

RC Quarterly

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE
SPRING/SUMMER 2008 - ISSUE 34

GRADUATE'S
PASSION
DRIVES KEY
SCHOLARSHIP
CAMPAIGN

BIRDWATCHING
AND WINE-TASTING
WITH RC EXPERTS

art

BUDDING
TALENTS

FLOURISHES ON CAMPUS



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ABOUT THE RC QUARTERLY



Spring is always a time of celebration and perhaps nowhere more so than on the Robert College campus, where the wisteria is in full bloom. It is a busy time for students, with preparations for the annual Fine Arts Festival in full swing. In this issue, we showcase some of our new artistic talents. Additions to the school's art program, generously supported by alumni contributions, have helped to foster a diverse range of talent, from promising filmmakers to bold young painters. You first read about them here!

This edition also brings you a bumper crop of articles about graduates and their news from across the world, including two fabulous journeys into the Phillipine rainforests and French wine country. Please do keep your news coming, we love hearing about what you're up to in your corner of the world.

Happy reading!

The RCQ Editorial Board

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Alumni Journal published quarterly by the RC Alumni & Development Office for 8000 members of the RC community: graduates, students, faculty, administration, parents and friends. Robert Lisesi tarafından dört ayda bir yayımlanır. Sayı 34



Robert College

Kuruçeşme Cad. 87 Arnavutköy-İstanbul
Tel: (0212) 359 22 22/289
e-mail: alumni@robcol.k12.tr
www.robcol.k12.tr

Editor-In Chief:

Leyla Aktay '72

Editors:

Pelin Turgut '92,
Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu

Reporting:

Matt Mossman

Editorial Board:

Deniz Alphan '67,
Nuri Çolakoğlu '62,
Sedat Ergin '75,
Nükhet Sirman '72,
Elçin Yahşi '79,
Zeynep Kayhan RC 2000

Advertising Manager:

Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu
Tel: (0212) 359 22 89
cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr

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Murat Kars

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Feyyaz Berker at RC in 2002 with
RC Student Council Members



Feyyaz Berker, RC Eng 46

Generous Gift for Student Development from Feyyaz Berker RC Eng 46

Leading Turkish businessman and RC Trustee Emeritus, Feyyaz Berker RC Eng 46 has created a generous endowment at RC, the annual income of which is to be used in three ways: to encourage debate as an important school activity; to celebrate sound character as an essential quality of a Robert College student; and to encourage the scholarly study of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

"We greatly appreciate both the generosity of Feyyaz Bey's proposed gift as well as the wonderful spirit which lies behind it," said Headmaster John Chandler. "It is all too rare that one experiences such a love of a school and its traditions. It is truly inspiring."

Berker, outlined three broad areas he would like to see supported, but left designing the structure and administration of the funds up to the school. Together, they decided on the following three initiatives:

To Encourage Debate as an Important School Activity

An endowed fund is to be created to support two main activities:

- To establish a Robert College Debating Society. Yield from the fund would pay the stipend of a debate coach and provide materials necessary to support the activities of the Club. The Debating Society will formally begin in the 2008-2009 school year, and the groundwork is already being laid.

- To sponsor an annual Robert College Debate Tournament to be held in the early spring and open to teams from other schools. This would provide an incentive for our own students, as well as identifying RC as a leader in this area.

To Encourage the Scholarly Study of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

An endowed fund will be created to sponsor an annual competition, coordinated jointly by the Chairs of the Turkish and Social Sciences Departments, to encourage students to prepare research essays on subjects related to Atatürk's life

and work. Distinguished professors from leading universities will be invited to judge the essays and to present the awards. Awards will be given for the top three essays, which will be published internally as well as on the school's public website.

To Celebrate Sound Character

An endowed fund will be created for a new award, to be called the Berker Fellowship. Although Feyyaz Berker did not want his name to be used, the school felt strongly that he should be recognized because the personal qualities represented in the award are similar to those with which Feyyaz Bey, himself, is seen by others.

A committee, including representatives of the faculty, counseling staff, administration, school staff, and students already chosen as Fellows, will be formed to select candidates for membership. Criteria for selection will include, but not be limited to:

- personal integrity and maturity
- demonstrated high standards of personal behavior
- demonstrated unselfish contributions to the community
- strong sense of social responsibility
- positive spirit
- active involvement in school activities

One adult member of the school community will serve as advisor/mentor to the Fellowship.

Members will be chosen from the Lise-10 and Lise-11 year levels so that they will be known and respected within the school community as examples of the best of Robert College. This is not to be an award for a graduating senior.

Honored students will receive a plaque and pin, and will be recognized at a special ceremony at a school assembly. A sum of money will be drawn from the fund each year and members of the Fellowship will work together to decide upon a use to which this money will be put for the good of the school community or the community at large.

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Longtime RC English Teacher Elaine Seren Retires

Elaine Seren, much loved English teacher at RC from 1968 to 2008, retired in February of this year. During her forty years at RC, she also served as the Head of the Orta School (Middle School) in 1985-86. Ms Seren is described by Phillip Gee, her colleague in the English department, and her former students, as follows:

"Sitting and working in an office next to Elaine Seren for God knows how many years should, you would think, have given me a deep insight into the workings of that considerable mind of hers.

Not so.

Elaine was the epitome of professional discretion; she was inscrutable; she was quiet; she was truly a lady who minded her own business and who did not gossip.

(Well, not very often.)

I admired her because she was so refined, so correct, and so in control.

(Well, most of the time.) Every now and again, very rarely mind, and always with perfect timing, she would toss a little bomb into the conversation, and we would look at her with stunned disbelief.

And awe.

She inspired such beautiful awe.

Everybody, I stress everybody, treated Elaine with the utmost respect. They just did; it was unavoidable. She had that power to inspire such beautiful, gentle awe in all of us, a power to which all teachers aspire. Elaine had that power. Elaine was a teaching model, a real professional. And every now and again, if she thought you were being annoying, she would wither you with a few innocent sounding words. I remember being particularly irritating on one occasion and one of my younger colleagues had, only half jokingly, threatened me with death. Foolishly, I persisted throughout the day until Elaine, with a slight flick of her head, said simply, "You read me that book this morning."

Innocent words, indeed, but somehow Elaine invested them with a power that withered me.

And shut me up for the day. And I learnt my lesson.

And then she went back to her business of teaching children. At which she excelled.

Elaine was a gentle, powerful, lovely person to work with and when she laughed and twinkled her eyes, oh happy, happy days!! We love you so much Elaine, and so do the students, just read what they have to say about you. Elaine's replacement this term, Ann Marie Mershon, a renowned children's author, received some very interesting accolades from her ex-students who described Elaine thus:-

"with her whip, humorous attitude, and evilly-grinning face"- Hazal

"the Goddess of the teachers"- Mehmet C

"even though the subject was boring make it enjoyable with her extreme pronunciation"- Cansu S

"She was a teacher of life, she didn't just teach the way it's supposed to be, she taught just the way we would encounter it in life. She wasn't just a teacher, she was a mother to us, but younger than us in a way": - M. Can O.

... "the funniest woman that I have ever known at that age ... getting retired, she was too young for that." "Mrs Seren was the only teacher who shared our feelings towards lessons; especially towards long and boring ones."- İdil D

"It's very hard to describe her with regular adjectives, let's call her a "sherrinic" person. She was unique." - Omur A

... "filled our blood with glucose" - Çağıl

... "her language is full of sarcasm, energy, and metaphors." Melda S

... "wanted to be helpful to us even in the last minutes of her job."- Omer C

... "she was incredibly good at stressing upon the syllables at times which made it very fun to listen to her." - Volkan S

... "she was more like a fictional character with her fabulous mimics, mesmerizing behaviours, and ascendant knowledge."- Feyza H

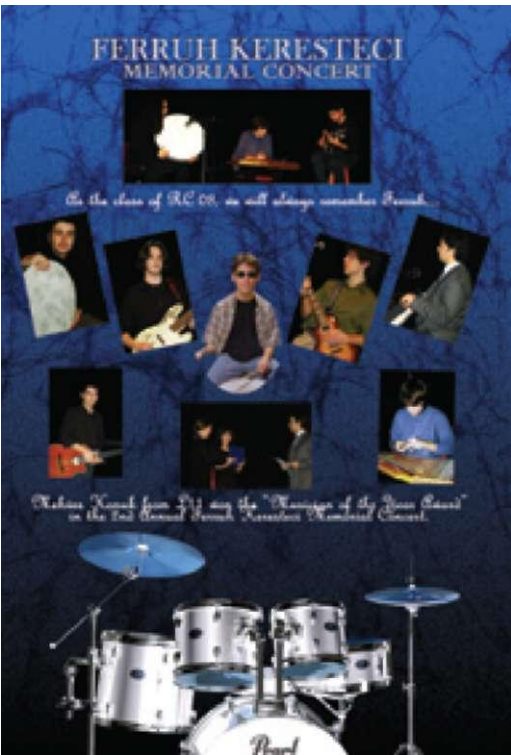
"You knew the art of discussing the lesson without discussing " Timuçin B"



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Students and Faculty Celebrate Memories of a Gifted RC Student

Ferruh Keresteci was a much loved music student. A talented and enthusiastic drummer, he was involved in many of the music department's activities at RC. It is in order to keep his memory alive that we celebrate this boy who loved music so much by having a concert in his memory every year. His birthday was in March and we lost him in February 2006 when he was a Lise 11 student. So, this is the time that we chose for his memorial concert, and spring is full of hope as the cycle of life renews itself which seems appropriate. As part of this concert each year we also give the special 'Ferruh Keresteci Award' which is generously donated by his family. This award is given to a student, who like Ferruh, is a prominent member of the music department who can use the award to do something special in music. Last year the award was given jointly to Alican Camcı RC 08, Burak Tahmazoğlu RC 08 and Salih Mağden RC 08. This year the award went to Mehveş Konuk RC 09. Mehveş is a bass and double bass player in the orchestra, a music elective student and has, like Alican and Burak, been involved, including backstage, in every music concert since she came to RC. She is also a prominent member of the student council.

All of the students who performed at the concert did so because they wanted to be a part of this memorial event. There were some solos, small groups and a couple of bands. The event was held immediately after school to enable the student body to attend. Both last year and this, the band Nargile, for whom Ferruh was drummer, have also performed. This year they are all graduates (RC 07) but were very happy to be asked to play. Also, as part of the concert, Berk Altın RC 07, friend and co-musician in Nargile, talked to the audience a little about Ferruh and his involvement in the musical life of RC. Ali Çakır RC 08, also friend and co-musician of Ferruh gave us some thoughts. It is not a sad event; in fact, everyone felt stronger and more content afterwards, knowing that we keep Ferruh alive in our hearts by remembering this boy 'who loved to rock'. We see it as an opportunity not to mourn a life lost, but to celebrate that life through the music that he loved.

By Merril Hope-Brown, Arts Department

Symposium at RC

The third Annual Robert College Culture and Literature Symposium was held on campus on March 15, 2008. Organized by the RC Turkish and Literature department, this year's subject was "Literature and Mythology". Close to 200 teachers of Turkish Language and Literature from schools in Istanbul and Ankara were able to share ideas and information during this one day event. The opening speech was given by Prof. Dr. Talat Halman, RC 51, who is a member of the RC Board of Trustees and the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Letters in Bilkent University, Ankara.



From left to right: Prof. Dr. Talat Halman, RC Turkish Language and Literature Department Head Mehmet Uysal, retired RC Turkish Language and Literature teacher Mümin Aysu, retired former Audio Visual director Aydın Urgan and present RC Turkish Director Giller Erdur.

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The Banu Büyükünäl Scholarship Changed My Life; Why We Decided to Save It

By Burcu Betni Mirza RC 94

As a student at Robert College, I won a scholarship named after an RC graduate I knew little about. In the summer of 1993, a junior at RC, I travelled to the US as part of that grant on a trip that opened many doors and was, in many ways, life changing.

I was awarded a scholarship named for Banu Büyükünäl, a 1985 RC graduate who died in a tragic car accident at 23. She studied psychology at Boğaziçi, completed a master's degree in business at İstanbul University and was working for Yapı ve Kredi Bank.

Her friends decided to commemorate Banu and in 1991, led by the Class of 1985, a memorial scholarship was established in her name. Stephanie Thomas, who had met Banu during an RC student exchange program, and her



father, RC Trustee Landon Thomas, put in a tremendous amount of effort. Stephanie knew one of Banu's wishes was to visit the USA, so she and her father pledged to fly and host the scholarship student after her junior year at RC.

I was the first student to receive this scholarship. I received about 1/3 tuition aid and as a part of this grant, I traveled to the USA the summer after my junior year, where I was hosted by the Thomas family. They went to great lengths to make me feel at home. Gladys Thomas and Landon and Elizabeth Kinicutt invited me to events they were attending and introduced me to their circles. I was taken to several college campuses so that I could have on-site interviews. Stephanie Thomas, about to start her PhD at Harvard, was by my side throughout. She was like a sister, a friend and a protective angel, wrapped into one.

After RC, I attended Mount Holyoke College. From 1998 to 2003, I worked at JP Morgan in various positions before leaving in July 2003, as a Vice President. I have two children, ages 2 and 4 and currently reside in New York with my family. Two years ago, I found out that the Banu Büyükünäl Scholarship funds were not sufficient to keep it going. I had supported it in the past, but with rising tuition costs, small contributions were simply not enough. I knew then that I needed to start a big campaign.

The rule for endowing named scholarships is that if at least \$100,000 can be raised within five years, the yearly income from this endowment funds the named scholarship in perpetuity. To start the campaign, in April 2007, I gave \$5,000 and pledged another \$20,000 over for the next four years. I hoped that this would help potential donors to take me seriously.

I contacted Bilge Yavuz Rizvani, Giving Representative of the Class of 1985. She and her classmate Sırma Kefeli told class members about the new campaign. Koray Yılmaz, another '85 graduate, wrote a moving email to the class about what Banu meant to them.

At that point, donations started to pour in. As this issue goes to print, the class of 1985 has given \$55,000. On seeing the hard work being put into the campaign, Landon Thomas, also helped raise the bar by donating \$20,000 last December. Banu's parents were very moved by the campaign and supported our cause financially. To increase support, last November, I came up with the idea of donating



RC students host two international organizations during spring break: EYP & MUN



in my friends' names as a holiday gift. Oya Nuzumlalı and Lynne Prevot at the RC office in New York were amazingly patient and helped me create small cards. Each card was for a \$50 donation and told the recipient: "A holiday gift has been made to the Banu Büyükünäl Endowed Scholarship Fund at Robert College of İstanbul in your name". I mailed these cards to my friends and they received a tax-deductible letter in February from the office. Since then a few of them have also contributed to the campaign and I hope more of them will too.

In just one year, \$88,000 has been raised for the Scholarship and another \$15,000 has been pledged over the next three years, but I hope to reach a total \$100,000 funds in the bank by the summer so that a student can

RC hosted two events during the Spring Break on campus. The RC student participants and hosts of the events preferred to spend their vacation at school instead of going home or going on a holiday.

The EYP (European Youth Parliament) was held between April 3-8th, and MUN (Model United Nations) was held between April 9-12th. MUN had 350 participants coming from all around Turkey, from Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Russia and Belgium. Among the prominent speakers of the conference were Ömer Madra RA 64, the founder of Açık Radyo, USA Consul General to İstanbul Sharon Anderholm Wiener, Soli Özel RC 76, from TUSIAD, and Prof. Cengiz Aktar from Bosphorus University. The finance team of the MUN Club worked very hard for a sponsored organization. In addition to Yapı Kredi Bank, which was the main sponsor; Coca-Cola, T-Box, Güllüoğlu Baklava, Eti, MacCoffee and Taze Çiçek supplied the organization with their products. Rahmi Koç RC 51 ex and Semahat Arsel ACG 49, sponsored the dinner for the MUN'ers at Divan.

The EYP on the other hand, is organized by the EYP club every spring on campus, and had about 130 participants from around the world and 65 from Turkey. Mine Eder and Can Buharalı were the guests for a panel to talk about "Identity Politics in Europe". This organization was also sponsored and the list of sponsors are as follows: Covidien Health Services, 3M, PDR, Yavuz Tekstil, Eti, Coca Cola, Dore, Gülen Boya, Beşiktaş Belediyesi, Tekfen Construction Group.

be named to the Scholarship for the 2008-2009 school year. In addition, Landon Thomas will retire from the Board in May and it would be a lovely parting for him to know that this Scholarship has reached its goal.

As the adage says, it takes a village to raise a child. I would like to thank again the Thomas family for their generous support, Koray Yılmaz, Bilge Rizvani and Sırma Kefeli for their leadership in getting their classmates' support, Lynne Prevot, Oya Nuzumlalı, Leyla Aktay, Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu and John Chandler, for their encouragement. I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous generosity of all the donors. I hope through this Scholarship that the achievements that Banu Büyükünäl accomplished in her short life will live as long as Robert College stands.

