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# RESOURCE **[EN]**

For students and employees of Wageningen UR

no 13 – 25 February 2016 – 10th Volume

## Wageningen's attraction

Why alumni stick around | **p.12**

**INTERNATIONAL  
EDITION**

WAGENINGEN



# >> JOËLLE + BELLE

Joëlle Post, online editor at Communication Services

## ‘Belle really is different!’

When she as a teenager, Joëlle Post would have loved to read Belle herself. But it didn't exist then. Now she writes and blogs for the magazine of her dreams. Belle writes ‘in a positive Christian way’ about girly subjects: falling in love, the first kiss, periods. ‘Empowering girls is the aim. Showing that every girl is beautiful as she is and has the right to be herself.’ Among other things, Post writes the baking page for Belle – another hobby of hers. Interested? [www.huisvanbelle.nl](http://www.huisvanbelle.nl).  RR / Foto: Guy Ackermans

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## SAVING THE WORLD

At the age of 20 I fitted the stereotype of a Wageningen student to a T: an idealist in sensible shoes who was sure to be planning to help save the world in some way. The fact that it has all worked out otherwise doesn't bother me at all. But just occasionally, in a cynical moment, the feeling comes over me that I am sitting on the sidelines by taking a secure job at Wageningen UR instead of something more adventurous out in the real world – for which my degree should have been a job ticket. In this kind of mood I see my beloved home town as a kind of self-perpetuating organism snuggling smugly – after all, it contributes to 'the quality of life' – into the Wageningen hill. Many 'stayers' like me benefit shamelessly from the 'we-are-saving-the-world' feeling when actually all we are doing is serving our own safe little community.

Fortunately these nagging doubts evaporate as soon as I skype with my friend in Costa Rica, who uses her Wageningen knowledge to try to save the rainforest, day in day out. And I seldom have an attack of cynicism about that. Of course I don't. I live in Wageningen.

*Lieke de Kwant*



>> What was iceman Ötzi doing with those fungi? | p.10



# MORE INSIGHT INTO JOB PROSPECTS IN MARCH

- 2014 overview showed decline
- Degree information too optimistic

Have job prospects for Wageningen graduates improved now the economic crisis is coming to an end? This will become clear in March when a new Higher Education Moni-

tor comes out for Wageningen University.

The previous edition of this survey, conducted among recent graduates, came out two years ago. The new edition should reveal the extent to which the crisis is over for Wageningen graduates. When *Resource* and alumni association KLV analysed the figures in 2014, the prospects for graduates proved to have worsened

since 2009. More alumni were unemployed, the average time it took to find a job was longer, and more people were working below their capacity.

Precise information about job prospects has been given an increasingly prominent place in information about degree programmes in recent years. Now that they no longer receive the basic grant from

the government, Dutch school students give more importance to job prospects. The ministry of OC&W too wants to see school students getting objective and transparent information. Painfully enough, it emerged last week that there was a calculation error in the information about degree programmes on Studiekeuze123, which aims to provide neutral information about degree programmes. The error meant that students on all university Bachelor's degree programmes got over-optimistic figures about their job prospects.

The mistake came to light thanks to investigative work by TV programme *De Monitor*. The journalists couldn't believe that 86 percent of psychology graduates had a job at graduate level within one and a half years of graduating, as the information on the website suggested. In reality only 55 percent of psychology graduates had a graduate-level job.

It later transpired that the mistake applied not just to Psychology but to all academic Bachelor's programmes. All the employment figures have now been removed from the information in anticipation of new data. The further and higher educational information site Studiekeuze 123 provides statistics on job opportunities and starting salaries. **RR**



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER

On Career Day on 2 February in Orion students and alumni had a chance to meet potential employers.

## TEACHER AWARD NO LONGER ON DIES NATALIS

- No space in the programme
- Student council disappointed

The Teacher of the Year Award will be presented this year when the teaching bonuses are handed out in April. The prize-giving cannot be fitted into the programme of the Dies Natalis.

The Dies (Founders Day) includes its own prize-giving and it has been reorganized in a way that doesn't leave enough time for an-

other prize, says Daniëlle Grashuis of University Fund Wageningen. 'Pity, but understandable. We do think though that we've found another good moment to present the Teacher of the Year Award, when the teaching bonuses are handed out.'

According to Grashuis, these two award ceremonies go well together. What is more, the awarding of the bonuses is 'another festive occasion', thinks Grashuis. The award ceremony takes place in the lunch hour on Thursday 21

April in Impulse.

The Student Council is not pleased with this turn of events, says student council member Bram Kerssemakers. 'Originally it was agreed that the Teacher of the Year Award should be handed out as part of the Dies. The executive council has gone back on that agreement by suddenly moving the award ceremony with a minimum of communication about it. That is a sore point for us, because the change was quite sensitive anyway. Formerly we

used to organize the award ceremony and now it is out of our hands. So it is very important that the executive council reassures us that it will be done properly.'

The award ceremony is in a week when there are no classes, so Grashuis hopes a lot of students and teachers will attend it. But according to Kerssemakers, it will now be very difficult to get many students to come along, as the teaching bonuses ceremony is not well-attended by students.

**LvdN**

# NO VICI FOR WAGENINGEN

- 32 grants of 1.5 million euros awarded
- Success rate of 15 percent

Not a single researcher at Wageningen University managed to bag a Vici grant this year. Nationwide 32 scientists received the prestigious Dutch grant of 1.5 million euros.

The results are in sharp contrast with last year, when three Wageningen researchers

– Duur Aanen, Dolf Weijers and the departing Thea Hilhorst – got a Vici grant to help them set up and expand departments of their own. Other Wageningen professors who have previously won a Vici grant are John van den Oost, Erwin Bulte and Marcel Dicke.

Just as in the past, only 15 percent of the researchers who applied received a Vici grant. This low success rate underlines the extent to which science funding is under pressure. Many other prestigious

and popular grants such as the NWO's Veni and Vidi grants and the ERC's various grants from Brussels are only awarded to 10 to 20 percent of their applicants, too.

Science financier NWO awarded the Vici grant almost equally to male and female researchers (17 and 14 percent respectively). This was emphasized in the press release, perhaps because last year a research team accused the NWO of sex discrimination in the allocation of grants. **RR**

## ©COLUMN|STIJN

### Makeshift career

Asscher says the situation is not that bad when you look at the number of 'makeshift contracts' in academia. The Social Affairs minister made inquiries and the universities told him such makeshift arrangements are rare. I'm sure Asscher is an honest man and the university directors will undoubtedly have tried to tell him the truth but I think his answer is rubbish. Everywhere I look, makeshift solutions are common practice in science. And I mean makeshift in the broadest sense because in my opinion the makeshift arrangement described by Asscher – a firm contract for a few hours combined with a flexible contract for the rest of the week – is pretty straightforward.

I know of much more devious examples. For example, a temporary contract here is exchanged for a temporary contract with a well-disposed research group at a different university. In this way, you can keep people for six to eight years without them ever having a prospect of a permanent contract. Or what about this quote from a PhD candidate: 'Hey, I've got enough time to finish my doctoral thesis – I'm still eligible for nine months unemployment benefit.' These tricks of the trade are how scientists cobble together their entire career.

But don't imagine that university boards are going to tell Asscher this. In fact, I doubt the research groups even inform their own university boards about these situations. The researchers in question also keep mum. 'Weird arrangement? I'm just pleased I can keep doing my work.'

Actually, every scientist is a mini-entrepreneur going to great lengths just to keep their research going. You could even say that it is quite surprising such freelancers get a standard employment contract at all. **B**

**Stijn van Gils** (28) doet promotieonderzoek naar ecosysteemdiensten in de landbouw. Maandelijks beschrijft hij zijn worsteling met het systeem wetenschap.



### in brief

#### UKRAINE

##### Debate on referendum

For people who would like to know more about the Ukraine referendum to be held in the Netherlands in April, there is a politics café at KSV Franciscus student society on 15 March. Guests will be informed about the association agreement between the EU and the Ukraine and there will be a debate between a supporter and an opponent of the agreement, says organizer Hugo de Vries, a PhD candidate at Microbiology. De Vries is one of the 'golden' volunteers at *GeenPeil*, a Dutch platform that came out of the popular weblog *Geenstijl* and which pressed for a referendum on the issue. De Vries himself is against the association treaty and the EU's 'drive to expand', but he wants to conduct 'a neutral campaign'. **RR**

#### >> MARTIJN VAN DAM

##### Visit to campus

Martijn van Dam, who has been secretary of state for Agriculture and Nature for a few months now, will pay his first visit to Wageningen Campus on Monday 29 February. He will be given a guided tour taking in the Restaurant of the Future, the CAT-AgroFood



laboratories and the greenhouses at Radix and Unifarm. One of the topics of discussion will be the big growth in student numbers at Wageningen and the lagging funding for it. Another will probably be the plan to transfer green education to the ministry of Education. **KG**

#### >> CONTEST

##### Insurance for farmers

Students with the best idea on how to insure the incomes of European farmers better will be allowed to attend a meeting of the European Association of Agricultural Economists on Wageningen Campus in October. Submissions must reach Miranda Meuwissen, associate professor of Business Economics, by 1 May. The main question is: business risks for farmers be better covered? Meuwissen: 'In Europe there are really only funds for compensating farmers for very serious damage, such as that done by animal diseases. In the US farmers are insured against smaller harvests or lower prices too.' The European Commission would like a similar system in Europe. There will be an evening lecture for interested students on 14 March in the Leeuwenborch. **KG**

#### For more information?

Read the long version of these items on [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl).



# ON THE TRAIL OF LEFTWING ACTIVISM

- **Alumnus wants to map out Wageningen's leftwing history**
- **Wageningen Barricades seeks pictures and stories**

Older Wageningen alumni are bound to have memories of a number of leftwing organizations, initiatives and protests. WSO, De Uitbuyt, De Tien Zilverlingen. Squats, the Wageningen Spring, attacks on GM trial plots. Jokari or the Imperialism Collective... The Wageningen Left in all its glory. But who remembers what went on? Who did what and why? And what traces of that era can still be seen around the town?

Jobbe Wijnen, an alumnus of this university, was studying here from 1995 to 2003. The leftwing movement was already over its peak by then, so he didn't witness much of it himself. But two years ago when he came across some graffiti on the wall of the International Club – 'Yes to Lubbers, no to Pudoc' – his interest was aroused.

Wijnen studied Biology but nowadays he is a cultural histori-

an with a special interest in the physical traces of conflicts. The words on the wall of the former squat premises is one such trace. 'Those squatters were evicted at the time. I wanted to know exactly what happened.' And that led straight to the idea of the project: The Wageningen Barricades. An attempt to map out Wageningen's leftwing activism from 1970 in an accessible form.

