



Celebrate Diversity

November 2006, Issue 4

KU Exchange Newsletter



- A postcard from Bordeaux! 2
 - ✚ Onur Ayan
- Greetings from Tilburg 3
 - ✚ Demet Sarıkaya
- Greetings from Milan 4
 - ✚ Ömer İnönü
- Greetings from Philadelphia 5
 - ✚ Can Yağlı



- New Faces 6
 - ✚ Changes
- Exchange Students on Campus 7
- Country Profile 8
 - ✚ Italia is not Italy
- Side-Seekers of Istanbul 11
 - ✚ Daytrip to Sultanahmet
 - Michelle Metallidis
- Sports 14
 - ✚ Trip to a Turkish Football Match
 - Christian Friedrich Weniger
- Yellow Pages 16
 - ✚ Partner Institutions for the Exchange Programs
 - ✚ Application for the Exchange Programs & Requirements
 - ✚ Exchange Program Information Session

Executive Editor

Görkem Arsoy
garsoy@ku.edu.tr

Managing Editor

Onur Ayan
onayan@ku.edu.tr

UNE CARTE POSTALE DE BORDEAUX



Greetings to all from Bordeaux!!!

So far I have been having the time of my life despite a few incidents like spending the first night in the laundry and breaking my nose... Yet, with all the pros and cons I love the time I spend in Bordeaux. And whatever happens; as my

Finnish friends keep saying:

"It is all part of the Erasmus experience!"

By the way I hope you'll enjoy the new issue of KU Exchange Newsletter and I want to thank all the contributors from all around the world!

Onur Ayan

Greetings from Tilburg



To be honest, because of the visa difficulties, I have come to Holland a little bit frustrated. I was also 2 weeks late and I thought it could be quite hard to get used to the school, Holland and the Erasmus students as well. However it was much easier and full of fun than I could ever expected before. The Erasmus student club has given us the activity calendar, then with the greatest parties, coolest excursions and weekly mentor dinners; I have met almost everyone in a week. Now, it is so amazing that we have always-great time in the Netherlands! The drop shots, stroop-waffles, and

Dutch bier...besides tasting Dutch food and beverages, I have found Dutch

culture really open-minded although they do not know how to dance... In short, most of the time I feel myself so lucky that I have chosen Tilburg University as an exchange student which is one of the best business and economics school of Europe with its hard



working and intelligent students from all over the world.

Demet Sarıkaya

Greetings from Milan



My previous experience with the Italian people were rather unpleasant in the sense that they were unhelpful, agitated and they spoke way too loud, so I had my share of prejudices before coming to Milan. I cannot say that all my judgments were wrong, but after experiencing the Italian way of life, I don't see these traits as handicaps but rather elements that define Italian people, things that make them different and unique.

So the exchange program didn't make me a whole new person, but it surely showed me that the cultural differences we have, are the things that defines us, we have to accept and learn to live with them.

Ömer İnönü



Greetings from Philadelphia



No need to lie, I had doubts on my mind on my way to America. I wasn't that sure if everything would be that perfect and I would feel as relieved and relaxed as I did back at home. Getting used to a new country, a new culture and a new school seemed a bit challenging to me at that moment. However, beginning from the first step through the campus, I saw that these thoughts were nothing but childish fears. The culture and people's attitude towards me were the most welcoming ever and as for the school and the courses, from the first moment I could see that I was a part of a huge community. When

it comes to the dormitories, one can hardly say it is less than home when considering the friendships and fun you can have here. All in all, I hope everyone gets the chance to participate in a study abroad program, because now that I believe it is a priceless experience!

Can Yagli



NEW FACES

Changes
Exchanges



Exchanges
Changes

LET'S MEET SOME NEW FACES!

Something has changed at KU this fall...

Have you noticed this change?

Exchange Students at KU for The Fall 2006 Semester



We are proud to announce that KU is hosting more students than ever in the fall 2006 semester. The countries which we are hosting are Italy, the Netherlands, France, Germany, the USA, Canada and Finland!

