



**ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE**  
Spring / Summer 2003 • Issue 22

# The Rites of Spring

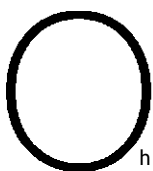
RC Campus in Bloom

- RC Graduate Takes Beşiktaş Eagles to Championship
- Contemporary Art Finds Home in Istanbul
- RC Diplomats Past & Present





# ABOUT THE RC QUARTERLY



h, the joys of spring! Having finally packed away our woolen sweaters and boots after a bitter winter, we thought we would do a little spring welcoming of our own. In this issue's Who's Who on Campus, we feature the impressive school gardens, and the dedicated staff who created a greenhouse just to maintain it. Did you know there are green parrots living in trees near the Plateau? Or that the Maze was originally a labyrinth created by a Sultan's jeweler? Neither did we. Read on!

This issue also features a detailed profile of RC alumni in the Turkish diplomatic corps, past and present, that pays homage to the foreign policy contributions of several early pioneers (p. 34). Coincidentally, the profile came as the RC Model United Nations team held a three-day forum for 14 Istanbul schools to discuss policy issues affecting youth today (p. 13). As headmaster Livy Merchant remarked at the opening assembly, "There is a particular importance for Turkish youth to study international relations. This is a time when many students are interested only in their own future and welfare. But this is also a time when the future of this country is bound up with the future of the world political and economic systems. Turkey desperately needs young people who will give time or even their whole career to helping Turkey in this regard... If this conference inspires even five of you to enter into this field, it will be a wonderful contribution to the future of Turkey."

We look forward to hearing more about these budding diplomats in future years. Last, but not least, we are delighted to report that many of you have been writing in to share your news. We love hearing about what you are doing in your corner of the world. The Alumni News section is the backbone of this magazine, and our community. So keep on writing!

Happy reading.

The RCQ Team

## RC NEWS

### TURKISH DIRECTOR ESİN HOYİ RETIRES

After 11 years, Turkish Director Esin Hoyi prepares to bid RC a fond farewell, retiring from her position at the end of this school year in June. "One should know when to stop," she says, laughing.

Hoyi says a main focus of her time at RC has been to improve communication at all levels, and to encourage students to speak about their problems. Drawing on her educational background in sociology and psychology, she worked to change student perceptions of the "Türk Müdür" from that of a distant, removed position into one more involved with students. For instance, she transformed the student discipline committee into a board to discuss general issues related to the school, rather than a vehicle for punishing the students. Hoyi believes that there is always a solution, as long as an environment for constructive dialogue is created. She feels her efforts

have succeeded in transforming student perceptions of the "Türk Müdür".

RC Headmaster Livingston Merchant said of his colleague: "Esin Hanım has become a friend. She helped me understand the very complicated relationship between a foreign school and the Ministry of Education. She guided me through very rough waters in this regard. And I know I gave her tremendous headaches along the way. I would not have been able to handle a number of delicate issues without her, and I will miss her tremendously".

Hoyi believes an RC education produces well-rounded individuals who are mature, good at analytical thinking, respectful of traditions and proud of their identity while able to question it at the same time. "All these virtues emerge in an environ-



Turkish director Esin Hoyi, leaves with pleasant memories after 11 years.

ment of love, respect and companionship which is fostered at RC," she said. "My happiest times have been when teaching classes, because I thrive on contact with students".

She says she decided to retire "while the going is still good". A recent staff survey showed her popularity at an all time high, so she decided it was time to stop while her performance was at its best in order to be remembered this way. But retirement is not likely to

slow her down. Her hobbies include knitting, gardening, embroidery, ceramics and art. She is thinking of pursuing art in her retirement. We wish her the best of luck.

The new Turkish Director is Güler Erdur, who will be joining Robert College from Izmir American School where she serves as Turkish Director. Erdur takes up her post at the end of this summer.

### CURTAINS UP FOR NEW THEATER FESTIVAL!

Robert College is home to one of the best equipped theaters in Istanbul, and not just at a high school level. Although the school has a long and lively stage tradition, this year, College students took their passion one step further: they invited other schools to join in. Thus was born TIFES, an annual theater festival featuring plays from 12 different Istanbul schools.

Spearheading the event, held between May 4- 10 at Suna Kırac Hall, was theater director Serdar Akgün and a group of seven Lise students.



"Schools such as Galatasaray organize similar festivals even though their theater is a third the size of ours," he said. "RC is fortunate enough to have a spacious stage that is a pleasure to act on. So we decided, why not hold our own festival?".

Akgün originally thought of running the festival as a competition, but decided a competitive mood would ruin the friendly atmosphere among theater loving students and teachers. In the end, the festival was open to all schools which applied to take part.

Robert College drama students opened the debut festival with *Toros Canavan*, a play by Aziz Nesin, which was well-received. Overall, as an event, TIFES received great reviews. We look forward to its second year.



Guest school "St. Michel" performing "Lüküs Hayat" at RC.

## FAMOUS ALUMNI VISIT CAMPUS TO TALK ARTS, ISTANBUL

Renowned actor Haldun Dormen RC 49 paid his alma mater a visit in March for a packed Q & A session with College students, organized by Lise students Aysen Nergis and Tugba Colak and librarian Ayse Yuksel. Dormen met with an enthusiastic reception - the library overflowed with students eager to quiz him about his career, his life and the stage.

Dormen discussed the pros and cons of acting on stage compared to acting for TV. He pointed out the irony that despite being among the most respected theater personalities the country has produced, it took a role in a TV sitcom for him to become an overnight celebrity. Despite his newfound TV fame, "the stage will always be my greatest passion", he said.

When students asked why and how he had chosen theater, he spoke of his great love of acting. After obtaining his degree in drama at Yale, he returned to Turkey, despite having been offered work in New York. "I was motivated by idealism," he said. "I wanted to be a part of advancing the theater scene in this country". Asked about his days as an RC student, he recalled being overwhelmed in the



Dormen fans pack library.

early days by the variety of extra-curricular activities on offer. He remembered getting involved in almost everything, not surprising, given Dormen's boundless energy and enthusiasm. When the session ended, student fans mobbed Dormen, asking for autographs..

Another campus event saw actress Göksel Kortay ACG 55 and journalist Nevval Sevindi meet students to discuss living in Istanbul. The event, organized by Dean of Students Diana Noonan, was the first in a series of high school seminars held by the Istanbul Municipality to enhance urban awareness. The seminar began with a general presentation on post-1950 migration from villages to the cities, and the changing cultural dynamics that has created.

"Even though I have been to many cities around the world and lived in the US for six years, I always missed Istanbul," said Kortay. Of the changing urban dynamics, she said "To be an Istanbulite is more about how you live in this city, rather than whether you were born here". But she added, "We do not treat Istanbul in the way it deserves. We are damaging this city". Her advice for students was to wander around the city as much as possible and discover its treasures. "Everybody should try to learn as much as possible about the city they live in," she said, ending her talk with the famous lines by poet Orhan Veli Kanık.



Göksel Kortay & Nevval Sevindi speak about being an Istanbulite.

## A TRADITION LIVES ON - Fine Arts Festival 2003

Once again, on May 25th, Robert College played host to thousands of students from all over Istanbul for the 21st Fine Arts Festival, a traditional music and arts festival organized by the Student Council which lasts all day and transforms the Maze into a huge concert stage.

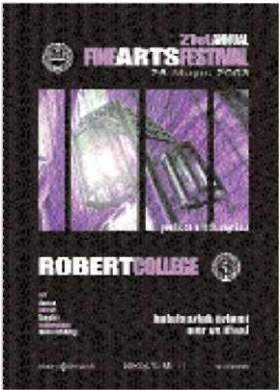
Apart from dozens of concerts, always a highlight, this year's FAF also featured photography and art exhibitions, dance and theater performances. This time around, the

Student Council sought to make FAF a real fine arts event instead of being mainly music oriented.

Until this year, participants were mostly amateur musical bands from different Istanbul schools. This year, the Student Council decided to include professional bands to boost attendance rates. SC president Mustafa Ergul explains this decision: "Participation was at its highest four years ago, with 2500 guests, but it has since been falling. Although FAF is still the

biggest festival in Istanbul, other schools also began organising their own festivals competing with FAF and this led to a decrease in the number of participants."

As part of their new strategy, this year popular rock bands Bulutsuzluk Özlemi and Mor ve Ötesi were among groups taking the stage. A second piece of good news was that the enterprising Student Council also managed to make Akbank this year's FAF sponsor.





RC NEWS

STUDENTS COMPETE IN 2<sup>nd</sup> ART COMPETITION

Annual Art Competition in Memory of Demirkan Asetey RC 76

Marble Hall was recently awash with color and various multimedia installations as it played host to artwork submitted by Lise students as part of the second annual art competition held in honor of the late Demirkan Asetey RC 76, an art lover and keen amateur painter.

This year's theme was "Change" and the winners were chosen by a jury of artists and art experts based on the originality of their work, and their interpretation of this theme. Some tears were shed at the award

ceremony in April when Asetey's father Halis Asetey delivered an emotional speech. Interest in the competition was high and this year's jury, Maria Sezer, Nancy Atakan, Can Gbknil ACG 66 -all former RC art teachers and artists- and RC 76 graduates Dilek Bagdatlioglu and Suhan Seckin, were impressed by the quality of some of the works submitted. The competition is organised by the Art Department and Alumni & Development Office and sponsored by Asetey's classmates with the aim of encouraging budding artists.



Mr. Asetey giving the best in show award to Bora Fer L12.

The grand winner for the "Best of Show" award went to Bora Fer L12, who received \$250 for his "Creation of". Fer also shared first prize in the 3D category with Emine Gökçek L11 for her piece "Ayşe Kadın". Both received \$100. The runner up was Zeynep Basmacı L9 with her piece "Hands? Dog?", and she received \$50.

In photography, Veysel Umman L11 won first prize plus \$100 for his photograph "Left Rotting". In digital imaging, a new category this year, Efe Murat Balıkçioğlu L9 was awarded first prize for "Chain'ge" and received \$100. In this category, runners up were Şükrü Yemenicioğlu L11 "Laokoon is Free" and Bengi Kurtcebe L3 "Growing Wings".



3D winner: Emine Gökçek L11



3D winner: Bora Fer L12



On May 25, the newly elected RC Alumni Association board hosted a luncheon for the administration and Feyyaz Berker. Present that day were, seated from L to R:

Hakan Eren RC 87, Zümrüt Alp Yalman RC 89, Ümran Üngün ACG 70, Director of Business and Finance, Maria Orhon, Dean of Studies, Esin Hoyi, Turkish Director, with Zümrüt's daughter Ela, Meltem Öksüm with daughter Lara and Doğan Öksüm RC 88, Association President.

Standing from L to R: Gülgün Canlı ACG 68, Christa Merchant, Livingston Merchant, Headmaster, Leyla Aktay RC 72, Alumni & Development Office Director, Feyyaz Berker RC Eng 46, RC Trustee and Hisar Eğitim Vakfı Chairman of the Board, Tunç Yıldırım RC 88, Association Treasurer, Ferdin Hoyi RC 58, Association Vice-president, Zeynep Sohtorik RC 72 and Kerem Görken RC 88.

## RC NEWS

### RC STUDENT REPRESENTS TURKEY IN INTERNATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OLYMPICS

**A** Robert College education encourages independent thinking. We now have a budding world philosopher to prove it - Lise 12 student Mete Tuzcu won fifth place in the International Philosophy Olympics held in Argentina in May for an essay he wrote on Freud.

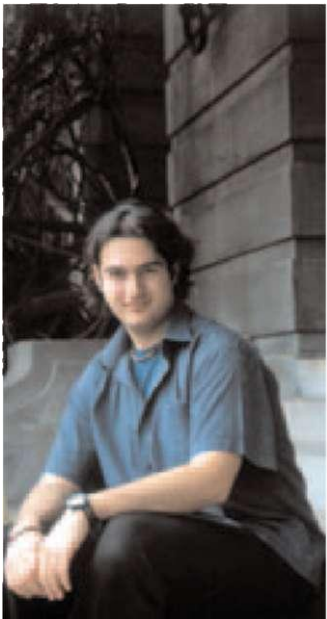
Tuzcu's adventures of the mind began when he took philosophy classes with RC teacher Gülsen Öz, an experience which he says changed the way he sees the world. "With Ms. Öz's help, I was able to convert my desire to

question things around me into a more systematic interrogation of the world," he said.

Under her encouragement, his interest grew, until eventually he was nominated to attend the Turkish National Philosophy Olympics, in which participating students must choose one of three philosophical quotes to discuss in an essay. Tuzcu came second with an essay on political philosopher Hannah Arendt's debate on public space versus private space, earning the right to represent Turkey at the 10th

International Philosophy Olympics held in Argentina between May 7- 9.

The IPO is attended by 72 students from 36 countries. Robert College students have represented Turkey on several occasions. Indeed, the first Turkish student to become world philosophy champion was Ceren Arkman RC 96 in 1996. The success of College students in the competition prompted the IPO to invite teacher Gülsen Öz to the Olympics held in Tokyo last year as a guest.



### AN AUTHOR IS BORN: RC student publishes book

**M**any of us have not-so-fond memories of sitting a nationwide exam to enroll at Robert College. In recent years, the testing system has become even

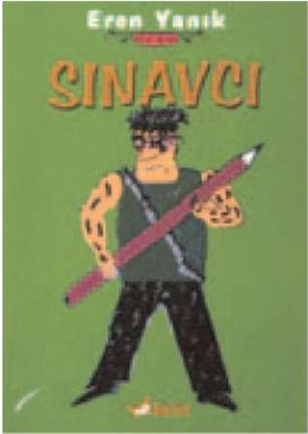
more competitive as increasing numbers of students take part and it still requires a marathon like period of preparation.

RC Lise 2 student Eren Yanik has published a book, *Sinavci*, in which he describes this experience. Originally intended as a term project for his Turkish class, the book is an autobiography covering his primary school years and the buildup to the entrance exam. But the book is about more than just his own experiences, it is also a humorous take on the collective madness that is the national school entrance exam.

With a good eye for detail, Yanik criticizes the education system, at one point making an analogy between horse races and exams; students, the horses, parents, the jockeys. He also comments on how unequal exam success can be as it is largely dependent on access to resources. Yanik's pleasant, slightly cheeky style makes the 71-page book an easy read as well as a fascinating opportunity to see the world through the eyes of a teenager today.

Indeed, the book was found so good, it was incorporated into the reading list for the Education Theory course at Bosphorus University.

A promising talent, Yanik is currently working on his second book, a sequel to *Sinavci* which describes the preparation period for the national university exams.



### RC Animal Collection Reopens

**T**he Robert College Animal Collection is now open! This year's Lise 12 Independent Research in Biology students cleaned, organized, and labeled the remains of a collection which is almost

as old as Robert College itself, and you are all invited to pay a visit. Drop by any time and explore the collection. Even if you stay for only 5 minutes, you are most welcome. You may want to pay a special

visit during Homecoming on Sunday, November 16, 2003. The collection is in the attic of Feyyaz Berker Hall. Take the stairs or the elevator all the way to the top. We hope to see you there!



## RC STUDENTS UNITE 14 SCHOOLS FOR ISTANBUL YOUTH FORUM



Youngmen in pinstripe suits and ties speak quietly into state-of-the-art Motorola mobiles. At the entrance to Marble Hall, smartly dressed young women greet arriving guests, issuing name tags and ushering them to their places. Robert College students pulled off the first ever Istanbul Youth Forum with typical flair, bringing together 200 students from 14 local schools for a three-day working conference with the smooth sophistication of professionals. The forum brought together local luminaries and students in working meetings designed to make students' voices heard on policy issues which affect them and to expose them to expert opinions on those subjects.

The RC Model United Nations club launched the first-ever Youth Forum to coincide with European Day on May 9. The club is no stranger to politics or policy-making, having successfully represented Turkey at the European Youth Parliament for many years. The idea of organizing a local forum modeled on E.Y.P. came to MUN president Ege Duruk L3 last year. Despite slow bureaucracy, the event was finalized in just two months, coordinated by 10 bright MUN members, led by Duruk and assistant coordinators Ahmet Kerim Zagra L11 and Ercan Aksu L11. Through the forum, RC was able to connect many Istanbul schools. In the future, MUN members hope to expand the forum to include schools from across Turkey.

The conference opened with a speech by Tinaz Titiz focusing on 'asking the right questions to get the right answers'. Topics discussed at the sub-committees covered



Top left: Participants from 14 schools in the Maze.  
Top right: Tinaz Titiz giving the opening speech.  
Above: Cool coordinators; Kerim Zağra L11, Ege Duruk L12, Ercan Aksu L11.

many issues such as the European Union, the environment, education and youth. Speakers attending forum committees included Filiz Meriçli, Barbaros Demirtaş, Kemal Kirişçi, Eser Karakaş, Erkut Yücaoğlu RC ENG 69, inci Delemen RC 73 and Nergiz Yazgan ACG 67.

In his address, İbrahim Betil RA64, founder of the Turkish Education Volunteers Foundation (TEGV) focused on national budget allocations. Whereas Turkey is the 14th biggest national spender in the world for the military and arms, it places 50th for



health and 133rd for education, he pointed out. Likewise, in their closing speeches, Cem Duna and Nuri Colakoglu RA 62 spoke about Turkey's future priorities, including the European Union and Cyprus. Conference supervisor and MUN advisor Alper Şahin, from the RC Counseling Department, lauded MUN members for their efforts in organizing the conference and ensuring its success. "I dealt only with administrative issues, the rest was handled by the kids. They were responsible, hard working and focused on problem-solving," he said. The Student Council provided financial support for the conference.



Youth Forum supervisor Alper Şahin.

# GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

## BETWEEN EAST AND WEST, NEW BOOK TELLS OF LIVING WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA



Ayşe Şasa ACG 60

A talented scriptwriter, insightful Turkish cinema critic and an architect by profession, Ayşe Şasa ACG 60 recently published *Delilik Ülkesinden Notlar*, (Notes from the Land of Insanity) a finely crafted book in which she recounts her 18 year struggle with schizophrenia. On one level a deeply personal account, on a philosophical level, Şasa's book blurs the boundaries between personal and societal suffering, suggesting that westernization has created a lost society, alienated from its rich Islamic past.

Şasa was 30 when she was hit by her first bouts of schizophrenia. Her book brings together diary entries, essays and interviews touching upon those years, taking its readers through the irrational illusions of a schizophrenic mind, but also asking larger than life questions about ways to be. "From Sylvia Plath to Muhiddin İbn Arabi", a letter she wrote during the early stages of her illness would forecast years of introspective struggle in which she would try to reconcile the Western education she received with Islamic philosophy, and its understanding of the absolute. Inspired by the works of Islamic thinker Muhiddin İbn Arabi, in Islamic philosophy, Şasa would find a world view which would give her inner peace.

The daughter of a wealthy, modern Istanbul family, in interviews, Şasa speaks of the loneliness she felt as a child growing up with foreign tutors, her days filled with lessons of Western languages and the arts. Her success as a student in ACG, she recounts, brought her yet more loneliness. By the time she graduated from high school, her family had rejected her for her peculiar ways, but she had grown into a well-rounded intellectual, well-versed in different languages, the teachings of Marx and European cinema.

She embarked on a career as a screenwriter in Yeşilçam (Turkey's Hollywood), but life was not easy here either. Ostracized for her American high school background, Şasa was not well-liked. But she was driven to write -she would write for ten hours at a time incessantly. *Son Kuşlar*, *Ah Güzel İstanbul*, *Utanç* and *Gramofon Avrat* are the scenarios which she wrote in the heyday of Turkish cinema, mixing with intellectuals like Cevat Çapan, Vedat Türkali, Memduh Ün and Metin Erksan.

Şasa has also written a book of essays on her Yeşilçam experiences (*Yeşilçam Günlüğü*) and co-authored a book of critical essays on the interaction between life, dreams and cinema.



## A PHOTOGRAPHER'S NEW YORK LOVE AFFAIR



Renowned photographer and filmmaker Sedat Pakay RA 64 has been shooting his adopted hometown since he first arrived in Greenwich Village during the tumultuous Sixties at the tender age of 21. The best of his work – a visual diary of 36 years spent in the world's most exciting metropolis – has been collected in a new book of color and black & white photos, *New York 1966-2002*.

Pakay's relationship with New York as a photographer unfolds with this book, as his lens transforms the drama of urban life into painting like scenes. He chooses a minimalist sense of framing which bears traces of the architectural approach of classical American photography, preferring to let his subjects speak for themselves. The book includes many street shots which show the city's changing landscape, including in the turbulent aftermath of September 11. Alongside these urban pictures, the collection also includes portraits of luminaries such as Andy Warhol, Saul Steinberg and Erol Akyavas who have lived in New York.

