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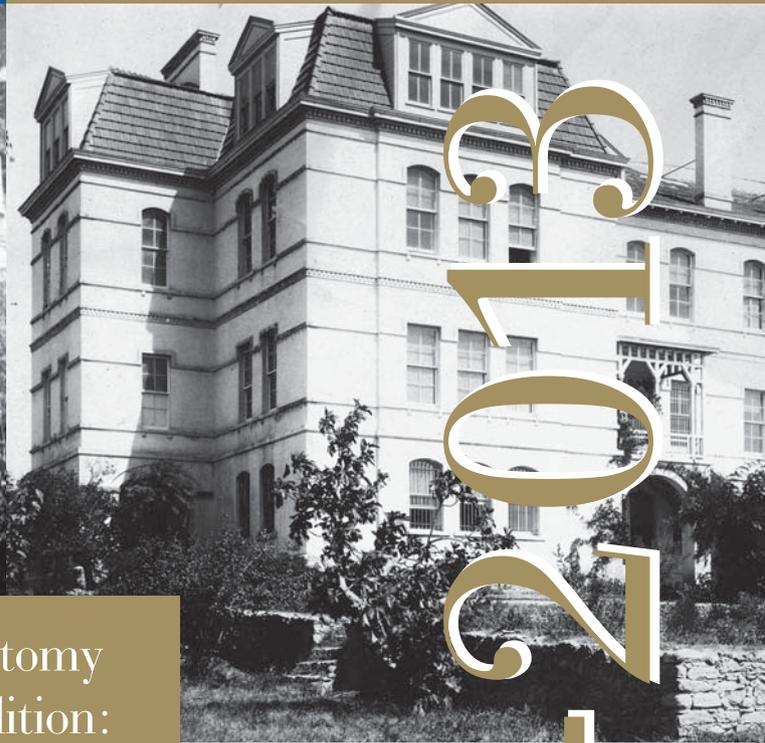
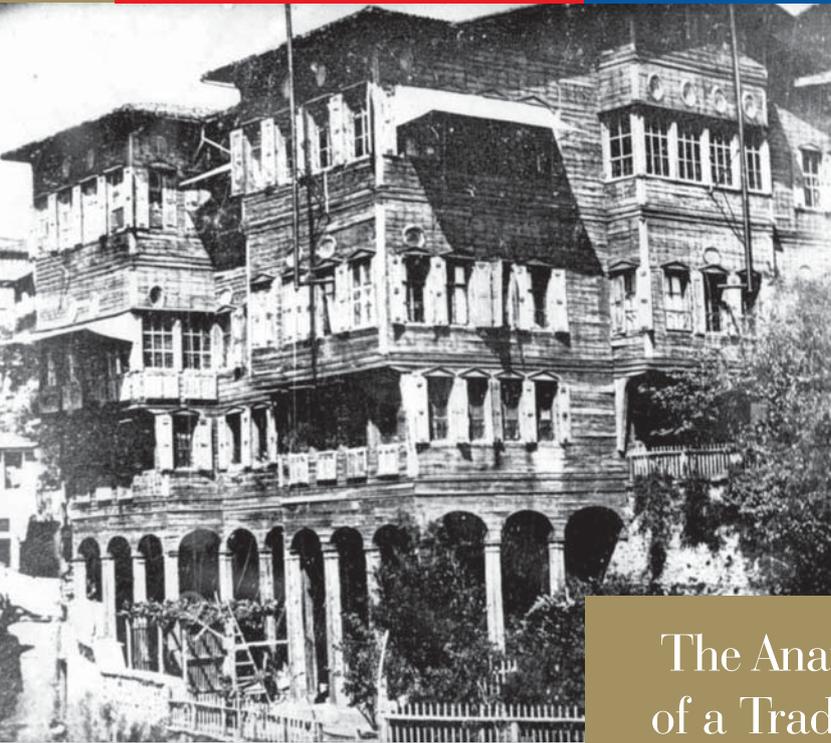
RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE



ROBERT COLLEGE
1863

150TH
YIL | YEAR



The Anatomy
of a Tradition:
150 Years
of Robert College

150
YIL
YEAR

A man with dark hair and a goatee is sitting on a wooden stool. He is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt, a light blue tie, and dark blue trousers. He is looking towards the camera. The background is a bright room with large windows and a light-colored wooden floor.

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İlkbahar Yaz '13

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İstanbul, Mayıs 2013

Yayın Türü

Sürelî

Yayın Periyodu

4 Aylık

About the RCQ

On September 16, 1863, Cyrus Hamlin welcomed four students to his school and over the following months and years gave them an educational experience that would serve as an excellent foundation for their future. One hundred fifty years later, Robert College has gone on to provide this foundation to tens of thousands of others who have passed through its doors.

The 2013-14 academic year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of RC, and we are excited to be celebrating this tradition of taking responsibility for the future. Leading up to this major milestone, we are revisiting the impact the school has made on Turkey and the world through the 150th anniversary exhibition, publications and website. Throughout the year, we will also be creating more opportunities than ever to reconnect and build new memories with friends, relive the spirit of the school and celebrate this great institution.

In this issue of RCQ, we give a glimpse of the exhibition, which has a rich amount of photos, information and artifacts about the history of the school. You will also find dates and information for upcoming events. To find out more about what we have in store for you, please visit the 150th website at 150.robcol.net. We look forward to celebrating with you!

The RC Quarterly Team

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Cover designed by Timuçin Ünan

Clockwise from top left: Bebek Seminary building (1840), Barton Hall in Üsküdar (1890), Gould Hall (1920s), Hamlin Hall (1950s)

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Musical Evening Expands Offering

For over two decades, Musical Evening has been showcasing the diverse talents of RC students. The program usually includes musical performances, but this year dance was also featured. The performances included pieces by composers such as Bach, Schubert, Rachmaninoff, Debussy and Eric Clapton, as well as original music compositions.

There was also a performance of Indian music by an LP student, accompanied by her father. Teachers and students played and sang together in some of the performances.

Dance teacher Mercan Selçuk, daughter of composer Timur Selçuk, worked with the Modern Dance Group for their interpretation of Vivaldi's "Spring" from *The Four Seasons*. She also gave a dance performance with music teacher Deniz Baysal on the tanbur.

Musical Evening was started in 1991 by music teacher and Dean of Student



RC's Modern Dance Group performs an interpretation of Vivaldi's "Spring" from *The Four Seasons*

Photo credit: Atalay Onay LI1

Affairs, Margaret Halicioğlu, when she first came to Robert College. "Since I did a big musical in the second semester (including *The Sound of Music*, *Grease* and *Fiddler on the Roof*), I wanted a showcase for the choir the first semester," explains Halicioğlu.

"The Musical Evening featured my choirs, plus other music performances, mainly solos or duets."

Performers for Musical Evening are chosen by audition. Arts and music director Merrill Hope-Brown looks for the best performances that will appeal to a larger audience.

Performances are mostly, but not exclusively, classical.

Senior Drama Thrills Audiences

Martin McDonagh's *The Pillowman* is a psychologically tense play not designed to keep its audience comfy and cozy. With savvy acting, precise stage design and smart direction, RC Theater took this challenging play and captivated the audience from beginning to end.

The play is about a fiction writer living in a totalitarian state, Katurian, who is interrogated about the gruesome content of her short stories and their similarities to a number of bizarre child murders occurring in her town. The set of the play was sparse with an excellent use of props: a basic table, a bed in a cell marked off by light, and the best prop - the detective's crackers. The juxtaposition of his dominating, violent personality with the nibbly crunch of the crackers is very funny and also unsettling.

It is easy to forget that teenagers are playing characters much older and with



A suspenseful scene from *The Pillowman* experiences much different than their own. What do young actors do to inhabit the soul of a life they haven't passed through yet? Kutay Onaylı, who played the *Pillowman*, says, "You're observing people who are 40-50 years old in the hallway...and then you're trying to bring those observations into manifestation, the slower walk, the hunching of the back. To play someone old you don't walk with the legs, you walk as if you're pulled from the knees. In addition, Kutay made Tupolski - who was in his 50s - more lethargic and fatigued through a heavy walk and a mini-

potbelly made by slouching his shoulders and sitting sloppily in his chair. Cemre Paksoy, who played the author Katurian, says, "My bigger challenge, since the character wasn't so old, was portraying a maturity in these adult themes. Katurian goes through a lot of mood swings and you have to remember to not be a teenager when you're showing these." Indeed, Cemre balanced anxiety and deep pain, crying convincingly on each night of the performance.

Drama teacher Darcy Bakkegard, directing her first senior play, took a risk selecting material and characters that are complex and provocative. It paid off as all four seniors, as well as the silhouetted characters performed by *Lise 11* students Okan Küçük and İpek Naz Erel, dug a bed of discomfort for the audience.

Contributed by English department co-chair Jake Becker and college counseling assistant Hatice Becker.

RUN LIGHT
RUN RIGHT



A Legacy Handed Down from the Past

March has become an exciting month for RC female students who are exceptionally gifted in science. It is then that the winner of the annual Prof. Seyhan Nurettin Ege ACG 49 Excellence in Science Award for Girls is announced. This year's announcement was during the Monday morning flag ceremony on March 25, and on stage to receive her award was Elif Magemizoğlu L11.

In its fourth year, the award recognizes excellence in science while honoring the legacy of Prof. Seyhan Ege, an educator of organic chemistry and author of a book on the same subject.

In front of an audience that included her peers, teachers, parents and special guests of the founder of the award, Dr. Güneş Ege ACG 52, Elif received her award from Güneş Hanım herself who travels every year from her home in Canada to be a part of this special event.

In her speech Güneş Hanım said, "Our knowledge and values are a legacy



From L to R: 2013 winner Elif Magemizoğlu L11, Güneş Ege ACG 52 and last year's winner Nazlı Ercan L12.

handed down to us from the past. We add the fruits of our experience, thoughts and labors, which are inevitably passed on in one way or another to coming generations. We are immersed in tangible and intangible scientific, artistic, literary, philosophical, sociological legacies which go back many millennia.

"There are legacies created of bricks and mortar as well. On this auspicious 150th anniversary of Robert College I would like to remind the young women present that this venerable campus was originally

conceived, planned and established by a group of visionary women - happily with the support of many men - who believed fervently in higher education for women. The buildings surrounding us are a testament to their legacy.

"Yet others like Seyhan Ege leave behind a legacy of inspiration, aspiration and dedication. In the course of a distinguished career, the seeds of which were sown on this campus, Seyhan Ege was wholeheartedly committed to the recognition and advancement of women in the sciences - a legacy which we honor each year."

Elif, who will pursue her interest in organic chemistry at Harvard University summer school this year, also set a record. She decided to donate her \$1,500 prize money to the Robert College 2012-13 Annual Giving Campaign. By doing so, she has become the youngest ever High Honor donor to the campaign.

Turkish Theatre Brings Complex Musical to Life

The Turkish Theatre Club staged a colorful performance of Bertolt Brecht's *Threepenny Opera* on March 26-28 in Suna Kırac Theatre. The club's advisors explain why they chose this piece.

The Turkish Theater Club aims to stage a play from Turkish or world literature each year. The diversity of the plays over the years allows students to gain different experiences until they graduate. A student who tries expressing himself in a comedy one year can experiment with a role in a dramatic play the next. The reason we chose Brecht this year was to introduce the students to his epic theatre. We wanted to test ourselves with a script that induces reflection and questioning, offers a critical perspective and conveys a political message.

In Brecht's epic theater, the audience distances itself from the action of the play, but watches and criticizes it, and gives a verdict at the end. The audience is never absorbed in the play. We wanted our students to watch a play with such an attentive and critical eye.

We also wanted the students to reflect this critical look onto their own lives and community. The club members have been constantly aware of the responsibilities implied by references in the text and the criticism they read between the lines. At each rehearsal they were also anxious about how to portray these.

Such timeless texts which explore ever-current political and social issues open new horizons by questioning the balance in society. Since the start of the year, we stressed at each rehearsal the universality of the issues, characters and human condition in the play.

Turkish Theater is a tradition at Robert College. The plays that the students perform in their native language, with emotions and reflection, leave a deep imprint on their lives. Many Robert



College students choose theatre a profession after their experience at school. This requires considerable teamwork, and we are proud to be part of this extraordinary team, and to continue this tradition.

Contributed by Turkish Theatre Club advisors Eda Yurdakul and Gül Soydan Koç.

Well-known Artists Help Students Tap into Their Creativity

Over the winter break, a few students could be found on campus at some very special workshops. Organized by art teacher Alex Downs and taught by well-known photographers and cinematographers, the Winter Workshops were a chance for students to focus purely on their creativity.

Creativity with Sean Kernan

Sean Kernan performs workshops for corporations and organizations, such as hospitals and engineering firms, who believe in the correlation between creativity and problem-solving. Although this workshop's main medium was photography, it used techniques from writing and theatre to help participants learn how to tap into their creativity. They were also given simple exercises they can use whenever they need to deepen their creative state. "Kernan's workshop is transformative; he is really good at helping people break out of modes of thinking that limit rather than expand their possibilities," explains Downs. "This is one of the best courses I have ever taken, and it continues to influence me today. I use many of the exercises in class."



Photo credit: Tulya Bekişoğlu LP



Photo credit: Melissa Akkoç L9

Bodies in Motion with Lois Greenfield

Lois Greenfield has spent the last 25 years of her career focusing on photographing the human form in motion. Using dancers as her subject and special strobe lighting equipment, she captures transitional moments, free from the constraints of choreography, which most viewers don't see. During the workshop, students learned to work with moving subjects (dancers) and different lighting scenarios to create stunning, fluid pictures.

Poetic Storytelling with Thatcher Cook

This is the second year that Thatcher Cook has been running this workshop at RC. A documentary photographer, Cook taught the students to work with mood, color and composition, and to interact with their subjects in a way that allowed them to capture the story of their environment. In addition to excursions in Istanbul to Karaköy and Rumeli Feneri, students had an in-depth review of their portfolios by Cook.

For *Lise* 10 student Berkay Kef, this workshop will have a lasting impact. "We didn't just sit in a classroom all day and talk about technical stuff. We got out there and 'played jazz'. I visited parts of Istanbul that I have never been to before. I learned to look at events and things



Photo credit: Nisan İğdem L9

from a different point of view. He not only taught us about photography; he tried to create a bigger picture in our mind. Also he advised us to find what we are wired for and do it for the rest of our lives."

Cinema Craft with Morgan Nichols

Morgan Nichols does film editing for big studios such as MTV, Disney and AOL/TimeWarner. But his passion lies in directing feature films, two of which have won awards - *Jesus Freak* and *The Little Death*. During the workshop, participants practiced filming techniques including story, mise-en-scène, cinematography, editing and sound design. They made

their own films and had the chance to work both behind and in front of the camera. Participant Orkun Duman L10 said, "Attending this workshop didn't only improve my scene planning and shooting skills, it also helped me to understand the nature of actors and how to interact with them. I now know how it feels when you are on a film set."



Film Workshop participants with Morgan Nichols in Arnavutköy

The organizers of the Winter Workshops would like to give special thanks to Bükey Fotoğrafçılık in Beyoğlu. They not only donated the rental of the special strobe lighting equipment, and technical staff but they also donated their considerable expertise. Their generosity was essential to the success of this year's workshops.

Hüsnü Özyeğin RA 63

Sharing Tips on Business and Life

The Junior Achievement club organized a talk with famous businessman and university founder Hüsnü Özyeğin, who talked about his life and career, from his formative days at Robert Academy, to university in the US, his career path and the founding of a university.

Coming from a family of modest means, Özyeğin said his self-confidence grew while at RC as he became a Student Council representative and later Student Council President. He was involved in many activities and took advantage of as many opportunities as RC had to offer.

In the US, he continued to seize different opportunities, including being Student Council President at Oregon State University. When he returned to Turkey at age 29, his classmate Mehmet Emin Karamehmet RA 64 offered him his first position as a board member of Pamukbank during an impromptu visit. He helped expand the bank and then headed Yapı Kredi. He left Çukurova Holding in 1987 and established Finansbank, which became one of the largest banks in Turkey. He sold most of his shares in Finansbank in 2006 and founded Özyeğin University in Istanbul in 2007.

Özyeğin explained that the model of his university is unique in Turkey in that it

is an international school with local and foreign teachers and students. Sports play an important role in student life, and scholarship students have the opportunity to work on campus while studying.

Özyeğin said that he never aimed to be wealthy but he had the ambition to do his best in everything he tried.

