

## Inspiring women

Book of role models for women staff | p.5 |

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

For students and employees of Wageningen UR

no 18 – 19 May 2016 – 10th Volume



**INTERNATIONAL  
EDITION**

## Canteen test


Forum at bottom of the class | p.12



# >> SANDER + NATURE CLOSE UP

Sander Grefte, researcher in Human and Animal Physiology

## 'Not randomly shooting but looking carefully'

The art of looking. That's what it's all about, according to Sander Grefte. 'Look carefully first before you take a photo. I try to do it like that.' His subject is nature. Like his favourite hunting grounds the Posbank, which is practically his back garden where he lives in Rheden. Recently he's been focusing on detail. The structures and shapes in a piece of wood, for instance. Macrophotography. But there are also beautiful photos of bridges and buildings on his site. Take a look: [sandergreftephotos.com](http://sandergreftephotos.com).  RK / Photo: Guy Ackermans





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## BAD NEWS

One third of all teachers teach badly. That was the opening sentence of a main news story on the website of the Dutch news programme NOS. I heard it on the radio on Tuesday on my way to our new office in Atlas. 'Telling it straight,' was my first thought. Which soon changed when I investigated the story more closely. The NOS distilled this 'conclusion' from a report based on interviews with 14 top teachers. About their impressions.

These academic highfliers were interviewed by a management bureau from Zwolle. The bureau's reporting is a bit more subtle, emphasizing the lengths teachers go to. Good teaching that is in sharp contrast to the academic culture in which education doesn't matter at all. Between the lines you can hear a call for change. Which, as it happens, is just what that bureau in Zwolle specializes in: 'We help organizations with the *how* of change.'

I've just spoken to 14 colleagues. They feel the summers are getting hotter. Maybe there's a massive drought coming this year.

*Edwin van Laar*

>> 'Food minister not the best solution' | p.9



Ministry of Food

# CORMET SCRAPES A PASS

- Resource canteen test: Forum food is so-so
- Nationally, Wageningen food rated highly

The catering on the Wageningen campus is among the best in Dutch universities, according to the latest National Student Survey. But Cormet is lagging behind, shows an investigation by Resource. The editors sent a tasting panel off to evaluate the four caterers in the Forum, Orion, the Leeuwenborch and the Restaurant of the Future.

It is clear that Cormet is the weakest link. The caterer, which runs the kiosks in Atlas and Lumen and Wageningen UR canteens outside Wageningen as well as the canteen in the Forum, scored a mere 6.3. Just scraping a pass. The organization's minimal requirement is a 6.1, says contract manager Lisette Schoonman of Facilities and Services. The grade from the Resource test matches results from a previous study by Facilities and Services on satisfaction with the catering. In that 2014 study Cormet got a mid-



The Cormet canteen in the Forum.

dling score for all its locations: more than one point lower than other caterers, at 6.3.

Business manager Ron Nagtegaal at Cormet's Forum canteen is not happy with the score. 'We will certainly be addressing a number of points for attention,' he promises. One of these is the use of plastic cutlery. It is in the terms of their contract that the caterers should use stainless steel cutlery. The problem in the Forum is that the cutlery gets stolen on a large scale. 'We are talking about 700

sets of cutlery per year,' explains Nagtegaal. 'We can replace them but they disappear again as soon as the next academic year starts.' Cormet is having discussions with Facilities and Services about how to solve this problem. Schoonman agrees that theft is a joint problem. 'The caterers may be responsible for the tableware and for purchasing it, but it is our students who pinch that cutlery.'

Overall, the catering in Wageningen scores 3.9 on a scale of 5 in the latest National Student Survey.

Only the canteens in Tilburg (4.2) and Rotterdam (4.1) got higher scores. Four years ago Wageningen was bringing up the rear with a score of 3.3. Things began to improve when the new caterers came in four years ago. The four-year contract with all the caterers runs out this year. Audits are ongoing for possible extensions. At the moment, Schoonman sees no reason not to extend the contracts. **✎ RK**

*See the results of the Campus Canteen test on p.12..*



PHOTO: DAIRY CAMPUS

## DAIRY CAMPUS DUE TO OPEN

State Secretary Martijn van Dam will formally open Wageningen UR's Dairy Campus in Leeuwarden on 26 May. The relaunched experimental centre for dairy farming will be holding open days on 26, 27 and 28 May. The Dairy Campus currently has two sites: Leeuwarden and Lelystad. Over the next few months some of the cows from Lelystad will be moved to Leeuwarden to create a farm with 550 dairy cows. The site in Lelystad will close. The province of Friesland and municipality of Leeuwarden have invested 20 million euros in the Dairy Campus. In total, the campus cost 52.6 million euros. **✎ AS**



## TALENTED WOMEN: A BOOK OF PORTRAITS

- Not enough women at the top
- Book to inspire young members of staff

On Wednesday 18 May, Wageningen UR presented a book of biographical portraits of 22 talented women in the organization. Their stories are intended as an inspiration for young members of staff.

In both Wageningen University and DLO, women are underrepresented at the top of the academic tree. In the strategic

plan Wageningen UR has therefore set itself the goal of becoming more diverse. One of its targets is that one on four professors should be women by 2020.

The presented portrait book is intended especially for young members of staff such as PhD students and postdocs, says Kristina Raab, project manager at Corporate Human Resources. They are making certain choices about their future careers. Raab hopes they can learn something from researchers who successfully pursued research or went into management jobs.

The book is being distributed to directors, managers and professors. Raab hopes they will actively bring it to the attention of the target group. The decision to go for an 'old-fashioned' book will prove a strength, Raab expects. 'You can spread information easily online, but you can click it away just as easily.'

The 22 women portrayed in the book represent a cross-section of the organization, says Raab. 'It is certainly not an exhaustive list of all the talented women in Wageningen UR.'

RR

## ©COLUMN|KEES

### Synergy

The subject of synergy in agriculture came up during a lecture. What is synergy? And what would be a better description than just  $1+1=3$ ? The concept of 'ecosystem literacy' was mentioned. I define that as the extent to which you understand the formation, functioning and cohesion between everything you see in a landscape by consciously reading it. Reading a landscape? Yes, reading!

Reading is all about synergy. It is more than knowing the letters or figuring out the sentences. As you read, you start to understand the links between the words and sentences. A word gets its meaning from a contrasting word, a text from the context. The sentences accumulate to create understanding and insight. Reading is about making connections, grasping and sensing meaning. Reading comprehension is synergy: a synthesis involving 26 letters. But then ... agriculture. There is not much synergy in agriculture today. After coming up with artificial fertilizers, antibiotics and nanotechnology, we have become pretty 'ecosystem illiterate'. We no longer see the cohesion. Crops and animals have been removed from their natural context and now we are left — literally — with all the shit.

But synergy is gradually returning, now termed agroecology or nature-inclusive agriculture. I see it happening throughout society, even in Wageningen. The *genius loci* has come alive again. We are increasingly aware that animals are more than a bunch of cells you prop food into to obtain a product. An egg is living synergy. We are starting to read the book of nature and agriculture afresh. We are realizing increasingly that agriculture without nature is impossible.

Nature is the ultimate form of synergy.

Now for agriculture ...

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



### in brief

#### >> SUBWAY

##### In Campus Plaza

The sandwich bar Subway is coming to the Campus Plaza. The arrival of a fast food outlet was announced a while ago and got a mixed reception from students and staff, who pictured a McDonald's or a KFC. 'But that's not what we are at all,' says a spokesperson for the Subway in Wageningen town centre. 'We come under the category of fast food because the customer can be served quickly. But we don't sell chips or deep-fried snacks. The new Subway hopes to open in September. RK



#### >> TEACHERS

##### Below standard?

One third of all university teachers deliver sub-standard education, ran an NOS headline on Tuesday 17 May. A conclusion to take with a pinch of salt, says Emiel van Puffelen, head of the Corporate Education, Research & Innovation department at Wageningen University. In the report NOS bases its assertion on — itself a year old — fourteen Teachers of the Year are interviewed. Van Puffelen: 'That is an incredibly small sample, and not of average teachers.' His impression is very different: a lot of highly motivated teachers who are rated highly on average in evaluations and in the National Student Survey. He does acknowledge that there are more incentives for research than for education. Read a response from Noelle Aarts, who is cited in the report, on resource-online.nl RR

#### >> BUS LANE

##### More accessible

Access to the Wageningen campus has improved, suggest responses to the latest National Student Survey. For years Wageningen has scored above average on all points in the survey. With the exception of accessibility, that is: Wageningen students are less satisfied with that. The score this year is still below average but has improved compared with 2015, says Henk Vegter, head of department at Quality & Strategic Information. 'I think that has a lot to do with the bus lane on campus. Students can get out at the Forum now.' LvdN

# GROWTH IN STUDENT NUMBERS CONTINUES

- 12 percent more preliminary registrations
- 140 percent more for Communication Science

Wageningen University has 12 percent more preliminary registrations this year than last year. This suggests that the growth in the Bachelor's degree programmes continues unchecked. Interest in Communication Science, a programme whose future is under discussion, has grown remarkably: from 12 preliminary registrations last year to 29 this year. Altogether, the Dutch universities had 11 percent more preliminary registrations by the deadline of 1 May, show statistics from Studielink. The Wageningen registrations have increased the most for several smaller degree programmes. Communication Science comes top with a growth of over 140 percent (17 more registrations than last year). There were 47 percent more registrations for Environmental Science (20), 58 percent more for Tourism (16) and 40 percent more for Agrotechnology (12).

But there was increased interest in the bigger programmes as well. With 181 registered High School students, Biology looks to be heading for a record number of first-years. Two Bachelor's programmes - Biotechnology and Molecular Life Sciences - applied in February for a cap on admissions from 1 September 2017. They are afraid too rapid an expansion would affect the quality of the education. With 151 preliminary registrations, Biotechnology exceeds its preferred upper limit of 120 first-years. With 94 prospective first-years, Molecular Life Sciences is below its intended upper limit of 100.

