

NEWSLETTER

"As the 2025 Newsletter shows, the Belgian American Educational Foundation is thriving, our programs are growing, and our Fellows and Alumni are making a real impact.

To continue this momentum, your financial support remains essential to sustain our mission of academic excellence and to foster mutual understanding between the United States and Belgium.

I hope you are surrounded by people who support your ambitions for 2026."

-Emile Boulpaep, President of the BAEF



Belgian Boat 2025-2026 & US Boat 2024-2025

Belgian boat 2025-2026

The Belgian American Educational Foundation is pleased to welcome 89 new Belgian fellows for this academic year 2025-2026! Among them, 77 are newly funded and 12 have been designated as Honorary fellows, mainly due to extra funding (Fayat Beurs, Fulbright, U.S. university grants, etc.).

Graduate fellowships :

11 fellows pursuing an *initial Master's degree*, representing a 2-year long fellowship for up to \$112 000 in funding.

5 people are joining UC Berkeley, while the other 6 others head towards Columbia U., Georgetown U., Pratt Institute, the University of Chicago and 2 at UT Austin .

Unfortunately, the Music Selection Committee could not recommend a music fellow., due to the small pool of applicants.

10 fellows pursuing a *Complementary Master's degree* at the following universities :

3 at Columbia U., and 1 at NYU, MIT, Tufts U., Georgia Tech, UT Austin, UC Berkeley and UC San Francisco.

7 fellows pursuing an *LL.M.*, with 3 at NYU, followed by 1 in Columbia U, Yale U., Harvard U. and Georgetown U..

5 fellows in a *Master's of Business Administration (MBA)*. 2 at Warton, Harvard BS, NYU-Stern BS and 1 **MPA** at Columbia U.

Research fellowships :

8 Master's researchers, holders of a Bachelor's degree who have chosen to devote a gap year to conduct research at top US universities' laboratories. The fellows are mainly in the bio-medical field : 4 at Harvard Med School and 1 at Yale U., John Hopkins U., Weil Cornell Med. and UC Berkeley.

33 postdoctoral researchers aiming to deepen or enlarge their respective research fields at their chosen universities, as well as **3 doctoral researchers** focusing on their PhD research projects.



A record number of US applicants

The number of U.S. applicants reached an all-time high of 83, an unprecedented number thus far. The American Fellowship Committee selected 14 US fellows who have accepted to pursue their studies or research in Belgium.

- 3 *Graduate/PhD* fellows : UGent, KULeuven, College of Europe
- 2 *Music* fellows : Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel, KULeuven-Alamire Foundation
- 1 *Master's* researchers at UZAntwerpen,
- 4 *Doctoral* researchers: 2 at ULiège, UAntwerpen, KULeuven
- 3 *Postdoctoral* researchers : UGent, KULeuven, UCLouvain
- 1 *Honorary* fellow at The Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp





Maryan Ainsworth, Kayla Metelenis, John White & Thomas Simon

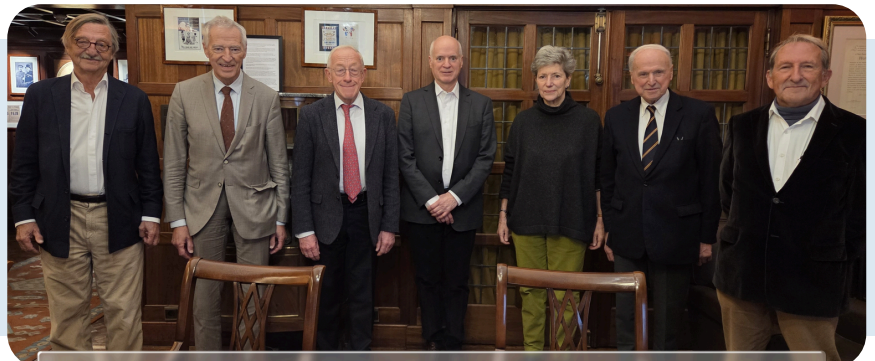
As our Vice-President Maryan Ainsworth was in Belgium for the inauguration of the BRON Research Center in Brugge, we organized a luncheon with the American Fellows of 2025 who had already arrived on Belgian soil.