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Universita' Commerciale Luigi Bocconi • Adalberto Caprari • Alberta Mandara • Alessandro Valentino • Alessio Parella • Andrea Marino • Giulio Ravizza • Massimo Abitante • Matteo Scheggia • Susanna Scarl • **University of Groningen** • Anneke Tolsma • Fleur Engelsman • Martine Maria De Visscher • **University of Tilburg** • Lotte Menting • Yasin Babacan • Zekie Tasim • **Bordeaux Business School** • Charles-Emmanuel Frenoy • Laure-Line Pouhet • **European Business School** • Christian Friedrich Weniger • **Simon Fraser University** • Kelly Davies • **Universita' Degli Studi di Firenze** • Federico Ortu • **York University** • Elif Genç

MBA STUDENTS

University of Washington • Michael Joe Raicevich
Helsinki School of Economics • Jan Oker-Blom
Harvard University • Michelle Metallidis

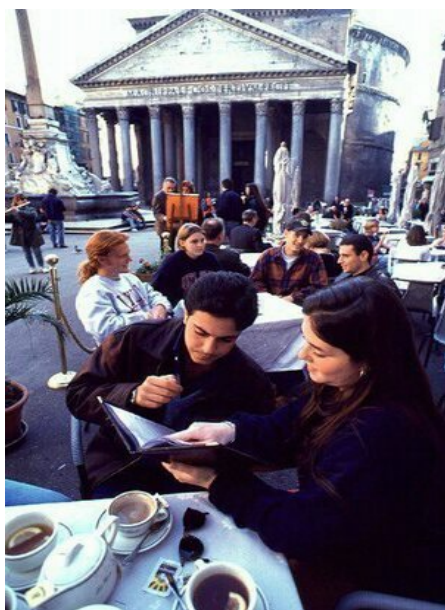
ITALIA IS NOT ITALY

Italia is a soccer game, Italia is a golden Sun, Italia is a man who wants to tell you a story, Italia is a long friendship, Italia is a love story, Italia is a way of life, Italia is Carpe Diem, Italia is pasta, Ferrari, Ciao Italia! Who doesn't know these few Italian words, famous all over the world?! But Italy and Italians cannot be described in so few simple words! Because Italy is not Italia!



Europe's kinky over-the-knee boot has it all: popes, painters, pizza, wine, poets, political puerility and potentates. Its dreamy light and sumptuous landscapes seem made for romance, and its three millennia of history, culture and cuisine seduces just about everyone.

You can visit Roman ruins, gawk at Renaissance art, stay in tiny medieval hill towns, go skiing in the Alps, swimming in the wonderful sea, explore the canals of Venice and gaze at beautiful churches and museum. Naturally you can also indulge in the pleasures of *la dolce vita*: good food, good wine and improving your wardrobe!! The miracle of Italy is that all its treasures come packaged in a gorgeous country of majestic mountains, placid lakes, idyllic islands, splendid cities and wonderful walled villages. An ideal climate plus warm and gracious people make Italy a perfect destination for an active vacation, the art lover, the gourmand, the



*Typical Italian Breakfast
in Rome*

hedonist combined, why not, with business.

The Italian climate is unique and can be far from the stereotype of a "land of sun.", depending on the region. In fact the north of Italy (Turin, Milan, and Bologna) has a true continental climate, while below Florence it becomes more and more Mediterranean

Italian is widely speech throughout Italy. Indeed, each historical region of Italy had its own so-called 'dialetto' (dialect, improperly used) with variants existing at the township-level. Today, despite regional variations in the form of accents and vowel emphasis, Italian is fully comprehensible to most throughout the country.

Nevertheless certain local idions have become cherished beacons of regional variation—the Napolitan which is extensively used for the singing of popular folk-songs, for instance—and in recent years many people have developed a particular pride in their local dialects. Italian food inside of Italy is different than Italian over the world. Italian food is based upon a few simple ingredients and Italians often have very discriminating tastes that may seem strange to visitors. Like the language and culture, food in Italy is also very different region by region. Pasta and olive oil are considered the characteristics of southern Italian food, while northern food focuses on rice and butter (although today there are many many exceptions).

