

RC QUARTERLY

Fall / Winter 2010

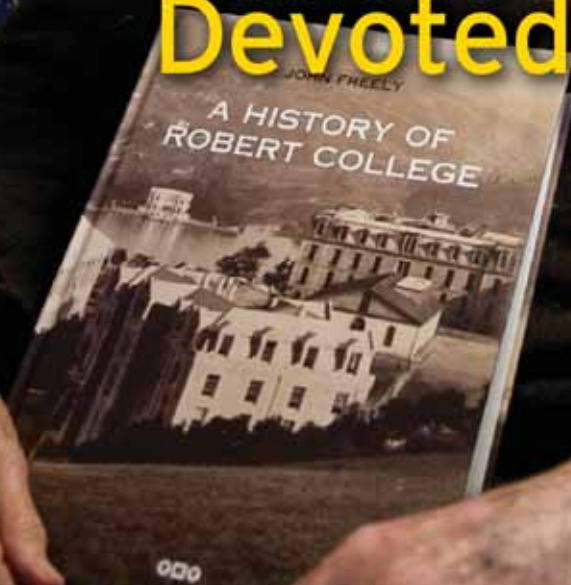
ISSUE 39

RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

A Life Devoted to Istanbul

John Freely



Kick-off Dinner 2010/11 | Orhan Pamuk, RA 70, Wins Norman Mailer Award | RC's Vocal Talent Blossoms in Dutch Opera
| Walking in Fields of Stars: Hiking the Camino de Santiago | Halet Çambel: A Life Dedicated to Archeology
| A Grand Dame on Campus Unveiling a 280-Year-Old Secret | Reunions

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About the RC Quarterly

Winter's greetings! We bring you a bumper issue of the Quarterly, filled with news of the latest campus happenings as well as updates from our graduates and the wonderful work they are doing in various parts of the world. In the preparation and publication of this new issue, we are thrilled to be working with Topprint, owned by Murat Soysal, who is part of the RC family through his wife, Serra Soysal RC 83. Do let us know your thoughts on the magazine's facelift.

As always, the Quarterly is only as good as you make it. Please keep your news coming!

Best wishes,

The RC Quarterly team

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NetwoRC Evenings

The speaker series on campus, designed exclusively for RC alumni of all ages, aims to create a Robert College Business Network. Each NetwoRC event hosts two prominent speakers with a diverse range of competencies in their fields. RC alumni enjoy the privilege of listening and asking questions to the speakers, and learning about exciting, up-to-date, and contemporary issues, meet and greet fellow RC graduates in the business world before and after the event, accompanied by cocktails.

Guest speakers of the last two NetwoRC Evenings were Mehmet Uluğ RC 78 (co-founder of Babylon and Pozitif) and Ayhan Sicimoğlu (musician, TV and



Nuri Çolakoğlu (left), with Ayhan Sicimoğlu (center) and Mehmet Uluğ (right)

radio personality), on the Music and the Entertainment Business and former banker Akın Öngör (Selendi Wines) and architect Reşit Soley (Corvus Wines) on

Second Careers. RC Trustee and alum Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 moderated both sessions. For more information visit: www.robcol.k12.tr

English Teacher Diane Özbal Retires

After 38 years teaching on campus, Diane Özbal has retired from the RC English department. She continues to work as the Testing Coordinator at school.

Her colleague Phillip Esposito said of Özbal: 'Diane and I have worked together for thirty-seven years. What an experience!!! We have often disagreed but then come around to a common ground from which to work. And she is a worker.'

Many years ago, Donald Walls, a fellow English teacher, decided to give all English teachers nicknames. I can only remember two of them: Betty Dabanovich, the head of the Orta School was "The Royal We" and Diane "The Active Voice". Both were

very appropriate. Diane is a talker, as she readily admits but what she has to say is often very funny, and usually on target. Coffee break has not been the same this year without her.'

Another colleague, Phillip Gee, contributed the following:

'Diane Özbal?
Was she that quiet lady sat in the corner, minding her own business?
Oh No, no, no!!!!
Dynamic Diane was born the day they dropped the Atomic Bomb, and she has been reverberating ever since. The most expert person on examinations I have ever met, the most inventive teacher I

have ever met, and the most hair-raising story-teller I have ever met.

God Bless Diane, the musician of the coffee break and corridor, unstoppable and unrepentant, the essence of all that's good and original at Robert College. Luckily for the school and every test-taking student, Diane will continue to run the outside examinations, and hopefully she will continue providing brownies and verbal refreshment to all her colleagues. How could we survive without her?'

Computer science coordinator Colin Edmonds also had a story to share:

"In the old English office in Bingham Hall it was easy for things to get misplaced. Many of us wrote our names on the edges of the teacher's book to help identify the owners. Diane and Chilton Watrous shared the teaching of Prep sections for a number of years and all their books had the name SUTOPU on them. I needed help in figuring that one out. It was the "Water" from Watrous and the "Ball" from Özbal - Turkified. Of course, they pronounced it in a rather Japanese style, like suto-pooh, but I am not sure that I would have gotten it even if they had said it right: "su topu".

We wish Diane Özbal all the best for the future!



Diane's daughter Rana is RC 93 while her son Can is RC 88. Here she is with her grandson, Rana's son Berent, age 2. Her other grand-children from Can are Ayla, age 6 and Samet, age 1.

RC Blood Drive Becomes Annual Tradition – Take Part!



Blood donors from the RC community: Left, Rifat Vural, RC's head gardener with student Mustafa Emre Şener, L 12 (RC 2011) in the Kızılay Blood Donation Bus parked on campus.

For three years running, RC has held a successful blood drive on campus where students donate blood to Kızılay (Turkish Red Crescent). The campaign is the brainchild of İpek Tingleff, who has taught biology at the school for 11 years. In June, Tingleff was given the Headmaster's award for excellence in teaching. This award is given annually to a member of RC Faculty who has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to teaching, enthusiastic participation in professional development, a love of students and deep commitment to the spirit of the school.

The RCQ caught up with Tingleff to ask some questions.

What is the blood drive? When and why did you start this?

I learned a lot in a short but effective workshop on Volunteer Blood Donation given by the Ministry of Education and Kızılay in September 2006. As I left the auditorium I thought it would be nice to have a blood donation day at RC. After that, I incorporated Blood Donation as a topic in my Introductory Biology course curriculum and started to inform my students who could be potential donors in the future. In 2008, I made a presentation at the Autumn Teachers Conference on students' projects titled "Public Awareness Campaigns in Health Issues

in Advanced Anatomy and Physiology". Since it was relevant, I also included a powerpoint on Blood Donation to relay the information I got from Kızılay during the workshop. Margaret Halicioğlu (Dean of Student Affairs) was also in the audience and afterwards she suggested that we hold a blood donation campaign at Robert College. So these blood donation campaigns could not be realized without her initiative and immense help as an administrator.

What has the response to the drive been?

The first year it was a 3-day event, then we had to go down to two days and this year it was only one day. Each year as we decide on the date, we try to consider every possible factor that might decrease the donor number. Last year swine flu changed OSYS dates, negatively affecting the donor number. This year 47 people made appointments, 26 were accepted as donors. These numbers are lower than it should be considering the total number of faculty, staff and workers in RC.

Despite that, I am content, because I strongly believe that this event has an immense educational value. I think the reason why Turkey is behind in the number of donors is lack of education. The proportion of donors to the

population in developed countries is 5 percent whereas here it is only around 1.5-2 percent. People comprehend the importance of blood donation only when a relative is ill and needs blood transfusion. The importance of having regular and reliable donors should be emphasized more in schools and it is mainly the biology teachers' duty.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I am hoping that this campaign starts a lifetime habit for those wonderful students who donated blood today. I am very proud of them!

This year there was only one graduate who donated blood. I am hoping that your article in the RCQ will help increase this number for the next year.

Please visit www.kanver.org for more information on blood donation.



Biology teacher İpek Tingleff

Kick-off Dinner Launches 2010/11 Annual Giving Campaign



Award winning RC 91 class agent Ahmet Alp with Headmaster Chandler and Ümit Boyner

Guest Speaker Ümit Boyner

Ümit Boyner, the president of TÜSİAD was the guest speaker at the Annual Giving Kick-off Dinner and continued the tradition of TÜSİAD presidents speaking at this event. She started her speech by regretting not having been an RC student but being a close friend of the institution as her parents, husband and aunts were all educated here. She talked about the role of TÜSİAD in Turkey's changing role world politics and economy. She noted that a great responsibility falls on NGO's in society. She encouraged guests to ask questions which she replied in detail. Questions asked and comments made by guests such as trustee Oya Başak and Uğur Bayar added color to the evening and gave participants subjects to ponder.

Robert College launched its 2010/11 Annual Giving Campaign on October 11, 2010. What has now become the traditional launch, the kick-off dinner was held at Boim Tepe with the participation of class agents, high honor donors, representatives of corporate donors, members of the RC Board of Trustees as well as RC administrators. RC PR Club students volunteered throughout the evening while the Feyyaz Berker Fellows (RC students whose character live up to the highest ideals of Robert College) mingled with the guests.

Headmaster John Chandler welcomed guests and gave a brief overview of the past year while motivating everyone for the coming year. Guest speaker of the evening was Ümit Boyner, presently the President of TÜSİAD.

The speech was followed by the award ceremony in which Headmaster Chandler and Ümit Boyner passed out awards to the class agents of the most successful classes in terms of level of giving and amount of giving.

Outstanding Classes of 2009/10

Level Of Giving

1- RC 85

Class Agents:
Bilge Yavuz Rızvani
Ayşegül Yürekli Şengör
İpek Nur Cem Taha

2- RC 76

Class Agents:
Nedim Ölçer
Yasemin Palandüz Kahya

3- RC 91

Class Agents:
Ahmet Alp
Cüneyt Soydaş

4- RC 88

Class Agents:
Gülrüh Tayan Turhan
Deniz Yıldız

5- RC 89

Class Agents:
Mert Tarlan
Zümrüt Alp Yalman

6- RC 83

Class Agent:
Serra Mansur Soysal

7- RC 90

Class Agents:
Okan Atilla
Aysan Sinanlıoğlu
Mete Tuncel

8- RC 84

Class Agents:
İclal Büyükdavrim Özçelik
İlgin Özden

9- RA 64

Class Agent:
Ateş Güneş

10- RA 61

Class Agents:
Y. Aydın Bilgin
Hasan Subaşı

Level Of Participation

1- RC 91

Class Agents:
Ahmet Alp
Cüneyt Soydaş

2- RC 76

Class Agents:
Nedim Ölçer
Yasemin Palandüz Kahya

3- RC 85

Class Agents:
Bilge Yavuz Rızvani
Ayşegül Yürekli Şengör
İpek Nur Cem Taha
Ali Yılmaz

4- ACG 70

Class Agents:
Aslı Uşaklıgil Alpay
Candan Orhun Fetvacı
Gülrü Selek Paksoy

5- ACG 61

Class Agents:
Sezen Tezcan Malta
Leyla Batu Pekcan

6- RC 88

Class Agents:
Gülrüh Tayan Turhan
Deniz Yıldız

7- RC 90

Class Agents:
Okan Atilla
Aysan Sinanlıoğlu
Mete Tuncel

8- ACG 53

Class Agent:
Suna Özyiğit Gürçay

9- RA 61

Class Agents:
Y. Aydın Bilgin
Hasan Subaşı
10- ACG 55
Class Agent:
Ayla Gümüşlügil



RC Trustee Oya Başak, RC 76 class agent Yasemin Kahya, RC Turkish Director Güler Kamer, RC Trustee Şefika Pekin Barlas and Selin Bayar, RC 86



From L to R: Selen Sarioğlu RC 02, Selin Karaçam RC 02, Ali İspahani RC 96, Mehveş Dramur RC 96, Kaan Okurer RC 92, Bora Tokyay RC 97, Melisa Gönceer RC 97, Moris Abravaya RC 94, Refika Birgül RC 98, Deniz Ünal RC 97 and Begüm Bilecen.



High Honor donor Ethem Aral, RC 37.



From L to R: Mert Önen RC 03, Erez Navaro RC 96, Bora Tokyay RC 97, Keyan Zülfikari RC 97, Julia Zülfikari, Oral Bozyiğit RC 98, Aysan Sinanlıoğlu RC 90, Okan Atilla RC 90, Ela Cenuodioğlu RC 03 and Pelin Seyhan RC 03



Robert College Feyyaz Berker Fellows of 2010/11, from L to R: Ömer Şerifoğlu Lise 12, Türker Bulut Lise 11, Ufuk Serkan Yıldırım Lise 11, Zeynep Kahveci Lise 11 and Volkan Sipahioğlu Lise 12 with guest speaker Ümit Boyner.



Şehnaz and Murat Karamancı, President of the RC Alumni Association Ayşe Doğruer ACG 63, Rona and Nuri Özgür RA 70, Mr. and Mrs. Mehmet İpekçi RC ENG 69, Mr. and Mrs. Metin Bonfil RC 79, Aylin Tankut RC 79

Class of RC 10 Graduates

June 21, 2010

The graduation ceremony of the 147th school year was held in the Konak Terrace. Speeches were given by the Rector of Sabancı University **Prof. Dr. Nihat Berker RA 67**, History Teacher **Hafize Değer**, and student speakers **Yiğit Yorulmaz** (L-12) and **Rafet Karaoğlu** (L-12).

After Headmaster John Chandler's presentation, Prof. Dr. Nihat Berker talked about his memories and shared anecdotes, while history teacher Hafize Değer became sentimental, talking about birth, endings, new beginnings saying good bye to her beloved students. Yiğit began his speech by asking the crowd: "Can you hear the silent symphony we've composed? Can you feel the sea of sounds surrounding us? This is a magical piece with 199 parts for 199 different instruments." And after telling his story, his following remarks will not be forgotten by his friends:

"Now that you know the story, dear guests, try to hear our silent symphony again before it completely fades away. Tomorrow, we can only trust our memories to remind us of the bits and pieces of what we have achieved together. Nevertheless, with this well-deserved celebration, the Class of 2010 will end its symphony on a high note and Robert College will remember us with that last high note! Without a doubt, we will start new compositions on our divergent paths right from where we have left off.

Congratulations friends! We made it! (I bet nobody saw that coming.)"



History teacher Hafize Değer



Following his classmate, Rafet took the stand to give his speech, which ended with an inspiring statement: "I am proud to be a member of the class of RC 10. Whenever I look at my friends, I see talents and skills which haven't been wasted. It is impossible for me to sufficiently express in words my gratitude to this school, that mined the ore inside me without tarnishing its luster. RC is a whole, with its administrators, teachers, trees, columns, panorama, everything... But we, the students, are the everlasting construction stones of this whole. In our position as RC alumni as of tomorrow, whatever we will achieve will constitute the rationale for parents of future generations for sending their children to this school. And I assure you, every single individual sitting here has the power to change the world if s/he wants to. On the condition that they enjoy doing it..."

RC 2010 - University Acceptance Update

Once again, the attendance ratio of Turkish Universities vs those abroad for this year's graduating class is around 70% to 30%. Out of the 199 members of the class of RC 10, 149 (75%) were placed in Turkish Universities of their choice after the OSS exam results were announced. 66 students have been accepted to foreign universities. Of the 149 members of this class who took the OSS, 82 were placed in state universities and 67 preferred private foundation colleges. 23 out of 149 placed both in Turkey and abroad. A striking number of students entered Bosphorus University (49), Koç University (26), and Sabancı University (21). 80% of these graduates were placed in their first five choices.

Name of University	Without Scholarship		With Scholarship		TOTAL
		With acceptance to universities abroad		With acceptance to universities abroad	
BOSPHORUS UNIVERSITY	46	3			49
ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY	7	1			8
ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	8	2			10
MIDDLE EASTERN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	1	1	1		3
MARMARA UNIVERSITY	3	1			4
YILDIZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY					1
TRAKYA UNIVERSITY					1
GALATASARAY UNIVERSITY	3	1			4
DOKUZ EYLÜL UNIVERSITY					1
ANKARA UNIVERSITY					1
PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES					82
KOC UNIVERSITY	3		20	3	26
ACIBADEM UNIVERSITY			1		1
SABANCI UNIVERSITY	3	5	11	2	21
YEDITEPE UNIVERSITY	1		1	1	3
BILKENT UNIVERSITY	1		2		3
ISTANBUL BILGI UNIVERSITY	3		5		8
OZYEĞİN UNIVERSITY			2		2
TOBB ECONOMICS & TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY			1		1
ISIK UNIVERSITY			1		1
BAHCESEHIR UNIVERSITY			1		1
PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES	16		51		67
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS PLACED					149

University	Nr. of Students
University of Sydney	2
McGill University	2
University of British Columbia	1
University of Toronto	1
Jacobs University Bremen	1
Universita Bocconi	1
Erasmus University	1
The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art	1
University College London	1
University of Durham	1
University of Manchester	1
University of Nottingham	4
University of Oxford	1
Amherst College	1
Barnard College	1
Boston University	2
Brandeis University	1
Brown University	1
Columbia University	1
Dartmouth College	1
Drexel University	1
Duke University	1
Franklin and Marshall College	1
Georgetown University	1
Harvard University	1
Hobart and William Smith Colleges	1
Lehigh University	1
Michigan State University	1
New York University	3
Northeastern University	1
Northwestern University	1
Pennsylvania State University, University Park	1
Princeton University	2
Rice University	2
Swarthmore College	1
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	1
Tufts University	2
University of California at Berkeley	1
University of Chicago	3
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	1
University of Michigan	2
Washington University in St. Louis	2
Yale University	1
TOTAL	58

Foreign University Acceptance Results for RC 2010:

Out of the 81 RC Seniors who applied to go abroad for higher education, 66 received one or more acceptances. Out of this number, 58 made a decision to attend US, Canadian or UK universities and have started their freshman year. 31 of these students were awarded financial aid from the colleges they were accepted by. Of this group, 8 students were on scholarship while at Robert College.



Commencement speaker
Prof. Dr. Nihat Berker RA 67

Theater Festival on Campus

Headed by Robert College Turkish language and literature teachers Esra Ürtekin and Emre Erkorkmaz, the VI. Turkish Theater Festival ran between May 31 and June 4th. Schools from across Turkey applied to take part and of the 17 applicants, five were selected to present their plays.

The participants this year were: VKV Özel Koç Lisesi, Adapazarı Enka Lisesi, Kadıköy Anadolu Lisesi, TED İstanbul Koleji and İzmir Amerikan Lisesi. The plays were well attended not just by Robert College students and staff, but by guests from the participating schools as well. During the festival, students got a chance to meet and interact with a number of well-known actors including Mazlum Kiper, Vahide Gördüm, Altan Gördüm, Emre Kinay, Nilgün Belgün and Günay Karacaoğlu. The plays were evaluated by a three-person jury of actors and teachers. Awards were handed out in eight different categories



The Tifes Team with one of their guests, Emre Kinay, their advisor Esra Ürtekin, Emre Erkorkmaz and theater director Murat Ersan.

at a closing ceremony on June 4th which was attended by students and staff from all participating schools. Sponsors of this year's wonderful event, which infused

everyone with an appreciation of art and community, were IBS Sigorta ve Reasürans Brokerliği A.Ş., Gürsel Turizm and RC Parents Association.

RCSummer 2010

RCSummer 2010 had yet again a very lively and colorful summer. With 216 participants per session and a staff of 45, RCSummer had its largest enrollment and biggest staff yet! This summer's unique theme, called UNITED: Bringing Civilizations Together, brought together five civilizations created entirely by the participants, with a great variety of activities and friendly competitions. Counselor driven activities were all a blast for the participants; fishing, video making and "recycled knights" were

only a few of the very successful bunch. RCSummer 2010 also had their first ever "Student Council" which gave some of the older participants a chance to add their opinions and creative requests for the program. RCSummer team is now ready to start rolling for the summer of 2011.

Check out the website, www.rcsplus.org <<http://www.rcsplus.org>> for lots of photos from the previous years and stay tuned on twitter, RCSummer!



MIT Project 2010



The RC students who participated in the program; Elif Erez, Cemre Berk, Ege Yalçınbaş, Ege Bezci, Özdemir Vayisoğlu, Değer Turan and Paulina Schenk seen here with MIT graduate student and advisor to the project, Christie Lin.

Robert College students participated in the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Project, a collaboration between Robert College and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Public Service Center. What was basically an engineering workshop, held during the first three weeks of August 2010, also aimed to raise awareness to the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning by furnaces. Seven Robert College students working under the guidance of Christie Lin, an MIT graduate student, tackled the issues of promoting public education while developing a cheaper carbon monoxide detector designed for affected communities. RC physics teacher

Ernie Verbowski acted as the advisor. Burcu Betni Mirza RC 94 and her husband Agha were closely linked to the project and it was through their efforts that this educational program was organized and carried out over the summer. RC is very thankful to all those who spent time in making this project come to life.

Read more about it at : <http://chirpchirpcarbonmonoxide.blogspot.com/>

BORSADA ANINDA

AL

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RCAAA Launches a New Program: Mentorship

The Robert College Alumni Association in the US, founded in 1959, is expanding its reach across the USA. Join alumni in New York, Boston, Washington DC, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco to reconnect with your alma mater and take part in special events and social gatherings.



The Boston mentorship program had its first gathering with two of the mentors Alpdoğan Kantarcı, RC 86 and Elif Şıkoğlu, RC 97, and six of the mentees (Alican Bakır, Berfu Negiz, Berk Sarıöz, Mine Kansu, Nazlı Yayla, Tolga Zeybek) on October 30th, 2010.

In May 2010, Robert College Alumni Association of America (RCAAA) announced a new program to be rolled out for RC graduates coming to the US for college education. By matching young RC graduates (mentees) from Turkey with RC alumni (mentors) living and working in the US, the primary goal of the RCAAA Mentorship Program is to provide a smoother transition and adaptation process for college students during their first year abroad in the US.

The RCAAA Board started discussing the idea for the new Mentorship Program in early 2010 and acted quickly to develop and initiate it to make it available for this year's RC graduates. To oversee the program, the RCAAA Board formed a subcommittee comprised of Alpdoğan

Kantarcı, the Program Supervisor, and other Board Members including, Kemal Karakaya, Mehmet Özpay, Elif Şıkoğlu, and Irem Metin. "We wanted to welcome our young graduates to the US and support them through an important transition" said Alpdoğan Kantarcı when discussing the group's motivation in starting the initiative "many of us wish we had a similar support system when we first moved to the US."

With support from the administrative team at RC and the Headmaster John Chandler, the subcommittee first reached out to this year's graduates, as well as the RC alumni living in the US, in order to gauge overall interest in this fully voluntary program. Upon receiving encouraging responses from many of the

individuals contacted, the subcommittee matched this year's seven mentees with at least two mentors each, based on location, professional field, interests and other relevant factors. "We are confident that our mentors will be great sources of guidance and support for their mentees," said Irem Metin, a mentor and a subcommittee member.

During the 2010 - 2011 academic year, the program will be limited to New York and Boston only. However, participation is expected to increase beyond the current 21 mentors and mentees as the program expands to other cities in the future. RCAAA plans to organize social events around the Mentorship program in New York and Boston over the coming months.

RCAAA Expands Its Reach

- and Wants You!

Robert College Alumni Association of America (RCAAA) has been providing services to Robert College (RC) graduates, family and friends living in the US since 1959. Since more than a third of all RC alumni living in the US are concentrated in the New York - New Jersey - Connecticut tristate area, RCAAA was originally founded in New York City. Consequently, most RCAAA social activities, such as the annual Young Alumni Dinner, the Spring Dinner, monthly bar nights and other occasional events, were typically organized in the New York area.

In 2007, the RCAAA Board - the governing body of RCAAA elected annually by dues paying members - decided to expand its social and networking activities to other US cities. To this end, two graduates living in Boston, Elif Şıkoğlu (RC 97) and Alpdoğan Kantarcı (RC 86), joined the Board and began focusing on servicing the RC community around the New England area by organizing events to

reconnect graduates of all ages and strengthen the awareness of RC alumni network in this area. As a result, Boston quickly emerged as the second RCAAA chapter to be established in the US after New York City. Encouraged by the level of participation experienced in Boston and in an effort to expand service to RC community across the rest of the US, the RCAAA Board recently launched an initiative to expand activities even further. In 2010, Washington D.C., Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco were identified by the RCAAA Board as the next four cities where social and networking events would be organized. In order to achieve the initial goal to build a core group of RC alumni at each of these locations, volunteers started a coordinated effort during the summer of 2010 by holding bi-weekly conference calls with the RCAAA Board to organize regional kick-off events and reaching out to RC graduates, family and friends to start establishing solid foundations for future chapters.

The events being scheduled in New York City, Boston, Washington D.C., Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco over the next few months can be tracked on the RCAAA website (www.rcaaa.org). Please contact the RCAAA Board if you are interested in being a part of this meaningful initiative to increase RC alumni awareness and establish RCAAA chapters at major US cities. You will have the opportunity to get together with other RC alumni in your city, organize and lead networking events and reconnect with RC graduates, family and friends!

Contacts: Kemal Karakaya, RCAAA President (kemalk@gmail.com)
Emre Dilber, Secretary of Local Chapters Subcommittee (emre.x.dilber@jpmorgan.com)

Elif Şıkoğlu (RC 97)
Kemal Karakaya (RC 95)

Alumni Events in the USA

The annual "Young Alumni Dinner" hosted by the RCAAA took place at the Turkish Kitchen in NYC on November 20, 2010. There was a new and much appreciated addition to the dinner this year: A career panel. Ten graduates from various professional fields came to the dinner and participated in the panel in order to meet and support our young alumni who are still in school. There were more than 60 graduates at the productive event. The RCAAA who organized this festive evening hopes to have more such events.

Washington D.C. Local Chapter Event

RCAAA's first local chapter event took place in Washington D.C. on November 10, 2010. There were 20 alumni present at the cozy Tabaq Bistrot. It was also special in that it was a kick-off event for the RCAAA "Local Chapter Events". Everyone was excited to meet each other and to get together with longtime friends. Be alert for upcoming events, RCAAA might be coming to your town soon.



Zeynep Darendeliler '01, Ceyda Öner '95, Ceren Ateş '10, Özge Gürel Kırğız '93, Yiğit Aytaç '08, Semih Durmuş '07, Zeynep Akalın '00, Zeynep Güven '98, Sabine Rividi Ertuğ '94, Çetin Karabulut '62 and spouse, Tolga Çubukçu '64 and spouse, Onur Kuzeyman '98, Ceyda Erten '09, Sinem Arısal Reed '98, Ceren Canal Aruoba '99, Lale Gerçel Odekon '71

Giving Back

As She Promised

By Mge Meng Hale, RC 92

After a successful globe-trotting career in international banking, **zlenen Eser Kalav**, ACG 67, is dedicated to building up the innovative, US-based Turkish Philanthropy Funds.

In the future, they say we will all have multiple careers that correspond to different phases of our lives. zlenen Eser Kalav, ACG 67, is already a trailblazer. Her first success story began in 1976 as a leading female executive for international banking with Citigroup. During an extremely colorful career, she served as CFO for North Asia Division of the bank, as Strategic Planning Officer for Asia, Australia, Africa and the Middle East Group, and also as Director of Recruiting for Citibank's Investment Bank and Institutional Banks.

After her retirement in New York, Kalav embarked on a new journey focusing on a career in philanthropy. Since 2006, Kalav volunteers her time, passion and expertise as President and CEO of Turkish Philanthropy Funds, a non-profit organization of the Turkish-American community which connects donors in the United States with high impact social projects in Turkey and the States. "The first part of my career was about taking" she said, "But I shared what little I had since college years. Now it is all about giving."

