



Celebrate Diversity

April 2006, Issue 2

KU Exchange Newsletter



VE **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' SOCIETY** KURULDU...

BİZ KİMİZ?

Senelerden beri okulumuzdan yurtdışındaki diğer üniversitelere pek çok exchange öğrencisi



Nazlı Kerestecioglu,
ISS President

gitmekteydi...Tüm öğrenciler kendilerini akademik ve kişisel açıdan geliştirirken bir yandan da yabancı bir ülkede aylarca yaşamının unutulmaz deneyimi ile dönüyorlardı...Yalnızca Koç Üniversitesi öğrencileri miydi bu deneyimleri yaşayan? Tabii ki hayır...Aynı zamanda pek çok farklı ülkeden ve kültürden gelmiş, KU'yu ve Türkiye'yi seçmiş yabancı öğrenciler de bizler gibi aynı heyecanları taşıyorlardı. Fakat bu öğrencileri daha önce aynı deneyimleri yaşamış Koç öğrencileri ile bir araya getiren bir organizasyon henüz yoktu.

Dönemler geçtikçe, yurtdışına giden her exchange öğrencisinden gelen olumlu haberler, edinilen izlenimler, sunulan imkanların ve kapasitenin daha da çok artması Exchange programlarını oldukça popüler bir hale getirdi. Ve tabii, yabancı üniversiteler ile olan bağlantılarına, exchange programlarına, ve kendisini en iyi şekilde tanıtmaya önem veren her üniversitede olduğu gibi okulumuzda da, exchange öğrencilerini gittikleri ülkede karşılayan, kendileriyle yakından ilgilenen ve exchange dönemlerini en güzel şekilde geçirmelerine katkıda bulunan bir kulübün artık kurulması gerekiyordu...İşte bu amaçla Spring 2006 döneminde International Students' Society kuruldu.

BİZİM AMACIMIZ NEDİR?

1. Okulumuza gelen exchange öğrencilerine yeni bir ülkeye ve kültüre adapte olmaya çalışırken akademik, sosyal ve kültürel konularda destek olmak
2. Exchange Office ile beraber çalışarak okulumuzu daha geniş kitlelere tanıtmak ve Koç Üniversitesi potansiyel öğrenciler gözünde Exchange imkanları ve faaliyetlerinin başarısı sayesinde ayrıca bir tercih sebebi haline getirmek
3. Gelecek dönemlerde kendi okullarından diğer pek çok öğrencinin de okulumuzu tercih etmesinde büyük rol oynayacak olan exchange öğrencilerine Koç Üniversitesi'ni ve Türk kültürünü tanıtmak,
- 4.Exchange deneyimi edinmiş ve bu deneyimi yaşamak isteyen okulumuz öğrencilerini bir araya getirecek bir platform oluşturmak ve bir öğrenci gözüyle en doğru, en gerçekçi bilgileri edinmelerine yardımcı olmak.
5. Graduate study düşünen okulumuz öğrencileri ile farklı ülkelerden gelen exchange öğrencilerini bir araya getirmek ve bilgilendirme konusunda aracı olmak.

PEKİ BİZ NELER YAPARIZ, AKTİVİTELERİMİZ NELERDİR?



Güçlü ile Pozitif Eğitim” adlı programa katılım

- Exchange öğrencisi olmak isteyen arkadaşlarımız için düzenlediğimiz bilgilendirme toplantısı

Spring 2006 döneminde yapılmış olan aktiviteler:

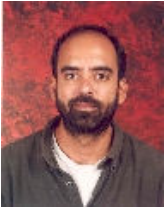
-Modern İstanbul’un Osmanlı tarihi ve Bizans ile buluştuğu tarihi geziler:

Sultanahmet Camii, Ayasofya Müzesi, Yerebatan Sarnıcı, Ortaköy gezisi

-Sanat ve Kültürel aktiviteler bakımından çok zengin olan şehrin misafir öğrencilere daha iyi tanıtılması amacı ile:

-Sakıp Sabancı Müzesi *Picasso İstanbul’da* Sergisi Turu

-Eramus bursu ile Avrupa ülkelerine gitmiş olan KU exchange öğrencileri ve şu anda okulumuzda bulunan exchange öğrencileri ile CNN Türk’ te yayınlanan “Abbas



Over the past two years, I have been involved with the Koç University Exchange Program in various capacities. I have taught incoming exchange students in my Business Law classes (both undergraduate and MBA), written numerous letters of recommendation on behalf of outgoing exchange students, and been a student together with incoming exchange students in Turkish language classes. Accordingly, I have viewed the program from many different perspectives. This semester I have added one new experience - my wife, Betsy Breckenridge and I are faculty hosts for the foreign exchange students currently on campus. I am happy to report that this has been most enjoyable.

