

echo

 Ecolint

ECOLINT MAGAZINE • N°29

WINTER / HIVER 2023



**Le retour des événements
de l'année**

**Itinéraire d'un enfant
de l'Ecolint**

**Marie-Thérèse Maurette:
a woman for all seasons**



CONTACTS

EMAIL & TELEPHONE

Foundation	administration@ecolint.ch	+41 (0)22 787 24 00
Development Office	supporting-ecolint@ecolint.ch	+41 (0)22 787 26 30
Alumni Office	alumni@ecolint.ch	+41 (0)22 787 25 55
Admissions	admissions@ecolint.ch	+41 (0)22 787 26 30
La Grande Boissière	reception.lgb@ecolint.ch	+41 (0)22 787 24 00
La Châtaigneraie	reception.cha@ecolint.ch	+41 (0)22 960 91 11
Campus des Nations	reception.nat@ecolint.ch	+41 (0)22 770 47 00

WEB

Alumni: connect.ecolint.ch **School website:** www.ecolint.ch
Centre des arts: www.ecolint-cda.ch **Institute:** www.ecolint-institute.ch

MAKE A GIFT

Ecolint is a not-for-profit Foundation. Our Director of Development and Alumni Relations Alix de Mauny is available to discuss ways of providing additional support via a regular or one-off donation.

Taxpayers from various jurisdictions, including the US, the UK and Switzerland, can benefit from tax deductions.

Visit: supporting.ecolint.ch **Contact:** alix.demauny@ecolint.ch
+41 (0)22 787 24 22

IMPRESSUM

Editor-in-Chief: Ninon Duran (Alumni Community Manager)

Editorial Team: Tania Gentet Ganose (Head of Marketing), Federica Iannarelli (Marketing & Communications Campus Partner for La Grande Boissière and Campus des Nations), Francis Poncioni (Graphic Designer), Alejandro Rodríguez-Giovo (Emeritus Foundation Archivist), Thais Ruegg (La Châtaigneraie Marketing Communications Campus Partner), Alix de Mauny (Director of Development and Alumni Relations)

Ecole Internationale de Genève, 62, route de Chêne, CH-1208 Geneva

Echo is published twice a year by the Development & Alumni Relations Department, International School of Geneva and is available on the school and alumni websites. For more information about echo or to submit information for publication please contact the Editor-in-Chief (ninon.duran@ecolint.ch).

The Development & Alumni Relations Department has made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this edition is accurate and complete. However, despite our sincere desire to avoid errors they might occur. © Copyright Ecole Internationale de Genève, March 2023.

echo.magazine@ecolint.ch

CONTENTS

- 3 A word from the DG**
- 4 Alumni exhibitions at the Centre des arts**
- 6 Le retour des évènements de l'année**
- 8 School life**
- 10 Portrait of Mirna Hafez Farah, Primary School Principal La Grande Boissière**
- 11 Alumnus profile: Nicolas Jutigny**
- 13 Ecolint Centenary**
- 14 Meet the Development and Alumni Relations team**
- 16 Marie-Thérèse Maurette**

On the cover:
portrait of Marie-Thérèse Maurette (early 1920s)

A WORD FROM THE DG



Dear members of the Ecolint community,

It gives me immense pleasure to introduce issue 29 of *echo Magazine*, a collection of inspiring stories providing opportunities to learn, grow and connect as proud members of the Ecolint community.

Ecolint's Centenary

On the eve of the school's centenary, early 2023 ushers in a steady but accelerated Anniversary event planning to mark this milestone as a truly inclusive celebration. The next worldwide alumni reunion from 13 - 16 June 2024 will mark the official kick-off of our Centenary celebrations which will take place throughout the 2024-2025 school year.

A task force composed of Board members, members of management, administrative staff, the teaching body, parents, students and alumni has started developing ideas to celebrate. All members of our community will have an opportunity to offer suggestions on how best to mark this occasion, and we will be communicating more about this with you soon.

Inclusion through diversity, equity and antiracism (I-DEA)

As part of our multi-year journey towards inclusion through diversity, equity and antiracism, we were proud that the launch of the International School Anti-Discrimination Task Force took place at Ecolint back in October 2022, in partnership with the Association of International Educational Leaders of Colour (AIELOC), the Educational Collaborative for International Schools (ECIS), and the International Baccalaureate (IB). It started with 59 schools, 54 organisations, 22 countries, 92 members and is continuing to grow with further events planned this year. The Task Force is a strong reminder that our Foundation remains a beacon of hope and inspiration, and a pioneer in international education, as we have been since 1924. We are enthusiastic at seeing these new opportunities for our community to pursue our mission of educating students to be global citizens with the courage and capacity to create a just and joyful tomorrow together.

New Director General

I am delighted that Conrad Hughes, current Campus and Secondary School Principal at La Grande Boissière, will be Ecolint's next Director General starting July 2023. He has a unique ability to understand and implement our mission and values and models for all of us life-long learning. He has grown in many different ways over the six years I have collaborated with him, ranging from his development as a leadership coach to his ever-expanding repertoire of pedagogical approaches, and to inspiring others through his storytelling and teaching. Many congratulations again to Conrad.

Sincerely,

David Hawley
Director General

NEWS AND VIEWS

ALUMNI EXHIBITIONS AT THE CENTRE DES ARTS

Members of the school community came together earlier this year to celebrate the vernissage of the exhibition by alumnus **John Hines** (LGB, 2020). With its vibrant colours and abstract aspect, John's artwork draws on inspiration from Andy Warhol, Paul Cézanne, David Hockney, Roy Lichtenstein and Vassily Kandinsky.

A student in our Extended Support Programme, John has since pursued foundation courses in painting and drawing. Hosted in the state-of-the-art *Centre des arts*, the exhibition welcomed visitors throughout the month of September. We look forward to following the progression of John's artistic ability, vision and style over the next few years.



John Hines (LGB, 2020) in front of his paintings





Pear tree - Photo by Geraldo Pestalozzi

In January, another alumna, **Noële Baker** (LGB, 1971), had her work on display at the *Centre des arts*. Artistic fibre runs in the family, as her father, Frank Dorsay, a talented painter, was Head of the Art Department at Ecolint for many years. Noële is a renowned sculptor who loves to translate a feeling or a concept into a concrete shape. To show how the humble pear tree connects the living, the missing and the dead, she deployed twenty-five rolls in the *Centre des arts*. Made of a material used for sails, Noële meticulously

cut pear tree shapes in them, and inscribed them with India ink. Visitors were invited to walk in this forest and immerse themselves in its message of hope and resilience.

This exhibit was specifically developed for the *Centre des arts*, but the artist would like to take it to other countries, thus sharing the story of the pear tree that survived the 9/11 attacks in New York with a wider audience.



BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

The Ecole Internationale de Genève is a not-for-profit foundation, and our day-to-day costs are covered by tuition fees. The school relies on financial support from our community and partners to help achieve development projects.

Get in touch to discuss how you can help!

Different ways of giving | Support for specific projects | Donor recognition opportunities | Legacies

With your support, we can make a difference for current and future generations of Ecolint students.

Contact **Brian Wahlen**, Head of Major Partnership, at brian.wahlen@ecolint.ch or +41 (0)22 787 26 19

Visit us at supporting.ecolint.ch

LE RETOUR DES ÉVÈNEMENTS DE L'ANNÉE

Alors que les confinements successifs de 2020 ressemblent de plus en plus à un mauvais rêve, la vie sur les campus continue à reprendre son cours normal. Les derniers signes de cette évolution sont le retour d'événements phares de la vie scolaire à l'Ecolint rassemblant les trois campus : la Société des Nations des Étudiants, «Students' League of Nations» (SLN) en anglais et anciennement «Students' United Nations» (SUN), et le Bal des Neiges. L'un impliquant un peu plus de travail scolaire que l'autre.