Every major city has a number of local museums, but some of them have national and international relevance. Italy is home to the greatest number of World Heritage Site UNESCO art and monuments are everywhere around the country, and it will be a surprise hanging around and discovering everywhere historical and cultural site!

From North to South the most important Cities in Italia are:

The now and the next are invented daily in Milan, Europe's creative capital. Until Milan led the way, who knew that happy hour could last four hours, that clothing and household appliances could be made out of basketry, and that coffee could make a delicious pasta sauce?

This city is all about worldly pleasures. Shopping is of quasi-religious significance. Theatre and cinema flourish in this fashionable milieu, as does a hopping club scene and a slew of tempting



Milan's Dom

restaurants. Apart from a few gems, the city is not renowned for its looks; it's lifestyle that counts

The cultural and historical impact of Florence (or *Firenze*) is overwhelming. Close up, however, the city is one of Italy's most atmospheric and pleasant, retaining a strong

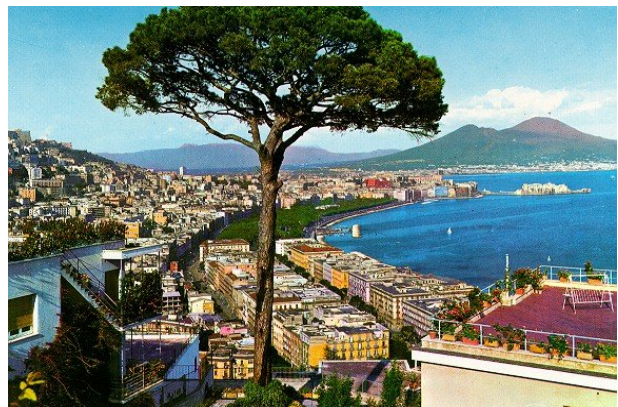
resemblance to the small late-medieval centre that contributed so much to the cultural and political development of Europe. Its striking buildings, formidable galleries and treasure-crammed churches attest to the Florentine love of display. Even long after it had set on the political and economic horizon, Florence upheld its elegant appearance: its skyline, all russet rooftops and lofty domes, is indeed picturesque.

It's hard to say what you'll find most breathtaking about the Eternal City – the arrogant opulence of the Vatican, the timelessness of the Forum, the top speed of an old Fiat 500, the gory resonance of the Colosseum, trying to cross a major intersection, or the bill for your *caffè latte*. Make like the locals and souse your senses in the glut of pleasures the city has to offer, from the grandiose thrill of feeling centuries of turbulent history under your feet to the small but potent intoxication of eating chestnut gelati on a hot day.

Naples (*Napoli* if you live there) is raucous, polluted, anarchic, deafening, crumbling and aristocratic. It's also a lot of fun. Superbly positioned on a bay, Naples screams with energy, pulsating with noisy street markets and colorful characters. There you can eat the real and original Pizza, and drink a wonderful coffee!!

And from everybody you will meet and know in Italia, you will receive a warm, soft and colorful friendship!

• So everybody, what are you waiting for?! •



Gulf of Naples

Side-Seekers of ISTANBUL *Daytrip to Sultanahmet*

The noonday hour passes in the old district of Sultanahmet, casting shadow on our walk towards Hagia-Sofia, Church of the Holy Wisdom. Above us, the pink Byzantine stone of the structure stares down at us, pleased with the attention it commands. Fat and stout, it sits proudly, the white minarets framing the building like a queen sitting atop an ornate throne. Inside, the vaulted ceilings and luminous windows hush us into silence. The main room rises high up, straight towards the sky, as if reaching directly for the hand of God. The walls, having traded their religious iconography a few times, reveal their own mysteries to those who are patient enough to wait. A gold mosaic around one corner, an archway of delicate Ottoman design, a carving, a different shade of marble... The confusion of textures, colors, and imagery make the building endlessly fascinating, causing us to linger on and on, wanting to explore this room and that crevice, wanting to know the history of that picture, that word, in Arabic script—

