

RC QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2022

ISSUE 60

RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE



Welcome to the RCVerse



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RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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

In this issue

Robert College has always been at the forefront of educational technology. With the many changes heading our way thanks to Web3, RC has once again embraced the challenge of integrating new technology into its educational fabric. The RCQ's 60th issue focuses on all the amazing initiatives the RC community has taken in this marvelous new world. From clubs to classes, RC explores the implications to learning and to the future of concepts such as NFTs, virtual reality, and, yes, even, cryptocurrency. As always, RC alumni are already trailblazing in Web3, and their stories are full of inspiration.

In recent months the RC community has been bristling with activity; books, awards, exhibitions and career news galore. This summer, vacation is well-deserved!

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

We wish you a relaxing summer full of new adventures!

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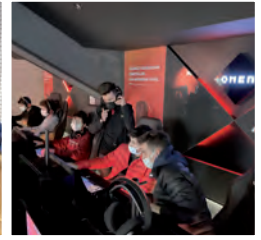
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Message from the Head of School

Inside the RCVerse

Welcome to this exciting – and very high-tech – edition of RCQ. Or rather: Welcome to the RCVerse!

This year I have co-taught the Literature and Technology elective, so it was a surreal experience to move from reading about hyperspace to actually entering it when, in March, I hosted a meeting of the school's Senior Leadership Team deep inside the metaverse.

It was a stunning experience: we changed venues with the flick of a button. Our outfits, even our physical avatars, transformed incessantly. The icon I had been assigned was understandably quite conservative – so as I grew familiar with the controls, I manifested a tall blue mohawk.

While it was certainly fun to have some hair back, the uses to which we are putting emergent technology are much more important and exciting. We all know the dangers of tech addiction and its negative impact on mental health; we must also remember how awe-inspiring technology can be when used wisely – as in our development of AR (Augmented Reality) and VR (Virtual Reality) technology to create virtual tours of the Aşıyan Museum and the Museum of Innocence. These tours are not just for RC consumption, but are official guides, available to the public. In the Museum of Innocence, Robert College students provide English commentary to match the Turkish narrative by Orhan Pamuk RA 70.

Other RC students have drafted a set of principles for using AI (Artificial Intelligence) and submitted them for use by TÜBITAK, while the Literature and Technology students (always at least five steps ahead of me) are currently exploring human relationships with technology through the creation of a VR story. In our co-curriculars, the Marine Biology Club has been using diving simulations to explore the underwater world, while

the Blockchain Club have, I hope, been exploring ways to make RC very, very wealthy for the future. We also look forward to creating an e-Sports club venue ready for the autumn.

You can learn about all these exciting initiatives and more in this issue's cover story. I hope you enjoy reading our first digital-only edition of the RCQ.



Head of School Adam Oliver leading a meeting inside the metaverse

All Together Now

From music and drama in the theatre to summits and festivals around campus, students were excited to rediscover the joys of in-person activities this spring. The RCQ takes a look at some of the highlights.

Orchestra on Stage Again

The crescendo of student activities, this year's Orchestra concerts at the end of May had the audience on its feet. The musicians prepared throughout the year with some challenges. "As vocalists and woodwinders we tried to get used to making masked music," explains Irmak Altınok L11. "Often someone went into quarantine. When Deniz Abi could not come, this year's presidents became the directors, and when the flutist could not come, we had to find creative solutions such as whistling together."

"It was great for us to prepare for the concert after the long pandemic and to be able to give a concert at full capacity," said Orchestra director Deniz Baysal. Irmak added, "I can't really put into words how much fun we had on stage. Since we have been doing it online for two years, it was the first live concert of many people and I think it was the days when we felt the orchestra spirit the most. It was absolutely unforgettable for all of us."

Turkish Whodunnit Thrills Audience

Drama performances in Suna Kırac Theatre during the spring semester were as exciting for the players as they were for audiences. Jonathan Lynn's play *Clue*, staged by the Turkish Theatre Club in early June, was one of the highlights. "Being on stage again was very exciting for the students at the club," said Turkish teacher and club advisor Hande Akat. "Some players performed for the first time, while others had experience online during the pandemic. They felt that being on stage and breathing in the theatre air was a completely different feeling." In addition to planning a drama that could be quickly adapted if circumstances changed, students translated the script from English to



The Turkish Theatre Club Performs *Clue*

Turkish. "In the translation process, there were interesting situations from time to time, especially in Turkish translation," said Akat. Other performances this spring were the Senior staging of *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, and the Hamlin Player's performance of *Shrek Jr.*, which took place in the Maze.

A Bigger, Better FAF

After a two-year break, the Fine Arts

Festival (FAF), organized by the RC Student Council, was held once again on May 29, 2022. During the day there were many activities ranging from student bands to make-up art to inflatable games. The highlight each year is the concert put on by a professional musical artist, and this year there were two: Manga and Fatma Turgut. Performers played on largest stage ever set up in the Maze.

"We had to learn how to run the festival from scratch because after two years, the only person that had experience organizing FAF was our president Sarp Turker," explained Student Council vice president Kaan Hotan L11. This fresh start worked out for the best. "We had a lot of positive comments from teachers and staff who have been at RC for more than 15 years, saying that this was the best FAF they've ever attended," Kaan added.

[Click here to learn about more activities on campus this spring.](#)



Seyhan Nurettin Ege ACG 49 Excellence in Science Award for Girls

The annual Prof. Seyhan Nurettin Ege ACG 49 Excellence in Science Award for Girls was presented at the Lise 11 assembly on March 28, 2022. Established by Prof. Seyhan Ege's sister Güneş Ege Akter ACG 52 in 2009, the award is given each year to a female Lise 11 student who shows outstanding dedication to the sciences.

This year's award was presented by Hümeysra Gücük, a relative of the Ege sisters, to this year's recipient Elif İpek Eryılmaz L11. Addressing the assembly, Hümeysra Gücük said how influential the Ege family was on the education of her grandmother as well as many

young people. "What people learn throughout the years is the importance of the many ties established on the path of life beyond those blood-ties; mentoring is as nurturing as mothering."

Following the award presentation, Elif İpek Eryılmaz and her parents, members of the Science Department, guests Hümeysra Gücük and Emine Yeğen ACG 70, and last year's recipient Doğa Ece Tanaydın gathered in the foyer of Feyyaz Berker Hall where Elif İpek's name plaque was added to the growing group of outstanding science students' names.



This year's recipient Elif İpek Eryılmaz L11 with Hümeysra Gücük and Science Department Head Stuart Arey

Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Art Competition Highlights Student Artists



A selection of the artwork submitted by students to this year's competition

The 21st annual Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Art Competition awards ceremony was held on April 20, 2022, in the

Suna Kırac Foyer. Inaugurated by RC 76 in 2002 to honor the memory of classmate Demirkan Aşetey, who

enjoyed painting as a hobby and died much too young, the competition continues to attract art in various media from RC students.

Judges Duygu Demir RC L12 04, Merve Elveren RC 05 and Sera Boeno RC 10 presented the awards while also taking the time to explain why each piece of art was recognized among all the others.

The winners of this year's competition were Mert Dindar L12, Nehir Adiloğlu L11, Dora Akın L12. There were also five highly commended students: Defne Duru Arat L11, Hena Yaman L11, İrem Demirel L12, Yağmur Tamer L12 and Ece Çıkım L10.

Farewell to Colin Edmonds

Excerpts from the **BOSPHORUS CHRONICLE** article by Elif Çakmanus L9 and Eren Umay L11



Colin Edmonds is retiring after 42 years at RC

Colin Edmonds has been a part of the Robert College community since he was a kid due to his parents being faculty members. His first year in the RC community was 1961 when he started to attend first grade in Robert College Community School, a school for the children of the Robert College faculty in Rumelihisari. However, he states that coming back to Robert

College as a teacher was a totally different perspective.

He notes that he first started teaching English to the “orta prep” students. Ten years later, he volunteered to teach “Journalism” to high school students as an English elective course and helped students publish the first dutifully produced Bosphorus Chronicle after the previous Journalism teacher had left the school.

Five years after Mr. Edmonds started working as an English teacher, the English department decided they wanted to modernize the prep English program. The school created a lab for students to study English with computers, and Mr. Edmonds volunteered to work in the computer lab. Although he didn’t study computer science in college, he taught himself programming.

After being recognized as a certified computer teacher, Robert College asked if Mr. Edmonds would help build the school network, robcol.k12.tr, and manage the school’s computer systems. After that, Mr. Edmonds became the head of the computer science department, where he taught Visual Basic, Java, Python, and Pascal. Mr. Edmonds’ favorite memories from RC are the ones he got to spend time with students and his colleagues.

Edmonds is one of the longest-serving teachers in RC history, 42 years, thus he knows a lot about the school’s, and also the country’s, transition during the years.

Edmonds will be missed in the Robert College family.

[Click here to read the full article.](#)

Farewell: Claus Cadorette

Excerpt from the **BOSPHORUS CHRONICLE** article by Kerem Ege Öktem L11

When it comes to the RC math department, Claus Cadorette is one of the names that immediately comes to mind. Having worked here since 1984, it is fair to say that he not only made an impression on generations of students but also became an essential part of RC for 38 years.

Starting his journey in RC with a one-year contract in 1984, Cadorette said that he really enjoyed teaching his first class of Middle and High School students. He said that a lot has changed since he came to Turkey in 1981, and the loss of the RC Middle School was a change that he remembered the most vividly. “The thing that really bound me to RC was the never-ending interest and capacity that the students had for mathematics,” he added. The bond he felt with his students inspired him to work for many years at RC while also creating many memories during his



Claus Cadorette has been teaching math at RC for 38 years

time on campus. Playing volleyball, softball, and basketball with his students are among the top three things he will miss after he retires. “I am not honestly perfectly sure what I will miss most,” he added, “but I know I will miss getting to know new students and seeing their growth over time”.

While he will no longer be working at RC, Cadorette stated that he and his wife are planning to live in Istanbul at least for a while. When asked what his parting words were for his students and colleagues, he said: “Being open-minded, fair, kind, and honest are the most important things”. To his students he advised that it was for them to take full advantage of every opportunity they had and develop life-long friendships during their time here.