Özyeğin encouraged RC students to try as many different things as possible when they're young, because that's when they should be learning and doing. He emphasized that they should always give back. He added that he is an active supporter of AÇEV, (Mother-Child Education Foundation) founded by his wife Ayşen Özyeğin in 1993.

Junior Achievement President Saygın Yıldırım L11 said he was impressed by many things that Özyeğin talked about, especially the fact that he had so many experiences - including cleaning and waiting in a restaurant - which taught him the most about real life.



Hüsnü Özyeğin RA 63

The RC Junior Achievement club has been bringing business speakers to campus for the past three years. Previous speakers have included food ordering website Yemeksepeti's CEO Nevzat Aydın, Pozitron founder Fırat İşbecer RC 98, Simit Sarayı founder Haluk Okutur, Silk and Cashmere founder Ayşen Zamanpur RC 76 and head of Tahincioğlu Holding Özcan Tahincioğlu RC 87. The talks are a great chance for the club to learn more about business and for the speakers to share their career experiences with RC students.

RC Celebrates Pi

In honor of March 14 (3.14), RC students and faculty celebrated Pi Week for the first time at RC. Organized by students and math teacher Sandra Çorbacioğlu, the activities were not only math-based; there were contests using different skills and a large number of students participated.

The contests included the card game Set, a scavenger hunt with different clues around campus, circle-drawing and poetry. Sema Sarpman from the Alumni and Development office won the "guess the candies in the jar" game. People were able to use a computer program to find their

birthdays in Pi, which is an infinite number. On March 14, Pi Day, there was pie-baking contest and students and faculty were encouraged to wear polka dots. In all,



Students and teachers submitted tasty treats for the 'Pi'e baking contest

it was a fun way to commemorate an obscure yet important number, and the school is looking forward to when the next Pi Day comes around.



Art teacher Jeffrey Baykal-Rollins shows off his polka dots

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Debate Team - Making RC Proud

By Ayşenur Biçen L12

Robert College Debate Society completed the 2011-2012 school year by hosting the Eurasian Schools Debating Championship in June. Co-convened by Kaan Ülgen L12 and Koret Munguldar RC 12, the tournament had 50 teams from around the world along with world-famous judges.

Eight members of the RC Debate Society were selected for the national team. Kaan Ülgen, Şafak Kılıç L12, Mert Zorlular L11 and I, along with a student from Açı School, made up Team Turkey. Barışcan Göç L10, Ege Sözgen L10, Tayfun Gür L9 and Eren Kafadar L9, along with another student from Açı School, were chosen as the B team. Under the leadership of Alex de Jager, who coached the 2011 World Schools Debating Champions, Team South Africa, our team improved as we prepared for this year's Worlds in Antalya.

At the Worlds, we had a very difficult draw that required us to compete against South Africa, Ireland, New Zealand, Kuwait, Indonesia, Slovenia, Argentina and Japan. This year's tournament was especially hard because each team had to win a minimum of six debates in order to break. Although we were not able to win the debates against South Africa, Ireland and New Zealand, we managed to get an adjudicator from panels of three. Each judge gave us good feedback, and we learned a lot about the nuts and bolts of WSDC-style debating through our training with Alex. Our good performance was at least reflected in the speaker results. Two of our speakers got into the final ranking; Kaan Ülgen was the top 8th ESL speaker and Şafak Kılıç was 13th.

We used the tips we got from Alex at the Turkish Debating League finals. Competing as RC, our team of Kaan Ülgen, Mert Zorlular, Barışcan Göç, Ege Sözgen and



The Turkish and South African national debate teams

me, won the tournament, becoming the national champions! We not only won the league but I was also selected as the best speaker. Although we were not able to break at the Worlds, we were happy to be successful in the Turkish Debating League.

We are currently preparing for more national and international debating tournaments. We are also trying to organize two debate CIPs, one in Bursa and a bigger one in Istanbul, in which we will teach debate to underprivileged children.

Senih Fikriğ Speaker Reveals Latest Science and Technology Trends



Senih Fikriğ speaker Hüseyin Uğur with lecture series organizer and Science Department Head Alison Oğuz

Hüseyin Uğur, founder and former director of the National Metrology Institute (UME), gave students an idea of the hot topics in science and technology and the skills needed to be successful in these areas in his Senih Fikriğ Speaker Series talk entitled "Trends in Science and Technology and the Role of Measurement" on March 14, 2013.

Some of the emerging areas of science and technology that Uğur opened his talk with sounded like science fiction. But

they are real, and are receiving billions of dollars in investment to develop concepts into commercial applications. He mentioned new materials such as flexible circuit boards that could be printed on anything, turning objects into computers, and nano materials that could be inserted into the body to fix health issues in place of having to operate.

Uğur also gave examples of other fields that are developing new concepts, including bioengineering and genetics, energy, transportation, environment and IT.

All of these areas will require skills from different disciplines to find solutions, including biochemistry, biomedicine, mechanical engineering, software programming, physics and material science. But he advised students against focusing on only one discipline.

"Finding applications for these areas will require people to have a combination of skills to allow for better communication,

synergy and team work," said Uğur. "At university you will have elective courses and opportunities to join projects from other areas. If you want to be successful, you need to be good in more than one area," he added.

Uğur is a member of the International Committee for Weights and Measures (BIPM). In his talk, he also discussed the importance of measurements, and noted that measurements will become increasingly important in our daily lives. However, he said that the field of measurement is become a less popular career choice in Turkey.

Established in 2007 by Dr. Senih Fikriğ RC 46 through a generous endowment, the Senih Fikriğ Science Lecture Series is an annual event that brings leading subject experts on various science subjects to Robert College with the goal of stimulating critical and independent thinking in students.

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Helping Others: The Journey of the Tradition

By Jennifer Sertel, CIP Co-coordinator

In 2000, my and Lynne Hammond's prep classes were incredulous as they heard of their new project- some sort of volunteering outside of school and not only that, they then had to reflect on it in an English journal! The next year, the prep classes of Belinda Atay, Phillip Esposito, and Amy Callahan joined them. The teachers could see the change wrought in the students in a mere semester. They matured as they became involved in activities far from their comfort zone; from cradling premature newborns (and noticing that there was something developmentally wrong with one of them) to gaining empathy for the service sector by working in a cafe run by an environmental organization. Many students repeated the refrain, "I had always wanted to do something but never had the time. This social service project gave me the time and the opportunity."

There have always been a dedicated group of RC students working to improve their community. My dream was to give all RC students that opportunity.

In 2006, my dream became reality as I sat down with Güler Karabatur and John Chandler, and started planning how to set up a system. CIP (Community Involvement Projects) were thus born at RC with the first projects happening in 2007.

All schools attempt to do something in the area of social awareness. All schools profess to develop leaders. But what sort of leaders? What sort of citizens? Robert College is unique in Turkey in that it requires ALL its students to do a minimum of 50 hours in one or two "real" projects as a graduation requirement. Through CIP, RC actively tries to mold its students into being contributing members

of society; aware of problems and empowered to do something positive.

More than 260 Istanbul projects have taken place since CIP's inception. Some of these projects have been: Teaching music, drama, creative thinking or dance to students in economically deprived areas, working in hospitals or with old people, mentally challenged adults, physically challenged children, or with the visually or hearing impaired, helping seventh graders with SBS preparation, tutoring students from Beşiktaş-area schools, teaching volleyball to orphans, working with TEMA and LÖSEV, teaching peace education to children and volunteers at TEGV, trekking and climbing, teaching children to make a short film. The list goes on and on.

Students initiated the first Anatolian summer projects in 2007 with two



Students from Dolapdere learn about the history of Beyoğlu.



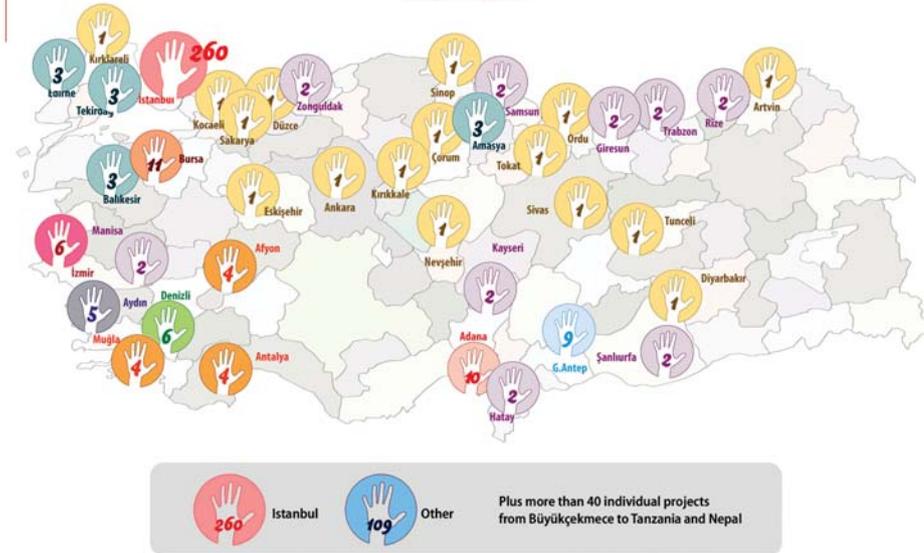
CIP coordination team Jennifer Sertel, Elif Sönmez and Güler Karabatur

projects: establishing a center for youth in Kırkkale organized by Burcu Kasap RC 09, and a sort of educational carnival project in Tirebolu organized by Mert Karakuş RC 07 and friends. I remember Güler and I were skeptical about the students' ability to carry through, organize the whole project, find sponsors, write a budget, find contacts, and actually implement it. Their projects were a huge success, setting a new standard. Mert's project started a tradition that continues today. The RKANEP (Robert College Alternative Education Projects) are one-week educational camps run by RC students. These and other projects in the summer have become popular as they give the students a chance to experience village realities while being part of an RC team.

Our starry-eyed, idealistic students set out expecting to change the world but they find out they are the ones that change.

Lise 11 student Nesrin Naz Aydın reflects on one of our UNIRC projects in which RC students help RC graduates bring talented economically-deprived students from seven areas in Turkey to RC for a perception-changing week. (see RCQ 43, p. 34).

Number of Projects per City 2007 - 2012



CIP goals for the future:

1. More sustainable projects: Instead of a one-off program, having a relationship with the school or organization and having continuity.

Successful on-going projects include:

- Drama in Kağıthane: for four years, RC students have been going to Yaşar Doğu primary school in Kağıthane and teaching drama techniques, culminating in putting on a play for the children's parents in the RC theatre.
- Ataşehir Deaf Children: for four years, RC students have been big brothers and sisters to preschool children at a school for the hearing-impaired.
- Adana Migrant Workers' Children Project: for five years, RC students have been leading a week-long entertaining and educational program to the children of field workers. These children, aged 8-10 years old, miss half of the school year because they live in camps next to the fields where their parents work from spring to fall.

2. Service learning: Integrating the notion of community service into the academic/club program.

Examples include:

- "Seeing with Other Eyes" Yearly Homework Project (YHP): a curriculum to teach geometry to blind students was developed and then piloted, with the curriculum being revised.
- YHP teaching math teachers in public schools how to use IT.

3. A student advisory board of leaders from multiple projects: Further empowering the student leaders through such a board would give them more room to grow as they help with decisions for the whole program. So far they have planned a training session for project leaders.

4. Helping other schools set up projects with the CIP symposium: The student advisory board is planning a symposium to help other schools set up CIP-type programs.

"Helping children from different subcultures of Turkey, introducing them to the world outside their comfort zone; this was what I expected to do. I was thinking about how I can change lives.

I was the one to change. Living with these kids for seven days gave me a new perspective on life.

"As days passed, I realized how my experiences made me a different person. Each child I talked with that week had a story. One of them had never taken a bath. I had to teach her how to use a sponge to clean herself. Another one had never been on a bus before. Every kid in my group told me their personal story. One of them was living with her grandpa in a highland pasture, because both of her parents had rejected her. She was smart and talented, but her grandpa made her tend the geese so she couldn't go to school much. Seeing these kids, made me realize that like them, I was also living in a bubble. I was oblivious to the real life

problems people are coping with. They were also unaware of the greater world, but so was I!

"They were coming from very different backgrounds, but in the end we were all the same. That is why these projects work. They are solid because they are based on people, and people are the same."

Although the requirement for graduation is 50 hours, many students go far beyond the requirement. In fact, the average student graduating in 2012 had done 75 hours of social service! Even Headmaster Anthony Jones got his first taste of Turkey, doing a CIP in Sivas (see RCQ 43, p. 16), and is planning to go on another one this summer.

If you took part in a CIP and you are somehow using what you have learned through that experience, please contact Jennifer Sertel (jsertel@robcol.k12.tr) or Güler Karabatur (gkarabatur@robcol.k12.tr). We would love to hear from you!

New England Alumni Get Together

Alumni of the classes of 1960 to 2012, friends, former and present faculty got together at the Harvard Faculty Club in Cambridge, MA, on February 7, 2013 - just before "Blizzard Nemo" hit the northeast region of the US. It was a fun gathering and this long-standing annual

cocktail reception provided the first opportunity for the New England RC community to meet and welcome the new Headmaster, Anthony Jones. RC Trustees Kenan Şahin RA 60 and Martina Albright welcomed everyone and introduced Mr. Jones. Among the 65 guests were five descendants of Cyrus Hamlin, the first

President of RC, who were also introduced to the group. This event is particularly important since our beloved College celebrates its 150th birthday this year, and is the first of a series of gatherings to be held in Boston during 2013 with this pride as the theme.



Emir Salih Mağden RC 08, Tolga Zeybek RC 10, Yiğit Aytan RC 08 and Baturay Akaslan RC 09



Hamlin Descendants from L to R: Robert T. Hamlin Jr., Sara Leahey, Elisabeth Beck Reynolds and Michael Widmer



Yeşim Çilesiz Richardson RC 84, Sevil Kolankaya Dinçman ACG 60 and Deniz Toksöz Exley RC 74

San Francisco Cocktail Spurs More Bay Area Events



Over 20 alumni met at Rosa Mexicano in San Francisco on January 23, 2013, at a cocktail hour organized on very short notice. Before that, alumni gatherings had been organized in smaller more informal settings, generally among classmates. At the happy hour, everyone agreed to meet up at least quarterly, and invite alumni from all years. To find out about upcoming events, contact Sanem Alkan at sanem@samadvisory.com or join the Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/robertcollegebayarea>.



We would like to keep you informed of upcoming events and activities. If you do not receive mailings or information on RC events, please contact Lynne Prevot at the New York Office of Robert College to bring your contact information up to date at lprevot@robcol.org or +1 (212) 843 5550.

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Acting Legend Göksel Kortay ACG 55 Honored

Göksel Kortay was honored for her contribution to performing arts over the last 49 years with a special celebratory evening on March 11, 2013 at Akatlar Cultural Center.

The turnout of Kortay's old classmates, friends, colleagues, students and fans for the event was astonishing; every seat in the theatre was filled, with the audience spilling out into the foyer.

After graduating from ACG, Kortay continued her education in the US on a Fullbright Scholarship. She got her master's degree in theatre and television acting and directing from Boston University. During her career, which spans nearly half a century, Kortay has played almost 200 roles, translated 30 plays, directed numerous stage and radio plays, was a consultant with TRT Radio, and has contributed to the development of hundreds of theatre, cinema and TV actors over the years. She has also been the President of the Istanbul Theatre Actors' Association for 15 years.

The evening was opened by Halit Kıvanç and Sevinç Erbulak. Kortay's friends, colleagues and well-known students spoke and performed for her. Many of Kortay's Robert College classmates were there. One of her closest classmates, Ayşe Çolakoğlu ACG 55, gave an emotional talk about Kortay.

Close friends like Haldun Dormen RC 49 and Osman Şengezer, among others shared their feelings, thoughts and memories with the audience. The room was filled with laughter at times, with tears at others.

Kortay's student, young actor Bahadır Vatanoğlu, sang a song from the first production Kortay ever acted in professionally, *Threepenny Opera*. Nebi Birgi and Ayça Varlıer, sang two songs from *Sil Baştan* (*Start from Scratch*), which they are still staging as a social responsibility project for people with multiple sclerosis.



Haldun Dormen RC 49 (left) and Göksel Kortay ACG 55 (second from left) with friends

Kortay frequently mentioned her beloved husband throughout the evening, Kerem Yılmaz, who she lost in a terrorist attack in 2003. When Ferhat Göçer sang Kortay's favorite song, "*Cennet*" ("Heaven"), she couldn't hold back her tears.

