

First edition launched, our Alumni Network on its way !

It is our pleasure to introduce you to the first AlumniTimes. This bi-annual newsletter will try to present the latest headlines of the alumni networks (both at international and local levels). Don't hesitate to share the news happening in your city and get connected !

Find all your tools to get connected

What a few months ago was just a dream, is now slowly becoming a reality. And this reality is a strong BEST alumni network where you can keep in touch with your friends all over Europe. A network supported by our Alumni spirit and also, by IT features available in the BEST Private Area. This is an important step for BEST Alumni and for the BEST community as well.

The ideas come from you, BEST Alumni, and we hope that you will use these new features in your activity as BEST Alumni. For you, AlumniNet presents the following IT features:

- **Alumni Welcome page on PA:** a personalised welcome page with relevant information for BEST Alumni and useful links <http://private.BEST.eu.org/committees/AlumniNet>
- **Alumni Profile:** a fresh and dynamic profile, easy to update and showing what other alumni are up to <http://private.BEST.eu.org/lbg/member/memberView.jsp>
- **Alumni News:** a tool for you to promote your Alumni activities or career events to other Alumni <http://www.BEST.eu.org/alumni/news.jsp>

And this is just the beginning, more to come soon. You can help us improve these features, by sending your feedback to AlumniNet@BEST.eu.org.



The sky open for our Alumni Network: let's dream together !

Our Network is now coordinated !

After one year of development, we decided the time has come to introduce some structure in our team to be more efficient. We elected a coordination team for the Alumni Network:

- Coordinator: Mirjam Zwanenburg (Alumni LBG Eindhoven)
- IT responsible: Vilius Benetis (Alumni LBG Copenhagen)
- PR responsible: Gregoire Toussaint (Alumni LBG Grenoble)

These alumni will work together with the rest of the AlumniNet@BEST.eu.org group. They will try to make that the next half year becomes successful time for BEST Alumni. AlumniNet will make the network grow by focussing on two main axes: IT and PR.

Concerning IT, AlumniNet will maintain the existing applications and develop new features and applications for BEST Alumni. The PR group will focus on promotion among alumni and BEST-members, so that more BESTies join the Alumni Network and also the AlumniNet group grows stronger.

If you also want to make a difference and work for alumni you can always join the AlumniNet team by sending an email to the list. More information can be found at our pages on the Private area <http://private.BEST.eu.org/committees/alumninet/index.jsp>



Alumni Meeting London February 2006 - we tried to corrupt the Queen; without success...

Outcomes of the London meeting

This March the first, officially organised, alumni working meeting took place in London. In true BEST spirit, partying hard (cocktails!) was combined with working hard and focusing on concrete outcomes. Priorities were set as:

- development of IT features for alumni
- promotion of the various channels available to reach out and connect BEST alumni.

A new alumni welcome page for the Private Area was designed just before GA and is now online, offering immediate access to the member search engine, listing of alumni-oriented events, alumni news and more. A step beyond the welcome page, the Alumni Profile feature was recently launched. Here alumni can provide their personal and professional information, so that you can look up old friends or find BEST alumni neighbours.

Another addressed issue was the reorganisation of the alumni mailing lists. You will hear more about this before this summer.

Moreover, various PR activities were planned to promote the available services to BEST Alumni. These include this newsletter, informing at BEST General Meetings, and more, that you will discover soon (it wouldn't be BEST if these plans didn't also include t-shirts!).

Finally, questions regarding the structure of the group developing these features were also treated, including the creation of an action plan for the coming months.

Looking for someone? Our search tool

Our experience suggests few people know how to use properly some features of our private area. You'll be surprised to find out we have a very powerful search engine ! Go here:

<http://private.BEST.eu.org/lbg/member/search.jsp>
and type whatever you want !

You're passing by London or you want to know who is living in the same city? You just have to select the fields of your query and the search engine will do the work for you. In a word, fantastic to find out old friends or to network.

Use it without moderation !



Babes from Brussels

The cry is sounding louder and louder: "Alumni of all countries, unite!" Only, alumni tend to be hard working creatures with busy agendas. So we had to be innovative to gather them...

