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RESOURCE **[EN]**

For students and employees of Wageningen UR

no 10 – 14 January 2015 – 10th Volume

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**INTERNATIONAL
EDITION**

>> ANS + JEWELLERY

Ans Geerling, floor manager at Impulse

'I like being creative, making things'

The jewellery she is wearing is homemade. Naturally. Ans Geerling has been goldsmithing at 't Venster art school in Wageningen for 12 years now. She comes from a family of jewellers and opticians: 'It's in my blood', she says. She likes to experiment, with enamel for instance. It's fiddly work. 'My training as a lab technician comes in handy.'

® RK / Foto: Guy Ackermans

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SILENT BATTLE

The WEpod is driving around the campus. A white vehicle that looks a bit like the kind of minibus that ferries old people around in a rural village. An aquarium on wheels. I see it rolling slowly by every day. There is usually someone sitting on the back seat with a laptop on his lap, keeping tabs on it all. The WEpod might be driverless eventually but it's being thoroughly tested first.

I am surprised at how fascinated I am by this white bus. Why? Actually I am locked in a silent battle with the machine. I would like to challenge it because I don't believe that thing could ever do what I can do. How can you expect a robot to take the right decisions in an environment where the most unexpected things can happen (i.e. in traffic)? I feel a growing urge to step out in front of the vehicle. See whether it stops. The sensors won't have any trouble registering a pedestrian who crosses the road in an orderly fashion. But what would happen if, pokerfaced, I suddenly do something totally unexpected?

Apparently they monitor human responses to the WEpod too. Man teases machine. Not really, but in my head.

Edwin van Laar



>> [A beech as neighbour is bad news | p.10](#)

UTRECHT AND WAGENINGEN TEAM UP FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

- Netherlands Centre for One Health launched
- Attention for sustainable livestock farming and nature conservation

From 1 February, Wageningen UR, Utrecht University and four teaching hospitals will form the Netherlands Centre for One Health (NCOH). Besides antibiotic resistance and zoonoses, this health consortium will address the issues of sustainable livestock farming and healthy ecosystems.

The initiative for the NCOH comes from Utrecht University, represented by its veterinary and medical faculties, explains Martin Scholten. The director of the Animal Sciences Group at Wageningen UR got involved in the initiative in 2014. 'In 2015 the medical centres in Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Leiden joined us and the RIVM wants to be involved too. Now you can really call it a national alliance.'

The chief focus of attention will be the antibiotic-resistant bacteria that are coming from hospitals and livestock farms. The medical experts are now going to work with the animal scientists at Utrecht and Wageningen UR to reduce or prevent the development of resistance. 'We outline the problem, the direction of the solution and the knowledge that is required,' says Hendrik-Jan Roest. He is a member of the steering committee of the consortium on behalf of Wageningen UR. 'We want to understand how the system of antibiotic resistance works.'

The NCOH will also target infectious diseases, particularly zoonoses: animal diseases that are a danger to humans. Pathogens



ILLUSTRATION: ROB DE WINTER

are central to this theme too.

The third theme concerns a responsible livestock sector. Livestock Research and several faculties in Utrecht will concentrate on topics including health indicators for animals and the role of housing and management in preventing animal diseases. This is actually a follow-up to the research programme on Conscientious Animal Husbandry at Wageningen UR, says Scholten.

The fourth and last theme is the health of ecosystems, covering the spreading of diseases in the wild. This theme will be led by the Dutch Wildlife Health Centre in Utrecht, with Resource Ecology representing Wageningen. Research will be done here on how diseases in, for example, migrating birds, wild boar, hares, mice and insects spread through the environment. 'We hope to find principles underlying the

spread of these diseases,' says Roest, 'so that we can perhaps predict and prevent a zoonosis outbreak.'

A concrete example of this can be seen in Friesland at the moment. Since 2015 the province has been affected by tularemia, a bacterial disease which kills hares fast and causes flu-like symptoms and lymphatic infections in humans. Because this zoonosis was quickly identified by the Utrecht and Wageningen researchers in the zoonosis network, we now know that tens of hares and eight people have been infected by tularemia. 'This year joint research will be done by the RIVM, the Wildlife Centre, the CVI and Resource Ecology,' says Roest. 'We want to identify the problem together.' The researchers do not want to be taken by surprise by another zoonosis such as Q fever, he says. This ex-

ample makes clear that the researchers are already working together. 'There were interconnections but they were often on a personal basis,' says Scholten. 'Now we want to collaborate at the institutional level.' He expects the NCOH to prove a good network for applying for research funding. He has in mind the ministries of Public Health and Economic Affairs, the NWO, the Life Sciences & Health and the Agri&Food top sectors, and the EU.

The NCOH will be launched officially on 4 February in the presence of minister Schippers of Public Health. Hopefully he sees the bigger picture, says Scholten. 'There is political pressure to score points by reducing antibiotic resistance but we say: that is just one component. We also want to work towards a livestock sector in which antibiotics are no longer indispensable.' **AS**

BIOBASED SCIENCES – A NEW MASTER’S

- **Multidisciplinary degree on the biobased economy**
- **First cohort in 2017-2018**

Wageningen University is creating a Master’s degree in Biobased Sciences. ‘We hope it will be able to start in the 2017-2018 academic year, but that depends partly on the accreditation bodies,’ says Gerlinde van Vilsteren, the director of the Centre for Biobased Economy (CBBE).

The Biobased Sciences modules are being developed

with input from plant scientists, process technology specialists and business administration experts. ‘Of course the biobased economy is not restricted to one sector,’ explains Van Vilsteren. Developing an alternative approach for the petrochemical industry means setting up an entirely new supply chain, from the biomass producers via the refineries and the logistics sector to consumers. The degree will even include consideration of waste processing. ‘So it will be a broad-based degree suitable for students

with a range of first degrees, from technology to economics,’ explains Van Vilsteren.

The Master’s will start with a general part in which students will be able to brush up on their knowledge of other disciplines. So someone who studied biochemistry will do a basis course in economics and vice versa. Then the degree splits into three specialist modules: Biomass Production, Biorefinery & Conversion and Biobased Transition. In the final part, the specialist areas come together again. **KG**

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Billboard

An intern can bring about a sea change in European agricultural policy, as is so beautifully shown in the play about farmer and politician Sicco Mansholt. An internship bridges dream and reality, so that interns can set people thinking. Reflecting.



In their internship reports we ask students to reflect on the learning goals they had set themselves. A sobering and therefore valuable activity. Reality is often so different to what you could imagine within the safe walls of the university. Reflection leads to insight into the past and foresight about the future.

A large billboard recently went up by the roundabout on the Mansholtlaan: ‘Look right now and you see the best university in the Netherlands!’ Really? Sure, we evaluate, plan and make policy like there’s no tomorrow, but that isn’t reflection.

Genuine reflection means comparing your ideals, plans and activities to the reality and then marveling at how you have missed the mark. Reflection means astonishment at the complexities facing a farming family.

You reflect too after a disaster, when women are molested en masse, when crazy people start shooting randomly, or when a heart attack suddenly takes someone away. In short, you start reflecting when something doesn’t go as you think it should. When you cross a boundary. Good reflection keeps things in perspective and leads to modesty. Good reflection leads to wisdom, not to signs along the road. It is funny, but above all it is arrogant. There is not enough genuine reflection going on here. Might it be time for an intern at headquarters? **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

>>EUROPEAN GRANT

Jasper van der Gucht

Physical Chemistry and Colloid Science professor Jasper van der Gucht has won a Consolidator Grant worth two million euros. The European Research Council (ERC) grant allows talented researchers who received their doctorate between seven and 12 years ago to build up and consolidate their group. Van der Gucht wants to use the money to investigate how polymer materials such as plastics break. The results could help improve implants, for instance, but the ERC grant is not intended for direct applications. ‘I really want to explore fundamental questions,’ says Van der Gucht. **RR**



Jasper van der Gucht

>>FLEX ACT

No exceptions

Universities too will have to offer scientists a permanent job contract sooner. This is clear from answers by the ministers Jet Bussemaker and Lodewijk Asscher to parliamentary questions from the VVD party. The Young Academy recently warned that the new Work and Job Security Act would have an adverse effect on academics. The act stipulates that anyone employed by a university on a temporary basis for four years must be given a permanent contract. But for scientists that often means they have to go because the university does not have enough guaranteed funding. The cabinet is not impressed by this argument because universities have already been promised more money for the years ahead. **HOP**

>>TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES

Plans for collaboration

Wageningen UR wants to collaborate more with the three technical universities (TUs) in Delft, Eindhoven and Twente. There are plans to join the 3TU Federation. The discussions about this were made public by the board of Eindhoven University of Technology during a New Year reception. Wageningen UR’s executive board would rather not go into the plans for collaboration until the employees’ council has had its say. The 3TU secretary, Ijsbrand Haagsma, confirms that Wageningen UR has expressed an interest. Within 3TU, the technical universities have five shared Master’s degree programmes, nine research centres and one shared data centre, in which Wageningen UR is already a partner. **AS**

WANTED: NAMES FOR WEPODS

- Winner gets to join test drive
- Test drive by Minister Schultz

WEpod1 has been moving slowly around the campus every day since mid-December. Whoever comes up with suitable names for the driverless car and its brother gets to join the test 'drive' on Thursday 28 January.

That is the day when Minister of Infrastructure and Environment Melanie Schultz van Haegen will be testing the driverless vehicle. Which name it bears is up to students and staff of Wageningen UR and residents of Wageningen and Ede. They have until 26 January to submit their ideas to eigenaam@wepods.nl. The names should have something to do with mobility and innovation, relate to the FoodValley region, be usable internationally (but not necessarily English) and be inoffensive.

During the minister's visit various departments of Wageningen UR will show what they have in the way of robots. The Farm Technology group, for example, will demonstrate its two robots and one drone. Greenhouse Horticulture, Food & Biobased Research and the Laboratory for Geo-information science and Remote Sensing will be represented as well. The presentations will take place in Zodiac. **Ⓡ RK**

'COASTAL DEVELOPMENT WILL SPREAD LIKE AN OIL SLICK'

- Financial incentives for local government risky
- Safety control in danger

Municipalities and provinces can have financial reasons for allowing developers to build along the coast. That is asking for 'long rows of beach cafes and houses', says landscape architect Ingrid Duchhart in response to the news that the general ban on building in coastal zones is to go.

'Crazy,' was Duchhart's first reaction to the announcement by the cabinet at the end of December. 'Our long empty beaches are our pride and joy.' She shares the fears of nature organizations that the coast will become messy if the national government deals only with coastal safety and leaves the rest to municipalities, provincial governments and water boards. 'Without a national vision on what our coast should look like, every municipality or province will do its own thing. And if there are also financial incentives to enter into dealings with a developer, perhaps because of a budget gap, the chances are that big stretches of coast will become built up.'

Duchhart says the built-up areas will spread like an oil slick. 'No one does it on purpose, it just happens. First there is just a carpark, then comes a chip shop and a couple of little houses, and a couple more. Before you know it the unique Dutch coasts will be a thing of the past.'



