

# BOAS ALUMNI BRIEF

A newsletter for Harvard Boas Alumni.

*Monday, April 22nd 2013.*

## THE ASSOCIATION'S LAUNCH EVENT

March 5, 2013 marks an exciting day for all Harvard Boas Alumni. It meant the launch of the Harvard Boas Alumni Association with a thrilling event at ambassador Gutman's residence in Brussels. A welcome by the Ambassador, as keynote speaker Minister of Finance of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg Luc Frieden, a talk by Frank Boas himself – after all the one man who connects us all – and a walking dinner reception: In short, the perfect recipe for an unforgettable evening.

Of course, no Harvard Boas Alumni event without at least a bit of intellectual challenge. The academic session took off with a much-appreciated speech by **ambassador Gutman** himself. He emphasized the importance of the Boas grants for increasing mutual understanding.

Minister of Finance of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg and Boas alumnus **Luc Frieden**, the main guest speaker, addressed the current challenges the Eurozone faces. As he pointed out, a common currency itself is not enough for a strong Eurozone. "The Euro is something you carry in your pocket," Minister Frieden stated. "As a unifying factor that is a start, but there is more than that. Europe should be in our hearts. Only then there will be a strong, healthy and unified Europe."



Fulbright Executive Director Erica Lutes then had some bad and some good news. Although he planned to, **Frank Boas** could not make it to the event himself due to illness. Nevertheless, he managed to send us a touching video recording. It was clear he had not forgotten about us. The attendance of almost 40 alumni at this first event shows we have not forgotten about him either!



Boas alumnus **Stanislas Adam** continued with pointing out some of the challenges the association faces, and which were discussed at the board meeting preceding the event:

- ✓ Attracting the very best candidates (lawyer and non-lawyer) through:
  - Designing a new website
  - Distributing newsletters and leaflets
- ✓ Reviving the alumni family spirit through:
  - Providing annual events
  - Organizing the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Boas scholarships in 2014!



However, more is needed to truly revive and keep alive the family spirit and to attract the best new Boas fellows. Alumnus **Marc De Vos** explained how we could achieve this goal. He emphasized that a new, attractive, and interactive website is a

strong tool. It will be the first challenge for the alumni association.

The evening ended with a walking dinner and a reception. All the alumni and Fulbright invitees were now able to catch up after, for some of them, many, many years. At the same time they were being interviewed on video as a small surprise for Frank Boas, to thank him for all he has done for us.

In short, the launch event of the Harvard Boas Alumni Association was a true success. Seeing all those generations of Boas fellows together was absolutely encouraging, and we hope all those present enjoyed it too. In case you missed it – no worries, we plan to organize an event every year. Next year will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Boas scholarships, so you do not want to miss that one!

In order for the Boas Alumni Association to succeed, though, we need your help. It will be nothing compared to the amount of the scholarship we all received, though – perhaps more an amount similar to a small speeding fine. You can find more information on how to contribute to the association challenges in the attached letter.

Thank you!

The Harvard Boas Alumni Association's board is:

Stanislas Adam, *President*

Guido De Wit, *Treasurer*

Sarah Panis, *Secretary*

Hubert Bocken

Marc De Vos

Jean-Paul Misson

Toon Moonen

