

ISSUE  
50



*Doğal maden suyu ve  
meyve suyunun eşsiz karışımı*



**SİRMA®**



A New Balance sneaker, primarily light grey with white and dark grey accents, is positioned on a rustic wooden workbench. To the left of the shoe is a paint palette with various colors of paint, including yellow, green, blue, and black. In the background, a framed piece of abstract black and white calligraphy is visible. The New Balance logo is prominently displayed in the top right corner.

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

## In this issue



The RC Quarterly has celebrated many Robert College milestones over the years, and this 50<sup>th</sup> edition is no exception. Going over previous issues for the cover story was like catching up with an old friend, as we revisited highlights of the school's and our graduates' activities. We reminisced about past events, grinned at what was once ground-breaking news (such as "We now have access to the world wide web"), and remembered graduates and friends who have left us. The years since the start of the RCQ have truly been remarkable.

As with every issue, this copy of the RCQ also includes highlights from the school and community today, including a gender bending adaptation by the RC Theater Company of the classic play, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (p. 8), and a summit on future careers organized by the Junior Achievement club (p. 10), and plenty of news about class reunions.

As always, we love hearing from you. If you have any comments on this issue, or would like to share your news for the upcoming issue, please contact us at [alumni@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:alumni@robcol.k12.tr)

As a community, we all have a lot to be proud of and grateful for. We look forward to being together for many more issues.

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Your feedback on the RCQ matters! Did you enjoy this issue? Write to us at: [alumni@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:alumni@robcol.k12.tr)

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# 2016-17 Annual Giving Kick-off Dinner

It is not usual to have an Annual Giving Kick-off Dinner guest speaker address guests from a big screen. But, that is what happened this year when guest speaker CNN Senior International Correspondent Arwa Damon RC 94, was unable to leave her job of reporting live from the Mosul Offensive on October 31, 2016.

Arwa, in a three-minute video she sent from the front, spoke about what her RC education meant to her. She was addressing a crowd of Annual Giving loyal high honor donors, hard working class agents, trustees and members of the RC administration who gathered at RC alumni club Bizim Tepe that evening to recognize outstanding performances by class agents. The evening also marked the official start to the 2016-17 Annual Giving campaign year.

Arwa's address was followed by the traditional recognition ceremony of prize-winning class agents.

**Make a Gift and Join  
the 2016-17 Honor Roll**



Arwa Damon RC 94 addressed RC alumni on screen, from a video recorded in Mosul



From L to R: Mark Butler, Nedret Butler, Ümran Üngün ACG 70, Rukiye Ergüder ACG 70, Üstün Ergüder RC 57, Aslı Alpay ACG 70



Outstanding Class Agents with the Headmaster, From L to R: Emine Umur Çobanoğlu RC 83, Aysan Sarmpezoudis RC 90, Ahmet Alp RC 91, Pınar Boncuk RC 83, Nedim Ölçer RC 76, Meltem Kayhan RC 86, Y. Aydın Bilgin RA 61, Leyla Batu Pekcan ACG 61, Zeynep Özyürek Acar RC 91, Ayla Gümüşlügil ACG 55, Headmaster Charles Skipper, Deniz Yıldız Edin RC 88, Orhan Ayanlar RC 96, Gülrüh Turan RC 88, İpek Cem Taha RC 85, Erez Navaro RC 96, Emin Güvenç RC 96, Okan Atilla RC 90 and Mehveş Dramur RC 96



**LEVEL of GIVING****1- RC 96**

Class Agents:  
Orhan Ayanlar  
Erez Navaro

**2- RC 85**

Class Agents:  
Oya İnal  
Didem Soylu Muslu  
Bilge Yavuz Rızvani  
Ali Yılmaz

**3- RC 76**

Class Agents:  
Nedim Ölçer  
Yasemin Palanduz Kahya

**4- RC 91**

Class Agents:  
Ahmet Alp  
Cüneyt Soydaş

**5- RC 88**

Class Agents:  
Deniz Yıldız Edin  
Gülruh Tayan Turhan

**6- RC 86**

Class Agents:  
Meltem Tarhan Kayhan  
Özlem Özbek  
Kazım Uzunoğlu

**7- RC 95**

Class Agents:  
Fulya Çanakçı Güçlü  
Memet Ünsal

**8- RC 87**

Class Agent:  
Burak Pekcan

**9- RC 83**

Class Agents:  
Emine Umur Çobanoğlu  
Pınar Boncuk Dayanıklı  
Serap Ebubekir Kantül  
Serra Mansur Soysal

**10- RC 93**

Class Agents:  
Can Önen  
İrem Kızılviranlıoğlu Önen



Headmaster Skipper (center left) with RC 96 alumni, L to R: Orhan Ayanlar, Erez Navaro, Mehveş Dramur, Emin Güvenç, Erenşah Ayanlar, Burcu Berent and Deniz Şahbaz



From L to R: Guest speaker Arwa Damon's father and former RC Orta Principal George Damon, Engin Ölçer RC 75 and Nedim Ölçer RC 76



From L to R: Headmaster Charles Skipper, Arif Akdağ RC 88 and Fırat İşbecer RC 98



From L to R: Headmaster Charles Skipper, İpek Cem Taha RC 85, Öner Akgerman RA 61 and Rukiye Ergüder ACG 70

**LEVEL of PARTICIPATION****1- RC 76**

Class Agents:  
Nedim Ölçer  
Yasemin Palanduz Kahya

**2- RC 91**

Class Agents:  
Ahmet Alp  
Cüneyt Soydaş

**3- ACG 61**

Class Agent:  
Leyla Batu Pekcan

**4- RA 61**

Class Agent:  
Y. Aydın Bilgin

**5- RC 86**

Class Agents:  
Meltem Tarhan Kayhan  
Özlem Özbek  
Kazım Uzunoğlu

**6- RC 96**

Class Agents:  
Orhan Ayanlar  
Erez Navaro

**7- RC 92**

Class Agents:  
Emin Sağlamer  
Bora Samman

**8- RC 90**

Class Agents:  
Okan Atilla  
Aysan Sinanlıoğlu  
Sarmpezoudis  
Mete Tuncel

**9- RC 88**

Class Agents:  
Deniz Yıldız Edin  
Gülruh Tayan Turhan

**10- ACG 55**

Class Agent:  
Ayla Gümüşlügil



# Graduation 2016

On June 28, Robert College honored the 195 members of the Class of 2016 at the graduation ceremony on Konak Terrace.

**“RC space defies gravity,”** declared Mete Meleksoy RC 84, the keynote speaker at Robert College’s 149<sup>th</sup> commencement. The civil society leader and head of Educational Volunteers of Turkey (TEGV) told seniors that his drive to make a positive change in the world began at RC.

He started his speech by saying, “It is a privilege to be in company of wits who hung the banner ‘Gould-bye’ on Gould Hall.”

Continuing on a more serious note, he said. “The best thing that happened to me in life has been Robert College, along with my family. A source of pride.”

Speaking about his experience, he stated, “I have been in a wide range of institutions and environments all around Turkey and the world. With respect to affection, caring, free speech, aesthetics, humor, intelligent system and choices, I never saw any standards that exceed Robert College. Already at this age, you are among the best, and this means you are doomed. You will face some hardship. You spent five years together, you became used to a certain way of life. Unfortunately you



The faculty procession heads for Konak Terrace from Gould Hall

acquired some harmful habits in Robert College’s space: you have been encouraged to always question ‘why’, to research how something can be different.

“Whatever you do, you will be a leader for change. It is tiring, but you cannot prevent it, this is our nature,” he said. “When imagination, confidence, the right people, hard work and an intelligent system come together, miracles happen.”

In his speech, Headmaster Charles Skipper told the class that they were at a unique point in their lives, where they had the opportunity to reflect on who they are. “Is the person you really want

to be consistent with your life goals?”, he asked. Echoing his words, Turkish Director Nilhan Çetinyamaç urged graduates to be themselves, be brave and be responsible.

History teacher Önder Kaya told the class, “From now on, you should feel a special responsibility towards the community that you belong to. Just as previous graduates made a respectable impression of RC on society, you are obliged to continue this.”

The student speakers were Tayfun Gür and Erol Kulaoğlu. Following the ceremony, graduates and their families continued the celebrations with a reception in front of Murat Karamancı Student Center.



Commencement speaker Mete Meleksoy RC 84



The Class of 2016

# Burası *20 Yıldır* BİLGİ

Burası, önünde sınırlar olmadığını gördüğün yer...  
Sadece okul için değil, hayat için öğrendiğin yer...  
Gücünün, kendi geleceğine de, dünyaya da  
yön vermeye yeteceğini keşfettiğin yer.

Burası, ilk günden beri, kendine de, hayata da  
bu güvenle bakabilmen için var. Çünkü burası  
sadece bir üniversite değil.

Burası, BİLGİ. 20 yıldır...





## A New Twist on a Classic Play

**Performing a famous play** is always daunting. Actors and directors are working against the memories of an audience. One audience might want the replication of what they've already seen. Another might want a completely new interpretation.

For a high school cast to perform a play that is also an award-winning film with a plethora of iconic characters raises this challenge. Then add that the performance is in the actors' second language, they've got just three months to get it together *and* they've flipped the gender of the characters.

Still, RC Theatre Company's version of Dale Wasserman's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (adapted from the novel by Ken Kesey), directed by English teacher and Director of Drama Jake Becker and performed on December 29 and 30, 2016 in Suna Kırac Hall, was a great success. One of the biggest questions - after the secret got out that genders were to be switched so that Jack Nicholson's iconic McMurphy would be played by a female (Fulya Deniz Dal L11) and that Louise Fletcher's Nurse Ratched would be played by a male (Ali



The gender of the characters was flipped in RC Theatre Company's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

Çataltepe L11) - was whether the young female actors would be poor imitations of the famous characters or whether they would be able to create unique versions of the characters and transform the play.

Joe Welch, Dean of Activities, said the gender switch "was thrilling and risky". English teacher Carolyn Callaghan "loved the depth and surprises", which included an ominous clock without hands, a riotous take on the baseball game scene and an opening sequence (choreographed by 11<sup>th</sup> grader Elif Coşkun) that showed the background of the women before entering the mental hospital.

Jameson Vierling, a Film and Literature teacher, said, "I was impressed with the risk of switching all of the characters' genders, which as a lifetime fan of this amazing work - the film, the play, and especially the novel - forced me to think outside of the box about my opinions of each character. For example, am I judging Nurse Ratched less harshly because he is a man in this version? And, am I less supportive of McMurphy because in this version she is a woman? In the end, I realized that my opinions hadn't changed, that I still disliked Ratched and supported McMurphy, but the fact that I even questioned my potential gender bias made the play very intriguing to watch."

## Just Imagine...

## Sky's the Limit at RC Summer

**Last June, RC Summer** - an immersion-like summer program for young participants grades 2 through 8 - encouraged its participants to "Just Imagine". The program has a changing theme each year, designed to get kids to use their imagination and creativity to engage with the world around them in new and inventive ways.

The program provided many different ways to "Just Imagine" what could be accomplished if everybody treated the environment with respect, if peace and harmony were promoted in the world, or if people could help those less fortunate.

The highly popular program is an experiential and fun way to incorporate learning English with a creative and topical spin. With in the theme "Just Imagine"

some participants chose to learn sign language and used it to sing John Lennon's "Imagine". Others created their own movies with their group counselors. Some worked on "sustainable kitchen" while another group created their own wallets and bags out of duct tape.



RC Summer participants develop problem-solving and team work skills while playing with kapla blocks

The sports program was even richer than in the past. The RC Summer Country Club featured mini-golf, a driving range and other fun activities. On the Plateau participants experimented with various water sports. Splash Day was also a big hit, with an array of water games, including slip and slide and kick ball. As always, classic RC Summer events were offered as well: Carnival Day, hiking in Polonezköy, swimming at BURC Beach and the Farewell Fair on Konak Terrace.

The RCS Academy was also a great success this summer and offered five different courses over the two sessions. Courses included Coding Games, Digital Music Production, Storytelling through Photos and Words, Biomathematics and Crime Scene Investigation.

## RA 69 “Renkler” Gives Benefit Concert for Scholarships

The popular band “Renkler” (Colors) showed off their true colors on the Suna Kırac stage at their concert to benefit the RC Scholarship Fund on October 18, 2016. “A Whiter Shade of Pale” started off the evening followed by “My Way”. Aptly named, this colorful musical band is made up of RA 69 graduates Osman Dinç Kermen, Osman Kermen, İbrahim Büyükyüksel, Mehmet Yucad, Oktay Özinci, Şadi Burat and Selim Kalafat, who have been friends for over 55 years. On this one-of-a-kind evening, guest appearances by the Istanbul Symphony Orchestra’s string quartet as well as the Ladies and Gentlemen vocalist group added to the enjoyment of the show. Last but not least, the RC Orchestra led by Deniz Baysal, former RC Orchestra soloist Beliz Özkan RC 15 and Bülent Kalafat RC 04, son of band member Selim Kalafat, added a special touch to the performance.



“Renkler” gave a benefit concert for the RC Scholarship Fund. From L to R: Oktay Özinci (guitar), Şadi Burat (drums), Mehmed Yucad (guitar), Osman Dinç Kermen (vocals), Selim Kalafat (percussion) and İbrahim Büyükyüksel (guitar) (not pictured: keyboardist Osman Kermen).

A big thank you goes to Renkler and all income from ticket sales to the RC Scholarship Fund. the guest performers; not only for an entertaining evening but also for donating

## RC Celebrates Literary Week

The importance of reading and literature in our lives was emphasized during Literary Week from October 24-28 with many events and activities.

Author, filmmaker and mountaineer Matt Dickinson visited for three days, conducting writing workshops with students in Lise Prep and Lise 9. He shared his experiences of climbing Mount Everest with the students through photos, video and stories, setting the foundation for students’ creative writing. The resulting student work was beautiful with many powerful stories, poems and other literary expressions of being on Mount Everest. He also presented the students with a unique opportunity - to read his new manuscript and then submit critical feedback. Students who sent comments will have their names printed in the acknowledgments section of the book when it is published.

Students interested in becoming published authors were asked to contribute to the annual Literary Week Short Story Anthology. This year’s topic was “Robert College Myths and Legends”. Talking cats? Heroes? Dungeons? Selected



Students and library staff dressed up as their favorite book characters

stories will be published in the spring in both hardcopy and e-book format.

Each afternoon the whole school was invited to Drop Everything and Read. Students had twenty minutes during class to read materials of their choice.

Many members of the campus community came dressed up for Book Character

Costume Day, which included a group photo on the steps of Gould Hall and a party in Murat Karamancı Student Center. Designing ex-libris for RC Library books and bookmarks was another opportunity for students to show their creativity. All in all it was a fun, entertaining and educational week!



# Retired General Başbuğ Visits RC



İlker Başbuğ spoke to students as part of Atatürk Memorial Week

**Atatürk was commemorated** on the anniversary of his death on November 10, 2016. The school's National Values Committee helped organize a diverse program and students voiced their feelings and thoughts about Atatürk from their own perspectives.

As part of Atatürk Memorial Week, Robert College invited Turkey's 26<sup>th</sup> Chief of General Staff, retired general İlker Başbuğ as a guest speaker. Başbuğ is the author of *The Greatest Leader of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Mustafa Kemal* and *The Greatest Leader of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Atatürk*. He shared with students the knowledge he gained through his research into Atatürk's military and political leadership. He talked about Atatürk's traits that are models of leadership, and he conveyed his message to students about taking ownership of democracy.

A Q&A session with students followed. Başbuğ answered questions and remarked on how impressed he was with RC students' level of knowledge. He also signed his books.

## Which Industries Will Lead in the Future? Insights revealed at Junior Achievement event

**The future** was the topic at a symposium hosted by RC Junior Achievement on December 22, 2016, where a panel of business leaders and experts speculated about industries that will be at the forefront in 20 years.

Speakers included Sabancı University professor Özgür Demirtaş, EnerjiSA CEO Kivanç Zaimler, Microsoft Turkey CEO Murat Kansu and Aymarka CEO Eren Çamurdan, with Erhan Erkut, vice rector of MEF University, moderating the

discussion. Over 500 students from 35 schools came to hear them discuss future business trends, as well as other issues that Turkey and the global economy face.

The intellectual and dynamic speakers impressed participants. One student said, "I came here with great expectations and the event exceeded my expectations, with the professional panelists and thoughtful answers related to my career plan. It was also a great opportunity to learn about Turkey's dynamics from a non-political

perspective, and to hear a variety of opinions. After the panel I plan to take more effective steps in my life."

Junior Achievement's next event will be the innovation camp, Remixopolis, on May 18-22. Remixopolis aims to change participants' perspectives by solving case scenarios. The event features numerous guest speakers who discuss innovation, entrepreneurship and other business issues. More information can be found at [www.remixopolis.org](http://www.remixopolis.org)



Business leaders and experts address an eager audience in Suna Kiraç Hall



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# Making a Bequest to RC:

## Sevgi Rodan ACG 62 Tells Us Why

Sevgi Rodan recently made a generous bequest to RC in her will. “How could I not?” she says. “I grew up at ACG. I was on that glorious campus between the ages of 11 and 20. I learned about the world at ACG.” Rodan told the RCQ of her great appreciation for Elizabeth Dodge Huntington Clarke, after whom the bequest program is named, and recounted the following story.



Sevgi Rodan ACG 62 (left) and Elizabeth Dodge Huntington Clarke in New York in the mid 1960s

I arrived in the United States in August 1962 to attend Smith College, a women's college, in Northampton, Massachusetts. Foreign students were assigned American students as “sisters”. Mine was a young woman named Alice Dodge who helped me adjust to a new culture and educational system for which I was grateful. Although I spoke English very well, there were indeed many adjustments to be made in my new life in the US.

I soon started worrying about the upcoming semester break, which was very long, as I had to find a place to stay since the dormitory was closed. I found two homes but was unable to find one for the remaining two weeks. Alice suggested contacting her great aunt, Elizabeth Clarke. It turned out that I had met Mrs. Clarke for lunch during one of

her numerous visits to ACG so I was very happy that she graciously agreed to host me at her house.

I arrived at the bus terminal in New York City and was met by Mrs. Clarke. I recognized her immediately, she greeted me warmly and we took off for her house in a limousine driven by her chauffeur. She lived in a lovely home in Riverdale, which was a compound of many houses on the Hudson River. During the two weeks that I stayed there, she took me around New York City, including all the landmarks, museums, and theaters. She and I saw *Lawrence of Arabia* on New Year's Eve at a cinema very close to Times Square where thousands of people gathered to celebrate the incoming year.

At night, she spoke of her childhood in New York, her life in Istanbul with her

first husband Mr. Huntington, a teacher at Robert College, and how they coped with WWI while the Ottoman Empire was at war. She and her husband knew many prominent people including Queen Maria of Romania, who used to sail down in her yacht to Istanbul. There were many other eye-popping stories that she delighted in telling her fascinated audience! She also showed me photos of life in New York around the turn of 20<sup>th</sup> century. I still remember seeing pictures of the Bosphorous from Robert College, and the famous Broadway in New York, then a dirt road, cluttered by horse driven carriages.

In the 1930s, her first husband, Mr. Huntington, contracted polio and they moved to Warm Springs, Georgia where President Roosevelt had established a place for polio-stricken patients like himself. After Mr. Huntington's death,



RC Trustees Elizabeth Dodge Huntington Clarke (center, right) with (from L to R) Henry Boschen, Jane Page and Grinnell Morris

she married a long-time friend, Mr. Clarke and had a very happy marriage. Her eyes twinkled when she talked about him.

One would never know that she was a woman of wealth. She was extremely modest. I think she wore the same grey winter coat every time I met her for many years. She was deeply religious and frugal, always thinking of poor people, making sure that not a morsel of food was thrown out.

From time to time, as I take stock of my life, I still cannot believe how lucky I was to meet such a remarkable woman and that she took so much time to befriend and take care of me. Perhaps, for her, I was a symbol of ACG, which she dearly loved. She once introduced me with great pride to the Turkish ambassador's wife as "one of our girls from ACG". I will always be grateful to her not just for her friendship to me, but also for being such a generous friend of ACG and Robert College.

## How to Make a Bequest to Robert College

The Elizabeth Dodge Huntington Clarke Society was established to recognize those who have made commitments of financial support to Robert College in their wills or estate planning. The Society honors the memory of a woman who was devoted to the School and sought to ensure its future by providing Robert College with its largest bequest, a sum over \$2,087,000.

To discuss making a bequest, please contact the Development Office in Istanbul at +90 212 359 2289 or the New York office at +1 212 843 5550.



Trustees dedicated a bench on the Plateau on May 3, 1975 to mark the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Clarke's first visit to Turkey.

## Who was Elizabeth Dodge Huntington Clarke?

Elizabeth Dodge Huntington Clarke was born in New York City in 1884 to a family of wealthy industrialists and generous philanthropists. Her father, Cleveland Dodge, was on the RC Board of Trustees. President Gates once said that he had to restrain himself in mentioning to Cleveland Dodge the needs of the College, "He had already given us so much," said Dr. Gates, "that I was ashamed to seem to asking for more." Dodge considered the American Colleges of the Near East not only his personal interest but also his inherited responsibility.

Her family built Theodorus Hall (Miss Olivia Eggleston Stokes – niece of William E Dodge), the Dodge Gymnasium (William E. Dodge, Jr. and Cleveland Dodge), Washburn Hall (Mrs. William E. Dodge, Jr.), and Henrietta Washburn Social Hall (Cleveland H. Dodge).

In 1916 she married RC Prep principal George Huntington, and moved to Istanbul. During their 16 years at RC, they helped the College through many of its financial difficulties, from buying curtains to purchasing more land for the college, to building Damon House.

They left the College in 1934 when her husband was stricken with polio, and returned briefly in 1938. George Huntington died in 1953, and in 1955 she married Rev. Dumont Clarke. Because of her long and continued support of the two colleges, Trustee Goldwithe Dorr (Chairman of the RC Board, 1952-55) presented the Girls' College with an audio-visual center to be called The Clarke Audio Visual Center.

Elizabeth Dodge Huntington Clarke was a member of the RC Board from 1941, and the ACG Board from 1944, until her death in 1976. She dedicated her life to and derived great joy from helping others.



# A Game Changer

## Nejat Eczacıbaşı Gym Gets State-of-the-Art Upgrade

The Eczacıbaşı family helps take the Nejat Eczacıbaşı Gym to the next level.

