



ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE  
FALL/WINTER 2005 - ISSUE 28

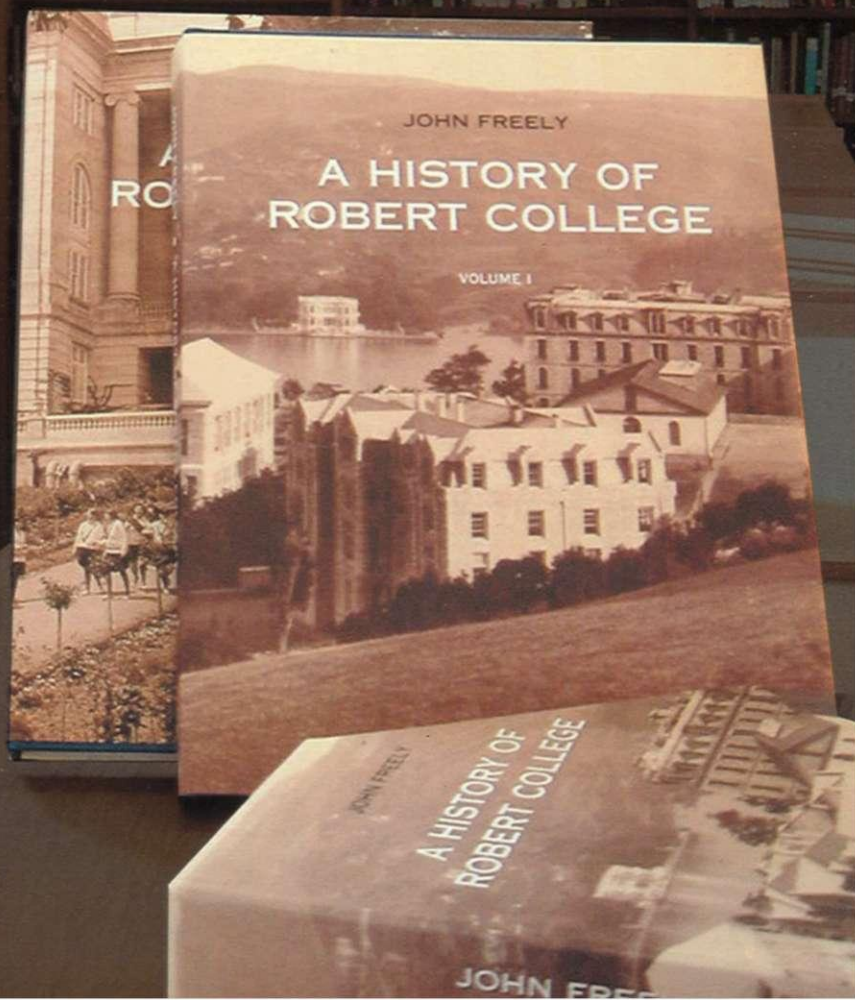
# READING RC

## A SCHOOL IN BOOKS

SUMMER REUNIONS  
CELEBRATED

HOMECOMING  
2005

ANNUAL GIVING  
CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED





# 2000 yıldır hayatta!



Kuzey Kafkasya dağlarında 2000 yıl önce doğdum. Nasıl dünyaya geldiğim yüzlerce yıl sır olarak saklandı, varlığımı yabancıların bilmesine izin verilmedi. 19. yy'ın sonlarında hakkımda söylentiler çıkmaya başladı. İnsanları daha sağlıklı ve zinde tutarak ömürlerini uzattığım keşfedildi. Rus doktorlar benzerlerimi laboratuvarında üretmeye çalıştılar ama başaramadılar. Sırrımı bir türlü çözemeyince vatanıma gelip beni kaçırdılar.

Böylece köklerimi vatanımda bırakarak 1930'larda dünyayı dolaşmaya başladım. Rusya, İskandinavya, Avrupa ve Amerika... Gittiğim her yerde beni çok sevdiler, ben de onlara uzun ve sağlıklı yaşamlar armağan ettim.

Ama duydum ki vatanımda beni unutmuşlar, bıraktığım kökleri ihmal etmişler. Hemen geri döndüm doğduğum topraklara. Şimdi benimle birlikte daha sağlıklı günler var yaşanacak. Şimdi benimle birlikte herkes doğanın gücünü hatırlayacak. **BENİM ADIM KEFİR!** Uzun yıllar **EKER** güvencesiyle sağlıklı cam şişede yaşayacağım.

## Eker Kefir'in Bilinen Faydaları\*

- Sindirim sistemindeki kötü mayaların azalmasına yardımcı olur. • Yiyeceklerle alınan zehirli maddelerin atılmasına yardımcı olur. • Kabızlık, ishal ve bağırsak tahrişleri gibi rahatsızlıkların ortadan kalkmasına yardımcı olur.
- Protein ve karbonhidrat moleküllerinin sindirimine yardımcı olur. • Laktoz (süt şekeri) intoleransını etkisiz hale getirir. • Antibiyotik kullanımı nedeniyle doğal yapısı bozulan bağırsak dengesinin düzelmesine yardımcı olur.
- Kolesterolü kontrol altında tutar. • Yüksek kan basıncının düşmesine katkıda bulunur. • Bağırsaklık sisteminin güçlenmesine yardımcı olur. • Gıda alerjilerinin belirtilerinin azalmasına yardımcı olur. • B grubu vitaminlerin üremesini ve emilimini sağlar. • Kalsiyumun bağırsaklardan emilimini artırarak osteoporoz riskinin azalmasına yardımcı olur.

\* Bu bilgiler, Uludağ Üniversitesi Veteriner Fakültesi Besin Hijyeni ve Teknolojisi Anabilim Dalı tarafından hazırlanmıştır.



Even a taxi driver passing through is given to waxing lyrical about this school. The wisteria in bloom outside Marble Hall, the commanding neo-Classic architecture, the Plateau at dusk, all add up to a slice of New England, improbably perched atop the Bosphorus.

For former students, in addition to this very physical trail of markers (sites of the first dance, first kiss, first words in English) the College is also a repository for memories of a world of its own; a unique education fostered over the years by larger-than-life teachers and visionary heads of school.

It is little surprise then that in its 142-year history, Robert College has made its way into countless books; ranging from memoirs to biographies to works of fiction. From the early founders -who kept meticulous records of their heroic endeavors-, through two world wars, the swinging 60s, the nationalization of the Bebek campus into a university in the 70s and subsequent co-education at RC in Arnavutkoy, the school has charted a steady course through choppy waters, all the while leaving its mark on generations of students.

We hope that our focus in this issue, "RC in Books", will help to broaden your sense of the school's richness, both past and present, and the myriad ways in which this institution connects our community.

Happy reading!

RCQ Editorial Team





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Fall/Winter 2005  
Photo: Ayşe Yüksel ACG 69



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**\*\* JL 52 OBITUARIES**



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Robert College  
P.O. Box 1 Arnavutköy-Istanbul  
Tel: (0212) 359 22 22/289  
e-mail: [alumni@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:alumni@robcol.k12.tr)  
[www.robcol.k12.tr](http://www.robcol.k12.tr)

Editor-in Chief:  
Leyla Aktay 72

Editors:  
Serra Ciliv '92,  
Pelin Turgut '92,  
Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu

Editorial Board:  
Deniz Alphan '67, Nuri Çolakoğlu '62,  
Nükhet Sirman '72, Elçin Yahşi '79

Advertising Manager:  
Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu  
Tel: (0212) 359 22 89  
[cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr)

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# İşte "Süper" paket!

«10 dakikası  
2 kontör!»

Her ay 250 ve üzeri kontör yüklediğinde  
Mobil Öğrenci arkadaşlarının  
aranızda konuşmanın **10 dakikası**  
**sadece 2 kontör.**

«Zaten Mobil  
Öğrenci'ysen»

Hemen bu pakete ücretsiz geç,  
her ay **sadece 100 kontör yükle**,  
**10 dakikası 2 kontör'e konuş!**

«Ücretsiz  
Servisler!»

31 Ocak 2006'ya kadar  
• GPRS üzerinden **WAP servisi bedava**  
• Ringa aylık **sabit ücreti yok**  
• Seçeceğin **ringa da hediye!**

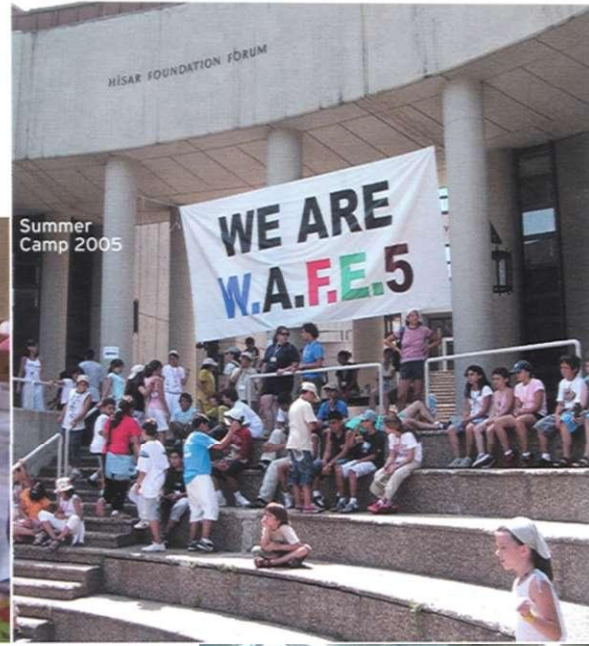
«Bedava  
SMS!»

250 ve üzeri kontör yükle,  
**yüklediğin kadar SMS** kazan,  
tüm Avelililerle aranda bol bol mesajlaş.



Şimdi konuşma zamanı





## Robert College Summer Camp "Istanbul Modern" Project

Building on its mission to expose children to English in a creative, fun and learning environment, the 2005 Robert College Summer Camp was again a great success and offered an even greater variety of fun and exciting activities for children ages 9-14. This year's theme was, "Exploring the Elements: A Global Adventure". It introduced the campers to five English speaking countries, India, Kenya, Fiji, Trinidad and Tobago, and Scotland. Through friendly competitions, these countries then completed tasks and challenges throughout the camp session. Once the campers became associated with their country they became part of "W.A.F.E 5", a world within the walls of Robert College where English speaking and exploration took place and representing the four elements: water, air, fire, and earth. The "5" symbolized a mysterious fifth element that took on different meanings, from teamwork to creativity. This summer a new challenge incorporated Istanbul Modern, the new modern art museum, and its collection into the program. Campers came to the museum in their country groups and participated in a "treasure hunt" throughout the museum. Each country consisted of five subgroups divided according to age. Working in subgroups, the campers plus a counselor were given clues which led them to works of art in the museum that represented the four natural elements and the fifth element. Two works of art were chosen for each element. When the group had found the work that they felt represented that element, they would stand in front of it and wait for the "Clue Master". "Clue Masters" were both camp staff and museum staff who would then ask about the work and share information with the campers. After completing that element the group would receive its next clue and a marker showing that they had successfully completed that element. For this challenge the fifth element represented teamwork. This was stressed, as the campers had to work together and decide as a team to find the paintings.

After completing the treasure hunt, counselors and campers returned to the RC campus and met in the Rodney Wagner Memorial Maze. There they found five large canvases and boxes filled with various supplies that symbolized the elements. For example, the water box was filled with blue paint, shells, sponges, and glitter. Working in their subgroups, campers used materials in their boxes to create their own versions of the elements inspired by what they experienced in the museum. Again, the fifth element represented teamwork in this challenge, and it was emphasized, because after a few minutes of working on a canvas, campers were asked to stop what they were doing and rotate to the next canvas. Campers had to be respectful of the other subgroups in their country and work with what the others had already created. Everyone within a country had an opportunity to contribute to each canvas and in the end the whole group stepped back to see how they, as a team, had represented the elements. These canvases were joined together as one piece on the last day of camp and exhibited in a "W.A.F.E. 5 Art Gallery". "Initially this project was designed in order to expose campers to the museum and its collections and to encourage their own creative and artistic processes," says Joe Welch, Dean of Student Activities. "The project also introduced campers to new Turkish artistic culture and its contemporary art scene while enforcing appropriate museum behavior. What started out as an experiment soon became a highly successful component of this year's camp. Many campers who were not that keen at first, later left the museum excited and interested. It was amazing to listen to their interpretations and thoughts on different works of art. Not only did it open our eyes to different ways of seeing things but they also learned from one another."

Geliştirilmiş gücü keşfedin.



Mercedes-Benz DaimlerChrysler'in tescilli markasıdır.

Şehrin doğasına uygun. Yeni M-Serisi.

• Yeni M-Serisi'yle şehrin doğasını yaşamaya hazır olun. Nefis manzaralı bir tırmanışa geçtiğinizde M-Serisi'nin geliştirilmiş motor performansını hissedersiniz. Şehirde bütün gözler size çevrildiğindeyse M-Serisi'nin değişen hatlarının

ve dinamik tasarımının farkını yaşarsınız. En zor yolları bile yeni süspansiyonuyla hissetmeden aştığınızda M-Serisi konfor tutkunuza cevap verir. Yeni M-Serisi değişen ve gelişen gücüyle Mercedes-Benz Türk bayilerinde sizi bekliyor.



**Mercedes-Benz**  
Otomobilin Geleceği



## Math Teacher Kapuya Receives Jane Page Award



Rina Kapuya



Kapuya with RC 02 graduate  
Lora Koenhems

**T**he Jane Page Award for excellence in teaching was given to math teacher Rina Kapuya who this year celebrates a decade at Robert College. The award is given every two years and comes with funds to be used for professional development. Kapuya began teaching at RC after completing an internship at the Ulus Jewish Lise. "Because this is my tenth year here, I have taught every math class we offer, with the exception of elective statistics," she says. "This is a huge advantage, because it allows me to see all of the mathematical skills that might be required of students at RC. I am thus able to better guide them."

Kapuya says she is "very happy" with her students at RC, and the relationship she has with them. "I think, over all, 'they get me'," she says "And of course I have great relationships with my graduates, many of whom I am still in touch with."

The Board of Trustees set up the Jane Nichols Page faculty chair at RC in 1996, to honor the dedicated service of Jane Page, who served as a trustee of Robert College from 1943 until she passed away in December 1998. Past recipients of the award include math teacher Güler Hill and English teachers Belinda Atay and Philip Esposito.

## Student Author Writes Book on Immigrants

**E**ver since Lise 12 student Ezgi Akçınar found out as a child that her grandfather, Halit Akçınar, had emigrated to izmir from the former Yugoslavia, she has been intrigued by the history of migration - the personal tales of upheaval, difficult journeys and having to forge a new identity in a strange land.

She decided two years ago to take her interest to another level. She tracked down 24 families in izmir, istanbul and Manisa who -like hers- had migrated to Turkey from the former Yugoslavia, and conducted comprehensive interviews with them. Her resulting book *Göçmen* (Immigrant) combines the stories recounted to her with documents and pictures from the archives of the istanbul Rumeli Turks Culture and Solidarity Association (Rumeli Türkleri Kültür ve Dayanışma Derneği) and researcher Yıldırım Ağanoğlu's personal collection.

"After researching this book, I see immigrants in a different light," the 19-year-old author says. "Previously immigrants, whom we see everywhere, didn't really mean much to me. Now that I know what kind of stories lay beneath a migrant's identity, the idea of being an immigrant means much more. I think readers of the book will feel the same way."

The book also includes historical photographs of many locations; the main square in Skopje, the destroyed Mostar Bridge, Haydarpaşa Station - the arrival point for so many immigrants- and coastal ports, many of which have never been **seen** before.



Ezgi Akçınar RC06



## Toyota Yaris Blue

Özel seri 2006 model Yaris Blue hemen fark ediliyor. Gri-mavi koltukları, radyo-CD çaları, yeni görünüm jantları, krom kaplamalı egzoz çıkışıyla Yaris'inizi gören herkes sizi çok kıskanacak... Hemen Toyota Plazalara gelin, Yaris Blue ile tanışın.

exi26 | **AKBANK**'tan Toyota Yaris Blue'ya özel kredi avantajlarıyla...





# Semahat Arsel ACG 49 Addresses Class of 05

**RC 05 graduates studying abroad are at the following institutions of higher learning.**

Melike Abacıoğlu.....Stanford  
H.Tahsin Çaylak.....Utrecht-Netherlands  
Özüm Demirel.....Wesleyan  
Semihcan Döken.....Middlebury Colege  
Deniz Duru.....School of Oriental&African Studies  
Fırat Erel.....Yale  
M.Ali Köken.....International U of Bremen  
Cem Kurtuluş.....Bates College  
Selin Kuyumciyan.....Politécnico Di Milano  
Ece Milli.....Edinburgh U,  
Nazlı Oğuzsimsaroğlu.....U Penn (Wharton)  
Berkay Öncel.....Dickinson  
Çetin Özbaş.....U of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign)  
Öner Özden.....Washington U -St Louis  
Ezel Poslu.....Trinity Colege  
Bahadır Reisoğlu.....Yale  
Esen Şefik.....Yale  
Aysu Şuben.....Franklin & Marshall  
Elizabet Sucuyan.....Princeton  
Anıl Tanca.....Clark  
Uğur Uraylı.....Franklin & Marshall  
Onur Yıldırım.....New England Conservatory  
Selen Yıldız.....U of Hawaii  
Gül Yüksel.....Bard

Burak Abay.....Trakya Üniv.  
Çağrı Akçurur.....Yeditepe Üniv.  
İhsan Ömür Akdağ.....Boğaziçi Üniv.  
Ş.Cansev Akdemir.....Bilkent Üniv.  
A. Tuğçe Akyazıcı.....Koç Üniv.  
Tülin Araz.....İTÜ  
Merve Arkunlar.....Sabancı Üniv.  
Can Arslan.....Yıldız Teknik Üniv.  
Nazlı Atalay.....İstanbul Bilgi Üniv.  
Arif Murat Atasoy.....Boğaziçi Üniv.  
Feyza Avcı.....İstanbul Üniv.  
Zeynep Başaran.....Boğaziçi Üniv.  
Arda Başbüyük.....Başkent Üniv.  
Meir Benezra.....Yıldız Teknik Üniv.  
Zeynep Buharalı.....İstanbul Bilgi Üniv.  
Ali Oğuz Bozkurt.....Marmara Üniv.  
Birce Bora.....Galatasaray Üniv.  
Uluc Büyükeşe.....Boğaziçi Üniv.  
Canan Candan.....Sabancı Üniv.  
K. Reşat Çakıroğlu.....Sabancı Üniv.  
Ahsen Çelik.....Kocaeli Üniv.  
M. Resid Çizmeci.....Boğaziçi Üniv.  
Orçun Dirilgen.....İTÜ  
Burcu Doğru.....ODTÜ  
Hakan Duman.....Sabancı Üniv.  
Ziya Duru.....Boğaziçi Üniv.  
Serkan Düşmez.....Yıldız Teknik Üniv.

Duygu Ebcim.....İstanbul Üniv.  
Merve Elveren.....Sabancı Üniv.  
Emreçan Emiroğlu.....Anadolu Üniv.  
Doğan Eralap.....Sabancı Üniv.  
Fatih Erçil.....Yıldız Teknik Üniv.  
Canan Gürel.....İstanbul Bilgi Üniv.  
G. Zeynep Güvenel.....Koç Üniv.  
Fatma Belkis İşik.....Sabancı Üniv.  
Merve Kaleağası.....Koç Üniv.  
Nergis Kara.....Sabancı Üniv.  
Hilmi Karagöz.....İTÜ  
A. Can Katipoğlu.....Yıldız Teknik Üniv.  
Ayşe Senem Kaya.....Marmara Üniv.  
Onur Kınasakal.....Sabancı Üniv.  
Hülya Kıray.....İstanbul Üniv.  
Ozan Kirman.....İTÜ  
Nur Kızıltan.....Koç Üniv.  
Alper Kemal Koç.....İTÜ  
Hakkı Kadir Kol.....Bilkent Üniv.  
Merve Kurt.....Boğaziçi Üniv.  
Uğur Kutlubay.....Bilkent Üniv.  
Nora Mıldanoğlu.....Boğaziçi Üniv.  
Yasin Oğraş.....Boğaziçi Üniv.  
Çetin Özbaş.....ODTÜ  
Eda Özbek.....ODTÜ  
Çiğdem Özdemir.....Yıldız Teknik Üniv.  
Merve Özer.....Boğaziçi Üniv.