Pakay's passion for photography developed in his years at RC where he and his friends established the very first photography club which consisted of a dark room in Theodorus Hall, at Hisar Campus. In 1964, he shot the photos for *Stamboul Sketches*, a book by John Freely, before attending Yale, where he earned his masters of fine arts.

At Yale, inspired by the New Wave, he decided to make films. His interviews with his professor Walker Evans, a famous photographer, resulted in a short film, *Walker Evans: His Time, His Presence, His Silence*. In the 1970s he made a documentary about writer James Baldwin's life in Istanbul, *From Another Place*. Pakay later started Hudson Filmworks to produce cultural documentaries and television specials, several of which have aired on PBS.

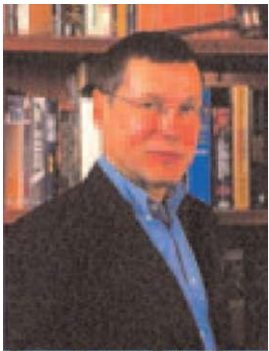
Pakay's latest book was released parallel to an exhibition in Istanbul at Yapi Kredi Gallery in March. His work also appears in the collections of the Museum of Modern Arts, the Smithsonian Museum and the Getty Museum and was also the subject of a 30 year retrospective at Istanbul's Museum of Turkish-Islamic Arts in 1995.





## GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

### CHANNEL YOUR ANGER CONSTRUCTIVELY, SAYS TOP EXEC KOZLU



Cem Kozlu RA 65

Road rage, air rage, and now, 'office' rage. *Fight Club* was no joke. It seems we are all angry, all the time. Even in an age of global rage, however, Turks may rightfully be angrier than most. Years of political scandals, corruption and fraud have taken their toll on the national psyche. And pocketbook. The country has yet to recover from its worst post-1945 recession triggered by an overnight devaluation two years ago which saw the value of the lira slashed in half, and was rooted in years of economic mismanagement and pork-barrelling.

Even top executives are publicly airing their anger. "I am indescribably angry because the waste and mismanagement of the last 10 years in particular have wiped away my generation's last, most productive years," says **Cem Kozlu RA 65**, president in charge of the Coca Cola Company's division for 48 countries in Central Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East. The normally mild-mannered executive tackles this anger in his fifth book, *Öfkeden Çözüme* (From Anger to Solutions).

While he might "share your pain", Kozlu urges readers to channel their rage constructively. The veteran businessman draws on a number of success stories from other developing countries to suggest creative solutions to avoid a repeat of past mistakes and pave the way for the future generations.

Currently based in Vienna, Kozlu may have more time to work on solution building now. In April, he quit his position as Chairman of the Board of Turkish Airlines after 15 years with the national carrier during which he was instrumental in establishing the company as one of Europe's leading airlines.



### "GEÇMİŞ OLSUN!"

### Poet Müldür Recovering From Brain Hemorrhage

Prolific poet **Lale Müldür RC 75** is recovering from a brain hemorrhage suffered in December which saw her hospitalized for several weeks. Her publishers Yapı Kredi Yayıncılık told the RCQ that Müldür was at home, and had begun writing again. Müldür's major poetry collections include *Uzak*

*Fırtına* (Distant Storm/1988), *Voyacı 2* (Voyager 2/1990 -- co-authored with Ahmet Güntan), *Seriler Kitabı* (Book of Series/1991), *Kuzey Defterleri* (Northern Note-Books/1992), *Divanü Lûgat-it Türk* (1988).

We wish her a speedy recovery.



Emine Nur ACG 67

Art can imitate nature. And perhaps occasionally surpass it. Case in point, *A Short History of My Life in Plants*, the latest collection by jewellery designer Emine Nur Çakır ACG 67, exhibited at Istanbul's Nelli Art Gallery in April which charts the artist's encounters over the years with flowers, plants and flora of all type. Çakır's delicate work manages to make silver breathe. Plump wisteria petals are transformed into silver earrings, the first spring crocuses inspire finely cut brooches, while geraniums in bloom are moulded into rings.

"Nature is my greatest teacher," says Çakır. "I think it could be a teacher to anyone who chooses to look." She has spent her life observing, and her eye for detail is evident in the fine quality of her work. All her pieces come with a story - a quotation, notes from Çakır's travels across Turkey and Europe, a childhood memory. Whimsical items, like a necklace inspired by a bunch of spring carrots, are joined by other, more serious ones, like richly textured petunia brooches inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe's floral paintings. Dozens of other plants and flowers have been molded into brooches, necklaces, rings and more.

Lively and outgoing, Çakır's close affinity with nature began at a young age. "My family was very influential in my work,"

### JEWELLERY DESIGNER'S NEW COLLECTION

says Çakır, who grew up among women with a passion for gardening. Both her grandmother and mother were avid gardeners and encouraged Çakır to develop an appreciation for nature.

She started to study literature at university but soon began pursuing her passion for jewellery making more seriously. She signed on as an apprentice with established jewellery makers Urart, working in all their departments to better understand the business. She then launched her solo career after



moving with her husband to Alanya in 1980. Her work has since been shown at numerous galleries in Turkey and Europe. This was her 21st exhibition.

RC graduates will be particularly intrigued by pieces inspired by Çakır's time on campus, the clumps of purple wisteria associated with the arrival of spring, and the ivy that surrounds Gould Hall.



Lale Müldür RC 75

## PHYSICIST WINS \$100,000 TOP SCIENCE AWARD



Ayşe Erzan ACG 68

Physicist Ayşe Erzan ACG 68 won the prestigious L'Oreal - UNESCO Women in Science award this year for her groundbreaking work in condensed matter physics. The \$100,000 award is given annually in Paris to honour five leading women scientists. Erzan, a physics professor at Istanbul Technical University, said she would donate the prize money to her university, to be used for student research.

Erzan was selected from among some 100 contenders for her contributions particularly incorporating the use of fractal geometry in physics. For most of us, the term geometry evokes lines, circles and squares. Looking at the messier real world around us - blood, clouds, bumps of broccoli - we rarely think of geometry. Yet fractal geometry, a revolutionary concept introduced by mathematician Benoit Mandelbrot in the 1970s, is a way to explain natural world phenomena like these. While traditional Euclidean patterns appear simpler as they are magnified, with fractals, like snowflakes or bumps of broccoli, the closer you come, the more detail you see.

Erzan and her colleagues were able to deduce, from the rules governing the growth of such patterns at the microscopic level, its properties at all scales. The common thread that unites her work is her preoccupation with how interactions between simple constituents at close range translate themselves to behaviour on large scales over a long time. These systems might be sand piles, chemi-

cal reactions, protein molecules, turbulent media or earthquakes.

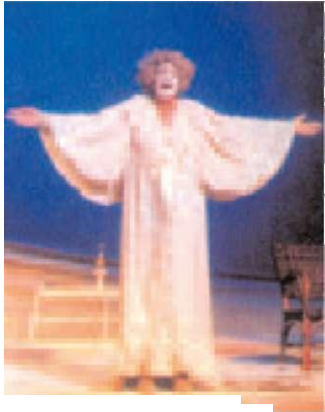
In an experiment on glass formation by long polymeric chains, Erzan and her collaborators demonstrated that this process is mathematically very similar to the spread of forest fires, or epidemic diseases. They found that it can be quantitatively described by "percolation", the sudden formation of paths that completely span a random network of clusters, once a threshold concentration is crossed.

Erzan has most recently been investigating mathematical models of genetic evolution. She likens her efforts at solving complex problems to "building a castle in the air," but says that teaching remains her greatest passion.



Ayşe Erzan receiving her award.

## LARGER THAN LIFE THEATER STAR BRINGS EVENTFUL LIFE TO PRINT



Şirin Devrim ACG 46

Actress and playwright Şirin Devrim ACG 46 appears to have done it all. Born to artist Fahrünnisa Zeyd and novelist İzzet Melih Devrim, later stepdaughter to King Faisal's brother, a Yale graduate, a tempestuous lover who married four times, a high society girl who once played table tennis with Cary Grant, a talented actress,

the first woman to ever stage a play in Turkey. The list is endless. Fortunately, her eventful life has finally made it to print. Her autobiography, *Şirin*, was published by Doğan Kitap in March, quickly becoming a top seller.

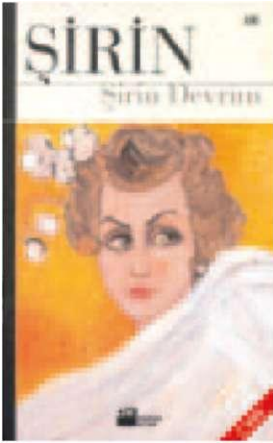
"The love of theater which would give direction to my life began at the American College for Girls," Devrim writes. She recalls her stage debut in a Turkish play called *insanlar Niye Yazar* written by Altemur Kilic RC 44. "Everyone was in it," she says. The cast included Ahmet İsvan RA 44, Mehmet İsvan RA 46, and even Bulent Ecevit RC 44 who would meet his wife Rahsan Aral ACG 44 while on the set.

Devrim's first professional appearance was in 1950 at the Court Theater in Wisconsin as Bella Manningham in *Gas Light*. In 1953, she made her off

Broadway debut as Rosa Gonzales in Tennessee Williams' *Summer and Smoke*. In the mid 1950s she returned to Turkey where she became a leading actress and was one of the country's first female directors. She later acted in many theaters in the US, and taught at several leading US universities. In 1989, after an absence of twenty years, Devrim returned to Turkey to portray Sarah Bernhardt in *Memoir*, to much critical acclaim. Today, she lives in the US with her husband, Robert Trainer who is a member of the RC Board of Trustees.

As might be expected, her book is a fascinating read, taking the reader through Devrim's turbulent life- the glamour of Europe's jet set, the heady bohemian atmosphere of New York and travels through the Middle East, including visits with Jordanian royalty.

Devrim's previous book was *A Turkish Tapestry: the Shakirs of Istanbul* (Quartet Books), published as *Harika Çılgınlar-Şakir Paşa Ailesi* (Doğan Kitap) in Turkish. "My friends kept saying, for God's sake, now write about your own life," she says of the book which took her five years to write. And what a life it is.





## GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

### KİLİ PUBLISHES ENGLISH VERSION OF ATATÜRK BOOK



Suna Kili ACG 46

**S**una Kili ACG 46 recently published her 26th book, *The Atatürk Revolution: A Paradigm of Modernization* (iş Bankası Yayınları), a 502-page tome out last month. In the book Kili, a political science professor at Bosphorus University, discusses in detail the paradigm of modernization as introduced and implemented by the founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. She analyzes the Atatürk paradigm as an alternative to the capitalist and Marxist paradigms, while at the same time focusing upon the objectives of his modernization program and the problems encountered implementing it.

Spanning 84 years, the book includes an analysis of the interplay of political forces in Turkey with a discussion of the roles of Islam, secularism and the military in contemporary Turkish politics. Kili offers her perspective on issues such as Turkey's European Union membership bid, Cyprus and globalization, all from the vantage point of Atatürk and his modernization program.

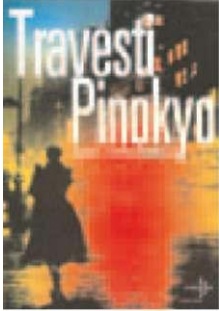
To accompany the English edition, Kili has also updated and revised the original Turkish *Atatürk Devrimi: Bir Çağdaşlaşma Modeli* for its 8th reprint, out soon from iş Bankası Yayınları. For both editions, iş Bankası has introduced an easy-to-order delivery system for people living abroad. For more information, contact [kultur yayinlari@isbank.net.tr](mailto:kultur yayinlari@isbank.net.tr).

After studying at ACG, Kili went on to receive her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in political science from Bryn Mawr College. She has since been a visiting professor and lecturer at some 40 universities outside Turkey, including California-Berkeley, Sorbonne, Oxford and Beijing. She is the author of 26 books and over one hundred articles.



### TWO BOOKS FROM 'Underground' AUTHOR TORUNOĞLU

**A**uthor Sibel Torunoğlu RC 80, heralded by Turkish literary circles as "a genuine underground voice", has occasion for a double celebration. Her searing and deeply personal account of living with schizophrenia, *Tımarhane Günlüğüm* (Stüdyo imge Yayınları), recently went into a second reprint. The reprint also coincided with the publishing of her third book, *Travesti Pinokyo* (Stüdyo imge Yayınları), a novel.



In *Tımarhane Günlüğüm*, the Istanbul University English Literature graduate describes many years spent in treatment at various mental hospitals. She calls her illness a way of rebelling against the world. "A schizophrenic is a brave person, removed from utilitarianism and greed; a poet, an artist, someone who observes the details of light and shadow. A connection between the living and the inanimate," she says. Torunoğlu, who began suffering from the illness as a child but nonetheless managed to complete both RC and university, says she has come to think of it as giving her access to another dimension in consciousness.

Torunoğlu also recently published her third book *Travesti Pinokyo* (Stüdyo imge Yayınları), a story about a heterosexual couple who discover that their son is a transvestite. "How will this heterosexual couple deal with their transvestite son?" she asks. "I wanted to see how such a person would affect our lives." Torunoğlu feels that upper class Turks rarely come into contact with transvestites because of the way they are economically marginalized in Turkish society, often resorting to prostitution to make a living. But she is quick to point out her book doesn't deal with the social aspects of cross-gender issues. "The book is a lyrical, epic, postmodern novel. I don't really deal with the social dimension of things."



### BANKER AKIŞIK TO HEAD PETROL OFİSİ BOARD



Vural Akışık RA 64

**V**eteran banker Vural Akışık RA 64 was appointed Chairman of the Board of Petrol Ofisi (POAS), Turkey's largest petroleum distributor and service stations operator, in February.

Akışık, 61, returned to his private sector roots last year after spending a year leading the Public Banking Executive Board, a high-profile autonomous body with a mandate to restructure ailing state-owned banks. He is also

Chairman of the Board at Dışbank and a member of the Doğan Holding board.

Akışık received a B.A. and M.A. in economics from Robert College and the Middle East Technical University (ODTU), before earning his Ph.D. in mathematical statistics from the University of California at Berkeley. After working as an econometrics instructor at Berkeley and ODTU for seven years, he joined Çukurova Holding, one of Turkey's largest

industrial groups, in 1976. He was general manager of Interbank, then a part of Çukurova, from 1984-1988, before founding the investment bank Turk Merchant Bank with Bankers Trust, Türkiye iş Bankası and Dışbank and serving as its chairman.

Akışık's appointment means two RC grads are now at the helm of Petrol Ofisi. In his new position, he joins Ertuğrul Tuncer RC Yuk 63, who has been POAS general manager since July 2000.

## GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

### REPORTING THE FRONTLINE - RC Grads Cover War on Iraq

In Ankara, **Sedat Ergin RC 75** veteran political correspondent for the mass circulation daily *Hürriyet* - which argued Turkey should have become more involved in the war- was a firsthand observer of tense negotiations between the US and Turkey that began last July. Talks ended in a diplomatic fiasco in March when Washington's demands to deploy thousands of troops were rejected in a surprise vote by Ankara lawmakers. In his daily columns, Ergin, who was in close contact with Turkish leaders, as well as visiting American VIPs, offered an unparalleled close look behind the scenes of Ankara's corridors of power as the world's power-brokers came and went.

In New York, **Sabah** correspondent **Aslı Aydıntaşbaş RC 89** kept her finger on the pulse of a city deeply divided over the Bush administration's policies in the Middle East, moving to Baghdad after the war to cover post-war developments.



On the anti-war front, in Istanbul, **Ömer Madra RA 64**, founder and chief commentator of Açık Radyo, an independent non-profit radio station, was vocal. His popular daily morning news program combined comment from world papers with intelligent analysis. On the radio's website ([www.aciksite.com](http://www.aciksite.com)) Madra also writes a daily column *Kainatın Tefrikası* (Chronicling the Universe) which encapsulates his informed, activist take on events both local and global, often making connections between the two.

Similarly, in his weekly columns, popular *Radikal* writer **Yıldırım Türker RC 75** analyzed the week's developments in context, using his trademark powerful prose to deliver resounding critiques.



## FORMER MP PUBLISHES ANKARA MEMOIRS



Emre Kocaoglu RA 62

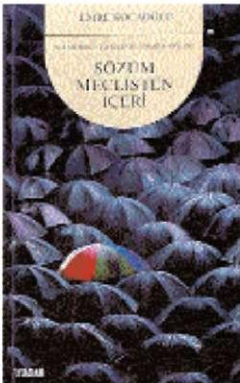
What really goes on behind the scenes in the Ankara parliament? The newly published *Sözüm Meclisten İçeri* (iyiadam Yayıncılık) by **Emre Kocaoglu RA 62**, an MP for the Motherland Party (ANAP) between 1999-2002, is full of fascinating insight, describing the complicated world of Turkish politics through the eyes of a self-described "novice".

The book benefits tremendously from Kocaoglu's position as a very active lawmaker, most notably as deputy head of the Parliament Human Rights Commission which, during his

time, took on the high profile task of trying to uncover and remedy human rights abuses in Turkey. It was in Kocaoglu's tenure, two years ago, that the commission famously uncovered torture equipment in a raid on an Istanbul police station.

This is just one of the interesting incidents described in the book, which also reveals a great deal about the strange workings of Turkish politics - the strict hierarchy, the devious methods MPs have developed to avoid work, and more. Throughout, Kocaoglu's enthusiasm and passion for his work is infectious. In a review, *Radikal* chief

columnist **ismet Berkan** lauded Kocaoglu, saying "it is the excitement felt by MPs like Emre Kocaoglu, that allows them to actually make a difference."





## GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

### YOUTHFUL PRESIDENT TAKES BEŞİKTAŞ EAGLES TO CENTENARY SUCCESS

After an eight-year hiatus, Beşiktaş trounced rival Galatasaray to clinch its tenth Turkish football league championship, all the more symbolic as it coincides with the football club's centenary celebrations. The man behind this success is Serdar Bilgili RC 81, the youngest president in Turkish football history at 40. Under his leadership, Beşiktaş this year became Turkish league champion and also made it to the fourth round in the European Cup for the first time in its history of the club. And his success is not just on the field. An astute businessman, Bilgili transformed the club's organizational structure, introduced ISO business standards and began trading Beşiktaş shares on the Istanbul stock exchange.

"Beşiktaş is my love," says

Bilgili. "It's a huge honor, as well as a lot of fun". Yet nothing in Bilgili's background suggests he would one day run a football club. As a student at Robert College, he was on the volleyball team and played tennis, and confesses to "not much interest in football". After studying business in the US, he returned to Turkey via a brief stint in Vienna in 1984 to join the family business, which he expanded. He currently owns companies in the textile, construction and tourism industries.

His involvement with Beşiktaş began in 1992, at the age of 29, when he joined the BJK managerial board on the advice of Abdullah Acar, then vice-president of Fenerbahçe. Acar told him that Beşiktaş needed people like him. At 37, Bilgili was elected president on the heels of Süleyman Seba's 16 year reign.

"I would say that Beşiktaş is today Turkey's best managed club. Among the big clubs, it has

the strongest financial base, and least debt," says Bilgili. He is building a professional management board and steering board to accelerate the decision making process. In the last two years, he also increased advertising and sponsorship revenues. Beşiktaş was also the first sports club to achieve ISO 9001: 2000 status, proof of Bilgili's systematic organization. "Beşiktaş is run much like any of the other top 500 big companies in Turkey," says Bilgili. "The day I leave, the new incoming management won't have any difficulty taking over because we are totally institutionalized". But Bilgili points out that man-

agement of a sports club does differ from the management of a company because of the emotional and social factors at play - the fans. "No matter how institutionalized a sports club gets, you can not run a club exactly the same way you run a company. There are social factors. Today BJK is the largest publicly traded club. This means 15 million partners have a say in everything. Your approach can't be just commercial."

When he manages to find time from his grueling schedule, Bilgili is also an avid photographer, an interest which began in his years at RC as a member of the photography club. He was also the photography editor of the 1981 yearbook, which includes some of his black and white photographs. His photography teacher and yearbook advisor at the time, Aydın Ungan, remembers him not only as a successful photographer but as a "has evlat" (loosely translated as "true son"). He has held four photography exhibitions, two in the US and two in Turkey. These days, his favorite subject is his 5 year old daughter Lal. He would like, someday, to shoot the world of football, but says it would be complicated now. "Perhaps one day when I quit my position as president," he says, laughing.



# ONES TO WATCH

## NEW GENERATION TAKES FAMILY WINE COMPANY TO GLOBAL ACCLAIM

In 1989, Doluca wines owner Ahmet Kutman RA 63 and his classmate Güven Nil had a dream. Investing in 80 hectares of land in Gelibolu, they planted four of the so-called noble wine grapes - Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc- for the first time in Turkey. They hoped to create top quality wines which would finally put Turkey on the global wine map. The project was called Sarafin.

