



AC-72 Reunion, Istanbul

AC REUNION 2010 – ISTANBUL TURKEY

From May 18th to May 23rd Ferruh Simsek and his wife Nazan were gracious hosts of a rowdy bunch of Atlantic College ex-students, most of us 1972 graduates, and some of our fellow students from 71 and 73. The year 2012 and the 40th year reunion seemed too far off, and Olaf Eidsaether and Ferruh said, "[Em] Why wait!"

With some help from Emily Ward, Ross Slade, and the professional services of Ferruh's friend, Mr. Ilhan Ucak of Sempatur Travel and Toursim Co., a packed schedule of guided tours and wonderful meals in Istanbul was organized, followed up by an additional 5 day tour of the Turkish coastal region for those who could stay on.

Some 40+ students were able to attend, accompanied by assorted partners and/or offspring, making a total party of just less than 65 people. About 10 were able to stay on for the after reunion trip. With the help of the internet, we were able to track down some of our fellow ex-students who had been lost and, with a web site created for the occasion, we were able to list the changing event details and provide web links to information regarding the planned excursions.

These included: The Hypodrome, St.Sophia Church, Topkapi Palace and Museum, Blue Mosque, Archeological Museum, a boat trip to Prince's islands with horse cart tour, Dolmabahce Palace, Kariye Church and Museum, Pierre Loti Garden, and shopping at the Bazaar and the Spice Bazaar.

The Armada hotel, our venue, provided a wonderful buffet breakfast and, for lunches and supper, we sampled a wonderful variety of

establishments, the highlights being both the dinner invitation by Nazan and Ferruh at their social club 'Cemile Sultan Forest', and the evening boat cruise through the Bosphorus with open buffet dinner and dancing.

The choice of Istanbul and the Bosphorus, the meeting point of East and West, provided a fitting backdrop during the evening cruise, for a very moving tribute, led by Kristin Ofstad (now a minister) to those students who are no longer with us.

We celebrated our last evening in Istanbul with a Madness 'Hat' Party and dinner, with live music, dancing and belly dancer, with enthusiastic participation by Eboo Versi.

Yes, some of the time was spent reminiscing : we were all provided with 18 hours of the music that was popular during 70-72, and Geoff Launchbury had produced a fantastic video of activity on the college sea front. More importantly, it was also a time to explore and expand upon the relationships that began so many years ago during those 2 years at AC, and to develop connections and further networks that look forward, rather than backwards.

There were those for whom this was the first reunion, and many acquaintances were being renewed after a 38 year gap. A Welsh student and a Danish student found that they had been living within kilometers of each other in Switzerland for years, and had had to come to Istanbul to find out! Some had stayed in touch, but the overall sentiment was that we missed those that who had not attended, and we hope to increase our efforts to 'keep in touch'.

Simon Lagoe touched us all with his expression of thanks:

It is 38 years since we left AC, and many of us have met rarely, or not at all, since then. We have all lived full lives with our own challenges, triumphs and tragedies, many of us have raised children (great children on the evidence of those who came to Istanbul) and some even have grandchildren. So I came to Istanbul not knowing quite what to expect - perhaps a chance to visit an interesting city and meet some people I once knew a long time ago. What I experienced was much more than that - a real connection with a fantastic group of people all of whom I had been much more strongly affected and influenced by those two years we spent together than I could have imagined. I so much enjoyed talking to everyone, not only those who I knew well at AC, but those who I knew less well and now feel I know better.

So I just wanted to say Thank You to you all for coming to Istanbul and making this such a special event.





Armada Hotel, in the center of old city
(behind the city walls of Istanbul)

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Dear Ferruh and Nazan
Thank you for such
a great time with you
and old friends! And for
such a wonderful
introduction to your
beautiful country!
You are truly
special, and this
is the most
meaningful act of
giving of the people,
yet! I am really
glad you did this
and I now know
your class better
from now! Love
Carol / Cong

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Dear Ferruh,
Once again thank
you so much for
an unforgettable and
amazing 5 days in
Istanbul to you and
Nazan!
I am so happy to have
seen lucky
enough to
attend, and
I shall treasure
this reunion
for the rest
of my life!
Until next
time!
Love, Rand.