Meliha Paksoy.....Bilkent Üniv.  
Y. Can Parlar.....Yeditepe Univ.  
Ezel Poslu.....ODTÜ  
Duygu Saatçioğlu.....Sabancı Üniv.  
Ümit Sağlam.....İstanbul Bilgi Üniv.  
Tardu Selim Sepin.....Bilkent Üniv.  
Melis Sıdal.....İTÜ  
Engin Şahin.....Bilkent Üniv.  
Serdar Şengül.....Boğaziçi Üniv.  
Tutku Okan Şentürk.....ODTÜ  
Bekir Şirin.....Boğaziçi Üniv.  
Aysu Şuben.....Mimar Sinan  
Kutlu Tarıman.....İstanbul Bilgi Univ.  
Ali Tartan.....İTÜ  
S. insu Tezkan.....İstanbul Üniv.  
Dilan Timuçin.....İTÜ  
Dilşah Timuçin.....İTÜ  
Abdullah Uygur Tuna.....İTÜ  
Onur Can Türkan.....Yeditepe Univ.  
Arzu Türkmen.....İTÜ  
Ukbe Uçmaklı.....Bilkent Üniv.  
Gamze Ulucan.....Sabancı Üniv.  
Alper Utaş.....İstanbul Üniv.  
Merve Üçekiz.....Boğaziçi Üniv.  
Yiğit Yaman.....Kocaeli Üniv.  
Pınar Yazıcı.....İstanbul Üniv.  
Furkan YeğİN.....Koç Üniv.



reap the fruits of your labor.' The summer we graduated, Necla, who wanted to become a village teacher, got married and moved to America with her husband. She still lives there. Some of my other friends have spent their life doing not the job they dreamed of, but what circumstances delivered them. As for me; I neither studied at university, nor immediately married. Due to a parasite in my blood, I spent years fighting illness in the hospitals of various countries. I got to know doctors and nurses very well. Seeing how important nursing is to the patient, and how behind it was in Turkey, I decided I would support this profession and have since spent my time and money to do so. I believe fate gave me this job. Life will deliver you opportunities on one hand and hurdles on the other. I hope you can take the best advantage of those opportunities and overcome the obstacles without losing your cool-headedness or your morale." Arsel suggested that when thinking of the future, and Turkey's role in a globalizing world, graduates plan to contribute to society on two levels, for RC and for Turkey. "Just like us, all graduates, you too must begin supporting this unigue school so it can continue to illuminate future generations," she said. "Your second goal, should be educational development programs in Turkey's underprivileged regions. There are at least 5-6 NGOs working in this area, which you can support. Don't forget that it takes years to raise a person. We do not have the luxury of time to waste." Arsel cautioned her audience against impatience, a trait she said she had observed in today's youths. "Today's youths are braver, smarter, more flexible than we were, but I cannot say that they are more intelligent or more patient. Unfortunately, you are impatient. You want everything, now. Sometimes you are impatient on vital issues; you make sudden decisions, and can make mistakes." Lastly, Arsel delivered some advice which she said had been handed down to her from her own family.

- Look out for your health, look after yourself. You cannot be successful or happy if your body and soul are not healthy.
- Above everyone, respect yourself. Make it a principle to live with high value standards and don't compromise on those.
- It takes time to build trust, but a second to lose it.
- Be disciplined at work, think long-term.
- Trust, self-sacrifice, tolerance and dialogue can undo knots and open doors.
- Spend within your means, don't exceed your budget.
- Use what you earn in Turkey, to improve Turkey.



## RC Hosts Teenagers for International Video Project

Turkey's first-ever One Minute Jr workshop, a Dutch-based international initiative which teaches young people how to draft, shoot and edit their own videos, was held in istanbul at Robert College in August. The workshop was organized by arts producer Kolektif, in cooperation with the European Cultural Foundation, the Sandberg Institute in Amsterdam and the Unicef office in Ankara. Sixteen young people between the ages of 12 and 17 from three orphanages in Istanbul were chosen for the workshop. Robert College allowed all the participants and the organizers stay on campus, using all their facilities, free of charge. The aim of the workshop was to give underprivileged youngsters the chance to make their voice heard by a broader audience by broadcasting the 13 produced one-minute-long videos. The resulting videos were a vibrant combination of comedy, drama and horror and can be viewed online at [www.theoneminutesjr.org](http://www.theoneminutesjr.org). All produced videos will enter the competition for the annual OneMinuteJr. Awards, held in Amsterdam in November.







The two  
descendants  
in Istanbul

## Descendants of RC's American Founders Reunite in Istanbul

**A**lmost 150 years after the founding of Robert College, descendants of the school's two "founding fathers" reunited for the first-time ever in Istanbul in October. Robert College and Boğaziçi University owe their existence to a chance encounter between philanthropist Christopher Rhinelander Robert and educator Cyrus Hamlin on the Bosphorus in 1856. Intrigued by the smell and appearance of delicious freshly baked bread on a boat carrying relief for the Crimean War effort, Rhinelander tracked down the baker - Hamlin. The two men became good friends and subsequently established the College in 1863, the first American school in the Middle East.

In October, with the help of Boğaziçi University rector Ayşe Soysal ACG 67, Hamlin and Robert's fourth generation descendants Ted Widmer and Henry Flood Robert Jr. met up on the Boğaziçi campus. Like his parents, grandparents and great-grandparents before him, Ted Widmer, 42, is also an educator; he is a history professor at Washington College. He was in Istanbul to attend an academic conference on the Ottoman Empire. "I am a big fan of Turkey," he told Boğaziçi magazine, explaining this was his fourth visit. Widmer has maintained his family's Turkish ties in more ways than one; he also served as scriptwriter to former US president Bill Clinton on Turkey-related issues. Furthermore, Ted Widmer's father Eric Widmer, who is the headmaster of Deerfield Academy, is a member of the Robert College Board of Trustees. The tradition runs in the family, as is evidenced by the fact that Eric serves as the head of the Trustees' education committee, working actively in Cyrus Hamlin's footsteps striving for educational excellence for Robert College.

Christopher Rhinelander Robert's fourth generation descendant Henry Flood Robert Jr. was the first member of the Robert family to visit Turkey in 150 years. A retired museum director, Robert, 62, has worked at institutions like the Jackson Modern Art Museum, the Whitney Museum and Chicago's Modern Art Museum. He described the visit as "very emotional". "This is a place that my great grandfather founded. When I was a kid my dad used to say that he would send me to Istanbul if I didn't get good grades. Now I'm here!" he told Boğaziçi magazine. Robert Jr. found the old buildings unchanged from the photographs he has seen, but he was impressed to see new additions.

Robert Jr. is currently working on his family's history, no easy feat since the family tree goes as far back as 1066. He said that although Christopher Rhinelander Robert had also planned to build a school in Tennessee, he was thwarted by the outbreak of the US Civil War. "So the only school that my great-grandfather was able to open, which carries his name, is this one," he said.

Widmer and Robert Jr are already working on bringing their extended families to Istanbul for a grand reunion in two or three years time.



Henry Flood Robert Jr



Ted Widmer

## Scholarship Fund Honors Işık Inselbağ RA 64

**G**iven to that student who by virtue of being himself has done the most to uphold the best traditions of the school: The language of the Mc Neal Award, presented to the late Prof. Işık Inselbağ at his graduation in 1964 is a fitting tribute to one of the most exemplary graduates Robert College has ever produced. Işık Inselbağ was an esteemed academic, much-loved friend, devoted family man, and a loyal graduate. His unexpected loss in March 2004, due to heart failure at the age of 58, stunned the entire school community.

His wife Çağla Onar Inselbağ ACG 66, with the participation of a close group of friends, recently established a scholarship endowment in the name of her husband, thereby ensuring that the memory of Işık Inselbağ will live on at Robert College in perpetuity. Thanks to this generous gesture, there will always be one student at the school benefiting from an RC education, which both Işık and Çağla treasured so much.

Robert College is grateful for this wonderful gift. It will go a long way to "upholding the best traditions of the school" as inspired by Işık Inselbağ.



Prof. Dr. Inselbağ was a long time faculty member and administrator at the Wharton Business School of the University of Pennsylvania. He earned his bachelor's degree from Robert College and his doctorate from Columbia University. After serving on the faculty of State University of New York at Binghamton and Columbia University, Dr. Inselbağ returned to Istanbul as a Professor and Dean of Students at Boğaziçi University. In 1982, he joined Wharton as a member of the finance faculty. He served in several key administrative leadership positions, including Director of the Executive MBA Program (1987-91) and Vice Dean and Director of the Graduate Division (1992-95). Since 1995, Dr. Inselbağ had returned to teaching and research as a senior fellow of Wharton's Financial Institutions Center and academic course director and student advisor for the Finance Department.

Dr. Inselbağ was an expert in corporate finance and financial management and consulted in that capacity to a number of corporations and institutions around the world. He also served as a founding trustee of Sabancı University in Istanbul, helping to guide the formation of one of the most prominent private universities in Turkey.



*This is to certify that*

# Garanti Securities

*has won the award for*

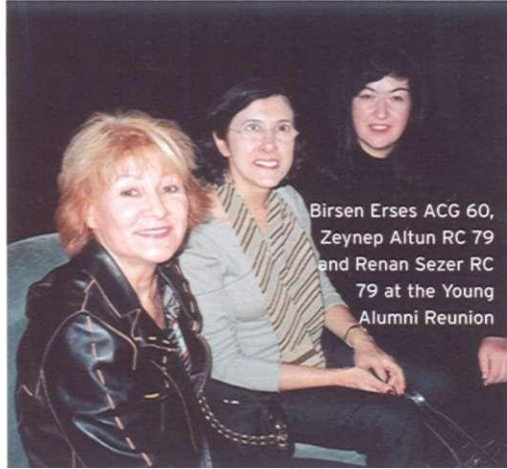
## Best Equity House

*Turkey*

Clive Horwood, Editor



## RC IN THE USA



Birsen Erses ACG 60,  
Zeynep Altun RC 79  
and Renan Sezer RC  
79 at the Young  
Alumni Reunion

### Young Alumni Reunion in New York

November 5th marked the 16th Annual Young Alumni Dinner and Reunion in New York. Sponsored by RCAA and the Board of Trustees, the reunion drew over 90 RC alums, primarily representing the classes of 1991 to 2005. As usual, the fellowship and conversation was non-stop and everyone feasted on doner and borek - a treat in New York. Everyone was greeted by members of the Board of RCAA and President Mehmet Ozpay RC 79.

### RCAA Hosts Spring Dinner

The Robert College Association in America (RCAA) held its annual Spring Dinner at Marmara Manhattan Rooftop Lounge in New York City on April 21, 2005 and featured guest speakers Dr. Özgen Dogan '80 and Dr. Yusuf Yazıcı '88. RCAA's officers were there to welcome everyone: President Mehmet Özpay'79, Burcu Üstüner'97, Ender Çetin'97, Cengiz Hatiboglu'81, and Ahmet Inal'61. Dr. Dogan's presentation was "Your Heart is in Your Hands" and Dr. Yazıcı offered his thoughts on "Arthritis - Myths, Misconceptions and Outright Lies." Both discussions featured informative slide presentations. The evening's fine speakers sent everyone home with thoughts of improving their life styles!



Past presidents of the RCAA at the Spring Dinner. L to R: Ahmet Inal RA 61, Gündüz Erkan RC 60, Özlenen Eser Kalav ACG 67, Akın Arıca RA 60, current president Mehmet Özpay RC 79 and Cengiz Hatipoğlu RC 81.

### Fall Reception at Yale Club to introduce John R. Chandler

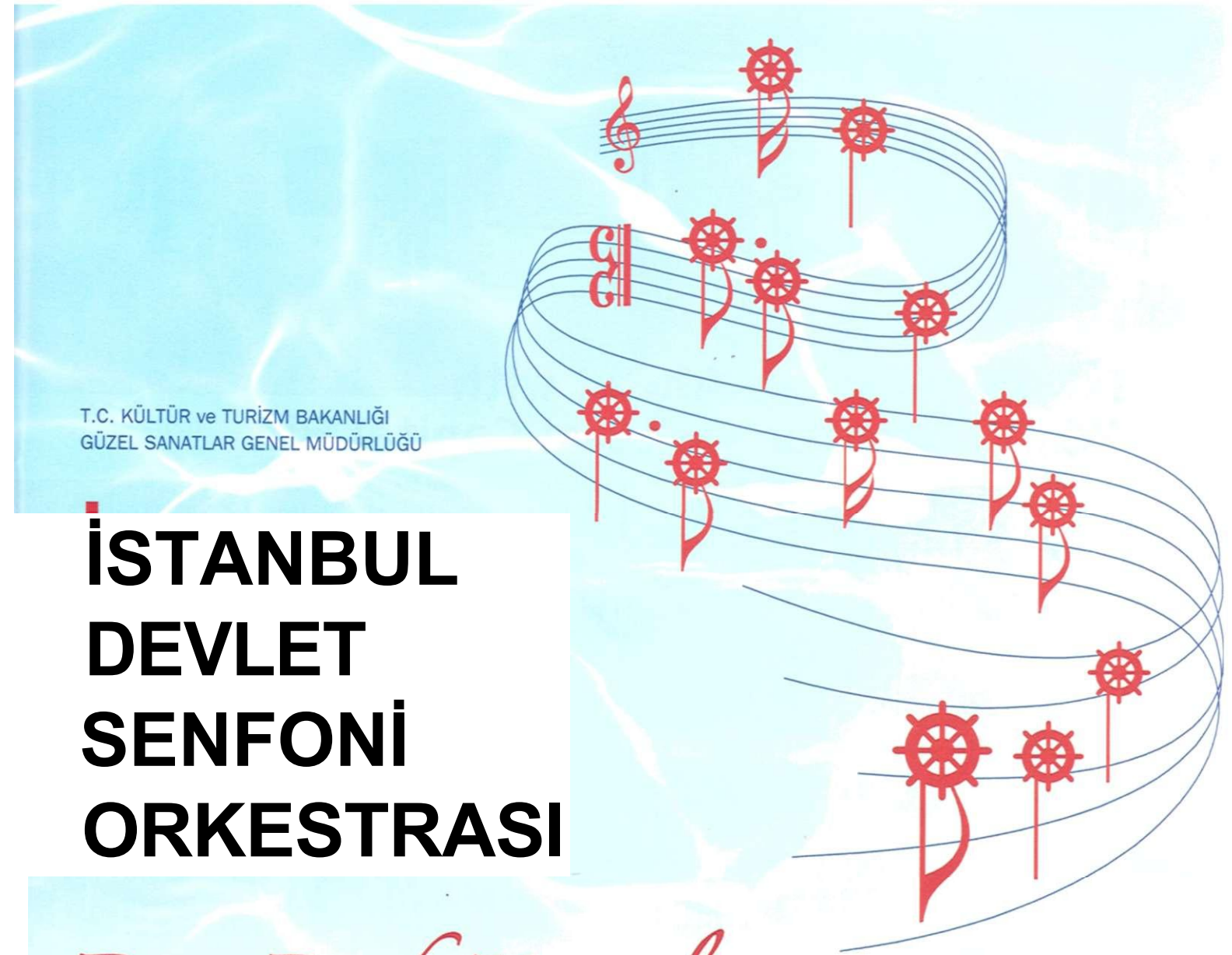
Over 100 RC alumni, trustees, former faculty, and friends attended a reception at the Yale Club in New York on November 1, to meet RC's new headmaster John Chandler and his wife, Tanla. A warm welcome was offered to everyone by RC Board Chair Jim Maggart who introduced the Chandlers. Mr. Chandler, who spoke about how impressed he was by the students and the school in his first months at Robert College, was deluged with well wishes.



From L to R: Erkut Küçükboyacı RC 2000, Osman Can Öngün RC 01, Emre Demirel RC 01, Melis Öngün RC 98, Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu, Alumni & Development Office and Ümrhan Üngün ACG 70, Director of Business & Finance, at the Yale Club reception.



Former headmaster Harry Dawe (right) and present head John (handler share more than an RC Headmaster title on their CVs - they also have the same taste in ties! RC ties, naturally!



T.C. KÜLTÜR ve TURİZM BAKANLIĞI  
GÜZEL SANATLAR GENEL MÜDÜRLÜĞÜ

## İSTANBUL DEVLET SENFONİ ORKESTRASI

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GRADUATES.  
IN THE NEWS

Istanbul Forges Ahead with  
2010 European Cultural Capital Bid



Nuri Çolakoglu RA 62

Istanbul is on a roll. Host first to the European Championship League Final in May, then its very own Formula One race on a purpose built \$150 million track in August, the city has become a poster child for Turkey's bid to join the European Union. Led by the indomitable Nuri Colakoglu RA 62, the city that famously bridges East and West is now looking to crown recent successes with a bid to be chosen as a 2010 European Cultural Capital. A broad coalition of NGOs, municipal and governmental agencies are working together for the first time ever to put the final touches on a project proposal that will be decided on next year.

The European Cultural Capital project was launched in 1985, at the initiative of the former Greek Minister of Culture Melina Mercouri, as a way of building closer contacts between different European nations. The first city to hold the title was Athens. Cities chosen since then include Florence, Amsterdam, Berlin, Paris, Glasgow, Dublin, Madrid, Antwerp, Lisbon, Copenhagen, Thessalonica and Stockholm.

The EU has decided that for 2010, in addition to one city from Hungary (most likely Budapest) and Germany (most likely Essen) another city from a candidate country could also be chosen a Cultural Capital. "Our goal is to ensure that Istanbul is chosen a European Cultural Capital in 2010, alongside the two other cities," says Colakoglu. The chosen city needs to exemplify Europe's rich cultural heritage and diversity.

A jury composed of different EU body representatives will judge Istanbul's project proposal next year. In order to win, cities must show that they can stage a year long program, covering all forms of culture and involving both local people and visitors in areas like arts and culture, architecture and restoration, social change, women, youth and the environment.

Istanbul's bid campaign began in 2000, led by 13 NGOs and local government representatives. The campaign became official in 2003 and picked up pace in March this year when Turkish officials met with their EU counterparts to discuss the bid.

The campaign is being led by Colakoglu who is a member of the board of the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV), under the auspices of Turkey's foreign ministry. It encompasses a number of different actors including the Culture and Tourism Ministry, the Istanbul Governor's Office, The Istanbul Municipality and numerous NGOs. This is the first time that public officials, local municipalities and civil society have worked together on a large-scale campaign.



A Monumental  
Birthday Present:  
the Pera Museum

The first of a series of cultural centers to be built by the Kiraç family in Istanbul, the Pera Museum, was opened on Suna Kiraç's ACG 60, birthday, June 3rd, 2005 in Taksim. The Museum, owned by the Suna inan Kiraç Foundation, is housed in what was known to many as the Bristol Hotel in Tepebaşı. The building, originally designed by architect Achille Manoussos in 1893, was bought by the Kiraç Foundation in 2002, and has been fully renovated. It now houses a good part of the impressive Kiraç family collection, especially that of Suna Kiraç, a former RC Trustee.

The new museum first made headlines with news of the acquisition of Osman Hamdi's famous *Turtle Trainer*. Bought by the Kiraç family for \$3.5 million at an auction in December 2004, the *Turtle Trainer* set a record price for a painting by a Turkish artist. Among its first exhibitions, the museum presented Istanbul art lovers with Kütahya ceramics and tiles, as well as more than 1,000 pieces of Anatolian weight measurements. "Portraits from the Empire" covers the last 200 years of the Ottomans. The top three floors of the museum houses works by artists under the age of 35.

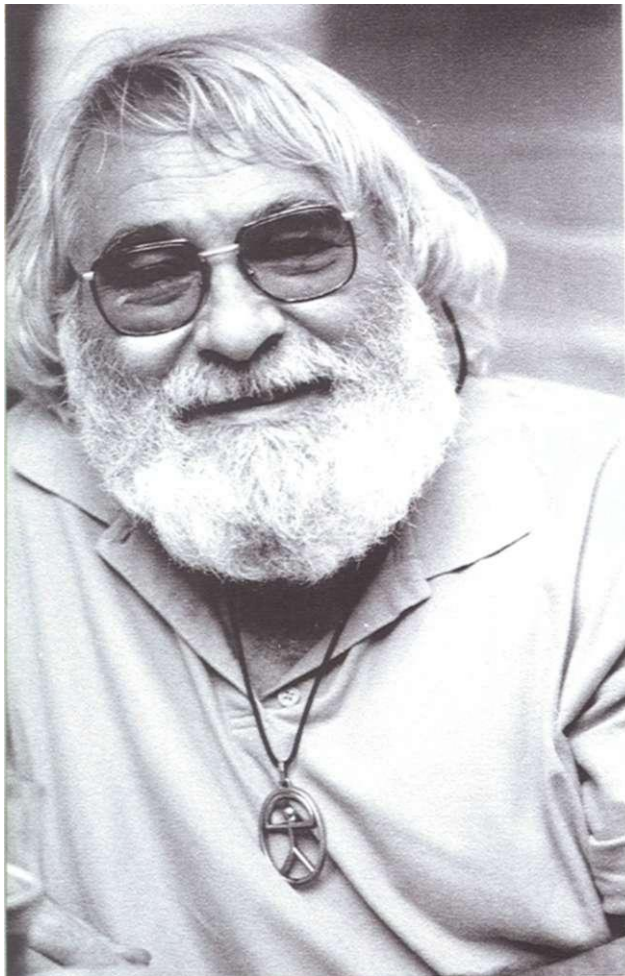
"You cannot take your possessions with you when you die," inan Kiraç said at an inaugural press conference. "Turkey needs to have many more of these museums in which wealthy families present Turkish families with their collections."