What is more no one has an overview at the moment of the safety implications of coastal development, says Duchhart. 'All along the coast you need to use computer models to see where you should and shouldn't build, and how building will affect sand movement. I am not confident that municipalities and provinces will monitor that.'

Duchhart is not only negative, though. 'The decision creates opportunities as well. Zeeland for instance really needs an innovation drive. Some dune landscapes could do with more dynamism, and building on the beach itself can even provide an additional water barrier. But it must be researched and developed with care. **Ⓡ LvdN**



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER

THE FIELD

A digger created the contours of The Field in December. This patch of land between Rikilt and the Noordwest neighbourhood is to be transformed in the course of the coming year into a biodiverse paradise providing a space for short-term green projects.

Contractor Donker Groen will soon be planting hedges on the banks that will separate the project areas and provide shelter for birds, insects and small birds. The small triangular pond surrounded by willows forms a wetland that contributes to good drainage and provides a home for salamanders. **Ⓡ LdK**

A fuller description of the plans for The Field is on resource-online.nl.

REORGANIZATION OF IMARES CAUSES FRICTION

- **Thematic teams replace departments**
- **Unease about future of IJmuiden**

The reorganization of Imares from 1 January is a source of discontent among staff. Their confidence in the management is currently 'minimal', says the staff council of the marine institute.

The reason for the reorganization is the fall in research assignments. The institute, which now has about 160 members of staff, is abandoning its departmental structure. Five department heads will have to look for new jobs. There are going to be about 30 thematic teams, in which researchers are given more responsibility for acquiring research assignments themselves.

In order to cope with financial shortfalls, a maximum of 17 jobs will have to be axed. Most of the candidates for a change of job are researchers. Five fish farming researchers will also be transferred from Imares to Livestock Research in Wageningen.

The organization should ultimately provide clarity about the different branches of Imares. A regional station in Yerseke will remain, with 14 staff members. When vacancies arise newcomers will be stationed in Den Helder, in the new branch in the former maritime academy. This principle caused a lot of unease among staff in IJmuiden, who are afraid their branch will close in the long run. 'The branch in IJmuiden is not being run down,' responds Imares director Tammo Bult.

In recommendations to the management the staff council



PHOTO: BERT BRINKMAN

The presentation of the new thematic teams, on 11 January in Den Helder.

writes that its confidence in the management is minimal due to their 'low negligible visibility and faulty communication'. The management should explain things more and take the concerns of the

staff more seriously, says the council. The council was not in favour of abandoning the departmental structure and thinks harmonization between the new thematic teams will be more difficult. **AS**

'LESS RITALIN IN GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD'



And, been inundated with calls from journalists?

'No, it's been disappointing. Only one journalist has called. I had higher expectations. The combination of children, ADHD, green space and the strength of the correlation struck me as newsworthy. In poor neighbourhoods more green space is linked to 10 percent less use of drugs like Ritalin.'

The effect is only large in poor neighbourhoods. Are more educated parents less quick to resort to Ritalin?

'That's possible. But that doesn't explain the pattern we found that within the category of poorer neighbourhoods more green space goes with less use of Ritalin.'

So ADHD children would be better off moving to a greener neighbourhood?

'You could first try letting the child play out in a green environment a bit more often. Anyone can carry out that test. Go out into nature more often.'

Will this be followed up?

'Yes. We shall look at the relation between the greenness of the surroundings and the diagnosis of the GP. That will give a better idea. Only 40 percent of the children diagnosed with ADHD are put on a Ritalin-type drug.' **RK**

Who? Sjerp de Vries, environmental psychologist at Alterra

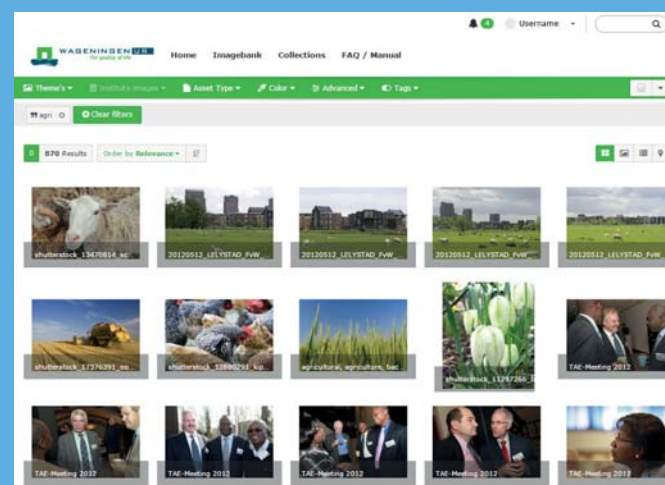
Why? Studied the link between ADHD and the amount of vegetation in the neighbourhood

What? The greener the neighbourhood, the less ADHD

The Brand Portal is live!

Take a look at the Brand Portal to find and share photos and videos of Wageningen UR

www.wageningenurbrandportal.nl



WAGENINGEN UR
For quality of life

NO WINTER? NO PROBLEM

- **Arnold van Vliet isn't worried**
- **'This is a glimpse of the future'**

If we don't get a real winter at all this year, is that a bad thing? No, says biologist Arnold van Vliet. Nature will go on, it will just be different. How it will differ we don't know yet.

Van Vliet has just come back from a trip to the Stadspoort on the edge of Ede. To film narcissi in bloom. These are exciting times for a biologist who has made ecological change his core business. 'No experiment can beat this.' But Van Vliet doesn't worry about the lack of a winter this year. 'Nature will just go on, even if we don't get any winter weather at all. But of course you will see a change in the dynamics.'

Floron ran the 'Plantenjacht' for the second time this winter: an inventory of flowering plants. Van Vliet did something similar back in 2006. 'Then we found more than 240 flowering wild species.' This time Floron has counted 735 species. These early bloomers will give

up the ghost if winter weather sets in after all. Is that a bad thing? 'We don't know yet what effects it will have,' replies Van Vliet. 'It is not that all specimens of those species are flowering in all locations. Only the very early plants of the population are already flowering. In any case climate change has led to a shift in distribution zones. More than 100 hundred new plant species have started growing in the Netherlands in the last two decades.'

Van Vliet sees it all as one big experiment, which we should make the most of for the time being. 'No frost in December is spectacular from the meteorological point of view. We have never had the chance to study this in our country before. And it is not only of interest to phenologists. For people working on climate adaption, for instance, it is a chance in a lifetime. Actually it is a glimpse of the future.'

So don't come to Van Vliet with the cliché that nature is confused. 'Nature is not confused, if that was even possible. Plans just do what they have to do if it is as warm as it is now.' **© RK**



PHOTOS: ARNOLD VAN VLIET

January 2016: Flowering daffodils in Ede and hawthorn in the Droevendaalsesteeg.

MOSQUITO PLAGUE DUE TO NATURE DEVELOPMENT IN PEEL

- **Raised water levels around Griendtsveen**
- **Alterra: reduce temporary water storage**

The residents of the village of Griendtsveen in the Peel had said it before but now Alterra confirms their claims. They are plagued by mosquitoes and this is partly because of nature development near the village. The province could combat the mosquito plague by reducing the number of temporary ponds around the village, recommends the institute.

Griendtsveen, on the border between the provinces of Brabant and Limburg, is wedged between the Mariapeel, the Grauwveen and the

Deurnse Peel. In that area farmland has been converted into nature reserve. The water was no longer retained so as to recreate moorland. In recent years the villagers have been complaining about mosquitoes. They blame the nature management measures.

Alterra did a study in the area and observed that the residents were indeed plagued in the summer months by swamp mosquitoes from breeding places around the village. Researcher Piet Verdon-schot mentions especially the large seasonal ponds around the

village where these mosquitoes breed.

To reduce the numbers of mosquitoes, there should be fewer ponds in a zone of approximately 2 kilometres around the village. Further research is needed on the precise locations of the breeding places so that a cleanup by the municipality and province can be well-targeted. The researcher thinks the mosquito plague can be dealt with without reversing the nature development and the raised ground water levels in the surrounding areas.

The villagers complained that they could not sit outdoors in the summer and wanted to take Horst aan de Maas municipality to court about it. This municipality and the province of Limburg commissioned the study by Alterra. **© AS**



PHOTO: JOHN SCHOLTE

THE QUEST FOR A BETTER BANANA

Gert Kema wants to protect the banana plant against Panama disease, which is spreading fast. In December he was appointed special professor of Tropical Phytopathology.

His career started with research on wheat but nowadays Gert Kema is chiefly known for his work on bananas. All around the world commercial banana cultivation, which is totally dependent on one variety, is threatened by a new variety of the *Fusarium* fungus which causes Panama disease. Kema is looking for short-term and especially for long-term solutions. 'I see this appointment as an acknowledgement of the work we've been doing over recent years.'

This work attracts funding more easily than his wheat research. He works with banana companies and government bodies in banana-exporting countries. It is not so easy, however, to find money for long-term solutions, such as creating new or improved banana varieties. 'You have to look for the funding source which matches your research topic.'

So a few years ago Kema and two colleagues set up their own firm, MusaRadix, in which he looks for genes in wild banana varieties which protect the plant



from *Fusarium*. MusaRadix also tests promising methods of combatting the fungus, which might be capable of stemming the *Fusarium* epidemic.

As special professor Kema will work with professor of Phytopathology Bart Thomma. They want to start a course on Tropical Phytopathology which will introduce students to a range of tropical crop diseases. Here Kema wants to make use of his international network in countries such as Costa Rica. He also hopes to expand his work to cover fungal diseases affecting coffee and cocoa. He is discussing a large project involving 27 PhD students, for example, with the Ecuadorian government. 'It's not just about diseases,' says Kema. 'It will be an interdisciplinary programme in which there will be collaboration with the plant breeding chair group as well as the soil science and social science groups in Wageningen UR.'

It is international work, says Kema. Which is no exaggeration. 'I don't have a single Dutch PhD student.' His team includes Ecuadoreans, Ugandans, Indonesians and Philipinos. People from banana-growing countries, some of whom even grew up on plantations. He does see the sense of doing this research in the Netherlands, though. 'The Netherlands has a tone-setting plant breeding industry. So why not work on bananas?' **RR**

Read more interviews with new professors

in the dossier at resource-online.nl



VISION <<

'Charging 25 cents for plastic bags puts people off'

In order to reduce the amount of plastic waste, from 1 January Dutch shops are not allowed to hand out free plastic bags except for fresh foods. Shops which do not introduce paper or cotton bags will now be charging for plastic ones. The recommended price is 25 cents but a smaller charge is allowed. And it will help, thinks Gerrit Antonides, professor of the Economics of Consumers and Households.



Hardly anyone has to forego a plastic bag that costs 25 cents or less?

'No but behavioural economics tells us that the difference between free and a small charge is hugely important. Anything free has a big effect on people. So a price rise from 0 to 25 cents is much bigger than a rise from 25 to 50 cents. What is more, this changes the status quo. It used to be standard practice to offer you a plastic bag and that has changed. Changing this standard or default option also has a huge impact. These two aspects now work together.'

So you think the Netherlands will now start using fewer plastic bags?

'Yes.'

Can this imposed change affect other norms related to using plastic bags?

