



Successful Vesalius College Alumni Gala Dinner

On November 21 2009, the Vesalius College Alumni Association, under the impulse of Laura Reedijk and Kevin Wippermann, organized the fourth Annual Vesalius Alumni Gala Dinner and Reunion at the Royal Windsor in downtown Brussels.

This event proved to be a terrific opportunity for the dozens of alumni who attended to catch up with old friends and professors whose classes they enjoyed during their time at the College. It was also a chance for them to find out about new VeCo initiatives with regards to alumni first-hand from the Dean of the College.

The event also honoured the career of Dr. Palo, who retired earlier this year and whom a lot of alumni have been taught and mentored by. During his speech, Dr. Palo recalled how his path the Vesalius College and how

he approached teaching in this highly international environment. Alumni were pleased to hear that Dr. Palo will continue to teach one course at Vesalius College.

Music entertainment during the gala dinner's dessert was provided by two current Vesalius College students, Thomas Jennings and Marjolein Van de Rijt, while another student looked after the cloak room, collecting money for charity.

This successful event underlines the strong ties forged between students at Vesalius College, and the excellent network alumni enjoy as they build a professional career. CJ

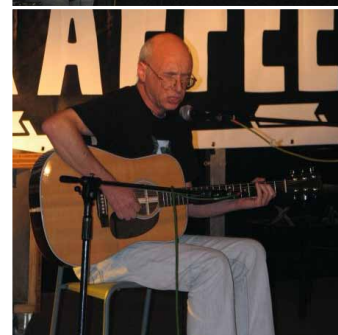


VeCo's got Talent

In October, on second-year International Affairs student Thomas Jennings' initiative, Vesalius College students gathered at the Kultuurkaffee on the campus of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel for VeCo's Talent Show, to showcase the creative musical potential of the College.

But not only students got on stage to present their talents... Professor William ("Dr B") Chew also shared in the limelight with his guitar and harmonica, performing several 60s/70s rock/folk classics, plus one of his own compositions on the death of John Lennon.

In addition to VeCo's own talent, two Study Abroad students performed at the event, illustrating the successful integration of exchange students into the VeCo community and helping to forge even stronger ties between "visitors" and "home team." CJ



VeCo Students Prepare for Model EU in Ireland

Led by political science professor Joachim Koops, a delegation of first year Vesalius International Affairs students is preparing to participate in the Model European Union (EU), organized by the State University of New York (SUNY), which will take place at the University of Limerick in Ireland in January 2010.

Every year, The State University of New York, one of Vesalius College's study abroad partners, organizes a simulation of the European Union whose primary purpose is to provide a framework for a mock European Council meeting to better educate American students about the European Union while giving them an opportunity to interact with students from EU member and candidate member states.

Over 125 students, drawn from all over the SUNY system and its European partner institutions, will participate and will be assigned roles as representatives of a delegation, as heads of government, as foreign ministers, as EU Commissioners, or as members of the Press Corps. The Vesalius College delegation will represent the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Professor Koops is very enthusiastic about the program, which he considers a highly effective tool allowing international affairs students to apply the knowledge they acquire in class to real-world international affairs problems. Furthermore, this opportunity will allow our students to network with students from the US and neighboring European countries and will challenge them to apply their academic and interpersonal skills to a project that is sure to prove stimulating both on an intellectual and on a social level.

For more information on the Model EU, please contact Professor Joachim Koops at jkoops@vub.ac.be or visit www.meu2010.org.



Vesalius College Open Day a Big Success

On October 10 2010 Vesalius College successfully organised an Open Day to inform potential students about the challenging curriculum and exciting international student life that can be experienced at Vesalius College.

During that day, professors gave interesting lectures and students shared their experiences.

A highlight was the contribution of 3 alumni. In a lively and inspiring way Marta Calvani (Deloitte), Aleksandra Milosevic (Ackroyd Publications) and Karolina Rucinska (Toyota) highlighted how Vesalius College had contributed to their personal and professional development. Interestingly, all three emphasized that besides its academic dimension, Vesalius College helped them to become independent, self-confident women with excellent communication, writing and presentation skills.

Students as far as from Yemen, Chile, The Netherlands and Germany attended the Open Day.

The next Vesalius College Open Day will be organised on 27 Februari 2010.

WN

Student Clubs Alive and Kicking

The diversity and active spirit of Vesalius College students has resulted in the formation of two new student clubs.

The VeCO Finance Club was started up by third-year Business student César Lefebvre. The club aims to get VeCo students interested in finance to meet up, follow and discuss the latest market trends. To spice things up and add a practical dimension, they simulate their trade online. The Club also recently organized a guest lecture by a former commodity trader, Mr. Richard Reinert, who was happy to share his experience in the world of finance and commodities, providing students and professors who gathered for the lecture new insights into this specialized branch of the finance world.

