

RC QUARTERLY SPRING / SUMMER 2011

ISSUE 40

RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

The Inspiration

ISSUE



Inspired by Global Connections at RC | Fusion Food at Changa | Culture at SALT |
The Japanese Spirit | Poetry, Archeology, Film and more



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Alumni Journal published periodically by the RC Alumni & Development Office for 9000 members of the RC community: graduates, students, faculty, administration, parents and friends.

Robert Lisesi tarafından dört ayda 1 yayımlanır. Sayı 40

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0212 264 33 11 • www.topprint.com.tr

Printing

APA UNIPRINT Basım San. ve Tic. A.Ş.
Hadımköy Mahallesi 434 Sokak No:6
34555 Arnavutköy / İstanbul / TÜRKİYE
Tel : 90212 798 28 40 • www.apa.com.tr

Basım Yeri ve Tarihi

İstanbul, Mayıs 2011

Yayın Türü

Sürelî

Yayın Periyodu

4 Aylık

About the RCQ

It has been a long winter. Like the first crocuses starting to bloom on campus, as we prepare to move into sunny months to come, we were drawn to the theme of inspiration. What inspires you? What is it about your work, your child, your community or the view from your window that nourishes you and gives you a spring in your step?

This is our first attempt at a themed issue. It features a bumper crop of College graduates who tell us about their inspirations - they range from Tarık Beyazıt, who founded Changa, a foodie's paradise, to Bahar Kural, whose experience as a mom in NYC led her to set up a community portal, or Efe Murat, a budding poet at Harvard, and many more.

We would love to hear from you! If you have an inspired, or inspiring story to share, please drop us a line.

Enjoy the spring!

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Robert College's Debate Society Takes on the World

From Istanbul to Stuttgart, Qatar and back, the growing achievements and popularity of the RC Debate Society know no bounds. Recently, the Debate Society played a large role in hosting the Eurasian Schools Debate Competition, including recruiting the adjudicators; arranging accommodation for participants (50 teams from 20 countries); organizing transportation and food; collecting fees; finding sponsors sourcing alternative venues for 2 days of the tournament, the list goes on. With an accomplishment of this magnitude under their belt, the Debate Society has been picking up speed in the debate game; not only are they participating in a wide range of competitions with universities nationally and worldwide, they have been breaking new ground by incorporating technology, unprecedented scoring and competition design. RCQ spoke to Cem Zorlular, Lise 12, (RC 11) the President of the RC Debate Society to get an inside look into one of the school's most successful student organizations.

What does it take; what are some skills that a good debater possesses?

We can teach a person [who wants to be part of the Debate Society] everything, but he/she needs to believe he/she is going to be able to do it. He/she must have confidence and intelligence. The RC Debate Society has developed an education system that helps students learn. There are two levels of education: the first is practical, so approaching a topic in a rational, plausible and logical way; and then there is principle, which involves judgment and the idea of morality. A great debater not only debates existing sides, but also creates new arguments out of what he/she has learned. For example, a world champion debater was faced with debating abortion. Usually this topic is debated by taking the "pro-choice" or "not" sides. The champion brought up the point that if something causes you pain for a long time, then you have the right to rid yourself of it, and he related this to the abortion topic. This was a new way of seeing the issue.

What were the toughest schools you went up against in debate competitions?

Singapore was the toughest. They went on to win the championships. Wales was also a challenge, they were ranked third.

Singapore's advantage was that they had more experience than we do. Debating in Turkey is fairly new. There are only about 600 debates per year. Istek Schools and other private schools organize some and Robert College organized the first international tournament. Once we participate in more competitions, we'll gain more experience, making us better equipped internationally.

What were some of the most challenging topics to debate?

In a university competition, the teams had to come up with a debatable topic under the heading "Open Motions" and the phrase "...this will eliminate the usual suspects." The topic our opponents presented was "U.S. troops in Japan," something I didn't know much about. And for this topic, I had to prepare a 7-minute speech in 7 minutes. We were able to put some arguments together and ranked third in Durham, UK. We are currently ranked the 10th best university club in Turkey.

And you're not even in university - you're in high school!

That's right. [He smiles]

How do you feel that being part of the debate team will prepare you for post-grad life?

I think it will prepare me in two ways; one, organization skills and two, the development of my personality, since I am discussing important issues like economics and welfare with my peers

internationally. I believe that it has helped my English pronunciation. Also, it has allowed me to change my perspective and weigh both sides of an issue. I have developed strong contacts with universities and high schools, which will lead to great business contacts in the future. I am now connected to NGOs and more closely, the Global Relations Forum. It's helped me with my networking and achieving a more global view. I think that all the members [of the Robert College Debate Society] have gotten this out of the experience. We were running events with budgets of 200,000 Euros with a completely different organizational style, and we yielded 10,000 Euros in profits.

A Valuable Contribution

In 2008, Robert College received an extremely generous gift by one of its most esteemed graduates, Turkish businessman and RC Trustee Emeritus, Feyyaz Berker, RC Eng 46. The annual income of this endowment was to be used in three ways: To encourage debate as an important school activity; to celebrate the essential quality of sound character in each Robert College student; and to continue to study the legacy of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. As a result of this endowment fund, the Robert College Debate Society was born. A coach and materials to support the activities of this Society were provided, as well as the support for the organization of a Robert College Debate Tournament. With this thoughtful support by Feyyaz Berker, the RC Debate Society has become a trailblazer in its field, guiding the way for students to learn the art of debate and acquire the skills and knowledge that will benefit them in their professional careers and future endeavors.



Feyyaz Berker RC Eng 96 (far left) with the Singapore debate team during the awards ceremony. The team on the right is from Greece.

RCAAA & Welcome to USA Awards

It is a little known fact that RCAAA welcomes between three to five RC graduates who are accepted to universities and colleges in the US with a "happy landing" check each year.

This long-standing tradition of RCAAA has been continuing since 1993 without interruption. Most recently, four RC 2010 graduates have each received their \$1,500 checks making the total number of recipients of this award 56 over the 18 years that this tradition has been in place.

"Welcome to USA Awards are small but critical contributions to the budgets of our young graduates when they come to the US. We all needed all the means and support during this transition in our lives and RCAAA stands for this cause" said Cengiz Hatiboğlu, a former President of RCAAA and Board Member who has been the leader of this important program. Cengiz added, "RCAAA welcomes the idea of making this award a better-known tradition at Robert College. Any RC senior who is planning to attend college in the US and who needs such support can apply for this award."



Winners of the 2009 Welcome to USA Awards with Mehmet Özpınar RC 79, after the 2009 graduation ceremony.

The candidates express their background and interests through essays that are evaluated by RCAAA board members. "It has been a challenging and honorable task to decide on the recipients, who are not only academically outstanding, but also have impressive extracurricular interests" said Elif Şıkoğlu, Board Member of RCAAA, who has been involved in the process for the past four years. RCAAA, in its efforts to keep alumni and

friends connected, continues to provide assistance to Robert College Trustees with functions such as social and cultural events in the US. The tradition of helping successful candidates with financial needs, serves to help college freshmen with their first year expenses and stands out as a symbolic illustration of the support and encouragement they can expect from their Alma Mater.

Özlem Akçakuş RC 97 Art Scholarships Awarded



From L to R: Özgüç Çapınaman, Bora Tokyay, Pelin Asa and Emre Hatipoğlu

The RC Art Department was happy to announce the recipients of the Özlem Akçakuş RC 97 Art Scholarship. This scholarship, presented for the fifth time this year, was set up in the spring of 2007 by the Class of 97 in memory of Özlem Akçakuş, a beloved classmate and a talented student in arts. Özlem's friends and her family make contributions each year to keep this fund going.

During the flag ceremony held on April 15, 2011, RC 97 representatives Bora Tokyay and Emre Hatipoğlu were present to give out certificates to this year's winners.

Burcu Bakaç, RC 12 is planning on going to Toscana Photographic Workshop, Özgüç Çapınaman, RC 12 to Maine Media Workshops, and Pelin Asa to Central St. Martins College.

Excellence in Science Award



Feyza Haskaraman (Lise 11) with Dr. Güneş Eğe Akter, ACG 52

The second annual Prof. Seyhan Nurettin Eğe, (ACG 49), Excellence in Science Award for Women was celebrated during a flag ceremony held on March 21, 2011.

This year's award recipient Feyza Haskaraman, Lise 11, received her prize from the sister of Prof. Eğe and founder of the award, Dr. Güneş Eğe Akter (ACG 52). Dr. Eğe Akter traveled from Canada where she lives, to be present on this special occasion. In her brief speech, she spoke of Seyhan Eğe's achievements as a student, educator and mentor, and paid homage to her former teacher Miss Ellen Katherine Wright, who spent 21 years of her life on the RC campus teaching chemistry. Miss Wright was a valuable teacher and mentor to the young chemistry student who, later in her career, dedicated her book, Textbook of Organic Chemistry to her and to Miss Rachel Smith, her geometry teacher at Smith College. The audience at the award ceremony was made up of Lise 11 students as well as Güneş Hanım's guests and members of Feyza's family, who traveled from Ankara for this special occasion. It was a wonderfully joyous morning for Feyza who received a double surprise; that of the award and of seeing her family there to applaud her along with her classmates.

The award, now in its second year, was established by Dr. Güneş Eğe Akter, ACG 52. It honors her sister and is presented each year to a Lise 11 female student who has excelled in the field of science and comes with a cash gift.

A Welcome Addition to the RC Development Office

The Alumni & Development Office welcomes a new member: E. Zeynep Güler Tuck (formerly Güler) RC 98. Zeynep joins the team as Communications Manager, bringing along with her 7 years of experience in the PR and media sectors. Zeynep returned to her hometown Toronto, Canada, after moving to Istanbul in 1992 and then graduating from Robert College. She received an Honours BA in Communications & Sociology from York University and immediately began working for Rogers Communications, Canada's leading media corporation. In 2004, she snagged a position as Circulation Assistant in the Publishing department at Rogers till 2005, when she was offered a position in Sales & Marketing, heading up the Marketing department at News North America, a national PR firm and media content provider. Zeynep kept up with her volleyball and writing, and decided to embrace her third passion, travel, after she met her now husband, Joe Tuck a Canadian filmmaker. In 2008, they took a year off from their careers to discover 22 countries across 3 continents, and upon returning to Canada, they got married on October 11, 2009. During this period, Zeynep became one of the 9 finalists - chosen by Coca Cola out of



E. Zeynep Güler Tuck RC 98

18 international photographers, writers and filmmakers - to be considered to travel to 206 regions worldwide in 365 days bringing their "Open Happiness" slogan to life. Zeynep also took time to write a novel and become a featured blogger for Lonely Planet. When 2010 rolled around, Zeynep and her husband

found themselves settling in Istanbul. After working as Editor-in-Chief of Time Out Istanbul in English for a year, Robert College got news that she was in town and recruited her to the Development team. RC welcomes Zeynep and looks forward to having her on board.

RC for Athletics



Along with its global partnerships and national outreach programs, Robert College continues to pursue projects for the community; this time, in the area of athletics. On March 31, 2011, the Plateau welcomed the spirit of competition when over 100 young athletes from elementary schools in the Beşiktaş area participated in a series of races.

This event saw both girls and boys, born between 1997 and 2001 compete, with at least 4 students per school for each

of the 5 age groupings. "That's a group of almost 100 students, with 5 official referees, 1 city representative and a P.E. Teacher presiding over the competition," noted Burçin Balkaş, Robert College P.E. Teacher.

The "Istanbul's Fastest" competition, that's been "running" for a few years now, is organized by Istanbul's City Hall, and thus, the Ministry of Education, with the purpose of discovering future young athletes. Three girls and three boys were chosen from each group to compete in

the European and Asian continent races on April 28. The concluding race is set to take place on June 4.

"This is the first time we've hosted this event. I'd been working hard for two years to get Robert College to host this event... I'm sure there'll be more participants at next year's event since this year's competition was really well received... Our future goal is to broaden the scope of these types of events," affirms Balkaş.

Students Launch Oral History Project

To mark the 150th anniversary of RC's creation, a new Community Involvement Project (CIP) has been formed to focus on the RC community itself. With Gülay Köseadağı as advisor and Tutku Bektaş (RC 13) as student leader, the group consists of 15 students that are united in the same aim: reviving the memories of graduates from Robert College and the American College for Girls!

The RC Oral History group will undertake interviews with many RC& ACG graduates, community members and teachers. For the 150th anniversary, the group wants to prepare an end product like an exhibition, a short film, or a book.

The group uses a system that is suggested by the Association of Oral History. In groups of two, using cameras and audio recording materials, they conduct interviews that consist of two one-hour-long sections. The questions selected are based on the person's life before, during and after RC or ACG.

Their most recent interviewee was Güneş Eğe (ACG 52), who was at RC to present the "Prof. Seyhan N. Eğe Excellence in Science Award for Women at Robert College". Mrs. Eğe told the interviewers, Elif Küçük (RC 13) and Tutku Bektaş (RC 13) that she was impressed by the professionalism of the group.

Do You Want to Be a Part of This Project?

The Robert College Oral History team wants to continue their project by talking to more graduates. If you are interested in sharing your school memories, please drop them a line at: sozlutarih@robcol.k12.tr.

RCMUN Returns Home with an Award from Harvard

By Hande Güven RC 14

The Robert College MUN Club attended this year's HMUN conference with a team of 18 students representing South Africa and one experienced press member.

Harvard Model United Nations (HMUN) is one of the oldest continuous High School Model UN conferences in the world, founded in 1953 by Harvard students. In this annual four-day international simulation, more than 2,000 high school students from some 200 schools around the world come together in the heart of Boston to engage in fierce debates on global issues.

Long before leaving, the HMUN Delegation started occupying coffee shops all around Istanbul for meetings and tried to learn everything possible on their topics and country policies. As a result, when the day of the conference came, we were fully prepared. But as we went off to our committees for a full day of debate and lobbying, most of us were not aware of what awaited us - the American Model UN protocol is significantly different than European style, which is what we are used to.

When the first day ended at 11.30 pm and we met in the lobby to discuss the day's events, most of us were bewildered by this different way of debating even though our fellow insider from Harvard, Can Soylu (RC 10) had warned us. However, after the first shock, we were ready for a new day. As the debates progressed and vicious lobbying groups formed different resolutions, our delegation experienced the real fun of MUN. While we were busy writing and editing resolutions, our press member Begüm Çalgüner (RC 11) was busy rushing in and out of committee rooms, taking pictures and notes for the newspaper.

When the final day closing ceremony arrived, our South Africa delegation felt the excitement. Even though it was our

first time at a US conference, we had fruitful debates, despite the domination of native speakers. All of our delegates were active and got outstanding results in debates and resolution writing, becoming main submitters.

When it was announced that Kutay Onaylı (RC 13) won the Best Delegate award in his specialized committee of 'Queen Elizabeth's Privy Council, 1586-1588', we cheered and applauded. Kutay was in a special committee where the delegates "role played" historical figures such as Queen Elizabeth I.



Best delegate award winner
Kutay Onaylı, RC 13 (at present in Lise 10)

He was Sir Francis Knollys who was the Treasurer of the Household and he did an excellent job actively representing his character through many crises.

After the 58th session of HMUN ended, we changed out of formal clothes to meet Can at Harvard University for a tour. Can, the president of the Robert College MUN club in 2009 -2010, is a freshman at Harvard and he apparently can't part with Model UN since he is also a part of the MUN society there. He gave us a tour around Harvard, telling us about the buildings and history as well as sharing anecdotes about his experience. After the "sightseeing" we went to a nearby restaurant where other RC Alumni including Mine Kansu (RC 10), who is studying in Tufts University, joined us. It was the perfect way to end our four-day long adventure; a "family" dinner in a warm room with long lost members.



The RC HMUN team

Teachers Live Event

At first of its kind, the Teachers Live event rocked the house on March 3. The Suna Kiraç Theater was full to the brim with students and teachers all piling in - seated and standing - to support some of the school's faculty (as well as some retired faculty members) at a memorable musical event designed to showcase the many and varied talents of RC's faculty and staff. Initiated by Lise 10 student Cemre Necefbaş, special thanks also went to technical supervisor Murat Ersan and Arts Department Head Merrill Hope-Brown for this very special event which promises to have a colorful future.

Teachers teams included the Geezers with Deniz Baysal, Colin Edmonds and Koray Demirkapı; Türk Sanat Musikisi Korosu with retired French teacher Çiğdem Taran, Gülhiz Yüksek, Hafize Değer, Necla Sönmezay, Ferdağ Sezer, Serap Yılmaz, İzzet Dodurgalı, Burcu Aybat, Mehtap Kaya, Gülcan Üçok, Mine Taşçıoğlu, retired Turkish teacher Ayşe Güven, Sengül Özdemir and Süheyla Soğancılar;

the Tater Hays Group (a faculty-student ensemble) with Deniz Baysal, Koray Demirkapı, John Dew, Michael Hays, Alp Paksoy (L-11), Değer Turan (L-11), Dehan Elçin (L-10), Melis Özsoy (L-11) and Cemre Necefbaş (L-10); and Spent Six with English Teachers Rick Hummel, Andrew Laraia, Jameson Vierling, Jake Becker, German Teacher and the Dean of Student

Activities Joe Welch and Art Teacher John Dew. English Teacher Selin Maçoro received great applause for her solo rendition of "A Thousand Miles" while one of the highlights of the afternoon was when P.E. Teacher Graham Fleming and English Teacher Melissa Altıntaş sang "Endless Love." Eat your heart out Diana Ross!



Spent Six soloist Joe Welch with the rest of the band

RCAAA Chicago Chapter Holds Inaugural Event



Yeşim Orhun RC 96, Headmaster John Chandler, Onur Çelen RC 03, Sinan Keten RC 01, Hüma Gruaz RC 85, Donald Sackman Trustee, Tania Chandler, Numan Veliöğlü RC 02, Özgün Sak RC 01, Ece Marçelli RC 02, Yosef Dov Asseo RC 74

The Chicago Chapter of Robert College Alumni Association of America (RCAAA) held its first gathering for RC alumni living, working, and studying in the Chicago area on February 1st, 2011. Headmaster Mr. Chandler, his wife Mrs. Chandler, as well as RC trustee Mr. Don Sackman joined the alumni on a day that turned into one of Chicago's biggest snow storms in decades. Despite the historic weather circumstances, quite a few Alumni gathered at Roy's Chicago to meet and greet over delicious hors d'oeuvres. Further events are in the works for Spring. Alumni interested in participating in future events or organizing activities are encouraged to get in touch with RCAAA Chicago chapter representatives at rcaa.chicago@gmail.com.

