

## CAO

DLO staff are sick of waiting. | p.5 |

## Cancer

Nanochip makes film of moving cells. | p.18 |

## Record

Student societies are hugely popular. | p.25 |

# RESOURCE <sup>[ENG]</sup>

For students and employees of Wageningen UR

no 2 – 27 August 2015 – 10th Volume



## Still moving to Wageningen

Even without a grant | p.12

**INTERNATIONAL  
EDITION**




## >> DANNY AND INGRID + ARCHERY

Danny Quak, desktop engineer with Facilities & Services + Ingrid Hijman, director of the honours programme at the Institute of Education



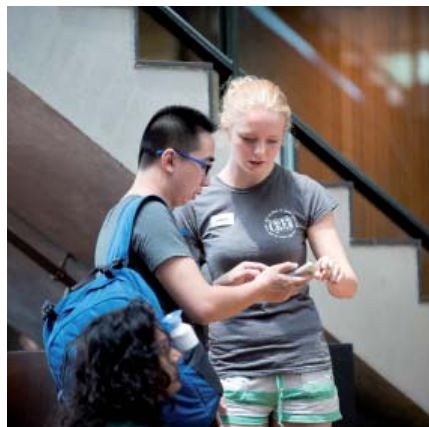
### 'Always aiming for the perfect shot'

A passion they share: that is what archery is to Danny Quak and Ingrid Hijman. Set, draw, aim and release... and the arrow whizzes to the target at 280 km/hour. He says: 'It's fabulous to hit the bullseye.' And it's something you can enjoy together; men and women are equals in archery. She says: 'All sorts of people come together here and learn from each other. I really love that.' To find out more: [www.ace-xclusive.nl](http://www.ace-xclusive.nl)  RK / Photo: Guy Ackermans



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## NEW STUDENTS

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Make green space appeal to everyone.



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Diary of an expedition.

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## FOLDERS

During the AID the sorting of waste was developed into a fine art. Everywhere you looked, you saw rows of containers for disposing of a total of 19 kinds of litter! Fantastic of course, but a glance into one of the bins threw a damper on my delight. At the end of the intro market, this bin was full of perfectly good cheese rolls. The AID board regretted this too, but the food bank sticks to strict hygiene rules. Anything that's not straight from the fridge is no good. I couldn't help thinking about the stream of emails coming into my inbox. A couple of years ago I taught Outlook to sort it all automatically. Newsletters in one folder, press releases in another. It felt like a triumph: a tsunami tamed. But it was a pyrrhic victory. As soon as an email drops into a folder, I read it anyway, too scared to miss something. Two weeks after my holiday there are still 54 emails waiting, of the 350. But they are neatly sorted in folders.

*Rob Ramaker*



>> [Plastic disappears from the ocean. | p.18](#)

# MOST STUDENTS STILL MOVE TO WAGENINGEN

- New students no longer get a basic grant.
- Even so, most first-years want to move to Wageningen.

Even though the basic grant has now been abolished, 87 percent of Wageningen first-years still want to move into lodgings: 65 percent of the students starting in September already have a room and 22 percent are looking for one. These figures come from a survey Resource held among 293 freshers during the AID week.

The new social loan system with the 'study advance' means these first-years do not get a basic grant. Students living away from home miss out on 286 euros a month while those living at home are 102 euros worse off. The difference could be up to 15 thousand euros for a three-year Bachelor's degree. Students still get an annual public transport pass and they have the right to a supplementary grant if their parents are on a low income.

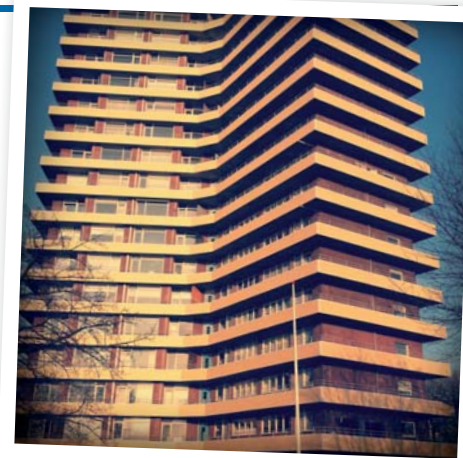
However these changes do not seem to be having much of an impact. Almost 30 percent of the students staying at home say that the new loan system affected their choice, but only six percent said that the financial situation was the main reason for not moving away from home. From talking to students, it seems that the new loan system was generally an additional factor in the case of people who were not sure whether to move anyway.

The student accommodation provider Idealis has also seen little change. 'The total number signed up is bigger than last year,' says spokes-

person Corina van Dijk, 'and the number of responses is comparable.' The corporation remains on the look-out for any signs of a fall but so far 'we really haven't seen this'. Van Dijk does say that more Wageningen students move than the national average. There are a number of reasons for this, she says. For instance, WU students have a lot of contact hours and it is often difficult to get to the university early using public transport. Wageningen also offers a lot of specialist degrees that attract students from all over the country.

But even students at other universities seem as keen as ever to move into lodgings. Accommodation providers in Nijmegen (SSHN) and Utrecht (SSH) also see no effect from the loan system.

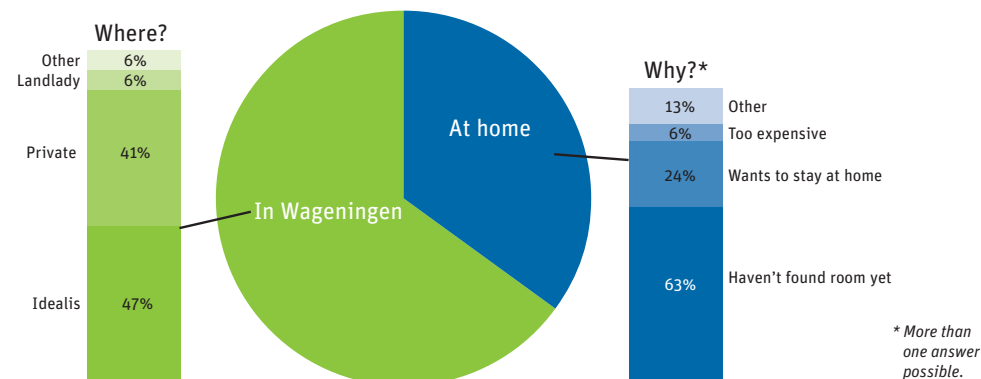
That is surprising given the many alarming predictions in the past year. For example the minister, Stef Blok, presented a survey among 6000 students in spring 2014. They were asked



whether they would have chosen differently if they had not had a basic grant. Half would have considered living with their parents for longer and 14 percent would even have contemplated never moving into lodgings. Surveys by the family budget institute Nibud and a TV current affairs programme gave similar results. **RR**

**'To university without a grant.'**  
Go to page 12 to read what students themselves think about the impact of the loan system.

## Where do first-years live?



## SOME BIOTECHNION MURAL ART TO CAMPUS

The ceramic relief on the wall of the Biotechnion will not be lost. The campus will provide a new home for this artwork by Henk Tieman. The ceramic plates, which surrounding the building on the first floor, will be relocated, which experts say can be done without damaging them.

The relief consists of 12 different glazed ceramic (chamotte) plates, each one and a half by five metres. The plans were made at De Porceleynse Fles in Delft, famous for its Delftware, where Tieman worked as head of the depart-

ment of Building ceramics. An artist has been asked to give the work a new lease of life on the campus.

For artist Peter Struycken's colourful mural art, however, the demolition of the Biotechnion does spell the end. He created the work in 1989 when the building was renovated. Struycken decorated the balconies with aluminium panels in pastel colours, ochre, green, blue and pink. He used a computer for the work, which was new in those days. There is no new lease of life ahead for this artwork. **RK**





## DLO STAFF WANT CAO NOW

- **Referendum by WUR Council.**
- **Majority satisfied with current result.**

About 85 percent of DLO-employees want a new collective labour agreement (CAO) now on the basis of the current state of the negotiations. Items where no agreement has been reached could be deferred until the next round of negotiations. This is the outcome of a consultation by e-mail of 2500 DLO staff that the WUR Coun-

cil carried out in the summer. Only eight percent voted not to accept the agreement and seven percent had no opinion. A total of 44 percent of the employees voted.

Trade unions and Wageningen UR have been negotiating for more than two years on a new CAO for DLO employees.

The outcome is striking as the unions have said DLO's current offer is not enough. In addition to a salary increase of two percent and a DLO-wide work-to-work scheme, the unions want 'compensa-

tion' for the statutory loss of the third year of unemployment benefit, for instance. It is not yet clear what the negotiators will do with the consultation result. The consultation has no formal status and the negotiating partners can just disregard the result. Back in November, the WUR Council called on the parties to reach an agreement quickly too.

'Without a CAO it's all up in the air.' Read what ordinary DLO staff think about the deadlock in the CAO negotiations on page 22. **RR**

## ©COLUMN|KEES

### Late summer stillness

The blackbird sits in the sun and regards me with a silent alertness. It is missing a few tail feathers from its matted plumage. Could it have had a scuffle with a cat? Its bare pink skin is visible. It flies soundlessly into the kiwi bush. The silence deepens.

It is always still in the summer months. Walking the dog through the neighbourhood and the woods the stillness engulfs me. No traffic noise from the N225, very few other dog walkers. It's like Sunday morning every day. No birdsong either. You find this kind of stillness high in the mountains. Very different to the spring when the birds drown out all other noise.

It makes me think of Dutch poet Rutger Kopland on Blackbirds: '... and there is something in you that is empty and it fills up with the song of the blackbird...'

My blackbird was sitting in the kiwi with its damaged feathers. Was it sad? Suddenly I understood: moulting is something you do in silence, otherwise you will fall prey to cats. All birds are silent at moulting time. That explains the ubiquitous late summer stillness.

I don't need new feathers, but the summer holiday is still a kind of moulting time. Recovering from an intensive teaching year. I've been quietly moulting too. Letting the sun get to my skin. Under my skin even. Through my pores I felt the sun seeking out the stress from the last year. And making it evaporate like sweat in the summer. A relaxed emptiness filled my body. Now the feathers in my brain are ready for the next academic year. I make a firm resolution to spend more time out of doors and less at the computer. **R**

**Kees van Veluw** (57) teaches Permaculture and is active in organic agriculture networks. His vision stems from his work with African farmers, his networks with Dutch farmers, his family life with his wife, three sons, dog and chickens.



### in brief

#### >> WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

##### Wageningen student eighth in heptathlon

Nutrition and Society student Nadine Visser came eighth in the heptathlon at the World Athletics Championships in Beijing. The 20-year-old athlete almost broke the Dutch record in the 100 metre hurdles. She was 0.04 seconds slower than Marjan Olyslager's record-breaking time of 12.77 that she recorded in 1989. Visser is now concentrating on the 4x100 metre relay, which she will be running on 29 August along with silver medallist Dafne Schippers. Visser is a newcomer in the relay team and will probably run the first leg. She admitted earlier that this was a good position as she still has trouble with the handover. The four relay women are reckoning on a place in the final. **LvdN**



Nadine Visser

#### >> ONE AND A HALF MILLION EUROS

##### Money for research on breeding

Research funding organization STW is giving one and a half million euros for animal breeding research in Breed4Food. The four breeding companies involved are also contributing one and a half million euros. This money will fund seven PhD candidates and three postdocs at Wageningen UR and other Dutch universities. The research programme focuses on genomics: systematically screening genetic information from cows, pigs and chickens. The researchers and companies want to use this information to improve animal welfare, reduce the environmental footprint of livestock animals and reduce the use of antibiotics in livestock farming. Breed4Food is an initiative of Wageningen UR and the breeding companies CRV, Cobb Europe, Hendrix Genetics and Topigs Norsvin. **AS**

#### >> DEFAULTERS

##### Bailiffs after more ex-students

One in five ex-students with a debt for their studies is a defaulter. This has emerged from a study by news broadcaster NOS. Some of them pay up after a reminder from DUO and then keep up to date. But two thirds do not respond to reminders so that in the end a bailiff has to be called in. This year, 122,000 ex-students had outstanding debts. Almost 76,000 people were contacted by a bailiff. Some of the debt defaulters do so on purpose but many are ex-students who never check their old email address anymore, or who forgot to notify their creditor of a new address. And some of the ex-students live abroad, making it difficult for student financier DUO to track them down. **AS**

# FORTY FIVE STUDENTS START ONLINE MASTER'S

- Beyond expectations.
- MOOCs are perfect advert.