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Dear Ferruh my BELOVED
dorm mate !!
Words cannot describe
what I feel about this
reunion in your fantastic
city.
I am so grateful and
I am so proud that
I get to know you even
more! ♥!?!
Bring your lovely
wife to Norway
once, and I will
be able to pay
back 10% ^{Not really} of more!
Sorry about waking
you with butter-
throwing.
Teresa Stine

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Dear Ferruh & Nazan,
Thanks for facilitating
some of the best laughs in
years! Be happy, Walker
sublim

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Dear Ferruh & Nazan,
What fabulous hosts to
your magnificent city!
How many wonderful sights and experiences were packed
into these few days - mosques with singing from minarets,
markets with pyramids of colorful spices, sumptuous & sinister
palaces, boat rides, buggies, and delicious, lavish meals at
every turn - incredible!

Spanning 2 continents and thousands of years of rich history,
Istanbul's unique cultural and geographical qualities make
it a fitting setting for the renewal (and creation) of inter-
national friendships. Along with so many impressions,
such as the twinkling evening lights along the Bosphorus, we will
always remember fondly your charm and warmth and generosity.
Thank you! Mary (wife of David)

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SEND WITH
LOVE AND
FRIENDSHIP.

MICHAEL VE.

Dear Ferruh & Nazan,
Where to start to thank you both for
this fantastic 4 day I have ever had
It seemed more than it was 4 weeks!
So when in UK, Warlyton is halfway between
Gatwick & Brighton → WE EXPECT you





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Dear Ferruh

Millions of thanks for
your great hospitality
and warmth.

I've also very much
enjoyed the sightseeing
in your wonderful city

Hugs and kisses
to you and your
beautiful wife
Maya

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Dear Ferruh

As the only Canadian woman in your
harem I'd like to thank you for your
incredible hospitality. Precious things
really do come in small packages.
You look very happy & content with
your life and I hope that you & your
family continue to have fulfilling &
healthy lives. With much love
Cathryn Kuzylek

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To Farouq & Nazan -

Thank you so much for an exhilarating
experience here in Istanbul. You said once
something about you being made rich from the
hospitality you give - Farouq & Nazan you must be
truly very very rich as your generosity has
been simply fantastic!
My head is full with the culture of Istanbul -
the splendor of the Ottomans, the friendliness
of the people & so much to buy! There is no
doubt we must come back - Love
Jenny xo.





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REMEMBER THIS
GIRL-GUIDE IS HOPING TO
WELCOME THE SIMSEK FAMILY
MEMBERS IN BARGELONA!!

NOW I CAN SAY I HAVE BEEN IN ISTANBUL!!

WHEN WE FIRST MET YOU TOLD ME I HAD NOT BEEN HERE WITH
THE SUITABLE GUY-GUIDE. I AM PLEASED TO ADMIT YOU WERE
RIGHT!

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOUR EFFORT AND TIME DEDI-
CATED TO THIS WONDERFUL REUNION TRIP THAT HAS ALLOWED
ME TO KNOW THIS CITY MUCH BETTER
LOVE FROM A "GUEST" WHO HAS FELT AS A PART OF "AC" GROUP,
ELDA JR.

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Dear Ferrun and Nazan
Thank you so much for
organizing such a fantastic
Reunion in Istanbul. We
have had such an interesting
time with old friends and
fellow AC students. The 38
year interval does not
matter at all, and I have
got to know people I
didn't know very well at

the college. I loved
Istanbul and its
beautiful buildings.
The cuisine was
amazing, and
I enjoyed the
bazaars. It
has been a
trip to remember,
and I hope to be
back soon and
that we can
have another
reunion
love Cathy Atkin

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Nazan and Ferruh,
From merhaba to hoşça kalın,
From first to last,
Your promise of the Istanbul reunion
Came true
Now the time has passed
Our visit is through

Your welcome unsurpassed
All we can do
Is say
THANK YOU!
Teşekkürler!
David Kay

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To Ferruh & Nazan,

Thank you so much
for the wonderful party.

It has been very entertaining
and I have had a lot of fun.
Maybe I will be able to come back to
Istanbul in the next year! Best wishes,
Andrew

22nd May 2010

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With much
love - Frances

Dear Ferruh & Nazan,

What a blast this 40 year reunion has been! Istanbul is
simply magical & I hope I get a chance to return for a longer
visit sometime. Your hospitality was exceptional - thank you
so much! But most importantly, it was so wonderful to
reconnect with friends I hadn't seen since we left AC &
those I've seen more recently. Words are not enough to
tell you of my deep appreciation of all you did (together with
Emily, Ross & Andreas) to make this actually happen. I felt
privileged to share all those happy memories of our youth
with my elder son, Andrew. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

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Dear Ferruh

Millions of thanks for
your great hospitality
and warmth.