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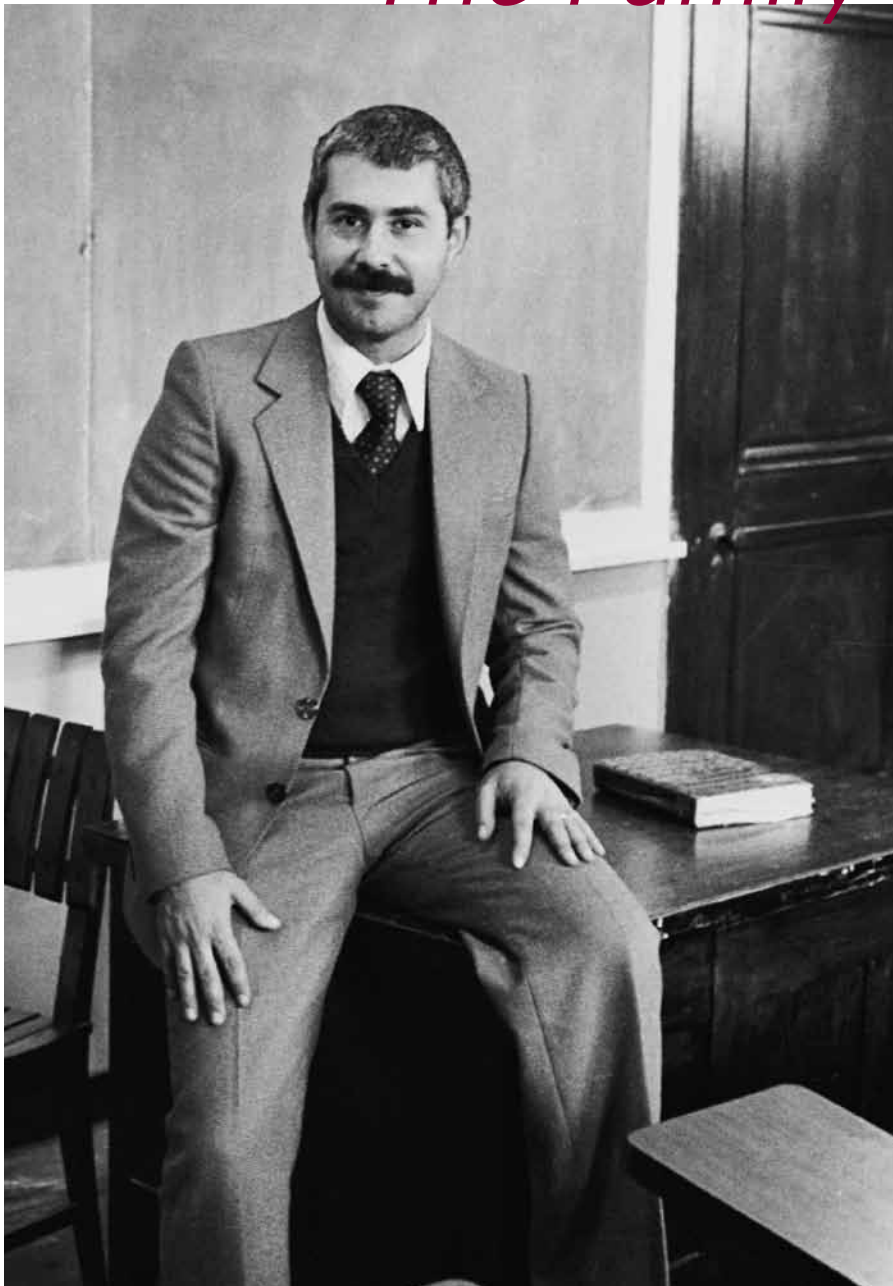
RCAAA Chicago Chapter Coordinators (rcaa.chicago@gmail.com)

Yeşim Orhun, Berkin Özışıkılmaz, Ömer Şamikoğlu, Sinan Keten

Farewell "Espo"! An RC Icon Retires

Phillip Esposito, head of the English department and much-adored teacher to four generations of College students, retires this summer. Maura Kelly, the new department head, wrote the following tribute.

"The Family Business"



Phillip Esposito in the 1970's

The theme song from Francis Ford Coppola's "The Godfather" has been trickling through my mind since September. I am sure you know it: do doo dah dee dah dum dum. As my mentor, Phillip Esposito has been deftly initiating me into the complex world of serving as department chair. Like Michael, I need the wisdom and guidance only a godfather imbued with almost four decades of teaching at Robert College can give. His 35 years here make him one of, if not the most, senior faculty members still actively contributing to our school.

Phil is a walking history of Robert College, and of Turkey, for that matter. Having arrived in the seventies, when Süleyman Demirel was prime minister on and off, before ÖSS exams (as we know them today) existed, when we had no dress code for Lise , and an orta school at RC; he has experienced and partaken in a significant amount of institutional history. His raconteur's ability to share anecdotes about these radical changes offers a wealth of information about how our school has evolved and persevered. Recently, when concerned about some external pressures on the school, Phil reminded me of the fortitude that has kept us going for almost 150 years. "We aren't that fragile, Maura. We'll get past this just like we survived other difficulties." The comfort of such a broad scope of experience is incalculable.

It is a thrill to attend Homecoming in November and watch as throngs of alumnus encircle Phil, or "Espo" as some call him. He warmly recalls the class they shared and responds good-humoredly to their enthusiastic hugging and picture

taking. Consider how many students' and families' lives he has impacted over the course of 35 school terms. I did a few rough calculations: Phil has taught well over 25,200 classes, to at least 2,100 students, marked no less than 16,800 exam papers, while attending more than 6,300 days of school, and that is just at Robert. Imagine how many kilometers he has covered walking the halls of Marble, Gould, and Mitchell or how many pens he has exhausted while scoring those assessments. The numbers only partially represent the full magnitude of his mark.

By far the most profound sense of Phillip Esposito's effect on the Robert College family is found in the individuals he touched. The telling memories from his colleagues and students are too numerous to include here, but I chose a few to create a collaged imprint of just how vital his presence was to Robert College:

From the Class of 2005 , Cem Kurtuluş says of Phil, "Esposito was there to be a mirror not just as a language teacher but first as a companion, the elusive one, who didn't restrain from partaking in the most trivial, as well as profoundly psychological conversations. I was intrigued to learn English, at least partially, to be able to express myself better to Esposito."

Upon first meeting Phil, in 1984, Jennifer Sertel (English teacher and Outreach Coordinator) thought he was Turkish. "I remember the moment exactly, there was a party in the library that was then in Bingham Hall. Some people were talking Turkish. I went over to introduce myself, and I apologized for not speaking Turkish yet and I asked Phil if he spoke any English to which he responded that he was actually an English teacher." After that, he gave a proud smile under his dark, Turkish-styled mustachio."

Former colleague at RC, Rebecca Weeks said, "Philip and I hit it off immediately when we first met at Irene Gilman's apartment in New York City. I knew right away that he would be a great colleague and friend, but I could not possibly have

"Esposito" and former students at Homecoming 2008.



predicted how important his personal and professional support would be during my decade at RC. His knowledge and perspective guided me through countless departmental decisions, and his sense of humor rescued me from overwhelm when things got a little crazy. Most importantly, his own love of Turkey was infectious, and the places I went and people I met through Phillip formed the foundation of my own enduring regard for Istanbul and RC. "

Özlen (Binkaya) Tanrırover, RC 78, stated, "I watched him teach LIFE to students. In this course he also was a role model. He taught them that: There will always be obstacles, there will always be 'unfair' situations, always keep your calm and believe that eventually your efforts will pay-off. Do your best in everything and let it go. If you do your best then you are at peace with yourself and you worry less about the rest."



Phillip Esposito

"He used to make us say over and over "hAAAAm-burger" and "bAAAAs-ketball" to get the right American pronunciation of the words, and we remember listening to his readings of the *Most Intelligent Man on Earth* and of course *Dracula*! Great times!" Oya Nuzumlalı & Betigül Onay RC 02

"He has been, for years, a figure I like to think of, as the definition of "cool" for me -- sleek, neat, calmly focused, with a wit that could only match that of a cynical Buddha." Yusuf Pinhas RC 89

Phil is more than an educator who has dedicated a large part of his life to our school; he is a living embodiment of the community that makes Robert College exceptional. Our family business is not the unethical work of the Corleone dynasty; however, we are, at RC, part of a unique, personal and emotionally-bound group that remains forever allied.

This is not a farewell to Phil, only an acknowledgement of his impressive legacy that will forever be a part of Robert College.



Inspired by Parenthood

Bahar Kural Chawla RC 90 launches Blueleo.com for NYC parents

By Müge Mengü Hale, RC 92

Thanks to Bahar's vision, 1 million New York City moms and dads have a new platform to share resources and connect with each other.

Many parents feel that life changes drastically with a new baby in their family, but this change has inspired Bahar Kural Chawla RC 90 to introduce a new online business. Bahar who lives in Tribeca, New York with her husband and two young kids is the founder of Blueleo LLC, a company that specializes in creating web and mobile applications designed to make parents' lives easier.

Bahar launched Blueleo.com in March 2011, a classifieds and networking site exclusively for NYC parents, modeled on the popularity of Craigslist and Facebook. "Currently, NYC moms utilize their local yahoo groups to communicate with each other, refer babysitters and buy second hand items. However, not all neighborhoods have built-in mommy networks, and locating second-hand items in email lists can be a very tedious process," says Bahar. "Blueleo overcomes

this problem by providing all NYC parents and parents-to-be with a central classifieds site where a click of a button yields search results for the items of their choice in their own neighborhoods, ie. strollers in Nolita, baby sitters in the Upper East Side and free trial classes in Chelsea."

After Robert College, Bahar attended Swarthmore College where she studied economics and political science. After Swarthmore, she completed her MBA at Columbia University and worked in investment banking -- most recently with Morgan Stanley and The Carlyle Group until 2002. While working for The Carlyle Group, Bahar provided investment advice for internet start-ups and wanted to take her career to the next level by becoming an entrepreneur herself.

As mother to two young kids, Sidarth, 9 and Diya, 4, she did not need to look any further than her own life, when she looked for a concept to start her own business.

"I realized that parenthood not only changes socializing habits but also consumption habits," says Bahar, "Parents spend significant amounts on their kids' schools, afterschool programs, camps, birthday parties and clothes, and they like to find out about what other parents are doing with their children."



Bahar Kural RC 90

With so much to spend on, parents like "deals". This 'inside knowledge' led Bahar to launch Blueleo - NYC's first classifieds site - where parents buy and sell baby and kid items, look for and refer nannies and housekeepers, find free trial classes and deals around town, post job listings, advertise properties for sale, and let other parents know about important events and news in your neighborhood. Already, the US media leader Daily Candy hailed Blueleo as the "Craigslist" alternative for parents and featured Blueleo as one of their favorite parenting sites.

Bahar is also the founder of www.BlueleoGuide.com, NYC's most comprehensive family guide for local resources and activities with 6,000 listings. The Blueleo Guide is also available as an iPhone app and is downloadable free of charge from the app store. Bahar's website is designed by two other RC graduates, Gün Alpay RC 92 and Sinan Gül RC 92.



Bahar with her family



Kaan Nazlı and the Moon and Stars Project

Inspiring New Yorkers through contemporary Turkish art and culture

By Müge Mengü Hale, RC 92

As co-director of the Moon and Stars Project in New York, Kaan Nazlı, RC 95, is a familiar face to many people. Since it was founded by Nur Emirgil, RC 72, in 2002, the organization has become one of the city's most vibrant cultural players.

As one of the co-directors of this all-volunteer enterprise, Nazlı plays a big role in bringing the best and brightest of the Turkish art and cultural scene to New Yorkers. He says he owes his support and appreciation of arts to his days at Robert College.

"Like many RC graduates, I developed a strong passion for theater and arts as a communication medium, which is at the core of the Moon and Stars Project."

By day, Nazlı is a financial executive. After RC, he studied political science at Ankara University and then received an MA in economy and political science from NYU. On his first day at work, Turkey plunged into a financial crisis and Nazlı was thereby destined to become an expert on Turkish financial markets.

"It's amazing how robust the Turkish economy has gotten in the last few years. In those days, a simple statement by the prime minister could cause the market to crash, but today the country stood resilient even in the face of a massive US financial storm," he says. He currently works as an economist on Eastern Europe and the Middle East for a private consulting company.

The Moon and Stars Project has flourished into an established cultural organization in just a decade thanks to the work of devoted volunteers. "The work is about helping multiple audiences" says Nazlı. "For the artists, it is a platform to reach out to audiences in the US; for cultural organizations, a



Kaan Nazlı, RC 95

one-stop-shop to collaborate in order to present cultural programs from or about Turkey, and for the viewers, an outlet to see what is going on in the thriving Turkish arts scene."

The Moon and Stars Project

The Moon and Stars Project was founded in 2002 in New York. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to highlighting contemporary Turkish arts and culture and establishing a two-way cultural interaction between the US and Turkey. Growing out of May Fest, a month-long festival first started in 1999, the Moon and Stars Project is now an organization that presents year-round programs which incorporate the visual arts, theater, film, traditional and contemporary music, project sponsorships and grants. www.moonandstarsproject.org

Be it a traditional or contemporary music concert, a play, an exhibition, or a current Turkish film in the annual Turkish film festival, the Moon and Stars Project brings the best of Istanbul and Turkey's cultural productions to New York. By featuring the works of popular and international Turkish artists, filmmakers and musicians in exceptional venues, the organization showcases the modern face of contemporary Turkish culture. "It is a gratifying experience to be able to meet and work with new people and keep an eye on Turkey's transformation through that of its arts," says Nazlı.

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





Inspired By Eyes That See Differently

A community involvement project (CIP) to help teach blind children geometry

By Özgür Akas, RC Mathematics Teacher

I was looking for a 'Yearly Homework Project' (YHP) topic to inspire my students. I wanted something creative and totally original, not a copy paste thing, and all of a sudden I remembered a colleague who works at a school for the blind.

When we were talking about kids in the school, I asked her about their math and geometry curriculum and she said they don't teach geometry. This surprised me because I thought it would be the easiest thing to teach, especially because blind people can understand just by touch. When I approached my students with the idea, they liked it. After doing some

preparation, we decided to visit a blind school and find out what they know about geometry and what we might create for them. While doing this I decided to ask if we could combine YHP with a Community Service Project (CIP) because the students would be spending lots of time with blind kids. That is how we started the project, "GEOMETRY SEEN WITH OTHER EYES".

After a visit one of my students told me that this was the first time in his life he felt like he did something 'real'.

Here are some excerpts from their YHP reports:

"When I heard about this YHP, which is combined with CIP, I said: "This is an opportunity to get my YHP easily done". Ms. Akas said that what we were going to go through is an incredibly hard adventure. I didn't believe her. Each time I tried to teach the simple primary school math, I proved myself wrong. I CAN and WILL teach them how to express themselves without feeling any inferiority.



Özkan Okan, Lise 10, and a student solving a math problem with an abacus.



From L to R: RC students Nazlı Ercan and Aysel Kapsız with their fifth grader.

I started this project thinking it would be easy for me. Funnily, as it got harder, I liked it more. Now I seek out difficulties, it gives me more pleasure and fun. A seemingly easy YHP turned into a great purpose and meaningful action, which makes me proud."

Özkan Okan, Lise 10

"At the beginning of this year, we were given the opportunity to complete our community service hours while doing our yearly homework project. Thus, it was very clever to complete a YHP-yearly homework project- in math. Many of us chose to teach math to blind kids for this reason. Yet, as we went there and worked with the students, we realized that it was not just about shooting two birds with one stone. It was about being able to change something in those students' lives. We do not just solve problems with the blind kids, but also try to give them the self-confidence that they need for the future. Thus, with this project, the blind kids learn math or geometry but more than that, they learn to handle life."

Nazlı Ercan, Lise 10

"For the first time in my life, I taught math to blind kids. But, as soon as I saw Ömer, an 8th grade student, I was shocked that he could do these calculations in his mind. That moment I understood that they were seeing not with their eyes, but with their hearts and minds..."

Aysel Kapsız, Lise 10

"When I first went, I used the words "look at that" or "In this equation (showing it with my hand) I felt extremely sad and tried to say what I meant with words. It is a life lesson more than mathematics"....

Ozan Işınay, Lise 10

"It was the second meeting we had done so far and we were getting excited about the project. The first group shared their experiences with us: how they struggled ,how they couldn't express their thoughts, how they accidentally used wrong words. Ms. Akas was calm and said that mistakes are normal because we cannot look from their perspectives and it will take time to understand them. We were all relieved. Ms. Akas showed us some videos and materials from last year. I realized that I would have to work so hard to look from their perspectives because they don't see

the world as we see..."

Cansu Evrücke, Lise 10

"I believe what we have done is very important and helpful for blind kids and also for us. We teach them math and they teach us how to hold on to life with closed eyes and never give up. I learned a lot of things from them..."

Çağan Özçalışkan, Lise 10

"I am so pleased to be a part of this project. I experienced new things and learned about people who are having difficulties in their everyday lives. This project helped me to understand the difficulties of blind kids and how, instead of all that, they are full of life. They should be supported more, so that they can be successful in their lives in the future."

Yiğit Alp Poyraz, Lise 9



From L to R: RC students Göze Yıldırım, Ozan Işınay, Özkan Okan, Nazlı Ercan and Aysel Kapsız with some of their students

UNIRC off to a good start in 2011

It has been a busy season for RC's youngest graduates. In June, they host 49 children from across Turkey for an activity - packed week.

After two successful Career Academies - one in the field of Consulting with graduates from McKinsey & Company, and one in Private Equity with graduates from Actera Group - and the UNIFUAR, countdown began for the big reunion day of RC Graduates!

For the first time Career Day, the Meetball and the New Year's Party were held on the same day, December 25th. The day began with UNIRC's Career Day, followed by the traditional Meetball and ended with a big New Year's Party, again organized by UNIRC.

Career Day 2011 started with a panel on "Branding and Marketing", where T-Box CEO Doğan Kaşıkçı RC 92, Vice President of Brand Building and Board Member for Unilever Turkey Zeynep Yalım Uzun RC 86, and Intel Turkey, Middle East and Africa Sales Director Ege Ertem shared their experiences with interested young graduates. Graduates learned more about twelve companies from various industries and discussed job or internship opportunities. The companies were: Kale Grubu, Garanti Bankası, Hergüner Bilgen Özeke Avukatlık Ortaklığı, Mazars/Denge Denetim YMM, Eczacıbaşı Holding, Vodafone, Unilever, McKinsey&Company, Borusan, Schneider Elektrik, Ford Otomotiv. In addition, Career Day provided two training sessions, one on CV Writing and Job Application and one on Effective Communication and Interview Techniques. All in all, it was one of the most successful Career Days organized by UNIRC.



Career Day question & answer session with representatives of McKinsey & Company



The Board and assistants during Career Day

UNIRC is a branch of the Alumni Association that engages recent graduates

There, tired graduates came downstairs to Marble Hall to catch up with their friends. But the day did not end there; the night was young and we still had New Year's to celebrate. The new nightclub Mute was the venue for this year's New Year's Party, which was a big success.

Since then, UNIRC has organized another Career Academy event in the field of Executive Search, with the participation of Kaan Okurer, RC 92, from Korn/Ferry International.

UNIRC was also present at the Alumni Association's annual meeting. Representing the young graduates, they nominated two graduates for membership of the Board of Directors. Emre Tekişalp RC 07 and Erdem Altay RC 08 are two of the youngest members of the new Board.

A New Tradition? Graduates to Perform on Stage in May

For those of you who did not get the chance to join in UNIRC's previous activities, do not weep! A new tradition is about to begin which you might want to participate in. Graduates who used to perform in Lise Live shows during their school years, will once again be given that opportunity! "GradLive" is

very simply "Lise Live for graduates", where graduates (and teachers!) perform on stage. Everyone is welcome to this event to take place at Beyoğlu Indigo. For further information on participation, please check <http://unircrkm.org>.

UNIRC's biggest project "Türkiye'nin 7 Rengi" (The Seven Colors of Turkey) is coming up!

49 kids from all over Turkey have already been chosen. Children ages 11 and 12 from Adana, Aksaray, Ardahan, Çanakkale, Manisa, Samsun and Şanlıurfa will be here between June 19-26. The project targets academically successful students who are not well off financially, and the selection of the students is made jointly with Çağdaş Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği (Society for the Promotion of Civilized Life). The project consists of various activities, mostly in the fields of science, arts, sports and technology, spread throughout the week. Through the bonds they develop with the children during this week, UNIRC members try to have a positive effect on their lives, by expanding their horizons. The children are ready for an amazing week in Istanbul.

We are working hard to find sponsors and prepare a program that will make that one week in Istanbul a memorable experience for them. If you would like to help UNIRC on this project, visit www.unircrkm.org. Stay tuned for more exciting news from UNIRC!

İPAD VE BLACKBERRY'DEN BORSADA ANINDA AL-SAT!

**%0,09
KOMİSYONLA**



İMKB ve VOB'da parmak şıklatır gibi anında
al-sat yapma yolu e-Trader artık iPad ve BlackBerry'de.
Üstelik 25 Mart-27 Mayıs tarihleri arasında %0,09 komisyon oranıyla.

Başka bir arzumuz?

 **Garanti**

Two Brave Women Recount Turkey's Recent History

The well-known documentary director Melek Ulugay (ACG 65) and writer Oya Baydar join forces in *Bir Dönem, İki Kadın* (One Era, Two Women), an oral history book recently published by Can Yayınları. It recounts many developments in Turkish history from the 1940s onward, from the perspective of these two formidable women who were key players within Turkey's leftist movement and often at the forefront of the action.

Published as a flowing mutual interview, the book covers the coups of May 27, March 12 and September 12, the events of 1968, the Kurdish movement, travel to Palestinian refugee camps, exile and much more. "Much has been written about the situation of the left in Turkey and the world; its dividedness, distance from wider audiences and -according to some, its defeat," they write in the introduction. "But most of these are as seen by the eyes of men in power. Writing history should not be solely the province of men."

The book also touches on several Robert College graduates, including a memorable



Melek Ulugay ACG 65 and Oya Baydar

episode in 1972, in a mountain cave in Söke where then-Maoist guerrillas including Melek Ulugay, Nuri Çolakoğlu, (RA 62) and Halil Berktaş (RA64), were holed up. (Çolakoğlu is today a well-known media personality and Berktaş, a prominent historian.) "Its hard to imagine this today," Ulugay told T24. "You might say 'Wow, you weren't half crazy!'".