About 45 students have enrolled for the online Master's degrees in Plant Breeding and in Nutritional Epidemiology and Public Health. 'That is more than expected,' says Ulrike Wild, director of Distance Learning. 'We only started advertising these programmes nine months ago. In China, for instance, we have hardly publicized them at all.' So far the students come from Europe, Canada, the US, Ecuador and a few other countries.

The online Master's degrees are intended for people already in jobs who want to do a degree on the side. The average age of the students is 31, reports Wild. These programmes are twice as long as the standard Wageningen courses, taking four years. 'We opted to have the students study in groups, all at the same tempo. There is a lot of interaction and group work. The advantage of that is that students can learn from each other, comment on



each other's work and encourage each other.' So the first cohort really will take four years over the programme. Speeding up the pace is not yet possible, as many courses for the second year (and beyond) still have to be developed. The students who start next year could have the option of taking a second year course at the same time and possibly graduating in three years, Wild expects. 'Ultimately the aim of the online Master's is to make education much more flexible. If someone takes a sabbatical and wants to graduate a bit sooner, that should be possible.'

As well as more flexibility in

terms of time, Wild is aiming at a less rigid distinction between students studying on the Wageningen Campus and people studying online. This is work in progress, but the lines between online and offline are already blurring. The free massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) launched by Wageningen University last year are already in use in on-campus education.

Spreading knowledge free of charge turns out to be an excellent marketing strategy. About one quarter of the (fee-paying) students soon to start on their online Master's took part in one of the Wageningen MOOCs last year. **KG**

## CYCLISTS' UNION WANTS TRAFFIC FLOW

- 200- metre shell path will do.
- WUR waiting for definitive plans.

A bike ride from Ede-Wageningen station to the campus without a single traffic light? That's possible if Wageningen UR cooperates, says the Cyclists' Union. But WUR doesn't want to take action now. The issue is the dirt path at the end of the Bornsesteeg. This stretch of a little more than 200 metres forms the missing link in a route leading to Ede station via the cycle tunnel under the Mansholtlaan, and the Bovenbuurtweg. But fences on both sides of it cut off this route. 'We don't need a wide cycle path. A shell path would do,' says Leo van den Berg of the Cyclists' Union. According to Ad van der Have of Facilities and Services, the plans for the northern exit from the campus need to become clear first. They include a separate cycle path along the Bornsesteeg leading to the traffic lights on the Mansholtlaan. **RR**

# MOVE TO HELIX POSTPONED AGAIN

- Air extraction still inadequate.
- Move may take place in October.

There has been another delay for the move into the new building Helix. The first researchers at the Dreijen are now scheduled to move to the campus on 1 October at the earliest. That is, if the building is technically totally sound on 28 August.

The planned handing over of Helix in May has already been postponed twice, till July and then

till August. There was a further delay because the air extraction system in the building was still inadequate,

says Bart Sjoerts, facilities manager at the Agrotechnology & Food Sciences Group (AESG).



There are strict requirements for Helix because the building contains a number of fume chambers. 'We are doing our utmost to have the building ready on 28 August.'

A number of chair groups, such as Microbiology, Biochemistry and Human Nutrition, have called off the planned move. Sjoerts is trying to get some of the cancelled moves planned in again in October. The remaining groups will be moving between October and January, at least if Helix passes the inspection. Otherwise it will be back to the drawing board yet again. 'And that,' says Sjoerts, 'is not a thought I want to entertain.' **RR**



# NUMBER OF FIRST-YEARS HAS RISEN

- About 1500 expected.
- Transition programme popular.

The number of first-year Bachelor's students is up by six to seven percent on last year, estimates Henk Vegter, head of the Quality & Strategic Information department. The number of new students on BSc programmes is thought to be around 1500. Last year there were 1418 newcomers.

But although the new academic year has in fact started, the definitive numbers are not yet known. On the basis of preliminary registrations with Studielink and years of experience, however, Vegter can make an educated guess. The weekly figures provided by Studielink show, for instance, that the number of preliminary registra-

tions goes down from June. Reasons for this can be secondary students failing their VWO exams or deciding to take a gap year after all. The number of new Wageningen BSc students now stands at 1590, according to Studielink. But knowing how the curve usually goes, Vegter assumes there will be just over 1500 first-years.

By far the biggest cohort is in Business and Consumer Sciences, with 180 students. The smallest first-year group is in Communication Science, but interest in this subject has grown. Numbers have not reached 20 yet (previously stated to be the critical lower limit for the viability of a programme) but the counter is now at 14 or 15, almost double the number in 2014. In Biology, Food Technology and Nutrition and health, about 140 new students are expected.

Vegter also expects a big in-



PHOTO: SYVEN MENSCHER

A new student signs up at the AID 2015

crease in the number of students on the transition programme. This programme caters for students who want to join an MSc programme but do not meet the admission requirements. Last year there were 82 'transition students'; this year Vegter expects 100.

Vegter has less idea of the recruitment figures for the Master's

programmes but he expects growth there too: a total influx of about 2000 students, compared with 1900 last year. The number of applications from abroad is not known yet (it was about 6000 last year) but not all of these are admitted and of those admitted, not everyone manages to get funding and complete the paperwork. **KG**

## 'I DON'T FRET ABOUT IT'



### What sort of reactions did you get after the show was broadcast?

'I got a nice message from Louise Fresco and hundreds of emails. But the nicest for me was what the rector at the Technical University of Delft said to the first-years there. He encouraged them to look up that installment of *Zomergasten* because they would find in it the warmest plea ever made for the work of engineers. And I know that because my daughter was in the room, blushing deeply.

### Have you watched the programme yourself?

'No, I don't fret about it. It is quite painful watching yourself and it doesn't strike me as interesting at all.'

### Was it intimidating to be there?

'It was an incredible honour. But I found it hard that I couldn't talk for three hours about my work as a designer. An interviewer doesn't have the background knowledge to go into it at such length or in depth. What is more, you are tied by the format with the short films. So we decided to talk about my sources of inspiration, such as the Dutch landscape. And of course how, in the formation of that landscape, the engineer has been pushed into the background and replaced by managers and lawyers.'

### Were you able to do justice to that story?

'I am never satisfied and now, too, I think I could have done a better job. But going by the reactions it is crystal clear that people did get the message. There was a lot of response to the photos of Leiderdorp, an example of the un-

believable ugliness of the modern Dutch landscape. And to the poetry of Ter Balkt, too.

'And of course, everyone had their own view on Monday morning by the coffee machine. The presenter didn't understand anything, the guest was boring, they didn't pursue the only interesting point... That is traditional with *Zomergasten* and it is part of what makes it so nice.' **RR**



Adriaan Geuze talking to Wilfried de Jong.

**Who?** Adriaan Geuze, extraordinary professor of Landscape Architecture

**What?** A three-hour interview on TV chat show *Zomergasten*

**What about?** He talked about the Dutch tradition of engineers who create new land

# NATURE NEEDS A MORE DIVERSE SUPPORT BASE

- Nature conservation is the preserve of ethnic Dutch.
- Chinese Dutch rarely visit the woods.

Ethnic origin is a factor in a person's contact with nature. Nature conservation organizations must take this into account if they want to expand their support base. This conclusion has been reached by Marjolein Kloek in her thesis entitled *Colourful Green*, in which she studies the differences between young Dutch adults of Turkish, Chinese and ethnic Dutch origins with respect to their perception of nature and outdoor recreational behaviour. Kloek's work was commissioned by Staatsbosbeheer. At present, one in five Dutch people are immigrants, while nature conservation is primarily a 'white' pursuit.

As well as conducting group discussions, Kloek carried out an extensive survey among more than 1000 young adults aged between 18 and 35. The results are striking. In the last three months just one in three of the respondents had spent some recreational time in a rural environment outside their home town or city. The figures for visits to urban green spaces were higher: at some time half had been to the city park to sit, walk, cycle, barbecue or engage in some other recreational activity.

However, the differences between the young people themselves are also considerable. Chinese

Dutch people, for example, seldom use green space. Only 30 percent had visited a green space in their town or city and just 20 percent, a green space further afield. Twice as many Dutch people of Turkish and ethnic Dutch origin (40 percent) had spent recreational time outside the city. In the city Dutch people of Turkish origin take the cake: no less than 70 percent of the young people said they had visited a green urban site in the last three months.

And so, says Kloek, ethnicity plays a role. 'What's relevant is not the fact that you are an immigrant, but your cultural background. You cannot lump all immigrants together. But ethnicity is not the only fac-

tor. Everyone has several identities. You are not only of Turkish or Chinese origin, you are also a young person or, say, a nature-lover. All these various identities determine how you think about nature and how you experience it.'

Kloek's work also demonstrates that nature conservation organizations could certainly do with more diversity. Of the Turkish-Dutch respondents, only one percent were members of a nature conservation organization and none had done voluntary work in the last year. In fact, half of them couldn't name a single nature conservation organization. 'That's worrying,' says Kloek. For that matter, one in eight ethnic

Dutch respondents couldn't name a nature organization either.

Despite this lack of familiarity and active involvement, two out of three young people do think that nature conservation is important. Which leads Kloek to conclude that nature conservation organizations have their work cut out for them to turn that positive feeling into active engagement. 'Staatsbosbeheer, for example, is busy setting up a multicultural youth council,' says Kloek. 'The council will act as a sounding board when, for example, nature areas are being designed. This can help to create a support base and to increase involvement in nature conservation.' **RK**



PHOTO: JANINE SCHRIJVER

A summer's day in Rotterdam's Vroesen Park

## WEIJERS NOMINATED AS 'SCIENTIFIC TALENT 2015'

Plant science researcher Dolf Weijers is one of 25 nominees for the scientific talent of 2015. The winner will be announced in Amsterdam on 24 September. The talented scientists were selected by a jury from 50 candidates nominated by Dutch

and Flemish universities.

Dolf Weijers, personal professor in the Biochemistry chair group, studies the development of plants right down to the minutest level. Earlier this year he obtained a Vici grant, and in 2013 he was teacher of

the year at Wageningen University.

Weijers considers it 'an honour' to be nominated but is not planning to start lobbying hard for votes, except for a couple of messages. He is the only Wageningen researcher to be nominated.

The public can vote up until 7 September on [www.newscientist.nl/talent](http://www.newscientist.nl/talent) Along with the jury's assessment, the vote will decide the winner of the first scientist of the year award. The winner gets a book package and 1500 euros. **RR**



# CAGE EGGS MORE SUSTAINABLE THAN FREE-RANGE EGGS

- Measured by the people, planet and profit principle.
- Following studies on potatoes and milk.

The most sustainable eggs in the Netherlands come from chickens in enriched cages. Barn eggs score lowest, shows a Wageningen study comparing the sustainability of cage, organic, barn and free-range eggs.

Researchers from Rikilt, Biometris, the LEI and Food & Biobased Research used their own research and the literature to see how the different eggs scored in terms of environment (including CO<sub>2</sub> emissions), welfare, food safety and price. This led to sustainability scores in the areas of people, planet and profit, with a production system coming out as the 'best practice' in each category.