Physical education has been at the core of the RC curriculum since the founding of the school. At the heart of the sports program is the Nejat Eczacıbaşı Gym. Opened in 1991, the gym has been used over the past quarter of a century for numerous events, from sports tournaments and graduation ceremonies to final exams and PE classes.

To ensure the gym matches the excellence taking place in the classroom, the Eczacıbaşı family invested in a series of upgrades in the summer of 2016. The acoustics have been improved, allowing for better sound quality during assemblies and matches. The ventilation system has been upgraded and the gym now has both heating and air conditioning. The new bleachers can be easily opened and stowed electronically. The floor is more durable after being sealed with a professional-grade epoxy. The lighting system has also been upgraded, with more fixtures added, and the ability to light selected sections of the gym. The basketball hoops and backboards have also been replaced.

“The upgrades in the gym have been a game changer,” says PE teacher and coach Mauricio Araya. “It is one of the best gyms I’ve seen in Istanbul, including universities. From lights to equipment to the sound system, it is a great space.”

The fitness facilities are also frequently used by students and faculty, and they were renovated as well. The balcony above the gym has been converted into a cardio room, while the wall facing the gym in the weight room has been replaced by glass, making the room lighter and feel more spacious.

The school is grateful to the Eczacıbaşı family for continuing a strong legacy at Robert College.



Nejat Eczacıbaşı RC 32 and his grandson Emre Eczacıbaşı RC 02 at the inauguration of the gym during Homecoming in 1991



The cardio room overlooks the courts



Students enjoy playing in the renovated gym



New bleachers tuck away easily to create more floor space. Energy-saving lighting can illuminate specific areas or the entire gym.

# RC Boys' Lounge Named in Honor of Haluk Kilimci RC 50

In recognition of his generous support to Robert College, the lounge in the boys' residence has been named after Haluk Kilimci RC 50. Kilimci has been a life-long supporter of RC, an institution he feels played an important role in his life.

A boarding student while at RC, Kilimci felt the influence of living in the dorms during his formative years. Hence, it is very appropriate that new generations of boy students will build life-long friendships

and carry on the spirit of camaraderie in the Haluk Kilimci Lounge.

In an interview with the RCQ in 2012 (issue 42, p. 14), Kilimci said, "I give regularly to the Annual Giving Campaign because I feel the school has made a valuable contribution to my vision."

Kilimci, owner of Izmir Palas Hotel, went on to get his master's degree from Wharton after he graduated from RC.

As a student he was involved in several activities, including the Student Council and the Record, as General Manager. "It's a great school, and it trains you to easily adapt to real life through practice and knowledge that you get from books and activities," he said.

Robert College is grateful to Haluk Kilimci for his continued support.



Kilimci was the General Manager of the 1950 Record



Haluk Kilimci RC 50 and Esin Pere at the 150<sup>th</sup> Gala Dinner in Istanbul



Life-long friendships are built in the Haluk Kilimci Lounge in the boys' residence



# RC Students Reach Out to Syrian Children

By Jennifer Sertel, Community Involvement Program (CIP) Advisor

Refugees recapture childhood fun during  
a week-long program on campus.

*When I first told people that I was going to do a CIP with Syrian kids, a common reaction was "But there are many Turkish children who need help, why not do a project with them?" What those people disregarded was that these kids didn't come to Turkey willingly; they were here because of the war in their country.*

*This same attitude was also the reason why these kids felt unwelcome. I wanted to lead such a CIP because I wanted to show people that these children were equally capable as any other children when the right environment was provided.*

Azem Yıldırım L12



Syrian children and their instructors with  
RC students on the steps of Gould Hall



Learning to hula hoop was one of their favorite activities

As Azem notes, this CIP was characterized by a certain amount of spontaneity from its organization phase to the last day. The original idea was to work at a school that had both Syrian and Turkish students and help them bond through shared activities. Unfortunately we did not get permission to do this with the school in Fatih, but two days before the project was to start, our partner Small Projects Istanbul, chose 40 Syrian students to participate.

We always had a plan A but often had to trade it for plan B or C due to some challenges specific to this project. Many of the children came with their younger brothers and sisters from whom they did not want to be separated. We tried to respect this. An even bigger challenge was that only a few students knew Turkish and only one or two knew English. Luckily our translator Ahmet Bey came every day, but he could not be in all places at once. It was difficult to do involved activities.

We had help from drama teacher Jake Becker who gave tips on how to use physical drama, Eda Yurdakul who helped with the drama group and Janelle Bondor who taught the kids how to hula hoop. They loved it! Ferhat Dal RC 13 spent the afternoon showing them the basics of computer programming and an RC Summer volunteer showed them break dancing.

The children seemed happy. They were stunned by the unlimited food in the cafeteria. They were energized. But what was their reality?

There was one boy, Hussein, who was about the same age as our students.

He was always smiling, trying to be helpful and positive. It was a bit hard to communicate with him as he knew no Turkish but was trying earnestly to learn English. After the project was over, by chance, I happened to see Hussein's face on a crowdfunding website. I was shocked to learn that, in order to help support his family, he works at a factory at least 12 hours a day, six days a week. He spends his day off learning English, and dreams of becoming an engineer or veterinarian if he can go back to school.

We did not have an end product such as a show or an exhibition in this CIP but we did create joy for children who have been traumatized and dealt a harsh hand by forces outside their control. We created a week where they could simply be children having fun.

RC students continue to work with Syrian children during the school year. In a project organized together with Small

Projects Istanbul and the World Bank, they are being a big brother/sister with a refugee child, and meet with them one Saturday per month.

For more details about Small Projects Istanbul, visit [www.smallprojectsistanbul.org/](http://www.smallprojectsistanbul.org/)



We are also doing a project involving online Turkish lessons with Syrian refugees in a camp in the southeast. Working with English Ninjas, an organization that has online tutoring in English, our students are helping them to set up and run something similar in Turkish.



One workshop had participants hand painting a colorful poster



# Always in My Heart

Selin Toprakkıran L12 reflects on returning to Yenişakran each year as part of an ongoing CIP project.

**Istanbul, May 2014:** “This CIP is going to be the worst, I know no one there. There’s only a girl from my class called İrem. I really don’t want to go.” Starting with these thoughts, I ended the Yenişakran CIP in a place far from my prejudices. I bonded with the kids so strongly that I couldn’t help my tears when leaving.

**Istanbul, May 2015:** “İrem and I don’t know Melisa at all. I wonder what she’s like. Will we get along well as the leaders? Will this group be able to manage crisis?” I went to Yenişakran with these worries and spent an amazing week there. Our group was full of people who worked hard as a team, listened to and watched out for each other. After doing such an intense project, we stuck together and maintained our friendships. It was one of the best weeks of my life and I cried once again when leaving.

**Istanbul, May 2016:** “We can overcome anything together.” As the leaders, Melisa, İrem and I communicated this well for the first time. We solved problems with the speed that knowing each other gave us. With gratitude, sorrow and longing, tears in my eyes, I left Yenişakran.

At the end of each project, I couldn’t help shedding tears at leaving the kids. Our experiences together taught me so much.

I think the most valuable lesson I learned was how to care deeply for something.

Umut’s smile as he yelled “My sisters and brothers!” and ran towards us from the Aliğa service bus every day. I learned to be happy or sad with the kids. However, even if Umut was hungry for love since he never received affection from his parents, I also learned that I wasn’t the one to fulfill that need.

When Erdoğan left the lunch table during a daily fit of nerves, and I ran after him knowing that he’d be hungry if he missed lunch, I realized that his goal was to see if someone else was willing to make themselves miserable for him. I learned that running after someone may not be the best way to regain that person.

I saw that feeling pity towards Samet, even if he came from the streets and had been abused, was not the best way to approach him, because it would alienate him.

Even if I loved Ramazan very much, when he started hitting my head and persisted when I asked him not to, I realized that kids could reflect how they were treated in the past. I learned that I had to protect myself from the abuse they had been exposed to.

I saw that a kid like Veysi, who loved to be mischievous, could be easy-going and hardworking once he removed his mask. I realised that even kids hid behind masks. When Rodi said “It doesn’t matter to me if I was born in a female or male body as long as I get to keep my personality the same,” I learned that no matter what their educational background was, some kids could be more open minded than college graduates.

Although İpek didn’t like to listen to anyone else or obey the rules, after I taught her how to swim, she always listened to me. I noticed that kids took you seriously if they trusted you.

When Helin was criticized for her accent by another kid and defended herself by saying, “This is the way I talk!”, I understood that kids could be exposed to or could expose others to discrimination.

Kids are not that different from adults. As I got to know them, I learned valuable lessons about humanity. I hope that they also learned a few things from us as well. What kept bringing me back to Yenişakran every year was this hope. Robert College gave me the most valuable experiences of my high school years by providing me with this opportunity. I’m grateful to everyone who was with me on this journey.



RC students and local children in Yenişakran in 2016

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## RKMD Board Chair Arif Akdağ RC 88

### Volunteering for the RC Alumni Association is a Privilege

The dedicated and hard working Chair of the RC Alumni Association Board, Arif Akdağ, shares his vision about this vital group of volunteers.



Arif Akdağ RC 88

“Our primary role as the Robert College Alumni Association is to develop and maintain a strong alumni network. At the same time, we strive to support the school in many different ways. We work very hard and volunteer our time and effort, in close collaboration with the RC Development Office, to support our alma mater.

“RKMD (Robert Kolej Mezunları Derneği) has about six thousand dues-paying members. A twelve person executive board made up of alumni volunteers is elected at our annual meeting, with six members coming up for re-election every two years. This rotation ensures continuity as well as revitalization.

“It is a privilege to serve the school through the organization of many different activities that bring our illustrious graduates together, notably at Bizim Tepe, the alumni facility that the Association manages. Our events include seminars, concerts, sports

tournaments, courses for adults and children, and much, much more. We aim to keep our members informed through regular emails and newsletters; please make sure that your contact information is up to date. We strongly encourage our alumni to ‘connect and stay connected’. We see alumni as ambassadors for the College within their professions, communities, environments and institutions. We see them as voluntary mentors, role-models and supporters for all current and prospective RC students.

“Robert College is and will always be a part of us and we will make sure that we are always a part of Robert College as well, honored to serve at the RC Alumni Association Board as ‘volunteers’ playing a crucial role in shaping the future of our school.”

To learn more about the RC Alumni Association and to find out how you can get involved, please visit [www.rkmd.org.tr](http://www.rkmd.org.tr)

**Turkish Republic Week** was celebrated by RC staff, faculty and students with patriotic fervor. As the first event of the week, the Alumni Association had the pleasure of hosting Nükhet Duru and Timur Selçuk at Suna Kırac Hall on October 24 after an exciting torchlight procession on the campus where the staff, faculty, students and graduates came together to march and sing with pride.



Timur Selçuk and Nükhet Duru performed at Suna Kırac Hall

As for the last leg of the week, on October 29, a dinner party for the celebrations of the Turkish Republic Day was held at Bizim Tepe with guest speakers Üstün Ergüder RC 57, Headmaster Charles H. Skipper, Turkish director Nilhan Çetinyamaç, and unforgettable legendary history teacher Hafize Değer. Alumni Association Board President Arif Akdağ RC 88 and the National Values Student Committee at RC took the chance to address the crowd on the importance of the day.



At the “Meet The Headmaster” event, RC alumni had the chance to get to know Dr. Charles H. Skipper, who talked about his past experiences in his field. He also listened to alumni who shared their experiences at RC.



On September 27, Bizim Tepe hosted a discussion with Elif Uras RC 90 about her world-renowned art.



Hikmet Hükümenoglu RC 89 was at BizimTepe on October 19 to discuss his latest bestseller, *Körburun*.



During the Akbank Jazz Brunch on October 16, the trio Papyon jazzed up the whole room with their impressive music.

Every year after Homecoming, Bizim Tepe welcomes alumni and teachers for complimentary cocktails and nice music in a friendly atmosphere. It's always heartwarming to see alumni back at their "nest".



To see a video of highlights from the Homecoming after party scan this code (app required)



RC Trustee Nihat Berker RA 67 speaks at a commemoration for Tosun Terzioğlu RA 61, who passed away on February 23, 2016 (see RCQ 49, p. 70). Held on February 18, 2017, it was attended by Terzioğlu's family and friends. Also speaking at the event were RC Trustee Üstün Ergüder RC 57, Doç. Dr. Derin Terzioğlu RC 87, Doç. Dr. Hülya Adak RC 89, Prof. Betül Tanbay, Prof. Albert Erkip and Prof. Kemal Inan.



On December 17, RKMD organized Şeb-i Arus (Wedding Night; the anniversary of Rumi's death) performed by the International Mevlana Association and the Galata Dervishes at Suna Kırac Hall. The introductory speech was made by Arzu Çelebi Kumcuoğlu, a descendant of Rumi, who briefly explained the meaning of Şeb-i Arus. The music accompanied by the Mevlevi prayers and the ecstatic spinning of the dervishes added a spiritual meaning to the whole atmosphere.



The Christmas Bazaar featured a wide variety of gifts

RKMD's traditional Kermes, Christmas Bazaar in December had 38 stalls with a few new sellers in the Bizim Tepe restaurant, Tepe Majeur. Visitors had the chance to find gifts for their loved ones among a large variety of choices.



# Boston Mentorship Brunch

A new academic year in Boston was also a time for new beginnings for the RCAA community. The RCAA Boston Area Mentorship Brunch took place on Saturday, September 24 at S&S Restaurant in Cambridge, MA. Mentees from RC 16

and their RCAA Mentors in the area got together and had a fun brunch on a beautiful fall day. The RCAA Mentorship program is entering its sixth year and aims to connect alumni living in the US with incoming freshmen in their area.

The mentee-mentor matches are based on the location as well as possible career interests. It was also the first time that the program's first mentee, Tolga Zeybek RC 10, served as a mentor.



From L to R: Alpdoğan Kantarcı RC 86, Yasemin Kirişçioglu RC 16, Şule Kahraman RC 16, Miraç Süzgün RC 16, Elif Şıkoğlu Morrissey RC 96 and Tolga Zeybek RC 10

# Fall RC Alumni Reception in NY

On November 21, about 100 Robert College alumni, former faculty, trustees and friends gathered at the Yale Club in NYC for the fall RC Reception. Alumni of all ages look forward to reconnecting at this yearly event.

Trustees enjoyed speaking with the guests, including recent graduates who were happy to share their thoughts on RC and how they are adjusting to living and attending school in the US. The RC Board Chair, Nina J. Köprülü, welcomed everyone before introducing the

Headmaster, Dr. Charles H. Skipper, who gave an update on Robert College.

If you live in the New York City area and would like to learn more about upcoming events, please contact Kristen Kupjian at the NY Office ([kristen@robcoll.org](mailto:kristen@robcoll.org)).



From L to R: Alp Kutlualp RC 06, Trustee Emre Derman RC 84, Korhan Koçak RC 08, Aslıhan Saygılı RC 08 and Ezgi Teksoy RC 08

New RCAA to Board Officers were elected on January 30, 2017. The officers for 2017 are:

- Alpdoğan Kantarcı RC 86 - President
- Nesrin Young ACG 69 - Vice-President
- Cengiz Hatiboğlu RC 81 - Treasurer
- Tolga Zeybek RC 10 - Secretary

After four years of serving as the RCAA President, Elif Şıkoğlu Morrissey RC 97 has stepped down but will continue her involvement as one of the RCAA Directors.

A woman with long dark hair is sitting on a white concrete ledge. She is wearing a gold-colored jumpsuit with a wide leg and a black leather jacket. She is holding a black clutch bag in her right hand. She is looking towards the camera. The background is a bright, sunlit outdoor area with a white wall and some foliage.

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## Prestigious Award and New Album for Aydın Karlibel RC 76

Acclaimed concert pianist, composer and author, Aydın Karlibel, received the Cemal Reşit Rey Honor Award from the Semiha Berksoy Opera Foundation in the summer of 2016.

Karlibel spoke to the RCQ about the award and his latest album.

### **How does it feel to receive an award named for your mentor, Cemal Reşit Rey?**

I believe that the Semiha Berksoy Foundation Award was granted in recognition of my decades-long service in memory of Cemal Reşit Rey as a performer, conductor, recording artist, writer, orchestrator, and engraver. Robert College had a special place in Cemal Reşit Rey's memories since the City Orchestra played concerts in its halls. He held Prof. Charles McNeal, music teacher at RC for 39 years, in the warmest regard. He met then headmaster John Chalfant and was invited by him as a guest of honor to the RC 76 graduation.

### **Tell us about your latest album, Doğu Masalları.**

It is the fourth of a tetralogy of piano solo albums which all contain rarities significant



to Turkey's western musical past. Czerny's brilliant "Impromptu Op.451" for Sultan Mahmud, which I had the chance to play for Robert College's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Pera Museum, is included on the album. On this occasion, I wish to remember and pay homage to our late beloved teacher J. Grady Hobson (1926-2011), who was a fine pianist and our legendary math teacher. I also wish sadly to mention the composer-keyboardist Keith Emerson who passed away last March. He was a favorite composer of our RC Band.

### **There are many students at RC who take music very seriously. What is your message to young musicians?**

A career in music means a life of complete dedication, hard work, total commitment and passion. The aspiring serious musician must be a kind of Ulysses, as in Tennyson's anonymous poem, who must "strive, to seek to find and not to yield".

Aydın Karlibel RC 76



## Evin İlyasoğlu ACG 66 Receives IKSVMusic's Honorary Award

Evin İlyasoğlu has received the Honorary Award from IKSVMusic for her contributions to Turkey's cultural and artistic life through classical music. As a music critic, writer, radio and TV program producer, professor and Boğaziçi University Albert Long Hall music director for the past 20 years, İlyasoğlu has devoted her life to education and making classical music widely accessible.

She spoke to the RCQ about her career and the role of classical music in today's society.

### Why do you think it's important for people today to learn about this genre of music?

Classical music is the mother of all other musical branches. The term "classical" is just like a classical jacket in your wardrobe or a classical armchair in your living room. It always stands there as a reference point and never goes out of fashion.

### Of the many activities that you've been involved with in your career, which do you feel proudest about?

I am proud of the 25 books I've written, which all have a historical perspective. Not just music researchers, but even general audiences are interested in reading them.

I am also very proud of my Albert Long Hall (ALH) classical music concert series at Boğaziçi University, which just celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> year. I feel very happy meeting my former students who learned classical music at ALH at other concerts in Istanbul. Now we are a very musical family where young students, alumni, professors, guests from Etiler Nursing Home, and music lovers from all districts of Istanbul meet each other. We have hosted world-renowned artists such as Martha Argerich, Alfred Brendel and Shlomo Mintz, as well as very young and master Turkish performers.

### How did your education at ACG influence your career?

At ACG I learned how to research, ask questions, stand on my own feet and pass on my cultural background to others. I was a member and president of the classical music club and president of İzlerimiz



Evin İlyasoğlu ACG 66

literary magazine twice. The administration let us invite the celebrities of our music world such as Ayla Erduran and İdil Biret, as well as many reputed authors such as Yaşar Kemal, Necati Cumalı, Behçet Necatigil and Çetin Altan, as guests at our İzlerimiz meetings. As young students, we were honored to breathe the same air as them. This resulted in a deep self-confidence throughout my life.

## Mine Çetinkaya-Rundel RC 2000 Wins Teaching Innovation Award

Statistician and professor Mine Çetinkaya-Rundel won the 2016 Waller Education Award given by the American Statistical Association. She was recognized for her outstanding contributions to and innovations in the teaching of elementary statistics, as well as broader impact of her work on statistical education.

After RC, Mine Çetinkaya-Rundel received her BS in actuarial science from New York University and her PhD in statistics from the University of California, Los Angeles. At graduate school she realized her passion for teaching, and is now an associate professor and director of undergraduate studies in the statistical science department at Duke University. Çetinkaya-Rundel says, "Much of my own academic success has been driven by devoted teachers and I hope that my dedication to teaching and enthusiasm for statistics education similarly motivates my students."



Mine Çetinkaya-Rundel RC 2000

Her work focuses on innovation in statistics pedagogy, with an emphasis on student-centered learning, computation, reproducible research, and open-source education. She teaches the popular massive open online course sequence titled "Statistics with R" on Coursera.

Çetinkaya-Rundel is a co-author of three open-source statistics textbooks at the college and high school level as part of the OpenIntro project ([openintro.org](http://openintro.org)). She also writes about statistics education on the Citizen Statistician blog and Taking a Chance in the Classroom column in Chance Magazine.

She is also passionate about increasing the retention and profile of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields and conducts research in this area. Specifically, her research explores the use of active-learning techniques in introductory STEM courses as a means of increasing retention of women and minorities.

More information on Çetinkaya-Rundel's work can be found at [www.stat.duke.edu/~mc301/](http://www.stat.duke.edu/~mc301/). She welcomes students considering studying statistics to reach out to her with any questions.



## 2017 Vehbi Koç Award Given to Zeynep Ahunbay ACG 65

Zeynep Ahunbay ACG 65 was given the 2017 Vehbi Koç Award for her outstanding contributions to cultural heritage and preservation both in Turkey and internationally. Ahunbay's distinguished academic career in antiquities and her lifelong dedication to historical conservation and restoration have made her one of the most prominent names in the field.

The Vehbi Koç award, established in 2002 by the Vehbi Koç Foundation, is given annually to a person or institution for exemplary accomplishment in their line of work, alternating between culture, education and healthcare, respectively. Introducing Zeynep Ahunbay at the award ceremony, Koç Holding Chairman Ömer M. Koç RC 80 called her "an unsung hero" for her work in preserving cultural heritage. "Though our professor is world famous in her field, many of us may never have heard her name," he said. Accepting the award, Ahunbay said she considered working in her field an honor and called for greater protection of cultural heritage sites against threats such as war.

Ahunbay was born in Ünye, a small town in Ordu in the Black Sea region of Turkey. She graduated from the American



Zeynep Ahunbay ACG 65

College for Girls in 1965, and went on to study at İstanbul Teknik University, receiving a PhD in architectural history in 1976. In 1988 she became a professor of architectural history and preservation at the university.

Ahunbay teaches historic preservation and directs conservation work at undergraduate and graduate levels. A specialist in Ottoman architecture and historic preservation, Ahunbay was responsible for the conservation of numerous sites of many periods, including the Temple of Apollo in Side, the ancient colonnaded street in Tarsus, the Byzantine Theoskepastos Monastery in Trabzon, the

land walls of İstanbul, Hagia Sophia and Zeyrek Camii- Church of Christ Pantocrator in İstanbul, the Ottoman Tarsus historic center, Uzunkemer - a 16th century aqueduct by the famous Ottoman architect Sinan, the 19th century Ministry of Agriculture building in İstanbul and Nezir Aga Mosque in Mostar. Her numerous publications derive primarily from these and other conservation areas in Turkey.