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS DES ÉTUDIANTS



Students' United Nations 1953

En décembre 2022, les élèves de l'Ecolint sont retournés au Palais des Nations, siège européen de l'ONU (et anciennement celui de la Société des Nations), afin de prendre part à cette simulation in-situ. Lancé en 1953 à l'Ecolint sous le nom de «Students' United Nations», la première édition a lieu dans le siège de l'Organisation Internationale du Travail (bâtiment qui abrite actuellement l'Organisation Mondiale du Commerce). Depuis, d'innombrables établissements scolaires ont rejoint le mouvement. Comme le veut la tradition, les participants rejoignent des

délégations représentant des pays dont ils ne sont pas originaires. Ils doivent ensuite proposer des résolutions, dont quatre seront débattues par l'assemblée, puis soumises à un vote : un exercice qui met à contribution la coopération et pousse les élèves à se plonger dans l'histoire et la vie des pays qu'ils représentent.

Depuis bientôt 70 ans, des générations d'élèves ont ainsi participé à des négociations dans ces lieux marqués par l'histoire. Athar Sultan-Khan (LGB, 1974), maintenant professeur de relations

internationales et doyen de la «Geneva School of Diplomacy», a travaillé pendant plus de 35 ans à l'ONU, notamment en tant que Chef de Cabinet au Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés ou Conseiller spécial d'António Guterres, Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies. C'est en prenant part aux «Students' United Nations» et en passant de nombreuses heures à la bibliothèque à se renseigner sur le Tchad, pays qu'il représentait, que sa passion pour la diplomatie est née. Son travail à l'ONU l'amènera d'ailleurs deux fois au Tchad.

Students' League of Nations 2022





Premier Bal de Neige rassemblant les campus de La Châtaigneraie et La Grande Boissière en 1991

LE BAL DES NEIGES

La première mention du Bal des Neiges dans les *Yearbooks* se trouve dans l'édition 1990 de La Grande Boissière. Kaarina Lorenzini (née Rodríguez-Campoamor, LGB, 1990) alors Vice-Présidente de l'Association des élèves (*Student Council* ou *STUCO* en anglais), nous explique que le but était de rapprocher le côté français et le côté anglais qui se tournaient littéralement le dos à l'époque. L'équipe de l'Association avait été élue avec le slogan "French side, English side, same side". Leur projet : faire tomber le mur entre les francophones et les anglophones, tel le

mur de Berlin tombé un peu plus tôt dans l'année. Le premier Bal de Neige sera donc organisé fin 1989 à la patinoire des Vernets.

L'objectif semblant avoir été atteint, dès l'année suivante ce sont les relations entre les campus de La Châtaigneraie et de la Grande Boissière que le bal doit améliorer. Le bal monte en standing et les élèves des deux campus se retrouvent en grande tenue à l'Hôtel Intercontinental. Face au succès de ce bal, en 1991 les auteurs du *Yearbook* de la Châtaigneraie appellent à réorganiser

le Bal des Neiges. Leur souhait est exaucé, et trente-deux ans plus tard les élèves des trois campus – le Campus des Nations ayant rejoint la famille Ecolint en 2005 – se retrouvent toujours à l'Intercontinental pour ce bal devenu un classique de la vie de l'Ecolint. L'événement de l'année a été annoncé avec anticipation après avoir été annulé pour cause de Covid trois années de suite. Deux soirées sont organisées pour accueillir tous les élèves, des années 9 à 12.

Le Bal des Neiges 2023



ECOLINT CO-LAUNCHES THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ANTI-DISCRIMINATION TASK FORCE

On 14 and 15 October, the *Centre des arts* at La Grande Boissière was proud to host the inaugural meeting of the newly-created International School Anti-Discrimination Task Force. A joint initiative of Ecolint, the International Baccalaureate, the Educational Collaborative for International Schools (ECIS) and the Association for International Educators and Leaders of Color (AIELOC), the event saw over ninety educators from schools as far afield as Vancouver, Doha, Dakar and New York join with their counterparts from across Europe to discuss ways of promoting practices that eliminate racism, implicit bias and discrimination of all kinds in schools.

Rather than a traditional training, the event was designed to spark action, with all participants asked to set objectives for themselves and their organisations, in order to take meaningful steps to ensure that all students, staff and parents feel safe and included within their respective communities. With each school at a different stage in their diversity, equity and inclusion journeys, the desired outcome was that all participants committed themselves to concrete steps towards the desired end state: embedding anti-discriminatory practices and culture in schools, in the hope of influencing the wider society to do the same.

Following an introduction from leaders of the founding organisations, participants

spent two days in a series of keynote addresses and workshops, hearing from global experts on anti-discrimination, including Cynthia Roberson, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Mulgrave School in Vancouver, and Kevin Simpson, the founder of AIELOC.

Ecolint was well represented at the event, with co-founding team members David Hawley (Director General) and Yasmine Sadri (Inclusion through Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism Advisor), and participants Conrad Hughes (Campus and Secondary School Principal at La Grande Boissière), Soizic Le Clère (Director of People and Culture) and Gilbert Ekotto (Middle School Principal at La Grande Boissière). As a team they have identified a

number of important steps to help Ecolint live up to its fundamental belief, enshrined in the Charter of the Foundation, that all human beings have equal value. These include the recruitment of a Director of Inclusion through Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism (I-DEA), a two-day deep-dive training for members of the *Conférence des Directeurs*, and the development of a training course which will be compulsory for all Ecolint employees and – hopefully – rolled out through other international schools keen to follow in our footsteps.





Luca Lucesoli, José Murphy and Daniel Poacher

FOOTBALL4IMPACT: HOW A CAS PROJECT BECAME MUCH MORE

José, Luca and Daniel, three Year 13 students at La Châtaigneraie, have big dreams for the organisation they created as part of their CAS project. "We really want Football4Impact to grow beyond just being a CAS project", explains Luca. "We are in the process of turning it into an official NGO with a concrete programme that we could replicate in several areas of the world, with both boys and girls."

Football4Impact's goal is to bring together young people from different nationalities and socio-economic backgrounds through their mutual love for football, and to train them together in key aspects of life and football. The project came into being after Paul Canoville, a former professional football player for Chelsea, came to speak to La Châtaigneraie students about the injury that put an end to his career, and the growing desire he has to develop a project that brings together different communities. When José walked out of the talk, he knew that he wanted to get involved. "I brainstormed ideas with my

CAS Coordinator Sarah Lalaz, I roped in my two classmates Daniel and Luca, and we started putting a plan together," says José, with an enthusiastic glint in his eye. The process was intense, and filled with learning experiences in fundraising, networking, public speaking and administration.

In October 2022, about a year after they set the ball rolling, the three boys were in England, along with 45 boys from disadvantaged communities in London and six Year 12 La Châtaigneraie students, attending workshops on financial literacy, mental health, positivity, and football training sessions with professional players and instructors. The experience changed the three La Châtaigneraie boys profoundly, opening their eyes to the meaning of privilege, opportunity, and dedication. "I saw the hunger of the London guys to break out of their current lifestyle and conditions, and it made me feel so complacent and privileged. I knew instantly I had to change my way of

approaching life, and make the most of all the opportunities my life was filled with," explains José. Daniel adds: "It was so motivating to see guys my age who were totally in charge of their lives and knew exactly what they wanted. I was really challenged by their independence."

The three boys are currently working together to bring a group of 15 London boys to Geneva in April 2023, for workshops and training sessions. They have garnered the support of UEFA, the Rio Ferdinand Foundation, EasyJet, and several others. Their hope is that once Football4Impact is a registered NGO, they can all work together to develop and expand it; Daniel and José will be studying Business at university with this goal in mind, while Luca plans to take a gap year in order to help set it up by laying the groundwork.

