

RC QUARTERLY

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ISSUE 63

RCCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE





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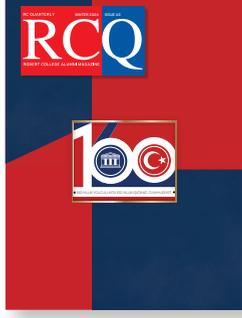
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A logo for this momentous year celebrates the 160th anniversary of Robert College and the centennial of the Turkish Republic, with the design honoring both historic milestones and RC's enduring heritage.



RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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

2023 is an auspicious year for the RC community. First and foremost, it is the 100th year of the Republic, while RC is celebrating its own 160th year. RCQ's 63rd issue honors both of these milestones.

As reported in the cover story, RC held myriad events that celebrated these landmark occasions, some of which were even linked thematically. After all, RC is one of Turkey's privileged institutions that has witnessed all 100 years of the Republic.

In
this
issue

RC retains its vibrancy through its many productions, conferences, and exciting new classes, while the RC alumni have continued to be industrious in the second half of the year, churning out exhibitions, books and conferences that garnered much interest inside and outside the RC community.



Your feedback makes RCQ better. As always, if you have any comments or would like to share news, please write!

May 2024 be joyous, productive, and peaceful!

The RCQ Team

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

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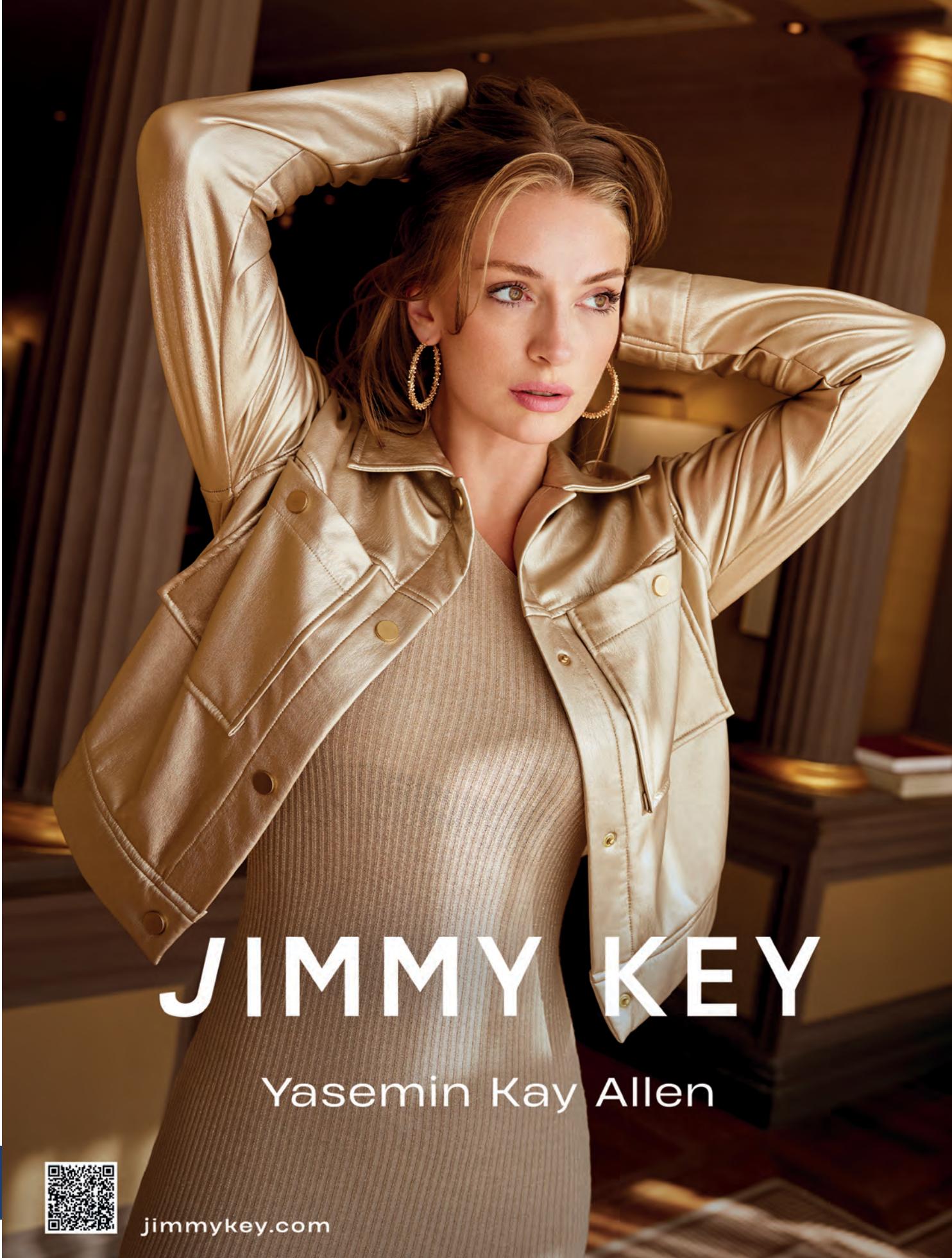
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A woman with blonde hair, wearing a gold leather jacket over a gold ribbed dress, posing in a luxury interior. She has her hands behind her head and is looking towards the camera. The background features dark wood paneling and a red carpet.

JIMMY KEY

Yasemin Kay Allen



jimmykey.com

Message from the Head of School



Alumni at Homecoming saw RC and ACG's founders and early administrators come to life in a video where they describe the school and RC students.

Welcome to this celebratory issue of the RCQ, marking a magnificent centennial for the Turkish Republic as well as Robert College's 160th birthday. We hope you will enjoy the anniversary-themed articles that follow, including an interview on the making of the RC 100-Year March, a journey through the research work that led to our exhibition on the history of our school, and a piece on the 100th Year Forest.

RC, I like to think, is not 160 years *old*, but 160 years *young*. As a school, we are ready to continue serving the Republic by educating those citizens who will lead the next 100 years of Turkish politics, business, medicine, engineering, finance, arts and academia with the same youthful energy and passion we brought to the last century. That dynamism was visible at the many events we held

through October and November. Our anniversary Homecoming, and our Republic Day celebrations on the 29th (complete with air-force fly-overs, a fleet sail-past and Teoman...) will be remembered for many years to come. The history of our school is entwined with the history of the Republic, so it is appropriate that both shared a birthday this year. We are here today, to name just two of the many virtues close to Mustafa Kemal's heart, because of his commitment to the power of education, and his dedication to equal rights for women. It was in 1923 that Atatürk said, "If our nation now needs sciences and knowledge, men and women must share them equally." Education, and equality: these two components of his vision are as important today as they were 100 years ago. It remains our duty to ensure they are fiercely protected and extended.

The RC education of 2023 balances the best traditions of Robert College and ACG, adding to them a renewed commitment to our most profound connections: those that bind us to nature, to others, and to ourselves. Our goal is to grow rising generations of RC scholars that are ever more emotionally intelligent, more rounded and more grounded, more able to deal with the problems facing us in the 21st century. It is a challenge that will require all our efforts, but one that, together, I know we can achieve.

Adam Oliver
Head of School

See the video here:

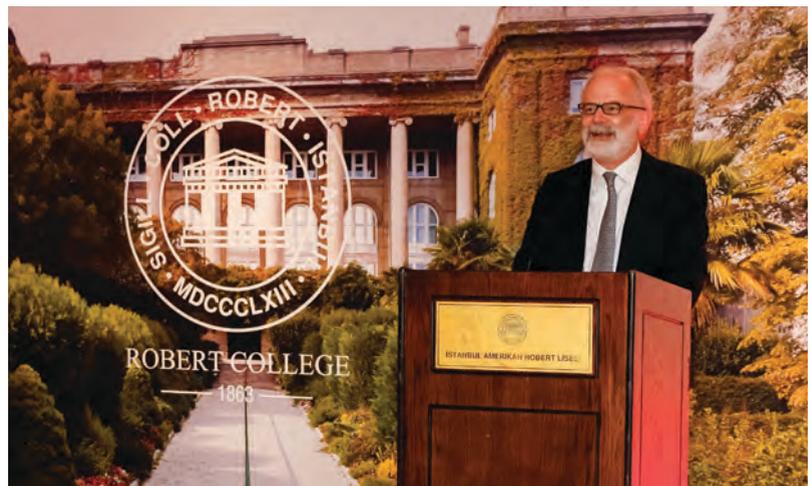


Erol Hakanoglu RC 74 Elected New Chair of the Robert College Board of Trustees

The Robert College Board of Trustees has elected Erol Hakanoglu as Board Chair, the second RC alumnus in this position, taking over from Jean Manas RC 83. A member of the Board since 2019, Erol brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of service, having served as the Chair of the Finance Committee and as a member of the Executive, Governance, and Audit Committees.

As newly elected Board Chair, Dr. Hakanoglu spent two weeks at Robert College in the fall of 2023 meeting with students, faculty, and alumni. He stated, “We’re in better hands and the students are even more wonderful than when I was a student.” He also noted, “In a fast-changing world where the speed of progress has accelerated by an order of magnitude, it is exciting to feel that our students and graduates have the makings of leaders in the new world.”

After graduating from Robert College, Dr. Hakanoglu earned his bachelor’s degree from Columbia University and his master’s and PhD degrees from Harvard. He is an applied mathematician and financial economist. Dr. Hakanoglu is currently senior advisor to PIMCO and managing partner of HQS, an analytical finance advisory firm he founded. His career includes nearly three decades in investment banking, with 22 years at Goldman Sachs, where he was managing director and global head of capital markets strategies.



Erol Hakanoglu RC 74 addressing attendees at RC's Centennial Gala at the Istanbul Modern

Dr. Hakanoglu’s dedication extends beyond the private sector; he has made significant contributions to scholarship and higher education. He is a holder of US patents on methods and systems for analyzing corporate capital structures and the valuation of equity-linked financial securities. He is also a member of the steering committee of the financial engineering program at Berkeley’s Haas Business School, and his insights have enriched the academic community through guest lectures at renowned institutions such as Harvard, Columbia, and Berkeley. He is the co-author (with Jamil Baz and Helen Guo) of a mathematical finance book, *Portfolio Selection and Asset Pricing: Models of Financial Economics and their Applications in Investing*.

Dr. Hakanoglu resides in New York City with his wife Silvia Marinari, a Milanese former modern dance choreographer

and a professor of Italian at Hunter College/CUNY. They have two daughters, Aviva, a classical violinist with the Euclid Quartet, and Orli, an architect with Deborah Berke Partners in New York.

Erol Hakanoglu succeeds Jean Manas who joined the RC Board of Trustees in 2014 and was elected Board Chair in 2017, the first RC graduate to serve in this role. An outstanding leader, Manas led the Board through the Covid pandemic, which included the election of several new members to the Board, many of them RC graduates. During his tenure as Board Chair, Manas created the Board Chair Scholarship Circle, which provided full scholarships and incidental expenses to six RC students throughout their five years at Robert College. Jean Manas is the founder and CEO of Foros, a strategic financial and M&A advisory boutique in New York City, where he resides with his family.

RC Welcomes New Courses

Robert College has always provided students with innovative and challenging learning opportunities. This year, four exciting courses are being offered.

Molecular Biology

A course for Lise 11 and Lise 12 students gives them exposure to university-level work, exploring areas such as molecular biology, genetics and epigenetics, biotechnology, stem cells, cancer and neuroscience.

Biology teacher Dr. Ece Kara, who is building a new lab for the course, had a vision: "I always wanted to connect high level science with RC students. Since I also teach AP Biology, I knew the students were ready for this next step – more practical, more researched-based work." Indeed the class is a bridge between high school and college, as it has quite a few components designed for building scientific thinking and research skills. "Ask the Expert" is a seminar series, where students learn how to prepare for, take notes, and ask questions to an expert. They also keep lab notebooks and practice scientific thinking and writing skills

throughout different experiments, some of which use biotechnology techniques like DNA extraction, ELISA, CRISPR, PCR, and cloning. Students regularly read recent articles in peer reviewed journals, which they present and discuss in class. They go on field trips and visit different labs, such as KUTTAM at Koç University. They also practice scientific writing by preparing a literature review at the end of the first term and a grant proposal at the end of the second term.

Dr. Kara is open to collaboration with RC alumni who would like to contribute to the Molecular Biology course by giving seminars, opening their lab or research facility for field trips, or making demos for different techniques and experiments. You can follow the course on instagram @rc.molecularbiology and contact Dr. Ece Kara at ekara@robcok.k12.tr



Students analyze DNA in the Molecular Biology course

AP Environmental Science

Biology teacher Genevieve Morehouse and chemistry teacher Darren Greve are offering an interdisciplinary course combining the knowledge and skills of chemistry, biology, math, economics, and political science to focus on Earth's natural systems and humanity's impact on these systems. The course explores solutions to the negative human impacts on the natural world, taking a systems thinking approach, whereby students learn that to understand the "whole" they must first understand the interrelationships between the parts of a system. They learn that it is in these relationships where solutions lie to some of humanity's most vexing environmental and social challenges.



Lise 12 students dissect an owl pellet to analyze energy transfer and food webs

Twenty-five percent of the course is lab and activity based. Greve explains: "We do a lot of in-class activities and labs and engage in debate on issues that do not have a clear-cut answer. Students explore and research certain positions on various environmental topics and discuss their various positions in class, with the aim to gain deeper understanding of the issue and potential solutions. They accrue valuable experience grappling with real-world problems that affect their daily lives and learn that these real-world problems are complex and often there is no clear and simple solution, but rather trade-offs, with benefits and drawbacks."

Mathematics for Oxbridge

Mathematics for Oxbridge (MoX), is a new RC elective tailored for those aspiring to pursue studies in engineering, math, or physics in the UK, though the course is open to any student with a passion for mathematics. UK universities require candidates to take MAT, STEP or similar exams aiming “to test the depth of mathematical understanding rather than a breadth of knowledge” (as stated by Oxford) of their A-Level (or equivalent). Therefore, MoX serves as a bridge between RC’s AP curriculum and A-Levels, encompassing various concepts in a style that aligns with the expectations of UK universities.

MoX teacher Berna Tüfekçioğlu underlines this, quoting from a



Mathematics for Oxbridge teacher Berna Tüfekçioğlu

Cambridge exam: “Cambridge, Oxford and Imperial emphasize the importance of students’ ability to put together, without a great deal (if any) of notification, a number of different mathematical ideas from almost anything they may have learned over the years, but to do so in a suitably sophisticated way and to step outside their comfort zone.” She adds that MoX precisely aligns with these expectations providing a classroom environment for students to gain the necessary skills to tackle such questions, to take ownership of their learning, to engage in discussions, and explore. Lessons in MoX also reflect what students can expect during their university interviews.

Journalism

Journalism is an English elective that has not been offered at RC for many years. The student newspapers, the Bosphorus Chronicle and Köprü, are available through the efforts of a club. Since students are required to have an English elective in both Lise 11 and Lise 12, RC strives to have courses that appeal to a wide variety of interests.

In the course students begin looking at the anatomy of a news story, first hard news and then moving on to feature stories, learning how to create each. The real heart of the Journalism course is the Share and Critique. Course teacher Angela Shockley



Journalism teacher Angela Schockley

elaborates: “We have created a set of dispositions that we will all follow, enabling us to share our ideas and our writings with each other knowing that the feedback we receive will be fair, honest, and safe. Each week we brainstorm ideas for stories/angles, discuss problems we are having with current stories, and share finished pieces for evaluation.”

Journalism offers skills that are highly transferable and relevant to many careers. In the Journalism course, students develop skills of keen observation, objective reporting of facts, critical media literacy, and collaborative and ethical behavior.

RC Antiquities Collection Gives Students Unique Learning Opportunities

I The ancient objects are brought to life as students explore their origins and uses.

Many alumni will remember the curious artifacts displayed in cases on the third floor of Gould Hall and wonder how they came to the school and why. These pieces were gathered by Isabel Dodd, a teacher during the early days of ACG, who used the remarkable collection in her art history classes. These invaluable artifacts, now located in Marble Hall and the Heritage Room, continue to be used by classes as unique learning tools.

As part of the Lise 9 History course, in the “History and Time” unit, students review the artifacts and prepare a brochure that highlights 10 objects from the collection, explaining what each object is and why it is important. History teacher Esin Pulathaneli, who has been running this project for several years says, “By studying the ancient pieces and telling their stories, students better understand history and ancient lifestyles. This project also helps students develop their sense of creativity and critical thinking.”

In May 2023, RC hosted two collaborative workshops with Koç University’s Department of Archaeology and History of Art which marked a fruitful intersection of academic inquiry and creative expression. RC students, Koç professors and PhD candidates delved into essential aspects of artifact study, guiding participants through crafting a statement of significance, conducting stylistic analyses, and researching the provenance of each artifact. In the second workshop, students took inspiration from the archaeological



Lise 9 students examine artifacts in the RC Antiquities Collection for a history class project

objects they had diligently researched and analyzed, and wrote imaginative interpretations and evocative poems, transforming scholarly pursuits into a vibrant celebration of art and history. Following on from these workshops, RC’s Arts, Science and Literature course is continuing to give students the opportunity to practice scientific study and creative expression through the artifacts. For several years, students in this course have used the objects as creative inspiration. Teacher Aninne Schneider is now incorporating the research aspect from the Koç University workshop into her courses and students also learn about curating exhibits, to help tell the stories of the artifacts. “The students come away with a new perspective about the collection

and learn about why different objects matter,” says Schneider.

Although these objects are being used in classwork, there is much to be done in better displaying and labeling them. RC plans to work with a reputable exhibition design company to redesign and re-curate the collection. While the project is eagerly anticipated, RC is looking for the necessary funding to kick off this endeavor in a manner befitting the significance of our antiquities and their educational potential. If you are interested in learning more about this unique project, contact Melisa Korkmaz RC L12 03 from the Institutional Advancement Office at mkorkmaz@robcol.k12.tr

WINGS

Kendi Çizgin

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Dünyadaki tüm otel ve restoranlarda yılda toplamda 22.000 TL'ye varan indirim ayrıcalığı için Akbank Mobil'den hemen başvurun.



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Black Plus program üyeleri dünyadaki tüm restoranlarda %15, ayda 1.500 TL'ye, yılda 18.000 TL'ye varan indirim; tüm otellerde %10, 3 ayda toplam 1000 TL'ye, yılda 4.000 TL'ye varan indirim kazanır. Kazanılan indirim Akbank'taki varlık oranına göre değişiklik gösterebilir. Bankanın kampanyayı durdurma/değiştirme hakkı saklıdır. Detaylar www.wingscard.com.tr/de.

2023 Social Entrepreneurship Festival Focuses on Sustainable Cities

Students learned from experts and engaged in critical conversations.



SEIC advisor JT Rehill moderates a panel discussion on sustainable cities at the 2023 Social Entrepreneurship Festival

The Social Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity (SEIC) Office's Social Entrepreneurship Festival on Sustainable Cities was held on December 3, 2023, for the purpose of inspiring young changemakers at RC to think about the solutions to some of the most pressing challenges related to the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. SEIC advisor JT Rehill states that after the earthquakes in the Hatay region last year, the SEIC students unanimously agreed that the focus for 2023 should be SDG 11: "With more than half of the world's population living in cities and the overall impact of cities on the environment, our students wanted to work on finding solutions to critical

social and environmental challenges both in the region and in our own back yard."

Guest speakers shared their knowledge about eco-friendly building design, sustainable development, climate change, disaster relief and mitigation, among other relevant topics. RC students participated in seven interactive workshops and spent the day engaged in critical conversations. The main takeaway from the event was inspiration, and RC students are now working on projects related to water reclamation, waste reduction, air pollution mitigation, and youth education. The follow-up symposium will be held during the Spring 2024 semester.

Medusa's Origin Story Revealed in RC Theater Performance

RC actors add unique touches to the story of the mythological legend.

This fall, RC Theater performed *Medusa's Tale* by Carol Lashof. The production unearthed Medusa's backstory and shows how one of mythology's most famous monsters came to be infamous: and it wasn't at all by her choosing.