The second step in this arts and culture initiative by the Kiraç Foundation will be the Istanbul Research Center, currently being built about 100 meters away from the museum. In addition to Byzantine classics, this center will house Şevket Rado's collection of Ottoman manuscripts and a wide archive of books on Atatürk. Among the main aims of this center will be to serve students, academics and researchers. The third venture, for which the Kiraç Foundation has already allocated significant funds, will be a cultural center, opening up a new space in Istanbul for opera and philharmonic orchestras.

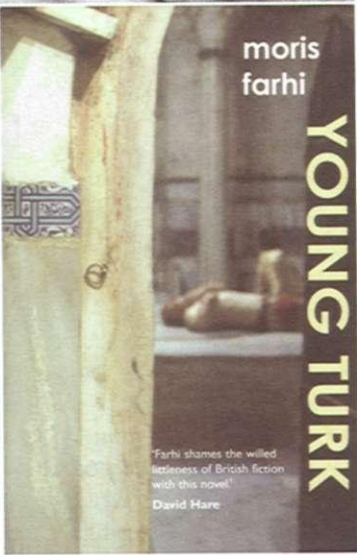
Well known for her work in the Koç Holding management, Suna Kiraç is also known for her philanthropic ventures in many different fields, including funding construction of the state-of-the-art Suna Kiraç Theater Hall at Robert College.



GRADUATES.  
IN THE NEWS



Moris Farhi RC 54



'Young Turk' Makes  
Stellar US Debut  
Following UK Success

After receiving excellent reviews in the UK, London based writer Moris Farhi's RC 54 latest novel *Young Turk* was published in the US (Arcade) where it was named a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice. The novel was also published in Turkish by Ithaki Yayınevi and Farhi attended the launch in October at the Istanbul Book Fair.

*Young Turk* is a moving coming of age story interweaving about a dozen youthful characters in Turkey on the eve of World War II. It is also about the coming of age of Turkey, maturing as a republic in the 1940's and 50's. In 13 intersecting vignettes, we encounter a group of youths from a variety of faiths and walks of life, set against the backdrop of a country whose rich social tapestry is fast unraveling.

"When, in the past, publishers found out that I was of Turkish origin, they kept asking me why I wrote about other peoples and cultures but not about my own," said Farhi in a recent interview. He was however dogged by ambivalent, even hostile feelings towards the country he fled overnight at 19 for London, where he has since lived. Yet as years passed, "I realized that my resentment had lost its venom. [...] I saw that my resentment about Turkey paled in comparison with Turkey's overall richness that had originally nurtured me. My yearning for Turkey, particularly for Istanbul, and for its people became almost unbearable, a desperate love which made me even dream of the smells of Istanbul," he said.

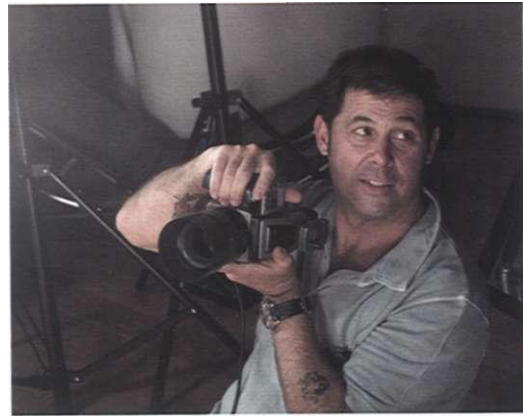
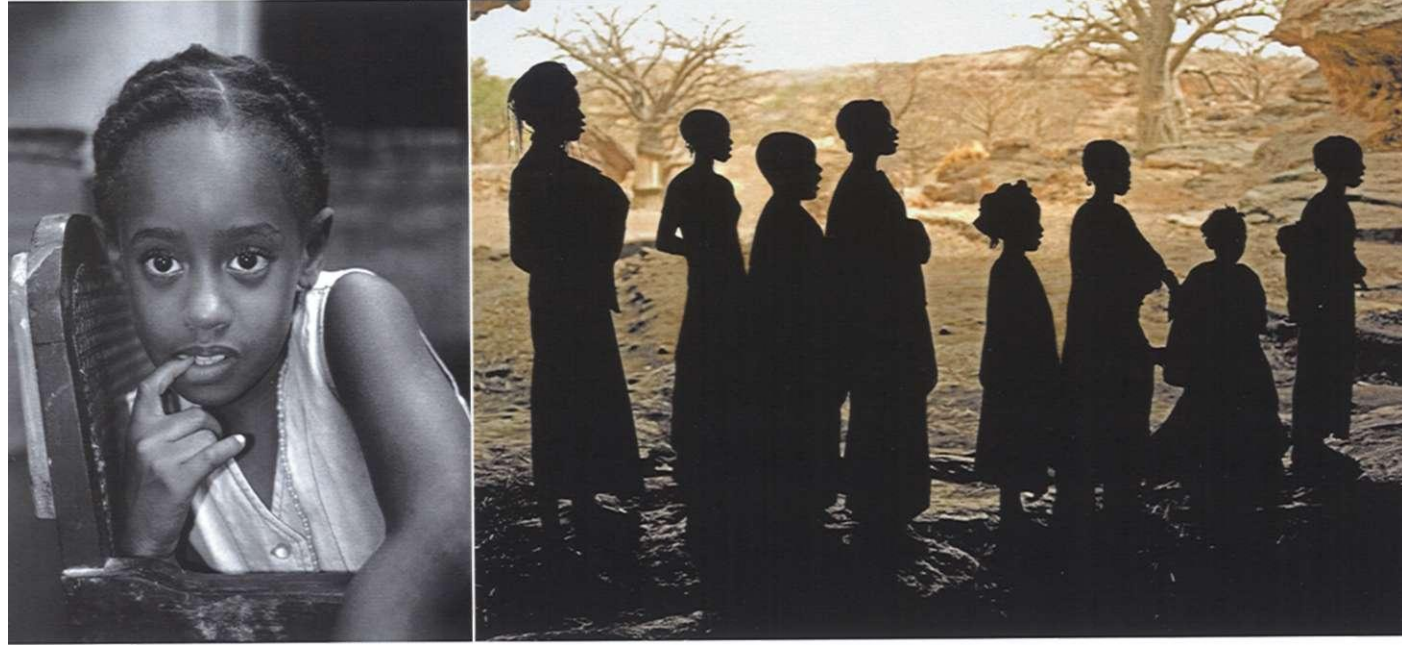
At around that time he was asked to contribute to an anthology of modern Jewish writing. He wrote *Lentils in Paradise*, which became the Turkish baths story in *Young Turk*. "And that proved the final stage of my liberation. It gave me the confidence to write about Turkey. And the more I wrote the more I realized that I was writing, as honestly as I could, an impressionistic account of my generation and of the times in which we had lived. When I finished I realized that, irrespective of some fearful dark hours in Turkey, I, as a Jew, and my friends Muslims as well as a potpourri of other races and creeds, including Armenians had, in the main, lived in a haven of tolerance. A tolerance that had singled out the Ottoman Empire in its heyday from much of Europe," he says.

Politics and history merge with the aspirations of the book's youthful heroes, together offering a powerful meditation on what it means to be Turkish.





## GRADUATES. IN THE NEWS



Cem Boyner RC 74

## Boyner's Photographs Merge African Vistas with Portraiture

Leading businessman and head of Boyner Holding Cem Boyner RC 74, held his second personal photography exhibition, bringing together pictures taken during his travels in Africa and a series of nude studio portraits, all taken over the last six years. The exhibition of 126 pictures was called *Yakındaki Uzak / Uzaktaki Yakın* (The Distant Near/The Near Distant), and was on show at Darphane-i Amire September 21- October 12, 2005.

Boyner organized the show into two different thematic concepts. "These are two different exhibitions," Boyner said at the opening. "These two projects were finalized around the same time, and I tried to bring together the diverging sides of both, and make them into one. One of the projects is comprised of photographs of people in distant places In Africa; yet these are people whose souls we can feel close to. The other one is a compilation of photographs of beautiful people in the studio, of form, light and shadows; physically nearby, yet so distant."

Part of the proceeds from sales of the catalogue was donated to universities for the acquisition of new photography equipment.

Boyner, who started photography as a student at Robert College when his uncle gave him a Leica camera, held his first exhibition of underwater photographs in 1999.



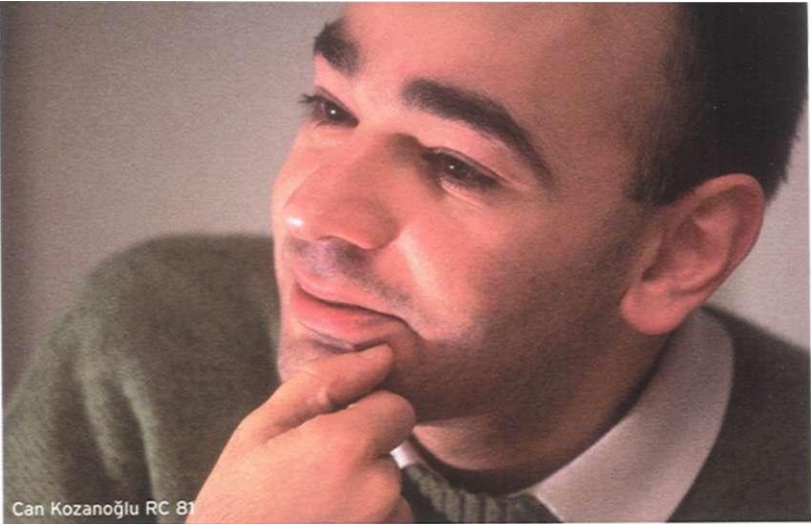
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# GRADUATES IN THE NEWS



Can Kozanoğlu RC 81

## Author Kozanoğlu Turns Autobiography Upside Down



Author Can Kozanoğlu RC 81, well known for his nonfictional essays on popular Turkish culture, published his first novel, *Acemi Eğitimi* (Novice Training) by iletişim Publishing in March 2005. The book is a witty, inventive rollercoaster of a ride through what appears to be an autobiographical account of Kozanoğlu's life. Or is it?

"The atmosphere I live in is the atmosphere of the book," he said in a recent interview to Radikal. "Events I actually lived, events with which I am familiar yet lived in a different way, and events I never lived." *Acemi Eğitimi* begins as a tale of Kozanoğlu's life, but takes sharp turns along the way. Fans of Kozanoğlu's humorous style will love the creative detours the writer takes, linking his family's escapades -real and imagine to episodes in recent Turkish history. In addition to writing, Kozanoğlu is Co-host this season of an alternative arts and culture TV show *Arka Sayfa* (Back Page), which he presents with cultural commentator Kanat Atkaya on NTV. Broadcast every Friday, the show involves the humorous pair dissecting the week's cultural events candidly.

Born in 1963, Can Kozanoğlu studied sociology at Boğaziçi University after Robert College. Renowned as a commentator on our times, Kozanoğlu has worked in TV, journalism and publishing. Among his published works are *Bu Maçı Alıcaz!* (1996), *Cilâlı İmaj Devri* (1992), *Pop Çağı Ateşi* (1995), *İnternet Dolunay Cemaat* (1997), *Yeni Şehir Notları* (2001).

## New Book Offers Insight into Islamist Women's Activism

The experiences of Islamist women activists in Turkey are the focus of a new book by Yeşim Arat RC 74, an international relations professor at Boğaziçi, called *Rethinking Islam and Liberal Democracy: Islamist Women in Turkish Politics* (Albany: State University of New York). Arat argues that no secular party in Turkey has ever achieved the high levels of membership and intense activism of women within the now banned Islamist Refah (Welfare) Party. *Rethinking Islam and Liberal Democracy* examines the experiences of these women, who represented an unprecedented phenomenon within Turkish politics.

Using in depth interviews, Yeşim Arat reveals how the women of the party broadened the parameters of democratic participation and challenged preconceived notions of what Islam can entail in a secular democratic polity. The Refah women campaigners successfully mobilized large groups of allegedly apolitical women by crossing the boundaries between the social and the political, reaching them through personal networks cultivated in private spaces. The experiences of these women show the contentious relationship between liberal democracy and Islam, where liberalism that prioritizes the individual can transform, coexist, or remain in tension with Islam that prioritizes a communal identity legitimized by a sacred God. Critics have welcomed the book's balanced argument and attempts to go beyond the dichotomies of secular and religious women's activism to see how these currents crossfertilize each other in multiple ways. Arat is also the author of *The Patriarchal Paradox: Women Politicians in Turkey* and the co-editor (with Barbara Laslett and Johanna Brenner) of *Rethinking the Political: Gender, Resistance, and the State*.



Yeşim  
Arat  
RC 74



Aslı Erdoğan RC 84

## Erdoğan Breaks Seven Year Silence with Poetic New Novel

After a seven year lull, writer Aslı Erdoğan RC 84 has published her fourth novel, *Hayatin Sessizliğinde* (In the Silence of Life), by iş Bankası Publishing. The book, a blend of different styles ranging from verse to fairy tales, takes its inspiration from ancient Egyptian poetry, Hindu scriptures and holy books.

With this work, Erdoğan was singled out by French *Lire* magazine as one of 50 promising future writers. Born in 1967, Erdoğan started writing at a very young age. She was about ten years old, she recalls. But as an adolescent, she stopped writing. Upon graduation from Robert College, Erdoğan went on to study Computer Engineering at Boğaziçi University. She then became an assistant in the Physics Department of the same university. A period of international posts began; first at the Geneva Research Institute of Quantum Physics for a year, and then the Rio de Janeiro University for another two years. This period was the making of her as a writer; she wrote every night, after coming home from work. The stories from her second book *Mucizevi Mandarin* date back to those days. "I had to write; otherwise I would have gone mad..." Erdoğan said in a recent interview, "In fact, I wrote this book for myself, not at all with the aim of getting it published." On returning to Turkey, she quit the sciences to dedicate herself to her writing.

A widely traveled writer, Erdoğan published her first novel *Kabuk Adam* (Crust Man) a book she wrote in Istanbul in two months in 1994. *Mucizevi Mandarin* (Miraculous Mandarin/1996) is a series of interconnected short stories. Set in Rio, *Kırmızı Pelerinli Kent* (City in a Red Cape/1998) is her second novel. Her work has been translated into several European languages.

## Growing Education Company Trains Youths for Hi-Tech Future

From humble beginnings in a small classroom in Fatih in 1997, the computer and software training institution "Bilge Adam" (meaning Wise Man) has grown in leaps and bounds to become Microsoft's largest certified partner in Turkey for learning solutions. Founded by Furkan Fırat RC 87, Haldun Pak RC 87 and Hakan Çevik RC 87, it now has six branches across Istanbul, with over 30,000 graduates from its training programs. The idea was to accelerate Turkey's rate of development by offering information technology training programs to the country's youths, who make up some 20% of the total population, "The information technologies sector is hugely important for Turkey and its future, and there is a growing shortage of qualified labor in the field," said Furkan Fırat in a recent interview. "Currently, more than 10% of university-bound students want to study information technologies. That makes 150,000 people each year. There is however, at most 3,000 places in our university for these young people."

Microsoft has chosen Bilge Adam "The best training institution in Turkey". Last year, Bilge Adam was selected fourth among 800 Microsoft Certified Partners in a region which includes Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Turkey's largest and Europe's second largest Microsoft Certified Partner for learning solutions, Bilge Adam was also active at the recently held Advisory Board Meeting of Certified Partners for Learning Solutions, alongside sectoral giants such as HP, New Horizons and the Global Knowledge Network.



FURKAN FIRAT RC 87 HALDUN PAK RC 87 HAKAN ÇEVİK RC 87



## Keeping Tabs on Turkey's Women's Rights Progress



Nüket Kardam ACG 71 Sr. (right).  
With classmate Ferda Tarzi ACG 71 Jr.

In *Turkey's Engagement with Global Women's Human Rights* (London: Ashgate Publishers, 2005), US based academic Nüket Kardam ACG 71 charts Turkey's response to international and regional mandates on women's rights, including the European Commission mechanisms and various bodies of the UN. An International Relations professor at California's Monterey Institute of International Studies since 1993, Kardam integrates a macro focus on démocratisation in developing countries with an interest in gender issues and human rights.

Although based in the US, she regularly works with Turkish women's groups as a consultant, and has travelled to many Anatolian cities as a result. She has worked with Women for Women's Human Rights - New Ways, evaluating their human rights education program, as well as Uçan Süpürge, contributing to their activities, and with the UNDP on women and governance and civil society building as implemented under the Agenda 21 in several cities. "The most oppressive thing for women here is that female sexuality is equated with a man's honor (namus) and thus becomes a man's province," she says. "It is important in terms of women's rights that women are empowered to earn their own income, but until we get over the taboos on sexuality, women will continue to be oppressed."

After graduating from ACG in 1971, Kardam studied philosophy at Istanbul University. A book passed on by a friend called *European History*, which examines Ottoman and Turkish history from a Marxist perspective, inspired her to begin a masters program in political science at Boğaziçi. She left BU halfway through to finish her masters at the University of British Columbia and subsequently completed a doctorate in political science at Michigan State University.

Her interest in Women's Studies began as a doctoral student at Michigan State University, where she discovered a "Women and Development Center" and began to work there as a graduate assistant, organizing seminars. "As a woman myself, I tried to understand what being a woman meant to me," she told classmate Ferda Tarzi in an interview for the Quarterly. "Growing up in Turkey, I experienced tremendous contradictions between home and school, identity tensions. At ACG I was exposed to messages about finding myself, opening up to the world but when I went home I'd be told to get married, have children, 'a woman's most important role is as a wife and so on. It seemed like I had to have different identities and was expected to behave differently at home, on the street, or at school. These contradictions led me to question gender roles and identities and study women's rights globally and in the context of Turkey."

Kardam has combined research and consulting in Turkey as well as Eastern Europe and Central Asia, with teaching in California, and hopes to continue and expand the time she spends in Turkey. In 2006, she hopes to spend six months in Turkey, focusing in more detail on the connection between sexuality and women's human rights, as well as the formation of gender identities in diverse ethnic and religious communities.

## Metin Ar Receives Italy's Medal of Honor



Metin Ar RA 69

Leading investment banker Metin Ar RA 69, Garanti Securities CEO and deputy chairman of the Istanbul Stock Exchange, was awarded Italy's Medal of Honor, for his contributions to the development of economic relations between Italy and Turkey. The award is given to individuals who contribute to the growth of relations with Italy in economic, commercial, social and cultural fields.

At a ceremony at the Italian Consulate in Istanbul, Ambassador Carlo Marsili commended Metin Ar for facilitating Italian companies' investments in Turkey. "With his extensive knowledge, Mr. Metin Ar is a valuable reference for Italian businessmen who are planning to enter the Turkish market," he said. There are currently 300 Italian companies investing in Turkey.

Accepting the award, Ar emphasized his lifelong commitment to international collaboration among companies. "At Garanti Securities, we have always supported international cooperation and placed much importance on crossborder mergers", he said. "Investments by the Italian private sector in Turkey occupy a special place in these efforts."

## Tijen Çıdam to Head Borusan Auto

Tijen Çıdam RC 78 was appointed General Manager of Borusan Auto in February 2005, becoming one of the "30 Most Powerful Women in Turkey", according to an influential survey by Capital business magazine. Çıdam, who was previously heralded by the Dünya newspaper as the most successful female manager in the construction industry, joined the Borusan company in 1983. Prior to being appointed general manager, she was Assistant General Manager at Borusan Mannesman for 13 years.

Borusan said in a statement that rotations among its top executives had become common practice within the company in order to encourage different perspectives for higher efficiency.



Tijen Çıdam RC 78





# Mardin Honored with Award for Lifetime Achievement

She is Turkey's undisputed PR queen, its publicity guru and an internationally renowned expert in the field of public relations. The list of accolades for Betül Mardin ACG 46 is seemingly untoppable. But at 77, she has done it again, becoming the first ever Moslem woman to be awarded the Atlas Award for Lifetime Achievement by the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). The award is given annually to an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the field of public relations on a global scale.

Mardin, president of I.M.A.G.E. Public Relations and head of the public relations department at Istanbul Bilgi University, was first made aware that she had been nominated for the award in April last year, when she was asked to supply letters of reference and a biography to the PRSA. She did so, but gave the matter little further thought. This summer, she was woken by the phone. "I thought something bad had happened," she recalls. The voice on the other end told her she had been awarded the Atlas; "They said 'We need to hear your voice'".

