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ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE



the Science issue



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RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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

For decades, Robert College has educated bright students who went on to become educators, inventors, researchers and pioneers in the area of science. In this issue, we throw the spotlight on science education at RC (p. 34).

In this issue



As usual, we also feature captivating stories of many alumni following interesting paths in their chosen fields. Highlighted in this issue are philanthropists and entrepreneurs five decades apart – Kenan Şahin RA 60 (p. 16) and 2004 grads Kaan Karamancı and Alpaz Koraltürk (p. 30).

Just as we did with the topic of science, we plan to delve deeper into specific areas of the Robert College experience in our upcoming issues. As always, we would love to hear from you. If you have any comments or would like to share news, please write us at alumni@robcol.k12.tr

Best Wishes for 2019!

The RCQ Team

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Common Ground for the RC Community

The New RC Commons

At the heart of the school lies a new place for socializing, collaborating, and support – the RC Commons. Located on the ground floor of Gould Hall, the space that has hosted generations of students has been transformed over the years. Alumni will have fond memories of PE classes when it was a gym, and unforgettable meals when it was the cafeteria.

With the opening of the Murat Karamancı Student Center in 2016, which now houses the cafeteria, the space was ready to be reinvented once again. After two years of planning and



Located on the ground floor of Gould Hall, the Commons includes areas for classes, meetings and collaboration





The RC Commons has a variety of spaces for students to meet and socialize...

“This meeting place gives us a chance to come across some of our friends from upper or lower grades who we otherwise wouldn’t have time to meet. We use the tables and classrooms near the back of the Commons area to study or hold CIP meetings during the breaks...now we have another student center in addition to MKSC. It definitely contributes to school spirit.”

- Selin Gören L11

installing mock-up fixtures to see how students use the space, the area was redesigned as a vibrant place that includes areas for classes and groups to meet, collaboration rooms, nooks for studying, areas for eating and socializing, a canteen, and a games corner where students can let off steam while playing foosball and ping

pong. Also located here are two offices that students visit frequently – the Community Involvement Program and IT support offices. The abundance of undesignated working spaces were specifically created for faculty and students to mingle, hang out and share experiences.



... as well as quiet areas to study



The CIP office, relocated to the Commons, is now even more accessible to students

Headmaster Charlie Skipper says of the space, “Faculty, students, administrators, the Board of Trustees and architects were all involved in creating a truly unique place on campus where gathering, games, food, student services, creativity rooms, collaboration areas, and small, and private spaces are available to all. It is a ‘commons’ in the old sense of the area used and enjoyed by all members of a community.”



The amphitheatre is an ideal space for classes and small group events

Students and teachers immediately took to the Commons as soon as it opened. “The new space is a very different experience than previous locations,” says Bosphorus Chronicle advisor Melissa Altıntaş, who uses the collaboration room for small group meetings with BC staff. “Since the room has glass walls, it gives students the chance to see a lot of the activities that go on in the school that used to take place behind closed doors. I love feeling of being integrated with the

students outside the walls while working with the students inside the walls. It’s much more inclusive and personal.”

For students, the Commons means more room for all types of activities. Lise 11 student Selin Gören says, “We used to complain that there aren’t enough places to sit and chat with our friends during the breaks. The Commons came to our rescue. This meeting place gives us a chance to come across some of our friends from upper or lower grades who we otherwise wouldn’t have time to meet. We use the tables and classrooms near the back of the Commons area to study or hold CIP meetings during the breaks. The fact that it’s right beside the canteen is also great; we can get a cup of coffee while studying or chatting with our friends.” She added, “In my opinion now with the new design of the Commons area we have another student center in addition to the Murat Karamancı Student Center. It definitely contributes to school spirit.”



A floor plan showing the layout of the RC Commons, on the ground floor of Gould Hall

The Commons joins the İbrahim Bodur Library and Murat Karamancı Student Center as one of students’ favorite places to hang out, and a space that the entire RC community can enjoy.



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Caps Off to the Class of '18

Out of the many memorable aspects of the Robert College experience, graduation is the most unforgettable. It not only marks the successful culmination of years of hard work, but also constitutes the ultimate symbol of the leap to adulthood. As such, the commencement ceremony on July 3 for the 193 members of the class of 2018 was no exception.

The keynote speaker was Nihat Berker RA 67, Board of Trustees Vice Chair. Having taught class of 2018, Nihat Berker knew them well and thanked them for the joy and inspiration they generated (read his speech on p. 10).

One of the student speakers, Beste Bilen, thanked all the parents for giving their unconditional support and underlined her unwavering faith in her





Faculty speaker Engin Yetkin



Student speaker Can Yeşildere



Student speaker Beste Bilen

classmates, saying “Instead of striving to be the best, I have faith in my classmates the they will do their best for the common good in the world.”

Can Yeşildere, the other student speaker, pointed out that the graduating class lacked unity which was a good thing because it fostered an environment of exploration. “And is this not the characteristic of good schools, that only students with good answers can enter, and students with good questions leave?” he added.

The faculty speaker, history teacher Engin Yetkin, highlighted special moments and individuals, and shared advice that all alumni, including the class of 2018, may take to heart:

“After this it will be hard to bring together your classmates with such different qualities. Faculty and staff have had a lot of influence on you, but don’t forget that the greatest driving force in your development is your classmates; years later don’t forget those without status, reputation

and fortune, don’t despise or over indulge those who reject the bourgeois lifestyle... Let me give you the secret to happiness; your family and friends. Everything else is transient. Do the work that you desire and follow a career that you love. Don’t forget to fall in love, to love and be loved.”

The celebrations continued after the ceremony with a reception in front of Murat Karamancı Student Center for the graduates and their families.



Life Lessons from Commencement Speaker Nihat Berker RA 67

Dear Friends,
What can I say to a graduation class that I know so well, having taught so many of you for so many years, having taught with so many of you to other students, having so many of you as close friends? For five years, you have listened to how many of my classes and seminars, heard my highfalutin' words, laughed/simulaughed at my good/bad jokes? Many of you could very credibly give, in my style and ideas, my speech today.

However, when the subject is Robert College, and this year's graduating class, it is not at all difficult to produce a speech. Therefore, let's get into peace formation and start.

First of all, I would like to thank very, very much the academic, administrative, and support staff of Robert College, for raising this graduating class, and all past and future graduating classes, in Robert College's traditions of multifaceted excellence, forward motion, and open mindedness. This all happens thanks to you.

I very much congratulate your families, who have supported you for a combined 3600 years, whose hearts have seriously pounded for you in the last years and especially last months. I readily feel your excitement and happiness. If it had not been for you, this magnificent graduating class would of course not have been, and I do not state this solely as a biological fact. As an educator I know that the most important factor for a student's success is a family who sufficiently pushes her/him (within due limits, no helicopter parents among us, right?) and who makes it clear that the family will be a safe haven for her/him no matter what. For this graduating class, no question of pushing, they are the ones who dragged us forward.

And finally to the Graduating Class of 2018: I applaud you and congratulate you with all my heart and all my mind, and thank you very, very much for all the happiness and inspiration you have given us. In academics; in humanness; in energy, creativity, courage, friendship, and in partying, you are fantastic.



Commencement speaker Nihat Berker RA 67 with his son Emin Berker RC 18

You are the best graduating class that Robert College has produced. You will remain the best graduating class - for the coming 12 months.

Each class that comes out of Robert College is better than the previous one, I say this as someone from the Class of '67. Sorry, Üstün! (Each generation in society is better than the previous generation.) There is a very simple reason for this: Each class and each generation see the successes and mistakes of the previous class and generation, and wittingly/unwittingly internalize these experiences. Thus, it is natural to be better than the previous ones, the question is how much better are you? And this class has left us all behind in the dust. As you jump into your new life, I would like to reiterate some of the things that I know you will anyways do in your own style:

There is no such thing as too much success and too much happiness. Do not lose speed, increase it. Absolutely do not know your *hadd*. Listen to those around you and think about it, but always in the end make your own decisions. If everything is under control, you are not moving fast enough. As our ancestors said, the devil meddles in slow business.

Let me repeat traps that I know you will not fall into: Never fall into the culture of excuses and self-pity. As I have said on previous occasions, we know the greatest example against this. The

great person who has influenced all our lives did not say in his time: "All of the fortresses of my country have been occupied, all of her shipyards have been entered, all of her armies have been disbanded, what can I do?" On the contrary, he rolled up his sleeves, he used his personal strength and his mind, took risks, trusted the youth and the future, and was victorious for all of us. This is a very important example, and a responsibility, for all of us, forever.

I am certain that you will create a much better world. From everywhere, they will watch you and envy you and take cues from you: From Stanford, from Harvard, from the small technical school next to Harvard. It is you who will bring our country to the forefront of contemporary civilization, namely as a dynamic country with mutual tolerance and dialog, and a country where true enterprisers in all fields are encouraged and applauded. I have a little bad news for you, to which I kind of alluded earlier in my speech: Watching you, analyzing, profiting from you are the rising classes. We are going to prepare them also very well, with augmented mechanics, renormalization group classes, Simone de Beauvoir, and many other contributions. Therefore, don't lose speed, don't let yourselves be too outdistanced in the future.

Ending on this cheery note, I shall always carry my deep affection for all of you. You are for us a fantastic source of inspiration and happiness.

Where is the Class of 2018 Now?



Out of the 193 graduates of the Class of 2018, 40% have chosen to continue their education in Turkey. Of the students who took the 2018 YKS exam (university entrance exam), 101 were successfully placed into Turkish universities. 41 students were accepted to both Turkish universities and universities abroad.

51 of the graduates are continuing their education at private Turkish universities while 50 are attending public universities. Of the students who are attending private universities, 33 gained placement with scholarship. 41 graduates scored among the top 1000 on the YKS (the language section is included in this number).

The faculties that the 2018 graduates were accepted to are:

FACULTIES	NUMBERS
Faculty of Engineering	36
Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences	18
Faculty of Medicine	17
Faculty of Law	3
Other programs (chemistry, physics, psychology, sociology, language, etc.)	19
Faculty of Architecture	3
Faculty of Dentistry	1
Faculty of Communication	4

2018 ÖSYS UNIVERSITY RESULTS

Name of University		Without Scholarship		With Scholarship		TOTAL
			With acceptance to universities abroad		With acceptance to universities abroad	
BOĞAZİÇİ UNIVERSITY	İstanbul	12	7			19
İSTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	İstanbul	4	3			7
İSTANBUL UNIVERSITY	İstanbul		4			4
MARMARA UNIVERSITY	İstanbul		4			4
MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	Ankara	2	1			3
ULUDAĞ UNIVERSITY	Bursa	1	1			2
KOCAELİ UNIVERSITY	Kocaeli	1	1			2
HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY	Ankara		1			1
YILDIZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	İstanbul	1				1
GALATASARAY UNIVERSITY	İstanbul		1			1
DOKUZ EYLÜL UNIVERSITY	İzmir		1			1
EGE UNIVERSITY	İzmir		1			1
İZMİR DEMOCRACY UNIVERSITY	İzmir		1			1
İZMİR KATİP ÇELEBİ UNIVERSITY	İzmir		1			1
TRAKYA UNIVERSITY	Edirne	1				1
DİCLE UNIVERSITY	Diyarbakır		1			1
PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES		22	28			50
KOÇ UNIVERSITY	İstanbul	3	6	9	3	21
YEDİTEPE UNIVERSITY	İstanbul	2		3		5
SABANCI UNIVERSITY	İstanbul			7	1	8
İHSAN DOĞRAMACI BİLKENT UNIVERSITY	Ankara	2		2		4
İSTANBUL BİLGİ UNIVERSITY	İstanbul				1	1
İSTANBUL AYDIN UNIVERSITY	İstanbul				1	1
İSTANBUL MEDİPOLÜNİVERSİTESİ	İstanbul			1		1
İSTANBUL OKAN UNIVERSITY	İstanbul	3				3
İSTİNYE UNIVERSITY	İstanbul			2		2
BEZM-İ ALEM VAKIF UNIVERSITY	İstanbul			2		2
İZMİR UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS	İzmir				1	1
BAHÇEŞEHİR UNIVERSITY	İstanbul	2				2
PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES		12	6	26	7	51
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS PLACED		68		33		101

Robert College 2018 Foreign University Placement

UNIVERSITIES	Number Of Students
Babson College	2
Barnard College	1
Università Bocconi	6
Bowdoin College	1
Brown University	1
California Institute of Technology	1
University of California, Berkeley	6
University of California, Los Angeles	2
Chapman University	1
University of Chicago	4
Claremont McKenna College	1
Columbia University	3
Cornell University	1
Dartmouth College	3
Duke University	1
Durham University	2
Emory University	1
Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam	2
Franklin & Marshall College	1
Georgia Institute of Technology	2
Harvard University	2
IE University - Segovia	1
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	4
Imperial College London	1
Ithaca College	1
Jacobs University	1
King's College London	2
McGill University	3
University of Michigan	1
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	1
New York University	3
Northeastern University	1
Northwestern University	3
Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences	1
Paris Cergy National Graduate School of Art	1
University of Pennsylvania	1
Pomona College	1
Pratt Institute	1
Princeton University	2
Purdue University	1
SciencesPo - Menton	1
University of Southern California	1
Stanford University	5
Technische Universiteit Delft	1
Tilburg University	1
University of Toronto Undergraduate Only	9
Trinity College Dublin - Columbia University Dual BA Program	1
Tufts University	1
Tulane University	1
Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele	1
Universiteit Maastricht	1
University College London	3
The University of Edinburgh	1
University of Liverpool	1
The University of Manchester	1
The University of Nottingham	1
University of Oxford	4
Villanova University	1
University of Virginia	1
Washington University in St. Louis	2
University of Washington	1
University of Waterloo	1
Yale University	3
TOTAL	117

2018 Annual Giving Campaign Kicks Off



The keynote speaker of the evening was
Ömer M. Koç RC 80

Ömer M. Koç RC 80, Chairman of the Board of Koç Holding, was the keynote speaker at the 2018-19 Annual Giving Kick-off Dinner. Class Agents, High Honor Donors and 20-year Consecutive Donors were honored

at the event held at Bizim Tepe on November 13. The occasion also marked the 30th year of this vital giving program at Robert College.

During his inspiring talk, Koç congratulated the attendees and spoke about the rich legacy of Robert College and the importance of supporting this unique institution.

In the awards ceremony that followed, Development Director Leyla Aktay RC 72, announced the past year's top ten classes in Participation and Giving. Class Agents were called out to receive their awards.

One of the highlights of the evening was an announcement of a major transformative gift. Headmaster Charlie Skipper announced that Robert College received a gift of \$1 million from Kenan Şahin RA 60. The gift has been given in memory of Şahin's parents, Faika and Eyüp Şahin and is intended to support groundbreaking and innovative initiatives at RC (see p. 16). In addition to Şahin's gift, \$2,085,000 was raised by 2311 donors whose names are recognized in the 2017-18 Honor Roll.

"RC's impact goes way beyond its own graduates and its own achievements. It lies in the traditions it helps flourish in Turkey. It lies in the success of institutions which are changing the lives of so many young people all around the country. All of us should be proud to be a part of an institution which is serving our country and our world for over 150 years. And ... it is up to each and every one of us to continue the RC tradition."

- Ömer Koç RC 80



Family photo: Class agents from every decade helped make the 2017-18 Annual Giving Campaign a success.

LEVEL of PARTICIPATION

- 1| **RC 91 Class Agents:**
Ahmet Alp
Cüneyt Soydaş
- 2| **RC 76 Class Agents:**
Yasemin Palanduz Kahya
Nedim Ölçer
- 3| **RA 61 Class Agent:**
Y. Aydın Bilgin
- 4| **RC 93 Class Agents:**
Can Önen
İrem Kızılviranlıoğlu Önen
- 5| **RC 98 Class Agents:**
Oral Bozyiğit
Zeynep Baylan Dirikcan
Baki Kantaşı
- 6| **RC 88 Class Agents:**
Arif Akdağ
Aslı Berkol
Mehmet Cemalcılar
Gülün Yenigün Yücel
- 7| **RC 86 Class Agents:**
Meltem Tarhan Kayhan
Özlem Özbek
Kazım Uzunoğlu
- 8| **RC 78 Class Agents:**
Semih Aksu
Saba Başbuğ Kocaaydın
Selma Şaşmaz Somer
Haluk Şardağ
Doğan Şenocak
- 9| **RC 08 Class Agents:**
Pınar Bilgiç
Murat Uralkın
- 10| **RC 94 Class Agents:**
Özen Bozçağa Bezirci
Nevra Eker Güryel



Ayla Gümüşlügil ACG 55, Gürsan Şeyhun ACG 62 and Leyla Pekcan ACG 61 pose with Headmaster Charlie Skipper. They received special recognition for percentage of participation from their classes of the ACG era.



From L to R: Gülün Yenigün Yücel RC 88, Ömer Önen RC 88, Arif Akdağ RC 88, Zeynep Başaran RC 88, Mehmet Cemalcılar RC 88, Mehmet Güvendi RC 88 and Mert Tarlan RC 89



From L to R: Gonca Artunkal RC 85, Emre Derman RC 84, Kazım Uzunoğlu RC 86 and Zeynep Yalım Uzun RC 86



From L to R: Esra Eczacıbaşı RC 07, İrem Bilgiç RC 08, Pınar Bilgiç RC 08, Erol Bozbora RC 09, Burcu Yeşil RC 11, Merve Özkaplan RC 09 and Buğra Berkan Bingöl RC 15

LEVEL of GIVING

- 1| **RC 94 Class Agents:**
Özen Bozçağa Bezirci
Nevra Eker Güryel
- 2| **RC 86 Class Agents:**
Meltem Tarhan Kayhan
Özlem Özbek
Zeynep Yalım Uzun
Kazım Uzunoğlu
- 3| **RC 96 Class Agents:**
Orhan Ayanlar
Erez Navaro
- 4| **RC 97 Class Agents:**
Özge Karadağ Çaman
Emre Hatipoğlu
Bora Tokyay
- 5| **RC 88 Class Agents:**
Arif Akdağ
Aslı Berkol
Mehmet Cemalcılar
Gülün Yenigün Yücel
- 6| **RC L3 04 Class Agents:**
Murat Güneysu
Deniz İlhan
Alpay Koraltürk
Gamze Özkan
- 7| **RC 85 Class Agents:**
Oya İnal
Didem Soylu Muslu
Bilge Yavuz Rızvani
- 8| **RC 87 Class Agents:**
Burak Pekcan
Gaye Erkuloğlu Tabağ
- 9| **RC 93 Class Agents:**
Can Önen
İrem Kızılviranlıoğlu Önen
- 10| **RC 91 Class Agents:**
Ahmet Alp
Cüneyt Soydaş

To make a gift to the 2018-19 Annual Giving Campaign click [here](#)

RC is On-air!

If you ever feel the urge to rock out like a high school student, or just find out what kids at your alma mater are up to, Radyo Robert is just a tap away. The student-run station, which began broadcasting in 2016, was added to the PowerFM app this spring.

The Radyo Robert club was founded by RC 18 grads Hazal Odabaşı and İdil Korkut, when they were Lise 11 students. The club originally broadcast programs through their website, but they were slow to start as it was difficult to get the needed

permissions. Broadcasting through the app opens their programming to a wider audience, and also makes it easier to run the station.

Radyo Robert broadcasts music and interviews 24/7 through the app. Some of their thematic programming includes playlists around different holidays; for example, playing Atatürk's favorite songs around Republic Day. They also do interviews with members of the RC community. So far this year, they have interviewed Turkish teacher Sinan Tümtürk, and science teacher Cem



Pulathaneli about his music group. The focus of their interviews is to share things that the audience does not know about the interviewee, or that they are curious about. The team hopes to interview different types of people in the RC community. "We're planning to design the programs based on our audience's interests," says Irmak Yıldız L11.

Ayşe Nazlı Teker L11 adds, "There are a lot of clubs; this is a club where students' voices can be heard. This is something students can develop together." Tune into Radyo Robert on the PowerFM PowerApp under Campus Radios.



Lise 11 students Arda Kunakçı (left) and Hüseyin Emir Bilgin (right) in the studio

Robotics Club Beats Out Top Universities

The RC Makers robotics club competed against international university-level teams at the DJI Robomaster AI Challenge in Brisbane, Australia on May 21-25.

During the competition, teams built and programmed robots to automatically fight each other. After a two-tier elimination process, the team was one of 22 finalists out of over 100 teams, and was the only high school team in the finals. They placed 11th, becoming the highest-ranked team from outside East Asia, beating out such institutions as Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the University of Alberta, and Johns Hopkins University.

When asked what it was like to compete on that level, team member Yiğit Şen L11 (then Lise 10) said, "We were expected to achieve something that's normally achieved by university students, and while we had the capacity to do



Yiğit Şen L11 and Oktay Çomu RC 18 program their robot

it, it was still challenging. However, once we were in Brisbane and other teams learned that we were a high school team, they were shocked and happy to see us among them." All but

two other teams had been through another university-level international competition before Brisbane, and had knowledge of the system. The RC team saw the components for the first time and were expected to master them in just three months.