FROM THE BOSPHORUS CHRONICLE

The Bosphorus Chronicle is a student-produced newspaper printed monthly during the school year and supervised by English teacher Derek Parker Chase.



Guinea Pigs in The Hague

By Dilek İzek L11

On January 25th, at around 5:00 am, most Robert College students were enjoying a deep night's sleep after a tiring and stressful couple of weeks. Twenty-one miserable ones -whom would surely prefer to be called lucky- were out of their cozy and comfortable beds and at the Atatürk International Airport, going through a series of security checks.

These 21 fortunate students, with two others who had left earlier, represented Robert College at the 40th annual session of The Hague International Model United Nations Conference (THIMUN), the largest in the world. Ms. Güler Erdur had gone directly to The Hague with student officer Can Akçevin and Youth Assembly participant Araş Güvenç.

Sixteen members of the Robert College Model United Club were selected to participate in the conference as the delegation of Guinea. As delegates, they were assigned different committees and defended Guinea's policies on a wide range of topics.

Six members of the club attended the THIMUN Youth Assembly, representing their personal views instead of another country's policy. They developed projects on the topics of their specific committees, which they shared with the rest of the Assembly and are going to continue to work on their projects. Participants of the Youth Assembly had divergent reactions to the system and procedures, which are quite different from standard MUN. Eyüphan Keskin, (L11), commented, "The Youth Assembly was much more intimate than the competitive atmosphere of MUN. It was difficult to come up with feasible solutions to the problems, not only wishful suggestions towards world peace but actual plans to be carried out. Still, it is, I think, much more fulfilling to know we are taking real action."

Another proud representative of Robert College in The Hague was student officer Can Akçevin (L11). Can Akçevin was selected to be the rapporteur chair of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee. As the rapporteur, he had to prepare several reports and answer many questions; in the end, his hard work was highly praised by the Secretariat.

On the second day of the conference, the General Assembly session was declared open by the President as the ambassadors delivered opening speeches. For the next three days, delegates lobbied, merged and debated on their resolutions, aiming to represent their country's policies as best as they could. On the last day of the meetings, the General Assembly congregated once again to discuss the final resolutions. During the General Assembly, the Guinean delegation was first to obtain the floor. Alper Yıldırım, (L10), used this opportunity to speak on the reconstruction and reconciliation of Zimbabwe. As the leader of the Pan-Africanism movement Guinea was strongly against the intervention of foreign countries. Alper, hence, gave a speech against the resolution submitted as the collaborative work of China and the USA. In the end, the Guinean and the Zimbabwean delegates managed to convince the General Assembly that the implementation of such a resolution would be a breach of national sovereignty, thereby failing the resolution. Although the delegate's personal opinions regarding the issue might have been different, he was there to represent the ideas and interests of Guinea and he performed this task most diligently.

The five-day conference was of course not just hard work. The team enjoyed a one-day stay in Amsterdam, where they made a canal tour and visited the Van Gogh Museum. Wandering through the streets of Amsterdam they all had pleasant as well as queer experiences. Saturday afternoon it was time to go to The Hague for the conference. In The Hague, the team tried a different restaurant every night. Since traditional Dutch food does not exist beyond meat and potatoes, they enjoyed a selection of food from different cuisines like Mexican, Chinese, Greek and Indian. Since, The Hague is a small city, which was literally flooded with MUNers from around the world; the team ran into familiar delegates in every restaurant.

Ms. Erdur and Mr. Wilks never left the group alone and sacrificed the first half of their semester break for this tiring duty. The participants of THIMUN and TYA 2008 are thankful to them for their time and understanding.



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AMERICAN EXPRESS

FROM THE BOSPHORUS CHRONICLE

The Birth of the Bosphorus Chronicle

By Emre Turan L11

Have you ever thought of the history of Robert College and how this newspaper was first created many years ago in 1959? Have you ever thought of what kind of lives RC graduates lead today and how they spent their RC years?

Nuri Çolakoğlu is an RC graduate, a media pioneer, and general manager of Doğan Yayın Holding. He was educated at Robert College between 1954 and 1962. In those days Robert College offered middle, high school and college education. He is also the founder of the Bosphorus Chronicle. His adventure with the Chronicle began in 1959. It was a total adventure because they did everything themselves, including writing the articles, checking for grammar mistakes, copying it with a mimeograph machine and distributing it to the students. At that time, the name of the newspaper was "Bosphorus". "We were near the Bosphorus and there wasn't any other name more suitable for a newspaper that would be published in Robert College," he said. In time, it became the Bosphorus Chronicle.

Nuri Çolakoğlu and his friend Ömer Bilgin first found a very small room in Theodorus Hall, which is today the girl's dormitory at Bosphorus University. In the attic of Anderson Hall, they found a typewriter and a printing machine from the early 20th century. Both of these machines were so old that they made awful sounds as they were working. In the first two years they printed the newspaper on their own using a mimeograph machine in the school. They didn't come to bed check and stayed up all night printing the newspaper in the basement of Theodorus Hall. However, in their senior year they decided to print the newspaper outside the school at a professional printing press. They found a place in Cağaloğlu named Hüsnü Tabiat. However, there was another problem. The owner of the printing press didn't know how to typeset in English because it was 1960s, there wasn't much demand for English printing. Therefore, Nuri Çolakoğlu had to learn English typesetting.

They did everything on their own, which was the fun part of the job. Nuri Çolakoğlu said: "We printed the Bosphorus in black printing ink till our elbows. It was really a hard job but it was one of the most important reasons for me to choose media as my job." After hearing how tough it was, the question



BC founder
Nuri Çolakoğlu
RA 62 with BC
correspondent
Emre Turan

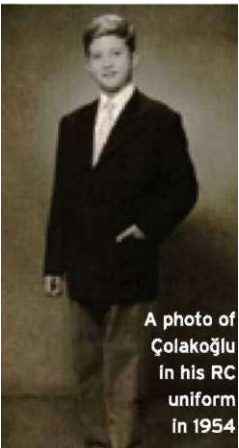
"Why?" immediately comes to mind. Why did he create this newspaper which is now fifty years old? Nuri Çolakoğlu said that he had so much fun with this newspaper. It was the only platform that they spoofed their teachers, reflected student gossip, commented on important matches and wrote about the tea parties they had. Also, they included articles and poems of their friends. The Bosphorus reflected the point of view of an RC student. So, what does Nuri Çolakoğlu think about the new version of Bosphorus Chronicle published this year? He had a look at it during the interview and found it very professional and well-designed. He has been reading every issue of the Bosphorus Chronicle for five years because he is a school Trustee. He liked the layout of the newspaper and the paper which, he said, give the feeling of a real newspaper.

Context is the most important part of a newspaper, Nuri Çolakoğlu emphasized. "We used the Bosphorus as a communication tool and I believe it is still the main communication tool of the school which can be used by anyone who wants to declare what he thinks."

The BC was the reason why Nuri Çolakoğlu embarked on a career in media. His goal was originally to become a diplomat, which is why he studied at the Faculty of Political Science in Ankara. However, after a few years, he decided being a diplomat would restrict his freedom to say anything he wanted. For this purpose, journalism was more appropriate. He emphasized the importance of freedom in journalism and how he fought for that, saying, "We even copied the speech of İsmet Paşa which was against the cabinet of the time in our own printing machine and distributed it to students and outside the school. We were so free about what to write and what to think about. It was in fact the difference of Robert College and its students."

As we approached the end of the interview, the inevitable question came. How did he feel about being interviewed by a student writing for the newspaper which he first printed about fifty years ago? He said: "This interview was very fun and pleasant. It is a very unusual feeling to compare what you did in your past and what you are doing right now." Lastly, he said something to all Robert College students. He said "Robert College is a very serious privilege for its students. It offers a very high quality education, broadens your view, and makes you struggle for the best every time. If Robert College is used efficiently, it is absolutely the key for success in whole life."

A photo of
Çolakoğlu
in his RC
uniform
in 1954



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Serdar Bilgili RC 81, Doing what he loves to do; photography



Landscapes and İznik Motifs in Graphic Artist's Exhibition

Graphic artist Sirma Olcay Kefeli RC 85, together with artist Nuran Unsal, held an exhibition at Istanbul's Museum of Graphic Arts between April 16 and May 6, 2008. "Sirma Olcay Kefeli's prints are composed of two different series; landscapes and classic İznik tile motifs and colors," says IMOGA museum director Eren Koyunoğlu. "Her landscapes liken the human life to a journey and are evocative wide angle portrayals of views. The other series is of designs made from natural flower forms, stylized animal figures and geometric shapes. It reveals the artist's interest in İznik ceramic art." Kefeli studied graphic design at London College of Printing, graduating in 1990, and then began working as a freelance designer. After getting married, she moved to New York, where she worked for the Ariel Peri design studio, creating corporate identities for a variety of multinational clients. Inspired by the birth of her children, she also began working on designs for children's home textiles. Since 1997, she has been working at the Çamlıca Sanat Evi. This was her first personal exhibition.

Serdar Bilgili's Photos Give Disabled People a Voice



The cover photo of "Despite the Barriers"

One of Turkey's leading businessmen, and former head of the Beşiktaş football team, Serdar Bilgili RC 81 is also a gifted photographer. Together with Tempo, a weekly news magazine, Bilgili recently led a campaign aimed at raising public awareness about disabled people in Turkey, which has a poor track record at addressing the needs of the handicapped.

In January, Bilgili exhibited a moving collection of black-and-white photographs of disabled people at Istanbul's Dolmabahçe Palace. The exhibition, "Engellere Rağmen" (Despite the Barriers) was a big success and Bilgili has followed it with a book on the same subject, on sale at bookshops across Turkey. All of the proceeds will go to TESYEV (www.tesyev.org) The collection features 22 subjects from diverse walks of life, including swimmers, painters and singers. Bilgili says each image reveals a "story of brave hearts".

One of the models is hockey manager Gerald Metroz. To accompany his photograph, in which he portrays a 'thinking man', he wrote: "My body is in no way ugly. It is unusual, and very individual." Metroz says that every year, on the anniversary of an accident that left him without his legs, he celebrates. "This celebration is important for me and that

date is just a day that my life changed. That's all. Not good and not bad, it only changed my life," he said.

Another participant, 33-year-old Thuy Esselier, became paralyzed after a traffic accident when she was 19. She is featured in the book with her boyfriend, highlighting that "love conquers all boundaries". The project successfully conveys the message that disability is not an illness, and that people are all individuals, regardless of their bodies, and should not be discriminated against. According to recent figures, there are some 8.5 million physically disabled people in Turkey, amounting to 12.5 percent of Turkey's population.

Bilgili Opens Europe's First W Hotel in Istanbul

Bilgili also made headlines recently as he launched the new deluxe W Hotel in Istanbul's Akaretler district on May 6. W is one of America's trendiest boutique luxury hotel chains, and Istanbul is their first European destination. The project is a joint venture between Bilgili and Starwood Hotels. The hotel is located along the landmark Akaretler Row Houses in Beşiktaş. The historical row was constructed by Sultan Abdulaziz in the 1870s and has been beautifully restored. The W Istanbul will have approximately 130 rooms, including suites and duplex suites, many with their own private gardens.



Serdar Bilgili RC 81



Artist Orhan Taylan RA 60 Exhibits in Beyoglu

Artist Orhan Taylan RA 60 showed his latest works in an exhibition held at his studio in Beyoglu, Istanbul, in April. The exhibition was mostly of recent oil paintings, but also included designs and sculpture. "My theme for many years has been 'of life'", says Taylan. "I have never ventured far from figurative painting, which is both a traditional form of expression, as well as a contemporary way of communicating fundamental emotion and thought." Born in Samsun in 1941, Taylan graduated from RC and studied at the Rome Academy of Fine Arts, graduating in 1965. His mother was the artist Seniye Fenmen ACG 39. Taylan is something of a rebel. He shuns group exhibitions, juries, reprints and "doesn't have a beard or smoke a pipe". He loves teaching art, producing his own paints, spending time with his son Ferhat, and "enjoying an evening tippie". He lives and works in Istanbul's Asmalimescit neighbourhood, a potpourri of artist studios, bohemian cafes, meyhane and design shops. His work can be viewed at www.orhantaylan.com



Orhan Taylan RA 60

TÜBİTAK Award for Tuncer Edil RC Enq 67

Turkey's top scientific body TÜBİTAK singled out Tuncer Edil, engineering professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for a Special Award in its annual awards line- up. Edil was celebrated for his "superior work in the international arena on the use of industrial by-products as construction material, as well as construction technologies on soft ground". Based in the US, Edil says his current research focuses on construction of highways over poor subgrades and the use of industrial by-products and geosynthetics in highway construction. "I have been conducting research on industrial by-products such as shredded automobile tires, foundry by-products, and coal combustion fly ash", he says. His earlier interest in peats and organic soils has also evolved in recent years to construction over organic soft ground and high water content wastes. He also has ongoing interests in coastal erosion and landslides, primarily involving the Great Lakes shoreline. Currently, he and his associates are trying to predict shore recession using géomorphologie models. Edil's College connections run deep. He is brother-in-law to Nur Şener Edil ACG 69 and uncle to Burak Edil RC 89.



Edil (right), accepting his award from President Abdullah Gül

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GRADUATES
IN THE NEWS

Hasan Tuluy RA 70 Named
Senior World Bank Exec

Hasan Tuluy RA 70 has a challenging task ahead of him in his new position as vice president for human resources at the World Bank. The Bank is a mammoth organisation, employing nearly 13,000 staff and consultants from 180 countries, of which one third are posted in 120 offices around the world. "The World Bank's strength, or comparative advantage if you will, is that we are able to provide global knowledge and best practice to our member countries, and to combine this knowledge and advice with - when the country so wishes - financial services," says Tuluy. "As you can imagine therefore, one of the main assets we have is our staff, who transfer this knowledge, experience and financial services across regions and countries." As vice president for human

resources, Tuluy's job is to ensure that the World Bank staffing supports the group's strategic goals, namely to contribute to reducing poverty and creating sustained and inclusive economic growth. He says: "From an HR perspective that broadly means that we must be competitive and flexible, and have efficient and effective HR policies and procedures. In an increasingly globalized labor market, we must remain competitive to be able to attract, deploy, retain, and develop high calibre staff that represents the diversity of our member countries; to be attractive as an employer of choice." While remaining an employer of choice is key, Tuluy says, the Bank also needs flexibility to respond to changing needs and to renew its skills mix as required and quickly. Before joining the World Bank,



Hasan Tuluy RA 70

Tuluy spent many years working and living in Africa and the Maghreb as an economist. Upon joining the Bank in 1987, he worked in operations in various parts of the world, was for two years the Director of Strategy at the Bank, served as the Chair of the Appeals Committee and most recently was the Chief Operating Officer of the Political Risk Insurance agency, MIGA. Tuluy's new position will keep him in the tamer environs of Washington DC, and he says it is "a terrifically challenging job that keeps me busy from morning to night - 14-15 hours a day. If we can make a difference though the pay-offs are incredible."



Teoman Onat RC 51

Scientist Teoman Onat Honored

Pioneering Turkish physician Teoman Onat RC 51 was recently chosen among the top 100 Scientists of the Year by the Cambridge International Biography Center. He was chosen for having "made a significant enough contribution in his field to engender influence on a local, national or international basis", the IBC said. Founder of the pediatric cardiology department at Istanbul University, Onat was born in 1931. He graduated with honors from Robert College and studied medicine at the University of Zurich, graduating with high honors in 1957. He went on to receive a doctorate degree, focusing on cardiology and children, and worked for four years as an assistant and research fellow at the Children's Hospital of the University of Zurich. After returning to Istanbul, he founded the Pediatric Cardiology Department at the University of Istanbul in 1964, and directed it until his retirement in 1998. He became associate professor in 1966 and full professor of pediatrics in 1971. He is among the founders of Cerrahpaşa Medical Faculty and of the "Society for the Protection of Sick Children". Among numerous honors and titles held, he was elected President of the Turkish Pediatric Society in 1975, and Chairman of the Association of European Paediatric Cardiologists in 1976. He served between 1979 to 1983 on the Board of The Turkish Society for Cardiology and from 1993-2000 on the editorial board of New York's Pediatric Cardiology journal. Over 30 years, he prepared a unique encyclopedic collection of over 70 volumes of Medical Philately, a field in which he also held exhibitions and won awards. In 1990 he was awarded the Myrtle Watt Journalist Prize for his publications. His medical publications consist of 235 papers, mostly original research articles in the fields of pediatric cardiology and growth and maturation during adolescence. He published an original method for "Prediction of adult height based on attained height, skeletal and sexual maturation for age groups" published in Human Biology. Teoman Onat is a man of vast and varied interests. To view his articles, or his work in painting, sculpture or photography, visit his web-site: www.teomanonat.com

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GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

From the Casablanca exhibition

The Casablanca
exhibition invitation



Casablanca Jewellery Exhibition
Dates: May 22- June 8, 2008
Venue: Garage Of Art Sanat Galerisi,
Akattlar, İstanbul
Tel : (0212) 3511604

One Graduate, Two Passions: Women's Advancement and Art

After a busy and fulfilling executive career, most recently as the first female general manager in the history of Japan Tobacco International (JTI), in 2004, Servisimin Cömert ACG Jr. 71, RC Yük 75 retired in order to pursue two other passions: improving women's rights in Turkey and her love of art.

