



# Alumni Newsletter

Edition: Nr. 4

October 2018

## The Alumni Europae Family

Currently 5.000 members

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Questions? Comments?  
Contact: Audrey Herz  
[Alumni@esffm.org](mailto:Alumni@esffm.org)  
<http://www.alumnieuropae.org/>

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

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Alumni Europae newsletter!

We are happy to offer you the first newsletter of the new school year! It is a new year and a new look for our newsletter. We hope you like it.

The Alumni Europae newsletter is from alumnae for alumnae but also very much for students and parents. Where are the European School graduates now? Where did they go to University? What types of professions are they pursuing? For students, especially those finishing soon, these are interesting questions to see where a European School education can lead them.

For every newsletter, the Alumnae Europae asks an alumnus to contribute a short biography, highlighting their path from school to their current job. A rich number of languages and cultures at school, as well as an international learning platform, have led alumnae to many interesting jobs in Europe and around the world.

The next Alumni Europae newsletter will be published in early December. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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*

## The Story of My Life – European Identity and Culture, by Camille Taper Schüller

My name is Camille Taper Schüller, and I went to the European School of Brussels II in Woluwé. It was founded in 1974, and next year in 2019, it will celebrate its 45th anniversary!

My mother is Irish, my father is Polish from German descent, my step-father is Italian, my first best friend was Portuguese, I was born and raised in Brussels, Belgium, I am married to a German from the European School of Brussels III, Ixelles, and as if all of that isn't enough, my name is French – pronounced "Cam-E". My maiden name Taper comes from the German 'tapfer' which, for us non-German-speakers, means 'courageous'. During the war, my father's family fled from Poland and changed their name; and today, being married to a German, the German family name has come back to be an integral part of who I am.

In the following paragraphs, I would like to try and explain a typical European School student/alumni's culture, based on my own experience. The impact of one's "home" culture is a complex question, and in today's globalised world, this is becoming ever more complicated, as people become more globally oriented and are increasingly impacted by other cultures. Determining the scope of my native or "home" culture for example is, probably for the reader too, a difficult task. For those of you who know me however, it is quite clear that I am a "third culture kid", as I have always surrounded myself with multicultural friends in a multinational environment.

So, my "home" culture is defined, as my parents' culture – already here I come up against some issues to determine which one is most predominant. Together my parents chose their own preferences from their own cultures, and to further complicate matters I believe that my father was also a "third culture kid" as he didn't just grow up in Poland, but also Belgium and went to university in Ireland and spent many years of his life in Africa. So if there is one underlying culture, I think it's probably the Irish one. On top of this, my family from my father's side lives in Belgium and Germany, however my mother's side of the family – which, as Irish families go, is quite extensive – still lives mostly in Ireland.

## The European Institute of Technology and Innovation celebrates 10 years and why Hungary is the elephant in the European Ballroom, by Idilko Meny

When John von Neumann died in February 1957 at the Washington military hospital a soldier was guarding at his deathbed to prevent him, while under heavy medication, from delivering state secrets, including groundbreaking research he delivered as one of the world's most talented and innovative physicists and mathematicians living through WW2.

Only one month before his death, in January 1957, at his birthplace Budapest, Hungary, the new Soviet-installed government had suppressed all public opposition. These Soviet actions, while strengthening control over the Eastern Bloc, lasted until the inauguration of the Third Hungarian Republic in 1989.

Today in 2018 the headquarters of the European Institute of Technology and Innovation is located in Budapest in a street named after John von Neumann. The headquarters of the EIT is part of a newly built business park in Buda, which can also be considered by itself, a symbol for innovation within the city landscape of Budapest.

The mission and scope of the EIT is to contribute to the competitiveness of Europe, its economic growth and job creation by promoting synergies and cooperation among businesses, educational institutions and research organizations. It also aims to create favorable environments for creative thought, enabling world-class innovation and entrepreneurship to thrive in Europe.

On October 04, 2018 the European Institute of Technology and Innovation held its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary party and awards ceremony for young entrepreneurs in the heart of Budapest at the Akvarium Club. On a late summer day, European Commissioner Navracsics from Hungary was on the panel to open the discussion honoring the Institution and its achievements, summing up the period from 2008 to 2018. **Business as usual!**

Thus far, only Member of European Parliament Lambert Van Nistelrooij, mentioned the current difficult situation regarding Hungary's maneuver through muddy populist waters, stating: "We would like to see Hungary again amidst Europe". But the anniversary party was not drawn to difficult political discussions as many young entrepreneurs in the audience were eagerly waiting. Instead, the EIT Award winners for 2018 received awards for their energy, health and food innovations.