This year the RC Makers club plans to increase its power and range. A division of the club will attend the MATE ROV Competition - an underwater robotics competition. The club will also work again on the DJI RoboMaster AI Challenge 2019, which will be held in Montreal, Canada. They anticipate that they will be the only high school team at these competitions.

The RC Makers club also plans to host events to expand the DIY, makers and robotics culture in Turkey, and make sure that students all around Turkey have a leading path for robotics, artificial intelligence and more.

Empowering Turkey's Youth

East Meets West at Umut Halkası Camp



When different cultures come together amazing things happen: Stereotypes are broken, a new understanding of the other is formed, friendships are made. With the aim of creating awareness of other cultures in teenagers from around Turkey, this year's Umut Halkası (Circle of Hope) project included 50 participants from Batman, Mardin, Nevşehir and Istanbul, at the camp held in July in Izmir.

The main focus of the program was to empower participants to make a difference in their communities by giving them skills in social entrepreneurship, conflict resolution and empathy training. Throughout the week, they were involved in workshops and activities that helped them create a team bond, develop self-confidence and understand each other and each others' cultures better. This was the first year that both boys and girls participated in the camp. Some of the children were reluctant to participate together, but as

the week went on they found ways to communicate and were more at ease with each other.

Participants share memories from their life-changing week

"I learned that I am a valuable and special person. I met different people. I gained new brothers, sisters and mothers. I learned how to swim. Life gives people few opportunities... I learned that I am better at working with other people."

"I got to hear stories from different parts of Turkey, I improved my self-awareness and could observe differences in people better."

"I became more self-aware and aware of my surroundings, I socialized, made new friendships, and was more aware of my good and bad attributes."

This year the teachers from participating schools were also involved. Instead of just chaperoning, they were able to share skills with the group while learning from students and teachers from other parts of Turkey.

The program was organized by the RC Outreach Program in cooperation with Payda, an organization that includes many RC graduates ranging from ACG 62 to RC 07 (paydaplatformu.org). Payda builds bridges among estranged communities in Turkish society to facilitate understanding and unity.

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Kenan Şahin RA 60 Honors His Parents

Making a Major Gift to Robert College

Long-time RC Board Member, Kenan Şahin RA 60 made a generous gift of one million dollars to RC to establish a fund in memory of his parents. The Faika and Eyüp Şahin Memorial Fund is intended to support initiatives that are innovative, groundbreaking, potentially transformative, daring and broad in scope. Şahin reflects on his own life and the role that RC has played, as he donates a powerful gift to the institution.

Growing up in Aydın,

I had no knowledge of RC but my father Eyüp Şahin did. He was an eminently successful industrialist, entrepreneur, pioneer, public servant and father. He had built one of the most successful businesses in Aydın even as he, together with my mother Faika, raised a family of seven - four boys and three girls. I was the sixth.

In my fourth year at Cumhuriyet İlkokulu, my father was elected to the National Parliament on the Demokrat Parti ticket. Since the then prime-minister-to-be, Adnan Menderes was from Aydın, many Demokrat Parti organizational meetings before the 1950 elections took place in our house, which were also attended by the president-to-be, Celal Bayar.

My father was well-liked and well-respected. He was a man of deep wisdom, integrity and was very learned. Foremost, he emphasized education. It was my father's idea that I apply to Robert Academy as it was called then ("RA"). All my sisters were admitted to İzmir Amerikan Kız Koleji. My oldest brother went to the now-closed Buca Amerikan Koleji. My older brother went to St. Joseph in Istanbul.

My father took me to Istanbul in the spring of 1952 to take the entrance exams at RA. The exams seemed strange to me with questions about matching parts of cows, etc. I would later learn these were IQ tests. I was certain I had failed these unusual tests.



Kenan Şahin RA 60

It was my father who, a few months later, told me that I was accepted, and it was he and my mother who meticulously prepared my suitcase, labeling all my clothes with the number assigned to me by RA, 373, with indelible ink. It was my father who took me to Istanbul in the summer to be fitted with the RA blazer and gray slacks at the Mayer department store in Beyoğlu.

The journey that would forever change my life began in September 1952: the trip to the RA campus to be a boarding student as Prep I. On my first day, I had my blazer on as well as the then-mandatory cap which I hung on to well as I was told that if the upper classmen saw us without the cap they could beat us up.

My father and I proceeded to Anderson Hall for registration. The assembly hall was full of entering students. Suddenly he yelled out, "Is there anyone here from Aydın?" One student came forward, Güngör Kavadarlı. He said he was not from Aydın but from İzmir. My father replied that it would do, introduced us to each other and said we should be friends. Indeed, Güngör not only became a friend but one of my best friends and is so to this day.

We then proceeded to the dormitory on the top floor of Anderson Hall facing the Bosphorus. I was lucky to be assigned to the corner stacked bed albeit to the "upper deck." My father very carefully transferred my belongings from the rather large suitcase which he had carried, to the locker assigned to me. He then bid me good bye and suddenly, at age 11, I was in the starkly different environment of RA confined to the upper deck of a bed in a dormitory for about 40 classmates, in contrast to the 30-room house my family and I lived in in Aydın. I like to think I adapted quickly even as I was hearing many children crying for their parents.



Kenan Şahin (seated, left), with his parents Eyüp and Faika Şahin (fourth and fifth from the left), his siblings and his aunt

My first few days in the classroom were rather daunting. Even though I had finished Cumhuriyet İlkokulu as the top student, these students at RA, especially the ones from Istanbul, seemed to be a different breed. Many of them already knew English and seemed so self-confident and assertive as opposed to us from *taşra* (the country).

Fortunately, academics came easy to me and soon I was able to move to the head of the class and was no longer intimidated by the *Istanbullular* or *Ankaralılar*.

All seemed to be going well until month two when I got into trouble, ironically because of my father but mostly because RA had not yet instilled in me the “rule of law” or “rule of rules.”

It was a beautiful fall day. George Williams, our housemaster, had taken us to see some events on the Bosphorus. We were all gathered on the sidewalk opposite the gate, watching the events. I was startled to hear my name being called by a familiar voice: my father in the family car (1952 Packard) that was being driven by my brother-in-law (my father did not drive), and with my mother and sister in it. They invited

me and Güngör to join them for a ride, which of course we enthusiastically did. We returned to the same spot about an hour later only to find empty sidewalks. Since the gate was just across, I did not worry but when we walked over to the gate the guard told us that Mr. Williams had looked for us all over and we should immediately go see him as we were in serious trouble.

Indeed, we were. After a long, long lecture, most of which I did not understand as my English was not at that level, Mr. Williams issued us three demerits despite my arduous explanations that I was simply with my parents. No mercy, no understanding. A valuable lesson learned. Even at age 11, I was responsible for my conduct and had to comply with the rules or the laws of the land, in this case RA.

Later, when I described to my parents what had happened, instead of agreeing with my viewpoint they agreed with RA’s. Amazingly enlightened parents. The concept of self-responsibility and the rule of law really sank in. My father also impacted my eventual journey to the US.

In the summer of 1953, distant relatives of ours who were living in California visited us at my father’s office. My father introduced me to them. They seemed quite strange. Their shoes were odd with thick rubber soles. Their dresses and suits were also odd. The men were wearing striped suits which I was to learn later were seersuckers. The women had homely looking skirts and blouses with strange hairdos.

My father was in deep conversations with these relatives from what seemed to me to be a distant planet. Suddenly, he put his hand on my head and said that one day I, his son, would go to the US. At the time this meant very little to me, but those words would echo in my mind years later. “Benim oğlum bir gün Amerika’ya gidecek.”

That same summer, I went to visit my father in Ankara at his rented room in a big building near the old Parliament House. Early in the morning, I was awakened by conversations between my father and villagers from Aydın. They had requests and grievances and my father was taking copious notes. After we had breakfast which he prepared on a table top burner, he told me that he



Kenan Şahin's father Eyüp Şahin, an MP for Aydın, addressing Parliament in the early 1950s

was going to visit government offices to follow up on the requests the villagers had made. At close range, I saw what a public servant he was and how dedicated he was.

In 1954, he won re-election to Parliament. As he was preparing for his next term, tragedy struck. On August 30, he left the house with my younger brother driving the family car and two other siblings also in the car. They were traveling to the Izmir Airport to meet my mother Faika, who was returning from İstanbul.

On the way, apparently a dog strayed into the road and my father told my brother not to overrun it whereupon my brother braked hard, the car flipped and my father, whose hand was on the door handle (design changed since then), was thrown out of the car when the door flung open. Having sustained a concussion, he was taken to the nearby government hospital. My older sister who had stayed behind and I were called to the hospital. I had a chance to converse with him and got advice that would further impact my life. In retrospect, even on his death bed, his integrity and dedication to his

family remained intact. A half hour later he was gone, reciting his last prayers. He had always said that he wished to be "in bed three days and on the fourth in the grave", as the Turkish saying goes. It was to be just a few hours.

My mother was absolutely distraught, left with seven children, with a highly pampered life behind her, and a big and complex business to boot. The children were in various private schools.

She stepped in valiantly and raised us all against all kinds of challenges. She could have easily pulled me back from RA. Instead, she encouraged me on.

The academic year 1954-55 was a very difficult one for me: on the one hand there was the sudden loss of my father who was my guiding light, and on the other, I was entering puberty with all of its challenges. The RA activities and rigors, however, allowed me to channel my energies constructively.

It was in Form II and Form III that RA fundamentally impacted me. By now I had moved to Theodorus Hall and was

enjoying life there, which was altered when I was selected to be a "prefect" and was moved back to Anderson Hall to provide oversight to the lower classmen. Prefects were also given a room to congregate in where we could stay well beyond curfew time as we were now deemed to be grown-ups and trusted with self-management. It was a great experience. Many of the lower classmen still remember me as the *abi*.

Feeling grown up and also inspired by my father's career in public service, during my Form II year I decided to run for the presidency of the student council. It was a hotly contested election with three of my classmates fiercely competing. At a meeting of the whole student body, each one of us delivered our campaign speeches with passion. Mine was not only passionate but I also made some genuine campaign promises like having study hall after breakfast. At that time, we first had to go to study hall, half sleepy and really hungry. After an intense campaign with rallies, I was elected (and I made good on my campaign promise).

That summer, I studied the constitutions and the bylaws of student councils in the US and concluded that the RA Council lacked such instruments. I spent a month writing a constitution and bylaws adapted to RA and included a court to parallel the "three" powers. In the fall, each student got a copy (a lot of mimeographing) and then I called a meeting of the RA student body at Albert Long Hall. It was a raucous gathering. After much debating, the instruments were approved. We now had a president, the council and a brand new court. I appointed Nihat Erim, my classmate, to be the judge and then deputized several others to act as officers who could bring charges against RA students for a variety of infractions.

All of this worked, but looking back I am aghast not so much at what I did but that the RA administration allowed me to do all that including our weekend trials where we "tried and convicted" some of our school mates and insisted on penalties.

That is the true spirit of RA education.

That year my father's influence continued. We were told of a very interesting program abroad: the American Field Service (AFS). With my father's words now echoing in my mind "one day my son will go to the US," I applied and was selected after a lengthy application process. When I broke the news to my mother that at age 16 I was going to the US for a whole year to live with a family she and I knew nothing about, she was understandably sad but supportive. It was very courageous of her.

My AFS year was spectacularly successful. I was placed with a middle-class family living in a small but cute 1500 square foot house in Inglewood, California. Since their only son, who was older than me, was attending the 12th grade I too was put in that class. With the RA student council experience as my credential, I ran for and was elected vice president. (I do think RA was more colorful.)

Thanks to my excellent RA education, I received all A's without much effort except in US History which was very detailed and required much work but that too ended in an A. At end of the year, I made an unusual request that I be given a high school diploma. After much back and forth I indeed received a US high school diploma and marched in a white gown with my classmates.

When I returned, my US year counted as my Robert Lise I and so I entered Robert Lise II with my RA classmates. That year I decided to pursue my college education at the relatively new Yüksek Okul - a true four-year college. Why not apply with my US diploma and skip Lise III? The administration said only if the Ministry of Education approved my diploma. After much effort, I was able to convince an official in Ankara to attach the ministry's stamp of equivalency to my American diploma but he was clearly annoyed and had some sharp words for me.

After taking the entrance exams and being accepted for admission, I did skip Lise III and entered Yüksek Okul as a freshman majoring in physics and mechanical engineering. The entering



Kenan Şahin's Lise III graduation photo from the 1960 Record

"I feel privileged and humbled to be able to make this gift to support Robert College, the amazing institution that has done so much, with my best wishes that it be even more transformative in the decades ahead."

class turned out to be historic: thanks to then-president Dr. Balantine's initiative, the prior year a group of students had been selected from across Turkey who had graduated from Turkish high schools to attend. After going through a novel English teaching program, designed by Dr. Sheldon Wise, they were entering as freshmen with me. So, here I was surrounded by students who hailed from many parts of Anatolia and also some Robert Lise III students, my *abis*. What an experience.

Many of those Turkish Lise students struggled the first semester, but then advanced rapidly. One of the toughest courses, not just for them but for the whole class, was another big experiment RC had initiated: a humanities course to

be taught by Yüksek Okul professors and visiting professors, one of them being Professor Geoffrey Lewis of Oxford. Because of differing teaching styles and dense material, it was not popular but I enjoyed it and was the only one to get an A. I also finished the year as one of the top two students.

Because of my academic performance in the freshman physics course, Professor Hans Weltin made me the teaching/lab assistant for the freshman physics course when I became a sophomore, which thrilled me. However, when the year started I was faced with many of my RA classmates who, of course, had pushed on with Lycee III and now were "my students" as freshmen.

The first few labs were very trying as my classmates were not taking me seriously. Who would? Here again, the RA education helped: the early lesson in rule of rules, leadership training as a student prefect, then governance experience as student council president, all blended together to enable me to take charge in the classroom, yet still be friends outside.

At the end of my freshman year, Dr. Ballantine left and Dr. Hazen, who was the dean of MIT Graduate School, became the acting president. While I enjoyed physics and mechanical engineering, I could not see myself as an academic or even an engineer, as my family had many entrepreneurs. I reasoned they would pull me in. So why not study industrial engineering which I had heard about, but which was not available at Yüksek Okul? When I discussed these with Dr. Hazen in a chance conversation, he encouraged me to apply to MIT's School of Industrial Management (Engineering). I did. As I was filling out the application form, I was surprised at the enormous cost. It was made clear that no scholarship would be available to foreign students during the first year of studies. I wrote that all I could cover was about half the cost. I sent in the application, but my interest soon faded.

In April 1961, I received an admission letter as a transfer student to the junior class at MIT. Alas, I was having so much

fun at RC that I decided not to go. In May, a most unexpected letter arrived informing me that MIT had made an exception and would award me the Clark Scholarship which would cover all my tuition. My professors said I really should go and indeed I decided to do so.

Little did I know the challenges of leaving Turkey, which at the time was going through a terrible financial crisis. Students going abroad who wanted foreign currency would need to take a special exam in Turkish on a variety of subjects all of which I had learned in English.

After a whole summer of studies primarily to learn the Turkish equivalents of a lot of terminology, I did pass the exam, and then informed my mother and the rest of my family of my intended transition to MIT. My mother was very sad but very supportive as usual. She packed me a nice bag of supplies with my favorites for the long journey ahead.

I thought all was set but another challenge occurred. With the foreign exchange permit in hand I went to many banks, only to be told no dollars were available to students. Finally, one bank released \$50. So with that amount in my pocket, an airline ticket paid for in liras, and a small suitcase, I headed to Boston to enroll as a junior at MIT.

Fortunately, I got a part-time job at MIT to make ends meet. Thanks to my strong foundations at RA, Inglewood High School, Robert Lise, Yüksek Okul and foremost my father's continuing guidance through his humorous words of wisdom and the great support of my mother, I finished the year, despite the heavy part-time work of twenty hours a week, with four A's and one B (still the highest in the class) and got credit for all my RC freshman and sophomore courses.

I attribute the smooth transition from the sophomore year at Yüksek Okul to the junior year at MIT to my solid education at RC in all its forms.



Kenan Şahin RA 60 was featured in Forbes magazine in April 2018

After my junior year, it was smooth sailing. I was admitted to MIT School of Industrial Management as a PhD student during my senior year, with a fellowship that paid all my tuition and provided a generous stipend. A few years later the school became MIT Sloan School of Management, named after Alfred P. Sloan, an illustrious MIT alum.

The rest of my career is interwoven with MIT, and I will not include that here except what happened after I finished my PhD having several offers for tenure positions at several universities in hand including MIT, where I had already been appointed an assistant professor. My plan throughout my MIT education was to return to Turkey.

When the PhD program ironically got me into teaching and research, I aspired to come to the Yüksek Okul to be a faculty member. I made inquiries in the spring of 1969 and had a visit by then-president Dr. Everton. I received a good offer to teach in my field and in the summer of 1969, starry eyed, I returned to Turkey with my wife.

The first few months were delightful. Bright students, excellent colleagues,

beautiful Istanbul and the Bosphorus... Alas, rumors soon began that American faculty contracts would not be renewed and new students would not be admitted—signs that the school was closing.

Dr. Abdullah Kuran and I went to the president to get clarification but could not. Only when the then-board chair was visiting did I learn the truth. It was quite jarring. Quickly, I made the decision to return to the US to reorient my fields so I could teach at another university in Turkey.

I returned to MIT. Shortly after, I learned the surprising news that instead of being closed, my beloved Yüksek Okul had become Boğaziçi University.

In the end, despite preparing myself with an MIT PhD education to be a member of the faculty at the then Yüksek Okul, I suppose subconsciously the words of my father, spoken when I was only 7 years old that “my son one day will go to America”, must have guided me. And here I am having spent 56 years in the US yet always passionate about Turkey and its potential at the crossroads of civilizations in the 21st century as it was for many centuries past.

My multifaceted career in the US included serving as a faculty member at MIT and Harvard, and as vice president of technology at Bell Labs, as well as being the founder of multiple globally-recognized companies.

All of these endeavors continue to have a direct and indirect impact on Turkey, a source of great pride for me. At this time, I feel privileged and humbled to be able to make this gift to support Robert College, the amazing institution that has done so much, with my best wishes that it be even more transformative in the decades ahead.”



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Summer Outreach Projects

Although school is out at the end of June, Community Involvement Projects (CIPs) throughout Turkey keep many students busy over the break. During summer 2018, 288 students participated in 15 projects that impacted hundreds of people around Turkey. Here are some of the highlights.

CIP Summer 2018 Snapshot

- 9 RKANEP (Robert Koleji Alternatif Eğitim Projeleri/Robert College Alternative Education Projects) facilitating experiential educational activities in STEM, English, sports, dance, and creative arts for elementary and middle school students in Merzifon, Soma, Sinop, Eskişehir, Kartepe, Vezirköprü, Pınarhisar, Tekirdağ, and Keşan. •
 - 2 Special Needs Education projects in Sivas and Samsun •
 - 2 Camps in Yenişakran and Bursa •
 - 1 Library project in Tosya •
 - 1 Mind Games project in Denizli •



Middle school students in Tekirdağ participate in an interactive geography lesson



Students in Vezirköprü show off bracelets they created during the week at the closing fair



Advisors Sinan Tümtürk and İzzet Dodurgalı help students paint the walls of a library in Tosya

Anatolian Makers in Merzifon

by CIP student leader Asrın Sevinç L12



An RC student teaches kids Scratch, a basic coding language



The group in Merzifon warms up for a team building activity

As individuals born in the age of technology, we need to keep up with developments and changes to increase our productivity. We need to learn how to code just as we need to know the alphabet, and produce products that will maximize our life standards. In order to ensure the development and progress of our country, we should give technological trainings to children at an early age, and increase their scientific approaches with supporting materials.

With this aim we started a project called "Anatolian Maker Movement" and are working on spreading the maker movement to the rural areas of Turkey. Our first stop was Merzifon, from June 18-22. During this one week, we had three different focuses: STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics), English and creative activities.

We had English lessons in the morning. Not only were we able to create games that worked perfectly with the English

curriculum of the students, but we also made posters and projects that encouraged them to actively participate to develop their English levels. Next, we worked with the students on subjects such as drama, Destination Imagination, sports, and music. The children were able to experience all four of these activities and decide which one they would like to continue with for the remaining days, working towards increasing their skills on the subject.

Our main focus, STEM education, was given after the lunch break to make sure the students had energy to focus on the most important part of our project. Our priority in these lessons was to show the students that they could actually code all the games they were playing, and could make anything they wished with coding including simulations, story-building and interactive art. We distributed books that our sponsors had given us on a basic coding language called Scratch (a visual programming

language designed for children by MIT) and use these books for our sessions.

We knew that the biggest step towards a good project was to ensure its sustainability. Anyone could go to a village in Anatolia and show them a different world - one they are not used to. But the most important part was to encourage the children to realize their dreams and create the roots of a system that would further enable them to direct themselves to reach their goals.

Our first project was in Merzifon and we are currently working towards projects in Balıkesir, Kocaeli, and Kırşehir. We hope to reach out to more areas in Turkey in the near future and increase the access to STEM education for children.