In 2002, she was one of 37 founders of Turkey's Women Entrepreneurs Association (KAGIDER), a group dedicated to supporting female businesswomen, strengthening the social and economic position of women in Turkey and enabling women to become more influential decision makers. She is a board member and head of the group's European Union committee. "We believe in EU values," says Cömert. "We think that the only way forward for Turkey is the EU and that gender equality can be achieved through EU membership." In March, KAGIDER became the first Turkish women's NGO to open a liaison office in Brussels.

Cömert has also found time to pursue her love of art history and mythology. After three years studying and participating in workshops, in May she opened her first-ever exhibition of jewellery in İstanbul. "I had always postponed my desire to do something artistic because of my career," she says. "Designing and producing silver jewellery has helped me achieve that." She works in Kapalıçarşı (the Covered Bazaar) with two jewellery experts, Aydın and Altay Özkaya, creating hand-made jewellery out of gold, silver, precious and semi-precious gems.

The exhibition was inspired by the film classic **Casablanca**. Cömert is joined by antiques expert Sara Benun and artist Beki Leon. Playing with gold and silver elements, the artists have created contemporary interpretations of the film's themes of love, sorrow and loyalty, as well as the backdrop of Morocco.

www.beckyleon.com, www.servisimin.com, servisimin@gmail.com



Servisimin Cömert ACG 71 Jr. (in the grey t-shirt) with her twin sister Dr. Piyale Cömert ACG 71 Jr. and her brother Mehmet Cömert, RC 74.



Servisimin with exhibition artists
Beki Leon and Sara Benun



Haldun and
Nihal Tashman with
their daughters

Haldun Tashman RA 62, Receives Ellis Island Medal of Honor

Turkish Philanthropic Fund founding Chairman Haldun Tashman RA 62, is among this year's recipients of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor presented by the National Ethnic Coalition (NECO) at its annual ceremony in Ellis Island's Great Hall on May 10th.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor is awarded to outstanding Americans who have distinguished themselves as citizens of the United States and enabled their ancestry groups to maintain their identities while becoming integral parts of American life. Along with Haldun Tashman, this year's recipients included NYT-best-selling author and health expert Dr. Mehmet Oz; former US Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell; Gen. Duncan J. McNabb - US Air Force Vice Chief of Staff; Pittsburg Steelers Owner Dan Rooney; and Actor and Founder "Operation Iraqi Children" Gary Sinise. Established in 1986 by NECO, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, which ranks among the country's most prestigious awards, pays tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. To date, more than 1,000 American citizens, including former Presidents Bill Clinton, George Bush, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, and Richard Nixon; Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court William Rehnquist; Muhammad AM; Rosa Parks; Elie Wiesel; Frank Sinatra; Bob Hope; Her Excellency Sheikh Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, President of the 61st Session of the UN General Assembly; and Quincy Jones, as well as two Turks, Mike Mustafoglu and Kaya Tuncer were among the recipients.

Mr. Tashman is an entrepreneur from Phoenix, Arizona who came to the United States, after graduating from Robert College of İstanbul in 1966, to study at Columbia Business School with a Fulbright Fellowship. Ten years later embarking in entrepreneurship Mr. Tashman and his partner Steve Uhlmann grew their privately-held company to an annual sales volume of \$200 million with 12 manufacturing locations on 3 continents. Since he was able to pursue a solid education through the generosity of others, he made helping people a motto for his life. Mr. Tashman served on the Board of Directors of Phoenix Country Day School from 1993-98, Assembly of Turkish American Associations in Washington, D.C., Turkish-American Business Forum, and Arizona Association of Industries. He is currently a Trustee of Arizona Community Foundation. Haldun Tashman provides a graduate level Fellowship for MBA students at Columbia University and at Arizona State University (ASU), and has given grants to attract companies from Singapore and Turkey to ASU's Skysong Innovation Center. Also since 2006, he spearheaded two social start-up initiatives: Establishing the first community foundation of Turkey in his hometown, Bolu, and founding a New York-based diaspora organization, Turkish Philanthropic Fund (TPF, www.tpfund.org), to promote philanthropy among Turkish-Americans.

Currently, Haldun Tashman is the founding Chairman of TPF, which aims to connect donors in the United States with high impact social projects in Turkey or in the United States. "We are very honored that our visionary colleague has received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor this year. This award is a great reflection of what TPF stands for: making outstanding contributions both to our homeland, as well as to our communities in America," noted Ozlenen Kalav, who is the President and Chief Executive Officer of TPF. Mrs. Kalav further indicated that "donors do not give to TPF, rather give through TPF. Individuals may contribute to specific issue areas or organizations through our pooled funds. Or by opening a named fund at TPF, Turkish-Americans can channel their philanthropic dollars to their favorite NGOs in Turkey or to their local causes in the United States."



Haldun Tashman RA 62



Haldun Tashman after the
award ceremony which was
followed by a gala reception and
end with a spectacular fireworks
display in New York Harbor.

GRADUATES IN THE NEWS



Zülfü Livanelli, Nuran Terzioğlu ACG 64, Suzy Hug Levy ACG 65 and others, during The Sienna Bookfair in Italy

Three Alumni Bring Book Art to 60th Frankfurt Book Fair

Gallery Apel, founded in 1998 by Nuran Baktır Terzioğlu (ACG'65), has been invited by Buchdruckkunst to exhibit "the reading room", a project presenting the book art of Suzy Hug Levy (ACG'65), Can Çiftçi Göknil (ACG'66) and several other prominent artists. Turkey is the guest country at this year's annual Frankfurt book fair. Gallery Apel's "Reading Room" exhibit however, will display only books that are individually created by artists without the modern conveniences of printing. These books as unique art objects will be exhibited at "art square" department 4,1 (kunst) Oct.15-19 at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

The project began last year, when Nuran Terzioğlu was invited by the Turkish Ministry of Culture to curate an exhibition for the Turkish stand in the 2007 Frankfurt Book Fair. This show, which was a smaller display of artists' books by the same artists, was an instant hit. The result was "sala lettura", another unique exhibition of book art at Terra di Libri, Siena, Italy in November, 2007. This year, once again, Terzioğlu and several contemporary Turkish artists bring a unique approach to books and reading to the land of the printed page.

Can Çiftçi Göknil ACG 66

After graduating from the Fine Arts Department of Knox College (Illinois), in 1968, she received her MA degree in Fine Arts in 1969 from the City University of New York.

Can Göknil's work weaves around mythological subjects. For her, mythology is the richest and most universal of sources an artist can reach out to. She finds her themes within the beliefs and traditions of her cultural heritage, exploring each phase in depth, and so she sets out to create her own interpretation applying different techniques of artistry most befitting to the theme at hand.

A pioneer of children's picture books in Turkey, Göknil's books have also been published in Germany, Switzerland, and the USA in Turkish, English, German, French, Dutch, Surinam and Arabic. Her approach to the picture book has been that of a painter: "I've always wanted each picture to add a new dimension to the page or to the book itself, acquainting children with art and literature at an early age, enabling them to build up their capacity for multiple interpretations." In Turkey, she is published by Can Junior of Can Yayınları, Istanbul.

Because of her infatuation with books, Göknil has now



London, Victoria and Albert Museum, The National Art Library
From L to R: Can Göknil ACG 66 Jennifer Farmer (Assistant Librarian) and John Morton (Acquisition Manager) viewing Göknil's "Yıldizname", a book of Zodiac prints

directed her creative efforts into inventing unique book forms as in book sculptures or altered books inspired by the book art traditions of the Uigurs, Seldjuks and the Ottomans. One recent exhibition was called "The Brotherhood of Word and Sight". It consisted of five large volumes of the artist's prints, leather-bound, resting on custom built tables, allowing the viewers to touch the art work and to turn the pages as they wished. These volumes are now in the permanent collection of The National Art Library of the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

The artist lives and works in Istanbul, www.cangoknil.com

Suzy Hug Levy ACG 65

Suzy Hug Levy started her art career in the late 80s. Her work comprises painting, sculpture, installation, performance and video art and is mainly on women's issues and nature. Academic Jale N. Erzen says: "Suzy Hug Levy's garments reveal the human body, one of the biggest conundrums faced by art today, as an environment, a void, and a mystery as well as a game; and by doing so she forces us to think in terms of processes and transformations that are both humanistic and cultural."

Using the metal, rubber, wire, and nails that are the raw materials of industry and belong to the mechanical world, Hug Levy conjures up transparencies, shadows, and reflections as well as a dreamlike movement that she creates by freeing the body from the pull of gravity. In spite of the almost nostalgic beauty created by the textures and their lights and shadows, her garment statues and especially her performances make reference to contemporary dilemmas such as the environment, culture, and women's issues. Hug Levy's work presents a rare synthesis of aesthetic qualities with avant-garde notions of questioning and experimentation."

In 1993 Hug Levy received the ' Contemporary Artist

of the Year' award given by the Painting and Sculpture Museum Association, Istanbul. She has exhibited across the world, including, the USA, Japan, China, UK, France, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, Tunisia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. Her works are in several private collections, universities and museums.

Nuran Baktır Terzioğlu ACG 65

Nuran Terzioğlu studied fine arts, weaving and fiber art in Germany and the USA from 1966 to 1968. She has been working as a gallerist and a curator since 1983, first at the Tanbay Art Gallery from 1983 - 87, and then the Urart Art Gallery. In 1998, she moved to Istanbul where she opened and runs her own space, Gallery Apel, which has become an Istanbul landmark.

Gallery Apel is known mostly for its thematic exhibitions like "Two Thousand and One Nights", "The Harvest", "Art Cart 2000", "La Strada", "Neighbours", "Earth and Fiber". As a curator, Terzioğlu, contributed to the Tunis Biennial in 2002. She was also invited to Rotterdam in 2002 to accompany ten artists from Gallery Apel for an event called "Between The Waterfronts, Istanbul-Rotterdam". In 2004, Terzioğlu was invited to Yokohama Portside Gallery where she curated the exhibition "More Wind - 4 Contemporary Artists from Turkey". "Contemporary Painting and Sculpture from Turkey", an exhibition initiated by the European Unipn, was first installed in Brussels EU Building and later in Lyngby Art Center, Denmark. In 2005 Terzioğlu curated "Turkey, Plastique Dialogues", at Grand Place Brussels. In 2007 she started creating exhibitions on book art. In addition to "Pages", a parallel event in the 10th Istanbul Biennial, Terzioğlu curated two exhibitions for two international book fairs, Frankfurt (Turkish Pavillion) and Terra di Libri in Siena.

www.galleryapel.com

GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

Journalist Explores Istanbul's Underbelly in New Thriller

Cüneyt Ülsever RA 70 is known to many as a leading political columnist, a TV commentator and a keen analyst of Turkey's affairs. They might not know, however, that he is also a novelist, who has just published **Hisarüstü Cinayetleri** (Hisarustu Murders; Everest Yayınlan), a gripping whodunnit that promises to be the first in a trilogy. Ülsever's previous literary forays were political thrillers. This time, he takes us back to the 1960s, to the rundown Istanbul neighbourhood of Hisarüstü. Three people who shared a flat in Hisarüstü some 40 years back are all mysteriously murdered on the same day in 2005. Maho, a pimp, Tahoe, a drug dealer and Keto, a thief. Nothing links these deaths until a fateful meeting of three police officers in Istanbul at a conference. Classmates from police academy, the trio catch up on old times over dinner at İsmet Baba. As they discuss the strange and unsolved cases on their hands, they eventually begin to suspect that the three murders are somehow connected. Thus begins an adventure that takes them from Hisarüstü to Istanbul's wealthiest homes...

Ülsever says his fourth novel is his least openly political book to date. "People told me that my fiction was also all about politics," he says. "This upset me. So I wrote a book that doesn't have a whisper of politics in it. And the plot is very intricate."

Hisarüstü Cinayetleri is not just a rollicking read; it is also sociologically astute, portraying the changes in Istanbul, and Turkish society, over 40 years, through the very different lives of its characters. "I am writing about an era", says Ülsever. "The beginning of urbanization in Turkey in the 60s, the growth of Istanbul in the 70s, the way a city both sustains and consumes people. The thriller aspect is an excuse to write about this era."

Born in Ankara in 1951, Ülsever completed high school at Robert College, and then studied economics at Boğaziçi University. He received a Masters degree from Johns Hopkins in international relations and from Columbia in economics. From 1978 to 1983, he pursued his doctorate in human resources economics at Harvard. After working in the private sector, in 1999 he became a columnist. He writes for the daily Hürriyet and the Turkish Daily News, while remaining a human resources consultant.



Cüneyt Ülsever RA 70

Istanbul the Stage for Maureen Freely's New Novel

Maureen Freely, ACG 71, is in the midst of a world tour to promote her new book, **Enlightenment**. The novel is set in Istanbul in 2005 and focused on an investigative journalist, known only as Miss M, who gets drawn into helping the wife of an old lover. Miss M's memories past and subsequent investigations form the basis for a thriller that pokes behind the scenes of the Turkish political establishment past and present.

A starred review in the US-based Publishers Weekly said **Enlightenment** was "A complex, often riveting novel set in contemporary and Cold War Turkey ... Both mystery/thriller and mainstream literary readers will be well rewarded." Robert College is the backdrop for much of the book and graduates, particularly from the 70s, will find much that is familiar.

Freely's 2008 itinerary includes a book tour of Australia. The book will also be released in the U.S. in May, and has also been published in Dutch and in Turkish, titled **Aydınlanma**. She's started thinking about her next novel, which will also be set in Istanbul, in 1962. Some of the characters from **Enlightenment** are set to make return appearances, Freely said.

In addition to her post as a senior lecturer in creative writing at The University of Warwick in the UK and her own journalism career, she will also be dedicating herself to her work as RC's and Turkey's first nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk's translator. Freely has just started out work on Pamuk's latest novel, **Museum of Innocence**, which she said is set in the 1970s and chronicles the lives of wealthy Istanbulites.

Freely, the daughter of Boğaziçi University physics professor and acclaimed historian John Freely, was born in the US but spent her high-school years in Istanbul. She credits the American College for Girls for getting her academic career started the right way. After arriving at Harvard University to study as an undergraduate, she found that some of the texts she would use she had already covered at ACG. The school also provided warm memories and a permanent connection to Istanbul.

"It's because I was able to go to ACG that I feel like Turkey is my home," said Freely, who lives in the UK but spends her summers in Istanbul. "For me, coming back is like reading the next chapter of a novel, finding out what my classmates are up to."



Maureen Freely ACG 71, Orhan Pamuk RA 70

Iconic Architect Şevki Pekin RA 66 Publishes Book

Şevki Pekin RA 66 is one of Turkey's best-known modern architects. The creator of buildings like the Florence Nightingale Hospital in Çağlayan, he has collected his work, dating back to 1966, in a book, **Mimari Çalışmalar** (Afffiitectoral Works) by Yem Kitabevi. The book is as much a collection of Pekin's musings on the philosophy of buildings and the development of architecture in Turkey, as well as a well-illustrated and documented compendium of his work on projects like "6 Houses" in Sapanca, "Bus Terminal" in the Venice Biennial and "Summer Home", in Bodrum.

He says: "The thoughts which form the basis of the architectural buildings and projects presented in this book were formed between 1966-1973. The essays herein are a rewriting of notes and thoughts jotted down in those days, sometimes painful, sometimes enjoyable." Pekin began his career in Vienna, where he studied architecture at the Vienna Technical University, graduating in 1973. He sojourned briefly in Turkey to work on the Atatürk Cultural Center in 1965-66, and then returned to Vienna where he stayed until 1974. That year, he moved back to Turkey and started his own architecture firm, which he still runs. Pekin is also familiar to RC graduates for his design of Bizimtepe, the alumni social club which turns 25 this year.