Exchange programs are essential for any successful university. They provide students with the opportunity to visit and study in foreign countries and thereby broaden their horizons. They add diversity to campus life and vitality to the classroom. At a university such as Koç, where the student body is otherwise relatively homogenous, an exchange program is especially important inasmuch as it exposes our students to different worldviews. Moreover, to be successful, exchange programs must be reciprocal. One of the problems our exchange program has faced is that our outgoing exchange students far outnumber incoming exchange students. One factor contributing to this imbalance in the past was that many foreign students felt lost here and did not have any assigned

hosts to take them under their wing and show them around. However, under the dynamic leadership of our new exchange coordinator, Ms. Görkem Kantar Arsoy, this problem has been addressed. Now all incoming exchange students are assigned both student and faculty hosts. This semester, Kamil Kiraz has been a wonderful student host to our current exchange students; he has made them feel welcome at the university and has also acted as an unofficial guide to our lovely city of Istanbul.

As faculty hosts, Betsy and I are responsible for attending to our exchange students’ academic needs, i.e., assisting with course selection, acting as a liaison with other faculty members, and generally helping out on the academic front where needed. Because our current exchange students are competent and resourceful, we have not really had much to do. The highlight of being faculty hosts this semester has been having the exchange students, Kamil and Görkem over to our lojman for a nice Indian feast (since they haven’t needed much academic assistance, I thought I would at least provide them with culinary entertainment). Fortunately, despite my cooking, everyone survived and a good time was had by all. We have greatly enjoyed getting to know Kelly, Marc, Alan and Karl (who has the strength of ten men) and look forward to hosting future exchange students. The assistance of other faculty hosts to strengthen and diversify the program would also be welcomed.

Vivek Pande, CASE Faculty Member



In Turkey and Lovin It

So...I have been here for one month and it has been amazing. I am one of four exchange students that are here for this semester. I am from Vancouver, Canada and the other three are from the Italy, Miami, and Ohio. We have spent time wandering the streets (and pubs) of Istiklal, explored the breathtaking Ayasophia, Blue Mosque, Yere Batan and shopped at the Grand Bazaar, Cevahir, and Metrocity. We have had the chance to eat Borek in Sariyer, Kofte in Sultan Ammet, Kumpir in Ortakoy, Midye in Taksim after a late night and smoked Nargile in Tophane. Being a tourist in Istanbul has been great but having the opportunity to spend time with our new Turkish friends has been spectacular. There are two people, in particular, that have made our transition to Koc University so smooth: Kamil and Idil. Our student mentors. I am soooo grateful for the chance to get to know the beautiful people and places that Turkey has to offer and I look forward to our future explorations!

Kelly Davies, Simon Fraser University



It is lovely to welcome and accompany Kelly, Alan, Karl and Lucy, who are our guests at KU. Number one is Kelly, from Simon Fraser, Canada. She studies hard, attends all courses and is always smiling. She is exactly a proper student. Adjective thinker exactly describes number two: Alan, from Ohio State, US. He wants to minor in Turkish, highly interested in Turkish international relations, history and language; that's why he is with us now. Number three is Karl

Fils-Aime. He wears sunglasses from Miami and studies at University of Pennsylvania. Karl brought warm weather to both Turkey and to the group. He is the Co-President of ISS * (International Students' Society) and has the power of 10 men for entertaining. Lastly, number four Lucia from Università Bocconi, Italy, or from Slovakia. A Slovakian girl studies in Italy, decides to come to Turkey as an exchange. She is what globalization means.

With our campus life, Istanbul trips, weekends and holiday plans, pubs and night life, we are having fun here. It is a pleasure for me to be their student mentor for their time at Koç University. For those who plan to come to KU, please know that you are always welcome.

* International Students' Society is founded in Fall 2005 and aims the unify and socialize the exchange students with Koç students who are interested in studying abroad. ISS is the club for which students can realizes trips, concerts or any organization.

**Kamil Kiraz
Exchange Students' Mentor**



I've been the exchange mentor since the beginning of this semester, after a hard work of convincing our tough director Görkem. I've actually voluntarily became a mentor, so there was not much needed to convince her.

All the official things (registration, paperworks, etc.) you have to know about seems challenging at first, but apart from that you have such great time introducing your culture and getting to know the others that all the other work becomes less tiring. Everybody usually gets along well, either for being a foreigner or being a host and that creates a very fluent relationship. So that would be my short definition for exchange mentorship, but when it comes to my sincere ideas about it: It's a great job. I've been having such a great time with all the exchange students. I even got to know some parts of İstanbul that I didn't know existed, thanks to Marc. It has become more of a friendship between us, so now it seems hard to write about a mentorship experience. I'd say it is a true opportunity to familiarize yourself to other cultures. It is, in a way, more difficult than being a normal mentor since you have to be able to communicate very well and they need much more help for a longer term than a Turkish student ever needs. But anyone who gets along well with all kinds of people should try it out.

**Idil Su Goktan
Exchange Students' Mentor**



Selected Students for the Exchange Program for the 2006 / 2007 AY:

For the 2006-2007 Academic Year, Koç University will send 75 (63 Undergraduate, 12 MBA) of its students to the universities stated below as exchange students.