The production begins quietly with hunters from across time entering Medusa's garden, looking to become famous by taking her down. To exemplify how myths endure and change through the years, the hunters included an ancient Roman warrior, a CIA agent, a photographer and priest. A young, ill-equipped Perseus (Emre Adaş L10) enters the scene and fails miserably, saved only by the fact his mother was Medusa's friend.



RC Theater's production of *Medusa's Tale* showed audiences a different side to the gorgon's story

With a flashback, we go to Medusa's childhood and learn that she is, in fact, the victim of a terrible crime by

Poseidon (Melih Kanadaşı L10) and her deep faith in the goddess Athena (Lal Önen L10), who passively watches it all happen, is unrewarded.

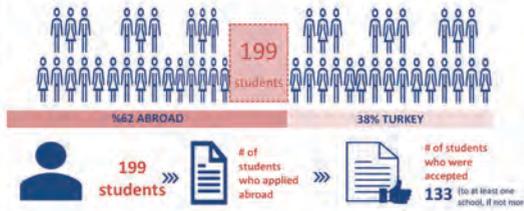
To show how she transformed from a girl into a snake woman, a film collage (composed by Ece Çıkım L12 with music by Yunus Cavlak L12) was projected onto the young Medusa (Elif Doğa Ergüven L11) as the older Medusa (Derin Tekerekoğlu L10) watched from behind her. It was a harrowing moment in an intense production. The play ended with the young Medusa banging on the door from outside of SK asking for help as the audience was then spotlighted and a sound collage of testimonials from female RC teachers played and faded out.

Where is the Class of 2023 Now?

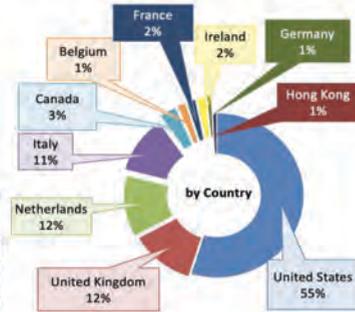
After graduating from RC, the Class of 2023 headed out into the world, placing in the top universities in Turkey and abroad.

2023 Overseas University Placement Results

UNIVERSITY NAME	TOTAL
United States	68
Baylor University	1
Berklee College of Music	1
Boston University	3
Bowdoin College	1
Brown University	2
Carleton College	1
Carnegie Mellon University	1
Colby College	1
Cornell University	4
Dartmouth College	3
Davidson College	1
Drexel University	1
Duke University	1
Emory University	2
Franklin and Marshall College	1
Franklin Olin College of Engineering	1
Georgetown University	1
Harvard University	1
Indiana University	1
Johns Hopkins University	1
Kenyon College	1
Lafayette College	1
Michigan State University	1
New York University	2
Northeastern University	1
Northwestern University	2
Princeton University	1
Purdue University	2
Rice University	2
Stanford University	1
Texas A&M University	1
Tufts University	2
University of California Santa Barbara	1
University of California, Berkeley	3
University of California, Los Angeles	1
University of California, San Diego	1
University of Chicago	3
University of Colorado Boulder	1
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign	2
University of Michigan Ann Arbor	2
University of Pennsylvania	1
University of Virginia	1
Vanderbilt University	2
Vassar College	1
Williams College	1
Yale University	2

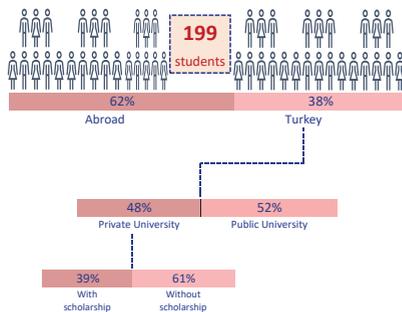


United Kingdom	15	Italy	14
Imperial College London	4	Bocconi University	4
London School of Economics and Political Science	1	Ca' Foscari University of Venice	1
Queen Mary University of London	1	Humanitas University	1
University College London	3	Istituto Marangoni, Milano	1
University of Manchester	2	Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti Milano	1
University of Oxford	2	Politecnico di Milano	2
University of Sheffield Foundation Program	1	University of Padova	1
University of Warwick	1	Vita-Salute San Raffaele University	3
Netherlands	15	Belgium	2
Amsterdam University College	1	KU Leuven	2
Delft University of Technology (TU Delft)	2	Germany	1
Eindhoven University of Technology	2	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology	1
Erasmus University Rotterdam	3	France	2
Maastricht University	2	École Polytechnique	1
University of Amsterdam	4	Sciences Po Paris - Campus de Reims	1
Utrecht University	1	Ireland	2
Canada	4	Trinity College Dublin, the University of Du	2
University of Toronto	3	Hong Kong	1
University of Toronto	1	City University of Hong Kong	1
McGill University	1		



2023 Turkish University Placement Results

UNIVERSITY NAME	TOTAL
PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES	48
ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY	11
BOĞAZİÇİ UNIVERSITY	8
ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	7
MARMARA UNIVERSITY	4
ANKARA UNIVERSITY	2
MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	2
MUĞLA SITKI KOÇMAN UNIVERSITY	2
ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY-CERRAHPAŞA	1
AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY	1
TURKISH-GERMAN UNIVERSITY	1
BALIKESİR UNIVERSITY	1
BURSA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	1
GAZİ UNIVERSITY	1
GEZİRE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	1
KIRKLARELİ UNIVERSITY	1
YOZGAT BOZOK UNIVERSITY	1
TRAKYA UNIVERSITY	1
ISKENDERUN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	1
MİMAR SİNAN FINE ART UNIVERSITY	1
PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES	44
KOÇ UNIVERSITY	24
SABANCI UNIVERSITY	8
YEDİTEPE UNIVERSITY	7
IHSAN DOĞRAMACI BİLKENT UNIVERSITY	1
BAHÇEŞEHİR UNIVERSITY	1
ÖZYEĞİN UNIVERSITY	1
ACIBADEM UNIVERSITY	1
BEZMİ-İ ALEM VAKIF UNIVERSITY	1



For more details visit the University Preparation section of the RC website.



Bequests Leave a Lasting Impact on Robert College

Planned Giving is one way to create a meaningful legacy at RC. Recently, two members of the RC community have done just that through their bequests.



Landon Thomas, Sr.

Landon Thomas, Sr., who served Robert College for many years as a dedicated member of the Board of Trustees, made a lasting gesture to the

school by leaving \$500,000 in his will. Turkey was a special place for Landon, who passed away in March 2023 (see RCQ 62, p. 63). His connection began in the 1960s, and he served as an active member of the RC Board for four decades, sharing his time and expertise with the school from 1968-2008. The funds will be used for financial support for scholarship students. With this gift, his generosity will help continue to shape the future of Robert College.

Another member of the community who made a bequest to Robert College is Selma Abigadol Newburgh ACG 57, who passed away in 2022. As one of the most loyal supporters of Robert



Selma Abigadol Newburgh ACG 57

College, she did not miss a year of giving to Robert College in 35 years. As her final gift, Selma included a gift to Robert College in her will.

How to Make a Bequest to Robert College

The Elizabeth Dodge Huntington Clarke Society was established to recognize those who have made commitments of financial support to Robert College in their wills or estate planning. The Society honors the memory of a woman who was devoted to the School and sought to ensure its future by providing Robert College with its largest bequest, a sum over \$2,000,000 (see RCQ 50, p. 12).

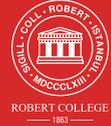
To discuss making a bequest, please contact Burcu Berent in the Institutional Advancement Office in Istanbul at +90 212 359 2289 or bberent@robcol.k12.tr

Scholarships from TPF Support RC Students from the Earthquake Region



Shortly after the earthquakes hit Turkey on February 6, Turkish Philanthropy Funds (TPF) began collecting donations from all over North America to help survivors. As part of this effort, TPF has donated \$44,500 to support the education of an L10 and L11 student at Robert College. The students come from Adiyaman and Hatay, two provinces which were seriously affected by the earthquakes. The funds will support the students for the remainder of their studies at RC.

Join the 2023-2024 Annual Giving Campaign and make a difference in the lives of RC students!



GIFT CATEGORIES

Heritage Circle	\$100,000 / 3.000.000 TL	and above
Pillars	\$50,000 / 1.500.000 TL	
Chair's Circle	\$30,000 / 1.000.000 TL	
Hamlin Society	\$15,000 / 500.000 TL	
Patrons	\$7,500 / 250.000 TL	
Benefactors	\$5,000 / 150.000 TL	
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CIP Instills the Value of Kindness

Sometimes, it is essential to take a moment to reflect on the fundamental reasons behind our actions. This is an essential part of the Community Involvement Program (CIP), and in this issue one of the core principles of the Community Involvement Program is explored – kindness.

In a world characterized by relentless speed and drive for achievement, emphasizing kindness may appear out of place. As the great poet Gülten Akin once remarked, nobody has the time to pause and appreciate it (*Ah kimselerin vakti yok, durup ince şeyleri anlamaya - "ilkyaz"*). However, recent scientific research yields surprising insights into the connection between kindness and

well-being; kindness here meaning acts that could be described as “selfless” – deeds performed simply for the sake of doing good.

Multiple studies have suggested that such acts, driven by the intent to make a positive impact, not only contribute to personal health but also lead to greater happiness. As it is very much linked to the sense of safety

and self-actualization, it is argued that kindness reduces blood pressure and diminishes anxiety. Another remarkable aspect of kindness is its contagious nature. People are highly likely to reciprocate kindness when they encounter it. The Community Involvement Program’s primary aim is to foster the propagation of kindness within the RC Community. The following are stories exemplifying this.

A Short Badminton Story

Patience and empathy help a child overcome their fears.

A little anecdote about a recent project is a great example of how small acts of kindness can change our whole outlook on life. One of the remarkable projects from last semester was Project Badminton, where RC students collaborated with a secondary school in Beşiktaş. Their objective was to train the students in badminton and establish a school team. As a strong bond developed, the students decided to extend the project into the current semester.

During RC’s initial meeting with the partner school, project participants noticed a student who stood out due to his distinctive characteristics and the boots he was wearing. Concerned for his comfort, they inquired if he had sneakers to wear during the training sessions. This simple question unraveled a touching story. The mother revealed that the boy faced unique challenges in terms of learning and social interactions. Just a year before, he had a deep-seated fear of balls and couldn’t even hold



RC students helping a school in Beşiktaş create a badminton team]

a racket. The remarkable team and RC’s dedicated advisor, Liz Molton, recognized the need to provide special attention to this young boy. They replaced balls with balloons, making the learning process less intimidating. Through patience and perseverance, they worked with him repeatedly until he could confidently play badminton and enjoy the sport. This year, the mother shared that the project days

had become his favorite, and he eagerly anticipated them to play badminton. While this may seem like a small gesture in the grand scheme of life, the CIP project team firmly believes that it is in these small acts of kindness that lives are truly touched. Creating meaningful connections and realizing that there are people who genuinely care about each other is one of the most gratifying aspects of life.

Acing LGS in Hatay

| A meaningful week in the earthquake zone.



Students from Yaylica Middle School take a break from preparing for the LGS. The containers were donated at the beginning of the school year by Robert College.

A good example of how RC students used their specific talents to foster kindness is a very special project they ran in Samandağ, Hatay this fall semester. Without a doubt RC students know how to work hard and succeed in the LGS exam. They took their expertise and organized a LGS boot camp at Yaylica Middle School, which Robert College worked with earlier in the year, providing container classrooms and educational materials for the school, along with furnishings which were provided through a grant from Turkish Philanthropy Funds.

The forty 8th graders who participated in the CIP project had experienced the devastating earthquake on February

6 last year. During the week, the RC students slept in the containers, giving them a first-hand understanding of what people in the area have been living through. The RC students coached their younger friends on how to keep their motivation high, how to approach different math problems and how to stay focused for longer periods of time while studying. They created a great impact on their learning, so much so that Mustafa from Yaylica was claiming that his “Rüzgar Abi and Mehveş Abi” were the only people who could teach him the concept of square root. However, this is only the surface of what was going on. RC students themselves went through an emotional transformation throughout

the Acing LGS Project. Here are some self-reflections from their essays:

“The most difficult thing about this project was to leave Yaylica Middle School. Our everyday conversations in and outside the classroom have been truly meaningful for me. I am still in contact with them. I am truly happy to own all these wonderful memories.”

“This project helped me have a clearer sense of what I would like to do in the future. I loved the sense of changing something for the better for someone else and I will definitely consider education as part of my future career plans.”

What's On At Bizim Tepe

I Bizim Tepe had a busy fall and kicked the New Year off in style.



Winter Vibes Party

The RC community embraced the arrival of winter with the Winter Vibes Party on December 28. There's nothing quite like ending the year alongside RC friends, surrounded by the cozy atmosphere of Bizim Tepe and dancing the night away.

"Bizim Tepe Sohbetleri" Panel Series Begins

RKMD is proud to present a new panel series to take place at Bizim Tepe during winter and spring. Nuri Çolakoğlu RA 62 will lead discussions featuring influential authors, politicians, and artists from the RC community, providing invaluable insights into their respective fields of expertise. The first event took place on December 13, with guest Sedat Ergin RC 75. Stay tuned to Bizim Tepe social media accounts for updates on the lineup of guests and their scheduled appearances. Don't miss the opportunity to engage with brilliance and inspiration.



Vibrant Homecoming After Party

On November 5, the traditional Homecoming after party took place at Bizim Tepe. The special gathering was a heartwarming journey down memory lane and an opportunity to reconnect with cherished old friends or make new, lasting connections over drinks and good music.



Bizim Tepe Takes Part in Akbank Jazz Festival

Solo singer Seçil Akmirza and bass guitarist, composer and producer Alp Ersönmez gave a concert with their ensemble group comprised of Engin Recepoğulları, Evrim Tüzün and Ediz Hafızoğlu as part of the 33rd Akbank Jazz Festival on October 8. Our alumni and guests enjoyed listening to a fun repertoire with originals and covers.

Fantastic Participation at Bizim Tepe Tennis Tournament

The 31st Annual Bizim Tepe Open Senior Tennis Tournament took place from September 2 to October 5. The event unfolded with 438 tennis players vying for victory. Among them were 264 players in the Singles category, 118 teams in Doubles and 56 Beginners. At the award ceremony, champions across these categories were honored, graciously receiving their well-deserved prizes from the RKMD Board Members. An incredible showcase of talent and sportsmanship marked yet another unforgettable year of this esteemed tournament.



RKMD Elects New Board

The Robert College Alumni Association General Assembly was held on September 16, 2023, at Bizim Tepe. Welcome to the new members of the Board who will serve until 2025.

Board Members	
Arif Akdağ RC 88	President
Ali Sancar RC 86	Vice President
Çağrı Akçurum RC 05	Secretary
Dila Şirin RC 15	Treasurer
Aslı Berkol RC 88	Member
Meltem Kayhan RC 86	Member
Barış Güner RC 89	Member
Yaprak Kılıççı RC 89	Member
Damla İlica RC 15	Member
Ersu Ablak RC 98	Member
Can Yurdakul RC 04	Member
Mehmet Önder Dalkıran RC 89	Member
Substitute Board Members	
Ali Yılmaz RC 85	Substitute Member
Ömer Önen RC 88	Substitute Member
Ayliz Onur RC 18	Substitute Member
Selin Kibar Bayar RC 86	Substitute Member
İpek Erzi RC 89	Substitute Member
Supervisory Board Members	
Bora Karaman RC 10	President
Lebib Mısırlı RC 75	Member
Gülden Küçük Çelebi RC 81	Member
Supervisory Board Substitute Members	
Elif Yıldırımbulut RC 89	Substitute Member
Ziya Anıldı RC 86	Substitute Member
Disciplinary Board Members	
Taner Şekercioğlu RC 86	Member
Aykut Cebel RC 86	Member
Selçuk Tuncalı RC 85	Member
Disciplinary Board Substitute Member	
Değer Yalaza RC 85	Substitute Member
Deniz Şerifsoy RC 86	Substitute Member
Ahmet Şenkut RC 65	Substitute Member



Billboards @ RKMD

Exciting news for our alumni! Advertise on our billboards located at the RKMD parking lot! Get your message seen by countless eyes. Contact us at 0212-287-0078 for more details and advertising opportunities. Don't miss out on this prime advertising space!



Welcome to USA Awards Turn 30



The 30th anniversary of the Welcome to USA Awards was celebrated with an event that brought together award recipients from across the miles and decades

On October 1, 2023, RCAA held a zoom celebration on the 30th anniversary of its Welcome to USA Awards program. In 1993 the RCAA Board decided to present three students of the graduating class of RC who were coming

to US colleges and universities and who needed financial support, with a happy landing check based on academic success and extracurricular activities. This program has continuously taken place every year in collaboration with

the RC College Counseling Office and a total of 116 students have been awarded over a 30-year period. During the last two years, with the increasing demand 19 students received the \$1500 happy landing check upon arrival to their college campuses.

More than 50 people from the RC Global Community, among them many past recipients of this program as well as RC alumni and friends, attended the event where the 2022 and 2023 awardees were introduced to the community. Attendees were able to hear the life stories of the past awardees, former executives of the RCAA Board and the most recent program beneficiaries. The 90-minute event was a mixture of sharing stories of experienced generations and younger alumni who are building their careers in the US.

Young Alumni Dinner Returns

RCAA brought back the traditional Young Alumni Dinner in NYC. As in the pre-pandemic era this traditional event was held during the NYC Marathon weekend on Saturday, November 4, so that students could travel to Manhattan from their college campuses. Dinner was at Turkish Kitchen's private party location in Midtown Manhattan and 80 RC grads enjoyed plenty of Turkish food which they missed. Undergrads with college IDs attended the event free of catching up with old friends.



Recent graduates were excited to meet up in Manhattan

Bay Area Alumni Enjoy a Variety of Events



Bay Area alumni had fun over drinks and a concert in September

San Francisco Bay Area RC alumni attended our most unique local event to date. We met on September 9 for

drinks at a bar in downtown Menlo Park, then joined some friends to attend a special event at the Guild - a newly-renovated venue downtown - to listen to a local band play dance songs from the 70s through today. There was a lot of dancing and singing along throughout this fun evening.

On Oct 26, alumni met for a standing reception at Dalida, a San Francisco sensation co-founded by RC's Sayat Özyılmaz RC L12 04. The tight crowd celebrated the Turkish Republic's 100th anniversary and caught up with each



A reception at Sayat Özyılmaz RC L12 04's new restaurant Dalida was a meaningful way to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic

other. It was exciting to see new grads attend and take initiative to organize upcoming gatherings.

Keeping the RC Community Strong in Philadelphia



Alumni were thrilled to meet up for the first time in a while

At the end of 2023, RCAA had two activities in Philadelphia. On October 15, we came together for a brunch and on

December 10, we had a Holiday Potluck. RCAA Board Member Nesrin Young ACG 69 explains:

“The brunch was our first meeting after a long Covid break and everybody was super excited to see each other. We also had four young visitors - children of alumni - who played cards and chess, and made friends. Parents, on the other hand, were very excited to see old friends and make some new ones. We had some 2023 graduates in town and it was also exciting to get to know them. Our Holiday Potluck was lively. We



A potluck at the end of the year made the holidays festive

decorated the Christmas tree and had some Turkish delicacies. It was a nice mix with some younger graduates and earlier ones.”

Boston Community Hike

The RC community in Boston had their first hike event at the Middlesex Fells Reservation in September. The hike took almost 1.5 hours, so participants got an opportunity to get to know each other while enjoying the beautiful nature. Some of the group wanted to continue the conversation and went to brunch together. They are planning to do more hikes together.

For questions about events or to help us co-host events, please email board@rcaa.org

London Alumni Gathering

RC graduates welcomed new alums into our London community. The group gathered late September in Chelsea for a fun and relaxed evening. The reunion presented a unique opportunity to see familiar faces and to make new acquaintances. Overall, the event was a good testimony to the lifelong bond RC graduates share.