Şevkin Pekin RA 66



Bringing Peace Education to Turkey

Fatos Erkman, RC Yk 72 ex successfully spearheaded efforts to launch a Peace Education center which opened last year at Boğaziçi University. Ferda Tarzı, ACG 71 Jr. interviewed her about the project.

What is the Peace Center?

It took a long time to open the Boğaziçi University Peace Education and Practices Center (BUBEM), as it involved a lot of bureaucracy. A year and a half after applying to YK, we got permission to go ahead last year. This was made possible thanks to the great support of Boğaziçi Rector Ayşe Soysal ACG 67, RC Yk 71, Assistant Rector Glen Aktaş and Cem Behar.

The education we offer varies depending on whether it is directed at NGOs, adults, students or teachers. We measure the effectiveness of the programs by seeing whether they create changes in people's perceptions, behavior, attitude and emotions.

The duration differs according to the group. In education generally if you just talk or have students read it has little impact. Active education, for instance in the form of role playing, creates a more lasting impact. When people actually experience something, they change because they become personally involved in an event.

Then we evaluate to see whether there are any changes in their thinking. Sometimes their discourse might change, but not their behavior. For that reason, ideally it's best to measure behavioral changes. We can do this easily with students over a period of time, for instance a semester. In other cases; let's say we educate teachers within a school system. Those teachers then work with students. We look at things like whether the number of fights in school has gone down. If there is no real difference between before and after behavior, it means you need to re-examine your methods and if necessary, revise them.

Do you think people are peaceful beings?

People have all kinds of tendencies. Aggression, positivity, or peace. Whichever quality is enhanced, through outside factors and education, that becomes more dominant. We need to learn how to bring out the positive qualities in people. Ghandi is a great example. He was asked 'What use is pacifism?' He replied 'What we're doing is not pacifism, it's activism.' Peace is not inactivism, just the opposite, its action. It's a lot harder than practicing violence. Violence is a lot easier. Peace requires planning, strategy, thoughtfulness and talent. Aggression is more primitive, it exists in much less complicated species.

They are less peaceful. They have limited thought capacities. Peace is possible through humans. Unfortunately when humans decide to use these superior talents and abilities for war rather than peace, they are typically very successful because they have that ability to think. What gives me hope is the primal urge of every organism: to reproduce, to survive. The world has got to such a point that people are self-destructing. This isn't science fiction, its reality. I think the drive for peace is a drive for survival. Why are so many similar centers opening across the world? Because we need to protect ourselves.

I held a conference recently and titled it 'Acceptance: Essence of Peace'. I opened it with Mevlana's (Rumi) words; "Come whoever you are". The slogan for peace is Acceptance. The more accepting we are, the less we get angry or upset.

Peace is hard because it's hard to change people's thinking. Information is very important. That's why we are promoting Peace Journalism; it is crucial that information is distributed truthfully and from every perspective.

How did your own personal goals coincide with the



opening of this center?

When I was a child, what made me happiest was making people laugh. I was a funny kid. As I grew older, this changed. When I started thinking about careers at age 15, I thought about fields which would add value to people's lives, like law, psychology, research, theater and medicine. I decided to study clinical psychology and focus on youths. Youth is a time of the greatest turmoil and if young people are directed towards the right path, they can lead more fulfilling lives. I wanted to help people live higher quality, constructive lives. I moved from clinical practice to academia but I'm still working with young people. Peace Education has the ability to change the quality of people's lives in a very meaningful way.

I studied Clinical Psychology in the US and then Community Psychology, from 1973 to 1980. The difference between then and now is that then western values dominated. That's what progress meant. Now the West is interested in Eastern philosophy. Back then people were only just realizing that cultures are different, and there is no single truth. Truth changes depending on the circumstances. This still hasn't fully been accepted.

What was the impact of Robert College on your life?

In my family, we see Robert College as home. My mother (1914), aunt (1903), myself and my daughter Esra, RC 2001, are all graduates.

I have many friends from RC, that's very important. The beauty of its campus had a great impact on me. I started yoga there with Nadolsky. That had a big effect on the way I see life. The campus was so beautiful I said to myself 'I


will look at the Bosphorus for 20 minutes every day". I did, without thinking anything. In those days nobody knew about meditation. It was 1968, I was 18 and at that age you think the world revolves around you. I saw then that a human life is actually quite insignificant; that's when I learnt that our sorrows, our joys, are actually quite funny.

I was very influenced by our Humanities class. It was called Eastern and Western Civilizations and lasted two semesters. We didn't have just one teacher and I think the way it was taught was perfect. Every subject was given by its expert. Oya Başak, ACG 55, was one teacher. Another was Bahadır Alkm, he was an archeologist and historian who had worked on the Karatepe digs and spoke nine languages. It was a history of human development. We studied all the philosophers, starting from Plato. There was art history too, and Human Civilizations.

I took Physics as an elective. We had a physics teacher who assigned a book by Joan Baez's father, which talked about physics in terms of philosophy.

My economics teacher Ahmet Kıbrıslı had just arrived from the US and was a great teacher. In blue jeans, he would sit cross-legged on the desk, eat an apple and open your mind. He taught by example; if there was a flock of birds flying overhead, that's how he'd explain the concept of "Random".

Gkçe Cansever was my psychology teacher. When she found out I was interested in clinical psychology she gave me a list of Freud's works with recommendations. That year I read 13 original Freud works and it proved to be a great foundation for psychology.



GENERATION NEXT: VIBRANT ART PROGRAM NURTURES BUDDING YOUNG ARTISTS



On a quiet Monday afternoon, long after the last bell has gone, the Robert College Art Studio is still a hive of activity. Deniz Tortum, a senior, is an aspiring filmmaker and photographer. He spends large chunks of time in the studio's state-of-the-art dark-room. His classmate ipek Hamzaoglu says she spends every spare minute in the studio, working mostly on collage prints. Her latest effort, "an allegory of fanaticism and bigotry", won her a mention in the annual Demirkan Asetey RC 76 alumni art competition. Both are due to go abroad in September to pursue arts degrees. Ceren Ozerdem L11, one of two junior students who tied for first place, says paint is her favorite medium. She spent many a lunch break and weekend working on her winning contribution, a minimalist depiction of two halves of a green apple, with a tiny female shaped like a core. "I'm interested in how women are represented," she says. "People consume relationships so quickly. They eat the apple. But how often do they notice the core?"

Meet Robert College's new generation of budding artists. They are flourishing almost against the odds. Academic pressures on this generation of students are greater than ever before; about 1,650,000 18-year-olds are due to sit the annual university entrance exam this summer, competing for fewer places. Students start attending after-school **dershane** (cram schools) in 11th grade, while 12th grade is mostly a blur of practice tests and weekend coaching. Under these circumstances, art, you might assume, would be one of the first disciplines to suffer from a lack of interest. Happily, the opposite is true. The Art program at RC is enjoying one of its best-ever years; a record number of seniors are due to pursue art degrees at university and attendance in the many art classes and clubs on offer is at an all-time high.



Art teacher Jeffrey Baykal-Rollins with some of his students



L to R: Koray Demirkapi, Geoff Harley, Jeffrey Baykal Rollins, Deniz Baysal. Seated from L to R: Anne Hinds, Merrill Hope Brown, Margaret Halicioğlu

Art teacher Geoff Harley says a number of factors have contributed to this mini-renaissance, chiefly, more financial and administrative support, in several forms. One impetus has been the annual Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Alumni Art Competition, backed by the Class of 76 and set up to honor the memory of their classmate. This competition, which carries a cash prize, was launched seven years ago and is taken very seriously by students, who spend months preparing their submissions.

A second contribution is an annual grant made by Barbara Piatt Willenborg RC Yuk 70 which funds the Art Excellence Club. Art teacher Anne Hinds says: "Students come to RC and have to take art in their first year. They don't get another chance to take art until grades 11 and 12 because of the academic program so the club offers students with talent and interest a way to keep going in the interim." Students must audition with a portfolio to become a member. In addition to experimenting with a wide variety of media, club members also go to galleries and attend museum lectures. Last month, a small group spent spring break in London, checking out the art scene.

That's not the only club devoted to art. Students can also choose from a wide variety including two photography clubs (one classic, one digital), a painting club and a graphic design club. The studio facilities also include seven computers, scanners and up-to-date software for digital use.

A third new financial incentive has been the introduction of a summer art school scholarship in the US for one talented student each year. Named in memory of Özlem Akçakuş RC 97 and supported by her family and classmates, the grant allows the recipient a chance to test out an art degree and be exposed to other methods. "These three financial incentives have helped a lot," says Harley. The school is also committed to supporting the Art Department, headed by Merrill Hope-Brown. "There's a momentum here to let this department grow," she says. Next year, she plans to introduce a new Artist in Residence project. "We hope that a professional artist will come to the school for one or two weeks to work exclusively with the students who are taking our Art elective courses" she says. This year, a new faculty position was created for Jeffrey Baykal-Rollins, a painter, photographer, installation and performance artist, previously based at Boğaziçi University. Baykal-Rollins believes that as a practising artist, he is able to offer students a different perspective on the creative process. "It's frustrating that there's often such a separation between artists who practice and academics who theorize it. It used to be that students worked very closely with masters. This allowed them to observe the master make mistakes, and to learn from that. I find that very important," he says.

Baykal-Rollins, a graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Glasgow School of Art in Scotland, and the University of California, Santa Barbara, brings international experience to the classroom. He utilizes a variety of media including drawing, painting, photography, video, installation, performance, film, and poetry. Exhibited internationally, he has won numerous fellowships and awards, and his work appears on the covers of more than twenty books. He is also a reader for the AP studio portfolio exam.

The department will expand next year to add ceramics. John Dew, a sculptor, will be teaching ceramics and photography on a part-time basis. He will be joined in a full-time position by Alex Downs, who, like Baykal-Rollins, is also a reader for the AP studio portfolio exam. He will replace Geoff Harley, who is leaving RC at the end of the year.

Two years ago, the school updated the darkroom. "I'm pretty sure it's the best-equipped darkroom at any educational institution," says Harley. "Graduates studying at universities here come back to use it." He has also brought new life to the school walls by exhibiting more art. "I found a bunch of unused old black frames in Bingham," he says. "From there, I added on 10-15 new frames a year and the result is that art is now exhibited on almost every wall in the school."

For their part, the next generation of art talent is appreciative, dedicated, and very brave. "It's a risk to study art and want to become an artist," says İpek Hamzaoğlu, a little ruefully. "Because of the RC education, you know that you have the ability and skills to do other stuff. You know you could become a good businesswoman. But that's the risk you have to take."

Top prize winners in the 2008 Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Art Competition Ceren Özerdem, Dilşad Anıl and Deniz Tortum with Demirkan Aşetey's father Halis Aşetey.

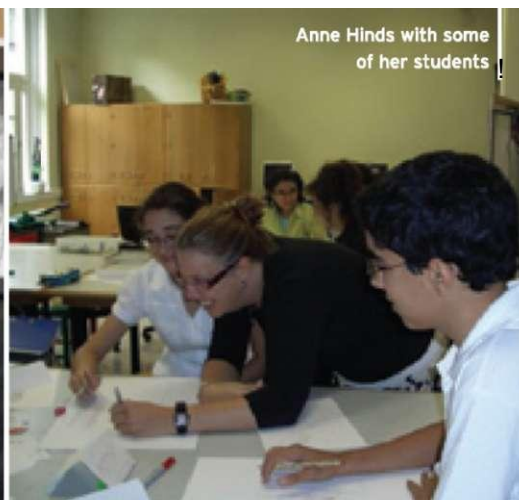


Remembering Özer Kabaş

The College underwent a similar artistic renaissance in the 60's when Özer Kabaş RC 57, one of the most gifted painters RC ever produced, taught here. Kabaş was a much-loved professor from 1964-1974. As Bülent Gültekin put it in the catalogue for a recent retrospective of the artist at Istanbul's Yapı Kredi Kazım Taşkent gallery: "In the 60's, Özer Kabaş influenced many students. In his time there, Robert College became one of the most important centers of artistic activity in the country." Kabaş was, "the only professor whom every student knew by name." Kabaş graduated as an engineer from RC in 1957 and studied fine art at Yale between 1957-1962. It was while a student at RC that he was first transported by the Bosphorus, whose waters would be a lifelong source of inspiration.

It would be impossible to do justice to the multitude of talented artists and art professionals the College has produced. With apologies to anyone we may have inadvertently omitted, these include:

Hale Arpacioğlu ACG 71
Birim Bozok ACG 65
Gül Derman ACG 62
Abidin Dino RC 33 ex
Nazan Erkmen ACG 65
Beril Erkut ACG 66 ex
Seniye Fenmen ACG 39 ex
Can Göknil ACG 66
Hüma Gruaz RC 85
Sibel Horada RC 98
Suzy Hug Levy ACG 65
Feyha Kısakürek ACG 70
Vasif Kortun RC 78
Semra Özümerzifon ACG 70
Orhan Taylan RA 60
Nuran Terzioğlu ACG 64
Ömer Uluç RC 53
Elif Uras RC 90
Hande Varsat RC 2001



ONES TO WATCH



Nazlı Dereli Oba RC 97



Don't Talk, Drum!

Music Project Promotes Intercultural Communication

On any weekend summer morning, stroll down Beyoğlu's teeming İstiklal Street towards Tünel, or venture to Kadıköy square, and you will come across a gathering of cheery men and women seated in a large circle, drumming on a variety of percussion instruments. In all likelihood, you'll hear them before you see them, the beats travel down the street. Anybody is welcome to take a seat, pick up an instrument, and join in.

This is DRUM, a new intercultural music project that is the brainchild of Zeynep Dereli and her sister Nazlı Dereli Oba RC 97. Its goal is to promote communication and harmony through music. "In recent years, the social fabric connecting communities around the world has come under strain, endangering our security, economic development, and social harmony," says Dereli. Drumming she believes, is something anybody can do, it doesn't require talking, and has the ability to connect diverse people in a common rhythm. The group is non-profit and donates all year-end proceeds to Unicef. Its largest project thus far was a symphonic rendering of Mevlana (Rumi) poetry and the Paulo Coelho novel *The Alchemist*, sponsored by Turkey's Cultural Ministry, which premiered in December as part of 2007's Mevlana year. The Mevlana project is expected to play in Paris and London this year. The group also produced an album by pop stars Sertab Erener and Demir Demirkan called "I remember now". Last summer, it began weekly drum sessions as part of public outreach and will continue this summer. Anyone is welcome to participate in the free events, led by professional musicians. DRUM has also been taking its message -and drums- to corporate events, to help promote a different cultural approach, where it has been a big success. As part of the DRUM ethos of melding together disparate cultural influences, in April the group sponsored a concert bringing together rapper Ceza, folk musician Burhan Öcal and hip-hop DJ Funky C at Ghetto in Istanbul. That will be followed by a joint project by Colombian group Ciclon and Turkish artist Sila, also at Ghetto. A corporate lawyer, Dereli Oba became involved with DRUM initially to help her sister out with legal matters. But as DRUM picked up speed, she found it took up more and more of her time until eventually, in January 2007, she joined full-time as legal consultant. "DRUM is a social responsibility project, so it's very important that its legal infrastructure is well-established," she says. "My task is to create the legal framework for the musicians, sponsors and other partners we work with,". Dereli Oba is confident that Turkey is just the beginning for this nascent effort. "DRUM'S goal is to make this movement, which began in Turkey, into a world movement and support intercultural understanding and communication on a global scale."



Cem Öztüfekçi Shoots a Miner's Tale

Student filmmaker Cem Öztufekçi RC 03 has already made his international debut. After screening in March at the prestigious Aubergne Short Film Festival in France, his 18 minute short *Ayak Altında* (Downstairs) has been selected by festivals in Italy, Germany and Morocco to compete.

The film was inspired by a newspaper article Oztufekçi read last year. It concerned the plight of mine workers in Turkey's Black Sea region. Every morning, the article reported, it has become local custom that as the men prepare to go down the



Scence from "Downstairs"

Cem Öztüfekçi RC 03

shaft, they bid their wives farewell (helalleşmek, in Turkish), in case they don't return. "This really affected me," says Öztüfekçi. "It's a ritual that has become routine, but it's about whether or not they'll survive that day."

Öztüfekçi wrote a script, centering around Ibrahim, a worker living with his wife and two children. This won a development award at the Antalya Film Festival. He managed to persuade Fono Film and studio TEM to support him as sponsors. "This allowed me to shoot in 35mm, which was the look and texture I wanted." Currently a film student at Marmara University, Öztüfekçi was

born in Bursa and studied at Robert College as a boarder, on a scholarship. He credits the school with having "opened the doors to the art world" for him. He was a drama club member and took classes like Film & Literature, and says his teachers were an inspiration to him. "In my first year at RC I watched *Masumiyet* [a film by Zeki Demirkubuz] and I thought to myself, 'That's what I want to do, I want to make films.'"

