

Eleven jobs scrapped

Reorganization at Human
Nutrition | p.6 |

Helpful fungus

Monascus ruber improves
bioplastic production | p.10 |

Wolf's story

The wolf who was run over
on the A28 | p.14 |

RESOURCE [EN]

For everyone at Wageningen University & Research

no 16 – 6 April 2017 – 11th Volume



Tada! A new timetable

p.4 and 12

MISS COLOMBIA

Susana Prieto Bravo is radiant in the traditional dress of her homeland Colombia. On Thursday 30 March she took part in the One World fashion show in Orion, which she helped organize as a member of the board of the International Student Association Wageningen (ISOW). Forty models from ten different countries took part in the show. Read more about One World Week on page 24.

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See the photo series
on resource-online.nl



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There are 191 different species!



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TINY HOUSE

Robin and Amanda live in an unusual student house



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BLINDFOLD

ISOW and IxESN take 'blind date' literally

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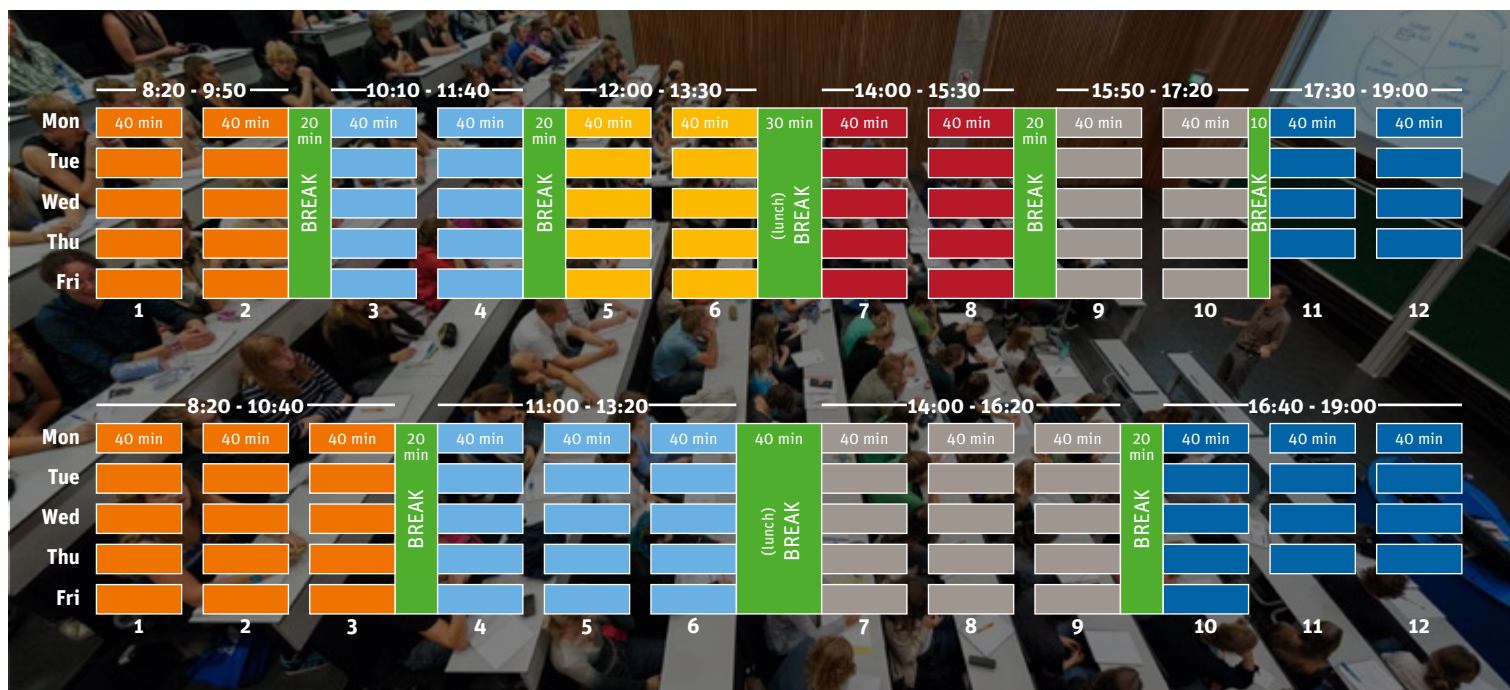
NEW LIGHT ON THE MATTER

News is a moving target. Something that is announced today can prove invalid tomorrow. Journalists deal with this by means of follow-up stories giving readers the current status. This worked better during the era of print than in this digital era. That's because when they read news on the internet people can shop selectively. It is an old trick to keep on sharing old stories that fit your view of things. And that way you keep outdated news in circulation. A WUR soil scientist has been the victim of this kind of manipulation. There are three stories on the *Resource* site which refer to her – anonymously but traceably. The first two mention her as the subject of an investigation into possible citation fraud, while the third story is about a report which may well exonerate her. Much to her frustration it is the first two stories which are being shared most on social media. That way new information gets no chance to shed new light on a subject. In an effort to counteract that, we have now linked the stories more clearly online. But journalistic completeness remains a thorny issue on the web.

Edwin van Laar



>> **Women scientists unite | p.7**



LONGER DAY, NOT EVENING CLASSES

Wageningen University & Research has changed its mind about running classes until late in the evening. Instead, the Executive Board wants to bring in an extended timetable. Both classes and breaks will be shorter. Teachers and students are glad the evening classes are being scrapped, but are concerned about the shorter breaks.

The board's decision comes after an evaluation report on the pilot with evening classes came out at the beginning of this month, which showed that the majority of students and teachers are negative about evening classes. What is more, says the board, teaching in the evening does not free up enough additional teaching space to absorb the growth in student numbers.

So the board is now arguing for an adapted daytime timetable, which means starting at 8.20 instead of 8.30, shortening classes from 45 to 40 minutes and ending the last classes of the day at 19.00 (except on Fridays). The breaks between classes will be cut down from 15 to 10 minutes, and the lunchbreaks will be shorter and staggered (see figure). This will

create two more class slots both in the morning and the afternoon, largely solving the current shortage of teaching space.

RELAX A MOMENT

The student union SAW (Student Alliance Wageningen) is happy with the decision. Chair Fons Janssen called it an important moment for students. The Student Council is positive too, but is concerned about the shorter breaks. Teachers have responded quite positively to the proposal, although they share the doubts about the shorter breaks. Teacher of the Year 2016 Roel Dijkema says: 'Nowadays I have about 80 students in front of me. This is not enough time to grab a coffee, let alone to relax a moment and get the circulation going again in your backside.'

'My main problem with the shorter breaks is that they are often the moment when students can ask questions,' says Carlijn Wentink, who teaches Health and Society. 'Those informal contact moments are very important.' Associate professor and Teacher of the Year 2017 nominee Henry van den Brand shares the feeling that the breaks are important for inter-

acting with students. 'During the breaks I get very good feedback and students can talk to me about all sorts of things.'

LUNCH HOUR MEETINGS

Wentink and Van den Brand see another scheduling problem with the shorter lunchbreaks, for both teachers and students. Wentink: 'For consultations which many different teachers have to attend, we often use the lunchbreaks. If they are cut down to 30 minutes, that will no longer be possible.' Van den Brand: 'There are regular lunchtime events in Impulse

which are interesting for students. There should be time for that. And the lunchbreak is important for committees and boards too.'

Shortening the classes does not worry the teachers as much. They do hope the university will provide a chance to catch up on any uncovered topics later, though. **LvdN**

Read also the story: 'Conjuring up more space and time' on page 12. Rector Arthur Mol explains why the extended timetable is the best way of handling the growth.