Erol Evgin joined her when they played her and her husband's favorite song, "*Sensiz Saadet Neymiş*" ("What is Happiness if Not With You?"), sung by Yılmaz, with photos of him projected in the background. The song that played

afterwards - "*Bir de Bana Sor*" (Ask Me) - as dedicated to Kortay. She had tears in her eyes the whole time.

There was also a presentation about her life story, and the theatre, film and television roles she's played in, narrated by her close friend and fellow actor Kerem Atabeyoğlu. At the end of the program, Haldun Dormen asked Göksel Kortay to the stage, where she received a standing ovation for several minutes. The evening closed on an energetic note with Kortay and fellow actor friends and students singing and dancing to the final song from *Sil Baştan*.

Kortay said that all the people who gave the talks, presentations and performances during the evening were all very special for her. They touched her heart, changed and developed her, and she emphasized that she would never forget them.

Contributed by Ayla Gümüşlügil ACG 55

Shortly after her tribute evening, Kortay came to the RC campus to speak to students during TİFES (Turkish Theatre Festival) on March 25, 2013. She started by reading an announcement prepared for World Theatre Day. She said that during her years at Robert College, she read all the writings and poems for national days and special days, and also took part in the theatre. She advised that we should know about the history of the beautiful city we live in, and appreciate the rich art and culture we have in Istanbul by participating in cultural events. She also mentioned the literature matinées and the writers who came to school while she was a student, such as Sabahattin Kudret Aksal, Orhan Veli and Sait Faik Abasıyanık. Art and literature were an important part of students' lives, she added. They read everything that was in *Varlık* magazine, and they criticized those who didn't. Kortay emphasized that Turkish is a rich language, highlighting the need to protect it.

Contributed by RC Turkish teacher Sengül Özdemir



Göksel Kortay (second from right) with RC Turkish teachers after her TİFES talk. From L to R: Serya Kayapınar, Müge Gümüş, Gül Soydan Koç, L9 student Büşra Yen, Mehmet Uysal, Sengül Özdemir and Melek Giray İnce. Büşra played Miss Peachum in the recent RC production of *Threepenny Opera* (see p. 6), which was Kortay's first play.

Taner Şekercioğlu RC 86 Produces Award-Winning Designs

Design firm Kilit Taşı, founded by Taner Şekercioğlu RC 86, won the Good Design Award for two products at Design Turkey in November 2012. The award-winning products are a squeegee and a children's toothbrush which were both designed for Banat. The products were chosen over other designs based on their ability to answer consumer needs, the importance they give to human health and safety, and the balance between benefit and production cost.



was chosen for the MoMA museum store in New York during their "Destination Istanbul" event, and was also selected for the Istanbul Modern and IKSVM stores.



Taner Şekercioğlu RC 86

Şekercioğlu's firm has previously won awards for other products including their Acrobat toothbrush and their Dervish coffee cup, which

After RC, Şekercioğlu studied architecture at Middle East Technical University and got his MFA from Bilkent in graphic design and architectural photography. He set up Kilit Taşı in 1996 focusing on architectural projects, designing industrial buildings and interior spaces for both residential and commercial properties. In 2002 he joined forces with his brother Kunter, and started working on industrial design products.

Besides managing the company, Şekercioğlu also works actively on the

creative side with their design team, which consists mainly of industrial designers. Kilit Taşı also collaborates with interior designers and mechanical engineers for some of their projects.

"We love to keep our spectrum wide, designing for numerous brands with needs for products of different scales, requiring various production methods," says Şekercioğlu.

They have worked with a variety of industries from electrical household appliances to stationary and furniture. Their products have been shown at many international exhibitions and have won numerous awards.

There's no stopping Şekercioğlu. Always enjoying new design challenges, he says, "Our favorite industry is the one we haven't designed for yet."

New Therapy Gives Hope to Diabetes Patients

Dr. Elif Arıoğlu Oral RC 86 was recognized for developing a medicine that improves the health of people with a rare form of diabetes at the Excellence in Diabetes conference held in Istanbul in February 2013.

Lipoatrophic diabetes, which affects one in a million people, is the deadliest form of the disease. It destroys all the fat in the body except for the liver, which becomes extremely fatty. As a result, people with this disease die by the age of 20.

Through her research, Oral and her team found that leptin hormone therapy helped patients maintain body fat levels. "With this type of diabetes, the body does not make enough of the hormone leptin," explains Oral. "When leptin is administered, metabolic problems are corrected. We learned that leptin works to improve blood sugar levels in humans as an adjunct to insulin."

Oral thought of using leptin therapy while doing her fellowship at the National Institutes of Health in the US. Her mentor was working on severe forms of insulin resistance. Oral noted that leptin levels in these patients were low, so she suggested they administer leptin to them.

So far, nearly 200 patients with the most severe forms of the disease have been treated worldwide. "It has been life-altering. People are able to go back to school and work," says Oral. "In some cases, people who were on extremely high doses of insulin were able to stop completely. Many of the patients we started to treat were not expected to live more than 10 years, and are still alive after 12!"

Oral is now building a framework for broader applications of leptin therapy in humans. Since the summer of 2012, she has also been working to develop a



Elif Arıoğlu Oral RC 86

comprehensive research program in the study of Rare Disorders at the University of Michigan along with colleagues in other clinical and preclinical departments. In addition to her roles as physician, educator, and researcher, Dr. Oral is also the Medical Director of the UMHS Bariatric Surgery Program.

Serdar Bulun RC 77 Recognized for Endometriosis Research

Serdar Bulun was honored by the Endometriosis Foundation of America (EFA) for his contributions to endometriosis research at the annual EFA Blossom Ball on March 11, 2013, in New York City. Dr. Tamer Seçkin and *Top Chef* host Padma Lakshmi co-founded the foundation in 2009 to raise awareness about the disease and generate funding for endometriosis research.

Bulun is the chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and chief of the Division of Obstetrics and Gynecology-Reproductive Biology Research at Northwestern University in Chicago, and has published numerous articles and much research regarding the issue. Endometriosis is a reproductive disorder where tissue similar to the lining

of the uterus is found elsewhere in the body. It is one of the top three causes of infertility and affects an estimated 176 million women worldwide regardless of their ethnic or social background.

Dr. Seçkin introduced Serdar by saying, "Dr. Bulun is trying to discover treatments with medication for patients who are not cured by a surgical procedure. He has raised \$40 million for this research so far. He is the only Turkish doctor who completed his bachelor's degree in Turkey to be appointed head of a Department of Clinical Sciences at a US university."

After accepting his award Bulun noted, "I am honored to be recognized for all of the work that has been done since I started my endometriosis research in 1993. It was really great to be named among top clinicians and surgeons who have



Serdar Bulun RC 77 (center) with wife Lina (left) and son Erol (right)

contributed a great deal to endometriosis research. I am truly humbled."

Bulun is married to Lina Bulun, with whom he has a son, Erol.

Deniz Taşar RC 09 Wins Nardis Jazz Competition

Jazz vocalist Deniz Taşar placed first at Nardis Jazz Club's 9th Annual Youth Jazz Vocalist competition, which took place on March 5, 2013. There were a total of twelve participants and as the winner of the top prize Taşar will compete at the Nomme Youth Jazz Festival in Estonia. She is also representing Turkey at the Jazz Voices competition in Lithuania.



Deniz Taşar RC 09

"A lot of my friends have entered the competition and came back with great results. I wanted to gain some experience and grow as a singer before I entered," explains Taşar about why she decided to join the competition. "The result made me really happy of course. There are a lot of up and coming young jazz artists who I am sure are much more experienced than I am or have trained in singing, but I trusted myself enough to at least get placed in the top four."

Interested in all branches of art, Taşar is studying Interactive Media Design at Yıldız Teknik University's Faculty of Art and Design. She also performs with various classmates' groups.

"Right now I'm focusing on the Nomme competition which will be held in May," says Taşar. "Sibel Köse has been so kind to let me visit her jazz workshops, so I have a very good guide to help me

practice. In the meantime I am studying communication design so I can't give everything to music yet. For now, it is going really well and I am hopeful that even better things will happen. I only know that whatever I do, I will do it singing."

While at RC, Taşar was a member of the RC Orchestra and participated in many musicals. "I grew up singing and dancing but I was really shy," says Taşar. "It wasn't until I started high school that I got over the fear of singing in front of people. In my prep year, music teacher Deniz Baysal suggested I audition for the orchestra club. That's how it all started."

RC students and graduates feature among previous Nardis winners. In 2012 *Lise 12* student Cemre Necefbaş won first prize, and Buket Coşkuner RC 06 won the special prize in 2011.

Yatırım aracı olarak emlak...

Sizin kadar sahiplenecek birinin yatırımlarınızda danışmanlık yapmasına ne dersiniz?

Yaşam alanı olarak emlak...

Sizin gibi hissedebilen birinin arayışlarınıza yardım etmesine ne dersiniz?

*Sizinle aynı sıralarda oturmuş,
aynı havayı solumuş...*

*Sizin gibi düşünebilen,
güvenebileceğiniz biri...*

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Melahat Kınoğlu ACG 44 Wins Top Cookbook Award

Cooking enthusiasts will recall that the RCQ introduced Melahat Kınoğlu's cookbook, *Bir Ömür Bin Tutam Lezzet (One Lifetime, a Thousand Pinches of Flavor)*, in issue 43. Melahat Hanım's daughter Mehveş Pisak had been instrumental in its printing, and the family pledged all proceeds from sales to the RC Scholarship Fund. The book, first introduced at the

Annual Giving Kick-off dinner and also available at Homecoming 2012, has been enjoying steady sales at bookstores like İnkilap and Remzi as well as RC's own Bizim Tepe.

Exciting developments have followed the launch of the book. Gourmand World Cookbook Awards, the Oscars of cookbooks, awarded Melahat Hanım's book first place in the category of Community and Charity for Europe.

The awards ceremony took place at the Carrousel du Louvre, Paris, on February 23, with 1250 in attendance.

Gourmand World Cookbook Awards was started in 1995 by Mr. Edouard Cointreau and took place in seven countries until it found its home in Paris in 2010. This year, approximately 8000 books participated from 171 countries. Le Cordon Bleu Cooking Schools has been a partner of the event since its beginning, and is presided over by Andre Cointreau, brother of Edouard. Melahat Hanım, her husband Dr.

Cezmi Kınoğlu and daughter Mehveş Pisak were present at the ceremony to receive this prestigious award. Pisak, who was on the podium to accept the award on her mother's behalf, gave a short speech saying that it is not every day that an 88 year-old lady writes a cookbook and wins such a prestigious award. She added that, as Turkish cuisine is not well known around the world, the book will be translated into English next year so that more people can benefit from its authentic Turkish recipes.

Mr. Cointreau later told the Kınoğlu family that Melahat Hanım's attendance at this year's ceremony was one of the highlights of the awards event for him, and that he will forever treasure that souvenir.

We too treasure Melahat Hanım's achievements and her contributions to the RC Scholarship Fund. For those wishing to get their own copy of the prize-winning cookbook, they are available at Bizim Tepe and the Alumni & Development Office.



Melahat Kınoğlu ACG 44 with her award-winning cookbook *Bir Ömür Bin Tutam Lezzet*

An Insider's View on Cancer

Oya Kozlu RC 79 tells about her experience with cancer, and how it inspired her to write a book to help survivors and their loved ones.

These days almost all of us are in some way touched by cancer. Around us we hear of relatives, parents, siblings, friends, acquaintances, or friends of friends being diagnosed by that still fearful disease. We talk between ourselves, share the news, feel sorry for the person who has just been diagnosed and wish them well. However, most of the time we don't know what to do, what to say and how to help the sick person.

I was one of those people who did not know what to do until I was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer almost seven years ago. My vantage point had changed and I had begun observing life and people from a sick persons' point of view.

Seeing the fear and anxiety in the faces of my loved ones and trying to cheer them up as if all was well, was quite burdensome. Hearing people say things like "breast cancer is like catching a cold these days, everybody recovers" or that I should

always "keep my spirits up" was hurtful. At the same time I realized that close caregivers of the sick also needed much help. It is physically and emotionally very trying and tiring to support the sick day in and day out.

Inspired and encouraged by the weekly doctor-patient-caregiver workshops held at the American Hospital, I decided to write a book. The first part is my personal cancer journey. I tried to be very open in telling my story and tried to reveal my authentic feelings be they joy, sadness, fear, loneliness, etc. The second part of the book is about what cancer patients expect from their loved ones, family and friends. It explains what kinds of approaches are supportive and healing for them. Naturally, most examples reflect my own experience. But it is also derived from my conversations with other cancer patients I have met in chemo and radiotherapy units, and books I have read.



Oya Kozlu RC 79

Çıplak Kanser (Naked Cancer) was published in December 2012 by Remzi Kitabevi whose CEO Ömer Erduran is also an RC graduate. It immediately hit the best seller list and remained there for two months. So far I have received countless valuable, wonderful, touching feedback from a lot of readers, patients, doctors, caregivers, friends and family. Writing the book has been healing for me and has enriched my life.

48 YILDIR VERDİĞİMİZ HER SÖZÜN
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DOĞRULARDAN ŞAŞMADAN İNŞA ETTİĞİMİZ
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48 YILDIR

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Meltem Müftüler-Baç RC 84 Receives Multiple Research Grants from the European Union

Prof. Dr. Meltem Müftüler-Baç has received multiple research grants from the European Commission, making her the only professor in Turkey in social sciences with projects worth over one million euros.

Her current research projects are on the evolution of transatlantic relations and Turkey's potential role in global restructuring, the European Union's enlargement process and its future as a polity. Through these projects, she aims to contribute to the debate on global governance, both theoretically and empirically.

Prof. Müftüler-Baç credits RC for fostering critical thinking, encouraging analytical work and promoting confidence in one's own work. "It is the ability to think theoretically at a level of abstraction that



Meltem Müftüler-Baç RC 84

academic excellence builds upon, and RC was the perfect place to build this ability," she says.

Her publications, conference and seminar participations, consulting and teaching activities make her one of the most internationally recognized social scientists in her field.

She serves as expert evaluator for European Commission research projects, the Turkish Academy of Sciences and the National Science Foundation in the US. In 2004, she was awarded the Jean Monnet Professor ad personam title from the European Commission.

She serves on the Executive Board of several prestigious institutions and is consulted by various international institutions about the European Union, Turkish foreign policy and Turkish-EU relations. Currently, she is heading a task force in a Council of Europe project for defining "wider Europe".

Current research and publications can be found on her website;
<http://myweb.sabanciuniv.edu/muftuler>

New Book Looks at Media Spin in the Ottoman Court

A recently released book written by Emine Fetvacı RC 92, associate professor of Islamic Arts at Boston University, takes a fresh look at chronicles written by the Ottoman court of the late 16th Century. In *Picturing History at the Ottoman Court*, Fetvacı explains how these publications commented on current events, promoted political agendas of people of the court - including the sultan - and presented their patrons and creators in ways that helped shape the perspectives of their elite audience. "The illustrated manuscripts themselves were my main inspiration they are stunning works of art," explains Fetvacı when asked why she chose to write about this topic. "During my dissertation research, I had the luxury of studying these manuscripts firsthand in libraries such as the Topkapı Palace Museum Library. When you get to spend so much time with the artworks, it is impossible not

to fall in love with them! They brought up such interesting questions that I became intrigued." The book is a continuation of her Ph. D. work in Islamic Art and Architecture at Harvard University.

Fetvacı adds that the study of Islamic art and Ottoman studies have developed in leaps and bounds in the last 25 years, but the study of illustrated histories needed to be brought up to date, using some of that recent scholarship.

She was greatly inspired by the work of her graduate school advisors, Gülrü Necipoğlu RC 75 and Cemal Kafadar RC 73.

A book she co-edited with Erdem Çıpa entitled *Writing History at the Ottoman Court* will be released in June. The book is a compilation of essays based on papers by scholars presented at a conference at Indiana University that Fetvacı organized in 2009. Most of the authors in the book

come from the same understanding as Fetvacı - that Ottoman historical publications were intended to influence opinions and have an effect on the political and social environment of the day.

Fetvacı is also working on a study of albums made for Sultan Ahmed I. It involves themes such as the relationships between poetry and painting, the act of collecting art, gift giving, and other interesting art historical issues.



Emine Fetvacı RC 92

Can Göknil ACG 66 Tells of Love and the Sea

Can Göknil's book of short stories, *Deniz Kokusu*, was recently published by Can Sanat Yayınları. In this self-interview, she talks about her craft and what inspired her to write her latest work.

Am I a writer?

No, I'm an artist, basically a painter, sometimes a sculptor or a printmaker.

Do I have any published books?

Yes, many. I illustrate and write for children. I have about fifty titles in Turkey. My first book *Kirpi Masalı* was the first picture book in this country, published by Redhouse in 1974.