At the New York headquarters of TPF, where she manages \$13.5 million of assets this year, Kalav reminisced about her life and career and shared her treasured writings from her time at ACG. Her high school graduation picture on the cover of the school paper in 1967 features a smile as friendly and enthusiastic as it remains today. As a top student in her class, Kalav was the class valedictorian in 1963. Her gratitude to people resonates in her speech: 'You have been there for us through sleepless nights. We promise to give it back'. And she has followed



Mustafa Abadan RC 77

zlenen Eser Kalav ACG 67

Haldun Tařman RC 66

Founding partners of TPF

her promise ever since. Upon graduation, Kalav became the recipient of a Fulbright grant in 1967 to study in the United States and she earned an MS in biochemistry from Smith College. She also holds an MBA from Columbia Business School.

She began her career in banking when she returned to Turkey for her husband Faruk Kalav's (RC 68) military service. Her professional life at Citibank started in Athens in 1976 as Middle-East North Africa Division's financial controller, covering over twenty countries. As a Citibank executive she lived and worked

in New York, Tokyo, Manila, Athens, and Istanbul for 20 years. The highlight of her career, she says, was as the CFO and Division Chief Administrative Officer for Japan and Korea, based in Tokyo, from 1984 to 1985. During this period, she managed the complex organizational restructuring of Citibank in Japan. Often interviewed by local newspapers and magazines as a top female executive, she served as a symbol of change for Japanese society. "I never dwelled on my gender but it wasn't common for women to be in my position in the 80s," she says.

Philanthropy has always been in my life

While living all over the world, Kalav remained deeply connected to her Turkish identity and Robert College roots. She served as the head of RCAA in New York and remains a board member.

She also was invited to deliver the commencement address to the Class of 1990. "I could not have done what I did without the education and culture of College" she says. She is soft-spoken, yet her voice carries a confidence and humility that she says she gained in RC. "The well-rounded education, the clubs and activities set the stage for a successful business life and gave me the power to move forward."

Actively involved in volunteer work all her life, Kalav established an endowed scholarship for Faruk Kalav RC 68 and Özlenen Eser Kalav ACG 67 for RC Students in 2000 in the name of her late husband. "We were always a team. Charity was in our hearts from the beginning," she says.

Kalav now gives all of her time and commitment to Turkish Philanthropy Funds. Living abroad for many years, she feels her new post has reconnected her to all aspects of Turkey. "At this phase of my life, the more I know about Turkey, the more I see the areas of need, the more I am energized to give, to provide, to make a difference," she says.

Turkish Philanthropy Funds Everyone can be a philanthropist!

Turkish Philanthropy Funds is a platform created by a group of social entrepreneurs who wanted to formalize sharing and having large-scale impact in giving to Turkey. It is a 501(c)(3) public charity to help donors realize their philanthropic goals to meet community needs in the US and in Turkey.

Among the founding partners alongside Özlenen Eser Kalav ACG 67 are Haldun Tashman RC 66 and Mustafa Abadan RC 77.

"TPF's visionary is Haldun Tashman," says Kalav. Graduating from Robert College in 1966, Tashman came to the United States to study at Columbia Business School with a Fulbright Fellowship. Ten years later Tashman grew his privately-held company to an annual sales volume of \$200 million with 12 manufacturing locations on 3 continents. Tashman is the founding chairman for TPF and he was the recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2008.

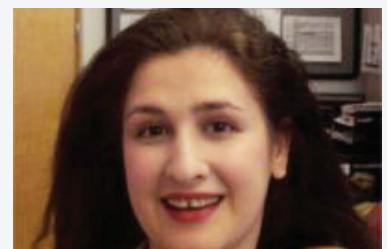
TPF employs the community foundation model that allows donors to give through rather than to the foundation. "Donors do not give to TPF, rather they give through TPF," Kalav explains. "Individuals may contribute to specific issue areas or organizations through our pooled funds. Also, by opening a named fund at TPF, Turkish-Americans can channel their philanthropic dollars to their favorite NGOs in Turkey or to their local causes in the United States."

TPF provides a tax-deductible vehicle for contributions to organizations in Turkey. "It is a great way to donate your appreciated assets tax effectively," continues Kalav. TPF introduces high-impact organizations such as ACEV, TOG and many others to the Turkish community in the United States.

TPF has become a go-to resource for information on philanthropy. Leaders in philanthropy, education and civil society share their thoughts and experiences about philanthropy as guest authors on TPF's blog (<http://tpfund.blogspot.com>) while on tweetchats topics from gender equality to economic development are discussed.

Kalav underlines the fact that the TPF model allows all individuals, those of substantial and modest means alike, to participate in giving back to their community. "In today's world of Gates and Buffets, sometimes people believe that they need to give large amounts to be a philanthropist," says Kalav. But TPF's motto is "Everyone can be a philanthropist."

Müge Mengü Hale, RC92, is a freelance writer based in New York and author of the popular weekly *New York'ta Ne Var Ne Yok* section in Referans newspaper. She can be reached at: muge.mengu@gmail.com.



Service Learning

Transforming Robert College

By Jennifer Sertel, RC English teacher and Outreach Coordinator

Started five years ago, the Community Involvement Program has taken a College tradition of giving back to new heights as students travel across Turkey to run volunteer projects. Students are now required to do at least 50 hours of service learning outside school time in order to graduate. Their projects range from working with day laborers in Adana to outfitting a school in Denizli and dozens more.



At the Anti Plastic Bag Campaign in Ereğli

Alongside academic excellence, RC's goal is to educate the whole person and to give future leaders a sense of responsibility to their immediate community, to Turkey and to the world. With this aim, the CIP [Community Involvement Projects or Community Involvement Program] was born 5 years ago. Needless to say, members of the RC community have been involved in social service since the school's founding. İbrahim Betil, one of the leaders in Turkish civil society, says he caught the 'virus' of Social Service at RC. Suna Kiraç in her book *Ömründen Uzun İdeallerim* stated that she learned the concept of giving back to the community from her days at RC. CIP has broadened this tradition. Now, all students must do at least 50 hours of service learning outside school time in order to graduate. 2010 was the first year

that students graduating had to complete the social service requirement. All seniors completed the mandatory 50 hours, however, many did much more – clocking up 200, even 400 hours of contribution.

Why Service Learning?

Service learning is real life. It is relevant. Students learn responsibility. CIP matures them. Doing jobs that adults do, they are treated like adults. They teach, coach, plan, and dream. Out of their comfort zone, they experience the reality of others, and see, for example, that a blind person can [surprise, surprise!] be just as smart as they are. They also learn real life skills such as writing an action plan, making a budget, finding sponsors, learning how to inspire their friends and dealing with unexpected situations. Students become acquainted with different realities. They learn what it is

like to be old, to be disabled, and to not have certain privileges accorded to them by birth. Students grow in ways large and small.

What sorts of projects?

Last year, there were 22 school time projects, 3 projects which took place during breaks and a record 16 group summer projects.

Some of the summer 2010 projects included:

Adana Migrant Workers CIP In its second year, students in this CIP support children who work in the fields and live in tent villages around Adana. They brought packages of supplies, did educational activities and took them to an amusement park for a day of fun. When the kids taught them how to pick vegetables,



RC students picking peppers in Adana



RC students and faculty member Izzet Dodurgali at the Migrant Workers' Camp, Adana

they felt what it was like to pick peppers in 40-degree heat, and were deeply affected. Their advisor, Izzet Dodurgali, RC religion teacher noted that 'Students said that their job this week was the most important thus far in their lives'. 'Educational Carnivals' and RKANEP There were 'educational carnivals' wherein a group of RC students with an advisor spent a week doing various educational activities with primary school children. In the Aydin CIP, for example, students worked with orphans from the a child care center in Aydın/ Nazilli/ İsabeyli

Perhaps the jewel in the crown of the CIP program is the student run RKANEP (Robert Kolej Anadolu Alternatif Eğitim Projesi) projects which aim to "Implement an intensive one week RC student designed curriculum designed to broaden primary students' worlds and teach creative thinking and arts, sports, drama etc."

The educational carnivals such as the Alanya CIP are modeled after these projects. This year there were RKANEP projects in Tirebolu, Urfa, Iskenderun, Kayserli and Sinop. They are a small leadership training program in themselves, with students as participants one year, project leaders the next year and finally CEO-like directors.

How are projects formed?

Some projects are teacher initiated. The Adana Migrant workers project is an example of this sort of project. Two projects were parent initiated; setting

What they say about CIP

If CIP weren't required, I wouldn't have done it. But when I finished, I understood its necessity. As you do it, you understand what real life is. You taste satisfaction when you see what you have accomplished.

Mahmut Öztürk- worked at TEGV

Many student embrace CIP immediately. Some, like Mahmut, do CIP only because it's a requirement but they too are touched and changed by their experiences.

Students learn empathy. Doing CIP, they are not focusing on themselves, they are focusing on others.

Maria Orhon, administrator

Before CIP, when I did a social service project, I would have to organize everything. Now the students learn organizational skills and organize it themselves.

Necia Sönmezay, teacher

In my 37 years of teaching, I have never seen so many students interested in their own country. They are excited to do projects outside Istanbul.

Phillip Esposito, teacher

up a computer lab in a IMKB school, for example. But the vast majority of projects are student initiated. A student has an idea, they come and talk to us in the CIP office, we brainstorm with them, refine the project, help them find an advisor and turn their idea into reality. Sometimes the project changes shape. For example, Tutku Şen, as a prep, wanted to stage a rock concert with RC students in her home town Eriğili to highlight the need to stop using plastic bags. The rock concert didn't work out but she and her group worked with the municipality, in a week-long campaign and collected thousands of signatures against plastic bags which they took both to the shopping centers and the mayor. They also made and sold cloth bags at cost.

Most of the group projects outside Istanbul are done in places where we have parent contacts. Without these parents, the projects would not have been successful.

We hope to highlight individual projects in future issues of the RC Quarterly. Congratulations to the advisors, student leaders, participants, and parents who gave their all in the last few years. They actually did something to make a change. This change might not have shaken the world but it made RC students realize they have the power to make visions become reality.

Visit the Robert College website for more info about CIP and all the projects. www.robcol.k12.tr

News from UNIRC

the Young Face of the Alumni Association

With the new school year, UNIRC picked up from where they left off last summer; "Türkiye'nin 7 Rengi 2010" (The 7 Colors of Turkey 2010), their community involvement project, now in its fourth year.

Between June 20-28, with the generous support of Samsung and many other sponsors, 49 kids from 14 cities from all 7 regions of Turkey were hosted and introduced to a whole different world in Istanbul. The children, most of them 6th and 7th graders, stayed in Istanbul for a week. During their stay, the UNIRC team had lots of activities prepared for them, ranging from arts to science, from sightseeing trips to shooting movies. With these activities and more importantly, with the bonds formed within themselves and with UNIRC members, the children had an experience they will never forget.

UNIRC members emphasize that their aim with this project is not to make these children envy the life here in Istanbul but rather to show them that there is

another world outside their cities and beyond their horizons. With the feedback they get from the children and their teachers, they are confident that they are able to achieve this. The children say that after their experience, they are more eager to continue their education, are more motivated to go to universities and have bigger goals. Upon reading letters they received from the children in August, UNIRC members are certain that this project has succeeded and they are determined to continue and develop it in the future. With the addition of fresh blood (RC'10) to the team, UNIRC is continuing its work enthusiastically - not only with the SSP (community involvement project), but with many other activities.



The "7 colors of Turkey 2010"



Gathered at the forum of the RC campus

This year's "siftah" has already been made! On the 30th of September, when the clocks showed "11:11", they began the 2010-2011 season with an electrifying party. The venue of the year's first UNIRC party was the relatively new and very hip nightclub called 11:11. The night was indeed a big success.

The next UNIRC event is UNIFUAR, an activity for current RC students.

As in previous years, on this day, students will find the chance to meet representatives of many Turkish universities, and to learn more about these institutions. This year, this traditional UNIRC activity will also have a new section in which the students will be able to meet RC graduates studying in different departments of the invited universities, and learn specifically about the subjects they are considering to study. The day that everyone looks forward to, Career Day, is taking place on the 25th of December, right before Meetball. As always, many firms from different business sectors will be present to meet RC graduates who are interested in learning about different career options and pursuing job or internship opportunities. At the beginning of the Career Day, there will be a panel on "Branding and Marketing" with prestigious guests. Those interested may contact

UNIRC for more detailed information. An exciting new addition to UNIRC's list of activities this year is a networking event called "Career Academy". Once a month, round table meetings with guests from a chosen field of business will be held for a limited number of young RC graduates who are interested in the field. The last bit of news they shared with us about the activities on their schedule is also a new addition: a sports tournament! Details of the activities of UNIRC will be announced at their website (www.rkmd.org.tr/unirc) and in the next issue of RCQ, as from now on you will be hearing from UNIRC from this page. So stay tuned.

About UNIRC

Established six years ago, UNIRC - RCAA Committee of University Students - is a group of young RC graduates that make up the young and dynamic face of the alumni. UNIRC tries to keep young graduates involved with the school and maintain the strong bonds between them, by gathering young graduates via the various activities they organize throughout the year. The profit earned from their activities is used to finance the Community Involvement Project they organize each summer, with the remaining amount transferred to the RC scholarship fund. In this way, they try to put into practice the sense of responsibility that RC has instilled in them.

This year the Executive Board of UNIRC consists of Emre Tekişalp (RC'07), Erdem Altay (RC'08), Berk Altın (RC'07), Can Akan (RC'08), Sinem Baykalöz (RC'09), Sezin Bayramoğlu (RC'07), Makbule Can (RC'09), Seran Çavdar (RC'09), Burcu Kasap (RC'09) and Onur Sağır (RC'09).

The 2009-2010 UNIRC team



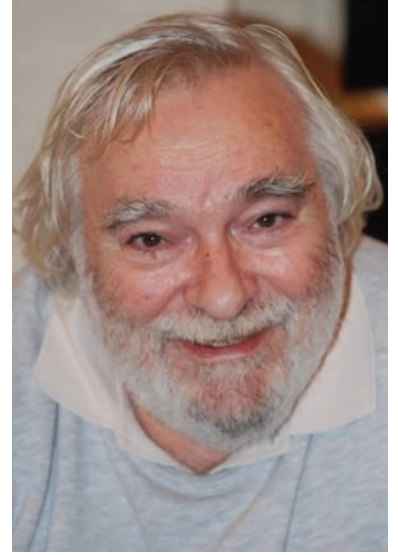
Novelist Moris Farhi, RC 54 Latest Book Now in Turkish

Fans of Moris Farhi, RC 54, will be delighted to learn that his latest novel, *A Designated Man*, has been published in Turkish by Everest Yayınları. Farhi was at the Istanbul Book Fair in October to launch the book, called *Atanmış Erkek*.

In the novel, Farhi brings the narrative vigour, empathy and insight he employed in earlier novels about Latin America, Turkey and the Roma in Europe to the Balkans and the Middle East.

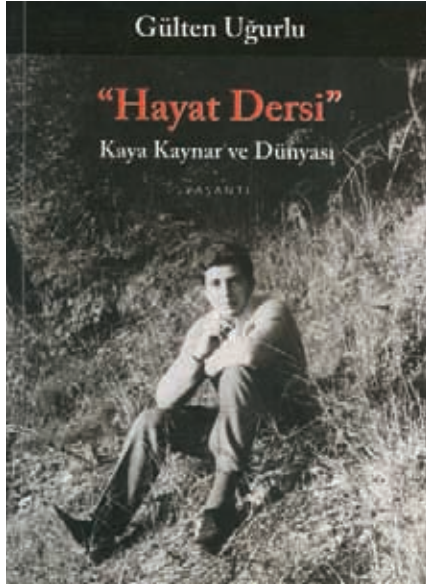
Osip returns home to Skender, a remote island in the Mediterranean, hoping that it will provide him a haven after the traumas of war. On his arrival, he narrowly escapes death at the hands of Bostan, a supreme feudist. The island, he discovers, is still governed by an archaic code of honour which has condemned the inhabitants to perpetual bloodshed and obliterated countless families, including Osip's own. A deeply affecting fable, the novel tells a tale of hope. Skender is an island at once imaginary and all-too-real, its myths, customs and landscapes reminiscent of many Balkan and Mediterranean places.

Moris Farhi has written several novels, including *Children of the Rainbow*, *Journey through the Wilderness* (both Saqi) and *Young Turk* (Telegram). He is a vice-president of International PEN, and in 2001 was appointed an MBE for services to literature. He lives in London.



Moris Farhi RC 54

Kaya Kaynar, a Life Interrupted



Kaya Kaynar, RA 62 was just 18 when he caught childhood polio and died within a week. The younger brother of Oya Başak ACG 55, legendary English literature professor at Boğaziçi, twin brother of Şerif Kaynar, and older brother of Murat Kaynar was by all accounts an exceptionally bright, thoughtful and engaged young man. Fifty years after his

death in 1960, Yapı Kredi Yayınları has published a biography and his journals in a volume called *Hayat Dersi*. (Life Lesson)

The book is a labor of love by well-known businessman Murat Kaynar, who wished to immortalize the older brother he lost when he was just seven years old. For many years, the truth of Kaya's sudden death was kept from him and his twin Şerif Kaynar. They were told Kaya was studying in America, but suspected that something was wrong and their childhood was marked by a sense of longing for their brother.

The book is based on the journals kept by Kaya in the last three years of his life, from when he was 16 to 18. The journals are not just records of his thoughts and feelings but also of the books he read in a particular week, or the poems he enjoyed. He reads voraciously: from Sait Faik to Yaşar Kemal, Dostoyevsky to Camus and Zweig, he systematically makes his way through the canons of Western and Turkish literature. He writes poems and essays. He founds an imaginary publishing house, "TAM Kareli Yıldız Yayınevi", and collects magazines, periodicals and

his notes in small notebooks. There are mentions of many RC friends within the pages of this journal; there is also a good dose of rebellion against what he sees as bourgeois living. 'Had he lived, I have the feeling that he would have been a good writer,' wrote columnist Zeynep Oral.

The book was put together by Gülten Uğurlu, a journalist who is well known for her newspaper interviews. The first section tells the story of Kaya's brief life, based on recollections from friends and acquaintances at Robert College. The second presents the originals of various documents written by Kaya. Poems, short stories, diary entries... Combined, the book also presents a very real perspective on life in the 40s, 50s and 60s in Turkey's upper social circles. It is a unique kind of biography, one which inevitable causes you to reflect on what kind of a man Kaya would have been had he lived. Reflecting on why he keeps notes, Kaya writes that he wants people to have a record of his thoughts. 'They will say 'Poor thing, this is what he thought. What an emotional boy'. I'm writing these essays for myself, if I don't die, and for those who love me, if I do.'



Orhan Pamuk RA 70
receiving the Nobel prize in 2006

Orhan Pamuk, RA 70 Wins Norman Mailer Award

Author and Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk, RA 70, was awarded the 2010 Norman Mailer Lifetime Achievement Award in New York for challenging conventional views in his contributions to literature.

Named in honor of the celebrated American author, the prize was given to Pamuk by editor, writer and publisher Tina Brown from the Norman Mailer Center at the Center's annual Benefit Gala, held in October in New York City.

"Norman Mailer was a democrat writer who stood against the established American system for 60 years. An author who can be regarded as the Victor Hugo of the US," said Pamuk on receiving the award. "Pamuk is an author whom Mailer greatly admired, someone who

has opened a window so all can better understand the culture and society from which he hails. His works have inspired literary students the world over to visit Turkey," a press release posted on the website said.

"It is a great honor for me. I'm very happy to receive this award. I'm a writer and I have received many prizes in my life. In the end, we write our books for ourselves, but prizes encourage and add color to our lives," Pamuk said.

Pamuk's latest novel *Museum of Innocence* (Masumiyet Müzesi) is now available in both English and Turkish. He has sold more than seven million books in over 50 languages. He currently lives in New York and teaches at Columbia University.

Tansu Salman, RA 68 Investigates Celtic Influences on Anatolia

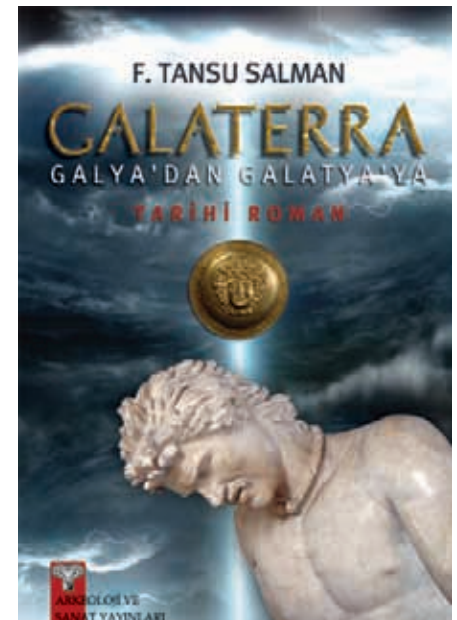
In his book *Galaterra-Galaya'dan Galatya'ya*, Tansu Salman, RA 68, professor of pediatrics at Istanbul University, dives into the history of Anatolian and its environs from the 3rd and 4th centuries BC. That period spans the meteoric rise and fall of Alexander's empire and the power struggle that began among his descendants and generals after Alexander's death. The diadokhoi wars, which lasted 30 years, led to the establishment of Macedonia and other kingdoms. The Romans used this new situation in Anatolia to their advantage, growing stronger and in the next 100 years, they made Anatolia a province of their own empire.

Although the Roman and Hellenic worlds are well studied by historians, the Celt world, which had significant influence over what happened in the region, is little known. But in the Anatolia of that period, Galats of Celtic origin had close relations with the new kingdoms. Known as Galyalı in Europe and Galat

in Anatolia, the Celts closely followed the wars after Alexander's death and waited for the best moment to move into Anatolia. After the last general died, they occupied Macedonia and Hellas and in 277 BC, they crossed the straits. They contributed to the birth, development and destruction of kingdoms and colonies in Anatolia. They were also protectors of the Anatolian mother goddess Kibele. But their emphasis on oral history traditions means that there are few remaining Celtic written records.

Salman's book is written in the style of a historical novel while remaining true to the historical evidence. It tries to fill in the historians' blanks by using imagination when it comes to events within the Celtic communities. 'The aim of this book is the present the reader with events which are believed to have had a lasting effect on Anatolia and to encourage the reading of history,' he says. 'Many readers will hear of these events in Anatolia for the first time and they will be surprised.'

Salman says he hopes the book will inspire further scholarship in this little known field.



Geologist Şengör Receives Top European Award

Celal Şengör RC 73, well-known Turkish geologist, has received one of Europe's most prestigious science awards. Germany's Geologische Vereinigung, a European equivalent of the Geological Society of America, awarded Şengör the Gustav Steinmann medal at a ceremony held in October.

Şengör thus became the second Turk in history to receive the medal, which is the highest honor awarded by the Geologische Vereinigung and honors scientific leadership and outstanding personal achievement in the Earth sciences.

It is fitting that Şengör started his career in 1981 as an assistant to İhsan Ketin, the only Turk to previously receive the award in 1988. Şengör is currently on the faculty at the Istanbul Technical University. He received his PhD from the State University of New York, Albany in 1982. He also writes weekly popular science columns in *Cumhuriyet* newspaper.



Prof. Celal Şengör, RC 73

Artist of Light and Shadows Serdar Arat, RC 73 holds New York painting exhibition

Artist Serdar Arat, RC 73 opened the fourth solo exhibition of his dimensional paintings in New York, at the Kouros Gallery, in October. A separate solo exhibition of his work opened at Galeri Nev-Ankara in November 2010. Arat's first solo exhibition opened in New York in 1986 and was followed in the years to come by over 30 solo and more than 60 group exhibitions in the US and

Turkey.

He received the Pollock-Krasner Foundation award; the same year he won first prize in painting at the Asian-European Biennial. Since 1993, Arat has taught at the Fine Arts Faculty of New York Concordia College, while concurrently serving as director of the school's art gallery, and is currently serving as the Diane Heath Beever '49 Professor of Art at Lasell College in Newton, MA.

In addition to the collections of the University Museum at Albany, and Robert College in Istanbul, his work is included in the collections of Pfizer, Metromedia-New York, and the Central Bank Contemporary Art Collection, Turkey, among other public, corporate, and private collections internationally. Arat's work has been reviewed in various publications, including several articles in the New York Times. Below is an excerpt on his work, included in the Kouros Gallery exhibition press release.

"Light and darkness, each serving as a catalyst for seemingly contradictory feelings. This happens most explicitly in the realm of artifice...in Arat's constructed spaces, exacerbated by the intense light and shadows. One thinks of film and theater, as a sub-category of lived experience. One thinks of spaces as described in literature. In Arat's interiors, seascapes, and gardens there is little extraneous detail, removing them sharply from lived life. It would be overstating the case, but only slightly, to say every detail Arat chooses to include is there to cast a shadow, either literally or psychologically."

After graduating from RC in 1973, Serdar received his BA at Boğaziçi University, and MFA at SUNY-Albany. He is married to Zehra Kabasakal (RC 75). They have a 26 year-old son, Hasan-Can, and currently live in Port Chester, New York.



Serdar Arat, RC 73

SUNY Professor Zehra Kabasakal Arat RC 75 Awarded for Human Rights Work

The American Political Science Association (APSA) chose this year to honor Zehra Kabasakal Arat, RC 75, for her human rights work. The group's Human Rights branch gave Arat its Distinguished Scholar Award at a reception held in Washington D.C. on September 3, 2010. The award recognizes an individual who has worked in the field of Human Rights and made an exceptional contribution to the field through research, teaching and mentorship.

Arat, who is Professor of Political Science at the Purchase College of the State University of New York, has been actively involved in the interdisciplinary field of Human Rights. In addition to establishing the APSA Organized Section on Human Rights ten years ago and serving as its Founding President, she has been chairing the Human Rights Research Committee of the International Political Science Association since 2006. Her research addresses a range of human rights and human rights-related issues, including women's rights, democracy and human rights, human rights in Turkey, the European Union's human rights approach, globalization, and child labor. Currently, she is working on a project that examines

the human rights discourse and practices in Turkey since the establishment of the republic. She is also engaged in human rights advocacy and activism.

She participated in the Amnesty International campaign on stopping violence against women as a speaker and discussed violence against women as a human rights issue at various colleges, high schools and community centers in the United States, where she has been living since 1980.

She tries to stay in touch with human rights NGOs in Turkey and has participated in some events organized by Uçan Süpürge and Kaos GL. In 2005, upon a request by the investigative committee of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, she issued and submitted a report on honor killings and other forms of family violence against women and children.

Her publications include numerous articles, as well as the following books: *Democracy and Human Rights in Developing Countries* (1991), *Deconstructing the Images of 'the Turkish Woman'* (1998), *Human Rights Worldwide* (2006), *Non-State Actors in the Human*



Zehra Kabasakal Arat, RC 75 with Todd Landman of Essex University at the APSA award ceremony

Rights Universe (2006), and *Human Rights in Turkey* (2007).

After graduating from RC in 1975, Zehra studied Political Science at Boğaziçi University, married Serdar Arat, RC 73 and went to the United States to continue with her doctoral studies. Zehra and Serdar have a 26 year-old son, Hasan-Can, and live in Port Chester, New York.

Observations on Motherhood and Raising Children Rengin Kevenk RC 74 publishes debut book

Rengin Kevenk, RC 74, uses the metaphor of a garden to describe *Bahçelerde Neler Oluyor?* (What is Happening in the Gardens?) her book on raising children and personal development. Published recently by Goa and available in all major bookstores, the book is a collection of Kevenk's observations, made over the years, on the complicated business of child rearing. "Let's see what the garden next door tells us about our own garden?" she asks. "Let's see whether we are content with the state of our own garden. Kevenk is a family counselor and mother of two children. She says she has always

been an observer. The book was originally called *Bir Çocuk Yetiştiriyorum* (I am Raising a Child) and is primarily composed of observations Kevenk makes about her own motherhood as well as families around her. The book seeks to understand the motivation behind attitudes towards child-rearing.

After graduating from Robert College, Kevenk studied chemistry at Hamilton College and then specialized in biochemistry at Lehigh University. She worked in management positions in the pharmaceutical industry but in 2003, she

went back to school (Boğaziçi) to retrain as a psychological counselor. She is currently a couples and family counselor based in Istanbul.