For future events, follow RC Alumni Club of London on LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8863482>

And on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rcalumnicluboflondon/>

If you want to get involved in organizing future events or have any questions regarding the Robert College Alumni Club of London you can also get in touch with Irem Gunay RC 06 via iremgunay@gmail.com



Alumni in the UK got together in Chelsea

Nil Yalter ACG 58 Awarded the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement

Trailblazing political-feminist artist Nil Yalter has received one of the most prestigious awards in art, along with Brazilian artist Anna Maria Maiolino. Yalter has been chosen for this accolade by the Venice Biennale because of her influence and enduring contribution to contemporary art. RCQ had the opportunity to talk to Yalter, amid the flurry of attention she is receiving with this latest news.

Yalter's interest in art manifested itself from an early age and was fully encouraged by her parents. Indeed a set of art books her father brought her from abroad is one of Yalter's most treasured possessions. Yalter recalls her youth in Turkey as a period when there was little chance to access art, a lack that became the impetus for her moving out of Turkey. Following a year and a half in India, she settled in Paris for life, and that is when a deep nostalgia for her own country and culture set in. She started exploring her roots through her art:

"We were very Europeanized in Turkey. Our own culture did not interest us, as we were growing up. I lacked knowledge on my own culture, and this lack propelled me to make my first important work, "Topak Ev/Yurt". I discovered the mixed nature of my own culture in Paris, and I tried to explain it to the world through my pieces. Of course, I had other influences as well like Russian constructivism, and I consider Cezanne to be my master. In Paris I discovered pop art, minimalist art and met many artists like Robert Rauschenberg. I had no formal education in art, so going to museums and galleries became my education.

Yalter recalls her time at ACG fondly, particularly teacher Hilary Sumner-Boyd's influence and her role as Desdemona to Engin Cezzar's *Hamlet*: "Literature was taught very well, theater and philosophy were good, but Turkish history, geography,



Nil Yalter ACG 58

literature not so much. Luckily, women were not taught about being a good wife; that was a big plus. English teachers were in fact feminists. I learned freedom at ACG and from my family, and that is why I was able to leave. I went on learning freedom as a woman, as there are different kinds of freedoms."

Yalter says she was proud and happy to receive the award but finds the attention pouring in a bit

overwhelming. She continues to produce art, using technology to create new work from her old work. As she was one of the pioneers of the use of video in art, her continued use of technology is not surprising. In fact, she says she likes working with the iPhone. Nonetheless, she states that she does not want to be invaded or dominated by technology. Hence, she does not use social media and is on the fence about artificial intelligence.

Cevdet Akçay RC 79 Assumes Critical Role in Turkish Economy

| The Deputy Governor of the Turkish Central Bank taps into experience from his unique career.

Cevdet Akçay was appointed as the Deputy Governor of Turkey's Central Bank in July 2023. Akçay has a unique career that combines academia, private sector, and government service which he considers a blessing: "My academic background boosted my chief economist performance and my market experience immensely improved my teaching performance, albeit at the expense of pure academic research. My position as the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye is presumably the 'last dance' of my career, and my experience in the two previous positions proved to be very useful already, as I am able to wear two hats at the same time or switch hats in order not to suffer from 'insider bias.' My motto professionally has been to be 'an outsider inside,' so as

to render my decision making as bias-proof as possible."

When asked about how RC contributed to his career, Akçay expresses his gratitude: "I did have a difficult, exhausting career, particularly because of the stance I chose to adopt. I felt outcasted, ostracized, even ridiculed during certain stages, but never thought of 'adjusting myself' or 'positioning myself accordingly.' Refraining from such attitudes came as a reflex and required no effort on my part. That intrinsic sense of security I tend to attribute first and foremost to my dearest late mother, and the aura of security and freedom I was fed at RC. The feed was so subtle, so genuine, and so comforting. It is the



Cevdet Akçay RC 79

less tangible portion of education and also the rarest."

Hakan Binbaşgil RC 79 Transitions to Akbank's Board

| Adaptability, teamwork and a commitment to continuous learning are keys to success.

Hakan Binbaşgil has worked at Akbank for 21 years, most recently as CEO for 12 years. In this new chapter, he becomes the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors and Executive Member. RCQ asked Binbaşgil the secrets of his success: "Adaptability, agility, and resilience are critical, so is the formation of a cohesive and skilled team capable of weathering storms together. The culture of innovation within Akbank and our constant exploration of creative solutions, have brought success to each of us."

Binbaşgil sees RC as a critical part of his journey: "RC instilled in me the importance of pursuing any endeavor with unwavering passion and wholehearted commitment to



Hakan Binbaşgil RC 79

excellence. Moreover, its emphasis on extracurricular activities allowed me to recognize the benefits of teamwork, a lesson that would later prove invaluable in my career. Most notably, RC's unwavering commitment to academic excellence laid a strong

foundation in many subjects and ignited a passion for lifelong learning.

Binbaşgil's advice to young alumni starting their careers is to wholeheartedly embrace continuous learning: "The most significant investment one can make is in their knowledge and skill set. Listen to your heart, choose what you want to do and passionately pursue your chosen path. Make mistakes, learn, and grow from them. Don't be afraid to take calculated risks and if setbacks occur, do not be discouraged. Engage with a variety of disciplines to broaden your knowledge and perspective. Make sure your first job provides abundant opportunities for learning. Your initial career choice can significantly influence your future growth."

Hikmet Hükümenoğlu RC 89 Wins the Yunus Nadi Award for Best Novel

Excerpt from the 10Haber article by Zeynep Karaarslan Başaran RC 88

The prestigious accolade is for his fictional biography taking place in the first half of the 20th century.

Hikmet Hükümenoğlu's latest novel *Harika Bir Hayat (A Wonderful Life, Can Yayınları)* received the Best Novel Award at the 78th Yunus Nadi Awards. The novel encompasses the years 1919-1950 and tells in biographical format the tale of a woman with interesting talents named Harika.

The dynamic which gives the novel its title is the relationship Harika has with her mother. Ever critical, her mother at one point tells Harika that "she could have had a wonderful life." Hükümenoğlu who studied physics at university and worked for many years as an analyst quit his job to become a full-time writer and admits he was



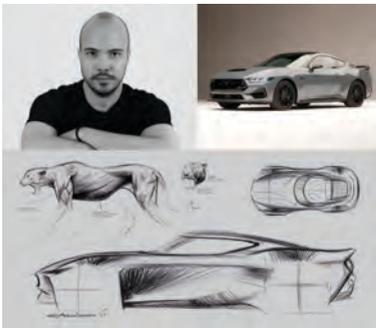
Hikmet Hükümenoğlu RC 89

confronted with similar comments: "When I said, 'I will write novels from now on', there were some people who said I would be ruining my life. I no longer ask their opinions and imagine

they still think the same way. Some people would find me 'adequate' only if my books sold millions of copies and I won the Nobel Prize years in a row. Since that is not happening...Joking aside, I sometimes think I could have had a wonderful life as a writer in another country. The only reason for saying that is the low readership in our country and how painstaking it is for us writers." Hükümenoğlu states that he does not write for awards but is delighted to be receiving them: "It is nice to be appreciated for my work, particularly because it is not mine alone. My editor and countless people at my publisher have also worked on it."

Ege Argüden RC 09 Designs Latest Mustang

Drawing inspiration from nature, Argüden used biomimicry in his work



Ege Argüden RC 09 and his sketches for the Mustang

Senior exterior designer at Ford Motor Company Ege Argüden was passionate about both nature and vehicles from an early age and views nature as an important source of inspiration: "I've been learning about nature and

wildlife since childhood. One of my school projects, Mercedes Aerolite, was inspired by the aerodynamic shape and the lightweight pneumatic bone structure of an eagle. Nature is not my only source of inspiration however, anything that catches my interest can inspire a new design: a movie, a book, a painting, a plane, a boat, or a car."

When he was tasked with the design of the S650 Mustang, Argüden took his inspiration from leopards: "When we started the design process, I had a sculpture of a leopard, with all the muscle structure exposed and sculpted accurately. I started sketching the intricacies of these muscle structures

as well as the proportion and powerful stance of the large cat. As I got more familiar with these shapes, I applied this to the design of the car."

Argüden remembers RC as a place that nurtured his love of nature: "Robert College's green campus is like a protected wildlife refuge in the middle of the dense city. I feel very lucky to have studied in one of the most beautiful campuses in the world." Interestingly, Argüden is taking a break from Ford and moving back to Turkey to focus on yachts, a dream of his since childhood: "Having spent many years sailing and yachting, I have a strong connection to the sea."

Haluk Kulaksızođlu RC 85 Pioneers Innovative Spinal Treatment

| The procedure improves quality of life for children.

Prof. Dr. Haluk Kulaksızođlu is a leading expert in neuro-urology. He recently made headlines for his treatment of an eight-year-old girl suffering from a congenital condition affecting the spinal cord, with an innovative approach that uses sacral nerve stimulation. Kulaksızođlu explains that children born with spinal cord defects have many challenges: "They have difficulty walking, they cannot pass urine and have constant constipation issues. When they reach school age, needing to carry a catheter or using a catheter during break times, and not being able to attend most of the activities with their peers cause major distress. Sacral nerve stimulation has been in use for more than 20 years;



Haluk Kulaksızođlu RC 85

however, its use in children has not been approved by the FDA. There is growing interest in the technique in the pediatric patient group, with very limited number

of centers that perform this procedure. It is like a miracle for a child to be able to urinate voluntarily for the first time in her life. The smile on her face really makes being a physician worth everything."

Kulaksızođlu became a doctor largely through his father's convincing. He credits RC for cultivating a need to explore new ideas and self-confidence: "Growing up in an environment that provided all the means to explore and improve certainly added tremendously to my career path. I realized the uniqueness of our education profoundly when I started interacting with my colleagues both nationally and internationally."

Robert College Theater and Dorothy İz: Leaving their Mark

Dorothy İz had a lasting impact on theater at ACG and RC, and gave today's stars their first taste of a lifelong passion and commitment to theater.

Please save the date for the premiere of a magnificent documentary on Robert College Theatre and the legacy of Dorothy İz produced by Serra Mansur Soysal RC 83 and Rezan Benatar RC 73. The event will also be attended by several ACG and RC graduates who have enriched the cultural tapestry of Turkey.

**Robert College Theatre and Dorothy İz:
Leaving their Mark**

Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024

Place: Suna Kiraç Theater





160 Yıllık Yolculukta
100 Yıllık Işığımız
Cumhuriyet

RC Celebrates the 100th Year of the Republic and Its Own 160th Anniversary

2023 constitutes an auspicious year for RC: Not only is it the Centennial of the Turkish Republic to which RC contributed countless thinkers, leaders, and trailblazers, it is also the 160th year of in RC's proud history.

In its 160-year journey, RC both witnessed the founding of the Republic and contributed to the enlightenment of Turkey in countless ways. Going back to the beginning of the Republic, it is a source of pride that members of the RC community were active in the very founding of it, participating in the Lausanne talks in 1923: Most prominently Hüseyin Pektaş RC 1903, as personal interpreter and secretary of İsmet İnönü; and Saffet Şav and Cami Baykut- both of whom later taught at RC - as delegates.



Among the Turkish delegates at the Lausanne Conference were members of the RC community



Hüseyin Pektaş RC 1903 and RC faculty members Saffet Şav and Cami Baykurt were delegates at the Lausanne talks in 1923



RC Farm, 1920s. Agriculture was an important subject at RC and ACG.

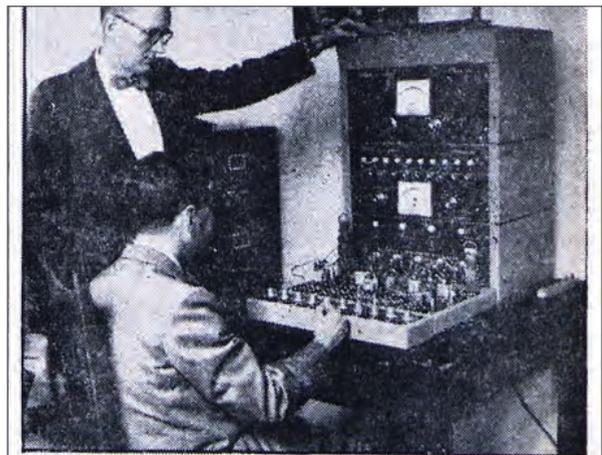


ACG medical students in a chemistry lab in Bingham Hall, 1920s

As the new country was fast establishing its institutions, RC was educating arguably its best human resources in those foundational years. Indeed the science and engineering education at RC was considered top-notch. In the beginning of the 1920s a medical school was founded at ACG in Bingham Hall in cooperation with the American Hospital. Though it didn't last long due to financial problems, it is still a testament to the dedication of the school in contributing to the young Republic's needs.

Applied and theoretical agriculture and animal husbandry were among the valued topics both at RC and ACG; importance was attached to agriculture as one of the greatest needs of the country. RC graduates were among the leading figures of the Republic in this field.

RC's reputation in sciences continued to be strong over the next decades. Turkey's first "electronic brain" was established at RC in 1958. Prof. Necmi Tanyolaç's research at RC produced the world's first "odor meter". This invention, which attracted NATO's attention, was patented internationally. One of Turkey's first computers was donated to RC by IBM in 1965.



İMİLLİYETİ
ROBERT KOLEJİDE KURULAN, TÜRKİYEDEKİ İLK ELEKTRONİK BEYİN..

Türkiyede ilk elektronik beyin kolejde kuruldu

RC engineers developed Turkey's first "electronic brain" in 1958



RC basketball team from the 1920s



ACG students at archery practice in the 1920s

Atatürk's credo of "healthy body, healthy mind" had intrinsically been a part of the RC culture. Indeed physical education was an important aspect of the RC and ACG experience since the founding of the schools. RC and ACG provided opportunities in sports ranging from archery to field hockey. In fact, RC was the first venue where basketball was played in Turkey. Many RC and ACG alumni went on to become important national and international athletes and role models. One such example is Halet Çambel ACG 35, who, while studying archaeology at Sorbonne University, participated in the 1936 Berlin Olympics in fencing upon Atatürk's special request and became Turkey's first female Olympian.



ACG field hockey team in the 1920s

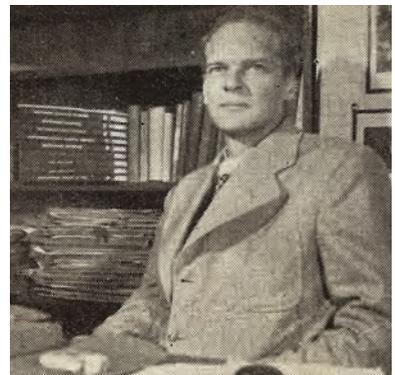
The intellectual climate of RC contributed to the development of arts, publishing, and civil service in Turkey. RC and ACG were prominent in music and theater throughout the history of the Republic and raised countless artists. Teachers such as Hilary Sumner-Boyd, Charles MacNeal, and Dorothy İz played a major role in the birth and shaping of this tradition.



Charles MacNeal



Dorothy İz



Hilary Sumner-Boyd



An editorial board meeting from the early 1920s



The founder of the natural history museum and head of the medical department Dr. Bertram van Dyck Post and his assistant Angele Yemenihjian in 1925

Publishing has historically been an important part of the RC experience, with the students producing high quality newspapers and periodicals, learning about self-expression, healthy debate and objective reporting along the way.

Archaeology and natural history were also always prized; the archaeology museum at ACG and natural history museum at RC introduced students to examples from the rich heritage of Anatolia.

The RC Student Council, present since the early days of RC's 160-year history, enabled students to develop democratic and social sensitivities while participating in school management. Initially called the RC Student Union, it carried its activities to other schools, and by the 1930s, it had begun to collaborate with students of various schools and spread the tradition of democracy. Decades later, there would be three RC graduates present as the United Nations was established: Hazım Atif Kuyucak RC 1917 (Turkey), Nureddin Kahalle RC 1929 (Syria) and Dr. Shafaq (Iraq).

Indeed the Republic's and RC's history are intertwined. The exhibition curated by Cem Akaş RC 86 (and which showcased many of the facts highlighted above) showed just how connected they are in a comprehensive manner full of striking visuals. The materials from the exhibition can be viewed here:



RC Student Council meeting, 1925

RC's Vibrant Celebrations in 2023

The RC community celebrated the double anniversary – the 100th year of the Turkish Republic and the 160th year of Robert College – in style. Here are some of the highlights.

October 29 Republic Day Celebrations

The highlight of the Centennial celebrations were the festival and ceremony on campus on Sunday, October 29. Students and their families enjoyed visiting the Centennial exhibition and listening to musical performances by students at the Forum before heading to Konak Terrace for the ceremony.

A dedicated committee, comprising faculty and staff members spanning diverse disciplines, came together to organize the October 29 celebrations. The Communications Team skillfully coordinated the entire event under the leadership of the Turkish Director Nilhan Çetinyamaç, while the Plant Office ensured the seamless execution of every detail. On stage, the enchanting performances choreographed by the Modern Dance advisors and orchestrated by the Music Department added a touch of magic to the celebration. The Turkish Language and Literature, along with the Social Sciences Departments, invested countless hours transforming poetry into unforgettable moments. Their collective efforts resulted in a well-rounded and memorable celebration, highlighting the collaborative spirit within the Robert College community.

During the ceremony, there was also singing and dancing, which culminated in the performance of the Robert College 100th Year Anthem. Following the ceremony, students were treated to a concert by Teoman.



The October 29 ceremony was an opportunity to honor Mustafa Kemal Atatürk



Attendees were led by a band to the Konak Terrace where the ceremony took place



RC students and their families showed off their national spirit



Student musicians delighted attendees in the Forum

Robert College Centennial Gala

A special gala dinner was held at the Istanbul Modern on October 16 which raised over \$130,000 for the school through a silent auction and individual pledges.



Board Chair Erol Hakanoglu RC 74 welcomed guests to the event and acknowledged people who donated to the Centennial Scholars program



Nedim Saban RC 86, the emcee for the live auction, made it unforgettable with his warm humor



School administrators Ümran Üngün ACG 70, Adam Oliver and Nilhan Çetinyamaç expressed their gratitude to guests



RC Trustee Cemal Kafadar RC 73 was the keynote speaker



Guests enjoyed visiting the Centennial exhibition during the cocktail

Robert College would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for their support of Robert College's Centennial celebrations.

Akbank
Semahat Arsel ACG 49
Dimes
Esra Eczacıbaşı RC 07
Eker
Ali Ispahani RC 96
Ahmet Kilimci
Mavi
Robert College Parents Association
Robert College Alumni Association
Sırma Su

Annual Giving Kickoff 2023

Class agents and high honor donors met at this year's Annual Giving Kickoff event on October 18, 2023 at The Stay Hotel in Ortaköy. Board Chair Erol Hakanoglu RC 74 addressed the crowd as the keynote speaker, saying that he felt RC was in better hands now than when he was a student. Those classes who had outstanding performances during the 2022-23 Annual Campaign year were recognized for their efforts.



Class agents pose for the traditional family photo

Centennial Dinner at Rahmi Koç Museum

Faculty and staff were treated to a special dinner in honor of the Centennial by the RC Board of Trustees at Rahmi Koç Museum on October 17, 2023. The evening started with cocktails followed by dinner along with speeches by school administrators and Board Chair Erol Hakanoglu RC 74. The evening ended on a festive note with dancing.



Faculty and staff dressed up in style for the Centennial Dinner



RC students and alumni met at Anıtkabir to honor Atatürk

Anıtkabir Visit with Ankara Alumni

On October 21, alumni based in Ankara reunited with RC students and faculty for a poignant visit to Anıtkabir, culminating in a heartfelt moment as they laid a wreath at Atatürk's grave.

Following this solemn occasion, the group gathered for a warm luncheon alongside school administrators. The atmosphere was charged with emotions, as shared memories and campus updates flowed seamlessly throughout the meal. A poignant highlight was the viewing of the RC anthem, evoking tears of pride from the alumni, who were deeply impressed by the current RC students and delighted to hear about life at the institution. Rekindling connections after many years, the event proved to be an unforgettable time for attendees spanning generations, from the youngest alumni of 2020 to the venerable members of the class of RA 63.

