

THE MARINA VAN DAMME FUND WAS SET UP IN 2003 BY UT ALUMNA MARINA VAN DAMME AS ONE OF THE TWENTE UNIVERSITY FUND NAMED FUNDS

Dr. ir. Van Damme was the first doctoral degree candidate at the University of Twente in 1965. She went on to have a very successful career in both academia and industry.

As part of the Marina van Damme Fund, the Marina van Damme Scholarship is presented every year. This **€9,000** scholarship is to be used by an alumna to expand her knowledge, for example, or gain international experience by completing a study, internship or project outside the Netherlands.



Dr. ir. **Marina van Damme**

THE MARINA VAN DAMME FUND SUPPORTS TALENTED FEMALE ALUMNI WHO COULD DO WITH A HELPING HAND WHEN TAKING THE NEXT STEP IN THEIR CAREER OR DECIDING TO FOLLOW A DIFFERENT CAREER PATH

Would you like to apply for the scholarship?

Visit utwente.nl/en/universityfoundation for more details.

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ARE YOU A UT ALUMNA AND DO YOU WANT TO GIVE YOUR CAREER A BOOST?

APPLY FOR THE MARINA VAN DAMME SCHOLARSHIP!



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SONIA HEEMSTRA

2003 Winner of the Marina van Damme Scholarship

I was the first winner of the Marina van Damme Scholarship in 2003. Those were difficult times economically. In 2000, I reduced my appointment as Associate Professor from five days a week to one day a week so I could take on a position at Ericsson in Enschede. But unfortunately, Ericsson closed this location after just two years. Two colleagues and I decided to continue working together, and in 2003 we founded the Twente Institute for Wireless and Mobile Communications (WMC). That same year I won the Marina van Damme Scholarship. For me, the scholarship was an incentive to take the next step and pursue a new career.

I wanted to continue building on my academic career alongside my position as Chief Scientist at the Twente Institute for Wireless and Mobile Communications. After studying and working at the University of Twente and TU Delft, I was appointed as part-time professor at TU Eindhoven in 2012. I have also been Director of the Centre for Wireless Technology Eindhoven since 2016.

Leading academic positions are increasingly being taken up by women. Although that's great to see, it's often women from abroad who take up these positions, like myself.

Hopefully we will see more Dutch women take up top positions in the future. I'm trying to contribute towards this within the Marina van Damme network.

“ Hopefully we will see more women take up top positions in the future”

IRIS VAN DE KAMP

2006 Winner of the Marina van Damme Scholarship

I won the Marina van Damme Scholarship in 2006, partly in recognition of my work in co-founding the Network for Entrepreneurial Educationalists (NetOO) in 2002. The network is for independent educationalists who have studied at the University of Twente. We help each other in the professional development of our services, offer each other additional expertise on complex issues, and collaborate on large projects.

Winning the scholarship means I am now part of the Marina van Damme network. Whereas NetOO enables me to meet others with the same area of expertise, the Marina van Damme network gives me the opportunity to meet women from other fields. They work in a large range of disciplines in both the corporate world and academia, but they all have three things in common: courage, drive and ambition.

The fact that we all work in different fields works to our advantage. It enables us to inspire and learn from one another. How do you decide on your priorities? Which risks should you take? What can you do differently? How do you handle a heavy workload and find the right balance between work and home life? We don't just talk about our successes. We also help each other overcome obstacles we encounter on the way. We all want to be role models for women starting out on their career or degree.

The Marina van Damme Scholarship is much more than a sum of money. The Marina van Damme network gives you the opportunity to make valuable contacts to further your career.

“ It enables us to inspire and learn from one another”

WENDY BORNEMAN

2010 Winner of the Marina van Damme Scholarship

After studying Computer Science at the University of Twente, I started working as a management consultant. I then decided to study Medicine and became a general practitioner. It was a good decision. I really enjoyed helping patients, and I still do, but I noticed that there were quite a few areas in healthcare where improvements could be made. I wanted to combine my expertise from my work as a management consultant with my expertise as a doctor in order to bring about the necessary improvements.

I applied for the Marina van Damme Scholarship so I could take a specialized course in policy and management run by the Dutch College of General Practitioners (NHG). Partly as a result of completing this course, I was offered a position at the NHG's academic office, and I am now a board member of the National Association of General Practitioners (LHV). I also still work as a general practitioner.

The specialized course I was able to take thanks to the Marina van Damme Scholarship has been very beneficial to my career. Of course, the knowledge I acquired during the course has been very useful, but the network I gained as a result of the course has also been fruitful.

I have met a lot of people who have helped me shape my career. If you have an idea of what you want to achieve, then the Marina van Damme Scholarship can really help you take a step in the right direction.

“ The Marina van Damme Scholarship can really help you take a step in the right direction”

MOREBLESSINGS SHOKO

2017 Winner of the Marina van Damme Scholarship

I applied for the scholarship in 2017 because I wanted to strengthen the position of women in Zimbabwe, by giving them the opportunity to pursue full-time education. Girls in Zimbabwe often miss a quarter of their time at school, due to their monthly period. I wanted to prevent such setbacks by developing new, reusable and hygienic sanitary towels. I also liked to establish a drone-based distribution system to reach the remotest corners of the country.

The scholarship enabled me to undergo drone flight training, and to buy my first drone. I wanted to use these drones to support the girls in education while also gathering geo-information for further scientific research, and for practical applications in agriculture and industry.

I have remained a member of the Marina van Damme Network and contribute to the network engagements which has created numerous connections. I am currently founder of Drone Wings Pvt Ltd, set up from the award funds and also working at the University of Cape Town.

As a woman of colour from a developing country, without the opportunity to study abroad and the Marina van Damme Award I would not have been able to break some 'glass ceilings' and fulfil some of my dreams.

“ It enabled me to break some 'glass ceilings”