2015 in a nutshell
Especially for its fundraising the University of Groningen (UG) founded the Ubbo Emmius Fund (UEF) in 1996. The Fund is named after the first rector of our University.

Objectives and procedure

The Ubbo Emmius Fund would like to stimulate the mutual involvement of both society and the University. This is done through the organization of activities for our alumni and network, and through fundraising for particular initiatives at the University of Groningen; the main social priorities being Healthy Ageing, Energy and Sustainable Society.

The UEF has an independent and honorary board. Chairman is alumnus and CEO of Unilever Paul Polman. We are recognized as a Public Benefit Institution (PBO) and are therefore exempt from gift and inheritance tax. The Funds' activities are carried out by the employees of the department Alumni Relations & Fundraising (A&F) of the University. Personnel expenses and other costs of fundraising are carried by the University and are not deducted from the proceeds. This means that donations to our Fund will benefit 100% of the purpose chosen by the donors.

Our Fund does not own a substantial capital and cannot pay any money to applicants. We raise funds on behalf of carefully selected projects. The board of the UEF decides on the fundraising direction on a yearly basis. The University board, deans and faculty board members determine the projects for which funds will be raised.
The success of the UEF is due to the attention and generous contributions by our alumni, funds, corporations and other donors. The board, employees of the Fund, but especially the scientists and students that receive your donations, are extremely grateful for your financial and moral support in 2015.

In 2015, the UEF received €889,505 of income, of which €887,266 as a result of direct fundraising (donations, grants and pledges for 2015 and coming years) and €2,239 in interest income. In addition, the UEF had a close involvement in raising an amount of €1.45 million in donations and grants that went directly to the faculties.

> Trends <
The revenues decreased compared to 2014, the year that the University celebrated its 400-year anniversary for which we received exceptional gifts. Calculated over a period of several years the revenues do show growth. Particularly the number of multi-year donations in the form of a notarial deed has grown strongly in recent years.

> Alumni <
Since the start of the UEF, the involvement of former students of the University holds a central position. Many alumni, young and old, actively engage with the University and the Fund. For example, they act as a guest lecturer, make their network and knowledge available and/or donate to (one of) our projects. Businesses, organizations and equity- and/or family funds are our key partners in raising funds for research and education, often through the mediation of our alumni network.

> Team <
In September 2015 Gerbrand Visser has been appointed as head of the A&F department and director of the UEF. He succeeded Tienke Koning, who will remain connected to our Fund for two days per week. The team consists of ten permanent employees and a number of flexible staff.

> NAF <
In the United States the UEF cooperates with The Netherlands America Foundation (NAF). Donations that are made in the U.S. are tax deductible through a fund that is linked to the NAF. We can make use of the services of the NAF office.
Alumni Chapters

In The Netherlands and abroad alumni chapters are active, where the Dutch ‘gezelligheid’ and community involvement meet. The Dutch and some international chapters give financial support to research projects of the University.

> The Netherlands <


The alumni chapter Kennemerland was established in January. The first meeting of the chapter took place in September in the Provincial House of North Holland and was a great success. The chapter counted 19 members who collectively pledged their support to the Science Technology and Innovation Network for Sustainability Groningen (STINGS). This is a multidisciplinary project group of the UG, existing of scientists of the Science & Society Group (FWN) and Globalisation Studies Groningen, supported by the UEF. With the support of the alumni chapters, members of STINGS hope to take solid steps to improve food security in Africa, including the training of locals, scientists but also regulators, senior officials and journalists.

As many as 27 members of the Gooische Groningers have made another commitment in favor of the research by Ellen Nollen on the genetic causes of ageing diseases as soon as their pledge had expired. These members have ‘re-signed’ for five years or indefinitely. Moreover, the Elise Mathilde Fund pledged another €5.000 to the ‘Gooische’ research.