Wageningen University has a decade of turbulent growth behind it. In 2006 the university attracted 575 first-year students, as opposed to 1500 last year. But not all those registering by May really turn up in September, points out Henk Vegter, head of the Quality & Strategic Information department. He expects the growth in Wageningen this year to work out at around 8 percent. Nationally, that makes Wageningen about average. The fastest growth is seen at the

High school students at an open day for Bachelor's programmes last March.

Radboud University in Nijmegen (over 27 percent).

The preliminary registrations are cause for celebration in Communication Sciences. Wageningen University sees 20 students as a critical lower limit for its degree programmes. The Communication Sciences programme has only managed to reach this number once. 'This is great,' says Noelle Aarts, personal professor of Strategic Communication. 'A small group of us have worked terribly hard at it. It is nice that our work is bearing fruit.'

The accreditation for Communication Sciences is due to renewal at the end of 2017. The idea is to mark the occasion with a new name for the programme, possibly Life Sciences and Communication. **RR**



PHOTO: JESSE REIJ

## TWO VIDI GRANTS FOR WAGENINGEN

- Fatouros and Van der Heijden get 800,000 euros
- Chance to start own group

Evolution biologist Nina Fatouros and architect Jeroen van der Heijden have been awarded a Vidi grant by the Dutch Organization for Scientific Research (NWO). They get 800,000 euros, which they can use to establish their own group over the next five years.

Fatouros investigates how cabbage plants defend themselves against harmful insects. These insects cause economic damage to crops. However some wild plants seem to be able to prevent this by killing the insect eggs. Over the next few years, Fatouros wants to find out how this system works; she hopes to use this knowledge to protect important crops from insect damage.

Fatouros spent the last few years

in the Entomology group working on the interaction between plants and pest insects. A month ago, she was appointed a tenure-track assistant professor in the Biosystematics group. Now she will be able to form her own group there.

Jeroen van der Heijden studied architecture and now works as an associate professor at the Australian National University. However he submitted his proposal through Wageningen University. He wants to conduct research on climate-resistant cities. What forms of administrative cooperation are most effective in dealing with the impact of climate change? Van der Heijden has not worked in Wageningen before.

The NWO's Vidi grants continue to attract considerable interest; 15 percent of the applicants were awarded a grant (87 researchers). Last year, Wageningen got six Vidi grants, which was a record. There were three in 2014, two in 2013 and five in 2012. **RR**



PHOTO: SVEN WENSCHER

## WEDAY

At a sundrenched Bongerd on Tuesday 10 May, teams of staff – mainly young and strikingly international – were pitched against each other in the traditional WeDay hexathlon Battle of Wageningen UR. Elsewhere in and around the sports centre people were flying kites, playing cards and darts, doing crafts, pole-dancing, horse-riding, climbing, gardening and much more.

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



# 'VAN DEN BAN COULDN'T STOP'

Anne van den Ban, the founding father of extension studies in Wageningen, died last week at the age of 88. Former colleagues talk about this colourful icon.

He had just got back from Africa when Niels Röling discovered as dusk fell that there was no light in his new house. Like an answer to prayer, at that very moment Professor Anne van den Ban turned up on his bike with a bagful of light bulbs. They might come in handy, he thought. It is a precious memory for emeritus professor Röling, who succeeded his mentor Van den Ban in 1983.

Van den Ban's chief academic achievement, according to Röling, was broadening the scope of the 'supportive communication sciences', drawing on insights from psychology, economics and sociology. 'It is partly thanks to him that the social sciences have survived so well in Wageningen.'

Van den Ban retired as professor at the age of 55 to focus on development cooperation. 'He was very modern in his approach,' says Johan Bouma, emeritus professor of Soil Sciences. In



Anne van den Ban (centre front) with 'his' students and colleagues in 2015.

Van den Ban's view, education was the only solid basis for sustainable change. In the board of the Anne van den Ban Fund, which Bouma chaired for a while, the founder of the fund's manner was 'extraordinarily modest', says Bouma. 'He won respect with his input, not with his status.' Towards students he was always attentive, handing out scarves, mittens and wool-

ly hats against the cold Dutch winter, for example.

'Of course, he couldn't stop,' says Bouma. He literally had to fall off his bike before he gave up cycling. And until six months ago he still went rowing every Saturday. **RR**

See too *In Memoriam* on p. 30.

**'3700 PARTICIPANTS ALREADY AFTER ONE WEEK'**



## How happy are you personally?

'I'll just grab the app. I've now filled in 12 days. I'm happiest when surrounded by greenery and water: eight out of ten. I am also happy when I go out, go shopping or do things outside the house. All sevens and eights.'

## How does the app score?

'The app has been downloaded 5000 times. 3700 people have filled in the initial questionnaire so are basically participating. After one week, that has already resulted in 34,000 completed questionnaires. That's an awful lot; not what I'd expected to be honest. The geographical spread could be better: the provinces of Zeeland and Limburg are not doing so well.'

## How have the media and general public reacted?

'People think it's fun contributing to research. It brings something out in them. After the launch on Vroege Vogels, I did a lot of nice interviews, in particular for regional broadcasters. The app is available for downloading until the end of this month and can be used up to the end of June.' **RR**

**Who?** Hans Farjon, landscape and spatial planning researcher  
**What?** Launched the HappyHier app  
**Where?** Vroege Vogels radio programme and various regional broadcasters

See too the article on page 8.

**Science Cafe**  
**Wageningen**  
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**Prof. Dr. Hedwig te Molder**  
WUR & TU/Twente  
**Dr. ir. Frans Kampers**  
WUR & NanoNext NL

**Donderdag 26 mei**  
19:45 - Live music  
20:15 - Science  
Café Loburg  
**GRATIS ENTREE**

**Van nanonaise tot nepvlees:**  
**nanotechnologie en eten**

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# SOCIAL MEDIA INTENSIFIES FOOD BATTLE

- **Food industry is common enemy**
- **Movement influences policy through hypes**

Social media are a new playing field in which food policy is discussed and shaped. With the help of these media, critics have got together in an informal movement pitched against the food industry, observes communication scientist Tim Stevens.

According to the doctoral researcher in the Strategic Communication chair group, little research has been done on the role of social media in the agrofood sector. In the social media, mass communication meets one-to-one

communication between friends and kindred spirits. This means that social media not only spread news, but also form the basis for social networks and policy influencing.

Social media play a key role, for example, in the media hypes around food scandals such as the horsemeat scandal. On social media these kinds of issues tend to be reduced to a conflict between mainstream and organic farming, in which the scandal feeds mistrust of the food industry. Because the food industry is not very transparent, critics in the social media have plenty of chance to spread their ideas, which then get magnified in 'echo chambers', says Stevens in his thesis *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*.

Social media also influence food policy indirectly. An informal food protest movement has grown up: a network of people who campaign internationally. Their interests and ideologies are diverse, says Stevens, but they find a common enemy in 'the' food industry. This food-related movement can influence mainstream communication and policy development through hypes and framing. The food industry is aware of that danger, notes Stevens. In 2008, for instance, Monsanto doubled the size of its communications department, particularly the social media team. **AS**



The Twitter group #OccupyMonsanto calls on people to campaign against 'genetic contamination'

# WHICH ENVIRONMENT MAKES YOU HAPPY?

- **New app: Happyhier**
- **User answers questions four times a day**

Alterra is doing research for the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency on how your surroundings contribute to feelings of happiness. The chief research tool is an app: Happyhier. Previous research by Alterra revealed a lot about what we value in the landscape, but the scale was still quite approximate. So more information is needed. Happyhier asks users a series of questions four times a day. The

app chooses the moment to do this depending on your location, which it pinpoints through your mobile phone. Happyhier's bell will mainly ring in places with a natural landscape, says researcher Sierp de Vries. The app then asks how you are feeling, what you are doing, and with whom. The trial is based on the English app Mappiness, used by over 65,000 people. De Vries aims at 2000 users.

The question is what conclusion can be drawn from all the data that is gathered. You can be unhappy in a beautiful environment, and the reverse is true too. But the researchers assume that with enough participants the rela-

tion between environment and happiness will be clear. The initial conclusion from the English study is that people are happier in a natural environment than in the city.

Happyhier exists for Android as well as iOS and can be downloaded from the usual app shops. Users are asked to participate in the experiment for a month.

**RK**





# POACHING BAD FOR CO<sub>2</sub> STORAGE IN FORESTS

- Seed dispersal stops
- Impact in particular on trees with large seeds

Poaching is not only bad for animals, it also reduces the capacity of tropical forests to capture carbon. The carbon is lost because of the reduction in seed dispersal by large animals in particular. These findings were presented by a team of researchers in *Nature Communications*.

Animals play an important part in the life cycle of trees as they spread the seeds by eating or storing fruits. More than 80 percent of the species in tropical forests in Africa, North and South America and India depend on seed dispersal by animal. Trees with large seeds in particular are being affected by poaching.

'Large animals and birds such as monkeys, tapirs, toucans and agoutis are good for seed dispersal because they have a wide-spread habitat,' explains Patrick Jansen of Resource Ecology, one of the researchers in the team. 'If those animals disappear, the seeds fall onto the ground beneath the tree. That is about the worst place imaginable because it already has a tree. So the repro-

duction rate is low.' The end result is that species with large seeds are replaced by species with small seeds that are spread by small animals or the wind.

A model study shows that small-seeded tree species are not so tall on average and capture less carbon. For ten tropical forests around the world, the researchers calculated how the biomass changes if large-seeded tree species that rely on animals for their seed dispersal are replaced by other species. Carbon loss in the tropical forests of Africa, the Americas and India can be as much as 12 percent in the worst-case scenario. As a comparison: that is as much carbon as is released by 14 years of deforestation. The impact in Southeast Asia and Australia is marginal and there can even be a slight increase in carbon storage; those forests are already dominated by tree species where seed dispersal is by wind.

According to Jansen, it would be a good idea from the perspective of climate regulation to protect not just the trees but also the fauna of tropical forests. 'Many protected forests in the tropics appear intact but are actually severely damaged because the fauna have been eliminated. These "empty forests" will gradually change their composition entirely.' **® RK**



Large animals such as monkeys play a key role in the dispersal of tree seeds.