And when he says map out, he means that literally. Wijnen wants to create a digital map of Wageningen showing the places where it all happened. The squats, the meeting places at clubs and organizations and the traces of activism, whether visible or not. He will also publish 12 articles about the activism, each of them linking a location with the eyewitness testimony of a key player.


Wijnen is concentrating largely on staff and alumni of Wageningen UR. 'I am eager to get hold of stories and photos. Memories, posters, leaflets, film clips... everything is of interest.' For more information visit [wageningsebarricaden.wordpress.com](http://wageningsebarricaden.wordpress.com).  RK



PHOTO: EEF VAN OTTERLOO

A demonstration in the Bowlespark in Wageningen in 1987, against building plans by the then minister of Education Wim Deetman.



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

Student union WSO occupied the entrance to the head office of Wageningen Agricultural University at Duivendaal in 1996.



PHOTO: REMO WORMMEESTER

## SWIMMING CLASSES

Learning to float and losing your fear of water. These are the objectives of the swimming classes for international students currently running in De Bongerd swimming pool. Since the beginning of February this opportunity to familiarize themselves with water has been available to students from countries where learning to swim is not part of the culture. Sports association Thymos and swimming club Wageningse Watervrienden developed two courses that can lead to a certificate. Student Yufan Wei, student council member for S&I, recently got into the pool for the third time. There are four other international students in her group and, surprisingly enough, one Dutch student too, says Yufan.  LvdN



# NEW OPTION FOR CAMPUS: THREE ENTRANCES

- Interest groups make their own plan
- Parking charges on campus too

It is not necessary to double the width of the Nijenoordallee or create a campus ringroad. There is another way of improving the accessibility of the campus and the northern side of the city, says a coalition of neighbouring residents and interest groups. At the heart of their approach are better distribution of traffic, better separation of cyclists from cars, and parking charges on the campus. The coalition formed around this topic, called 'Wageningen on the right road' calls the plan the Supported Option. It is supported by the residents' associations of the Tarthorst and Noordwest neighbourhoods, the cyclists' association,

and environmental organizations *Mooi Wageningen* and the *Wageningen Milieu Overleg*. Residents of the Roghorst neighbourhood have not joined in. The option will be presented to the municipal council and the provincial council at the end of this month.

An interesting feature of the plans interesting is the two new entrances to the campus. To the west, cars would be able to reach the campus on the bus lane or on a lane parallel to it. To the south there are two options: the Bornsesteeg or a new access road opposite the Asia Plaza restaurant. The western access point is the most striking addition, as this option was always fiercely opposed by the Noordwest residents association. Chair Peter Spitteler admits that it is 'the price we have to pay.'

Barriers and passes would prevent people taking shortcuts across the campus. The plans make no pro-



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

vision for the intended northern access point. Instead the Mansholtlaan would have four lanes up to the Droevendaalsesteeg, with an exit

lane leading onto campus. The Supported Option also includes parking charges on the campus and changes to class times. **RK**

## 'INTO THE DARK FOREST AT 7 IN THE MORNING'



*It is obvious from the reports that the journalists had a nice day. How was your day?*

'I have done guided tours for journalists before but it's always special. We were already in the cold, dark forest at 7 in the morning so the reporters from Radio 1 and Radio Gelderland could broadcast live on the early morning programmes.'

*What did you show the journalists?*

'In the training woods – where we work together with the national forest service, Van Hall Larenstein university of applied sciences and Helicon vocational college – they had to carry out an assignment our students get too. They had to mark trees selected for felling so that other trees get more space. The aim is to increase both the ecological quality and the monetary value of the forest.'

*Does all that media attention lead anywhere?*

'It is astonishing how many people have heard about the training woods in the media. Does it bring in new students? I don't think so. Although... One journalist I had email contact with the next day told me his son looked through the press file and is now seriously considering studying Forest and Nature Management.' **KG**

**Who?** Jan den Ouden, teacher of Forest Ecology and Forest Management

**What?** Gave journalists a guided tour of the biggest training woods in the Netherlands

**Where?** NOS news, Children's news, Radio 1, Radio Gelderland, Trouw, Reformatorisch Dagblad and other media...

# FRESH DAILY!

Visit [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl) for the latest news

**RESOURCE**  
For students and employees of Wageningen UR

# 'SEE THE FINANCIAL WORLD AS AN ECOSYSTEM'

- Economists can learn from ecology
- Scheffer's tipping points serve as model

Economists should learn from ecology, climatology and other sciences which study complex systems. This can provide them with greater insight into the origins of the bubbles and crashes which cost society a lot of money. So say Marten Scheffer, professor of Aquatic Ecology at Wageningen University, and other scientists in *Science*.

Over seven years ago, Lehman Brothers bank went bankrupt and very nearly took the global financial system with it when it fell. Such disastrous crashes are often not seen coming, yet they cause tremendous damage – the crisis of 2008 is estimated to have cost 14 trillion dollars. Not surprising that policymakers and central bankers want to gain a better understanding of how crises arise and how



you can prevent or assuage them.

To this end economists should learn from other 'complex' sciences, says Cars Hommes, professor of Economic Dynamics at the Uni-

versity of Amsterdam. One of the lessons is the importance of network structures. Even when individual banks are stable, that is not automatically true of the banking

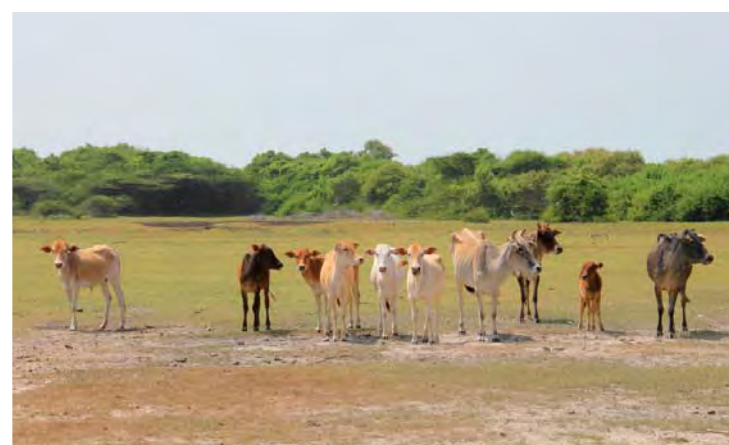
system as a whole. This financial network played a role in the crisis of 2008 too. 'The fall of Lehman Brothers set a domino effect in motion,' says Hommes.

Another source of inspiration is the work of Marten Scheffer. The Wageningen ecologist discovered that lakes can be murky for a long time, only to 'tip over' suddenly into a new, clear state. Such tipping points are found in all kinds of contexts, such as migraine attacks and rain forests. Or banking systems. 'We would like to have generic indicators of the resilience of such systems,' says Scheffer. 'An indicator that is generally applicable, which shows when the system is approaching a tipping point.' Systems seem to be weaker at such points, and to respond to disturbances more slowly. Scheffer warns of one peculiarity of financial markets compared with other complex systems. 'People are constantly trying to predict markets, because you can make money that way. That is not something trees in the Amazon do.' **RR**

## GRASSLAND NEEDS TWICE AS MUCH PHOSPHATE

- Much grassland outside Europe is impoverished
- Fertilization can raise food production levels

The soil fertility of grassland is deteriorating rapidly around the world due to a lack of fertilization. The amount of phosphate added needs to double over the years to come if enough grass is to be grown to maintain levels of milk and meat production. These conclusions are presented by researchers from Wageningen and Utrecht, the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency and the FAO in the journal *Nature Communications*. Better management would let the world's grasslands



play a bigger role in food production, say the researchers, who include Prof. Martin van Ittersum of Plant Production Systems.

The Netherlands and other parts of north-western Europe

struggle with an excess of phosphate because farmers apply too much fertilizer. But most of the world's more than three billion hectares of grassland hardly gets any fertilizer. This means that the

phosphorus in the soil is not replaced and much grassland becomes impoverished.

The researchers have calculated that the addition of phosphate needs to increase if sufficient grass is to be grown for the current global livestock population. Doubling it would maintain the production of grass and arable farming at current levels. But the amount of phosphate added needs to rise by a factor of four if we want to increase grass production by 80 percent to produce more milk and meat for the growing global population.

The researchers also argue that better grassland management will reduce the need for extra feed for cows and goats, releasing more cereals for human consumption.

**AS**



## ROBOT MEASURES PHOTOSYNTHESIS

- In 1500 plants simultaneously
- Useful for plant breeding and fundamental research

Wageningen researchers have built an image analysis robot that lets them accurately measure photosynthesis. The robot is able to measure the photosynthesis of about 1500 plants simultaneously over an entire day. This will enable plant breeders to select plants for the first time with higher levels of photosynthesis. Researchers Mark Aarts in the Genetics group and Jeremy Harbinson in the Horticulture & Product Physiology group presented the hi-tech robot – the Phenovator – this week in the scientific journal *Plant Methods*.

The Phenovator takes eight photos of the plants a couple of times a day at different light wavelengths, from deep red to blue light. The extent to which the chloroplasts react to a certain wavelength shows how effective the photosynthesis is at that point in time. The robot uses the images in the other wavelengths to measure the size and colour of all the plants. This lets researchers measure the photosynthesis, growth and movement of the plants day and night.

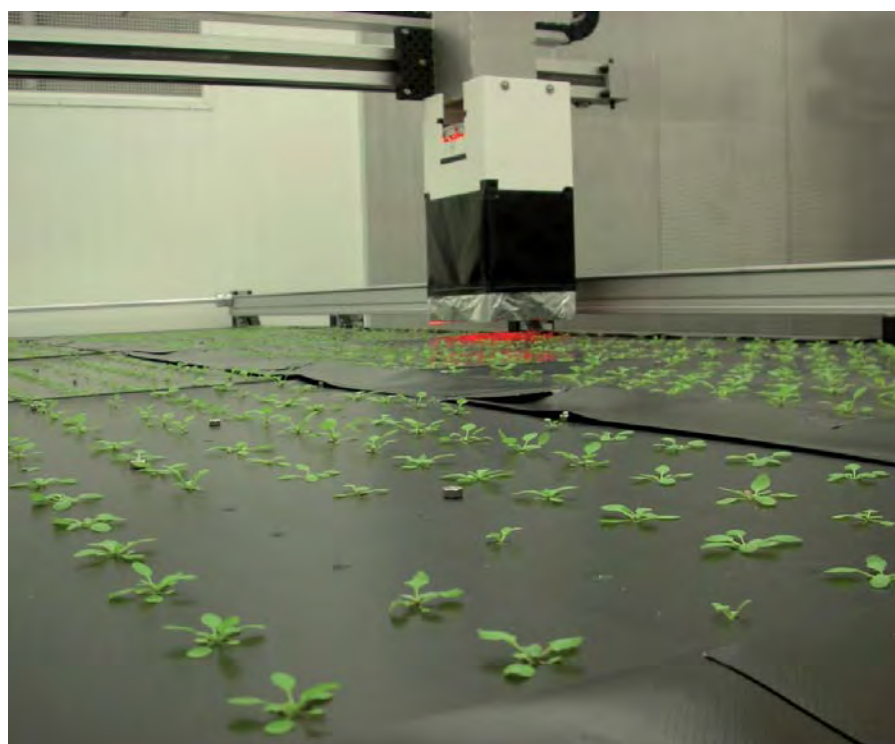
It was already possible to measure photosynthesis in plants but the techniques

were labour-intensive and the results highly dependent on environmental conditions. Aarts and Harbinson use the robot in a climate-controlled chamber in which the environmental conditions can be controlled properly. This means that the photosynthesis measurements are accurate and reliable.

