

RC QUARTERLY SPRING / SUMMER 2018

ISSUE 52

RCCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE



Endowments are a Class Act | RC's Olympian | New Biography of Talat Halman



**SEN HEP
OLMAK
İSTEDİĞİN
YERE
VAR DİYE
BİZ VARIZ**



HedefFilo

Sen var diye biz varız

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RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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

In this issue



Every spring the campus blossoms with activity, marking the culmination of the school year: concerts, plays, festivals and of course the arrival of the Record. For years students have been eagerly anticipating the moment they get a copy of the yearbook in their hands. It so happens that 2018 is the 100th year of the Record.

We celebrate this major anniversary by flipping through Records past and present in the cover story on page 24.

To get you in the mood for vacation, alumni take us on a motorbike adventure in the Sahara Desert, and a life-changing science expedition to the South Pole, starting on page 32.

We also take a look at some of the achievements of this year's students, from the Robotics team using their technical know-how to help the community (see page 6) to a couple of up-and-coming student artists (see page 30).

We hope you find this issue as colorful and exciting as springtime on campus!

As always, we look forward to hearing from you. If you have comments on this issue or news that you would like to share, please write us at alumni@robcol.k12.tr

Happy Reading!
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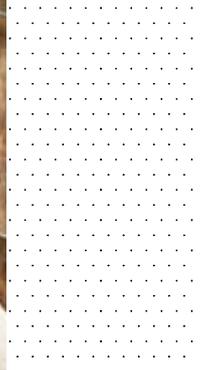
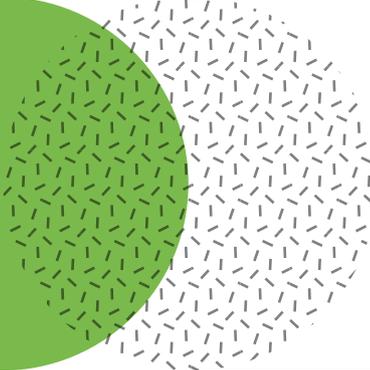
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K e Ő f e t

Evin için seçebileceğin mutfak markalarından kirala & pişir mutfaklara, yemek atölyelerinden restoran ve kafelere, mutfak gereçlerinden sofa aksesuarlarına keşfedilecek çok şey İntema Yaşam'da seni bekliyor.



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İNTEMA
YAŞAM



Your feedback on the RCQ matters! Did you enjoy this issue? Write us at: alumni@robcol.k12.tr

RC NEWS

- 6 RC Robotics: Using Technology for Good
- 8 Three Performance Powerhouses Come Together for Musical Finding One's Gift and Giving It Away
- 9 Back to School: Two Grads Join the Development Office
- A Guest in the House: The Founder of the Bosphorus Chronicle

GIFTS

- 10 Endowed Scholarships are a Class Act

CIP

- 12 RC Community Involvement Program: Projects, Partnerships, People

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (RKMD)

- 14 Bizim Tepe: the Social Hub for RC Alumni

RC IN AMERICA

- 18 RC Students and Alumni Meet in Houston
- A Special Treat for RC Alumni in the Bay Area

GRADS IN THE NEWS

- 20 A Tribute to Custodians of RC Values
- 21 Feyza Darendeliler RC 74 First Turk to Receive European Endocrinology Award
- Ayşe Yüksel Mahfoud Named Woman of Influence
- 22 Swooshing Her Way to the Olympics
- Şevki Pekin RA 66 Honored for Lifetime Achievement in Architecture

COVER STORY

- 24 A Century of Student Memories

ONES TO WATCH

- 30 Golden Pen Award for RC Poet
- Inspiration through Improvisation

AROUND THE WORLD

- From Casablanca to the Sand Dunes of the Sahara 32
- The Last Great Frontier: Antarctica 36

ARTS

- Yeşim Özsoy RC 90 Shares Her Life on and around the Stage 40
- Portraying Migration through Art 41
- Solo Exhibition Explores Human Activity

BOOKS

- Bilge Cankorel RA 62 Shares Diplomatic Memoirs 42
- Şebnem Sanders ACG 71 Publishes Debut Book
- An Intimate Look at Sevin Okyay ACG 63 43
- A Handbook for Local Companies

REACHES OUT

- Science Heroes Association 44
- Education for a Better Future 45
- Helping Bright Students Go to University

ESSAY

- From Madmen to X-Men 46

ALUMNI PROFILE

- Hakan Karahan RC 79 Pens His First Love Story 48

ALUMNI NEWS 50

FACULTY & FRIENDS NEWS 55

OBITUARIES 57



YENİ PANDORA SHINE

YENİ 18k altın kaplama saf gümüş mücevher koleksiyonu

İŞİĞİNİZİ YANSITIN



PANDORA

89 TL'den başlayan fiyatlarla
pandora.net

RC Robotics: Using Technology for Good

The RC Robotics team has had an outstanding year, winning three awards at the FIRST Istanbul Regional competition in March 2018, and a spot at the FIRST World Championships. “Three years ago, we were building robots in math class. Now, we are challenging teams who have been on this journey for the past 20 years,” says Team Captain Sevrur Kulak L12.

Announcing the Imagery Award at the regionals for their overall appearance and team spirit, the judges said, “Pink is not just a color, it’s an attitude.” Their vibrant outlook is not only being used to develop winning robots. As their Outreach Coordinator Alara Değirmenci L12 says, “We’ve been inspired by how technology can touch the lives of people and make a positive impact.”

Using printing to help the visually impaired

Last year, the team collaborated with the non-profit Social Maker Lab to 3D-print graduation yearbooks featuring the scanned faces of students from Kilyos Veysel Vardal Visually Impaired School. Soon after, they learned that visually impaired diners, who cannot read traditional menus, are often recommended items that the restaurant wants to sell more of, or leftovers. The team spoke with Mustafa Bügelek, a visually-impaired print shop owner, about printing braille menus. He said that the visually impaired community needed such an initiative to make their lives easier and better. The team was able to find a cafe to collaborate with quickly – TriBeCa – and now they hope to introduce braille menus to more restaurants, especially those that have many locations around Turkey.

Helping four-legged friends walk

The team was inspired by a young man at an animal shelter in Bakırköy who tried to help animals with missing limbs. After speaking with him they immediately put their technical know-how to work, custom-designing prosthetics for each animal on Solidworks software. Printing the designs on a 3D printer, they then added necessary equipment, such as wheels, to each prosthetic. As of March 2018 they had already helped five animals with their designs, with an aim to reach 12 animals per month.

Inspiring the coders of the future

“As the Robotics team, we believe in the utmost importance of programming and maker education,” says Alara. “Unfortunately, this is an area that still needs to be developed both in Turkey and around the world.” The team shares their knowledge by teaching coding and maker activities to elementary school children. They aim to get more young people educated on the maker movement and programming, potentially inspiring them to pursue careers in technology.



Pink is an attitude: The RC Robotics team at the FIRST Istanbul Regionals



The Robotics team with the braille menu they created



Kids playing with Makey Makey, a tool that uses basic conductivity principles to allow vegetables and fruits to be used as a keyboard

LIFE BEGINS AT PIYALEPAŞA İSTANBUL!

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Piyalepaşa
— İSTANBUL —

DELIVERY OF KEYS
BEGINS IN JUNE!



Three Performance Powerhouses Come Together for Musical

This winter, the RC Theatre Company, RC Singers and Hamlin Players teamed up to stage the colorful, upbeat musical *Legally Blonde Jr.*

The idea began with English teacher Caitlin Dunne, who had wanted to stage a musical for a while. "I'm passionate about musicals, which is why I started the Hamlin Players," she said, referring to the RC musical theatre group she formed in 2015 (see RCQ 49, p. 6). RC Singers director Koray Demirkapı was also interested, having previously directed the musicals *Aida* (2009, see RCQ 36, p. 38) and *Harem* (2011). RC Theatre Company advisor Jake Becker said that after the success of last year's spring play *Super*, which staged original scripts by students, faculty and alumni, they decided to do *Legally Blonde Jr.*

An ambitious project to bring three different groups together and stage a play in three months, Becker said, "It was interesting to see how the enthusiasm of the students who were passionate

about doing musicals drew those who were reluctant into the production." They also pulled in English teachers Alison Standley and Kristen Woods to work with costumes.

Only a few members of the cast had experience in the RC Singers, so Demirkapı worked one-on-one with students who weren't in the choir to get their voices ready for the stage.

Each dance routine was choreographed by a student. Elif Coşkun L12, who played the lead role, was very enthusiastic about staging a musical. "I have wanted to play in a musical since I was very young," says Elif, who also choreographed the song "What You Want". "Getting everyone in sync was not that hard. It is about being patient and repeating the choreography over and over. A lot can be achieved with hard work," explains Elif.

Although there are no plans to do a musical for another couple of years, the teachers are all looking forward to staging the next one.



Cast members of *Legally Blonde Jr.* during the final scene

Finding One's Gift and Giving It Away

The 9th annual Prof. Seyhan Nurettin Ege ACG 49 Excellence in Science award ceremony ended with a quote by Pablo Picasso, "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away," in a speech delivered by Prof. Güniz Büyüktür ACG 60. Due to the absence of the sister of Seyhan Ege and founder of the award, Güneş Ege Akter ACG 52, Büyüktür - first a student then a mentee and, later in life, friend of the Ege sisters - was on stage during the March 30 flag ceremony to address students and to take part in the presentation of this year's award to the most deserving female Lise 11 student, Ebru Ermiş.

Prof. Büyüktür described the profound impact Seyhan Ege's mastery of her subject matter (general and organic chemistry), her teaching skills and dedication to giving assistance and advice to her students helped shape the life and career of not only Büyüktür but many other aspiring young scientists. She went on to wish the audience

the chance to find their gifts and to give them away in service of humanity. Addressing this year's award winner Ebru, she said, "I am confident she will find her gift."



The gathering of Science Department faculty, guest speaker Güniz Büyüktür ACG 60 and guests Ayfer Neyzi ACG 49 and Emine Yeğen ACG 70, last year's winner Nazlı Uğur Köylüoğlu L12, and Ermiş family members, continued in the foyer of Feyyaz Berker Hall where Ebru's name was added to the plaque

Back to School: Two Grads Join the Development Office

This spring two alumni have come back to campus as part of the Development Office team; Yasemin Akduman Özil RC 91 as corporate communications and donor relations coordinator, and Betigül Onay Özman RC 02 as communications manager, replacing retiring Development Office members.



Yasemin Akduman Özil RC 91 (left) and Betigül Onay Özman RC 02

Akduman Özil studied Business Administration at İstanbul University and received her MBA from George Washington University. After working in advertising and media for 12 years in both Turkey and the US, she went on to become a freelance content developer, editor and food stylist. In March she returned to RC, where she is happy to use her skills in a meaningful way. Yasemin is married to Erhan Özil and has two sons, Cem and Eren.

Onay Özman studied economics and management at graduate and post-graduate levels. After working for an NGO for six years in Turkey, she worked in communications at a private company. At RC she absolutely feels at home. Onay Özman is married to fellow alum Barış Özman RC 02 and they have a son called Mert.

A Guest in the House: The Founder of the Bosphorus Chronicle

By Bilge Tatar RC 18 and Ayça Zeynep Demirkol RC 21



Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 (second from right) with the Bosphorus Chronicle editorial team

Did you know that when Robert College and the American College for Girls united, the names of their newspapers united as well? RC published a newspaper called The Bosphorus and ACG a newspaper called The Chronicle and it simply became The Bosphorus Chronicle in 1971. BC writers didn't know about this either until Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62, the founder of The Bosphorus, visited the Bosphorus Chronicle Club on February 22 and told the writers about his days of working in the newspaper club.

Before founding The Bosphorus, he and his friends, as 8th grade students, published Echo using a mimeograph. Back then, the

most popular topic to cover was the “tea parties” in Marble Hall at which the student council brought ACG girls and RC boys together. The list of partners was published on the front page. If more than one boy wanted to go with a particular girl, there was a “democratic draw”, explained Çolakoğlu.

When Çolakoğlu got to high school, he and his friend Ömer Bilgin started publishing The Bosphorus with a typewriter and a mimeograph machine dating back to 1905 that they found in the RC attic. “We did everything ourselves,” said Çolakoğlu. They collected the yearly subscription fee of 2.50 lira at the beginning of the year, printed the newspapers using a linotype

downtown, and always gathered feedback to make the stories appeal to the readers. They learned well from their mistakes, ranging from simple typos to accidentally leaving a hole in the middle of the first page. What helped the learning process most was the feedback sessions they did after each newspaper was published.

Nuri Çolakoğlu said that his career was actually shaped at RC. They did everything for The Bosphorus themselves and were responsible for everything they did. Çolakoğlu thinks that this helped him gain the necessary qualities for his journalism career.

Endowed Scholarships are a Class Act

Over the years, classes have come together to support their alma mater by raising endowed scholarships. Most recently the Classes of '86, '94 and '97 have risen to the challenge. The class agents of RC 86 and RC 97 explain the catalyst behind the effort and what they did to achieve their goals.

RC 86: Commemorating Dear Classmates



RC 86 at their 30th Reunion in 2016

The idea to create an endowed scholarship in memory of classmates they had lost came from Zeynep Yalım Uzun. Together with the support of class agents Meltem Tarhan Kayhan, Özlem Özbek and Kazım Uzunoğlu, they were able to quickly reach their goal. Yalım Uzun explains:



The RC 86 Endowed Scholarship was created in memory of Sevgi Silahtar Seba (left) and Beki Çukran Erikli (right)

“As the RC 86 community, we were deeply saddened by the loss of two dear friends in recent years – Beki Çukran Erikli and Sevgi Silahtar Seba. During our conversations and our class reunions we got the idea to set up an RC Scholarship to honor and remember our dear classmates, both of whom were talented, beautiful women, as well as beloved friends. This is also quite a symbolic year for us, as most of us turn 50 in 2018. Therefore, it was an important rite of passage for us to give back to our alma mater, which had such an impact and imprint on who we are today. At this point in our lives, we are all very happy to support a young RC student to realize her dreams through our RC 86 endowment.

“This was a big effort that involved many of our class members. We set up a WhatsApp group specifically for those interested in participating, and collected individual pledges. On this group, we had daily reports of the total collected amount to build enthusiasm and participation. Whenever we had a gap, we enlisted the

help of classmates to individually talk to their friends to increase participation. Our US-based friends coordinated amongst themselves to reach each other and influence participation. In particular, the connectivity and ease of the online group was a key to our success, as our class is dispersed across a large geographical area and multiple time zones. The first days were hard, but once we started getting pledges, there was belief that we could indeed achieve this. Then everything became easier and faster. It took one and a half months of intense effort and daily follow-up.”

What is an Endowment?

Endowments are monetary donations to Robert College that require a minimum amount of \$150,000.

RC uses the income from the donated amount to provide scholarship to students in need. The endowment may be established in the name of an individual or a class leaving behind a legacy in perpetuity. The payment can be completed in 3 years.

RC 97 Aiming for 20th Anniversary Endowment



RC 97 in the Forum during their 20th reunion

Two decades after the Class of '97 graduated, they came together to raise an endowed scholarship. Class agent Bora Tokyay says, "The idea came about at the Annual Giving Campaign Kick-off dinner where my fellow class agents Özge Karadağ Çaman and Emre Hatipoğlu, and I saw that the Class of '96 had successfully pledged for an endowment. We discussed it and brought it up to the rest of our classmates at our get-together in the summer."

RC 97 Scholarship Committee member Özlem Eren Hanoğlu continues, "After our dear friend Özlem passed away, we wanted to keep her memory alive by founding the Özlem Akçakuş Art Scholarship. It was an initial awareness within our class towards 'giving back'. Keeping this scholarship going over the years, motivated us to organize and sustain such efforts."

"Our class had the tradition of gathering at least once each year, and on our 2016 gathering we were already talking about what to do for our 20th year celebration. Our class agents proposed the idea to start a sustainable, impactful scholarship in honor of our 20th year."

"The efforts started in February 2017. Our target was to announce the RC 97 endowed scholarship by June 2017. First we identified

the members of the committee to follow up on this project: Bora Tokyay, Özge Karadağ Çaman, Emre Hatipoğlu, Burcu Üstüner Tuncel and myself.

"Burcu had the initial talk with Leyla Aktay RC 72, the RC Development Director, to better understand the processes and challenges of the endowment fund. Then we decided on the targeted amount and term of the scholarship fund. We also decided to include the Özlem Akçakuş Art Scholarship within this fund, since it would be hard to follow up with people on two separate commitments."

"Each committee member had a group of classmates to contact and follow up with about their commitment. Friends who lived abroad were given names of classmates in the UK and on the East and West Coast of the US to initiate discussions. Bora was appointed as the contact person with the Development Office and answered any questions from classmates."

"The official kick-off was done with a bar night at Bizim Tepe on April 4, 2017. Mehves Dramur RC 96 from the RC Development Office was there to answer questions. We also started planning our 20th year party and dorm night. This celebration was actually a good initiation

to excite people, create awareness and start the discussion. We used various platforms to communicate the party and the scholarship. Our Facebook RC 97 page, RC 97 WhatsApp group and RC 97 email group were our main platforms. Personal calls to all RC 97 graduates were made by committee members as well. The committed amounts were gathered on our online excel table. Before the end of June 2017 we reached commitments totaling \$150,000 and handed our excel table to the RC Development Office to follow up on pledges." ■

The Özlem Akçakuş RC 97 Art Scholarship

Established in the spring of 2007 by the Class of '97, the Özlem Akçakuş Art Scholarship was a way for her classmates to keep alive the memory of their beloved friend who was a talented student in arts. Over the past decade, the scholarship has given and continues to give interested RC students invaluable opportunities to attend summer art programs and enhance their skills through photography, design, film and visual arts workshops.

