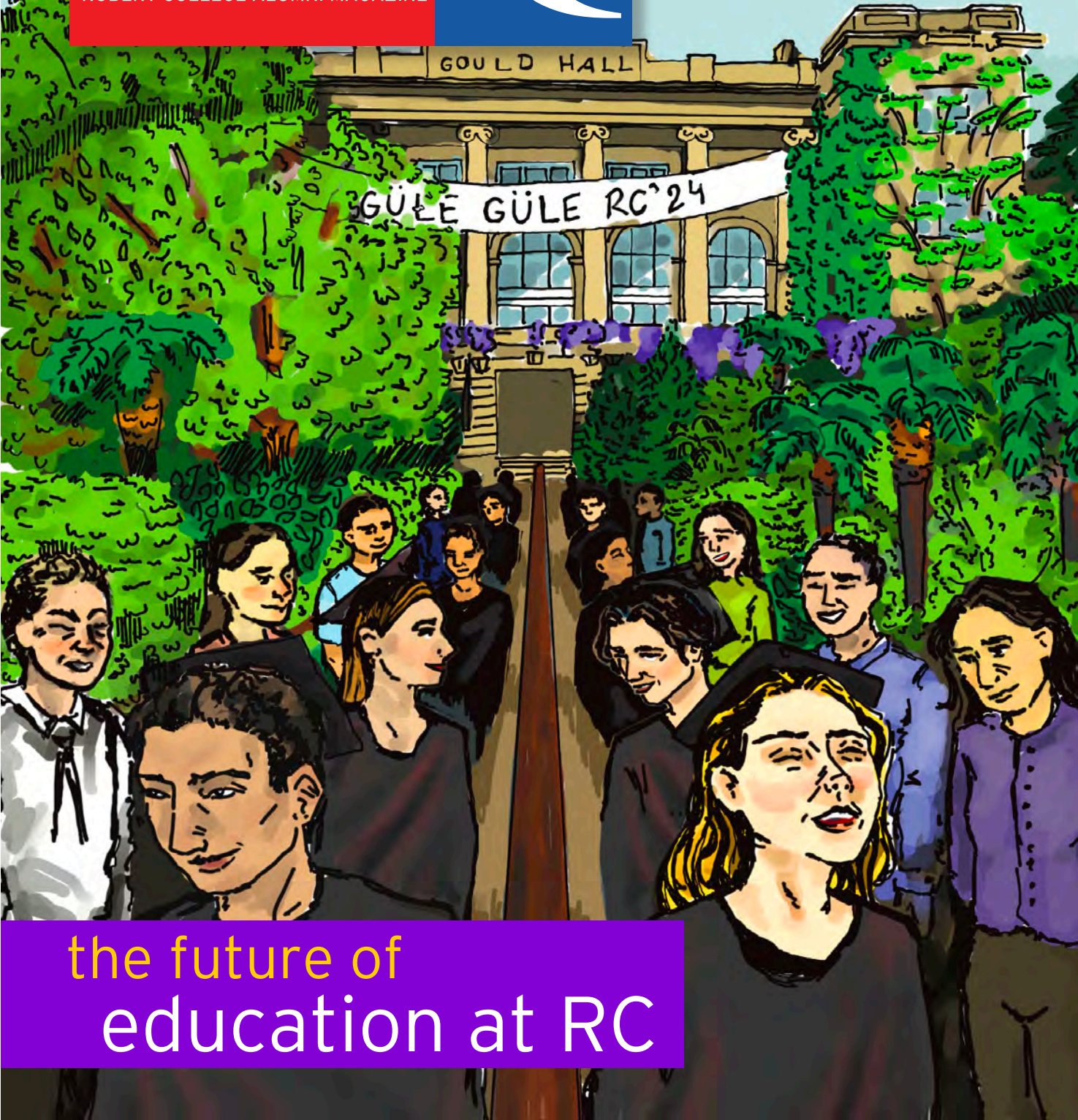


RC QUARTERLY SPRING/SUMMER 2024

ISSUE 64

RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE



the future of
education at RC



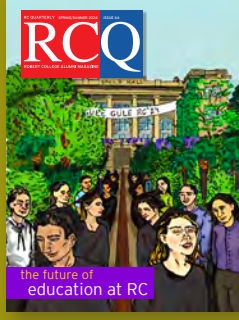
JIMMY KEY

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The joy of this year's graduating class as they head into the future of their education journey is expressed in the cover illustration by Lise 11 student Defne Akkaya.



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



As one of Türkiye's premier education institutions, Robert College is ahead of the curve in preparing for what the future holds in education. This issue of RCQ reviews every aspect of the RC experience and shows how RC students are getting ready to contribute to society in meaningful ways. From the learning spaces to co-curricular activities, from the burgeoning sustainability culture to solar farms, there are striking updates from every corner of RC.

As ever, Robert College alumni have kept busy, winning awards, publishing books, traveling to far corners of the earth and creating great art. The industriousness of RC alumni has provided many remarkable stories for this issue.

What makes RCQ vibrant is your feedback. Please share your comments and news and help us ensure RCQ reflects you! Contact us at rcq@robcol.k12.tr

Wishing everyone a relaxing and rewarding summer!

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

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Towards an Ever Wiser and More Balanced World

Dear alumni and friends,

What will the future of education look like? Will the RCQ of 2050 be beamed directly into a microchip in your brain that seamlessly interfaces external data and your internal mental space?

That may sound a little far-fetched, and futurist notions of robot teachers and holographic classrooms are probably still a few decades further away. Let me offer you, instead, a utopian model that is somewhat closer to home.

In 2030, education at RC continues to embrace technology. As students enter their classes, stepping around a small robotic cleaner that is dusting the corridor, their attendance will be taken via biometric scanning. Those classrooms have automated assistants, powered by AI, that can automatically self-adjust to maintain optimum levels of light, warmth, air quality and oxygen. When the lesson begins, it moves seamlessly through transdisciplinary group learning in the real world and avatar exploration of the ever-growing metaverse. After the lesson, AI personalized tutoring checks key learning has taken place and helps fill in any gaps.

This is wonderful. And it works efficiently because at RC we have kept technology in place as an essential tool but definitely not as one of the central pillars of education. Instead, we have



doubled down on the human, and realized the vision of truly meaningful and sustaining relationships that had been laid out in our 2023-28 Strategic Plan: *Connection to Self; Connection to Others; Connection to Nature.*

In Arnavutköy, the vision of a fully sustainable, indeed regenerative, campus has been fulfilled. All energy consumption is from our own renewable sources such as onsite and off-site solar arrays. All new buildings are fully passive or indeed regenerative of the environment, and our school is ahead of Paris Accord targets. Having lived for five years in fully sustainable

conditions, the RC graduate of 2030 has a superb life-model to take into their careers as a template for their future work.

The Robert College Scholar student profile, a set of characteristics based around our core values of excellence, leadership, balance, responsibility and multiculturalism, is not only still in service but more prominent, and indeed paramount, than ever before. It matches global standards such as the Inner Development Goals, promulgated like the RC Scholar in 2022, which acknowledge that the future must be built on new and better solutions, originating in excellent design-thinking approaches and grounded in wisdom rather than content knowledge. The RC graduate of 2030 still embodies the highest-possible academic standards – only now we have been equally programmatic in building their EQ, their character, wisdom and values.

Surely this is the future we want, for 2030 and beyond: an ever wiser and more balanced world, benefiting from wondrous technology yet rooted in profound understanding and relationship with ourselves, each other, and the natural world. I am optimistic we will get there, and our new Strategic Plan 2023-28 will pave the way.

Adam Oliver
Head of School

Celebrating a Century of Theatrical Heritage

RC Theater Company's *One Hundred* took audiences on a captivating journey through the annals of Robert College's stage history.



Students perform a scene from Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, which was also staged in 1994

Conceived by Director Jake Becker two years ago as part of the school's centennial celebrations, this ambitious project sought to honor the institution's cultural legacy while providing students with a profound educational experience. Becker's

meticulous research into past RC and ACG performances yielded surprising discoveries, including alumni who had trodden the boards and forgotten masterpieces from bygone eras. Through *One Hundred*, students gained a deeper appreciation for their

school's theatrical heritage, instilling a sense of pride in their role as custodians of the RC stage tradition.

In the midst of academic pressures this spring, *One Hundred* provided a welcome opportunity for students to connect with the past. The production itself was a kaleidoscope of theatrical brilliance, featuring excerpts from iconic works such as "Twelfth Night" by William Shakespeare, "Endgame" by Samuel Beckett, "Life of Galileo" by Bertolt Brecht, and "Amadeus" by Peter Shaffer, among others.

One Hundred not only entertained but also enlightened, offering a poignant reminder of the enduring power of storytelling and the transformative magic of the stage. As the curtain fell on this extraordinary production, it left behind a legacy of excellence and a renewed sense of appreciation for the vibrant theatrical tradition of Robert College.

Business Leaders Share Keys to Success

The conference held by the RC Business Society examined the Turkish economy over the last 100 years.

On February 17, 2024, the RC Business Society (RCBS) hosted "A Century of Success: Türkiye's Economic Heritage and Future of Business." The conference gave high school students from around Istanbul a comprehensive analysis that will help build a roadmap regarding their future, by providing a timeline of the 100 years of the Turkish Republic, demonstrating how the economy in Türkiye gradually changed, and how businesses became successful.

The event included live interviews and speeches by Turkish businesspeople and investment leaders Mahmut Ünlü RC 85, Zeynep Bodur Okyay, Burak Çelet, Gökmen Onbulak, Ali Can Türkoğlu, and Cem Soysal on how they established themselves and/or



Mahmut Ünlü RC 85 (right) was one of the speakers at the conference

their businesses, and essential tips to succeed in the future. Students were inspired by their stories, with one student stating: "I felt like everyone

loved Mr. Ünlü's session since he not only shared the nuances of investing but also his personal experiences growing up. In his answers, everyone found something for themselves".

The rector of Istanbul Ticaret University, Prof. Dr. Nazım Ekren, also gave a lecture on the historical economic background of the country and a framework to use as a baseline for the future. In addition, participants engaged in various workshops led by both RCBS students and clubs from other high schools.

The conference was established this year and will be held annually to commemorate the beloved RC teacher and former RCBS advisor Cyrus Carter.

Turkish Symposium Centers on Artificial Intelligence

I The event gave participants insights in how to use the technology in their work.

The rapid developments in artificial intelligence (AI) and their effects on the world of education and literature constituted the reasons behind the theme of the 19th Turkish Culture and Literature Symposium – “Artificial Intelligence, Education and Literature,” held on Saturday, March 16, 2024.

At the symposium, both AI experts and RC students shared their work on this subject, creating eye-opening examples for the participating teachers. Based on these examples, many questions were raised and answered by the experts and students. The common conclusion reached by participants was this: AI tools will inevitably become a part of our daily lives. Therefore, we must plan an AI-friendly working life. Experts emphasized that we will use AI in almost every field, that we can benefit



Teachers from around Türkiye joined the symposium, both in-person and online

from it in jobs that tire us more, and that we can allocate more time to areas that require creativity. They noted that teachers can make preliminary preparations regarding course content by using AI.

About 80 teachers from both private and public schools attended the symposium. In addition to

in-person participation, Turkish language and literature teachers and Turkish teachers affiliated with Payda Association (founded by RC graduates), as well as some teachers from Hatay, connected to the symposium via Zoom. This hybrid approach will allow even more teachers to join the symposium in the coming years.

RC Student Projects Shine at TÜBİTAK Regionals

I Two of the outstanding projects placed in the Finals.

Six distinct projects by eight RC students entered the TÜBİTAK Projects Istanbul Regional Finals, and three triumphed, advancing to the TÜBİTAK Finals, which took place at the end of May.

Lise 9 student İrem Büyükdeveci's project focuses on Digital Honesty. The aim is to teach middle schoolers how to develop research following academic honesty guidelines and how to write simple research papers. "Because AI is so prevalent, we wanted to not completely avoid the usage of AI, but rather decrease the dependency on it," says İrem.

For their project on image segmentation and diagnosis in breast cancer ultrasound, Lise 11 students Ali Kaan Narin and Alp Dulundu developed a



RC Students and Dean of Curriculum Emre Firat (center) at the TÜBİTAK Istanbul Regional Finals

model for breast cancer detection that works with 99.35% accuracy for image segmentation and a 97.42% accuracy for image classification.

The third project to make it to the finals is on Objectified Cryptology Algorithm Using Recaman Number Sequence,

prepared by Lise 11 student Eymen Doğu Payla together with a student from Kadıköy Anatolian High School. Their inter-disciplinary cryptology system uses number theory, programming, 3D design and encryption, allowing users to form infinite shapes that can be used to encrypt characters.

Two of the projects – breast cancer detection and digital honesty - placed third at the Finals and may advance to the international competitions.

TÜBİTAK Research Project Competitions inspire students to embrace scientific thinking and develop skills for innovative solutions to future challenges. Students' projects showcase their personal achievements and enable them to represent RC nationally and internationally.

Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Award Recognizes Young Artists

The jury included alumni who are previous recipients of the award.



This year's Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Art Competition winners celebrate with their art teachers and competition judges

The Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Art Competition, established in 2011 by the Class of '76 in memory of their art enthusiast classmate Demirkan Aşetey, celebrated successful young artists on April 24, 2024, in the Suna Kırac Foyer. This year's panel of judges, including designers Ege Argüden RC 09 and Arda Eren RC

13, both previous recipients of the award, alongside curator Nilüfer Şaşmaz from ARTER, engaged in extensive discussions before selecting the standout artworks from the students. The event started with a delightful surprise performance by the RC Singers chorus. Excitement filled the room as attendees awaited

the judges' announcement of the winners. "I could feel the anticipation of the students, which reminded me of how I felt when I was a Demirkan Aşetey contestant," said Arda Eren.

"The highly creative work showed immense potential for future bright careers in art and design," remarked Ege Argüden. "This tradition continues to be a cultivation of talent at Robert College. As a past winner, it was an honor to be able to participate as a judge."

This year's winners, spanning a diverse array of artistic mediums from embroidery to ceramic music instruments to drawing, included Yağmur Solmaz L9, Elif Derin Alper L11, Ece Çıkım L12, Doruk Uluğ L11, Mervan Uyan LP, Ece Ata L11, Vural Kaptanoğlu L12, and Çiğdem Su Çetinsoy L11.

Excellence in Science Award Recipient Announced

The award recognizes a Lise 11 girl who shows outstanding dedication to the sciences.

The Prof. Seyhan Nurettin Ege ACG 49 Excellence in Science Award for Girls was established in 2010 by Güneş Ege Akter ACG 52 in memory of her sister, an accomplished science professor and inspiration to her students. This year's award was presented to Tülin Ada Sönmezer at the flag ceremony on March 29, 2024. Among the guests were keynote speaker Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu - former RC Donor Relations Coordinator, Tülin Ada's family, and Seyhan Ege's friends, as well as Güneş Ege Akter who joined the ceremony online. Speaking about the award, Yazıcıoğlu said, "Every single one of you can strive to be excellent in science, in the science of happiness, fulfillment and of a life well lived." She



This year's recipient Tülin Ada Sönmezer (right) with Science Department Head Patricia Deo (left) and Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu (center)

added, "Güneş Ege Akter is one of a select group of people who, quietly

behind the scenes, generously give of their time and financial resources so that all of you enjoy the opportunities before you at RC. She is not only a brilliant scientist in the fields of radiation oncology and nuclear medicine but she has also perfected the science of philanthropy by being a generous donor to this award as well as RC's scholarship program."

After the ceremony, Tülin Ada and last year's recipient, Evrim Sude Con L12 joined their teachers and RC administrators in the Feyyaz Berker Foyer by the plaque where Tülin Ada's name has joined those of previous award recipients.

Works by Art Scholarship Recipients On Display

Özlem Akçakuş RC 97 Art Scholarship students exhibited their creations in the Gould corridor.

Since its inception in 2006, the Özlem Akçakuş RC 97 Art Scholarship has been instrumental in providing art-oriented students with transformative opportunities to participate in summer workshops worldwide. Established by friends and family of Özlem Akçakuş RC 97, an ardent lover of art, the scholarship serves as a tribute to her memory.

In February, works by the 2023 scholarship recipients were showcased in the Gould corridor. Lise 12 students Elif Kadaifçi and Sedef Gökçe shared insights into their experiences at Pratt Institute's Summer program with attendees from RC 97. Their projects delved into



Özlem Akçakuş RC 97 Art Scholarship recipients shared their works with members of the Class of '97 who support the scholarship, and RC faculty and staff

themes of architectural design and filmmaking.

Reflecting on the impact of the scholarship, Bora Tokyay, the RC 97 class representative, expressed

appreciation for the opportunity: "We are so grateful that we're able to make our dear friend Özlem Akçakuş's name live on by enabling young artists shape their career choices in a more informed way."