Ahunbay is the fourth RC graduate and academic to receive the prestigious VKV award in the last 16 years, following Mehmet Özdoğan RA 63, Zeynep Çelik ACG 70 and Kamil Uğurbil RA 67.

## !f Independent Film Festival Celebrates 16 Years

!f İstanbul, the independent film festival started by Serra Ciliv and Pelin Turgut (both RC 92), and held in partnership with İş Bankası Maximum Card, celebrated its 16th edition this year in February. The festival has grown from its early start in just one Beyoğlu theater to encompass several theaters in İstanbul, plus Ankara, İzmir and a selection of films broadcast digitally to more than 30 underserved locations across Turkey and the region.

This year the festival theme was 'that which heals us' – a comment on the state of affairs in Turkey and the world and the need to find inspiration, courage and a way forward. The festival played host to many gatherings – from Turkey's short film directors, to Middle Eastern and Turkish documentary filmmakers at the first inaugural Doc Lab meeting, to on-stage conversations with inspirational well-known personalities such as Cem



!f İstanbul founders Serra Ciliv RC 92 and Pelin Turgut RC 92

Yılmaz, Taner Ceylan, Yeşim Ustaoglu and Birhan Keskin, that were designed to encourage public conversations around this theme.

A further new addition to the !f lineup this year was !f Tomorrow, a selection of the best in recent Virtual Reality (VR) work from various directors curated by another RC graduate, Deniz Tortum RC 08. Tortum, who is also a filmmaker, is currently based at MIT, where he works with the Open Documentary Lab.

"Our vision has always been to create a space of possibilities," said Ciliv at the closing night, adding that keywords this year were the multiplicity and diversity of voices, and sensitivity, as we go through challenging times. Some 80,000 people attended the film screenings, many of which were sold out.

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## Sinan Keten RC 01 Receives US Presidential Honor

Engineering researcher Sinan Keten was among 102 individuals to receive the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) from former US president Barack Obama. The award is the highest honor given to science and engineering professionals who are in the early stages of their research careers. Keten told the RCQ, "I am very thankful for this award, as it will allow me to carve my own individual path while also equipping the next generation of scientists in my group with the necessary skills to build their own career."

Keten received the PECASE award for his work in nanostructured polymeric materials and biomolecular and bioinspired materials. Biopolymers, chain-like molecules that come together to form materials, are found in almost everything. Keten's group establishes computational methods that allow them to simulate the properties of these biological building blocks, understand key mechanisms, and use or synthetically mimic them to make

new materials that are higher performance and more environmentally friendly. For example, with simulations, they examine very small crystals in wood and paper pulp called nanocellulose. Their analyses help chemists make new materials out of nanocellulose, such as resilient films or glass products. "Because polymers are ubiquitous and computational tools that we develop are widely applicable, we are making impact in other areas as well, such as electronics, nanomedicine, adhesives, and building materials," said Keten. "Overall, as computational scientists, we envision a world where costly and time-consuming experiments and synthesis efforts will be largely replaced by simulations. We dream of a future where with a few clicks, we will be able to customize material properties, design components, devices and structures, and print them rapidly with modern manufacturing approaches."

When asked about how his time at RC influenced his career, Keten replied, "RC instills and beautifully exemplifies the



Sinan Keten RC 01

significance of giving back to society. In this regard, I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to become a professor and be able to personally touch other people's lives by trying to help them achieve their aspirations."

Keten has received several other awards for his work, including the 2015 Navy Young Investigator Award.

## Tolga Birdal RC 04 L12 Wins European Technology Award

Tolga Birdal received the European Machine Vision Association (EMVA) Young Professional Award to honor his outstanding and innovative work in the field of machine vision and image processing. Birdal was selected for his work "Reconstruction via Detection: Efficient and Automatic Reconstruction from Unorganized 3D Scans" that proposes a new and effective approach to 3D digitization. His method cleverly integrates the CAD model, available in a wide range of industrial applications, directly into the reconstruction pipeline.

Birdal explained to the RCQ what his work means: "Nowadays, due to increasing standards, industrial metrology – dimension measurement of manufactured goods – is gaining significant importance. This work addresses a production-line scenario in which large industrial objects are quality checked. The current solutions are either based on manual labor, or lack the desired user friendliness. The proposed scheme would enable fast, on-site inspection of parts that are big, hard to move and non-cooperative. Given the harsh environmental conditions of the

factories, having an easy-to-operate tool is also handy. This is also a concern of my approach."

Birdal holds a master's degree in computational science and engineering and is currently a PhD candidate at the Technical University of Munich and a research scientist at Siemens AG.

He had a special message for the RC Makers, a group of students working on technological advancement.

"Makers are fun. They are ageless, mutually supportive, not profit guided and free spirited. The maker movement shapes learning and creating into a joyful process, decreasing the steep learning curve of typical technology development. Therefore, especially for students of Robert College, it is invaluable to engage in it in the early ages. At this point, I appreciate the effort already put in by the school."

He suggested that students interested in this field learn to mix an attitude of curiosity and a desire to invent with the use of a principled methodology for best results



Tolga Birdal RC 04 L12 is presented the award by Jochem Herrman, President of EMVA

with more complex systems. Science, he said, is more and more converging with everyday technology production.



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## Hayaliniz Eğitiminize Kanada'da devam etmek ise...



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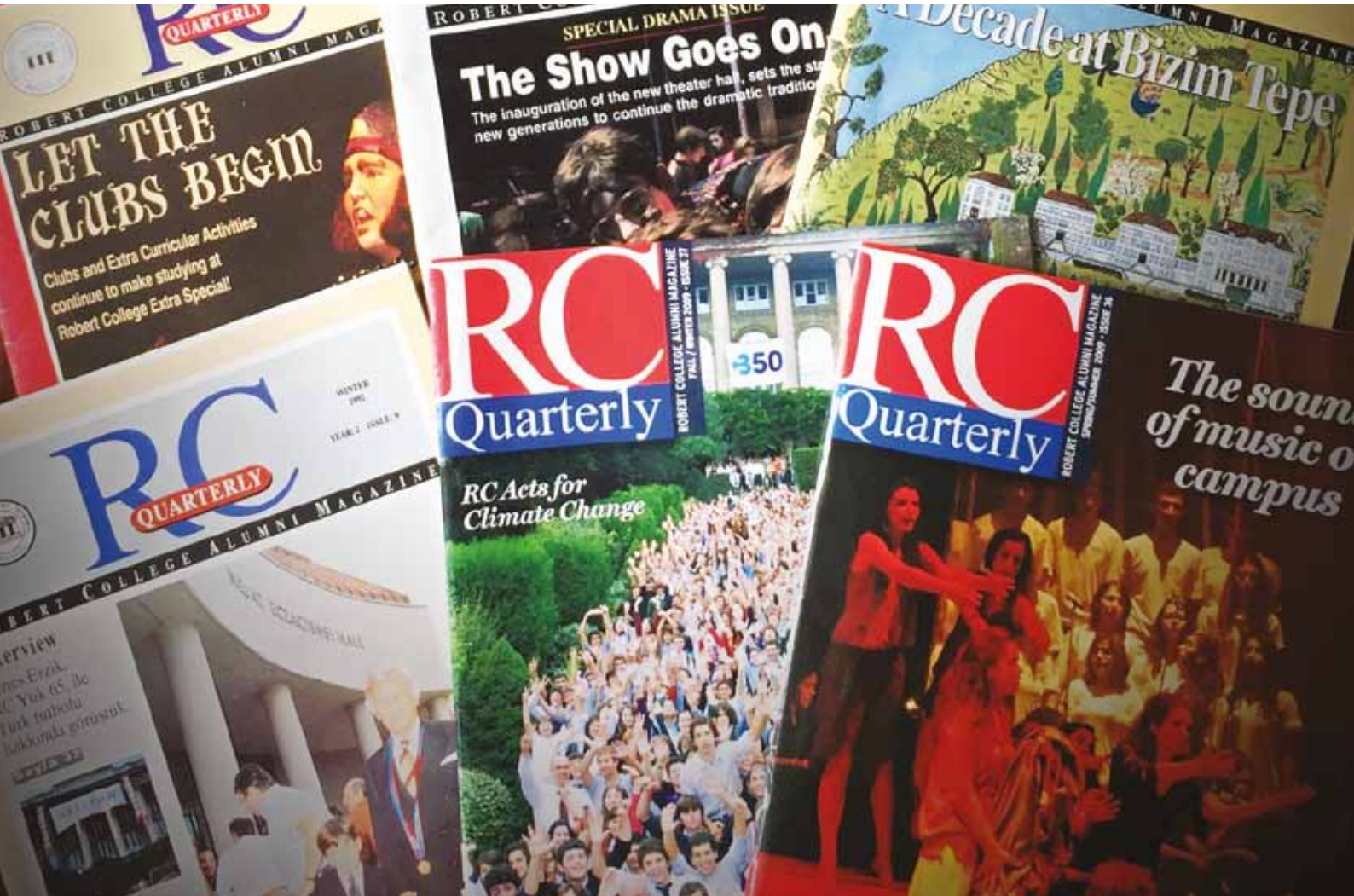
# The RC Quarterly 50<sup>th</sup> Issue

Join us in marking a milestone for this magazine by taking a stroll down memory lane to issues, people and events past.

## RC Alumni Publications

RC Trustee Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62, writing in the RC 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition Catalog, pointed out that the first incarnation of an alumni magazine dated back to 1900, shortly after the school's founding.

*"One of the first things the RC Alumni Association did on its founding in 1900 was to publish a magazine. This was the Alumnus, which appeared at a time when alumni magazines were not common. Harvard's Bulletin had only been started in 1897. Only a few issues of*



*Alumnus* appeared, however. World War I put an end to its hopes. The 1948 revival under Herbert Lane's editorship, who became the Alumni Secretary, began with a few pages in the student publication *The Tower*.

When this magazine ceased to exist a few months later, the *Bulletin* was mimeographed, with the support of the newly created Alumni Association under the presidency of Suha Sezgin ACG 29 and the vice presidency of Rasim Cenani RC 36. In 1951 it was printed in a newspaper format and the following year made its debut as a complete magazine. As of 1957 it was printed as a pocket size magazine of 32 pages. ACG Alumni Association Secretary Nesime Morali ACG 29 joined as associate editor in 1963.

### RC Quarterly (RCQ)

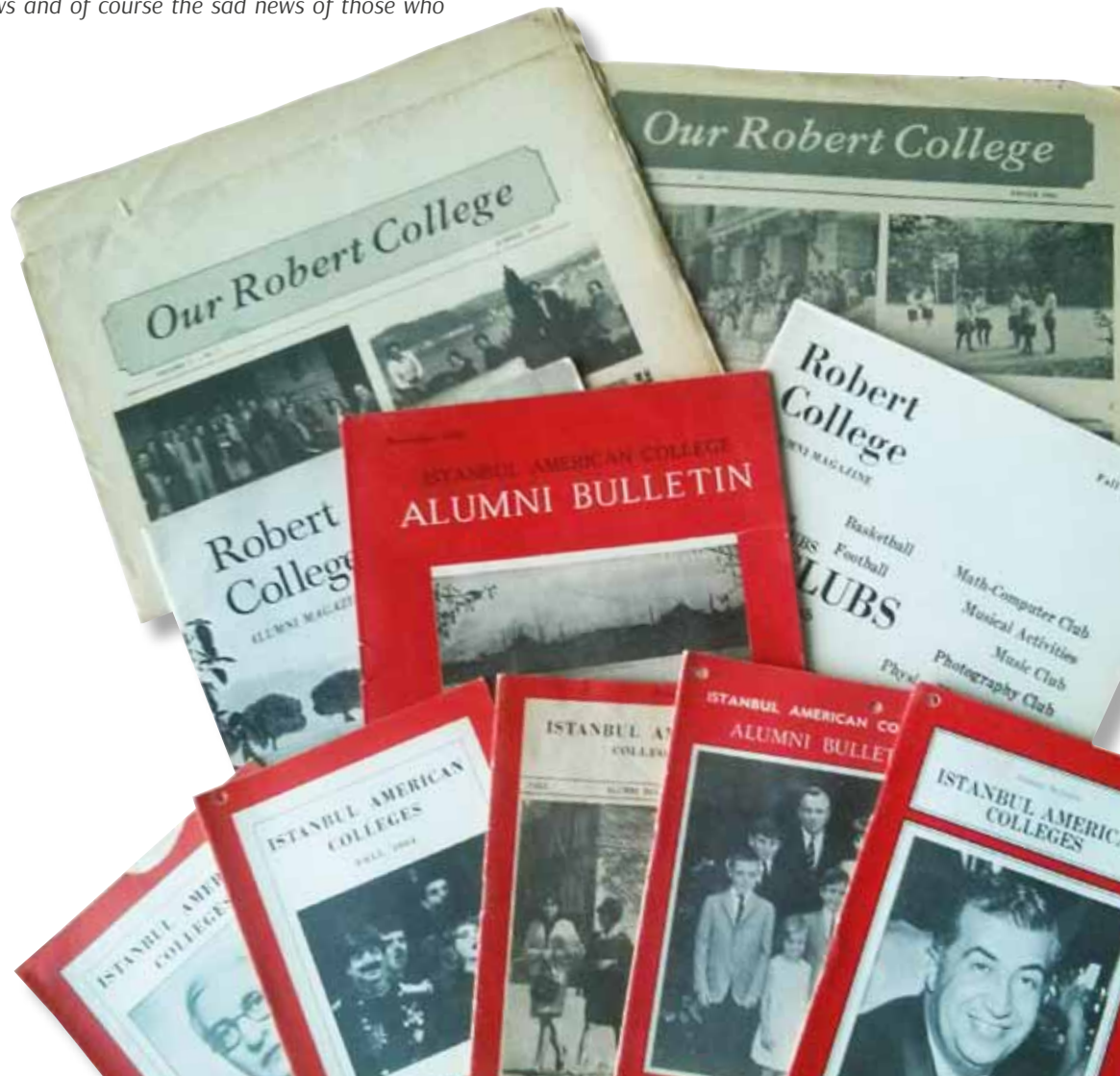
After Herbert Lane tragically passed away in a plane crash in 1972, alumni publications suffered a hiatus. Zeynep Durukan ACG 57 who served as Alumni Secretary between 1977 and 1983 resumed periodic alumni publications. The current RC Quarterly came into being under the leadership of Leyla Aktay RC 72 in the spring of 1989, and has been the longest running continuous alumni publication, even if not always published quarterly. The production of the magazine is supported through advertising income, and is distributed free of charge to ten thousand alumni all over the world.

The magazine publishes stories about RC and alumni, with accomplishments of the alumni, interviews, news and of course the sad news of those who have left us."

Anniversaries evoke different moods. Joy and celebration, almost certainly. Perhaps also wistfulness and nostalgia. Here at the RC Quarterly, looking back on the magazine's humble beginnings, we marvel mainly at its longevity and shape-shifting ability to keep up with the times, as well as a school culture that has long supported the importance of the written word.

All issues of the RCQ can be found online at [www.robcol.k12.tr/Alumni-Development/RC-quarterly](http://www.robcol.k12.tr/Alumni-Development/RC-quarterly)

Until 1972 the *Alumni Bulletin* came out monthly. At the time 4000 copies of each issue were printed and sent to graduates of RC and ACG in 58 countries around the world.





**Spring 1989****Continuing a Legacy**

"With this issue, we are resuming the publication of the Robert College Alumni Newspaper – after quite a long interval with a brand new format! ...The goals of this publication are to continue to promote the RC spirit, to keep us all informed of what everyone is up to and of where the school stands today," wrote Editor in Chief Leyla Aktay RC 72 in 1989 in the editor's note. Throughout the years the magazine has lived up to these goals, as it remains a relevant and much enjoyed medium for keeping the alumni community in touch.

The 1989 editorial board members included Suay Aksoy RC YÜK 72, Deniz Alphan ACG 67, Atilla Çelikiz RC 54, Cahit Düzel RA 65, Nilgün Güresin ACG 69, Evin İlyasoğlu ACG 66, Ayla Sevand ACG 67 and Mete Taşkıran RC 55, with support from Nursuna Memecan RC 75 for the production of the magazine.



Neşe Erberk RC 82 and Altanur Kılıç RC 44

**Fall 1989****RC Celebrates 125 Years**

The second RCQ of that year celebrated the graduation of the Class of 89 – on the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school! The magazine noted that as writer Refik Erduran RC 47 (see obituary on page 76) remarked in his graduation speech, the thread of continuity between generations of RC alumni is strong. "I see a little bit of myself in all of you," said Erduran who encouraged the Class of '89 to "break out of the mold" as long as it did not cause harm to anyone. Then headmaster Harry Dawe spoke to the new graduates about democracy and that "RC is an ideal microcosm for this to be learned."

Celebrations for the 125<sup>th</sup> year included an art exhibition by more than 50 well-known alumni painters, artists, sculptors.

That issue also included an interview with the very first Miss Turkey graduate of the school – Neşe Erberk RC 82, interviewed by the journalist Altanur Kılıç RC 44 (see obituary on page 75). Kılıç asked Erberk what she thought was the greatest quality of RC, to which she replied, "The school teaches you to stand on your own two feet. You also learn to be responsible for yourself and to bear the consequences of your actions."

**Winter 1990****Living Legend John Freely**

Issue 4 featured a wonderful lead interview with the prolific author and one-time College teacher John Freely by Mete Taşkıran RC 55 over a beer in the Çiçek Pasajı. Taşkıran asked Freely to talk about his years at RC.

"I taught at Robert College-Boğaziçi University from 1960 until 1976. (...) The College was one of the intellectual and artistic centers in Istanbul during those years, particularly through Sumner-Boyd's Hisar Players, and the humanities program. Hilary, David Garwood and Keith Greenwood were the central figures. They influenced the careers of the former



John Freely

Prime Minister of Turkey, Bülent Ecevit, and the former Minister of Culture Talat Halman, (Talat once told me that Hilary was by far the most important figure in his intellectual and artistic development), as well as people with diverse careers. The other deep influence on my development during those years was Istanbul itself, for like all great cities it is a university, and under the tutelage of scholars like Godfrey Goodwin and Hilary Sumner-Boyd I was able to learn something of its Byzantine and Ottoman architecture, while the incomparable Near East Collection at the Van Millingen Library at RC opened up the history of this area to me, with the help of Lee Fonger, who was the most creative of the librarians there in my time."

## Summer 1990

### Leading Lady Dorothy İz

In Issue 5, Nedim Göknil RC YÜK 65, a theatrical talent in his own right, interviewed his former drama teacher Dorothy İz. "When asked to interview Mrs. Dorothy İz, I was more than thrilled," he wrote. "Not only was it going to give me the opportunity to talk to a lady whom I had always liked and admired, but it was also going to take me back to a period of my life which was rich, beautiful and unforgettable."

**Nedim Göknil:** We go a long way back Dorothy. But I want to go even further back and start at the very beginning. When was the beginning? When did you start all the things you have been doing in the school theater?

**Dorothy İz:** It was 1956. It all started in the old auditorium. There was no proper lighting. What was ordered came smashed, on route. It took a long time to repair them. I think there always was an interest in theater. Remember this was a hill. The girls did not have much of a life outside the campus. The need to express their selves was there. We started doing four assembly plays a year and two major productions, all in English. We used to do a lot of classical plays, like "Hedda Gabler", "The Three Sisters", etc. At the time we also had one Turkish History play a year. Students wrote the text.



Nedim Göknil RC YÜK 65 and Dorothy İz

## Alumni Top Ten

The Summer 1990 edition included the results of a random survey of graduates of all ages asking for their top 10 most famous RC alumni. Because of ties, the list actually came out to be 13 people, who were portrayed as a lively caricature.



Front row from L to R: Genco Erkal RC 57, Burhan Karaçam RC YÜK 72, Haldun Dormen RC 49, Nevra Serezli ACG 65, Halide Edip Adıvar ACG 1901 and İbrahim Bevil RA 64  
Back row from L to R: Talat Halman RC 51, Zeki Alasya RC 63 ex, Bülent Ecevit RC 44, Nejat Eczacıbaşı RC 32, Cem Boyner RC 74 and Feyyaz Berker RC ENG 46



### Spring 1991

#### Inauguration of Suna Kırac Hall

"Drama was and still is very much a way of life at Robert College. Did you know that the first Mikado was staged in 1905?" the seventh RCQ editorial note asked. This issue highlighted the inauguration of the new theater building in 1991 – the Suna Kırac Hall. When the old Assembly Hall at ACG was turned into a gymnasium to accommodate the doubling of the student body caused by the merger of the two campuses in 1971, it left a big void in the College community. The opportunity to rebuild a theater hall came in 1986. Feyyaz Berker directed a fundraising evening to set the building campaign in motion, gaining wide support from alumni and friends of the school. Especially meaningful was the "theater seat" drive led by the Alumni Association where donors contributed by endowing a seat in the new hall. The theater is one of the most used venues on campus today. It serves as a ceremonial space and a backdrop to musical and drama performances and talks and much more.

### Summer 1991

#### Remembering the Co-Ed Merger

This issue marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic decision to merge what had been the boy's school Robert Academy (now Boğaziçi University) and the American College for Girls (on the present campus) into a single co-educational institution. John Chalfant, head of both RA and ACG at the time, wrote in the RCQ of the experience:

*"As head of the Academy in 1970-71 I was part of a merger review committee composed of reps from RA and ACG. We had little to do with the Board's decision to give the 'Yüksek' to the Turkish government and to relocate the Academy but had everything to do with its implementation. No one was really certain it would all happen until the early spring and then we had to move fast and furiously. All this, by the way, against a background of political and economic unrest that made this one of the more difficult years in Turkish education. Given the signal to go, we had to arrange for the movement of the assets and physical facilities of RA to Arnavutköy (eventually it totaled 500 truckloads at 5+ tons- a load of materials), to arrange for a handover of certain items to the new Boğaziçi University; to develop/ enlarge, rearrange the 'plant' at ACG to accommodate 400 boys on a campus built for 600 girls; to prepare a new curriculum, and so on. There was also the task of seeing the Class of '71 through to graduation. In all, a memorable month of May..."*



The cast of the ACG theatre production of Mikado in 1905

### Winter 1992

#### Three New Halls Named on Campus

On the cover of this issue, the RCQ celebrated the inauguration of the Nejat Eczacıbaşı Hall, part of a campus master plan drawn up to ease overcrowding and allow for better flow of Orta and Lise divisions. Three new buildings were the heart of this redesign, made possible by generous alumni support. The halls are named after their benefactors. The Science building is named after Feyyaz Berker RC ENG 46, of Tekfen Holding; the theater is named after Suna Kırac ACG 60, of the Koç Foundation; the Gym building is named after Nejat Eczacıbaşı RC 32, of Eczacıbaşı Holding.