'I think so. It is quite possible that this will have been assimilated in a year's time. That we shall internalize the behaviour and our culture will change on this point. I was at the baker's recently myself, and he had already stopped asking "would you like a bag?" The government could have made biodegradable plastic bags compulsory instead, a technical solution. This solution aims at really changing behaviour and culture.'



The tax on a packet of cigarettes keeps going up. But they are still being bought.

'This illustrates what I already said about the impact of a small charge as opposed to getting something free. A rise in tax from, say 2.5 euros to 5 euros doesn't have the same effect as a rise from 0 to 2.5. Ultimately of course you can only achieve a limited impact with that kind of pricing intervention.' **RR**

MORE ROCK FALL IN ALPS DUE TO WARMING

- Researcher compared climbers' guides of past 150 years
- Grindelwald routes increasingly dangerous

On many climbing routes in the Alps climbers run more risk these days of being overtaken by rock fall, a trend related to climate change. This was revealed by geomorphologist Arnaud Temme from a comparison of mountain climbing guides of the last 150 years. He writes about his findings in *Geografiska Annaler Series A*.

The idea came up when Temme, an amateur alpinist, was hit on the shoulders by falling rocks during a climb. 'I had the feeling climbing was getting more and more dangerous.' This danger mainly arose in areas which used to be permanently frozen but which now regularly thaw. Crevices then fill with water which expands with the next frost, causing rocks to break up. Only when an area has permanently thawed does the situation stabilize.



Scientists had previously found signs of increasing rock fall. They had for example studied the damage to trees, or compared historic photos with the current situation. The disadvantage of such methods, however, is that they are so local. Temme wanted to take a broader view. He studied 17 mountain guides published between 1864 and 2010. For 63 routes in the Grindel-

wald region, famous for the Jungfrau and the Eiger, he looked at what the authors said about the frequency of rock fall and the quality of the rock. He also looked at whether the overall assessment changed, from 'dangerous' to 'highly dangerous', for example, or even to 'not recommended'.

Temme found a tendency towards more rock fall and higher

risks. Seven of the 63 routes have been scrapped and all 27 changes in the advice given were in the direction of more danger. The geomorphologist points out that the assessments of the mountain guides are subjective. It could be that climbers tolerate lower levels of risk than they used to. Nevertheless, he believes the results show a clear tendency. **RR**

SUCCESSFUL GROWTH OF TREES EXPLAINED

- Three characteristics are crucial
- Wood density is key

The success of a tree is judged all around the world by three fundamental characteristics, says ecologist Lourens Poorter and 40 colleagues in *Nature*. In a study involving three million trees they identified how the trunk diameter at a height of 130 metres depends on the surrounding trees.

The growth success was linked with three functional characteristics: the density of the wood, the leaf surface per gram of leaf and the maximum adult height of the tree. Taken together, these three characteristics explain how a tree fares, standing alone or in competition. And that came as a surprise. Poorter: 'Actually we expected a big difference between the habitats. That the relations would be very different in a tropical deciduous forest than in a cold co-

niferous forest, for instance.'

This was not the case, however. The above-mentioned characteristics predict worldwide and in a predictable way the result of competition between trees. The key factor is wood density. Species with high wood density are more tolerant - they cope with competition from their neighbours better - as well as more competitive - they more effectively prevent the neighbour from growing. Poorter: 'If you have to compete with a beech, you are in trouble. A beech has dense wood and forms a thick leaf canopy.' Those competitive advantages far outweigh the disadvantages of slow growth.

Theoretically ecologists can use these natural laws in creating a forest. Poorter: 'We know which species characteristic are successful early in the process and which at a later stage. If for instance we want to restore a forest, we now know which trees to plant.' **RR**

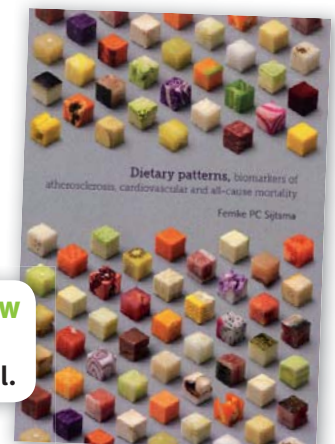
COVER PRIZE FOR SIJTSMA

Nutrition expert Femke Sijtsma won the 2015 Cover Prize. The cover of her thesis got 39 percent of the nearly 3300 votes cast.

Sijtsma got her PhD early in November for a study on the relation between eating habits and cardiovascular diseases. For her cover she used an illustration by the artist duo Lennert & Sander, which was made for the *Volkskrant* newspaper.

Sijtsma was presented with the Cover Prize on Monday at her temporary workplace in the Biotechnion. **RR**

Read the interview with Sijtsma on resource-online.nl.



Should research facilities be available to researchers nonstop? And do we want to change timetables so that rush hour trains are less full? Join in the discussion online or email resource@wur.nl.

REACTIONS ON...



RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL



PHOTO: REMO WORMMEESTER

LOSING TRACK

By spreading lectures and practicals better over the whole day, you can cut the number of students taking the train in the rush hour. This could save millions, concluded a task force led by Jeannette Baljeu at the end of 2015.

The plans drew some groans online. **Kees** thinks Baljeu – an economist trained in Rotterdam – gets the wrong end of the stick regarding Wageningen. It's all very well to plan smartly for 'three contact hours a week' but what happens when all the students are in classrooms and labs for 30 to 40 hours a week? Not to mention Wageningen's inaccessibility. 'Case of spreadsheet management,' writes **MiBo**. 'Do the ladies have any idea what the overheads would be for creating and implementing almost individualized timetables?' Baljeu also suggests that online education could form part of the solution. That really is blasphemy to **MiBo**. Choices would be entirely based on profit rather than on

what's best for education. 'It's all about the Pesetas, isn't it? Efficiency is all and inspiration, social development, interaction with fellow students... well, all that is by the by.' Not everyone is grumbling though. **IJsthe** sees opportunities for smart scheduling. A Master's courses at 8 o'clock and then start Bachelor's courses at 9 o'clock. 'And away with that silly Wageningen 15 minutes.'

THE BOSS'S TIME

The Radix research building is not open for long enough at weekends and on public holidays, claim staff. The Plant Sciences Group management has promised to look into it.

It is not always easy to plan experiments in Radix efficiently. After all, plants, bacteria and fungi do not observe office hours. Many researchers feel that longer opening times would enable them to make better use of their time. Not everyone supports the idea, however.

HdeVries is against spreading the costs of longer opening hours over all the chair groups, when only a small number of researchers benefit from it. But he also objects on principle to 'always being able to be in the lab', which he thinks would lead to a belief that it is a good thing to be in the lab all the time. 'In Anglo-Saxon and Asian cultures particularly, it is normal to work long hours,' writes **HdeVries**. 'But most people acknowledge that it's a question of "face time", showing you are there.' And Wageningen University shouldn't go down that route, he says, as it is a dead end. **JK** agrees but does not think this is what the people who have complained are after. All they want is a bit of flexibility in the weekend schedule. 'I know from my own experience how helpful it is to take a quarter of an hour on a Sunday evening to start a bacterial culture so you can get to work straightaway on Monday morning.' This actually means you don't have to rush long-running experiments. **RR**



Data is 'everywhere and nowhere'

Researchers are supposed to store their data so that it remains easily accessible over a long period. But how and where exactly is up to them. That lack of central coordination has led to a wide range of solutions — with the inevitable ensuing risks.

text Roelof Kleis photos Guy Ackermans

For more than a year now, chair groups and individual PhD candidates have been required to draw up a data management plan. Such a plan gives a detailed description of how research data will be stored and archived. Furthermore, Wageningen UR's new code of conduct for scientists stipulates that research data should now be kept for ten years rather than five. How do scientists do that? Where is all that data being stored?

You might think it is being kept in a central location, on the servers of the brand-new Hyperion data centre on campus. But that is not the case. Raoul Vernède, IT security manager at Facilities and Services, estimates that about half the chair groups store their data with Hyperion. 'And if we look at the number of terabytes, we get a much lower proportion than

that. The rest is everywhere and nowhere.' On separate hard disks or servers purchased by the groups themselves, on external servers, in journals' digital repositories or in the cloud. He is not quite prepared to call the situation a nightmare. 'But it is certainly undesirable from a security perspective. Our future depends on our reputation, so we mustn't throw it away by running the risk of losing important data or becoming the victims of fraud.'

NO CENTRAL CONTROL

'There is no central control for data management,' says Phytopathology professor Bart Thomma emphatically. 'Everyone does their own thing. That is partly because of the huge diversity in the data produced by the different chair groups, and consequently in the criteria that the storage method has to satisfy. Our data

mostly takes the form of files of genome sequences and genome expressions. They usually go in their entirety to a gene bank or the National Center for Biotechnology Information in the US. I'm not worried about those large datasets as they are incorporated in articles, which ensures their safe storage.' Thomma has his own servers in the lab for digital data that is not used in articles. 'The rest of the data is produced through lab work and is mainly stored in paper lab records.'

The Bioinformatics group uses digital lab journals, says Professor Dick de Ridder. 'In our field, the focus is on the method used to achieve the results. We use Evernote for our digital lab journals. After a research project has finished, the data, software and lab journals are stored in a directory. We use Gitlab for the storage of the software, a service provided by the Forum library's Data Management Support Hub.' According to De Ridder, data management is actually determined to a large extent by the requirements of the scientific journals. 'In molecular biology, it has been the case for years that the raw data used in a publication must be made available. That data is generally stored in data banks stipulated by the journals.' De Ridder stores the data on his own servers, which are kept at Hyperion. 'So we rent space internally but we manage the storage ourselves. IT does offer a storage service but it is far too expensive.'

FAR TOO EXPENSIVE

The IT service manager Stephen Janssen is familiar with the complaints about the high costs of his service. 'We do everything we can to reduce the rates, but our charges have to cover all the costs. We halved our prices last October so that we could compete with cheap data storage servers such as NAS. These are servers that you can buy cheaply online or via Media Markt and connect up to the network.'

A terabyte of storage now costs 150 euros a year from the IT department. But Janssen says this does get you a professional service and secure, reliable, convenient data storage. The rates might have been halved, but it is still much too expensive for De Ridder and Thomma. 'That would still cost us 28,000 euros a year including backups. We can't afford that,' says De Ridder. His colleague Thomma even calls the rates 'ridiculous'.

Janssen sees that chair groups are starting to act like mini IT departments because of the costs. 'And that worries me. Some groups are doing quite a good job actually, but it's far from ideal and is asking for trouble.'

Inge Grimm, director of operations at SSG and Wageningen UR information manager as of this month, stresses the importance of central storage. But she admits that there are no



The new Hyperion data centre, behind the Actio building, was opened in May 2014.

'Central storage with the IT department is far too expensive'


firm agreements about this with the chair groups. 'We don't force them to do this and there are no sanctions. There is central coordination in the sense of persuasion. Good, affordable internal storage options are needed. It is also important to raise awareness. Scientists need to be more aware than in the past of the dangers associated with the external storage of data.'