Guest Students Add New Dimension to the Classroom

Leandre is a tenth grader from Germany who is studying at RC this spring. He is one of a handful of guest students who have come for a semester in recent years as temporary students from outside Türkiye.

Teacher Melissa Altıntaş explains how this visiting student has been received: "It was a new experience for my Lise 10 advising group students, who have been in the same small group since Prep, to have a guest student join us this year. They were very interested in hearing how Leandre's experiences at

his school in Germany differed from the RC experience. For example, Leandre said that students in Germany have more freedom to come and go during the school day but that the math and science expectations at RC are much higher than his previous school. My advisees enjoy talking to Leandre about these observations, and I am sure that the RC students view their own school in a new light through the eyes of an exchange student. Since many RC students study German, having a native speaker around has been exciting for them."

Altıntaş adds: "In conversations with Leandre, he has said that the RC community has been very welcoming to him. I am sure our students have come to understand the value of being tolerant and hospitable toward newcomers through this experience."

The guest student program, which has limited space each year, is open to students from outside Türkiye. To find out more contact Margaret Halicioğlu at mhalicioglu@robcol.k12.tr

RC Community Connects at the Trustee-Alumni Reception

The Robert College Board of Trustees hosted a reception for alumni at the Penn Club in New York on April 29, 2024. Alumni from seven decades delighted in meeting up with classmates and grads of all ages, as well as chatting with Trustees.

Board Chair Erol Hakanoğlu RC 74 addressed attendees, sharing his superlative impressions on his two-week campus visit in October during which he participated in lessons, conversed with students, teachers and the administration in person and in groups, and even taught an advanced math class – Mathematics for Oxford. He also touched upon the financial condition of the school and the importance of alumni giving by emphasizing, “One of our school’s most important missions has always been to make its extraordinary educational opportunities accessible to students who could not afford to



The event at the Penn Club was a great opportunity for alumni to meet and also support the school

do so otherwise. I cannot overstate the importance of our scholarship program.” Dr. Hakanoğlu was followed by Head of School Adam Oliver who gave a brief update on the latest news from campus.

The silent auction offered Robert College alumni in the US the chance to bid on unique RC experiences, from campus tours with faculty to

access to historic venues around the school. Amid the excitement, alumni reminisced about their time at RC while supporting the school.

If you want to learn about upcoming events drop us a line at alumni@robcot.k12.tr and be sure that your contact details are up to date at community.robcot.k12.tr

Inci Tulpar Joins the RC New York Office



Inci Tulpar is a new face in the New York office, but she is no stranger to Robert College. As the mother of two recent graduates – Burcu (RC 18) and Can

(RC 21), she has strong connections to RC. Now, as office manager, she is a bridge between the school and the US, working with the Trustees and RC alumni community.

With a wide range of experience spanning finance, media and education, Tulpar brings a diverse skill set and a wealth of knowledge to our community.

“Robert College stands as a beacon of excellence, fostering not only academic prowess but also a deep sense of camaraderie and shared values among its alumni,” says Tulpar.

“As I step into the role of your liaison, I am honored to serve our vibrant community. Robert College isn’t just a school; it’s a sanctuary of ideas, a pillar of character, and a symbol of hope. It reminds us of education’s transformative power and friendship’s enduring strength. The alma mater of Robert College is truly exceptional. With your ongoing support and active participation, we can pave the way for an even brighter future for Robert College.”

Inci Tulpar can be reached at itulpar@robcot.k12.tr

RC Spirit Shines at London Alumni Gathering

Hosted by the RC administration, the event helped raise funds for the school.



Ali Donat RC 98, Firat İşbecer RC 98, Burcu Üstüner Tuncel RC 97, Melis Öngün Uzun RC 98, and Mete Tuncel RC 90 were among the many alumni who enjoyed meeting up in London

On January 18, 2024, Beaufort House was bustling with RC spirit as over 100 alumni spanning decades came together for the London Alumni Gathering. Amid laughter and shared stories, old friendships were rekindled and new connections

formed. Head of School Adam Oliver, Associate Head and CFO Ümran Üngün ACG 70, and Dean of Academic Studies Maura Kelly extended a warm welcome to all, emphasizing the enduring bond of our alumni community.

The evening included a silent auction, infusing an air of excitement as attendees eagerly competed for coveted items, including rental of Marble Hall and the İbrahim Bodur Library Balcony and a Mysterious Tunnel tour led by Adam Oliver. The highest bidder for "Head for a Day" will soon step into the shoes of our Head of School, gaining invaluable insights into leadership and administration. As the night drew to a close, alumni looked forward to more gatherings, ensuring that the spirit of camaraderie continues to thrive among the RC family.

If you want to learn about upcoming events drop us a line at alumni@robcok.k12.tr and be sure that your contact details are up to date at community.robcok.k12.tr



Instagram: @robertcollege1863

LinkedIn: Robert College

Facebook: RobertCollege1863

Are you keeping up with Robert College on social media?

Dorothy İz Honored at World Theater Day Celebration



Theater legends from ACG, RA and RC grace the Suna Kırac stage along with the creators of the documentary

On March 28, 2024, Robert College hosted an unforgettable evening celebrating World Theater Day, with Turkish theater legends returning to their alma mater to pay homage to their beloved drama teacher, Dorothy İz.

The highlight of the evening was the premiere of the documentary *Robert College Theater & Dorothy İz: Leaving Their Mark*, directed and produced by Serra Mansur Soysal RC 83, together with Rezan Benatar RC 73 as assistant director and Nedim Saban RC 86 as theater consultant. The film showcases İz's profound influence

on Robert College through exclusive interviews and archival footage, offering a glimpse into the rich history of theater at RC.

Nedim Saban took center stage as the master of ceremonies, skillfully infusing the event with laughter and emotion. Nevra Serezli ACG 65 delivered a moving speech, eloquently highlighting the profound impact of Dorothy İz's contributions to her career and to Turkish theater. İz's love for classical music was remembered through a piano performance by Aydın Karlibel RC 76.

It was a joyful night filled with nostalgia and appreciation for the enduring impact of Dorothy İz and the vibrant theater tradition she helped cultivate at Robert College.

The documentary is part of an initiative started by Gonca Gürsoy Artunkal RC 85 and İpek Cem Taha RC 85, both RC Trustees, to raise an endowed scholarship in memory of Dorothy İz. If you'd like to support the scholarship, contact RC Advancement Coordinator Burcu Berent RC 96 at bberent@robcoll.k12.tr



Alumni and friends enjoyed an evening on campus reminiscing about their experiences on stage and working with Dorothy İz

Irem Önen RC 93 Back at RC as Chair of the Parents Association

I Önen reflects on her term during the 2023-24 academic year.

Returning to campus as an RC 93 alum as well as an RC 26 parent evoked a profound sense of amazement and pride for me. Stepping onto familiar grounds was like coming full circle, witnessing the passage of time in a tangible way, seeing familiar places through a new lens while also witnessing the growth and changes that have occurred since my own student days. There's a unique sense of pride and connection that comes with being both a parent and an alum, as you have a deep appreciation for the institution and a vested interest in its continued success.

I was able to see the dedication of the faculty and staff, the enthusiasm of the students, and the bonds that tie everyone together. As I felt privileged



Irem Önen with her daughter Lal L10

to be a part of such a special institution once again, I wanted to contribute to the community and joined the Parents Association. This academic year, I served as the Chair organizing fundraisers, networking

events, mentorship programs, as well as contributing to specific projects aimed at enhancing the school's educational offerings or facilities. Throughout the year, we have collaborated with the school administration on strategic planning, providing valuable input from the parent community's perspective. The Parents Association has plans which include expanding outreach to engage more parents, launching new initiatives to enrich the student experience, and organizing fundraising campaigns to support specific projects or scholarships. The goal is always to strengthen the bond within the school community while also making a meaningful impact on the educational journey of current and future students.

Veda Performed at Suna Kiraç Hall

Contributed by Irem Önen RC 93

The RC Parents Association's most recent endeavor was to bring Veda, performed by Tiyatrokare, to RC's very own stage, on April 18, 2024. They wanted to create this opportunity for the RC community because not only is the story written by Ayşe Kulin ACG 61, but it was directed by Nedim Saban RC 86, and the lead is played by legendary actress Nevra Serezli ACG 65.

With a blend of nostalgia and anticipation, parents, alumni, students, faculty and staff gathered to witness this remarkable collaboration, showcasing the immense talent that had once graced the school's halls. The performance proved to be an extraordinary event that left the entire audience spellbound. As the curtains rose on Veda, it was evident that the night



Nevra Serezli ACG 65 (center) with the cast of Veda

was more than a performance—it was a celebration of the enduring legacy of the school's theater program. With each scene, the audience was transported through a journey of emotions, guided by the skilled hands of our alumni legends. As the final applause echoed through Suna Kiraç

Hall, there was a profound sense of pride among the audience, knowing they had borne witness to something truly special—a testament to the transformative power of theater and the lasting bonds forged within the RC community.

Memorial Scholarship Honors Teacher Cyrus Carter

Cyrus Carter was a beloved teacher and mentor to many Robert College students over the years. When he passed away in December 2023, alumni from the classes of 2015, 2016 and 2017 thought that one of the most meaningful ways to honor his memory was to keep his passion for education alive. So, they established a scholarship at Robert College, thereby helping other young people

to have a life-changing experience at RC. RC 16 graduate Cansu Bayraktar said, "Mr. Carter wasn't just our teacher; he was a true inspiration. He made us love learning and see the world in new ways. This scholarship is our way of keeping his memory alive, helping others the way he helped us. We want to pass on the kindness and wisdom he showed every day."



Cyrus Carter

If you'd like to join the effort to raise a scholarship in memory of Cyrus Carter, please visit giving.robcol.k12.tr and make a gift indicating the scholarship in the notes section.

Two Endowed Scholarships Offer Opportunities for Students



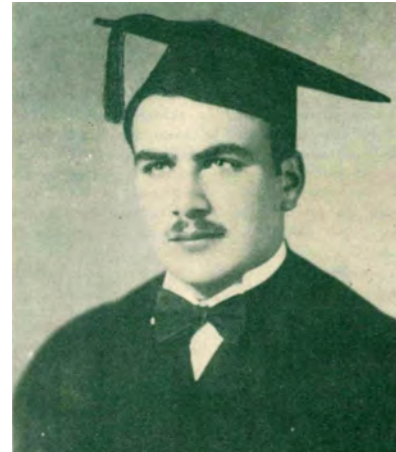
Elif Bilgi Zapparoli RC 85

Three alumni who made generous pledges to establish endowed scholarships at RC have fulfilled their pledges, paving the way for students to study at RC.

The Mehmet İsvan RC 46 Endowed Scholarship was established in the fall of 2020 by RC 72 alumni Nilüfer İsvan and Irvin Schick in memory of

Nilüfer's father. The İsvan family has strong ties to RC. Nilüfer's parents (Mehmet İsvan RC 46 and Nuran Ünel ACG 46) and grandparents (Aziz İsvan RC 15 and Ulviye Bedi ACG 22), as well as her uncle and aunt (Ahmet İsvan RC 44 and Reha Doğan ACG 44) and cousins (İsmet İsvan Yelkencioğlu RC 73 and Nurhan İsvan RC 76) are all graduates of the school. Known then as Aziz Vamık, Nilüfer's grandfather also served as instructor of Turkish at RC between 1915 and 1918.

The Zapparoli Endowed Fund is the second endowed fund created by former RC trustee Elif Bilgi Zapparoli RC 85 in the last ten years. "Robert College has contributed to my life - to my beliefs, principles, aspirations; to the person I became," says Bilgi Zapparoli. "I want other young people



Mehmet İsvan RC 46

to have the same opportunity." For information on how to establish an endowed fund, contact RC Advancement Coordinator Burcu Berent RC 96 at bberent@robcol.k12.tr

Alumni Continue Their Legacies at RC Through Bequests



Korkut Bardakçı RC ENG 57

Korkut Bardakçı RC ENG 57, a respected member of the RC community, passed away in March 2024, leaving behind a legacy of generosity and intellectual brilliance (see p. 53). Alongside his beloved wife Ruth who passed away

six years ago, the Bardakçı family designated Robert College as a beneficiary in 2001, and have left a third of their estate to the school.

In June 2023, İclal Sirel Hartman ACG 48, a cherished member of the RC community and a distinguished chemistry professor, passed away (see p. 52). As a long-standing member of the Elizabeth Dodge Huntington Clarke Society, she generously bequeathed over \$70,000 to Robert College. In accordance with her wishes expressed in 2005, these funds will be directed towards scholarships for students from rural areas of Türkiye.

Robert College is profoundly grateful to them for their enduring kindness and unwavering support.



İclal Sirel Hartman ACG 48

To learn how you can leave a bequest to Robert College, contact Burcu Berent RC 96, RC Advancement Coordinator at bberent@robcol.k12.tr

Müge Çırıkçioğlu Işık RC 07 Gives Back to the Art Department

A lawyer by profession, Müge Çırıkçioğlu Işık has been painting animal portraits of people's beloved pets for years. Whenever she thinks of art she remembers her days in the art studio and felt an obligation to give back to RC. This spring she offered her support to the Art Department and based on a list that art teachers Alex Downs and Maria Sezer provided, she delivered much-needed supplies to the school.

"Müge's kind donation fills an important gap for the Art Department

during a time of tight budgets and limited resources," says Art Department Head Alex Downs. "Normally we keep a reserve of art materials each year to ensure that we have enough. But we have been depleting those important supplies in recent years to save costs for the department and the school."

Müge's meaningful gift has allowed the Art Department to replenish stocks and ensure that they will have the supplies they need for the next few years.



Müge Çırıkçioğlu Işık RC 07 (center) with art teacher Maria Sezer (left) and Art Department Head Alex Downs (right)

CIP Teaches the Importance of Connection

I Students learn the importance of being part of a community through projects.



RC students shared the joy of learning during the “English is Fun” project in Kastamonu

The future of learning will increasingly rely on forming meaningful connections and creating impactful networks. Generating a sense of belonging to the community among students is becoming ever more crucial, since it is not only the key to psychological well-being but also essential for a healthy social life and success in the professional realm. That is why the Community Involvement Program (CIP) Office encourages engagement with different communities through continuous and mutual interaction, aligning students’ interests with social responsibility projects, and connecting with the international community through service-learning studies.

During the 2024 semester break, two projects exemplified this approach to connection: “English is Fun” in Kastamonu and “Lego We Do” on the RC Campus.

“Lego We Do” showed the importance of identifying a community need, establishing sustainable networks to address that need, and empowering partners through cooperation. The CIP Office’s long-standing partner Lions Ataevi expressed a need for education on Lego 2.0 kits, so RC’s Robotics Club developed a week-long

plan to share their knowledge about coding. They hosted 15 students from Lions Ataevi who brought their Lego 2.0 kits to RC. They played together, shared their knowledge, and got to know each other. The Lions students became acquainted with the coding and robotics world and began using their Lego kits effectively, while RC students learned how to use their strengths to create change in their society. The recent news that the RC Robotics Club won the IMPACT Award – the most prestigious of its field and traditionally awarded to projects cultivating a cultural appreciation for science – at the Istanbul Regional was the capstone of this journey.

Another exciting project was “English is Fun, Kastamonu”; the 5th time the same project has been done in the same province, it has become a CIP tradition. Each year, two RC students from the previous year become the project leaders, and they create a better and more impactful English camp for their younger friends in Kastamonu. By improving the program every year, RC students receive better reactions from the hosting schools. They have developed a partnership with a school far away from RC through their own hard work and willingness to

positively connect to this community. For RC students, creating such a social responsibility tradition was very valuable as they tracked a need in a different community year by year, and continued the bonds that were developed by the previous year’s group.

Service Experience Shared with Global Community

The CIP Office held an online presentation at the GEBG (Global Education Benchmark Group) Conference in Montreal, Canada exploring the whys and hows of RC’s CIP methods. With the assertion that social service and the leadership of social projects foster social and emotional learning of youth, the CIP Office established an encounter and non-formal training-based approach to its community service program. Audience-specific training, careful student follow-up, case-specific empathy training, overall planning sessions and team building activities form the backdrop of this approach. The presentation was a chance to discuss connecting social emotional development with social responsibility projects and service learning with global benchmark schools.



Kids learn robotics basics during the “Lego We Do” project

Spring Gathering for London Alumni



London alumni enjoyed a cozy gathering in May

The spring get-together for London-based alumni on May 8, 2024 at Harry's Café Bar in Piccadilly, was a memorable evening filled with laughter and fun. As old and new friends, the group reminisced about their RC days while catching up on the latest events in their lives. The event concluded with a promise to meet again soon.

Dubai Alumni Meet Up

The vibrant spirit of Robert College alumni (from '88 – '09) thrived once again as graduates living in the United Arab Emirates united in Dubai for a memorable gathering. Amidst the gleaming skyscrapers and bustling streets of this dynamic city, former classmates, friends and spouses came together to reminisce about their cherished memories from their time at Robert College.

