part of this program, participants were asked to identify a social problem that breaks their hearts. They formed teams, and using the design thinking framework, they presented a sustainable project that contributes to the solution of the problem. They participated in a 4D mapping exercise designed by

the Presencing Institute, and shared their artistic talents by acting out the current and the ideal reality they wanted to create as a result of the implementation of their projects.

RC SEC students also designed and implemented peer-to-peer learning programs on social entrepreneurship and design thinking in different cities in Anatolia to empower youth to start up social entrepreneurship clubs and movements in their own communities.

8th graders manage their stress while preparing for the LGS.

How can we raise attention about SDGs, especially Goal 14 (Life Below Water) and how can we encourage them to take action?

This research was a little broad and I was worried for them but was blown away with their plan and action. One student reached out to their previous 8th-grade teacher and organized a lesson for their current students. They not only taught the students about the SDGs but also how to have a Harkness (a type of student-facilitated roundtable discussion). The 8th graders were surveyed before and after the experience. The group created a website that examined what they found after the process.

Among the other questions tackled by the students were: How can we help the students who feel sadness because of online learning? How can we create a safer community by helping victims of abuse not follow a violent lifestyle or adulthood? Do you know how chemicals affect our body and what to look for when eating fast food? What is the state of farming in Turkey, what is being done to support farming in Turkey and what is the future of farming in Turkey? How do the problems in online education affect students in Turkey and how can we reduce these at RC? How can we minimize the effects made by earthquakes in Istanbul? How are animals being tortured by humankind



RC Young Changemakers Magazine highlights the activities of the RC SEIC Office, with articles written by students

and what can we do to help them? How can we use plastic in a better way for the world? The diversity and ambition of the questions are striking.

Reflections Are a Key Part of the SEIC Experience

What is especially impactful about the SEIC experience is that all of it is distilled into content that is shared with the wider community. Any learning experience SEIC designs ends with an individual and collective reflection practice, which helps make sense of the experience and learn from it. A key part of this process is generating articles that a wider community can access on Medium, the online publishing platform. After the reflection

practice, the harvesters (students who attend an event, take notes and gather information), Medium authors and editors get together to design the content of the RC Medium articles. The team pays particular attention to design content relevant to high school students, teachers, administrators as well as innovation centers working with youth. Highlighting the learning insights harvested in the reflection sessions constitute the crux of these articles.

Some examples of the Medium articles generated by RC SEIC have the following titles: SDG 13 Climate Action Challenge Design Teams' Work on Designing Solutions and Prototyping, Being a Nabokov Fan and a Social Entrepreneurship Talk With Zeynep Bodur Okyay. The articles can be seen at <https://rcsec.medium.com>

It should be a source of pride that RC has not one but two platforms, SEIC and SEC, working for the same ideal. These communities got together at the beginning of 2021 to revisit their statement of purpose, reflect on the previous year and make sense of the learning experiences, and discuss how SEIC and SEC will collaborate to serve this purpose. Their collaboration will hopefully bear even more fruit. There is a lot to be done for the world, and RC students, teachers, and staff are facing this challenge head-on, thanks to the timely incorporation of social entrepreneurship, innovation, and creativity into the RC experience.

Supporting Students and Faculty to Become Changemakers

"A shift in consciousness from ego-system to eco-system awareness as Dr. Otto Scharmer puts it is necessary."

In 2013 English teacher Aybike Oğuz started the Social Entrepreneurship Club at RC together with RC 17 student Deniz Cengiz. Oğuz now heads the Social Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Creativity Office at RC. The RCQ asked her about her vision of social entrepreneurship at RC.

How did you become interested in social entrepreneurship?

While I was working at Özyeğin University, I joined a field trip to Tatvan held by the Social Entrepreneurship 101 course as an observer. Student engagement in a real-life context was a thought-provoking experience. I took lots of field notes. I realized that social entrepreneurship, especially when combined with real-life projects and field trips, opens a space for young people to learn content, a mindset, and a skill set, which is transformative for their intellectual curiosity as well as their individual and the collective well-being. I also came to the conclusion that this experience needed to start at high school.

What skills are you hoping students leave RC with because of the presence of this office?

I hope that whatever path our students choose to walk, they walk it with a social entrepreneurial mindset and skill set. I hope they become great observers of life and researchers who design and implement sustainable solutions with people and nature. This outlook requires them to have the creative confidence to know how to connect with themselves, others, and nature, and to deal with ambiguity, become empathic listeners, learn from failure, and work in multidisciplinary teams to solve "wicked problems."

Why is design thinking important for social entrepreneurship?



Aybike Oğuz, Head of Social Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity, with RC's first social entrepreneur, founding father Cyrus Hamlin. The new Social Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity Office was opened on Hamlin's birthday on January 5.

Design Thinking Framework was designed in 1973 by Dr. Bernie Roth at Stanford University DSchool. He wrote a manual for engineering students entitled "Design Process and Creativity" to show his students that we all possess the ability to think creatively and design experiences, services, and products. It has now become common practice to design solutions for social issues. What design thinking provides in this context is a tool to collectively think about problems and design creative and sustainable solutions.

How about Theory U? How is this being used at school?

Theory U is a change management tool. It is based on two decades of action research at MIT. The Theory U process shows how individuals, teams, organizations and large systems can develop the essential leadership skills needed to address the root causes of today's challenges. It promotes a shift

in consciousness from ego-system to eco-system awareness.

I used Theory U when I was co-designing the Social Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Creativity Office with RC students. It helped us design our theory of change, decide on our priorities in culture, community and capacity building, and agree on our definition of success. We will be offering an oral English course designed around Theory U next year.

What kind of influence does RC have in the social entrepreneurship conversation in Turkey?

RC is the only high school in Turkey that draws attention due to its activities in the social entrepreneurship space. Our work here has been included in the Ashoka Impact Report in 2021. I have recently been interviewed by Dünya Newspaper. I believe through our learning and the work we do, we are helping shape trends in Turkey.

Enabling Social Impact: RC Alumni on Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Notable RC alumni provide context on social entrepreneurship and give inspiration for the many different directions available to those in the RC community who want to walk on this critical path.

Hüsnü Özyeğin RA 63

“Business and social enterprises will have to collaborate more meaningfully.”



One of the titans of the Turkish business world, Hüsnü Özyeğin believes his real legacy is the impact generated by the social enterprises he founded or supported. Özyeğin shares his perspective and advice on how social impact can make life more meaningful and society a better place.

“I am often described as a serial entrepreneur in Turkey, as I have created and invested in dozens of companies across fourteen countries. Although I am very proud of these business successes, it is, in fact, the social enterprises I have founded or supported - such as Özyeğin University, Hüsnü Özyeğin Foundation or Mother Child Education Foundation - that have given me the greatest fulfilment.

“Together with my wife Ayşen, we began our giving as soon as we were financially able. This sense of responsibility was

ingrained in me first by my family and then my school Robert College. The opportunities we were bestowed with at RC such as theatre, sports and student politics were the foundations of my future endeavors. This education and social awareness set me apart from my peers in business. Since my own life opportunities were directly influenced by my education, I have chosen education as my mission in social investments and entrepreneurship. I am very proud that through our social investments we have touched the lives of close to a million and half people in Turkey.

“Encouraging entrepreneurship is a unique aspect of Özyeğin University. We decided from the outset that we would emphasize social entrepreneurship. Every student takes classes in social entrepreneurship and has opportunities to take part in our Foundation projects such as

rural development in Bitlis or teaching children English. Our award-winning Center for Entrepreneurship also runs incubators, accelerators as well as seed funding for students who set up social start-ups. This awareness and engagement not only make for a well-rounded individual - sensitive to diversity, more tolerant and socially conscious - but also opens up different career pathways.

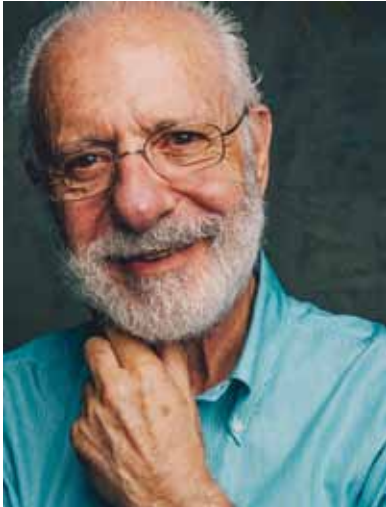
“This notion of giving back or social entrepreneurship can take many forms; it is about finding what is right for you. It also depends on your passion and capabilities, but it should always be rooted in the need. Giving back to Robert College fulfilled all these principles for me. I wanted students at RC to engage in social issues, discuss solutions and act and their efforts be recognized and celebrated within RC. Thus, I established the Hüsnü Özyeğin Social Entrepreneurship Award*. I am delighted with the recipients of this award.

“We need a more cohesive and integrated approach to ensure that we have a sustainable and just world for today and future generations. Business and social enterprises will have to collaborate more meaningfully and learn from each other. As companies embrace and are assessed on the ESG (Environment, Sustainability and Governance) Agenda, I believe there will be even more opportunities for social entrepreneurs to impact business policies and practices.”

*See p. 27

İbrahim Betil RA 64

“Success and happiness come, as a person creates impact.”



İbrahim Betil left an illustrious financial career to spearhead numerous civic initiatives in education. The application of his business acumen to these initiatives helped them all thrive.

What made you decide to leave banking and pursue a life of social entrepreneurship/impact?

During my professional career, I observed that qualified human beings are much more important than financial capital. Any institution that has well-educated, qualified staff can improve and develop its goals faster and easier than those that have large financial capital only. In 1994, I, therefore, decided to do something in the field of education and started both a civil society initiative (Educational

Volunteers-Eğitim Gönüllüleri) and schools (Enka Schools in Istanbul and Adapazarı). Since then, I have initiated several other civil society organizations such as Community Volunteers Foundation (Toplum Gönüllüleri Vakfı – TOG- www.tog.org.tr) and Teachers Academy Foundation (Öğretmen Akademisi Vakfı – ÖRAV- www.orav.org.tr).

How have you seen Turkey and other countries transform because of your efforts?

Established in 2002, TOG has become the largest youth organization in Turkey: nearly 2,000 volunteers, in 81 cities and more than 130 universities, making an impact in the lives of more than 800,000 individuals every year. By providing professional training programs for public school teachers, ÖRAV, established in 2008, has reached more than 250,000 teachers in 65 cities. In 2012, I have also initiated SenDeGel Association (Support for Improvement in Social and Economic Living) in the least developed countries. We have made a sustainable impact in the lives of nearly 500,000 individuals in The Gambia and Senegal.

How did your experience at Robert College inspire you to give back to society?

I was a naughty boarding student. Many times, I got disciplinary

punishment and was not permitted to go home over the weekends. One weekend, our teacher Jim Johnson put me and some other friends in the back of his truck and took us to a construction of a school in a faraway village. When we reached the construction area, he gave us shovels and diggers and said: “Today you will work and help with the construction of this school building.” This was the first time I realized how lucky my RC friends and I were and that many students our age had many disadvantages. Since that day, I became committed to making an impact not only in our country but also in the world. That experience created by my teacher was not a punishment but a reward.

What would you recommend to students and alumni interested in this field?

RC students are the advantageous minority of this country. They should take the responsibility of caring to make a change. RC alumni should get involved in transparent and accountable civil society organizations, as they are responsible to make an impact in society. Academic performance is not enough to make an impact. Success and happiness come, as a person creates impact.

Mine Ekinci RC 09

“I feel grateful that RC gave me such a good basis to interpret the world.”

Mine Ekinci is the founder and coordinator of Köy Okulları Değişim Ağı (KODA - Rural Schools Transformation Network).

How did KODA come into being?

I always wanted to work for a more just society. I was accepted to the International Education Policy master's program at Harvard, where I focused on rural education. I understood the deep need in Turkey to increase the quality of education in rural areas. I met some wonderful people during this period, who supported me to start KODA. We established it just six months after I returned from the US.

What are KODA's strategies?

KODA has two main strategies: To produce new educational programs and tools designed for rural areas and



to empower the teachers, families and all other adults around children living in rural areas so they can be more supportive in the children's education journey

How did your education at RC impact your work?

What a privilege it was to grow in an environment where you are respected and are constantly inspired. Learning English, art history, poetry and cinema brought different perspectives into my life. Leading and participating in two CIPs at RC were among my first volunteering experiences. I was the editor of our Turkish literature magazine Martı, which helped me gain leadership skills. Lastly, I loved our history and geography classes. I feel grateful that RC gave me such a good basis to interpret the world.

Emre Şarbak RC 08, Onur Ünver RC 06, Gökşin Uğur RC 08 and Zeynep Basmacı RC 06

“Kodluyoruz alters the educational opportunities of young people in Turkey.”



Emre Şarbak RC 08



Gökşin Uğur RC 08



Onur Ünver RC 06



Zeynep Basmacı RC 06

Kodluyoruz was founded by Emre Şarbak RC 08 and Onur Ünver RC 06 along with others in 2016. In only five years, it grew to a national scale reaching more than 100,000 people in Turkey, partnered with global institutions like Harvard University and Microsoft, and won various awards, including the İbrahim Bodur Social Entrepreneurship Award in the Collaboration category in 2019. Kodluyoruz was founded to create career pathways for the educated,

un(der)employed youth in Turkey and to make Turkey a tech talent hub. It has developed a unique free bootcamp model that upskills young people in tech skills and places them into jobs. Patika spun off from Kodluyoruz in March 2021 to scale this model and to start training talent for top Turkish and global tech companies. Today, the number of software developers these two organizations train for free is up to 30% of the entire Turkish university system.