But it is precisely that awareness that is lacking, thinks service manager Janssen. 'Those data management plans were introduced in 2014. We thought that this would create a substantial demand for our services. But unfortunately not. Last year, we were only approached for advice 12 times. It is difficult for us to get a foot in the door in the chair groups.'

FRAUD

Bioinformatics professor De Ridder thinks more central coordination might help. 'The individual chair groups were put in charge of implementing the requirement to produce data plans and everyone had to figure things out for themselves. It would probably have been better to make arrangements at the level of the university. Gitlab, the platform for storing computer programs in a central location, is a good example of that.'

Phytopathologist Thomma has doubts about the benefit of more central direction. 'To a large extent, the debate about data management was prompted by fraud affairs such as that of the psychologist Diederik Stapel. The idea is that you can help prevent fraud by managing data properly. But I don't buy that. I think that the argument that good data management will let us make more use of each other's data is much more relevant. A lot of data is lost at the moment because the data is so difficult to access. I would give the chair groups the responsibility for the coordination.'

Security manager Vernède on the other hand is in favour of more central control over data management. 'You could, for example, set up a fund to enable proper centralized storage. I think that all the parties involved should get together and think about what risks we are willing to run and then draw up a recommendation for the Executive Board. There should be more central control over where the data ends up. At present nobody checks whether and how the data plans are being implemented.' 

Uninvited guests

A ship's hold is crawling with plankton that come along for the ride. How can you keep these uninvited guests out of the northern Polar Sea without harming the local population in the process? Andrea Sneekes of Imares studied this question last summer on the SEES expedition. She will present her results at the Arctic Frontiers conference in Norway at the end of this month.

text Hilde de Laat photos Andrea Sneekes

Polar beers, reindeer, oil pollution... Of all the studies carried out during the Dutch polar expedition Scientific Expedition Edgeøya Svalbard (SEES), Sneekes' work on plankton in ballast water is perhaps the least headline-grabbing. And yet her results are of vital importance, she explains. Exotic species often lack natural enemies in their new habitat, causing them to disturb the natural balance. 'As examples just take the Japanese oyster and the American jackknife clam in the Wadden Sea.' Some exotic species even pose a direct threat to humans. 'Alexandrium, for instance, is a big problem in Europe because it can cause shellfish poisoning. In humans the poison can cause paralysis and can even be fatal,' stresses Sneekes.

Shipping plays a key role in the spreading of exotic species. Empty cargo ships pump up seawater to serve as ballast. Sneekes: 'This ballast water is full of uninvited guests: small plants and creatures that get sucked up with the water.' Then the ship pumps out this ballast water on the other side of the world so as to load up with new containers or other cargo. Like this, seawater gets moved around the world and exotic plankton end up in natural habitats where they do not belong.

CHLORINE

'Governments have been working on the introduction of international legislation for some time. Such legislation would oblige shipping owners to render the plankton harmless before dumping it in the water,' explains Sneekes. Her institute is taking care of the certification of these 'ballast water systems.' She sighs. 'I hope the legislators get a move on. The spreading of exotic species must be stopped before it is too late.'

The ballast water systems that Imares is now testing use chlorine to kill the plankton. 'We have been working on improving these



Andrea Sneekes takes a plankton sample in Spitsbergen.



The marine biologists from Imares and NIOZ on the SEES expedition.

in the polar sea



systems for years. We check whether the apparatus really does kill 100 percent of the plants and animals in the ballast water. We also look into whether dumping the chlorine in the sea doesn't harm the environment.'

There is just one problem: 'These systems are tested in temperate regions such as the North Sea. We don't know how the plankton from the North Pole region reacts to chlorine. Nor do we know whether dumping the treated water harms the environment in these cold regions.' High time for research on this, then.

LAB ON DECK

Sneekes collected plankton on the SEES expedition from a small boat using a simple bucket and fishing net. Back on board the ship *Ortelius* she used a primitive microscope to see which species she had caught. 'I had enough specimens of six species for an experiment. I exposed them to different concentrations of chlorine in order to find out which concentration would kill everything.'

That was no easy task. Sneekes had to do the work in an improvised laboratory on deck. 'I wanted to do as many tests as possible in a short period, so I was often up in a freezing cold lab till long after midnight.' Fortunately it was not a lonely existence, though. 'I got to know a couple of colleagues from other branches really well,' she reports with satisfaction.

'We saw that the plankton in the Arctic reacted more strongly to chlorine than it did around the Netherlands.' That was surprising because earlier tests showed that plankton in cold regions reacts less strongly than those in

temperate regions. 'The metabolism of Arctic plankton is slower, so the chlorine has less effect. But the low temperature also means the chlorine breaks down more slowly, so it can be toxic for longer. In theory these things balance each other out, but that doesn't appear to be the case here.' This could mean that existing ballast water systems that have been tested in temperate climates and pronounced safe are damaging to life forms in the frozen north.

CRACKING

Sneekes will be travelling to Tromsø next week to present her results at a conference (see box). 'This orientation project could in itself be of interest to other scientists.' But her research is not finished yet. 'We want to repeat this experiment with other species of plankton. Only then can we issue advice about the ballast water systems and adjust the certification to the conditions in the Arctic region.'

The researcher hopes then to return to the north to do more tests. 'The SEES expedition was my first visit to Spitsbergen, a vast area



Sneekes gives a radio interview in the laboratory on board the *Ortelius*.

which I would love to go back to.'

She won't forget her trip in a hurry. 'The glacier ice cracked as we sailed through it. That was such a special sound.' One thing is clear to Sneekes: 'We humans must make way because the natural world is so much bigger than we are.' ®

Hilde de Laat was on the *Ortelius* expedition.
Read her blog on resource-online.nl.


ARCTIC FRONTIERS

The annual Arctic Frontiers conference, to be held this year between 24 and 29 January in the northern town of Tromsø, bridges the worlds of science, business and policy. The 29 countries that are represented discuss developments in the North Pole region from the ecological, social and economic perspectives. This year the theme of industry and

environment is central.

A key issue in this context is shipping. The melting of the sea ice in the Arctic region is making new northern shipping routes available. That creates opportunities but also threats, such as the unintended spreading of exotic species of plankton through ballast water.

NEW YEAR'S DIP

These people are ready for the new year. The New Year's Dip in the Rhine on a misty 1 January 2016 drew more participants than ever. 'More than 200 people had said they were 'interested' on Facebook. Luckily they didn't all turn up,' says initiator Dorine Kea. After a brief warm-up on the beach at Wolfswaard, tens of students plunged into the cold river. After which they rushed home for a hot shower.  KG / photo Sven Menschel

See the whole photo series
on resource-online.nl





University passes muster

Wageningen University looks set to achieve all the targets agreed with the ministry. Nevertheless, rector Mol is not in favour of setting new targets. The bureaucratic machinery this requires costs money, while the usefulness of the exercise is not proven.

text Rob Ramaker

It is not just the students who will be assessed in Wageningen this year. Wageningen University itself is due for a performance evaluation. In 2012 the university promised – along with all the other Dutch higher education

institutions – to make improvements on seven fronts. These targets were aimed at raising the success rate among students (see box). A small proportion (7 percent) of the university's funding depends on the results of the evaluation. The rest of the funding depends on student numbers, as it always has.

It seems that Wageningen University need have no fear of the outcome. As of 1 January 2016 the institution seems to have met all the targets. So rector magnificus Arthur Mol expresses satisfaction. 'The university is doing very well on various fronts,' he says.



PASS RATE

For some of the targets Wageningen University did not need to make a big push. On five of the seven points the institution only had to promise to keep up the good work. This applied for instance to the number of intensive programmes – with more than 12 contact hours a week – and to the university's overhead costs. On the other two points, though, serious progress was promised. The pass rate for Bachelor's degrees – defined as the number of students getting their degree within four years – had to go up from 61 to 75 percent. It now stands at 79 percent, a rise achieved without an increase in the number of dropouts in the first year, which are excluded from the pass rate calculations. In fact, that number went down too, from 14 to 10 percent. It is not clear which policy led to this improvement. It was not the new degree choice check or matching system, introduced nationwide, which did not prove to have an impact on the dropout rate. As to the

'There won't be much redistribution because everybody is meeting the targets'

binding recommendation for students (BSA), Wageningen University only introduced this relatively late in the day. Only since last academic year have first-years gaining fewer than 36 ECTS points been sent away. This is mild compared with other universities. The measure turns out not to lead to more dropouts.

Rector Mol therefore sees a changing academic climate as the main reason for the rising pass rate. 'You don't get a grant anymore so students are thinking differently about their studies,' he says. Not only are they working harder and more efficiently; 'You also see more and more excellence among students. They are keen to do something extra, like an honours programme. And they think about how to position themselves on the labour market.' So Mol thinks pass rates would have gone up anyway, even without the performance targets.

After all, keeping down the numbers of dropouts and extensions benefits both the students and the institution.

TEACHERS

As well as improving the pass rate on Bachelor's degrees, Wageningen University promised to increase the number of teachers with a basic teacher training qualification (BKO in Dutch). In 2008

all the universities launched programmes for improving teachers' teaching skills. These various programmes are mutually recognized. In 2011 only 24 percent of the teachers had the BKO. 'Big efforts have been made in the last couple of years,' says Emiel van Puffelen, head of the Corporate Education, Research & Innovation department, 'and now about 49 percent of the teachers have the qualification.' Another 200 teachers are 'in the pipeline'.

Teachers spend about 220 hours on the BKO programme. The time goes into course days as well as for coaching on their own teaching. 'It focuses mainly on their own teaching, with a related theoretical framework,' says Van Puffelen. In their evaluations the participants are full of praise for the programme. 'Of course people are daunted by those 220 hours,' says Van Puffelen. But in practice he notices that people enjoy sharing their experiences and get a lot out of the course. In the near future the teaching qualification will become the norm for teachers. There has not yet been a study of whether the BKO programme really does raise the standard of education at universities.

CRITICISM

In spite of the good results, rector Arthur Mol sees no reason to set new targets. The agreements were intended, he says, to redistribute funding. Higher education institutions that did not improve would get a bit less, while those that succeeded in doing so would get a bit more. Most universities seem set to meet their targets, however. Mol: 'So in reality there won't be much redistribution. But a whole bureaucratic apparatus has been set up for monitoring progress.' This means the policy has high transaction costs. Not a good use of resources, in the rector's view. 'I would rather we got support staff to work on educational innovation.' Mol adds that universities have enough internal mechanisms for quality control, such as their consultative bodies.

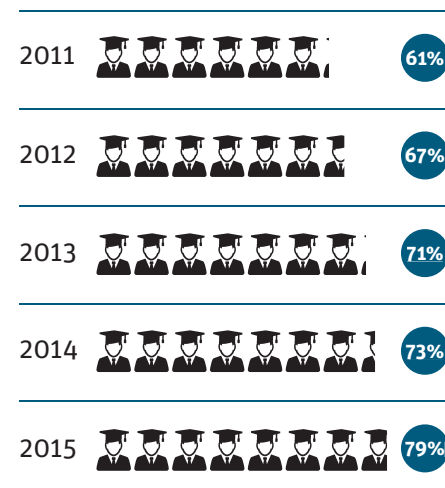
Enthusiasm has waned in other higher education institutions too. Both Karl Dittrich and Thom de Graaf, who chair the lobby organizations of the academic and applied science universities respectively, have expressed negative views of the approach. Premature criticism, in the opinion of the ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OC&W). 'I know a lot has already been said about this,' responds spokesperson Michiel Hendriks, 'but we would really like to wait for the evaluation.'

