

KOÇ UNIVERSITY

Exchange Newsletter

November 2007

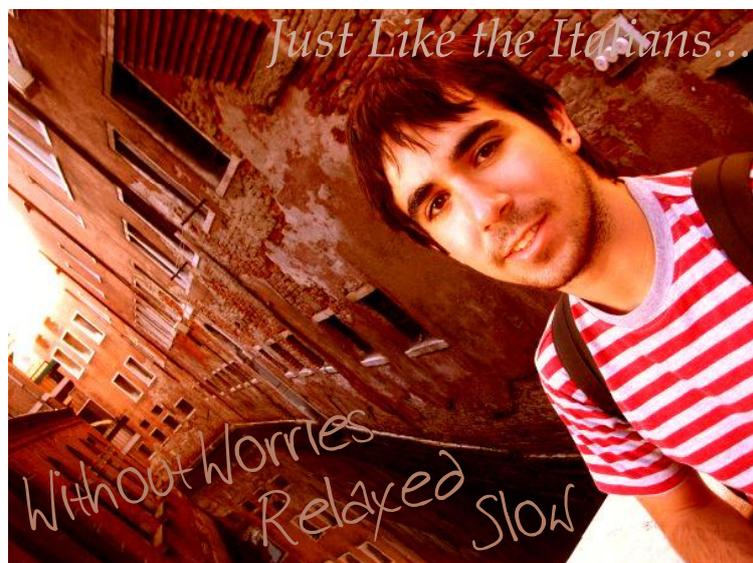
Issue 8

Editor's Note

The International Student Society is now on the run again! Bringing you the 8th issue of the Exchange Newsletter, now I am proudly sharing my ISS presidency with a really hardworking lady, Corinna Ziegler!

In the upcoming weeks of this semester we will be hosting the First International Fair which you may find more information on the back of the Newsletter... Please be a part of it!

Onur Ayan



Every time I open my agenda and see how little time I have left of my Erasmus life I have been going nuts for these past two weeks. Without a doubt these 3 months I have stayed in Milan as an exchange student have been the most challenging and fun time of my life. Although I have been familiar with the Italian culture and language, I would have felt a lot more comfortable if at least some Italians could speak in English. Unfortunately the only place where there are people speaking in English in Milan is our school, Bocconi. This was a little depressing at first since I couldn't even ask for an extra bag in the supermarket, it definitely made it possible for me to improve my Italian.

The classes I take at Bocconi University are full of international students and this makes the classes quite different than the ones at Koç. Other people's comments and opinions really make me think how cultures can differ and how much there is to learn about other ethnicities and societies. Although I have started to miss my friends, family and life back in Turkey, this exchange program made me understand how students must live, have fun and be out there, sometime. After graduation many people complain about how boring their life gets and how much they miss their studentship, so, that's why I have started to live like a real student and enjoy life while I can. Living in Italy for four months was my dream and it came true. I enjoy every second I spend here probably because I started to live like the Italians, relaxed, slow and without worries.

Hayati Alaluf, Bocconi University





INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SOCIETY

International Fair



KOC University finally has a better working team for the International Student Society (ISS). We aim to contribute to social integration and interaction with Turkish students between exchange students and international students at KOC University. Our core activities circle around organizing field trips, social events and offering personal assistance to exchange and international students at KOC University. This will ensure close interaction between nations and will contribute to quick integration of exchange students.

Our first official event is coming up on **December 6th**! The International Fair hosted in the Student Center (at Migros level) will be a great opportunity for the current exchange students to represent their home universities in the best way possible and for KOC home students to collect information about the exchange program. We plan to dedicate one table per university, at which you can look at university brochures, leaflets, CD's, posters and further information concerning each exchange university. The exchange students will be present throughout the day at their designated tables, which will contribute to interaction between students. Additionally, the fair is a great chance for the exchange students to find out something new about other universities as well! The International Day will end with an amazing after-party that will offer traditional snacks from each exchange student's home country as well as music, drinks and fun! We realize that an international fair should have been held at the beginning of the semester, and this will certainly be the case next term. Nonetheless, we encourage all students at KOC University to come and visit the fair and contribute as much as they can to making this a successful first event! If you want to find out more about the ISS, please visit our website at www.facebook.com; Groups: Koc University International Student Society, Fall 2007. Or contact one of the ISS permanent leadership members: Corinna Ziegler (coziegler@ku.edu.tr), Onur Ayan (onayan@ku.edu.tr), Mehmet Cakmak (mcakmak@ku.edu.tr), Senem Guler (sguler@ku.edu.tr) or Dorukhan Colak (dcolak@ku.edu.tr).

Corinna Ziegler



*Application Deadline for the Exchange Programs
in America, Asia & Oceania is December 15, 2007!*

İSTANBUL

(a.k.a.)

Mighty Bosphorus with Daytona



Merhaba!

It has been two and a half months since I arrived in Turkey and as the only Singaporean at Koc University (or for that matter in Turkey from my current recollection!), this exchange program has expanded my horizons and has built an independence in me that I would never have gotten if I had been self-absorbed in my tiny island called Singapore.

My opinion of Turkey before coming over was of a country filled with history that was integrated into the natural landscape that influenced the daily lives of the people. This was something unique, this was something amazing, and it was in my own way cool and I had to be there. As I write this, I am still amazed by the people, the culture, the history, the religion, the mighty Bosphorus and the Mosques with its minarets that gives Istanbul its well deserved title as the most beautiful city in the world.

Did I mention the wonderful hospitality the Turkish people had? My neighbors in the dormitories are remarkable. They were a big help to my initial adjustment phases and although they always remarked saying how they were being hospitable because of their religion, I reckon that part of it was true, another part out of humility. Same goes to the mentors that made every attempt to bring us out and experience what their country has to offer.

On one occasion, this taxi driver, (whom I must say the journey felt like a Daytona experience) upon driving us back to Koc University, offered us Cig Kofte (pronounced chee cough tay) at the end of our journey without asking for any tips or compensation in return! Cig Kofte is this nasty spicy exotic meat dish.

Last but not least, the nightlife here itself is vibrant with music of all kinds and I must say there is nothing like sitting with friends, eating exquisite Mediterranean food with the infamous Turkish Alcoholic drink, RAKI, on the side and having Turkish music in the background to liven up the atmosphere. Oh wait, and smoking (is drinking a better word? Not that I am inculcating everyone to do it. I guess trying it wouldn't do much harm!) the traditional Turkish Nargilet (or Shisha) at the same time!

As an exchange student, I was also able to interact with people from all over the world and the dynamics that you get when you put a chicken, a dog and a horse together in my opinion were interestingly hilarious. For example, I remember jokes made by an American would result in a serious response from the Italians and the Singaporean just probably couldn't tell a single damn joke and is making his last futile effort by writing a paragraph in this newsletter.

Last but definitely not the least, to be able to share, journey and build friendships among such people is something that will stay with me as I return back home.

With regards, to truly experience Istanbul, Turkey, you have to be here to realize it and my exchange here has been well worth the effort!

Adrian H'ng Tianwen