RC Community Involvement Program: Projects, Partnerships, People

By Kathryn Bourgeois, CIP Advisor

Partnerships with schools, NGOs, municipalities, and community members are central to the facilitation, sustainability, and impact of Robert College's Community Involvement Projects (CIPs). This year, CIP projects have established several new partnerships.

Düşlerim Gerçekleşiyor (My Dreams Come True) in partnership with **Atlas Yardım Derneği** and **Küçükyalı Arkeopark**

Although this project and the partnership with Atlas Yardım Derneği (supporting elementary and middle school children) are not new, student leaders Arya Nur Gümüştaş L10 and Su Doğa Karaca L10 have formed a new partnership with Küçükyalı Arkeopark, the site of a 9th century Byzantine monastery and the only active urban archeological site on the Asian side of Istanbul. Since fall 2017, Arya Nur, Su Doğa, faculty advisor Dünya Önen RC 03 L3 and a team of 15 RC students have been leading kids from the Atlas Yardım Derneği on monthly visits to Küçükyalı Arkeopark to learn about the cultural heritage of Istanbul, observe and interact with the natural environment, and discuss their own cultural heritage. Through games, art activities, walking

tours, and interaction with the site itself, kids feel more connected with the cultural heritage of Istanbul and their place within it.

This project culminates in a weeklong summer camp Izmir.



Children learn about the 9th century monastery in their neighborhood at Küçükyalı Arkeopark

Minik Parmaklar Geleceği Programlıyor (Little Fingers are Programming the Future) in partnership with **Habitat Derneği**

Cem Kansu L11 created a partnership with Habitat Derneği for this project, which trains high school students to teach younger students algorithmic thinking and introductory programming skills through computer games. With Cem's leadership, training and support from the Habitat Derneği, and recruitment of participants by the Şişli Municipality Children's Science Center, two workshops over the course of three Saturdays each

were facilitated at the Robert College Computer Lab for elementary and middle school students who do not usually have access to computers. Cem explains:

"I decided to bring this project to RC because I believe that development and making the world a better place is mostly achieved through technology. I wanted to reach kids who didn't have access to computers and were interested in learning

to code so that they would have an idea about programming, and most importantly have fun while exploring new things. Reaching out to Habitat Derneği and planning the project during the summer with Mr. Ünver (Onur Ünver RC 06), the advisor for the project, was tough but these experiences helped me to develop myself as both a person and a student."

Tennis for Kids in partnership with Galip Öztürk Sevgi Evleri Orphanage

If you happened to pass by the tennis courts at RC on a Saturday morning this year, you probably saw RC students teaching tennis to kids from the Galip Öztürk Sevgi Evleri Orphanage. Led by RC tennis team members Defne Gündoğdu L10 and Sude Işıl Baştuğ L10, the project gives these kids the opportunity to try their hand at a new sport while keeping fit and having fun.

Defne says, “Işıl and I aspire to make a difference in our community and touch kids’ lives. Luckily, we get to see this difference during each practice. We watch these bright children mature and become fair sportsmen and sportswomen. We observe them becoming aware of their potential and being amazed by their own improvement. Most importantly, we see



RC Tennis Team members teach kids skills to succeed on and off the court

their eyes shine when we tell them to grab their racquets. To us, there is nothing as

valuable as helping these extraordinary kids ace their days, and hopefully, lives.”

Bana Ellerini Ver (Give Me Your Hands) in partnership with Yusra Community Center

“Bana Ellerini Ver”, which was started in February 2017 by Ege Özgüröğlü L11 and Ömer Ekin L11, is a project with various partnerships. In its first year, the project partnered with Small Projects Istanbul and worked with Syrian refugee children aged 9-12. “Bana Ellerini Ver” also partnered with the Korkmaz Yiğit Anadolu Lisesi, and five volunteers from that high school took part in teaching mathematics, Turkish, arts, and team building to Syrian refugee children. This partnership sparked the Korkmaz Yiğit students’ interest in establishing their own social responsibility projects in their school.



Children express themselves through drawing and painting, one of the many activities during the “Bana Ellerini Ver” CIP

After the success of “Bana Ellerini Ver” in its first year, RC students from L9 to L11 led by Ömer, Ege and Deniz Yağmur Ürey L10, started the second year of the project by partnering with Yusra Community Center, a volunteer-run organization that provides assistance to persons in need. The aim in starting a new partnership was to reach as many different Syrian refugee children as possible. Thanks to transportation provided by Beşiktaş Municipality, primary school-aged Syrian refugee children come to Robert College every other week to engage in activities such as Turkish, visual arts, math, Destination Imagination and

drama with 15 volunteer students from Robert College and five from Korkmaz Yiğit.

According to Ömer: “Syrian refugee children from Yusra benefit from the partnerships of “Bana Ellerini Ver”, and CIP volunteers also benefit from every second they spend with the children while assisting them during their adaptation into their new communities. Every smile and waving hand they see in the bus after a tiring day shows that the partnership between two groups of children is very valuable.



Visit the Community Involvement Program website at www.rccip.org for:

- Overview of CIP projects
- Student Reflections from CIP Projects
- Generating Changemakers: A Community Service Manual for High School Instructors
- Generating Changemakers: A Community Service Manual for University Instructors

Bizim Tepe: The Social Hub for RC Alumni

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



Candan Turhan RC 87 on the Camino de Santiago



On November 28, Candan Turhan spoke about her walk on the world's most popular long-distance trail. The pilgrimage route of Camino de Santiago stretches across Europe, ending at the tomb of St. James. She shared photos and explained details of her journey.

Guided Tour of Füreya Koral Exhibition



On January 27, Zeynep Özler Kiroğlu RC 98, Kale Group's corporate communications manager, arranged a special guided RC alumni tour at the retrospective exhibition of Füreya Koral's, Turkey's foremost contemporary ceramic artist.

Sustainable Climate

On February 14, Gülin Yücel RC 88 and Prof. Dr. Levent Kurnaz discussed the main causes of climate change and the 2 degrees scenario, as well as steps people can take to avoid climate change.



Entrepreneurs' Stories



On February 28, Andaç Türkmen RC 96 founder of idemama.com and parasut.com, Fırat İşbecer RC 98 founder of Monitise, and Seray Cengiz RC 00 founder of Little Yucca shared their stories about starting their own businesses.

Celal Şengör RC 73 on Atatürk

On January 18, prominent geologist and Atatürk biographer, Prof. Dr. Celal Şengör, talked about Atatürk's scientific approach to the planning and founding of Turkey. The night lasted for hours with many questions from the audience.



British Consul General Judith Slater



On March 13, Judith Slater, the British Consul General to Istanbul and the director general for trade and investment Eastern Europe and Central Asia, spoke about trade between the UK and Turkey. She discussed the trade and customs procedures and mutual agreements in the context of Brexit. The informative session was followed by questions from the audience.

Wildlife Photography and Documentary Making

On December 21, wildlife, travel, and adventure filmmaker Burak Doğansoyul RC 96 spoke about a documentary he made for TRT1 and showcased his photos and behind-the-camera shots.



Boğaziçi Memories with Oya Başak



On December 5, humanities professor and former head of the English Literature Department at Boğaziçi University Oya Başak ACG 55 shared her stories from her academic years at Boğaziçi University.

Science for Youngsters

Based on four-week programs, the Bilim Küpü course welcomed kids aged 4-6 who are interested in science. Each weekend they focused on a different subject and conducted experiments related to it. The children enjoyed their experiments and asked lots of questions. The next program will start in October 2018.



Coping with Difficult Situations

On December 13, behavioral therapy psychologist Verda Falay RC 80 talked about dealing with painful experiences, traumatic events and loss, and gave suggestions on how to cope with them.



Mehmet inhan RC 76 on Bitcoin

On December 7, strategic and investment planning analyst Mehmet inhan spoke about Bitcoin, crypto currencies and Blockchain systems, to a crowded alumni audience. Inhan explained the technical, economic, business and political developments of the world's first cryptocurrencies.



Future Entrepreneurs Discover Their Talent



Through board games and storytelling, the Jr. Entrepreneurs program helped children aged 4-10 to become aware of their potential, unlock their talents and develop their social, emotional and analytical skills, on December 17.

First session: July 2 - July 26
Second session: July 30 - August 17, 2018

Bizim Kamp

Kids get to **“Go Around The World”**
at this year’s Bizim Kamp!

A summer of fun-filled activities is planned, including swimming, gymnastics, dance, science, tennis, GO for kids and English classes, as well as a festival party for different countries every Friday. Participants look forward to the camp/movie night, where they get to camp out overnight in tents on the Plateau. There are also excursions around the city every week according to the children’s age groups. The term finishes with a closing evening where families have the opportunity to watch their kids perform.

For details visit www.rkmd.org.tr or
call RKMD at 0212 287 0078



RC Students and Alumni Meet in Houston

The **RC Robotics** team got a special treat while they were in Houston this April during the FIRST Robotics World Championships. They met up with alumni from several decades at a gathering hosted by Toraman Şahin RA 68 and his wife in their home.

The students enjoyed hearing about alumni's journeys, and the alumni were interesting in learning what campus is like these days, as well as sharing memories with each other. One of the highlights of the evening was catching up with a couple of their former teachers. "I got to meet my math teacher Rina Kapuya after more than

a decade. It's hard to believe she was my first math teacher in my prep year in 1996, which was also her first year at RC," says Yaprak Yiğit Yalnız RC 03 L3

Alumni around Houston have been keeping in touch thanks to the RC Alumni in Houston group on Facebook.



Alumni in Houston met with members of the RC Robotics Team and their advisors, who were in town for a competition

A Special Treat for RC Alumni in the Bay Area

On **February 11**, a truly diverse group of graduates from 1960 to 2016, with all sorts of professional and personal interests, came together at RC 90 alumnus Sanem Alkan's home in Los Gatos. Professional chef Sayat Özyılmaz RC 04 L12 prepared delicious appetizers while entertaining guests in the kitchen. Two alumni from Florida and Washington DC happened to be visiting the Bay Area and could join the evening as well.

Besides toasting to existing and new friendships, the group celebrated a great milestone for our chef at this event. As mentioned in issue 51 of the RCQ, Özyılmaz and his wife have been telling the story of "an Istanbul that could have been" through their ticketed pop-up dinners inspired by the cuisines of the various regions that the Ottoman Empire had influence over. With



Several decades of alumni enjoyed an evening of food and conversation in Los Gatos, CA

that perspective, this chef duo is creating an unprecedented fine casual dining model to disrupt the traditional casual guest experience. Their food will be vegetable-forward, health-conscious, yet decadent, and inspired by the Eastern Mediterranean

with California sensibility. The Bay Area RC alumni group is grateful to have regular access to the Özyılmaz's delicious cooking, and hope many other RC alumni can visit SF Bay and experience the same.

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A Tribute to Custodians of RC Values

Several alumni from RC and ACG who went on to teach at Boğaziçi University carried the values of their alma maters with them. The profound influence these values had on shaping the identity of BU is being highlighted in a conference series that began in 2015.



Mustafa Dilber RC 63



Oktay Yenal RC 51



Vedat Yerlici RC ENG 51



Oya Kaynar Başak ACG 55

Some members of the last class of Robert College Yüksek, Class of '71, came up with the idea of paying tribute to those faculty members who carried the values of Robert College to Boğaziçi University. Mehmet Yaltır RC YÜK 71, Ekrem Ekinci RC ENG 71 and Burhan Karaçam RA 68 started off by getting Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 on board and set those values in writing.

The series began in May 2015, with a ceremony in the Van Milligen Building (the old library which is now the conference hall of BU Rectorate) honoring the late Oktay

Yenal RC 51, founder of the RC Business Administration School.

The 2017-18 academic year began with a ceremony for Mustafa Dilber RA 63, much-loved former BU Dean of Students in the 1970s, on November 30, 2017. They next honored Vedat Yerlici RC ENG 51, the first Dean of the Engineering School, who was elected to this post four times by the faculty, on March 15, 2018. The latest to be honored was Oya Başak ACG 55, Professor of Humanities, on April 26, 2018.

Each ceremony started with an address by the Dean of the relevant school and the Rector or Assistant Rector of Bogaziçi University. Family, classmates, colleagues and co-workers of the faculty members, some live some via a video recording, shared their memories of the honorees following a short documentary of his or her life. In order to make this a permanent event at Boğaziçi, the group is now working on a process to select other faculty members to be honored.

Contributed by Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62

Colleagues, classmates, family and friends of Boğaziçi University Humanities Professor Oya Başak ACG 55 honored her on April 26, 2018



Feyza Darendeliler RC 74

First Turk to Receive European Endocrinology Award

Professor of pediatric endocrinology at Istanbul University, Feyza Darendeliler received the Outstanding Clinician Award from the European Society for Pediatric Endocrinology (ESPE) in recognition of her contribution to the field of pediatric endocrinology both in Turkey and in Europe. Darendeliler was presented with the award at the International Joint Meeting of Pediatric Endocrinology 2017 in October in Washington DC.

“This is a great honor for me and it is the first time that a doctor has received this award in Turkey,” she says. “The fact that my mentor in Turkey is Prof. Dr. Olcay Neyzi ACG 46 makes this award even more special. RC has contributed much to my academic career all my life.”

Feyza Darendeliler has been a Professor of Pediatrics at the Istanbul University, Istanbul Faculty of Medicine since 1996. She began her career at the Istanbul Faculty of Medicine under the supervision of Neyzi. She is the founder of the faculty's Adolescent Unit and has been its Pediatric Endocrinology Unit Chief since 2007. She and her colleagues started camps for diabetic children in Istanbul, the first in Turkey. One of the founding members of the Turkish Pediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes Society in Turkey, Darendeliler has been its president since 2014. During her presidency, basic and advanced courses for fellows in pediatric endocrinology began to be offered in Turkey with the aim to spread and harmonize pediatric endocrine training nationwide.



Feyza Darendeliler RC 74 was the first Turk to receive the Clinician Award from the European Society for Pediatric Endocrinology

Ayşe Yüksel Mahfoud Named Woman of Influence

RC Trustee and '87 graduate Ayşe Yüksel Mahfoud has been named one of the Women of Influence 2018 by the New York Business Journal. Honorees are selected for the impact they've made both professionally and in their communities. The group features women who have found success in a range of businesses affecting the New York economy, and have been active in mentoring younger executives, working with non-profit organizations and pursuing charitable endeavors.

Yüksel Mahfoud is one of five lawyers on the list. As a member of the Global Executive Committee at Norton Rose Fulbright, and a founder and partner-in-charge of their Istanbul office, she handles a diverse array of cross-border deals. Much of her international corporate practice focuses on advising investors seeking opportunities in Turkey and the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region, as well as outbound Turkish



Ayşe Yüksel Mahfoud RC 87

investors seeking opportunities in the US and elsewhere.

Yüksel Mahfoud created her firm's "MENA Public Fellowship," which funds one law student's summer legal internship with

a nonprofit public service organization working in or on the MENA. Past fellows have undertaken nonprofit internships in Yemen, Egypt, Jordan and Palestine.

In 2011, she founded the firm's Istanbul office with seven female lawyers. She also mentors individuals from MENA countries as part of the firm's rotational program. These lawyers work in the New York office for one year and then subsequently rotate to one of the firm's offices in Europe or the Middle East.

In addition to serving on the Robert College Board, Yüksel Mahfoud is the lead pro bono counsel for Jazz at Lincoln Center, a New York non-profit. She is also a member of the Global Relations Forum, a non-profit association focusing on international affairs, and was part of the inaugural class of Young Society Leaders selected by the American-Turkish Society.

Swooshing Her Way to the Olympics

Viewers of this year's Winter Olympics in South Korea may have seen a familiar face on the slopes; Özlem Çarıkçioğlu RC 13 representing Turkey in Alpine Skiing. She spoke with the RCQ about the experience and how she prepared for it.

How did it feel to participate in the Olympics?

I had the greatest experience even though I couldn't perform my personal best skiing. It was great to have met the best athletes that I usually watch on TV and observe what they do daily.

What were some of your favorite moments?

The most unforgettable memory was entering the stadium during the opening ceremony when my parents were watching from their seats. I also witnessed some great achievements that seemed impossible by some of the best athletes.

What did you do to prepare yourself for the competition?

I took a gap year from university to prepare for the Olympic qualifications. Turkey had a country quota of one for Alpine Skiing,



Özlem Çarıkçioğlu RC 13 competing in the Ladies' Slalom at the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea

so my goal was to be the best woman alpine skier in Turkey. I was away from home for weeks with the National Team to train on snow in countries such as Italy, Switzerland and Austria. In the summer, I had conditioning trainings and tests in Zagreb with my private coach.

What are your plans for the future?

I study Industrial Engineering and am about to graduate from Koç University, but my future plans are about skiing. I want to continue for four more years and try to qualify for the next Olympics. There is not

a single skier from Turkey who could do this twice; I could make history if I achieve this. I am currently looking for sponsorship that can support me in my dreams.

What influence did your days at RC have on your skiing career?

Robert College gave me discipline and made me work more efficiently. I remember coming back from Erzurum on Sunday nights and studying for my exams on the plane. This reflected in my skiing career and made me who I am.

Şevki Pekin RA 66

Honored for Lifetime Achievement in Architecture



Photo Credit: Uğur Ceylan

Şevki Pekin RA 66

Many alumni are familiar with at least one of architect Şevki Pekin's works; the Bizim Tepe building was designed by him in 1982. This year, he was presented with Turkey's most prestigious architecture award, the Mimar Sinan Grand Award, at the 16th National Architecture Awards ceremony held on April 6, 2018 in Ankara. Given every two years, the award honors an architect for their lifetime body of work and the contributions they have made to architecture.