## VISION <<



Ministry of Food

### 'A Food Programme, not a Food Minister'

**The Netherlands should have a Ministry of Food, think the PvdA, the CDA and the Christian Union parties. Professor of Public Administration and Policy agrees it's time to broaden agricultural policy but doubts whether setting up a new ministry is the best way to go about**

*Should policymakers talk in terms of 'food' from now on instead of agriculture?*

'It is important that we develop a holistic policy in which there is room for all the elements of our food system, such as production, environment, climate, water, biodiversity, health, food safety, access to sufficient food and impacts on developing countries. Food is a much more powerful and appealing frame than agriculture.'

*Which ministries do those elements currently come under?*

'Agriculture and nature policy and veterinary health come under Economic Affairs, trade and development aid under Foreign Affairs, human health under Public Health, Welfare and Sport, spatial planning, environmental and climate policy under Infrastructure and Environment, and poverty policy under Social Affairs and Employment.'

*So do you need a new ministry of Food?*

'We haven't had very good experiences with reorganizing ministries, which mainly leads to a lot of political commotion and internal bureaucratic blah blah. What's more, for a holistic approach you need not just central government but also municipalities, provinces, companies and civil society organizations. I think we'd better set up a kind of Delta Programme on food.'

*What do you mean by that?*

'We have a Delta Programme to assess the impact of climate change on the Netherlands and develop policy. That is a kind of administration bypass, a network organization for getting around administrative compartmentalization. One thing a Food Programme should certainly do is to aim at developing a food systems approach. Currently we often aim at solving discrete problems, after which new problems arise elsewhere or in the long term. We need smart ways of making connections between issues, such as obesity and sustainability.' **® AS**

**More visions  
on [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl).**

# BIOLOGICAL APPROACH TO BILHARZIA WORKS

- Medicines often too pricy
- Catfish and crayfish used

A quarter of a billion Africans suffer from bilharzia. Biological pest control using catfish and crayfish has the potential to push back this disease, says PhD researcher Concillia Monde.

Bilharzia is caused by the parasite *Schistosoma*, a worm that is transmitted to humans through infected fresh water. Water snails are hosts to the immature parasites. Bilharzia is currently combatted with drugs, but these are expensive and out of reach for poor Africans south of the Sahara, where bilharzia is most prevalent. A systematic approach is needed to prevent the spread of the disease. Monde researched the possibilities for combatting the host snails. Without snails the parasite can no longer breed. The Zambian researcher received her PhD earlier this week for her thesis on this approach.

In the lab, Monde studied the possible use of the Australian crayfish, an exotic species widely found in African waters, and a cross-bred catfish. Both species eat the parasite's host snails, although their preference for them diminishes when other food is available. The efficiency of the approach also depends on pol-



Children playing in Lake Tanganyika in Tanzania. Contact with infected water can cause bilharzia.

lution levels. Endosulfan, a banned but still widely used insecticide, appears to seriously impede the process of biological pest control. Monde: 'The predators are more sensitive to endosulfan than their prey. So this form of pest control doesn't work where there is a lot of pes-

ticide in the water.'

But she is still convinced the method has potential. 'It requires a tailormade approach. It can work in some areas and not in others. My works shows that the method is viable. And it is cheap.' **RK**

## POPULAR GREAT TITS NO MORE SOCIABLE

- Personality determines status in group
- In the lab, shy bird seems more sociable

Bold great tits are bosses. They rule the roost in the great tit community. But that doesn't make them any more sociable. This is a key conclusion in Lysanne Snijders' thesis *To tweet or not to tweet*.

Great tits have personalities, just like other mammals. There are enterprising, bold great tits at one end of the spectrum and unadventurous, shy birds at the other end. Those personalities affect the position of a great tit in its own circle. Shy great tits end up on the

periphery of their social networks. In other words: they are unpopular. Enterprising great tits, on the other hand, have lots of social contacts. They are more aggressive and take a lot more risks.

But are these popular great tits actually more sociable? From lab-based research, it appears not. Snijders studied how great tits react when they see a stranger of their own species on a video screen. Bolder great tits turn out, contrary to expectations, to engage in much less interaction with the great tit on the screen than the shy great tits. 'So the enterprising great tits are not driven by social motives,' concludes Snijders.

It should be mentioned here that a lab test is not a field test. According to Snijders, the great tits

might quickly realize that the bird on the screen is not a threat. This makes the shy birds more daring, while the bold birds are less interested. Another explanation is what Snijders calls the coffee machine

effect. 'Popular great tits in the wild might acquire more social contacts because they stay around popular hangouts. Places where there's a lot of food, for instance.'

**RK**





Evening lectures and campus ring road: their effect on the WUR community is like a red rag to a bull. Got an opinion too? Go to [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl) or email [resource@wur.nl](mailto:resource@wur.nl).

REACTIONS ON...



# RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL

## BOGUS EVALUATION

**Blogger Carina Nieuwenweg has her doubts whether the voice of students will be heard properly in the evaluation of the evening lectures pilot, due to start in September. She fears a survey 'where the results are decided beforehand'. And she is not the only one.**

'Good article, we definitely shouldn't just agree to this!' writes **Blèh**. 'Really pathetic to see what they're doing: the pilot is simply intended to get positive feedback. They are choosing lecturers who like teaching in the evenings rather than lecturers who hate the idea.' **Buurman van de Haarweg** notes cynically that 'the bigwigs in Atlas can be proud of the growth they have achieved. Especially now students and lecturers are having to pay the price.' He would also like to know why the Student Council does not have the right of consent on this topic. **Cascade** knows the answer to that question. 'Very bureaucratic because it's a pilot. The Student Council will only have a say when a decision is taken after the pilot.' **Reële rover** thinks the Council should

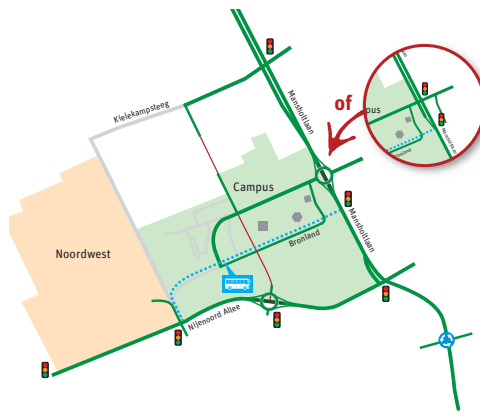
not wait for that. 'If you don't make it really clear as a student community that you will not let yourselves be screwed, then you will get screwed. (...) In short, the Student Council should do for once what it was elected to do and stop this. Meanwhile, students should just ignore those evening lectures en masse. Sure, that may cost you one module but as soon as this starts leading to study delays, you can guess who will be loudest in calling for evening lectures to be abolished.'

## APPLES AND ORANGES

**Tackling the traffic jams around campus by widening the existing roads, which Wageningen municipality wants to do, would cost at least 27 million euros. That is in sharp contrast to the 14 million euros for a ring road around the campus, writes Roelof Kleis on the Resource site.**

'It is becoming increasingly clear that a decent ring road is the only appropriate solution from

the point of view of accessibility, the health of local residents, finances and above all the environment,' writes **Nietomdathetkanmaarom-dathetmoet**. 'Cycling through exhaust gases is not healthy either and an attractive ring road with associated greenery and recreational facilities around a noise barrier can only make the Binnenveld even more attractive.' But according to **bvv**, you can't conclude yet that a ring road would be cheaper. 'Unlike the option they have gone for, only very rough calculations have been made for the campus ring road (...). It's like comparing apples and oranges.' **Henriëke** agrees: 'Resource has apparently become part of the propaganda machine. Creating problems that are not there just to put down yet more tarmac for a few people who spend a couple of minutes longer in the morning driving from A to B.' She is joined by **Fietser**: 'I still find "traffic jam" the perfect example of framing, for a few cars and a few minutes added onto the journey time in the rush hour.' **LDK**



## PROPOSITION

*'It is illogical to expect PhD candidates to teach, without requiring them to have or obtain teaching skills.'*

A.J. Bukman, who graduated with a PhD on 26 April in Wageningen





# CAMPUS CANTEEN TEST

The campus canteens are busy every day. With good reason? How good is the food and ambience? A tasting panel checked out the canteens. And found significant differences.

text Roelof Kleis photos Sven Menschel

## THE MENUS

### BUDGET LUNCH

Two slices of bread and cheese, a currant bun, a cup of soup and a glass of milk

### THE PLUS LUNCH

Two slices of bread and cheese, a currant bun, a cup of soup, a salad and a glass of drinking yoghurt.

### THE LUXURY LUNCH

A filled roll or baguette, a salad, a glass of orange juice and a cup of drinking yoghurt

### THE HOT MEAL

Menu of the day (on Mondays meatless), a cup of drinking yoghurt and a glass of orange juice.

## SCORE CARD

- APPEARANCE
- TASTE
- PRICE/QUALITY
- ASSORTMENT
- PRESENTATION

**T**aste is personal. Something you soon notice if you ask students and staff what they think of the food in the campus canteens. So what is the reality? The proof of the pudding is in the eating, thought *Resource*, and set out to compare the four main canteens in the Forum, Orion, the Leeuwenborch and the Restaurant of the Future.

It might be wise to start with a disclaimer: this is not an objective scientific study. The tasting panel consisted of four people: two members of staff and two students, three women and one man, three carnivores and one committed vegetarian. The choice of the panels was not random either. Nevertheless, the results give a fair impression, and one that matches those of the poll that's been on the *Resource* website for over a week.

The setup of the Campus Canteen Test is simple. We aimed at three different sandwich lunches (budget, plus and luxury) and one hot lunch. The tasting panel visited the four canteens on two consecutive (meatless) Mondays and Tuesdays to see, taste and evaluate. As an objective yardstick, a price comparison was also drawn up, taking the most common foods served at lunchtime.

### LOSER

And the winner is... Well, it depends. There isn't really one clear winner. There is a loser though: Cormet. The caterer in Forum scores a mere 6.3. Pretty meagre, certainly compared with the other caterers, who all score nearly two whole points higher. The tasting panel think Cormet's food is expensive and at best mediocre. Only the luxury lunch is okay but that sets you back more than 10 euros. There is a lot of criticism of the daily hot snack, which is early always deep-fried. As for the plastic cutlery Cormet offers its clients because steel cutlery was stolen, the response is withering.

