They came knowing they’d have a good time and they did. Almost 50 alumni of the former University of Hartford Paris MBA program gathered at the InterContinental Le Grand Hotel Paris last September to talk and laugh, share memories, and celebrate the 20th anniversary of the program’s launch. James Fairfield-Sonn, dean of the Barney School of Business, and George Generas, Barney assistant professor and former director of the program, hosted the event.

The university’s Paris MBA program began in 1985 and continued for 10 years. Its graduates are still so enthusiastic about the program and the friends they made there that they came from all over Europe—Switzerland, Italy, Luxembourg, England—in order to attend the event. One alumnus, just returning from a business trip to Africa, got off the plane and came directly to the hotel.

Many of the Paris alumni have become successful leaders in a variety of European businesses. Fairfield-Sonn and Generas will continue to build on relationships with the program’s graduates so that the Barney School can provide opportunities for its MBA candidates to visit and study business enterprises in Europe.

In addition to highlighting the graduates’ successful careers, the event underscored another important outcome of the Paris MBA program: enduring friendships. Two alumnae, Eva Gardow ’86, who works for First Energy Technologies in New Jersey, and Sandrine Schweiger-Even ’86, who works for KPMG in France, have remained friends and have even passed the friendship on to their respective daughters, Margot and Charlotte. Since 2002, the two girls have gone back and forth across the Atlantic each summer to visit each other.