Abroad?

Yes, a few more children's books for preschoolers in English, French, Italian, Hungarian, Arabic, German, Dutch, also in Surinamese.

Is *Deniz Kokusu* my first book for adult readers?

Actually it's my second. The first was *Gölgem Renkli mi?* also published by Can Sanat Yayınları in 2007. It was about the process of artistic creation including



Can Göknil ACG 66

my research and drawings on Turkish mythology, a path to artistic identity through our cultural heritage. Themes included creation stories or beliefs of our forefathers about fate or its possible alterations with amulets, talismans, and other magical ways. My research into such themes resulted as art exhibitions over the years.

Why did I write *Deniz Kokusu*?

I spend long stretches of time on our

boat where I have no access to my studio and my only tools are not just paper and pencil. There are the blue waters of the Mediterranean which brought back recollections of my childhood, initial days of our long lasting love affair beginning at an afternoon party at ACG's gymnasium, my introductory class and Recep's RA sophomore friends in 1962, and our later dates at Robert College, encounters by a stone chair with the inscription: "Above all nations is humanity."

How do I incorporate writing and painting?

Today's art relies on multiple disciplines. I am a contemporary artist.

Any future book projects?

One never knows. For artists surprises and challenges are always most welcome.

Capturing the Transcendence of Nature

Sirma Olcay Kefeli RC 85 recently gave an exhibition of her latest works at Galeri FE Sanat Galerisi in Kadıköy. Olcay Kefeli talks about the exhibition and explains what inspired her to create these pieces.

The exhibition has two different themes. One is about transcendence. The starting



point was the dried up hydrangeas I spotted in a flower pot. Casting the rays of sun through the leaves, I tried to capture the transformation they went through, leaving the old behind with their new butterfly-like forms and moving on to freedom. I used mixed techniques for this series, combining etching, digital printing and working in several layers with each technique.

The second series consist mostly of monoprints which are colorful, rhythmic and spontaneous. The images are of leaves, stylized and symbolic - they belong to the tree of life. In each composition, they move either together or against each other, but always with a rhythm behind. They represent the harmony and meaning in life which is only evident when seen from a higher perspective.

The beautiful RC campus has always been an inspiration for me. I was aware that observing nature closely through the

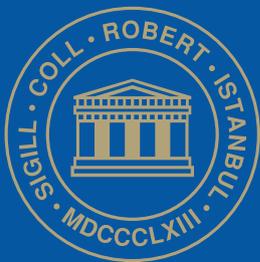


Sirma Olcay Kefeli RC 85

seasons and appreciating its beauty was a privilege during my school years at RC. My choice to study arts was probably shaped while walking around the gardens and capturing what I saw.



Photo from the private collection of Fatma Haydaroglu Alpengin ACG 42



ROBERT COLLEGE
— 1863 —

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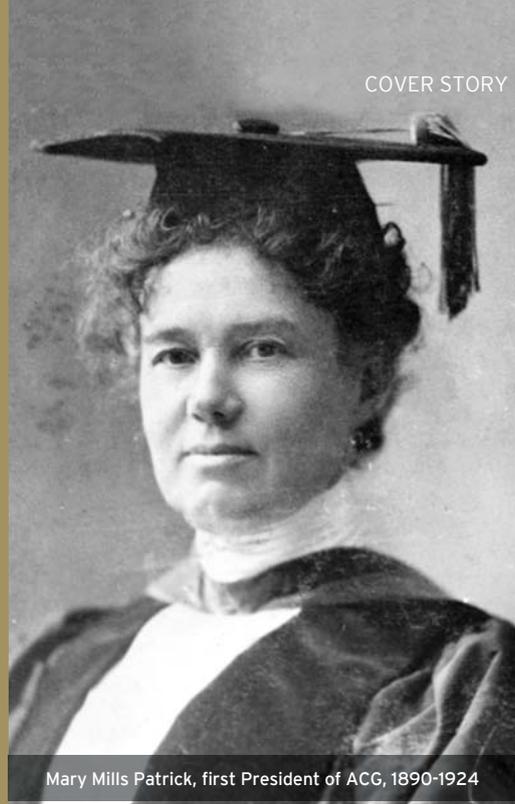
The Anatomy of a Tradition:

150 Years of

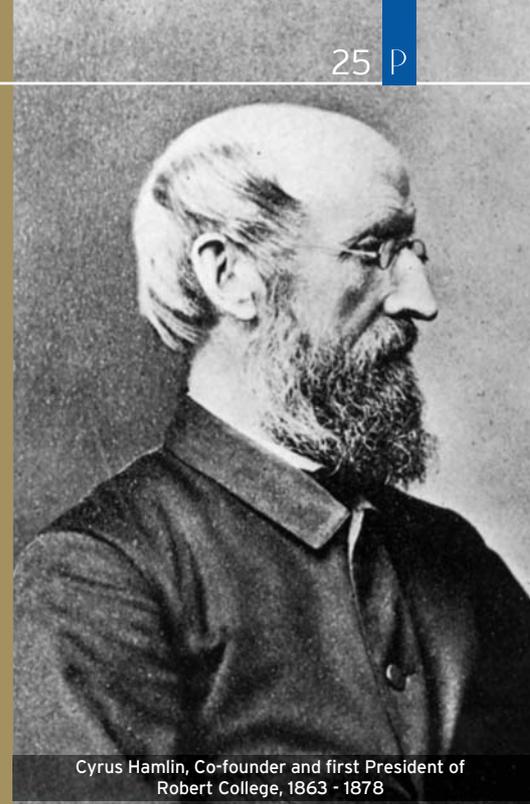
Robert College



Christopher Rhinelander Robert,
Co-founder and namesake



Mary Mills Patrick, first President of ACG, 1890-1924



Cyrus Hamlin, Co-founder and first President of
Robert College, 1863 - 1878

"We are known by the character of our students and especially of our alumni... The chief end [of our educational philosophy] is the highest possible development of character... The most important work of the College is to train and develop the physical, intellectual and moral powers of the student. These powers exist in him."

George Washburn, President of Robert College, 1878-1903

By Cem Akaş RC 86, Exhibition Curator

Robert College was founded in Istanbul in 1863, as the brainchild of Cyrus Hamlin and Christopher R. Robert, two men who believed in the universal value of education.

Surviving revolutions, wars, earthquakes, fires, and epidemics, the College never closed down for a single day throughout its 150-year history.

Trees are known by their fruit, and Robert College has educated five prime ministers (two of them Bulgarian), countless statesmen, writers, artists, musicians, actors, athletes, businessmen, engineers, doctors, lawyers, and educators. It has been the standard against which other schools measure themselves, even when Robert College itself had the challenge of living up to its own standards, due to lack of funding, inadequate buildings, etc.

Today, Robert College is one of the most meritocratic institutions in Turkey, attracting the most gifted students from all over Turkey, in return offering them one of the best high school experiences in the country. Besides educational excellence, it has always striven for local, national,

and global relevance and influence. From a small building in Bebek to an impressive campus above the Rumeli Fortress to its final destination in the hills of Arnavutköy, Robert College has come a much longer way than first meets the eye, defining itself a new role for every period. Now at the threshold of a new era, it will find a new definition for itself that will keep it relevant and let it develop the powers of new generations in Turkey, the Middle East and beyond, as it has done before.

Curating RC

When former headmaster John Chandler asked me whether it would be a good idea to publish a biography on Cyrus Hamlin (which would incidentally be published by Boğaziçi University), I was naturally unaware that this would lead to an exhibition, a catalog, a coffee-table book, and more (at the time of writing, the exhibition will travel to the States, there will be additional exhibitions at Boğaziçi and a conference series). As the job grew, so did the number of people involved - at one point, the cc list of emails got so long that the Board of Trustees had to step in to curb our enthusiasm. Everybody wanted to contribute, and many did beyond the

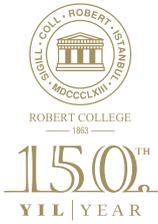
call of duty. But then, it couldn't have been otherwise - I have repeatedly heard generations of alumni, both women and men, say that the years they had spent at RC or ACG were the best years of their lives. That sounds like a platitude, until you really think about it - this is, after all, the most embarrassing period of one's life by design of nature. To turn it into something so special requires much more than the imperfect memory of so many people.

*The Anatomy of a Tradition:
150 Years of
Robert College exhibition
opens May 15, 2013*



İSTANBUL
ARAŞTIRMALARI ENSTİTÜSÜ

I had the opportunity to find out what that might be. First, I read the "RC canon" - first-hand accounts written by Hamlin, Washburn, Patrick, Gates, Clarke, and Scipio, as well as books by Greenwood, Freely, Fincancı and the Stevenses.



Exhibition catalog

Then I searched various archives - local papers, American papers, the Library of Congress, the national archives and the archives of the US Department of State. I also spent a whole month at Columbia University's Rare Book and Manuscript Library, where the RC and ACG archives are kept well-preserved and available for public research. That was a truly amazing and humbling experience. I have written institutional histories and biographies before, but never have I come across such meticulously kept records - many in triplicate! - spanning such a long period. One month was only enough to skim the surface, to be honest, and I am sure that researchers after me will discover many gems I have overlooked. What I came to understand in the end, however, was this: RC is best known for the quality of education it offers, perhaps rightly so, but its real work lies in the quality of character of its students. Every RC graduate worthy of the name instinctively knows this. This is what keeps the school relevant, despite the fact that the world changes ever more rapidly, and this, I think, is what needs to be preserved. I would like to urge you to bear this in mind as you walk through the exhibition, flip through the pages of the book, or view the visuals online - look at the faces, the eyes, the postures. You will see what I mean.

The Anatomy of a Tradition: 150 Years of Robert College opens May 15, 2013 at the İstanbul Araştırmaları Enstitüsü (İstanbul Research Institute) in Tepebaşı.

Activities at Robert College

Extracurricular activities and student life have always been a key component to life at RC; in fact, these activities can be said to have left a more indelible mark on students than the curriculum itself. Throughout the decades, an incredibly vast array of choices has been available to the students of RC, from farming to building schools.



RC had a farm for decades, where students along with the staff grew vegetables and raised chickens; there were even a number of cows. This photo shows the farm before the turn of the century.



Before the fire, Barton Hall at Üsküdar had a small but effective library, introducing the students to new worlds. This library was one of Halide Edip Adıvar's favorite places. (1898)



Boy Scouts at RC were no joke. (1920s)



Especially in the 19th century, but also as late as the 1950s, the RC student body was always proud of its ethnic and national diversity. Even when their countries were at war with each other, RC students managed to live together peacefully under the same roof, vowing to prevent such wars in the future. Here, ACG students are seen dressed up in their national dresses, posing for a "pageant of nations." (1914)

ROBERT COLLEGE
1863150TH
YIL | YEAR

Sunday service at Washburn Hall was an important part of campus life in 1920.



Publishing is big at RC, and has always been. These ACG students were members of the College Quarterly editorial board.



In 1892, student self-government was introduced for the first time in the Ottoman Empire at ACG, under the direction of Isabel Dodd. In 1908, Caleb Gates did the same thing at RC. This photo shows the Student Council of 1925.



Formal debates were an integral part of the effort to create the "RC graduate" - analytical and articulate, flexible in his thinking, and capable of empathy at the end of the day. The Debate Union of 1930 (above) had Nejat Eczacıbaşı RC 32 as a member (second row, third from right).



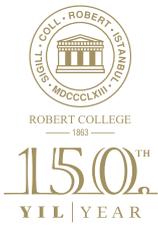
ACG and RC students did get off their campuses, but often combined leisure with some form of learning. ACG Social Sciences Club during an outing in 1949.



77th Day celebrations (1960s)



Reaching out was an important thing even during Hamlin's time, when both students and faculty helped people in need. Here, the members of the Social Services Club are seen building a school in Anatolia in 1965.



Arts

Robert College has never been a liberal arts college, but music and drama have long been its forte. Directed by Professor Estes, the concerts on the Hisar campus in the 1910s and 1920s were the best shows in Istanbul, and its organ was among the very best in all of Europe. Founded in 1919 under the direction of Professor Watson, the Hisar Players staged performances of such quality that people from all over the city came to watch them. They were also occasionally invited by professional theaters for special performances.



RC Auditorium (1910s)



ACG Choir with Miss Kennedy at the organ (1923)



RC Orchestra (1933)



Professor Estes at the organ (early 1920s)



Gilbert and Sullivan's *Patience* (1938)



Pirates of Penzance (1932)



Electra with Şirin Devrim ACG 46 (back row, second from right) and Tunç Yalman RC 44 (1943)



ACG Auditorium (1960s)



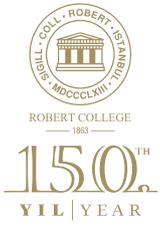
The History Play (1960s)



Tunç Yalman in *Electra* (1943)



Legendary drama teacher Dorothy İz and Kiril Kiröf RC YÜK 67 working on *Candide* (1960s)



ACG gym class (1890s)



RC Football Team (1900)

Sports

"Mens sana in corpore sano"
(a healthy mind in a healthy body) could well have been the motto of RC, for it is impossible to think of the history of the school without thinking about sports. RC students and graduates played football, basketball, tennis, baseball, field hockey, and they excelled at track and field events; they even participated in the Olympic Games, and broke world records. Field Days were among the most colorful events of the school year, and RC was the center of many of the most important sporting events in Istanbul.



Field Day in the early 1900s



Dorizas entered Robert Academy in 1900 and graduated from the College seven years later with a BA degree. During his student days he was an outstanding figure on the athletic field. In 1906 he was a member of the Greek Olympic team that participated in the international games in Athens. The following year he set a world record for the javelin throw at the Pan Hellenic Games, and in 1908 took second place in the javelin throw at the Olympic Games in London.



RC Football Team (1910)



ROBERT COLLEGE
1863

150TH
YIL | YEAR



RC Basketball Team (1920s)



Girls practicing archery (1920s)



Girls basketball game at the Maze (1920s)



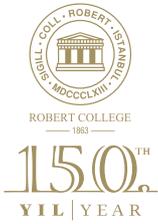
ACG Field Hockey Team (1920s)



Girls playing baseball on the Plateau at ACG (1930s)



RC Gymnastic Team (1960s)



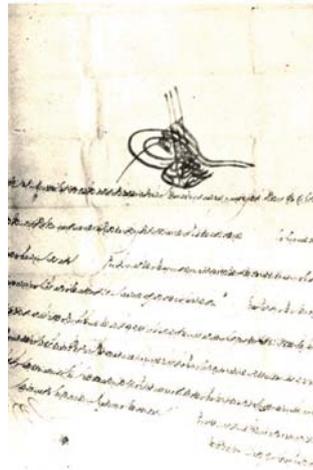
Three RC ambassadors in 1957. From left to right: Selim Sarper RC 17, Ambassador to the Soviet Union; Orhan Eralp RC 33, Ambassador to Sweden; and Haydar Görk RC 36, Ambassador to the United States.



Graduation pictures of former Turkish Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit RC 44 and his wife Rahşan Ecevit ACG 44

Politics

The founding of Robert College was a political matter, and it took diplomatic efforts on an international scale to overcome all the hurdles to obtain the *Irade* of the Sultan. After that, RC found itself in the thick of things during the Bulgarian Uprisings of 1876, the wars throughout the 1910s, the Lausanne Conference, the Second World War, and 1968. Among its graduates are five prime ministers and many prominent ministers, diplomats, senators, and deputies.



1869 İrade



Many early Bulgarian political leaders were Robert College graduates. On the right, from L to R: Constantine Stoiloff RC 1871, twice Prime Minister of Bulgaria; Petko Gorbanoff RC 1874, one-time mayor of Elena; and Ivan Slaveikoff RC 1871, mayor of Sofia. On the left is Stoiloff in the 1880s.



Turkish army unit protecting RC in 1915



RC Trustees and administration visiting former Turkish President İsmet İnönü (1963)



Gen. Cemal Gürsel visits the ACG campus on Nov. 8, 1960. To his right are Dean Sims and President Ballantine.



Utku Aldıkaçtı RC 55, with Brig. Gen. Cemil Uluçevik (left) and President Syngman Rhee of Korea. (1958)



Tansu Çiller ACG 63 and Özer Uçuran Çiller RC ENG 61 at a ball (1963)



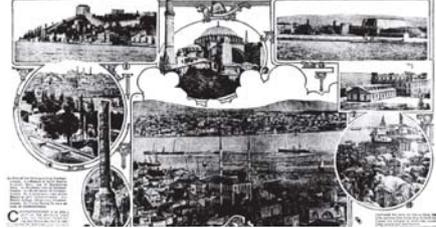
ROBERT COLLEGE
1863

150TH
YEAR



403
International Forum Meets on Rumeli Hisar's Lofty Battlements
and represent more than a score of countries, several of them behind the Iron Curtain. Three dressed in American campus style, enjoy a superb view of the Bosphorus. Robert College graduates have built many of Turkey's plants, and factories. Others fill high positions in government all over the Near East.