[Click here to read the full article.](#)

Caps off to the Class of '22

The 199 members of the Class of '22 were the latest cohort to transform from being RC students to RC alumni at the commencement ceremony on June 21 on the Dave Phillips Field.

The ceremony opened with inspiring words from Turkish Director Nilhan Çetinyamaç and Head of School Adam Oliver.

This year's commencement speaker was RC Trustee Göksu Nebol Perlman RC 95, who shared relatable memories of her years as a residential student and the lifelong connections she made while at Robert College. Perlman, who is Vice President, Ads

and Business Products at Meta, also spoke of how her years at RC made her who she is today.

The class chose their physics teacher Dr. Michael Feeney to give the faculty speech. He reminisced about his time with the class, and said, "As you move on to the next big step and adventure in your lives, face it with the courage and curiosity I know you have, conduct yourselves with the decency and honor I know you possess and for what it's worth know that I believe in you and wish you all the very best."

The student speakers were Yasemin Şukal and Yankı Yazıcı, who both



Commencement speaker
Göksu Nebol Perlman RC 95

shared their memories of the five years the class spent together and wished for the future.

The ceremony, which also included awards presented to top students in various areas, finished off with the presentation of diplomas by Nilhan Çetinyamaç, with Adam Oliver, Lise 12 level dean Gül Soydan and Lise 12 counselor Sevil Taner Akdaş also honoring the students. Following tradition, the class closed the ceremony by tossing their caps in the air.



The most senior faculty members lead their colleagues to the ceremony



Faculty speaker Michael Feeney

Encouraging University News for RC Seniors

Many alumni will remember spring as a time when the corridors are abuzz with seniors who are anticipating news about their college applications. In recent years, the process – and the results – have gone through a few changes. Merve Ashaboğlu RC 91, co-director of RC's Overseas College Counselling Office, explains:

"The last two years have proven to be unprecedented in the college application cycle. The effects of the pandemic were felt worldwide and left their mark on admissions as well, with significantly increased application numbers, driven in part by new test-optional policies, virtual admission visits, and increased

international and financial aid applicants. A further knock-on effect was felt by the inability to offer in person IB/ A-Level finishing exams in 2021 which led to admission decisions being made on predicted grades alone. Furthermore, some students, electing out of an online college experience, opted for a gap year in both the US and across other global markets leading in some cases to a smaller freshman class intake for the next cycle."

Despite the challenges, Robert College students have done well in overseas acceptances this year, with 98% of the approximately 100 students who applied abroad receiving an acceptance. The students

have applied most to the US, the UK, the Netherlands, Canada and Italy. They have impressive acceptances across top ranked global colleges and universities including Oxford, Stanford, Harvard, Yale, Imperial, Tu Delft and more. Numerous RC 22 students were awarded scholarships and collectively, the 4-year total for scholarship earned by this class was \$17 million, an impressive increase of 30% over last year.

The final news of where the Class of '22 is headed will be published in the fall after the Turkish university placements are determined.

To see the list of overseas acceptances, [click here](#).

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Meet Me at Bizim Tepe

Events at Bizim Tepe are back! Alumni of all ages enjoyed the spring gatherings and activities will continue throughout the summer. Here are some highlights.



Alumni enjoy being poolside at Summer Vibes Vol. 1

Summer Vibes Vol.1

Alumni from the Classes of '85 to '05 enjoyed the Summer Vibes Party at Bizim Tepe with music by Burak Süsoy RC 90. This summer there will be more Summer Vibes Parties for different class groups, so expect to hear from us.

A Session on RC History

One of the most beloved teachers at RC, Önder Kaya was with alumni at a discussion session on his latest book, on Robert College. Including many interesting details and anecdotes, *At the Center of the World: Robert College - A History of a School from Empire to*

Republic has found its unique place on the bookshelves of alumni.

Nedim Saban RC 86 and Yeşim Özsoy RC 90 on Theater

RKMD welcomed its alumni at an informative and pleasant activity, "From Robert College Stage to Today's Theater". Filled with delightful theater and performing art memories, Nedim Saban and Yeşim Özsoy shared their personal insights about today's contemporary theater scene in Turkey.

Bizim Kamp Strikes Again!

Bizim Kamp, RKMD's summer program for kids, opened its doors again on



June 27. With a bilingual approach with native speakers, the program is full of activities including swimming, ball games, dance and yoga sessions as well as drama and arts, suitable for 4 to 8-year-olds.

Have you seen my new RC T-shirt?

Are you one of those few people who still don't have any RC merch? Whether you are treating yourself or somebody else, there is a perfect item for all alumni of all ages. If you want to check out what those are, visit our online store.

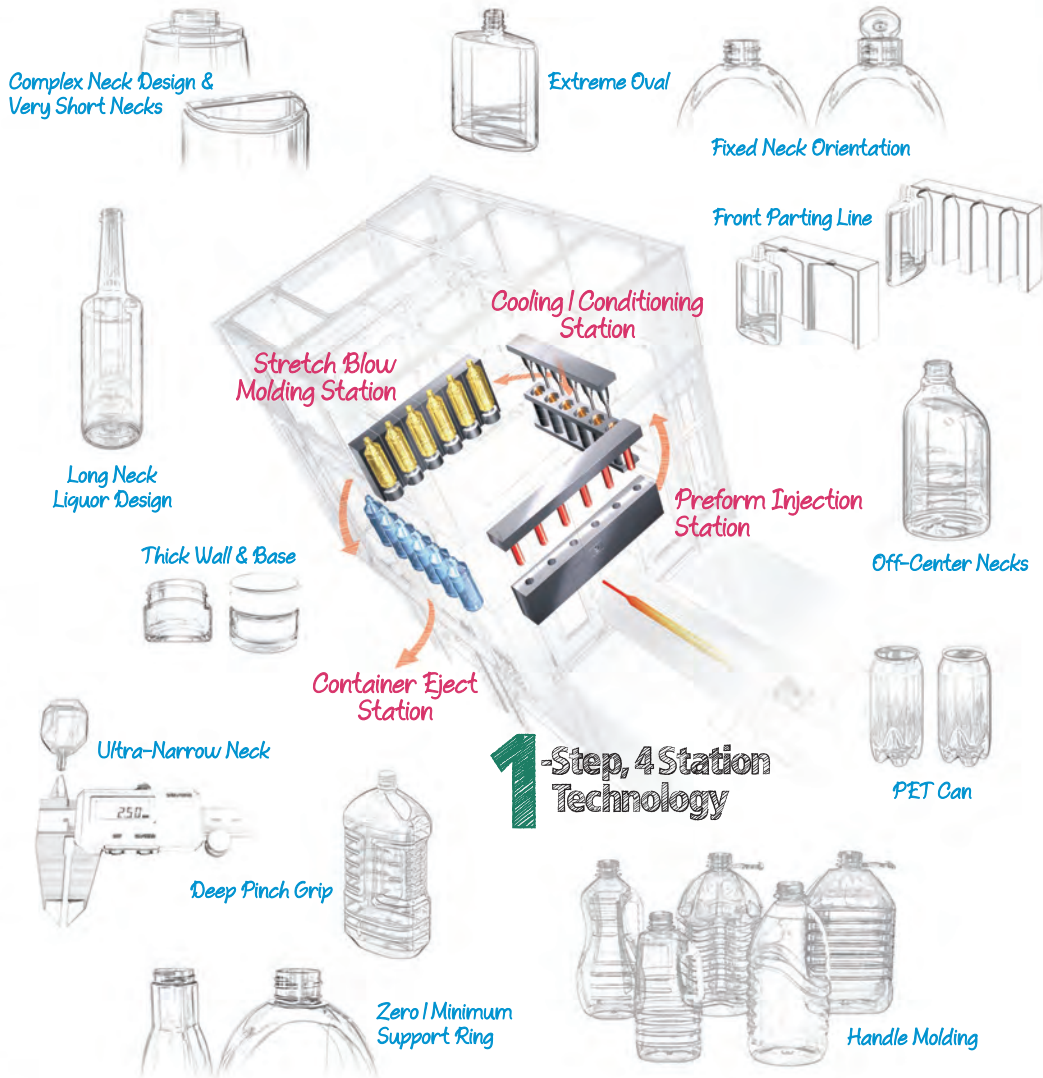


RC history teacher Önder Kaya discusses his book on Robert College



Yeşim Ersoy RC 90 and Nedim Saban RC 86 share memories and insights about the theater scene

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NY Area Alumni Catch Up in Manhattan

After a nearly two-year hiatus it was great to get together with members of the RC community at a NYC Bar Night on May 10, 2022. We had close to 50 alumni - from college students to Robert Academy graduates - attending the event at Pera Brasserie, run by Burak Karaçam RC 92. Everybody had a great time and at the end of the evening the group was still lingering, not wanting to leave the company of old friends.



Alumni enjoyed being able to connect again at the NYC Bar Night

We also had the company of RC Trustee Ted Widmer, great-grandson of Cyrus Hamlin, and Institutional Advancement Director Monika Mraz. One of the wonderful things was that many alumni approached RCAA

Boardmembers indicating interest in working with the board to help organize events and create more awareness of RCAA among the RC community in the US.

If you'd like to find out more about RCAA activities visit rcaa.org

RCAA Spring Fireside Chat

Alumni from across the US met online on May 22, 2022 for RCAA's second Fireside Chat. Joining the event were RC Turkish Director

Nilhan Çetinyamaç and Institutional Advancement Director Monika Mraz, who gave an update on Robert College. Alumni enjoyed hearing how

the school year was going and about new developments on campus.

Spring Gathering in London

Spring was in the air at the RC alumni gathering at the Beaufort House in Chelsea on May 25, 2022. Nearly 100 people were in attendance for the event, where Head of School Adam Oliver gave an overview about activities on campus and Institutional Advancement Director Monika Mraz connected the importance of the Annual Giving Campaign to support all these activities and scholarships. People enjoyed gathering in person again and spent the evening catching up with friends. If you're interested in learning about events in the UK reach out to alumni@robcol.k12.tr.