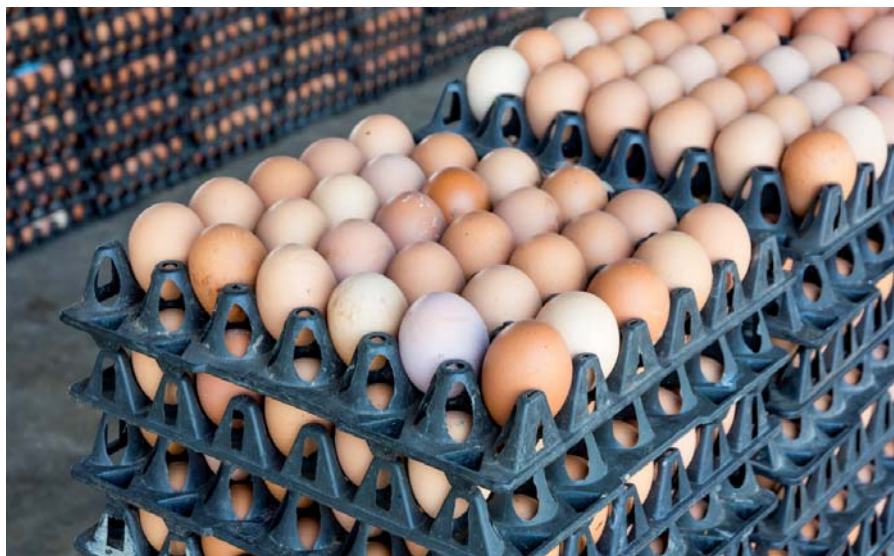
From the environmental point of view, eggs from enriched (or 'furnished') cages (cages with 750 cm<sup>2</sup> per layer hen) came out best. This system produces the least ammonia and CO<sub>2</sub> per animal, the researchers established. Free-range and organic eggs had the lowest environmental score. But when it came to 'people' issues (welfare, food safety and the consumer), free-range eggs scored best and the enriched-cage and barn hen scored low. As for economic performance, the enriched cage and the organic egg were the best

bets. If you give equal weight to all the criteria, the enriched-cage egg scores highest on sustainability and the barn egg the lowest, concludes researcher Esther van Asselt of Rikilt.

She did the study for the ministry of Economic Affairs, which wanted to gain insight into the sustainability of various agricultural production systems. 'If you prioritize animal welfare, you want a different egg than you do if the environment is more important to you,' says Van Asselt.

The egg research is part of a triad of studies. Van Asselt previously studied the sustainability of milk and potatoes. In the potato study she distinguished between standard, organic and urban farming potatoes. The urban farming potato scored best in 'people' terms, the standard potato in 'planet' terms, but the differences in the overall sustainability scores were negligible.

In the milk study she differentiated between standard, organic and raw milk. To her astonishment, raw milk came out best and standard milk worst. 'The energy and transport costs are lower for raw milk. At Rikilt we are not so happy with that result, because raw milk poses a food safety risk. At the end of last year a child died in Australia after drinking raw milk infected with *e. coli*. A government can stimulate production, but then the producer must install hygiene measures and monitor more.' **® AS**



## VISION <<

### 'We must create a better world'

Refugees are pouring into Europe, mainly because of the growing number of conflicts and wars in nearby regions. How can we solve this? First take refugees in, then invest in conflict prevention, says Thea Hilhorst, professor of Humanitarian Aid and Reconstruction at Wageningen University.



#### Are we being inundated?

'We shouldn't exaggerate. In the EU the number of refugees now constitutes 0.2 percent of the population. Surely we can look after them? England is now taking in fewer refugees than five years ago. Compare that with a country like Lebanon, where there are now 1.7 million Syrian refugees.'

#### Isn't it better to cater for them in the region though?

'That is true but there are limits. Even though the budgets for humanitarian aid rose last year from 20 to 24 billion dollars, they cannot keep up with the growth in humanitarian crises. At the moment there are conflict flashpoints in more than 30 countries, all with substantial aid programmes. The world food programme does not have enough funding to provide all those refugees in the region with food; it has to be rationed.'

#### Is there a solution?

'There is too little discussion about how you can reduce the number of refugees. It is ironic that we have economized in recent years on international diplomacy and development aid. It is often possible to prevent conflicts. We should invest in conflict preventions and in risk reduction for natural disasters, to remove the cause of the migration flow. We must create a better world.'

#### And in the short term?

'We must take in more refugees. I wouldn't mind taking one in at home. And then there will be a UN conference next year to see whether we can organize the reception of refugees better and more efficiently. Now it costs an average of 200 dollars per refugee – that covers food and shelter. I don't think that's much; I don't think it can be done any more cheaply than that.' **® AS**



# NANO CHIP FILMS CANCER CELL

- Chip is  $\frac{1}{4}$  by  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a millimetre in size.
- Electric image in high resolution.

Working together with researchers from Twente and Italy, Wageningen plant scientists have developed a sensor which can electrically record moving cells. This opens up new possibilities, for example for testing anti-cancer medicines.

The sensor is based on a prototype chip produced by Eindhoven-based company NXP. The gadget is one quarter by one quarter of a millimetre in size and contains about 65,000 pixels. Because each of these can separately measure the electrical characteristics of its immediate environment, with all the pixels put together you get an electric image of a cell in a very high resolution, explain researchers Maarten Jongmsma and Harrie Verhoeven. They have used this technology to make a film of an aggressive cancer cell trying to attach itself to the surface of the chip. The film is on resource-online.nl.

Cells have an electrical field around them, explains Verhoeven, but you cannot usually see it. NXP's sensor makes its own electrical field and the degree to which it is disturbed tells us what is up with the cell. The research required input from three scientific fields. The Italian researchers created a mathematical model that describes how the sensor should work. The Twente researchers calibrated the sensor with miniscule plastic and gold droplets in order to be able to interpret the disturbance to the electrical field properly. And the Wageningen researchers hit upon the idea of using the nanosensor to study cells and supplied the knowledge of cells that was needed.

To date researchers usually examine cells with an optical micro-



One of Harrie Verhoeven's contribution to this project was his knowledge of cells.

scope, but that does not provide any information about the electrical state of the cell. This new method provides you with a new kind of camera for examining cells, says Jongmsma. 'It is an elec-

**'It is an electrical gadget with which we can actually measure the energy balance of the cell,'**

trical gadget with which we can actually measure the energy balance of the cell,' says Verhoeven. They published their finding this month in the top journal *Nature nanotechnology*.

What kind of new insights the miniscule camera chip will provide, the researchers do not know yet. 'Now we have shown what the camera can register,' says Verhoeven. 'The film speaks for itself.' The technique could help medical researchers with their cancer re-

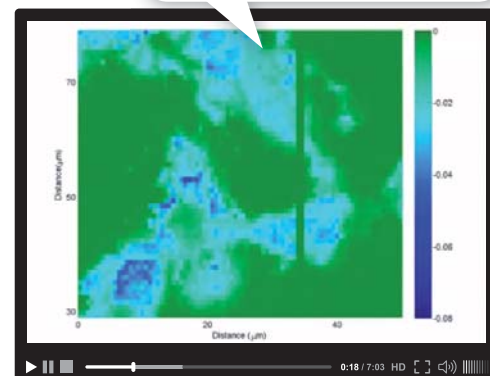
search, to find out whether anti-cancer medicines are taking effect, for instance. But it could also be used in research on plant cells or for registering entirely different processes at cell level.

To make this possible, the chip still needs fine-tuning, says Verhoeven. By varying the frequency at which measurements are taken, you can change the depth of the image. He would also like to do further research on exactly what the images captured by the nano camera show. To this end he wants to measure cells simultaneously with a fluorescence microscope and these electrical sensors, 'so that we can pinpoint exactly what they see.' As the camera is a new way of looking inside cells, he expects it to generate new insights in cell biology.

At present the

CMOS (complementary metal-oxide semiconductor) chip can only take photos of cells outside the body. Jongmsma and Verhoeven do not exclude the possibility of making an even smaller nano camera that could navigate through our bodies recording cells. **AS**

See how cancer cells move on [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl)





The holidays are over. That is evident on our website. Wageningen is coming back to life. Welcome back! Postpone work and studying for just a moment and join us online to read and discuss the latest issues.

REACTIONS ON...



# RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL

## A BRIDGE TOO FAR

The forum bridge continues to occupy hearts and minds. Last July, to make the bridge safer, an extra pedestrian path was installed next to the existing bike lane.

Online responses to the renovation have been critical. 'By the way, the bridge is only suitable for off-road cycling,' writes **off road**. 'My ordinary racing bike gets rattled to pieces when I cycle over it.' Others are worried about the unobtrusive white lane divider that has been installed. They envisage accidents as soon as it starts snowing. But it is the vibrations caused by the rough surface layer that give rise to the most irritation. 'Cycled over this bridge for the first time this morning,' writes **Vibrator**, 'was worse than I had expected. What vibrations; my vibrator is nothing compared to that.' People are starting to wonder how Wageningen UR can have spent two years struggling to make one little bridge safe when there are cycle bridges all over the Netherlands. An international student suspects that it is an experiment in social psychology. Hypothesis: students who have been rattled awake, pay attention better. 'But then... I think that the ethical commission would never approve such a disastrous bridge.'

## FEMALE AMBITIONS

A female student and a recent female graduate of Wageningen University have set up a platform for ambitious women. They have noticed that a glass ceiling still exists in science.

This draws a particularly irritated response. 'Always bleating, complaining and moaning,' writes **Reële rover**, 'instead of putting their

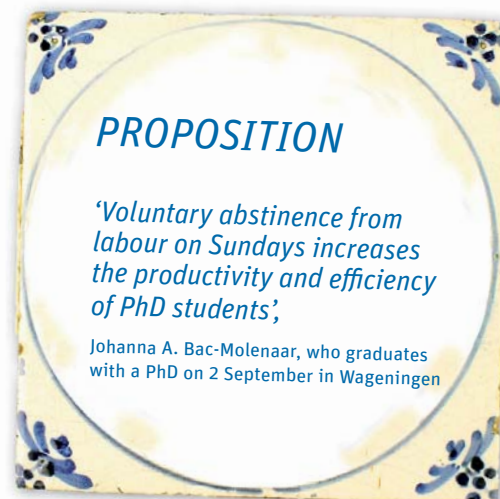
shoulders to the wheel and going for it with determination.' This frustrated bandit says that there are countless opportunities for people in the Netherlands. You just have to grasp them. What's more: 'If you have neither a penis nor a Dutch name, jobs tend simply to land in your lap.' The last comment in particular draws disbelief. Respondents wonder what rock the commentator lives under. **Lekker janken** responds with a vicious counterpunch. 'The shortage of women in the refuse-collection sector really gets my goat. The rubbish-bag ceiling still exists.' Once all the armchair experts have spent their bile, compliments are paid to the platform's originators. 'Constructive; with tough cookies like them, we'll get there.'

## PARDON MY FRENCH!

Nice eh, doing a minor abroad, writes guest blogger Lucas du Pré. But often they are just a jaunt. For good teaching you would do best to stay in Wageningen.

Du Pré recounts a story told by Maxwell, who in *Resource* last year told of his wish to go to Cornell in the US. Nico reproaches the blogger for being oblivious to the American university's strict admission requirements. Maxwell must have more than an 8 and will soon be a member of a select group. 'Wageningen simply isn't in the same league.' What's more there are all kinds of other reasons for doing an exchange,

writes **Rolf**. An elite university like that looks good on your CV. It is [...] good for your verbal English skills. And as part of the teaching, you learn 21st century skills.' **Luca Peters** is also keen to emphasize that there is more to a period abroad than just loafing about. On quatorze juillet she writes about her student experience in Bordeaux. She was in small groups there, had a lot of contact hours and a heavy workload. 'So there really are [...] possibilities for getting a good education abroad.' @ RR





# To university without a grant



This year's cohort of Dutch first-year students do not get a government grant but a loan. Borrowing money was expected to influence their behaviour. But there is no sign of that yet. We asked around during the introduction days and found that the first-years do not see a loan as a problem and most are still moving to Wageningen. 'It is a fait accompli. Protesting is pointless now.'