Toward the end of 2015 the decision came to split up the alumni chapter East Netherlands, or at least to separate the region of Twente. The chapter focused on alumni of Zwolle until Arnhem and Enschede. This geographical spread has proved to be too great. Twente will become a separate alumni chapter and the existing chapter East Netherlands will focus on the region Ijsselvallei (roughly).
International

About 17,000 former students are ‘international’: alumni who have settled abroad, and/or alumni with a foreign nationality. Alumni abroad say that they value contact with fellow Groningers and their old University which is why the UEF facilitates alumni chapters abroad as well. Networking, knowledge sharing and social involvement are central to these chapters, including the connection with the University, its students and scientists.


In October, a first gathering took place in Berlin. More than 70 alumni attended this meeting and provided promising feedback for the future of the network.

Alumni in Hong Kong donated € 3,600 to the PhD program Bohai Bay Watchers of researcher Ying-Chi Chan, which is about migratory birds in this region. The project is led by the world-renowned UG-ornithologist and Spinoza prize winner Theunis Piersma.

In the summer seven students went to Singapore for an internship, with support of the alumni chapter in Singapore and the UEF, at companies such as ING, Vopak, Akzo Nobel and Philips. Besides, several social networking events were organized for alumni and the interns.
In 2015 the UEF held several fundraising campaigns. Different fundraising methods were used for these campaigns, often combined, such as a phonathon (the Alumni desk), crowdfunding (www.rugsteunt.nl) and fund requests.

> Eric Bleumink Fund <

The December campaign for the Eric Bleumink Fund (EBF), which provides scholarships to talented students from developing countries, has become a tradition. The campaign consists of a giro action (included in the alumni magazine Broerstraat 5), a phonathon, a staff action and crowdfunding. Throughout the year, several smaller actions took place for the EBF, usually organized by staff and students of the UG. The overall revenues for the EBF in 2015 were € 155,725.

Diana Sekarayu Karunia (Indonesia, 1992), Barnali Chakraborty Chumki (Bangladesh, 1978), Harrun H. Garashi (Kenya, 1973), Yonas Kiflom Tekle (Eritrea, 1985) en Samiksha Ghimire (Nepal, 1988) started their studies in Groningen in September thanks to the EBF scholarship. Samuel Ng’ang’a Bakari (Kenia, 1981), Jean Claude Rwibasira (Rwanda, 1984) en Bimal Prajapati (Nepal, 1988) were able to complete their studies successfully.

Sad news was the message that Shayera Moula, who successfully obtained her diploma in the beginning of the year, died in May because of complications from a miscarriage. Shayera was a talented journalist who, in 2011, gained a place in the Bangladesh Women Leadership Alliance top 500 of women working in Bangladesh. She only became 29 years.

> Crowdfunding and Phonaton <

Other projects that were funded through crowdfunding and via phonathon are ‘Tools for Top Education (for the Tools and Materials Fund of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences), ‘Nano Spies in cancer cells’ (study of the role of free radicals in cancer cells) and the ‘Junior Scientific Masterclass’ (a scholarship program of the Faculty of Medical Sciences).

These projects proceeded €160,296, mostly due to the donations of some institutions and private funds, including the Van der Meer-Boerema Foundation, the Anna Dorothea Hingst Foundation and PATO Foundation. The latter donated € 50,000 for the purchase of a factory street for the study Industrial Engineering & Management, as part of the Tools and Materials Fund. This street will allow students to practice and experiment with different systems and modules within a production process.

Since 2015, the UEF offers a crowdfunding platform to students of the University as well with the website www.studenten.rugsteunt.nl. This year, two student projects started.
Projects

Our fund is looking to finance a wide range of projects. Some are highlighted below.

> Cultural landscape Northeast-Twente <
Researcher Harm Smeenge received a gift of €15,000 from ‘Landschap Overijssel’ and a pledge of €20,000 for 2016 of ‘Staatsbosbeheer’ for his research on the cultural landscape of Northeast Twente. Smeenge wants to map the landscape development of this region over the past 10,000 years. By connecting different disciplines, such as physical geography, (paleo) ecology and historical geography, he creates a new field of study: the historical ecology.

> Stress in wound care EB <
Foundation Eleven Flowers Fund pledged €50,000 to investigate the wound care of young patients with the skin disease Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB) and its impact on stress and family relationships. The research is conducted by Petra de Graaf, at the Center for Blistering Diseases of the UG, the knowledge center in the field of EB in The Netherlands.