Today, their vision has become a reality. Powered by the marketing drive of the family's youngest member, Sibel Kutman RC 92, Sarafin has become both a household name in Turkey and a growing international success. Kutman joined the company in 1998 as marketing director and a member of the board. Under her leadership, both Sarafin and Doluca brands from Fume Blanc to Moskado and Chardonnay have



gained international recognition, receiving prestigious awards in competitions like the Vinalies Internationales.

Kutman took up position as Doluca marketing director in 1998, a year before the first of the Sarafin products - Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc- were launched. Her first priority was to restructure the company to institutionalize corporate notions of marketing, product and channel development and sustain Doluca's leading market position. She redirected the focus from quantity to quality, emphasizing the variety of high quality products available to consumers of different tastes. Kutman now says keeping the company up to date with sectoral developments is an ongoing priority. The long term objective, she emphasizes, is to make Turkish wine sought after in the global market, and this requires constant

Award winning Sarafin wine.



investments in land and wine making.

Kutman may be responsible for the sales and marketing of the 25 brands under Doluca, but she also manages to find time to dance - a career she pursued in New York for several years. After graduating from RC, she studied contemporary dance at Wesleyan University, and then worked as a dancer in New York with well-known groups such as Leslie Partridge and Dancers and the Avila/Weeks Company. "The experience gave new meaning to my ideas of freedom, survival, competition and

city life," she says. But family roots run deep. Eventually her passion for the wine business in which she'd grown up overtook her interest in dance. She decided to move to Istanbul, and make her love of dance a lifelong hobby.

She says she never looked back. Across the world, she points out, the wine business is run with the passion and dedication of individual families. Kutman hopes her personal contribution will be to make wine a product for all to enjoy, and to encourage a wider appreciation in Turkey for this taste.

# WRITER-DIRECTOR BRINGS FRESH TOUCH TO ISTANBUL THEATER SCENE

Fresh to Istanbul from New York's alternative theater scene, writer, director and performer Yeşim Özsoy Gülan RC 90 made her hometown debut this spring with two imaginative plays showcasing both her scriptwriting talent, as well as an imaginative approach to incorporating alternative media and venues in performance.

Gülan's one woman play *The Year 2084*, staged in Istanbul's popular night spots Babylon and Roxy in March, presents a world loosely based on George Orwell's *1984* through the monologues of eight women and men who live in 2084. The world is sharply divided into four isolated states: EuropeEurope, AsiaAsia, Oceania and the Other World. Gülan's vision of a future wrought with conflict is enhanced by multimedia projections - the computer simulated graphics of a human body projected onto the wall and a blinking

eye on a screen on stage. *House- A Cacophonic Play*, Gülan's second play to be staged in the same month, surprised viewers by inviting them into an apartment, instead of a theater. Sitting side by side with the play's performers, viewers witness the trials and tribulations of the four characters - finely acted by Sanem Öge, Sedat Kalkavan, Alev Cınbarcı and Ceyda Aşar- who cannot bring themselves to share the building they inhabit. In *House*, the group *...ve Diğer Şeyler Topluluğu* established by Gülan, manages to break down the space between the actors and the audience, drawing viewers into a cacophonic nightmare revolving around the anger, jealousy and rapaciousness of four characters.



Yeşim Özsoy performing in Babylon.



Gulan's interest in performance began when she enrolled with Sahika Tekand's Studio Players as a sociology major at Bosphorus University. After graduation, she continued to work with the Studio Players, while also writing and performing her own texts. Deciding to pursue a master's degree in theater, Gulan attended Sarah Lawrence College in New York and then transferred to Northwestern University to focus on performance studies. All the time, she continued staging one woman performances in New York, Chicago and Istanbul, eventually running her own theater company in New York for two years.

During this short but prolific time span Gulan married multimedia artist Genco Gulan, and became pregnant with Sinan Can, now three years old. Pregnancy did not slow her down - she became known as 'the crazy pregnant Turkish director' among her actors. Soon after September 11, the Gulan family returned to Istanbul, to collaborate on the restaging of various projects like "play a la turca", and 2084 which debuted in New York, and to produce new ones like House- A Cacophonous Play.

Gulan intends to keep working on her own productions and hopes the next step will be to take her group to international festivals.

Ultimately, her dream project is to create a multi-purpose space for performance and contemporary arts in Istanbul.



A scene from House.

## YOUNG TURKS ONLINE-BRIDGING LONDON, NEW YORK AND ISTANBUL

For many RC graduates who end up living abroad, life -gurbet- is often about trying to find a balance between creating a new home and wanting to stay in touch with the old. Esintiler began in 1994 as an ongoing e-mail correspondence between Ozan Tarman RC 90 and several of his friends, exchanges about the trials and tribulations of living abroad, as well as the latest football news from home. At the time, Tarman, a Harvard graduate, was living in New York, working in international banking.

Slowly, the group expanded. At first, it was made up mainly of young Turks -the average Esintiler member is 31 years old- living abroad. Later, as Internet access in Turkey became widely available, Esintiler became a bridge between people living in Turkey and Turks abroad. Four years ago the group opened a Yahoo account, making Esintiler public. "It created a virtual family," says Tarman. "For people living abroad, it's a way to

track what's happening in Turkey. Likewise, for those in Turkey, it's a way to hear about life in New York, London or Moscow," he said. Esintiler has about 350 members, most of whom are young professionals working in business, finance and the media. Members write about anything which interests them -this is most often politics or sports, but also includes food, films and technology. On a typical Esintiler day, messages range from Nicole Kidman gossip to comments on Paul Wolfowitz to jibes about the sorry state of the Istanbul stock exchange.

In April, [www.esintiler.com](http://www.esintiler.com) went online and was featured on several TV programs. It now receives about 5,000 hits a day. "It is a place where we can speak about our lives," says Tarman.

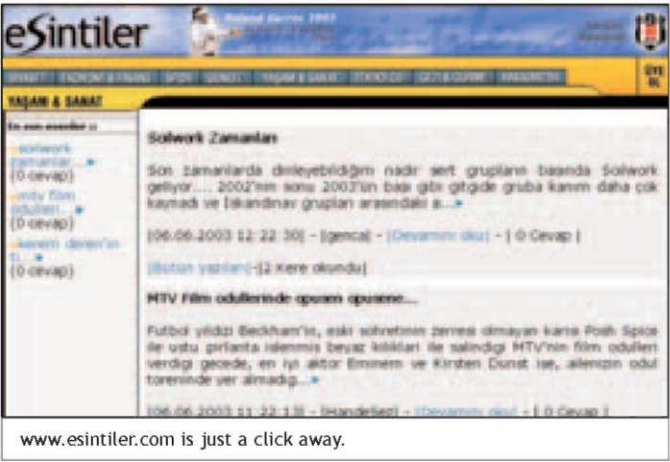
Although many Esintiler contributors are RC graduates, "it has never been an RC microcosm" says Tarman, who moved to Istanbul in 1999 and has been a director at Deutsche Bank for two years. For him, Esintiler is

a way to write, something he has wanted to do since childhood. "Esintiler allows me to share this passion on a daily basis with other people," he said. "I am as proud of being the editor of Esintiler as I am of being a director at Deutsche Bank," he adds, laughing.

There are no plans to turn Esintiler into a business. In time, Tarman hopes to generate enough interest to turn the site into a magazine. He also dreams of compiling the past



nine years into a book, making the group's archives available to everyone. "We've been through so much together," he says. "Global economic crises, 9/11, elections, World Cups." Here's to another nine years.



[www.esintiler.com](http://www.esintiler.com) is just a click away.

# RC REACHES OUT

## FILM BUFF MAKES DREAM COME TRUE: The Mithat Alam Film Center



"I wanted to combine the two loves of my life, two things that have made me happiest," says **Mithat Alam RA 64 RC 68**. "My school, where I spent the most pleasant 13 years of my life, and my passion for cinema."

**T**hus was born the Mithat Alam Film Center in 1999, a unit within Boğaziçi University which provides students with resources for critical, creative and scholarly activities related to film studies. Perhaps one of the best-equipped film centers in Istanbul, the Center offers BU students a state-of-the-art cinema which seats 61, a computerized reference library on Turkish and world cinema, an archive which boasts an impressive 2,800 films, and a TV room. The latest addition to the

Center is an editing room which serves as a studio for students taking film courses.

In 1998, when Oya Başak ACG 55, head of the Department of Western Languages and Literature at BU asked Alam to teach an elective course in cinema, they both knew that his passionate interest in cinema, dating back to his teenage years, would be put to good use. He was past 50 at the time, and a successful businessman. "Yet," he recalls, "business was not for me really, and I never felt quite fulfilled with my line of work." By the end of the first semester, he had acquired a student fan club, many staying after class to chat about cinema, going over to his apartment to watch and discuss films, and asking for more.

It was partly this interest that led Alam to get moving on his dream. His first idea was to start a master's program in film at the university. When that proved unfeasible, Alam, Başak and Dilek Doltaş ACG 65 began researching what sort of facilities universities abroad without film departments were offering their students.

Soon enough, they had worked on various models for a film center, and by December 1999, Alam had signed a conditional donation agreement for a \$400,000 endowment to create a film center on campus. "I don't have children", he says today, "and by age fifty, I had made enough to donate to a good cause."

The smart new Mithat Alam Film Center

Under Başak's initiative, a building was allocated for the new film center - the site once used as a construction hut for today's Rectorate, a building which many graduates associate with "Sakallı Manda", a nickname for

Mithat Alam





Mr. Summers who taught music and lived there.

Once the site was decided upon however, more problems ensued. The building was a ruinous heap, and it would take loads for repairs. The film center of Alam's dreams required extensive rebuilding, but the university's allocated budget for construction was nowhere near what was needed. After 10 days thought, Alam signed a new contract with the university, underwriting all expenses for the construction work. In three months' time, the Center was built from scratch and ready to be opened, once again confirming the truth behind a saying popular among Alam's friends: "Mithat thinks today, and does yesterday."

The Center took off immediately after opening in December 2000. Its 2001 activities consisted of impressive retrospectives for directors like Atif Yılmaz and Akira Kurosawa designed to lure cinema lovers towards films they would otherwise have a hard time finding. Screenings

were backed with discussions held with directors, film critics and actors, both from Turkey and abroad. For those who missed the events, volunteer students diligently transcribed all the material into a book which the Center then printed.

Alam is also proud that the university's film certificate program, formally under the Department of Western Languages and Literature, already has five graduates. "This," says Alam, "is a healthy number as the program has only been available for one year, and because of a lack of teachers, not all courses can be offered every semester."

One of the most notable aspects of the Center is the active role students play in running it. Predominantly staffed by volunteer students, the Center is much more than just a place of resource, it also motivates students to channel their love of cinema into something more. For instance, the creators of the well-respected independent *Altyazı* cinema magazine were



all volunteers working with Alam in the Center's first year. Two years on, they still consult him for business decisions.

The Center is always busy creating new projects. This year, it launched a screenwriting competition, giving the four winners material support to shoot their short films. An oral history project beginning this year is geared towards creating a visual memory of those people who have made great contributions to Turkish cinema. Also this year, the Center hopes to start intensive but informal summer workshops on film directing, screenwriting and acting.

In just two and a half years, the Mithat Alam Film Center has managed to recreate the thriving atmosphere of yesteryear's Sinematek. It welcomes support from graduates, corporations and other cinephiles. Many of the scheduled programs, projects and technical facilities to be upgraded, require more than the Center's existing endowment.

For more information please contact Berrin Okutan Uzan, head of administration at the Center.

[filmcenter@boun.edu.tr](mailto:filmcenter@boun.edu.tr)  
[buzan@boun.edu.tr](mailto:buzan@boun.edu.tr)



A state of art cinema which seats 61.

## RC REACHES OUT

### AÇIK RADYO GAINS SUPPORT THROUGH AÇIK SİTE

On any given day, tune in to Açık Radyo 94.9 FM, Istanbul's leading independent radio station, and you are as likely to hear little known jazz standards as Bach, a discussion on wine grapes or the latest indie rock, a debate on the economy, or Greek folk songs. Britney Spears aside, there is something for everyone on this station. (Radio policy is "to keep a strict distance to chart-oriented, mass-produced commercial styles").

Every day on Açık Radyo (meaning Open Radio) begins with the man who started it all. **Ömer Madra RA 64** has been hosting the drivetime Açık Gazete (Open Newspaper), a roundup of daily news delivered in his intelligent and witty style, every morning since the radio first went on air in 1996. Apart from scanning most of the dailies in Turkey, Madra provides listeners with extensive international press coverage, throwing in analysis from commentators the likes of Robert Fisk and Noam Chomsky for good measure. He is also director of the radio, and his energy and enthusiasm - even after seven tough years - are infectious.

The 58 year-old is one of the 92 individuals, professionals from a wide variety of fields (writ-



Ömer Madra at work.

ers, artists, publishers, bankers, professors, engineers, lawyers, advertising executives), who in 1996 founded Açık Radyo, becoming equal shareholders. Many of the founders include RC graduates: Suay AKSOY RC YÜK 72, Leyla AKTAY RC 72, Selim ALGUADIS RA 63, Şahin ALPAY RA 63, Mehmet BETİL RA 60, Esat EDİN RC 78, Refik ERZAN RC YÜK 73, Hilmi GÜVENAL RC 80, Burhan KARAÇAM RA 68, Erdal

KARAMERCAN RC ENG 73, Halis KOMİLİ RA 65, Ömer MADRA RA 64, Güven NİL RA 63, Ataman ONAR RA 62, Ahmet ULUĞ RC 83, Mehmet ULUĞ RC 78, Reha UZ RA 64, Nergis YAZGAN ACG 67, Cem YEGÜL RC 78, Erkut YÜCAOĞLU RC ENG 69. Their shared goal was to create a non-profit, independent radio station which would embrace "all the sounds, colors and vibrations of the universe" while working at the same time to promote greater debate in Turkey on issues like human rights, the environment and democracy.

Açık Radyo is democratic in its structure, working methods, and programs in general. It stands for peace and justice and promotes the protection of human rights and freedoms uni-

versally; acts as an "information center" for all NGOs and grass roots organizations; lays great emphasis on cultural matters and broadcasts widely on multi-cultural and cross-cultural issues.

In its seven years on air, more than 550 volunteer programmers have donated their time and energy to the station, creating a unique combination of music, news, and personality. In addition to regular programming, it has aired specials on Bach (3 years and ongoing), Mahler, Stravinsky (52 hours), Münir Nureddin Selçuk, 100 years of recorded Turkish music, The Beatles (120 hours), Bob Dylan (52 hours), Duke Ellington, Jacques Brel and



—“Açık Radyo.”  
94.9



PROGRAM HOSTS

SUAY AKSOY	RC YÜK 72
LEYLA AKTAY	RC 72
ŞAHİN ALPAY	RA63
İBRAHİM BETİL	RA64
SEDA BİNBAŞGİL	RC 83
HİLMİ GÜVENAL	RC 80
MELDA KESKİN	RC 80
JAK KOHEN	RA 70
ÖMER MADRA	RA 64
GÜVEN NİL	RA63
SEVİN OKYAY	ACG 63
HULUSİ ÖZOKLAV	RC 72
FARUK PEKİN	RC ENG 69
OSMAN TÜMAY	RC 72
AHMET ULUĞ	RC 83
MEHMET ULUĞ	RC 78
REHA UZ	RA 64
CEM YEGÜL	RC 78



94.9 Açık Radyo, embracing "all the sounds, colors and vibrations of the universe"

Açık Radyo also has ears abroad - it exchanges programs with several European radio stations and is one of 5 European radios

Listeners outside Istanbul can tune in online at [www.acikradyo.com](http://www.acikradyo.com).

involved with a project sponsored by the European Commission on "World Music on the Internet".

The station has chalked up the accolades, winning 18 awards for excellence from various media organizations in Turkey. Interestingly, the radio station also emerged as a driving force behind numerous community projects. It was the main organizer of the International Istanbul Music Festivities in 1997 and 1998, each attended by approximately 10.000 music lovers. It has co-sponsored international photography exhibitions. Perhaps most importantly, after the devastating earthquake of 1999, it transformed itself into a "two-way transmitter" and acted as a clearinghouse of information for people in Istanbul and those in the disaster areas. It is still the only medium which broadcasts programs on earthquake readiness.

([www.acikradyo.com.tr/ardim](http://www.acikradyo.com.tr/ardim) or [www.altinsatirlar.org.tr](http://www.altinsatirlar.org.tr))

So perhaps it is not surprising that, in time, Açık Radyo became much more than just a radio station. It evolved into a community. An AC Nielsen survey two years ago found that Açık Radyo has a core daily listenership of 60,000 people; bi-daily: 80,000; weekly: 120,000. Almost half a million listeners between the ages of 15-64 tune in to Açık Radyo in any given month. It is a distinct favorite among the city's intellectuals. Filmgoers at the Istanbul Film Festival and jazz lovers at the Istanbul Jazz Festival ranked Açık Radyo their favorite radio station. Among classical music lovers attending the Istanbul Classical Music Festival, it came in a close second behind state run classical music channel TRT FM.

Açık Site- A permanent online resource helps support the station

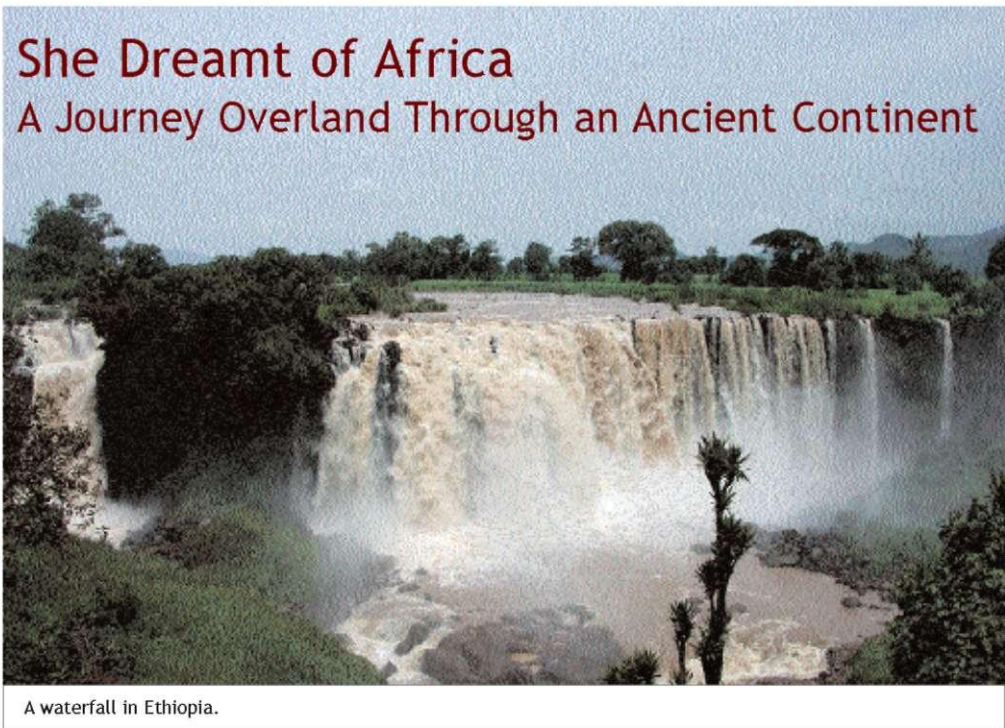
In March last year friends and programmers of Açık Radyo created - and have since been providing content to - a separate and independent website, Açık Site, intended to better serve the community. ([www.aciksite.com](http://www.aciksite.com)). "The website is a verbal, visual and virtual "reflection" of the universal sound of the station itself," says Madra. It has become an impressive archive of more than 4.000 articles, special reports, cartoons, photographs, and illustrations concerning key global issues.

Sustaining the station financially is an ongoing challenge in a country where funds for cultural projects are almost nonexistent, and corporate sponsors scarce. "Although Açık Radyo was able to survive both the first two years and the huge and ongoing economic crisis of 2001, it is a well known fact that it is always very difficult to sustain independent media which rely solely on their own rather meager resources," says Madra. Açık Site, which is a major sponsor for Açık Radyo, is one way to encourage individuals to contribute to the station. Private individuals can pledge their support by subscribing to the website.

The fact that the station has thrived so far is a testament to the strength of its unique programming, as well as the support of individuals who believe that sustaining an independent channel like Açık Radyo is vital to the advancement of democracy in Turkey. Açık Radyo is about to embark on a fundraising campaign next fall, inviting everybody -and this goes without saying for RC graduates- to take part. In the meanwhile, one of the ways to support this truly independent and original radio station is through the Açık Site website. For more information, visit [www.aciksite.com](http://www.aciksite.com).