The Vesalius College Photography Club was started by first-year student Marina Lynch. This group seeks to draw on the College community's creative talents by meeting weekly, sharing each other's work, and exchanging hints and tips for improvement. Organizing joint photographic projects will constitute the main activity. Since its inception, the club has attracted new members every week and has already organized a photo shoot for the web sites of other VeCo students.

CJ

Student Ambassadors More Active then Ever

Vesalius College has an active student population. Besides the sports clubs, drama club, finance club, debating club and Student Government, there is a group of students active as student Ambassador. These ambassadors support VeCo in its recruitment activities.

Under the guidance of the Recruitment Director, the ambassadors will visit their old school to do a presentation, or participate in recruitment fairs or other relevant networking events.

Student ambassadors will get the chance to gain recruitment experience, something valuable to add to their CV. They can also develop their social and presentation skills, which will come at hand in any situation.

VeCo Student Ambassadors will receive a certificate which highlights their contribution to Vesalius College and a voucher to say: Thank you!

If you want to sign up as Student Ambassador please contact Willemijn Nieuwenhuys, Director Recruitment, wnieuw@vub.ac.be
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Academic News

Prof Dr Scott Gassler chaired a Panel on "Global Climate Justice and Varieties of Capitalism" for the European Consortium for Political Research, Potsdam, in September 2009. The panel was part of the Section on "Social Justice and Varieties of Capitalism," chaired by former politics professor Dr Albenaz Azmanova.

Prof Dr Michel Huysseune organized a seminar entitled "Contemporary Centrifugal Regionalism: Comparing Flanders and Northern Italy," at the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts with prominent scholars from Belgium and Italy on 19 and 20 June 2009. The seminar set out to analyse and compare the centrifugal political dynamics in both regions, where the richer regions experience political mobiliza-

tions that question the role of the central state, claiming more regional autonomy or even independence, and comparing these dynamics with secessionist movements elsewhere in Europe.

Prof Dr Joachim Koops delivered a paper at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs on "International Military Crisis Management in Africa" in Helsinki on October 2009, in the context of the Conference "U.S, EU, and China in African Crisis Management and Peace Operations: Competition or Collaboration?"

Joachim Koops also edited volume 62 of *Studia Diplomatica*, the Brussels Journal of International Relations. The focus of this issue is Military Crisis Management: the Challenge of Intern-Organizationalism. Professor Koops

also contributed to the issue with the article "Effective Inter-Organizationalism? Lessons learned from the Standby High Readiness Brigade for United Nations Operations (SHIRBRIG)".

Divided Societies

In November 2009, two Vesalius students, Ziggy Vandebriel and Elin Anna Jonasdottir attended the International Student Conference: "Divided Societies and Victimhood" in Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland. This conference was organized by Brethren Colleges Abroad (BCA), a Vesalius College study abroad partner.

This year's conference theme, "Divided Societies: Beyond Victimhood?" explored the manifestation in several societies of the statement by U.S. President Obama that he rejects a politics "that is based solely on racial identity, gender identity, sexual orientation or victimhood."

Speakers from various parts of Europe, the Middle East, and the United States discussed divided societies in Israel - Palestine, partition in India - Pakistan, Georgia, Colombia and Kenya, as well as in Northern Ireland. Speakers included alternative Nobel-prize winner Andras Biro and Nobel Peace prize winner John Hume.

Vesalius student Ziggy Vandebriel told us: "Coming from Belgium, a country with 6 governments and 3 different languages, it was a nice opportunity to attend this conference that dealt with divided societies. Some students of the University of Ulster took us on a historical tour around the city where we had the chance to see that there still is a division

between those who want to keep Northern Ireland with the UK and those who want it to be part of the Republic.

I was very surprised to see signs like 'Free Derry' etc. and, in a way, I could still feel some tension. Unfortunately, we got to see street fights all over the streets of Derry and this made me realize that we still have a lot of work to do!"

For more information on BCA and on other study abroad programs available with Vesalius College, please contact Virginie Goffaux of the Study Abroad Office at virginie.goffaux@vub.ac.be.

New internship at the Giraffe Project in Kenya

For summer 2010 Vesalius College and the Giraffe Project are partnering to offer 2 new internships. Both will include a 3-4 weeks visit to the project in Nairobi in July. One internship will involve researching microfinance opportunities and training young Kenyans leaving vocational college in management and finance. The other internship involves database management, publicity, and organization of the July visit.