For more information about Football4Impact, you can visit the website here: <https://football4impact.com/>

ENTRETIEN AVEC MIRNA HAFEZ-FARAH

Mirna Hafez-Farah a rejoint l'Ecolint en août 2022 en tant que Directrice de l'École primaire à La Grande Boissière. Rencontre avec une pédagogue passionnée et aussi internationale que ses élèves.



Mirna Hafez-Farah

Pouvez-vous nous en dire un peu plus sur votre parcours ?

J'ai grandi au Liban avant de faire mes études en France. Après des études en Sciences économiques et Gestion des entreprises, je me suis rapidement rendu compte que le relationnel était indispensable pour moi et je me suis donc dirigée vers l'enseignement. J'arrive du Canada où j'ai travaillé pendant 26 ans à TFS – Canada's International School à Toronto. J'ai occupé plusieurs postes dans cette école, Directrice de différentes sections de l'école (primaire, moyenne) ainsi que Directrice générale de toute l'école. Je connaissais tous les élèves, anciens élèves et leurs familles par leurs prénoms !

Qu'est-ce qui vous a amené à l'Ecolint ?

Je connaissais bien sûr l'Ecolint de réputation, pour son rôle pionnier dans l'éducation internationale. Je n'étais pas en recherche active mais lorsque l'opportunité s'est présentée j'ai trouvé passionnant de pouvoir contribuer à cette institution. Bien sûr, après autant d'années au sein d'une même école, mon départ a été une grande surprise. TFS m'a organisé plusieurs événements pour me dire au revoir et des adieux très touchants.

Qu'est-ce qui rend l'enseignement au primaire différent selon vous ?

Au cours de ma carrière j'ai travaillé avec tous les âges, mais ce que j'aime par-dessus tout avec les enfants de

maternelle/primaire, c'est leur capacité infinie à l'émerveillement et leur insatiable curiosité. C'est à nous de nourrir cette soif d'apprendre. Tous les niveaux ont leur importance, mais je pense que les bases de l'apprentissage se construisent dans les classes maternelles et primaires.

C'est à ce moment que l'on pose des fondations solides pour l'apprentissage et pour développer l'envie d'apprendre tout le long de la vie. A La Grande Boissière primaire, les élèves aiment aller à l'école et sont joyeux de retrouver notre petite communauté !

Quelle est votre vision pour l'École primaire de LGB ?

La mission d'éducation à la paix de l'Ecolint est au cœur de ma vision. Mon but est de faire vivre cette mission tous les jours, dans nos actions au quotidien, et mettre en application ces mots : éduquer les élèves à être des citoyens du monde ayant la capacité et le courage de créer ensemble un lendemain juste et joyeux. Nous avons une responsabilité vis-à-vis de l'humanité, aujourd'hui plus que jamais. Nous avons eu récemment une assemblée avec les élèves de Classe 4 pour parler de nos résolutions pour une nouvelle année et de nos responsabilités. Je leur ai raconté la légende du colibri. «Un feu de forêt détruit les arbres. Les oiseaux se réfugient sur leur arbre préféré mais les flammes commencent bientôt à l'attaquer. Alors un petit colibri part chercher de l'eau dans

son bec et la jette sur le feu. Les autres oiseaux se moquent de ses tentatives, mais celui-ci leur répond : je fais ma part, si chacun fait la sienne nous pourrions y arriver. Alors, tous les oiseaux participent et grâce à cet effort collectif, ils viennent à bout du feu.»

Mon but était de leur montrer que chacun peut faire une différence à son niveau. Je souhaite aussi faire vivre la communauté que nous formons avec les élèves et leurs familles et ouvrir les portes de l'école pour les accueillir. Je veux trouver des moyens pour aller à leur rencontre, et j'espère pouvoir contribuer avec l'aide des collègues et des familles à rendre notre communauté plus solide et unique au monde.

Quel est votre moment de la journée préféré ?

Quand je passe du temps avec les élèves dans les classes et que je discute avec eux. J'apprends à retenir tous leurs noms et surtout à bien les connaître.

Si vous deviez résumer en quelques mots votre impression de l'Ecolint après quelques mois ?

Je suis impressionnée par la richesse culturelle de l'école. C'est fascinant de voir des élèves d'origines aussi variées partager les valeurs de l'école tout en gardant leurs spécificités culturelles. Toronto est pourtant une ville très cosmopolite, mais je dois reconnaître que nous avons ici, à l'Ecolint, une diversité unique. Je ne suis là que depuis quelques mois ; je suis donc moi-même en apprentissage continu.

Et la vie à Genève ?

Je connaissais très peu la Suisse, même si j'ai vécu en Europe. Je dois avouer que lorsque je vivais en Europe je prenais plutôt des vacances dans le Sud ! Mais je suis arrivée en été à Genève, et la ville prend vraiment des airs balnéaires à ce moment de l'année. Depuis la rentrée je n'ai pas vraiment eu l'occasion de découvrir davantage Genève et la Suisse car je suis prise par mon travail !

ITINÉRAIRE D'UN ENFANT DE L'ECOLINT

Passionné de sports depuis son enfance, supporter de l'Olympique Lyonnais et de l'équipe de France, Nicolas Jutigny nous raconte son parcours professionnel.



Nicolas Jutigny a été à l'Ecolint de la petite enfance jusqu'en Classe 13. Il était donc au tout premier rang avec quelques-uns de ses camarades lors de sa remise de diplôme en 2007. La promotion 2007 de La Grande Boissière est restée dans les annales pour son haut niveau scolaire mais également pour ses nombreuses bêtises. Nicolas nous raconte quelques anecdotes croustillantes que nous partageons ici car il y a prescription : des alarmes cachées dans les plafonds de salles de classe sonnantes toutes à 10h30, le mélange des DVD dans leurs pochettes, des verres

d'eau posés par terre entre les tables. Mais leur plus belle réalisation sera le jour de la remise de diplômes : ils couvrent de peinture et de plumes le rocher à l'entrée de la Grande Boissière en «hommage» au Directeur de l'époque, Mr Featherstone.

Nicolas pouffe en évoquant ces souvenirs, mais nous discutons aujourd'hui avec un professionnel sérieux qui revient de l'organisation de la Coupe du Monde au Qatar et travaille déjà sur la prochaine édition en 2026. Passionné de sport depuis toujours, il a même envisagé

un temps de devenir joueur de golf professionnel. Faute de pratiquer à haut niveau, il souhaite néanmoins lier sa passion à son travail. Quand il rejoint PublicisLive, agence spécialisée dans l'organisation d'événements, en 2014, c'est pour un contrat de quelques mois et pour l'organisation du World Economic Forum. Arrivé un peu par hasard dans le monde de l'événementiel, il prend rapidement goût aux déplacements à l'étranger et à l'excitation liée à la gestion du direct avec son lot d'aléas. Il fait donc ses armes pendant quatre ans sur les

événements phares de l'entreprise que sont les sommets politiques. Après avoir fait ses preuves, il décide de «pitcher» son projet pour développer le pôle sport au sein de PublicisLive. Il raisonne : «Notre cœur de métier est d'accueillir des participants à des événements, politiques en l'occurrence, mais ce sont exactement les mêmes enjeux pour des événements sportifs». Il convainc son management et obtient carte blanche pour développer ce nouveau secteur. Il décroche rapidement un contrat avec l'UEFA pour gérer la logistique des logements sur leurs événements. Il résume : «Nous sommes entrés par la petite porte dans la grande écurie». Grâce à ce nom sur leur carte visite, Nicolas et son équipe obtiennent rapidement d'autres contrats et c'est ensuite la NBA qui les approche pour l'organisation de la première Basketball Africa League au Rwanda. Nous sommes alors en plein Covid et le monde de l'événementiel est percuté de plein fouet. Mais Nicolas reste confiant et il sait que le sport en *live* reprendra. Au niveau organisationnel c'est une autre paire de manches, et lui et ses équipes doivent redoubler de créativité et de flexibilité. Les délais sont encore plus serrés. La NBA (National Basketball Association) leur donne le feu vert un peu moins d'un mois avant le début de la compétition. Les règles sanitaires pour lutter contre le Covid sont encore de mise, et Nicolas et ses équipes doivent déployer une toute nouvelle manière de travailler, et font face à un casse-tête pour limiter au maximum

les interactions : trois bulles sanitaires sont mises en place, les entraînements se font à huis-clos, chaque joueur porte un bracelet qui devient rouge ou vert selon les résultats de dépistage. Nicolas passera la totalité du tournoi sous une bulle sanitaire différente de celle de son équipe, mais cela reste pour lui sa «plus belle expérience de travail» et surtout une réussite totale, malgré les conditions.