It turns out that fate - and Mardin's extraordinary publicity skills - had conspired to help her hand. Mardin later learnt that she had a fervent lobbyist on the deciding jury. "It turns out that this man had actually met me some 20 years ago, at the opening of a factory down in Torbalı," she says. Mardin, Turkey's first ever public relations specialist, was doing PR for the factory. She rounded up a management team and got them to visit surrounding factories, households and farms to introduce themselves and explain what they were doing. The practice was then unheard of in Turkey. "I was just doing my job, doing PR," Mardin says. That small act would return back to her hundred fold, years later - the jury member was at the time manager of the Opel factory in Torbalı, and had been so impressed by Mardin's visit, that he never forgot her. "It seems he kept saying 'I have met this lady, she is going to get this award!'" says Mardin.

Mardin has dedicated much of her career to facilitating intercultural communication, vital in these globalized times. "The Ottomans really knew what this meant," she told the RCO, and recounted the following story: When a foreign ambassador was appointed to the Ottoman Empire, before taking up his position, he would be brought to Istanbul and hosted at an official guesthouse. In seclusion for one week, he would be trained by Palace officials on Ottoman codes of conduct -- how to ask questions, what to wear, how to deal with women. Only after this coaching would he be presented to the Sultan. "This illustrates the message I try to give multinationals. Don't send your people out into another culture without first training them. I have general managers for instance who schedule staff meetings for Friday noon, they don't realize that is prayer time. Culture shock is something that needs to be addressed."

## "ACG Was Like a University"

Mardin credits ACG with having given her a flying start. "I didn't attend university," she says. "But when I say I am a



graduate of the College, it was much more than a high school, the level of education we received was that of a junior college. Imagine, we studied archeology! And philosophy! And we were taught first-class English,".

The quality of the education was first-rate, despite wartime difficulties in getting basic supplies. "There was no food. The staff had invented something called 'bread and sauce', which was basically bread with vinegar and olive oil. That was what we ate. There was no soap, no tea. But we had excellent teachers, Faruk Nafiz Camlibel was our Literature teacher for instance."

There was a vibrant extra-curricular scene on campus, says Mardin. "We published top notch student magazines. We held debates on Important issues, which we would really prepare for. Another popular activity was the theater, which is how I met my husband Haldun Dormen."

In her sophomore year, Mardin won a school slogan competition. Her winning entry, 'Civilization is based on construction, not destruction', is still a motto she lives by.

It was one of her American teachers who encouraged Mardin to work, against the wishes of her family. "My teacher said 'There's something different about you. Why don't you at least consider working for a charity?'". Just 19 years old, Mardin proved to be an excellent fund-raiser, quickly becoming sought after by institutions like orphanages and the Red Crescent. "Once I started working, I blossomed," recalls Mardin. Just as her teacher predicted, she thrived, becoming a journalist, then involved in the theater and films. "Being an independent working woman fit me like a glove," she says, smiling.

At 40, with two children to look after, Mardin reinvented herself again, becoming Turkey's first public relations specialist, persuading Akbank to hire her. The rest, as they say, is history. Mardin has worked with many leading Turkish and international companies and charities. She was elected treasurer and then president (in 1995) of the International Public Relations Association (IPRA). In 1996, Mardin was founding president of the Association of Public Relations Consultancies in Turkey, and in 1998, she was made a Member Emeritus by IPRA in recognition of services contributed to the advancement of the profession. At 77, Mardin shows no signs of slowing down. She has taken to teaching, and is enthused by her students at Bilgi University. "When I look at my life, I feel blessed, like God's hand has been with me. Now I love passing on my experiences to new generations,".





# Reading Robert College A School in Books

History can be seen as a series of junctures where human stories meet and mingle with human spaces. Robert College, as a space on which many generations' stories have been encrypted, and as an institution which has touched thousands of lives, lends itself to continuous rereading. Change is the one constant for this 147-year-old institution. Over the years, those changes have been recorded, documented and even fictionalized by generations of administrators, students and staff, resulting in a body of work loosely linked. Together, they add up to a bigger picture and -hopefully- a more enriched understanding of our unique community.

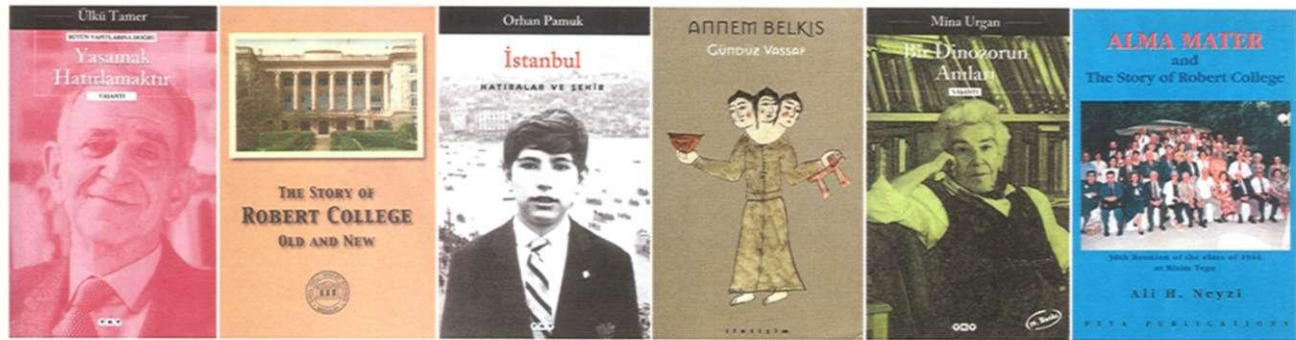
## The Founders Wrote History

Truth can indeed be stranger than fiction. Visiting Istanbul in 1856 during the Crimean War, Christopher R. Robert, a New York philanthropist, is intrigued by a boat on the Bosphorus laden with first-class fresh bread loaves. Curious, he tracks down the baker, Cyrus Hamlin, a missionary of many talents who had set up a makeshift bakery in Bebek as part of the war relief effort. That chance meeting would lead to their friendship, and the founding of Robert College several years later in 1863.

The fictional, surreal quality that surrounds the founding

years is no less evident in the heroic efforts it took to build the school. Hamlin, RC's first headmaster, was also master builder and mechanic, using his hands, a troop of laborers and oxen to domesticate what was then wild countryside in Bebek on a plot of land secured from the Sultan. Against the odds, he recreated a New England campus, so foreign amidst its surroundings. Much the same Herculean dedication was true of Mary Mills Patrick, a 25-year-old missionary from New Hampshire who would ultimately raise funds for the purchase of the property of the American College for Girls, on which Robert College now stands, and preside over ACG until 1924. At a time when women's education was frowned upon even in the Western world, Mills Patrick was dedicated to raising strong, independent young women. In their lifetimes, these visionary educators would contend with the Balkan Wars, a world war, the birth of the Turkish nation and its tumultuous coming-of-age. Gas cuts, food rationing, lack of water and heating were a frequent feature of their lives; not that they complained.

Fortunately for subsequent generations, the founders were diligent chroniclers of their day-to-day lives as they built the



two schools, aware even then of history in the making. As Christopher R. Robert wrote Cyrus Hamlin in 1861, two years before the founding of RC: "Preserve my letters and all other in relation to the College...keep copies of all your letters relative to the enterprise...the two will form a history of efforts, which if our lives are spared, it will be interesting for us to look over a few years hence, and still more to those who come after us 50 or 100 years later." '

This then is the first chapter of RC in books; memoirs written by the founders Cyrus Hamlin' and Mary Mills Patrick.' Subsequent administrators in the early years upheld the tradition; George Washburn", Caleb Frank Gates (RC President from 1903-32)' and Lynn Scipio (head of the RC Engineering School, 1912-1942)' all published their memoirs of life at RC.

## The Next Generations of College Teachers

From the 1920s on, the College was home to a breed of well-educated foreigners, Britons and Americans in particular, in whom a sense of religious duty was replaced by a love of travel, a passion for adventure and a desire to escape war-torn Europe. Of these, Betty Tank, an American pacifist and intrepid hiker, arrived in Istanbul as the Second World War raged in Europe. For three years, she kept a diary' as dormitory surveillant and then teacher at the American College for Girls, where her room overlooked a little farm next to campus walls. The school managed to function despite gas cuts and food rationing, and amid constant rumors of invasion and mass evacuation. One day, a mine was found floating near Bebek. Tank's all female colleagues were a mixture of Americans, English, French, Swiss and Turkish citizens. She briefly describes life at ACG: "The Marble Hall was used for dancing at least one evening a week. The girls danced with each other. Some parents had expressly stated that their daughter was not even to see a boy. In Marble Hall there was a large bust of Kemal Atatürk and it was here that commemorative exercises were held at which we had to guard against excessive emotion, which in the past had led to mass hysterics over the loss of the beloved founder of modern Turkey".

The 1950s and 60s saw a crop of brilliant, highly-educated professors arrive on campus, mostly thanks to Neil Bull, headmaster from 1960-66. Of Bull, Freely says "much of his success stemmed from his flair for hiring (or keeping those already on the scene) brilliant and creative young teachers, a

number of whom went on to become headmasters themselves, such as John Schereschewsky, Calvin Atwood, Frank Broga, Peter Shiras, Richard Reid and John Chalfant. His staff included men who went on to become well-known writers, such as Geoffrey Wolf, David Leeming, Asa Baber, Timothy Robinson and Robert Miner Jr, as well as the composer Robert Ceeley, the archeologist Peter Kuniholm and the historians William Hickman and Bruce Kuniholm."

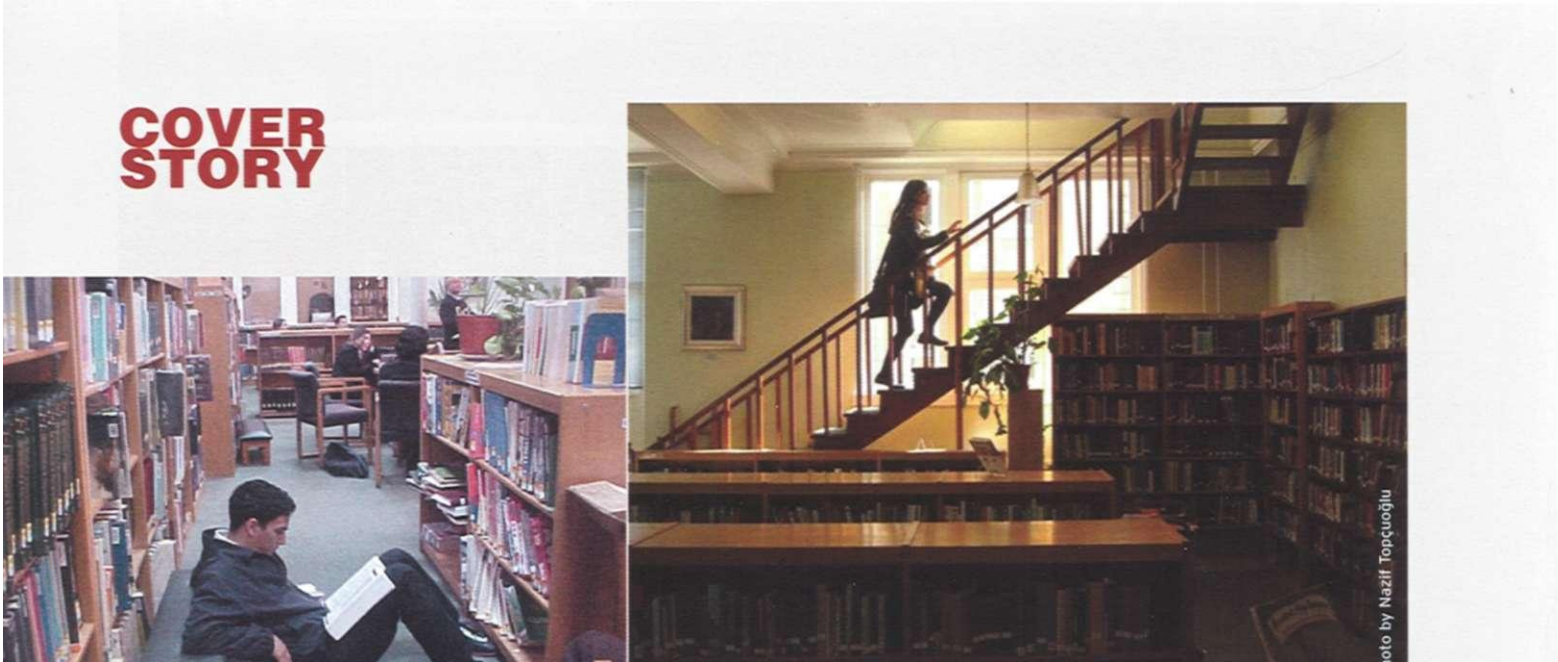
Godfrey Goodwin, professor of art and architecture and housemaster at Robert College from 1958 to 1967 was one of these luminaries. A chance encounter with Istanbul in 1952 led to Goodwin's lifelong love affair with Turkey, the fruit of which were many studies including his classic work *A History of Ottoman Architecture*. First published in 1971, it is still in print and remains the standard work of reference. In addition to his scholarly work, Goodwin also published his memoirs *Life's Episodes; Discovering Ottoman Architecture*, in which he devotes several chapters to RC and his students there. Of his residence at Hamlin Hall, Goodwin says: "What I enjoyed was the unreliability of electricity in my first years. I kept a supply of 1,000 candles and when the lights failed issued one candle to each student, while the railings round the galleries overlooking the halls carried sets of six. The effect was as romantic as anyone could hope for, most of all when it was raining because of the lively reflection of the flames in the glass roof over the courtyard. One wondered if hell were equally attractive." Goodwin relished his Ottoman Architecture course because, as he said, it meant "he had a whole city to explore" with his students. At first his students were terrified of venturing into mosques and historic buildings (which in those days were rundown and poorly

## RC History Books

Acclaimed historian John Freely has written a definitive history of the schools, from the founders through to the present in the two-volume *A History of Robert College*, published by Yapı Kredi Yayınları in English. The book includes many previously unpublished photographs and documents about the school, a selection of which can be seen in the RC Museum, above the Library.

Another valuable resource *The Story of Robert College Old and New* was compiled by librarian and archivist May Fincancı in 2001. In addition to a historical overview, the book provides detailed information on the school's newer buildings, as well as campus life today.





maintained), but by the end of the first year, when Goodwin took them to Edirne they had become, "as heroic as Janissaries". (Sadly, Goodwin passed away recently. Please see his obituary at the back of the magazine.)

**Graduates Look Back - the College in Memoirs**

Given the College's many illustrious graduates, it is not surprising that the school features in many memoirs, the earliest of which was written by ACG's first Moslem female graduate, Halide Edip Adivar ACG 0 1 '. "The effect of my life at the College was so strong, that I feel I must dwell briefly on the general and specific effects it had on me. As a whole, the College had a liberating effect on my life; it would bring balance to my life, the opportunity for a personal life in which I found many different interests. Some of my intellectual tendencies, which were already strong, found new horizons here," she writes. She was just 15 when she translated *The Mother in the Home* from English to Turkish at ACG, which earned her the Sultan's praise. Until the College, Edip was confined to a life at home, at ACG, as Edip's biographer Frances Kazan says "The influence of Mary Mills Patrick, who had received psychology training at Berlin University, on Edip's innovative thought was very apparent,".'

ACG would continue to raise many pioneering women after Adivar. In her memoirs *Bir Dinazorun Anılan* (A Dinosaur's Memoirs), Turkish intellectual, translator and professor Mina Urgan ACG 35 credits ACG with having cured her of many "peculiarities". In a particularly revealing episode, she recounts how the school rid her of her anorexic tendencies. "The first week at school, I didn't eat anything but bread and water. We would be seven students and a teacher at a table. In those days we were served by White Russian waiters in white gloves and suits. I said 'I'm not going to eat'. The teacher did not object, 'As you wish' she said. But I was used to being begged 'please eat, just a little', cajoled with promises of being taken places, even having little shows put on in my honor so that I would eat. The first weekend they picked me up, I didn't say a word during the taxi ride home.

As soon as I set foot in the house, I went straight for the pantry (in those days there were no refrigerators) and ate whatever I could get my hands on with great gusto. That appetite continues to this day."

Both ACG and RC were famous not just for strong academics, but also a vibrant extra-curricular tradition, particularly in drama. In fact for some students, like the famous actor Haldun Dormen RC 49, the theater became a driving passion. "Despite all my talents, my grades were terrible," he recalls", describing scraping by each year academically, but excelling on the school stage. "There was an activity of interest for everyone at school. In those days, the College theater activities were often spoken about in cultured circles. *Antigone*, directed by municipal theater actor Avni Dilligil (now deceased), was very successful. The newspapers went on at some length about the young talents in lead roles, Tunç Yalman and Sara Korle."

In her autobiography *Şirin*, legendary actress Şirin Devrim ACG 46 says "The love of theater which would give direction to my life began at the American College for Girls,". She made her stage debut in a Turkish play called *İnsanlar Niye Yazar* written by Altemur Kılıç RC 44. "Everyone was in it," she writes of a cast which included Ahmet İsvan RA 44, Mehmet isvan RA 46 and Bülent Ecevit RC 44, who would meet his wife Rahşan Aral ACG 44 in rehearsal.

Admission to the prestigious theater group was not always easy. In his autobiography *Patches of My Life from 1910-1944*, Arif Saltuk RC Eng 33, recalls: "I received a letter from the Robert College Players, a rather exclusive group, the members of which were selected from among the whole student body. I had been nominated as a candidate for membership. However, the letter also informed me that I was to take a written examination and if I passed it successful then had to go through an oral exam. Only after passing all those could I attain the honor of membership in the Robert College Players,". For the written part, Saltuk - a talented artist- was asked to design a stage set for one of Shakespeare's plays, which he did. He was then ordered "to

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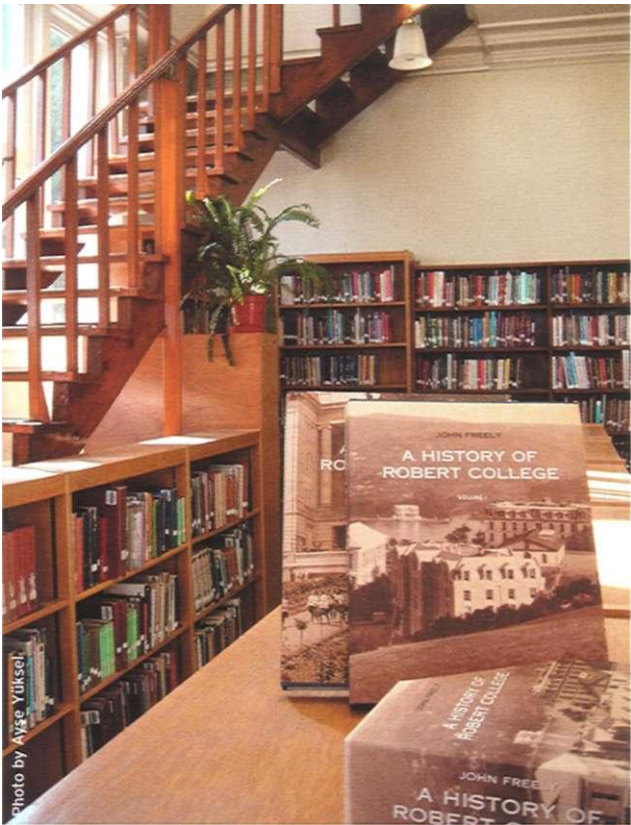
# COVER STORY

acquire the spirit of happiness from Mr Ratiani, our gymnastics teacher", blindfolded and frog-marched before a mock court before being accepted.

"In terms of the theater, the College was a school unto its own," writes Ülkü Tamer RC 58". Even Orta 3 students would put on a Shakespeare play each year, in English. In the Lise, seven or eight plays would be put on a year, he recalls. A group of Lise students including him would also take one or two plays on a tour of Anatolia in the semester break, often accompanied by English teacher Hillary Sumner-Boyd. "Boyd was more of our friend than our teacher. We would meet in his room, smoke and discuss drama and literature. We learnt a lot from him. Most Importantly we learnt to appreciate art,".

Like Tamer, many College graduates recall particular teachers who helped shape the course of their lives. It was one such teacher's Intervention which helped acclaimed writer and Intellectual Talat S. Halman RC 51" evade his mother's plans for him to become an engineer. "One of the American teachers in the Engineering department said 'If you want, you can become an engineer. Your exam was good enough. But you should know that you will never be a very successful engineer. [...] So I convinced my mother, and I didn't enter [the department]'". Fortunately for Turkey, Halman studied arts and literature instead, and went on to become the country's first minister of culture.