Laan der Verenigde Naties 150, Ede
www.cinemec.nl / 0900 - 321 0 321

FILM

Fast & Furious 8
New release of the popular franchise. Starring Vin Diesel and Charlize Theron.

APRIL 13

FILM

Guardians of the Galaxy vol.2 3D
Starring Chris Pratt and Bradley Cooper.

APRIL 27

EVENT

Saint Joan
Gemma Arterton is Joan of Arc in a new play by The National Theatre London.

APRIL 11

€2 STUDENT DISCOUNT ON FILMS & EVENTS

CLIMATE BUREAU COMES TO WAGENINGEN

Wageningen University & Research is going to house the international climate bureau CCAFS. This paves the way for more cooperation between the university and international research institutes in the field of climatefriendly agriculture.

The Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) research programme run jointly by 15 international agriculture institutes is moving from Copenhagen to Wageningen. This is not a major operation because the CCAFS bureau only has a small staff. What is more important is that the WUR hereby gains a network in international climate and agricultural research. In the coming years WUR wants to collaborate more with

the 15 international institutes involved in CCAFS in the field of climate and food security. This was announced by WUR president Louise Fresco at the opening conference on 31 March. It will help that the Dutch government has decided from now on to allocate its contribution to the 15 institutes specifically to the development of climate-neutral agriculture.

There are major challenges in this area, says Fresco. Agriculture contributes a lot to global warming, and CO₂ and methane emissions in agriculture are going to have to go down to ensure that the earth does not warm up by more than two degrees Celsius. So the use of resources in agriculture has got to become much more efficient. **AS**

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Women only

There was anger. At least, that is what I heard. Personally I was explicitly not invited. The 500 Women Scientists gathering in Wageningen was a women-only event (see also p.7, ed.). The initiators think it's ridiculous that there is still discrimination against women, fewer of whom therefore get far up the academic ladder.

'The plan now is to visit secondary schools, for instance, and show potential women scientists that women really can become professors', I am told by a woman friend who was willing to infiltrate for me.

I already feel sorry for all the boys in the class concerned. They will soon be told that more women are needed in the sciences, implying that they are implicated in a problem that has nothing to do with them. In fact, male secondary school students have some catching up to do on their female classmates. And incidentally there is absolutely no obstacle for women going into the sciences: in Wageningen there are currently more female than male PhD candidates.

Sure, I admit there is an inequality problem but I don't think it lies in what was discussed at the meeting I couldn't attend. I think it's the postdoc phase that is dramatic: the moment when scientists have babies. It is still less accepted for men to take on a substantial share of the childcare. Can't we do something about that? Why aren't there any male role models who can set an example? And what about unconscious discrimination – by women as well, incidentally? Can't we have more workshops on this at the university?

I think inequality between men and women is terrible and I would love to help think up solutions. But alas, I am not allowed to join the discussion. Purely and simply because I happen to be a man. **B**

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

>>NEW CAO

Tackling work pressure

The unions and universities have reached an agreement about a new collective labour agreement (CAO). One point agreed on is to tackle the excessive work pressure. By the end of this year all the universities must come up with a plan outlining how they are going to reduce the work pressure in their institution. A second agreement is that in future women PhD candidates will have an automatic right to a contract extension after returning from maternity leave. Also, all university staff will be getting a pay rise of 1.4 percent, backdated to 1 January. **HOP**

>>ERC GRANT

Maarten Krol

Professor Maarten Krol has received a grant of 2.5 million euros from the European Research Council (ERC). In collaboration with partners in Utrecht and Groningen he is going to figure out what role is played by carbonyl sulphide gas (COS) in regulating the climate. COS is involved in the formation of 'sulphate aerosols' in the atmosphere: droplets of sulphuric acid dissolved in water. Those aerosols deflect sunlight, causing a cooling effect. The five-year project will provide work for two PhD candidates in Wageningen, one PhD candidate and a postdoc in Utrecht, and one postdoc in Groningen. **RK**



ILLUSTRATION: FIEP VAN WESTENDORP

>>FIEP WESTENDORP

Prints on display

The 22 'Wageningen' drawings by Dutch illustrator Fiep Westendorp, beloved for her illustrations of the *Jip en Janneke* children's stories, are on display this week in the Forum library. Westendorp drew them in 1965 for the Wageningen Institute for Horticulture. They served as instruction material for safe practice in horticulture. The drawings are part of an exhibition about WUR cartoonists, which includes work by Louis Raemaekers (1869-1956) and *Resource* illustrators Loet van Moll and Henk van Ruitenbeek. The exhibition will run until June. **RK**

Curious to know who the Teacher of the Year 2017 is? Find out on resource-online.nl



'NWO, REWARD RESEARCHERS FOR THEIR TEACHING WORK'

The Dutch science funding body NWO should take a scientist's contribution to education into account when evaluating a research proposal, argued personal professor of Soil Biochemistry Jan-Willem van Groenigen last week in his inaugural address.

Because their teaching work is not counted at present, Van Groenigen sees a risk that researchers will neglect this side of their work and see teaching as 'a waste of time'. Van Groenigen blames the low priority given to teaching on the NWO's evaluation method.

The NWO's system includes a 'utilization paragraph' in which scientists have to demonstrate how their research benefits society. This knowledge valorization counts for 20 percent in the evaluation of the research proposal. But education is not included under knowledge valorization. That is strange, says Van Groenigen. 'If you ask me, knowledge transfer is a very important form of knowledge valorization. But in the current situation I actually have to advise young scientists to do as little teaching as possible, because then you stand the biggest chance of getting research funding.'

Van Groenigen thinks an excellent and substantial teaching record should also count for 20 percent in the assessment of research proposals. **✎ RK**

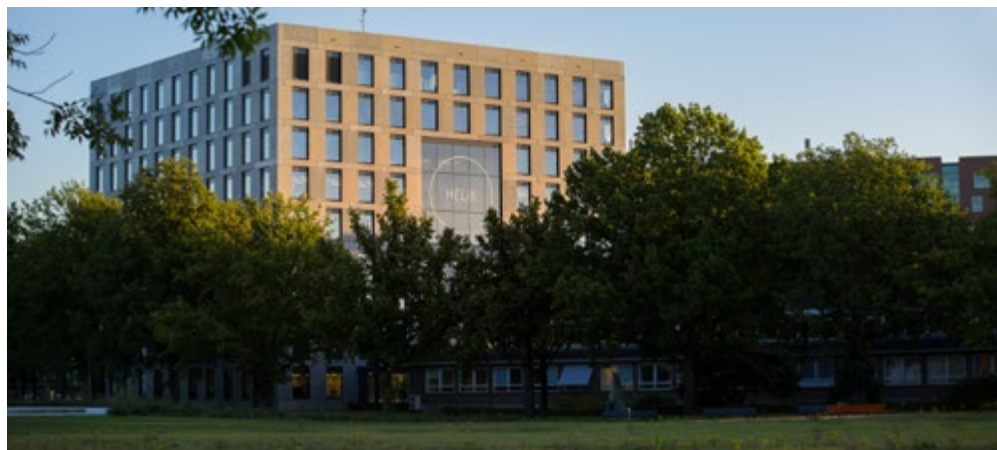


PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER

JOB LOSSES AT HUMAN NUTRITION

The Human Nutrition department at AFSG will be restructuring with the loss of eleven jobs, over eight FTEs. The reorganization is needed because of an expected shortfall in the budget of around one million euros.

The reorganization will bring an end to research in the fields of molecular pharmacology, national public health and diabetes epidemiology. The number of support jobs in particular will be reduced. Kees De Graaf, professor of Human Nutrition, says the measures are necessary. 'In the past eight years we have secured a large number of projects and taken on a lot of staff. But funding fell in 2015 and it turned out that there was no structural cover for the growth.'