I've also very much
enjoyed the sightseeing
in your wonderful city.
Hugs and kisses
to you and your
beautiful wife
Maya





Dear Ferruh & Nazan,

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These days in Istanbul
will rank in the best
memories of my life-time.

What better place could
there be to hold a reunion. A
beautiful historic city with so
much culture and fine art & food
to view, it has been a perfect
setting for reminiscing.

From the moment I arrived

I have had a truly
wonderful time. Friendships
have been renewed and
new ones made. Memories
have come flooding back
and I have laughed until
it brought tears to my
eyes. I will treasure
this time forever.

Thank you so much
for all you have done
to make this such an
amazing experience for us
all. Much love to you both.
Debbie Gabriel (Johnson)

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With Love
Else

HURRAH AND THANKS
for all you invited in
reuniting old friendships
on an incredible scale
and on historical grounds!
May the warmth we gave
each other stay with you.

and I count myself as
a lucky one to have
been invited by them.

Dear Ferruh and Nazan!
NOTHING HAPPENS UNLESS FIRST
A DREAM - that's what Carl
Sandburg says.
But to reflect about 60 people
with a dream and then make it
come true, it takes a visionary,
courageous and warm-hearted
couple. That may be just one
sacred couple in our generation,
but I count myself as
a lucky one to have
been invited by them.

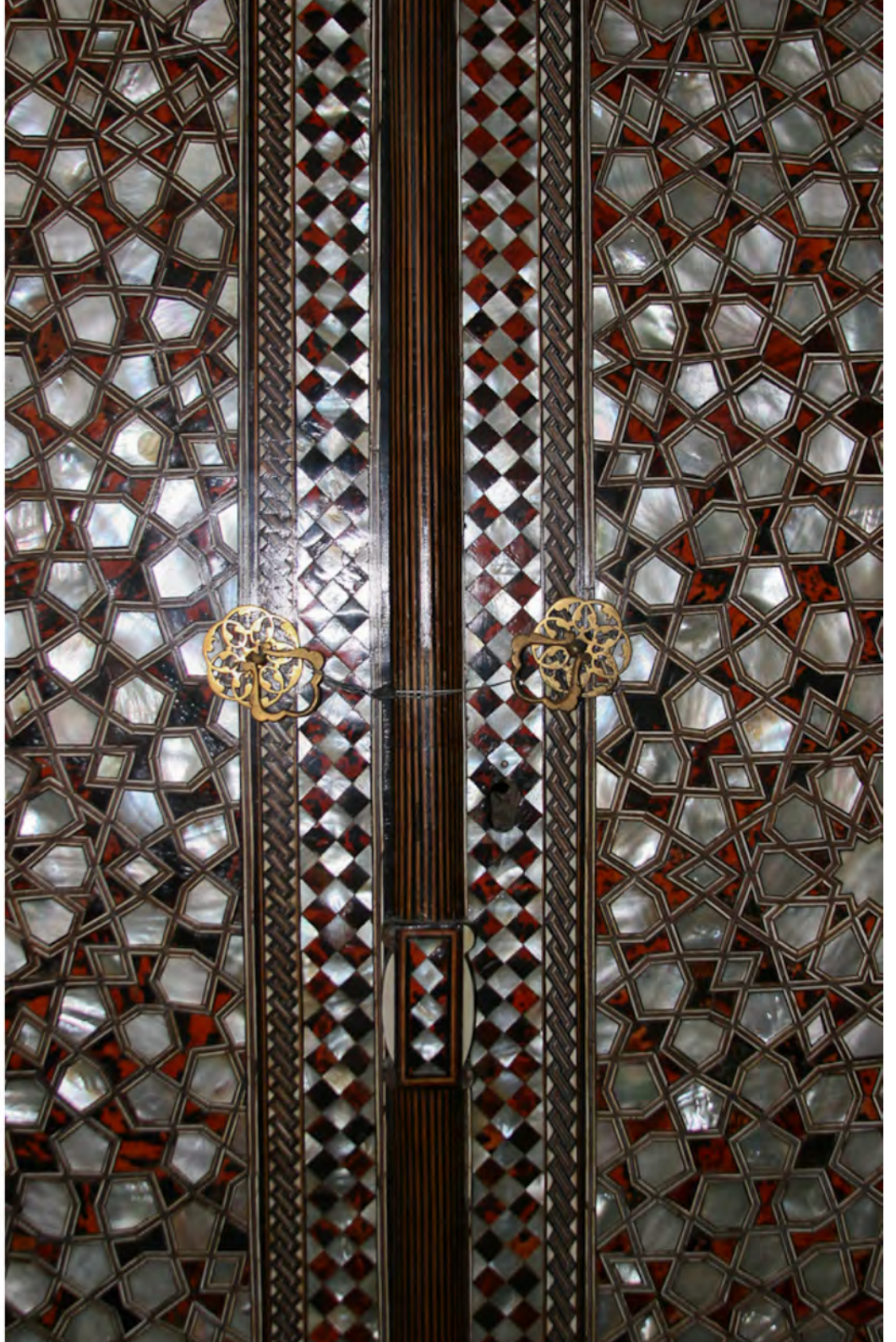
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Dear Ferruh

