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## Big, bigger, biggest

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# RESOURCE [EN]

For students and employees of Wageningen UR

no 2 – 25 August 2016 – 11th Volume

## They're up for it

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**INTERNATIONAL  
EDITION**







# >> MARGRIET + WOODEN JEWELLERY

Margriet van Vianen, project leader at *wetenschapsknooppunt* (Science for Schools)



## 'I always look for things out in nature'

She calls herself the twig lady. A joke, but there's something in it. Margriet van Vianen makes wooden pendants. Jewellery out of bits and pieces she finds in the countryside. Twigs, bark, bits of wood. Shape and colour are crucial and little work is needed – 'depending on the potential of the wood itself.' See [www.margrietvanvianen.nl](http://www.margrietvanvianen.nl)     / Photo: Guy Ackermans



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## **TURNING POINT**

Sometimes you get an answer that surprises you, even if it does confirm your suspicions to some extent. This happened to me this week after we asked new first-year Bachelor's students whether they would have chosen their degree programme if it had been taught entirely in English. Most of them said being taught in English was not a problem at all. In fact, at least one quarter of them saw it as a plus. It increases their chances on the international job market. This exceeded my expectations. I'd been hearing that English was 'no problem' for years, but this argument was new to me. Now, I do take into consideration that if I was asked a question on my first day at university, I would tend to give the answer that I thought was wanted. Even so, this is the writing on the wall. My son will be going to secondary school next year, and even there it's an issue whether to opt for education in English. The world doesn't stand still. We can't turn back the clock and I think 2016 will be a turning point. So I'll surrender and just go along with all those who call our *eeuwfeest* in 2018 our centennial

*Edwin van Laar*



>> [She really does like you better if you bring her flowers | p.10](#)

# ENGLISH NOT A PROBLEM FOR FIRST-YEARS

- **90 percent would not mind English-language Bachelor's**
- **Executive Board to decide this month**

Nearly 90 percent of the incoming Bachelor's students do not see the possible introduction of English as the language of communication on their degree programme as an obstacle. This came out of the survey held by *Resource* among 240 Dutch participants in the general introduction days (AID).

Of the AID participants who were asked, 27 percent saw the use of English as a plus. It would help them improve their command of the language and increase their chances

of getting a job abroad. A further roughly 60 percent replied that English would not form an obstacle for them. They felt they spoke the language 'well enough', or saw the subject matter as the main factor in how difficult they would find their studies. Only 8 percent indicated that they would find being taught in English too difficult.

Rector Arthur Mol is not surprised by the outcome, and is pleased to hear that many students do see the opportunities. For Mol these include not just learning the language better but communicating with students from other cultures and functioning in an international environment. A good fit, says the rector, with 'our strong international orientation and position'.

All Wageningen University's Master's programmes are already taught in English. But English has not yet penetrated the Bachelor's degree programmes. The current

Code of Conduct Foreign Languages states that the first and second years are taught in Dutch, although the use of English in the second year is encouraged. In the third year, English is supposed to be the language of communication. The only exception is the entirely English-language BSc in Tourism. The education institute OWI can also make an exception for certain components of a degree programme.

This year a working group led by Harry Bitter, professor of Biobased Chemistry and Technology, has been studying the pros and cons of

English-medium Bachelor's degree programmes. Their advice is now with the executive board, which intends to take a decision in the next couple of weeks. Until then Bitter does not want to comment on the advice.

Wageningen Bachelor's programmes vary a lot in their enthusiasm for a switch to English, says Tiny van Boekel, director of education institute OWI. Some of the programmes are very keen on the idea, while others see no need for it at all. Van Boekel can also imagine scenarios in which some of the Bachelor's programmes are run in English. But one thing he does not favour is running parallel Dutch- and English-language tracks within one programme. **RR and CN**

# OVER TEN PERCENT MORE FIRST-YEARS

- **Biggest increase is in international Master's students**
- **Biology largest with 185 first-years**

Almost 1800 Bachelor's students have enrolled for a degree at Wageningen, 11 percent more than last year. And the number of Master's students is expected to rise by over 10 percent to nearly 1400. There has been a particularly large increase in the number of students from non-EU countries.

By mid-August, 170 more first-years had registered for a Wageningen Bachelor's degree than last year. Based on preliminary registrations, Biology will be the largest degree programme with 185 first-years. Management, Economics and Consumer Studies has 178 registrations. The smallest subject, Communication Science, is on the rise with 26 registrations, 10 more than last year.

The number of Master's students also shows strong growth thanks to international students. According to Ingrid Hijman, head of the Student Services Centre, 718 international students had paid their tuition fees for their Wageningen study this time last year. The equivalent number this year is 884. That puts the increase in this group at more than 20 percent. There is a particularly substantial rise in the number of students from Indonesia.



There were long queues last week in the Forum for the registration of Master's students.

Henk Vegter of Corporate Education, Research & Innovation is not ruling out the possibility that the number of Bachelor's students may turn out less in the end as the preliminary registrations include students who have enrolled at more than one university. On the other hand, the numbers registering for AID soared. The introduction week had 2327 participants this year, 13 percent more than last year. These are students

who are definitely coming to Wageningen. So the trend is clear: growth of over 10 percent.

The university will only know on 1 October how many new students it actually has this academic year. Last year, there were eventually 1469 new Bachelor's students and 1253 new Master's students in Wageningen. **AS**

*See also page 26: Room shortages back temporarily*



## JUMA ADVOCATES INCLUSIVE INNOVATION

• **Harvard prof to give speech at official opening of the academic year**

Resistance to new technology is an age-old phenomenon. Calestous Juma will explain why that is at the official opening of the academic year. This year's theme is 'rethinking innovation'.

Juma is Professor of the Practice of International Development at the Harvard Kennedy School. In his recently

published book *Innovation and Its Enemies; Why People Resist New Technology*, he discusses the history of 600 years of resistance to new technology.

People almost never reject technological progress simply out of ignorance, says Juma; they do so because they fear the loss of work, income, power and identity. 'Tensions also increase if only certain groups in society benefit while the entire community has to bear the risks.'



PHOTO: MARTHA STEWART, HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL

According to Juma, it is important to empathize with fears of loss if resistance is to be overcome. 'The solution lies in inclusive innovation in which the people who suffer the downsides also get plenty of opportunities to profit from the innovation. For Wageningen, that means sharing information about new technology and training new generations in inclusive innovation.' **RR**

## COLUMN|STIJN

### Talented immigrant

I raise my hand awkwardly. 'Sorry,' I say, 'But I don't know anyone from this group in Wageningen.' I go a bit red in the face. The activist who had asked me to look for a talented immigrant gives me a hard look. 'Then you need to look harder,' he says. His irritation is quite audible.

For months now I have been looking for a talented immigrant academic, to no avail. Of course Wageningen is international. Our university has 99 different nationalities and at least 1000 foreigners will be embarking on their Master's degrees here this year. This is the result of hard work and our directors are proud of it. Rightly so, because greater diversity increases the chances of refreshing new insights, as research has shown.

The only thing is, all our foreigners are just that – foreigners. There is hardly anyone here from the main immigrant populations – a Dutch person of Moroccan or Turkish origin for instance. I have consulted the provisional statistics of the Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) on this point. In 2014-2015, Wageningen municipality had eight Turkish Dutch people and eight Moroccan Dutch people on academic programmes. That puts us at the bottom of the league of all the Dutch municipalities with a university.

A missed opportunity. We are offering our students an environment in which a significant section of the Dutch population is absent. How can our students develop an understanding of how the rest of the Netherlands works? I think we need to start doing our utmost to attract this group of Dutch people to Wageningen. After all, they have a different angle on life in the Netherlands. It is precisely this group that can bring us extra diversity and with it, new academic insights. Who knows, that may take us even higher up the international rankings. **RR**

**Stijn van Gils** (29) is doing doctoral research on ecosystem services in agriculture. Every month he describes his struggles with the scientific system.



### in brief

#### >> BATTLE OF THE UNIVERSITIES

##### Wageningen not playing

The new TV programme *Universiteitsstrijd* – 'Battle of the Universities' will have to do without Wageningen. We didn't manage to get a team together, says head of communication Marc Lamers. Wageningen UR was invited by television channel NTR but, says Lamers, 'the invitation didn't get enough attention'. He also points out that the programme is a general knowledge quiz show. 'And of course here we have people with knowledge of specific fields.' On the model of the British University Challenge, *Universiteitsstrijd* will pitch eight teams of three students against each other every weekday from Monday 12 to Friday 30 September. **RR**

Read Jan-Willem Kortlever's blog about missing *Universiteitsstrijd* on [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl)

#### >> RESEARCH GRANTS

##### Seven Venis

Seven Wageningen researchers have gained a Veni grant of about 250,000 euros this year. They are Ingrid Boas (Environmental Policy), Wilma van Esse (Molecular Biology), Thomas Kodger (Chemistry), Ingrid van der Laan-Luijkx (Meteorology), Raymond Staals (Microbiology), Nora Sutton (Environmental Technology) and Elmar Tobi (Human Nutrition). The Veni is part of an innovation drive on the part of science funding body NWO. The organization targets young researchers near the start of their academic careers. Last year a record-breaking ten Wageningen researchers got a Veni grant. **RR**

#### >> SCIENTIFIC TALENT 2016

##### Marnix Medema is a candidate

Wageningen biologist Marnix Medema, an assistant professor in the Bioinformatics group, is one of the 25 competitors for the title of Scientific Talent of 2016. The tools Medema develops systematically examine genetic material from plants, bacteria and fungi. By doing this he hopes to find genes that make it possible to create medicinal substances. Medema will be competing with 24 other talents from Flanders and the Netherlands. The judging will be half by public voting and half by a jury. The public can vote until 8 September. **RR**



PHOTO: NTR



## DIGITAL LAB JOURNAL GAINING GROUND

- More and more chair groups adopting it
- IT department: 'Do keep an eye on data security'

Notebooks full of scribbled results and protocols, decorated with the odd coffee cup ring; this is how a lot of scientists still work. But times are changing. More and more scientists are going over to digital alternatives.

Food Process Engineering is among the pioneers. Staff members, PhD researchers and students at this lab have been keeping records of their work using the programme OneNote since last September. OneNote is a digital notebook which was not developed specifically for use by scientists. Notes can be illustrated with photos and supplemented with PDFs. All the data is synchronized between gadgets, and is searchable and shareable. The researchers were also given a

tablet so they could make notes anywhere.