**text:** Rob Ramaker / **photo:** Sven Menschel





**I**t is dark in the big hall at De Bongerd sports centre. Down one side of the room there are screens, mats and cupboards with red and blue lamps dancing around them. Once your eyes are used to the dark you see that behind those lamps are first-years moving around with plastic weapons in their hands. They are shooting at each other and the lamps flicker at every hit. This is Christian student society NSW's introductory activity for newcomers.

You can see this afternoon that the AID is already into its fifth day. Towards the end of their round the laser gamers shuffle around, making very little effort to avoid enemy fire. One lanky red-faced lad sinks into a chair in the Bongerd pub and stares blankly. Is the introduction fun? 'Oh yes.' And what else was he planning to do today? He gives this a moment's thought. 'I'm going to have a nap.'

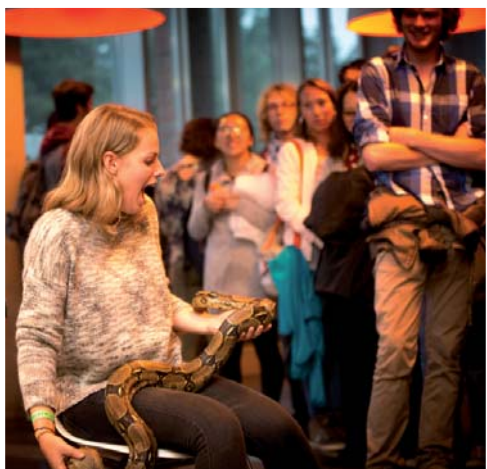
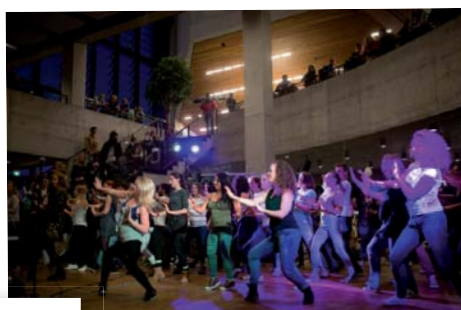
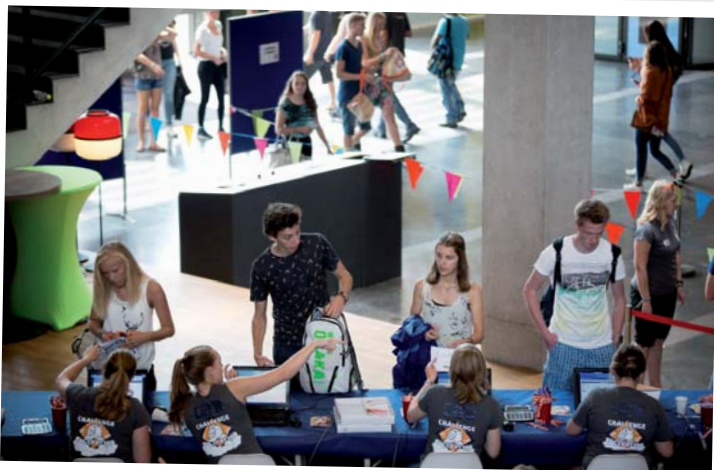
For a week Wageningen has been taken over by roaming bands of lads and lasses sporting coloured armbands and brown AID bags. With a broadly similar programme every year, it is difficult to separate the various past editions in your memory. But there is something different about this year. After years of uncertainty, the basic grant has been scrapped, a loss of 15,000 euros over a three-year bachelor's course. Students do still get a free public transport pass but must now cover their own maintenance. This means borrowing more from DUO, working more or receiving more support from their parents. Student organizations are worried that student life will enter a downwards spiral as a result of this system. They are afraid first-years will be slower to move away from home, less inclined to join a society and strongly focused on studying efficiently.

But the first-years at the Bongerd aren't talking about the loan system at all, as it turns out. 'It's not really a big issue, no,' agree Thom (Nutrition & Health), Alger (Biology) and Joep (Plant Sciences). At the AID your mind is mainly on partying. They were at Nji-Sri until about three am last night – they don't know exactly what time it was – and then they partied at SSR-W until breakfast. 'A good party', they all agree.

The trio are definitely moving to Wageningen, basic grant or not. But there wasn't really any choice: they all live far away. Joep comes from Hoorn and Alger from Sint Nicolaasga in Friesland – in both cases, two hours' drive away. Thom could in theory have opted to live at home: as the crow flies his parental home in Culemborg is nearby. But in practice it still means three hours' travel per day.

A great many AID participants say staying at home is not an option because of the distance. That is nothing new: a relatively large proportion of Wageningen students move to the town. A survey of thousands of Dutch students in 2012 showed that only six percent of all Wageningen students – from first-years to Master's students – live at home, compared to a national average of 27.5 percent. Wageningen University offered a lots of specialized programmes, so students





come from nationwide. Because of the large amount of contact time, lectures often start at 8.30 in the morning. It is often too difficult, or even impossible, to reach Wageningen by public transport by that time.

The survey carried out by Resource during the AID also suggests that new Wageningen students are still moving into rooms in town. Currently 65 percent already have a room and another 22 percent hope to find one in the first year. This impression is confirmed by Corina van Dijk from student housing provider Idealis: 'The total number signed up is bigger than last year, and the number of responses is comparable.' Idealis is on the lookout for the effects of the loan system. 'But we are not seeing anything.'

At Cantil, student society KSV's clubhouse, the first-years look a lot more active than they did at the Bongerd. Outside a few students (mainly men) are bobbing about in the 'pond', an improvised swimming pool, and some people are playing beach volleyball. It is dry at last: this is the first day of the AID on which there has been less than 15 millimetres of rain. And yet one KSV member asks whether lots of first-years are still in bed – it's so quiet.

Social societies such as KSV were very worried beforehand about the new loan system. The national umbrella association of student societies (LKV) had also opposed the introduction of the system, saying it would 'destroy the atmosphere of university life.'

But today there doesn't seem to be a cloud in the sky for KSV. 'Everyone is talking about joining a society,' says Daphne (Health and Society). Around her on the clubhouse roof, people are sitting chatting at long tables. Daphne has just been cutting Belgian fries and the last load is on its way to the fryer. There is now just a mountain of potato peel and a colander full of greasy toilet paper and mayonnaise on the table. KSV recruitment is going well, after all. The society seems to have even more applicants than last year, in fact.

Daphne is not going about student life any differently because she isn't getting a grant. She had to move to Wageningen too – she comes from South Limburg, but she did not consider switching to her local university, Maastricht. The Health Sciences degree there takes a different angle and is more natural sciences-oriented. So it had to be Wageningen, and her parents were happy to help financially. 'Now I am only borrowing to pay the tuition fees.'

The more first-years you talk to, the more you might start to think that nobody is at all bothered by the loan system. But a sharp older student at NSW remarks that there is one group we won't be talking to at the AID: the people who decided against going to university. If you really look, there are first-years for whom the loan system was decisive in not renting a room. Jur is one of them: a new student of Soil, water and Atmosphere, who is hanging out with three people from his group at a high table in Buurman and Buurman cafe. The workshop on serving draught beer, run by the Brabant Students Guild, has finished and a few first-years are playing cards. Jur was already doubtful about whether to rent a room. 'When I knew I wasn't going to get a grant, my decision was clear.' This year he will be making



a 45-minute journey each way to attend classes. He had wanted to join a society, but he has decided against it. 'Perhaps I will regret it,' he says, 'but the difference is too big, financially. I'll review the situation again in the second year.'

Others who are staying at home have done the sums for the long term. Sophie (Molecular Life Sciences) is playing with her smartphone in the Bongerd. The loan system has had a big effect on her plans. At first she was still thinking about going to university in Enschede, but in the end she opted for Wageningen, which is easy to reach from her home in Veenendaal. Sophie already knows she wants to go on to do a PhD. She is not heading for a highly paid job so she has decided firmly not to pile up tens of thousands of euros in debt. In Resource's survey, almost 30 percent of the students who are staying at home said the loan system played a role in their decision. For six percent, the price of a room was another strong reason not to move away from home. Her AID companions are open-mouthed in wonder. 'You have already got it all worked out.' They themselves have not changed their plans, they say with a shrug. And they don't want to worry about that now. 'It's a fait accompli; protesting is pointless now.'

This attitude of resignation is common among first-years. There is nothing to be done about it, and they don't give it any more thought. What these first-years want is exactly what all previous cohorts have wanted. To get to know new people, to decide which society to join, and above all to have interesting and enjoyable years in Wageningen. 'Of course it would have been nice to have been given money,' says Joep, who we met earlier at the Bongerd with Alger and Thom. 'And it does feel unfair.' Joep knows someone who did the five-year HAVO course at High School and then completed the first year of an applied sciences degree before transferring to Wageningen. So this person got into higher education in time to get a grant. 'And there I was, dutifully carrying on to VWO level.' On the other hand, the conditions for the loan are quite friendly and none of the three intends to borrow the maximum possible. Alger gets a supplementary grant, and Joep wants to get a job.



Will they manage that way? Hard to say. They have only been in Wageningen a few days now and they don't know how life will be. 'I have no idea how much I will spend,' says Joep. It might be less than he expects, it might be more. 'It would be chill to start out in life without a debt,' says Thom. They move on: there is no sign of the Frisian pole-vaulting workshop at the Bongerd. 'That would have been a nice activity for our Frisian friend Alger,' say Joep and Thom with a grin.


They'll be taking it easy tonight and saving their energy for tomorrow. Then they want to let their hair down one last time at the AID festival. ③

**Want to relive the AID?  
Look at the photo series  
on [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl)**





## THE NEXT STOP IS....

The bus driver might have expected a sunnier start when he drove the first bus across the campus. It is Monday morning on 24 August and Line 84 drops off the first passengers at the Campus/Forum bus stop. A little further on there is the Mondriaanlaan stop near the student residence and the Noordwest neighbourhood. Spokesperson René Nekkers of Syntus bus company says the Valleilijn is one of the busiest routes on the Veluwe. You wouldn't think it from this photo (taken in the holidays) but on a normal weekday 5000 passengers make use of the line between Ede and Wageningen.  EvL/RK / Foto: Guy Ackermans









# Plastic lost in the ocean

Plastic is disappearing from the plastic islands in the oceans, and at a fast rate. Jan Andries van Franeker has demonstrated this by comparing plastic samples from these islands to the stomach contents of northern fulmar on the North Sea. Where all that plastic goes to remains a mystery.

**text:** Roelof Kleis / **photo:** Foto Dijkstra

**W**hen a northern fulmar is washed up somewhere along the Dutch North Sea coast, there is a fair chance it will end up on Jan Andries van Franeker's dissecting table. The biologist (at Imares, on the island of Texel) has been monitoring these birds since the late nineteen seventies. Van Franeker is chiefly interested in their insides: to be precise, in the bits of plastic in their stomachs. The northern fulmar acts as a gauge of the pollution of the sea.

In over three decades of research, Van Franeker has handled nearly 1000 northern fulmars. Birds which met their end for one reason or another and were washed up on the beach. A network of volunteers helps him with this, bringing him an average of 40 birds per year. 'But it varies tremendously. In top

years I can get 140 birds in. But this year I got extremely few, only 11. I need to expand my network. About 40 birds is a good sample.'

Until the beginning of this century this was a labour of love and did not bring in a cent. That changed in 2002 when the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment commissioned a study of the northern fulmar as a window into pollution levels in the North Sea. Nowadays the bird is the official yardstick for pollution in the North Atlantic. An acceptable limit has been set at fewer than 10 percent of the washed-up birds with more than 0.1 grams of plastic in their stomachs. Van Franeker monitors this annually for the government. It is actually decades since that European norm has been achieved. Almost 60 percent of the birds have too much plastic in their stomachs, reveals Van Franeker's work. But there is good news as well. In spite of the explosive increase in the use of plastic in recent decades, the net weight of the plastic in the fulmars' stomachs has increased very little. 'That is a relative gain,' explains Van Franeker, looking on the bright side. But there is one big reservation. The weight of the plastic may not have risen, but the number of plastic particles per bird has. The average northern fulmar in the nineteen eighties had five pieces of plastic in its system: half what fulmars are carrying around today.