At a housewarming almost a year ago in the Brussels' apartment of a BEST Ghent-Bucharest alumni-couple, we noticed that a majority of the invited persons (mainly alumni from Ghent, Brussels, and Leuven) was either living in or near Brussels, working there, planning to move there or simply passing by once in a while.

And a bunch of others was known to be in the same situation. Still we didn't get to meet each other that often and it was even rather hard to find a date that suited everyone.



Brussels Alumni Meeting 2006: seems like a nice dinner, wanna do the same?

To solve this, it was decided to have a fixed date every month. Choosing a firm day of the week would lead to having always the same people missing out on it, so we picked the 15th as date to have a joint dinner. It is easy to remember and as it shifts every month to a different weekday, everyone will be able to join once in a while.

After nine successful meetings so far, we dare to say that the concept has proven to be quite viable. Not only did the number of alumni joining steadily increase, it was every time a different mixture of people, including often somebody not even living in Belgium.

From typical Belgian food to hot Indian dishes, from a brunch at a top location overlooking the skyline to Spanish tapas: we get to know each other, and discover Brussels, along with its culinary scene!

More information on the upcoming dinners and pictures of our previous reunions can be found on their website: <http://www.BEST.eu.org/baib>. Looking forward to meet you, the 15th, in Brussels! And... are there any other cities following?

Nico & Nele from Brussels

We need your input, beActive !

Since April 2005, a few alumni have gathered, put some energy and created the path towards our dream, a strong BEST Alumni Network.

But a few alumni cannot do so much. We need you, we need your energy to make this happen. So please share your ideas with other alumni. Announce your private gatherings, show how you interact with your local BEST group and tell us what do you expect from our Alumni Network, on the edge to be created. This AlumniTimes or news on the private area are among the tools that facilitate communication between all the alumni:

- each AlumniTimes will present some insight from local Alumni network. Send your articles to AlumniNet@BEST.eu.org
- write news about your local Alumni network or personal initiatives that you want to share with all the other Alumni
<http://private.BEST.eu.org/news/addNews.jsp>

Last but not least, local Alumni networks need to share about their activities, structure and spirit. Do you know what is happening in Italy or in Paris? In a survey we will ask you to answer about your local alumni network; a first step in our way to connect our different alumni groups!



Alumni Winter WE Estonia 2006. Luckily their spirit warms them up !

Alumni in Tallinn

Some years ago alumni in Tallinn started to organise themselves a bit and an NGO was founded. These days we have grown up to 100 members (led by the board), but still our main activity is to have fun .

We gather 4-5 times at big traditional parties, sometimes with BESTies sometimes without. Recently we have started a new tradition having monthly dinners in the city. This helps us to keep the connection that can so easily be lost when BESTies enter the professional world.

In autumn 2004 alumni in Tallinn proudly started a foundation to support our local group. The tradition to help BEST is increasing and we can be proud that if needed we will be there for our LBG to help them to take bigger challenges. Enjoy BEST,

Heleri & Kristjan reporting from the Tallinn alumni winter weekend



A BEST picture. Gorgeous girls will motivate alumni and bring the right spirit !

Friendship...simply the BEST

University, LBG, International, Graduation...here we are 5 to 8 years after: some 592 events more, 8311 sleepless nights, approximately 84 607 beer bottles more and only one group of alumni. It was BEST that united us and it is friendship that keeps us together. Some of us may work abroad, some others may have gone steady - one thing we never thought would happen. Suit and tie or jeans and shirt, everyday using what we learned in our organisation, working mainly in telecommunication, consultancy or programming.

Anyway, we can not imagine spending New Year, weekends at the seaside or drinking the weekly beer apart. We think BEST has evolved a lot lately but still we try to bring our experience to help the LBG that raised us. Still living "the spirit", we also hang around with the future to be alumni: coaching while training and motivating while partying.

Iulia from Bucharest



Any suggestion or comment?... Contact AlumniNet@BEST.eu.org
Editors: AlumniNet members Designer: Gregoire Toussaint
Greatest thanks to all the people taking part in this edition!

©2006 BEST Alumni Download from <http://private.BEST.eu.org>