'And we are pleased with that,' says Maurice Strubel, education and research officer at Food Process Engineering. With a few exceptions, everyone uses the tablet. Strubel is also working on digital protocols – often illustrated with photos – which are shared with students. 'It isn't perfect of course,' says Strubel. It would be nice, for instance, if OneNote could read data directly from the measuring equipment.

Strubel is pioneering in this field independently of the IT department at Wageningen UR. But this department is involved in a pilot with digital research notes at the Agrotechnology and Food Sciences Group (AFSG) and the Plant Sciences Group (PSG), says service manager Marco Otte. Five chair groups were introduced to elabJournal and the related eLabInventory.

The IT department has deliberately not established a centralized standard or blanket policy.



PHOTO: PROTEINBIOCHEMIST

'Anyway, that is not up to us; it's up to the Sciences groups,' says Otto. 'There is too much diversity in the requirements, wishes and needs.' He does hope, however, that chair groups will consider making use of eLabJournal. It would be a pity, he feels, if everyone sets about re-inventing the wheel. Secondly, IT stores all data in Wageningen whereas a lot of commercial software works 'in the cloud'. You cannot always be sure how safe data is there, and to what extent the company in question and others can access it. 'So give careful thought to whether you have sensitive data,' says Otte. **RR**



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

## BUBBLEBALL

Staff and students played Bubble football last week at the WURlympics at De Bongerd sports centre. Teams of four, all encased in huge balloons, bashed into each other with considerable force - sometimes someone flew a metre through the air. The WURlympics was organized to liven up the quiet campus. During the Olympic Games staff and students could watch TV together, take part in free sports events and join in tournaments and a pub quiz. **RvD**

## OVERHAUL OF ER&I POLICY DEPARTMENT

- Education policy to go to OWI
- New Value Creation department

Education Research & Innovation (ER&I) is to be overhauled. The policy department, which is based in Atlas, advises the Executive Board on research, education and knowledge utilization, but other advisory bodies do this too. The Executive Board therefore wants to merge various departments for education and research, split up ER&I and set up a new Value Creation department.

All ER&I's educational activities, including timetabling and the development of distance learning, will be transferred to the Education Institute (OWI). Another part of ER&I will be merging with Wageningen International to form the Policy Preparation and Corporate Accounts group. Wageningen Graduate School will remain responsible for the university's graduate schools. A new Value Creation department is also being set up; the search has started for a new di-

rector for this department.

An interim director will be appointed for the new education department. The current OWI director, Tiny van Boekel, who will be retiring next year, will be succeeded by a professor as director who will be responsible for both the policy aspects and operational aspects of teaching at the university.

The Executive Board has decided on these changes as it wants to streamline policy on education and innovation. The board currently receives advice on educational matters from both the OWI director Tiny van Boekel and the ER&I director Frank Bakema. The board will now be combining policy and implementation in one place.

In the strategic plan, the Executive Board called Value Creation the third core activity. It wants more coordination and alignment between businesspeople, suppliers of research facilities, investors and supporting services in order to generate more businesses and knowledge companies.

The employee participation body still has to give its opinion on the restructuring. **AS**

# PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

- Staff and students send in 210 ideas
- Photo of all employees with zoom option looks likely

What do you do on an anniversary event? You get a group photo taken. Wageningen University may be getting just such a snapshot for its centennial celebrations: a large photo of all its staff with a zoom option. The group photo is one of the promising ideas on the list for the celebration of 100 years of Wageningen University, due to take place between 9 March and 11 November 2018.

Calls for ideas on social media and elsewhere resulted in 238 submissions and 210 unique ideas for the centennial celebrations, says Centennial project manager Geurt Heimensen. The ideas were divided into eight categories and a steering group headed by President of the Executive Board Louise Fresco selected the most promising submission per category.

The massive staff photo was one of them. Accord-

ing to Heimensen, the intention is that a photo will be taken from above with such a high resolution that it will be possible for everyone to find their own face by zooming in. Wageningen UR will also explicitly be seeking to link up with the local community, for example by organizing projects with primary schools in the region.

Of course there will be parties too, with a gala event and a huge joint party for staff and students. Activities will also be organized for alumni, both in the Netherlands and abroad. In sports, an attempt will be made to organize a challenge along the lines of the famous Solar Challenge. Wageningen will also be hosting the Great Dutch Universities Championship (GNSK) in 2018.

Heimensen says the gifts category is looking a little sparse, so ideas on that front are still welcome. There is still no Centennial bread or beer in the pipeline, for example.

The centennial celebration will be getting its own logo and slogan. What that will be has yet to be announced. **RK**



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

## SUMMER LAB

About 20 secondary school students had the chance to get acquainted with landscape architecture last week at the first *Zomerlab* [summer lab]. They pored over maps of the Veluwe in the Forum, tasked with working out how the Veluwe could once more be turned into Holland's most popular recreation area by creating a transferium at Ede-Wageningen station. *Zomerlab* is a new recruitment activity run by the department of Publicity and Recruitment. It seems like a successful concept. Participant Elly (18) from Ermelo: 'After this *Zomerlab* I am sure I want to come to this university.' **RK**

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# RESOURCE

For students and employees of Wageningen UR



# LOTS OF RUBBISH IN BEACHED SPERM WHALES

- From agricultural plastic to a car hood
- Rubbish was not the cause of death

Some of the sperm whales that got beached on the Dutch North Sea coast earlier this year had quite a bit of garbage 'on board'. As much as 25 kilos of rubbish was found in one whale's stomach, shows a study by Imares and other institutes.

Earlier this year six sperm whales got stranded on the island of Texel. In the same period another 24 sperm whales washed up on the North Sea coasts of England, France, Germany and Denmark. Of all the 30 stranded sperm whales, 22 were examined for the presence of rubbish. Three quarters of the waste found turned out to be fishing-related: nets, rope, and a large fishing hook. The rest was more generic waste such as plastic bags, agricultural plastic, a plastic bucket, coffee capsules and duct tape. The whale with the most rubbish in its stomach was one that got beached in France. It had swallowed 25 kilos of (mainly) plastic waste, including a fishing net of 13.5 by 1.2 metres. The most bizarre item, a piece of a car hood 68 by 24 centimetres, was found in the stomach of a sperm whale that was beached in Germany. It came off a Ford SUV.



A sperm whale that beached itself on Texel in January is dissected.

PHOTO: BASTIAAN SCHUIT

Biologist Mardik Leopold of Imares is cautious about drawing any conclusions. 'In an ideal world of course there wouldn't be any rubbish inside an animal like this. But not a single sperm whale died of it.' All the animals were healthy and there was no internal bleeding that could have been caused by the waste. 'Their stomachs are as big as a human adult. So on the

whole no harm is done.'

That does not mean there is no risk, however. According to Leopold, sperm whales regularly vomit up indigestible parts of their food. 'Nets can be dangerous in that sense. There is a risk that a net can get stuck behind the teeth. Waste can also lead to constipation with all the risks that entails.' **RK**

## NEW APP SEES WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE

- Eating habits studied closely
- Researchers hope to understand consumers better

What have you eaten in the last 24 hours? That turns out to be a surprisingly difficult question. Did you have two or three slices of toast for breakfast? What time did you drink your last beer last night? And are you sure you haven't overlooked a snack? Consumer researchers know you always get mistakes in answers to a 24-hour questionnaire. Now LEI Wageningen UR hopes to have found a more precise alternative: an app.

This 'FoodProfiler' is designed to provide insight into our eating habits. The primary aim, however,

is to compare the app with existing methods of data collection such as the 24-hour questionnaire. All the app users get several 'push messages' every day, asking them what they have eaten or drunk in the last two hours. They also answer questions about their background and ideas about food. The app is intended to provide an impression of someone's consumption pattern over two to three weeks. After that the users get to see a profile sketch. Marleen Onwezen, a researcher at LEI Wageningen UR: 'Then it becomes clear whether someone's behaviour matches their self-image. Is their diet really as healthy as they think it is?'

In developing the app the researchers sought a balance between thorough data collection and

making it enjoyable to use the app. 'We didn't want to make it too hard work for respondents or to influence them,' says Onwezen. So you don't get any feedback on your answers, because that could influence the results. But to keep users motivated, they are rewarded with interesting facts about nutrition. Users are not given an exact calorie count either. If they want that they have to fill in a much more detailed questionnaire as well as weighing their portions. Onwezen thinks this puts a lot of people off.

Onwezen hopes that about 100 people will download and fill in FoodProfiler every month in its first year. Once the app is over its teething troubles, the developers will start giving thought to its distribution. **RR**







## DNA OF BANANA FUNGUS DECODED

- **Black Sigatoka disease threatens banana cultivation**
- **Leads for developing resistant variety**

Researchers have succeeded in decoding the DNA of the cause of the dreaded banana disease Black Sigatoka. This provides information needed for the development of resistant varieties of banana, says the head of the research team Gert Kema, Wageningen professor of Tropical Phytopathology.

The fungal disease Black Sigatoka poses a threat to banana production around the globe. The fungus *Pseudocercospora fijiensis* (formerly *Mycosphaerella fijiensis*) damages the leaves of the banana plants badly enough to cause big harvest losses. Growers spray the plants with more and more fungicide to keep the fungus under control, with serious environmental damage as a result. In spite of all these efforts, the disease is spreading quickly from Asia to the rest of the world. And there is not yet a commercial banana variety that is resistant to Black Sigatoka. Fighting the fungus currently costs the banana sector about 400 million dollars per year.

The DNA study now offers some leads, as Kema and his colleagues reported on 11 August in the journal *PLoS Genetics*. They found a piece of the fungus's DNA

that generates a resistance reaction in the wild banana Calcutta 4. The fungus's DNA makes an 'effector' which is recognized by a receptor in the wild banana, after which the banana plant disables the fungus. The researchers hope to be able to build this mechanism into the commercial banana Cavendish.

But they do have a second option for making the banana resistant. Earlier research showed that tomato plants too have a receptor which recognizes the Black Sigatoka fungus. The gene for this receptor is known and is available. The researchers could build this tomato gene into the DNA of the banana.

Black Sigatoka disease on banana plantations should not be confused with Panama disease. Black Sigatoka is caused by an airborne leaf fungus, whereas Panama disease (Tropical Race 4) is caused by a soil fungus. Black Sigatoka has a bigger environmental impact because the leaf fungus is controlled by spraying fungicide. Tropical Race 4 has more far-reaching consequences for banana cultivation, however, because it is impossible to disinfect the soil. Once the soil on a plantation is infected, banana cultivation there is over.