Since those days in the 1970s Ulugay has carved out a career for herself in documentary film and continues to be an activist who has been at the forefront of many important democratic developments in Turkey, including the founding of the Helsinki Citizens Watch here in 1992.

Exploring Life and Death Between Two Worlds New poetry book by Aytaç Erdoğan Edwards ACG 60

Inspired by Islamic Sufi and Buddhist teachings, Aytaç Aydoğan Edwards has just published *Between Two Worlds*, her new book of poetry released through Xlibris, which explores the many facets of life as captured by melodic words. Edwards' poems are meditations on human life's connectedness with nature. She writes of the beauty in listening to the sound of stillness and the depths of man's spiritual being. *Between Two Worlds* takes readers to the inner corners of one's heart and soul. Through each beautiful piece, readers will learn to see the beauty of nature, the essence of faith, and the bliss of living. For more information on this book, interested parties may log on to www.Xlibris.com.

Aytaç Aydoğan Edwards was born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey. Her parents were first generation secular Turks who were inspired by Atatürk's westernization of Turkey. Her religious grandmother was imbued by Sufism and gave her a religious education. Aydoğan Edwards later became interested in Buddhism and learned from the Buddhist teachings. After graduating from Robert College, she went to the USA on a scholarship and obtained an M.S.W at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

She is a clinical social worker in private practice in New York state and lives there with her husband. They have three children and two grandchildren.



Aytaç Edwards with one of her grand-children, Sara.

Nazan Otar Erkmen (ACG 65)

Re-elected Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts at Marmara University

An accomplished illustrator, Prof. Dr. Nazan Erkmen, ACG 65 was recently re-elected Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts at Marmara University, where she is also head of the Graphic Arts Department. Erkmen has also been instrumental in establishing two new departments at the university- the Music and Film Animation Departments.

As an illustrator, Erkmen's achievements include receiving the Hans Christian Anderson Award in 2008. She has held 15 solo exhibitions and won 14 awards in illustration art, four of which are international awards. She has represented Turkey as a successful illustrator in many international biennials and concours all over the world;

illustrated sets of stamps of fairy tales and Atatürk's portraits for the General Directory of Post Office in Ankara. Her works of art are included in Hiroko Mori and Stasys Museum in Japan, Mersin Museum and Alanya Municipality and many private collections. In recent years, she has served as a jury member in Poland International Drawing Biennial in 2009, at the 4th International Drawing Biennial in Pilsen and as a jury member in Skopje organized by Plakart Association.

Her illustrated books are '*A Bennu Bird is Istanbul*', published by Doğan Egmonds Publishing house, which was also the subject of an exhibition at the Çiragan Palace last year. She also illustrates books for *Cumhuriyet*.



Nazan Otar Erkmen ACG 65

Nazan Erkmen urges any students interested in art education, or alumni interested in art courses organized by the faculty to contact her at 0216 339 01 89.



Inspired by Design

Esti Barnes (ACG 71 Sr.)

rug wins top award at

New York's 'Interior Design' Awards

Esti Barnes' (ACG 71 Sr.) British company Top Floor triumphed at the prestigious annual Interior Design Awards, held in December in New York, winning the Best of Year Award in the rug category with Emmenthal, a witty and original new design launched in Autumn 2010.

For the second time in the five-year history of the awards, online readers



of Interior Design followed by a jury of luminaries from the worlds of architecture and interior design selected an Esti Barnes-designed Top Floor rug to win the award, beating strong international competition in its category.

The awards, organised by 'Interior Design', a leading US design publication, are held to recognize and celebrate superior interior design projects and products.

Barnes' company Top Floor is a leading source of distinctive bespoke contemporary rugs, carpets and wood flooring for the interior design community. Often employing innovative techniques and materials, Esti's 'work of art' rugs can be colorful, textural, tonal, patterned or plain and even sculptural.

For more information:
www.topfloorrugs.com



Esti Barnes, ACG 71 Sr.

Duke Professor's Acclaimed Book Examines Link Between Islam and Economics

The Long Divergence: How Islamic Law Held Back the Middle East, a timely new book by Timur Kuran RC 73, professor of economics, political science and Islamic studies at Duke University, has earned accolades internationally, from publications like *The New York Times*, *The Economist* and *The New Yorker*.

The book argues that the failure of Middle Eastern economics is not due to Islam itself, but to the fact that Moslems failed to reinterpret previously successful economic concepts at the onset of the Middle Ages, while the West went on to create the corporation. "The basic message is that Islam mattered to the economic trajectory of the Middle East in that it promoted economic growth, but was an obstacle subsequently. But the mechanism has nothing to do

with conservatism or traditionalism, or animosity to commerce," Kuran said in a Duke magazine interview.

"Certain institutions of Islam that are part of the Sharia, the holy law of Islam, unintentionally prevented the transition from a personal economy based on small-scale and short-lived organizations to a predominantly impersonal economy based on large and long-living organizations that could sustain large, long-term investments and accumulation of wealth. The institutions [that were] needed to jump start the stalled Middle Eastern economy came from the West. They were transplanted during the colonial era and modern commercial systems were instituted and all the basic ingredients needed for modern economic growth are now present in the Middle East.



Timur Kuran RC 73

Islam is, by and large, not an obstacle to economic growth today as the necessary institutions have now been established. Those countries that started the transition earliest— Turkey, for example— are the most modernized and industrial today."

The book is available through Amazon and other international booksellers.

New Book Series on Aegean Food Culture

Food writer and noted culinary researcher Güzin Yalın (RC 75) recently launched a new book series called *Ruhun Gıdası Kitaplar* (Food for the Soul Books). The aim is to study and transmit publications on different aspects of Aegean culture, leading with food, she says. The books will vary in style, from an anthropological study to a cookbook on a particular region. There will also be publications devoted to children, whom Yalın describes as those souls most in need of good nourishment.

Ruhun Gıdası Kitaplar are published by Akdeniz Mutfakları Konservatuvarı (Aegean Cuisines Conservatory), which is an international NGO founded ten years

ago and dedicated to researching and promoting food culture in all its aspects—sociological, artistic, anthropological and ecological. It has been recognized by the European Union as an international working group and is a member of both the International Olive Oil Council and the EU Euro-Mediterranean Convention.

After RC, Güzin Yalın graduated from Boğaziçi University. She is a partner at Scope Consultancy, founded in 1990, which specializes in food and culinary culture communication. She is also Director of the Turkey Platform of the Akdeniz Mutfakları Konservatuvarı and teaches gastronomy and culinary arts at Yeditepe University. She has represented Turkey at numerous gatherings, trade fairs and high-profile meetings abroad, organizing official dinners, themed food presentations and preparing research documents. Her articles on culinary culture are published in various magazines and internet sites, while she also produces a weekly radio show on Açık Radyo.

She is the author of "*Mutfaktan, Tabaktan, Sokaktan*", "*Delices de Turquie*", "*World Hazelnut Tastes*" (English and Turkish) and "*Bir Denizin Kıyısından Benzer Sofralar*" (English and Turkish).



www.ruhungidasikitaplar.com



Güzin Yalın RC 75



Inspired by Future Culture

Vasif Kortun RC 78 Unveils First SALT Istanbul

Nestled amidst the Starbucks', tourist shops and hustle and bustle of İstiklal, a different kind of cultural institution opened its doors last month - hello, SALT. The latest addition to Istanbul's thriving cultural scene feels different from the moment you walk in. Instead of the gleaming, white-washed look of most contemporary art spaces, SALT is both organic - it even has tomatoes growing in its rooftop urban garden- and futuristic at the same time.

Housed in a landmark 1860s building and funded by Garanti Bank, SALT is the brainchild of Vasif Kortun, perhaps Turkey's best known contemporary art curator and longtime director of the Platform Contemporary Art center. He co-directs it with RC 78 classmate Sima Benaroya, who heads marketing and communication. SALT Beyoğlu is to be joined in September by SALT Galata, an architectural jewel housed in the former headquarters of the Osmanlı Bank.

So what is SALT? It is emphatically not a gallery or a museum, says Kortun. 'This is a mission driven place,' he told the RCQ. 'This is a research based institution. But don't think of research as a bunch of

stiffs hiding from the public, doing secret things. Research can mean many things. It can be fun, enjoyable, playful and carried out in front of the public too.'

The idea is to explore critical and timely issues in visual and material culture, and cultivate innovative research and experimental thinking. In establishing itself as a space for learning and exchange, SALT hopes to challenge and inspire its visitors, encouraging them to offer critique and response.

The venue is a genuine labor of love- it was 3.5 years in the making. 'We spent a lot of time talking to the experts, people like Marcos Novak and Hans Ulrich Obrist, about the role of an institution in this age. What will future institutions look like? What should they look like?' says Kortun. He and his team studied best and worst practices from the past few decades of contemporary art and design institutions. 'The Centre Pompidou between 1977 and 1988 was important. Or architect Cedric Price and the idea Fun Palace in 1961. There was a lot of research into institutional histories. And then there was the question of how to embed these ideas into local reality.'

'Our first priority was how to make the difference between SALT and any other institution visible,' says Kortun. "That's why the building's look and feel was crucial. "

'If you whitewash the walls, lay shiny concrete on the floor, creating your own version of the White Cube, that's what people expect. But when you start to change the way the walls and the floors look and feel, you create a distancing effect. People respond, either physically -in their bodies- or intellectually. It tickles your mind - and this tickling effect was what we wanted.'

There were also a million practical details that a project of this size requires. Wood floors are not just aesthetically pleasing,



Vasif Kortun RC 78

they also help prevent 'exhibition fatigue', easing the weight on shuffling legs and feet. Kortun also spent hours in meetings with the Tate Modern's security chief. 'We had to try and understand how security concerns are addressed in cities which have seen terror attacks.' The process was a delicate balance, Kortun says, 'Between nut and bolts, practicalities and the freer, more inspired 'what if' ideas'.

The venue's role will become clearer in time, he says. 'The intention is to be able to produce work based on a variety of disciplines. To suggest an exhibition as a question mark. To really be experimental in that sense.'

Eventually, Kortun believes SALT will create its own audience, who in turn will feed back into SALT. 'Our benchmark for success is not mass media or an abstract public. We are interested in real responses and reactions,' he said. In time, he believes that digital tools will allow what he calls 'professional citizens' to play an active role in the institution's decision-making processes.

TO SEE WHAT'S ON AT SALT

İstiklal Caddesi No. 36
Beyoğlu
Tel: (0212) 292 76 05
www.saltonline.org

Photo: Cemal Emden



The SALT building on İstiklal Caddesi.



Inspired by Communication Technologies

Esra Tunalıgil's (RC 81) new book tackles how we communicate in a wired age

Esra Tunalıgil's book *Bedava Kontör* (Free Phone Credit) is about how we fail to communicate properly in spite of all the newly developed communication tools and available technology. 'It covers concepts that affect us in our daily lives such as the virtual world, change in general, relationships, love, habits, obsession, NON-communication, 'call-centers', nostalgia, longing - all of which reflect the dilemmas of everyday life,' she says.

The book is written as SMS messages or short poems. 'I tried to apply a different technique of writing,' she says. 'We use very few words in daily life. We are unable to communicate in this "Age of Communication" - despite all these advanced technological communication tools. In my writing technique, I also

reflected this 'non communication' visually. A big part of the book is written as short SMS messages or 'poems'.

The book takes a humorous approach and style, which makes it easy to read and suitable for every age group. 'Although it is easy reading and amusing, the concepts examined are deep and important issues,' says Tunalıgil.

Tongue-in-cheek, Tunalıgil calls herself 'a consumer with a degree' (Diplomalı tüketicici). She graduated from RC in 1981 and then studied Business Administration at Bosphorus University. She earned a Master's Degree in Business from Duquesne University and subsequently worked in marketing, communication and advertising for many years. She writes for Şeffaf Gazete and Gennaration.



The book is available online through book-sellers such as www.netkitap.com as well as most D & R stores. To reach Tunalıgil, check out the facebook book club page for *Bedava Kontör*.

Hülya Adak (RC 89), Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at Sabancı University publishes second book

Hundert Jahre Türkei: Zeitzeugen erzählen, authored and edited by Hülya Adak and Erika Glassen, includes 57 autobiographical narratives, memoirs, academic and newspaper articles, and speeches, organized mostly in chronological order and revolving around thematic clusters. The introduction to the volume presents the historical and political background to the themes and events discussed while simultaneously contextualizing the various authors serving as first-hand witnesses to the events or discussants of the themes in question.

The texts in the volume revolve around pre-revolutionary political debates of the early twentieth century, Turkish nationalism, the Young Turk Revolution, the Armenian deportations, forced conversions and massacres, the transition to the nation-state, policies against

the minorities, feminism and feminist activism, and political struggles and trials



Hülya Adak (left) and Erika Glassen at the reception of the Türkische Bibliothek (Turkish Library) to celebrate the completion of the entire series.

of socialism and communism throughout the century. Witnesses of the 1920s, including Zekeriya Sertel, Nezihe Muhittin, Süreyya Ağaoğlu, and Nezihe Neyzi narrate the secularization policies of the Republic particularly as it affected their daily lives as men and women. The reforms and state policies in universities in the 1930s and the contributions of Austrian and German Jewish professors in İstanbul is another thematic emphasis delineated through the accounts of their students (e.g. Azra Erhat and Niyazi Berkes). The work also includes intellectual debates revolving around Ottoman versus Turkish literature, the language reform, Mavi Anadoluculuk, military coups and literature, and minority literatures. *Hundert Jahre Türkei* is the backbone to the twenty works of Turkish fiction and autobiographies translated into German as part of the series Türkische Bibliothek.



Inspired by Film

Community and the Potential for Change

In Istanbul, the independent film festival started by Serra Ciliv and Pelin Turgut, both RC 92, celebrated its 10th edition in February. Here they share some of what has inspired them over the years.

- *Running on Empty*-one of the many films Pelin and Serra watched during marathon movie nights after school on a Friday. (1990-92)
- Selling t-shirts with friends for IKSIV's music festival while at RC
- Organizing underground parties that brought together no name artists and friends in weird, no name venues. No press, no PR- just soulful, spontaneous get-togethers that soon had 1,500 people attending. (2000: Serra, Pelin and İlke get together to create the Orientation Parties)
- A vision of hundreds of people walking out of a theater, feeling more or less the same sadness, urgency, joy, or whatever. (The first days of planning for an independent film festival, May 2000)
- 20,000 people who showed up for the first edition of !f Istanbul. Where did they all come from? (February 2001)



- A flashmob! With no main sponsor and no budget- how would we pull off an opening ceremony? (!f Istanbul opening night 2009)
- A belief that weird, on the edge, politically hard core, or just plain fun indy films had yet to find their audiences in Turkey



Pelin Turgut RC 92 and Serra Ciliv RC 92

- Rhizomes. 'In a world of concrete and asphalt we see different plant species living in cracks in the most unlikely places, gathering rain and seeking out soil that has been banished. At other times, these same plants, or the roots of trees, create the cracks and buckle the asphalt. We have also seen plants cover entire buildings, opening walls and destroying them; but so have we seen them holding together the ruins of immemorial knowledge, ancient temples in the jungle, in a strange union that seems to complete them.' Abu Ali, a friend and fellow film festival organiser.

- A vision that digital technology can change the way we share films and build community. Some 7,000 people self-organised venues in 25 cities to watch 5 films at the same time as audiences in Istanbul this year.

- Festival teams made of friends, and friends of friends. Festival teams made of people who like moving together. (2001-2011)



And the tradition continues! 2011 festival interns Yağmur Telaferli and Deniz Dönmez, both RC 09

Back to the 90s with Tolga Örnek's (RC 89) New Film

In the late 1990s, the underground/alternative radio show "Kaybedenler Kulübü" (the Losers Club) was wildly popular amongst İstanbul's youth, with legions of fans who tuned in every week to hear its two hosts, Kaan Çaydamlı and Mete Avunduk, deliver a funny and often very frank mix of grungy music, nihilistic philosophy and a dark sense of humor. Phone sex, masturbation...nothing was off bounds for this pair. Despite many warnings from the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) and complaints from conservative groups, the show continued for several years.

Directed by Tolga Örnek RC 89 and co-written by Mehmet Öztekin, a film has finally been made of this unusual and fascinating episode. The film includes cameos by Çaydamlı and Avunduk but the lead roles belong to talented Turkish actors Nejat İşler and Yiğit Özşener.

Film critic Emrah Güler RC 88 wrote about

the film: "Nejat İşler and Yiğit Özşener play the explosive, nihilistic duo who made a name for themselves by letting go of their inhibitions and refusing to develop a coherent structure for the show, creating, instead, a harmless platform for pop anarchy on İstanbul's popular radio channel, Kent FM. Their trash talk from sex to poetry and loneliness, fueled by booze and probably something stronger in the studio, gradually built a fan base of which thousands tuned in to hear the uncensored but sincere conversations of the two men about nothing.



Tolga Örnek RC 89



Having started his career as a documentary director (with "Hittites" and "Gallipoli" among others), Tolga Örnek's debut feature of 2008, "Devrim Arabaları" (Cars of the Revolution) was a film that looked good but lacked a heart and soul. In "Kaybedenler Kulübü," he seems more at ease and more close to where his heart is, with characters that are finally likeable, relatable, and most importantly, real."

A Busy Season for Artist Hande Varsat RC 01

It has been a fast-paced year for artist Hande Varsat. She held her first solo exhibition, Tradition's Triangle, in Valencia, Spain, in December. That was followed by a group exhibition at İstanbul's Gallery Apel, the inspirational space owned and run by Nuran Bakır Terzioğlu ACG 65. Varsat is currently working on her contribution to a book on İstanbul by the well-known German photographer Christa Vogel Frieda which will feature 34 artists from the city. An exhibition of work by those artists entitled 'İstanbul Memories' will be held in June in İstanbul and in Berlin in September. She will also exhibit her first self-portrait at Gallery Apel during the İstanbul Biennial in the fall.

Varsat describes her work as an effort to reconcile the twin pulls of individualism and tradition. 'I was born into a family which migrated from Central Anatolia to cosmopolitan İstanbul, a conservative family highly committed to tradition,' she

says. 'On the other hand, I was educated in American style institutions which emphasize individualism and perhaps even glamorize the 'uniqueness' of each person to an unrealistic degree. Instead of rejecting one of these two realities, I have chosen to accept the challenge of being pushed and pulled around between two conflicting modes within the space of freedom art provides.'

The Spanish exhibition generalized this lifetime tension between tradition and individualism to Turkish women. It was a journey of self-discovery that unfolds before the viewer. Honor, virtue, intimacy, virginity, prejudice, pressure, individual, woman, girl, mother, home, family, labor, patience, trousseau and embroidery are the keywords that guide Varsat in recreating snapshot stories centered around Turkish women.

For more information, please visit www.handevarsat.com



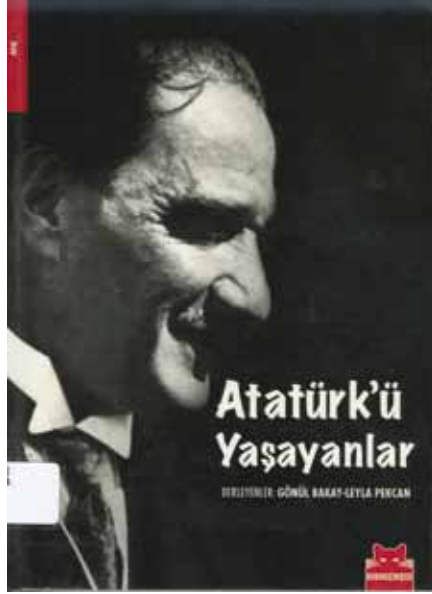
The Threshold Inside (detail with the artist).
Installation made of iron.
Photo by Francisco Hurtado 2010.

Remembering Atatürk Up Close and Personal

Two ACG graduates, Leyla Pekcan ACG 61 and Gönül Bakay ACG 64, have teamed up to produce *Atatürk'ü Yaşayanlar* (Those who lived Atatürk), a book which collects first-hand reminiscences and private photographs from people who knew him well. 'We wanted people to get closer to Atatürk, to gain a new appreciation for what he did,' says Pekcan. 'This seemed particularly important given today's circumstances.'

The pair interviewed 28 subjects for the book. These include well-known names such as Ülkü Adatepe, Aydın Boysan, Ayşe Cebesoy, Muazzez İlmiye Çığ, Nilüfer Gürsoy, Halil İnalçık, Özden İnönü, Timsal Karabekir, Can Kıracı, Asım Kocabıyık, Hıfzı Topuz and Meriç Velidedeoğlu. 'They are all formidable people,' says Pekcan. 'They still have that different sense of energy and spirit which is not something that you encounter that often these days.'