Head of School Adam Oliver addresses alumni in London

Esra Eczacıbaşı Coşkun RC 07

Joins World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders

Established in 2005, the Forum of Young Global Leaders gathers together leaders from around the world who are under 40 and who can work towards a more sustainable and inclusive global experience. Esra Eczacıbaşı Coşkun, the Digital Transformation Coordinator and a board member at Eczacıbaşı Group, has joined the ranks of this prestigious community. Eczacıbaşı Coşkun's focus on impact, both with her work at the Istanbul Modern Museum of Art towards providing people with better access to art, as well as at the Eczacıbaşı Group towards a healthier, more inclusive and sustainable future, was instrumental in her selection to the Young Global Leaders Class of 2022. Alumni of this group include stellar names like Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, Google founders Larry Page and Serge Brin, barrister Amal Clooney, and New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

Upon being selected to the community, Coşkun expressed the need for global solutions: "Every problem in the world is ours; we're all part of the same world. We have an obligation to engage in creating impact for future generations. The opportunity at the YGL program to collaborate with exceptional global leaders on global issues I care deeply about will allow for the creation of partnerships and alliances, diversification of the communities we serve, increase in public awareness and improvement in public policy to scale our impact."

Coşkun says since childhood, she has been aware of her responsibility for the well-being of the community at large and for leaving a better world to future generations: "At RC, I started to think more deeply about how I should develop myself to be suitable for a role



Esra Eczacıbaşı Coşkun RC 07

that involves tackling the challenges facing our planet and humanity. My beloved teacher, Mr. Ammerman, would say 'critique the world around you, but don't hesitate to also criticize

it.' With his advice in mind, I began to seek out platforms that would enable me to engage with national and global issues."

Zeynep Başaran Bundur RC 05 Receives BAGEP Award

Zeynep Başaran Bundur, an assistant professor at Özyeğin University Civil Engineering Department, was named one of the recipients of this year's BAGEP Award, (Science Academy Young Scientist Award Program) given to the brightest young scientists in Turkey for the potential future impact of their research.

Bundur's research plan is to utilize excavated soil and industrial wastes as building materials and provide an understanding of material interactions to improve resource efficiency in the 3D printing of building materials. Bundur explains that the project will help create the foundations for future development of building materials, proposing the use of sustainable systems in digital manufacturing: "The use of waste materials will present resource-efficient and circular building materials to the industry. In addition, the implementation of a digitally enabled 3D printing process will reduce waste production in terms of mold but also will reduce green gas emissions during cast-in-situ production."

After enrolling in the Boğaziçi University Chemistry Department as an undergraduate, Bundur realized that her heart was in engineering - particularly design-based solutions - and she switched her major to civil engineering. Since 2009, her work has focused on advancing the development of innovative and sustainable solutions for cement-based materials. In 2014, she initiated the Sustainable and Adapted Building Materials (SAM) research group, the first multidisciplinary group in Turkey to train researchers in microbiology, material science, and civil engineering. Her work involves sustainable concrete production methodologies, including



Zeynep Başaran Bundur RC 05

3D printing of concrete, development of self-healing concrete, and biological admixtures and alternative raw materials for cement-based systems.

Bundur recalls that her interest in biology started at RC: "I really enjoyed

Mr. Lou Ungemach's advanced biology courses. He enforced us to think out of the box. My experience in RC has also had an impact on my social skills in terms of professional networking and presenting my research in the scientific community."

Bike and Begüm Ayaskan RC 09

Receive Terra Carta Design Lab Award

The Terra Carta Design Lab competition, run by the Prince of Wales and former Apple designer Jony Ive was launched in 2021 to encourage the discovery of high-impact and low-cost solutions to the climate crisis. Bike and Begüm Ayaskan have received this year's award with Aerseeds - aerodynamic nutrient and seed pods, made from food waste, that work with nature to accelerate regeneration. Mimicking natural processes, Aerseeds are carried by the wind to cover large areas and reach difficult terrains, where they deliver nutrients and seeds to soils depleted by human activity.

Through the award, the team will receive funding and mentoring from Sir Jony Ive and the partners of the Sustainable Markets Initiative network for the next year to develop Aerseeds in collaboration with Royal College of Art and Innovation RCA. "We hope to make Aerseeds a viable solution to reforestation globally and aim to make Aerseeds open innovation through local and global partnerships," say Bike and Begüm Ayaskan. "It is imperative to create a network due to the immediacy of climate change; we need to find ways of working together and sharing both resources and information in order to act now, before we reach a tipping point. The next year and beyond will be a very collaborative and open process, where we hope to bring together a lot of industries and people from different backgrounds to create a strong foundation to reforest our planet together."

The Ayaskans summarize their approach to design as "controlled spontaneity."

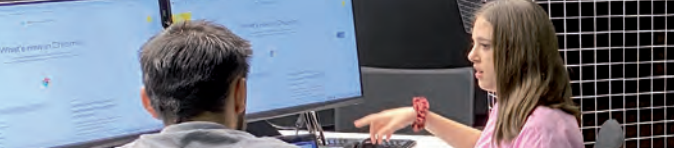


Bike and Begüm Ayaskan RC 09

They credit RC for providing a diverse education that enabled them to see and implement connections between different disciplines: "We have a more connected world perspective and feel that as long as we can dream something

we can find the means and the people to achieve these dreams."

For more details visit:
www.rca.ac.uk/business/terra-carta-design-lab-projects/aerseeds/



Welcome to the RCVerse

The metaverse and Web3: It looks like both these concepts will be around for a long time, and RC is well-prepared for all the practical and educational implications. With a great technology team, interested and engaged teachers, and curious and ambitious students, RC has embraced these concepts through its labs and clubs and has even integrated the technology to some classes.



Students in the Literature and Technology Elective create an original story that will be developed as a VR (virtual reality) experience

The metaverse is a virtual-reality space in which users can interact with a computer-generated environment and other users. The new virtual reality (VR) headsets promise to create a metaverse experience that will be almost indistinguishable from the physical world experience.

RC CTO Tanol Türkoğlu explains: “Today, a person can shop online by examining photos or videos of goods, reading the previous customers’ comments, and carrying out the purchase transaction by keying in credit card information, all using a keyboard, mouse and screen, in 2-D. Tomorrow, a person will wear a VR headset, enter into a metaverse and will virtually walk into a shop, virtually examine the goods and buy them using a digital payment model, all in 3-D.”

RC is helping students navigate this new frontier by allowing them to not



A student uses a virtual reality app for a cell structure experiment in biology class

only try out the technologies in RC’s own VR and AR labs, but also giving them the skills to design their own virtual experiences.

RC Augmented Reality Lab: Fast Forwarding to the Future

A prominent manifestation of metaverse technology at RC is the RC

Augmented Reality Lab, established with the support of Akbank. Just as RC was one of the first schools in Turkey back in the 1980s with a computer lab, the RC Augmented Reality Lab constitutes the gateway to the metaverse for RC students. Pinar Kadioğlu, Educational Technology Coordinator, gives the lowdown on the AR Lab, and its precursor VR Science Lab.

“A mini-VR Science Lab was established in Feyyaz Berker Hall right before the pandemic. We wanted to perform science experiments that could not otherwise be done because of safety reasons or because they were practically impossible to do. We’ve been collaborating with a science-tech company (VRLab Academy) which provides virtual laboratories for physics, chemistry and biology experiments.”

The AR Lab was established during the 2020-21 academic year and is finally being used in all its capacity this year, with students back on campus. The purpose of this lab is to introduce students, teachers and other members of the RC community to the concepts of augmented and virtual reality and adapt them to the extended reality environment.



After watching the documentary *Free Solo*, students were able to experience climbing a mountain in a VR environment



Students created a virtual tour for the Museum of Innocence and use it to learn about postmodernism



The Aşiyen Museum tour, also created by RC students, will be used to learn about the Servet-i Fünun era

A typical VR experience enables a student to carry out a physics experiment, which would be impossible because of possible harmful results in the physical world, whereas its metaverse equivalent would enable students to interact with each other while carrying out the experiment virtually.

Experiments are not the only method of experiential learning. This year students also experienced climbing a mountain in a VR environment, after watching the *Free Solo* movie about the life of a climber. Students learned climbing tricks in different areas by feeling the changes in their heartbeat and breathing.

Every year at RC, more teachers and students are submitting new project ideas that integrate VR technologies. In this new world, learning will be completely experience-oriented."

RC Students Are Also Developers!

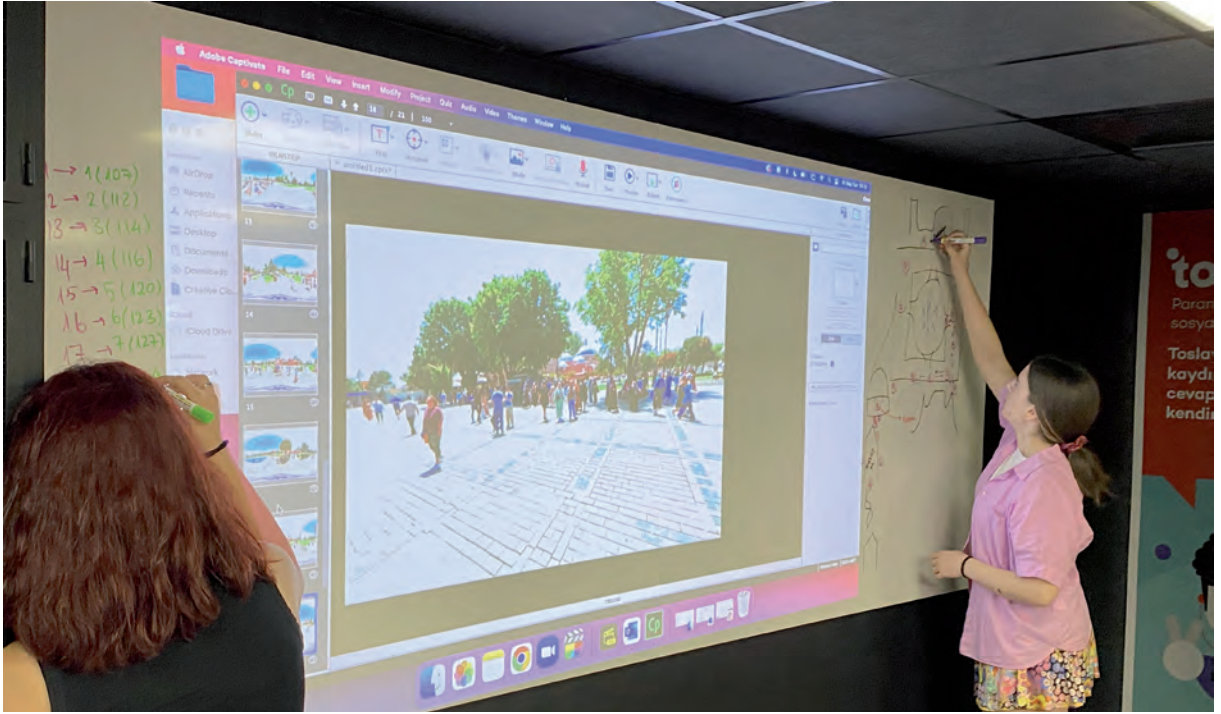
RC students progressively increase their technology skills to be able to make maximum use of these facilities. More and more students will likely not only be the users of these technologies but also the designers or creators of them. An example of technological creation by RC students is the RC 360 app, a virtual school tour for prospective students, their parents, alumni, students, faculty and staff members.