Rengin Kevenk, RC 74

Bridging the US and Turkey Through Science

Semahat Demir, RC 84

In these changing times, governments are discovering that there is more than just one way to conduct diplomacy. 'Soft power' is the talk of the day when it comes to building ties between countries. Semahat Demir is at the forefront of such efforts; she is a Turkish director at the National Science Foundation in Washington, an institution with a \$6.5 billion budget that works directly with the White House. She is also newly appointed science ambassador to Turkey, periodically visiting the country to hold meetings with science institutions, universities and even small businesses, to determine topics, from health to energy, in which Turkey could be a pioneer.

A well-known biomedical engineering professor, Demir visited many cities across Turkey in June. The goal was to "determine and write a report on topics about how Turkey can be a regional leader, how it could direct the U.S. and about which university could lead on which topic," she told *Hürriyet*. She said that a preliminary area might be the treatment of Mediterranean diseases, given that "genetic data is amazingly 'region bound'." She is also interested in developing Turkey's renewable energy potential. Demir says "I wanted to be both a doctor and an engineer. I was 13, and I did not even know what biomedical meant. My father saw the future promised by biomedical engineering back in the 50s and 60s, and he offered me this solution: 'you can study engineering and incorporate medicine into it - that is what we call biomedical engineering.' My mentor is my father." Her father, Halit Demir, is faculty at İTÜ Construction.

"Biomedical engineering works to improve diagnosis and treatment methods," she



Semahat Demir, RC 84

explains. "We are trying to understand how electrical activities occur in the heart and brain to figure out the difference between a healthy person and someone with a cardiac disorder. In a Parkinson's patient the activity is different. Someone with hypertension, again, the activity is totally different. Genes play a huge role here. If there is a disorder in the gene group, these activities are by definition disordered. Our research is for developing pharmaceuticals and understanding the structure of the genes better. Until now, we could not even solve 1 percent of the human brain. Limb control, or what we call motor control, is almost solved. However, speech, memory and emotions are not."

Demir received her BS degree in electronic engineering from Istanbul Technical University, MS degree in biomedical engineering from Bosphorus

University, and a second MS degree and PhD degree in electrical and computer engineering from Rice University. She did her postdoctoral training in biomedical engineering at Johns Hopkins University. She has been a biomedical engineering professor since 1996 at Memphis and Tennessee Universities. She has contributed to 338 conferences, and has 130 published works. Some 51 articles were written about her internationally.

She is also the recipient of numerous awards. In 2005, she was chosen an Emerging Leader by the Society of Women Engineers. "Semahat Demir has truly taught through demonstration," says Ronna Robertson, president of the Society. "Dr. Demir continues to place education and engineering at the forefront of her career while encouraging women students to do the same."

Video Artist Ali Kazma Receives Nam June Paik Award

Video artist and filmmaker Ömer Ali Kazma, RC 90, was chosen this year to receive the Nam June Paik Award, named after the renowned Korea-born artist who is considered the founder of video and media art.

As part of the Nam June Paik Award, which was granted for the fifth time this year, a group of young artists whose works exhibit a connection to Nam's oeuvre are brought together in an exhibition and a winner is then chosen from their ranks. The award is organized by Kunststiftung NRW, or Arts Foundation of North Rhine-Westphalia in Düsseldorf, Germany. Kazma's work shown was his video series titled "Obstructions", started in 2005. "Antoni Muntadas, a world-renowned documentary artist, proposed me as a candidate for nomination," Kazma told *Hürriyet* of the process. There were four people in the first selection committee, each of whom nominated three or four artists as candidates. That number was then whittled down to a shortlist.



Ali Kazma, RC 90

Kazma received his MA from The New School in New York City. In 2000, he returned to Istanbul, where he currently lives. His videos raise fundamental questions about the meaning and significance of human activity and labor and the meaning of economy, production, and social organization. He has exhibited

his work in the Istanbul Biennial (2001), Tokyo Opera City (2001), Platform Garanti, Istanbul (2004), Cetinje Biennial (2004), Istanbul Modern (2004), San Francisco Art Institute (2006), 1st Athens Biennial (2007), and Lyon Biennial (2007) among others.

Grupanya: A group of RC alumni take the Internet world by storm



Alp Saul RC 90, Cem Sertoğlu RC 89 and Aycan Avcı RC 89.

A new business model is taking the Internet by storm: deal-of-the-day, group buying services. The leader of this field in Turkey, Grupanya, boasts a group of RC alumni as team members and investors. Grupanya was founded in late 2009

by a team of Internet entrepreneurs. The company spent the early months of 2010 building the web-based platform, lining up merchants and seeking investors. Their search was finalized when a team of seasoned entrepreneurs joined as an investment consortium, led by Alp Saul

RC 90, Cem Sertoğlu RC 89 and Aycan Avcı RC 89. Saul is a veteran in sales and customer service based businesses, having founded the security systems leader Pronet in 1995. He was approached by Cem Sertoğlu, one of the top investors in Internet ventures, with the idea to join Grupanya. They invited their close friend and colleague Aycan Avcı to join and Grupanya launched in May.

The site offers members a deal everyday; whether it's a delicious meal at a new restaurant, a relaxing massage at a top spa, or a month of yoga classes, at a discount of 50% or more. Members join free of charge while merchants who work with Grupanya get the chance to gain new customers at no cost. Grupanya's first five months have seen unprecedented growth - the service now has over 250,000 members.

Video Artist Özlem Sulak Tackles September 12 Legacy

September 12, the latest work from emerging Germany-based Turkish artist Özlem Sulak RC 97, was chosen to screen as part of the Locarno and Toronto film festivals earlier this year. One year in the making, the film is based around interviews Sulak held with a broad range of people in six different Turkish cities. Each shot frames one person in a single frame, engaged in a different act, as they recount what they were doing the day before the coup in 1980, and on the morning it happened. They come from all walks of life and opinions. Through these extremely intimate, personal stories, Sulak manages to gradually build a different kind of larger narrative about the event that transcends left-right polarities. 'I've been living abroad for almost nine years,' she told the RCQ. 'In this time, I visited Turkey for a



Özlem Sulak, RC 97

couple of weeks each year. While there, when I read the papers or listened into debates, I saw that people were in the grip of ever increasing fear, anxiety and frustration; they were unable to talk to each other openly, freely and with faith in their mutual good intentions. I thought this had to do with Turkey's tradition of oppression. It is a natural extension of its

history of coups. That's why I decided to create a work based on the September 12 coup, whose effects are still felt today. When I think about it, I think the reason why I wanted to leave Turkey at 18 had to do with this tradition of oppression.'

Much of Sulak's work deals with the past and with the history of her family. She is also interested in exploring migration and analyzing individual identities against the backdrop of societies and their self-image. Sulak got her BA from the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts and has two Masters degrees, in arts from Marmara University and in digital media from the University of Arts Bremen. She has taken part in numerous exhibitions in Europe and been selected for several awards. Sulak currently lives in France.

RC Grads Behind the Scenes at Istanbul World Water Forum

Istanbul hosted the massive 5th World Water Forum last year under the motto "Bridging Divides for Water". This gathering is held every three years in a different part of the world and brings together policy makers, scientists, decision makers, and public and private service providers to discuss issues around water. The World Water Council runs the meetings together with local water organizations. For Istanbul, a temporary Secretariat was set up and supported by the State Hydraulic Works, Istanbul Municipality and Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration. Clocking up 30,000 participants, the Istanbul Forum became the largest ever water related event. The Istanbul Ministerial Statement and the accompanying Istanbul Water Guide were subsequently circulated as a UN General Assembly document.

Following the Forum, the local Secretariat started the detailed and exhaustive work of documenting and reporting the outcomes. A series of publications followed. One of these, the Final Report, providing a detailed overview of the activities during the Forum, was coordinated by Ayşen Nergiz RC 03. In addition, *An Istanbul Perspective on Bridging Divides for Water*, a book of

monographs synthesizing the Forum deliberations was edited by Ipek Erzi RC 89, who joined the Secretariat after the Forum to oversee the reporting process. Özgür Bozçağa RC 03 was a contributing editor. This was the first time in the history of the World Water Fora that the Forum's synthesis was conducted entirely by members of the local Secretariat

without any outside guidance.

The Secretariat continues to work towards becoming a permanent establishment.

(All publications can be accessed at www.worldwaterforum5.org.)



(Left to right) Özgür Bozçağa RC 03, Prof. Ahmet M. Saatçi who put his heart into this Forum (literally), Ayşen Nergiz RC 03, İdil Yılmaz, İpek Erzi RC'89 at the Stockholm Water Week 2009, where the results of the 5th World Water Forum were presented for the first time.

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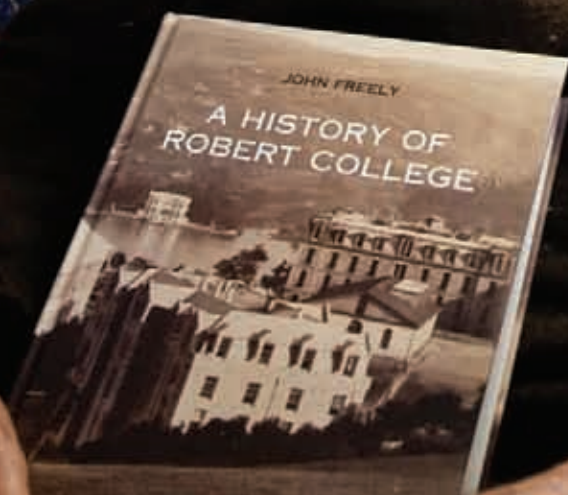


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John Freely

An Istanbul Icon
and Chronicler of
Robert College
History



A much-loved physics professor, author of more than 40 books, Istanbul explorer, historian, Robert College chronicler... John Freely is nothing short of a living legend.

Photo credits: Uluç Keçik

He often uses the word 'distinguished' to describe the education system, teachers and students of Robert College, with whom he has been involved for some 50 years. Yet after hearing him recount his unbelievably full life, with precise recall of dates and names, you feel that if the word defines anybody, it should be him.

Freely's Turkish adventures began in 1960 when he was doing his PhD in physics at New York University while also working at Princeton University. He got an offer to teach physics at the Robert College Yüksek Okul - which later became Boğaziçi University. He accepted readily. Together with his wife Dolores and three children, aged at the time between 1 and 8, they embarked on a great adventure, which continues to be 'incredibly interesting', as he puts it.

He spent 16 years teaching at RC and saw the department grow from two to 13 staff members and student numbers rise from 800 to thousands as Boğaziçi University. The Freelys then sailed off to other adventures in Greece, Boston and London for 12 years. They returned, this time to teach at the Koç private school where Dolores also taught English to young kids. They retired (only briefly) and went to enjoy Venice for three years, until his former students asked him to come back and join the physics department at Boğaziçi University in 1993. He is still there. He stopped teaching physics, history and astronomy in January but, at the age of 84, he says the urge may still make him go back to teaching any time. Retirement, he says, is 'impossible.' His wife laughs at the suggestion, which is telling. 'He is writing five different books at the moment,' she says. We ask no further questions.



John and Dolores Freely at their home on the Boğaziçi University campus

The perfect team

Freely has written 50 books, from science to travel, history to biography. His first was *Strolling Through Istanbul*. Together the Freelys strolled all over Turkey, as he wrote travel books and she did watercolour paintings of their travels, 40 of which she sold at her first exhibition at RC in one hour! One of their future projects – and there are many – is to combine those paintings with John's travel books.

We inquire how the team works. 'I drive,' says Dolores. 'I can't drive, I can't cook, I can't do housework. I am helpless without her,' says John. In this busy schedule Dolores has squeezed in a cookbook offering 20 menus of dishes she learnt in her travels. There is also a very hectic social life, with colleagues, friends, former students, three children, six grandchildren. 'We will be great grand parents in January,' he announces.



Dolores with her cookbook

'Many people find it hard to focus on one thing,' we comment. 'How can you focus on five different books at the same time and have a busy social life?'

'We both began working at a very early age. In fact we worked and went to school at the same time. We still had plenty of time to have fun in between. So we make more use of time. We play as if there is no work and we work as if there is no play. Most people waste time. We don't waste time.'

Lately he has focused more on history of science. 'Since I was a boy I have been interested in science, history, literature, everything. I was born in New York City. My parents were Irish immigrants. When I was four years old my father lost his job and we went back to Ireland so I stayed there until I was seven. Then we went to Brooklyn. At 17 I joined the American navy and served in the last two years of World War II. The year after the war I read the great books, from Homer to James



Team Freely!

Joyce. In 1947 I started college without a secondary school degree. 1951 I graduated in physics. We got married the next month. I had been working as a physicist in the daytime and going to graduate school at NY University at nights.'

Life at RC

How was the Bebek campus different when you first came?

It was smaller. First of all the city was only 1.2 million people and now it is 15 to 17 million. When I came there were just 2 of us teaching physics, myself and Robert Mc Maccel, and there were no physics majors. We built up the majors program and by the time I left in 1976 four years after we became BU we had 13 people in the department and some of our colleagues now are the students I taught as freshman in the 1960s. When I came back in 1993 the department was 28 people. The university now has 10 thousand students. But at the core the university is very much the same because a lot of the teachers who were then students tried to keep the character of the university the same. Boğaziçi University really continues the heritage of the old Robert College.

In 1971 when the Turkish university took over the former RC, the yüksek okul became Boğaziçi University but the secondary school joined the American College for Girls in Arnavutköy under the name Robert College. And that RC now in Arnavutköy is very much like the college that was in Bebek originally. Keeps the same quality. Sets very high standards.

What are some little known facts about RC?

In the very beginning the Ottoman government did not permit Muslim Turks to attend the school so the original students were all minorities in the Ottoman Empire. Bulgarians, Armenians, Greeks and Jews. When the modern republic of Bulgaria was formed from out of the Ottoman Empire, the first two

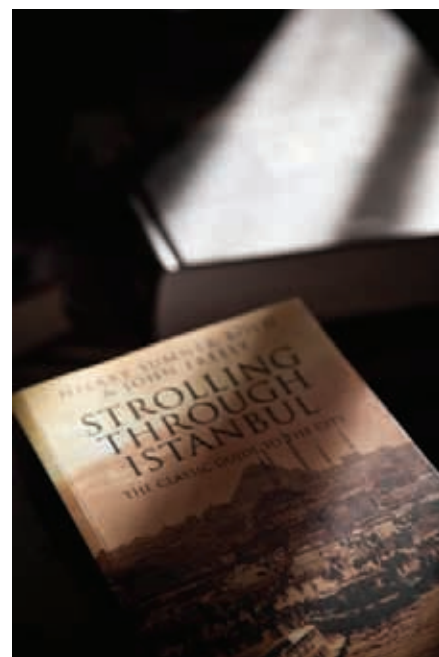


A Dolores Freely watercolor of Kennedy Lodge and the tower at Rumelihisar.

prime ministers were RC graduates. In the History of Bulgaria written by Edmund Pierce, he says modern Bulgaria was founded at RC. The first Turk was Hüseyin Pektaş who was from the Bektaşî Tekke, who graduated in 1906. Later he became İsmet İnönü's secretary at the Lausanne conference and after that the vice president. His wife Mihrî hanım, who was a graduate of the American college for girls, was one of the first women in the Turkish parliament. All through the years from 1863 up until 1950s the headmasters of RC would have a catalogue where they list all the ethnic religions, language, groups at the college. Robert College had been a magnet for students from all over the Balkans from Eastern Europe to Central Asia...

You wrote a new edition of the RC history. What is new?

It came out 10 years ago and it has been updated twice. The recent edition is a single volume but I put in a new first and last chapter. The new last chapter is called The Literary Heritage. Just the top of my head, without too much trouble, I wrote down the names of all the books written by RC students in both institutions and the list comes to almost 1,000 books. Most recent is of course Orhan Pamuk. But there are books covering every conceivable field from non-fiction to fiction, science to theatre.



Freely's landmark Istanbul guide



Some of Freely's many volumes

The other thing about RC, it was not just an academic institution. Modern Turkish theatre starts here in 1908. My colleague and co-writer Hilary (Strolling Through Istanbul) trained a whole generation of Turkish actors: Genco Erkal, Refik Erduran, Haldun Taner. All RC graduates. The other thing is sports. The third president built a gymnasium. The first basketball game in Turkey was played here. In the 1906 Olympics in Athens there were three college athletes who won 5 medals between them.

Any juicy stories you haven't put in the book?

I put everything in the book. Not just serious stuff. All gossipy and colourful stories and so forth...There was a very old man with a long white beard wearing an overcoat who was always surrounded by hundreds of cats. And I met him one day in a dolmuş. I said to him, in very bad Turkish, 'How are you? I haven't seen you in a while.' He looked at me and said 'I have been rather ill. I have been in a hospital,' in perfect English, and he asked me who I was, and I said I taught at RC, and he said 'Oh, RC is an admirable institution. I graduated from there!' No matter where you go, to Sophia, Athens, Bucharest. NY, Boston you meet RC graduates. When we went to Athens in 1976 we were invited to the RC reunion at the Hilton hotel. There were about a thousand RC graduates, some of them in their 90s. Men and women sat apart and

sang the college song. One of the women, in her late 80s, said, 'I think it's time that the boys and girls sat together.' And one of the men, about 90, said: 'Ayıp! The only girls we want sitting with us are belly dancers!'

You are clearly a very proud member of RC. What sets RC apart?

17 years ago when I came back, I met a student whom I taught in the 1960s, Atik Karaali. I said 'Atik what are you doing?' Atik said 'First Turk at the South Pole, sir.' The distinguished thing about RC is it doesn't just train physicists, mathematicians, literary people, business people. It trains people to have a life of the mind, who have interest in books and interest in philosophy. So many of my students who I trained in physics later also became historians, writers or artists, or businessman and diplomats. Two prime ministers of Bulgaria, two prime ministers of Turkey, Tansu Çiller and Bülent Ecevit. A whole generation of businessman and writers and everything. Our students are always distinguished, always wonderfully trained in science, mathematics and English, but they also have a very outward look.

What does Turkey mean to you?

People keep forgetting that Turkey is not just modern-day Turkey. The Balkans, Middle East, Mediterranean, all the way to North Africa and Central Asia. My travel and history of science books are very special in the sense that they just don't take the West. One of my books is called '*The Emergence of Modern Science, East and West.*'

Turkey has always been part of both worlds since the city was founded. It is a centre of world culture and it always has been. When I describe Turkey I am describing Ottoman ruins, Seljuk ruins, Greek, Roman, Arab ruins.

In the 60s Aşık Veysel, the blind Turkish folk singer, came here and I heard him sing and helped translate his beautiful song 'Kara Toprak.' I have written a lot about the Anatolian culture, one way or



Dolores and John Freely

another. So Turkey is the core of all the books I have written, even when I wrote books about Venice.

Istanbul?

There are very interesting people in this city from all over the world. Many people come here for all kinds of reason, not just academic. Because it is an incredibly interesting city. That always sets Istanbul apart.

Are you planning to stay here?

I am enjoying the university. All my colleagues and former students are here. And I may still lecture again. And I also have a magnificent library here. Also we are very good friends of John Chandler (RC Headmaster). I am enjoying the company of both institutions and we always had friends at both campuses. We are part of a big community.

A piece of advice from a wise old man

Just as I was about to leave, I remembered hearing people say that RC teaches you how to make the best use of time. I asked him how could that be taught? 'All that kind of teaching is by example. In other words, there is no

limit to what you can do. Anybody can do anything they want to do and they should not be deterred by anything at all. In other words, don't be a specialist in this and that. Don't settle for mediocre. Do whatever you want to do. Do things that you are interested in rather than prepare for a career to make money or save money for your old age. Life is too short. There is only one life, so do everything you possibly can. People seem to do that at RC but also outside RC in Istanbul. I have a lot of interesting taxi driver friends, one of them is a world-famous photographer. It is not just RC or Boğaziçi. people come here from Anatolia and start new lives. If you are living in the middle of America, people do the same thing their father did. But here there is no limit to what people are doing. That is the character of Turkey. Just look at famous people. Our prime minister for example: a plumber, a football player.'

RC's Vocal Talent Blossoms

in Dutch Opera

By Pelin Seyhan, RC 03

Aylin Sezer always mesmerized the Class of '03 and the teachers with her gorgeous voice and talent. I even had to take vocal classes to be considered for a leading role with her in school musicals! I seized the opportunity to catch up with my old stage friend who sang at the finals of Leyla Gencer Voice Competition and performs acclaimed operas in Holland.



Aylin Sezer, RC 2003

Aylin, I know a lot about you, but we would rather hear it from you. Tell us about what you did at RC.

I never was a math or science person, so it was no coincidence that I focused on social sciences at RC. My best memories in RC occurred on the stage of Suna Kırar Hall (and the twenty minute breaks spent at the plateau with dear friends *winks.)

Even before studying at RC, I dreamed of being part of the musicals. My mother (Maria Sezer), who was an art teacher at RC for many years, tailored the musical costumes and I always envied those kids who got to wear them and act on stage. So, being a part of that magic was in my blood. Trying out for "the Sound of Music" was one of the first things I did when I began at RC. Others followed: "Fantastiks", "South Pacific", Live performances and so on. I guess that is how I discovered my love for the stage and it has never left me since.

What did you do after you graduated from RC?

I kept my options quite broad in my last year at RC. By the time I had to choose, I was hesitating between studying liberal arts in the US, political science in the UK or attending conservatory (singing) in the Netherlands. Eventually, I felt that if I would not give the conservatory a try, the road not taken would gnaw on my soul until I could not ignore it and I would end up doing it anyway, so I started by trying that. Well, I went to Netherlands because my mother is Dutch.

Although I never felt "Dutch" growing up in Turkey, I was brought up bilingual, spoke Dutch with my mother and spent many summers in Holland.



Playing Pamina in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* opera
photo: Willem Kloppe

Is singing in the family or is it a passion for you?

I studied five years of classical singing to get my bachelor degree and two years of masters on opera. Already in my early years at the conservatory, it was pretty clear for me that opera would be the direction I would take. You have musicians that get their inspiration from music and musicians that get their inspiration from the story behind it. I guess I belong to the second group. I like to dig into the character and the story. I like to build the longer lines, the suspension.

Opera functions in another dimension of time, where emotions wrap the perception and create a new reality that lives in the time frame of that particular emotion. Good composers and stage directors with the right cast and team can create so many layers that pure magic occurs in front of your eyes. My dream (or call it my passion): to be able to experience or create that magic on stage.

I'd like to think that in some way, I have achieved a little bit of that magic in every part I sang: Pamina (Mozart, *Die Zauberflöte*), Poppea (Monteverdi, *l'incoronazione di Poppea*), Despina (Mozart, *Così fan tutte*), Agrippina (Händel, *Agrippina*), Annio (*La clemenza di Tito*).

Every time I find myself asking: What does my character want? What is her darkest secret? What would s/he really say if s/he could say everything/anything and how much of that is in the text, how much of it is in the music, how much of it is in the stage direction and how much of it is my secret?

Tell us about your Aya Irini adventure. How did it all happen?

Leyla Gencer has always been a big role model for me, so a dream of mine was to participate in the Leyla Gencer Voice Competition. The book *Tutkunun Romani* by Zeynep Oral has been a big inspiration. Last summer, I qualified to sing in the finals. Unfortunately, I lost my voice on the day of the finals. A mixture of an Istanbul summer combined with air conditioning, fatigue, stress and maybe even amazement ended up sitting on my vocal chords like a big duck. I sang in the finals but not like I wanted to, not the way I could have. Nevertheless, it was an amazing experience and a big learning

moment: First comes the instrument, then the willpower.

What is next for Aylin Sezer?

I can surely say getting better and better, nailing down the technique so well that I can make every syllable of music sound natural as if it could not have been written any other way.

My career goals can be summed up as: Be inspired and inspire while doing my job, wherever that might be, wherever it might take me. Well, I would not mind singing main roles in the Metropolitan opera or the Scala in Milan! (laughs)

On a personal note, I cherish every note we sang together and thank her for all the memories. I wish Aylin all the best of luck and cannot wait to hear her in New York or Milan! You may read more about Aylin at www.aylinsezer.com



As Agrippina in Händel's *Agrippina* opera

Finance Executive Pens a Harvard Romance



Rina Onur, RC 04, has already made it onto the shelves of popular US bookstores with a book she co-authored called *The Ivy*. The novel, based on her time as an undergraduate at Harvard, is about the romance, relationship and college drama of Ivy League life. The book's success has already led to a deal for three more! Pelin Seyhan, RC 03, sat down with the budding novelist to find out more.

- Rina, what did you do after you graduated from RC?

After graduating from RC in 2004, I went to Harvard University where I got my BA in Economics. Afterwards, I went to London to work for Morgan Stanley. My stay in London was brief as I was soon transferred to the Istanbul office. I was trying to get into the finance world at an unfortunate time as the world was struggling with one of the biggest economic crises ever. A few months after I came back to Istanbul, Morgan Stanley decided to shut down its office here, so I moved to my current position at Turkven focusing on private equity. So I'm still very much a finance person, aside from the creative side.

- What is the book about? Where can we get a copy?

The Ivy is about a down-to-earth Californian girl named Callie, who comes to the storied halls of Harvard but finds herself ill-equipped to deal with the social, academic and romantic challenges of university life. It is targeted at young adults (or adults with young hearts!), who would like to get more insight into real life at Harvard from actual Harvard students. The characters and the events in the book are all fictional, but the places, professors, clubs and classes are all based on reality.

- That sounds fantastic! I can't wait to hear what is next. Are you planning on a second book?

We're already done with planning; the first draft of the second book, *Secrets*, was handed to our publisher weeks ago! The rights to *The Ivy* were bought by HarperCollins as a four book series, spanning Callie et al's freshman year at Harvard. The second book comes out in May 2011.

- Looks like we're going to hear about your successes for a long time! So is there any insider info on the book you might share with us?

Lauren - my college roommate- and I started working on the project during our junior year. By the time we were seniors, we were pretty much bogged down by the looming prospects of "real life". Also Lauren's senior year thesis had slowly started taking over her life. I was working on establishing the characters and the storyline of the book, but still there was no significant "output".

One day, Lauren received a mass email from the English department informing the students of a visit from the vice president of a major publishing house. Lauren attended the talk and managed to get the email address of the publisher in question, who claimed he wouldn't read any unsolicited material unless it was enclosed in a "very interesting letter." Thus the first significant piece of writing pertaining to the project was penned that day: a query letter with the heading "A Very Interesting Letter." In fact, we joked that the initial query letter was the best piece of writing pertaining to the project for a while. Thinking that we wouldn't hear back for days, we went back to our daily routine. You can imagine our shock when we received a response in a matter of hours demanding to see the first three chapters of a manuscript we hadn't even started. Lauren's thesis took a hit those few days when we refused to leave our room or eat until those three chapters were completed. We did not end up with that publisher, nor did we use those hastily written chapters, but that was how the wheels started turning.

- Let's talk about your years at RC. What was Rina like then?

I think I pushed myself to be active at

RC; possibly too active at certain times to the point that, now looking back, I cannot fathom how I had the time to do most of the things I did. As RC students, we are very lucky to have access to all the different kinds of opportunities and outlets presented to us. Unlike many students in Turkey, we do get a shot at exploring what we might want to do later in life. While at RC, I was very active with the drama clubs (!), the school paper and MUN. I always wanted to go to the US for college, but never dreamed of making it to Harvard. I was pleasantly surprised to see that my time at RC had prepared me for my time there. My mind was clearer than a lot of my peers. I had a better understanding of what my heart was set on and what I would like to study. For more on Rina's book, please see: <http://www.harpercollins.com> The book's official blog is at <http://www.ivybookseries.com>

Rina Onur, RC 04



A New Kind of Marketing: yakala.co

RC graduates join forces to create online enterprise

This year has seen the introduction of two online businesses modeled on the successful US-based Groupon, which offers considerable discounts on well-known brands for its members.

yakala.co, is the brainchild of Yasemin Bilgel, RC 95. Modeled on the group buying concept, the premise is simple: vendors and establishments offer substantial discounts in return for visibility and advertisement that translates into new customers and increased sales.