The memories recounted include former president Celal Bayar's daughter Nilüfer Gürsoy, who recalls her parents dancing the zeybek with Atatürk in their living room, or Nedret Ekşişgil, whose violinist husband was a part of the eight-person orchestra that played for Atatürk every night. The author Aydın Boysan recalls swimming at the public beach with



Atatürk at Florya. 'That's where he used to swim, among the people. There were no bodyguards back then.' Deniz Işıksel, speaks of his father Cemal Işıksel, who became known as 'Foto Cemal', Atatürk's photographer, after managing to introduce himself at the age of 20.

Copies of the first edition, published by Kırmızı Kedi Yayınları, are about to run out; Pekcan says an expanded second edition is in the cards.

'I come from a very Atatürkist family,' says Pekcan. 'I was born in Ankara, where my parents were bureaucrats. So I grew up experiencing that spirit first-hand.' Pekcan has spent the past 15 years working for the Çağdaş Eğitim Derneği. She is married to Tunç Pekcan RC ENG 59 and has two children, Burak Pekcan RC 87 and Tuba Cantürk as well as 4 grand-sons.

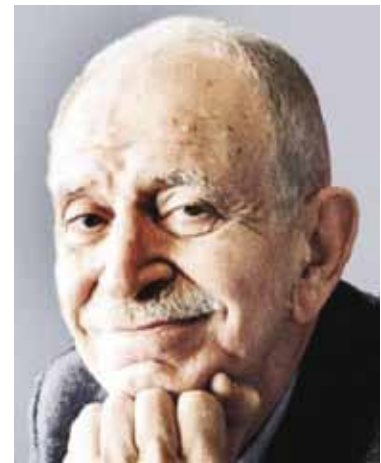
Gönül Bakay is a professor of English Literature at Beykent University. After ACG, she graduated in 1980 from London University's English Literature Department and completed her doctoral studies at Istanbul University. She has published numerous articles internationally and is the author of two books in Turkish, *Chaucer'dan Browning'e Değişen Kadın İmaji* and *Virginia Woolf ve İletişim*. She is married to Altan Bakay RC ENG 58.

Ülkü Tamer RC 58 Receives Poetry Award

Turkey's Writers Association chose to honor well-known writer Ülkü Tamer with its special annual poetry award in December 2010. 'Since his earliest poems, Ülkü Tamer has maintained a poetic search and not allowed his poetry to become stagnated in terms of form or content,' said jury head Ali Ural at a ceremony in Istanbul to present the award. 'Tamer is a poet who manages to make the most abstract leaps using the simplest of language. Tamer maintains that when you become a master,

it is time to leave. As he became a master, he embraced new beginnings and injected his poetry with youth and nature,' he said.

Tamer is considered one of the most important members of the İkinci Yeni poetry movement which began in the late 50s and revamped Turkish poetry. He has published numerous collections of poetry. In addition, he is also a columnist for Sabah newspaper.



Ülkü Tamer RC 58

Mithat Alam (RA 64-RC 68) Honored for Cinema Contributions

The Eskişehir International Film Festival chose to give Mithat Alam (RA 64 - RC 68), founder of the unique film center at Boğaziçi University and a pillar of contemporary Turkish cinema, its Commitment to Cinema award. Beloved by students and Turkey's film community alike, Alam is an influential behind-the-scenes mentor to many emerging filmmakers like Seyfi Teoman, whose Holiday Book (Tatil Kitabı) won many awards internationally, and Deniz Buga.

A successful businessman, in 1999, he donated the funds to establish the Boğaziçi Mithat Alam Film Center -along with some 8,000 titles from his own collection. The Center has become a vital component of the renaissance currently sweeping Turkish cinema. At its recent 10th anniversary celebration, well-wishers in attendance ranged from Turkish diva Türkan Şoray to actors like Erkan Can and Meltum Cumbul and well-known directors Nuri Bilge Ceylan and Reha Erdem. "The Center created a much-needed structure and a logic for Turkish cinema," said Ceylan.



Mithat Alam RA 64 - RC 68

Alam graduated with a degree in business management from Robert College in 1968 and went on to complete his Masters

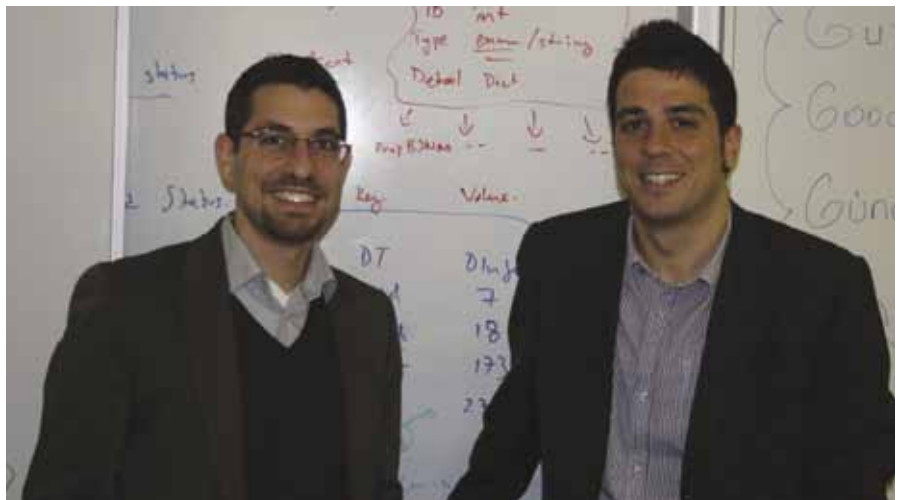
in the same department. He became a representative for various English, American and Spanish companies in Turkey. Yet he was always a cinephile- he began writing articles on film in 1989. In 1998, he was invited by Boğaziçi as a guest lecturer on cinema and thus the seeds of the Mithat Alam Film Center were sown. The Center is unique because it is not just a top-down institution - it relies on students' passion and dedication. The Altyazı film magazine, arguably Turkey's finest film periodical and to which Alam is an advisor, was started by a group of students here and is still based at the Center. 'Mithat Bey' is a much loved figure on campus, and students often keep in touch with him long after graduating.

Alam's role also extends to the preservation of Turkish film history. Over the years, his commitment has ensured that an oral history archive of key figures in the history of Turkish cinema is kept. The archive is the only one of its kind.

"We Decide"- a new internet idea

Innovation, crowdsourcing and markets are rising trends in the internet age. Kutlu Kazancı RC 96 and German School '98 graduate Erdem Ovacık have co-founded Wedecide.net as a Danish-Turkish company in the summer of 2010 to become a leading global crowd decision and innovation platform. The entrepreneurs spent the last few months forming the team and launching the product beta. The first implementations are under way as we speak.

What is unique about the We-decide Innovation Platform is that it uses an underlying stock market simulation to motivate and incentivize participation, contribution, collaboration. We-decide platform creates collaboration around ideas and competition between ideas. This creates an efficient process and well developed and prioritized ideas for the organizations as well as a fun, engaging and learning environment for



Kutlu Kazancı RC 96 (L) and Erdem Ovacık

participants where they can put their idea development and opportunity discovery skills to test. Idea markets have become popular recently as a tool to aggregate different ideas and opinions, improve

participation, entice collaboration and improve the quality of ideas. Fortune 500 companies such as GE, Pfizer, Motorola, Cisco, Walmart are employing idea markets.

Why Do So Few Women Work in Turkey?

İpek İlkkaracan Ajas RC 85 Publishes Book on Women and the Labor Market

Seeking to understand Turkey's extraordinarily low rate of female participation in the workforce, İpek İlkkaracan Ajas RC 85, a long-time women's rights activist and a feminist scholar, recently published a research book called *Work and Family Life Reconciliation Policies: Towards Gender Equality in the Labor Market*.



İpek İlkkaracan Ajas RC 85

The book is a detailed comparative analysis of the labor market status of women in seven countries (four EU members, France, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden, and three developing OECD economies, Mexico, South Korea and Turkey) and its interactions with the presence or lack of labor legislation and child care institutions that help families to reconcile workplace and household obligations. In those countries where there is effective reconciliation legislation such as parental, paternal and maternity leave laws, workplace practices with flexible working hours for parents of young children, and access to affordable and high-quality pre-school education and care centers, women's integration into the labor market is strengthened and gender inequalities minimized.

Turkey stands out amongst the countries included for having the worst performance in women's labor market status. Indeed the female labor force participation rate in Turkey is one of the lowest in the world, 10th from the bottom

among approximately 200 countries in the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Index. This was the main impetus for Dr. İlkkaracan in undertaking this research; she sought to provide insights into the reasons for women's lack of presence in the Turkish labor market and to suggest policy options to improve the situation.

İlkkaracan Ajas graduated from Swathmore College with a BA in Political Science, and joined UNDP in New York where she started working in women and development projects in Asia and Africa.

She received an MA and PhD in Economics from the New School for Social Research and returned to Turkey to become a founding member of Women for Women's Human Rights WWHR (Kadının İnsan

Hakları Derneği), an activist non-profit organization based in İstanbul. At WWHR, she helped develop the Human Rights Training Programme for Women, the longest-running and the most widespread human rights education program in Turkey and the region. Dr. İlkkaracan is currently an Associate Professor of Economics at Istanbul Technical University Faculty of Management and a Board member of the ITU Center for Women's Studies in Science, Technology and Engineering.

İpek Comes to Campus

In April, İpek İlkkaracan Ajas RC 85, gave a lecture at RC entitled "Why Women's Human Rights are Distinct from Human Rights?". İlkkaracan spoke about the evolution of the concept of human rights through the UN charters and conventions in the post-WWII period towards women's human rights with the CEDAW Convention from the 1980s onwards. She gave striking examples of gender-specific violations of human rights; such as honor killings as a violation of the basic human right to life; or very low levels of female labor market participation in Turkey as a violation of the right to gainful employment. She then talked about the women's organization that she helped to found in the early 1990s called Women for Women's Human Rights (Kadının İnsan Hakları Derneği); running a country-wide human rights training program for women as well as effective advocacy and lobbying initiatives for legal and policy reform. The students, from prep to seniors, had many questions and insightful comments on Dr. İlkkaracan's presentation.



Raising Global Citizens

In an ever more interconnected, globalized age, RC embraces new ways of building international awareness

Internationalism has always been a key feature of the school, but from skype 'penpals' to Debate Society achievements, RC students are busy taking their engagement with the world one step further.

Every Wednesday at 14:30, a group of RC students takes up position in Gould 412 across from a big screen to discuss matters of greater or lesser importance with students at four US schools in what they have dubbed a "Skyperence". Topics range from Middle East politics to exam stress -students learn to listen and engage with alternative viewpoints. This cross-Atlantic videochat is just one of the many international initiatives being developed as RC extends its global outreach.

In some ways, the underlying vision is nothing new. Robert College has long been dedicated to raising students who are aware not just of their place within Turkey, but also as part of the wider world beyond it. The school's Statement of Purpose reads: 'Robert College seeks to graduate young men and women with the skills, insights, and determination to function as leaders and contributing citizens in a wide range of social and cultural roles, nationally and internationally'.

An increasingly globalized world is presenting new opportunities to further this mission. These include projects that are both individual, aimed at building peer-to-peer contact with schools abroad via exchanges or practices like weekly skype chats - an advanced form of 'pen pal' friendships-, as well as group activities.

Perhaps the most famous of the latter is the Model United Nations (MUN), a simulation of UN style debates in which RC students attend seven conferences a year. RC also holds its own version, the RC International Model United Nations (RCIMUN). "What we are trying to do is



Rising stars in the Saint Petersburg Duma.
Prep & Lise 10 students in the Saint Petersburg City Council Chamber

not only connect with the outside world but also nurture Turkish schools to allow them to have international connections too," says English teacher and prep MUN advisor Cyrus Carter. The program runs once a year for 4.5 days with some 700 participants from Turkey and abroad.

As well as building knowledge through extensive reading on the topics, students also learn how to debate, negotiate and defend a proposition in the General Assembly in front of 500 people. "It is an amazing opportunity for public speaking," says Carter.

Then there is the European Youth Parliament, where individual students attend conferences in Europe. RC organizes one as well, called the Istanbul International Youth Forum. It is a similar format involving debates in a general assembly, with the difference, that the EYP is a little bit more collegial, focused on culture building and working together to develop partnerships.

All these international programs are student driven. "Students do 95 percent of the work and advisors do 95 percent of the worrying," says Carter.

Tackling challenges creatively

That work can take many different forms. With Junior Achievement (JA), students



discover their inner entrepreneur during a series of international conferences. With Destination Imagination (DI) they experience the thrill of solving a difficult problem.

"They are presented challenges and they are required to find solutions. They are expected to be creative and innovative in performing these tasks," says Erica Hoffman, English teacher and DI team manager. The teams work on their challenges for months and then join an international competition.

A relative newcomer to the international organizations on campus is the very hip Debate Society. Encouraged by a grant from Feyyaz Berker, RC Eng 46, it started three years ago with six students and has rapidly become popular. RC now holds its own debate competition to which people from all over the world are invited. "Its success shows us that the lines between native speakers and non-native speakers are blurring," says Carter.

Ayşenur Biçen, a Lise 9 student, says that debate is a huge part of her school life. "Debate helped me to learn more about what multiple parties think about certain problems and talk about those in a formal way as well as to make good friends who have similar interests. It fosters critical thinking, interpretation and confidence in speaking which I believe have great significance for RC society as a whole."

The debaters have also taken their passion on the road locally. In April, the Society teamed up with a counterpart at the Gaziantep College Foundation to help organize the first Gaziantep InterLise Education Tournament. "The aim was to be able to spread debate culture in the region," says Lise 12 student Cem Zorlular. Sixty students from four schools took part. "It opened a door for

young people who had previously not encountered debate due to the financial situation of their schools. This wasn't just the first effort of its kind in the Southeast, it was also the first ever high school tournament in the world to be organized and judged entirely by high school students." Issues on the table ranged from Libya to the problems of the Southeast. The RC Debate Society plans to form the Anatolia Debate Clubs Platform to further spread this fun and important culture throughout Turkey over the next three years.

Skype's the limit!

Making sure that all students can engage in some form of international contact is a new priority for the school. "Even though we have all those opportunities we figured that only about 150 kids take advantage of these international peer to peer contacts," he notes. To remedy this, Carter launched what he calls 'International Initiatives'.

What makes the initiatives approachable is that they are not club based. It is not a long-term commitment. Students who have other interests now have the opportunity for international peer-to-peer interaction. Carter explains:

"It all started with the International Math Circle set up by schools in NY, Singapore, India and China. Problems were posed online and the circle worked to solve them and also give suggestions online. This was a stand-alone learning management system like Moodle. We found that it could be better if there were some actual online discussions.

Then RC students began to hold discussion sessions with a group of people taking a one semester course on Mideast studies at the Nightingale Bamford school in NY.

"We set up a time after school once a week, which they come to with their coffee. We Skype them and the kids hold conversations on a different topic each week, related to Turkish-American relations and Turkey's role in the Middle East. It was a wonderful way for them to discover unique view points," says Carter.

It is not all about politics or science. Last month the school enjoyed a great activity with dancers. A group of students came over from the Lawrenceville School in New Jersey. Carter put out a call for RC students interested in helping out and 15 volunteered. Over three days, the visitors attended classes in the morning and danced in the afternoons. "These kids would not normally have a connection internationally. They are still Facebooking," says Carter.

RC is now preparing for another big international event with the US-based Global Education Benchmark Group (GEBG), a network of prestigious schools which aims to set standards for members' global-oriented programs and practices and allow them to create, share, and



Skype'ing with students in the US

Trip to Rome, at the Pantheon



compare information about these. Five of these schools will send students to Turkey in mid-June for two weeks to explore. RC, too, has a similar student group; five RC students Skype with their counterparts once a week to discuss different topics. Carter says: "We post readings and then the kids talk about issues. What is fascinating is that they realise the differences in awareness and in approaches. The current Middle East crisis has given them so much to talk about."

Among the goals of these activities is to strengthen students' English, and develop perspectives and critical thinking skills.

When the visitors arrive, the students will have other duties too: they will host the guests in their homes and show them around town. When they continue their journey to cities and sights outside Istanbul, the RC students will join them as cultural moderators. "It will be good for our kids because they are exploring internationally but they will also be looking into their own culture," Carter says.



Trip to Rome, at the Colosseum

Students & community duty

RC also has a connection with a school in Kathmandu. A small number of students will join a team this year to help out there for about three weeks.

The Community Involvement Project (CIP) is the school's local version of this focus on outreach. Students create their own projects, designed to improve a community's life, and find an advisor who can help them. These range from rehabilitating a school in the Black Sea region to helping cotton workers' children in Adana.

And they don't always have to travel outside Istanbul to interact with students from different schools. One group of prep students worked with hearing-impaired students in Ataşehir just a few weeks ago, teaching mathematics. So they are discovering not just their own country, but also different strata in their own city. One student last year clocked up 204 official hours of CIP time - and the requirement is only 50 hours.

Why peer-to-peer works

So what is the purpose behind the new international initiatives? "Whatever you do at school, you have to look at the mission and the vision of the school," says Carter. Internationalism has always been a Robert College feature. Building peer-to-peer contact diversifies the range of international exposure the students have, thus contributing in a different way to the 'global citizen' the school envisions.

Cyrus Carter, English teacher,
Lise Prep Coordinator

Kaan Ülgen, a Lise 10 student, sees his experience with the International Initiatives as an opportunity to understand the world outside Turkey without going to a foreign country: "The exchange that has been going on through Skype conferences and other Internet-based mediums with foreign students has really allowed me to understand the world more. This initiative is open to everyone to take advantage of, rather than the lucky few who can go abroad to have such experiences."

That's exactly what RC is interested in: Helping raise global citizens who are also adept critical thinkers. Carter believes that by opening students up to international connections, you also open them to a variety of other ways of thinking. They learn to make educated choices, and to make those intelligently and quickly.

What lies ahead?

As the school's well-established international programs continue to chalk up successes around the world, a new era of one-off initiatives is dawning. "Seventy percent of our kids continue their studies in Turkey and, maybe they don't want to join the model UN club but have that one connection about a physics project or something about green machines that happens to have an international component," says Carter.

Whether it is observing students' Skype chats or watching debaters take their global know-how on the road to Anatolia, the school's enthusiastic spirit of internationalism is infectious. The future, it suggests, is exciting. The vision is of an engaged and curious community of interconnected 'world citizens' - and RC students are helping to build it.

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Inspired by the Heart

Evren Kaynak RC 95 builds a career in cardiology

After graduating from RC, Evren Kaynak RC 95 studied medicine at Cerrahpaşa, eventually specializing in cardiology. He entered the program at the Koşuyolu Heart Education and Research Hospital with honors, where he researched rheumatic heart valve disease and mechanic heart valves. The results were published in several magazines locally and abroad. He was then invited by Brown University to present his thesis on blood clotting in mechanic heart valves and non-surgical treatment methods.

In 2006, he went to the University of Texas for further specialization at their Houston Medical Center. He won second prize for original research from the Texas Internal Disease Academy.

Mentored by Doç. Dr. Ali Emin Denктаş (RC 85) he completed research on cooling the body after sudden heart failure. He became chief assistant at the same institution and then embarked on further studies in cardiology. His focus was on blood clotting, factors leading to it and measurements for clotting. His work, again prepared in conjunction with Denктаş, was published by the American Center Research group.

'Our aim was to be able to personalize treatment in patients receiving double blood thinning medication as a result of artery congestion in the heart and to thus create treatment plans to protect these people from potential bleeding or sudden heart attacks,' Kaynak says. The first phase of this research is complete. The



Evren Kaynak RC 95

second phase will focus on the genome and receptors of those cell parts known as thrombosis. Kaynak's cardiology specialization continues. 'I will begin studies in interventional cardiology in the summer of 2012 and continue my career in that direction,' he says.



Inspired by his Grandfather (RC 08) turns to film

Budding author Caner Malkaralı

Inspired by the stories of my grandfather, to whom the book is dedicated, I wrote my first novel, *Keskin Faik*,' says Caner Malkaralı. The book was published in December 2007, while he was still a senior at Robert College, and is the story of Keskin Faik's grandchild, telling his own grandson about his paradigmatic grandfather.