*"One can easily imagine the many practical problems that required attention to prepare a functional co-educational school, and yet to retain the charms and splendid harmonies of the Girls College," Chalfant added. "Also these many alterations were conducted within the very strict limits imposed on the foreign private schools by the public law 625, which forbade expansion and development. By and large, the students showed us the way. They blended more easily and quickly than we had dared to hope. They were positive, genuine and exceptionally mature. They did not act out the lurid scenarios foreseen by many a parent and alumni. They made the best of the situation and a new RC began to emerge - combining the best elements of the two schools."*

## Spring 1993

### A Decade of Bizim Tepe

In June 1993, the College alumni social club Bizim Tepe turned 10. Former alumni affairs director Zeynep Man Durukan ACG 57 recounted for the RCQ how that venue came about.

"The idea goes way back to 1978," she wrote. "That was the year Jim Maggart was appointed Headmaster of Robert College and I, as Director of Alumni Affairs and Development. Alumni interest at school was at an all time low. In 1972 the Bebek Campus had officially quit being Robert College and was Boğaziçi University. On the Arnavutköy Campus, which for over a century had housed the American College for Girls, now appeared a co-ed high school named Robert College.

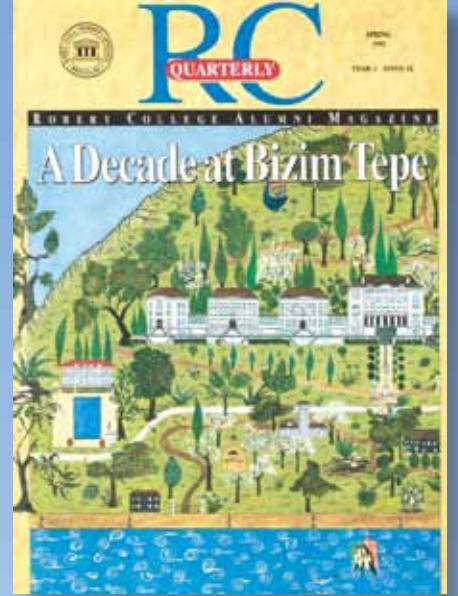
"The ACG alumni refused to consider the new school as their alma mater. They all fondly remembered the beautiful Assembly Hall, the elegant dining rooms, the Blue and Yellow Parlors. The Bebek campus alumni on the other hand, said they only visited their sisters in Arnavutköy, or came over to participate in and attend parties, plays or concerts. This new high school had nothing to do with them. So, Jim Maggart and I put our heads together and came up with the idea of founding something new that all alumni could identify with, an alumni club. This idea was presented to the Board of the Alumni Association and was met with great enthusiasm. Word soon spread amongst the alumni and interest was great.

"In the meantime some members of the Association Board, thinking this project to be beyond their scope, went to the Hisar Education Foundation (HEV) and asked for their help and co-operation. The first reaction of HEV was somewhat cautious. They said that if by 1980 the alumni association could come up with 20,000,000 TL they would consider it.

"Jim Maggart suggested purchasing a piece of land adjoining the campus. This would serve a double purpose of allowing the alumni access to the campus grounds and also kindle their interest in the school, its students, faculty and administration; since it would be so very close by.

#### "The twenty believers in the cause"

The twenty "believers in the cause" were: Nigâr Alemdar ACG 66, Özger Arnas RC ENG 57, İnal Avcı RC ENG 59, Selahattin Bereket RC YÜK 65, Ömer Erül RC YÜK 63, Ayla Gümüşlügil ACG 55, Fahir İlkel RC 44, Oya Karamızrak ACG 57, Suna Kırarç 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.



"The 20,000,000 TL was collected in a record short time thanks to the donations of 20 alumni, and on August 20, 1979 the land on which the Bizim Tepe building stands was bought by HEV."





### Summer 1996

#### If He Loses, RC Wins!

In the 15<sup>th</sup> issue, Trustee Hasan Subaşı RA 61 spoke about how the Annual Giving Campaign began. "Without Annual Giving, Robert College's education quality would fall, and would be non-existent in 25 years, because the annual expenses of the school are greater than what the school can use from the endowment," he said. He and Annual Giving Committee co-chair Kutsi Beğdeş RC 38, were not sure of how much they could raise in the first year, or if they could continue the momentum over the years.

When the campaign started, Subaşı made a bet with Beğdeş; if they could reach their goal, Subaşı would treat Beğdeş to dinner. That year Beğdeş won. "After that, it became both a tradition and a bit of a joke," said Subaşı. "Every year we reach our goal and I treat the entire Annual Giving Committee to lunch. I'm happy to say that Kutsi Bey has been right each year."



Hasan Subaşı RA 61 and Kutsi Beğdeş RC 38

### Spring 1997

#### Remembering Cornelius Bull

In this edition, the magazine ran a lead interview with Cornelius Bull, the much admired Headmaster of Robert College in the early 60s, who spoke to Ferda Tarzi ACG 71, and to Ibrahim Betil RA 64.

**Ferda Tarzi:** What objectives did you have in mind when you first came to Istanbul?

**Cornelius Bull:** I had no objectives. I did not come to save the Turks. I wasn't sure they needed saving and certainly I wasn't arrogant enough to think that I had some answers. I expected to come here to learn. One of the first people I met here was Hüseyin Pektaş, the Turkish Vice-President at RC. He was the first graduate of RC in 1903, illegally since they weren't permitted to graduate until 1923. He was also Atatürk's translator, during the Treaty of Lausanne.

His wife Mihri Pektaş was the Turkish representative to the UN and taught Turkish literature at RA. She was Gülgün Canh's grandmother. H. Pektaş of course had known every president of RC personally. At that time he was in his 80s. An extraordinary man, very wise and so I talked him out as I did others like Behçet Kemal Çağlar who were interested and whom I could listen to. I was interested in listening. I wasn't interested in talking.



Ferda Tarzi ACG 71 Jr. with former Headmaster Cornelius Bull

Some of the presidents I served came here with reputations and they didn't listen. They could have saved themselves a lot of anguish if they listened to some of the Turkish people like H. Pektaş and Orhan Mersinli who were very wise and also the Turkish trustees.

**FT:** Your students think you are the most influential headmaster at RC? Why do you think so?

**CB:** I've always made waves. I think you've got to stir people up. (...) The most important thing about being a headmaster is having a sense of humor. Without that you are dead. This human comedy has to be taken with a grain of salt. Almost everybody responds to humor.

#### RC is on the World Wide Web!

In 1997, the RCQ announced that the school got its very first URL: [www.robcol.k12.tr](http://www.robcol.k12.tr) and its own web and mail servers. The then-website was created as a yearly homework project by Ali Soylu RC 2000 and Sun-il Kim under the direction of faculty member Colin Edmonds.

### Winter 1999

#### Earthquake Relief Efforts

The Winter 1999 issue was devoted to the impact of a devastating earthquake that struck western Turkey in August, killing tens of thousands of people. The college responded by setting up The Robert College Earthquake Aid Committee, formed by members of various sections of the RC community - mainly faculty and staff, wrote former registrar Bengü Shepherd and library assistant Siir Tursan. They started work on August 18, right after the disaster. Their first priority was to provide immediate relief for disaster victims by funding AKUT, providing medical equipment and support for weekly emergency supply lists. They also hosted a seminar on "Post-traumatic psycho-social support for children in earthquake areas", for 90 psychologists. Bizim Tepe served as a collection hub for supplies and many individual alumni were involved in relief efforts.

The next issue of the RCQ recounted how a week-long summer camp was held for students from new RC sister schools in the earthquake-hit area Gölcük Barbaros Hayrettin, Değirmendere H. Halit Erkut and Adapazarı H. Zehra Akkoç High Schools.

### Winter 2001

#### Transforming into a Five Year Lise

This issue featured an interview with Whitman Shepard, appointed Lise director to steer the school through its transition from being a seven-year orta-lise to a five-year lise. It was a major change.

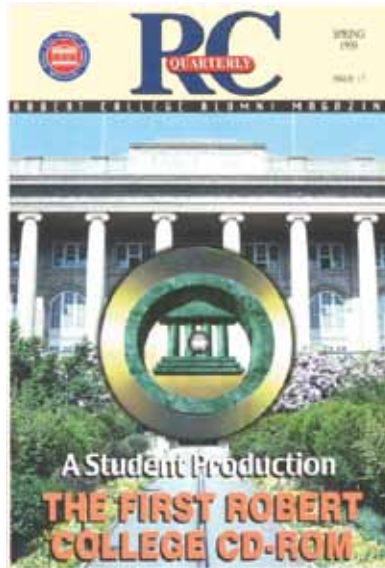


Pelin Turgut RC 92  
interviews former Lise Director Whitman Shepard

### Spring 1999

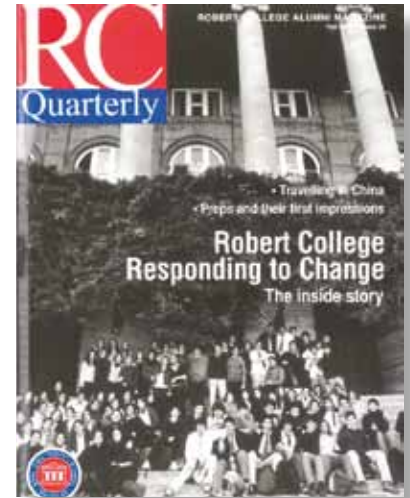
#### The First RC CD-Rom

The Spring 1999 RCQ cover celebrated the school's first.... CD-ROM. It was two years in the making, supported by a generous donation from a graduate, Haldun Tasman RA 62. As well as providing the funds, Mr. Tasman met with the students to guide them. The magazine notes, "The necessary hardware and software were purchased and the CD-ROM Club students enthusiastically set to work under the guidance of faculty advisor Greg Keys. Photographs were scanned, old videos digitized, new videos made, information saved, designs made, new & specialized software studied..."



### Fall 2002

#### Celebrating Diversity



In sync with the transition at the school, Issue 20 focused on change. The cover article pointed out that one advantage of the new Lise meant that students were coming in at an older age and that made it easier for parents in diverse parts of Turkey to consider sending their children. There were now students from 33 different cities, including cities as far as Siirt and Diyarbakır. While fewer than 9 percent of students were boarders a few years ago, that number was 17 percent for the incoming class. The percentage of 7-day boarders as opposed to 5-day boarders rose from 26 to 43 percent, resulting in the creation of a new boarders' program. The broadening of the applicant pool also increased the need for financial aid. The trustees responded by making a significant increase in the school's scholarship budget to accommodate the rising needs. The school also began running an outreach effort in different parts of Turkey to introduce it to a wider audience.

He spoke to Pelin Turgut RC 92. "We have to spend a fair amount of time and energy trying to figure out how we want to establish our philosophy, what we want to teach, how we want to teach it, as well as incorporate Ministry regulations about what we have to teach! We had to develop a whole new four-year academic program. It took us about a year and a half to do that. Then we had to put it in the right format for the Ministry of Education. I went up with the program to Ankara and presented it to the Talim Terbiye, talked it through and got it approved.

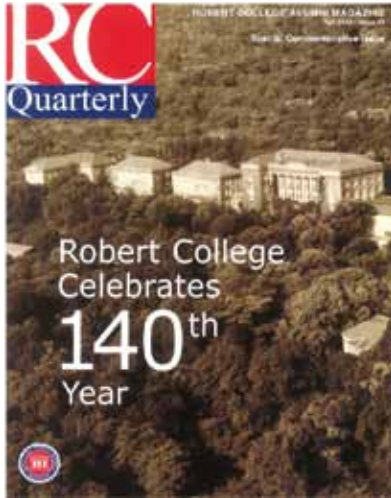
**Pelin Turgut:** So what is it Robert College is trying to achieve with all these changes?

**Whitman Shepard:** Give more electives to kids, get kids to take more responsibility for their learning rather than it being imposed and through that process teach students how to make responsible choices. They have about eight or nine electives over three years, we tried to protect that for the new Lise.



**Fall 2002****A New Look**

Appropriately enough, the same issue also presented a new and updated design for the magazine. Supported by RC 92 alumni Serra Ciliv and Pelin Turgut, and Refika Birgül RC 98, the new look involved a new approach to content. RC graduates were invited to contribute to the magazine, writing topical essays, reporting on their achievements and more.

**Fall 2003****140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue**

In Fall 2003 the magazine celebrated the school's 140<sup>th</sup> year with a special commemorative issue. The cover story featured "a Scrapbook of 140 Years," starting with September 16, 1863 when Cyrus Hamlin opened the school in Bebek with just four students, and leading up to 2003. The issue included over 20 pages of iconic photos, historical trivia and a timeline of major RC milestones.

**Spring 2005****Commemorating Rodney Wagner**

Issue 27 marked the passing of Rodney B. Wagner, who served as the Chairman of the Board of Robert College of Istanbul from 1979-2002, and was a Trustee since 1968. The magazine noted that "His knowledge of and devotion to Turkey were legendary, and his counsel sought by many. He led Robert College through decades of change gracefully, generously, and with great enjoyment."



Rodney Wagner stepped down as Board Chair in 2002, and James Maggart succeeded him

*"The cover story noted that soon after Rodney's death, a piece in a major Turkish newspaper ran the headline 'Uncle Rodney has died', by Güngör Uras. Uras wrote in Milliyet: 'Indeed, for my country Turkey, Rodney was an uncle. And, for many of us, a brother, a mentor and a dear friend.'"*

**Winter 2005****Greeks and Turks**

Issue 26 celebrated the historic achievements of RC graduates involved in building better ties with neighbor Greece, one-time arch enemy. The rapprochement was led by Turkey's then Foreign Minister İsmail Cem RC 59 who, together with his Greek counterpart George Papandreou, staked his political credibility on building good relations with Greece after years of hostility. Cem and Papandreou seized on goodwill between Turks and Greeks in the wake of two earthquakes as an opportunity to help soften mutual distrust.

The story also notes contributions to this effort by Eraklis Millas RA 61, who is Greek and Turkish, and who has published several works on the image of the Other in Greek and Turkish literature. Millas has published many articles on themes relating to Greek-Turkish relations (over 200 in newspapers alone) and he participated in the preparation of a voluminous Greek-Turkish dictionary in 1944. He translated and published in Turkish the complete works of Giorgos Seferis and Constantine Cavafy, for instance, and in Greek, Turkish poets such as Yunus Emre, Can Yücel and Nazmi Akiman.

Former Boğaziçi University rector Üstün Ergüder RC 57 was one of eight influential Turks and Greeks on the Greek-Turkish Forum Political Analysis Group, a high-profile private initiative set up in May 1998 to assist in improving relations between Turkey and Greece. Meanwhile RC English Language and Literature teacher Jennifer Sertel was a founding member of WINPEACE, an initiative created to facilitate the growth of "peace culture".

**Winter 2007  
Turkey's First  
Nobel Laureate**

Issue 31 celebrated the great achievement of novelist Orhan Pamuk RA 70 winning the Nobel Prize for Literature, becoming the first Turk to ever do so.

## Winter 2007

### Climate Change and the Internet

The Winter issue that year included Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93, a conservation ecologist, ornithologist and nature photographer, sounded the warning for climate change and the risk to many bird species of extinction. It also featured an article by Barış Karadoğan RC 90, a venture capitalist in Silicon Valley, who wrote about how Facebook was the biggest event to transform the Internet in 2007.



## Fall 2009

### RC All Stars

Issue 37 celebrated what it called the RC All-Stars, teachers who had been at the school for 20 years or more. Turkish Literature teacher Mehmet Uysal said of the culture of RC, which he joined at the age of 23: "RC does not just train its students, it creates its own type of teacher in time" he says. "Your vision of the world changes fundamentally in this multilingual and multicultural environment."



RC teachers who were at RC 20 years or more, at the Teachers Day luncheon hosted by the Parents Association at Bizim Tepe in 2009.

From L to R: Colin Edmonds, Diane Özbal, İzzet Dodurgali, Mehmet Uysal, Nüket Eren, Hafize Değer and Dave Philips (not pictured: Cahit Can, Adil İzci, Tony Baker, Philip Esposito, Clem McDonnell and Alison Oğuz)

### The RCQ Editorial Board in 2009



The RCQ Editorial Board in 2009. Clockwise from left, Sedat Ergin RC 75, Elçin Yahsi RC 79, Nuri Çolakoglu RA 62, Leyla Aktay RC 72, Nüket Sirman RC 72, Zeynep Kayhan RC 2000, Mehveş Dramur RC 96, Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu, Pelin Turgut RC 92 and Deniz Alphan ACG 67. From RC Quarterly issue 36.

## Spring 2010

### Going Hi Tech

Issue 38 focused on technology in education. It told alumni how, in 2008, it quietly became one of the first schools in Turkey to adopt Moodle, short for a virtual course-management system that changed the face of education worldwide. Formally called Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment, Moodle allows teachers to create a virtual classroom in a safe online environment where students can access assignments, quizzes and other materials. It is the kind of program that has been the foundation of online classes at universities and was launched at RC thanks to a 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion Gift by the Class of 1983, led by Jean Manas.

### Themed Issues

The RCQ then tried its hand a number of themed issues – Inspiration, and, a year later, Renewal. The magazine collected stories from numerous graduates doing interesting things around the world, based on the theme.

### Turning 150

Issues 43, 44 and 45 were dedicated to the school's 150<sup>th</sup> year celebration. The issues featured highlights from events in Istanbul, the US and London.





### Winter 2014 100 Years in Arnavutköy

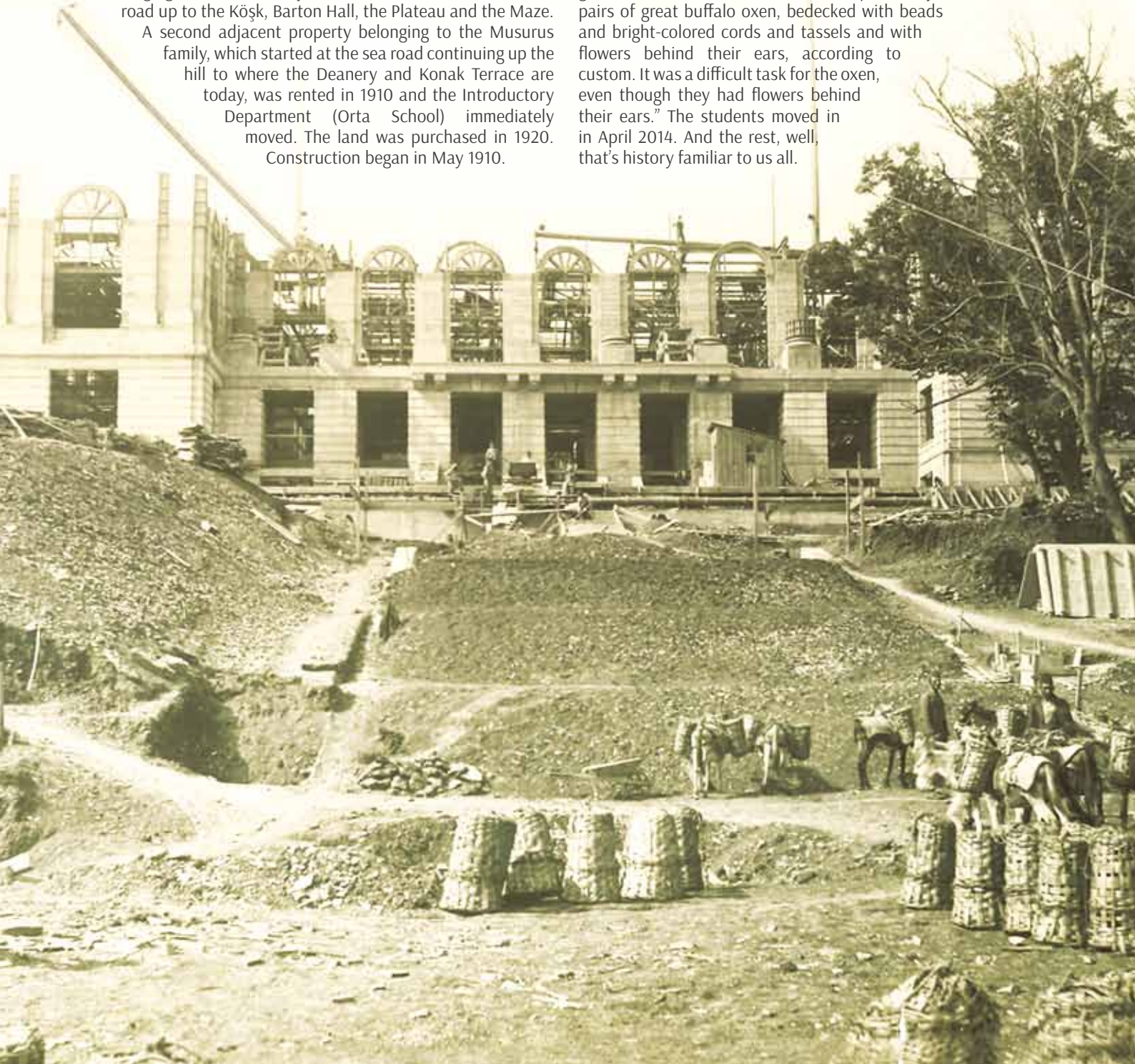
2014 marked a hundred years on the Arnavutköy campus. The cover story in this issue of the RCQ was about the beginnings of the campus. The two properties that would decades later become the Robert College campus were founded in Arnavutköy after fire destroyed a previous building in Üsküdar.

The deed from the first property was obtained in 1908. Belonging to the Düz family, it included the land from the sea road up to the Köşk, Barton Hall, the Plateau and the Maze.

A second adjacent property belonging to the Musurus family, which started at the sea road continuing up the hill to where the Deanery and Konak Terrace are today, was rented in 1910 and the Introductory Department (Orta School) immediately moved. The land was purchased in 1920. Construction began in May 1910.

The campus design was unique in that the buildings were built from the foundations up, according to one plan. At that time, very few schools could claim the same advantage.