Ses succès attirent l'œil et Nicolas se fait donc démarcher par la FIFA pour rejoindre leur pôle logement. Il hésite un peu mais décide qu'il ne peut pas ne pas accepter, car le Nicolas enfant ne lui aurait pas pardonné. Il change donc de bord mais souligne fièrement que les contrats avec l'UEFA et la NBA continuent chez PublicisLive. Il arrive donc dans la dernière ligne droite dans l'organisation de la Coupe du Monde au Qatar, et lui et son équipe doivent gérer tout ce qui se passe dans un hôtel, en dehors des stades : transports, création des camps de base pour les équipes, événements satellites dans les hôtels... aussi bien pour les invités, les journalistes et les équipes, chacun ayant des besoins bien spécifiques. Nous n'abordons pas les controverses liées à l'organisation d'une Coupe du Monde au Qatar, mais quand nous lui demandons quel a été son plus gros défi en termes d'organisation, il reconnaît que l'ouverture d'un hôtel la veille de l'arrivée d'une équipe était une première. Il retient également le point positif que tous les matchs étaient à moins d'une heure de route, une aubaine

pour les supporters. L'horaire décalé des matchs était également un avantage pour lui et ses équipes, car ils ont pu en profiter pour voir des matchs. C'est important, non seulement car la plupart sont fans de foot mais également pour voir le fruit de leur travail se réaliser. Nicolas a ainsi pu voir tous les matchs de l'équipe de France, et nous avoue qu'il a eu la chair de poule lorsque la Tunisie a marqué et que tous les supporters se sont mis à chanter d'une seule voix dans le stade. Ce sont ces moments d'émotions qui le font vibrer, à la différence des sommets politiques du début de sa carrière.

Mais la FIFA n'organise pas que la Coupe du Monde : il y a une centaine de tournois et de conférences par an un peu moins connus du grand public. Pour Nicolas les prochains déplacements seront à Paris pour la remise des prix «The Best FIFA Football Awards» aux joueurs de l'année, puis la Coupe du Monde des moins de 20 ans en Indonésie. Ce dernier lieu peut paraître incongru, mais Nicolas nous explique que le but est de faire grandir le foot dans des pays où l'on joue moins au ballon rond, et surtout de ne pas louper la prochaine superstar du foot. Car ce sont les joueurs qui font briller le sport et rêver les gens. Et évidemment, Nicolas travaille déjà sur la prochaine Coupe du Monde qui aura lieu dans trois pays : Etats-Unis, Canada et Mexique. Rendez-vous donc dans trois ans pour de nouvelles émotions sportives et de nouveaux défis professionnels !

HELP US TO CELEBRATE OUR CENTENARY!

In just eighteen months time, on 17 September 2024, the *Ecole Internationale de Genève* will celebrate its 100th birthday! This is a momentous occasion in the life of the institution, and one which deserves to be both celebrated and used as a springboard for furthering the mission of Ecolint.

An anniversary is of course, first and foremost, an opportunity to celebrate the past achievements, both of the institution and of its alumni. But it is also an opportunity to promote Ecolint's role as a thought leader in international education, constantly seeking innovative ways to prepare young people for the opportunities and challenges of the next 100 years. And finally, it is a chance to reflect on the importance of community, both within and outside the institution, and to bring people together around our common mission and values.

Plans are underway for a year-long celebration, starting with the alumni worldwide reunion in June 2024 and culminating with graduations in summer 2025 - and we will soon be reaching out to you to ask for your ideas for ways to mark the occasion, both in Geneva and beyond.

Over the coming weeks, we will contact you via email to ask for your input in two ways.

1. For alumni only, a survey that is specifically related to the organisation of the alumni worldwide reunion from 13-16 June 2024. Your answers to this survey will help us to create a Centenary reunion worth flying across the world for, and which we hope will be a talking point for years to come!

2. A more general call for proposals for projects to celebrate Ecolint's Centenary during the 2024-2025 academic year, in Geneva and beyond.

This will go out to all current parents, staff, alumni, students who have an Ecolint email address (from year 5 and above) and board members. We will include specific guidance in the call for proposals regarding our Centenary themes, alongside our criteria for selecting proposals.

We hope that you are as excited as we are as we look forward to this landmark moment in the life of the School, and we look forward to you joining us as "co-creators" of our celebrations. We plan to reach out to you with the above survey and call for proposals within the next few weeks. In the meantime, if you have any questions, suggestions or feedback, please write to: centenary@ecolint.ch.



First day of school at Ecolint

MEET THE DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS TEAM

We are delighted to introduce the members of the Development and Alumni Relations team, which is now almost at full strength after some gaps over the past eighteen months. The team is always delighted to hear from the members of our community, so please do not hesitate to reach out to them on development@ecolint.ch and alumni@ecolint.ch



Alix de Mauny

Director of Development and Alumni Relations

I joined the *Ecole Internationale de Genève* in mid-November 2022, having come from a specialist music school in the United Kingdom, The Yehudi Menuhin School of Music. Like many development professionals, I have followed a non-linear career path. Half-French, half-English, and the daughter of two foreign correspondents, my worldview has always been outward-looking. The first half of my career was dedicated to humanitarian affairs and international relations, allowing me to live and work in cities as diverse as Pristina, Barranquilla, Kigali and Jerusalem, for a wide range of organisations – many of which are represented within the Ecolint community. After ten years, I returned to the UK to start a new career as a fundraiser, first in the world of classical music, and then in education. I was drawn to Ecolint by its powerful mission, which echoes so much of what I strive to achieve – to develop the courage and capacity to work with others to create a just and joyful tomorrow.



Brian Wahlen

Head of Major Partnerships

Je suis le «local» de l'équipe et dispose néanmoins d'une grande expérience à l'international. J'ai effectué une première moitié de carrière dans la banque, où j'ai eu l'opportunité de travailler sur de nombreux projets, et d'établir de nombreuses relations d'affaires et d'amitié au travers de multiples voyages, notamment en Europe, aux Etats-Unis, en Inde, au Venezuela, en Colombie, en Equateur et au Brésil. Après de nombreuses années à parcourir ces pays, j'ai décidé de réorienter ma carrière et je me suis dirigé naturellement vers le développement pour l'éducation. Depuis bientôt neuf ans, je contribue à la mission de l'Ecolint en rassemblant un large éventail de philanthropes et de partenaires qui partagent les mêmes valeurs que notre institution. Je suis passionné par ce que font mes collègues enseignants et de voir chaque jour l'impact que leur travail a sur nos élèves et leurs parents et également l'influence qu'Ecolint a eu sur nos anciens élèves. J'aime échanger avec les membres de notre communauté et créer avec eux des opportunités afin de catalyser des progrès majeurs au sein de l'Ecolint et au-delà.