A junior at Vassar College, Malkaralı is currently working on a second novel, 'an alaturka love story'. He hopes to finish it by the end of this summer. 'My favorite author Orhan Pamuk's *The Museum of Innocence* encouraged me to start this book, featuring the concept of an obsessive Turkish love that is so different from any other culture's in a



Caner Malkaralı RC 08

sense that if we deeply love someone, we are in it together for life,' he says. 'Turkish films like *Destiny* and *Innocence* by Zeki Demirkubuz, whose work I highly appreciate, resonate with the same sentiment.'

In addition, Malkaralı has discovered a passion for film. He recently completed two short movies shot on black and white film stock with a 16mm Bolex camera. They can be viewed at <http://canermalkarali.tk>.

He is currently working on another short movie that he is also acting in, on color film stock this time, which will be available in May, and two feature length scripts - one of which he hopes to film this summer. 'To achieve an everyday life atmosphere, I will be using my relatives and friends as actors like Nuri Bilge Ceylan and many others did in their movies,' he says.

When it comes to writing and shooting films, Malkaralı says he draws great inspiration from music. He is a jazz lover

and plays the tenor saxophone. 'Music is a crucial part of my work. Here is how I write a story: first, I need a plot. It comes from everyday life: the people I meet, the things that happen or might have happened to me, the need to tell something, or

purely the images in my dreams. When the plot is ready, I "meet" my characters that are going to interact with the given situation in spectacular ways. Then, I blast the music - and the rest comes naturally. That's how the mind works: the writer needs to get himself in the world he is building first and then stay there to interact with his characters as long as he is writing. I wrote *Keskin Faik* while listening to Turkish folk songs all the time. For my love story, I am currently listening to every kind of Türk Sanat Müsikîsi (Classical Turkish music) song out there, and I love it. Even right now, I am listening...'





Inspired by Words

Harvard student and published poet Efe Murat Balıkçioğlu describes how he works

By Efe Murat Balıkçioğlu (nom de plume Efe Murad), RC 06

My perception of poetry today is that it is no longer something spoken, but something written; that continues its existence, not just in one's mind, but can be traced and observed everywhere - from advertising boards to

historical, literary or even scientific texts. I take all sorts of notes. I begin by scribbling words here and there, and then longer sentences, fragmented pieces and paragraphs that lead to a longer piece, and ultimately to a poem. I am open to all kinds of sources. Instead of relying on conventional literary techniques, I move with the guidance of inspiration (as the older generations of poets say: *ilhamın şevkiyle*) and work incessantly on a poem for hours until it becomes a pure embodiment, as tangible as the concrete reality that surrounds us.

The epistemological ground for my poetry is that there is a moment where the most extreme abstract [ideas] and the most extreme concrete [matters] meet and almost perfectly resemble one another, ultimately becoming one.



Efe Murat Balıkçioğlu RC 06

I start from the very concrete. I look at objects and take notes literally on them, by using their surfaces as a sheet of paper. I look closer and closer at them, until the minutest details of their surfaces intermingle with my eyesight and everything becomes blurred as they reach a point where they transform into very pure thoughts that can be traced within the mind easily.

This moment, when the most concrete visual experience becomes one with pure thought itself, is the moment where I start to write my poem, combining all the bits and pieces that I have previously jotted down together with the ideas that I have accumulated in my mind while observing particular objects.

I do not read books one at a time. I believe in the joy of reading many books at once, usually belonging to different genres. I have been reading Dostoyevsky's *Brothers Karamazov* for the past six months along with a few novellas by Thomas Bernhard, the first

volume of Oğuz Atay's *Tutunamayanlar*, Sarah Kane's "*4.48 Psychosis*", Sheikh Bedrettin's *Varidat*, two short pieces by Emil Cioran as well as poetry by Trakl, Bachmann, Pizarnik, Hikmet, Ahmet Güntan, Kaygusuz Abdal, and Hoca Ahmed Yesevi.

I recently finished my fourth poetry book with a working title of *Def-Beyin*. I am also working on the complete Turkish translation of Ezra Pound's *Cantos* for Yapı Kredi Press, to be published in September 2012. To get me in the mood for Ezra Pound, I have also been translating Thomas Bernhard's early poetry into Turkish.

To translate Ezra Pound, I first do a literal, sometimes even mot-à-mot translation of the text, obsessively loyal to its every semantic detail. After putting it aside for a few days, I then read it over as if it was initially written in Turkish. To then make my translation sound fresh and natural, I make changes both in meaning and sound without looking at the actual text itself again. I find this exercise very useful for translating *The Cantos*, because in addition to the intellectual intensity of his poetry, I am well aware that Pound was also concerned with how his poem would actually sound when it is read out loud.





Inspired by Flavors and Food

Changa is the undisputed pioneer of the culinary revival currently sweeping Istanbul.



Müzedechanga

When its Siraselvilier location first opened in 1999, even food critics didn't know what to make of the Changa's bold new fusion take on traditional ingredients. Over the past decade, the Zagat-listed restaurant has earned accolades both at home and abroad and carved out a niche for itself as the place to go to for distinctive food. Signature dishes invented here, like grilled hellim cheese wrapped in vine leaves, are now served at bistros across the city.

The restaurant was founded and is run by Tarık Bayazıt RC 79 and Savaş Ertuğ, two well-travelled corporate executives who left promising careers to embark on this gastronomic adventure. For this edition of the RCQ, Tarık tells us what inspires their famous and flavorful dishes.

Sometimes by "Street Food" -----

Dilli Kaşarlı Tost at Taksim kiosks: Çökelek Cheese Crusted and Deep Fried Beef Tongue with Red Cabbage Salad and Mustard Sauce

Often by "Travels" -----

France and Thailand: Duck Confit, Pilaf with Kaffir Lime and Damson Sauce

Japan and Australia: Roasted Eggplant with Miso - Tahini Sauce

Always by "Childhood Memories" -----

Granma's "Tirit Aşı" in Domaniç: Organic Chicken Thighs Wrapped in Kataifi with Chickpea Puree and Yoghurt Bubbles

Neighbor's Tarhana Soup in Ankara: Tarhana (Dried Maraş Yoghurt) Soup with Mini Meat Balls and Spinach

Many times by "a single produce or local material" ----

Gülleç Dough: Smoked Duck, Feta Cheese



and Pickled Pepper Spring Roll in Güllaç with Tamarind - Orange Sauce

Fermented Black Garlic : Celeriac Soup with Japanese Black Garlic

Fragrant Grapes from Kastamonu : Sorbet of Isabella Grapes (Fragrant Grapes from Black Sea Region)

Pişmaniye : Chili Pepper and Red Wine Poached Pears with Buffalo Milk Mastic Ice-Cream and Sugar Floss (Pişmaniye)

The whole team works together to come up with ideas - from waiters to dishwashers, managers to owners and chefs. The kitchen team finalizes the idea and presents the product (dish). Consensus is reached on serving this specific dish in a specific way that all staff tastes and approves. Then the unwritten contract between kitchen and the rest is considered signed to cook and serve a certain dish at agreed upon standard. This whole process on average takes about 3 months.



Changa founders Tarık Bayazıt RC 79 & Savaş Ertunç

Cardamom Braised Carrots with Fava Bean Puree (Cold Starter) (8 PAX)



Carrots

150 ml cider vinegar, 375 ml water, 1 pod cardamom seed, crushed 80 gr sugar, 1 tea spoon salt, 2 cloves garlic, peeled and thinly sliced 4 medium size carrots 1,5 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil 1/2 cup fresh mint, chopped

Bring vinegar, water, cardamom, sugar, salt and garlic to boil in a saucepan and simmer for 5 minutes. Meanwhile, peel and top and tail the carrots. Using a potato peeler, peel ribbons from carrots. Add carrots and olive oil to the pan and stir to mix it all together, then place a lid on and bring to boil. Cook for 1 minute only then remove from heat, stir again and allow to cool in the pan.

Fava

500 gr dried broad beans (dried fava beans), 3 pcs. shallots, peeled and left whole, 1 clove garlic, peeled and left whole, 2 pcs. bay leaves, 150 ml extra virgin olive oil, 6 pcs. pring onions, 1 tablespoon fresh thyme

Rinse the beans thoroughly in a sieve under the cold running water. Place them in a large saucepan with the shallots, garlic and bay leaves. Cover with water and bring to boil. Reduce the heat and simmer, stirring occasionally. Cook for about 35 minutes or until the beans become very soft. Skim off any scum.

Drain them but keep the cooking water. Remove the bay leaves, shallots and garlic and put the beans into a food processor with 100 ml of the extra virgin olive oil. Process until you have a very light, smooth mixture, you can add a little of cooking water if necessary. Season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Chop the spring onions finely including the green parts and strip thyme leaves away from the stalks, and add to the mixture.

Place fava bean puree on a plate and drizzle the remaining oil. Place the carrots on fava with some juice of carrots. Sprinkle with fresh mint leaves and serve.

Changa

Sıraselviler Caddesi 87/1, Taksim
www.changa-istanbul.com.
Müzedechanga
Sakıp Sabancı Museum, Atlıköşk,
Emirgan, İstanbul



Inspired by the Yin and Yang

Encounters with bugs, Buddhist monks and brave orphans off the beaten track in Cambodia

By E. Zeynep Güler Tuck RC 98

If you're looking for a place with historical significance, cultural potency, somewhere that speaks to your heart and soul, consider traveling beyond India, even past Tibet, to the cozy country of Cambodia. Spiritually stimulating, this largely Buddhist country lays claim to the towering Temples of Angkor, built by the Khmer Empire. In addition to the ruins and distinctive cuisine, Cambodia offered us a spiritual place to rest our wary and cynical minds, and allow total strangers into our lives.

Guidebooks try, but rarely succeed, in preparing you for the social and cultural scenery of Cambodia. From the comfort of our bus, we entered Siem Reap, a city in the northwest. Naked babies innocently played about in small lakes of muddy water, not by choice, but because they couldn't enjoy their backyards for fear of death. Mines buried in fields across the country, are still active and testimony to the chilling after effects of war. Years of political turmoil left the war-torn country of Cambodia in a terrible state, riddled with extreme poverty and devastated by the legacy of Pol Pot, the corrupt ruler who commanded the execution of millions of affluent and educated citizens a mere 40 years ago. It was children who were left to pick up the pieces. But this

Angkor Wat Temple





A monk takes a photo of Angkor ruins

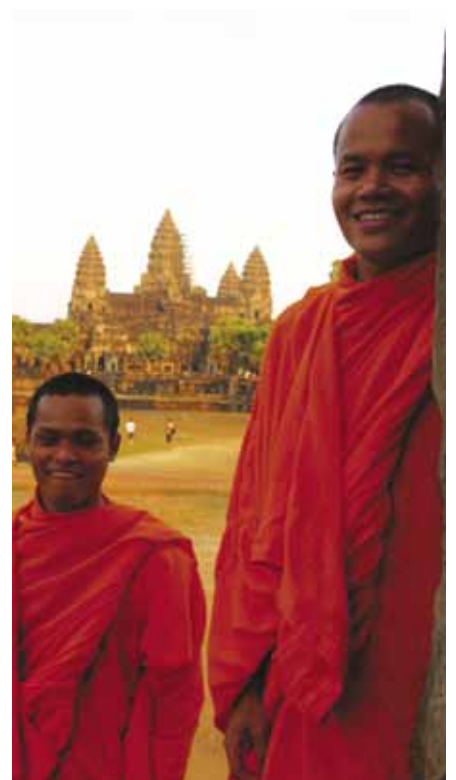
is not a sad story - what we experienced first-hand in this country is a survivor's tale, hopeful and heartfelt.

Upon arriving in Siem Reap, we settled into our guesthouse. February's weather forecast for this part of the world was nothing less than steaming hot, however, we had established our first mission: to seek out and sample a local delicacy - crickets. We headed to an indoor market in the centre of town. And that's where they were, piled high, sitting beside groups of other insects such as beetles and grasshoppers - all waiting to be added to a stew, some steamed rice or a stir-fry. The vendor rolled her eyes when we asked for only 2 little crickets, since locals normally bought them by the kilo. To avoid annoying her any further, we quickly got to business. We popped these little bugs into our mouths and our minds immediately told our bodies to prepare for the worst. We waited as our mouths savored the bugs, and then it was over before it had even begun. In all honesty, these creepy crawlies tasted no different than salted pumpkin seeds and only

cost 50 cents. Flexing our chests with pride, acting like "silly tourists" for just a moment, we walked out. It was time for the tourist sites.

We set off to see the vast array of ruins left from the Khmer Empire - now protected in the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Angkor Archeological Park.

We hired a "tuk tuk" (the most common form of taxi transportation in Southeast Asia), and headed to Angkor Wat. Faces carved into stone, blackened over time, stared back at us with cherub-like chiseled features. Slithering vine-like tree branches, having crushed and weaved their way through buildings on the site, stood high as proof of the power and dominance of nature over man. Orange and burgundy-clad monks - some of whom were also on vacation - joined us, and they, too, took touristic snapshots of the ruins. Each time we would get close to a monk, it was almost like being in the



Monks at Angkor Wat



Zeynep and the children of ACODO

presence of royalty. We didn't dare speak to them, but it felt good just knowing that we were sharing a moment with these celestial strangers who had rejected all "earthly pleasures" to become more deeply connected with their faith.

We made our way to the crown jewel of the empire, the Angkor Wat Temple, just in time for sunset. As we sat upon an ancient wall with a perfect view of the tri-towered temple, two monks approached us and said "hello". We were briefly taken aback, because, well, it felt like we were "the chosen ones." Like giggly children, we said "hello" back. They spoke to us in perfect English as we asked them

about this region, the Buddhist faith and themselves. Chatting with to them was an uplifting experience. Their views on life and their surroundings were untainted, genuine and pure. Their faith and beliefs were straightforward and made perfect sense. With clearer minds, we headed back to the city to grab a bite.

We were approaching the end of our visit in Siem Reap and like any curious traveler, we still sought something more, perhaps, a traditional Khmer performance, we thought. That's when we happened upon the ACODO (Assisting Cambodian Orphans and the Disabled Organization), which was referred to us by the friendly

Visiting Cambodia:

- To learn more about the ACODO and read the orphans' stories, visit <http://acodo.org>
- You can fly directly into the Siem Reap Airport (REP) from locations all over the world.
- Bun Kao Guest House is located in the centre of town and is a great deal. #0556 Group 21, Banteay Chash Village, Siogram Commun, Siem Reap, www.bunkaoguesthouse.com

owner of our guesthouse. We squeezed into a tuk tuk (yet again) and arrived at an orphanage situated on a dark side street. The doors opened and it was as if we had walked into Munchkin city in the land of Oz. Children, between the ages of 2-18, ran toward us with excitement and huge smiles on their faces. The coordinators, who worked with the children at the ACODO, began by giving us a brief history of the orphanage. They explained that the aftermath of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime had put many parents under great psychological duress, to the point where they were unable to care for their children. On the other hand, there were also many children who had been burned, disabled or wounded as a result of mine explosions and who needed assistance. The ACODO cared for them all.

Their beds were planks of wood and they walked around barefoot on damp floors,

yet they were still smiling. After we made our introductions, a few of the children ushered us to our seats, and the show began.

Music flooded the open air, and the children took to the stage, dancing and singing in a perfectly choreographed performance. The show was almost professional, except for the adorable faces peeking through the curtains.

Each child looked overjoyed to be performing for an audience. After the show, all the performers proudly gathered on stage for their bows and a farewell song.

Luckily, we got to spend some time with them afterwards. These were 10 precious

minutes that we'll always remember. How can you forget the faces of almost 50 orphans smiling back at you, singing, giggling and playing around? With heavy feet, we made our way out of the orphanage; back to our guesthouse and eventually, back home. To this day, we think about these children, their performance and laughter, and are inspired by the hope that exists in each future generation. It was definitely the best souvenir we took home.

Even though today's Cambodia still has elements of corruption - the streets that we walked along are lined with shiny Lexus cars, while poverty continues to permeate the entire nation- there is still an unfaltering sense of identity, the force of hope and a determination for progress.



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What Inspires Me?

Celebrations of Life... Past and Present

By Ayşe Gürsan-Salzmänn, ACG 61

Ayşe Gürsan-Salzmänn is an archaeologist and ethnographer based at the University of Pennsylvania. On the eve of the 50th reunion of her ACG class, she introduces some of the highlights of her life and work.



Ayşe Gürsan - Salzmänn ACG 61

After graduating from ACG, Philadelphia has been my home for four decades during my academic training at the University of Pennsylvania, and pursuits as a wife and mother. Living in “two worlds”, U.S. and Turkey, has not only widened my perspective on diverse cultural groups, but also created in me a sense of nostalgia for re-connecting with Turkish culture/s of which I had been a part. Perhaps that was why I persisted in teaching our daughter Han Turkish at the age of two; perhaps my motive for pursuing a career path as a Near Eastern anthropologist/archaeologist was a way to catch that re-connection.

My career has taken me to many parts of the world—from Wyoming to Mexico; Romania to Iran and Uzbekistan.

In Turkey I worked at Bronze Age sites --the Keban sites near Elazığ, Alaca Höyük , İkiztepe near Samsun, with Turkish, Dutch, German, American teams. Archaeological research is like solving puzzles—the portrait of an ancient people emerges after many, many pieces of objects are fitted together through teamwork. Such detailed work tests one’s patience, but also renders a sense of joy in discovering part of the puzzle to tell a more complete story. These puzzles inspired me to move forward.

I have learned, over years of work, that the past is always part of the present. When Laurence (my husband) and I were invited to document Jewish communities in Turkey, we found that the present and the past were interwoven. We visited 32 towns and cities from Edirne to Van in the course of five years, and in each town we recorded monuments of the

past, like synagogues and cemeteries. But monuments told only a part of the story; so I combined personal accounts of people with historical records to illuminate a multi-dimensional picture of the community. At Silivri, where Jews had once lived, there were no physical remains; only the elderly Turkish men remembered the community. The retired grocer Bayram Aga reminisced: “Salamon Moreno, Yesuva, Yasef, they dressed in Western style clothes, lived quite luxuriously in two, three storey houses.....they were such gay people, on Sundays they would gather in the square, play the violin, sing and dance. Those were good times.”

Another town we visited was Bergama where history is alive, its diverse cultural and historical fabric left physical traces throughout the town and the acropolis. Interwoven into this rich legacy was the sliver of life lived by Jews for some five centuries. To understand what that life was like we visited the only surviving couple, Bulisa and Salamon Saglamilar. He sold wholesale wool, cotton thread and sesame seeds. We spoke about community life, Bulisa’s father who traveled to villages on foot or donkey to buy wool, tobacco, fruits to sell them to local merchants in Izmir and Bergama, competed successfully with Greek and Armenian merchants. Such personal stories filled in the gaps left by the muted synagogues, cemeteries.

In 1994 while doing fieldwork on Turkic-speaking women in Uzbekistan, I wanted to understand the impact of Russian language and culture on the Muslim society that had been under Russian rule for over 40 years. An elderly woman’s comment was inspirational: “Our ethnic traditions are inside us, that is our real life; we took the best from the Russians (education), but preserved our family life and religion...”.

I am always moved by the extreme adaptability of human nature. Under most dire circumstances, some people are able to survive, and even flourish, like a whole village of Romanian Jews that Laurence and I documented in the late '70s, people who had survived the Nazi concentration camps and had returned to their community, only to find that their homes and businesses had been seized by the government. Still, they were able to re-adapt to new life circumstances.

I wear two hats, as an archaeologist and ethnographer, as a digger of ancient history, and as an observer of the present. One is an integral part of the other. The artifacts are mute on questions concerning daily lives of people, when and how they

had lived and worked. Were they skilled potters, metalsmiths or bead makers? Did they favor lentils over goat meat? Did they treat their dead with complex rituals? Or, how was the past landscape? Besides specialists, ethnographers can also delve into lifestyles of the past through analogies with the present. Such is my current work at Gordion, the ancient Phrygian capital near Ankara. It involves village-based research to understand the basis of life: the nature of households, family life and economy.

I think inspiration is a form of energy within each one of us, it needs to be triggered to manifest itself.



Travels in Search of Turkish Jews, by Ayşe Gürsan-Salzmänn and Laurence Salzmänn was published in February 2011 by Libra Press.



Inspired by People: Crowdsourcing Art By Selin Erkök RC 01

At Robert College, we learned early on that even if we were not spectacular on our own, as a group we were capable of creating amazing works of art. Whether it was creating a photography project in Ms.