A PAGE OF TIMELY READING CONSTANTINOPLE OLD IN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS



Washington Herald, March 28, 1915



"Robert College, Turkish Gateway to the Future," National Geographic, September 1957

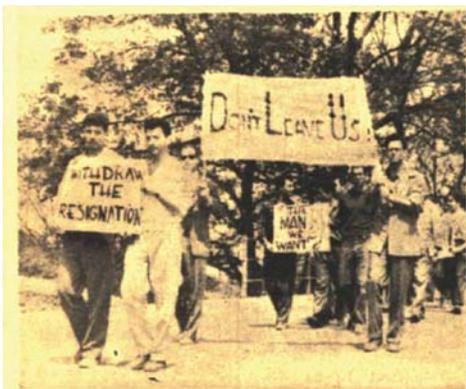


Robert College in the Press

The press, both in Turkey and in the States (as well as Bulgaria, for that matter), have paid close attention to RC through the decades. Here is a sample of reports.



La Bulgarie, February 18, 1931



Talebinin ellerinde levhalarla dün yaptıkları yürüyüşü

Robert Kolejde dün 270 öğrenci boykot yaptı

İstifa eden bir öğretmenlerinin okuldan ayrılmasını temin için öğrenciler derslere girmediler ve yemek yemediler

Cumhuriyet, May 10, 1956

Kraliçe Meri

Romanya Kraliçesi dün şehrimizde bir gezinti yaptı



Kraliçe Meri Hs. Şehrimizde Robert Kolej'de misafir bulunan Romanya Kraliçesi Meri Hs. dün şehirden bir tenezzüh yapmış ve çarşısını gezmiştir. (Mebdi & İncü ahlifide)

Cumhuriyet, April 10, 1930

Robert Kolej spor bayramında Bir günlük Kral ve Kraliçe ile mülakat



Kraliçe Meri Hs. Şehrimizde Robert Kolej'de misafir bulunan Romanya Kraliçesi Meri Hs. dün şehirden bir tenezzüh yapmış ve çarşısını gezmiştir. (Mebdi & İncü ahlifide)

Cumhuriyet, May 23, 1938



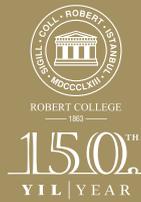
ROBERT KOLEJDE KURULAN, TÜRKİYEDEKİ İLK ELEKTRONİK BEYİN.

Türkiyede ilk elektronik beyin kolejde kuruldu

YÜKSEK RİYAZİYE PROBLEMLERİNİ SÜR'ATLE HALLEDEN ELEKTRONİK BEYİN HAKKINDA DÜN BASIN MENSUPLARINA İZAHAT VERİLDİ

Milliyet, May 14, 1958

Mark your calendars!



visit 150.robcol.net

RC 150 Website

An online treasure trove awaits you at 150.robcol.net:

- Travel through time and revisit people and places
- Find out about 150th Celebration events
- Purchase RC 150 paraphernalia through the Alumni Association online store
- Take a virtual tour of the RC 150 Exhibit (courtesy of Pera Museum)
- Locate friends and more



The Anatomy of a Tradition: 150 Years of Robert College

RC 150 Exhibition
May 15-August 30, 2013
İstanbul Araştırmaları Enstitüsü
(Istanbul Research Institute)
 Monday - Saturday 10 am - 7 pm
 (Closed Sundays)

A look at the past 150 years of Robert College history, and the school's contribution to Turkey and the world. Made possible by the Suna and İnan Kıracı Foundation.

Back to School Weekend

October 5-6, 2013
RC Campus

Homecoming
Saturday, October 5th

Campus walks - RC 150 Exhibition - Catch up with classmates - Roll Call - and much more...

Back to School

Sunday, October 6th

We are a community of life-long learners. Come back to campus for a full day of educational and entertaining classes - taught by fellow alumni.

For details and to register visit backtoschool.robcol.net



Coming in 2014

Field Day (May 2014)
Fine Arts Festival (May 2014)
"Midsummer's Night Dream" Event
 (to be announced)
... and more!

 **Have you made travel plans to NYC for the Bayram?**

New York Celebration Weekend

October 18-19, 2013

Friday, October 18th

RCAAA Decades Party

Altman Building, W. 18th Street
7-11 pm

Come together with friends from your school years and other decades from all around the world to celebrate this once in a lifetime anniversary. Not to be missed!

Saturday, October 19th

The Gala 150 NYC

Cipriani, 42nd Street
6:30-10:30 pm

The gathering is an opportunity for graduates and friends of the school to celebrate and support Robert College. Proceeds from this evening will go to the RC Scholarship Fund. For details and reservations visit 150.robcol.net



Other Activities

RC Archives Viewing and Symposium

Columbia University, Butler Library
Saturday, October 19th

View selected documents and photos from the RC archives.

City tours, museum visits and other ways to explore New York City. Details to be announced. Get the latest updates and information at 150.robcol.net

The Gala 150 Istanbul

April 12, 2014
Rahmi Koç Museum
Istanbul

Chaired by Rahmi Koç, the proceeds of the benefit gala will go to the RC Scholarship Fund.

RC 150 Celebrations at Boğaziçi University

Plans are underway to move the *Anatomy of a Tradition* exhibition to the Boğaziçi University campus. A symposium entitled Exploring the DNA of BU will be held in conjunction with the exhibition.

Young Composers

Getting International Recognition



Alican Çamcı RC 08

Robert College has always been proud of its students graced with talent. The teachers of this school strive to help kids discover their unique abilities and motivate them to work on honing their talents. RC is one of the few schools where the arts are in fact regarded as a profession. The teachers of the Music, Drama and Arts departments encourage those students inclined towards a career in the arts to believe in themselves and make the effort to attain their dreams.

Two names that have been in the news lately are musicians Onur Yıldırım RC 05 and Alican Çamcı RC 08. Both composers are becoming more and more recognized internationally.

Described by The New York Times as “immediately striking” and “delightfully unruly”, Yıldırım’s music has been performed at festivals such as Impuls, June in Buffalo, the Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice (SICPP) and Klasik Keyifler. His music is performed by well-known ensembles such as Klangforum Wien from Austria, Ensemble Interface from Germany and

Hezarfen Ensemble from Turkey. He is also writing three new chamber music works commissioned by Ensemble Interface, Boston-based new music ensemble Callithumpian Consort, and Convergence New Music Ensemble, which is made up of young Georgian and Armenian musicians. These new works will be premiered in Boston, Vienna and Tbilisi respectively.

Yıldırım is currently working on a master’s degree in composition at İstanbul Teknik University’s Center for Advanced Studies in Music (MIAM), and he holds a bachelor’s degree in composition (with honors) from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

Alican Çamcı studied at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University and is currently doing a PhD at the University of Chicago. He has recently written music for Italian pianist Ciro Longobardi and American oboist Andrew Nogal, and is preparing a piece for the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra to perform under the direction of Cliff Colnot. His pieces have been deemed worthy of many international awards. We asked them about their professional lives and their days at RC. Onur says, “The music education I

received at RC and my experience in the RC Orchestra have definitely laid the foundation for my future career in music. Although I had been interested in music before I came to RC, it was there that I had the chance to cultivate my abilities and became convinced that I should become a professional musician. The very first pieces I wrote were performed at RC and I got my first ever commission to compose a new work from the RC Theatre Club for their production of the play *After Juliet*. My family has been supportive of my musical interests right from the start, but they were somehow skeptical about my decision to pursue a professional career in music. Watching me perform with the RC Orchestra and the encouragement I received from my music teachers at RC did a lot to convince them.”

Alican, who also appreciates the education he received at RC says, “I have to mention Deniz Baysal, my music teacher, and Merrill Hope-Brown, my art teacher who encouraged me. Everything Mr. Baysal taught me helped deepen my knowledge of music during high school. Adil İzci, my Turkish language and literature teacher, taught me a lot about poetry; I should thank him too.”

We wish all the best to these young composers!



Onur Yıldırım RC 05

Spring Brings Joy to UNIRC After a Successful Semester

The UNIFUAR (Turkish university fair for RC students) took place on campus on November 7, with the participation of 12 Turkish universities and graduates on hand to volunteer information about their majors and schools. It was a day for RC juniors and seniors to contemplate and plan for life after high school.

Not too long after UNIFUAR, the first Career Academy of the year was held at Bizim Tepe. RC graduates from top management consulting company McKinsey & Company came together with young alumni to talk about the popular job field. Following the speeches, graduates enjoyed the chance to learn about career planning during a roundtable session.

The 2012 Career Day on December 22 was lively and efficient as always, with the participation of nine prestigious companies from different fields. The day began with a panel, "Developing World Markets: Beginning Your Career in Turkey", moderated by Emre Tekişalp RC 07. Guests Ayşe Zadiil RC 89, J.P. Morgan Executive Director, Head of Corporate Banking - Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Haluk Şardağ RC78, Şişecam Development Director, shared their experiences of college and business life. They answered



RC students visiting the UNIFUAR to get information about Turkish universities.

questions mostly focused on their career moves and about what led them to their present success. The speakers shared ideas about how critically important Turkey's position is in today's developing world markets. Career Day continued with companies from various fields discussing job and internship opportunities.

Participating companies were McKinsey & Company, Yapı Kredi Yatırım, Clifford Chance, Mazars/Denge, Oliver Wyman, AnadoluEfes, White & Case, Vodafone and Unilever. In addition, OneWorld Consulting provided two training sessions on CV writing and effective interview techniques. This intense day of career planning, was followed by Meetball, where young graduates gathered in Marble Hall to catch up with their friends.

The year ended with the UNIRC New Year's Party on December 28 at Roxy, a fun night for all.

The new year started with great enthusiasm, getting ready for UNIRC'S biggest project, *Türkiye'nin 7 Rengi* (The Seven Colors of Turkey). Fifty-six students from Kahramanmaraş, Malatya, Adıyaman, Balıkesir, Ankara, Muğla and



Panel on Career Day with Haluk Şardağ RC 78 and Ayşe Zadiil RC 89 moderated by Emre Tekişalp RC 07

Giresun are ready for an amazing week on the Robert College campus this summer, packed with various activities and trips.

The second Career Academy of the year took place in April, focusing on the field of medicine. Following that, *GradLive III* was held, for all those for those who miss the atmosphere of *Lise Lives!*

Spring adds joy to UNIRC meetings that take place in Bizim Tepe's beautiful poolside garden. When asked what they miss the most about spring at RC, the answers, of course, mostly include the beautiful and scented wisteria of Gould Hall. Other answers included the "loving" red bugs, stairs next to the Bubble, a million different tones of green, gossiping under the wisteria with girls, daisies in perfect harmony with the blue Bosphorus view and the green Plateau as well as the lovely scent of the campus.

UNIRC meetings are held every Saturday at 11.00 AM at Bizim Tepe. Any graduate who is a university student is welcome to join. We are more energetic than ever and we have exciting ideas to bring to life.



UNIRC celebrating Christmas at Roxy



The Robert College Alumni Association (RKMD)

RKMD has offered interesting, exciting and entertaining activities to graduates throughout this quarter.



Cultural activities included Movie Nights at Bizim Tepe. The evenings started with a brief informative chat about the film, the actors and why it was chosen. *Modern Times*, *Citizen Kane*, *Gilda* and *Notorious* were shown.



Performances like *Asi Kuş* by Ali Poyrazoğlu and *Jokond ile Si-Ya-U* with Zeliha Berksoy were among the activities.



A full-day city tour of old Istanbul included visits to four mosques and Kariye Church and Museum complex.



The New Year's Bazaar was popular as usual.



There was a spectacular show by the unforgettable RA 69 school orchestra at their "Renkler 2" concert.



Graduates learned all about whiskey at events organized by Chivas Regal in December 2012.

Borneo: a Date with an Orangutan and Treetop Traveling

© Levend İskit

Photo credit: Levend İskit

Borneo was definitely not on my "places to visit before I die" list. For starters, I didn't even know where exactly it was.

By Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu, RC Alumni & Development Office

I had heard of Borneo, but I had to do research to find out that this South East Asian island was the third largest in the world, after Greenland and Papua New Guinea. I also found out it was home to the Borneo Rainforest, one of the oldest rainforests in the world at a ripe old age of 130 million years. That bit of information and the fact that there are about 15,000 species of flowering plants, 3,000 species of trees, 221 species of terrestrial mammals and 420 species of resident birds in Borneo were still not enough to lure me there. The journey - a 10.5 hour flight to Kuala Lumpur, followed by another couple of hours to the island - seemed daunting.

I learned that the island is divided among three countries: Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia. The Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak are in the north of the island, while a much larger portion is the Kalimantan territory of Indonesia.

Also, the sovereign state of Brunei, located on the north coast, comprises about 1% of

Borneo's land area. Yes, that Brunei; the country whose ruler is reputed to be the wealthiest man on the planet. But it wasn't the chance of meeting the Sultan of Brunei that lured me to this part of the world either.

It was the possibility of meeting Ritchie (pictured above). A 26-year-old, 150 kilo male orangutan, Ritchie is the alpha male of a small troop of orangutans at Borneo's Semengok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center. The Borneo rainforest is one of the only remaining natural habitats for the endangered orangutan. The sad fact that if deforestation continues at this rate these animals will be extinct in our lifetime strikes a chord in me.

There are two species of orangutan - Sumatran (on the Island of Sumatra) and Bornean; my date was with the Bornean one. Orangutans are a species of great ape along with gorillas, chimpanzees and bonobos and we share 96.4 percent of our genetic makeup with them. That makes these apes less closely related to us than



© Levend İskit

Like mother like son: antics high up in the branches of Borneo's Semengok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center. Photo credit: Levend İskit

chimpanzees, who have 99 percent of DNA in common. However, a small portion of orangutan DNA is a closer match to humans say scientists. Orangutan means 'person of the forest'. It comes from the Malay words *orang* meaning people and *hutan* meaning forest. After looking deeply into their eyes - well, as deep as one can, considering our guides would not allow us to get up close - I wholeheartedly believe that to be true.

And meet Ritchie I did. This majestic "person of the forest" showed up during feeding time at the center, home to semi-wild orangutans who have a "tame" relationship with the rangers but who are not on friendly terms with the tourists who, like me, are dying to meet them. These centers, dispersed on the island, are the only places you can actually see them because they are endangered.

In 1900, there were apparently over 315,000 wild orangutans. As of 2012, the Orangutan Conservancy believes there are approximately only 40,000 orangutans remaining in Borneo and Sumatra.

Tropical rainforests are being cut down for timber and the land cleared for mining and palm oil plantations. This loss of their habitat is the greatest threat. Despite the penalties, they are also occasionally

killed or injured by plantation owners and farmers who consider them to be pests. Rehabilitation centers have been set up to treat and care for sick, injured or orphaned orangutans.

Ritchie did not disappoint. We enjoyed a full hour of his imposing presence as he and several others from his troop showed off their skills high up in the branches where they make their life.

Their antics were very much on my mind, when, on the next day of our Borneo trip, we were treated to our first canopy walk and the pleasures of exercising in hot and humid weather. The forests of Malaysia are full of huge awe-inspiring canopy trees, which are very tall with long pole-like trunks. The branches and leaves are near the top of the trees. Narrow bridges made of rope and some sturdier material (I hope) go from one tree to the other, swinging gently or not so gently depending on how fast you walk across and how many of you are on them at the same time. Walking very high up across these narrow bridges among the branches you have amazing views all around you of trees, trees and more trees. You also have sweat pouring down your back; not only because you are many meters high above ground and are trying hard not to look down under your feet from the narrow plank you are striving to balance on, but also because the humidity is 99 percent.



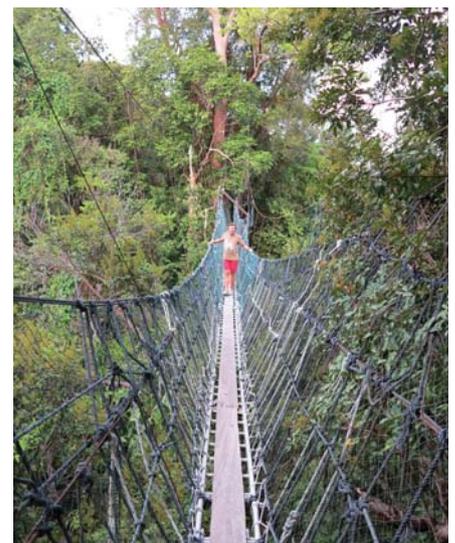
The mother-young relationship lasts for a long time. For the first two years of a young orangutan's life, he is completely dependent on mother for food and transportation. Orangutan offspring will sometimes be carried until they are 5 years old and be breast-fed until they are 8 years of age. Photo credit: Levend İskit



Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu in front of her jungle bungalow.