The publication was the joint effort of researchers from Brazil, France, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Iran, the Netherlands, the United States, the UK and Switzerland. **AS**



PHOTO: SCOT NELSON

The banana disease Black Sigatoka is caused by an airborne leaf fungus.

## 'New virus underlines tick bite risks'

**Last June, the tick-borne encephalitis virus (TBE virus) was found in the Salland hills, the first case in the Netherlands. The first infected patient occurred one month later in the Utrecht hills. TBE usually causes flu-like symptoms but it can result in meningitis in vulnerable patients. According to tick expert Arnold van Vliet, the arrival of TBE underlines that doctors and nature lovers need to be aware of the dangers of tick bites.**

*The TBE virus has been gradually spreading across Europe for some time. Is it unavoidable that ticks will become infected throughout the Netherlands?*

'The disease has now been found at two sites quite far apart. That means there is a big chance you will find it in the rest of the country too. I would be surprised if that wasn't the case.'

*Could Dutch organizations have prevented TBE from arriving here?*

'No, I think that would have been completely impossible. Now we need to find out where it is and how we should deal with it.'

*What can we do?*

'The arrival of the TBE virus underlines the importance for people who have been in the countryside to check themselves thoroughly for ticks. People still don't do that enough. I have discovered that awareness alone is not enough. We are collaborating with the Strategic Communication group to see how you can change behaviour. Health workers also need to be made aware of this disease. That is quite a task as Lyme disease (caused by the *Borrelia* bacterium, ed.), which is transmitted by ticks, has been around for years yet there is still widespread ignorance about this disease too.'

*How does the threat from the TBE virus compare to Lyme disease?*

'We have 25,000 new cases a year of Lyme disease in the Netherlands, some of which are very serious. I don't expect to see people becoming infected with the TBE virus on the same scale. And only a small proportion have severe symptoms. People get vaccinated against TBE in Austria but there is no question yet of such measure in the Netherlands. Only a tiny proportion of the ticks are infected with the TBE virus.' **RR**



# TREES ON FARMS ABSORB A LOT OF CO<sub>2</sub>

- Farmland is more treed than was assumed
- More interest in climate-smart agriculture

Trees on farmland sequester a lot more CO<sub>2</sub> worldwide than we have hitherto assumed. This conclusion was drawn by Wageningen researcher Meine van Noordwijk and colleagues in an article in *Nature*.

Agriculture is responsible for about 24 percent of the greenhouse effect in the world, according to figures from the IPCC climate panel. This is due to the felling of tropical rain forests for farmland. The climate models are based on the assumption that only negligible levels of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration occur on farmland. This assumption turns out to be wrong.

An international research team including Meine van Noordwijk of the Plant Production Systems

group collected data about the number of trees on agricultural land. The researchers found that 40 percent of the world's farmland has more than 10 percent tree cover. This wealth of trees raises the CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration taking place on agricultural land from 5 to 20 tons of carbon per hectare. That represents the absorption of 0.75 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. By way of comparison: the conversion of rain forest into farmland leads to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 0.85 per year.

The researchers notice increased interest in agroforestry and climate-smart agriculture around the world. As the extent of the world's rain forests continued to decrease over recent years, the amount of farmland with more than 10 percent tree cover grew in

countries such as China, India, Brazil and Indonesia.

The trees on agricultural land not only sequester carbon but also ensure reduced wind erosion, higher humidity and milder temperatures. These kinds of improvement in the microclimate motivate farmers to plant and maintain trees on their farms, explains Van Noordwijk.

A trial plot at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Centre in New Franklin, Missouri. Photo Kyle Spradley

Up to now trees on agricultural land have not featured in government climate adaption programmes. It is time to change this, say these researchers, because agroforestry systems can temper climate change. **AS**



PHOTO: KYLE SPRADLEY

# FLOWERS PUT US IN A GOOD MOOD

- With flowers around us we judge faces more kindly
- Less fragrant flowers work best

People are more positive in their assessments of others if there are flowers nearby. Flowers without a strong smell work best in this regard. Researchers at Food & Biobased Research demonstrated this effect in an experiment at the Restaurant of the Future for a study commissioned by FloraHolland.

The researchers asked 64 people to take part in the development of a test for facial recognition. They were asked to assess photos of unfamiliar, neutral faces, assigning them positive and negative personal qualities. In some cases there were flowers dotted around the room, and in others there were none. Identifying the influence of the flowers on the test subjects' perceptions was the real aim of the test. And that influ-

ence turned out to be considerable. In the presence of flowers people assessed faces as friendlier, more adventurous and more reliable. Without flowers they thought they looked more stressed, lonely and arrogant. The strongest effect was on the perception of loneliness.

Flowers influence our capacity to evaluate, explains researcher Nancy Holthuysen. 'You project how you feel yourself on other people. You see other people in a more positively light if you are in a positive mood. In fact this is an indirect way of measuring the effect flowers have on you. It is very hard to measure emotions directly. That is why we opted for this indirect method.'

So the researchers conclude that flowers put us in a more positive mood. Their advice is to put flowers in places where this is important: in waiting rooms and other public places where a bit of relaxation comes in handy. But avoid strongly scented flowers: they reinforce negative qualities. **RK**

## Bloemen houden van mensen.



A campaign poster from Bloemenbureau Holland from the late 1970s.



While Resource magazine was on its summer break, it was business as usual on the website. Below are some of the snippets of news you might have missed while you were on holiday. The full stories are on [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl).

REACTIONS ON...



# RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL

## SHEEP ON FOOTBALL FIELDS

The Dutch town of Purmerend is battling with substandard football fields. The management of the sports grounds hopes to improve the quality of the grass by letting sheep graze there over the summer break. They trialled this for three weeks this summer and applied researchers Jan Rinze van der Schoot and Jan Verkaik of Wageningen UR are going to evaluate whether it helps. **AS**

## RESEARCH ON WALKERS

The 100 oldest participants in the *Nijmeegse Vierdaagse*, an annual four-day walking event, were followed on foot this year by researchers from Wageningen UR. Together with colleagues from Radboud University Medical Centre in Nijmegen, they recorded the food intake, heartbeat, fluid balance and muscle mass of the workers. Watch the video online. **VK, RR**

## WAGENINGEN IS GENEROUS

In Wageningen students with a disability get 381 euros a month from the municipal council. That is over 30 euros more than in Amsterdam (349 euros) and Maastricht (348 euros), shows a ranking made by RTL News. Nijmegen, Utrecht, Delft, Leiden and Tilburg only offer 100 euros a month. **HOP**

## PHD RESEARCHER BAKES

PhD candidate Guido Camps of the department of Human Nutrition will be showing off his baking skills in September in the TV programme 'All Holland bakes'. The programme has already been recorded but he is not allowed to say how far he got. 'Luckily, because it is much more fun to watch thinking I could be knocked out at any moment.' **RvD**



Master's student Guido Leurs with a Caribbean reef shark.

## HAMMERHEAD SHARK

Master's student Guido Leurs worked on the documentary 'Hunting the Hammerhead' which will be aired for the first time on National Geographic Channel on Sunday 21 August. Leurs is friends with shark researcher Craig O'Connell and was his safety diver and assistant during his research on the Bahamas. Watch the trailer online. **TF**

## POKÉMON GO WILD

The wildly popular game Pokémon Go has got young people going outdoors with their mobile phones. According to Matthijs Schouten, professor of Ecology and Nature Conservation, this kind of augmented reality game has potential as a way of involving young people in nature. Nature would have to be more than a backdrop in the game, and have a real role to play in it. **RR**

## MOISTURE

The wet summer is good for the Netherlands' forests. The usual summer drought stress and growth stagnation did not happen this year, says Professor Gert-Jan Nabuurs. His growth measurements also show that trees shrink a bit in the spring. 'That is probably something to do with the sap flow that starts up then. You can compare it with a wooden floor, which is affected by moisture too.' **RvD**

## INSECT ICE CREAM

Wageningen students Joar Nilssen, Yannick van Gelder and Rens Stokman handed out grasshopper ice cream at the market in Wageningen on 30 July. Although a few people were disgusted at the idea, about 100 people were willing to try the treat. With their company Tiny Foods, the three students aim to get people used to eating insects. **RK**







# Less malaria with mosquito trap

Eradicating malaria seems to have come a big step closer thanks to a simple mosquito trap and a carefully designed bait. But we are not there yet, caution the researchers.

*text* Albert Sikkema *photos* Melchert Meijer zu Schlochtern



**W**ageningen entomologists created a sensation last month with the results of their Solarmal project on the Kenyan island of Rusinga. Newspaper headlines

around the world talked of a 'breakthrough', 'mosquitoes driven to despair' and the 'eradication' of malaria.

Although there is no immediate prospect of eradication of the disease, the excitement is certainly justified. During their four-year period of trials with odour traps on the island in Lake Victoria, the Wageningen researchers succeeded in cutting back the number of malaria mosquitoes by 70 percent. In two years the prevalence of malaria – the percentage of the 25,000 islanders with the malaria parasite in their blood – went down by 30 percent. 'That is a very big decrease in such a short time,' says entomologist and project leader Willem Takken. The results of the malaria project were presented in Kenya last year and were published in the scientific journal *The Lancet* at the beginning of August.

#### NEW CASES

For the study all 4300 households on the island were issued with a mosquito trap containing an odour mixture created in Wageningen. Because the trap runs on electricity, the households were also issued with a solar panel, a battery and a mobile charger. Before and after the odour traps were installed an estimate was made of the number of malaria mosquitoes on the island. The residents were examined for the presence of malaria and the number of new malaria cases – the incidence – was monitored.

The incidence dropped during the project period by as much as 93 percent. But that figure needs a bit of adjusting, says Tobias Homan, who obtained his PhD on the malaria project in April. 'The drop in the number of new cases could be seen all over the island, even in places where there weren't any odour traps yet, so it cannot entirely be put down to the odour-baited traps.' In the villages with the traps there were an average of 40 percent fewer new cases of malaria than in villages without traps.

The number of new malaria cases started going down before the odour-baited traps were installed because the islanders had started using impregnated mosquito nets and were getting bitten less frequently. Homan reckons the Wageningen study missed some new malaria cases too. 'Sick people go to the clinic. We went from door to door to record new cases, and we didn't call in at the clinic.'

