

KOÇ UNIVERSITY

Exchange Newsletter

September 2007

Issue 6

Editor's Note

Sitting at the office in a hot work day in Istanbul, I have thought of making some changes for the Exchange Newsletter for the upcoming year. After thinking thoroughly, I have decided that a new design with a more brief concept will be an easier way to be in touch mutually. Furthermore, publishing the issues monthly instead of twice a semester will frankly be more efficient for following the updates. Before letting you to enjoy the new issue of the Exchange Newsletter, I would like to give a warm welcome to all our new friends who are coming from all across the globe to enjoy this beautiful campus and the craziness of Istanbul!

Onur Ayan



Tugba C. Serez

Mentor List for Fall 2007

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Please do not hesitate to contact us 7/24

There has been an addition to the Exchange Staff!
 Ziyinet Devrim Yildiz will be in charge of the Outgoing Students
 You may contact her by the following phone & email:

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Incoming Message from Bond University!

Salvatore Thomas Carbe'

"There's no place like home."

How many of you ever heard this famous saying? I can say I've heard it at least a million times... It is true, home is home... However, we live in a wonderful world, where traveling and getting in contact with cultures and people from all over the planet has become an everyday experience!

Hi, my name is Salvatore Thomas Carbe'. I'm a 23 years old guy from Italy and one of the many lucky ones that will be exchange students at Koc this coming semester! I've spent almost my entire life traveling, and don't get me wrong, I'm totally in love from where I come! However, I've learned to appreciate every place I visit and I'm here to tell you what I think and feel about this new, now so close in time, experience. When I think of Koc I think of true learning, I think of a way to keep growing in so many ways, I think of a brotherhood of minds and future generations. Koc is, in my mind, a place where I will feed my soul once more where I will learn new and extraordinary things and points of view of life. As I said before I've been traveling for many years and always for different reasons; work, study, research (I was looking for myself...) visiting the USA, Australia, 18 countries in Europe, Africa, but I've never been to Turkey...

Turkey to me is part of my soul already... I've learned so far that your baggage is not what you bring or dress up with, but what you learn, what you see and taste... When I think of Turkey I imagine a colorful country, red as its flag, with the spicy taste of its traditions and its magical music... I think of Ataturk, of a secular and growing reality... I think of many Islamic and fascinating traditions... I think of dark black eyes behind a window, maybe behind a red veil... I think of the sounds of praying mornings... I think of life... I think of people...

Many thoughts are in my mind while writing, with the addition of a bit of fear and excitement... And even if I've never been there before I know that before I'll leave it I will call it at least a bit home...

Sincerely yours,

A traveling soul, Salvatore



Incoming Exchange Students

Salvatore Thomas Carbe' C. James Piggott-McKellar	Australia Australia
Meltem Yavas	Belgium
Christopher D. Rasmussen Lara Leah Maestro Laura Noel Froese Joanna Dawn Plett	Canada Canada Canada Canada
Konstantin Wellner Wenbin Lu	Germany Germany
Patrick C. Heijtlager Joost Baljon Rick Martijn Brouwer Philippine E. Boogaardt Remmert Versluis Reinou van den Berg J. J. Andre Braspenning Lieke Henrica Otto Kersten	Holland Holland Holland Holland Holland Holland Holland Holland
Maria Cristina De Giovanni Ana Hajman Cecilia Veneziano Elena Berselli Andrea Beccia Andrea Pizzi Antonella Botte Claudio Patrassi Lara Innessi Guglielmo Pascarelli	Italy Italy Italy Italy Italy Italy Italy Italy Italy Italy
Adrian H'NG Tianwen	Singapore
Miriam Callahan Ryan McCray Ely Matthew Sera Melissa Aaron Karen Miller Justin Bradley David Alton Logan	USA USA USA USA USA USA USA



A Daytrip to Sultanahmet!

Soner Theo Dumani

So one of the highlights of the orientation week was the exchange visit to the Old Town. An inquisitive group of 7 mentors and 36 exchange students settled up for the road early in the morning to discover what the Old town has there to offer. The bus ride across the Bosphorus lead to Haghia Sophia, one of the prominent buildings in Sultanahmet area. With its massive dome and Byzantine architecture, "The Holy Wisdom of God" baffled every one of us. The tour continued with the pictures taken in front of the Sultan Ahmet Mosque (aka. Blue Mosque) and the short walk in its courtyard. The Hippodrome stop (kindly refer to Google for its intriguing story) was followed by the highly pleasing experience in Tarihi Sultan Ahmet Koftecisi, where traditional meatballs were served with delicious pickels and piyaz (salad of dry beans with vinegar). Then, the time kicked in for the most-anticipated spot of all, the Grand Bazaar and its sibling, the Spice Bazaar. The hours of chaos (in a good sense) and enchantment was put to an end by a short tour in Ortakoy as some people decided to add more adventure into their day and some sank to their seats, exhausted, to go back to Koc...

THE BLOODY TUESDAY OF ISTANBUL

January 13, 532

Dying as a record of statistics was the destiny of the freedom seeking citizens under the reign of Justinian. The massacre of some 30,000 Constantinoplests...

The supporters of the two big chariot teams of the Byzantine city gathered up on the first day of the ever lasting bloody week. This time the supporters were not cheering against each other, but cheering against the corrupt emperor, Justinian, as one.

The mob was cheering for NIKA! As we all know today as victory. The crowd started the show with putting the palace under siege, continued with getting the emperor off the throne and replacing him with a noble man, Hypatius. Then kept the riots going with starting a big fire in the city. The fire spread to the beautiful Hagia Sophia causing a big destruction.

Justinian on the other hand spend his time suppressing the revolt with two of his generals. Trapping the rioters in the Hippodrome, he reportedly killed 30,000 of them behind the locked gates and finally called the execution of the substituted emperor, Hypatius.

We are happy to announce the increasing number of the incoming exchange students for the term of Fall 2007 in which we will be hosting and proudly welcoming 36 students in total!