The measurement robot also enables new basic research into the heritability of photosynthesis. Because the robot can monitor large numbers of plants simultaneously, researchers are able to target their search for the genes that are important for photosynthesis. The Phenovator can also measure the influence of other processes, such as light intensity and temperature, on photosynthesis. Aarts and Harbinson are using the instrument for fundamental research. Their photosynthesis research was funded by the technological top institute Green Genetics, the Biosolar Cell project and the Horticulture & Starting Materials top sector.

Co-author Henk Jalink is using the new technique in a Wageningen UR spin-off company, Phenovation, that was recently started up. This company develops and builds instruments for measuring chlorophyll fluorescence, an important yardstick for photosynthesis. The technique can be used for the early detection of plant stress.

AS



## VISION <<

### ‘Separating calves from cows is actually better’

**The Lower House of the Dutch parliament wants calves kept with their mothers for longer. That sounds kind but it does not actually promote animal welfare, says welfare researcher and lecturer Hans Hops-ter.**



#### How do you know?

‘A lot of research has been done on this. Before the birth the maternal behaviour of the cow is regulated hormonally. But once the calf is born, that regulation is done by the calf. That has evolutionary advantages because if the calf is stillborn, the cow doesn’t spend any energy on it. Only if the calf wants to drink does the mother go into action. So if you take the calf away straightaway, maternal behaviour dwindles fast.’

#### That doesn’t sound natural

‘Exactly. People have other ideas about how it works. We grew up with the idea that a strong bond prevents all kinds of psychological problems. But there are big differences between mammals in the extent to which their young are dependent on maternal care. The cow is similar in this respect to the gnu, whose calf is extremely self-reliant. Under natural conditions the cow hides the calf for the first few days. She keeps an eye on it from a distance and suckles the calf a few times a day. After that the calf grows up with the others in the herd. The longer the cow and the calf stay together, the closer the bond becomes between them. So if we implement the parliamentary motion and only separate the cow from the calf after a few months, that is when there will be a welfare problem.’

#### Isn’t the cow necessary for the health of the calf?

‘The reason farmers separate the calf from the cow is precisely for the good of its health. The newborn calf needs to get enough colostrum to build up its immunity. If you leave that to the calf and the cow it sometimes goes wrong. Secondly, the farmer doesn’t want the calf contracting diseases in the stall, so he’d rather put the calf in its own clean, warm box.’ AS

*This Vision drew heated debate online. Read it on page 11.*



# WHAT WAS ICEMAN ÖTZI DOING WITH THOSE FUNGI?

- Birch polypore is edible but far from tasty
- Medicinal function seems likely

Ever since the discovery of Ötzi, scientists have been wondering why this early man was carrying birch polypore. Leo van Griensven, a visiting scientist at Plant Research International, says it may have something to do with the fact that birch polypore inhibits bacterial growth. He has published on this subject in the *International Journal of Medicinal Mushrooms*.

Ötzi, who was discovered in the Alps in 1991, may have been dead for 5300 years but he is still keeping scientists busy. Only last year, scientists revealed the possible function of his 61 (!) tattoos. They had already investigated Ötzi's final meal, his shoes, the wear and



tear on his bones, his tools, his clothes and the cause of death.

However, Ötzi's most striking belongings were a handful of fun-

gi. His bag, for instance, contained fungi crumbs that were probably used to light a fire. But he also had birch polypore (*Pip-*

*toporus betulinus*) hanging from his kit on a leather strap. Scientists have been speculating about the purpose of these fungi since the 1990s. The birch polypore, which is also found in the Netherlands, is edible but not that tasty. A medicinal function therefore seems more likely.

Van Griensven worked with several Serbian colleagues to investigate the birch polypore's properties in the laboratory. Extracts from the mushroom turned out to have an antioxidant effect and also inhibit the growth of bacteria. 'But we lack really hard evidence,' says Van Griensven. 'For that, you need a large trial with animals and a placebo as a control.' He hopes he will be able to conduct such a trial in the future.

Van Griensven sees fungi as a possible replacement or supplement to antibiotics. 'There is a huge need for this in society.' **RR**

# LARGE BEES ARE GETTING SMALLER

- Female bees have shrunk by 6.5 percent
- Wild flowers have disappeared from fields

Large bee species have become smaller over the past 150 years, as ecologists discovered when they measured bees from Naturalis's historical collection. The shrinkage occurred only in the females, not the males. While the reason is not known, the Brazilian and Dutch researchers see falling biodiversity in Dutch fields as the main culprit. Their results have been published in *PLoS ONE*.

The finding that large bee species are currently declining faster than smaller species had already been published. The researchers suspected that this is putting those large bees under evolutionary pressure to become smaller. The team

of ecologists investigated this by taking 4510 preserved bees and measuring the distance between the points where the wings are attached to the body, which is a measure of the body size. They studied bees belonging to 18 species found in the Netherlands. In large bee species such as the buff-tailed bumblebee, the females turned out to have become 6.5 percent smaller. The researchers were able to exclude most environmental factors so this does indeed seem to be an evolutionary change. This is a surprising result even for a biologist, says David Kleijn. 'You do tend to think that bees are fixed. But they have to adapt too.'

Kleijn sees the reason for the shrinkage in the changes in Dutch agriculture. Farming has become more intensive and on a larger scale over the past 150 years. Pastureland is now just grass with few wild flowers or plants, so bees have access to fewer flowers – and therefore less nectar. In addition, there is more variation than in the past

in what is on offer. Larger bees need more nectar and are therefore affected more by the changes.

A surprising aspect of the results is the fact that the males have not shrunk. 'There must have been an opposing pressure,' says Kleijn. 'It might be important for them to be large, for example to mate with as many females as possible.' **RR**





A discussion about separating cows from their calves turned into trench warfare between 'town' and 'country'. Got an opinion too? Join in the online discussion at [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl) or email [resource@wur.nl](mailto:resource@wur.nl).

REACTIONS ON...



# RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL

## BLACK-AND-WHITE THINKING

The Lower House of the Dutch parliament has passed a motion proposing keeping cows and calves together for longer. *Resource* reporter Albert Sikkema called animal welfare researcher Hans Hopster for a response (see also page 9) and boy, did we know it. His online report 'Cow and calf together is worse for animal welfare' drew a record number of views and some heated debate.

Hopster's belief that the parliamentary motion actually poses a threat to animal welfare drew a lot of fire. 'I don't believe a word of it,' writes

Jurrito Negro on Resource's Facebook page. Nor do many others. 'If you ask me, this is not about welfare but about financial interests,' writes Angèle van Tilburg. On resource-online too, a fierce discussion blew up. SR, PhD WUR thinks farmers' interests prevail over those of animals. 'There are loads of things that could be done differently, for example putting cows out to grass with a walk-in shed (with sand bedding), so they can choose for themselves whether to stay outside.'

Johan thinks the criticism reveals massive ignorance. More and more often he notices people airing their truths, unfazed by their total lack of experience in the field. In such discussions the animals often get anthropomorphized. 'Pity that there are attempts based on ignorance and disinterest to put a hardworking group of people who love animals in a bad light.' This is not the only support expressed for Hopster's view. Tim van Zuiden thinks the reactions are typical of that 'disease of affluence', animal rights organization Wakker Dier. Others quietly point out that consumers hardly want to pay anything for their food and yet now the farmer who produces cheaply has become the baddy.

As the discussion continues it becomes more and more a case of 'town' versus 'country'. And 'town' insists on having its say. 'Just because you don't stand up to your armpits in manure every day, does it mean you have no right to say anything?' sniggers Carin de Haan. She deplores the way farmers adopt the role of victims. And she simply thinks there is scope for producing more expensive milk and developing more animal-friendly barns. A lot of digital sighs are heaved at this, especially at the idea of 'stopping selling cheap milk'. 'Hello!' writes ZLG. 'It is 2016. We live in the

Netherlands, an open economy in which the sector competes on a global market.' The discussion continues with a – very long – *cri de coeur* from farmer Dijkstra. 'A farmer cares about animals just deeply as you do. You cannot work 24/7 with "a thing" you don't care about, only doing it for the money.' Sector magazine *Boerderij Vandaag* put Resource's report on the front page. On the magazine's website farmers have expressed gratitude for Hopster's position. Peltjes writes: 'I hope the politicians who voted for this now see how naïve they have been, how they are manipulated by the animal rights party, and how this party constantly anthropomorphizes the animal world.' Gjestenwijk1 shares an interesting case. 'Weaned a two-month-old calf last week. The cow lowed for its calf almost non-stop for two days. She only stopped when she lost her voice. Mrs Thieme [leader of the Dutch animal rights party, who tabled the motion], please take note and submit only sensible motions in future!' @ RR and LdK





# Once a Wageningen...





For such a small town Wageningen exercises a remarkable power of attraction over its graduates. Many stay on, many more return after a few years abroad or in one of the big Dutch cities. And not always because they get jobs at Wageningen UR. 'There is something cosy about Wageningen.'

text Lieke de Kwant en Lucas du Pré illustration Geert-Jan Bruins

University cities get a bit of a spring clean after every graduation ceremony. As if someone turned them upside down and beat out the dust. The new graduates go off to a future elsewhere. But there are always some who stick around. They may start a career at their alma mater, they might commute or they decide they like their job on the side more than the pursuit of science. After some time these 'stayers' are joined by old friends: the 'returners'.

The ten editors of *Resource* and *Wageningen World* include one stayer and three returners: a score of 40 percent. A coincidence, you might think. But that is debatable. Anyone spending some time in Wageningen cannot escape the impression that a remarkable proportion of the city's residents are ex-students of Wageningen UR and its predecessors. One quarter of the parents' committee at the Pantarijn secondary school, for example, and one third of the municipal council, are Wageningen graduates. De Vlaamsche Reus and Loburg cafés are run by graduates. Look for a career coach, yoga teacher, copywriter or journalist in the city and the chances are you will find a Wageningen alumnus. And then we haven't even mentioned Wageningen UR itself, where alumni make up an estimated 24 percent of the staff (nearly 1400 alumni who live in Wageningen, according to alumni association KLV, out of a total of about 5800 staff.)