The reason for this is a change in the makeup of the plastic waste in the sea. The amount of 'industrial' plastic

has gone down by 75 percent within two decades. Van Franeker: 'We are talking about the plastic pellets four or five millimetres in diameter that are used for plastic products. There has been a big drop in the number of those industrial pellets. Apparently much less is getting lost in factories and during transportation.' But these heavier pellets have been replaced by a big increase in the lighter particles of consumer plastic. Plastic that comes from you and me and ends up in the sea.

The question is, where does the industrial plastic go to? Since the discovery of the 'plastic soup', the answer has seemed obvious: in one of the five plastic islands on the oceans. But is

**'Where all that plastic goes to remains a mystery'.**

that really the case? Van Franeker compared his plastic data on the northern fulmars with data from the Sea Education Association (SEA), which has been monitoring the amounts of plastic in the North Atlantic gyre since 1986. With a large net the SEA fishes out plastic from the top layer of the plastic 'island' there and does some simple calculations to work out the density of plastic per square kilometre.

There is a striking similarity between the two data sets. At the heart of the plastic island too, the industrial plastic has gone down by three quarters, from about 1000 to 250 particles per km<sup>2</sup>. The amount of consumer plastic has remained roughly the same. The big drop





in industrial plastic proves incontrovertibly, says Van Franeker, that plastic is disappearing from the islands on a large scale. 'With a continuous influx you would expect more and more industrial plastic. But that is not what is happening. On the contrary, even with a continuous influx of waste, the island is losing plastic. And at a fast rate: 75 percent in less than 20 years. That is incredibly fast. And where it goes to, nobody knows.'

Van Franeker's analysis supports alarming findings published last year, which show that only five percent of the plastic dumped in the oceans every year is in the plastic islands. Van Franeker: 'There must be stuff sinking to the bottom. And bits of the plastic definitely break off and get washed up along coasts. And I am convinced that animals contribute too by ingesting the plastic. Birds grind it down and spread it in their excreta. But where the rest goes remains a mystery.' The research on the lost plastic is still in its infancy. The problem with it is, says Van Franeker, that the smaller the plastic, the harder it is to track it down. 'Ultimately you are talking about the nano scale. Then the question is what that plastic does to the environment. That question about

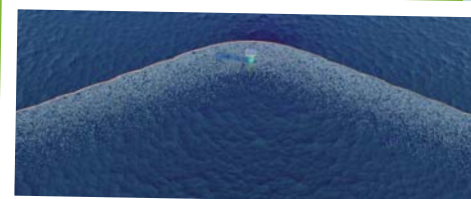
the possible environmental damage is even harder to answer. You can show effects in the lab, but is that how it works in the natural world?'

But prevention is better than a cure, reckons the Texel-based biologist. 'As long we don't have those answers, I favour caution. And the government should be playing a far bigger role there, if you ask me. There is a big question mark hanging over the excessive use of plastic that is going on now. The use of packaging material is unregulated and people just do what they like. There is a complete lack of regulations. Why isn't there a deposit on plastic bottles, for instance? In Scandinavian countries, plastic bottles are reused. Why can't we do that here? ®

*Information about the fulmar research at Imares can be found at [www.wageningenur.nl/plastic-stormvogels](http://www.wageningenur.nl/plastic-stormvogels)*

## THE OCEAN CLEANUP

Dutchman Boyan Slat is getting publicity around the world with his idea for cleaning up the plastic islands in the oceans. 'A lot of money and effort that would be better spent in other ways,' says biologist Jan Andries van Franeker. Far and away the most plastic at sea is not found in those islands. And the islands are not containers where the plastic collects permanently, but are more like dynamic waystations. 'So it's also doubtful what results you will get. We don't know exactly what the side effects of that kind of cleanup would be. You sweep it all up and will catch all kinds of other things with it, such as seaweed and plankton. It is much more effective to tackle the problem in polluted estuaries.' Van Franeker deplores the image people have of the plastic islands, too. 'They are not the sort of island you could stand on. That image was powerful for drawing attention to the problem but now it is time the public got a more realistic picture of the plastic islands.'






# Research among the polar bears

Just one Wageningen student was allowed to join a research expedition to Spitsbergen. She kept a diary of her adventures.

**text:** Hilde de Laat, Linda van der Nat, Rob Ramaker

**P**olar bears and whales, glaciers and ice floes. All the n beauty of a BBC documentary, and Master's student of biology Hilde de Laat has been seeing it all with her own eyes on the northern archipelago of Spitsbergen. She was one of the 50 lucky scientists, students, journalists and tourists who got to go along to the island of Edgeøya on the expedition ship the Ortelius. The researchers went ashore to collect reindeer bones or to observe animals and plants. Hilde's own task was to observe the researchers. Throughout the expedition she has been keeping Resource (-online.nl) informed about her adventures. 



Hilde de Laat



PHOTO: OCEANWIDE EXPEDITIONS

## Day 1

It is one o'clock in the morning but it is still incredibly light. Every now and then the sun even peaks out between the clouds. I am at the northernmost campsite in the world and the view is breathtaking. What an opportunity I've been given to join this expedition! The adventure I've been dreaming about for three years is about to start. I can already picture my work on board: observing researchers, journalists, tourists and the leaders of the expeditions. My research will focus on the interactions between these groups.

In the next morning I get on my rented bike to head to the little settlement. The expedition members in their blue jackets are swarming over the village, everyone is cheerful and curious what tomorrow will bring. The exchange of research methods is in full swing already. 'What kind of research are you going to do?' is the question you hear everywhere in the village. I join in a little hesitantly; as one of the few Master's students I do feel a bit inexperienced among these zealous scientists.



PHOTO: FRITS STEENHUISEN

## Day 2

Today we boarded the ship the Ortelius. Quite an undertaking because the ship is not docked at the quay so all the baggage, all the food and all the passengers had to be transferred to the ship in small boats, the Zodiacs. It took us the first couple of hours to sail out of the sheltered bay. Our first trip ashore was on today's programme but unfortunately a polar bear messed that up. We sailed on to another place and met a few whales on the way. What amazing creatures! It is only day one and we have already seen northern minke whales, humpback whales and fin whales.

At four o'clock in the morning I got into the Zodiac for my first trip ashore! The researchers set to work straightaway. The biologists flew around collecting mosses, mites, seawater and sand. The tourists stared wide-eyed at how the biologists go crazy about a mite. The NOS team loved it too. The journalists were over the moon about that shot of a bucket and a butterfly net.



AMSTERDAMOYA  
DANSKOYA







## Day 3

Today I helped Andrea Sneekes of IMARES. She is interested in zooplankton, and in particular the impact of ballast water treatment on the ecosystem. Big ships pump water from the sea into their hulls to optimize balance: this is called ballast water. Later the ships pump the water out again elsewhere. There is a lot of plankton in this water, however, and introducing strange plankton into an area can have a big impact on the ecosystem. The ballast water is often polluted with chlorine. Andrea wants to find out which concentration of chlorine the Arctic ecosystem can cope with.

Besides the research there is also time to enjoy ourselves of course! In between the collecting we take in the beautiful landscape. The first ice floes are drifting on the sea. What an amazing sight. I suddenly feel so small in that bizarre, vast landscape with its steep mountain slopes and little glaciers. The landscape is still extremely quiet. We can hear ice floes cracking kilometres away!



## Day 4

Today I was assigned to the tourist group. We went for a lovely walk in a stunning area, between glaciers and rivers, through valleys and over peaks. The temperature was a lot cooler than yesterday. The actual temperature was around 2 degrees Celsius but it felt a lot colder because of the bitter wind. So I was happy when we could return to the warm ship. We felt sorry for the team at Kapp Lee, who had been dropped off there at eight o'clock in the morning to build a weather station.

When we headed back towards Kapp Lee to pick them up, we were shocked to find that the pack ice had drifted. The team on shore had noticed this too and they were worried that they might have to spend the night on the island. Luckily there was a little hut on the beach and they had managed to light a small fire. Eventually the zodiacs were able to navigate between the ice floes and the researchers were picked up at 21.30 hours. Phew, what a relief. They came aboard shivering and were quickly served a well-earned hot meal.



## SPITSBERGEN IN 1977

The 12 Wageningen UR researchers who went along use the limited time they have for useful pilot projects. On the impact of oil pollution in the polar region, for instance. Associate professor of Resource Ecology Sip van Wieren joined an expedition to Spitsbergen back in 1977. On [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl) you can watch a film about that trip.





# ‘WITHOUT A CAO IT’S ALL UP IN THE AIR’

Unions and DLO have been negotiating about a new labour agreement (CAO). The central employees’ council is frustrated by the lack of progress and has asked staff to accept the current proposal. Should the unions accept the current offer of a two percent pay rise?

**text:** Albert Sikkema en Rob Ramaker / **illustration:** Henk van Ruitenbeek

## Marleen Riemens



**DLO researcher at PRI Agrosystems Research**

‘I don’t follow the negotiations closely but I do agree essentially with the employees’ council’s standpoint. Now we have nothing and the gulf between us and the university staff is

just growing [ed: WU staff get a 3 percent pay rise in their new CAO]. **That is not just a bad deal; it doesn’t fit the One Wageningen philosophy either.** This is not just about our salaries being lower; you want equal treatment. Now you sometimes feel like a second-class employee. Someone who only counts as long as they bring in money. What I would like to see is all staff on one kind getting the same hourly rate, with different tasks. That would also make it much easier to collaborate without the system getting in the way.’

## Emil Wobert



**DLO research at Food & Biobased Research**

‘I am a union member and I stand with the unions. **It is strange that the central employees’ council is getting involved in this.** They should leave the negotiations to the unions and not interfere. The CAO that comes out of it needs to be good for all age groups and complete - not just a partial agreement. For some people a pay rise is important but for others it’s a third year of unemployment benefit or the ‘work-to-work’ scheme for helping people made redundant find new jobs. ‘I note that Wageningen UR presents itself to the outside

world as one of the better employers but when it comes to the new CAO, it keeps quiet. There’s been a deadlock since 2013, whereas the university has come to a decent agreement in that time. That is a bitter pill, because we are all under the same umbrella. I myself have a lot of contact with WU staff who do similar work to me.’

## Karin Andeweg



**DLO researcher at Livestock Research**

‘I happened to be talking about this today with a colleague, but that was the first time. **It is time to make decisions and stop messing around.** I can understand that certain points, like the third year of benefit, are important to other people, but I don’t think you should get bogged

down in the details. You can also make an agreement on points like a rise in salary and agree to discuss a few of the details later. ‘I’ve been working here since January and I was told then that a new CAO would be ready soon. It amazed me that negotiations stopped after that. It’s not a big problem for me that there is no pay rise, but many colleagues haven’t had one for two years now. In short, it’s time for an agreement.’

## Edgar Vos



**DLO researcher at Alterra and member of trade union federation FNV**

‘This is tricky because I have been involved in the negotiation on behalf of the FNV. They took an exceptionally long time. What I find remarkable is that we had an agreement on a





'work-to-work' transition system, and then the WUR Council was brought into it at the request of the employer. The council had three comments, but none of them was reflected in the agreement. I think it's right that staff members who go back to a lower level job take a cut in salary too. But I am fearful about the care with which this is implemented in DLO. **The employer is extremely careful not to let pay go up too much, but meanwhile the rules and administration have increased enormously for staff.** Those rules, most of which are imposed by the employer, cost the organization a lot more.'

## Gerdien Meijerink



Researcher at LEI

'I understand that the CAO negotiations revolve around a pay rise. I think the union's demand for higher salaries is justified. **At DLO we are paid less than people in the ministry, for instance.** Our secondary labour conditions are good, but it is right that there is a lot of fo-

cus on pay. The point is though: as long as we don't have a CAO we don't get a cent more. So a quick CAO agreement would probably have worked out better. I don't like the way everything is so up in the air as long as we don't have a CAO at DLO.'