Humidity and rain...only natural in the rainforest. It rained - no, it poured - a short while every single day that we were there in August, and this was the dry season. I cannot even imagine the rainy season and if anyone goes then I would love to read about it in these pages.

As a child of the city, at home among tall buildings and traffic, a fixture at concerts and movies, fancy restaurants and colorful events, this trip helped me pause, take a deep breath of fresh air, rest my eyes while gazing into the endless green and reflect that life is not just about hustling and bustling through life, having the latest smart phone in hand, trying to get to the next appointment on time. Nature has a way of showing you that returning to her bosom really is beautiful and she deserves to be treated with much more respect than we give her.



The long and narrow canopy walk bridge.
Photo credit: Meltem İskit

Doğum Ağacı

Preparing Couples for Birth and Baby

Doğum Ağacı, a childbirth education school in Kadıköy which offers a combination of medical know-how and spiritual and physical well-being, was founded by İbrahim Sözen RC 86.

After graduating from RC, İbrahim Sözen studied obstetrics and gynecology at Yale. He practiced in the US before coming back to Turkey in 2004. Sözen currently has his own practice on Bağdat Caddesi.

"Most of my pregnant patients are interested in normal vaginal birth," says Sözen. "I used to refer my patients to other birth classes, but I found out that some of them don't give advice based on scientific evidence. For example, sometimes my patients would come back to my office telling me that the class taught them that epidural anesthesia during labor is harmful, which is not true."



İbrahim Sözen RC 86

So Sözen and a few colleagues decided to create Doğum Ağacı. "Our aim throughout the prenatal visits is to prepare our patients both physically and mentally for vaginal delivery," explains Sözen.

"I advise daily routine exercise for my pregnant patients. Some of my patients seek further exercise such as Pilates or yoga besides walking or swimming. Still other patients are in search of a normal birth class. So, we thought that a 'one-stop' pregnancy and exercise program could provide an opportunity to fulfill both needs."

In addition to Sözen, who gives education about general birth topics, there are a pediatrician, a child psychologist and an anesthesiologist at Doğum Ağacı. Prenatal classes include theoretical and practical information and cover topics such as



Pilates is one of the classes Doğum Ağacı offers

preparation for normal vaginal childbirth, physical and psychological changes during pregnancy, breathing techniques, pregnancy fitness, post-partum care, breastfeeding and newborn care.

The prenatal classes are open to the patients' partners as well. "They also benefit from these lectures," adds Sözen. "They understand what to expect and how to cope during pregnancy and after birth. We also lecture about psychology of being a father."

Dr. Sözen is an advocate for Normal Delivery of the babies and founded the first Waterbirth Program in Turkey in 2005.

Sözen and his colleagues hope to see "candidate" RC moms- and dads-to-be become a part of their big Doğum Ağacı. Please mention about your RC background for a special rate!

For more information:
<http://www.dogumagaci.com/> and
<http://www.dribrahimsozen.com/>



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The Lead-up to the Co-ed School

This is the fourth of five installments in a lively personal account of Betsy Göksel, former English teacher at ACG and RC.



1969 music class with Michael Peskilis

Smink, a *Lise* English teacher and advisor of the *Campus Chronicle*, was the lead character in the famous “bull shit” incident. Mrs. Kent had become Head Mistress after Dean Romig; the Turkish Director was Mrs. Baysal. It was their duty to read over the articles for the newspaper before publication. One of the articles was thought to be “subversive” and thus unacceptable. In an argument with the two staid lady directors, the young, hippy American teacher shouted “That’s bull shit!” They tried to fire him, but he won the battle and stayed out his contract. Times were indeed changing.

Meanwhile Mrs. İz continued to produce modern, professional-quality theatre in our grand old auditorium. Over in Bingham we were also doing very well with our small stage in Room 1. With a talented group of *Orta 2* girls I directed a memorable performance of

The 1963 school year marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of Robert College and I recall the subdued, but proud ceremony of celebration at ACG. We were in every sense the poor cousin of the Bebek campus. Our campus was relatively small and decidedly shabby and our teachers looked down upon by their more distinguished—and far better paid—professors.

At the end of the school year I moved off campus and became one of the “foreign women married to Turkish men”, losing privileges as well as money.

When this injustice was pointed out to Mrs. Page, long-standing and loving member of the Board of Trustees, her retort was, “You knew that before you got married.” Which was true enough. This

group of foreign women teachers was to fight a long, hard battle with various headmasters until we were finally granted equality with men in 1979.

The last gasping years of the Girls’ School brought many colorful characters to the campus, quite a few of whom stayed to become influential long-term faculty members. The addition of foreign men as teachers certainly made the girls’ classes more exciting.

Jim Maggart joined the faculty in 1968 and led the *Lise* girls’ basketball team to the National Championship. Douglas



ACG students in the 60s



Jim Maggart and his national champion team in 1972

I Remember Mama where the girls willingly and successfully took boys' parts.

The next year we put on Garcia Lorca's *The House of Bernardo Alba* which had no male roles (but was full of sexuality in the background—was I foolish or brave, or both?). I've always maintained that the greatness of Robert College is the students, not the teachers. I was a good, not a great director, but the girls were great actresses. In the *Lise* with Dorothy İz both director and actresses were great. And it was fun. Nobody thought of how late it was in the evening (and I had two daughters by then), but of producing something of excellence.

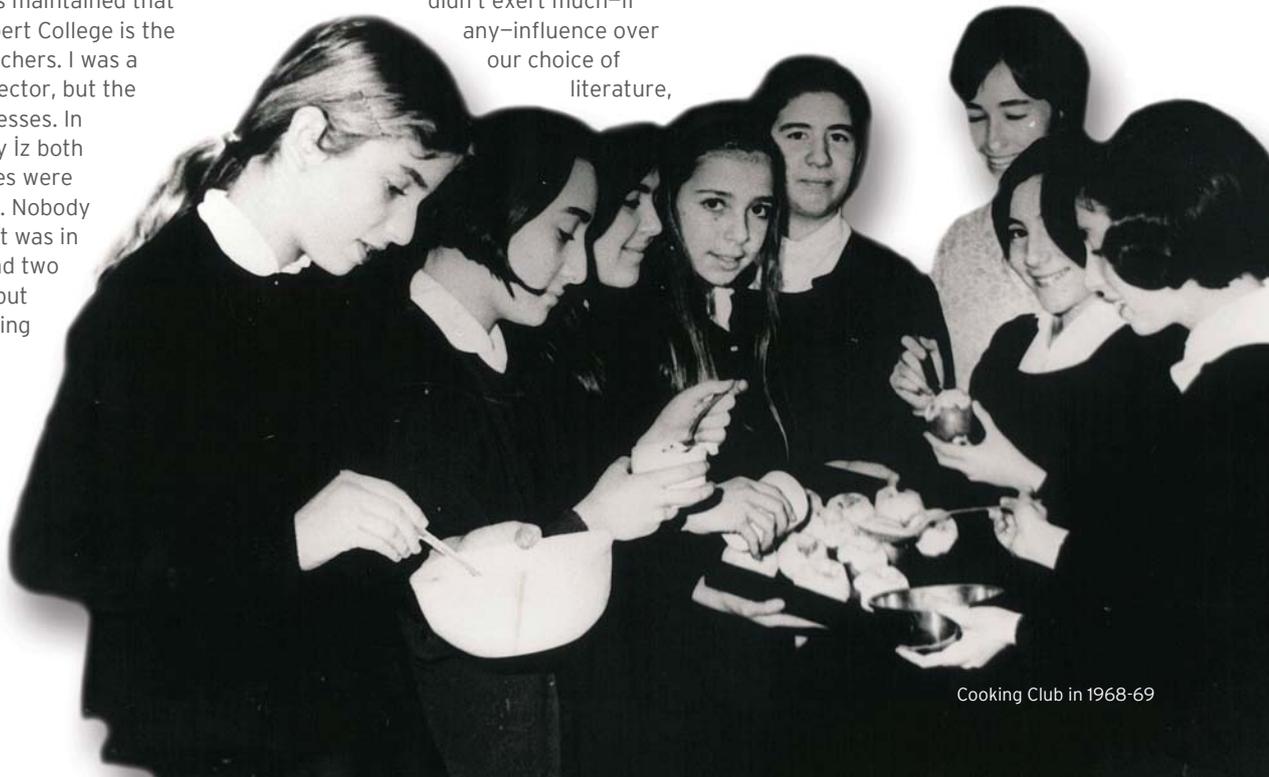
Our standards were excellent, our students excellent, but our economical state was dire. Meetings were held on the possibility of closing the school. Having endured two

World Wars, ACG was folding under the Cyprus crisis, as the US had cut our AID money. We were down to two sections of 20 students each at each level in the *Orta* School. I had by now advanced to *Orta* I, then *Orta* II, teaching both sections. In those days the Ministry of Education didn't exert much—if any—influence over our choice of literature,

so, as the only teacher at one level, I could just teach my old favorites—*The Yearling*, *Seventeen* (How does one pronounce "Miss Boke" in class readings?) and lots of poetry. The girls wrote literary essays in *Orta* I that were of the quality of American college freshmen. How could we close?

Finally as the '60s drew to a close, a rumor became fact—our campus would not close, though the "Girls' School" would! ACG would merge with RC *Lise* to create a new co-ed Robert College *Orta-Lise* on the Arnavutköy campus. Watch out, Plateau, the boys are coming! ■

The first three parts of Betsy's article appeared in RCQ Fall/Winter 2011, issue 41, p.40, RCQ Spring/Summer 2012 issue 42, p. 54 and RCQ Fall/Winter 2012, p. 40. You can read them online at www.robcol.k12.tr



Cooking Club in 1968-69

Uncovering RC's Archeologists

By Özdemir Vayisoğlu RC 12

Ever since the 1870s, Robert College faculty and alumni have dominated the field of archaeology in Turkey through their major contributions to the global knowledge of human civilization. Archaeology became a part of Robert College tradition with the founding of the College Museum by Isabel F. Dodd. This valuable collection, which acted as a living link between the ancient and the new, motivated many younger generations of the college to explore this field. Inspiring RC faculty members were also influential in building this tradition, which cultivated some of the most prominent scholars of Turkish archaeology. This timeline provides an overview of the achievements of some of the RC faculty and alumni who have become archaeologists and done pioneering work in their subfields.

Alexander van Millingen

The history professor at Robert College from 1878 to 1915, van Millingen was a renowned scholar of Byzantine archaeology. His books *The Walls of the City and Adjoining Historical Sites* (1899), and *Byzantine Churches in Constantinople: Their History and Architecture* (1912) are regarded as the most authoritative works in the field of Byzantine archaeology and history. After 37 years at RC, he fled to England in 1915 because of World War I. Before leaving Istanbul, he donated his library and one thousand pounds sterling to Robert College.



Isabel F. Dodd

Dodd served American College for Girls from 1882 to 1927 and was a dedicated scholar of Near Eastern Archaeology. In 1882, she started teaching art history and archaeology at ACG. She collected antiquities and created the College Museum. She is most famous for her study of the ancient Hittite Capital, Hattusha. In 1910, she published an article about it in National Geographic magazine with information about archaeological research in the region. Isabel F. Dodd was one of the few foreign teachers who remained to the end of the World War I.



Prof. Aşkıldil Akarca ACG 37

Akarca was greatly interested in 'the history of any existence' as her friends would describe in the yearbook. She taught at Istanbul University for 30 years and conducted archaeological research and excavations on the Aegean coast, especially in her hometown Midas.



Prof. Güven Arsebük RA 58

Arsebük was inspired by his teacher Prof. Hilary Sumner Boyd to explore paleolithic archeology and his later encounter with Prof. Halet Çambel confirmed his interest. He devoted his energies to anthropological research on human evolution and taught at Istanbul University's Archaeology Department for over 30 years.



John Henry Haynes

Haynes taught at Robert College between 1881 and 1884. He was one of the first American archaeologists to excavate in the Near East and the first to use photography as a scientific means of documentation in archaeology. In Assos, Haynes was the first photographer to be included as a regular part of an excavation team. During his stay at Robert College, Haynes made excursions to Anatolia and Mesopotamia and photographed numerous historical and archaeological sites across the Near East for the first time. In winter 1900, he made the greatest discovery of American archaeology by unearthing what was thought to be the Temple Library at Nippur, in which 23,000 Sumerian tablets were found.



Halet Çambel ACG 35

Çambel became interested in archaeology while at ACG, inspired by her art history teacher. With her innovative approach and unprecedented archaeological projects, Prof. Çambel eventually became an internationally recognized authority in Anatolian archaeology. Çambel's techniques were precursors of today's modern archeology: training students in the field, using scientific methodology in prehistory education, assessing archaeological finds in view of present cultural aspects of the region and incorporating natural sciences into the archeological research process.



Dr. Nuşin Asgari ACG 51

Asgari pursued a successful career in Classical Archaeology. After teaching at Istanbul University for seven years, she transferred to the Istanbul Archaeological Museum (IAM) and directed many excavations across Turkey on behalf of the museum. She was the first female director of the IAM. Dr. Asgari is most famous for her discovery of the Prokonessos marble quarries on Marmara Island.



Revza Ozil AGG 60

Ozil became interested in archaeology during high school. With a special scholarship she received from UNESCO in 1969, she studied at the Archaeological Institute of the University of London and received a two year intensive training in conservation and restoration methods. She was one of the very first professional conservators of Turkey and eventually focused on archaeological conservation and restoration. She has worked on many notable projects including the conservation of the dome mosaics of Hagia Sophia and the restoration of the Göreme cave churches in Cappadocia.

Prof. Peter Ian Kuniholm

Kuniholm taught at Robert Academy from 1961 to 1963, and is a pioneering scholar in the field of dendrochronology (tree-ring dating). He worked as an English instructor at Robert Academy for three years and one of his students was Mehmet Özdoğan RA 63, who would later on go on to a very successful career in archaeology. In 1973 he first created the Aegean Dendrochronology Project and founded the Dendro Lab at Cornell University, which subsequently became The Malcolm and Carolyn Wiener Laboratory for Aegean and Near Eastern Dendrochronology.

**Prof. Hadi Özbal RA 63**

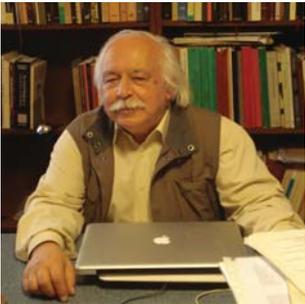
A pioneering scholar in the field of archaeometry, Özbal founded and directed the Bogazici University Archaeometry Research Center, which is the best of its kind in Turkey. He is well-known for his groundbreaking archaeometallurgical research on mining districts in the Taurus Mountains in the 1980s. Currently, he is in charge of the archaeometry analyses at the Barçinhöyük excavations.

**Prof. K. Aslıhan Yener RC YÜK 69**

Yener is a world-renowned scholar in the field of Anatolian Archaeology. Her interest in archaeology was first sparked by her lecturers Godfrey Goodwin and Prof. Bahadır Alkım when studying Comparative Literature and Humanities. She is most famous for her archaeometallurgical research in Anatolia, which eventually changed the traditionally known chronology of the ancient Anatolian history. Prof. Yener is currently teaching at the University of Chicago and at the same time directing the newly founded Department of Archaeology at Koç University.

**Prof. İnci Delemen RC 73**

Delemen became interested in archeology through her high school literature classes. She is the head of the Division for Classical Archaeology at Istanbul University and also has been co-directing the university's excavations at Perge since the early 1990s. Prof. Delemen took an active part in reviving the initiative to reclaim the upper part of the famous Weary Herakles statue from Perge, which was finally returned to Antalya after a long legal battle spanning over two decades.

**Prof. Mehmet Özdoğan RA 63**

Özdoğan is a world-renowned prehistory scholar. His interest in archaeology was first sparked in high school by his art history teacher Prof. Godfrey Goodwin. He taught for over 30 years at Istanbul University and eventually became the head of the Archaeology Department. As one of the most prolific archaeologists in the field of Anatolian archaeology, he excavated over 80 sites across Turkey during his long and distinguished career. Professor Özdoğan is most renowned for his studies on the spread of the process of neolithization.