Nevertheless, the results are marvellous, says Homan. 'At first 35 percent of the islanders had malaria in their systems. That went down to 24 percent in two years. And that group is still walking around with malaria, but there are hardly any new infections because the number of mosquitoes has gone down by 70 percent.' Without such new infections the malaria parasite will naturally disappear from the human body in 12 months. So the odour-baited traps could be the last little push needed to get rid of malaria completely.

#### ELECTRICITY

The residents of Rusinga have now wholeheartedly adopted this new form of malaria prevention, says Willem Takken. They have formed 82



Above: Project leader Willem Takken at work on the Kenyan island of Rusinga.  
Left: Residents protect their mosquito traps with little fences.

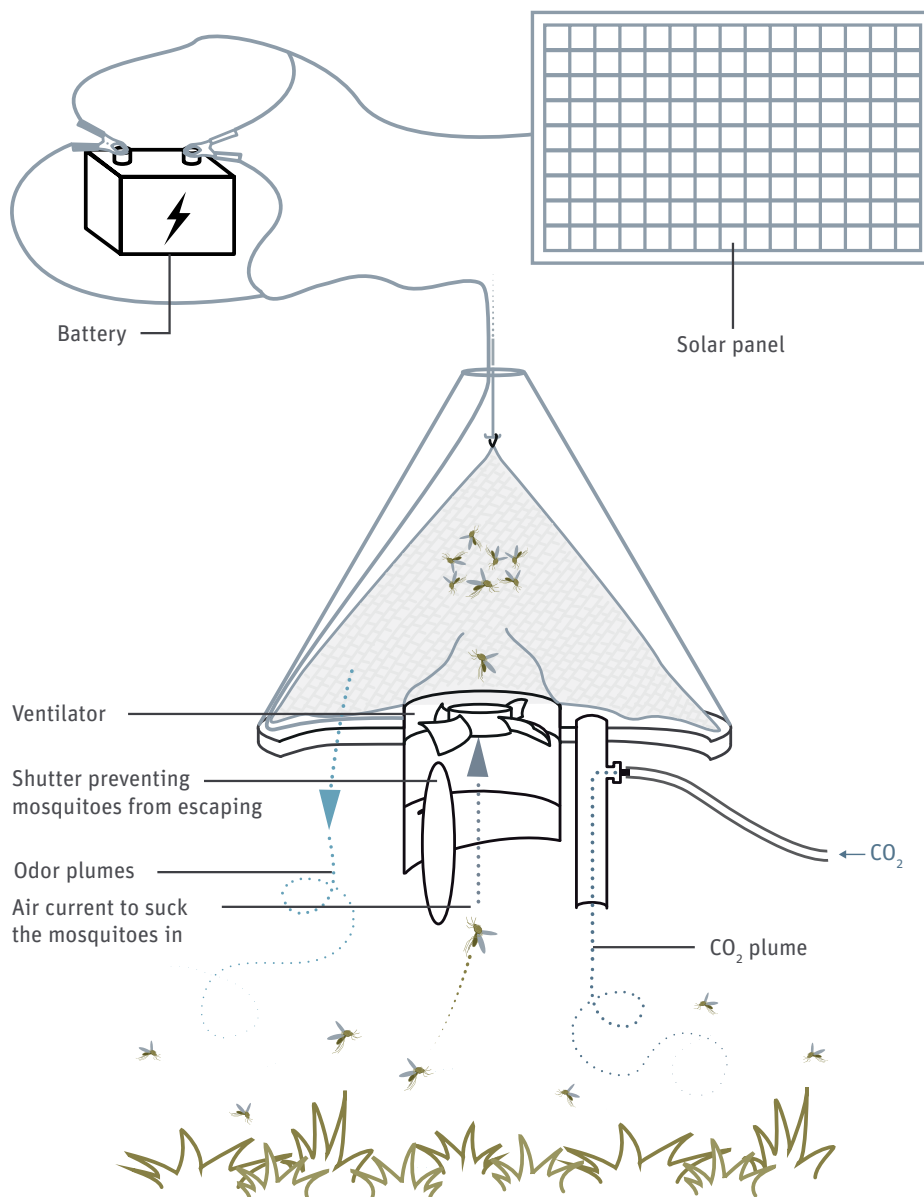
local saving groups which collect money monthly for the maintenance of the malaria traps and the solar panels. 'Those savings enable the staff who installed the traps and panels for the project to go on doing maintenance so the mosquito traps stay in working order.'

The complete set of trap and solar panel costs 150 euros per household. This time it was paid for by the project but even if a household had to pay for it itself, it is not an impossible sum, thinks Takken. After all, the odour-baited trap is proving effective and people in Africa tend to spend about 10 percent of their income on fighting malaria.

### BED NETS

Malaria has been on the wane in Africa for the past ten years thanks to the distribution of bed nets impregnated with insecticides. 'This anti-malaria programme funded by the Global Fund with money from the rich industrial countries has been highly successful,' says Takken. 'The number of malaria cases worldwide has gone down by 50 percent. And the number of deaths from malaria has gone down from two million in 2005 to half a million people per year in 2015.'

What is worrying, however, is that the drop in the number of Africans with malaria – now at 30 percent – is not continuing. Takken sees two reasons for this. Firstly, mosquitoes are biting people more outside the house, where they are not protected by a net. Secondly, there is evidence that malaria mosquitoes are becoming resistant to the insecticides. Takken: 'That always happens sooner or later, as we saw with DDT as well. That is why we have opted for non-chemical measures using odour-baited traps. Our bait mixture imitates the smell of humans. The mosquitoes cannot cope without the bait of those odours, which they need in



The Solarmal project uses the Suna mosquito trap produced by Biogents.



### COMPLEX LOGISTICAL OPERATION

Tobias Homan got his PhD in April for a study of Wageningen UR's Solarmal project in Kenya. Together with his colleague Alexandra Hiscox, the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute and the Kenyan institute Icipe, he had to think up and set up a sound experimental procedure – on an island without electricity or infrastructure. For the 25,000 islanders, 4300 traps had to be installed in villages and at isolated houses. The island was divided into 81 clusters of about 51 households each, all of which received an odour trap, a solar panel and a battery over two years. But which cluster should the team start with? They had to establish a protocol for that, so the measurements in clusters with an odour trap could be compared with those of clusters without a trap.

All the information had to be registered at three levels: cluster, household and individual. Homan: 'Then you act like a local council. The residents' codes have to be right and you need to keep track of things like relocations during the period. Setting up this data system took a year.' In the course of the project the entomologists worked with an entirely digital data collection system for the first time in a developing country. All the households on the island, which is 16 kilometres long and 5 kilometres wide, were documented with a GPS, making all the residents' medical, entomological and social data available per location. The digital data system also enabled researchers all around the world to access the latest research data.



order to find their food. As a result, this approach could be very sustainable and could be a solution to the resistance problem.'

### POSITIVE RESPONSES

Other malaria researchers are impressed by the results of the Solarmal project. 'This is tremendously good news because it proves that odour-baited traps are effective in the battle against malaria,' says Remco Suer, co-founder of the Wageningen company In2Care. 'This demonstrates that controlling vectors can make a real contribution to combatting a disease.' In2Care makes mosquito traps with insecticide for combatting malaria and zika. An interesting detail: In2Care too worked for a while on odour mixtures that imitate human odours in order to attract malaria mosquitoes. 'But we abandoned this line of research because it was too tricky,' says Suer.

Leading British malaria researcher James Logan is enthusiastic too. 'This study demonstrates a significant effect of trapping on malaria and malaria mosquitoes,' responds Logan, a researcher at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. 'This highlights the fact that novel interventions could play an important role in the control of mosquito-borne diseases, alongside conventional methods like bed nets and insecticides.'

### LIMITATIONS


Yet the odour traps do have limitations which call for clarification or improvements. They caught the commonest mosquito on the island, *Anopheles funestus*, but had no demonstrable effect on the reduction in numbers of *Anopheles gambiae* and *A. arabiensis*, two other carriers of malaria in Africa. 'That was because their numbers were already very low on Rusinga as a result of the use of bed nets,' says Alexandra Hiscox, who coordinated the malaria project in Kenya. 'For that reason we could not demonstrate a significant effect.' Nevertheless, the odour trap indisputably attracts the other malaria mosquitoes too, according to Hiscox. 'We developed the odour mixture in Wageningen using *A. gambiae*, and now on Rusinga it is obviously effective for *A. funestus* too.'

### FOLLOW-UP RESEARCH

Hiscox and Takken are keen to do follow-up research on the Kenyan island to find out whether the traps remain effective and whether malaria can be completely eradicated there in the coming years. 'I am curious as to whether this will lead to the elimination of malaria or whether the prevalence will get stuck at, say, 10 percent.'

One issue to address in trying to keep the traps effective is that the odour mixtures need

replenishing every three to four months. Hiscox wants to find out whether that works out in practice. Meanwhile the Wageningen entomologists and the manufacturer of the odour traps, the German company Biogents, is looking at whether they can develop a longer-lasting odour mixture.

Takken and Hiscox are also looking for possibilities for rolling out the project over a larger area. A few donors have now expressed interest. And individual Africans have got in touch to say they would like to install the odour traps in their own villages. Hiscox: 'We are going to take a serious look at that, but it must be done properly if you are to get the desired effect.' 

**Watch the video**  
on [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl).



### DO THE MOSQUITO TRAPS WORK AGAINST ZIKA TOO?

If you can beat back malaria mosquitoes such as *Anopheles funestus* with the Wageningen odour-baited trap, can you also use it to trap the transmitters of the zika virus, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*? Probably, says Wageningen entomologist Alexandra Hiscox. During a small-scale test in Latin America this year, the odour trap caught zika mosquitoes as well, but more thorough research is needed to establish exactly how it works.

Dutch PvdA (labour party) MP Roelof van Laar is interested in this. He has asked minister of Public Health Schippers whether the Wageningen odour trap could be used to combat zika on the Dutch Antilles. Van Laar wonders whether one of the Antillean islands would be a suitable test location.



# BUSIEST EVER AID

Hawaiian streamers, yellow braces and tiaras. True to tradition, the students attending the introduction days (AID) really went to town on their apparel as they hit Wageningen in small groups. And their presence was felt – there were more of them than ever, over 2300.

