



On Friday June 2, 2017, the Belgian American Educational Foundation (B.A.E.F.) honors its 85 recipients of Fellowships that provide Belgians with the opportunity for advanced study or research in the United States and provide Americans with a similar opportunity in Belgium. A pre-departure luncheon will be given at the Fondation Universitaire Stichting, attended by our American and Belgian Fellows, the members of the Board as well as our numerous Benefactors *.

Since its founding in 1920 by President Herbert Hoover, the B.A.E.F. granted in previous years to 3,623 Belgians and 964 Americans Fellowships for advanced study or research in the partner country. Professor Emile Boulpaep has very successfully led the BAEF Foundation as President over the last 40 years while being a full-time tenured Professor of Medicine at Yale University.

The expense budget of the academic year 2016-2017 amounts to \$ 4,463,000 with income from endowment covering less than half of the expenses. The remainder of the expenses is covered by annual gifts in Belgium and in the United States from Alumni, associated Foundations, private, public and corporate sources. Individuals, organizations or foundations subscribe to eponymous Graduate or Postdoctoral B.A.E.F. Fellowships, carrying their name. The program of B.A.E.F. awards for the academic year 2017-2018 comprises 85 individuals, including 75 Belgian Fellows to study or perform research in the United States, and 10 American Fellows to study or perform research in Belgium, in all academic fields.

The main objective of the B.A.E.F. has always been to help young talented students to study towards a Master degree or PhD at a top US university. Among the Belgian Fellows who will be leaving end of August, we count 2 Bachelor students who will be studying for their initial Master, 6 graduate students for an advanced Master, and 3 candidates for a PhD in such fields as Computer Science or Translational Medicine. Lawyers pursuing an advanced Master law degree in the US, known as LL.M., are very numerous this year. BAEF gave 23 Fellowships to lawyers who will be studying at NYU (6), Columbia U. (4), Harvard U. (3), U. of Chicago (5), UC Berkeley (3), Yale U. (1) and Tufts U (1).

A total of 28 post-doctoral researchers secured a research fellowship from the BAEF in order to finance a research stay at the best known US university labs or research centers. Often a longtime collaboration between the two institutions will start from there.

Since 1998, BAEF also gives annually 2 Fellowships to Musicians. We were proud to count Jeroen D'hoë as the first Music Fellow and among the 2006 Fellows was the pianist Liebrecht Vanbeckevoort who went to the New England Conservatory, before becoming a laureate of the Queen Elisabeth Competition.

In addition, 3 Belgian Fellows receive a Conditional Grant to study for a MBA (Master in Business Administration) in the United States. Those awards are interest-free loans of up to \$100,000.00 for two years of study.

Honorary Fellowships for 2017-2018 were granted to 7 individuals, who secured financial support outside the B.A.E.F.

A Fellowship Committee, that interviews all Belgian candidates personally, selects the Fellows competitively from a pool of brilliant applicants. The fellowship awards comprise a stipend ranging from \$18,000.00 to \$45,000.00, the payment of tuition fees varying between \$30,000.00 and \$50,000.00, as well as coverage for health insurance.

Among the Americans Fellows we used to have a large majority within the Humanities, Arts, History, Philosophy as well as Music. We observed a recent switch among disciplines of the American Fellows towards Exact Sciences, such as high energy physics, or research at the von Karman Institute and IMEC. It is gratifying to see that brilliant American researchers also in the hard sciences are presently looking forward to come to top Belgian universities directed by former Fellows of the Foundation.

Flemish Art has been a permanent field of interest for the Foundation. Through the financial help of the Rubenianum Fund, the BAEF grants an annual eponymous Rubenianum Fellowship to an American Art historian in the field of 16th - 17th C Flemish Art.

With the support of its various Benefactors* in Belgium, BAEF is proud to support financially 65 highly qualified Belgian scholars and researchers to pursue their studies and research at top US universities.

We wish the new Boat of Belgian Fellows a prosperous voyage and a fruitful stay in the U.S.A.



Benefactors *

Fondation Francqui - Francqui Stichting

Hoover Foundation for the Development of ULB and VUB

Hoover Foundation for the Development of UC Louvain and KULeuven

UC Louvain

KU Leuven

U. Gent

U. Liège

Baillet Latour Fund

Gustave Boël-Sofina Fund

Cabeaux- Jacobs Fund

Henri Benedictus Fund

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