In January, Cem visited RC for a special screening of his film to interested students and faculty/staff members. The showing was followed by an enthusiastic Q & A session.

Intrepid Youth: Can Kalaycioglu, a Journalist to Watch For



Can Kalaycioglu

Can Kalaycioglu, a current Robert College student in Lise 12, is determined to make himself a rising star in journalism. Can is the current editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, the Bosphorus Chronicle, and already works part-time at the Turkish Daily News, co-producing a youth supplement. Can has already left his mark on the Chronicle. After researching back to 1981, he learned that the Chronicle had not run any opinion columns in that time, and set himself the task last year of ending that editorial silence. With the help of a treasured mentor, Robert College English teacher Derek Parker Chase, Can crafted a general call to action titled "Out of Bounds" and using basketball, another passion, as an analogy. He urged students to make their voices heard on all pressing social issues by noting that life is not like basketball, where the boundaries are clear, as is the punishment for crossing them. But politics, Can argued, allows people to push at the boundaries and perhaps expand them. In a later commentary, Can deftly managed to opine on the Hrant Dink (Turkish Armenian journalist killed last year) case and racism but without mentioning Dink by name. Can boosted his bona fides last summer with an internship at the Turkish Daily News, where he helped create a new section of the newspaper called GenNext that is aimed at young readers. He still works to help write the weekly supplement, which often publishes stories from the Bosphorus Chronicle. Can and has recruited three other RCQ students to help the TDN's regular staffers edit the section: Deniz inal ,RC 09, Lale Tekisalp, RC 09 and Dilek izek, RC 09. Can knew at age 15 he wanted to become a journalist. He plans to attend Sabanci University for undergraduate studies, where he considers the liberal arts-and-sciences program tops in Turkey. After school he aims to explore journalism outside Turkey, where increased press freedom is something he would like to experience. Can looks forward to a career as a political writer, perhaps covering the Middle East. "I am not sure about journalism in Turkey, but perhaps if I make enough money," Can said, "I can start up my own newspaper."



Gence takes on France



Pile on the pleasure, and the pounds, with French delicacies



Delicious in every direction

A Trip to Gourmet Heaven

By Gence Alton RC 89

The Altons live in California wine country, where Gence works as Senior Buyer for The Wine Spectrum writes a weekly column for www.sarapgunlugu.com

When I look back, what really strikes me most is how two of the most amazing things that have ever happened to me came together within the same year. First, the new love of my life, my daughter Bal joined me and my first love Elif. Then came an opportunity that took all three of us on a magical journey to Burgundy, France. When I chose to devote my career to wine and food a decade ago, most who knew me well thought that I had studied too much to pursue such a mundane discipline. I now know that they were wrong. We sure do eat and drink to live. The fact that some of us may also be living to eat and drink can easily be overlooked. In Burgundy however they practice just that; in a food and wine lover's heaven, the good life is a religion.

The people of Burgundy have long believed that their lives would be a massive void if it wasn't centered around the art and science of gastronomy. Although wine was made here long before Christ, it was under the rule of Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne that Burgundy was transformed. Benedictine monks, followed by the Cistercians, nurtured its vineyards. The monastic influence that brought prosperity and order to Burgundy is still very much evident in its architecture and wines. The most significant heritage of the monks is a mind-bogglingly complex system of vineyard classification. This school of thought argues that on a particular site, unique qualities of the natural habitat shine through in a wine "raised" there.

The singularly French notion of "terroir" emphasizes the infinite variations that occur within a matter of meters in soil, topography and microclimates on any given agricultural landscape. Terroir was born in Burgundy, where strict wine

law dictates that just one white and one red grape variety is grown. This brings a constant, common denominator and transparency when studying the changes in aromatics and flavors through a single white or red grape variety. Chardonnay or Pinot Noir form an empty canvas on which mother nature offers her endless colors and human beings simply hone the art. With excess intervention, terroir is compromised.

Before we began our intense epicurean four day marathon in Burgundy, we had an opportunity for a quick culinary warm-up tour of Paris. After witnessing an ethereal mass at the majestic Sacré-Cœur basilica, we lunched at Le Dôme in Montparnasse, a seafood bistro serving untold riches. The Plateau de Fruits de Mer, a mountain of raw shellfish and the "catch of the day soup" were exquisite matches for the laser-sharp, crisp Pouilly-Fumé from Dagueneau. Later on that afternoon, we caught the TGV, world's fastest super-train, to Dijon, the mustard capital of the world. We then took an old fashioned inter-city line to Beaune.

Although the Côte-d'Or, French for "golden slope" begins just south of Dijon, the heart of Burgundy is Beaune, a small, intoxicatingly charming city built on underground cellars. Beaune is one of the most influential hubs of the global wine trade, and not just for the wines of Burgundy. It also divides the Côte-d'Or in half; as Côte-de-Nuits to the north and Côte-de-Beaune to the south. In a pursuit to understand the wines of Burgundy, it is essential to know that the Côte-de-Nuits

is primarily a red wine region whereas the Côte-de-Beaune is famous mostly for its whites. Beaune's central location makes it the perfect base for a first time excursion to explore both worlds.

When you wake up in rural France, you can almost hear the distant call of the local boulangeries where fresh art sculpted from dough is displayed invitingly. It's quite a challenge to choose from the colorful selection of sweet and savory pastries. A thick undercoat of caffeinated breakfast is a must when starting a day of intensive wine tasting. Even if you intend to spit like a pro along the way, a lot more water than you would normally drink is also essential to stay hydrated. The drive to Gevrey-Chambertin at the northern tip of the Côte-d'Or was not even an hour through Route des Grand Crus, easier to locate with official name E74 on a map. Grand Crus sit at the throne of the intricate terroir hierarchy set in stone since the middle ages. There are only 31 and combined they represent barely 2% of the entire production of Burgundy. These select vineyards, perfectly situated to bear the best fruit, are so prized that village names were amended centuries ago to promote their flagship Grand Cru vineyard; Le Chambertin, in the case of the commune of Gevrey. If this is not a testament to how obsessed Burgundians are with their wine, I don't know what would be.

Our first winery visit was with the legendary Domaine Denis Mortet. A dreamy Le Chambertin of theirs retails for over \$1,000 per bottle. Among the finest Burgundies, there is just one barrel of this rarity, roughly 300 bottles for the whole wide world. For the masses of disciples that worship Mortet, the greater concern is not being able to afford such a treasure, but to find a bottle to purchase. His other Grand Cru red, a Clos de Vougeot (vineyard names that begin with "Clos" have an old stone "wall" surrounding it) is a whopping two barrels. Mortet also makes a few stunning Premier Crus, a designation for great vineyards that are a tier below Grand Crus, as well as delicious "village" level everyday Gevrey-Chambertin.

The highlight of our second day was one of my true wine epiphanies at Domaine Comte Georges de Vogue, virtually impossible to visit. It's in Chambolle-Musigny (sister city to Sonoma where we live). The top Grand Cru in this commune, as the name suggests, is Musigny and Vogue's version is one of the greatest wines in Burgundy and our planet. This

Vieilles Vignes (old vines), from ancient plantings bearing the lowest yields of extraordinary fruit, is surpassed only by Romanée-Conti. Just like other truly gifted winemakers around the globe, François Millet claims that wine is made in the vineyard. He merely oversees nature's journey into the bottle with minimal intervention. Such humility has a price, his Musigny VV retails for thousands of dollars. Tasting this elixir from the barrel is a trip to heaven and back.

Naturally, what complements the great wines of Burgundy best is the regional cuisine, one of the most sophisticated in all of France perhaps surpassed only by Lyon just to the south. For the adventurous epicure snails (escargot) and frog legs (cuisses de grenouille) are two fascinating specialties not to miss. Traditional recipes call for butter, garlic and herbs but modern variations are infinite. I proudly tried eight different varieties of escargot in four days, the most memorable of which was cooked inside shank bones with red wine and marrow, an inventive specialty of L'Ecusson. The local mustard of course is found in many classic dishes, such as the delightful lamb kidneys (rognon) simmered with mushrooms in a Dijon sauce at Ma Cuisine, one of our favorite restaurants.

Timeless local classics like Bœuf Bourguignonne and Coq au Vin are reliable choices especially when cooked with a good bottle of red Burgundy and world famous Charolais cattle or Bresse roosters respectively. Needless to say, most good restaurants fanatically seek authenticity. Wine is such an important cooking ingredient that it is even used for poaching eggs (œufs en meurette). Other Beaune restaurants we highly recommend are Caveau des Arches inside an underground cellar and Les Tontons, a casual, trendy bistro. Our most significant gourmandise discovery however was in Nuits-St.-Georges, sister city to our very own Cappadocian Avanos. La Cabotte serves fresh local ingredients prepared with a sophisticated fusion twist. Last but not least, the local cheeses are some of the best we ever had, either from a traditional cheese cart, an artisanal cheese boutique or a farmers market with endless variety.

Although it was impossible to match the magnitude of visiting Mortet and Vogüé, during the remaining two days, we got to barrel taste with many other noteworthy growers. The distinction between cellar and home and winemaker (vigneron) and vinegrower (viticulteur) is vague in Burgundy. Since small means everything here, so was born the "winegrower", an artist orchestrating the entire journey from grape to glass. Côte-de-Beaune's Paul Pernot for instance, with his calloused hands, defines winegrower. In Puligny-Montrachet where Chardonnay is queen, his whites are pure bliss. These highlights were just a part of what we ate and drank in four days, hard to believe but true.

There is no reason to stop or even pause while exploring such fastidious cuisine or sensuous wines; they are there to enjoy while you can. Recipes replicated and wines brought home may still be delicious, but they just are not the same if you are not in Burgundy.



Photo credits: Çağan Şekercioglu



Barış holding a rare kind of frog

Cagan and his equipment

Food for Thought in a Philippine Rain Forest

By Ban; Karadogan RC 90

When my ornithologist friend Cagan Şekercioglu RC 93 asked me to join him and our expert local guide Tim Fisher on a birding trip to the Philippines, he told me that the Philippine rainforests were among the most biodiverse and unfortunately most destroyed in the world. The trip would take us through a number of islands in the hope of seeing and photographing endemic birds. The thought of seeing a new country and doing it in a non-traditional way appealed to me. It turned out to be one of the most interesting trips I've ever taken.

It was my first time bird watching, and I was lucky to be with two experts. I've always thought of bird watching as a leisurely sport for which the minimum starting age was 50.1

100) it requires a lot of strategy. There are two big variables and one constraint. The variables are the total number of birds you want to see, and the number of rare birds you want to see. The constraint is the time you have in each region. If you focus on the rare birds, you have to spend a lot of time in specific places. You may or may not see them but then you miss many common ones. On the other hand, if you focus only on common ones you might miss that one elusive bird that could become extinct by the time you return. They all count toward your overall global bird score. In either case you have to study the birds, read previous trip reports and create the optimum path that takes you through the right elevation and right kinds of habitats.

Our strategy was to spend a lot of time in the rainforest to see all the birds, especially endemics and/or species threatened with extinction. The number of birds you see is directly proportional to the time you spend on the field. Every day we were up at 3:00am and on the road by 4:00 so that after a two hour hike (often up a mountain) in the dark, we caught the crepuscular birds as the sun rose. A delay of even 30 minutes means you can miss whole categories of animals. We ate lunch in the field and returned around 5-6 pm, giving us some time after dinner to watch

for owls. Unsurprisingly, we were in bed by 9pm.

Seeing rare birds is tricky. There are 600+ birds in the Philippines, of which nearly 200 are endemic, which means that they are ONLY found in the Philippines. The problem with endemics is that they are endemic, you can't see them elsewhere. So if you miss that one rare endemic bird that lives on the top of Mt. Kitanglad, guess where you have to go again to see it? And there is no guarantee you'll see it each time so focus is razor sharp and everybody is silent. Some of these waits took us more than five hours. You have a lot of time to think when you are waiting to hear the call of a bird for five hours on a mountain.

Is that a hawk? Or the next big Internet phenomenon?

It was during one of these long waits that I realized that bird watching is much like venture capital. You look at a vast landscape, whether it is a dense jungle with figs and mahogany, or a wetland with Mangroves, and most of the time the landscape is barren. It seems like there is nothing to see, or everything you see is something you've seen before. But then, in the distance among a flock of common birds, you see something unique like a Scale-crested Malkoha camouflaged among trees. That's the company you want to invest in. You focus right away to make sure the bird you are seeing is the real one; that's what diligence is. Once you are sure, you approach with your camera and binoculars and take the picture. There is your investment. Often the bird flies away or hides before you get a shot, so you must sometimes be patient or run fast to chase it down, this means getting off the trail and into the wilderness where you can easily get lost. Yes, you have to get out of your comfort zone sometimes to find the best investments. Most importantly, good birds don't show up in a linear way, just like good investments, and you always have to keep your eyes open. Luckily for entrepreneurs, VCs often do more than just take a picture but I digress.

A little bit about the rainforest itself: We've all seen documentaries about rainforests featuring colorful animals displaying dazzling behavior. Well, those documentaries take years to make, and most of the time when you look at a rainforest, especially a lowland tropical one like the one in the island of Palawan, you see nothing but dense flora. What amazed me is the speed at which plants rot and decay in the forest. Life is so active that nothing stays on the ground for long. As soon as a new leaf forms, there are 3-4 different fungi eating it alive and 2-3 different animals doing the same. To survive in the forest, natural selection forces you to reproduce, develop, and spread fast. Otherwise you are



The adventurous pair



Our very own Indiana Jones

eaten. Ants and termites are everywhere (including in your socks) and when they bite, they draw blood. Interestingly this dense activity is what gives endemic species an advantage because it's hard for introduced species to make their way in. You don't have a lot of time to wander around and take breaks when you are walking in a lowland tropical rainforest, which brings me to my final point about the effect bird watching in a dense rainforest had on me.

Back to Basics

Simplify your life! That's what it boils down to. Places we stayed at often had no electricity (that simplifies things a lot, though we had to carry ice on horses to enjoy a cold beer) and little or no cell phone coverage. The forest is so dense that focusing on the path and the birds is all you have energy for. The result for

me was a vast simplification of my life for two weeks. Eat, walk, find birds, sleep. That's it. With simplification comes focus. Pictures of the birds you are looking for are clear in your head, what you are doing, and why you are doing it is crystal clear. We slept in very modest housing, on a thin sponge mattress, but nobody cared. All this clarity is addictive. You start thinking that mountain life is normal and that all this civilization is temporary. Maybe it appeals to a primal need, which is hunting. Whatever it is, I highly recommend that you take such a trip, even do it looking for birds, but do it in a harsh environment that forces you to focus and simplify. You will love the feeling.

As for our trip result: we observed 255 species of birds, of which 122 were endemic. That was a Philippine record for the 13 days we spent there, according to our guide, who has been the premier birder in the country for the past 30 years. As for me, it was a chance to actually be in the forests that have inspired my passion for biology ever since I was a little boy watching David Attenborough in Istanbul on a black and white TV nearly 30 years ago.

Cagan and I decided to dedicate this trip to our Robert College biology teacher, Erol Altug. We "rung his ears" many times during the trip.



Introducing "Robert Lisesi", a rare frog
Çağan hopes to christen if unrecorded

was wrong, very very wrong. Bird watching is an intense sport, particularly if you are with experts. If you are competitive about it (my friend is in the world's top

A Global Quest for Birds

By Cagan H. Sekercioglu, RC 93

I have been obsessed with nature and wildlife since I was four but it took Robert College for me to turn it into a career in ecology, conservation, and ornithology. Even though I would catch any animal I could lay my hands on since I was a kid, the first time I saw a field guide to identify them with was in the Lise Library, when I was 14. It was the Field Guide to the Birds of Europe. Only then did I realize that one could use a book filled with beautiful scientific illustrations and detailed text to find and identify birds. The Turkish Wildlife Protection Society was a 300 meter walk from the RC top gate, so I started going there to find other Turkish birdwatchers. Back in 1990, there were fewer than 20.

So when I went to the US to study biology and anthropology at Harvard University, I was happy to find there were millions of birdwatchers. In my freshmen dorm application, I asked to room with a birdwatcher and the college matched me with the top birdwatcher in the class of '97.

I got my Ph.D. in ecology and evolution at Stanford University and my dissertation was on the causes and consequences of bird extinctions around the world. I am now a senior scientist at Stanford University, study birds around the world, and also spend most of my personal time trying to see all the bird species of the world in the wild. As of April 2008, I have seen more than half of the world's 10,000 bird species. To my knowledge, I am the youngest person in the world to do so.