> Fighting cancer with mathematics <
Medical biologist Kathrin Thedieck conducts research on how to predict the effectiveness of a particular cancer treatment with mathematical models. For now within the genetic disease Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC). Through the alumni network a fund pledged to contribute €35,000 to this research.

> Kromfonds <
The ‘Kromfonds’ was established in the fall. It is an initiative of Noaber Philanthropy and the dean of the Medical Faculty of the University. It entails a scholarship program that enables talented scientists and executives from both UMCG/UG as the Mayo Clinic (USA) to visit each other, so that one can learn from one another. For five years Noaber Philanthropy provides €30,000 to the UEF on behalf of the Kromfonds.

> Studenten Volleybal Team Donitas <
To increase awareness of the Fund among students, the UEF collaborated with the student volleyball team Donitas Ladies 1 in 2015. This team plays in the league for the first time since twelve years. The UEF facilitated the fundraising needed to make the ambition of the volleyball players, to play at top level, possible.
STINGS

Science Technology and Innovation Network Groningen for Sustainability (STINGS), the multidisciplinary project group of the UG, also supported by the alumni chapters Kennemerland and East-Netherlands, in cooperation with the Rathenau Instituut, Solvay, Kramp Varsseveld and Wageningen UR received a NWO-grant of €375,000 for the project ‘Responsible innovation in Dutch potato breeding’. This is a research on hybrid potato breeding, in other words ‘the seed-potato’.

A second project in which STINGS is involved, ‘Strengthen local sustainable energy initiatives with innovative technology’, also received a NWO-grant of €375,000 for research on the technical and social possibilities for local sustainable energy systems.

Both grants are transferred directly to the concerning faculties. Therefore the results are not reflected in our figures, but the UEF did have an important mediating role.

The same applies for a European grant of €1.2 million for the STINGS related project ‘Preparedness and Resilience to address Urban Vulnerabilities (Rise PRUV) that the interfaculty and interdisciplinary research institute Globalisation Studies Groningen together with some foreign partners received. The UG-part includes €700,000, of which the biggest part is intended for staff mobility and PhD’s. Also a part is intended for organizing workshops and the development of materials.

Impact investment

Het UEF onderzoekt de mogelijkheden om een vorm van impact investment te ontwikkelen, waarbij investeerders door middel van een revolving fund betrokken worden bij innoverende onderzoeksprojecten met impact voor de maatschappij.

Overview projects and amounts received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthy ageing</th>
<th>Research led by</th>
<th>Amounts received in euros</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alzheimer research, Alumni chapter ‘Gooische Groningers’</td>
<td>Ellen Nollen</td>
<td>15.250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants for Junior Scientific Masterclass en Medical and Pharmaceutical Drug Innovation students</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>72.938</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study of juvenile asthma, Alumni chapter Amsterdam</td>
<td>Gerard Koppelman</td>
<td>27.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research on Epidermolysis Bullosa</td>
<td>Petra de Graaf &amp; Jan Maarten van Dijl</td>
<td>25.040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liesbeth de Vries</td>
<td>30.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research on breast cancer hormone therapy</td>
<td>project group</td>
<td>10.040</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research on healthy and active ageing, ‘Actief Oud is Goud’ project group</td>
<td>Terry Derks</td>
<td>37.500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research on glycogen storage disease</td>
<td>Romana Schirhagl</td>
<td>20.931</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research on cancer cells using nanodiamonds</td>
<td>Kathrin Thedieck</td>
<td>36.000</td>
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<td>Research on the treatment of Tuberous Sclerosis Complex</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

Healthy ageing

Named fund

NF Gooische Gronigers, alzheimer research | Ellen Nollen | 19.500 |
NF J.P. Nater Fund, dermatological research | n/a | 1.138 |
NF Grendos Fund, endocrinological research | n/a | 86 |