After graduating from Robert College, Pekin received his master's in architecture from the Vienna National Fine Arts Academy. He returned to Turkey where he set up his own architecture firm.

Since then he has exhibited and won numerous awards for his work, both in Turkey and abroad. His creations have been featured in several publications. In 2007, he published an anthology of his work, *Mimari Çalışmalar* (YEM Kitabevi).

Daha ilerisi için, BİLGİ Lisansüstü.

Alanlarının önde gelen akademisyen ve profesyonellerinden eğitim alma, kariyeriniz için güçlü bağlantılar kurma olanağı BİLGİ Lisansüstü Programları'nda.

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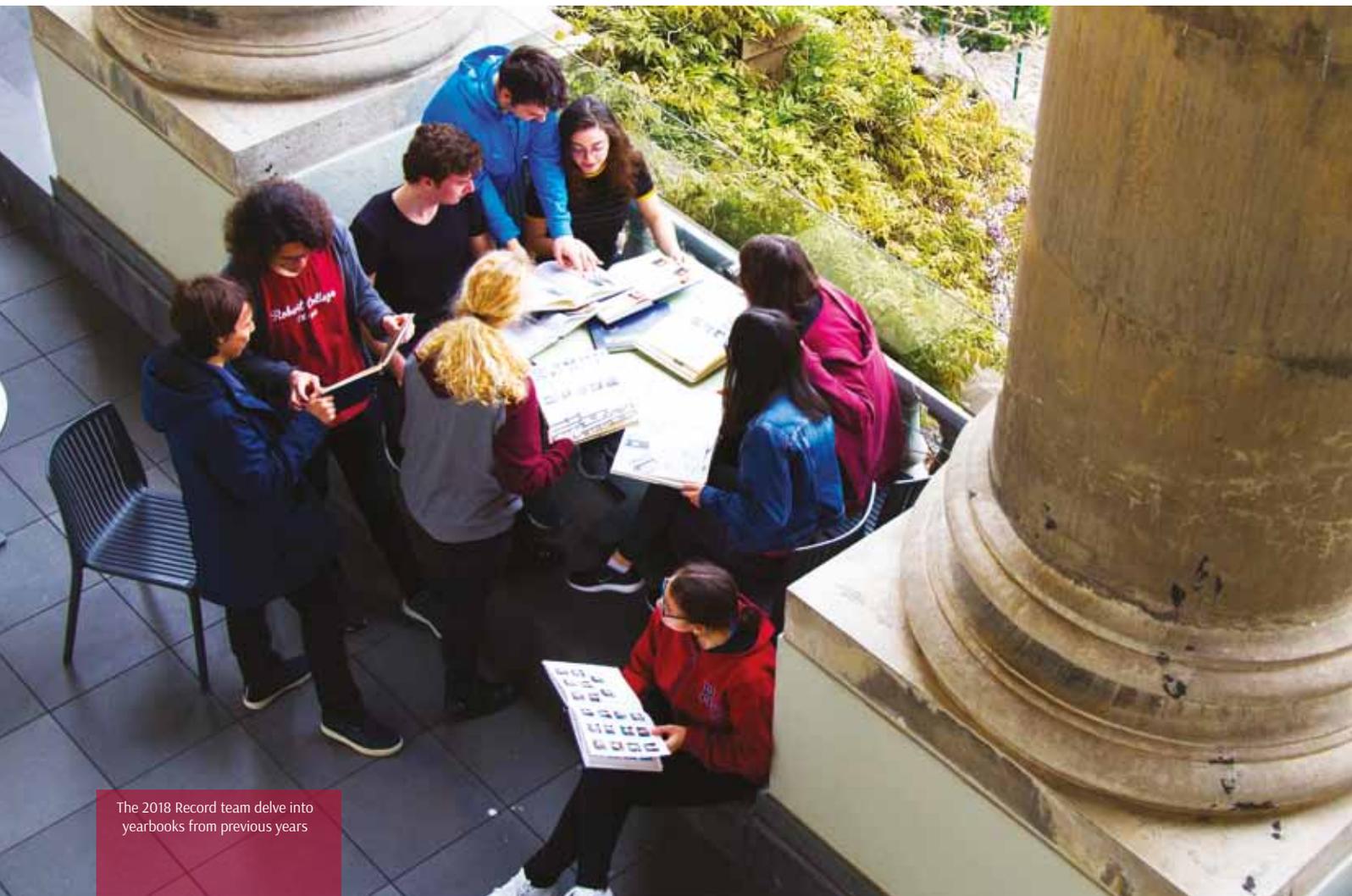
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A Century of Student Memories

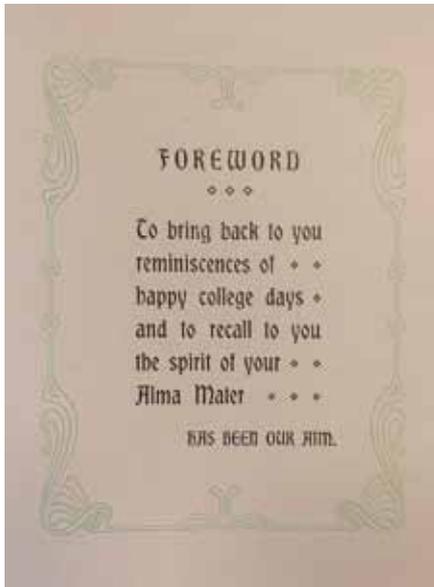
| Dust off your yearbook and take a walk down memory lane as the Record celebrates its 100th birthday

Do you remember the thrill of taking the Record in your hand, right before graduation? What it felt like to look through the photos, the pleasure of recognizing yourself in some of them? Can you still remember what your ex-boyfriend or girlfriend wrote for you? Do you remember what you wrote for your best friend? Do you still look through it occasionally with nostalgia, love, and maybe even a tinge of regret? How have the years gone by?



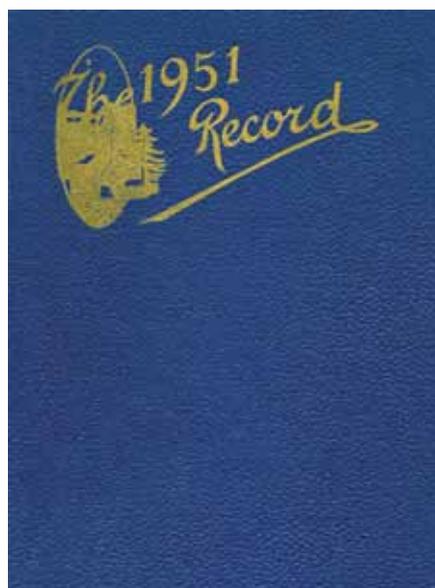
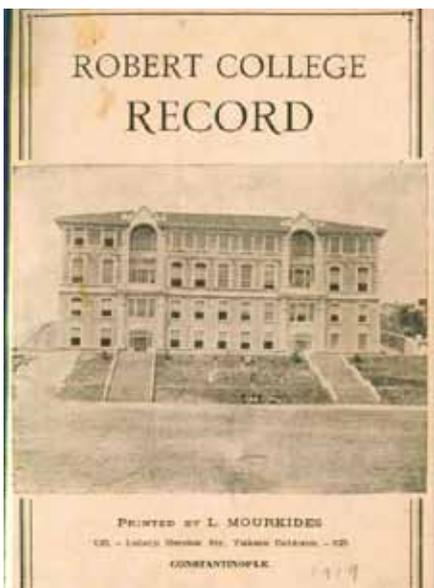
The 2018 Record team delve into yearbooks from previous years

2018 marks the 100th year of Robert College's Record



Foreword from the 1925 Record

Here is a little-known fact: There have actually been three “Volume 1’s” of the Record (in 1919, 1924 and 1972). At its inception, the Record was more of a school magazine. It was published a few times a year, highlighting students’ news and literary works. The motivation to produce the Record must have been strong, as the year was so tumultuous, with the ending of the First World War, the occupation of Istanbul, and start of the War of Liberation. The Record turned into a proper yearbook in 1924 and took the form it continues to have today: A yearly publication that features the students of the graduating year, the faculty, and administration, write-





The 2018 Yearbook Team. Photos for this year's Record were shot with black and white film using cameras from the 1940s.

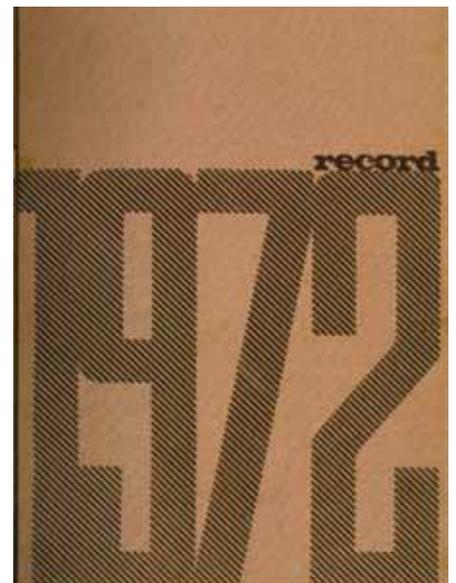
ups of the graduating class, and a record of the highlights of the year in drama, sports, clubs, trips, and occasionally balls, teas, and dances. It is symbolic of Robert College's values that the Record started as a student initiative and continues to be so today, with invaluable help from faculty.

Yet the Record is not a mere walk down memory lane. It is also a rich archive, due to the quality of content and attention to detail. When the Record was first established in 1919, there were representatives from each class forming an editorial board, as well as set regulations. Standards were set high from the very first day.

The content developed over the years and was almost always contributed by the student body. A testament to the invaluable archival nature of the Record is Cem Akaş's observation in his book *Tepedeki Okul* that the Record reflects whatever the mood the country was in that year. For example, the 1943 Record is dedicated to "The Past, Present, and Future Engineers of Turkey, Who Have, Are, and Will Lead The Country in The Scientific World."

Those who have worked on the Record will remember the fun they had preparing it. Deniz Yıldız Edin RC 88 recalls their experience 30 years ago: "We produced the 1988 Record with Vedat Urul's mentorship (himself Editor-in-Chief of the 1943 Record). We had so much fun gathering what would go into it. Together with Şebnem Erol RC 88, we went door-to-door trying to sell advertisements. This effort was in fact our very first sales experience. I was very proud to be part of the team who recorded and passed on RC culture to future generations." Seyda Fırat Akdurak RC 88, Editor-in-Chief of the 1988 Record recalls fondly, "We finished everything, had the first printed copies in our hands, took one to an advertiser, opened the first page - and there was a typo! It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. The worst parts were less, and the whole process taught us how to stand on our own two feet. We relied on this skill during our university studies, and at our jobs."

For those curious about how the Record is produced today, Yearbook Club advisor



Alex Downs gives the scoop. Unsurprisingly, producing the yearbook is still as fun and possibly even more educational:

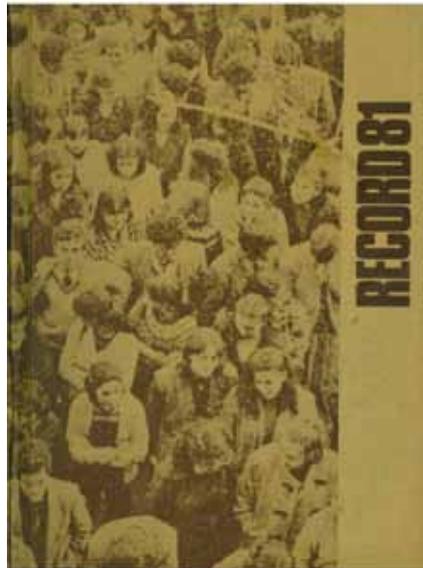
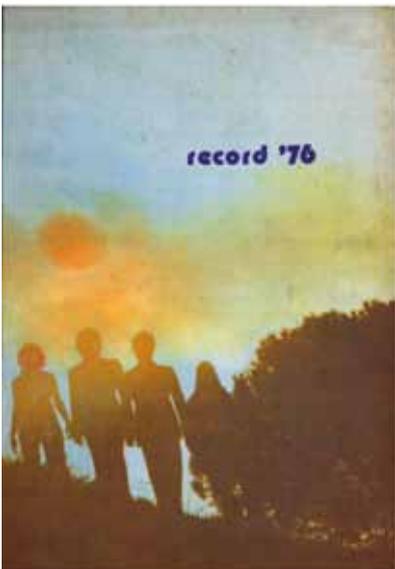
“For a while, Yearbook was conducted as a class with Lise 12 students. However, when these students graduated, all the skills developed left with them, so we reverted back to being a club. Now attending Yearbook Club starts in Lise 9, and students continue in the club for three years. Students from different grades have different responsibilities. Lise 9 students prepare the photos, find the names, take care of the copy pasting, etc. Lise 10 students take on leadership roles: organizing photos for teams and clubs, as well as making sure all events get photographed. Lise 11 students become the designers and editors. They have to know how to use the proper software, understand layout and photography, and they actually get to design the book that will be used for their graduation the following year. Lise 12 students check on the design process and act as controllers. This new approach to the Yearbook Club allows students to build their design, photography, and organizational skills, and enables them to take on responsibility gradually.”

Computers started to be used in the production of the Record when the Sait Halman Computer Center was launched in 1985. The advent of digital technology has made the production somewhat smoother. Just imagine - back in the day, physical mock-ups were made with photos being glued to pages. Still, the same amount of

time and chaos goes into delivering the final product, so much so that apparently there is now a new tradition in preparing the yearbook: The All-Nighter! Over the past few years, members of the Yearbook Club have “pulled an all-nighter”, staying up until the wee hours of the morning to make final changes to the yearbook before sending the files to the printer. It has become one of the highlights of the yearbook creation process, where, fueled on snacks and pumped up with their favorite tunes, the group spends a memorable evening together perfecting their publication.

To honor a century of the Record, the 2018 volume is a throwback to old times. Group photos were shot with black and white film using old cameras from the 1940s. The students developed and scanned the photos themselves, learning techniques like light metering in the meantime. Because it is an RC tradition to be meticulous, color photographs were taken as a back-up plan. The cover design itself is meant to have a vintage look.

Over the years the Record has inspired other yearbooks such as Robert Academy’s Reflections and Orta yearbooks like Yesterdays and Souvenir. While starting off as a yearbook for the boys, the girls joined the act in 1935 and continued to publish a joint yearbook with co-ed editorial teams. In the last decade before the merger, ACG students also published separate yearbooks such as ACG Memories and the ACG Record.



Yearbook Advertisements

Until recent years, advertisements were a familiar sight in the Record. Not only did they help defray costs, but selling ad space was a valuable learning experience for yearbook staffers. The same type of camera in this ad from the 1949 Record was used to shoot photos for the 2018 Record.

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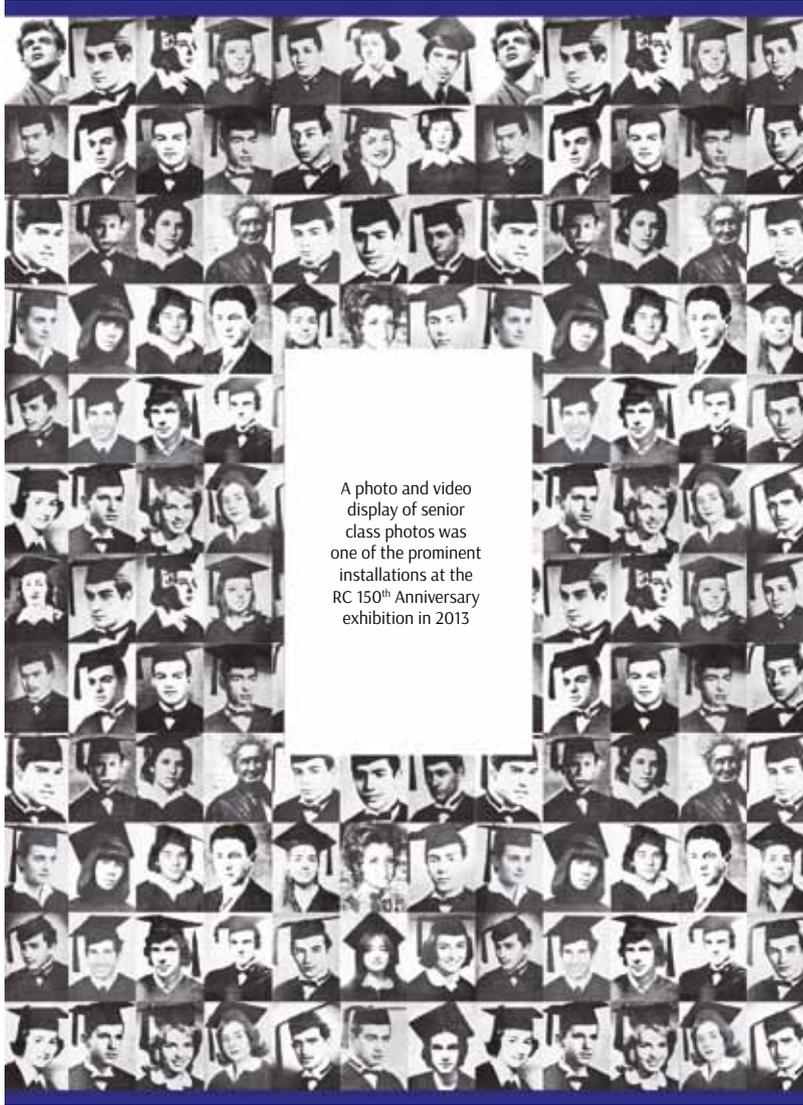


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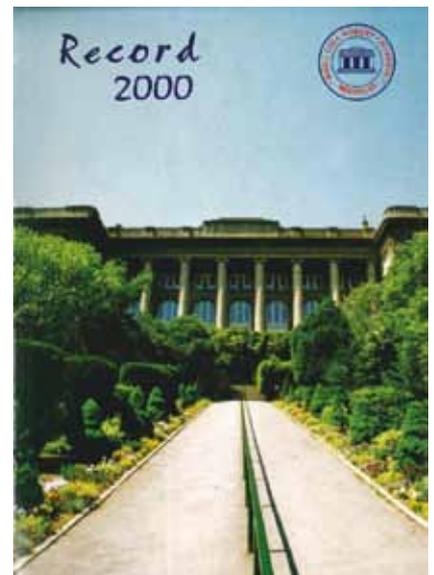
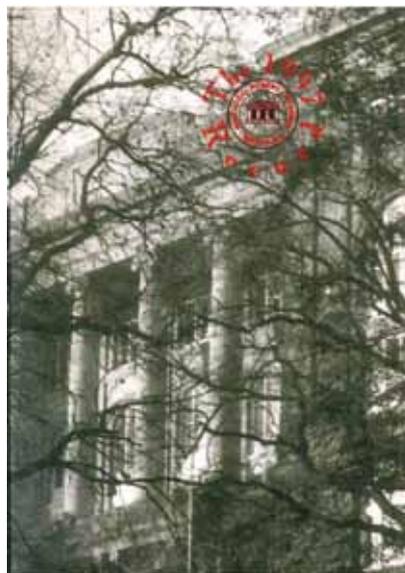
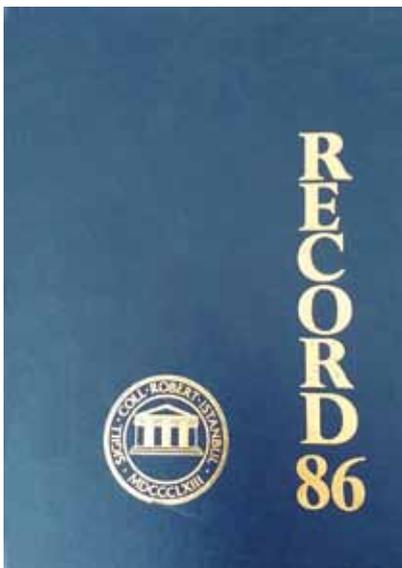
A photo and video display of senior class photos was one of the prominent installations at the RC 150th Anniversary exhibition in 2013

The Record comes out in May, as it has for a century, when the wisteria is in bloom, and the campus is at its prettiest.