*photos Sven Menschel en Guy Ackermans*



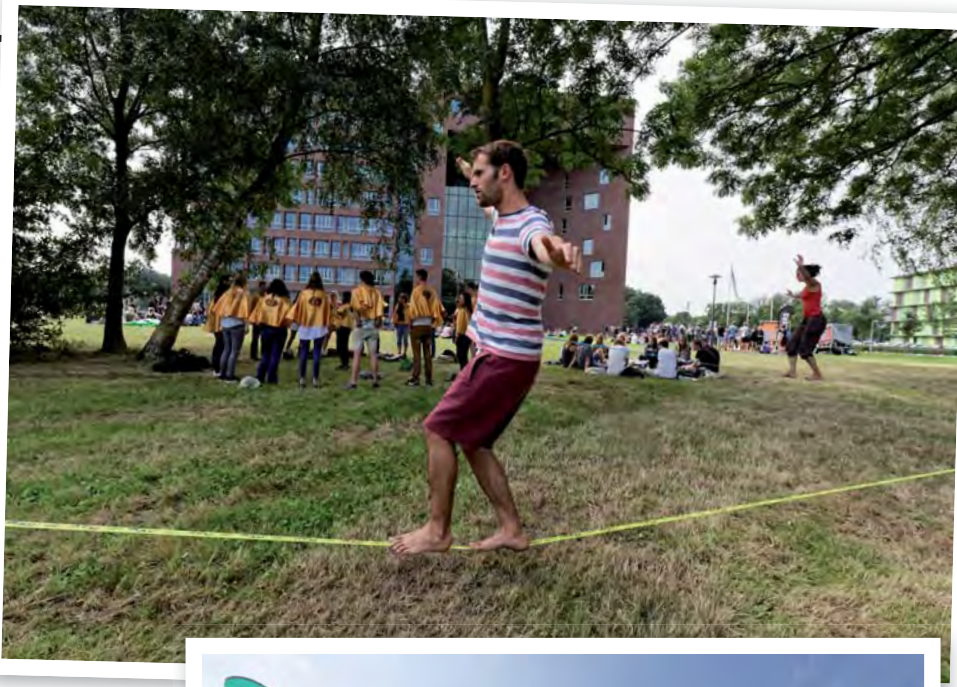






## FRIDAY GADGETS AND GAMES

The new first-years received their traditional gadgets on the first day of the general introduction days (AID). They then strolled around the campus in small groups to score as many points as possible on the AID app in the Campus Games. The main student societies had pulled out all the stops with inflatable assault courses and bubble football. But the smaller societies joined in too with activities like twister, slacklining, tree-climbing and water fights. **TF**



### REINOUD VAN GIERBERGEN Bachelor's student of Biology, from Amsterdam

Reinoud just had to run in high heels for the Crazy 88. Not to mention walking the catwalk in them. 'It was painful, very painful. The heels fell off straightaway and I've pulled a muscle.' A bit later, once he put on his own shoes, a look of bliss on his face, he says: 'I'm looking forward to being a student. Party time!' He hastens to add: 'I do want to get good grades; my studies go first. Maybe I won't join a society until my second year.' When

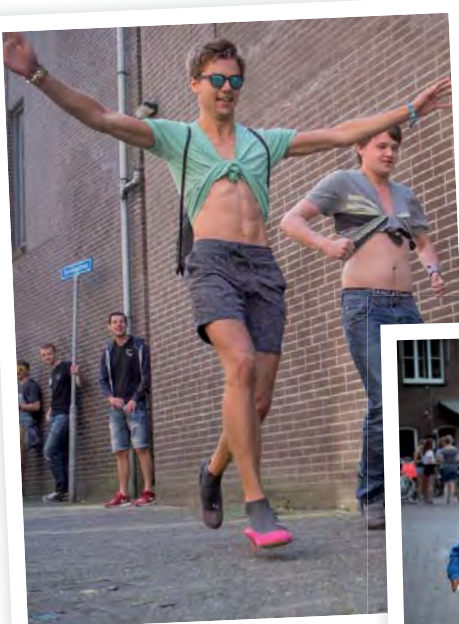
asked whether he would have picked this degree course if it was taught in English, he replies: 'I had biology in English at secondary school. It would be better, in fact.' Reinoud has a room at the Haarweg and he's glad about that. 'Otherwise I'd have to commute for two hours a day.' **MvdH**





## SATURDAY SOMETHING FISHY

Stand in the fountain and pretend you're a fish. Hug a tree. Make up a male teammate and get him on the catwalk in high heels. These were just some of the assignments with which the AID groups could score points during Craze 88 last Saturday in Wageningen town centre. That evening the centre filled up again for the street festival, where you could watch pole-dancing and acrobatics. Or come face to face with a meerkat. **MvdH**



### SJOERD DE GRAAF

Bachelor's student of Biotechnology,  
from Dronte

'The Biotechnology programme here has the best reputation,' is Sjoerd's answer to the question why he picked Wageningen. But the city was an added attraction. 'My younger sister has gone to Amsterdam, she loves the idea of a big city with plenty of nightlife. I prefer a somewhat smaller place with a friendly atmosphere.' Sjoerd is thinking of joining Argo rowing club; his brothers rowed when they were at university too. 'My older brother reached international level in three years. That really motivates me to go in that direction too.' **TF**



### RINDU ANINDA

Master's student in Applied Communication  
Science in Health and Society, from Jakarta,  
Indonesia

It was a 'logical' choice for Rindu to come here. 'After all, Wageningen is one of the best in life sciences. And orange is also my favourite colour,' she jokes. 'I wear something orange every day.' Rindu found a room in Wageningen at the last minute. 'This year, the deciding factor for international students was when they registered with Idealis. I wasn't one of the first so it was a bit nerve-racking.' The Indonesian student brought her guitar along to the barbecue on campus. 'I find that the best way to relax. Hopefully I'll be able to get some beef or chicken because so far I've mainly been eating vegetarian food. I don't eat pork because of my religion.' **TF**





## SUNDAY RAINY SPORTS DAY

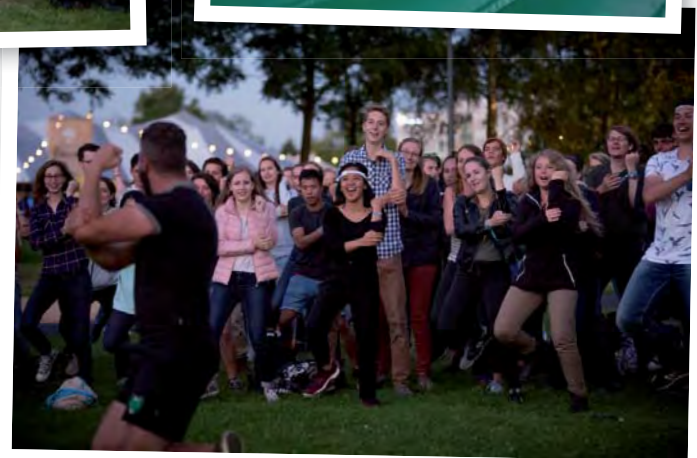
Just as the AID groups sat down for their lunch, the skies opened. It was quite a downpour. AID participants started the sports day soaked to the skin – and they were promised three more hours of rain.

® MvdH



## MONDAY AROUND THE WORLD

After a relaxed BBQ on the campus, AID participants had the chance to get to know some different cultures at Crossing Borders. New students threw themselves into capoeira, salsa and the haka. There was plenty to taste as well, including the perennial insect meatballs. 'If you eat these you're one of us,' said a student. ® TF



**YELA VAN LEEUWEN** Bachelor's student of Nutrition and Health, from Alpen aan den Rijn

In spite of the rain and her inactive group, Yela is looking forward to the sports day. And even more so to starting on her degree programme. But why did she choose Wageningen? 'This is the only place that offers this degree. And I like the fact that the university has a campus. There is just a nice

atmosphere.' Yela also likes the green surroundings here. She found a temporary room in good time but is looking for something permanent. Commuting from home is not an option. 'I don't fancy getting up early,' says Yela. She would still have chosen Nutrition and Health even if the whole programme had been taught in English. 'It doesn't affect the content and it would be better for my English.' ® MvdH



## TUESDAY DRINKING SONGS

Drinking beer – or water – and having a good old sing-song. That is the essence of the beer cantus. If you don't party hard enough, you get a jet of water out of a supersoaker all over you. Or worse. Some people had to drink out of their shoes, others had to do press-ups throughout one of the band's numbers. **RvD**



Look at all the photos and watch the videos of the AID on [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl)



### TIFFANY JAN

Master's student in Food Quality Management, from Beijing, China

Tiffany thinks the Netherlands is a really nice country. 'I saw the film *The Fault in our stars*, which made a really big impression on me. Then I found out the film is set in the Netherlands.' It was mainly this film that made Tiffany decide to look for a degree course in the Netherlands. She had also visited Amsterdam as a child and had happy memories of the lovely canals and many bikes. Tiffany says she is lucky with her new room: 'Campus Plaza is a really great place with lovely new rooms and everything in walking distance.' For Tiffany, AID is mainly about making friends and getting to know new people. 'I got here yesterday and I've already made so many friends!' **TF**



### TIM SCHAMPERS

Bachelor's student in Communication Science, from Geldrop

While Tim's philosophy is that it doesn't matter what you study as long as you study something, he still did not leave his choice of subject to chance. 'I did a detailed test on what subject would be best and that gave the highest score for Communication. That's why I chose Communication Science instead of Psychology. And Wageningen looks good on your degree certificate; it's a prestigious university.' Finding accommodation is a problem though. 'It takes two-and-a-half hours from Brabant, which is just not doable.' So he registered early and has been actively searching for a room on the Internet. 'But I haven't had any luck yet.' **TF**



# HOW TO SURVIVE WAGENINGEN

The start of the new academic year brings a lot of new students to Wageningen from all corners of the globe. They face a new country, the Wageningen approach to studying, and Dutch culture. What can you do to make your introduction in Wageningen as smooth as possible? More seasoned international students talk about their experiences and give tips.

text Romy Appelman illustration Henk van Ruitenbeek

## Giovanny Romero



Ecuador, MSc Environmental Sciences, here since September 2015

'My first impression of Wageningen was good: a nice calm city, friendly people, and good transport services. Of course there are big differences with my own country. We have mountains and here everything is flat, the food is very different, and here everyone moves around on bicycles. For me the biggest challenge was not the studying – although the language is a problem – but the fact that I was far away from home experiencing so many new things on my own. I missed my family and friends and at first I felt very alone. **Going to ISOW for salsa lessons or playing soccer really helped me. To people who are lonely I would like to say: go out, grab a beer.** The loneliness usually starts at home and if you stay in, your room gets like a jail. So go out, meet new people!'