After Robert College, Yasemin Bilgel attended Duke University where she studied economics, political science and history. After Duke, she completed her masters in international relations at Yale University. She is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Chicago in political science, writing her dissertation on international relations; the politics of unipolarity. She founded yakala.co, a group-buying internet site that offers daily deals, with Mehmet Keteloğlu. Bilgel

and Keteloğlu first met in Chicago. Bilgel had observed the emerging trend of group buying as a new online marketing model and sought to persuade Keteloğlu. Reluctant at first, he warmed to the idea by setting out a plan to create strategic partnerships among Turkey's leading brands - the largest media group and a leading bank with strong consumer reach. Hürriyet eventually agreed to come on board.

Bilgel and Keteloğlu later joined forces with Tuba Karadağ RC 95, who had previously worked at Doğu Otomotiv and Pin Tasarım as a marketing executive after studying Business Administration at İstanbul University. With Karadağ as Marketing Director, yakala.co was set to go.

Bilgel says humor is key to yakala's communication. The company's launch campaign reflected this: the Apple iPad was revamped through Cem Yılmaz and the CMYLMZ Special Edition iPad was born. Cem Yılmaz commented on the idea



Yasemin Bilgel, RC 95

with his trademark humor: "iPad, you pad, everybody pad!"

Envisioned as an urban social club, yakala.co makes offers to its members on a daily basis, be it a chance to enjoy a meal at a distinguished restaurant, a limited offer for a new venue, an object of desire or a fun and exclusive experience that is only available for members - all at great discounts.

Check it out on www.yakala.co.

Can Kağıtçıbaşı, RC 02

Launches Tüm Fırsatlar Online

Can Kağıtçıbaşı is pursuing a collective buying model through his website www.tumfirsatlar.com which launched in June 2010. After studying Business Administration at Koç University, Kağıtçıbaşı started working for PricewaterhouseCoopers as an auditor. He was awarded a scholarship from the University of San Diego, where he is studying for an international masters degree in the same field.

A natural entrepreneur, he sought to bring the Groupon model to Turkey in November 2009. This is a new collective online buying system that allows users access to discounts of over 50% on a variety of activities. For several reasons, he was not able to accomplish this and instead came up with an idea to offer all the deals on one page. He built a website,

www.tumfirsatlar.com, in June 2010. "Due to capital problems, I lost so much time trying to implement the model and build a website," says Kağıtçıbaşı. "However, I knew waiting for money to



Can Kağıtçıbaşı, RC 02

pour in was not the best decision. So I decided to start from somewhere and hoped the rest would follow. I really have faith in Tüm Fırsatlar and envision that if the right actions are taken, it can be even more popular than Groupon itself. I didn't have a budget to advertise my website but thanks to my family and dear friends, word of mouth marketing has increased traffic each day. I am looking forward to being one of the major players in the market. I have plans to improve the current website in Turkey and to establish a similar brand in the US. I see myself as an entrepreneur and if I can find more capital, I have plans to make Tüm Fırsatlar the home page of Turkey." Kağıtçıbaşı is currently pursuing his IMBA degree in USA and will graduate in May 2011. He can be reached via e-mail on info@tumfirsatlar.com.

Imagining Futuristic Istanbul

Young architect **Burcu Arkut, RC 2004**, takes her vision to an international audience

Few topics these days generate as much buzz as the future of cities. As an architect, Burcu Arkut, RC 2004, is deeply engaged with the discussion. In September, she was chosen to present a research project that depicts a provocatively futuristic version of Istanbul called 'Future Community in Istanbul' at a leading architecture conference in Zurich.

The project was created by Arkut, a Masters student in the Architectural Design Program at Istanbul's Bilgi University, along with her colleague (and sister) Ebru Arkut Ulu and instructor Onur Yüce Gün.

"The project is intended to help visualize a future community in Istanbul using

parametric design techniques which have been developed over the past 15 years," says Arkut. The style called parametricism is rooted in digital animation techniques. Arkut's study investigates the city of Istanbul and its relationship to the skyscraper. It is both a self-sufficient urban living proposal, as well as an examination of the relationship between the skyscraper, the natural world and the city. The project was selected for the 28th eCAADe (Education and research in Computer Aided Architectural Design in Europe) Conference in Zurich in September. It is a key gathering for architectural design and hosts 188 participants from 30 different countries. "It was such an honor to be a part of it," says Arkut. This project shows many



Burcu Arkut, RC 04

different things that architecture includes on the way of making one idea into a new reality. It reflects our idea of how a design needs to be developed: using the senses, mathematics, scripts, computers, sketches, models and more to transfer the concept into a physical product."

At the moment Arkut has put her Masters degree on hold while working at a firm called Metex Design Group. "Most of the projects we are dealing with as architects are hotels, both architecture and interior design" says Arkut. "But even though I am a professional in the field of architecture, I will always do further academic studies. I believe that thinking and creating projects in both sides of architecture provides me with a variety of perspectives."

Landmark Study On Alevi Issues

Sociologist **Aykan Erdemir, RC 92** unveils the results of new research

A sweeping study of Alevis covering 14 Turkish provinces over 18 months found that discrimination against the sizeable religious minority has been increasing over the past five years. According to an EU-funded project headed by Aykan Erdemir, assistant professor of sociology and deputy dean of the graduate school of social sciences at Ankara Middle East Technical University, Alevis have little faith that the solution to their troubles will come from the government, military or Religious Affairs Directorate. Although he is not an Alevi, much of Erdemir's focus is on Alevi issues. He is active in various Alevi NGOs and has made tackling anti-Alevi discrimination a cornerstone of his work.

The study found that:

A majority of Turkey's Alevis feel they are discriminated against based on their religious belief; More than half believe that discrimination based on belief, ethnic

identity, sexual orientation and gender has increased over the past five years; Almost 80 percent of participants in the study believe a recent government-led Alevi initiative will not produce results; Three out of four Alevi report experiencing some form of discrimination in the past year; Nine out of ten Alevi believe that belief-based discrimination is widespread in Turkey.

Speaking at a news conference to unveil the results, Erdemir said: "According to the Convention on the Protection of Human Rights, everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion." This fundamental right, he said, extends to the right to worship and practice freely and to receive religious education of one's own choosing. "In this context, the problems faced by Turkey's Alevi citizens are incompatible with these universal principles."



Aykan Erdemir, RC 92

Although there is no reliable official figure, an estimated 15 to 30 percent of Turkey's population is Alevi. The traditionally liberal and staunchly secular Alevis have frequently been targeted by military regimes as well as Sunni traditionalists who say they are not Muslims but have beliefs and practices that are pre-Islamic. In practice, for example, Alevis do not receive funding for their worship houses (cemevi) received by other religious groups. Alevi parents have had to fight in the European Court of Human Rights for their children to be exempted from Sunni biased compulsory religion classes. The study found that Alevis believe change can only come from a stronger civil society and non-governmental groups.

Rampa Gallery Showcases

Cutting Edge Contemporary Art

In May, Istanbul's newly thriving contemporary art scene welcomed the opening of Rampa, a gallery which aims to present ground-breaking projects with both emerging and established artists from Turkey and abroad.



Leyla Tara Suyabatmaz, RC 84

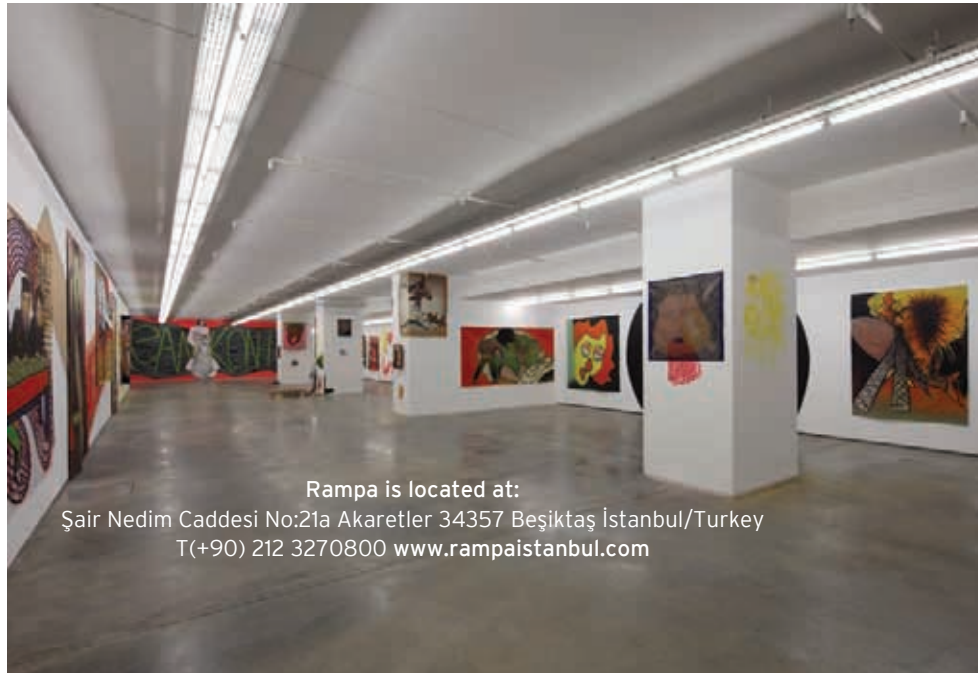
work in Turkey and brought together a selection of his works spanning three decades. That was followed by an exhibition of young talent Güçlü Öztekin and it is currently showing Ahmet Oran, the Turkish-born painter who lives and works in Vienna. He is known for his striking canvas paintings. The upcoming exhibitions include an extensive representation of New York-based Vahap Avşar's early and recent works and a highly anticipated Ayşe Erkmen show.

Located on Akaretler Row Houses -one of the best examples of civic architecture in Istanbul from the turn of the 19th Century- the main gallery is situated at the end of a ramp that inspired gallery's name. Rampa welcomes its visitors first in the project space, which opens directly onto the street. "With its unique location at the crossroads of contrasting urban contexts, Rampa aims at mirroring the cultural diversity in Istanbul by providing a contemplative space for innovative work," says Tara Suyabatmaz.

Founded by Leyla Tara Suyabatmaz RC 84 and Murat Arif Suyabatmaz in Istanbul's Akaretler neighbourhood, Rampa comprises two adjunct spaces. The main gallery is a basement exhibition space of almost 900 square meters, with a smaller "project space" at street level.

The gallery opened with an exhibition by the distinguished contemporary artist Cengiz Çekil. The show was the first comprehensive presentation of Çekil's

Tara Suyabatmaz, an architect, says they sought to provide artists with a space for innovative work unfettered by the pressures of the market. "One of the main reasons that we set up Rampa is to give support to Turkish artists. Turkey has a lot of great artists who deserve international recognition. We aim to introduce Rampa's artists to world-renowned curators, critics and collectors and support them in taking part in exhibitions in established art spaces all around the world. We also want to pave the way for them to be part of public and private collections abroad," says Tara Suyabatmaz.



Rampa is located at:

Şair Nedim Caddesi No:21a Akaretler 34357 Beşiktaş İstanbul/Turkey
T(+90) 212 3270800 www.rampaistanbul.com

Walking in Fields of Stars

Hiking the Camino de Santiago through Northern Spain

By Pelin Turgut, RC 92

Reconnect to the rhythm of nature and beat of your own steps as you walk an ancient pilgrimage route through the rolling countryside of northern Spain. All you need is a backpack, good shoes and an open heart.



A distant hermitage

One morning this spring I woke up and decided to walk the Camino de Santiago, an 1,000-kilometer route that stretches from the French Pyrenees across northern Spain to Santiago de Compostela. I still don't know how I had even heard of it. They say '*quelque chose t'amene au chemin*', an ineffable something brings you to the Camino. I was about to turn 35 and somehow a birthday cake just didn't cut it. Hiking by myself across a foreign country for a few weeks was appropriately both terrifying and thrilling.

Celts walked this path thousands of years ago to absorb the energy that flows through the earth here; the Romans later followed in their footsteps in homage to their sun god. In 813, it became a Christian route after a hermit found the tomb of Saint James and Santiago de Compostela was built on the site.

Heralded by writers like Paulo Coelho, *The Way*, as it is known, has once again

become popular - 250,000 people have walked it already this year. Some do it for religious reasons, others for the beautiful ancient buildings and artwork, and some simply to be alone. (There are also more than a few dapper Frenchmen who do it 'pour des raisons sportif', to keep trim) In our noisy, speed-addicted world, it seems more and more people are seeking solace in the slow, steady pace of their own steps to draw closer to nature. Less is infinitely more, we are discovering. Living out of a backpack on minimal creature comforts brings you back to the basics of being in this world and a childlike sense of wonder.

The trail takes you through vineyards, oak forests and poppy fields; past ancient churches and Roman bridges, fruit orchards and sleepy Spanish villages. It is hands down the best way to see a country - and also a profoundly moving experience. Many people do it to mark a particular transition, to begin or close a chapter in their lives. Anna, from Mexico, was considering marriage. A cheery

Australian man was walking with his three kids in memory of their mother who had recently died. Young David from Barcelona was unemployed and unsure what to do next. Mark, a designer from San Francisco, had just turned 50. Wherever you are, the Camino is an opportunity to pause and take stock.

You can walk all or part of it. You can do it pilgrim-style, as I did, staying in *refugios* (dormitory hostels) and carrying a backpack, or you can stay in hotels with your bags sent on every day. There are *bisigrinos* who whizz past on their bikes and even horseback riders.

I arrived in the tiny village of St Jean Pied de Port, at the foot of the French Pyrenees, on a cool May evening, bleary-eyed from the giant hangover that is the Cannes Film Festival. (We go there to scout films.) Huberta, the cheery hostel owner, rushed me off to get my pilgrim's passport which gives you a bed at *refugios* along the way. I

was given a scallop-shaped seashell, a pilgrim's symbol, to hang on my backpack. My sister -who, along with my cousin, walked the first week with me in support- and I are the first Turks they recalled registering. This caused some excitement. Back at the refuge, Huberta eyed me critically, declared me 'City fatigued' and arranged for my pack to be sent ahead the next day so I don't collapse before I've even begun. (Thereby becoming the first of many Camino angels.)

Unlike us, the people sitting around the communal table at dinner are a tanned, robust-looking lot who are mostly seasoned Camino walkers. Having previously completed the road to Santiago, some in reverse too, they have walked routes from all over Europe -Le Puy, Bordeaux, Holland and the UK. Frank stepped out of his front door in Rotterdam three weeks ago, and has been walking ever since.

They grill me- 'How heavy is your pack?' 'How have you trained?'- and my vague answers -How heavy *is* my pack?- seem to concern them. Just when the conversation is getting interesting, they jump up to go to bed. It is 9pm. 'Trust me,'

says Frank. 'Sleep now if you want to walk tomorrow.' At 8am the next morning, the dorm is empty as everyone has long since hit the road. Lesson one: Leave early to avoid the heat, arrive at a decent hour and, most importantly, watch the sun rise. The sun never rises the same on any two days.

The first day on the Camino is one of the most arduous. Called 'a baptism of fire', it involves a steep 27km climb over the Pyrenees and into Spain. Just days before, the pass closed and some pilgrims got stranded in snow. Sunshine gradually turned to ferocious gales and rain as we climbed.

We passed a posse of vultures and herds of wild horses. Somewhere near the grid marking the crossing into Spain, we huddled into a rock to share an egg sandwich. (*Bocadillo con tortilla y patate* would be my staple lunch for the next few weeks.)



Rainbow on the meseta

In the tiny hamlet of Roncesvalles, we spent the night with 120 other pilgrims in a cavernous Gothic shelter. Sleeping humans, it turns out, are like animals- the hall echoed with every noise imaginable. But I was so tired, I barely noticed.

The first few days were spent getting over the physical shock of walking 20km each day with a backpack. I quickly whittled down my 10 kilo pack, even throwing away my deodorant. (Much to my sister's horror.) A jacket, sleeping bag, two pairs of trousers, two T-shirts, two pairs of socks and underwear was all I had.

Every day has a similar rhythm. Wake up early at 6am; wash your face and go. The joys of walking the Spanish countryside are many but being able to get fabulous *cafe* in even the barest village is a highlight. (Great, cheap wine comes a close second. Particularly when walking through Rioja wine country.) You walk until 2 or 3 pm and check in to a refuge. There is one roughly every 10km on the route. These differ greatly -some, like the 16th century church in Granon are special, others are, well, less than memorable. I was glad to have avoided the bedbugs. Five to 7 euros gets you a mattress.

Shower, wash clothes, tend to sore feet; before you know it, its dinnertime. Dinner is usually a pilgrims menu- soup, main



The tiny hamlet of Ventosa



The Camino waymark

course and dessert- and varies depending on which region you're in. Fish in Galicia, meat and potatoes in Navarre...Then bed by 9pm.

Physically, it was the most challenging thing I have ever done. Many people drop out because of blisters, infections and leg problems. My sister's toe got so infected she had to leave early. Gradually, though, I began to find strength I didn't know I had and muscles I had never seen. I could walk 30-35 km in a day.

Leaving the trail to enter a big city is a surreal experience. Only when you have walked into a city do you become aware of the sprawling, concentric layers of factory, waste disposal plants and suburban ugliness that surround a pretty church or plaza at the center. Our first city was Pamplona, a lively university town. It utterly depressed Helen, my 21-year-old cousin, who had thus far managed to stay upbeat. 'There were all these normal people, eating and drinking,' she said later. 'And there we were, pilgrims, in our dirty clothes. We were totally invisible. It was like I was nothing.' Becoming a pilgrim, we learn, means accepting becoming invisible. We are so used to wanting to stand out and be noticed, that the ego protests desperately at being unseen.

Sometime during week two, my tendons began to seize up with crippling intensity. By this time I was on my own. I hobbled into Belorado and a hospital. 'You can't walk tomorrow,' the doctor said. 'And then?' I asked in pidgin Spanish. She shrugged pessimistically. I checked into a 20 Euro a night B & B and lay there for two days feeling miserable. By the third day I could walk again. Well, shuffle. I allowed myself one more luxury and had my bag delivered to the next village down. *Sans* pack, I made it to Agues. From then on, a steady combo of ibuprofen, Arnica, magnesium pills, muscle gel and tendon massages kept me afloat.

My protesting tendons taught me another lesson. Namely, listen to yourself. It's the journey that matters and not the distances clocked up every day. '*El camino es solo,*' as my Spanish friend Pepe told me.



Pelín Turgut, RC 92 crossing into Spain

The next stage through the Meseta, wheat country, is referred to as the Camino's mental challenge. There is miles and miles of flatness with nothing to distract the eye. It is a drudge, from one perspective; from another, it forces you to turn within. Uncomfortable feelings float through you.

If you do feel like talking, someone always appears. Social banalities disappear very quickly on the Camino. 'What do you do?' becomes an irrelevant question next to 'Who are you?'. You have deep, satisfying conversations with total strangers and are often content to walk companionably in silence. Christian, a Hungarian student, spoke no other language and yet managed to communicate with everyone. There are also familiar faces, people you have been on the road with since the beginning,

so there is always a loose community to support you.

Gradually, as you put one foot in front of the other, day in and day out, a certain magic occurs. You literally stop thinking. This is how the Camino becomes meditation. Your senses are wide awake. A hawk swooping overhead, wild rocket growing by the trail, low clouds streaming across the sky, a frog perched on a rock. How do I miss seeing these every day, you wonder. You realise that each moment *is* the destination.

I had planned to end in the city of Burgos but when I got there I wasn't ready to stop walking and so extended my trip for another week. I bumped into Frank, from that first night, which now felt light

Travel Tips

How long does it take: Depends on you. Walking the entire Camino takes four to six weeks if you plan to do it in one stretch. Many hike two weeks one year and two the next, but you can also do just a week.

How to get there: You can start the route anywhere. The traditional starting point of St Jean Pied de Port is a short drive from Biarritz airport.

Costs: The path itself is incredibly cheap. Albergues charge 5-7 euros a night and a pilgrim menu (including wine!) costs about the same.

Best time to go: People trek the Camino year round. Summers can be crowded and hot. I went in early May, which was perfect. Fall is also nice. Plan on rain any time of year, but especially in Galicia.

Buen camino!

years away, in a cafe. He looked at me and grinned. 'You have become a pilgrim!' he declared. I knew what he meant. I was stronger in body and light of spirit.

I finally finished in Leon, some 500km from where I started, ready to go home. I took a bus to Madrid where the cheap hotel I stayed at seemed like the height of luxury. Clean sheets! A double bed! No snorers! And then I slept for 16 hours.



Halet Çambel, ACG 35

A Life Dedicated to Archeology

RC junior Özdemir Vayisoğlu first met the renowned archeologist **Halet Çambel, ACG 35**, nine years ago in Adana. She was a friend of Özdemir's grandfather, which gave the young history buff a chance to get to know her. Some years on, Özdemir interviewed Çambel at her home in Istanbul for the RCQ.

“Courage is derived from knowledge. If you know, you don't fear anything,” said the renowned archeologist Halet Çambel (ACG' 1935) when I visited her on a late summer afternoon. For me, listening to Çambel's life story was to encounter a true scientist's life-long passion for discovery and transmitting knowledge.

Halet Çambel was born to an established Turkish family in 1916. Her father, Hasan Cemil Bey was close to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and her mother, Remziye Hanım, was the daughter of the Turkish ambassador to Germany. Hasan Cemil Bey's office was in Europe, which meant that the family did not return to Istanbul until 1924. Çambel thus grew up exposed to European culture in a distinctly liberal environment.

Her interest in archeology started when she was a student in ACG, inspired by her teachers. “At first I was greatly interested in Physics; but after our physics teacher was replaced by a new one, I lost my enthusiasm. That year I had also begun taking Art History elective. Our teacher had a strong command of her field and she often took us to the historical sites of Istanbul. I was influenced by these expeditions and by her manner of narrating.” The premium placed on independent thinking at the school was also decisive.

“Unfortunately the Turkish educational system is based on rote-learning; that is where Robert College distinctly differs from other high schools.”

“We were given reading programs for each class and according to this system we were expected to follow the curriculum from a number of different books; this taught us how to be broad minded and how to think independently. This way we grew aware of different approaches to a certain topic and acquired a critical perspective. As a result of this training system, so to speak, we were taught how to attain real knowledge.”

After ACG, Halet Çambel received her undergraduate training in archeology at the Sorbonne University in Paris and completed her doctorate in 1940 at the University of Istanbul. In 1946, with German archeologist Prof. Helmuth T. Bossert, Çambel started exploratory trips into the untraveled Taurus Mountains and was co-discoverer of the Hititite fortress at Karatepe, in the province of Adana. The finds in the walled city of 'King Azitawatas' had a decisive impact on Çambel's career. She helped unravel Hititite hieroglyphics by finding and restoring an orthostat with the Phoenician alphabet, which enabled the final



Özdemir Vayisoğlu, Lise II and Halet Çambel, RC 35



HALET CEMİL
A. A.

If you take the sum total of all the genius of the class and subtract from it the gigantic self-admiration of the class, you will have an idea of what Halet Camil stands for. When she reads these lines her hair will stand on end, she will shudder with horror, and she may even give a sound beating to the unhappy writer of her praises, because the only thing that can equal her intelligence is her modesty.

Halet has proved that genius is not a matter of perspiration, for she has been an honor student for innumerable ages apparently without effort.

It is a pity that our prodigy intends to devote her self solely to archeology because we feel sure that she could be a great success in many other fields.



Halet Çambel in the 1935 yearbook

decoding of the Hieroglyphic Luwian. This contributed significantly to understanding the Hittite language. From 1947 onwards she excavated the ruins of the ancient city of Cilicia with Bossert. Historic epitaphs, statues and reliefs depicting hunting and war scenes were among their first relics. The Hittite site's eighth-century B.C.E. bilingual, covering several orthostats in Phoenician and Hittite languages, allowed philologists to decipher the inscription.

Prof. Bossert left the site after the excavations were finished but Çambel stayed on and transformed the work at Karatepe into a public project to which she would dedicate her life.

There were thousands of antique remains in the excavation site; if we left, they would be damaged under natural conditions; I had to accomplish what I had started," she said.

She contacted Cesare Brandi, president of Istituto Centrale de Restauro-ICR in Rome, and in collaboration with Italian experts, initiated a restoration and conservation project which was the first of its kind in Turkey. She fought to keep the remains in their original location overlooking the Ceyhan River and Çukurova. The region surrounding the site was first declared a national park and eventually, in 1960, Çambel's dream came true with the opening of the country's first open-air museum. The Hittite city was thus resurrected after an underground silence of 2800 years.

It did not stop there; an excavation house, schools for the region and new projects in the precinct followed. Çambel fought against the government's project to

dam Ceyhan River, which would have flooded many archaeological sites around Karatepe. She managed to have the proposed water level reduced sufficiently to rescue the remains.

She encouraged the village weavers to switch from artificial to natural dyes in the production of their woolen kilims and improved their business. Thanks to Çambel, Karatepe kilims are now renowned nationwide. She also got the mountain villagers to switch from grazing goats to sheep, as she saw that the goats were destroying the forest. 'Halet Abla', as she is known, is something of an icon in the region.

In addition to the Hittite Site in Karatepe, which I consider her masterpiece, Çambel led several other excavations around Turkey. Her work on Çayonu settlements is considered to be one of her greatest accomplishments. She also initiated the project to rescue archaeological sites around Keban, backed by scientific research on the prehistory of Southeastern Anatolia as proof of the highly developed ancient cultures in the region.

The scientific techniques that Prof. Dr. Halet Çambel applied fifty years ago were precursors of today's modern archeology. For the first time in Turkey, she trained her students in the field, initiated the application of scientific methodology in pre-history education, assessed archeological finds in view of the present cultural aspects of the regions and incorporated natural sciences into the archeological research process. An eminent scholar in the archaeology of the Anatolian Peninsula, Çambel has successfully conducted rescue excavations of endangered heritage sites, also introducing stone restoration and ensuring proper conservation with the application of modern scientific methods.

Çambel has received numerous honors, notably the Prince Claus Award given to her in 2004 for 'her meticulous scholarship, commitment to international collaboration and enthusiasm for innovative research.'

As founder of the chair of prehistoric archaeology at Istanbul University, she has inspired generations of archeologists. Now 94 years old, she still goes to Karatepe each year to finish her work on the site. "I started this work over sixty years ago and I will not stop before I have finished here," she says.

Fencing for Turkey

Few people know that Halet Çambel was also a fencer for Turkey in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin and the first Turkish female athlete to represent the country in an international sports competition. She began fencing while at the College. "We had many club options in the school; I chose fencing," she says. "Our coach was a Russian gymnast named Alexander Nadolsky; and he took me to Beşiktaş Gymnastic Club where my professional sports career started." That led to her participation in the historic 1936 Berlin Olympics. "It started during a stay in France. I should have been going back to Istanbul, but then I was called to Budapest to train for the Berlin games." In Berlin, Çambel was invited to meet Adolf Hitler; but she refused this private invitation on political grounds. She did not take home any medals, and did not pursue a sports career. Nonetheless her participation was seen as symbolic of Turkey's transformation after Atatürk's revolution.

A Grand Dame on Campus

Unveiling a 280-Year-Old Secret

By Gencer Emiroğlu

One tends to go far to find wonderful things or make new discoveries. But sometimes a unique thing might be in our backyard, patiently waiting to be noticed over dozens of years, if not centuries!



A 280 year old beauty

Trees are the most essential elements of RC campus floral landscape. There are thousands of them. But, which one is the oldest? How would we know which one is the oldest? With these questions in mind, I began observing the RC trees reserve. I did anticipate then that this simple curiosity would lead into making a significant discovery, not just for the campus but also for the city of Istanbul.

