

RC QUARTERLY

FALL / WINTER 2011

ISSUE 41

**RCQ**

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

# 40 Years On

## Looking Back at the Historic Coed Merger

- | RC Graduates in Art,  
Literature and Turkey's  
New Parliament
- | Climbing Mt Kilimanjaro  
for a Cause
- | Commemorating  
Nicholas Artamonoff
- | Meeting Gorillas  
in Uganda

# Boy Meets Girl

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# RC

QUARTERLY

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## ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

### MEMORIES

Nesime Merak, ACG 25, organizes centennial luncheon to revive the spirit of Charter Day.

Page 32

### SOYLESI

Yasemin highlights ve emekli tutkuncuların etkinliği. Yemin Sunay Selman, BC Yık 64, anlatıyor.

Seite 38

### INTERVIEW

Ömer Karacan, BC 83, discusses his career and his views on music.

Page 34



# Boy Meets Girl





**EFSANE  
TELEFON,  
EFSANE  
FİYAT!**

iPhone 3G 

Turkcell kalitesiyle  
Star Plus, Süper Star veya  
Avantaj Plus tarifeleriyle  
iPhone 3GS 8 GB  
ayda sadece

**29TL**



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Kurumsal iPhone Kampanyası 31.12.2011 tarihine kadar geçerlidir. Kampanya paketleri 24 ay kontratlıdır. Ödenmemiş faturası sebebiyle görüşmelere kapatılmış herhangi bir hattı olmayan, Turkcell faturalı hat sahibi kurumsal aboneler bu kampanyadan yararlanabilirler. 6 aydan daha kısa süreli faturalı hat sahibi kurumsal Turkcell aboneleri olan abonelere sadece "Kredi kartı" ödeme tipi ile sunulan paketler sunulmaktadır. Kredi kartı paketlerinde 24 aylık cihaz taksitleri kredi kartından, Turkcell servis bedeli ise Mobil İletişim faturası üzerinden tahsil edilmektedir. Kampanya taahhüt süresi dolmadan kampanyadan ayrılmak istenmesi durumunda, paket dahilinde verilen indirim bedelleri toplamı ve kalan cihaz taksitleri tek seferde abonemin Mobil İletişim Faturasına yansıtılır. Paket dahilinde sunulan konuşma süreleri aştığında her yöne 30Kr/dk, SMS paketi aştığında 41,5Kr/SMS ve internet paketi aştığında 0,05TL/MB üzerinden hesaplanarak ilgili hattın faturalarına yansıtılacaktır. Yurt dışı dolayım sırasında yapılan kullanımlar güncel Turkcell Dünya Tarifesi ile ücretlendirilir. Kampanya stoklar ile sınırlıdır. Aboneler kampanyaya Turkcell İletişim Merkezleri, satış yöneticileri veya Kurumsal Çözüm Merkezleri aracılığı ile katılabilirler.



**TURKCELL**



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### Basım Yeri ve Tarihi

İstanbul, Aralık 2011

### Yayın Türü

Sürelî

### Yayın Periyodu

4 Aylık

# About the RCQ

Watching the boys and girls milling about the College today, it is hard to imagine that it was not always so. Up until 1971, boys attended Robert Academy in Bebek, at what is today Boğaziçi University, while girls attended the American College for Girls, on this campus. In 1971, due to legal changes, the higher education institution, RC Yüksek, was nationalized and became Boğaziçi University -- this meant the boys were forced to find another home. A frantic summer of construction and moving ensued and in September, the Arnavutköy College campus officially became coed.

In this issue, we look back at that momentous transformation - one that has been so successful that today, we rarely remember it. There is a rich sense of continuity and shared tradition that connects all graduates all the way back to the school's founding in 1863.

We were delighted to hear back from many of you after our Inspiration issue this summer. Please continue to keep us abreast of the news in your life.

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2012 !

### The RC Quarterly Team

## RC NEWS

- 4 Annual Giving Campaign 2011-12 Kicks Off
- 6 Class of RC 11 Graduates
- 8 DC Alumni Gathering  
The Jane Page English Writing Contest  
Students Exhibit at the W Hotel
- 9 RCAA 22<sup>nd</sup> Young Alumni Dinner  
RCAA Event in Boston
- 10 Celebrating Republic Day with Timur Selçuk
- 11 Debate Team Wins EurOpen Championship 2011
- 12 Building a Lasting Peace: RC Hosts Greek,  
Turkish and Cypriot Youth for Special Workshop

## CIP

- 13 Students Uncover the Past at Barcın Höyük
- 14 A Community Involvement Project (CIP)  
Opens Up New Frontiers for the Children of Artvin

## RC IN NEW YORK

- 16 RC in New York Graduates Climb to the Top  
(of Kilimanjaro)



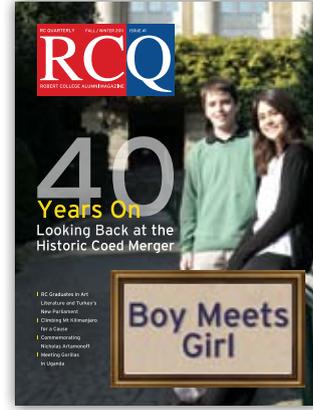


Photo credit: Alex Downs

## GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

- 18 Nature Calls for Artist Tomur Atagök ACG 59  
Nilüfer Kuyaş RC 73 Publishes Second Novel
- 20 Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 Launches New Health Channel  
Getting to Know Gündüz Vassaf RA 64
- 21 A Beard for a Cause: İbrahim Betil RA 64 Calls for  
Speeder Justice  
New Book by Historian Cemal Kafadar RC 73
- 22 There's a Man in the Kitchen  
Orhan Pamuk RA 70 on the Art of Writing
- 23 Nursuna Memecan RC 75 Chosen Vice  
President of the Parliamentary Assembly  
Council of Europe  
Şule Kut RC 75 Named Head of Okan University
- 24 İsmail Ertürk RC 77 Explores the Discreet Charm  
of Meta-finance  
Two RC Graduates Sworn in as First-time  
Deputies
- 25 The Magic of Tall Ships
- 26 Cem Akaş RC 86 Pens Children's Book about Bumba  
the Giraffe  
Bloomberg's Yalman Onaran RC 87 Warns of Zombie  
Banks
- 27 Design A La Turca An Exhibition of Turkish Culture,  
with a Creative Approach  
Refika Birgül's RC 98 Cookbook at the New York MoMA

## COVER STORY

- 28 Girl Met Boy

## RCAA

- 31 The Robert College Alumni Association (RKMD)

## ONES TO WATCH

- 32 Meet Buket Coşkuner RC 06 Journalist and Award-  
winning Jazz Vocalist
- 33 Young Designer Makes a Mark with Designs for  
Better Living

## AROUND THE WORLD

- 34 A Close Encounter with Gentle Mountain Giants

## VENUES WE RUN

- 38 Galeri Manâ
- 39 Former Imperial Ottoman Bank Finds Second Life as  
SALT Galata

## MEMORIES

- 40 Tradition and Pride

## ESSAY

- 42 Through the Lens: Nicholas V. Artamonoff and his  
25 Years at Robert College
- 44 Your Business in the Age of Social Media
- 45 Future Istanbul: Planning out the Poor?

## RC REACHES OUT

- 46 7.2 Magnitude Compassion

## REUNION

- 48 2011 HOMECOMING
- 50 Houston Reunion
- 51 RC, ACG 56 and 57 Reunion  
ACG 59 Reunion
- 52 ACG 61 After Half a Century
- 53 RC 71 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion
- 54 RC 86 25 Years After
- 56 RC 96 15<sup>th</sup> Reunion

## ALUMNI PROFILE

- 58 Engin Inel Holmstrom ACG 51

## ALUMNI NEWS

## FACULTY & FRIENDS NEWS

- 64 Adil İzci
- 64 Tanşu Aksoy
- 66 Ann Julier Walko

## OBITUARIES

- 67

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



# Annual Giving Campaign 2011-12 Kicks Off



Suna Gürçay, class agent for ACG 53 accepting congratulations for her award.

The Annual Giving Campaign 2011-12 was launched in high spirits on Monday, October 17 with a cocktail and dinner at Bizim Tepe. Despite the stormy weather, the turnout was good and class agents enjoyed catching up with their fellow alumni.

High honor donors also attended, and for the first time a student from The Bosphorus Chronicle, editor Özdemir Vayisoğlu, Lise 12, was present during the evening to cover the story.

Headmaster John Chandler opened the evening talking about how strong the Robert College spirit is. "You can remove yourself physically from the school," Chandler said, "but once you've experienced the Spirit it becomes a part of you." He add that he's been in Turkey for 14 years, and he never felt as connected to any place as he has to RC.

The guest speaker for the evening, Erkut Yücaoğlu RC ENG 69, Chairman of the High Advisory Council of TÜSİAD, gave an insightful talk about the current global economic situation. He noted that Robert College is unique in that it teaches students to be leaders while developing them into citizens of the world - two qualities that are assets in challenging economic times. He added that the pace of life is changing very quickly and RC always needs to be up to date.

Feyyaz Berker launched this year's campaign with a generous donation of 50,000TL.

Following the speech, Headmaster Chandler and Erkut Yücaoğlu gave out awards to the class agents of classes who were the most successful in terms of level of giving and amount of giving. The competition between RC 76 and RC 91 continued this year as they shared first

and second places for level of giving and level of participation respectively. Let's see if the competition will continue this year or if new classes will rise to the top!



The guest speaker of the evening was Erkut Yücaoğlu RC ENG 69



Ahmet Alp, class agent for RC 91, accepts a congratulatory hug from Oya Başak, ACG 55.



From L to R: Trustee and prize winning class agent Nedim Ölçer RC 76, Gür Yalman, prize winning class agent Zümrüt Alp Yalman RC 89 and Engin Ölçer RC 75.



Headmaster John Chandler recognizes Haluk Kilimci's (RC 50, standing on far left) invaluable gifts to Robert College throughout the years.



From L to R: Trustee Sedat Ergin RC 75, Cem Kozlu RA 65 and Trustee Üstün Ergüder RC 57 catch up over cocktails.



Şeyma Bilimer Arsel ACG 60 was one of the prize winning class agents.

# Class of RC 11 Graduates

The Class of '11 set sail from the College on June 27<sup>th</sup> in a graduation ceremony held on Konak Terrace. This year's graduation speeches were given by former Trustee Dr. Eric Widmer, retiring English Department Head Phillip Esposito and student speakers Murat Ünür and Deniz Çam.

After Headmaster John Chandler's presentation, former Trustee Dr. Eric Widmer took the stage. Widmer's speech was on the Hamlin Legacy, how his great-grandfather Cyrus Hamlin, the founder of Robert College, still spoke to the RC family on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. Widmer talked about the story of Hamlin, how he became an independent American educator who dreamt of founding a private, non-sectarian college miles away from the United States and how he managed to do so.

Phillip Esposito, the beloved English Department head who also 'graduated' together with the class of 2011, spoke next. He gave a very strong speech on the real values of life. With quotations

from Thoreau and Einstein, he underlined the importance of time, nature and the beautiful things in life which cannot be bought with money. He recommended that his students learn to separate the non-essential things from the truly essential ones. His quotation from Einstein and his final remark will be remembered by those listening: "Our task is to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of comparison to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty. This is your task."

Murat Ünür highlighted the school's success in bringing out the talents in everyone and how RC gives its students the opportunity to dream and the support to follow those dreams. Following her classmate, Deniz Çam took the podium.

She emphasized the importance of the family spirit RC gives its students. She underlined the school's role in every student's character and she voiced her gratitude with these words; "None of us is the same person who came here the first day. But we all added so much to our personalities! If it weren't for this school, if it weren't for our teachers and our friends, if we weren't "Robert'li", what would have become of us?"

## RC 2011 University Acceptance Update

As usual, the ratio of Turkish universities to colleges abroad is around 70% - 30%. Of the 173 members of the class of 2012, 123 students were placed in Turkish universities, and 53 will continue their education abroad. 21 students have been accepted to both foreign and Turkish



Name of University	Without Scholarship		With Scholarship		TOTAL
		With acceptance to universities abroad		With acceptance to universities abroad	
BOSPHORUS UNIVERSITY	16	5			21
ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY	10	2			12
ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	10	1			11
METU	2				2
MARMARA UNIVERSITY	1				1
CUKUROVA UNIVERSITY	1				1
GALATASARAY UNIVERSITY	1				1
EGE UNIVERSITY	1				1
ESKISEHIR OSMANGAZI UNIVERSITY		1			1
<b>GOVERNMENT UNIVERSITIES</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>9</b>			<b>51</b>
KOC UNIVERSITY	7		29	7	43
SABANCI UNIVERSITY	2		8	1	11
ACIBADEM UNIVERSITY	6		1		7
YEDİTEPE UNIVERSITY	2	1	2		5
ISTANBUL BILGI UNIVERSITY		1	3		4
BILKENT UNIVERSITY	1				1
BAHCESEHIR UNIVERSITY			1		1
<b>PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>52</b>		<b>72</b>
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS PLACED</b>					<b>123</b>

University	Nr. of Students
American University of Rome	1
Babson College	4
Brown University	1
Carnegie Mellon University	1
Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design	1
Chapman University	1
Columbia University	1
Concordia University - Montreal	1
Cornell University	2
Duke University	1
Durham University	1
Emory University	1
Franklin and Marshall College	1
Georgetown University	1
Georgia Institute of Technology	1
Imperial College of Science, Technology, and Medicine	1
Lafayette College	1
McGill University	3
New York University	1
Oxford University	1
Pratt Institute	1
Purdue University	1
Rice University	1
Trinity College	1
Tufts University	1
Universita Bocconi	1
University College London	4
University of Bristol	1
University of British Columbia (Arts, Faculty of)	1
University of California at Berkeley	2
University of Chicago	3
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	2
University of Miami	1
University of Oregon	
(School of Architecture & Allied Arts)	1
University of Pennsylvania	1
University of Southern California	1
University of Virginia	1
Yale University	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>

universities. 14 students placed among the top 1000 in the 2011 YGS, and 84 placed in the top 1000 students in the languages test of the YGS exam.

2011 graduate Barış Kaya was awarded a place in the Computer Engineering program of Boğaziçi University without having to take the YGS exam because of his gold medal in the International IT Olympiad.



Dr. Eric Widmer

The majority of the class of '11 chose private foundation universities. Their preferred programs are as follows: Engineering (41), business administration (28), medicine (22), law (17), and others such as physics, psychology, sociology, molecular biology and genetics, dentistry, architecture and communications (15).

#### Foreign University Acceptance Results for RC 2011

Out of the 79 RC seniors who applied to go abroad for higher education, 75 received one or more acceptances. Out of this number, 53 made a decision to attend

US, Canadian or UK universities and have started their freshman year. 15 of these students were awarded financial aid from the colleges they were accepted by. Of this group, 6 students were on scholarship while at Robert College.



## DC Alumni Gathering

On November 15th, over forty alumni and friends of Robert College gathered at the Army and Navy Club in Washington, DC for a reception with current headmaster John Chandler and incoming headmaster Tony Jones. Mr. Chandler shared his perspective on the history and future of Robert College. And Mr. Jones expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve the RC community - and he is looking forward to learning his fifth language, Turkish! Attendees celebrated the RC spirit in the DC metro area and expressed their enthusiasm for future RCAA community events.



## The Jane Page English Writing Contest

By Maura Kelly-Kuvvet English Department Head

“Writing and reading decrease our sense of isolation. They deepen and widen and expand our sense of life: they feed the soul.” These significant words from Annie Lamott, American author and teacher of writing, capture the motivation behind the Jane Page English Writing Contest. In its third year, the competition celebrates the creative writing community at Robert College. The ceremony took place on Tuesday, April 19 in the fiction section of the library.

The winner for the Short Story category was Lise 9 student, Cansu Sarıkaya for her emotionally resonant story, “The Wig.” The judges commended Lise 12 student, Elif Erez with an honorable

mention for her richly imagined short story, “Gardening 101.”

Ege Yumuşak, a Lise 11 student was the winner of the Poetry category. The judges found her poem, “Mortis I” provocative. One poet was awarded an honorable mention by the judges, Lise 12 student, M. Kerem Türkan, for his poem, “Fugue,” given its poignant subject matter.

The Dramatic Script winner was Lise 12 student, Deniz Cam, for her clever and humorous script, “Eeny, Meeny, Miney, Mo.” The script was later part of the RC Theater Company’s dramatic performance, “Couples,” staged in early May. Look for these great works and those of



Ece Yumuşak L11 (left) with English teacher Maura Kelly Kuvvet

other Jane Page English Writing Contest participants in the next print edition of Kaleidoscope Literary Magazine.

## Students Exhibit at the W Hotel



RC students and their work in front of the W Hotel, Istanbul.

This past spring the Lise 11’s in Basic Photography partnered with the W Istanbul hotel and had a chance to exhibit their work in the hotel. W Hotels are a design-led brand with a passion for design, fashion and music. It was a wonderful pairing of creative students and this beautiful hotel. RC Photography students each chose their best work from the year, enlarged it to a large format photographic paper and had it printed on fine art photographic paper at Fotojenik Stüdyo in Beşiktaş. The photos looked great and the students were excited. The W displayed a selection of 12 prints in the hotel for the summer.

## RCAAA 22<sup>nd</sup> Young Alumni Dinner

RCAAA held the 22<sup>nd</sup> Young Alumni Dinner in November, at Turkish Kitchen with an astounding number of 103 attendees - one of the biggest turnouts in the annual gathering's history. Guests comprised mostly of the RC graduates from the past 15 years. The guest of honor was Robert College's current headmaster John Chandler who was on tour of the US cities that have strong RC alumni presence and the dinner constituted the NY leg of the events RCAAA had planned for Headmaster's US visit.

The event began with a cocktail hour where guests arrived and mingled with their classmates and met other alumni who live and work in and around New York. Guests took their seats around the private dining room as Kemal Karakaya RC 95, the current president of the RCAAA, kicked off the evening with a speech marking the importance and meaning of this annual gathering in bringing the alumni together to connect with our alma mater and the RCAAA's efforts and activities in supporting it. Mr. Chandler followed him with an inspiring



Elif Oğralı, Ender Çetin, Nilhan Fidan and Elif Şikoğlu, all RC 97, at the Young Alumni Dinner.

update about the changes in our school, often taking us back to the school grounds with anecdotes that put a smile on everyone's faces.

The RCAAA board proudly presented 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the successful mentorship program it has been spearheading with a career panel which focused on representatives from 6 different industries. The program focuses on

pairing successful RC alumni of various fields with recent RC graduates who have recently completed or are in the process of completing their undergraduate studies.

On this chilly New York evening, the RC spirit warmed up the dining room as everyone chatted while enjoying the familiar dishes served by Turkish Kitchen.

## RCAAA Event in Boston

As a part of his trip to the US, RC Headmaster John Chandler spent Saturday evening, November 12, 2011, with alumni in Boston. Many RC graduates

spanning different classes gathered for this special occasion at The Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel. Chandler was accompanied by his wife Tania and Ece

Marcelli RC 02 from the New York RC office. In his speech, Chandler highlighted the recent accomplishments of RC and RC's role in Turkish and global education and leadership.

Chandler also thanked RCAAA for its involvement in generating a true community spirit among the RC graduates living in the US. The new Turkish Consul General to Boston, Murat Lutem, also joined the event. Lutem emphasized the importance of RC to Turkey and the role model RC sets not only as a cultivator of outstanding education, but also of future leaders. The evening was another successful milestone for the RC Boston tradition.



## Celebrating Republic Day with Timur Selçuk



To mark Turkey's 88th Republic Day celebrations, the Turkish Language and Literature Department prepared a special program whose finale was a concert by Timur Selçuk in Suna Kıraç Hall. The theater was filled with an enthusiastic crowd who sang along with the famous musician.

Timur Selçuk sang and played piano for two hours, accompanied by a five-person orchestra which included two keyboards (Turhan Yükseler and Aslıgül Ayas Kaçarof), a zither (Günay Çelik), a fiddle (Binnaz Çelik) and a reed flute (Volkan Yılmaz). He played his own compositions, as well as many songs written by his father, the renowned Turkish musician Münir Nurettin Selçuk.

When he invited RC students on stage to perform, it was a special moment for the audience. Cemre Necefbaş (L11) and Damla Su Özer (L9) successfully performed 'Hayaller' (Dreams), written by Koray Kavaklı (L12). RC Music teacher Deniz Baysal arranged the song and accompanied the students on the piano.

Selçuk's daughter, Mercan Selçuk Gümüş, joined the orchestra with her beautiful dancing. Selçuk called one of his students to perform on stage, which also delighted the audience.

Towards the end Selçuk showered the audience with his and his father's best known and loved songs. He was inundated in applause after "Yollarımız Burada Ayrılıyor", "Ekonomi Tıkırında", "İspanyol Meyhanesi" and "Kalamış".



# Debate Team Wins EurOpen Championship 2011

**D**ebate at RC is seeing a successful revival thanks to a generous endowment from Feyyaz Berker RC ENG 46 in 2008. In just three short years the RC debate team has gone from rookie to champion, beating 38 teams from 15 countries over 7 rounds to win the EurOpen 2011 Schools Debating Championship in Stuttgart on November 5-12. The team's thorough preparation, quick thinking and excellent argumentative skills helped them secure the title.

Kaan Ülgen (L-11), RC Debate Society Vice-President says, "The most difficult match we had was against the German national team in the octofinals. They had three excellent speakers and engaged our case really well. Their second speaker made a really good speech and was able to briefly shift the focus of the match in their favor. At that moment it seemed they were winning but a flawless 3rd Speaker speech from Şafak and then a strategically brilliant reply by Mert put the match back on track and secured the win for us. If we hadn't gained the advantage after that speech, the tournament could have ended for us much sooner than we anticipated."

**In the final, the team beat Alberta (Canada) 5-2, opposing the motion "This house believes that the pen is mightier than the sword". This is the first time Turkey has won an international debate championship.**

"My expectations of the team were high from the start," explains team advisor Emre Erkorkmaz, who accompanied the team to Stuttgart. "In previous tournaments they had been very successful. Every round brought a new level of excitement with it. Not only did I learn a lot from the team, I also admired their self-confidence and command of English. But I was most amazed by their capability to use humor as a method for

convincing. They were able to use humor to influence the jury, sway the audience to their side and leave their competition in a difficult position. Because of their presentation skills, general knowledge and passion, they really deserved winning this championship."

The winning Turkey A team members are Kaan Ülgen, Şafak Kılıç (L-11), Mert Zorlular (L-10) and Ayşenür Biçen (L-10). A second team from Turkey also competed, comprised of Eymir Yılmaz (L-10), Cansu Yavaşcaoğlu (L-10), Bala Tabak (L-10), Ege Sözgen (L-9) ve İlgin Nas (L-9). In addition, Şafak Kılıç was selected after the preliminaries as one of the top ten speakers in terms of command of the English language, general cultural knowledge and ability to convince the judges.

"We have done better and gotten further in competition with every international competition we have attended," adds RC Debate Society Advisor John Royce. "Each debate we have debated better; we listened to the judges' comments, and acted on them. So for the EurOpen in Stuttgart this November, we had high hopes, we had dreams. We made it, they did it!"

The Turkey A team, along with Cansu Yavaşcaoğlu, is also the Turkish National Team who will represent Turkey at the World Schools Debating Championship in January 2012 in Cape Town, South Africa. Kaan Ülgen is the National Team Captain.

In order to achieve this success the Turkish National Debate Team has been working with their coach, Engin Arıkan, for five hours each week since the beginning of the school year. "The RC debate team is an exemplary high school student club," says Arıkan. "It has a lot of support from the administration and functions well because the students are very responsible. All the members invest their time and effort, so the club has reached an important point in a very short time. The students are intelligent and mature - very important attributes for being successful in this field. I hope this club becomes a model for other clubs."

The RC debate team is also organizing the second annual Eurasian Schools Debating Championship at Robert College in July 2012.

For more information on the debate team visit their website, [www.rcdebate.com](http://www.rcdebate.com).