RC-Born Museum Apps

Encouraged by Turkish Language and Literature Department Head Mehmet Uysal to actively use AR/VR technologies in their classes, RC Turkish teachers Aysun Barut Bilgili and Sinan Tümtürk worked with students from RC's Dreamworld AR/VR Club, IT team members, and technology company Manogames to design two virtual museum tour apps with huge educational benefits. During the creation of these museum projects, students took an active role from writing scenarios to coding VR environments in Unity programming language.

Aşiyen Museum, the beautiful house of Tefvik Fikret, widely considered to be the founder of the modern school of Turkish poetry, and once a teacher at RC, was chosen for one of the apps.

Together with their teachers, the students first decided which parts of the museum to focus on. They photographed these sections, researched their history and significance, and then wrote and voiced texts in English and Turkish about them. Through this project, future 11th grade Turkish Language and Literature students will be able to virtually visit this museum, when



Literature and Technology students prepare a storyboard that will be used to create an original VR experience

they cover Tevfik Fikret and the Servet-i Fünun era in the curriculum.

The second chosen museum was the Museum of Innocence, taking its name from the book of the same name by the Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk RA 70. RC Turkish teacher Aysun Barut Bilgili says the app is designed to improve the learning experience:

“We use the virtual tour in the concept of postmodernism with 9th graders. Museum of Innocence is a romance novel; what makes it different and postmodernist is the fact that there is a museum in Beyoğlu that contains a collection of items referred to or depicted in the book. With the virtual tour, the students had the chance to see which objects Kemal, the protagonist, had collected related to Füsün, his love. Kemal opens a museum at the end of the book. The novel constitutes a great example for metafiction in the context of postmodernism. Through the virtual tour, students understand metafiction, a concept which is a departure from standard narrative conventions.”



While studying humans' relationship with technology, Literature and Technology students experimented in the metaverse



The RC e-Sports Club gives students the opportunity to participate in this new competitive field

The project will also be shared with the museum directorship, as a way of giving back to the community.

Literature and Technology Elective Also Employs VR

English teacher Allison Finn explains how the Literature and Technology class evolved thanks to new technology:

“The Literature and Technology class is an English literature class focused on humans’ relationship with technology. We started with robots specifically when we studied *I, Robot* by Isaac Asimov and examined the film *2001: A Space Odyssey*. We studied Nicholas Carr’s *The Shallows*, William Gibson’s *Neuromancer*, and various short stories, essays and poetry including Alan Turing’s pivotal paper ‘Computing and Machine Intelligence.’

“Since we studied the literature that originally imagined the matrix

and we have delved deeply into the surrounding landscape, it seemed like it was time to experience it for ourselves. This moment happened to coincide with the availability of the technology as our IT specialists created the opportunity. The students entered a private space in the metaverse and spent time experimenting, playing with the options on the control board, and imagining what this space could mean for the future.

“Toward the end of the semester, the class began creating a VR experience based on an original robot vs. human story they wrote themselves. The thematic threads that run through the story are ones we studied this year, and there is footage from Sultanahmet Square and from the campus.”

RC Clubs Embrace New Technologies

Being surrounded by all these technological developments, students and advisors developed interesting

responses in the extracurricular arena.

RC Blockchain Club

RC Blockchain Club was launched in 2021 by Lise 11 students Eren Önder and Soykan Çağan Baş. Soykan expresses the club’s ambitions: “As an institution that has graduated many innovators in different sectors, we wanted to keep this RC tradition. Thus, we launched the first high-school level blockchain club in Turkey. In the first half of the year, we taught Blockchain 101 content, and in the second half we divided members into groups based on their interests. Our goal for next year is to have a more rigid structure that will allow people to specialize. This way we will be fully equipped to build blockchain projects like creating an NFT collection.”

RC Marine Biology Club and the 360 Aquatic Tour

Sibel Almas, biology teacher and Marine Biology Club advisor, tells the

story the 360 aquatic virtual tour at RC:

“As a certified SCUBA diver and a lifelong snorkeler, the underwater world always fascinates me. Therefore, I had the idea in our Marine Biology Club to have a 360 virtual tour of an aquarium to those who cannot dive or visit an aquarium.”

Defne Kaşif L11 says, “Throughout my life, I haven’t had an adventure with marine life. Because of my fear of the sea and its vastness, I held myself back from interacting with it. With AR, the moment I saw how the fish swam across me, the instinct of reaching out to them was immediate. It was a moment of oneness where I felt like a part of the water itself. AR was indeed an extraordinary experience.”

e-Sports Club – A New Way to Compete

RC e-Sports advisors General Manager Doğan Aydenk (RC Network Coordinator) and Vice President Kenan Muştı (RC MMC Coordinator) explain how RC is tackling this new competitive activity, that has just been introduced to the Olympics:

“E-Sports are game tournaments where licensed players compete in eGames such as strategy or sports, in a virtual reality-like environment, using the same equipment for fairness. The tournaments are live online and may have jurors and referees.

“The goal of the club is to use e-Sports as a platform for expanding the communication, cooperation and problem-solving skills of RC students. Another aim is to teach students how

to run e-Sports like a business and show them that this is a career option.”

RC players are currently competing in League of Legends and Valorant, which are also allowed by e-Sports federations around the world, and 22 members have already received a professional e-Sports license from the Ministry of Youth and Sports. RC’s own e-Gym will be created shortly. Robert College’s e-Sports program is supported by a grant from the US State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Through its labs, its clubs, and its apps, but most importantly, through the curiosity and drive of the teachers, students, and staff, RC has ventured into the new technological world with confidence and ambition. Exciting years await the whole RC community! ■

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RC Alumni Surf Web3!

RC alumni who are already successfully navigating the Web3 world share their experience and views thus far with the RC community.

Yiğit Kılıçoğlu RC 20 Explains “Crypto 101”

“We need to give blockchain technology some more time to finish its baby steps.”

Yiğit Kılıçoğlu is studying computer science at Yale University and is a member of the Yale Blockchain Club.

How did you become interested in cryptocurrencies?

Cengiz Ağalar, my advanced programming teacher at RC, picked me to make a presentation on “Bitcoin and Hashtables” sparking my interest in this field. The idea of a decentralized, tamper-resistant, easily transferable and durable currency that is based on math sounded like what a modern currency should be like, and it was especially appealing to someone who grew up in the midst of economic and political turmoil.

What exactly are cryptocurrencies, blockchains and NFTs?

A blockchain is just an ordered list of data blocks. Blockchains allow everyone to be on the same page without requiring trust between participants. If we can ensure that everyone has the same information in their record book, we can also define a payment system because we can keep track of, and everyone can agree on, who owns how much. Cryptocurrencies are based on such payment systems. Each cryptocurrency has its own set of rules, and participants join the networks whose rules they like. Anyone can create their own cryptocurrency – the challenge is convincing others to join. Whereas cryptocurrencies represent collections of divisible and identical things, NFTs (non-fungible tokens) represent the indivisible and unique. An NFT functions well as a certificate of ownership, be it for a photo, for a

building, or for a video game character. Ultimately, both cryptocurrencies and NFTs are just pieces of data in record books. The math-backed universality and reliability of the record book makes this data useful.

What do decentralized technologies bring to the table?

It is prohibitively hard to rewrite the past in decentralized technologies. I cannot convince others that you owe me money when you don't. Similarly, I cannot claim to have not stated something that I actually have. Complex contracts become easier to enforce. An artist can demand to receive a certain percentage of every resale of their artwork's NFT, and the code that handles resales can automatically reject requests that do not comply. Without a decentralized system, such a contract would probably be hard to enforce globally, wasting your life in courtrooms. We have never reached such levels of fairness, reliability and transparency before.

People are wary of these technologies. How do you respond?

We need to realize that we are not really facing anything new. If society can function without people using actual banknotes, then a currency that is electronic by nature should also work. Money without a central authority's backing is also not unprecedented. As long as a currency is reliable and convenient, it can function as a medium of exchange. Cryptocurrencies will help create fairer and more democratic economies. We just need to give this technology some more time to finish its baby steps.



Yiğit Kılıçoğlu RC 20

Emin Gün Sirer RC 89 **Spearheads Blockchain Technology**

“I’ve never wavered in my belief that Avalanche will be one of the most important projects in blockchains.”



Emin Gün Sirer RC 89

As an associate professor in computer science at Cornell University, Emin Gün Sirer was the co-president of Initiative for Cryptocurrencies and Contracts (IC3). As early as 2003, Sirer put forward the possibility of the creation of a digital currency - before Bitcoin was born. He continued his academic work on peer-to-peer systems and making the internet secure. He was listed in the Brilliant 10 list of Popular Science magazine in 2007. He brought together a team of his students to work on the scalability, flexibility, and manageability of decentralized systems, and this work led to Avalanche, a consensus-based decentralized system. In 2020, AVAX, the coin of this system was launched. Currently, Sirer is the president of Ava Labs and is one of the key industry

figures shaping where this technology heads.

Where do you see blockchain in five years?

Time horizons for big ecosystem shifts in blockchains have happened faster than in traditional industries. Five years ago, Ethereum was just starting to show expanded utility with smart contracts, and there has been an enormous progress since.