In the 1972 Record, the year co-ed education began, the principal at the time, John C. Calfant wrote: "Robert College now has a future, and much of the credit is yours. Now you have a future too, give some of the credit to Robert College. We need each other!" These words still ring true today, and Record continues to record the deep bonds and values that we form during our time at Robert College and that we rely on for the future. ■

Well-known Alumni Who Worked on the Record

Some famous names who worked on the Record are Celalettin Avni, Kenan İpekçi, Nevzat Uras, İbrahim Hoyi, Abidin Dino, Turgut Menemencioğlu, Mihri Belli, Yusuf Mardin, İbrahim Bodur, Rahmi Koç, Bülent Ecevit, Betül Mardin, Nihal Yeğinoğlu, Refik Erduran, Haldun Dormen, Cevat Çapan, Tuncay Çavdar, Oya Kaynar Başak, Beklan Aşgan, Nurver Nureş, Sina Akşin, Engin Cezzar, Özer Kabaş, Nuri Çolakoğlu, İsmail Cem, Alp Yalman, Serdar Bilgili, Hüsnü Özyeğin, Hasan Yazıcı, Tosun Terzioğlu, Osman Ulagay, Şevket Pamuk, Suna Koç, Emre Gönensay, Ülkü Tamer, Aziz Çalışlar, İbrahim Betil, Şeyla Benhabip, Büşra Ersanlı, Perihan Mağden, Ercan Arıklı, Soli Özel, Vasıf Kortun, Leyla Neyzi, Ahmet Uluğ, Nur Yalman, Ömer Uluç, Mahmut T. Öngören, Cem Akaş. It is no surprise that some of these names have been and continue to be part of the literati and the publishing world in Turkey. (source: *Tepedeki Okul*, by Cem Akaş RC 86)

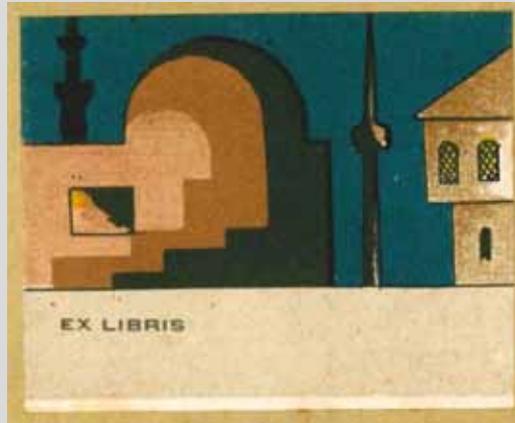


Reviving a Tradition: Ex-Libris

An ex-libris is a bookplate inscribed to show the book's owner. According to Hasip Pektaş, President of Ex-Libris Society Turkey, many of the teachers at Robert College used to have ex-libris created for themselves. This can be understood from the many books they gave to the Robert College library. However, more interestingly, starting from the 1920s, ex-libris were made for the Record, so that students could write their own names on the spaces provided. These ex-libris were created by the Record's art directors. This lovely tradition, which stopped in 1950, is being revived with the 2018 Record. Members of the RC Printmaking Studio Club, advised by art teacher Erin Power, etched and hand-printed a series of ex-libris that were given out with this year's yearbook.



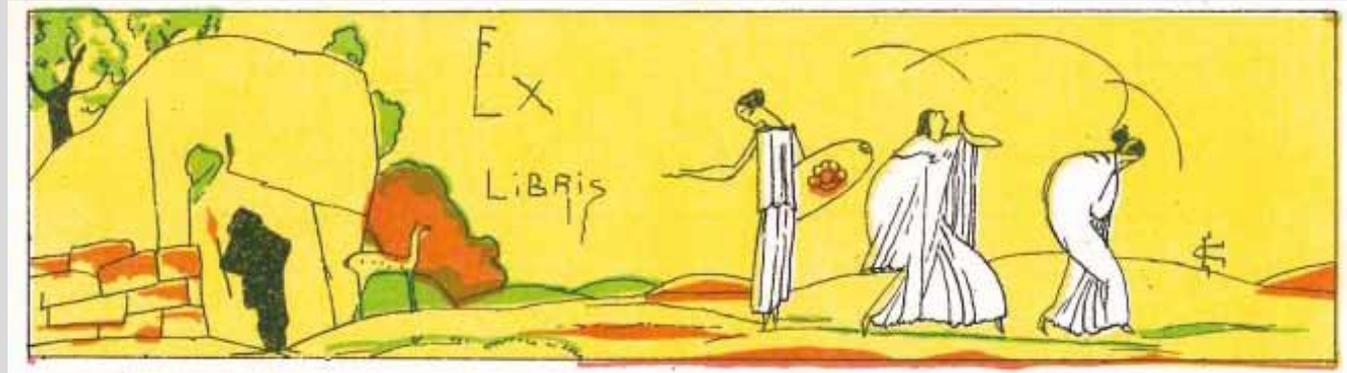
1925 Record



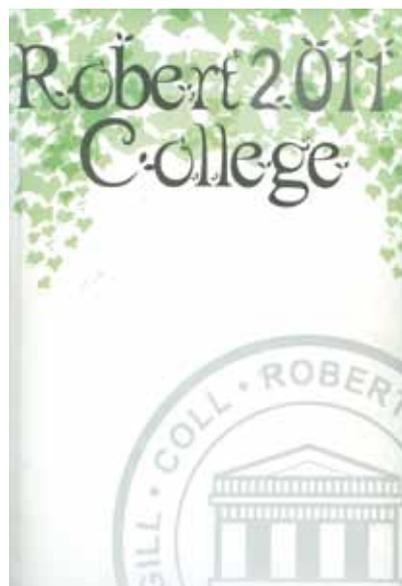
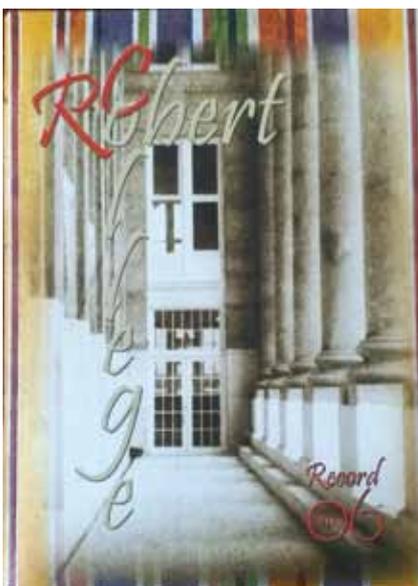
1928 Record



Ex-libris designed by Ayşe Teker L10 for the 2018 Record



1927 Record



Golden Pen Award for RC Poet

Melisa Saygin L12, has been honored with the Book Culture Arts Gazete's prestigious Altın Kalem (Golden Pen) Award for her first book, a poetry collection called *Academy of Complication*. She spoke with the RCQ about what inspires her to write and her plans for the future.

What's the theme of your book?

Academy of Complication is composed of postmodern English and Turkish poems aiming to extract resilience from hardships. There are the topics of loss, anxiety, stress, failure, love, and absurdity. The book wants to make you believe in the power of melancholy; that it can destroy itself if it is beautiful enough.

What inspires you to write?

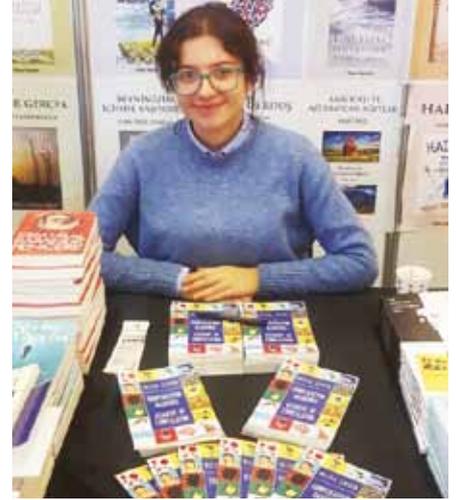
I have been captured by the countless unique manners to cover tragedy and melancholy through reading Russian, French and Turkish literature, and watching Tarantino movies. During this period of my life, I am particularly examining ire,

antagonism, tragic love, existentialism and absurd ideas.

As for a direct inspiration source, I most generally start from people who give me the aura of a poetic character. I embellish their characteristics and put them into the settings in my mind - a hotel room with a sandy floor, a muddy backstreet with glittery clothed men, or a policeman constantly eating olives in his office, and looking for stolen cars. I want the reader to break ties with reality as my poems are being read.

What are your plans for the future?

I plan to pursue being an audacious psychiatrist - or a cosmologist - and pursue poetry and philosophical writings at the same time. In addition, I am currently composing Turkish and English poems. I may release songs in the future. As Lana Del Rey advocates in many of her songs, I would like to "make my life into a work of art." I want to be remembered as a particular persona that I am creating and shaping momentarily.



Melisa Saygin L12

Will we see more of your poems soon?

Poetry is a life-long journey to me, rather than a one-time experiment. My new poems are embedded within complications, but with more depth and existentialism. I hope to publish some of my Turkish poems in national literary magazines such as Varlık, and in many future poetry books.

Inspiration through Improvisation

This winter, Lise 12 student Çağla Erdoğan won four awards at the Nardis Young Jazz Vocal Competition, following in the footsteps of other Nardis award-winning RC students such as Neslihan Akbulut RC 98, Buket Coşkuner RC 06, Cemre Necefbaş RC 13 and Su Özer RC 15. She is also a talented visual artist, having received the Özlem Akçaşuş RC 97 Art Scholarship in 2017, with which she did a summer workshop in Paris at the Atelier de Sèvres. The RCQ spoke to her about her diverse talents and her plans after she graduates this June.

You're not only a talented singer, but also a gifted visual artist. Do you identify with one over the other?

I don't identify as a singer or as a painter. I create to find out who I am. I try hard to show how I think and feel about things both as I sing and paint.

How long have you been singing?

Since I was little, but I never considered myself as someone who can sing until my music teacher Koray Demirkapı told me so.



Çağla Erdoğan L12 with her painting "Mutfak"

I joined the RC Singers and RC Orchestra. The encouragement of Mr. Demirkapı when I

was a prep was life-changing for me, and that summer I was introduced to jazz music.

What inspires you to paint?

My main inspiration is freedom and improvisation; my musical personality probably affected the way I paint. I try hard to think about nothing as I paint. At a symposium, Ayhan Taşkıran, my preferred Turkish contemporary painter, taught me a lot about "being free on the canvas" as he worked. I want it to be spontaneous and honest and full of emotions. So I have to forget about what's on my mind but reflect all that's in me that moment on the canvas. The result becomes as surprising to me as it is to others.

What are your plans for the future?

I hope to study fine arts at the Paris National Academy of Fine Arts (ENSBA). Studying jazz vocals has been added to these plans and I am thinking of applying to several conservatories in France as a part-time student. I also hope to hold a small exhibition in İzmir, my hometown.

Tibet Butan Nepal

FEST Travel'dan

Dinginliğin ve arınmanın peşindekilere özel

20 Ağustos - 2 Eylül 2018

Zamanın durduğu bir coğrafyada Himalaya Budizmi yorumları, akılalmaz manastırları ve siyasi merkezleriyle "dünyanın damı" Tibet; el değmemiş doğası ve naif halkıyla Son Şangri-La sayılabilecek Butan, binlerce yıllık inançları ve zarif mimarisıyla gizemli vadi Katmandu...

Everest'in gölgesinde, tropikal orman kuşağından çorak bozkırlara uzanan muhteşem doğa manzaralarıyla kendini yeniden keşfetmek isteyenlere özel bir program...

- Dış ve iç hat hat uçuşları • Konaklama • Tüm yemekler
- Tüm transferler • Seyahat sağlık sigortası • Vize ücretleri
- Tüm müze ve ulusal park girişleri • Uzman FEST rehberliği
- Tüm bahşişler • KDV DAHİL!



From Casablanca to the Sand Dunes of the Sahara

1,800 km of Adventure Biking

By Reşit Yıldız RC 91

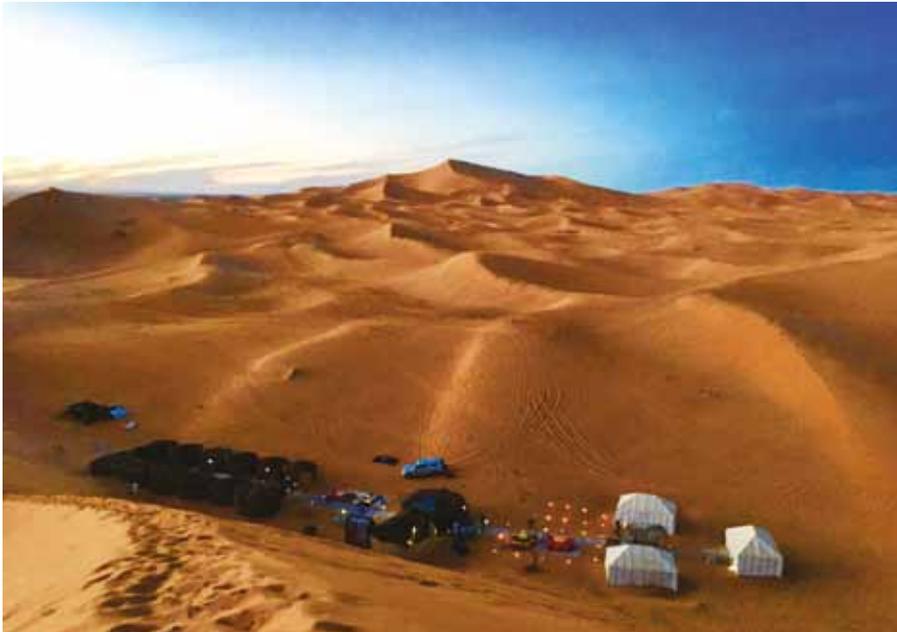


In the last few days of 2017 and the very first few days of 2018, I had one of my dream trips come true. I had the privilege of joining a group of enduro bikers on a long motorbike tour in Morocco. It was quite an international group with four Americans, two Belgians, one person from the UK and myself. We were guided by our BMW-certified tour guide who was Hungarian. He has been living in Morocco for many years and knows all the on- and off-road routes of Morocco very well.

We were not only diversified nationality-wise but also by age and profession. Given that I turned 46 on New Year's Eve, the two friends from Belgium were "teenagers" to me, as they were born in 1990, when I was 18. On the other hand, some were older than me. The Americans were from different parts of US: New York, New Jersey, Atlanta and Los Angeles. We had a neurosurgeon, a startup investor, a finance executive, a finance consultant and a sports instructor in our group. Our tour guide used to

The Sahara right after sunset.
The clouds are imitating the
patterns of the sand dunes.





The camp in the Sahara where the group stayed for one night

be the CFO of an international company's operations in Morocco. I was the engineer leg. Only the finance consultant used his profession during our trip, as we assigned him to be in charge of our meal payments at lunch. In the end, we all became very good friends. We celebrated my birthday on New Year's Eve trying to play local musical instruments.