This was an opportunity for them to meet with Professor Emile Boulpaep, as well as with Maryan Ainsworth, *curator emerita – European Paintings of The Metropolitan Museum of Art*.

Maryan was the facilitator of the new cost-shared **BRON-BAEF fellowship**, emerging from a partnership between the BAEF, the Belgian city of Bruges & the BRON Research Centre of Musea Brugge. This one is particularly focused on *Early Netherlandish Painting*, originating in the 15th and 16th centuries.

50 year celebration of boat 1975

Continuing a tradition that began in 2010, **President Emile Boulpaep** welcomed the Alumni boat **1975**, carrying those who embarked for the United States half a century ago. Six of the 24 alumni were able to attend, reminiscing and sharing stories from their journey.



Alain Flausch, Johan Verbist, Pierre Dersin, Jacques Verly, Anne Houtman, Emile Boulpaep, Fernand De Buck

New colleague in our Brussels Office



The Belgian American Educational Foundation is happy to welcome Ina De Schepper as our new Program Manager. Having lived long-term in the United States until recently, she brings a breath of fresh air to our Brussels team.

From left to right : Thomas Simon, Ina De Schepper, Marie-Claude Hayoit, Prof. Emile Boulpaep

Alumni Reunion 2025: Devoted to Applied Science

Alumni Award 2025

This year's award is the 25th given by the BAEF after taking over from the "Cercle des Alumni", celebrating the start of a new cycle for the 5 specific fields eligible to participate. To mark this anniversary, the Alumni Award has been doubled to 20 000€.

Out of 25 candidates, the Alumni Award 2025 in the field of **Applied Sciences*** goes to **Dr. Diederik Coppitters** of *UCLouvain*, in recognition of his research towards representing uncertainties in energy system designs.



Christophe Detavernier,, Pierre Wolper, Diederik Coppitters, Emile Boulpaep

Congratulations, and thank you for giving us an insight into the various challenges you are facing during your research!

*including material sciences, chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, construction engineering, electrical engineering, and computer science



Happy Thanksgiving!

Our yearly alumni reunion took place on November 27th, celebrating Thanksgiving with former fellows as per BAEF tradition! We had the pleasure of learning more about Fluid Dynamics and Aerostructure thanks to two highly esteemed keynote speakers and alumni – Yves Delatte, *CEO of Sonaca* (boat 2009) & VKI's* *managing director* Peter Grognaard (boat 1992).

They gave us some insight into their company and institution's activities, current and upcoming projects, and a deeper understanding of how these projects can impact our geopolitical future.

The Belgian American Educational Foundation would like to extend our warm thanks to everyone who attended this year's Alumni Reunion, and for the ones who missed it – we hope to see you next year!

SAVE THE DATE : Thursday November 26th 2026, 7 p.m. , Brussels, Belgium!

News from our current fellows

First impressions from some of our fellows in the United States :

"(...) Rediscovering my passion for rowing, I joined the Harvard Graduate School Rowing Club and even took part in the Head of the Charles, the largest three-day regatta in the world.(...) After three months here, I'm continually inspired by the academic excellence and stimulating environment around me. I feel immensely grateful to BAEF for making this incredible experience possible."

*-August Vermeire,
Master's Research at Harvard
Medical School*

"Now that fall has arrived, I've found myself gradually falling in love with the city. I enjoy long runs in Central Park and evenings out with friends. This semester, I'm taking five courses in total, two of which focus on the United Nations. As part of these classes, we visit the United Nations every Friday. I think that opportunities like this are unique to New York and it's truly an incredible experience."

*-Katelijne Klaasen,
Master's Degree in Politics at NYU*

"(...)As I'm now in the middle of my first semester at HBS, I wanted to write you to thank you for supporting my MBA journey and to share some updates. Getting settled into the academic pace has been more challenging than expected, but also extremely rewarding. My professors and classmates are very inspiring, and I've begun exploring a few entrepreneurial ideas within this incredible ecosystem.(...)"

*-Tom Winandy,
MBA at Harvard Business School*