The Giraffe Project is a UK registered children's charity, working in extremely deprived areas of Nairobi, Kenya. Founded in 2005 by Richard and Denise Baines, it aims to provide educational opportunities for children and young people from Nairobi's vast slums. It works closely with 3 schools in the slums, and provides support for teenagers to finish their studies in boarding schools outside. Graduates of the secondary school programme are sometimes offered places in vocational training colleges. All the schools are managed and run by local people.

The heart of the charity is the programme of individual child sponsorship, and currently 350 children benefit from this scheme. Sponsors pay school fees, which include meals and supplies. They can write to the children and send small gifts. They receive letters and school reports 3 times and a photograph at least once every year, and some develop a strong bond with the child they sponsor.

The connection with Vesalius College began, through co-founder and European Executive, Professor Baines, but it doesn't end there. A number of faculty and staff sponsor children and have visited the project in Kenya. The Christmas sale of crafts (hand-made by mothers at Tumaini School) has become an annual event. This year, Vesalius alumna April Bilbrey conducted detailed research to formulate a communications and marketing strategy for the Project as part of her MBA at Solvay, and thanks to her the 2009 Solvay Gala event raised enough money to furnish a classroom in the new school.

If you would like to know more about the project, you can contact Mrs Baines: dbaines@giraffeproject.org (DB)



Alumni News:

On Thursday, September 10, 2009, Vesalius College organised a roundtable discussion entitled "How to Engage in an International Career in Times of Crisis". More than 30 students and alumni attended the event and engaged in a dynamic and interactive session with the three keynote speakers.

Mr Jeremy Jennings (partner at Ernst & Young), Ms Yafit Azran (Account Manager at Sony VAIO and Vesalius College alumna), and Ms Mona Shair (Vesalius College career counsellor) gave accounts of their own recruitment experience, and provided the audience with tips and comments on how to successfully reach out to international companies looking for new talent.

As this seminar was also attended by a number of current Vesalius College students, the event provided the perfect opportunity for Alumni to share their Vesalius experience and to strengthen the ties between generations.

On Tuesday the 29th of September 2009, Vesalius College hosted a workshop organized by the American Chamber of Commerce entitled "'New Opportunities for Service-Businesses - How to Engage with Prospects in a Tough Climate'.

The workshop was led by John Niland, a professional in Business Coaching and Mentoring. Present were such organizations as Delta Lloyd Life, Partena Payroll Management & HR Support, Merck Sharp & Dohme, GE Security Belgium, IBM Belgium, Deloitte Tax Consultants and many others.

Both events were followed by networking drinks, where participants had the opportunity to continue their discussions in a more

Class of 1991



It has been 22 years since I joined the handful of freshmen students on VUB campus who would eventually become the first graduating class of Vesalius College. How time flies...

After graduating in '91, I obtained an MA from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and then headed off to Nicaragua to work on development issues. I was active in politics (a natural progression from my days in the Vesalius Student Government) and was appointed to work with the Nicaraguan anti-corruption agency. Unfortunately, I was very busy.



informal way, to connect with colleagues and to network for new professional opportunities. (JC)

A few years later, I found that one unintended (but wonderful!) consequence of my VeCo days resulted in my marriage to a VUB alumna. We are now in Paris and have a four year old son.

After a period of working for the UN (in Vienna and New York), I am now an independent evaluation consultant with such clients as the International Atomic Energy Agency, UNESCO, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and many others. (check out my website at www.rmeval.com)

Once in a while, when I bump into fellow Vesalians in some corner of the world or receive an email from a former class-mate, I reflect on those days of early morning classes, term papers and, yes, on some of the extra-curricular activities that made my experience at Vesalius so enriching. More than theories, facts and figures, I think that Vesalius taught me how to find, process and present information - providing a solid foundation for my professional development. I hate to admit it, but even my Research Methods class has come in handy!

So far, life after VeCo has been pretty amazing! Let's see what the next 20 years have in store...

Roger Miranda, Class of 1991



Vesalius College
Brussels

Upcoming events:

18 December 2009	Fall Graduation reception
18 December 2009	Dean's List reception at Vesalius College
25 December – 3 January 2010	Vesalius Office closed
13–15 January 2010	Orientation for new students
22 January 2010	Student & Book Sales Fair at VeCo
12 – 13 February 2010	EU Studies fair, Brussels
27 February 2010	Vesalius College Open Day

Vesalius College will participate in the following recruitment events:

21 – 23 January 2010	Study Information Days, Brabant Hal, Haasrode
6 February 2010	VUB Info Day, Etterbeek Campus, Brussels
16 February 2010	College Fair at International School of The Hague
27 February	Vesalius College Open Day

Details about the various events are available on our <http://www.vesalius.edu/newsevents>, or upon request at vesalius@vub.ac.be

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