To learn more visit the project website: anatolianmaker.weebly.com

Bizim Tepe: The Social Hub for RC Alumni

The activities organized by the Robert College Alumni Association (RKMD) offer something for everyone. Here are some of the events that have taken place over the past few months.



Homecoming 2018 After-party

The Homecoming celebrations on campus continued throughout the evening at Bizim Tepe, hosted by RKMD



Akbank Jazz Brunch

For the third year in a row, Bizim Tepe hosted the Akbank Jazz Festival Brunch. Alumni and friends enjoyed a pleasant, sunny Sunday brunch on October 28 in the lush and peaceful atmosphere, with New Pel Trio's selection of jazzy tunes.



Membership Renewal and the RKMD E-Store Are Just a Scan Away!

Renewing RKMD Membership has Never Been Easier!

RKMD members can apply online for membership, update their info, pay annual fees, and make reservations for events at Bizim Tepe.



Shop for RC Merchandise

Check out the latest range of RC Memorabilia.



rkmd.org.tr

Republic Day Celebration with Centennial Schools

Eighteen Centennial High Schools' Alumni Associations of Turkey gathered together for the first time to celebrate the 95th anniversary of Turkey's Republic Day, at a Gala Dinner on October 20, at Hilton Hotel Maslak. RC alumni from different generations participated, celebrated, and later on danced the night away with Behzat Gerçeker & ENBE Orchestra and Can Hatipoğlu. In a press release, the associations jointly stated, "Education with equality, quality and contemporaneity are the elements of a guaranteed future. We had different uniforms but we are all children of our era brought up with a deep love for Atatürk and our Republic."



RC Alumni Association President Arif Akdağ RC 88 (second from right) poses with other Centennial Schools' Alumni Associations of Turkey presidents. Akdağ was instrumental in bringing the alumni associations together.

GradLive



Continuing the Liselive tradition, with the motto "The Tradition Continues", GradLive is a get-together where alumni play music for their schoolmates at Bizim Tepe. The event is organized by UNIRC, the committee of RC graduates studying at universities (see p. 28). On September 6, alumni music groups Cazavar, Ico and Koray, Kahveovski, Swiss Army Band, Doktorlar ft. Ico, Yabancı Değiliz, and Daha Demin Evdeydik played to the enthusiastic crowd.

Bizim Tepe Cup 2018

The first Bizim Tepe Cup Tournament was held on September 20 - 30, in partnership with ÇABA Association. This ten-day event included a two-day shopping fest and a Gala Night which raised funds to support education. Defne Samyeli performed at the Gala Night on September 30, to more than 500 guests. Over 230 players competed and over 750 visitors came to the tournament.



Bar Opening

Thanks to Bülent Akgerman RC 88, Erol Altıntuğ RC 86, Özkan Esmer RC ENG 69, Engin Esmer RC 86, Ali Sancar RC 86, Taner Şekercioğlu RC 86, Özcan Tahincioğlu RC 87, Cüneyt Yavuz RC 86 and Ersin Akarlılar RC 87, the Bizim Tepe bar was given a brand-new look. Designed by Taner Şekercioğlu RC 86, the bar was launched on July 4.



Alumni celebrate the opening of the renovated bar. From L to R: Taner Şekercioğlu RC 86, Bülent Akgerman RC 88, Müge İkizler RC 88, Aslı Berkol RC 88, Arif Akdağ RC 88, Ali Sancar RC 86, Gülin Yücel RC 88, Kaan Yücel and Mehmet Cemalcılar RC 88

Bizim Tepe Open Senior Tennis Tournament '18

The 2018 Bizim Tepe Senior Tennis Tournament marks the 28th anniversary of this tournament, taking place since 1984 despite some gaps between 2009 and 2015. From June 28 - July 8, 248 players in 18 categories challenged each other in the ten-day tournament that was sponsored by TEB. Trophies were presented to the 18 champions and finalists.



Bizim Kamp 2018

Every summer Bizim Tepe welcomes kids aged 4 to 8 to a summer camp where they experience exciting entertainment, challenging activities and fantastic day trips to museums, parks and the forest. It is a truly inspirational and safe environment with learning, fun and adventure at the heart of everything.



L12 Day @ Bizim Tepe



Bizim Tepe has a tradition of welcoming RC's senior class the day before graduation. This year's event was held on the evening on July 2. We wish them the best and hope to see them all at Bizim Tepe in the future.

RKMD Board Recognizes Changemakers

At the Bizim Tepe Cup '18, the RKMD Board recognized "Outstanding Changemakers" - students who have made valuable contributions to the RC CIP program.

Emir Arda Değer L11 was recognized for his "Wheelchair Tennis" project, conducted with the Maltepe Municipality. He and his team taught basic tennis skills to 10-25 year olds in wheelchairs in order to integrate them into sports and social activities, and to show that there is no barrier to them participating in challenging activities.

Işıl Baştuğ L 10 and Defne Gündoğdu L 10 received recognition for their dedication to teaching tennis to children from Galip Öztürk Love Orphanage, at the Robert College tennis courts.



From L to R: UniRC Co-President Sıla Özüm Kudat RC 16, Emir Arda Değer L11, RC Alumni Association President Arif Akdağ RC 88, Defne Gündoğdu L10, and Işıl Baştuğ L10

They have given these children the opportunity to learn tennis and make sports a part of their lives.

UniRC also received recognition for their "Türkiye'nin 7 Rengi" Project (see p. 28).

Young Grads Carry on the RC Spirit through UniRC



The 2018 UNIRC team

UniRC, founded in 2005 as part of the Robert College Alumni Association (RKMD), is a young, dynamic community which aims to gather recent RC graduates at Bizim Tepe. UNIRC organizes events that help members find solutions to their problems, form strong bonds with each other and help them plan their career opportunities. All the money collected from these events goes directly to the Robert College scholarship fund via RKMD.

Some of the events that are organized throughout the year are meetings with alumni, career days, UniFuar, community involvement projects such as “Türkiye’nin Yedi Rengi” (Turkey’s Seven Colors). They also organize fun social gatherings such as Santa’s Return, the New Year’s Eve party and GradLive (see p. 26).

Türkiye’nin Yedi Rengi Community Involvement Project

This project is a week-long camp at Robert College that hosts 56 children aged 12-13 from the seven different regions of Turkey. Participants are children from underprivileged backgrounds with strong academic skills, chosen with the help of the Association for Supporting Contemporary Life. This year’s participants, who came from Kahramanmaraş, Aydın, Yozgat, Elazığ, Zonguldak, Bilecik and Siirt, took part in sports, arts and science activities. They also visited Istanbul



Participants and advisors from this year’s Türkiye’nin 7 Rengi project show off their colors in the Maze

during sightseeing events to museums and historical places such as Hagia Sophia and the Istanbul Modern. The aim of these activities was to create an environment for the children to recognize their skills and expand their horizons while getting to know about and learning to respect different cultures.

“As university students, we are all aware that we should add value to this country and pave the way to a brighter future,” says Cansu Bayraktar RC 16, UniRC Co-President. “That’s why our aim is to share our knowledge, skills and vision with Turkey’s youth and create an environment where everyone respects each other’s ideas.” Sila Özüm Kudat RC 16, UniRC Co-President, adds, “It’s fascinating for us to observe what we’ve

accomplished in the last 12 years since the beginning of the project.”

Leyla Akkuş, one of the participants in 2006 from Artvin, joined the project as a leader in 2016 while studying engineering at Istanbul Teknik University. Leyla says her whole life was reshaped after this project: “Now I try to visit underprivileged schools and show children the bright future ahead of them, just like UniRC showed me 12 years ago.”

The UniRC team aims to take the project further to change more lives, like Leyla’s. They are planning for future events that will continue to turn dreams into goals and goals into reality. Follow UniRC on social media: @unircrkmd

World-class World Cup Breakfast in San Francisco

San Francisco Bay Area Alumni met on July 15 to watch the World Cup final game together. Despite an early start time of 8:00 on a Sunday morning, over 30 alumni came out to catch up

with friends, make new connections and enjoy a delicious traditional Turkish breakfast prepared by alumni chef Sayat Özyılmaz RC L12 04. Everyone had a great time, as the crowd stayed

an hour past the end of the game and ensured that no food was left over! Organizers Hayal Koç RC 98 and Neşe Özler RC L12 03 hope to plan many more young alumni events in the future.



Bay Area Mini Reunion for RC L12 03

Over the summer, my husband and I moved our family to the Bay Area and we wanted to host a housewarming for my high school friends. Some of us had not seen each other since graduation so it was really lovely to catch up. A lot of Turkish food and wine was had! In addition to the alumni events that take place across the Bay Area every few months, I also see a lot of my classmates now on a regular basis. We hope to host more of these gatherings in the future. It seems like our little group here is continuing to grow as Silicon Valley is expanding.



From L to R: Robert Stobaugh, Firdevs Abacıoğlu, Kelly Baykal, Doruk Baykal, Esra Coşkun, Eylül Kasal Stobaugh, Will Crabtree, Elaine Sağlam, Salim Sağlam, Merve Atamer Keskin, Arın Keskin, Turhan Karadeniz and Neşe Özler

Contributed by Eylül Kasal Stobaugh

Success is a Game for Karamancı and Koraltürk

Gram Games, the company founded by RC L3 04 alumni Kaan Karamancı and Alpay Koraltürk, has been acquired by Zynga, a US-based gaming company. Two other RC alumni, Chief Product Officer Eren Yanık RC L3 04 and Chief Financial Officer Onur Baylan RC 94, were also instrumental in this tremendous achievement.

Kaan Karamancı relays their story:

“Our generation grew up in the Renaissance era of gaming. We would gather after school to play competitive multiplayer strategy games for countless hours. Our creative nature would lead us to imagine what games we would build, if given the resources. The dawn of the mobile era came around just as we were beginning our entrepreneurial lives, and suddenly, building games no longer required giant budgets or production teams. The market was huge, the scalability was there. We could build something here. We jumped in with both feet.

“In late 2012, we got together a small team and said, ‘we will be lean and mean, and just build products with the runway we have.’ A modest funding of about \$500k, and two years later, we found a magical product called 1010!. This simple little product has over 200 million players today.

“With 1010! out and the existential question behind us, we turned to building the culture and organization that we had envisioned for years. We built a flat structure, no managers, with freedom for the teams to work on their own projects, and ability to put them in the hands of actual players. The goal was fast-paced, data-driven product execution: Try and fail as quickly as possible (a team of 40 delivered over 100 prototypes in one year). We launched a new office in London at the heart of the game industry in Europe.



Alpay Koraltürk RC L3 04

We built a fascinating product in Merge Dragons! which gave our business a massive boost.

“Every step of the way we made big decisions, accepted big risks, worked around those, and always focused on the products. Big industry names took note, and several conversations later, we partnered up with Zynga.”

Alpay Koraltürk draws attention to the importance of timing. “Game design just seemed like the right opportunity when we were looking to start something in 2012. If we were 5 years earlier, we may have tried something in social media.”

What’s next for these successful alumni? Karamancı continues to work at Gram Games. In addition they are both investing in another project, Furnishare, in NYC. It’s a curated furniture marketplace, with the goal to make a beautiful home accessible for everyone and sustainable for the planet. The COO is another classmate Yarkin Ilıcalı RC L3 04. Fırat İşbecer RC 98 is also an investor in the company.

Kaan Karamancı and his wife Ceyla Erhan Karamancı RC L3 04 are currently based in London. Alpay Koraltürk and his wife Başak Ötüş Koraltürk RC 06 are living in New York. For more information visit gram.gs and furnishare.com



Kaan Karamancı RC L3 04

Startup Advice for RC alumni from Gram Games founders

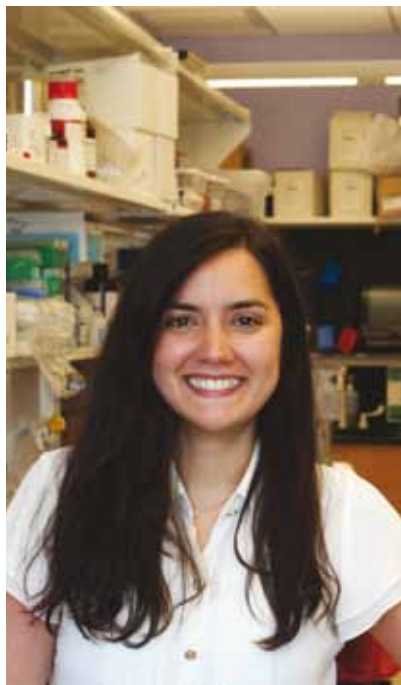
“As you’ll soon find, you have received a world-class high school education. You will continue to build on that rock solid foundation no matter where you go next. Don’t be afraid to take big risks. Your education ensures that you can afford them. Continue to learn, try new adventures and cherish your RC connections.”

– **Alpay Koraltürk**

“Do not read this advice or any others really. You will eventually realize that your personal strengths and circumstances, business needs, and facts of the day will vary enough so that consuming advice on various platforms is a waste of time. Focus on product and execution. Entrepreneurship is about managing execution risk. Thrive in it.

“Of note here is that we had four RC graduates in senior management at Gram Games. Your connections and friendships at RC are of immeasurable value, not only due to your collective brilliance and ability to elevate each other, but also to your strong bonds of companionship throughout life. Cherish them.” – **Kaan Karamancı**

Nil Güral RC 07: A Pivotal Research Breakthrough



Nil Güral RC 07

A biomedical engineer who works at MIT, Nil Güral's work enabled liver cells to survive in a culture for 4-6 weeks, whereas previously they could only survive for 2-3 days outside the body. This work is expected to be pivotal in the fight against malaria.

Güral was interested in global health and envisioned a PhD that allowed her to travel to endemic settings, as well as working in an engineering lab. As there aren't many engineering labs that work on global health diseases, the choice to pursue malaria was a side effect of having found a unicorn of a lab that did both.

Of her recent discovery, she explains, "We made use of techniques from the semiconductor industry to pattern cells in culture dishes in a way that enabled us to extend their life span."

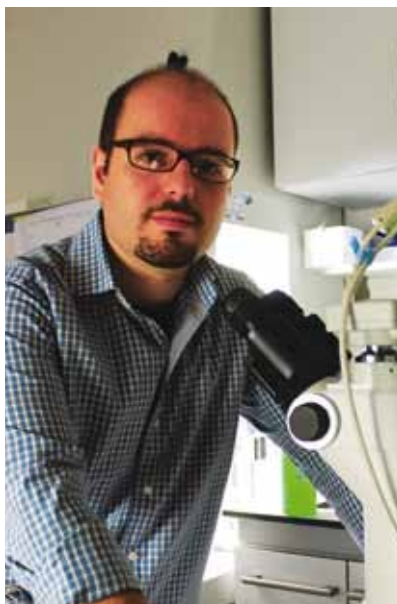
When asked her about her future plans she says, "I had made the decision not to stay in academia a while ago and I am sticking with that decision. I'm hoping to stay close to science and biotech, in an industry setting. I have been involved with and been consulting some local biotech startups in Boston, so joining the healthcare startup world is a definite possibility."

Of her experience at RC, Güral says, "I feel that I was empowered at RC to become more courageous in going after things I want in life. I was involved in many activities at RC, and that taught me to appreciate the importance of team work. And finally, the friends I made at RC are still the people closest to me and their support through the thick and thin has made me the person that I am today. Our shared values, drive, ambition and passion in life makes me strive to do better every day."

Tamer Önder RC 98 **Receives Aziz Sancar Award**

The Aziz Sancar Science, Service and Encouragement Award is given to promising young scientists in Turkey working in health-related fields such as medicine, bioengineering and molecular biology based on their academic productivity and recognition in their respective fields. Tamer Önder was given this prestigious award at the 5th Turkish Medical World Convention in October 2018.

Önder's research at Koç University School of Medicine focuses on understanding how embryonic-like stem cells from adults can be generated through a process called cellular reprogramming. This is a process where skin or blood cells are taken from an individual, and by genetic manipulation, personalized stem cells are produced. These stem cells can then be converted to any specialized cell type for transplantation back to that person without a risk of immune rejection.



Tamer Önder RC 98

With the creation of such personalized neurons, treatment for neurodegenerative

diseases like Parkinson's potentially takes a different turn. "Reprogramming is a recent and exciting development in the field of regenerative medicine, but a number of challenges remain," explains Önder. "Using molecular biology and genetics tools, our work has uncovered some of the key molecular events adult cells undergo as they change their identity and become stem cells. Using such basic biological knowledge, we were able to make the process of generating stem cells much more efficient and potentially safer for future clinical applications."

When asked about his years at Robert College, Önder says, "I think the most influential person in Robert College for me was our Orta 1 science teacher Mr. Ken Lajoie. He really inspired me to be curious about cells, their inner workings and the microscopic world around us."

Burak Doğansoyal RC 96 Receives Award for Nature Documentary

The Best Humans and Nature Documentary award was presented to Burak Doğansoyal and Akin Egin at the Wildlife Conservation Festival in October 2018 for their film “Ancient People of Namibia”. The film is part of an eight-episode series in the third season of his wildlife/travel TV show, titled *The Namibia Diaries*. The first season was filmed in Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania. The second season was filmed in South Africa. Doğansoyal also had another film screened at the festival, *Remarkable Rwanda*, a 52-minute feature documentary which demonstrates that Rwanda is one of the safest, cleanest countries in the world with diverse habitats, amazing nature and abundant wildlife.

He has won several other awards in photography over the last decade, the most recent being the Turkish Press Photographer’s Association Nature and Environment award in 2017.



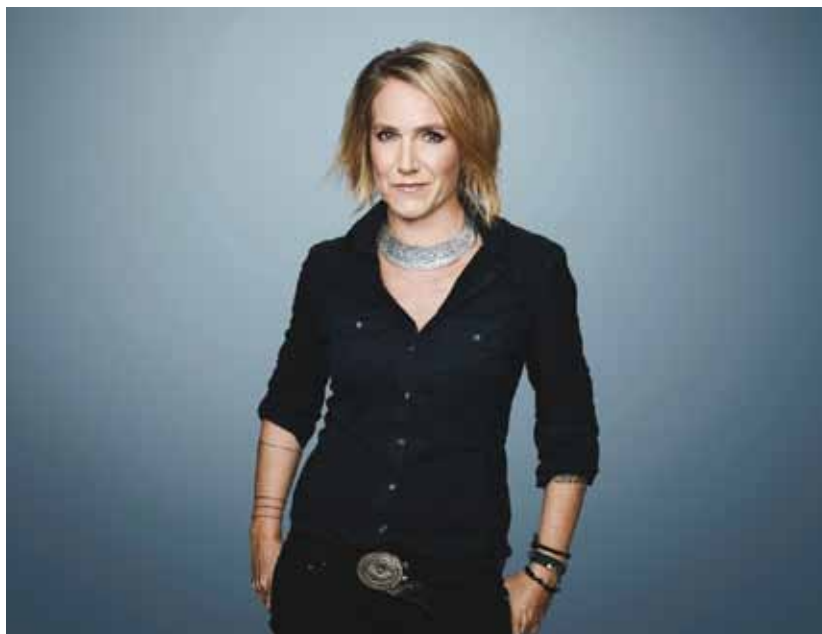
Burak Doğansoyal RC 96

Doğansoyal hasn’t always been a documentary maker. “After studying business, I started working in the chemical industry as a sales and marketing specialist. A business trip to Africa in 2003 changed my life forever,” he says. “I quit my job in 2007 and established a travel agency organizing tailor-made photo safaris to less traveled wildlife destinations. In 2008, I started filming short clips and editing them to be used as my promotional material. I quit everything and decided to become a full-time documentary filmmaker in 2012.”

When asked about his years at Robert College, he states, “I especially cannot forget my filming projects for Film and Literature class. I was more of a sports and arts kind of person and always wanted to pursue a career in one of those fields, but ended up studying business and economics. My experience in high school was so intense that I eventually quit everything and took a leap of faith.”

Arwa Damon RC 94 Wins Three Emmy Awards

CNN journalist Arwa Damon RC 94 was lauded yet again for her documentary work at the 2018 Emmy Awards. Her awarded work centered on “Fall of Raqqa” (Outstanding Breaking News Coverage), “Fall of ISIS in Iraq and Syria” (Outstanding Continuing Coverage of a News Story in a Newscast), and “Return to Mosul” (Outstanding News Special). Upon receiving the awards, she said “I am especially grateful to our crews and our tireless teams on the ground but mostly to the people who open up to us about their unspeakable pain and trust us with their stories. And while all of us involved in this reporting are thrilled and honored by this recognition, it also serves as a reminder that we need to continue to strive to tell these stories and remind the world about the real cost of war.”



Arwa Damon RC 94

Dün, bugün, yarın, BiLGİ.

BiLGİ ilk günden beri, kendine ve hayata güvenle bakabilmen, geleceğine ve dünyaya yön vermen için var.

Burada, hayallerini gerçeğe dönüştürecek ve seni hedeflerine ulaştıracak kişiyi; kendini bulacaksın.

Çünkü yapabileceklerini keşfetmen için 23 yıldır, BiLGİ var.