Meet-up with Izmir Alumni

Izmir alumni came together with RC administrators for a special reception on October 24. Alumni enjoyed getting an update about RC from Head of School Adam Oliver, listening to an inspiring speech by keynote speaker Muharrem Kayhan RC 73 and meeting with each other. The reception was hosted at Kilim Hotel by Ahmet Kilimci, nephew of the late Haluk Kilimci RC 50 who was a generous supporter of RC.



Izmir alumni enjoyed gathering at a special reception. From L to R: Onur Eren RC L12 03, Melisa Korkmaz RC L12 03, Gözde Nil Okan RC 17, Kerem Nakay RC 17, Berke Karaöz RC 17 and Burcu Berent RC 96.

RCAAA Washington DC Centennial Event



As RCAAA, a diverse group of alumni spanning from the 60s to the present gathered in Washington, DC, to commemorate our school's 160th anniversary and the Centennial of the Turkish Republic. The joyous occasion brought together fifty RC alumni and friends, united by our commitment

both to our alma mater and the Turkish Republic. Celebrating our fond memories at Robert College, we featured a nostalgic video to "La Isla Bonita" and expressed our unwavering faith in the Turkish Republic in the video, "Ne Günler." We proudly displayed the commemorative logo designed by our alma mater

anchoring Robert College's longevity as a bastion of quality education bridging the Ottoman Empire to the Turkish Republic: "160 Yıllık Yolculukta, 100 Yıllık İsgimiz Cumhuriyet." We were also deeply moved by our School's "100. Yıl Marşı," renewing our commitment to the Turkish Republic.

Homecoming 2023

Alumni from eight decades enjoyed catching up with classmates and former teachers, as well as strolling around campus during Homecoming on Sunday, November 5.

This year's event was extra special as it marked the 160th anniversary of Robert College. In honor of this milestone, marathon runner Ahmet Uysal RC 90 ran 160 laps around the Plateau, and was joined by alumni and students throughout his run, which raised funds for the school. People also enjoyed the Centennial exhibition in the Suna Kiraç foyer, learning about RC's role in the development of the Republic, which also sparked many memories of school days.

Classes showed their spirit when everyone gathered together for the traditional Roll Call in Suna Kiraç Hall. The days festivities ended with the RC Singers performing the Boys' Song, Alma Mater, Robert College 100th Year Anthem.



The Class of 73, celebrating their 50th Anniversary showed their spirit at Roll Call



The Class of '73 celebrated their 50th reunion in style with a special luncheon in the Heritage Room



Members of the Class of ACG 63 enjoyed meeting up and celebrating their 60th anniversary together



The Class of '98 came together at Homecoming in honor of their 25th anniversary



The RC Singers delighted alumni by singing the Boys' Song, the Alma Mater and the RC 100th Year Anthem



Classmates from RC 15 catch up in front of Gould Hall



Ahmet Uysal RC 90 ran 160 laps around the Plateau for RC's 160th. He was joined by alumni and students during his run.



Sumru Özsoy ACG 67, Gülten Gülay ACG 70 and Emine Yeğen ACG 70 visit the Centennial exhibition before going into Roll Call

Celebrations Around Campus

RC celebrated the Centennial and its own 160th anniversary in colorful ways all around campus this year, reinforcing all the causes for celebration, by integrating them to the intellectual endeavors of the students. Here is a peek at what took place in the first semester.

Centennial Speaker Series

Throughout the year, subject area experts will speak to students about



Fuat Keyman, Director of Sabancı University's Istanbul Policy Center, was the first Centennial speaker

different aspects of the Republic. The series began with a talk on October 27 given by Fuat Keyman, Sabancı University Administrator, who spoke about Atatürk and the Centennial of the Turkish Republic. The series will continue through the spring semester.

RC's Library History and Literature Highlights

The library has always been the intellectual heart of RC, and Robert College's İbrahim Bodur Library is the latest library in RC's 160-year-history. Therefore, RC librarians felt it would be interesting to delineate the history of all library locations at RC on a timescale. Librarian Müge Ayma Kelem used *Tepedeki Okul (School on the Hill)* by Cem Akış RC 86, *Dünyanın Tam Orta Yerinde: Robert Kolej (At the Center of the World: Robert College)* by RC history teacher Önder Kaya, and RC librarian and archivist May Fincancı's *The Story of Robert College, Old and New* as the primary sources, as well as scouring the Boğaziçi University archives. She reviewed RC and ACG separately and united their histories in 1971, when the two schools merged.

The library also held an exhibition on Turkish literature, focusing on the writers who dwelled on social problems, injustices and conflicts to help develop Turkish society. Writers featured were selected based on recommendations by RC students, teachers, and librarians. Assistant Head Librarian Atakan Aydın states that the exhibition underlines how literature encourages differences in opinions, lifestyles, experiences, cultures, and questions and thus aids societal development.



Librarian Müge Ayma Kelem prepared a timeline of the history of the RC and ACG libraries

The Making of the RC 100th Year Anthem

The RC 100th year anthem caused waves among the RC community when it was first released. Everyone felt proud and uplifted. Of course it took a lot of hard work to create such an excellent piece.

It started with a contest for students to submit lyrics, which was won by Lise 12 student Baran Bilginer. Bilginer says his inspiration for the lyrics came from the 10th Year Anthem. Music teacher Koray Demirkapı, who wrote the music, states that he had a melody in mind, and Baran's lyrics gave the inspiration to continue with it. Baran and Demirkapı re-wrote the

lyrics together to suit the melody.

Demirkapı worked on the music with a friend from Koç Lisesi, Gürsel Türker, over the summer. RC Guitar Club advisor Ant Şimşek adapted it to the orchestra with some additions and beauty. RC Orchestra leader and conductor Deniz Baysal worked with the orchestra to learn and perform it. The song was performed and recorded by the RC Orchestra and RC Singers after careful rehearsals. Demirkapı underlines that the student input and effort were remarkable. The students enjoyed singing the anthem which was the best gift for Demirkapı.



You can see the RC 100th Year Anthem video and listen to the song here:

Youtube



Spotify

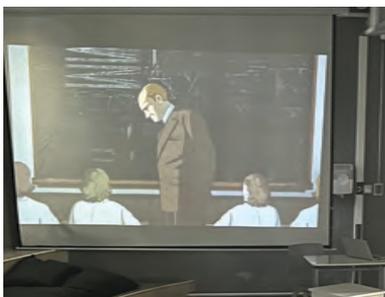


Celebration of Poetry and Theater

Working together with the Poetry Club, the English Department celebrated the poets of RC, of which there are many in RC's 160-year history. The first event kicked off with the poetry of none other than Head of School Adam Oliver. In the second semester, the RC Theater Company will perform excerpts from up to twelve plays performed over the last 100 years at RC. These include classics like Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, first performed in 1928, *Brecht's Life of Galileo* performed in 1973, Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* (1994) and *Legally Blonde, Jr.* (2017). Actors will take on a multitude of roles, and surprises are in store, including a few appearances by teachers.

Atatürk's Contributions to Math

Incredibly, Atatürk translated a French geometry book during the War of Independence. It was only fitting that the Math Department displayed a video about Atatürk's interest in math and geometry at the Commons Amphitheatre during lunch periods in the first semester. The students also prepared a display about Republic mathematicians, highlighting one mathematician every week.



Students learned about Atatürk's interest in math and geometry through videos in the Commons Amphitheatre



Brochures by students highlight different decades of the Republic

Alumni Talks on Republic Values

The Turkish Language and Literature Department wanted to introduce students to notable alumni who are keeping the Republic spirit alive today. Among these alumni are Damla Doğan Tuncel RC 07 speaking on the subject of Contemporary Women and the Republic, Nigar Alemdar ACG 66 on Aşyan and Tevfik Fikret, and Yeşim Özsoy RC 90 on theater.

Students Present Highlights of the Republic

Social Studies L12 students created brochures that reviewed each decade of the Republic in terms of events, prominent people and political, cultural and economic developments. Not only did they create the content, but they also designed their brochures and oversaw the printing process.

Celebrating Sports

The PE Department has always been proud of RC's long sports history. This year, they have been drawing the students' attention to panels in the gym stairway from RC's 150th anniversary exhibition which recognizes physical education and sport in RC's long history. Activities such as 100 skips, 100 hula hoops and 100 steps on the stepmaster were some of the thematic celebrations in PE classes.

Science in the New Republic

The Science Department is displaying Turkish scientists of the early Republic era, and science clubs are highlighting Atatürk quotes and contributions, related to the focus of each club.

Celebrating 160 Years of RC Through Graphic Design

L11 and L12 Graphic Design students, as part of their traditional intaglio printmaking techniques unit, engraved acetate sheets with dry point needles and printed them on paper. The aim for the project was to combine an image of RC with the numbers 160 or 2024 (if they were seniors). As resource images, they were free to use or be inspired by the photography archive presented on the RC website or take a photo themselves in a place that they feel represents the school the most.

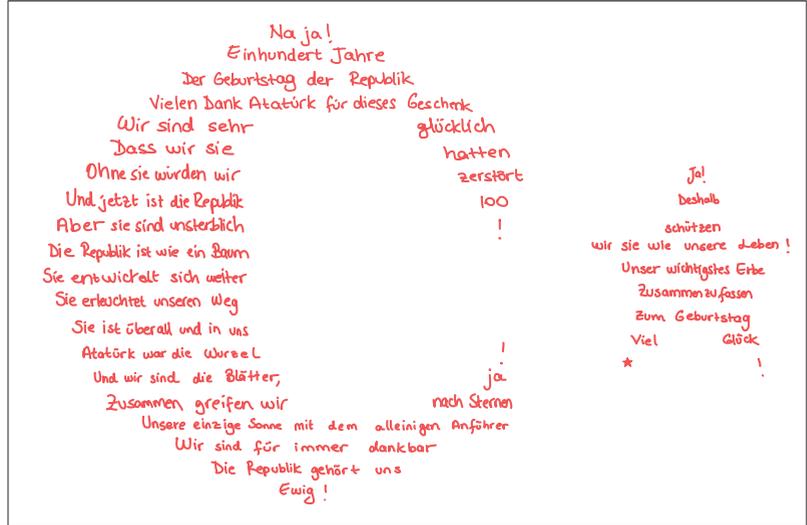


Graphic design students celebrated RC's 160th anniversary by creating engravings of scenes around campus

Creative Projects in French and German

The Foreign Language Department found creative ways for students to use their French and German skills in this historical, once in a lifetime context. French 4 students wrote imaginary letters in French by famous Turkish artists and writers who studied in France in the 1920s and 1930s. German 3 students wrote diary entries in German in which they imagined waking up on October 29, 1923, when the Republic had just been founded. German Advanced groups researched how German people contributed to the Turkish Republic, including many university professors and scientists who immigrated to Turkey during World War II.

Level 1 French and German students expressed what they loved most about Robert College through colorful drawings and short sentences, and these multi-lingual love letters were displayed as flags on the wall in the Suna Kıraç Theatre alcove. The French



Foreign Language classes marked the anniversary of the Republic with a variety of creative activities in French and German

club, *Le Circle Français*, created a map of Turkey filled with many of the Turkish words which originated from the French language. French teacher Jo Ann Vigen sums up the source of this creativity perfectly: “There is a French word “*patrimoine*” which encompasses history, heritage, and a sense of grateful belonging. Our celebrations this fall have given our

students a sense of all of that.”

Indeed gratitude is a key word in all these celebrations: Gratitude for democracy and modernity. Gratitude for the opportunity to have an excellent education and hence a chance to contribute to the greater good. Gratitude for the strength of our connections, traditions and values as the RC community.

RC Green Kids Cumhuriyet Forest Established

RC Green Kids of İstanbul is a student-led initiative that aims to raise awareness and fight deforestation in İstanbul and Turkey, while also spreading happiness to the youth by helping them be grateful for what they have. The initiative achieves this purpose by organizing campaigns and fundraisers, planting trees in and outside of school, and organizing a variety of events such as free dress days to raise awareness and funds. The idea of creating a forest started

during the previous school year as a memorial for the graduating 12th-grade students and the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic. Berra Vatansver L10, Sena Güzelsevdi L11 and Hasan Mert Özarslan L11 state that they had to postpone the fundraiser due to the earthquakes last year: “Fortunately, with the huge help of our PTA and alumni and the students of RC, we were able to collect the amount needed and reach our goal. Now we have a forest to go to and visit. We are hoping

to organize a trip in the spring to our forest with our interested seniors.”



With 1∞s of Thanks

Former RC history teacher Hafize Değer sets the historical context for the founding of the Republic once more for RCQ, as she has done myriad times in class.

The transition from governance by *fear* based on authority derived from the *heavens* to a system where order is established by *law* and the authority to govern is derived from the *people* has been challenging, in the history of humanity, as well in the history of our nation.

The problems in world trade before World War I, the economic decline in material production, and the search for raw materials made the Ottoman Empire a target of imperialism, leading to its collapse. The signing of the Armistice of Mudros, while physically delineating the borders of the *homeland* to be defended, also necessitated the establishment of a *national and fully independent* state due to the harshness of its conditions, unjust occupations, and the indifference of the Caliph Sultan to the events.

Feeling responsible for the future of the country, a young cadre, brought up in the intellectually diverse environment of the Second Constitutional Era rose to this task. They were part of the struggle that started with the idea of "fixing the State," that evolved into "saving the State," and finally reached the determination to "save the Nation." None of the liberation prescriptions had clarity in meaning and purpose, until Mustafa Kemal's results-focused slogan "Independence or Death!"

The Turkish Revolution, shaped by his genius, was, on one hand, a *rebellion* against the surrendering Sultan indifferent to the occupations and, on the other hand, a War of Liberation from both the remnants of the



Former RC history teacher Hafize Değer

outdated order and the occupation by imperialist powers. It also meant the establishment of a new state based on national sovereignty.

Due to the corruption of feudalism and the inability to go through socio-economic processes similar to Continental Europe's capitalist production relations, the Turkish Revolution lacked strong class support. The struggle that began with the support of a handful of intellectuals, artisans, and notables instilled the belief that the primary and decisive force was the *people*. Thus, the support of the people for the struggle was ensured. The call to turn the entire country into a "war front", though resisted in some places, was mostly answered, and after much sacrifice and following the military victory, the existence of the new state was confirmed by the Treaty of Lausanne.

Mustafa Kemal, by uniting the Kuva-i Milliye Societies under the spirit of Defense of Rights, established the *dominance of the people's will* over the *governance*. This governance is the *republic* itself. The fundamental principle of this structure is national sovereignty, and its main institution is the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM).

While the Republic marked the end of an era, it also fully launched the struggle to join contemporary civilization achieved through radical reforms in education, law, economy, language, writing, and culture. Indeed, the difficulties encountered in the process of secularization, gaining momentum with the abolition of the Caliphate, were overcome thanks to the rational, patient, and strategic approach of the Great Leader.

Atatürk, the founder of the Republic, bequeathed it as a *gift* to his people and as a *trust* to the Turkish Youth. As we enter the second century of the Republic, our duty is to walk with determination on the path of contemporary civilization opened by the incomparable Atatürk, with a conscious and objective connection with the past.

The article can be read in full and in Turkish here.



Women Were the Most Important Beneficiaries of the Republic

Yeşim Arat RC 74, Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Boğaziçi University, writes about the contributions of women and feminists to the Republic.

Women were, arguably, the most important beneficiaries of the Republic and its reforms. While they had sought civil and political rights in the Ottoman Empire and played their part in the War of Independence, women's extensive citizenship rights were legally recognized in the context of the Republican project of modernization. It was mostly the urban middle-class women that the Republic could reach.

With their new rights and liberties, urban middle-class women ardently endorsed the reforms and contributed to the modernization of the Republic. Reforms linked to secularism opened more space for women's agency as they removed religious restrictions on women's rights and public presence. "Women of the Republic" became leaders in many professions and helped build a secular modern Turkey. In the 1970s, women were particularly visible in law, medicine, and education and served as role models for the next generation of women.

By the 1980s, daughters of first-generation Republican women began to identify themselves as feminists. They pointed to the shortcomings of the Republican reforms as they became conscious of the inequalities in their lives. Feminists sought substantive rather than merely formal equality in the private as well as the public realm. They sought to express



Yeşim Arat RC 74

themselves more freely as women. Domestic violence in women's lives was a taboo that required public attention and eradication. The Civil Code and the Penal Code had to be amended in line with changing conceptions of gender norms.

The feminist call was democratizing. Firstly, feminists extended democratic inclusion as they participated in politics through grassroots organizations and effective campaigns. Over time, women's numbers in parliament increased, from 4.5 percent in 1934 to 20 percent in 2023, though still not enough. Secondly, the women's

movement led by feminists broadened the canopy of civil liberties for all as they succeeded in extending women's rights. A ministry for women's issues was established. Women's Studies programs in universities began to disseminate women-centered knowledge and norms. In 1998, the parliament passed an important law to prevent domestic violence against women. In 2001 the Civil Code was amended. The new Code introduced the joint ownership of property regime where property acquired during marriage had to be shared in cases of divorce. In 2004, the amended Penal Code recognized sexual crimes as crimes committed against individuals rather than public morality and increased and extended the scope of punishment for gender-based violence. Women's organizations enriched and strengthened civil society.

Feminists had initiated a women's movement that had its cleavages based on ethnicity and religion. Different groups collaborated over important issues, including domestic violence and abortion rights.

Feminists and the women they mobilize continue to resist individually or with their organizations and networks daily, whenever their rights are encroached, to protect those rights. As such, they are the most reliable defenders of the Republican reforms they criticized.

The Republic's Economic Balance Sheet Is Mixed

Professor of Economics and Economic History at Boğaziçi University, Şevket Pamuk RA 68 evaluates his field in the past century and provides a view for the second century.

The Republic has a mixed economic balance sheet. There was significant progress in many areas in both absolute and comparative terms. At the same time, serious economic problems persisted and intensified.

As Turkey's population increased almost six-fold during the last century, its economy experienced major structural changes. In the 1920s, more than 80 percent of the population lived in rural areas and worked in agriculture to earn their living. After rapid rural to urban migration that began in the 1950s, more than 80 percent of the population live in urban areas and work in industry and services today. With the support of technological changes and education, average productivity and incomes have increased more than 10-fold during the last century.

Surely, Turkey today is not a South Korea or Italy or Spain. However, with the significant exception of East Asia during the last half century, Turkey's rates of economic growth and average incomes have been higher than other developing regions of the world. The per capita incomes in Turkey as a percent of incomes in

developed countries had declined during the nineteenth century but increased from about 30 percent to about 55 percent during the last century along with urbanization and industrialization.

Economists also use human development as a leading measure for assessing long term economic development. In terms of health, life expectancy at birth which was about 35 years in the early years of the Republic now stands at more than 77 years. In terms of education, there have been large increases in literacy rates and in years of schooling of the population. Yet, Turkey's education record today lags behind countries with similar levels of income, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

The other, less bright side of the economic record is closely related to politics and the interaction between politics and the economy. We have had difficulties establishing a stable multi-party political regime since the end of World War II. Patronage and favoritism have shaped economic policies.

Participation of urban women in the labor force remains very low today.



Şevket Pamuk RA 68

Productivity growth has slowed. Our economy does a good job producing and exporting goods with standard technologies but the record is not strong in goods and services with higher technologies. For a more productive and more balanced economy, our education system needs to be repaired and developed at all levels.

We hope these problems can be addressed during the second century of the Republic.

The Role of Theatre in the Early Republican Period

With her vast expertise in theatre as an academic, writer, and critic, Dikmen Gürün ACG 61 reviews the role of theatre in the early Republican period.

It is well known that when the Republic was established, extensive work was done in terms of cultural policies. "A nation is doomed to a great disaster unless it gives importance to art," stated Mustafa Kemal Atatürk who also emphasized the value of theatre at every chance. Theatre was regarded as a step toward civilization and a branch of art that would elevate societal ideals.