New connections were forged, laughter echoed as stories were shared and existing bonds were strengthened, reflecting the enduring camaraderie that defines the Robert College community. It was a testament to the lasting impact of our alma mater, transcending borders and bringing us together, no matter where life may lead us.



Alumni living in the United Arab Emirates met up in Dubai

If you want to stay connected with RC alumni near you, drop us a line at alumni@robcot.k12.tr and make sure that your contact details are up to date at community.robcot.k12.tr

Get Ready For an Unforgettable Summer at Bizim Tepe!

From our sparkling pool to the inviting tennis courts and lively bar, we invite all alumni to come together and make lasting memories this coming season. Join us as we embrace the warmth of summer and celebrate the spirit of our alumni community.

For inquiries and further details, please don't hesitate to contact us at 0212-287-0078.



Promote Your Company

Calling all graduates! We extend a warm invitation to showcase your companies on our digital screen nestled inside the Bizim Tepe building or on BizimTepe billboards at the parking area. Get in touch with us to seize this exciting opportunity!

Yoga Classes

Join us for rejuvenating yoga sessions with yoga therapist, Canan Özgür! Our new sessions are starting soon, and we invite all alumni to reconnect and find inner peace at Bizim Tepe. Come, breathe, and stretch with us!

Dorothy İz Documentary Screening

The Dorothy İz Memorial Committee gathered to honor the legacy of our legendary teacher back in March. The committee, comprising Gonca Gürsoy Artunkal RC 85, Rezan Benatar RC 73, İpek Cem Taha RC 85, Serra Mansur Soysal RC 83 and Nedim Saban RC 86, has established an Endowed Scholarship at Robert College in Dorothy İz's name. With the support of the Alumni Association, the documentary, *Robert College Theater & Dorothy İz: Leaving Their Mark*, had its second screening on Thursday, May 23. Alumni enjoyed traveling through time with the film, which also highlights the contributions of Robert College theater to the Turkish theater ecosystem at large.



Latin Dance Courses Starting at Robert College Alumni Association

The RKMD Executive Committee is pleased to present a new, unique, and enjoyable opportunity. By enhancing our flexibility and agility, we will collectively experience the joy of Latin dances while socializing at Bizim Tepe. Under the guidance of William Diaz and Ece Berker, our Latin Dance Course promises to be filled with fun and lively moments, an opportunity not to be missed for anyone who loves to dance and socialize. Join us to experience this unique journey, create unforgettable memories, and groove to the rhythm of Latin dances. Reserve your spot in our dance classes that will add color and health to your life, led by our expert instructors who are among Türkiye's most successful dancers.

Bizim Kamp 2024 Open for Registration

Registrations for "Bizim Kamp 2024," which will be held from July 1 - July 26 and July 29 -August 23 for children aged 4-8, are open. The Bizim Kamp program provides children with life experiences while supporting their physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development. Children have fun while gaining valuable skills. The program focuses on values such as environmental awareness, respect for others, empathy, sharing, and responsibility. Children will enjoy engaging activities with their peers and teachers, gaining new experiences within the daily flow of the camp environment. This summer, we will explore our magnificent world. An exciting summer filled with movement, creativity, curiosity, and fun awaits your kids.

BİZİM KAMP 2024

'AROUND THE WORLD'

4-8 YAŞ ARASI
ÇOCUKLARI;
SPOR,
YARATICILIK,
MERAK
VE EĞLENCE
İLE GEÇECEK
BİR YAZ BEKLİYOR!



1.Dönem: 1 Temmuz - 26 Temmuz (4 hafta)

2.Dönem: 29 Temmuz - 23 Ağustos (4 hafta)

Misafir: 59.000 TL Üye: 54.000 TL

Üye indirimi için 2024 aidatı dahil tüm aidatların ödenmiş olması gerekmektedir.

Kardeş indirim oranı %10'dur. Ücretlere yemek dahil, servis hariçtir.

Welcoming New Leadership at RCAA



From L to R: Mike Maggart, Metin Özdemirli RC 82, Arzu Çalış RC 83, Tolga Vural RC 82 and Cengiz Hatiboğlu RC 81 at the RC 160th and TC 100th Celebration Gala in Washington, DC, 2023

RCAA President Cengiz Hatiboğlu RC 81 passed the leadership baton to Arzu Çalış RC 83 as the new president of the RC Alumni Association of America, effective February 25, 2024, with a three-year term.

Çalış has been an active member of RCAA since 2010. She is the founder and president of A.R.Z.U International, a leadership development company. She started her career in high-tech advancing the development of wireless communications. After working in executive positions in Fortune 50 companies, she started her own company to focus on leadership development for executives in individuals and organizations. Having played for the Turkish National Volleyball Team, Çalış is particularly passionate about supporting RC's student-athletes who desire to continue their higher education in the United States.

Çalış expresses the values and vision

of the RCAA as a continuation of RC's light and higher intellectual standards in the United States. In that spirit, RCAA surveyed the members and alumni in the United States in 2021 to understand their needs. The US alumni responded that they want to stay connected and meaningfully engaged with the school, each other, and the new generations of RC grads. Accordingly, RCAA plans to carry out the following each year:

1. Holding a Fireside Chat with the RC Head in the first quarter of each year. This meeting helps to keep alumni in the United States current with our alma mater.

2. Holding regional events to help alumni stay connected with each other in the United States. There are strong networks in NYC, under the leadership of Cengiz Hatiboğlu RC 81, Sumru Arıcanlı RC 86, and Ovul Sezer RC 06; Boston, under the leadership of Alpdoğan Kantarcı RC 86, and Emre

Şarbak RC 08; Philadelphia, under the leadership of Nesrin Young ACG 69; and San Francisco, under the leadership of Sanem Alkan RC 90 and Tolga Zeybek RC 10. RCAA is working to grow stronger in Washington, DC, under the leadership of Tolga Vural RC 82, Arzu Çalış RC 83, Beliz Aluç RC 19 and Doğa Bozkurt RC 22, Chicago, and Austin, under the leadership of Mike Maggart (son of former Headmaster and RC Trustee Jim Maggart), and Murat Beşkök RC 84.

3. Cultivating programs that financially and emotionally support new RC graduates coming to the United States for their higher education. RCAA currently offer the following programs:

- Welcome to USA Awards
- Mentoring
- Career coaching and networking

The details of these programs can be explored at our website, www.rcaa.org.

Cengiz Hatiboğlu RC 81 served as president from 2022–2023 helping RCAA to come out of the Covid years stronger than before. He has served as a former president, devoted member and treasurer of the RCAA Board since 1997.

RCAA is deeply grateful to Cengiz Hatiboğlu for his outstanding service. His dedication was crucial to the sustainability of the Welcome to USA Awards. "To think that our financial support to younger generations was not only sustained but has steadily increased even during the pandemic is all the more remarkable," says Çalış.

Get Involved!

- Visit RCAA.org for event announcements and other details about the association
- Get in touch with Regional Chapters: NYC, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., SF, Chicago, Austin via the website

Philadelphia Spring Dinner



Alumni of all ages enjoyed gathering in Philadelphia in March

On March 9, RCAA members got together at Paprica Grill, a Turkish restaurant, in Philadelphia. It was a joyful gathering with alumni of all ages. We have some new faces, and everyone enjoyed lively conversation over dinner. We hope to get together later at the end of summer.

Boston Alumni Meet at a Variety of Events

The RCAA Boston Chapter has started the year fast. In February, we met up for a Bar Night at the Liberty Hotel. Then, in March, we had a dinner at Limani Restaurant in Seaport. About 30 alumni attended in total, ranging from the classes of 1960 to 2018. We caught up with each other and met many new faces. We are planning to have a nature hike and a few other fun events during the rest of the year.



Alumni in Boston gathered at the Liberty Hotel in February

A Cozy Gathering for Bay Area Alumni

A trip back to the Bay Area for Siddika Demir Velipaşaoğlu RC 89 was a great reason for a group of alumni from 1989 and 1990 to gather at the home of Secil Watson in the East Bay. While many are Bay Area residents, some who formally lived in California traveled from as far as Germany and Switzerland to meet up with their friends. The group reminisced about their days together at RC on the basketball team, in folk dancing and on the Student Council while also catching up on current life events.



From L to R: Korhan Gürkan RC 89, Batu Berkok RC 89, Siddika Demir Velipaşaoğlu RC 89, Yeşim Yetiş RC 89, Barış Karadoğan RC 90, Sevil Watson RC 89, Müfit Ferman RC 89 and Kerim Baran RC 89

To find out about events near you, visit rcaaa.org and sign up to receive updates.

Kenan Şahin RA 60 Receives Award from Science History Institute

The accolade recognizes Şahin for his contributions to the chemical and molecular sciences community.

Dr. Kenan Şahin, the founder/CEO of TIAX and CAMX received the Richard J. Bolte Sr. Award for having developed products and services vital to the continuing growth and development of the chemical and molecular science industries.

In his acceptance speech, Şahin recalled his RA counselor who, after administering an interest test, advised he consider an academic career. “I thought being a professor would be too specialized, too confining, too esoteric. Industry beckoned - full of areas to pursue. Both happened,” he said. After finishing the sophomore year at RC Yüksek (now Boğaziçi University), he transferred to MIT as a junior and then into the PhD program.



Kenan Şahin RA 60

“I was appointed an instructor at age 24. The counselor was right: I loved teaching and research, and pursued many interests: AI, computer networks, neuroscience, information systems, strategy - for nearly 20 years.”

From MIT he returned to RC Yüksek as a professor in 1969 but when it closed, returned to MIT, then to UMass Amherst, Harvard and back to MIT. In 1982 he founded Kenan Systems with \$1,000, grew it to 1,000 staff in six countries and as the sole shareholder sold it to Lucent/Bell Labs in 1999 for \$1.5 billion. In 2002, he founded TIAX which purchased the lab-based part of oldest US technology consulting and development company, Arthur D. Little, Inc. In 2014 he spun CAMX out of TIAX. Both companies have become prominent. Şahin stated he will continue converting innovations to implementations and added, “This medal means I have to work even harder to do that.”

Deniz Akata RC 83 Receives European Society of Radiology Medal

Akata is the first Turk to receive the prestigious award.

In February, Deniz Akata became the first Turk to receive a gold medal from the European Society of Radiology. Akata views the award not only as a representation of personal achievement but also as a recognition of the hard work of countless individuals who supported and inspired her throughout her career: “As a female academic and radiologist, receiving this award on the centenary of the Republic holds profound significance for me. Furthermore, as the first Turk to receive this award, I feel a deep sense of pride in representing my country on an international stage.”

Akata draws attention to the potential of radiology for prospective medicine students: “Radiology will continue



Deniz Akata RC 83

to be indispensable, not only for diagnosis but also for treatment planning and monitoring, particularly in areas such as cancer care. Artificial intelligence and molecular imaging will allow for the visualization of

cellular processes in vivo, facilitating early detection, precise targeting of therapies, and enabling more personalized approaches to patient care. I highly encourage individuals who are passionate about medicine, saving lives, fascinated with technology and love problem solving, to choose radiology.”

Akata remembers RC as an environment of meritocracy and excellence: “I gained invaluable qualities such as self-confidence, resilience, aiming to do my best, and effective communication abilities. Gender equity was never an issue during my education, thanks to the inclusive culture fostered at RC. I’m also inspired by numerous successful graduates of RC in academia.”

Deniz Alphan ACG 67 Wins Award For Her Gastronomy Podcast

| The podcast invites guests to reminisce about food.

Journalist, author and foodie Deniz Alphan - Doli Deniz Mebahar Alphan to her ACG classmates - added podcast host to her accolades, through the podcast she broadcasts with long-time friend, fellow journalist and foodie Hülya Ekişgil named *Yedik İçtik* (*Memories From the Tables*). The podcast won the Digital Broadcast of the Year at the 5th Altın Kaşık Gastronomi Ödülleri (Golden Spoon Gastronomy Awards) in January 2024.

The idea for the podcast hinges on the fact that the most vivid of our memories have to do with food. Something first tasted and loved, the first meal cooked, the most disappointing dish, the most romantic dinner. The two

journalists start with the childhood of their guests and take them through their experiences and memories of food, resulting in a colorful portrayal of different cultures and dishes. For instance, journalist Mehmet Yılmaz recalled the stuffed cherry leaf dish of his youth which garnered a lot of attention. Other guests have included author Murathan Mungan and actress Serra Yılmaz.

Alphan states that they felt right at home in this medium: “Doing the podcast felt like adapting what we had been doing in the print press or in our books to a new technological format. Podcast are a wonderful way of getting informed and entertained at the same



Deniz Alphan ACG 67 (right) with her co-host Hülya Ekişgil

time. You can listen while driving or working out. Through our podcast, a guide to food in Türkiye and abroad is also forming. Our guests mention memorable dishes and restaurants from all over the world.”

Tamer Tamar RC 92 Receives Accolades for Photography

| His Theodosian Walls photography project was recognized by the Turkish Press Awards.

Tamer Tamar’s photography received recognition in the Turkish Press Awards, where it ranked third place. The work revolves around Istanbul’s 1600-year-old 24 km-long Theodosian land walls, which survived more than twenty sieges before the 1453 conquest of Istanbul.

Tamar was fascinated by walls as they conjure images of separation and isolation: “Contemporary border walls were built to divide communities, denying help and compassion to the marginalized. Yet the Theodosian Walls in Istanbul are a magnet for the marginalized and are starkly different to walls elsewhere. They unite diverse communities and exist paradoxically in symbiosis with Istanbul.”

Tamar became interested in photographing the walls after feeling melancholic about a decaying section of the Haliç walls in 2022: “It was apparent to me that they had been



Picnic-goers by Sulukule Gate

swallowed up by the exponential urbanization of Istanbul. As I started walking the walls, I realized that they were flourishing from a sociological perspective. They not only bring diverse communities around mosques, churches and synagogues, but also provide shelter in their ramparts, green space for people to roam around and

even fully functional vegetable gardens in the terraces around Yedikule. We owe it to ourselves to support initiatives to resurrect the walls.”

An article on the project appeared in Raw Society magazine, Issue II. To learn more about Tamer Tamar’s project, visit www.tamertamar.com/wallsofistanbul

The Future of Education at RC

Education is the most powerful constant in creating change for good. As technology evolves and the world evolves with it, what better time than now to think about what the future holds for education and how RC is preparing its students to lead in the 21st century.



The beacon of educational excellence in Türkiye: Robert College has sustained this position for a remarkable 160 years. Historian and RC Trustee Ted Widmer writes about the founding spirit of RC in *The Anatomy of a Tradition*: “Against formidable odds, through countless twists and turns, a durable institution was forged that proved the endless capacity of young people to educate. Robert College’s 2023-2028 strategic plan is being shared with the RC community, and as this plan delineates, the next five years will be all about nurturing connections, ensuring sustainability, and maximizing impact. In this endeavor RC’s five core values - Balance, Excellence, Leadership,

Multiculturalism and Responsibility - guide and inform the RC experience. To get a glimpse of the future of education at RC, it is important to understand concepts such as regenerative learning and social-emotional learning, to delve into the RC learning philosophy and the meaning of the RC scholar, to find out about the transformations of RC learning spaces - and, last but not least, to get an update on the enriching experience of co-curriculars.

The Learning Philosophy at RC

Allison Finn, Head of Educational Research, expounds the philosophy of

learning cultivated at RC among both teachers and students.

“We aspire to prepare our students to lead at the local, national, and global level in line with the RC core value of leadership. To live into this value, we must consider the world as it is now and as it will be in the future, intending to build the skills most needed there. The world as we know it is volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA). The World Economic Forum regularly publishes its findings about the skills most needed to navigate VUCA, which currently are creativity (solving problems in new ways), digital skills (AI and big data), collaboration, global citizenship (and



RC's campus provides many opportunities to learn deeply while enjoying beautiful and unique spaces

embracing DEIB - diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging - mindsets), analytical thinking, and environmental stewardship.

"Our focus, then, is on developing the skills for deep learning in learner-centered classrooms. Since students are at the center of our work and our strategic plan, designing inspiring lessons and classroom spaces which consider the development of inner capacities alongside content knowledge is our highest goal. We actively offer faculty their own development opportunities such as participation in a project-based learning Teacher Learning Community and integrating artificial intelligence in teaching. RC's Curriculum Office has spearheaded a movement toward transdisciplinary courses, and the Academic Office has begun implementing a roll-out plan for the explicit teaching of metacognitive skills - skills that help our students understand the cognitive processes that allow learning to happen as well as help them to know themselves as learners and gain control over their own cognitive processes.

"We design professional development days to engage the faculty in innovative, student-centered learning as a model for their own classrooms. We have integrated models of differentiation, environmental stewardship and case-based learning exercises focused on one of two topics: the classroom use of AI as augmentation and the development of inner capacities alongside deep learning of content. The focus on these case studies gave us the opportunity to inventory our own metacognitive processes so that we can be better at explicitly teaching them to our students. Our goal is to equip students with the flexibility and adaptability they need to thrive and lead in a rapidly changing, VUCA world."