Then headmistress Dr. Patrick, describing the construction, said, "The first demonstration was dragging the large stone-crusher brought from America up the long, steep grade to the new site. This was accomplished by ten pairs of great buffalo oxen, bedecked with beads and bright-colored cords and tassels and with flowers behind their ears, according to custom. It was a difficult task for the oxen, even though they had flowers behind their ears." The students moved in in April 1914. And the rest, well, that's history familiar to us all.







The Ibrahim Bodur Library has a modern look while retaining its heritage

### Spring 2015 Library Revamp

Issue 47 marked changes and renewal of the Library, made possible by a generous gift from Ibrahim Bodur, the Kale Group Founder and Honorary President, on the occasion of the school's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The new library is now named after him.

Bronze plaques were put up to honor the names of major gift and significant gift donors in commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> year of Robert College in a dedication ceremony held on campus in May 2015.

### Summer 2016 New Student Center

Issue 49 marked the launch of the Murat Karamanci Student Center, formerly known as the Bubble or White House. A generous gift by long-time RC supporter Murat Karamanci, son of Demir Karamanci RC 48, and the father of Kaan Karamanci RC 04 L3, enabled a wonderful space for Robert College students to eat, study and spend time with friends. A great view of the natural surroundings, and use of outdoor space are among the outstanding features of the new center, allowing students, teachers and staff to enjoy their meals and free time around the trees near the Maze, overlooking the small fish pond.



Students enjoy dining and hanging out in the Murat Karamanci Student Center

### Here and Now

And that brings us to this issue – number 50! We are once again launching a new look to commemorate this milestone and keep moving with the times. We want to thank all alumni and friends who have contributed over the years to this magazine in so many different ways. It is a privilege to be able to showcase and celebrate a community as deep-rooted as ours.

*Here's  
to the next*

50





## Yapı Kredi Crystal sahipleri seyahat ederken de ayrıcalıklıdır.

Yapı Kredi Crystal sahibiyse, biriken puanlarınız  
seyahat harcamalarınızda değer kazanır.  
Puanlarınız yeterli değilse Avanspuan ayrıcalığından yararlanırsınız.  
Ayrıca puanlarınızla aldığınız uçak biletleriniz için  
alan vergisi ödemezsiniz.

PAHADA AĞIR ŞEYLERİ ALMANIN EN HAFİF YOLU





# Lise 9 Student Emir Koçak Named Balkan Riding Champion



Emir Koçak L9 jumps with his horse Contero 8

Emir Koçak and his horse Contero 8 rode away with the winner's trophy in the Junior category at the Balkan Riding Championships in September 2016 in Romania. The Lise 9 student also has other show jumping accolades including winning the İnönü Cup and the Turkish Championship three years in a row.

He spoke to the RCQ about his riding career so far, and where he sees himself in the future.

## When did you start riding?

It began in 2009 when we moved to a new house. My mom and aunt went for a walk and saw stables close by. I went riding the next day and really liked it. I found a nice horse and a good teacher and went from there.

## What do you like about riding?

Riding is different than other sports I've done because I'm doing it with a horse that is also alive, thinking, and feeling. You can be having your best day, but your horse may not be, and this makes riding more challenging and fun. Also, when you win, you win with your horse; it's a team effort.

## How do you balance training with school?

It's difficult! After school I go to the stables for about an hour and a half, then go home. My parents are very disciplined, so I think that has helped me to be disciplined, which I need to be successful in riding and my studies. My father, who is also a rider, always says you have to work hard to achieve something and never give up.

## What are your goals for the future?

My main goal is to get a medal in the European championships in next three years, before going to university. I also want to compete in the Olympics one day. I got to watch Turkey compete in show jumping in Rio. It was really inspiring.



Emir Koçak L9 and Contero 8 at the European Championship in 2015

# Lise 12 Student Emir Akdere Publishes His First Novel

The RCQ typically brings you news on recently published books authored by RC alumni; however, this author is still a student. Emir Akdere, a senior, has published his first book, *Septik Düşünceler* (*Sceptical Thoughts*).

It is a philosophy book, asking questions about humanity, religion, reason, ethics and other issues. A sentence in the prologue is the main theme of his work: Every idea is destined to be challenged.

Akdere also won a bronze at the Baltic Sea Philosophy Essay Event with his essay titled "Reason as a Constructive and Deconstructive Agent". In addition, he came 7<sup>th</sup> at the Turkish Philosophy Olympics.

Emir talked with RCQ about his book, his life and his plans for the future.

**Do you define yourself as a philosopher?**  
Definitely, but I think the fact that philosophy is isolated from popular culture and became the property of the esoteric language of academics is truly sad. I think everyone is a philosopher, and - due to their own original perspective - has unmatched wisdom. That is why I try my best to have a chat with every taxi driver to learn from what their circumstances have taught them.

## What urged you write?

I want to be understood before anyone tries to refute my ideas. It is common for me to be labeled a sexist and a queer simultaneously, when I state that I am a feminist but also criticize the representation of the ideology. I am well aware that the world is neither black nor white, and it is hard to communicate that grayness in a debate, where rhetoric is valued over logic. So, I published my book, a manifesto of my ideas, in order to fully articulate myself.

## You are also a part of the RC Orchestra. Does music help you in philosophy?

Unamuno defines humans as "feeling animals" instead of "rational animals." Music undeniably stirs emotions beyond the limits of any rationale. Thus, I see it inherently valuable, because it addresses the more primary aspects of humans than rationality. This is a philosophical outlook I gained in RC Orchestra.

## What are your plans for the future?

After getting a bachelor's degree in engineering/physics (like my idol, Wittgenstein) and philosophy, I aim to focus on the research of interfacial connection between physics and ethics, and hopefully, be a "popularizer of philosophy" like Alain de Botton.



Emir Akdere L12



Emir at a book signing for *Sceptical Thoughts*



# Lapland

## A Fairy Tale-Like Trip into the North

By Zeynep Özoğul Turan RC 02

This summer, my husband and I took a trip less ordinary and enjoyed three nights in a part of the world where 'night' was just a word and the sky never went dark!



Zeynep Özoğul Turan RC 02 and her husband Serhat at the Arctic Circle

Photo credits: BiGezGel.com and Gabriele Menis



In the summer, sunset over the Tornio River happens just before midnight

If you love traveling as much as we do, you already know that the world offers innumerable destinations with a wide range of diversities. If you have an idea of the experience you're seeking, many of these will satisfy your sense of adventure. While most locations offer something special to teach and show you, few embody the magical presence as those where nature takes central stage and offers you something completely unique. Lapland is such a destination and in our opinion definitely a "must see".

Our trip to Lapland was at the end of July, the region's hottest month. Our plan was to enjoy three days of our summer in surroundings and a climate distinctly different to our usual choices.

When the clocks struck midnight, the sun sank below the horizon but its light never faded. The sky changed from twilight to dawn before sunrise just three hours later. The experience of waking at night and witnessing this spectacle before drifting back to sleep was magical.

We had heard about the White Nights and were curious about the experience, so we jumped at the opportunity to enjoy this annual event in Finland. Even though a month had passed since the

northern solstice\*, the nights were still very short and light shone through the day – and night!

Seasons in Lapland - and there are only two - affect everyone and everything. Animals and people alike have to adjust to the varying conditions that nature presents, meaning that each visitor has a unique experience depending on the time of year. Even the reindeer change color and thickness of fur according to the season, as well as eye color! The rivers, full of numerous species of fish, are frozen in the winter and run full flow in the summer. People plan their daily activities and use of resources according to the amount of daylight and outdoor temperature.

Winter is the longest season in Lapland where snow is on the ground from November to May. In the northernmost point of Finland, the sun does not rise for 51

\* The northern solstice, or the longest day of the year for the northern hemisphere, occurs on June 21. The North Pole is as close as it gets to the sun during this period, which means the sun does not set at all in any location that remains on and/or above the Arctic Circle. If you are on the Arctic Circle on this day, the sun is on the horizon exactly at midnight and if you are north of the Arctic Circle, the sun remains above the horizon for 24 hours. This natural phenomenon is also known as the "midnight sun".



days resulting in the event known as “polar night” – where it is dark for over 24 hours and the temperatures are extraordinarily low, around  $-45^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $-50^{\circ}\text{C}$ . On the other hand, July is the hottest and sunniest month. While we were there, in late July, the region experienced the hottest days of the year.

Winter is so long and summer is so short that people do everything to enjoy the warm weather as much as they can. Taking a swim in the river, enjoying night bike rides, organizing parties which last until the morning, staying outdoors as much as possible is their way of “making the summer count”. And while doing these things, most of the time they do not know what time it is, because it does not get dark.

During our trip, we were based in Tornio, which is approximately 90 kilometers below the Arctic Circle, right beside the Tornio River which forms the border between Finland and Sweden. The border between the two countries in that region is the deepest point of the Tornio River. The river flow changes occasionally and a committee with members from both countries gathers every five years to reset the border.

We were able to experience river fishing in one of the locally made traditional handmade wooden-vessels, rafting on the waves of the Tornio River surrounded by virgin forests and bird song, canoeing between Sweden and Finland to see how borders in nature do not exist, and cycling under the ever-lit sky. We learned that in winter there are many other activities to partake in including ice fishing, husky safari, snowmobile riding, visiting a



Zeynep and Serhat's host Cristo brews up some traditional coffee

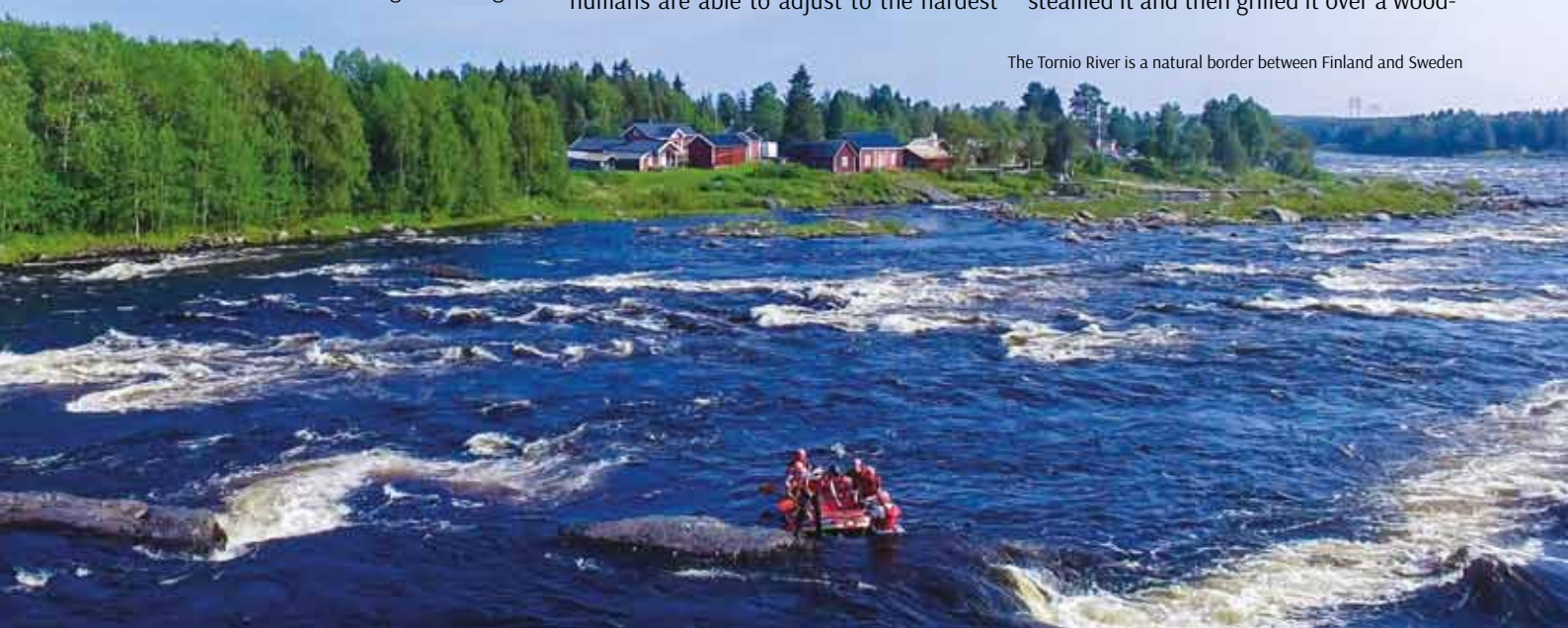
reindeer farm and watching the region's other famous phenomenon, the northern lights (Aurora Borealis).

One day, we drove all the way up to the Arctic Circle. Due to the tilt on the world's axis, it drifts north a little every year (approx. 15 meters) so they have a representational point in Finland, where you can go and take photos, with information on the Arctic Circle and flags of every country the arctic circle passes through. As you come closer to and go beyond the Arctic Circle, signs of human habitation decrease noticeably as the climate here is so harsh. Despite the fact that temperatures are so low for most of the year, we were amazed to see there were still people living there. Although sparse, there was life amongst the scattered houses and it was amazing to witness how humans are able to adjust to the hardest

conditions and insist on staying “at home”.

Overall, the food was great. Everything we ate was organic and came straight from the garden. The coffee was good - they preferred to mix it with vodka, which makes sense, as they must need some help to get through the dark and cold winter. Finland was under Russian rule in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and shares many culinary and physical traits with Russian culture. The service was fast and friendly. We were lucky enough to join in our Finnish travel agent's birthday party. He and his beautiful family with three lovely children were hospitable and great company. As the kids swam in the sparkling waters of the river, we tasted the fresh ‘white fish’ which had been caught by Cristo, our hotel manager, in the morning. He had kept it in salty water until the afternoon, lightly steamed it and then grilled it over a wood-

The Tornio River is a natural border between Finland and Sweden







If one is lucky, one can see the Northern Lights during winter nights

fire. It was one of the most delicious meals we ever had.

The Tornio River is bountiful with fish; salmon is the best known and pike and perch are plentiful in season. As for fruits, the wild berries we ate from the trees were delicious! In Finland, if the land is not fenced by the owners, you are free to collect what nature has given even if the land is private. We later learned that berries and mushrooms are very easy to find and harvest in this area.

The people of the north, whom we had assumed were cold just like their winter, were much more sympathetic and outgoing than we had expected. Prejudices do people wrong. The indigenous people of the land are the Sami, also known as Lapps. If you see someone herding reindeer, they are most probably Samis as this is what they have been doing for centuries. We heard their history in the region goes back almost 4,000 years and they continue their traditions even in this modern age.

Our favorite holidays are those where we are able to see something local, feel the soul of the place and understand the interaction local people have with the land. We can definitely say that Lapland was one of those places. People have

bonded with nature in a way that benefits the other without causing damage, working in harmony to improve the other's conditions. When seasons affect the human-nature relationship in such a distinct way, it is also great to see the destination in different seasons. We are planning another trip in March to enjoy

winter in Lapland and who knows, if we are lucky enough, we might just be able to enjoy the magical northern lights!

For more about Zeynep and her exciting trips visit [www.bigezgel.com](http://www.bigezgel.com) and see RCQ 49 p. 63. ■



A Sami with his reindeer



# Pop-up Artist

## Graces Swedish Salon



Hale Güngör Oppenheimer RC 2000

Artist Hale Güngör Oppenheimer RC 2000, exhibited some of her latest works at Sweden's renowned juried exhibition Liljevalchs Vårsalong (Spring Salon), from January 11-March 5, 2017 in Stockholm. This year, out of 2505 applicants, 127 were chosen to take part in the salon. This was Oppenheimer's second time in a row participating in this prestigious exhibition, which has been taking place since 1921.



"Tipping Point", mixed media, 2016

When asked how she became interested in different pop-up techniques, she points to 2012, when she started focusing on paper as a medium and the possibilities it has to offer. "As an artist who investigates home as a place as well as a feeling, I have always been interested in finding hidden spaces that belong neither to the physical nor to the psychological, but to something in-between," Oppenheimer says. Within this context, she began her research in order to materially create "a space in between" and pop-up seemed to be the most fitting way to express this state of limbo, which blurs the line between two and three dimensions and creates new spaces.

The past year has been productive for Oppenheimer, with three of her works from her *Industry* series included in the 11<sup>th</sup> Contemporary Istanbul exhibition in November 2016. She also produced a new pop-up book, *Detached*.



Detail from one of Hale Güngör Oppenheimer's pop-up works

Oppenheimer's studio is located in the largest artist collective in town, Platform Stockholm, and she is also represented by Pg Art Gallery in Istanbul. She exhibits

regularly in Turkey, Sweden and beyond, and has her work in prominent collections around the world. She has lived in Stockholm since 2010 with husband Björn

and their daughter Uma. For more info about the artist and her works, please visit [www.halegungor.com](http://www.halegungor.com)

## Yasemin Elçi RC 03-L3 Heads Leica Gallery

After studying economics and photography at Dartmouth College, Yasemin Elçi chose a career that would benefit from both these fields of expertise - art gallery management. She worked as director of Galeri x-ist for eight years. At the same time she co-founded the arts and

culture news site sanatonline.net as a social responsibility project. Since October 2016, Elçi has been the head of the Leica Gallery and Academy at Bomontiada. The academy, in cooperation with the gallery, organizes seminars and workshops about the technical and contextual aspects of photography

and its interest for collectors. The gallery displays work by emerging Turkish artists and renowned international names.

Photography galleries are scarce in Turkey. One of Leica Gallery's goals is to invite world-renowned photographers to Turkey, and thus fulfill an educational mission. It aims to connect local audiences with photographers whose work has not been introduced so far.

The second goal is to foster the recognition of local artists abroad, by using the connections between the Leica Galleries and organizing traveling exhibitions at venues outside Turkey. Elçi aspires to make a difference in this area. She believes in the significant educational value of the galleries through the services and exhibitions they offer, and she feels that educational programs about photography are even more crucial in a city like Istanbul. She hopes the academy's activities, aimed at visitors, artists and collectors, will be a driving force not just for the Leica Gallery, but for all local photography galleries.



Yasemin Elçi RC 03 L3



# Mining Family Treasures

By Güneş Ege Akter ACG 52

When I graduated from ACG in 1952 and sailed away for further studies in the US, I had no idea of the treasures buried in the big, *tarihî köşk* (historic mansion) where we spent our childhood. My late sister Seyhan (ACG 49) and I were busy with higher education and eventually our respective careers, with not a moment to wonder about our ancestors. Subsequently, following our father's retirement from teaching biology at Kadıköy Birinci Erkek Orta Okulu, our parents Ragıp and Nezahet Nurettin Ege established Erenköy Güneş Koleji in what was our home, finding great joy and fulfillment through their new vocation.

We were all busy and bound together by letters, which flew back and forth; remember, there was no texting, tweeting, face-time, iPhones, or cheap flights back then. After our father passed away in

1960, our mother continued running their school, battling bureaucracy to realize her ideals for education. When she, too, passed away in 1994, still at the helm of her school at the ripe age of 93, there was the task of dealing with the contents of the *köşk* which for 63 years had been a family home and then the core of an educational institution. Sifting through closets, drawers and steamer trunks I realized that a long journey awaited me – a perfect retirement project.

It was fortuitous that our parents had taught us the basics of *Osmanlıca* (Ottoman language) under the dim lights brought on by the black-outs of WWII. As I perused documents, photographs and the prolific correspondences all lovingly preserved, my *Osmanlıca* skills came to life. This mission yielded, through his diaries, an account of my father's WWI

activities as a reserve officer (*Babamın Emanetleri*, Dergâh Yayınları), the translation (*By The Light of A Candle*, Isis Press), a collection of poetry by my maternal grandfather, whose real job was accountant at the War Ministry (*Mustafa Nazmi – Divançe*, Dergâh Yayınları) and finally a view of 150 years of Turkish cultural history reflected through records pertaining to our family (*İhlamur Ağacının Gölgesinde Anılar Anılar Olanlar*, Isis Press). The meeting at Türk Ocağı, of two idealistic youths, a long and impassioned marriage proposal followed by a 12-year courtship was a particularly compelling story about our parents. My odyssey was as moving as it was rewarding and the fulfillment of a duty not only to my family but to our nation. I would urge anyone with such family treasures to spend the time to uncover the hidden gems and a part of our collective narrative.



## Vedii İlmen RC 46 Pens His Memoirs

*Hatıralarım, Yaşanmış Öyküler* (Yaba Yayınlar) by Vedii İlmen RC 46 chronicles the illustrious life of an intellectual born into a prominent Istanbul family in 1925. İlmen, a retired engineer, is also a painter, and a prolific translator of numerous books. *Hatıralarım* is a riveting compilation of memoirs and essays which appeared in Yaba, a literary magazine, over the last sixteen years. The book blends public and private moments from a life well-lived into a captivating read.

İlmen, shares outspoken and candid anecdotes about many different periods of his life. The grandson of a pasha, who briefly worked in the family textile business, İlmen joined the Turkish State Highway Authority where he worked until his retirement.

The book contains reflections on recent history, the early days of the Republic, as well as the author's student days at Robert College in the 1940s, offering sometimes contrarian but always fresh and fascinating perspectives.



Vedii İlmen RC 46

## When Words and Art Come Together

*Alive with characters* both from daily life and Turkish mythology, each story in the latest book by Can Göknil ACG 66, *Göz ve Söz* (Can Sanat Yayınları), calls on the reader's imagination. The book of 14 stories, Göknil's third book for adults since 2007, is a pleasant read with a happy, almost child-like aspect to it.

"I am a story teller, using images, words and many other forms," Göknil says. Inspiration often comes from scanning through her art folders, looking at past images. "Then I begin to construct a story, choosing my words very carefully, trying to discover the aesthetics of writing. Composing on a large canvas is very similar to crafting a story. The colors create the mood. The figures become the characters," she explains.

Göknil's works are full of characters from Turkish mythology and *Göz ve Söz* is no exception. The artist explains that this dates from 1973, when she met with an editor in New York who expressed an interest in legends from Göknil's own culture. Back in Istanbul, Göknil began researching Turkish and Anatolian mythology, archeology and folklore. "As years went by, this research began to turn

into images which, in turn, turned into many solo exhibitions," she says. Nature also features prominently in *Göz ve Söz*. "When we are cruising around Fethiye Bay on our boat, I watch the deep blue and the surrounding mountains with wild pine trees whispering many myths," says Göknil. Her works were exhibited in Ankara's Nurel Art Gallery last year to celebrate her 50<sup>th</sup> year in art. "It feels good to have a long, 'visual' personal history," she says.

Göknil is also an acclaimed children's book writer and illustrator. "One of my missions in life has been to offer a sense of aesthetics to children," she says. In April 2016, the artist also paved the way for a collection of children's books and related original art works to be added as a new wing to the Paper and Book Arts Museum at Ege University.