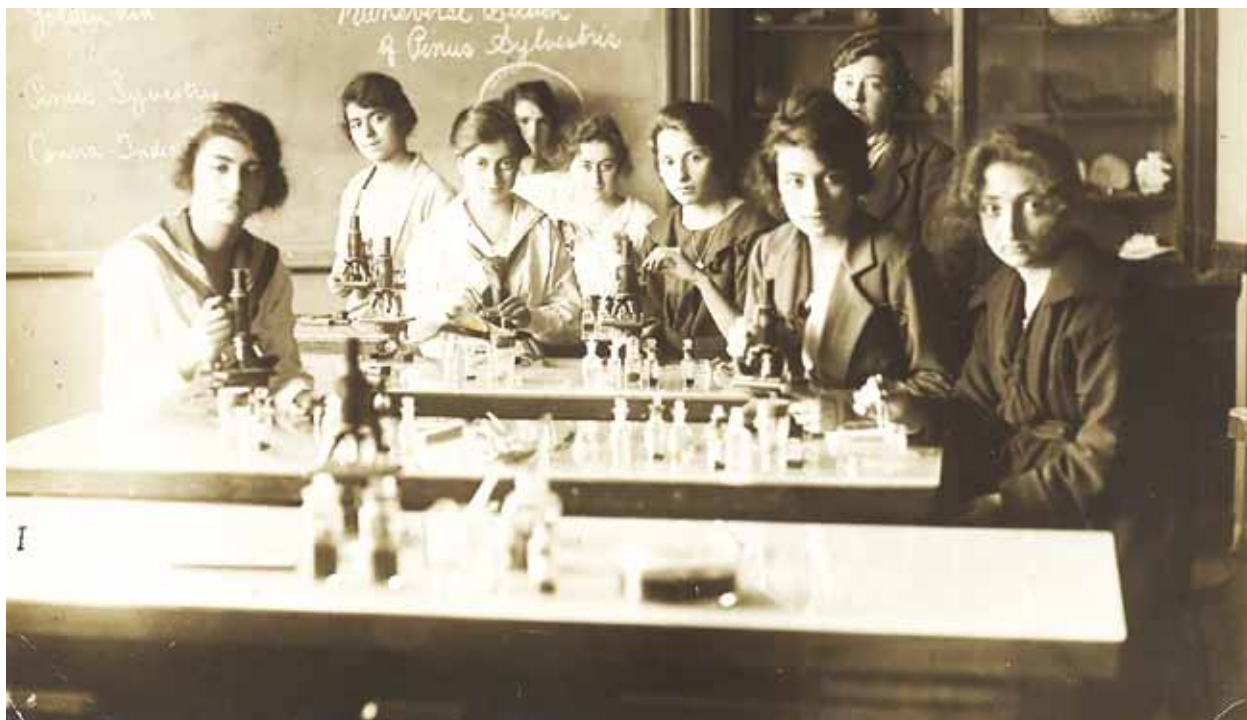
Science at RC

Do you remember dissecting a cow's eye in biology? Firing up your Bunsen burner? Setting circuits? Measuring with a beaker? Breaking a beaker? How you became lab partners with someone you did not usually hang out with just because your last names started with the same two letters?

Despite their many colorful aspects, science subjects in high school are considered "harder." This stigma often clouds the essence of why science education is important today - possibly more than ever. As stated in a Huffington Post article, "Great science education engages students so that they develop the knowledge and intellectual dispositions to make sense of the natural and designed worlds... It prepares young people to understand how beliefs and values intersect with evidence in decision-making." Science offers trust, collaboration, accuracy, and honesty as its core values. As such, it is a critical part of the RC education, no matter what path a student decides to follow later on in life.

Chemistry teacher James Butterworth (center) observes L12 students Doğa Gökalan and Ipek Şahbazoğlu as they extract caffeine from tea during a chemistry experiment





A class in the biology lab in Woods Hall, which was originally the science building

Robert College has always taken science seriously. Though the co-founder of Robert College, Cyrus Hamlin, was not a scientist, he was a man of many talents. Not many know that he had in fact, developed a special cholera mixture, which was used particularly in the Crimean War, with great success.

Most alumni will be surprised to learn that Bingham Hall originally opened its doors as a medical school in 1920. In fact, its founding coincided with that of the American Hospital. It constituted

the first program of its kind in the Middle East. Its admission criteria were based on those of Columbia University. There was a two-year pre-med program as well as a four-year graduate school. Though short-lived (it closed in 1924 due to funding issues), its existence symbolizes the ambitiousness of a Robert College science education. This ambition has not wavered over the years. Indeed, more than half of RC graduates historically have gone on to study science-related subjects at university levels.

So how has Robert College science education adapted to the 21st century with its unparalleled advances in science such as organ cultivation, robotic limbs, artificial intelligence, gene mapping, planned life on Mars, and space travel? For one thing, Robert College offers courses that go far beyond the requirements for those students who want to develop further in a specific field. Organic Chemistry, Human Diseases and Modern Physics are some examples of courses not offered anywhere else in Turkey at the high school level. These are advance placement level classes, and RC students do very well in AP exams, now such a critical part of applications for universities abroad. The offering of these specialist classes fits in with the new more demanding younger student type, who discover what they want to do earlier, with the formidable help of the internet.

Technology has become a critical part of the science program as well. Video analysis, online simulation, and computer sensors are just some of the technology used in lab sessions. As is the trend in online and offline university education, there is now a lot of online homework. Students can



Students perform a physics experiment

get instant feedback, and teachers can quickly see what topics require more work. Students often watch videos and answer questions included in the videos. Collaboration can also be facilitated through technology, as there is a lot of peer-reviewed work as well. Not everything is online of course! There are still plenty of hands-on experiments being conducted. Also, student peer tutoring is now an established part of the program. This type of working relationship prepares the students well for a collaborative economy future.

RC's competitive spirit is also alive and well in the area of science. The students participate in science competitions throughout the year including the International Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics, and Science (TEAMS) and Yıldız Teknik University's annual competition for the Board of European Engineering Students of Technology (BEST). Each quarter the Çay Guy Challenge and reinvention challenge also take place on campus, testing students' physics and engineering knowledge.

Senih Fikriğ RC 46 Lecture Series

A particularly enriching aspect of the science program is the Senih Fikriğ Science Lecture Series. Established in 2007 by Dr. Senih Fikriğ RC 46 through a generous endowment, the annual event brings leading experts on various science subjects to Robert College with the goal of stimulating critical and independent thinking in students. Lectures have included topics such as ecology, metrology, physics, bioengineering, archeology and chemistry. Lecturers in recent years included Bilge Demirköz RC 97, a professor of physics at Middle Eastern Technical University, who talked to students about her space radiation test facility at METU and collaboration with CERN; National Geographic Emerging Explorer Çağan Şekercioğlu RC 93 who spoke about ecology and his work to protect wildlife in Turkey; and Batu Erman RC 87 from Sabancı University who spoke about developments in bioengineering to help find cures for



Students test their physics skills during the Çay Guy challenge

life-threatening illnesses. These stellar opportunities enable RC students to build connections in the world of science early on in life.

Prof. Seyhan Nurettin Ege ACG 49 Excellence in Science Award

About 15 years ago, the United Nations declared that "Science and gender equality are both vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development." Indeed, February 11 was declared International Day of Women and Girls in Science just in 2015. Robert College already has an award in place for the very same purpose. The Prof. Seyhan Nurettin Ege ACG 49 Excellence in Science Award was established in 2009 by ACG 52 graduate and sister of Prof. Ege, Dr. Güneş Akter. It is presented each year to a Lise 11 female student who has excelled in the field of science.

Both the Senih Fikriğ Lecture Series and the Prof. Seyhan Nurettin Ege Excellence in Science Award are excellent inspiration for alumni who want to support the younger generation in their quest for a better world. The graduation awards around science should not be forgotten either. Our graduating classes are recognized for their endeavors in science through the Armine Şükür Award, the Michael Hamilton Award, and the Hikmet Nuri Anter Award.

The Robert College Science Program continues to set the bar high and is fully geared to prepare students to meet the challenges of the 21st century, with its spectrum of courses, its spirit and cutting-edge approach, its teachers, speakers, awards, and challenges. Students are expected to go on and contribute to the global and local scientific community, as alumni have throughout generations.



Elif Magemizoglu RC 14 and Ilgin Nas RC 15 with Güneş Ege Akter ACG 52, who established the Seyhan Ege ACG 49 Excellence in Science Award for Girls. Magemizoglu received the award in 2013, and Nas in 2014.

Trip Down Memory Lane: Our Science Teachers

There have been many iconic science teachers at RC that made science inspiring, even for those students who did not consider themselves the science type. Here some of them recall their days at RC.

Rahel Çikvaşvili

Chemistry Teacher 1974-1999

"The real actors were of course my students"

Robert College has been my second home and its community my second family. I loved both my job and my students, so coming to work was sheer joy. My colleagues were outstanding, we helped each other on our weaker subjects. The friendships were great, everyone seemed to enjoy each other's company.

My students were quick, witty, intelligent and full of life; we always found something to laugh at (chalks flying in the air). Teaching a hard topic seemed like a piece of cake to most. The tests were challenging, and they seemed to enjoy it (at least I hoped so). Actually, I remember a student proving to me that my question was theoretically wrong; of course he got the science prize that year.

The fact that we have so many successful scientists, engineers doctors, researchers and professors around the world indicates without doubt the standards of the science department.

I would also like to congratulate all my other students who have shown great achievements in their own fields. RC orients you to what you are best at.

I am so proud of all of you and thankful that our paths have crossed.

P.S. Yes, I still have my car.

Erol Altuğ

Biology Teacher 1981-2001

"I strove to create experiences that help students learn."

Woods Hall was the original science building with physics on the first floor, biology on the second, and chemistry on the third. The big change at RC during my tenure was the construction

of a new science building. The late Barrie Tranter was not only a great science department chair, but also the key teacher involved in the lab design of Feyyaz Berker Hall. I was fortunate to play a role in the layout of the biology lab spaces, including having a green house attached.

During my second year, the Headmaster, Don Kesselheim, asked me to launch the Advanced Placement (AP) program at Robert College, which was the initial AP program in Turkey. I became the AP Co-coordinator for the next 19 years. I fell in love with teaching at RC. I was also spoiled there, because then I expected all students to be as capable as RC students.

Everyone learns by doing experiments, including the teacher who learned that white medical rats can gnaw their way out of their thick wooden cages (which we quickly relined with metal). I sought to challenge students to conceptualize



Anthony Baker, Chemistry



Ian Galloway, Physics



Clifford Ellison, Physics



Ron Mallinder, Chemistry



Erol Altuğ, Biology



Katherine Wright, Chemistry



Ernie Verbowski, Physics



Ayfer Yeniçağ, Biology



Barrie Tranter, Chemistry



Armine Şükür, Biology



Cahit Can, Physics



John Freely, Physics



Clem McDonnell, Physics



Alison Oğuz, Physics



Julia Stavrides, Biology



Rahel Çikvaşvili, Chemistry

and master the material at a deep level and to think critically. In addition, I sought to inspire them to become men and women of character and integrity, who cared for others and the world we shared. Currently, I teach AP Biology, AP Psychology, and Introductory Biology at The Stony Brook School on Long Island in New York. I am also an AP program consultant for the College Board.

Clem McDonnell **Physics Teacher 1985-2017**

"If you are reading this as a former student, know that you are missed."

When I arrived at RC in 1985, I had planned to spend just one year here. The fact that I made RC my home for 32 years and continue to live in Turkey after retirement has largely to do with the warm nature, support and love that I have felt, and continue to feel from students, staff members and colleagues.

The quality of science teaching on offer is probably similar to what one would find in many schools around the world. Yet, the contribution by RC graduates to scientific advancement has been significant and ongoing and a testimony to the nature of our student body and the encouragement they receive while at RC.

Much behind-the-scenes planning takes place and teachers are passionate about what they do.

In addition to this, I have always been impressed by and proud to have worked with Turkish science-teaching colleagues, past and present, whose delivery in a second language shows them to be true role models to our student body.

I have too many memories to mention... always lots of laughs while learning... so sorry to have kept you all waiting in the Maze after setting off the fire alarm while boiling water for a specific heat capacity experiment...ooooops!

My students have colored my experience of working at RC in a very special way. It never felt like a job, just a great place to be.

Dünya Önen RC 03
Alumnus Turned RC Biology Teacher
"My love of learning blossomed at RC, and now I get to share that love with my students!"

My education at RC instilled a great sense of curiosity and wonder in me in all areas and especially in science. The joy of learning science by doing

experiments was one of the greatest highlights of the program and it still is. My passion for biology was fueled by the biology courses I took and by the science projects.

RC has taught me how to think about an issue from all angles and that is one of the reasons why I pursued a degree in science.

When I think of science at RC, Mr. McDonnell is the first name that comes to my mind. I was fortunate enough to have him as my first science teacher in Prep. He was the one who showed me that science can be fun as well as challenging.

I still remember that he used to start his lessons by having us stretch our fingers while singing, "Exercises, exercises, we must do our exercises." Looking back on that now as a teacher, I see what a great exercise it was to bring our attention to our bodies at the beginning of a lesson in a fun way.

The science program at RC has adapted to the changes in curricula and the times, but its core of inspiring analytical thinking and fostering life-long skills for inquiry remain the same.

The Evolution of Science Education

Ata Akin RC 88 is Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Head of the Department of Medical Engineering at Acibadem University. The RCQ asked him to share insights into the future of learning.

In addition to his administrative roles at Acibadem University, Ata Akin conducts research that focuses on developing optical-based instruments to scan brain dynamics. He works closely with psychiatrists and neurologists in their efforts to provide quantitative measures for neuropsychiatric diseases. The RCQ asked Akin how he foresees science education evolving.

In which direction is scientific education evolving? Are there any “trends” that you observe?

With advances in internet connection, storage space (the cloud) and computing power literally in our hands, basic knowledge that we brag to have the privilege to teach at our universities, the shift in scientific education has shifted more towards skills learning. When we ask consultants from the industry what we should be teaching to our students so that they will be preferred over other candidates, they demand that we teach the skills and competencies that will make them last longer in the company. These are competencies like life-long learning, teamwork ability,

communication skills, problem-solving skills, ethical standards and critical thinking. This is a new and uncharted area for many academicians since most of us are from an age where knowledge was held premium. It was stored in books and could only be delivered perfectly through professors. Now it is at the tip of your fingers. PDFs, YouTube and Wikipedia are everywhere. So the trend now in scientific education is to teach students the skills to appreciate the real and acceptable knowledge out of all the garbage (critical thinking skills), keep on following the in-flow of information and absorbing it (lifelong learning skills), grow the knowledge by adding and multiplying to it with others (teamwork skills) and use it for innovation (problem solving skills).

What will life be like in the foreseeable future; how will it affect the role of science in human life? Are there any professions or professional areas that will be on the rise?

It will be a lot of fun. Technology will ease our life since new and abundant

energy resources will be found leading to an abundance of wealth. This will leave us with the choice of either doing nothing or striving to improve humanity. At least this is what is portrayed in Star Trek, and this is a dream I hope to see. That might not be the case but whatever it will be, one thing for sure is that the speed of innovation will increase. That requires immediate and accurate access to data. That also will require sophisticated summarization and utilization programs which can only be developed by data analysts and computer scientists. We should also see a demand for cognitive scientists equipped with computer science backgrounds to program our decision-making psyche into AI-based systems. Energy demand will require even more basic scientists since you can only do so much with engineering.

How did RC spark your lifelong interest in science?

There are several teachers that provoked and sparked my interest in science: Mr Pascal to start with. He was teaching physics in Orta 1 and 2. I remember him standing on top of his desk to demonstrate gravity. He was an amazing teacher (like the one in Dead Poets Society). Then of course there was Mr. Sakarya, our biology teacher in Orta 1 and 2 again. He encouraged us to start up a journal club which turned into a published journal. We published two or three journals and I still keep them. Finally, there is Mr Altuğ who inspired me to be a biomedical engineer. I knew I wanted to be an engineer, but it was only after taking his classes that I figured out I needed to do something in healthcare. And that is exactly what I do now.



Ata Akin RC 88

Does the Gut Hold the Key to Optimum Health?

I Esen Şefik RC 05 sheds light on one of the hottest scientific topics

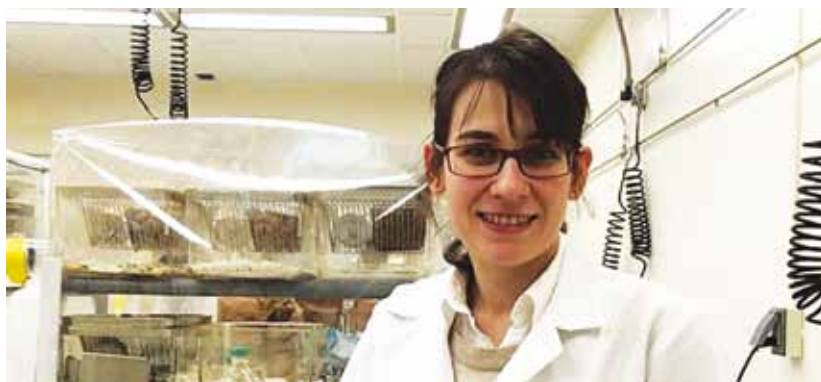
Esen Şefik is a molecular biologist who graduated with a BS from Yale and a PhD from Harvard. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at Yale University, focusing on gastrointestinal tract bacteria and immunobiology. The RCQ asked her about her research and her recommendations for RC alumni going into science.

It is now being said that our gut is our second brain. What is your opinion on that?

I love the attention our guts have been getting for the past decade. From an immunologist perspective, I can with great confidence say that a variety of autoimmune and inflammatory diseases have roots deep in the gut biology and immunology. When you mention the gut you have to mention our longstanding collaborators the microbiota, a collective of microorganisms including viruses, archaea, bacteria and parasites that reside in the gastrointestinal track. There is growing evidence that the neurons in the gut communicate to the immune cells to shape inflammatory disease in local gut tissues or distally. It is now proposed that the gut microbiota can even shape behavior and diseases such as depression. All of these findings are very exciting but they are just the tip of the iceberg. We have a lot more to explore.

What do you recommend RC alumni do to take good care of their gut and have a healthy immune system?

As scientists we are usually cautious in making any recommendations. This links back to the iceberg analogy. We have more to explore and also validate in the setting of human physiology. As immunologists, we usually joke that we are mouse immunologists. Mice are great model organisms to study basic questions but one should be careful



Esen Şefik RC 05

when making transitions. These days I am trying to make the transition by studying the human immune system in the context of a mouse gut. And from genome-wide association studies we are collecting a vast array of data associated with human disease.

Overall, I would suggest that we take good care of our bacteria (as we still know little about other bugs) and our immune system. Unfortunately there is no single secret that applies to all, though a healthy diet with a touch of nature for our soul should benefit everyone.

How did RC spark your interest in science? Do you remember any specific teacher, project or club that sparked your lifelong interest?

RC played a great role in my interest in sciences. Mr. Ungemach was my biology teacher for both Intro and AP Biology. I still remember our lecture on protein folding where we held hands and moved around the classroom to make alpha helices or beta sheets. Our lectures were very hands on and interactive. I read my first science manuscript for Mr. Ungemach's scientific reading and evaluation assignments with awe. Who would have guessed at the time that I would get to publish there?

Do you have any recommendations for RC graduates going into science?

There are three bullets of wisdom:

1. Scientists are passionate, curious and tenacious. You really need to love what you are doing to survive in the sciences. One should know how to handle disappointments and cherish small rewards. Failures should motivate not discourage.
2. "Love what you do and you never work a day" can be an understatement in the sciences. I love to refer to the joke by @AdamJK to describe how scientists work: "Love what you do and you will work super hard with no separation and boundaries..." Try not to be the joke. It took me a long time to master prioritizing and compartmentalizing.
3. If you are to become a scientist, you should also do what you are good at. Research possible alternative career plans. Not to discourage anyone but not everyone who has a PhD in science will land a faculty job. These days opportunities in industry, consulting or scientific publishing are equally or more rewarding. ■



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The Princeton Review Turkey

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Ege Özgüroğlu L12 Publishes Science Papers

Lise 12 student Ege Özgüroğlu has worked on university-level research projects, which have led to two peer-reviewed papers. Ege tells the RCQ about the process.

“In the summer through fall 2017, I worked with Dr. Maarij Syed, Professor of Physics and Optical Engineering at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, under the framework of the Pioneer Academics Research Program. Under Dr. Syed’s guidance, and working in the Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology Laboratory of Marmara University, I carried out an in-vitro study on the optimization of a tumor diagnosis method with magnetic nanoparticles.

The resulting research paper, “Investigating the Characteristics of the Optimal Point for Magnetic Nanoparticle Hyperthermia,” was selected for publication in the 2017 Pioneer Research Journal, an international collection of college-level research papers written by high school and undergraduate students. My research with Professor Syed helped

me narrow my academic interests to materials science and engineering (MSE).

