



Alumni Newsletter

Edition: Nr. 3

July 2018

The Alumni Europae Family

Currently 5.000 members

Katharina Rieke – Alumna Profile

Where am I from?

How did I end up in Mol?

**What has the European School taught
me?**

Why is Mol special?

What am I doing now?

**Check out Katharina's article on
page 2!**

Meetings and Events

Summer Break

**Thank you for being a subscriber to the
newsletter. Have a great summer and
keep a look out for new events in the fall!**

Questions? Comments?
Contact: Audrey Herz
Alumni@esffm.org
<http://www.alumnieuropae.org/>

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/AlumniEuropae>

A Note from the Editor

Welcome to the third edition of the Alumni Europae newsletter!

We hope that you have enjoyed the newsletter so far and have been able to learn more about the Alumni Europae network and its goals.

Our very distinct group of alumni which sets itself apart with many languages, cultures, interests and backgrounds, represents the high level of diversity that exists in the classrooms of the European Schools. Children are encouraged to learn from each other, as well as outside of the classroom and are asked to apply their knowledge and background to the world. As multicultural and multilingual citizens, students become ambassadors for global understanding and cross-border communication, making them valuable anchors in the modern world. Already in Pre-Primary, children come home with knowledge of their classmates' cultures and languages. This is what makes the European School so special and unique. A celebration in honor of the 60th anniversary for the European School Brussels 1 was recently held and is covered in this newsletter by our Chairman, Reinhold Ziegler.

The next Alumni Europae newsletter will be published at the end of September when the European Schools resume after summer break. As always, if you would like to write an article for the newsletter, please do not hesitate to send it to us. All articles may be sent up to one month in advance to Alumni@esffm.org. If you know anyone who would like to be added to the newsletter distribution list, please let us know at Alumni@esffm.org.

On behalf of the board, the entire Alumni Europae team and myself, as always we wish you an enjoyable and informative "read"!

Sincerely,

*Reinhold Ziegler, Chairman of Alumni Europae,
The Alumni Europae Board and
your Editor, Audrey Herz*

A New Look for the Newsletter!

We have decided to give the newsletter a makeover! As of September 2018, look for a newly organized and more dynamic look!

Connect, Inform and Enjoy!

Katharina Rieke – Alumna

My name is Katharina and I attended the European School in Mol, Belgium. Mol you ask? Well, it might be a mystery school among the more known European Schools in Brussels but it does exist in the province of Antwerp and it was the third European School, after Luxembourg and Brussels I, to open in 1960.

I was born in Germany and both my parents are German. When I was four years old, they moved with me to Belgium and today, I am a German as well as Belgian citizen. We moved because my father had a job opportunity in Antwerp. Initially, we were only supposed to stay for two years. This is how my European School “career” started in 1992. My parents wanted me to attend kindergarten in German to make it easier for me once we returned to Germany, but we ended up never leaving Belgium and in 2006, I obtained my European Baccalaureate from Mol.

I enjoyed my time at the European School a lot. Mol is a rather small school and when I was there, we had a particularly small German section. In the final two years before my graduation, there were only two German girls in my class. It was wonderful because the teachers could focus on each of our learning needs. For our language classes, geography and history, gym etc. we were together with the rest of the class year. Sometimes there were days when I did not like being the focus of attention in my German or math classes but in hindsight, the individual attention was very helpful and the best education I could ever get.

Going through this school experience, made me feel very enthusiastic about the European Union and its future. In 2006, I therefore decided to study European Law at the University of Maastricht and graduated in 2011. I completed a Bachelor as well as a Masters degree and also took advantage of the Erasmus Semester abroad. I studied in Dublin and I had a second exchange in Bordeaux.

And where did I end up? In Brussels...where else? I am working for a German Member of the European Parliament since 2013 and visited Mol again this year. It was good to see the school again. Not much has changed, except for a fresh coat of paint and a few new items here and there. A modern version of what I had remembered, and it made me feel nostalgic. I am hoping that all students attending the European School in Mol today are having the same great experience that I had!

Thank you!

- Katharina Rieke, Alumna

60 Years – The European School Brussels 1

The Alumni Europae Board is thrilled to announce that Alumni Europae asbl will be based, legally and physically, in the premises of the Chateau located in the heart of the first European School in Brussels. The Director, Mrs. Antonia Ruiz Esturella, kindly invited us to come back to our roots and celebrate the 60th anniversary of the European School Brussels 1. Many thanks! The birthday demonstrated what a European School is about. It consists of a great community, students young and old, teachers, parents, and alumni. Also attending were some alumni from the very first days in the building of “rue du Trone” back in 1958.

Stéphane Millet, a senior Alumnus who received his degree in 1966, has published a book entitled “Avenue des Verts Chasseurs “ (Edition L’Harmattan) outlining his memories and experiences in the very early days of our school.

Stéphane describes the characteristics in the early days, which except for the Chateau, always adapted to the growing needs and necessities typical for a dynamic institution. The location of the “parc” with its trees and open space has yielded to new facilities for a growing student body. Today, there are in excess of 3.000 pupils compared to a significantly smaller number of 1.000, from when the school was founded. Important elements such as the feeling of community amongst the pupils, teachers, parents and alumni fortunately remain.

The Alumni Europae was happy to participate at the 60th anniversary celebration of the European School in Brussels and had the opportunity to introduce itself. Unfortunately, only a handful of Alumni know about us and what we do. Luckily, we were able to meet some older alumni who came back to “their” school and we re-established old contacts. It was helpful to hear from all the alumni what they expect from an alumni network. Clearly, we will need to adapt what we offer to alumni. Here the message was clear:

1. We need more local events
2. We need more business contacts amongst the alumni. Two alumni are already setting up our LinkedIn and Facebook presence
3. We need a clear message for our mission. An alumnus, from Luxemburg, will set up the branding
4. A Board with more frequent exchange of information.

We have started a new experience for our alumni and have invested our capital in a new IT system. This was a necessary step towards an advanced and modern alumni network and we hope that this will pay off. We invite all of you to join us and other alumni at www.alumniuropae.org. This was made possible by a generous donation from the Parents Association of the European School Frankfurt.

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**60 Years – The European School Brussels 1
(continued from page 2)**

Currently, we cannot ask for membership fees yet but hope that other Parents Associations will support the effort of an alumni association. For this organization, donations from Alumni and Parents are welcome and vital.

Our alumni network has grown steadily but we would like to expand it even more. We invite you to participate and welcome your support.

We wish you a pleasant summer break and look forward to continuing in the fall.

All the best,

Reinhold Ziegler

Chairman Alumni Europae asbl

**We wish you a
great summer!**