The team grew with Gökşin Uğur RC 08, Zeynep Basmacı RC 06 and others, as Kodluyoruz plans to expand its training offerings to all high-school and college students in Turkey. Emre Şarbak says, “Kodluyoruz and Patika, together, are on their way to becoming one of the most impactful social projects in Turkish history.”

Kodluyoruz is proof of how an RC education can inspire its students to change the lives of millions.

İbrahim Bodur RC 50

An Inspiration For Future Generations

“As leaders, we need to use our intuition as well as our knowledge for a more conscious ecosystem approach.”

İbrahim Bodur was a pioneer of Turkish industrialization. He not only founded and propelled Kale Group to the powerhouse that it is, but he also personified many of the tenets and values associated with social entrepreneurship. The RCQ had the opportunity to discuss his legacy with his daughter Zeynep Bodur Okyay, who elevated this social entrepreneurship mindset to another level.

How was your father a role model for you in building a social aspect into your business?

İbrahim Bodur was an entrepreneur who was brave enough to set up a business at a young age and a local development model, prioritizing social good. I have inherited his values, and my motto is that we thrive not on problems but on responsibility.

The best showcase of our ecosystem approach is our annual İbrahim Bodur Social Entrepreneurship Awards. Social entrepreneurs are not only changemakers and architects of the future but also agents of hope. We have 13 fellows so far, and we have received over 1,300 applications from all around Turkey. Our award program has a specific collaboration category. This choice is so rare that we had to define what we mean by collaboration. This award, in its fifth year now, commemorates my father's spirit.

How are you using the change management method Theory U and the ecosystem approach?

The ecosystem approach is a viable toolset to help us find our way



Zeynep Bodur Okyay continues the legacy of her father, İbrahim Bodur RC 50, through the Kale Group and the İbrahim Bodur Social Entrepreneurship Awards

forward. It overrides ego-systems and prioritizes collaboration, requiring co-creating, co-designing and co-implementing. Listening is crucial. We need to lend our ears to communities' genuine needs, changing direction or adjusting pace according to feedback. The ecosystem approach calls for regenerative leadership and balance. As leaders we need to use our intuition as well as our knowledge for a more conscious ecosystem approach.

What activities is Kale Group doing in terms of social impact?

We recently brought to life Kale Design and Art Center in Karaköy (KTSM). It is a hub for artists, designers, and lifelong learning enthusiasts facilitating interdisciplinary exchanges and collaborations. KTSM believes that art and design can make the world a

better place. As a pioneer of the “Care for Your World” movement, KTSM aims to inspire and trigger action on this awareness. We also envision it to be a hub for social entrepreneurs for them to scale their work. We want them to create with people from creative industries. If we can make solidarity the new normal, we can solve most of our problems.

How do you see Kale Group being a role model for other companies?

One company alone is neither competent nor sufficient to create impact. An ecosystem approach is the way to go. We call upon the business community to take responsibility, each within their sphere of influence, and to join forces for a resilient ecosystem and for a brighter future.

ipek Cem Taha RC 85

“Social impact is present in almost every project at the Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul.”

Ipek Cem Taha is an RC Trustee and the director of the Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul. With the unique position to observe how both high school and higher education are evolving, RCQ asked her how social entrepreneurship factors at the Istanbul Center.



“Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul, in collaboration with the Columbia Organization of Rising Entrepreneurs (CORE) offers an annual five-day social entrepreneurship workshop for high school students. The workshop provides high school students with an introduction to social entrepreneurship and empowers them to create innovative solutions for their communities. It also enables them to examine themes of gender equality, entrepreneurship, innovation, leadership, design thinking, and sustainable development.

“During the workshop, students engage with successful entrepreneurs who share their lessons. Working in teams, they design ventures and present them. Over the past three years, 62 high school students from 22 different high schools such as Robert College, Darüşşafaka, ENKA Schools, SEV American College, and Hisar Schools have taken their first

steps towards becoming the next generation of social entrepreneurs. Ayseli Karabekmez, an RC student who attended the workshop in 2020, stated: ‘The Social Entrepreneurship Workshop has been an incredible journey for me. I feel like I am one step closer to becoming a changemaker.’

“Social impact is present in almost every project at the Istanbul Center. For example, we have been working with the Earth Institute at Columbia’s Climate School, on the Refugees Act and Communicate Health (REACH) Project, which aims to bridge the gap between health literacy and health care access among refugee, migrant and local youth communities living in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. One of the main leads of this project is Dr. Özge Karadağ RC 97, a senior research scholar at the Earth Institute.”

Ayşe Sabuncu RC L3 04

“The key is to find causes that open up room for creating change.”



During her banking career in NYC, Ayşe Sabuncu had a transformative experience, climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro for a project on empowering underprivileged youth. She then decided her life goal was to create

social impact. After an MBA and working on the field in Africa, she founded Impact Hub, one of the drivers of social innovation in Turkey.

What is the current “climate” like for impact-driven entrepreneurship in Turkey?

Social entrepreneurs are only recently starting to make their voices heard. In the past ten years, the number of impact-driven entrepreneurs in Turkey has increased; accelerators and capacity-building programs for impact-driven start-ups have grown. This buzzing environment created awareness among investors, although funding options are still limited and bureaucracy still lags behind. While visibility and public understanding of the concept are improving, the climate has yet to reach its prime.

What do you recommend to those students interested in becoming impact-driven entrepreneurs?

Our motto at Impact Hub is “Impact cannot happen in isolation, it requires collective action.” They need to expose themselves to something new every day - read about a new development, volunteer for impact-driven projects. The key is to find causes that open up room for creating change; we discover these as we walk forward and meet new people.

How did RC impact your path?

An urge for exploration, endless curiosity for new topics, and grit towards long-term change are the traits I built at RC. I owe a lot to the RC culture, my teachers, classmates, and our alumni network.

Eray Erdoğan RC 11

I “Taking responsibility helps us understand what can be improved.”



Eray Erdoğan is the co-founder of Reflect Studio, a design and manufacturing agency that is a

certified B-Corp, meaning it balances profit with social and environmental impact.

What is the mission of Reflect Studio?

Reflect Studio's mission is to create innovative designs that are socially and environmentally sustainable. Our studio is deeply invested in fulfilling our part in an inclusive and sustainable economy. We continuously push for better fibers, better applications, and better products. From the research to the design stage, manufacturing to logistics, we are committed to creating design-led, environmentally responsible products.

You report impact as a B-Corp. Why is this important?

Companies should be accountable for more than just profits. We share our sustainability reports every year,

so we can track our progress both in terms of business and environmental impact. These reports help us review our challenges, efforts and highlights. Taking responsibility helps us understand what can be improved. We rely on our 5P metrics of sustainability: Product, Planet, People, Partnerships, Progress.

What kind of inspiration have you obtained through RC?

Ersin Aybars - our Turkish Literature teacher in 10th grade - inspired all of us to question our own beliefs, emotions and thoughts, and our relationships with ourselves, friends, and the world. After that class, I started exploring and experimenting. (Still doing so!) Besides that, my co-founder (Edipcan Yıldız RC 11) and our partner & CFO (Doruk Çelebi RC 11) at Reflect Studio are from RC.

Deniz Dönmez RC 09

I “Design can be pivotal to social, economic, and environmental impact.”

Deniz Dönmez is a design strategist at Atölye, a strategic design studio that focuses on building and engaging communities to collaborate on impact-oriented projects.

How did you get involved in your line of work?

I got interested in this area after studying strategic design at the graduate level and learning more about how design can be pivotal to social, economic, and environmental impact. My work at Atölye is a natural extension. Some of the projects I have done here include imece, a social innovation platform; Toyi, a social enterprise that designs toys that enable free play; and many others that tackle different sorts of “wicked” questions that we seek answers for through strategy, sensemaking, co-design and community building.

What was RC's contribution to your career?

I was at RC when the CIP initiative first started with Jennifer Sertel, and that was an early career influence. Studying at RC has helped me make better sense of the world, being able to see patterns at the macro-level, while also studying details at the micro. RC's system that allowed us, students, to flex the curriculum according to our interests and curiosities played a great role in my development as a so-called “T-shaped” strategist who can bring critical thinking across design disciplines.

What is your advice to RC students who are interested in your field?

Take a gap year before jumping on to college; volunteer, get an internship, take online courses, or just travel to open your horizons to what's beyond academics. We usually get caught up



in trying to achieve, but taking the initiative to stop and figure out what interests you early in life is quite crucial to how the rest of your journey unfolds.

Eli Koen RC 87

“I have learned to see my job not only in terms of competition to generate better investment performance but also in terms of cooperation to work towards a more sustainable way of life.”



Having worked at top financial institutions like Lehman Brothers and Goldman Sachs, Eli Koen continues at UNP (Union Bancaire Privée) as a fund manager focusing on impact investment.

Why is impact investing necessary?

Impact investing intends to generate a measurable social or environmental impact alongside a financial return. We measure the positive impact

of the companies we invest in by pre-determined key performance indicators tracked over time. We aim to deliver good risk-adjusted returns to investors. Impact investing differs from charity or philanthropic investment. The focus on attractive returns is a must for impact investing to be able to reach the scale it needs to have the potential to offer real solutions to our global problems. The UN estimates that the world requires investments of USD 5-7 trillion per year to reach UN Sustainable Development Goals. It is impossible to reach this number without participation from private sector corporations.

What kinds of companies are on your radar?

Any publicly listed company that has a product or service that supports one of the 17 UN SDGs is on our radar. The reason we have chosen the UN SDGs is that they are widely agreed-upon goals in a wide range of sectors which enable us to construct diversified portfolios for our investors.

What do you recommend to those who want to get involved in impact investment?

Make sure your investments are aligned with your values. Do not support businesses against your values with your savings. Educate yourself and others around you using the free and high-quality content online on

impact investing and sustainability. Finally, if you want to be professionally involved in impact investing, there are many ways of doing it depending on your skills and interests, including founding or working for start-ups that are in the positive impact space, private and public equity investing with venture capital, traditional fund managers, family offices, foundations and endowments, development banks and the growing sustainability/impact practices of traditional investment banks.

How did RC impact your life and career?

In the first decades of my career, I benefited from the strengths of the RC education such as hard work, analytical thinking, focus on excellence and performance, and a competitive spirit. I believe the RC of my time excelled in encouraging competition and individual performance but had a more mixed record in supporting cooperation and teamwork. A more optimal balance between competition and cooperation could have improved our collective productivity. I have learned to see my job not only in terms of competition to generate better investment performance but also in terms of cooperation with our companies, investors and peers to work towards a more sustainable way of life.

Aslı Alemdaroğlu RC 84

“Corporations have a great responsibility because of their vast sphere of influence, and they can act as catalysts.”

Aslı Alemdaroğlu is the general manager of corporate communication and sustainability at Zorlu Holding. She has been an avid supporter of RC SEC from the start.



Why is it important for big corporations to be involved in social entrepreneurship and innovation?

There is a need to create a system-based transformation, building on sustainable approaches shaped by the collective conscious, instead of seeking temporary solutions. Corporations have a great responsibility in this regard because of their vast sphere of influence, and they can act as catalysts. With so little time left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, such a catalyst is really needed.

As Zorlu Holding we co-founded imece in 2016 - a social innovation platform that brings people and institutions

together in an ecosystem for innovative and sustainable solutions for social, ecological, and cultural matters. Social enterprises are supported to develop themselves and demonstrate their effects. Imece provides resources in the areas of social benefit and innovation in all its programs. In addition, imece's open innovation platform imeceLAB

provides space for young people to play an active role in solving social issues and runs various programs with the motto “not for the youth, but with the youth”.

We also provide investments to startups through Vestel Ventures, with sustainability, technology, and innovation as our top criteria. One example is Biolive, which produces bioplastics from olive pits.

How have you been involved with RC's SEC initiative?

In 2019, I attended the “Youth Movement for Social Innovation” event organized by imeceLAB and SEC as a guest speaker. It was exciting for me to go back to my school to talk about a topic that I believe in with passionate young people. I continued to follow the work of SEC with interest.

Sertaç Yeltekin RC 87

“After the UN announced the Sustainable Development Goals, there was a paradigm shift.”



Sertaç Yeltekin is the founder and managing director of Zingforce Ventures, a Singapore-based firm that helps innovative companies with scalable social and environmental impact have access to capital, talents and advisory. He is also the co-founder of Etkiyap.

Why have impact investments and funding come so much to the forefront?

Impact investing targets areas like sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, energy conservation and microfinance, as well as affordable and accessible basic services like housing, education and healthcare, in both emerging and developed markets. When the United Nations announced the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, there was a paradigm shift that led to an increase in impact investments.

What is the function of your foundation Etkiyap?

After two decades in finance and banking, I became impressed with the outcomes that social entrepreneurs achieve in alleviating poverty, increasing financial inclusion and

building resilient companies. With this in mind, I co-founded Turkey's first impact investing platform Etkiyap which has four main pillars: funding for the impact ecosystem, building awareness and thought leadership around impact investing, measuring impact, and providing training to individuals and institutions interested in understanding how capital can be a force for good. Many RC alumni are on the Executive Committee. Etkiyap is currently involved in a study to design and structure an Impact Bond to tackle youth unemployment in Turkey. Etkiyap also leads the effort to establish a National Advisory Board involving both private, public, and non-profit entities to jointly address how impact investing can be a leading force in Turkey.

ipek ilkkaracan RC 85

“Women have the drive to fight discrimination and transform society for equality.”



Ipek Ilkkaracan is a professor of economics at Istanbul Technical University. A feminist economist, she is the incoming President of the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE). She is also involved in the women's and human rights movement in Turkey and internationally and is a founding member or board member of numerous non-profit organizations and networks.

What does feminist economics mean?