#### LEAVERS

This could lead one to assume that an above average proportion of Wageningen graduates cannot tear themselves away from their university town, but that is not so. The national higher education monitor of 2013 shows in fact that Wageningen University graduates tend to go far afield in the first year and a half after graduating. The percentage of Wageningen graduates who stay in the province where they studied is lower than average for Dutch universities (44 as opposed to 68 percent) and the percentage that goes abroad is nearly double (23 as opposed to 12 percent). These statistics are tricky though, because they don't tell us anything about those who come back. Also, it is like comparing apples with oranges because staying in a big city like Amsterdam or Rotterdam is not the same as staying around in Wageningen, says Rien Bor, ex-spokesman for Wagenin-

gen UR and municipal council member for Stadspartij Wageningen. 'The general universities often have a regional role. So if a lot of students stay around in Groningen, that is logical as most of them already came from the region. That is not the case in Wageningen.'

A comparison with another specialized university outside the Randstad, such as Twente University (UT), is fairer. But even then Wageningen turns out not to have an above-average number of 'stayers'. Of all the Wageningen alumni whose place of residence is known, according to KLV/ University Fund Wageningen, more than 15 percent live in Wageningen (more than 5700). Enschede beats that by a long way, with 26 percent (more than 10,000), show UT statistics.

#### DISTORTED PICTURE

So is the idea that there are lots of ex-students knocking around Wageningen sheer nonsense? Not if you compare the number of alumni who stayed or came back with the number of residents of the city. In Enschede, for instance, alumni make up 6.4 percent of the total population of 160,000, whereas in Wageningen with its nearly 38,000 residents, homegrown alumni account for 15 percent. So even though in absolute numbers, fewer Wageningers than graduates elsewhere stay in their university city, they do have an above average impact on the city. This is what Louise Fresco – herself a 'serial returner' – calls an optical effect, which gives a distorted picture. 'Alumni are very noticeable because the city is so small.' To add to that, says Rien Bor, alumni like to get involved in everything. 'Most of the people who study here care about the world and their environment. They are conscientious and active.' This is confirmed by Willem Straatman – born and bred in Wageningen, ex-municipal council worker and columnist with local paper *De Stad Wageningen*.

'Alumni often have a vision on life and they bring something in. They serve on boards and committees and help bring new blood into politics.' There is a downside to all that involvement, however, says Bor: 'You can't move even a pole in Wageningen without someone writing in about it.'





## COSY

What makes this little town on the Rhine so attractive as a place to live for some alumni? Of course Wageningen UR plays a central role as a big employer and a magnet for employment. Nearly 1400 Wageningen alumni have reported themselves to alumni association KLV as working for Wageningen UR, and an unknown number work for the growing number of knowledge-intensive companies that have settled in this area. But work cannot explain the presence of all the roughly 5700 alumni living in Wageningen, according to KLV records. Hordes of Wageningen 'stayers' commute hours a day to work. Why do they feel it's worth it? One pull factor mentioned by nearly everyone is the size of the town. 'There is something cosy about Wageningen,' says Straatman. It is small enough for you to feel connected and involved, but big enough not to feel that everyone knows your every move. And it has everything you need. Fresco also believes there is such a thing as a Wageningen culture. 'The fact that Wageningen is a specialist university generates identification: the sense that "we are Wageningen"'. It is an appealing community to belong to, with a culture of its own: a nice mix of pragmatism, idealism and professionalism. Shoulders to the plough and believing in something.'

## FOREVER YOUNG

The diversity of the population is another plus point. 'I believe that we have 100 nationalities among 37,000 residents,' says Fresco. 'That feeling of being welcome extends to everyone.' Straatman: 'You live among people from all kinds of cultures in a relaxed, safe atmosphere without much racism.' Bor adds to this that the new generation of students coming in every year brings in freshness and liveliness. 'This town remains forever young.'

It is also the case that the alumni and other professionals who already live in Wageningen with their good incomes can support attractive facilities such as a library, a cinema and a theatre, says Han ter Maat, himself a returned alumnus and city councillor whose portfolio includes spatial planning and the town centre.

Wageningen's final secret weapon is its location. 'Where else do you find such a range of landscapes within a radius of five kilometres?' asks Ter Maat. 'Water meadows, hills, polders, forest, heath, the Betuwe fruit farms. Plenty of space for the mostly nature-loving alumni to hike, cycle, run and take the dog or the kids for a walk. But that is also a concern for the municipal council, says Ter Maat: there is no room for very many more people without putting too much pressure on the open space that is so crucial for the quality of life. So: 'This is a great city, but don't tell too many people about it...' ⑥

## FRECK AALBERS

**SOIL, WATER AND ATMOSPHERE 2001-2005**  
PROJECT LEADER AT WARECO INGENIEURS IN DEVENTER



'Wageningen is not too big, but not too small either. It has good facilities such as a theatre, a cinema, a swimming pool and a library. There are also lovely landscapes and nature areas nearby, such as the Eng, the Wageningen Hill, the water meadows of the Rhine and the Blauwe Kamer wetland reserve. We have sometimes considered moving to Deventer but we like Wageningen too much to say goodbye.'

## ARTEN WALS

**ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE 1982-1987**  
PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL LEARNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY



'After graduating I went to the United States to live with my American girlfriend. I got my PhD at the University of Michigan and then I had a choice between a job there or in Wageningen. My girlfriend said, 'You have lived nearly five years in America; now I'd like to live in the Netherlands for five years. Those five years have turned into nearly 25 years by now. There is a global university here with people from all over the world. And although it is not a metropolis, it does have everything.'

## BAS BREMEN AND ANNE VAN DOORN

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIOLOGY 1993-1998 AND BIOLOGY 1995-2002**

BOTH PROJECT LEADERS AT ALTERRA

'When we graduated Anne got a PhD place in Portugal. After four years there we reached a critical juncture: do we stay and put down roots, or go back? We decided on the latter. We wanted to have our children grow up in the Netherlands and a social network was very important to us. We knew Wageningen. You feel part of the community and we have interesting work at cycling distance from home. With children you get to know a whole new side to the town, through their school and sports clubs, and after a





**SIMON VINK****BIOLOGY 1974**

SPOKESMAN FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY



'In Wageningen it's not unusual for someone to say, "I'll be in Burundi next week". And there are lots of students and staff here from other countries. That international character makes it an attractive town. Another of Wageningen's strengths is that everyone here is working on nutrition, food security and the environment. Wageningen UR is a wonderful organization in an important field. I am very happy to do my bit towards that. Wageningen does lack the buzz of big city life though. Every now and then I have to go back to Rotterdam, where I come from.'

**JACOBIJN VAN ETEN AND HUGO HOOFWIJK****BOTH TROPICAL LAND DEVELOPMENT 1987-1993**

PROJECT MANAGER AT CRGB IN EDE AND FREELANCE CONSULTANT ON PARTICIPATION IN WAGENINGEN

'After graduating we spent ten years in tropical countries. When we got back to the Netherlands we went from place to place for a year before deciding to settle in Wageningen. We had a common history there. And Wageningen is an ideal place for our children to grow up in. Because we have been in the tropics, its international character is something we appreciate. In the Albert Heijn supermarket you can hear Portuguese and Swahili. That gives the town a certain buzz.'

**GERALDINE SINNEMA****SOCIOLOGY 1985-1992**

FREELANCE CAREER COACH AND TRAINER



'The city has such a special population that for me there are enough interesting things going on. Film, theatre, courses, lectures and funny initiatives. The presence of alumni has a formative influence on the city. Take the initiative of ecologist Patrick Jansen and the Mooi Wageningen foundation to develop a new nature area in the Binnenveld. That is so typical of this place. There is a lot of knowledge available and it gets used locally too, because Wageningers are quite practical.'

**ELMAR THEUNE****ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE 1974-1982**

POLICYMAKER AT THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, THE HAGUE

'I will never leave. I felt at home here from the start. I loved and still love the open, lively and intellectual atmosphere in the town. What is always special to me, and makes Wageningen different to other university towns, is that people from different disciplines, with different goals and different political persuasions, all get on pleasantly together. That has something to do with the breadth of the university, with the way the degree courses are organized, and with the people who opt to come to Wageningen.'

**LINDA ADMIRAAL****TROPICAL LAND USE 1995-2002**

FREELANCE PERSONAL TRAINER

'After graduating I wanted to get away because Wageningen was too small for me. I went to the United States, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Brazil and the Gambia. Then I was offered two jobs at once: one in Rome and one at Wageningen University. Against all my intentions I chose Wageningen: I had just met the love of my life here. Four years later I decided to turn my main hobby – sport – into my job. Wageningen is the perfect place for that because, as a personal trainer I am always out of doors.'

**HAN TER MAAT****ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE 1970-1978**

COUNCILLOR FOR SPATIAL PLANNING, TRAFFIC, CITY CENTRE AND SPORT IN WAGENINGEN

'Wageningen is a henhouse, but one in which you are free to run around. It is easy to meet people who are interested in the same things as you, like music in my case. On a Sunday afternoon I can play the blues with other people in café Loburg. But if I'm not there one week that's fine too. That is the warm feeling you get in Wageningen: you can do a lot but there is no obligation.'



WAGENINGEN










## GALA

Masks, the rustle of ball gowns, tuxedos, ballroom dancing and dance floor romance ... It was all there at the Wageningen Student Gala 2016. The ball, organized jointly by nine study associations, had to be moved at two weeks' notice from De Reehorst in Ede to Bollee in Rhenen. But that didn't stop it being a great party.  LdK / photo Guy Ackermans

See all the photos  
on [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl)

# DEATH AND ANIMALS

Every day in the Netherlands thousands of animal go to their deaths. It just seems like an unquestioned part of the scheme of things. But it isn't, says Professor of Animals and Society Elsbeth Stassen. Killing animals always raises questions. Questions that are not easy to answer. A new book offers some help.

text Roelof Kleis photo Dick Middendorp

**T**ogether with her Utrecht colleague Franck Meijboom, Stassen compiled a book about the moral aspects of slaughtering animals. The book, due out soon, is called *The end of animal life: a start for ethical debate*. It is about the widely varying perspectives people have on animals, welfare and slaughter. Resource talked to Stassen.

***In the introduction to the book you say there is no standard advice on the moral status of animals. What do you mean by that?***

'People look at animals in very different ways. Most people put humans above animals because we are self-aware and animals are not. But there is also quite a big group who think animals – vertebrates at least – are equal to humans because they can experience pleasure and pain, and are part of our ecosystem. What is more, there are animals with a certain degree of self-awareness. It is not a black-and-white issue: people rarely have just one image of animals. Add to that the fact that society is dynamic. The position of animals is always changing. The status of animals has changed enormously in the last 40 years. Pets have become much more important. Farm animals increasingly became hobby animals as well. And people relate to them differently then. This has changed the way people think about animals.'