Rashid Hall

Major Partnerships Manager

I joined Ecolint in 2020, having spent the previous decade in the sport industry in various roles, including international team management and European football sponsorship. A native of Montego Bay, Jamaica, I was a recipient in 2012 of the Prime Minister's Youth Award for Excellence in Leadership, and have been intensely involved in community service since age 14, beginning with the Kiwanis International organisation, for which I have registered over 9000 service hours. I chose to join Ecolint as I was impressed by our objective to influence the world through "Education for Peace".



Vincent Omnes

Data Specialist

De nationalité française, j'ai rejoint l'Ecole Internationale de Genève en octobre 2022, en tant que spécialiste des données. Attiré par les chiffres, j'ai occupé pendant plus de dix ans des postes au sein de plusieurs organismes de sondages, avant de m'installer en Suisse et d'intégrer le monde académique au sein de l'Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne.

Baigné depuis mon enfance dans le monde de l'éducation avec une maman enseignante, j'ai toujours gardé à l'esprit ma volonté de travailler dans un environnement scolaire inclusif œuvrant pour la paix et l'égalité des chances.

Au sein de l'Ecolint, je peux aujourd'hui, avec ma passion pour les données, contribuer au développement des élèves et leur permettre d'agir à l'avenir, en tant que citoyens, pour un monde meilleur et respectueux des identités culturelles et individuelles.



Ninon Duran

Alumni Relations Manager

Originaire de Lyon, France j'ai travaillé à Paris et à Londres dans différents secteurs (audiovisuel, événementiel). J'ai débuté ma carrière dans les relations avec les anciens élèves à *King's College London*, lorsque j'ai réalisé que je pouvais mettre mes compétences à contribution dans le monde de l'éducation. Après cinq ans à Londres, j'ai rejoint l'Ecolint en 2020 pour contribuer à animer cette incroyable communauté que représentent les 30 000 alumni.

Je suis en contact quasi quotidien avec des alumni aux parcours divers et qui, chacun à son niveau, créent un lendemain juste et joyeux. Je travaille à partager leurs histoires et à renforcer la communauté.



Sarah Akugbe

Trainee

I am from Nigeria and I have been living in Geneva since 2017. I am an Ecolint alumna, I was a student at Campus des Nation from 2019 to 2021. I am training to become an office assistant at *Ecole de commerce et de culture générale Aimée-Stitelmann* and joined the Alumni Office for an apprenticeship in 2019. I help with the day-to-day management of the office and I managed the last Escalade dinners! I am also working at the reception of the Primary School on Wednesdays.

A WOMAN FOR ALL SEASONS

Without Marie-Thérèse Maurette, Ecolint would not be the school that we know today, cherished by its alumni and admired far and wide as one of the world's great educational institutions. To be sure, its unique DNA was already in place at the time of its delicate birth in September 1924, instilled primarily by the felicitous blend of two League of Nations officials – Arthur Sweetser and Ludwik Rajchman – and two *Institut Jean-Jacques Rousseau* educators – Adolphe Ferrière and Paul Meyhoffer. This accounts satisfactorily for Ecolint's *nature*; but the *nurture* that shaped it crucially during its infancy was provided, to a defining degree, by a fifth person.

The nascent Ecolint was a fragile organism that barely survived on life support, in the form of Adolphe Ferrière's chalet on the Route de Florissant, which he made available to our eight students and three teachers for a tiny, symbolic rent. But that generosity seemed insufficient to ensure the school's viability, and Sweetser admitted, many years later, that if Ecolint had not already hired its first teacher from abroad (Dr Florence Fake, from Winnetka, Illinois, USA), Ecolint's founders might well have thrown in the towel. Thanks to this *fait accompli*, Ecolint somehow struggled through its precarious first few months and, by the start of its second academic year, had attracted a healthy total of 56 students – a sustainable enrolment.

Nevertheless, the school had yet to forge decisively its identity. Ferrière – though he remained an advisor – drifted away from the Ecolint enterprise after a couple of years, as his experimental educational ideas (to which he was utterly committed) proved to be too utopian for many parents, who not unreasonably aspired to a more pragmatic approach that would lead their children to recognizable qualifications of some kind.¹

In contrast, Meyhoffer persevered as the school's first director, and later – with characteristic modesty – as a classroom teacher. Shaped, perhaps, by his early training as a theologian and pastor, he was a gentleman in the term's most important sense of *gentle man*: kind, considerate, humane, patient, tolerant and unassuming.² However, these fine qualities did not necessarily make him the galvanizing leader that the nascent Ecolint needed to survive and prosper. Humbly aware of his limitations in this respect, Meyhoffer stepped down from the role of Ecolint director in 1928.

The tenure of Meyhoffer's scholarly successor, Paul Miroglio, turned out to be tentative and unsuccessful, and lasted barely a year. One can sympathize with him, given the challenge of managing a school which, by then, was expanding decisively but still seeking a definitive identity, was wrestling with its intrinsic

Returning to the *nature* and *nurture* analogy: Ecolint's founders had conceived and given birth to a school with noble internationalist, humane and egalitarian principles in its chromosomes (its *nature*); but now, so that it could fulfil its potential, the infant institution needed to be raised and guided to fruitful maturity (its *nurture*)



Ecolint faculty in 1931, with Marie-Thérèse Maurette (standing, centre), Paul Dupuy (standing to her right), Else Hartoch (sitting, below Maurette's left arm) and Paul Meyhoffer (standing, far left)

bilingualism (only three of its teachers – M. Meyhoffer, Mlle Hartoch and M. Brunel – were fluent in both English and French), and had premises scattered throughout Geneva. An agreement on how exactly to implement, in practical terms, Ecolint's internationalist ideals was proving elusive, and the school was losing its early focus and momentum.

by a competent, energetic and purposeful adoptive parent who understood and was committed to its long-term mission. In 1929 Sweetser and Rajchman took the bull by the horns and – in what proved to be a defining moment in Ecolint's history – entrusted this parental role (rather to her surprise) to Marie-Thérèse Maurette.

¹ Ferrière pursued his educational endeavours by co-founding in 1925 the International Bureau of Education (IBE), which today is part of UNESCO.

² Before helping to launch Ecolint in 1924, Meyhoffer had also specialized in progressive approaches to education, within the framework of the "*Éducation nouvelle*" movement, and had taught at Bedales School in England and – for eight years – at La Châtaigneraie (founded in 1908), long before it merged with Ecolint in 1974.

Who exactly was she?

Alongside her husband, the distinguished geographer and high-ranking International Labour Organization official Fernand Maurette, Marie-Thérèse (to whom I will henceforth refer simply as "Maurette", as Arthur Sweetser did in his decades-long correspondence with her) had been closely involved in the Ecolint project from the moment that she and her family settled in Geneva in October 1924. Having enrolled her daughter and two sons in the school, she participated in some of Ecolint's earliest organizational meetings held in Dr Rajchman's home, attended also by Arthur and Ruth Sweetser, Adolphe Ferrière, Paul Meyhoffer and other *Institut Jean-Jacques Rousseau* luminaries, such as Professors Pierre Bovet and Edouard Claparède. Significantly for her, the famous Paul Dupuy (see: https://issuu.com/feig/docs/echo_18_web, page 19), who happened to be her father, joined Ecolint as a teacher in 1925 at the age of 70, following his retirement from a prominent position in Paris' prestigious *École normale supérieure*.

Let us allow Maurette herself to tell us in her own words more about her background and aspirations, at the point where the directorship of Ecolint was offered to her:

«Quant à moi, qui étais-je ? Une mère de famille inquiète et une enseignante frustrée.

Je venais d'abandonner un travail qui me tenait à cœur, au Collège Sévigné, à Paris ; autour d'un des premiers jardins d'enfants créé en France. Je venais d'y ajouter deux classes primaires, y inaugurant la méthode Montessori.

