



Dear Nyenrode Alumni

30 March 2024

The *Netherland-America Foundation* and the *American Friends of Nyenrode University* (AFNU) are delighted to bring the following to your attention.

On May 15<sup>th</sup> [www.TheNAF.org](http://www.TheNAF.org) will host one of its largest annual events in The Watergate Hotel in Washington: the 2024 Ambassadors' Awards Dinner!

We hope you will come to DC and join us at this impressive feel-good event. Read all about it [here](#).

We are very excited about this year's awardees, speakers, and the overall theme. As many of you know, the period from 1 July 2023 until 1 July 2024 was designated the *Slavery Memorial Year* to commemorate the abolition of slavery on 1 July 1863 (although the last enslaved people in Holland and her Caribbean colonies were set free in 1873). The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution Mr. Lonnie G. Bunch III (in 2021, recipient of France's highest civilian award; the Legion of Honour) will deliver opening remarks, followed by a "fireside chat" moderated by famous local-DC Aruban native and NAF Board Member Maureen Bunyan (oft-lauded DC television anchor). We think that this programming will dovetail perfectly with the efforts of the Dutch & American governments and other bilateral organizations in addressing our nations' collective past, and as they contemplate on-going collaboration.

The NAF's 2024 honorees *Francine Houben* (Principal of Mecanoo Architects and designer of the new Martin Luther King Memorial Library in Washington, DC) and *Ben Mandemakers* of De Mandemakers Groep are very significant for us all. These are people with a vision and a mission who represent The Netherlands in the USA in the most positive light. Their work and efforts promote the longstanding Dutch-American bilateral relationship, as well as The NAF, for many years to come – which is so important as The NAF continues to fund students both in the United States and in Holland for study-experiences across The Atlantic.

We hope you will attend this magnificent event in DC on May 15<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the awardees and to join us in a reflection of our collective past and of our vision for the future – for the United States, The Netherlands and, of course, the Netherland-America Foundation as we continue to fund deserving Dutch and American students as well as a multitude of cultural projects.

Again, the official event page with greater detail and ticketing information can be found [here](#). In addition, we suggest you contact [Events@TheNAF.org](mailto:Events@TheNAF.org) or Mrs. Laura Rosenthal for any other questions you may have. Laura's email address is [LRosenthal@TheNAF.org](mailto:LRosenthal@TheNAF.org) and her mobile number is +1-914-420-7135.

We hope to see you at The Watergate on May 15<sup>th</sup>!

Van Verre!

Bill Huber  
Chairman – American Friends of Nyenrode University, Inc.

# AMERICAN FRIENDS OF NYENRODE UNIVERSITY, INC.

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