Can Göknil ACG 66



## The Story of a Family in Turkey's 1960s

In 2001 Hikmet Hükümenoğlu RC 89 parted ways with the corporate world and has since become a fulltime novelist. His fifth novel *Körburun* (named after a fictional island near the shores of Istanbul) was published by Can Publishing House. It was widely praised in prestigious newspapers and literary journals. The voluminous work comprising roughly 600 pages reached multifarious reading groups within a few months, followed by the release of a second edition. The book ranked sixth in the list prepared by Idefix of the best novels of 2016.

*Körburun* skillfully explores the politically turbulent years between 1960-1990, focusing more specifically on the three consecutive coups and the Greek deportations of 1964. Although violence against the non-Muslim populations of Turkey in different phases of the twentieth century has been explored in scholarship and been a recurrent theme in Turkish fiction, 1964 remains under-researched. Further, the representation of the Greek deportations of the sixties

in Turkish literature is unique to Hikmet Hükümenoğlu's novel.

*Körburun* interweaves the troublesome political instabilities of three decades with romantic relationships, desires, longings and disillusionments of three generations of women from the same family. With riveting scenes of lynch and plunder, Hikmet Hükümenoğlu's novel encourages readers to reflect on the challenges of representing perpetrators and acts of violence. Employing fictional characters, not corresponding to historical figures, Hükümenoğlu stated in interviews that he had done extensive research on the period, reading the popular dailies, magazines and newspapers, as well as academic works and oral history accounts on the history of the Greek deportations of the 1960s.

Hükümenoğlu's Robert College experience was highly significant in his writing career. His cohorts remember him as the playwright and director of the Turkish drama *Bir Yılbaşı Gecesi*, chosen as play of the year for the graduating class of 1989, in lieu of canonical works of Turkish drama.



Hikmet Hükümenoğlu RC 89

The play was a huge success according to the actors and spectators, who still, after 27 years, reminisce about some scenes amidst scores of laughter.

Hikmet Hükümenoğlu writes for literary journals and teaches creative writing at MSGSÜ (Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts).

## The Politics of Prison Protests

*Starve and Immolate: The Politics of Human Weapons* (Columbia University Press), by Banu Bargu RC 93, received the American Political Science Association's First Book Award given by the Foundations of Political Theory section, and was named an Outstanding Academic Title by Choice. She is an associate professor of politics at the New School for Social Research in New York City with research that draws on philosophy, politics, history, and political anthropology and a regional emphasis on the Middle East, especially Turkish politics.

Growing out of research for her award-winning doctoral dissertation at Cornell University, *Starve and Immolate* tells the story of political prisoners in Turkey and their struggle against the introduction of high security prisons. A critical response to Michel Foucault's magisterial work



Banu Bargu RC 93

*Discipline and Punish*, Bargu's *Starve and Immolate* centers on new forms of

struggle. Bargu chronicles the experiences, rituals, values, and contentions of the protestors who resisted cellular confinement against the background of the history of Turkish democracy. Weaving together contemporary and critical political theory with political ethnography, Bargu puts forth an original interpretation of hunger strikes and self-immolations as a new repertoire of self-destructive resistance practices, which she calls the "weaponization of life".

Bargu's articles and essays have appeared in various edited volumes and collections, such as *Policing and Prisons in the Middle East: Formations of Coercion* (Columbia UP), *After Secular Law* (Stanford UP, 2011), *The Cambridge Foucault Lexicon* (Cambridge UP), and *The Radical Machiavelli* (Brill). She has published widely in academic journals.

## Marginal Spaces in Late Ottoman Istanbul

**Işıl Çokuğraş RC 2000**, assistant professor of architecture at Istanbul Bilgi University, developed an interest in Ottoman Istanbul while researching her PhD thesis. “There are numerous studies of the European metropolis’ multi-layered and complex social history, however apart from a few recent researches, Istanbul is depicted as a static city,” she says. “Being the crowded capital of a state hosting many ethno-religious groups and having the liveliest ports of its period, I guessed Ottoman Istanbul had to have a dynamic atmosphere. So, for my PhD I researched on late 18<sup>th</sup>–early 19<sup>th</sup> century Istanbul’s marginal spaces and focused on bachelor rooms and taverns.”

Her research grew and has now become a book, edited by Erkan Bora, called *Marginality and Space in Ottoman Istanbul (1789–1839): Bachelor Rooms and Taverns* (Istanbul Research Institute).



Işıl Çokuğraş RC 2000

Çokuğraş explains that, in the late Ottoman capital, marginality designates the state of being on the border between the legitimate and the illicit, neither entirely embraced, nor entirely dismissible.

Bachelors represented a group that constituted a significant majority of the workforce the city needed and were simultaneously categorized as individuals lacking family supervision and thus seen

as a threat to the neighborhood-oriented style of living.

The tavern was a similar kind of space, for alcohol consumption was, for long years, a practice regarded common to non-Muslims, or, at least, officially articulated as such. Yet, a portion of the Muslim population drank alcohol in almost every period of the Empire, Çokuğraş says.

“This book strives to shed light upon the two semi-secret, yet perfectly ordinary marginal concepts of the late-Ottoman Istanbul,” she states.

Çokuğraş graduated from Robert College in 2000 and from İstanbul Teknik University’s Department of Architecture in 2005. She received her master’s from the Architecture Design Program in 2008. Having completed her PhD in 2013, Işıl Çokuğraş is currently assistant professor at İstanbul Bilgi University.

## Debut Novel Tells of a Young Girl’s Magical Adventure

**Aslı Arlı Eti RC 96** began writing stories initially to tell her daughter. Eventually, she left a career in advertising to pursue her passion and recently published her debut novel, *Unutma Beni* (Kırmızı Kedi Publications).

*Unutma Beni (Forget-Me-Not)* is a tale written to remind readers about the forgotten kindness and beauty in the world. Though intended for children and young adults, it is a story for the child in all of us. It tells the tale of a young girl named İda, whose discovery of a snow-white tulip sends her on an epic adventure. Her name, İda, means ‘one who is protected’ and Arlı Eti says she sees her protagonist as a child who has been gifted to the world. The child’s name is also a reference to the great writer Yaşar Kemal’s *Ada Hikayeleri*, a series that Arlı Eti says she was entranced by as a youngster.

Though fantastic, *Unutma Beni* draws on real life. “I want to remind people that the world is not the place it seems to be as we grow older. It is a place full of innocence and goodness at its core. This simple truth needs to not be forgotten. It’s important that people preserve the goodness within themselves, and the world we are a part of,”

the author told Adil İzci, former RC Turkish literature teacher and editor of the book. İda’s journey, she says, echoes that which each of us must take through life to find out who we really are. It requires courage and often, like İda, what drives us on is curiosity about other places, other lives and other worlds that we know must exist.

“It will be a joy for me if I can leave a tiny mark on people’s hearts and minds, to remind them of the forgotten beauties and to strengthen our hopes,” says Eti, after meeting her readers and being touched by the comments she’s heard from them.



Aslı Arlı Eti RC 96 with former RC Turkish language and literature teacher Adil İzci at the RC İbrahim Bodur Library



## Remembering Onat Kutlar

**Onat Kutlar** was a writer, founder of Türk Cinematheque and a key figure in introducing world cinema to Turkish audiences, who died tragically from injuries sustained in a 1994 bomb attack on an Istanbul hotel.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of his death, to mark what would have been Kutlar's 80<sup>th</sup> year, Hülya Uçansu ACG 71, a leading light in Turkey's film community as one of the founders and for 25 years at the helm of the International Istanbul Film Festival, decided to compile a book of letters written to Kutlar by his close friends. Uçansu's own friendship with Kutlar dates back to her first job as an assistant to Kutlar at the Cinematheque.

*Onat Kutlar'a Mektup Var (Letters for Onat Kutlar; Doğan Kitap)* includes missives penned by many well-known names in the arts, such as photographer Ara Güler, actress Serra Yılmaz, writer Murat Belge and Yaşar Kemal, musician and writer

Zülfü Livaneli, among others.

Uçansu was motivated by the saying that we live on as long as there is at least one person alive who remembers us. She asked 50 of Kutlar's friends to write him a personal letter. Each author remembers a different time in Kutlar's life and each letter is deeply personal, adding up to a rich portrayal of a generous, bright, talented man. From Mehmet Ali Aydos, a farmer who wrote from the village where Kutlar taught as a young conscript near Bursa, to Zülfü Livaneli, who recalled how Kutlar stood by him when he received news that he would be jailed for a fourth time, to Demir Özlü, who wrote of time spent together in Paris, the anecdotes are varied and colorful. The famous author Yaşar Kemal described Kutlar as a man who "laughed like light".

Uçansu's contribution invokes a man of many gifts, whose memory lives on in those who loved and worked with him.



Hülya Uçansu ACG 71

## Pride and Prejudice Revisited in Ottoman Turkey

**Like many people** around the world, Engin İnel Holmstrom ACG 51 has loved Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* ever since she first read it while a student at school. She ritually rereads the novel each year and decided finally to "retell" the story in a new book, *House of Daughters* (Archway Publishing), setting it in tumultuous 1920s Turkey.

"Those were very dramatic years with the Ottoman Empire dying and the Turkish Republic being born," she says. "The occupation of Istanbul by the British gave me an opportunity to introduce some excitement into the story. I wanted to take the Jane Austen-like characters out of the drawing room into the real world of politics, war, and nation-building. I wanted the Bennet daughters to evolve into independent, modern woman, demanding respect just as the country was transforming itself into a modern republic. I wanted to talk about Atatürk's reforms and ideals for our country not only to



Engin İnel Holmstrom ACG 51

remind Turkish readers but also to inform American readers."

These were not conscious thoughts, she adds, as she had no idea where the novel

would take her when she set out. The setting of *House of Daughters* is a large konak in Göztepe, based on her own childhood home. The rest, she says, is "pure fiction".

İnel Holmstrom loves writing fiction. "I wish I had not waited until my eighties to become a novelist," she told the RCQ. "But I don't dwell on that. Regret is a wasted feeling. The best way to beat it is to write more, which I intend to do."

İnel Holmstrom went to the US in 1959 on a Fulbright scholarship and received her master's and PhD degrees in sociology from Duke University. She married her Duke classmate Robert W. Holmstrom in 1963 and they both taught at ACG from 1965 to 1968, when they returned to the US. She has more than 50 professional publications. *House of Daughters* is her second novel after *Loveswept*, published in 2001.

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# Homecoming 2016

Alumni from eight decades  
came back to campus  
on Sunday, November 6,  
2016 for the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Homecoming Day.

Graduates from the Class of 1941 to the Class of 2016 reminisced about their school days and celebrated years of friendship during a beautiful fall day on campus. In addition to the annual traditions of the football tournament, the 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> reunion luncheons and Roll Call, lunch was held in the new cafeteria in the Murat Karamancı Student Center. It was a day to remember!







RC student volunteers were ready to register returning alumni



A first this year; registration was done online



What is Homecoming without the iconic name badge?



Another classic HC sight: the "Look Who's Here" wall



The Class of '16 shows up at HC, four months after graduation



Friends and former faculty members Adil İzci and Rahel Çikvaşvili never miss Homecoming. This time Adil İzci signed his latest book, *Öğretmenim!*, for his former students.



The Class of '66, men of the 50<sup>th</sup> year reunion class, all cut a dashing figure





RC Math teacher Rina Kapuya (center) was surrounded by former students



The place to be at Homecoming; the steps of Gould Hall



Sedef Betil ACG 66 takes a peek at her 50<sup>th</sup> year reunion folder



The Class of ACG 66 enjoyed their special 50<sup>th</sup> year reunion cake



Sıdika Tulça ACG 41 (right) was the oldest graduate to attend HC this year. Gülgün Üstündağ ACG 44 on the left, was a close second.



As is the custom, Headmaster Charles Skipper made the opening remarks and led the highly anticipated Roll Call



It is a pretty great feeling to stand up and be recognized at Roll Call.  
L to R standing: Ali Ayanlar and Ali Vardar, both RA 66



The RC Orchestra gave another wonderful mini concert at the end of assembly hour at Suna Kırac Hall

## RC 56 Celebrates Seven Decades of Friendship

In mid-September 1945, Robert College Prep One class started with 84 students. The following year a similar number came in and some of them joined the earlier class in what we then called First Form (Orta Bir) to continue on in Robert Academy. In those years we had Prep One and Prep Two to learn English, and some students who did well in the Prep One Final Exam were allowed to go directly to Orta Bir without going to Prep Two.

World War II had ended one month before the 1945 class started, with the surrender of Japan, signed on board the battleship Missouri, affectionately called the Mighty Mo by some. Mighty Mo visited Istanbul later that year and we were all taken to visit the mightiest battleship in the world at the time. An American football game was arranged in the then new İnönü Stadium, the forerunner of the Vodafone Arena of Beşiktaş club today. The players

in colorful uniforms and helmets were a very unusual and impressive sight for our young eyes. Our American teachers taught us some ways to cheer, and I can remember chanting HOLD THAT LINE, without knowing what it meant. Later that year I remember I stopped listening to our interpreter and beloved teacher Bagdassar Hamarat, because I could understand what our headmaster Robert L. Allen was saying in English; within a few months we had learned a foreign language without realizing how and when. Hamarat Hoca, may he rest in eternal peace, later went to live in Upstate New York, and was a very warm and loyal friend to his former students. It was a time when we were well beyond being of different faiths; Christian, Jewish and Moslem students lived, laughed and suffered together like brothers.

That spirit was very much alive in our reunion, attended by representatives of all three faiths, 71 years later.

Nearly a dozen of what remained from those two classes met at Bizim Tepe on September 23, 2016 about half accompanied by their wives. Over 20 had been informed and could not make it for health reasons. Aged between 81 and 83, some of whom had not seen each other since graduation, we all became children again, calling each other by the nicknames that we had acquired during our student years. As has been with all other RC reunions that I can remember, affection, sincerity and a real appreciation of how fortunate we were to have studied at Robert College, were the order of the day.

No one knows if and when we will have another reunion, but everyone was talking about the next one, carefully avoiding naming the time. It was a real boost to our morale that we all intended to live on for many more years. We sure had the right attitude, and that can make a difference.

*Contributed by Ahmet N. Taşpınar RC ENG 56*



From L to R: Evgeni Vernigora, Ahmet N. Taşpınar, Erdoğan Pancaroğlu, Atilla Çelikiz, Aron Karavil, Mrs. Karavil, Mrs. Vernigora and Mrs. Pancaroğlu



## ACG 56 Celebrates 60 Years Together

**Seven members** of the ACG Class of '56 celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> graduation anniversary on June 7-9, 2016 with a stay at the Kirkpınar Sapanca Güral Hotel. Some classmates could not attend due to health reasons and some were out of Istanbul. Those of us attending spent our days going back 69 years and sharing memories. We also commemorated those classmates who are no longer with us. As Esin Toksoy Eden put it in her poetic words:

*Has it been sixty years since graduation, the enthusiasm in some hearts disappeared, color faded from cheeks, some classmates parted from this world, and some of the remaining ones lost interest.*

Andsoy, Bektaş, Eden, Eralp, Karacan, Polat and Sürenkök enjoyed this lovely days with excitement and we are sorry for those who did not participate. We



60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations ended with a dinner at Bizim Tepe

hope God will provide many healthy years to all of us remaining friends. We concluded our anniversary celebration with a dinner event at Bizim Tepe with 15 classmates, plus two husbands and three RC ENG 56 classmates and their wives who joined us graciously.

We thank all who got together for this heart-warming celebration.

*Contributed by Mine Bektaş ACG 56*

## RA 62 Travel Back in Time

**A group of alumni** who entered Robert Academy in 1954 and graduated in 1962 have been meeting frequently in recent years. The group has been growing with new members who join every year. They invent occasions to get together, be it 50 years since their graduation, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their entering Robert Academy, or monthly meetings at Bizim Tepe.

This time they organized a very special event. On September 3, accompanied by their spouses, children and grandchildren, they made a trip to Kırklareli to visit an excavation led by their schoolmate and world-renowned archaeologist, Mehmet Özdoğan RA 63 (see RCQ 35, p. 18).

The excavation contains remains from one of the earliest agriculture and animal domestication sites in the world, from where farming culture spread to Europe. The group saw how excavations are led, how the findings are appraised, and they



RA 62 classmates and their families at an excavation led by Mehmet Özdoğan RA 63

learned a lot about life in prehistoric times, vividly portrayed by Özdoğan.

They ended the trip with a delicious lunch under grapevines at an old Thracian house, and promised to get together again soon.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion of ACG 66

The 50<sup>th</sup> year reunion is an important stage in a 'kolejli's life. ACG 66 started planning for it two years in advance. The initial planning was made with those who live abroad. Sedef Inkaya Betil sent out a "save the date" mail for 2016.

Those who preferred to be contacted by phone were also reached. While a small group comprised of Filiz Şenel Nalbantoğlu, Nuran Özkırım and Elâ Giresunlu Altınordu assisted Sedef in trying to find the whereabouts of some long-lost classmates, the group also tried to motivate those who reside outside Istanbul. Incoming news was shared.

A trip to Bodrum was planned for September 2016 to coincide with Münire Ince Arıkol's art exhibition. Fifteen classmates got together for the event and other Bodrum delights.

A campus tour was arranged for the afternoon of October 1, when three charming students took a small group of ACG 66 members around. The tour included a visit to the new student center and the library – the former Assembly Hall. Later on the same day, the reunion class



A fun-filled lunch made up part of the reunion year festivities

gathered at the Bebek Hotel Bar – there were 55 for the occasion! Some of us saw each other for the first time since our June 1966 graduation. Following cocktails enjoyed on a beautiful day, we ate a wonderful dinner at the hotel's restaurant. We owe classmate Zeynep Horozoğlu Su, who runs the Bebek Hotel on the Istanbul Strait, for the superb arrangements.

On October 3, Sedef Inkaya Betil hosted a memorable lunch at her home. Thirty-three of us enjoyed this casual and happy event. The finale came with the November 6 Homecoming at school where we were

joined by fellow alumni from the Bebek campus for a luncheon hosted by Headmaster Dr. Charles H. Skipper. Nigâr Nigâr Alemdar spoke on the occasion. Then we all joined the other "kolejlis" - younger and older - to celebrate Homecoming 2016 at Suna Kırac Hall.

All these memorable events helped us to re-discover each other. We promised not to wait another fifty years to get together again!

*Contributed by Nigâr Alemdar ACG 66*



A reunion is not complete without a Gould Hall photo shoot



## The Spirit of RC 76

The organizing committee was constantly on high alert. After the more than disappointing 30<sup>th</sup> year party when the DJ ruined the night and the rain that spoiled our 35<sup>th</sup> gathering, we wanted everything to be right, spotless, and perfect. Our maestra Enigül even bargained for good weather with the appropriate authorities.

When the big day came, we gathered at Gould Hall, trying to figure out who was whom (we refused to have name tags you see). The joyful screams upon bumping into a classmate not seen in forty years who came all the way from the States filled the air. Then, of course, the inevitable questions and kind compliments (oh you haven't changed a bit!), reminiscences from days past particularly as we moved towards the Plateau to have our party, with the soul of Grady Hobson accompanying us, and a lot of gossip from decades ago was aired on the road.

The party was wonderful. The "foreigners" presented themselves and gave us their brief CV after Nedim spoke. Then Levent did his stand-up. We remembered the classmates we lost, (far too many). The younger ones among us danced their hearts away and most of us joined them at one point or another. At a time of a rather dour sentiment of seeing the country we have been accustomed to start slipping away, it was important to rekindle deeply rooted friendships, share familiar stories, grab back the mystical, mythical and all too blissful days we spent at RC and reinforce our bond.

The night came to a premature end because the DJ - a good one this time- could no longer play after midnight. No worries, a lot of people showed up the next day for brunch at BURC. The celebrations ended but the spirit of '76 that was well, alive and kicking just got a new injection of energy for our 50<sup>th</sup>.

*Contributed by Soli Özel RC 76*



"We shall not forget" classmates who passed away over the years



The Class of '76 create a colorful composition on the steps of Gould Hall

## Caps Off to the Class of '81

On the eve of July 30, 2016 the class of RC 81 celebrated their 35<sup>th</sup> reunion. The event began on a beautiful summer evening with a cocktail reception in front of Gould Hall, and the entire scene was lit up with the warmth of the 60 alumni who came together after 35 years.

Before the sun went down and the partying began, the class of RC 81 stood on the steps of Gould Hall wearing their caps and gowns, and the entire episode was recorded by a drone as they all threw their caps into the air with as much joy as they did 35 years ago. Afterwards, the fun continued with the DJ's music while the professional photographer had a busy time capturing each fun moment on camera.

The biggest surprise of the evening was Esra Başkaya Oygur's gift to her classmates – a song she'd composed for this occasion, called "We Have A Story To Tell"! Everyone got a pleasant surprise upon hearing that



Just like yesterday: RC 81 in their caps and gowns in front of Gould Hall

the singer was none other than Gül den Küçük Çelebi, the class agent. Another surprise came from Beyza Bakkaloğlu Özgören, who designed and made special ceramic cups for everyone as a memento of this memorable evening.

As the night ended with shouts of "Long Live RC 81," the group made a pledge to meet more often.

*Contributed by Gül den Küçük Çelebi RC 81*





## RC 96 Celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> Reunion

I The class gives back with an endowed scholarship to mark their 20<sup>th</sup> reunion



On the steps of Gould Hall; Whitman Shepard joins the fun in spirit (far right)

In the happier hours of June 25, 2016 more than 70 members of RC 96 convened on the steps of Gould Hall to celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of graduating from the school that shaped their personalities, introduced them to their best friends, and urged them to ask why in their lives and always strive for the best in their endeavors.

Friends from all around the world, such as Evren Baykal and Oğuz Silahtar from the US, Olgay Büyükkayalı, Deniz Taşer Çetinok and Defne Yavuz Kazan from the UK, Eda Cerrahoğlu from Germany and Zeynep Dikeç Baykut from Switzerland joined their classmates in Turkey for dinner and drinks in front of Gould Hall, to be followed by a night to remember under the stars on the Plateau, and hilarious hours to end the night at Bingham Hall, which was home to their early Orta days, before being converted to a dorm. The celebration committee, lead by Mehveş Dramur, Seda



Just like yesterday, from L to R: Zeynep Dikeç Baykut, Sandra Eskenazi Levi, Olgay Büyükkayalı, Deniz İğdirli Şahbaz and Ali İspahani

Çaykara Şen, Melis Terzioğlu, and Zeynep Ultav truly exceeded expectations, which were already set high after the 15<sup>th</sup> year ball. Comfortable and stylish furniture adorned the dinner area, accessorized by yearbook pictures of RC 96 members from their Prep year and a life size cut-out of Mr. Shepard to remind them of their Lise days. The joy of familiarity that was felt when dinner was served was inexplicable. As familiarity morphed into comfort and fun, they started doing what they always did best: dance and laugh with (and at) each other.