“I felt that I would get more out of independent research under the supervision of expert faculty, and wanted to explore my options before applying to STEM-based institutional programs, so I sent my research proposal to Turgut M. Gür, PhD, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at Stanford University. He invited me to Stanford for an independent literature review. I felt a strong interest towards 2D materials, so the focus of our study became a two-dimensional material, graphene. I was in Palo Alto for about seven weeks this summer working under Professor Gür’s mentorship on our review paper titled ‘A Brief Review of Graphene: Fundamental Properties and Energy Storage and Conversion Applications’, in which we are attempting to succinctly review recent literature on graphene and its energy applications. In mid-December, our paper will be submitted for peer-review to the TÜBİTAK-Turkish Journal of Chemistry.

“Even if the paper doesn’t get published following the peer-review, all that matters is this process, this uplifting college-level research experience I’m getting from Professor Gür and the expert faculty reviewers.”



Ege Özgüroğlu L12

Lise 9 Student Ege Mercan Aims for Patents



Ege Mercan L9 in the lab

While still a Prep student, Ege Mercan conducted a research project in the biomedical labs at Istanbul Aydın University that has resulted in a breakthrough in antimicrobial plastics. He is now fine-tuning his prototype to apply for a patent. He spoke with the RCQ about his project and his future plans.

How did you get interested in this subject?

I always wanted to contribute to science, especially the medical field. Before my project, I contacted some of the professors at Istanbul Aydın University because of their innovative biotechnology startup. They invited me to their office, and I started interning at their company at the university. After two months of observing, I presented my idea to them, and they offered me know-how and a laboratory for my experiment.

Please describe your research project.

I looked for plants that are endemic to Turkey and decided to test eight different plants in the laboratory. My test showed that one of the plant’s extracts was very effective on four different types of bacteria. We granulated the plant and collaborated with a plastics company to form our prototype - a plastic refrigerator storage

box with the ability to kill bacteria. One of the significant differences from other antimicrobial plastics is that I made my product from natural antimicrobials, which makes it suitable for many sectors which have close contact with human skin and food. We are continuing to test our prototype on healthy human cells and cancer cells. I am planning to apply for the patent by the end of this year.

What are your future plans?

In the coming year, I want to work with my first customer, and make their products antimicrobial. Apart from that, I want to create an AI-based app for diagnosing minor diseases and first-aid in the future. I believe that polyclinics are going to be unnecessary because of developments in the biomedical field. I hope to contribute to science and technology for the rest of my life.

Zihni Kaan Baykara RC 18:

An Accelerated Path in Physics

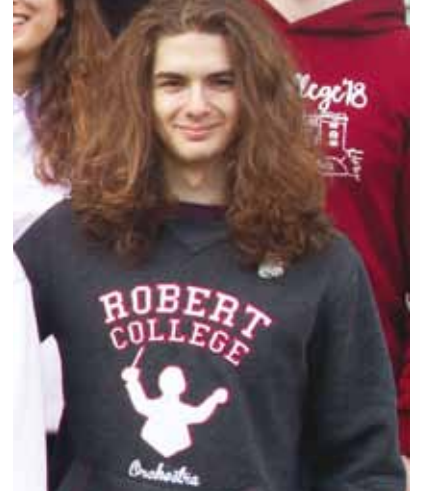
Zihni Kaan Baykara did the RC community proud by winning a silver medal at the prestigious TÜBİTAK Physics Olympiad in early 2018, recognizing him as one of the top physics students in Turkey.

The exam for the TÜBİTAK award was intense: a 5-hour theoretical section consisting of 2-3 long questions and an experimental section also lasting 5 hours. However, what Kaan went through to get ready for the Olympiad is even more impressive. "The bare minimum for a contestant to be competitive is to solve all of the past Olympiads. After that, I finished Irodov's problem book over the summer, which consisted of questions to make common tricks in problem-solving second nature. I spent my whole day solving problems without a break: I'd eat, talk with my family, and listen to music while solving problems. Later on, I

moved on to solve more famous problem books like *A Guide to Physics Problems*, the *University of Chicago Graduate Problems in Physics*, and Krotov's and Lazslo's books. My daily schedule was wake up, solve, sleep (sometimes the sleep part was omitted)."

Baykara credits his grandfather for planting the seed for his interest in physics. However, he feels that it was at Robert College that it transformed into a full-blown passion. "RC provided me with an intellectual and studious community. My enthusiasm for the contest came from within, but the consistency in my studies was a result of the community I was a part of. It was in Woods that I decided to study physics instead of finance after having a philosophical discussion with a classmate on ontology and physics."

Baykara is now on his dream path, studying at the University of Chicago where he plans to get a BSc in physics and mathematics, followed by a PhD in physics.



Zihni Kaan Baykara RC 18

MUTFAĞIN
HER HÂLİ
İNTEMA
YAŞAM'DA.



İNTEMA
YAŞAM
MUTFAĞIN HER HÂLİ

Taking Fox Home

A bike ride from Geneva to Brussels

While working in Geneva, Kıvanç Çubukçu RC 01 acquired a bicycle he lovingly named Fox. His first encounter planted the seed for a cross-Europe tour. Çubukçu recounts the story.



Kıvanç Çubukçu RC 01

It was when I first met Fox that I got the idea of biking from Geneva to Brussels. It was October 2015, I had moved earlier that year from Brussels to Geneva and I was looking to buy a bicycle at a second-hand shop. The trust-inducing biker dude who was showing me several bikes stopped in front of Fox and said, “You can get on it and bike it till Amsterdam,” to convince me of how solid it was. I did a test ride and was immediately convinced that Fox was made for me, with the idea of riding it to Brussels one day planted in my brain. Six months later, I moved back

to Brussels, leaving Fox in the careful hands of fellow RC 01 grad Ahmet Yücel in Geneva, telling him I would pick it up in the coming months to take it back to Brussels.

It took me three years, but I did pick it up in the end. After a weekend of relaxing and preparing Fox with Ahmet at his place in Geneva, I hit the road on a sunny July morning in 2018. Over the next 15 days, I crossed the green hills of the Jura mountains west of Geneva into France, rode on small back roads in Bourgogne that passed through sleepy villages that looked deserted,





Camping in the Jura Mountains

rested in the beautiful town of Pasteur, pedalled 200km along the lush canal connecting Bourgogne to Champagne where cranes led my way, passed among the quiet WWI battlefields and graveyards in Champagne, hid from the sun at Chalons-en-Champagne on the hottest day of the summer, went up and down the hilly French Ardennes with its picturesque villages, rode on the beautiful bike path running along the windy Meuse river together with many other bikers and crossed the green valleys of Brabant-Wallon in Belgium to reach Brussels on the last day of July at 7pm - exhausted, bug-bite-ridden and with a big smile.

It had been quite a ride - 920km in total, 13 nights in a tent plus one night crashing a room at a Chateau, four kilos lost despite eating plenty, three countries (well, mostly France), two visits to the repair shop (both my fault, not Fox's!), one gorgeous sun tan on my arms and my face and many memorable vistas, encounters, conversations, sleepy villages and sites.

Apart from being a trustworthy companion who carried me for hundreds of kilometers, Fox also turned out to be

a patient teacher. It taught me not to try to control myself and the journey. Long bike journeys are unpredictable. Some days your body listens to you and you feel you could bike all day, some days your legs feel like strangers and you can barely pedal. Some days you pass through beautiful scenery and meet interesting people, some days you ride alone for hours on flat roads, questioning why you are not sitting comfortably on a train seat. The more I accepted the unpredictable nature of the ride, more I enjoyed the experience.

At the same time, Fox made its point about the balance between planning and improvisation. I enjoy improvisation in general and so I did not plan my route much for this trip, except for a broad idea of the direction I would take. However, looking back, I realized



Entering France - on the day after they won the World Cup



Kıvanç Çubukçu poses with his bicycle, "Fox"

that it would have been a good idea to plan my route a bit more, and aim mainly for Eurovelo routes (17 marked bike routes that run across Europe). I still managed to be on bike tracks or small village routes for most of my trip, but I spent quite a bit of time trying to figure out my path every day. Being on the Eurovelo route would have made that much easier. On the other hand, being open and improvising definitely helped to create a rich experience – like meeting people you wouldn't have met otherwise, sleeping in a chateau or

visiting a biennial in a random French village.

Fox also showed me that variety is the spice of life. Riding on flat ground is theoretically easier on the muscles but the toughest stretch of the trip was riding 200km along a flat, mostly straight canal from Bourgogne to Champagne. Riding hours without much change of scenery and seeing anyone is numbing on the brain after a few

hours and is strangely challenging on the body. Doing some hills keeps the mind and the body happier.

My two-wheeled companion also used moderate amounts of pain to make the point that there are always trade-offs in life - in my case, between pain in the buttocks and numb fingers. Before different thoughts may arise in your minds, let me explain. The inclination of the seat changes the weight distribution between the buttocks and the hand. As you ride long hours, having a seat that is inclined puts more of the weight on the hand, which in turn can put pressure on the nerves passing through the hand (ulnar nerves), causing numbness on the ring finger and pinky. If the seat is completely flat, then less pressure on the hand but more on the buttocks. I chose finger numbness.



A country house on the banks of the Meuse River in the French Ardennes

"All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others," Fox reminded me. Except one night in the wilderness, I spent all nights in camping grounds, giving in to the luxury of hot shower and company of fellow campers. I thought all campgrounds are more or less the same - but I stayed in ones that range from 2.80 euros a night to 29 euros a night. On the high end, they are like holiday villages with pools, water slides, play grounds, restaurants, shops. On the low end, they are a simple patch of grass surrounded by a low stone wall, a couple of showers and toilets. The simpler, the better it was for me. It was in a simple campsite near Langres that I met two Dutch campers who invited me to their dinner and with whom I had a great conversation about life and death. And it was at a calm campsite in Dole that I came up with the tastiest recipe of the trip, the banana bomb. Half a banana covered with pure almond paste carefully carried from Brussels and honey from the Jura mountains was my morning fuel.

Last but not least, Fox showed me that people are generous if you are traveling on human energy. Many people got out of their way to ask if they could help and offered food, water, directions, phone charging and encouragement. No one I asked for help refused it. The most generous stranger I met during the trip was the cheese lady from Fromagerie



A picturesque bridge over the Doubs River in Dole, Jura

des Erythrones. During a tough climb on a hot day in the Juras, I stopped at the first building I saw to ask to refill my bottle with water, which turned out to be a cheese factory as I was in the land of Comte. Not only did she fill my bottles with water and ice cubes, she gave me some Comte to eat along the way and took a long time to show me the route I could take on the Comte cheese map poster.

It was my first long bike tour and I fell in love with this mode of travelling. It is liberating, outdoor, unpredictable, active, rewarding, social and solitary at the same time. For one of your upcoming vacations, get a two-wheeled companion, pack your panier, decide on a route and hit the road. You won't regret it.



The elegant Château de Pierre-de-Bresse in Bourgogne

A Year in Spain

In search of a prolonged cultural experience, ilan Berker RC 89 and his family took a break from their lives in Seattle and spent a gap year in Spain. Their experience took them all over the Iberian Peninsula and beyond.



ilan Berker RC 89 with his family

In the fall of 2016, on what was most likely a dark and rainy evening in Seattle, as I chatted with my wife our conversation drifted to dreams of somewhere sunny, away from our daily routines and work. We did not want just a vacation, but a yearlong adventure in Europe.

The thought of leaving behind everything we knew was very scary. We are not adventurous people, but we realized that there was only a small window of opportunity when we could

do such a thing; a time in our lives when we could afford it, had the energy for it, and two kids still young enough to enjoy spending more time with their parents.

A year earlier we had visited Spain and loved it, particularly Barcelona with its fantastic union of everything that's great about a life on the Mediterranean with well-functioning systems of a western European city. So we decided to take the plunge!





South of Barcelona, the Platja de Castelldefels has miles of sand.. while the Costa Brava to the north (see opposite page) has rocky beaches and picturesque towns

In the late summer of 2017, after a lengthy process to get a resident visa, picking a school for the kids, and an apartment to live in, we left our comfortable life of single family homes, backyards, green parks, chilly evenings, and dark rainy days in Seattle for our new life of apartment buildings, crowded streets, lively cafes, warm evenings, and sunny days of adventure in Barcelona.

Arriving at a new place, there were lots of mundane things to take care of, like getting phone service and figuring out where to shop for food and other necessities. Those quickly faded into the background and we started to discover the city. Every street seemed to end at a square with cafes and tables where people enjoyed food, drink, and the company of friends.

The weather stayed warm well into October, allowing us to visit some of the nearby beaches. A 20-minute train ride south from Barcelona's main train station leaves you on the Mediterranean shore. A short drive north and you find yourself in Costa Brava, with some of

the most beautiful seaside in Spain - many little picturesque towns and small beaches separated by rocky points.

As fall moved in, beach season was over and it was time for politics in Catalonia. The independence movement had been

growing and there were demonstrations in the city, all peaceful family affairs with babies, parents, and grandparents. Of course, at the end of a long day, people needed a little rest at cafes that are abundant throughout the city.

By now, it was time to take advantage of our relative proximity to other European cities as well as the cheap airfares of discount carriers. Our trip to Prague really impressed me with its gorgeous architecture of old buildings as well as a few famous modern landmarks.

Around Christmas we were enjoying the street markets of Barcelona but the kids had a long school break so it was time to travel, this time to southern Spain. Our first stop was Granada, a city overflowing with beauty and charm.

Our next stop was Seville, it felt bigger and more crowded than Granada, but is also home to many amazing historical sites including the tomb of Columbus and the birthplace of the Inquisition.

Early in the new year, it was time for Italy. Rome has an infinite supply of



Families enjoy an afternoon at a café

Being based in Europe allowed the Berkers to visit many different locations, including Finnish Lapland



ancient buildings but for my history buff wife and 10 year old, a tour of the Coliseum was the highlight. How can you beat stories of gladiators fighting monstrous beasts?

In February, as the days were getting longer around the arctic circle, we decided to meet our Finnish friends, so we flew north to Lapland, a place of magical whiteness and long shadows, as well as freezing temperatures and saunas.

As spring approached in Barcelona we explored the city's rich artistic heritage. The Miro museum on top of Montjuic hill is very entertaining. Of course there are many buildings of Antonio Gaudi scattered around the city.



One of the colorful towers of the fairytale-like Sintra Castle in Portugal

An hour north of Barcelona, is the town of Figueres, the birthplace and the resting place of Salvador Dali. Even for a novice like myself, the Dali museum

is incredible in its crazy and whimsical array of displays. This was the most fun I have ever had in a museum.



A view of Barcelona from the Miro Museum on Montjuic

Eventually the school year ended and it was time for us to start making plans for our return to Seattle, but we managed to squeeze in one more trip. This time to Lisbon, one of the most quaint and picturesque places I have seen. A short drive outside Lisbon is the town of Sintra with a palace right out of a Disney movie.

That wrapped up a year of amazing travels and memories. We are now back in Seattle, settling into our comfortable routines, but changed for the better by our Spanish adventure.

Can Göknil ACG 66: Looking Back at 50 Years



Can Göknil ACG 66

A retrospective exhibition at Bozlu Art Project honoring the prolific artist and writer Can Göknil ACG 66 is being held from November 13, 2018 – March 23, 2019. One hundred selected works from 1972-2018 are on display, accompanied by a 247-page book authored by Oğuz Erten, edited by Özlem İnay Erten, and translated into English by Feride Eralp RC 09.

Throughout her 50-year art journey, Can Göknil has been the recipient of numerous awards, and her works are in permanent collections in museums such as the V&A in London.

Göknil's interest in art burgeoned during her ACG: years: "At age sixteen, I was happily attending my second introductory year at ACG, when my interest in fine arts urged me to take private lessons from Seniye Fenmen (Taylan; ACG 39) in her beautiful studio at Rumeli Hisarı. During the following years elective courses were offered in art that enabled me to build my preliminary portfolio to submit to

fine art departments of colleges in the US together with applications after graduating in 1966."

Explaining her journey in art, Göknil says, "Over the last fifty years, I have become a figurative painter. My works nearly always have been based on extensive research of Turkish culture and eastern mythology. Since my early years, the main focus in my projects has been named 'The Brotherhood of Word and Sight'.

"It has also been important for me to introduce concepts and ideas and aesthetics to children. I have built a long career of writing and illustrating children's picture books since 1974.

"As a hobby I also write short stories and sculpt with found objects collected on the shores of the Mediterranean. I also consider myself a book artist, and a printmaker."

For more details about the book and the exhibition, visit bozluartproject.com

Prestigious Award Goes to Young Curator

Merve Elveren RC 05 has been given the Gerrit Lansing Independent Vision Curatorial Award by Independent Curators International (ICI).

After completing her BA in visual arts and communication design at Sabancı University, Elveren interned at Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center where she was responsible for categorizing digital artist archives. She worked with Vasif Kortun RC 78 on the UAE Pavilion at the 54th Venice Biennale and the first solo exhibition of Cengiz Çekil at Rampa İstanbul. "I think working closely with Çekil, an influential artist and an educator, going through his archive and listening to him talking about his works from the 70s and 80s inspired me in many ways," says Elveren.

Until October 2018 she was part of the founding team of research and

programs at SALT, and curated research-based projects and exhibitions such as *Continuity Error*-Aydan Murtezaoğlu & Bülent Şangar, *A Promised Exhibition*-Gülsün Karamustafa (co-curated with Duygu Demir RC 04) and *How Did We Get Here*. "What these projects have in common is that they all try to activate memory and seek to uncover networks of knowledge," she explains.

When asked how she approaches her work, Elveren answers, "I try to focus on critical historical models and actions, and artistic-political responses from the recent past that are still relevant today. Each project has its own particular methodology of research and presentation. As the original material changes from artworks to archives, in some cases, lack of both due to the ephemeral conditions or state restrictions, I adapt my proposal and strategy. The exhibitions I curated

are usually multilayered in nature, therefore, I hope everyone gets a different experience."

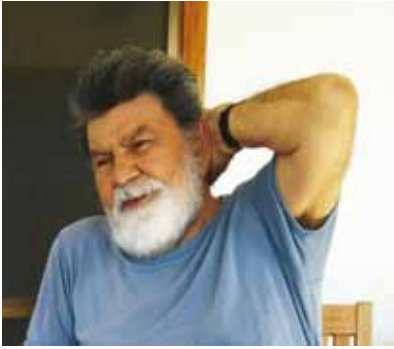
Elveren is currently preparing for the 39th EVA International, Ireland's Biennial of Contemporary Art, which will take place in 2020.



Merve Elveren RC 05

An exceptional number of authors can be found among the ranks of Robert College alumni, testament to the school's program which instills a love for lifelong learning, as well as literature. From poetry to policy, from memoirs to children's stories, this issue's selection of books has something for everyone.

Cevat Çapan RC 53 Writes His First Children's Book



Turkish literary giant Cevat Çapan's new book, *Hapış ile Kapiş Havana'da* (*Hapış and Kapiş in Havana*; Hep Kitap), is a children's novel suitable for the 10+ crowd. With illustrations by Semih Poroy, the book tells the story of three kids, spending their summer in a seaside town, and enjoying history, art, and literature.

When asked what prompted him to write a children's book, Çapan

replied, "The inspiration for my book was my bright idea of telling stories to my children before they went to sleep. But years later these stories were used for my grandchildren's summer entertainment when we decided to start a magazine."

Çapan, who is renowned for his books, poems, and literary translations, will enchant young readers with this latest work.

Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 Expands Book on Atatürk in the Press



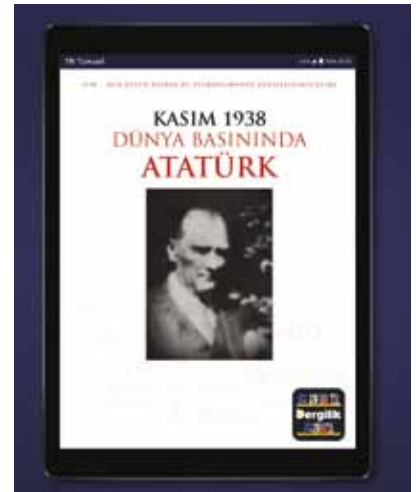
newspapers in 43 countries. The book was first published by Hürriyet in 2003. It has been reprinted several times and has reached 50,000 homes.

This year, on the 80th anniversary of Atatürk's death, Çolakoğlu joined forces with academicians at İstanbul University to extend the research to those parts of the world which were not thoroughly covered in the 1980s. The expanded version of the book now includes 486 news pieces from 193 papers printed in 51 countries, doubling the volume to 600 pages.

The book is not printed, but is available through Turkcell's Dergilik platform for smart phones as an e-book, free of charge.

A prolific writer and editor, Çolakoğlu also recently published *Once Upon a Time Tophane-Fındıklı: History of the Gateway of İstanbul* (BNP Paribas

Cardif). The 300-page book tells the story of the area from Kiliç Ali Paşa Mosque to the Dolmabahçe Palace, from the Byzantine era up through the Republican era.