As a result of these developments, the department now expects a shortfall of one million euros. De Graaf: 'The increasing competition means we have had to make strategic

choices, looking at where our strengths lie and focussing on that.' De Graaf thinks it is 'really unfortunate' for the people who are affected. 'We are a close-knit group but science changes and we have to respond to that.' To further strengthen its international position, the Human Nutrition department will be using the new name Human Nutrition & Health from now on. The department will be focusing on two themes: 'global nutrition & health' and 'food, digestion & health'.

The Executive Board has agreed to the reorganization plan in a proposed decision. The plan has now been submitted to the unions and the works council. According to a message sent to the staff, compulsory redundancies cannot be ruled out. The employees affected will be given all the help possible in finding new work. The works council has received the request for advice and is now considering the matter. **✎ TL**



PHOTO: JAAP SCHAAF, HOGE NOORDEN

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

This cow at the Dairy Campus in Leeuwarden is enjoying her first few moments out in the meadow. Sixty cows at the WUR's experimental farm were let out on Wednesday 29 March. They will be taking part in a grazing study. For the coming months, half of the cows will be kept on a separate plot, and the other half will rotate regularly from one strip of grass to another. Researcher Bert Philipsen will also vary their protein supplements. Sensors will be used to record the eating behaviour displayed by the animals on the different plots. They will also assess how the soil responds to the grazing. **✎ AS**

NEW NETWORK OF WOMEN SCIENTISTS

A group of 50 women scientists from Wageningen University & Research and ecology institute NIOO-KNAW came together for the first time on 28 March in Atlas with the aim of improving the position of women in science. Thanks to Donald Trump.

After the election of the latest American president, a group of female American scientists united to defend their interests. This club, 500 Women Scientists, now has thousands of members in the US. Kelly Ramirez, an American postdoc at NIOO in Wageningen, was there when this women's network was founded, and introduced the club in Wageningen. Ramirez organized the founding meeting in Atlas together with Ciska Veen, another postdoc at the NIOO, Guusje Koornheef, a PhD candidate in the Soil Quality group at WUR, and Alet Leemans, project leader of WUR's Gender Action Plan.

The mission of 500 Women Scientists is to improve the position and career opportunities of women in the sciences. The group of women wants to make use of each other's expertise so as to come across better in interviews and to



PHOTO: ALET LEEEMANS

Women scientists get together in Atlas to mark the founding of a Wageningen chapter of 500 Women Scientists.

hone their leadership and negotiation skills. The women's network also wants to function as a pool of helpful sparring partners and a source of inspiration. And the group wants to take part in the Science March on 22 April in cities such as Washington DC and Amsterdam. Through

that march, researchers will highlight the importance of the empirical sciences, not least in the field of climate change.

A network of women MSc graduates of the university, the *Vrouwennetwerk Wageningse Ingenieurs*, already exists. **AS**

Voeding en buikklachten



Welkomstwoord

Prof. Ellen Kampman, WU

Hoe ontstaan buikklachten eigenlijk?

Prof. Ben Witteman, Ziekenhuis Gelderse Vallei en WU

Een darmziekte en nu?

Mw. Tineke Markus, Crohn en Colitis Ulcerosa Vereniging Nederland

Van onderzoek tot voedingsadvies

Dr. Nicole de Roos, WU

Wat kan ik nu nog wel eten?

Mw. Maartje Cuppen, diëtist

Panel discussie met sprekers

o.l.v. Prof. Ellen Kampman, WU



De lezingenserie over voeding en gezondheid wordt aangeboden door de Stichting Dr. Judith Swartz en de afdeling Humane Voeding. Het onderwerp dit jaar is 'Voeding en buikklachten'.

Het bijwonen van deze bijeenkomst is gratis, aanmelding is niet nodig.



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



10 april 2017

**Hof van Wageningen, Lawickse Allee 9,
Wageningen. Aanvang: 20.00 uur**

Vanaf 19.00 uur staat de koffie klaar en kunt u informatiestands bezoeken. Loop ook eens door de levensgrote opblaasbare darm om te zien hoe darmpoliepen en andere darmafwijkingen eruitzien!

Voor vragen: human.nutrition@wur.nl

NOT ALL BRAMBLES ARE THE SAME

There is much more biodiversity in the Netherlands than was thought. At least, there is if you treat all 191 different brambles as separate species. There is good reason for doing this, says batologist (bramble expert) Rense Haveman. On Tuesday 4 April he received a doctorate for his thesis *Concealed diversity*.

Most brambles are apomictic, which is to say that they reproduce using seeds but without fertilization. 'Only the genetic information from the mother is passed on. So the daughters are clones,' explains Haveman. There is a big debate among biologists about whether apomicts are separate species. That is related to the fact that they are sometimes only found across a small area.

Haveman has a clear opinion on the matter. 'You can't give an all-embracing definition of a species. There will always be ifs and buts and exceptions. The only thing you can do is gather evidence to show that these really are different evolutionary lines. For example, that they are morphologically different and have a different ecology, genetic differences and their own geographical spread.' According to Haveman, all the available information points to apomictic brambles being separate species.

And that is important. Recognition as a species means greater consideration in nature management and policy. Haveman: 'I know one species of bramble that is only found in the vicinity of Winterswijk. It is quite something for the local landscape to be full of that species. Why is that? Why is it contained in that landscape? But that bramble doesn't officially exist. That's strange.'

Haveman and his colleagues have identified 191 different species in the Netherlands. We are not talking about tiny variations of interest only to aficionados. 'There are huge differences in the colour, the size of the thorns, the shape of



Rense Haveman says there are far more different species of bramble than have been identified so far.

the leaves and the way the leaves grow. Some brambles grow upwards as straight as a die, others bend or creep along.' Haveman has spent the past nine years recording all that diversity and determining the underlying patterns. He says that the bramble species can be traced back to six original lines that have partly died out. He also discovered that there are many more different types of bramble bushes — groups of plants

that grow in combination — than the five official descriptions.

Haveman wants more attention to be given to the diversity in brambles. 'This is about the distinctive character of the landscape and the region. We should be proud of this. That starts with recognition as a separate species, inclusion in overviews of biodiversity and a place on the Red List.' **✎ RK**

PHOTO'S: IRIS DE RONDE EN RENSE HAVEMAN

RED PACKAGING BETTER FOR LIGHT PRODUCTS

Light products are usually wrapped in pale blue packaging. Not the best choice, reveals research by Irene Tijssen of Human Nutrition.

The PhD candidate carried out two different trials with the packaging of yoghurt drinks and smoked sausage. She used the familiar packaging but introduced variations in the hue, brightness and saturation of the colour. In the first trial Tijssen showed 208 participants pictures of the different packages and asked them

about their expectations of the product. She also had them play a computer game in which they had to connect different packaging with a selection of positive and negative words. Another group of 81 people tasted the yoghurt drink and the smoked sausage. The products they tasted were all the same but the packaging varied.

As a rule, the participants were more attracted to packaging with colours which were warmer (red), more saturated and less bright. 'No single colour characteristic stood out from the

rest,' says Tijssen. 'It's mainly a question of the combination, and it can vary per product which characteristic carries the most weight.'

According to Tijssen, the results are particularly important for less health-conscious consumers whose choices are largely based on the (expected) taste. Tijssen does not think changing the colour of the packaging would lead to consumers no longer recognizing the healthy products. 'The group which buys these products already tends to give more thought to the choice and will often read the label.' **✎ TL**

MATHS TO COMBAT TRAFFIC-LIGHT QUEUES

You can make traffic lights a lot smarter with the help of maths, as researcher Rene Haijema found out. His model reduces waiting times and the associated irritation.