## Ruth Bouwstra



Research at the Central Veterinary Institute

'I don't know if I'm the right person for you, as I've got a new job from 1 October. To me, DLO is a good employer and I am amazed that the CAO takes so long. **Why do**

**the unions complicate matters so much? Isn't this way of negotiating a thing of the past?** I would rather see the management table a CAO proposal and put it to the staff directly through a poll. If the majority is in favour, you work the CAO out in detail. Now an agreement keeps on being blocked and I get the feeling we are standing still.' ®



# Wageningen woman wins silver at underwater hockey world cup in Spain

**Student of Animal Sciences Laurine Hetterscheid and her team just missed the gold medal at the underwater hockey world championships. The ladies under 23 team lost the final to Colombia.**



Quite an experience, is how Laurine describes her participation in the world championships in Spain mid-August. 'Playing hockey against the best teams in the world and then coming first in the pool phase – that was a really cool feeling. It was great, that stress before the match and goading each other on to give it all we'd got.'

It was clear after the first match that the Dutch ladies were among the best in the world. They beat Canada 13-0 in the semifinal and beat Australia too, after a tough and exciting match. That was the best moment for the student of Animal Sciences. 'The relief you feel

then is mega.'

In the final the ladies came up against Colombia. This team was too much for them though and Holland lost 3-7. 'That was a real goose-pimple moment. We realized we had lost the match but we are still the second in the world and we really had done fantastically! No gold for us, sadly, but this silver medal has a golden lining.' **LvdN**



## Wageningen students at Youth Summit in Canberra

**Three Wageningen students are in Canberra, Australia, to take part in a Global Youth Summit where they are discussing the global food problem with 97 other young people.**

It is quite exceptional for there to be three Wageningen students taking part in the Youth Ag-Summit. Originally each country was allowed to send one representative. But because a number of countries dropped out, the Netherlands was able to get three places. The Wageningen students Lucia Luijben and Chris Verweij were selected on the basis of their essays, along with a student from Amsterdam. Another Wageningen student, Camilla Ponte, is also in Canberra, representing her country Italy.

The five-day programme is sponsored by Bayer Crop Science. This does not mean that only students have gone to Australia

who wrote their essays about high-tech wonders for boosting worldwide food production. All the Wageningen participants view the event's sponsor with a healthy scepticism.

Lucia Luijben tells us from Canberra that it is 'a tremendous experience to be with so many special people from different cultures and a variety of professions backgrounds, and to think together about feeding the world population.' Something she had never stopped to think about, for example, was the fact that the majority of farmers in many developing countries are women. 'In Pakistan women grow the food, when they don't even have the right to become owners of the land.' Even in the developed but vast country, Australia, rural life can be tough, Lucia learned. 'There is by no means always access to the internet and to medical assistance.' So young

people migrate to the cities and do not want to be farmers anymore.

Camilla Ponte is just as enthusiastic about the confer-

ence. 'I hope when I go home I can put the inspiration I have gained here into action, inspiring others in turn to do the same.' **KG**



PHOTO: YOUTH AG-SUMMIT



# KSV gets most registrations

**The three big Wageningen student societies all recorded more than 170 new candidate members during AID.**

Matthijs Verburg, the chair of KSV Franciscus, says that 234 students have signed up for the society introduction stage (known as VIT, its Dutch abbreviation). 'About 40 percent men and 60 percent women.' Last year, the count stood at 219 after the AID week.

SSR-W says via Twitter that it is #proud to welcome 204 new candidate members. That is a big increase on last year when 179 students signed up.

Ceres says it has 203 preliminary registrations for the VIT camps next week. 'But not everyone can make the camp next Saturday or next Tuesday so we've got a post-VIT in the third week of Period 1. About 20 people have already registered for that. Even

more people might sign up during the first open party, on the Thursday before the post-VIT,' says society chair Jeffrey van den Born. Last year, Ceres welcomed 201 candidate members.

The small societies are doing well too. NSW Navigators, a Christian student society, has recorded 60 registrations. 'About 40 to 50 will eventually become new members, which is similar to last year. I think that's a good score as we want to stay the same size,' says the secretary Hans Dekker. Two years ago, NSW suddenly had to start turning students down after 64 new members had registered. It meant that the modest-sized society had to go looking for new group leaders and larger premises, which they still have not found. 'Café de Overkant fell through because of the noise. Neighbours and subtenants started complaining after we had a few trial runs. We have

been looking for a new home for years and Café de Overkant is the nearest we've got to one.' Youth society Unitas also got 60 new registrations while Nji Sri recorded 69.

The big winner is the student rowing association Argo. Each year, this student sports association manages to attract the most first-years. This year they got 298, not quite breaking the 300 barrier. 'We can only eventually take on 220 oarsmen so we will have to select people based on the reasons for wanting to join, which the candidates already had to fill in. Last year we had to turn down 26 people.' Argo has been growing for several years now. 'I think we've got more people showing an interest than last year because

students want an association where they can play sports and I suspect the abolition of student grants has something to do with this too. We haven't really altered the promotion compared with last year, we've just shown what rowing involves and how much fun it is,' says an enthusiastic Argo member.

Not all students who register as candidate members eventually join the societies and associations. 'There are always people who sign up for the VIT while drunk but never turn up,' explains KSV's Verburg. And of course there are some students who decide after completing the introduction stage that the society in question is not for them. **KG/MvdH**

## Nji Sri to stay in Wageningen

**Van Hall Larenstein (VHL) university of applied sciences has left Wageningen but student society Nji Sri, traditionally tied to VHL, was recruiting new members as usual at the AID information market last week. So what's the situation? I asked Anneke Hellinga, chair of the Nji Sri introduction committee.**

**Doesn't Nji Sri have to leave Wageningen now with the VHL students?**

'It is true that we started out as a society for students from Van Hall Larenstein, but in recent years so many students from Wageningen University have joined that it's not on just to say, sorry guys but we're moving to Velp. Of the 130-odd members of Nji Sri, only about 15 are at VHL. And there are already two sister societies in Velp.

**What are those 15 students going to do? I can imagine they have really put down roots at the society.**

The board has had long talks with them about the move; of course it is a real shame if your society is not in the same town as your university. But hardly any students have told me they will leave us, which is really great. Many of them have built up a life in Wageningen, they live here and are in fraternities and on committees. So that makes it quite a job to start afresh somewhere new. Those in the later years of their degree course don't have all that many classes anymore, so they



**Nji Sri presents itself at the AID Info market**

will definitely stay with Nji Sri. The younger students will just come back. It's not that far.

**Why do you think Nji Sri has become so popular with Wageningen University students?**

That's hard to say. Speaking for myself, as a student of Nutrition and Health, Nji Sri feels like a very close society. We are small, we all know each other, we are just like one big family. I come from Friesland and that village feeling really appealed to me. Nji Sri-ers tend to be very actively involved in the society. There are only 130 of us so you really have to make something of it together. And then the society has a name for being a bit crazy: at our place you can still dance on the tables and let your hair down after the other societies have closed. **LvdN**



**SMART?**

By blocking a particular enzyme researchers at the University of Leeds have made a smart mouse. The mouse learns better and has a better memory than his mates that did not have the treatment. But one of the side effects is that the mouse is imperturbable. So it does not respond as fearfully to cat piss. What's so smart about that?

**WEDNESDAY, BLAH DAY**

What day is it today? If you are reading this on a Wednesday it will take you twice as long to come up with the right answer than on Monday or Friday. Really, it's been proven by research at the University of Lincoln. Forty percent of the people tested give the wrong answer, and that is usually on a Wednesday. Wednesday is by far the most unexceptional day of the week. This is even reflected in pop songs. You'll be hard put to find one mentioning Wednesday.

**MONSTERS**

Looking each other in the eye, long and deep, can lead to hallucinations. Ten minutes of staring suffices, discovered the Italian psychologist Giovanni Caputo. Ninety percent of the participants began to see the other's face distorting, often into monster-like beings, or their own faces. Nice game to play at home with your partner. And try going beyond ten minutes.

**DOMINANT**

Tall, masculine men of around 35 years old are seen as the most dominant, shows research from the Scottish University of St Andrews. The researchers manipulated faces and got test subject to estimate how tall, how old and how dominant the person was. Could be a tip here for job applicants, Photoshop your passport photo a bit.

# Argo women off to European rowing championships

Lectures, train, eat, sleep. That is what a typical weekday looks like for the six Argo women who will be representing Wageningen UR at the European University Rowing Championships (EUC) next month in Hanover. Argo will have not one but two teams this year. Nynke Groot Koerkamp and Tessa van Hateren are competing in the women's coxless pair event. Mylène van Doorn, Marissa Wijnker, Floor Steenvoorden and Deanne Verkroost are taking part in the lightweight women's event.

The two teams performed well this season: the four lightweight women were comfortably first in their event and the coxless pair won too at the Dutch Student Championships.

It is difficult to assess what their chances are in Hanover. 'The level of competition varies from year to year,' explains Nynke. 'That is because "being a student" is the only requirement. Sometimes a national sports association will send a group of rowers who happen to also be students to the EUC to prepare for a bigger championship. So it is not easy to estimate what standard

to expect, with 70 universities from 15 countries. That's why we are just training like mad and we will see how far we get.'

The championship has drawn a lot of attention within Argo. It has been a while since a Wageningen women's team took part in the EUC. Nynke: 'Argo is selecting more and more students for competitive rowing. But of course it is very motivating for everyone in the club now that Argo has managed to qualify twice.'

They train hard during the week-end too, sometimes twice a day. The women have no problem with

the strict training regime. 'The hours you spend in the boat are hours that would otherwise be spent slouched in front of the TV,' says Floor. Remarkably, the women have achieved nearly all their degree credits so far. 'The strict timetable gives you discipline and structure. And that actually helps you pay attention during lectures.'

The European Student Championships will be Nynke's last feat for the time being: she is cutting back on the rowing this year as she now has a seat on the committee. **© CN**

If you want to find out how the women do in Hanover visit [www.euc-rowing2015.eu](http://www.euc-rowing2015.eu)





## EPISODE 55 - MORTIERSTRAAT 14B <<

Text  
Sander de  
Kraker en  
Kim Peterse

Derk

Filippo

Bianca

Vera

Willem-Jan  
Vecino

*The story so far: Having caused some damage to the house, Willem-Jan now has to pay the landlord out of his own pocket. As his student loan gets spent down the pub, he is applying for a job.*

### Job interview

**B**lushing furiously, Willem-Jan entered the little office. Five minutes late; he was already getting off on the wrong foot. A grey man looked at him glumly from behind his desk.

'Mr Wijnberg I presume? Please sit down.' As he sat down, Willem-Jan's smart trousers pinched him uncomfortably.

The man straightened his glasses.

'So you would like to be our new office manager. Can you tell me why you are applying for this position?' Willem-Jan detested working, especially when he stood nothing to gain from it. But now he seriously needed money to pay for the damage to the drainpipe.

'I'm keen to gain experience of working life before I graduate.'

'Hmm I see. Talking of your degree, how long have you been studying?'

Willem-Jan recalled his AID in 2008. 'A little more than four years.' He tried to adopt a light-hearted tone. He thought back to countless student society evenings, debating society parties, year-group club drinks and evenings simply idled away in the pub. 'I have been working hard on my social development. Done a lot of networking and the like.' The man muttered and his fingers clattered over his keyboard. 'Are you solution-driven?'

'Er...' Willem-Jan tried to come up with something quickly. Once he had come home late from the pub and realized he had forgotten his keys. To get indoors he had climbed up via



ILLUSTRATIONS: KIM PETERSE

the drainpipe, managing to destroy both the pipe and the balcony door in the process. Coincidentally, that was the reason he was sitting here now. He grinned. 'Ah, I'm certainly creative. I always achieve my goal, come what may.'

'Hmm, for this position we need someone who works proactively. Does that describe you?'