The expanded Atatürk collection prepared by Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 is available as an e-book

While working in London at the BBC in the 1980s, Nuri Çolakoğlu did extensive research at the British Library's periodical section and put together a 300-page book on how the world media had reported the death of Atatürk. *Kasım 1938 Dünya Basınında Atatürk* (November 1938 Atatürk in World Press) contains images of 285 news reports and articles that appeared in 117

Sosi Akinoğlu Antikacıoğlu ACG 66 Pens Family History



Antikacıoğlu's grandmother arrived in Istanbul penniless and widowed with her son after the First World War, yet still managed to send him to Robert College, fulfilling her late husband's dream. Antikacıoğlu's father Ara graduated from RC in 1932 and went on to become one of the pillars of Istanbul's mid-century Armenian community. He in turn sent his daughter to ACG, and later encouraged her decision to study at RC Yüksek. In *Geçmişimden Sesler ve Renkler* (Sounds and Colors from My Past; İletişim Yayınları) Antikacıoğlu

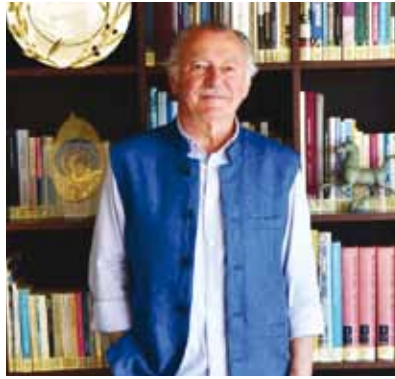
narrates the story of both her father's and mother's families, spanning more than a century and tracing roots from Eastern Anatolia to Thrace. This is a candid, moving, at places devastatingly sad and at other places highly entertaining memoir, written with humor and honesty. It is also Antikacıoğlu's coming-of-age story as a modern young woman of the 1968 generation who later becomes an academic at Boğaziçi University, teaching there for 37 years.

Contributed by Cevza Sevgen ACG 66

Faruk Pekin RC YÜK 69 Uncovers Istanbul's Secrets

Faruk Pekin has written a book that reveals many little-known facts of the city: *İstanbul Şehrin Sırları* (Istanbul; the City's Secrets; Alfa Yayınları), on the 30th anniversary of FEST Travel's Adım Adım İstanbul (Strolling through Istanbul) city tours.

Pekin writes in the preface of the book, "With its uninterrupted life of about ten thousand years, its unique geography, unique history, wonderful nature, mythical splendor and the



beauty of the city still standing upright; it is an immortal city. Although it is one of the cities about which much has been written, Istanbul is unfortunately considered a dead city; but the actual fact is that people have forgotten it. But the way to love and carry a city not only with its past, but also to the future is through loving it. It is possible to love it through getting to know it, by getting lost in the streets, and enjoying every corner."

İrini Dimitriyadis ACG 70 Publishes Portraits of Greek Educators

İrini Dimitriyadis has written a book called *Eğitim Hayatımızda Rumlar*—biographical portraits of over 80 Greek educators in Turkey from the 1950s to today.

She explains that "the decision to write a book coincided with a period of my life where I tried to understand myself better, and for the first time I had the courage to dig into the traumatic experiences that the Greek community had, and tried to empathize with the way they faced these traumas. Through this book I also wanted to pay tribute to the people who have touched the lives of so many of us. That is why one of the persons I have dedicated my book to is my PhD consultant Prof.

Murat Sertel, a Robert College graduate (RC YÜK 63) and renown economist. In particular, Robert College alumni in reading this book will know more about Michael Skarlatos RC ENG 44, Nikola Karamessini, Joakim Laguros RC ENG 46 in the Engineering Department; Demir Demirgil in the Economics Department; Julia Stavridis our lab teacher at ACG; assistant registrar Yorgo Mantikas RC ENG 36 at RC; the librarian Bally sisters at ACG, and many others. They will also find Robert College graduates who have served Boğaziçi University and became 'unforgettables' like, Kriton Curi RC ENG 66, Yorgo İstefanopulos RC ENG 67 and Yani Skarlatos RC ENG 70 or have acquired a name in the cultural arena like Hercule Millas RA 61."

İrini Dimitriyadis taught mathematics in Boğaziçi's Department of Mathematics for 23 years and continues teaching at Bahçeşehir University.



Roni Margulies RC 72 Narrates Family History

Poet, political commentator, and translator Roni Margulies RC 72 has a new book out: *Ailem ve Diğer Yahudiler* (*My Family and Other Jews*; Everest Yayınları). As he states in his recent interview in *Hürriyet* newspaper, Margulies has always looked to his personal history as a means of creating literature that grapples with mortality and the strangeness of life. His own family's history proves to be fertile ground. As the grandchild of adults who have seen two world wars, as the grandchild of Polish immigrants, and as a member of the receding Jewish



community in Turkey, Margulies has the prerogative to recollect stories that need to be heard.

The RCQ asked him which is his favorite memoir, and which of his books he would recommend to alumni who have not read his works before. "My favorite memoir is *Out of Egypt*, by Andre Aciman (Picador). Of my own books I would suggest *Bugün Pazar Yahudiler Azar* (*Today is Sunday, the Jews Will Go Jolly*; Kanat Kitap) and, for poetry lovers, *Telgrafçiçeği* (*Wandering Jew*; Everest Yayınları)."

Güzin Yalın RC 75 Tells Stories Through Food

Although none of the stories are about food in Güzin Yalın's latest book, *Ziyafet* (*The Feast*; Ruhun Gıdası Kitapları), a short story collection, food is central in all of them, as a universal language. Yalın says, "The stories are strong statements about human nature and the unberable lightness of being. The never-ending feeling of inner loneliness that is so common but is so rarely verbalized is the most recurring theme."

Yalın has long been interested in food. As a veteran of the PR industry and expert on food communication, she has worked

with the UN's International Olive Council and was the co-founder and manager of the Turkish chapter of a European NGO, the Conservatoire International des Cuisines Méditerranéennes (International Conservatory of Mediterranean Cuisines).

Yalın is currently working on three books: A new collection of short stories, the second part of her previously published book of culinary essays and a book of contemplations on the culinary and nonculinary tastes of urban life.



Doğan Şenocak RC 78 on the Art of Medicine

Prof. Dr. Doğan Şenocak's new book *Doktorluk Sanatı* (*The Art of Medicine*; Doğan Kitap) takes its inspiration from Socrates' famous saying *ars longa vita brevis* (art is long, life is short). Though life is too short, there is no better way of improving the art of anything than writing about one's experiences, and this is what Şenocak does. Targeting particularly medical students and new doctors in his book, he states, "Empathy is the single most powerful tool you will have as a health care professional; everything else will be

damaged if you are not an emphatic person. As for non-doctors, there is a glimpse of how humanly vulnerable we doctors are in this book; this should somehow make it more tolerable and realistic to be a patient." Şenocak credits Robert College as, "inarguably the most important element of what we have all turned out to be, through learning to appreciate arts, exposure to influential literature, gaining self-confidence through supportive teachers and being encouraged to write all the time, to express ourselves better."



First Collection of Short Stories from Leyla Çapan RC 86



Leyla Çapan has written her first collection of short stories titled *Adı Yağmur* (*Her Name is Rain*; Kırmızı Kedi). It comprises fifteen stories written between 2013 and 2017.

When asked what inspired her to write this book, Çapan explains, “I’ve always been interested in how people express themselves. It must have started out with listening to other people. Not people who told stories but people who had stories to tell. And then there were songs, words set to music. A world made

up of many a color. When I started writing, I loved how different aspects of writing worked together. It was like magic. At times I had the power over words, at times it was the words that took the lead; a form of contemplation where you create a new world with its own tone.

“My writing was published in Çağrı at RC. My publisher had a column then in a newspaper where he mentioned a few names; names that one would perhaps come across on book covers in the future.”

Gül Özseven RC 87 Turns Everyday Moments into Poetry

Gül Özseven has published her second poetry book, *Story Poems, Love Poems* (Olympia Publishers). Her poems, centered on everyday occurrences, dazzle with their simplicity and directness. Özseven says of her poetry, “For me, story-telling is very important, but I do it in poetic form. Because of that I call myself ‘a story-teller poet.’” She cites Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson and Ishiguro among her idols.



Özseven’s journey in writing began at Robert College. “I started writing poems in Turkish during my RC years,” she says. “Later I went to Bryn Mawr College, where I wrote my first poems in English. My English teachers there encouraged my writing a lot. For me, writing poetry is a way of self-expression and I find myself more at ease writing in English. It is not a preference as much as a necessity and a proof of my deep love for English language and literature.”

Hikmet Hükmenoğlu RC 89 Writes on Love

Having garnered a loyal following with *Kar Kuyusu*, *Küçük Yalanlar Kitabı*, *47 Numaralı Kamara* and *04:00*, and having won the prestigious 2017 Attila İlhan Novel Award, Hikmet Hükmenoğlu published *Aşka İnanmayanlar İçin Aşk Öyküleri* (*Love Stories for Non-Believers of Love*; Can Yayınları) a collection of stories, uncharacteristically short, and yet full of details so typical of him.

Hükmenoğlu challenges our notions of “love” and “lover”, through witty, surprising, and occasionally dark stories. We are persuaded that we could indeed fall in love with an

object or an occupation, that there are myriad states of love.

The story that shares the name of the book makes one think, with its richness, it could have been a novel. As soon as the book ends, one wonders about the title of the last story, and re-reads the first. Even though none of the stories end the way I would have wished, I love them for it. Delighting and depressing, these stories lead the reader on with a charismatic flirtation.

Contributed by Yaprak Kılıççı RC 89



Pelin Turgut RC 92 Publishes Debut Novel

Pelin Turgut's fictional debut *Eriyen Ülkenin Sırları* (*Secrets of a Vanishing Country*; Ganj Yayınları) tells the tale of a mysterious group of storytellers who meet in a remote rural hotel to share stories that have been lost. A fictional mythology of Istanbul, it features giants underneath the city, billboards that speak, soulful divers and more. TimeOut magazine said of the book that "although it can be seen as having a fairy tale aspect for adults, it also has traces of today, of events we are living through".

Turgut told the RCQ that Istanbul was always her primary inspiration. "It may be ravaged, but there is still so much magic in this city." An English translation is forthcoming. London-based Turgut spends her time writing and working with groups and individuals around creative potential and storytelling. "What we most urgently need at this time of crisis, all over the world, is to reclaim the power of the imagination," she says. "We all have the tools to do this, we just need to remember them." See pelinturgut.com for more.



Özgür Ünal RC 92 Explores Political Economy of Muslim Countries



Özgür Ünal, a full-time professor at İstanbul 29 Mayıs University and adjunct professor at Bahçeşehir University, has co-authored a book with Ahmet Salih Kız called *The Political Economy of Muslim Countries* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing). Ünal states that economic welfare and its maintenance are new security concepts. She researched the political economy of Muslim countries in order to understand whether they are using Western models of economic organization or whether they have their own methods - a relevant question to ask in today's interdependent yet insecure world.

Ünal says "Being an academician necessitates being self-disciplined and inquisitive, as you should be motivated to work for a long time on a topic, organize it into theoretically understandable content and come up with research that is interesting and original. It also means you should be motivated to pass on your knowledge and experience to young people. So you should be social, outgoing and open to new ideas. I believe I acquired these characteristics while I was a student at RC."

Ozan Dağdeviren RC 06 Gives Startups the Key to Growth

Ten years into his professional life, Ozan Dağdeviren has gained unique expertise in both human behavior and startups. He compiled his knowledge into his latest book, *Startups Grow with People: How to Pick Partners, Recruit the Top Talent, Build a Company Culture*. It has been on Amazon's top 100 books list for startups.

An author of seven books related to human behavior, Dağdeviren says, "For a long time, I have been building mastery in the area of understanding human behavior. My interest started at Robert College, thanks to our wonderfully



inspirational teachers, especially Ersin Aybars and Sema Ulcay." Dağdeviren received a BA in both sociology and psychology from Boğaziçi University, and an MA in consumer behavior from Galatasaray University. His work experience has been in human behavior-related areas such as market research, executive recruitment and HR business partner roles.

Currently based in London, Dağdeviren spends most of his time mentoring startups and running the consultancy company he founded, CommonWisdom commonwisdom.co



annelerin gözdesi,
çocukların eğlencesi
**Eker Çikolatalı ve
Muzlu Puding**



An Amazing Journey as an Education Volunteer

What a year Ahmet Uysal RC 90 has had- again! After running the North Pole Marathon to raise funds for a school in Siirt in 2017, this year he crossed Anatolia - from Artvin to Muğla - on a 46-day fundraising journey. The RCQ spoke with Uysal about the stellar example he sets in giving back to communities in Turkey.



Ahmet Uysal RC 90 was the first Turk to run the North Pole Marathon



Uysal with children at a TEGV education center in Pervari, Siirt

What inspired you to do these ultra-courses?

In the last 15 years, I decided to realize my childhood dreams one by one. I have a list of places I want to see, mountains I wish to visit or climb. Every year I pick one item, prepare for it and go live my dream. Most of these goals are physical activities such as a marathon, and if not, they require a strong fitness level. I keep fit and enjoy myself at the same time.

How did you get involved with TEGV?

I grew up in a house where a good education was of the utmost importance. My parents passed on this passion to us. For 2017, my goal was to compete in the North Pole Marathon, the most extreme marathon in the world. When I found out that I was going to be the first Turk to do it, I decided that this was an opportunity to run for a cause. My RC classmate, Hüsnü Okvuran, who is a Board Member at Türkiye Eğitim Gönüllüleri Vakfı (Turkish Education Volunteers Foundation; TEGV), introduced me to the organization. I was so impressed by the incredible effort they have poured into supporting the children of this

land. I pitched them my project and they embraced it.

How did you decide which schools to support?

For my North Pole Marathon run, TEGV asked me if I would support an education center in Pervari, Siirt. Their yearly operational budget to run workshops for 750 children matched my fundraising target. I ended up raising in excess of 180,000 TL! For 2018, I told TEGV that I planned to run across Turkey, from the northeast to the southwest. Running roughly a marathon per day, I ran 1,645 kms through 14 cities. In another big campaign effort, I raised 583,000 TL – the yearly educational support for over 5,800 children. I am thankful to all my donors who supported this beautiful cause: education.

How did you prepare for these runs?

With a lot of planning! For the cross country run of Turkey, I read a lot, and connected with some ultra-runners around the world. I ran about 900 kms in 25 days, on the streets of Istanbul. I spent hours working on maps to plan in detail each day's run. I read a lot

about Seljuk Caravansaries and other monuments along my route. I spent a lot of time refining my mission, slogans, my story, how I would approach donors and connect with them effectively. Then there were logistics, lots of scheduling, media planning, fundraiser planning... We made a giant mind map with my family in order to not miss anything.

What is it like to run long distances or in extreme weather? What goes through your mind?

You have to be mentally prepared for extreme conditions. I ran many hours for weeks with heavy backpacks, trying to replicate the conditions. I tried all my gear, my face mask on ski trips, my shoes with spikes on the frozen lake Çıldır. I ran the race many times in my mind, from the start to the finish line. It was all worth it in the end.

What does the future hold?

I am proud to be a part of TEGV, founded by our alumnus, Suna Kırac ACG 60. I am planning new fundraising projects and studying about philanthropy and social responsibility to do more good.

Supporting Education Through ÇABA

Hazal Sena Atalay RC 17

is working with the Çağdaş ve Bağımsız Yardımlaşma Derneği (Contemporary and Independent Assistance Association; ÇABA). As part of ÇABA Youth, she most recently supported the ÇABA bazaar during the Bizim Tepe Cup Fest 2018. She shared details about the group and their projects with the RCQ.



ÇABA volunteers at the Bizim Tepe Cup Fest 2018

“ÇABA Youth is a fully integrated subsidiary organization of ÇABA, a nonprofit charity that believes the most important issue is education. From our perspective, education equalizes people around the world who are from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds. As a young community we believe that education should be a right for all children - not just those who live in the developed world, or those who come from wealthier families. We pave the way to opening up vast resources and opportunities

to underprivileged minors in order to make education more accessible and effective. Our mission is to contribute to raising qualified and prominent young individuals to lift themselves out of poverty through prosperity.

“ÇABA Youth recently held a charity bazaar in cooperation with Robert College Alumni Association, during the BizimTepe Cup Fest 2018. Together with more than 40 brands, Macrocenter and Kahve Dünyası helped us to raise awareness and resources. All of the

proceeds have gone to the educational institution that we’re building in Elazığ which has space for 500 students. One of the skills I acquired during the course of this event is the ability to undertake new challenges, which I did by helping at a bazaar. The lesson that I will take with me from this is that a smile and politeness can make people come together for a greater cause. I feel so fortunate to be a part of both institutions, ÇABA and RC, which are working constantly to contribute society in incredible ways.”

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Homecoming 2018

Alumni from eight decades came to campus on Sunday, November 4 for Homecoming 2018.

Graduates from the Class of '45 to the Class of '18 enjoyed a beautiful autumn day on campus, visiting favorite haunts, reliving memories with classmates and catching up with beloved teachers. In addition to the annual traditions of the football tournament, the 50th reunion lunch and Roll Call which included a special performance by the RC Singers choir, graduates enjoyed visiting the İbrahim Bodur Library, having lunch in the Murat Karamancı Student Center, and discovering the new RC Commons (see p. 4).





Student volunteers welcome alumni at registration



Narod Dabanyan RC 16 signs her name on the "Look Who's Here" wall



Melahat Behlil ACG 59, Esin Asal ACG 58 and Engin Asal RC 52 speak with members from the Alumni Association



The Demirels are a Kolejli family! From L to R: Nevra Demirel ACG 68, Ahmet Demirel RA 62, and Ayşe Demirel Atakan RC 99 with her son



The Class of '68 gather in the Faculty Parlor before their celebratory luncheon



The most senior graduates attending Homecoming this year were Demir Karamancı RC 48 (standing), and ACG 45 classmates Necla Kavala and Suzan Renda (on the right)



Before leading the audience in the boys' song, Mehmet Baler RC 51 announced, "This year is the 75th year since I learned the Robert College song."



Three legendary teachers: Adil İzci, İzzet Dodurgalı and Dave Phillips



2006 grads smile from the Library balcony. From L to R: Andaç Bolluk, Sinem Hallı, Arda Cezzar, Burçin Güçlü and Emre Gezer.



ACG 59 looking fine! From L to R: Nil Bezmen Büyükgürel, İffet Taviloğlu Azak, Melahat Behlil, Sevim Berker and Meral Erkmen



RC 97 grads Özge Karadağ Çaman, Kaan Karataş, Batu Şat, Emre Kaya and Cem Çelebi



RC 91 grads catch up in the sunshine outside of Gould Hall

Dave Phillips Pays a Visit during Homecoming 2018

When the news of Dave Phillips making a surprise appearance at Homecoming hit RC, the school was in

the process of renewing the board of contributor names at the entrance of his namesake field. The Homecoming

Soccer Tournament went on as usual, this time in front of the new board, with their legendary “sir”’s presence.



Former PE teacher Dave Phillips poses in front of the board listing the names of contributors to the Dave Phillips Field project



Photo Credit: Ecem Aktaş L9

A full crowd turned out for a beautiful day on campus

Class of 49 to celebrate
70th Reunion at
Homecoming 2019

To celebrate seven decades since graduating from RC and ACG, the Class of '49 is organizing a special program at Homecoming 2019. Stay tuned!

For more details contact
Güner Fansa ACG 49.

ACG 68 Celebrates 50 Years of Friendship

Contributed by Selmin Altınordu ACG 68

As the Class of '68, we celebrated our 50th graduation reunion on the second weekend of June. We had a memorable day on June 9, at the Plateau, with 40 graduates from all over the world in attendance. While friends started appearing at the entrance of the Plateau, everyone began guessing who was who. We had intentionally not prepared nametags, making for a fun game. The theme of the luncheon was "Picnic," with a decoration of red and white checkered tablecloths and napkins, red flowers, and lots of baskets. Headmaster Skipper's visit before lunch was a

surprise for us all. Despite our fears of rain, our day turned out to be so sunny that friends had to share some shade under the trees. While we sipped our coffee, we gathered around Filiz Çalışlar Yenişehirlioğlu to listen to her short speech on how we graduates had changed over the past 50 years and what we had gained from it. At 3:30, we met in the film room to view the video, prepared with scenes from our school days and reunions, with background music chosen from popular songs of 1968. Everyone went home with a gift of a clutch bag designed by the Class of '67 and adorned with a lovely logo

that we adapted with their permission. The next evening we met at the boat *Sabah Rüzgarı*, owned by Deniz Gürsoy RA 68, for a windy but wonderful cruise, with lots of drinks and friendly chat. After two hours, the boat dropped us at a meyhane in Beylerbeyi, where we enjoyed delicious mezzes and shared memories. The dinner ended with the cutting of our celebration cake and singing "Alma Mater." We sailed back to Arnavutköy at 11:30pm where we said our goodbyes until we were to meet again for Homecoming.



ACG 68 at their picnic on the Plateau, part of a weekend-long celebration for their 50th reunion

RA 68: Already 50 Years

Contributed by Ali Aynacı RA 68

Yes, it is no joke. This year we, the class of RA 68 - 107 students - have celebrated the 50th year from the date of our graduation. For those of you who are students right now this may seem like a dream.