For seven days the group traveled over 1,800 kilometers on our enduro motorbikes starting from Casablanca. We made it all the way through the Atlas region down to Taouz, the northwestern edge of the Sahara Desert, where we had the opportunity to try to ride on the sand dunes. I could not do much there despite the fact that I was on my favorite bike, a 2017 BMW R1200 GS Rallye. Indeed the capability and experience of the rider are as important as the bike you are riding on. One of our friends managed to ride quite a long distance smoothly on the dunes but got badly stuck in sand after diving into a sand crater. We looked for him for about 15 minutes. After finding him, all of us struggled for about half an hour to get his motorbike out. Meanwhile there were small local kids laughing at us as they wandered around us.

We had many off-road miles on endless desert land; uphill, downhill, narrow tracks, rocky sections, ditches, fractured roads with many big holes. In certain parts there

were literally no roads. We created a well-spread cloud of dust while we were riding; from a distance, we probably looked like a herd of wild horses galloping freely.

We passed through many small villages with narrow streets where little kids waved at us with smiling faces. In return we waved back at them and smiled, though our smiles were invisible as our faces were completely covered by our helmets. The kids mostly asked us to throttle more to increase the engine noise, throttling their small hands in the air as if they were on their own noisy and powerful motorcycles. We responded to their requests with pleasure, knowing how excited and happy it would make them. We could see their natural childish gestures on their small cute faces.

Free-roaming camels and donkeys were part of our scenery. We went through several oases. They looked spectacular and "cool", full of palm trees while surrounded by infinite dry hot desert land. At one oasis, we crossed a small river on our bikes, which was thrilling. From time to time the terrain and landscape looked as if we were on Mars. We visited the studio castle in the desert where some parts of the Game of Thrones were filmed.

Two of the most spectacular scenes were on our way to our hotel in Ouarzazate right after sunset. I had the privilege of

seeing the rise of the biggest full moon in my life. There were no clouds in the sky where it was lively light blue in color. The endless desert surface showed its bright but light, brownish color with the effect of the diminishing lights of the sunset. The full moon was just rising in front me and the road I was traveling on was heading right towards the heart of the moon; a view I will always remember. The second most spectacular scene was at our hotel in Ouarzazate. The infinity pool facing the still waters of the dam lake made it look like as if the river was reaching out to our hotel. As it was not completely dark, the clearcut edges of the desert terrain surrounding the lake below the sky made three states of matter very clear; the lake water being the liquid, the desert land being the solid and the sky, the gas.

There were times on the paved road sections where I could hardly keep up with the other members of the group. Thanks to their understanding, they were patient and waited for me at certain intervals. In the end, the trip was not about going fast but about adventure and safe riding. Our



Yildiz's first shot in Morocco, from the endless beaches of Casablanca. It looks as if the man is on ice.



The infinity pool at the hotel in Ouarzazate facing the river

tour guide always reminded us about safety regulations. We all had the same spirit and a similar understanding.

I wish I could have taken many photos and shared them. Somehow I managed to get my professional DSLR camera soaked in water in the middle of the desert on the first morning of our trip.

We stayed one night in tents in the sandy parts of the Sahara Desert. Early in the morning, we woke up and climbed to the top of a sand dune to watch the sun rise over the orangish endless desert landscape. It was spectacular. Both the night before and early in the morning I regretted very much that I did not have my camera.

It was beneficial that we had very limited internet access throughout our trip. This allowed us to spend time talking and listening to each other. We socialized in real life, like in the old days. I guess this is what we need in our daily city lives where we are always “connected”. I had a similar internet-free experience three years ago when we were sailing across the Atlantic Ocean from west to east (see RCQ 47, p. 34). I strongly

recommend trips where there is no internet or very limited access.

I feel lucky to have closed 2017 and started 2018 with such an unforgettable adventure

and with great new friendships. My wish for 2018 is for the whole of humanity to focus more on nature and how to protect it. The world has endless beautiful spots - even in the deserts - and we have to preserve them. ■



The enduro bikers after the session in the sand dunes



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



The Last Great Frontier

By Alican Ayanlar RC 94

Antarctica

Alican Ayanlar has always been drawn to adventure. He tells himself, it keeps the soul young. But there are some adventures that are special. For him, this is one of them.

After a year of hoping and several months of planning and preparation, my journey to the “white continent” began on the tip of South America, in Punta Arenas, Chile. It’s a city steeped in Antarctic folklore, with legendary figures in polar exploration like Roald Amundsen, Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton having passed through this small naval outpost.

More than a century after these early explorers and decades after Turkish scientific pioneers like Atok Karaali and Ümran İn an made their mark, (both of which have Antarctic geographical features named after them - Karaali rocks and İn an Peak), another historic expedition was about to begin. This was going to be Turkey’s largest and most ambitious expedition to Antarctica. And I, as a journalist

Ayanlar posing with a fur seal on Nansen Island





One of the many magnificent sunrises that can be observed in Antarctica

was going to be making a documentary about this extraordinary journey. Twenty-five scientists and researchers from universities across Turkey would be conducting more than a dozen studies to better understand the effects of climate change and man-made pollutants on the region's delicate ecosystem. Did I also mention that the Turks are also scouting possible sites for a future base? Well, now you know.

It is all in line with Turkey's ambition to upgrade its status in the Antarctic Treaty System, which outlines the governance of our world's only continent without a local population. It is based on the premise that activities on Antarctica should be devoted to peace and science. And it has worked exceptionally well for more than half a century.

Our last days in Punta Arenas are mostly spent in a classroom. Instructors give us the do's and don'ts of life on a ship and the unforgiving continent. Safety was going to be of paramount importance. As a journalist, I have spent some time in war zones like Syria, Iraq and Libya, but the world's coldest continent was surely going to present a unique set of challenges, testing both physical and mental endurance.

Just like that, D-day had come and the

expedition's team members were lined up at the port, ready to board the Antarctic Warrior, the cargo supply ship that would take us to the last great frontier and be our home for the next 35 days.

After navigating through the calm waters of Tierra del Fuego, we rounded Cape Horn and hit the Drake Passage, one of the world's most treacherous stretches of water. Our ship was slammed by swells the size of large houses, trying to pierce through the nearly 200 km/h gusts. And as quickly as conditions can change at sea, this trip had

turned into one of the most uncomfortable experiences of my life. For three days, I barely left the confines of my bunk bed, sticking to a strict regimen of Dramamine.

But in the end, the reward was worth it. The glorious Antarctic Peninsula had greeted us like a warm arm signaling us to come closer. The magnificent cliffs, icebergs and glaciers I was dreaming about were finally in front of my eyes.

The first stop of the Turkish Antarctic Expedition was Horseshoe Island, one of



Icebergs on a calm day on Horseshoe Island



Ayanlar takes a break from shooting a documentary to socialize with Adeli penguins on Horseshoe Island

the hundreds of islands that dot the waters off the western edge of the peninsula and home to tens of thousands of Adeli penguins. These adorable flightless birds displayed an uncanny sense of curiosity for their human invaders. If you were patient and calm they would wobble over to you like they wanted to strike up a conversation. As clumsy as they are on land, they showed their true grace in the water, seamlessly dolphining from one shore to another.

One could spend days admiring the incredible wildlife, but we were on a mission. It was time for science to take center stage. Glaciologists, oceanographers, geologists and biologists were getting their gadgets ready as if they were preparing to start a scientific conquest of the continent.

Understanding the past to predict the future

With my late grandfather being a geologist, I was naturally drawn to how these experts would be carrying out their studies in climate science. One of the methods was

finding “erratics”, or rocks (ranging from pebble size to huge boulders) that didn’t belong to the local bedrock. This meant that these “out of place” rocks had to be carried from somewhere to their current location. Enter the power of Mother Nature and say hello to glacial transport. With glaciers receding since the end of the last ice age, these erratics began to be exposed to the open air. Today geologists measure the amount of cosmic rays that the rocks have absorbed. Using a formula, they determine how long this exposure has been going on. By comparing erratics in the same area, they can calculate the speed of retreat.

Research has shown that over the past 50 years, the average temperatures on the Antarctic Peninsula have risen faster than most parts of the world. Will rising temperatures lead to the sea level rising? By how much? How many millions of people will need to find a new place to live? Could we witness that largest refugee crisis in the history of the planet? The possibility of this threat is beginning to trickle down.

But as important as this threat is, there’s also another danger. Not to us, but rather the local wildlife. And it’s a matter of life or death and even extinction.

Northern habits affect the South and beyond

Biologists and eco-toxicologists are finding more and more evidence of harmful man-made pollutants that have been discarded into the environment and, carried through ocean currents and wind patterns, find their way to the bottom of the world. Research shows that micro plastics (a surprising fact: a single load of laundry can release hundreds of thousands of micro plastic fibers) are building up in the bodies of seals and whales at an alarming rate. DDT, a chemical compound originally developed as an insecticide that has been largely banned since the 1970’s, has found its way to a land where there is no agriculture, where it is preventing the shells of penguin eggs to fully develop. It is easy to see how scientists are linking under-developed penguin eggs to a decline in the species population. And I

am sure you would agree that the last thing this world needs are less penguins, right?

Perhaps not as cute but another thing that we also need is Antarctica's superfood - krill. These small crustaceans are a vital link in the food chain. But climate change and over-fishing have caused their numbers to drastically decline. This is having a domino effect on the species that feed on them and goes all the way up the food chain.

Over dinner in our ship's cramped mess hall, the scientists talked about the ice cores, erratics and water samples that they had collected. They were stored in cargo containers that were to be shipped back to Turkey at the end of the expedition. Over the next several months they would be analyzing them, searching for clues that showed changing trends in the environment. While the findings will take time, I felt that man's footprint was already proving to be too large.

But we should not lose hope. Mankind has shown that it does have the resilience to make change happen. I grew up in era where the ozone hole had opened up over the South Pole. Scientists had linked it to the overuse of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) that were destroying the ozone layer which



Scientists use erratic rocks to measure the retreat of glaciers

prevents harmful ultraviolet light coming through. By the late 1980's the evidence that scientists had provided for years finally led to the banning of CFCs. It is now estimated that the ozone layer will be able to fully repair itself by the middle of the century. If we were able to do it before, why not prevent any future damage by acting now?

While my time on the white continent was truly breath-taking, it has shown me that we must play a more active role in protecting this heavenly place on Earth. As a Native American proverb states, we do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, but borrow it from our children.

Antarctica... I hope that the next generation will be able to experience your glory the way I did. That is, except for the Drake Passage. ■

Alican Ayanlar is a correspondent for TRT World.

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Yeşim Özsoy RC 90 Shares Her Life on and around the Stage

On her way to becoming a sociologist, Yeşim Özsoy discovered her talent for acting. She has since channeled her passion to create more than 15 original plays, many of which have been translated and are being performed around Europe. She spoke with the RCQ about her life in theatre.



Yeşim Özsoy RC 90 (right) performing *When in Rome*

How did you choose a career in drama?

I decided to attend an acting school while at Boğaziçi University, where I was studying sociology. I was introduced to Studio Oyuncuları and Şahika Tekand. That was a pivotal point in my life which changed everything, from my lifestyle to looking at life, art and careers. I got an MFA in theatre from Sarah Lawrence College and took courses in theatre history at Columbia University. Then I went to Northwestern University to get an MA in performance studies. I founded my first theatre company in New York, Homeworks Theatre and wrote, directed and produced two plays - *Play ala Turca* and *Year 2084*. Then 9/11 happened and we went back to Istanbul where I founded ve Diğer Şeyler Tiyatrosu and later GalataPerform.

What is GalataPerform?

GalataPerform is an independent space for the arts that I founded in 2003. We started by performing in the space and later formulated an interdisciplinary program combining theatre, arts, dance and music.

For eight years we opened the season with a project we formulated with the city - Visibility Project. The mission was to make visible the people who work, live and make art in Galata. GalataPerform became more of an independent space for new writers and directors as we created another project, New Text New Theater, in 2006. Since then we have been working with new playwrights and directors. The project has become an international one; each year we invite at least 2-3 playwrights and directors to give workshops; we translate their plays and organize talks. This in return has created an opportunity for new playwrights to come out.

How did some of your plays come to be translated and performed in other languages?

Some of my plays were translated when we were invited to festivals abroad, for subtitling. Some were translated for play readings abroad. The French translation of *Aksak İstanbul Hikayeleri (Limping Tales from Istanbul)*, the piece for which I received the 2006 Afife Theatre Award

for Best Playwright, is in the catalog of Maison Antoine Vitez, a center for theatre translation in France. It is also being performed in Catalan, at the 2018 GREC Theatre Festival in Barcelona, and is the first Turkish play to be performed there.

As an artist I try to create projects and works in connection with the world. This is important for me.

You write, direct, act and teach. Do you have a preference?

I had always done these all together. I enjoy writing a lot, but I cannot create without directing and I really enjoy that too, because it is the craft and core of everything we do. Acting is a passion. And teaching has become a mission for me. So all of these things are interconnected for me and are a matter of survival and way of expressing myself.

Were you involved in theatre at RC?

In my last year I was the head of the musical club and my classmate Kerem Deren, now a famous TV scenarist, was writing the play we were performing. We wanted to cut the text a bit and he did not. Years later I would understand this psychology. If only I had known at the time that I would be writing for theatre and sometimes sharing the same emotions.

I would like to encourage RC alumni to keep going to theatre. The private theatres are still around because of their audience. Keep in mind as you go to a play that you like, that you are also supporting that theatre.

For more information about Yeşim Özsoy and GalataPerform visit www.galataperform.com

Portraying Migration through Art

The most recent exhibition of prolific visual artist İpek Duben ACG 61, *in via incognita* took place at Pi Gallery in London, in March-April 2018. Duben spoke to the RCQ about her projects.



A panel from *in via incognita*, which focuses on refugees' journeys by sea and land. Duben crocheted their names on each photo.

“I first showed the book *Farewell My Homeland* as a big installation in New York in 2006. The images reflect the moment of the actual crossing of borders by people leaving behind their homelands, going towards an unknown future. The photographs memorialize their fear, hope and despair at the moment of dislocation.

“In London I showed this book, closed and locked with stories of people projected on the wall behind it, as the seed for *in via incognita* which is based on the same

documentary material with the addition of the recent refugee crisis from Syria and other places, mainly Africa. The new work, which features portraits of individuals and concentrates on their journeys on land and on the sea, is a 12.5 meter-long frieze-like wall piece made of cinematic images.”

The final installation in Duben's series, which started with *Farewell My Homeland*, is a very small book - *No Name* - whose silk pages are badly burned. The British Museum bought it for their permanent collection.

In her works, all of which are interactive, Duben has focused on memory, identity, gender, prejudice, and migration, pushing the viewer to the psychological limit and requiring their participation. She says, “I aim to make the viewer experience the issues or problems I am dealing with so as to create an awareness and empathy in them.”

Her training in political science, sociology and art informs all of her work.

Solo Exhibition Explores Human Activity

Jeu de Paume, the iconic national contemporary art center in Paris, hosted *Souterrain (Subterranean)*, a solo show of work by Ali Kazma RC 89, from October 2017 to February 2018.

Souterrain included twenty of Kazma's video works and one photographic publication, displaying the evolution of his work over the past ten years. The common thread in Kazma's works is human activity. Whether simple or complex, these activities expand through his lens to demonstrate how, with time, humans are able to transform things/others/places, while they are transformed themselves. In certain works, he manifestly presents the activity on screen, inviting us to go in and get totally absorbed; in the rhythm of a ceramist's wheel, the precision of live brain surgery, through the eyeglass of a clockmaker or at the fingertips of a tattoo artist tracing the skin. At other times, he

subtly guides us to discover the traces of time and productivity in the stillness of a shut down, yet intact Soviet mining town or among the shadows of an elegantly stuffed library in a Loire *maison* when everyone is asleep.

Jeu de Paume's juxtaposition of an important number of Kazma's works in a single venue had a powerful effect, leading the viewer to reflect upon humankind's

place and time in this simultaneously thriving and dying world.

Ali Kazma is a video and photography artist based in Istanbul since 2000. In 2013, his multi-video project represented the Turkish Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

Contributed by Ayşe Ilkorur Kocacıklıoğlu RC 89



Image from *Subterranean*, two channel video, 2016. Courtesy of Borusan Contemporary

Bilge Cankorel RA 62 Shares Diplomatic Memoirs

Retired Turkish ambassador

Bilge Cankorel has many intriguing stories from his diplomatic career that spanned 40 years in postings around the globe. His latest book, *Afghanistan and Beyond, Diplomacy Under Siege, 1995-97, Journal of a Turkish Diplomat* (ISIS Press), focuses on the years he spent as ambassador to Afghanistan while the country was in the middle of a civil war. “The highlight of my chronicles on Afghanistan probably stands out in the shuttle diplomacy I undertook in 1997 in Kandahar, Quetta, Islamabad and Northern Afghanistan with the Taliban versus the Northern Alliance of General Dostum and President Rabbani for a broad-based peace negotiation, significantly the first and possibly the last such effort ever, unfortunately ending up in frustration in the absence of allied support,” says Cankorel.

His first book *Bir Dönem Biterken, Bir Diplomatin Seyir Defteri (At the Closure of an Era, the Logbook of a Diplomat, Kırmızı Kedi Yayınları)* is a memoir of his career, starting in 1971. From the break



Bilge Cankorel RA 62

out of the Cyprus crisis in 1974 to the end of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, from being under siege by the Taliban in Kabul to serving in Kiev during the Orange Revolution, Cankorel shares the many rich experiences he had as a diplomat in Ottawa, Beijing, Geneva (UN Office), Kabul, Kiev and Baku, as well as Ankara. *Afghanistan and Beyond* is an expanded

English version of the Afghanistan chapter in his memoirs with an important updated analysis of the broader context of the Afghan crisis, including its projections and consequences. His conclusions involve the ongoing impacts of the policies behind the crisis at our times extending to cover the Middle East, Turkey, Europe and the US.