The roads are quiet and you could have been home by now, were it not for the traffic lights stuck on red for such an unnecessarily long time. Researcher Rene Haijema in the Operations Research and Logistics chair group has found a solution for this problem. He used a Markov decision-making model for traffic lights. The Markov process lets you find the optimum solutions in situations that are repeated.

At any given moment, traffic lights can choose between green, amber and red. In the Markov model, they can be programmed to make the choices that result in the shortest waiting times for cars. The basic information the model needs is how many cars are waiting in each lane and what colour the traffic lights are currently showing. Then the model calculates which lanes should be allowed to go first and for how long. If one lane has a lot of cars, its light will remain green for longer or change to green sooner.

The Markov model also makes sure that the cars in the less congested lanes don't have to wait too long for the busy lanes. This is what distinguishes Haijema's system from existing traffic lights. They make use of magnetic induction loops, the black lines in the road surface, which record the cars approaching the crossing. One traffic light will then stay green for longer, which can leave other drivers waiting an awfully long time. 'But my model also needs the information from the induction loops,' explains Haijema. 'Because that shows you how many cars are waiting.'

Haijema's model can be used for simple, stand-alone crossroads. Series of crossroads are trickier because car speeds and traffic joining and leaving the lane play a role too then. 'That also makes it difficult to set up a green wave,' says Haijema.

The model does not take account of pedestrians, but it could. Extra conditions can also be added, such as a maximum waiting time per car or minimal emissions of exhaust gases.

Haijema's traffic regulating system currently only exists on paper. Testing it out in practice is expensive and politicians will have to decide whether to make that investment. **DDV**



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

VISION <<

'Old cattle breeds are part of our cultural heritage'

The government wants a reduction in the Dutch dairy cattle population in order to cut phosphate emissions. This is a threat to traditional Dutch cattle breeds, which are already in the 'danger zone', says Sipke Joost Hiemstra, the Genetic Resources programme manager at Wageningen Livestock Research.

Why is there a threat to these old breeds?

'There are eight original Dutch breeds of cattle and seven of them are endangered, meaning that there are fewer than 3000 pure-bred female animals available for breeding.

From the 1970s onwards, livestock farmers shifted en masse to Holstein Friesian cows because they produce more milk. Some farmers keep more unusual breeds as well, but they can't ignore the money side either and if they have to reduce the size of the herd, they will be looking at the least productive animals first.'



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

Why is it important to keep these breeds?

'The old breeds are part of our living cultural heritage. A lot of public money is spent on cultural artefacts in museums but not on the conservation of breeds. There are grants available for this through the European Union and many countries make use of that. The Dutch government does support projects and initiatives in this area, but grants would help too. The traditional breeds are not the most efficient ones in intensive livestock farming but they perform well in extensive conditions, such as on organic livestock farms or in combination with nature management. These breeds have unique properties and once we understand more about which genes are involved, we can use that in breeding programmes.'

Is there still hope for the traditional Dutch cow?

'Rare breeds could be exempted from culling in the event of an outbreak of disease. There is a proposal to make an exception for them too in the phosphate scheme. Hobby farmers with fewer than five cows already have an exemption. But you actually need the bigger farms to maintain a breed. We can revive a breed using semen in our gene bank, but that takes six to eight generations. It is an insurance policy in an emergency, but we should do everything we can to avoid such a scenario.' **TL**

FUNGUS IMPROVES PRODUCTION OF BIOPLASTIC

Researchers at Wageningen Food & Biobased Research and Total Oil have developed a genetically modified fungus with which bioplastics can be produced more efficiently.

Biodegradable plastics are made out of organic acids such as lactic acid. The disadvantage of the current production technique is that the bacteria that are used grow poorly in an acidic environment. This makes the process expensive and leads to byproducts such as gypsum. The researchers developed a genetically modified fungus which can cope with an acidic environment and can therefore convert biomass into lactic acid without byproducts.

Because it is not known which genes make the fungus acid-proof, the researchers looked for a micro-organism which naturally thrives in an acid environment. The winning fungus was *Monascus ruber*. This fungus does not naturally produce lactic acid, but the researchers solved that by genetically modifying it. It then turned out, however, that the fungi preferred the lactic acid to the sugar they were actually supposed to grow on. 'By cultivated the fungi under particular conditions, repeatedly selecting the ones which grew best on sugar, we succeeded in 'training' them, as it were, to use sugar,' says project leader Ruud Weusthuis.



PHOTO: WAGENINGEN FOOD & BIOBASED RESEARCH

The fungus *Monascus ruber* is tested in the laboratory of Wageningen Food & Biobased Research.

Gerrit Eggink, account manager of the project, considers the results promising. 'The lactic acid production of these fungi is twice what we have seen up to now with other micro-organisms which grow in highly acidic conditions.' An added advantage is that the fungus is safe: other strains of this species are used in the production of red rice. This paves the way to further development. A pilot

with the fungi will be starting soon at Total in the United States.

Weusthuis is proud of the way the project has gone and the smooth collaboration between Wageningen Food & Biobased Research and the university groups Bioprocess Engineering, Microbiology, and System and Synthetic Biology. 'I reckon it's a nice example of One Wageningen.' **TL**

HOW DO PLANTS SURVIVE EXTREME DROUGHT?

The African plant *Xerophyta viscosa* is able to recover completely from extreme dehydration. Wageningen plant physiologists and colleagues in South Africa, the US and Australia analysed the plant's DNA in the hope of discovering its secret. The research was published in *Nature Plants*.

Xerophyta viscosa can look like two different plants. During drought it is a collection of dead leaves but when the rain comes, it turns into an abundantly flowering green plant with small, lilac flowers. The Wageningen plant physiologists Maria-Cecília Costa and Mariana Artur studied the gene expression patterns to determine which genes are activated and deactivated by the plant during dehydration. To their surprise, they found no additional activity in genes that are involved in wilting and plant senescence. They did find additional activity in genes that are involved in the ripening



PHOTO: WUR

Xerophyta viscosa is able to recover fully after complete dehydration.

of seeds, a process in which the seeds are prepared for surviving decades of drought.

'This process of complete dehydration is not the same as drought tolerance,' explains research supervisor Henk Hilhorst. 'In the latter case the plant reduces water loss but such a plant will still die if it spends a long time without water. *Xerophyta viscosa* has a mechanism that prevents damage occurring during

drought. That's the mechanism we're looking for.'

The researchers eventually want to incorporate this unusual property in food crops. African agriculture that depends on rain would benefit particularly from drought-resistant food crops, says Hilhorst, pointing to the current drought and famine in East Africa. **AS**

MEANWHILE ON...

RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

MICROBIOLOGY PRACTICAL 1996

In 2018, WUR will be celebrating its centenary. Resource has been going through the archives and digging up interesting photos. We have grouped them into seven themed series, which you can find on the website. The first series is on workplaces.

This photo shows the microbiologist Ad van Ege-raat surrounded by students doing the basic microbiology practical. These Food Technology (T30) first-years took the practical in the second term in 1996. Alumnus Maurice Boonman sent us an email with this information last week when he saw the photo series 100 years... of workplaces on the Resource site. If you have a story to tell about a picture in the series, let us know. Drop in on the editors or send an email to vincent.koperdraat@wur.nl.

Check out the photo series '100 years of... workplaces' on resource-online.nl

GRUMBLING ABOUT TIMETABLES

The online news item that WUR has rejected the idea of evening classes and will be using an extended daytime timetable to cope with the growth (see too p. 4 and p. 12) prompted numerous passionate comments. That's out of the frying pan into the fire, says **Luilak**. 'Brilliant solution, shifting classes from one terrible time to another and shortening them so that they contain even less educational content.' **Bram** wonders whether it is even necessary. 'I'm sure I read that students often see empty classrooms during the day, so those rooms could also have been used in the timetable for teaching.' **Reële rover** suggests: 'Digitalize the lot and put it all on the Internet with password protection. Then you can convert all the lecture rooms into rooms for practicals.' **Nieuwsgierige student** wonders why the buildings in De Dreijen are not being utilized. 'I still find it amazing that people are always talking about a capacity problem while there are umpteen university buildings empty all year round.'