In his moving account of growing up a Turkish Jew in the 1940s, Erol Haker"ı RC 50 also dwells on his years at RC, of which he says "[It] is unparalleled even on a global scale; I do not think there are many schools in the world which are so unique,". Replete with colorful details of boarding school life, invented boyhood languages and off-campus escapades, Haker also describes the students' introduction to what he calls "the world of New England", which was "akin to visiting Mars, not because it was luxurious, but because it was so cultured and comfortable". He cites The English Speakers Club presided over by Mrs. McNeal, whose husband, the literature professor Charles McNeal, would weep at a particularly moving Schubert piece, as well as impromptu gatherings in the rooms of David Garwood. Actor Dormen says: "The only class I would attend with pleasure was the literature class given by an American, Prof. McNeal. I would hang onto his every word. He tried to teach his students about every aspect of art; music, theater, cinema and even classical Turkish music. May he rest in peace, McNeal was a truly wonderful teacher. He greatly respected my decision to become an actor, and even told me he was very happy about it,". For other College students, it was the places on campus that made it unique. Celebrated author Orhan Pamuk RA 70 writes of the library: "I enjoyed losing myself amidst the labyrinths on the school library, with its low ceilings and pleasant smell of aging paper, and spending hours going through books,". Others were entranced by its sprawling natural beauty. "There were woods where lilacs bloomed in



spring, a "Plateau" from which to watch the Bosphorus, flower gardens with ponds, and a big hill behind the buildings. Because there was a tradition that graduating classes leave behind a gift to the school, our class of 1935 class planted 31 pine trees on that bare hill. Now those trees have grown and multiplied," says Urgan.

Such is the impact of College years, some writers have published books on the school alone; these include Asya Orhon"ı RA 64 and Uğur Ersoy"ı RC Eng 55, as well as RC Trustee Ali H. Neyzi RC 46 whose account of his College years, *Alma Mater*, was printed both in Turkish and English. Neyzi's account is of his years as a boarding student at the school from 1939-46, where "there are more than 200 boys. Imagine the noise and the rumpus". The boys got up to countless adventures, including illicit smoking, regaling each other with sexual tales after lights out and discovering tunnels underneath the sports field that help them play hooky. (Sadly, Neyzi passed away recently. Please see his obituary at the back of the magazine.)

A more recent addition to this crop of memoirs is Eren Yanık's RC 04 *Akvaryum* (Aquarium), written while he was a high school senior, in which he describes the growing pains of a post-1980 generation. Yanık is currently at Princeton.

## The College in Biographies

The school also found its way into biographies written about other people. Celebrated essayist Gündüz Vassaf RA 64 devotes a chapter to the College in his biography about his mother, Belkıs Halım Vassaf (*Annem Belkıs*), a courageous woman who embodied the go-hither spirit of the early Republic. Born at the turn of the century, most likely in 1904, in the Balkans -then part of the Ottoman Empire- this remarkable woman studied at Robert College, İstanbul University and eventually Harvard. Her time at Robert College is one of momentous transformation for Turkey, in its first years as a

republic. She becomes one of the founders of the Turkish Literature Society on campus. "Of course we couldn't have given it a name like the Moslem Society, the Christian Society. That was forbidden under the Republican administration. Religious distinctions had been abolished, instead there were nations. So we called ourselves the Turkish Literature Society and almost all the Turkish girls belonged to this society." The group makes College history when it puts on the first ever Turkish language play, *Sırat Köprüsü*.

Journalist Arda Uskan opens his biography of celebrated Turkish journalist and magazine publisher Ercan Arıklı RC 59, *Güle Güle Bebeğim* (Bye Bye Baby), with a scene at Robert College. He recounts how as early as the 1956 Orta yearbook, Arıklı was "planning to become a journalist", and describes how many of Ankli's closest lifelong friendships were formed at school. Perhaps his closest friend, classmate and fellow journalist Ismail Cem, RC 59 for instance, would go on to become foreign minister in the 1990s. Tragically, Arıklı was killed by a bus two years ago.

## RC in Literature

A great many scenes at the College seem well-suited to become backdrops to a novel; the Plateau at dusk, the wisteria blossoms in spring and the imposing entrance to Marble Hall are just some of the romantic, evocative details of campus living. It is perhaps surprising then that the school hasn't made it into more novels.

Possibly the most infamous fictional account of the school is Maureen Freely's ACG 71 *Life of the Party*, set on what is today's Boğaziçi campus. It centers on Hector Cabot, a teacher with wild ways at Woodrow College, and his expatriate circle, in the last days before the school becomes nationalized and against the backdrop of a harsh era in Turkish history.

Scandal is also at the heart of *Ankara Cinayeti*, a documentary novel' by former MP ihsan Tombuş RC 42 Ex about the 1945 so-called Ankara Murder, a high-profile murder case in which two of his Robert College classmates were implicated. In other books, Robert College is not named, but invoked in great detail. In his only fictional work, *Romanımla Sana Bir Ses*, counterculture icon Ömer Madra RA 64 creates a youthful protagonist on the cusp of graduating from a College strikingly similar to RC. Likewise, in several chapters of his novel *Young Turk*, London-based writer Moris Farhi RA 54 refers to an idyllic boys' boarding school in Bebek, on a hill, where teenagers of many nationalities, ethnicities and religions coexist peacefully.

## A Comprehensive List of RC in Books

Author Name	Author Last Name	Title
Ali	Neyzi	<b>Alma Mater and the Story of Robert College</b>
Aptullah	Kuran	<b>Bir Kurucu Rektörün Anıları: Robert Kolej</b> Yüksek Okulundan Boğaziçi Üniversitesine
Arif	Saltuk	<b>Patches of My Life from 1910 to 1994</b>
Asya	Orhon	<b>Kolejlerin Koleji, Robert Kolej</b>
Ayşe	Yüksel	<b>İ Okul Kütüphaneciliği Konferansı</b>
Ayten	Sezer	<b>Atatürk döneminde Yabancı Okullar</b>
Betty	Tank	<b>Pushing My Shadow</b>
Caleb Frank	Gates	<b>Not To Me Only</b>
Cyrus	Hamlin	<b>My Life and Times</b>
Cyrus	Hamlin	<b>Among the Turks</b>
Eren	Yanık	<b>Akvaryum</b>
Erol	Haker	<b>İstanbul'dan Kudüs'e Bir Kimlik Arayışı</b>
Frances	Kazan	<b>Halide Edip ve Amerika</b>
George	Washburn	<b>Fifty Years in Constantinople</b>
Godfrey	Goodwin	<b>Life's episodes: discovering Ottoman architecture</b>
Gündüz	Vassaf	<b>Annem Belkıs</b>
Haldun	Dormen	<b>Sürç-ü Lisan Ettikse - Anılar</b>
Halide Edip	Adivar	<b>Mor Salkımlı Ev</b>
Hester Donaldson	Jenkins	<b>An Educational Ambassador to the Middle East</b>
ihsan	Tombuş	<b>Ankara Cinayeti</b>
Jak	Deleon	<b>The White Russians in İstanbul</b>
John	Freely	<b>History of Robert College</b>
Lynn	Scipio	<b>My Thirty Years in Turkey</b>
Mary Mills	Patrick	<b>A Bosphorus Adventure</b>
Mary Mills	Patrick	<b>Under Five Sultans</b>
Maureen	Freely	<b>Life of the Party</b>
May	Fincancı	<b>The Story of Robert College Old and New</b>
Mina	Urgan	<b>Bir Dinazorun Anıları</b>
Morgenthau		<b>All in a Lifetime</b>
Moris	Farhi	<b>Young Turk</b>
NormanSNancy	Beecher	<b>Fortunate Journey:our lives, our family, and our forebears</b>
Ömer	Madra	<b>Romanımla Sana Bir Ses</b>
Orhan	Pamuk	<b>İstanbul</b>
Orhan	Tiirker	<b>Mega Revma'dan Amavutkoy'e</b>
Princess Musbah	Haidar	<b>Arabesque</b>
Şirin	Devrim	<b>Şirin</b>
Stevens	Marcia&Malcolm	<b>Against the Devil's Current: Life S Times of C.H.</b>
Talat	Halman	<b>Akılın Yolu Bindir</b>
Teoman	Onat	<b>Anılarım</b>
Uğur	Ersoy	<b>Erguvan Renkli Yıllar</b>
Ülkü	Tamer	<b>Yaşamak Hatırlamaktır</b>

[1] As quoted in John Freely, A History of Robert College, YKY, 2000, p. 9. [2] Cyrus Hamlin. My Life and Times, Boston, 1893. [3] Mary Mills Patrick. A Bosphorus Adventure. London, 1934. [4] George Washburn, Fifty Years in Constantinople and Recollections of Robert College. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1909. [51] Caleb Frank Gates. Not To Me Only. Princeton 1940. [6] Scipio, Lynn A. My Thirty Years in Turkey. Ringde, New Hampshire, 1955. [7] Betty Tank. Pushing My Shadow, New York 1995. [8] Halide Edip Adivar, Mor Salkımlı Ev, İstanbul. [9] Franes Kazan, Halide Edip ve Amerika, İstanbul 1995. [10] Haldun Dormen, Sürç-ü Lisan Ettikse - Anılar, İstanbul, 1993. [11] Ülkü Tamer. Yaşamak Hatırlamaktır, İstanbul 2005. [12] Talat S. Halman. Akılın Yolu Bindir, İstanbul 2003. [13] Erol Haker. Kudüs'ten İstanbul'a Bir Kimlik Arayışı, Kitap Yayınevi, 2004 [14] Orhan Pamuk, İstanbul, İstanbul 2005. [15] Mina Urgan, p. 148. [16] Asya Orhon. Kolejlerin Koleji Robert Kolej. 2005, İstanbul. [17] uğur Ersoy. 1950-55 Erguvan Renkli Yıllar, İstanbul 2004.



## ONES TO WATCH



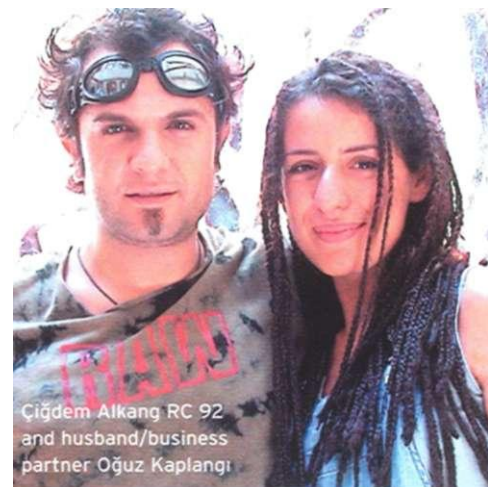
Özlem Alkan Karakuş RC 87

### Writer/Editor Karakuş Leads Time Out Istanbul Success

Istanbul has become hip of late, hosting big league international events and recently making the cover of Newsweek as the epitome of cool. But the first sign that the city was headed for global hipdom came back in March 2003, when fledgling media company Ajans Medya took a chance and launched *Time Out Istanbul*, in English and Turkish. *Time Out*'s the definitive weekly city guide for big cities across the globe, youthful and cheeky in tone and packed with information on every imaginable urban activity for everyone from tots to transvestites. The Istanbul edition has seen sales grow exponentially since its launch. Much of its success is due to the able leadership of editor Özlem Alkan Karakuş RC 87, who has ensured that the magazine retains the irreverent but informative tone that makes it so popular elsewhere, despite a media climate in Turkey which is less than friendly to independent publications. A marketing executive with a degree in Economics from Boğaziçi, Karakuş quit her position in charge of products at Benkar, parent company of the successful Advantage sales card, to try and make a living doing something she enjoyed. "Four months later, I was at *Time Out Istanbul*, doing what I love best -writing- and making money from it," she told the RCO. "*Time Out*'s different from mainstream magazines," Karakuş says. "It is made to be read, more than to be looked. It has attitude, and it's not afraid to show it." In addition to her position at *Time Out*, Karakuş also oversees several other magazines produced by parent company Ajans Medya. These include Chat, the Advantage Card magazine, and global travel magazine *Travel and Leisure*.

### Record Company Taps Sounds of Istanbul

Former journalist and copywriter Çiğdem Alkan RC 92 has joined forces with musician Oğuz Kaplangı of Rebel Moves fame -also her husband- to form Elec-Trip Records, an independent music production company embracing what the pair call an "Istanbul Fusion Sound". The company made headlines earlier this year with the compilation album *Istanbul Calling Vol. 1*, whose reggae-pop infused track Bandare was an instant national hit. The album stayed in the Top 20 for 36 weeks. In the pipeline this year for Elec-Trip is hip-hop artist Sultana's second album *Şöhret Yolu* and a second volume of *Istanbul Calling*. At present they are working on the release of *Carnaval del Amor*, an album by new group Lava which blends Mediterranean grooves, acid-jazz and world music with English, Spanish and Turkish lyrics. Elec-Trip Records albums and its 400-song archive are available online via iTunes or Napster. The company has already made a name abroad, licensing its artists' songs to more than 70 compilation albums. From January, Elec-Trip Records will be distributed outside Turkey as well. For more information, visit [www.elec-trip.com](http://www.elec-trip.com).



Çiğdem Alkan RC 92  
and husband/business  
partner Oğuz Kaplangı

### Harvard Honors Paçalioglu for Teachina Excellence



Evren Paçalioglu RC 93

Evren Paçalioglu RC 93 was awarded Harvard University's Dean's Award for Excellence in Student Teaching as a graduate student at the Kennedy School of Government. The award is based on student nominations and was given in recognition of her work as a Teaching Fellow for "Quantitative Analysis and Empirical Methods", a mandatory course for many students at the Kennedy School of Government. She taught while completing a Masters in Public Administration and International Development.

The award is particularly special because it is based on student recommendations. Paçalioglu says the experience has fueled a passion for teaching. "Looking back, teaching to a class of extremely bright individuals was not an easy task. It was stressful and required a big time commitment," she says. "However, I can say unequivocally that I truly enjoyed every bit of the process and believe that my passion for teaching will grow even greater in time."

Paçalioglu says that the teaching and research experiences at the Kennedy School motivated her to make the career switch from working in the private sector to becoming an academician?. "I find the academic environment stimulating because I like the innovative thinking that the research process requires. I am excited about the prospect of generating new developments by fusing the existing body of work with new ideas and innovations" she said. She is currently a PhD candidate at Oxford University.

After graduating from RC in 1993, Paçalioglu received a B.A. in Business Administration from Boğaziçi University in 1997 and an M.B.A from Cornell University in 1999. She resigned from her position as Vice President at the Global Foreign Exchange Division of Credit Suisse First Boston in New York when she was offered a merit-based fellowship to attend Harvard. At present she lives in the UK with her husband, Ömer Töre, who works for Goldman Sachs in London.

### Apple Turkey Recruits Mustafa İçil as Marketing Director

Mustafa İçil RC 90 has been appointed marketing director for Apple IMC In Turkey. "This is an exciting period of change for Apple," içil said of his new post. "There is a lot of Innovation in terms of company structuring". As part of the changes led by içil, in October, Apple Turkey held the first ever "Apple Days" fair in Istanbul, designed to introduce Apple products to non-users, as well as highlight the company's vast range of hi-tech products, from the popular iPod to the Mac mini.

içil was a transfer from the Microsoft Turkey Office where his last post was as senior director of sales and marketing for Windows Operating Systems. After graduating from Robert College, içil completed both his undergraduate and masters degree in Computer Engineering at Boğaziçi University.



Mustafa İçil RC 90





## Betil Heads Foundation for Youths

As Turkey begins the long, uphill process of accession to the European Union, one of its biggest challenges will be reducing vast regional disparities. Ibrahim Betil RA 64, a former banker who has dedicated the past 11 years to developing Turkish civil society in various ways, believes that to do this Turks will have to shed their belief in an all-providing state and take more initiative. "Turkey is a highly centrally-governed state," says Betil. "Civil initiative has been suppressed for decades. Turkey can only become an EU member if civil society gains further respect and takes on more initiative."

Betil is betting on youths, who make up some 20% of the 70 million population, to lead the way. He founded and heads the Social Volunteers Foundation (TOGV), a pioneering non-profit volunteerism program aimed at youths between the ages of 17-25. In just three years, TOGV has amassed a network of 8,500 youths across 70 universities in Turkey, who have undertaken hundreds of local volunteer projects in their own regions. The projects range from the small and immediate, like environmental cleanup, to the longer-

term, like renovating, outfitting and ensuring the sustainability of primary schools in impoverished regions.

The key to TOGV's success is that projects are developed, planned and carried out by local student volunteers; a project to build a computer lab for a school in Diyarbakır for instance, was initiated and managed by the TOGV team at Dicle University there. "The aim is to have the youngsters take responsibility in a project that will find a solution to a local need," says Betil. "They learn about project development, local fund raising, team building, effective communication, project realization and evaluation." Youths who join TOGV are trained in these skills by a team of educators before going out into the field.

Twice a year, volunteers from around Turkey meet up to share experiences and best practices. "As our volunteers do the community service, they develop long lasting



friendships from all over the country. A TOGV experience for a young university student is a very rich and deep experience," says Betil.

TOGV raises money through individual donors and corporate sponsorship. Much of its work is based on creating sustainable, long-lasting solutions. For each fully equipped educational service center it sets up (there are currently 5) for example, it creates a complex coalition of local businessmen, opinion leaders and volunteers to ensure that the center can keep going.

In addition, TOGV helps university students to find internship placements in companies. It offers scholarships to needy students, and requires them to perform weekly community service in exchange. It also offers a mentoring program under which volunteering adults are paired with students for a year or more, sharing experiences and ideas.

Betil says he finds his work in the non-profit sector has been life transforming. "civil society work is not necessarily 'non profit'. On the contrary, it can be very profitable work for those who find satisfaction in trying to make changes in the world," he says. "It is highly satisfactory and 'profitable' if you are not looking for financial gains. Especially when you live in a society that has a lot of contradictions and that requires a lot of changes. Since 1994, I have limited my involvement in the professional business life, and apart from my consultancy work to sustain my living, I have not been active in the business world. In my condensed and focused involvement in civil society for the last 11 years, I have, of course, not gained any money. But I think I have gained a life's worth experience, expanded my knowledge and deepened my values," he says. Small wonder then that in many places he visits, complete strangers greet Betil as "Hocam" ("My Teacher"); in a way he has become educator to a nation.

"Money is only an 'instrument' to buy goods and services that may make people happy," Betil says, concluding: "In all these years, I have learned that, apart from subsidizing one's basic needs, one does not need too much money for happiness. Sometimes in life there are 'short cuts' to happiness and satisfaction without dealing with money. And for those who have not experienced this, I strongly recommend that they should try, and see the huge 'profits' in the non profit world."

### Call to RC Alumni To Become a Mentor!

Mentoring—from the Greek word meaning enduring—is defined as a sustained relationship between a youth and an adult. Through continued involvement, the adult offers support, guidance, and assistance as the younger person faces new challenges. TOGV has a successful mentoring program in place. "In Turkey, there are big gaps between generations, income groups, ethnic groups and regions. This creates social and economic tension," says Mehmet Betil RA 61, a board member and one of the founders of the mentoring program. "One way to try and overcome this is through mentoring."

Currently there are 55 mentors at TOGV, and 112 mentees (youths). Applicants are screened and then matched up based on their interests and needs. Sometimes this is career related; a dental student might ask to be paired with a professional dentist as a learning experience. Other youths are new to Istanbul, and ask for someone to introduce them to the city. Some youths who come to university in Istanbul from other regions get homesick, and ask to spend time with a family. "There is a broad spectrum, it's definitely not just career related. There are many reasons why youths seek a mentor," says Betil. The program only exists in Istanbul, but plans are to expand to three other cities by the end of the year.

Of 55 TOGV mentors, 11 are from the College: Ralf Arditti RA 64, Arif Talabar RA 63, Mehmet Betil RA 61, Sedef Betil ACG 66, Nevra Demirel ACG 68, Ahmet Demirel RA 62, Gülsüm Aykut RC 74, Aysu Yeğenil RC 68, Aykut Gürlek RA 65, Ester Ruso ACG 67 and Kayhan Akduman RC 69.

The basic requirement to become a mentor is to be able to commit a minimum four hours a month to your mentee. As Betil says: "We would love to see other College friends become mentors. Our goal is to be able to mentor 300 youths by the end of the year. To do that, we need new mentors to join us!"



From left to right, Oktan Erdikmen (Mentee, Bilgi University), Mehmet Betil RA 61 (Mentor) Flsun Cengiz (Mentee-Bilgi University) at Cem Boyner's photography exhibition.





It was my mother's idea," says Hakan Kök RC 77, of Saklıköy, a sprawling natural resort of green fields and rolling hills a short distance from Istanbul.

"When I was 35, she told me that she knew for a fact that I would only be happy in nature." Her words were well-timed. Kök had just received funding to expand his printing press; a career for which he had studied printing in Germany. He'd even begun construction. Nonetheless, he sold his printing press, found Saklıköy, a place where he wanted to spend the rest of his life, and changed his life.

Located about seven kilometers past Polonezköy, Saklıköy is close to the Ishakh village. It is a well-hidden paradise in which visitors can ride horses, play tennis, volleyball, paintball and badminton, take long walks, use the state-of-the-art fitness center, or swim in a lovely pool.

The resort has grown organically over the years. Built in 1993, using sun-dried mud bricks, stones and natural wood, the Saklıköy management made a point of not cutting down any trees during construction. Instead, they planted over 4,000 saplings. Originally the Kök family hosted just their friends. But over the years, as demand increased, Saklıköy became a full-fledged equestrian center, a hotel and even has its own meeting rooms.