**Behin Aksoy ACG 65**

Aksoy became interested in the ancient world as a child when she saw the movie *Alexander the Great* and later visited the Istanbul Archaeological Museum. A prolific excavator, Dr. Aksoy has worked on at least one archaeological site each summer since 1966. She has excavated in Greece and Pakistan as well as Turkey. After working at the Istanbul Archaeology Museum with Nursin Asgari ACG 51, she joined the Archaeometry Research Center at Boğaziçi University, where she researched with Aslıhan Yener RC YUK 69 and Hadi Özbal RA 63. Dr. Aksoy teaches at Boğaziçi University.

**Nur Balkan Atlı RC 72**

Balkan Atlı became interested in the ancient world while studying at Robert College. She is best known for her discovery of the oldest paleolithic settlement in Anatolia and her research on the obsidian workshops in Göllüdağ, which was the largest source of obsidian in the ancient world. She is currently the head of the Archaeology Department at Istanbul University.

**Dr. Rana Özbal RC 93**

Özbal was inspired to become an archaeologist by her father Prof. Hadi Özbal RA 63 and his friend Prof. Aslıhan Yener RC YÜK 69. Dr. Özbal specialized in prehistory and conducted archaeological research and excavations in Southeast Anatolia. Currently she teaches in the newly founded Archaeology Department of Koç University and co-directs the excavations at Barçinhöyük, Bursa, with her husband Dr. Fokke Gerritsen, the director of Netherlands Research Institute in Turkey.

Özdemir Vayisoğlu RC 12 became interested in archeology after visiting an ancient site when he was six years old. While at RC, he was able to continue pursuing his interest. He prepared an interview with Halet Çambel ACG 35 for RCQ 39 (p. 44) and wrote about his experiences on a dig at Barçın Höyük with Hadi Özbal RA 63 and Rana Özbal RC 93 in RCQ 41 (p. 13). He is currently studying at Harvard.

What Happens When Your Child Comes out to You?

Can Candan RC 87, faculty member at Boğaziçi University, is the creator of the feature documentary *My Child (Benim Çocuğum)*. It tries to find an answer to this question through the deeply emotional true life stories of parents of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals in Turkey.

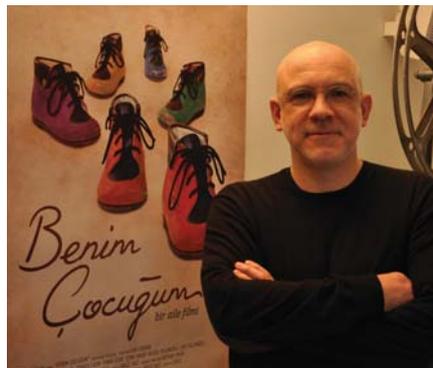
The film first showed as part of the If Istanbul International Independent Film Festival, where festival director Serra Ciliv RC 92 introduced it saying, "This is a film about love; and love has the power to change."

It was also one of five films broadcast live during the festival to 27 cities across Turkey and in Yerevan, Ramallah and Nicosia.

If Istanbul associate director Pelin Turgut RC 92 says, "Audiences in cities like Trabzon and Batman wrote in to say how moving they found it. Some 700 people attended the Istanbul gala at Atlas Cinema. The parents who took part in the film were given a long standing ovation when the film ended. There was hardly a dry eye in the theater. Pinar Selek, the renowned sociologist who has long supported the gay and lesbian rights movement, said that this film is like the key that can unlock a thick, iron gate." The RCQ Team talked to Candan about this powerful work.

Could you tell us how the project evolved and what led you to make this film?

I met some of the Listag (families of LGBTs in Istanbul) parents featured in the documentary at a conference titled Trans Identities and Queer in Turkey at Boğaziçi University in the fall of 2010. They were speakers on a panel where they were sharing their personal stories with the audience. I was extremely moved by these stories. As I was listening to them in tears, I realized that these stories were making me remember my own relationship with my parents, when I struggled to assert myself as an individual as a child, and at the same time I was questioning my own role as a parent of a child. This candid re-telling of personal experiences was so strong that, I felt, they were powerful enough to touch each listener's heart and transform them. There and then, I decided



Can Candan RC 87

that I could make a documentary film with these parents and we could bring these stories to a larger public and affect change in society. That's how we started this journey together and now, we are at an important point in our journey, as we have finally begun bringing the finished film to the viewers.

It's not very common to see such films in Turkey. What kind of difficulties did you face while making it?

It was an incredibly smooth and empowering collaboration since I proposed my idea of making this documentary to them at that conference. They were ready to "come out" to the world with their stories of struggle, acceptance and transformation. The only difficulty we had was the time it took us to raise enough money to make the film. We were very impatient because we felt, in this society where LGBT individuals are constantly the targets of homophobic and trans-phobic acts of violence and discrimination, this film had to be made right away.

How are the first reactions?

The film is not really released yet. It has only been shown publicly within the framework of If International Independent Film Festival. We are now trying to get it released in cinemas. Nevertheless, we were able to reach over 4500 viewers

in 11 days during the festival and its Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir galas. We have gotten wonderful feedback from audience members. The film has also garnered a lot of media attention and has created new spaces for discussion and reflection. I think *My Child* makes us all face our own prejudices, our own families and relationships.

What do you think the role of this film is; will it have a positive effect on society's acknowledgement of the subject?

I believe with all the media attention and its limited screenings, it has already made a positive change in this society by bringing the plight of LGBT individuals and their families to the public's attention. For example, some MPs are trying to organize a screening in Parliament!

What more can/should be done?

We need all the support we can get in bringing this documentary the largest possible audience. People can demand to see this film in the cinemas and also can join our journey by visiting our website, www.mychilddocumentary.com, and clicking the "take action" tab. I believe, together we can transform ourselves and the societies we live in, and can halt the violence and discrimination against LGBT individuals.



Serra Ciliv RC 92 and Can Candan RC 87



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A Career at the United Nations



Cihan Sultanoğlu RC 75

Cihan Sultanoğlu's career with the United Nations is impressive. Over the past 30 years, she worked in Thailand, Morocco, Belarus and Lithuania for the UN Development Program (UNDP), before recently being appointed Assistant Secretary General and Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) of UNDP. We spoke to her about how she chose her profession and what it's like to devote a career to changing lives.

What made you want to study, and then pursue a career in international development?

After graduating from Robert College, I intended to go to university in Turkey. I felt that it was important to contribute to Turkey's own progress. Considering the competitive environment at RC, I applied to US schools and received a full scholarship from Barnard College of Columbia University. Once in New York, I was exposed to the broader world

and learned a lot from my exchanges with other foreign students. I went to the School of International Affairs (now School of International and Public Affairs - SIPA) at Columbia University and focused on development and international business for my Master's degree. During my second year at SIPA, I did an internship at UNDP - United Nations Development Program - and was fascinated by the role that international cooperation could play in improving living standards, facilitating economic growth, protecting the environment and promoting peace and stability. I was also lucky - UNDP was just initiating a young professionals program and invited me to apply. I was assigned to Africa after some on-the-job training in New York and Bangkok.

Every assignment has been very interesting and I have grown along the way not only professionally but personally. I am happy if I was able to make a difference in some people's lives through my work. Although I never worked in Turkey, being at the UN, I think I am always home.

What has been the most interesting part of your career?

Every assignment I have had felt like working for a different "employer" although I have been working for the same organization for the past 30 years. Each country's development circumstances and needs are different and UNDP programs respond to those.

What has been the most challenging?

The same is also what makes our work challenging as you need to adapt to a new

living and working environment each time. You have to be curious, open-minded and inquisitive. Promotion of human rights, equitability and sustainability are among the core values that UNDP promotes in its activities in developing countries. Sometimes it is not so obvious to be able to integrate these into our projects; hence a lot of advocacy, awareness-raising and engaging with a whole range of partners - governments, civil society, private sector, academia - are required to create an enabling environment to pursue these universal objectives.

What are you working on in your current position?

I oversee programs in 26 offices and our Regional Support Center in Bratislava from our Headquarters in New York and represent our organization at different national and international forums. We are also supporting national and regional consultations to come up with a new perspective for development for the world post-2015, once the period for the Millennium Development Goals comes to an end.

What activities were you involved in at RC and how did they shape you as a person?

At RC, the wealth of knowledge and ideas that we were exposed to at such a young age through our interactions with our teachers and having access to that beautiful library really whetted my appetite and made me want more. On the extracurricular side, I enjoyed being a member of the photography club. This proved to be a hobby that I was able to indulge in a lot living in different countries, and taught me to really see the world and appreciate what is around us. RC provided you with so many opportunities to discover yourself, to understand yourself better - I understood that much more as I got older.

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With a passion for acting that began from her childhood experiences, to a career in business, Pelin Seyhan RC 03 has mastered what few are able to - a career that requires both analysis and creativity.

Pelin Seyhan produces and presents Skyturk 360's *Uçuş Kulübü (Flight Club)*, a weekly program about developments in Turkish and international civil aviation and aviation sports. She also does business development for the channel. Her journey up to this point has been an interesting one.

Seyhan started acting at a young age as part of Turkey's renowned singer Barış Manço's TV program for kids. At 13 she was the host of a kids' debate show, with guests that included popular political figures like Mehmet Ali Birand, Gencay Gürün and Bedrettin Dalan.

During high school, she learned musical acting and took on leading roles in various musicals.

For university, Seyhan chose to study at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania because of its dual degree program. "I was planning to study Theatre and Engineering. However, once I finished half of freshman year, I was encouraged to change my major to the International Business and Engineering honors program," says Seyhan. "But I never stopped thinking of a career in acting." After college, she lived and worked in New York as a risk management consultant for KPMG, while taking acting lessons and travelling around the world for work. After she returned to Turkey in 2009, she continued working

as an analyst and risk management consultant, and taking acting classes. Seyhan appeared in TV series and commercials. She also worked at a media planning agency in the hopes of changing her career towards media, where she ended up hosting a live educational program on TV. Then Skyturk360 asked her to become a TV host and business development consultant.

Seyhan hosted a variety of economic and social shows for the channel before working on *Uçuş Kulübü*, which she



Pelin Seyhan RC 03

produces and presents. She also leads business development of the channel, which includes program budgeting, ratings analytics, new business creation, market research, contract management, preparation of channel content presentations, creating value-add proposals, and managing the channel's online content and social media team.

Regarding overlaps between being a presenter and working in business development, Seyhan says, "You need to have a wide perspective in both. A good consultant and a good TV presenter should be open to ideas, work hard, be organized, pay attention to details and be analytical. In both professions, you need to be attentive and alert all the time. You can't let any opportunities pass you by. For instance, when you ask a question, you need to really listen to the response, take away the highlights and follow up. The two are not so different."

Seyhan's experience at Robert College helped lay the groundwork for such a diverse and challenging career. "RC prepares you for not only the next few years but also takes you further without you knowing it," she explains. "You get a jump start in life with a broad perspective. They used to tell me that once you get out of RC, you will miss all the opportunities and privileges you were exposed to. Now I understand what they meant."

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Burgeoning Young Poets

Despite following different careers, these three graduates have one thing in common: a passion for poetry.

Mustafa Altay Sönmez RC 04 leads a double life. As Vice Consul of the Turkish Consulate in Almaty, Kazakhstan, he deals with diplomatic issues on a daily basis. But he also practices his love for writing.

Sönmez became interested in poetry while at RC, publishing his first poems in *Oda*. He was given the Halide Edip Adivar Turkish Language and Literature award at graduation. In 2011 he published *Hınçla Ezdiğin Başak (The Grain Crushed with Resentment)*, consisting of poems he wrote from 2002 to 2011, some of which appeared in various literary reviews such as *Varlık* and *Kitap-lık*.

"I derive my poetry from a mix of stark reality and the instinctual understanding of the abstract," says Sönmez. "Regarding my technique, my poetry desires to be read and remembered. That requires an endless search for better craftsmanship." Sönmez gets his inspiration from nature, human civilization anything non-conformist and non-cliché, and language itself. He now plans to write a book which will be the versified epic of life in this era of fast change and remembrance. "I

want to describe our age and define the demands of 'ordinary' people."

Cem Kurtuluş RC 05 also leads two lives. Based in New York, he's a film producer and editor. But he's also had a lifetime of experience in poetry. "During family gatherings, I used to recite nursery rhymes taught by my father," says Kurtuluş. He was sometimes pulled out of bed in the middle of the night to perform.

"Poetry was one of many ways for me to lash out while at RC. I was lucky to have Adil İzci as my Turkish Literature teacher for a semester during prep year," says Kurtuluş.

Kurtuluş says he works on a project-by-project basis. "A whole idea determines what I will write for a whole project. Every poem will make up some significant part of its structure, and I will build a totality that rests on and refers back to its unique parts. In fact, I can never think of poetry as anything other than a workflow."

For Kurtuluş, inspiration happens randomly. "A word, a posture, a dream,

a nightmare, lover, angst, etc. Films and poems are byproducts that lash out of me as an excess value, falling beyond my power and letting me go." Kurtuluş has worked together with Efe Murat Balıkçioğlu RC 06 on several occasions. Both are members of the literary creative network *Edebi Şeyler* and were part of *Mahfil* and *Heves* poetry review magazines. They co-authored *Madde (Matter)*.

While doing his PhD in history at Harvard, Balıkçioğlu continues to contribute to the world of poetry. His most recent work, *Akıl Pis Kokar (Wisdom Stinks)*, is a translation of select poems by American Pulitzer Prize-winning poet CK Williams. Balıkçioğlu interviewed Williams, who says he comes from the same tradition of free verse as Walt Whitman and Nâzım Hikmet. Balıkçioğlu hopes this work will help people get to know better one of the most important American poets alive.

In 2012 he published *Def-Beyin*, which is a collection of his poems written from 2008-2011. It is his fifth book of original works; his first book, *F'ani Atak*, was published while he was a *Lise 11* student (see RCQ 27, p. 6.).



Mustafa Altay Sönmez RC 04



Cem Kurtuluş RC 05



Efe Murat Balıkçioğlu RC 06



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Eren Özgür RC 95



From L to R: Zafer Tipigil RC 95, Mehmet Tur RC 95, Tolga Kantarcı, Alihan Hotıç RC 95, Ayşe and Eren Özgür, Kaan Pasin RC 95, Mete Avunduk and Ömer Donat RC 95

Eren Özgür met his wife Ayşe (Ozyar) on October 2, 2009 when he sat next to her flying from London to Istanbul. At the time she was studying at Queen Mary, College of London for her LLM degree,

before moving back to Turkey to work as a lawyer. Ayşe is a graduate of Bilkent University. Eren has been living in London since 2006 and, at the time he met her, he was a managing director at Deutsche

Bank in the Emerging Markets Trading Division.

During the summer of 2011, Eren resigned from his job at Deutsche Bank to join a hedge fund (BlueCrest Capital) and had three months of gardening leave between the two jobs. As summer progressed, he prepared to propose to Ayşe and arranged a small trip to Ibiza where he presented his grandmother's ring and asked her to marry him.

Their wedding, on June 29, 2012 at the Marmara Hotel in Bodrum, was a big RC reunion. Many friends from Eren's class were present, as well as his cousins Aysel Madra RC 99 and Mithat Madra RC 04.

Eren's father, Nuri Ozgur RC 70, also had a mini reunion with guests from his class: Barış Uluğ, Cüneyt Ulsever, Ahmet Merye, Metin Ar, Turgay Durak and Ahmet Esen. Eren's grandfather, Feridun Ozgur RC 35, was watching them from the skies and wishing them a wonderful life.

Selim Onan RC 96

Selim Onan RC 96 and Naike Baruh tied the knot at the Four Seasons Bosphorus Hotel on March 2, 2013. The couple had been dating since 2009. The elegant wedding hosted a large number of RC graduates as the mother (Leyla Onan ACG Sr. 71), grandmother (Perihan Yahşioğlu), and the brother (Sinan Onan RC 03) of the groom, and the brother (Emir Baruh RC 2000) of the bride are all RC alumni.



Serdar Evman RC 96

Serdar Evman RC 96 has recently been transferred to Süreyyapaşa Respiratory Diseases Hospital as a pulmonary surgeon. Serdar and wife Melis welcomed their first born, Defne, on February 2, 2013. Defne weighed 3,710 kg and was 51 cm at birth. She keeps her doctor parents even busier than their usual routine!



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Jan Nahum RA 67 and Burak Pekcan RC 87



Jan Nahum RA 67 and Burak Pekcan RC 87

3D printing, a method of manufacturing that once was considered science fiction, became a reality in Turkey with +90.