We had, years back, established some means and ways of communication. The first arrangement was a dinner get-together every third Thursday of each month. Then, we had email and recently WhatsApp groups.

Early February of this year we agreed to have an organizing committee of three people - Ali Aynacı, Deniz Gürsoy and Tansu Salman as president - and an advisory committee of ten. The next

step was to communicate with each and every classmate which required a new Google group.

With good cooperation and perseverance we managed to communicate with all those who are still on this earth. Unfortunately, over the years we have lost 17 beloved classmates.

After consulting with the advisory committee and the mail group we decided to have two evenings of celebrations. The first one on the Boğaziçi campus at Kennedy Lodge for nostalgic purposes, with spouses on September 20, and the second one as a boys-out thanks to Burhan Karaçam

who made his garden available on September 21. The first night 82 people (including spouses) attended, and the second night 46 boys. Both evenings were full of joy and happiness with people kissing and hugging each other. Needless to say, there was much talk about grandchildren and telling each other how cute and lovely they were. We were excited to have classmates coming for the reunion from the US, Australia, Europe, Israel as well as from various cities around Turkey.

We can proudly say that the enthusiasm has encouraged us organize several more reunions so long as we are in good health.



Members of RA 68 together once again

40 Hours on the 40th Year – RC 78

Contributed by Doğan Şenocak RC 78

It was 40 years ago when we thought “40 years” was a magical time in the very far distance, 1938 and 2018 both seemed like eons away. The future was what we were interested in as Record '78's closing Rumi phrase indicated: “Ne varsa dünle ait, dünle gitti cancağızım, şimdi zaman yeni, artık yeni şeyler söylemek lazım” (Whatever belongs to yesterday left with yesterday my dear, now that time is new, new things should be said).

Through the years we have realized that it took a blink of an eye for 40 years to pass, that it was also a priceless gift to be able to retreat back into the beautiful RC campus, meet all those familiar faces, feel and act like carefree teenagers again without glaring critical “adult” eyes over us. Reunions proved to be some of the highlights of our lives as we got older.

Following a year's detailed planning by Selma Şaşmaz Sömer, Haluk Sarıdağ,

Doğan Şenocak and Işıl Esen Arıdağ, “40 hours on the 40th year” started on Friday, June 29 at Bomontiada. Cem Yegül RC 78, cofounder of Babylon along with our dear friend Mehmet Uluğ RC 78 who passed away in 2014, proved to be a wonderful host. The traditional campus cocktail/dinner was the next day. With a playlist of almost 1000 70's songs, a band of Roma musicians, banners thanks to Işıl and wine from Doğan's own vineyard, the day lasted well into the next morning when of the 70 participants, 14 ventured off to the dorms only to meet the next morning for a brunch at Bizim Tepe.

“40 hours on the 40th year” was an event to remember, and to recreate it in sooner than five years we are in the process of planning a “41 kere maaşallah” party in 2019 followed by “50 years of friendship” in 2021.

The 40th Reunion also provided energy

for RC 78 to donate more than ever for annual giving. We have created enough funds to support a student and pledged to keep it up for the next five years.



Much fun was had during the 40-hour-long celebration



RC 78 poses for an iconic photo on the Gould steps

The 35th Reunion of RC 83

Contributed by Serra Soysal RC 83

What a magnificent night it was! After months of online chats about who is coming and who is not, on the evening of July 30 at about 6pm around 90 members of the Class of '83 gathered at the garden beside the new Murat Karamancı Student Center, which many of us visited for the first time. We had our aperitifs and the atmosphere warmed up as we found each other again since our last grand reunion five years ago. Among hugs and laughter we quickly regressed to adolescence!

There is nothing like being in a large group of friends who know one another since even before their teenage years. Quickly catching up at this pre-reunion get-together, we took minibuses

down the hill to the Arnavutköy gate and walked to our boat for a night cruising the Bosphorus. This reunion was organized by committee members Alparslan Sükan, Emine Umur Çobanoğlu, Nurdan Seferoğlu, and Tunçay and Pınar Boncuk Dayanıklı, who worked hard to make a magical event possible. Every detail had been planned elegantly and meticulously.

After the last three reunions on campus, including overnight stays in RC dorms, it was a welcome change to celebrate in a different way this time around. A midsummer night cruising between the Orient and Occident is about as good as it gets. Especially those visiting from the US and

Europe appreciated this alternative program. We had delicious food at our exquisitely decorated tables named after popular faculty members such as Münir Aysu, Dorothy İz, and Philip Esposito. The music on the upper deck was upbeat, spanning the centuries since our graduation. The dancing was fun but the conversations throughout the evening were even better.

After midnight some of us continued celebrating at other Arnavutköy venues. Of course, stories of these celebrations found their way to WhatsApp groups and social media the next morning. In this age it is impossible to make sure what happens at reunion stays at reunion!



The Class of '83 during the campus portion of their reunion

30 years of “High Energy” and Laughter!

Contributed by Zeynep Karaarslan Başaran RC 88

The Class of '88 celebrated their 30th Reunion with a record turnout of 71 people on July 6. Classmates flew in from all over the world: the US, Germany, the UK, Spain, and the Czech Republic. Class agents, Arif Akdağ, Aslı Berkol, Mehmet Cemalcılar, and Gülin Yücel worked hard to create a magical night, gathering input and support from their classmates over the course

of months. The lanterns, olive trees and use of old Record photos, were some of the details that amped the fab factor. Specially created T-shirts were a sweet touch. The dancing started early in front of Gould Hall and lasted till 5:30am at the Plateau. The easy laughter, banter, and positive energy flowing throughout the evening were remarkable and heartfelt. As the sun

was rising, 44 classmates headed to the dorms to catch some sleep for a few hours. After all, the class brunch was scheduled for 10am at Bizim Tepe the next day. Judging from the energy, dancing, laughter, and sincere sharing at the reunion, the Class of '88 is entering its next decade with wonderful class spirit!



From L to R: Elif Altuğ, Didem Kavadarlı, Başak Çetiner, Zeynep Diniz, Seyda Fırat, Senem Akyollu, Figen Özsoy and Gülrüh Turan



From L to R: Fatih Aslanoba, Ercüment Şener, Aslı Berkol and Burak İnce



From L to R: Zeynep Atabay, Paul Vitiç, Müge İkizler, Zeynep Karaarslan Başaran and Mehmet Cemalcılar



RC 88 staying “together forever” on the Gould Hall steps

RC 89 Meets Up in Barcelona

Contributed by Sinem Eryılmaz RC 89

I moved to Barcelona after I got married in 2000. Over the years, I have had several RC friends visiting me from my class as well as from the classes above and below, as expected - until last year.

First, İlan Berker RC 89 moved to the city with his family (see p. 48). Together, we organized a class reunion in Barcelona for the last weekend of May, something we had been talking about in our thriving Whatsapp group for some time.

As “The Weekend” drew near, İlan and I were getting nervous; will our friends like the restaurants that we chose? Will all the guys join the flamenco class we had arranged? Was the timing of our city walk appropriate? How are we

going to manage to keep 30 people together as we moved around the city? How could we make their visit the most interesting, comfortable, and fun, considering that some of them had been to Barcelona previously? We went over menus, rehearsed and timed routes, and made unannounced visits to the few places in our program that we had not tried before. İlan made excel charts for the arrival and departure times of our classmates coming from Istanbul, San Francisco, New York, London, Basel, and Geneva, as well as for the girls’ shoe sizes for the flamenco shoe rentals. I gave enigmatic information about the ankle high şoşet socks that the girls should bring with them and the heeled shoes that the boys should wear on Saturday for our surprise flamenco event.

Once all the arrangements were made and our friends began arriving, a new spirit of unconditional bonding swiftly took over us making İlan and me mere assistants. It was that spirit that took us all over the city and nourished us through what we ate (and drank!). It turned us all into flamenco dancers! During that weekend, we talked, laughed, sang, danced, ate, drank, and walked a lot. (I have already said that we laughed a lot, right?)

We were free like children. The discomforts of adolescence long gone, neither did we care for stories of fame or success. Nothing really mattered except for our being together, as silly and caring as brothers and sisters to one another.



RC 89 show off their flair for flamenco

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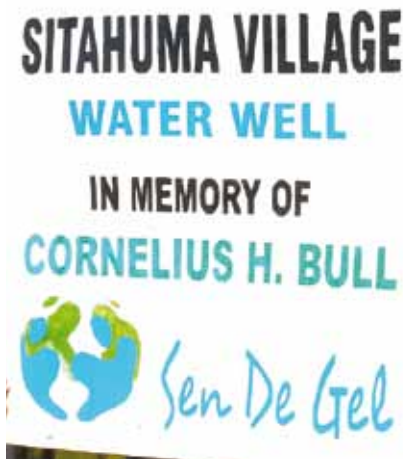
Uğur Ersoy RC ENG 55 Receives Professional Honor

Professor Uğur Ersoy has been elected an honorary member of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) for contributions in education, research and practice that have improved reinforced concrete design and construction in Turkey and in seismic zones around the world. ACI is an international non-profit organization which is the leading authority in the field of reinforced concrete. Formal announcement of the election will be made at the ACI Spring Convention on March 24, 2019 in Quebec City. Ersoy graduated from RC as a civil engineer.



He obtained his MS and PhD degrees from the University of Texas. In 1959 he joined Orta Doğu Teknik University where he served for 46 years. Ersoy has been teaching at Boğaziçi University since 2006. Ersoy is the author of 160 technical papers, seven technical and eight short story books. He received the Wason Research Medal from ACI in 1969 and Science Award from the Parlar Foundation in 1985. In 2005 he was elected to the Academy of Distinguished Alumni at the University of Texas.

İbrahim Betil RA 63 Dedicates Well to Neil Bull



Legendary headmaster Cornelius H. Bull now has a water well dedicated to him in the Sitahuma village of The Gambia. "He made a big impact



on my life," says İbrahim Betil, who donated the well through SenDeGel, the association he founded in 2012. The organization develops sustainable

projects such as the construction of water wells, animal husbandry, vegetable gardens for women, multi-purpose milling machines and solar-powered lighting kits for living areas, in the least developed countries. (see RCQ 45, p. 54). On October 29, 2018 Betil and a group of friends visited the village, which has a population of nearly 500, for the opening ceremony. The villagers, especially the women and children are now very happy. Betil explained: "Many of them came and hugged me and said, 'We had to walk 2-3 miles every day to reach clean drinking water; now you have given life to us and to our children.'"

The village has decided to repeat the celebration of the Cornelius H. Bull water well every year on October 29.

Neslihan Stamboli RC 77 Award Finalist for Latest Novel



After completing her *Rüya* trilogy of books, Neslihan Stamboli released *A Twist in the Tail*, for which she became a Faulker-Wisdom finalist in 2017. The suspenseful novel tells the story of Tara, whose visit to an old family home sheds new light on the life-changing events of one summer, years before.

A trailer for *A Twist in the Tail* can be found on Stamboli's website, which is organized like a virtual home. By browsing through various "rooms", visitors can learn about her work and the things that inspire her writing. In

her "Study", Stamboli explains how she approaches her craft. She writes, "The art of letters should analyze the past so as to see into today more clearly, and more importantly, to shed light on to the future, playing a role in shaping that future by offering a point of view of how it might be."

Stamboli currently lives in Istanbul, where she is working on her next novel. See more at neslihanstamboli.com

Hakan Karahan RC 79 Returns to the Screen

Hakan Karahan has joined the cast of the primetime TV series *Kadın*, a high-rating drama that is based on issues like motherhood, fatherhood, kids, love, hate and revenge. In its second season, Karahan came on the show this fall as a new character. "My character is a rich mafioso called Nezir," explains Karahan. "I am the antagonist against the protagonist who killed my son (by accident, in a fight). So the protagonist's family is in great danger under the spell of my revenge."

Karahan also plays in the movie *Siyah Atların Ölümü* (The Death of the Black Horses), which has been invited to show at the Berlin Film Festival in February 2019. The story takes place in 1914 right before the First World War about three brothers on their way to Diyarbakır to visit their oldest brother who is in prison for murder. It is a road story of conscience, human soul and dark secrets.



Serra Berkol Erciyes RC 90 Named Among 30 Women Inspiring the Turkish Digital Ecosystem

Serra Berkol Erciyes is the CEO of Foreks, one of the leading fintech firms in Turkey. She has been named among the most inspiring women in the digital ecosystem in Turkey by Digital Age. Founded in 1990, Foreks has been an integral part of the Turkish financial community as a financial data provider. Having worked on both corporate and enterpreneurial ends of the business spectrum, Serra Berkol



successfully transformed Foreks into an innovative software powerhouse. This accolade is the result of the thought leadership she displays in the fintech area. Foreks has recently co-hosted Discover Fintech 2018 with Amazon. At the event, subjects ranging from gamification to machine learning were discussed and cases were shared for a select audience from the financial and technological communities.

Erdem Helvacıoğlu RC 94 Forms New Musical Duo



Erdem Helvacıoğlu is well known for his electroacoustic compositions, sound installations and film music. He has released over 13 albums and scored for more than 20 films. He is mostly focused on film music but also works as a producer and sound engineer while teaching part-time at the New School. Now residing in NY, he comes back to Turkey frequently for new collaborations and projects, among which Joy Exit is one of them.

Bringing together two of the most prominent names in Turkey's

alternative music scene, Joy Exit is Erdem Helvacıoğlu and Şirin Soysal, an electronic duo who have released their eponymous first EP through New York-based Diffuse Records. The songs were recorded and mixed by Helvacıoğlu himself. Dark and melancholic with an acutely cinematic edge and a hint of arabesque, Joy Exit merge their dreamy synth-soundscape with wistful guitars, a lush moody contralto and telling lyrics. Visit joyexit.com

Özge Karadağ Çaman RC 97 Addresses World Health Leaders

Özge Karadağ Çaman, associate professor of public health at Hacettepe University, attended the 10th World Health Summit organized in Berlin, Germany as a “Young Physician Leader”, the first to attend from Turkey. The summit is one of the world’s most prominent strategic forums for global health.

Karadağ Çaman delivered the keynote speech during the opening ceremony of the summit, expressing the need for a global focus on health care, emphasizing that most global health issues can only be resolved in a

world where there is less stigma, less discrimination, more democracy, and more human rights. Karadağ Çaman has been working as a consultant for UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR, IOM, WHO, and the European Commission, as well as for ministries, and civil society organizations for more than 15 years. Her main research interests are vulnerable/ disadvantaged populations, health inequalities, health promotion, migrant health, community mental health, stigma and discrimination, community participation, and sustainable development.



Tuğçe Kurtiş RC 00 Balances Academics and Music

Dr. Tuğçe Kurtiş has received numerous awards for her research in sociocultural psychology. In the last decade, she has authored thirty academic publications, served as an editor of scientific journals, presented her work at more than 60 conferences worldwide and has taught and mentored hundreds of students.

Alongside her academic career, Kurtiş continues her work in music, which she began in primary school and pursued with great enthusiasm during her RC years. Since 2013, she has released five albums in collaboration



with her Paraguayan partner Santiago Ferreira and performed live as Santi & Tuğçe. Their recent album, *Songs for My Grandmother*, featuring original arrangements of timeless songs from Turkey, has gained international attention and was selected as one of the best albums from Turkey in 2017 by Beehype. Currently based in Berlin, the duo is preparing their next full-length album and getting ready for shows in Southeast Asia, South America and Africa. Visit santiandtugce.com

Derya Yannier RC L3 03 Appointed Basketball Director



A former national basketball player, Derya Yannier has been appointed director of the Turkey Basketball Federation Men’s Leagues. While studying at RC, Yannier started his professional career at Ülkerspor where he became the Junior League Champion. While studying economics at Koç University, he went to Franklin & Marshall College and played in the American College League for one year. After graduating from Koç University, he received his MBA from Bilgi University.

Yannier played professionally from 2005-2013, and was on the Ülkerspor

team when they won the President’s Cup Championship and Turkey Championship in 2006. Due to a knee injury, he ended his athletic career at the age of 28, and then became the general manager of Eskişehir Basketball Club. Under his direction, the club won the Turkey Basketball League Federation Cup at the end of the 2016-2017 season and the team moved to the Basketball Super League. The team made it to the Tahincioğlu Basketball Super League Play-off quarter-finals in 2017-2018.

Can Yurdakul RC L12 04 Wins Marketing Awards

Can Yurdakul's marketing agency Standby Creative Group (SCG) was recently recognized in five different categories at FELIS and one at Crystal Apple Awards, including media, brand experience, mobile, social responsibility and sustainability. Yurdakul's goal for SCG is to create a community of devoted creators who consistently deliver purposeful work that adds value to people's lives. Activating their "LINES, NO MORE." approach, they make their mark in the creative industry by refracting

the traditional lines of advertising and work with brands that want to make meaningful impacts. Recently, SCG started to collaborate with the Robert College Alumni Association (RKMD) to reshape its communication strategy and manage its event calendar. They also contribute to the young graduates' network of RKMD by providing internship and job opportunities to strengthen the Robert College network and keep the traditional ties alive. For further information visit standby.com.tr



Burcu Arkut Acun RC L3 04 Sets Up Design Business

Burcu Arkut Acun has built up a rich portfolio through her studies in architecture and fashion, and her work experience in design. In October 2016, Arkut Acun founded B.U.J.U Design where she practices architecture, interior architecture, design and styling. She describes her business: "Me and my colleagues are focused on creating projects and products for life, as well as providing design and art consultancy



for individual and corporate clients. I cherish bringing out my client's authenticity with customized details in order to make them remember their true selves. Mathematics and mood are the most important aspects of design. Our purpose is to create designs that combine these two aspects with our clients' uniqueness and our vision in B.U.J.U Design." Follow her work at [@bujudesign](https://www.instagram.com/bujudesign) and bujudesign.com

Gülin Ölçer RC 08 Designing a Zero Waste Economy



Circular economy is an emerging economic model that suggests it is possible to design products and systems that create zero waste with the right design approach and partnerships. Upon completing her MS in innovation and management at Tufts University's Gordon Institute, Gülin Ölçer founded Zero, a design and innovation studio focusing on the practical implementations of the circular economy. The design company allows her to combine her expertise in product, service and systems design with circular thinking and putting the

"waste" problem under a new light. Besides consulting the private sector on design challenges including corporate events, employee programs, product and service design projects, Zero also aims to create a large network of circular economy professionals in Turkey together with its global partner, Circular Economy Club. The design studio organizes events, seminars and workshops around circular economy and design that bring these professionals together. For more details visit designforzero.com

Alumni Celebrate in London

Thanksgiving and the birthday of RC 99 grad Onur Okutur gave alumni in London a good reason to meet up. The graduates from a variety of years got together on November 23 at The Blues Kitchen.



From L to R: Damla Erensoy Satılmaz RC 07, Onur Okutur RC 99, Nazlı Gürdamar RC 07, Hamza Najeeb, Ayşen Nergiz RC 03, Cem Dilmegani RC 03, Yiğit Satılmaz RC 04

Sinem Örmeci RC 08 and Alper Can Yıldırım RC 08 Tie the Knot

Sinem and Alper met in English literature class and have been together since 2007. After several years of a long-distance relationship, they tied the knot in Central Park in New York on December 7, 2017. The couple also celebrated in the presence of loved ones at their wedding in Istanbul on



July 28, 2018. Sinem has a BA degree in economics and business administration from Koç University and recently completed her MBA from Harvard Business School. Alper holds a BA in economics from Harvard College and works as a consultant at Oliver Wyman in New York.

Selim Can Bilgin RC 08 and Ekin Ersanlı RC 09 Get Married



Ekin and Selim first met in high school while competing on the RC quiz bowl team, but their relationship started in 2014 when they were both doing their master's in law at Cambridge University. Three years later, during a revisit to Cambridge, their second mutual alma mater, Selim proposed to Ekin. On July 21, 2018, the couple got married in the presence of loved ones, including many classmates from RC. Ekin has a law degree

from Koç University and worked in leading corporate law firms in Istanbul. Selim completed his law degree at Galatasaray University and worked at Kabine Law Office, an arbitration boutique. Following their honeymoon, the couple relocated to London where Ekin works as an in-house solicitor for Global Ports Holding and Selim is doing his PhD studies at City, University of London, while maintaining his legal practice.

Sirma Munyar RC 09 Releases First Turkish Single

Not only is "Belki Bir Gün" the first Turkish song by singer/songwriter Sirmu Munyar, it is also the first song she produced by herself, recording and editing alone at her home studio in New York. "It forced me to achieve a sound and story that's completely genuine," she says. This winter she plans to hibernate in her studio, creating lots, and hopes to perform in Turkey and the US when it's warm again. "Looking back on my experience at RC, the time I

spent with the RC Orchestra, taking on challenges to perform at showcases like Lise Live, all helped me envision what I could do in the real world on my own. I cannot thank Deniz Baysal enough, for mentoring me and encouraging me. I feel as though my college life had begun at Robert College- I just didn't know it at the time."