Mon bagage était le baccalauréat ès lettres français, deux ans d'initiation pédagogique à Londres au Maria Grey Training College et un petit diplôme du Froebel Institute. J'étais allée en Angleterre après avoir passé mon baccalauréat (ce qui, à l'époque – 1919 – était chose rare pour les femmes) parce qu'il me semblait que les écoles maternelles françaises auxquelles je m'intéressais ne se développaient pas au rythme du monde moderne.

(...) J'avais deux garçons de douze et huit ans et une fille de quatre ans. C'est

*pourquoi je m'intéressais à la création de cette école. J'écoutais les discussions, un peu trop intimidée pour y prendre part. Ce monde international était si nouveau pour moi. J'avais l'avantage, cependant, de pouvoir les suivre en anglais aussi bien qu'en français. **On passait sans transition ni traduction d'une langue à l'autre.**»³*

These recollections penned some 45 years later, reveal Maurette's candour and unpretentiousness about who she was and what – in her own estimation – she had to offer at the time. On the face of it, Sweetser and Rajchman were taking a considerable risk in pressing on her such a momentous responsibility – especially since Maurette herself was less than confident about her suitability for the position: "I was taken aback and rather frightened. I pointed out that I had only been trained as a kindergarten teacher (luckily in England), that I had no knowledge of the general administration of a school, was bad at financial matters, and so on."

In the event, their choice was providential. Maurette was endowed with precisely the blend of vision, energy, determination and courage that – in combination with her humanity, moral compass and thirst for fairness and justice – Ecolint needed at that point. And not only at that point: for the next two decades Maurette guided the school with passion and integrity – first during its initial period of encouraging expansion, lasting from 1929 to 1939; then through the bleak, perilous years of World War 2, when enrolment plummeted and Ecolint teetered on the brink of bankruptcy; and finally, during the first stage of its spectacular post-war recovery and sustained growth, which has continued virtually without interruption until the present day.



Maurette with "Racky", her dog, in 1938

A prominent personality

In contrast to the diffident self-assessment quoted above, Maurette took charge of Ecolint decisively, no doubt sensing that this was what the school needed. Her agile bilingualism, solid scholarship (it was not for nothing that she was the daughter of the eminent and erudite Paul Dupuy) and cultural open-mindedness were obvious assets, but so was her natural authority, complemented by her charisma and colourful idiosyncrasies: typically she was garbed in a long cape, and – rather like Tintin, the *bande dessinée* character whose unaffected but unshakeable integrity she shared – was accompanied everywhere by a fox terrier at her heels (a black one, named "Racky").

Both in her teaching and as an educational leader Maurette trusted her instincts, over and above the demands of conventions, hierarchy and formal expectations. Thus it was that she impulsively hired as teachers two characters who eventually became legendary Ecolint educators in their own right: Nancy Traveletti,

³ I have highlighted this sentence, because it characterizes so clearly a feature that has been inherent to Ecolint since its inception. In the context of a school, it was highly unusual at the time, and it remains unusual today, at least to the extent depicted by Maurette. Numerous schools and institutions claim to operate in more than one language, but in very few can the instinctive, back and forth fluidity between them be observed to such an extent.

La Grande Boissière's versatile gardener, who in 1932 was entrusted with Biology classes (which she continued to teach confidently and competently until her retirement in 1973), and Fred Roquette, who had dropped out of university but whose humaneness, personal qualities, motivation and hands-on experience Maurette prioritized, and who served as her loyal Deputy Director, focusing on the purely administrative tasks that were not her forte. Roquette eventually succeeded Maurette as Ecolint's Director – a role that he fulfilled conscientiously, virtuously and effectively (though perhaps without his predecessor's panache) for 15 years.

Notwithstanding her educational progressiveness and her egalitarian ethos (indeed, at the time she was nothing short of revolutionary), Maurette was nonetheless animated by a firmly conservative sense of decorum and seemingly behaviour. In the words of our former Director General George Walker (who authored a superbly researched and unfailingly entertaining biography of Maurette):

"Like most educational innovators, Maurette retained a strongly conservative side to her character, which reinforced her credibility with adults and children alike. Reminding them that she had been born in the 19th Century, she would not hesitate to remove lipstick, nail polish and high heel shoes from the American students, and everyone's language and general behaviour were carefully monitored. School plays and dances were particularly patrolled, and parents were immediately telephoned if their child had offended."

On one occasion, with reference to their daughter's inappropriate interaction with the opposite sex, she explained to parents living in New York that in Ecolint "We quite approve of friendships with boys. We disapprove of mere flirtations." In another, more remarkable episode, which reflected her fiery feminism, she learned that a Boarding House student, in the course of a ferocious quarrel which she happened to overhear from her office, had slapped his girlfriend. Rather than react on the spur of the moment, Maurette suppressed her indignation and pondered the most educationally productive response to this intolerable aggression. The course of

action that she finally decided on would probably be met with grave disapproval today, but it may nevertheless have had the desired, salutary effect. On the evening of that same day, she marched into the Boarding House. The animated chatter of the boys subsided into mute puzzlement as they became aware of her authoritative presence and determined demeanour. After ascertaining which was the culprit's room, she went up to

centre stage in the school's institutional life. In her 99th year, as her life drew to a close, she expressed in a letter to a former colleague her concern that Ecolint might become "*une école banalisée*", indistinguishable from the thousands of schools that now attached to their names the fashionable label "international" and parroted the same worthy clichés, while serving the privileged transnational élites and dominant economic structures. She



Maurette, wearing her characteristic cape, chatting with Kurt Neumann in front of the *Vieille Maison* in La Grande Boissière

him and – to his astonishment – slapped him resoundingly on the cheek. As the sting of the slap faded, she exclaimed sternly, by way of explanation: "*Au nom de toutes les femmes!*"⁴ This proved not to be a traumatic experience for the young man, who many years later, upon recognizing Maurette in an airport in Canada, approached and greeted her with evident enthusiasm.

Moral compass

Captivating though they may be, these picturesque but relatively trivial aspects of Maurette's personality should not be allowed to overshadow her core contributions and lasting achievements, which crucially helped to define our conception of what Ecolint is. At the heart of Maurette's enduring mission was the moral vision to which she gave

certainly made certain that there was no drift in this direction during her tenure.

During her 20 years at the helm, Maurette ensured that injustice, oppression and exploitation remained at the forefront of the Ecolint's awareness. She did so not at the expense of the school's academic programme, which remained focused and rigorous, but by promoting critical thinking in an ethical light, depending on its appropriateness within each subject. In addition, she organized frequent school assemblies, during which she highlighted global issues – not least, disturbing developments on the international stage, of which there were many in the 1930s – and elicited reasoned responses from the students.

In addition, she prioritized a code of

⁴ It's worth noting that this was an exceptional episode. Unlike so many other European schools at the time, from 1924 onwards Ecolint never applied or condoned any form of physical punishment.



ethical conduct within Ecolint's diverse community that was conceived as a model for relations on a larger scale, between nations, cultures, religions and ethnicities. She was well aware of the foibles that are inherent to human nature, and therefore had no naïve expectations about creating a miniature paradise on earth, inhabited by nothing but saintly individuals. Nevertheless, she was uncompromising about certain essential Ecolintian principles, to which we must all stick through thick and thin, as she explained to the assembled students:

«*Vous pouvez vous disputer ; vous le ferez fatalement ; cela arrive à tous les enfants et à certains adultes. Mais, aussi furieux que vous soyez, vous ne devez jamais vous servir de la nationalité ou de la race comme terme d'insulte. C'est, dans cette école, le crime des crimes.*»

The list of personal characteristics that are out of bounds as a form of abuse could be expanded further, but Maurette's principle was clear: discrimination on the basis of traits that are inherent to an individual, rather than dependent on his or her free will, are utterly inadmissible in Ecolint. In my perception, for what it's worth, as an Ecolint student in the 1960s and 1970s, and faculty member since 1989, Maurette succeeded in rooting this principle deeply within the school's consciousness and *modus operandi*. Of course, some will remember an occasional *dérapiage*, an isolated, small-scale incident that in some way violated this ethos. But it's the evident anomaly of such episodes, and the firmness with which the community immediately rejected them, that bear witness to Maurette's living legacy.