# RC AROUND THE WORLD



Two years ago, Gulin Akoz RC 87 quit her PhD studies in Mechanical Engineering, gave up her job as a teaching assistant at Bosphorus University, abandoned the city she grew up in, her family and friends, to make a longtime dream come true. Armed only with a backpack, the 31-year-old embarked on the adventure of a lifetime, a trip

around the world that would last 15 months and cover 34 countries on four continents. "I had had my share of the standard life my parents and society expected of me. But the time had come that I couldn't be stuck in one place any longer," she recalls. En route, Akoz would endure a traffic accident in Patagonia, being stranded in the Sudan for a week, having a gun pulled on her in Kenya, tough weather conditions and more.

The first leg of her trip began on a cold winter day in July in South Africa. Her travel companions were an American (Jody), a Canadian (Jeff) and an Australian (Sally) and a truck named Max which drove them through the east coast of Africa to Egypt, Jordan, Syria and back home. Then came Scandinavia, Europe and London. A flight over the Atlantic took her to Brazil and a car accident in Patagonia back to Buenos Aires. On the last leg of her adventure, Akoz crossed the Pacific to visit New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Japan.

Below is an excerpt from the diary Akoz kept during her overland journey through Africa.

## AFRICA

*On the road, when everything and everybody around you changes so rapidly, I sometimes wonder who is going to stay? What is permanent?*

*The answer: NOTHING! Nothing stays but memories... I live for the 'moments', to collect 'memories'.*

Even though South Africa and Egypt are on the continent, the real Africa lies in between. Below are some things I remember about Africa on first thought. Here we go:

- Seeing Victoria falls from both Zambia and Zimbabwe. Three rainbows at the same time, one almost a complete circle.
- Eating sadza, a dumpling made from ground corn which is a Zimbabwean specialty. A boy I met took me to a bus on the street and made me eat it the traditional way: Using my hands.





- Being smuggled out of Malawi

We found out at the border that I had needed a visa which I didn't have. What to do? I had to get in somehow. After pleading for 10-15 minutes the man gave me a paper and told me to go to some station. The funny thing is you had to go in to the country first to get a visa! And what if you didn't get it? The man made me read and sign a form which said that otherwise, I was to be deported in two days. Well, we were going to leave the country in two days anyway. So Jeff didn't bother driving all that way and they just smuggled me out of the country pretending we were four instead of five.

- Going into a Chinese restaurant in Tanzania and listening to French music

- The bus ride from Arusha to Nairobi

Jody and I were the only white people on the bus. I lack the talent to describe the bus- the 45 degree inclined red satin seats, the ramshackle radio playing lively music which filled the sweaty air, and of course the people, all of whom could be the subject of a story on their own. Take my word for it and experience it for yourself! It will be one of the most remarkable days in your life.

- The cheetah kill in Masai Mara

Somehow, I knew that we were going to see something good that day. See, I'm lucky. Actually I would have thought I would feel bad, seeing the poor gazelle struggle. But I guess that's nature! Sally and Mike saw a lion mate. I was jealous at first but they said it was rare to see a kill and the mating had lasted only five seconds!

- Breaking down, being stuck in mud, being stuck in sand, having to get the sand ladders down, being splattered with mud, being soaked in water from head to foot

All these things that would make me feel frustrated if I were at home are fun here. Maybe that's what travelling is all about. The art of being able to laugh at life's difficulties... yes, I like this... here's my definition of travel... the art of turning trouble into comedy!

- Quote from Jeff: "We could have killed two people today if we had tried harder."

That was our first day in Ethiopia. And my first time driving a Land Rover. I hadn't thought it would be any different from driv-



A waterfall in Ethiopia.

ing a normal car. I mean there's the gas pedal, the brakes and the clutch, then there's the gear-shift, and that's all there is to driving, right? Well, right... but this particular Land Rover is a bit shaky.

But I guess what happened that day had nothing to do with our truck! The funny thing is that I was thinking what a great story it would be for the newspaper I was writing to if I got into an accident. As we all know, they love sensation.

As these thoughts were running through my mind, this man who probably meant to cross the street just froze in the middle of the road with a bewildered look on his face. He had not seen me coming since he had not cared to look first. Now trying to decide whether he should go forward or back, he moved in the direction I steered the wheel! I spun the wheel around and he turned the way I was headed. I was sure I would hit him...or the hay pile. Luckily I succeeded in missing both. I felt bad and relieved at the same time. Bad because of the graveness of the incident, relieved nothing happened.

A couple hours later on, Jeff is in the driver's seat. Almost the same scenario goes flashing by, this time the hero being an old woman! Guess it's not us but rather the Ethiopian's belief that roads are built as pedestrian walkways.

-Spice tour in Zanzibar, the baskets the children wove us in five minutes, Zanzibar coke

Have you ever tried climbing a coconut tree with a rope tied to your feet? Believe me, it's not easy. The little children climb up like monkeys and when they ask you to try, you just end up hugging the tree! It is a bummer to struggle so hard and not be able to move an inch. So to cheer you up, they weave you baskets, bracelets, ties, watches, hats from coconut leaves. And when they offer you Zanzibar coke, don't be depressed thinking coca-cola got here too, it is delicious coconut juice.

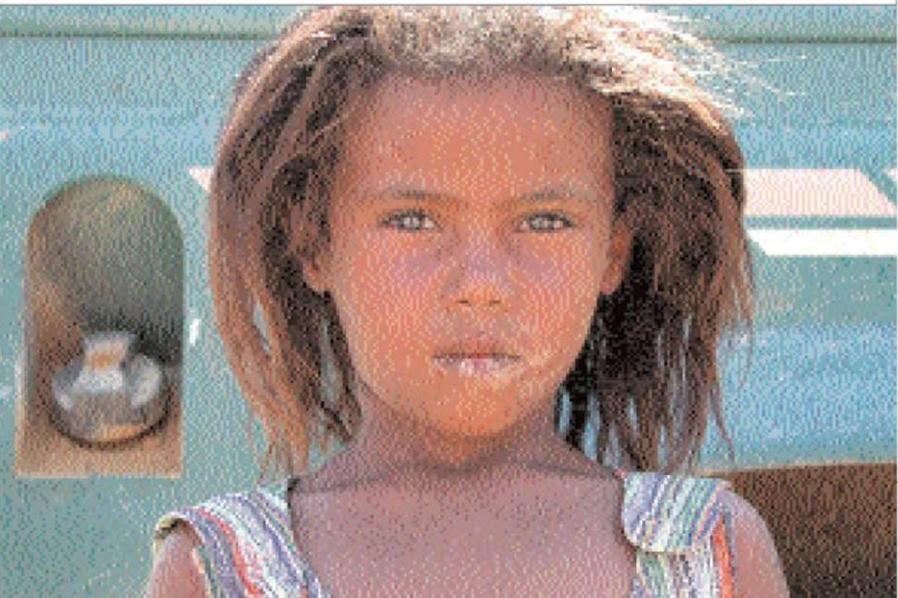
- Sharing the pastry I bought with three little boys in the lobby of the hotel

I don't know why but people in Gonder had the habit of walking you to your hotel and it is so much more fulfilling when you have someone to share your food with.

- Being asked to go to the police station for the first time in my life

There is fighting in south of the Sudan and you aren't allowed to go there anyway. You have to register in every city and carry a travel permit. Sudanese people are mostly very nice and friendly, but there are always exceptions to the rule. One day, I was stopped by this man on the street because I had taken a picture of

A child in Zanzibar.





Our faithful truck "Max".

a mosque! He wanted to take my film, but couldn't, because my camera was digital. I showed him the picture and asked what was wrong with it. He didn't speak any English. He kept trying to snatch the camera out of my hand and I was hanging onto it. He then found a soldier, but the soldier didn't speak English either. So then they found someone who spoke English and he said to me "He suspects you, I suspect you." I wonder what he suspected? That I was a spy? "What's wrong with taking a picture of a mosque?" I asked again. Couldn't get any answer. They said I had to go to the police station. Of course I wasn't going to go! Why should I?! Finally I deleted the pictures and walked away. I couldn't argue with stupid people! We had a small problem the last day, too. I guess everywhere there are officials who have a complex, who like to feel they are important. Well, as they say in Africa, Hakuna Matata!

- Missing Meroe and being stuck in Wadi Halfa, Sudan for about a week waiting for the cargo ferry

Even though there was nothing to do, those 6 days are probably going to be the most memorable days of this trip.

- Going out for a walk with hyenas

I had read a book called "The Impossible Journey" about a man and a woman crossing the Sahara from west to east on camelback in 13 months. After reading such a book, I wanted to feel the endlessness of the desert, the vastness of the sky and grandeur of the rocks which looked invincible. Soooo, I went out for a walk at night.

I was lying and night-dreaming when in the distance I saw about 25-30 men walking slowly in front of a car. I wondered if this was some strange tradition or something like the Klu-Klux-Klan? Life has a certain routine in Wadi Halfa. You get up 7ish, have tea with milk and some biscuits, at 11 you have breakfast, 4 o'clock lunch, 6 pm tea (normal), weddings are at 9 and they end at 11 pm which means time for dinner! And at midnight the lights go out! So I thought this

might be a ritual I did not yet know of. Sudan is safe but I didn't want men to see me alone in the middle of the night. I got up and started walking back home. Went into a different street each time to avoid the crowd, but turn a corner and there they were! In the end, I found out that they were men of the village trying to trace me! The whole town had gotten out to search for me because there were hyenas in the area! And they had tracked where I took off my shoes, where I sat, where I lay down. It was embarrassing. But sort of funny in a way - here they were looking for me and I was trying to avoid them! It never occurred to me that I could be the object of their search.

- Have you ever been afraid of your hand?

We had henna done on our hands in Sudan. Married women can get henna on their feet too, singles, on their hands only. They told us that red henna meant that you wanted to get married. Of course, they told us after it was too late! That night, at dinner, I suddenly jerked my hand away.... there was a dark, ugly bug on my hand.

- Washing with a bucket of water

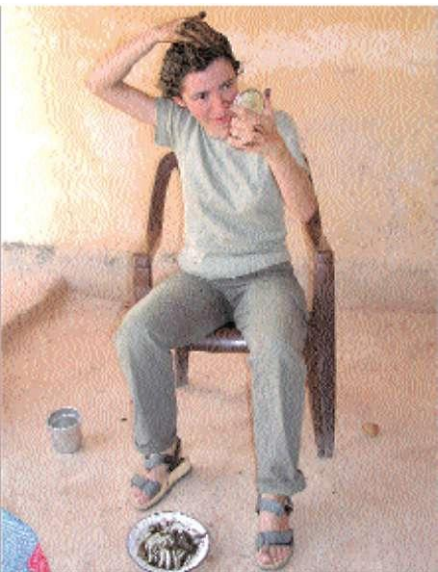
- Thinking to myself "it's good to know you won't be cold when you go out"

- The difficulties in crosscultural communication

Jody and Sally went to the supermercato, the largest open market in Africa, looking for t-shirts. They went into a shop. The man looked at Jody and said "Okay for you" He looked at Sally and said "No, you are fat". They went into another shop. The man said "Yes for her, but no for you. You are fat". When the same thing happened a third time, Sally started to get irritated. These people were insulting her all the time! And then she realized that they were in Ethiopia: a country where there was famine. So it was actually a compliment for them to say that she



The Masai tribe in Kenya.



Applying henna in Sudan.

was fat. Her plumpness was a sign that she had food to eat and was healthy.

- and of course above all: Viktor, Awad, Mithat in Wadi Halfa, Grace in Ethiopia, the Greek-Sudanese boy Ducas who said "I'm just a dot in a sentence", Mefaret at Hotel Shady, Abdullah in Syria and friends with no names... all the smiles on faces I won't remember...

Africa is a great continent. I liked most that the difference in your skin color does not generate hatred and hostility. On the contrary, it is a means of friendship and welcome. Wherever you go, it is pretty obvious you are a foreigner and everybody you pass on the street greets you with a smile and waves. The only exception would probably be South Africa, but, given their tragic history, can you blame them?

I realized on this trip that while before I was more interested in countries, places to see, history, nature and stuff like that, now I'm more interested in people. Beyond all those wonderful buildings and history, there is a human mind and a human heart. Even if I hadn't seen any sights in Ethiopia, it still would have been worth the trip just to play ball with children on the street, the ball made from ragged clothing wrapped around a plastic bag.

The people and rhythm of life is different from ours. Just being there, you learn the true meaning of "Hakuna Matata". You get used to hearing it everywhere. Nothing in life is so serious as long as it's not a matter of life and death or no permanent injuries are done.

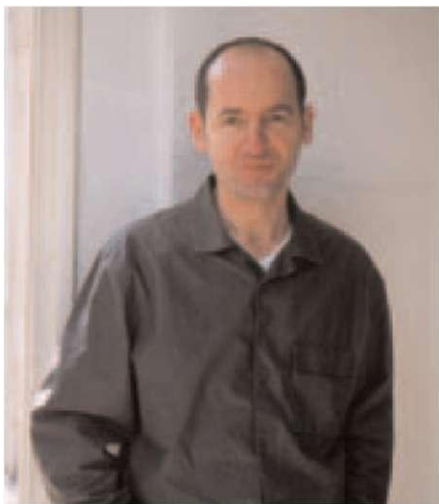
"Haraka haraka haina baraka."

Life has a slow pace here. No hurries no worries in Africa. This continent has a lot to teach us.



# RC IN THE CITY: VENUES WE RUN

## PAVING THE WAY: An Istanbul Contemporary Art Space Thrives



Istanbul may not have its own Guggenheim, but in the past decade, a vibrant contemporary art scene has been slowly blossoming. This mini renaissance is taking place in no small part thanks to the unflagging efforts of curator and art historian **Vasif Kortun RC 78**, who created both Proje4L, a contemporary art museum in Levent, and Platform Garanti, a contemporary art center in Beyoğlu, two years ago. The aim, he says, "is to make Istanbul, in our little ways, a more liveable place, a place with specific qualities, to help make it into the city that it deserves to be". Both institutions are world class - in fact, Platform was recently selected one of the 10 best contemporary art institutions in Europe that makes the most of its location.

Kortun returned to Istanbul from New York in 1997, where he had spent four years and was founding director of the Museum of Curatorial Studies at Bard College. "I longed for Istanbul, my parents, the apartment at Hisar with a view of the Bosphorus and of course the prospect of my daughter growing up with her grandparents in an extended family situation was attractive," he said.

He was asked by the Ottoman Bank to give a presentation on the possibility of starting up a contemporary art institution. After a year of talks, in 2001 the bank decided to fund Platform. After the merger of Garanti Bank with the Ottoman Bank later that year, the center passed over to the former. "I still think in retrospect that it was a remarkable feat both for Osmanlı to start it and Garanti Bank to uphold and develop this institution in the

fairly risk averse cultural climate in Turkey,". Proje4L began at almost the same time as a joint project between Kortun and Can Elgiz, its founder and financier. "I feel both blessed and privileged to work with intelligent people and institutions", says Kortun, comparing recent years to tougher times during a previous sojourn in Turkey between 1988-1993.

Platform, located in the heart of Beyoğlu, on Istiklal Caddesi, is a multipurpose space devoted to contemporary art which offers both educational and exhibition facilities. The ground floor of the tastefully restored building is a pristine gallery, which plays host to rotating exhibitions featuring both local and international artists. In May, for instance, the gallery opened an exhibition, **Shadows and Ghosts**, curated by Lewis Johnson and featuring nine contemporary Turkish artists.

On the floors above, Platform is also a place of resource, featuring a library of 3,500 titles, magazines, videos and more. Art professionals and talent scouts visiting Istanbul come straight to the center to consult Kortun who keeps on file full and up-to-date portfolios of more than 90 contemporary Turkish artists, ranging from well-known names like Kutluğ Ataman to emerging talent.

A cornerstone of the Platform ethos is its emphasis on discussion and interaction, hence the name. Each month features talks by international names on the cutting edge of contemporary art, including world renowned curators like Hou Hanru and Charles Esche.

Kortun has no plans -for the time being- to expand Platform. Instead, as director his immediate goal is to consolidate the center's activities to create a more integrated institution where the lectures, residency program, the archive and the exhibitions feed off each other. "We have in two years reached our spatial limits, and in that sense we are not planning to expand any further. We now want to consolidate and set an example of institutional model, if you excuse my arrogance, internationally."

Platform's core activities are largely funded by Garanti Bank, but it also relies on donations from international institutions and individuals to carry out innovative projects like a residency program under which emerging international artists are invited to Istanbul where they lead workshops and create site specific work.

For more information, contact  
Vasif Kortun at:  
Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center  
276 istiklal Cad., 80050 Beyoglu  
Istanbul - Turkey  
Work: 90 212 293 2361  
Fax: 90 212 293 3071  
e-mail: [kortun@netone.com.tr](mailto:kortun@netone.com.tr)

Gallery hours:  
Weds-Thurs 13:00-20:00  
Fri-Sat 13:00-22:00

Archives open daily except Sunday and Monday, 13:00-18:00



# ALUMNI NEWS

## ELİ BENAZRA RC 43



Mr. Benazra wrote to say how much he enjoyed reading about Şiar Yalçın, in the Fall 2002 issue of the RCQ, his "buddy" and some-times rival

whom he had not seen since graduation! He left Istanbul during WWII to study medicine in the USA and graduated from Northwestern University, Chicago and went on with psychiatric specialty training. He has been in private practice and also enjoyed being on the faculty of the Loyola University Medical Center in Illinois, helping residents with their psychiatric training. Benazra maintains a relationship with other RC alumni in the Chicago area and other parts of the USA, including Acar Bill RC 42 and Kaya incikaya RC 43. Another classmate of his, Sami Haas, now living in Israel, asked him if he was still trying to prepare for the Olympics (one of his college dreams!). Benazra replied that he runs at 8 am six days a week as he dashes from the parking lot to his office to be on time for patient appointments. After work, he adds, he tries to spend some time swimming in the neighborhood pool as he fantasizes that he is swimming from Rumeli Hisar, across the Bosphorus.  
Tel: 001 630 571 8118

## ALİ H. NEYZİ RC 46

Prolific writer Ali Neyzi wrote to the RCQ from Antalya where he says he is in "voluntary exile". An insurance executive by profession, he has retired from the active work force but continues to hold positions on various boards. His insurance background includes top level management positions at Türkiye Genel Sigorta A.O., Tam Sigorta A.fi, Tam Hayat Sigorta A.Ş., Halk Sigorta T.A.Ş., Halk Yaşam A.Ş., Halk Reasürans A.Ş., Karacan Holding, La Suis Umum Sigorta A.fi., isviçre Sigorta A.Ş. and isviçre Hayat Sigorta. He has also been an active participant of various foundations, associations and trustee boards, one of them being the Robert College Board of Trustees of which he continues to be a Trustee Emeritus. Other institutions which have benefited from his vast expertise are: Türk Eğitim Vakfı (Turkish

## To : RC ENG 48 Graduates From : Joseph Shabi

Dear Friends,

A group of RC48 graduates of the Engineering School are toying with the idea of having a sort of Reunion/Homecoming on the 60th Anniversary of joining the College i.e. in the year 2004. The general consensus is to make it coincide with the Commencement Day, which used to be in June. However we intend the gathering to take place in our good old Campus in Bebek. We are liaising with Boğaziçi Alumni Society for full details.

Best Regards,  
Joseph Shabi

[jmshabi@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jmshabi@tiscali.co.uk)

Educational Foundation) in which he was a founding member and on the first board of directors; Hisar Eğitim Vakfı (Hisar Educational Foundation) of which he was a founding member and carried out the duties of general secretary and chairman of the board as well as being active in the creation of Bizim Tepe, the RC alumni club; Boğaziçi University Alumni Foundation of which he was a founding member; Economic and History Foundation of which he was also a founding member, TÜSİAD ; YASED and Istanbul Municipality Theaters, where he was a member of the repertoire committee.  
e-mail: [alinevzi@antnet.net.tr](mailto:alinevzi@antnet.net.tr)

## JOE FARHİ RC 47

Mr. Farhi retired from accounting and auditing from the American International Group. He had been in the finance world since his postgraduate degree. In his retirement days he is traveling extensively, visiting his RC friends in Canada, USA and Europe. He is also a member of several clubs and includes the gym and swimming in his activities. He enjoys giving private lessons in French and Spanish, does translations and occasionally interprets.

Mr. Farhi's busy life also includes his two grandsons, Michael and Mathew with whom he enjoys a good game of basketball!  
e-mail: [EVIENYS@aol.com](mailto:EVIENYS@aol.com)

## NİSSİM ESKENAZİ RC ENG 48

Mr. Eskenazi, who lives in Illinois, retired as President of Eskenazi, Farrel & Fodor, PC Structural Engineers in Chicago. He is a founder and past president of Structural Engineers Association of Illinois (SEAOL) and a life member of both SEAOL and American Society of Civil Engineers as well as being the father of two sons, Marc and Paul and two daughters Anita and Beth.  
e-mail: [niszena@aol.com](mailto:niszena@aol.com)

## NEJLA YARKUT SOLU ACG 49



Nejla Solu in the center with her husband of 53 years Hami Kılıç Aslan Solu, and surrounded by their sons Yıldırım and Cem, daughters-in-law and 8 grand-children. The Solu family lives in Madison, New Jersey.

