



## The first International Alumni newsletter is a fact!

To keep in touch and keep you updated about the developments at the University, we are launching a newsletter. It should reach you 3-4 times a year. In every newsletter you can expect news from Dronten/Almere and a story of one of our alumni along with other interesting information.



Willing to contribute to this newsletter by sharing your story or have information which could be useful for other alumni? Please write to Sintja Moroza: [s.moroza@aeres.nl](mailto:s.moroza@aeres.nl)

## Dear alumni,

We are heading towards the end of 2018, days are short, dark and rainy but the Christmas tree is set, and we are looking forward to some time with the ones who are dear to us, enjoying good food and time for laughter.

2018 has been a very dynamic year. We completed a year of festivities, in which we celebrated 60 years of existence of our university out of which 25 years of internationalisation. A year of reflection: internationalisation requires a lot of effort and endurance even. Under the guidance of Tim Menger the university started 25 years ago with two brave French students who participated in classes taught in Dutch. Today we have some 250 students in international programmes, some 40 different nationalities in programmes ranging from 1 year to 4 years, not limited to Bachelors but we have an English taught Master programme as well. We offer double degree programmes with Dalhousie university and L'Ecole Supérieure d'Angers, and we will add a double degree programme to this with the University of Wisconsin and maybe also an Italian university. Our European Food Business programme was nationally selected to be a "top ranked" programme, a great achievement!

All our Dutch programmes run English taught minors in which international students and Dutch students are jointly taught in an international classroom. It took us more than 20 years to get to a point where Dutch and international students jointly follow classes. Since some years all our Dutch students have to spend time abroad during their studies. All our staff participates in Cambridge English language training to improve our language skills which will help us to improve our international education.

The harvest of 25 years of internationalisation is very rich and we feel proud of all these achievements! This summer the head of internationalisation, Mr. Tim Menger, who has been the one who has developed all these ideas in these 25 years, retired. We thank him for all his creativity, hard work, persistence and care

for the programmes, the team and the students. In 2018 we also welcomed some of you as alumni in your current professional role back into the university. We truly appreciate and enjoy this! At least some 20 alumni have been guest lecturing or advising us on our curriculum. At least just as many alumni provided us with placement opportunities or opened their doors to invite students to see the company they are working for.

Thank you all for your support and please keep in touch as we enjoy hearing how you are doing. 2018 is coming to an end, we are ready for 2019! With a team of 24 staff members working in Dronten as well as in our location Almere we are ready to teach the current 250 students in the international programmes and graduate some 20% of them in 2019. We are prepared to train the 50 trainees we expect to attend short courses. We are packed to travel the world to train and advise in agricultural training institutes and farmers in the various project we have. I hope to meet you again in 2019 somewhere in the world and hear how you are doing. My first stop for 2019 will be South-Korea; who is going to come and drink a coffee with me and catch up in downtown Seoul?

Merry Christmas to all of you and may we meet again in 2019!



**Natasja Spaargaren**  
 Head Department of International Studies and Consultancy

# OUR ALUMNI: STORIES



## Alida Pásztor

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2013/2014

**Study programme:**

International Food Chain Management

**Home university:**

Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

My home university has a long cooperation with Dronen and the opportunity to go to Dronen had already been presented when I was choosing my Hungarian Bachelor studies. It was my plan from the beginning - it's a great opportunity to study in the Netherlands and beneficial to complete a Bachelor in 1 year.

What I remember the most about my studies in Dronen is the campus life 😊 The Friday night parties, dinner contests, weekend trips are my best memories but I'll not forget the loads of team work either. It was my first experience of living abroad, far from family, but at the campus we became a big international family, we gained lifelong friendships: last summer we travelled to Brazil for Carol and Simone's wedding who met in Dronen - it was great reunion!

What I liked about the programme is its practical orientation: excursions, team work and the simplicity of program - meaning that we didn't have to study hundreds of pages which we forgot after exam, but focused on the basics and we really learned to apply it.