The establishment of the theatre school Darülbedayi-i Osmani (Ottoman House of Beauties) by the mayor of Istanbul in 1914 was a significant step towards the formation of modern Turkish theatre. By 1915 Darülbedayi was a professional company. Muslim Turkish women were not allowed to go on stage, whereas actresses of Armenian descent were. In 1920, a young Muslim student of Darülbedayi-i Osmani named Afife defied the ban by covertly performing as "Jale" at the Apollon Theatre in Kadıköy in the play *Yamalar* by Hüseyin Suat Yalçın. She took part in a few other plays yet had to escape the police after each performance. Afife suffered the wrath of conservative rules and regulations of the era and died at an early age. In 1923, Bedi Muvahhit was the first Muslim Turkish actress to appear

on stage with the encouragement of Atatürk. She performed at Tayyare Sineması in Izmir in İbn-ür Refik Ahmet Nuri Bey's *Ceza Kanunu* and opened the path to others.

The first name we come across in connection with the goals and objectives of the modern theatre is Muhsin Ertuğrul (1892 - 1979). He took over as the head of Darülbedayi in 1927. Darülbedayi was renamed as the Istanbul Municipal Theatre in 1931. Its goals can be stated in three basic points: 1) To train artists 2) To train playwrights 3) To advance the level of appreciation by educating the public.

The training of playwrights was especially stressed in the 1930s, for writers are the primary reason why a nation's theatre will continue to exist. Meanwhile, children's theatre activities began in the Municipal Theatre in 1935. Simultaneously, the Drama and Comedy Stages were inaugurated.

The Ankara State Conservatory was established in 1940. A notable theatre personality, Carl Ebert, came from Germany and taught here until 1947. Many artists, such as Yıldız and Müşfik Kenter, received their training



Dikmen Gürün ACG 61

at the Conservatory. Ankara also saw the establishment of the State Opera and Theatre in 1949. Muhsin Ertuğrul was named as its general artistic director for some years. In 1951 he established the first private theatre company Küçük Sahne with a young team of artists in Beyoğlu.

Indeed, in the early Republican years important steps were taken to ensure that the seeds planted by Atatürk, the founder of the secular Republic of Turkey, flourished, and the paving stones of the roads leading to today were laid.

Evin Sander İlyasoğlu ACG 66 Reviews the History of Turkish Classical Music

Music critic, writer, and academic Evin İlyasoğlu recounts the impressive journey of Turkish music, with the foundation of the Republic.

Polyphonic music, developed in the West over many centuries, is alien to traditional Turkish music. Initial Turkish works in Western style were operettas consisting of harmonized local songs, some polyphonic, some monophonic.

After the founding of the Republic, music, the branch of art that has an immediate impact on the masses, took first place in Atatürk's reforms. He decreed that music should have a content arising from folklore and have a universal language. He invited the imperial military orchestra to Ankara, and it was renamed the Presidential Symphony Orchestra. The musical knowledge that had been passed on from master to apprentice gave way to formal training. Darül-Elhan (House of Melodies) established in 1917 to provide musical education, was reorganized as a conservatory. The Musiki Muallim Mektebi (Music Instructors School) established in 1924 in Ankara later became the Ankara State Conservatory. In 1926 the instructors were sent to Anatolia for thorough research into folk music, and they classified those tunes, creating a bibliography. In the same years, the Ministry of Education started to send talented students to European music centers. In 1935, the famed German composer Paul Hindemith was invited to Turkey to build up an organized musical life and



Evin İlyasoğlu ACG 66

music education. The inauguration of the Ankara State Conservatory took place on November 1, 1936, according to the curriculum prepared by Hindemith. Bela Bartok also visited Turkey to carry out ethnomusicological research.

The initial group of composers, known as the Turkish Five, were raised listening to traditional music. After studying in European cultural centers, they returned to Turkey and became the founders of modern Turkish music. They served as instructors, founders of musical institutions, experts on their

instruments and conductors, as well as composers. They were Cemal Reşit Rey, Hasan Ferit Alnar, Ulvi Cemal Erkin, Ahmed Adnan Saygun and Necil Kazım Akses. These musicians focused on synthesizing traditional and Western music. The second generation, as a reaction to the first, preferred to follow the avant-garde language of the century. In the 1950s, Bülent Arel and İlhan Usmanbaş used the 12-tone technique and serialism. Arel became an international pioneer of electronic music. Usmanbaş, utilizing aleatory, minimalism and cluster tones, became the pioneer of modern music in Turkey.

There are those who make simple folk song arrangements, utilizing maqams, aksak rhythms and modal structure, as well as those using serialism, minimalism, electronics, combining acoustics with electronics, jazz and ethnic music. At the end of the 20th century ethnomusicology, searching for original roots, became interesting for Turkish composers as well. Today's composer is an artist of the information age unlimited by trends. The new Turkish composers are dispersed through different lands creating their own style. One of them among many is Zeynep Gedizlioğlu, who lives in Germany. She keeps receiving new prizes for her works and composes with the new language of music today.

Gündüz Vassaf RA 64 Reminisces About His Mother Belkıs Vassaf ACG 28

■ The Republic gave her the security to pursue a career in psychology.

Writer and psychologist Gündüz Vassaf wrote the biography of his mother *Annem Belkıs (My Mother Belkıs, İletişim Yayınları)* because of her interesting and pioneering life story that gives readers a glimpse into the foundational years of the Republic.

“My mother’s childhood years at the collapse of the Empire were not very different from those of other minorities of the Empire who suffered dislocation. Fleeing from terror in the Balkans, she was part of a mass exodus, and by the time she arrived in Izmir on a refugee boat she was an orphan. Terror followed her. Just as she was resettled in western Anatolia, occupying armies from Greece led to intermittent expulsions, flight and fear. Her sense of security and freedom as a young woman began with the Republic.

“For her generation, the Republic instilled a sense of an extended family, in which all bonded for a common purpose highlighted by the education of women. Rather than seeking a sense of equality with men, it was an understanding of a secular citizenship in pursuit of careers for service to the community.



Belkıs Vassaf ACG 28 (second from left) with delegates of the World Federation of Woman meeting in Istanbul in 1934

In my mother’s specific case she pursued her zest to learn, beginning with Koranic school at a young age in the outskirts of the Empire in Macedonia, and culminating in her postgraduate studies at Columbia, Smith, and Harvard, before returning

to Turkey for teaching and research as a psychologist.

“Her education at ACG contributed to her life significantly. It was her sense of initiative and belief instilled at ACG that opened new perspectives.”

The First Petroleum Geologists in Turkey: Cevat Eyüp Taşman RC 1910 and Mehlika Taşman Ribnikar ACG 35

I The couple were instrumental in developing Turkey's petroleum industry.



Cevat Eyüp Taşman RC 1910 and Mehlika Taşman Ribnikar ACG 35

Cevat Eyüp Taşman was a pioneer in every sense of the word. He aimed to

create a company to process Turkey's petroleum, thereby aiding the industrial revolution in Turkey. During his education at RC, Taşman earned the appreciation of his teachers, particularly that of Tefvik Fikret. He was one of four students chosen by the government to pursue higher education in the US, studying mining engineering at Columbia University. In 1929, the Turkish government asked him to conduct a geological study to see if petroleum could be found. He advised them that mining and processing petroleum is a highly costly effort which requires that a company oversee it.

In 1933, he accepted the Turkish government's invitation to head the newly founded Petroleum Search and Management Administration and

came back to live in Turkey. Taşman and his team started searching for oil all over Turkey, until finally, in Raman, Batman, the team struck oil. It was around this time that he met Mehlika İzgi, who initially got involved with his work by translating geology reports. Her deepening interest in the field led her to study it in the US. Upon her return, she married Cevat Eyüp Taşman and went on to become the first female geologist in Turkey.

Cevat Eyüp Taşman held various positions in the government to further the development of oil drilling and processing in Turkey until his death. After Cevat Eyüp passed away, Mehlika Taşman Ribnikar established her own laboratory and continued their work.

Cem Kozlu RA 65 Remembers His Grandfather, the Republic's First Radiology Professor

I The life of Salâhattin Mehmet Erk tells the story of one of the important new institutions of the Republic.

"My grandfather was born in 1895, the year Conrad Röntgen discovered X-rays. He attended Haydarpaşa Military Medical School and served on two bloody fronts: Gallipoli and Palestine. Near Aleppo he managed to save both his wounded commander and his portable X-ray machine after a 14-hour firefight, receiving a medal for his valor. Leaving occupied Istanbul behind, he went to Vienna to specialize in radiology under a pioneer in this young field, Prof. Holzknecht.

"After Vienna he studied at several German universities and visited roentgen equipment manufacturers. In 1923, Istanbul University established the Department of Radiology. He became its first instructor. Soon after he was appointed professor



Salâhattin Mehmet Erk

and department head. In 1927 he established the first department of

radiology in the Faculty of Dentistry. At the time there were about 200 physicians in Turkey, battling diseases like tuberculosis and leprosy.

"He was among the founders of the Turkish Radiology Society. Starting with the first one in 1927, he was active in all the national medical congresses held biannually. Atatürk made available the Grand National Assembly for their use and attended many sessions.

"During long separations from my grandmother while at the battlefronts or abroad, he wrote her almost every day. These enabled me to put together the moving story of a patriot and a medical pioneer in the book *Bir Tıp Şehidi*."

Fatma Haydaroglu Alpengin ACG 42 Recalls Foundational Years

| Confidence and hope defined her time at ACG.

Some of the RC alumni witnessed the 100 years of the Republic in full and live to tell the tale. Fatma Haydaroglu Alpengin is one of them. She was a boarder and recalls both growing up in the Republic and her time at ACG fondly: “We were confident about the future and full of hope. We were very proud of our War of Independence and our Republic. We wanted for nothing, and even during World War II, we did not feel lacking.”

She also compares those early years with today: “Compared to those foundational years, a lot has progressed in terms of receiving news. Gone is mailing and sending postcards, we can now video call. In 1939 there was an earthquake in Erzincan. My parents were there, and we did not hear from them for days. ACG was understanding through this ordeal. Now there is no gender segregation at school. That normalizes communication between boys and girls. When I was a senior at ACG; the boys were at RC. A boy from RC was chosen King and chose me to be the Queen, but because I assumed my parents would be conservative about it, I rejected being Queen.”



Fatma Haydaroglu Alpengin ACG 42 (seated, right) with Miss Burns and classmates

ACG gave Alpengin a love of reading and coffee: “Our library was incredibly rich. I read all the classics there. I cultivated my love for reading at RC.

I also cultivated a taste for coffee. In our senior year, after dinner, waiters would serve us Turkish coffee at the Yellow Parlor!”

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Three Alumni Bring *Veda* to the Stage

Nedim Saban RC 86, Ayşe Kulin ACG 61 and Nevra Serezli ACG 65 worked together to stage Kulin's novel

The novel *Veda* by Ayşe Kulin ACG 61 has adapted by Nedim Saban RC 86 for the stage. Based on a true story, the play takes place in a mansion just like Kulin's great-grandfather's in Istanbul during the occupation. Saban is also directing the play, which stars Nevra Serezli ACG 65. Kulin states that when Nedim Saban approached her to stage her autobiographical novel, with Nevra Serezli as the leading performer, she knew she was in reliable hands: "I worked for more than ten years behind the camera, so I was aware that the novel would be shortened; some parts might be omitted, and some lines might be added because novels and plays speak different languages."



Nedim Saban RC 86, Ayşe Kulin ACG 61 and Nevra Serezli ACG 65

Saban perceived *Veda* to be particularly suitable thematically for the Republic's Centennial. Serezli states that she was in love with the novel already and collaborated with Saban every step of the way to bring the play to the stage. Indeed the

adaptation took more than a year. Saban underlines the importance of being "very specific about how much of the story you want to portray and what you want to tell behind the story." Saban also enthuses about his star: "Nevra and I collaborated on another play five years ago, *Trees Die Standing Tall*; thus, we trust each other. Working with an experienced star helped me to overcome my loneliness in this long process." The play has already had over 30 performances all over the country, to cheering audiences, standing ovations and great reviews. Saban observes that "every generation strongly empathizes with the characters and feels attachment to the story."

Ali Kazma RC 89's Show Features Orhan Pamuk RA 70

The films show Pamuk at work, as well as the documents and objects that are part of his writing process.



Ali Kazma RC 89

Ali Kazma's solo show, *A House of Ink*, which took place at Galleria Francesca Minini in Milan in the fall of 2023, showed the films "A House of Ink" and "Sentimental,"

both of which were shot inside Nobel Prize winner Orhan Pamuk's flat in Turkey. Kazma has long been fascinated by books and has previously collaborated with famous author Alberto Manguel in his work *House of Letters*. This exhibition may be considered a continuation of Kazma's exploration.

When Kazma visited Pamuk's residence for the first time, he knew immediately that this space would be inspiring. In "A House of Ink," he does not just film the writer working, he also records the manuscripts, paintings, watercolors, collected objects and everything else that gravitates around Pamuk. In her

epigraph on Kazma's exhibition, curator and editor Nilüfer Şaşmaz explains that most of Kazma's video work "grants entry into places we wouldn't normally access. In 'A House of Ink,' Kazma attempts to penetrate the mind of Orhan Pamuk and observe it as the site where creation occurs... through the space where the writer lives and works... We are drawn into the writer's intimacy." Kazma states that when working with Pamuk, "we were always aware of our common high school and made no big deal of that in the best RC tradition." Kazma is in talks with different art institutions in Europe and Turkey for potential exhibitions, as there is much interest in this body of work.

Elif Uras RC 90 Participates in Multiple Exhibitions

Her work is being shown in New York and Istanbul

Artist **Elif Uras** has enjoyed a busy few months. There are currently two exhibitions that include her work: *Dialogues: Modern Artists and the Ottoman Past*, at the Metropolitan Museum in New York and *Souvenirs of the Future*, at the Pera Museum in Istanbul. Uras states that the site and space of the exhibition inspire and shape the works she produces: “Sometimes the history of the site comes into play, like the show *Healing Ruins* at the Zeyrek Çinili Hamam curated by Anlam de Coster. Sometimes the institution and the curator organizing the show commission new work and allow me to create a specific installation within the parameters of the planned exhibition, like *Souvenirs of the Future* curated by Ulya Soley RC 09. Sometimes it’s a

solo exhibition so it involves creating a new body of work where each piece complements one another. Most of the time, a show has a specific theme so the organizer picks or commissions work that responds to that theme.”

Uras advises aspiring artists in the RC community to see as much contemporary and historic art as possible: “These days the art scene is more diverse than ever with many public and private galleries and artist-run spaces. They all need our support. I would also recommend visiting museums and art institutions like the Istanbul Modern, Museum of Painting and Sculpture and Arter regularly.” Uras is currently preparing for a solo show at Galerist opening September 2024.



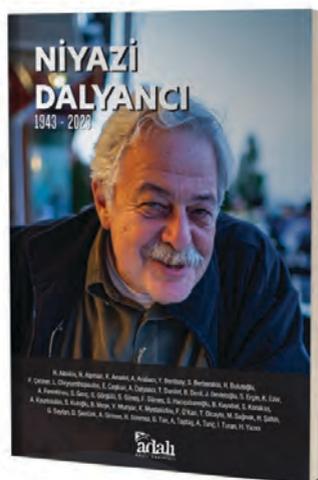
Elif Uras RC 90

Niyazi Dalyancı RA 63 Immortalized With a Book by Friends

The stories serve as lessons and recall his life.

When **Niyazi Dalyancı** passed away in March 2023 (see p. 69), his friend Mehmet Sağnak felt that his life was a lesson to future generations and led the way in forming the book *Niyazi Dalyancı 1943-2023* (Adalar Yayınları), to which Dalyancı’s friends, colleagues, students, Turkish Journalism Association President Turgay Olcayto, and fellow Robert College alumnus and journalist Sedat Ergin RC 75 contributed.

Dalyancı chose journalism as his career and was active for decades, during which he wrote, taught, won the Sedat Simavi prize and mentored countless journalists. He had a strong



appetite for learning and reading. His most impressive traits were not the depth of his knowledge or his stance in political and social matters; they were his total lack of intellectual narcissism or hubris and his absolute respect for the opinions and even ignorance of others.

Sağnak recalls that Dalyancı was kind and full of common sense, sincere and witty: “He used his perfect English not only while teaching but also in helping students in their work during his stays on his beloved Burgazada.” Another journalist Ali Sirmen called him an angel on earth. The book helps recall this impressive life.

Haluk Özenç RC 88 Celebrates the Centennial With Plays and a One-Man Stand-Up

I The TV and cinema veteran has had a very productive year.

Haluk Özenç is a veteran of TV and cinema, but of late he has turned to theater, his first love from RC. He has written three plays that cover the War of Independence, from May 19, 1919, to October 29, 1923. The trilogy is named *Yüzyıllık Destan (A Legend of 100 Years)*, and the first play *Ateş (Fire)* made its debut on October 29 in Ankara. *Savaş (War)* and *Bayrak (Flag)* will also be staged within 2023.

He also continues performing his stand-up comedy show *Gerisi Hikaye (The Rest is a Tale)*. Özenç states that the show is based on his own life: “Both I and my followers have missed



Haluk Özenç RC 88

this show. I updated it and tried to reflect the Zeitgeist in this new version. I have been writing comedy

for others since 1991. I decided to write material for myself in 2014. The show is based on my life and I do have the most out-of-the-box stories, but it has elements of everyone’s marriage, work and life struggles. I have a mission to show comedy in its purest, cleanest and most sincere form at this point in the culture where it has degenerated.”

RC is where Özenç’s journey started: “My teachers like Dorothy İz, Mehmet Uysal, Nursel Akbulut and Bilgi Haner convinced me that I belonged on the stage. I wrote and staged many plays at RC even after graduation.

Toygun Yilmazer RC 96 Facilitates Culture Next 2023

I The conference looked at five “cultural edges” and had Haldun Dormen RC 49 as a guest.



Toygun Yilmazer RC 96

In December, TBWA\ISTANBUL hosted the second edition of “Culture Next: The Cultural Edges Conference” in collaboration with Ipsos and Gazete Oksijen. Experts shared their views on the five most relevant edges for Turkey that will shape 2024, among the 41 edges that TBWA\Worldwide’s cultural

intelligence unit Backlash defines: “Work-Life Boundaries,” “Next-Gen Naturalism,” “Crisis Hacking,” “Zero Out,” and “Active Aging.”

The conference format was highly informative, with Yilmazer explaining the dynamics of each trend, and Yasemin Güreli from Ipsos, complementing these with research data. Following this in-depth look for each trend, a panel ensued, where well-known guests highlighted how the trend was playing out in their lives. Particularly delightful for the RC community, Haldun Dormen RC 49 was the guest in the “Active Aging” section. First, Yilmazer and Güreli gave some facts about the aging population in Turkey, stating that average age will

rise to 41 in 2050 from today’s average 31. They emphasized that 2040 is a critical date for Turkey, where a significant shift will be witnessed as the rate of people over 65 surpasses the young population.

Journalist-author Zeynep Miraç asked Dormen about the secrets of his long life, and Dormen replied, “Never stop. Don’t retire. My agenda is always full. I work to keep myself fit. On the other hand, I accept life as it is. I am happy. Life is a beautiful thing. Bad events close their chapters and I always move on. Because to find the meaning of life, you have to enjoy every moment. Constantly evolving... For example, have I completely fulfilled my life? No, I haven’t.”

Lale Deliveli Alp RC 98 Writes Second Book About Rights of Children

Children's rights is an evolving topic that needs attention.

Lale Deliveli Alp, a US and Turkey qualified lawyer, had always been interested in human rights. After giving birth to her kids, her focus shifted more to issues relating to children and she started to research, reading books on children and their rights and well-being. She tries to give the parents and children themselves a glimpse of their rights which is a very important and evolving topic.

Her first book, published in 2020, was for moms-to-be and new moms. In this new book, *Tüm Yönleriyle Çocuk Hakları* (*Children's Rights in All Aspects*, Ceres Yanınları) Lale covers the main terms of the rights of children

and the history behind children's rights issues. She analyzes these rights one-by-one in the areas of family, a child's bodily and psychological integrity, development, educational rights, rights of pediatric patients, child labor and alternative care and protections for children. Alp states that child labor is one of the most frequently violated children's right. Child soldiers exist, and some children are deprived of their right to an education. She tries to teach her own children that they are individuals and they are unique.