The oldest tree on campus is the cedar tree behind Barton Hall. It is 280 years old.

It is the oldest living organism on campus, and also the oldest thing on campus including buildings. This is the first time that the story of how I found this tree and how it was age-dated is being published. Since trees are living witnesses of the past, we will extend to campus history to questions such as is it natural or planted? If planted by whom and why?

Çelik Gülersoy was the person who made the concept of a 'Monumental Tree' popular in İstanbul. In his book "*Monumental Trees of Istanbul*" he published a photographed inventory of about 100 monumental trees of the city. In that book, on page 85 he included one tree from the RC campus -then Arnavutköy College for Girls- that is the plane tree (*Platanus orientalis*) by the Arnavutköy gate.

However Gülersoy did not know that on the upper hills of the college, another tree was hiding. In order for an individual tree to qualify as "monumental" its size, age and the historical significance of its environment must be impressive.



Gencer climbing the cedar

The tree is about 28 meters high. The circumference is 6,30 meters. It forks above 6m. The branches extend gracefully and straight. It looks healthy despite its age. We could see that beautiful tree; I wished we could ask her the age!

our astonishment, the study proved the cedar tree (*Cedrus libani*-280 years old) to be 25 years older than the plane tree (*Platanus orientalis*-255 years old)! While some people might see the new discovery as just another tree, for others

it is an invaluable "new" acquisition for RC. This long delayed article in RCQ is the first publishing about the finding. Alas, I would never have imagined having to mention the loss of Prof. Efe in this same article. That is life. We, humans die; monumental trees will live for centuries. They are living witnesses of our past. To protect them is to protect our past and future. I hope to follow this article with another article in which we look closer at the Cedar and listen to what she tells us about life here on the Bosphorus, before and after ACG.

Until then, on one of your visits to the Plateau, you might want to stop by Barton Hall. Don't be shy to walk a few extra meters in the bushes to reach its trunk. Its mightiness and beauty is best experienced when you touch it, when you look up to its upper branches. It won't refuse a hug! A hug from a 280 year-old friend!

Gencer Emiroğlu is an experiential learning specialist. He worked at RC from 1989 to 2010. Among other things, he helped the RC community learn to use its immediate environment for educational purposes.

One person responded to our call for help: Asuman Efe, the mother of Gizem Efe (RC 2009), a beloved professor at the Forestry Faculty. Sadly, she died in a tragic traffic accident in June 2010 while on the way to Bolu to support nature lovers against a dam project near Bolu. She was still young and energetic and at the top of a productive career and her death is a great loss.

Aided by one of her doctorate students', the tree was dated using an increment borer. This is a tool that drills into the tree and when turned counterclockwise, drills out a thin wood sample which is then studied in the university's laboratory for exact dating.

The same technique was used for the plane tree by Arnavutköy Gate mentioned in Çelik Gülersoy's book. To



Increment boring by doctoral student

To Sir, with Love

One of Turkey's best-known sports commentators pays tribute to **Dave Phillips**, long time RC PE teacher, basketball coach and all-round legend

By Kaan Kural RC 92

It was around two months ago. As I entered the Caferağa Sports Hall (the famous youth competitions arena) a familiar face came up to say hello. He is a long time referee of youth competitions. After some small talk about the basketball world and world championships he dropped the bomb: "Heard that Dave Phillips is leaving next year."

I didn't know what to say at that moment. I mumbled something but couldn't quite grasp the notion. He left and I sat pondering the idea.

Well, he would leave someday wouldn't he? Why the shock? It is a probably a mixture of embarrassment and denial. I

learn of Dave Phillips' decision through some random referee. This is a man who has touched my life deeply, shaped my career and life in so many ways and I learn about his decision to leave soon from a third party. I haven't had contact with 'Sir' for a long time actually. It feels like some sort of betrayal of him. And of course you don't want to believe bad news.

Is it betrayal actually? Taking for granted might be more appropriate. Still it feels as if I have not given back the slightest degree of what I received from him. It is the nature of interaction between students and teachers, I guess. They touch you, lead you, shape you in so many ways. They are the second most important people after your family who

make you who you are, but it is more like a business atmosphere. You do your time at school. They get paid to do it. You move on...

And I've moved on. I've become a sportswriter in life. Looking back at the many things I've done, many choices I've made stem from my days at RC.

Nowadays sports culture in Turkey, as many aspects of social life, is built on winning and losing. The end result is not only the ultimate but also the only goal, only source of joy or achievement. I believe otherwise. The end result is a destination. The journey is what counts more. And there are many other results, many other sources of joy and achievement in that journey. There are countless games in one match. It is a simulation of life in many senses. There are people who try to stop you from achieving your goals and teammates who work with you for the same goal. Sometimes these two groups mix up their roles. There are rules to obey. But sometimes they are bent. Sometimes they are not applied fairly. There is favoritism. There is wisdom and there is ignorance. There are wits and there is stupidity. There is individuality and there is collectivity. And you can all have them and that is ok, as long as you can differentiate which one is which. Actually it teaches you which one is which. And to embrace them all...

I played six years for the basketball team. And I remember Sir appreciating us the most after a 40 point loss to Çavuşoğlu during my senior year. They were the dominant team back then with many national team players. We were, well, we were Robert College kids after all. It was



Dave Phillips in the RC Nejat Eczacıbaşı Gym.



Dave Phillips and some of his favorite cups.

a one sided affair from the tipoff. But we never wavered or gave up. We did our best. Never let Çavuşoğlu relax either. And that was more than enough for Sir. He said he was proud of us. It was never about winning for him anyway. Well, not winning against the opponent. He always wanted us to win against ourselves. If we were committed enough, if we did better than the last time, if we achieved our potential and maybe just pushed it a little bit higher, that was a win. No matter what the scoreboard said.

My first memory of Dave Phillips goes back to my prep year. We were playing soccer in the old bubble at the time. He came over to watch these 12 year olds trying to know each other and their new environment. It was about one month into the school year. Each of us still felt out of place; boarders away from home. Trying to learn a new language. He (I think) made a joke and teased us. There was no way in hell for us to understand what he said.

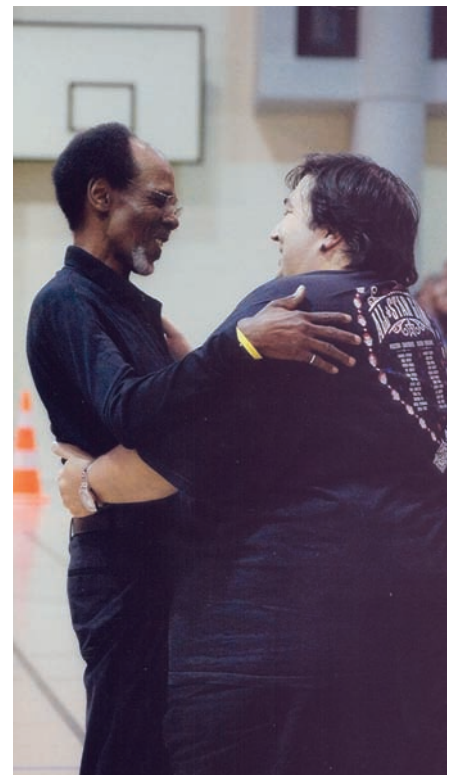
He watched us uneasy kids play for a while then left. After a while he came back and watched us till we finished. Then he went on to change the nets on the goals. I didn't think about it at the time. When you are that young you don't understand those things. When you grow up you do. And you are humbled and a little ashamed too. As he was watching us initially he realized the nets on one goal were broken. He went and brought new nets. Then waited for us to finish to change them. He routinely did the laundry for not just the basketball team but all teams. Why? Why bother? Was it in his job description? Hardly.

After his initial two years at RC he found out that high school competitions in Turkey consist of one game elimination tournaments. There might only be one competitive game for the whole year so he went and found this club Zeyrek which didn't have youth basketball teams and made an arrangement with them. Robert College players would enter youth competitions under the name of the club so the players could get more competitive games. Why? Obviously there won't be many (let's make that any) competitive basketball players graduating from RC. Why bother? Why arrange games every week and give at least two nights of your life every week

for these kids? They are playing all right. Why arrange transportation? Why play in lopsided games against Efes Pilsen and Fenerbahçe?

Why does Sir almost singlehandedly try to continue the tradition of Field Day? It takes him almost 3 full days to prepare the Plateau for the event. Why does he go the extra mile and more for a bunch of kids, almost all of whom are unaware and most are not even grateful?

The answer to that is not easy, but I think beneath all that it is what makes him happy about life. Did you wonder why he is always (well, let's say as long as you don't cross the line) smiling? I think he feels joy in all this. He doesn't expect anything in return. Not even gratitude. He is more than happy to spread a culture, sports culture to be specific among a bunch of rather aimless kids. He is happy to show them some morals that he sees fundamental to a successful and happy life. He sees some infinitesimal results. He doesn't care. He is not doing it for results. He was never about results. He was always about the road taken to get those results anyway...



Dave Phillips and Kaan Kural RC 92

Who Buzzes Online?

New York-based marketing expert and writer **İdil Çakım, RC 92**, describes how the Internet is radically changing the ways companies relate to their consumers



İdil Çakım, RC 92

Open-source Web technologies that allow Internet users to publish uncensored information online have added a new level of richness to public information. Thanks to online news sites, blogs, social networks, and discussion boards, consumers are able to spread information about their shopping experiences to other consumers. These tools turn motivated speakers into public opinion leaders who can distribute their ideas to thousands of people at the click of a mouse.

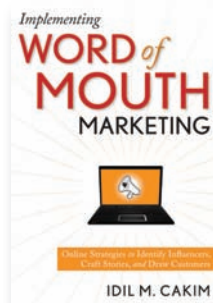
These savvy and outspoken Internet users, who act as self-appointed journalists, consumer watchdogs, and spokespeople, are known as networking agents. In an information-saturated society, networking agents are insightful interpreters, uncovering, translating, and spreading critical information. Networking agents belong to a variety of demographic or cultural groups—women, men, young, old, middle or high income. Their expertise varies across topics and industries. Yet, they share a fundamental trait. They have a passion for speaking up and stating their opinion in the name of what they believe is a good cause. To sustain their expert position, networking agents seek information from a variety of sources they deem credible and insightful. Rather than feeling overwhelmed with information, they collect, organize, and distribute stories. Online and offline, they are not shy about starting debates. Their use of Web tools to digest information and spread knowledge makes them uber-information dealers. To many who are used to receiving their news through the media, these online influencers are a mystery. Corporate executives, journalists, marketers, activists, and non-profit leaders who strategize, write, and send approved copy to publishers may soon have to take a second seat to these ordinary citizens. Just one paragraph on a blog can shake up established institutions.

The Dell Turnaround

The computer maker Dell's ordeal with networking agents did not have to make it to front-page news to hurt the company's reputation. In 2005, surveys and consumer reports showed that Dell's customer satisfaction scores were declining. It took

a heated post by journalist and Professor Jeff Jarvis on his blog Buzzmachine, about his frustrating experience with Dell customer service, for the issue to be publicized.

"I just got a new Dell laptop and paid a fortune for the four-year, in-home service. The machine is a lemon and the service is a lie. But what really irks me is that they say if they sent someone to my home...he wouldn't have the parts..." (wrote Jarvis on June 21, 2005).



Jarvis got more than 250 comments in response to this blog post. He continued to write about his experience and gathered frustrated Dell customers around him. He coined the term "Dell Hell."

Dell approached networking agent Jarvis and those dissatisfied customers. The company launched two communication channels to listen and speak directly to its customers. Through the Direct2Dell blog and the IdeaStorm online community, consumers can now hear Dell news first hand, post comments and questions, and submit new product ideas, telling Dell what they expect from their computers. The sentiments voiced by Jarvis, a powerful blogger and public figure, resonated with many who struggled with their computers. As a result, the Fortune 100 company adopted the ways of networking agents and restored its reputation by opening itself to criticisms and suggestions.

Thoughts on AOL

Not all networking agents are seasoned journalists and academics with connections to business and media. Yet they can be

just as powerful, if their stories resonate with others with similar experiences. When Vincent Ferrari decided to cancel his dormant AOL account, registered under his father's name, he thought a quick phone call to the company's customer service line would resolve the matter. Instead he faced an excruciatingly long tug of war with a customer service representative who probed every which way to find out why Ferrari wished to cancel the service and dissuade him from doing so.

While AOL had every right to try to keep Ferrari's business, he felt frustrated by the experience and found the conversation pointless. The tech-savvy customer recorded his conversation with the customer service representative and posted it to his blog, telling his readers how aggravated he was. To date, Ferrari's post on his blog, ironically called Insignificant Thoughts, has close to 1,000 comments. That blog entry got so much traffic and citations on other social media news sites that it caught the media's attention. The New York Times, CNet News and MSNBC Web sites ran stories. AOL officials reached out to Ferrari and apologized to him and in June 2006, Ferrari posted a blog entry accepting their apology. Yet the conversation around Ferrari's account of events continues to live online with references as recent as 2009.

Networking agents do not have to be journalists or high-ranking bloggers. In contrast to Ferrari, they do not always have to aim at large companies to create impact. Everyday citizens, who have something to share, can create an agenda, build a network, and shake systems with the help of online tools that facilitate conversation.

Her book is available on Amazon.com

This article is based on İdil Çakım's (RC 92) new book *Implementing Word of Mouth Marketing: Online Strategies to Identify Influencers, Craft Stories and Draw Customers*. İdil is VP of Interactive Media at the GolanHarris in New York. She blogs at www.dotwom.com.

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The Challenges of Protecting Turkey's Biodiversity

Acclaimed Stanford conservationist **Dr. Çağan Şekercioğlu, RC 93**, describes his work in eastern Turkey as president of the KuzeyDoğa Derneği.

R"Robertlis" are known for their charity and the RC community provides critical funding to many charitable organizations. However, obsessed with becoming a biologist at RC, I never thought I would be on the other side of the coin, running a charity of my own, no less in the difficult

non-profit environmental organization KuzeyDoğa (www.kuzeydoga.org), focusing on the "Serhat" provinces of Kars, Iğdır, Ardahan and Ağrı. This is a very challenging region and our biggest struggle is finding reliable long-term support for our biodiversity conservation, ecological research, environmental

education, and village-based ecotourism activities. Nevertheless, this is one of the wildest corners of Turkey and the sight of 40,000 birds on a lake or watching a brown bear feed in broad daylight 50 meters away makes all the stress and struggle worthwhile.

We started with bird ringing (banding) and established the first bird ringing station of eastern Turkey in 2005. Our goals then expanded to study and conserve

Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93 with a "kızıl şahin" (*Buteo rufinus*) at Kuyucuk Lake in Kars

environment of eastern Turkey. While training as an anthropologist, biologist, and ecologist at Harvard and Stanford universities, one thing I never learned was how to run an organization, let alone build and lead a non-profit organization, constantly struggling for resources, while juggling a scientific career 10 time zones away as a senior research scientist at Stanford's Center for Conservation Biology. Despite its difficulties, this has been an enormously rewarding learning experience that enabled me to make the leap from an ivory tower conservation biologist to a true conservationist genuinely helping protect Turkey's critical biodiversity.

I first decided to study and conserve the rich biocultural diversity of northeastern Turkey in 2003 with the support of the Christensen Fund of California. This area is on a globally important bird migratory flyway, has critical populations of large mammals like wolves, bears, and lynx, has many endemic plant species, and lies at the intersection of two of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots, the Caucasus and the Irano-Anatolian. In 2007, I expanded my Kars-Iğdır Biodiversity Project into the

all biodiversity and their habitats, conduct ecological research and habitat restoration, organize environmental education programs for all ages, raise environmental awareness among local people and decision-makers, provide training and capacity-building for youth, promote wildlife and ecological tourism, and cooperate with local, national and international organizations for effective nature conservation in Turkey. We work with local people, Kafkas University, the decision-makers, various government departments, and especially the General Directorate of Nature Protection and National Parks of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

Our results-oriented and efficient approach focused on achieving concrete conservation outcomes quickly drew attention locally, nationally, and globally. A few months after our founding, in May 2008, we received the United Kingdom's most important grassroots conservation award, the Whitley Gold Award, from HRH Princess Anne. We were then officially commended by the President of Turkey, Prof. Dr. Abdullah Gül. This and our other



conservation successes led to regular requests for KuzeyDoğa to expand its conservation activities into other parts of Turkey. Consequently, KuzeyDoğa became a national NGO in 2009 to establish Turkey's biggest Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in Bursa, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline Company Environmental Investment Programme and Uludağ University.

Although we have only five staff and a small budget, we pack a big punch. Following the Whitley Gold Award for our Lake Kuyucuk project (www.kuyucuk.org), we had this lake designated as eastern Turkey's only Ramsar site (a globally important wetland) in June 2009, in a record time of one year from our petition. Our community-based tourism work in surrounding villages of Lake Kuyucuk won us the 2009 European Destinations of Excellence (EDEN) Sustainable Tourism Award from the European Commission. The Conservation Leadership Programme awarded our scientific work twice, providing funding and critical capacity-building opportunities.

We run two of the three bird research stations in Turkey. At Aras and Kuyucuk Bird Research and Education Centers, we ringed more than 30,000 birds, which have come from as far as South Africa, Israel, and northern Russia, and have been recaptured as far as Hungary, Kazakhstan and Zambia. More than 150 volunteers from 17 different countries have worked and trained at these stations since 2006. Our wetland restoration at Kafkas University campus and Lake Kuyucuk is led by professor Sean Anderson of California State University. We built Turkey's first artificial island for wildlife conservation at Lake Kuyucuk, by severing the connections to the mainland off the old road bisecting the lake. Our conservation work led to the Ministry of Environment funding the preparation of a critical management plan for Lake Kuyucuk. Our rapid success also led to the Whitley Fund choosing KuzeyDoğa as their most successful grantee of 2009, which earned me an invite to the 60th birthday party of HRH Princess

Anne at Buckingham Palace! I gave her a hand-carved (by my dad) wooden ruddy shelduck (angıt), the symbol of Lake Kuyucuk.

Another major focus is our carnivore research project in Kars' Sarıkamış National Park by using camera and video traps, surveying bears, wolves, lynx, and other species, and working with local communities, hunters, and beekeepers. We study these majestic predators' ecology to reduce the human-carnivore conflict and to develop a long-term management plan for the conservation of large but disappearing carnivores in Kars and Iğdır.

As part of our vulture conservation work, KuzeyDoğa initiated Turkey's first vulture restaurant in collaboration with the Iğdır Directorate of Environment and Forestry. With the vulture restaurant, not only do we want to conserve and promote all four species of Turkey's vultures by providing them chemical-free food such as butcher remains and roadkill, but we also aim to develop wildlife tourism in the region, to raise public awareness and to provide ecotourism income to local people.



Leylek (*Ciconia ciconia*)



Su kılavuzu (*Rallus aquaticus*)

As part of our education and capacity-building efforts, we organized the first six plant illustration courses in Anatolia. 51 young people were trained and some of them now teach their own courses. 150 Kars plants have been illustrated, to be published in a book by Kafkas University. We carry out ethnobiological research in Kars and Iğdır provinces and we organized the first ethnobiology course of Turkey, with more than 17 participants from Turkey, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

KuzeyDoğa has been developing important partnerships with local, national and international organizations, mainly on environmental education, community work and sustainable tourism. We conduct many training programs and workshops. We try hard to get our conservation message across to people, so our work has been covered extensively in the international and national press. Three documentaries have been made about our work that you can see on www.kuzeydoga.org/belgeseller.

I direct KuzeyDoğa pro-bono and spend about 3 months in northeastern Turkey. Come visit me in Kars and see the wildlife of Turkey's Wild East up close!

How You Can Help

We need urgent long-term support to build on our success and to keep fighting to conserve the disappearing wildlife and habitats of Turkey, in a political environment that is destroying Turkey's nature relentlessly, at a pace that is the worst in our history.

Visit www.kuzeydoga.org to see our projects, documentaries, and news. We need all the support "Robertli's" can give. E-mail: cagan@kuzeydoga.org cagan@stanford.edu

HOMECOMING 2010



Turkish Department teacher Adil İzci (center) who retired from RC in June 2010, was surrounded by his fans during Homecoming 2010



Where is the pool? Ömer Donat RC 95, Ali İspahani RC 96 and Emin Güvenç RC 96 look ready to throw Zeynep Dikeç Baykut RC 96 in it!



Hakan Karahan RC 78 with former faculty member Münir Aysu. Münir Bey never misses an opportunity to get together with his former students, be it at Homecoming or various class reunions.



"Look Who's Here?" at Homecoming 2010



The girls of the Class of 60, 50th year reunion during their special Homecoming lunch



The 50th year reunion celebration included a beautifully prepared patchwork collage of the Class of 60.



Phillip Esposito with Ferda Elerman RC 81 and Juliana Elerman



Past and present RC faculty members Gülhiz Yüksek, Ayşe Güven, Yıldız Düzköylü and Jennifer Sertel with Enes Molu, RC 06.



“Diktatör” Tuna Baltacioğlu, RC 44, who keeps his class in order and co-authors “44 Postası” the class newsletter with his daughter Tansı Yıldırım RC 76.



Ethem Aral RC 37 was the oldest alumnus present at HC. Ethem Bey is a faithful guest and hasn't missed many Homecoming celebrations.



Varak Poğaryan RC 42 and Henza Türkkan ACG 42 were also among the oldest alumni present at Homecoming.



RC 2010 at their first Homecoming event. May there be many more!



RC Legends Dave Phillips and Cahit Can with Okan Atilla, RC 90 during the football tournament held for Homecoming.



The RC Orchestra continues to wow its fans during the Homecoming assembly hour in Suna Kıraç Hall



Tamer Üner RC 91 with his son, Kaya.



The “ boys” sang their Alma Mater, live on stage during HC assembly hour



The teacher, the student and the future RC hopeful

Former faculty member Aydın Urgan with Ecmel Pehlivanlı, RC 85, and his then one month old daughter at the RC 85 25th year reunion held on campus in July 2010.



ACG 60 graduates celebrate

ACG 60 graduates were thrilled to get together to begin their 50th year celebration year on April 28, 2010. Some had not seen each other for the past fifty years but the time lapse made no

difference whatsoever. They were just a bunch of "girls" delighted to get together once again. During the gathering Ender Panahzat read out a welcome message and paid tribute to those friends who had

passed away. After cocktails, the group enjoyed watching a video and then danced away all night, promising to keep in touch.



Forty at heart

The Class of ACG 71 started celebrating their 40th year of graduation with a "get together" on campus followed by dinner cruise on the Bosphorus. They plan on celebrating their grand reunion with a

series of cultural and social activities all through the year with a night-over event in May. It looks like it will be a busy year for ACG 71!

ACG 70 Reunion

At the center of the World
All the Lands around Thee
Orient and Occident
With their best have crowned Thee

Thus went the ACG Alma Mater...
In keeping with the spirit of that song, sixty five girls from the class of 1970 got together at the center of the World on July 11 to celebrate the 40th. year of their graduation. They came from orient and occident to reminisce and catch up. How easy it was to go back to being sixteen during the boat trip (neath the towers and the mosques) along the Bosphorus and during the stay at Saklıköy! There was a lot of laughter and a lot of tears as they raised their glasses to friendship and to a school crowned with the best. Lives had to be summed up; achievements to be recognized, memories to be shared, songs to be sung, tunes to be danced to. Parting was sweet sorrow and one question lingered in everyone's mind: What can be done on our 50th. to surpass the excellence achieved by our classmates -Gülru Selek Paksoy, Aslı Uşaklıgil Alpay and Birgül Ergener -who have made this reunion such a memorable event?

**Contributed by Füsün Tüccarbaşı
Elioğlu**

THE LOVE SONG OF J. ALFRED
PRUFROCK (FREELY PLAGIARIZED UPON
THE OCCASION OF OUR 40TH REUNION)
Let us go then, you and I,

When the day is spread out against the
Istanbul sky

Not 'like a patient etherized upon a table',
as the poet says

But like a damp white handkerchief

Warding off the bright sunlight

Let us go, through certain half-deserted
streets of memory,
The muttering retreats of remembrance
and recognition

To lead you to an overwhelming question
Oh, do not ask, "What is it?"
Let us go and make our visit.

On the bus the women come and go



Not Talking of Michelangelo, but of
marriages and careers

Divorces and children, property and face
lifts, and yes, Turkish politics

There will be time, there will be time
To prepare a face to meet the faces that
you meet; There will be time to organize
and create, And time for all the works and
days of hands

Of Aslı, Füsün, Gülru and Birgül

Time for you and time for me,
And time yet for a hundred hugs and tears
And for a hundred visions and revisions,
Before the taking of drinks and dinner.

In the room the women come and go
Talking of mothers and fathers, sisters
and brothers

Of friends lost, loves extinguished and joy
refund.

And indeed there will be time
To wonder, "Do I dare?" and, "Do I dare?"
Time to turn back and descend the stair,
With a few too many kilos since we last
met-- [They will say: "How well she has or
she has not taken care of herself!"]

Do I dare
Disturb the universe?
In a minute there is time
For decisions and revisions which a
minute will reverse.

For I have known them all already, known
them all:--
Have known the evenings, mornings,
afternoons,

And would it have been worth it, after all,
After the cake, the champagne, and the
video,
Among the porcelain, among some talk of
you and me,
Would it have been worth while,
To have bitten off the matter with a smile,
To have squeezed the universe into a ball

And would it have been worth it, after all,
Would it have been worth while,
After the sunsets and the dooryards and
the sprinkled streets,
After the novels, after the teacups, after
the skirts that trail along the
floor--

On the dance floor the women come and
go in wild gyrations

Twisting their bodies to the music of their
youth.....

We grow old...We grow old...
We dare wear the bottoms of our trousers
rolled.

Shall I pull my hair behind? Do I dare to
eat a peach?
I shall wear white flannel trousers, and
walk upon the beach.
I have heard the mermaids singing, each
to each.

We have lingered in the chambers of
memory
Till our friends' voices wake us, and we
rejoice.

**T.S. Elliot poem adapted by
Şeyla Benhabib**

RC 75 Reunion



Commencement once again

Once there was a time when 35 ("thirty five" in writing) was the number designating our parents' ages; then for a short while, it became the number which showed our own ages... This didn't last long either and before we knew it, we realized that 35 had become the sign stating the number of years that had gone by since our graduation from Robert College!

Yes we, the RC 75 Class, had our 35th Year Reunion on July 4, 2010! We got together in the Maze to renew memories and refresh long forgotten stories. Not only did we embrace the bygone years with yearning, but we also repeated our commencement exercises with the participation of our teachers... Speeches were made and a toast was raised to RC. How good it felt to wear the cap and gown again! The event was complimented with "RC 75 35th Year" pins and t-shirts, specially designed for the occasion. Then, we took a tour of the campus to look for the memories hidden in corners that only we knew about. The lilacs covering the face of Gould Hall had kept a few out of season buds, apparently just for our sake, to complete the scenery of our long ago happiness, worries and romances. Our day ended with a boat trip on our beloved Bosphorus where we listened to the nostalgic music of our youth and danced into the night as if we were 35 years younger!

To tell the truth, accepting the fact that so much time had gone by so quickly was

at first rather difficult; but as the evening moved on, we slowly came to realize that we all still had the same spirit, that none of us really felt 35 years older, that our beloved campus was still as lovely as ever, that Aydın Ağabey, Münir Hoca and Mrs. Göksel were still as young and beautiful/handsome as they had then been and that everybody was still as much in love with being a member of the big RC family as then... After all, the passing years had not been able to harm us in any significant way and before we knew it, we were even making plans for our get-together for the 60th year!