During my study time in Dronen I did an internship at a Dutch logistics company Nijhof-Wassink. After I finished my internship in the Netherlands, they offered me a position in Hungary, basically I filled the Branch Manager's position. After 1 year I was looking for new challenge and moved back to the Netherlands and filled Management Support position in the Feed department of Nijhof-Wassink. It was great opportunity but I felt that for my future career it would be beneficial to have a Master degree so in September 2016 I started to study International Business Management in Villach, Austria. Once my classes were completed (March 2018), I was looking



for a job and ended up in Prague at AB-InBev, the largest beer company/FMCG in the world. Currently I am Senior Team Lead in Transport Planning - leading a team of 7, responsible for export flow from Europe to the rest of the world (loading 700 containers a week).

Dronen was a great kick off of my international career - since then I am always on the move!

I wish all alumni a wonderful Christmas and lot of success in 2019!

NICE-TO-KNOW

## 258 international students



# TIME FLIES

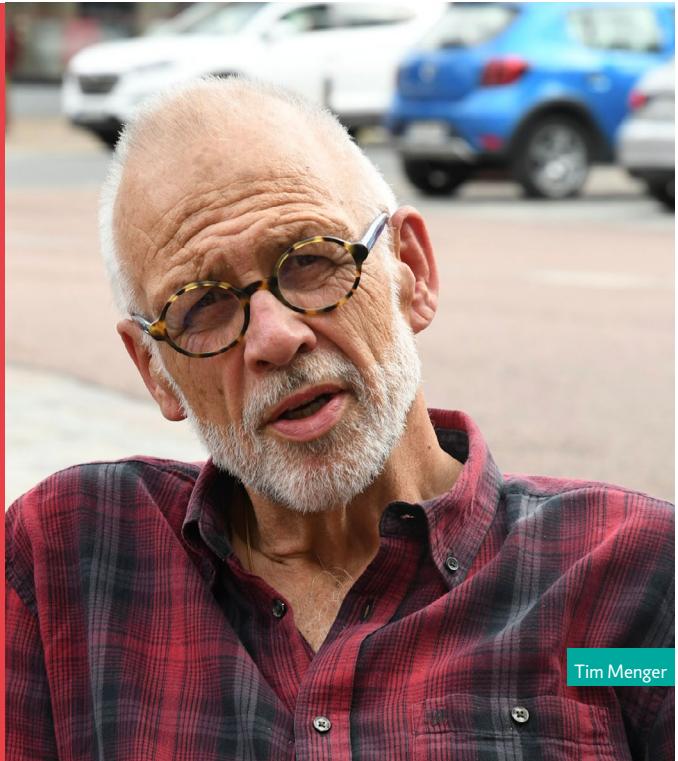


## Tim Menger has retired!

In 2018 Tim Menger, the founding father of international education at Aeres (*former CAH Dronten, CAH Vilentum*), reached the age when the Dutch law says: it is enough with work, time to enjoy other things!

To celebrate his work (*almost 40 working years dedicated for education!*) and show our appreciation for his talent and involvement in developing international education, we as team DISC took him for a ride and went for a 3-day trip to France. The destination in France was carefully chosen, as the international programmes in Dronten started with the French students! Tim was at his best sharing his history knowledge and bringing us to places hidden to tourists and revealing hidden jewels! During this trip we had time to become reminiscent about the good old days and to look forward to the future! And each of us could share his/her story about Tim. So much laughter, so much fun, so much to be missed. But above all, respect and appreciation for his work!

Happy retirement, Mr. Menger!



Tim Menger



The trip can begin.



Pit stop and Anja is sharing her memories.



Happy together.



Kees feels like a fish in the water once in France.



Team DISC.



Happy together.



Sight seeing.



Discovering the hidden jewels together



Fresh bread straight from the bakery delivered by colleagues



Visiting historical places one of Tim's favourite things to do.