***You say that animals are part of our moral community. What does that mean?***

'In the Netherlands we have widely shared moral ideas about how you should treat animals. It is laid down in the law that how we treat animals matters. An animal does not exist purely for the benefit of humans. An animal has

its own worth, an intrinsic worth that is separate from its worth to humans.'

***Lifespan is part of that intrinsic worth. But production animals have very short lives. Is that a moral problem?***

'Yes. Lifespan is described in this book as a morally relevant aspect of animal welfare. It is important that we acknowledge that there is more to animal welfare than health and functioning biologically. For animal welfare the animal's natural behaviour is important too, the species-specific behaviour and the way the animal experiences its life. This broader concept encompasses lifespan too. Animals have the potential to live much longer than their productive lives.'

**'The lifespan of our farm animals can and should be longer'**

***What does this mean for the livestock industry?***

'If you line up all the arguments you come to the conclusion that in this day and age, given our current ideas on what animals are, what they mean to us and how we should treat them, lifespan matters. Lifespan is a relevant moral argument. Lifespan will play an increasingly important role in considerations in a livestock farming system.'

***Is it possible to make a longer lifespan fit into intensive livestock farming?***

'The lifespan of our farm animals can and should be longer. But then the sector would have to make some different choices. You can see dairy farmers responding to






that discussion. They have been including lifespan in the selection criteria for bulls for some years. Our aim in this book is to get people thinking about the killing of animals. The way we reason about animals in our country is very utilitarian. There are lots of young animals ready so older animals are carted off. But you could change your breeding policy. If lifespan becomes an integral part of animal welfare I hope and expect that there will be more focus on preventive measures to prevent diseases and distress.'

***What are the implications of the concept of lifespan for pets?***

'That is a very interesting topic. The law on animals specifies how domesticated farm animals may be killed, and by whom. The law has much less to say about household pets. Strangely enough in most cases it is permissible for pet owners to put their own animals down. That is not stated explicitly in the law but it is implicit, with the proviso that the animal be killed as quickly and painlessly as possible with a minimum of stress. Pets are largely out of public view.'

***Do we make our household pets live too long?***

'Sometimes their lives are too long and sometimes they are too short. Seriously ill pets with which the owners have bonded so strongly that they can't bear to part with them, often live too long. On the other hand, many pets are put

down prematurely. These include dogs or cats which become a nuisance, exhibit undesirable behaviour or do not live up to an ideal image. Imagine the following case. Someone who is on social security has a Labrador of one and a half years old with a broken leg. Treatment by the vet costs 250 euros. The owner cannot pay that. Is it acceptable to put the dog down? To our amazement, half of the panel said it was. Why is that morally defensible and is it a problem if a livestock farmer who needs to earn a living culls an animal? Our book is about these kinds of moral dilemmas and the moral considerations and theories underlying them. 

## THE END OF ANIMAL LIFE

The book *The end of animal life: a start for ethical debate* is to be published by Wageningen Academic Publishers. The paper version of the book is due out this month; the e-book is already available. Many writers from various countries contributed to the book. Besides Elsbeth Stassen (the editor), contributors from Wageningen University were personal professor Bart Gremmen and assistant professor Bernice Bovenkerk. Two former PhD students of Stassen's, Nina Cohen and Mariëlle Bruijn, both contributed a chapter too.



# Saving coral with a toothbrush

Coral reefs are taking a battering. Unspoiled reefs are increasingly rare. Can anything be done about that? Can you restore coral? Yes, you can. Wageningen students and researchers are doing pioneering work off the Kenyan coast.

*text* Roelof Kleis   *photos* Ewout Knoester





**T**he coral reefs off the coast of Kenyan fishing village Shimoni, just north of Tanzania, are gorgeous. The local diving school Pilli Pipa makes a good living out of it. But divers do sometimes come across bits of damaged reef. Patches of rubble, as if a bomb has exploded there.

And that is exactly what has happened, explains Ronald Osinga, coral expert in the new Marine Animal Ecology chair group (see box). 'Those places come about because fishermen use dynamite and nitrate bombs, a well-known method in tropical regions. It is strictly forbidden but there is little control. The anchors of boats cause a lot of damage too.'

That damage can be repaired. Wageningen researchers and students are currently working on a restoration programme. The implementation of this restoration, starting off the coast at Shimoni, is in the hands of a brand-new foundation called REEFolution, the initiative of rose grower Eric Stokman from Oosterbeek in the Netherlands. Until recently he grew his roses in Kenya and regularly went diving with Pilli Pipa, which is run by a Dutchman. Stokman is a member of Heiduikers diving club in Ede, and so is the new professor of Marine Animal Ecology Tinka Murk. And that is how the pieces of the puzzle fit together.

#### DREAM INTERNSHIP

REEFolution wants to work with local people on restoring and protecting the coral reefs. That is good for the reef, good for the fishermen, good for tourism and therefore also good for the diving school, which is closely involved in the project. Wageningen UR develops and provides the scientific knowledge and expertise which the implementation is based on. REEFolution needs to bring about nothing less than a revolution, says Osinga in explanation of the name. 'In this part of East Africa practically nothing is being done about reef restoration and management. We want to create a support base for that together with the locals.'

Osinga and Murk sent out two students to pave the way for this. They have just got back from four months of pioneering. 'A dream internship,' says Master's student Michelle Marijt. She and Ewout Knoester were tasked with exploring the situation and identifying the options for breeding coral. Specifically this meant designing structures on which you can get coral to grow. Marijt: 'It was a criterion that we should use cheap, locally available materials. Steel cable, PVC tubing, nylon rope and cement.'

Three of their structures have been tested. A floating 'Christmas tree' of PVC, a table and a floating plateau. They cost between 15 and 85

euros. Who says science has to be expensive? For now the Christmas tree seems to come out best. The tree made of PVC tubing hangs upright in the water, pulled upwards by a buoy and anchored to the seabed with a bucket of concrete. Pieces of coral hang from the branches like baubles. The anchor ensures that the light changes with the tide. Light is indispensable for coral. Grown on the plateau, the coral floats at a constant distance from the surface, and on the table it hangs just above the seabed.

#### TOOTHBRUSH

Because cleaning the structures is essential for growing coral, Marijt and Knoester disappeared underwater for an hour and a half every week at each test site, brandishing a toothbrush. 'I had very little diving experience when I went to Kenya. Now I have made 130 dives of an average of an hour and a half.' And who says cleaning is boring? 'There is always something happening,' says Marijt enthusiastically. 'Suddenly a school of fish comes swimming by. Or an enormous batfish.' She spreads her arms to demonstrate. 'I can get a lot of pleasure out of that.'

In between the cleaning sessions they went through a measuring programme to record the growth, health and grazing habits of fish.


The breeding structures are the nursery of the project. Actually putting the coral out on the reef is the second phase, explains Osinga. 'We still have to make a start on that. One of our ideas for that is a bottle reef – a concrete block with 16 empty wine bottles from the diving school restaurant embedded in it. We stuff bits of the bred coral into the necks of the bottles, which eventually grows all over the glass and the concrete. In ten years' time there will be nothing to show for them anymore.'

Glass and concrete? 'They are inert materials, so you don't pollute the environment with them,' says Osinga in defence of the approach. 'But you are right, they are not natural substrata and it is really just a stopgap measure. But if we had treated our oceans well this wouldn't have been necessary. This approach is being applied all around the world, but we do eventually want to switch to natural materials.'

#### ESCAPE ROUTE

But there is more to REEFolution's plans than nature conservation. As a researcher Osinga wants to understand what is needed for the development of a fully-fledged reef. 'That has a strong link too with what I do in the lab in Wageningen. The main point of interest is: when does a reef grow and when does it not? We want to know what role fish play in that development. Fish are crucial for the maintenance

of coral. We are going to study that this spring using cage experiments in which we keep certain fish out. Another research theme is the creation of new coral. A reef is only really healthy if offspring appear spontaneously through sexual reproduction. I want to know whether and when new larvae appear.'

But Osinga's thinking goes further than renovating damaged reefs. 'My big dream is to make a climate-proof reef,' he reveals. 'A refuge for corals. A great floating reef in the ocean, anchored to the seabed. A reef of that kind at about 15 metres deep, in a well-mixed temperature zone, should absorb the temperature shocks that result from climate change.' A reef as a refuge for threatened coral. A kind of Noah's Ark. 'Depending on the species and the conditions, coral takes 10 to 20 years to grow from nothing to an adult reef,' explains Osinga. 'So I hope to see that.' 

**Want to know more about REEFolution?**

**Read previous reports and watch the video on [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl).**

#### ECO DESIGN

Marine Animal Ecology is the new chair group in which Professor Tinka Murk made a flying start last autumn. Besides Murk, the group includes three members of staff and six (internal) PhD candidates. 'We want to gain an understanding of marine ecosystems and how they adapt to climate change,' is her summary of the research agenda. 'And based on that understanding we want to provide more eco-inspired designs. It's OK to use nature, but you should do so in smart ways so that the ecosystem benefits.' Murk is chair of REEFolution. Her chair group is housed in Zodiac.





# WARNING!

# LANGUAGE BARRIER

Wageningen University attracts students from all over the world and tries to address them in English consistently. Do we manage that? In official communications, yes, say international students, but outside of that they come across Dutch quite often.

text Lucas du Pré and Rob Ramaker

## Aysha Mareta Karlina



**Master's student of Food Technology, from Indonesia**

'In the lab I work with my supervisor and a lab assistant. They are both Dutch speakers. I speak English with them but if they are not talking about work they talk to each other in Dutch.

In lectures too, the language of communication is English but in the breaks students speak Dutch together. It's a pity I can't follow it. Things are well arranged at the university. Classes are always in English. I know from other students in France that it's different there. If only a small number of students in a class are English-speaking the teacher switches to French. **Outside the university it's harder. You can only apply for housing benefit in Dutch.** International students speak English together a lot. This makes it hard to hold a discussion because their English isn't always good enough to express themselves and exchange ideas.'

## Almat Kabykenov



**Master's student of Environmental Sciences, from Kazakhstan**

'Officially everyone at the university speaks English as well as Dutch. Emails and other official documents are always in both languages. That applies to lectures and other formal occasions as well. **But informal texts are often in Dutch. Take the Facebook page Wageningen Student Plaza.** Lots of international students are on it and yet people often post in Dutch. I don't have a problem with it. I am living in the Netherlands and am conscious that the language of communica-

tion here is Dutch. It can still be difficult though. If I eat with my flatmates at the Dijkgraaf I am the only non-Dutch person at the table. People often talk Dutch, even when a conversation starts in English. In my first year I tried to learn Dutch at In'to Languages. But whenever I spoke to people in Dutch they switched to English. Then I gave up.'