## The Story of My Life – European Identity and Culture (cont'd from pg. 2)

However, my second culture, which by definition is based on the location where I grew up, is without doubt the Brussels-Bubble defined “European”. As one of the founding philosophies of the European Schools is “to attempt to turn out to deliver ‘Europeans’ rather than individual cultures”, I can easily say that I am not Belgian, even though this is where I grew up and still live. For the most critical twelve years of my life, those years where a child’s behaviour, attitudes and mind-set are developed, I was in a melting pot of nationalities, cultures, and mentalities. This made me who I am today, feeling most comfortable in circumstances and environments where there is a mixture of cultures, all of which are intertwined.

My third culture, also known as my “choice” culture, is thus European. I have chosen and adopted my preferred attitudes, behaviours and principles from all of the cultures that have surrounded me throughout my life. In one sense, I am a true European third culture kid; I feel at ease in multicultural environments, and am always curious to find out more, feeling at ‘home’ everywhere. On the other hand, I can also feel somewhat lost, as I have no one, true, home culture. However, I am not alone in this situation and many of my friends and loved ones – and I’m guessing you readers too – find themselves in similar situations. So our home is anywhere we are not alone, and feel part of a group. Technically, we are our own culture of third culture kids, and I believe that I most definitely belong to the European culture – which has yet to be proven even exists – feeling a true European identity.

**Thank you! Cami.**



## The European Institute of Technology and Innovation celebrates 10 years and why Hungary is the elephant in the European Ballroom (cont'd from pg. 2)

My personal story is also connected to this intriguing city in Eastern Europe: my mother left Hungary in 1957, and I studied medicine at Ignaz Semmelweis University from 1987-1989. I was witnessing the promising and very enthusiastic period shortly after 1989 and my first daughter was born in Budapest in 1994, and today studies medicine...**family business as usual.**

In the years after 1989 until today, Hungary profited largely from EU impetus and money. It became a vibrant and beautiful city. Reconstructions of a heritage site are still ongoing and the polished Danube riversides are bursting with tourists from around the world. **Business as usual.**

The European Institute for Technology and Innovation is the only independent European Institution in Hungary. Ten years ago, the innovative spirit from institutions like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), was an inspiration to build new communities especially between old and new European member states. Three main aims were at the forefront: to develop innovative products and services; to start new companies; and to train a new generation of entrepreneurs. Over 1000 business ideas were professionally supported and over 600 new products developed.

Business as usual? What product could Europe develop against populism? Health, Climate, Digital, Food, Energy and Raw materials are some topics to bring new ideas, as in the tradition of John von Neumann, an innovator in many fields. Unfortunately, he left Europe for the USA but young entrepreneurs must stay and bring Europe to the forefront of innovation.

**“With four parameters, I can fit an elephant, and with five I can make him wiggle his trunk”.**  
**John von Neumann**



From left to right: Laura Soucek, Montserrat Vendrell, Isabel Hoffmann and Commissioner Tibor Navracsics. Photo: Ildiko Meny

**EEB2 Woluwés BAC 2008 – 10 Year Reunion on September 8, 2018, by Camille Taper Schüller**

*"Hello fellow schoolmates! The time that seemed so far away, has come. Yes. It's been 10 years since we graduated and we deserve a party for that!"*

In September 2017, a group of alumnae decided it was time to get together again, and see what our fellow graduates from the BAC 2008 were up to.

We were a group of three who put our heads together with a lot of hard work during our free time. Throughout the year, we had many meetings with the organizing committee, the School, the Director, the logistics team, the catering company, the band, the DJ, and many other contributors.

We managed to contact all the students from our year – even those who had left Woluwé early to go to the school of Ixelles when it was built. This is a total of 215 people, 204 of which graduated from Woluwé in 2008. Of those 204, we had a whopping attendance rate of nearly 50%, with a total of 96 alumni coming together again after 10 long years.