## GEORGE J. BESİ RC 51

The father of three daughters, George Besi lives and works in Athens, Greece where he owns and runs The Besi Group, Shipping Agency, Shipping, Trading and Transport Company.  
e-mail: [mail@besiship.com](mailto:mail@besiship.com)

## ESİN EDEN ACG 54

After graduation, Esin Eden worked as a secretary and acted in the first amateur theater "Cep Tiyatrosu". As a Fullbright scholar she got her M.A. in Speech and Drama from Kansas University. She became a professional actress in 1961 at Oraloğlu Theater, then worked in Dormen and Poyrazoğlu theaters. Presently, she is acting with the Istanbul Municipality Theater. Esin Eden has translated **The Hite Report**, **Brain-Sex**, and a few plays. Wrote a cookery book, **Salonika - A Family Cookbook** published in English in Greece and



# ALUMNI NEWS

**Annemin Yemek Defteri - Selanik, MUnich, Brüksel, istanbul (Oğlak Yayınları).**  
Esin Eden has two sons. Ali Hikmet Yavuz is a copywriter with an advertising company who recently won the Behçet Necatigil Poetry Prize for his book **Şeytan Uçurtması**. Her other son Ömer Emre Yavuz works at Mimar Sinan University-Sculpture Department and was one of the artists who created the sculptures at the State Cemetery in Ankara. She has also appeared in a few TV commercials as well as many TV serials and a few films such as **Karılar Koşuşu**, **İz**, **La Reve D'Esther** for French TV 5, and **Hallalabad Blues** in Denmark.

**KINCAL NAZLIVEZNEDAROĞLU ACG 57**  
Wrote to the RCQ from Naples, Florida where she and her husband are enjoying retirement and spending time with their four grandchildren. With a master's degree in clinical social work from Smith College, she worked for 27 years with the family therapy units of mental health clinics. Since she says she doesn't use or want e-mail, those wishing to get in touch can write to: P.O. Box 110688, Naples, Florida 34108.

**DOĞAN TÜRKER RC 58**  
Author/ researcher Doğan Türker would like to announce the launch of his new web site at [www.skyrootuni.com](http://www.skyrootuni.com) which contains interesting parts from his ongoing research in the subject of "The Universal Mother Tongue".  
Türker lives and works in Ankara and is the father of two daughters, Kına Yarpınar and Pelin Türker.  
e-mail: [doganturker@ttnet.net.tr](mailto:doganturker@ttnet.net.tr)

**TUNCAL FENMAN RC 58**  
Received a certificate of proficiency in English from the University of Michigan, English Language Institute in 1962 and a certificate of teaching from the English Department of Teachers Training Institute at Çapa/Istanbul in 1965. Fenman was employed at the foreign trade departments of two major firms in Istanbul for about 20 years and is now working as a technical translator for MIKEN, which is the first firm in Turkey publishing two industrial periodicals related with the packaging industry.  
The father of two sons and a daughter, Fenman enjoys photography, fishing, cooking and playing bridge.  
Office tel: 216 495 94 80

**ERSİN SÜEREN RC 59**  
Completed his military service in the Turkish Navy as a diver and deck officer. Between 1962-1986 he owned two rescue and harbor construction vessels and worked on the whole coast of Turkey and Northern Cyprus as a professional diver, harbor construction, underwater pipeline contractor, salvage operator and captain. He occupied administrative positions, as a board member in the Turkish Chamber of Shipping between 1983-1992 and between 1987-1992 was an elected council member too. Served as the representative of the auxiliary vessels of Turkey and expert arbitrator in the Turkish courts. Since 1993, Süeren has been working as a "Blue Voyage" Super Charter Captain on the Mediterranean during the summers. From 1997 onwards, he has been spending the winter months in Port Washington, New York.  
He also continues to place first in international swimming marathons in the master's category and is an amateur historian, interested in Anatolian and Mediterranean maritime history.  
[Sueren11050@yahoo.com](mailto:Sueren11050@yahoo.com)



**MAURICE ASSEO, RC ENG 59**  
Obtained a post-graduate degree in development planning from Grenoble, France. He worked for a French firm before joining in 1973 the Food and Agriculture

Organization of the U.N. in Rome, and, in 1977, the World Bank in Washington, where he spent 20 years as a Senior Agricultural Economist until his retirement. He also became a professional photographer and has often been exhibited in the USA and in Istanbul and is a member of an art gallery in Bethesda, Maryland. He has visited more than eighty countries and has extensively photographed Turkey, Brazil, France, Morocco, Rajasthan, Nepal, Bhutan, Egypt, Western Europe, Canada, West Africa and the USA. He has won prizes from the Photographic Society of America for his multi-media slide shows. Two of his shows,



**The Bosphorus and Beyond, and Spiritual Crossroads of Anatolia** are being readied for print as an illustrated narration. The Assembly of Turkish American Associations has presented him with its Outstanding Achievement in Culture and Art Award. Maurice and his wife, Lina, née Perahya, of Istanbul, live in Chevy Chase, Maryland. They have two daughters, Camille, an M.D. specialized in family practice, and Elsa, an M.S. in Social Work, and a granddaughter and a grandson from each.  
E-mail: [masseo@erols.com](mailto:masseo@erols.com)

**FORTUNEE KAYRA-STUART ACG 61**  
Professional Experience: Research on language acquisition for English, Turkish and Hebrew at Stanford University, Stanford, CA. Co-founder of the Berkeley Center for Child Study and Psychotherapy; Chief Psychologist, Child Development Center, Children's Hospital, Oakland, CA, USA  
"I have a Ph.D. in Psychology. Currently, I have a busy private practice in Berkeley, CA, involved in psychotherapy with adults, children as well as doing custody evaluations for family court. I have a couple of clients from Turkey who prefer to speak Turkish in therapy."  
"I do oil painting, which I had started at ACG as a student. We have two daughters, ages 28 and 22 and we do backpacking in the high mountains in California. My husband and I have introduced many people to

backpacking. I enjoyed reading the Alumni News, I would love to hear or see anybody from ACG '61 visiting the San Francisco Bay Area. Anybody who wants information on psychology in the USA is also welcome to contact me."

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e.mail: [fortunee@doctorstuart.com](mailto:fortunee@doctorstuart.com)  
Berkeley Center for Child Study and Psychotherapy, 2550 Ninth Street, #115 Berkeley, CA 94710

#### EMİNE YAZICIOĞLU GEDİK ACG 62

"The traditional "Yazma" and "Oya" have been used as headgears for so long. Now it is time that they decorate our homes, our dining tables and our wardrobes," says Gedik, who makes table clothes, cushions, small lavender bags, beach dresses and beach pants ("as you know now- pareos are OUT!") combining colorful beads and special "oya" with "yazma".

"They make great gifts for loved ones and for ourselves. You may contact me or come and visit my showroom to see samples, who knows maybe you may become an "OYA" addict just like me!!

Please note that I give a 10% discount on cash payments for RC graduates!"  
Tel: 542- 477 0766

Work: 216- 418 1272

Home: 216- 347 5049

Home address: Hüseyin Bey Sok. Kervan Apt. 5/3 A Blok Moda - Kadiköy - Istanbul  
Showroom address: Mühürdar Cad. Uras Apt. No.83 Kadiköy Istanbul

#### MEHVEŞ AREL-GEYER ACG 63

Runs the hotel St. Gotthard in Basel, Switzerland. She has two daughters and two grandsons. Her older daughter Natalie Birimcim is also in the hotel business, having graduated from Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne. Her younger daughter Selinda Geyer finished Agnes Scott College after majoring in music. She is also an all-American title tennis player.

#### ÖMER ERÜL RC YÜK 63

After retiring from his various management positions in insurance, Erül moved to Marmaris in 1998. He says he "tried to appreciate nature, to learn to be patient and more tolerant towards any moving and living creature."

Last year, deciding to work again, he started a franchise of Remax

International/Remax Turkey in Marmaris dealing in real estate. He believes it is fun when you approach business with the atti-

tude he has acquired living in Marmaris. He is calling out to everyone to get in touch with him if they are interested in learning more about it.

Office tel: 252-412 2555

#### ALİ HAYDAR ÜSTAY RC ENG 63

The owner of Üstay Construction, he is the father of Osman, Murat and Yasemin and has many interests, including nature and hunting, fishing, skin diving, tennis and the search for reality through cosmology, quantum mechanics, philosophy and nature.  
Office tel: 212 346 01 12

#### YUSUF YERMEŖ RA 65

After graduating from RA, he attended university in Aix-en-Provence, France where he earned a BS in economics in 1970. Upon completion of his military service in Turkey he went to Italy and has been living and working in Genoa since then. Presently he is the director/partner of Ferrobulk SRL, an international ship broking company and has two children, Vanessa, age 26 and Barbara, age 23.

e-mail: [yermen@ferrobulk.com](mailto:yermen@ferrobulk.com)

#### HASAN DOĞAR RA 69

Doğar has served 26 years as an MD and is an Assoc. Professor in internal medicine and cardiology. After working for more than a decade each at Istanbul University and International Hospital of Istanbul he has now moved to Levent Cerrahi in Levent, Istanbul to operate a heart center where all kinds of non-invasive heart tests are available.

e-mail: [LC@leventcerrahi.com](mailto:LC@leventcerrahi.com)

Office tel: 212-324 0150

#### EMEL HEKİMOĞLU MEHLUM ACG 69



Johan and Emel Mehlum at a fish restaurant in Istanbul

Writes from Eugene, Oregon where she lives with her husband Johan, a Norwegian-American, and their cat Pasha. "I have an

## SAVE THIS DATE HOMECOMING 2003

Sunday, November 16, 2003.

undergraduate degree from Linfield College and a Masters in Social Work from Portland State University. I have been a volunteer counselor for many years at a Family Counseling Center and just recently joined the staff at Lane Community College as part of their faculty. My husband, chairman of the board and CEO of a commercial bank, and I enjoy traveling, playing bridge, and cooking. We own an apartment in Ulus, Istanbul and love to spend time there with family and friends."

Emel Mehlum can be contacted at  
[Emehlum@aol.com](mailto:Emehlum@aol.com)

#### ROBERT ELVIN RA 66, RC 70

Elvin lives in Toronto, Canada and works as marketing director at Brenntag Canada Inc. He has two daughters , ages 25 and 23. He would love to hear from friends.

e-mail [relvin@brenntag.ca](mailto:relvin@brenntag.ca)

#### SEMRA ÖZÜMERZİFON ACG 70

The mother of two boys, aged 25 and 28, Semra Özümerzifon wrote to us from Geneva.

"Since graduation I have been painting constantly. In Istanbul I had attended late Necdet Kalay's workshop. Settling in Geneva in 1980, I attended Fine Arts Academy for four years while practicing engraving at Güngör iblikçi's atelier. I have been exhibiting regularly since the late seventies in various countries and have been participating in International Art Fairs. The latest of these was Europ'Art, a major international event held in conjunction with the Geneva Book Fair, which took place in Geneva from 30 April to 4 May 2003. Recently, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs acquired two of my large paintings. They are now decorating the residence of the Turkish Ambassador to the World Trade Organization. I have also appeared in the 2003 Edition of "Who's Who in International Art" ([www.whoswhoart.com](http://www.whoswhoart.com)).

In Istanbul I work with Cumali Gallery in Teşvikiye, at Şakayık Sokak No. 45. Over the last few years I held several exhibitions there and some of my paintings are in the Gallery's permanent collection. Those interested can visit my web site:





## ALUMNI NEWS

[www.semra.com](http://www.semra.com) where more detailed information on my work and a cross section of my paintings can be viewed.  
Address: 10 Bd de la Tour , 1205 Geneva, Switzerland  
Phone: +41 22 320 08 63  
e-mail: [semra@semra.com](mailto:semra@semra.com),  
[ozumerzifonsemra@hotmail.com](mailto:ozumerzifonsemra@hotmail.com)

### EMRE AYKAR RC ENG 70

Married to Sara Koral and father to a daughter Burcu, Aykar has been Chairman of the Board of Yapı Merkezi Construction and Industry Inc. since January 2003. He is also a member of the board of the Turkish Contractor's Association, the Chairman of DEIK (Slovenian Turkish Business Council), member of the International Association for Housing Sciences, Miami, Union Inter.of Public Transport., Brussels, New York Academy of Science and the Istanbul Science Foundation as well as being a member of Klassis Golf Club and Galatasaray Sports Club.  
e-mail: [emre@ym.com.tr](mailto:emre@ym.com.tr)  
Office tel: 216 321 9000

### ŞELELE BİRGEN ACG 71

With a degree from Boğaziçi University in English Language and Literature, and an M.A. in Adult Education, Birgen has been an instructor at Boğaziçi University since 1979. She is also the mother of a 12-year-old daughter.  
e-mail: [yakansu@hotmail.com](mailto:yakansu@hotmail.com)

### AVRAM MİZRAHİ RC 74

Mizrahi lives and works in Israel where he is an attending senior pediatrician in the Pediatric Department of Wolfsohn Medical Center. He is affiliated with Tel Aviv University, Sackler Medical Faculty. He has a private practice in Modiin, which is a city located between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Married to Monik, who is a puppet theater artist, their children are Maya, Keren and Tom.  
e-mail: [simbama@012.net.il](mailto:simbama@012.net.il)

#### The Turkish Sign

Language web site, which we referred to in the "RC Reaches Out" section of our last issue is now online.

You can visit the site at

<http://turkishsignlanguage.ku.edu.tr>

### FİGEN KUŞÇUOĞLU DEMİRAĞLI RC 76



Since about a year, Figen Kuşcuoğlu Demirbağlı has been working at Syngenta Tarım as Assistant to Country Head. Syngenta is an agri-business which ranks number 1 in the world in crop protection. It was formed 2 years ago through the merger of Swiss Novartis and British Zeneca agrochemicals. The global HQ is in Basel, Switzerland.

Not-so-recent news: Married to Mehmet Demirbağlı, a lawyer by profession, and a lecturer at izmir's Dokuz Eylül and Ege Universities on Labor Law, Intellectual Property Law, Construction Law, and History of Civilizations. Apart from lectures, he's working hard writing his book on History of Civilizations.

Daughter Derya (born 1983) is a junior in Computer Engineering, University of Galatasaray. She's a graduate of St. Joseph Izmir, and an actress at the Drama Club.

Home tel: 232 - 336 83 51

Office: 232 - 435 80 54

e-mail: [figen.demiragli@syngenta.com](mailto:figen.demiragli@syngenta.com)

### VAROL S. TOGAY RC 78

Is a cardiologist in private practice living and working in California.  
[VSTO@aol.com](mailto:VSTO@aol.com)

### SEVAL UMUT SUBAŞI RC 80

Received her B.A. in Business Administration and M.A. in Marketing from Istanbul University. Worked at Toprak Kağıt A.fi. for four years as a product manager then moved to S.C Johnson Wax A.fi. and worked there as a Category Product Manager for six years. In 1995, Seval Subaşı established her own travel agency "Tour Sava". Tourism had always been one of her hobbies and she tried to combine it with her professional life. It was great fun for her until the birth of Pırl when she had to transfer her company to another group at the end of 2000. She has taken a break from professional life after 25 years and is now planning to return

to work in probably a multi-national company as a marketing executive. Her husband Mustafa is the general coordinator of REKA group. Seval's favorite interests continue to be traveling and gastronomy.  
e-mail: [bugusubasi1@superonline.com.tr](mailto:bugusubasi1@superonline.com.tr)



Seval Subaşı and her daughters  
Pırl, age 2 and Buğu, age 13.

### ÖZLEM ÇAMLI RC 82

Çamlı is a licensed clinical child psychologist. In September 2000 she opened a comprehensive childcare center offering mainstream and therapeutic childcare as well as psychological services to children and families. The Rainbow Center for Children and Families in Connecticut keeps her very busy but she says it has been very rewarding. Also, she says her two year old son Deniz has been a joy to raise and he is already bilingual.

Office tel: 001 860 529 5229

### SELİM TEZEL RC 83

Selim wrote to the RCQ to let us know that one of the images generated on the computer with his Master's Project software "Traveling Salesman's Sketchpad" (TSSP 1.0) was a finalist at Manifest 2003, a juried digital visual arts festival (as part of the Boston Cyberarts Festival). The opening reception was on April 10th at the Copley Society of Art's gallery in Boston and the exhibition lasted until May 10.

The gallery on line is:

[www.copleysociety.org/manifest](http://www.copleysociety.org/manifest)

Selim's work can be viewed at:

[www.cs.brown.edu/people/stezel/webPageDesign/thesis.html](http://www.cs.brown.edu/people/stezel/webPageDesign/thesis.html)

You can reach Selim Tezel, who also taught Math at RC between 1991-1998, at [selim\\_tezel@hotmail.com](mailto:selim_tezel@hotmail.com)

### PINAR BONCUK DAYANIKLI RC 83

Has been in Turkey for nearly 7 years after completing degrees in pediatrics (Mass General Hospital, Boston) and

### GIVE A SCHOLARSHIP IN YOUR NAME

If you wish to provide a financially needy yet very deserving student with an RC education starting this fall, please contact Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu at the Alumni & Development Office. A scholarship in your name, or in memory of someone you designate, will be the turning point in a young person's life, especially since he/she may not be able to attend Robert College otherwise. Your gift can be tax deductible.  
Call: 212 263 42 39, 212 359 22 22, or write to  
[cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr).

neonatology (UCSF, San Francisco). Was appointed Director of Pediatrics at American Hospital in Istanbul. Also co-director of neonatal intensive care unit, providing care for babies born between 500 - 1500 grams. At this unit, which is one of the leading ones in Turkey, the survival rate for a 1000-gram baby is close to 90%! In addition to caring for the many babies in her responsibility, Dr. Dayanıklı also has two daughters of her own, Beril, age 6.5 and Ela, age 3.5.  
e-mail: [pdayanikli@ixir.com](mailto:pdayanikli@ixir.com)

**ESER SELCAN AYDOSLU RC 85**  
Profession: Marketing Manager at Merck, Sharp & Dohme (American Pharmaceutical co.). Aydoslu has been working at Merck since graduating from the University of Nottingham. First in London for 2.5 years, in Istanbul since then. They had a baby boy on December 10,

2001, named Eren.  
Mobile: 0532.2139397  
Work: 0212.2135800 /x:114

**DENİZ RAZON RC 89**  
Engaged to be married in a July 2003 ceremony in Istanbul, Deniz who is a senior product manager at Abbott Laboratories sent the RCQ her most recent news. Graduated in 1993 from Mount Holyoke College in International Relations and is the co-scribe for the '93s news column. While working in New York, she served on the board of RCAAA (Robert College Alumni Association of America). Graduated from the University of Michigan MBA program, Marketing and Strategy in 1997. In 1997, joined Abbott Laboratories' Management Development Program, which is a rotational program in marketing. Currently marketing cardiovascular medications in the pharmaceutical industry.  
Phone: (847) 938 7571  
Fax: (847) 938 6860

**SANEM ALKAN RC 90**  
"I graduated from RC in 1990 and moved to the US. I attended the University of Texas at Austin for my BBA in Finance and then moved to New York for Marsh, Inc., which is the world's largest risk management consulting firm. I received my MBA in Finance from NYU in 1999 and joined Goldman Sachs. I worked in the firm's private wealth management team and focused on investors in the Mountain region (Colorado) of the US. During the summer of 2001, I decided to join a firm in NY that invests in hedge funds (these are similar to mutual funds, but can use more leverage and short selling to make money when stocks are losing value). I am working at Whitney & Co, which manages \$5 billion in private equity and hedge funds. I am head of marketing, and manage relations with clients of the firm's \$700 million hedge fund business (which include major endowments, funds that invest in hedge funds and private investors). It has been an

incredible career so far. I'm also enjoying living in the US very much. I have been able to do many interesting things in my spare time: I visit different countries, learn Flamenco guitar, French and Spanish, and play all kinds of sports (mainly tennis, swimming and running). I am really excited about these activities and accomplishments, and look forward to doing much more."

### BARİFİ KARADOĞAN RC 90



Barış Karadoğan with one of his twin daughters, on their birthday.

Has been working in Silicon Valley for the past three years for a venture capital company named U.S. Venture Partners. His wife Susana, is the design director of Wired magazine and she is based in San Francisco. Their twin daughters Sofia and Lara are three years old and were recently joined by a brother, Sinan, born in March 2003.

