

Celebrate Diversity

February 2006, Issue 1



KU Exchange Newsletter

Robert Drapala was an exchange student from Simon Fraser University at KU for the Fall 2005 semester. He is back to Canada. Below are his thoughts on KU.



Koc University is not a place, it's an experience. Being an exchange student here will allow your mind to open as you are submerged in a cultural blend of great historical traditions and dynamic emerging lifestyles.

The Koc campus is beautiful, situated on a hilltop away from the distractions of inner-city Istanbul. The gated campus is flush with pine trees and cobblestone roads that provide both the feeling of excitement and relaxation. My second home at Koc has been the fitness center facility that seemingly stays open all day and night and is absolutely free to use. Inside you will find it hard to avoid the invitation to join fellow students engaged in a game of basketball, soccer, tennis, or even badminton.

The school is relatively small, and is designed so that most students will pass through a central area once or twice daily. The central area provides a place to meet friends, have a bite to eat, and pick up any necessary items from the grocery store.

While you may think you are bumping into a lot of familiar faces, you can be assured that there

are a lot more faces that are recognizing you as familiar. As an exchange student at Koc, you are a minority and you definitely get noticed. The received attention is great. People are very friendly and overly helpful if you're ever in need. The fellow students are your best resource as they are never too busy to make sure you are not confused or lost.

For me, the pace of life seems slow at Koc, when being compared to Canada. Students routinely file into their classes between 5 and 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, and are welcomed with numerous empty seats to choose from.

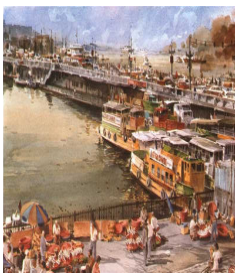


Profs are often in the habit of starting the class late to accommodate for the majority of stragglers. The class attitude is often relaxed and student-teacher communication seems less formal.

Class sizes are small, with my largest class having 50 students. Attendance is "mandatory" but they do allow a certain number of forgivable absences, which can seemingly be stretched to accommodate the individual exchange student needs. The profs are very friendly and helpful.

Koc University is a place for the exchange student who is looking for an educational adventure. The unique blend of Turkish and Western influence on campus has provided me an immense amount of insight into the cultural differences that exist in the world. My experience at Koc has been eye-opening, sometimes challenging, and always exciting.

Robert Drapala



TOUR OF ISTANBUL FOR THE EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The tour will include some of the very important landmarks of Istanbul: St. Sophia, Blue Mosque, Hippodrome, Topkapı Palace and the Grand Bazaar.

Participants will leave at around 9:00 am from KU and return of around 8:00pm. The date of the tour will be announced. Please call 1851 for more information or e-mail garsoy@ku.edu.tr

EXCHANGE STUDENTS ON CAMPUS FOR THE SPRING 2006 SEMESTER:

Alan Michael Beck, Ohio State University, International Studies
Kelly Davies, Simon Fraser University, Psychology
Karl Fils-Amie, UPENN, Elc. & Elt. Engineering
Lucia Janosikova, Bocconi, Economics



Karl Fils-Amie



Lucia Janosikova



Kelly Davies



Alan Michael Beck

EXCHANGE APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE SCHOOLS IN EUROPE IS MARCH 15, 2006

Please research in advance and apply by March 15.

Names of our partner institutions in Europe:

- *Aarhus School of Business, Aarhus, Denmark
Programs open to KU students: CASE
- *Universita Commerciale Luigi Bocconi, Milano, Italy
Programs open to KU students: CASE
- *Bordeaux Business School, Bordeaux, France
Programs open to KU students: CASE
- *Universita' Degli Studi Di Firenze, Firenze, Italy
Programs open to KU students: CASE, CAS
- *Universitat Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany
Programs open to KU students: CL
- *University of Groningen, Netherlands
Programs open to KU students: Intl Rel.
- *University of Tilburg, Netherlands
Programs open to KU students: CASE, CAS
- *WHU, Otto Beisheim Graduate School of Management, Vallendar, Germany
Programs open to KU students: CASE
- *BI Norwegian School of Management, Oslo, Norway.
Programs open to KU students: CASE

***Please visit the Exchange Website at
<http://exchange.ku.edu.tr> for more information***



INTERNATIONALIZATION OF OUR CAMPUS

One of KU's goals is to have a more diverse student body. Currently KU has approximately 30 international students. This number is to be 150 in the near future. We all need to be more active and responsible for the

pro-internationalization of our student body.