Feminist economics provides a framework for analysis of economic phenomena from a gender-aware perspective; it uses an inclusive framework for economic inquiry and

policy analysis with the objective of enhancing the well-being of women, men and children. One of its most significant contributions is the unveiling of the care economy, caring labor and unpaid work, which remains invisible in conventional economics.

Can you provide a perspective on social entrepreneurship and innovation vis-à-vis women's involvement and representation?

Women are particularly inclined to become social entrepreneurs due to their gender-specific experiences. They have faced discrimination and gender-based violence throughout history; hence, they have the drive to fight discrimination and transform society for equality. They have also traditionally taken on the role of caregiving. This caring role extends beyond the family to friends, colleagues, communities, and the environment. I believe that women's inclination to social entrepreneurship is driven to a large part also through their experiences as carers.

What gives you hope and inspiration in the area of social innovation and entrepreneurship?

My inspiration comes from a very strong women's movement in Turkey and internationally. While pressing problems persist, there has been enormous progress towards equality

through the actions of women and women's groups which can be framed in the context of social innovation. For example, the protection order law (also known as restraining order law), which is used as a legal mechanism against domestic violence is a social innovation providing a legal solution to violence against women.

I also observe that there is great interest from university students to put their education, acquired knowledge and skills to use for the solution of social problems. We have an increasing number of students at ITU in the Management Engineering Department, who devote their senior projects to social entrepreneurship.

Any RC memories that stand out?

RC was a democratic environment without an oppressive hierarchy between the teachers and students. In ortaokul, with the leadership of Adil İzci, we proposed a literary magazine (Çağrı) and were supported. At Lise, Enis Pendar RC 83 created an initiative to place lise students in vocational internships. It was through this internship program that I got a position to work at Cumhuriyet newspaper. RC enabled and encouraged students to take initiatives and run with their ideas, learning through engagement in the world, outside of the classroom.

Nükhet Sirman RC 72

“Identifying different solutions to a wide range of problems is the stuff of qualitative research.”

Renowned social anthropologist Nükhet Sirman is a sociology professor at Boğaziçi University and is the co-founder of the research and design agency Dissensus, itself a social entrepreneurship.

Why did you found Dissensus?

What do women really think about the criminalization of abortion? Do actors and dancers in the entertainment industry suffer from widespread sexual harassment? We founded our agency because we felt that the research sector needed a new perspective to be able to answer such questions. Much of the research work carried out commercially in Turkey is based on quantitative work. Tracing different approaches to socio-political issues, identifying different solutions to a wide range of problems is the



stuff of qualitative research. It is this type of research that we wanted to undertake, research that does not promise haste, but promises care, detail, and innovation.

How does your research agency fit into social entrepreneurship?

Modesty, family values and political concerns mean that research on major societal problems is hard to undertake. Careful, contextually placed general questions that allow the respondent to answer in their own words and their own pace makes researching sensitive issues possible.

This type of research provides important data for groups that are involved in advocacy regarding a contested issue such as sexual harassment at work. Such research can provide solutions to problems of gender equality in the workplace, help re-configure social responsibility projects or operationalize notions such as satisfaction in the workplace.

Deniz Cengiz RC 17

“Learn by doing!”

Deniz Cengiz is a design researcher at IDEO, the global design, and innovation company that aims to create impact through design.

Why is design thinking so prevalent these days?

What is considered first in design thinking is whether an idea is addressing the need of the community or the customer. We include people that will benefit from that idea in brainstorming, and always keep their opinions at the core of the design process. Because design thinking puts human needs first, the end product is much more desired and actually fulfills a need.

What does your work at IDEO involve?

I work as a design researcher. I am responsible for all aspects of research,



from knowing who the right people to talk to are, who needs to have a voice in the design (community building), what are the right questions to ask, and in what form do we want to host those conversations (interviews, workshops, field visits). I create the research plan, facilitate all activities,

and help the team make connections between human needs and design directions.

How was your experience with social entrepreneurship at RC, and how did it influence what you are doing now?

I work at the intersection of creating and designing new ideas and bringing together communities for positive social impact, and that is all thanks to the fantastic experiences we had at RC SEC.

Any recommendations for students who want to study design thinking?

Learn by doing! Putting yourself out there in the world to observe how other industries do design thinking, to participate in workshops and conferences are the best ways to develop your understanding.

Ihsan Uyan RC 19

“Winning imece’s Smart and Sustainable Urban Mobility Challenge proved that the social entrepreneurship concept I learned at RC has a place in the real world.”

Ihsan Uyan is a physics and engineering double major at Trinity College, Connecticut. Along with his schoolmates Fikri Şan Köktaş RC 21, Dilara Bıkmaz RC 22, and Umay Phildius RC 22, in 2019 he won the Smart and Sustainable Urban Mobility Challenge launched by imece.

How did you get involved with social entrepreneurship at RC?

Ms. Oğuz introduced us to the concept in our Prep year. By making social impact a main purpose and money a tool of businesses, social entrepreneurship claims to solve humanity’s problems. To explore more, I joined the Social Entrepreneurship club.

What was winning the Smart and Sustainable Urban Mobility Challenge like?

The Challenge was the first time I

practiced what I had learned about social entrepreneurship outside of club and school. We modeled a mobile application, called B-Point, that publishes the accessibility of locations to inform disabled people, and encourages enterprises to become more accessible. Winning and the reactions to our win proved that the social entrepreneurship concept I learned at RC has a place in the real world and can be practiced even by a high school student. Due to Covid-19, we couldn’t continue the project, even though we had an encouraging start.

What are you currently doing at Trinity in this area?

I have been part of the Connecticut students’ chapter of US PIRGs, a citizen-funded group that advocates for the Zero Waste project. We



campaigned for a bill that bans single-use plastics and polystyrene in Connecticut which passed in the Senate in March 2021.

Bilge Tayyar RC 20

“I am trying to understand both the corporate world and impact-oriented business.”

A recent RC graduate, Bilge Tayyar joined Robert College’s Social Entrepreneurship Club as a Lise 9 student and became its president in Lise 11. She continues to follow her passion for social entrepreneurship at college.

How were you involved with SEC at RC?

As the content creator of our blog, I wrote about our campus initiatives. I also started ScrewUp Nights, an event where members of our community embraced their failures and accepted that “vulnerability is the birthplace of innovation and creativity,” as Brené Brown said. After becoming the president, I helped organize a retreat for our members and a social entrepreneurship conference for high school students.



How are you involved with the innovation center at your school now?

Last year, I worked at the Kravis Lab for Social Impact at my school, Claremont McKenna College, where I

organized ScrewUp Nights. This year I am working at Kravis Leadership Institute, an innovation-centered institute that empowers students with responsible leadership skills. As a research assistant, I conduct a study on women and leadership to understand how female role models affect college students’ aspirations to become leaders.

What are your plans for the future?

I am looking into jobs that include impact investing, growth and leadership. Last summer, I worked at Endeavor, and next summer, I am going to be working at Credit Suisse. I am trying to understand both the corporate world and impact-oriented business. I know that I am going to end up in a job that prioritizes innovation and leadership.

Bariş Yazıcı RC 21

“My experience with social entrepreneurship at RC changed not what I want to study but how I want to study it.”



Fresh out of RC, where he was involved with SEIC in various roles, Bariş Yazıcı plans to study development economics.

How were you involved with social entrepreneurship at RC?

I was first the articles editor, writer, and writing coach for RC SEIC's account on Medium. Then I became one of the designers and facilitators of event series like Innovation Alumni Talks and Innovation Sensemaking Den. I co-led the Robert College AI for Social Well-being Summit. I was also a part of the student design team of the RC Lab for Social Impact. My final role was as editor-in-chief of the Young Changemakers publication.

How did your experience affect what you want to study?

My experience with social entrepreneurship changed not what I want to study but how I want to study it. I believe that every idea and subject I engage with has the potential to create social change, which is why I try to connect multiple disciplines and think about future projects.

What are your plans for the future?

I plan to work as a development economist and create an organization that utilizes social, political, and mathematical sciences to facilitate or assist development projects in Turkey.

Anlatılan sizin hikâyeniz.

Kökleriniz, göçüp geldiğiniz şehirler, aileniz, hatıralar, mutluluklar...

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İlayda Büyükdoğan RC 16 Changes College Trajectory While Building a Successful Startup



İlayda Büyükdoğan RC 16 demonstrating her company's pocket-sized oscilloscope

İlayda Büyükdoğan's story is full of twists and turns in the most positive way. After graduating from RC, Büyükdoğan started the Electronics and Communication Engineering Dual Diploma Program at Istanbul Technical University in conjunction with the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

While studying there, a series of mishaps caused her to take a mandatory gap year, which eventually changed her whole life: "I was upset I couldn't go to the US with my classmates, my parents were disappointed, and I had nothing to do for a whole year. I started working in my favorite bookstore. After a few months, the owners moved me to the

office, where things got boring very quickly. I realized what I did not want to do with my life, and I quit."

Shortly after, Büyükdoğan met a startup called Compocket, which was then in the idea phase of developing a prototype to build pocket-sized electronics lab devices: "I loved their vision and decided to be a part of it with one condition: to be a co-founder."

As the startup grew, Büyükdoğan moved to Copenhagen, where she was accepted both to a university and a startup accelerator. While there, she was selected for the Thiel Fellowship, a program founded by Peter Thiel,

where they choose 20 young people who receive \$100,000 and access to their network on the condition that the awardees leave college to work on their idea.

She moved to San Francisco where she gained a better understanding of the startup world and saw the disruptors right from the front seat. Compocket reached hundreds of customers from all around the world, generating a six-figure revenue. Büyükdoğan reports that Compocket has received investments from the US's biggest early-stage hardware manufacturing hub and a 100-year-old global technology solutions provider, which required her to move again, this time to Chicago.

Byükdoğan's interest in engineering began at RC. "I should give special thanks to Alison Oğuz, my electronics teacher, who accepted me in her course, supported me when I felt alienated by being one of the only two girls in the class and taught me how to use the electronics lab devices which I am re-building today. Also, I should thank RC for giving me the courage to believe in myself and take risks."

When asked what advice she would give to young alumni and RC students, Büyükdoğan said, "Recognize the conditions and take calculated risks. The worst case is you will end up where you started."

Zynga Acquires Zerosum Games Founded by Hasan Burak Demir RC 16

Hasan Burak Demir, along with his university classmate Umut İsmetoğlu, established Zerosum Games in 2019, while a junior at Boğaziçi University studying management. The acquisition of this relatively new company by Zynga, one of the world's leading game groups, is a massive achievement. Demir explains their story:

"The mobile gaming market was booming in 2019 due to a genre called hyper-casual. We chose to be in this genre. Quickly bringing the right talent and the ideas together in just a year, we achieved extremely positive results. Barista Life, our first hit game, in which you play as a barista in your own café, was based on the longing people had globally to go to a café during the pandemic. It hit the top charts in 42 countries around the world and became the fourth top game on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

"The success of Zerosum grabbed the attention of the biggest players in the gaming space, like Zynga. They approached us with their M&A strategy and made us see the synergies and higher potential we would be able to create together. Thus, we accepted the acquisition offer and after a period of due diligence and negotiations, Zerosum became a part of the Zynga family, which was publicly announced in November 2021."

The team at Zerosum Games is expanding and already working on new mobile games for the world and especially the US market. Their focus is on fun mobile games that you can play in a few minutes while waiting for the bus or in line for coffee. As the mobile game market is highly competitive,



Hasan Burak Demir RC 16

having the right team producing the right product at the right time is crucial. Therefore, they are on the lookout for young and talented new friends who want to develop mobile games in Turkey to join their team.

Demir credits RC for being the driving force on this incredible journey: "RC had such a positive influence on who I am today as a person. I still remember how carefully I tried to learn everything during our classes and learn from the experiences of our great teachers who dedicated their life to teaching. RC taught me invaluable skills, but most importantly to be a student for the rest of my life. There was always

that passion to create a business and make it very successful, which I believe Robert College helped me to discover and taught to me to follow."

Demir's advice to RC students is to work hard, learn and absorb everything RC offers: "The high school years are very early to discover what you want to do in life. I was in the same spot that you are just a few years ago, but I can assure you that an even better life is just around the corner after you graduate from such a great school like ours. Just stay focused and work hard to find your passion, because the harder you try to reach it, the easier it will come to you."

İpek Duben ACG 61 Retrospective Highlights Questions of Identity, Morality, and Memory

A retrospective exhibition of works by eminent Turkish contemporary artist İpek Duben, *The Skin, Body, and I* is being held at SALT Beyoğlu from December 6, 2021 to April 3, 2022. The exhibition provides an opportunity to review Duben's artistic career, spanning forty years.

Duben had an interesting transition to creating art full-time: "My awareness of social and political problems was founded and enriched by many years of graduate study in political science and psychology at the University of Chicago, as well as my love of philosophy. I decided to leave social sciences at a critical moment in 1970 at the end of my fieldwork for my PhD dissertation about the growth of fundamentalist Islam and its impact on politics in Turkey. I felt that I didn't want to continue my life as an academic scholar, that I could be more myself if I could make art. My good friend Kuzgun Acar helped me take my first steps, and in 1971 I went to New York to study art."

Duben's work focuses on themes like identity, morality, and memory: "These issues are related to each other; in order to know who I am, I have to know how similar or different I am from others. My first exhibition upon my return to İstanbul was *Şerife* (1981-82). I knew Şerife, a migrant from an Anatolian village who worked as a housekeeper in İstanbul. Her refusal to pose for a portrait because of moral restraints led me to substitute a generic dress donned by women in her condition to represent her. A series of twelve dresses with nothing other than the company label, Oğuzlar, to define Şerife's identity became an iconic representation of 'headless' and 'nameless' women in our male-dominated traditional culture. Today

Şerife is viewed as a groundbreaking feminist work.