Kök attributes his love of nature to a childhood spent in Çınarcık. He and his parents lived there in a tent for many

43 kargo uçağımız, 23.565 kara nakliye aracımız ve 150.000'den fazla çalışanımız; gönderilerinizin yerine tam zamanında güvenle ulaşması ortak amacında kenetleniyor.

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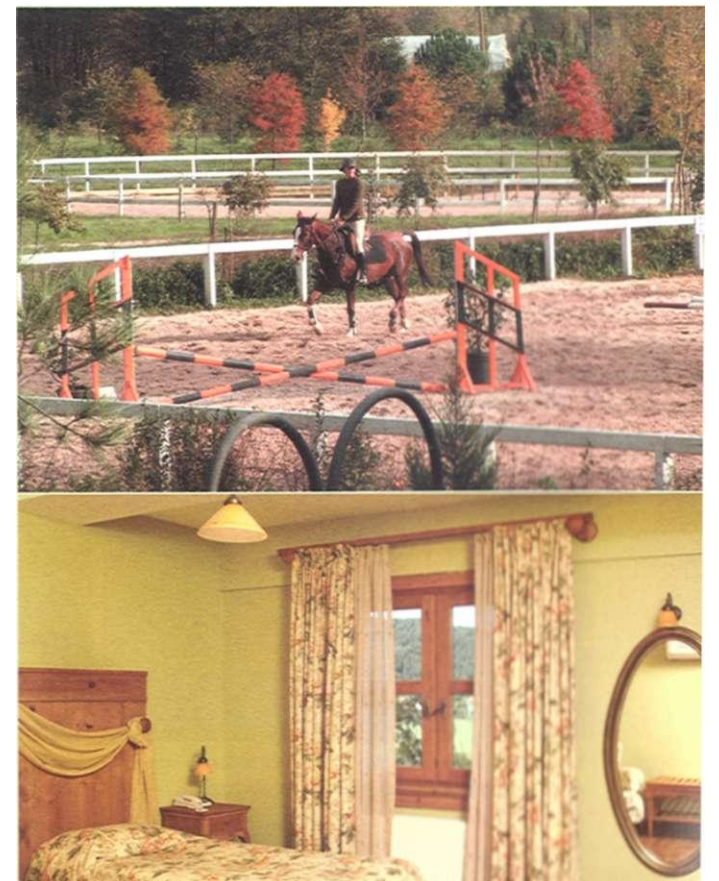
years. They slowly built their way up to a hut. The addition of another hut, and then another one, made them the owners of the guesthouse "Ug Rel's" (Three Chiefs) - the family members.

Saklikoy is designed to accommodate a maximum of 150 families with 53 rooms in two hotels, made of stone and sun-dried brick. Kok has no plans to expand further. It operates on a membership basis. Guests can choose to stay at the hotel, or become a year-long member of this natural paradise. Daily visitors are not allowed.

There is a children's camp to please both the parents and their children. For youths, or the young at heart, there are two dormitories which sleep ten people each. For those who believe in a pleasurable working environment, Saklikoy offers state of the art meeting facilities as well. Top companies often hold large scale meetings or retreats here.

The Saklikoy ethos is to live as close as possible to nature. This overarching concept recently led Kok to buy another piece of land close by for organic farming. Run by the ecological Bugday Foundation, this organic farm produces over 35 different kinds of vegetables and fruits. A third of the produce goes straight to Saklikoy, to be served to its customers.

For more information: [www.saklikoy.com.tr](http://www.saklikoy.com.tr) Tel: 0216 434 55 22





FUND  
RAISING

# Ozyegin Announces Gift at Annual Giving Dinner



Guest speaker Hüsnü Özyeğin RA 63

Class Representatives, High Honor Donors, and Named Scholarship Donors gathered at a dinner to celebrate the past campaign year, and to officially "Kick - Off" the 2005-06 RC Annual Giving Campaign. The event was held at Bizim Tepe on October 17. Guest of honor, Hüsnü Ozyegin RA 63 gave a memorable speech which he ended with the announcement of a surprise gift: the establishment of two new full scholarships in perpetuity at Robert College.

Ozyegin, who has been a generous contributor to the RC Scholarship Fund in previous years - students walk by a plague every day which honors his name in the library balcony- chose to talk about the impact of RC in his life. He captivated the audience with amusing anecdotes and milestones of his student days and of the beginning of his career, crediting his Alma Mater for providing the skills that helped him overcome substantial challenges. Self esteem, being a team player, a healthy sense of competition, social responsibility, a shared sense of destiny, getting rewarded for hard work and being punished for the lack of it, were all qualities fostered by RC. Ozyegin cited all of this and more as giving him the courage to head for the USA after graduating from RC in 1963 with only 1000 USD in his pocket.

The rest is history. Hüsnü Ozyegin, founder and head of the Fiba group of companies, has become one of Turkey's most prominent businessmen. Furthermore, he and his wife Ayşe devote a substantial amount of time, energy and resources to a wide array of philanthropic endeavors. Education is one major area Özyeğin points out as a national concern. His personal experience and hardships encountered as a student was one reason he founded the Hüsnü M. Ozyegin Foundation in 1989 to support needy students across Turkey. In the conclusion of his speech, Ozyegin singled out Robert College as an exemplary institution, and expressed his sentiments by saying, "We cannot do enough for this school!... When I was asked to make a speech, I was reassured that the purpose of the evening was not to collect money" he added, laughing. "However, I would still like to announce that I am hereby contributing two endowed scholarships to Robert College."



One of the RC 90 Class Agents Okan Atilla receiving his award from Hüsnü Özyegin.



From L to R: Class agent Sevil Taviloğlu ACG 58, class agent Nimet Erenli ACG 43, Oya Sezer ACG 69, class agent Necla Kavala ACG 45 and class agent Nur Edil ACG 69



Some of the newest class agents to join the team, from L to R: Can Arslan RC 05, Rana Babaç RC 04 and Ayşegül Kurşun RC 03.



From L to R: Behçet Demircan RA 68, Mrs. Demircan, Rona Özgür, İpek Meray ACG 71 Jr., Nuri Özgür RA 70, Ahmet Meray RA 70 and Serpil Yazoğlu RC 73.



From L to R: Class agent Candan Fetvacı ACG 70, RC Trustee Erkut Yucaoglu RC Eng 69, RC Headmaster John Chandler, RC Trustee Halis Komili RA 65



RC 85 class agents Ali Yılmaz & Bilge Rızvani received their outstanding class award from Hüsnü Özyegin RA 63.



Award winning RC 80 class agents İsmet Müstecaplioğlu and Hilmi Güvenal with Hüsnü Özyegin RA 63.



From L to R: Guest speaker of the evening Hüsnü Özyegin RA 63, RC trustee Sukey Wagner, trustee and co-chairman of the Annual Giving Committee Mehmet Betil RC Yük 64, Candan Fetvacı ACG 70, and RC Headmaster John Chandler.



# REUNIONS



The host Athenian RC S ACG graduates from various years.

## Athens Host ACG and RC 49

ACG and RC 49 graduates celebrated their 56th reunion in Athens on September 25, 2005. Our school friends living in Athens gave a welcome dinner during which people who hadn't seen each other for years joyfully mingled together and spent a few hours exchanging sentimental memories. It showed that in spite of politics, people could live together in harmony and friendship. We decided to have more of these gatherings. Next year we hope to be together in izmir. **Contributed by Giiner Fansa ACG 49**



The Istanbul RC & ACG 49 group in Athens

## Class of 55: Golden Girls



Fifty years! Fifty golden years! Has it really been fifty years since we graduated from ACG one sunny June day? There was joy and jubilation in the air. We all had dreams and hopes, expecting a great deal from the future, some of which were fulfilled, some never realized. We were all full of self determination and self assurance. ACG 55 was and still is a very special class. We all stuck together during all these years and never separated. Friendships grew and ripened, we became a big family of devoted sisters. In June 2005 we celebrated the 50th year of our graduation, with much joy. Along with our brothers of RC 55, RC Eng 55, RC Eng 57, classmates from all over the world came together in Istanbul to share the excitement and to renew friendships. The reunion celebrations were planned and organized way ahead of time. The entertainment started with a fantastic dinner at Bizim Tepe, a wonderful evening of fun and camaraderie. The second day we were cruising along the two shores of the enchanting Bosphorus, on a most comfortable and luxurious boat, sipping our drinks and enjoying the sunset and the breathtaking skyline of Istanbul. The evening ended with a delicious dinner at Cafe Creme in Ortaköy, filled with music and dancing, as well as the pleasure of being together with old friends. The next weekend we enjoyed the beautiful greenery and serenity of Polonezköy. We met at Saklıköy Hotel for an overnight stay. It was like paradise on earth and it was as if we were the young and giggling schoolgirls of 50 years ago. There were also graduates of another school celebrating their 25th year. We were having so much fun that they were envious of us and wanted to join our party. In fact, so did the other hotel guests.

To cut a long story short, we had an unforgettable time, renewing old friendships and enjoying the precious company of dear friends. The whole program was so successful that we decided to repeat it every other year or maybe every year, who knows?

An unforgettable school, unforgettable friends and teachers and an unforgettable 50 golden years. What more can one ask for?

We owe our lifestyle and vision, our deeply rooted assurance and knowledge and our stamina to meet the good days and challenge the bad, to you, Alma Mater. Thank you for the warm embrace that you surrounded us with during our school days and after graduation, throughout life. Thank you Robert College. To many more happy returns, Class of 55...

**Contributed by Göksel Kortay ACG 55**





# REUNIONS

## RA 65 Celebrates 40th Reunion



1965 was just another calendar year for the world. But it was very special for a group of 93 YOUNG BOYS who graduated from Robert Academy the same year, some of them having spent eight wonderful years with a group of friends. About 40 of these graduates were the last "Prep 1" students of the Robert Academy who started RA in 1957. The friendships started at such early ages are more sincere, longer and stronger than all the others, that's for sure.

There were 60 of these 93 "young" graduates present for the reunion arranged on the 24th June in Bizim Tepe. A bit grown up, but all were young again that night, maybe feeling even younger than 1965 (with some white hairs left on the top). Five of our teachers were also able to join us and thus we had the chance to confess some of the things we had done in the classes and especially in the exams! We all were very happy, talking about the classes, teachers, exams, parties and the girls! But some men and women were talking and discussing their grand-children, who had how many, how old they were, etc etc... They were old and very kind people but most of us couldn't recognize who they were and didn't understand what they were talking about... But, we also did not do a thing to disturb those OLD GENTLES! We all were very polite that night. Anyway, there were too many people in Bizim Tepe on June 24th.

The night in Bizim Tepe was together with our girlfriends (wives), but the next day on the 25th we were by ourselves in Saklitepe. Half of the boys were able to get the permission from their partners to go out alone for a full 24 hours and so there were 30 of us. We all felt sorry for those who were not able to get permission and be with us. The discussions were generally about the world, the Middle East, EU, Turkey and of course HEALTH problems those were the OLD people again! Anyway, they have the right to travel and discuss such things as well. There was a gentleman among them, who was said to be a professor in some medical branch and leading a hospital in the USA. After dinner he lectured us about the latest medical developments, the early human race, the history of the world, the possible future outcomes of the space researches, etc etc... He was a different type of man, all white hair and beard, but a little bit more grown up than the other elders. This was the end of the 40th page of our novel. We promised each other to meet again when we finish page 50 in 2015, as young and healthy as we were on the 24th and 25th June, 2005.

Contributed by Aykut Gırllek RA 65



RA 65 at Anderson study Hall



## Class of 1980 Celebrates 25th Year

Robert College Class of 1980 celebrated their 25th anniversary on July 30 1st on the Arnavutköy campus with spirited and wellattended festivities. RC 80 has always been a very close group of friends, as was evidenced by the attendance of 92 classmates, out of 150. The graduates came to the celebration from as far away as San Diego and Chicago, and as nearby as Arnavutköy and Bebek. The celebration spanned a 24 hour period, which was launched with the taking of a group picture at 7 pm Saturday, July 30, on the steps of Gould Hall. This was followed by cocktails and dinner in Suna Kırış Hall. The graduates then stepped into the amphitheater to dance to the music of popular 1970s bands such as the Bee Gees. However, the highlight of the evening was the multimedia show prepared by two of the graduates. Set to period music in both Turkish and English, the slide show compared "then" and "now" pictures of each of the graduates, and also commemorated three friends the Class lost over the years. This was a very emotional time for many. Following more dancing, the group marched onto the Plateau after midnight. There, under the moonlight and magical Bosphorus setting, many memories were revisited while singing, drinking and socializing just like

in the old days! The group then proceeded to the Maze at 2:30 am, and continued the festivities there. Sometime before dawn, the surviving members of the group retired to the dormitory beds prepared for them at Bingham Hall. However, this special night was not meant for sleeping, as a "water pistol" fight broke out and the group of 43 year old boys .mil girls got each other soaking wet running and screaming .ill over the hallways at Bingham Hall until the sun came up.

At about 10 am Sunday morning, some of the sleepless .md rather intoxicated boys played a soccer game at Bizimtepe while others tried to rest and recover. The weekend's activities continued with brunch at Bizimtepe starting at noon, in which the graduates' spouses and children joined them. It was a great opportunity for the families of farflunii friends to get to know each other. Reunion 2005 confirmed and strengthened the special bonds of friendship that exist between members of the Class of 1980. It was a dreamlike 24 hour period which made us feel 17 years old again, and one we will not soon forget. RC 80 intends to stay in touch and not wait until the 30th anniversary to continue celebrating life and friendship...

Contributed by Mustafa Ozmeral RC 80



## REUNIONS



## And the Oscar goes to... Class of 1990!

It was official after the Orta 3 Show in 1987; the RC 1990 was a class of stars. The level of participation and the quality of performance made this musical show of 15 year olds a spectacular event. Now, those kids have turned 33, and at their 15th reunion dinner at Bizimtepe they proved that they still have their star quality and keep the RC spirit alive.

The Oscar/movies theme was visible throughout the night. Guests arrived at the Bizimtepe car park and followed the red carpet to the poolside. They walked through the lobby surrounded by movie posters. They then stepped into the spotlight and posed for the cameras. Standing in front of a special backdrop they posed again, with the actual Oscar statue, specially made for the night. The backdrop had a special design with the RC logo and it read "RC 90 15th reunion, A class of Stars". The ladies posed with an orange feather boa and the gentlemen sported a felt black hat to get into the mood. There were screams and laughter as graduates hugged each other. The participants who came the farthest were Barış and Susana Karadoğan, all the way from San Francisco. Each person had the name of a movie on a paper, like a movie ticket, which corresponded with a table. Before the nine o'clock showtime (i.e. dinner), everyone gathered for a class photo and one with spouses. Two couples were in both pictures; Hüsnü Meltem Okvuran and Aslı Ahmet Uysal. RC 90's very own "When Harry Met Sally"s!

The stars theme was everywhere; stars hanging from trees, on the cocktail tables, on the stage, sparkling on the tables... Burak Süsoy, the committee head, gave a warm welcome speech which was followed by the showing of a movie: Memories of RC 90. It was an emotional, yet funny summary of graduates' lives, then and now. There was also part of the film where the graduates remembered Osman Evran, a class member who passed away in an accident soon after graduation.

A tree was planted following the loss to commemorate him on campus, and a scholarship fund was established by the class of 1990. After mourning an early ending to life, the joy at new lives followed when pictures of RC 90 babies were shown.

At the end of the film, Burak Süsoy called everyone on stage one by one to receive their commemorative certificate and a copy of the film. The awards ceremony was followed by a live concert by Tolga inci, a class member, who is a professional singer. As the song *That's What Friends Are For* started to play, everyone started saying goodbyes, hoping to see each other before the 20th reunion. Walking back to their cars with the framed Oscar photo in hand, they looked at the stars above and felt like stars, and knew once again why class of 1990 was called "one of the best ever".

Contributed by Didem Sezer RC 90



## RC 85 Celebrates 20th Reunion



The Class of RC 85 had their 20th reunion on the weekend of July 2nd 3rd on the much loved school grounds. The date was arranged to coincide with the 4th of July weekend as we have so many classmates who now live in the US, which proved to be well decided, as we had eight people coming from the US, including Sırma Umur who had flown in just for the weekend, and Gül Köknel who rearranged her "kesin dönüş" plans for the occasion. Seven people joined us from the UK, two from Russia, and one from Spain. Nevid's wife had just days to go with her first pregnancy and Nevid flew in literally for a few hours to be with us. In total 84 people were present, a record for our reunionshy class!

We met Saturday afternoon to start our weekend with a choice of activities including football, yoga on the plato, school grounds exploration, with an "I'm too lazy for any of the above" option, all arranged by Koray Yılmaz, our "Chef de Village" for the weekend. Recognizing each other after a gap of 20 years was an activity in itself. The award in this category goes to Can İlgaz, who saw Elif Ballık mounting the stairs of Marble Hall and went, "Nurçim, hiç değişmemişsin, kolunda çantanla yine tıkr tıkr merdivenleri tırmanıyorsun". Burhan thought this was a "süper espri abi", until he saw the look of shock on Can's face, who was alerted by Bilge as to the real identity of Elif Ballık, who took all this in her stride.

As the day turned into night, everyone showered and changed for cocktails and dinner. The cocktail party took place in front of Gould Hall and following our photocall, dinner was served by Suna Kırış Hall. During dinner the results of our survey, that was made over the internet during the weeks leading to the reunion was announced, to much surprise and laughter all around. The results are said to be somewhat biased, though, as the survey had Ali Levent's personal touch! It was past 4 am when the Sage Dorm was finally quiet, and when some of us could catch a few hours' sleep. It is suspected that tavla and king parties lasted even longer until Rumeyza whispered a few wifely words in Aydin's ear!

The following morning, after a light breakfast of börek and tea, our families joined us for brunch on the lovely Plato. It was mutually agreed that we all needed much longer than these few short hours to really get to rediscover each other, as well as our families.

The organizing committee, which consisted of Ali Levent Orhun, ipek Cem, Ali Yılmaz and Bilge Yavuz has a confession to make: we had almost as much fun preparing for this weekend as we did during it. Our special thanks go to Koray Yılmaz, Edip Uras, and Hüma Alpaytaç for all their help, and to everyone who was there for making it worthwhile.

To see the full results of the survey, visit [www.rc85.com](http://www.rc85.com)

Contributed by Bilge Rizvani RC 85

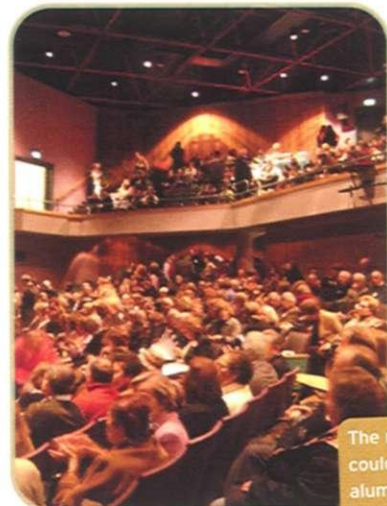




## REUNIONS

# Homecoming 2005

It wouldn't be Homecoming without this classic scene in front of Gould Hall.



The rain and cold couldn't keep RC alumni away from Homecoming. Suna Kiraç Theater was full with standing room only during the traditional roll call.



RC 03 members waiting for roll call to start in the Suna Kiraç Theater foyer.



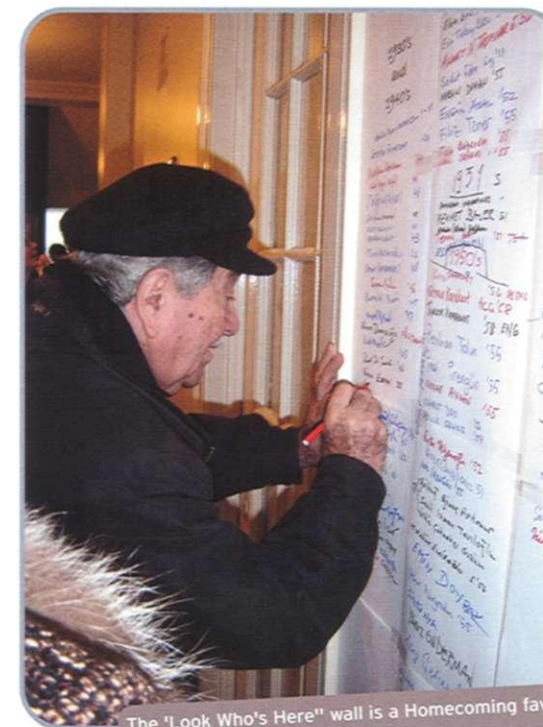
ACG 55 members reunited during Homecoming strike a pose in the faculty parlor of Gould Hall.



Haluk Kilimci RC 50, Esin Pere and friend joined their classmates at Homecoming.



