



Top row, left to right: Pia's husband, Alberto: Simon Lagoe: Vera Holst: Andreas Wittenstein: Elda Mata's daughter, Elda Jr: Cory Ross: Elda Mata: Walter Erdelitsch: Walter's son, Julius: Emily Ward: Michael van Ellemeet: Henrietta Salvesson: 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: Ole 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

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 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.

I work in a business whose motto is "We measure success by the way we touch the lives of people". On that measure this was a hugely successful event and I hope it touched your lives as it did mine.

So, in that effort to 'stay in touch' we have obtained www.ac-72.com (soon to be online) with the intention of creating a web site for classmates of 3 years: our year, 1972, and the years above and below. This will 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.

Ross J Slade - AC72 (now living in Umbria, Italy)