Energy

Project

Research on hybrid solar cells, Alumni chapter The Hague / Rotterdam | Maria Loi | 13.550 |
Research on piezoelectric material, Alumni chapter Aduanderkring | Beatriz Noheda | 14.900 |
Energy Research Energy Academy | n/a | 91.025 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overview projects and amounts received</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>----------------</td>
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<td>Research on Epidermolysis Bullosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liesbeth de Vries</td>
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<td>Research on breast cancer hormone therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research on healthy and active ageing, ‘Actief Oud is Goud’ project group</td>
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<td>Research on the treatment of Tuberous Sclerosis Complex</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Healthy ageing

Named fund

NF Gooische Gronigers, alzheimer research | Ellen Nollen | 19.500 |
NF J.P. Nater Fund, dermatological research | n/a | 1.138 |
NF Grendos Fund, endocrinological research | n/a | 86 |

Energy

Project

Research on hybrid solar cells, Alumni chapter The Hague / Rotterdam | Maria Loi | 13.550 |
Research on piezoelectric material, Alumni chapter Aduanderkring | Beatriz Noheda | 14.900 |
Energy Research Energy Academy | n/a | 91.025 |
Sustainable society

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Research led by</th>
<th>Amounts received in euros</th>
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<tr>
<td>Research on cargo-hitching and LNG-distribution</td>
<td>Iris Vis</td>
<td>125.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research on cultural landscape Northeast Twente</td>
<td>Harm Smeenge</td>
<td>42.680</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research on child abuse (toolkit foster care)</td>
<td>Hans Grietens</td>
<td>43.443</td>
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<td>Research on the arctic tern</td>
<td>Maarten Loonen</td>
<td>1.498</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science &amp; technology innovation network Groningen (STINGS), Alumni Chapter East Netherlands</td>
<td>divers</td>
<td>4.500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research on the migration of waders in the Chinese sea, Alumni Chapter Hong Kong</td>
<td>Ying-Chi Chan</td>
<td>3.600</td>
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<td>Science &amp; technology innovation network Groningen (STINGS), Alumni Chapter Kennemerland</td>
<td>various</td>
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<tr>
<td>UEF Chair ‘Comparative multi-level governance and regional structure’</td>
<td>Ron Holzhacker</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research on bird migration in Kenia</td>
<td>Irene Tieleman</td>
<td>600</td>
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Other

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<td>Research on the Dead Sea Scrolls, Qumran Institute</td>
<td>Mladen Popović</td>
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<td>Avril McDonald Memorial Fund / AMcD Prize</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>3.794</td>
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<td>UEF chair ‘Chair for East Asian Studies, with a focus on modern day Mongolia’</td>
<td>Tjalling Halbertsma</td>
<td>4.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of the Royal Dutch Institute in Rome (KNIR)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td>Tools &amp; Materials Fund FWN</td>
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Other

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<tr>
<td>NF Eric Bleumink Fund Talent Grant, scholarships for students from developing countries</td>
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<td>NF Institutional Investment Management Fund, Thesis prize</td>
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<tr>
<td>NF Wierenga-Rengerink Fund, PhD prize</td>
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<td>7.500</td>
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Total

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<th>Research led by</th>
<th>Amounts received in euros</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>903.010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[1\] The first alumni chapter ‘Gooische Groningers’ has continued its support of the Alzheimer’s research by Ellen Nollen in a named fund. The total contribution of the chapter amounts to €34,750.

Awards

Not only alumni, but also employees and relations of the UG feel connected with the quality of education. This appears from the growing number of incentive prizes that were established because of their support.

> Wierenga-Rengerink PhD prize

The Wierenga-Rengerink PhD prize is awarded annually to the University researcher who wrote the best dissertation. Only exceptional dissertations (at least cum laude) qualify. This was the first year that the prize was awarded. Winner was Namkje Koudenburg of the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences with her thesis ‘Conversational Flow: The Emergence and Regulation of Solidarity through Social Interaction’. The prize is made possible by the Wierenga-Rengerink Fund that was established by alumnus as a named fund under the UEF.

> Aart Bosman Student Excellence Award

At the end of each academic year, the Aart Bosman Student Excellence Award is presented to the most outstanding UG student of the year. This year, a third-year student of economics and business named Thijmen Calis received the award. The award, named after UG Professor Aart Bosman (1930 - 2008), is made possible by alumnus Gezinus Hidding who wants to honor his former teacher in Groningen.