The evening started at 19h, and although we expected people to arrive late, dozens of people came before we even dimmed the lights! The caterers had already set up and we had hamburgers, hotdogs and desserts. Beer, wine, soft drinks and long drinks rounded off the buffet. A SharingBox booth was set up for pictures (and for more memories). (You can find all the SharingBox pictures here, using the password **ec7Z\$** to enter: <https://bit.ly/2QuxAwG> and search **#bac2008reunion** on all social media). We had a '90s cover band and a '90s DJ, but most of all we had each other!

Some had kept in touch, others not; some had flown in from across Europe for the weekend, some had moved back to Brussels after having lived abroad for a few years; some had never left. Whoever it was, whether we had been close or not during our school years, everybody was happy to see everybody, and it was a gargantuan success!

10 years later, instead of raising our pens during exams in the famous Salle Pollyvalente, we raised our glasses to welcome each other back. This brought back memories and made them even better by reliving a time so long ago. The rest is still the same.

In 2019, the European School of Brussels II, Woluwé, will celebrate its 45 year anniversary. Many of us are starting to brainstorm how to best bring together all Woluwé Alumni to celebrate the never-ending bonds that tie us together.

Here is a picture of the EEB2 BAC 2008 graduates that managed to make it to the 10-year Reunion, celebrating life, friendship, and above all, the European School!



## Thoughts and Theories

**Note: This article was taken from the following link:**  
<https://www.politico.eu/article/european-schools-grade-fairly-letter-to-the-editor/>

**European Schools grade fairly  
 Schools have systems in place to ensure respect of  
 ethics and integrity rules.**

By [GIANCARLO MARCHEGGIANO](#)

7/19/18, 6:05 PM CET

Updated 7/19/18, 7:56 PM CET

"[The genius of the Greeks](#)" (July 5) unjustly discredits the reputation of the European Schools.

As secretary-general of the European Schools, and on behalf of the European Schools System, I am keen to distance myself from this publication as, in my opinion, it unjustly discredits our schools' reputation

First of all, I consider it highly regrettable that this article disparages the professionalism of our Greek teachers and the commitment of their students.

It is unfortunate that some very general and commonplace statements made by officials of the schools are quoted out of context in order to support a view that the European Schools Community in general does not share.

The author's suggestion that the European Schools would tolerate an unfair treatment among students is misleading.

On the contrary, the European Schools has in place a quality assurance system under the responsibility of national inspectors to ensure the validity, reliability and transparency of our teaching and assessment. The national inspectors guarantee the level and quality of the European Baccalaureate examinations, as well as respect for regulations in each examination center.

The Baccalaureate examinations are governed by the harmonized rules found in our regulations. Each Baccalaureate session is overseen and supervised each year by a chairman of the European Baccalaureate, who is a national independent expert (very often a university professor) proposed by the country holding the annual presidency of the European Schools' board of governors.

The article claims that subject coordinators are only now being recruited, although this system has in fact been in place since the origins of the European Schools, and efforts are constantly

made to improve it. The professional training offered to the teachers in our schools is updated and reviewed every year. All teachers and other staff members are also reminded annually of ethics and integrity rules.

Finally, as secretary-general, I would like to insist that the opinion expressed in the article is based on very few sources and partly on rumors, and is not confirmed by the long-term data on success rates, which is freely available on the [website](#) of the office of the secretary-general.

**Giancarlo Marcheggiano**

*Secretary-General, European Schools  
 Brussels, Belgium*

**A Response to Giancarlo Marcheggiano's Article  
 "European Schools grade fairly" by Reinhold  
 Ziegler**

As an alumnus of the ESB, I am surprised to read the statements criticizing the European baccalaureate. My personal view on this matter is quite different and as a graduate, I am happy to provide more insight on this: When we the pupils, had to pass the various examinations during the „bac“, we knew very well that we will not be tested by our own, well known teachers. We met the „inspecteur“ who tested us for the first time on the day of the exam and had no time to adapt. The „oral“ exam was scheduled for 20 minutes and we had to give it our best effort, as there was no chance to rely on our own past reputation with the inspector. One has to bear in mind as well, that the examiner was facing more than 100 candidates in a very short period of time thus, there was no chance to get to know one another personally.

With regards to the written exams, these were always anonymous and the names of the students hidden. Teachers did not know in advance whose paper they were grading. I honestly cannot figure out how a candidate's name could be sourced in advance in order to give him or her an advantage over others.

It might be advisable to double check statements such as those mentioned in the critique before stating „fake news“. One might ask: "cui bono?"