**ÖZHUN OLGAR RC 95**  
After RC, studied finance and management at the University of Denver. He is the current distributor for Rossignol, Dunlop and Nellpryde in Turkey. Özhun says as of today, his company Olgarlar Spor Malzemeleri is the market leader in extreme sports and skiing, tennis, windsurfing. He is also the owner of 8 branches of Sport Point Extreme shops. As of March 8, 2003 he opened the first Sergio Tacchini shop in Akmerkez, Istanbul and signed a master-franchising contract with Sergio Tachini S.P.A. for the distribution rights of the brand in Turkey. Olgar plans to open 10 more stores in the next 4 years.

**BERİL TARI RC 99**  
Beril wanted to share the news of the birth of a nephew, Isak Tari in November 2002. Isak is also the grandson of Odet Tari (Odeta Anavi when in school) ACG '64, RC'68. Odet Tari can be reached at Tel: 212 265 3711 Beril is at Columbia University 5694 Lerner Hall, New York, NY 10027-8357

## WHERE ARE YOU @ ?

Drop us an e-mail at [alumni@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:alumni@robcol.k12.tr) so we can update our records. Please send:

- your e-mail address • name and graduation year • mobile phone number • business phone & address • profession

Thank you. RC Alumni & Development Office





## LETTERS

I was sent the RC Quarterly that I had missed - the Fall 2002 issue. Thank you. My wife and I will treasure both copies- as well as future issues. They are wonderful.

Today the wisteria is in bloom here and it always reminds me of the wonderful wisteria vine over the front of Gould Hall. We hope it's still there and blooms every year. Always so.....güzel!

Bill Steltzer, Philadelphia  
ACG Orta science teacher 1965-67

It was so much fun reading your beautiful RC Quarterly. Bob and I enjoyed the news, photos of all our library friends and our memories went back to those six wonderful years in Istanbul. We wish that we could go back for a visit, but we have that little cottage in Sweden, so our summers are mostly spent there.

Yesterday we drove up to visit Fügen Gülerterkin (ACG 71) again. She is a wonderful, attractive lady, with the very best attitude one can imagine, in the most miserable conditions. But we had a great visit and she told about her family, her readings and her classes.

No answer has yet come forth about her appeal, but her lawyer seems like a nice guy on the phone. But Bob and I do not understand these matters very well.

We hope that you have had a beautiful spring on the campus and do greet so many wonderful friends from us,

Bob and Eva Forsgren, Ohio  
(Former PE and Math Teachers)

Tebrikler!  
Harika bir dergi yapmışsınız.  
"Ellerinize sağlık" demem abes kaçar;  
biliyorum, bu iş elle yapılmıyor;  
beyin işi, gönül işi...

Tekrar tebrikler ve sevgiler,

Ruşen Yazgan RC 72  
Ankara  
Nisan 2003

Thank you and congratulations for this wonderful publication. I feel very lucky to be a member of such an outstanding community like the RC alumni.

I experienced many pleasurable flashbacks to my high school years and had a big smile on my face while I was reading every page of the RC Quarterly.

Sevgiler,

Alper Afya RC 96  
New York

Derginin son iki sayısını alıyorum.  
Sağolsunlar, birisi NY adresine Türkiye'den postalanıyor.

Amerika'da çok kolejlin alumni'leri için yaptığı dergileri gördüm, okudum, RC Quarterly bu dergilerden daha kaliteli yorumunu rahatlıkla yapabilirim.

Üzerine basılan kağıt olsun, resim ve içindeki makalelerin kalitesi olsun, çok güzel bir çalışma.

Tüm emeği geçenlere sevgiler, saygılar,  
Işık Ökte RC 90  
New York

The RC Quarterly team  
would love to keep hearing from you  
-comments, suggestions, stories...  
Please write to us.

alumni@robcol.k12.tr  
laktay@robcol.k12.tr  
cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr  
info@ifistanbul.com

# OBITUARIES

## ALUMNI

### TEYFİK YALIM RC ENG 45

Died on April 24, 2003.

### ELENI BESI ACG 49

Died at the age of 74 in Greece on March 28, 2003. Her brother George Besi RC 51 survives her.

### DARIO TARANTO RC ENG 49

Died in January 2002 in Portugal. His wife America de Abreu Taranto survives him.

### İLHAM DİLMAN RC 50



One of the gentlest and kindest of men, died in Istanbul on January 17, 2003. He was Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the University of Wales, Swansea where he had taught with

brief interruptions since 1961. He was working at his family home in Kalamış, courageously against the clock, on his last book when he knew that his time was limited. He leaves behind his wife Anne, and his mother Emel Dilman, a renowned poet in the French language, and his many friends. İlham was part of a close knit group of friends at RC who have kept in close touch with each other over the last half century. İlham's father, who had wanted his son to study chemical engineering, was greatly surprised when İlham selected as unpractical a subject as philosophy for his vocation. İlham was educated at Cambridge University about the same time as Nur Yalman RC 50, İbrahim Öngüt RC 50, Cevat Çapan RC 53, Selahaddin Bayazıt, Karaca Taşkent and the late Tosun Moran, all of whom had remained much attached to him. His father would have been proud of his son's striking career. İlham Dilman's contributions to modern philosophy are impressive by any standard. He was remarkably prolific. His 19 books and more than 70 articles are likely to keep many graduate students busy for a long time. The Chair of Philosophy at Swansea that he occupied is one of the most prestigious of Chairs since it was originally occupied by Wittgenstein when he first came to England from his native Vienna. We are told that the University at Swansea had lowered the flags at half mast when the news of İlham's passing reached them. Dilman's major contributions concern the exposition of the moral significance of the work of Freud. This work entailed not only a

masterful control of problems in modern philosophy, but also an intimate familiarity with Freud, a thinker whose ideas have informed if not revolutionized the foremost intellectual preoccupations of the last century. After writing **Freud and Human Nature, Freud and the Mind**, and **Freud, Insight and Change**, Dilman went on to investigate the moral significance of the work of key European writers such as Dostoyevsky, Marcel Proust and Rainer Maria von Rilke. These works express the depths of his humane concern with the plight of modern individuals in a turbulent moral world, and the manner in which this is reflected in the great literature of our times. He had worked with John Wisdom at Cambridge, and it is a measure of his loyalty to his teacher that he organized a major conference at Trinity College, Cambridge, on the work of Wisdom and published its proceedings under the title **Philosophy and Life: Essays on John Wisdom**.

İlham was a person of angelic disposition. He was unfailingly kind and attentive to people around him. He was passionate not only about philosophy and literature, but also about music. An endearing aspect of İlham is that he became greatly interested in the Argentinean Tango and the major instrument of its expression, the Bandoneon, quite late in life. Even though this is a complicated instrument to play, İlham became adept at it and delighted his friends with his joyous performances. He was also an accomplished sailor and loved sailing around the Marmara islands with Anne on his yacht Chingacook, built originally by the renowned master builder Harun Bey for an Egyptian prince. Chingacook, in the famous novel by James Fenimore Cooper, is the last of the Mohicans. İlham Dilman, however, is not the last of an exceptionally well educated generation of young Turks who are more creative in universal intellectual terms than what many Europeans imagine at this time. As the European Union and the former president of France, M. Giscard d'Estaing, question whether Turkey belongs to the West or the East, the luminous career of İlham Dilman indicates that there are unsuspected depths in the great tradition of humanities, literature, music and philosophy in Turkey which can only enrich our universal heritage. İlham Dilman's creative life was a gift to all of us. Robert College, which contributed profoundly to his personal and intellectual formation early in his career, is proud to have had him among its ranks.

Submitted by, Nur Yalman RC 50

### M. ÜNER EKE RC ENG 52

Died on February 27, 2003. He is survived by his wife İnci Erke, his children Atıf-Ebru, Işıl, and idil Erke, and his grand-daughter Ece Erke.

### ALİ PASİNER RC 59



Died of heart failure at the age of 64 on April 21, 2003. Advertising executive Pasiner was well known for his love of the sea and of fishing. Also an author of books and essays on the subject of fish and the seas,

Pasiner's published books are **Amatör Balıkçının Cep Kitabı** (1984), **Balık Üzerine** (1992), **Balık ve Olta** (1997) and **İki Boğaz'ın Suları** (2001). Also the editor of about 15 other books, Pasiner's latest book **Türkiye'nin Balıkları: Büyük Mavinin Sessiz Sahipleri** is scheduled to be published by Yapı Kredi Yayınları in the following weeks. His wife and two children survive him.

### ERCAN ARIKLI RC 59



Ercan Ankh, a doyenne of Turkish magazine publishing and general coordinator of the Vatan magazines group, died in a tragic traffic accident in Istanbul on June 3, 2003. Arıklı was 63 years old and had recently

launched a brand new weekly news magazine.

Arıklı was a leading Turkish media personality. He was instrumental in the birth of many magazines, most notably as the founder of the **Nokta** and **Aktüel** weekly news magazines. In the many interviews he gave, he always said his main goal was to produce magazines that "clashed with the system." After Robert College, Arıklı went on to Lausanne University where he studied Political Science. His first journalism experience was when he and his classmate from RC, İsmail Cem, published the newspaper **ABC**. In an interview he gave in April this year, Arıklı said, "Until Robert College, I didn't have a clear cut idea in my head. Then I began to work on the College's weekly magazine, Echo. I realized it seemed



pointless to study journalism since that was what I knew I would be doing in the future anyway, so I studied political science." Known for his colorful and charismatic personality, Ankli was an energetic and prolific journalist. After ABC, which came out in 1966, he went into encyclopedia publishing, followed by the founding of Gelişim ve Süreli Yayınları in 1974. Nokta, Kadınca and Erkekçe were the magazines he published during that time. A short period at Söz newspaper was followed by his partnership and managerial position in Bir Numaralı Yayıncılık, an empire of many magazines including Aktüel, Penthouse, Cosmopolitan, Harper's Bazaar and Esquire among others. His most recent project was the recently launched weekly news magazine Haftalık. He is survived by his brothers Tuncer Arıklı and Gündüz Arıklı RC 58 as well as his niece Eda Arıklı RC 84, and nephews Murat and Can Arıklı.

**BERENT ENÇ RC ENG 60**

Died in Wisconsin on January 8, 2003 and is survived by his wife Jennifer Jones, two stepchildren and his daughter Defne. Following are excerpts from his obituary published in a Madison, Wisconsin newspaper. "Berent had retired a year ago from a distinguished career in the Department of Philosophy of the University of Wisconsin-Madison; for more than 30 years he was at the center of philosophical life and community in the University, serving twice as chair of the department. He was educated at Robert College, where he was an actor and director of some celebrity with the respected Robert College Players. He then briefly attended Princeton University, studying electrical engineering and then Oxford University, where his interest in philosophy was conceived. Berent's first field of specialization was the philosophy of science and he brought the convictions of scientific naturalism (and vestige of engineer's mentality) to his later work in the theory of knowledge, mind and action. His published papers made solid contributions to the progress of each of these fields, and to the understanding of the philosophy of David Hume. His influence on the philosophical work of his closest colleagues was profound. He was a superb and widely loved teacher. He greeted his students' efforts with an artful combination of generous interpretation and firm criticism. Oxford University Press will publish his book The Way We Act later this year. He was a deeply devoted lover of music and drama, a serious bridge player and an

audiophile and he loved mystery novels and traveling in Europe and showing his family and friends around Istanbul and Turkey."

**SERVET SEZGİN YILMAZ  
ACG 61 ex**



Foundation. She is survived by her daughter Prof. Füsun Ülengin, Dean of the Department of Industrial Engineering at Istanbul Technical University and her granddaughter idil, a student at Üsküdar American College.

Died in December 2002. She enjoyed her life as a mother and grandmother while also giving private English and French lessons. Translating articles was one of the wonderful contributions she made to the YORET

**MEHMET SELÇUK KUTMAN  
RC ENG 67**

Passed away in March 2003.

**NURAY BÜYÜKERK ŞENGİL  
ACG 68 RC ENG 72**

Passed away in February 2003.

**NAHİT YÜCEL RC 75**

Born in Kahramanmaraş in 1956, Nahit Yücel studied at RC with honors, was a Fulbright student and completed ODTÜ Civil Engineering in 1980. He had a brief stint as the manager of a construction site in Istanbul before spending 1983-1990 in Kahramanmaraş as a government engineer. A successful career continued with an import and construction material production business between 1990-1996. The next four years saw him in Laleli, in the textile production and export market. In 1985 he got married to Dr. Handan Yücel and they had two children, Yiğit born in 1986 and Umay, born in 1988. It was in September 2001 that Nahit was diagnosed with lung cancer. A one year of struggle against his illness was over on September 23, 2002 when he died. Nahit is remembered for his pioneering work in Turkish classical music while at RC, as well as his penning of short stories which led to several prizes. Calm and patient, he carried the characteristics of a real gentleman and these will set an example to his children who survive him, Yiğit who is at the German High School and Umay who is at St. Pulcherie, the French high school.

**FACULTY & FRIENDS**

**ALFRED OGDEN**

Former Chairman of the RC Board of Trustees, Alfred Ogden died at the age of 93 in New York City on Friday, March 21st, 2003, after a short illness. Mr. Ogden was elected to the Robert College Board of Trustees in 1952 and served as its Chairman from 1955 to 1963. In 1974, he stepped down from the Board and became a Trustee Emeritus and Member of the Corporation. During his tenure as Chairman, the practice was initiated of asking alumni and friends of the College resident in Istanbul to serve on the Board of Trustees, and the Robert College Yüksek was established in 1958. That same year Robert College and the American College for Girls were merged into one corporation registered with the Board of Regents of the State of New York. Mr. Ogden and his firm handled the legal requirements in New York when the Bebek campus and the Robert College Yüksek were turned over to the Turkish Government to become Boğaziçi University in 1971. Mr. Ogden graduated Cum Laude from Phillips Academy in 1928, received his B.A. from Yale in 1932, and his LLB from Harvard Law School in 1935. He was a Partner with Alexander & Green, Counselors at Law, then moved his office to Wickes, Riddell, Bloomer, Jacobi, & McGuire as Counsel to the firm where he continued to serve as legal counsel to Robert College. In 1980, he became Of Counsel to the firm of Reboul, MacMurray, Hewitt, Maynard & Kristol. His son, Alfred T. Ogden II, and several grandchildren survive him.

**TURGUT ERON**

Passed away on March 18, 2003. Mr. Eron was among the founding members of the RC Parents Association. His son Murat Eron RC 74 wrote to say that RC had always occupied a very special place in his father's memories as he regarded RC as a model for outstanding education. Contributions in the memory of Turgut Eron can be made to Robert College. For more information you may e-mail [alumni@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:alumni@robcol.k12.tr) or tel: 212 359 2289 in Turkey or e-mail [lprevot@robcol.org](mailto:lprevot@robcol.org), tel: 212 843 5550 in New York.

Murat Eron can be reached at [nportlu@yahoo.com](mailto:nportlu@yahoo.com)

Tel: 001 631 262 8950



## A News Item and a Request

By John Chalfant,  
Former RC Headmaster  
1971-77

This is to inform you that, some graduates and staff have prepared a memorial plaque to be placed in the Protestant Cemetery at Ferikby dedicated to the memory of those "RC/ACG family" members known to be buried there.

The intent is to acknowledge their contribution to the two institutions (now one) and to remind present and future generations that if they enjoy a somewhat 'better view', it comes from their "standing on the shoulders" of others. Because a sense of continuity is vital to any school that is proud of its past and confident of its future, this project furthers that purpose.

The plaque bears the names of 39 individuals resting there, most of them foreign born who came from many lands to further education in Turkey. This plaque will be the focal point for the occasional ceremony honoring them and their contribution. The RC Alumni Association will own it, as it were, and you will be informed as things progress.

In addition to this project, however, we

are also seeking more information about any others who served at the Colleges and are thought to be buried elsewhere in Istanbul (or in Turkey). The historical record goes back to 1850 and the first wife of Cyrus Hamlin, but it remains incomplete as to names, dates of service (and positions) at the Colleges, dates of death, and burial sites. For example, some died during epidemics and may have gone to mass graves.

But each has a story and we turn to you for assistance in learning more. Any information on the whereabouts of these former members of the "family" (both Turkish and foreign) will be greatly appreciated.

You may communicate directly with the Alumni Office and if you have a particularly scholarly interest in this quest and could volunteer your time and services, we would welcome your participation.

## IN MEMORIAM - RC + ACG "Family" Known to Rest in Feriköy, ISTANBUL - R.I.P.

ALLEN, William	d. 1952	HOFFMAN, Verda	d. 1962
ANDERSON, Abigail	d. 1919	KREIDER, Ethel	d. 1989
ASHOVER, Dorothy	d. 1988	KREIDER, Herman	d. 1967
AVERY, Robert	d. 1979	LANDES, Margaret	d. 1932
AZARIAN, Vahram	d. 1995	LANE, Herbert	d. 1976
BARNUM, Harry	d. 1939	LANE, Sophie	d. 1976
BARNUM, Helen	d. 1914	LONG, Nellie	d. 1879
DURFEE, Charles	d. 1895	MANNING, George	d. 1914
FONGER, Lee	d. 1971	MANNING, Alice	d. 1947
FUCHS, Traugott	d. 1997	ORMISTON, Susan	d. 1918
GRADIN, Pavel	d. 1966	ORMISTON, William	d. 1918
GARWOOD, Ann	d. 1987	PARRISH, Daniel	d. 1996
GARWOOD, David	d. 1975	POST, Caroline	d. 1934
GREENWOOD, Keith	d. 1971	SCOTT, Eveline	d. 1977
GROSVENOR, Harriet	d. 1890	SCOTT, Harold	d. 1958
HAMLIN, Harriet	d. 1857	SUMNER-Boyd, Hilary	d. 1976
HAMLIN, Henrietta	d. 1850	WALKER, Winifred	d. 1921
HAMLIN, Mary	d. 1852	WASHBURN, Henry	d. 1865
HAMLIN, Susan	d. 1859	WILLIAMS, Maynard	d. 1963
HAYMAN, Fred	d. 1951		

### LOUIS JAQUINET

Students of Robert College in the 1940's, 50's and 60's have many reasons to remember with affection and respect Professor Louis Jaquinet, who died near his childhood home in Aubonne, Switzerland in November 2002.

M.Jaquinet first joined the college French department in 1939 and continued to be a mainstay of that department until his departure in 1970. During those years, countless students came under his tutelage and profited from his enthusiasm for French language and literature, as well as absorbing along the way his understanding of humanity.



M. Jaquinet was also involved with many non-academic aspects of college life. As a member of the Tree Committee, he was personally responsible for much of the "greening" of the

hillside above the bowl, previously an eroded, treeless hillside. As a sportsman and avid lover of the outdoors, he participated in many events and could always be seen on field days, with his great friend Alexander Nadolsky, coaching and judging the events. ACG alumni may remember his first wife, Ina Tesar, who taught there for many years and will certainly remember the present Mrs. Jaquinet, nee Eleanor Romig, who taught at ACG in the 1950s and returned to be Dean of the College from 1963 to 1966.

Louis Jaquinet devoted much of his life to the International Committee of the Red Cross, as the following excerpts from a tribute given as part of a memorial service in Aubonne in November 2002, indicate. These remarks were made by Jean -Pierre Hocke, who was a colleague in the ICRC and went on to become High Commissioner for Refugees at the United Nations.

"Looking back over Louis Jaquinet's rich and generous life, one cannot fail to notice the main thread that runs throughout: his commitment to the victims of armed conflicts. This sense of duty was put into practice over more than forty years working for the International Committee of the Red Cross. At the beginning of the 1940s, although he had only just arrived in Istanbul to take up the post of teacher at Robert College, he

was once again snapped up by the ICRC. He became their representative in Turkey, responsible for escorting ships carrying food through floating minefields for people living on the Greek Aegean Islands occupied by the German army."

"On several occasions in the 1970's," Hocke added, "the ICRC called upon Louis' insight, his skill to judge people and solve sticky situations. His sense of mediation and conciliation worked wonders in Jordan, Vietnam, Cyprus, the UN and Egypt."

"To all those who knew him, Louis Jaquinet will always be remembered for his good humor, energy and boundless enthusiasm for life."

### PROF. DR. NECDET ERASLAN

Former professor of mechanical engineering at Robert College between 1957-1963, died at the age of 91 on March 3, 2003 in Istanbul. Following five years working with the Turkish government as an engineer, he taught at Istanbul Technical University, Yıldız Technical University, Istanbul University Faculty of Science, Robert College and Louisiana State University. His children Prof. Dr. Arsev Eraslan, Nüket Yasa, his grandchildren Ayla Olson, Suzan Eraslan and his wife Fahire Eraslan, survive him.