But time presses us on towards. We head to Yerebatan Sarnıcı, the Byzantine cistern. A dive across the street to avoid infamous city traffic, a dark stairwell, a few dripping pipes, and we're standing in a cavernous room that once supplied 80,000 cubic meters of water to the city's inhabitants. Modern technology has assisted in giving the place an eerie and mysterious vibe with somber music and colored lights that illuminate the fish swimming in the shallow water. The famous Medusa sculptures supporting two particular columns incite curiosity from the group. We ponder their mystery for a bit, and then abandon mythology and the Byzantines for some home-style food.



We make quick work of the *köfte* at a local restaurant across the street, the amused staff looking on as this large group of *yabanjes* (foreigners) stuffs the small sausages of spiced lamb with salad into French bread. The sounds of Italian, English, Dutch and Turkish hum through the tables, creating a pleasant sound of Babel that is carried out into the streets through the open windows as we watch the city prepare itself for prayer call.

Before heading down to the Grand Bazaar, we make a quick stop to the Blue Mosque, fearing that we won't be able to visit because it's Friday and the place will be packed for the afternoon prayer. Alongside of the Mosque, men scrub their feet and wash their hands as others linger about the courtyard, children running restlessly as the sound of the imam's message echoes through large megaphones mounted on the minarets. Prayer call has started—impossible for us to go in. So instead, we wind through the packed streets, heading towards Kapalı Çarşı, the Grand Bazaar. Hundreds of streets with countless vendors plying their wares call and beckon us in every language save Turkish; tavla boards, handmade bowls, pillows, fabrics, narghiles, instruments—so many things in such a large maze crowding our vision until we can't seem to tell if we're coming or going.

We emerge, at last, a few bags heavier, into the late afternoon sun. Still full from the *köfte*, we are nevertheless piled into the bus to head for Ortaköy, a picturesque town on the coast of the Bosphorus that boasts many cafés and restaurants. We say goodbye to the city as we head back over the Gold Horn, the skyline a line of mosques and buildings fading in our vision as the city of Beşiktaş comes into view. The cool evening finds us by rows of *kumpir* and *gözleme* stands, eating once again. Most of the crowd chooses hefty servings of *kumpir*, their potatoes topped high with mountainous servings of sour cream, corn, lettuce, sauces, and cheese. I go for the



gözleme, a thin sheet of dough slathered in olive oil and stuffed with meat, spinach or cheese. The sounds of the city begin to die down as people close up their shops and head home for the evening; children playing on the street are replaced by tourists and couples out for a stroll. The warmth of the food chases the chill of the evening away as we sit and watch the colors fade on the Bosphorus, the water now a teal, now a cold blue, now a depthless black. I continue to watch the water, understanding that its color, much like the city it separates, commands such fascination because it can never fully be understood. But I am content to watch it nevertheless, a fool for its irresistible mystery.

Michelle Metallidis

SPORTS



TRIP TO A TURKISH FOOTBALL MATCH



VS
0 - 1





Following the invitation of Mehmet, one of our mentors, we, the exchange students, went to see a Turkish football game on the 1st of October.

We gathered at the fountain in the evening in order to catch the bus to ŞÜKRÜ SARAÇOĞLU STADYUMU, the home of Fenerbahçe. The

team is one of the three best Turkish football teams, who are all situated in Istanbul.

Different to the other two teams, Beşiktaş and Galatasaray, Fenerbahçe's stadium is located on the Asian side of Istanbul. So, we were expecting a long bus drive. Hence we stopped at a small convenient store before leaving Sarıyer in order to buy some drinks for the trip. The weather was perfect for a football match. It was warm, but not too hot and the sun was shining. Our Turkish friends, obviously Fenerbahçe fans, were very confident about the game that was about to take place in the evening. We arrived at the stadium long before the game started so that we were able to visit the fan shops where some of us bought jerseys or hats to show their support for the Istanbul team whose colours are dark blue and yellow.