Şebnem Sanders ACG 71 Publishes Debut Book

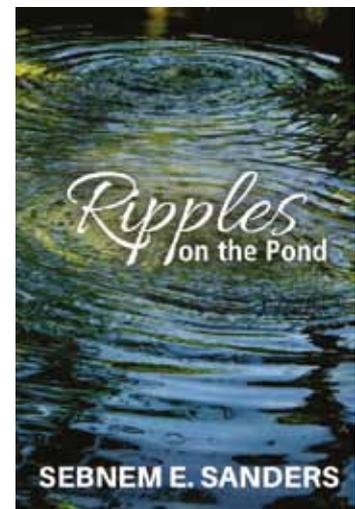
The first book published by Şebnem Sanders, *Ripples on the Pond*, is an anthology of short stories and flash fiction (fictional works of extreme brevity that still offer plot and character development). She explains that it features “seventy individual tales set in locations, straddling across continents, which portray war, love, hate, hope, greed, revenge, despair, humor, mystical happenings, fantasy, and so much more. Like ripples expanding on the surface of a pond to reach its banks, they converge in this anthology.

“Although my working life had little to do with literature, I was finally able to devote my time to writing at a later period,” says

Sanders. Two stories from the anthology will be published in the Bosphorus Review’s May and July editions. The book also recently received a Chill with a Book Readers Award, honoring independent authors.

Sanders writes longer fiction as well. Her flash stories have been previously published on the Harper Collins Authonomy Blog, The Drabble, Sick Lit Magazine, Twisted Sister Lit Mag and Spelk Fiction.

Sanders credits ACG for her love of literature and thanks “all my teachers, the rich curriculum and the Prep School and College libraries which were stocked with all the books and magazines I wanted to read.”



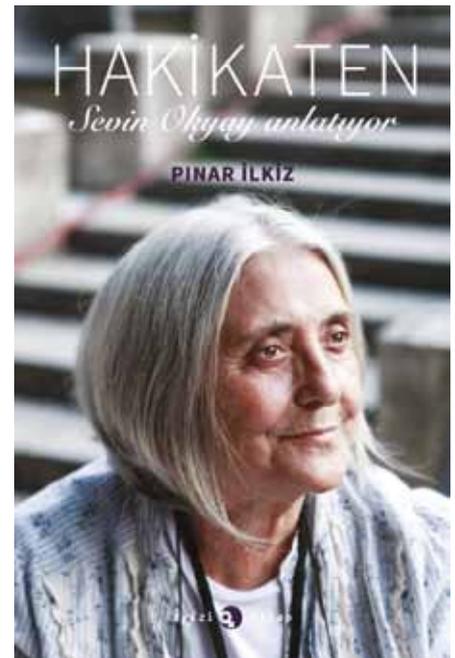
An Intimate Look at Sevin Okyay ACG 63

The biographical interview *Hakikaten* (*Truly, Ayizi Kitap*), composed by Pınar İlkiz, provides readers and listeners of Sevin Okyay with a rare peek into the life of this beloved figure of Turkish intelligentsia. Okyay is a name that cannot be missed for anyone interested in film, literature, sports, translation, or Harry Potter; yet, in *Hakikaten* she comes across as someone who is somewhat oblivious to this fact. Her responses to the questions are guileless, and the picture that emerges is of a woman who was just doing her own thing, following her own interests, making a living, surrounded by her children, good friends, cats, and love.

The interview is peppered with encounters with celebrities, jobs gone wrong, and many funny anecdotes. It also harks back to a long-gone Istanbul, with clean beaches, no traffic, and Emek Sineması still in place. Unfazed and unhindered

by hardships and sometimes unfairness, Sevin Okyay marches to her own tune and blazes her own path. Her relationship with her children seems particularly striking and sweet, as she seems to have treated them as her peers from very early on. When discussing the experience of translating Harry Potter with her son, for instance, she says “I cannot speak for doing a translation with one’s son, but doing a translation with Kutlukhan was great. Because I was not treated like a mother, and I did not see him as my son... Kutlukhan is someone I admire as a translator and someone who knows a lot more than me about fantasia.”

Here is to hoping we get to read more by and about Sevin Okyay for many years to come. While she may not have strived for it and possibly may not even care for it, she has ended up being a role model not just for women, but for anyone who craves authenticity, modesty, and depth in their lives.



A Handbook for Local Companies

Former CFO of multinational banks HSBC and ICBC in Turkey, Gülden Akdemir RC 85 is now co-author of a business novel, *Görünmez İpler* (*Invisible Threads, Librum Kitap*).

Akdemir says, “I took online sociology classes with Ayşegül Güngör, my co-author. We often discussed how to implement these social theories into Turkish business life; then we wrote a business novel.”

The story invites you on the journey of a Turkish company from 1970 to the new millennium. The company experiences financial difficulties under the leadership of a nice but incompetent general manager. Then a transformational leader enters the scene to rescue the company. Although a novel, the book includes areas for reflection as well as fifteen articles on social

theories. Through numerous suggestions on how to implement strategies of western management gurus into a local company, the writers hope that this book makes

a contribution to developing knowledge about leadership and becomes a guide to local companies.



Gülden Akdemir RC 85

Science Heroes Association

Hakan Habip RC 80 and Semahat Demir RC 84 are strong believers in using science as a platform to cross all boundaries and unite children with diverse backgrounds. Together they hope to make a memorable dent in advancing STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) education in Turkey through Bilim Kahramanlar Derneği (BKD) – Science Heroes Association.



Semahat Demir RC 84 (third from left) and Hakan Habip RC 80 (fifth from left) at a robotics event organized by their association Bilim Kahramanları

Habip as one of BKD's founding members and Semahat Demir RC 84 as its current chairperson, have been working with a dedicated team of employees and volunteers, to open the hearts and minds of thousands of children to the sciences, to questioning, design, coding, teamwork and volunteering. Through their organization they hope to inspire children to come up with innovative solutions to some of humanity's pressing problems, apply for patents, teach younger children, and become team coaches and volunteers.

The BKD team has been organizing science tournaments in Turkey since 2004. Each

event is a fun-filled science festival with 100-500 students, 100 volunteers, and hundreds of visitors. In May 2019 they will organize the FLL Open European Championship, with about 700 students coming from 80 countries.

By June 2018, 25,000 students from 55 cities around Turkey will have participated at BKD events. The team believes they can reach 100,000 participants by its 20th season, in 2024.

Hakan Habip studied mathematics and management science. Since 2000, he has been writing about how to make Turkey a

wealthier country by promoting IT fluency among the youth.

Prof. Dr. S. Semahat Demir studied electrical, computer and biomedical engineering, and has worked in academia, industry and government. She was a director at the National Science Foundation in the US, as well as a board member of the Society of Women Engineers. She is an advocate of the importance of diversity for innovation and competitiveness.

For more information visit www.bilimkahramanlari.org

Education for a Better Future

Ayşe Baykut Dallal RC 98 and her husband Yasser Dallal are the founders of HayatSür, an association which helps displaced people settle in to their new communities. “Our aim is to provide them the necessary tools so that they can integrate into society as self-sufficient individuals. This can only happen through education and skills development. This is the impact we hope to make,” she says.

The organization was born from the educational and psycho-social support projects Yassar was conducting in Syria, which reached around 100,000 children. “We realized that the war was not coming to an end soon and that the refugees in Turkey are here to stay, so we decided to set up HayatSür as an association in Turkey,” explains Baykut Dallal.

HayatSür works with other NGOs active in the field, universities, research centers, state institutes and volunteers. Up until

December 2017 they provided free Turkish language courses and psycho-social support programs at their community centers in Hatay and Istanbul. Reaching the families of children who work on the streets, they helped 2,400 children register in schools. They organized a variety of courses for adults including digital design, computer/telephone technician training, dressmaking, hairstyling and real estate marketing. However, due to lack of funding, they had to close the centers.

They are currently focusing on projects they can develop without funding, and hope to find new funds for their community center projects. HayatSür is working with Turkcell to develop the content for their free phone application Hello Hope!, designed to address the challenge of integration for Syrian refugees. They also continue to design creative educational materials for refugee children; recently *A Neighbourhood Song*, the children’s book for the 15th Istanbul



Ayşe Baykut Dallal RC 98, co-founder of HayatSür

Biennial, was published in Arabic. They are providing Turkish language courses to 100 Syrian teachers within the scope of Syrian Teachers Association project, as well.

For more details contact ayse@hayatsur.org or visit www.hayatsur.org

Helping Bright Students Go to University

İnci Sayman Karaarslan RC 83 is the Clinical Laboratory Director and Laboratory Services Coordinator at Anadolu Sağlık Merkezi (ASM). The social responsibility project she spearheaded there, Kardeş Eğitim Projesi (KEP - Sibling Education Project), helps fund education for successful students in need. It provides inspiration for how such projects can create great social good as well as build team spirit. Here is the story in her own words:

“KEP was born out of a project I started when the ASM hospital was newly founded. I believed that working toward a mutual goal in a setting other than the workplace would be an effective way to build team spirit. Thus, we chose three siblings from a village in Diyarbakır through a web site called ‘Kardeşini Seç’ and for five years, we tried to provide all their educational needs. Yet, it was a huge disappointment to see that only one of our three children made it to high school.



İnci Sayman Karaarslan RC 83

“In search of a way to use our limited sources more effectively, we started a collaboration with Anadolu Foundation, which had built our hospital. They had a successful scholarship program for university students and were a lot more competent in choosing the students for whom the resources would be most beneficial. Furthermore, they not

only gave financial support to the scholars but also organized educational courses, network gatherings, trips and a mentorship program. The interaction between scholars, ex-scholars and mentors, i.e, ‘the human touch’, was the distinguishing feature of our foundation’s scholarship program. What better way to keep the legacy, ‘the amateur spirit’, of the original project led by my team?

“We expanded KEP to include not only the lab team but many other voluntary contributors in the hospital in 2015, started to generate 40-45,000 TL annually and are now very proud to sponsor 12 of the 1000 scholarships as ASM employees. Our goal in 2018 is to involve other Anadolu Group companies in our project, to evolve KEP into Anadolu KEP. The journey will continue.”

To find out more about KEP visit www.anadoluvakfi.org.tr/kardes-egitim-projesi-kep

From Madmen to X-Men

Adapting to an ever-changing advertising scene

Three strong players from the Turkish advertising scene happen to be RC alumni from the same class - RC 96. Ismail Seval is the Insights & Strategy Group Director at Publicis One, Viktor Kuzu is the founder of BLAB, and Toygun Yilmazer is the Chief Strategy Officer of TBWA\Istanbul. The following is an excerpt of a talk they recently held at Bizim Tepe.

The admen of RC 96, from L to R: Viktor Kuzu, Toygun Yilmazer and Ismail Seval



How did you get into advertising? (Seval)

Yilmazer: I always had an interest in visual arts but I ended up studying economics. In my senior year in college, I was an intern at Arthur Andersen. I liked the fact that they worked on different industries with each new project. Some people told me that there is a field in advertising that does the same thing called strategic planning. In 2000, most of the agencies in Turkey didn't have a strategic planning department. I started working at the internet service provider IXIR. One day I met Ahmet Özdemir RC 89, a strategic planning director who introduced me to TBWA. I've been with TBWA ever since, for 17 years.

Kuzu: I started my first business with Burak Doğansoysal RC 96 while I was studying economics but failed a few years after graduating from college. With inspiration from Toygun, I looked for opportunities in the ad industry and got my first job at Güzel Sanatlar as a planner. It was the golden days of account planning; brands were in a hectic pace of growth and communication was the key growth element. As a result, planners - people in charge of communication plans - were in a key role and I really enjoyed the big responsibility and opportunities ahead of me.

Seval: After RC, I studied Sociology at Koç University then film studies at UEA, in the UK. After a short spell in a film production, I took over the family business, which was a branding agency. After three hard years, I came to realize that it was a nearly impossible feat to establish a Landor (a leading branding agency) in this part of the world, so at Viktor's suggestion, I knocked on Toygun's door, and my adventures in advertising began.

How did the idea of a “good advertising campaign” change over time? (Seval)

Yilmazer: When I started in the industry in 2000, Budweiser's “Whassup?” was one of the most creative campaigns of the year. It didn't feel like advertising at the time, because rather than focusing on a product message it was creating a lifestyle territory for the brand. Last year's most awarded work was “Fearless Girl”, a statue facing



Toygun Yilmazer, Ismail Seval and Viktor Kuzu spoke about advertising in Turkey at Bizim Tepe on January 11, 2018

the Charging Bull in Wall Street. What doesn't look like advertising is still the best advertising. But the medium has changed. Instead of a Super Bowl TV ad, it is a statue that is photographed million times and shared with the rest of the world.

And in Turkey, what do you think has changed in the last 20 years in advertising and marketing? (Yilmazer)

Kuzu: The Turkish marketing scene couldn't create the depth it dreamed it would reach during the 90s. The market got stuck with a limited number of self-sufficient brands. When there are no new brands in the game, marketing turns out to be a field of protecting the market size rather than creating growth. These new dynamics of marketing killed the charm of ad agencies, taking the agencies' role to a strategic third party from a magical creator.

Agencies looking for the reputation of the Madmen-era, have to redefine the business, create a lean operation and must have something much more than a 30-second ad idea.

Ismail, you suggested the title of our talk. What was the idea behind it? (Kuzu)

Seval: I believe that in this evolutionary age of marketing, one needs to possess a diverse

set of skills to survive, let alone create meaning, simplicity and effectiveness. I consider ourselves among those whom I brand the X-men of marketing, who can adeptly cross critical and creative thinking to generate a multiplier effect - or act as the x-factor if you will - in every work that we are involved with. Of course, there is a reference to Marvel's X-men as well.

Do you think that RC had a role in all of us choosing advertising as a profession? (Seval)

Yilmazer: Creativity is about finding an unpredictable but possible and plausible link between two things. Creativity calls for lateral thinking as well as analytical thinking. I think RC was a great place to practice both of these. Advertising felt like a perfect fit for me because of my education.

Kuzu: RC is a unique place for transforming brilliant minds into multi-talented game changers and it's exactly what the ad industry desperately needs nowadays. I won't be surprised if I see more RC graduates in the ad industry, taking on major responsibilities.

Seval: Creating value at the intersection of critical and creative thinking is a rare skill in our industry. RC was the first institution that taught me that to leap in any field, you should always start with systematic questioning. It also nurtured me to become a conscious art lover, which helped me to understand the dynamics of creativity.

Hakan Karahan RC 79

Pens His First Love Story

Prolific writer, actor and director Hakan Karahan has been chronicled many times as a man unafraid to walk the road less traveled, by quitting a successful banking career to develop a creative one. His most recent output is the novel *Lütfen Beni Öldür* (*Please Kill Me* - Mona Kitap). The RCQ spoke to him about his career, his latest book, and where he finds inspiration.

How do you get your ideas for your books?

Each one is different and particular. I started out writing crime stories, then I branched out. *Nehirde Kayan Yıldızlar* (*Falling Stars on the River*), for instance, was autobiographical. *Abluka* (*The Blockade*) was a political adventure/financial crisis book. The idea came about when a movie producer saw me in a café and asked me to write a Wall Street-type script. They then decided not to make a movie out of the script, so I rewrote it as a novel instead. I am usually apolitical, but this was my first novel that included politics.

How did you get the idea for *Lütfen Beni Öldür*?

When I was 56, I realized I had never written a love story. I had one and a half years of free time because I wasn't in any movies or TV series. So I decided to take work on this weird, painful, non-traditional love story. The boy had to be younger and the woman much older, both with deep scars in their hearts. They are a perfect match and a mismatch at the same time. In this book, both the writer and readers must search their souls to explore their beliefs about sexuality, money, pain, loneliness, pressures of society, being an individual, accidents, fate and faith, coincidences and just plain love and death. And the freedom to live your life in your own special way instead of being forced by others including your parents. I also wanted to portray the atmosphere in Istanbul in 1978, the way it was in the dorms of Robert College, and the way teachers and friends can help ease pain. I wasn't a boarder, but I spoke with a classmate to get some ideas about dorm life. I loved Aydın Bey (Aydın Urgan); he's in it. We were all in love with the nurse.

Our gym teacher Abbas Sakarya is also in the book as a boxer. I consider *Lütfen Beni Öldür* to be my first literary novel.

Is this novel part autobiography?

It isn't. It's the story of an eighteen-year-old's life in 1978-79 in Istanbul. It helps when the events of my books take place in environments that I know, and since Robert College and Istanbul figured so largely at that age for me, I naturally drew a lot from my own experiences to make the atmosphere familiar.

Out of acting, producing and writing, which one is your favorite?

I'm a writer. I enjoy acting, but writing is my main profession. I left banking in order

to write novels. In fifteen years I've done fourteen movies and six novels, two poetry books and a sports book. Some producers wanted to turn one of my books into a TV series and asked me to join the writing team. As we were writing, they asked me if I would play one of the roles. So I came into acting by coincidence.

How has Robert College had an influence on your career(s)?

I have a free heart, a free soul. I am an individual. I have the confidence to be able to do any job. Plus I have been a nature lover since I was 12, basically since when I stepped onto the Robert College campus, so it definitely has had an influence.



Hakan Karahan RC 79, in love with nature and animals



YENİ VOLVO XC40

Bunca seçeneğin olduğu bir dünyada sahip olacağlarımızın sınırı yok ama belki de gerçekten ihtiyacımız olan, düşündüğümüzden daha azdır. Sahip olduklarımızı daha değerli kılmak için daha az şey, bizi aşağı çekecek daha az ağırlık. Hayatı kolaylaştıran depolama alanları, akıllı teknolojileri ve performansıyla Yeni XC40, sana sadece ihtiyacın olanı vermek için tasarlandı. Çünkü hayat daha kolay yaşanmalı.