Her work can be found under SIRMA on social media and music platforms.



Ahmet Ali Arslan RC 10 Releases Debut Album



Ahmet Ali Arslan's debut album *Günışığı* combines a singer/songwriter approach with new sounds from traditional music. After two EPs and many concerts, the self-produced record is released from Z Müzik/Kalan. Packing modes and rhythms from Turkish classical and folk music at its core, the album goes beyond a synthesis and elevates with a contemporary songwriting approach through the artist's compositions. The first video clip from the album, "Gözlerimdesin", is out. After a launching concert in Salon IKSİV, Arslan continues

to gig, and releases his live performance videos through his Youtube channel.

"RC Orchestra is pivotal in my music life. We were given an amazing warm experience of the stage early on in our lives," says Arslan. "I can't forget singing 'Minnie The Moocher' and feeling so united with the audience. Deniz Baysal also contributed massively with his musical recommendations. He is most likely single-handedly responsible for me taking an interest in Turkish classical and folk music."

Farewell to Nilüfer Göksan

For thirty-four years, the students at Robert College were greeted by Nilüfer Göksan's smiling face at the circulation desks of the various RC libraries. She started her career at RC in 1984 in the Orta School Library in Bingham Hall. In 1992 she helped with the amalgamation of the Orta and Lise libraries when RC closed the Orta school, and she continued to work in the high school. Throughout the years Nilüfer has always maintained her sense of humor, compassion, and her diligence and commitment to her library work, and the RC community.

In Nilüfer's own words, "RC has been like a nest where I felt protected, supported, respected, loved and challenged by every member of this institution. All my colleagues along the way have always been there for me - sharing, laughing, working, and crying together. I am grateful to all who have touched my life in every possible way.



Students have been a major asset and source of happiness, full of surprises with their genuine enthusiasm, creative ideas, quest for knowledge and sense of mischief. They have provided me with an incredible learning experience.

"The Library is very precious to me of course, the throbbing heart of the school! Working at a library for many years and being able to read all the books I wanted was a privilege. Why am I saying this? Now that I am retired I realize this more than ever. I have the time to read but the books are not beside me. Education does not end at school. It is a continuing process. RC students are very lucky to have such a wonderful library."

Nilüfer has been a valued member of the library team and we wish her great happiness in this new chapter of her life.

- Contributed by the RC Library Staff

Farewell to Nüket Eren Üstel

After three decades at Robert College, history teacher Nüket Eren Üstel will be missed by the students and colleagues who have grown accustomed to seeing her warm smile in the hallways. Since she joined RC in 1988, Nüket Hoca has been more than a teacher to generations of students. She was first a surveillant, then the house mother from 1994 to 2004. She was the one to whom boarding girls would turn when they needed help, always sure that Nüket Hoca would be there for them.

Nüket Hoca has dedicated her life to developing youth. A familiar face on CIP projects, when the RCQ contacted her about details for this article, she replied, "Unfortunately I can't reply at the moment. I'm going to Bursa with the students on a CIP. After that, another one with kids in Soma who we've been working with for three years.

Even though I'm leaving RC, I want to continue working with them."

In her farewell letter to her colleagues, she wrote:

As the poet Oya Baydar said;
*Straight towards a new world
Four riders on galloping horses
With stars in the palms of their hands
With the wind at their backs*

Dearest residents of my home Robert College, I've seen the migration route following the swallows.

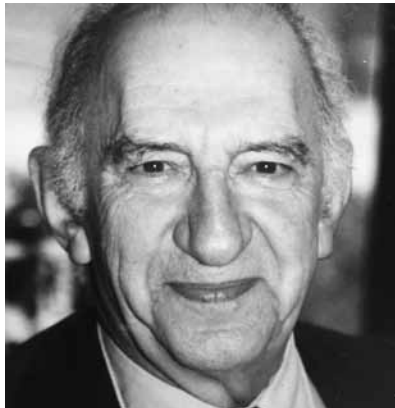
I offer unlimited thanks to those who I've worked with. But now I want to be quiet. To be quiet... Sometimes people should be quiet, should find things for themselves.

Stay well!



Marcel Gabbay RC YÜK 43

Marcel Gabbay studied textile engineering in Manchester, graduating in 1948. Married to Vera Beck in 1948, they had two sons in 1949 and 1958. After managing cotton mills in England, then Turkey (1952-56), he became a management consultant. From the early 1970s he worked as an international productivity expert for the ILO and UNIDO. He was awarded Officier de l'Ordre de Palmes Académiques and Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje by the French and Colombian governments, Fellowship of the British Institute of Management, and



was a Council member of the Institute of Management Consultants. In 1978, Marcel and Vera, tired of travelling, retired to the Cote D'Azur. An active Rotarian, Marcel was club president twice and received a sapphire award on his 90th birthday. He died after a short illness on May 10, 2018, survived by Vera in France, and their two sons, professors John and Mark Gabbay, in England.

Contributed by his sons Mark Gabbay and John Gabbay

Fatma Perihan Eken ACG 45

Fatma Perihan Eken passed away on July 16, 2018 at the age of 93. She will always be remembered by her friends and family for her unique humor and enthusiasm in helping others. Fatma Perihan Eken, who was also known as "Peroş" among her former

classmates is survived by her daughter Filiz Akıncı Yolalan ACG 67, her grandson Ali Şahinbaş and her great granddaughters Leyla and Luna Şahinbaş.

Contributed by Ali Şahinbaş



Viktorya Ovadya Kazez ACG 46

Viktorya Ovadya Kazez passed away at the age of 94 in Istanbul on March 4, 2018. Her love for ACG was well known. She was the class representative for many years. She loved to spend her summer holidays on Burgazada. Her love for music, painting, reading the daily newspapers lasted until the very end. Her most precious valuable in life was her family. Viktorya is predeceased by her brother Alber, her husband Nesim, and her son Selim. She is survived by her other son Jak, daughter-in-law Nita



Behar Kazez RC 77, grandchildren Jale and Yasemin, grandsons-in-law Şua and Selim. She had two great-grandchildren that she adored. She is also survived by her sister Ceni Bonfil ACG 53. Viktorya will be remembered as a very caring, sensitive and well-educated lady. She was an example to our family with her principles and her strong character. She will be missed deeply by her family and friends.

Contributed by her family

Kazar Eryorulmaz RC 47

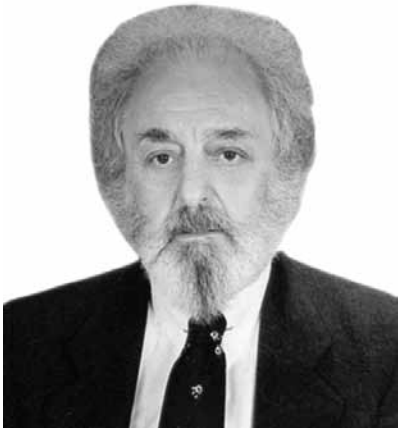


Kazar Eryorulmaz, affectionately known to many RA/RC and Boğaziçi graduates as "Kazar Bey", passed away peacefully on July 31, 2018, in Melbourne, at the age of 94. Kazar Bey was the husband of the late Sirarpi and father of Sonya and Agop (Alican) Eryorulmaz RC 73. After his education at RC, he earned an MA degree in library science at Drexel University (1959) and returned to Turkey to take up a position at RC as the director of the library. Later he became the registrar and retired from this position in 1973. He continued

working after retirement, first at Boğaziçi University as an administrator (1974-1979) and then at the Springvale Library of Melbourne University where he finally retired after four years of hard work. Kazar Bey will be remembered for his calm and friendly manner in which he handled students' problems, for his leadership among his peers and as the coach of the football team.

Contributed by his son Alican Eryorulmaz RC 73

Okday Veliç Alevli RC 54



Okday V. Alevli passed away on Sunday, July 15, 2018, at his home after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Born in Gaziantep, he was the son of the late Cemil and Mehlika Alevli. Okday is survived by his wife Aylin Alevli, his sister Nüket Ersoy ACG 50 and brother-in-law Celal Ersoy RC 46. He received his bachelor's degree as a textile engineer in Germany like his late father. He worked with his father, the founder of the first textile factory, Veliç, in Gaziantep. He and his family founded the Gaziantep College Foundation (GKV) in 1973, which became a role model for many

other education institutions in the region. He served as the first President of Trustees of GKV.

Okday Alevli was known for his solid character and dedicated friendship; he will be missed and remembered affectionately by many of his family and by his classmates.

Contributed by his niece Dr. Duygu Erten and his friend Ahmet Taşpınar RC ENG 56

Çağlayan Yörük Erbay ACG 55

Çağlayan Erbay passed away after a short and unforeseen illness on September 1, 2018. She graduated from Istanbul University law school in 1959 and subsequently aided her family's legal matters. She loved and was deeply loved by all her family and classmates.

As a selfless woman, she was highly regarded in her circle of friends. She

was known to organize many social events, remember fine details about what her friends loved and prepare amazing gifts for all of them. Above all she was a magnificent mother, grandmother and wife.

Çağlayan is survived by her husband of 60 years, İsmet Erbay, her sons Ziyatur and Şevket and her grandchildren

Yörükcan and Bahar. We will never forget her great legacy as she will continue to live forever in our memories.

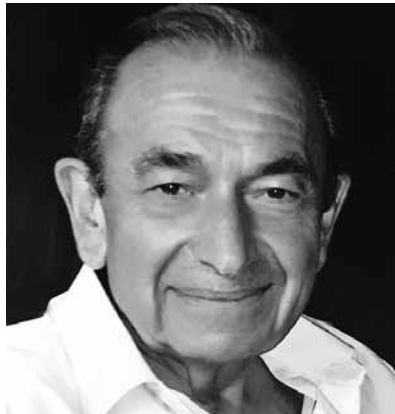
Contributed by her ACG 55 classmates and her grandson Yörükcan Erbay RC 13

Jirayr Karakulakyan RC ENG 56

Jirayr Karakulakyan passed away on September 26, 2017.

"During the 1951-52 school year we were in Enis Bey's class together. I remember Jirayr well. He was a gentleman, a kind and handsome *delikanlı*," recalled Şahan Kavafyan RC ENG 56.

Aram Rüştüm RC ENG 56ex said, "I spent my entire high school life with Jirayr Karakulakyan. Compassionate and soft natured, our friendship continued into our next life. I



remember him for his adaptability and his good temperedness. In the spring, his parents would invite us for meals at their home in Yeşilköy. May he rest in peace."

He is survived by his wife Diana, and his two sons Ayk and Alex.

Faik Özdemir RC 59

Faik Özdemir passed away on February 25, 2018.

İsmail İlkin Esen RA 62

İsmail İlkin Esen passed away peacefully at home on September 8, 2018. He was born in Ankara, December 18, 1943, and raised in Istanbul, completing his education at Robert College. With an education in civil engineering, he completed his PhD at Colorado State University. He moved back to Turkey and started his teaching career at Boğaziçi University. Soon after, İlkin moved to Kuwait and taught at Kuwait University's Department of Civil

Engineering. He was teaching there from 1976 to 2016, and returned to Istanbul upon his retirement. He did what he loved, which was to teach. İlkin was a man of principles; a devoted husband, and a loving father of four. His life will forever be remembered through his family, friends, and colleagues.

Contributed by his children Erol, Zeynep, İrem and Seda



Mustafa Şahin RA 62

Mustafa Şahin passed away on November 17, 2017. It is difficult to find words that are adequate to describe Mustafa. He was a free spirit who had his own way. He had vast knowledge of literature, art, history, politics, finance and sports to name a few.

He had endless enthusiasm for learning and was always open to grasp the essence of new developments in the world. He loved to talk extensively on any subject with his unique and personal analysis. Mustafa was also a talented sportsman. He especially loved

riding at the Atıspor Club in Maslak. Whenever someone near him was in a difficult situation, he was always there to help and solve the problem at hand.

Kindness and modesty were his most remarkable traits. He is survived by his wife İlhan, his brother Gökhan, his children Nazlı, Leyla and Asım, and his grandson Mustafa, who will always remember him with love and affection.

Contributed by his children Nazlı, Leyla and Asım, and his wife İlhan



Arif Tlabar RA 63

People who liked my father, to whom he had reached out in some way, gathered one last time at the Bebek mosque on September 17, 2018. There were about 200 people at the ceremony, and I realized that many persons liked my father, respected him and remembered him. On our way to the cemetery, a brown and orange butterfly flew around us for

a long time. It was as if my father's soul was bidding us farewell.

As my father's favorite author Wayne Dyer said, "Don't die with the music still in you."

Contributed by his daughter Işık Tlabar



Cevdet Suner RA 64



In 2011, Cevdet wrote the following email to his classmates:

"Maybe it's because I'm at this age, but the section of the RC Quaterly that interests me the most is the obituaries..."

"Because I've done nothing all my life, on one hand I am delighted (because all is for nothing), and on the other hand I'm sad (because my obit will be short)."

After loss of an uninhabitable - overflowing intelligence:

Devoted to his family, Cevdet Suner had three kids who were a central part of his life. He was banned in casinos worldwide, because he could count cards at blackjack. Not a gambler, but a master of the game. What satisfied him most was winning against the bank - an institution; the monetary aspect was secondary.

Cevdet was bright, witty, soft-spoken. He advised his friends against unnecessary hard work. Subtle use of mind and intellect was much preferable. He was a skeptic who loved intellectual challenges. The child in him stayed with him to the very end of his life.

Contributed by his classmates Ahmet Çelebiler, Umur Serter, Reha Uz and Ateş Güneş

Özkan Esmer RC ENG 69

Özkan Esmer was hospitalized for eight months after a stroke, and passed away on July 18, 2018. Özkan graduated from RC as a civil engineer and earned his MSc in hydraulics engineering at Strathclyde University Glasgow. Although an engineer by training, he was more people-oriented than quantitatively-oriented, and his talents lay in multiple domains. Together with his wife Gülen Kefeli Esmer who survives him (ACG 65, RC 69), he managed to build a successful and prosperous business in construction



goods manufacturing: Es-Eks A.Ş. His older son Mahmut Engin Esmer RC 86 built on and is now carrying that torch. Although he did not get to realize his own talents in literature and music, he always wholeheartedly supported his younger son Raif Derin Esmer to pursue such activities. He is also survived by his two grand-daughters Reyhan Naz, and Sırma Rana who loved him deeply. We will always remember him for his openness, generosity and kindness.

Contributed by his family

Emre Fıratlıgil RC 90

"It's stage four" said Emre... There was a long pause at the raki table. We all knew what that meant. Emre was calm and collected as always. He told us he had arranged everything from the boys' school to the family's future cash-flow.

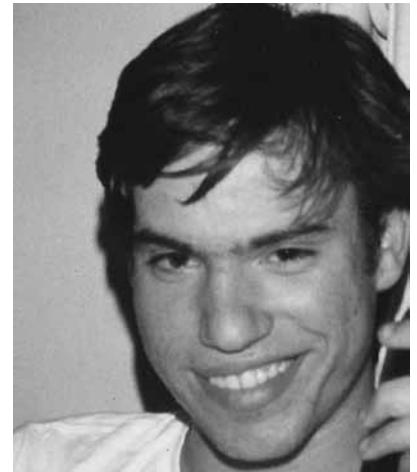
We were like from Southpark and Emre was Kenny, his presence giving us confidence, his serenity gifting us peace. Maybe our Kenny, like a miracle, would just shrug off death with a silent laugh. Emre carried on, kept riding his bike to Ortaköy on the weekends. He started photography. He captured those important moments, the little things.

With his death, he finally taught us all, what the real miracle was; that until the day we finally die, on all other days, if we could just... live... Then we would keep living in the hearts of those who love us.

Emre passed away on September 8, 2018. He is survived by his two sons Bora and Ozan.

And he lives on in our hearts...

Contributed by Mehmet Sarıdal RC 90



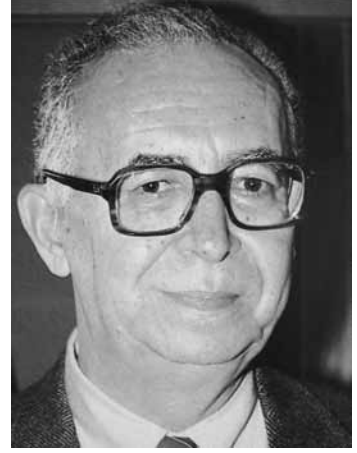
Hikmet Sebüktekin

Prof. Hikmet Sebüktekin, a true gentleman and a leading figure in linguistics and foreign language education, passed away on June 10, 2018 in Istanbul at the age of 89. He received his PhD in linguistics at UC Berkeley in 1964 and his dissertation, *Turkish-English Contrastive Analysis*, soon became a major reference book. Sebüktekin was among the writers of *Spoken English for Turks*, used in the preparatory school of RA and RC for over a decade. His two-volume *Turkish for Foreigners* was the most sought-after course book all over the world from the late sixties up until recently.

Sebüktekin first joined RC in 1964, continuing on at Boğaziçi University. He initiated linguistics courses and programs in the university, as well as holding various administrative positions.

Sebüktekin was much-loved and respected; he will be fondly remembered. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Contributed by Eser Taylan



Rükzan Günaysu

I learned with sadness about the passing of one of our retired teachers from the Department of Turkish Language and Literature, Rükzan Günaysu, in November 2018. I had the opportunity to work with Rükzan Öğretmen for a short time. At the time, she was retired from Ankara TED College and was invited to work as a Turkish teacher at Robert College.

She was not only a skilled teacher, but also a close follower of the world of literature and the arts, and she expected the same from her students.



She would ask her students to watch good quality plays and to read good quality literary works. For some she was a strict teacher, but an enlightened Republican teacher who knew well what she wanted and why. Rükzan Hanım was very meticulous about her mother tongue, and expected the same from students and young teachers. She left a deep mark on Robert College and her students.

Contributed by Mehmet Uysal, Turkish Language and Literature Department Head

To share news of a deceased RC community member please send a notice in English of no more than 150 words to bonayozman@robcok.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.

DOĞA ☐

ŞEHİR ☐

HEPSİ ☒



**Jeep Grand Cherokee ile
konforun sınırlarını kendiniz belirleyin.**

Jeep Grand Cherokee, yıl sonuna özel avantajlı fiyatları ve cazip kredi seçenekleriyle showroom'larda.

Grand Cherokee'nin CO₂ emisyon değeri 198 gr/km, ortalama yakıt tüketimi 7,5 lt /100km'dir. Jeep® FCA US LLC'nin tescilli markasıdır.

RESTORANLARDA WINGS İLE %10,
WINGS BLACK İLE %15 İNDİRİM
YEMEK YAZIP 4566'YA SMS GÖNDERİN

OTELLERDE WINGS İLE %10,
WINGS BLACK İLE %15 İNDİRİM
GEZ YAZIP 4566'YA SMS GÖNDERİN

ALIŞVERİŞLERDE %25
DAHA FAZLA MİL PUAN
KAZANIMI

YURTDIŞINDA RAHATIM, BENİ KİMSE TANIMAZ. AMA KARTIM HER YERDE TANINIR.



Hemen indir



WINGS İLE TÜM YURTDIŞI SEYAHATLERİNİZDE AYRICALIKLAR SİZİ BEKLİYOR.

Kampanya 12 Ocak-31 Aralık 2018 arasında geçerlidir. Kampanyaya katılmak için, ilk harcamadan önce Axess Mobil'den "Hemen Katıl" butonunu tıklayın veya Akbank'ta kayıtlı cep telefonu numarasından, otel kampanyasından yararlanmak için "GEZ" yazıp, restoran kampanyasından yararlanmak için "YEMEK" yazıp 4566'ya SMS gönderilmesi gerekmektedir. Belirtilen kısa mesajın Akbank sistemine ulaşmasından ve Akbank tarafından "kayıt oldunuz" bilgisinin tarafınıza iletilmesinden sonra kampanyaya katılım sağlamış olursunuz. Kayıt olduktan sonraki harcamalar kampanyaya dahildir. Bir müşteri, otel indirim kampanyasından tüm kartlarıyla en fazla 200 TL, restoran indirim kampanyasından tüm kartlarıyla en fazla 150 TL indirim kazanabilir. %25 fazla Mİl Puan kazanımı, yurt içindeki kazanım oranlarının %25 fazlasıdır. Aynı gün aynı işyerinde ilk harcama dahildir. KKTC'de yapılan işlemler, nakit çekimler, Mİl Puan, chip-para, mail order işlemleri dahil değildir. Wings bireysel asıl/ek kartlar yararlanabilir. SMS'ler; KDV ve ÖİV dahil; Turkcell, Türk Telekom, Vodafone 0,65 TL' dir. Kampanyanın profil alanındaki "Kampanyalarınız" başlığı altında görünmesinden sonra kampanyaya katılım sağlanır. Akbank T.A.Ş. kampanyayı durdurma ve değiştirme hakkını saklı tutar. Detaylar için: www.wingscard.com.tr

axess
wings
HAYAT. ŞİMDİ. BENZERSİZ.

Wings'e hemen başvurmak için WINGS yazın, 5990'a kısa mesaj gönderin.

AKBANK