Later next year, then, it will become clear not only how Wageningen University has done, but also whether new targets will be set in the future. [®]

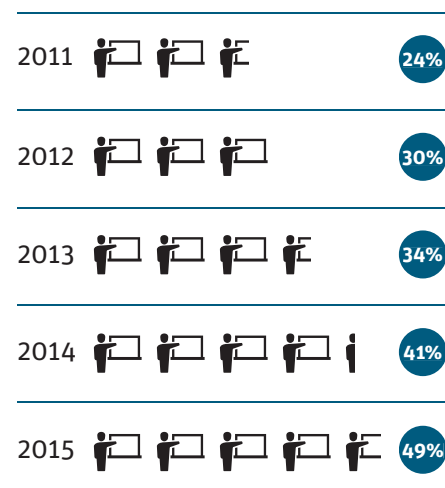
PERFORMANCE TARGETS

In 2012 the Dutch universities agreed on targets with the ministry of OCW, and in the case of Wageningen, with the ministry of Economic Affairs as well. Seven percent of the existing funding was to be linked to performance, the rest of the funding remained linked to student numbers. The performance targets have four objectives: to improve educational quality, to get students moving through the system more smoothly, to profile institutions more clearly and to increase knowledge valorization.

Pass rate for Bachelor's degrees in 4 years (target: 75%)



Number of teachers with teaching qualification (target: 45%)



LIFE AFTER SANDY

Mannenharten 2, The Hateful Eight, Star Wars. These films are currently showing at the Heerenstraattheater in Wageningen. But soon you will also be able to see *At the Edge* there. A documentary about coastal defences – or the lack of them – in New Jersey since hurricane Sandy. Made by a Wageningen student.

text Linda van der Nat photos Marit Noest

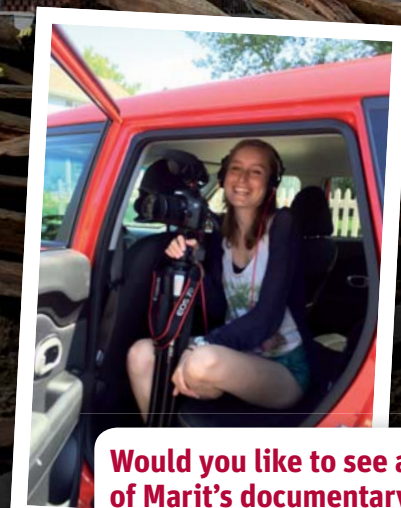
In the night of 29 to 30 October 2012 the east coast of the United States was hit by hurricane Sandy. More than 100 people died, 360 houses were destroyed and 65 million dollars' worth of damage was done. New York and New Jersey were especially hard hit by what was one of the worst storms the region had ever experienced.

Marit Noest, who has just started her Master's in Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning, saw the damage on television and realized immediately that reconstruction would be a massive spatial planning project. She followed developments closely because of her interest in coastal landscapes. 'There is a

huge amount of knowledge on coastal defences in the Netherlands and President Obama called in Dutch experts. But to my astonishment most of the attention went to New York, whereas the storm hit land at New Jersey. There everything was being rebuilt exactly as it was before. I couldn't understand why.'

FILM

The idea for her Master's thesis was born. In the summer of 2015 Marit went to New Jersey to find out why the coastal defences there had not been improved. She didn't go alone: she took along filmmaker Anouk Saint Martin from The Hague, whom she had met on Facebook.



Would you like to see a bit of Marit's documentary?

Watch the trailer on resource-online.nl.

'Film is an interesting way of sharing your research and making sure it doesn't just disappear into a drawer. I had no experience whatsoever of filmmaking so I did need some help.'

She had not imagined that the documentary would have its premiere in the Heerenstraat. 'One year ago I happened to mention to my supervisor that I thought it would be nice to make a film. She was very enthusiastic. It gradually became a bigger and bigger part of my final project.' At the presentation of her project Marit only had time to show excerpts from the film. 'That is why I booked a screen at the Heerenstraat.'

HILARIOUS LITTLE TOWN

The documentary focuses on Asbury Park, a small town right on the coast of New Jersey. 'A hilarious little town,' says Marit. 'Very American, with a wooden boardwalk along the beach and a deserted casino from the heyday of the 1920s and 30s, before everyone started going to the casinos in Atlantic City.' There are luxury villas right on the coast, the boardwalk is sacred, and a little mound of sand is considered enough protection against flooding. 'When I saw that they were building an enormous new house among the ruins of one of these seaside villas, I thought: there must be another way to do this.'

During her six-week stay Marit interviewed various townspeople about the way they saw the coast and the reconstruction. They included the residents of a seaside villa, a member of the town council and someone from an NGO. It was clear from the conversations she had that people loved the ocean and were resistant to change. 'Living by the sea is a kind of religion there. Some people think: there will never be another storm like that one so why should we invest in a solution if there isn't a problem? NGOs and landscape architects who argue for future-proof solutions hardly get a look-in.'

Some of the attitudes were quite extreme. For example, the documentary features a couple with an ocean view villa. 'Rich people. They don't want any dunes because if you can't see the ocean your house is suddenly only worth four million dollars instead of five million. Their attitude is: if it happens again we'll just build another house. The residents of the neighbourhood behind them, who are not well-off, are the victims of this. One woman who lost everything in the storm said she would have no alternative but to move if no dunes are created.'

CLIMATE-READY

Marit went on to use the filmed interviews in her quest for a perfect design for the coastline.



New houses go up right on the beach.

'I stood on the boardwalk with posters showing several different strategies for defending the coast, and asked people what they thought of them. The film turned out to be a good way of prompting residents to question existing social norms. The people who had seen the film more easily reached agreement on a design for their coast, and they were also prepared to invest in it.'

Marit designed a coastal landscape for Asbury Park in which coastal defence is combined with the experience of the beach and the sea. 'I wanted a climate-ready design which the residents could all support. It is not a good idea to change the boardwalk because that is part of the town's charm. But you can integrate it into a dune landscape through which people can also walk and cycle, as they do in the Netherlands. Flexible summer houses make it possible to live right on the beach and the carpark can be designed to absorb excess water.'

The final design is not shown in the film. A conscious decision, says Marit. 'I want the residents of Asbury Park to discuss between them what the best solution would be. The documentary is intended to generate an understanding of the way everyone thinks. I started out with a Dutch point of view too: why don't you get it under control? But now I can see things from other points of view.'

The residents of Asbury Park have not seen her plans yet. 'I am very curious what they will think of them. I don't think my design will necessarily be implemented but if my project makes them think about sustainable solutions, I would be very pleased.' ®



The boardwalk at Asbury Park.



A new villa on the spot where everything was flattened after Sandy.

TICKET FOR THE PREMIERE?

Marit is giving away two tickets for the premiere of her documentary in the Heerenstraattheater on 18 February.

Interested? Mail resource@wur.nl. The first to email wins the tickets.

‘MY RESEARCH IS GOING WELL BUT...’



As Dean of Research since 1 January, Richard Visser is responsible for the quality of Wageningen PhD research. What issues does he need to address? Seven current and former PhD candidates offer the new dean some advice.

text Albert Sikkema en Rob Ramaker



Chantal Vogels



PhD candidate at Entomology

‘Personally I didn’t have any problems with my PhD but I am on the Wageningen PhD Council, where we are currently discussing the recommendations of the international visitation committees to the graduate schools.

One of the things we discuss is the supervision. **With increasing number of PhD candidates, there is more and more pressure on supervisors.** As a PhD candidate you sometimes have to fight for your time and that doesn’t do the quality of the research any good. I think the new dean should do his best to stay in touch with PhD candidates from all sorts of chair groups so that he can find out whether this is a problem throughout the WUR or only in certain groups. If a promotor isn’t a good supervisor you should talk to him or perhaps offer a course.’

Tessa Brinker



PhD candidate in Breeding and Genetics

‘The Wageningen PhD trajectory is very good. The university provides plenty of structure, you get an overview of what you have to deliver when, you get to go on courses and to conferences. The disadvantage is that it is you can’t easily diverge from this programme. I know PhD candidates with a different background and prior education who would like to take other Master’s courses while they are at graduate school.

There is not much scope for that at the moment. **It is also not clear what the selection process for PhD candidates is. The criteria are not the same for the various chair groups, whereas we do all get the same title.** I would like more transparency.’

Christian Siderius



Got his PhD in Environmental Economics

‘I am an unusual case because I work at Alterra and I just got my PhD part-time on the job. That was no problem at all at the university. The two professors who supervised me showed a lot of interest in my research and the supervision was good. I do see problems in Alterra. You have to keep your projects going and put in your hours. I was lucky because I had a multi-annual project. That made things calmer. **I hear from other people that it is very difficult for a DLO researcher to do a PhD if you have lots of small projects.** I think the research institutes should provide clarity for staff members who want to do a PhD. Are you going for projects and acquisition or is there scope for academic development?’

Marjanneke Vijge



PhD candidate in Environmental Policy

‘Things are well arranged in our group. We PhD candidates talk to each other a lot and hold meetings. That is valuable, because you need a sounding board, if you are stuck with your writing for instance. Then it also



helps to talk to people who are not your supervisor. I am amazed that the copromotors often haven't done any courses on supervision. **I get a lot of feedback on my papers but there is little opportunity to discuss the supervision process and the relationship. That is a weak point.** A lot of PhD candidates have problems with the supervision process. Do you get on, do you understand each other, does it click? As well as: how much support and guidance should the supervisor give? There are courses on that and I think they should be compulsory for copromotors and supervisors, because PhD research is not an easy process.'

Bert van 't Ooster



Got his PhD in Farm Technology

'I've been working within Wageningen UR as a teacher for a very long time. It proved to be perfectly possible to do a PhD part-time, because my workload was made lighter. **There is a lot that is right with the PhD process, especially compared to the mid-1980s, when I started in Wageningen UR.** There were no graduate schools yet then and PhD candidates were with individual chair groups. So I only have some minor criticisms. It struck me that there are cultural differences between graduate schools. I think it would be good, for instance, to make sure the quality assessments are done in the same way everywhere. I've sometimes noticed other PhD candidates getting frustrated if a paper was rejected by a journal. Then they sometimes decided to submit to a journal with an even higher impact, which generated more stress.'

Frederich Lech



Got his PhD in Food Technology

'Wageningen has a pretty good system. I knew what was expected of me and got the chance to do experiments and to take courses alongside my work. It is a system that has proved its merits and I think doctoral research goes well for 90 percent of the people. I think it would be interesting to get more exchange of experience going. **I would have liked to hear more about the overall agenda of Wageningen UR and the work of other PhD students and chair groups.** Perhaps this could be done at special symposia or PhD days. Another point is that PhD students currently learn to communicate about science mainly in a traditional way, through posters, patent applications and academic articles. There are other forms of science communication too, more geared to the general public.'