The tasting panels is most impressed by the food in Orion (OSP caterer, 8.0) and the Restaurant of the Future (Sodexo, 7.9). Both score highly on all fronts in fact. The food is carefully prepared, the selection is good and the ambience pleasant. The RotF is a bit pricier, though. That might partially explain the different clientele. You rarely see any students in the RotF.

### BEST BUY

But if you want good food and a cheap lunch, you should go to the Leeuwenborch. The Wageningen-based Good Food Catering is the cheapest





option across the board when it comes to readymade lunches, at 7.6 coming in just behind Orion and the RotF. In Consumer Association lingo, that makes the Leeuwenborch the 'best buy'. With one blot on its copybook: it's not a very nice place to sit. And the small canteen gets very full.

The conclusions are very much in line with those of Resource's online poll. The

Leeuwenborch gets the most votes, slightly more than Orion. The RotF trails behind them and the Forum comes last. People taking the poll in English have nothing good to say about food on campus in general and in the Forum in particular (see box: Culinary Graveyard). Food for thought and discussion. **1**

## FORUM 'STANDARD AND MEDIOCRE'

Total  
**6.3**

'Overall I think the description "nothing special" fits this canteen'. Dorothée has just polished off the plus lunch. 'For a lunch with bread and cheese, a very limited selection. And it tastes just like it looks: very standard and mediocre.' She makes an exception for the tomato and pumpkin soup, which is good. 'Except that I think 25 cents is a lot for five croutons. I thought they came with it!' Anna is a lot more critical. On her plate she's got a couple of slices of cold bread, a fried egg with cheese, two vegetarian croquettes and a dollop of potato salad. And this is the hot meal. She gives the canteen a 4 for value for money. Only the fresh orange juice is good. 'The bread is ice-cold, but the currant bun is nice,' is all Roelof has to say about his budget lunch. Denise is more positive about her luxury lunch. 'Fresh and colourful. It makes a healthy impression. But where is the pulp in the orange juice? A great pity.' What's more, you pay through

the nose for all that tasty food: 10.51 euros. 'I do almost a week's shopping for that!' One thing everyone agrees about is the cutlery. Denise: 'Everything plastic. What a pity! It looks cheap and not sustainable.'

### THE LUXURY LUNCH €10,51



8 7.5 5.5 7.5 7

Total **7.1**

### THE PLUS LUNCH €7,87



6 6 6 6 6

Total **6**

### THE BUDGET LUNCH €4,17



6 6 6 7 7

Total **7**

### THE HOT MEAL €7,76



5 6 4 7 6

Total **5**

## THE TASTING PANEL

### ROELOF BIJL

FACILITIES AND SERVICES STAFF MEMBER  
IN THE FORUM

Until recently Roelof Bijl (59) always had lunch in the Forum. Until it got too much for him. 'I couldn't stand it anymore.' What bothers him most is the quality of the hot meals. 'In the Forum it is always deep-fried. I'm not fussy but you do want a bit of variety.'



### DENISE HOELANDT

SIXTH-YEAR ANIMAL SCIENCES

Two or three days a week Denise is on the panel at the Centre for Taste Research on the Marijkeweg in Wageningen. 'You contribute to research and the money's good.' Now and then she has a Chinese meal in the Forum. 'But I usually pick up something at the Jumbo or I bring a packed lunch.'



### DOROTHÉE BECU

WEBSITE MANAGER

Dorothée Becu usually eats lunch at her computer. 'I have a good meal in the evening. I live alone but I always cook for myself. I don't use ready meals or anything like that. Becu joins in because she thinks the test is a nice initiative. 'I have never been into the canteens at the Leeuwenborch or Orion.'



### ANNA GELHAUSEN

SECOND-YEAR ANIMAL SCIENCES

Anna has to do with catering on campus on behalf of the Green Office. 'We work together with the caterer to make the catering more sustainable. So the taste test fits my "work" perfectly. And she has a vegetarian take on things. In fact, it's thanks to her that there is Meatless Monday on campus.'



## ORION 'FRESH AND MADE WITH CARE'

Total  
**8**

Across the board, the panel runs out of superlatives. 'Super! Value for money,' says Denise. 'The parsnip soup is especially fresh-tasting and it's nice and creamy. Nice that the croutons are made of old bread.' 'A nice variety of bread. Thick and crusty,' comments Anna. She gives her plus lunch nines. She praises the diversity of the selection, with both a standard and a vegetarian main course. Dorothée, who is having a luxury lunch, agrees. 'A roll with grilled pumpkin and cream cheese. Delicious! Everything is very fresh and clearly made with

care. A lot of choice in both the basic and the more luxury products.' Roelof gets the hot meal today: couscous with chicken and a vegetable stew of courgettes, peppers and raisins. 'Beautiful colours, a fair portion and fresh ingredients. In short, a tasty meal.' 'I had never eaten here before,' says Dorothée, 'but I don't know why, actually.' Was there anything to complain about then? Oh yes, says Denise. 'The crust of the currant bun was a bit dry and my milk glass was a bit dirty.'

### THE BUDGET LUNCH €3,92



8 8 8 8 8

Total **8**

### THE PLUS LUNCH €7,62



9 8 9 8.5 7

Total **8**

### THE LUXURY LUNCH €8,93



8 8.5 8 8 8

Total **8**

### THE HOT MEAL €6,47



8 8 8 8 7

Total **8**

## RESTAURANT OF THE FUTURE 'A REAL RESTAURANT FEELING'

Total  
**7.9**

Roelof is chuffed. 'Here it feels as though you are sitting in a real restaurant. The food is laid out tastefully and with care. And the fast till works perfectly.' He's got the luxury lunch today. 'A beautifully prepared roll with a nice salad. And the cut-your-own bread is a delicious traditional loaf.' Denise has struck lucky with her plus lunch too. 'Not terribly exciting but a nice menu. The bread is fantastic and the pumpkin soup is very tasty. There is a lot of choice of bread, fillings, juices and drinks. But they could offer a bigger choice of hot meals. A nice atmosphere!' 'Small and cosy, very light and a nice layout,' says Anna. Even her budget lunch gets nothing but praise. 'Tasty pumpkin

### THE BUDGET LUNCH €5,05



8 8.5 8.5 9 9.5

Total **8.5**

### THE PLUS LUNCH €8,01



8 8 6 8 8

Total **7.5**

soup and delicious bread with goat's cheese. It's not particularly cheap but the quality makes it worth the price.' Dorothée doesn't find the do-it-yourself till very easy to use. 'But the staff are very friendly and helpful.' She is



# LEEUWENBORCH 'I CAN HARDLY FINISH IT'

Denise is very satisfied with her hot meal: vegetarian pasta. 'Delicious; the vegetables are very fresh. And a reasonable price for good food. It is so much, in fact, that I can hardly finish it. And I can eat a lot!' Anna is complementary about her luxury lunch too. 'A delicious roll with goat's cheese. Dark brown bread, a varied filling and a salad with nice colours.' She praises the variety too. 'As well as the hot meal there are several other smaller meals on offer. Maybe there could be a bit more choice of bread.' The basic lunches do not score so well. The soup isn't very nice,

thinks Roelof. 'Is this tandoori? That's not the taste I'm getting.' Dorothée agrees wholeheartedly. 'The soup is tasteless. If you call it tandoori I expect something spicy. And the bread is dry and tasteless. And it's a pity they've only got young cheese. For a basic lunch there's not much choice here. I find it all just a bit too minimal. For that money I'd rather bring my own sandwiches. I won't come back here in a hurry.' So opinion is divided. The more luxurious the lunch, the better the score.'

Total  
7.6

## THE BUDGET LUNCH €3,79



6 6 6 6.5 6

Total 6

## THE PLUS LUNCH €5,74



7 6 6.5 6 7-

Total 7-

## THE LUXURY LUNCH €6,95



8 8 9 10 8

Total 9

## THE HOT MEAL €6,15



9 8.5 8 7.5 7

Total 8.5

having a hot meal: spring *stamppot* with veal meatballs. 'Real mince and well spiced. Lots of different vegetables too, with a bit of bite left in the *stamppot*. 'Pity I didn't realize there were large portions too.' The larger portion costs two euros more.

## THE HOT MEAL €9,17



8 8 7.5 8 7.5

Total 7.5

## THE LUXURY LUNCH €8,98



8 8+ 8- 9 9

Total 8+

## 'CULINARY GRAVEYARD'

What do you think of the food on the campus? Especially on *Resource's* English site, this question revealed strong feelings. 'Food culture @ WUR is miserable and I feel ashamed when visitors come here and I have to take them for lunch or dinner', writes Jorge Mendes de Jess. 'Healthy food in WUR doesn't exist!' in Jonh's view. Shani deals the final blow: 'WUR is a culinary graveyard.'

Read all the responses on [resource-online.nl/en](http://resource-online.nl/en)


Watch the videos and compare all the prices on [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl).







## PADDLING

It's ready. And the timing is perfect. The wooden decking on the edge of the Forum pond was immediately used by students during their break. The structure is just too high to sit with your feet in the water, but these students found a solution to that.  LdK, photo Remo Wormmeester





# Storyteller

A student who doesn't understand his story about layers of soil and water flow is not a source of irritation to Roel Dijkma. On the contrary. 'I am quite happy to explain something all over again.' The new Teacher of the Year is famous for his storytelling skills and his approachability.

text Linda van der Nat photo Sven Menschel

**T**eacher of Hydrology Roel Dijkma is moving. From a large, light corner office in Lumen to 'the toilet lady's room' – in his own words – in the same building. The corridor to his room is full of empty yellow removal boxes. The interview with Resource is his last activity before packing up his stuff.

'I am coordinating the move for our chair group so I could have given myself a better room. But I have so many meetings that I was always having to look for another room so I didn't disturb my roommate. Now I am on my own and that is better for everyone. I did email the professor, to whom I gave the big room on the courtyard, to suggest it would be a nice gesture if he gave me his room now that I am Teacher of the Year.' He laughs. 'Haven't had a reply.'