Not an RC Student But an RC Scholar

Robert College is dedicated to nurturing well-rounded individuals who embody the school's core values.



Collaborative writing in mixed English ability courses supports the English Language development of students

Exceling academically is by itself not enough; embracing a holistic approach to life and empowering holistic growth are critical. To that end, Robert College has delineated what it means to be an RC Scholar through 28 qualities to be striven for throughout a student's journey at RC.

From acting with integrity in both ethics and academics to balancing a healthy lifestyle, being a strong communicator, and demonstrating a growth mindset, each Robert College Scholar is encouraged to embody these principles. Furthermore, Robert College students appreciate the importance of cultural differences, multidisciplinary knowledge, critical thinking, and a commitment to lifelong learning.

The expectation extends beyond the individual, encouraging students to be leaders who exhibit dignity and pride, contribute to society as changemakers, and collaborate inclusively with people from diverse backgrounds. By instilling such values, Robert College aims to shape students who not only meet high academic standards but also emerge as responsible, compassionate, and impactful global citizens.

The definition of an RC scholar is closely tied to the Inner Development Goals (IDGs), a response to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs). The IDGs envision societies where inner development and human flourishing are regarded as keys for healthy lives, a healthy planet and sustainable change.

Dean of Faculty Maura Kelly underlines RC's focus on the art of education: "We are giving students discussion-based learning opportunities through activities such as the Harkness method (student-led round table discussions), Socratic seminars (questioning and reflecting), and debate. Technology and artificial intelligence are a dominant component of our lives, but we also want our kids to be able to develop their interpersonal skills so they can have healthy relationships and meaningful connections. We are incorporating the Inner Development Goals into our learning so students develop these five critical skills moving forward.

"RC is known for its caliber of curriculum, and AI can be a threat to that. We have questions about AI and its impact on students being able to problem-solve, design and create new ways of thinking. We are embracing technology but also ensuring that the core values of being human are there. The heart of our academic program is what it means to be a good person. We want our students to be able to hold deep meaningful conversations, to be academically honest and to fulfill themselves and their intellect."

RC Students Share Impressions of Their Experience at RC

"I was always passionate about creating change in the world and trying to make a difference, but I was never really sure how a person could start doing that, and I felt very powerless and small with my place in the world. I think the opportunities that presented themselves when I came to RC, such as the Social Entrepreneurship Club or the SDG Design Challenge, in which we designed long-term projects for issues; and the connections we got to make with amazing people like alumni or others, really opened my eyes and made me think that maybe even though I'm still a high school student, I can put in my best effort and the change in the world. I feel like RC has given me a sense of who I want to be in the future and now rather than what I want to be so I'm very grateful for that opportunity." - **Selen L11**

"RC opens new windows for its students, and it allows us to develop in many areas such as sports, arts, etc. I was not aware of my talent in singing before coming to RC and right now I am a happy member of RC Singers." - **Ece L10**

"I am proud to be a part of the school's heritage by being a part of the Bosphorus Chronicle and RCMUN. RC enhances our skills and allows us to discover what we want to do in the future." - **Duru L11**

"I love the way RC prepares us for the future while supporting us with every idea we have." - **Ecem L10**

"The best thing that RC offers to its students is the opportunity to make decisions. The richness of the academic and co-curricular activities supports this system of decision-making. This way, students are encouraged to face challenges and learn how to take risks or which risks to take. This is a great opportunity to grow and having so many options with so many opportunities is what makes RC unique." - **Batu L11**

ROBERT COLLEGE SCHOLAR

RESPONSIBILITY

- I STRIVE TO:
- ACT WITH INTEGRITY
 - BE A PROBLEM SOLVER AND THINK CRITICALLY
 - BE CREATIVE AND ENTERPRISING
 - BE AWARE OF THE NEEDS OF SOCIETY AND BE A CHANGEMAKER
 - TAKE INITIATIVE
 - TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS

MULTICULTURALISM

- I STRIVE TO:
- KNOW AND APPRECIATE MY OWN AND OTHERS' CULTURES
 - BE SELF-AWARE AND CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS' NEEDS
 - VALUE DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES AND KEEP AN OPEN MIND
 - RESPECT DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY
 - BE A CARING GLOBAL CITIZEN, WHO IS CONCERNED FOR SOCIETY

BALANCE

- I STRIVE TO:
- BALANCE ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
 - LEAD A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE
 - DEVELOP RESILIENCE AND OPTIMISM
 - STAY CONNECTED TO MYSELF, OTHERS, AND NATURE

LEADERSHIP

- I STRIVE TO:
- BE A STRONG AND SENSITIVE COMMUNICATOR
 - BE CONFIDENT, YET MODEST
 - BE A ROLE MODEL AS A LEADER
 - REPRESENT MY SCHOOL AND MY COUNTRY WITH DIGNITY AND PRIDE
 - REFLECT ON PERSONAL BIASES
 - WORK COLLABORATIVELY

EXCELLENCE

- I STRIVE TO:
- SET CHALLENGING YET REALISTIC GOALS
 - BE CURIOUS AND ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE ACROSS A VARIETY OF DISCIPLINES
 - INSIGHTFULLY QUESTION GIVEN OR ASSUMED KNOWLEDGE
 - BE A LIFELONG, INDEPENDENT LEARNER
 - BE FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND TURKISH
 - MAINTAIN HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS, WHILE BEING WILLING TO TAKE INTELLECTUAL RISKS
 - PRACTICE IN ORDER TO BECOME MORE PROFICIENT AND DEMONSTRATE PERSEVERANCE



Co-Curricular Activities Complement the Formal Education

There are around 150 clubs, teams and initiatives (CTIs) offered to students each year at RC, an astounding range indeed. The fact that many of them have been proposed by students makes the number even more commendable. Joe Welch, Dean of Student Activities at RC explains the impact of these activities.

"From public speaking and athletics to creativity, teamwork, interpersonal skills, intra-personal skills...You name it, there is a club that will cover that skill at RC. What makes the difference between the academic and the co-curricular side of the school is that even though we have extra-curricular courses in the curriculum, co-curriculars are chosen by students. They are successful because students are interested, engaged and they are having fun. When you can bring learning and fun together, it's pretty miraculous. They don't even realize they are learning but they are.

"Experience of travel is just one of the many transformative experiences with



Sailing Initiative members learn about teamwork and the environment during their outings on the Marmara Sea

CTIs. We have many clubs that travel for competitions, exchanges, and conferences. From packing and traveling to experiencing something new and being out of one's comfort zone, travel is such an opportunity to learn."

Indeed, when alumni talk about RC, they first talk about their friendships, then their co-curriculars, which says something about the power of these activities.

Of course, co-curriculars also reinforce the RC core values, such as balance and leadership. Students always want to do a lot of co-curriculars and need to learn how to balance schoolwork with them. They get plenty of opportunity to practice leadership skills as well. Many co-curriculars are competitive, allowing students to learn from failure and improve. Most, importantly CTIs give students the opportunity to shine in different ways than they can in the classroom.



Model United Nations gives students the opportunity to meet with schools from around the world and discuss global issues

Alp Bilgin RC 07 is just one of many alumni who value the impact that co-curricular activities at RC have had on their lives: "I have been working as an IT consultant for more than a decade. Being decisive and figuring things out by trial and error is an invaluable skill to me. I have observed that some people do not have this skill. When faced with unknowns, they simply freeze in decision paralysis. The difference generally lies in having experienced failure and subsequent recovery early and often. For me Destination Imagination was a great environment for this. It gives young people the space to explore and to learn to dare."



RC students pushed their limits and learned about co-existing with nature during a trip to the Lycian Trail

Tim McLernon, the advisor for one of RC's longest-running clubs, MUN (Model United Nations), highlights exactly how the club allows RC students to live RC values: "The MUN club is almost entirely student-led. There are two elected student leaders who manage and lead all things club-related (president, vice-president). They are responsible for integrating newcomers, training and measuring the success of all students in the club,

organizing the week-by-week club activities and appointing students to positions in various conferences. In addition, the club organizes perhaps Türkiye's best MUN conference, RCIMUN. The organizing committee is composed of approximately 20 students, ranging from the Secretary-General who oversees all operations, to roles such as campus manager, logistics manager, and financial manager. Each role is crucial in the

success of the conference. Students apply for the positions, interview for them and then they are appointed by the club's student leaders."

Environmentally Sustainable and Regenerative Model of Education

Regenerative learning is a concept that should be on the agenda for any discussion on the future of education, and RC has already incorporated it into its experience. Regenerative learning acknowledges the fluid nature of knowledge and skills in a rapidly changing, complex world. It encourages a look at root causes to enable systems changes, as well as underlining a worldview which recognizes that all things are connected.

One of the interesting developments in regenerative learning at RC is the Robert College Outdoor Adventure



During an ecological research trip to Dalyan students analyze sand samples

and Environmental Learning Program, headed by Kieran Pearson. The program involves eye-opening trips that are open to all students and offers students an education that is immersive, holistic, and tailored to the demands of the modern world. By engaging with nature firsthand, students not only gain a deeper understanding of the environment but also cultivate resilience, adaptability, and leadership—lifelong transferable skills for an ever-changing world. Naturally, the program entails a lot of time in nature, travel and trekking. Pearson refers to the first ever student camping and activities trip

as challenging: “Students learned camp craft skills and took part in a challenging high ropes course, orienteering, a forest zip coaster and a night hike.”

Prep student Senem Köylüoğlu's experience on an RC trip to Fethiye highlights how the program creates impact: “I thought it would be a great opportunity to make new friends and socialize, and it was. We learned a lot in a very short time. I didn't think we could change this much in four days. Not only did we learn the basic skills for camping, at the same time, we became more mature

and responsible. We lit a fire on our own, built shelters, cleaned the fish organs and cooked them. I think we did a lot of things we wouldn't have done if we weren't on this trip. We also realized how important it is to collaborate. When I look back, I see how much we helped each other and worked together. I think this was one of the highlights of this trip.”

Environmental consciousness constitutes a pivotal aspect of an RC education. Supporting sustainability and cultivating sustainability culture are paramount, as RC faces the future.

Creating Awareness and Dialogue are Critical to Sustainability Culture

The journey to becoming environmentally conscious involves overcoming awareness hurdles. A student survey showed that one third of RC students felt there wasn't a need to reduce electricity to reduce carbon emissions. This finding was used as an opportunity for dialogue and understanding and engagement.

Melisa Punjani L11 and Beril Çıray L11 conducted public awareness activities around campus to make students understand the need to reduce emissions and decide on emission targets. They made presentations at all grade-level assemblies and gave students space to ask questions and voice their concerns, and they were able to positively change people's perspectives:

“It was a tough process because there is a lot of controversial debate about

the actions we take and the money we spend. It was challenging to address peers, go over arguments and explain goals. We wanted to reduce emissions and since the student body plays a key role in the activities of the school, we wanted to get their input and involvement because we can't make the changes if they are not a part of it.

“We wanted to encourage them to decide on a reduction target for emissions so we could specify a goal for gas and electricity consumption. The reduction was a controversial point because it was winter, and students were cold and thought we would turn down the radiators by a lot. There was initially a backlash from students about turning down the heaters.

“We implemented data collectors at energy consumption stations. We

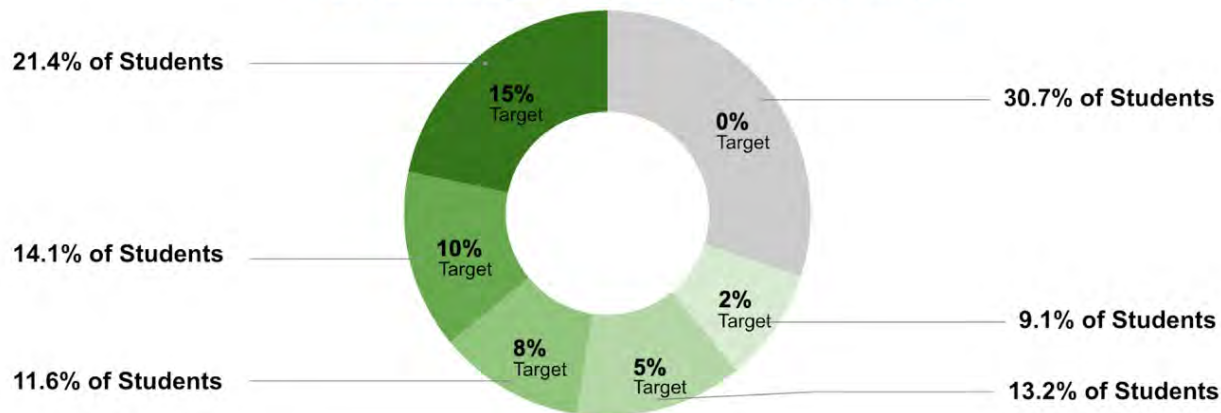
can get data from specific regions around school and see how much we consume, which provides meaningful data. We saw that there was a decrease in usage from last year, so we didn't need to reduce the heat by too much.”

Punjani and Çıray point out that here is ongoing work to be done: “We are considering curriculum additions to build upon individual action and awareness, and help people see that individual efforts lead to results. Discussing one on one also makes a difference. When they can ask questions they are more positive toward change. For example, we arranged ‘Ask Me Anything’ sessions allowing students to learn about school policies, ask questions and feel that they were being heard.”

Involving Students in the Process is Crucial for Creating Positive, Sustained Change

Student Energy Reduction Target Votes

6.5% Reduction Target = Weighted Average Across All 774 Votes

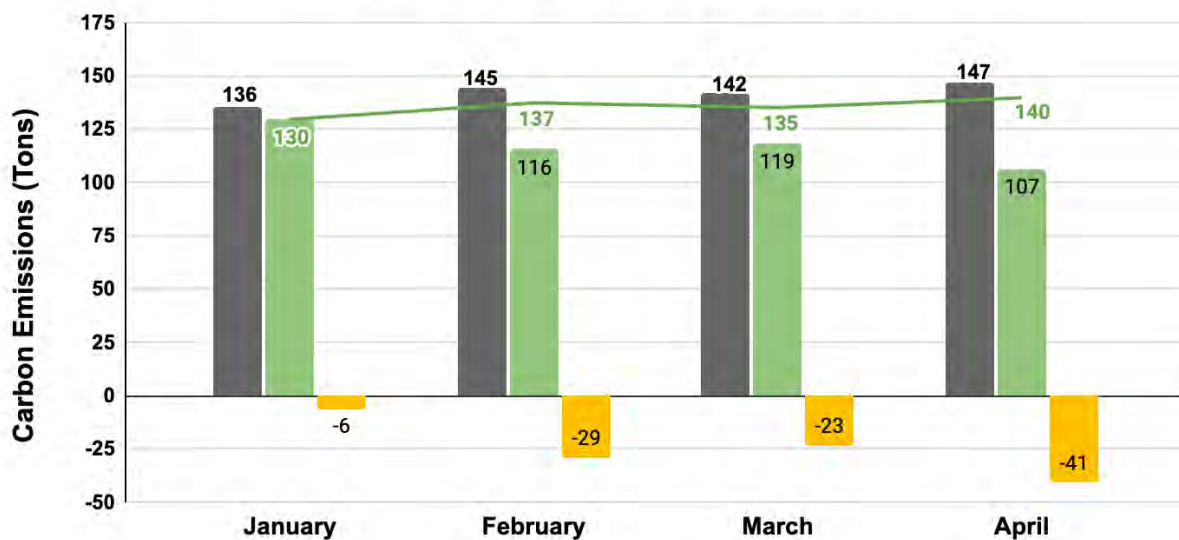


Student recommendations on energy reduction targets; Sustainability Pulse, Jan. 2024

RC Carbon Emissions from Energy Consumption (Heat & Electricity)

2023 Baseline, Reduction Target, & 2024 Actual Emissions

■ 2023 Baseline Emissions ■ 2024 Actual Emissions ■ Tons of Carbon Reduced
— Reduction Target (6.5% Gas Heat & 2.5% Electricity)



RC has reduced its carbon emissions each month since the start of 2024; Sustainability Pulse May 2024

Areas of particular focus are energy (carbon), biodiversity and zero waste (circular economy). The Environmental Education initiative at RC transforms the whole school into a living lab for students to learn about the environmental impact of the school and how to make it more sustainable. Co-heads of Environmental Education Aninne Schneider and Darren Greve state: "We're on a journey to make RC a fully-sustainable school- a key goal in RC's new five-year Strategic Plan." Students are demonstrating and exercising leadership in this area in numerous ways. For example, over the past year, the focus has been on reducing electricity and gas consumption on campus to reduce RC's carbon emissions and play an active role in the fight against climate change. This endeavor has involved

educating students and faculty about how much is consumed, setting targets by having all students vote on reduction targets to generate ownership and buy-in on energy conservation, and what needs to be done to reach them. RC's goal is to be carbon neutral with energy emissions by 2030.