## Bohan Hu



China, MSc Environmental Sciences, here since September 2013

'I think the Netherlands is beautiful: clean, fresh air, cows walking in the fields. I am from Beijing so I loved it. The hardest thing about studying was the language. It was hard to follow everything in English. **Group work with people from all**

**over the world is another challenge. Everyone has different backgrounds so sometimes it is hard to express your feelings. My tip is: don't be passive, be active.** Also, be humorous and don't be too serious about little details. For getting in contact with other students it really helps if you have a certain talent or hobby. I fix computers and that got me in contact with the whole Chinese student population. So if you play music or sports, definitely use that to get in contact with other people. Practical tip: bring an induction cooker. It is hard to find good ones in the Netherlands.'

## Felipe Lobos



Chile, MSc climate studies, here since September 2015

'Before I arrived here, I had worked for four years. Therefore it was hard for me to start studying again. You have to be quick and smart and everything is English. **What I really like about Wageningen is the horizontal contact with teachers. Here professors are not like gods and you can easily speak with them.** Also I like that this university is truly international and international students are really integrated in the student life. To new students I would like to say: be patient. The language and culture are very different and it takes time to understand how the Dutch are. You have to be tolerant of the differences. Practical tip: get a bank account and a bike as soon as possible. With this you can survive.'





## Lugas Lukmanul Hakim



**Indonesia, MSc Aquaculture and Marine Resource Management, here since September 2015**

'When I first got here I thought it was really cold. Even though it was summer, I was wearing long jackets and I turned the heater on. **Firstly, you**

**need a bike so save some money for that and get help from your fellow students to buy one.** Second, prepare for the new academic culture: it will be tough. I was not used to the period system and it pushed me to study every day. But when it got difficult I reminded myself of my motivation, why I wanted to study here, and that helped. The Dutch can be quite intimidating and they talk a lot, but once you get to know them better they are actually nice and friendly. I learned a new daily rhythm from them and I adjusted myself to that: to work during the day and take time at night to relax and enjoy life.'

## Patience Chindong



**Cameroon, MSc Applied Communication Sciences, here since September 2014**

'What really struck me about the Netherlands is that everything is so structured. It is very clean and organized here. People take turns in shops and restaurants in an orderly manner. I felt very uncomfortable about it at the beginning. I also made some mistakes. I would, for example, go to the hospital and walk straight to the desk, while other people were waiting.'

**I think the Dutch are too individualistic; it is difficult to interact with some of them at times.** You have to make appointments for everything and be on time. However, with time I got used to it and now I feel much more comfortable. Before I came to the Netherlands, I was very afraid that no one would speak English and I wouldn't be able to buy any food. Therefore I brought a lot of food, even some salt. When I arrived here I found out how ridiculous this was. I gave the food away to friends. My tip: keep asking questions. Every time you have doubts about something, just ask, and if the first person cannot help you, ask the next person.'

## Daniele Lixia



**Italy, Erasmus student doing an internship in Health & Society, here since April 2016**

'I had both good and bad impressions when I arrived here. My room in Bornsesteeg was horrible and dirty, it took me a week to clean it.

But I loved the university, the buildings, friendly students and teachers. It is all very relaxed and comfortable. The Netherlands is very different from what I'm used to. Here you see little children going around on bikes by themselves, looking very happy. **My advice to people who get a room in Bornsesteeg is to find a place somewhere else. The Bornsesteeg building has no common space and therefore no social life.** However, there are a lot of other activities you can do in Wageningen. I would also like to advise my Chinese and Indian fellow students of this. They seem to interact mainly among themselves.' ®





# Sharing a faith

On a Sunday morning, just when most Wageningen students are rolling over to go back to sleep, a few dozen of their fellow students are gathering for an English-language church service under the auspices of the International Christian Fellowship (ICF). This church congregation gives them a chance to affirm their faith and to meet others.

text Ton van den Born photo Guy Ackermans and Ton van den Born

**I**nternational students are more likely to be religious than Dutch students are. 'In Africa especially, the question is not whether you are religious but which religion you subscribe to,' says Caroline van der Kolk, a deacon with the International Christian Fellowship (ICF), the largest international church in Wageningen.

ICF is interdenominational, which means it is open to all the different Christian denominations. It is also the only Wageningen church that holds an English-language service every Sunday. The service is held in the organiza-

tion's building at 328 Hollandseweg. Carolien van der Kolk says the service attracts 100 to 150 people a week.

## DIFFERENCES

The roots of the current ICF go back to the 1970s when Bible study evenings were held in the former IAC, now the Hof van Wageningen on the Lawickse Allee. The ICF was a student society at the time. Van der Kolk joined as a student in 2000. 'I felt at home from the start.' At the time it was a small group of 10 to 15 people but with the growth and internationalization of

the university, the fellowship grew to become a real church, with services and the organization needed to run them.

'What connects the people who go there – not just foreigners but Dutch people too – is that they are looking for Jesus,' says Van der Kolk. 'It is very nice to meet people from all over the world there. For me it's a little piece of heaven on earth. And seeing all the different ways in which people experience and express their faith can help you to grow in your own faith.'

## SOCIAL SUPPORT

It is not just for religious reasons that students attend the ICF church services and take part in its activities. As well as a place to practise their faith, the students are looking for connection and social support, say Craig MacKenzie, Seyi Alalade and Aaron Noronha. To this end the ICF runs seven 'connect groups' which meet for Bible study. And there is a monthly 'international friends café' run jointly with the Christian student societies, as well as cultural evenings a few times a year, at which people are invited to share their skills in dancing, cookery or music. Lastly, the ICF also organizes interaction with Dutch Christian families. **B**



## ‘In Africa everyone believes in something’

‘Before I came here from Nigeria I googled churches in Wageningen and found the International Christian Fellowship. I then got in touch with the elders’, says Seyi Alalade (26), who is a Baptist. She came here in 2013 and has just completed her MSc in Biotechnology. She has a job in Nijmegen but still lives in Wageningen. ‘The ICF is very open,’ says Seyi. And its doctrines match those of her church back in Nigeria. She believes

that everything comes from God and that it is her duty as a human being to serve her fellow human beings. Not necessarily by becoming a famous scientist. ‘My parents are my heroes. They inspired me to follow my own path and take responsibility for my life.’ Seyi is amazed that many Dutch people have no religious faith. ‘In Africa everyone believes in something.’



## ‘Holding on to your faith can be difficult’

‘I believe God led me here,’ says Craig McKenzie (22). He comes from Scotland, with a Protestant background in the Church of Scotland. He did his Bachelor’s degree at Aberdeen and arrived in Wageningen in August 2015 to do an MSc in Plant Sciences. ‘I might have been homesick for a couple of days but then I made a friend, who is a Christian too. That was supportive.’ And he joined the ICF, where he has attended services ever since. There Craig found warmth and hospitality and made

friends with a Dutch family. ‘The social side is very important to my faith,’ he says. ‘Sometimes you can feel discouraged and then it is good to get together.’ Going to church doesn’t make you a better person, in Craig’s view, ‘but it is very important for reinforcing your faith, because it can be quite difficult at times to hold on to that. In the past year, though, my prayers I have found many answers to my prayers.’



## ‘It’s lovely when the whole church sings’

‘I learned to play the guitar because I wanted to perform in the church,’ says Aaron Noronha (24), who is working on an MSc in Biotechnology. He comes from India and is a Roman Catholic. He plays the guitar at the ICF church services. ‘It’s lovely when the whole church sings, everyone with their hands in the air. And the ICF is a very nice way to learn a bit about other cultures.’ Aaron’s impression of the Netherlands is that people here are somehow adrift. ‘It astonishes me that they say, “I don’t believe in God anymore”. The Dutch are very direct, as well, and not always diplomatic. On the other hand, they are very independent. In India you are always wondering, “what will people around me think of this?” The Dutch don’t seem to worry about that.’ Aaron is proud to be a Christian. ‘I have my moments of doubt sometimes, but at such times you can ask fellow students in the connect group to pray for you. We feel a strong bond between us.’



### WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON?

*Spectrum Student Platform & Chaplaincy:* Aims to provide Wageningen students from home and abroad with a meeting place for religious and philosophical exploration and discussion. [spectrum-wageningen.com](http://spectrum-wageningen.com)

*International Catholic Community:* organizes a Catholic service twice a month in the John the Baptist church in Wageningen. [iccwageningen.nl](http://iccwageningen.nl)

*Amazing Grace Parish:* holds services in the Vredehorst church, especially popular with African students. On Facebook.

*International Student Church:* an ecumenical Christian congregation that collaborates with Spectrum SP&C and organizes English-language services twice a month in the Arboretum church. [scwageningen.wix.com/scwageningen](http://scwageningen.wix.com/scwageningen)



**MASCULINE**

Men make more extreme choices when there are other men around. In the presence of women they opt for a compromise, suggests a large-scale study of consumer and decision-making behaviour by Boston College. The scientists' explanation of the effect is: looking for the middle way is not masculine. So never send men shopping together: it will be expensive.

**OLYMPIC SPEED**

Usain Bolt fast? For a human being, yes. But in the animal kingdom Bolt is no great shakes. Bolt can't compete with my rabbit, let alone a gorilla, wild boar, elephant, horse or dog. And the fastest animal of them all is the cheetah, which reaches its top speed of 110 kph in 3 seconds. Okay, on four legs. But even divided by two, that's still Olympic gold.

**AWAKE**

Blue light keeps mice awake, shows a study at Oxford University. Green light, on the other hand, makes them sleepy. The researchers think the same applies to humans. Computer screens and mobile phones emit far too much blue light. Good news for students: long hours spent studying help to keep you awake.

**DRINK**

Married men and women drink less than singles, shows a study of drinking patterns among twins by the University of Virginia. The drinking patterns of people who live together fall between two extremes. The scientists put the difference down to the restraining influence of a partner. Or is it just that drinkers are less likely to get married?



# Room shortages back temporarily



PHOTOS: GUY ACKERMANS

Room shortages in 2008: international students are put up in holiday chalets in Hoenderloo and bussed to campus and back every day.