To see thousands of bird species, you have to spend months and years in remote parts of the world, usually in tropical rainforests, where over half the world's bird species (and other organisms) reside. It is also important



to strategize because these rainforests are being destroyed at a relentless rate, some of them much faster than others. My expertise is bird extinctions, which is sad, but it also means I know where the birds are likely to disappear fastest and thus I prioritize my trips (and scientific conferences) accordingly. Oceanic islands, especially in the Pacific, have experienced most extinctions and are mostly finished birding-wise. Southeast Asian rainforests, mostly intact until a few decades ago, are now disappearing at an accelerating rate, thanks to a growing China (which now protects its forests and imports timber) and an increasing global demand for timber and palm oil. In addition, speciation takes place fastest on islands, which comprise all of Indonesia and Philippines. In combination, it means that these two nations not only have most endemic (unique) birds of any country, 365 and 191 respectively, but it also means these birds are disappearing faster than anywhere else. After planning it for three years, I finally found some time (and frequent flier miles) to go to the Philippines for two-weeks in March. Imagine my surprise when my good friend and nature enthusiast Ban? Karadogan (RC 90) wanted to join me. I did warn him repeatedly. Due to extensive deforestation, the remaining forest is often on remote and steep mountains. Therefore, most birding in the Philippines involves long and arduous treks in a mountainous, hot, humid, rainy, and muddy landscape. The islands also have many endemic night birds, so one has to get up in the dark and to keep birding after sunset to maximize species seen. In birding, this is as tough as it gets. Rather than a vacation, it is a serious tropical expedition. For someone

who has never done hardcore tropical birding (or any birding for that matter), this would be a brutal, relentless, and sleep-deprived two weeks where the only pleasure would come from being among the few people to see some of the rarest birds in the world. Fortunately, Bariş proved himself as tough and as keen as any seasoned birder I ever knew. On a trip where each of us lost a kilo every two days, Baris never complained, woke up at 3 AM every morning, and hiked and birded with me for up to 16 hours non-stop. Consequently, we were rewarded with a record number of species seen during a two week trip. Of course, a major factor was Tim Fisher, our local guide. I prefer to find the birds myself and usually travel alone. However, because most natural habitat on the islands are destroyed, one either has to have many months or an expert local birder to find the best remaining habitat patches. Tim Fisher delivered. He knew the exact hang-outs of some of the rarest birds on the planet and armed with his decades of knowledge we got most of our "target birds", the species on our so-called "hit list". This was a very successful expedition, despite the depressing deforestation in the Philippines. We saw hundreds of species and I reached the halfway point of 5,000 bird species observed worldwide. What made it especially memorable was that it was my first birding quest with a friend from RC. I will continue to pursue birds and other wildlife in the remote corners of the world, with other trips to Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Kars, Suriname, and Tanzania in 2008 alone. I hope other "Robertlis" can join my quest in search of the world's rare birds and other endangered creatures. If interested, visit www.sekercioglu.org and drop me a note.



Wallpaper Makes a Colorful Comeback

For many of us, wallpaper was something we last thought about in the 1980s. If the word takes you back to brown-carpeted living rooms, fake gilded furniture and the Bee Gees, think again. The good news is that wallpaper is back. Creative, colorful and very trendy, it's nothing like what your grandmother had on her walls. Can Gürel RC 85 was inspired to create MyWall (www.MyWall.com.tr) almost by accident. An avid photographer since his days as a student at RC, as founder and director of a multimedia company he kept abreast of digital technology and became fascinated by the possibilities of new large format printing techniques and highly textured quality printing materials. "Digital technology enables talented individuals to create an abundance of great images and art. However most of these get stored away on discs, and never printed or hung on walls," he says. "You need to print them large and make them permanent to enjoy them fully,".

He found inspiration in trompe l'oeil, an art technique popularised in the 17th century which involved using extremely realistic imagery in order to create the optical illusion that the depicted objects appear in three dimensions, instead of a two-dimensional painting. What if, he wondered, photography or illustrated images could be used to give a similar effect? Experimenting with form, he found that images could indeed change spaces entirely, creating illusions of space, or depth, or angles, where there were none. Eventually, Gürel decided to combine his business know-how as director of the successful Netwise-Praksis with his passion for great images and interesting art. Thus My wall was born - a new, Internet-based business which offers what might best be described as individualised "wall art on demand". In this concept, creating wallpaper is a creative endeavour similar to choosing a work of art to display on your wall. MyWall is a way to express your individuality. "I wanted people to have alternatives. Customised design is a exciting new development all over the world that technology allows us to pursue," he says. Here's how it works: Gürel works with a talented team of photographers, graphic designers and illustrators who basically think of walls as their canvases. This team has created a library of images, ranging from nature shots to illustrations to replicas of İznik tile designs, all available on www.MyWall.com.tr. You choose an image and decide on the dimensions you would like it to cover. Unlike the wallpaper of old, these designs are so striking that often customers prefer to apply them to just one wall, or even half a wall.

Gürel's team works with you to finetune the image according to your tastes; you can change the colors, alter the layout and add small touches. The finished image is then printed using the latest digital technology so that the end result looks and feels rich, textured, and more like a work of art than a piece of paper. The wallpaper takes just one week to deliver. Customers are also able to use their own photographs or designs, if they choose. Gürel's team can work with you to photoshop and alter any image of your choice, or to blend it with one of their designs, to create something entirely unique.

The idea has already taken off. Leading restaurants and hospitals have jumped on it as a new way of decorating children's play areas and lounges. Infant room designs are also a hot seller. Gürel is happy with the interest; "This is basically me creating a commercial proposition out of my own personal interest in art and photography," he says. "I enjoy it and am excited to see others enjoy it too!".



To contact MyWall:
Halaskargazi Cad. 245/251
Kat: 7 Osmanbey, İstanbul
34380 Turkey
Tel: +90 212 232 7652
Fax: +90 212 234 12 41
E-mail: mw01@mywall.com.tr
www.mywall.com.tr



From l to R: Sibel Kutman, Merve Berkant, Anne Musser Ercan, Emine Fetvacı



From L to R: Baran Uncu, Koral Akman, Uluç Ayık, Tamer Tamar



The boys! From L to R: Onur Özgen, Murat Aslan, Gökem Işık, Soner Altunal, Tolga Güven, Honorary 92li Engin, Çoşkun Baban

RC 92 Belts it Out at 15th Reunion in Klub Karaoke

RC 92 finally met up just as the deadline for their 15th reunion was about to expire in December, at Klub Karaoke in Beyoğlu, co-owned by classmate Serra Ciliv. We managed to re-enact our Maze Day song Like a Prayer (fortunately without the jumping into each other's arms) and sing our hearts out to 80s tunes we had forgotten we knew. Luckily for other Karaoke guests, we had rented a private room. Highlights from the gang: Bora Tekay is busy filming TV series and rubbing elbows with likes of Hülya Avşar, Cihan Ünal and other notable celebs. Tamer Tamar is still with Expedia in the UK. And he is also more of a professional than amateur when it comes to his passion: photography. He was joined that evening by honorary 92 member, his sister, Pınar Tamar RC 90. Sibel Kutman married Cavit Oral, proving that first loves are indeed resilient, as she had first met him in primary school. Çiğdem Alkan and her husband Oğuz Kaplangi are officially Zi Punt, a cooler-than-cool new band whose debut music album has just come out.

House hunters in the Boston area, take note (or beware, as the case may be). Özgür (Ozzie) Ercan has become a real estate broker in the Massachusetts area. He attended the reunion with his wife Anne Musser, who has become an honorary RC 92 member. Korhan Güler has gotten earthy. He is the happy owner of a plot of land in Mudanya, producing and selling high quality olive oil.

Funda Soysal is teaching at Bilgi University and pursuing a PhD. İklim Türkoğlu Viol is back from Zimbabwe and is in Bursa for the moment, where she recently gave birth to her second child, Destan. There was plenty of baby news. Proud classmates who became parents for the second time around included Uluç Ayık, Murat Aslan, Jak Meşulam, Serkan Savaşoğlu & İpek Kaya (who are also our very own class couple). Onur Özgen and Tolga Güven are selling and developing real estate for international clients on Turkey's south coast.

Emine Fetvacı is currently an Art History Professor at Boston University, having received her Ph. D. in History of Art and Architecture from Harvard University in 2005. Derya Yenişen works for the Competition Board (Rekabet Kurulu) in Ankara. Baran Uncu attended with another honorary class member, his wife Hande Paker. Their daughter Neva recently celebrated her first birthday. Baran teaches at Marmara University. Duygu Alptekin is now Eurasia strategic marketing manager for Coca Cola. We toasted absent classmates and vowed not to let 15 years go by before we do this again. RC 92 class rep Kaan Okurer says: "My favourite scene was Murat Aslan, Tolga Güven, Onur Özgen and others going crazy on the dance floor. Clearly karaoke is the most common denominator we did not know about. Highly recommended to other class reunions." As the saying goes, Class of 92, ain't no pipe...

Mini Reunion in Washington, DC



Stavros Papadopoulos RC Eng 59 wrote to share news that on January 12, 2008, RC Alumni from Istanbul, living in and around Washington, DC got together to celebrate the New Year and to share stories and memories of their Istanbul years together.

Pictured, seated from left to right: Julia Papadopoulos Inglesis), AKL 52, Foti Yianakakis (now Frank Yiannis) RC 56, Grigori Papayotis, RC Eng 50, Elly Zavrakis Andonyadis, ACG 50: standing from left to right: Stavros Papadopoulos, RC Eng 59, Yorgi Boras, RC Eng 59, Niko Gikakis, RC Eng 59 ex, Vasili Assimakopoulos, RC Eng 57, Manol Andonyadis, BU Eng. 83 Niko Sideridis, RC 58, Danai Lutas Yiannis, ACG 56 and George Naku, RC Eng 59



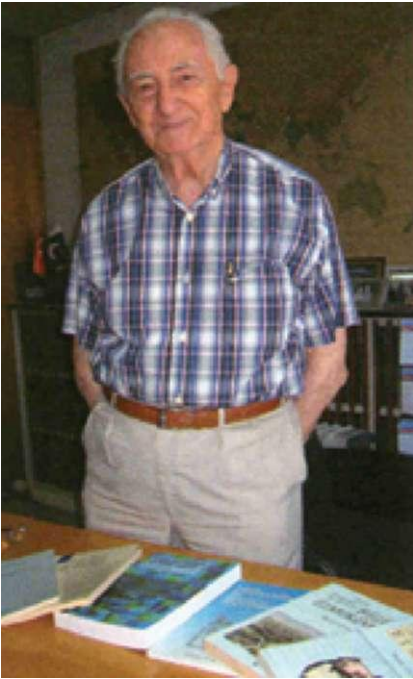
Bizim Tepe Celebrates 25th Year

This year Bizim Tepe, the College alumni club next to campus, celebrates its 25th year. One imagines that the club must always have existed; in fact, it was born out of a special set of circumstances. The year was 1972. Following the merger, the Arnavutköy school had become co-educational. The Bebek campus, formerly the boys school, had become Boğaziçi University. The changes were so major that alumni felt adrift, unable to identify with the new institutions. Interest in the alma mater was at an all-time low. Headmaster Jim Maggart and then Alumni Development director Zeynep Man Durukan ACG 57 came up with the idea of creating an alumni club, to create a meeting point and to help foster that College spirit. The Board of Trustees and Hisar Education Foundation (HEV) liked the idea and said they would back it if the Alumni Association raised 20.000.000 TL towards it. Maggart then had the idea of buying a plot of land adjacent to the school, as that would create a connection between students and alumni.

Twenty alumni pledged to donate 50.000 TL each: Nigar Alemdar ACG 66, Özger Arnas RC Eng 57, İnal Avcı RC Eng 59, Selahattin Bereket RC Yük 65, Ömer Erul RA 60, Ayla Gümüşlüğü ACG 55, Fahir İkel RC 44, Oya Karamızrak ACG

57, Suna Kırar ACG 60, Süheyla Kunt ACG 37, Yaşar Malta RC 53, Zeynep Man ACG 57, Meral Müminoğlu ACG 62, Ali Neyzi RC 46, Nihal Pulat ACG 47, Mehmet Seven RA 69, Gürsan Şeyhun ACG 62, Ergin Nadir Telci RC 57, Korkut Toğrol RC Yük 69 and Deniz Uslu ACG 56.

On August 20, 1979, the land on which Bizim Tepe sits was bought by HEV. On March 2, 1981, Bizim Tepe AŞ was founded with donations from Feyyaz Berker RC Eng 46, Cem Boyner RC 74, Ömer Çavuşoğlu RA 60, Oğuz Dağdelen RC Eng 47, Ömer Dinçkök RC Yük 70, Şakir Eczacıbaşı RC 48, Muzaffer Gazioğlu RC Eng 48, Suna Kırar ACG 60, Hüsnü Özyeğin RA 63 and Alp Yalman RC 59. On May 17, 1981, a ground-breaking ceremony was held. Architect Şevki Pekin RA 66 drew the plans. From the outset, Feyyaz Berker took to the project with passion, devoting enormous amounts of time and resources to its construction. Bizim Tepe officially opened on June 23, 1983. In 1993, management passed from HEV to the Alumni Association, who run it today. It continues to be a meeting point for alumni across generations; offering up something for everyone, be it good food, lively conversation, cultural activities or sports tournaments.



Melih Gırsöy RC Eng 45

Readers of the RCQ will recall news of Melih Gırsöy, (RCQ issue 33, page 24) the industrialist and novelist who published his latest novel "İşkolik" (Workaholic) this past winter. Just recently Mr. Gırsöy made a very thoughtful contribution to the Robert College Annual Giving Campaign by donating proceeds from this book, a total of 8.000 YTL (approx \$ 6,150 at time of press) The RC community greatly appreciates Melih Gırsöy's generosity

Joseph Farhi RC 47

Joseph Fahri went to the USA in 1957 when following a brief stay in New York, he moved to Montreal, Canada to attend McGill University where he earned a certificate as a Chartered Accountant. Fluent in several languages (Spanish, French, Italian) he moved to New York City in 1959 and became a U.S. citizen in 1962.

He belongs to several organizations among others the RC Alumni Association in New York and served on its board. He participates in seminars, symposiums and lectures. He has lectured at the Yeshiva on behalf of the Turkish Consulate in NYC as well as the Turkish Embassy in Washington D.C. Under the auspices of the Turkish Government, he is a co-founder of the American association of Jewish Friends of Turkey and served as Treasurer. Joseph Fahri also worked as an internal auditor for AIG (American International Group) INCO (Internationak Nickel Co.) and Berlitz Schools of Languages and conducted financial and operational audits in North America, Europe and South America. Joe and his wife Lilian are enjoying retirement by travel extensively and are proud parents of daughter Evelyn and grandsons Michael and Mathew.



Nevzat C. Eryazıcı RC 49, RC Eng 52

After completing his military service, Eryazıcı went to Columbia University for his master's degree and then NYU for his doctorate studies. In the meantime he was a member of our Engineering School staff as a visiting professor of mechanical engineering, from 1963 through 1965. He spent over 25 years in the USA including time in Saudi arabia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and Hawaii for Northrop Corporation. In July 1999 he had a double - header. First his younger son, Mert, received his BSIE degree from Boğaziçi University and then on the same day Nevzat received his 50th year graduation plaque from RC. His first born son, Dr. Kent (Çapa '91) and daughter-in-law Dr. Gül (Çapa '92) and grand-children Melissa and Selin live in the USA and both work at Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas. Nevzat Eryazıcı and his wife Gülfem currently live in Ataköy, İstanbul and he works at his real estate office in Bahçelievler. He would like to hear from everybody who still remembers him from RC or RC Eng, or the USA. Home: 212 560 0169 Office: 212 643 0923

USA Alumni Events



Guest Speaker Kenan Şahin RA 60



The Robert College Alumni Association of America arranged two wonderful alumni meetings in April in the USA. In the first event, 45 people came together for a Turkish Dinner Night in Boston, on April 5. Alumni came from all over Boston, Rhode Island, and upstate New York. A range of classes from 1957 to 2007 were represented. After dining on Turkish delicacies catered by Saray Restaurant, the group continued the night in Cambridge.

The annual RCAAA Spring Dinner in New York took place in the Penn Club on April 10 and was well attended. A devoted RC trustee and a prominent academic, technologist and entrepreneur, alumnus Dr. Kenan Şahin, RA 60 entertained guests with a beautiful speech, pointing out life lessons learned at RC, and stressing the importance of giving back to the school. He reminisced about his years at RC, shared his memories of the school and his teacher Prof. George W. Williams. Dr. Şahin is the founder and CEO of TIAX LLC, a leading collaborative product and technology development firm that accelerates innovation to help clients achieve growth and create an impact in the market - and in people's lives. TIAX is a laboratory-based company with more than 50 laboratories and 200 engineers and scientists operating in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and in Cupertino, California.