On that night, together we laughed a little ("Oh, God! Was it really us who could put so much mischief into such a brief period of time, albeit 35 years ago?") and we cried a little ("Oh, were it only possible to have everybody with us, to be "all together" again!")... We



From R to L: Münir Aysu, Nihal Geyran, Aydın Ungan

felt overjoyed ("How unbelievably nice; so many people from outside Istanbul, here just for the night!") and we felt sad and remorseful ("Why on earth do we always wait for official reunions instead of getting together much more often?!") And as the night slowly wore out, the great joy of seeing long-missed friends, the happiness of being still together after so many years, the undeniable taste of sharing past stories and the merriness of exchanging long forgotten gossips were paraphrased into different expressions by various members of the group and it turned out that the two following mottos, contradictory though they may seem, repeatedly came up as the best summaries of our lives: "Oh, my friend we're older, but no wiser!" and "35 years and still going strong!" In the end, we all agreed that creating such meaningful harmony from the ever-existing contradictions of life was exactly the thing that suited us because after all, we were and had always been RC 75s; not just there on the campus, but wherever we may have been in the world ever since!..

Contributed by Güzin Karahan Yalın



Betül Çakmak, Bülent Kıymır, Feyha Çınarlı, Yıldırım Türker, Talia Arkut

RC 80 30th Reunion



"Most of us", RC 80

In a rainy, late winter day in April, İdem dashed into Gaye's office through one door while Selva leaped in through the balcony. As they managed to keep from running into each other, Selva's cake fell to be caught by Cana as she and Gülay entered with fruit. Berrin and Ayşe appeared with chocolates and candies. Seval was last with cookies. The RC 80 Task Force for the 30th Reunion assembled at last. All ate and drank. After four-hours of talking about guys, kids and the old days, they crafted a rough outline for the long awaited event.

Even though RC had taught us that we could overcome anything, it had not occurred to us that this would include nature. On the appointed morning, June 25th, the day began with dark clouds. Our Task Force came together again but with no appetite, no thirst and no gossip to share. While sitting and commiserating, our saviour arrived. "The Hilmi" took



Mustafa Aygıl, Gökay Gecebeyi, Mustafa Özmeral, Hakkı Çek, Moris Fresko



Gaye Bumin and 'Doktorum' Aytuğ Kolankaya

command. We would meet in front of Gould Hall, have a few (ahem) cocktails, take the reunion photo and move on to Bizim Tepe for dinner and surprises. The Gould Hall stairs welcomed RC 80! While many looked greyer, all were still teenagers in their late forties, shining, glowing, hugging, smiling, laughing and so incredibly happy to see each other. Gradually, the joy of reuniting and the warmth of friendship chased away the clouds in the sky. The race was on to take the class picture before we chased the sun away.

"Say Cheese!" then "Dinner is Served". Although the tables were set to satisfy our hunger, all RC 80 craved was each other. Everyone moved in a Brownian motion looking for a seat. This dance progressed with sly glances and winks, while smiles of invitation were extended with subtle abandon.

"Is this seat taken" said one lovely classmate to a sitting handsome (recently single) classmate.

"Yes" said the comely classmate sitting on the other side of that table, "...there is an empty seat there" while pointing across the room to an empty table.

"Well, I think I will sit here then" replied our first lovely while staring down the comely RC 80.

Our handsome just sighed and smiled at the elegantly attired ex girlfriend sitting at the next table who was eyeing her 35 year old crush two tables over.

Arzu and Oya just found each other and started talking. They kept on talking to each other until it was time to go.

"The Hilmi" declared "The Buffet is Open". Everyone got something to eat but that was the excuse, what we consumed was love and caring for each other. Some of us had not seen each other since graduation, while some partnered (5 couples) together. Many of us related war stories from the trenches of life and parenthood. All of us shared the tragedies of our classmates' deaths and successes of having kids in middle age. Some made fortunes and some lost fortunes, many of us teach and many practice medicine. One thing we share is the strength to keep going no matter what.

Aytuğ invited Sami to the stage and we were off: He discussed the psychology of Turkish songs. "To love takes a lifetime, loving but a moment".

Elif danced a tango that resembled a hot babe with a dance pole.

Zeynep then regaled us about how love is just chemical reactions in the brain. During her detailed description of

neuroreceptors and dopamine at least half of us experienced these chemicals while admiring her décolletage and slit dress.

Sinan, Hakkı (Best RC 80 Legs), Ahmet and Cüneyt channeled Swan Lake (pirouet, leap, bow..) to Feza's Sugar Plum Fairy and we laughed and cried with joy. We spoke of "ear lobes rubbed", "was she gay" and cheating during exams. We cleared "I had a crush on ..." and "why was he expelled" type mysteries.

Finally, we declared our love for each other and found the connection that we had forgotten we missed.

Contributed by Kaya Kazmirci



RC 85 - can't wait till the 30th

RC 85 25th Reunion

The Class of RC 85 is a very close-knit group. With that spirit and enthusiasm, the reunion committee (Ipek C., Didem, Oya, Bilge, Ali Y. and Ali Levent) started planning for the 25th reunion weekend a year in advance. So much to do, so little time! Have to say that we loved every minute of our planning lunches- clearly an excuse to have fun and pretend to be working.

The Festivities

On the first weekend of July we got transported back to age 18 for the 24-hour long Reunion events. It turned out to be as spectacular as the 20th reunion with a turnout of 76 friends. We started the festivities on Saturday afternoon with a Zumba practice, just to warm up our bodies. We decided that Çiğdem should quit being a doctor and become a zumba instructor. The boys moved on to their football game, all teams against Fenerbahçe! The girls watched them and played "guess who that is?" game from the dorm windows. Thank God we have Esen as our resident orthopedic doctor as Ali Yılmaz and Serdar managed to injure themselves at the game.

As it started getting closer to cocktail hour, there was a rush in the dorms. Girls running around fixing their hair, boys watching the Argentina vs. Germany World Cup game. Around sunset, everybody started trickling in to Marble Hall. We were all thrilled to see Cem Esin who has not been seen for over 20 years. Everyone looked gorgeous and was in great form. Hafize Hanım and Münir Bey joined us for the cocktails.

One advantage of preparing the reunion a year in advance was that RC 75 could not get Münir Bey for their reunion dinner which was taking place the same day as ours. The open buffet dinner was delicious. We were pleasantly surprised with a slide show of ortaokul and lise photos, collated by Didem. It included shots that most of us had not seen before. We relived the fashion statements of those years, Gürkaynak's car accident, the



The big family



Smile, you are on camera

peaceful days of the boys and the girls' dorms, the ball nights and Bodrum trip in L3.

We were then entertained by Ali Levent and his infamous survey results. We expect him to continue running this survey until he gets voted the most handsome guy.

The night continued with dancing to Metin Barım's selection from 80s' hits. We boogied till 1 am as we moved inside to Marble Hall. We ended up on the stairs outside Marble Hall, reminiscing about our RC days while Ali Ataman slept like a baby on the concrete steps.

The Next Morning and the Brunch

As we retreated into the dorms, Ali Yilmaz -to re-confirm his "most popular guy" status- went to Etiler with Oya (only sober driver candidate), to get all of us köfte/ekmek at 3 am.

Keeping up with the tradition Nevid, Ali Levent, Emir and Koray played dejenere. At 5 am, they were interrupted by Mahmut Unlu (an ex-dorm guy) leaving because he could not sleep due to the snoring... Did we mention Şirin's pink silk pjs? Bless Hüma, aka the energizer; she woke up everybody at 7am to go running. She only managed to convince İpek İlkaracan.



Welcome

By 12 am, everyone was fresh and ready to meet each other's families at the brunch on the Plateau. We all went mushy with Ecmel's newborn daughter, Victor's and Edip's little ones, even the teenage children!!! It was a great afternoon.

Contribution to RC

We are also very proud that our class collected over \$100,000 this past year and established an endowed scholarship fund. We need to thank Ipeknur Cem Taha for her enormous effort as she spent hours on the phone. Our class has become the biggest contributor to the 2009-2010 annual giving campaign. Well done to all of us and please take note other classes!

For those who have not heard, our class has a facebook group (RC 85), set up by Edip -who makes sure we see each other not just from reunion to reunion. Please join us if have not already done so. The monthly Bizim Tepe get-together is posted and we would love to see more of you there. New to this summer, there are Thursday (early) morning get-togethers at Bebek Cafe Nero as well. Call Victor for further details.

It was great to see everyone together. Thank you to all who came from different corners of the world (or even from around the corner).

Hope to see you all very soon.

By Oya İnal Gölhan and Didem Soylu Muşlu



Relaxed at the Plateau

RC 90 Reunion



It's a bird, it's a plane, no, it's class president İgal giving his welcome speech

The preparations started in June 2009. E-mail traffic accelerated within the RC 90 mail group to call the reunion committee back to duty. The 10th and 15th year reunions were a blast so our 20th was something that we had been looking forward to for at least 5 years, if not more. There was a lot of planning involved, yet we knew we could do it! The first meeting took place in Bizim Tepe and others followed at various cafes around Istanbul, including our very own Ahmet Uysal's Gourmet Burger Kitchen! Menus, location, dorms, music, catering, format, Sunday brunch, and of course shooting footage for the traditional "movie" under dearest Ebru Ergüder's direction...



Grown men but still young boys when together: Cömert Varlık, Ertuğ Ayık, Özge Kır, Ayhan Balci, Emre Laçinler, Serhan Şenoğulları, Zeki Güdüm, Okan Atilla

Then came June 26th... Class members slowly climbed uphill towards the stairs of Marble Hall while early arrivals tried to



Adorable baby girls: Ada (Ahmet Uysal), Nisansu (Yeşim Özsoy Gülan), Nil (Yankı Yazgan), Anka (Ahmet Uysal again), Kayra (Sinan Turhan)

guess who they were from afar. Screams, cheers and kisses followed. We all gathered for a group picture before it got dark, and truth be told, the Class of 90 is like fine wine; only gets better with age! The kids who ran around the wonderful campus between the ages of 11-18, who attended classes with amazing teachers, are now triathlon champions, painters, professors, doctors, film directors, bankers, partners, mothers, fathers, bosses, homemakers... What has stayed the same is the intimate feeling of friendship that surpasses all labels and ranks...



As if all those years have not passed by: Hande Sarantapolous, Hande Pasin, Ebru Ergüder, Zeynep Yazan de Bruijn, Aysan Sinanlıoğlu

Class President, İgal Zakuto, gave his unifying welcome speech followed by Mr. Chandler who had been our problem

solver all throughout the preparation process. Then, we all watched the movie, produced every five years.

It included nostalgia from our RC days and a brief look at the 20 years that followed. We were lucky to have our music providers.

As Kerem Deren once said " Artist sınıfız biz ". (We are a class of artists) Burak Susoy was the dj of the night and took us back to our 80's, Then, Tolga Inci and his band Chantage performed many songs and had the crowd dancing to Depeche Mode. Everybody stayed together with occasional visits to the Yuva to commemorate the good old days- this time with drinks in our hands. It was almost bedtime but a savior ordered hamburgers from Arnavutköy and we were in heaven!



It meant a lot more for them to sleep in the dorms again: Nida Yıldırım, Pınar Tamar, Gülden Teznel, Zeki Güdüm, Yankı Yazgan, Ipek Tansuğ, Serhan Babaoğlu

Off we went to the dorms which used to be our Orta School. It was a great experience to sleep on bunk beds at the age of 38!!! That is, for those who could actually sleep with all the chanting going on in the corridors. The next morning started with simit and coffee/tea service in the dorm lounge, which was our library on the prep floor with dear Mr. Belknapp. It was also a great time to catch up with sleepy eyes and a spinning head. Then off we went to the Plateau for a lavish brunch. It was amazing to see an even bigger crowd with everyone's spouses and children. The attendance was truly record-breaking with over three fourths of the class present. After these festivities, it was difficult to say goodbye. Until the 25th, shall we say?

Contributed by Didem Sezer

RC 2000 Reunion

Life passes by so fast you never realize a full decade has already gone by since graduation. RC 2000 graduates, known by their special millennium identities, started their transformation with much excitement & joy upon leaving the safe house of RC. Some went abroad to continue with college while others stayed in their country to continue their education. Years went by as some tried to figure out the meaning of love, some became stars in their professions, and some dealt with family tragedies. Yet, after all these years and despite different paths taken, they were still the good old RC students at the 10th year graduation reunion on October 22, 2010.

The dinner was perfectly organized at Lychee Restaurant in Kuruçeşme, overlooking the beautiful Bosphorus view. Sixty members of RC 2000 were still full of life, a reminder of the children they used to be. The only difference was a decade of life-experience. At the end of the night, with smiles on their faces, they walked towards whatever life was planning for them.



RC 2000, 10 years later

Duygu Alptekin RC 92

Top Multinational Executive Launches Second Career in Coaching and Education



Duygu Alptekin, RC 92

Duygu Alptekin, RC 92, was a senior executive for Coca-Cola Turkey and Eurasia Group for 12 years, most recently as marketing director for Coca Cola Turkey. She trained at professional coaching schools 'based in' Canada and the US. She left to embark on a career in coaching, consulting and training. 'I believe I am now pursuing my calling. I help people unleash their potential as a leader of their own life and career,' she says. She trained at accredited professional coaching schools in Canada and the USA and applies a holistic approach. She also teaches a Masters course in Marketing Communications Management at Istanbul Bilgi University and runs marketing training programs for companies.

Duygu, tell us a little about your time at RC.

At RC, I did not just learn to be successful academically, but fell in love with learning as a whole. Learning was happening inside the class and with all the extracurricular activities I was in like basketball team, student council, musicals. That's where I believe I developed my leadership and communication skills, leveraging both right and left side of my brain. That journey continued in Boğaziçi University's

How did your marketing career develop?

I started my career in Unilever in 1996 as assistant brand manager and transferred to Coca-Cola in a year. The first 4 years was about understanding consumers, developing strategies and marketing plans for 10 Caucasus and Central Asian Republics. As a result, my task was not just about launching new products and campaigns, but acting as a leader for local staff and agencies as well as understanding their psychology to communicate well within the socio-cultural setting. From 2001-2008 I worked in various brand and marketing management roles with increasing responsibility in Turkey and Eurasia Group and had the honor to win Cannes Golden Lion, Effie and Crystal Apple awards. All these jobs were about setting a vision, being intuitive, creating the right environment for others to be creative and strategic combined with good communication skills in multicultural environment.

When did your interest in Professional Coaching begin?

When I became marketing director for Turkey Region in 2008, managing a team of 25, I worked with a professional coach who helped me realize what was important

for me. I worked on my purpose in life, understood what's meaningful for me and which values support me to be who I really am. I concentrated on my strengths and what I could make of them. I wanted to be on the personal growth side of business, not on the execution side. Instead of action, I wanted to help and support people when they felt the way I did successful but not fulfilled. My second journey began with this awakening and I resigned from Coca-Cola after 12 years.

What are you focusing on in Coaching?

Coaching is about today and future, not past. In this profession, we believe that individuals are creative, resourceful and whole, therefore coaching differs from other professions like training, consulting or mentoring where the trainer or consultant has to know it all. In the coaching model I use, Performance, Learning and Fulfillment are the domains in which clients can experience change. Coaching happens through conversation, relationship built over time and a process that holds the space together. Clients start by defining their goals and getting to know themselves. Powerful questioning, direct communication and feedback as well as acknowledgement help raise awareness to move forward. As they develop various choices to approach challenges, they quit the victim language and take action with self-trust. With executives we focus on team leadership and management, developing and inspiring others, communication skills that make you win in negotiations, creating presence in your environment and how to work well with other leaders. It is a process of bi-weekly meetings over 6 months. So far, my experience with professional coaching has been spectacular. I am fascinated with how people change and grow to lead a life and career they desire.

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Hüma Alpaytaç Gruaz RC 85

Named Brand Marketer of the Year in the U.S.

Hüma Alpaytaç Gruaz, RC 85, founder and president/CEO of Alpaytac Inc. based in Chicago, USA, was named "Brand Marketer of the Year" by PR News, the leading publication in PR and Marketing.

Gruaz was nominated for her work with Euro-Pro, a leading housewares company, mixed martial arts promoter Bellator and the worldwide PR her agency conducted for the 5th World Water Forum.

Leading one of the top agencies in the USA

In 2004, Gruaz founded Chicago-based Alpaytac and has molded the company into an industry contender in the USA. With a team of elite professionals, she applies 15 years of experience in publicity and integrated marketing to her clients across the nation. Despite a sluggish economy, Alpaytac experienced tremendous growth, doubling its size during 2009 and the first half of 2010, by partnering with 14 new clients in a variety of industries including pharmaceuticals, gourmet foods, sports/entertainment, electronic security, aviation, consumer electronics and commercial real estate.

Accolades and awards

Over the last two years, Alpaytaç has been heralded as one of the most successful agencies in the industry. Gruaz was named one of the top three Brand Marketers of the Year in the US

as part of PR News' 2008 PR People Awards. In addition, she received the Award of Distinction in the BrandSmart 2010 Awards competition sponsored by the Chicago chapter of the American Marketing Association, as well as the 2009 Gold Bulldog Award for excellence in media relations and publicity for "Best Use of Research." Alpaytaç was also recently named a finalist for Small Firm of the Year by PR News' 2009 Platinum PR Awards and a finalist for "2009 Best Global Public Relations Campaign." The award recognized Alpaytaç's work coordinating worldwide public relations and media relations – in six languages – on behalf of the 5th World Water Forum's weeklong summit in Istanbul, Turkey. Finally, Alpaytaç was named as a finalist by The Stevie Awards for Women in Business in the 2010 category of "Communications Campaign of the Year," as well as the 2009 categories of "Overall Company of the Year" (Service businesses – up to 100 employees) and "Communications Campaign of the Year – For-Profit."

Going Global

Alpaytaç recently announced a new partnership with Wellcom, a Paris-based communications consulting firm. The alliance will allow Alpaytaç to better serve its existing clients that are now entering international markets, while also meeting the needs of European companies looking

to enter the North American market or expand their brand awareness here. Hüma is a graduate of Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management with a Master of Business Administration and is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Bryn Mawr College with a double major in Economics and Fine Arts. Fluent in 4 languages, Gruaz is also a graduate of William de Kooning Academy, formerly known as Rotterdam Art Academy and has led the double life of an artist and corporate PR/Marketing executive for many years. Her paintings are in private collections throughout the United States and in Europe.



The city of Chicago serves as a backdrop to Hüma Gruaz, RC 85

Tribute to Robert College - Mentoring Robert College Graduates

"The amazing education I received at Robert College has enabled me to be an independent thinker and strive for excellence," says Gruaz. She says she is deeply appreciative of her roots at Robert College, and would like to open a category in Alpaytaç's highly competitive internship program for US-based RC graduates who are looking for hands-on experience in the PR and marketing world. "Several times a year, we recruit the best of best from top-notch colleges and universities and admit them in our challenging internship program that molds young graduates into skillful PR executives and marketers. I would like to encourage talented RC graduates who are eager, hard-working and striving to break into the competitive business world here in the USA to apply to our program. www.alpaytac.com



Firat İşbecer, RC 98

Taking the mobile solutions market by storm with Pozitron

In just a few years, mobile technology solution provider and developer Pozitron has grown from an IT start-up into a market leader with several international awards. Well-known firms like İşbank, Avea, THY, Turkcell and Bilyoner.com are among its clients.

Firat İşbecer RC 98 and his brother Fatih, are the siblings behind this success story. Firat joined his brother's firm in 2006 after studying Communications at Galatasaray University and obtaining a Masters in Geopolitics at Sorbonne.

Why is the company named Pozitron?

My brother Fatih started the firm with some friends from ITU in 2001. They were all physics engineering majors, so the name was inevitably inspired by physics. They picked "pozitron" over "elektron" as they feared electron being negatively charged would have a negative connotation.

What has been your contribution to Pozitron?

When I joined, Fatih had parted with his friends and was seeking teammates. I don't want to brag, but the company took off after I joined (laughs). I helped with all the corporate building procedures including setting a corporate vision, forming different departments, hiring compatible people and developing business. I read about a global organization called Endeavor that supports start-ups and immediately applied. It's like a club; one for undiscovered but highly promising entrepreneurs. The global board includes the former World Bank president. After screening emerging market entrepreneurs, Endeavor awarded Pozitron in 2007. Prior to Endeavor, we had established partnerships with big players like Sun Microsystems, IBM, Blackberry and Verisign. With Endeavor's support, Fatih participated in the 2010 Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship in Washington, D.C and met Obama. Before the advent of smart phones such as iPhone that support high-end mobile applications, it was harder for us to show how our products create added value. I need to thank Apple and the wave of smart phones it initiated

since they proved us right. We had great customers in our portfolio but then signed a big contract with İşbank, which was a highlight. Pozitron now has a staff of 35, up from three.

Can you give a few examples of what Pozitron offers?

We developed an application for İşbank called "İşCep" which basically makes your smart phone a branch of the bank. We also developed "Cep Anahtar" that provides a one-time password for internet banking. We developed an application for IDDAA, where gamers can bet via their phones directly-. We have other value adding services such as an application for Turkish Airlines; interactive mobile TV- application for Digiturk and more. One recent application for Biletix scouts events based on your location and lets you purchase tickets on your iPhone.

How about competition? Is it fierce?

Competition is the best way to establish and develop a strong market, so I can't complain. We learn from competing against other firms and also know how to cooperate with them if needed. Yes, there is competition, but quite frankly, we have beat most of them in international bids for new projects. Competing also helped us become a recognized "brand."

What is next for Pozitron?

It looks like hand-held devices such as PDAs will lose out to cell phones. Currently, we have an application for bank sales forces' on their cell phone that allows them to take photos of a credit card applicant's ID card, fill in forms online, check if they are on a credit black list and send all this information to their credit center. Our application replaces all the paperwork, the long hours of waiting and scanning into a matter of minutes. If other industries that use PDAs switch to phones, we will come into even greater play.

What did you do at RC? Any signs of becoming such a tech guy?

I wrote for the Bosphorus Chronicle, mostly on internet and technology. I clearly remember one article I wrote on the ICQ application, which was new then. I said that it would change everything and open up a new wireless world. I also bragged about myself in the piece stating "And the pioneer user of ICQ is RC's Firat İşbecer." Diane Özbal yelled at me because of my arrogance! Sedat Ergin, RC 75, was my idol (he still is) and I really wanted a career in journalism or international relations.

Can we call you one of RC's multi-talents?

I am the denotation of multi-talent, better yet multi-task! Bosphorus Chronicle was not the only place I published my articles in. I worked for E-Yaşam- an insert for Hürriyet newspaper, on wireless technologies, sports technologies while I was interning for Radio Kozmos. I was even sent to European technology events as a Hürriyet reporter. I still host a sports show, Total Futbol, on Skyturk.

Robert College taught us how handle multi tasking. I used to run from Math class to Drama, then to Film and Literature. We were offered a multi-disciplinary education. Even the library was fascinating and so inspiring on its own. We had the best sports complex in Istanbul. What can beat that? I owe my career achievements and professional approach to RC.

A funny story: in 2000, I was chosen for a Jeopardy! game that took place in Las Vegas after winning several rounds of Riziko in Turkey. If it weren't for my RC education, I would not have been able to stand on the stage where Elvis once stood and confidently answer those questions!

Contributed by Pelin Seyhan, RC 03.

Berk Özbil, RC 01

Joins the family flour business

We usually take everything for granted in our daily lives. The water we drink, the air we breathe and the bread we eat everyday is there when we need it. Well, in this issue we dug deep to discover where bread actually comes from. And our investigation led us to an RC graduate responsible for its core ingredient: the mighty flour.

I had the opportunity to interview Rifki Berk Özbil, RC 01, who now is co-running his grandfather's legacy, a 50 year-old flour factory that supplies bread factories in the Marmara Region.

Berk, what did you do after you graduated from RC?

After my graduation, I pursued higher education at Marmara University in Political Science and International Relations. To be honest, my focus in the first two years of university was on having fun, resulting in several failed courses. It was not until my junior year that I started making some future plans involving my life and career. Thus, in just over a year's time, I committed myself to an internship at Özbil Un, where I learned about the flour market and how things operate with the help of Özbil flour salesmen. After graduating university in 2005- I passed all courses on time (laughs), I went to Aydın to complete my military service. In 2006, I came back to Tekirdağ, my home town, where our family business is located.

Was joining Özbil Un your choice after you graduated college or were you directed to take part in the family business right away?

As a matter of fact, my parents advised me to continue my education with a Master's degree in the States or Europe, but I knew that I was ready for a real life challenge, and this would be an unnecessary commitment for a guy who is not very hard-working when it comes to studying for classes. Therefore, I decided to stay in Turkey and go on with my life and expand our business.

Was it hard to move to Tekirdağ permanently and work for the family business?

I was already familiar with the job, since I was used to working at the firm during summer vacations. I had acknowledged



Seated under a photograph of grandfather Rifki Özbil are father T. Nazmi Özbil, flanked by his sons, Berk on the left and older son Altuğ on the right.

what I would face and what the benefits and the disadvantages of this job would be for me. Thus, there was nothing unknown or surprising about the job. I loved living in Istanbul, not just because it's a remarkable and beautiful place with great opportunities, but also my friends and memories were there. That made it difficult to leave the environment I enjoy and move back to my hometown, after about 14 years. However, Tekirdağ is very close to Istanbul, 150 km west - about an hour or two hours car trip. On the weekends, I usually come to Istanbul to visit relatives and meet my friends.

Can you give us a brief history of Özbil



A glimpse of the "waltz" floor where the wheat is processed.

Un? Also, what does Özbil Un do today?

The company was established as the Rock and Oil Mill in the late 1940s by my grandfather Rifki Özbil. Roller flour mill started operating in 1960. It was not until 1976 that the newly built flour mill- in the trade name of my father T. Nazmi Özbil, Özbil Flour Mills, was put into operation. In 1981, the trade name of the firm was changed to Özbil Flour Industry and Trade Co. Our company has continued to operate since its first establishment without any breaks. The flour production capacity is approximately 120 tons per day. Özbil Flour is mostly used in the bread factories all around Marmara region, especially in Istanbul and Tekirdağ - therefore, the more bread slices you consume, the more smiley faces we have here.

Was working at Özbil Un a part of your career plan when you were at RC? What were your dreams at the time?

While at RC, I thought I would be involved in politics in the future. That's probably why I studied Political Science in college. It might sound irrelevant to what I do now but I still want to be involved in politics, some day. Joining Özbil Un wasn't a part of my career plan, but now it became a significant part. Well, no matter what we dream of or plan ahead of time, in the end, life may take us to another place which we haven't thought of. Whichever place you are in, the most important thing you should ask is: "Are you happy with what you are doing?" My answer to this question is: Yes! I am thrilled to be a part of Özbil Un and I have a great desire to grow our business and pass the firm on to the fourth generation in peak condition.

Contributed by Pelin Seyhan, RC 03

Sayra Kulen ACG 59 and Gündüz Erkan RC ENG 60



Sayra Kulen ACG 59 and Gündüz Erkan RC Eng 60 got married at Moda Deniz Kulübü on August 15, 1960. This year they celebrated their 50th Anniversary again at Moda Deniz Kulübü with 130 guests attending including their children, grandchildren, family members, RC classmates and friends. Their sons Oğuz and Yavuz and their families traveled from USA to join this happy occasion. A journey that started with only two 50 years ago now has expanded into a family of eleven. Sayra and Gündüz upon their graduation traveled to USA and started their new life at Purdue University, W. Lafayette, Indiana. While Gündüz was getting his MSME, Sayra gave birth to their son Oğuz. Schooling done and their son a year old, in 1962 they moved to the Los Angeles area and Gündüz started working in the upcoming semiconductor industry at TRW. He worked as a project leader in the R&D of solid state components used in the Minuteman Program as well as the design and development of RF transistors for the US Army Signal Corp. The couple lived in Redondo Beach and two years later their son Yavuz joined the family.

In 1966 they moved to New Jersey and Gündüz started working as VP of Operations at Ceramics International, a manufacturer of semiconductor packaging. The family moved to Istanbul for two years for military service and finally back to New York in the Fall of 1971 where Gündüz founded Interceram, Inc., producer of ceramic seals for semiconductor devices. They settled down in Middletown, NY. and lived there for the next thirty years. With the boys grown up and in school, Sayra had a chance to be active in the community. She joined The Middletown Arts Group to pursue her interest in watercolor painting and exhibited her works. She also served on the Board and was active as the VP of the group.

