



23 February 2006

## **First batch of Non-degree graduates receive their certificate**

A great variety of cultures and nationalities have found their home in the Netherlands during the last decennia. However, this variety is not really visible in public administrative organisations like for example in boards of voluntary, non-profit organisations, ngos, etc., where the majority of board members are still male, white and middle-aged. In cooperation with the City Council and Stichting Trajekt, The Maastricht Graduate School of Governance has set up a training programme to stimulate and encourage Dutch citizens with a double nationality to work for non-profit organisations, ngo's and local governments by training them in administrative issues. The Maastricht Graduate School of Governance organised the theoretical part which also included skills trainings like how to structure a meeting, roles of different board members, subsidiary principles etc. After completion of the training, participants are being matched with organisations which operate in the health sector, social welfare, education, culture or sports to operate as board member. The programme was organised from October 2005 till January 2006 for the first time as a pilot. The graduation ceremony took place at the Maastricht City Hall where 17 participants received their official training certificates from Jaques Costongs, alderman for Welfare, Public Health and the Elderly, Welfare policy. The cooperation was a big success and the sequel will take place in April this year.



### **Successful launch of MPP programme**

Friday January 27 was a very exciting day for the School as our very first group of 24 students started their MSc programme in Public Policy and Human Development. Students come from all corners of the globe, e.g., Kenya, Australia, USA, Indonesia, Japan, Germany and Holland and have enthusiastically started their first course in Public Economics and Empirical Analysis. After an intensive online Economics course, most students were anxious to meet and it was interesting to see that most of them have bonded quickly. Daniel Horn, a 28 years old student from the USA says it is a very intensive programme but it is likewise interesting and stimulating to meet so many people with different backgrounds and educational experiences. A number of approximately 48 new students have already applied for start of the MPP programme in September.



### **MGSoG student officially receives scholarship from the University Fund Limburg**

The University Fund Limburg originated from the Scientific Education Trust Limburg. Since November 1965, this trust has been active in the field of promoting scientific education in the province of Limburg and is intensively involved with the establishment and expansion of Maastricht University. In 2005, Maastricht University in cooperation with the University Fund Limburg took the initiative to start the "Maastricht University Scholarship fund". The objective of this partnership is to create an opportunity for talented students from the developing countries to follow a masters education at Maastricht University.

A substantial number of national and international organisations like Vodafone, Océ, ING, have already joined this extraordinary initiative by investing money for scholarships. On February 1, 2006, 12 students received their scholarships officially from Dr. J. Ritzen, president of the executive board of Maastricht University. Among this first batch of sponsored students is Jinjing Li from China, a young and promising student who decided to follow the masters programme in Social Protection Financing at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance. Jinjing's special area of interest is "The affordability of implementing a pension system in rural China". He received his scholarship from Woonpunt Limburg, one of the sponsors of the University Fund Limburg. Woonpunt is a creative organisation which not only focuses on the availability of houses but the concept of living in general. This includes all aspects of living like living environment, safety, care facilities and other associated services.

### **Nice to meet you...Pascal Beckers (ESPP PhD fellow )**

Hoi, Hello, and Guten Tag!

I have been a member of the School of Governance Community since September of last year currently working on my PHD as an ESPP fellow. I am especially thrilled by the topics of International Migration, Family Policy in the EU, and Health Financing in Developing Countries.



Before coming to Maastricht (or should I say returning to Maastricht), I have worked in Management and Development Cooperation in Germany for the past year, which relates to my former study of International Management at Maastricht University (so I have really just moved, with an intermission of 2 years, across the parking lot from the Economics Faculty to the School of Governance). After my graduation from Maastricht University in 2003, I fulfilled my social service obligation and worked as a teacher assistant in a school for special needs in New Zealand for one year, which was a truly enriching cultural and professional experience for me.

Apart from my professional interests, I am passionate about sports (especially swimming and, thanks to my colleagues Britta and Melissa, running lately with ambitious plans for the fall) and music. As some of you might guess after the School's Winter Concert, I am very much into opera music.

All in all, I greatly enjoy the friendly, international atmosphere at the School and am looking forward to the exiting developments of our institute and community.

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