RC A and B Debate Teams with their advisor and Turkish literature teacher Emre Erkorkmaz



# Building a Lasting Peace

## RC Hosts Greek, Turkish and Cypriot Youth for Special Workshop

In July, Robert College hosted a unique group of Greek, Turkish and Cypriot youth as part of the 2011 WINPeace Conflict Resolution Camp. It was attended by 45 students.

WINPeace is an inspiring non-governmental initiative comprised of Greek, Turkish and Cypriot women to bring peace to their mutual societies. The camp was designed to foster skills like non-violent communication and mediation among youth from Greece, Turkey and Cyprus.

The program reflects the creativity and hands-on emphasis of all WINPeace workshops. Students first learned about the concepts of Collaborative Leadership and Win/Win via exercises like one based on the well-known story of the 'Blind Men and the Elephant'. Participants then reached a consensus on the Ground Rules for the workshop. The rest of the day was spent exploring the stereotypes of national identity - how their national group sees themselves, how they view the other, and how they would like to be viewed. In other sessions, participants were introduced to the work of Marshall Rosenberg and 'nonviolent communication', as well as a series of hands-on Human Rights activities. One activity, for example, involved the students' role-playing being in a space

ship that had crashed on a distant planet. They were put in situations in which they had to negotiate decisions - should they choose a leader for the sake of expediency [oxygen was running out] or should they all have a say? How should they share the food?

**After several role-playing exercises, they were finally asked to start working on real problems existing between Turkey, Greece and Cyprus.**

And on the last 2 days, they worked on producing a dance, a film or a new political system embodying the concepts of collaborative leadership and living together peacefully. These were presented at the closing ceremony and party.

Sponsors of this camp were Robert College, The Aydın Doğan Vakfı, The Greek Consulate of Istanbul, plus a trustee of Robert College, Erkuť Yücaoğlu RC Eng 69. The Friedrich Ebert Foundation sponsored the Cypriot delegation.

The students loved the experience - a Facebook group is very active and they are staying in touch.

"The activities and lessons were really



helpful for widening our perspectives on various issues. The activity where groups wrote about their communities and other people's opinions about them was the turning point of the camp as we had the chance to see the reality in different communities and not just what the media tells us...." (Mert Uzunoğlu, participant from Turkey)

"Winpeace 2011 was one of the most amazing and remarkable experiences I've had. Not necessarily because of the gorgeous city (Istanbul) that we were living in, but mostly because of the opportunity that we were given to spend a whole week with 40 teenagers working together, interacting with each other... All in all I believe this peace camp made us better people, taught us many values such as equality, collaborative leadership, empathy, etc, and made us gain a lot of new friends." (Lefkios, participant from Greek Cyprus).

"I believe that what WINpeace is really great at is proving to everyone that we all can live together as one and not as different nations without losing our individual identities on a national basis. ....We learned by doing. We created an environment where everyone could feel comfortable by listening to each others' needs and trying to answer those needs. With this atmosphere it was much easier to understand other people....This was a week that really changed my life in a very good way, and I am not just saying it, it literally did so." (T. Koray Yozgatlı, participant from Turkey)



Role-playing in the classroom

# Students Uncover the Past at Barcın Höyük

Throughout July and August a group of Robert College students worked for a week each on the prehistoric excavation of Barcın Höyük near Bursa. The objective of the excavation this year was to expand the current exposures and gain a better understanding of the Neolithic levels at the site. The archeology team found pottery which, using a new technique, may determine in a few months' time that dairy production in the area started earlier than previously believed. The students were taught excavation techniques as well as how to properly record and illustrate archeological deposits. The excavation team, which included retired RC teacher Diane Özbal, her husband, Hadi Özbal RA 63, their daughter and project co-director Rana Özbal Gerritsen RC 93 and project director Fokke Gerritsen, were so impressed with the productivity of the students that they've asked the same students to continue with the Archeology CIP and return to Barcın Höyük in 2012.

## Archeology CIP Journal Entry By Özdemir Vayisoğlu L12

When I was six I was haunted by an aspiration to become an archaeologist after visiting a site near my hometown, Adana, and this feeling of dedication intensified when I went to the prehistoric Barcın Höyük excavations this summer for my own archaeological field experience. I had grown up as a true orientalist, but when my trench supervisor handed me a trowel and said, "It is always better

to have your own trowel" I felt like an archaeologist for the first time.

On my first day in Barcın Höyük I was overwhelmed with euphoria when I found a small, yet shiny and well-worked piece of flint stone while cleaning trench L12.

**Touching an object after eight thousand years was the most amazing experience I had ever had. I was thrilled by the idea that I had just let it shine after being underground in darkness for eight millennia.**

Despite my unusual delight in the moment, I was disappointed when the supervisor simply told me to throw it into one of the buckets. Since we were cleaning the trench and the artifacts that we found were out of context, my shiny piece of flint did not have any scientific importance. Reluctantly I did what I was told. After all I was there to learn the methodology and, no matter how beautiful it seemed, a small, broken piece of flint whose exact location was not known would not contribute much to the scientific analysis of the time period.

After cleaning the whole trench, we started excavating in a more careful and systematic manner in the following days. I excavated a lot and rescued many other pieces of flint from their underground



Dr. Rana Özbal Gerritsen RC 93 using a total station to take topographic measurements at the site.

darkness. I was getting used to it, but my excitement was always as great as it was on the first day.

During the second week, I uncovered the top of a large piece of pottery in one of the Neolithic pits. We had found other shards but this one seemed to be larger in size and, more importantly, diagnostic in terms of its texture and decoration. In my usual excitement I was about to attempt to excavate around it and take it out. It was my chance - finally I might have found a piece to be sent to a museum! Again my supervisor had to stop me: In order to take such a large piece out, I was supposed to excavate the whole pit to the object's bottom depth; this was the archaeologically correct way. It took me four hours to expose this piece of pottery, but at the end the feeling of accomplishment was worth the effort. Archaeology required patience.

I should also admit that, despite the enjoyment, fieldwork was a tough experience for everyone. Some days my knees hurt, some days my back ached, but I didn't realize the physical pain while excavating. It was only me and the moment while picking and troweling the gray soil, and at these moments I was truly elated by the idea that I was getting closer to the past with every hit of the pick. It was like a time tunnel, and every artifact was like the light at the end of the tunnel.

Throughout my time in Barcın Höyük I was always eager to unearth new pieces, and each and every piece was a new story for me. Archaeology had been my childhood dream and this experience verified that I still want to make it come true. Even under the harshest conditions I knew that this was what I wanted to be doing for the rest of my life.



Özdemir Vayisoğlu L12 excavating a Byzantine grave.

# A Community Involvement Project (CIP) Opens Up New Frontiers for the Children of Artvin

By Tulu Derbi, RC Administrative Assistant

"I am aware of everything CIP is bringing to our lives and characters. It's not only educating us but training us for life. Actually this is exactly what makes RC what it is."  
Barişcan Göç, L9



As we were planning for the following summer's CIP projects, when I heard the twins, İbrahim and Engin Polat, mention Yusufeli it brought back good memories. We had visited Yusufeli in 2007 after finishing our first RKANEP CIP in Tirebolu and we all fell in love with the place. Ever since then, I dreamt of having a project there.

Yusufeli is the only area in the Black Sea region that has the climatic characteristics of the Mediterranean. Kılıçkaya, the site of our project, is a small district of Yusufeli, a long, tough 40-minute bus ride away. The roads are crooked and full of steep cliffs. However, the small village is worth every minute of the journey. The Polat twins' grandparents are from Kılıçkaya and everybody that we met there was somehow related to them.

The number of students that showed interest in the project was more than a single advisor could handle, so I was happy when Selin Şen, the Lise Prep counselor, agreed to join us.

**The journey to Yusufeli was almost three hours long, but when we finally got there, it was the quietest and calmest place on earth!**

People were friendly and the whole village felt like home. We got to work right away, we found our students and the next morning at 9 a.m. we were up and running. Our students were already there. We had our five stations set up and our curriculums were ready, but we were not ready for 3-year-olds! Our curriculum

was planned for 6, 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, whereas we had students from the age of 3 onwards. Our students managed this variety really well and shared responsibility excellently among them.

The days went smoothly and the evenings were filled with nice experiences. Each night we were invited to a different villager's home to have tea. In Kılıçkaya, we all learned how giving and hospitable the locals were, how easy, and demanding at the same time, their life is, and how different it is to live in a small town compared to the hectic city we live in. All in all, it was a memorable week for all of us.

"Popular culture, a gift to us from globalization, makes us blind to anything that's not right in front of our eyes.



"As youth we think that life is just about sitting at Starbucks, eating burgers at McDonald's or playing with our i-Phones. The only way to see that this is not the real world is to actually see the world."

That's why it was so valuable, my first step towards Erzurum Airport, my first step towards life."

"The project freed us from our selfishness. It taught us team work, and that the world is not just about us. For most of us it was

a first to do something for somebody other than ourselves. We had to wake up really early in the morning, we stayed in dormitories with mice, we had to use a-la-turca toilets, and we paid from our own pockets for supplies to play with the kids. The kids were used to living like this but they were all new experiences for us and we started questioning our materialism."

**Barışcan Göç, L9**

"What I realized during this project is the beauty of doing something for someone, and feeling that you have actually added to their lives. It's heartwarming."

**Atakan Baltacı, L9**

"After a tiring day, seeing the smiles on the children's faces and hearing them say, so full of joy, 'see you tomorrow' made us forget the fatigue and understand what our project means for them."

"I feel like the project taught me more than what I've learned my entire life. It was as if I was the one to get education from them, not the other way around. I was introduced to life. The most important thing I learned is that even a small difference you make in people's lives is priceless."

**Gamze Büşra Kaya, L10**

"We are lucky kids here. So lucky that we forget there are kids out there who don't have access to the supplies for education like we do. This is what comes to my mind when I think about The Artvin Project - seeing different living conditions."

**Merve Patat, L10**

"The rainbow forms when seven different colors come together. The seven different colors were reflected in this project. Tolerance, love, respect...together they formed the rainbow."

**Tayis Arslan, L10**



# RC in New York

## Graduates Climb to the Top (of Kilimanjaro)

By Müge Mengü Hale RC 92

Childhood friends, fellow RC graduates and New York professionals Selin Akatlı RC 04, Şirin Neyzi RC 03 and Ayşe Sabuncu RC 04 feel very lucky for what life has offered them, and to show their gratitude, they undertook an incredible challenge to help underprivileged Turkish youth.

Having joined many organized sports activities in New York for charity, it was Selin who came up with the idea: Why not attempt to climb Mount Kilimanjaro and dedicate this activity to supporting Turkish youth?

"None of us are professional athletes or mountain climbers, but we thought this climb would be a once in a lifetime experience for us and also a great opportunity to combine fundraising with a sports activity." says Şirin.

With like-minded Turkish friends around the globe, they formed an 8-person team in December 2010 and immediately started organizing the climb. They called their team Hakuna Matata, which means "no worries" in Swahili. This August, the Hakuna Matata team climbed up Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, the highest mountain in Africa, in 7 days and in doing so they managed to raise 35,000 TL through Adım Adım Organization for the "Gençlere Değer" project of Toplum Gönüllüleri Vakfı (TOG) in Turkey.

They say their Robert College background made it easier for them to undertake this challenge. "In Robert College, we learn to set goals and work towards achieving them at an early age. It was only natural that we undertook this challenge, and we are so happy that we dedicated our climb to a cause that we all personally care about," says Ayşe.

The team is a pioneer in Turkey, where the concept of young people setting out to accomplish such a challenging goal for charity is new. "As a young amateur





Selin Akatlı RC 04 and Ayşe Sabuncu RC 04 group of women, this was a great experience to say, yes, we were able to do it!" says Selin. Moreover, the team had no sponsors. In order to raise funds, they used mostly personal contacts and social media to spread the word. Their effort was hailed by Yonca Tokbaş of Hürriyet, among others, and the group raised their targeted amount of money before the trip.

### Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa is a more welcoming challenge and less dangerous for amateur hikers since it is not considered a technical climb.

Before the trip, the team prepped to handle the conditions of high altitude, and they continued to exercise to stay fit to confront the 7-day struggle ahead. Every day they dealt with cold, sunburn, and nausea from the high altitude mountain conditions but they never lost their spirit. It was friendship, perseverance, resilience and optimism that kept them going. "The last 6 hours were the most difficult" says Ayşe. The team left their last camp in the middle of the night to climb to the summit at 5,985 meters. Walking in endless layers of clothes in the chilling and oxygen-less cold, there was a moment they could not sing—or speak—any more, but were left with their own thoughts. At this point,



they were flabbergasted by the beauty of nature. Kilimanjaro's famous glaciers have significantly melted, but it was an amazing experience to be guided to the top with millions of stars in the sky. "We were lightheaded, shivering, had headaches and nausea, any of us could have fallen at any moment," says Ayşe. "There were times I thought I can't walk any further. It becomes a struggle with your own ego," says Selin. Step by step they continued their climb, reminding themselves of their cause, that many young people are struggling to meet a different kind of challenge. After a while, the sky broke and a new dawn brought them to the top. The team was in tears with happiness and joy, experiencing the biggest emotional and physical relief of their lives. "It was our cause, and our trust in each other that made us climb to the top," they say.

Hakuna Matata hiked for Adım Adım/Step by Step through the support of Toplum Gönüllüleri Vakfı (TOG)'s Gençlere Değer (Valuing Young People) initiative. Adım Adım is a young organization, founded by college students and young professionals dedicated to empowering Turkish youth. TOG was founded by another concerned RC graduate, İbrahim Betil RA 64.

"What attracted us the most to this organization is the need to raise awareness and funds for students who were not as lucky as the eight of us.

The funds will assist young adults with financial aid and will enable them to be active outside of the classroom through extracurricular activities," the team says. "Through this cause, we hope to help cultivate young people who have a better understanding of what being a citizen of the world means, which we have learned to appreciate during our time living outside of Turkey."

Read more about Adım Adım at [www.adimadim.org](http://www.adimadim.org)

**M**üge Mengü Hale RC 92, is a freelance writer based in New York and author of the popular weekly *New York'ta Ne Var Ne Yok* section in Referans newspaper. She can be reached at: [muge.mengu@gmail.com](mailto:muge.mengu@gmail.com) [www.muge.weebly.com](http://www.muge.weebly.com)



## Nature Calls for Artist Tomur Atagök ACG 59

The artist Tomur Atagök recently held a solo exhibition titled "Doğanın Çağrısı" (Nature's Call) at Kare Art Gallery in Istanbul. Curated by Denizhan Özer, the exhibition was a collection of work produced in the past few years and consisted of statues, paintings and installations. Atagök has been living close to nature in recent years and her work reflects her feelings about and interactions with the elements.



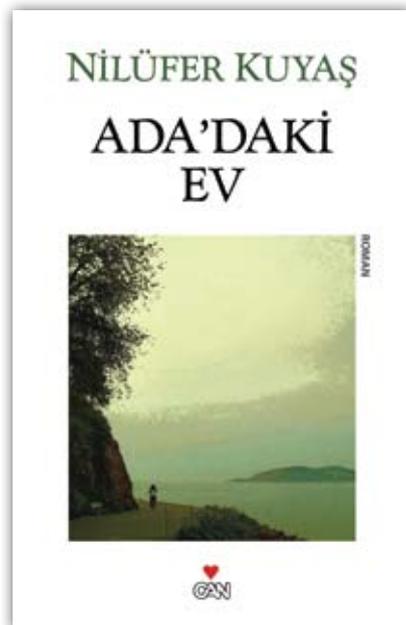
Tomur Atagök ACG 59

The Istanbul-born artist graduated from Robert College and received her BFA and MA in the USA. After attending Oklahoma State University and the University of California, Berkeley she returned to Turkey in 1973. While working on her post-graduate thesis, she became an assistant director at the Museum of Painting and Sculpture at the Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University between 1980-1984. She transferred to Yıldız Technical University as the director of Culture and Public Relations. She became a professor in 1993. She headed the founding of the Faculty of Arts and Design in 1997 and was assigned to be dean of the faculty between 2004 and 2006. Atagök has held 40 one-person exhibitions in USA, Holland and the Balkans and participated in both international and national group exhibitions as well as curating exhibitions and organizing projects. She also writes and lectures on art and museology.



She is the receipt of numerous awards. Her works are in the collections of the Turkish Parliament, Istanbul Modern, Elgiz Museum, Merkez Bank, Garanti Bank, Bank of Holland, Anatolian University Art Museum, Devrim Erbil Art Museum, Jordan National Gallery, Prilep, Kriva Palanka, Galicnik City Collections of the Republic of Macedonia.

## Nilüfer Kuyaş RC 73 Publishes Second Novel



Following on from her fiction debut *Yeni Baştan* in 2007, Nilüfer Kuyaş's second novel *Ada'daki Ev* was recently published by Can Yayınları. The book's protagonist is a woman who, after a tumultuous love affair, decides to leave Turkey and start some place anew. As she waits for the paperwork to be completed, she spends her time on a remote island, where she is confronted by uninvited ghosts from the past.



Nilüfer Kuyaş RC 73

Kuyaş studied philosophy at Wellesley College and has a Masters in Social Psychology from Boğaziçi University. She worked as a radio producer and presenter at the BBC in London. She has written for the newspapers Sabah, Milliyet and Taraf. Her first book, *Başka Hayatlar*, won the Memet Fuat Essay Award in 2004 and was followed by a novel, *Yeni Baştan*, in 2007.



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## Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 Launches New Health Channel

TV is the medium, as far as media maven Nuri M. Çolakoğlu is concerned. The creator of Turkey's first dedicated news station NTV as well as others such as Show TV and CNBC-e, Çolakoğlu's latest project is HTV, a new channel dedicated entirely to health which went on air in October.

"Health is one of the few issues which concerns everybody," says Çolakoğlu. "This is true for Turkey, and for the rest of the world. For this reason we sought to create a TV channel which is trustworthy, reliable, a purveyor of accurate information and speaks to the whole of society."

"HTV is aiming for the general public, health practitioners, pharmacists, medical students... in short, everyone," he says. Program topics range from pregnancy, child development, nutrition, and personal care, to psychology, the environment, well-being and pets. The



channel's philosophy is to help develop a sense of health consciousness among the public. Daytime programming consists of studio shows featuring health professionals as well as programming about health policies. Evenings will feature documentaries from the BBC and Discovery concerning health and medical issues and exploring new technologies. Medical dramas such as ER will also find an audience here. Every evening will also feature films based on health issues, or featuring doctors/nurses that will be followed by a discussion to explore the medical issues taken up in that film.

"Although we do include a lot of top quality, diverse content from abroad, our research shows that this channel is the first of its kind in the world," says Çolakoğlu. He hopes the format will eventually be transferable to other countries in the Middle East, India or China.

The HTV team includes two members of the RC 83 class; Serra Soysal and Yusuf Gökçek. Yusuf Gökçek, CEO of ABC Medya is in charge of marketing the channel's advertising. Serra Soysal, who had previously worked with Çolakoğlu during the launch of Show TV, is in charge of foreign acquisitions and planning. They are eager to host doctors who are RC alumni on their shows and also to receive feedback on HTV programming.

HTV is on digital platforms Digiturk and D Smart and can also be received via satellite dish.

## Getting to Know Gündüz Vassaf RA 64

Psychologist, author and social commentator, Gündüz Vassaf is a man of many and varied talents. Readers of his weekly columns in Radikal newspaper will be familiar with his insatiable curiosity and unique perspective on the times we live in. A treat for his fans, *Gündüz Feneri*, newly published by Alfa Yayınları, collects a series of interviews with Vassaf held by journalist Kürşad Oğuz. It amounts to both biography and meaty conversation rolled into one. 'Gündüz Vassaf is one of the most interesting personalities I know,' says critic Cem Erciyes. 'You will want to dip into this book again and again.'

True to form, Vassaf discusses -and dissects- historic events such as 1968 or the coup of 1980, both of which he experienced closehand, as well as a range of current issues like Fethullah Gülen, the CHP, Wikileaks and the Arab Spring.

The book also covers key episodes from Vassaf's life, including the following excerpt about his time at RC.

**In 1963, you arrived in Istanbul on a boat from the US and showed up at Robert College.**

We arrived at the school. The Turkish director said "You can't go into the final year because you have courses missing." I kicked up a storm. "OK" I said, "I came here from the US. Just pay my travel fare and I'll go back there." The American director overheard the conversation and that's how they allowed me in.

**It was a totally different world.** Totally. Smoking was permitted. At boarding school in the US, you got thrown out if you got caught smoking. Very quickly, I grew up. On the weekends, we would go to nightclubs (pavyon).

**Why?** It was a boys school, how would we get to know girls? I was a boarder. The ladies in the nightclubs in Beyoğlu liked us. We were Robert College students, well-behaved young boys. As long as they weren't being required by a more heavyweight customer, they would sit with us. We became friends. She would rub her leg against yours, squeeze your



Gündüz Vassaf RA 64

cheek, you would somehow feel her breast. It was pleasant. Just like being a grown man.

## A Beard for a Cause

### İbrahim Betil RA 64 Calls for Speedier Justice

İbrahim Betil is known for many qualities, chief among them as a talented banker and a pioneering philanthropist. But one thing he isn't known for is...a beard! After more than three decades of being clean-shaven, Betil is growing his beard to draw attention to a cause: legal reform.

"People are used to seeing me carefully shaven," Betil told Milliyet newspaper in a recent interview. "So when they see me with a beard, they stop and ask what's going on. That's when I give them a card and tell them what it's all about."

The goal is to raise awareness of Betil's campaign to reform Turkey's notoriously slow legal system under which detention periods and trials can drag on for months. "I don't represent a particular ideology. I just believe in a fairer justice system that honors people and human rights," he said.

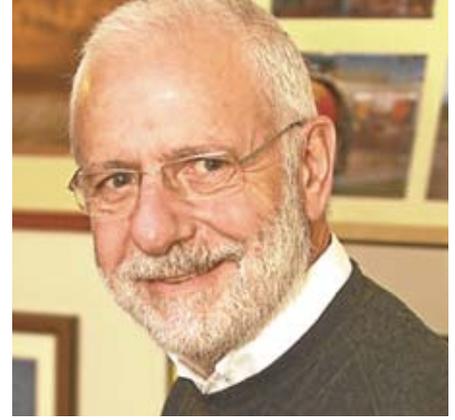
The cards Betil distributes list four demands: Limit detention periods to 90 days. Shorten trial periods. Address the shortage of judges and prosecutors. Increase the budget of the Justice Ministry. The beard, Betil says, gets attention. In three months he has handed

out more than 300 cards. The idea began as a page on Facebook called 'Yargıda Reform' (Justice Reform). It now has more than 3,000 followers - from judges, lawyers and prosecutors to students and young people. There is also an active Twitter account by the same name. The intention, says Betil, is to create a non-governmental demand for change.

"People ask me why I am doing this. I say, it's my job. Just like fixing the education system, empowering young people or helping to end pressure on women... People might say 'You have so many issues', and I do!"

Betil is certain that the Justice Minister will respond favorably to this initiative. "The process has started, that's what counts. It might take a month or a year for results, that I don't know. But we will follow it up."

In 2010, Betil's Toplum Gönülleri (Social Volunteers) foundation carried out 795 projects. They raised approximately 7 million TL for these. Betil's latest project called "12 Architects, 12 Homes" was devised together with Mustafa Taviloğlu, the founder of Mudo. Twelve apartments



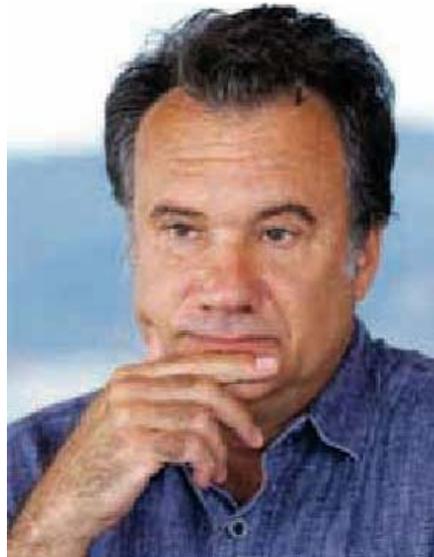
İbrahim Betil RA 64

in the new Trump Towers were handed to 12 famous people to design together with 12 architects. The resulting flats were then opened to the public and ticket proceeds were for education for children who work on the streets in Ankara and İzmir.