Here are some of the areas we need to improve on:

- We need the time and afford of the faculty in helping create new partners for the purpose of signing new exchange agreements.
- Faculty and staff should engage international students academically and socially, as they play a critical role in involving international students.
- We need faculty to be more supportive in the KU exchange student's course selections at the host institutions. Satisfied KU exchange students will be more effective in helping recruit international students for KU.
- Students should be encouraged to apply to the exchange programs - some of the spots at the partner institutions are not filled due to lack of student interest.
- Exchange office will be the center for your questions about the exchange process.
- Students who go on an exchange program are responsible for representing KU abroad.
- Faculty is also eligible for the exchange programs, especially in the context of the Erasmus Faculty mobility. Please consult with your college Erasmus coordinator or with the exchange office to obtain information on the process.

KU should be the leading school among the exchange programs in Turkey. To achieve this, we need your help. Please visit the exchange website for more information: <http://exchange.ku.edu.tr>

Bilgen Bilgin, Ph.D. / Dean of Students

SELECTED STUDENTS FOR THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR THE 2006 / 2007 ACADEMIC YEAR:



American University

Hakan Bilgutay
Lian Özsarfati
Özde Durukan
Gizem Müftüoğlu

DePauw University

Salih Zeki Tillem
Selin Özen

Georgetown University

Burçin Yalçınkaya
Yasin Kürşat Önder

Simon Fraser University

Kaan Olcayto
Deyvi Mizrahi

Singapore Management University

Gül Lüş
Lütfiye Tütüncü

University of Waikato

Melih Abuaf

UPENN

Can Yağlı
Cen Hazar

York University

Burcu Mazıcıoğlu

* These students need to confirm their participation in the program with Görkem Arsoy by February 6, 2006.

* First year students' nominations will be announced once the grades are declared by the Registrar's Office



LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CLUB

We need at least four members for the following positions: **President, Vice President, Secretary** and the **Treasurer**.

International Student Club will be a group of students from KU who come together to share each other's cultures and backgrounds and to provide support for those who are new to this country. ISC also will promote international awareness to the KU campus by building an active International Community at KU as well as promoting international cultures via social events.

Please e-mail Görkem Arsoy, Exchange Programs Coordinator if you are interested in serving as an officer. Members are also welcomed.

Contact Information: garsoy@ku.edu.tr / Tel: 0.212.338.1851 / Office Location: Office of the Dean of Students, Administrative Building A, Ground Floor

ERASMUS'UN MUTLAK DEĞERİ: AARHUS'A DEĞER BİCEMEDEN GERİ DÖNMEK



Danimarka'nın Aarhus kentinde, Aarhus School of Business'ta (ASB), geçirdiğim dönemin ardından, şimdi evimde bir koltukta oturmuş, dönem sonunda Türkiye'ye dönmek üzereyken beni Aarhus'tan Hamburg'a götüren trende geçirdiğim öğle sonrasını hatırlıyorum. Bir yandan geride kalan üç buçuk ayın muhasebesini yaparken diğer yandan orada bıraktığım anları yad ediyor, yanımda götürmekte olduğum anıları cebimden çıkarıp tekrar tekrar sayıyordum. O kısa zaman diliminde aklımdan pek çok şey geçti. Mezun olmak için almam gereken ders sayısını daha önceden azaltmış olduğum için akademik açıdan tamamen kendi isteklerim doğrultusunda derslerimi seçme şansım oldu. Bunun sağladığı rahatlık dışında Öğrenci nüfusunun çok da fazla olmadığı bu okulda (yaklaşık 2500 öğrencisi olan bir okul ASB) 200'ün üzerinde değişim programı öğrencisiyle birlikte iyi planlanmış bir oryantasyon

