

## A new year has started for AlumniNet too by AlumniNet

Dear readers, AlumniNet wishes to all of you the very BEST 2007! We started the New Year electing the new coordinators of the team, so the lucky alumni are:



coordinator  
Vesselin Genadiev (aka Vesko) from Sofia



PR responsible  
Tamara Forza (aka Tamy) from Valladolid , ex-Zagreb

We still miss the IT responsible to complete the team that will lead AlumniNet all the year long, are you willing to take the challenge?

This year AlumniNet will go on with the organisation of the Alumni Meetings as often as possible. We will go on implementing tools for BEST alumni and update the alumni website, stay more in touch with the Local Alumni Networks and make BEST alumni stronger from day to day. If you have any suggestions or a dream about something that could be implemented let us know, we always welcome new ideas!

Many tools are already implemented for alumni; you can find them out in BEST **Private Area** (<http://private.best.eu.org>).

If you didn't use it for long time and you forgot how to do so, then we suggest you to take a look at this nice presentation that will show you how to use it:

[http://www.best.eu.org/www/download/alumni/PA\\_for\\_alumni.ppt](http://www.best.eu.org/www/download/alumni/PA_for_alumni.ppt)

We invite you to continue following our work and to take advantage of all the tools done and events organized for you!



## AlumniNet is recruiting... come on board! by AlumniNet

Wishing to keep the BEST spirit alive even after graduation? A group of former BESTies, called AlumniNet, hopes to improve the relationships among the alumni all over Europe. If you want to have a closer look at the team, just access here.

<http://private.best.eu.org/groups/group.jsp?team=akw0wyq>

A performing network that will ease the communication between all the alumni in the BEST world, activities and meetings between old friends, career information or just news concerning the alumni, these are some of our dreams.

But to make these dreams true we need a little help, we need fresh blood and people willing to help us in our work. So if you are young

alumni or you will soon be and you just can't let go of the wonderful feeling and memories you experienced in BEST, here is the place to come. You could help us with your fresh knowledge of BEST, with your motivation and skills. Also our web pages (public and private) are crying out for somebody with good understanding of the IT systems that are now used in BEST.

So if you desire to become our IT coordinator or if you want to join our team we will be pleased to welcome you. For more information please check

<http://www.best.eu.org/alumni/index.jsp>  
or contact us at [AlumniNet@BEST.eu.org](mailto:AlumniNet@BEST.eu.org)



## Babes from Brussels on the move!

by Nico Deblauwe

The association of BEST Alumni in Brussels, better known as BAiB, exists now more than one and a half years. They are proud, with good reason, because since the initiative started in September 2005, there hasn't been a month without an activity. Most of these were dinners (typically having each about 10-15 participants), but now and then innovation was certainly not shunned: a dinner combined with culture (theater visit), and a dinner with a pre selected menu (excellent value for money) being the most important ones.

Their upcoming event is a squash/ badminton afternoon on Sunday 15 April; first burn some extra calories away, which allows you to have a second dessert afterwards. May and June offer a normal dinner activity on the 15ths, and for the 15th of July and August, two B(Ai)BQs are planned. So if you are around... don't hesitate and join them!

More information can be found on the website of BAiB:

<http://www.BEST.eu.org/baib/>

## The alumni from LBG Barcelona

by Maria Moret

We are glad to introduce to you the new BEST alumni group in Barcelona!

We kept in touch before and we knew there were some people (old and not so old ;) ) looking for this alumni regathering... so we decided to go for it and finally in January we reconnected this lost network. Our activities do not go further from giving the "needed" advice to the LBG, or just keeping in touch between us by mail. But for the coming month, we have a challenge: our first meeting. We've got the people, we've got a date... Now we cannot wait to see how our network will develop and we really believe that we are able to make something great out of this!

Just one last consideration: do not expect quick reactions from our group, we need our time to decide what we want to do... But we do have a project: prepare the 20th anniversary of LBG Barcelona (as you can guess since you're smart alumni, that'll only be in 2009 - but hey, we're halara alumni :))



## EYE conference in Enschede, Fr 01-Su 03 June 2007

by Nico Deblauwe

**EYE**, the European Young Engineers, is an organisation that unites the young members' departments of the national engineering associations. Every six months a conference is being organised over a weekend somewhere in Europe. These combine a varied technical programme with a tiring social programme. High-level keynote speeches, workshops to improve your skills, company visits as well as an insight into the culture of the hosting country guarantee an unforgettable experience for the up to 150 participants.



BEST Alumni are invited to join the upcoming edition in the East of The Netherlands. On Friday afternoon you can join one of the five organised company visits (including a uranium processing plant), and afterwards an official opening, gala dinner and pub crawl are awaiting you.