Read all the reactions on resource-online.nl

BLOGGER SEEKS GLASSES

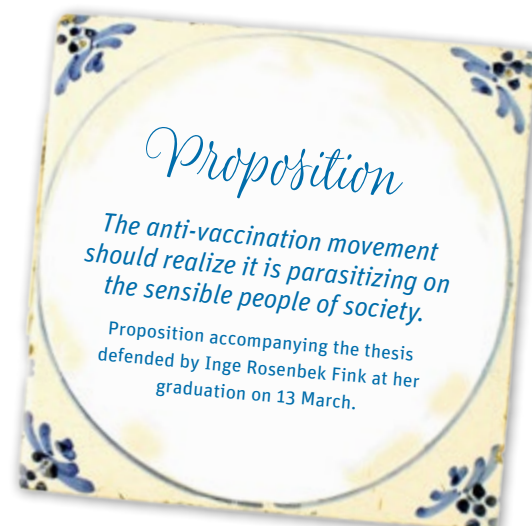
It's time for some new glasses for Jan-Willem but finding a pair turns out to be far from easy: 'I have a problem. In fact, I have two. It might not be that relevant to you but it's pretty tricky for me. Because I need new glasses (1) and my views on glasses are rather different to my girlfriend's views (2). Of course a real man takes his own decisions, but you can basically forget that if you've got a girlfriend. I've been to four opticians, but still no glasses.'

Read the whole blog on resource-online.nl

ALUMNI NETWORK WORKS

According to Tom van der Schaaf of the University Fund Wageningen (UFW), WUR Connect, the new online platform for WUR alumni, is a resounding success. 3000 alumni have now signed up. The goal was to have 3500 registrations by the end of this year. WUR Connect is a kind of LinkedIn for Wageningen graduates. After

logging in, you can contact other alumni or search for great jobs. Employers can in turn advertise job vacancies.



Conjuring up more space and time

Evening classes at Wageningen University seemed inevitable. Until last week when the Executive Board suddenly pulled an alternative out of a hat: the extended day timetable. Rector Arthur Mol explains why this is the best way of coping with the university's growth.

text Albert Sikkema en Linda van der Nat *illustration* Pascal Tieman

The working group at Wageningen University & Research which studied scenarios for coping with growing student numbers got clear signals from students and staff that they are not keen on evening classes. 'Teaching in the evenings interfered with the students' society activities,' says rector Arthur Mol. 'To leave space for these activities, the committee started pondering the option of a timetable that didn't go on so long into the evening.'

This led to the Extended Daytime Timetable which the Executive Board presented last week. This new timetable frees up a surprising amount of extra teaching space per year in the existing education buildings: more than evening classes do. And that extra space is needed. With an expected growth in student numbers from 10,800 now to 15,750 in 2025, the university calculated that it is going to need 9500 square metres more teaching space per year. The new timetable represented a gain of 5700 square metres because more courses can be taught per day in the existing classrooms.

This is how it works. At present the Wageningen timetable works with 45-minute periods of class time. If you start at 8.30 and stop at 18.00, you can fit ten such periods into a day: five in the morning and five in the afternoon. This is not very practical, however, since

most lectures and practicals take two or four periods. As a result there are lots of empty rooms at the end of the morning (the fifth period) and at the end of the afternoon (the tenth period). In the new setup there are 12 periods of 40 minutes between 8.20 and 19.00: six in the morning and six in the evening. So you can fit not two but three double-period classes into one morning or afternoon, or three triple-period classes. This makes it possible to timetable far more courses per day. Mol: 'In fact, we are going from an inefficient 10-period timetable to an efficient 12-period timetable.'

'Thanks to the new timetable we don't have to invest in bricks and mortar.'

EDUCATIONAL CONSEQUENCES

This could create the impression that with the extended timetable Wageningen students will have more classes per day, but that is not the case, says Mol. 'They now usually have between 20 and 30 hours of teaching a week. That will stay the same. The total programme won't expand.' Indeed, the timetablers are going to take

students into account, says Mol. 'We shall minimize the number of students with classes both right before and right after the lunchbreak, and hardly anyone will have classes up to 7 o'clock in the evening three days a week.'

The rector does think the new schedule will have some educational consequences. The teachers currently plan their material in blocks of 45 minutes and now they will have 40 minutes. To cope with that, they can provide more of the material digitally, he suggests. Or teachers can structure their classes differently so they get almost as much teaching time as they used to have. Mol gives an example: a teacher who now teaches five two-period classes (450 minutes in total) could in future teach four two-period classes and one three-period class (totalling 440 minutes). He thinks most teachers can integrate this adjustment when they update their courses.

Another possible sticking point is that the breaks within a block of two periods are shorter in the new timetable: 10 instead of 15 minutes. Yet these breaks are very useful for students who need one-to-one explanations of the material. Mol: 'Perhaps the teacher can plan in a question time instead. If necessary, that can be timetabled.'




WI-FI MEASUREMENTS

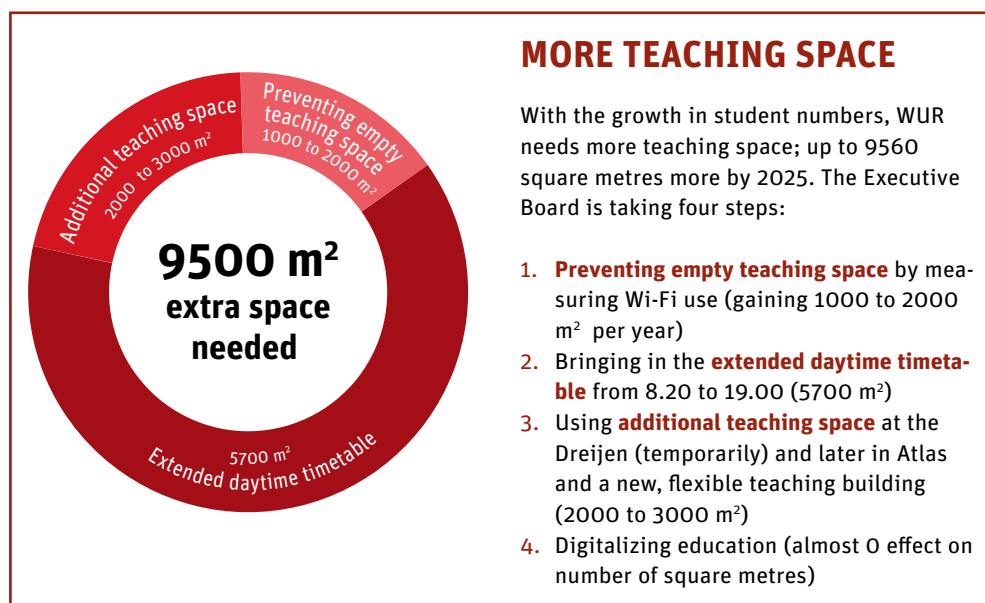
Besides the extended timetable, the board has thought of another way to optimize the use of the available teaching space. The organization has started measuring Wi-Fi use to check whether teaching space that was reserved is really being used. Just announcing this intention had an effect, says Mol. 'Already then we found teachers returning teaching space they didn't actually need to the timetabling office. Now that we are measuring Wi-Fi use we are going to make new progress. We can even gauge in real time how many students are in a room. That way we can find out where there is a room available at any time.' The Wi-Fi measurements will make about 10 percent more teaching space available in the coming years, or 1000 to 2000 square metres of teaching space per year, estimates the board. The rector hopes to bring in the new timetable next academic year. If that is not successful, then he wants to use the teaching space at the Dreijen for the coming year. That is only temporary, as the board wants to get rid of the Dreijen and concentrate all teaching on the campus. So after 2021 a small modular education building will need to be built on the campus to cope with further growth. The building will primarily be for laboratory facilities.