Five years from now, we will likely have been through another 2-3 cycles of technical evolution. This will lead to a consolidation of activity into a subset of these blockchains that have proven their value, hardened infrastructure for mainstream adoption, and are flexible to different use cases.

It will not be a winner take all world, but a winner takes most.

What has surprised you as the industry grew?

I’ve seen countless blockchain projects launch with bold visions and claims, only to under deliver and flame out. The select few that breakthrough are relentless builders introducing novel technology that may not be recognized for its value right away, but eventually get their due.

I’ve never wavered in my belief that Avalanche will be one of the most important projects in blockchains, but I have to say I’ve been surprised (pleasantly!) at how fast the ecosystem has realized the innovation behind it and the impact it is set to have on the second decade of crypto.

What is Ava Labs doing to minimize your solution’s impact on the environment?

Avalanche has been designed, from outset, to be an eco-friendly protocol. Annually, Avalanche uses the same energy as 46 US households, compared to Ethereum, which uses the same energy as 1.6 million US households. You can see the dramatic, positive impact Avalanche can have in building a greener financial system that works for both people and the planet.

What advice do you have for students and young alumni interested in this area?

Invest heavily in learning about these systems and communities by reading as much as you can from high-quality sources. These days, there is so much content and so many myths about these systems that you have to approach things with a healthy dose of skepticism. Is this an opinion? Is this a fact? Is this somewhere in between?

Rina Onur Şirinoğlu RC L3 04

Helps Put Turkey on the Global Gaming Map

“There’s currently a gold rush with everything Web3.”



Rina Onur Şirinoğlu RC L3 04

Rina Onur Şirinoğlu is one of the founders of Istanbul-born Spyke Games, which has been in the news for receiving \$55 million in an investment round led by venture capital firm Griffin Gaming Partners.

What kind of critical skills do young people achieve through gaming?

Gaming provides the opportunity to foster creativity as well as analytical thinking. It’s a form of escapism, but also an incredible avenue for individualism and self-expression. The anonymity in the gaming environment gives way to creating true communities around interest, competition and collaboration. It teaches the player to be patient, but also persistent. In a world where inequality and lack of justice persist, a well-designed game is incredibly fair and balanced. Hard work always pays off!

How does gaming alter how other sectors work or approach their target customers?

There are quite a few industries that try to use gaming elements or gamification in the way they engage their customers or stakeholders. Education, well-being, efficiency and health are some of the areas that have implemented gaming features to increase retention within their userbase. The inherent presence of competition and collaboration within gaming itself helps create highly engaged communities. Especially with Web3 gaming, the way brands and companies interact with their customers has also changed. The world has become even smaller, where providing an experience to the end user isn’t inhibited by physical boundaries anymore.

What is Turkey’s potential in the gaming sector?

Turkey has become one of the rising stars in mobile gaming globally. Istanbul is considered a gaming hub along with others such as Tel Aviv and Helsinki. Some of the largest technology companies coming out of Turkey are in the gaming sector, and gaming has been the fastest growing subset in being able to attract foreign investment to Turkey. For the first time, the Turkish ecosystem has been able to showcase a repeatable pattern of success on the global arena when it comes to a product-focused tech business.

How do you see Web3 changing your industry?

Our mission is to connect people through play. We provide content on whichever platform or medium the player demands. Gaming has existed for many years and will continue to exist for generations to come. It was first on consoles, then on the web, then on Facebook. More recently it has been on mobile. If the general player demands for the content to be played in a decentralized fashion, it will get there. There’s currently a gold rush with everything Web3; once the dust settles, we’ll see more gaming companies taking solid steps in that direction.

Gökçe Güven RC 18

Explores How Brands Can Touch Consumers in Web3

I “I see a world where every individual becomes a micro-creator in the future.”

Having worked with prominent names of Web3 such as OpenSea, Gökçe Güven recently founded kalder.app

Could you tell us about your blockchain experience so far?

In 2018, I understood this technology is going to change the world – creating financial and social access independent of local politics and economics. I have worked at various companies, trying to find solutions for the unbanked, building a DeFi (decentralized finance) app and building cryptowallets. For all these years, crypto was my “day job.” My night jobs were generative, machine learning art, design, fashion – everything arts and tech.

What did your work at Open Sea involve?

At some point, my arts community started merging with my crypto community.

I started advising my art and fashion friends, helping them mint NFTs and working closely with the OpenSea team giving insights and feedback. Soon I joined OpenSea, shaping creator flows, consumer experiences, and a Christie's partnership, as well as advising and launching anonymous and consumer collections. I started the User Research arm in OpenSea, to harness insights to hypothesize what is next in NFTs. I interviewed brands



Gökçe Güven RC18

and creators like Gucci, Weeknd and Christie's, as well as consumers ranging from power users to anonymous Bored Ape and CryptoPunks owners or first-time NFT minters.

Where do you envision blockchain and NFT going?

With my experience at OpenSea, I recognized that the scalability of engagement is a problem. After a peak on-chain activity of minting for every brand and collection, the wallets that just formed a community would turn to ghost wallets when minting is done. Brands will be asked, “What’s next? Should we launch a new collection?” and consumers will ask, “What’s next? Am I left behind?”

Brands want to acquire and retain customers; however, current tools take the ownership of the community away from the brand. Brands want to have a direct relationship with the community, and top fans and consumers want access, recognition, and status. With current tooling, this is not scalable, segmented, or customized.

I see a world where every individual becomes a micro-creator in the future powered by blockchain where we engage our community with on-chain incentives and authentic connections that are decentralized. The next bull run will be about on-chain social powered by social tokens, NFTs, and metaverse experiences, and at kalder.app we are bridging the gap between Web2 consumer brands and Web3 tooling to touch consumers in a meaningful way.

Memo Akten RC 92

Envisions the Future of Creative Technology

“There is no doubt that AI will - and already is - completely changing how we ‘create’.”

Memo Akten is an artist and creative technologist. He's also an assistant professor at UCSD, working on his PhD.

How do you use AI in your work?

My interest is building systems which can understand what is happening in the world around them, and then respond intelligently. My motivation was a desire to create expressive systems that we can play in real-time to creatively express ourselves, analogous to a musical instrument. With the rise of Deep Learning, I also became interested in the social, political, and cultural implications of this.

I'm also really interested in the [human => world => machine => human => world] “meaning making” loop. I.e. how we try to interpret the results of machines trying to interpret the results of our actions in the world.

How do you see AI being used in art going forward?

AI will - and already is - completely changing how we create. If we look at OpenAI's DALL·E 2 released a few months ago, it really is quite incredible. This is a model which can generate an image from a simple short sentence. It's like an online image search, in that we simply type a description such as, “An astronaut riding an alien-like deep sea creature with lots of tentacles and feelers, in the style of a Wes Anderson film,” and the model generates the image. These systems are going to transform the creative sectors. Many jobs are going to become obsolete, but new roles are going to be created, and whole new genres will emerge.

This is not too different to the way drum machines, synthesizers, sequencers transformed music. Drum machines did not make drummers



Memo Akten RC 92

obsolete. They did, however, arguably make it more difficult to make a living as a drummer - especially for non-elite level drummers. They also, however, enabled millions of bedroom producers to make music, some of whom went on to invent new musical genres and impact culture.

For a while, the signal-to-noise ratio is going to be very low, as we are flooded with rather generic outputs. However, I believe some artists are going to find a way to rise above the noise, and make their own personal, unique voices heard in most novel ways.

Are NFTs a hype or here to stay?

They are absolutely hype, but just because they are hype, doesn't mean they will go away. As observed by The Gartner Hype Cycle many technologies spike into a “Peak of Inflated Expectations”, followed by a crash into the “Trough of Disillusionment”.

The web was also a hype bubble in the 90s. It crashed at the start of the millenium but has been steadily growing again, and now look at the survivors like Amazon and Google. I think the most likely outcome is that NFTs will stay. Brands will get (and already are) heavily involved, trying to sell you virtual branded collectibles that don't do anything and you don't need, but you will want because celebrities will promote them. The entertainment industry will embrace NFTs; music, films and books could all be tied to NFTs. NFTs could become as ubiquitous as other protocols that we use online, such as HTTP (for the web) and SMTP (for email). The general public doesn't really talk about these protocols, instead we just visit a webpage or send an email. Likewise, NFTs could just become the ubiquitous protocol underlying owning digital assets.

Emre Aksoy RC 09

Engaged in the Rise in E-Sports in Turkey

I “E-Sports literally is no different from traditional sports.”

Emre Aksoy is the general manager of the 1907 Fenerbahçe ESports.

How did you get interested in e-Sports?

I’ve always been a close follower of new trends and emerging technologies. Before stepping onto the e-Sports scene, I co-founded a social media agency named ReputeUs, which partnered with many known brands in Turkey. Since 2012, I’ve been involved in the e-Sports ecosystem. While I was working with an e-Sports team called BPI, Fenerbahçe reached out to me in 2016 for me to become the general manager of their upcoming roster under the name of 1907 Fenerbahçe ESports. As a lifelong Fenerbahçe fan, I couldn’t refuse that offer. We went on to win the biggest tournament of Turkey (TBF 2017) in our first year, and we’ve been growing ever since. I am working closely with our president, Sina Afra, to elevate e-Sports and Fenerbahçe to the next level, while improving myself as a manager thanks to his mentorship and guidance.

Where does your club compete?

We are competing in over eight games with more than 80 players and staff members. These games vary from League of Legends to PUBG Mobile. We have been preparing for the summer season in LOL with a very confident team made of successful league veterans and upcoming wonderkids. Likewise, we’ve contributed many young talents to the ecosystem in Valorant, who are on their way to becoming the next superstars competing under Fenerbahçe.

How is e-Sports different than gaming?

It would be an understatement to say



Emre Aksoy RC 09 (far right) celebrates a win with the 1907 Fenerbahçe ESports team

that e-Sports is just the competitive version of gaming. It has many complex layers and literally has no difference from a traditional sport. There is the sportive side where players have to train constantly in order to keep their skills sharp, have a routine with a healthy diet and physical exercise, and maintain their mental health by working together with professionals. There is also a whole business side, which consists of player contracts, sponsorship deals, general management and so much more. There are countless skills a professional e-Sports player has to have such as communication, professionalism, consistency, dedication and a clear mindset.