Johnson's class or contributing to Ms. Halıcıoğlu's musicals with our "beyond-talent" teenage voices, we were shaped by a philosophy that emphasized both our place as unique individuals and the vibrant connections of being part of a "group".

Almost 10 years after graduation, I'm still inspired by collective action. And - increasingly- so is the rest of the world. Whether it's new business models such as group buying or open source software systems, or political reforms that are triggered by digital crowds, "inspired by the people" projects seem to rule our highly wired personal lives.

The digital interpretations of mass collaboration, artistic or not, is a concept that came into consideration mostly through the spread of Internet technologies and open source software

systems. Miranda July and Harrell Fletcher's "Learning to Love You More" (2002) simply asked people to accomplish 70 tasks on the website. When the project was completed in 2009, there were 8,000 collaborators, hundreds of individual exhibitions and it became part of SF MOMA's collection. This year, the breathtaking "Johnny Cash Project" was "curated" by Aaron Goblin, using a simple photo-editing platform. Its aim was to create digital reproductions of each frame in the video to produce a crowd-sourced music video for Johnny Cash's final studio recording: Ain't No Grave. Not many of the individual frames were a masterpiece on their own, but the final video was even nominated for a Grammy for Best Short Form Music Video.

If you would rather support art than produce it, Kickstarter.com, which launched in 2009, provides crowd source funding for art projects. So whether you have 1 dollar or 10K, it's possible to help an artist make her dreams into reality. By November 2010, there were more than 14,000 projects on Kickstarter and more than 400,000 supporters, adding up to



Selin Erkök RC 01

\$35 million contributed. This co-creative labor is one of the key indicators of the 2010s virtual economics. Crowd curation, collaborative art or digital reproduction, whichever you call it, in a modest way proves how inspiration by people can potentially influence the masses.

Selin Erkök is a digital marketing consultant, a city-dweller, a blogger, a traveler. She works as a Search and Performance Marketing Director, focusing on social media and search. "This piece is dedicated to 'bizim kızlar' in RC'01, who have been my crowd and collaboration for all these years," she says.



Inspired by the Japanese Spirit

First-hand impressions from a Yokohama resident in the aftermath of the deadly earthquake and tsunami in Japan

By Güneş Sönmez RC 94

I am fortunate that my work took me to Yokohama, Japan, the Land of the Rising Sun, a country full of ingenuity, thoroughness, organization, attention to detail and most of all, respect, the foundation for all that originates here. Since I moved to Japan in August 2010, I have gradually fallen in love with its people, and the country itself.

My employer is a multinational firm with me as the only "Turco", working on a project in Australia from Yokohama headquarters. Our 40-storey office overlooks Yokohama Bay and is overshadowed only by a 70-storey monster, the Landmark Tower, which is the tallest building in Japan.

Everybody here in Japan is used to frequent earth tremors. One a week is normal, things generally rattle and squeak, but a few seconds later life is back to normal. Friday, March 11, 2011, was anything but normal. Even the 80-year-old "earthquake-hardened veterans" in the office couldn't figure out what was going on. As we all know now, it was the biggest and most powerful earthquake ever recorded to hit Japan. Having lived the 1999 quake in Turkey, I knew this was out of the ordinary, and worse than what I had seen. The quake hit just after a meeting, as I had decided to treat myself to a cup of coffee instead of taking the elevator to the 26th floor. It started out slow; then seconds became minutes and minutes, tens of minutes, spent near and under my desk. My office on the 22nd floor swayed back and forth, performing a twisting motion. Imagine an awesome fun fair ride and factor the scariness by ten, and when you see the adjacent towers swing and almost reach over to you, by twenty. The building itself houses a large



Güneş Sönmez RC 94

counter weight on the upper floors that allows it to flex whilst retaining stability. These things sound great in theory but Japanese make it work perfectly as well. When the swing eased, I could see thick smoke pouring out of the industrial area in front of me around the Yokohama bay. This was a big one. We were all terrified. This was going to be the first of the disaster trilogy, the Richter scale 9.0 massive quake.

I did not spot any building collapses from the Yokohama harbour view in front of me, and later I learned that there was little building or infrastructure damage in the area and no direct deaths. The smoke was due to emergency shut-downs at industrial plants.

I knew quakes would not devastate Japan, but was it really spared? The worst news unfortunately was yet to come. First we heard of the 10-metre tsunami, which engulfed almost 30,000 people, sweeping anything in its path, and then the most frightening, the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, with major unknowns still to date. A current raised severity level from five to the maximum seven puts the trouble at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant on a par with that at Chernobyl in 1986. As the death toll rose by the hour, radiation readings and warnings followed each other, and new videos were released, I came to realize the massive scale of the devastation in a number of days.

Even in a nation accustomed to tremors, the massive earthquake and the tsunami it triggered have been terrifyingly different. Millions of people lost thousands of their



beloved ones, hundreds of thousands are still in care centers, supplies have not yet recovered on market shelves, trains are still not in full operation and there are wide spread electricity cuts as I write this article. There is no need to mention that, had such a disaster struck Marmara region, we would have suffered millions of deaths and Turkey would have been paralysed for sure.

Japan is a highly developed country, so its people, especially the young, are not used to such "out of the ordinary" events, but this is a society surprisingly adept at meeting hardship. I have not heard of any looting, cutting in line, unrest or protests. The Japanese say "Hardship must be endured together..." So that's what they do.

All companies, restaurants, convenience stores, schools, every single citizen, are somehow contributing to the relief efforts. By donation, by living in dark, by sending supplies to North, by opening homes to strangers, or by building supermarket shelves in radiation zones.

It is now "Hanami" season in Japan. Cherry blossom, or "Sakura" as it is called here, is at the center of the Japanese tradition of "Hanami", meaning "cherry

blossom viewing". From wide commercial streets to narrow avenues, river banks to parks abundant with Sakura trees, everywhere is full of curious people with cameras, eager to capture the short-lived sakura season.

Four generations of women walk side by side, lovers embrace each other, small pets walk their owners, teenagers drink beer and "campai" on the ground, colleagues have dinner on river boats lit by red paper lanterns - all over the carpet of pinkish petals on the streets and on the river itself. It is a peaceful scene, full of happiness, and social cohesion.

Sakura symbolizes new beginnings, beauty and harmony. Though there is not the usual enthusiasm to enjoy the beauty outside these days, it is getting better by the day. Slowly, more people are outside, ready for new beginnings, new summer, and another recovery.

I have not felt this close and sympathetic to a country and its people in my life. It is actually a mutual feeling in the peoples of the two countries having its roots in the Ertuğrul incident of some 120 years ago. In return to the visit of Japanese Prince to Abdül Hamit, we sailed Ertuğrul two years later to Japan for a goodwill visit. Ertuğrul sank off the coast of Kobe after departing from Yokohama, losing over 500 souls to the Pacific Ocean. 69 survivors were later brought to Istanbul by Japanese ships. This sad story triggered a wave of sympathy in Japan for Turkey and is still commemorated to this day as the foundation stone of Japanese-Turkish friendship.

Today, having lived these recent disasters together with my Japanese friends, I feel more like them, and I like them more than ever as I get to know them better each day. I have visited over 40 countries in my life, and Japan and its people, are truly unique.

The entire world knows that Japan will not only emerge out of this disaster, but will also emerge stronger than ever. We wish all Japanese strength as they rebuild this beautiful, colorful country of our "pale blue dot". Our hearts are with them.



Inspired by Talent

One woman's UK-based charity to help aspiring Turkish musicians

Often the only obstacle between a talented young musician and a brilliant career in music is the most mundane of things: financial support. Many young musicians abandon their passion and promising careers because of financial concerns or fears about their future.



Canan Maxton with partner and resident pianist Keith Beresford (left) and Dr. Emre Araci, music historian, conductor and composer.

Enter Canan Maxton RC Yük 68 and her UK-based charity Talent Unlimited, launched in October last year. The group provides talented musicians, most of whom are Turkish, with the means to pursue music studies in the UK. The group also helps young musicians with advice, exposure to the public, help in organizing their own events, links to their websites and finding them work.

The RC Quarterly caught up with Maxton recently.

How did the idea for Talent Unlimited come about?

I have been living in London since 1971. For the past decade, I have been organizing concerts on a voluntary basis for various charities and charitable causes like The Royal Marsden Hospital, Breast Cancer Campaign, Breast Cancer Research, Turkish Education Project and the Anglo-Turkish Society. While helping the charities I have also been helping the musicians by providing a platform for them to be appreciated by the general public.

In all this, I have received valuable support from my partner Keith Beresford, patent attorney by profession and gifted amateur pianist. Keith has played at many of our concerts and is a most inspired and sensitive accompanist.

It became apparent to me that I needed to have a registered charity to continue the work I was doing. A registered charity has accountability, donations given can be gift aided and giving to charities is a tax-efficient way of helping those in need. Companies and individuals who pay tax benefit from their own donations too.

We have three patrons -Gürer Aykal, Sir Timothy Daunt and Gülsin Onay- and three directors - Hakkı Gökmen, Leslie MacLeod-Miller and myself. We also have a number of Trustees. The only person

Talent Unlimited performances in London



who receives payment is our wonderful web designer Craig Encer, fluent in Turkish too.

How does Talent Unlimited raise funds?

At first, I injected money into TU in order to qualify for registration. Now, we raise money through concerts, annual subscription fees otherwise known as fees paid by "Friends" of the charity. Minimum contribution is £20 p/a. We also receive donations from individuals, firms, companies and organizations. It is our aim to expand the number of our supporters.

We launched the charity on October 5, 2010, at SOAS, School of Oriental and African Studies. For the moment we have about 35 "Friends" and many other supporters who give donations or help out in various ways.

The charity is set up to provide financial support to gifted music students studying at prestigious UK musical establishments.



Talent Unlimited performances in London

What is your connection to music? How did you get involved in this work? Did Robert College play a part?

I grew up in a household where my mother sang classical Turkish music and my father woke us up with his lovely tenor voice at 5 in the mornings singing Rigoletto. He also used to buy all the new records that were being sold in Istanbul at the time for the benefit of my sister who played the piano. I took some piano lessons too but soon realized that there was a tremendous difference between the sounds I was producing and the ones produced by the records or even my sister's fingers. I practiced dutifully but there came a point, around the age of 12-13, when I thought it was best for me to stop abusing the piano before the God of Music struck me dead. Had I not stopped, I would have made an uninspiring piano typist. So, I do not bemoan the fact that I do not play myself.

I graduated from RC Yüksek in 1968, School of Sciences and Languages, with a BA in Comparative Literature. It was during my very first year as a Prep student that I became aware that Özhan Akçalı, an engineering student, was setting up the Classical Music Club.

I had first met Özhan at a dance organized by RC when I was studying at Dame de Sion. Özhan told me about the weekly

organ concerts at RC and I began to attend them after school. I soon saw that RC offered its students far greater advantages than my own French Lycee, and most probably Istanbul University where I was destined to go. I decided to change course.

The Prep year was very exciting at RC. I was involved in the Classical Music Club. During the course of the next few years, the club organized many concerts for great Turkish and international musicians. My involvement with the club continued all throughout my years at RC. I suppose, I can easily say that I learned a great deal about organizing concerts simply by being involved.

After graduation I spent six months in Germany to learn German and then spent 1969-70 at the University of Iowa, the birthplace of Comparative Literature. I returned to England and got married in 1971. My daughter was born in 1974 and I got divorced in 1979. I taught English, French, History, History of Art and learning methods that I devised to help those with learning difficulties at schools and as a private tutor. I helped my students to enter Cambridge, Imperial College, London School of Economics, Tokyo and other Japanese universities. My strength in teaching is based on finding out what makes a student tick, how to motivate him and finding unconventional ways of helping him. Over the last 10 years I have stopped teaching little by little. In addition to teaching I have been involved in property development and the rental market in a small way. I think I shall remain in it without taking on much more responsibility so that I have enough time left for my charity.

How You Can Help

"RC graduates can help, if they so wish, by setting up scholarships, giving donations, working in TU or simply by becoming a 'Friend'", says Maxton.

For details on how to become a "Friend", donate or gift aid, please visit:
<http://www.talent-unlimited.com>.



Inspired by music

Akbulut and all that jazz

By E. Zeynep Güler-Tuck RC 98

Neslihan Akbulut RC 98 first discovered her love for music through the piano her brother played while they were growing up. Since then, she has starred in RC musicals, sang in the Avrupa Korosu, worked with famous Turkish jazz singers like the late Nükhet Ruacan and Sibel Köse, as well as musicians like Jay Clayton and Peter Elridge, won a Special Award in a jazz competition and shared a stage with the likes of Neşet Ruacan. We spoke to Neslihan about her impressive musical journey, her intriguing double life, the experiences that have uplifted and inspired her along the way, and where she is headed.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I'm in a transitional phase of my life. Let me start from the very beginning. I've always lived two lives. One for music and then one for more academic stuff. I still have doubts about whether I made the right decision, which was to study environmental science. I even did my masters in environmental science, but I kept up with music on the side. Somehow, I always knew that music would be a big part of my life, perhaps even my whole life, sooner or later. I'm still not sure about that. These past two years, I have had the biggest accomplishments in music but I'm not sure whether I want to make it a bigger portion of my life. This doubt increases even more as I do this semi-professionally. Day by day, my curiosity about how it would be if I only did music gets less because it's becoming more demanding and also more stressful when I think about depending on music for an income. I'm at a time in my life where my mind is more settled on keeping a space between both my work and my music. But, of course, who knows what will happen.

What first inspired you to get into music?

I think the piano in our house. My brother used to play the piano. That's the first thing I remember about music in my life. Of course, RC was very important in that it encouraged me and gave us all

those opportunities. If I wasn't at RC, I probably would not be doing music at all. What makes me do music is not money or ambition, it's just the music itself. I know how happy I am when I make music, and that's actually what RC gave me.

What were some of the RC productions that you took part in? How did they shape your musical education?

The musicals, first of all, in Orta school. And the choirs... Turkish, English [and Madrigal Choir with Mrs. Halicioğlu in Lise]. Now that I am getting to know more people who are professional musicians, I am realizing that what we did back at Robert College was quite advanced.



How did your musical journey evolve after Robert College?

RC is quite good at encouraging people; everyone that we worked with, you know, Halicioğlu and Kennedy, was really encouraging. I never once heard any discouraging words from them.

Whenever I needed an instrument to play, the keys were all there and the Music Room was at our service; and they were always there when I needed them.

Halicioğlu was always there. And of course, the opportunities were great. The stage, I mean, it is one of the greatest theatres in Istanbul. When I started studying Environmental Studies at İTÜ in Istanbul, I started attending this choir, the Avrupa Korosu.

Neslihan Akbulut RC 98



The thing about this choir is that none of [the choir members] are professional musicians, but all of them, at one stage in their lives, took music or singing lessons. Even though, right now, I can't attend their rehearsals - I'm still hoping to do it again next semester.

Occasionally, I took some singing lessons. Of course, during [university] years, you want to be on stage, singing rock, because that's cooler. [Laughs]. The main idea was to be on stage, singing popular songs, making people dance or rock out, so that's what we did.

Then I went to Germany for my masters, to Bremen. That's a great city to be a student, because it's very international and multi-cultural. That's where I formed another band. Two guys were looking for a singer, they were both guitar players. I started singing with them and we gave concerts here and there, at pubs and for free; just selling beer. Then, in the second year, a classmate who played the cello joined us. We made 2 recordings.

The 2 years went by and I had to decide whether I should stay in Germany or come back [to Istanbul]. I could have stayed, but I missed [Istanbul] a lot. As soon as I came back, I started working at the job which I still hold. It's an environmental consulting job at Marsh, an insurance brokerage company. What I'm doing is environmental and health risk consulting for industrial activities. I look at EU and environmental law.

After I started work, I looked for jazz workshops that I could attend. I came across this one by Nükhet Ruacan. She was a very famous jazz singer. So, I attended her classes for a year and then she passed away. I'm glad that I got to know her and didn't start jazz a year later.

It's a privilege to have met her. Then I met Randy Esen, the wife of the famous jazz pianist, Aydın Esen. Randy is a milestone in my musical life. I worked with her for 2 years and it was during that time that I started singing with bands, here and there. I also attended Sibel Köse's workshop; she is well known. When you ask anyone about learning jazz [in Istanbul], they will direct you to Sibel's workshop.

How do you feel that experiences like Avrupa Korosu influenced your style and your music?

The good thing about the choir is that there are a lot of voices; you have to be able to distinguish your own among all those voices and know what you're doing. If you don't know what you're doing, you're lost completely because we're talking about 100 people. You have to make sure that you're not getting lost, especially among the people that you're singing together with. You have to know your piece so well that you don't look at it and you look at your conductor. I'm actually feeling the advantage of [the choir] in jazz. Because jazz is more free. But, I don't want to stick with jazz. I'm trying to widen my repertoire as much as I can because I want to sing R&B, pop and funky stuff, not only jazz. Jazz is good to learn, but it's not something that I grew up with and that's why it doesn't give me the chills the way a Turkish folk song would. My advantage - because I started with jazz - was that I got to play with great musicians, and that's a privilege.

In 2008, you got the chance to work with Jay Clayton and Peter Elridge at the Vermont Jazz Center in Vermont, U.S.A. What was that like?

Randy was the one who gave me the idea because she knew about the workshop. I was the only Turkish person there. It was so funny because people didn't know anything about Turkey, let alone what people even sang in Turkey. The first day, we were all singing, and I sang a really short piece, like 2-3 minutes, and probably they didn't expect anyone from Turkey to sing jazz, so one of them said, "if they are teaching jazz like this in Turkey, then I'm going to Turkey!" It was a totally different environment then in Turkey. They grew up with jazz [in the States]. In Turkey, it represents more than just jazz, [this music] represents a lifestyle. In the U.S. everyone listens to jazz, it's no big deal. The workshop really eased my nerves and it was no big deal getting up on stage - it's different when it's improvisation. You have to keep the energy up all the time. You have to be in line with all the musicians; you have to listen to them and listen to yourself.

You were awarded the Nardis Special Award during the 5th Nardis Jazz Club Young Jazz Vocal Competition. That must have been a huge accomplishment. How was that experience?

It was one of the best things I ever did. [I don't recall a time in my life when I was more nervous.] Maybe [because] it was a competition, and there were all those people listening, and there was a jury. I wouldn't do it twice. [Laughs]. Those nerves are not encouraging for me. It's not something that makes me sing better. I don't like the feeling that I had that night. But, it was still a great experience. I can't deny the fact that the award is important.

It was the experience that actually mattered most. It made me less nervous at other [gigs]. It's really hard to get over that! [Laughs]. I didn't apply for any other competitions after that.

How do you prepare for a show? Do you have any rituals?

If it's during the week, it's also a workday. I have this strict rule that I don't want to excuse myself from work the morning after a concert. I try to get as much sleep the night before, because I can't sleep afterwards. The concert ends at 1am but the adrenaline is pumped up so I can't sleep until 4am, and then I have to wake up at 7.30! But it's fun. Especially if the concert was good and I had fun myself, the next day I just keep up with energy.

The weekends are much better. I do some basic vocal warm-ups. The only rule is that I don't have any. I'm trying to make it a regular time of my life, nothing ceremonial. Earning money from music is good, but still, the main aim is to enjoy myself.

Who are some the musicians you look up to and feel that you have been influenced by?

There are so many. Tori Amos, Beth Gibbons (of Portishead), Tom Waits... The jazz singers that I listen to, Ella and Billie Holiday... I adore them, because they are actual legends. I love Beady Belle, Erykah Badu, Jamiroquai and north European jazz... From Turkish musicians, I adore Kudsi Ergüner, Aydın Esen and Erkan Oğur. I like to listen to Replikas.

All information on upcoming concerts can be found on Facebook, www.facebook.com/#!/neslihanakbulut and MySpace, www.myspace.com/neslihanakbulut

Işın Ramadan Cemil ACG 69

The Class of ACG 69 undertook a project to create the "Robert College Grove". The project was aimed to contribute to the forestation of Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk Cumhuriyeti (The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus) and was completed in the Gençlik Ormanı (Youth Forest) of Lefkoşa in 2010.

Işın Ramadan Cemil ACG 69, pictured here in the grove lives in Cyprus where she and some of her classmates got together for this project. The saplings were planted in a designated area with the collaboration of the Department of Forestry.



ACG 71 on an art trip



A group of ACG 71 graduates visited Hale Arpacioğlu's (ACG 71) Exhibition in Ark Gallery in March 2011. Arpacioğlu, in the center of the photo in a red jacket, is a 1977 graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts of Rome. She divides her time between Istanbul and New York and is one of the artists chosen for the "52 Golden Women of Turkey" documentary, a Ministry of Culture & Tourism project , currently under production.