haftasıyla başlayan ve dönem boyunca süren bir tanışıklığım ve kimileriyle de arkadaşlıklarım oldu. Danimarkalı öğrencilere eklenen değişim öğrencisi kalabalığı içerisinde AB Türkiye ilişkilerinden Noel alışverişine kadar birçok konuda yaptığım o tatlı-sert ancak bir o kadar da değerli tartışmalardan tutun da fırsat buldukça şehirden şehre-ülkeden ülkeye gezerken gördüklerime kadar, neredeyse her an, etrafımdakilerle konuştukça ve olup bitenleri gözlemledikçe yerkürenin kaç yüzü, kaç köşesi olduğuna dair sürekli netleşen bir resim elde ettiğimi anladım. Belki de katıldığım Erasmus Öğrenci Değişim Programı'nın esas amacı da benim durduğum yerden görüldüğü kadarıyla buydu. Hiçbir tarafı İstanbul'a benzemeyen ufak bir büyükşehir olan Aarhus'ta, hiçbir hali Türkiye'ye benzemeyen hatta bazı açılardan "Avrupa'nın Avrupa'sı" olarak nitelendirilebileceğim Danimarka'da, bir değişim öğrencisi olarak "uzaklarda" olmanın verdiği özgürlük ve değişim hissine, - sağladığı fiziksel imkanlar Koç Üniversitesi'ndekilere çok benzese de- eğitim anlayışı farklı ve yine nitelikli olan bir okulda çalışmanın kazandırdığı deneyime değer biçmek neredeyse imkansız. Ayrıca ASB'nin, exchange öğrencilere özel olarak her güz döneminde düzenlediği Avrupa Konseyi ve Avrupa Parlamentosu gezisi ya da okulun içerisinde şehrin en genç ve hareketli kulüplerinden bir tanesinin bulunması gibi hoş sürprizler de ASB'deki Erasmus deneyimini başka ülkelerdeki/şehirlerdeki okullardan ayıran özelliklerdi. Aslında trende gecen o hatırlama seansında onuma serilen resme dair buraya yazacaklarımı uzatsam da kısaltsam da söylemek istediklerim yarım kalır gibi geliyor bana. Çünkü bence, Kuzey Denizi'nin kıyısında da bulunsanız Fransa'nın güneyine de gitseniz Erasmus kısa ve tatlı bir rüyadır; hem de daha uzağı, daha net gösteren bir rüyadır. Dönünce anlatacağınız başkalarını tatmin etmese bile kendiniz için edindikleriniz ve hatırlayacağınız size yetecek de artacaktır.

Ahmet Gündoğan, Business Administration

EXCHANGE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS & RANKINGS OF THE TURKISH UNIVERSITIES

We had nine exchange students on campus for the Fall 2005 semester and all of them are back to their home countries. Their names and where they came from are as follows:



- Students from Bocconi, Italy: Camilla Crescenzi, Carmelo Pennisi, Karol Kaczmarczyk, Marta Losa Novara, and Silvia Zappacosta.
- Marc Shields, University of Waikato, New Zealand (Fall & Spring 2006)
- Robert Drapala, Simon Fraser University, Canada
- Shu Fen Loke, Singapore Management University, Singapore
- Christian Decker, American University, Washington D.C.

The number of KU Undergraduate Exchange Students studied abroad during the Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 semesters is 16. Their names and where they went are as follows:

- Betül Keleş, Simon Fraser University
- Işıl Canitez & Kaya Bayvas, Singapore Management Univ
- Derya Hız & Fırat Gelbal, UPENN
- Ayşegül Sürenkök & Nilay Caferoğlu, Georgetown Univ
- Aksel Kesapyan, DePauw University
- Nesligül Kulaksız, American University
- Ahmet Gündoğan, Aarhus School of Business
- Alperen Gülal, Bordeaux Business School
- Cihan Peker, Nazlı Kerestecioğlu, Nesligül Akçura & Zeynep Doğan, Bocconi
- Uğurcan Vurgun, University of Tilburg

Turkish Universities with the highest rate of Erasmus exchange students – outgoing students only. Majority of these students prefer to go to France, Germany, Holland, and Italy.

İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi	123	Boğaziçi Üniversitesi	42	Hacettepe Üniversitesi	34
Ege Üniversitesi	99	Sabancı Üniversitesi	42	Gazi Üniversitesi	33
Çukurova Üniversitesi	84	Akdeniz Üniversitesi	40	Bilkent Üniversitesi	29
Anadolu Üniversitesi	71	Dokuz Eylül Üniversitesi	38		
İstanbul Üniversitesi	67	Marmara Üniversitesi	36		
Galatasaray Üniversitesi	57	Süleyman Demirel Univ	34		

These numbers reflect the 2004/05 Academic Year.