## Anne Walther

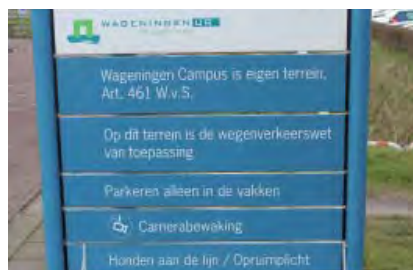


**Student Council member for Sustainability and Internationalization (S&I), from Germany**

'Recently the Student Council was invited to the official opening of Campus Plaza. The speech was in Dutch. There are two Chinese students on the

Council, who didn't understand a word of it. Even at *Resource* it is standard practice to put everything online in Dutch first. Sometimes the translation only follows two days later. In some cases English first would be more logical, like the article on 'Swimming classes for international students' on 25 January 2016. Group work at the university can be problematic. It depends on how good people's English is. Students are tested in their home countries, which makes it difficult to make sure all students have a similar command of English. PhD students sometimes supervise Master's students for their theses. If the two come from different parts of the world, communication can be difficult. The topics in question often demand a high standard of English. **As a German student it annoys me that the first year of the Bachelor's is taught in Dutch, while the books are in English.** It takes a lot of time to translate everything. For the course on Human and Animal Biology I had to learn all the parts of the body in both Dutch and English.'





## Loes de Heus



**Exchange coordinator for Life Sciences and Erasmus administrator, from the Netherlands**

'Students come to a coordinator with their problems. Actually no one has ever come to me with a complaint about language. The standard of English at the university is high. It needs to be because there are students here from more than 100 different countries. **In the past teachers used to come to us complaining about the exchange students' poor English. That hasn't happened for a few years now.** Incoming students have to do a language test at home. Once they have been admitted here they also take a test at In'to Languages. If the standard is too low we advise them to take an extra course. We ourselves do everything in English of course. Like the welcome back drinks party for students from Wageningen. The invitation was in English, even though they were nearly all Dutch speakers.'

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## Kelly Nichols



**PhD student at Animal Nutrition, from Canada**

'In general the university does a pretty good job. **The thing that surprised me was that the correspondence of the Animal Experiments Committee [DEC] and the Central Committee on Animal Experiments [CCD] is in Dutch.** The forms are in English but they ask questions in Dutch. Then you have to ask your supervisor to translate them, but they are always busy obviously. It doesn't seem like a big ask to translate this into English. 'I like to mingle with Dutch students and for me personally it's a hangup that ten people at a table need to talk English because I'm there. They switch easily and say they don't mind, but nevertheless I feel bad. Myself, I try not to finish sentences for people who cannot find an English word because it's not their first language. The town of Wageningen seems very much attuned to international students but in Arnhem or Nijmegen you see for instance that some restaurants only have a Dutch menu.'

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# The ideal mentor



## BSC MENTOR: INDEFATIGABLE AND CHATTY

A mentor of first-year Bachelor's students needs incredible stamina, and you've got it. You want to show your 'kids' as much as you can of student life so you cycle all over the place with them. If necessary until six in the morning. The first-years are often a bit shy so

you put them at ease and take the lead. Small talk is right up your street and you've got enough anecdotes up your sleeve to break the ice. You are not into recruiting people to your own student society. But you are super-enthusiastic – or you know how to fake it anyway.

## MSC MENTOR REGULAR:

Master's students are experienced and usually know exactly what they want. As an MSc mentor you are not so much a leader as a guide. You know where the best parties and activities are. You are open to other cultures and can deal with differences smoothly. You make



The search for mentors for the Annual Introduction Days (AID) is about to start again. Would you like to help freshly arrived Bachelor's and Master's students find their way around the town next August? Check which profile fits!

text Linda van der Nat illustration Pascal Tieman

### Interested?

Registration starts from 2 March. For more information see: [www.aidwageningen.nl](http://www.aidwageningen.nl).



## RELAXED AND INTERNATIONAL

arrangements but you stay relaxed if it works out differently. The MSc programme is not as intensive as the BSc programme but if your 'kids' want, you will stay on the dance floor with them till the small hours. And then you'll take them home on the back of your bike, since they can't ride a bike yet.

## MSC MENTOR LIGHT: PATIENT AND EXPERIENCED

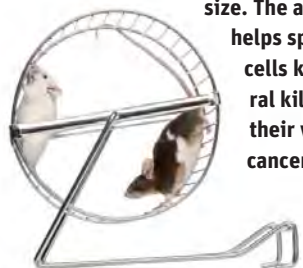
The Master's students who opt for the MSc light program go for content. You are the patient, charming organizer who will do nice things with them while emphasizing that nothing is compulsory. You are a mine of information: you know how they can register

at the municipality and open a bank account. But you also know that sunny terrace where there's always space. You are not oversensitive: if they drop out one by one because of other commitments, you don't take it personally.



**ADRENALIN**

Running delays the development of cancer, a Danish study at the University of Copenhagen has shown. The shot of adrenalin released by an intensive run causes tumours in mice to shrink to half their size. The adrenalin helps special immune cells known as natural killers to find their way to the cancer cells. Conclusion? Exercise is good for mice!

**HADES**

Microbiologists at the University of Uppsala have discovered a new group of archaea. One of the habitats of the microbes is underground in Yellowstone National Park in the US. The organisms survive without light or oxygen by using carbon monoxide as fuel. This makes them our opposites: we human beings do not cope well with carbon monoxide. The newly discovered 'creatures' have been aptly named Hades archaea, after the Greek god of the underworld.

**TO BED**

Norwegian scientists have found a strong link between school results and sleep. School students of between 16 and 19 years of age who go to bed between 10 and 11 o'clock get the highest grades, on average. Going to bed later leads to lower grades. But so does going to bed any earlier! The same goes for lying abed at weekends. Regular doses of sufficient sleep are the answer. The good news: it doesn't make a huge difference, just a couple of percent.

**MIGHTY MOUSE**

Male mice prefer films of fighting to porn, shows a Japanese study at Azabu University. The researchers gave mice the choice of watching films on smartphones of three kinds of behaviour: copulating, fighting or snuffling. The mice chose the films showing fighting above those showing sex or snuffling. In their defence it has to be said that the mice were virgins. They didn't know any better.

## Volleyball with refugees



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

**Last week, just for a change, student volleyball association WaHo did not play against Agillitas or Switch '87. Instead they spend the afternoon playing volleyball with and against asylum-seekers at the asylum-seekers' centre in Wageningen-Hoog.**

The afternoon was the initiative of Jaap Löwenthal and Peter Kalverla, players on the Men's 1st team, who wanted to give the refugees an afternoon's entertainment. 'You know there are refugees in Wageningen but as a student you don't meet them,' says Jaap. 'You hear a lot of negative stories in the media, so we wanted to do something positive.' WaHo intends to organize more of these afternoons.

The Wageningen volleyball players are not the only ones trying to do something for refugees in Wageningen. Student of International Development Studies Douwe de Vries is also working on making sport part of the lives of asylum-seekers on the Keijenbergseweg. Douwe can be found there regularly as a volunteer. 'The people there have just arrived in the Netherlands, they are traumatized by war and they

have a long journey behind them,' says Douwe. A game of football or some Ping-Pong at the centre provides some relaxation, he notices. 'But I was keen to do more. Sport is the perfect way of letting off steam.' He also thinks it is an easy way for students and refugees to get to know each other.

His appeal on Facebook drew 40 responses. 'People are coming up with very nice ideas, ranging from Zumba classes to funny games from New Zealand.' Douwe will soon be organizing a meeting to line up all the ideas and make a definite plan. **LvdN**

## Reptile lecture

There was plenty of interest in Sterrin Smalbrugge's lecture on reptiles on Wednesday 17 February in the evening. Last year too, the student of Forest and Nature Management gave a lecture to a full house. This time, she took along not just snakes but other reptiles such as the hefty alligator turtle (on the photo), which was lifted onto a table by Sterrin's friend Romilly van den Bergh. Teacher of Experimental Zoology Arie Terlouw explained which muscles in the tortoise's head control its jaws.

**KG**



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

# EPISODE 66 - MORTIERSTRAAT 14B<<

Text  
Rob  
Ramaker

Derk

Filippo

Bianca

Vera

Willem - Jan

Vecino

The story so far: Vera was in a relationship with Robby when her old flame Ruben turned up again. Her inability to make up her mind has caused some painful situations.

## Sneaky

Disoriented, Vera just let herself be carried along by the crowd towards the Hoog Catharijne shopping mall. It was drizzling outside. And she obviously hadn't remembered the route properly, because she got lost immediately. Her telephone was no help: Google Maps always got stuck. As Vera wandered around her heart was in her mouth. She had agreed with Ruben that this would be their first real date. In Utrecht so she wouldn't run into Robby and his friends. 'A day out shopping with my mother,' she told the others. What a sneaky going-on, she thought now. Who would have thought I would ever sneak around and tell lies like this? And this was just the latest of several unpleasant discoveries she had made about herself this month. After about ten minutes she had to admit she was completely lost. She asked an elderly lady the way and discovered she was on the wrong side of the centre. She turned round straightaway. As she hurried along she was overwhelmed with doubt again. Now that she had known Robby for a while, she could often read his mind and they understood each other effortlessly. He was sweet, but not exactly attentive or full of surprises. So their relationship became predictable and they often sat around on the sofa, bored. Meanwhile Vera was crossing a bridge and dodging a swerving cyclist. But was Ruben so much nicer? Maybe she was just looking for



ILLUSTRATIONS: KIM PETERSE

a bit of excitement, something new. And Ruben had already dumped her once. She couldn't think of a reason why he could be trusted now. And so her thoughts went round and round, and showed no sign of calming down. She turned right at the statue the old lady had described and suddenly found herself in front of the right café. She could see Ruben through the window, slumped and playing with a beer mat. In panic she stepped aside so he couldn't see her. With a shock she was suddenly back in reality. What was she up to, in heaven's name? Sneaking around a strange city, on her way to a boy she hardly knew. Without looking back, she set off for the station. 'I'm not coming,' she whatsapped from the train. 'It was a mistake. Don't whatsapp me again.' She deleted their whole history. There was no response. Relieved, she put her phone in her pocket, upon which it began to vibrate. Five whatsappes. From Robby. When she read them she felt the sting of tears in her eyes. 'Let's go away for a weekend. I want to show you how special you are to me.'

Resource follows events at Mortierstraat 14B

## Flat pub De Bunker closed for now

**De Bunker, the Dijkgraaf flat pub, is closed until further notice. The police had to stop a party there on Saturday 11 February that had got out of hand.**

According to Hellen Albers from Idealis, someone who does not live in Dijkgraaf held a party that evening in De Bunker. Only residents of the star-shaped block of flats are allowed to hire the pub. Also, 400 people turned up, which is more

than is allowed. 'The pub management board said they didn't realize the request had come from a non-resident and they admit they acted without due care. We have complete confidence that it was a one-off.'