Muriel Verain



Got her PhD in the Economics of Consumers and Households

'The rules on the thesis could be more transparent. Like the fact that no photo is allowed on the back cover and the propositions are not allowed to be longer than one sentence, or to refer to the king. **Since these rules are not in the Doctorate Conferral Regulations, PhD candidates all have to find them out for themselves.** There is now a course about the 'last stretch' of the PhD process, which is a step in the right direction.'

HARD TO FILL BOARDS OF SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS

Student sports associations are finding it increasingly difficult to find enough candidates for their boards and committees. 'Nearly all the clubs face shortages,' says Romy Willemsen, chair of Thymos.

The Wageningen Student Alpine Club Ibex recently opened up board and committee positions to international students. That means a lot of extra translation work, but there simply are not enough Dutch candidates to be found. Saskia Postma, secretary of rowing club Argo, explains that the activities committee has three members this year, while it has sometimes had ten. Other committees are worryingly short of members too.

According to Romy Willemsen, chair of Thymos, nearly all the student sports associations face this problem. Only the newcomer, Wageningen Warriors, seems to have less difficulty finding enthusiasts. Manouk Wolbert of Wageningen Warriors: 'As a new association you should be full of enthusiastic members who want the association to grow.'

WORKLOAD

For most of the sports associations it is easier to fill the committees than the board. Anne Moleenaar, secretary of Aqua: 'The fun committees like an activities committee and popular. But as soon as there's more responsibility involved, as in a board position or the finance committee, you can hardly find any members. A board year is an incredibly valuable experience but it is very hard to combine the workload with studying full-time. So I can well understand that not everyone wants to take on that kind of responsibility. But that only makes it hard for us as a board.'

The workload and responsibili-

ties of board members are even bigger because many associations are forced to make do with a smaller board. Hipac St Joris and Aqua, for example, have sometimes had to manage with two board members fewer than would be ideal.

Beside the responsibility and the workload, some associations mention the binding study recommendation (BSA) as a cause of the problem. But Saskia Tersteeg thinks that the problem has more to do with the abolition of student grants. 'People probably need to borrow for an extra year if they want to do a board year, which means it also takes longer to pay off their debts. That makes it a bigger step to take on a board year.' It also seems that more and more students want to study abroad, which makes it difficult to appoint them to committees and boards.

EVENING LECTURES

Manon Eggink, treasurer of Sp-hinx, is worried about the plans for evening lectures. 'If there are going to be evening lectures too, I think it's going to get very difficult for boards and associations to keep running properly.'

Fortunately there are also ways of solving the threatened shortage, such as approaching members who seem suitable for a committee or board position personally. And if that doesn't work, there is always the option of dropping some board tasks. Sanne Kalsbeek, chair of Hipac St Joris: 'As long as there is a chair, a secretary and a treasurer, the association can be kept going.' She also thinks that sometimes ex-board members are willing to fill a position temporarily. 'These people usually feel very committed to the association.'



PHOTO: MILOU VAN DER HORST

BUDDY GROUPS

Associations sometimes make conscious efforts to keep members enthusiastic, involved and active. In order to increase commitment to the association and stimulate bonding between members, Ibex has formed buddy groups in which older members take a group of new members under their wing.

Enquiries with the Student

Council and the large student societies show that the problem has not (yet) arisen there. Saskia Postma of Ibex: 'I think students take a committee or board position in a sports association just for fun, whereas such jobs in a study association or student society are seen more as complementing your studies and contributing to your development.'

© CN, MvdH

FOOTBALL COMPETITION FOR WOMEN STUDENTS

Sports Association Thymos and student football club GVC are launching an internal weekday football competition for women students in January. There is enough interest for a pool of five teams.

Marcel Wenneker, DLO researcher and ladies trainer at GVC for 15 years, is training 45 new footballers this year. He has never worked with such large groups before. Thymos too has noticed a surge of interest in women's soccer,

says board member Saskia Nijland. 'At the AID and recently at the open day for Bachelor's degree programmes, we got a lot of questions about women's football. Women students who only want to train can go to GVC, a Thymos-affiliated association. But there were also women who want to play competitively and we had to refer them to a town club. We thought that was a pity.'

So SWU Thymos conducted a survey, which revealed that there is enough interest for a weekday competition. **Ⓡ LvdN**



PHOTO: REMO WORMMEESTER

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS WARY OF EVENING LECTURES

Student organizations are afraid that Wageningen will become a much less attractive choice of university if it introduces evening lectures. This is clear from an informal survey by student party VeSte.

'We presented the statements we collected from 45 student organizations to rector magnificus Arthur Mol before Christmas,' says VeSte chair Nick van Nispen. In the accompanying letter, VeSte calls on the executive board to scrap the introduction of evening classes.

Associations are afraid that far fewer students will take part in their activities and that their popularity and incomes will go down. Without these associations student do less socializing, writes VeSte in a letter to the rector. And that has 'negative consequences, from falling grades to, in extreme cases, depression'. It will also lead to students being 'forced to choose between their studies and extra-curricular activities, which is bad for their social development,' adds VeSte. And if students no longer have time to serve on association boards or committees and organize activities, Wageningen will become a much duller town, warns the student party in its letter to the directors.

Student sports associations said that many training sessions start before 20.00 and choirs and orchestras also mentioned that they rehearse in the evenings.' **Ⓡ KG**

Academic protest on back burner

After the occupation of the Maagdenhuis in Amsterdam last year an academic protest movement grew up in Wageningen too. Almost one year later it seems to have died down but the campaigners hope to revive it.

From February 2015 the Maagdenhuis at the University of Amsterdam was occupied by students and teachers wanting more democracy. The conflict started at the Faculty of Humanities and spread from there. In an analysis at the time *Resource* noted that there was little food for protest in Wageningen. Protest movements did emerge here, though, such as Rethink WUR and the New University of Wageningen (DNU). Their main aim was to counter the influence of businesses on universities.

At the beginning of 2016 the Wageningen protest movement is on the back burner. Rethink WUR

has not been active since the festival and is no longer even visible online. Initiator Michael Marchman has apparently returned to his home country, the United States.

DNU is in better shape and has about 650 followers on Facebook. But even DNU has been less active this academic year says spokesperson Aart-Jan van de Glind, currently also freelance photographer for *Resource*. In the autumn just a few events were organized related to the TTIP free trade treaty. It was inevitable that activity levels dropped, says Van de Glind. When the attention waned throughout the country, less motivated people dropped out. DNU now consists of three enthusiasts. Van de Glind plans to make this group more visible next year. He himself will be concentrating on DNU fulltime for four months, from March to June, as an internship for his degree in



In solidarity with campaigners from the UvA, a group of Wageningen students staged a demonstration on 4 March 2015.

PHOTO: AART-JAN VAN DE GLIND

International Development Studies, for which he does research on social change. 'They don't only happen overseas.'

The movement's aims have not

changed. 'Independent education, accessible to everyone.' DNU therefore regards the influence of the business world on Wageningen UR with suspicion. **Ⓡ RR**

MAKING FACES

When it comes to weird creatures not many beat the roundworm discovered by German researchers on the island of Réunion, which pulls five different faces in response to different kinds of food. You can tell by looking at it what it likes. Useful if you ever want to go out for a meal together. *Pristionchus borbonicus* – that's its name – lives in figs and is as ugly as sin.

YAWN

Are students better at coping on too little sleep than other people? The Dutch Association for Research on Sleep and Wakefulness intends to find out. On www.nswo.nl, the association is asking students to take part in a survey and test which take 45 minutes in all. A sleep-inducing activity. The reward is a chance of winning a voucher worth 25 euros. Yes, there's money for science these days.

FREE WILL

There is such a thing as free will, claim German researchers. Test subjects are able to deliberately break off movements, predicted by a computer in their brains on the basis of brain activity, before they start. This is proof that we are not entirely governed by the unconscious. In other words: you could have consciously chosen not to read this piece. Too late now.

FATTENING

Customers order more from fat waiters, shows a study by the Food and Brand Lab at Cornell University. When served by overweight waiters, customers drink 17 percent more alcohol and are four times more likely to order a dessert. So the researchers' advice is: decide

what you want to order before the waiter comes along. Or ask the waiter to send a slimmer colleague.



Good experience at debating World Championship

Teun Fiers and Jos Buijvoets of Wageningen Debating acquitted themselves well at the World Universities Debating Championship (WUDC) from 28 December to 3 January in Thessaloniki in Greece.

In nine rounds of debating they gained ten points. Fifteen points were required to get through to the final rounds. 'We had the feeling we stood a chance. That made it extra enjoyable to go for it fanatically on the last day.

When they were preparing the pair anticipating a motion on feminism. That turned out to be a good move as when a feminism-related motion came up they had the relevant social theory at hand

to back up their arguments. 'But of course there were also motions we hadn't seen coming,' says Teun. For example, the team had to defend the motion that a constitution should come with a use-by date. 'That struck us as a very unrealistic idea. So we had to be creative to be able to defend it. What problems would it solve? In the end we still managed to come second in that round.' Next year's championship will be held in the Netherlands. Jos Buijvoets will be on the organizing committee for the tournament. Teun hasn't decided yet whether he wants to get involved



Jos Buijvoets (left) and Teun Fiers, the Wageningen Debating team.

as a volunteer. 'But I shall certainly make sure there is a good Wageningen delegation present. You learn a lot from each other at a tournament like that. In terms of debating technique as well as from the content of the debates.' **© CN**

'Snake girl' gives talk on superheroes

Sterrin Smalbrugge, whose snake talk last year brought her fame on campus, will be giving another talk on 17 February. This talk (in Dutch) by the student of Forest and Nature Management's will be about the amazing ways in which reptiles adapt in order to survive.

Sterrin will present these reptilian 'superheroes' together with teacher Arie Terlouw. Just as she did last year, the third-year student will

bring a few of her pets along: an alligator tortoise, a beaded lizard and a spitting cobra. 'It's going to be great,' says Sterrin. 'Where else can you see a spitting cobra in action, apart from on TV? I really hope we can change the prevalent attitude to these creatures by bringing people in contact with them. I have noticed that when you make it personal people suddenly do start to care. Look at Cecil the lion, for instance. Canned hunting had been going on

for years but only when it got a face with Cecil did people start to protest.' **© LvdN**

The talk on Reptile Superheroes: Innovations in an undervalued class of heroes, will take place on 17 February from 19.30 to 22.00 in the Waaierzaal in Orion. The talk will be in Dutch. Admission is free but you should reserve your place. You can do so via the link under this bulletin on resource-online.nl.



EPISODE 63 - MORTIERSTRAAT 14B <<

Text
Liza
van Kapel

The story so far: Vera is having boyfriend trouble with Robby because her old friend Ruben started flirting with her.

New Year's Day Dip

Bang went the front door. From the kitchen table the house residents just caught a glimpse of Vera walking to her room before she slammed that door too.