Maurette was an inspiring and compellingly effective Director during "the peaceful years", as George Walker refers to them, from 1929 to 1939; but it was next stage of her mandate, "the war years", that truly tested her mettle.

World War II

Following the outbreak of World War 2, everything that could go wrong for Ecolint, went wrong. Geneva was to find itself surrounded by Nazi troops, which could have taken over the canton at a moment's notice – the Swiss authorities understandably deemed this part of their territory indefensible, and their resistance plan consisted of holding out in the Alps, known as "*le réduit national*." Underlining the unease, Fascist rallies of black-shirted children, singing "*Giovinazza*" with their arms raised in salute, took place on a

daily basis in front of the neighbouring *Château* (which at the time housed the Italian school – only in 1952 was Ecolint able to acquire the building), in full view of Ecolint's students. Frequent air-raid alerts meant that the entire school regularly had to seek refuge in the cellars of La Grande Boissière's *Grand Bâtiment*. Food was rationed, and all the available land on campus was devoted to vegetable farming and a chicken coop.

Many parents living abroad pulled their children out of the school to what they thought was safety within their families (depending on where they lived, in some cases this turned out to be a tragic mistake). Consequently, student enrolment initially plummeted to a catastrophic level – 80 students – before an influx of refugees from all over Europe (many of them Jewish) gradually pushed the numbers back up to a record 296. Paradoxically, this trend aggravated rather than alleviated the school's finances, as Ecolint took them all in unconditionally, regardless of the fact that many of the parents could not afford the school's fees. Other children found themselves entirely cut off from their families abroad, which consequently could contribute not a penny. Perversely, as Ecolint's costs increased, alongside its responsibility towards the growing number of children whom it had to instruct, feed, accommodate and protect, its revenue dwindled.

Drastic measures were taken: the heating was turned off throughout the winter, and students and teachers resigned themselves to huddling in their classrooms, accoutred in heavy overcoats, scarves and gloves. In parallel, the staff agreed unanimously to a reduction in their salaries – which were already quite modest.

This, then, was the situation that Maurette (who had lost her husband and soul-mate in 1937) had to cope with during the grim war years. That in doing so she was not only a source of inspiration but also – just as crucially at the time – of serenity is reflected by the sense of normality and "business as usual" that she managed to preserve in the school. The distinguished economist Erik Thorbecke – whom Conrad Hughes, Ninon Duran and I recently interviewed – was a student in Ecolint from 1939 till 1947. He was, of course, very much aware of the war – he would cycle over to the French border from time to time, to catch a glimpse of the occupying German troops – but as an Ecolint student he was so successfully sheltered from hardship and a sense of imminent peril

that his academic and social wellbeing were largely unaffected by the situation.

From the moment the war broke out on a large scale, in April 1940, Maurette prioritized the safety of Ecolint students, regardless of the cost or inconvenience to the school. In May 1940, when Germany launched its relentlessly successful invasion of France from the north, she identified and organized the evacuation of a substantial group of students who, by reason of their nationality or religion, would be particularly at risk should the Nazis occupy Geneva. A key element in her plan was to escort them to a holiday home she owned in Hendaye, bordering Spain on France's south-west coast, and wait with them there, recreating some semblance of school life in what was thought to be relative safety, and hoping for positive military developments. A young but no less courageous Australian teacher, Bill Oats, volunteered to accompany her on this mission.

No one imagined that the French army would collapse so quickly. By mid-June, the Germans had taken Paris. Returning to Geneva at that point was no longer an option, as crossing France was now too risky, and there was no guarantee that the group's Jewish children would be admitted back into Switzerland. Oats bravely agreed to rush with the students to Bordeaux, in a race against the rapidly advancing German troops, and find a ship that would carry them all to safety in England. In the nick of time, they were taken aboard a Dutch cargo ship bound for Falmouth, barely hours before Bordeaux fell to the Nazis and the port was closed.

Upon her return from Hendaye, Maurette was welcomed back warmly in the school, but she played down the drama of this heroic episode, in favour of the sense of calm and normality that she aimed to maintain for the benefit of the students' psychological and emotional wellbeing. If we know so many details about the exploit, it is thanks to the published account by Anne-Marie Walters MBE, one of the rescued students, who in 1943 was trained as a secret agent of the United Kingdom's Special Operations Executive, and was parachuted into occupied France in January 1944.

Maurette was always a passionately sincere advocate of economic, political and social justice and equality for all human beings, and World War II served only to consolidate her convictions. Her son, the filmmaker and Ecolint alumnus

Marc Maurette, had joined the French Communist party, and subsequently operated within its ranks during the war as a member of the *Résistance*, alongside another Ecolint alumnus, filmmaker and fellow communist, his friend Claude Jaeger. For Maurette also, communism increasingly seemed the only morally defensible future for mankind, and this

diverses sans jamais nous obliger à admettre sa solution. Elle nous a aidés à connaître et à comprendre, puis, le problème une fois posé, ne voulant plus nous influencer, elle s'est retirée, nous laissant seuls pour le résoudre.»

Clearly, Maurette encouraged independent thinking, and took some trouble to

Irreconcilable differences

By 1948, Maurette and Sweetser had been close friends and collaborators for almost a quarter of a century. Following the death of her husband in 1937, she had described Arthur and Ruth Sweetser as “my best friends.” Sweetser, Ecolint's *primum mobile*, had such trust in her capabilities and virtues that he had handed over to her his precious, fledgling school, and she had brilliantly lived up that trust for 19 years. Nevertheless, despite this intense partnership, and what might be described as platonic love between them, Maurette felt that her worldview was increasingly alienating her from Sweetser. By American standards, he was fairly left-leaning – but not nearly enough to satisfy her vision of the only just way forward for humanity, following the horrors of Nazism and Fascism, which she saw as by-products of capitalism. The latter was irredeemable, and Ecolint under her leadership would need to espouse this assessment. Ironically, perhaps, Maurette's intransigence in this respect was the natural extension of her unshakeable integrity, which Sweetser so admired. However, and not unreasonably, he could not go along with her vision for the school, and wrote to her emphasizing that it had to provide a haven for its students, transcending all forms of division among human beings, including ideological ones:



Maurette speaking in the Greek Theatre during Ecolint's 50th Anniversary (17 September 1974)

conviction began to tinge her habitual speeches to students – though not so blatantly that many of them noticed. She had little sympathy for Stalinism, however: one alumnus, the future U.S. general (and commander of the coalition forces in the 1991 Persian Gulf War) Norman Schwarzkopf remembered an assembly in 1948 during which “she made a passionate speech calling the [pro-Soviet] coup [in Czechoslovakia] the death of liberty.”

Another of Maurette's former students, Louis Johannot (who later became the director and co-owner of Le Rosey school), made a point of praising the intellectual autonomy that she fostered in her classes:

«(...) Mme Maurette [a] contribué plus que quiconque à enraciner en nous cette notion de l'individu isolé volontaire, sondant l'univers aux mille facettes pour y trouver la force de faire triompher son idéal personnel, son besoin de paix, sa notion du Bien, du Beau et du Vrai, son désir de bonheur d'autrui. Elle a su nous rendre réceptifs aux tendances les plus

avoid promoting openly her communist persuasions; nevertheless, while they may not have been perceived by her students, her scathing critique of capitalism was. Gertrude Hohenemser, another alumna, remembered verbatim her analysis of it:

«Ceux qui sont payés pour produire travaillent avec des outils et des machines qu'ils ne possèdent pas, et ceux qui en sont les propriétaires ne savent pas s'en servir et ignorent tout du métier.»