NO NEW BUILDING

The big advantage of the chosen approach, says the rector, is that the university won't need to construct more big 100-million-euro education buildings. 'With this plan we can sustain our funding model for education. We don't have to invest in bricks and mortar, and we can continue to invest in education itself. The growth will bring us more income, which we can put towards new teachers and educa-

tional improvements.'

The board did not consider putting student enrolment on hold. 'We had that discussion and we agreed that we are going to accommodate the growth. There is broad support at this university for maintaining the accessibility and quality of our education. We very much want to provide for future generations of students.' 





Wolf A28

A young wolf was run over near Veeningen in Drenthe at the beginning of March. His corpse was examined by Wageningen Environmental Research and Utrecht University. Where did he come from and what brought him to the Netherlands? A reconstruction.

text Albert Sikkema photo Hugh Jansman

They are calling me Wolf A28, after the place where I died at the beginning of March. I was crossing the road between Meppel and Hoozeveer at night when a pair of headlights suddenly bore down upon me at amazing speed. And now here I am on a dissecting table in Utrecht, where plastic-gloved hands inspect me and my stomach is cut out of my body with sharp knives.

I was born one and a half years ago in the German region of Lower Saxony, close to the little town of Cuxhaven. I grew up with my family in Langes Moor nature reserve. My parents come from eastern Germany and moved into this area north of Bremen in 2012. I was born in 2015, along with a handful of siblings. Another five cubs were born into our Cuxhaven pack in 2016.

The local forest rangers collected our poo and used it to identify the DNA of my family. They brought that DNA to a research institute in Senckenberg, which has a database of genetic material from German wolf packs. That made it possible for the Wageningen researcher Arjen de Groot to use a DNA match after my death to establish that I came from the Cuxhaven pack.

LONE WOLF

This spring, after I had helped raise my little brothers and sisters from the latest brood, I left the pack. That is not unusual for young male wolves of eight months and above. I made the decision together with my parents. Our habitat near Cuxhaven is not very big so young males like me often go roaming in search of a new territory and a mate. I came to the Netherlands as a 'lone wolf' in the hope of starting a family here.

The distance between Cuxhaven and Veeningen is about 200 kilometres, but I must have covered at least twice that. After all, a wolf has to eat, and I had to go hunting for roe deer, red deer and wild boar. They are mainly to be found in forest and the grasslands bordering them. I did most of my travelling by night. That way I could cover a lot of ground as I travelled across farmland. It was especially during the day that I had to watch out. Forty percent of the wolves in Germany die on the roads and another forty percent get shot illegally.

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

I don't have a problem with people, but people certainly have a problem with me. They call it the Little Red Riding Hood syndrome. They've got this idea that I gobble up innocent little girls, bedridden grandmas and baby goats. It's not true. My diet consists mainly of roe deer, red deer and wild boar, as well as some smaller game. My last meal before I died on the A28 was a hare. Wolves do stray from the straight and narrow now and then though, admittedly. Last year my mother ate a couple of calves on farms near Langes Moor. Which cost her dear. She was categorized as 'aggressive' and shot – legally – by hunters.

If I hadn't been run over, I might have gone back to Langes Moor. We wolves often do that, go back to our family after a spell away. We have a fuller social life than human beings realize.

MILITARY TRAINING AREAS

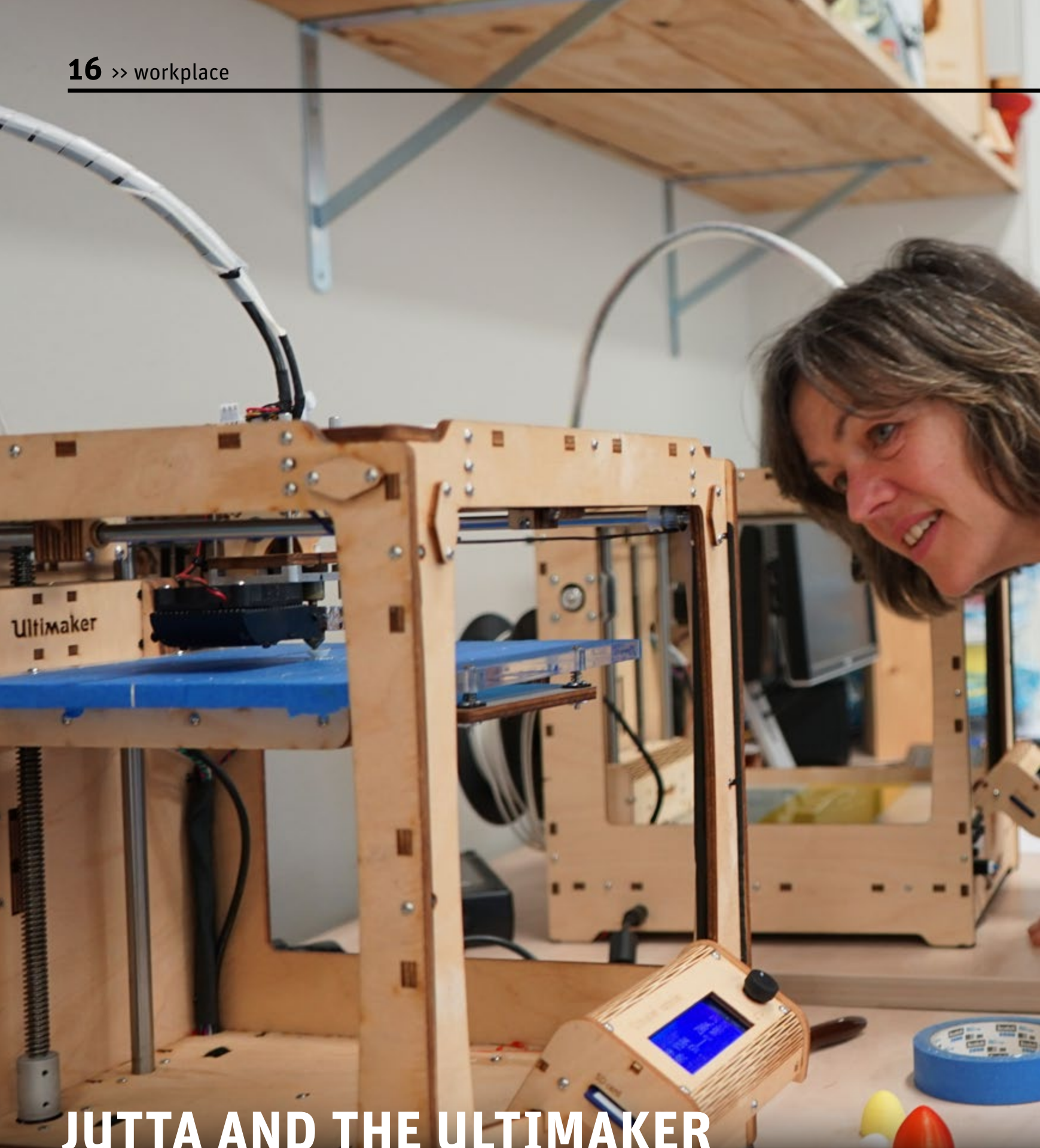
We western European wolves benefit a lot from the vast military training areas in Germany that became available to us after the lifting of the Iron Curtain. No human beings come onto

those closed-off terrains, so we can settle there, mate and start families. There are a few military training areas in the Netherlands too, at Harskamp and 't Harde, but reaching them is quite an undertaking. I didn't make it.