You may find more photographs for these events in the Photo Gallery at the RCAAA website, www.rcaaa.org.

İpek Tohumcu ACG 68

Fashion designer İpek Tohumcu ACG 68 has quite an interesting educational background. After completing both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Business Administration and Marketing from Boğaziçi (Bosphorus) University, she entered a completely different field by enrolling in Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) to study Fashion Design. Being a classmate of Calvin Klein's, Tohumcu also aimed to become a haute couture designer for VIP customers. She has an "Hie Wacs, Tailored Design Award" given by the New York Apparel Industry. After working in the USA, for companies such as Belt Association in Belt and Leather Accessory Designs, Leda Co in Leather Garment Desings, St. Angelo in Tailored Garment & Sportswear Desings; she did have a chance to dress VIP customers such as Jerry Hall, Lamia Kaşıkçı, and the Davis Family of the MGM Movie Corporation while working for Scaasi Co. in Tailored Garment & Eveningwear Designs.

After returning to İstanbul, she started her own design company situated on the fashionable Abdi İpekçi Avenue in İstanbul. She uses exclusive and specially painted fabrics for her Summer '08 collection in day and evening wear



collections. She defines her work as haute couture. For the best results, designs and patterns are uniquely made for each customer, in-house. Tohumcu says that they will be pleased to serve their friends, RC graduates and especially the Class of 2008 with special prices if they mention their relationship with RC.

www.ipektohumcu.com

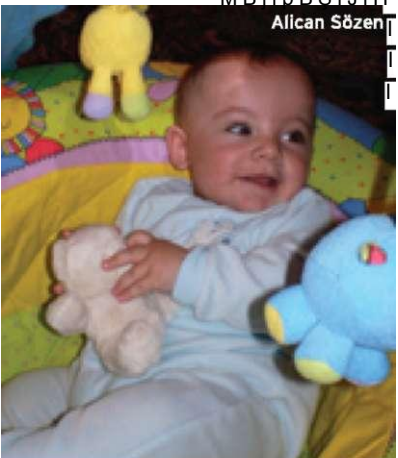
Jennifer Noyon, RC Yuk 69

Dr. Noyon is Senior Political Analyst for Afghanistan and Nepal at the United States Department of State in Washington, DC. In March, she left the Department to begin a seven-month full-time study of Farsi at the Foreign Service Institute in the Washington area. She enjoys keeping up with old friends, museums, music, and theater. She continues the practice of yoga she began at Robert College under Mr. Nadolsky in the 1960s! Her book is entitled Islam, Politics, and Pluralism: Theory and Practice in Turkey, Jordan, Tunisia and Algeria (The Royal Institute of International Affairs, London: 2003). She has a 21 year old son, Max, and a granddaughter, Sarah, born in February 4, 2008. She would welcome hearing from you about yoga, politics, travel and diplomacy, Ottoman, food, music, old times, grandchildren or whatever. Jennifer Noyon: acjnoyon@us-state.osis.gov or 3000 Arizona Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., 20016, USA."

Ibrahim Sözen RC 86

Ibrahim Sozen, a graduate of Cerrahpaşa Tıp Fakültesi, went on to carry out his Obstetrics and Gynecology (Ob/Gyn) residency at Yale University. He graduated from Yale Ob/Gyn program in 1999. Between 1999-2004, he worked as a private Ob/Gyn in the US. Meanwhile, he obtained his American Ob/Gyn Board Certification. Currently, he is one of the few American Board-Certified Ob/Gyns in Turkey. He has 14 articles published in the peer-reviewed medical journals. He returned back to Turkey in 2004 and was involved in the establishment of Ob/Gyn department at Anadolu Medical Center affiliated with Johns Hopkins. Meanwhile, he has given many medical interviews in the press and TV programs. He established the first

systematic Waterbirth program in Turkey. He worked at Anadolu Medical Center over 3 years and just recently, opened his private Ob/Gyn office at Bağdat Caddesi, Çiftelavuzlar. His wife Pınar gave birth to their son, Alican Sözen on July 22nd, 2007. They live on Bağdat Caddesi, Göztepe, a 5-minute walk to his office. Ibrahim would be very happy to see and help RC graduates in his office on Bağdat Caddesi. He can be reached at sozen8241@yahoo.com.



Ozhun Olgar RC 95

Billabong CEO of Turkey made the news after repositioning the brand in Turkey. Sport Point, which is widely known by the extreme sports fans, was founded by Olgar's family 20 years ago, and has now reached 25 stores and 180 selling points nationwide. The company strengthened its existence with new brands, namely Billabong. Billabong was born in Australia in 1973 as a sports equipments provider for surfers, which has now spread over the coasts of Turkey. Ozhun Olgar, points out that Billabong has no exact rival in Turkey, and states that there's a lack of apparel brands that represent a certain way of living here. Their brand represents the street culture and trend which is a collection of art, rock'n roll, surfing, skateboarding, and snowboarding. They help the younger generation express their philosophy of life. Sport Point is increasing their number of stores: they plan to reach 300 selling points in 2010. Olgar thinks that although this goal could be reached much quicker, they are very picky since the brand has to be exhibited in places that reflect its soul. The main reason for them making the news is that they are now going abroad to represent the brand. In addition to the sales points that they already have in Cyprus, Morocco, Azerbaijan, Algeria, and Tunisia, they are now planning to establish stores in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan. They will also be in control of the Romanian market.

Ipek and Serkan Savaşoglu RC 92

ipek and Serkan welcomed daughter, Serra, into the world on January 14th, 2008



Burcu Bilge RC 96 and Sinan Ulubil RC 95

Sinan Ulubil RC 95, completed his undergraduate and masters degree at Istanbul Technical University in Electronics and Communication Engineering. In 2005, he received his masters degree in Business Administration in Bosphorus University. Burcu Bilge RC 96 who received her undergrad degree in Economics in Marmara University, met Sinan in the summer of 2006 and they started dating during the 'Depeche Mode' concert, the group they're both in love with. Following graduation, Sinan is now working at B.D.H. as Product Manager for service portfolio of B.D.H., while Burcu is working at TEMSA as Product Manager for Mitsubishi automobiles. The couple got married on March 29, 2008 and they currently live in Ulus.



Gamze Ersever Kuru RC 98

Gamze got married to Engin Kuru on September 9, 2007. After RC, Gamze studied Tourism at Boğaziçi University. Between 2002 - 2004 she was in Germany's OVG Universitaet Magdeburg on a DAAD and TEV scholarship and completed her MSc in International Management. Gamze and Engin met in Germany in 2002, while studying at the same school and sealed their five year relationship with marriage. Currently they live in Istanbul. Gamze is in the marketing department of Yudum Gıda, while Engin is a financial analyst at ICON Global Markets.

Fahir Burak Unel RC 04

Unel has been awarded the International Coluccio Salutati Award for Professional Excellence and Integration into the Italian Community for his academic achievements as well as his work with Italian municipalities as part of his independent research assistance ship with his design professors in Florence, Italy - where he is currently studying as part of his 5-year Architecture program within Syracuse University.

"I see the award as a recognition of not only personal academic achievement, but also as an indication that the Italian community has accepted me as one of their own" says Unel, adding, "For the past two months, I have been involved in an intensive design workshop in the Sicilian town of Corleone, where the Mayor wished to carry out architectural interventions that will revitalize his socioeconomically depressed city by clearly defining its contemporary identity. My team and I had been assigned the job of objectively attempting to discover, re-evaluate and re-contextualize concepts of character and identity of a city on behalf of its own inhabitants. The town had endured much hardship, distress and terror over the past century due to its infamous Mafioso past, which robbed the city of the spirit and the resources to sustain a healthy economy and civic life - a battle still fought on by the Corleonese through an overall campaign of legalita. I had previously been involved with volunteer work with Italian schoolchildren and the blind, but this was a uniquely intriguing University and Government-backed venture that I felt was an important effort to be a part of".The great success of the workshop can be readily observed in the recent announcement of the Mayor to execute some of the proposed schemes. Unel points out, however, that "In personal retrospect, the true indication of its success has not been limited to the well-reception of a design proposal, but is also clearly reflected in the way such projects have impacted my experience in Florence. A mere month had motivated me to actively seek and sustain further engagement with the Italian community for the rest of the semester. I am thus grateful and indebted to this society that has given me the chance to build upon who I am as an individual, as well as an emerging professional - which ultimately is what the Coluccio Salutati is all about."



ALUMNI NEWS

Faculty & Friends

Alison Oğuz

RC physics teacher Alison Oğuz has been recognized by Stanford University for exceptional teaching. During the past summer, all members of Stanford's freshmen class were given the opportunity to acknowledge a former teacher or mentor who played a significant role in their intellectual, academic, social, and/or personal development. Arda Kara RC 07 chose to honor Alison Oğuz, and in selecting her, he described her as "motherly, understanding, and resourceful". He also had the following to say about the impact of Alison Oğuz's teaching: "Ms. Oğuz was the teacher, mostly by chance, I spent the most time during my high school life, and by the end, I knew for sure that there couldn't be anyone I would more enjoy learning from, chatting and arguing with, opposing to and getting teased by. I wanted to be a perfectionist, and she wouldn't settle for anything else. I will feel deficient without her to scold me whenever I am late by seconds to anywhere, but not flying away from the nest to move on would be disrespectful to everything she taught me."



Amy Callahan

Congratulations to English department teacher Amy Callahan and Mustafa Akbay who got married on February 4, 2008. Mustafa is a graduate of Mimar Sinan University in industrial design, but now is working in Antalya doing set design. The couple will travel to California this summer to "meet the family" and have their wedding party. Amy and Mustafa actually met ten years ago through a mutual friend. They lost touch and then met up again when he came to Istanbul to visit friends. This time they did not lose touch!



Jason Simpson

English teacher Jason Simpson and his wife Aysun welcomed baby Ted Kuzey to their family. Here is the story in Jason's own words. "My wife Aysun gave birth to a healthy baby boy on December 17, 2007. We are so in love with this little guy with lots of dark hair and blue eyes. Now he is giving us many winning smiles that make us forget about the sleepless nights. I'd like to just say that having a child in Turkey was a great experience. Our doctor, Sedat Bey, of Anka on Koşuyolu was an absolute blessing as well as the nurses of Acıbadem Hospital in Kadıköy. It was nice to have a doctor with perfect English to guide the father through his first-child jitters. One of the great things about Turkish culture is how much love people show for babies. You'll see the coolest looking teenagers on the street forget their image and come up to talk to the baby; the security guard at our apartment block who never cracked a smile now greets Ted Kuzey with great enthusiasm. The reaction from the RC community was wonderful, inspiring in fact. The happiness and support people here expressed for our new baby was almost overwhelming, from the business office, the administration, the alumni office to the faculty, staff and students, there was just a genuine appreciation for this new time in the start to our new life with Ted Kuzey."



Richard H. Dewey

RC Library Director from 1992-1999 wrote to us from California. "We are now happily settled in a charming small city of 29,000 population; Benificia. Lots of clean air as we are on the Carquinez Strait which leads to the Pacific. Benicia is one hour from our favorite American city: San Francisco. We also take advantage the U of California in Berkeley, which of course includes life in this marvelous city. We think of RC very often. It was a great seven years. Helping to develop the new library space was a highlight of my librarian career. The students and faculty have been fortunate to have access to an exceptional school library. I don't think that there is a better one anywhere. I came home and retired. 37 years as a librarian was enough. My wife Judith, son Aaron and I were fortunate to live in the Müzik Evi. Such glorious space. Before Istanbul (1992-1999) we lived in Beirut in the '60s and Cairo in the 70's. We brought back enough artifacts to fill a house. A big house!! One room of our apartment is stacked with wonderful things. This includes some twenty carpets from Istanbul. Some of these are now with family and friends. I have recently read the two fine books. One on Turkey by Nicole & Hugh Pope and the second on Turkic peoples by Hugh Pope. What a read. I would be curious to know what Turks think about them."

Alumni Obituaries



Necla Soyak ACG 39

Necla Pektaş Soyak passed away at the age of 90 on April 12, 2008. She was the daughter of Hüseyin Hulusi Pektaş, RC 03, the first Turkish head of the school and Mihri Baha Pektaş, ACG 16, teacher of literature at RC. Necla hanım also taught at ACG for some time following her graduation. She is survived by her daughter Gülgün Soyak Canlı, ACG 68, two sons, six grandchildren and two great-grand children. Necla Hanım lived and breathed RC and her school was a source of great pride to her at all times.

Davit Fahri RC Eng 44

Davit Fahri passed away on December 24, 2007, in Istanbul after an illness of one month. He is survived by his wife Clara Fahri, his daughters Meri Saban and Etel Ojalvo and two Grand-children.

Ahmet Aydın Koral RC Eng 47

Passed away on November 21, 2007. He is survived by his wife Ülker Koral ACG 44 and his daughter Nahide. In his daughter's word: "He was a man who read and thought a lot, a philosopher who didn't take life too seriously. In his own special world, living was like a joke. He was a real child of the Republic and a staunch follower of Atatürk. God bless him."

Also to pay tribute is his friend Oswald A. Drica - Minieris of Naples "A Friendship of 73 Years Aydın and I met in 1935 in the 6th grade of the German School. We went on to graduate from high school in 1943. We got our BS at Robert College in 1947 where we became friends with Şevki Figen. As a trio we had a lot of fun together.

I met with Aydın in New York City in December of 1947 and then we wished each other good luck in January of the next year when Aydın left for the University of Missouri while I went to Louisiana State University.

OBITUARIES

We met again in 1953 on my first visit to Istanbul since my departure in 1947. In the following years I had several opportunities to go to Turkey and spend some time with Aydın and Alex Dobcovich, also a 1943 graduate of the German High School. The last time I spoke with Aydın was in 2004 when I came to Istanbul with my daughter and my grandchildren. We did not carry a heavy correspondence, but we kept each other informed of events in our lives.

Aydın loved music - jazz specifically and managed to play the piano by ear. He never took a piano lesson in his life.

His favorite sports were sailing, football and volleyball. He played goalie for a team at the German Club in Moda while in high school. He also played and refereed volleyball in high school and Robert College. He was admired for his fairness and impartiality as an official by all players, regardless of ethnic origin or race. He lettered in volleyball, but he never wore the red RC on his sweater or jacket. I never asked and he never explained why.

Aydın had a secret love for a girl in our class for years. Very platonic, I doubt if she was ever aware of his feelings towards her. He never really forgot her. Eventually, he met and married Ülker and they had a charming daughter, Nahide. Aydın was a staunch supporter of Atatürk, but he could be very critical of latter political trends in Turkey. He was very noncompromising in his feelings and attitudes and often spoke up without considering the consequences. He was not a vicious or hateful person. Deep down he was a gentle and sometimes even a little naive individual, who had to say what was on his mind. He got these characteristics from his parents who were two of the sweetest people I ever met. At the end, after all has been said, I must conclude that Aydın was Aydın, a unique individual of his time.

And I leave his obituary with three words that can only be said in Turkish for their true meaning.

"Toprağı bol olsun!"

Ergun Sabar RC 52

The RCQ published an obituary for Dr Ergun Sabar RC 52 in the previous issue. His daughter Rennan Aşçıoğlu subsequently informed us that his memoirs, Hayatımı Masaya Yatırdım, (My Life on the Table) were posthumously published by Yakamoz Yayınları.

One of Turkey's most prominent surgeons,



OBITUARIES

Sabar trained in medicine in Switzerland before returning to Turkey. He then went to the US to specialize in heart surgery, working with famed surgeon Michael DeBakey, returning after his father's death to Istanbul. In 1968, he was asked to set up the a medical science department at Erzurum University. He stayed there as dean for three years. The book is rich in vivid descriptions of what life on campus was like in those turbulent years.

Sabar was one of the founders of the International Hospital, one of Turkey's first private hospitals. After retiring, he worked as a consultant, advising on hospital investments.

"Publishing this book was a dream my father held," says his daughter Rennan Aşçıoğlu. "He didn't live to see it released, but it is a fascinating chronicle of Turkey's changing times." The book went on sale at book stores in Turkey in December 2007.

Münir Turunç RC Eng 53

Münir Turunç died at the age of 78 in Haverton, PA, USA on March 14, 2008. He was a mechanical engineer and retired from Wyeth International in 1995 after 31 years. During that time he worked on projects in Turkey, Great Britian, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico and the USA. In his retirement Münir Turunç enjoyed photography, fishing, ceramics and attending Philadelphia Orchestra concerts. Mr. Turunç is survived by his wife Kamuran Turunç, his son Ümit Turunç, daughter Müge Smith and son Mehmet Turunç and seven grand-children as well as his brother Aydın Turunç and sister Mine Akbaş.