# ONCE UPON A TIME



Hobson in Istanbul at 1967.  
(Photo: Gürel Eğecioğlu, RA 64)

**Q: Ömer Eşecioğlu, RC 72**  
**A: J. Grady Hobson**

**Santa Barbara, CA**  
**May 02, 2003**

**Q:** You first went to RC in the 1950s. Tell me how that came about.

**A:** It came about I was teaching my first year out of college in Portland, Oregon in 1952 in a school that I hated. The district was lower middle class, going downhill fast. There were thirty five kids in the classroom and I decided by mid-year that if I finished the year in one piece, I was not going to go back there. I could not transfer to another school in the system. The main office told me that there were no openings. I then called the teacher placement secretary in Oregon State University's School of Education, and she said "How would you like to go overseas?" The thought had never crossed my mind until then. I told her that I would love to. She walked into my classroom about a week later and said that there was an organization called the Near East College Association, which is a grouping of all the American schools in the Middle East. They maintain this one office collectively. They needed a mathematics teacher at the American University of Beirut, and at Robert College of Istanbul. Those were the choices.

## J. Grady Hobson

An interview with the legendary math teacher who taught at RC for 20 years

The name Grady Hobson evokes a charismatic figure in the minds of generations of former RC students. Hobson, who taught Math at both campuses for a total of 20 years between 1952-60, 1962-68 and 1971-77, and also served as Housemaster at Theodorus Hall and Hamlin Hall in the 50's is among the most remarkable teachers RC has been fortunate to have. A former student, Omer Egecioglu '72 who has kept in touch with Grady Hobson over the years interviewed him for the RCQ in May 2003.

**Q: Did you end up going to Beirut first?**

**A:** I did not know Beirut from Istanbul. They were just names. For the next couple of weeks, I stopped on the way from school every day in the big library in downtown Portland, and really did some digging around to find out about them.

**Q: Why did you pick Robert College?**

**A:** What happened was this: the publisher of **National Geographic Magazine**, was born and raised on the Robert College campus. His father was a professor at Robert College. So that over the years, National Geographic had an awful lot of articles about Turkey. There was one in the library from 1948 about Istanbul. One full page picture, taken at the top of the bowl, looking down over the Rumelihisar to the Bosphorus, and over on the right hand side the buildings of Robert College. I took one look at that and thought "that's where I'm going!" So that's how it all came about.

**Q: For the benefit of the later generations of RC students, we are talking about the Bebek Campus, where the Bosphorus University is now, right?**

**A:** Yes, indeed.

**Q: Did you visit other schools before coming to Istanbul?**

**A:** No. There was no need. It was that one photograph that did it. It was a spectacular view of the Bosphorus, one of the most beautiful waterways in the world.

**Q: How did you become a math teacher?**

**A:** Well, because I was good in math. First I thought I wanted to be an engineer. So that's what I started in college in Corvallis, Oregon.

I was going to be a civil engineer. I did well, I was even on the honors list - but I was bored stiff. So I had to get out of it, and rescue something of the two years that I had already completed. What I could rescue was all those math credits. So I switched to math education.

**Q: You said you were not terribly happy with your teaching job in Portland. What did you think of the students in RC?**

**A:** To come from a place where the students were not the least bit interested in education, to Robert College, it was a paradise! Istanbul is one of the most beautiful cities in the world - WAS one of the most beautiful cities in the world. So the place was fascinating. Beautiful college on the hilltop. Great fellow teachers, and these marvellous students! They were the best the whole country could provide - you know that. You were one of them. It was not just brains however, it was also their personality which was so appealing.

**Q: Did you travel a lot in Turkey?**

**A:** I have been in every province in the country.



Hobson in Barton Hall in 1977.  
(Photo: Gürel Eğecioğlu, RA 64)

**Q: That's more than I can say for myself. Let me get back to your first years in RC. You were a housemaster were you not?**

**A:** I was a housemaster from 1954 to 1957 in Theodorus Hall of the academy. From 1957 to 1959, I was the housemaster in Hamlin Hall, the college dorm then. I then went back and lived in Theodorus hall for a year, but not as the housemaster. I was planning to go back to the US in 1959. I had bought an awful lot of things over the years at the Bazaar, because that was our Saturday morning activity: We went to the Bazaar. Week after week after week after week. I ended up with all kinds of stuff. The problem was that the Turkish customs would not clear it. I was trying to leave the country, but I could not take them out. I was told to get an export license, since I was obviously going to sell them in the US! So I applied for an export license. As the summer was progressing, I was trying to get that license. At a party, an official of the lise - by that time RC was a lise, and not orta - said that they could not find a replacement for me. He asked me if I would consider staying for one more year. I told him that I would consider it. He asked me what it would take to make me stay. I told him that I had worked on a missionary salary all those years, and I would like my salary doubled. He told me that he could probably arrange that. Of course that made me feel like a fool, having worked all those years on a small salary. It was the end of my contract, I already had a ticket from Istanbul to California, so I wanted to use it. Then if I was going to be teaching there again, they would have to bring me back. Additionally, a year later, I would like them to fly me back to California. Could this be arranged? He said he could probably arrange that, too. Everything I asked for, he said yes. Of course I told him that in that case I would love to stay for another year. This was the summer of 1959.

**Q: Did you stay for more than a year?**

**A:** Not at that time. In 1960, I went back to the US. I decided that I loved being a math teacher, but my masters degree was not in mathematics, it was in counseling. This turned out to be of great use running a dormitory, but in being a counselor, you are working in the negative side, and after a while it can get to you. But my main interest in life was to teach math. Around that time Sputnik happened. The American government panicked, thinking that the science program and the math program in the US schools was not good enough. The Russians had beat us to it. So the National Science Foundation offered fellowships to various programs set

up in the American universities. So I applied. They were terribly sorry, but they were only giving them to teachers active in the US, and so unfortunately I would not qualify since I was teaching in Turkey. I decided to play this game the way they wanted to, and looked for a teaching job in the US from Turkey, without an interview. This was a real stumbling block. All kinds of places I wrote to said that they were terribly sorry, I sounded interesting but they had to talk to me in person. But I was not going to fly all the way from Turkey to the US and back just for a personal interview. Finally I found one place that would hire me without an interview, a city that was growing so fast that only a third of the city streets were paved. They could not build schools fast enough, and they were desperate for teachers, particularly math teachers. They would hire me without any personal interview. They hired me. The city was Tucson, Arizona.

**Q: This was 1960?**

**A:** Yes. The summer of 1960. I stayed in Tucson for one year. Being a math teacher inside the US, I now applied again to Stanford, Oregon State, where I had been a student for my undergraduate degree, Arizona State University, and University of Illinois. I was offered a fellowship in all of them except Arizona State. I went to Illinois simply because the reputation was so good and I had already been to the other schools.

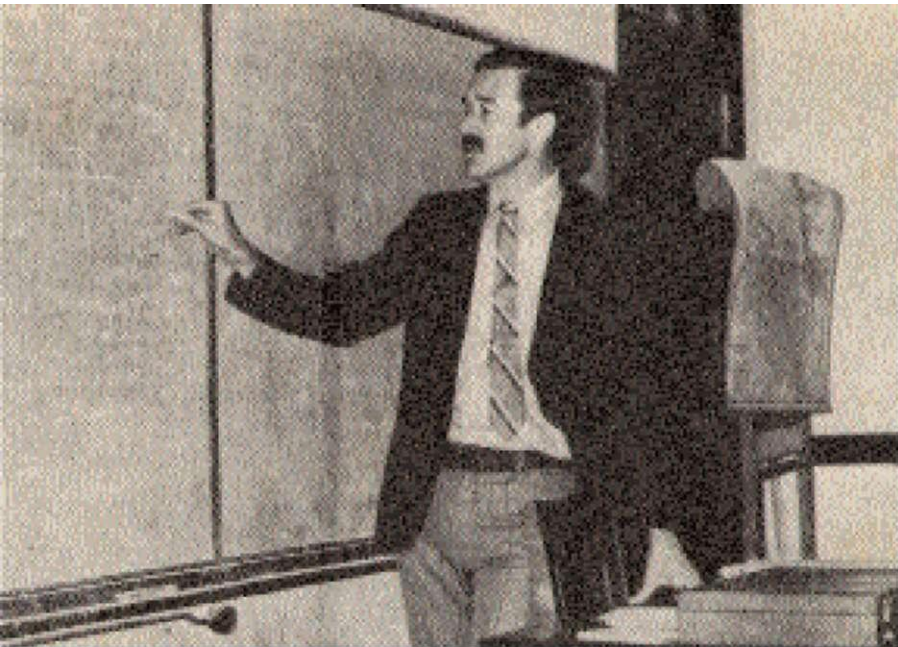
**Q: Everyone in RC knows you as Hobson, but you are Grady to some and Jim to others. Tell me about this.**

**A:** My father's first name was Grady. So that's what he was always called. It is the name of a county in South Georgia where his father was born. Grady and Grady Jr? It is not good in the family to have a father and son have the same name. It's confusing. So they called me Jim, being James Grady. I did not mind it then, I don't mind it now. But I hate James. This has it's own complications. Outside of Selma, my hometown in California, I am Grady. But in Selma around family I am still Jim.

**Q: The Class of '72 was amused by your colorful outfits, as reflected in the yearbook (see next page). Any comments?**

**A:** I did not realize that they were. That must have been from my three years in Verde Valley School in Arizona before coming back to RC in 1971. Sedona, where Verde Valley School is, is a very colorful place. I probably picked those colorful clothes there. I still like wearing colorful clothes. Recently, I went to the sixtieth anniversary of my high school graduation. I went in yellow: yellow slacks, yellow shirt, yellow jacket.

**Q: I remember you playing the Rachmaninov preludes for piano one after the other in the early 70's. Have you always been interested in music?**



Hobson teaching at RC.







Drawing by Şevket Günter '73 from the RC 72 yearbook.

A: I took piano lessons for a long time as a child. Then I did not play for a long time, since there seemed to be other social things more important when I was growing up. When I came out to RC in 1952, the rule was that the music teacher for the academy had to be an organist. That was a requirement. RC had the only pipe organ, not just in Turkey but in the whole of middle east. Not only did the music teacher had to be a good organist, but he had to know the mechanics so that he could keep the organ in good mechanical order. And that was Claren Summer. He could also play the piano. We played pieces for two pianos. So I got interested in the piano again. When I came back to RC in 1971, I remember that there was the music building on the new RC campus in Arnavutkby, and the music teacher was Jean Strommer, who had majored in piano performance. She was in fact working on her PhD in piano performance. We got together the first year I was back in 1971, and we played music for two pianos. I found that this was something I enjoyed more than solo playing. We prepared

a program and gave a recital at the end of the year. We did this again the following year. I loved it more than anything I have ever done on the piano solo.

**Q: You taught in NYC in the 80's. Which school in NY did you teach?**

A: It is called the Trinity school. The oldest private school in the US. I went there after teaching two years in San Antonio during 1977-1979. I taught at the Trinity school in New York City for twelve years, until my retirement in 1991. That was also a lovely teaching experience for me. Trinity school had some of the best brains that the city of New York could provide. The school was founded by the Trinity Church at the end of Wall Street. It was in fact founded in that church building. Like RC, it had great faculty, fun people to work with.

I knew I did not like NYC, from all the years of flying back and forth between Istanbul and California. I'd stop in NY for three days, and race around going to movies, plays, and concerts. And I would ask myself each time why in the world anyone would want to live there. It was great for three days, but twelve months out of the year? They are out of their minds. But through Neil Bull, who was then in Princeton working for a teacher placement agency, I somehow ended up with a Trinity School job for a single year. One year in NYC? I thought that would be fine. I ended up staying there for 12 years until I retired in 1991.

**Q: So, there was a good reason why people lived in NYC?**

A: Right. Good reason indeed! I'd be there now if I had not retired. You need a reasonable amount of money for fun and games on that island, so retirement is not perfect for it.

**Q: How many years total were you at RC?**

A: 8 + 6 + 6 = 20 years over a 25 year period.

**Q: If you had to do it again, would you do the same things again?**

A: Oh, yes. For someone coming out of a little burgh of 3,000 people in the middle of nowhere in California, I ended up living in all of these marvellous places, best of all Istanbul. I loved every one of the places I lived in my life, except maybe one: Urbana, IL. But the University was worth it. I was never sorry that I went there. The education was great.

**Q: Where do you make your home now?**

A: I live in Selma, California, but I go to Tucson for about five months in November to avoid the fog in the San Joaquin valley. In the summer, Portland is an option.

**Q: You were back in Istanbul as a tourist also, were you not?**

A: I have been back once, in 1989. The board of Trustees of Trinity school paid my way for a summer vacation. I spent a month in Turkey. It was also the RC 64 class' twenty fifth reunion that year, and I was able to attend.

**Q: Any last thoughts?**

A: Istanbul was the best place I have ever lived. It was the love of my life, and I wanted to live there till the end of my days. But it has gotten bigger and bigger, and I am not sure how good a city it is at present. On the other hand, in the whole history of my family as far back as anyone knows on both sides, I have already lived five years longer than anybody else. Istanbul or Selma, that's not bad.

**Q: And with all those smokes and martinis?**

A: They say that a martini a day is good for you. I live by that. It is overdoing it that is not good. But it is true that I should have quit smoking a long time ago.

**Q: Last question: why do you think that RC students were so impressed by your presence there?**

A: I do not know. I am sure it had something to do with teaching. I could stand up there in front of a class and look out at 35 faces and say to myself "you make my life." I was impressed with their presence, their energy, and good cheer. I wanted them to enjoy mathematics as much as I did.

Ömer Eğecioğlu RC 72, graduated from the Math Dept of ODTU and obtained his doctorate from UCSD in Math/ Computer Sciences. He is a professor at University of California, Computer Department, in Santa Barbara. Married to pianist Zeynep Uçbaşaran, they have a five year old daughter, Alisa. The family will spend the next year in Istanbul, as Ömer will be a visiting professor at Sabancı University.

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# PROFILE

## RC GRADUATES IN THE TURKISH DIPLOMATIC SERVICE

Diplomacy was not on top of the list of desired professions for those who sent their children to Robert College in the early years. They were looking more to bring up better educated successors to their businesses, be it commerce or industry. Thus initially RC had just those two departments to equip young folk with the necessary skills to carry on their family business, along with a small section called "Humanities" for those who were keener on liberal arts.

Diplomacy was more of a restricted hunting ground for schools like Galatasaray whose main mission was to educate and train civil servants. So it was a great surprise to find out that Robert College graduates played a key role in developing the country's foreign ministry in the early years of the Republic and particularly following WW II and that four RC and ACG graduates served as Foreign Ministers in 1990s - Emre Gbnensay RC 57, Tansu Ciller ACG 63, ismail Cem RC 59, \$UkrU Sina GUrel RA 69 - when going through the yearbooks of the Turkish Foreign Ministry.

Inspired by the zeal and nationalist fervor with which modern Turkey was founded in 1923, some RC graduates took on this tradition in the early days of the Republic. That tradition continued through the late 1970s, but by the 1980s interest in the diplomatic corps had decreased. Buoyed by the transition to a free market economy, RC graduates went back to their original tracks and increasingly chose to go into business and finance, the new "in" sectors. And as more RC-ACG graduates began to be interested in politics, we saw some of them rising to the ministerial posts and of course we had two RC educated prime ministers, BUlent Ecevit RC 44 and Tansu Ciller ACG 63 along with the four Foreign Ministers.

By highlighting the foreign policy achievements of several RC graduates past and present, we hope to fuel interest in an often overlooked, but crucial field. In the interests of space we were able to focus only on early pioneers and present ambassadors, although this is by no means an exhaustive list of all the College graduates in the Foreign Ministry at other levels.

### ALİ HAYDAR GÖRK RC 26



Choosing a diplomatic career came quite naturally to Haydar Gbrk since his family had a long history of being active in Turkish government services. In the 26 years follow-

ing his graduation, he served in posts that ranged from charge d'affaires at Tokyo and Moscow to Turkish permanent representative at the UN.

Gbrk joined the diplomatic corps in 1929. One of the master planners of the modernization program that followed World War II, in 1951 he became Director-General of the Economic Department of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a representative to the Organization for European Economic Cooperation. He was First Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs until 1954 when he was appointed Secretary General to President Celal Bayar. In a period when so many RC graduates served in important posts in the US, he was the first to become Ambassador, serving in Washington between 1955 and 1957. He retired in 1961.

### ORHAN FİKRİ ERALP RC 33

Eralp joined the diplomatic services after graduating from London University School of Law in 1939. As one of the most prominent RC graduates to serve in the Ministry -at the very beginning of the World War II- he was posted to Washington to serve as secretary from 1942 to 1948 starting as the 3rd secretary to rise to the First.

Orhan Fikri Eralp was present in some key moments of Turkish foreign policy. He was known for his serenity and quick wit - two characteristics that helped him in his political career both in the Turkish foreign ministry and later at the UN. He was secretary to the Turkish delegation to the UN Charter Conference in San Francisco in 1945. Returning to Ankara and serving in various departments from 1949 to 1951, he was



Orhan Eralp RC 33 at the speaker's right, interprets for President Celal Bayar before the US Congress in 1954. Note Richard Nixon in the upper left hand corner.





Eralp in Santa Monica, California in 1954 with President Celal Bayar (left) and Donald Douglas (right).

advisor to the Turkish Delegation on the UN Conciliation Commission for Palestine. In February 1953, he was present at the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, a cornerstone in relations between Turkey, Greece and Yugoslavia. He then was posted to London as the No 2 (1952-53) where he got a PhD degree from the London University.

Eralp accompanied Prime Minister Adnan Menderes and Foreign Minister Köprülü in a friendly visit to Paris to strengthen Turkish French relations. In 1954, he accompanied President Celal Bayar in the visit to US where his level-headedness saved Bayar from many embarrassing moments with the American press. In 1955, he was part of a delegation which went to London to negotiate the Cyprus problem.

After spending four years in Ankara, he became Turkey's first representative in Sweden with the rank of ambassador (1975-59). Then he became the ambassador to Belgrade (1959-1964) and he moved to serve as Turkey's permanent representative at the UN (1964-69).

Eralp became the top civil servant at the Ministry by acquiring the post of General Secretary (1969-72) and served as permanent representative at NATO (1972-76), ambassador to France (1976-78) and crowned his brilliant careers as the Turkish permanent representative at the UN in New York before retiring in 1980. He died in 1994.

## NURİ EREN RC 34

Nuri Eren was Turkey's first Ambassador to China. He began his working life as a journalist. His career in government services began in 1938 when he worked as a foreign trade expert in the Ministry of Commerce. In 1943, he transferred to the Department of Press and Information of the Prime Ministry as counselor, after which he went to London as press attaché. In 1949, Eren opened the Turkish Information Office in



Turgut Menemencioğlu RC 35 with John F. Kennedy in 1962.



and retired in 1976.

## TURGUT MENEMENCİOĞLU RC 35

Joining the Ministry at the beginning of World War II and serving in the cabinet of the Secretary General, Turgut Menemencioğlu was posted to Bucharest in 1945 to return to the Ministry in 1948. In 1950 he became the permanent Turkish representative to the UN Office in Geneva. In 1952 he became Councilor of the Turkish Embassy in Washington. In 1955 he moved to New York to work with the Turkish Delegation. After serving six years in this post he became the Turkish Ambassador to Canada. In 1960 he returned to New York as the Turkish permanent representative at the UN. When he became Ambassador to Washington, Menemencioğlu brought a lot of experience with him. He was present for some key events during and after World War II. These included being a member of the Turkish delegation that went to Cairo in 1943 with President İnönü for a key conference with Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill and visits to Germany in 1954.

In a speech to the American Turkish Society in New York in 1960, Menemencioğlu said: "Any major imbalance in the world situation has always directly affected our area. Turkey cannot be indifferent or 'neutral' in her outlook on world events. A political or military vacuum in Turkey's strategic position would

New York and also represented Turkey at various international conferences including the UN General Assembly, through 1960. He became the first Turkish Ambassador to China in 1972,

have catastrophic results in the Middle East." He served as the Turkish ambassador in Washington from 1962 to 67. Upon his return to Ankara he became the Secretary General of CENTO from 1967 to 72, until he was sent to London as Ambassador. He retired in 1979.

## OSMAN DERİNSU RC 36

After RC Osman Derinsu finished Faculty of Political Sciences in Ankara and joined the Ministry in 1940 to be posted to the war torn Chinese capital Chungking in 1943. He moved to New York in 1946 to serve in various posts of the Turkish Consulate there before being posted to the Turkish embassy in Washington in 1947. He went back to New York a year later to the Turkish delegation at the UN. Returning to Ankara, his next posting was to Vienna in 1951 as First Secretary, a post he held in London as well from 1953-1955 where he became Councilor. He returned to Ankara in 1957 to leave for Washington two years later (1958-61) to hold various posts at the Turkish embassy including charge d'affairs. He first became an ambassador to Caracas (1963) and moved to Oslo a year later where he served as ambassador until 1969. He later carried the title in Bucharest (1972-76) before retiring in 1980.