Another wolf is sure to try it after me, and maybe he will make it. The only question is how long he will survive. This country is extremely full and we need a large territory. We need to be able to roam 30 kilometres from our lairs to find food. In the Netherlands that nearly always means crossing roads. And that reduces our chances of survival – as my story shows. **B**

This story is based on the knowledge of wolves of Hugh Jansman (Wageningen Environmental Research). More information is available in the Wolves dossier on WUR.nl.





JUTTA AND THE ULTIMAKER

She immediately invites me to sit down at the computer to use a simple programme to create an even simpler drawing. After some calculations, the Ultimaker, a cubic piece of apparatus next to the computer, starts to squeak and gurgle like a

slot machine. Slowly but surely a little heart is printed. Cell biologist and teacher Jutta Wirth watches with a gleam in her eye. 'I find it quite exciting myself.' She is fascinated by the 3D printing technique. Here in the Fablab she runs

courses for school students and teachers. For anyone, in fact, who is interested in the rapidly expanding possibilities for printing in three dimensions. There are a couple of 3D printers and an enormous laser cutter in the room. The plank



above the printers is full of the results of trial runs. Scale models of the Sower, a screw and a bolt, and other bits and pieces. Wirth got interested in the new technique when she was asked, as a cell biologist, whether it was possible to make living organs

using human stem cells. One thing led to another and before she knew it she was very involved in the Fablab, sponsored by WUR and the Rabobank. Fablab's motto is co-creation. 'We don't have our own products but we want people to get to work

themselves. Co-creation brings together and connects all kinds of different people.' She's going on a course herself this summer. 'Bio-fabrications, in Utrecht. There we are going to try to print real organs.' **© RK, photo Margriet van Vianen**



The tiny house with the big view

They are both still students but they're already living in a detached house. For 200 euros a month. Robin Rosendahl and Amanda Krijgsman are renting the SolarCabin on the former grounds of Zodiac. 'We are so lucky.'

text Roelof Kleis *photos* Guy Ackermans

Watch the video
on resource-online.nl



The wooden house with solar panels on the roof is an eye-catcher. It stands on an open patch of ground on the outskirts of Wageningen, on the corner of the Marijkeweg and the Haarweg, where the WUR building Zodiac used to be, with a few greenhouses behind it. Before long, construction will start here on Tuinwijk, the second half of the Nieuw Kortenoornd neighbourhood.

There is no doorbell. We'll just have to do it the old-fashioned way: walk around the back and knock on the window. There is a red sign in the windowsill saying: SolarCabin, a home away from home. This is a reference to the cabin's history, explains Master's student Robin Rosendahl as soon as he opens the door. The SolarCabin is one of six winning designs in a competition set up by the Dutch asylum seekers' organization COA. Robin lives here with his girlfriend Amanda Krijgsman. 'No, we don't have a bell. Nor an official address. But we don't get very much post anyway.'

PANORAMIC VIEW

These are minor omissions in a house that is otherwise too good to be true. Just imagine. Your first rented accommodation a detached house on the edge of a town. Brand new, and for 100 euros a month each. A south-west-facing garden and a panoramic view. And to give you that green feeling, 26 solar panels on your roof. 'We can't believe our luck,' comments Amanda. And it didn't take much effort from them. Last year, student housing provider Idealis advertised for candidates for the SolarCabin. 'There weren't many requirements. Yes, to share our positive experiences of living here,' explains Robin. 'And once a quarter we have to give a guided tour for people who are interested.'

The SolarCabin which Robin Rosendahl and Amanda Krijgsman are renting consists of a kitchen-diner, a small living room, a bedroom and a tiny bathroom with a shower and a toilet.

The solar house is compact. Tiny, in fact. But it has all the usual spaces. The open kitchen even makes a spacious impression because of the high, sloping ceiling. Where two racing bikes are suspended. There isn't much storage space so every nook and cranny gets used. Behind the kitchen is a small living room. Or bedroom, depending how you use it. And a broad staircase leads from the kitchen to an upstairs bedroom, with a view over the building site. Robin and Amanda have about 31 square metres at their disposal: more than twice the size of the student room they used to live in on the Dijkstraat. 'To me it all seems quite spacious,' says Amanda.

ASYLUM SEEKERS

The SolarCabin is a unique residence. Literally. It is the only one of its kind. Robin and Amanda are living in the prototype which architect Arjan de Nooijer of dNArchitecture designed for the COA competition. The challenge was to come up with 'an innovative and flexible housing solution' for asylum seekers. The six winning designs were in pride of place at the Dutch Design Week in Eindhoven last autumn.

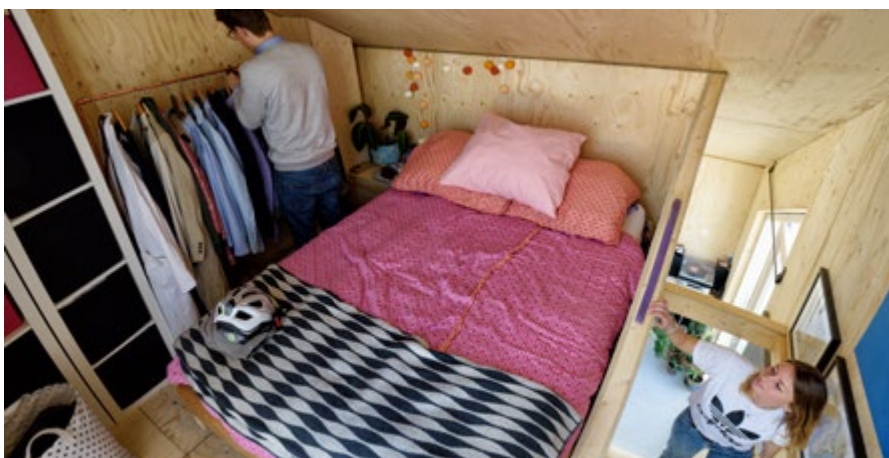
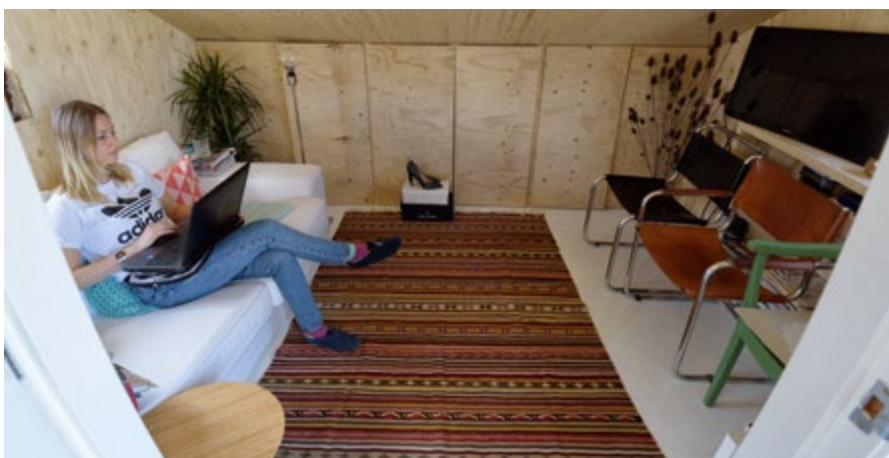
And there the way was paved for the solar house to be moved to Wageningen, says project director Tjakko Smit of Bouwfonds Property Development, which is building the sustainable neighbourhood Nieuw Kortenoor. 'We have offered to have the house here for a year. With people living in it, so as to test whether it really is habitable.'