"I questioned male violence against women (*LoveBook* and *LoveGame* 2000-2001), identity issues such as, 'who am I?' (*Manuscript* 1994), how the 'other', the West, identified Turks in history (*What is a Turk?*), how we identify our own 'others' and how these people identify and describe each other in conventionally coded and most often prejudiced terms (*They/Onlar* 2015), suppressing the 'self' (*Who's Who/Kim Kimdir*).

"Underlying descriptions of identity, of the 'self' and the 'other' lie larger issues like how social and political justice are applied to citizens of a nation and how nations distribute justice within the international community. An obvious manifestation of the latter is the way powerful and over-consuming societies handle the deadly realities of the health epidemic and world-wide migration (*Farewell My Homeland* 2004-2018)."

Duben recalls her years at ACG with fondness: "I developed long lasting



İpek Duben ACG 61

friendships. I loved my teachers - Dr. Sipfle, Dr. Davidson (Mrs.) and Dr. Haines. They opened my eyes to a new world of possibilities, raised my awareness and made me fall in love with poetry. When I look down the hill from the Plateau and breathe in the beauty of the Bosphorus, ACG still holds the promise of heaven for me."



Entrance to İpek Duben's exhibition *The Skin, Body and I* at Salt Beyoğlu

Sibel Horada RC 98 Builds on her Oeuvre With Latest Exhibition

Sibel Horada's solo exhibition *Interruption and Flow* took place at Versus Art Project between November 4 and December 31, 2021. The pandemic informed the exhibition in significant ways, according to Horada: "The pandemic provided a period of extreme internality. I had finished a short film called "The Division [Taksim] of Water" (2020) just before the onset of the pandemic. While I was already used to spending long hours in the privacy of my studio, the fact that the possibility of public space vanished had a big impact on how I transformed this short film on the country's most important public space into an exhibition called *Interruption and Flow*. The exhibition took place precisely when we were trying to relearn how to inhabit the same physical space with other bodies. I feel like *Interruption and Flow* is an attempt to recall the synergic qualities of public space through private, artistic acts."



Sibel Horada RC 98

In the exhibited work, Horada draws attention to the emotional difficulty of recalling Taksim's past and imagining its future, the awareness of this difficulty leading the viewer on a journey in their own memory: "The pedestrianization project had turned Taksim into a sea of concrete, ongoing roadworks created physical obstacles to mobility, the long-contested demolition of AKM had started suddenly and simultaneously with the construction of the new, historic-looking mosque across the square. I started with a very simple question: Can I love this place again?" As with her previous work, water and nature figure greatly in this exhibition. Horada explains: "Looking back at my previous work, I see that using water and nature metaphors arose as ways of bypassing the blockages, the key points of where certain vital (artistic) processes have stopped moving forward."

Şebnem Diler RC 88 Has a Productive Year in Art

Şebnem Diler graduated from Mimar Sinan University, Academy of Fine Arts, Scenography and Costume Design and received her master's degree in interior architectural design from Istituto Superiore di Architettura e Design (ISAD), in Milano. For the last ten years, she has been focusing on painting in her own studio, where she also gives lessons. She has had two personal exhibitions - *Holographic Colors* in 2017 and *Kabil (Possible)* in 2019 - and has participated in many international and Turkish exhibitions. In 2021, she exhibited at BAAF (Bodrum Sanat ve Antika Fuarı) and IAAF (İstanbul Sanat ve Antika Fuarı). Diler says she prefers fairs because "you inevitably meet art lovers, artists, and collectors of all kinds."

and transparency: "I love using experimental art techniques. I am obsessed with creating a 3D effect using different materials. I use transparency and color blends, in my own technique to achieve a delusion. I also see my work as decorative objects, adorning and enriching locations, and adding glamour to public interiors."

Diler's art adventure started in RC, and Maria Sezer had an important role: "At RC, I used every chance to work with the special equipment, pottery wheel, ceramic furnace, charcoal and special tissue papers. Mrs. Sezer, our art teacher, became our neighbor. Each time she met my parents, she indicated that I must have an art education, and this encouraged me a lot."



Şebnem Diler RC 88

Diler says she is inspired by colors, reflections of nature, light

Diler has an upcoming exhibition in April 2022.

Can Göknil ACG 66

Opens New Doors to Her Colorful World

The ever-prolific artist and writer Can Göknil kept busy during the pandemic: She wrote and illustrated two books: *Hatıraları Saklama Sandığı* (Memory-Keeping Chest, Can Çocuk Yayınları), a children's book, and *Burçlar Kuşağı* (Ribbon of Zodiac Signs, Desen Yayınları), a book for all ages. Göknil states that being an artist requires time alone to read, to think, to make art, and that the pandemic offered this possibility: "During the first months the elderly couldn't go out at all. With the help of younger people my studio equipment was moved to our large dining table and later on, my studio became my showroom for visitors with vaccines and face masks."

Göknil has always been interested in ancient beliefs: "My research started with our Asian shaman origins and their creation mythologies. Then I moved west to Anatolia, which has



been a cradle of many primitive cultures. It was interesting to see how all these ancient beliefs merged with Islamic philosophy. Over the years this research gave way to many major exhibitions." The latest fruit of this interest is her book on the zodiac, which means a circle of animals: "Throughout history, people have entrusted their fate to sacred ultimate beings, but to be on the safe side, they tried to have some control of their destiny by making amulets and talismans, even through magic, actually interfering with the divine wish. The zodiac is just another colorful example of entrusting our future to the stars. I find inspiration as an artist when past and the present become one."

Göknil is now working towards her solo exhibition in May 2022, at Bozlu Art Project.

From Pandemic Conversations to Life Stories



ACG 69 used visuals from their video calls for the book cover design

The ACG Class of '69 has prepared an autobiographical compilation of family stories spanning nearly a century. This is how the class described the birth of their book project:

"During the 50th Reunion in 2019 many of us reconnected on our beautiful campus. A year later, when

a global pandemic changed our lives, we continued our conversations with weekly virtual meetings. The rigorous ACG education which had equipped us so well for our later lives was one frequent theme. Our stories were reflective not only of our lives and unique family histories but also of the evolution of our society.

Our grandparents were members of a collapsing empire, swept away by wars, forced migrations, and deprivation. Our parents were raised with the ideals of the modern Republic. Our mothers were among the first women who participated in work life and promoted principles of egalitarianism.

"We, on the other hand, belonged to the '68 Generation' that challenged mainstream ideas and attempted to change the world. Many of us faced discrimination during our careers, and hardships when private lives clashed with professional goals.

"Inspired by the research of a historian, we had the idea of capturing and recording this moment. The outcome is a collection of over three hundred pages displaying contributions by forty-three classmates and scores of photos from family archives.

"It is a tribute to our beloved ACG that enriched us with an excellent education."

Memduh Karakullukçu RC 87 Illuminates How Turkish Statecraft Functions



A decade-long quest by Memduh Karakullukçu to understand and appreciate the reasoning, the hardwired reflexes and the personalities that have shaped the foreign policy of the Republic since 1923 has culminated in a new book: *Değerler, Çıkarlar, Dönüşüm* (*Values, Interests, Transformation*; Doğan Kitap). Karakullukçu explains how the book came about: “Prior to writing the book, I spent ten years building the Global Relations Forum (GRF) to convene the best practitioners of Turkish foreign policy under one institutional roof together with business leaders and respected scholars.

“It was a truly educational decade for me, full of aha moments, that paved the way to a much deeper appreciation of the Republic’s core objectives,

constraints and values. After stepping down from GRF’s Presidency at the end of 10 years, I thought it was incumbent upon me to articulate and share some of those themes and personal realizations with others.

“The book is not a systematic analysis of foreign policy. It is written more in the spirit of a guided tour of the wild terrain within which Turkish statecraft functions. It tries to tease out enduring rules of thumb from the terrain that we have traveled in the last century to aid the new generations as they embark on uncharted territory of the current century. If the book alerts, baffles, informs new generations about the seemingly distant but acutely relevant underpinnings of the Republic’s reasoning and policy choices, I’ll consider it a job well done.”

Celal Beysel RA 71 Recounts His Experience in Volunteer Work

As the founder of Filoteks, Celal Beysel leads a successful career, and, in parallel, he has been at the helm of many NGOs. It is his vast volunteer work that is the focus of his book *Gönüllü Sivil Toplum Kuruluşlarıyla 40 Yıl (40 Years of Volunteer Work With NGOs)*. The book is striking in its method of distribution as well: It is gifted to those who donate to four selected NGOs.

Beysel says he wrote the book as a contribution to democracy: “Democracy needs continuous care, like a precious, fragile work of art. Citizens should participate in governance, showing their preferred direction to the governing body. Voting from election to election is certainly not sufficient. Using voluntary,



democratic organizations of the civil society which speak as the collective voice of their members is the answer.”

Beysel underlines that belonging to social clubs and doing volunteer work at RC paved the way for his work with NGOs. When asked why he thinks volunteer work is important, he says, “You can hardly find a better school for democracy, philanthropy and altruism than a voluntary NGO. You understand that there are many shades of gray between white and black, as you work among people of different cultures and family backgrounds. If you are in a leading position, you learn to be fair, trying to make every member contribute in their own way, to accept people as they are, never forgetting that they all are volunteers.”

Efe Murat Balıkcıoğlu RC 06 Has Two Books Out

Efe Murat Balıkcıoğlu, a professor of history and religion at Wellesley College, is a scholar of Ottoman history and Islamic philosophy. He has six poetry books and five translations under his belt, and he just added one more book to each category. Balıkcıoğlu has been working on the Turkish translation of Ezra Pound's *Cantos* for the last eleven years. *Kantolar* (Yapı Kredi Yayınları) is now out and is in its second edition. Balıkcıoğlu states that Turkish is the seventh language this colossal work has been translated to in its entirety.

pseudonym Efe Murad. The book came out of Balıkcıoğlu's wanderings in Istanbul: "I left Istanbul after graduating from high school, in 2006. It was only in July 2015 that I found myself living in the city again full-time, to conduct manuscript research and improve my Classical Arabic reading skills. My parents' railroad apartment was a location where I lacked the liberty to edit my poems in peace and to cultivate the sense of 'poetic bewilderment' so beneficial to my practice. I therefore had to put on my shoes and abandon it."

The Pleasures of Empty Lots: Scenes of Istanbul 2015–2016 (Bored Wolves Press) is Balıkcıoğlu's first book written in English, under his

The Pleasures of Empty Lots: Scenes of Istanbul 2015–2016 combines prose and poem fragments and is published as 400 editions.

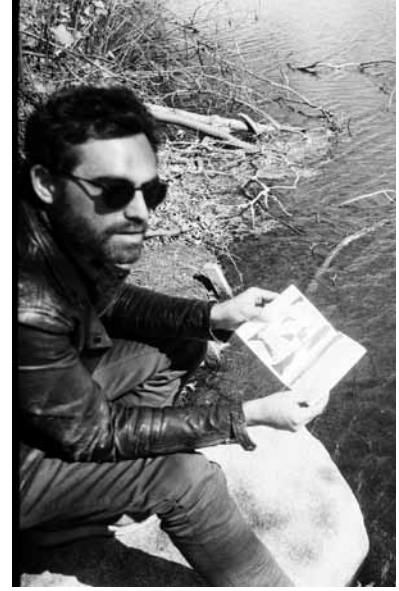


Photo: Seval Haraç

Suzan Nana Tarablus ACG 71 Pens Trilogy

Veteran journalist Suzan Nana Tarablus published three books of oral history as the *Istanbul Trilogy* (Varlık Yayınları): *Bir Sabah Galata'da Uyandım* (One Morning I Woke up in Galata) *Çek Kayıkçı Balat'a* (Boatman Row to Balat) and *Kuşaktan Kuşağa Kuzguncuk Yolculuğum* (My Kuzguncuk Journey Through Generations). The books revolve around the testimonies of the members of families who lived in Galata, Balat-Hasköy and Kuzguncuk-Yeldeğirmeni districts.

"By using the oral history method which is effective in describing social reality with different dimensions, I tried to give information about the socio-cultural and economic structure of the period. Urban space has been the meeting point and dialogue area



of different languages, identities and cultures. In all three books I relate the original structures of the old districts where the Jewish community once lived, thereby portraying the process of shaping a unique society within Istanbul's cultural and spacial possibilities. They provide interesting and important testimonies, as they exemplify the Jewish community's experience of being open to the wider community. The books also question the impact of the multicultural structure of a historical city in the breakdown of the past century."

Tarablus credits her education for her urge to research and search for truth, and her zest for journalism for revealing the cultural memory of the Jewish community.

Leyla Batu Pekcan ACG 61 Publishes Community Memoir



Leyla Batu Pekcan's lively memoir *Dünden Bugüne Mercan Yuvası* (Our Mercan Home from Yesterday to Today, Detay Matbaa) pulls together the recollections of the residents of Mercan Yuvası, a small neighborhood in Tuzla on the outskirts of Istanbul. The community was formed in the early 1960s by numerous families, including many RC alumni. It was the initiative of Avni Şaşa, who, as the main landowner at the time, aimed to form a sort-of haven for well-educated, cultured, and active Istanbulites to escape the city.

Pekcan states that she was inspired to compile these memoirs as a testament

to the memories shared as a community over more than fifty years, and also to leave a written legacy to the children and grandchildren who will keep Mercan Yuvası a lively community for years to come: "The book brought many stories from decades ago to light and proved a wonderful opportunity for us to reminisce our time as part of Mercan Yuvası. It is also a window into the life of a suburban Istanbul community of the last half-decade for any reader."