Dijkma won the Teacher of the Year Award on 21 April. He was on holiday in New York with his wife at the time. 'Because of the time difference I got up at five o'clock to attend the award ceremony via Skype. When I heard I had won I was proud as Punch – I'm getting goosebumps again now. I went into town and I was just walking on air.' He points at a bag in the corner of the room. 'A Will limited edition. I had seen it earlier that week in a shop in Manhattan. I was only going to let myself buy it if I won. Now I can feel proud every time I look at that bag.'

## STORYTELLER

Dijkma is a busy man. The teacher supervises 23 students, teaches 10 courses in Wageningen – some of which he coordinates – and is a guest lecturer at Lille University. 'I thoroughly enjoy it, but the time has passed when I could get completely absorbed in my work and was the last to leave. Not that I mind that, as I don't feel the job has to fit strictly into a 40 hour

week. But these weeks are really extreme: sometimes I am busy grading papers until two thirty at night. You don't do that for fun.'

In spite of being so busy, it is clear that Roel Dijkma has found his vocation as a teacher. Even his answers during the interview often develop into mini-lectures. About Darcy's law, precipitation differences in Iceland – where he takes MSc students of Soil, Water and Atmosphere every year on a field trip – or extracting drinking water from basalt on Hawaii. 'Friends of ours go walking every Sunday and now and then my wife and I go along too. If I see something interesting, such as shapes in the landscape, or if they ask me something, I explain it. They call that a "Roeltje": a nice little fact from the field. Hydrogeology is such a wonderful discipline; I can't think of a nicer field for me than this. And I love talking about it.'

And that is his strength, as is clear from the jury report for the Teacher of the Year Award. Students appreciate him because he is a good storyteller. 'I like nothing better than to teach people things and tell stories. I am quite happy to explain something all over again if a student doesn't understand it the first time. They can email me or Whatsapp me to ask.' So he wants to use the money he has won, 2500 euros, to organize lunchtime lectures with other storytellers. 'I know there is a call for that. I once gave a lunchtime lecture for Pyrus, the Soil, Water and Atmosphere study association, and it was so well-attended that I couldn't get into the room myself.'

## AUTHENTIC

Dijkma's role model is former professor of Geology and Mineralogy Salomo Kroonenberg. 'He had a very visual way of describing things. His lectures consisted largely of slides, and you went on a journey around the world as he told you how the whole thing hangs together,



geologically speaking. You never forget that.' Yet he doesn't try to imitate Kroonenberg's style. 'As a teacher you must be yourself, authentic. Students can tell immediately if you are just putting on an act. I'm just a born communicator. I see when their attention is flagging and I respond immediately, not by grumbling at them but by doing or telling them something surprising.'

Another of the qualities for which Dijkma is famous is his approachability. 'I am genuinely interested in the student as a person. And students find it easy to talk to me. When I am on a field trip and we are walking from A to B I am always chatting to students, and not only to explain something; it's often about the students themselves. I also really see them as my students and I feel responsible for them.'





**'I can't think of a nicer field for me than Hydrogeology'**

Roel Dijkstra on a field trip to Wolfheze.

#### CLICK

Although Dijkstra's name has been on the longlist for the Teacher of the Year Award for years, this was the first year that he made it onto the shortlist of five. 'I actually think that those who came between 6th and 16th deserve more regard than they get, because many of

them are nominated time after time.' He thinks it's 'brilliant' that he has now won the prize. But it is not why he teaches. 'The reason I teach is the click you get in the classroom, in a group, in the field. And the way it comes alive for students and they start enjoying it. And the feedback you get from the students about what

they learn on the programme and that you have made a not insignificant contribution to that... That's what matters.' He is quiet for a moment. 'Wow, what fine, edifying words. Blow me, they come out just like that. But it's true.' <sup>6</sup>



# Meadow birds: voluntary rescue not working

The new rules for agrarian nature conservation, introduced on 1 January, are good for meadow birds and biodiversity, say ecologists David Kleijn and Jos Hooijmeijer. Yet they do not go far enough. 'There is no pressure on farmers to introduce high-water measures

text Albert Sikkema photo Guy Ackermans



Until recently, all Dutch farmers could get a subsidy for agrarian nature and landscape management. They were compensated financially for protecting, for example, the nests of meadow birds, or for edging their arable land with wild-flower borders. However, this policy was unable to prevent a decline in rural biodiversity and a 60 percent drop in the number of meadow birds – such as the black-tailed godwit, lapwing and skylark – since 1990.

This prompted the amendment of the regulations for agrarian nature conservation as of 1 January. Only farmers in key areas, where nature is highly likely to recover, can still apply for a

subsidy. Moreover, the number of target species has been limited to 67. These are species that the Netherlands is compelled to protect under international treaties. And, finally, the money no longer goes to individual farmers, but to farmers' collectives that submit an area-based plan and quote.

## GROUNDWATER LEVEL

'Broadly speaking, these changes are an improvement,' says David Kleijn, professor of Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation at Wageningen. 'It is good that the subsidies are now being concentrated in areas with potential. We should be investing only in areas where the ecological preconditions for protecting nature are present.' The focus on target species is also good, because it makes farmers give a better indication of how they plan to protect those species. A farmers' collective has the added benefit of making it easier to take measures in a larger area, says Kleijn.

In recent year he has done much research on waning meadow-bird numbers in the Netherlands and he sees yet another important improvement ushered in by the new regulations. 'At last, there's compensation for raising the groundwater level. This is really important because it retards crop growth and that makes farmers delay their mowing. Since the early 1980s farmers have been mowing 15 days earlier in spring. But meadow birds haven't been following this trend. The chicks of the black-tailed godwit used to hatch 11 days before the first mowing date; now on average the first mowing date falls two days before they hatch. So the chance of eggs or chicks ending up under the

mower is much greater. Moreover, these days the vegetation is much taller and that makes it harder for the chicks to find food. That's another reason why it is essential that we raise the water level.'

## 'TURBOGRASS'

Like Kleijn, Jos Hooijmeijer, meadow-bird biologist at the University of Groningen, sees clear benefits to the new policy. Since 2004, Hooijmeijer has been tracking the population trend of the black-tailed godwit in Southwest Friesland. 'Good meadow-bird management requires large areas of at least 500 hectares. At present chicks often grow up in a nature reserve or with a farmer who takes good care of meadow birds, but if that population spreads out to surrounding farmlands it is insufficiently protected. Around these core growth areas, you need farmers who enforce rigorous management measures.'

By 'rigorous', Hooijmeijer means three measures intended to ensure that more black-tailed godwit chicks survive. 'The only way to get lots of black-tailed godwit chicks is to have herb-rich grassland with a high water level and a delayed mowing schedule. Black-tailed godwits do twice as well there as on the ryegrass monoculture of dairy cattle farmers who are maximizing production and keen to mow early. In that 'turbograss' meadow birds remain underweight because they have more difficulty finding food. And if they survive the mower, they are often eaten by predators in the wide open spaces.'

## VOLUNTARY

But there's a problem: the system isn't geared

## QUESTION TIME FOR RESOURCE

They usually put their questions to government ministers, but now Members of the Lower House can also ask *Resource* a question. This time round, PvdA Member of Parliament Henk Leenders would like to ask, **Are the current regulations for agrarian nature conservation improving the natural lives of plants and animals in the countryside?**







PvdA Member of Parliament Henk Leenders wonders whether the new rules for agrarian nature conservation are really helping.

to ensuring the introduction of such a rigorous package of measures, says Hooijmeijer. Kleijn agrees. 'A persistent drawback is that the regulations for agrarian nature conservation are voluntary. For example, the provinces implementing the regulations are putting no pressure on farmers to introduce a package of measures to ensure high water. It's something many farmers don't want because it means they will have less protein-rich feed in the spring.'

Moreover, adds Kleijn, the provinces have not made enough of an aim of management agreements in areas surrounding nature reserves. 'I had hoped that land stewards like Staatsbosbeheer (the Dutch state forest service) and Natuurmonumenten (national nature conservationists) would join the collectives, but this has not yet happened. That's a missed opportunity.'

Neither of the ecologists thinks the current regulations will increase the number of meadow birds, at most they will retard the decline. So what is needed? 'The provinces must put all their money on farmers who want to achieve nature targets,' says Kleijn, 'instead of farmers who "wouldn't mind adding a package of nature measures". In addition, research is needed on high-water agriculture. Most meadow birds are

found in peatlands where a low water level leads to subsidence and CO2 emissions. If you want to preserve this landscape, you must raise the groundwater level and adapt agriculture accordingly.'

Hooijmeijer argues for policy that encourages nature-inclusive agriculture. 'We must link agricultural policy in Europe to societal services, so we can give EU subsidies for preserving meadow birds. In addition, the true cost of dairy cattle farming must be acknowledged. The hidden costs – water pollution, pumped drainage, subsidence, health problems, agricultural subsidies, biodiversity loss and greenhouse gas emissions – are high. You have to take these costs into account, because at present agrarian nature conservation is being outweighed by the market forces driving us towards more intensive and maximized milk production.'

#### FRIESLANDCAMPINA

Hens Runhaar, special professor of Management of Biodiversity and Agrarian Landscapes at Wageningen UR, views nature management through an administrative lens. He sees a role for NGOs and industry. 'You have to realize that the subsidy regulations for agrarian nature conservation apply to at most 7,000 farmers who

manage one-tenth of the Netherlands' agricultural acreage. You need a range of management options.'

By way of example, Runhaar mentions the coalition run by the Dutch Bird Protection Society with some 100 dairy cattle farmers who are cooperating to improve the management of meadow birds. 'And FrieslandCampina is working on a points system for dairy farmers who are increasing their sustainability. The protection of meadow birds can form part of that. These farmers get a bonus on the milk price. I see a lot of potential in an arrangement like this one, because FrieslandCampina has huge power to call the shots.' Runhaar does not exclude the possibility of dairy companies marketing milk from meadow-grazed cows in a couple of years' time, which would mean the consumer could contribute towards the preservation of the black-tailed godwit. 

