



Newsletter Alumni Chapter Singapore

1st edition, september 2013

On August 23, 2013, the University of Groningen Singapore Alumni Chapter kicked off with a reception at the Hollandse Club. The reception was to bring all Groningers and RUG alumni together for the first time. The start of the alumni chapter is to engage in a new relationship with the university. It also was an opportunity to invite alumni in Singapore to the 400th anniversary celebration of the University of Groningen in 2014. In attendance were about 36 alumni out of over 97 that reside in Singapore.

> Alumni Chapter kick off <

Prof.dr. Sibrand Poppema, President of the university, was present to formally inaugurate the Alumni chapter. Earlier on in the day, he hosted a lunch meeting where he met some of the founding members of the chapter: Marie-Hélène van Houten, Otto Jan van Diepen, Peter Kok, Jos Birken and Ian ter Haar.

As alumni gathered in the Hollandse club in the evening, Maarten Wetselaar, one of the founding members and president of the chapter, welcomed guests and introduced his fellow founding members. He then explained the concept of the alumni chapters which was first adopted by the Gooische Groningers: old students of the university who now live in 't Gooi. A small group of founding alumni started the chapter by inviting their study friends to join the chapter and to support a special project or research at the RUG. These invitees, in turn, invite their alumni friends to join the chapter and subsequently the chapter grows. In this way, each meeting presents an opportunity for new members to join the network and for both younger and veteran alumni to mingle. Twice a year, or more, members of these chapters, now numbering 5 in the Netherlands come together for a trip down memory lane. At the same time special networks are built through supporting a research project by a scientist of international distinction.



> University of Groningen <

Prof.dr. Poppema, surprised to meet that many alumni for Singapore's first event, thanked guests for taking time off their busy schedules to be part of the evening. He then shared many of the university's success stories with alumni: the university continues to strive to be a top research university of international reputation by welcoming over 1500 international students this year alone and attracting top researchers from around the world. He enthusiastically informed alumni that Groningen is the 92nd ranked top research university listed in the Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities. This ranking coupled with our enviable positions in two other most reliable rankings means that our university is among the top 100 universities in the world. Touching on research, Prof.dr. Poppema mentioned that under his leadership the university continues to focus on 3 themes: healthy ageing, energy and sustainable society. These are multidisciplinary approaches involving all faculties that seek to answer life's pertinent questions by our researchers. He then went on to mention a few of the many groundbreaking research being done by our faculties.

> Alumni Chapters <

Prof.dr. Poppema talked about Groningen's alumni chapters being formed around the world to ensure active engagement first among our alumni and between our alumni and the university. This alumni chapter concept was recognized with a Bronze award from the Council of Advancement and Support of Education, a professional association serving educational institutions around the world. He further explained the interest of the Ubbo Emmius Fonds in establishing a chapter in Singapore to strengthen the relationship with our alumni and make them partners in the university's development efforts. Because of the tremendous enthusiasm and success of the Dutch chapters, the university would now like to expand this concept and provide the same opportunity for our alumni abroad. Currently, our international chapters include New York city, Washington DC, Zurich and Hong Kong/Shanghai. Yearly, all members would donate through a specific scheme to the scientific project or

any selected project. There will be a few different ways to donate, customized to different tax laws and locations. What could be better than supporting a talented scientist or special project, while reminiscing about your time as a student in the presence of old and new friends? Meanwhile a network of people that can support and coach each other broadens.

> 400th anniversary <

In wrapping up, Prof.dr. Poppema invited all alumni to join their alma mater to celebrate its 400th anniversary. He touched on the many preparations towards the celebration during the 15th May to 15th June, 2014. He specifically asked alumni to join in the Alumni Home-coming on the 12th- 15th June, 2014. Activities planned include a lunch reception at the Rijksmuseum for all alumni abroad followed by lunch with all alumni on the Broerplein all the way to the Vismarkt, a concert on the Grote Markt and a fundraising dinner at the Martinikerk, amongst others.

As the evening wore on, alumni gathered to have a group picture in front of the university flag amidst singing.



> Important links <

Alumni magazine Broerstraat 5: <http://www.rug.nl/science-and-society/alumni-and-fundraising/broerstraat-5/>

Alumni Worldwide newsletter RUG: <http://www.rug.nl/news-and-events/newsletters/international/>

More pictures of the event: <http://on.fb.me/17DxcPY>

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> Attendees <

Jos Birken
Oscar de Bok
Hans Peter Borgh
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Jan Buist
Otto Jan van Diepen
Ingrid Fehler
Camiel Frijlink
Henk de Glint
Ian ter Haar
Elena ter Haar
Marjoleine Havik
Pieter van Houten
Marie-Helene van Houten-Piederiet
Nynke Kinderman
Dorien Knaap
Peter Kok
Anneke Kok-de Boer
Laurus Meulenberg
Rutger Oudejans
Harmen van Paradijs
Eugenie van Paradijs-Rooseboom
Jiska Pesch
Katrijn de Ronde
Hein Jan Smit
Chris Spanjaard
Dorine Swartberg
Remko Tanis
Selina Thurer
Elvy Verton
Maarten Wetselaar
Maurien Wetselaar - Cosijn
Simon Wienke
Tineke Zuurbier
Feico de Zwaan
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