Alp credits RC for contributing to her path: "By participating in service clubs from a young age, I became aware of



Lale Deliveli Alp RC 98 with her family

ongoing social issues. In addition, RC taught me to analyze and think. It also gave me this love for books and reading. These skills evolved to writing books and hence, I have had the chance to publish two books in three years."

Zeynep Karaarslan Başaran RC 88 Writes on the Intersection of Popular Culture and Literature

Başaran's weekly articles have books at heart.

10haber.net is the latest addition to the Turkish online news arena, and RCQ editor Zeynep Karaarslan Başaran is a regular contributor, focusing on popular culture highlights and suggesting both fiction and non-fiction books for further reading on them. Başaran's writing journey started at RC's Turkish literature magazine Çağrı, and her love of literature found ample room for growth at the RC Library: "Mrs. Göksel,



Zeynep Karaarslan Başaran RC 88

Mr. Smith and Mehmet Uysal taught me so much and encouraged me in many ways, and I am delighted to be able to write about both what peaks my curiosity and about the books I love." Başaran's recent writing covered subjects such as white feminism and the Barbie movie, the Wagner army and the demise of epic heroes, the Titan implosion and its implications on privilege, and the rise of chess among youth.

Nigâr Nigâr Alemdar ACG 66 Documents Social History of Bebek in New Book

| Bebek's transformation is apparent in this close look.

Nigâr Nigâr Alemdar's book *Geçmişten Günümüze Bebek: Sosyal Tarihimizden Sayfalar (Bebek From Past to Present: Pages From Our Social History, Kırmızı Kedi Yayınları)* is about a place dear to the RC community's heart: Bebek. It took Alemdar four years to write the book, as she made a special effort to include many pictures, documents and interviews, as well as family trees of well-known families. Naturally there is also a whole lot on RC and ACG.

The book is filled with names and anecdotes, but one of them is of particular importance to RC. Alemdar writes about Professor Edwin A.

Grosvenor who taught history at RC in 1869-1890. One of his twin sons, Gilbert Grosvenor, lived his first 15 years in Bebek. Perhaps this is why when he went on to become the first full-time editor of the National Geographic magazine, he always covered the Ottoman Empire and the young Republic extensively in it.

Nigâr Nigâr Alemdar herself is a fourth generation Bebek native, and the book is a monograph of all the changes that took place in this beloved part of Istanbul. Alemdar states that she misses the care and respect people showed each other back in the day and which she no longer observes in



Nigâr Nigâr Alemdar ACG 66

the neighborhood. She also wishes that sea transportation would be used more to reach Bebek, as the incessant traffic now makes it hard to live there.

Mustafa Pultar RC ENG 60 Publishes Dictionary of Maritime Terms

| Turkish nautical terms have not been documented quite like Pultar's work.



Mustafa Pultar RC ENG 60

After receiving his PhD from Princeton University, Pultar taught for many years in Ankara as a professor of building science, first at Middle East Technical University, then Bilkent

University. Retired in 2022, he now lives in Çeşme and has been devoting his energy and time to his first love, the sea: "I was born and lived in a yalı in Bostancı, swimming, diving, sailing and fishing with my father. I have owned several boats and raced on sailing yachts. In a sense, the sea has always been my milieu."

An academic first and foremost, he has been authoring works on the subject. His latest publication is a colossal dictionary of maritime terms titled *Denizlük: Büyük Deniz Sözlüğü (Denizlük: Big Dictionary of the Sea, İş Bankası Kültür Yayınları)*. When asked what inspired this work, he states "Turkish nautical language is

a hodgepodge of beautiful terms, often of obscure etymology and has never been properly documented. It had to be done, and I spent more than twenty-five years compiling, interpreting and writing about it. *Denizlük* is the product of those long years."

Aside from numerous articles in nautical journals, Pultar previously published dictionaries of star names, marine fish names, a transcription of a major Ottoman nautical dictionary (Kamus-i Bahri), and a collection of articles on nautical language and writing, *Denizin Dili, Denizin Yazısı (Language of the Sea, Writing of the Sea, Amatör Denizcilik Federasyonu)*.

Sedat Pakay RA 64: The Lens that Chronicled James Baldwin's Istanbul Sojourns

By Miraç Süzgün RC 16 and Donald Spanel

The following is an excerpt; see the full essay here:



© Sedat Pakay. Used with permission from his estate.

Sedat Pakay RA 64 at James Baldwin's apartment while filming *From Another Place*, 1970.

In 1964, a nineteen-year-old student named Sedat Pakay read an article in a newspaper that would alter the course of his life. The article announced the forthcoming arrival of the American writer James Baldwin to Istanbul. Baldwin was already a well-known literary figure and a prominent spokesperson for the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. What captured Pakay's attention in this article, as well as another about Baldwin which he saw soon thereafter in *Look* magazine at the school library, was neither his literary fame nor his political activism. As Pakay later recalled, it was the intricate "topography" of Baldwin's face—a visage marked by

large circular eyes, anxiety-incised brow, and an infectious smile.

Pakay knew nothing of Baldwin or his work apart from what he had read in these two articles, but as a self-taught photographer with an interest in portraiture, he felt an irresistible urge to meet and photograph Baldwin. To him, Baldwin's face revealed volumes—about pain, love, struggle, and discovery. He was determined to capture his essence.

Thanks to his art-history teacher Özer Kabaş RC 57, Pakay was able to meet Baldwin in Istanbul at a party Engin Cezzar RC 55 and his wife Gülriz Sururi were hosting at their flat in Taksim.

Rolleiflex in tow, Pakay arrived and found Baldwin writing at the kitchen counter. "I'm Jimmy," Baldwin said, bemused but amused. "Who are you?" Pakay's desire to take photographs appealed to Baldwin on several levels. Since childhood he had internalized the taunts of his abusive stepfather who had called him "ugly." That Pakay found him photogenic was refreshing and redemptive. He was gratified to have such a youthful admirer, so far from the United States, and so unfamiliar with his work. Baldwin longed for appreciation as an individual, not as a celebrity. Pakay showed that deep appreciation and genuine interest.

The encounter at the party was but the beginning of a long friendship. Pakay accompanied Baldwin on many excursions around Istanbul, often serving as his tour guide. From the historic Sultanahmet district to Emirgan Park and Kilyos, these two kindred spirits embarked upon countless adventures together.

But for Pakay's photographs, this transformative period in the life of one of America's preeminent writers would remain obscure. Though Baldwin cherished his time in Istanbul, written records of his experiences are sparse, in marked contrast to his time in Paris. Yet, Pakay's snapshots provide more than a visual record of the writer's life in the 1960s; they unveil the essence of his humanity. Baldwin's daily routine of writing,



© Sedat Pakay. Used with permission from his estate.

Baldwin reaching out to an infant offered by its mother

exploration, and socializing in Istanbul emerges as simple yet cheerful. As one analyzes these photographs, a sense of wonder blossoms—not only at Baldwin’s welcome in Istanbul but also at the depths and breadth of his human connections.

Baldwin could frequent a café or teahouse without harassment, stroll through the long and narrow streets of Taksim greeted by strangers, and even find himself in a moment where a young mother offered her child as if seeking his benediction.

For Baldwin, these experiences were profound, affirming his belief in the transformative power of travel and the profound impact it can have on one’s perspective. As Baldwin considered himself a witness to his era, Pakay was witness to him in that role, capturing the moments that would shape the writer’s creative output during his sojourn in Istanbul. Through Pakay’s lens, the

focus shifted from James Baldwin, the celebrated writer, to *Jimmy*—revealing the humanity that binds us all, regardless of fame or fortune.

Their friendship culminated in Pakay’s short documentary *James Baldwin: From Another Place*; this work was responsible for the recognition Pakay enjoyed during his lifetime. Voiced entirely by Baldwin, the documentary artfully captures a recurring theme in Baldwin’s life: the imperative to distance himself from America to gain a clearer perspective about both his country and his own self.

The Baldwin photographs were only one of Pakay’s portfolios, however. His copious photographs of Istanbul’s marginalized communities caught the attention of John Freely, the famous American teacher who taught at RC and later at Boğaziçi University. Though he had a long and distinguished career teaching mathematics, physics, and

other sciences, his great interests were Turkish history and culture. He considered himself a successor to the Ottoman traveler Evliya Çelebi, who is renowned for his travel narrative, *Seyahatname (The Book of Travels)*. Freely wished to not only rediscover the places Evliya had explored but also find their contemporary counterparts.

Upon seeing Pakay’s extensive street photography, mostly taken in the lesser-known corners of Istanbul’s Fatih district, Freely invited Pakay to be his collaborator in his book about Istanbul. Their book, *Stamboul Sketches* appeared in 1974, albeit in a limited local edition. It fell into obscurity but was republished forty years later in London, with a new afterword by John Freely’s eldest daughter, Maureen Freely ACG 71.

Pakay originally planned to study engineering at RC. With the encouragement of Kabaş, he gradually shifted his focus to the arts and photography. As a loyal alumnus, Kabaş believed Pakay should apply to Yale’s prestigious MFA program. In 1964, Pakay was accepted, with the stipulation he defer his enrollment until 1966 due to his young age.

Pakay left RC in 1966 without graduating. His Yale portfolio included his street photographs, which eventually landed on the desk of the famous photographer Walker Evans, who had been appointed professor in 1965. Like Pakay, Evans appreciated the everyday vernacular. Evans developed an esteem for Pakay’s abilities that he rarely bestowed on his other students.

As Pakay slowly shifted to documentary filmmaking, he returned the favor to Evans by making two documentaries about him. Made in 1969, the first, *Walker Evans: His Time, His Presence*,



© Sedat Pakay. Used with permission from his estate.

Sedat Pakay RA 64 at Robert Academy

His Silence, went almost nowhere, but the second, *Walker Evans/America*, produced long after Evans's death in 1975, was eventually broadcast by the PBS in 2000.

After Yale, Pakay remained in the United States. His next project centered on the artist and educator Josef Albers, who had previously chaired Yale's Arts Department and was Kabaş's mentor. Pakay proposed a documentary about Josef and his wife, Anni Albers, a textile artist and printmaker. *Josef and Anni Albers: Art Is Everywhere* was broadcast by PBS in 2006.

Pakay also photographed numerous other luminaries, among them Andy Warhol, Doris Lessing, Mark Rothko, and Ronald Reagan. He ventured into commercial filmmaking as consultant to Malcolm X in collaboration with screenwriter and producer Arnold Perl. His photographs are in The Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan; the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC; the Getty Museum in Los Angeles; and Istanbul Modern, among others. Yet, Pakay's extensive archive still requires a home that will provide conservation and cataloging.



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Crowd of Romani boys

For a selection of the Baldwin photographs please visit sedatpakay.com.

ACG 63 Celebrates 60th Year Glowing With Joy



For their themed New Year's luncheons, ACG 63 classmates dressed in red one year

It is truly a miracle that intimate friendships could last for as long as sixty years.

After reconnecting in Basel some years ago and spending a week together at Mehves Arel Geyer's lovely hotel, we realized how much we'd missed each other's company and wouldn't it be wonderful if we could connect more often? With Seres' extraordinary planning, the Class of '63, began meeting frequently at various venues, celebrating special occasions and taking unforgettable trips to both international destinations (Ireland, Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia, Switzerland and Alsace) as well as exploring the treasures of our own country. Inevitably, this would lead to nurturing our relationship even more.

Six years ago we started a new way of welcoming the New Year all together

at Bizim Tepe by choosing a common sartorial theme. The first year sparkled with brightly colored clothes and the most glamorous costume was awarded with a crown designed by our talented friend Ful Korman Duran. The following years we came up with different fashion trends and put more energy into preparing our costumes,

not forgetting our '77 legacy. The second year we chose black and white. Third year red! Fourth year polka dot! Fifth, flowers. And most recently, on our 60th year, we all dressed in purple. There were thirty-five of us, all who featured purple scarves, courtesy of Zeynep Özketen Bars. Fatoş Berkay Oktav took memorable pictures that bring joy to our youngsters. We planned our New Year parties at Bizim Tepe organized by Ayşe Onat and won the acknowledgment of other guests, especially the young.

Our friends from Europe and different parts of our country joined us for most of our activities. With such spirit, we celebrated Homecoming during our 60th year. We glowed so much with joy that even the headmaster commented on our exuberant presence. College spirit, increasing every year, surrounds us, and this close sisterhood makes our days glow with love.

*Contributed by Alev Aksoy Croutier
ACG 63 and Seres Başak Ener ACG 63*



For this year's luncheon in honor of their 60th the class dressed in purple

RC 73 Comes Together for Their 50th Reunion: Still Kicking, Still Dreaming



The Class of '73 pose for the traditional photo on the Gould Hall steps

The Class of '73 gathered on June 9, 2023, to celebrate 50 years since their graduation from RC. Close to 100 people attended including classmates who came from as far away as the US, Canada, the UK and France.

The festivities started with a very jubilant gathering in front of Marble Hall for cocktails and a class photo. The group then proceeded to Bizim Tepe where the celebrations continued including photos, music, dancing and animated conversations

spanning 50 years of friendship. Highlights of the evening included a class film prepared by Rezan Benatar based on old classroom and campus photos from the 1970s and set to music of the period, a slideshow in remembrance of their dearly departed classmates put together by Rezan Benatar and Kemal Oflazer, and brief musical performances by classmates, including Hasan Teoman who sang his beloved piece "Papatya" and Mim Kemal Öke who played the djembe. Attendees also received

gifts to remember the evening by, including a polo shirt with a special 50th anniversary logo designed by Şevket Günter and generously offered by a class member, a copy of Yasemin Alptekin's book *Dehliz* about a neuro-divergent child, and a Robert College car sticker.

After more than 50 years of friendship and shared memories, the reunion concluded with promises to get together again on a more frequent basis.



Classmates from near and far enjoyed meeting on campus again



Nevzat Fresko, Rezan Benatar, Faika Kalafat, Melike Kalpakoglu and Kemal Oflazar worked behind the scenes as the reunion committee to make the event a success

RC 83 Celebrates XL Reunion



RC 83 reunited on campus with surprise guest, teacher Philip Esposito

On September 17, 2023, RC 83 celebrated their 40th reunion at Bizim Tepe. The meticulous preparation for the festivities took almost a year and saw the class exchange 1632 WhatsApp messages between them to iron out the details. Just when we were wondering how they would beat their own 2018 performance when they arranged a wonderful Bosphorus cruise for our 35th, our indomitable reunion executive committee of Emine, Esra, Pınar and Serra once again put together a truly unforgettable evening for us. Gökçen claims he also assisted them but this has not been officially confirmed and investigations continue.

The evening started at the Gould Hall steps and turnout was impressive, with 72 of us attending, including some of our dear friends living in the US, Canada, UK, France and Israel and even Izmir! The surprise of the evening was when Mr. Philip Esposito - *aka Espo* - showed up and spent the

rest of the evening with us. After the customary class photo, we started our slow march to Bizim Tepe and on the way treated each other to some RC buildings trivia ("Which one was Sage Hall again?") and of course paid our respects to the most sacred facility of all, the Yuva.

Once at Bizim Tepe the evening started in earnest as we mingled with each



Nurdan Seferoğlu and Süleyman Ertem showing their moves

other over cocktails and nibbles before sitting down to dinner. When you have our creative duo İpek B and Serra at it, the quality of the *barkovizyon* show is never in doubt and we were treated to a slide show of priceless photographs from our days at our beloved school more than four decades ago.

After dinner we were ready for the best part of the evening as one of Istanbul's best-known DJs put on his music for us. The dance floor was never less than packed and we were proud of our collective stamina with Dalya, Kamer and Enis leading the charge showing their grooves.

As this most enjoyable evening came to a close after midnight we all picked up our party bags only to find in them a beautiful mug (designed by our own David) as memento for the evening. The question we were asking each other as we were leaving Bizim Tepe was the same as at every RC 83 reunion: why don't we do this every year?

Contributed by Miray Müminoğlu
RC 83



Festivities continued late into the night at Bizim Tepe. From L to R: Enis Pendar, Emine Umur Çobanoğlu, Kamer Alyanak, Berna Ateşer, Esra Alpaytaç Orhon, Pınar Boncuk Dayanıklı, Miray Müminoğlu

20th Reunion Celebrations for the First New Lise Class



The Class of L12 03 enjoyed meeting up again on campus with their families

RC L12 03, the very first “new lise,” celebrated its 20th Reunion on July 20, 2023, with a day that will forever be etched in our hearts. The joy of seeing each other after decades apart was palpable, as laughter and warm embraces filled the air. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly when we all gathered at the iconic Gould Hall steps for a group photo, capturing the momentous occasion for posterity.

Following the photo session, we ventured to the picturesque Plateau, where an array of delectable treats awaited us. A pizza stand, an ice cream stand, and a coffee stand ensured our taste buds were delighted. For the little ones, a playground added an extra layer of merriment, making

it feel like a festival. As we sat on comfortable pillows, relishing our food and drinks, the beauty of the Bosphorus served as a breathtaking backdrop for our conversations and reminiscences. It was a day

unlike any other, a day of laughter, shared memories, and a rekindling of old friendships. It’s a memory we’ll cherish forever, a testament to the enduring bonds forged in the past and celebrated in the present.



There was a festival-like atmosphere as the class enjoyed games, snacks and conversation on the Plateau



The reunion committee came together to make it a memorable event for everyone. From L to R: Onur Eren, Özlem Turgay Oğuzhan, Sena Işın, Melisa Korkmaz, Cem Oğuzhan and Eray Bal.

Kemal Noyan RA 61 Has Exhibition Based on Kafka's Lifetime Works

■ Noyan had participated in an adaptation of Kafka's *Trial* while at RA.



Kemal Noyan RA 61 with his grandson in front of one of his works

Kafkaesque - the very word evokes tortuous bureaucracy, crushing self-doubt and an almost inadequacy in the face of higher powers. Turned into a book after Can Alkor's text and recently exhibited at 44A Art Gallery and Juno, Kemal Noyan's work *Yasa Önünde (Before the Law)* is truly a cross-section of art and literature: It is based on Kafka's lifetime work, *The Trial*, *Metamorphosis*, *Penal Colony*, and *The Castle* among others.

In his RC days, Noyan had participated in a dramatic adaptation by A. Gide and J. L. Barrault of Kafka's *Trial*, staged as a play in the Social Hall auditorium in 1964. *The Trial* tells the story of Josef K. who is arrested and executed, even though he does not know what he is accused of. The artwork explores the concept of justice, the highly subjective nature of right and wrong and ethics as a construct in relation to what's happening in the world today.

RC 83 Mini Reunion in Texas

■ The occasion was the game of the Turkish Women's Volleyball Team

RC 83 classmates Kamer Alyanakyian, Irfan Ovacik, and Arzu Çalış had a mini-40th Reunion in Texas to cheer on the Turkish Women's Volleyball Team. Kamer quickly became the team mascot rallying the stands to encourage our team on, away from home court. The Turkish women won against the US - the country that invented the game - and China to



RC 83 classmates Kamer Alyanakyian, Arzu Çalış and Irfan Ovacik

become champions of the 2023 FIVB Women's Volleyball Nations League.

The trio couldn't help but reminiscence about their days as student-athletes at RC: Arzu played volleyball for RC and the National Team, and later in California on a full scholarship; Irfan and Kamer played basketball and competed in track and field.

Başak Çetiner Baksu RC 88 Launches London-Based Health Consultancy

■ Patients from around the world will have access to Turkish medical professionals.



Professor of gynecology Başak Baksu has had a long career working in both government and private hospitals. She has also been an ardent educator in increasing the quality of service in reproductive health. Baksu launched Med Expert Clinic with her spouse Prof. Dr. Alparslan Baksu. The health consultancy aims to connect patients from around the world to the most experienced Turkish medical experts, adhering to the highest medical and ethical standards.

One of Baksu's passions outside of medicine is the Özgen Berkol Doğan RC 98 Science Fiction Library and Culture Center. As a board member, she works hard to make sure the center grows and is embraced by the RC community, with ambitions to broaden its reach to the wider world. Baksu credits RC for teaching her self-actualization and the importance of specialization while not losing sight of the broader point of view.