You have touched so many lives
by your determination and hard work
in organising our Reunion 2010. Thank You
Your friend Simon





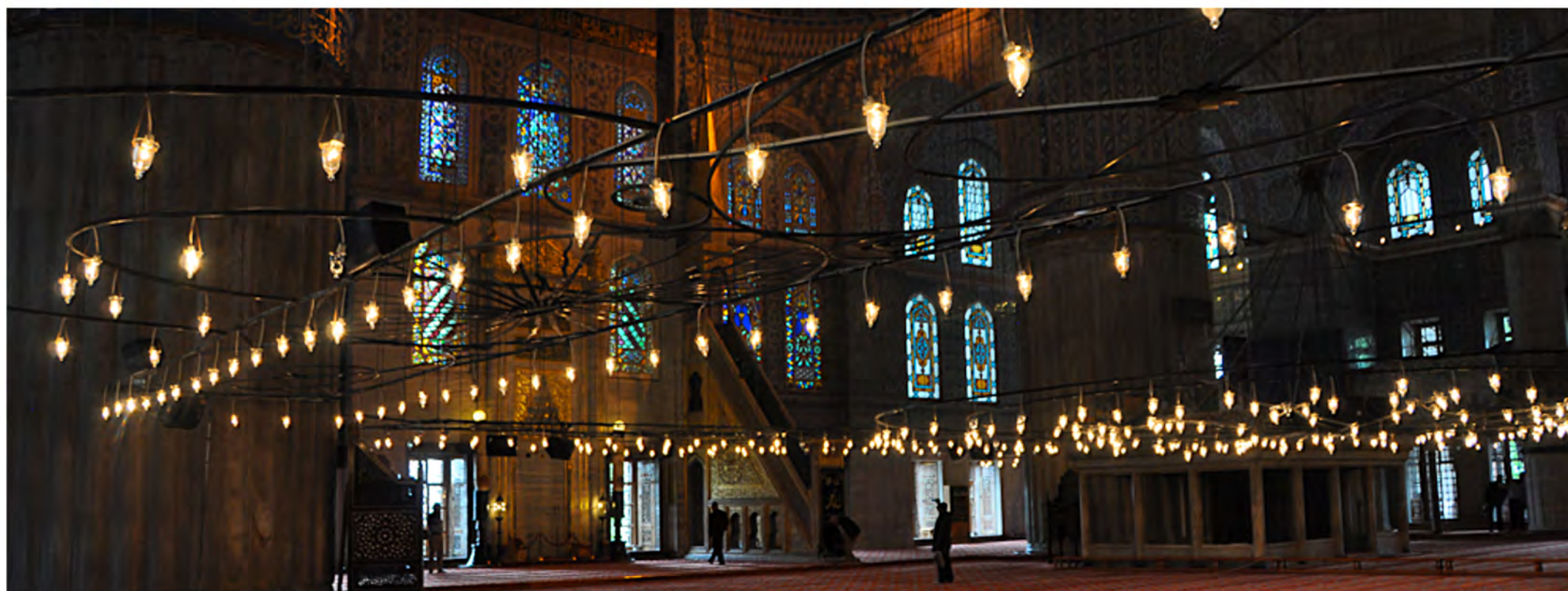




































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May 22, 2010

My Dear Friends Feruh
and Nazan!