What does the future of e-Sports in Turkey look like?

E-Sports has been around in Turkey for a long time. However, it has just recently started being regarded as a sport. Certain companies are investing in our local ecosystem to

bring e-Sports to a higher level. As a team, we are engaging in many projects that aim to widen the Turkish e-Sports ecosystem. Fenerbahçe ESports has academy teams, organizes community tournaments, competes in international organizations and all in all represents the Turkish e-Sports ecosystem in the best way possible.

Any advice for students or alumni interested in this field?

There are many opportunities for those who want to pursue a career in e-Sports, whether they want to become a professional e-Sports player or a team staff. For those who want to become a player, all I can say is to work hard and find your own unique playstyle that will differentiate you from others. Those who want a role in the management of an e-Sports team should learn how a business works and should be creative.

Cultural Economy and Minting

NFT at the Whitworth Art Gallery

Ismail Ertürk RC 77, Senior Lecturer at the University of Manchester, explains how art and economics are becoming intertwined through digital platforms.

My academic studies of economics have always been informed by my broader interest in humanities, especially culture and arts, going back to my undergraduate years when, at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, I took electives on arts and philosophy to make sense of mainstream economics' obsession with formalizing economic life and disembedding it from the social and political processes. At NYU in New York, during my postgraduate years, I was spending as much time in art galleries and arthouse cinemas as I was in economics classes. At the University of Manchester where, for the last fifteen years or so, I have been teaching financialization - a new discipline that studies the present-day capitalism from a multidisciplinary perspective and by conceptualizing the central position of finance in business, daily lives, and economy - I have found like-minded colleagues at the Centre for Research on Socio-cultural Change with whom I have introduced methods and theories from cultural studies into studying economics. Such multidisciplinary initiatives at the University of Manchester are not unusual. The University has several prestigious cultural institutions founded by donations from industrial revolution entrepreneurs, one of which is the Whitworth Art Gallery, named after Sir Joseph Whitworth.

Joseph Whitworth, an innovator, had made a fortune in the early 19th century from standardizing screw threads. Innovations sometimes can be as simple as creating a standardization to revolutionize an industry as an economic force just like the standardization of railway gauges in the US in the 19th century.



Ismail Ertürk RC 77

The Gallery's donated collections include prints by William Blake, the 18th century visionary visual artist and poet. I have been in conversations with the current director of the Whitworth Art Gallery on a project called "Economics the Blockbuster," where the artists imagine alternative



socially useful economic systems, and artists and economists engage in cultural economy dialogues on societal context of businesses and contemporary economic activities. When NFTs emerged with a bang from Beeble's \$69.3 million sale of his work "Everydays: The First 5000 Days", the director of the Whitworth approached me to discuss incorporating NFTs into the "Economics the Blockbuster" project. I joined in the earlier conversations that finally led to minting an NFT from William Blake's print "The Ancient Days", which is about creation and technical precision in arts with references to the biblical creation stories. Therefore, the subject of "The Ancient Days" was appropriate for what NFTs represent as a technological innovation. Whereas NFTs have a media representation as a new asset class for investors who speculate on the blockchain and cryptocurrency innovations, the Whitworth's aim was to monetize its collections to be able to finance the Gallery's projects to make art accessible to the University's surrounding communities and especially to unprivileged youth. In a way the Gallery's aim was to do a Robin Hood with the NFTs and to redistribute the speculative wealth invested in cryptocurrencies and NFTs. However, as a socially and environmentally responsible art institution, in minting an NFT, the Whitworth could not use the environmentally harmful Ethereum blockchain whose "proof-of-work" computer calculations consume huge amounts of energy. Our NFT advisor, the digital art specialist Vastari Labs, instead, introduced us to the creators of Tezos, a "proof-of-stake" blockchain-based cryptocurrency that uses radically less energy in minting NFTs.

I have been working with contemporary artists over the years and especially with the Swedish duo Goldin+Senneby to critically reflect on the financialized economy of our times. Stockholm School of Economics has recently published a book on Goldin+Senneby, for which I wrote a chapter, and uses the book, *Economic Ekphrasis*, as a textbook for its business students. My research in FinTech, digital finance, cryptocurrencies as financial innovation that fuels the financialization of our present-day capitalism has gained new practical and intellectual dimensions while observing and partly participating in the minting of "The Ancient Days". However, I am critical of the claims by the proponents of NFTs that NFTs will revolutionize the political economy of the art market by liberating artists economically from art intermediaries. In my view, digital platforms, in institutionalized forms of blockchain specialists, cryptocurrency exchanges, digital service providers, NFT exchanges, etc., are simply replacing the old art intermediaries like physical galleries and auction houses. It is not difficult to guess that some of the old intermediaries are likely to transform themselves into NFT intermediaries both for artists and a new class of digital art collectors. The investors in NFTs are mostly investors in blockchain and cryptocurrencies who are looking for new asset classes in these technologies, and NFTs fit the bill for such financialized behavior. I doubt that these new type of digital art collectors care much about artistic values and artists' precarious economic conditions. In my financialization studies lingo I see NFTs, in their current form, as an expansion of financialization into the art world. I do not believe that NFTs are a solution to the artists' political economy problem in property rights regarding the creation and the circulation of their artwork. However, I am not against the experimentation with NFTs, just like the one at the Whitworth that I described above. In the history of art there have been unintended consequences when technology, capitalist search for profit,

and art come together. Cinema was not invented as an art form but has become the defining art form of the 20th century. However, video art and holographic art could not outlast the speed of change in technology in recording of audio-visual data. I am sure there will be artists who will create interesting new digital art using the technological opportunities created by blockchain and related innovations. A new political economy of art can emerge too as a new generation of artists with skills and imagination in blockchain is experimenting continuously. These new generation artists' experimentations in blockchain technologies and NFTs can

influence the economic use of such innovations with more socially useful consequences.

It is certain that the art market will change with the new smart contracts and distributed ledger technologies that are embedded in NFTs, but art itself will persist because of its aesthetic qualities and its powerful ability to ask radical questions about human and social conditions. As a cultural economist NFTs are serving me well, too, in studying present-day financialized capitalism through the prism of the relationship between art and the economy.



İsmail Ertürk RC 77 joined early conversations that led to minting an NFT from William Blake's print "The Ancient Days"

Miras: My Journey of Writing a Novel

By Binnur Karaevli RC 84

In August of 2019 I was having a meeting with one of the executive producers of *Peaky Blinders* in London. He kept on talking about his love of Anatolian Rock. I must admit, I was really embarrassed that I didn't know much about it. Then I started listening to Anatolian Rock and became obsessed with it. Around the same time, I was listening to Ezhel, Ceza, Saniser and Gaye Su Akyol and was struck by the power of music that connects generations. I was also intrigued by the 70s and the Turkish youth who were silenced by the military coup. Initially I wrote the story as a TV series. *Miras (The Inheritance)* tells the coming-of-age story of Kerim (17), a troubled teenage musician who attends a posh private school in Istanbul. Kerim's world takes an unexpected turn when he discovers that his biological grandfather is a

legendary Turkish rock musician who has left the rights to all his music to Kerim upon his death.

I love writing about teenagers; my son is 15 years old, so I think I understand their world. During the pandemic when everything shut down, the characters kept haunting me, so I sat down and wrote it as a novel. Soon I discovered how the craft differs from writing a screenplay, which is a visual form of storytelling. The audience will see the story, so you don't have to worry about certain details and transitions, but a novel is not like that. As I was writing *Miras*, I was also working in the writers' room of a new Paramount Plus series called *The Turkish Detective* with Haluk Bilginer in the lead. I hope the readers will enjoy *Miras* as much as I've enjoyed writing it.



First-Ever Book on the Blockchain by Cem Bağdatlıoğlu RC 09



Cem Bağdatlıoğlu got his PhD in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and has focused on business intelligence and analytics in the initial stages of his career. His first book, a science-fiction novel, *Saabu* (Akıl Fikir Yayınları), is the first book on the blockchain. The novel was recently published, although he started writing it some years ago: "I had begun writing *Saabu* in 2012 when I was starting on my PhD work. By the time it was 2014, my workload had really ramped up, but the book wasn't nearly ready. That is when I anchored *Saabu* on the bitcoin blockchain. This anchoring means that by having a copy of the specific PDF file of the book and knowing where to look on the bitcoin blockchain, one can prove that the file had existed in 2014. In the beginning of the pandemic, my mom, Dilek Ataman Bağdatlıoğlu RC 76, offered to translate the book to Turkish. This

proposal re-kindled my efforts to finish it fully after making notes on it for nearly a decade. The book is from the perspective of someone who has been taken by an advanced and altruistic human civilization. In *Saabu*, one of my overarching goals was to describe an optimistic future." *Saabu* seems to promise a lot especially to those readers interested in concepts like equality, the paradox of equality, production, management, and technology.

Bağdatlıoğlu is Chief of Staff and Head of Analytics at the recently launched company Onuu ("on you") where low-income people can access banking, insurance, and financial products. Bağdatlıoğlu's futuristic perspective is prominent in this venture: "We are looking at several ways to innovate and incorporate bitcoin, NFT's, and crypto products into our product."

Semahat Arsel ACG 49 Shares Her Family's History

By Seda Çaykara Şen RC 96

Semahat Arsel's memoir *Kuşaktan Kuşağa* (From Generation to Generation) was published in March 2022 by Yapı Kredi Yayınları. However, the book in itself is a lot more than a personal memoir, simultaneously taking the readers through both the history of a family and the history of a newly formed republic. Beginning from early 20th century Ankara, Arsel takes us in lovely detail through old customs and habits of the age, from wedding ceremonies and bayrams to familial life of a household. Just as stated in the foreword, it is impossible not to reflect on how much our life



and values have changed in the past century. Supplemented by many photos, the book gives one a chance to escape the heaviness of "today".

As for the personal history, *Kuşaktan Kuşağa* is a very sincere and honest memoir, the way Semahat Arsel talks about her personal hardships, worries, values and her perspective on life feels like a cozy afternoon chat over coffee with a fellow classmate. Hopefully her book will take its place among the indispensable works we will be returning to again and again to reflect on an age we are slowly losing.