The book is available from the Istanbul Mercan Yuvası administration upon request to istmercan@gmail.com

Datça Murat
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Jim Maggart on the Historical Merger

September 20, 2021, marked the 50th anniversary of the merging of the American College for Girls (ACG) and Robert Academy. Former RC Board Chair and Headmaster James Maggart was a teacher at ACG and became the RC Lise director after the merger. As a member of the planning committee and later an administrator, he helped navigate this important milestone for RC. The RCQ met with him in September 2021, a few weeks before he passed away, and asked him about his recollections of that time.

I joined the planning committee of the merger in the fall of 1970. One of the main issues was about where the merged school should be located. As the discussion around the locations went on, we focused on the curriculum and a list of facility needs for the co-ed school. ACG lise was a four-year program, and the Academy was a three-year program, so the curricula

were quite different. We had to have three separate programs for the first couple of years until we got everybody merged. We basically had three different schools operating simultaneously.

In the early spring of 1971, the decision was made that we would be on the Arnavutköy campus, so we started the planning of facilities thinking the merger would take place in the fall of 1972. We were suddenly told that the merger was going to take place the following fall. We had to really kick into high gear then!

The girls had always lived in Sage. It had beautiful views of the Bosphorus and nice rooms, but it was decided that that would become the boys' dorm and the girls would move to the top floor of Gould Hall. It was a challenge to sell that to the girls. The boys were unhappy about leaving the

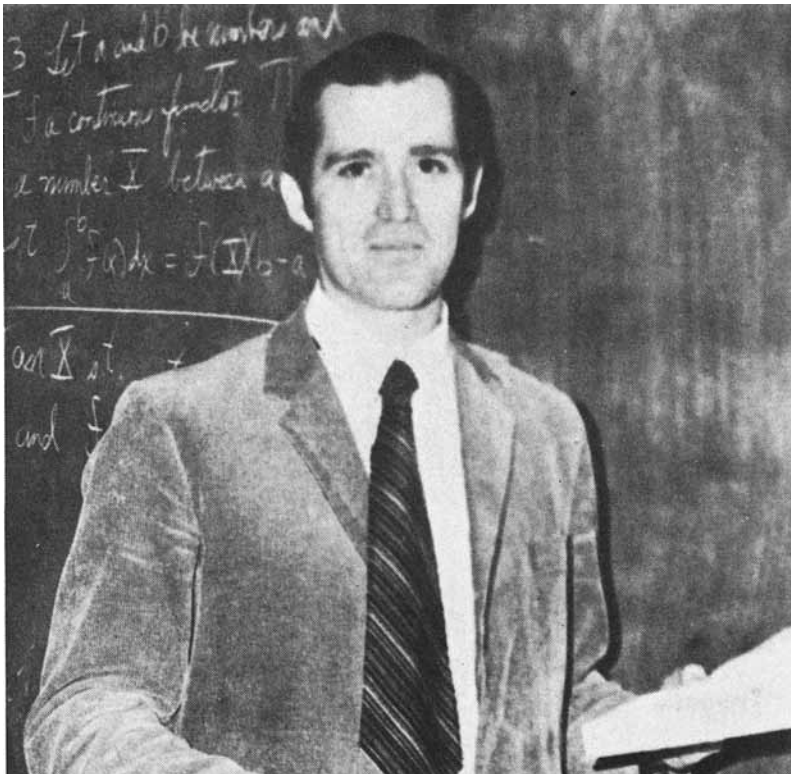
atmosphere of the Bebek campus. They'd had a very free reign there, and they could mix with the university students. The RA boys were allowed to stay outside later in the evening, to use the athletic facilities. The ACG girls were not allowed to leave campus without a chaperone or special permission, so when we merged, the boys had to adjust to being restricted on the campus.

In the girls school, we had family dining with one faculty member at each table. The faculty member would serve the food and try to have a meaningful conversation with the students. I think the girls were happy they no longer had to sit with a faculty member when we switched to a cafeteria-style with the merger.

Another big challenge was to find enough athletic facilities for everyone because before the merger we had no indoor gymnasium, so it was decided that the auditorium, which is now the library, would be converted into a gymnasium. That was very controversial and took a lot of diplomacy to work out between the two schools.

Yet another issue that came up was about the school president. Both schools had already elected presidents in 1971, and when the merger happened earlier than planned, the girl who had been elected president from the girl's college said, "I'll be the Vice President, and the boy can be the president." I questioned her on whether that was a good decision, but she was adamant, and that's what we did.

Despite some bumps along the way, the cooperation between the two faculties and the students was unbelievably good. I believe the merger has strengthened the RC fabric, particularly because it brought the alumni from both schools together into a very strong Alumni Association.



Jim Maggart teaching math in 1972

Nükheth Sirman RC 72 Shares Merger Memories

It has been a long time. What stays with one after such a long time is the feelings rather than facts. I entered the school when it was called the American College for Girls (ACG) but I graduated from Robert College (RC). My mother was a graduate of ACG (1946); my daughter is a graduate of RC (2009). I am in the middle in more than one sense.

We, at ACG, were quite unhappy when we heard that the boys were coming. This was not a merger, they were simply coming to invade, to disturb our peace. There was no dress code at that time. Hems could be loose and hanging, hair not always clean and shiny, and we could be quite rowdy. The presence of boys meant we had to change all that. We would be the object of the gaze of inquisitive outsiders; our girl secrets, and in effect, our private world would be exposed.

When they did come, the whole atmosphere of the school underwent an interesting transformation. Gender difference was in the air. Suddenly boys were everywhere. We became conscious of the fact that we were in the presence of "the other sex." Girls of our age dated older boys. So we thought the gender difference would not matter and some of us were ready to snub them for being "babies." But things did not turn out to be so.

The merger was not a real merger. All our classes, except for the military science class were separate. The only place we would encounter each other regularly were the corridors. The military science class and the corridors became spaces in which gender tensions were palpable. This absent presence made gender difference exciting.

There were other changes too. Girls began to take care of their looks, of their gait, of the level of their voices, and their laughter. Some of us became more girly. Boys became more boyish by increasing the level of their pranks. They would stand in front of our



A photo of Nükheth Sirman RC 72 from the 1972 Record. The photo caption reads "...and some natives even decided to pack up and leave the place ..."

philosophy class and try to eavesdrop, or they would hide under the desks of the physics lab. The epitome was when they rang the fire bell during an exam and were suspended from school for a week.

There was a darker side to all this. When boys came, many of the extra-curricular activities and student positions in the school governance system were revised. The November 5, 1971 issue of the Bosphorus Chronicle carried information about the changes that would take place in curricula, in student clubs, and about the introduction of new regulations, especially regarding the boarders. My preferred entry is about what was called Social Committees: "The direct communication between boys and girls has made Social Committees unnecessary." This was the committee that took us to a yearly dance to the Robert Academy campus!

The school newspapers, the Campus Chronicle at ACG, and the Bosphorus at Robert Academy merged under the name of the Bosphorus Chronicle with a boy as the editor-in-chief. The Robert

Academy yearbook, Reflections, was discontinued and the yearbook continued under its ACG and RC name the Record. The Student Council was abolished, new elections were held, and ended up being headed by a boy. Merih Ertaş, in a letter to the editor of the Bosphorus Chronicle entitled "Sound and Fury," argues that the Lise III experience is not a merger but an invasion and asks, "Are We Equal?" She finds that the boys tended to dominate once on campus and states that this is "the result of a culture which has, until recently, regarded women as futile."

My mother's Record has photographs of young women demurely dressed. These did not look like us; they were not girls, but young ladies. My daughter, by contrast, went to school dressed any old way. Boys were not an issue, not necessarily interesting. She and her girlfriends treated boys as a negligible quantity, with no discrimination, no special importance attached. The merger ultimately took place many years after it was initiated.

On the 50th anniversary of the merger of ACG and RC, the RCQ asked alumni to share their stories of those first years.

Tension at the Tennis Courts

Levent Güları RC 76

We started as Lise Prep freshmen in 1972 with just a handful of girls in each class, I guess to balance the population in the still almost all-girls Orta building. In the spring, after we “got our feet wet” we discovered the tennis courts. There was probably less demand for them before the boys arrived and the protocol was that the girls would spot an available tennis court, go change into proper tennis garb and come back. We were boys on a first come first serve trajectory and wouldn’t budge when our elder sisters returned in skirts to start play. Their leader finally swore about how everything had gone to pot after the boys arrived and they stormed off. We resumed our match like nothing had happened.



Confusion on the Bus

Belgin Güven Akaltan RC 75

The name of the bus stop at Arnavutköy coastal road was “Kız Koleji.” We had city buses with a driver and a *biletçi*, a person in charge of tickets. This ticket person would shout, as accustomed, the name of the next stop. He would call, “Kız Koleji,” which means “girls college,” then 20 or so boys and girls would get off the bus. Many people stared at the boys not knowing what to think. Are they perverts, chasing girls? It was always a joke between the student-passengers and the *biletçi*. “Sir, it is not a girls college anymore. Don’t embarrass us.” “Do we look like girls?” or more lightly, “Come on girls, let’s go.” I don’t remember how many years it took for the name of the bus stop to change.



During the first year of co-education, military sciences was the only class that male and female students took together

From Dining Room to Lunch Line

Yasemin Alptekin RC 73

The transition from ACG to RC in tenth grade was unforgettable indeed. The transformation was dramatic, especially with the dining-room rules and rituals. As ACG, we all had designated seats at the dining rooms with pre-listed menus for lunch and dinner. We would stand and wait behind the chairs until the head table greeted us to be seated at tables with white tablecloths. We would pass the plate with razor-thin bread slices around as the waiters in their uniforms served the meal. We would all wait to leave till the last person at the table was finished eating. Those dining-rooms were turned into classrooms with the merger. The girls’ gym became a cafeteria with long lines of boys and girls waiting for their turn to pick and choose from a smorgasbord of meals available. And the slices of bread were compromised with loaves of bread cut in quarters. That big was the change!



One of the biggest adjustments for female students was the change from a refined dining room to a more crowded cafeteria

Siddika Demir RC 89 Trailblazes as a STEM Champion



Siddika Demir was no stranger to engineering. Her father is a retired professor of earthquake engineering, and both her late brother Asim Demir RC 82 and her sister Prof. Dr. Semahat Demir RC 84 had studied engineering, while her mother is an economist: “When I was growing up, I felt very supported by my family and teachers. I had role models and lots of encouragement.”

After getting her BS in engineering from the University of Houston and MS in engineering from Purdue University, Demir’s career took off: “I started working at an engineering company. I then switched to the biotech/pharma industry, leading international teams in different functions in the US and Switzerland.”

However, it is her work as a STEM champion for women that is her true passion and purpose: “I was introduced to the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) in my freshman year. I learned about the statistics

and lack of diversity in STEM. When I conducted STEM class projects with underprivileged middle school students in Houston through my SWE outreach activities, I saw how positive role-modeling and mentoring make a difference.”

Through SWE, Demir got diversity and inclusion training and lobbied the US Congress on the importance of diversity to the innovation and competitiveness debate. She became the first (and still only) foreign SWE Board President of the then 20,000-member organization in 2010-2011, after serving as a director and president-elect for several years.

Her time at SWE held several highlights: “I was invited to go on a nuclear submarine dive mission to reinforce the importance of diversity and inclusion in the navy. I attended White House, US Congress and National Academies events and briefings as a society president and diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I)

champion. We also succeeded in having Mattel manufacture Computer Engineer Barbie during my presidency year. Becoming SWE President gave me the platform to showcase the importance of diversity with my international background. One of the most precious moments was meeting with SWE students at Turkish universities and mentoring them. I learned that we give much but we gain a lot more through mentoring.”

Demir and her family recently moved to Germany, where she co-founded a company that uses AI technology to automate medical and radiological workflow. She is also a board director on a Miami and Madrid-based tech start-up which uses AI in supplier discovery. She finds that her time at SWE provided her with invaluable experience for her work and her corporate board director roles:

“During my presidency year, because of the economic downturn, we had challenging discussions to help us respond to present and potential risks. This was one of the best growth experiences I had in my career. As a start-up board director, I tap into my non-profit board experience and my breadth of work experiences. The start-up pace is fast, and it can be lonely for the start-up founder, so being a board director requires accessibility.

One uses her network and connections a lot. When serving on a company board, it is important to understand what company size, type, and lifecycle are right for your experience. Focus of private vs. public, legacy vs. start-up can be very different. I truly enjoy my corporate board director role, the impact it makes, and that it allows me to ask questions about my passion areas of DE&I and ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance).”



Together Again: Homecoming 2021

After a year's hiatus due to the pandemic, Homecoming took place again on the RC campus on Sunday, November 7. The event, which was held outdoors, had a festival-like feel as alumni enjoyed live concerts, visited stands highlighting student activities, learned about the bees on campus with the Apis Mellifera Initiative, and heard memories shared by teachers Mehmet Uysal and Colin Edmonds, with special appearances from Hafize Değer and Güler Karabatur.

A double 50th year celebration was held for the Classes of '70 and '71. After photos at the Forum, the two classes gathered together for a festive luncheon.

The traditional assembly was held this year in the Maze - where many alumni hadn't convened since graduation. After his speech which underlined the resilience of the RC community, Head of School Adam Oliver began Roll Call, calling out the eight decades of classes

who were present. The oldest alumnus in attendance was Mehmet Baler RC 51, who was celebrating his 70th year since graduation. Mehmet Bey, who comes on stage at each Homecoming to lead the boys' song, entertained the crowd with melodies he learned during his years at Robert College.

The day finished with friends strolling through the campus and taking photos in front of Gould Hall. It was wonderful to be together again!