**The arrival of 130 extra international students has resulted in a temporary shortage of rooms in Wageningen. Student accommodation provider Idealis has arranged for additional rooms through the national student accommodation provider DUWO and in hotels in Wageningen and Ede.**

At least 130 more students from non-EU countries are due to arrive in Wageningen this month than predicted by the university and reported to Idealis. The accommodation provider now has to pull out all the stops to find somewhere for the additional students to stay because the university guarantees a room to all students living more than 130 kilometres from campus and Idealis took over responsibility this year for implementing this guarantee.

At the start of this month, Idealis arranged 64 rooms in Campus Plaza through fellow accommodation provider DUWO. 'The students will actually be renting directly from DUWO, but they count towards our figures because we arranged the rooms for them,' explains Idealis spokesperson Hellen Albers. This is still not enough, however, so Idealis has also secured 63 beds in the hotels Hof van Wageningen and PTC+ in Ede. This hotel

accommodation will function as an initial solution for the international students, who will move to an Idealis student room later on in the academic year.

**PANIC**

Some international students were panicking over the past few weeks because they had accepted Idealis' offer of a room but had not been allocated a room. They posted messages about this on Facebook. Albers: 'We consistently said that more rooms would become available over the next few weeks, but of course the students only see what we are offering on the website and the fact that they aren't yet at the front of the queue.' Next year, Idea-

lis plans to organize emergency accommodation for the international students in advance so that it can be one step ahead of the problems. Albers: 'It's a difficult process to manage as we only know late on how many international students will actually be coming.'

'Idealis really does its best to make decent arrangements for the students,' says Ingrid Hijman, head of the university's Student Services Centre. 'The room allocation system is too slow, but we are simply getting more students than the university had estimated. And we still don't know exactly how many international students will be arriving: EU students can enrol up to 31 August.' **AS**



Room shortages in 2011: Dutch students camp out at the Wielerbaan campsite in Wageningen.



## Students leave Rio without medals

The four Wageningen students who took part in the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro have come home without any medals.

For racing cyclist and student of Soil, Water and Atmosphere Jan-Willem van Schip, the Games ended after the first round in the team pursuit event when one of his teammates fell. As a result only two members of the Dutch team crossed the finishing line, which automatically disqualifies the team in this event.



Athlete Nadine Visser got off to a good start on her heptathlon, in third place on the hundred metres hurdles – her speciality. But in the subsequent rounds – shot put and high jump – the student of Health and Society fell far behind. She ended up in 19th place. Visser was knocked out in the first round of the hundred metres hurdles too.

Athlete Eva Hovenkamp, a student of Health and Society, took part in the 4x400 metres relay but her team did not get beyond the first round.

Master's student of Marketing and Consumer Behaviour Isheau Wong and her horse Zadarijke V did not get beyond the qualifying round in the showjumping. The jumps proved too high for the horse, so Wong had to withdraw from the competition. **RvD**



FOTO: PAL21YAWIT/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Text  
Rob  
Ramaker



## EPISODE 75 MORTIERSTRAAT 14B <<

*The story so far: Filippo and Bianca are now an item, and their housemates know nothing about it. Bianca is abroad. And this year Willem-Jan has quietly changed into a diligent student.*

### Creepy

**Y**ou've got *what?*' Derk's mouth literally fell open. 'A job,' said Willem-Jan. 'You heard me.' By now his housemates were staring at him as if he was a little green man stepping out of a UFO.

'A real job, that you actually get paid for?', asked Derk incredulously. Willem-Jan nodded. He could start in one month. True, that was before he graduated but he planned to finish his degree in the evenings and at weekend. 'This is creepy,' muttered Derk. 'What have you done with the real Willem-Jan?'

As he cut the tart into slices, the newly employed Willem-Jan told them about the apartment in Rotterdam he had found in the holidays. Derk, who had only been back in Wageningen on day, looked shocked. Beside him Vera, who had been silent up to now, cleared her throat.

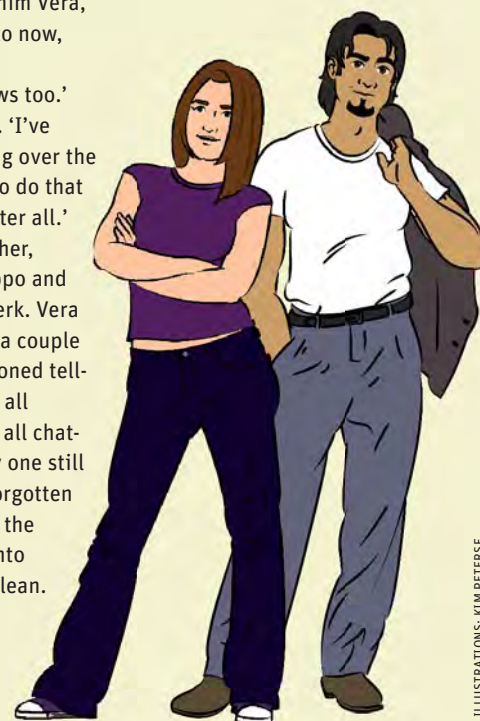
'Ahem, I've got some news too.' Derk turned towards her. 'I've been doing some thinking over the holiday and I am going to do that Master's in Groningen after all.' Everyone congratulated her, first Willem-Jan and Filippo and then, more hesitantly, Derk. Vera would be leaving in just a couple of weeks. She had postponed telling them until they were all together. Now they were all chattering at once. They only one still interested in the cake, forgotten on the table, was Vecino the cat, who stuck his paw into the cream and licked it clean. Meanwhile, Filippo was thinking about his own news. The summer had

been amazingly good for his relationship – they really called it that now – with Bianca. They had been sending each other long emails.

The connection wasn't good enough for Skype, but that was really a blessing in disguise. He was in love and he planned to look for an apartment to share with Bianca.

'Wow,' said Derk. 'This is quite a way to start the new academic year.' He pushed Vecino away from his cake. 'You guys really are bad for my heart. Luckily Filippo and I are still here to hold the fort, right?' He thumped Filippo on the back, but got no response.

'Hey, Filippo? That's right, isn't it?' 'I am afraid, Derk, I also may have something to tell you guys.'



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.

**VILLA BLOEM - BAOBAB: DAAN & LUUK**

**Saturday 27 August from 21.00 to 01.00**

Villa Bloem has got the next edition of Baobab ready and waiting for you. Twins Daan and Luuk love electronic music and vinyl – an unusual combination. There is often not enough room inside but if the weather's good, you can enjoy the music just as well outside. Free admission.

**CAFÉ LOBURG - THREE YEARS OF LOBURGLIVE WITH SYSTEMPILOT**


**Saturday 3 September from 21.30 to 02.00**

The weekend before lectures start, Café Loburg will be celebrating three years of providing a venue for live music in Wageningen under the

name LoburgLive. Of course that means a live band, namely rock band SystemPilot with guitarist Marcel Coenen. You will also be able to order Lobeer Blonde, a beer brewed especially for this occasion. Free admission.

**CAMPUS WAGENINGENUR - CAMPUS SKATE FEST**

**Thursday 8 September from 19.00 to 23.00**

This event was cancelled before the summer so we hope it will go ahead on Thursday 8 September. It promises to be a great event with an in-line skating race (register beforehand) and a Silent Roller Disco (free admission). You will only know what that is like when you've been. Bring your student card with you if you want to hire skates and a helmet. 

## &gt;&gt; THE WORKS

## 'AFTER A TOUGH START IT WAS GREAT'

**Who?** Ati van der Honing, Master's student of Nutrition & Health and Development & Rural Innovation

**What?** Six-month internship and thesis research with the World Food Program (WFP)

**Where?** Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

'It was very tough to begin with. The World Food Program had sent me a number of research options by email, but when I arrived there it turned out none of those options were really feasible. And my official registration as an intern hadn't been arranged yet, which meant I couldn't travel and could only sit in the office.

Ethiopians were friendly and helpful, but I found them quite introvert. That made it quite difficult to make contact. I was given a desk in a corner and everyone got on with their work. They didn't really help me, so I had to learn to take initiative and be assertive.


After two months of literature study, helping to write a flyer and writing financial reports, I was able to get started on my internship research. I conducted a capacity assessment for the School Feeding Program at regional and school level. I visited several schools to see what the situation was and what could be improved. At present the whole program is still run by the WFP but the idea is that the Ethiopians can take it over later.

It was really great to go into the field. Once when I arrived at a school all the children happened to be outside. It was a major event and they all surrounded me, shouting, "You, you! Give me money!" Quite strange when everyone finds you such an extraordinary sight.



To reach one of the schools to have a discussion there it was one and a half hour's drive through a sandy landscape. That region was hard hit by the drought. A hard sight to see: the people don't have much to start with and then their livestock die too and their harvests fail. I could leave after my discussion but they are stuck there.

For my thesis I had to figure things out for myself for the most part. The WFP didn't agree with my proposal but they offered very little input about how it should be done and contact with my supervisor in the Netherlands wasn't easy. Luckily, once I got back to the Netherlands it became much clearer to me, with his guidance, how I should go about writing my thesis.

Although the first few months were difficult, I developed a lot personally and after a tough start it was great.  MvdH





## MEANWHILE IN... <<

### Meanwhile in... Thailand

**In the news:** Earlier this month Thailand was startled by two bombings, targeting tourist areas in the south. The bombings happened after the Thai referendum about a new constitution. The majority voted for the new constitution that allows members of the Senate to be appointed by the military. It is not clear who is behind the attacks and what the motive is.

*Commentary by Pichaya Phataisit, MSc student of food safety*

‘The bombing has been going on for more than ten years. It mainly occurs in the southern provinces of Thailand. Some say it is the work of the Muslim group that want to separate three southern provinces from the country but others say it involves a political issue: there were several explosions on one day after the constitution referendum.

The bombings themselves do not really scare me: my family and I live in Bangkok which is quite far from the bombings. However I am afraid that they will not stop very soon since I do not see a solution and the bombings are already very aggressive.

I have some Thai Muslim friends and none of them want to see the Southern provinces separated. So I think the Southern Muslim group are just extremists whose actions don’t do any good to the country or their religion. Violence and injuring or killing innocent people is not the way to solve a problem at all. The same goes for the political issue.