'This can't go on,' said Derk. 'Ever since all that fuss with Robby she has shut herself up all week and doesn't talk to anyone. We've got to do something.' All the others nodded in agreement, except Bianca. 'What though? I have already tried to talk to her but you don't get anywhere.' An awkward silence fell, in which Willem-Jan showed excessive interest in the tablecloth and Bianca looked hopefully at Derk.

'That's it exactly: we've got to *do* something instead of talking,' said Derk. 'Get her outside, away from it all. Give her something else to think about. What if we all took part in the New Year's day dip in the Rhine?'

The suggestion was not exactly welcomed with open arms but after a heated discussion Bianca and Willem-Jan were finally persuaded. Only Filippo stuck to his guns. 'Sorry man, I do want to cheer her up, but no way am I going to swim in freezing water. You have to go without me.'

A couple of weeks later the holidays were in full swing and Derk had convinced all the others, including Vera, to go down to the Rhine. Once there Vera collapsed on the grass. She clearly had no intention of going into the water. Bianca glanced hesitantly at Derk who was getting ready to go for a swim anyway. So she and Willem-Jan started to get



ILLUSTRATIONS: KIM PETERSE

changed, shivering all the while.

'Come on in, Vera,' insisted Derk. 'Yes, come on. A refreshing start to the new year,' said Willem-Jan. All he got for his pains was a dirty look.

'OK, well we are going in,' said Derk. At that moment Filippo appeared at a run, wrapped up warm. In no time he had stripped off down to swimming trunks with the Italian flag and a Unox woolly hat. He gave the astonished Vera a kiss on her forehead and ran headlong into the Rhine. As soon as he felt the water on his legs he he started yelling and cursing in Italian. Willem-Jan ran over to him and pushed him over, only to be ducked under water himself. Derk followed suit and as Bianca went down to the water she glanced questioningly at Vera. She shook her head. But Bianca could have sworn she saw a hint of a smile for the first time in weeks.

Resource follows events at Mortierstraat 14B

International students to choose their rooms

Idealis rooms designated for foreign students are to disappear. From 4 January both Dutch and international (PhD) students can apply for any of the student housing provider's rooms, furnished and unfurnished.

Currently international students get allocated rooms through the Student Service Centre, while

Dutch students can rent unfurnished rooms from Idealis. International PhD student Deng Ying: 'I appreciate it very much that we got furnished rooms. But once you are a bit settled you want to buy furniture in a style you like.'

From 4 January everything will go through Idealis. Anyone looking for accommodation will be able to apply for any available

room. Corina van Dijk, Idealis spokesperson: 'We got frequent requests from foreigners who wanted to rent unfurnished rooms. Now we want to offer everyone the same options.'

Idealis will also spread the furnished rooms more throughout the various complexes. Now, for instance, all the rooms in the Bornsesteeg are furnished. Some

of these rooms will be 'stripped' of their furniture in the course of 2016. And furnished rooms will be added at the Marijkeweg.

A result of these changes is that international and Dutch students will probably live in more mixed groups. 'That was not the principle aim,' says Van Dijk. The main reason for the change was to provide freedom of choice. **IK**

>> PARTIES

The best parties according to Wageningen Uitgaans Promotie. Check www.wageningenup.nl for all parties.


KSV - 7Sins Presents: Frozen Franciscus
Thursday 14 January from 23:00 to 05:00

With a snow cave, an après-ski hut and appropriate music, KSV is a winter mood. It is sure to be busy again at this 7Sins party so make sure you get there in time and don't have to wait at the door to be allowed in. Don't forget your student card and ID. Entrance is 4 euros,

Wageningen - Blues Pub Crawl
Friday 15 January from 21:00

For three days from 15 to 17 January, you can enjoy nice blues in Wageningen town centre. There will be bands performing in 14 cafes. This is a great event which, along with the Palm

Procession and the Poppronde, brings some action and fun to the town. It's of interest even if you are not a particular fan of the blues.

Café Loburg - Baobab Live
Saturday 23 January from 22:00 to 04:00

The first edition of Baobab Live is a collaboration between cultural collective Baobab Music and Popcultuur Wageningen. We are very curious to see what it will produce. According to the organizers the Afrobeat and Fusion band Dramali is a must-see for fans of world music. They talk about 'West African pentatonic music combined with western influences'. Time to swing! 🎵

>> THE WORKS

'MADAGASCAR IS NOT ONE BIG RAINFOREST'

Who? Anna Luijten, Master's student of Forest and Nature Conservation

What? Thesis research on the gut flora of lemurs

Where? Madagascar

'My hypothesis was that species which are close taxonomically have the same gut bacteria, whereas gut flora within one species can vary according to the habitat. To test this I collected the feces of lemurs on Madagascar.

A typical day was like this: I was woken up in my tent by calling lemurs and put on my jungle clothes. Anti-leech socks, boots and a raincoat. The coat was essential because it was the rainy season. It poured all day long. That is why I had breakfast in the 'kitchen' – a fire under a tarpaulin. Breakfast consisted of rice and beans. After breakfast my guide and I set off on foot to look for lemurs. Once we had found a group, we collected their excrement.

Lunch at the camp was rice and beans with pineapple for dessert. The afternoon was usually the same as the morning and in the evening we ate – you've guessed – rice and beans. We tried to introduce some variety into our diet at some point by buying some pasta. But because people there are not familiar with it, the result was that we were served rice with pasta. After our evening meal we went to bed early because without electricity there wasn't much to do.

There are only two main roads on the island, one running north-south and one running east-west. Public transport consists of minibuses which are practically falling apart and which an awful lot of people are



PHOTOS: WESSEL NIEUWLAND

crammed into. That makes travelling an special experience. As a white person you often get cheated because you have no idea about the prices. As well as that, a lot of drivers are very pushy and they approach you to persuade you to go with them.

Although my time on Madagascar was a good experience I wouldn't be particularly keen to go back. The image I had beforehand – one big rainforest – is not entirely accurate. A lot of forest has been felled and the population is very poor. That is challenging. It also makes it difficult to get in contact with people, which was a pity, I thought. The nature there is certainly very beautiful. But surprisingly enough you meet people everywhere you go, even in places deep in the forest which we had trouble reaching in a four wheel drive.' 🇳🇱



PHOTO: WAREK/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

MEANWHILE IN... <<

Meanwhile in Poland

In the news: the rightwing Law and Justice party (PiS) won a majority in the recent elections in Poland. The party is now proposing drastic changes which the European Union says are undemocratic. How do Poles themselves see it?

Commentary by Barbara Sienkiewicz, student of Geo-Information Science

'Opinion is divided. One group of people is against the Law and Justice party coming to power, and another group is happy about it. I think a lot of people voted for the PiS in protest. They wanted to show that they no longer supported the old government.

The Polish media are in disarray. The new media law means the government can sack the board of the public broadcasting corporation. Then they can appoint whoever they want. The media now say what the PiS wants them to say. That is not acceptable.

There are other big changes too. The PiS wants to do away with the legislation the previous government introduced. What is even more scary is that they want to change the constitution. Then the PiS will be able to pass laws which do not comply with the constitution. The party is against the EU and western Europe. So what will happen next?

I was against the previous government myself, but this is not perfect either. I share some views but some are too extreme for Poland. There isn't a party I really feel at home with. Many politicians struggle for power, money and their own positions, but not for the country. Poland isn't taking many refugees. I wonder whether refugees even want to go to Poland. They would rather go to Germany. There is pressure to take in refugees but neither the government nor the people want to. People fear the consequences. We took in refugees in the past and treated them well. In the end they left for Germany without so much as a thank you.

Change will not be fast. The government came to power democratically and will stay. In Poland 39 percent of the population voted in the election. The remaining 61 percent are complaining now. Instead of complaining they should have voted when they had the chance.' LdP

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Jeroen Ensink



With great sadness and shock we wish to tell you that Jeroen Ensink was killed near his home in

London on 29 December 2015. He was 41 year old and leaves a wife and recently born baby-daughter. Jeroen was an alumnus of Wageningen University: he studied Tropical Land Use, specializing in water and heath. He first worked at the International Water Management Institute, later becoming Senior Lecturer at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. However he kept many contacts with Wageningen University in research, development and guest teaching. Jeroen was an outstanding researcher, really committed in his field, who also loved teaching and was greatly appreciated by his students. He was passionate about improving the health of ordinary people and local capacities to manage water-related health risks. He had wide international experience, which he used effectively in teaching and in development planning. He was a good friend and colleague to his fellow academics, students, international co-workers and friends, and he will be greatly missed. Our deepest condolences go to his family and friends.

Colleagues and alumni from the Water Resources Management Group

At the family's request, the LSHTM is establishing the Jeroen Ensink Memorial Fund to support MSc scholarships for students from Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. For information on making donations you can contact Bill Friar via e-mail at wiliam.friar@lshtm.ac.uk, or visit the LSHTM website.

Condolences can be sent via www.mensenlinq.nl/overlijdensberichten/jeroen-ensink-6595592 or by mail to: RJH Ensink, p/a Postbus 9020, 7200 GZ Zutphen.

Yolanda de Visser



After a long and admirable battle with her illness, our very dear colleague Yolanda de

driksen passed away on 2 January. Yolanda did valuable work as a PCR expert in the field of virological diagnosis.

Yolanda came to work in production at the Central Veterinary Institute in 1990, in the department of Production, Media Preparation and Central Sterilization. After working in the department of Mammal Virology and Porcine and Exotic Viral Diseases, Yolanda started work on the standard diagnosis project in 2004. She played a special role within the group, with responsibility for PCR test development, implementation and validation. Yolanda was extremely committed, hard-working and capable of getting her teeth into solving testing problems.

She was involved from the start in developing many tests which are still in daily use for diagnosis now. Yolanda was very sporty. She nearly always came to work by bike and her less fit colleagues who sometimes cycled with her had a hard time keeping up with her. She was keen on football, and did her bit for the sport as sport masseuse. With her healthy lifestyle it was hard to believe that Yolanda of all people fell ill. Her battle with breast cancer started in 2005. On recovering she soon returned to work. Sadly, secondary tumours appeared a few years later and years of chemotherapy followed. All through these debilitating treatments Yolanda nearly always came to work, as committed as ever and proud of the institute and her own work. It was amazing to see what she was able to do and achieve in spite of her illness. Yolanda fought hard to stay with her family as long as possible and to see her grandchildren grow up, but now at the age of 60 she lost the battle. In Yolanda we have lost a passionately committed member of staff and we shall miss her terribly. Our thoughts are with her family; we wish them strength to bear their loss.

On behalf of the management team, Eefke Weesendorp

Marja Teekens



It was with great distress and feelings of helplessness that we received the news of the death of

Marja Teekens (34). She was killed by her husband on the night of Friday 8 January. He then took his own life, but left their two children of 4 and 6 unharmed.

Marja taught at CAH Viltentum in Dronten. Four years ago she got in touch with the chair group because she wanted to do a PhD related to the Centre for Biobased Economy. In consultation with the Hogeschool Dronten, a research proposal was drawn up for a PhD research project on the introduction of biorefinery processes. The aim was to gain an

understanding of elements which facilitate or hamper the introduction of this technology. Animal feed was used as a model system, looking at how biorefinery can break it down into its components so that a more effective feed can be created for the animal. Components in currently used ingredients which are not useful or even harmful to the animal could be used in the biobased economy, replacing fossil fuels.