De Bunker will remain closed for the time being. Idealis wants the board to take time 'to get things straight again'. Albers: 'There are aspects in the users' agreement for De Bunker that the board has not incorporated prop-

erly in its policy. If they can tighten up that implementation, I expect De Bunker will soon be able to open again.'

De Bunker chairman David van den Broek regrets the fact that it has had to close. However he says the talks with Idealis have been constructive. 'I can understand why Idealis want it closed temporarily. Now it's up to us as a board to show

we can continue operations on a new basis.' LvdN





## &gt;&gt; PARTIES

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

**HET GAT – UNITAS: BEST OF THE TOP100**

**Friday 26 February from 22.00 to 04.00**

Dance the evening away to the best music of the last ten years. Every year participants in the AID put together a top 100. Make your own selection now of the very best hits from the last ten AID weeks. You can vote at [www.wageningenup.nl](http://www.wageningenup.nl) or [www.jvunitas.nl](http://www.jvunitas.nl). Admission free, so it's worth looking in on anyway.

**WSV CERES – AID WAGENINGEN: THEME PRESENTATION AID 2016**

**Tuesday 1 March from 23.00 to 05.00**

It's a tradition: throwing a party for the announcement of the AID theme. These parties are well-attended. This year the organizers ex-

pect even more guests than usual because they party is being held not on campus but at Ceres. The theme presentation is between 0.30 and 1.00, so get there in time.

**BUNKER – NACHTDIER**

**Friday 4 March from 22.00 to 06.00**

Nachtdier is breathing new life into the techno scene in Wageningen. For this lab session, with as yet fairly unknown artists, Aura One and Ben Fairy have been booked. The party is supposed to be held in the Bunker. Let's hope this student residence pub, which was closed last week after a closed party got out of hand, will be available as a venue again by then (see also page 27). **B**

## &gt;&gt; THE WORKS

## 'I KNOW NOW THAT I'M NOT GOING TO EMIGRATE'

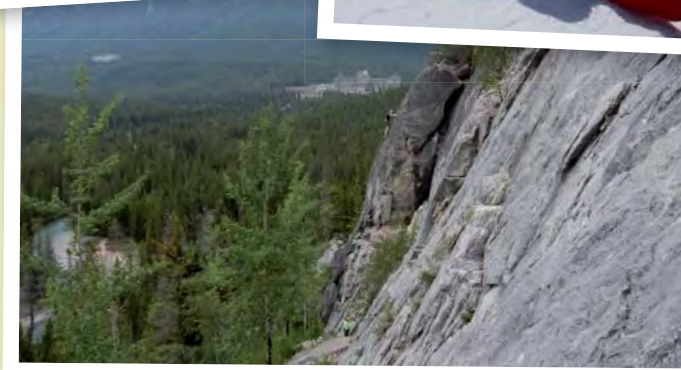
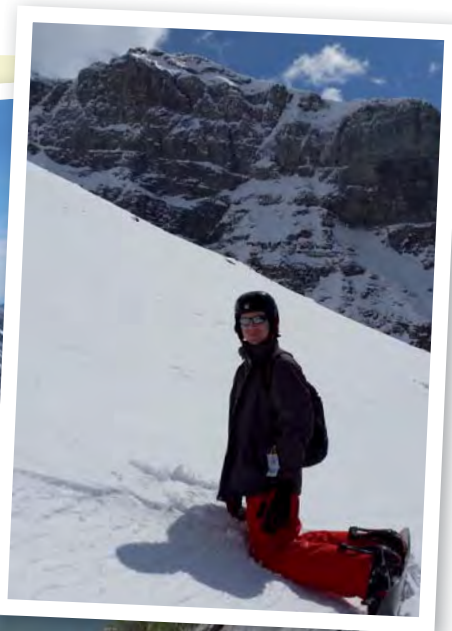
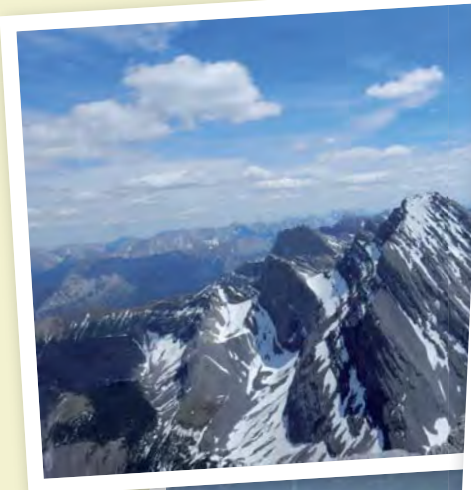
**Who?** Bram Wennekes, Master's student of Earth and Environment

**What?** Internship at the University of Calgary

**Where?** Calgary, Canada

'In 2013 there was a big flood of the Bow River, and the whole centre of Calgary was under water. Rails were torn up and the asphalt was all over the place. I spent my internship tracking the sediment transport of the Bow using models and literature study. Sediment causes erosion, so you want to know how and where this sediment moves so you can reduce or prevent erosion. The Bow is a snowmelt river and if the water flows too fast, the river cannot be used for drinking water. I enjoyed the modelling and the model turned out to predict quite well how the sediment transport goes during a flood.

The preparations for my internship were more difficult than the internship itself. I wrote to about 20 companies and only got one response. Eventually, via students who had done internships in Canada before, a Dutch company and the City Council of Calgary, I ended up at the University of Calgary. During my internship I met a lot of people, and I joined several outdoor clubs that regularly went out hiking, climbing, skiing or scrambling – which is a combination of walking and climbing, or clambering. I was also invited to an Easter dinner by my supervisor. Her daughter, who was my age, then invited me to go along to a music festival together with her boyfriend and his housemates. It was a bit like the Dutch festival Pinkpop. The location was beautiful, on a hill with a



gorge in the background. It was a bit like a natural theatre. I didn't have much contact with students at the university because I worked in my supervisor's office. I thought that was a pity.

One thing I know now is that I am not going to emigrate. You do get to know new people quickly but I like being able to visit family as well. At some point, too, I was fed up with having to plan everything because I didn't know anyone well enough yet to just pop in unannounced. And sometimes it's nice to talk Dutch with someone face to face.' **B MvdH**



## MEANWHILE IN... <<

### Meanwhile in... New Zealand

**In the news:** Christchurch was hit by a 5.7-magnitude earthquake last week. The quake came almost exactly five years after the big earthquake that destroyed many buildings and killed 185 people in the largest city on New Zealand's south island.

*Commentary by Alexandra Dickson, exchange student from Massey University*

'My grandmother lives in Christchurch. Her house was damaged severely in 2011. She now lives in an area on the other side of the city and this time she wasn't affected too much by the quake. It has obviously unnerved her and the other residents of Christchurch, but it hasn't demoralized them. There were no casualties and the most damage was done to buildings that were already unstable because of the last earthquake.

This new earthquake came in the wake of the fifth anniversary of the big earthquake, on 22 February 2011. Because of that anniversary media have been reporting on the survivors of that disaster for weeks. Beautiful stories can be found on [stuff.co.nz](http://stuff.co.nz).

There are people who left Christchurch after the big earthquake five years ago, like friends of my father, who emigrated to Australia, but most residents are determined to rebuild the city and make it better than it was. The central business district had lots of work done on it recently. Shipping containers are used as shops and there is lots of artwork on the damaged, half demolished buildings. Other buildings were completely taken down and turned into parks. You could say that the vibe is quite positive in Christchurch.

My grandmother's old neighbourhood is also empty now. All the houses were condemned and they were demolished two years ago – except for one, because the owner didn't have insurance. It is now a field with wild flowers. It looks quite nice, actually. That is what's happening everywhere in Christchurch: areas that were hit hard were left behind and people are building new houses in other, less affected areas.'

KG

# FRESH DAILY!

Visit [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl) for the latest news



**RESOURCE**  
For students and employees of Wageningen UR



## MCB-51403: Capita Selecta Commodity Futures & Options

**Always wondered about what is happening at the trading floor of exchanges like the ones in Amsterdam, London and Chicago? Wondered about how (agribusiness) companies manage their risks using commodity futures and options? Wondered about how it would be if you were trading commodity futures in Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Paris?**

The *Marketing & Consumer Behavior Group* organizes a unique course that will introduce students to commodity futures and options markets. Students will develop an understanding of the markets and how they work, gain knowledge about the theory behind futures and options markets, identify their economic functions, and develop an analytical capability to evaluate their economic usefulness. This course is taught by Professor Joost M.E. Pennings (*Marketing & Consumer Behavior Group*, Wageningen University). There are only 40 seats available.

If you are interested in taking this course (3 Credits) please register with Ellen Vossen at MCB (room 5029, De Leeuwenborch, e-mail: [Ellen.Vossen@wur.nl](mailto:Ellen.Vossen@wur.nl), tel. 0317-483385). You can also pick up the materials here. Lecturers are on 18 March and 1, 8, 15 and 22 April (period 5) in room C78 of the Leeuwenborch. Times are 10.30-12.15 hrs.



## In memoriam

### Carola van den Broek (1994-2016)



On 16 February, at the age of 21, Carola van den Broek died after a road accident 500 metres from

her home in Kootwijkerbroek. Carola was a second-year student of Economics and Policy. Her friends and fellow students describe Carola as a strong, modest person who never complained. She was spontaneous, sociable, rational and helpful. For many Carola was an exemplary student because of her drive and organization, and the way she listened carefully to what was being said and always produced good work. Carola was just starting on the elective period of her studies, the moment for her to make personal choices about the direction she wanted to take in her degree. She had made a complete plan for going in the direction of environmental economics. She was clearly motivated to learn a lot about the complex problems involving nature, the environment and agriculture, and later contribute to solving them. She intended to do a Master's in this field too. You wouldn't automatically expect Carola to have such a clear focus in her studies, given that her interests were very wide-ranging. Besides macro- and microeconomics, she also mentioned history, politics, architecture, psychology, biology and

the natural sciences as a whole. This broad interest was reflected in the fact that she started out at Artez art school.

It is hard to realize that Carola is no longer with us, walking around the Leewenborch and the campus. Carola will be missed by everyone who knew her. We wish her family and friends much strength to bear their great loss.

*Sietse Sterrenburg, BEP Study Advisor, on behalf of the Programme team for MCE, Study Association Mercurius, and the AEP and ENR chair groups*

## Announcements

### Student Council election – electoral register

The Student Council Election Committee will publish the electoral register on 25 February 2016 in preparation for the 2016/2017 Student Council election (23 through to 26 May 2016). All students who are registered as a regular WU student on the reference date, 21 February 2016, are entitled to vote, are eligible for election and should be on the electoral register. These students are requested to verify that they have been registered correctly by checking whether they have received an email on 25 February informing them about their voting rights or by checking the electoral register, which is available from 25 February until 3 March 2016 at the Student Council secretariat, Droevendaalsesteeg 4 (Room D.107), P.O. Box 9101, 6700 HB Wageningen. Any person concerned may lodge a

notice of objection to the electoral register until 3 March 2016 inclusive with the Secretary of the Student Council, Hermijn Speelman, Droevendaalsesteeg 4 (Room D.107), P.O. Box 9101, 6700 HB Wageningen.