Abdurrahman Yaşar Malta RC 53

Abdurrahman Yasar Malta passed away on 28 April, 2007 leaving us with nothing but warm memories. His RC classmates and friends visited and supported him at all times during his fight with cancer in the last year of his life. He, his family and his friends were blessed to have the chance to spend that time together.

He is survived by his wife Sezen Tezcan Malta ACG 61 and his son Can Malta BU 91. His warm and generous soul will reside forever in our hearts with love...

Erol Sayan RC Eng 55

Passed away at his home in Istanbul on March 25 after a brief illness. He was 74 years old. Following his graduation from Robert College, he received his MS degree in civil

engineering from Stanford University. He worked at several engineering firms in Los Angeles and New York before returning to Turkey in 1958. After completing his military service, he was employed by the family-owned An-Demir Construction Company. From 1961 to 1964, he worked in the construction of the new Istanbul Cultural Palace in Taksim Square (later rebuilt and renamed as Ataturk Cultural Center). In 1965, he joined the Industrial Investment Bank in Istanbul where he worked as a technical expert in project assessment until his retirement in 1994.

Erol was a passionate and enthusiastic devotee of the arts, particularly opera, theater, and classical music. Starting from an early age, he amassed a vast knowledge of opera, and attended many performances at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City, La Scala in Milan, the Bayreuth Festival in Austria, and in his hometown, Istanbul. In addition to opera, he was also deeply interested in the theatre and classical music. Until the very end of his life, he took great delight in attending several theatre performances and classical music concerts every week. Erol cherished his Robert College education dearly and he regularly participated in the reunions of the RC Eng 55 class as well as in the annual RC Homecoming Day.

Erol Sayan is survived by his two younger brothers, Ercan Sayan, RA 55, and Sabri Sayan, RA 62.

Ülkü (Aksuner) Özoral ACG 57

"I was honored to be asked to write about my mother for the RCQ. There is so much to say, pages wouldn't be sufficient. But just being able to share her memory with you is a source of great happiness for my father, brother and myself.

My mother passed away on 09.11.2007. She had suffered from leukemia for five years and broke a hip bone during a particularly hard phase of the illness,



which necessitated an operation from which she never recovered.

The photograph on this page was taken during her 50th reunion celebrations six months prior to her death. She started to prepare for this reunion well in advance, especially because it was the 50th year. She shared every step with me; when she arrived, where she would go, where she would stay... Her fate was to complete the education she started at Izmir American College at the Arnavutkoy College for Girls. I'm sure she amazed her classmates with the surprise she prepared for the 50th reunion celebrations. She had a tailor in Mersin sew her a school uniform identical to the one they wore and wore it to the celebrations. When she described to me how pleased her friends were, her eyes shone with delight.

Until her final breath, she was concerned about everyone's welfare. She never held a grudge against anyone and was unique. She is buried in Zincirlikuyu, next to her mother, who died at 18 and whom she always missed.

May they rest in peace."
Contributed by son Cem Ozoral

Sevil Erel Bleda ACG 57

Her husband Tanşug Bleda, Turkish diplomat and former ambassador, wrote the following "It's very hard to describe Erel in a few words. She had a big heart, limitlessly available to her friends and family; she was a dedicated do-er, for whom nothing was impossible; she was motivated by the desire to know her country better and to share this knowledge; she never hesitated to help out people in need, even if her resources were limited.

She loved her job as a guide and during our time with the Foreign Ministry she made many friends and was extremely loyal to them. She had an endless appetite for knowledge. But chief among her interests was music; playing, singing and knowing it. I doubt that anyone else would have dared to give a concert as she did in St Chapelle, one of Paris' most magnificent churches, and to have succeeded so well. Yet despite her many talents, she was always modest and prayed to God that she would not be led astray from what



was right. She was a pillar and source of strength for our family. My children and I relied on having Erel behind us. We still feel that strength, in a different way. So, you might ask, was she an angel? Yes, and she passed through this world far too quickly.

Her daughter Ash Bleda Özgün said: "My mother was the bravest person I've ever known. She wasn't afraid of anything. Not even dying. Whenever I was afraid of trying something new, she supported me and led the way. She taught me that to be kind-hearted is a choice, not a gift. Be happy in yourself first, the rest will follow, she always said."

Her daughter, Elif Bleda Deniau, wrote: "A few days I ago I found a letter my mother wrote to me. Based on a story told to her at the College by a philosophy teacher, she described three different kinds of people and how they encountered falls. The first would bump, like a rock; the second break like glass; the last bounce like a tennis ball. She was taught at College to be of this last variety."

Renan Odabaşı Kavaf oğlu RC 76

Passed away on February 17, 2008. "She was like a graceful swan. Death did not become her at all.

If they had asked us, your dormitory friends from 72-76, we would never have thought you would go so soon.

Renan; Our tall, beautiful, cheery friend, whose laughter filled us with enthusiasm, who was always full of life.

A perfect spouse, daughter and wonderful mother.

Your loss is everyone's...

Your memory will live on within us. There hasn't been a gathering at which your name isn't mentioned. I doubt that there will be.

They say that life continues until the very last time you are mentioned by someone. That means you will live for many years.

Do you recall how you would get us partying with the song,"You're ready Steve?"?

No, we weren't ready for this Renan. How could we be? May you rest in peace, our dear friend."

Your RC 76 dorm friends



OBITUARIES

Faculty & Friends

Abbas Sakarya

A legendary sportsman, national coach and Robert College educator, Abbas Sakarya passed away on February 27, 2008, at the age of 97. Born in 1911 in Bursa, Sakarya graduated from Işık Lisesi in 1934 and studied at the Royal Hungarian Physical Education College from 1935 to 1939. He began his wrestling career in 1929 and in 1930 became Istanbul's top wrestler at 61 kg. He was chosen for the national team the following year and was the Turkish champion until 1935. He represented the Turkish wrestling team in the 1932 Los Angeles and 1936 Berlin Olympic Games, as well as at numerous other international events. In 1941, he organised Turkey's first-ever gymnastics competition run entirely on international standards. In 1950, he was asked to help train the Turkish national football team which was due to play France and Italy. (The team tied the former, and won the latter.) From 1954 to 1960 he was in charge of the Beşiktaş Club's professional football team.

In 1959 he entered Robert Academy as a physical education teacher and stayed until 1976. In a letter by then RA Headmaster G. Peter Shiras commending Sakarya to a colleague in the US, Shiras says: "He is an outstanding gymnast, wrestling coach, general physical education instructor and coaches swimming, soccer and track as well. Abbas Bey, overall, is a man of unusual gifts. He is held in the highest esteem by his students and colleagues. He is a warm, friendly person who is dedicated to his work but possesses the virtue of humor about himself."

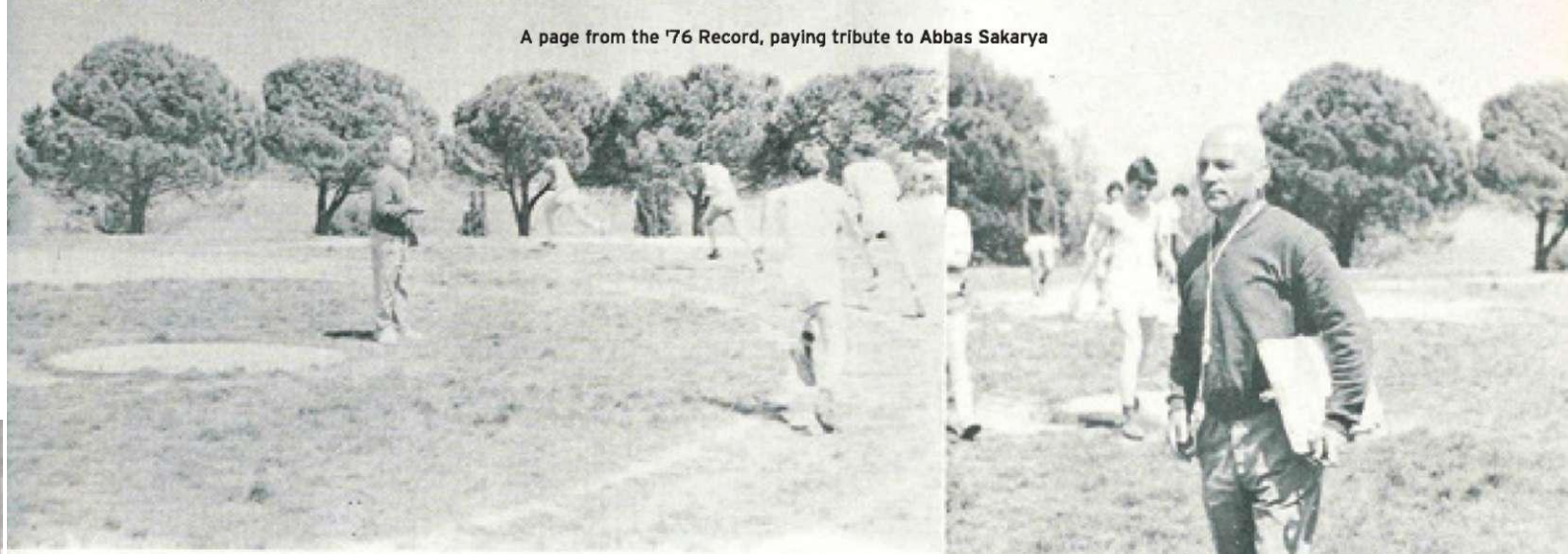
His former students remember him as an exemplary person.

"I don't know if there is anyone among us who leads as healthy a life as Abbas Hoca," wrote Toros Öztürk RA 70 "Whenever I go to Kilyos, I remember that he would walk from Etiler to Kilyos and back, every day. In his later years he began taking the bus back. At our 25th reunion he got cross with me over my belly and said he didn't want to see it the next time. It's hard to believe that we lost our teacher, our coach, it always seemed to me as if Abbas Hoca would never die." Turgay Kaptanoğlu RC 78 said: "I last saw Abbas Sakarya at reunion five years ago, when he was 92. He was still fit and healthy. When we were in high school he must have been 64-67 years old. But he was a lot healthier than I am now at 47. We never knew then that he was that old. He lived through so much history, he was born before



the Balkan War. He was a very special teacher to me at RC, one I won't forget. He was soft-mannered and patient with his students." Sakarya was the oldest living member of the Beşiktaş sports club when he died, fondly remembered as number 269. May he rest in peace.

Members of RC 76, some pictured below from L to R: Fatih Yılmaz, Nezih Çobanlı, Barbaros Karakışla Coşkun Arkun, Nedim Ölçer, Ahmet Pamuk, Mehmet İnhan, and Aydın Karlıbel as well as those not in the photo Hasan Soykan, Oğuz Tacal and Adnan Cezayirli were on the Plateau of Robert College on April 30, 2008 to honor the memory of Abbas Sakarya. The Class of 76 had joined hands once again for another special cause and funded a marble bench to be placed on the Plateau, a place where Abbas Sakarya spent many long hours with his students. Upon its completion, they conducted a small ceremony among themselves to honor their much loved gym teacher.



Bir adam vardı bu okulda...
Plateau'da yasar. Plateau'yu yasan
öğrencileriyle. Kendi halinde, sessiz,
alıştığı disiplini, eğitimi, saygıyı, .
sevgiyi öğretmeye çalışır öğren-
cilerine. Sessizdir bu adam, sever
öğrencilerini tek tek, kendine özgü.
Yalnız spor değil, gönül sampi-
yonudur da.
Sessiz, vakur, sevecenlikle izler.
evreni...

"Hocamızdır O", ABBAS HOCADIR...



OBITUARIES

Helen White

Passed away in mid-December 2007 at a nursing home in Gloucester, Virginia with her family nearby. She was 82.

Helen White worked in the Business Office of RC as a comptroller between May 1964 to October 1978 with a brief pause between June 1971 to April 1973.

The following is a homage to Helen White, contributed by former Headmaster John Chalfant.

Ever fewer remain who witnessed the seismic shifts of 1971-75, when the American Colleges were rearranged permanently with the merger of ACG and the Academy, the separating of Boğaziçi and the Bebek Community School and a sorting out of the muddled accumulations of the detritus of four proud and century old institutions. No easy task and Helen was one of those who eventually brought order out of this chaos; and thereby earned a permanent place in the pantheon. Te Salutamus!

Those who worked with her will recall her even approach to the financial, fiscal, political and social tensions that marked the era and who brought so many to successful conclusion. Ever the Professional, with an abundance of administrative acumen and attention to detail, she was a pivotal "problem solver" and helped put the foundation in place for a viable and vibrant "new school" whose whole was the sum of so many parts. Sine qua non.

She worked in Sage Hall, lived in Yah Apt. and became a "presence" on campus. In the Business Office she occupied the position of "Comptroller", a "primer inter pares", who reported directly to the Board Treasurer in New York - a position of trust that was a tribute to her many talents.

She also developed a deep and abiding affection for Turkey, "the City" and its people, an attachment she carried all her life. In short, few during this momentous period did more to make good things happen at Kolej and Helen has earned our eternal appreciation and admiration. Happy the school that has such people (and RC has had many!)



Peren Semi

Former Math teacher at RC passed away in 2007. She was a member of the Math department between 1971 -1982 and also worked as an assistant in the physics lab. At time of press, the RCQ did not know the details of Ms. Semi's passing.

Donna Hollon

Donna Hollon, former math teacher at RC, from 1987 to 1998, died at her mother's house in Georgetown, Kentucky on February 1, 2008, after a short period of illness. Donna had devoted the last years of her life to looking after her mother who suffered from memory loss. She is also survived by a sister.



Wilson V. Binger

Wilson V. Binger, one of America's leading civil engineers, died April 21 at 91. Mr. Binger was a partner in the engineering firm Tibbetts-Abbott-McCarthy-Stratton (TAMS) from 1962 through 1984. He served as Chairman of the partnership from 1975 through 1984. Under his direction, TAMS designed and provided construction management for the Tarbela Dam Project on the Indus River in Pakistan. Tarbela is one of the largest water resources projects in the world and set many engineering and construction records at the time; some have not been surpassed. Wilson Binger was born February 28, 1917, in Greenwich, NY. He graduated from Harvard in 1938 and received a Masters degree from Harvard in 1939. After graduate school, he joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and spent several years working on various projects and studies related to the Panama Canal. During World War II he was an officer in the U.S. Army and taught at Robert College in Istanbul, Turkey. He later became a Trustee of the College. In 1952 Mr. Binger joined TAMS as their regional manager in Bogota, Colombia. In 1956 he moved to TAMS headquarters in New York City and became a partner in the firm in 1962. He continued to direct the firm's Latin American efforts, including projects in Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Argentina, Bolivia, Venezuela, and Honduras. TAMS projects in those countries included planning and designing highways, dams, airports, and ports. Mr. Binger was a member of numerous national and international engineering associations. He served as Secretary of the U.S. Committee on Large Dams from 1962-1978 and subsequently as Vice President of the International Committee on Large Dams from 1978-1981. He was a member of the Fedn. Internationale des Ingenieurs Conseils (FIDIC) and served as President from 1981-1983.



A long time resident of Chappaqua, NY, Mr. Binger was active in the community and in the First Congregational Church. He was Chairman of the Board of Deacons from 1960-1965, and a Trustee of the Church from 1985-1988. Mr. Binger was a member of the Century Association, the Harvard Club, and the University Club. He was also a member of St. Stephens in London. Mr. Binger is survived by his wife, Jane, and three children, Wilson, Jr. of Seattle, WA, Mary Binger of Santa Rosa, CA, and Julia Binger of Northport, NY, and six grandchildren. His first wife, Barbara R. Binger died in 1984. He is also survived by two stepsons and their families.

Wilson Binger was elected Trustee of Robert College in 1970 and served until 2004 when he stepped down and was made a Trustee Emeritus. While a Trustee, Wilson was very active, serving as Secretary of the Board, Co-Chairman of the Building Committee, Member of the Investment Committee, and Director of Robert College Foundation. He will be greatly missed.

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Birebir bankacılık, bire bin hizmet...

Birikimleriniz yüksek ve farklı yatırım beklentileriniz var. Bu nedenle de subenizde daha yakın bir ilgiyi hak ettiğinizi düşünüyorsunuz. "birebir bankacılık", Akbank tarafından sizler için özel olarak geliştirildi. Uzmanlarımızın deneyimlerinden yararlanacağınız, yatırım seçeneklerinin ve bankacılık hizmetlerinin size özel avantajlarla öncelikli sunulduğu ve Müşteri İlişkileri Yöneticinizle daha yakın iletişimde olacağınız özel bir hizmet...

"birebir bankacılık" Akbank'ta sizi bekliyor...