Sayra, in addition to her art related activities started working with the Turkish American Women's League. This NYC based non-profit cultural organization was responsible for the activities of the Atatürk School whose purpose was to teach the Turkish children of the area elementary education in Turkish as a secondary school. She served on the Board and was VP for two years. They organized seminars for High School teachers to promote better understanding of Turkey and it's culture, worked on the publication of a work book for High School teachers and sponsored exchange

trips for American and Turkish Teachers. Interceram, Inc., a successful company and a leader in its field was acquired in 1983 by Interpace, a NYSE listed company. Gündüz stayed on three years as President & General Manager and three more years as a management consultant, then retired and continued on as a private investor.

In 1989 they also started living in Manhattan and got into the cultural lifestyle of a large metropolis which allowed them to get involved with the activities of RCAAA (Robert College Alumni Association of America). They both worked on the Board and Gündüz served for four years as the President. At this time they endowed a tuition scholarship at RC which is on it's seventh year now. In 1990 grandchildren started to come on the scene. Yasemin (19), Leyla (18), Melina and Amber (both 17), and Kenan (12).

Nowadays, Sayra and Gündüz split their time living in Manhattan, Istanbul and Fethiye and love to travel. They have supported educational projects and have made philanthropic contributions to promote education in Turkey.

After 50 years they are still going and happy !!!!!



Yasemin, Melina, Oğuz, Sayra, Gündüz, Melike, Kenan, Yavuz, Amber and Leyla

Mustafa Pultar RC Eng 60

Honored For Contributions to Architecture



Mustafa Pultar, RC Eng 60, a professor of building science who is retired from Bilkent University, was honored on the occasion of his seventieth birthday with a conference organized on June 11, 2010 at Kadir Has University. Prof. Pultar was presented with a festschrift prepared in his honor at the conference entitled "Yapılar Fora / Buildings Ahoy," organized as a surprise birthday present by two of his former students, Prof. Zuhul Ulusoy, Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts at Kadir Has, and Assoc. Prof. Emine O. Incirlioğlu, Vice-President of the Cultural Studies Association of Turkey.

Prof. Ali Doğramacı, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Bilkent, where Pultar still teaches an online graduate course, stressed the international

character of Pultar's scholarship, while Prof. Vacit Imamoğlu, former Chair of the Department of Architecture of Middle East Technical University (METU) where Pultar taught for many years, recounted the contributions Prof. Pultar made during

his forty-plus year career to architecture education.

After graduating as a civil engineer from the Robert College School of Engineering, Pultar did graduate work at Princeton University, where, under the supervision of famed professor of civil and environmental engineering David P. Billington, he obtained two master's degrees, Master of Sciences in Engineering and Master of Arts, and a Ph.D (in 1965). He spent another year at Princeton as instructor then returned to Turkey and taught successively at METU and Bilkent.

He also worked for a time as Director of the (now-defunct) Building Research Institute of TÜBİTAK, and was a guest scholar at Strathclyde University and at M.I.T. Pultar, who has numerous publications in the field of building science, took early retirement from Bilkent in 2004 to return to Istanbul, his birth city, and devote himself to his writings on the sea, which entail not only original studies but also his transcriptions into the Latin alphabet of maritime texts published in the Arabic script during the Ottoman period.

Yapılar Fora / Buildings Ahoy

Mustafa Pultar'a Armağan Kitabı / A Festschrift in Honor of Mustafa Pultar

The bilingual festschrift, edited by Gönül (Ayda) Pultar (ACG 62, RC 66), with the assistance of Yonca Hürol (East Mediterranean University) contains tributes and scholarly essays in Turkish and English by former students and colleagues of Pultar. They include David P. Billington; Ali Doğramacı; Bozkurt Güvenç; Erhan Karaesmen; Mehmet Kıcıman RC Eng 53; Mete Turan; İlhan Tekeli; and Tosun Terzioğlu, RA 61, the former president of Sabancı University. Contributors revive for the reader the tumultuous period which saw events such as the burning in 1969 by students on campus of then-US ambassador Robert Komer's car, and the bombing by terrorists of Pultar's own home in 1977. The book reflects sophisticated scholarship but is also penned in a style that allows the lay reader to follow easily, making it a perfect introductory textbook in architectural studies.

His retirement project is to prepare a comprehensive multi-volume encyclopedia of the sea in Turkish. The first volume, *Yıldız Adları Sözlüğü* (Dictionary of Star Names) appeared in 2007 and the second, *Deniz Balıkları Sözlüğü* (Dictionary of Maritime Fishes) is currently in print.

Usamah Farah RC Eng 64

Usamah Farah continues to divide his time equally between London & Paris with regular trips to Beirut where he is involved in building construction of high rise residential buildings. He has always been in touch with joint British Turkish functions in London, especially the Anglo Turkish Society (ATS) with regular cultural, musical and dinner events. They have also organized several lectures in the past of former RC professors such as the elate G. Lewis and Godfrey Goodwin and most recently by RC alumnus Moris Farhi. Farah says he looks forward to attending future functions and reunions in Istanbul.



Usamah Farah in the center with H.E. Yiğit Alpogan, former Turkish Ambassador to London and Mrs. Alpogan.

Gülnur Geriş RC 78



After getting her degree in Civil Engineering at Boğaziçi University and working in different

areas of textiles such as production and merchandising for many years, Gülnur Geriş finally found what inspires her the most; Ceramics. She thinks the reason she feels so passionate about ceramics is that sometimes it is so easy but other times it is quite difficult to mould; sometimes it is so fragile and sometimes- being so full of surprises-it can even teach us to be patient and tolerant. Somehow, ceramics have shown her that to a certain extent we can shape our lives but that we should also accept what we are given.

Being so enthusiastic about designing ceramic items, her inspiration runs ahead of her work. If we were to categorize her work, we could put them mainly under five categories which are archeological heritage, from the Ottoman period, from nature, from the living, from the heart and accessories. You can see her work by visiting www.gulnurgeris.com.

She doesn't want to restrict herself to one category or the other but prefers to

separate the commercial line from the more artistic line. In the commercial line, she has the kaftans, torsos, various heart designs especially for Valentine's Day, candle and fume holders and such. The more artistic line consists of thematic work where she expresses her feelings about an issue. This is the work she likes to exhibit.

Gülnur also designs jewelry. Her jewelry is mostly made of leather combined with her handmade ceramic beads, felt, or glasswork she creates at workshops in Camocağı. In short, whatever she feels is in harmony with each other at that certain moment. That makes each of them so unique.

While sometimes she thinks it would have been better if she had her degree in the Arts and started doing what she loves to do at an earlier period in her life, she ends up thinking that everything has a reason in life and she does not regret taking the long way, as that journey has supplied her with the knowledge and the wisdom which make her the person she is now. She again knows that it is better to be flexible in life and open herself to other opportunities which might come her way apart from ceramic and jewelry design.

Özce and Rasih Öztürkmen RC 96



Özce and Rasih Öztürkmen welcomed their daughter, Ayşe who was born on August 1, 2010. As reported by Rasih, fortunately Ayşe looks like her mother. Her older brother, Ömer, received Ayşe's gifts very well and seems to be enjoying being the big guy "who can do stuff". Ayşe was born 51 cm and 3280 gr. This is the first time after 10 years, that the Öztürkmen's are based in İstanbul and the grandparents are thrilled to be enjoying this great experience with the whole family.

Yakut Seyhanlı RC 99 and Ali Donat RC 98



People spend ages and travel the world to look for love, yet they don't realize that sometimes love is right in front of them. This can summarize the serendipitous love story between two RC alumni that culminated in a spectacular wedding on September 4, 2010. Ali Donat (RC 98) and Yakut Seyhanlı (RC 99) had known each other for over 15 years when they sat next to each other at a wedding in 2009. Sparks flew and Eros's arrow shot through the couple that night. It was none other than Sinan Selcuk (RC 95), the groom that night, who secretly put the couple on the same table and let chemistry do its magic.

And magical it was. Living thousands of miles apart, Ali, a finance lawyer in Dubai and Yakut, a banker in London, had been seeing each other for only four months when they went away to Koh Samui for New Year's. It was there that Ali popped the big question with a family heirloom ruby ring which his grandmother (Suzan Renda ACG 45) gave him. Bachelor and bachelorette parties were on the agenda in May with Ali having his in Las Vegas with 18 guys led by the legen...wait for it...dary Ömer Donat (RC 95) and Yakut going off in style in the Hamptons led by Aysel Madra (RC 99).

Fast forward to September 4, 2010, the couple had chosen Kempinski Hotel in Bodrum, the very hotel they fell for each other a year ago. What made that night special wasn't the beautiful scenery, it wasn't Sweet Child O'Mine blasting as the couple entered the scene and it wasn't a surprise appearance by Fatih Terim as a witness to the ceremony, but it was the amount of fun everyone had lit up by the brilliance of the couple's smile. The couple has now reunited in London to take on the credit crunch, bad weather and worse food.

Zeynep Kayhan RC 2000 and Baki Kantaşı RC 98

On July 31, 2010, after an eight-year courtship, Zeynep Kayhan, RC 2000 and Ilker Baki Kantaşı, RC 98 got married in Cernobbio, Italy. The wedding was an intimate affair, attended by the couple's immediate family and very close friends, a majority of whom were unrestrained RC graduates eager to revive the Lise Balls of yore.



The couple, while vaguely, unfavorably aware of each other from the Robert College corridors, properly met as undergraduates at Cornell University, where Zeynep majored in Comparative Literature and Art History, and Baki in Biology and Economics. Following Baki's graduation, they entered a phase of unending air travel, from which they have yet to emerge. At the moment Zeynep is in New York, working towards an MFA in fiction at Columbia University, and Baki is completing a graduate degree on Plant Sciences, at Wageningen University, Netherlands.

Duygu Yıldız RC 02



It was a dream come true for Duygu Yıldız RC 02 and Derin Uras, as they said "I do" on a beach in the Bahamas, in the presence of their closest family members and a couple of their dearest friends. The intimate wedding party on November 17, 2010 was followed by a honeymoon in Mexico. The couple returned to the real world to continue their lives in Istanbul where Duygu works in a law firm - Pekin & Bayar and Derin at Deutsche Bank. While Derin is not an RC grad he is no stranger to the world of RC. His mother is RC Business and Finance Director Ümran Üngün ACG 70 and his father is Atilla Uras RC Yük 73.

Roksan Hayirel Kaspi RC 02

Roksan Hayirel Kaspi and Ceki Kaspi welcomed their daughter Ela on 4th of October, 2010. Ceki and Roksan met in Büyüka in 2006, right after Roksan returned from the USA, where she studied at Washington University in Saint Louis. Ceki graduated from Işık Lisesi and then went to Işık University. They got married in 2009 and are now over the moon about having their first baby. It is also the first baby of RC 02!



Gizem Tecirli Kurşun RC 02



Gizem and some of her RC classmates during her "kına gecesi" (henna night)

Gizem Tecirli and Eren Kurşun crossed paths a few times before Gizem started working at WhiteCase, the same law firm as Eren, four years ago. They were introduced through common friends prior to that and Eren had already had his mind set on her. Gizem graduated from Istanbul University Law School while Eren graduated from Bilgi University following his years at Üsküdar Amerikan Lisesi. Eren proposed during the first seconds of 2010 and they were both very happy to start the new year together as well as their new lives. Gizem held a kına (henna) night with her closest girlfriends the week before the wedding and the actual night of the wedding, September 13, 2010, was a beautiful event during which their guests had an amazing time and danced the whole night to celebrate the couple's happiness.

Gizem Gürson Impram RC 03



After dating more than two years and traveling to many countries together, Gizem and Ilhan said "yes" to a happily-ever-after future on the 25th of July 2010 in Moda Teras. After graduating from RC, Gizem continued her studies in Jacobs University Bremen, Germany. She now works in the Executive Search and Selection industry. Ilhan, holds a Marketing Strategies MA degree from Greenwich University, UK and works in the building materials industry in Sales and Marketing. Their relationship started upon their return to Istanbul following their education abroad when a common friend suggested they meet. Having studied abroad, international friends were amongst the highlights of the wedding. They plan to have their honeymoon in Hawaii soon!

Çağla Cömert RC 03



Çağla met Thomas while she was completing her masters degree at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna. After a journey around Turkey, they decided to get married. Thomas organizes an art center in Vienna, while Çağla continues with her her studies.

Zeynep Zeren RC 03

After five years of dating, Zeynep married Hakan Özeklioğlu on October 9, 2010. The couple enjoyed a traditional Thracian wedding in Kırklareli and went to Cyprus for their honeymoon. While Zeynep is currently working in Moroğlu Arseven law firm as a lawyer, Hakan works in an international pharmaceutical company as sales specialist. Zeynep can be reached at zerzey99@gmail.com.



Correction:

There was a mistake in the announcement the RCQ made about Prof. Dr. Suna Kili in the RCQ, Issue 38, page 50. Prof. Dr. Kili stated that "Although over the years "The Atatürk Society of America - ASA" has given a few awards in different fields, on April 23rd, 2010, Prof. Dr. Suna Kili received the first and only Republicanism Award given by the ASA." The RCQ apologizes for any misunderstanding.

Doğan Eralp RC 05 and Merve Üçekiz RC 05



When they first met while taking a geography class at RC, there were no heartbeats, no love at first sight and no Cupid for them. But instead, they started a strong and deep friendship while having fun and enjoying high school years with their friends. Even after being each other's prom dates, they didn't start dating until the day they graduated and went to Bodrum with their friends from RC for the summer vacation. While they were dating, they both graduated from Boğaziçi University and Merve started a Masters degree at Imperial College. Their first date was more than enough for them to figure out that they were meant to spend the rest

of their lives together. Although this was followed by a sudden flight from Istanbul to London and a shocking buzz at Merve's door in the middle of the night, Doğan's proposal on a boat around Windsor was still quite unexpected for Merve, knocking her off her feet. After getting engaged in December 2009, they got married on 27 June 2010 with a lovely wedding. Now, Merve works in an investment bank at London while Doğan pursues a Masters degree at University of Texas at Austin. Even though they were separated by the Atlantic Ocean right after their honeymoon, they can't wait for the day they will literally start living together.



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The Back Street Guide

Former RC English Department faculty member
Ann Marie Mershon shared news of her published book



Ann Marie (left) and Edda on a walking trip of Istanbul

Fascinating Istanbul, replete with ancient winding lanes and intriguing tales. Unfortunately, few residents find time to explore it.

One "Stambullu" has spent years exploring this city, wandering its steep cobbled streets, meeting workers and artisans, asking questions, and sipping tea with each new acquaintance. Edda Renker Weissenbacher's inside view of the city is now accessible through Istanbul's Bazaar

District~Backstreet Walking Tours. Edda isn't a Robert Alum, but her son and daughter are. She speaks four languages and is an expert on the history of Istanbul. When Tania Chandler suggested I try one of her walks, I leapt at the chance to learn about my new home.

Edda led a small group of us through twisting back streets in, around and behind the Grand Bazaar. After a labyrinthine trek, she ushered us into the Çuhaci Han—the "gold han"—up narrow worn steps to a tiny attic workshop where a bevy of artisans were setting gems into fine jewelry mounted on waxen "handles." She explained that a han was like a city caravansaray, where merchants sojourned at night as they sold their wares in the streets by day.

Our ramble finished atop the 350-year-old roof of the city's largest han, the Büyük Valide. We were treated to a panoramic view of The Golden Horn, The Bosphorous, the Galata Tower, and everything in between. The sun glinted off rooftops and water as we were embraced by a cacophony of muezzins chanting the call to prayer from every corner of the city. Wow.

Edda's unique back-street perspective of the city brought me to a deeper understanding of the magic that has kept this city vibrant for so many centuries. When I suggested that we collaborate on a book of her walking tours, she was enthusiastic. The rest is history.

Istanbul's Bazaar Quarter~Backstreet Walking Tours, by Ann Marie Mershon and Edda Renker Weissenbacher, Çitlembik Publishing, 2009. Available in many Istanbul bookstores and from Amazon.com.



Hamlin's Medicine Chest Returns

Dr. Cyrus Hamlin's medicine chest found it way back to Robert College. Hamlin, the co-founder of Robert College in 1863 along with Christopher Rhineland Robert, used this chest for many years before it was passed along through his family for generations. A magnificent example of early 19th century craftsmanship, the cabinet was



Cyrus Hamlin's medicine chest

specifically designed and built to house pharmaceutical drugs, potents and small medical devices used by early 19th century physicians.

Even though the upper inlaid brass plate is inscribed with the name "Rev'd Geo. P. Badger (the original owner, 1840-1844), documentation accompanying the chest indicates that it was used by others too, namely Dr. H.G.O Dwight between 1844-1862, followed by Cyrus Hamlin who used it between 1862-1884.

Doctors Wm. H. Vail and William Vail, descendants of Cyrus Hamlin, owned the chest from 1884 until 1947 when it was given to E. Esther Vail Falk by her Aunt Mary (Mrs. Cyrus H. Vail) on October 13,

1947. The historical chest belonging to the first headmaster of Robert College was gifted to Robert College by Esther Falk in November 13, 2010 at a gathering in Maine which was attended by current headmaster John Chandler and his wife Tania.



From L to R: Sally Leahey, Cyrus Hamlin, Esther Falk and Ted Widmer: All descendants of all three of Cyrus Hamlin's wives.

Emine Esenbel ACG 35

Died in Istanbul at her home in Dragos on February 27, 2010. She devoted herself to representing Turkey in the best manner possible and work for the education of Turkish children in Anatolia. As the wife of the late Melih Esenbel, Foreign Minister and Ambassador to Japan and the United States, she felt gratitude to the education she received at the American College for Girls which prepared her for the hard work of representing Turkey in various posts in different countries.

Born in Istanbul of an old naval family of Heybeli Ada and proud of her family lineage linked to the famous Nafi Baba tekkesi of Rumelihisari, Emine Esenbel graduated from ACG and began working for İş Bankası in Istanbul and later in Ankara. After their marriage, Melih and Emine Esenbel lived in Ankara during the early years of the Republic. Their first post was in France where Melih Bey was appointed as third secretary to the Embassy in Paris. Both witnessed the ominous conditions of WWII first hand during the brief residency of the Embassy in Vichy. Emine Esenbel has written about her unforgettable experiences in a memoir. In 1944, they went to Washington where Melih Esenbel was counselor to the Embassy where the couple witnessed first hand the important transition in the United States after the end of WWII and the onset of post-war global developments into which Turkey also participated as a member of NATO. During the 50s, after several years in Ankara before going back to the United States in 1960 when her husband was ambassador for a short time, Emine Esenbel taught English in Ayşe Abı elementery school of Ankara where for many years she was remembered fondly by her students as a very successful teacher. In 1960, they returned back to Ankara briefly and were off to Tokyo Japan between 1963-1967. While busy with the management of the Tokyo Embassy and the social life in the diplomatic corps, Emine Esenbel made many close Japanese friends and studied at the Ohara School of Ikebana, a school of Japanese flower arrangement. She

finally matriculated as a teacher and was given the name Emine Hoka Esenbel. After they retired in 1979 and settled in a house with a garden in Dragos, Mrs. Esenbel taught Ikebana to interested women in Istanbul for many years.

During their long stay in the United States a second time when Melih Esenbel became ambassador between the years 1967-1979, Emine Esenbel founded the Washington Turkish Women`s Association (Washington Türk Kadınları Türk Çocuklarına Yardım Derneği) which collaborated with the Köy Öğretmenleri ile Haberleşme ve Yardımlaşma Derneği in Istanbul, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education of Turkey to build village elementary schools and assist children`s education as well as education for the blind. Together with the Turkish women living in the Washington area, she exerted extraordinary effort to raise contributions for the cause through cultural activities, bazaars, and fund raising. Between the years 1967-1979 when Emine Esenbel served as President, the Washington Women`s Association was able to transfer the total sum of 250,000 dollars which under the dire circumstances of the 1970s in this country helped build eight village elementary schools including the first one in Yüksekova Değerli village of Hakkari, and contribute educational materials to several hundred others as well as paper for the blind.

Emine Esenbel always expressed her gratitude to her education in ACG as having enabled her to develop the skills and mind with which to accomplish her goals. She represented a generation of women who sincerely believed in the value of public service for the welfare of their country, which one hopes will serve as an example. Emine Esenbel is survived by her daughter Selçuk Esenbel and grand daughter Ceylan Tozeren.

Contributed by Selçuk Esenbel



Süheyla Kunt ACG 37

Some of you may not remember Süheyla Serter Kunt, a 1937 ACG graduate who passed away quietly on October 9, 2010, also because she had to quit her very active role as a voluntary worker of good deeds long before that date, due to her long term illness. On the other hand, those who have worked hand-in-hand with Süheyla, those who contributed materially to her cause as donors, and those families and their children who have been on the receiving end of help and advice offered by Süheyla, will never forget the sparkle in her eyes and her near-religious devotion to her cause --- supporting children and families in need.

I would like to introduce you to the life story of Süheyla Serter Kunt, ACG 36, whose services to the welfare of children needs to be recognized and appreciated. Süheyla was one of three daughters of a well-known physician, Süreyya Hidayet Paşa. She was very proud of her ACG background because it gave her the "tools" for her work and also very proud of her upbringing by her father, from whom she said she acquired "military self-discipline". In the early 1950s, at a time when her two sons were no longer youngsters and she had time in her hands, Süheyla decided to go into welfare work. She joined the Çocuk Esirgeme Kurumu (ÇEK), the semi-governmental organization for the welfare of children, as a volunteer worker. She was the leading force in the initiation of the ÇEK child care centers in Istanbul. Two such centers were in Alemdar (near Sultanahmet) and Eyüp. For many years Süheyla took part in the running of these institutions, raised extra funds to support them and also recruited volunteer workers. It was during this time period that Süheyla also took responsibility in initiating child care centers for the children of workers of the Eczacıbaşı and Mensucat Santral firms. These centers were very modern in concept. In the 1960s, as the local president of the International Child Welfare Society, an organization based in Switzerland, she took part in the creation of a school to

train child care providers. Unfortunately, due to changes in policies for education of child care providers, this project ended and the graduates of this school are very few in number. In the early 1960s ÇEK received financial help from international organizations such as Oxfam, Save the Children's Fund, and Rette das Kind. Süheyla was the person who established these contacts and started a sponsorship program for needy children within ÇEK, whereby families in other countries would be presented with information on a number of children from needy families in Turkey and would select the child they would support from this list.

They would commit themselves to continue supporting this particular child to the end of his/her school years. Due to Süheyla's efficiency, as well as her proficiency in establishing contacts and making friends, this sponsorship program was very successful and the number of children receiving this support increased to one thousand during the peak years. However, following some bureaucratic difficulties, Süheyla left ÇEK in the early 1970s and joined Çocuk Sağlığı Derneği (Child Health Association), a non-governmental organization established by a group of pediatricians and friends of children in Istanbul. All the international agencies transferred their support to where Süheyla was working. This sponsorship program, which Süheyla conducted together with Filze Tepeler and Diva Kortel within the Child Health Association was known as the "Şefkat Eli" or the "Caring Hand" program and became one of the major activities and accomplishments of this Association.

The Child Health Association became the center of Süheyla's activities. She contributed to the children's hospital in Çapa, as well as to the Ministry of Health Maternal and Child Health Center situated in Çapa. Many families attending these health institutions received her support. The playrooms in the children's hospital are also her contribution. Since we had no time to meet otherwise, Süheyla



would drive at least once a fortnight to my house in Ortaköy in the evening, loaded with all her documents and we would work on the accounts/activities of the Association. One evening, my then son-in-law told me "the nice little lady in the tennis shoes is here to see you" (she wore only this type of footwear in her late years), and this became her emblem in my family, who all adored her.

May she rest in peace.

Contributed by Olcay Ataman Neyzi, ACG 46

Süheyla Kunt was also a tireless volunteer and driving force at Robert College. She was a valuable member of the Robert College Board of Trustees. She was elected to the Board in 1973, stepped down and was elected Trustee Emerita in November 1987. She was also elected as a Member of the Robert College Corporation in November 1988. Apart from being a trustee, she was an energetic member of the Alumni Association and served as its President from March 1970 to 1981.

Süheyla Kunt is survived by her two sons, Mehmet and Feridun Kunt as well as grandchildren Timur, Sedat and Sinan.

S. Rafet Tanyıldız RC ENG 44

Rafet Tanyıldız passed away on Sept.16th 2010, at the age of 89, two weeks after the loss of his wife Nükhet.

After graduating from Caltech (California Institute of Technology), where he went with a scholarship, he started to work in Ankara MKE, where he became the vice general manager. He gave lessons in O.D.T.Ü between 1958-1964 and during the years 1962-1965 he was the manager of Industry Chamber of Turkish Chambers Union.

After moving to Istanbul, between 1975-1978, he became the general director of Uzel Makine San.A.Ş and in 1978-1990 he was the general director of Ataylar Holding A.Ş.

He was on the board of directors of Uzel, STFA, Döktas. and Paksan A.Ş.

He had a special talent in linguistics and had an excellent command of English, German, French, and Italian. At the age of 70 he started to learn Spanish.

With this love of foreign language and literature, he started his work on translating selected works of Turkish poetry into English. He thus composed an anthology of Turkish poetry in English, which he wanted to publish if he could get the copyrights of all the poets he chose.

Although he was a man of science and a very successful mechanical engineer, his deep interest was in literature, especially Shakespeare.

As a member of the Neumismatic Club in İstanbul, he worked many years researching in this field.

A good bridge player, a very active



Rotarian (1985-1986 Turkish Rotarian Club Governor) and a successful photographer...

He led a generous, good life, was devoted to his wife of 61 years and his two daughters Binnur ACG 71, Arzu RC 76, grandson Burak Özoğuztan RC '00, Batu, and granddaughter Melis Baydur RC '03.

Midhat Yelkenci RC 46

Midhat Yelkenci passed away on April 18, 2010 at the age of 84. He was always proud of being a graduate of Robert College and went on to Wharton School - UPenn., USA to successfully complete his Master's degree in Business Administration. Coming from one of



the prominent shipowner families, the "Yelkencizade", Midhat continued in the shipping business until his father Lütfi bey's passing. Later on he was engaged in the asphalt factory business along with an RC classmate. Several years later, he became partners with an American shipping corporation in London, England where he spent many years with his family.

One of the main reasons he liked RC so much was because that was where he dedicated himself to marry his beloved wife Gülseren Rona. (ACG 47). This decision was made at the age of sixteen on the footsteps of the Arnavutköy Hills. He became the father of three sons, Vedat, Sedat and Nihat.

Like many RC - ACG students, he made so many solid, life long friendships such as Ara Öztemel, Ali Neyzi, Cüneyt Sermet, Fadil Sabuncuoğlu and more. Midhat showed enthusiastic approval for jazz bigbands such as Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton, Count Basie, Dave Brubeck and

he collected their gramophone records (taş plak) along with Cüneyt and Ara. He even enjoyed playing the sax with his close friend Haris Akıncı.

Reading history books, biographies and philosophy were some of his major interests. He had a great book collection in his library such as Adam Smith, Shakespeare, Homer, Hemingway and various famous English and European plays by favorite authors.

In the 1960's he began making films of the family and shortly after, he initiated and directed quite a number of amateur films almost every year in the summer house in Tuzla Mercan Yuvası along with friends like Hasan and Serra Subaşı and many more. In his last years, he wrote a manuscript about his family and his life.

Midhat Yelkenci was known as trustworthy, dependable, and a great admirer of Büyük Atatürk.

Contributed by Nihat Yelkenci

Sevim Görgün ACG 47

Professor emeritus of Economics Sevim Görgün slid into a deep coma early in the morning of March 2, 2010 after a sudden and massive brain hemorrhage. We lost her March 5. She was almost 82 and of fairly good health. Mentally she was as sharp as ever.