While they were amazed at seeing how kindly 20 years have treated them through winds of change, some pillars of the class, such as their passion for 90s pop and Oranşah's everstrong beam of love, have remained as stable as the taste of meatballs - not to forget their deep desire to sneak to the Plateau during balls. Alas, it was an orderly move around midnight

that brought them to the edge of the green heaven between the two bridges that lay majestically under the starry night. At the Plateau, they also had a chance to celebrate their success of being one of the youngest classes to raise enough funds to create an endowment. The RC 96 Scholarship Fund will support the education of female boarding students in perpetuity.

After sharing many stories and laughs on the grass, a less orderly stroll brought them back to the residential area of Bingham Hall, where whispered laughs echoed in the corridors until the wee hours of the morning. When the sun came up on Sunday, the spirit of the 90s woke those up who stayed on campus, and made them fortunate enough to feel like a teenager once again. They got together for a great picnic at Bizim Tepe, where even more members of RC 96 joined those who could get a hall pass for Saturday night. This time spouses and kids, who got along famously, joined the group, mirroring the strong bonds that classmates built in their lucky years at RC. More coherent conversations were held, phone numbers and email addresses were exchanged and even more pictures were taken. As the last event of the weekend approached its end, everybody was asking if we can do this all over again next year.

*Contributed by Ali İspahani RC 96*



Prep photos on the tables made for a fun 'guess who' game

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# A Doll Maker's Magic

By Nil K. Sarrafoğlu RC 89



Nimet Demirbağ Sanlıman ACG 47 with "Shoe Mender"

**After her graduation** 60 years ago, Nimet Demirbağ Sanlıman ACG 47 became infatuated with her teacher Zehra Müfit's dolls. Not knowing that her career would be built on this, she started taking classes from Zehra Hoca on handcrafting dolls. Before her teacher passed away, she urged Nimet to continue doll making and a few years later, in 1955, Nimet Sanlıman held her first exhibition at the American News Bureau in Beyoğlu.

Called "the most successful exhibition of the year" by the Bureau, she was offered to also exhibit her dolls in their Ankara and Izmir branches. Her whirling dervishes in the "Sema" composition at the Ankara exhibition were bought by the Mevlana Museum and stayed on display for years. When Turcologist Anne Marie Schimmel requested the same, Sanlıman worked on a similar yet smaller version and sent it to the Museum of Religions in Margburg, Germany.

As Sanlıman always perceived doll making as a form of art, in order to master the use of her brushes she took classes on illuminated manuscript-miniature from Professor Süheyl Ünver



"Grandpa and Grandma"



"The Agha's Daughter Fatma and Farmer Mehmet"

for eight years, while she continued as a guest student at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Sculpture Atelier. Sanlıman also attended a summer academy in Salzburg much later in 1980.

In 1960, Sanlıman opened her first atelier, Elif Bebek, on Istiklal Street in Beyoğlu. The same year she married fellow artist Tayfur Sanlıman, whom she calls the most positive supporter of her life.

Nimet Demirbağ Sanlıman uses cotton, wire and tragacanth - a natural gum and a firming agent obtained from the dried sap of several species of Middle Eastern beans - and assembles them to make her dolls. Sanlıman makes dolls using cornhusks as well. She has also taught folkloric doll making at the Recreation Association, the American Training Center and the Gültepe Public Education Center.

The amount of time spent on each doll depends on the details; some can be finished in a week if she works intensively, whereas others like the "Shoe Mender" composition, can take as long as a summer. Instead of just single figures, she also creates a composition where the character dwells. She is observant of every detail such as facial features, clothing and material. The origin of the word 'doll' comes from *eidolon*, which in Greek means idol. In ancient societies, dolls were made for religious purposes. These little human shaped figures date back to the 1400s. But her aim in making dolls is purely "documenting a slice of life" and her rule is to be devoted to the culture. For example,



"Sick Infant and Mother"

if she's making an Anatolian woman, she uses nothing but the authentic material to make it as real as possible.

She has held exhibitions in Eskişehir, Bursa, Istanbul, Tarsus and also multiple

times in Bozcaada, where she resides in the summer with her husband. She and her husband have a studio on the island where they work together. Her husband Tayfur helps her with details of the dolls' accessories. The Sanlımans sought to turn their studio into a museum where they could showcase their work, however, they gave up because of bureaucratic difficulty.



"Ms. Burns" - legendary ACG teacher, later vice-president, Dr. Eleanor Burns

Nimet Demirbağ Sanlıman has also dedicated her life to working as the president and a national delegate for the Turkish Soroptimist Federation, a worldwide volunteer service organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. One may easily call her an excellent example of a Soroptimist; a philanthropist and an artist who can speak English, French and Italian and has been doing yoga for over 30 years. What started as a hobby in 1950 has shaped this woman's life into one of integrity, detail and patience. She now happily continues to reside at Darüşaffaka Residence in Urla with her husband.





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## İsmail Saltuk RA 64



From L to R: Nuri Akgerman RA 62, Mete Turan RA 60, Demir Saka RA 64 and İsmail Saltuk RA 64

İsmail Saltuk and friends Nuri Akgerman RA 62, Mete Turan RA 60 and Demir Saka RA 64, together with their spouses, enjoyed an evening at Hemenway's Seafood Restaurant in Providence, Rhode Island in August 2016.

## Vedat Nommaz RC 94

Ellen and Vedat Nommaz welcomed a baby boy on October 17, 2016. Little Cem Nommaz is the first child of Ellen and Vedat, and first grandchild for the proud grandmother Adel Elvaşvili Nommaz RC 73.



## Arzu Çekirge Paksoy RC 82



Arzu Çekirge Paksoy RC 82

After graduating from Boğaziçi University with a degree in management, Paksoy focused on communication and worked as the PR Director of Sabancı Holding for 16 years. She then founded the first sponsorship and social responsibility consultancy in Turkey.

The social responsibility project Paksoy created and implemented for Anadolu Sigorta, "Bir Usta Bin Usta" (One Master, a Thousand Masters) won many national and international accolades, including the Sabre, Marcom, Stevie and Altın Pusula awards. This year she and her team started a new project, "Deniz Kızı Ulusal Kadın Yelken Kupası" (Mermaid Women's Sailing Cup - [www.denizkiziyelkenkupasi.com](http://www.denizkiziyelkenkupasi.com)). It is the first corporate sailing cup for women. The races, organized in collaboration with the Turkish Sailing

Federation, resulted in the Turk Telekom women's sailing team winning first place, followed by Garanti Bankası and Arçelik. It also served as a means for social responsibility; the income generated from the Cup is used to support AÇEV (Mother Child Education Foundation). Paksoy launched a new competition in January 2017. "Hobiler Yarışıyor" is the first corporate organization where employees compete with their hobbies. ([www.hobilyarisiyor.com](http://www.hobilyarisiyor.com))

Paksoy is very happy to work on social responsibility projects and believes that everybody has a responsibility to serve this country. In the meantime, she is writing her second book focusing on corporate social responsibility and hopes to inspire new companies to invest in sustainability projects.



## Korhan Erel RC 91

Korhan Erel has been active as an experimental musician since 2002. He worked as a human resources consultant by day and transformed into a computer musician at night, giving concerts at clubs in Istanbul. After starting the free improvisation scene in Turkey in 2005 by founding the ensemble Islak Köpek with Şevket Akıncı, he slowly built up an international career in music, performing at venues and festivals such as Akbank Jazz Festival and Borusan Music House, as well as concerts in Europe, the US and the Middle East.



Korhan Erel performing with Serene (Laia Genc) in Cologne, photo by Peter Tümmers (B&W)

At the end of 2008, Erel took the plunge, quit his corporate job, and became a full-time musician. In 2014 he relocated to Berlin to be a part of the city's vibrant music scene. In this capital of arts and music, he has been developing projects in improvised music, music theater, jazz and electronic music. One is *Berlin Bülbul*, where he and clarinetist, naturalist-philosopher and writer David Rothenberg play midnight concerts in Berlin parks with nightingales.

Another project is the trio The Liz, where Erel performs the musical theater piece *Book of Birds* with his bandmates Liz Allbee and Liz Kosack. Erel is also a guest musician in Cyminology, an ensemble of jazz and contemporary music with Farsi lyrics led by Cymin Samawatie. Another project, *UnStumm*, is an intercultural audiovisual performance event where

video and sound artists from Germany and one other country work and perform together. After performances in Germany, Hong Kong and Singapore, Erel is looking for opportunities to bring *Unstumm* to Turkey in late 2017. He can be reached at [korhanerel@gmail.com](mailto:korhanerel@gmail.com) and also through his website [korhanerel.com](http://korhanerel.com).

## Yelda Çolpan Tezmen RC 94 and Zeynep Kısakürek Paker RC 94

Yelda and Zeynep, friends since sixth grade, took different paths after high school. Zeynep went to the US to study architecture and Yelda stayed in Turkey to study international relations. For a long time they had jobs related to their professions, until they discovered that their real passion is creating healthy cuisine. To pursue their mutual goal, they started a small shop called Good Karma in the "start-up haven" neighborhood of Reşitpaşa. They not only serve flourless and sugarless cookies, but also prepare gluten-free and sugar-free creative dishes for lunch. Their real motivation is the belief that they can instill the idea of clean eating in as many people as possible. The education they received from RC created common goals and feelings towards their comprehension of work and ethics. That shared understanding constitutes the essence of their partnership and what makes it strong. For more details visit [goodkarma.com.tr](http://goodkarma.com.tr)



## Feyza Tuncer Kılınç RC 2002



Feyza and Hakan met in September 2015 through common friends Kemal Serdengeçti, Lale Deliveli RC 98 and Feyza's sister Ayşegül Tuncer RC 98. After spending quality time together, Hakan proposed to Feyza in May and the couple got married on November 20, 2016, in Istanbul.

Feyza received her BS degree in biological sciences and bioengineering from Sabancı University, and her MSc from the molecular genetics and genomics program at Wake Forest University. She met Hakan right after she got her PhD in genetics from Istanbul University. She is currently an assistant professor in genetics at Istanbul University, Aziz Sancar Institute of Experimental Medicine.

## Yağmur Telaferli RC 09 and Can Kalaycıoğlu RC 08

Yağmur and Can met in a literature class at RC, and have been together since 2010. The couple got married on May 21, 2016 in Gündoğan, Bodrum, where they like to spend their holidays. Their wedding was a three-day getaway with family and close friends.

Yağmur has a degree in western language and literature from Boğaziçi University and an MA in communications from Birkbeck, University of London. She is now working towards her second master's degree. Can completed cultural studies at Sabancı University and received an MBA from Boğaziçi University. He's currently working as a financial analyst at Novo Nordisk. Yağmur and Can live in Göksu, Istanbul and always dream of their next raki in Bodrum.



## Serhat Aydın RC 08

Serhat Aydın has traded the life of an engineer to become a chef. He graduated from Sabancı University's Faculty of Engineering in 2012. But, when his family was considering opening a restaurant in Yeşilköy, he went back to his life-long passion. He says, "The kitchen is where I would study, play and spend most of my time from an early age; so I was eager to go Le Cordon Bleu to explore more about my interest."

Today Aydın is the chef and owner of Bishop in Yeşilköy. He explores the intersection between Turkish and world cuisine, and says, "I think the real treasure lies in fusion that brings a balance of both."

When asked how his training as an engineer helps him as a chef, he says, "I think being an industrial engineer is all about having the intuition to choose the correct path. That skill alone is a lifesaver in many cases in a restaurant. Running the kitchen is not only about fast knife skills and playing with fire while making flambé. There is also a lot of calculation and forecasting; I spend more time with Excel than my knife!"

Aydın adds that RC taught him how to stand up and embrace differences. This philosophy is his main motivation to push himself to explore more and try new things every day. He says, "Without that perspective, wouldn't life be boring?"



## Ayşe Bursalı RC 09

"By the power of archaeology!" That's the motto of the website Arkeofili, founded in November 2014 by archeology students Ayşe Bursalı RC 09, Erman Ertuğrul and Tolunay Bayram.

As the name suggests, Arkeofili is a popular archaeology website in Turkish that publishes news articles from Turkey and around the world, interviews and compilations on a daily basis. Not just a news site, Arkeofili was born out of a deeper need to start a community archaeology project to introduce the field to as many people as possible, to familiarize them with archaeological issues and news, and to popularize the subject, hoping to get more people to embrace it.



The website continues to grow with contributions from other volunteer authors and translators, as well as academics. Arkeofili hopes to raise more awareness by creating new and influential projects, and welcomes contributions, comments, and suggestions for cooperation from RC students and alumni. For more details visit [arkeofili.com](http://arkeofili.com)

Ayşe Bursalı also works at the Pera Museum in Istanbul as the collection supervisor of the Suna and İnan Kıraç Foundation Anatolian Weights and Measures Collection, and continues to work on her master's thesis in prehistoric archaeology at Koç University.



# Life Before RC: John Freely Pens Early Memoirs

**A man of many talents**, John Freely needs little introduction. A physicist, author of more than 40 books, historian and passionate Istanbul lover, his work has touched thousands of people. Freely is a much-loved household name among most RC graduates due to his classic book/guide *Strolling Through Istanbul*, as well as his many years teaching. (see RCQ 39, p. 29)

In the 60s, Freely was doing his PhD in physics at New York University when he got an offer to teach at the Robert College Yüksek Okul – which later became Boğaziçi University. He spent 16 years teaching physics at RC and saw the department mature. The Freelys then sailed off for other adventures, returning briefly to Istanbul, and later, in 1993, more permanently, at the request of former students, who asked him to come back and join the physics department at Boğaziçi University.

Now 90, the prolific Freely has gifted the world the story of his first 20 years. The publisher, Penguin Random House, describes the book as follows:

“The House of Memory is an engaging, funny, and tender memoir of growing up poor in a Brooklyn and Ireland that now exist only in memory, and of serving in the



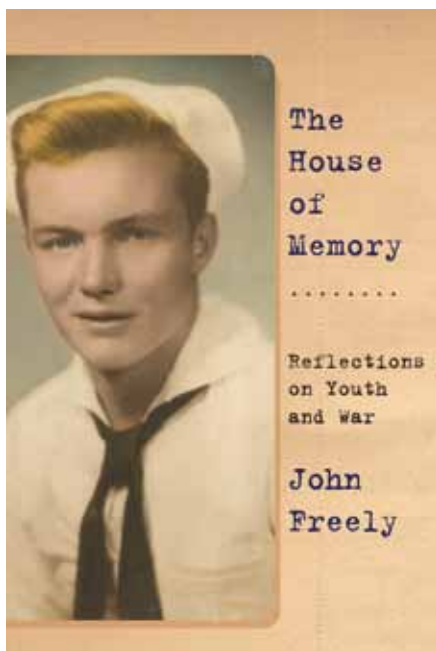
John Freely and his granddaughters Pandora (left) and Helen, visited his childhood hometown of Dingle, Ireland in 2016

China-Burma-India Theater during World War II as a member of an elite US Navy commando unit.

“Born in Brooklyn to Irish immigrants, he went to Ireland with his mother when he was five, where he spent his young childhood on his grandfather’s farm. Western Ireland was impoverished, but rich in beauty and intriguing people, and it opened in him a lifelong desire to see the world and its inhabitants. When he was seven, he returned to Brooklyn. He took whatever jobs he could when times got tough, always shaking off his losses and moving on, hungry to see and experience what was next. He joined the US Navy at seventeen to “see the world,” and did just that. In wartime, while bringing supplies and ammunition over the Stilwell-Burma Road to Chiang Kai-shek’s Chinese guerrilla forces, Freely served alongside them during the last weeks of World War II in the Tibetan borderlands of China, a Shangri-La that war had turned into hell on earth.”

Freely told the RCQ, “I was finally discharged from the Navy on May 26, 1946, exactly one month before my twentieth birthday, with no idea of what I would do with the rest of my life. The last chapter of the book tells the story of my return to the Tibetan borderlands of China in 2000, 55 years after the end of the war, in search of my comrade Ching Ging Too, with whom I had served in a Chinese guerrilla army in the last days of World War II and in the first day of the Chinese Civil War. I didn’t find Ching, but my return to where I fought in the war made me come to terms with troubling thoughts of what I had experienced in combat, which I was then able to consign to the House of Memory.”

John Freely’s voice is still astonishingly youthful, full of wonder, humor, and gratitude, as he remembers his fully lived life.



# Can't Stay Away...

Two alumni and a beloved art teacher return to campus



Art teacher Maria Sezer comments on a student's ceramics project

**A beloved art teacher** at RC in the 90s, Maria Sezer recently returned to teaching after an extended hiatus. The RCQ asked her what it's like to be at RC again.

## It's great to have you back after 20 years. What have you been up to?

In 1996, my initial plan was to take a year off and then return. But once I started studying etching at Mimar Sinan University, I loved it so much, I stayed. In 2004, I received my degree. I then worked at several schools, most recently, Işık University, where I taught 3D design. Meanwhile, I also pursued my artistic career and participated in exhibitions and talks.

## Back in the day, the lovely building called Hillside today was the art studio. What do you think of the "new" studio in Sage?

In my opinion nothing could be as nice as our 'old' art studio! The school had asked the art department many times to move, because they wanted to make it into faculty housing. I protested, thinking it was so unique and lovely for students (and me) to be able to walk through the woods to

work on art. The new studio (in the old business office) is a lot bigger and has a finely equipped ceramics studio, which is wonderful. There is a kiln room outside, that is much more healthy. I have started to love it. And, believe it or not, I now live on the top floor of Hillside House (also called yuva)! I could not believe my eyes when I was shown my apartment. If that is not kismet!

## What changes do you see at RC?

The students are older now, because they start at lycée age. But once I am in class I hardly feel the difference. I love the age I am teaching and most students at RC are so eager to learn that it is a joy to be with them.

## As an artist, what inspires you most at RC?

I find the creative arts program, which the preps take, very valuable, both for the students and for me. It makes me think about many subjects and their relation to art. How can we make the connection between art and daily life? How do we ponder philosophical questions? I spar and research with my colleagues which gives me great pleasure.

Also, I am working on a mosaic project with Mr. McDonnell, an old friend who makes mosaics as a hobby. It's called "Birds of a Feather" and stresses diversity, which is a theme at school this year. Students can work on it in their free time.

**Two RC alumni**, at different places in their lives and careers, are back on campus. Cansu Şenocak RC 11 joined the faculty as a math teacher at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year. Cansu studied math at Boğaziçi University. Her childhood dream was to become a math teacher, and she considers herself very lucky to be able to accomplish it. It is her first year of teaching, which makes RC even more special for her. Cansu is also well-known for her extensive work on Community Involvement Projects.

The other new member of the RC team is Burcu Saraçoğlu Berent RC 96, who joined the Alumni and Development Office staff as the database administrator. Burcu studied business after graduation. She briefly worked as a producer at TV networks, but made a career change after completing her MA degree in European Studies. She worked at business NGOs for seven years, and after a short break, joined the RC staff where she feels like she is back home after twenty years of exploring the world. Burcu is married to fellow alum Selim Berent RC 94. They have a daughter named Eda (see RCQ 43, p. 60).



Cansu Şenocak RC 11 and Burcu Saraçoğlu Berent RC 96 are thrilled to be back on campus



## Sütude Selek Aras ACG 41

Sütude Selek Aras passed away on February 26, 2017.

She told many stories of her years as a boarding student. She took pride in and loved her school, and built herself a group of friends she would meet with weekly for decades to come. One of her literature teachers, a famous Turkish poet, used to tease her: "Sütude Selek, sanki bir melek!" She recovered from setbacks - including the loss of her husband (Av. Ferzan Aras) at the age of 59 and daughter (Gülsevil Aras ACG 67) at the age of 49 - through a strong commitment to life and to her family. To her last days, she was a strong



intellect who loved logical discussions and lived to learn.

She is survived by her son, Ömer Aras, Chairman of QNB Finansbank, her daughter-in-law Feyza Aras, who cared for her as much as she did her own mother and four grandsons who loved her dearly, Osman Nalbantoğlu RC 91, Ali Nalbantoğlu RC 96, Aydın Aras and Sinan Aras, as well as six great-grandchildren.

Contributed by Ali Nalbantoğlu RC 96

## Altemur Kılıç RC 44

Journalist and writer Altemur Kılıç passed away on October 20, 2016 at the age of 92. He was the son of Kılıç Ali, a famous military commander and one of Atatürk's closest confidantes. Like his father, Altemur Kılıç witnessed young Turkey's seminal moments over the course of his lifetime.

After Robert College, Kılıç studied politics at the New School for Social Research in New York. He served as press attaché for Turkey in Washington and Bonn, in the press section of the UN Secreteriat and as director of the department of information at UNICEF's European bureau. He retired in

1980 and later served as a board member for TRT and was a political commentator for various newspapers. He is the author of the English-language *Turkey and the World*, as well as several books written in Turkish.

Kılıç was known for his unbending conservative opinions. Even while a student at Robert College, he had pan-Turkist ideals. In an interview in 2010 with T24, an online news platform, when asked whether he was a fascist, he replied, "Some people call me that. No one has ever asked me before. I'm not a fascist, I'm an Atatürk nationalist."



## Fazıl Amal RC ENG 46

Fazıl Amal passed away on August 4, 2016 in Istanbul.

He was a true romantic and a natural-born gentleman with grace, intelligence and creativity.

A popular member of his class, he was also known as Walt Disney for his artistic talents in painting and drawing. After RC he went to the University of Maryland in the US, where he received his master's degree.