> UEF MA Thesis Award East Asian Studies

On November 3rd the first UEF MA Thesis Award East Asian Studies was awarded, a prize for the best master thesis at the UG in this field of research. The prize, amounting of € 888, - (8 is a lucky number in the Asian culture) was won by Silvia Cortés for her thesis “China’s Public Diplomacy in Latin America.” The thesis award is an initiative of the Centre for East Asian Studies Groningen (CEASG) and the UEF as part of the UEF special chair ‘Chair for East Asian Studies, with a focus on modern day Mongolia’.

Thijmen Calis receiving the Aart Bosman Award from Rector Magnificus Elmer Sterken
Named Funds

The UEF offers donors the opportunity to establish a named fund, under the auspices of the UEF. This gives donors the opportunity to contribute to research and education programs, on a personal and substantial manner. We are very pleased that the number of named funds grew in 2015. It is our ambition to further raise this number.

The new Named Funds are:

> The Wierenga-Rengerink Fund. This fund was set up by an involved alumnus of the University. It returns an annual award for the best PhD-dissertation at the University;
> The Institutional Investment Management Fund. This fund was set up by Robert van der Meer because of his leave-taking as a professor in Finance at the UG. From this fund an annual thesis award for students in this discipline is funded;
> The COWOG Fund. This fund has emerged from the former Centre of Research and Development of Higher Education Groningen. From 2016 onwards, it funds the award for the Teacher of the Year of the UG.

The remaining Named Funds of the UEF are:

> The Eric Bleumink Fund, for supporting students from developing countries;
> The J.P. Nater Fund, for promotion of scientific research in the field of Dermatology;
> The Grendos Fund, for stimulating research in endocrinology;
> The Internal Medicine Fund, for promotion of research in the field of internal medicine;
> The Fund Gooische Groningers, for promotion of research in the field of ageing processes, Alzheimer’s disease in particular.

Special Chairs

In March Tjalling Halbertsma, Professor by Special Appointment at the in 2014 by the UEF established chair ‘Chair for East Asian Studies, with a focus on modern day Mongolia’, held his inaugural lecture, titled “Domestic Challenges and International Opportunities: Meandering through Mongolia’s Past and Present”. The endowed chair is connected to the Centre for East Asian Studies that has been made possible by the ING.

Thanks to the commitment of alumni in Jakarta the funds needed to appoint Ronald Holzacker as UEF Professor by Special Appointment at the chair ‘Comparative multi-level governance and regional structure’ at the faculty Spatial Sciences are found at Unilever Indonesia and Shell Indonesia. Holzacker is founder of the SInGA (Spirit Indonesia Groningen) research group who is focusing on governance and sustainable society. He guides ten Indonesian PhD students who are conducting their research half in Groningen, half in Indonesia. The board of the UG accepted the introduction of this second endowed chair of the UEF.
Since 2009, master and PhD students receive the Album Amicorum at their graduation ceremony, a graduation gift on behalf of the University and the UEF. This book received a prestigious international award in 2015, a Gold Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The book received the award because of “its beautiful design, compelling sense of place, and contemporary take on an old concept”. CASE - Headquartered in the US - is seen as the world’s leading organization for professionals engaged in communications, alumni policy and fundraising in higher education.

On October 3rd, the UEF organized for the second time an Alumni Day in the Apenheul. About 250 former students were present with their family and/or friends. Most of them also visited one or more of the lectures given by University professors. These lectures were received with great enthusiasm.

Alumni registered with an e-mail address receive a special poem written for their birthday. In 2015 the poem was written by poet and an alumna Leoni Veraar.

This year seventeen new international students were trained as ambassadors of the University. These ‘International Alumni Ambassadors’ help as a volunteer for amongst others, recruitment of prospective students abroad.
Board Ubbo Emmius Fund

The board of the UEF consists of alumni of the University. Because of their great involvement they make excellent ambassadors for the University. Through their involvement and commitment on behalf of the University valuable contacts are made with companies and various institutions. The board members do not receive remuneration for their work for our fund.