"I like perfectionism," Betil told Milliyet. "Negativity or imbalances disturb me. I might make a lot of money but if there is someone in my neighborhood who can't pay for university, I can't sleep at night. You can call it a psychological disturbance, or just extra sensitivity."

## New Book by Historian Cemal Kafadar RC 73

One of Turkey's best-known Ottoman historians, Cemal Kafadar recently published *Kim Varmış Biz Burada Yoğ İken*, a collection of essays based around four personalities from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. One is a janissary called Mustafa, the second a dervish called Seyyid Hasan, the third Ayaşlı Hüseyin Çelebi, a merchant who dies in Venice, and the fourth, Üsküplü Asiye Hatun, who religiously records her dreams to send to her sheikh. The essays draw on empirical material Kafadar found in archives and manuscripts, but they deal also with issues of paradigm and philosophy. This is the kind of book that asks us to cast aside preconceptions about Ottoman history and think again. Kafadar was recently given a Presidential



Cemal Kafadar RC 73

Grand Award in Culture and Arts by President Abdullah Gül for his contributions to history. He is Harvard University's Vehbi Koç Professor of Turkish Studies.

Born in Istanbul in 1954, Kafadar received his doctorate at McGill University's Institute of Islamic Studies. He was a faculty member at Princeton University from 1985 to 1989 and has been a faculty member at the Department of History of Harvard University since 1990.

## There's a Man in the Kitchen

Veteran journalist Deniz Alphan ACG 67 has a flair for food writing that combines a passion for tasty dishes with interesting social and cultural commentary. Following on from *Dina'nın Mutfağı*, a collection of Sephardic Jewish recipes Alphan learnt from her mother, in *Mutfakta Erkek Var!* she visited the homes of 28 well-known Turkish men who also love to cook. Her varied and colorful guests include journalist İsmet Berkan, actor Ali Poyrazoğlu, academic and commentator Murat Belge, director Ferzan Özpetek and orchestra chef Cem Mansur. Their conversations are always entertaining, while the beautifully photographed food is deliciously inviting.

'When men go into the kitchen, it's generally because they want to,' says Alphan. 'It's not a chore, as it can be for many women who have to cook every day to feed the family. That's why a man genuinely takes a lot of pleasure in it.'



Deniz Alphan ACG 67

Most of the men she interviewed say they cook to relax, for the people they love, or to recreate a meal they enjoyed as kids.

The dishes range from classic fare like Mehmet Barlas *kıymalı yumurta* (eggs with minced meat) to the more inventive, like Murat Belge's shrimp and avocado *meze*. On the more complicated side,

Koray Malhan prepared his own pastry and then stuffed it with eggs and fish, while Ali Poyrazoğlu cooked fragrant celeriac with mustard seeds, pears and a little alcohol. 'They were all delicious,' says Alphan.

The book was published by Boyut Yayınları and is available in all bookstores.

## Orhan Pamuk RA 70 on the Art of Writing

Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk's latest book *Saf ve Düşünceli Romancı* (The Naive and Sentimental Novelist) is a collection of six essays on the art of novel writing distilled from a set of lectures Pamuk gave at Harvard University in 2009. Pamuk fans familiar with the author's previous excursions into non-fiction like *Istanbul and Other Colors*, will find much to savor in this latest volume. As its title suggests, it is a book about the processes of literature and about the *modus operandi* of the novelist. "Being a novelist," says Pamuk, "is the art of being both naive and reflective at the same time".

"The strength of a novel comes from its being both lived and imaginary," Pamuk said in a recent interview. "Some details can only be known through experience. That's why the reader is justified in asking me whether or not I had a love affair similar to Kemal in *The Museum of Innocence*. Even if I have experienced something similar, I have a world of imagination and that is where I filter these experiences."



Orhan Pamuk RA 70

"Many aspects of a writer's feelings, personality and sensitivity go into a novel. The skill is to be able to write about yourself and that which is not yourself

in a realistic fashion. To be able to write, one must know oneself and the darkness inside. Literature is like a veiled giant confession. For this reason I set up a world which is similar to mine, populated by people who are like me, but then I also try and remove myself from that world and see it from other people's eyes."

"Winning the Nobel", Pamuk says, "is a huge responsibility." On the other hand, it has brought him tremendous international exposure. "When I won the Nobel my books had been translated into 46 languages. Now they have been translated into 60. They've sold 11 million copies worldwide. It helped me become better known and increased the world's interest and curiosity."

Pamuk's *The Museum of Innocence* was published in English last year. The novelist is currently teaching at Columbia University, where he is also working on a new novel.

## Nursuna Memecan RC 75 Chosen Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly Council of Europe

In October Nursuna Memecan was elected Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly Council of Europe (PACE), becoming one of only two high-level Turks there, along with Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, current PACE President. She is also the Chairperson of the Turkish delegation to PACE. These two roles give her responsibility in the bureau and in the standing committee - two important areas where many decisions are made about the agenda of the assembly, reports are distributed to committees and relations with other international bodies are maintained.



Nursuna Memecan RC 75

Turks' decision-making positions at PACE is a big opportunity to highlight topics that are important to Turkey. "The urgent issue is about the financial crisis in Europe," says Memecan. "I am in a position to share the precautions that Turkey took and the financial system we established almost a decade ago. We have a more resilient economy that has been able to withstand recent economic turmoil, including a growth rate of 8-9%, while others are suffering because of the financial crisis; banks are being saved by the state and democratically elected governments are being replaced by appointed governments. It's important for the Council of Europe (CoE) to hear about Turkey's way of dealing with financial crises and our fiscal discipline,

so members don't face the same consequences as other countries."

Rising nationalism in many European countries is being fueled by economic struggles, which affects the Turkish populations in these countries. "They have a misconception about migrants and Islam," says Memecan. "Through the formal debate structure of the CoE and personal networking, the Turkish delegation takes every opportunity to explain Turks' views so we can erase fears and the perceived threat from migrants and Muslims, while helping European politicians better understand their constituents. It works in a way, slowly, but

it seems to be working." Through formal and informal dialogue, they have also been sharing Turkey's efforts to empower rural women and integrate Romani people into the mainstream populations.

PACE represents 800 million people in 47 countries, and member states are required to adhere to decisions that are made in the Parliament. Morocco and Palestine were recently given "Partner for democracy" status, and here Turkey has another opportunity to share its experiences.

Memecan has been a PACE assembly member since 2008 and is currently the Vice Chairperson for the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE). She also serves on several committees and sub-committees including the sub-committees on population, the Middle East and violence against women, the latter of which she is Vice-Chairperson. She has previously served on the Committee for Migration, Refugees and Population, the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, and the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs.

Nursuna Memecan was also re-elected as an MP for the Justice and Development Party (AKP) in June.

## Şule Kut RC 75 Named Head of Okan University

Şule Kut became rector of Okan University, a private institution in Istanbul, last September. The university, which opened eight years ago, has a total of 6,500 students in 130 departments and likes to call itself "the university closest to business life".

This is because Okan strives to combine theory and practice by focusing on practice-oriented studies which prepare students for business life. Kut also emphasizes drawing in international students. "In a global world, it is not possible to remain limited to only domestic students," she said recently. "Turkey is a

player in its own region. But we have yet to create the appeal and attraction that would draw international students," she says. Kut says that the university provides Eurasia, European Union and neighborhood scholarships. The goal is to create a United Nations environment by giving a scholarship opportunity to one student from every country in the world. About 80% of the students in Okan University are on scholarships.

Previously, Kut was the head of the department of International Relations at the Istanbul Bilgi University. From 2005 on she was the Dean of the Faculty of

Economics and Administrative Sciences there; from 1999-2005 she was Vice-Rector of the University. She holds double B.A. degrees in Political Science and International Relations and Business Administration from Boğaziçi University, and masters and PhD degrees from the State University of New York at Binghamton.

She is also the author of several books on Turkey's foreign policy, the Balkans and Central Asia.

## İsmail Ertürk RC 77

### Explores the Discreet Charm of Meta-finance

About a year ago İsmail Ertürk, a senior lecturer at Manchester Business School, was approached by two Swedish contemporary artists to collaborate with them on a project entitled "The Nordenskiöld Model" which explores "the complex relationships between models, speculation and reality". "As part of this artistic exploration Goldin+Senneby are interested in how mathematical models in modern finance shape the derivative markets and create speculative bubbles. At the centre of such activities are hedge funds that have been heavily criticized for causing and benefiting from the recent financial crises," says Ertürk.

Ertürk is co-author of an academic article where he used philosophers Deleuze and Guattary's concept of "nomadic war machine" to explain hedge fund behavior. This view of modern finance is further investigated in a new book

that he co-authored entitled *After the Great Complacence* published by Oxford University Press. "Unlike mainstream economics I study present day capitalism from an interdisciplinary perspective called cultural economy. I entitled my current work on finance meta-finance and argue that in present-day capitalism banking no longer works for real economy but works for itself-it is self referential meta-finance of synthetic derivatives," says Ertürk. He explains this model with references to modernist literature and cinema and quotes from the works of the French poet Mallarme and the Spanish surrealist film director Buñuel. The latter artist is especially important, says Ertürk, because his criticism of the moral decay of elites is very relevant today where bankers continue to receive huge bonuses when the global economy continues to seriously suffer from the consequences of their actions.



Goldin+Senneby, with assistance from playwright Pamela Carter, turned Ertürk's ideas on meta-finance into a performance by using a theatrical device called model-box at the *End of Money* exhibition that was curated by Juan a Gaitán at Rotterdam's Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art in April 2011.

## Two RC Graduates Sworn in as First-time Deputies

First-time MP for the Republican People's Party (CHP), Sedef Küçük RC 77 was motivated by the legacy of a politically-inclined grandfather. Her grandfather, İhsan Şerif Gönen, was a three-term MP for the Demokrat Parti. Küçük left her post as director at family-run Elit Çikolata, one of Turkey's oldest chocolate and candy makers, to run for parliament. "I was attracted to politics

because of the 'new CHP'," she says. "There is a new leadership and vision at CHP." She began working with the CHP's 'halk evleri' (grassroots organisation) a year ago and was mentored by a senior CHP representative, Gürsel Tekin. Küçük is now an MP for Istanbul. She is married to Tanıl Küçük, head of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce.

An anthropology professor, Aykan Erdemir RC 92 was elected MP for the first time, representing Bursa for the CHP. Well known as an advocate for Alevi rights, Erdemir graduated from Bilkent University in International Relations and holds an MA and PhD from Harvard University in anthropology. He was previously a professor at ODTÜ.



Sedef Küçük RC 77



Aykan Erdemir RC 92

## The Magic of Tall Ships

By Dr. Nadire Berker RC 83

To mention the sea or a sailing ship always sends a pleasant wave of vibration through the soul of humanity. Tall ships wink at us, as if by magic, from the pages of a book, the back of a shirt, a painting on a restaurant wall or a trinket in a living room as if to soothe our soul's longing for freedom. Humans identify the sailing ship with freedom and adventure, and sometimes consciously, but most often impulsively, want to see the beauty and the aesthetics of these ships around us. That's why we decorate table cloths, paintings and even baby clothing with images of tall ships and the sea.

For many years, we too had pictures of tall ships around us at home and in the hospital. As we watched the famous Indonesian ship, Dewaruci, that seemed to sail towards us out of the picture hanging over our study, we languidly contemplated the idea of writing a book to commemorate sailing ships and introduce their stories to our readers. Events unfolded fast as we learned that a fleet of tall ships would be visiting Istanbul for the first time in their history in May 2010. Our adventure had begun. A fleet of eight ships would be sailing a race from Volos in Greece towards Istanbul through the Dardanelles, sail through the Bosphorus towards Varna in Bulgaria and then back to Istanbul for a three day visit. What a sailing feast this promised to be! We simply had to write this tall ship book in celebration of this great event as the ships that we dreamed of were sailing towards our beautiful city.

Selim, my orthopedic surgeon husband, and I had written eight books together, most of them concerning the diseases and treatment of disabled children, and one on the foundation of modern medicine and physical medicine in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey.

Our articles on sailing, rowing and life on the sea were published in various Turkish sailing magazines. We had sailed in many different craft in different places around the globe, befriended many interesting

friends of various ages and nations, and learned so much from conversations lasting into many a night.

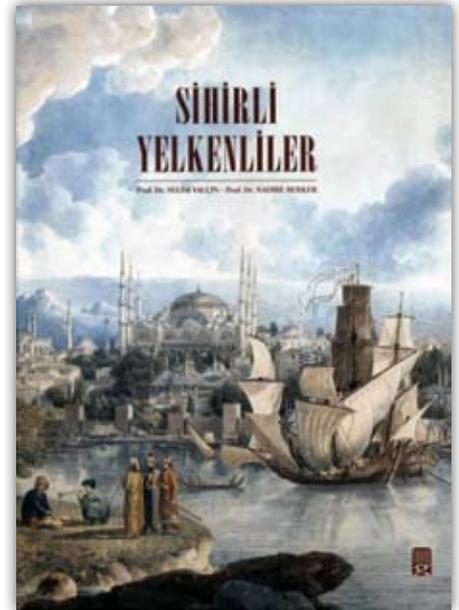
The books we had read about the sea, ships and sailing for close to 40 years were still fresh in our memories. Most importantly, Selim, who spent most of his childhood and early adulthood as a rower, a professional fisherman and later as the skipper of the famous little wooden sloop Forsa on the Bosphorus, was very keen on dedicating this book to all the people who introduced him to the wonderful life of the sea. His enthusiasm was infectious and I was hooked.

**Tall ships, the heroes of our book, have carried millions of people, and countless cargoes all over the oceans of the world.**



Nadire Berker RC 83

They have fought in great battles, reshaping the history of the world many times. They were key to the development of human civilization as they raced dauntlessly towards uncharted waters. Thanks to the sailing ship, man was able to conquer lands over the horizon, carry gold, silver and spice to the old world, introduce cacao, tomato, potato, eggplant and a lot of other vegetables to Europe, link different cultures and understand the



world around him. For many centuries, a sailing ship meant news from far away lands and signified freedom, adventure and the promise of a new life. In their time, these ships were even more important for humanity than the space-bound rockets of today.

We entitled the book *Magical Sailing Ships* and began with the story of man's 6,000-year adventure on the sea. Egypt, ancient Greece, ancient Rome, the Arabs, Europeans all had a place in this story. We wrote of the love affair between man and sailing ship, not forgetting the formidable men and women who sailed bravely across difficult waters under tough conditions in search of adventure, glory, gold or new beginnings. We included classical maritime books, poems, and works of art about the sea that we also adore. In an attempt to describe what it felt like to go on a tall ship sailing adventure, we included personal accounts of international and Turkish youngsters who sailed on tall ships. We would like to thank all the captains, mates and sailors, men and women, who dedicated and sometimes even lost their lives to create and sail these glorious sailing ships, bequeathing us with a great legacy. We stand in awe of them all, and hope you will enjoy their stories as much as we enjoyed sharing them with you.

*Sihirli Yelkenliler*, is published by Boyut Yayınları and available at bookstores.

## Cem Akaş RC 86 Pens Children's Book about Bumba the Giraffe

Inspired by stories he told his young son, novelist Cem Akaş has written a book for children, *Bumba Dağın Arkasını Merak Ediyor* (loosely translated as *Bumba Wonders What's on the Other Side of the Mountain*), accompanied by drawings by Reha Barış.

The giraffe Bumba is a cute youngster who lives with her family in Africa. Ever curious, one day Bumba spots a mountain in the distance and wonders what lies on the other side. It turns out there is an endless ocean with a city on its shores. At the harbor, Bumba meets a sea-faring monkey and eventually ends up boarding his boat to Australia as a lookout. But her lack of knowledge means she confuses whales with islands and migrating grasshoppers

with a storm. In Australia Bumba hangs out with the kangaroo Marko and meets the fish Alba. The three attend a show and when the ostrich in charge sees Bumba dance, she gets offered a job and thus becomes a star. The show eventually makes its way to Turkey and Bumba decides to study at the opera and dance academy there. And that's where the story ends; with the happy promise of more adventures to come.

This is a story that is just as much for parents as it is for children. Bumba's resourcefulness and determination are inspiring and each step of her journey will surprise and elicit a smile.



## Bloomberg's Yalman Onaran RC 87 Warns of Zombie Banks

Yalman Onaran first encountered "zombie banks" when he was the Istanbul bureau chief of Bloomberg News. The Turkish government was aware that a dozen banks were bankrupt but were looking the other way so as not to panic markets. Onaran's exposé of the situation in 1999 got the name of Bloomberg News on the pages of Turkish newspapers and almost put him in jail - angry government officials threatened to

charge him under rarely used laws against defaming the banking system. He survived that better than the economy minister who had threatened him: the minister ended up resigning in disgrace soon after while Onaran expanded the Bloomberg office in Turkey over the next six years.

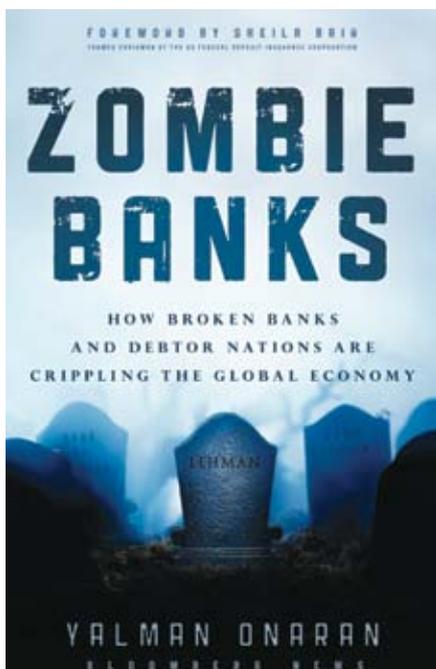
Onaran does it again 12 years later with his book titled *Zombie Banks* (Wiley, 2011). This time it's about banks in the European Union and the United States. These institutions were rescued by their governments during the 2008 crisis and are being kept "alive" with low interest rates and regulators turning a blind eye to hidden losses. The book looks at previous examples of such bank propping (e.g. Japan in the 1990s) and shows how the end result is a longer period of misery for the public and bigger costs for the taxpayer. *Zombie Banks* warns that unless politicians change course soon, the current situation will cost the world a "lost decade" like Japan's as weakened banks and the overhanging debt in the West fester.

Onaran moved to New York in 2006 and started covering investment banks on Wall Street. He was specifically assigned Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers -- the first two to fall in 2008 as the harbingers of the global financial crisis. What he discovered while covering those behemoths' collapse



Yalman Onaran RC 87

was that nobody in either firm, nor the banking regulators, knew the full extent of the risk those institutions had taken. The banks were too big and too complicated to run. That revelation kept repeating itself as Onaran wrote about the aftermath of the crisis. He decided to write the book in an effort to provide a complete picture to the public about what really goes on inside banks, how their troubles are all connected and why they result in the daily difficulties people face today, such as higher unemployment and rising oil prices. *Zombie Banks* is for the lay person who has no financial background but is curious to understand these links.



## Design A La Turca

### An Exhibition of Turkish Culture, with a Creative Approach

led by creative director Ayşe Bali RC 87, the team at Rafineri Advertising Agency recently caused quite a stir on the Istanbul art scene with an inspired, witty and humorous exhibition that brought a fresh and edgy approach to iconic Turkish objects, cultural artifacts and popular beliefs. A portable wood tablet for the superstitious; Starbucks mugs inspired by Turkish tea glasses; a double-sided yoga mat that also serves as a prayer rug; boomerang shaped slippers for angry Turkish mothers who are inclined to use their slippers to fling at their children; or a pack of dice allowing you to pen your own pop tune were among the most inspired of A la Turca objects.

"Design a la Turca (Tasarım Alaturka) combines 'design', a western dominated area, with authentic elements," says Bali.



The exhibition's objective was to utilize cultural ingredients and recreate them with a pinch of creativity and humor, turning them into everyday objects.

The idea was initially part of a project for MediaCat magazine, says Bali. It issues a design supplement every 3 months and works with a different ad agency for each issue. As creative director of the ad agency, Bali took on the role of editor in chief. As long as she kept to the main theme of design, she was free to decide on the topics and content of that issue.

"The project is a marvelous form of release for ad agencies who dedicate all their creativity to brands," says Bali. "After deciding on the main topic, we created a core team and found tons of content ideas. And we came to the idea of physically building objects inspired by 'a la turca' material and forming the magazine's content out of those. This is how the project came to life. The magazine was liked so much that we then decided to exhibit our handcrafted, one of a kind objects."

Most of the items were available for sale during the exhibition in Istanbul in May, and all the profit from the sale went to the Sulukule Women's Foundation, which supported the handmade Orhan Gencebay (one of the most iconic singer/song-writer of arabesque culture) t-shirts, also on display at the exhibition.



To see more, visit [www.tasarimalaturka.com](http://www.tasarimalaturka.com) or [www.rafineri.net](http://www.rafineri.net).



Ayşe Bali RC 87

## Refika Birgül's RC 98 Cookbook at the New York MoMA

Refika Birgül's popular cookbook featured in the RCQ issue no 38 *Refika'nın Mutfağı / Cooking New Istanbul Style* was the only book chosen by New York's prestigious MoMA to be featured as part of their recent 'Destination Istanbul' focus.

Once a year, the Museum of Modern Art features a series entitled Destination: Design during which it showcases cutting edge design from a particular city. This year's focus was on Istanbul. More than 100 products by Turkish designers were shown at the MoMA for two months, and their products were sold in MoMA stores in New York and Tokyo.



Refika Birgül RC 98

Fans of Birgül's innovative and creative take on Turkish cooking are fast increasing. In addition to writing a weekly column for *Hürriyet* newspaper, the young chef has also launched a weekly TV show.

In addition, she and her team organize popular workshops on topics like making your own salça, or growing your own garden herbs.

For more information, visit [www.refikaninmutfagi.com](http://www.refikaninmutfagi.com)



Ardanur Şengöz and Ercan Şen recreate an iconic pose from the RCQ cover 20 years earlier

## Girl Met Boy

Looking back at the historic 1971 merger which established today's co-educational College on its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary

It is probably testament to the success of the historic 1971 merger that melded students from the Robert College Yüksek and the American College for Girls into a single body that its heirs have a hard time even imagining single-sex education.

"I can't even think of a school without boys," declares Pınar Ziyadanoğlu, a Lise 12 student. "No Forumball, no Bubbles to play football (well, there are some girls interested in this sport but even they would get bored of it in a school without boys), no one talking about 'men-stuff', I don't know it just sounds so different." Her friends agree. "School would be boring and tiring," pronounces her classmate Metin İyigüngör. Övgü Bozgeyik, also L12, is a tad more philosophical. "I think there is a correlation between RC's educational success and its being co-ed," she says. "I think school life needs a sense of balance, and girls and boys add different qualities to the education. Otherwise we could not be able to say that RC is preparing students for real life."

The merger ranks as one of the most seminal moments in College history. It came about when the Robert College Yüksek ended and officially handed over its campus to the Turkish Higher Education Council to become Boğaziçi University. The Academy housed alongside the Yüksek then had to be relocated.

**RC**  
QUARTERLY  
SUMMER 1991  
YEAR: 2 ISSUE: 1  
ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

**MEMORIES**  
Nesime Morali, ACG 29, organizes centennial luncheon to revive the spirit of Charter Day.  
Page 32

**SÖYLEŞİ**  
Yaşama bağlılığın ve sanata tutkunluğun öyküsü. Yeşim Somay Salman, RC Yük 64, anlattı.  
Sayfa 18

**INTERVIEW**  
Ömer Karacan, RC 83, discusses his career and his views on music.  
Page 34

**Boy Meets Girl**  
Two campuses merged 20 years ago to start the tradition of co-education at RC. *page 8*

TEST: Revealing Write-ups. We continue to challenge your memory. *page 50*

You can view the entire issue at

<http://portal.robcol.k12.tr/UserFiles/Documents/alumni/RCQ/RCQ8.pdf>

"Nobody was really certain it would happen until the early spring and then we all had to move fast and furiously," John Chalfant, former RA Headmaster who presided over the merger, recalled, speaking to the RCQ in the 90s.