Willem-Jan recalled the disastrous track record of his thesis. He just couldn't seem to get the research off the ground. His first supervisor had since changed jobs. 'I like to take on new projects,' he said.

Eventually, the man stood up and shook Willem-Jan's hand. 'Good. That's the interview over. We will let you know in about half an hour whether you've been selected.'

'And?' Vera look enquiringly at a beaming Willem-Jan as he entered the living room. 'You are looking at the brand new office manager of Bon Berger International.' He proudly straightened his collar. Derk rolled his eyes, and then something occurred to him. 'Bon Berger... I know that name.' He started to laugh. 'Man, that's voluntary work!'

Resource follows events at Mortierstraat 14B

## All teaching on campus this year

The university has managed to move all its teaching onto campus for this academic year. There are no more lectures at the Dreijen campus in town and the teaching day does not have to be extended. What will happen next academic year is not yet clear.

This academic year sees about 500 more students in Wageningen than 2014/2015. The university can cope with that growth thanks to the departure of Van

Hall Larenstein Applied Sciences university from the Forum, freeing up new classroom space. As a result there is enough teaching and laboratory space on the campus for both BSc and MSc programmes, says Fred Jonker, who is in charge of timetabling at the university.

For next academic year working parties are currently looking at various scenarios. Initially the university was planning to up-

grade the Dreijen to a second teaching campus, but director Tijs Breukink has decided against the plan for financial reasons. The investment in the Dreijen was originally budgeted at 20 million euros, which was later cut back to 7 million euros.

Instead, Breukink proposed extending the teaching day, by two hours for instance. You could consider started earlier in the morning, shortening the lunch

hour or holding evening classes. Working parties are now examining whether the teaching on campus could be organized more efficiently or whether the teaching day should be extended.

Next year about 1500 new students will start in Wageningen. This constitutes a growth of 6 to 7 percent compared with last year, when about 1418 Bachelor's students started at the University. **AS**



## &gt;&gt; PARTIES

The best parties according to Wageningen Uitgaans Promotie. Check [www.wageningenup.nl](http://www.wageningenup.nl) for all parties.

**WAGENINGENUP**

**BUNKER - BACK TO SCHOOL**

**Tuesday 1 September from 22:00 to 03:00**

In the first week of the new academic year you are welcome back at the Bunker on Tuesday evening. It's a great place to catch up with friends you haven't seen during the holidays or to make a beeline for a new honey if you've already forgotten your holiday squeeze. No pressure, there are seven weeks to go before exams start. All good reasons for a great party!

**HET GAT - IXESN: WELCOME TO HOLLAND PARTY**

**Friday 4 September from 23:00 to 04:00**

IxesN is welcoming international students to

Wageningen with a party in Het Gat cafe. Do your bit to help the internationals feel at home and come and party on Friday 4 September at Het Gat.

**CERES - OPEN PARTY**

**Thursday 10 September from 23:00 to 05:00**

Did you enjoy the neon party or the pool party during the AID? In the second week Ceres is holding the first open party of the new year. You can come along even if you aren't a member or planning on joining. Bring some proof of identity and your student card. Open parties hosted by the societies are always worth going to! ⑧

## &gt;&gt; THE WORKS

## 'SOUTH AFRICA WON'T LET ME BACK IN'

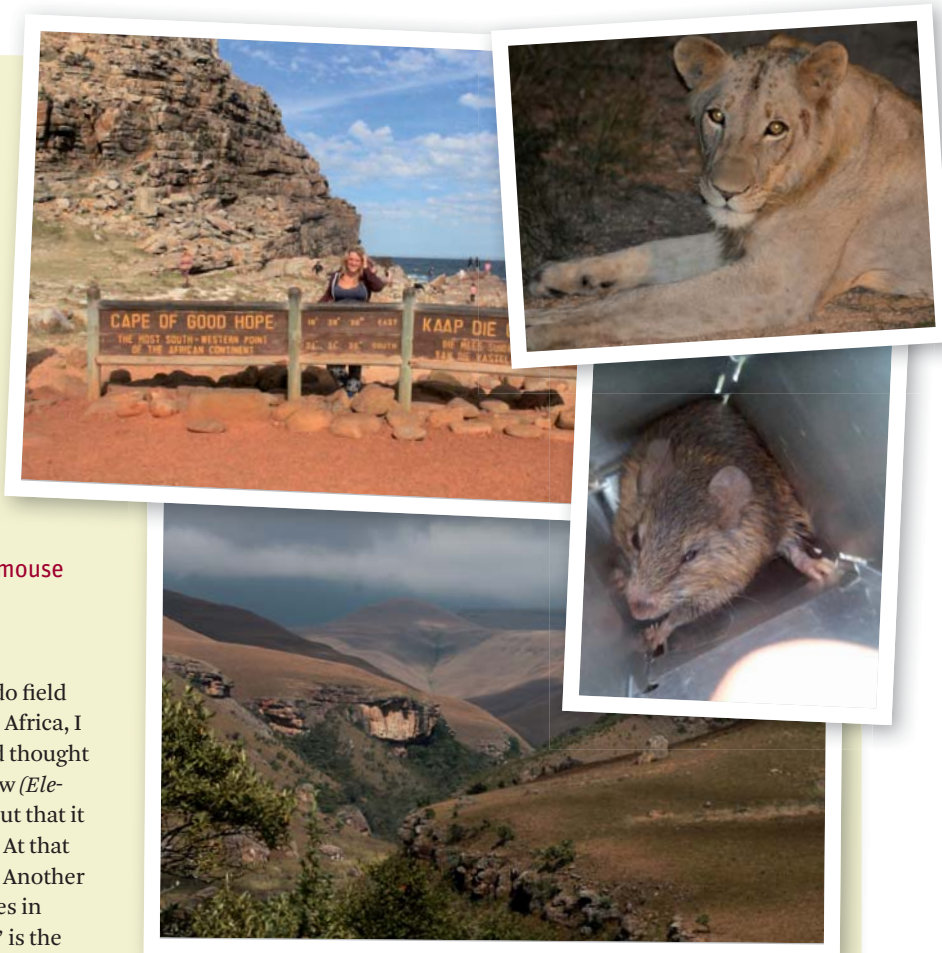
**Who?** Diede Melsen, Master's student of Biology

**What?** Thesis on the 'giving up density' of the Namaqua rock mouse (*Aethomys namaquensis*)

**Where?** Lajuma National Park, Soutpansberg, South Africa

'For my thesis I really wanted a subject that would enable me to do field work outside Europe. When the opportunity arose to go to South Africa, I seized it. That's because I'd been to South Africa once before and thought it was a great place. I wanted to work with the rock elephant shrew (*Elephantulus myurus*), but when I arrived in South Africa, it turned out that it would be nigh on impossible to this species for my experiments. At that stage I chose the Namaqua rock mouse (*Aethomys namaquensis*). Another interesting animal. I studied the 'giving up density' of this species in locations offering various types of shelter. The 'giving up density' is the food density remaining at a given site when the animal decides to move on to another food patch. I also had to catch the animals in order to establish their density. I liked that I was able to work entirely independently. The only problem was that it sometimes rained a lot. It was the rainy season and that meant I could not always do field work. Fortunately, I was still able to collect enough data.

While I carried out my research, we spent entire weeks on the Soutpansberg (Salt Pan Mountain), leaving only once a week to go food shopping. We were actually in the middle of nowhere and saw few people who weren't also staying in the park. I have to say I loved that aspect and thoroughly enjoyed the peace and quiet. There were other students on the



mountain as well as a group of volunteers. They were all great people. As well as working on my thesis, I also travelled for three weeks, which included spending one week in Cape Town. I saw a lot of really cool animals, including cheetahs. I saw all of the Big Five except for the leopard. After my three months of field work and my three weeks of travelling, I flew back home. At the airport I ran into trouble because I had stayed longer than my visa allowed. I had previously tried to extend it but hadn't managed to. I was eventually allowed to fly home but unfortunately South Africa won't let me back in any time in the next twelve months.' ⑧ NJ





PHOTO: TOD BAKER

## MEANWHILE IN... <<

### Meanwhile in... China

**In the news:** On Wednesday 12 August in the Chinese port city of Tianjin, two enormous explosions occurred in a terminal where hazardous chemicals were stored. The consequences were fatal. At the time of writing, the official death toll stands at 123. An ill-considered effort to extinguish a fire in the terminal may have triggered a chain reaction that led to the explosions.

*Commentary by Kevin Zhao, Master's student of Food Safety, from China*

'It is a tragedy. Primarily, of course, because so many people have died. People are very worried because exactly which chemicals were involved has still not been clarified. They are wearing mouth masks because there may be harmful substances in the air. Friends of mine from Beijing, which is not far from Tianjin, are scared that clouds of chemicals will blow their way if the wind direction changes.

Regulations to prevent such incidents do exist, but whether they are being followed is another matter. After all, they are not uncommon in China. As a rule, measures are implemented only afterwards. And that is too late. At the same time, it is also difficult for the government to keep everything under control. China is so big, has so many people and so many companies. It may be hard to appreciate in a small country like the Netherlands, but in China we are almost used to this kind of news.

I think that now the government will become stricter. After the scandals involving poisoned milk powder - adulterated by manufacturers to reduce production costs - the rules in the food industry were tightened and those responsible were punished severely. As a result, the situation in terms of food safety has now improved.

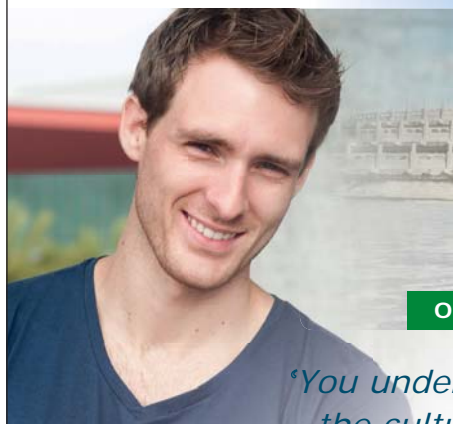
China is a country in development. All the industry that has been created has enabled strong economic growth. But the environmental consequences are becoming increasingly evident. We now know that we must take action. Accordingly, the government is promoting the use of clean technology. At the last G20 summit a promise was made to reduce CO2 emissions. China is making progress, but such transitions inevitably take time. **JB**

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## classifieds

**Open rehearsals WSKOV**

The Wageningen Student Choir and Orchestra Society is keen to find new members for its choir and orchestra. You are warmly invited to attend one of the following open rehearsals. For choir: 3 & 10 September, for symphony orchestra: 1 & 8 September. Time: 19:30–22:15

Venue: Generaal Foulkesweg 1A (behind the Auditorium)

[HTTP://WWW.WSKOV.NL/](http://www.wskov.nl/)

**FabLab Open Hours, Saturdays 14:00–18:00**

Every Saturday afternoon starting 5 September, students and staff can once again be inspired by and gain experience of 3D technology. Print or laser cut your idea in 3D at the FabLab Wageningen, located in Wageningen UR's StartHub (Triton Building 119). After completing our introductory course, you will be able to set to work on other days of the week. The course will be held on 7 and 14 September, provided sufficient numbers apply.

[WWW.FABLABWAG.NL](http://www.fablabwag.nl)

**Scent panel: participants wanted**

Got a good nose? Keen to earn easy money? Got a lot of free time? Buro Blauw in Wageningen is looking for people for its scent panel. Info or make an appointment? Send an email: [geurlab@buroblauw.nl](mailto:geurlab@buroblauw.nl) or call: 0317 466699. Ask for Jacco, Marianne or Nienke.

## agenda

**Thursday 3 September to Wednesday 9 September incl.**

**FILMS FOR STUDENTS**

Movie W, Wageningen's art-house cinema, is starting the season with two new films. Citizenfour is an intriguing and disturbing documentary about Edward Snowden and his revelations about government surveillance practices. It unfolds as a chilling conspiracy-thriller. The film deservedly won this year's Oscar for best long documentary. The second film is Charlie's Country, a superbly acted drama and a clever psychological portrait of a proud, pigheaded Aboriginal. It is also a harsh indictment of Australian society.