New friends - yet so
old as well.

There are no words to
express my thanks and
appreciation for all you

with so much
love & joy

have done to
show us your
rich, lovely
country - while
we enjoyed our
classmates!

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DEAR NAZZAM & FERRUH.
YOU HAVE MADE A FANTASTIC
TOUR FOR US.
I AM SO GLAD I CAME DOWN
TO ISTANBUL.

I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST
YOUR FRIEND.

Le

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You have given us a
bit of heaven these last
few days. A thousand
thanks! love, Fushii xxx

Feruh & Nazan









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Istanbul, May 2010

All my gratitude, Feruh, for making a dream come true. You have prepared the best possible reunion in Istanbul and we, AC year mates, have deepened our friendships and realized our bonds of love and compromise are stronger than ever. Happy days in loving company and laughter. God bless the Sunsek family, how gratifying it is to know we are a bunch of good Human Beings! Love, lida

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Feruh & Nazan May 21, 2010

We will never forget our "Turkish Delight" & your organisation to get us all together. A brilliant week. Looking forward to building on your example for future reunions, All love, lida

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Feruh & Nazan

You have given us a bit of heaven these last few days. A thousand thanks! love, Feruh xxx



Top row, left to right: Pia's husband, Alberto: Simon Lagoe: Vera Hølst: Andreas Wittenstein: Elda Mata's daughter, Elda Jr: Cory Ross: Elda Mata: Walter Erdelitsch: Walter's son, Julius: Emily Ward: Michael van Ellemeet: Henrietta Salveson: Ilse Petersen: Catherine Pinker: Catherine Atkin (husband Ron Harvey not in picture): Geoff Launchbury: Geoff Launchbury's wife Erika: Olaf Eidsaether: Michal van Ellemeet's, wife Jenny: Normi Hazel (husband Alastair not in picture)



Bottom Group, left to right : Eric Svensson: David's wife, Mary: David Kay: Frances's son, Andrew Tomkins: Bob Martyniuk: Cathryn Kuzyk's husband, Cliff: Ulrich Koestlin (partner Nathan not in picture): Jorgen Latte: Cathryn Kuzyk: Peter Huuse: Eboo Versi: Ola Bjerre: Astrid Heckel: Frances Tompkins (up): Amanda Maplethorp: Randi Hedetoft (up): Ditte Christiansen-Jucht (front): Liz Agate (up): Pia Erickson (front): Ditte's son, Alexander: Kristin Ofstad: Debbie Johnson: Ross Slade: Margaret von Dolwitz: Ferruh Simsek: Ferrh's wife, Nazan: Leni Hazlett: Leni's niece, Ginnie: Richard Myers: John Hagen's wife Ileana: John Hagen: Richard Myers' wife Vickers: Astrid's husband Eric



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Dear Ferruh

We had so much fun with you.
You really are an incredible host
and so considerate and kind
Thank you for making the trip
such a fantastic and warm
experience.

Love John and Leonie

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come true. You have prepared the best possible
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bond of love and compromise are stronger than ever.
Happy days in loving company and laughter. God
bless the Simsek family, how gratifying it is to know
we are a bunch of good Human Beings! Love, Hilda

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Dear Ferruh;

Thank you so much for
creating this very special
opportunity for us to
reconnect with people
and parts of ourselves that
we left so long ago. Love Amanda

To Ferruh!

Istanbul

2010

AC-72 Reunion, Istanbul

In an effort to 'stay in touch' we have obtained www.ac-72.com with the intention of creating a web site for classmates of 3 years: our year, 1972, and the years above and below. This should provide the ability to share information regarding contacts, issues and events of interest. It will include a record of this reunion, with galleries of images of the various events. The site will be password protected, so that access will be limited to AC students. We also hope to use it to keep track of what we now look like - one of the features of the reunion were name tags with large type together with old school yearbook photos - a handy way to reacquaint yourself with the face and body that had changed from those days of old - and up to date contact info.

So, if some foolhardy souls in your year suggest such a get together, consider attending. It is well worth the effort, a reaffirmation of the value of your UWC experience, and even more importantly, an opportunity to take the investments of those relationships into the future.