Though waking up on Saturday could be a bit more difficult than usual, I'm sure that the following workshops will motivate you to jump out of bed: "Perform under Pressure", "Flirting in Business" or "Managing Money" (in total there are eight workshops to choose from). An international science quiz and party finish the day off.

Sunday is there to slowly recover from the weekend with some culture and fresh air, so that you are completely fresh and relaxed again on Monday!

A weekend full of fun, for a price as low as 130 euro (that is, less than 2.5 euro per hour). What is keeping you away from here? Some BEST Alumni (Nico from Brussels, Charlotte and Trine from Aalborg) already found their way to it, are you following?

For more info:

- <http://e-y-e.nl/>, the EYE Enschede conference website
- <http://www.e-y-e.org>, for more information on the European Young Engineers

## Riga alumni go crawling...PUB CRAWLING!

by Inga Eglite & Zanda Sproge

It is not easy to become alumni after having spent wonderful years of activity in BEST! You might feel all that mattered to you is being taken away – no more fun, great adventures, meeting BEST friends, no more drinking with wonderful people!



Wrong! In Riga we try not to lose our best spirit, so we use spirits to keep the spirit high. Apart from friendly meetings and trips together, we refreshed one traditional BEST entertainment for ourselves – we organise our own Pub Crawlings! The goal is to have a great time together remembering our past BEST activities, gossiping about common friends and dreaming about future trips, so basically we just conquer bars and pubs and drink with a purpose!

We slightly transformed the idea of BEST Pub Crawling, meaning that we do not care about dividing ourselves in teams. However we did set some fun rules: each time we discover new places in our city and (apart from getting very dizzy) the Crawlings produce loads of positive energy! Once we played dice poker through all the pubs we went, another nice idea was to visit pubs of different countries (International evening and Crawling in one!).

The truth is that “serious” life can also be a lot of fun, and if you have forgotten what word „fun” means, join Riga alumni in the future Pub Crawlings or try to organise your own Crawling!

## Column - It's all about keeping the information flowing

by Nico Deblauwe

Active BEST members are actually very spoiled people, and typically they aren't even conscious about that. Now, it is not my goal to write a column trying to raise a sense of guilt with the present generation. Instead, I would like to address the Private Area of BEST, and my lack of it currently.

Though it was a bit difficult at first (isn't everything?), after learning where to find the needed information and slowly finding out how it is logically structured, the Private Area of BEST was actually heaven! All the needed functionality grouped together in one system. And I didn't mention yet the little features that make it a people's tool (like the birthday reminder service) rather than a techie's toy. Ok, like every IT system it still has many disadvantages, but when looking back, one is allowed to romanticize...

Hej, wait a minute! Looking back? Does this mean that the **Private Area** is of no use any more for me, BEST Alumni? Yes and no... Most of the functionality is there to provide the active members tools for their achievements. Still for us, the list of (former) BEST members is actually a database that is worth its money... And it's freely accessible! Looking at the high rise that networking websites, like **LinkedIn** or **Xing**, took over the last years, one starts realizing the value of a good personal network. And that is exactly what the

Private Area is for you, as long as the information in there – thus also your profile – is kept up to date.

If you browse a bit longer around, now that you are there, you can see that there the last years plenty of nice little tools were developed. They are focussed on work for BEST, so it's no longer possible for you to use them. But keep your head up; there are plenty of freely available tools on the web that could do the trick for you. **Doodle**, for instance. Instead of sending out a mail to a list of people to find a suitable date for meeting, you could use this tool. This will take the frustration away, which could appear when only two days are left over after the two first replies (typically by the persons with the busiest agendas).

And there are plenty more good and free tools out there. This column might stop with this observation; but a quest for collecting those starts here. Surf to <http://www.deblauwe.be>, and submit your favourite programmes and websites. And learn from what others did submit, surely you'll find some more gadgets that will be useful for you.

Every edition of AlumniTimes, we'll present one or two from the list.

- <http://private.best.eu.org>, after logging in you can edit your profile using the your name link in the profile section in the menu at the left of the screen.
- <http://www.deblauwe.be>, for the collected tools, and adding your suggestions
- <http://www.doodle.ch>, an excellent planner for finding a meeting date (professional or leisure) when a group of people is involved.

- <http://www.linkedin.com>, the biggest social network site. Though American-based, it has a network that spans the world very well. The BEST Alumni have created a group inside - <http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/14377B3AE71D0595/> - by becoming a member of it you get easier access to other Alumni enrolled.
- <http://www.xing.com>, the same concept as LinkedIn, but small differences in flavour and process flow. Xing is very strong in Germany, and slowly growing in the rest of Europe.