Ayşe Odman Boztosun RC 90 Enlightens Public About the Constitution

▮ A better understanding of the law is beneficial for all.

Akdeniz University law professor Ayşe Odman Boztosun continues her efforts to bring constitutional literacy to people of all ages. Her book, *Anayasa Candır* (*The Constitution is Dear*; On İki Levha Yayınları – see RCQ 56, p. 51), which was inspired by her first year law students' questions on the meaning of law and the role of the state, is now in its sixth printing. She educates people



about various aspects of law through a variety of activities, including conducting workshops and projects with high school students and recent appearances on the Law and Life program on TRT 1 Radio where she covered concepts such as “Constitution,” “State” and “Freedoms and Rights” over 10 shows. The book has been translated to English and is available as an e-book on Amazon.

Zafer Tipigil RC 95 Appointed CEO of EssenceMediacom Türkiye

▮ The role is at the center of a dynamic, exciting, and increasingly technological field.

Having worked in marketing, communications, media and entertainment sectors for 25 years, Tipigil will focus on establishing the vision of the EssenceMediacom network for and with its people and clients in his new role. EssenceMediacom is the leading media agency in Turkey. Tipigil has this advice for young alumni: “I chose marketing instead of media, and it was because I grew an interest in people and human and consumer

behavior. I would recommend the fields of marketing, advertising and media as a career because they are very dynamic and exciting to work in, but also because they evolve with advancements in technology, so you constantly need to be curious and continue educating yourself. You can start your career anywhere, but some background thinking on what changes in the way we live our lives, but also what does not change about it will trigger some ideas.”



Zeynep Özler RC 98 Appointed as Yıldız Holding Corporate Communications Director

▮ Özler’s focus will be on transformative leadership.

Having worked in executive roles at Turkey’s leading organizations for many years, Özler now leads the devising and execution of corporate communications strategies at Yıldız Holding and its companies.

In addition to her professional life, Özler writes columns on social entrepreneurship, sustainability, and art on the industry’s leading platforms and prepares radio shows: “I owe so much to RC for bringing art education



and passion for art into my life. I have never been talented at making art but RC has taught me it is still possible to enjoy and understand art, and has made it one of pleasures of life.” Özler is also focused on transformative leadership: “We are in need of ethical and inclusive leadership, that takes into account the needs of all and seek out solutions for the common good leaving no one behind based on solidarity.”

Four RC Grads Found Digital Mobile Operator

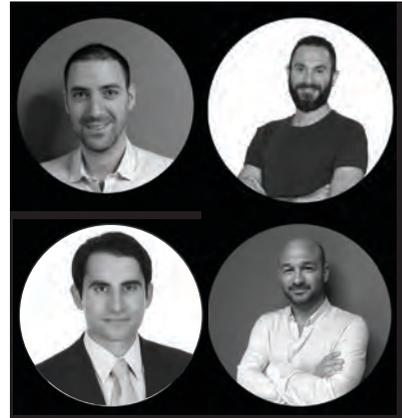
Roamless is an all-in-one solution for travelers.

Ali Gazioglu RC 01, Asim Alp RC 99, Emre Demirel RC 01 and Selim Aykut RC 01, have come together to launch the digital mobile operator Roamless. After successfully building a telecom software business for over a decade, Ali and Asim joined forces with Emre and Selim, who have extensive careers in the finance and consumer spaces.

Roamless eliminates the struggle of managing local SIM cards and exorbitant roaming charges while traveling. The start-up introduces a single, global eSIM that seamlessly operates across over 61 destinations.

Its recent expansion into international calls provides an all-in-one solution for globetrotters. No longer restricted to unsafe Wi-Fi networks, travelers can now enjoy cost-effective and dependable connectivity with the flick of a switch.

Ali says, "Working together with fellow RC graduates is great. Having practically grown up together, we can get things done effectively and efficiently. There's a core foundation of understanding and trust forged over some 30-odd years. And that is priceless when you're building something together."



Clockwise from top left: Ali Gazioglu RC 01, Selim Aykut RC 01, Asim Alp RC 99 and Emre Demirel RC 01

Inalcan Güleç RC L12 03 Mentors Startups

Mentorships are particularly valuable for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Inalcan Güleç is a senior investment associate with Eksim Ventures, an Istanbul-based corporate venture capital fund investing in startups and scaleups. Prior to joining Eksim Ventures, Inalcan held a variety of commercial roles such as sales management, marketing, business development in different industries, including hospitality, automotive, telco and B2B software.

After graduating from Robert College, Inalcan received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Boğaziçi University. An EMCC-certified mentor,



he's also passionate about mentoring young people and entrepreneurs. Some of his mentee startups include EXAR (an AR/VR startup developing corporate solutions), Parabol (an EIT-accredited scaleup developing smart-mobility solutions) and Heliosteam (a clean energy startup developing solar fields that capture and condense sunlight to produce steam, which can be used for various industries). Inalcan is also an equality task force member of the Istanbul chapter of BPW, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, aiming to promote and empower women worldwide.

Onur Eren RC L12 03 Runs for Education of Girls in Cappadocia

Sixty-nine children benefitted from Eren's efforts.

Onur Eren ran 63 km. in the Salomon Cappadocia Ultra Trail run in support of UNICEF's Girl Leaders of the Future campaign. Girl Leaders of the Future training is a 6-week program consisting of structured activities that aim to increase the knowledge and life skills of girls.

Eren says Cappadocia was a particularly interesting course: "Going into valleys, running through unique geological formations, through tunnels then to climb high plateaus, on edges of cliffs



Onur Eren RC L12 03 (center) with his family after the run

that open to breath taking views is a true gift, that lighten up the feet." His reasons for choosing this cause were: "Personal gratitude for my education and a desire to help others reach their potential, belief in education's power to unite communities and create impact, and trust in UNICEF's established reputation for making a real difference."

Happily, the participation of 69 children in this education program was made possible through this run.

Dünya Önen RC L3 03 Ties the Knot

Excerpt from the Bosphorus Chronicle article by Oğuz Kurt L12 and Elif Çakmanus L11



RC teachers Pierre Ringwald and Dünya Önen RC 02

RC teachers Dünya Önen RC L3 03 (biology) and Pierre Ringwald (English), were married on August 5, 2023, at a warm wedding ceremony where friends, family, and students attended. The couple met when The Bosphorus Chronicle was in search of a new co-advisor and Ms. Önen expressed an interest in the position. Mr. Ringwald recalls that “without fail, every single person was singing Ms. Önen’s praises.” They did not anticipate the extent of the support they received

from their students. For instance, students designed a wonderful wedding invitation. Furthermore, approximately 20 students attended the ceremony. A group of Önen’s Biology 1 students brought a bouquet of flowers. Önen says that these special moments made her feel so “affirm[ed] in many ways – life choices, not just the life choice of a life partner, but being a teacher and having students who are so generous with their time and talent.”

Püren Özcan Bosgra RC L12 03: Walking Down the Aisle

Püren and Remco made a vow to love and respect one another in June 2022 in Amsterdam’s Basilica of Saint Nicholas. It was made even more memorable by their close friends who joined them from across the world to celebrate. They both work in high management positions for prestigious global corporations and enjoy spending time together, especially when it comes to gastronomy, as seen by the wedding pictures that were taken at their preferred Chinese supermarket in Chinatown, Amsterdam.



Püren and Remco in one of their favorite shops

Melda Sezen-Edmonds RC 08 Receives Engineering Award

Her contributions to pharmaceutical process development were recognized.

Melda Sezen-Edmonds received the Early Career Impact Award from the Pharmaceutical Discovery, Development and Manufacturing division of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. This award recognizes Melda’s contributions to pharmaceutical process development. Melda is currently a Principal Scientist at Bristol Myers Squibb, working on finding innovative ways to develop



Melda Sezen-Edmonds (center) receives the award from Chris Marton (left) and Jean Tom (right)

and scale up pharmaceutical small molecules in a safe, efficient, robust, and sustainable manner. After graduating from RC, she studied chemical engineering at Koç University and then completed her PhD studies at Princeton University. She is living in New Jersey, USA with her husband Merrill Edmonds RC 08 and 1.5-year old daughter Zoe.

Önder Aksoy Publishes Comparative Book on Love

Eastern Sufis and Western psychologists have interesting similarities and differences.

RC religion teacher Önder Aksoy's book *Sevginin Yedi Rengi, Doğulu Sûfîler ile Batılı Psikologların Sevgi Fenomenine Üzerine Bir Karşılaştırma Denemesi* (*The Seven Colors of Love, a Comparison of Eastern Sufis and Western Psychologists About the Phenomenon of Love*, Çınaraltı Yayıncılık) is out. The book aims to help people understand their own emotional worlds, discover their emotional connections and develop a deeper awareness. Aksoy believes digitalization is weakening interpersonal relationships. What drove him to write the book was his observation that virtual communication is driving people away from nature and love.

Aksoy came across interesting differences and similarities in his study: "Western thinkers seem to focus on natural love inherent to human nature. Eastern thinkers take it a step further and also dwell on spiritual love. Both Sufis and saints underline enduring love, spiritual love that takes effort to learn. In this kind of love, a person transcends herself through meaning. Indeed, many of the claims of Sufis correlate with modern psychology."

Aksoy hopes his former students find many aspects that relate to their own lives in the book and derive some life principles from it.

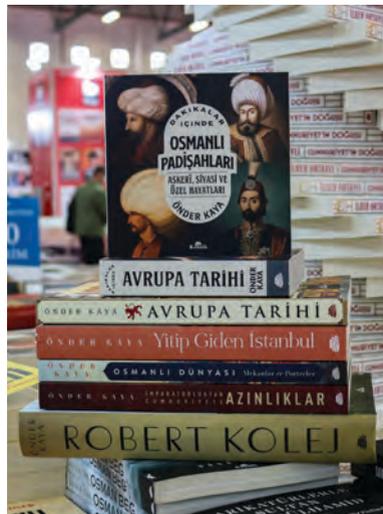


Önder Kaya Gives a Concise Look into Ottoman Sultans

The book is part of the series *Dakikalar İçinde* (In Minutes)

History teacher Önder Kaya has contributed a new book to the book series *Dakikalar İçinde* (In Minutes, Kronik Yayınları). The series lays out each subject matter in 200 articles, comprised of 140 words each. Kaya's first book in the series was *Dakikalar İçinde Avrupa Tarihi* (*European History in Minutes*), and the latest addition is *Dakikalar İçinde Osmanlı Padişahları* (*Ottoman Sultans in Minutes*).

Kaya was introduced to the series through *Dakikalar İçinde Mitoloji* (*Mythology in Minutes*). At first, he was dubious about the series' concept of conciseness. He was surprised to discover many things he



had not known in Korean, Indian, and Japanese mythologies, even in that concise concept. When he started his own book on European history, he discovered how little he knew about Polish, Irish and Norwegian histories. Therefore, he took great pleasure in writing his books. His latest book on the sultans includes many interesting anecdotes, and Kaya has scoured both first-hand and second-hand resources to complete it.

Kaya's next book in the series will be on the Middle East. He is also working on a book about the Ayyubids, a subject that was the focus of Kaya's graduate work and his area of expertise.

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*RC Class of '87



Robert College Community Members in the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery

By Önder Kaya, Robert College History Teacher

The Feriköy Protestant Cemetery is the resting place for many well-known members of the RC and ACG community.

The history of the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery goes back to the middle of the 19th century. The American section is the place of rest of many teachers and administrators from Robert College, along with their families, including members of the families of Robert College founder Cyrus Hamlin, Robert College's second Head George Washburn, and Albert Long, who played an important role in the establishment of the school. Here are some of the other people who rest there.

Harold Scott

Harold Scott started teaching at Robert College in 1911 and served until his death in 1958. He first taught history classes and later worked as an administrator. His wife Eveline, buried next to him, was born in Istanbul. After graduating from ACG in 1909, she studied at Cambridge University and after her return to Istanbul, started teaching at ACG as well as Robert College. She married Harold Scott in 1920. Scott served as school President for about a year, then was replaced by Dr. Floyd Black. He continued to work at the school after the death of his son David, who died in World War II. Scott passed away in Istanbul in 1958; he is the first and only Robert College principal who was laid to rest in Istanbul.



Harold Scott



Hilary Sumner-Boyd

Hilary Sumner-Boyd

Hilary Sumner Boyd, who prepared *Strolling Through Istanbul* - one of Istanbul's most important tourist guidebooks - together with John Freely, was an English literature teacher at Robert College. Boyd was also highly specialized in theatre. He played an important role in the training of Engin Cezzar, one of Turkey's leading actors. Boyd was a very good teacher who left a special place in the hearts of his students. This versatile man of culture passed away in Istanbul and was buried in this city, which he loved very much, in 1976. He had been a professor at Robert College for 35 years when he died.

John Freely

John Freely is one of the names identified with Robert College. The most comprehensive history of the College was written by him. From 1960 to 1976, he worked as a physics lecturer at Robert College and then at Boğaziçi University. During this time, he traveled around Istanbul and wrote an Istanbul guidebook with Hilary Sumner Boyd. He left Istanbul in 1976 and returned to Boğaziçi University in 1993. Freely wrote nearly 50 books. His wife, Dolores Freely, said that he



John Freely

could write five books at once. Freely died in 2017, at the age of 91. His ashes are buried in the Feriköy Protestant cemetery. He shares the same grave with his wife Dolores Freely, who passed away in 2015.

Traugott Fuchs

Fuchs came to Istanbul from Germany in 1934 following Leo Spitzer, his teacher at the University of Cologne, who was expelled from the university for being Jewish. Spitzer went to America in 1936 and persistently invited Fuchs to come with him. However, Fuchs remained in Turkey. When asked why, he simply said, "I like it here." From 1943, he lectured on the language and literature of German and French at Robert College. In the same years, he attended painting courses at the Academy of Fine Arts. As a German citizen, he was interned for 18 months in Çorum in 1944. He drew many pictures during his days there, which he exhibited in 1955 at the Beyoğlu City Gallery. Fuchs stayed in Istanbul until his death in 1997.

Graves of Hamlin's Family in Feriköy Restored

At the end of 2023, a project was undertaken to repair and preserve the graves of members of Cyrus Hamlin's family who rest in Feriköy Protestant Cemetery. A memorial ceremony took place on December 15, 2023, to mark the restoration and to unveil a new plaque listing the members of the RC and ACG community known to rest at the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery.

The damaged state of the graves was initially brought to the school's attention by RC history teacher Önder Kaya, who during the ceremony said, "I was especially saddened to see that some of the stones belonging to the Hamlin family were ruined and broken. The graves here contained the most valuable mementos left to us from the founder of the school, Cyrus Hamlin."

The Hamlin graves, dating from the mid 1800s to the early 1900s, have been carefully restored and protected through a grant from the US Mission to Türkiye, with the project being overseen by the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT), a member of the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery Initiative.

The graves belong to Henrietta Hamlin, Cyrus Hamlin's first wife who travelled with him to Turkey from the US in 1838; three of their daughters - Mary, Susan and Abbie; and Cyrus Hamlin's second wife, Harriet Hamlin.

Over the years, Robert College has honored the community members who are buried in Feriköy on Memorial Day. In 2003, former RC Headmaster John Chalfant oversaw

IN MEMORIAM
Members of the Robert College and American College
for Girls Family Known to Rest in Feriköy

✝

R.I.P.

Allen, William	• d. 1952	Hamlin, Susan	• d. 1859
Anderson, Abigail F. Hamlin	• d. 1919	Hayman, Fred	• d. 1951
Ashover, Dorothy	• d. 1988	Hoffman, Verda	• d. 1962
Avery, Gordon Robert	• d. 1979	Kreider, Ethel	• d. 1989
Azarian, Vahram	• d. 1995	Kreider, Herman H.	• d. 1967
Barrum, Harry H.	• d. 1939	Lamb, Margaret	• d. 1932
Barrum, Helen Bandle	• d. 1914	Lane, Herbert	• d. 1976
Classon, Ingrid	• d. 2022	Lane, Sophie	• d. 1976
Darfee, Charles Harold	• d. 1895	Long, Clara	• d. 1868
Finger, Lee Arlon	• d. 1971	Long, Nellie	• d. 1879
Fresly, Dolores	• d. 2015	Manning, George	• d. 1914
Fresly, John	• d. 2017	Manning, Alice	• d. 1947
Fuchs, Traugott	• d. 1997	Ormiston, Susan	• d. 1918
Gradin, Pavel	• d. 1966	Ormiston, William	• d. 1918
Garwood, Ann	• d. 1987	Parrish, Daniel	• d. 1996
Garwood, Armine	• d. 2020	Post, Caroline	• d. 1934
Garwood, David	• d. 1975	Biggs, Charles Trowbridge	• d. 1953
Greenwood, Joanne	• d. 2009	Scott, Eveline	• d. 1977
Greenwood, Keith Maurice	• d. 1971	Scott, Harold	• d. 1958
Grosvenor, Harriet	• d. 1890	Summer-Boyd, Hilary	• d. 1976
Hamlin, Harriet	• d. 1857	Walker, Winifred	• d. 1921
Hamlin, Henrietta	• d. 1850	Washburn, Henry	• d. 1865
Hamlin, Mary	• d. 1852	Williams, Maynard Owen	• d. 1963





This plaque was funded by a grant from the U.S. Mission to Turkey.

A plaque listing members of the RC and ACG community members known to rest in the cemetery was updated and renewed as part of the project

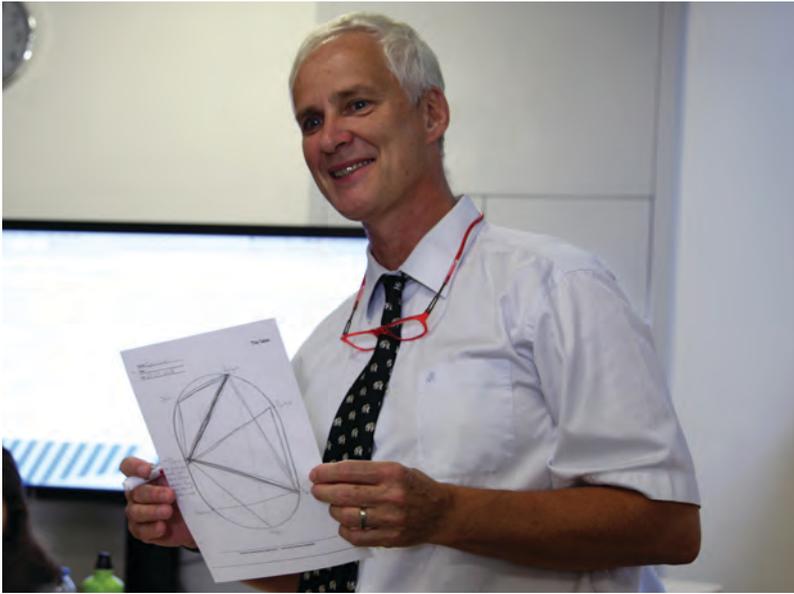
the creation of a plaque listing the names of the RC and ACG community members known to be buried there.

More details about the cemetery and restoration can be seen here.



Flowers and a wreath were placed on the graves of Cyrus Hamlin's family members in Feriköy during the ceremony

Cyrus Carter: A Giant and a Gentleman



Mr. Carter meant a lot to each of us as a friend, colleague, mentor, and teacher, but it was his colorful and significant tie choices that delighted Robert College daily. A select few of us were dedicated with cabalistic fervor in deciphering the code: one day, a Leonardo Da Vinci Vitruvian Man tie might be worn for an ASL class, or a currency print tie for a Business Society club session, Bugs Bunny for Children's Day, Turkish flags to commemorate a national holiday, or the Arc of Triumph to celebrate a historical milestone. Life for Cyrus held a deep sense of meaning, and he celebrated that sartorially, intellectually, and personally.