The results have been encouraging. The energy reduction target for the months of February and March were exceeded. RC's carbon emission budget for those two months was 272 tons (down from a baseline of 287 tons). But the school actually did better by reducing emissions to 235 tons - a net reduction of 52 tons of carbon over two months. For three months in a row, RC has achieved its overall conservation and reduction goal, reducing emissions

by a total of 58 tons of carbon so far in 2024. But is this reduction a result of conservation efforts or is it a result of us using less heat because of a rapidly warming planet? This year there was a new record for the warmest March in Istanbul so students are urged to keep the conservation efforts going.

In Darren Greve's AP Environmental Sciences class students took the energy reduction initiative at school and used it in a lab doing the data analysis. They provided real-world recommendations based on the data they collected and analyzed, which the school is implementing. Indeed, the AP Environmental Science course is a great way to galvanize students interested in the environmental field. Such students also get involved in the environmental action club. They cover a survey of different environmental-related opportunities, explore different issues from agriculture to engineering and carbon capture technologies for climate change, discuss job opportunities post-university.

A new course on biodesign is on the horizon for next fall, led by biology teacher Patricia Deo. It will be transdisciplinary, weaving biology, design, and social problems. Environmental courses are in the works for the Social Science and English Departments as well. More and more students are realizing that sustainability perspective is becoming an integral part of any discipline. Aninne Schneider recalls that in a student-directed session focusing on careers and majors related to the environment, a student who wants to study engineering and architecture mentioned that the more she looks into architecture programs the more she sees that all programs include green building courses. Indeed, even students who aren't immediately engaged are starting to see connections: clearly the goal of the environmental education initiative at RC.



L11 Student Nazlı Çam created an eye-catching poster which supported efforts to reduce energy consumption

The Robert College Solar Farm: Offsetting All of RC's Electricity Needs

RC practices what it preaches: a Robert College education shouldn't cost the earth – indeed can be part of renewing abundance. Starting in 2024, the entire RC campus is being evaluated for energy efficiency, aiming to meet LEED Platinum standards as a minimum- LEED standards are the most widely used green building rating system in the world. RC will progressively reduce its use of natural gas and all carbon fuels. A huge step in this direction will be the completion of the Robert College Solar Farm, opening in 2025, and off-setting all of Robert College's electricity needs. In fact, in line with RC's goal to be a regenerative agent, the Solar Farm, plus a small on-campus solar array for educational purposes, will generate a surplus of renewable energy every year.



Akmu.Cazri. "Solar Agri Voltaic Farming System" Wikimedia, Licenced under CC BY-SA 4.0

Social-Emotional Learning and the CIP Program

RC students are apt at academic learning, but social-emotional learning is even more important. Social-emotional learning (SEL) provides five important competences: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. Through social-emotional learning students understand they are part of a larger community. It is about connecting, discovering together, reaching out to society and to inner selves. Through such learning, connection to RC and community improves, stress and anxiety are reduced, social, personal and societal well-being achieved. Indeed, the Community Involvement Program (CIP) which began in 2006 at RC is the epitome of social-emotional learning.



Community Involvement Projects allow students to connect to others and help them understand that they are part of a larger community, such as the Girls in Technology project in Mecidiyeköy

Elif Sönmez, head of CIP, explains how CIP helps overcome the potential passivity of learning: "With CIP, it's about impact, not teaching or learning. In the future we may not need schools, but we will need

connection and producing and learning together. The feeling of being needed is a primitive feeling and gives meaning in life. CIP is a search for the meaning of life. We don't tell students to do things; they do it because they

see the need for it and experience it. They don't need instructions; they write their own instructions. They feel how the people they are working with are feeling and react accordingly. Students have a sense that they leave a greater impact on society. CIP is also an area where students can make mistakes, where they survive and learn from their mistakes. CIP gives students a chance to explore and expose themselves to different situations and challenge themselves outside their comfort zones."

The impact on the students is so lasting that many RC alumni have continued in their community service beyond graduation. The impact surely goes beyond RC students as well. For example, one of the participants



The future of learning includes peer-to-peer interactive problem-solving lessons

of El Ele University, a CIP where RC students worked with female students from various cities in the Southeast to help them navigate the road to

university, contacted RC about being able to pass the experience forward, after she finished university.



Deep learning and engagement with course language can happen anywhere on RC's vast and beautiful campus

Transforming Premises: ELC, the Renewal of the Feyyaz Berker Science Building, the RC Antiquities Collection

As RC steadily reviews every aspect of an RC education for the future, learning spaces also need to be re-configured to ensure that they can foster connection to self, to others and to nature. Maura Kelly states that RC both closely looks at the learning spaces, trying to make sure they meet current needs, while also anticipating where the needs are heading: “We want to reduce the idea of a classroom being enclosed and locked off and make it more open, thereby making learning more visible. We need more collaborative spaces and more space for designing and creating.”

Three important news from this front have to do with the Environmental Learning Center (ELC), the Feyyaz Berker Science Building and the RC Antiquities Collection.

RC has an ambitious goal, to be the most environmentally friendly school premises in Istanbul, if not Türkiye. To that end, RC has undertaken to develop the Environmental Learning Center (ELC). What if every building constructed made the environment richer and more resilient? What if buildings worked with nature and contributed to regeneration, instead of worsening the world's problems? The International Living Future Institute, whose living building challenge program leads the globe in biophilic architecture, poses these questions. RC's ELC is planned to be an answer to them. It will feature indoor and outdoor seating areas,

natural lighting, solar panels, living roof and eco-heating systems. The aim is for the ELC to generate more energy than it consumes and to recycle all greywater and blackwater.

RC also has a strong heritage in science education, setting off many a world-renowned scientist on their path. Constructed in 1989 and inaugurated for use in 1991, the Feyyaz Berker Science Hall at Robert College, named after the renowned physicist Feyyaz Berker RC ENG 46, has long served as a hub for scientific exploration and innovation, providing students with cutting-edge resources to propel them into the forefront of diverse scientific fields. It is now planned to be updated as a twenty-first century, inspirational center for transdisciplinary science, design and entrepreneurship, and regenerative learning. Such an update will ensure that both students' and teachers' full potential are unlocked.

That RC boasts an antiquities collection with over 800 artifacts spanning from prehistoric times to the 18th century A.D. is remarkable in itself. What is even more exciting is that the collection is now being integrated into the various facets of the curriculum, extending beyond art history to encompass disciplines such as creative writing and music. RC Trustee Emeritus Muharrem Kayhan RC 73, an avid ancient coin collector, has graciously extended his collaboration to Professor Aliye Erol



RC Trustee Emeritus Muharrem Kayhan RC 73 (right) listens to a student describe the tiles in RC's Antiquities Collection

from Istanbul University to make this integration possible.

With the aim of cataloging of the ancient Roman coins, Professor Erol has conducted a series of workshops to engage students in this endeavor. In weekly hour-long meetings, Professor Erol guided students in identifying Roman coins as a means to unlock the history of the era.

Plans are underway to transform the Marble Hall and the Heritage Room into interactive exhibition spaces, featuring 3D replicas of the artifacts in the entire collection for enhanced engagement. With this change, the collection will lend itself to more educational experiences like the workshops Professor Erol conducted. A progressive and technological learning space to study ancient artifacts is the kind of premise transformation that befits RC.



A critical thinking activity at one of RC's natural learning spaces aids student thinking and improves well-being

What is taught, how it is taught, where it is taught are issues education professionals have to engage in continuously to keep abreast of the changes time brings. RC has been ahead of the curve in every educational aspect for the last 160 years. The next 160 years may as yet be unfathomable, but RC is certainly preparing its students to lead in times of change, while instilling in them the drive to uphold the values and years ahead.

Many RC alumni choose the field of education after RC. Unsurprisingly, they move on to hold prominent positions in this field as academicians, administrators and NGO professionals. Here are some who share their unique outlook and experience on the future of education.

Üstün Ergüder RC 57 Provides Overview of Educational Developments

“Students who are skeptical about so-called ‘truths’ are on the right track to becoming good scholars.”

Üstün Ergüder was the fourth rector of Boğaziçi University and is a professor emeritus at Sabancı University. With his vast experience in academia, Ergüder reviewed developments in Turkish education.

What are positive developments in Türkiye's education system?

The decreasing discrepancy between the schooling rates of male and female students, better schooling rates among middle school students, emergence of civil society initiatives like K-12 teachers' networks and civil society associations like Education Reform Initiative advocating policy reform are positive developments. There are periodic ups and downs in the receptiveness of policy makers in their openness to civil society activity. Yet the increasing civil society policy activity may be considered as a positive development from a long-term perspective.

Another hopeful development concerns OECD PISA scores. Despite the fact that overall average PISA performance of Turkish students points to a need for improvement, some Turkish students (and schools) perform above OECD averages. In other words, PISA performance scores for OECD countries indicate normal distribution of quality whereas the Turkish curve is highly skewed indicating a sharp fall from good performance to poor performance



Üstün Ergüder RC 57

of K-12 students. Yet compared to OECD countries, Türkiye's PISA average scores were less affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Moreover, it achieved this situation by increasing the schooling rate for 15-year-olds, thereby ensuring that public education reached more disadvantaged groups. Within the OECD, Türkiye stands out with a greater number of students who perform above a certain score despite being socioeconomically disadvantaged, indicating academically resilient students.

What are the qualities of a good scholar?

Students who ask questions, are skeptical about slogans and so-called “truths” and have a critical approach to social media and modern technology are on the right track. Türkiye can take

a close look at what Robert College is doing on this count.

What was your experience at RC, and later on Boğaziçi University like?

I was quite scared when my parents left me off at the RC dorm for the first time, but of course I became immensely grateful to them over time. RC became my family. I came back to RC Yüksek as a professor in 1969 and was there when RC Yüksek became Boğaziçi University. In 1991 I decided to announce my candidacy for rectorship of Boğaziçi University and was appointed as rector in 1992. My mission was to prioritize research and graduate programs there. The eight years of my tenure as rector of Boğaziçi University was stressful. Yet, I also learned so much about higher education management and fighting against all odds. Looking back, I had the privilege of working with a dream team both in academia and administrative affairs. I have a debt of gratitude to everyone from that period. When I retired from Boğaziçi, I left my heart there; it was that important to me. This emotional bond created problems; I had a hard time letting go. But I knew I had to. I also like innovation and the challenge of the new. I accepted the invitation from then rector of Sabancı University, the late Tosun Terzioğlu RA 61 and moved on to found the Istanbul Policy Center.

Esra Akbay Gençtürk RC 77 on the Challenges that Universities Address

I “Higher education is poised to become personalized.”

The rector of Özyeğin University, Prof. Dr. Esra Akbay Gençtürk offers a comprehensive view on the challenges universities are addressing in our complex times.

What are the top challenges facing a university in this day and age?

We are going through a period of immense challenges ranging from ecological to political concerns coupled with uncertainty and opportunities presented by technological innovations. Placed at the epicenter of scientific inquiry, learning, and knowledge transfer in service to society, universities are not only affected by these challenges but are also a key player in developing and driving solutions that influence our response to these challenges.

I see two main trends poised to impact universities worldwide:

- **Digital transformation:** The pandemic pivot to online accelerated the digital transformation at universities, especially in terms of the learning management system (LMS). The main challenge facing universities is to develop a digital platform for the institutional ecosystem that provides seamless, end-to-end on campus integration; resulting in smart learning spaces, smart living spaces, and eventually smart campuses.

- **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and universities' role in reaching them:** Universities' record in mobilizing their effort toward SDG targets has been sketchy at best. The call-to-action for universities to



Esra Akbay Gençtürk RC 77

incorporate the vision of the SDGs into their institutional mission and deliver on that promise remains as one of the important challenges.

How do you think technology will impact education?

The most important value add is in the delivery of truly learner-centric experience. Educational technology generates vast amounts of data making it possible to gain insights into student performance and improve teaching methodologies. These insights can make it possible to move away from the traditional one-size, one-method-fits-all education model to one where learning experience is personalized through customized user profile, tailored forms of assessment, as well as predictive learner analytics to empower academic success. With

further innovations in edtech, a comprehensive and functional student life cycle management is no longer a dream but an achievable target.

Are there any innovative developments with impact in the near future?

- **On-line platforms:** The shift to online learning with the pandemic has led to the rise of stand-alone or independent online platforms which provide learners of all ages with flexible access at reasonable or no cost. Most universities now offer their own online courses for full credit, as micro credential and/or as a certificate program; creating a hybrid, blended or fully online education experience. The use of these platforms for continuous learning beyond traditional degree programs is also emerging, allowing individuals to upskill and reskill throughout their careers.

- **Immersive technologies:** Immersive technologies such as VR and AR offer new ways to engage students in learning, providing realistic simulations and interactive experiences.

- **AI-driven tools:** Their adoption spearheaded changes in essay type assignments and unleashed a whole new way of learning and assessment. We need to learn how to apply them ethically and responsibly. These tools can assist with personalized learning experiences, provide real-time feedback, and automate administrative tasks, revolutionizing the educational landscape.

Gökçen Karaman RC 10 Draws Attention to Opportunities in Rural Education

“Teachers who recognize the opportunities in rural education can be a source of inspiration for all educators.”

Gökçen Karaman is the co-director of KODA, an association that works to ensure that children in villages receive a better education, carrying out activities for teachers, teacher candidates and parents, conducting research and advocacy studies in rural areas, and developing content appropriate to local conditions.

Is education at rural areas at a disadvantage?

On the contrary, it offers many opportunities that are indispensable features of quality education such as proximity to nature, smaller class sizes, hands-on and peer-learning opportunities, close-knit communities and strong relationships with parents.



Gökçen Karaman RC 10

How do you work with teachers?

Rural education opens up an area where teachers can improve the subtleties of their profession, develop their creativity, take initiative and create enhancing learning environments. We help teachers learn about and utilize the opportunities

in rural education, while supporting them with a solidarity network.

Currently, the primary education curriculum is urban-centric. It overlooks the context of rural children's daily lives. Students grow up knowing their region and caring about its development only if they come into contact with educational content appropriate to the context of their region. Thus, it is crucial for teachers to have the capacity to adapt the existing curriculum to help children learn through relating to their daily lives. Such teachers can support the sustainability of rural areas by reducing the number of families migrating for their children's education, while contributing to the development of an inclusive curriculum.

Nüket Alevli Ersoy ACG 50 Contributes to Gaziantep's Rise

“It is not possible to reach everybody with the traditional education model alone.”

Nüket Alevli Ersoy has been a tireless activist for the development of her beloved city Gaziantep. Her school, Gaziantep Kolej Vakfı (GKV), which she headed with her husband Celal Ersoy RC 46, is a cornerstone of her life's work.

How has education in Gaziantep changed over time?

In the early years of the Republic education was based on vocational training. With the transition to industrialization, it became a necessity to shift towards university education. Especially with the involvement of the Ministry of National Education, Gaziantep rapidly entered a more qualified education process culminating in Gaziantep University.

Recognizing the significant need for foreign language education, Cemil Alevli, the founder of GKV, took the first



Nüket Alevli Ersoy ACG 50 and Celal Ersoy RC 46

step in this regard by establishing our institution.

Soon more private educational institutions started to provide services at the elementary and secondary education levels, while new private universities were also launched. To meet the needs of the evolving Gaziantep industry for intermediate-

level employees, vocational schools supported by the Chamber of Industry were established.

How do you think the demand for a more “college” type of education is being met today?

Diverse options such as traditional institutions' expansions, online education platforms, vocational schools, community colleges' offerings, and lifelong learning opportunities help meet this demand.

How can everyone be included in education in Gaziantep including lower socio-economic classes and refugees?

It is not possible to reach everybody with the traditional education model alone. A needs analysis should be done locally and education systems should be designed to meet the needs.

Başak Ertuna Yalman RC 89 Shows How Higher Professional Education Is Evolving

“Employers are putting more emphasis on skills over degrees.”

Başak Ertuna Yalman is the Director of Professional Masters Programs at Koç University and has a unique perspective on the interaction of academia and corporations.

How do you foresee continuing education evolving?

There is an increasing focus on technology and digital skills. Job listings predominantly feature programming, front end and back-end development, data science, data analysis and cyber security. Companies are interested in understanding the developments in generative AI and how it might change their industries and workflows. As a result, we can expect to see more degree programs in Artificial Intelligence at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Design Thinking has emerged

as a highly sought-after subject, with a surge in demand for UX/UI designers. Additionally, there is a growing preference for shorter, more focused courses over longer master's programs. Employers are putting more emphasis on skills over degrees.

How are professional master's programs incorporating inclusion, ethical considerations and social impact components?

Diversity, equity and inclusion, along with sustainability, are top priorities for global companies. In all our programs, we strive to address unconscious biases and implement filters for discriminatory language. Businesses are placing a stronger emphasis on impact rather than solely on profitability, a shift clearly reflected in our curriculum.