### The change was compounded by the mounting social and political unrest that marked Turkey in the 1970s.

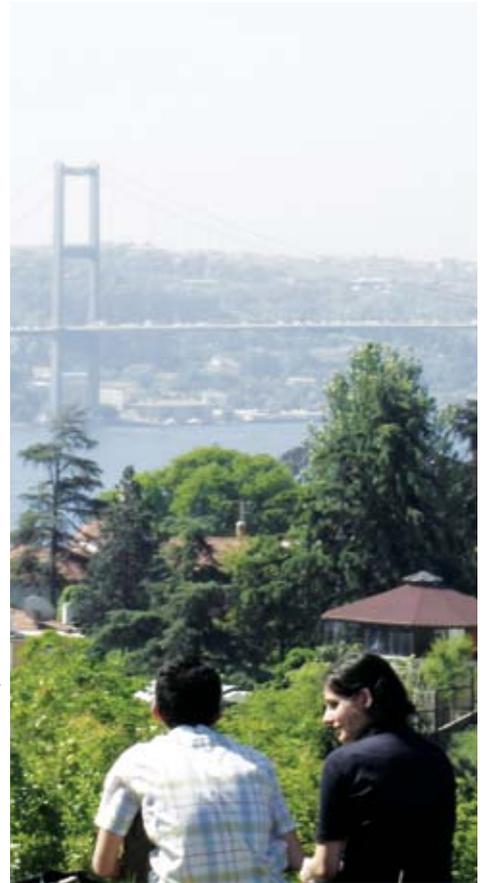
A total of 500 truckloads of RA equipment had to be moved out. The ACG campus meanwhile had to be rearranged to accommodate the influx of 400 boys onto a site originally intended for 600 girls. Although the campus looked like a building site that summer it miraculously managed to open come September.

"One can easily imagine the many practical problems that required attention to prepare a functional co-educational school and yet to retain the charm and splendid harmonies of the Girls College. Also these many alterations were conducted within the very strict limits imposed on foreign private schools by

public law 625, which forbade expansion and development," says Chalfant.

The boys were reluctant to leave the hustle and bustle of Bebek for Arnavutköy, which was seen as isolated and quiet. Additionally, for the approximately 30 RA students who had entered from the English High School for Boys that had abruptly announced the closure of its lise, this was the second time they lost their school due to forces beyond their school walls.

"Being on the RC campus had provided the RA students with substantially better facilities as well as educational and (arguably) social opportunities," says Ekmele Kasaba RC 72, who was editor of the Bosphorus Chronicle school newspaper that year. "The RA students could take advantage of the extensive university-level resources of RC (such as the library, music collection, photography dark rooms, IBM mainframe computer, athletic facilities and cafeteria) and perhaps a more permissive campus life. The resources on the ACG campus, as good as they were, were not as rich as those at the RC. In a sense, going to the





ACG campus was a downgrade for RA students."

The girls, meanwhile, were more mature, sophisticated and better trained - they viewed the arrival of the boys "with all the distaste of Roman patricians watching the vandals climbing over the estate walls," says Chalfant. A senior student then, Zeynep Y. Ergun RC 72 says the merger prioritized the boys over the girls. "I was opposed to it then and still am. The boys were put in charge of everything. The administration did that. Student Council, class presidents...girls who had rightfully won these positions were then given secondary roles."

"The biggest challenge in the first year of the new school was to make the institution work as a co-ed school," says Kasaba.

**"As simple as that sounds, the majority of RA and ACG students had come through boys-only and girls-only schools and were ill equipped to work with students of the opposite sex as colleagues and equals."**

"This effect was most pronounced for the Class of 1972, and less pronounced for the later classes. "

But the students proved to be nothing if not adaptable. "They blended more easily and quickly than we had dared to hope," says Chalfant. "They did not act out the lurid scenarios foreseen by many a parent and alumni. They made the best of the situation and a new RC began to emerge - combining the best elements of the two schools."

There were outside factors too. "Turkey in 1971 was becoming a dangerous place, especially for 'foreign' institutions. Against the reality of violence and turbulence, the concerns of the campus often seemed trivial. As has often been said: 'there is nothing like a catastrophe to take your mind off your troubles'," says Chalfant.

Although the physical merger had taken place, boys and girls still studied

separate curricula. The only joint class was national defense - that particular subject has arguably never evoked as much excitement as it did that year, since it provided the only venue where boys and girls sat side by side.

"There wasn't real mixing because we had different curricula," says Oğuz Peker, RC 72. "I only really met the girls years later at university, or at reunions. Most of them 20 years later. So we weren't really co-ed in that sense."

In fact co-education in its fullest sense was a gradual process that evolved over many years. In the mid-1980s, the school began enacting a policy of accepting the first 50 male and first 50 female students to score in the nationwide entrance examination, thereby ensuring equal gender representation in classes.

Though perhaps a distant mirage to today's students, the merger's real achievement lies in the unbroken sense of continuity and unity that is shared by classes both pre and post-merger. That spirit goes all the way back to the founding of the College in 1863. And it comes alive at every annual Homecoming gathering, or reunion, or more simply, whenever two College graduates meet and acknowledge a tie that bonds.

# The Robert College Alumni Association (RKMD)



The Robert College Alumni Association (Robert Kolej Mezunlar Derneği) is composed of 12 members: President Ayşe Doğruer ACG 63, Vice President Mehmet Altun RC 77, Secretary Nur Demirseren RC 75, Financial Controller Selim Kalafat RA 69, Behzat Azeri RA 69, Birgül Somel ACG 67, Emin Mehmet Yusuf RC 77, Emre Tekişalp RC 07, Erdem Altay RC 08, Kaya Demirtaş RA 61, Seval Subaşı RC 80 and Şebnem Yaşarol RC 81.

The main responsibilities of the Association are to support Robert College through donations and scholarships, and to organize fund raising, social and cultural activities in order to develop and maintain relations and friendship between the graduates.

Through its Social Committee, the Association has organized several activities at Bizim Tepe this year including guest speakers and movie nights, as well as sight-seeing tours.

The graduates and their guests also enjoyed a wonderful concert performed by the Kerem Görsev Trio on May 7, 2011 at Suna Kırac Hall, organized with the support of Borusan Oto.



Ayşe Doğruer, the President of the Association, presenting plaques to the Kerem Görsev Trio



Türkan Şoray and İzzet Günay at the "Vesikalı Yarım" movie night



Homecoming 2011, by the pool at Bizim Tepe



Summer activity 2011 at Bizim Tepe

# Meet Buket Coşkuner RC 06

## Journalist and Award-winning Jazz Vocalist

By Pelin Seyhan RC 03

**B**uket Coşkuner is a young woman of many talents. She studied at Columbia University on a scholarship, made her debut as a writer in 2007 with a high school project about the deportation of Crimean Tatars and this year won the Nardis Special Prize at the 2011 Nardis Jazz Vocal Competition. She is currently a reporter at Hürriyet newspaper.

### **You were involved in music while at RC. Can you tell me more about it?**

During my first year at RC, I decided to audition for Lise Live and performed for the first time in my life there. I sang an Alicia Keys song, and after being on stage once, I wanted more. Thanks to (music teacher) Deniz Baysal, I was invited to join the orchestra. I performed in the orchestra, in Lise Live shows, musicals and other concerts and became president in my senior year. I never took any singing lessons because I was afraid I would lose my interest once it became an obligation to learn music.

### **Why jazz? How did you take part in the Nardis competition?**

An RC friend took me to Nardis once in 9th grade. I was amazed by the feeling of jazz and the voice of Sibel Köse. I contacted her and we talked about singing jazz. That was very motivating, but it also seemed much harder than other types of music since I needed to learn improvisation techniques. I always wanted to take part in the Nardis Jazz Competition but was never able to because I studied abroad. Once I graduated and moved back to Istanbul, I realized that it was now or never.

### **What did you do after graduating from RC?**

I went to Oberlin College on a full scholarship to study neuroscience. I then switched to political science and decided to transfer to another school with a well-known political science program. I was accepted to Columbia University as a John Jay Scholar on full scholarship.



Buket Coşkuner RC 06

I ended up getting a political science degree with a focus on international relations from Columbia.

### **Is music a hobby or might it become a profession? Any future plans?**

It was never a hobby nor a profession and I guess it will never be either. 'Hobby' would undermine how I feel about singing and 'professional' would be too ambitious. I don't live and breathe music. There are many more talented and passionate people out there.

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**My plan is to become a media professional; to write and speak about events that make the news in the hope of becoming a leader in the field. Alongside that, I would like to perform every now and then.**

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### **You also wrote a book. What was it about?**

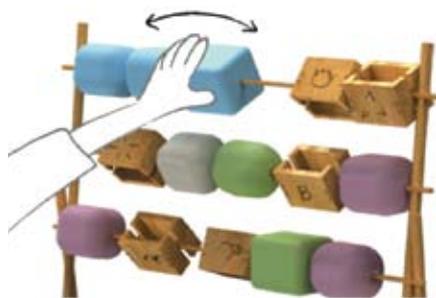
I started researching the deportation of Crimean Tatars seven years ago. I interviewed Crimean Tatars who survived exiles to Central Asia and Nazi camps in Eastern Europe. The book emerged from a project that I started during my senior year at RC. I didn't think of it as a book at the beginning but the interviews became a story that had to be compiled. It was published in 2007. The first edition sold out but hasn't reprinted since my publisher died in an accident several years ago and we have some contractual difficulties. I am not planning to write another book yet, but in the future, why not!

## Young Designer Makes a Mark with Designs for Better Living

**B**arely out of school, industrial designer Cansu Akarsu RC 07 has already won accolades internationally for two innovative design projects focusing on improving the quality of life in developing countries.

Akarsu developed the projects as part of a design challenge organized by the Danish organization INDEX together with Unicef while she was studying in Korea last year. Her first project, padBACK, is a menstrual protection method for rural areas around the world in which the pads are made of fibre plants and biodegradable nonwoven fabric and then turned into compost. It benefits local people by creating job opportunities and increasing the fertility of the land.

The second project, Soap Shish, is a modular soap stand for schools in the developing world. Inspired by an 'abacus' and using the colorful and slippery features of a soap, Soap Shish attracts kids to play with it, and at the same time,



to clean their hands. It is durable in a school environment since the soap bars cannot be taken out or melt while they are being moved. "Both projects were selected as finalists, and I was invited to a workshop where we turned the projects to real business models with experts from different fields," says Akarsu. "I was given a jury special award and had several meetings with Unicef branches to turn the ideas into reality. Currently, padBACK continues as the Period Campaign, focusing on breaking taboos for girls with limited access to menstrual protection methods and education. Soap Shish is looking for funds to be piloted in a local Unicef branch in North Africa."

**Akarsu has been studying and working in industrial design field in different parts of the world for the last four years. She credits RC with inspiring her.**

"RC had a big role in making this choice in the first place. During high school, I discovered the areas I was interested in and good at, with the flexibility I had in elective courses, various clubs and activities." Akarsu started her bachelor degree in industrial design in Istanbul Technical University, spent a semester in TUDelft, the Netherlands and a year in KAIST. She is currently on a break from school and has moved to Copenhagen to do an internship at Designit.

"What industrial designers do is still not well known," Akarsu says. "One must



realize that design education, starting with developing basic skills of combining form and function is not enough for real innovation. A designer's role today is to lead multidisciplinary teams of experts when developing a new product. To come up with realistic changes, the designer has to seek the knowledge of different parties, while keeping the ability to see the whole production, usage and wasting process from a wider perspective. One can use this ability to pollute the world by not worrying about the whole life cycle of a product, or to design life-changing systems to save the world."



Cansu Akarsu RC 07



## A Close Encounter with Gentle Mountain Giants

Burak Doğansoyсал  
RC 96, travel  
photographer and  
owner of an eco-  
travel agency,  
describes the magic  
of a visit with our  
ancestors in Rwanda.

It's been exactly four hours since the introductory meeting with our guides at the entrance to the National Park. The ground is soft beneath our feet from the previous day's rain, making it hard to walk on; guides must often forge a path using machetes. We started walking on the border of Rwanda's Parc National des Volcans at 2,500 meters and are headed towards 3,000 meters. Each step into higher altitude strains our lungs. But despite the hardship, the smell of the earth and nectar of the flowers as well as the dozens of varieties of birds and mammals keeps us motivated.



It is muggy inside the rain forest and we stop regularly to rest and drink lots of liquid to cope with the altitude. We are eight people in all, plus three guides (two of whom carry guns), and eight porters. The reason the guides are armed is to protect us against any unexpected encounters with elephants or buffalo.

After half an hour of walking, someone in the rear calls a halt and the guide in front slows down. My porter, though, keeps pushing on, saying 'don't stop, keep going'. It emerges that the spot was on the route of a busy colony of fire ants. Fire ants are aggressive if disturbed and their bite can be very painful. Not wanting to add an ant attack to this adventure, we press on.

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When we do eventually stop, the group's leader's walkytalky buzzes to life. After a brief exchange he turns to us and says: "We've found the gorillas. They are 5 minutes away." Everyone's face shines with excitement and we quickly pack up and head off.

---

A little further into the dense forest we come to an abrupt stop. The guides tell us to be quiet and leave all our equipment except for the cameras. We fall into line behind our guide.

About 50 meters on we are suddenly underneath a brilliant blue sky. We are in one of the small openings in the rainforest and the Umubano gorilla family is right across from us. This time it is not the altitude that takes our breath away, but the excitement of being just meters away from the mountain gorillas (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) whose species is under threat.

There are approximately 750 gorillas on the Virunga mountain range - in Congo, Uganda and Rwanda. We were climbing the mountainous Rwandan side, which is well deserving of its nickname "land of a thousand hills".





Poaching, loss of habitat and agriculture are some of the reasons why there are so few mountain gorillas. As forests lost connection with one another, young male gorillas became unable to leave the group and create new families. Added to these is the political instability and civil wars that have plagued the region.

But as a result of the natural preservation

and awareness efforts today as well as income from eco-tourism, mountain gorillas are protected and slowly gaining in number.

The leader of the group we are following -Charlie- is a silverback. He lies stretched out on the ground while babies play near him. Young gorillas turn somersaults and wrestle and occasionally he tells them

off. It is forbidden for people to get within more than 7 meters of a gorilla. This is because gorillas do not have immunity against human diseases - a simple cold virus could be fatal. But the gorillas are unaware of this law and occasionally they get very close to us. The babies try to touch our feet and cameras. If they get too close, the silverback or their mother warns them and they step back.



A short while later the silverback harrumphs and changes position. At that moment a mature female emerges from opposite us with a four month-old babe on her back. As soon as she draws near, the baby hops off and begins playing with the other babies.

**The mother approaches us and locks her calm brown eyes onto mine. At that moment I stop taking pictures and look back at her.**

The gorilla's gaze is meaningful and speaks to my heart. It is as if she knows what I am and is trying to establish a connection between us. Confronted by the gentle and questioning gaze of this polite giant, I feel as if I must give her an explanation on behalf of humanity: I want to apologize to her for killing her relatives just to decorate our walls, for the massacres of forests which has left her almost homeless and for the selfishness of humanity which has deemed its comfort more important than her life.

As I am lost in these thoughts, the guide says we have five minutes left. Once you are with the gorillas, there is a one-hour time limit. This rule is strictly observed so that the gorillas' routine is not disturbed and their interaction with humans is kept under control.

As I pick up my camera again, the silverback becomes agitated and begins to make loud noises. Suddenly this 240-kilo

giant jumps up and begins to run towards us. Fortunately we had practiced how to behave near gorillas, so without waiting for our guide to speak we immediately sit down. This attack is for show; but it pays to be careful because the silverback is a protector of his territory and group and is far bigger and stronger than we are.

His noises slowly die down, but he is still on his feet and staring at us. We sit quietly, staring at the ground, careful not to make eye contact. A few minutes later his tone of voice changes and the guide says Charlie has signaled his family that everything is OK and that we can take pictures from where we are seated. I take one or two shots. Just as I wish I had my



Burak Doğansoyyal RC 96

wide angle lens, Charlie gets up, slowly walks past me and sits right behind us.

**The guide says we must slowly move away, without standing. My heart pounds so loudly I can almost hear it.**

When we are some distance away the guide says we can stand up - but it takes a few minutes for my legs to recover from the adrenaline.

One hour has been like a day and it is time to leave. We leave the Umubano family and walk back, quietly savoring memories that will last a lifetime.

# Galeri Manâ

Founded by Mehves Tarhan Arıburnu RC 82, Gallery Manâ is a contemporary art gallery in Tophane.

After spending years in the banking business, Mehveş Arıburnu embarked on a second career. Describing how it happened, she says: "I never thought of going back to banking after having children. Contemporary art for me started as a hobby. Living in

London and travelling all around the world, I had the chance to see and learn a lot. During these years of learning and enjoying, my hobby soon turned into a passion for contemporary art and also for collecting. I became a patron and acquisition committee member at Tate Modern. At the time, I was very lucky to meet Suzanne Egeran, my partner, who had her own art advisory business. We built a beautiful collection together. Following the very exciting developments in the art world in Turkey and its booming economy led us to the idea of opening an international art gallery in Istanbul. We were very lucky to find our space located in the Tophane district of Istanbul."

It features 400 square meters of exhibition space. The gallery takes its name from the Turkish word *manâ*, which means concept or meaning. It opened in May 2011 with the exhibition "Nereden Nereye" ("From Where to Where").

The gallery program is multi-generational (emerging, mid-career and established artists) and consists of a mix of international and Turkish artists. The gallery program is rooted in the conceptual art tradition and reflects the various ways in which artists today are engaging with and subverting these ideas.

Significantly, many internationally recognized artists are showing their work in Istanbul for the first time and will be new discoveries for the Turkish public.

In short, Galeri Manâ is a space for the exploration of ideas and the creation of meaning, hence the name.

The space where the gallery is established used to be a converted wheat mill that dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Mehveş Tarkan Arıburnu RC 82



## Galeri Manâ

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<http://galerimana.com/>

# Former Imperial Ottoman Bank Finds Second Life as SALT Galata

Headed up by two RC classmates, Sima Benaroya and Vasif Kortun (both RC 78) SALT, the Istanbul-based nonprofit that launched in April 2011 with the mission to "explore critical and timely issues in visual and material culture and cultivate innovative programs for research and experimental thinking," opened its much-anticipated Galata venue in November.

SALT - distributed between two 19th century buildings with 15,000 square meters of space - emerges from the ashes of three former Istanbul art institutions sponsored by Garanti bank. "Instead of merging them, we closed all three down and created a brand-new institution which nonetheless builds on the know-how and experience gained from all of those," says Sima, SALT's communication and administration director. Her partner Vasif is in charge of research and programming.

The Galata building is the sumptuous former 19th century Imperial Ottoman Bank headquarters designed by French Levantine architect Alexandre Vallaury in 1892. It is a landmark unique to Istanbul.

The building is especially significant to



Benaroya because she has been involved with it since 2001. "When Osmanlı merged with Garanti, I was communications director tasked with making this building live. I came to this building and established the Ottoman Bank museum," she says. She stayed there until 2008, when the building closed for renovation, and is now delighted to be back.

**"SALT is a tremendously exciting project. It's a huge asset to Turkey's cultural infrastructure. This is an independent private institution which is delivering an important public service."**

SALT Galata presents a challenging, multi-layered program that includes SALT Research, which offers public access to thousands of print and digital resources; a 219-capacity auditorium; the renovated Ottoman Bank Museum; workshop spaces; an open archive where archival research projects are interpreted and discussed; a temporary exhibition space; as well as a café, restaurant and bookstore.

Coincidentally, a third RC graduate was involved with one of SALT Galata's first exhibitions. US-based architecture professor Zeynep Çelik ACG 70 was one of the creators of "Scramble for the Past: A Story of Archaeology in the Ottoman Empire, 1750-1914".

SALT Galata joins SALT Beyoğlu, located on İstiklal Caddesi, which is a three-story exhibition space, with a cinema, rooftop garden and café.



From L to R: Vasif Kortun RC 78, Architect Han Tümertekin, Sima Benaroya RC 78 and Garanti Kültür Chairman of the Board of Directors Nafiz Karadere.

## Tradition and Pride

The RCQ is pleased to inaugurate a new section of College memories. The following is the first of a two-part essay contributed by Betsy Göksel, a longtime and much-loved English teacher at RC from 1962 to 1997. She is retired and now lives on Bozcaada.



Betsy Göksel's first students in 1962

### Eccentric Staff

My first human encounters were with the staid headmistress Mrs. Sims, who met me at the airport and warned me not to go out with Turkish men, and the Orta School principal Mrs. Kent, who wailed to her colleagues after meeting me that I looked like an Orta II and wouldn't last a month. Then I met the staff. Like the rusting ivy on the great stone facades of the buildings, they were eccentric characters who scurried down dim corridors or peered at one through thick lenses over thick ledgers. Their names and smiles parade my memory. They were all as tangled in the history of ACG as the wisteria vines and as permanent. There was Mrs. Ksido, White-Russian, the bursar—her kind, round, wrinkled face—a widow whose husband had worked at the college, many years her senior. I think she had been his student. She lived in the Music House, up a little vine-covered path across from Bingham,



Betsy Göksel in her first year at ACG.

Tradition and Pride. And a Dedication to Excellence. And faded genteel Beauty. And Age. Yes, these qualities emanated from the lofty cold halls of The American College for Girls when I arrived, a naive, idealistic small-town Southern girl, in the fading summer beauty of September, 1962.

My first impression was of the beauty of the campus. Late-summer flowers bloomed red and gold alongside the walkway up to Gould Hall. There were two gardeners who lovingly tended this walkway and also the Rose Garden, an enclosed little English garden beside Bingham Hall, the building I would both live and teach in. I was taken to a small room on the third floor where I would share a bathroom and sitting room with two other new teachers. (There was no kitchen in any of the faculty residences for fear of fire and also because all our meals, except breakfast, would be taken with the students.) The Rose Garden

was filled with bushes, small trees and colorful flowers and had two stone lions guarding the path which wound among the flowers. The rest of the campus was wild, untended, with a variety of huge old trees planted in past decades.

Of course, the Plateau was the crowning beauty spot of the campus, knee deep in wild flowers with a narrow dusty path around the periphery and a stone bench at the end to sit and look out over the humble orange rooftops of Arnavutköy to the winding dark blue Bosphorous with ferryboats zigzagging back and forth and to the alien dark-forested Asian hills beyond.



Betsy Göksel, circa 1965

the Orta School building, with her sister, Miss Arakalion, who worked at the Child Study Center, the nursery school. Mrs Ksiedo's daughter Marusya, brilliant but troubled, had graduated the year before and was studying in USA. (She would come back in a few years to work in the biology department before going back to USA where she died in an accident). And Miss Ashover, registrar, a graduate of ACG whose sister Ethel was married to Herbert Kreider, an American who ran the Business and Grounds Department and taught Turkish to us newcomers from the Turkish grammar book he had written—*Essentials Of Modern Turkish*—which wasn't at all modern being based on Latin grammar, the dative case, etc. Mrs. Ashover's cousin and adopted sister was May Fincanci who ran the Orta library with an iron hand. Their father had been an Englishman from the Levant, thus the "Ashover", their mother was Armenian. Squirrel-like Ms. Fetva ran the housekeeping department and lived below me in Bingham Hall in a spacious, antique-filled apartment.

#### **"İngiliz İbrahim", a White Russian cook and Greek head waiter**

One of her workers was İbrahim, an ambitious young Turk, who later took over from Ms. Fetva and ran house-keeping for many years, having learned from her the qualities of fineness and a smidgin of English which earned him the nickname

of "İngiliz İbrahim" to distinguish him from the İbrahim Bey who became bursar after Mrs Ksido (who spoke excellent educated English). The school nurse was İlsa, from Switzerland. Mrs. Moreli-tall, quiet-spoken—handled alumnae affairs. Elizabeth Bally, of an old Greek family in our little village of Arnavutkoy, was a fixture in the library. Nikolai Lubimoff, a rosy-cheeked, balding White Russian, was the cook, preparing elegant dishes to be served by silent waiters on starched white tablecloths. The head waiter was Tinasi, a dignified old Greek with the stately manner and handsome appearance of a

Greek statue of some ancient senator. Tinasi also sold relics of copper and brass to the teachers in the mailroom.

