



BAEF Boat of 2012 with
American Fellows 2011-2012

BAEF SUMMER 2012 NEWSLETTER

INTRO

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOST PROGRAM

NEWS FROM COMMITTEE AND LOCAL CHAPTERS

CONNECT WITH YOUR BAEF NETWORK

PAST EVENTS ACROSS THE US

UPDATES FROM BRUSSELS

Dear BAEF alumni, fellows and friends,

We hope you are enjoying the (warm) summer!

With this 4th issue of the BAEF US Alumni newsletter, we would like to update you on the activities members of our community have organized in the last few months across the country. From a relaxed brunch in DC to a fascinating introduction to Himalayan art in New York, fellows and alumni across the U.S. enjoyed several opportunities to rekindle old friendships or make new ones. We also give you an update from Brussels, where Prof. Boulpaep's 40 years of service for the Belgian American Education Foundation were celebrated at a well-attended alumni reunion.

Mark your calendars for upcoming events, and keep an eye out for more activities in your region. And if you would like to be involved in the activities in your region, don't hesitate to contact your local chapter. There's news on that front as well: a new chapter is being launched in Chicago and new teams in Boston and Washington DC are eager to bring the community closer together.

We hope to meet or see you again soon!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- New York – a talk by Bjorn Tuypens, the Co-Managing Principal and Chief Investment Officer of Platinum Grove Asset Management, on hedge funds and the European crisis will take place on September 13 at 7pm. Please RSVP to Sofie Geeroms (Sofie.Geeroms@mutualofomaha.com or (646) 912-0483) by September 9 if you're interested in attending.

- Chicago – Inaugural event for BAEF fellows and alumni on September 22 at 6pm at the Paris Club Restaurant in Chicago. More details to follow soon.

- New York welcome reception – tentatively scheduled for October 19. The date, time and venue will be confirmed as soon as possible.

BAEF HOST PROGRAM

The BAEF Alumni Host Program is entering its fourth year. After evaluating the effectiveness of the program, the alumni committee has decided to work with a new format and rely more on the local cells to bring new fellows in touch with alumni. The local cells tend to have the latest information on the whereabouts and careers of recent and less recent alumni in the area. As such, they can help direct questions of the fellows about their forthcoming stay in the US and their field of study or research more effectively. In addition, these groups typically organize welcome events where the new fellows have the opportunity to interact with local alumni and mentorships are naturally formed. If new fellows are interested in being connected with an alum host who can act as a mentor during their stay in the US, we therefore encourage them to reach out to the local cell representatives listed elsewhere in this newsletter. If there is no representation in the area, the committee will be glad to assist and try to find a local match. Please direct any questions to Tom Schouwenaars (tomsch@gmail.com).

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE AND LOCAL CHAPTERS

The US Alumni committee was sad to see one of its members depart: Ben Sprangers, who was instrumental in organizing most of the New York activities in the last 18 months, has returned to Belgium to continue his academic work at his alma mater, the KULeuven. We would like to thank him for all his great work for the committee and we hope to stay in touch! The committee was delighted to welcome three new members: Els Fieremans, Sofie Geeroms and Vanessa Matarazzi. You can contact the committee at USAlumniBAEF@gmail.com.

The **Washington DC Chapter** is pleased to introduce the new Steering Committee that will be taking over the reigns and planning fun events for the Chapter in the coming months. They are Elif Can (current BAEF Fellow, Boat of 2011), Frank Bosmans (alumnus, Boat of 2006), Aliénor van den Bosch (alumna, Boat of 2005) and until he goes back to Europe in the fall, Marcelo Vinces (alumnus, A-2008). The Steering Committee is seeking one or two more members, so please contact Marcelo (mdvinces@gmail.com), Frank (frankbosmans@jhmi.edu), Aliénor (alienor_vandenbosch@yahoo.com) or Elif (ec477@georgetown.edu) if you are a BAEF fellow or alum in the DC, Maryland or Virginia area, and are interested in helping out.

In **Boston**, three BAEF alumni recently took up the challenge to bring the BAEF Boston chapter to a new level. Thomas Abeel (thomas@abeel.be), Yves-Alexandre de Montjoye (yva@mit.edu) and Evi Lippens (lippense@hotmail.com) are committed to transforming the Boston chapter into a vibrant BAEF community for newcomers and alumni. On August 10, after-work drinks were held for the first time at the Cambridge Brewing Co. More monthly after-work drinks and other events will be organized. More information will follow shortly.

The **Midwest chapter** is pleased to announce that it will be hosting its inaugural event for BAEF fellows and alumni on September 22 at 6pm at the Paris Club Restaurant in Chicago. If you're interested in helping to organize this and other future events, please contact Thomas Cottenier at cotttho@gmail.com. For news and updates from the Midwest chapter, you can subscribe to baef-alumni-midwest@googlegroups.com.

CONNECT WITH YOUR BAEF NETWORK

Don't want to miss our activities?

The BAEF Alumni in the U.S. [Facebook page](#) will be updated regularly with upcoming events and pictures of previous events. If you want to reconnect with your boat or connect with other fellow alumni, and get info about upcoming activities, go to our Facebook page and like us. The Facebook page will be your gateway to all our info, see you there!

To inform us of any change in your contact details, please send an email to USAlumniBAEF@gmail.com. All updates are then transmitted to the central BAEF database. Also, make sure to join the BAEF Alumni group on LinkedIn

PAST EVENTS ACROSS THE U.S.