Serli Küçükyan RC 04

Serli completed her undergraduate degree at Boğaziçi University in Molecular Biology and Genetics. She will complete her master's degree in June at the same department. Civan Canseven, who received his undergraduate degree in Economics at Marmara University, met Serli in the autumn of 2008.

On May 2009, Civan's one month trip to the USA was more than enough for Serli to understand that she could not live without him. They sealed their 2 year relationship with marriage on October 31, 2010 at Beyoğlu Üç Horan Church and celebrated their wedding at Yeşilköy Çınar Hotel where Serli's parents had

gone on their first date 30 years ago.

Serli and Civan took waltz lessons for the wedding, but the insistence of their dance teacher to choose the difficult waltz piece, Waltz No:2 of Dmitri Shostakovich, put them in a bigger stress than the wedding ceremony itself! However, all the cheers and applause at the end made them feel that it was worth all that stress.

They currently live in Göztepe, Istanbul. Serli works for Pfizer at the Clinical Trials Department, while Civan is a certified public accountant.



Burak Karaçam RC 92

Burak Karaçam RC 92 and Michelle de Leon Karaçam welcomed daughter Carolina Ela (born 3,3 kilograms) on December 2, 2010. The parents express their newfound joy in the addition to their family, and express utter wonder at how quickly the growth and development process is already taking place. "The lifestyle adjustment the baby has brought about has indeed been significant, however, seeing the ear-to-ear wide wake up smile on Carolina's face every morning makes every bit of it worthwhile" say the parents. Grandparents Burhan (RA 68, RC 72) and Selmin (RC 72) are already on their 2nd transatlantic trip to visit their granddaughter, while auntie Selin (RC 02) is one upping them at 3 visits under her belt already. "I like my sister's enthusiasm. Nothing like having a free baby sitter for months on end" exclaims Burak, in anticipation of Selin's upcoming final year of her master's studies in NYC starting in August. If Carolina attends RC, she will be the 3rd consecutive generation to do so in the family, with an expected graduation date of 2030!!!



College Grads on Turkey's Pioneering 100 Women List

Not surprisingly, several College graduates are included on the list of Turkey's top 100 pioneering women, compiled by the writer and educator Gürşen Kafkas in a new book called *Öncü Kadınlarımız* (Pioneering Women). The College graduates included are writer Halide Edip Adivar ACG 1901, professor

Suna Kili ACG 46, writer Ayşe Kulin ACG 61 and public relations doyenne Betül Mardin ACG 46.

The book is intended to highlight the many and varied contributions by women to the forging of Turkish society. "In the 21st century, people now desire to live

free from discrimination, in harmony with each other and nature," says the author. "On an emotional and mental level, this development will ease some of the prejudices that are currently held against women."

Sinan Selçuk RC 95



Sinan Selçuk RC 95 and Victoria De Rouvre-Selçuk welcomed their son Jack Ata Selçuk on July 30, 2010, just a year after their dream wedding in Bodrum. Not even a year old, Jack already knows which day is the most important day of the week, the day Galatasaray plays. He takes control of the remote as soon as there is

a soccer game on TV. Whenever someone asks what he is watching, he simply answers "Nanya". Living in NYC, Jack also follows the Knicks games as he is a huge fan.

Meltem Aran Kazancı & Kutlu Kazancı RC 96

On the evening of April 20, 2011, two RC 96 alumni, Meltem Aran Kazancı and Kutlu Kazancı, said "hello" to their little bundle of joy, Gülperi Kazancı. Meltem, who graduated from Brown University, and pursued a master's degree at Harvard, and Kutlu, who studied Industrial Engineering, met over a Christmas break in Turkey. Meltem was living in Jakarta while Kutlu was in NYC. The couple met up and lived together in Indonesia for a year before they returned to Turkey. They were married in August of 2007. With parents like Meltem and Kutlu, who were both shining students at the top of their class, Gülperi should be ready to pass the high school entrance exams with flying colors in no time.



NYC reunion

New York graduates and friends met up again for another Bar Night at Pera Brasserie on March 1, 2011. It was a relaxing and fun night with more than 25 graduates from all ages. Everyone enjoyed themselves over cocktails, delicious appetizers and a lot of catching up.



From L to R: Zeynep Kızıltan RC 86, Selin Somersan RC 95, a guest, Görkem Cilam RC 95 and Suna Reyent RC 93

2011 Spring Dinner



From R to L: Elif Şikoğlu RC 97, Mine Kansu RC 10, Baturay Akaslan RC 09, Can Soyulu RC 10

After a long New England winter, more than 20 alumni met at a Cambodian-French restaurant on April 2, 2011 for the Annual Boston Spring Dinner. The attendees included several generations of RC/ACG graduates from 1947 to 2011. This year, Emine Fetvaci, Ph.D. (RC 92) gave a presentation titled "Sultan Süleyman through Ottoman Eyes". Emine is a distinguished faculty member at the Department of Art History at Boston University and she is an expert on Ottoman history and art. Given the recent popularity of this topic in Turkish media and revival of the interest in this segment of history, Emine's scholar presentation was very well received. The conversations were very stimulating and alumni had the opportunity to meet and celebrate spring in a very casual and relaxed atmosphere.

Dr. Gülgün Üçel - Aybet

Former RC history teacher shared the story of her past and recent achievements with the RCQ.

Dr. Üçel-Aybet's first professional teaching post was at Robert College in the fall of 1973, following her higher degree studies in England between 1968-1973. Her husband's assignment to Ege University (İzmir) in 1976 made her leave RC to continue work at İzmir Amerikan Kız Koleji. This was followed by her assistant professorship at Ege University, Faculty of Social Studies between 1977-1980. She worked on her doctorate at Istanbul University at the same time.

Upon completion of her doctorate she worked as a historian in England and returned to Turkey and to Üsküdar American Academy as a history teacher. The years 1992 to 2003 saw her as an instructor at Mimar Sinan University's



music department giving classes in the history of Western civilizations. In 2008, the United Cultural Convention, USA,

awarded her a "Lifetime Achievement Award, Excellence in History". Dr. Üçel-Aybet is also a soprano. She received an award from the Glasgow music festival in 1972 and gave a concert at RC accompanied by then RC music teacher Jean Strommer on the piano.

Her book *Avrupalı Seyyahların Gözüyle Osmanlı Ordusu(1530-1699)*

(The Ottoman Army as Viewed by European Travelers, 1530-1699) published for the first time in 2003 had a second edition out in September 2010 by İletişim publishing house. It is viewed as an important source of Balkan and Middle Eastern social and cultural history.



• Terrace Fulya, 2009



• Terrace Bahçe, 2010



• Terrace Feri, 2011

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Rallou Synadinos Wilmers ACG 29

Her son Dr. George M. Wilmers informed the RCQ that Mrs. Wilmers passed away in London on October 9, 2009 at the age of 100.

Naile Nesime Morali ACG 29

A tall, blonde, striking figure, a well-known name in the history of Robert College, Nesime Morali died in Istanbul on January 4, 2011 at the age of 101. A native of Istanbul, she was married to Celal Morali who predeceased her by many years. She was the first secretary of the Alumni Office at ACG brought to that post in 1958 by the Alumni Association of the time, and she ran the office for the next 15 years. During this time she strived to establish strong relationships between the alumni and the school, a task she excelled in. Though Nesime Morali retired in June 1973 after serving at ACG from 1958-1971 and Robert College from 1971-1973, she continued to live and breathe Robert College. Oya Başak, ACG 55, daughter of Nesime Morali's dearest friend Piraye Kaynar ACG 32 who predeceased her by some years shared the following:

"Her whole existence depended on Robert College. She lived, breathed, thought for and of Robert College. She knew practically every alum's year of graduation. During her time of service, she knew every single student's name and interests and kept up with them for a numbers of years. She was always very grateful to her close friend, Jane Page, RC Trustee from 1943 until her death in 1998, who helped her acquaint herself with alumni services by providing a grant for her visit to many campuses in the USA. Her devotion and loyalty were not only for the institution but also for her personal friends. She followed all her nephews' professional moves with great pride. She was devoted to Wordsworth's "Daffodils" which she translated into Turkish. The beautiful neighborhoods of Arnavutköy and Bebek, on the shores of the Bosphorus,



were sources of fond memories for her and she enjoyed sharing her stories with all visitors, young and old alike. "

Nesime Morali is survived by her brother Atif Serdengeçti, and her nephews Can Serdengeçti, Süreyya Serdengeçti and Ali Serdengeçti.

Sadun Katipoğlu ACG 34

Passed away January 1, 2011 in Istanbul at the age of 96. She is a name to be remembered for many firsts not only in the RC alumni community and in Turkey, but also in the international community of Soroptimists.

As an industrious alumna, Sadun Katipoğlu was among the founders (1957) of the Alumnae Association for American College for Girls - later to become Robert College Alumni Association and was one of the most instrumental alumni in developing strong bonds between ACG and its graduates. She served as President of the Association between 1957 and 1963.

In her professional life, Sadun Katipoğlu succeeded Nezi Neyzi RC 44 as the Secretary General of Social and Economic Studies' Conference Board (Sosyal ve Ekonomik Etüdler Konferans Heyeti - present day TESEV), founded by Nejat Eczacıbaşı RC 32, a non-profit organization, which among its many services, started the training of the first Turkish conference interpreters to interpret simultaneously at their conferences. In the late 1960's and early 1970's she was instrumental in organizing

training in Switzerland and later in Istanbul, for Turkey's first conference interpreters, among whom are a number of well-known AGC and RC graduates who later became pioneers in the field of conference interpreting in Turkey.

Sadun Katipoğlu was simultaneously involved in community work and worked in a dedicated manner for local Soroptimists*. She was President of the Federation of Soroptimists - Turkey between 1972 -1974. Her successful work took her to international fora. She served as the President of European Soroptimist Federation between 1981 - 1983. Her next accomplishment was earning the title of President of Soroptimist International (1985-1987), another first for Turkish women. As a role model, Sadun Katipoğlu was elected as the Honorary President of Soroptimists Federation of Turkey. In 1985, she was also the first Turkish female recipient of the Prize given by Public Relations Foundation of Turkey, (Türk Tanıtma Vakfı-TUTAV), for her excellent representation of Turkey abroad. Those who know her, will remember her as a leader who was keen on doing things right, the first time. Her achievements prove that she was successful in that.



Her son was the late Salih Katipoğlu, RA 64. She is survived by her brother Zeyyat İnaloğlu and two grand-children.

Contributed by Nigar Alemdar ACG 66

* "Founded in 1921, Soroptimist International is a world-wide volunteer service organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. Through their General Consultative Status as a non-governmental organization at the United Nations, the organization claims to seek equality, peace, and international goodwill." -Wikipedia.

Walter W. Arndt RC Eng 43

Died peacefully at his home on February 15, 2011, at the age of 94, with Miriam, his wife of 66 years, at his side.

Born in Istanbul of German parents, Arndt was educated in Germany and England and was studying in Poland in 1939 when Hitler's troops invaded. He renounced his German citizenship and joined the Polish Army, was captured, and then escaped from a German POW camp. He spent a year in the Polish underground, eventually arriving in Istanbul, where he was employed by the Office of Strategic Services (predecessor of the CIA), and the Office of War Information, forging Nazi documents and passes in support of anti-Fascist resistance groups and Allied forces, until the end of the war. In Istanbul he met and married Miriam Bach, and they had two sons, while he taught and studied at Robert College, and held various posts in United Nations relief and resettlement agencies. In 1950, they emigrated to the United States, where their two daughters were born, and Arndt held a succession of teaching positions. In 1966 he accepted the chairmanship of the Russian Department at Dartmouth College. Though semi-retired since the mid-1980's, he continued to teach, write, translate and publish into his 90's, and was composing light verse in German, in rhyming spoonerized couplets, the week he died. "A Picaro in Hitler's Europe," his final published work, was an elaboration of his war-time memoirs, and he finished a more complete memoir just before his death.

Dr. Arndt was the Sherman Fairchild Professor in the Humanities Emeritus at Dartmouth College, and earned degrees in Business Administration from Warsaw University, Political Science and Economics from Oxford University, Engineering from Robert College, Istanbul, and a PhD. in Comparative Linguistics, Classics and Slavic Languages from the University of North Carolina. He was a world-renowned master of metric translations of the works of Pushkin, Akhmatova, Goethe, Rilke, Busch, Morgenstern, and others. He was presented the Bollingen Poetry Translation Prize in 1963 for his translation of Pushkin's novel in verse Eugene Onegin, and was awarded a

rare honorary membership in Phi Beta Kappa, though he was perhaps even more celebrated among his students for translations of Pushkin's ribald poems published in Playboy. In 1995 the German government awarded him the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit, the highest German civilian honor, "for distinguished services to German and European letters."

Arndt's unique gift as a polyglot, linguist, classicist and poet was not to translate poetry literally, but to reproduce in



the target language the meter, rhyme scheme and most critically, the artistic effect intended by the original author. He applied these talents to poets beloved in their native languages, including originals in Russian, German, Polish, and French, enabling their better appreciation by new English-speaking audiences.

He is also lovingly remembered for his unique and entertaining "circulars," letters he regularly wrote to a large network of friends, relatives and colleagues, from 1949 to 2004. They described in fascinating, charmingly humorous and syntactically convoluted detail his work, his family's growth, travels and activities, and his observations on

his adopted country's social issues and political convulsions over the past 50 years. His astute dissection of-- and occasionally scathing commentary on-- every American administration from Eisenhower to Bush II, and on such issues as health care, education, the civil rights movement, gun control, nuclear disarmament, and foreign policy could constitute a college course in enlightened liberal political thought. He was an aesthete, and fought a life-long battle against Philistinism and the degradation of culture he perceived in American and European life and education.

The letters also contain beautiful, funny and precisely observed descriptions of the people, art and history of the many countries he and his wife visited.

He was an athlete, beginning as an oarsman for Oxford University, and a lifelong tennis addict of such energy and patience that he played singles against, and doubles with, his wife, well into his 60's. He had an epic sweet tooth, loved ribald jokes and songs, and the great silent-movie comedians, whom he could delightfully imitate, often when it would most embarrass his children or grandchildren. He composed clever and comedic poems for almost any occasion: birthdays, weddings, retirements and anniversaries. He had a soft spot for satirical humorists, he was kind, caring, gentle and flirtatious, and his remarkable intelligence and exuberant wit were blessedly unaffected by the physical decline of his final years.

He is survived by his wife, "Fiff " his four children, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Contributed by Miriam Arndt

Senih M. Fikriğ RC 46



Son of Osman and Nihal Fikriğ born in Istanbul, a Professor of Pediatrics and Vice Chairman at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center passed away on October 11, 2010 in New York City. After graduation from Robert College in 1946, Dr. Fikriğ pursued medicine and graduated from the Istanbul University Medical School in 1952. Prior to joining the Immunology Department of SUNY Downstate in 1961 his post graduate education training over 1954-1959 consisted of appointments at Morrisania City Hospital, Bellevue Hospital, Bronx Municipal Hospital and Kings County Hospital. During 1961, he was a Visiting Investigator in Immunology at Claude Bernard Hospital Saint Anotione, Paris France and the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Between 1959-1961, he was a Pediatrician at Zeynep Kamil Hospital, Istanbul Turkey.

Dr. Fikriğ spent the majority of his career at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center where hospital appointments included those in Pediatrics, Child Psychiatry, Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology. He took sabbatical at Sloan Kettering Institute in 1977-1978. His role at State University of New York Downstate Medical Center included that of Acting Chairman in 1973

and was elected Vice Chairman in 1982. In his early career he pursued studies across the diagnostic application of the NBT phenomenon to chronic granulomatous disease and developed a test that is still utilized today to differentiate between bacterial and viral infection. In the early to mid 1980's, with the outset of AIDS and HIV infection, Dr. Fikriğ and the division of Immunology focused on the challenges presented across Pediatric AIDS, HIV-infected patients, including newborns and performed clinical studies of the perinatal transmission on AIDS. He developed one of the largest clinics for this purpose and did clinical research on the prevention of disease transmission from mother to child.

Awards and Honors included Career Scientist of the Health Research Council of the City of New York and U.N. Consultant to Hacettepe Medical School and Cerrahpasa Medical School in Turkey. He was a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics and an author or co-author of over 160 publications in varied medical journals and edited the Handbook of Immunology for Students and the Staff.

In his retirement, Dr. Fikriğ became a Board Member of the Robert College

Alumni Association in New York and continued his role as educator to Robert College Alumni in the US, especially to those in pursuit of medical studies or in need of recommendations for medical care. He supported Robert College in numerous ways, first through generous donation's to the Library Memorial in memory of his loving wife of over 28 years, Margaret Fikriğ who predeceased him in 1986. He created a Fikriğ Science Lectures Fund, which continues today and was funded in order to focus on Ethics as it pertains to contemporary medical practices. Finally, the Fikriğ Family Endowment Scholarship Fund continues to support RC students across all disciplines of academic pursuit.

He was an avid fan of opera, classical music and New York's Lincoln Center and loved his cottage in Southhampton Shores, Long Island, New York. He appreciated stained glass and mosaics, was a constant reader and student of Turkish history and artifacts from Asia Minor. Senih Fikriğ is survived by his 104 year old mother, son Erol and his wife Margaret and their three children, Kara, Michelle and Logan. Son, Kent, cousins Nüket Atalay ACG 61, Birsen Zafir and their families, his best friend Remzi Çetindağ RC 47, and dear long term friend Birsen Erses ACG 60.

For friends and family unable to attend the memorial in his name held at the Yale Club in New York City this past October 30, 2010, any support to the Fikriğ Family Endowment Scholarship Fund at Robert College in his memory is greatly appreciated.

Contributed by Kent Fikriğ

Şirin Devrim Trainer ACG 46

Died in New York on March 6, 2011. Born in 1926 to the famous painter Fahrelnissa Zeid and author İzzet Melih Devrim, her other well known family members included the painter Nejad Devrim, the author Cevat Şakir Kabaağçılı RC 1904 and gravure artist Aliye Berger as well as ceramic artist Füreyya Koral.

Her early education in Berlin and Baghdad was followed by her years at ACG during which time she cultivated her love of theater. She continued at Barnard College and Yale Drama School.

She became one of the leading actresses and directors of Turkish theater and also performed widely in the USA. She was a professor of drama at Stanford University, Carnegie-Mellon and the University of Wisconsin.

Her first professional appearance was in 1950 at the Court Theater in Wisconsin. In the mid-fifties she returned to Turkey and became one of the leading actresses and directors of Turkish theater. She was a great devotee of Muhsin Ertuğrul with whom she joined forces in creating the Istanbul Municipality Theater together with Beklan Algan RC 53, Ayla Algan

and Tunç Yalman RC 44. From then on she was a dazzling presence on stage in Turkey and then the USA from 1966 onwards. She returned to Turkey for a limited engagement in 1989 to portray Sarah Bernhardt in Memoir, under the direction of Çiğdem Selçuk, ACG 60.

She lectured on Turkey and the Turkish theater across the USA in colleges, universities and private clubs and was Vice President of the Milwaukee Ballet and a Trustee of the Chelsea Theater in New York City.

Her many accomplishments included being one of the winners of the 2001 Daughters of Atatürk, Women of Distinction Award. Daughters of Atatürk Awards were created to publicly acknowledge the contributions of Turkish Women.

She was the first female director of theater at Istanbul's Municipality Theater. She was also a published author with books *A Turkish Tapestry*, *Şakir Paşa Ailesi* (The Şakir Pasha Family) and *Şirin*.

Oya Başak ACG 55 summed up her colorful life thus: "She was larger than life



in everything she undertook and her great love was for the theater. She was larger than life in her emotions, devotion to the theater, her passions and her loves. She was larger than life in all senses of the word."

Şirin Devrim Trainer was laid to rest in Büyükkada (Prince's Island) in Istanbul on March 11 following a ceremony at Harbiye's Muhsin Ertuğrul Theater and Teşvikiye Mosque. She is survived by her husband Robert Trainer, Trustee Emeritus of Robert College.

İbrahim Öngüt RC 50

İbrahim Öngüt died in Istanbul on April 12, 2011 at the age of 80. He was elected to the Board of Trustees in November 1968 and stepped down in 1996 when he was then reelected Trustee Emeritus. As a Trustee, he served as the treasurer at the Executive Committee and worked on

other committees. İbo, as he was known, was a 1950 graduate of Robert College and went on to Cambridge University and then to Istanbul University for his PhD. He worked for Türkiye Sınai Kalkınma Bankası A. Ş. in Istanbul until he took retirement in 1990. He was instrumental

in the transformation of Robert College into Boğaziçi University. He is survived by his wife Elçin Telci Öngüt, ACG 61, sons Ömer, Mehmet and daughter Emine as well as granddaughter Elif.