Cem Kozlu RA 65

Pens Story of His Trailblazing Grandfather

Most recognize Cem Kozlu as a prominent business leader and a prolific author. His oldest book, *Uluslararası Pazarlama* (International Marketing; İş Bankası Kültür Yayınları) is now in its 15th edition, expanded and co-authored by Kozlu and Bosphorus University Assistant Professor Hüseyin Karaca.

Bir Tıp Şehidi - Cumhuriyet'in İlk Röntgen Profesörü (A Martyr of Medicine - The Republic's First Radiology Professor; Remzi Kitabevi) constitutes his latest work and is based on letters and postcards Kozlu's maternal grandfather, Dr. Salâhattin Mehmet Erk, sent his wife from the battlefronts of World War I, and later from Austria and Germany where he did his medical residency in the field of radiology. After his return to Turkey in 1923 he established the first department of radiology in Istanbul

and became the first professor of radiology of the nascent Turkish Republic. The book covers various battlefronts, two cities under Allied occupation, Istanbul and Vienna, news from the War of Independence, and finally the efforts, under Atatürk's leadership, to battle the various infectious diseases that were ravaging Anatolia.

Kozlu states that he seeks to satisfy his curiosity, learn, and also share things that he feels would be useful to others through writing: "What motivated me to write this book is its very personal nature. What is striking about my grandfather is that throughout several incredibly hard years of war, occupation, and separation from family he never feels despondent or depressed but remains hopeful for Turkey's future. His love of family and country sustains him



through dark times. He takes huge risks as a pioneer in radiology in order to establish this new branch of medicine in Turkey, exposing himself to unknown levels of X-rays from early X-ray equipment. I was moved and inspired by his example as a physician, a patriot, a husband and a father."

Behçet Demircan RA 68 Pens Two Books

By Seda Çaykara Şen RC 96

Behçet Demircan has published two books, a novel called Iffet Ablâ (Cinius), and his memoir, Hatıralar. In his memoir, he writes that he has always had a love for literature, especially poetry. He says that he has always sought solace in poetry during hard times and has intended to express his feelings through poetry.

Iffet Ablâ is a novel about the pain of loneliness and man's quest to find love. This main theme revolves around many characters in the book. Written in a very realistic style, the characters, their pain and their sadness hit the reader hard but at the same time it's very easy to find something familiar for everyone in their experiences. Demircan's love for poetry manifests



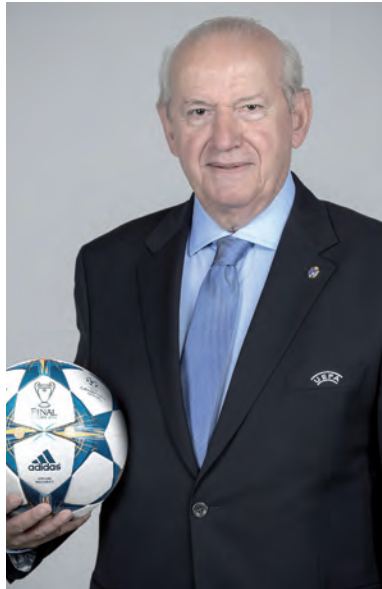
itself in the rich use of metaphors in his writing. This is a very active novel for creating imagery in the minds of the reader.

In Hatıralar Behçet Demircan shares his personal, familial and corporate life in a very frank manner. Starting from his childhood days in Bakırköy, this is also a nostalgic journey through Istanbul. The honesty of the memoir is really to be appreciated as it is not as easy to openly talk about one's pain and hardships in life, as it is to talk about success and happiness. Behçet Demircan takes us through all he has experienced openly, reminding his readers that this is probably what beauty of life is.

Şenes Erzik RA 61 Book is Full of Life Lessons

Şenes Erzik, the revolutionary and honorary president of the Turkish Football Federation, is one of the most outstanding sportspeople in the world of football. Erzik holds the unconquerable record of serving European football for a total of 33 years in UEFA; 15 years as the first vice-president, and 21 years on the FIFA executive committee, football's world governing body. He was awarded the highest praise for his life-long and outstanding service to the world's favorite game by joining the distinguished group of honorary members of both institutions. In his book, Olmaz Olmaz Demeyin Olmaz Olmaz (Don't Say It Can't Happen, Anything Can, Sia Yayınları) Erzik details the milestones in his life to be an inspiration to youth.

Erzik states his education, his values, and his career were the three pillars of his journey: "I was a full-time high



school student at Robert College, then majored in business administration and economics, and completed my master's degree in marketing at RC

Yüksek. My universal education helped me understand and appreciate every word - both in letter and spirit - spent in my business career. A strong and rich past helped shape the moral values that guided my dedication to fight against racism, match-fixing, doping, homophobia, and violence. Integrity in my career has always been a value of utmost importance."

Erzik views football as a powerful force for integration and tolerance, and he wants to bring the readers along on his journey of improving the modus operandi in fairness. "Today, people are susceptible to disinformation on social media. I wanted my memories on record to preserve my legacy so that future generations can learn from me and build on my achievements. It took some bravery to do things that had never been done before. I would very much like to encourage the rising generation to be resilient."

A Sports-Filled Year for Ralf Arditti RA 65

RA 65 and RC YÜK 69 graduate Ralf Arditti participated in the Vitality London 10K Run on May 2, 2022, and completed in 01:06:47, slightly better than his target of 70 minutes. Some 16,000 runners participated in the event which started at the Mall and finished right before Her Majesty's residence. For the occasion, Arditti also launched a donation campaign with TEV (Türk Eğitim Vakfı), raising 75,000 TL to support the livelihoods of 11 university students.



Arditti is a regular runner, taking up the sport at the age of 35 when he quit smoking. Each week he covers around 10 – 15 km in two practice runs.

When asked what's next, Arditti said, "Summer is approaching and I have to switch to arm strokes in open seas. My objective is to swim across the Dardanelles straits from Eceabat to Çanakkale in an international competition organized by the Rotary Club for Zafer Bayramı on August 30."

İbrahim Sözen RC 86 Joins Cleveland Clinic



Dr. İbrahim Sözen has begun working at the Cleveland Clinic Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and is the first Turkish physician in the department's history. He was also the first Turkish physician accepted to and to graduate from the Yale School of Medicine Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Program back in 1995-1999. He was American Board certified in 2003 and is a member of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Cleveland

Clinic, one of the top hospitals in the US, is a teaching institution where Sözen will also engage in medical student and ob/gyn resident teaching both in the clinic and in the operating room and labor and delivery floor. He has 15 scientific publications which have received 959 worldwide citations so far in the medical literature. He is also the author of the book titled Kadınlar Vajinismus ve Ağrılı Cinsel İlişki Tedavisi published in 2019 by İstanbul Tıp Kitabevleri.

Toygun Yilmazer RC 96 Explores Cultural Shifts in Turkey

Toygun Yilmazer, CSO of the advertising agency TBWA\İstanbul, partnered with Oksijen newspaper and Ipsos research company to organize the Culture Next 2022 Conference, the first of an annual conference series that aims to highlight the top five cultural shifts. Each year TBWA publishes a Cultural Edges report that highlights cultural shifts shaping the world. Yilmazer was curious about the shifts that will have the biggest impact on Turkish people and partnered with Ipsos to design a trend relevancy research project among Turkish early adopters.

The findings were announced at the conference that took place on June 21 with 500 attendees from the marketing industry. The five biggest cultural shifts were Circular



Aftermarkets, Liquid Reality, Mind Maintenance, Stealth Mode and No More Gender Rules. Oksijen journalist Elif Ergü, Serdar Kuzuloğlu, Zeynep Miraç, Ayşegül Çoruhlu and Levent Ertem discussed the implications of

these shifts with their guest speakers Olcay Silahlı, Ahmet Usta, İtir Erhart, Erhan Ali Yılmaz and Tolga Çevik, respectively.

RubiBrands, Founded by Yetkin Güneş RC 08 and Berkay Tulay RC 08, Receives Seed Investment

Yetkin Güneş and Berkay Tulay, previous private equity and supply chain professionals, founded RubiBrands in 2021, and Aslı Südor RC 98 recently joined the company as marketing director. RubiBrands is an e-commerce roll-up company focused on hyper-growth marketplaces. The company, in its own words, centralizes and optimizes back-end operations, while driving innovation through product development and its proprietary technology stack. It is focused on Amazon for channel growth, as well as other regional leading marketplaces and direct-to-consumer channels. The fresh start-up just raised \$23 million in a seed round of investment. Not only is RubiBrands the first of its kind in Turkey, the investment is the largest funding in the Turkish e-commerce market. CEO Yetkin Güneş states, “We believe going beyond Amazon and winning in



Berkay Tulay RC 08 and Yetkin Güneş RC 08

other hyper-growth marketplaces as well as direct-to-consumer channels creates diversification of revenue and

consumer reach.” With the capital raised, the company aims to challenge the e-commerce roll-up playbook.

faculty & friends news

Tanol Türkoğlu’s Latest Book Examines Digital Revolution

RC CTO Tanol Türkoğlu’s latest book *Dijital Kaos (Digital Chaos)* (Epsilon Yayınevi), is a roadmap of the recent history of the digital world and where it is headed. The book features a selection of his articles, grouped into four subject areas: crypto world, artificial intelligence, social media and visions for the future.

Türkoğlu dedicates his book to the “Immortal” Gen Z; a generation which will probably make technological singularity happen, as futurists have been indicating for several decades



now. The major question is the home: Will technological singularity happen on the human body (machines being integrated into it) or on a machine (the human brain, conscience or soul being transferred to a device).

Türkoğlu has been writing articles with a mission of creating awareness that this is not another phase of the industrial revolution but rather a new paradigm, which promises to bring humanity into a new society, i.e., digital society.

“Lest We Fall”: Remembering Olcay Neyzi ACG 46

Contributed by Sinan Hiçdönmez RC 15

Olcay Neyzi was neither the first pediatrician to come out of RC/ACG, nor the last, but she was the one who made the greatest impact in a trailblazing life, leaving behind authoritative reference textbooks, growth charts used throughout Turkey, and numerous pediatricians who follow her lead.