Founded by Jan Nahum and Burak Pekcan in 2005, +90 is a 3D printing rapid parts provider that has been serving various industries including automotive, defense, electronics, medical, furniture, jewelry, arts and architecture. +90 is currently

creating its own "digital factory" - a series of 3D printers that work together to produce multiple parts from computer-aided designed (CAD) data.

3D printing enables a three-dimensional solid object of virtually any shape to be manufactured from a digital model. 3D printed objects are built out of layers. The printer starts with the bottom layer, waits for it to solidify, and then works its way up, layer by layer. This layering process differs, depending on the printing technology and the material it works with.

With 3D printing and additive manufacturing, it will be possible in the near future to do at least three things:

First, innovators will be able to demonstrate and prove their idea concept via small, affordable 3D printers that will soon be found in every design office. This means the number of good ideas that actually get to be seen and considered

by investors and upper management will increase.

Second, 3D printing will enable that good idea to be refined into a superior product through intensive prototyping. In his February 2013 State of the Union address, US President Barack Obama pointed to 3D printing as the "next industrial revolution". 3D printing technology was used to create more than 300 prototypes used to perfect the new Microsoft Surface tablet. Even a simple thing like the stand for the device was prototyped over and over again until it was deemed ready for market.

Third, 3D printing will enable the creation of a smarter production line, where Direct Digital Manufacturing systems will be used to manufacture batches of customizable parts within a product to meet the exacting quality demands of today's consumers.

Librarian John Royce Retires

After working at Robert College for 13 years, former head librarian John Royce hasn't slowed down during retirement. We asked him how he feels he contributed to the school and what he's been up to since he left Turkey.

At RC I helped make the collection of more use to a high-school with a very lively curriculum. We passed on or discarded books which were unread or didn't suit our needs. We also replaced a lot of books, obviously loved and still used, with newer copies.

I believe I made a contribution with the MUN Club and the Debating Society. We were well out of our depth at the Debating Society's first international competition - the World Schools' Debating Championships in Athens in 2009. But the debaters improved in each competition, and became EurOpen Champions in 2011. With regards to academic honesty, not all teachers knew or understood what was acceptable, or were willing to act even when students were discovered taking



Former RC library colleagues celebrate John Royce's retirement. From L to R Nilüfer Göksan, Neşe Seren, Ayşe Yüksel ACG 69, John Royce, Mary Berkmen, İffet Özseven ACG 66 and Şiir Türsan ACG 70

unacceptable short-cuts. I believe I helped the school change attitudes.

As for retirement, and how I am coping with it? I am still waiting to find out. Since leaving RC, I have spent six weeks in Kazakhstan helping a school to ready their library for the International

Baccalaureate Diploma Program, I have co-led a librarians' workshop in Dubai, led workshops in Lisbon and in England, and presented at the ECIS Conference in Nice.

I thought things were supposed to slow down on retirement - I'm still waiting.

Ethem Uz RC ENG 46



Ethem Uz passed away on January 5, 2013. My brother Ethem and I grew up like twins. We only had 13 months between us. He left Izmir at the age of 12 to attend Robert College. Being away from his family at that tender age pushed him closer to his new surroundings and his new friends. A few years later my father became Minister of Commerce and the family moved to Ankara. I started attending ACG in Istanbul so Ethem and I were reunited. The weekends that we

didn't go to Ankara to visit our parents, we would go to movies in Beyoğlu or join friends at afternoon dance parties. Ethem was very much into sports. This passion of his, along with his easy-going, pleasant personality, made him a popular member of college life.

After graduating, he went to Detroit, then to NYC. After returning to Turkey he went to law school at Ankara University and upon graduation decided to settle down in his beloved city, Izmir. Meanwhile, our father, Dr. Behçet Uz, had built a school in Bornova, which he had been planning for some time after visiting Eaton College in England. Ethem became the director of Bornova Koleji. Unfortunately a few years later, as our father became involved in politics, he had to sell the school and Ethem switched careers to become a businessman.

He married a beautiful girl and had two children, Ayşe and Ali.

Ethem won the Eisenhower Fellowship grant, and with his wife Şahver went to

the US for one year. After his return to Izmir he continued running his company. Ethem always remembered his college life with fond memories. He kept in touch with his life-long friends. He never forgot the value of the education his dear school bestowed upon him.

Contributed by Mübeccel Uz Versan ACG 46

His close friend Feyyaz Berker RC ENG 47 shared his thoughts:

My friendship with Ethem goes back to childhood days. Both our parents were doctors and friends too. We were boarders and our love of sports was also a common bond. When the USS Missouri came to Istanbul in 1946, he and I were on the same basketball team along with Üzeyir Necipoğlu and a tall friend named Andon, against the American players. I can never forget that because they gifted us with a bag full of basketball sneakers. We also shared military service memories, spending an evening together at our Ankara home. May he rest in peace, we shall miss him.

Üzeyir Necipoğlu RC 47

Born in İzmir on November 10, 1924, Üzeyir Necipoğlu completed his primary and secondary education in his hometown before moving to Istanbul to attend Robert College in 1939. He spent a memorable eight years at RC starting with the Academy and continuing with the Mechanical Engineering Department from which he graduated in 1947. He followed this up with a Textile Engineering degree received from Huddersfield College in the UK before his return to Turkey in 1952. In 1954, he married Melek Aksel ACG 52. They had a son, İhsan Necipoğlu RC 73, and a daughter.

Üzeyir Necipoğlu is best known and remembered for his achievements in sports. He was active in a variety of



fields ranging from gymnastics to soccer, basketball and tennis. He soon became one of the favorites of PE teacher Mr. Nadolsky and this earned him the prestigious "Field Day King" title during his graduation year. He was an extremely agile and effective basketball player

despite his height. The legendary match he played against the US team of the USS Missouri right after World War II stayed in everyone's memories for a very long time.

During his RC years, Üzeyir Necipoğlu was closely associated with fellow classmates Feyyaz Berker, Nihat Gökçiyiğit, Oğuz Dağdelen, Avni Refiğ and Fethi Piriççioğlu. He passed away following a sudden illness and a 2 day intensive care period. He did not have the time to say goodbye to his beloved family and close friends, but I am sure they will remember him with the lovely memories he left behind.

Contributed by İhsan Necipoğlu RC 73

Özer Esen RC 49

Our dear classmate, Özer Esen, passed away on March 1, 2013.

The huge crowd who came to Teşvikiye Mosque to pay their last respects is proof of how much he was loved by everyone. Özer was the youngest student in his class at RC, but was always mature for his age. To Özer, RC meant more than a school and it was during his RC years that he developed his outlook on life, which included his spirit of sharing and contributing to those in need of care or support.

After graduating from RC, he went to the US to study at the Wharton School of Business, where he received his MBA before the age of 20. He returned to Turkey and worked as a volunteer at the art section of the Vatan Newspaper. Upon completion of his military service, he joined

the family business at Mensucat Santral. Özer later went on to start up his own business and was very successful, contributing much to the community. He was a very compassionate, intelligent, and sensitive person. There are many who are grateful to him for the advice and guidance they received from him. Yet, he was very modest, had a shy personality and never bragged about his successful career or his good deeds, which included contributions to students and to persons in need.

Since the age of 15, Özer and I have been friends sharing the same passion for RC. In spite of his failing health, he tried to regularly attend every Homecoming.

Özer will always be remembered for his generosity, endless love and attention to those who were in need. He is survived by



his beloved wife, two devoted daughters, and four loving grandchildren.

He was among "the last Mohicans" as a friend, a brother, and a human being.

Contributed by Güner İzer Fansa ACG 49

Arman Manukyan RC 51



Legendary Robert College teacher and RC 51 graduate Arman Manukyan passed away on December 29, 2012. He was 81 years old.

While a student with a wide range of interests at RC, he was involved in publications, sports and photography. He was also famous for his bow ties. Legend has it that he first wore a bow tie in 1955 on the occasion of a party at ACG. His aunt so admired his look she suggested he always wear one. He did and in time he became known for them.

After graduation from Robert College with an Economics and Commerce degree, and completing his military service in 1953, he met his wife Alis and then began his career as a professor on September 13, 1956.

A professor of accounting at Robert College and then Boğaziçi University,

Manukyan was loved by the thousands of students whose lives he touched, and whose education he contributed towards. He could count many of Turkey's leading business people among the nearly 17,000 students he taught during his 56 years as an educator.

He earned a reputation as an energetic professor who brought a wealth of world experience and anecdotes to the classroom. His students say he was a true gentleman who taught not only accounting but balance in life, grace and courtesy, patience and tolerance.

Arman Manukyan is survived by his wife Alis, his son Roy, his daughter Gilda and four grandchildren.

Anıl Boduroğlu RC 57

Anıl "Abim" passed away on July 12, 2012. He was born in Milas in 1937. He studied as a boarding student at RA and RC and went to England where he graduated from Leathersellers College in London as a leather chemist. He started to work for the family tanner, Boduroğlu Deri, in Kazlıçeşme. He was a hard-working man and produced leather his whole life. He was a member of the managing board and contributed much to

the Leather Industrial Zone in Tuzla. Anıl was a poet. His poems and his translation of Emily Dickinson poems were published in seven different books.

Anıl Boduroğlu is survived by his wife Leman, his sons İlkay, Ünal and Fazıl and his two grandchildren.

Contributed by Ünver Boduroğlu RA 62



Önder Beller RA 64



Önder Beller passed away on April 12, 2012. He was a true friend to all of us, with his intelligence, knowledge, generosity and a wonderful

sense of humor. His place cannot be filled. We, his friends, always depended on him and always asked for his advice when we were confused. We always believed in him. The world will not be the same without him for his family and his real friends. He was the legal counselor of many well-known companies. His business friends said, "We have lost a real Istanbul gentleman" (*Istanbul beyefendisi*). This

quote alone can sum up Önder. We miss him very much and strongly feel his absence in our lives.

Önder Beller is survived by his wife Nilgün Ünel Beller ACG 64, Kerim, Mutlu and Alp Suner.

Contributed by Şeyma Yazır ACG 64, RC 68

Ali Kozanoğlu RA 61

Ali Kozanoğlu passed away on October 11, 2011.

Ali, alias "Vali", joined RA in 1954, and was immediately bestowed with his popular nick-name by Onur Yetkin's mother, who sighting this compact 11 year-old boy for the first time exclaimed "Aaaa, aynen mini mini valimiz!", accurately identifying the resemblance to Professor Fahrettin Kerim Gökay, Governor of Istanbul at the time. Ali was a master of many skills, mostly inherited from his father, Cevdet Kozanoğlu, who played an important role in the early days of Turkish radio broadcasting at Ankara Radio. Vali developed a knack for music of many varieties and owned a good collection of records. However the only musical instrument he played for a while was the Scottish bagpipe, a past-time he had acquired during his days studying mechanical engineering in England in the early sixties.

Vali was also a collector, outdoorsman, hunter, fisherman, fly-fisherman, carpenter, blacksmith, wood carver, scrimshaw master, engraver, gun-smith,

knife builder, writer, speed-reader and on top of all, a worthy authority of fire-arms. He was on the verge of completing a book on the subject when he died. He also enjoyed a sizeable library consisting of serious material as well as fiction.

Ali was a speed talker, the drawback being one could hardly make out what he was saying. There was, however, nothing wrong with his speech, it was just that one could not keep up with his rapid way of uttering his words so we used to beg him "Vali please speak slowly", and he would comply by inserting silent gaps in between his still very fast words and sentences, yet still remaining mostly unintelligible. I was told of one incident at a cinema: the story is that one of our usual group of friends consisting of Vali, Babür Özçeri, Güneş Yunus and his wife Patricia, went to watch a movie and for the benefit of Pat they were conversing both in English and Turkish. During intermission, the young son of the family sitting behind their row commented to his parents on how he was puzzled as to the languages the group spoke. He whispered, "The three of them

can speak English and Turkish and understand each other, so does the stout man (meaning Vali) who also understands both languages, but he speaks a totally strange tongue which the other three understand but cannot speak!"



Ali was a reserved and quiet person by character, moving slowly and carefully, never emphasizing his feelings, yet he had a great sense of humor. We will always remember Vali and miss his quiet but very determined and prominent presence.

He is survived by mother Remide, wife Bilge, daughter Tülin and son-in-law Eralp.

Contributed by Alev Serçen RA 61

Uziel Meseri RA 62



Uziel Meseri passed away on December 29, 2012. Uzi was a good friend to many of his classmates during our Academy days. He was born in 1942, and started to work immediately after he finished RA and completed his military service.

It was very difficult for him to attend Homecoming 2012, yet he was there to see his friends for the last time. He was

a great warrior and fought against his illness for many years with the love and care of his wife Nilgün.

He is survived by his wife, his son Moiz, his daughter Renin and his two grandchildren.

Contributed by Ünver Boduroğlu RA 62

Evnur Köker de Boursac RC 74

Evnur Köker de Boursac passed away in Bodrum on July 15, 2012. After graduating from Robert College, Evnur studied Economics at the Political Science Faculty of Ankara University and received her master's degree from Sussex University, England. She worked at OECD in Paris and at Manhattan Bank in Istanbul, where she met her husband Nick de Boursac. She had two lovely children, Ayşegül Natalie and Ali Peter.

Our friendship goes all the way back to when we were fifteen at Robert College. Our long conversations started in the dormitory - even after the lights were turned off - and went on throughout our university years in Ankara. Listening to music for many hours was another one of our favorite pastimes, and became an unforgettable memory for us.

Unfortunately there was a period of time when we lost contact with each other, which I never quite understood how. When we found each other again, we both already had grown children. Despite her illness, she was so enthusiastic and happy to get together.

Evnur was always a caring and compassionate person. She was fun-loving and had a great sense of humor. She spent a lifetime in the Far East with her family, which I think influenced her philosophy of life. I could see this in her loving gaze and in her strength during her struggle against her illness. Even at the worst times, she never gave up. I have had so many patients throughout the years, but observing Evnur's dignified approach towards her illness and witnessing the



devotion and care her family and her mother displayed during this most difficult time has been a particularly unique and deeply moving experience for me. It is so difficult for me to ease the pain and grief I feel after losing her.

Contributed by Tülin Gürelli Tanrıdağ RC 74

Şevket Esin RC 79

Şevket Esin passed away on October 30, 2012.

If we could remain the best of friends since 1975, it was because we never ever got tired of reminiscing and laughing about those moments of life that we lived to the fullest at Robert College.

"Baba Şevket" was his nickname and from those high school years up until his passing, we saw him always act like a dad, and help all those around him. As Perihan Mağden said, he was the "ağır abi" of RC 79.

We, on the other hand, spent "hızlı" years with him. The day after he died, Erol Utku said, "You guys lived on another planet,



you came back to the RC world whenever you wanted to, but you spent those years mostly on your own planet." His car at our service, his house as our weekend dorm, a limitless dream world for three youths. He played the key role in creating the happiest of our days, adventure-filled nights and the sweetest of memories.

The witness to that period of our lives is no longer with us. We are grateful to have met him and we send our blessings to him; Şevket, "sen de bize hakkını helal et." He was an honest, intelligent and wise man with great talent, who built the largest rent-a-car company in Turkey.

He was a humble winner and a graceful loser. A proud man retaining his dignity in the toughest of times, who made no retreats and did not surrender. He left behind Hakan and Gökhan. *Allah gani gani rahmet eyesin.*

Contributed by Mustafa Köprülü RC 79 and Nihat Sebik RC 79

Willard M. Whitman Jr.

Robert College English Instructor between 1939-43 and 1948-50, RC Housemaster between 1950-56 and Principal of RA from 1956 to 1960 died at his home in Alexandria on Dec. 19, 2012. He was 95.

Excerpts of obituary from the Washington Post:

Willard Mallalieu Whitman Jr. was born in Lynn, Mass. He received a bachelor's degree in English from Harvard University in 1939 and a master's degree in English

literature and Shakespeare studies from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1947.

Beginning in the late 1930s, he taught English at Robert College of Istanbul. During World War II, he joined the British Royal Air Force and served as a flying instructor in Africa, his daughter said.

He returned to Robert College after the war and became a vice president in 1956. In 1960, he moved back to the United States and taught English at the old

Bennett College in Millbrook, NY. He later oversaw Peace Corps programs in Turkey, Pakistan and Libya.

In 1969, he and his wife founded Whitman Associates, a Washington-based temporary and permanent staffing agency. He retired in 1983.

Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Doris Clark Whitman, two daughters, Jean Heimer and Doreen McGill, a sister and five grandchildren.

mavi





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