## MUSTAFA AKŞİN RC 53



Aksin joined the Foreign Ministry in 1955 after graduating from the Faculty of Law in Ankara and was posted to Washington in 1959. He moved to Moscow as First Secretary (1963) and returned to Ankara in 1965. Aksin was post-



## PROFILE

ed to Bonn (1972). During his service at the Ministry (1975-77) he dealt with economic matters and the European Community. Aksin became Turkish Ambassador to Kenya in 1977, later moving to Damascus, Syria in 1980. He returned to Ankara in 1983 as Deputy Undersecretary and went abroad again in 1986 as Turkish Ambassador to Belgrade. He was posted to Geneva in 1988 as Turkish Ambassador to the UN before retiring in 1993.

### NURVER NURES RC 53

After RC Nurver Nureş graduated from Columbia University (1957) and joined the Ministry in 1959. He served in The Hague, Holland (1961-66), Amman, Jordan (1968-71), OECD, Paris (1971-74), Washington DC (1975-78) before being appointed Ambassador to Kuwait in 1981. He served as Ambassador to Tokyo (1983-87), London (1989-91) and Mexico City (1991-95) and was finally appointed as Secretary General of the Black Sea Economic Organization before retiring in 1997.

### İSMET BİRSEL RC 53

After RC Birsel went on to study Law and joined the diplomatic service in 1960. He was first posted to Brussels in 1961. He was the Consul General in Komotini (1968-71), before being appointed to the Turkish delegation's Geneva Office at the UN (1971-74) and later, Rome (1976-78). He first became an ambassador to Tehran (1983-86) and then to The Hague (1986/1989). Upon returning to Ankara he became the General Director for Cultural Affairs which suited him very well as he is a very talented painter who held personal exhibitions in many of the capitals he served. His paintings carry the traces of the far and wide he went to. He was promoted to the post of Assistant Undersecretary (Cultural Affairs) (1962-63) before going to Strasbourg as Turkish permanent representative to the Council of Europe (1993-96) and Ambassador to Budapest (1996-98). He retired in 1999.

*We know that several other RC alumni served at the Foreign Ministry for some time. Although we do not have the full list, Ahmet Hamit Uzgören RC 40, Kerem Aymut Altan RC 57, Hasan Tolon RA 63 and Akin Kocagil RC 53 are those whose names we have come across in the records.*

*Today, a number of RC graduates continue to play an important role in*

*Turkish foreign affairs, be it in negotiations over the Iraq war, or delicate talks to reach a settlement in Cyprus. Here is a list of those still serving in top posts at the Foreign Ministry:*

### NAZIM BELGER RC 60 Ambassador to Lithuania

Born in Çanakkale, 1939. Belger studied at the University of Lausanne. He joined the Foreign Ministry in 1967, serving in Paris, Algeria, Sofia and Strasbourg. In 1990 he was appointed Ambassador to Yemen, in 1994 to Venezuela and in 2000 to Lithuania. He is married, with two children.

### ERHAN ÖĞÜT RC 60 Back from Canada

Öğüt was born in Çankırı in 1941. After RC he went to the Faculty of Political Sciences in Ankara graduating in 1964 before joining the Ministry in 1964. He served in The Hague, Plovdiv and Copenhagen. He first became the ambassador to Ethiopia (1990-95) and served in Ottawa with the same title (1998-2003). He is married to his colleague Ayşe Öğüt.

### UĞUR ZİYAL RA61 Foreign Ministry Undersecretary



Born in Istanbul, 1944, he graduated from the Faculty of Political Sciences at Ankara University. He joined the Foreign Ministry in 1965, serving in Nicosia, Geneva and Washington

DC. Between 1983- 87 he was Consul General in Chicago. He was Ambassador to Syria from 1992 to 97. Returning to Ankara, he became Deputy Undersecretary and then Undersecretary in 2001. Ziyal plays a pivotal role in current Turkish foreign policy. He is a key figure in negotiations on both Cyprus and Iraq. He is married, and has one child.

### KORKMAZ HAKTANIR RA61

#### Ambassador to Cairo

Born in 1943, he also graduated from the Faculty of Political Sciences at Ankara University. He worked at the NATO HQ, New Delhi, Nicosia and the United Nations. In 1991, he was appointed Ambassador to Iran, followed by Poland in 1994. In 1996 he returned to Ankara, and became an Undersecretary the following year. In 2000 he became Ambassador to the UK and last December, Ambassador to Cairo. He is married, with two children.

### SENBİR TÜMAY RA61 Returned from Senegal

Born in 1942, Istanbul. Tümay studied Law at Istanbul University. He joined the Foreign Ministry in 1967 and was posted to Brussels, Damascus, Milan and Bonn. He was appointed ambassador to Senegal in 1996. In 2000 he returned to Ankara and became a member of the review committee. He is married and has one child.

### MEHMET NURİ YILDIRIM RA 62

#### Returned from Mongolia

Born in 1943, Nazilli. A graduate of the Faculty of Political Sciences at Ankara University, he joined the Foreign Ministry in 1968. After having worked in the UN Geneva office, Bangkok, Tabrizi, Rome, Helsinki, Tehran and Berlin, he was appointed Ambassador to Mongolia in 1999. He returned to Ankara last year. He is married with two children.

### AHMET BANGUOĞLU RA 62

#### Back from Saudi Arabia

Born in 1943, Istanbul. A graduate of the Faculty of Political Sciences at Ankara University, he completed his master's degree in economics at Indiana University. Joining the Foreign Ministry in 1971, he served in NATO, Burgos, Athens, Madrid and Vienna. In 1996 he became Ambassador to Portugal, in 1999, to Saudi Arabia. Returning to Ankara in 2001, he became head of US Relations. Banguoğlu led all critical negotiations with the US ahead of the war on Iraq. He is married and has two children.



AYDIN SAHİNBAS RA 62  
UN Office in Vienna

Born in 1944, Ankara. A graduate of the Faculty Political Sciences at Ankara University, he joined the Foreign Ministry in 1967. After serving in The Hague, Cairo, London and Washington, he was appointed Ambassador to Slovakia in 1994. On his return he became an assistant undersecretary. In 2000 he was appointed as Turkey's representative to the UN Office in Vienna. He is married and has two children.

ATAMAN YALGIN RA 64  
Back from Cuba



Born in 1942, Istanbul. A graduate of the Faculty of Political Sciences at Ankara University, Yalgin joined the Foreign Ministry in 1971. He served in Karlsruhe, New Delhi, Ouroumiyeh,

Athens and Geneva. Between 1984 and 1992 he worked at the United Nations, before returning to the Foreign Ministry. In 1998 he was appointed Ambassador to Cuba. He returned to Ankara last year. Yalgin is married and has two children.

DARYAL BATIBAY RA 64  
Back from China



Born in 1946, Bursa. After studying Political Science at Ankara University, he completed his master's degree at Princeton. Joining the foreign ministry in 1969, he served at

the headquarters of both of the UN and NATO. He then became as charges d'affaires at the Turkish embassies in Moscow and Washington DC. In 1995 he was appointed Ambassador to Croatia, and then to Beijing in 1998. He returned to Ankara two years

ago where he serves as head of Multilateral Political Relations Dept in charge of human rights. He is married and has two children.

AHMET DEMİRBAĞ RA 65  
Ambassador to Yemen

Born in 1945, Muradiye. A graduate the Faculty of Political Sciences at Ankara University, he joined the Foreign Ministry in 1973, serving at the NATO HQ, Kabul, Düsseldorf, The Hague and Jeddah before being appointed Ambassador to Yemen in 2000. He is married.

VEFAHAN OCAK RC 65  
Ambassador to Cuba

Born in 1946, Akçaabat. He studied at the University of Maryland and joined the Foreign Ministry in 1975. He served in Baghdad, London, Vienna and Karlsruhe. He was deputy head of US relations before being appointed Ambassador to Cuba last year. He is married and has one child.

ÖMER ALTUĞ RC 65  
Ambassador to Estonia

Born in 1947, İzmir. He studied Public Administration at the Middle Eastern Technical University before joining the Foreign Ministry in 1972. He served as representative to the EU, and in Tehran, Rome and Cairo. He became Consul General in Düsseldorf and was appointed Ambassador to Estonia in 2001. He is married and has three children.

MEHMET TASER RA 67  
Ambassador to Macedonia

Born in 1948, Salihli. A graduate the Faculty of Political Sciences at Ankara University, he joined the Foreign Ministry in 1973. He served in Oslo, Plovdiv, Cairo and Washington and was Consul General in Chicago. In 2001 he was appointed Ambassador to Macedonia. He is married and has two children.

YAHYA AKKURT RA 68  
Ambassador to Vietnam

Born in 1949, Kilis. He studied at Faculty of Political Sciences at Ankara University before joining the Foreign Ministry in 1975. He served in Mainz, Seoul, Dakar, Prague

and Canberra. He appointed Turkey's Ambassador to Vietnam in December. He is married and has one child.

TOMUR BAYER RA 68  
Ambassador to Sweden

Born in 1949, Istanbul. He studied at Faculty of Political Sciences from Ankara University before joining the Foreign Ministry in 1973. He served in Belgrade, Kabul, Beijing and the UN Geneva. In 2000 he was appointed Ambassador to Korea. Last December he was transferred to Sweden. He is married and has one child.

BİLGE CANKOREL RC 69  
Ambassador to the Ukraine

Born in 1946, Istanbul. A graduate of the Faculty of Political Sciences at Ankara University, he joined the foreign ministry in 1971, serving in Ottawa, Peking and the UN Geneva. In 1995 he was appointed Ambassador to Afghanistan. He returned to Ankara in 1997. In 2001, he was appointed Ambassador to Ukraine. He is married and has two children.

*Sadly, two promising Turkish diplomats killed in an attack by Armenian gunmen in Los Angeles 1973, were also RC graduates.*

*Consul General Mehmet Baydar RC 42 studied law at the Istanbul University and the Political Sciences Faculty of the University of Paris. After serving at NATO and in Washington, he was assigned to Los Angeles in 1970. Baydar, who was 49 when killed, was married with two children.*

*His Vice-Consul, Bahadır Demir RA 62 joined the Foreign Ministry in 1967 after studying at the Faculty of Political Sciences at Ankara University. Los Angeles was his first posting abroad. Demir was 31 when he was shot down.*



# WHO'S WHO ON CAMPUS

## THE GROUNDS & GARDENS: A campus in full bloom



RC Quarterly

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In a crowded city of 10 million inhabitants, where high-rises, traffic congestion and pollution reign, Robert College is an oasis of natural beauty. The school's 66 acres -approximately the size of 40 football stadiums- of forest, fields and flora that have been growing here for more than 100 years are unmatched by any other school in the city. Parents of many a prospective student lagging in motivation bring their offspring here, knowing full well that it is impossible to walk away unmoved by the experience. Taxi drivers unfamiliar with the school, are invariably awed by its sheer size, asking "What is this place?".

The gardens play a major role in the lives of the College community. In between classes, after school and even after graduation, the grounds are a way to measure the passing of seasons in the midst of urban life. College students know that

spring has arrived when the purple wisteria outside Marble Hall blooms and daffodils and azaleas emerge. Late spring, the Plateau becomes a riotous garden of wild flowers. In the slow summer, the scent of roses wafts over the lawn. Come autumn, the garden is a blaze of reds and gold, while in winter, the bare branches are covered by snow.

### College Founders Bought Land for \$52,000

In her memoirs, ACG founder Mary Mills Patrick describes how the original founders bought the Arnavutkby land that is the College today. "We heard of a large property for sale at Arnavutkby, on the European shore of the upper Bosphorus, extending from the heights, down to the water's edge, with shady walks, and planted with

rare trees and shrubs. This estate had belonged to a distinguished family for about a century. Among other groups of trees on the estate was a large chestnut grove, farther on was a labyrinth of trees called 'the Maze' planted in the form of a Sultan's cipher around a circular spot of green. Beyond was a plateau directly overlooking the Bosphorus and furnishing one of the finest views in Constantinople".

The property belonged to a family called Düz, who lived in Paris and were willing to sell for around \$52.000. After some delay in getting the certificate of ownership legalized, in August 1908, resident College trustee William W. Peet was able to have the documents signed by the authorities, and the precious papers were placed in the vaults of the American embassy for safekeeping. Construction on the buildings began in May 1910 and ended in 1914.

Daisies flourish outside Gould Hall.

Adjoining the new site were the grounds and palace of Musurus Pasha, former ambassador of the Sublime Porte in London. The school began by renting this property for its Junior School. The Musurus family were famous as courtiers and diplomats. At the foot of the College hill at Arnavutkby, facing the Bosphorus, there stood for many years a palatial home belonging to this family. In 1920, Paul Musurus sold the palace and all the grounds he owned in Arnavutkby, except the little chapel, to ACG, giving the school the boundaries it has today.



## The Gardens Today - A Greenhouse Flourishes

Today, the RC gardens are tended by a dedicated staff of four gardeners, who have designed a complex greenhouse system which allows the school to meet 90 percent of its floral needs. "Keeping the garden well-kept is a priority because it helps keep morale up for the students and the staff," says Ümran Üngün ACG 70, director of business and finance, whose responsibilities include supervising the building and grounds department.

She has a personal interest in landscape architecture and makes the final decisions on garden care. Overall, the grounds are maintained in line with a traditional pattern which is handed down through

the gardeners. Key points such as the Maze, the Plateau and gardens around the buildings are always well manicured and the entrance to Gould Hall is always green. Four years ago, Celal Soydogan, an expert agricultural engineer, was brought in to train the gardeners in systematic garden care and design for eight months.

Miraculously, the College also has in place a sophisticated greenhouse system which means that the school largely grows its own flowers. Originally set up five years ago as a cost saving measure to cut back on the expensive purchase of flowers, today the greenhouse next to the Deanery grows almost all the school's annuals. Annuals are plants that grow from seeds or cuttings, bloom shortly afterwards, set seed and eventually die, all in a single growing season. They provide a quick, easy, and relatively inexpensive method of changing the garden with the turn of the



Director of Business & Finance Ümran Üngün ACG 70 and chief gardener Rifat Vural.

RC Quarterly



## Legend of the Maze



There are several versions of the legend connected with the Maze, which has lost its original labyrinth appearance and is now used for outdoor performances and graduation exercises. One of the more colorful versions is as follows: The sultan had chosen as his bride a young Circassian girl of singular beauty but proud, defiant, and unhappy despite the grandeur and the riches of the Palace. One night, the Sultan had a fantastic dream; he dreamed of a beautifully fashioned ring which he was convinced could make his bride happy if only he could find a jeweler who could visualize the design. The Sultan had the best jewelers in the land summoned to undertake the task of making this ring. Finally, when they had all failed, a certain jeweler was summoned to the Palace who was reputed to have a

telepathic gift as well as being

a skillful jeweler. Legend has it that this jeweler did indeed fashion a ring like the one that had been haunting the Sultan for so long. The splendid ring pleased the Circassian girl and made her so happy that it finally brought a smile to her lips. As his reward, the jeweler was rowed up and down the Bosphorus in the royal boat to select property on which to have a palace built for himself. The estate which the jeweler chose was many years later to be purchased for the campus of the American College for Girls. In "The Maze", shrubs and trees were cleverly planted and trimmed to resemble the ring that the jeweler Duz had designed like the Sultan's cipher.

Source: *The Story of Robert College Old and New*,  
By May Fincanci, Intermedia.



## WHO'S WHO ON CAMPUS

seasons. Rather than buying hundreds of new plants, the gardeners grow them in the greenhouse and cultivate them when the time is right.

The greenhouse is also home to plants unusual for Istanbul's climate such as begonvillia, banana and lemon trees. Chrysanthemums are produced especially for school ceremonies. Using soil extracted from the forest, the greenhouse manages to meet 90% of the College's flower and plant needs. Extras are sold to faculty and staff for a reasonable price.

The gardeners are so creative that they have even managed to grow their own variety of pansy. "Having dedicated and hard-working gardeners is a big asset for the school," says Ungun.

### It's a Pigeon! No, It's a Parrot!

Years ago, various varieties of trees at RC were recorded by

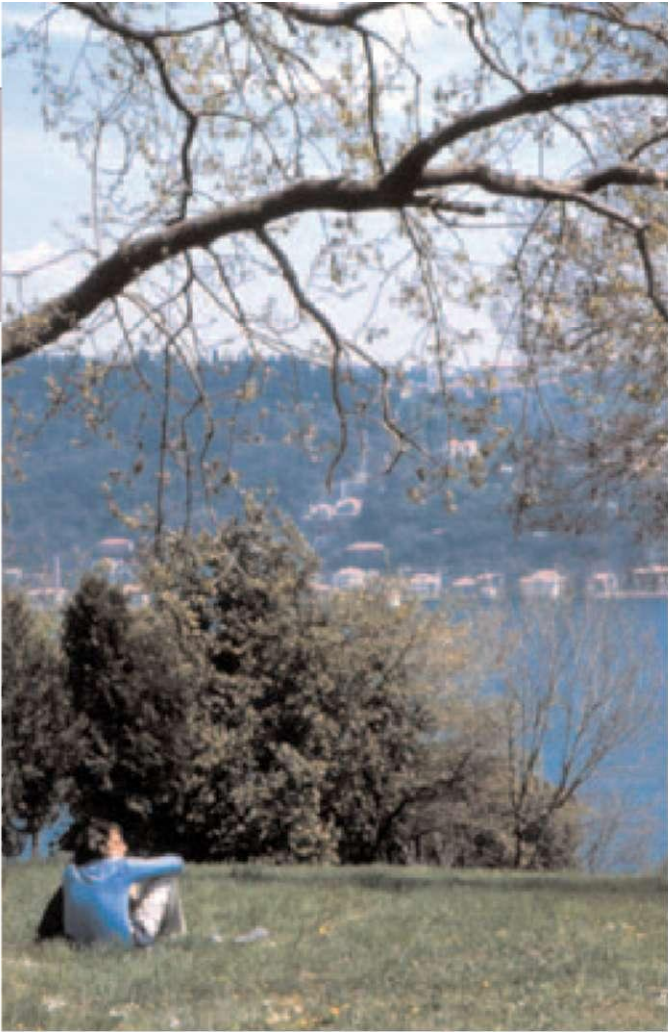
Watching the world go by on the Plateau...



members of the Istanbul University Forest Faculty. The forest consists mainly of chestnut, maple, lime, cedar and pine trees.

The forest is also home to unusual seasonal guests: Green parrots appear in the autumn, magpies and wagtails start to hunt the ants on the Plateau in spring and summertime. Turtles are perpetual guests and too slow to leave this fascinating environment anyway.

This summer, pay your alma mater a visit. Walk among the trees, lie on the Plateau, admire the Bosphorus view. As you merge with the cycle of life and revel in pleasant memories of years past, tranquility is guaranteed.



The old rose garden recreated in front of Gould Hall.



# WHO'S WHO ON CAMPUS

## RC GARDENERS

*The school's 66 acres are tended by a team of 4 gardeners. The flair of these diligent men is evident in details like the layout of multicolored pansies on the hill up to Marble Hall and the use of decorative wheels as original flower pot stands.*



From left to right: Fatih Topuz, Rifat Vural, Veysel Aydın.

### Rifat Vural

Chief Gardener Rifat Vural, 37, began working at RC in 1997. "We are very lucky people," Vural says. "Working with the earth so much does not allow one to get older or tense". He is fond of technological gardening equipment, because the land is too large for human labour alone. He describes how they use trees to fertilise the soil. "We determine bare dry leaves and branches and mark them in the summer to be cut in autumn. After they are trimmed, they go through a crumbling machine and are then spread around the plants." Each season brings new challenges, according to Vural. Last winter, the gardeners were responsible for shovelling the snow off the roads and spreading salt to prevent freezing.

### Fatih Topuz

Fatih Topuz, 43, has been working in the RC gardens for three years and hopes to continue until retirement. He is particularly proud of the magnificent magnolia tree in front of the Blue House.

### Veysel Aydın

Veysel Aydın, 38, is particularly interested in the care of young trees and plants. He is also a keen fan of riding the lawnmower.

### Veysel Kirlaroglu

Another lawnmower fan is another Veysel who is responsible for the Plateau and surroundings. Veysel Kirlaroglu, 40, has been at RC for 18 years. He started just after completing his military service. He is the one who turned the Plateau from a stark ground into its present state. The thorny wild plants were all picked, making it possible to sit and enjoy the view and allowing beautiful wild flowers to flourish. Kirlaroglu has many a story of students engaging in forbidden activities on the Plateau, but "They are all official secrets," he says smiling.



Left: The greenhouse meets %90 of the College's flower and plant needs. Above: Veysel Kirlaroglu. Below: Judas trees on the way up to RC.