Right now we have a military government, which is not a good thing in my opinion. Before that there was a lot of anti-government protest. The military intervention helped to reduce the number of acts of violence but I think protest is necessary in the process of developing a democracy. So I do not agree with the intervention of our military. I think the military has governed the country for too long. If they keep carrying out coups we will never be a real democratic country.’

© CN

### in memoriam

#### Bart Snellen



On Monday 27 June we received the sad news that our ex-colleague Bart Snellen

had passed away that day. We knew Bart was ill but just one week earlier there was still talk of a treatment that would be completed at the end of September.

At Alterra (and its previous incarnations) Bart worked on a range of topics, from the history of anti-malaria measures taken by Dutch scientists in colonial Indonesia to the relationship between water, ecosystems and food supplies. His work on the latter topic led to the ground-breaking publication *The Value of Rain*. With his insights and ideas, Bart was an inspiration to many. He was an all-rounder: a scientist of the old school who couldn’t be pigeonholed but was always looking for the bigger picture. Always aimable and willing to share his knowledge with others, he was also a sharp analyst and at times a sharp critic.

Bart was a ‘water person’: he loved every minute spent on water, whether on a surf plank, in a sailing boat, a rowing boats or on his skates. He retired last year and realized his dream of a waterfront house in Heeg. And that’s where his farewell party was held: he sailed away from us on a boat.

Bart meant a lot to us, as a friend and as a colleague. We shall miss him.

*Henk Ritzema and Wouter Wolter, on behalf of ex-colleagues at ILRI and Alterra.*

#### Phyllis Ngunjiri



On the 14th of August, we received the sad news that our PhD candidate and dear friend

Phyllis Ngunjiri passed away in her hometown of Nairobi, Kenya.

Phyllis was a remarkable woman: extremely powerful, positive and

passionate about the fight against breast cancer. For herself and for others. In these last years of her life she was determined to fight against the drastically increasing incidence of breast cancer in Kenya and to help women to endure chemotherapy through better nutrition. In 2009, she approached us to discuss the possibility of obtaining a PhD degree in Nutrition. It was her dream to change the Kenyan health care system for the benefit of those who need it most. Although her cancer returned several times, she remained faithful and committed to finalizing her PhD. During last year’s symposium on the occasion of the farewell of Frans Kok, Phyllis gave an impressive speech, which showed her drive and passion about her research. Those who met Phyllis will surely remember her contagious laugh and positive energy. In 2015, Phyllis joined the PhD candidates of the Division of Human Nutrition on an international study tour to the US. The PhD candidates and faculty who joined the tour will remember her warm, cheerful personality and dedication. We will miss Phyllis sorely. Our thoughts are with William, her husband, and their daughters, Grace, Fresia and Patience.

*On behalf of the Division of Human Nutrition, Ellen Kampman and Renate Winkels*

### Announcements

#### Student Council 2016/2017: new member

Due to unforeseen circumstances, unfortunately Andrei Toma has requested to have his appointment withdrawn as member of the Student Council 2016/2017 for S&I from 8 July 2016. According to the Student Council regulations and the result of the election of the Student Council 2016/2017, Peijun Peng is the first in line to replace Andrei Toma and thus will be a member of the Student Council 2016/2017 for S&I.

#### Annie’s Kroeg needs board members

Annie’s Kroeg is a lively traditional pub especially for students. We are



open every Thursday evening. We also organize exciting and unusual activities. We have specialty beers, delicious liqueurs and non-alcoholic drinks on offer, all for student-friendly prices. Are you interested in organizing activities or would you like a seat on our board? For we are looking for new board members. Email [annieskroeg@hotmail.com](mailto:annieskroeg@hotmail.com)

### Theatre productions: new season at Stichting Lens

With the start of the new season, Stichting Lens is offering great opportunities to take part in one of the Lens theatre productions. For those who haven't heard of Lens: we give you the chance to contribute to all aspects of the theatrical process (decor, costumes, lighting and script) and you get plenty of opportunity to develop your acting talents. You do more than just act at Lens! From September to January we will be working on a production aimed at beginners, and from January to June on a production for more

experienced actors. If you would like to register already for the production due to start in January, you can. Or would you prefer to sample the atmosphere first? Then you are invited to the open evening on 8 September, when there will also be an opportunity to tread the boards (doors open 19.45–20.00). Venue: De Wilde Wereld theatre, Burgtstraat 1, Wageningen. Register via [stichtinglens@hotmail.com](mailto:stichtinglens@hotmail.com).

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

### Neder-Veluwe Food Bank in Wageningen needs volunteers

Every week, food parcels are put together in Wageningen for more than 200 families in and around Wageningen. Volunteers make sure the food is collected in a professional manner, checked, sorted, stored and divided up, working in a hangar in Wageningen. The team of volunteers now needs new members. So this is our call to you: come and work as a volunteer for the Food

Bank. Detailed information (in Dutch) can be found at [www.voedselbanknederland.nl](http://www.voedselbanknederland.nl). Applications via [vrijwilliger@voedselbanknederland.nl](mailto:vrijwilliger@voedselbanknederland.nl). We hope to welcome you soon as a new volunteer.

### Call for applicants Falling Walls Lab Groningen

The Lab is an interdisciplinary forum for aspiring scientists and professionals and is part of the annual conference for breakthroughs in science and society: the Falling Walls Conference. The Lab offers emerging talents, entrepreneurs and innovators a stage to pitch a research project, a business plan, or an entrepreneurial or social initiative. There are only 30 spots in the preliminary round for the Benelux, which is hosted in Groningen on the 2nd of October. A jury awards the best pitch €750 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Berlin for the final competition on 8 November and the Conference on 9 November. Dead-

line application: 18 September.  
[WWW.RUG.NL/NEXT/FALLINGWALLS](http://WWW.RUG.NL/NEXT/FALLINGWALLS)

### agenda

Sunday 28 August, 13.00–17.00

### OPEN AFTERNOON AT ITAKA

This Sunday, you are welcome to attend the free open afternoon in Itaka's garden. All of Itaka's guest lecturers will be there to give you a taste of what they can offer in workshops, consultations or a chat. The options on offer are violin sounds, activating your self-healing powers, playing with energy, dowsing, meeting your guide, making contact with your cosmic parents and a lovely massage. You can learn about an entirely new awareness technology that uses zero-point energy. Itaka's healers and readers will be happy to give you a personal consultation. You can also colour a mandala colouring or create a hot-wax painting and have it read. It promises to be a cheerful afternoon with something for all the family.

## Looking for a room? The best time of your live begins at Idealis.

Idealis, the largest student accommodation provider in Wageningen and Ede, with over 5,300 affordable rooms. You can always find a room that suits you.

Free subscription  
at [www.idealis.nl](http://www.idealis.nl)

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## WAVV IS OFFERING TRAINING FOR STUDENTS



A student team will be formed if there is enough interest.

Throughout its more than 90 years, WAVV has made enjoyment of the game a priority. We are the highest-level football club in Wageningen. We want to enable our players to develop, but also to relax at a party in our canteen. The WAVV fields are just 500 metres from the WUR campus.

### INTERESTED?

Pop in get in touch with  
[albert.sikkema@wur.nl](mailto:albert.sikkema@wur.nl)



Venue: chapel next to the nunnery, Utrecht 131, Renkum.

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

### Monday 5 September, 14.30 – 17.00 OPENING OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR

This year's theme is 'Rethinking Innovation'. The key note speaker is Prof. Calestous Juma, professor of the Practice of International Development at Harvard Kennedy School. In his new book 'Why People Resist New Technologies' he explains the roots of resistance to new technologies and why such resistance is not always futile. Drawing from nearly 600 years of technology history, the book identifies the tension between the need for innovation and the pressure to maintain continuity, social order, and stability as one of today's biggest policy challenges. Juma uses the lessons from history to contextualize contemporary debates surrounding technologies such as artificial intelligence, online learning, 3D printing, gene editing, robotics, drones, and renewable energy. Three scientists at Wageningen UR will reflect on the keynote: Nico J. Claassens (Microbiology), Thomas J. Venus (Agricultural Economics and Rural Policy) and Tjebbe Tempels (Philosophy). Venue: Orion.

Deadline registration: 1 September.

### Thursday 8 September, 19.00-23.00

#### CAMPUS SKATEFESTIVAL

Wageningen University presents the first Campus Skate Fest of the Netherlands! This groovy event is for students and staff. If you want to

compete during the Inline Skate Relay you'll have to sign up. You can join the competition by signing up with a team of three people. Wearing a helmet is mandatory. We'll provide some (inline) skates and helmets, but if you have your own gear please bring it along. After the relay everybody is invited to show some dance moves at the Silent Roller Disco starting at 20.00 hours. Grab a headset and dance the night

away on a pair of skates. Venue: around the pond between Forum and Orion.

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

## colophon

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

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### Reception

Reception after your inauguration or PHD defense? Colors has all-inclusive possibilities for € 6,00 per person. We can serve in the aula or at Colors restaurant at the market. Check our website for more info!

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# >>TYPICAL DUTCH



ILLUSTRATION: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK

## Flags and backpacks

It was early in the morning and I was cycling to university as usual. As I passed by the houses, I noticed there were Dutch flags on some of them. I couldn't remember seeing them before, but I guessed they had been raised for the UEFA Euro 2016 or some national memorial day. But suddenly... What was that? Did I see a backpack hanging up there? Indeed I did.

How did it get on the flagpole that high? Was a child being bullied by other kids? Or maybe a teenager outraged his parents so much that they decided to ground him by hanging a backpack with all his videogames outside. 'You are playing videogames all day! I will take them away!' Perhaps a couple was living there. 'You are always on your mobile phone doing nothing! We don't speak to each other anymore!', the man might have said before he decided to put his girlfriend's cell phone away on the flagpole. Or what about a prank among students? 'Haha, very funny, guys. Come on, give me back my backpack!'

As I continued cycling, thinking about possible explanations, I saw another backpack hanging out of a window. And another. And many more. What was going on?

The first thing I did when I arrived at university was ask my Dutch friends about this phenomenon. They told me it is about graduation from high school. Of course! School is over and you don't need your schoolbag anymore! It's a custom, a tradition. Hang your bag and a flag outside your house so that everyone knows you have graduated. It makes sense. I think...

🇬🇷 Vicky Argyropoulou, Erasmus exchange BSc student of Health and nutrition, from Greece

**'Did I see a backpack hanging from that flagpole? Indeed I did. And another. What was going on?'**

*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.*