- Visit to the Rubin Museum in NYC

On a beautiful New York Sunday in March, over 20 fellows and alumni from the North East region met at the Rubin Museum in NYC to sail across a wonderful collection of Himalayan Art. The group was very fortunate to be guided through some of the museum's most beautiful pieces by Chief Curator Jan Van Alphen. Jan Van Alphen has lectured Indian art, Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism at the Antwerp University since 1995 and was the director of the Ethnographic Museum of Antwerp from 1995 until 2008. He is now the Chief Curator of the Rubin Museum and during his tour he shared some of his vast knowledge of art and cultures across the Himalayan region. It was fascinating to discover the beauty and richness of the sculptures and paintings exhibited in this haven of peace in the midst of busy Manhattan.

After the visit, a small reception was organized in the museum where the group enjoyed the cheerful Sunday afternoon atmosphere, as well as the opportunity to meet new people and share stories with current BAEF fellows.

- New York Fellows Brunch

During the past academic year, BAEF fellows of the Boat of 2011 in the NY area came together a few times to enjoy Belgium's and America's fine dining tradition and share their impressions. After a brunch in the fall, they gathered again in springtime for a dinner at BXL Cafe, a well-known Belgian restaurant nearby Times Square. Beers were served and typical Belgian meals were ordered. It was clear that everyone had gained a lot of experience and had become a real American, or at least everyone had developed a tasty American accent.

- Belgian Brunch in DC

On July 22, the BAEF community in the Washington DC area convened for a tasty brunch at St. Arnold's in Dupont Circle.

- Annual Fellows Luncheon

On April 1, Belgian fellows studying in the Mid-Atlantic and North-eastern region of the US were all invited by Prof. Boulpaep to attend the annual luncheon at his beautiful 1750s house in the heart of Connecticut. Many fellows attended the luncheon and were warmly welcomed by Prof. Boulpaep and his wife Betty. They enjoyed a wonderful afternoon in the countryside, definitely one of the highlights of their US and BAEF experience.

- Bay Area Activities

As always, the Belgica group in Northern California was very active in the first half of the year. The bi-weekly lunch at Stanford is a long-standing tradition.

Another tradition is the annual ski trip. In March, 16 Belgians went on a Belgica Ski Weekend in Tahoe!!

On April 19, scholar David Baeckenlandt spoke about the "Flemish Contributions to the Settlement and Discovery of the New World." From the time of Leif Eriksson to the present, the Flemish have made significant – but often unrecognized – contributions to the settlement and discovery of the New World. Utilizing both primary documents and existing scholarship, and drawing up years of independent research, David chronologically described the evidence of this substantial and fascinating Flemish contribution.

On May 18, the President of KULeuven, Prof. M. Waer, talked about the KULeuven and KULeuven Associatie. This was also a unique opportunity to invite Belgian professionals from the Silicon Valley and it was a great evening for networking!



Rubin Museum Chief Curator Jan Van Alphen and Alumni Committee Chair Jean Malpas



Fellows brunch in New York



Belgian brunch in Washington DC



Fellows luncheon at the Boulpaep's

UPDATES FROM BRUSSELS

- 2012 Fellows Pre-Departure Meeting

On June 1, 84 Belgian fellows of the 2012 Boat gathered for the pre-departure info-meeting at the University Foundation. The American fellows 2011-2012 joined them for the traditional group picture in the Foundation's staircase. (see picture on the 1st page of the newsletter)

Thanks to the generosity of the Gustave Boël family and Sofina and through the King Baudouin Foundation project call in leadership, 10 fellows chosen for their academic excellence received a BAEF-Gustave Boël-Sofina Fellowship.

Rob Opsomer, a civil engineer in Computer Sciences from UGent who will be studying at the Kellogg School of Management, was the recipient of this year's Karel Vinck award. This award is granted to a civil engineer from a Belgian university accepted at a top US business school.

- B.A.E.F. Alumni Award 2012 in Social Sciences

Also on June 1, Prof. Moïra Mikolajczak from UC Louvain received this year's BAEF Alumni Award (5000 euro). She was selected for her research in psychology on the influence of "emotional competences" on people's well-being, as well as the neuro-endocrine basis of behavior.



Rob Opsomer and Karel Vinck



Prof. Axel Cleeremans and Prof. Moïra Mikolajczak



Howard Gutman, Antoon Van Collie, Pierre Wolper, Daniel Janssen, Emile Boulpaep

- 12th Alumni Reunion to honor Prof. Emile Boulpaep

A group of alumni – Antoon Van Coillie, Claire Martin, Peter Grogard and Thomas Simon – organized an Alumni reunion to honor Prof. Emile Boulpaep for his 35 years as President and 40 years as member of the Board. The event took place on June 2 at the Palais des Academies / Paleis der Academiën in Brussels. The evening started with an academic session presided by Baron Daniel Janssen, with US Ambassador Howard Gutman and Minister Pascal Smets in attendance. Other speakers included Professor Mark Waer, Rector KU Leuven; Professor Pierre Wolper, Vice-recteur à la recherche ULg and BAEF Fellow 1978; and Vincent Vliebergh, BAEF Fellow 1992.

The formal session was followed by a delicious Belgian-American walking dinner, which allowed the 150 Alumni in attendance to mingle and catch up with each other.

For more pictures of the event go to the [BAEF website](#).

A "Liber Navium" is available with pictures of all the BAEF Boats from 1971 until 2011. You can order a copy by transferring 35 euro to the BAEF bank account: 210-0081209-72 / BIC: GEBABEBB IBAN: BE 38 2100 0812 0972. Please include a mailing address in Belgium.



Betty and Emile Boulpaep



Liber Navium