ACG 55 members: Ayla Gümüşlüoğlu, Elçin Gümüşlüoğlu and friends from ACG 55 together for their 50th reunion.



The "Look Who's Here" wall is a Homecoming favorite.



Much loved former faculty member and house-father Aydın Urgan (far right) with former RC 79 students, from L to R: Mustafa Köprülü, Abdullah Şakarcı and Miryam Reyna Anjel.



Members of RA 66 : from L to R: Rifat Tokyay, Zeki Karakimseli, Üstün Sanver and Ali Vardar



Some RC student clubs set up a display in the library to introduce their work to visiting alumni.



# ALUMNI NEWS

## Cana Balay ACG 65

Is working in Ottawa, Canada, at Nortel Networks, as a software engineer. In her spare time, she manages the websites of several other institutions such as the Turkish-Canadian Cultural Association ([www.turk.ca](http://www.turk.ca)), Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) ([www.wise-ottawas.ca](http://www.wise-ottawas.ca)) and the Ottawa Women's Training and Education Network (OWTEN) ([www.owten.freehosting.net](http://www.owten.freehosting.net)). "Not that I have much spare time", she adds!



## Fulya Ercan RC 02

Married Erik Holtze in Newark, Ohio on May 17, 2005. Fulya will be a senior at Denison University this fall. Her husband graduated from Denison in May 2005.

## Nurhan Becidyan RA 65 RC Eng 69

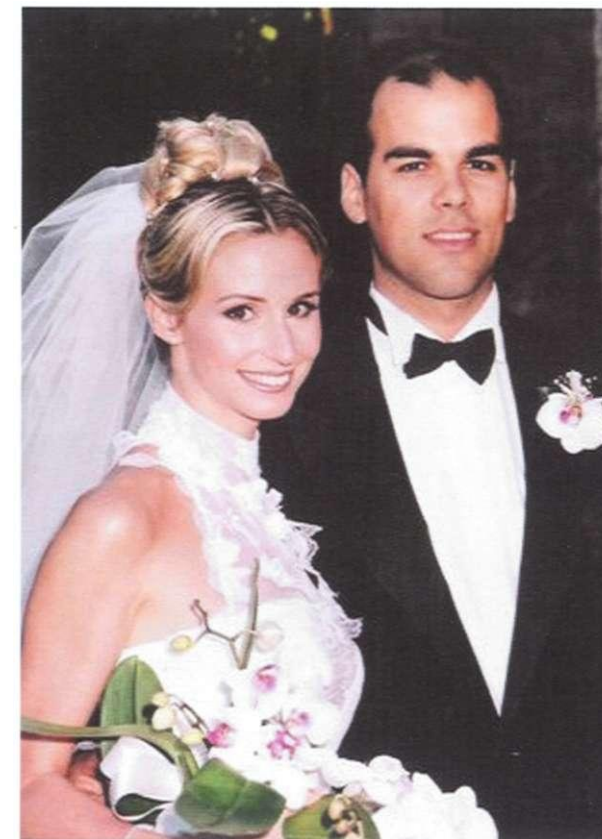
Has become one of the new directors of the Inter-Society Color Council (ISCC), elected to a three-year term that will end in 2008. Founded in 1931, the ISCC is an organization of societies and creative individuals who work to propagate the understanding of color and to promote communication between technically oriented specialists in color and creative workers in art, design and education. Additionally the ISCC promotes educational activities and the interchange of ideas on the subjects of color and appearance among its members and the general public.

Mr. Becidyan is President and Chief Operating Officer of United Mineral and Chemical Corporation. He has been working in the color industry for almost 30 years in which his main interests are in phosphorescence and fluorescence (both visible and UV/IR activated) and applications of color for security industries. After earning a graduate degree in the United States, Becidyan returned to Turkey to work for a folding cardboard company, as technical service representative to the printers. He also worked as the interim mill superintendent. After serving in the Turkish Armored Corps, Becidyan joined the only tissue mill in Turkey as their Technical Director. He became a sales engineer in 1976 at Sandoz Ltd. (now Clariant Corporation) of Switzerland and was transferred to the U.S.A. in 1982. In 1986 he joined United Mineral & Chemical Corporation and has been the President and Chief Operating Officer of the company since 1996. He has an undergraduate degree in Chemical Engineering from Robert College, School of Engineering, and a graduate degree in Pulp and Paper Engineering from the Institute of Paper Chemistry (currently called IPST) of Appleton, Wisconsin. Currently he is the Chairman of the Cadmium Pigments Subcommittee Colored Pigment Manufacturer's Association (CPMA) and is an active member of ASTM International.

The ISCC home page is: [www.iscc.org](http://www.iscc.org)

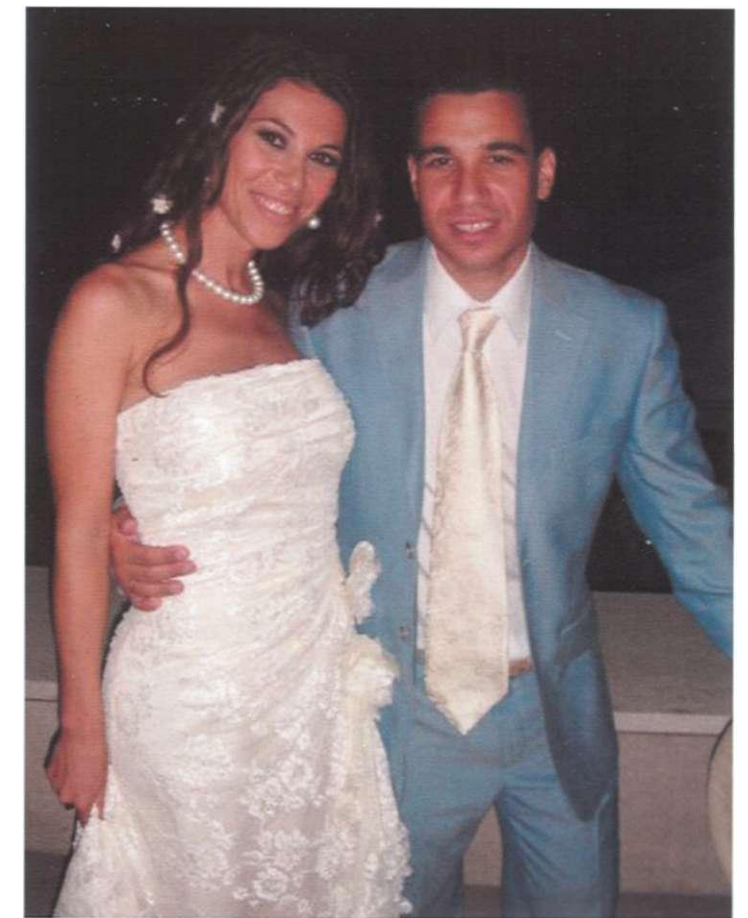
## Melek Or Yıldırım ACG Jr. 71

Prof. Dr. Melek Yıldırım recently retired from her post as Chairperson of the Department of Orthodontics, Faculty of Dentistry of Istanbul University. In addition, she and Prof. Dr. Canan Yolalan Alatlı ACG 71, along with five other colleagues, were the founders of an alumni association for graduates of the Istanbul University Faculty of Dentistry. Prof. Yıldırım also enjoyed a special kind of fame this year. She became the 100.000th guest to visit the Istanbul Modern Museum, open since December 2004. She was awarded a gift package from the museum for this special recognition presented to her by Oya Eczacıbaşı, Chairperson of the Museum Board of Directors, as well as RC Trustee and parent.



## Evren Paçalioğlu RC 93

Married Ömer Töre in July 2004 (son of Erbil Töre RC Eng 63 and Ayşe Kerimoğlu ACG 67, brother of Ali Töre RC 90). The couple got married in Istanbul upon receiving graduate degrees from Harvard, and moved to London.



## Başak Yıldızbayrak RC 93 and Tamer Tamar RC 92

Got married in Istanbul on August 3, 2005. The couple met in 1990 during a physics class at RC and have since been inseparable. Their wedding was attended by in,my K< alumni from both classes. They currently live in London.

## Hande Eskinazi RC 87 and Metin Eskinazi RC 81

Hande and her husband Metin Eskinazi RC HI have welcomed a son, Cem, born on June 1, 2

## Tamer Gürsoy RC 77 Didem Sezer Epikmen RC 90

Ekipmen has joined Tamer Gürsoy RC 77 at the TURKISH INTERNATIONAL PREP SCHOOLS (TIPPS) as a TOEFL teacher. TIPPS, founded by Gürsoy in 1998, is an institution which prepares students for TOEFL and SAT tests. After graduating from Boston University and working in NY for a year, Didem Sezer got married and worked in the corporate world for 6 years. She took four years off after having twins. Now that the girls are off to kindergarten, Didem has decided to follow a different path. She will be helping students prepare for universities abroad by giving TOEFL classes as well as teaching grammar to students in the earlier stages of their education.

## Ersin Süeren RC 59 and Yılmaz Toköz RC 57

These two RC pals, once again took the first two places in the Masters Category of the Turkish Olympic Committee's 17th International Asia to Europe Istanbul Bosphorus Swimming Marathon. The race held on July 17th, 2005 consisting of 6,500 meters of strenuous swimming showed that these two athletes continue to be in top form.





# Sequel to "Kesin" Dönüş - being back in Turkey a year on

Kaan Okurer RC 92 recently undertook a "kesin" dönüş home to İstanbul after twelve years of living in the US where he was first a student and later a professional in New York and Boston. The article below is a sequel to an earlier article in the Winter 2005 issue of the Quarterly.

Arriving at the decision to come back to Turkey after twelve years abroad was a difficult one for me. I had spent practically all of my adult life away. There were many unknowns about living in Turkey. To make matters worse, most of the people I consulted thought I was crazy for considering such a move. When I woke up on July 21, 2004, the day after I arrived in Turkey, my first thought literally was: "Is this the beginning of the end?"

Looking back at the past year and change, I can comfortably say that I am very happy I made the move. I continue to use "kesin" In quotation marks. In the current global environment, one has to be open to what the future has in store. However I am all the more convinced of two things:

- Those of us who have never lived in Turkey as adults owe it to ourselves to come back and give Turkey a chance.
- It is quite possible for those returning to lead a multi-faceted satisfying life in Turkey on professional as well as personal terms.

When I was making the decision to come back to Turkey, I felt alone in my decision. Since coming back, I have met many others who have successfully made this transition before me. I believe this is because our life abroad allows us to appreciate Turkey in a different way. As in Paulo Coelho's "Alchemist," we had to first go away before we could appreciate our roots. Hence, being back is ultimately an exercise in coming to terms with one's identity and learning to love it. Turks abroad have also been shielded from the negative experiences of the locals and can therefore view Turkey old and new with a fresh eye. That is why I suggest that we owe it to ourselves to come back at some point for an extended period even if for a temporary spell.

Since mom's cooking is enough to convince most of us of the lure of the personal life in Turkey, in the rest of this piece I will share some of my encouraging findings on the

professional side of the equation. First of all, international experience is very much in demand in Turkey so finding the right job is only a matter of time. There are some very talented people in Turkey but the pool is not very deep. Therefore a young professional with international experience can take on more responsibility and move more quickly up the corporate ladder here than in a specialized market such as the US. The size of the Turkish market is smaller as well. The combination of the scarcity of talent and the small scale creates a "big fish in a small pond" scenario. The opportunity here is to leverage the know-how you bring from your experience abroad to make a dramatic impact locally. This is a personally gratifying experience. On the downside, whereas one is very close to innovation and the cutting edge global developments abroad, one needs to make more of an effort to see the big picture from Turkey. Then again I believe this may be offset by the opportunity to become a pioneer in the respective local field.

Ironically, I find professional life in Turkey to be much more international or cross cultural than in the US. It is true that a lot of global heavyweights have their headquarters in the US. However as the US is a large-enough market unto itself, there is a lot of business conducted locally especially in the Services arena. By comparison, since the Turkish market is small, there is a lot of interaction with the broader market encompassing the neighboring regions such as Eastern Europe, Middle East, CIS countries and Russia. Another encouraging discovery for me was the fact that Turkey is increasingly becoming the hub of this region for a lot of multinational companies. For example, Microsoft's Middle East and Africa region comprising 79 countries is headquartered in İstanbul. Furthermore, the broader region is one of the fastest growing regions for many multinationals and is therefore a highly strategic part of the whole. As a result, Turkey offers some exciting international career

opportunities for those returning.

Entrepreneurship is also rampant in Turkey. In the winter, I could not help but notice Hüsnü. He usually parks his cart on wheels right in front of our office building. It was impossible to miss the smell of his grilled chestnuts. One day in the spring, I exited the building only to see his cart filled this time with yeşil erik(green plums). During the summer, he sold grilled and boiled corn. The only constant above his cart has been his affixed smile. I am expecting him to convert to my favorites - the chestnuts - next but I would not put it past his innovative flair to squeeze in a fall collection.

Returning to Turkey expecting to make more as a professional employee would be unrealistic. (Though for certain functions, professionals in Turkey get paid more than their counterparts in Western Europe). Yet there are plenty of exciting entrepreneurial opportunities to build one's fortune. The support and comfort of the social life and being in a familiar setting also make it easier to assume risk here than abroad.

The examples above address the business world. Moreover the principles of "big fish in a small pond", cross-cultural work, wealth of opportunity, room for pioneering and strong support mechanism can be applied to other walks of life such as academia, law, arts, medicine, etc. as well.

Lest my meaning is misconstrued, I would like to emphasize that it is not my objective here to pass judgment on whether

life in Turkey is better than life abroad or vice versa. That is ultimately a subjective matter that may not have an easy answer. It is also not my aim to paint a rosy picture of Turkey. Rather, it is my intention to convey that those returning have much to look forward to in Turkey. There is indeed life after New York, San Francisco or London! But don't forget to pack your positive attitude in your suitcase; you will need it to see through the pervasive fog of old-school pessimism.

I repeat, I think moving back to Turkey is a must do even if for a limited period and even if not now. Though now is always a good time and especially in Turkey. Today's Turkey is young, vibrant and exciting. The country is undergoing some fundamental structural changes. It is freer, more open and expressive today than when most of us left it. To me it feels like it is ready to explode. Regarding the future, your crystal bowl is as good as mine. What goes up must come down, but it seems not crashing down this time around.

Lastly, despite all the reasoning above, for most people, the decision to move back is ultimately driven by intangibles, and the heart outweighs the brain when making a non-rational decision!

PS Pick up a Time Out İstanbul next time you are in town to get a glimpse of the variety and richness of the lifestyle.

PPS I am working on a longer piece on the topic of "Kesin" Dönüş. Your comments and suggestions would be much appreciated, [kaan12@yahoo.com](mailto:kaan12@yahoo.com)



Entrepreneur  
Hüsnü and his  
winter chestnuts



# OBITUARIES

## Ali Neyzi RC 46

Passed away on June 19, 2005 after a long illness.

Ali Neyzi was elected to the RC Board of Trustees in 1969 and served until 1993. He was elected a Member of the Corporation and a Trustee Emeritus. During his tenure as a Trustee, he served as Resident Chairman from 1972 to 1988. Below are excerpts from Filiz Ofloğlu's (ACG 49, Trustee Emeritus) tribute to Ali Neyzi.

"A man with a big heart full of love, a businessman, an entrepreneur, an ardent follower of art, a writer, a translator of literature and drama, loyal supporter of his almamater, Robert College, where he served as Resident Chairman of the Board for 14 years. A businessman 'The best insurance man' had said a colleague, years ago. He brought two small insurance companies to top ranks and created a new one. He taught insurance at Robert College Yüksek. As an ardent follower of art, he had a vast collection of paintings by contemporary Turkish artists. Part of this collection he sold at an exhibition at Bizim Tepe to provide scholarships at RC with the proceeds.

As a writer and as a member of the Turkish Writers Syndicate, his life in the world of literature goes back to 1930! He wrote his first novel Sibirya Ovaları at the age of 11. In the 1950's, in collaboration with Tunç Yalman RC 44, he wrote drama reviews for the Vatan and the Yazı Postası newspapers. His first book was Hüseyin Paşa Çıkmazı No. 4, a monograph which aroused great interest. At a time when autographies were yet rare, he wrote about the mansion at Kızıltoprak, his grandfather Mehmet Ali Aynı and his great grandmother, the well known musician



Leyla Saz. This paved the road to his next books, Neyzi ile Neyzi and Alma Mater about Robert College days, Uzatmalı Sevgiliye Mektuplar, BeyzadePaşazade, Mahir, Lara FeneriÇakıp Sönen Anılar I and II, dedicated to his two grandchildren and Lara III, his last book dedicated to his third grandchild. The Neyzi family is an RC alumni family. Ali Neyzi RC 46 married his first wife Olcay Ataman (ACG 46, academic). His son Mehmet Ali Neyzi RC 76, a prominent businessman married Fahrünisa Yıldızalp (RC 76, academic). His daughter Leyla Neyzi RC 78 is also a writer and academic. His brother, the late Nezihi Neyzi RC 44 was married to Ayfer Doğan ACG 49 and his granddaughter is Zülal Neyzi RC 03. As an ardent supporter of his alma mater and as Chairman of the resident Board, in early 1970 he called several of his friends and asked for 1.000 TL urgently. 'What for?' He said, 'I am going to establish a foundation.' He did: The Hisar Educational Foundation. During one of the Board meetings of the Hisar Foundation where I was a trustee, Ali said, 'A former gardener of ACG has a piece of land next to our campus. The only access to it is through our land. He wants to sell it for a very low price. We should buy it.' 'Whatever for?' 'We can put up an alumni building on it.' We did: Bizim Tepe. Again, in the late 60s, the Ministry of Education suddenly asked for the deed of our land, the ACG and RC campuses. Legally, whoever owns the land, owns the buildings. This felt like a bomb at the Board meeting. A deed over a hundred years old? Where is it? No deed in Istanbul,

none in New York. We were desperate. We could lose the campuses. What did AN do? He found a man who could read the old script, put him in the basement of the Sarıyer deeds office. In three months this man found the Sultan's 'ferman', donating the land to us. We were saved. About two decades ago Ali Neyzi went into voluntary exile in the remote village of Çıralı In Antalya, later, he moved to the city. And now, last but not least, the Akdeniz Statue by İlhan Koman. Ali Neyzi was the President of Halk Sigorta (Now Yapı Kredi Sigorta). The new building of the company had to be honored by a statue of İlhan Koman, he thought. Ali had seen a piece of sculpture by him In a park In Copenhagen. He went to Sweden In 1976, together with a colleague and Melda Kaptana, the former wife of İlhan Koman, as a mediator, to persuade Koman to make a statue for Istanbul. Koman lived on a big boat, anchored to a canal In Stockholm. After much effort and dialogue, Koman agreed. This was the birth of that great statue, the Akdeniz, during 1977-1980. The inauguration of the İlhan Koman exhibition at the Yapı Kredi Kazım Taşkent Art Gallery was on May 6, 2005. Ali was fatally ill at the time. Yet he came to the exhibition. A chair was placed for him behind the Akdeniz, the work of art he loved and for which he had worked so hard.

Akdeniz was placed on green grass in the small square next to the gallery. Ali was seated there. Later he was brought to the building and sat on a chair. Ahmet Koman, RA 69, academic and son of İlhan Koman, knelt in front of him. AN slowly walked and looked at some of the pieces of sculpture. He knew he was going to leave us all, not before long. He returned to his chair. 'Thank God for that', he said.

He is survived by his wife, Sen Sahir Silan. Condolences may be sent to her at P.K. 225, 07050 Antalya, Turkey."

Excerpts from a tribute by AN Neyzi's son, Mehmet Ali Neyzi, RC 76: "One of the nicknames of my father was the baron without underpants. The handsome, rascal third child was unreasonably generous and loved helping everybody in the world. His tolerance knew no bounds. During our childhood days in Erenköy, he would teach all the kids in the neighborhood how to swim and play volleyball, in all the fights during the volleyball matches he would always discover an enjoyable solution. He also loved to eat. When In London he would stay at the Savoy and always discovered the most luxurious places during his travels. While living his life as a world citizen, he worked hard to make his children receive the best schooling and continued his insurance career until my sister and I were married. In the 80s he decided to start a new life, moved to Çıralı (ChimeraOlympos) in Antalya, built himself a house and started writing. In those days you couldn't buy bread or newspapers in Çıralı village. He spent wonderful days with his grandchildren swimming in the beautiful sea which he loved. When Çıralı became crowded and touristic he sold the house and moved to Antalya. For me he was a great dad. Handsome, fun, loving, always considerate and spoiling his children, believing that he and his family were the center of the universe and enjoying every moment. Successful in the world of business, he also managed to make his voice heard with over 20 novels written In the last 20 years."

## Destine Eren (Shevky) ACG 30

Passed away peacefully on May 28, 2005 in Istanbul. Destine Eren is survived by a daughter Ayşegül Taşpınar, a son Ahmet N. Taşpınar, daughter-in-law Seval Taşpınar and granddaughters Zeynep N. and Nilüfer H. Taşpınar. She was two months away from reaching the age of 98.