**Eerdere afleveringen van deze serie  
staan op [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl).**

# DEGREE CEREMONY TOO LARGE-SCALE?

Thanks to the growing student numbers at Wageningen University, degree ceremonies can be crowded occasions. Students have to provide the information for their 'personal word' themselves and sometimes there are so many candidates that they are addressed three at a time. How bad is that?

text Nicole Janssen, Carina Nieuweweg, Twan van der Slikke illustration Henk van Ruitenbeek

## Tom Vrolings



### Recently got his MSc in Biology

'I got my Master's degree in November with about 30 other students. **I didn't find the degree ceremony impersonal. The atmosphere was much more formal than for the Bachelor's, though.**

People were more smartly dressed, there was a bigger audience, and a number of professors and the master of ceremonies were in academic gowns. All the students were taken to a little room before the ceremony, where the rules were explained to us by the MC, and we were lined up in alphabetical order. During the ceremony we were called up one by one and something was said about each student. It was mainly about what you had achieved in your thesis and internship and about your career plans. Something else that made the graduation personal for me was that all the biologists got a rose from Biologica. I also got a testimonial from Biologica for my contribution as a member of the Activities Committee.'

## Marieke Kil



### Student Council member for VeSte

'**I think it's a pity that graduation ceremonies have become less personal. After all, it's a milestone in your student life.**

Now you pass it rather hurriedly. I did notice that it varied from one programme to another and that it depends a lot on your study advisor. At my ceremony we got to hand in an account of our extra-curricular activities

and something was said about that. But my housemate's degree ceremony was much less personal, and that is a shame. Your family and friends come all the way to Wageningen for it. I don't think the degree ceremonies automatically have to become less personal because of the increased student numbers. The university could easily research what students want and what is feasible. That might make the ceremony half an hour longer.'

## Wilbert Houweling



### Secretary of the Examinations Committee for Social Sciences

'The Exams Committee is responsible for organization the Bachelor's degree ceremonies for the social sciences degrees. I was present at the last two ceremonies and I got

the impression that the exam candidates and guests liked the way the ceremonies went. The first time I was in a hall with 20 candidates. Counting the guests as well there were 120 people in the room. The number of candidates at a degree ceremony varies. **In October last year there were between 120 and 140 and in April only 20.** In both cases the candidates could submit some information themselves. Before then the supervisor used to take time to meet them but that was very time-consuming. We always organize the ceremonies with the board members of the study associations Mercurius and Ipso Facto. They know what people think of the ceremonies and whether there are any complaints. As far as I am concerned we should carry on doing it the same way.'





## Bram Wennekes



### Recently got his MSc in Earth and Environment

'I didn't find my degree ceremony too impersonal. There was a short five- to ten-minute talk about each of the 15 students present. That was done by a professor from the stu-

dent's department. All the students present did have to fill in a form beforehand, with questions about everything they had done while at university. That form was used for the talk, but the professor who talked about me brought in something of his own too. **I was very pleased that there was a talk about every student and drinks afterwards in Hotel De Wereld.** And I got a rose with a card from my study association, and a certificate.'

## Tom Arfman



### Ex-chair of study association Alchimica

'I think it's a pity the ceremonies aren't more personal. **Your parents and family come along and they expect something more than a generalized talk about the degree programme.** But it's a shame for you too. You put a lot of time

and energy into your study over at least three years. So the degree ceremony is a summing-up of everything you've done and a nice rounding-off. It contributes to the feeling that you've achieved something. I have talked about this with our study advisor and I do understand that it's getting more difficult with the increasing student numbers.'

## Tom Tilleman



### MSc student of Management, Economics and Consumer Studies

'I passed my Bachelor's last June and got my degree in October. Beforehand everyone had to send in something about themselves and their experiences and you could include nice photos if you wanted. During the ceremony the study advisor called up three students at a time and presented them. If students hadn't sent anything in not much was said about them. **It wasn't very personal but I don't think that's appropriate or possible at university.** A

university is very large and students are autonomous. So it's difficult for a study advisor to say something personal about all the candidates. I did think it was a pity we had to sit in the hall in alphabetical order. That meant I couldn't sit with my friends.'



# FROM CHILDHOOD HOME TO STUDENT HOUSE

**Students wanting a room in Wageningen usually register with Idealis or attend selection dinners in student houses. But third-year student of Business and Consumer Science Anne van der Heijden took a very different approach. When her parents left for America in September 2013, her childhood home turned into a student house.**

'I was in my final year of High School and I had no idea what I wanted to do at university. Although I had always said I didn't want to stay in Wageningen, my mother mentioned the degree in Business and Consumer Science. 'A bit of economics, a bit of psychology, a bit of sociology and some statistics. Right up your street!'

Meanwhile my father was offered a job with a big company in America. He was working at Wageningen UR but my parents had been considering moving abroad for some time. Now the timing was right because my brother had moved to Rotterdam and I was about to go to university. What's more, I could then stay in the house.

I thought that would be lovely but lonely unless I could find some roommates. So we made plans to divide the living room with plaster partitions so there was room for seven people in the house. We transformed the basement into a common room with a TV, a bar and sofas. That's funny of course. The basement was always the playroom, with a Lego castle, a garage and a broken Baby Born. All that's left now is a cupboard

full of glitter and craft materials, opposite the bar made of beer crates.

## SLEEPING IN THE BASEMENT

I put the house on *kamernet.nl* but I had never heard of *hospiteren* [dinners for groups of applicants for rooms so house residents can select new roommates, ed.] I invited everyone for a one-to-one chat and took one hour per person. Over four days I had dozens of people visiting. I gave them all a guided tour and assessed whether I would like to share the house with them. It didn't always go smoothly. Some students were pretty arrogant, just assuming I would love to live with them. And to start with I wanted only vegetarians in the house, but the people I liked

**'For a student house we are terribly respectable and domestic'**

best were not vegetarians. Then I had to choose between picking the people I liked best or having an all-vegetarian household.

I went for the first options.

It was quite a challenge to start with. The partitions had not been put up yet and because my parents hadn't found a house in America yet they were here sometimes and their stuff was still here too. So during the AID we all slept in the basement. That was interesting: a group of hungover students living in a house with parents and a dog, and with removal workers busy packing around them.

## MOWING THE LAWN

But the real work started in September of course, when my parents left for America. They began to realize how much work a house is. Ringing the plumber, mowing the lawn, pruning, and clearing the gutters. All details that your parents usually see to.

For a student house we are terribly respectable and domestic. We regularly eat together and everyone shares the responsibility for looking after the house. We really set up this student house together and my housemates are now my best friends. But now and then I look at the plaster partitions and remember how it used to look,



Anne and her housemates during Christmas dinner.



Anne's childhood home, which is now a student house.



Anne van der Heijden: 'My housemates are now my best friends.'

with a nice sofa, beautiful art on the walls and my lovely piano. And then I do get a bit nostalgic.' **© CN**



# CHOOSE YOUR CANDIDATE

Who should represent Wageningen University's students next year in the Student Council? The elections will be held from 23 to 26 May and this time students have a genuine choice: 19 candidates from three parties – VeSte, S&I and CSF – are battling for 12 seats. Still undecided? Then look at the list of candidates below and go to [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl) for elevator pitches from the candidates heading each list.

**What do the parties stand for?**  
See the videos at [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl).

## VESTE (STUDENT COUNCIL PARTY FOR ACTIVE STUDENTS)

### 1. Karlijn Hendriks



Degree: BSc Health and Society  
Age: 21  
Societies: KSV Franciscus

### 4. Ivo van Brandenburg



Degree: MSc Urban Environmental Management  
Age: 23  
Societies: Wageningen Beasts (strength training)

### 7. Ellen de Jong



Degree: MSc Animal Sciences  
Age: 22  
Societies: SSR-W

### 2. Anne Swank



Degree: BSc Soil, Water and Atmosphere  
Age: 21  
Societies: SSR-W, WMHC (hockey), WSTV Split (gymnastics)

### 5. Olimkhuja Askarov



Degree: MSc Environmental Sciences  
Age: 25

### 8. Joep Bresser



Degree: BSc International Development Studies  
Age: 21  
Societies: SSR-W

### 3. Daphne de Bruin



Degree: BSc Management, Economics and Consumer Studies  
Age: 20  
Societies: WSR Argo (rowing), Honours Programme

### 6. Robin te West



Degree: BSc Biology  
Age: 22  
Societies: Shout (society for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people and transvestites)

### 9. Antonella van Osnabrugge



Degree: BSc International Land and Water Management  
Age: 21  
Societies: WSV Ceres, WSR Argo (rowing)

## S&I (SUSTAINABILITY & INTERNATIONALIZATION)

### 1. Wei Xiong



Degree: MSc Plant Sciences  
Age: 25

### 3. Andrei Toma



Degree: MSc Development and Rural Innovation  
Age: 31

### 5. Caya de Leeuw van Weenen



Degree: BSc Molecular Life Sciences  
Age: 19

### 7. Silvia Concreto



Degree: MSc Food Safety  
Age: 25

### 2. Yanina Willet



Degree: BSc Biology  
Age: 20

### 4. Peijun Peng



Degree: MSc Food Technology  
Age: 21

### 6. Aaron Glen Noronha



Degree: MSc Environmental and Biobased Technology  
Age: 24

## CSF (CHRISTIAN STUDENT PARTY)

### 1. Ties Terlouw



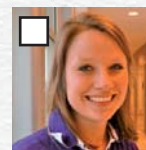
Degree: BSc Health and Society  
Age: 20  
Societies: CSFR Wageningen

### 2. Marlene Ras



Degree: BSc International Development Studies  
Age: 22  
Societies: Ichthus Wageningen

### 3. Manon van der Molen



Degree: BSc Health and Society  
Age: 21  
Societies: Navigators Wageningen





## FEET

Better grades without much effort? Go for a quick jog just before your exam, barefoot. Researchers at the University of North Florida have shown it works. The working memory of test subjects increased by an average of about 10 percent. They think it's because you are more alert when you go barefoot. Fear of pain makes you sharper.

## DOWN

More than 1 in 3 PhD candidates at the University of Amsterdam is clinically depressed, shows a study by the local PhD network. For the study 20 PhD candidates answered questions about happiness and sadness. Economics and business studies researchers came out worst: 44 percent of them are at risk of depression. That is twice the rate among 'normal' people. Dental researchers came out best, at 22 percent.