That day Fenerbahçe was playing against Bursaspor. We were told that it would be an easy match for Fenerbahçe and that we would get to see a lot of goals. But things turned out to be different. The game started with a shock for the Fenerbahçe fans. Bursaspor took the lead after less than 10 minutes. Fenerbahçe was fighting back in order to even the score but they did not succeed. They lost 0:1 against Bursaspor. Nevertheless we have had a very nice day and all of us are very excited to visit another football match. Maybe next time we will go to see one of the other big teams play.

CHRISTIAN F. WENIGER

YELLOW PAGES

If you would like to study and experience the life abroad for a semester you can also apply for the exchange programs. Check out to minimum requirements and decide which program suits you. Take your time and decide.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact us.

**If you are applying for the schools in
the USA, Canada, Australia and Asia
Do not miss the DEADLINE on December 15!**



**The deadline for the
Erasmus Program in Europe is
March 15!**

For further information or other questions:

You may stop by the Exchange Office
on the first floor of the Administration Building A.
You can also contact us via phone or send an e-mail.

Exchange Programs Coordinator: Gökem Arsoy

<http://exchange.ku.edu.tr>

✉ garsoy@ku.edu.tr

✉ exchange@ku.edu.tr

☎ 90.212.338.1851

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS



AUSTRALIA

Bond University, Queensland, Australia / www.bond.edu.au

CASE (International Relations) majors only

Quota: 2 students per year



CANADA

Simon Fraser University, British Columbia / www.sfu.ca

CAS, CASE, CE students only

Quota: 3 students per year

University of British Columbia, Vancouver / www.ubc.ca

CE, GSES students only

Quota: 4 students per year

York University, Toronto / www.yorku.ca

CAS, CASE, CE students only

Quota: 2 students per year



NEW ZEALAND

University of Waikato, Hamilton / www.waikato.ac.nz

CASE, CAS, CE students only

Quota: 2 students per year



SINGAPORE

Singapore Management University / www.smu.edu.sg

CASE students only

Quota: 6 students per year



USA

American University, Washington DC / www.american.edu

CASE, CAS students only

Quota: 4 students per year

DePauw University, Greencastle, IN / www.depauw.edu

CASE, CAS students only

Quota: 2 students per year

Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA / www.drexel.edu

CE, CAS, CASE students

Quota: 6 students per year

Georgetown University, Washington University / www.georgetown.edu

CASE, CAS students only

Quota: 2 students per year

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA / www.upenn.edu

CE students only

Quota: 3 students per year

Application for the Exchange Programs

Minimum Requirements for the Exchange Program Applicants:

- All applicants should have a minimum CGPA of 2.5 (Some partner institutions require higher CGPA)
- All student exchange programs are for one semester only (Fall or Spring)
- Students can study abroad during a semester in their second, third or fourth year only
- Exchange students must be able to cover their housing and living costs themselves

Remarks on the Exchange Programs:

- The aim of this program is that students do not lose any credits. The credits and grades received at the host institution will be transferred back to Koç University and counted towards their graduation.
- Once the student has been selected for the exchange programs, the exchange office nominates the student and in return, the host institution accepts the student unless unexpected circumstance occurs.

**KU student should submit the following documents to
Görkem Arsoy, Exchange Programs Coordinator
in the Office of the Dean of Students:**

1. Exchange Programs Application Form (can be found on the exchange website)
2. An essay stating your reasons for application (1 page)
3. Transcript
4. One KU Student Exchange Recommendation form, which should be completed by KU faculty and returned to Görkem Arsoy directly (Recommendation form can be found on the website).
5. Bank Statement from your bank stating the sufficient funds for your education abroad (in English) – sample letters can be found on the exchange website
6. TOEFL score report card (Minimum 550 / 213)
7. If you are a student of the College of Engineering, you must submit a proposed course list that you would like to take at the host institution



**Exchange Program Information Session will be held on
November 23rd between 17.00 –18.00 in CAS B07**

**Please attend if you are going to apply
for the exchange programs in mid-December!**

**Görkem Arsoy
Exchange Programs Coordinator**