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Berceste Selek Anter ACG 31

Four generations of Berceste Anter's family gathered to celebrate her 109th birthday in March 2018. "She is such a dear and beloved one. Fifty-five people in our family - both old and young - did their best to attend the 'Happy Hour' to celebrate her," says her niece Gülru Selek Paksoy ACG 70.

In an interview with Feride Eralp RC 09 in 2009 - when she had just turned 100 - Anter said, "I remember our president Ms. Adams' talk on our graduation day. She said 'Don't ever think that you have finished learning in college... College education gives you only a key to open the door to knowledge.' Only the key to knowledge... I realized the meaning of that later. The key was not only to open the door to knowledge, but to solve problems I encountered in my life. This key solved many problems for me.

"College taught me to love mankind, to be helpful, to think independently, to be broad minded and think freely. It gave me the courage to face the difficulties of life and stand on my own feet. In short, it had a great influence on my character building.

So, I owe very much to this college and I'm thankful." Eralp noted that, "This belief has been handed down for generations, as nearly everybody in her vast family is an RC or ACG graduate." (for the full interview, see RCQ 36, p. 28)



Fifty-five members of Berceste Anter's family - many of them ACG and RC graduates - came together to celebrate her 109th birthday

Engin Cezzar RC 55 Commemoration



Friends and family of Engin Cezzar RC 55 commemorated the late actor on the first anniversary of his death with a gathering at Bizim Tepe on January 28, 2018. There to honor him were:

Front, from L to R: Meral Çetinkaya ACG 65, Arif Güzelbeyoğlu, Meyzi Barin, Oya Başak ACG 55, Zeynep Miraç Taner, Zeynep Oral, Seçkin Selvi, Demet Taner, Ahmet Oral, Ergül Aybay RC 58

Back, from L to R: Görgün Taner, Özcan Arca, Genco Erkal RC 57, Gülriz Sururi Cezzar, Nurdan Arca, Engin Baraz, Hülya Uçansu ACG 71 Sr., Ali Uçansu, Ayşe Kerimoğlu ACG 67
(not in the photo: Ayşe Kulin ACG 61 and Betin Akay ACG 61)

Reyhan Erez ACG 59

Dr. Reyhan Erez continues to run her successful medical practice, and has recently started teaching at Bilgi University Istanbul. Her ability to excel at what she does is well documented: After graduating from ACG at the top of her class, Erez then also finished at the top of her class at Istanbul University Medical School. It comes as no surprise now, that her students at Bilgi University who take her classes in Health Informatics and Health Systems have voted her among the ten top ranking successful instructors of Bilgi University this year. Reyhan Erez can be contacted at reyhanerez@gmail.com



Atilla Ansal RA 64

Atilla Ansal RA 64 is the Head of the Department of Civil Engineering at Özyeğin University. He retired from Boğaziçi University Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute in 2012. He is also the President of the European Association for Earthquake Engineering since 2014, after serving as Secretary General for 20 years. Ansal was invited to speak at the 15th Nonveiller Lecture held by Croatian Geotechnical Society in Belgrade on October 25, 2017. His lecture was on seismic microzonation and earthquake scenarios. This prestigious event has previously hosted many well-known scientists from around the world, and Ansal became the first Turkish scientist to have this honor.



Ayşen Akpınar ACG 64

What prompted Ayşen Akpınar ACG 64 to write her memoir, *Bana Koleji Anlat* (Doğu Kütüphanesi Yayınevi) was her daughter's curiosity about what Robert College contributed to her mother's life, saying, "Tell me about the College."

Indeed Akpınar's life is full of groundbreaking achievements. Following ACG, Ayşen Akpınar studied architecture, got her master's from Columbia University, and her PhD from Mimar Sinan University. She has been part of academia throughout her career, and played a pivotal role in establishing architectural departments in many universities, as well as working as a dean in quite a few. Her focus has been on residential culture, the evolution of

residential dwellings and the relationship of culture and space.

Akpınar credits ACG for laying the groundwork for her achievements. She counts curiosity, questioning, research, teamwork, commitment, time management, confidence, sense of justice and responsibility as some of the most critical skills and values in life that ACG helped foster. The book brings together stories and photos, as well as an update on what the women of the class of ACG 64 have themselves achieved in their lives. In a sense, the memoir is Akpınar's tribute to the culture that empowered so many of the women of her generation to self-actualize and contribute to Turkish society.



The proceeds of the memoir, which is being sold in Bizim Tepe, will be donated to Robert College, on behalf of the Class of ACG 64.

Gülay Barbarosoğlu RC 74

The Hisar School Board of Directors has appointed Gülay Barbarosoğlu RC 74 as Hisar School's new general manager.

Barbarosoğlu served as the Rector of Boğaziçi University from 2012-2016, retiring at the end of her term. Prior to that she was its vice-rector in charge of research. She received her PhD in industrial engineering from Boğaziçi University in 1985.

Barbarosoğlu recently served as a member of the Board of Directors of the European University Association from 2013-2017. She has also cooperated closely with various



European universities, government and non-governmental organizations during her service as Vice President of the Association of European Operational Research Societies (EURO) from 2003-2007 and as national representative of NATO Research and Technology Organization from 2002-2010. As a professor who values civil society activities, Dr. Gülay Barbarosoglu was actively involved in the establishment of the Mahalle Afet Gönüllüleri (Mahalle Disaster Volunteers - MAG) Foundation and is a member and chairman of its board.

Pinar Saip RC 78



Pinar Saip, professor of medical oncology at İstanbul University's Oncology Institute, was elected as the new head of the İstanbul Medical Chamber in April 2018. In an election race closely followed by the media, Saip won by 4,124 votes out of 7,265.

Upon winning she said, "We are happy and excited. Everyone worked hard on this election. There cannot be any fights among physicians." Saip stresses that physicians' rights are important, and that the Chamber will continue to defend them.

Ahmet Bilgen RC 87



It was surprising for his classmates to see the name of Ahmet Bilgen RC 87 as an Executive Producer in the credits of *Most Beautiful Island*, a film recently shown at the 17th If Istanbul Independent Film Festival. With a formal training in economics and finance, he works as a regional sales manager at Finastra, the world's third-largest fintech company.

Bilgen lived in the US for 15 years, where he met Ana Asensio, the director of *Most Beautiful Island*. He read the script and knew that it was something special. Together with a friend from college, he decided to invest in the film.

Most Beautiful Island is a psychological thriller examining the plight of undocumented female immigrants hoping to make a life in New York City. The film premiered at the 2017 South by Southwest (SXSW) Film Festival where it was awarded the Narrative Grand Jury Prize for best film. It has been shown in theatres in the US, the UK, Spain, Japan and Italy. It is also available on iTunes and Amazon.

Bilgen caught the film bug and is already evaluating future projects.

Elif Altuğ RC 88

Did you know that the American Hospital has a mindfulness center called Code Lotus? Founded in 2017, two RC alumni are integral parts of this center: RC 88 alumni Dr. Elif Altuğ, a pulmonary specialist and Zeynep Aksoy, who pioneered the yoga center movement in Istanbul. The goal of Code Lotus is to increase patients' quality of life through mindfulness and yoga.

Altuğ recounts how it began: "My experience as a pulmonary doctor and the healing processes I observed in my patients brought

me closer to holistic medicine. Through the years I saw that when science worked together with a patient's intention to heal, the results were more enduring and on target. My own internal transformation fostered my ability to make this observation, and when the hospital intended to create an awareness around this issue, the first person I consulted was my classmate Zeynep Aksoy. Code Lotus is an important step and a first in Turkey. It is also meaningful on a personal level as it shows how friends can create together."



Zeynep Aksoy RC 88



A pioneer of Turkey's yoga movement, who opened Yogaşala and Cihangir Yoga many years ago, Zeynep Aksoy has now launched her YouTube channel "Zeynep Aksoy Reset" with her husband David Cornwell. The channel broadcasts live twice a week. In just a couple months it has reached thousands of viewers.

Aksoy says "After years of teaching yoga movements, I came to think that focusing too much on the body is not in the core of yoga. As people begin to develop physically

and do more complex movements, this complexity scares others away and deprives them of yoga's benefits. Yoga is in fact a meditation practice. Anyone can do it. My life has been altered in profound ways through meditation. Therefore, we wanted to provide people with simple practices free of charge in the comfort of their own homes. The result is the Reset live broadcasts." Aksoy also offers four-day mindfulness and a more intensive mindfulness coaching trainings at Bizim Tepe. Find out more at www.breathingmind.com

Gülin Yenigün Yücel RC 88

Climate change is not only an ecological threat; it is also a social one, with millions of people displaced each year due to natural disasters. To revert humanity coming to the edge of extinction, scientists believe that climate change needs to be limited to a maximum of 2 degrees Celsius. Therefore, climate change is in effect a race against time.

Gülin Yenigün Yücel is a consultant and lecturer who works with organizations and communities to develop an understanding about and to accelerate the change for

sustainable development. (Read about her talk at Bizim Tepe on p. 15)

Yücel says, “My team and I help organizations and communities in finding innovative and inclusive solutions to transform sustainable development challenges into opportunities for economic, social and environmental prosperity. Also individually, we invite everyone to involve themselves in whatever capacity they can allot to fight climate change and at least become sensitized to the implications of their everyday choices.”



Aylin Sezer RC 03 L12

Soprano Aylin Sezer was awarded the prestigious Schaunard Opera Award in December 2017. News of her award arrived while she was in Istanbul. Wanting to give something back to her school, Sezer held a concert on December 28, 2017 in Suna Kiraç Hall to benefit CIP projects. The singer discovered her love for the stage in the same auditorium, her first role being Maria in the *The Sound of Music* in 1999.

Sezer opened the concert by speaking of the power of art and music in education. She said that she hoped less fortunate young people would also have the opportunity to experience the beauty of music and art through the contributions from the concert.

Before singing each piece she introduced the work, talking about the lyrics and musical



Aylin Sezer RC 03 L12 poses with her Schaunard Opera Award in front of a painting by her mother, RC art teacher Maria Sezer

styles. Many people said this helped them to understand and enjoy the music more.

After graduating from RC, Sezer studied classical singing at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague in The Netherlands and received her master's of Opera from the Dutch National Opera Academy with distinction in “exceptional artistic quality”. As an opera soloist she has sung in various opera companies in the Netherlands and Belgium, and also frequently works with theatre companies as a singing actress.

For more info on Aylin Sezer visit: www.aylinsezer.com

Sarp Süerdaş RC 03 L3

Kutuda Sanat Var (There's Art in the Box) was founded in January 2017 by Sarp Süerdaş RC 03 L3. “I wanted to show that art was a domain that belonged to everyone and that everyone could be an artist. I wanted to be a facilitator in helping everyone become creators,” he explains.

The Kutuda Sanat Var team, which also includes Rana Babaç Çelebi RC 04 L12, believes that if everyone expressed their creativity and lived through the eyes of their artist within, the world would be a better place. A new art technique is introduced

each month, which includes authentic “art excuses”, specially curated professional art supplies, a content-rich monthly art bulletin and other surprise items. From then on, it is really up to the “box-artists” to unleash their creativity and create worlds of wonder.

So far RC graduates who have been featured on the Kutuda Sanat Var community pages or have been involved in creating the boxes have been; Ayşe Sabuncu RC 04 L3, Ceylan Kolat RC 04 L3, Gamze Özkan RC 04 L3, Manolya Yazarkan RC 03 L3, Rana Babaç Çelebi and Selin Barlin Aral RC 03 L3.



Rana Babaç Çelebi RC 04



Rana and Sercan met through a common friend and have been together since 2011. After seven years of adventure and fun, they got married in December 2017. They are now working on building their farm together in the Kaz Mountains where they would like to spend the rest of their lives together with their goats, horses and donkeys.

Rana finished business school at Sabancı University/Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and holds an MSc in International Marketing

from Halmstad University in Sweden. She recently completed an associate degree in veterinary medicine at Anadolu University and became a veterinary technician. Currently, on Tuesdays, Rana visits various farms and ranches around Istanbul with an equine veterinarian and helps him with routine procedures as well as assisting him in surgeries. The rest of the week she focuses on her Cats of Istanbul project and works as a MarCom consultant at her own firm, BrandCritique.

Can Yurdakul RC 04 L12 and Çağıl Akçürin RC 05

Taking their high school friendship to a professional level, Yurdakul and Akçürin have completed a real estate development project with the collaboration of Yurdakul's marketing agency WE Agency Network and Akçürin's architectural firm REDA.

Three streets in the heart of Beşiktaş, renowned for their breakfast cafés, have attained their new faces in February after an 18-month development process. "It all started as a life-style marketing idea to use this urban value as the medium for covering target audience's touch points in full," says



Yurdakul. "With architectural input, this value turned into a product for our brand."

Dimes, the sponsor brand, Beşiktaş Municipality and its related departments, legal third parties, suppliers and construction teams all took part in this multidisciplinary process.

"The term real estate development usually has a monetary association. In this particular project, social value-add was the key element," says Akçürin. "As its nature, it is a rather unique example of a public-private partnership, a method often used in Europe and the United States. Hopefully, it has paved the road for many others."

Tamer Aslan RC 06

In 2018, Tamer Aslan established his studio for creative technology in Vienna, Austria. Having always been curious about electronics and art, Aslan opened his atelier in the 9th district of Vienna.

Focusing on the point where technology intersects art, design and society, he works across disciplines of electronics engineering, product design, media art, as well as technology workshops for children and adults. Passersby can often see him building internet-connected devices, light

installations for events, doing research for technology innovation, or showing kids how to blink LEDs. Apart from these, his actual major project is City Games - through playful urban experiences and magical technologies, he envisions a playful city as well as a smart one.

If you are interested in hearing more or working together, you can contact him at io@tameraskan.net, and find out more about his works at www.tameraskan.net



Yağmur Telaferli RC 09 and Can Kalaycıoğlu RC 08

Yağmur and Can welcomed their daughter, Yaz, on July 29, 2017. Yaz was so eager to meet them that she decided to arrive two weeks early and did not cry, but made little bird sounds at birth.

Yaz loves the outdoors and travelling with her parents. She chirps and plays her days away, surrounded by extended family and friends, receiving many kisses from her brother Bobi.



Correction

In the Homecoming article in issue 51 (p. 48), Emin Veral RC ENG 54 was listed as Emin Vural RC 52. Veral's name and graduation year have been corrected in the digital edition.

Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu “Graduates” after 31 Years

The former Çiğdem “Abla” of the Orta Office in the late 1980’s, Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu transitioned to the world of alumni relations in 1989 and has been an invaluable member of the Development Office since. Her attention to “diddly” detail while keeping the big picture in mind, keeping us all steadfast and on track has been phenomenal.

Always with a smile, as long as she has had her morning coffee, Çiğdem has been the epitome of grace under pressure, quietly and thoughtfully keeping the Development Office together and running seamlessly over the years. Her genuine charm and generous spirit was

appreciated by all, especially by alumni and donors of the school she delighted in keeping engaged and informed. Our Homecoming Queen made event-planning look effortless. She will be greatly missed and impossible to replace.

Çiğdem’s early retirement is a well-deserved respite for her. We hope she will have all the time to travel and do every fun thing she wants, and trust this will include coming back frequently to volunteer her services to RC.

*With affection,
RC Development Team*



Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu’s smile has lit up the campus for the past three decades

Photo credit: Objektif Photography (Mustafa Dolap)

Adil İzci Pens Children’s Book Series

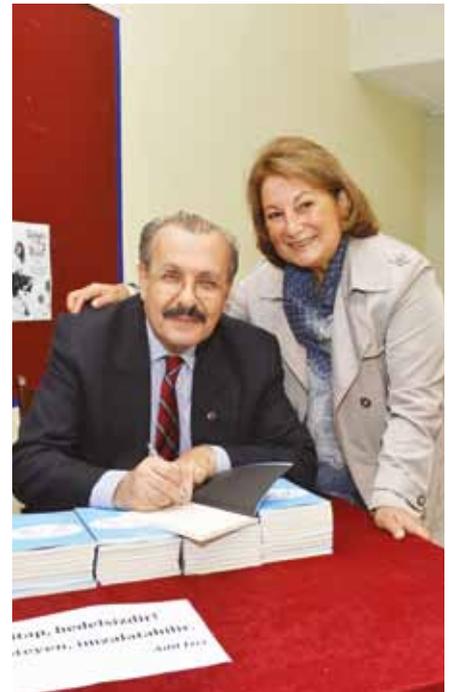
Beloved Turkish literature teacher Adil İzci became even more of a prolific writer after he retired from RC and has published seven books in the last three years alone. *Karamel* (İş Bankası Kültür Yayınları) is an illustrated children’s novel inspired by his older daughter’s dog Karamel. İzci followed up on this novel with two other Karamel adventures: *Karamel’in Günlüğü* (*Karamel’s Diary*, Uçan At Yayınları) and *Karamel’in Rüyalari* (*Karamel’s Dreams*, Uçan At Yayınları). *Hayal Kurmaca* (*Fictional Dreams*, Kırmızı Kedi Yayınları) is an illustrated children’s book, featuring Karamel. Another illustrated children’s book of his is the poetry collection *Bahar İkindisi* (*Spring Afternoon*, Kırmızı Kedi Yayınları).

Ada Sularında (*In the Water of the Islands*, Ve Yayınları) is the product of İzci’s passion for the many trips he took to the Princes’ Islands after retirement. *Heybeliada* was a particular favorite for him, and he lived there for three years.

This collection of sixteen stories is largely about his experiences on the island. His painter friend Serap Deliorman created the vignettes in the book. He dedicated it to Sait Faik, whom İzci considers a grand master in the Turkish storytelling tradition.