## SLOBS

Meateaters are not slobs, as we know since Diederik Stapel's finding that carnivores were antisocial was exposed as fraudulent. But they do die younger, shows a review by the Mayo Clinic in Arizona. Eating vegetarian for at least 17 years lengthens your life by an average of 3.6 years. Daily doses of red and processed meat are particularly deadly.

## SMELL

The smell of the audience's breath in a cinema depends on the kind of film showing. Thrillers 'smell' different to comedies, researchers from the Max Planck Institute have shown. They analysed the air and correlated its composition with the film being screened. 'The Hunger Games' smell, for example, turned out to be very different to the 'Buddy' smell. On the basis of the smell alone, the researchers succeeded in guessing what kind of film was on the screen. Do you think lectures have different smells too?

# Farming livestock on a meat roof

The world population is growing and more and more people live in cities. Reason enough for five Wageningen students to ponder the possibilities for meat production in the city. They think that chickens and sheep can easily be kept on the roofs of schools and homes for the elderly. In their project The Meat Roof, which is part of the Honours Programme, they are exploring what it would take.

The five students – Wietse Wiersma, Anouk Mulder, Tanja Meeuwssen, Marijke Zonnenberg and Sabine van Oossanen – see the Meat Roof as a way of introducing city dwellers to meat production. They also hope it will help improve social cohesion. The idea is that volunteers from the neighbourhood start a farm together with an urban farmer. The farm produces meat, eggs and wool for the neighbourhood.

The Meat Roof could house meat chickens, laying hens and/or sheep, kept in a barn with access to the outdoors. The animals can graze on the grass grown on the roof. The students also want the manure to be digested and reused as fertilizer for growing vegetables or animal feed, also on roofs. The biogas can



then be used to heat the building. Some extra measures would be required for water management. One minus point, say the students, is that environmental emissions are relatively high in this open farming system. But because The Meat Roof is small-scale and produces grass and winter vegetables as well, the environmental score might not be too bad in the end. **AS**

# Argo seeks funding for new gym

The Wageningen student rowing club Argo wants to use crowdfunding to raise money to renovate its gym in the attic.

In its current state, the indoor training area is small, badly ventilated and not insulated. The project will cost 90,000 euros.

People can donate from 1 January 2017.

When the Argo rowers are not on the water, they train at De Bongerd sports centre or in the 'ergometer attic' in the shed on the Grebbedijk where they keep their boats. This is a corner with some outdated weightlifting

equipment and rowing machines, says Saskia Tersteeg, secretary of the rowing association. 'The number of members increases every year, so space is getting very tight.' Not to mention the fact that badly ventilated and insulated rooms are bad for your health, adds Tersteeg. **LvdN**



Argo's 'ergometer attic' is too small for the growing club membership.

PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER



## ‘Bring in selection, not evening lectures’

**Wageningen students don’t want lectures in the evening, as they made clear on Monday 9 May during a well-attended discussion with rector Arthur Mol.**

The board of Wageningen UR sees extending the timetable as one of three measures for coping with the growth in student numbers. The other two proposed measures are investing in distance education and timetabling more efficiently. ‘Evening lectures are the least popular proposal but we need to take this step,’ said Mol. So he wants to start a pilot next academic year. But many students dislike the very idea of evening lectures. ‘Two years ago I didn’t have to get up at six in the morning to be sure of finding a work station,’ said Yufei Wang of the Student Council. ‘Nor was there a queue at the webshop or a shortage of space in the bike racks. Everyone is affected by the growth now. Evening lectures are not the best solution. The problem is that there are too many students.’ She proposes selection so as to preserve the small scale and high standards of Wageningen’s education.

The students also think the university could use more buildings at the Dreijen for teaching, put up temporary container classrooms and perhaps even rent the theatre in Wageningen for lectures. The university could also cut its spending on recruitment so as to reduce the growth, suggested a few students.

Those present at the discussion were suspicious of the pilot. The rector said it will be a trial involving 1000 students in order to study the consequences of evening lectures. The students are afraid that the pilot is a step towards introducing evening lectures (see also the discussion on p.11). But the rector assured them: ‘I haven’t taken a decision yet.’

Several student organizations will be demonstrating against the evening lectures on Thursday 19 May between 12.15 and 13.15 outside Atlas. **AS**

**Follow the discussion  
on [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl).**



## EPISODE 71 MORTIERSTRAAT 14B <<

*The story so far: After years of struggling Willem-Jan is making progress with his degree programme. And now he has a girlfriend too.*

### Corona

Deep in thought, Willem-Jan walked out of the Leeuwenborch and collapsed onto a bench. The conversation he had just had kept going around in his mind. ‘Well, lad,’ growled his supervisor, ‘I’ve never known anyone take so long over their thesis. But fair’s fair, the end result is good.’

Willem-Jan couldn’t help thinking about the period gone by: the procrastination, the frustration and the excuses. He came back to the present with a start. He was supposed to whatsapp Michelle.

‘It went well, you’ll never guess what I got...’ Sent. An eight, he thought. A fucking EIGHT. Unbelievable. And the film began to roll in his head again. ‘You’re capable of more than you think possible, and now you are on the right track. And take it from me, plenty of the professors here spent their student days in the pub just like you.’

Meanwhile, on his phone the emojis were pouring in. Smiling he walked to the bike shed. That feeling, that’s what he wanted to hold on to. He would have to make it last. There was enough work ahead.

Michelle would be at the uni for another hour and he didn’t feel like going home. So he cycled aimlessly around the centre, ending up at the Hoogvliet where he bought a sixpack of Corona. ‘I know an internship with a good allowance. That would

make a big difference in your situation. That degree will come sooner than you realize,’ his supervisor had said. It wasn’t far from the dyke, and Willem-Jan puffed and panted his way up it (he hadn’t found time for sport lately). He stopped to enjoy the view, letting his bike fall onto the grass.

He sent his GPS coordinates to Michelle on whatsapp. ‘We’ve got to celebrate this. Are you coming? X marks the spot.’ He leaned back with satisfaction and grabbed a Corona. Only to reach for his phone again, cursing.

‘And bring a bottle opener.’



ILLUSTRATIONS: KIM PETERSE

Resource follows events at Mortierstraat 14B



## &gt;&gt; PARTIES

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

**KSV – OPEN PARTY: THE EMPIRE**

**Thursday 19 May from 23.30 to 05.00**

We are gradually coming to the end of the academic year. This Thursday, KSV will be holding its final open party with the theme 'Franciscus The Empire'. So put on your best Star Wars outfit, release your inner force – or dark side as appropriate – and come and enjoy some great trashy hits. Doors open from 23.00 to 02.00; admission 4 euros.

**Café LOBURG – ROCK, SOUL & FUNK BY RAMSHACKLE**

**Saturday 21 May from 23.30 to 04.00**

Café Loburg is making sure Wageningen gets plenty of live music and now they have got yet another group of enthusiastic musicians with

Ramshackle. This band plays steamy, swinging covers with lots of room for improvisation and their own interpretation. Ramshackle also play their own numbers in a distinctive style. If funk and soul are your thing, this is one gig you mustn't miss. Admission is free.

**SSR-W - OPEN PARTY: CRAZY CARNIVAL**

**Thursday 26 May from 22.00 to 05.00**

Disco, popcorn, candyfloss, a dance floor that lights up and fairground attractions. SSR-W is giving you the fairground experience indoors and taking you on a rollercoaster ride. Bumper cars on the dance floor or the haunted house? We can't wait to see what will happen. Doors open at 22.00; admission 3 euros. ⑥

## &gt;&gt; THE WORKS

## ON THE BACK OF A MOTORBIKE THROUGH VIETNAM

**Who?** Sylvia van Doorn, BSc student of International Land and Water Management

**What?** Internship and thesis research on the effects of salinization

**Where?** The Mekong delta, Vietnam

'I did research in the province of Tra Vinh in the Mekong delta on the impact of salinization on land use and the impact of changing land use patterns on the salinization. Because of the high salinity of the water, farmers are going over to shrimp farming. That comes with problems such as a high risk of shrimp harvest failure and, in the long term, pollution and further salinization of the area.

I measured salinity levels in the waterways and I interviewed local farmers. My interpreter was a student of English at the local university. She took me to the locations for the measurements and interviews on the back of her motorbike. As we were the same age, that was fun as well as handy.

The Vietnamese traffic took a bit of getting used to at first. Sometimes it seemed as though there were no traffic regulations at all, and you felt as though you were just being carried along by the flow of traffic. But if I indicated clearly where I was going, the other road users did anticipate my movements. That happened when you crossed the road too: you just

had to keep on walking as the mopeds rode around you. It can be dangerous to stop because they don't expect you to do that.

After my internship I went travelling. In Cambodia I visited the famous temple complex Angkor Wat and in Vietnam I went to the ruins of the ancient Champa civilization. As well as tasting some culture I did some treks through the tropical rainforest and managed to see various animals. I also saw shocking sights such as the Killing Fields, memorials of the Cambodian genocide, where the atrocities which took place there leave you speechless. I was away for four and a half months in total and it was an unforgettable experience.' ⑥ AJ







## MEANWHILE IN... <<

### Meanwhile in the United States

**In the news:** Donald Trump is the only Republican candidate that is left in the presidential elections in the US. How did he come so far?

*Commentary by PhD student William Clark Cook*

'A simple answer to the question is that people want simple explanations. They feel comfortable when their thoughts are narrowed down to one single slogan: Make America great again. Who doesn't want that? Trump hits the rights spots. He presents the world as black and white and that lack of nuance appeals to the people. For many Americans everything is scary in the post nine-eleven world. If someone promises some safety, people listen.