American University

Hakan Bilgutay
Özde Durukan
Burcu Müftüoğlu

DePauw Univesity

Salih Zeki Tillem
Selin Özen

Georgetown University

Burçin Yalçinkaya
Yasin Kursat Onder

Simon Fraser University

Kaan Olcayto
Hande Sungur
Emir Filiz
Pinar Centilmen

Singapore Management University

Gül Lüş
Lütfiye Tütüncü
Alp Eren Sarar
Yesim Oksaroglu
Sevinc Boy
Ceren Ozcan

University of Waikato

Melih Abuaf

UPENN

Can Yağlı
Cen Hazar

York University

Burcu Mazıcioğlu
Gizem Koc

University of British Columbia

Seher Aylin Altıok
Yasemin Avcular
Sanran Gulsen

Bond University

Onur Karatas
Zeki Ozturkmen
Dicle Atalay

Bocconi University

Omer Inonu
Gaye Akcimen
Deyvi Mizrahi
Bahar Ahu Sagin
Emin Sertler
Ayca Karakas
Hanzade Germiyanoglu
Nihal Beyhan Senyuva
Rasim Ayerdan
Nazli Mogol
Ali Ciger (MBA)

Aarhus School of Business

Sibel Sengul
Huseyin Deligoz
Lian Ozsarfati
Arda Ipekci
Can Aydede (MBA)

Tilburg University

Orbay Unsoy
Umur Gokce
Bilge Cakir
Demet Sarikaya
Ebru Orhan (Spring 2007)
Nevra Arslanturk (Spring 2007)

Groningen University

Hakan Sonnur
Tahir Yumukoglu

Bordeaux University

Mustafa Bilen
Yasemin Erdem
Beyza Kizilay
Deniz Sezer
Onur Ayan
Gokay Bobek

European Business School

Hasan Bayhan
Ender Erarslan
Gizem Ekinci (MBA)

BI Norwegian School of Management

Ozlem Donmez
Puren Ozcan
Ceren Sekban
Caner Cevdet Akcali

WHU – Otto Beisheim Graduate School of Management

Caner Masmanaci (MBA)
Merve Irmak

Helsinki School of Management

Seden Selamet (MBA)

Leipzig Graduate School of Management

Sibel Ozturk (MBA)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Merve Cagaloglu (MBA)

University of Washington

Ozlem Yanar (MBA)

University of Texas at Austin

Simge Alpargun (MBA)

International University of Japan

Selim Can Birced (MBA)

Institute de Empresa

Erkan Erken (MBA)

Indian Institute of Management

Mete Degirmenci (MBA)



An American in the Middle East

The uniformed officer who sits behind the desk finally came back into the room. He said “welcome to Syria” and stamped my

passport quite dramatically.

Syria was the best experience of any country I’ve traveled to. I stood upon Crusader castles, screamed in Roman amphitheatres, marveled barefoot at Umayyad architecture, photographed Byzantine mosaics etc. Walking down the street people showed the utmost hospitality.

My next stop was Beirut. The common perception of Beirut is of a war torn city with religious tension unseen in most other countries, but there is so much more to the city. It’s beautiful, its wide boulevards and modern skyscrapers with a mountainous backdrop and the Mediterranean Sea to its West make it a photogenic, refreshing sight.

The highlight of Jordan was swimming in the Dead Sea, far from any other tourist. The rest of Jordan was not so eventful. The capital, Amman, was boring and Petra, the famous historical city carved out of rock was so covered in beggars, tourists and hawkers that the time spent there was frustrating.

Leaving for a few days for Israel was what I needed. The atmosphere [in Jerusalem] was very spiritual; so many churches, mosques and synagogues, monks, nuns, imams, rabbis etc. but also very tense. Watching the Israeli police attempt to detonate a bag left at a bus

stop was a reminder that things were not well here. Despite the constant security checks, Israel was a pleasant country.

After a week [I went to] Egypt. The first ten minutes in Cairo said everything. After negotiating a taxi to a hotel another taxi driver came over and halved the price, [so I] went with him. The fare was the equivalent of one US dollar. As the driver was loading the luggage on the roof, the other taxi driver whom he stole



[me] from came over and punched him right in the face. The two taxi drivers fought with each other for a good five minutes before it was broken up. Just then I realized how powerful money was; and how desperate the situation in Egypt was. I learned only one Arabic word in Egypt “*baksheesh*”, it means tip. And everyone asks for it.

My six week trip through a region of the world I never thought I would visit tested me and changed me. My ideas on religion, Arabs, misperception, history, hospitality, the power of money, tourism; are all different now. I’m different now; more independent, less judgmental, more patient, less idealistic. Maybe better, maybe worse but definitely different. The theme of my trip I guess you could say is change.

Christian Decker
American University



Koç University faculty and staff are working eagerly to start new exchange partnerships within Europe and the United States. So many new partnerships are on its way, but so far Technische Universiteit Eindhoven (www.tn.tue.nl) and Vrije Universiteit (www.few.vu.nl) in the Netherlands have been our new partners. Students of College of Engineering will be eligible to apply for the Fall 2007 semester.