Başak Ertuna Yalman RC 89

How did your experience at RC inspire you to pursue a career in academia?

My education at RC instilled a deep love of learning in me. I want to continue learning and growing, and for that a career in academia offers the ideal environment.

Aysel Madra Altınordu RC 99 Warns That Technology May Perpetuate Inequalities

“The empowerment of the teachers makes a huge difference in creating equitable classrooms.”

Aysel Madra Altınordu, PhD is the research coordinator at Suna'nın Kızları (Suna's Daughters), a non-profit that aims to further the goals of Suna Kırac ACG 60 in education.

What are the top challenges in educating young people on sustainability issues?

Educating on sustainability issues requires a systems-change perspective. The focus should be on understanding how ecosystems are intertwined and uncovering the root causes threatening nature. The culture of consumption, with all the influencers and brands pushing their products is a challenge. Another challenge is eco-anxiety - extreme worry about climate change, which might lead to apathy and inaction.



Aysel Madra Altınordu RC 99

How do you think developments in education will create equal opportunities for female students?

It is not only a matter of getting girls to school but also a question of how they experience schools and what they learn there. Are gender stereotypes replicated and reinforced

in education materials? Are teachers sensitive to gender norms and do they ensure gender equality in classrooms? What is the ratio of female to male administrators, especially at the top?

Digital transformation may provide opportunities but also may cause further inequalities. Research finds that up to 58% of girls have experienced some online harassment. There are studies that show that generative AI tools perpetuate harmful gender stereotypes. That's an area that needs to be better regulated.

Last, but not least, the empowerment of the teachers makes a huge difference in creating equitable classrooms.

Aylin Küntay RC 84 on How Psychology Interplays with Education

“The science of psychology conducts research into how technology assists or hinders children to learn.”

Aylin Küntay is a professor of psychology and the Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities at Koç University.

How does psychology impact the future of education?

We are surrounded by a digital world. Even pre-school children employ virtual assistants and social robots before they learn how to read and write. The science of psychology conducts research into how technology assists or hinders children to learn.

What changes do you anticipate in the teaching methodologies of early education programs?

Some of the current digital technologies in the curriculum and teaching methodologies designed for



Aylin Küntay RC 84

older children and adults will try to be adapted for early education programs. However, I anticipate difficulties in the adaptation given the highly different communication, cognitive and social skills of young children.

What insights can psychology offer in designing inclusive and equitable learning environments?

Children with diverse backgrounds and abilities must be well equipped from an early age to develop the necessary skills to seek and evaluate information acquired through formal and informal education. Psychology also conducts user-experience research about ways to provide equitable access to learning environments for all children.

How did your experience at RC inspire you to pursue a career in academia?

After I graduated from RC, I entered an industrial engineering program. However, after two years there, I shifted to psychology. My experience at RC inspired me to make that move. I did not know that I was in a burgeoning field, but I apparently was. And yes, I did take a psychology course as an elective already in RC in 1984!

Merve Vardar Ashaboğlu RC 91 Highlights the Trends in Higher Education Applications

“International applications continue to rise, increasing the competition.”

Who better to ask about the changes in university application processes than one of RC's college counselors Merve Vardar Ashaboğlu

What skills do students need to thrive in today's university environment?

Adaptability. Spontaneous problem solvers are more and intellectually curious students likely to excel.

What trends are you seeing in students' choices of higher learning paths?

RC students are still very much STEM-focused. Those seeking medicine naturally prefer to stay in Türkiye. Those seeking full financial aid apply to the United States, where there are more scholarship opportunities. More and more students are open to options in the Netherlands and Italy,



Merve Vardar Ashaboğlu RC 91

due to lower cost, shorter duration of study, physical proximity, and growing selection of courses offered in English.

Are there any changes to the criteria universities are prioritizing in their acceptances?

Universities are getting more selective. International applications continue to rise, increasing the competition. US universities are going through a phase of test optional policies. With

increasing number of applications, lack of standardized measures, inflated grade point averages across high schools, admissions officers are trying to identify best candidates through essays, resumes, letters of recommendations, all evaluated with more scrutiny.

What challenges does AI bring to the university application process?

Students using AI tools to craft personal statements, answer college essay prompts, prepare portfolios. Universities look for meaningful, detailed answers to the supplemental essay prompts. AI often creates well-written content but may lack the personal nuances or college specific details. Some colleges are implementing video responses in place of essays.

Ezgi Emel Kalyoncu RC 10 Gives an Insider View of the Classroom

“Student well-being is balanced with academic rigor.”



Ezgi Emel Kalyoncu RC 10

As a philosophy teacher at RC, Ezgi Emel Kalyoncu has a unique perspective.

How did your experience as a student at RC inspire you to become a teacher?

As a student at Robert College, I was profoundly influenced by the

dedication of my teachers and an intellectually stimulating environment. Their passion for teaching and genuine care for student development sparked my interest in education. Witnessing their impact on students' lives inspired me to pursue teaching, aiming to inspire young minds in the same stimulating environment that had been pivotal in my own growth.

What has changed about the RC education experience since you were a student?

Since my time as a student, Robert College has embraced technological advancements more extensively. The curriculum now integrates digital tools for a more interactive learning experience and emphasizes global awareness to prepare students for a connected world. There's also a

stronger focus on student well-being, reflecting a holistic approach to education that balances academic rigor with emotional and social support.

What developments do you foresee in education in the next 10 years?

“In the next decade, I anticipate education will further integrate technology, making learning even more personalized and accessible. Artificial intelligence and virtual reality could become standard tools, offering students immersive and customized educational experiences. Additionally, there will likely be a greater emphasis on interdisciplinary studies and 21st century skills, such as critical thinking, creativity, and emotional intelligence.”

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SAVE THE DATE

Roll Call
RC's traditional Homecoming Assembly at Suna Kırac Hall

STAY TUNED FOR SURPRISE EVENTS

Congratulations Class of '74 on your 50th reunion!

Arwa Damon RC 94 and Binnur Karaevli RC 84 Collaborate on New Documentary

I The film follows four war survivors as they tackle one of the world's tallest mountains.

A former CNN senior international correspondent, Arwa Damon founded INARA - an international network for relief, aid and assistance - in 2015 (see RCQ 49, p. 54). The charity organized an expedition to Mt. Kilimanjaro in 2020, which was postponed due to COVID. When it was time to re-organize it in 2022, the Taliban had re-taken Afghanistan and the war in Ukraine had broken out. As Damon pondered how to combine climbers from Syria, Ukraine, and Afghanistan, she recognized a unique opportunity to tell the story of war and refugees against an adventure backdrop and through the eyes of young adults. In Damon's words *Seize the Summit* is, "what happens when a love



Binnur Karaevli RC 84 and Arwa Damon RC 94

of mountains collides with a war correspondent who has a charity, is willing to toss her career for a passion project and decides to shoot a documentary in six countries in eight weeks."

Experienced director Binnur Karaevli came on board after the project was shot at Kilimanjaro: "I was inspired by the characters and their resilience. I was also inspired by Arwa's courage to take on a such a challenge. I like challenges and in many ways this film was a challenge since it was shot in many languages and locations. I was struck by the insistent pursuit of joy despite all the terrible things that have happened to the climbers. 'We don't care about war, till it comes to us,' is a profound statement one of the characters makes and that affected me deeply."

Proceeds from the film will go to charity, including but not limited to the work that INARA does.

Nilüfer Kuyaş RC 73 Publishes Two New Novels

I The characters in one of Kuyaş's books are RC students.

Nilüfer Kuyaş has come put with two new books: *Gecede Bir Çığlık* (*Scream in the Night*, Kafka Kitap) and *Sarah ve Şemsi* (*Sarah and Şemsi*, Sia Kitap). *Sarah ve Şemsi* is about the love affair between actress Sarah Bernhardt and an Ottoman gentleman, based on Kuyaş's own great-grandfather, as she believes her grandfather may indeed have had a brief fling with the actress, who visited Istanbul four times. *Gecede Bir Çığlık* is about three young girls from RC, though the author carefully underlines that it is not autobiographical. One of the girls is killed, and the other two try to solve the crime years later.



Kuyaş states that she gets her inspiration from her own observations and experiences: "Sometimes I take

an idea for a character from real life and use imagination to create the character." Kuyaş is now working on a black humor epic story that will also have a bit of fantasy. The novel in the works will play on Odyssean themes. Kuyaş recalls that at RC she had brilliant English teachers like Ms. Sampey and Mrs. İz, as well as great Turkish literature teachers such as Halis Ergener, a protégé of Yahya Kemal. Ms. Sampey in particular encouraged Kuyaş to write in English, which she did for many years. It was only after 50 that she turned to writing fiction. Kuyaş states that RC opened the world to its students and made her who she is.

Evin İlyasoğlu ACG 66 Updates Her Seminal Books

Latest editions include recent musical developments and new historical findings.

Music critique, academic and producer Evin İlyasoğlu is also a prolific writer. Her encyclopedic work *Zaman İçinde Müzik* (*Music in Time*, Remzi Kitabevi) is in its 11th edition. In each iteration, the book was renewed according to the novelties of the musical world. One such change had come through the timelines in the 8th edition, whereby musical creations were arranged chronologically, parallel to the events in other disciplines such as history, literature, art, architecture and philosophy. With this new edition the musical samples of each age are now presented by a barcode.

İlyasoğlu's detailed book on Cemal



Reşit Rey, the leader of polyphonic music in Türkiye, *Cemal Reşit Rey: Müzikten İbarettir Bir Dünyada Gezintiler* (Cemal Reşit Rey: Strolling in a World Made of Music, İstanbul

Büyükşehir Belediyesi Yayınları) is in its third edition and is now in hard cover. This edition boasts a list of new works by Rey that were recently found, as well as newly discovered photos of historic value.

İlyasoğlu continues to write musical critiques each week in Cumhuriyet newspaper, as well as teach twentieth century music online. She is currently working on three new book projects: *Mythology and Music*, *Zehra'nın Öyküsü* (*Zehra's Story*) and *23 Years of the Albert Long Hall Concerts*. İlyasoğlu asks that all alumni who have memories of the Albert Long Hall concerts to kindly reach out and contribute to the book.

Kutay Onaylı RC 13 Publishes Poetry Collection

Onaylı's journey kicked off with the RC Jane Page poetry prize.

Contributed by Umutcan Gölbaşı RC 15

Kutay Onaylı once wrote to me that his lot was "to observe his own sensibilities from the outside looking in" - years ago when he was still an aspiring poet. Now, his debut book of poetry, *Türkolmak*, the first fruit of such lifelong observations, has been published by Metis Edebiyat.

Onaylı's artistic journey sprouted at Robert College, from unforgettable performances with the RC Theater Company to pieces winning Jane Page poetry prizes. While those of us familiar with his eloquent nature and innate capability to comprehend the full range of human emotion will attest that he was born a poet, it is also his deep critical insight about our entanglements with the cultural and political history we are born into,

and, filtered through these, with one another, that permeates *Türkolmak*. (Our poet, in fact, moonlights as a historian — Onaylı is currently finishing a PhD in Near Eastern Studies at Princeton.)

There are only a few poets in every generation who truly take on the challenge of transcending the human condition by encapsulating the sensation of being alive in their own historical moment in a peculiar, universally accurate manner that resonates with past, current and future generations. Such poets face a daunting task: through fragmenting oneself and perceiving one's own characterizing patterns, they must bleed their heart dry and cast the splatter onto a screen of their own



making. Onaylı, well aware of his transhistorical responsibility, puts forth the candid details of his — indeed our— existence, and makes his foray into becoming a crystallizer of emotional response with *Türkolmak*.

Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 Remembers Atatürk Anew

In 1987, as the 50th anniversary of Atatürk's death was approaching, Nuri Çolakoğlu began researching how the news was covered in the press around the world through the extensive archives at the British Library. The resulting work, *Dünya Basında Atatürk Kasım 1938* (Atatürk in the World Press November 1938), was published in 2003.

To mark the 85th anniversary of Atatürk's death, Çolakoğlu wanted to examine how the passing of Türkiye's founder was covered in the Turkish press. *Türk Basınında Atatürk Kasım 1938* (Atatürk in Turkish Press November 1938), was prepared to be like a tour for the reader of the 11 days following Atatürk's death, known as National Days of Mourning, when



his temporary tomb was placed in the Ethnography Museum in Ankara.

Çolakoğlu observes that preparing this book was harder than his earlier work: "Atatürk died at a time when not many newspapers were available

in Türkiye. But those even in remote provinces tried to write articles about his accomplishments and his heritage. The book is a compilation of a fortnight of Turkish papers immediately after his death, with remarkable articles by people who became very important in Turkish politics.

"Researching the international reaction to Atatürk's death was easier because the articles were all in one place, in the British Library's London periodical section. For this book, nobody had previously compiled the articles. My colleagues Sabrı Sayarı and Ömer Bilgin had collections left over from their families. Another colleague Aytaç Demirci went through the library at Taksim. We managed and we're very happy with the result."

Behçet Demircan RA 68 Goes Back to World War II in New Book

Behçet Demircan followed up his books *Hatıralar* (Memories) and *İffet Ablâ* (Sister İffet, Cinius Yayınları) with a new novel *Köşkün Gizli Odası* (Secret Room at the Mansion, Cinius Yayınları) which is about an art theft during World War II. The plot involves a Turkish diplomat in Berlin who is obsessed with paintings. He sells top secret information about Türkiye to high-ranking Nazi commanders in return for works of famous painters looted from Jewish collectors.

Demircan states that he has a great interest in the World War II period and

Nazi era, and that interest kicked off the book: "If you like writing and want to start writing a new book, it is normal to choose a favorite subject. For me the base of writing is to be inspired. And in order to be inspired one must read a lot and write a lot. Imagination is only the second essential tool. I am trying to read as much as I can and write many drafts."

Demircan credits RC for giving him self-confidence and a questioning attitude: "Those qualities lead to creativity which helps to write, paint or compose."



The Impact of RC's Hisar Film Festival on Turkish Cinema

A series of talks at Salt Research held in fall 2023 and winter 2024 explored Hisar Short Film Festival - a first of its kind in Türkiye - organized by the Robert College Cinema Club in 1967-70, and its impact on the development of film as an artistic medium. The Club was indeed a cultural magnet, extending its influence beyond the school and attracting prominent cultural figures into its orbit. The talks at SALT, which were free and open to the public, were led by filmmaker Deniz Tortum RC 08, who is a consultant on the Hisar Festival research. As a young filmmaker making experimental films, Tortum searched for roots in Türkiye's cinema. He claims that that the film *Istanbul Memory* by author, artist and RC teacher Özer Kabaş RC 57, and the festival for which Kabaş was a consultant, could have served as roots for an independent Turkish cinema, but were forgotten:



Deniz Tortum RC 08 (left), Turgut Alev RA 66 (center) and Hasan Gürdal RC ENG 70 (right) discuss the Hisar Short Film Festival

"Unearthing them now though might still serve as potential roots for future."

Bülent Becan RC ENG 71, who was the opening speaker at the event in October 2023, took on different roles in the festival over the years. Documentary filmmaker Nurdan

Baç Arda RC YÜK 70, one of the organizers of Hisar, also spoke at the first event. Other participants in the talks included Hasan Gürdal RC ENG 70, chairman of the Hisar Short Film Competition between 1968-1970 and researcher and writer on cinema, and Turgut Alev RA 66. Their film *Politician* appeared in the festival.

Gülin Yücel RC 88 Co-Authors Book on Circular Economy

Sustainability consultant Gülin Yücel and Boğaziçi University physics professor Levent Kurnaz have a second book out. *Döngüsel Ekonomi* (*The Circular Economy*, Yeni İnsan Yayınları) is a collection of articles on a number of subjects ranging from poverty to agriculture.

Yücel felt that it is time that we move to responsible production and consumption patterns, as the demand for resources is 60% more than the earth's capacity to regenerate itself, creating many environmental and systemic problems. Yücel cites highly problematic consumption patterns: "Four percent of products turn into waste within weeks. People aged 18-24 wear new clothing only 1-5 times.



Fifty million tons of electronic waste is produced annually –an amount greater than all commercial airplanes ever built. In Europe, 60% of offices are not utilized and only 5% of cars are

utilized (on the road, driving). These consumption patterns, about 1 kg per person daily, result in two billion tons of household waste, of which only 33% is landfilled environmentally."

That is why she and Kurnaz felt the need to launch this book: "We need to transform the way we produce, use, and consume our products and food and the circular economy is a great solution for this. The circular economy defines certain principles that we need to adopt immediately in order to stop this dependency on the planet's existing resources. Recycling only extends the time that resources go to waste. In a circular economy, on the other hand, resources stay in the value chain endlessly. Currently we are 7.2% circular in adopting these principles."