ACG 61 shows their spirit during Roll Call in the Maze

50th Anniversary Double Celebration: the Classes of '70 and '71



RC 71



RA 70



ACG 70



RA 71



ACG 71



Former students of Mehmet Uysal, Colin Edmonds and Hafize Değer enjoyed listening to their stories from years goneby



RC's newest alumni – the Class of '21 - were excited to be together again on campus



Head of School Adam Oliver with Mehmet Baler RC 51, who came on stage to share melodies from his school days



The day would not be complete without a traditional photo in front of Gould Hall



The Class of '97 enjoyed strolling around campus



The Apis Mellifera Initiative shared information about the bees on campus



The Class of '96 during Roll Call



RC Singers and the RC Orchestra provided the live soundtrack of the day

ACG 71 Celebrates 50th Reunion



The Class of ACG 71 celebrated at Bizim Tepe with a cake in the shape of the 50th Year Record they produced for their anniversary

Five years ago, at our 45th Reunion, we decided to celebrate our 50th Golden Reunion as an unforgettable yearly event with various activities such as dinners, bar nights, luncheons, trips, exhibitions and concert tours. This was an important reunion not only for classmates, but also for the school's history since we are the very last ACG graduates to celebrate their 50th reunion. But alas! The pandemic put an end to all our nice plans and dreams which otherwise would have come true. However, we could not and did not give up the goal of making our golden anniversary an unforgettable one.

We decided to publish a 50th Year Record. The Record Committee - myself, Şafak, Esra, Alev, Suzan and

Filiz - worked really hard to find our friends all over the world and gather their relevant write-ups and photographs covering their past fifty years. Endless zoom meetings followed each other to plan and decide the content and the design. The result was a real success! We are proud not only of our Record, but also of the achievements and successes of our 1971 graduates during this past half century.

The time came to hand over the Record to our classmates. Not being able to convene as the whole group due to the pandemic, we decided to gather in smaller reunions. The first and the second one took place on June 18, as simultaneous luncheons; one at Bizim

Tepe with 40 classmates and the other in Bodrum with 25 classmates. We shared photographs and messages all through the luncheon and felt as if we were all together. RC Head of School dear Mr. Adam Oliver & Mrs. Oliver also joined us at the Bizim Tepe luncheon and, having an earlier review of our Record, he made a touching speech. Our friends who addressed us spoke about not only the unforgettable memories of good old ACG days, but also the special and unique education system which played a very important role in our lives for the years to follow. Both luncheons were full of joy, emotion, renewal of friendships, and nostalgia. Thereafter our classmates got together whenever and wherever possible (Ayvalık, Datça, Antalya, Çeşme, Ankara, Frankfurt, London, Celigny/Switzerland, Paris) to receive their Records and celebrate our golden anniversary. 2021 will be fondly remembered for a long time by ACG 1971 graduates.

Our classmates who were not able to join for various reasons as well as the friends who had passed away were dearly remembered.

What a wonderfully lucky class we are! Our friendship becomes more and more valuable and grows stronger as the years go by.

*Contributed by Dilek Özmen Gündoğ
ACG 71*



ACG 71 classmates gathered in Bodrum at the same time the Istanbul reunion was taking place

RC 71 Celebrates Their 50th



Although they have not been able to celebrate in person as a class, classmates from RC 71 were present for the 50th anniversary celebration at Homecoming in 2021

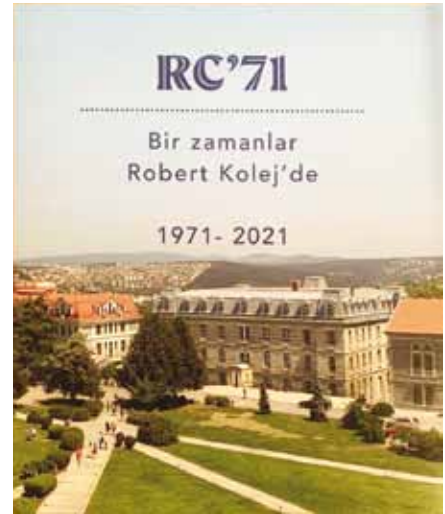
As the RC Yüksek Class of '71, we planned to prepare a class reunion and a 50th Anniversary Book for our 50th Graduation Anniversary in 2021. For this purpose, we created a 50th Year organizing group. However, due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, we had to postpone the face-to-face class meeting to 2022.

As a result of our effective communication efforts, we were able to get 105 of our friends to contribute to the anniversary book. We also wanted to include in our book our friends whom we had lost before our 50th anniversary. We created their pages with the information, messages and photographs sent by their family members and classmates.

By scanning a QR code in our anniversary book, our friends can



Cavit Sarioğlu RC ENG 71 designed a logo for the occasion



The class created a yearbook for their 50th anniversary

access the PDF files of the 1971 Record, our 40th anniversary book which we prepared in 2011, and our 50th anniversary book.

The logo for our 50th anniversary was prepared by our classmate Cavit Sarioğlu. We sent our anniversary book to our friends in Turkey and other countries in October.

We plan to meet our classmates in person in 2022.

Contributed by the RC 71 50th Anniversary Preparation Group: Tamer Akkaş, Necil Berkant, Adnan Erokan, Michel Grünberg, Firdevs Güremen, Ayfer Hortaçsu, Sumru Özsoy, Atahan Canbolat and İsmail Yalçınkaya

Friends and Colleagues Celebrate Belma Uluman Ötüş Baskett ACG 50

When Gönül Ayda Pultar ACG 62 learned that her friend and colleague Belma Uluman Ötüş Baskett ACG 50 would be celebrating her 90th birthday in 2021, she decided her birthday gift to the professor emerita would be a festschrift in her honor.

Baskett is a renowned scholar of Turkish-American studies, with many articles and books to her name. Pultar teamed up with Louis Mazzari, formerly of Boğaziçi University.

The result is the 500-page bilingual *Engin Bir Ufuk Boyunca / Across a Broad Horizon*, comprising seventy-two texts of varying length, from tributes and fond reminiscences, poems and short fiction, to sophisticated scholarly articles reflecting Baskett's multiple interests, written by family members, former classmates, neighbors, colleagues and students. The book was presented to her during a ceremony on September 25, 2021, at Bizim Tepe. For more information, write gonul@pultar.org



Gönül Ayda Pultar ACG 62 and Belma Uluman Ötüş Baskett ACG 50

The Life of Legendary Actor Genco Erkal RC 57 is Now a Film

Gracing the Turkish stages in myriad plays, Genco Erkal has also acted in films. His latest, *Genco: Tiyatroya Adanmış Bir Yaşam* (*Genco: A Life Dedicated to Theater*), is an autobiographical documentary. The film intends to convey a certain period in Turkish theater history, through anecdotes and recollections. It premiered in summer 2021, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of Erkal's

career. At the premier, Erkal said "What else can a person wish for? This is truly a gift." In the film itself, Erkal states, "Every moment on stage was a joy for me and I enjoyed it as if I would never be able to do it again. My time on this earth has passed with this joy and I hope it continues the same way because my journey continues." Erkal has often credited his time at RC as solidifying his passion for theater.



Sevin Okyay ACG 63 Receives the Orhan Kemal Endeavor Award at Altın Koza

Organized by the Adana Municipality, Altın Koza is one of the most prominent film festivals in Turkey. At the September 2021 event, Sevin Okyay was presented the Orhan Kemal Endeavor Award, recognizing her vast body of work on Turkish cinema.

Sevin Okyay is the first female film critic in Turkey, paving the way for women in this discipline. Apart from her work in cinema, she is also well-known for having translated most of the Harry Potter series to Turkish, with her son and colleague Kutlukhan Kutlu.



Photo: Emre Mollaoğlu

Mati Babani Illel ACG 71 Jr. Creates Fashion Brand

Mattie Illel always knew she wanted to make clothes. Her grandmother was a seamstress, and Illel helped her from a young age. She worked in Paris, at Vepa in Istanbul and finally moved to Los Angeles in 1980. She eventually became the design director of Contempo, a chain of hundreds of stores, then owned by Neiman Marcus.

After that experience Illel felt like the time was ripe for her to create her

own brand, JP and Mattie, whose biggest customer is Robert Redford's Sundance catalog. "My partner and I were both fascinated by the ethnic artisans of Southeast Asia," says Illel. "We created a brand of bohemian clothing, sandals and bags that reflect a nomadic vintage feeling, using deconstructed traditional handmade garments in our clothing and bags and hand rolled buffalo leather to create artisan sandals." Visit jpandmattie.com



Giray Ertas RC 88

Commemorated by His RC Friends and Family

Giray Ertas was known for his love of animals. After he passed away in 2019, his RC classmates and friends wanted to commemorate Giray's passion by creating an animal shelter in his memory. The funds were raised in record time. Angel's Farm Sanctuary near İzmir was chosen. Sheltering animals of more than 100 species, it seemed the perfect choice for memorializing Giray. On November 26, 2021, with some of his classmates flying in from the US, a group of Giray's friends met at Angel's Sanctuary and officially launched Giray's half-acre section there.



Toygun Yilmazer RC 96 and İpek Bingöl RC 06

Remember the Work of Aslı Yilmaztürk RC 06



Emirhan Paralı, İpek El, İpek Bingöl RC 06 and Toygun Yilmazer RC 96 honor Aslı Yilmaztürk RC 06 at the 2021 Fashion Film Festival Istanbul

On November 27, 2021, İpek Bingöl RC 06, Toygun Yilmazer RC 96, İpek El and Emirhan Paralı gave a talk on the legacy of designer Aslı Yilmaztürk RC 06 at Soho House Istanbul as part of Fashion Film Festival Istanbul. Yilmaztürk was only 34 and at the peak of her career when she unexpectedly passed away in March 2021. She was the founder of a creative agency built around her influential @artsxdesign Instagram account, which featured a curation of visual content from different artists, galleries, magazines and brands. The festival, which featured Yilmaztürk on stage in 2020, dedicated 2021's event to her. Both the festival's dedication and her friends' honoring of her work aimed to inspire a whole new generation of digital creators through how Aslı Yilmaztürk realized her vision and built a business around her passion.

Oral Bozyiğit RC 98 Releases His First Single on Digital Platforms

The pandemic has affected everyone in different ways. For Oral Bozyiğit, his first music single was the result of his internal journey at this time:

"I met music when I was 12-years-old via singing live to Michael Jackson at the airport when he came to Turkey for a concert. Thanks to Mrs. Halicioğlu for choosing me from our class for this event when the organizers asked



for students. After this experience music always played a role in my life, and finally last summer I had the opportunity to realize my passion. I've written the lyrics and composed "Bana Sadece Gel" ("Just Come to Me") - a Turkish pop song available on all digital platforms. I will also be releasing other songs; I hope you enjoy my sound and find something of yourself in them!"

Reyhan Baylan RC 99 Put Turkey on the Map for Applied Value Group

In 2019 Reyhan Baylan RC 99 founded the Istanbul office of Applied Value Group (AVG), a world-class lean management consulting and investment firm with offices in New York, San Francisco, Miami, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Helsinki and Shanghai. The group combines management consulting, private and public investments, and social responsibility. Reyhan met the group's founder and Chairman Bruce Grant on a flight and indicated Turkey as a potential growth

and investment opportunity. AVG has been active in Turkey thus far. One example is the establishment of a SaaS joint venture called Sourcing Value, with Commencis, the company of Firat İşbecer RC 98. Since giving back in each geography where AVG operates is a must, it intends to do a lot in Turkey as well, particularly generating jobs for women. Currently the Turkish office has expended to seven team members including Berk Çarkman RC 16.



Sırma Munyar RC 09 Releases First Album

Alt-pop musician Sırma Munyar had released singles and EPs before, and finally the right time to create an album came: "I felt that I was finally mature enough not just as a songwriter, but also as a music producer and sound engineer to finally achieve this goal.

"I composed, recorded, mixed and mastered *Gökten (From the Sky)* in my home studio in Bodrum. It was one of the most meaningful periods of my life. My main instruments were my voice, computer and keyboard, with



some percussion and guitar parts that I played."

Gökten was commissioned by Meta and the Facebook Music Initiative, for which Munyar continues to compose. The program hosts several artists and music producers worldwide to compose without any creative interference. Munyar remains an independent artist, working on other collaborations and spending time in the studio until live shows come back in full force.

Alumni Reunite with RC Teacher in the Bay Area

Alumni living in the San Francisco Bay Area saw a familiar face last August. Rina Kapuya, who has been teaching math at RC since 1996 was visiting family in California over the summer. Her plan to meet with a couple former students turned into mini reunions.

One meet-up was with RC 02 grads Ralfi Nahmias and Emre Çolak, who caught up with their former teacher in San Francisco.

On another day, Emir Akdere RC 17 organized a gathering with alumni from 2006, 2016, 2017 and 2018 across the bay in Berkeley: "Knowing that a meetup with Ms. Kapuya would be in high demand, I reached out to folks in the Bay Area. Unsurprisingly there was plenty of interest from all her old students! We feasted not only on good pizza and pitchers, but also on the fruits of the seeds of friendship and happiness that she has sown in us all. To explain this in California lingo: with Ms. Kapuya, you know you are



From L to R: Kaan Ertaş RC 17, Rina Kapuya, Alp Sipahigil RC 06, Yasemin Kirişçioglu RC 16, Emir Akdere RC 17, Beri Kohen RC 18 and Nazlı Güngör RC 16

always going to have 'positive vibes,' because even when you meet years later, she reminds you: her smile is contagious!"