Notwithstanding these views, in 1947 Maurette spent more than two hectic months in the epicentre of capitalism, New York, in response to Arthur Sweetser's invitation to participate in the conception and foundation of his new venture, the United Nations International School (UNIS). She was a key and respected figure in this process, single-handedly producing the first draft of UNIS's curriculum, and scrambling to recruit suitable educators who would provide it with truly international credentials.

“The School is not Swiss, or French, or American, or British; it is not Catholic or Protestant, or Jewish, or Hindu and, while normally informed and instructed as to these great groupings, the children have not been involved in their bitter conflicts. It should be the same now with the ideological conflict.”

True to her principles, Maurette informed Sweetser in August 1948 that she would be stepping down as Ecolint's Director at the end of the following academic year. She deemed their ideological differences irreconcilable, while stressing that her affection for him as a kind and loyal friend would survive. Their final exchanges of correspondence are moving – heart-breaking is not too strong a word, given the articulateness and sensibility with which two elevated and ethical minds, that have been so attracted to each other, fail to find common ground, and must go their separate ways. The break-up could be described as the end of a great love affair, charged with pathos and worthy of a novel. Such was Maurette's energy that this drama did not paralyze her intellectually. That same summer, at the request of UNESCO, she published an essay that to this day is regarded as a classic in its field,

and could not be more relevant to Ecolint's mission: *Techniques d'éducation pour la paix – Existent-elles ?* (also published in English as: Educational Techniques for Peace – Do They Exist?), Nevertheless, notwithstanding her reputation and influence, and despite Sweetser's urging (after reading her above-mentioned UNESCO report, he wrote: "It has convinced me all over again that you have something absolutely unique to contribute to mankind's future, which no one else can offer"), Maurette modestly withdrew from the field of international education, which she had done so much to foster.

She returned to Ecolint only in 1974, to take part in the 50th anniversary celebrations, and delivered a bilingual speech in the Greek Theatre on the 17th September – the date of the school's foundation in 1924. She also agreed to make crucial contributions to the monumental "Red Book" that was published on that occasion: a brilliantly conceived overview of the school's birth and development, as seen through a multitude of complementary perspectives. Maurette died in June 1989, three months shy of her 99th birthday. And that, one might say, was that.

Except that Maurette keeps on returning to the school – increasingly so, as the years go by. Not phantasmagorically (there is every reason to believe that her soul is at peace), but spiritually, in the form of the interest in her work and personality that motivates scholars and researchers to reach out to Ecolint's historical archives, and to visit La Grande Boissière. Within the last year, five undergraduate students in French universities have contacted me, avid for information about Maurette, to the extent that they sought to interview me, as if I could offer them direct insights into this fascinating character – with whom, alas, despite my 43-year overview of Ecolint as a student and teacher, I did not overlap.

Not long ago, Geneva implemented an admirable initiative, seeking to highlight the political, social, cultural, artistic, scientific and intellectual contributions to the city by a range of local women who have been unfairly overlooked over the years in the naming of streets and squares. Rather than pettily and controversially substituting traditional names, the latter were charmingly complemented with additional mauve plaques, apportioned according to rigorous criteria. Each plaque succinctly defines the woman's role. This project, known as "100 Elles", is accompanied on line by a biographical outline of the selected women, including [Maurette](#).

Maurette's legacy

More than to any other of her qualities, Maurette's perennity is attributable to her integrity – a term that I have repeatedly employed in this article. Skilled and agile though she was at dealing with a wide range of situations and emergencies, with the panache of a nimble stateswoman, when it came to the crunch she would not compromise her fundamental moral convictions, regardless of the cost to herself.

In this respect she reminds one of Sir Thomas More, who in 1532 resigned as Lord High Chancellor of England rather than acknowledge Henry VIII as supreme head of the Church, although he knew that this decision might cost him his life – as, indeed, eventually it did. Regardless of what one thinks of More's religious beliefs, or of Maurette's communism, what is impressive in both cases is the steadfastness of their convictions in a mutating world, in which survival – literal, in the case of More, and professional, in the case of Maurette – required compromises. Of course, one does not want to melodramatize Maurette's fate: after all, it was she who confronted Sweetser with an impossible dilemma, not vice-versa, and she suffered no terrible consequences, but rather was remembered by all with affection, admiration and respect.

Nevertheless, we all find our moral bearings thanks to those who stick to their principles, unwaveringly and to their discomfort, without succumbing to the temptation of relativism and expediency in order to fit in with shifting circumstances or prevailing fashions. The seasons change, but they do not. Thus it was that Robert Whittington, a scholar contemporary with More, famously described the latter as "a man for all seasons." What better epithet than "Ecolint's Woman for All Seasons" can we apply to Marie-Thérèse Maurette? Not altering when she alteration found, for two decades Maurette guided our fragile school "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health", consolidating its ethos, its outlook, its practices and its self-confidence, thus laying the foundations of its future and enduring success.

Alejandro Rodríguez-Giovo
Emeritus Foundation Archivist

FURTHER READING:

- René-François Lejeune (editor), *Ecole Internationale de Genève – Son premier demi-siècle / International School of Geneva – the first 50 years*, Geneva: 1974, 311 pages
- Michael Knight, *Ecolint – A portrait of the International School of Geneva, 1924–1999*, Geneva: 1999, 218 pages
- George Walker, *Marie-Thérèse Maurette – Pioneer of International Education*, Geneva: 2009, 84 pages
- Othman Hamayed and Conan de Wilde, *Ecolint – A History of the International School of Geneva*, Geneva: 2014, 170 pages
- Roland Carrupt, *Marie-Thérèse et Fernand Maurette-Dupuy. Une biographie familiale entre la rue d'Ulm et les bords du Léman*, Université de Genève, Geneva: 2021, 378 pages



YOU MAY HAVE MISSED...

Life at Ecolint during World War II:

The distinguished economist Erik Thorbecke (LGB, 1948) granted us his precious time for an interview with Interim Director General, Conrad Hughes, in which he shares his experience of Ecolint during World War II.

Watch the interview here: bit.ly/3Rm1ZxZ

Escalade dinners around the world:

More than 15 Escalade dinners were organised in December 2022. Ecolint alumni relive the tradition of breaking a chocolate *marmite*, singing "cé qu'è lainô". If you want to participate next year, make sure you update your postal address and email in Ecolint Connect to be invited if dinners are organised in your area.

Not a member of Ecolint Connect yet?
Create your profile here: bit.ly/37fpTrX



Save the date for Ecolint's Kermesses:

This year there will once again be a Kermesse on each Ecolint campus. Book the date in your diary now to visit your former campus and enjoy the food on the stands. The Alumni Office will be there with all your yearbooks!

- La Grande Boissière: Saturday 6 May 2023
- Campus des Nations: Saturday 3 June 2023
- La Châtaigneraie: Saturday 3 June 2023

Check the events on *Ecolint Connect* for more information: connect.ecolint.ch/events

SOCIAL MEDIA

Ecolint on Facebook	facebook.com/ecolint
Ecolint on LinkedIn	sl.ecolint.ch/linkedinpage
Ecolint on Instagram	@ecolintgeneva
Alumni on Facebook	facebook.com/ecolintalumni
Alumni on LinkedIn	sl.ecolint.ch/linkedingroup
Alumni on Twitter	twitter.com/ecolintalumni

CHANGE OF ADDRESS? GET IN TOUCH !

Email:	alumni@ecolint.ch
Telephone:	+41 (0)22 787 25 55
Web:	connect.ecolint.ch (Alumni can update their own details on the website.)