Perhaps of most interest to RC graduates is the book *Örtmenim!* (*Teacher! Yasakmeyve Yayınları*), a memoir about İzci’s time at RC, particularly during the 1980s. Nazlı Cem RC 08 did the illustrations, rendering the book a collaboration between teacher and student. İzci hopes to do a follow-up on this memoir to encompass all thirty years of his remarkable teaching career at Robert College.

Those RC graduates who have young children will have the pleasure of reading Adil İzci’s books to their children, and those who had him as a teacher will enjoy remembering the stories, poems, or novels covered with Adil “Hoca” in class through his memoirs.



Former Turkish teacher Adil İzci signs a copy of his book *Örtmenim!* for former geography teacher Gülhiz Yüksek

A Comprehensive Biography of Talat Halman

The illustrious life and career of Talat Halman RC 51 has led Prof. Jayne Warner, former Director of the New York Office of the RC Board of Trustees, to write a substantial biography of him called *Turkish Nomad: The Intellectual Journey of Talat S. Halman*.

Warner met Halman as a student at Princeton University, when she drew up the courage to ask him if she could audit his class. This initial meeting led to years of collaboration. In the preface to her book, she states, "Talat Halman was a poet, translator, author, literary historian and critic, editor, statesman, academic, cultural historian, journalist, lecturer and public

speaker, dramatist, business executive, broadcaster, raconteur. Through his work in public office, in his teaching, in his writing, and particularly in his lectures, he created a greater worldwide awareness of the rich heritage of Turkish culture."

Warner manages to tell Halman's story and Turkey's story of that period at the same time. One of the most distinguished graduates that Robert College has ever produced, Halman served on the RC Board as a Trustee for many years. He was also an outstanding translator, having translated Shakespeare's Sonnets, Orhan Veli's poems and other works. Alumni of all ages will enjoy exploring this singular man's life through this work.



Talat Halman RC 51 and Jayne Warner, former Director of the New York Office of the Board of Trustees, at a lecture by Halman called "The World of Robert College" in Los Angeles in April 1985

Aybike Oğuz Creates Roadmap for Social Entrepreneurs

In 2014 English teacher Aybike Oğuz started the Social Entrepreneurship Club at RC together with RC 17 student Deniz Cengiz as a way to help high school students play a role in innovative and sustainable social impact. She used the experience they gained to co-author a book with Ashoka Turkey and SAP, *Üniversiteli Sosyal Girişimciler için Yol Haritası (Road Map for University Social Entrepreneurs)*.

"This book is a result of Robert College Social Entrepreneurship Club's journey," explains Oğuz. "Since our very first year, Ashoka Turkey has supported us through their network of social entrepreneurs." This led the club to ask, "How can we teach change-making skills to high school students?"

The answer came when the club learned about the Design Thinking framework at a social entrepreneurship summit at the American School of Bombay in 2016. The framework taught them how to design projects to solve social problems around them. They adapted the model to their local context and used it in their social entrepreneurship exchange program with Bilkent Erzurum Laboratory High School in 2016, and a class of students at RC Summer Academy in 2017. Students in Oğuz's English prep classes also used the model to answer the question, "How can we



Aybike Oğuz (front, center), with members of the RC Social Entrepreneurship Club

make Robert College a better school?" With the administration's support some of their ideas were put into practice.

When Ashoka Turkey and SAP decided to prepare a guide book on change-making for university students, they contacted Oğuz. The authors wanted the book, which is designed as a journal, to be a conversation that university students have with themselves and others in their circle. It focuses on four main questions: Who am I? What is my passion? What

social problem breaks my heart? How can I design a sustainable model to solve this problem? It also includes practical tips, as well as case studies and resources. Ashoka Turkey is using the book in workshops with AIESEC and TEGV, and plans to share it with universities around Turkey. Oğuz will use it in change-making workshop with high school students.

Üniversiteli Sosyal Girişimciler için Yol Haritası can be downloaded for free at ashokaturkiye.org/tr/hizlanfarkyarat/

Halil Mithat Özgür RC 45

Mithat Özgür passed away on December 28, 2017 at the age of 93.

He often reminisced about what he called his formative years at RC and fondly shared memories of lifelong friends and exceptional teachers. It was at RC that he discovered his love for athletics and would say "Not every gentleman is an athlete, but every athlete is a gentleman." He loved the sea and the Bosphorus, which stemmed from his years spent at RC. He was a true gentleman and set an example for his family through impeccable ethics.

We will always remember his bright blue

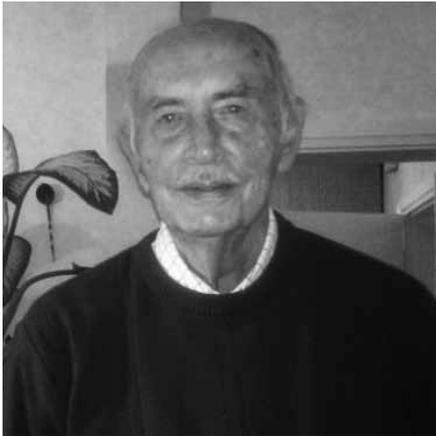
eyes, big smile and kind soul and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Mithat Özgür is predeceased by his brother Feridun Özgür RC 35. He is survived by his wife, Türkan Özgür; daughter Füsün Madra RC 77, son-in-law Sezai Madra; son Kamil Özgür, daughter-in-law Elif Özgür; grandchildren Aysel Madra RC 99, grandson in-law Ateş Altınordu, Mithat Madra RC 04, Ali Özgür; great-granddaughter Yasemin Altınordu; nephew Nuri Özgür RC 70, grand-nephew Eren Özgür RC 95 and his grand-niece İren Özgür.

Contributed by his family



Altan Onat RC 48



Prof. Dr. Altan Onat passed away on September 28, 2017. A member of the Istanbul Medical Chamber and retired faculty member of the Istanbul University Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine, Onat was a highly respected figure of the medical community. The founding president of the National Platform for Heart Health, he also served on the Board of Directors of the Turkish Cardiology Association for many years as general secretary and director, as well as writing 30 books and approximately 400 scientific articles. Onat was the chief architect and driving force of TEKHARF (Türk Erişkinlerinde Kalp Hastalığı ve Risk

Faktörleri - Heart Diseases and Risk Factors of Turkish Adults), a project described to be one of the most important epidemiological studies carried out on the state of cardiovascular illnesses in the country.

During his career which started at the University of Zurich and continued with the Mayo Clinic until his professorship at İstanbul University, Onat was also instrumental in raising students, specialists and academicians and was recognized many times with awards and medals for his invaluable contributions to the medical field.

Cüneyt Sermet RC ENG 48

Cüneyt Sermet, one of the most important jazz musicians of Turkey, passed away on March 6, 2018 at the age of 93. Sermet was introduced to jazz during his Robert College years and was described as an autodidact in the field, having trained himself outside of the conservatory as well. Between 1945-1952, he founded jazz bands and orchestras thus becoming one of the founders of modern jazz in the country as well as raising musicians in the field.

His many accomplishments included teaching and being a music critic as well

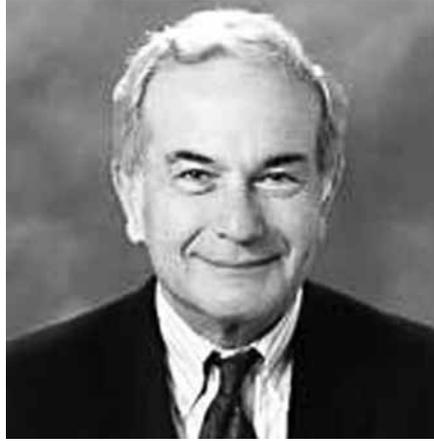
as representing Turkey at the Berklee Conservatory of Music. He also wrote for various newspapers and headed the Turkish Radio and Television's Department of Western Music. The year 1968 had him temporarily settled in Paris and sending classic and jazz music programs to Radio Ankara. At the 13th Istanbul Jazz festival in 2006, Sermet was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The father of two sons, Cüneyt Sermet passed away in Aydın where he had been living in his later years.



Mete Avni Sözen RC ENG 51

Mete A. Sözen, Karl H. Kettelhut Distinguished Professor, Emeritus of Civil Engineering, Purdue University, died on April 5, 2018. "Few people have guided and nurtured a field the way Mete led earthquake and structural engineering related to reinforced concrete systems over six decades. He had a profound effect on many people and will be remembered fondly by those who came into contact with him during his career." said his colleagues. They added, "his lectures were a source of delight because of the uniquely attractive quality he was able to inject into whatever topic he happened to be discussing. He



had an unmatched skill and instinctive ability to convey an idea or an impression in spoken or written form. He shrank from accolades and praise of all kinds and was a prodigious reader on a wide variety of non-technical subjects as well as fiction." His peers honored Sözen on many occasions during his career and added, "nothing made him happier than to enjoy a good meal and good wine in the company of friends who were frequently his students."

Mete Sözen is survived by his wife Joan and family Timothy, Adria, Ayshe, and four grandchildren.

Fuat Almas RC ENG 51

Fuat Almas passed away on March 20, 2018. Born in Japan in 1928, Fuat was the older son of a prominent family from Russia, who left the country after the 1917 revolution. Leaving everything behind, they started a new life in Kobe, Japan and later moved to Istanbul during World War II.

Following his preliminary education at the Canadian Academy in Kobe, he started RC Orta in 1941. An avid sportsman all his life, he was the mainstay of the basketball team and became the captain of the team



in 1950-51. He graduated with a BS in Civil Engineering in 1951. He was followed by his sister Halide Yalkın ACG 51, and his brother Rauf Almas RC ENG 57. Fuat Almas worked as a civil engineer at Unilever A.Ş. and later for Ahmet Nihat Özsan İnş. San. A.Ş. In 1960, he married Naciye who was visiting from Japan where she grew up. He will be remembered as the perfect gentleman.

Contributed by his daughters Tülin Almas RC 79 and Sibel Almas, RC Biology Teacher

Özgür Polvan RC 56

Özgür Polvan passed away in January 2018. Nicknamed Poldi by his friends at RC, he was well known for his sense of humor and served as the President of the RC Players during his senior year.

After RC, he graduated from İstanbul University, Faculty of Medicine where he later continued his academic studies and became a professor of psychiatry in the Çapa Hospitals of İstanbul University.

Özgür Polvan is survived by his children Sinan Polvan and Zerrin Polvan Tunca, and grand-children, Selim Polvan and Ayşe Naz Tunca.

Yücel Güneri ACG 57

Yücel Güneri passed away in İstanbul, on January 16, 2018. Yücel had a character made up of diverse qualities and various interests, but the remarkable thing was that she had combined them into a charming personality. Her extreme independence, both in her intellectual and her emotional life, was a good model to adopt. Her friends foretold that her self-determination would make her successful in life, and it surely did.

She had the chance to realize her future plans by working for the Foreign Ministry as an administrative attaché from 1970 to

1996. As a hardworking, discrete and liable person she was appointed to Geneva, London, Brussels, Athens and Lisbon. After her retirement she finally returned to her native city she had left for Paris from Üvez Sokak, Arnavutköy, where she was married in 1961. Most of all Yücel was an irreplaceable caring and elegant mother, devoted to her twin grand-children Selim and Cem Gönen. We will always cherish her sweet memory.

Contributed by Elâ Güngören and Ayşe Sekendiz Sezer ACG 65



Ülkü Tamer RC 58

Ülkü Tamer passed away on April 1, 2018.

Widely known and loved for his poetry, Ülkü Tamer also excelled as a playwright, translator, actor, journalist, editor and publisher. He was a true man of letters. Robert College played a part in Ülkü Tamer's intellectual development, as the place he started acting, as well as the possible roots of a lifelong interest in American and British literature. Ülkü Tamer's command of English presented Turkish readers with

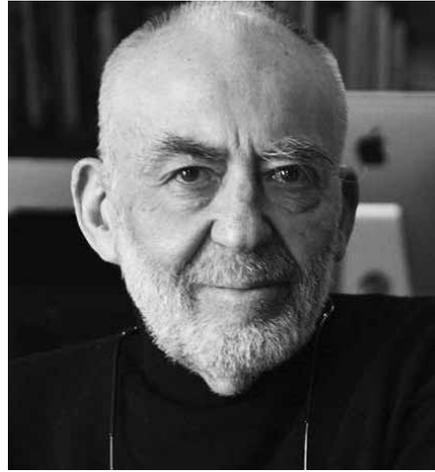
the award-winning translation of Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*.

Out of the many eulogies written following Ülkü Tamer's passing, perhaps Erdal Alova's captures Ülkü Tamer the best: "The colon was the symbol of a lifestyle he chose and persistently held onto; ironic, quiet, modest but soaring and uncompromising... His incomparable poetry, like a growing transparent boomerang, will come back, and be placed in its rightful place."



Ergun Çağatay RC 58

Ergun Çağatay, photographer and photo-journalist, passed away on February 15, 2018. After RC, he studied law but later found himself embarked on what would be a lifetime career for him: journalism. He complemented his reporting with photography, and worked as a photo-journalist for the Associated Press and the Gamma Agency. He free-lanced for the Turkish press as well as for international news agencies and his work was published in major international magazines. His career changed scope and direction as he moved to a different kind of reporting; the photo-essay. He also co-produced a documentary on the ecological disaster of the Aral Sea.



An abbreviated version won first prize in the "short film" category at the 2000 Antalya Film Festival. Çağatay's long-cherished project was a book of photographs he took of Turks living in various parts of the world called *The Turkic Speaking Peoples*. He also published another book - *Bir Zamanlar Orta Asya (Once Upon a Time in Central Asia)*.

He is survived by his wife Kâri Wulff, daughter Yasemin Oytaç, son Erol Çağatay and 2 grand-children.

Excerpts from a contribution by Nuri Yıldırım RA 62

Zeynep Çehreli ACG 64

Zeynep Çehreli passed away on April 13, 2018.

Our mother radiated joy, and with her boundless energy, was never afraid of new adventures, always getting people to follow in her footsteps. She was our joy of life, our creativity, our will to fight, our love, passion, perseverance and endless inspiration. Her biggest source of pride was her grandchildren, Zeynep, Orhan, Osman, Hakan and Emoş. She touched all five of their lives in wonderful and creative ways as she herself was such a colorful person. They worked on painting for hours, played



tennis, and enjoyed home life and Kaş vacations together. She never expected or waited for her grand-children to come to her house to visit, she always found ways to be a part of their lives and preferred to spend time with them as friends.

We will always remember the wonderful memories we shared with her and know that she will be watching over us, protecting us and guiding us as we rediscover our energy for life.

Contributed by her daughters Canan Köksal and Leyla Umur

Yani Vlastos RA 65



Yani Vlastos passed away on April 1, 2017 in Athens. Born in Çengelköy, Istanbul, Yani Vlastos had a passion for football and literature while a student at Robert College. His professional life centered on business and trade and when he and his family settled in Athens in 1979 he continued his business there.

In 2013, he wrote his memoirs, *Baba Konuşabilir Miyim? (Father, May I Talk?, ISTOS Publications)* of his years at RC and life in Istanbul. In it he described a city that no longer exists, a city that is full of memories and loss but always full of hope.

Ayşe Nilgün Zabcı (Handley) RC 73



Nilgün Zabcı passed away after a short illness on March 18, 2018. She studied computer science at Louisiana State University. After living and working in Vienna, Austria and England for some years, she moved back to Turkey and had been living in Izmir for the last 18 years. Despite the scientific focus in her education and professional life, she had a wide field of interests like aromatherapy, reflexology, making glass beads from scratch and using them in her jewelry, sewing, knitting and crocheting – all of which were done with a

high level of artistic creativity. She touched the lives of many women in her community giving them spiritual support, and as some put it, “a reason to go on”. She also loved and cared for many cats.

The eldest daughter of the late Nevhiz Göver Zabcı ACG 46, Nilgün is survived by her father Erdoğan Zabcı RC 46 and sisters Nidra Zabcı and Neslihan Zabcı RC 75.

Contributed by Neslihan Zabcı RC 75

Diana Markerink Mangır RC 74

Diana Markerink Mangır passed away on March 16, 2018 in Amsterdam, where her funeral service was also held.

After RC, Diana continued her studies in business administration at Boğaziçi University and later on received her master's degree in economics and industrial relations at the London School of Economics. Having married and settled down in Holland, she developed a special interest in art and literature which led her to study art

history and obtain an MA degree from VU University in Amsterdam.

Diana was very popular amongst her friends, relatives and social circles, and will always be remembered for her intelligence and goodwill. Diana is survived by her dear husband Henk and their son Sevan.

Contributed by her brother Vahak Mangır RA 69



Emre Eren RC 94

Emre Eren passed away on March 4, 2018.

Emre was exceptionally well-read, highly perceptive, extensively knowledgeable and hence opinionated about literature, film, politics, philosophy, crows, cheese, ancient history, fabrics, whiskey, music, and the micro-climate of Istanbul. His curiosity was insatiable, his learning experiential. He was the voice of reason about political events. He chatted up and clicked easily with people from all walks of life. He was upfront and enjoyed challenging people about their ideas and actions. He was



impossible to remain indifferent to. He kept close tabs on his friends. He was generous. He transformed lives for the better without even meaning to. He was good at impersonations. He loved fishing. He loved windy, rainy weather. He was full of life. He made sure he lived each day to the fullest. He will be dearly missed by many.

Emre is survived by his wife, Miray Özkan, and his mother, Gülseren Özdemir.

Contributed by Eren Pultar RC 93

If you would like to share news of a deceased RC community member please send us a notice in English of no more than 160 words to bonayozman@robcol.k12.tr
Longer notices will be edited due to space restrictions.
Please include a high resolution (minimum 700 x 700 pixels) photo of the deceased.

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