The Lost Worlds of Venezuela

By Barış Karadoğan RC90

Venezuela is a country that had it and lost it. As one of the world's largest oil exporters, one would think it should look more like Dubai, but years of corruption, sanctions and war have made it anything but. However, its biodiversity is thriving and that's what made the trio, Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93, Ali Töre RC 90 and Barış Karadoğan RC 90, (reunited after their Papua New Guinea trip, see RCQ 46, p. 50), fly to Venezuela for our latest birding trip in March 2024. Some birds we searched were lost to the world, never photographed, and some locations we visited were lost worlds in themselves high up in the skies, like scenes from Miyazaki's *Castle in The Sky* or Pixar's *Up*.

Our trip started at Urumaco in the Falcón state, right on the Caribbean coast, straight south of the island of Aruba. The national bird of the country, the Venezuelan troupial, was seen as well as lesser yellow-headed vulture, the elusive plain-flanked rail and vermilion cardinal. Falcón is a state that's fallen behind.



Photo: Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93

Buff-breasted sabrewing

Next to pristine white sand beaches, we saw abandoned vacation resorts, echoing with memories of a better time. There were government buildings, still in use, but due to lack of funding, overrun with vines and vegetation. However, nothing we saw symbolized better how Venezuela had it and lost it, than an abandoned McDonald's. Seriously though, how often do you see a McDonald's go out of business?

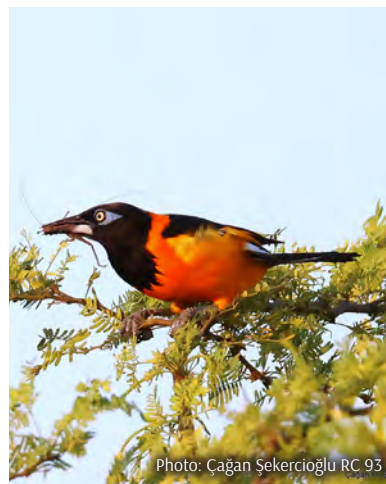


Photo: Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93

Venezuelan troupial, the national bird of the country

Our second stop was Colonia Tovar, a German colony in the middle of Venezuela. It was founded in 1843 by German immigrants, and two centuries later, the city has still maintained the German architectural style. Spanish and German are spoken, and one can order sauerkraut, schnitzels and even goulash from blonde and blue-eyed, fluent Spanish-speaking waiters. In that area we also saw the amazing bearded bellbird.



Photo: Ali Töre RC 90

Ferruginous pygmy owl

Birders use every trick in the book to seduce a bird to come out in the open to be seen. The most common is to play the sound of the bird. A potential mate, or rival is interesting enough for a bird to come out on a branch. One sound brings out one species, but how about playing one sound to bring out many species? This is where the call of the ferruginous pygmy-owl comes in. If you play this owl's sound, small birds of all kinds come out to mob the owl, to make it go away. If an owl makes a nest near your nest, that does not bode well for your offspring.



Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93, Banş Karadoğan RC 90 and Ali Töre RC 90 at Canaima National Park waterfalls

Our third and final stop was Canaima National Park, home to the Angel Falls, the world's tallest uninterrupted waterfall, flowing down 979 m from the top of the Auyán-tepui. Tepuis are the true lost worlds of Venezuela. They are the flat plateaus on top of mountains, often only accessible by helicopter, and a helicopter is what we took to land on the Guaiquinima tepui. It is only after you disembark and the chopper leaves, that the reality sinks in, you are on top of a mountain, with no other human in a 100-mile radius. There are no paths, or hiking trails, you make your way through dense bromeliads and be mindful of the snakes in them. We also had to be prepared to stay overnight at the tepui, in case weather conditions prevented our helicopter from picking us up.

Our two target birds were the Guaiquinima whitestart, which was only described 80 years ago and never photographed, and buff-breasted sabrewing, a hummingbird that had never been seen on the

Guaiquinima tepui we visited. We walked everywhere, climbed up and down rocks in dried riverbeds, but we could not find the whitestart, but we did see the sabrewing and got great shots of it, first on that tepui.

Our final stop was to visit the Angel Falls, the highest waterfall in the world. You see the mountain, then the waterfall, and then below the waterfall are the clouds - an

amazing experience. Our 70-year-old helicopter pilot was a real ace; all the trips we took were smooth with no bumps whatsoever.

We shared lots of photos with friends, as we are doing now in this article, but during the trip, we also saw a highly rare and colorful bird, the red siskin whose name, photos and location we can't share. Our guide even made us promise never to put any photos on social media. Why such secrecy? It's a bird highly sought out by poachers, to be sold to bird collectors. The poachers routinely check E-bird records of sightings and could easily go to where we saw it, should we make its presence known.

In the end we observed more than 250 bird species, saw the lost worlds of the tepuis and the Venezuela city centers, in the latter case, with hopeful people slowly recovering what's lost. Venezuela was not dangerous, on the contrary it was quite hospitable, and we would recommend anybody to go there, before corporations take over again, and McDonald's comes back.



Photo: Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93

Our last bird in Venezuela, an elegant yellow-crowned night-heron

SXSW Festival 2024 Offers Optimistic Views On AI

South by Southwest – SXSW is known worldwide as the most comprehensive festival for creative industries. Since 1987, every March, 300,000 people swarm to the city of Austin, Texas, to follow trends in technology, film, music, and culture. Chief Strategy Officer at TBWA Toygun Yilmazer RC 96 not only attended the festival but also addressed the impact of artificial intelligence in the advertising industry through a speech called “No Algorithm for Culture: How Humans See What AI Can’t”. Here are his impressions:

At this year’s festival, artificial intelligence (AI) stole the show, constituting the main theme of half the panels at the festival. The most interesting speeches about AI at the festival were given by Peter Deng, Ben Goertzel and Amy Webb.

OpenAI’s Vice President of Consumer Products, Peter Deng, conducted an interview with journalist and technology investor Josh Constine. In the interview, he suggested that the integration of artificial intelligence into everyday life will stimulate cognitive development. He mentioned how his own nine-year-old child learned programming with the help of ChatGPT. In this session “AI and Humanity’s Co-evolution”, two themes stood out. The first is the interpretation of AI as a technology that augments human intelligence and skills, rather than competing with them. Second, the potential of AI to provide equal opportunities. Individuals and organizations with less access to resources may be able to equalize



Toygun Yilmazer RC 96

with others through AI technologies. Another interesting session was a talk by Ben Goertzel, the scientist who popularized the concept of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), with David Hanson, founder of Hanson Robotics. Goertzel predicted that artificial intelligence will reach the level of human intelligence by 2029. He advocated for the development of AI that is compassionate and integrated into robots that look like us, so that powerful AIs can get along with humanity in the future. This session, “How to Make AGI Beneficial and Avoid a Robot Apocalypse”, was thought-provoking, even though it left the question in the title unanswered. Goertzel’s comment, “Since we cannot see beyond the limits of our own minds, we cannot know what superhuman intelligence is” reminded us how pointless it is to comment on the future of AI today.

In the Technology Trend Report presentation, which has been the most popular session of SXSW for years, futurist Amy Webb described the period we are going through as

a “technology super cycle.” Like the industrial revolution and the invention of the internet, this cycle has the potential to radically change society. She mentioned AI, the Connected Ecosystem and Biotechnology as the three technologies that will take us forward. What she said about the future of AI changed the way I look at new devices like the Apple Vision Pro: “Current generative AI models are mostly trained on millions of texts and images from several decades of the Internet. For the next evolutionary phase of AI and the transition from Large Language Models (LLMs) to Large Action Models (LAMs), more and, above all, different data is needed. In the coming months and years, we will see a real explosion in devices that collect physical data. The goal will always be to collect as much personal data as possible through many sensors.”

While Amy Webb’s super-cycle concept points to a new era full of opportunities, data hungry Big Action Models opened our eyes and made us all again think about how safe our personal data are. It will be the responsibility of our generation, which Webb defines as the transition generation (Gen T), to steer this change and set it on the right path.

On the third day of the festival, one day after Amy Webb, I gave a talk that aimed to guide people, especially

those in the advertising industry, who feel powerless and ineffective in the face of artificial intelligence. I started my talk by defining the purpose of good advertising, using the examples of Apple AirPods, De Beers and Prime, and emphasized that creativity is used as a tool in advertising, and the main goal is behavioral change and cultural adaptation.

I argued that while artificial intelligence excels in optimization and pattern recognition, it lacks the innate human abilities to grasp the unpredictability of culture and emotional depth.

Culture is human-centric, and emotional. In the near future when artificial intelligence prevails, it will be no substitute for humans in understanding and influencing culture.

Why? AI is a great tool for finding patterns in big data, but culture is alive and constantly evolving. In instances where the future is unlike the past, collecting and analyzing big data from the past doesn’t work. Even with algorithms, the rapid pace of cultural evolution surpasses AI’s capabilities. AI works best in well-defined stable situations. Human manners, emotions and preferences are highly complex and unstable for AI.

We connect with cultural trends on an emotional level. We create meaning by combining what we see with what we have experienced before. AI excels at literal language (today we talk about large language models) but struggles with human senses and emotions. LLMs cannot make sense of what they detect. Cultural meaning goes beyond the literal meaning of words or symbols.

What we need to do is to master artificial intelligence technologies. While technology experts develop new models and products, it is up to us, non-technologists, to use, master, and elevate these tools to new heights. Many functions that until today we thought of as very human are now being performed by machines. This change makes everyone feel weak and useless. The best solution for this feeling of inadequacy is to become the best users of new technologies, to master them.

With all the conversation around the transformative power of technology, it is imperative to remember the role of human beings. At the end of my speech, the audience said, “We were depressed with Amy Webb, we found a light in this speech.” This comment made me feel that I achieved my goal in going to SXSW.

Lise 11 Students Mert Kaan Atan and Emir Çelet Turn Language Learning on Its Head

While using Duolingo for his French class, Mert Kaan Atan found that the app was inefficient and went on to co-create an AI-based language learning platform: “I texted my co-founder Emir Çelet that if there isn’t a free, personalized and interactive language learning app, we should create one. I taught myself many programming concepts and coded BLang.” Unlike other language learning platforms, in BLang users create their own study materials through AI, tailored to their interests and advancement level. Students can also chat with BLangBot - an AI tutor - while learning, which offers an interactive experience. Emir adds, “There is some credibility to be gained from collaboration with institutions as well, so we started looking into such opportunities.” Their



L11 students Emir Çelet and Mert Kaan Atan

goal is to revolutionize the language learning industry: “In the 21st century, all education technology platforms must be personalized and interactive.”

The duo underline that they are in the process of acquiring users, so the platform is free and needs time to become profitable. They are talking to investors and reaching out to RC alumni to make connections.

Robert College has shown interest in using BLang as part of the curriculum. Mert and Emir have submitted proposals to pilot BLang in Prep foreign language classes and to collaborate with RC’s sister school in Hatay to make language learning accessible to everyone. If approved, their platform will expand to these groups in the fall.

Yıldız Batum L11 Finds Her Groove

Yıldız Batum has been playing piano since the age of six. She recently released her third album, *Reveries Within*, available on streaming platforms, and is working on her fourth.

Batum was exposed early to classical music through her parents. Her formal training began with composer and pianist Anjelika Akbar. She started improvising on the piano in middle school and composed her first full piece during Lise Prep. She has been composing with increasing passion and musical complexity since then: “Music is a way to express emotions that cannot be articulated. My innermost sentiments are my main inspiration. However, I have also

been inspired by movies. Some of the pieces in my upcoming fourth album were inspired by *A Beautiful Mind*, *Scent of a Woman*, and *Brokeback Mountain*.

Batum plans on studying politics, economics, and philosophy (PPE), since she believes making a career out of music would potentially reduce its therapeutic effect and the amount of joy it gives her. Batum also credits RC for her musical development: “Being surrounded by incredible music teachers and talented peers has motivated me to push myself, especially since RC is the alma mater of my dad (Bulut Batum RC 93) and uncle (Ufuk Batum RC 87).”



Yıldız Batum L11

Dikmen Gürün ACG 61: A Life Dedicated to Theatre

"Theatre explores every aspect of being human."

Dikmen Gürün is one of the foremost theatre critics in Türkiye, as well as an academic and writer. The RCQ caught up with Gürün, who shared her opinions on the continuing influence of theatre.

How does theatre remain so relevant in the 21st century, despite the onslaught of other types of stimuli?

Theatre is a cohesive whole that enriches our lives through its incorporation of our rational, emotional, social and even mathematical faculties. The plays of Sophocles, Shakespeare or Moliere provide modern audiences insights into and resolutions to universal human dilemmas. Likewise, social critique made by modern playwrights such as Arthur Miller, Bertolt Brecht or Haldun Taner enlightens us and encourages reflection. Theatre explores every aspect of being human. We have a broader perspective as a result of this. That is why theatre has always existed and will continue to exist.

There seems to be a vibrant theatre scene in Istanbul, with lots of plays and theatre ensembles all around. To what do you attribute this vibrancy?

There has always been a thriving theatre scene in Istanbul. The bond between the theatre and its audience has always existed, with the



Dikmen Gürün ACG 61 (standing) with Yıldız Kenter

exception of the years 2020-2022, when COVID-19 nearly shut down the nation and this city. However, let's not also forget that digital theatre was utilized during those days. Since the 2000s, a new generation of young artists has emerged to investigate, challenge and push the boundaries of modern theatre. I believe that this vitality is related to the fact that younger generations are choosing theatre as a medium for self-expression. Meanwhile, subsidized theatres are also a part of this thriving theatrical scene.

What is the function of a theatre review?

Theatre critique, according to Muhsin Ertuğrul, the pioneer of modern Turkish theatre, is "an art form." The interplay of theatre and criticism is crucial. Criticism is more than just analyzing a work and making superficial judgements such as "good" or "bad." It is to cultivate the ability to think, read, watch, and see life from every possible perspective to perceive world issues from a broad viewpoint.

Any recommendations for budding playwrights?

Reading, watching, comparing, analyzing... Learning about their society and the world in which they live.

How did your time at ACG influence you in your career? Are there any teachers or classes that stand out?

Studying at a school like ACG was an amazing opportunity for me. The years I spent there were truly valuable. All my teachers, starting with Mrs. Dorothy İz, were open to discussions and they were eager to motivate us in our areas of interest. Yet I must also mention that my parents, particularly my father, a medical doctor, influenced my interest in theatre and motivated me to continue my higher education in theatre in the US.

Oya Erenli Sezer ACG 69 Exhibits Her Unique Quilts

Oya Erenli Sezer's decades long passion for quilting resulted in an online exhibition, titled *Amish in Istanbul* and featured on the artwithoutboundaries.art website.

How Sezer got into quilt making has to do with her daughter Didem Sezer Manecolo RC 90: "I accompanied Didem to Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania—in Amish country. Intrigued, I started to research the Amish people, their art and their history. With both children away at university, I decided to join



a quilting group. Patchwork design is actually common in Turkish culture. For example, patchwork prayer rugs are called *kirkpare* (40 pieces) in Turkish. Patchwork is like solving a riddle to me—different parts come together in harmony to make a beautiful whole. Just like friendships."

Sezer nurtured her passion over the years, resulting in this online exhibition. Her creations were also physically displayed this spring in Istanbul's Crimea Memorial Church.

Ümit Özkan RC 73 Elected to the National Academy of Engineering

Department Chair of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and Distinguished University Professor at the Ohio State University College of Engineering, Ümit Özkan has added another honor to her illustrious career. This year she was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, in recognition of her research in electrocatalysis and elucidation of mechanisms of oxidation catalysis.

Election to the Academy is among the highest professional distinctions

accorded to an engineer. Regarding her nomination, Özkan said, "I am very much honored by this recognition, especially because the nomination process to the National Academy of Engineering, which is very confidential, was totally unbeknownst to me. I have been extremely fortunate to have worked with dozens of very talented young men and women in my research group over the years. They are the ones who challenge me, who inspire me and who motivate me. Any recognition that I get really belongs to them."



Neslihan Nigiz Ulak RC 95 Elected President of LEAD Network Türkiye

LEAD Network a non-profit foundation established in 2014. Its mission is to attract, retain and advance women in the consumer goods and retail sector in Europe through education, leadership and business development. The Türkiye Chapter was founded as an association in 2017 as the first country chapter and has already reached 100 corporate partners and about 1400 members.

LEAD Network Türkiye will now be led by Neslihan Nigiz Ulak as the President.



One of the Türkiye Chapter Association's founding members, Ulak also serves as the Chairman of the Türkiye, Caucasus and Central Asia Board at La Lorraine, a corporate member of the Association. Ulak sets an industrious tone for her term: "We've taken essential steps toward institutionalization, fortifying our association for sustainable growth. By reimagining our management and organizational structure, we've laid a robust foundation to advance our priorities."