If the staff were the vines, the permanent resident teachers were the columns which held the school erect. I met them after school began at the faculty teas served after dinner in the yellow parlor. They were old and wise and formidable.

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**Most of the foreign teachers came and went—unless they ended up marrying a Turk.**

---

They stayed two or three years, drawn by a spirit of adventure or by idealism, certainly not by hope of financial gain as ACG was very poor and the salaries were low by any measure. These British and American teachers were all women, all single, (There had been a scandalous relationship between a married American teacher and a student a few years back, leading the administration to the decision to hire only women teachers, a decision they would come to regret) of various ages—I was the youngest, just out of college— and dubious degrees, most of whom, including myself, would not be hired in today's competitive market.



Betsy Göksel and 1965 Orta 2's, during lunch break.

# Through the Lens:

## Nicholas V. Artamonoff and his 25 Years at Robert College

By Alyssa DesRochers and Gündür Varinlioğlu  
[icfa.doaks.org/collections/artamonoff](http://icfa.doaks.org/collections/artamonoff)



Nicholas V. Artamonoff  
(RC Yearbook 1930)

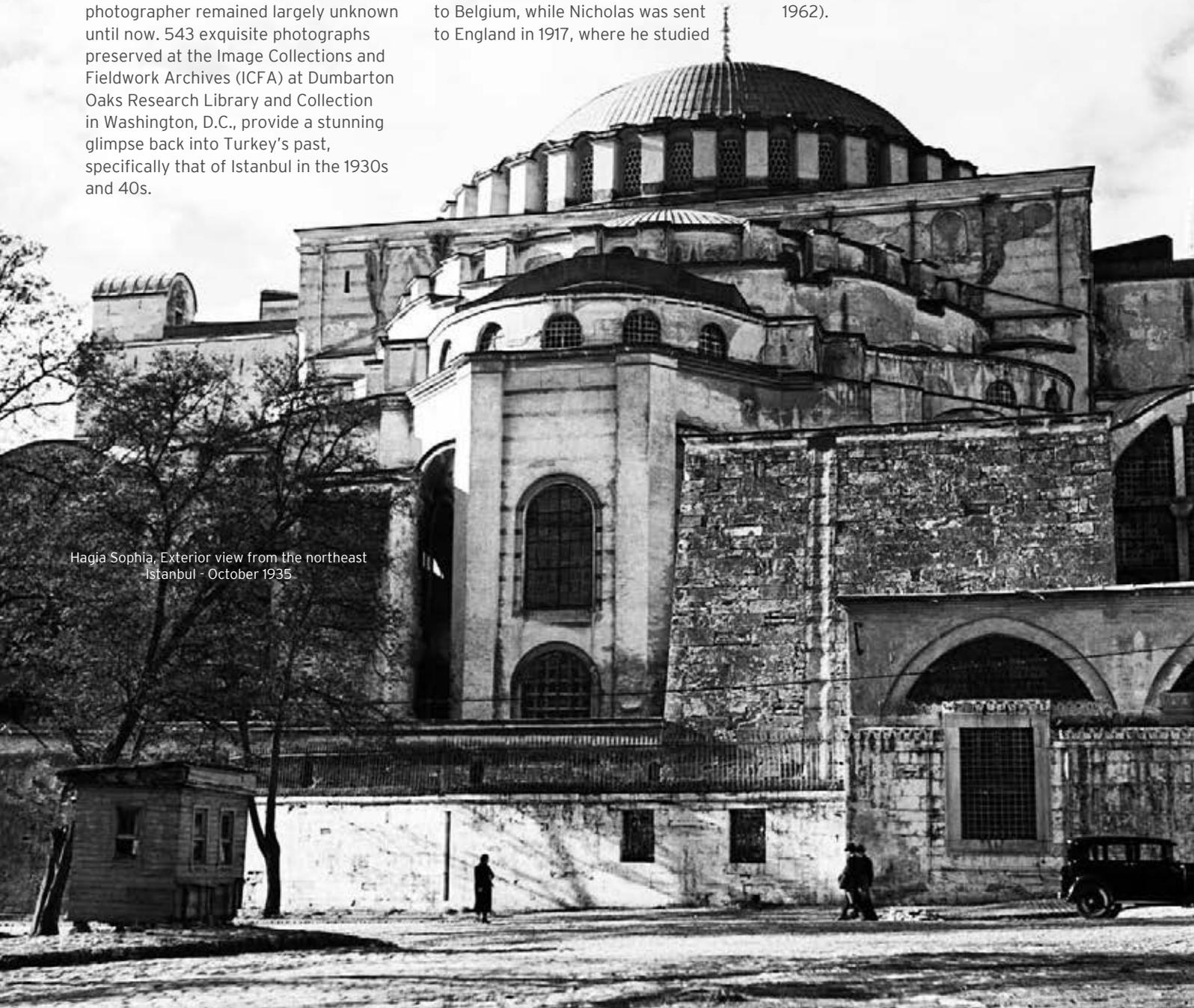
**A**n ardent photographer with a complete knowledge of his subject, Artamonoff has given the college much valuable service with his camera," reads Nicholas Artamonoff's entry in the Robert College yearbook of 1930.

The talent of this young amateur photographer remained largely unknown until now. 543 exquisite photographs preserved at the Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives (ICFA) at Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection in Washington, D.C., provide a stunning glimpse back into Turkey's past, specifically that of Istanbul in the 1930s and 40s.

Born in Athens in 1908 where his father, Victor Alekseievitch Artamonoff, a General and Military Attaché for the Russian Army, was stationed, Nicholas and his family lived in Belgrade (Serbia) and Russia until after the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. The Artamonoff family subsequently moved again, possibly to Belgium, while Nicholas was sent to England in 1917, where he studied

at multiple English schools until his enrollment at RC in 1922. While at RC, he may have been part of a program that resettled Russian refugee children at schools across Europe, which was initiated by Thomas Whittemore, a philanthropist, devoted supporter of archaeology, and founder of the Byzantine Institute (1931-1962).

Hagia Sophia, Exterior view from the northeast  
Istanbul - October 1935



Nicholas Artamonoff would remain at RC for 25 years. Upon completing high school in 1925, he entered the RC School of Engineering, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering in 1930. He then took an administrative position in the Department of Buildings and Grounds at RC, where he was made Superintendent in 1938. During his tenure at RC, Artamonoff and his wife Natalie lived in a house on the campus of the American College for Girls (ACG). Evgeni Vernigora and Tatyana Thilmany (Vernigora), students at RC and ACG respectively in the 1940s and 50s, have fond memories of Artamonoff, who photographed the siblings as children. Tatyana Thilmany still remembers the handsome and well-dressed Nicholas walking through the campuses.

### Throughout his student years and career at RC, Nicholas strolled through Istanbul to capture the scenes of daily life and the architectural heritage of the city.

His photographs in the collections of ICFA highlight the monuments of Byzantine architecture in Istanbul and archaeological sites at Ephesus, Hierapolis, Laodicea on the Lycus, Pergamum, and Priene in Western Turkey. Sven Larsen, a professor of mathematics at RC who took part in these excursions to Western Turkey, also appears in one of



The Aqueduct of Valens (Bozdoğan Kemer) from the southeast.  
Istanbul- March 1936.

Artamonoff's photographs from Ephesus. Larsen used Artamonoff's photographs in his articles on St. Sophia (1937 and 1945) and St. Euphemia (1946) in Istanbul, Pergamum (1939), and Hierapolis (1950). Over the years, Artamonoff's photographs have been used in publications and research by many distinguished scholars, including fellow RC alumnus and the founding rector of Boğaziçi Üniversitesi, Aptullah Kuran.

In 1947, after 25 years at RC, Artamonoff left his position as the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds and emigrated

to the United States. Bringing all of his photographs along, the Artamonoffs first settled in New York, and then in Washington, D.C., where Nicholas had a successful career in the federal government as an engineer. The Artamonoffs eventually retired in San Diego, where Nicholas passed away in 1989.

But his work remains, giving life to the Byzantine monuments of Istanbul and other archaeological sites in Western Turkey for the researchers at ICFA, which acquired a selection of Artamonoff's photographic work in 1962. An additional 484 photographs are part of the collections at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives in D.C. By contrast, these photographs depict daily life, craftsmen, street scenes, and Ottoman monuments in Istanbul, Bursa and Izmir. Together, these two collections exhibit the exceptional talent and artistic eye of Nicholas V. Artamonoff, and provide vivid documentation of the city and sites he once lived amongst.

**Note:** The authors have spent much time and effort investigating the life of Nicholas V. Artamonoff. However, the records have been difficult to trace, and at times have included conflicting information. John R. Chandler, Zeynep Gözülü, and Lynne Prevot have generously assisted this ongoing research. The authors appreciate comments and feedback about Nicholas and Natalie Artamonoff. **Please visit [icfa.doaks.org/collections/artamonoff](http://icfa.doaks.org/collections/artamonoff) to view the entire collection of photographs and contact us at [icfa@doaks.org](mailto:icfa@doaks.org).**



Yedikule viewed from the minaret of İmrahor Camii (Church of St. John Studios).  
Istanbul- February 1937.

# Your Business in the Age of Social Media

Social media is your chance to have a personal and relevant conversation with your customers, says Emrah Güler RC 88.

You know we are living in a new age when the death of a computer entrepreneur receives the collective grief reserved for fallen princesses or rock stars, and the latest model of a mobile phone is introduced to millions around the globe on live TV.

The way we use, share and perceive information is going through a fundamental shift. We are moving through to a next level in communication. As scary as it might sound to some, welcome to the age of Web 2.0 and social media.

How do we then define this new age of communication? The invention of smart mobile devices, the evolution of Google and other search engines, and of course, the rise of social media.

One in every eight minutes spent on the internet is on Facebook. With 750 million users, one in every 13 people in the world is on Facebook. The micro-blogging platform Twitter has more than 200 million users, with 650 Tweets sent every second.

Erik Qualman, social media expert and the author of *"Socialnomics: How Social Media Transforms the Way We Live and Do Business,"* perhaps says it best: "We don't have a choice on whether we do social media; the question is how well we do it."

You are probably part of these social media channels and chances are that you are one of the over 30 million Facebook users in Turkey. It is, of course, up to you whether you personally want to be part of Facebook. But it is no longer much of a choice whether your business should be in that global community of decision makers and makers of public opinion.

## Turkish Companies Get in on the Social Media Game

Last year, some 50 start-ups working in



Emrah Güler RC 88

social media opened in Turkey. Companies are now allocating as much as 100 million TL for social media campaigns while marketing budgets allocated to social media have gone up from a maximum of three percent to 15 percent in two years.

Take Garanti bank for example. With more than half a million Likes on Facebook, it is the most popular financial institution in social media across the globe. Working with bloggers and showering its Facebook and Twitter followers with campaigns, and even online games, Garanti has come of social media age.

**Facebook Pages are interactive. They are engaging. They can continuously deliver a steady flow of content attracting and, maybe more importantly, retaining existing and potential customers. They are the ideal medium for word of mouth marketing and constant exposure.**

More and more companies in Turkey are becoming aware of this. Nokia and

TTNET, for instance, have become quite successful in establishing an interactive platform with a tone of voice that is sincere and inviting. While TTNET offers technical support through its social media channels, Starbucks is in continuous interaction with their customers, taking in praise, criticism and suggestions. Starbucks knows that their social media presence should always go with latte and muffins.

Whether you are the manager of an art gallery or selling pesticides, most of your audience is on Facebook. And they are interacting with each other, generating that buzz you spend precious hours and money on with your marketing department.

Social media is your chance to have a personal and relevant conversation with your customers. You need to be there for every step of the continuous evolution of social media if you are going to be the intellectual leaders of your community, among your employees and customers. And remember, social media is not about short-term solutions, but establishing a long-term commitment. *Emrah Güler is a columnist, author and director of the social media company medya GaGa.*

# Future Istanbul: Planning out the Poor?

The decision to transform Istanbul into a globally competitive city is based on the planned displacement and forced relocation of the poor, says Tuna Kuyucu RC 95, a sociology professor at Boğaziçi University.

Law and planning have long been principal instruments used to control urban populations. In an urban millennium their combined impact, especially on the lives of the poor, is enormous. With city planning focusing on winning the competition for national and global investment and urban land becoming a magnet for finance capital, urban governance risks dispossessing, displacing and penalizing the poor. Experience in many cities (including Istanbul) has shown that those living in informal settlements with complex and precarious property structures are especially vulnerable. Coupled with legal regimes that offer scant protection for tenure rights, such policies greatly aggravate housing insecurity and undermine the human rights of the poor, treating them as roadblocks on the path to "world-class", "competitive" or "profitable" cities.

In Turkey, these threats have become both real and visible in the last decade, with radical changes in government policies towards low-income settlements, most of which are either informal or were built as informal but formalized at a later date. Since the 1950s, Turkish authorities have openly and actively supported informal settlements for several reasons including vote-seeking, cheap labor and profiteering by selling unauthorized land to migrants. In 2002, however, these policies came to an abrupt end.

Turkey's new low-income housing policy aims to stop the expansion of informal settlements and to relocate their inhabitants to subsidized mass housing in the peripheries of cities constructed by a central state institution, TOKI. The neighborhoods people leave behind, which for the most part are centrally located, are to be regenerated and redeveloped by either TOKI or by public-private partnerships.



Tuna Kuyucu RC 95

These "urban transformation projects" (UTP) as they are known as in Turkey, now threaten millions of poor urbanites who are faced with forced relocation into formal mass housing estates. Since 2004, approximately 250 such UTPs throughout the country have displaced tens of thousands of citizens. Not surprisingly, Istanbul has been at the center of these large-scale demolish-and-rebuild projects due to its remarkably profitable real estate sector.

**Since 2005, 13 large-scale demolish-rebuild type projects have begun in the city, five of which are in historical inner-city neighborhoods and the rest in low-income informal districts, directly impacting more than 100,000 people.**

In most cases, the immediate consequence for people living in these areas is relocation to a different neighborhood. Those districts that have already been cleared for redevelopment,

such as Sulukule (with a predominantly Gypsy population) and Ayazma (inhabited mostly by very poor Kurds), show us that the new dwellings built in these areas target a very different demographic. Given the profitability of the projects both for state actors and private developers, neighborhoods targeted for regeneration will only increase in the near future.

In addition to planned displacement and forced relocation, another problem the urban poor face as a consequence of the new policies of the Turkish government is the decreasing stock of affordable housing. In Istanbul, for example, the subsidized housing units constructed by TOKI for those displaced from their homes as a result of UTPs are still beyond the reach of many. Studies in one mass housing estate built for people displaced from an informal settlement in Istanbul found that of the approximately 1,100 households that were relocated there in 2006, close to 30% have already left the area due mostly to living costs. Added to economic hardships, they also experienced problems of adaptation to high-rise blocks, disruption of social relations and vital support networks, and intense ethnic tensions and polarization between the Kurdish households who were relocated and the existing Turkish groups in the area. All this has resulted in a narrowing of social spaces, with increased confinement of women to the domestic sphere. While privatization has proved lucrative for a handful of real estate speculators, as well as the city's wealthier inhabitants, a far greater number of the poor who were moved have suffered from "double displacement": they were first forced out of their neighborhoods by the state, and then out of the formal housing estate by the market.

Note: A longer version of this essay was first published on the Open Democracy website.

## 7.2 Magnitude Compassion

Contributed by Cyrus Carter, English Department <http://cartist.edublogs.org/>



Following the 7.2 magnitude earthquake on October 23 in Van and simultaneous 6.6 magnitude earthquake in nearby Erciş in southeastern Turkey, the outpouring of aid has been quick, focused and substantial. With people either left homeless or, because of aftershocks, sleeping outdoors in zero degree nighttime temperatures, there is an immediate need for coats, tents and blankets as well as hygienic products. So many people throughout the country, and beyond, are taking the initiative to collect and send these supplies; our students are but one example.

Sunday afternoon - the earthquake hits Van and Erciş, some 1250 kilometers from Istanbul.

Sunday evening - students led by the student council rally around, making posters, Facebooking, and otherwise preparing to collect as many goods as possible on Tuesday morning.

Monday - The school community of 1200 is greeted by posters asking for specific donations. During the day, the students find the most effective, and trustworthy, delivery method for the goods that will arrive.

Tuesday - Goods arrive in the main hall of the school and throughout the day are boxed and labeled according to kind of item. They have been shipped to Van

this evening and tomorrow the students will start a fund to help those in need to rebuild.

Ours is but one school. Students and teachers at the elementary schools my wife works with are arranging to send large amounts of needed goods to two schools in villages completely devastated by the quakes. These people lived in houses built of rudimentary brick and clay and now there is nothing left.

**The temperatures are below freezing each night and they need goods and any expression of hope and good will.**

The deliveries will be direct because the schools want to be sure they get the goods. There are no film crews in these villages.

We all have Social Service activities at our schools. Fifty hours to graduate and the like. However, today I saw true community spirit among so many and with nothing but the goal to help people in real need. No credits were given. I saw one student, noted through the years for naughtiness and tuning out, working spiritedly in boxing and moving goods.

Compassion is part of the human condition. May it remain so.

*Wanting to create a PLN (personal learning network) with fellow educators, Cyrus Carter recently started writing his blog and tweeting, through which he shares current trends, stimulating ideas, articles and blogs that have to do with education and educational technology. "I believe that educators should try to share ideas among themselves as we are life-long learners," says Carter. "Wishing to add a small amount to 'the pot', I started to blog on education and hope to write more and more as my audience increases."*

On October 25, 2011, boxes of clothes, blankets, underwear, sanitary pads, baby food and flashlights for earthquake survivors were collected thanks to the coordinated efforts of RC students, faculty and staff. The boxes filled two trucks provided by the Beşiktaş and Ataşehir municipalities who delivered the donations to Van. Two days later cash donations for Kızılay were collected from students during homeroom. The Student Council collected a total of 15,000 TL which has been earmarked for building prefabricated metal housing in Van. This generous sum is enough to build 1.5 houses.



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# 2011 HOMECOMING

Alumni young and old descended on campus on October 23 to celebrate Robert College's Annual Homecoming. Eight decades of classes met and mingled with friends, and current and former faculty, spilling out in front of Gould Hall to enjoy the beautiful fall weather. RC student volunteers helped with registration and directed alumni to different activities.

The Oral History CIP continued, with alumni sharing their memories during interviews in the library while personal photos brought in by many alumni were scanned in Marble Hall. The traditional soccer matches were held throughout the weekend on the Plateau.

The highlight of the afternoon was the Homecoming Assembly in the Suna Kıraç Theatre lead by Headmaster John Chandler, which was standing-room only. In addition to the oldest graduates (Nimet Erenli ACG 43 and Şeci Edin RC 47), Chandler recognized alumni who had travelled from abroad, teachers past and present, and the student volunteers. Alumni from the 1940s to the recent 2011 grads gave jubilant cheers as their classes were called. But the highlight of Roll Call was the class of ACG 61, who were also celebrating their 50th reunion. When their class was called they hopped in front of the stage, and received a standing ovation for their dance performance to Bill Haley and the Comet's "Rock Around the Clock". The Robert College Student Orchestra gave an inspirational performance of while alumni who attended Robert College before the merger came together to sing "The Boy's Song" with gusto. The assembly closed with "Alma Mater". After the assembly, the festivities continued poolside at Bizim Tepe, courtesy of the Alumni Association.

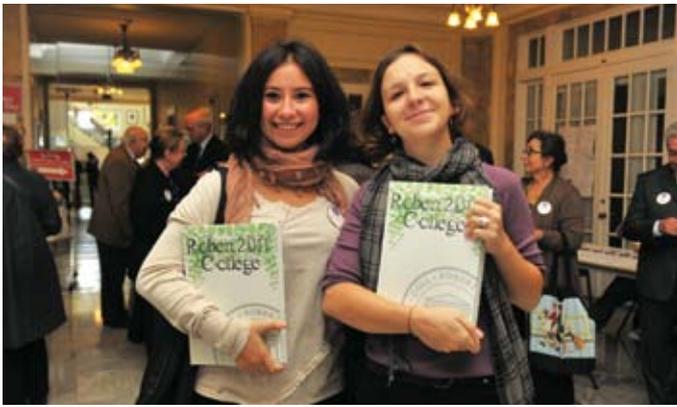


Ahmet Şeci Edin RC 47 was recognized as the oldest male graduate present at Homecoming. Cheering for him on the far right is his brother Osman Edin RC 58.



The ACG 61 "girls" gave an impromptu performance and "Rocked around the Clock" to the tune of Bill Haley and His Comets





RC 2011 graduates get a hold of the eagerly anticipated Record 2011.



Lale Tekişalp RC 09, Nil Kasuto RC 11, and Burcu Yeşil RC 11



RC 87 was one of the teams competing in the popular Homecoming football tournament.



RC 92 friends Cem Mocan and his wife Burçe, Cem İyibozkurt, Aykan Erdemir and his wife Tuğba.



Özer Esen RC 49 representing his class and greeting fellow alumni during Roll Call.



The oldest alumna present that day was Nimet Erenli ACG 43. A hardworking class agent, Mrs Erenli came to HC with her daughter Oya Sezer ACG 69.



RC Faculty & Staff Guests singing the "Alma Mater"



RC 52 were represented in full force.



Pulat Kantoğlu RC 52 and friend reunite for a Homecoming hug.



ACG 61 were a cheerful crowd at their 50th year reunion.



Singing the boys' "Alma Mater" at the end of the assembly hour has become a wonderful part of the Homecoming tradition.

# Houston Reunion

Nineteen ACG, RA and RC Alumni and their families living in the Houston, Texas area got together for the first time in Dr. Gurur Biliciler Denктаş RC 86 & Dr. Ali Denктаş's RC 85 residence on April 23, 2011. The event was planned and hosted by Gurur Biliciler Denктаş and Ilgin Aka RC 87. Both Gurur and Ilgin were talking about an RC reunion for a very long time. After getting the list of alumni in Texas from the NY office they got down to sifting through it for the updated info. It took them days which turned into weeks of e-mailing, calling and internet surfing to be able to reach as many alumni as possible. Even though some of the graduates were not able to make it that day, they were very interested to open a new chapter in their lives which now included friends sharing the same desks, the magnificent view of the Bosphorous, the field days, the smell of the *asmalar* in front of Gould Hall in the spring, Mitchell Hall and many, many more.

After a hectic day of preparations and making sure everything was perfect for this special reunion, Ilgin, Gurur and Ali were excited to hear the first bell. Then followed the second and then the rest. ACG, RA and RC graduates from every decade were coming with their families and joining this very excited group of people. The highlight of the day was the meeting of the oldest graduate, Perihan Teague ACG 49, and youngest graduates, Hazal Yücel and Yiğit Ergeçen RC 2010, some 61 years apart. *Sohbet* was so deep that people had to be reminded to enjoy the food many times. Stories were told, anecdotes were shared, and laughter was heard from every corner.

Contact information was exchanged for future get-togethers and it was then time for group photos. It was no different than a family having fun together. No one wanted to leave and as the evening was coming to an end, everyone marked this date as the beginning of the RC Alumni

activities in Houston. There were no goodbyes but only farewells in the form of "see you in a few months".



The oldest graduate Perihan Teague ACG 49 and the youngest RC alumni Yiğit Ergeçen RC 10 and Hazal Yücel RC 10 are proof that years do not matter- when you are an RC graduate you have so many things in common!