Marja could only work on the research part-time. Nevertheless, her enthusiasm, tenacity and her ability to connect people and topics generated a wide range of insights for both the animal feed and the biorefinery sectors. Her first article was recently accepted and a second article is almost ready for submission to a journal.

Marja was a pleasant and ambitious PhD student who was eager to learn. She was a good communicator and capable of integrating various disciplines: the process technology of biorefinery, knowledge of animal feeds and of economics, her own field. She sought further support from Prof. Marko Hekkert (Utrecht University) to understand the social aspects of innovations. Our thoughts are very much with the family and the two children at this terrible time.

On behalf of the Biobased chemistry and technology and Animal nutrition chair groups, Johan Sanders, Marieke Bruins, Wouter Hendriks, Harry Bitter

Classifieds

Registration open for ENP Summer School in June 2016: 'Tackling Transparency; the Methodological Challenges of Research on Disclosing Sustainability'

The aim of the Summer School is to explore the methodological challenges of operationalizing research on disclosing sustainability. It will highlight a number of challenges such as the analysing of the role of information in sustainability practices, the use of big data and social media in research, the developing and analysing of sustainability indicators and the involvement and analysing of citizen science approaches.

WWW.ENP.WUR.NL

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Neder-Veluwe food bank seeks volunteers

The Neder-Veluwe food bank is urgently in need of new volunteers for a range of tasks such as driver, co-driver, packer, food checker etc. Volunteers commit 2 to 3 half-days a month (on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday). You work in teams so it is fun too! Information: Anneke Sijbrand, 06-40932724, or www.voedselbanknederveluwe.nl.

Agenda

Thursday 14 to Wednesday

27 January

FILMS FOR STUDENTS

Lots of films coming up at filmhouse Movie W, including the MovieWeek-end festival (15, 16 and 17 January): Amy, a music film about Amy Winehouse with unique archive material; the Oscar winner Birdman, about a film star past his prime; Rams, a social-psychological drama set in stunning Iceland about two stubborn sheep farmers forced to collaborate; and Jheronimus Bosch, Touched by the Devil, a study of the intentions and genius of this legendary 'devil's painter'.

Movie W, Wilhelminaweg 3A.

WWW.MOVIE-W.NL

Thursday 14 January, 19.00-22.00

YOUNG KLV TRAINING: SCIENTIFIC ENGLISH (IN ENGLISH)

Struggling with your English-language scientific papers? Scared that you write in 'coal English' (a Dutch expression meaning broken English)? Writing high-quality scientific papers, essays, your thesis or application letters is not an easy job. It's an even bigger challenge if you have to produce written work in a second language. Young KLV offers you the opportunity to improve your academic writing. Members KLV: €10, non-members: €25. Venue: Impulse.

WWW.KLV.NL

Wednesday 20 January, 19.30-22.00

CRASH COURSE ON WU EDUCATION: GOVERNANCE, POLICY AND ORGANIZATION

Lecturer: Jan Steen, Consultant Quality of Education. The course (one evening) addresses four issues. The first one: governance and organiza-

tion of WU. The second one: funding of courses and other financial issues. The third one: 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. Finally the fourth topic: tasks, responsibilities and authorities of a Programme Committee and its members. Next course is scheduled on April 20. Venue: Forum Building, VIP rooms 031-034

Thursday 21 January, 20.15

LIVE STAGE MARNIX PRESENTS... JODYMOON

Jodymoon are Digna Janssen (vocals, piano), Johan Smeets (guitar, dobro, banjo, percussion, vocals) and Marie-José Didderen (cello). Jodymoon plays a mix of folk, pop, roots and classical music. Door open: 19:45. Admission €12. Booking in advance: reservering@lifestagemarnix.com. Venue: Café de Bospoort, Bospoort 1, Ede

WWW.LIVESTAGEMARNIX.COM

Sunday 24 January, 15.00

SUNDAY UNIVERSITY: LECTURE BY FRANK BERENDSE ON 'NATURE ON THE MOVE'

Landscape and nature are often more changeable than we realize. We often lament the species that disappear but we are less aware of the new species that are appearing on the scene. How do we give wild plants and animals in the Netherlands a sustainable future without clinging rigidly to the past? Prof. Frank Berendse, WU professor of Nature Management and Plant Ecology and author of the book Nature in Nederland, shows how mobile nature can be and offers you a new perspective on nature. Venue: town library, Stationsstraat 2, Wageningen

WWW.BBLTHK.NL

Wednesday 27 January, 20.30

SCIENCEBATTLE

Why are the Dutch so good at skating? Do you drive differently if you are corrected by a robot? How do you become truly happy? How do you get electricity out of your window? Young scientists leave their familiar laboratories for the 'ScienceB-

attle', a new kind of theatre in which PhD candidates compete on stage. They each get ten minutes to present their PhD research to the audience. Who convinces you? You are not just a member of the audience but also of the jury, helping decide who wins. Venue: Theater Junushoff, Wageningen

WWW.SCIENCEBATTLE.NL

Wednesday 17 February, 20.15

CABARESTAFETTE

Fancy being surprised by talented young stand-up comedians and maybe seeing the big new stand-up sensation? Come along to the (Dutch language) Cabarestafette. With three different acts, a virtuoso presentation and music from Pica DJ, who will warm up the audience beforehand, a stimulating evening is guaranteed. Which comedians you will see in Wageningen remains a surprise. The names probably won't mean much to you yet, but they have been selected with great care and deserve our full attention. They often include the winners of various stand-up festivals. The evening is compered by different presenters. Venue: Small auditorium of Theater Junushof, Wageningen

WWW.CABARESTAFETTE.NL

Friday 19 February, 20.15

BIG DONORS CONCERT BY STUDENT ORCHESTRA DE ONTZETTING

De Ontzetting is conducted by Jean-Pierre Gariël. The theme of this concert is 'Once upon a time' and well-known (and perhaps less well-known) music about fairy tales and stories will be performed. The programme is varied, with 'Miss Saigon' by Claude-Michel Schonberg, 'Orient Express' by Philip Sparke and 'The Lion King' by Elton John/ Hans Zimmer. Tickets from ontzetting@wur.nl or <https://goo.gl/ITjmv4>. Admission €5,00 for students and €7,50 for non-students. Venue: Theater De Junushoff, Wageningen.

WWW.ONTZETTING.WUR.NL

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

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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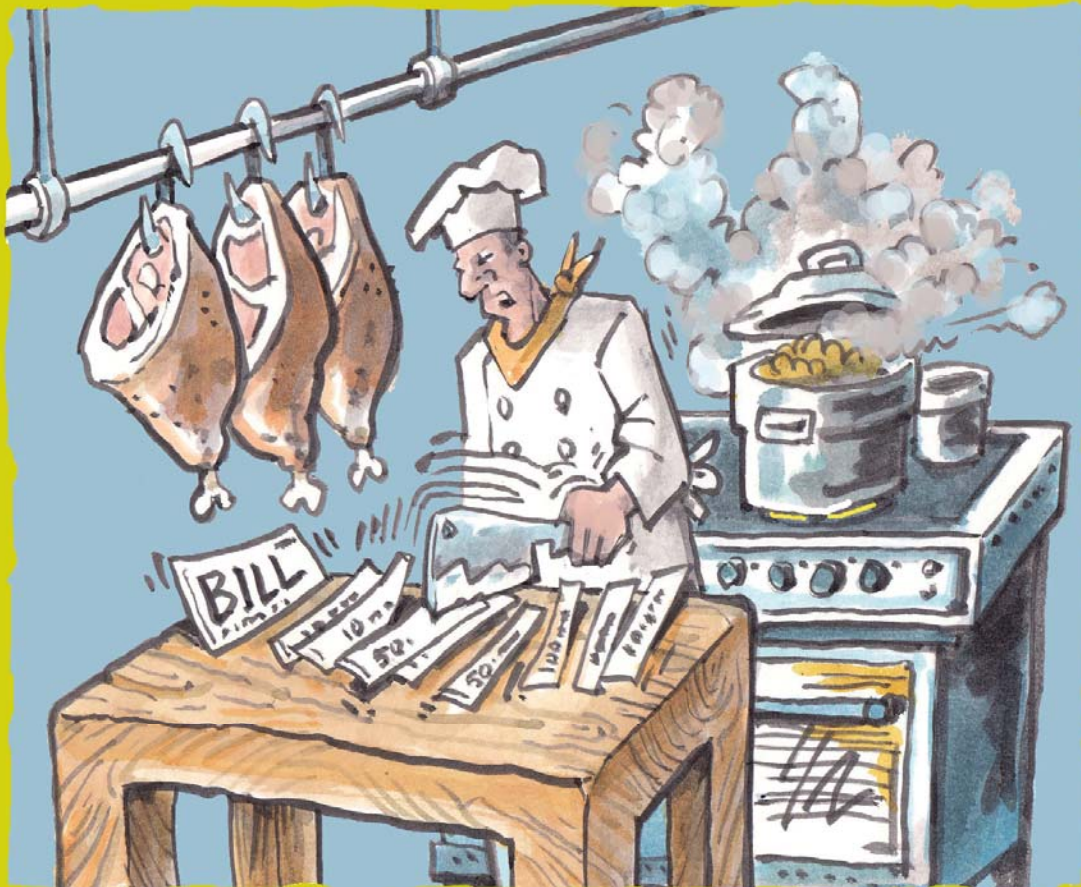


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The Going Dutch app

'Don't get your hopes up when a Dutch person invites you to his/her birthday party in a restaurant. Good chance he/she won't pay for your meal and you'll have to pay it yourself. Or, as the locals say, going Dutch.' This is a rough paraphrase of one of the most memorable parts of a survival guide to studying in the Netherlands which I read before coming to Wageningen.

I haven't had the embarrassment of eating in a restaurant without carrying money, as happened to the protagonist of that novel. But going Dutch, or paying for your own meal, sure is common. It is even facilitated in most restaurants here. I found myself queueing at the counter of an all-you-can-eat sushi restaurant to pay my share of the bill, in front of my friend who had been eating at the same table.

Sharing costs also applies to cooking at home, at least on my corridor: the sum of money spent on a meal, including dessert, is divided by the number of people eating. The paying arrangement is made even smoother by the app *WieBetaaltWat*, with its shopping list format and bank account information.

I find this both interesting and practical. It shows how efficient the Dutch are, especially when it comes to money. In Indonesia, most restaurants refuse to split the bill (due to inconvenience), so someone needs to pay and then ask their friends to pay up. Not to mention the 'who-received-how-much-change' dispute. In the Netherlands, you pay for what you eat (or drink), and there is no need to memorize prices on the bill. Also important: this will prevent broken friendships over the 'who-owes-what-to-whom' grudges. I will definitely apply this, as far as circumstances allow, when I get back to my home country.

📍 **Ferdy (Muhammad Ferdiansyah) Sechan**, Master's student of Biotechnology, from Indonesia

Going Dutch sure is common; it is even facilitated in most restaurants

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 and earn twenty-five euro and Dutch candy.