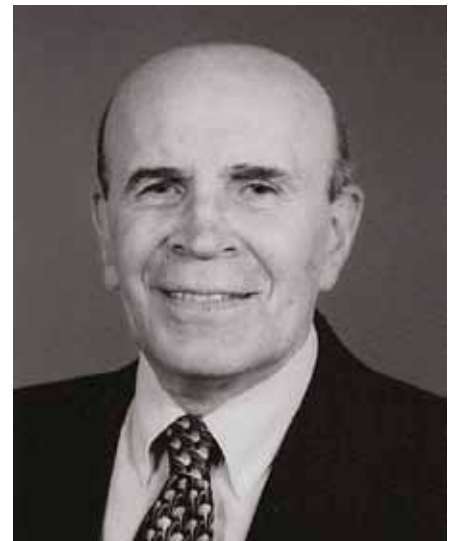
Upon his return, he joined Turkish State Highway Authority under the leadership of its founder Vecdi Diker RC ENG 36, a life-long friend and mentor. An accomplished engineer, he further sought professional pursuits in the private sector and became

a co-owner of a chemical processing plant near Istanbul in the early 1960s - whose overall state of the art design and construction during Turkey's austerity stricken years, were based on his vast engineering expertise and efforts.

His retirement years revolved around his family, artistic and intellectual interests and cherished RC friends.

He is survived by his wife Ayhan Bayrakdar Amal ACG 46, his daughter Serap Verdi ACG 70, son-in-law Murat Verdi, son Selim Amal, daughter-in-law Fatma Özakat Amal and two grandsons, Kerim Verdi and Sinan Amal.

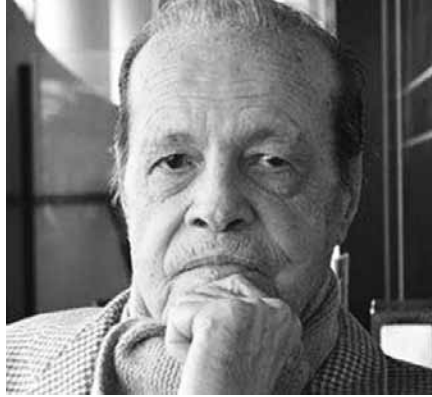
Contributed by Selim Amal



## Refik Erduran RC 47

Playwright, columnist and writer Refik Erduran passed away in Edirne on January 7, 2017 and was laid to rest in Istanbul. He was 88.

A prolific playwright, Erduran wrote over 30 plays, which were staged in many corners of Turkey. His career as a columnist started in 1965 and continued until the mid 1980s at newspapers such as *Milliyet*, *Güneş*, *Meydan* and *Sabah*. Throughout his life he was also a publisher and wrote novels as well as screenplays for the movies and television.



Among his many accomplishments, Erduran served as president of the International Theatre Institute's (ITI) Turkey branch. In 1989 he was elected chair of the Authors Committee of the same organization's World Congress. In 1985, he was named Most Successful Columnist by the Turkish Journalists' Association, and in 1991 Most Successful Playwright by the Turkish Ministry of Culture. In 1995 he was awarded the Yunus Emre Award for his play *Ramiz ile Jülide*.

## Nihal Pulat ACG 47

ACG graduate and long time teacher and administrator at RC, Nihal Pulat passed away on February 22, 2017 in Istanbul.

Nihal Hanım started her professional life at RC as secretary at the Child Development Center in 1965. From then onwards she was one of the driving forces in service to Robert College. She became the Director of the former Child Study Center, known to all as the "Yuva", and taught psychology at the high school level. A beloved teacher, she has been described as a "lovely, calm exuding presence, mature and full of common sense" by her former students.



In addition to her teaching and administrative skills, Nihal Pulat was a founding member of the Hisar Educational Foundation and Bizim Tepe, the RC Alumni Club. These institutions, which she helped lead during their formative years, owe much to her hard-work and able contributions.

Nihal Pulat will be greatly missed by the Robert College community. She is survived by her younger brother Ali Pulat, nieces and nephews.

## Gönül Nükür Yavuz ACG 53

Gönül Yavuz came to ACG as a boarding student when she was 11. It was her home away from home for many years.

We, her three children, had the privilege of growing up listening to her memories of this defining period of her life. These reminiscences were always reflective of her affection for, and appreciation of her alma mater. They were invariably accompanied by her beautiful laughter, a spark in her eyes, and her humorous nature, which to this day helps us find an amusing side in almost any incident.

She was in close contact with her ACG friends, playing bridge, traveling together, or entertaining.

She was a pillar of strength for Orhan Yavuz, her beloved husband of almost 60 years. Her unwavering support and care was indisputable in the warm and happy home which they worked together so hard to create.

A wonderful mother with a noble yet gentle personality, an elegant and most intelligent lady, Gönül will be sorely missed by her husband Orhan, her children Ayşe, Murat and Bilge, grandchildren Kerim, İrem, Orhan, Selim, Cem, and Ali Kaan, and her sister, Gülsel Beller.

*Contributed by Bilge Yavuz Rızvani RC 85*





## H. Fevzi Özbilen RC ENG 54

Esteemed colleague, beloved friend and father passed away on September 11, 2016.

Following graduation, Fevzi married the beautiful Nurhayat Beşikcioğlu. They moved to the United States where he received a master's degree in textile engineering in 1957. They then returned to Turkey, joined by infant daughters, Alev and Neşe.

After his military service, Fevzi took an engineering position with Sümerbank, then joined fellow RC graduate and brother-in-law Alpaslan Beşikcioğlu RC 55 in the family business. Later, Fevzi worked for Shell Oil before beginning a 50-year career as Managing Director of Çeşit Mensucat, A.Ş., helping develop the fledgling company begun by his father, Mümtaz

Özbilen. Meanwhile, Fevzi and Nurhayet expanded their family with daughter Oya, son, Murat and daughter, Fatoş.

In addition to enjoying Robert College gatherings, Fevzi was an active member of the Topkapı Rotary Club. He and Nurhayat enjoyed traveling, meeting new people and making friends, which Fevzi was quick to accomplish with his outgoing personality, friendliness, good cheer and a never-ending repertoire of jokes and stories.

With his wife preceding him in death, Fevzi is survived by five children, four sons-in-law and 10 grandchildren. He will be deeply missed.

*Contributed by Murat Özbilen*



## Olca Türkan Karaali ACG 54

Olca Karaali passed away on January 10, 2017 in İstanbul. With her perfectly done, gorgeous short hair, fashionable glasses and charming personality she was the true depiction of a survivor because, though she faced countless health problems every day for more than a decade, she never stopped fighting and stood as straight as possible for her loved ones, never forgetting to smile.

After ACG she married Fikret Karaali, the handsome electronics engineer and started to travel around the world with her beloved husband. Her favorite stop

was Italy where she learned to cook like an Italian.

She was an amiable friend from the age of 12 until her last day. Her stories of her time as a boarding student at RC have been memorized by her family. We will always love her with all our hearts and she will live on in our memories.

Olca is survived by her daughter Ayşe, her son Ali and her granddaughter Güniz Irmak.

*Contributed by Güniz Irmak Köksalan*



## Engin Cezzar RC 55

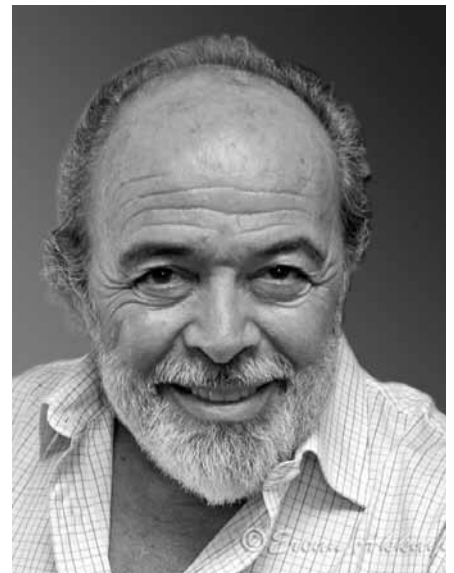
The acclaimed actor and director Engin Cezzar passed away on January 28, 2017. Cezzar's interest in theater began at Robert College. He played Antonius in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar while a junior at RC. In his last year, he performed the part of Othello and decided to pursue an acting career.

He studied at Yale Drama School and the Actors Studio. Despite signing with director and Actors Studio co-founder Elia Kazan, Cezzar stayed in İstanbul to take the leading role in Hamlet. It made the 24 year-old Cezzar the youngest Hamlet in the world.

Cezzar later performed at Dormen Theater, Deveküşü Kabare, and Antalya State Theater. He hosted a TV show, and acted

in the TV series *Bay Alkolü Takdimimdir* (Presenting Mr. Alcohol), as well as the play *Keşanlı Ali Destanı* (The Ballad of Ali of Keshan) directed by Genco Erkal RC 57. He acted in and directed the movie *Kaldırım Serçesi* (Sidewalk Sparrow) and partook in two foreign co-productions, *Price of the Ticket* and *Timeline*. In 2002, he portrayed Sait Paşa in the movie *Abdülhamit Düşerken* (As Abdülhamit Falls).

Engin Cezzar married actress Gülriz Sururi in 1968. The couple founded the Engin Cezzar-Gülriz Sururi Company. Most recently, Cezzar directed *Ayşe Opereti*, written by Gülriz Sururi and acted in the TV drama *Sağır Oda* (The Deaf Room). He was the recipient of the Sedat Simavi, İlhan İskender, TV 7 Gün and İstanbul Municipality Awards.



## Demet Gürel ACG 59

Demet Gürel passed away on January 7, 2017 in New York City and was laid to rest in Putnam Valley, NY.

Demet Gürel was an organic chemistry professor and earned her MS from Smith College. She started her doctorate degree at Stanford University and completed her PhD at NYU while also raising her two sons. She later taught at NYU, Touro College and Baruch College, among others.

Demet Gürel, whose mother Nimet Nuri Dinger was also an ACG graduate, Class of '24, was a loyal supporter of her alma mater and made significant gifts throughout the years.

Demet Gürel's husband Okan Gürel had predeceased her. She is survived by her sons Ogan Gürel and Ozan Gürel.



## İbrahim Kavrakoğlu RC ENG 64

Prof. İbrahim Kavrakoğlu passed away on September 28, 2016. His students at Boğaziçi University said, "We will always remember him for his pivotal and inspiring role in the education of our students..."

İbrahim Kavrakoğlu completed his doctorate at University of London and returned to his alma mater as a professor. In the following years, he served as Chairman of the Department of Industrial Engineering, Dean of the School of Engineering and Provost of Boğaziçi University. In 1973 and 1974 he was a visiting professor at Stanford



University and in 1981, he returned to the United States as a visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

Kavrakoğlu initiated and directed numerous projects and his research covered mechanical engineering (thermodynamics, acoustics and fluid mechanics); operations research (mathematical modeling, decision support systems); economics (macroeconomic simulation, econometrics) and business (strategy and finance). He was also the author of 24 books and more than 130 papers.

## Sedat Pakay RA 64

Photographer and filmmaker Sedat Pakay died on August 20, 2016 in New York.

He studied with the legendary photographer Walker Evans at the Yale School of Art, where he received his MFA degree in 1968. After graduation, he freelanced in New York City and photographed for magazines such as Holiday, New York, and Esquire. Sedat's photographs have been exhibited and published internationally. Since 1967, he had an ongoing project shooting portraits of well-known artists including James Baldwin, Andy Warhol, Mark Rothko, and countless others.

In the late Sixties, two of his photographs were accepted to the collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and one of his photographs, a portrait of author James Baldwin, was exhibited at the Smithsonian Museum in 1969 and was later included in the Museum's collection. During the last two decades, he produced numerous commercial and documentary films.

He is survived by his wife Kathleen, his son Timur, daughter-in-law Stephanie, grandson Oliver, two sisters Ayse and Nilay, nephews and nieces.





## Mithat Alam RA 64

The founder of the Mithat Alam Film Center at Boğaziçi University, beloved teacher, mentor and friend to many, passed away on November 28, 2016.

Alam loved cinema, but his first career was as a businessman. "Yet," he told the RCQ in 2004, "business was not for me really, and I never felt quite fulfilled with my line of work." Knowing of his love and deep knowledge of cinema, in 1998, Oya Başak ACG 55, then head of the Department of Western Languages and Literature at BU, invited him to teach an elective course on cinema.

Alam never looked back. The Mithat Alam



Film Center was born in 1999 as a unit within Boğaziçi which provides students with resources for critical, creative and scholarly activities related to film studies. He gave a \$400,000 endowment towards the center and continued to support it.

He was a familiar sight at any film-related event and could always be counted on to deliver thoughtful and insightful advice. Alam was to be given the Lifetime Contribution to Cinema award by the Istanbul Arts and Culture Foundation in April 2017. A book on his life, *Sinemayı Seven Adam (The Man Who Loved Cinema)* was recently published by İletişim Yayınları.

## Yusuf Subaşı RA 64

Yusuf Subaşı passed away on August 12, 2016, a week short of his 71<sup>st</sup> birthday. Younger brother of Hasan Subaşı RC 65, Yusuf entered RC in September 1957, a student of the last Orta class of RC. He attended other schools in Turkey and the UK after RC, but always considered himself a 'kolejli'. His close and affable relationships with RC schoolmates continued throughout his life.

Yusuf had a great sense of humor and ability to make fun of everybody and every occasion. He made his way to the hearts

of his friends and companions with his endearing charm and an undying zest for life. He never lost the sparkle in his eyes.

Yusuf is survived by his loving wife Gülten and two daughters, Zeynep and Yeşim. He will be remembered for his devotion to Galatasaray, his treasured collection of hippos, his love of people and precious memories left to those who knew him. He will be greatly missed.

*Contributed by Zeynep Subaşı*



## Ahmet Haşim Yoğurtçuoğlu RC 72

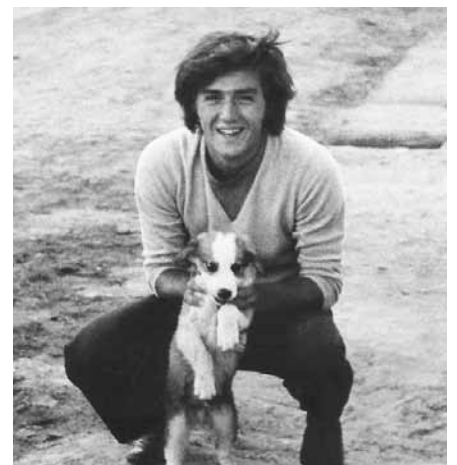
Ahmet Haşim Yoğurtçuoğlu, father of Gökçe Su Yoğurtçuoğlu RC 97, globetrotter, entrepreneur, poet, romantic, gourmand, animal lover, mariner, producer, volleyball team captain/coach, and mechanical engineer, died on September 13, 2016.

The news shocked everyone who believed this gregarious man was invincible. He was a masterful raconteur of stories and jokes; recited poems in a deep baritone; and topped them all off with roaring laughter. He detested injustice. He could have a short temper and did not suffer fools gladly, but tenderness and innocence always shone through the swagger.

Ahmet lived life to the fullest. In his last two years, between operations and treatment, he cuddled pandas in China, watched the northern lights in Norway, hugged a donkey in Söke, befriended bachelorettes in New Orleans, fished in Göçek, got three tattoos, and adopted a Labrador puppy. He smoked Marlboros, swore in three languages, and sipped Johnnie Walker Black Label to the very end.

We celebrate Ahmet's life and raise our glasses in memory of the man who brought us much joy, laughter, and affection.

*Contributed by Cihan Bilginsoy RC 72*



## Ufuk Sebüktekin RC 72



Ufuk Sebüktekin passed away in Bodrum on February 11, 2017.

He was a member of the first class to graduate from the RC campus after the historic merger of ACG-RA in 1971.

Ufuk continued to study chemistry at Boğaziçi University and also completed his PhD in chemistry there. His business life later took him to companies such as

Sapkim and Polisan, where he worked in export management for the Middle East and Russia.

Upon retiring, Ufuk moved to Bodrum. Ufuk Sebüktekin is survived by daughter Deniz Sebüktekin-İşeri and son Mehmet Sebüktekin.

## faculty and friends obituaries

### Aydın Ungan

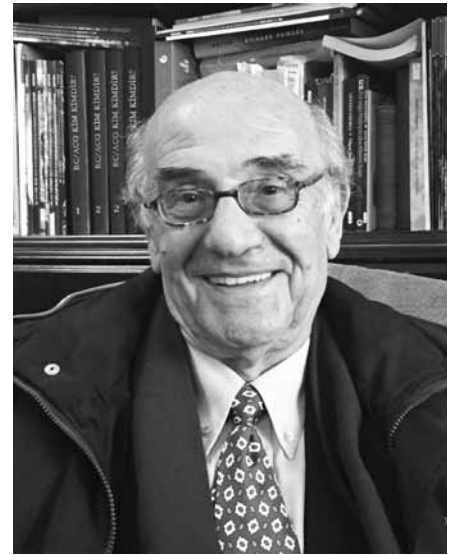
Aydın Ungan, iconic teacher of Robert College's recent history, passed away on July 9, 2016. He worked at RC from 1968 until his retirement in 2002 as Head of the Audio Visual Center and Housefather of the boys' residence hall between 1973-1985. Colleague and friend Mehmet Uysal, Head of the Turkish Language and Literature Department, shared his sentiments:

I met Aydın Bey in 1981 when I started my first job as teacher and study hall surveillant at the boys' residence. From him I learned discipline, communication with students, and how to become a teacher dedicated to Robert College.

He was a model for me with his kind but firm approach. His self-confidence

and communication skills transformed the residence into a warm and safe environment for all. April Fools' jokes, surprise visits to the girls' dorm, after-school soccer games between Gould and Bingham, *sucuk* parties with a handful of boarders who stayed over the weekend... the list is long.

Aydın Bey deserved his name (literally: enlightened) with his skills and intellectual stance. He was an excellent role model of wisdom and scientific approach for his students and for the younger teachers. As a father figure he had friendly relationships with everyone in school. He helped many in need and will always be remembered with gratitude.



### Nuran Demirci

Nuran Demirci passed away on June 9, 2016. Born to a family instrumental in the founding of the Ministry of Education, she grew up in the company of idealistic educators of Atatürk's period.

She started her RC career as a teacher of Turkish literature in 1960 and also assumed the position of Turkish Director at intervals. Cherished and respected, she was proud of her students. At a speech she gave at her retirement, she said, "I bid farewell to this school many years after I started my profession here. I take with me countless fond memories. The most valuable ones are the smiling faces of



my students. I measure my wealth by the human connections in my life. As someone who knew how to be happy, I want to say, look at the positive side of life. Enjoy the small moments of happiness. Love humans, and you will find love. Love nature, and you will find God. Love your job, and you will be successful. Love your country, because the country needs you. We have faith in you and we are proud of you."

Nuran Demirci is survived by her husband, Vedat Demirci, and her daughter Ece Demirci.

*Contributed by Vedat Demirci*

If you would like to share news of a deceased RC community member please send us a notice in English of no more than 160 words to [cyazicioglu@robcot.k12.tr](mailto:cyazicioglu@robcot.k12.tr)

Longer notices will be edited due to space restrictions.

*Please include a high resolution (minimum 700 x 700 pixels) photo of the deceased.*

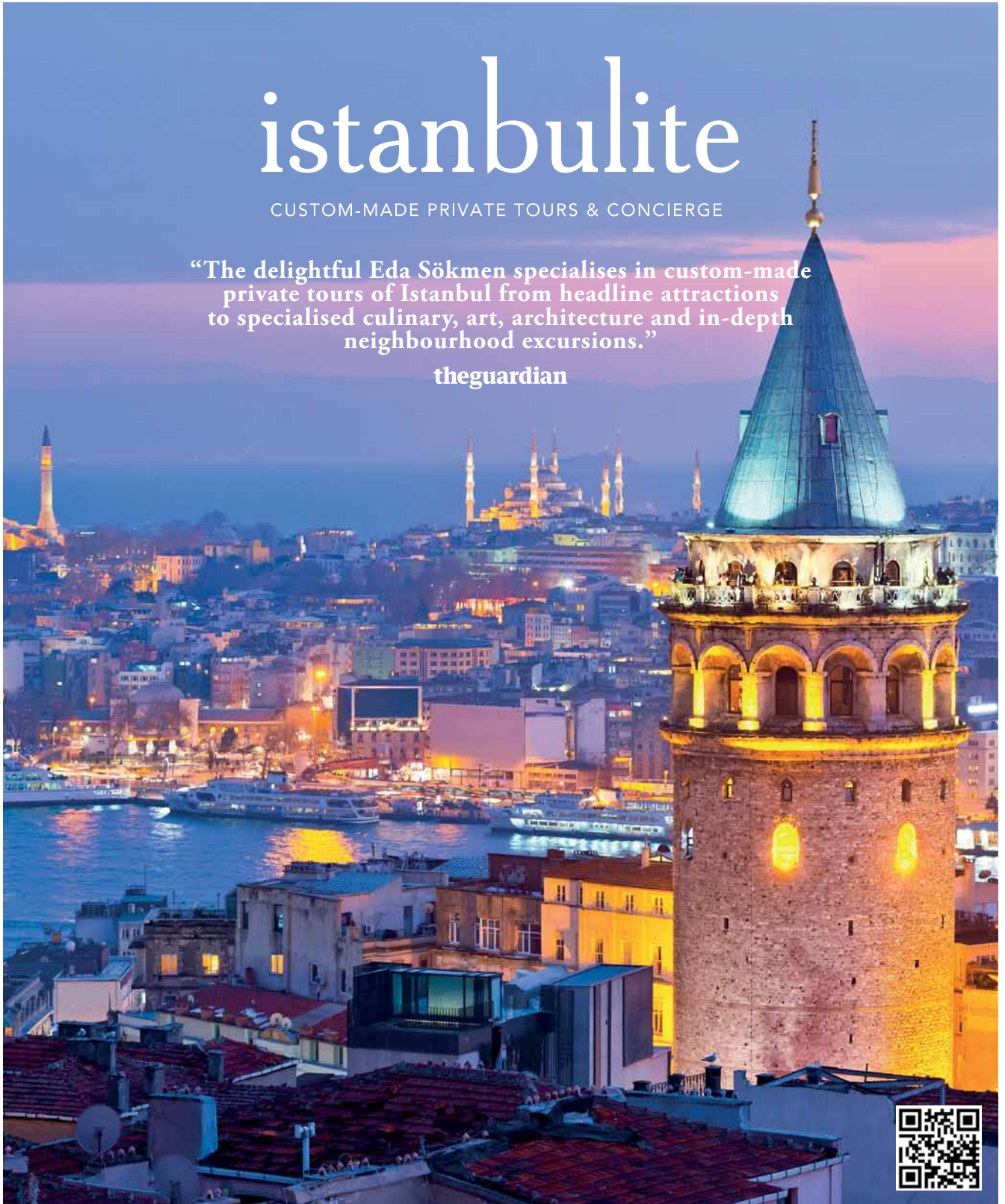


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