**Front from left:** Belgin Tunalı Kotoski RC 76, Nilgin Giray Bellezza RC 76, Perihan Teague ACG 49, Biykem Bozkurt Dilcioğlu RC 83, Gurur Biliciler Denктаş RC 86, David Bonfil RC 68

**Back from left:** Peri Yalçinkaya RC 72, Mete Yalçinkaya RC 71, Toroman Şahin RC 68, Cavit Alev RC 71, Ali Denктаş RC 85, Sadi Mizrahi RC 68, Yiğit Ergeçen RC 10, Hazal Yücel RC 10, Evren Kaynak RC 95, Ilgin Aka RC 87, Kerem Özer RC 85, Ayşe Akcan Arıkan RC 90

**Missing from picture** Zeki Ali Tolunay

## RC, ACG 56 and 57 Reunion

**D**uring the funeral of Sedat Eden RC ENG 57 in 2010 a group of RC and ACG graduates was talking about the loss of their dear friend and reminiscing about the good old days. The topic turned to our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2006, of which we all had great memories, and we decided to organize a 55<sup>th</sup> reunion.

The program was modeled after our 2006 reunion with a kick-off lunch at Kennedy Lodge, a boat tour on the Bosphorus the next night and a formal dinner at Bizim Tepe to close the Istanbul celebration. Unlike the 2006 reunion, not many were interested in spending a few days in Bodrum or Marmaris after the Istanbul festivities. Signs of our age were finally beginning to appear!

The lunch at Kennedy Lodge served as a warm-up, as if we needed warming up at all. It worked well as a rekindling of our affections and delight in coming together. We lifted our glasses in remembrance of our dearly departed which had reduced our ranks by five since the 2006 reunion.

The Bosphorus tour is usually the event where people let their hair down and revert to their younger days. It was obvious people needed to do that. We danced, talked, listened to the hilarious jokes of Nevin Etuz Sudikarataş, and enjoyed being together. There were nearly a dozen people who had made the trip from the US. This was the high point of the weekend, and the Bosphorus was beautiful in the warm September night.

The third night was the formal dinner at Bizim Tepe. Robert College Headmaster John Chandler opened the celebration with a short speech, urging RC graduates of all years to follow our example of loyalty to our Alma Mater and to each other. At the end of the night we resolved to do this every year.

Planning for 2012 is underway, with the Pancaroğlu family and Dr. Duygu Bazoğlu Sezer carrying the ball for next year. Mine Gürel Gökmen, Haluk Emiroğlu, Bülent Ezal and I think we can retire from being part of the organizing team. Somehow, that just does not seem likely!

**Contributed by Ahmet N. Taşpınar, RC ENG 1956**

## ACG 59 Reunion



The Class of 59 met for a luncheon at İstanbul Üniversitesi Sosyal Tesisleri in Baltalimanı, İstanbul on October 19, 2011. Nineteen graduates attended the reunion, and the five professors amongst them were presented with a white rose each.

## ACG 61 After Half a Century



It's no joke, we're celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our graduation!

One part of me asks, with sadness and amazement, how these years passed.

Another part of me feels deep gratitude to God that I had the opportunity to go to such a high school with such friends. If I'm to start a sentence with "fortunately", RC gives me a reason to. I look at my classmates now and I see diversity. Walking on the paths they've chosen, they have all grown so strong, so different.

This is why I say diversity, because our school gave us a perspective where we were able to see the brilliance inside ourselves. And it gave us unlimited support to strengthen that brilliance. This support came in different forms, sometimes as words, sometimes as life lessons made of silent messages that woke you up to the beauty of life. I'd like to talk about the two of many experiences I had.

I was in my first year at school, in Special 1. It had snowed, so I was late to class on Monday morning. I had to face Mrs. Hanson, the Dean of Students, and tell her why I was late. She did not care and kept filling out the pink slip. "But," I was trying to explain her with a quivering voice, "I was late because of the weather." She stared into my eyes with her blue eyes, and said, "This may be a reason my dear, but not an excuse," and gave me the pink

slip. That was a life lesson. From that day on I stopped confusing reasons with excuses.

In Middle School 1, we were expecting to sing familiar songs in music class. Instead our teacher put a record on the turntable and said, "This is an oratorio, meaning 'ecclesiastical opera'". And then she started reading a book; no roll call, no singing. We were supposed to sit silently doing whatever we wanted to do while listening to the oratorio. We were bewildered; what was happening? And this is how we spent music class the whole academic year. For most of us, it was the first time we were hearing Western classical music. Even though there was no roll call, we all attended class. Even those who didn't have lessons during our music class would come. By the end of the year, everyone loved classical music. Our teacher had given us a gift that raised our quality of life - our musical taste.



All those extracurricular activities have taught us so much. They opened new frontiers for us and made us more sensitive.

Looking back, I see another area where the school has given us so much - our relationships, friendships. Once upon a time we were all little girls. We felt homesick and lonely, and everything was so difficult. We barely stopped crying. We saved our tears for nighttime when no one could see them. More and more we started to reach out and hold each others' hands. We always supported each other in those years when we were starting to build our characters. We shared our sorrow, joy, success, and failure.. and it lasted a life time.

Now we are all in the grandmothers' class and we are still holding each others' hands. Is there anything more impressive, more valuable than this? As I was climbing the hill, I was thinking about all the things the school has given to our minds and our friendships, what it has added to our souls.

There is this matter of age. Betül Mardin ACG 46 solved that problem for us. She is 84 and still standing tall. Her mind is full of ideas and projects. She said in an interview, "There's so much I want to do. I wish I was a bit younger, in my seventies for instance."

So I say, there are so many good things to live for my dear friends!

**Contributed by Ipek Ongun ACG 61**



## RC 71 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion



**40** years have passed... Easier said than done! The final graduates of RC (Yüksek Okul), the class of 1971, have been keeping in touch through social media and getting together on several occasions for four years. We also raised enough funds in 2010 to build a library for the Gebze Kocatepe Primary School, coordinated by the Support for Modern Life Association (ÇYDD).

We formed an organizing committee in charge of arranging the 40<sup>th</sup> reunion (Müfide Pekin, Nadide Önen, Tülin Kılıç, Nazan Gökay, Süheyl Açık, Eren Özen, Necil Berkant, Mişel Grunberg and İsmail Yalçinkaya) and celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion in Istanbul on June 24-25, 2011.

On June 24, we met at the cocktail and gala dinner at Bizim Tepe. Seventy percent of RC 71 came from all over

the world to participate in this special celebration (USA, Canada, England, France, German, Italy, Switzerland, Greece, Israel, Australia, and Singapore). More than 100 graduates and their families watched the class's stories from the past 40 years on the projector and received gifts. The RC 71 Memoir Book and the set of coffee cups with a logo of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary prepared for the occasion left a mark on the evening.

The second day began with a trip to the former Robert College campus, now Bosphorus University. Graduates met at Kazım's and afterwards went to Kennedy Lodge for conversation over coffee. The final event was a boat trip on the Bosphorus, accompanied by music from the 60's and 70's. As we were heading off we were already talking about next year's reunion.

**Contributed by İsmail Yalçinkaya RC 71**





## RC 86 25 Years After A Chronicle of a Weekend on Campus

July 2011, 25 years after they left to explore the world, '86ers gathered on the RC campus to celebrate their reunion. The preparations did not start very early; after the 20<sup>th</sup> reunion, we knew that it was going to happen and had marked our calendars. How could we forget; it was so much fun last time spending the weekend on the campus, dancing, eating, watching the sunset and sunrise, acting as if we were back in time on the day we graduated in '86. After some discussion on our Facebook and Yahoo groups, we decided to go back to RC and celebrate our weekend there.

Thanks to technology, an international organizing committee was formed. The organizing team actually never got together! Emails were updated, phone numbers were checked; yes, we were a bit rusty we must admit. Making sure that everyone was contacted, including those who never showed up for any of our get-togethers over the last quarter century was really hard! But, we were determined to reach all. It took two months of intensive work to let everyone know that we were alive and getting together.

Organizing this event was an experience in itself. (Our team is now accepting orders for weddings, engagement organizations, and event planning of any kind! Credit cards accepted.) Selin (Kibar-

Bayar) did the most critical groundwork with RC's Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu; she was our communication portal. Ebru (Alçııcı-Köksal) brought Divan on board-the best address for catering (what an excellent decision it was). Esra (Esat-Arson) was perhaps the hardest working person on the planet calling people and getting their responses even up to the last minute. Demet (Apak-Şermet) was the organizer of music and entertainment (including some planned for our 30<sup>th</sup>) and bank transactions. Between Demet and Esra, Tan Baba (Taşçıoğlu) connected us with his digital hocus-pocus skills, some of which are still a mystery to the rest of the group (but he did get his well-deserved kiss from Demet for his success). Gurur (Biliciler-Denktaş) and Alpdoğan (Kantarci) re-defined the use of the internet for international connectivity between old friends of 25

years, sometimes harassing their classmates to the extent that now everyone "loves" them! Karin helped with her experience on the organizing committee of the 20<sup>th</sup> reunion. Erkut (Eronat) was the "always-reliable" support when things went really wrong! Ali (Sancar) - nothing could have been possible without his negotiating skills with the vendors. He went the extra mile to get the best deals even on the day of the event and made sure that we had a cushion under us while we were gently (well, OK not so much) sipping our drinks and waiting for the sun to rise on the Plateau. Of course, the net load was an average of 20-50 email exchanges a day.

Everything was ready, the stage was set for a fun weekend. The only thing we had to worry about was the ever-unpredictable





Istanbul weather. Seventy-five mates showed up; some of them (Bülent Kutluözen; who was peacefully enjoying the scenery) even helped Ali and Alpdoğan to clean up the weeds in case we slipped off the cushions for unforeseen reasons in the middle of the night. İbrahim (Sözen) sponsored the surprise of the evening with Demet and enjoyed it. Ahmet (İlgaz) helped organize the music and made sure that the DJ was not playing any techno. During her highly professional presentation of the people who were involved in the organization, Ebru (Alçııcı-Köksal) acknowledged the togetherness of RC 86 and the RC community at large. This gave the opportunity for Cüneyt (a.k.a. Murat Taşkıran) and Özlem (Özbek) to announce the launch of a new initiative for an RC 86 scholarship. And everyone who attended that weekend brought their positive energy, beauty, lovely attire, memories, joy, youth, and of course the drinking and dancing skills that made us "RC 86" since we were in each other's lives as of 1979.

This was an important weekend; it was exactly 25 years after we graduated. All of us were still in good shape (OK, some of us were better than the others; some were even better than the 20th; the winners were again Mehmet (Genç), Cüneyt (Yavuz) and Oğuz (Ersoy) from the gents and all (not exaggerating) the ladies), with "some" sort of wisdom (we will get better, promise), and determined to stay as the 18-year olds of summer 86. The evening started with cocktails in front of Gould Hall (for us it was Marble Hall) earlier than even the bartenders thought. We had a series of group pictures (some



of them reflect too much fun to show here). Then, an excellent dinner followed. Most of us do not remember what we ate but the menu was great. Dancing to some oldies and new songs. Changing wet shirts and settling in the dorms; heading for Part II on the Plateau. Beautiful Istanbul, beautiful night, beautiful people till the sunrise with a steady supply of drinks. Some went to "işkembeci" and came back only to continue where they left. Some greeted the rise of a new day at Bingham with curious sea gulls. And, we did get some (sort of) sleep between 7-10 am. The dorms were excellent; we were impressed with the facilities. We woke up and went to brunch with our families and significant others; to spend time with the new generation of RC 86. For some reason, kids were growing while we were staying the same. Nothing was missing from our buffet table. The surprise came when our commemorative t-shirts were generously provided by Cüneyt (Yavuz); they were gorgeous. Münir (Aysu) Hoca joined us

for brunch; it was so great to see him, still active, and still as sharp as ever in remembering things that even we forgot.

The weekend ended in a celebration of life under the trees on the Plateau making sure that nothing was wasted around a çilingir sofrası. Like every good thing, it came to an end only to spur re-energized friendships, multiple mini-reunions since then, plans for a regular annual meet-up, a solid plan for an RC 86 scholarship, and most importantly, a reunited class of '86. There is some debate on where we should go for the next one-some suggested that a lovely resort on Mediterranean would be great. We don't know yet, but RC 86 knows wherever we will be, it doesn't matter; we'll find each other, carry our alma-mater in our hearts, and enjoy the moment. Voilà.

**Demet-Tan-Selin-Esra-Ebru-Ali-Gurur-Erkut-Karin-Alpdoğan RC 86**

## RC 96 15<sup>th</sup> Reunion



The first ever 15<sup>th</sup> Reunion Ball was held by RC 96 in Marble Hall, with the surprise appearances of basketball coach Dave Phillips, then PE teacher Bill Barry, former house mother Nükhet Eren and former house father Mehmet Uysal.

The organization committee was brought together by Ali İspahani to lay the ground for a class scholarship. With the advertising expertise of Seda Çaykara and Toygun Yılmaz, organizational skills of Deniz Taşer and Pelin Oray, props and decorations by Zeynep Erkoç Çizmeci, funds management by Ali İspahani and help with school resources and connections by Mehveş Dramur, the team created an event to be remembered



PE teacher Dave Phillips, former PE teacher Bill Barry and Deniz Taşer

in the years to come. The idea was to recreate the nostalgic ball atmosphere of the 90s when the school balls were held in Marble Hall. As the designated DJ Ömer Sevil could not make it to Turkey that weekend, Toygun Yılmazzer took over DJ duty and designed the playlist, carefully picking the favorite songs of our time. Murat Kulacoğlu designed mugs and picture covers with the concept "High school never ends", and 3 professional photographers were on duty to capture every memorable moment. The committee members worked very hard to get gifts from clubs, restaurants, spas and high-end brands like Nu-spa, Kismet by Milka, Assouline, Komili, Selamlıque, The House Cafe, Cihangir Yoga and Babylon. Though people lined up to buy lottery tickets to fight for the gifts, the Ayanlar couple did not give others much chance when they bought hundreds of tickets, winning most of the items as a result.

The night started off on the steps outside Marble Hall as everybody met up. Every entrance caused new excitement and heartwarming scenes as songs like "More than words" played in the background. Döner was served from our "yemekhane" and beverages were provided by Taps and Doluca, which made the night somewhat different from how it used to be. Instead of sneaking in "slightly" drunk, this time we were actually allowed to drink alcohol! In fact Deniz Taşer served colorful shots all night, occasionally dropping the



Pelin Oray, Zeynep Erkoç Çizmeci, Seda Çaykara Şen, Toygun Yılmazzer, Ali İspahani, Deniz Taşer, Mehveş Dramur

whole tray! After everybody caught up, laughed and gossiped, the music picked up and tunes like "Because the Night" and "I would do anything for love" took everyone back to their high school days. The crowd moved indoors to Marble Hall; dancing, slow dancing (!), even doing the lambada. Friends who came despite having just given birth, being pregnant,

or living far away-the farthest being Australia- proved that the RC spirit will never die.

One of the surprises was a TV screen inside, showing the Lise graduation ball in Çırağan Palace. Although the faces had naturally changed over the years, the joy of being together was still there. The delightful crowd spent the night dancing, exploring new cocktails or sitting on the steps of Gould Hall chatting away. Seeing how people who lost touch picked up after 15 years from where they left off proved that some things are never going to change and the years only make bonds stronger. The group continued the fun at Taps in Bebek after midnight when it was time to leave the premises. Although some lost their way and preferred to wait for the vapur in Beşiktaş instead :).

As a result of this magical night not only was 12,000 TL raised for a scholarship, but promises were made to keep the bond stronger and plan a yearly get together. RC 96 hopes to have started a "15th Year Ball" tradition for years to come.



Deniz Taşer, Erenşah Biçen Ayanlar, Ali İspahani, Nilhan Ulusoy

Contributed by RC 96

# Engin Inel Holmstrom ACG 51 Makes a Fiction Debut - at 80!

Proof that it is never too late to do something you love, Engin Inel Holmstrom ACG 51 has written her first novel - at the age of 80! Her debut *Loveswept* is available from Amazon, Amazon UK and Barnes&Nobles.

Engin holds a masters and doctorate in sociology from Duke University. She and her husband Robert Holmstrom taught at ACG from 1965 to 1968. She has over 50 professional publications, mostly dealing with issues of higher education. She has also been involved with Turkish-American associations in the USA since 1973 and has given many speeches about Atatürk and Turkish women. She's retired now and lives in Leesburg, Virginia with her husband and cat Sarman.

We couldn't help but ask her:

### How did you decide to write?

I've lived in the United States since 1959 and the lack of knowledge about Turkey, our history, our way of life, has always bothered me. And ever since 9/11, there seems to be an ever-growing conviction that the world's two-billion-plus Muslims comprise a monolithic and uniform group. Further, most of the books about Muslim women, whether fiction or not, have been about the horrible conditions under which they live. Every time I read about

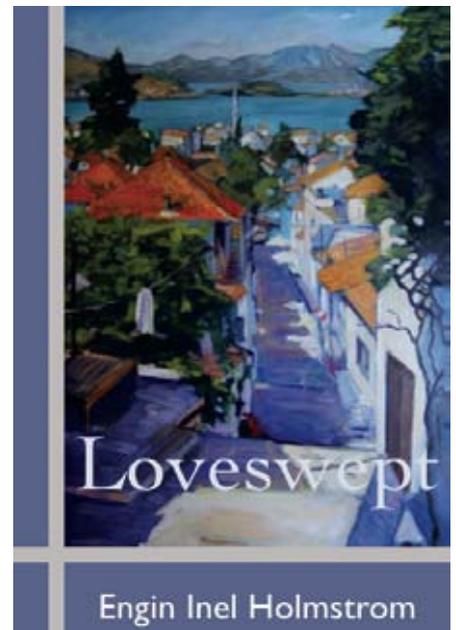
the plight of Pakistani or Afghan women or hear about the way they are treated in Saudi Arabia, I wanted to tell the world about the way we were brought up and the way we lived, including our carefree school days and our RC boyfriends. So I finally sat down and wrote the book.

### What's the story about?

It had to be a love story, didn't it? I couldn't lecture people about Atatürk's vision of Turkey as an enlightened country, his reforms, and the benefits of secularism which made us so different from other Muslim countries, could I? Who would read that? So I envisioned a cross-cultural love story titled *Loveswept*-a word I made up, by the way.

**It's about a Muslim girl's love affair with an Englishman. Being a romance, it has a happy ending. No spitting. No stoning. No honor killings.**

Of course, a lot happens between falling in love and living happily ever after, including an ill-conceived marriage to a Turkish man of a more traditional background during the 1950s in Ankara which allowed me to discuss the huge cultural gap between the so-called "modern" or "westernized" Turks and the more traditional ones, the consequences of the Menderes government's use of religion for political purposes and the unintended negative results of American Aid program. Some of the problems we're facing in Turkey today could realistically be traced back to the events of the 1950s and I had to get them off my chest under the guise of a love story.



### First novels are sometimes said to be autobiographical? Is yours?

Yes and no. You have to start with something you know, particularly when you're writing your first novel. When the story starts, Neri, the protagonist, is an ACG student. Her father is a winemaker. They live in Tekirdağ. These all parallel my life. There's also a lot in the book about my parents who had a love marriage, very uncharacteristic for their generation, and were extremely tolerant and nonjudgmental. All my friends used to come and discuss their relationship problems with them. Part of the motivation in writing this book was my desire to honor their memory. But no, the book is 90 percent fiction, so much so that after the first few chapters, every time I sat down to write, I had no idea where I was going with the story.



Engin Inel Holmstrom ACG 51

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## Ayşe Yüksel-Durukan ACG 69

Ayşe worked with the American Library Association as the head of the European section of the International Relations Round Table in 2008 and 2010. As of September 2010 she was appointed the International Association of School Libraries (IASL) Director of Middle East and North Africa. Ayşe also acts as the executive member of the Turkish Library Association in Ankara. She continues her work as a school librarian at the Robert College Library.



## Zühre Ak Germirli ACG 71 Jr.



Now that her son and daughter are all grown up (ages 19 & 16) Zühre wished to start a family business and thus was born Serdar-ı Ekrem 59, a lovely boutique hotel in the heart of the the flourishing Galata area.

Serdar-ı Ekrem 59 is a small 5 story building perfectly located on a quiet street of the historical Galata district in Beyoğlu. It offers guests 5 apartments with separate living and bedroom areas,

all decorated in a unique and trendy style. All the flats are equipped with a kitchenette, flat-screen TV, safe box, free Wi-Fi and direct-dial phone. Zühre and her staff are all ready to do their best to make their guests' stay as comfortable and enjoyable as possible.

You can visit Zühre's hotel at [www.serdar-iekrem59.com](http://www.serdar-iekrem59.com) She will enjoy it tremendously if you visit her and her hotel in person.

## Ahu Acar RC 86, Jale Tanalp RC 83, Yaprak Çallı RC 04

After graduating from RC, Msc. Dt. Yaprak Çallı studied dentistry at Yeditepe University and specialized in Restorative and Esthetics Dentistry. She started to work with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jale Tanalp and Prof. Dr. Ahu Acar in Özel Akademik Dental. "As three RC graduates, we're like a family in the office and patients tell us that they feel as if they're at home. Our family consists of six specialized dentists and three dental assistants." Yaprak says. Their aim is to treat patients using the most improved treatment options such as lasers, implants and laminates.

"For us, every patient is like a puzzle.. We're working hard to fulfill the expectations of our patients whom we embrace as members of our family." she says.

Jale remembers days she spent at RC as very memorable. She states that RC has a unique place in her heart as the place where her personality developed. She has always been very proud to be an RC graduate and she feels very lucky that she had the opportunity to work in collaboration with two other members of the RC family. She concludes her words by indicating that as three dentists belonging to different generations, they do their best to preserve the wonderful RC spirit in the clinic.



From L to R: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jale Tanalp RC 83, Msc. Dt. Yaprak Çallı RC 04, Prof. Dr. Ahu Acar RC 86

For more information, please visit [www.akademikdental.com](http://www.akademikdental.com).

## Sertaç Yeltekin RC 87

Having studied Economics and Political Science at Swarthmore College and Advanced International Studies at the Johns Hopkins University Bologna Center in Italy, Sertaç first thought he would become a diplomat or an academician; but life had different exciting plans for him. He gave the corporate world a try and it turned out great. After a banking career at Yapı Kredi and Demirbank in the 1990s in Turkey, he started working for management consultancy Bain & Company in Istanbul, then in Tel Aviv and Rome.

In 1999 he decided to settle in Italy and his career began taking off. He started working for the Unicredit Group as a

Management Consultant, and then as a Banking and Asset Management Sector Manager. After years as a manager on the business side, Sertaç was assigned to lead Unicredit's Leadership Development Center, called UniManagement, in Turin. The center manages programs to build leadership skills and advises on transformation and change management projects with a staff of about 30 professionals who report to Sertaç.

Sertaç lives between Turin and Milan where his home is. He is a husband to Paola, and a father to two daughters Dafne and Leila.



## Gülruh Tayan Turhan RC 88

Gülruh is a CPCC- Certified Professional Co-Active Coach by CTI (Coaches Training Institute, USA), one of the world's leading coaching schools. She is continuing her ORSC training (Organisation and Relationship Systems Coaching) at the Center For Right Relationships. She is also in a Co-Active Leadership Program in which she is focusing on contributing to the education system.

Gülruh is an active member of the International Coaching Federation (ICF) and is currently one of the 50 ICF accredited professional coaches in Turkey.

Gülruh's passion is around evoking transformation in her clients' lives. By empowering individuals through coaching and mentoring, she helps them find



their authentic selves, define their life purposes, realize their potentials and step away from their self-limiting belief systems. She coaches people toward agile leadership, achieving personal and professional goals, making important transitions, growth and satisfaction at

work and enhanced efficacy toward relationships. She considers her clients naturally creative, resourceful and whole while supporting them to think out of the box.

Gülruh coaches people from all walks of life, from lawyers to writers, university students to executives. She also works with international clientele with which she conducts sessions on Skype.

She designs and facilitates experiential workshops on leadership, coaching, relationships, personal development and the like.

After graduating from RC, Gülruh received her BA from Istanbul University. She lives in Istanbul with her husband and two children.

## Murat Tanyeri RC 90

On June 30, 2011, RC graduate Murat Tanyeri and his wife Esra Tanyeri welcomed their second child, Can. He weighed 4.1kg and measured 50 cm at birth. Can's older sister, Zeynep, loves running and playing on the Plateau in the summer. The Tanyeris are looking forward to both kids playing together on campus in the years to come.