Years ago people chose a movie star as our president: Ronald Reagan. He had some political experience, but the real reason why he was elected was his movie career. Name recognition is a big thing in the States. Trump was in movies, TV shows and commercials; he is very famous. Even as a child I visited Trump Tower in New York. I think people didn't expect name recognition to be so powerful in the campaign and therefore underestimated him. We think that if you want to be a politician you need to be a politician, but that is not the case in the US. We love movie stars. In California, where I come from, we even chose Arnold Schwarzenegger as a governor. I am a registered Republican, but I will not vote for Trump. He acts like a bully. I cannot support someone with such conservative social views. Whether he can win the presidential elections is a tough question. I am not sure. I heard that this year more young people are registering to vote. If that is true, then Clinton or Sanders stand to benefit because I think most young people are not attracted by the social conservatism and the negative viewpoints about Muslims.

When George Bush was in power, the centre and left called him an idiot. But you don't get to be president if you are not smart. Not being socially progressive is not the same as being dumb. Trump is very clever. Therefore he has a chance.' <sup>®</sup> LdP

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and with samples of your writing

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## In Memoriam

**Anne van den Ban, emeritus professor of Extension Education**



Last week Professor Anne van den Ban, founding father of several academic groups in our University, passed away at the age of 88. Anne van den Ban studied in Wageningen and graduated in Agricultural Economics in 1953. Under the influence of Professor Evert Willem Hofstee and Professor Everett Rogers he became interested in the adoption and diffusion of innovations. Already in his dissertation (1963) he stressed the importance of anticipating diverse farmer realities, and the significance of horizontal knowledge exchange among farmers.

In 1964 Anne van den Ban was appointed chair of the newly established Extension Education group (Vakgroep Voorlichtingskunde). Under his leadership, the group flourished and appointed specialists for different sectors and methodical approaches. In 1974, he published

his classic book *Inleiding tot de Voorlichtingskunde (Introduction to Extension)* which was revised several times, and translated into 13 languages.

In 1983, at the age of 55, he took the unusual step of resigning from his position at Wageningen University. He wanted to become more practically engaged, and apply his expertise to international development work. With the purpose of supporting international students aspiring to study in Wageningen, he co-established a foundation (Stichting Redelijk Studeren) in 1992 which later evolved into the Anne van den Ban fund. This organization has supported more than 250 students to date.

Today his academic heritage is built upon by three groups that have roots in the old Extension Education group: Strategic Communication, Knowledge, Technology and Innovation, and Health and Society. Until a few weeks ago, he remained a weekly visitor to these groups. We will remember him with deep respect and are grateful for his generosity as an academic and as a person.

*Cees Leeuwis, on behalf of many staff and students in and outside Wageningen*

## Announcements

### Period 6: Spring rowing for non-Argonauts

Have you just come out of hibernation and do you want to start the

summer fit and meet some new people? Make sure you join in this spring period! In five weeks experienced Argonauts teach you the finer details of rowing. Spring rowers compete with others on the Rhine with the ultimate aim of winning the Head of the Rhine. What's more we have food and drinks every Tuesday.

[HTTP://WSR-ARGO.NL](http://WSR-ARGO.NL)

### Green Office is recruiting!

We are looking for two new people to join our team: Operations Coordinator (catering) and Outreach Coordinator. If you're interested, contact us as soon as possible.

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

### Daily walk-in counselling

For pressing or quick questions on psychological or social issues you can get in touch with a student psychologist or counsellor through peer support by trained students or staff. Opening times: every lunch-break (12.30-13.30) or evening from Monday to Thursday from 17.30 to 19.30. Location: Forum, room 011 (into the corridor, right by the Student Desk).

### Ideas wanted for Sustainable Tuesday

Sustainable Tuesday has been campaigning for a sustainable society for 18 years. The collaboration with many partners offers a platform for innovative, creative ideas in the fields of energy, mobility, technology, food, social interaction and nature. On the first Tuesday in September State Secretary Dijkzema will

receive the suitcase full of ideas. Everyone who submits an idea has a chance of winning one of the six prizes. Submissions by 15 June via [duurzamedinsdag.nl](http://duurzamedinsdag.nl)

### Volleyball? Join Invicta

Invicta is an active volleyball association in Wageningen. We play in the Nevobo competition with three men's and three ladies' teams at different levels and have an enthusiastic mixed recreational team. We also organize various parties, beach nights, mixed tournaments etc.

[WWW.INVICTA-WAGENINGEN.NL](http://WWW.INVICTA-WAGENINGEN.NL)

### Game On

Are you between 18 and 20 years of age and would you like to earn money by gaming? Fill in this questionnaire: [tiny.cc/rugame](http://tiny.cc/rugame) and you might be picked to help with a research by RU on the positive side of gaming and earn €35.

### Popup Guitar shop Wageningen

It's a long-cherished wish among musicians: a music shop in Wageningen. Until 28 May Galerie The True Limpet will be transformed temporarily into a real guitar shop. A range of guitars will be displayed from different periods (George Harrison's model from the Beatles era for instance), as well as other string instruments, amplifiers and accessories. A guitar maker will be there regularly and can do various jobs on the spot, such as replacing strings or tuning your guitar. Info on the Popup Guitarshop on Facebook or from Jaap: 06-28882835.

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FILM	FILM	EVENT
<b>X-Men Apocalypse 3D</b> From 19 May	<b>Alice Through the Looking Glass 3D</b> From 26 May	<b>Kunst in CineMec Monet to Matisse</b> Tue 24 & Sun 29 May

**THURSDAY NIGHT €3 STUDENTDISCOUNT**



Location: Herenstraat 11, Wageningen. Opening times: Wednesday 10-17.00 hours, Thursday and Friday 13-17.00, Saturday 11-17.00.

A nose for money?

Do you have a good sense of smell and would you like an easy way to earn money (€9 net per hour)? Buro Blauw in Wageningen is looking for people for a smell panel. Info and to make an appointment: geurlab@buroblauw.nl / 0317 466699.

#### Student wanted to help with learning Swedish language/ grammar

Enthusiastic lady in her fifties wants to learn Swedish. Fee negotiable. Please note: an English-speaking student is no problem. Contact: 0317 416517.

## agenda

Thursday 19 May to Wednesday 1 June

#### THREE FILMS FOR STUDENTS

1. *Tomorrow*: an inspiring travel story about climate activism, in which agriculture, energy, the economy, democracy and education are reinvented at local level in ten countries. 2. *Prejudice*: an ambivalent psychological drama in which a son still living at home exposes the family's weaknesses at a family dinner. 3. *The Land of the Enlightened*, a storybook tale in which a youth gang is followed through wartorn Afghanistan, with rugged associatively sequenced landscape images. Venue: Wilhelminaweg 3A.

WWW.MOVIE-W.NL

#### Thursday 19 May, 12.30-13.20 LUNCH WORKSHOP WAGENINGEN WRITING LAB AND WAGENINGEN UR LIBRARY: SEARCH EFFICIENTLY IN THE RIGHT DATABASE.

There are many ways to find specific information you're looking for. Knowledge of databases and search strategies will help you to find scientific publications on your topic in an efficient and systematic way. You can submit your own research question. Venue: Forum Library, room 460. info.wageningenwritingLab@wur.nl

#### Thursday 19 May, 19.30 SP ORGANIZES DEBATE ON INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

Scientific research is under pressure and gets too little scope for research on important (societal) issues that is long-term, fundamental, and independent of industry. The government invests too little and too selectively. The SP thinks it's high time for a new democratic university. Speakers at the debate: Bas Arts, Leon Pijnenburg, Suzanna van der Meer and Jasper van Dijk. Venue: Café The Spot.

#### Thursday, 26 May, 12.30-13.20 LUNCHTIME WORKSHOP WAGENINGEN WRITING LAB: ALL ABOUT WRITING STYLE

In this workshop you'll discover your personal writing style and learn about typical pitfalls and how to avoid them. It works best if you bring along an assignment you're currently working on, but it's also possible to join the workshop if you

don't have one. Venue: Forum Library, room 460.  
info.wageningenwritingLab@wur.nl

#### Friday 27 May & Saturday 28 May, 20.00-22.30

#### SPRING CONCERTS WSKOV

Conducted by Krista Audere, the choir and orchestra of the WSKOV will perform *Meeresstille und glückliche Fahrt* by Beethoven. Additionally the cello concerto *Variations on a Rococo Theme* by Tchaikovsky with the cello soloist Inge Grevink of the Gelders Orkest, conducted by Frank Adams. Student tickets: €5. Venue: Aula, Generaal Foulkesweg 1, Wageningen. Reservations: www.wskov.nl / wskov@wur.nl

#### Tuesday 31 May, 19.30 VAN UVEN FESTIVAL 2016

This open stage festival is organized yearly by the student orchestras De Ontzetting and WSKOV. Register your group and acoustic act by mailing to vanuvenfestival@gmail.com before the 24 May or join the audience and enjoy the performances. Venue: Café the Spot.

WWW.ONTZETTING.WUR.NL / WWW.WSKOV.NL

#### Thursday 2 and Friday 3 June, Friday 10 and Saturday 11 June, 20.30 PERFORMANCES OF ANTIGONE BY STICHTING LENS

After five months of rehearsals, honing the script and production design, Lens is ready to walk the boards. Antigone is a Greek tragedy about honour: personal, family and national honour. Which is more important? And what are the consequences of making a choice? Venue: De Wilde Wereld theatre, Burgtstraat 1, Wageningen.  
www.stichtinglens.nl

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

## colophon

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# >>TYPICAL DUTCH



ILLUSTRATION: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK

## Dressing room secrets

It was just my initial days in Wageningen and I decided to join the hockey team. I and my friend from India were the only two international students in the team, and from a very different culture. It was in the dressing room after our first match that we experienced our culture shock.

We played the first match of the season in Nijmegen. After the match when we got back to the dressing room, everyone except me and my friend threw off all their clothes to take a shower. I stared at my friend with shock and saw he had the same reaction on his face. We went out for a moment and returned when everyone was decently dressed.

It has been more than ten matches now for both of us and it all seems normal now, but we never took a bath after the match which may make our teammates question our hygiene. I always joke with my Indian friend, imagining if we could somehow disguise ourselves and get into the women's dressing room for a day. That would certainly be one hell of an experience.

📍 Amit Choudhary, MSc student of Management, Economics and Consumer Studies, from India

*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.*

**'Everyone except me and my friend threw off all their clothes to take a shower'**