Kaan Ertaş RC 17 added, "Seeing Ms. Kapuya felt like a piece of home;



Ralfi Nahmias RC 02 and Emre Çolak RC 02 with RC math teacher Rina Kapuya

reminiscing about high school life through anecdotes, finding out about RC updates and learning how it is there right now made me feel connected to the RC community years after my graduation. It's great to know these relationships we form don't disappear after we graduate!"

faculty & friends news

RC History Teacher Önder Kaya Pens a Book on RC



Önder Kaya's latest book, *Dünyanın Tam Orta Yerinde: Robert Kolej* (At the Center of the Word: Robert College; Kronik Kitap) revolves around a subject close to his heart: RC. The idea came up when Dean of Student Affairs Margaret Halıcıoğlu asked Kaya to talk to incoming students about RC history. Once he started working on the presentation, the project grew into a book. Using the memoirs of Cyrus Hamlin, Mary Mills Patrick, Caleb Gates and George Washburn, the books on Robert College by John Freely and May Fincancı, as well as some Ottoman archival material, Kaya wanted to challenge the notion that RC produces graduates who fit into a certain mold.

Kaya states that during the writing process he collected a lot of material from auctions and second-hand booksellers and ended up writing many articles for various magazines such as the one he wrote for Atlas magazine, on Marie, Queen of Romania, visiting RC. One of the highlights of the writing process for Kaya was interviewing notable alumni, such as Haldun Dormen, Roni Margulies, and Cemal Kafadar.

The book largely focuses on the years from the beginning of RC until 1971, with special sections devoted to students and teachers.

A Life of Service to Robert College: James Maggart (1940-2021)

It was with great sadness that Robert College learned of the passing of James (Jim) Maggart, on November 19, 2021.

A truly special member of the RC community, Jim Maggart helped create milestones for the school for over five decades. He is unique in RC history in that he was the only person to have served as both Headmaster (1977-81) and Board of Trustees Chair (2002-2009), as well as being a math teacher and Lise director in his early years at ACG and RC. He became a Robert College Trustee in 1990 and a Trustee Emeritus in 2016, always maintaining a keen interest in the school.

A natural leader, Maggart helped navigate the school through many critical transformations, including the merger of Robert Academy and the American College for Girls in 1971 (see p. 50), and the transition of RC to a Lise-only school. As ACG's varsity



Jim Maggart in the early 2000s

basketball coach, he guided the team to win the national championship for four straight years, from 1970-73. As a Trustee Emeritus, his counsel to RC's

administration was invaluable and constant, as evidenced by his recent support during the pandemic.

In 2002 Jim Maggart took over as Board Chair from Rodney Wagner, who passed away in 2005. His wife Sukey Wagner, Trustee Emeritus, who worked alongside Maggart for many years, said, "Jim Maggart had that essential leadership quality: calm. Like Rod before him, he never spoke impulsively or brashly. He emanated strength and wisdom. Wise he was, and exceptionally kind. Once when I was staying in a hard-to-find apartment in Beşiktaş, Jim often arranged for me to be transported back and forth. One late night, wanting not to rouse one of the school drivers, he chauffeured me home himself. He was not embarrassed for the head of school to be the late-night driver. Self-importance was not present in his psyche. Jim got



Jim Maggart (right) at a reception held in honor of Rodney Wagner (left) in 2002



Jim Maggart with the girls varsity basketball team in 1973

great pleasure watching the students thrive. He was our RC sage and anchor. How lucky we were to have had him in three different academic roles over so many years!"

His kindness and ability to bring out the best in people is remembered by former students and faculty alike. As Headmaster he hired Maria Sezer, who first came to RC as an art teacher in 1980. Sezer explained: "Jim Maggart, what a great man! We all need people who give chances to inexperienced young persons who are eager to work, and I take an example from him

whenever I can. Jim was the person who hired me when I first started at RC. It was very encouraging for me to be trusted with no experience at all at the young age that I was hired. In fact, when he asked if I had a diploma and I had to say 'No, but I will get it soon.' He let me know that I was welcome as soon as I had my diploma. And he kept his word, which was the start of my career as a teacher at the best place I could have wished for."

Mihriban Pekgülyüz ACG 71 Sr. remembers her teacher: "Jim Maggart was my teacher at the Arnavutköy

campus (1968-1971). He taught us so well that when I went to the US to study engineering, I was tutoring all my classmates in calculus. He was indeed a gentleman, a bright image in our hard school years."

Jim Maggart has left an indelible mark on Robert College, and the students and colleagues whose lives he touched over the years with his wisdom, guidance and care.

Maggart is survived by his wife Kaye, and children Stephanie, Michael and Aylin.



Jim Maggart (back row, left, standing) poses with RC Trustees on the steps of Gould Hall in the 1970s



Jim Maggart with young alumni in the 1970s

Güner Germen Acar ACG 43

Güner's father Cemal Germen, an architectural engineer, had the vision to provide a good education for his daughter. She spent her most formative years as a boarding student. Being sportive and excelling in tennis brought her the Tennis Championship Cup for three consecutive years. She was outstanding with her refined culture, grace, discipline, excellent English and beautiful calligraphy. In 1953, she married Mustafa Acar, the brother of her classmates, the Acar sisters. The outcome of this happy marriage was Yasemin, born in 1955. After her school years, Güner always

kept in contact with her classmates. During her 99 years, the education, culture, refinement and sportive life she acquired at ACG made her a strong-minded, modern and resilient woman.

Güner Acar passed away peacefully on August 10, 2021. She is survived by her daughter Yasemin Acar Grupp, her friend Rainer Kordik, son-in-law Johannes Grupp, granddaughter Isabel Grupp and grandson Andreas Grupp.

Contributed by Yasemin Acar Grupp



Selva Vidin ACG 47



Born and raised in Beşiktaş, Istanbul, Selva Vidin was the fourth daughter of Ali Rıza Vidin, the head pharmacist of Yıldız Palace, and brother in arms of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. She followed the footsteps of her elder sister Şira to enroll in the American College for Girls in Arnavutköy as a boarding student. Her career started at İş Bankası Foreign Affairs Branch, where she retired in the 70s to enjoy time with her friends and family.

Her lifelong friendships formed at ACG continued through thick and thin, their tea and drink hours, and travels until the final days of their long and mainly pleasurable lives. Selva Vidin is survived by her four nieces and nephews, five grandnieces and even a great grandniece and nephew, all of whom are left heavy hearted to have lost their last surviving family elder.

Contributed by Mehveş Dramur RC 96

Ömer Faruk Özgen RC ENG 48

Ömer Faruk Özgen passed away on September 27, 2021, at the age of 93. He is survived by his children Gül Özgen ACG 70 and Ahmet İ. Özgen, and his grandchildren Deniz Şahbaz RC 96, Değer Şahbaz and Alper İ. Özgen, and his great-grandchildren Alya, Maya and Can. He will always be remembered. We will miss him. May he rest in peace.



Ayten Kefeli Kutucu ACG 49

We, the Class of '49, are sad to announce that our dear friend Ayten Kefeli Kutucu passed away on September 8, 2021. She was a most friendly, highly spirited and much-loved member of our class who made lasting friendships. She will be remembered for her happy-go-lucky ways, funny stories and anecdotes.



As her daughters relate, she was a very good and understanding mother and a loving grandmother to her four grandsons. She is survived by her two daughters and four grandchildren.

Contributed by Dilek Durusan Orbay ACG 49 and Güner Fansa ACG 49

Gül Seden Wines ACG 51



Gül Seden Wines died on April 21, 2021, in New York City. Born in Ankara and raised in Istanbul, Gül dreamed of a life in theater. After graduating from ACG, Gül studied speech, language (she spoke five) and television production at Syracuse University where she met her former artist/architect husband James Wines. Together they traveled Europe and lived in Rome. Gül finally moved to NYC in 1962, where she

worked as a producer for RAI, the Italian Broadcasting Company. Gül longed for a day when "human beings would be respectful and kind to each other regardless of color, creed or culture." She is survived by her sister Nur Camat and daughter Suzan Wines.

Excerpt from the New York Times obituary

Züleyha Kocaolçum ACG 51

Züleyha Kocaolçum passed away in March 2021. After graduating from the English High School for Girls she joined ACG and became one of the successful and popular students of her class. She pursued a career in journalism working for various prominent papers as a brilliant columnist and translator. Züleyha Kocaolçum also taught at the Istanbul Turco-British Association for more than fifty years, which was a joy for her. She is remembered fondly by her survivors.



Contributed by her daughter Zeynep Sadikoğlu

Esin Noğan Belgerden ACG 55

Our dear, precious friend Esin Noğan Belgerden passed away in the winter of 2021. We were always impressed by her kind, gentle and sweet personality. She was one of the serene and quiet students in our class. She was a good-natured, charming and dependable friend, always appreciated by all of

us. Her big blue eyes reflected the love and kindness deep within her. Behind her cool and silent personality, there was a sensitive, charming person with a subtle sense of humor. With her confident, poised dignified ways, she was the lady of our class. She married her prince charming and had a happy

life. She was a loving wife, a wonderful mother and a very important, distinguished and much-loved friend. She is survived by her husband Prof. Sağlam Belgerden, her daughter Reyhan and her granddaughter. Rest in peace dear Esin. The Class of '55 will never forget you.

Meral Adalı Ülken ACG 55

Meral Adalı Ülken passed away in February 2021, due to Covid-19. We always thought of her as the noble princess from Hatay. While at ACG, she never failed to appear on every Honor List and took part in many of the student body activities. She had a brilliant mind and never ceased to read serious books. Meral had a sensitive and angelic disposition, always with a lovely smile on her sweet face. She

had a serene and charming, yet witty personality. She was a kind-hearted, gentle and dependable friend. She had a blissful and pleasant life with her beloved late husband Professor Yüksel Ülke and her two children. She was a devoted mother, attentive and loving wife and a wonderful friend to all her classmates. She is survived by her daughter Nil, her son Ömer, her brother Mehmet Adalı and her grandchildren.



Ganimet Ayten Dinçer ACG 55

Ganimet Ayten Dinçer passed away peacefully on January 5, 2022, in her home in Istanbul. She was a forward-thinker, adhering to the values of the Turkish Republic and Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. She was brought up in books and dedicated her life to the field of publishing. She spoke many languages and translated, wrote and read all throughout her life. She never gave up learning. She constantly educated and challenged the people around her with her vast knowledge.



Ayten Dinçer had very strong connections to her classmates and she was very proud of her background and school. She had two daughters and three granddaughters who will never forget the presence of her strong personality and her sharp green eyes. The world has lost a beautiful soul. May she rest in peace.

*Contributed by her granddaughters
Begüm Yetiş and Aslıhan Yetiş Erbil*

Yavuz Gönülseven RC ENG 58

Yavuz Gönülseven passed away on February 7, 2021. While at RC he was the captain of the soccer team. After graduating from Robert College, Yavuz Gönülseven received his master's in civil engineering from Oklahoma State University. He worked for the State of Illinois Department of Transportation for over forty years. Yavuz and his brother Aydin helped develop Springfield's youth soccer program

in 1970, and he was an active soccer referee and volunteer. An avid runner, he completed twelve marathons.

Yavuz Gönülseven is fondly remembered by his classmates. He is survived by his wife Linda Stanley; his children Joy Stark, Tim Gönülseven and Jason Gönülseven; his grandchildren, Charlie and Ryan Stark; and his brother Akın Gönülseven.



Ömer Önder Arı RC 58

Önder Arı was born in 1938 in Istanbul. After graduating from Robert Academy, he studied at Istanbul University's Faculty of Economics. In 1966 he did his doctorate thesis on "Advocacy Groups and Turkey," and his associate professor thesis on "Leadership Process and the Turkish Parliament" in 1971 as a small group study. In 1977, for his professorship, he presented his thesis on "Quantitative Approaches and Research in International Relations."

From 1968 to 1981 he worked as a researcher and professor at the

University of Iowa, San Francisco State University, and Southwest Texas State University, where he gave graduate and post-graduate lessons and conferences on political science and international relations.

From 1966 to 1997, Önder Arı was a professor in Istanbul University's International Relations department. After retiring, he taught at various private universities.

He passed away on January 14, 2022. He is dearly missed by his wife Nergiz and children Başak and Ali Rıza.



Sevgi Anılmış Ekmekçi ACG 60



Sevgi was highly gifted, had great taste and was very creative. She was also good-natured and always had a positive outlook. After her daughter Banu grew up, Sevgi started a tablecloth business and became well-known for her creations. Then she started organizing events and was invited all over Turkey to plan and organize special occasions. Thanks to Sevgi, our 50th reunion was an outstanding celebration. We were also making plans for our 60th reunion but we were obliged to cancel

due to the pandemic. She will be greatly missed. Her friends and family members will cherish her life story, as she wrote an autobiography, published only 100 copies and distributed them among her close friends and relatives. She is survived by her husband Prof. Ali Ekmekçi, her daughter Banu and her grandchildren Nil and Cem. May she rest in peace.

Contributed by Şeyma Bilimer Arsel ACG 60

Taylan Sabuncuoğlu RA 62

I met Taylan Sabuncuoğlu during third grade in January 1952, the beginning of a nearly 70-year friendship. Taylan introduced me to his close friend Mustafa Şahin and we became best friends. We all passed the Robert College exam and entered in 1954. We chose the same dormitory and for the next eight years, we slept side by side. The three of us spent our summers together swimming in the Marmara and playing football on the Anatolian side of Istanbul. In the winter we

would go skiing with our male and female College friends at Uludağ.

Taylan graduated from RC Yüksek and worked in the family business, Hacı Şakir Soaps. He married Nur Aybay and they had two sons, Erim and Kerim.

My dear Taylan, rest in peace, go bye-bye, say hi to Mustafa, see you soon.