## Arwa Damon RC 94



"Put me in a conflict zone anytime and I'll handle it , just don't ask me about painting walls and positioning electrical outlets." Arwa Damon RC 94 summed up the trials and tribulations of finding a new home and dealing with the details while on a brief visit to Istanbul in July 2011. A brief respite from covering the conflicts in the Middle East saw her enjoying the Bosphorus breeze and reconnecting with the city she loves so much. Accompanying Arwa was her mother Joumana Damon, former French teacher at RC and wife of former RC Orta School director George Damon. Arwa continues to be CNN's Beirut correspondent covering stories from Lebanon and the surrounding region. She is an award-winning journalist and also one of the network's Iraq specialists and continues to report from Baghdad on assignment throughout the year.

## Selçuk Pultar RC 94

Selçuk Pultar and fashion designer Selin Karamehmetoğlu were married on September 22, 2011 at the Moda Deniz Kulübü in Istanbul. Sharing his happiness were his parents Mustafa Pultar RC CE 60 and Gönül Ayda Pultar ACG 62 Ex and RC LL 66, and his siblings Giray Pultar RC 90 and Eren Pultar RC 93. Guests at the wedding ceremony and the ensuing cocktail party and sit-down dinner included many of Selçuk's RC classmates as well as classmates of his parents from ACG and RC . The bride, a graduate of the Burgo Fashion Institute of Milan (Italy), working currently as a designer at the Verda Textile fashion house in Istanbul, was wearing a Vera Wang wedding dress. Selçuk, who graduated from Wabash College with degrees in economics and computer science, began his career at Surebridge in Boston, and continued in the New York offices of Arthur Andersen and KPMG Consulting. In Istanbul since 2005, Selçuk co-founded Intimatek, a business consultancy company providing online enterprise resource management services, and is currently an executive at the D & R company.



## Kerim Tuna RC 95



Kerim and Didem briefly met at another RC alum's wedding in Istanbul in 2005, and reconnected more than a year later in New York. Didem was pursuing her MBA at Columbia Business School and had just started her investment banking career at Morgan Stanley, where Kerim worked on the markets side. Call it luck if you like; they think it was Cupid!

What started with a coffee break here and a Chinese take-away there grew into a stronger bond over time. One day in Central Park, a favorite location for the couple, he popped the ring out of a fortune cookie and proposed.

The couple eventually got married on June 11, 2011 at A'jia Hotel in Istanbul. They continue to live in New York now as husband and wife.

## Pinar Arı Şentuğ RC 96

Pinar Arı Şentuğ RC 96 and her husband Ozan welcomed their second son Emir three years after they brought their first-

born Timur into the world. Emir was born on August 10th after 8.5 hours of labor. He was 54 cm tall and weighed 4090 gr!



## Özlem Bankoğlu Chung RC 96

March 30, 2011 saw the arrival of Sinan Chung, the pride and joy of Özlem Bankoğlu Chung RC 96 and her husband Sheanon Chung.

The couple moved from New York to Washington, D.C. and Özlem currently works for the IFC.

## Emrah Gürsoy RC 98

They say opposites attract. And so they do. Emrah, a rationalist and a born engineer, and Ece, a dreamer and sociologist, met for a date two and a half years ago (Ece had actually known his 18 year-old self, a long red-haired youth overdosed on Kurt Cobain, but that doesn't count because our hero was unaware of our heroine). So the couple formally met two and a half years ago, when Emrah was losing hair, and had returned from his MBA at Carnegie Mellon University, having worked at Corporate Executive Board and Capital One in Washington, DC for three years. Ece had graduated from Boğaziçi University and was preparing for her Management Masters at London School of Economics. The couple survived a period of long-

distance while Ece was at LSE, living in central London in the smallest dorm room possible. As soon as Ece returned to Istanbul, the couple took a trip to Paris, where Emrah popped the question amidst the 14<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks on the Champs de Mars last year. Ece and Emrah got married on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Marriott Hotel in Istanbul. They flew off to a safari honeymoon on Tanzania. Emrah claims that they saw a couple of lions mating, which he thought was very appropriate, given the circumstances. Ece denies the occurrence. Ece now works at HSBC and Emrah works at Mithat Clothing, their family business. The couple are known to be living happily ever after in Istanbul since the wedding (and the lion sighting).



## Tuğçe Kurtiş RC 2000

Tuğçe Kurtiş (Istanbul, Turkey) and Santiago Ferreira (Asunción, Paraguay) traveled far and wide before their roads crossed in Lawrence, Kansas where the former had just begun her long degree in Social Psychology while the latter was about to complete his long degree in Music Composition. Despite being students at the same university and neighbors living one floor above another, the two never met for the first couple of months, until Tuğçe's random encounter with Gusti (Gustavo Diaz) one evening just outside their apartment complex. Somehow instantly convinced that the two should meet, Gusti introduced them



to each other and let "fate" do its trick. A couple of nights past their initial meeting, Tuğçe and Santiago were already on stage at the Jazzhaus in Lawrence, performing their first three songs to a small crowd of

newly acquired friends and acquaintances. Over the next set of months, the two rapidly extended their act and repertoire, and began performing weekly at various venues in the area, accompanied by other jazz performers from the KU School of Music.

In 2011, the couple decided to formally join their lives and celebrated with a ceremony (3 times!) in different locations. They still reside in Lawrence, where Tuğçe is finally finishing that long degree in Psychology while Santiago is completing another degree in Computer Science.

## Emin Uzunkaya RC 03

Emin Uzunkaya RC 03 got married to Pinar Özhan on September 16, 2011.

## Çağla Cömert RC 03



Çağla gave birth to a 4 kilo bundle of joy, Mina Heimel, on April 27. Mina came to the world in the same hospital her mother was born in .

## Help needed:

I'm writing a biography of Muzaffer Er Selçuk, AB, RC 38 Any classmates who remember anecdotes about him, his family, his friends, his teachers (such as Prof. Larson) or any other relevant details, please contact Ruthie Roberts, ruthieroberts1@mac.com or

314 West 98<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10025  
USA

### FACULTY & FRIENDS NEWS

## Adil İzci

Former RC Turkish Literature teacher Adil İzci's latest book "Deniz Olsun Adı" is now available in stores.

Adil İzci's *Deniz Olsun Adı*, published by Günışığı Kitaplığı, is a children's poetry book. This is İzci's first work in this genre and contains 41 lovely poems. The poems successfully bring children closer to concepts like love, friendship, childhood, family, tolerance, nature, etc. The pages are enriched with lovely drawings by Sadi Güran.

Adil İzci was born in 1954, in Niğde and studied literature at Ankara University. He taught Turkish literature at RC for 30 years until his retirement in 2010. He wrote articles on language corruption for "Çağrı", RC's literature magazine. The writer's works have been published since 1984.

Among his books are; *Günizi* (poetry, 1997), *Su ve Yaprak* (poetry, 1999), *Kır ve Gök* (poetry, 2007) and *Aşk İmiş* (poetry, 2009), *Ağaçlar Kitabı* (essays, 2004), *Evler Sokaklar Kitabı* (short story, 2010), *Eski Bir Niğde* (monograph, 2009).

İzci is married to Selma İzci, also a former RC teacher and is the father of two daughters. They live in İstanbul.



## Tanşu Aksoy

Tanşu Aksoy, RC's beloved former geography teacher honored her passion for education by founding a primary school.

After her retirement in 1999 she never stopped caring about educating the youth of Turkey. Taking into account the growing demand for education and lack of sufficient means in Turkey, she dreamt of founding a school. With the help of her husband Nevzat Aksoy, she fulfilled her wish in 2011.

She and her husband Nevzat Aksoy chose Yalova, because the city had lost many buildings after the devastating earthquake of 1999. Named Tanşu Aksoy İstiklâl İlköğretim Okulu (Tanşu Aksoy İstiklâl Primary School), it has a 1200 m field and 12 classrooms. It also houses a gym carrying Nevzat Aksoy's name.



Tanşu Aksoy was born in Ankara and graduated from Ankara University. She began her teaching career at TED Ankara. She joined the RC faculty in 1979 and thoroughly enjoyed her teaching career until the day she retired in 1999.

BAŞINI  
BELAYA SOKMANIN  
**EN HIZLI  
YOLU.**



**HIZLI KALP ATIŞI, SIK ARALIKLARLA YUTKUNMA. VE DAHA BİRÇOK YAN ETKİ.**

Şunu bilmeni isteriz ki, Yeni MINI Coupé herkese göre değil. Test drive için ayrıntılı bilgi tüm Borusan Oto'larda. Cesaretlisən seni de bekliyoruz.

MINI Cooper S Coupé modelinin CO<sub>2</sub> emisyonu 136 gr/km, ortalama yakıt tüketimi ise 5,8 lt/100 km'dir.

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**Borusan Oto İstinye** İstinye Mah. Sarıyer Cad. No: 77 Sarıyer - İstanbul (0212) 359 30 30

**Borusan Oto Dolmabağçe** Askerocağı Cad. No: 9 Süzer Plaza Şişli - İstanbul (0212) 377 00 00

**Borusan Oto Çankaya** Uğur Mumcu Cad. No: 8 Çankaya - Ankara (0312) 459 80 80

**Borusan Oto Adana - Mersin** Adana Mersin E5 Karayolu 21. km. Anıklı Köyü, Yenice, Tarsus - İçel (0324) 615 06 15

## Ann Julier Walko

Letter from her daughter Margaret Julier Evans gives news about former ACG Orta School English teacher

In the summer of 1969, my mother Ann Julier and I left our home in Connecticut to fulfill my mother's lifelong dream of teaching overseas. We moved to Istanbul for two years (1969-1971) where my mother taught English at the American Girls College in Arnavutkoy and I attended the Orta School. We picked up our new Volkswagen Beetle at the factory in Wolfsburg, Germany and drove to Edirne. At the time, we had no idea what a profound effect the decision to live overseas would have on our lives and that of our family and friends. During our time in Turkey, we traveled up and down the West Coast, along the Southern Coast, inland to Ankara and to Konya to see the Whirling Dervishes. On these trips, we depended on my rusty high school French and what Turkish I had begun to learn on my trips to the local grocery store where the owner would lay the groceries out on the counter and teach me their names.

After returning to the United States, my mother spent the next 30 years traveling to Turkey on a yearly basis with family and friends. She also became the resource for anyone interested in traveling to Turkey.

She developed a particular interest in following the history of groups of people throughout Europe and how and why they ended up living where they did. This prompted many other adventures including trips to Uzbekistan, Iran, Albania, as well as walking the Silk Route with her sister, Sally Taylor. The two sisters started a collection of rare books which now numbers in the hundreds, detailing the travels of people centuries ago throughout the many countries in which the two of them traveled. Most of these countries had some kind of connection to Turkey and to Turks. It was also during a return visit to Istanbul where my mother met her husband, George Walko, who was then working for the Caltex Oil Company. George's work took



them to New Zealand, Saudi Arabia and Dubai.

**On one of her trips to Turkey in 1985, she came across the Tarsus-American School. It is one of three schools in Turkey, (one also in Izmir and one in Istanbul), established in the 1890s.**

It was there that she met Ed Robeson, then the headmaster, and was invited to tour the school. She saw a great need at the Tarsus School and once back home, started a scholarship fund through her church with two other friends, the Noyes and Fran Dittes, who had also taught in Turkey. Money was provided for supplies

for the school such as books, overhead projectors, and even soccer balls which my mother brought to the school herself on one of her visits.

As you can see from her photo with me and my daughter, my mother continues to be a great supporter of Turkey.

And Turkey continues to be a favorite destination for her family. If you happen to be in New Haven, Connecticut for a visit, you can be sure that she will suggest a meal at the local Turkish restaurant!

Ann Walko currently resides at: The Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Road, No. 633, Hamden, CT 06517.

## Atanas Petkov Kobarelov RC 33

Atanas Petkov Kobarelov of Brookline, MA, died June 24, 2011. He was originally from Bulgaria. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Toni (Dimova) Kobarelov.

## Mihri Belli RC 37 Ex

An iconic figure for the Turkish leftist movement over the past 60 years, Mihri Belli, passed away on August 16, 2011 at the age of 95. Born on August 16, 1915 in Silivri, his father was Mahmut Hayrettin Bey, who fought in the War for Independence and Thrace Committee as a Defense of Rights (Trakya Mudafaa-i Hukuk Cemiyeti) member.

Belli entered Robert College in 1928, and after finishing his sophomore year in 1935 he went to America on the recommendation of his school director and on a scholarship that the director provided. There he was introduced to Marxist ideology and participated in youth and workers movements. He was also active with black sharecroppers in Mississippi for a while.

Upon returning to Turkey in 1940, Belli got in touch with the illegal Turkish Communist Party (TKP) through his primary school friend, David Nae, who was the TKP Istanbul secretary at the time. He became active with the TKP and at the end of 1942 became a member of the TKP Central Committee.

In 1943-44 he was the assistant to Istanbul University School of Economics' distinguished professor Fritz Neumark. He found the Republican People's Party (CHP) leadership at the time to be close to Hitler's Germany, so he formed and lead the youth organization Progressive Youth Union (İleri Gençler Birliği) and started organizing protests. In 1944 he was arrested during an investigation into İleri Gençler Birliği, and spent two years in prison as well as six months in exile.

He left the country in 1946 and became a guerilla in Greece's civil war. He had risen far enough in the battalion command that the Democratic Army made him a commander and gave him the name "Captain Kemal". He was wounded twice in battle and was treated in Bulgaria and the Soviet Union.

He was arrested in 1950 for entering Turkey without a passport for which he spent a short time in prison. The following year he was arrested again during the famous TKP detainment. He was tried and sentenced to seven years in prison and two years four months compulsory exile.

The libertarian atmosphere that the 1960 constitution created (which didn't last long) roused the Turkish leftist movement. New publications such as Turkish Left (Türk Solu) and Illuminated Socialist Magazine (Aydınlık Sosyalist Dergi) emerged. Belli was arrested twice during this period for talks and articles he wrote, and spent months in prison. Nevertheless, it was during this time that he developed his famous National Democratic Revolution thesis (Milli Demokratik Devrim, MDD).

He developed a relationship with the momentum-gaining youth movement as well as youth leaders such as Deniz Gezmiş and Mahir Çayan. MDD found a lot of support in a short time from



the youth movement. However, the MDD movement and Mihri Belli were exposed to slander from the overseas TKP under the direction of Zeki Baştımar during this time.

After the coup on March 12, 1971, Belli went abroad. He was a guest of the Palestine Liberation Organization for a while, after which he returned to Turkey. But a few months later he left Turkey again and this time went to Western Europe. He stayed there for a while and published the Patriot (Yurtsever) magazine. In 1973, the CHP, under the leadership of Bülent Ecevit RC 44, emerged from elections as the leading party and after the declaration of amnesty in 1974 Belli returned to his country. In 1975 he formed the Labor Party of Turkey (TEP) with some of his old war buddies. However, the Constitutional Court opened a case to close TEP and started a lawsuit against the party's founders and leaders.

In April 1979 there was an assassination attempt on Belli's life and he was seriously wounded. After the September 12, 1980 coup he was forced to go abroad again. He stayed for a while in the Middle East and then went to Sweden. During the coup, the lawsuit against the TEP founders was passed to the Martial Court.

Belli returned to Turkey in 1992. In 1996 he formed the Freedom and Solidarity Party (ÖDP) and in 2002 the Socialist Democracy Party (SDP). During the November 3, 2002 general elections, he was the Istanbul 1. District candidate for the Labor Peace Democracy Block- People's Democratic Party (Emek Barış Demokrasi Bloku-DEHAP).

In 2005 Belli's "Sketches from Prison" of portraits that he had drawn 50 years earlier were exhibited. He left the SDP in 2008 and joined the Workers' Socialist Party (İşçilerin Sosyalist Partisi) where he was elected Honorary Party President; however he didn't take an active role.

In his 95 years, Mihri Belli spent 11 years in prison and 18 years in compulsory exile.

Mihri Belli is survived by his wife, Dr. Sevin Tari, whom he met and married while in prison during the 1951 detainment, their two sons and three grandchildren.

**Contributed by Nuri M. Çolakoğlu RA 62**

## Leyla Kutri ACG 37

Leyla Dikmen Kutri passed away on April 17, 2011 at the age of 96.

Mrs. Kutri came to ACG after her "orta school" education in Çamlıca Kız Lisesi. She devoted her life to education, working as an English teacher for many years at the Atatürk Kız Lisesi and Erenköy Kız Lisesi. She was known particularly for her sense of responsibility and was always ready to help people find solutions to their problems, especially in the field of education. Mrs. Kutri was also very interested in the field of healthcare,

having attended courses on volunteer healthcare services.

Leyla Kutri is survived by her daughter Nermin Kutri.

**Contributed by Nimet Erenli ACG 43**



## Nilüfer Yalçın ACG 42

Nilüfer Yalçın passed away on June 16, 2011 at the age of 88. She was the first doyen journalist advocating women's rights in the Turkish media. In 1988, Yalçın was the General Secretary of the Press Council in the year it was founded, and supported the foundation of the Press Institute. One of the members of the Press Institute was asked to comment on

Yalçın and said, "She was an example to the new generation of young journalists and a very important doyen in Turkish press history." The Press Council released a statement saying, "Nilüfer Yalçın was an experienced journalist who played a large role in the development of the media profession in Turkey."

## Faruk Konuk RC ENG 44

Faruk Konuk, 87, of Bellevue and Honolulu, Hawaii, formerly of Istanbul, Turkey, passed away on April 3, 2011, after an extended illness. Born Jan. 4, 1924, in Istanbul, Turkey, he lived in the United States for several decades. After graduating from RC with an engineering degree, he worked as a mechanical engineer for his entire career. Faruk Konuk was the father of Jacquelin Carroll, of Honolulu.

## Gönül Erten ACG 46

Gönül Erten, a licensed English & French tourism guide, passed away on December 16, 2010, in Istanbul.



## Ertuğrul Berksun RC ENG 47



Ertuğrul Berksun was born in Kırkağaç, in 1925. Because of his father's government job, the family moved to several cities around Turkey, so he went to different schools throughout the country. He enjoyed the Ankara of the Atatürk era. He always drew attention with his decency, intelligence, assiduity and his great personality. After graduating from RC and RC ENG, he went to Illinois State University in the US for his MA. He worked for İlbank in Turkey, and then on the construction of the Keban Dam. He also worked for several companies in Canada and the US. Berksun spent most of his life in NY. He was married briefly and treated his nephews and nieces as his own children and their children as his own grandchildren. When his health declined he

moved back to Turkey to be closer to his family. He spent his last 7 months in Bursa, where he passed away on October 3, 2011. Everyone who knew him has good memories, especially his nephews and nieces, and their children. His grandniece Defne Yalkut Negri says, "During our visit to NY when he was ill, we had the chance to know him better and get closer. He was a very special person. May he rest in peace."

**Contributed by his family, Atıl Yakut, Melda Gerekli, E. Ceyla Etyemez**

## Suna Taki Özdaş ACG 52

Suna Özdaş passed away on May 14, 2011. She is survived by her husband Prof. Nimet Özdaş and her sons Mehmet and Orhan Özdaş. Suna was born on September 30, 1932, as the only child of Faika and Abdurrahman Taki, and is the great grand daughter of the Azerbaijani Takief family, founder and sponsor of most fields of arts and sciences and schools in Baku.

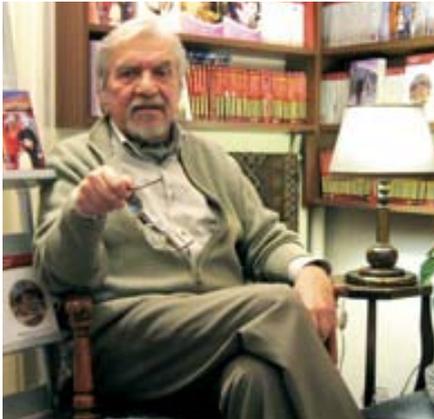
She was a first cousin of Prof. Altan Onat RC 48, Prof. Teoman Onat RC 51, Dr. Can Epirden RC 56, Gönül Epirden ACG 60, Prof. Yavuz Nutku RA 61 and Ayla Nutku ACG 63. She was happily married for 55 years to Prof. M. Nimet Özdaş, whom

she accompanied twice to USA, where he served as professor of mechanical engineering, and to Brussels, where he served as the Science Secretary of Luns in NATO. She had a very agreeable and charming character, and hence was loved and cherished by all her friends and family, and her friends at Datça Aktur where she spent about six months of the year for the past 25 years. She liked to play bridge and joined bridge groups at Aktur as well as in İstanbul consisting mostly of ACG graduates.

**Contributed by  
Prof. Teoman Onat RC 51**



## Arda Gedik RC 59



Arda Gedik passed away on September 23, 2011 at the age of 71 after a battle with liver cancer. Born in 1940 in Aydın's

Çine district, Arda Gedik completed his elementary education in Ankara. After graduating from Robert College and Ankara University's Law Faculty, he studied economics at Lausanne University from 1964-69. In 1970 he founded the foreign language school MET (Modern Education Institution) and was part of the Koç Holding management team until 1978.

In 1977 Gedik was appointed Controller of the Hürriyet Group, and later was the Hür Holding General Coordinator, Hürriyet Holding General Coordinator, and Hürriyet Newspaper Assistant General Manager. In 1982 he became the Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Hürriyet Foundation and Hürriyet

Newspapers and Printing, A.Ş. In 1983 he was named General Manager. In 1986 Gedik created Ekip A.Ş. with his professional acquaintances and close friends, serving the media, publishing and education sectors. Ekip A.Ş. is the Turkish representative for several international firms, including Harlequin S.A. Türkiye, and Gedik was the President of the Board of Directors from the company's inception.

He was also a member of the Fenerbahçe High Council.

Arda Gedik is survived by his wife Emine, sons Mehmet and Namık, sister Ayla and grandson Özhan.

## Arman Azak RC ENG 59

Arman Azak passed away in Bodrum on July 30, 2011. He was 74. Arman Azak started Robert Academy in 1949, and in 1959 graduated first in his class from Robert College's Department of Civil Engineering. He later received his MSCE degree from Princeton University. Arman worked for the Highway Commission for two years building bridges before moving to the US. In New York he worked for Severud Associates as a partner and project manager, building mainly skyscrapers. While at Severud Associates he also worked on the İş Bankası headquarters project. It was at this time that he met his wife, Kay.

Arman ran the New York Marathon five

times and participated in two pentathlons. He was also an avid sailor. When he retired he bought a house in Kalekent, Bodrum, and spent his summers there. He was a good scientist and sportsman. Arman was quiet-tempered and somewhat reserved. In 62 years I never heard him boast or get angry when a joke was played on him.

On the evening of July 30, in his home in Bodrum, Arman was violently attacked and lethally stabbed by unknown assailants. By the time local police arrived and the ambulance came, he had lost his life.

Arman was preceded in death by his wife, Kay. He is survived by his daughter

Defne, his son-in-law Roy and three granddaughters. His beloved wife Kay passed away 18 years before him.



**Contributed by Can Kurdoğlu  
RC ENG 59**

## Gündüz Erkan RC ENG 60



Returning from a holiday on July 12th, Gündüz Erkan and his wife Sayra Kulen ACG 59 had an unfortunate traffic accident in which she was seriously injured. Gündüz, kneeling by her side, is reported to have said "If something happens to you, I shall not be able to live". Immediately thereafter, he had a heart attack and passed away.

A subsequent news article in Cumhuriyet, likened their story to that of Romeo and Juliet. An old dictum states that a simile can never be erroneous. This one was, however, gravely in error. True, they were young lovers; but their love story was nowhere tragic. It was a long and flourishing one of happiness, familial togetherness and deep devotion. If a

simile need be made, an apt one would be the legendary love story of Shah Jahan (Şah-ı cihan) and Mumtaz Mahal. Also befitting would be the simile because, while at RC, Gündüz was chosen "king" on Sports Day and Sayra was his "queen".

Gündüz and Sayra were wed right after his graduation from RC in 1960 and they went on to the United States where he started his graduate degree at Purdue University. There was a small colony of classmates there along with him: Alpaslan Akpınar, Albert Covo and Ömer Göksel, all working on their master's degrees. Alp remembers the nostalgic receptions that they had at the Erkans' home on Saturday evenings.

