On January 26, 2012, our Washington Alumni Network kicked off the new year with an Alumni Reception at the residence of Peter Mollema. The event was to celebrate the new year, welcome new members into town as well as for members to acquaint themselves with the 400th anniversary celebration of the University of Groningen in 2014.

Representing 4 different nationalities, over 40 alumni were hosted at the Residence of Deputy Chief of Missions of the Royal Netherlands Embassy to the United States, Mr. Peter Mollema, himself a proud alumnus. The evening started at exactly 18h00 as our younger alumni mingled with the more experienced alumni. Mr. Peter Mollema, in giving his welcome note, mentioned how Groningen is an integral part of his life and family as his wife Marja is also from Groningen. He entreated fellow Washingtonians to stay connected and engaged with their alma mater.

His remarks were followed by those of Bertus Meins, the president of the Alumni Network in Washington. He shared with the gathering the work being done to formally establish the network in Washington. Listing past events and plans for future events, Bertus was proud of the high attendance that evening and welcomed the new arrivals to the Washington DC area.

Since 2011, the Alumni Relations Office recruit about 25 to 30 graduating international students to become RUG ambassadors once they return to their home countries. These students are trained and prepared not only to become RUG official representatives but also to serve as support for recruitment of prospective students. This year alone, we have 30 ambassadors undergoing training before their departure home around the globe with a willingness to help and connect other alumni seeking business and professional opportunities in their countries.

Prince Ralph Osei, International Alumni Officer of the University present for the occasion, discussed with the alumni new developments back home in Groningen. He touched on the university’s focus on Healthy Aging, Energy and Sustainable Society and series of ground breaking research on-going at Groningen. He discussed the university’s international policy: steps being adopted to ensure inclusion in the top 100 universities of the world. Sharing with the gathering activities planned for the 400th anniversary in 2014, Prince mentioned the date for the celebration to be May 15- June 15, 2014 and invited everyone for our International Home-coming.
The Ubbo Emmius Foundation USA is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the goals and activities of the University of Groningen. Aims are:

- To promote the continuing support and on-going relationship of University of Groningen alumni based in the United States
- To promote the education, teaching, research and scholarship of the University of Groningen in the United States and the world by emphasizing our global competitiveness
- To seek support through gifts and donations for projects and activities from alumni and friends of the University of Groningen

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Polly Maclaine Pont
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Lars de Gier
Macha Kemperman
Suzanne Koopmans
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Santiago Delgado Caldaron
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