Contributed by Şerif Egeli RA 62



Öner Gürdoğan RA 62



Our dear friend Öner Gürdoğan passed away on October 10, 2021. At the beginning of his education, Öner went to Galatasaray primary school. He entered Robert Academy in the September 1954. He graduated from Orta in 1959 and RA in 1962. After high school, he entered the engineering school of Robert College. Both in RA and RC Engineering, Öner was the goalkeeper of our class football team. He also adored the sea and

fishing. Everybody loved him in our class. He was a very good friend. After graduating as a mechanical engineer, he worked at Atlas Copco, among other companies, in top positions. Then, he opened his own business, specializing mainly in imports. The economic difficulties in the last years hit him somewhat. He retired from work. He spent his last years with his friends. He is survived by his three sons, Ahmet, Mehmet and Ömer.

Özhan Akçalı RA 62

Özhan was born in Adana in 1944. After graduating from RA in 1962, he moved on to ODTÜ where he studied architecture and civil engineering, receiving an MS degree in city planning and design. His successful business career started as a partner in MESA Co., where he served successively as project group leader; deputy general manager, tourism and foreign projects managing director. He retired in 2007. We'll remember Özhan as a colorful

person with many interests. He was fond of classical music, theatre and opera. He was a good photographer and filmmaker. He was a good sportsman and tennis player. He was very fond of his Vespa. We shared the same dormitory with Özhan for three years. He had a good sense of humor and played many tricks on me, Özkan and İskender Zülfikari. Despite these tricks he was loved and respected by all of us. We shall miss him a lot.



Uğur Dinçer RA 62



For seven years, four or five of us were always together in the same class. The liveliest among us was "Camus"; agile, fearless, daring and always striving for better with joy of life. At school, he would invite everyone to parties with perseverance. He was very fond of his older sisters, and his wife Zeynep was his beloved. The biggest solace is that he left a business to his son Sinan; it is sad that his plan to see his

grandchildren when they were born was not possible. Uğur was a leader in his business, and he worked tirelessly day and night for many years. His illness brought him to his senses and our greatest consolation is that he quit his job and took care to live well in recent years.

Beyhan Sezer Şahin ACG 63

Our beloved Beyhan passed away on September 24, 2021. A friendship of sixty-five years abruptly ended unexpectedly. Our connection continued from Prep 1 to the Senior years. Years later, we'd still laugh at our mischievous acts in the dorms. It's been very difficult for me to lose her. *Sirel Şahenk Tontaş*

Dear Beyhan, we'll be missing you and our frequent lunches! Your witty conversations, your efforts to please and your devotion to family was so outstanding. We will never forget



our dear archaeologist friend. *Ümit Necipoğlu Davaslıgil*

She was very precious to me. We met often for coffee and lunch. We also enjoyed outings to nearby destinations with our classmates. All of us loved her friendly and witty nature and enjoyed her company very much. *Seres Başak Ener*

Beyhan Sezer Şahin is survived by her husband for 52 years Özkan Şahin and her son Ali Şahin.

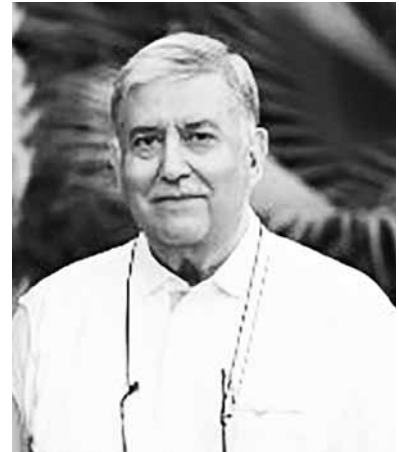
Turhan Başarankut RC ENG 68

Turhan was born in Istanbul in 1946. His father was a civil engineer, whom he lost at the age of 2. Turhan won a scholarship at RC for Electrical Engineering. He graduated in 1968, among the brightest engineers of Turkey. His love of computers started during his masters in Computer Science at METU (1974). He worked as a senior manager in several engineering firms in Turkey and abroad. He founded TMA Engineering, delivering several projects in Europe, Middle-East and North-America. He was an outstanding engineer, an excellent

analytical thinker, an icon of integrity and professionalism. He was proud to be a graduate of RC, thus upheld high standards.

He loved his wife. He was very proud of his children. He adored his grandchildren.

He was a swimmer who swam the Bosphorus when he was young. On a beautiful summer evening in Alanya (a location he loved the most) he died in a sea accident, two weeks after his 75th birthday.



Ahmet Durul RC YÜK 68



My dearest father Ahmet Durul passed away on May 8, 2021. After graduating from RC, he achieved great success with AgencyPars, which he founded with his friends. They merged with McCann Erickson and became the first international ad agency in Turkey. In later years, he worked as a marketing coordinator at Evyap. With Parkinson's, his life changed. He dedicated his life to youth and started giving MBA courses on marketing communication and branding at Galatasaray and Yeditepe Universities.

He wrote three books. His beloved wife Ayşe continues to console his Twitter followers by sharing his wisdom. He was a successful businessman, a wise teacher, a husband deeply in love with Ayşe, a great friend and father, and an elegant man. His life was about looking beyond our materialism and learning to appreciate our individual selves. In the end, it was a beautiful life and a beautiful goodbye for him.

Contributed by his daughter Zeynep Duru Durul

Zeynep Alam Şengül ACG 71 Sr.

Zeynep Alam Şengül, graduate of ACG 71, Senior, and Boğaziçi University '78, passed away on August 31, 2021. Zeynep was the daughter of Neriman Alam, RC 35 and Vasfiye Alam ACG 38, and the younger sister of Mithat Alam, RA 64, RC YÜK 68.

Zeynep will be remembered longingly by her friends from ACG 71, with whom she spent nine formative years on the campus. Her sense of humor,

the dimples in her cheeks, her bright, intelligent eyes, her smile and her love of cats are etched on our memories. She faced cancer with her own gentle positivity, drawing on much support from her family. May she rest in peace. Zeynep is survived by her husband Ziya Şengül and her son and daughter-in-law İlbey and Çağla Şengül.

Contributed by her classmates Şebnem, Ferda, Emel and Neşe T.



Selim Göle RA 71

Selim Göle (Baba Selim) passed away in İzmir on July 5, 2021, due to cancer. Selim, who was our classmate as well as the Class of RA 70, was popular among his schoolmates for his friendly and humorous personality. He was a regular player on the RA soccer team and a member of the Varsity Letterman Association. After graduating, he studied German in Germany then studied international marketing organizations at Johannes Kepler University in Austria where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees.



His main social activities were soccer, playing bridge and listening to music. On his return to Turkey, he started his career at Unilever and climbed up the ladder in different companies until his retirement in 2012. He is survived by his wife Marine and his sister Ferda. He'll be remembered by his favorite Elvis song, "Are You Lonesome Tonight?" and one of his late messages "Gracias a la vida."

Contributed by A. Levent Alpay on behalf of RA 71 Friends

Mehmet Fuat Alp RC 72



We have lost our Mehmet Fuat Alp on July 7, 2021, in Bodrum. He was Melek Hüdayioğlu Alp's (RC 72) dear husband, Ferhat-Zeynep and Mete Alp's dad, Peri's grandpa, Feride Alp Walter's (RC YÜK 71) brother and RC 72's beloved Memet Abi. A junior basketball team player, captain of the table tennis team, the founding president of our imaginary "Tas Varsity", the host of "Gülbaba Pansiyon", Memet Abi was a fountain of joy. His invented stories about secret agents and his infamous "Abduction from Nişantaşı" operetta will live forever. Memet Abi was a generous host. His favorite

pastime was conversation at the "rakı masası". Music, dancing, traveling, entertainment, horse races, poker, Gitanes (no filter), rakı (undiluted) and Ballantines (3 ice cubes free floating) were must-haves. In recent years Memet "distilled" his own highly appreciated single malt "Glenmemet".

We will forever miss his *sui generis* sense of humor, incredible stories, fun conversation, friendship and generosity.

Contributed by RC 72 Friends

To share news of a deceased RC community member please send a notice in English of no more than 150 words to tayangil@robcol.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.

Ali Tokdemir RC 75

It was with great sorrow that we received the news about the sudden loss of our beloved classmate Ali Tokdemir in November 2021. Ali had been much more than just a classmate for all of us. He was a much-liked close friend, genuine and reliable. His wit, subtle but brilliant sense of humor and smiling outlook on life made many of us feel better on countless occasions. His passing feels altogether untimely, especially since he did not have any ailments known to us. We feel like we

have lost a part of our youth as well since he was such a precious partner in so many of our unforgettable memories of RC. Rest in peace Ali, dear friend. You will be living in our hearts till the members of the "Şirket" founded in 1975 during the senior class school trip to Alanya all come together again.

Contributed by Güzin Karahan Yalın for the Class of '75



İdem Dinçer RC 80



İdem was an exceptional person with an unparalleled zest for life, full of enthusiasm and creativity. She had unforgettable clear blue eyes that looked melancholy and mischievous at the same time. Her eyes revealed her sharp powers of observation as well as her warm, *carina* side.

İdem was an elegant and beautiful woman who had a playful and devilish side that only those lucky enough to be close to her knew about. She and her life partner Hakkı (RC 80) got together at their 20th reunion and

they went on to share love over the following 21 years. She was a loving mother, supporting and letting her son grow to his potential.

Her life was cut short but she lived it fully. Instead of mourning our loss, we'll take a page out of our beloved İdem's book and celebrate her beauty, wisdom, and thirst for life. She will live on in our collective memories of her.

Contributed by Hakkı and all her RC friends

Cüneyt Özveren RC 80

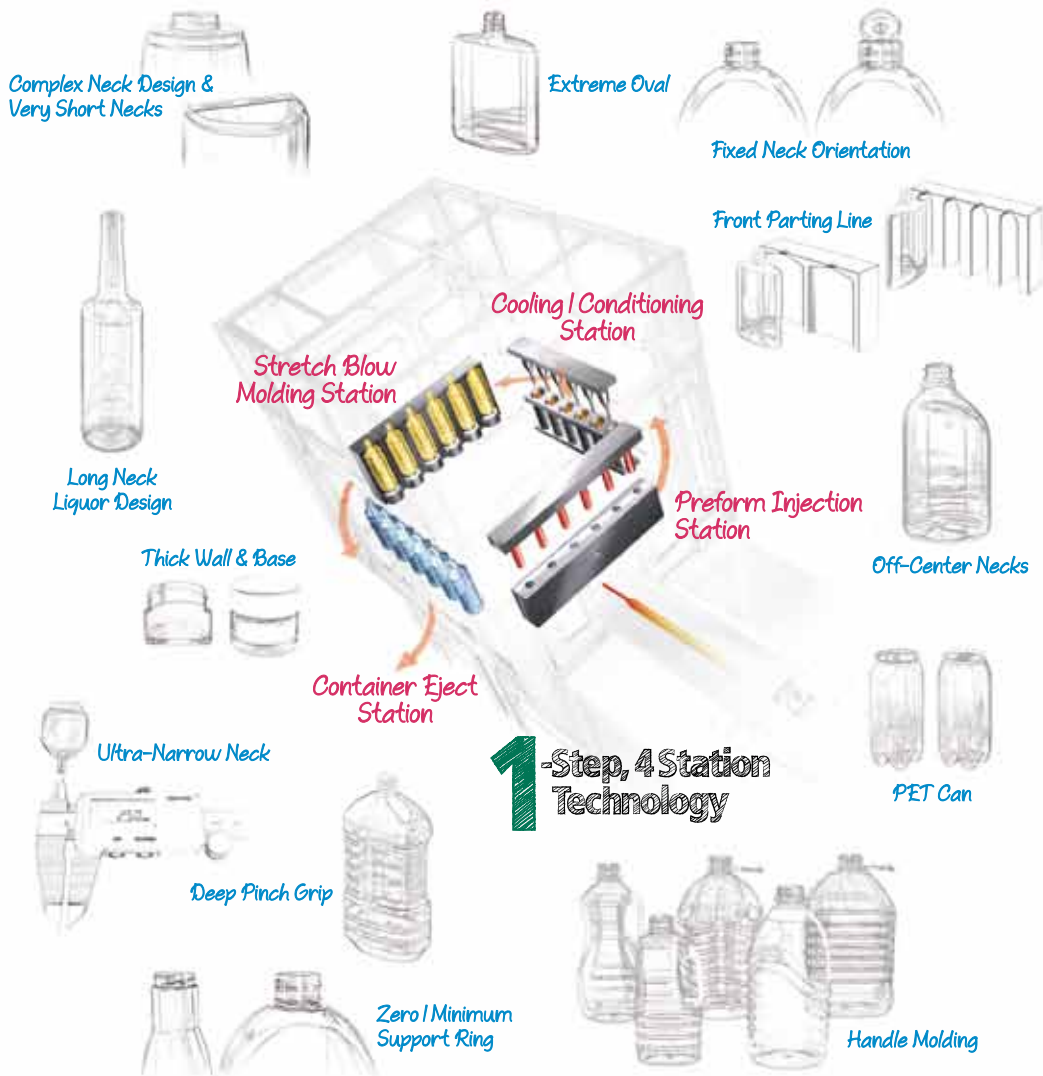
Cüneyt was an outstanding person endowed with genius qualities, both academically and socially. It was always a wonder how break-through engineering and incredible dance moves came naturally to him. He was extremely modest in nature about his outstanding academic achievements and would always give you time to passionately explain his endeavors. Cüneyt always took care of his family and made sure to never lose his identity and strong connection with his parents and sister.

He planned his departure from earth to see the graduation of his beloved daughter Rüya from high school, but he continues to be a strong presence in our lives even through his passing. We will always remember the easy, slightly crooked smile that lit his face before his laughter, his gentlemanly ways, his great genius, his kind heart, and so much more. May you rest in peace dear Cüneyt. You will be terribly missed by all of us.

Contributed by RC Friends and Family



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