> Chairman <  
Paul Polman, CEO Unilever

> Vice Chairmen <  
Jan Willem Baud, member supervisory board e-Traction  
Sibrand Poppema, chairman executive board University of Groningen

> Members <  
Paul Baan, chairman Noaber Foundation (AB, until October 9, 2015)  
Matthijs Bierman, director Triodos Bank (AB, Auditcie.)  
Arjan Bos, president-director TVM insurances (AB)  
Hugo Brouwer, advisor Trip Lawyers & Notary (EB, AB)  
Frits van Bruggen, director ANWB (AB)  
Jeroen Dietvorst, director Schamhart & Dietvorst (EB, AB)  
Pim van der Feltz, CEO Google Netherlands B.V. (AB, Marketing Advisory Board, since October 9, 2015)  
Timo Hughes, member supervisory board port Rotterdam (AB)  
Alexandra Jankovich, director Spark & Co B.V. (AB, Marketing Advisory Board)  
Stef Kranendijk, chairman board of directors De Groene Zaak (AB)  
Rien Meppelink, notary partner Loyens & Loeff (AB)  
Rob Meuter, chairman board of directors ABN AMRO Pension fund (AB)  
Marjolijn Meynen, head of communications & marketing Rijksmuseum (AB, Marketing Advisory Board, since April 9, 2015)  
Jan Nooitgedagt, chairman executive committee Vivat (AB)  
Age Offringa, member executive committee Koninklijke Wagenborg (AB, until October 9, 2015)  
Bernhard van Oranje, director Levi9 Global Sourcing (AB)  
Eddie Perdok, CEO Kramp Groep B.V. (DB, AB)  
Henk Rottinghuis, member executive committee Blokker and Stork (AB)  
Elmer Sterken, Rector Magnificus University of Groningen (AB)  
Chris Vogelzang, member board of directors ABN AMRO Bank (AB, since April 9, 2015)  
Maarten Wetselaar, member board of Directors Shell (AB, Auditcie.)  
Marlies van Wijhe, director Van Wijhe Verf B.V. (AB)  
Bert van der Wijk, director BJW Signium International (AB)

> Director Ubbo Emmius Fund <  
Gerbrand Visser

Donors

We are very grateful to the following donors for their contribution and involvement.

Alumni of the University of Groningen  
Members (international) alumni chapters  
Anna Dorothea Hingst Foundation  
Antwerp World Diamond Centre  
Aramco Overseas Company  
ASV Dizkartes  
Emmaplein Foundation  
Foundation NutsOhhra  
Foundation Slachtofferhulp  
Groningen Seaports  
ING Groep  
Kobe University  
Prof. dr. R.A.H. van der Meer Noaber Foundation  
Province Overijssel  
Shell Upstream Indonesia Services  
Staatsbosbeheer  
Foundation Dujat  
Foundation Elise Mathilde Fonds Foundation  
Kinderpostzegels  
Foundation Landschap Overijssel  
Foundation PATO  
Foundation Eleven Flowers Fund Foundation  
Stimuleringsfonds ontwikkeling en onderzoek van hoger onderwijs  
Unilever Indonesia  
Family Wierenga-Rengerink  
Van der Meer-Boerema foundation  
…and may others
Ubbo Emmius Fund

**Visitors address:**
Oude Boteringestraat 44
9712 GL Groningen

**Postal Address**
Ubbo Emmius Fund
p/a Rijksuniversiteit Groningen
Postbus 72
9700 AB Groningen

Telephone: (+31) 050 363 7595
E-mail: uef@rug.nl
www.ubboemmiusfonds.nl
www.rugsteunt.nl
www.rug.nl/uef

IBAN: NL 37 TRIO 0784906009
BIC: TRIONL2U

Donaties in de USA (tax deductible),
Ubbo Emmius Fonds Friends Fund / The Naf, New York (www.thenaf.org)

Colophon

Photography:
ABC Kimberley: Ben Collins
Verena Blok
Reyer Boxem
Rob van Ewijk
Elmer Spaargaren
Sjaak Swart
Gerhard Taatghan

Design
Biche Eleveld bno

July 2016

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