Her son Ahmet N. Taşpınar RC Eng 56 wrote the following tribute. "Born in 1907 in Istanbul, Destine Eren attended various French and American schools, and came to ACG as a freshman. She excelled in various sports while a student at ACG, and was elected the Student Council President by unanimous vote in her senior year. After a couple of years as a teacher of gymnastics, she married H. Kenan Taşpınar, RC Eng 26 in 1933. The couple had 3 children, one of whom, AN Can, passed away before his mother in 2002.

In 1960 Destine immigrated with her husband and daughter to the US, where she lived until her return to live out her remaining years in her beloved Kalamış in 1993. She lived in New York, and was very active in various Turkish American Associations in that area. Among her many talents were cooking in the Ottoman tradition, arranging parties that were always enjoyed by all attendees, and being there for the underdog and the underprivileged at all times. She will always be remembered as a most affectionate and dedicated family person, and a very loyal friend.

Destine Eren was a member of a family with very strong RC / ACG ties : her husband, Kenan and his three brothers, Hasan, Adnan and Affan were all RC Engineering graduates. Her older sister, Nezihe, was among the earliest Moslem Turkish graduates of ACG. The next generation of the family saw nephews Öztürk and Ertürk İşikpınar, niece Fahire Ozren, son Ahmet and daughter Ayşegül Taşpınar attend the American Colleges of Istanbul during the forties and fifties.

Destine Eren will be missed by all who knew her, and loved her dearly. May she rest in eternal peace."

## Mayda Şahbaz ACG 30

Passed away peacefully on 16th of October, 2005.

Her son Şarl Berger Şahbaz and Fatoş Bekata Erkman contributed the following:

Born in Istanbul in 1907 (if the birth records are to be believed), she attended Quaker Primary Schools in Samatya and Korfu, returning to Istanbul in 1923, when she entered ACG. Her contemporaries remembered her for her leading roles in many plays and for her violin recitals. She attended the Faculty of Literature at Istanbul University but left after two years to pursue the violin. She was a student of Carl Berger, with whom she had an intimate relationship for many years.

Mayda taught French, Turkish and violin and played the violin



in various theater orchestras. She was a very colorful person; danced with Conrad Hilton, proposed to William Saroyan... lived on and off in Manhattan between 1976-85. After her return to Istanbul she made a brief debut in Yeşilçam in Nisan Yönder's film "Kırık Bebek" with Hülya Avşar. Mayda devoured novels and New Yorker Magazines and wrote short pieces until her last days. Mayda was a true intellectual, a humanitarian, a born free spirit; a model for all. She understood justice to be an extension of love and refused to compromise.

She is survived by her son Şarl Berger Şahbaz, her daughter-in-law Evelyn, and her grandson Mika; who presently live in Copenhagen, Denmark.



## Piraye Kaynar ACG 32

Passed away on October 29, 2005.

Wife of the late Halis Kaynar, she is survived by daughter and RC trustee Oya Basak ACG 55, sons Şerif and Murat Kaynar, five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

A life long learner, Mrs. Kaynar enjoyed doing enamel work, and contributed as an active volunteer to many social causes, among them the ACG Alumni Association. She also worked as a volunteer English teacher at public schools.

Piraye Kaynar will always be remembered fondly by her friends and family for her charming personality, gracious hospitality and generosity.

## Oktay Güven RC Eng 68

Oktay Güven, beloved member of RA 64 and Eng 68 .mil ardent supporter of the RA 64 scholarship fund passed .iw.ıy in June 2005 after a prolonged illness. He is survived by his wife Sadel Aydınel RC Yük 69.

## Prof. Dr. Jak Deleon RA 71

Jak Deleon, academic, researcher on Istanbul ,in< writer died of cancer on July 9, 2005 at the age of 54. Deleon was born to Istanbul Jewish parents in 1951. He studied at Robert Academy (RA 71) .ind received his Bachelor's Degree in English Language and Literature at Boğaziçi University (1975). He gained his PhD in English and American Literature at Istanbul University (1979).

Prof. Dr. Jak Deleon's teaching career covered English, dramatic criticism, history of ballet and performing arts with an emphasis on Turkey. He also lectured on Visual Studies at Bilgi University, .inning to give a sense of Istanbul to his students.

With his wideranging interests and his gre.it entliir.i.r.rn about Istanbul, other than his other academic works, Jak Deleon devoted himself to studies on Istanbul, Dr.John Frelly of Boğaziçi University called Jak "an Istanbulog" - Expert of Istanbul. A prolific writer about his home city 1st,intuit, he lws



# OBITUARIES

authored numerous books in Turkish and English on Istanbul. Out of 24 of his published Works, some of them on Istanbul are; A Taste of Old Istanbul, Bars of Istanbul, The History of Pera Palas Hotel, Ancient Districts of the Golden Horn, The White Russians in Istanbul, The Bosphorus: A Historical Guide, A Beyoğlu Visit, (Bir Beyoğlu Gezisi), Monumental Istanbul (Anıtsal İstanbul), Büyükada / A Guide to the Monuments, Cocktails and Recipes from Istanbul.

Prof. Dr. Jak Deleon is survived by his partner Hülya Kaya



## Annalie Vickers RC 91

We were deeply saddened to learn that Annalie lost her life in the terrorist attacks at Sharmel Sheikh, Egypt on July 23, 2005. She was 31 years old. In the 1991 yearbook, her classmates described Annalie thus: "Frankness, dignity and a superb sense of humor... comforting smiles and charm... a beautiful, intelligent and sensitive person." That is how we shall remember Annalie. May she rest in peace.

## Faculty & friends

### Chilton Watrous

Chilton Watrous, RC English teacher from 1971 to 2004, died on June 12, 2005 in New York City after a fifteen year battle with cancer. She will be sorely missed by her former colleagues and students. She is survived by her husband Varak Pogaryan, RC 42.

At a memorial service held on campus on June 22, 2005 and which was attended by a large number of Chilton's colleagues at RC and her former students, her fellow teacher in the English department Diane Ozbal delivered the following eulogy:

"Although I am well known as a good talker, I find it very hard to speak to you today about my dear friend and colleague of more than 30 years, Chilton Watrous. While planning what I would say today, I shed enough tears to wash away all my notes, but I am determined to hold it together now because Chilton was not one for tears. She was stalwart, even relentlessly cheerful and never allowed her health problems to affect her mood or the conversation. Many did not even realize she was ill, and that is exactly how she wanted it to be.

Ms. Watrous was an elegant lady. She knew exactly how things "ought to be" and she arranged her life-and her classroom-to have it the way she wanted. She liked quality and did not compromise in her daily habits. While I buy plastic Bic pens by the dozen and use any one I come across

in my overcrowded bag, Ms Watrous always had the same pen, a sterling silver Cross pen which she kept filled with bright green ink. As far as I know, she was so organized that she never lost it in over 30 years. She drank her tea-and lots of it-from a crystal Turkish tea glass which resided in its own silver case. The thermos of tea and the glass were with her every day because who could trust others to make the tea properly or to provide an elegant glass to drink it from? She never tried the product in its plastic cup that the Canteen provided. Older students will remember the green bag from which all these implements appeared; the younger ones of you will know her with her black rolling suitcase, an innovation she adopted after so much cancer surgery had robbed her of the strength to carry things.

Ms Watrous knew how to behave and expected it from others. Although she was a fast thinker and a master of the online snappy reply, she never used her sharp sense of humor to hurt other people's feelings. Woe to the student who was rude to her in class and then later desired a letter of recommendation from her for a university application. Even wooing her with flowers was hopeless; unless your behavior had actually improved and you had demonstrated that change in attitude to her over a considerable period of time, her refusal still stood.

Ms Watrous never spoke about her health problems, not even to me. I sometimes pressed her for information in the only possible way one could with her: with humor. After she returned from each trip to New York where she went for her cancer tests, I would ask, as though she were a student, "Did you pass all your tests?" "Yes," was her short reply. "No ikmals?" I would press, and she would say, "No." "Well, then, what would you like for such a good karne? Shall I buy you a bicycle?" I'd ask, and the most information I would get is, "You'd better wait until after my make up exam next month." Even this last year after she retired and moved to New York to be near her doctors, she faced life (and death) with humor and extraordinary courage. On the phone she would describe her new wig and how it had tricked all her visitors into thinking she had found a new hairdresser, and I would understand that she had had yet another round of chemotherapy. Later she told me that she would finally be getting rich, after a lifetime of teaching, by

reselling her new medicine on the street corner for thousands of dollars. And I would surmise that she was in serious pain and was receiving morphine to ease her suffering.

Chilton Watrous was the most reliable person I know. She knew how she wanted to live her life, and she did not waver. She was resolute, even adamant, and one could count on her to always be herself. I'd write a question for the final exam and, as soon as I

put it on the paper, I'd say to myself, "Chilton won't like that one," and, of course, I was right. The phone would ring in the evening and I'd say, "That'll be Chilton to complain about what so and so said in the department meeting," and sure enough, it would be her voice when I picked up the phone.

Ms Watrous was reliable-even strict-with her students, too. They knew they were going to have open windows, tucked in shirts, and completed homework when they walked in the door. They also knew they were going to learn. One time when she was quite ill last year, she told me that she simply could not get her tests graded on time. She'd been in the USA for tests and would only tell me that she'd had an allergic reaction to some medicine, couldn't work for a few days and had fallen behind. I didn't believe her-of course it was the effects of the chemotherapy-but I was really surprised when she asked me if I could help her by grading her two sections of exams along with my own two sections. That's when I knew she was really ill because she never allowed herself to lean on others. I sat down with those test papers-it was either a 1984 or Brave New World test-and looked at them. And this is a true story... I got my coat and went out and bought a green pen. I knew that if I was going to do it, I had to do it correctly, in the Ms Watrous way!

When she packed up her belongings last June to move to New York City, she gave away many of her prized possessions. She gave me this cane and told me to use it. "With this cane," she said, "You can open even the top windows in the office. Someone has to let all the stuffiness out." I'm not sure whether she was speaking metaphorically or not. And she also gave me her favorite sign, which had been hanging over her office desk for years. I now have it on the wall of my office, prominently displayed for students to see. When she gave it to me it was inside a pink folder and she said, "You need this. You are far too flexible with your students." She opened the folder and presented me with her PAZARLIK YAPILMAZ (No Bargaining) sign. When I look at it, I hear her voice speaking to me. She is my role model for courage and consistence, and I'm trying to tighten up without her by my side."

Another former colleague and close friend, Nigar Alemdar



ACG 66, wrote the following in Chilton's memory:

"It was my second or third year teaching back at my alma mater, ACG. A new teacher was due to join us. Although she was originally from Chicago, she was transferring to ACG from Athens College.

She arrived. It was obvious she felt very much at home. She was extremely wellversed in classics and antiquity. She was, no doubt, already intimately familiar with what was around her. With her wit and her interest in everything

around her, she made friends with people of all ages. Thit included old Levantines of Moda who with their firsthand accounts colored Chilton's knowledge of Istanbul or ancient Byzantium. Then there was Mrs. Nadi of Rumelihisar - wife of Dogan Nadi, the journalist.

Chilton was my linguistic consultant. She read my Engl.r.b translations for a Turkish archeologist. The two of us fought big battles with the archeologist who wanted to use well-established mistakes in translations. He would say "antique city", we would insist on "ancient city". He would say "pin head" we would say "head of a pin". Chilton, and I would think the battles were won. Then the books would lie published with all the mistakes we thought we had eliminated'

Chilton was the epitome of courage. She never complained. She never explained her problem'on the contrary, she was the one who said "courage" to me. whenever I complained about not being able to get together because of my busy schedule and other commitments

Chilton was indeed a noble lady, dedicated to her duties in Turkey and to Robert College. I shall greatly miss her. Tugge Kurtis, RC 2000, a former student, also read a eulogy at the memorial service. She referred to Mrs. Watrous as "my advisor, my guide and mentor".The following is an excerpt from her speech.

"In February 2000, when I received my letter of acceptance from Bennington College, Mrs.Watrous was among the most pleased. Yet the challenge **wasn't over,for** now I had to find a way to sponsor my education, **and once** again, it was Mrs. Watrous who came to the rescue talked to people, gave me names and addresses of foundations to contact, she even contacted ~~them~~ for me. From the day I started high school in 1997 till the day I graduated from Bennington in 2004, Mrs.Watrous was there for me in every possible way, encouraging me to hold on to stay focused and to keep my hopes up.

I want to share with you one last incident that is very special for me. One time I walked late into Mrs.Watrous' class feeling all wornout and carrying a big down on **my** face. She interrupted the class and asked me **AM**



Chilton Watrous



Colleague Diane Ozbal reads a eulgy.



## OBITUARIES

alright? I've never seen you without that smile since I've met you, which cheers me up every time I see you." I was very touched by this comment. I felt seen, I felt loved. Mrs. Watrous was a keen observer. She cared for her students deeply and she did not hesitate to show her love.

Mrs. Watrous has helped shape the person I am and the person I wish to be greatly. She taught me to maintain my strength and courage even in the most challenging life circumstances; not only through what she said but in the way she led her own life. She chose not to be defeated, she preferred to smile and laugh. Mrs. Watrous loved life and she engendered it. She has been a true blessing in my life and in the lives of many. I am forever indebted to her for all she has given me and committed to follow and pass on her legacy. I will miss her very much."

### Godfrey Goodwin

Died in the UK on August 19, 2005. Described as one of the greatest scholars of Ottoman architecture, Goodwin was born in 1921 in the UK and was a much loved professor of art history and architecture at Robert College from 1958-1967. Author and physics professor John Freely wrote the following:



Godfrey Goodwin

"Godfrey Goodwin was educated in England at boarding schools and at Clifton College, Bristol, after which he studied at the French Institute and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts.

He joined the British army soon after the war began in September 1939, though he was blind in one eye, the result of a childhood accident. After training he was shipped to North Africa, arriving in Algiers in 1942. He served through the North African and Italian campaigns and when the war ended in 1945 he was in Rome, where he edited a poetry magazine published by the British Army.

Following his discharge from the army he taught at Winchester in England and then at Victoria College in Alexandria, which he had to leave in 1956 when Britain and Israel tried to seize the Suez Canal. He then came to Turkey, which he had first seen in 1952 on a visit to Istanbul and Bursa, and in 1957 he began teaching at the English High School for Boys in Nişantaşı. Then in 1958 he joined the faculty of Robert College, where he served as housemaster of Hamlin Hall and taught the history of art and architecture in the Humanities Program of the Yüksek Okul.

Godfrey became involved in the art world of Istanbul, his close friends including the sculptor Özer Kabaş and the painter Aliye Berger. His Saturday tours of the historic monuments of Istanbul became legendary, laying the

foundations for the books that he would later publish on Ottoman architecture and other aspects of Turkish culture.

In 1965 Godfrey met Gillian Chorley, who soon afterwards became his wife. After their marriage they returned to London, where their son Robert (Bertie) was born in 1968. Their home at Chalcot Square on Primrose Hill in London became a center for gatherings of friends active in Turkish art, architecture literature, history and politics.

Godfrey's first position after returning to London was at the Bevington primary school in North Kensington, where he eventually became deputy head. His experiences in this school gave rise to his novella, *There Ain't No Angels No More* (1978). His next position was editor of the Islamic section of the *Macmillan History of Art*. He then became director of the Royal Asiatic Society, which he oversaw through the society's move to its new home in Queen's Gardens, West London. Godfrey's magnum opus is his *History of Ottoman Architecture* (1972) a magisterial work that has been acclaimed as the definitive classic in its field. His other books are *Ottoman Turkey* (1977), *Islamic Spain* (1990), *Sinan: Ottoman Architecture and its Values Today* (1993), *The Private World of Ottoman Women* (1997), *The Janissaries* (1997), *Topkapi Palace: an Illustrated Guide to its Life and Personalities* (1999), *Edirne* (2000), and his memoir, *Life's Episodes* (2002). He also wrote a number of scholarly articles on Islamic art and architecture and edited Ottavio Bon's *The Sultan's Seraglio* (1996).

After the death of his wife Gillian in 2000, Godfrey returned to Istanbul every summer to give courses at Boğaziçi University in the Byzantine and Ottoman monuments of Istanbul, Bursa and Edirne. His enthusiastic efforts were greatly appreciated by his students and colleagues at Boğaziçi University, which in 2001 awarded him an honorary doctorate.

Godfrey Goodwin is survived by his son Bertie Goodwin.

### İnci Özdeniz

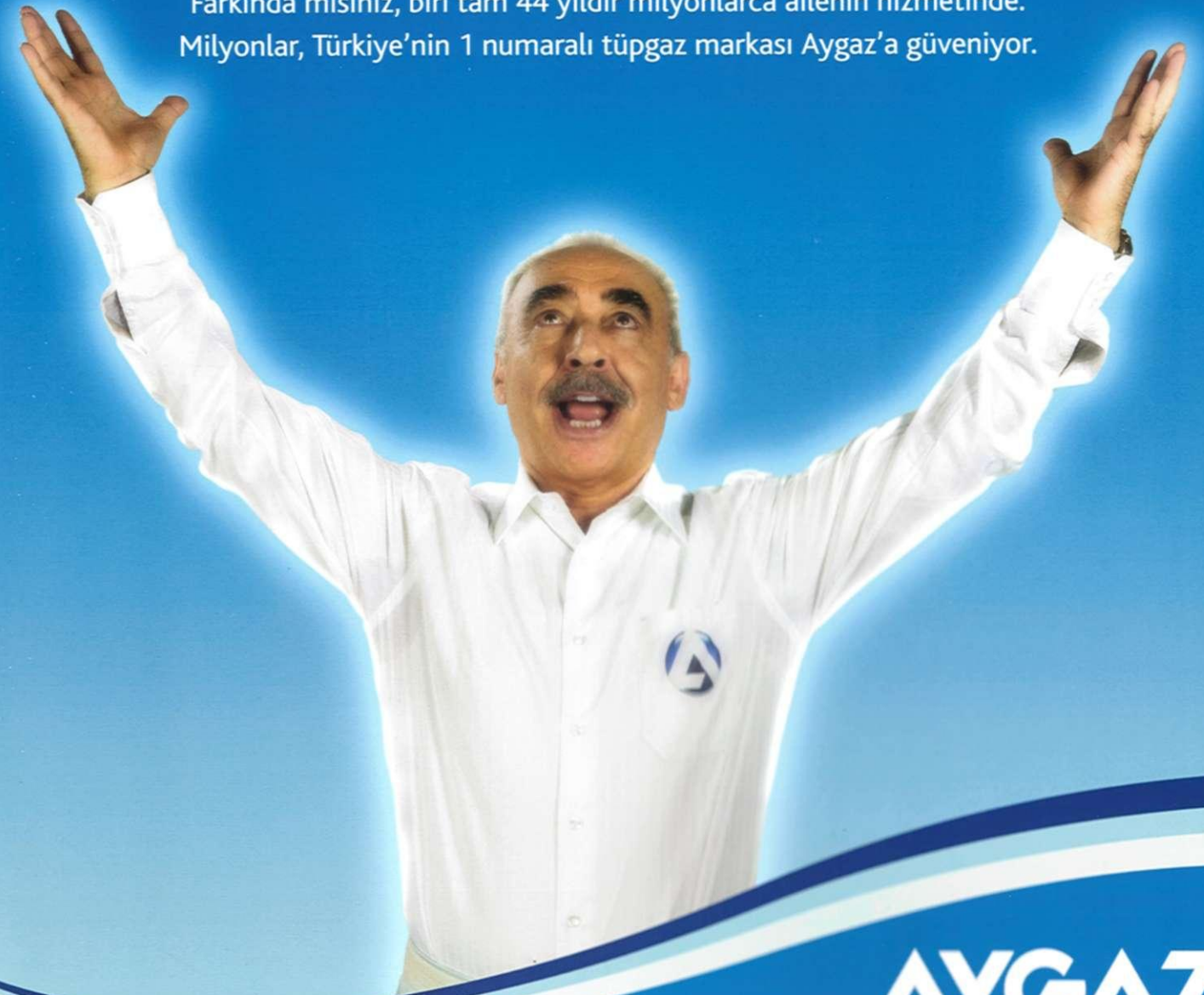
Mathematics teacher at Robert College from 1979 to 1991, İnci Özdeniz passed away in Istanbul in October 2005. She had taught math courses in all levels during her years at RC as well as physics and chemistry during her early years at the school. A graduate of Atatürk Kız Lisesi of Istanbul, Midway Junior College of Kentucky, with a BS and Master of Arts in Secondary Education from the University of Kentucky, İnci Özdeniz was a lively and creative individual whose other teaching posts included Darüşşafaka Lisesi, American School of Las Palmas in Grand Canary Island, Berkley Institute in Brooklyn, NY and Ankara Koleji.



İnci Özdeniz

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