### Become a Junushoff Theatre ambassador and get to see a performance for free

Junushoff is looking for enthusiastic theatre lovers for all genres who can get eight people so excited about their favourite show that they go and buy a ticket. The reward is a free ticket for the ambassador and a free drink and bite to eat for the entire group after the performance. If you don't quite manage to sell eight tickets, the consolation prize is a drink afterwards. Email [m.bussink@junushoff.nl](mailto:m.bussink@junushoff.nl) giving your name, address, phone number and, if you want, your motivation.

[WWW.JUNUSHOFF.NL](http://WWW.JUNUSHOFF.NL)

### Open grenzen (Open borders) exhibition in The True Limpet Gallery

Artist Rob Steenberg reveals his fascination with the concept of borders in his Borderzone artworks. He uses topographical maps as the basis for his art, transforming them with the help of a variety of techniques and materials such as ink, textiles, handicrafts and even fireworks. Borders are lines that both connect and divide countries, sometimes visible, sometimes made invisible, spaces that are both open and closed and that usher in change. In short, a phenomenon open to multiple interpretations.

The (free) exhibition is on view until 6 March in the Wilde Wereld building, Herenstraat 10 Wageningen. Gallery opening hours: Wednesdays 10-17, Saturdays 12-17, Sundays 13-17.

[WWW.ROBSTEENBERGEN.NL](http://WWW.ROBSTEENBERGEN.NL)

### Borrowing sheet music or musical instruments

The Van Uven Foundation music library offers sheet music, vocal scores and literature on classical music. Students are allowed to view these exceptional documents, copy them and borrow them. You can also arrange this via the internet. The foundation hires out musical instruments too. Library opening hours: every third Thursday of the month from 20.00 to 22.00. Location: Generaal Foulkesweg 1A, Wageningen.

[WWW.VANUVEN.NL](http://WWW.VANUVEN.NL)

### Nominate your colleague for the 'Lef in het lab' award

Researchers and biotechnologists who work on alternatives to animal trials or ways of reducing or refining animal experiments can be nominated for this award. The deadline is 1 March. The prize has been awarded since 2007 by the Dutch society for the protection of animals in cooperation with the 3Rs-Centre Utrecht Life Sciences at Utrecht University and the Utrecht University Medical Centre. See [www.uu.nl/nieuws/](http://www.uu.nl/nieuws/) under 'Diergeneeskunde' (Veterinary Science) for the criteria.

### Neder-Veluwe food bank needs volunteers

The Neder-Veluwe food bank is ur-

Beastly burgers or Kickin' chicken piri piri or a tasty veggie dish or sexy chicken satay for only € 6,50. All served with crispy French fries and fresh salad. Every Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 6 to 8 pm. Only in the attic of Eetcafé H41. No other main dishes upstairs. Also Take away.

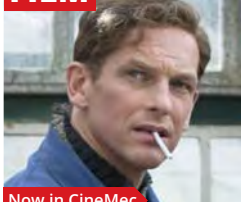
# SUPER DUPER ATTIC OFFER

Eetcafé H41 - Herenstraat 41 Wageningen - (0317) 42 17 15 - [www.h41.nl](http://www.h41.nl)

## CineMec

Laan der Verenigde Naties 150  
[www.cinemec.nl](http://www.cinemec.nl) / 0900 - 321 0 321

FILM



Now in CineMec

**Knien op een Bed Violent**

THURSDAY EVENING  
€ 3 STUDENT DISCOUNT

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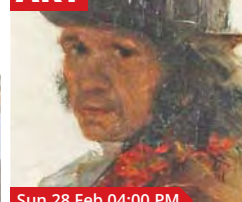


From Thu 25 Feb

**Grimsby**

WITH MARK STRONG  
AS A BRITISH AGENT

ART



Sun 28 Feb 04:00 PM

**Goya**

UNIQUE FILM ABOUT THE  
SPANISH ARTIST



gently looking for new volunteers for various positions, such as drivers, co-drivers, packers, food inspection staff, etc. You can specify when you're available and how often. That information will be used to draw up a roster every month. We work in teams, which makes it very sociable! Information: Anneke Sijbrand on 06-40932724, or via [www.voedselbanknederveluwe.nl](http://www.voedselbanknederveluwe.nl).

## agenda

Thursday 25 February to Wednesday 9 March

### FILMS FOR STUDENTS

Showing at Movie W: Our Little Sister, a subtle story about four Japanese sisters who live in a family house, El Botón de Nácar, a both magical and realistic film about Chilean history, Vleesverlangen, a study/self-examination about whether or not to eat meat, The Big Short, an (Oscar-nominated) actors' film about five smart stock-market speculators, and Ana Ana, four self-portraits of women artists, about inequality and oppression in Egypt (in cooperation with Amnesty Wageningen to mark International Women's Day). Movie W venue: Wilhelmijnaweg 3A.

[WWW.MOVIE-W.NL](http://WWW.MOVIE-W.NL)

Friday 26 and Sunday 28 February, Wednesday 2 March

### ONE-ACT PERFORMANCES BY WAGENINGEN THEATRE COMPANY WDT

The motto of the two short plays is: when you travel you leave everything behind but yourself. In the

first play, De trip, we accompany four women on a weekend away. In God in Frankrijk we follow a married couple who decide to abandon everything and move to France. But are they really happier in France than in the Netherlands? Performances start at 20.30 except on Sunday (14.30). Admission: €12.50, students: €10. Venue: De Wilde Wereld, Burgtstraat 1, Wageningen. Reserve via 0317-318031 or [www.wdttoneel.nl](http://www.wdttoneel.nl).

### Wednesday 2 March, 19.30-22.15 YOUNG KLV – JOB APPLICATIONS CAFE FOR STARTERS (NL)

You learn a lot at university but not how to prepare for job applications. That is why Young KLV is organizing the Job Applications cafe. All the elements you need to get a job will be covered. You will work in small groups and get feedback from the others in your group and enthusiastic career coaches who have lots of experience in the relevant fields for Wageningen. The maximum number of participants is 24. Venue: Café H41, Herenstraat 41 Wageningen.

[WWW.KLV.NL](http://WWW.KLV.NL)

### Thursday 3 March, 20.30-23.45 JAZZ CONCERT WITH TRUMPETER TEUS NOBEL

Teus has been much in demand as a trumpet player for years in the Dutch jazz and pop world. He has worked with Caro Emerald, Kytman Orchestra, Frank McComb (US) and Frazey Ford (Canada), was voted Radio 6 Soul & Jazz talent and received the Laren Jazz Award. This month Teus will be performing for the first time with his new quintet and what he calls 'a more eclectic sound' than on his previous albums. Lots of soundscapes, electronics and — especially — groove! 'The future of jazz has arrived,' according to the glowing reviews in the press. Tickets €15, or €10 for students. Venue: Impuls, Stippeneng 2 Wageningen.

[WWW.TEUSNOBEL-MUSIC.NL](http://WWW.TEUSNOBEL-MUSIC.NL)

### Tuesday 8 March, 19.30 and 21.30 NSW PERFORMANCE: DE HAPPENING – 'ALSO JE HET WAARD BENT'

A dinner. In front of you is a plate with a dome cover. If you lift up the cover you will see exactly what you

are worth, your true value. What would you do? Would you lift up the cover? This question is at the heart of De Happening, a play with an afterword and drinks, organized and performed by student society NSW Navigators. De Happening is a happening you can relate to, funny, provocative but above all not to be missed. You are welcome at one of the two times. Admission price: €4.50, ticket sales on the door. Venue: Theater de Junushoff.

[WWW.NAVIGATORSWAGENINGEN.NL](http://WWW.NAVIGATORSWAGENINGEN.NL)

### Tuesday 8 March, 20.15 ANNEKE VAN GIESBERGEN WITH THE ICELANDIC BAND ÁRSTÍÐIR

Her acoustic solo performances in TV programme DWDD were so well received that Van Giersbergen decided to fulfil a wish she had cherished for ages: a theatre performance with modern versions of classical arias. She will be accompanied by the Icelandic indie folk group Árstíðir. Verloren verleden will be a moving performance about fleeing, meditating on your childhood and a head full of memories. Venue: main hall, Junushoff Theatre.

[WWW.JUNUSHOFF.NL](http://WWW.JUNUSHOFF.NL)

### Tuesday 26 April, 9.00-17.00 3RD WAGENINGEN PHD SYMPOSIUM

The Wageningen PhD Council (WPC) is organizing the annual Wageningen PhD Symposium on 'Diversity in Science'. Collaboration beyond your field of work, nationality, gender and age is becoming increasingly important and has been scientifically shown to improve research quality. This symposium is your opportunity as a PhD candidate to extend your network and advertise your research. Submit an abstract or register at the WPC website. Venue: Orion Building

[WWW.WAGENINGENUR.NL/EN/WAGENINGEN-PHD-COUNCIL](http://WWW.WAGENINGENUR.NL/EN/WAGENINGEN-PHD-COUNCIL)

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



ILLUSTRATION: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK

## Preparing a full lunch in class

**In my first few days at Wageningen University I was pretty much in shock, seeing students eating in class in the Forum building. It was new to me to see people eat in class at all, because back where I did my Bachelor's, only drinks and candies to keep us awake were allowed. But eating a complete lunch during a lecture?**

I have heard from a friend of someone who brought a whole lunch plate and silverware from the campus cafeteria into the classroom, where the lecturer and fellow students could hear the 'tings', the 'tangs' and the 'chews' as they ate. Not to mention the complete food stock from bananas to nuts that people take into exams! I never thought that possible, for back home I would be limited to pens, pencils, eraser, ruler and a calculator. However, you cannot generalize about this because in some classrooms, like in Orion, eating is *verboden*.

I have frequently observed how some of my Dutch friends eat. I would say the Dutch have their own unique way of bringing their lunch, besides buying cafeteria food. They have a whole kitchen in their bags! I can't imagine how they fit whole blocks of cheese, graters, loaves of bread, margarine and hagelslag into their bags. It is impressive and I do wonder how they keep it up because, since I'm not accustomed to eating bread, I wouldn't be able to survive on bread, bread, and more bread. I do agree it is a very efficient way of organizing lunch because you don't have to bother cooking your lunch in the morning or the day before.  **Micha Gracianna Devi from Indonesia, Master's student of Plant Biotechnology**

**The Dutch have a whole kitchen in their bags**

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