Neyzi studied medicine at Istanbul University Faculty of Medicine, graduating in 1954. She did her pediatrics residency at Haseki and became an associate professor of pediatrics at Istanbul University in 1960. Her landmark Rami neighborhood community study on child health, which included the first version of her growth charts, was published in 1966. The following year she became a professor of pediatrics at Istanbul University Istanbul Faculty of Medicine and became one of the founders of the Çocuk Sağlığı Derneği (Child Health Association).

Neyzi went on to serve as head of pediatrics at Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, head of the social pediatrics and pediatric endocrinology departments and founding head of the Istanbul University Child Health Institute. Even after her retirement in 1994 she continued to be involved in her discipline, receiving the Eczacıbaşı Medical Award of Honor in 2017. Neyzi was active all the way into her eldest ages, working even on the day she breathed her last breath.

When this inspiring physician passed away on February 3, 2022, she left behind a legacy worthy of a heartfelt commemoration on the traditional Physicians' Day of March 14, organized by Gülbin Gökçay RC 76, head of both the Child Health Institute and the Child Health Association, Zeynep Karakaş, head of pediatrics at Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, pediatric endocrinologist Firdevs Baş and pediatric nephrologist Bağdagül Aksu. The commemoration was attended by Neyzi's family,



Friends and family commemorated Olcay Neyzi ACG 49 at a ceremony on March 14, 2022

colleagues, close friends and students of Istanbul University Istanbul Faculty of Medicine.

Gökçay started the commemoration with a minute of silence for Neyzi, whom she described as “the professor of professors, an exceptional person who fought on the public health front of our republic.” The first speech, titled “My Mother’s Suitcase” was delivered by her son Mehmet Ali Neyzi. Of the many “presents” inside the suitcase, Mehmet Ali Neyzi’s first pick was the importance of hard work, best epitomized by the phrase “Durmayalım, Düşeriz” (We Shall Not Stop, Lest We Fall) which also became the title of Neyzi’s autobiography. Neyzi’s speech portrayed his late mother as an ardent academic, a close confidante, a loving grandmother, a punctual person who had no time to waste even in her leisure time.

Another speaker, Feyza Darendeliler RC 74, a pediatric endocrinologist at Istanbul Faculty of Medicine and one of the editors of the most recent incarnation of Neyzi’s textbook and magnum opus *Pediyatri* (Pediatrics),

stated “Olcay Neyzi made history as one of the first pediatric endocrinologists not only in Turkey but also in the world.”

A striking moment of the commemoration came through the words of Ülker Öneş: “[Neyzi] was very lucky, she had graduated from such a school that gave a good language education and a wide-ranging culture as the Arnavutköy College for Girls.”

Neyzi is survived by son Mehmet Ali Neyzi and daughter-in-law Fahrünnisa Yıldızalp Neyzi both RC 76, daughter Leyla Neyzi RC 78, granddaughter Zülal Neyzi Yıldız RC L3 03 and her husband Emre Serhad Yıldız RC 00.

The author would like to thank Gülbin Gökçay RC 76 for inviting him to the commemoration, for her support in proofreading this article, and for the photos.

To see the full text of this article, visit the Child Health Association website.

Ayşe Vafi ACG 48

Ayşe Vafi passed at the age of 92 on January 10, 2022. In her youth, she worked for travel agencies as a translator and event organizer. She was an avid traveler and had vivid memories and documentation of her early cruises to NYC and Cuba in the 1950s. She was also an honorary member of Galatasaray Sports Club as a top-notch swimmer, winning many medals. During her years in Ankara, she worked in the fashion industry, which was revolutionary for those years. In the 1980s she moved



back to Arnavutköy, where she was born and raised. She had a passion for jazz and loved to play bridge. She will be remembered for her bright red lipstick smile, her kind heart caring for everybody nearby and far-away and also for supporting NGO's of educational and environmental missions. She is survived by her daughter Leyla Derya and Leyla's partner Oluş Boratav.

Contributed by Leyla Derya

Muazzez Bayraktar ACG 49



Muazzez Bayraktar passed away on February 22, 2022. Following ACG she studied philology at Istanbul University American Language & Literature Faculty. Her first job was at Çamlıca Kız Lisesi, then marriage took her to Ankara. She worked as an English translator and teacher until she retired. She was always admired by her colleagues and was one of her students' most beloved teachers. She was a wonderful, modest and kind person, full of positivity. She cracked up everyone around her with

her humor. She followed the motto "make the most of your time, for life is short". She lived fully, was loved tremendously and will be missed greatly. She was a very jolly person and will be remembered by her unique laughter. She is survived by her two sons (Nazım and Yaman Bayraktar) and two grandsons (Cem and Emre Bayraktar).

Contributed by her niece Esin Uslu Helvacioğlu RC 80

Filiz Saydar Türer ACG 55

We sadly announce the loss of a beloved member of our class, Filiz Saydar Türer, a victim of Covid. Our dear Filiz was a very special person. She was serene, kind-hearted, understanding, charismatic, wise and always with a warm smile on her beautiful face. She never uttered an unkind word to anyone, never raised her voice. She was always very graceful with a fascinating aura about her. She was married to the love of her life Sedat

Türer and they lived happily until he departed from this world. Filiz devoted her life to her family. We used to describe her as the Sultan of our class. She is survived by her two daughters and her grand-children.

Rest in peace our beloved sister. You took your well-deserved place in our memory. We'll never forget you.

Contributed by the Class of ACG 55



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

Longer notices will be edited due to space restrictions. Please include a high resolution (minimum 700 x 700 pixels) photo of the deceased.

Refik Müderrisoğlu RA 61

Refik Müderrisoğlu passed away on March 5, 2022. His initial goal was to become a pharmacist. Later he shifted his goal to become a diplomat. After graduating from Robert College Yüksek he went to the US. Refik had a high sense of humor admired by all. Also, he had an interesting ability to immediately find the weakness of whoever he was talking to and be sarsactic. He was always the most wanted classmate at the table of our monthly pub gatherings.



Refik was married and divorced twice. He strived for a long time to hang on to life. His son and friends were always by his side never leaving him alone especially during his struggle to survive.

I wish to extend my deepest condolences to his family, his son Bertan and to all his friends.

Contributed by Y. Aydın Bilgin RA 61

Zeynep Erim Güleç ACG 67



Zeynep Erim Güleç (ACG 67, RC 71), my beloved Mum, daughter of Müzehher Başer (Erim) ACG 42 and niece of Nihal Yeğinoğlu ACG 46 sadly and unexpectedly passed away on January 25, 2022. I've lost my most precious, my lifelong companion, my best friend, my beautiful Mom; and my two sons (Çınar and İlgaç) and my niece (Derin Su) have lost their beloved, darling grandma.

With her gentle, warm smile and deep blue gaze; she will always be remembered, sadly missed; forever in our hearts.

Contributed by Gül Yaprak Güleç Öğütçü

Zeynep Erim Güleç was my closest, most compassionate, gentle, reliable and loving friend during all my life. A cat-lover, she had a knack of creating comedy out of the most difficult situations. She was softly powerful and generously shared her love, her time, her days and her fun. She was always wise beyond her years. Our hearts will miss Zeynep and her gurgling laughter deeply.

Contributed by Eminenur Çakır Diler RC 71

Suzan Atias ACG 68

Suzette, Sue, Shoshie, Suzie Q, Shoshannah; you called me Emily, Emma, Emilika. Our special way of communication, which no one else understood, created with bits and ends from many languages, our special sense of humor which was appalling to many, all is gone with the wind now! I hope you find peace. I never laughed so heartily with anyone else but you, and I believe it is the most valuable gift in life, to be able to share a laugh with a friend.

Contributed by Emel Temeller ACG 68

Days of sun shine / days of rain / we shared so much / we laughed a lot / we fought at times / but shared all / and now after 62 years, / you chose to turn your back, let breath become air and leave the yet unsaid behind / your cushion, once my gift to you, says; "most precious antiques are old friends" did you take it with you? / be in peace with yourself / wherever you have reached you / "old antique"!

Contributed by Nilüfer Avunduk ACG 68



Ufuk Çıldıroğlu RC 76

Ah Ufuk (who passed away after a heart-attack)!
Why did you go so early?
One more coffee before you go
to the sky above
and to the birds you love
Your breath is sweet
Your eyes are like two jewels in the sky
Starry-eyed and always so pure
All the class loved you mate!
You left your daughter Ece behind and all of us in tears.
Farewell. Rest in peace.

Contributed by Ümit Baştaş RC 76



Berrin Öner RC 86

Berrin Çoban Öner passed away in Istanbul on April 20, 2022, age 53. The younger of two daughters, she was born in Istanbul on October 3, 1968, to Tülay and Ziya Çoban. Berrin grew up in Suadiye, completed İlhami Ahmet Örnekal Primary, Robert College, Bosphorus University (Public Administration & International Relations) and Marmara University (MBA). A successful and well-liked colleague at Inter Yatırım, Demir Yatırım, HSBC and Italtaks, Berrin also excelled in needlepoint and painting.

Berrin married Barış Öner in 2001. They were married 21 happy years and had two beautiful daughters, Bade Mina and Ela. Selflessly dedicated to her children's development, despite her illness, Berrin moved her family to London three years ago following Barış's UK job assignment. Thoughtful, generous and strong until the end, she always put her loved ones' needs first. Berrin's elegant, good-natured and kind-hearted spirit will live on within our hearts.



faculty and friends obituaries

Başak Toprakkaz Çelik



We bid farewell to our colleague and friend, with whom we worked together for many years, with whom we shared many memories not only at school, but with a beautiful face, good heart and good spirit. Her relentless illness took him from us. We are deeply saddened by your departure from us.

Not only your RC Foreign Languages Department friends, but the whole school community, everyone recognized you with your smiling, chirpy, friendly nature. You have taken a special place in everyone's hearts

with your disciplined lifestyle, your extreme hard work, your personality reflected in your education, your sharing of the beauties that life has to offer you, your reckless and loyal, and extremely helpful nature.

You have been a perfect daughter to your Mommy and Daddy, you have always pleased them. Your very dear husband Murat and your only child Yasemin miss you very much.

Your True Friends



Spring is one of the best seasons to visit campus.



Teachers say goodbye to another academic year at Graduation on June 21, 2022