Many great personalities and intellects have passed through the halls of Robert College, and each has contributed to the genetic make-up of our beloved school. A giant

to be added to that roster, is Cyrus Norwood Carter. Joining us in 2006, Cyrus had already established himself as a visionary leader of education in Turkey. He taught English starting in 1990 at Üsküdar American Academy eventually serving as Administrative Dean and Middle School leader. In 1997, he co-created and chaired the still running Autumn Teachers' Conference. He was the foundational principal of the then new MEF International School in 1999. Koç School would be his next posting in 2001 with varied roles ranging from coordinator, English Department Chair, and Provost. We were fortunate to be chosen as his final school where his legacy and impact could be best remembered and honored.

Cyrus Carter passed away on December 4, 2023. The outpouring of sorrow and condolences have come

from graduates spanning the years. Cyrus's impact was immeasurable, as captured poetically by RC 13 graduate Kutay Onayli:

"All beautiful things of the English language, which I was so ready to love and to live in but didn't know how, and don't think I could if not for you: I remember that first year, how it was your generosity in teaching and mentoring and the eager confidence you instilled in little lost 14-year old Kutay that allowed me access to the language and to the school and through those, to the world."

A blue-eyed, consummate gentleman whose handsomeness made Tom Hanks look average, Cyrus Norwood Carter loved teaching, traveling, and learning. He loved his wife, his family and friends, his garden, his cats, his dog, Pamuk, reading, deep conversations anywhere even on the service bus, bad Dad jokes, tricky NY Times Crosswords, Bodrum summers, and anything that sparked learning. We, as an RC family are in mourning, and we extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Dilek Yakar, and his sister, Nicola Carter and their family in Canada.

*Contributed by Dean of Faculty,
Maura Kelly*

A poem by Zeynep Eda Demircioğlu can be seen in the online version here.



Şevki Figen RC ENG 48, RC Trustee Emeritus

A “comme il faut” leader is what people who knew him closely would say about İ. Şevki Figen who passed away on July 18, 2023 in Urla, Izmir, survived by his son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter.

He was a civil engineer turned petroleum company general manager turned fats and detergents company general manager. He was a very distinctive professional who changed a conventional firm into a modern company. He was a “no-nonsense” type who was bitter/sweet in both professional and social life because he drew the line clearly between friendliness and formality. He was inspiring, encouraging and as such synergy-creating. He believed in teamwork and in delegating authority and holding responsible for the performance. He had a very colorful



and many-sided personality. He was disciplined due to his background in German culture but was also pragmatic due his American culture background. He naturally became the soul of groups he was present in with his witty remarks, skillful dancing and impersonation of languages which he didn't speak at all,

yet that sounded as if he was fluent in them. Finally, a few more apt adjectives and nouns: visionary, capable, self-confidence, very good memory, convincing, imposing.

Contributed by Güngör Kavadarlı RC 60 and Betil Kavadarlı ACG 64

Leyla Pamir ACG 50

Leyla Pamir passed away on October 20, 2023. She was a very talented and unique person. At an early age she started playing the piano with a Russian teacher. She married Haldun Taner in 1955. They divorced in 1968 and Leyla went to Munich and Vienna and worked on her music with teachers like Koebel and Hinterhofer. She attended the master class of Paul Badura-Skoda and graduated from the piano and piano pedagogy departments of Heidelberg State Conservatory where she remained to



teach. When she returned to Turkey, she continued in Moda and wrote on music to various journals. She published many books. She was an exceptional musicologist with a wide imagination and perspective. In 1978 when I arranged a conference for the International Society for Contemporary Literature and Theater, she invited us to her house for a piano recital. She mesmerized the foreign delegates and all who listened. May she rest in peace.

Contributed by Belma Baskett ACG 50

Aziz Lav RC ENG 54

Aziz Lav was born in Istanbul in 1932. After attending primary and secondary school in Istanbul, he graduated from Robert College, and then went to the United States and studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Michigan. After graduating from university, he returned to Turkey and started his career at Mobil company, where he worked until his retirement. He married Fatma Neşe Lav in Ankara in 1959.

Aziz Lav, who gained the love and respect of the people around him throughout his life, passed away in Silivri on July 23, 2023. He is survived by his sons Osman and Ömer. Four days after his death, his beloved wife Fatma Neşe Lav passed away.

Contributed by his son Osman Lav



Ergün Gölcüklü RC ENG 59



Ergün Gölcüklü passed away on September 5, 2023. Enrolled as a boarding student, Ergün commemorated his years at the college with utter joy. After receiving his bachelor's in civil engineering from Robert College, Ergün pursued his studies at the University of Michigan and graduated in 1961 with an MSE in civil engineering. As a devout engineer, Ergün worked at leading construction companies in Turkey, undersigning many successful projects until his retirement. He enjoyed life to

the fullest, always keen on appreciating the simple beauty inherent in everyday life. He was a sports, travel and food enthusiast, and loved to play bridge and backgammon. Ergün was the most beautiful and kindest of souls, best dad to his beloved daughters Arzu and Banu, most loving husband to his wife Çiğdem. He will remain deepest in our hearts as the most precious.

Contributed by his daughter Banu Çolak RC 89

Tuncer Özmen RA 61

Tuncer Özmen passed away on August 9, 2023. Tuncer entered College Prep with a scholarship. His close friend had said: "There is a guy called Ferdi Yüksel. If you are confronted with any problem, see him and give him my name. He'll help." One day at Study Hall a student was disturbing everyone by making a noise. Tuncer politely asked him to stop and an argument started. When Tuncer said, "I'm warning you, if you don't stop I'll report you to Ferdi Yüksel." "Well," said the other guy, "as a matter of fact,



"I happen to be Ferdi Yüksel!" During an exam, to tease the teacher nicknamed razor (ustura) Tuncer started to play with the razor in his pocket. When caught he was thrown out of class. Tuncer, one of the most colorful characters of the class, was also a leader, pioneer, team captain, and an inquisitive person always running after his ideals. We will miss him.

Contributed by Baskın Hüdayioğlu RA 61

Niyazi Dalyancı RA 63



Niyazi Dalyancı, the doyen of news agency journalists, died on March 25, 2023. He attended the English High School, then he came to RA where he was well accepted and greatly loved by classmates. Some even called him an “angel”. Although he studied economics at university, he decided to pursue journalism in which he excelled for decades. He was editor-in-chief at Türk Haber Ajansı (Turkish News Agency), and later became a journalism instructor at Bilgi University as well as a member of the Turkish Journalist Association Board.

A man of many achievements, he was also humble. He always retained the common touch and was always approachable by anybody, especially junior journalists and students. He was a mentor to many. He will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife Fatoş, his daughter Ayşe, his son İsmail, three grandchildren, and his brother Şinasi.

*Contributed by Sedat Tavşanoğlu
RA 63*

Zeynep Barı Bornovalı ACG 63

Zeynep Barı Bornovalı passed away on November 25, 2023. I was very lucky being her roommate for some time. We shared a lot of things together. Her intelligence, analytical way of thinking led her to investigate graphology and she became a very successful graphologist. It became a lifetime career for her. For all of us who crossed her path in life, she will be remembered as an extraordinary friend with her sincere and warm personality. Dear Zeynep, let your soul rest in peace.



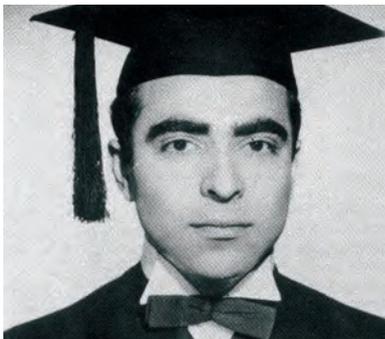
Zeynep Barı was first of all a very sensible girl who lived in line with the rules, but also liked to have a good time with friends. Although very young when taught aruz prosody at school, we both liked the musicality of it. We both loved Classical Turkish music. She never missed an important day in my life. She tried to help friends within her limits and tried to enrich all as far as she could. Always ready to learn, a good mother and partner, and a friend above all. I feel your absence so much Zeynep.

Contributed by Siham Canlı Yılmaz ACG 63

Contributed by Sevin Okyay ACG 63

She is survived by her husband Tuğrul Bornovalı RC 60 and two sons Şeref and Sedat.

Mengü Altınordu RC 67



Mengü Altınordu passed away on January 14, 2023. Born in 1943, he studied at Tarsus American College before RC. After graduating from RC in 1967, Mengü went to Edinburgh, Scotland for his postgraduate work at Heriot-Watt University. Upon his return to Istanbul, he worked in foreign trade companies including Alarko, Ram and Fabeks, often traveling to England, Iran, and China for business. He was a Rotary member for many years and

was granted the Paul Harris Fellowship for his dedicated service. During his years as a retiree, he lived in Istanbul and enjoyed his family, especially his grandchildren. He is survived by his wife Ela, daughter Nevnihal, son Ateş, and grandchildren Maya, Yasemin, and Cem. We will always remember his smiling eyes full of kindness and affection.

*Contributed by his wife Ela Altınordu
ACG 66*

Huri Türsan ACG 71 Sr.



Huri Türsan passed away in Brussels on September 13, 2023. She received her MA at Johns Hopkins Institute Bologna and PhD at European University Institute, Florence. Her thesis, titled "Democratization in Turkey," was published in 2004. After moving to Brussels, she worked and taught at the Universities of Louvain La Neuve, Brussels, Namur, Trento, and the European Commission. Huri was awarded the C. Grove Haines Prize for Excellence in Research by Johns Hopkins University Institute for her work titled "Causes and Consequences of Military Intervention in Turkey."

She co-edited, with Lieven De Winter, the book titled *Regionalist Parties in Western Europe*, and participated in various comparative research projects.

Commemorations with friends and colleagues were held in Istanbul and in Brussels. She is survived by her husband Prof. Em. Lieven De Winter, her beloved cat Kedi, sister Şiir Türsan ACG 70, brother Yavuz Türsan, nephew İlber Aydemir and their families.

*Contributed by her husband
Lieven De Winter*

Hidayet Özdemir RA 71

Hidayet Özdemir passed away from a stroke on October 7, 2023. At RA he was a member of the Social Services and Social Research Clubs, and Scouts. He studied chemical engineering at METU then got his MSc in ceramics engineering from Sheffield University. Upon his return he married to his beloved wife, Muhsine. He worked for many years at Eczacıbaşı in different roles from the raw materials lab to Director of the Innovation Center. His main interest being chemistry and ceramics



technology, Hidayet published many articles and joined symposiums, conferences and workshops. He held many certificates on related subjects. In recent years he was living on his farm close to Sapanca with his wife. He left an indelible mark on us and all who had the privilege of knowing him. Hidayet will forever remain in our hearts, remembered for his sense of humor and generosity.

*Contributed by Levent Alpay RA 71,
Class Representative*

Yavuz Karaçetin RA 71

Yavuz Karaçetin passed away on January 29, 2023. A boarding student at RA, "Macır" (muhacir) was active in social activities including the Drama Club, Spectrum, RAIBA and Varsity Track and Field. After getting his BA in business administration at Boğaziçi University he went to Germany where he studied at the Goethe Institute. On his return to Turkey, he first assisted his father in their family business, Örnek Halıcılık, worked in the paper trade and ran a movie theater, as well as briefly

working at Petrol Ofisi and Efes Pilsen. He later established his own companies manufacturing and marketing craft paper and packaging (İspak Ambalaj). Yavuz was fond of ladies, sea and boats, and spent most of his time in Ayvalık cruising in his boat in the late years of his life. Our dear friend is survived by his wife and daughter Beste.

*Contributed by Levent Alpay RA 71,
Class Representative*



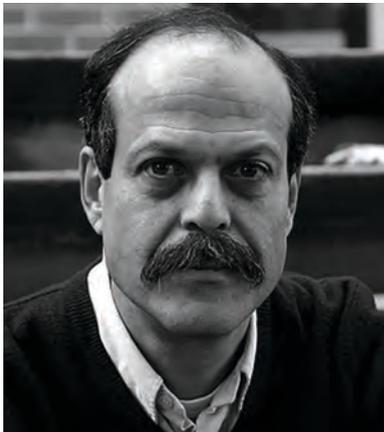
Yusuf İzzet Tunakan RA 71

İzzet Tunakan passed away on September 12, 2022. His loss was very sudden and very shocking to his family and to all his friends. After RA, he studied civil engineering at Istanbul Technical University and received his BSc. Upon graduation, he worked in various construction companies, including STFA and was involved in many challenging projects such as the Marmaray. His last duty



was with Işık Yapı Denetim. He was a partner in a bistro bar. One of his main hobbies was hunting and he was very proud of his rifles. Travelling and visiting exotic places was his second hobby. İzzet was a "gentleman" in our class, always kind and with a smile on his face. He loved living in Tuzla, where he spent forty years with his beloved wife and two sons, Levent and Berk.

Roni Margulies RC 72



Roni Margulies, economist, poet, essayist, memoirist, journalist, antique collector, tavern hopper, party member, radical activist, and so much more, passed away on July 19, 2023, after a brief but unforgiving illness. He was a man of contradictions, never willing to fit others' categories. A revolutionary socialist, he treasured his single malt and creature comforts. Always insisting he was a citizen of the world; his literary works sprang from the small Istanbul Ashkenazi Jewish community of which he was a product. Not one to hide his disdain for

uneducated individuals, he sincerely believed in the wisdom of the masses. He relished polemics, yet could not be bothered to defend his views, so self-evident were they to him. His interests ranged from neolithic archaeology and evolutionary biology to Turkish poetry and crime fiction. Highly cultured and endowed with inexhaustible intellectual curiosity, he leaves behind more than a dozen books and countless admirers.

Irvin Cemil Schick, RC 72

Dilek Bulgu RC 76

We are deeply saddened by the sudden loss of our dear friend Dilek Bulgu. She passed away on September 18, 2023, at the age of 64. After graduating from college, she studied Computer Programming at Boğaziçi University and graduated with honors. She was not only friendly, helpful and polite but also wise. She was always hard working and willing to learn new skills. She embraced challenges and adapted to the changes in life easily.

We always had fun together during school days, summer vacations and at our social gatherings. She will be remembered for her good sense of humor and smile. Unfortunately, our group spirit will never be complete without her. Our beloved friend is survived by her two sons and her grandson. She will live forever in our hearts.

Contributed by RC 76 classmates Oya Girit, Gülbin Gökçay and Nazan Güngenci



Mehmet Erhan Tütüncüoğlu RC 76



Erhan passed away due to a sudden heart attack on September 23, 2023. He had been struggling with various health problems for some time. Erhan finished secondary school at Izmir Anatolian High School. He continued his education at Robert College and graduated in 1976. His classmates remember him as a mathematical genius who was helping them whenever they needed. Erhan went to University of Leeds and finished a degree in mechanical engineering. After graduating in 1980, he came

back to Turkey and started working at Alarko Holding. He worked on overseas projects for the subsidiaries of Alarko Group carrying out ventilation and clean room projects.

He will be dearly remembered by his son Berke, by his daughter Bilge and by the rest of the family.

Contributed by his sister Canan Tütüncüoğlu and RC 76 classmates Alp Eden and Nisim Nahum

Tuna Behar Dinar RC 79

A beloved matriarch of her clan, gatherer of community, grateful spirit, a humble humanist, an avid morning walker, an optimist, a believer of peace, an ardent bridge player, a fine cook, an incurable giver, subtle humorist, and a devoted friend made her passage from this life, with family and friends by her side, on September 3, 2023, in Tel Aviv, Israel. Tuna immigrated from Istanbul to Tel Aviv, in 1988, with her husband and two



children. She served as the executive administrative assistant in Turkish Embassy in Tel Aviv, for over three decades. She retired two years ago. Tuna was the highest ranked fixture in a highly volatile and fragile foreign mission. She valued her Robert College community and cared for her classmates. Tuna is survived by her brother, husband, two children and six grandchildren. May her memory be a blessing.

Gökçe Bilyay RC 94

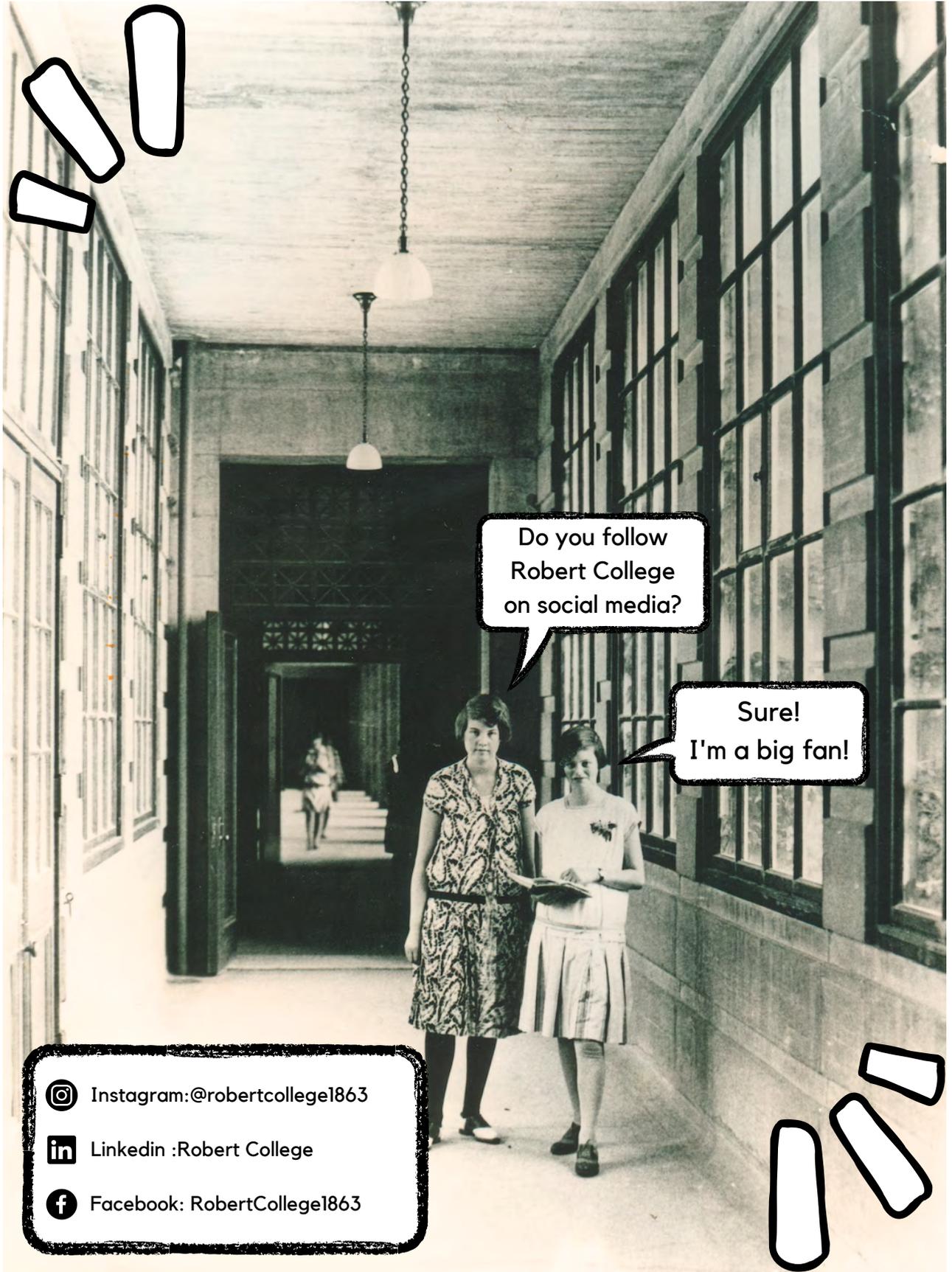
Gökçe was an exceptional and devoted father, loving husband, compassionate son and brother, and all-around brilliant family man. He would light up any room with his exuberant and unique presence, charming all those along the way whom he met. He was an outstanding leader with a brilliant mind. A kind, genuine, warm-hearted soul and a charitable person who always helped those in need.

An inspiration to all, Gökçe was most well-known for his larger-than-life presence within the RC community. We will always feel privileged to have known him and miss him terribly.

Until we meet again abi...

Contributed by his sister, Seda Bilyay Erdoğan RC 98





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American College for Girls Students, 1930s