Özbek Özler RC ENG 53



Özbek Özler passed away in Adana on January 21, 2011. He shall be remembered with great fondness and respect for many reasons. Among them, he will be remembered

for his pioneering efforts in modernizing farming, in particular citrus farming in Adana. He will be remembered for

his compassion and empathy for his fellowman and his quiet and unassuming manner in his family's many charitable donations; to education in particular. Contributions to advance the cause of education was always of a high priority for the Özler family. Their generous support of the Robert College scholarship program through an endowment gift continues to benefit RC scholarship students. More recently, a major dream of Özbek and Terim Özler has been the Adana Terim-Özbek Özler Fen Lisesi. This project has been in the works for

some years and though many legal and technical aspects have been taken care of Özbek Bey passed away before the school was off the ground. Terim hanım and their sons believe it will be realized and continue efforts to make it happen and to complete this dream. Özbek Özler leaves a void in the lives of the many people he touched. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Terim Ardalı Özler ACG 52, his sons Bülent and Ali Özler, both graduates of Tarsus American School and his four grand-children.

Sedat Eden RC ENG 57

Passed away on October 28, 2010. He was 77. After RC, he went to the USA to complete his master's degree in civil engineering at Ohio State University. Upon his return, he settled in Ankara and worked as a consultant engineer for over twenty years. In 1984 he went to Brussels and joined the NATO international staff infrastructure as an airfield expert and also served in all possible capacities. He was highly respected among his colleagues as a very experienced civil engineer who could come up with solutions to the most complicated problems. Sedat, to all who were lucky enough to have crossed paths with him in life, was the epitome of the kind hearted

individual, the calm and caring friend and in one word, a gentleman. He was also a serious, gentle, warm person with a great sense of humor. He always knew what to do and when. All who ever worked with him miss his gentle character, his polite way of doing business and his willingness to help.

His wife Esin (ACG 57) of 51 years, his daughter Eren Arkan, his son Ali Kerem Eden and his four grand-daughters will remember him forever as the kind, generous and noble soul that he was.

Contributed by Esin Toksoy Eden ACG 57 and his colleague George C. Kofidis



Baskın Sokulluoğlu RC 58

Sixty years ago in our first-form year English class, we were made to read an abridged version of Herman Melville's Moby Dick. Ever since then, the whale's name has stuck, affectionately among his friends, to Baskın Sokulluoğlu RC 58.

After leading a life true to his nickname, Baskın passed away on March 24, 2011 at the age of 73 following a year-long fight with cancer. He is survived by his wife Edibe, son Ahmet, daughter Nazlı and grandchildren Leo, Troy, Arda and Meriç.

Born in Ankara, where his father Prof. Kamil Sokullu was one of the founders of the Gülhane Military Medical Academy (GATA), Baskın was the grandson of the legendary General Fahrettin Altay, whose name is still commemorated in a district and square in İzmir, as the commander of the forces that recaptured that city from the Greeks in 1922.

Baskın was captivated by the world under water and became one of the early scuba divers in Turkey. After graduation from RC, together with his classmate Tosun Sezen RC 58, he ventured to Bodrum where they pursued an initial career in sponge fishing in their 6 meter fishing boat Timarhane. Not only did they do well, but also introduced the local sponge fishermen to skin diving using nargile, a surface air supplied diving technique using a regulator, mask and flippers. This feat has gained them a legendary status among skin divers in Turkey. The treasures they found during numerous dives in the region still enrich the Bodrum



Photograph by Alpaslan Akpınar RC 60

Museum of Underwater Archeology. Furthermore, the rumor still persists that in addition to what they taught the spongers, along with Neyzen Tevfik and Cevat Şakir Kabaağaç (Halikarnas Balıkcısı) they also introduced the locals to the benefits of tourism, which then flourished over the years. Their modesty, however, has overshadowed the invaluable role they played in changing the whole life-style of this then-remote and dormant fishing village.

Baskın was a virtuoso of all things mechanical. At a time when nearly everything was virtually non-existent in Turkey, he devised diving compressors out of airplane equipment, underwater camera cases out of metal boxes, home-made regulators in competition to Captain Cousteau's aqualung. This technical expertise led him to a career in underwater salvage, construction and

professional underwater life in general. Following a bout of sponge fishing off the coast of Libya, he and Tosun did underwater construction for the well-known construction firm of Sezai Türkeş - Fevzi Akkaya there. Later, they salvaged various equipment from the battleships sunk at the Dardanelles in 1915; especially memorable is their salvage of the 20-ton propeller of the British battleship Irresistible from a depth of 82 m.

Unfortunately, their partnership came to an end following a dispute with the Turkish Navy during the salvage operations of the disastrous Rumanian oil tanker Independenta off the Haydarpaşa coast. Baskın went on to establish his own underwater diving firm, SODEMA, which has done major underwater work for projects such as the Marmaray Bosphorus crossing, the Galata bridge and others. His son Ahmet continues this undertaking.

In his later years, Baskın was the central node of contact among college classmates and always arranged get-togethers at Bizim Tepe. He taught in the Underwater Technology Program of İstanbul University and was an avid wind surfer, often to be seen off Silivri where he had a summer residence and at that mecca of surfers, Alaçatı.

We shall miss him greatly.

Contributed by Mustafa Puftar RC ENG 60

Gül Tuğrul Topuzlu ACG 61



Passed away on May 12, 2010 after a seven month long coma due to a massive brain hemorrhage at her home in Yeniköy, İstanbul. She is survived by her children Prof.Gonca Topuzlu Tekant M.D. , Cemil Topuzlu and her loving husband Prof. Cemalettin Topuzlu M.D.

Gül graduated from Şişli Terakki Orta Okulu before enrolling in ACG like her sister Nilüfer Tuğrul Yalçın ACG 42. Her classmate and three year roommate Otan Dikmen ACG 61 remembers her as an academically successful student and always being willing and helpful in assisting fellow students in all disciplines. Gül was also socially active, an Elvis fan, fond of dancing and would dress very carefully depending on the event. She kept a record of jokes she heard in a private book and would recite any one of them according to the occasion after announcing its reference number in her book.

Gül continued her studies in İstanbul Üniversitesi Edebiyat Fakültesi upon graduation from ACG. She married Cemalettin Topuzlu in 1963 and they left for Vermont USA for six years where she delivered and raised both of her children. The family was back in Turkey in Ankara in 1969 where her husband taught in Hacettepe University and they were also neighbors to her only sister. Prof.Topuzlu

accepted a new teaching position in Ege University in 1973 and the family moved to İzmir where they stayed until 1985. Gül was active in social services events both at her children's schools and in the wider İzmir area. She started spending her summers in their Datça Aktur home as of 1976 first with her children and then looked after her four grandchildren at different occasions.

It was in 1985 that Gül moved back to İstanbul with the family. They lived in Yeniköy since then where she reunited with some of her classmates for bridge events. She will be remembered as an 'Atatürkçü' and social person by her community and as a loving and caring mother and wife by her family. May she rest in peace!

**Contributed by her nephew
Ali Yalçın RA 69**

Yavuz Nutku RA 61

As a result of some unknown manifestation, our class has lost so many of its members over the past years. Sometimes I can't help thinking that fate has an inexplicable jealous intervention in the lives of '61 graduates, the best class of the Robert Academy.

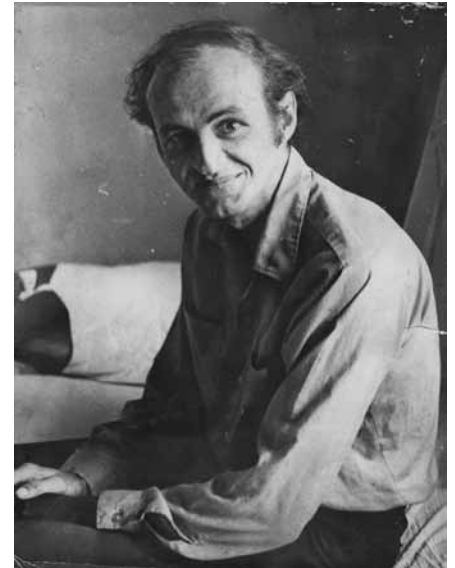
Yavuz used to say, "Life can only be lived once and it is not possible to do everything." True, but having one of the most creative brains in Turkey and being a mathematical physicist, he compiled so much in his life span and was among the contributors to exact solutions in general relativity. He was a well-known scientist in the areas of gravitation and integrable systems. He obtained the TUBITAK Science Prize, Phi Beta Kappa, was a Professor, Researcher and Chairman of Physics and Mathematics faculties in various universities and was the founding director of Feza Gürsoy Institute, joint institute of Tubitak and Boğaziçi University. He started as a student in John Freely's first year as a physics teacher, he completed his university education in Berkeley and obtained his PhD in physics from the legendary physics

Nobel Price winner S. Chandrasekhar in Chicago University.

Son of Ord. Prof. Ali Nutku, designer and builder of the first Turkish-made vessel "Gölcük," Yavuz derived his name from the well-known battleship. Although his life was devoted to science, he had a wide interest in painting, cinema, philosophy, literature, history, archeology and world politics. Yavuz always felt proud for acting loyal to the author of the text-book on geometry, namely Atatürk, and was hopeful for the future of our Republic, following in his path.

Unfortunately, he did not show the meticulous care he extended to science to his own health. His only worry was not being able to use his right hand to write calculations due to frequent paralysis' he suffered as a result of his prolonged diabetes and lung complications.

I wish to extend my deepest condolences to his wife, his children Sırma and Altan, to all his students, his friends and colleagues.



Contributed Y.Aydın Bilgin RA 61
Reference: Matematik Dünyası dergisi,
(The World of Mathematics magazine)

Ömer Vidinel RA 67

Ömer Vidinel passed away on January 7, 2011, at the age of 63. After RA, he started to study mathematics at Middle East Technical University. He continued his studies at Imperial College, London, and Birmingham University where he got his graduate degree in mathematics.

Returning from England he settled down in his hometown İzmir and started his career teaching mathematics in several universities. Later he chose to continue his professional life as a private math teacher. He devoted his life teaching math to hundreds of students, including my son Burak, in İzmir and preparing them for university entrance examinations. He was very successful and was highly respected in the community. He was greeted as "Hocam" as he walked through the streets of Alsancak.

Ömer was one of the most colorful characters of the class; quick tempered, dynamic, joyful and shrewd. He always built up new plans for his future, he was a dreamer and loved to follow and realize his dreams.



Ömer devoted his free time to music and he was an expert in opera and classical music. He had a collection of about 12,000 CD's and DVD's at home. He always had quite a number of close friends from the İzmir State Opera and Ballet and won their respect. He wrote several articles on opera, which were published in magazines

like Milliyet Sanat and wrote critics for operas staged in Turkey.

Ömer didn't have many relatives. I think one of Ömer's finest achievements in life was to take full responsibility of three boys, mentoring and financially sponsoring them from their childhood until all three graduated from universities. Though they were not Ömer's kin they were true brothers, one of them took the Vidinel surname at his own with his own will. All three were at the funeral along with many of his students to pay their last tribute to their beloved Ömer Abi.

Ömer's untimely and unexpected departure deeply saddened me and everyone who had the chance to know him up close. When you get older you understand the real value of true friendship much better, especially when you lose a dear one in an untimely manner.

We will definitely miss you, Ömer!

Contributed by Semih Maviş RA 67

Hülya Tezakin Altay RC 73



We lost a dear friend on November 15th, 2010. Hülya was born in January 8, 1955 in Istanbul. She studied first in Moda Elementary School, followed by English High School for Girls and later attended Robert College.

She continued her studies at Macalaster College in St.Paul, Minnesota and majored in Psychology.

Hülya was always a clever, disciplined, hard working, and succesful person all

through her academic life. She was also one of those rare people who could skillfully manage work with fun. She was a good skier and loved music and dancing.

After graduation, she returned to Istanbul and started her career in a multi-national chemical company. She moved to the Netherlands and later to Switzerland for several years. Upon her return to Istanbul, she got married in 1984 and had her lovely son in 1987.

She loved her family. She loved and valued her friends. She was a beautiful, elegant and outgoing person. She was a friend that you could trust yourself with. We shared so many years together, played "sek-sek" under the willow tree together, went to school together, worked together, had so much teen fun together and though we had our little moments to cry we were always happy together.

Your beautiful blue eyes, lovely face and merry laughter will always be in our hearts. May you rest in heaven dear friend.

Contributed by Şule Tunaçar

Orly Garti Balli RC 75

Our dear friend passed away on Feb. 28. A funeral ceremony was held in Geneva on March 1, 2011.

We are at the age of getting used to such losses: Bianca Berker, Nazende Çiğin, Feza Başak, Salih Bosna, Nahit Yücel also left us earlier. We thought we could heal ourselves with the energy of our youth. Yet with each new loss, we feel their memories still fresh in our hearts.

Moments after we learned she left us after a sudden illness, memories poured into the Robcol75 site. Dear Orly had created such lively images in our lives. As Zehra Kabasakal said, she had that unique endearing quality. Her free spirit showed itself in her uniform with her white blouse never properly tucked in, trying in vain to hold her golden curls under her red scarf. She always seemed full of energy, always somewhat happy. But many

of us also recall the sudden panic and anxieties. Her emotional cries mixed with her joyous laughter are still in our ears. We were mistaken to think she could hold no secrets, seeing her so unreserved and openhearted. Surprising us all, she turned out to be a member of the gang Belgin and Bianca were leading, from which the whole class suffered in Orta School.

Melda Kafalı remembered how she cried for the death of an old woman in the film they watched in Pangaltı İnci. Orly was a romantic. She was pure. She was also a very considerate person. She tried to keep herself, her family and friends away from worries all through her life. She lived for solving problems; never creating or being one.

Nuşin Artun recalled her loose white socks while playing tennis (or basketball, volleyball, badminton, or even dodge ball during our English classes in Prep



school). Only a casual detail! Yet, can just an image create such a wide smile on our faces?

Feyha Çınarlı evoked the song we used to sing down the hill after the basketball practices: "We had joy we had fun, we had seasons in the sun!" As Orly rightly said to me once, "Youth is truth".

To part from her is to leave our own childhood and youth behind. As Zehra Peynircioğlu said, "Let's say farewell to our dear friend just for the moment; hoping our heartache today will give place to the celebration of her life in the near future."

Contributed by Nihal Geyran Koldaş RC 75

Ceyla Gölcüklü RC 87

How can one describe, the sorrow and pain felt for the loss of a beloved friend, one whom she has held dearly in her heart for so many years, a friend with whom she has countless memories full of laughter and tears?

Ceyla Gölcüklü, a wonderful person, extremely intelligent, possessing a huge loving heart, with always the widest smile on her face, ambitious but at the same time compassionate, sociable, fun-loving and at the same time down to earth, passed away on December 7, 2010 following her proud and vigorous battle against a sudden and merciless illness.

Ceyla's journey through RC started with an extraordinary success. She entered the school in 2nd place as a result of the first nationwide "Central System Exam". Her family lived in Izmir so she was a boarding student, and I am sure that many of her boarding friends have memories with her that they also treasure. Ceyla, will be remembered by her friends at RC, especially for her success in sports, (she was the best volleyball player, and I so vividly remember watching her serves and thinking, "How in the world can she hit so hard, doesn't her hand hurt?"), her deep



and hearty laughter which still echoes in my ears, and her remarkable beauty. She was a student, who, without working too hard, succeeded in her lessons, due to her sharpness, intelligence, and general positive attitude, as was her stance towards everything in her life. Ceyla was so funny; we would double up from laughter together, sometimes at the silliest things. The teachers would be angry at us and we would try to be serious, possible only for moments, following which, one look at each other would suffice to get the uncontrollable giggles again. We had our secret codes for our respective boyfriends and discussions about them, what to do, how to act and so on were endless. Ceyla touched my life, and I'm sure the lives of many others, in such a unique way that the feeling of emptiness caused by her loss, is unrepairable.

After RC, Ceyla attended Bilkent University and graduated successfully from the Faculty of Economics. She returned to Istanbul and started work at a well reputed bank. This is where she met her husband Shery Shahnavaş as a result of a total coincidence, and following their marriage, became the mother of her dear, treasured daughter Lara. Ceyla was an excellent mother, caring and devoted, giving all her attention to her beloved daughter, which can be immediately noticed upon getting to know Lara, now a wonderful young lady. Ceyla, was also a successful businesswoman. She carried on the various businesses left over from her late father, whom she missed dearly, and at the same time fulfilled her dream by establishing a wonderful Cooking School which is now, in her memory, taken over by her beloved brother Şevket.

We, her loved ones, will miss Ceyla immensely and will treasure her memory in our hearts forever. May you rest in peace my dear friend.

Contributed by Joelle Hatem Ancel RC 87 (Written on April 1, 2011 - Ceyla's Birthday)

Şermin Haydaroğlu Özgen ACG 46

Passed away on January 24, 2011 after a long illness.

While a student, Şermin thought of her school as home. Her family lived far away, so she went home only during summer holidays and was very proud of her courage when she said sometimes she was the only one staying at the dormitory all by herself during the weekends. Her family left Azerbaijan during the 1920's because her father, governor of Baku who fought for the freedom of his country, was imprisoned and sentenced to death. The family lived at the construction sites of the Erzurum- Erzincan-Sivas railway constructions where her father worked as a controller. They chose ACG for their two daughters' education, primarily because the food was good says my aunt Fatma Haydaroğlu Alpengin (ACG 42). Mom loved her College friends like her sisters; she used to tell how Miss Summers consoled her when she missed her family. My mom was a special lady, she used to say that she passed her classes without studying. What she had learned during her days at ACG she never forgot as long as she lived.

Her memories at school never ended; how they roller skated in Marble Hall, how

they tried to persuade the gardener to get quinces from the garden, how they ate olive oil and bread when they got hungry with Radış at the dormitory. She used to tell me how joyous it was to go to Beyoğlu during the weekends and how the whole school cared for her when she was waiting news from her family and worried about whether they had survived the 1938 earthquake. While she was a student at Ankara Law School, she worked for Amerikan Yardım Heyeti and with Muammer Çavuşoğlu at the Karayolları establishment. She worked for many years at private companies and never regretted her rejection of a World Bank job offer in order to stay in her homeland.

During her long illness she was mostly happy going to Bizim Tepe. I used to console her in her bed during her last days by saying "Get well quick and let's go to Bizim Tepe". Şermin Özgen is survived by her sister Fatma Haydaroğlu Alpengin ACG 1942, husband Ömer Faruk Özgen RC Eng 48, daughter Gül Özgen ACG 70, grand-daughter Deniz İğdirli Şahbaz RC 96, niece Gülnar Haydaroğlu Smith ACG 71 and niece Mine Haydaroğlu RC 77. On her last trip, the flowers of the Classes of 1945, 1946 and 1970 accompanied her.



And the Class of 96 did not leave her granddaughter alone and came to say good-bye to the grandmother.

Contributed by Gül Özgen ACG 70

Correction:

The last paragraph in the obituary of Gür Çehrelî RC ENG 56, printed in the RCQ issue 39 was inadvertently misprinted. The correct version is:

Büyük bir tevazuyla sessizce yaşadı, sessizce veda etti bu yaşama. Duruşuyla örnek oldu küçüğe, büyüğe. Varlığıyla yüceltti etrafını. Allahın bana bir lutfuydu onu tanımak, onun sıcak kalbini paylaşmak.

"Senin sevginin ateşinden kalbimde bir aydınlık ve senin sohbetinden gönlümün ırmağında bir su vardı. O su serap, o ateş şimşek oldu. Şimdi hep o masallar geçti; bütün bunlar sanki birer rüya imiş".
Mevlana

Gürüm... may you rest in Peace

Contributed by Zeynep Çehrelî Alp

Obituaries Section

Over the years, as the Alumni & Development Office, we have relied on the loved ones of faculty, alumni and friends to help us with our Obituaries section. We share in the feeling of loss and believe that it is important to honor the passing of each member of the RC community in our quarterly publication. We would like to ask that you contact us regarding news that pertains to deceased alumni, faculty and friends. Please inform Çiğdem Yazıcıoğlu at (0212) 359-2289 or cyazicioglu@robo1.k12.tr about a loved one and let us know if you can contribute to the preparation of their obituary.



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