[WWW.MOVIE-W.NL](http://www.movie-w.nl)

**Tuesday 9 September, 20:00**

**ARDUINO WORKSHOP**

Are you already using a remote microcontroller, but lack experience? Enrol and bring your laptop/PC, an Arduino + board and a USB-stick to the FabLab Wageningen.

Venue: Wageningen UR's StartHub, Triton Building 119

[WWW.FABLABWAG.NL](http://www.fablabwag.nl)

**Thursday 10 to Sunday 13 September incl.**

**BOOST YOUR ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH THE THEATRE PRODUCTION 'MANSHOLT'**

'Mansholt is a moving plea for the love and idealism that has made alarmingly few inroads into current events' (Het Parool newspaper). Sicco Mansholt (1908-1995) was a farmer, member of the resistance during WWII, minister of agriculture and the first Euro commissioner for agriculture. He was one of the founders of the EU and the architect of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy. After last year's success, it has been decided to stage a second run of the production 'Mansholt', and this time in Wageningen! In a series of short and powerful sketches a story is told about a man and an agricultural system in crisis. This story offers starting points for discussing today's agriculture. After the performance some informal events will offer you the opportunity to chat with such people as farmers and WUR alumni, or to listen to the roundtable discussion whose participants will include representatives of the Rabo's Food & Agri sector and Zonnehoeve, an organic farming business.

The period in which students can buy a discounted ticket (€10) online has been extended until 30 August incl. The production is also suitable for English-language speakers: an electronic ticker tape above the stage will display an English-language translation of the dialogue during the performance.

Venue: Droevendaal Building 114

[HTTP://MANSHOLT-THEATER.NL/](http://mansholt-theater.nl/)

**Monday 14 September 11:00-12:30**

**YOUNG KLV TRAINING – CV WRITING (ENG)**

When writing a CV, you can face a daunting task in differentiating yourself from other job applicants. In this

workshop you learn the tips and tricks to show your talents in your CV. The trainer can take a look at your CV in advance and gives personal feedback. Of course non KLV members are welcome too!

Venue: Impulse Building 115

[WWW.KLV.NL](http://www.klv.nl)

**Wednesday 16 September 19:30–22:00**

**INVITATION TO THE CRASH COURSE ON WU EDUCATION: GOVERNANCE, POLICY AND ORGANIZATION**

The course (one evening) addresses four issues. The first one is on governance and organization of WU, the second one on funding of courses and other financial issues, the third one on main agenda items of Programme Committees: the annual Education Modification Cycle, the Education and Examination Regulations and the accreditation of study programmes, including the internal quality assurance system, the fourth one on tasks, responsibilities and authorities of a Programme Committee and its members. Lecturer: Prof. Tiny van Boekel, Director of the Education Institute (OWI) and Dean of Education. Free drinks afterwards.

Venue: Forum Building, VIP rooms 031-034

Enrol via: [Marita.Klefken@wur.nl](mailto:Marita.Klefken@wur.nl)

Next courses are on: 18 November, 20 January, 2016 and 20 April, 2016

**Thursday 17 September 16.00**

**WEES SEMINAR: BAT MOVEMENTS IN ANTHROPOGENIC LANDSCAPES: OLD AND NEW CHALLENGES**

Christian Voigt, head of the Batlab at Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, Berlin will talk about the physiological and ecological challenges that migratory bats face. Bats are the only mammals capable of powered flight and thus they are highly mobile. Some species are migrating over distances of more than 2,000 km each year. Prior to the seminar you can join the discussion. MSc and PhD students can obtain per two attended sessions 1 EC as a capita selecta. Registration for this discussion is required as there is limited space: [lysanne.snijders@wur.nl](mailto:lysanne.snijders@wur.nl)

Venue seminar: Orion, lecture room C1005.

**Thursday 17 September 19:00-22:00**  
**YOUNG KLV TRAINING STRESS MANAGEMENT (NL)**

Do you ever suffer from tense muscles, forgetfulness, tunnel vision, rapid heart rate, headaches, sleeplessness, worry and the like? And occasionally, all of the above? Have you got into the kind of state in which you give automatic answers when you would really like to give a creative and engaged answer? In this session you will learn how to deal with stressful situations. Non-KLV members are also welcome.

Impulse Building 115

[WWW.KLV.NL](http://www.klv.nl)

**Wednesday 23 September, 13:00–18:00**

**'THE CATTLE FARMERS' SYMPOSIUM (IN DUTCH)**

From simple farmer to agricultural entrepreneur: cattle farming is changing at a rapid pace. The symposium 'Cattle farming examined, agricultural entrepreneurship in a developing environment' paints a picture of current developments in cattle farming and discusses the path to the future from the perspective of the cattle farmer, trade and industry, and science.

The symposium is being held to mark the 85th birthday of the Dutch Zootchnics Association (NZV). The NZV is the network of Wageningen's cattle farmers and others interested in cattle farming. The symposium is open to everyone, so non-members keen to join the debate of who would like simply to talk to lots of people in the sector are also welcome!

Venue: Hotel de Wageningsche Berg, Gen. Foulkesweg 96.

ENROLMENT AND INFO: [WWW.NZVET.NL](http://www.nzvet.nl)

Deadline for submissions: one week before publication date (max. 75 words)  
Email: [resource@wur.nl](mailto:resource@wur.nl)





# It goes with a swing

3 September 2015 | 20:30 uur

**Junushoff presents, in cooperation with Wageningen UR, a special summerconcert on Campus, featuring André Heuvelman, known trumpeter in the Dutch Wind Ensemble. The Association of 'Friends of Junushoff' sponsors this concert so you don't have to buy tickets to be part of this special event.**

3 men at a crosspoint in their lives decided to improvise together on stage. The group Space Master Silence was started as a musical search party, traveling headfirst into the uncharted land of music, emotion and spirit.

Project SMS (Space - Master - Silence) is the name of this program where together with you as an audience music is born in Space, Mastery & Silence.

Sit or lay down and enjoy a magnificent peaceful and tranquilizing concert in open air on WUR campus. "Music is the mediator between the spiritual and the sensual life" - Ludwig van Beethoven

Frans de Rond / Electronics  
Joshua Samson Hang / Percussion  
André Heuvelman Trumpet / Flugelhorn

Location: WUR Campus near Atlas Building  
Droevendaalsesteeg 4 | Building 104 | 6708 PB Wageningen



## colophon

Resource is the magazine and news website for students and staff at Wageningen UR. Resource magazine comes out every fortnight on Thursday.

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# >>TYPICAL DUTCH

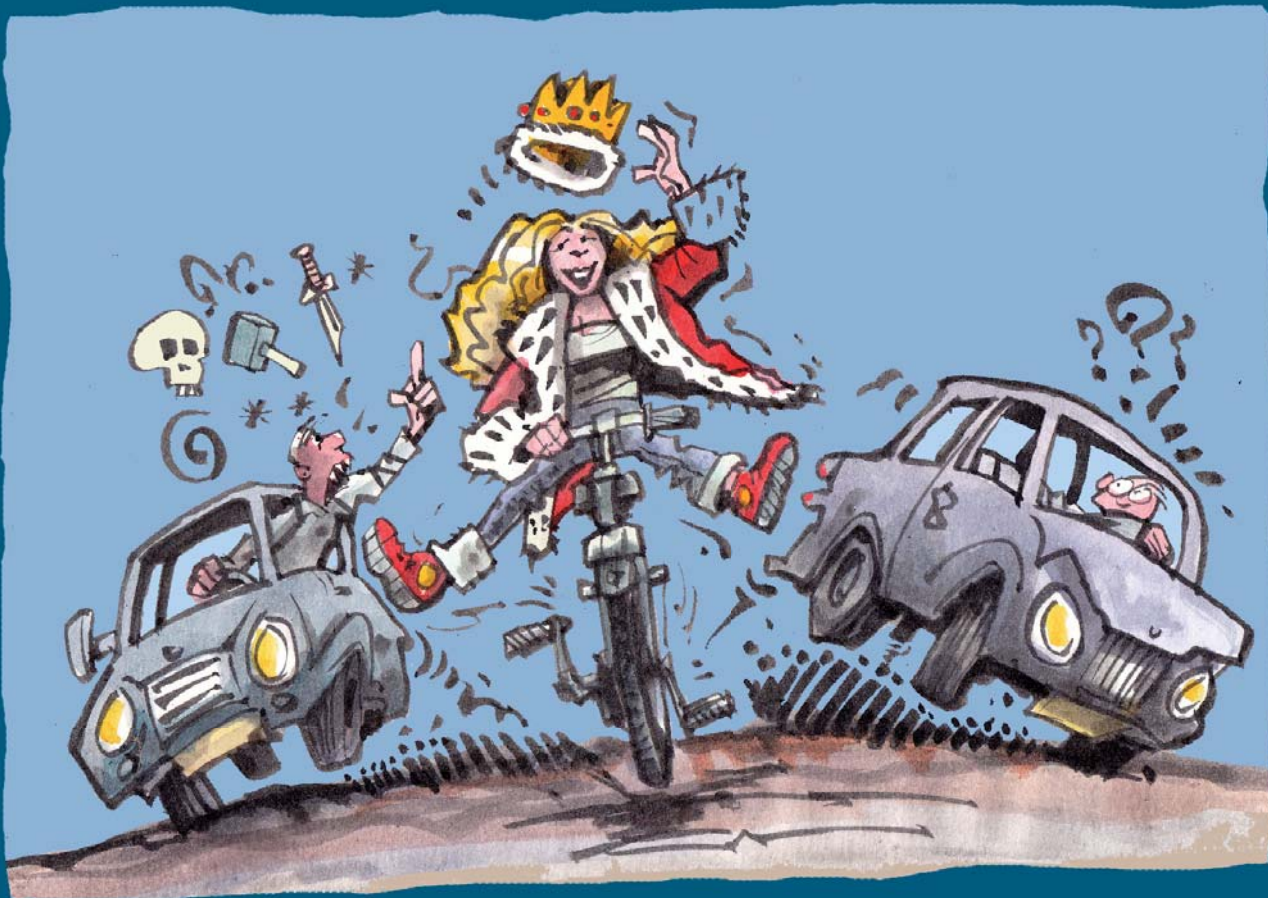


ILLUSTRATION: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK

## Carefree cycling

**The Dutch cycle everywhere and as soon as they are on a bike, traffic rules no longer apply. Forget giving way to the right; cyclists always have right of way.**

Going anywhere by car is next to impossible, especially in Wageningen. Not only do cyclists always have right of way, they also come in large groups. This peaks on the way to and from the university, where the entire main road is sometimes blocked with cyclists for up to five minutes, with cyclists forming a 20 meter que in front of the traffic light. While the older generation doesn't usually join in the queuing or the cycling in groups, they too disregard all traffic rules. Even outside of the cities, one has to be careful. If an accident occurs, the car driver almost always takes the blame. Luckily the cycle paths in Wageningen are well maintained, so that cyclists usually aren't on the road.

Growing up in the States, cycling was considered solely as a sport, and not as a method of transportation. There were no bike paths, and going by bike on the roads with all the SUVs was considered suicidal. Even after moving back to Germany, I rarely went anywhere by bike. The countryside is just too hilly. Even though all that *fietsen* took some getting used to, I quite enjoy it in the meantime and I have adapted the Dutch 'right of way' mentality. Now I have to be super careful when I visit my parents in Germany. Thanks to my Dutch approach to cycling, I have nearly been hit by a car two or three times.

🇩🇪 Lisa Pennemann, Master's student of Biotechnology, from Germany

**Forget the rules of the road: in Holland cyclists always have right of way**

*Do you have a nice anecdote about your experience of going Dutch? Send it in! Describe an encounter with Dutch culture in detail and comment on it briefly. 300 words max. Send it to [resource@wur.nl](mailto:resource@wur.nl) and earn twenty-five euro and Dutch candy.*