In 1962 the Erkans moved to Redondo Beach in Los Angeles and Gündüz started working in the up and coming semiconductor industry at Thompson Ramo Wooldridge (better known as TRW) as a project leader. He was employed in the research and development of solid state components used in the Minuteman Program as well as the design and development of radio frequency transistors for the US Army Signal Corp. Later, he moved to New Jersey as vice president of operations at Ceramics International, a semiconductor packaging firm. This led eventually to his founding his own firm, Interceram, Inc, a producer of ceramic seals for semiconductor

devices in 1971. Having become a successful firm in its field, it was acquired in 1983 by Interpace Corp. Gündüz stayed on for a short period as a management consultant to assist in the transition.

In the late 90s, the Erkans moved to New York City full-time and Gündüz worked on the board and served as President of the Robert College Alumni Association of America for four years. At that time they endowed a tuition scholarship at RC which is still going strong.

During retirement, Gündüz and Sayra did a lot traveling around the world, spent time and met often with old friends in İstanbul. Having been a basketball player at RC and on the Fenerbahçe team, Gündüz was a devoted Fenerbahçeli and a member of the High Council of the club. Gündüz also wore the national team's jersey 19 times over his brief basketball career. In 2010 the Erkans celebrated the 50th anniversary of their wedding at Moda Deniz Kulübü, where they were wed fifty years earlier. An account of that celebration appeared in the 39th issue of RC Quarterly.

Gündüz is survived by Sayra, sons Oğuz and Yavuz, and grandchildren Yasemin, Leyla, Melina, Amber and Kenan.

**Contributed by  
Mustafa Pultar RC ENG 60**

## Hüsnü Onaran RA 62



Concert pianist Hüsnü Onaran passed away at his home in New York in August 2011. After he graduated from Robert Academy (EHSB 59, RA 62) Hüsnü drifted between Switzerland and İstanbul University before going to Boston Conservatory where

he received his master's and became a concert pianist. He gave concerts in Turkey, Europe and America and also taught children. Sometimes he learned and taught subjects other than music.

He also learned and taught how to make himself and others happy. He was a

healer, not only through his music, but with his hands, empathy, glance, laughter and playful eyes that contrasted with his serious body.

Unfortunately he couldn't heal himself. In 2008 he suffered from a ruptured aorta and although a miracle operation made his heart as healthy as before, other symptoms developed. Because he didn't want to believe in alternative treatments, maybe he once again playfully left us. But he always said to those close to him, "I will never be far away from you". He always said, "don't cry behind my back; always smile when remembering me". He also wanted his close friends to play Mozart for him every time they thought about him; he adored Mozart, and loved music from the 30's and 40's.

He really understood and listened to people, but unfortunately he didn't understand and listen when it came to his own health. He was defeated by his stubbornness. We will fondly remember him, and often.

**Contributed by  
Ahmet Cafer Çelebiler RA 63**

## Turhan Alpan RA 61, RC YÜK 65

Turhan Alpan passed away on October 22, 2011. A true specimen of 'pure blood kolejli's, Turhan Alpan indeed spent a lifetime on the Bebek and Arnavutköy campuses of Robert College, first as a student and later as a hardworking member and president of the Board of the Alumni Association. His closest RC friends - Şenes Erzik, Selçuk Korur and Ertuğrul Tuncer remember him as someone whose friendship was cherished because he was a loyal, supportive, trustworthy as well as a disciplined comrade who was always fun to be with. His tolerance and optimism enabled him to see the sunny side of things even during his illness, which he was sure he would overcome. He not only had a great sense of humor, but also artistic talents putting his humor into cartoons. Modest, dignified and well-versed in many fields, Turhan Alpan was also a good conversationalist.

Turhan Alpan worked for truck manufacturer TOE, Hoover-Turkey and

ENKA Construction Co. The last took him to Iraq many times during the First Gulf War. He was General Manager of GSD Exporters Co. for years, until he retired because of his illness. RC alumni at large best know him from the days he served his alma mater on the Board of the RC Alumni Association between 1981-1990 as treasurer and then 1998-2000 as president. His financial wizardry greatly contributed to growing funds for the Alumni Association scholarships.

Turhan Alpan was also internal auditor for the Turkish Soccer Federation (TFF) between 1989-1997, during Şenes Erzik's tenure as president of TFF. Alpan was also a member and officer of Istanbul Rotary Club.

Şenes Erzik and Selçuk Korur rightly use the term 'güzel insan' for Turhan Alpan. Friends and Alumni Association will greatly miss him.



He is survived by his wife Işın, sons Cemal Alpan RC 87, Cem, Ömer and grandsons Sinan and Sarp.

**Contributed by Nigar Nigar Alemdar  
ACG 66**

## Ferdi Yüksel RA 61

Ferdi Yüksel passed away on April 22, 2011. It was Autumn 1954 when I first met him. We happened to occupy the same bunk bed in an Anderson Hall dormitory. He had the bottom bunk and I the top one. It was his second year and my first since I had skipped Prep One. I was a notorious deep sleeper and one night during one of our first weeks, I happened to fall to the stone floor from my top bunk, and still sound asleep, seem to have climbed muttering into his bed. He in turn climbed up into my bunk and we both went on sleeping.

Ferdi was always neat, clean and methodical, a scrupulous note taker and filer. Usually serious, a mellow heart in a stern casing, he was a good friend, always fair and ready to help, whose company was sincerely enjoyed by all of us, especially around a rakı table. We both enjoyed fishing, which I believe reminded him of early childhood memories at his fathers' fishery in Gölarmara. Our record catch was 60 lüfer in a few evening hours.

We graduated in 1961 and he went on to graduate as a chemical engineer in 1965. I graduated from business administration the same year and we both went directly to do our military service. After military school he drew Erzurum from the sack

and went to one of the elite regiments stationed there, where most of the promising staff career officers were sent. He made many friends and enjoyed playing bridge with those officers who later moved up to become the top brass of Turkey. Later on, in tribute to his affinity to military procedures, we used to call him, Paşa.

After military service, in 1967 he started working for one of the leading companies of the Holding Company of that period. In 1972, when the boss' son started to find his convictions too square, he decided to leave and soon joined Baskın Hüdayioğlu RA 61 and me in HEMEL, a lasting partnership based on complete mutual trust, where he brought with him large-company procedures and his inherent discipline, which proved to be an important asset when, in later years, we were sailing through the constantly recurring storms of the Turkish economy. In 1976 he married the first love of his life, Doctor Hüsniye (later Professor of Cardiology), the nickname of his school years, Doktor, proving to be prophetic. On March 11, 1980 the second love of his life was born, their daughter Deniz. Deniz went on to graduate as a Doctor of Chemistry from Tufts and is newly



married to her school friend Serkan, settling in the US where she is a research fellow at Harvard.

I believe that Ferdi is now waiting to put us through our paces and for the occasional boardroom spat when we go over there to join him.

**Contributed by Bekir Şasa RA 61**

## İnci Öney Özer ACG 62

Prof. İnci Özer was born in İstanbul in 1942. In 1964, she completed her undergraduate studies in chemistry at Wellesley College in Massachusetts and received her doctorate in biochemistry from Yale in 1968. Upon returning to Turkey, she served as a faculty member at METU in the Department of Chemistry between 1969 and 1972, and in the Department of Biology between 1972, and 1986. Dr. Özer conducted post-doctoral research at the Max-Planck Institute in Göttingen, Germany in 1975-76 and at the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Delaware in 1986-87. She became an associate professor of Biochemistry in 1978 and received her full Professorship title in 1986. From 1986 until 2007, she continued to work as faculty member at Hacettepe University's Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy. Prof. Özer was one of the founding members and first president of METU's Department of Biology. She made significant contributions towards the establishment of the Doping Control Center at Hacettepe University. She served as

the President of the Department of Biochemistry at Hacettepe University's Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Member of Faculty and Administrative Boards of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Senate Member of Hacettepe University, Executive Committee Member of TÜBİTAK-Basic Sciences Research Group, Administrative Board Member of the Turkish Biochemistry Association, and editor of the Journal of Biochemistry. She was also a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Journal of Turkish Biochemistry. Prof. Özer's groundbreaking contributions towards studies in biochemistry comprise her significant kinetic research on the structure, reactivity, and biological function of the different proteins in living organisms. Her research on Alpha-1 proteinase inhibitors and Alpha-2 macroglobulin antiprotease activities, kinetic modeling on the angiotensin converting enzyme-lisinopril, the association of the kinetic behavior of cholinesterases with the quaternary structure of the enzyme, as well as the relationship and methodology assessment



of choline oxidase and cholinesterase paint are considered among her most important work. Apart from her significant contributions towards biochemistry, Prof. İnci Özer blazed a trail in the development of our department with her passion for research, intelligence, vast experience in the field, and infinite knowledge. She was an invaluable faculty member who played an important role in the education of countless undergraduate and graduate students. Prof. İnci Özer retired in 2007. She is survived by her husband and two children.

**Contributed by  
Assoc. Prof. Özden Tacal**

## Yeşim Salman RC YÜK 64

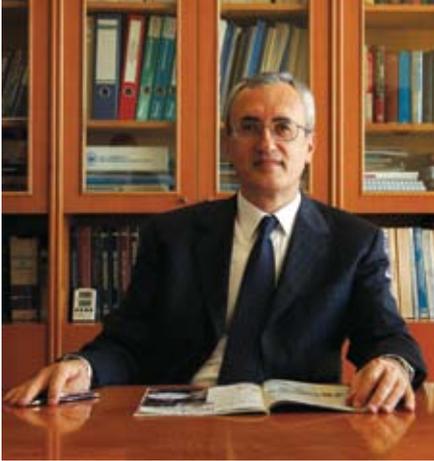
Yeşim Salman passed away on April 6, 2007. Her family and friends wished to share the following with the RC community. Nearly five years have passed since you left us, but we just can't stop missing you. You had so many passions: your family, your friends, teaching chemistry, painting, the English language, literature, writing poetry. Your two books of poems, *Birdenbire* and *Zaman*, continue to keep us company. You had so much to give; you left us so many riches. But more than anything, you were blessed with a tremendous "joie de vivre" which was a true inspiration to us all. Whenever we came to visit you, even on your most difficult days, we left your side feeling stronger and elated. The sound of your laughter is still fresh in our minds.

In 1998, when you were about to have one of your many operations, you called your beloved son Yusuf to your bedside. "Give me your word," you said, "If I should die, you will never allow anyone to say 'Kurtuldu' when I'm gone. I fought this war with honor. I never surrendered, never tired of fighting. I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of my life. Promise me!" We do, dearest Yeşim, we promise you with all our hearts.

*O koyu gölgelemiş  
O parıl parıl ipek  
O hep azıcık bol gelen  
O tam bana göre  
adına yaşamak denen  
Şiir (Zaman)*



## Fahri Taner Özkaynak RA 65



Prof. Dr. Fahri Taner Özkaynak was born in Erzurum as the second child of five siblings; his father was an officer in the army. After completing primary school in different parts of Anatolia, he started his high school education at Robert College, and graduated in 1965. He received a mechanical engineer degree from Istanbul Technical University (İTÜ) in 1971 and winning the Fulbright, NATO and TÜBİTAK scholarships in the same year, he went to Lehigh University in the United States,

where he also completed his doctoral studies.

In 1972 he married Şerife Ergün. After receiving his PhD in 1974 from Lehigh University, he worked on nuclear power plant safety projects for the AAE and GE companies and gave lessons about common projects until 1976. In 1975 his daughter Pınar, who worked as an architect with him, was born. He has two grandsons from her, Mert and Kaan.

In 1976, he returned to his native Turkey, where he enrolled in the İTÜ Faculty and taught at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering until 1979. After being a consultant to several companies, he returned to the United States in 1979 as a guest professor at Lehigh University and gave lectures about various industrial projects regarding energy research centers.

In 1980 his second daughter Mine was born. She is currently a lecturer at the Kadir Has University and a PhD student at the Istanbul Technical University

Department of Architecture.

He withdrew from the Mechanical School at İTÜ in 1983 and started working on industrial air conditioning issues as a partner and General Manager of his company, Tetisan. In 1991 he returned to İTÜ and was named a professor in 1995. In 2008 he retired from İTÜ.

Fahir Özkaynak was founding partner and administrator of two companies, Tetisan and Ulpatek, both among Europe's most advanced air filter manufacturing plants. He published 3 books and over 30 articles, which have been used in numerous pharmaceutical factories, hospitals, paper mill factories, textile air conditioning and other industrial facilities written from his experiences in Turkey and abroad.

He was a loving husband, a dear father and a grandfather.

**Contributed by his daughter, Pınar Sondal**

## Erol Göktuna RC ENG 68

Erol Göktuna age 68, passed away on August 5, 2011 at home in New Jersey.

Erol Göktuna received his Masters of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from Robert College of Istanbul and continued his education at Newark College of Engineering (now NJIT).

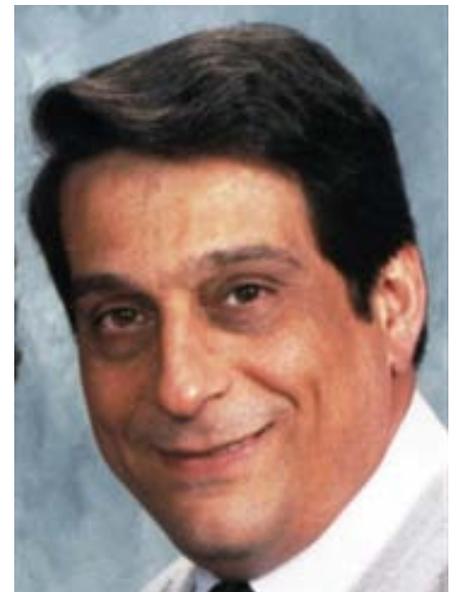
He loved his family and the natural beauty of Hunterdon County. He enjoyed his raised flower beds, container gardening, and growing herbs on his deck. Feeding and watching hummingbirds in summer was a special pleasure, and he enjoyed all the bird feeder activity in the winter. Woodworking and photography were also hobbies, and a wide range of music enriched his life. He grew up playing soccer in Turkey, and he coached both his children in township recreational soccer leagues. Erol thought the world of his coworkers and so appreciated the many kindnesses shown by neighbors and

friends. He really admired a job well done and people doing their best, no matter what the task.

Erol is survived by his wife Marilyn (Bator) Göktuna; his children Mark, of Bethlehem Twp., NJ and Katharine, of Chicago, IL; his sister Sema and nieces Melisa and Yasemin of Istanbul, Turkey. He is also survived by relatives in Canada. (excerpts from the Hunterdon County Democrat newspaper)

His RC classmate İsmail Saltuk added "He was a real gentleman, courageous, trustworthy, loyal and true to his word. He loved people, nature and animals. He was a true sportsman and inspired great confidence among his friends."

Another classmate, Ahmet Aykaç said, "Erol, a.k.a. "kömür", was a gentleman, a true humanitarian and an excellent sportsman. Though I never saw him after



high school his news always reached me and his above image that was ingrained in my mind never changed."

## Tülin Kalmık Talay ACG 68



Tülin Kalmık Talay  
ACG 68

A famous Romanian writer, Panait Istrati (1884-1935), in his story called "Friend" once said: "People find their true friends early in life." This was so true for the seven young girls in their ACG years on the Arnavutköy hilltop. I think we were lucky to have found not one, not two but

six true friends in those years when all we could think of was to have fun.

Our friendship was genuine because there was no other motive behind it. We chose each other for who we were, and nothing else. Our friendship continued throughout our college years and beyond. In later years, each time we met we were so proud to still be together we thought that was a matter to be celebrated, which we did.

Life drew different routes for each of us. A number of us got married and began our families right after graduation. The rest of us went after our dreams and onto university to pursue careers. But we never forgot each other nor were we ever separated for more than one or two years.

We shared the good and the bad days and grew up together. We had our dreams and hopes and most of us fulfilled them. However, life was unjust and merciless right from the start for one of us.

She lived through one hardship after another, but each time she fell down she courageously got up and continued to struggle with what life had dealt her. She fought her destiny in her own way, her own manner. All of us were there for her during her struggle, but unfortunately there was not much we could do for our dear friend Tülin. Tülin Kalmık Talay is no longer with us. She was too tired of her struggles and wished to join her husband and beloved son, Murad, as she kept saying till the end. She left us in May 2011.

Rest in peace my dear friend. There are only five of us now and life is not the same for those of us you left behind. We try to get together like always but after losing you we are not and will never be the same. But we will never leave each other, as you would have wanted, and you will always be in our minds.

**Contributed by Sayra Dorken Armay  
ACG 68**

## Emel Bayrı ACG 70

Emel Bayrı passed away in August, 2011.

Emel,

Our cheerful sister...

At Bingham Hall, in the park beside it, at the volleyball field in front of it... you, with your smiling face and your friendship, will be with us always and everywhere.

How lucky we are to have lived those beautiful days with you. All those years apart... but we always continued from where we had left off.

We were going to meet at Bebek for coffee. We couldn't; that I regret.

Your arrival was a blessing, but your departure was so soon.

With love,

**Candan Orhun Fetvacı ACG 70**

I knew Emel as a beautiful, modern, hardworking young woman, a mother,

a wife. We shared life, making it more beautiful together. Even when we didn't see each other, we were together. She was one of the most important people in my life.

I looked at the moon, Emel was on her way. We will see each other.

**Buda Güven ACG 70**

I met Emel in Prep, and loved her ever since. Nothing can take the place Emel has in my heart; not even her departure. May she rest in peace.

**Miriam Rodrig Farhi ACG 70**

Emel, our class's smiling, sympathetic girl. We used to play on the swings together, flying to the sky, or chase the ball on the field...50 years ago!

I saw her at our 40th reunion after so many years and she was the same - her same smiley face, playful expression and modest character. She was a loving mother. May she rest in heaven.

**Gülru Selek Paksoy ACG 70**

Emel was my oldest friend; my childhood friend, my school friend and also my neighbour. I guess we were the last generation to play in the streets. At least twice a day I think about how I used to pass by her house, how we played, how we collected chestnuts and spread them on the road then hid; and I think about our journey back home everyday. My dear friend, my neighbor; may you rest in peace...

**Zeynep Sağnak Sözen ACG 70**

## Necla Sardeş Akkoç ACG 59

Necla Akkoç and her daughter Ayşegül passed away in their home in White Plains, NY on October 19, 2010. Necla was suffering from terminal cancer and Ayşegül had cerebral palsy. In accordance with Necla's will, they were both cremated in the US and their ashes were brought to Istanbul where they were dispersed into the waters of the Bosphorus by her sisters and close friends. Nuri Akkoç, Necla's husband who had also been terminally ill, died in Wayne, PA on March 5, 2011.

Necla had dedicated her entire existence to improving her daughter's health even though she knew that she was fighting a losing battle. Hers was indeed a very difficult life, yet she never lost her cheerful smile nor her compassion for others. Her friends will always cherish her in their hearts and remember her with deep respect for her great courage.



## Şeyda Ayrıl-Kabbara ACG 71

Şeyda Ayrıl-Kabbara passed away in New York on March 22, 2011, after battling cancer bravely, patiently and with all her being for 11 years. She was 57.

Şeyda was among the last graduates of ACG and a member of the only ACG class that had three years of Lise training. She was one of the first students of the newly established Boğaziçi University when she started her education in Chemical Engineering in 1971. In both schools, and actually wherever she was, Şeyda was one of the most determined, joyful, witty, optimistic, funny, and "delightful to join the company of" people.

After graduating from Boğaziçi University with a BS degree, she continued with her master's degree. However, in 1976 she left Boğaziçi to join the Chemical Engineering PhD program at Columbia University, in New York City, where her most beloved sister was also living. Her thesis advisor and good friend was Professor Carl Gryte. Her research with Gryte, and the resulting doctoral dissertation titled, "Computed Tomography: A Novel Technique Applied to Displacement Phenomena in Porous Media", provided a ground-breaking example of how new and novel technology can be transferred from one field to benefit another - in this case, from the field of medicine to the field of engineering. Based in part on their pioneering studies, Computed Tomography is now a staple in the research armamentarium of geologists working in the area of enhanced oil recovery.

After completing her studies, Şeyda continued to live in the New York area, working as a chemical engineer in corporations like Merck, Pall, Del Laboratories, Photocircuits, and as a technical writer at Forest Laboratories up to the end. She was dedicated to her profession and enjoyed making a difference in every activity that she pursued.

Şeyda and her husband Maher lived in a beautiful house on Long Island, New York, where many of her classmates and relatives have visited and collected beautiful memories. Şeyda loved to have fun, to be with family and friends, to travel and see new places, and to go to parties. She was determined not to let her illness compromise her life or her relationships with family and friends. She succeeded with exceptional grace and spirit until the end. Many of her colleagues and acquaintances did not even know that she had cancer.

Having made her choice of a life and a career in the USA, she was always most fond of Turkey and her Turkish family members and friends. She visited Turkey on convenient occasions. During each visit she would wonder especially at the deterioration in the Turkish language, trying to correct people and to convince them to use proper Turkish, e.g.: You cannot say "5 gibi gelicem". The proper way is "5 civarı geleceğim". Just prior to saying goodbye to life, Şeyda was looking forward to swimming again in the lovely outdoor pool at their home, and to a warm



and relaxing holiday by the sea, where she would get a real rest and collect the energy for continuing her fight with her illness. The place she was looking forward to was probably the peaceful and quiet coast of Turkey, combined with a visit to her beloved Istanbul.

Şeyda's parents Habib Şabo Ayrıl RC 30 and Vahide (Dikmen) Ayrıl ACG 41 predeceased her. She is survived by her husband Maher Kabbara, her sister Semiramis Ayrıl-Kaloustian UAL 62, and numerous other loving relatives.

## Feyza Akbay Onursal RC 73



Our beloved friend Feyza passed away in her home on October 4, 2011, at the age of 57. She was so full of life that her zest for life continued unaffected by the physical decline of her final months. A general positive attitude was her stance towards life. Her little notebook was full of social appointments all so meticulously organized so as not to miss a birthday, anniversary or a special day of her beloved circuit of friends and family. She enjoyed traveling and discovering new cultures.

She will be lovingly remembered for her unique interest in solving friends' problems and her responsible approach in close follow-up. She was a lighthouse to us

with her advice beaming with common sense, practicality and compassion. Her helpful nature also encompassed providing support for education in Turkey. She supported schools and students in need, not to forget her uninterrupted support of RC's Annual Giving Campaign. She is survived by her husband Ünal Onursal, her children Kerem Onursal and Nevra Karaağaç and two grand-daughters, Defne and Bade Onursal.

Leaving a huge void in the lives of many people she touched with her sincere giving heart and her larger than life smile, she will be missed greatly.

**Contributed by her RC 73 friends**

## Suzan Sağmanlı Deniz RC 78

Suzan was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. All through her childhood and youth all the restaurants, movie theaters and everything that had to do with entertainment was closed on her birthday. The country used to mourn on that day, and she thought she was not lucky because she could never celebrate her birthday the way she wished to...

In the year that only 45 girls were accepted to Robert College, she was 13<sup>th</sup> on the waiting list. She thought she was lucky because the unlucky number 13 had brought her luck and she had the chance to get in.

Everyone thought that she was very lucky because she was very, very beautiful, because she loved and was loved deeply, because she had a bright son, because she had a husband who admired her and because she had friends that were closer than sisters.

Yet, she was not that lucky. The nightmare that started in February 2008, took her away from all the things that she loved; away from life that she enjoyed so much, away from us and all



the people who she loved, away from the sea, the sun, and the full moon that she enjoyed, away from Bodrum, away from the flowers that she didn't have the heart to pick, the insects she spared the lives of, away from the animals that she valued enormously, in short after her struggle to live for a little over three years, she was taken away from this world in April 2011.

She is still lucky, as she will keep on living in the memories of all the people she was loved by and in the sea that was her most favorite place to be.

**Contributed by İnci Soylu RC 78**

# MARKAFONİK AŞK

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Sonu mutlu biten aşktır.

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