RC L3 04 Classmates Emre Özen and Ozan Yaltı Found AI Solution for Lawyers

DraftWise is a cutting-edge data platform designed to revolutionize the way law firms manage and interact with their data by leveraging the latest advancements in machine learning and artificial intelligence therefor enhancing the accuracy and efficiency of legal processes. Emre Özen says, "My decision to create DraftWise with an ex-colleague James Ding and a fellow RC 04 classmate Ozan Yaltı was driven by a desire to address real-world data-intensive

problems, which are compounded by the complexities and stringent demands of data privacy and security in the legal industry." Recalling his days at RC, Özen says, "My experience was transformative, providing me with invaluable insights on how to learn, adapt, and construct a vision for the future. It instilled in me a robust foundation in problem-solving, which has been instrumental in shaping my career's vision and directing my path into technology and entrepreneurship."



From L to R: Emre Özen RC L3 04, James Ding and Ozan Yaltı RC L3 04

Ceyda Atay RC 06 Recognized for Tech Leadership



Ceyda Atay has been selected as one of the Top 50 Women Leaders in Technology in Norway. This accolade is awarded to women who have made significant contributions to the tech industry in Norway. "It is an honor to be included among such inspiring leaders," says Atay. After graduating from Robert College, Ceyda Atay pursued her engineering education in the US, obtaining her MS degree from Stanford

in management science and engineering. During the last twelve years, she worked as a management consultant in the telecommunications and technology field, and is currently Principal in Boston Consulting Group's Oslo office. An inspiration to aspiring and young female engineers, Atay states, "I am proud to carry forward the values of excellence and leadership that were instilled in me at Robert College."

Sinan Temo RC 08 Leads Bilgili Holding

Sinan Temo's career in the US took an unexpected turn 11 years ago when his uncle, Serdar Bilgili RC 81 invited him to return to Istanbul. Now, as CEO of Bilgili Holding, he leads the company's real estate development and investment efforts. He states that the Bilgili vision is to inspire the future by creating projects that embody cultural and environmental values. Notable projects in Türkiye include The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Istanbul; Bodrum Bodrum Houses; Akaretler Row Houses; and Galataport. 125 Greenwich, a sophisticated



residential condo tower in Manhattan designed by renowned architect Rafael Viñoly is a foray beyond Türkiye. Bilgili Holding's organizations like Artweeks Istanbul, One Akaretler and ADA – Akaretler Antiques & Design Show bring together enthusiasts of art, antiques, and design. Temo says: "We are excited to celebrate the 10th edition of Artweeks in October 2024 at The Ritz-Carlton Residences Istanbul. We continue to enhance Istanbul's standing as a hub of creativity and innovation."

Ekin Özen Arıduroöz RC 09 Appointed Regional CIO at P&G

Ekin Özen Arıduroöz has recently been appointed P&G Turkey, Caucasus & Central Asian Republics CIO, Director. This top-level position acknowledges the value of her multifunctional role across various markets in Europe and different domains, including sales, marketing, and supply chain technology. Özen Arıduroöz studied industrial engineering and joined Procter & Gamble Turkey as the sales

IT leader and later transitioned to marketing technology. She relocated to the UK, leading marketing technology in Northern Europe and establishing the Marketing Technology Organization. While in the UK, Özen Arıduroöz pursued a postgraduate degree at the University of Oxford (St. Edmunds College), in Strategy and Innovation. Currently, she is back in Istanbul. She is an active member of the AmCham



Digital Chapter and Oxford Union, and mentors young individuals facing disadvantages.

İclal Sirel Hartman ACG 48

İclal Hartman passed away on June 28, 2023. After receiving her bachelor's degree from ACG, she went on to Mount Holyoke where she earned a master's degree in 1951 and a PhD in Chemistry from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1963. İclal spent her career teaching at Simmons College in Boston from 1960 to 1997. She became Professor of Chemistry in

1974 and taught until her retirement. She was the Chair of the Department of Chemistry from 1985-1994.

İclal is survived by her son John, daughter-in-law Jennifer and two grandchildren. She was predeceased by her sister Zulal Sirel Akgün ACG 48. She is also survived by two grandchildren, Jack and Lily Hartman.



Rifat Kamhi RC ENG 50

Rifat Kamhi passed away on December 18, 2023. Born in Istanbul in 1929, Rifat emerged as a prominent industrialist, making significant strides in the auto parts manufacturing industry. His journey from the halls of RC to becoming a global force in industry was marked by a remarkable blend of tenacity and grace. Rifat was a man of culture and curiosity. His passion for travel and the arts was a testament to his zest for life. He embodied old-school values, earning respect and



admiration from all who knew him. His opinions were highly sought after, reflecting his wisdom and the depth of his experiences.

He leaves behind his beloved wife, Renee, their daughters Sandra and Muli, and four cherished grandchildren. Rifat's absence will be deeply felt, not only by his family but by a community that looked up to him as a symbol of class and integrity.

Ergün Avunduk RC ENG 54



Ergun Avunduk passed away on December 17, 2023. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Robert College, in 1954, he went to Bradford Institute of Technology in England to study textiles. In 1961 he married Rengin Koyutürk ACG 61. He founded and worked at Kartal Branda for

many years. His family, friends and colleagues loved him very much. His kindness and generosity touched the lives of many. Ergun Avunduk is survived by his wife Rengin, his daughter Oya Avunduk Yürekli RC 83, and granddaughter Yasemin.

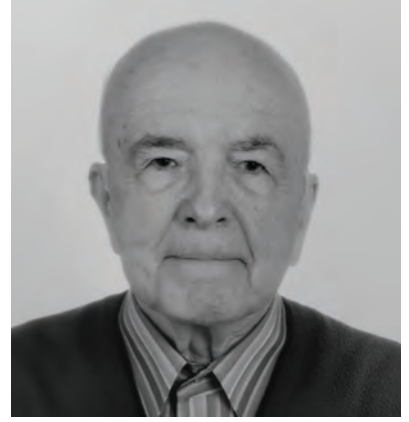
To share news of a deceased RC community member please send a notice in English of no more than 150 words to rcq@robcoll.k12.tr
Longer notices will be edited due to space restrictions.
Please include a high-resolution photo (*minimum 1 MB*) of the deceased.

Yaşar Tapan RC ENG 54

Yaşar Tapan passed away on March 13, 2024 at the age of 93. He graduated from Robert College with a degree in mechanical engineering and received his master's from the University of Michigan in 1956. Upon his return to Türkiye, he completed his military duty and began working at the Middle East Technical University (ODTÜ) as an assistant professor. Having received an offer to join Detroit Diesel, he moved back to the United States. In 1968, he moved again to Türkiye and was an integral part in

the establishment of the Renault auto factory in Bursa. He continued his career within the automotive industry by working with various companies and retired at 77. Yaşar was a lifelong learner. More importantly, he was a caring and thoughtful husband, father and friend, staying in touch with many from his school and work days. May he rest in peace and light.

Contributed by his daughters Behiye Tapan-Chettri and Hande Tapan



Erdem Çolakoğlu RC ENG 57



Erdem Çolakoğlu passed away on January 17, 2024, aged 88. He entered RC for middle school as a boarding student, and graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering, followed by a master's in industrial engineering at Stanford. He worked as a partner and manager in various companies through his family's company TELÇİVİ SANAYİ A.Ş.

Erdem earned the nickname "Dr. Hippo" in college and cherished the memories of his school days, and of the campus

which fostered a love for nature and the sea. He contributed the yearbooks with his humorous drawings.

Erdem had a great love for literature, classical and jazz music, and kept a large record collection. He was a dedicated researcher, archivist, and valued honesty and humility. Survived by his wife Lale, children Leyla and Kerim, daughter-in-law Canan, and granddaughter Ayşe. His memory lives on through his warm smile and deep blue eyes.

Korkut Bardakçı RC ENG 57

Korkut Bardakçı passed away on March 16, 2024, in Oakland California. He was 87.

After graduating from Robert College, Bardakçı got his PhD from the University of Rochester in 1962, where he studied axiomatic quantum field theory. After postdoctoral appointments at the University of Minnesota and the Institute for Advanced Study, he joined the UC Berkeley Physics Department in 1966. He was a Sloan Foundation fellow, a



Guggenheim fellow and an Overseas visiting fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge, England.

Bardakçı made significant contributions to quantum chromodynamics and string theory. He published over 80 works developing additional aspects of string theory and its applications to the understanding of quarks and gluons. Korkut Bardakçı is predeceased by his wife, Ruth Bardakçı.

Sevim Abuisak Berker ACG 59



Sevim Berker passed away after a long illness on February 26, 2024. Hers was a continuous struggle; however, she did not allow poor health to impede her from living a full and rewarding life. A strong-willed woman with enormous joy of life and a great passion for learning, she always stayed loyal to the formation she received at ACG.

Among the various jobs she held, the one which provided her the greatest satisfaction was her collaboration with the BBC on 18 documentary films

shot in Türkiye, and with PBS on their film about the exhibition *The Age of Süleyman the Magnificent*.

Her biggest pride and joy was her family, especially her grandson Eren, whom she helped raise with love and attention. She made an unforgettable impression on everyone she met and will always be remembered with great devotion and with deep respect for her courage.

Contributed by Melahat Behlil ACG 59

Oktaý Orton RC ENG 59

We lost a true friend, an outstanding sportsman/swordsman, Türkiye champion in the foil branch of fencing for many years. A nature lover, a sailor and an able diver. The source of laughter and pranks of our class passed away on February 10, 2024. May he rest in peace.

Contributed by Erol Abiral RC ENG 59



Orhan Taylan RC 60



Orhan Taylan passed away on October 4, 2023, in Istanbul. Born in Samsun, his family moved to Bebek where he continued his school life at RC. His mother, Seniye Fenmen, was a well known painter, and his uncle, Mithat Fenmen, a musician.

After his graduation from RC, Orhan studied art at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome, graduating with high honors in 1965. After his return to Istanbul, he became a member of the newly founded

Turkish Workers Party and worked for DISK (Conferation of Progressive Trade Unions of Türkiye)), illustrating their publications and billboards. In his later years, until his passing, he lived and worked in his private atelier in Asmalı Mescit.

His paintings have been exhibited in many art galleries in Türkiye and around the world. He is survived by his son Ferhat Taylan, and his grand-son Leo Mithat Taylan.

Esin Örücü ACG 61

Esin Örücü, renowned for her pioneering work in comparative law, passed away on December 31, 2023, in Glasgow, at the age of 83. After graduating from ACG, Esin continued to excel academically, earning degrees from the University of Istanbul and the London School of Economics. Joining the University of Glasgow in 1976, she became a distinguished professor, leaving an indelible mark as a mentor and educator until her retirement in 2005. Örücü's scholarly

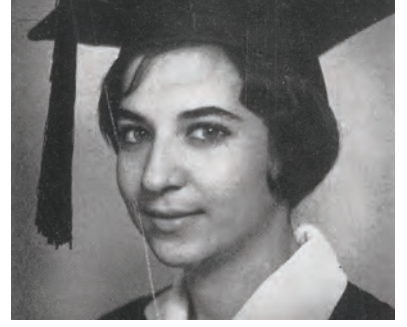


contributions extended to Erasmus University Rotterdam, where she held a concurrent professorship. Recognized as one of the Five Great Comparatists by the International Academy of Comparative Law, her legacy endures through her impactful research and dedication to education. In her final months, she embarked on establishing the Esin Foundation to support women in higher education and the arts. She will be fondly remembered for her intellect, humor, and mentorship.

Elçin Telci Öngüt ACG 61

Elçin, your genuine bursts of laughter always came from the heart. You endured the untimely deaths of your mother, sister, brother, and husband with exceptional fortitude. Your assessments of events were always reasoned by your inner consciousness, like a philosopher of the “end of times.” Your passing is also untimely, my Dear Friend. May you rest in peace. Elçin Öngüt is survived by her only son, Mehmet Öngüt.

Contributed by Ayşe K. and Meyzi B.



Oya Başar Erkel ACG 61

Oya Başar Erkel passed away on April 29, 2024. After primary school she entered ACG in 1952 and completed her education in the US. She returned to Türkiye and started to work as an English teacher at Boğaziçi University and concurrently at Boğaziçi Dersanesi, of which she was one of the founders. She worked as an English teacher at Kültür University



in Istanbul until the age of 70 when she retired permanently. She was a good and beloved friend and devoted to her family. She will be very much missed by her family and friends and be remembered with much love. May she rest in peace.

Contributed by Emine Başar

Faruk Yöneyman RC YÜK 68



Faruk Yöneyman passed away on September 27, 2023. He was born in Kadıköy. He attended Bahariye Elementary School, followed by St. Joseph High School. He entered Robert College in 1963, and completed his studies in marketing. There he met Nihal Türeyen, who was also a student at Robert College. They got married in 1971 and had their only daughter, Merve in 1977. Upon his return from military service he started working

at the global-scale pharmaceutical company Hoffmann LaRoche, where he would later be promoted to CEO of Roche Turkey until his retirement, a total of 35 years. He was a solid leader as well as a loving husband, father and a kind-hearted human being. He served through countless acts for the health and welfare of people, as well as animals. He was an exceptional man of honor and grace. He is loved and missed beyond words.

Birsen Tekin ACG 71 Sr.

We lost Birsen Tekin on January, 30, 2024, due to an unexpected illness. She had a successful work life at Carlo Erba and at Deva Holding until she retired in 2001. She enjoyed life with her dogs and cats. We shared happy times and sad moments. She was a very dependable and trustworthy friend. We always confided in her judgement and skillful guidance. We were grateful for her logical soothing support. It is hard to accept her loss. We thank her for her



hearty friendship, empathy, wittiness and endless devotion. She was a cherished friend, comrade and sister. She devoted herself to her family. She was the beloved elder sister and aunt who willingly bore all the family responsibilities. Her dedication to the loved ones and friends will always be remembered. We will deeply miss her. May she rest in peace.

Contributed by Ayşe Kuruoğlu ACG 71 Sr. & Mukadder Tayfun Stiffler ACG 71 Sr.

Cem Eden RC 75

Cem Eden, the beloved brother of Alp Eden RC 76 and nephew of Esin Eden ACG 54, passed away on May 25, 2024, in İzmir. He graduated from Terakki High School in 1970 and entered Robert College before the integration with ACG. He completed his undergraduate degree in economics from Boğaziçi University in 1979, where he met his lovely wife Müjgan Verdioğlu. He was a partner in a publishing house that published the monthly bridge magazine, Brîç



Dergisi. He later worked as a manager and CEO in several retail stores before retiring to Foça. He was an avid bridge player and was well liked by his friends for his cheerful nature. His interests included fishing, long walks in nature and participating in social responsibility projects in Foça. He is survived by his wife Müjgan, his son Sinan and his daughter-in-law Ana.

Contributed by Alp Eden RC 76

faculty and friends obits

Gökçen Başkan



Gökçen Başkan passed away on March 2, 2024. After graduating from Üsküdar American Academy for Girls, she studied linguistics at İstanbul University where she met her future husband. She went on to teach English at a variety of schools and institutions like the British Council as well as giving private lessons. In 1982 she was offered a teaching position at Robert College. She quickly realized she had found her true home and taught at RC

for 25 years. Gökçen also ran the MUN Club and contributed significantly to Robert College's successes here. Despite being plagued by diseases since childhood and a debilitating autoimmune disorder later in life, she never let her health drive her life, always maintaining her presence, giving life to the words "to strive, to seek, to find and not to yield". Gökçen Başkan is survived by her son, Burçak Başkan RC 88.

Karen Nuttycombe Tümay

Karen Tümay was a teacher at the American College for Girls from 1964 to 1975. She taught typing, shorthand and secretarial practice. Those courses were not easy, but she had a lot of patience and an excellent sense of humor which made the lessons fun and go swiftly. She was married to Dr. Mehmet T. Tümay, RC ENG 59 (civil engineering). Their two daughters were born in İstanbul. Karen

passed away on February 9, 2024, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where they lived and where Mehmet had served as a professor of civil engineering at Louisiana State University for the last 49 years. Her students will remember Karen with her always-ready smile and her lovely red hair.

Contributed by Zühal Güçkan ACG 66



Birgül Erkin

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Birgül Erkin on April 8, 2024, a cherished friend, devoted mother, and supportive colleague. She was a special member of the Computer Center; a person who was there from the start to continue for long years, touching the lives of teachers, students, and staff members alike; her support and willingness to help anyone in need will never be forgotten. Birgül's support with a truck



full of blankets and many aid products, following the 1999 earthquake, is worth mentioning. She is survived by her beloved daughters Merve and Paye, her grandsons Kerem and Mavi Ege. She will be remembered fondly and cherished in the hearts of her family and friends forever.

Contributed by Nesrin Gülsoy RC 74 and Şiir Türsan ACG 70

OUTDOOR LIGHTING
FRANCE

ROGER
PRADIER



Citadelle'yi incelemek için
QR kodu okutunuz.

TEPTA
AYDINLATMA

Keyifle Yudumla

Yaza Fit Başla

İlave
Şeker
İçermez.