Aunt Sevim did not like the medical



establishment much; perhaps she was afraid of doctors or hospitals. She was fortunate enough not to pay yearly visits to physicians for conditions like high blood pressure or

cholesterol. Subsequently, she had a very belated aortic valve replacement late May 2007. By the circumstances and her own decision she was pretty much home-bound ever since. After her retirement from the university mid 1990s, Aunt Sevim became an avid movie goer. She was still attending her weekly concerts and going shopping frequently. She liked pampering us with presents on every occasion. Unfortunately, her gradual deafness due to a poorly treated ear infection in her 30s, and the complications caused by her non-functioning aortic valve lead to her gradual resignation from many social activities she enjoyed. She had learned lip reading, yet, even that did not help much. Evidently buying a hearing aid was out of question, until one evening when she attended a concert for one of her most favorite Brahms pieces where

she heard very little of even the loudest part of it. We found out very fast that she got the hearing aid; she was complaining her own footsteps were loud (!) and she thought we were yelling at her from the top of our lungs.

Aunt Sevim did things her way which occasionally created difficulties with her medical treatment. Yet, she lived the way she wanted to and was content. Her interests in things about her and most particularly in us, her family, never diminished. She passed away quickly and with seemingly little pain, just as she would have wanted.

May she rest in peace...

Contributed by Inci Çilesiz

Vivian (Krespi) Leitner ACG 49

Died unexpectedly and peacefully at her home in Knoxville, Tennessee on September 7, 2010. After graduating from Rockford College in 1953 where she studied physics, Vivian went on to receive a Masters Degree in physiology from the University of Minnesota in 1956. She held positions at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Washington University in St Louis, Missouri and was a Medical Fellow of the Mayo Foundation at the University of Minnesota during the course of her career in physiology and biophysics. In 1971 Vivian married her long-time friend Walter Leitner, RC Eng 51 and was his cherished companion through his career as a contract engineer in the designing of refineries and chemical plants. During their Lise years, both Vivian and Walter were part of a small group of students from ACG and RC who would get together regularly on week-ends to explore the treasures of Istanbul and surroundings.

While based in Houston, Texas, the Leitners traveled widely. Following Walter's retirement, they spent a decade in Istanbul, in the beautiful, historic köşk on Büyüka, which used to be the Leitner family home. During this period they traveled throughout Anadolu, by whatever means was available, savoring the many different riches and flavors of every nook and cranny. This period also availed them the opportunity to bask in the pleasures

of two Mavi Yolculuk trips taken together with old friends, adventures vividly remembered with fond nostalgia by all the participants.

I remember Vivian as my late sister Seyhan's classmate and fellow budding scientist. As we trudged up the steep hill every morning, I in my late Orta years, Seyhan and Vivian in their upper Lise years, they would both be reciting lessons, discussing problems, challenging each other, laughing, rehearsing their part in a play - generally making good use of the time. After both graduated with honors, they sailed together to the USA in 1950, chaperoned by Miss Cornelia Roberts; subsequently their paths diverged. My own path eventually took me to Toronto, Canada as a physician at the Ontario Cancer Institute. It was in 1977 after the infamous movie "Midnight Express" was released that I wrote a Letter to the Editor of The Globe and Mail, the national Canadian newspaper, challenging some of the portrayals and assumptions depicted in the movie. Shortly afterwards I received a phone call. The voice at the other end that said "Excuse me, is this Güneş Ege? You wouldn't remember me but..." was unmistakable. It was Vivian Krespi who had read The Globe and Mail, looked me up in the phone book and called. Walter had been posted to Toronto by his company and it was the



Vivian and Walter Leitner having a tea break in the Himalayas, October 1983.

beginning of the renewal of a friendship, the highlights of which were hikes in the Canadian Rockies, a memorable trek together in Nepal, reunions on Büyüka, and just last year a tour of the Saguenay region of Quebec with whale watching on the St Lawrence River and good food, when we were also joined by my husband Turgut Akter. Vivian leaves behind her beloved husband and companion Walter, her extended family, and very many friends who cherished her adventurous spirit, the breadth of her interests, her insatiable curiosity and the rigor with which she engaged in discussions. She will be missed by all.

Contributed by Güneş N. Ege-Akter, MD, ACG 52

Sevgi Çetingil Görpe ACG 50

We lost our beloved Sevgi on June 26th 2008. Behind her, she left a husband of 55 years, a loving daughter and son; and friends whom she loved and was loved by dearly...

She was full of energy, disciplined, orderly, hospitable, sweet and helpful. She was the person who thought of me the most in this life. For me personally, she was 'the most well-dressed,' 'the most pretty and sweet' and 'the most perfect person'. I still hear her voice saying to me 'do not say this to other people' as well as many other things.....

We still all appreciate and admire her patience and courage during the period

of her illness. The last six years are full of memories. Those memories from during that time especially support me and add power to my own.

You were a thoughtful, considerate and elegant person. You had many admirers; many people loved you throughout your lifetime.

Your college friends were very precious to you. You admired your school. We miss you a lot; we love you and remember you always.

I am honored to say that I am your daughter. Be at rest, your daughter is fine.



Sevgi Görpe is survived by her husband Prof. Ali Görpe, son Prof. Dr. Uğur Görpe and daughter, Prof. Serra Görpe.

Contributed by Prof. Dr. Serra Görpe

Ülker Aktar ACG 50



ÜLKER AKTAR

B. A.

Ankara, Turkey

Ülker has two contradicting characters: Ülker seen in her gay mood is always laughing, singing, and joking with her friends. She is like a naughty little girl who does not care for anything but desires to do the most daring things, her eyes sparkling with gaiety.

The other Ülker is the grown up Ülker Abılas, and «dert dinleyici» of many girls. They always come to her for advice, help, and sympathy, for they are sure to find an affectionate, tender, and understanding heart eager to comfort them. Her unselfishness, frankness, and sense of responsibility make her a lovable member of her class. She is one of the «dâhibess» of Bedri Bey, not only because of her literary ability but also because of her patience. Favorite Sentence: «What is Hecuba to me?» Likes: Kir menekşesi, walking in the rain and snow, her grandparents, Büyük Dere.

Dislikes: Movies; going to bed early at night and getting up late in the morning, «Yeşil Sığa».

Philosophy of Life:

«Sev seni seveni hâk ile yekân ise de
Sevme seni sevmiyeni Mınra sultan ise de.»

Born in 1930, Ülker Aktar was 80 years old when she passed away on May 7, 2010 while watching television. Her record write-up tells all about her. She had a strong character and loving heart. Her last years were difficult, she carried tanks of oxygen everywhere. While she was depressed most of the time, when one called or visited her she was the old Ülker once again.

We loved her very much and we miss her a lot. She is survived with her two children, Şeyda and Şükrü Gürün and two beloved granddaughters Ülker and Bade as well as her classmates who loved her dearly. We miss you Ülker.

Contributed by Nurhan Kocabıyık, ACG 50

Lütfü Balıkçioğlu RC 53

Passed away on the 21st of April 2010 in Antalya and was brought to his "beloved" Bebek and laid to rest in Aşıyan overlooking the Bosphorus. He was born and raised in Ankara and initially came to Bebek when he started Robert Academy. He thereafter fell in love with Bebek and Yüksel Kazan ACG 53, whom he married to live happily ever after. After graduation, he carried on his father's business. His greatest wish was to have his children attend RC. This was fulfilled by his son, Cüneyt. He moved to Antalya in 2002.

Lütfü Balıkçioğlu always took great pride and pleasure in his RC identity, and his fellow classmates were a significant source of energy and happiness in his last days clouded by disease. He will be remembered for his sunny temperament, generosity, and love of life.

Lütfü Balıkçioğlu is survived by his wife Yüksel Balıkçioğlu ACG 53, his daughter Serpil Balıkçioğlu and son Cüneyt Balıkçioğlu RC 80.



Beklan Algan RC 53

Beklan Algan, a pioneer of contemporary theater in Turkey, passed away in September 2010. He was 77 years old. 'Beklan Algan was a true genius,' wrote Nedim Saban in an obituary in Birgün newspaper.

Born in Erzurum in 1933, Algan finished Robert College and then went to the USA where he studied theater together with his wife Ayla Algan at the Actors Repertory Theater and the New York Actors Studio. He acted professionally in a number of plays there.

In 1961, he returned to join the Şehir Tiyatroları (Municipal Theaters) and was one of the instigators of the Tepebaşı Experimental Stage. In 1966, he left the Şehir Tiyatroları in solidarity with Muhsin Ertuğrul's resignation from that institution. Together with Ertuğrul, the Algans established the LCC Theater. In 1970 he founded the Bakırköy Halk Evleri Deneme Sahnesi.

Unfortunately, the coup of September 12, 1980 brutally ended that period of experimentation in contemporary Turkish theater. Many private companies were closed down and several actors banned from taking the stage. The Algans went to Berlin where for four years Beklan Algan worked with actors like Şener Şen, Macit Koper and Tuncel Kurtiz at the Schaubühne Theater.

In 1984, Algan was part of a group who founded the BILSAK Theater Atelier in Istanbul and in 1988, together with Ayla Algan, Erol Keskin and Haluk Şevket Ataseven, he founded the Theater Research Lab (TAL). From 2002 onwards he also taught drama at the Ekol Drama Sanat Evi. Algan also wrote articles on theater for Cumhuriyet newspaper and acted in films like Karanlıkta Uyuyanlar and Kız Kulesi Aşıkları. Istanbul mayor Kadir Topbaş said at Algan's funeral that a new theatrical research lab would be founded in the Letafet Apartment in his honor.



Algan remained dedicated to the possibilities of theatrical experimentation throughout his life. In a 1967 article he wrote that 'Theater, an art form which is impossible to document and exists only as long as it is performed' could only be contemporary and true to the spirit of the times if it was open to experimentation. 'Experiments are what will produce the theater of today' he said.

F. Işık Erginsoy ACG 54

The Class of ACG 54 lost a good friend to cancer on April 18, 2010.

Işık was born on June 25, 1933 in Bursa, where her father was the general manager of Sümerbank, Bursa Merinos Fabrikası A.Ş. She had a happy childhood with her father Durmuş Erginsoy, mother Sabahat and two sisters, Demet Erginsoy ACG 60 and Gül Erginsoy ACG 67. After graduating from Bursa Kız Orta Okulu she came to ACG in 1949 as a lise prep student. She described those five years in ACG as "years full of good memories, strong friendships, wonderful teachers, another culture!". She never lost touch with her classmates and her school. She also volunteered at the Robert College Alumni Association and was a class agent for some years. She worked hard in preparation for the 50th reunion of the Class of 54, excited as if it were graduation time all over again.

Two years after her graduation from ACG, she married Feridun Onar, RC 55 and they moved to Lausanne, Switzerland where she studied sociology/child psychology in Lausanne University until 1958 when she

got pregnant to her daughter Nazlı.

Her classmates say she was the romantic, picky, imitator, dreamer, amiable young lady of her class. Her romantic character never diminished even until her last moments. She also had a great sense of humour and had a way of making any story fun by imitating people.

Creating dresses and jewellery for herself and decorating her home was more than a hobby for her. She collected decoration



objects, any kind of jewellery, scarves, bags and lacework all her life. Dressing "classy" was very important for her. She wanted to be the most chic woman of every event and she was.

She was distinguished by her unique memory and was known as a "walking encyclopedia" because of her vast knowledge of everything.

Işık is survived by her daughter Nazlı Onar Nahum, her son Hamdi Onar RC 81, three grand-daughters, Yasemin Nahum, Mina, Selin Onar and beloved sister Gül Erginsoy Yalçın ACG 67.

She will always be remembered as a caring mother, good housewife, an honest, loving person and a friend.

We hope that now she is together with her deceased parents and her sister, resting in peace. She will always be loved.

Contributed by Nazlı Onar Nahum

Gür Çehreli RC ENG 56

Gür learned he had ALS in April 2009. He endured his fatal illness in quiet submission, and bid farewell to his loved ones on April 22, 2010.

Gür was born in Samsun and came to Istanbul at the age of four. He attended the Aydın Okul where he built some of his lifelong friendships with Şen Yalman, Oya Başak and Mehmet Tümay, amongst others. He then attended Robert College, and went on to the London School of Economics and made a reputable career in commerce which he pursued until the end of his life.

Gür's daughters made a speech and a film on his 70th year birthday celebration; "My father is a quiet, modest man. In this quietness lies the serenity of a person who has reached inner contentment. The passing values of life don't mean much to him. The most important value for him is to be with his loved ones and live in loving accordance with them. The trust you had in us, the love you showed us and the numerous values of your character give us light through our path through life. We love you." On the same celebration day, one of his dear friends İzzet İncekara RC 62, described him with the following words: "We call him "BABA" (Father) This is not due to his perfect portrayal



of Don Corleone at Oya Başak's costume party. His age, his white hair, his fatherly, solemn, graceful standing surely is of importance in this, but as I am thinking, the main reason why we call him thus lies in his numerous qualities; respected, respectful, considerate, polite, determined and compassionate. He is honest, devoted to his family and friends. To travel with him is a pleasure, to drink with him is a joy. He is intelligent and understanding. One finds serenity when with him. He is reserved and self contained. He lives as he likes, yet at the same time has perfect communication and dialogue with the people around him. He treats all he knows with equal respect despite their differences. He is humorous and easy going. He does not like to be in the front stage. Yet, whenever we say "let's ask

Baba"...his thoughts become the binding declaration for us. We never want to hurt him, all the more we try to comfort him as much as possible. I know how valuable he is for his family but so he is for us all...."

Gür is survived by his two most precious daughters Leyla Umur and Canan Köksal, dearest sons-in-law Hasan Umur and Cem Köksal, five grandchildren Osman, Orhan, Hakan Umur and Zeynep, Emine Köksal, and his loving wife and companion for forty years Zeynep Çehreli Alp ACG 64.

"Büyük bir tevazuyla sessizce yaşadı, sessizce veda etti bu yaşama. Duruşuyla örnek oldu küçüğe, büyüğe. Varlığıyla yüceltti etrafını. Allahın bana bir lutfuydu onu tanımak, onun sıcak kalbini paylaşmak. Senin sevginin ateşinden kalbimde bir aydınlık ve senin sohbetinden gönlümün ırmağında bir su vardı.

O su serap, o ateş şimşek oldu. Şimdi hep o masallar geçti; bütün bunlar sanki birer rüya imiş."
Mevlana

Gürüm... may you rest in Peace...

Contributed by Leyla Umur

Sönmez Soran RC Eng 58

Sönmez Soran, philosopher, thinker, mentor, passed away on October 11, 2010. Sönmez Soran graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering from Robert College in 1958. He went on to receive a graduate degree in philosophy from McGill University, Canada, and settled in Montreal with his wife, where they raised their two children. Although Sönmez worked as an engineer for 20 years in Canada (including brief teaching positions in the Philosophy Departments at McGill University and Concordia University) and another 10 years in Istanbul, his heart, mind and soul were always devoted to philosophy, particularly of the Eastern and Sufistic. In his years of retirement in Tuzla, he committed much of his life to teaching and writing the book that

represented the culmination of his philosophical quest: *Kozmik Mutluluk ve Bütünsel Kişisel Gelişim Yolu*, which was published in 2007 by Kavim Yayınları. Three years later his second book, *Kişisel İnanç Yolu ile Kozmik Kişilik*, a collection of articles on related philosophical topics was also published by Kavim Yayınları.

His two books, his lectures, and his interviews all evolved around his pursuit to synthesize Western philosophical tradition and Eastern mysticism; a synthesis he believed could strengthen personal faith and thus elevate spiritual consciousness.

For those who followed him on his path, his loss is far too great and comes far too early.



Sönmez Soran continues to be deeply loved by his wife Belkis, his children Sırma and Mehmet Adem, his son-in-law Matthew, his two grand-daughters Melisa and Yasemin, his friends and his students. He will be greatly missed.

Contributed Dr. Sırma S. Gumpert



Aykut Gürlek RA 65

Aykut Gürlek passed away on July 18, 2010, at the age of 65. After RA he studied at the Middle East Technical University-Ankara to earn his bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering.

Starting from his early school years he worked in his father's steel trade business, and after university continued his professional life until retirement as an executive and a member of the board of directors with the Turkish giant construction and ship building conglomerate, STFA. He took his job very seriously, liked to take responsibility, risks and be productive.

Although he was born, grew up in and spent the rest of his life in Istanbul, he was very proud to have his parents originating from Kayseri and always proudly declared that he was a man of Kayseri. Alongside his professional life, he was very considerate of the social matters of Turkish society and gave priority to supporting education. In this respect, for many years he was an active donor, fund creator and fund collector for scholarships in highly reputed charity organizations such as "Çağdaş Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği", "Eğitim Gönüllüleri Vakfı", etc.

Aykut was very loyal to RA and later to RC. He incessantly acted as a bridge between RA 65 alumni and our Alma Mater. In this context he became RA 65 class representative for the "Annual Giving Campaign" for many years from the beginning, and was very successful in reaching the highest total class donations.

Aykut was the cement of the RA 65 alumni. During his RA years he was an outstanding social student, in contact with every classmate, and was friendly with the whole school. After RA, throughout his life, he was always the leading figure in sharing and communicating alumni news and to organizing get togethers. Just one month before he died, he organized a very successful RA 65 alumni 45th year three day get-together. One can easily say that he is irreplaceable for the RA 65 alumni.

Also we owe our bi-weekly luncheons in Istanbul to Aykut, which he institutionalized with great effort, determination, and perseverance. His schoolmates were very important for him, he always showed-up beside anyone having a problem, pain, loss or any other occasion and trusted his friends wholeheartedly.

Aykut disliked the idea of getting to an inept old age. As was his wish, he died erect, on his two feet, without being any burden to anyone, same way he lived his most capable life. His organs were donated to six patients in need.

He remained "robust, tough, quick tempered, strong, delicate soul, naive hero, with rich life experience" throughout his life as depicted in 1965 by one of his classmates in his write-up for the 1965 year book "Reflections".

Two of his classmates added,

"There are many things in life that we can never fully understand, and I guess

we never will. For us Aykut's loss was such an occasion. A phone call from his wife, saying that he is fast asleep and would not wake up. Then, ambulance, hospital, bleeding in the brain, 3 days in the intensive care unit and brain death diagnosis. He now lives as a heart, a liver, two kidneys and two eyes in six people. He was a giver, alive and deceased. May his soul rest in peace. Rifat Tokyay RA 66"

'After successfully organizing, once again, our 45th year celebrations in June, our class representative or in better words 'the pillar of our class', Aykut Gürlek suddenly passed away on July 18th. Jeffy -Yusuf Yermen RA65 '....

Unforgettable Aykut Gürlek is survived by his beloved wife Müjde, daughter Nazlı, and son Ömer.

Contributed by Nabi Eren RA 65 with help from various classmates and family members

Bilge Babacan Ünsal ACG 68

Our beloved friend, Bilge Babacan Ünsal, passed away on April 16, 2010 after an extended battle with a stroke she suffered seven years ago.

After graduating from ACG Bilge went on to Boğaziçi University to study Chemical Engineering. She had a rewarding career with Atabay Pharmaceutical Company and was the Quality Control Manager until her retirement.

I will always remember Bilge as my good friend who was so modest, bright, and hardworking with deep blue piercing eyes that would mesmerize you. How

fondly I remember our daily walks up the hill to school, laughing and chatting and even studying for an exam; our carefree strolls to the plateau, going shopping at Beyoğlu, weekend movies, and so much more.

Bilge is survived by her husband Levent Ünsal, her two children Rüyam and Gökhan, and her two grandchildren Dilara and Yiğit.

Contributed by Hadiye Aygün Çekiç, ACG 68

F. Kerem Harmancı RC 89



F. Kerem Harmancı passed away in Istanbul on June 14, 2010, at the age of 39. After Robert College, Kerem studied at the Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department of Boğaziçi University and graduated in 1994 with B.S. degrees in electrical engineering and mathematics. He continued his studies in electrical engineering at Duke University, where he earned his M.S. degree in 1996 and his Ph.D. in 2001. Kerem returned to Boğaziçi University in 2003 as assistant professor of electrical engineering.

Known to his academic colleagues as a highly competent scholar and to his students as a challenging yet

very supportive professor, Kerem was regarded by his former classmates not only as a hard-working student but also as a kind and reliable friend who was always willing to lend a helping hand. At a deeper level, his unique sense of humor, his appetite for knowledge, and his interest in arts and letters were evident mostly to his close friends, such as myself. My almost three-decade-long friendship with Kerem was a supremely intellectual experience, in which we enjoyed many discussions and intense debates about a wide variety of topics that would go well beyond our common background in engineering. Regardless of how much or how little our views overlapped, I always felt at ease in these interactions, knowing that I was communicating with a truly educated individual who kept an open yet critical mind.

Kerem's departure at the prime of his life has deeply saddened me and everyone else who knows him. I find solace only in the fact that as friends, family, colleagues, and students, we share the same warm sentiments about Kerem and shall always remember the unique intellectual who touched and enhanced all of our lives.

Contributed by Orkun Sak, RC 89

Fevziye Kurtulan

Former Housemother, Fevziye Kurtulan passed away on October 1, 2010 in Canada. She started work at RC in 1963 in various offices, finally becoming the beloved Housemother of hundreds of teenage girls. Friends, students and colleagues shared their thoughts.

"I first met Fevziye in September 1971 when the two colleges merged on the Arnavutköy Hill. She was the girls' office secretary, I was the boys'. It was a difficult year but with Fevziye's goodwill and friendship we made it through and became lifelong friends. In 1980, Fevziye had two roles, in the office during office hours and in the dormitories after school. Both were difficult but she came through with flying colors. Between 1981-1985 she was the dorm housemother, living on the top floor of Gould Hall and being "mother" to 40 - 50 adolescent girls. We shared many fond memories, especially of entrance exam registrations, a time when each school conducted its own exam. Fevziye would look over the name on the registration form and say "are you related to so & so?" Most often she would get a "yes" for an answer. So we used to say Fevziye knew 50% of the population. When her daughter Banu Tuncer Yılmaz, ACG 67, left Istanbul to settle in Toronto with her family, Fevziye joined them in 1985. She continued to visit Istanbul and she always had so many people to see there would never be enough time. I was able to visit her once in Toronto. She had a lovely flat in the senior housing department.

Of course, she knew everybody! When her friends found it difficult to pronounce her name they just called her "Fizzy", meaning, full of life.

Fevziye was 92 when she died of Alzheimer's, surrounded by her loved ones. We shall miss her, she made the world a better and more optimistic place to live in."

Contributed by Mine Taşcıoğlu ACG 61

"Once again, I found myself standing shyly at the door of the girls dormitory 30 years ago, when I heard of the passing away of Fevziye Hanım - our second mother - who greeted me with her caring smiling face, who never stopped being



there for us, who raised us with love and affection for seven years. I still refer to my RC dormitory years as the best days of my life and there she is standing in the middle of it with all her love and affection and her comforting, reasonable and humorous approach to everything, watching my transformation from a little kid into a young girl. Fevziye Hanım, you who have raised hundreds of young girls as if they were your own, with your most sacred values, we will never forget what you have done for us, we are so lucky that you touched a part of our lives... You will always be in our hearts."

Contributed Selin (Kibar) Bayar RC 86

"A mother to boarding girls, Fevziye "Anne" (mother) was always a smiling face. I would meet her at evening meals as I also worked in the dormitory. We spoke mainly about the boarding students, and about dorm life. She would try to help us, drawing on her immense experience in this area. She was the perfect housemother to the girls with her great amount of tolerance and warmth. Us, the boys, could only go into the dorm on the 4th floor of Gould Hall during our raids on April 1st. Aydın Bey and Fevziye Hanım would speak beforehand and seizing on Fevziye Hanım's 'half-hearted' approval, the male boarders, their surveillant brothers and of course Aydın Baba would go on a mission from Sage Hall and speedily make it to Gould Hall. Fevziye Hanım would have given

permission but at the same time would be nervous that nothing should go wrong. 'Collect your boys' she would order. After horsing around, we would return to Sage Hall without anything having gone wrong. Fevziye Anne would chase out the last remaining boys hiding in the rooms and close her door in peace until the next April 1st...

Dear Fevziye Hanım, I am sure that the RC boarders who knew you will never forget your love and compassion. May you rest in peace."

Contributed by Mehmet Uysal, Turkish department head, former boys' dorm head.

"Fevziye Hanım was one of those lucky people whose pure heart was reflected in her face! All her life she was kind, good, honest and always giving. She was always deeply loved, called on and inquired after. She was the person through whom I most grew to love the College; she added a warmth to dormitory life. We have so many shared memories... I am so thankful to have stayed with her in her Toronto home and to have shared in her life once more. I was able to assuage my sense of missing her. Dear Fevziye Hanım's smiling eyes and warm tone of voice will always be with me."

Contributed by Prof. Dr. Günseli Kılınç, RC 74

Fatma Banat

Former geography teacher of ACG and RC for 43 years (1945 to 1988), passed away in her home at Levent, Istanbul on August 9, 2010. She was 88.

Fatma Banat was one of the legendary teachers and was considered *sui generis* by all who knew her. She will always stay in the memories of those who had the fortune to be her student as she was a beloved and respected teacher. Fatma Banat was lively, passionate, energetic, courageous and always generous. Mehveş Geyer ACG 63 wrote in memoriam:

"Fatma Banat was not only my geography teacher during my ACG years... I lost her trace for a long time due to my marriage and my hotelier life in Basel, Switzerland... Almost 40 years ago she and husband Lütfi Bey visited me here and a big and deep relation started with them. She became my aunt, my secret keeper... We had many happy events together: birthdays, birth of our second daughter and unfortunately also unhappy events like the death of her dear husband (I was there on that day). I remember after my mother's death I phoned her for the mother's day and said "You are my second mother in Istanbul". I last saw her in May...she is going to be in my heart and in my mind forever not only because she was our much respected teacher but because she was my second mother in Istanbul".

Fatma Banat was the president of the Lütfi Banat Foundation, a family foundation founded by her husband Lütfi Banat, the former owner of Banat Fırça ve Plastik Sanayii. Besides sponsoring the needs of the Lütfi Banat İlköğretim Okulu (primary school) in Levent, Istanbul; she also sponsored the establishment of the Fatma Banat Library, Fatma Banat Conference Room and very recently the



Fatma Banat Ana Okulu (preschool) at the same site. She is survived by her 2 nieces, Ayşe Erten Dinçer ACG 71 and Lale Erten Düzenli.

Contributed by Ayşe Erten Dinçer, ACG 71

"A very special person passed through the history of Robert College. We shall miss her."

Contributed by Aydın Ungan

"When I started working in October 1980 Fatma Hanım was at the peak of her career. She looked strict but was loveable. I remember days when we would bump into each other in the hall, she would put her arm in mine and we would walk to Bingham from the basketball court (today, a theater and gym) and back again. Her cardigan was always on her shoulders. (Was her favorite color rose?)

I remember one Saturday: she and Lütfi Banat were our guests. Lütfü Bey, divided his age in half and said he was 41.5.

Fatma Hanım spoke of her adventures in Switzerland. We had a wonderful afternoon with these two fine, mature people. Conversation continued right up to the door and would have gone on longer had Fatma Hanım not taken Lütfi Bey by the arm and literally dragged him away.

These last memories must be from the fall of 1986. Today Fatma Hanım in particular is as alive before my eyes as an older member of my family. They were warm, loveable and good people! May they rest in light.

Contributed by Adil İzci

John D. Wharton

Former RA faculty member, John D. Wharton taught English from September 1964 to June 1967. He died in Bartlett, N.H. on November 9, 2009. The following excerpts are taken from the Princeton AlumniWeekly of which he is a member

of the Class of 60. John Wharton, who made his career in secondary education, taught at Robert Academy, Germantown Academy and then for many years at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. In parallel he pursued a career

as a painter and sculptor and followed his passion for rock climbing and offshore sailing. He is survived by three sons, David, Josh and Tom.



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