Although the concept was developed for asylum seekers before or after they gain resident status, it is an attractive option for students such as Robin and Amanda too. OK, it is a little cramped at times – you can hardly turn around in the toilet and shower. Robin: 'And the upstairs is open, so all the hot air goes straight up there. It can take time to warm up downstairs.' But looking on the bright side, all the electricity comes from your own roof. The 26 solar panels produce more electricity than the two students consume, which makes the SolarCabin a tiny power station and means the concept covers some of its own costs. A metre in the kitchen keeps track of precisely how much electricity is generated.

STARING

The interior is plain undecorated wood. Amanda and Robin are allowed to decorate it, though. Amanda: 'We got carte blanche from the architect to turn it into our own home. We are allowed to drill holes and hang things up, and to paint the walls if we want. We made the cupboards ourselves. It's so nice to furnish your own place.'

The house has been attracting a lot of attention, especially at weekends when people go out walking. Robin: 'Passers-by often stare in through the windows. Until they see us sitting there, and then they get a shock.' ⑥



Mega creative

Besides being an MSc student of Food Technology, Marco Mega is a professional photographer. He thinks Wageningen students and researchers are extremely academic and rational. He hopes to fan the flames of their creativity with his photography workshops.

text Linda van der Nat photos Marco Mega



A self portrait by Marco Mega.

‘Isn’t this brilliant?’ In his room in the Rijnveste student residence, Marco Mega shows a group of students a photo book containing *Rhein II*, a work by Andreas Gursky. The photo shows a stretch of the Rhine with a green landscape and an overcast sky. In 2011 a collector paid over four million dollars for this photo. Mega is the only one in this group of seven people who would be willing to pay that for it, if he had that kind of money. ‘For sure.’

An Italian born in Switzerland, beside being a student, Mega is a professional photographer. He trained in photography in Rome and London and has taken news photos for *The Guardian* and *The Daily Mail*, worked for international photojournalism agencies, exhibited his work in galleries in London and Rome, and has his own photo studio in Düsseldorf.

CREATIVE

This academic year, Mega started the Master’s in Food Technology in Wageningen. He also organizes photography workshops for students and staff of Wageningen University & Research. Today’s participants are all beginners, they say during a round of introductions. Irene from Mexico wants to create a record of her time in Wageningen; Chantal goes trekking a lot and wants to take more beautiful photos of the enchanting landscapes she sees.

This is the second workshop Mega has given in Wageningen. The first group had little experience too, he says. ‘Many students are interested in photography but they are not particularly creative. They take photos of beautiful landscapes, of their friends and on holiday, but that’s about it. They have good cameras but they don’t know how they work. And if you don’t know what you can do with your equipment you can’t be creative.’

So Mega’s workshops starts with a thorough explanation of how a camera works. The students diligently take notes on Mega’s explanations of lighting, lighting compensation, shutter times, diaphragms, composition and stops of light. The students practice working with depth of field and white-balancing. After the lunchbreak they go to the park behind Rijnveste to put what they have just learned into practice. They photograph trees, branches, flowers and mole heaps to their hearts’ content.

PASTA AND INSECTS

Mega’s passion for photography came out of a fascination with nature. ‘I have a Master’s in Forestry Science and I liked taking macro photos of insects and flowers. Not as an art form but as a way of recording and studying them. Gradually my photos became more creative and artistic and I decided to switch completely to photography.’

After a seven-year career in photography, Mega is now back in the scientific world. ‘Alongside photography I have a great passion for food as well. Food has been a

Participants in Mega's photography workshop had a great time photographing nature and shoppers in Wageningen.

theme running through my life. My father produced olive oil in Italy, and I spent some time in India, where I tried to develop an espresso blend. What I'd most like to do after my Master's is to set up my own food innovation company. I'm interested in pasta and in insects as food, but I am also using my time here to explore what my next step is going to be.'

PORTRAITS

After practising in the park the group moves on to the town centre. Their assignment is to take portraits of people out shopping. They seem hesitant, not liking to accost people randomly. Mega remembers this from his last workshop too. 'Most of their shyness has to do with their age and life experience. In my first workshop one girl absolutely refused to ask strangers if she could take their picture. But for a photographer it's important to try to build a relationship with the person you are photographing in a short time.'

After the session in the High Street and at the market, the group returns to Mega's room to look at each other's photographs and evaluate them. In the work of Dicky from Indonesia, Mega sees a creative eye for composition and lighting. 'But most people at the university are very academic and focused on science. They approach everything in a rational, analytical way.' Whereas it is precisely the contrast between the rational and the free spirit that can help you achieve more, says Mega. 'I myself am creative as well as rational. Thanks to my creativity I get better research results and my photos are more beautiful if I have an eye for detail.'

SPURRED ON

At the end of the day he looks back on the course with satisfaction. He hopes he has fanned the flames of creativity in his fellow Wageningen students. 'It would be nice if they get beyond the level of pretty landscapes, friends and holiday snaps. That's why I always show them the photo book during my workshops. It is so important to look at the work of other photographers and get inspiration. It works that way in science too: as a researcher you let yourself be spurred on by other people's research.' **R**

Marco Mega will give another workshop in Wageningen on 17 June. See marcomega.com/workshops/wageningen

See Marco Mega's photos
on resource-online.nl





SHARE THE WORKLOAD DIFFERENTLY?

Wageningen scientists combine education with research. Thanks to fast-growing student numbers in a period when research funding is going down, some chair groups are facing heavy workloads and/or financial shortfalls. Closer collaboration could help them to spread both the workload and the funding better, says Tiny van Boekel, outgoing director of the Education Institute (OWI). Good idea? And what is already happening along those lines?

text Yvonne de Hilster illustration Henk van Ruitenbeek

Jack van der Vorst



Director Social Sciences Group

'Balancing the plusses and minuses in the way Van Boekel describes is already happening at department level, although of course we aim for a positive financial situation for every chair group. **What we need to aim at, in my view, is robust groups: programmatic clusters which collaborate on the core business on the basis of a shared vision.** We looked at that last year in the context of one of the WUR's spearheads. By clustering you can make more efficient use of people and facilities, and more role flexibility is possible. You can more easily give management responsibilities to a personal professor or associate professor, for example. The work pressure is high due to our goal of excellence in research and education, combined with rising student numbers and the time it now takes to acquire research funding. And the groups are often fishing in the same pond. At the same time, education fund-

ing is important to a chair group, causing them sometimes to compete for education. By collaborating in clusters you can use teaching capacity more effectively and make joint appointments of teaching staff, for instance, or decide together which grants or calls to go for. I'm thinking in terms of clusters of three to five chair groups. But this depends a lot on the groups involved, because there is great diversity.'

Cathelijne Stoof



Assistant professor in the Soil Geography and Landscape chair group

'I am in favour of more cooperation between groups in both education and research. But I see a lot of pressure on education in the groups

around me, so I am not sure whether a better distribution is going to solve anything. More is needed, whichever way you look at it. We take students into the field with us, both in the Netherlands and abroad. And there lies Wageningen's strength: theory indoors, application outdoors. Landscapes and soils are things you need to see for yourself. Rising student numbers are putting pressure on this practical side of our programmes. You can't get 70 people around a pit to study a soil profile, or take 90 students for a guided tour on a farm. And didactically, it is also impossible to keep everyone involved when you are explaining something. The quality of your education can go down because of that too. At the moment everyone solves this in their own way, sometimes opting to do an excursion twice, for example. That raises both the work pressure and the costs. And what do you do about a two-week excursion abroad? I'd be interested to hear about the OWI's vision on this practical issue.'

Hans Komen



Personal professor of Animal Breeding and Genetics, and OWI board member

'If you ask me, the first question to ask is whether you should go on facilitating growth. Because there is a very strong relation between the quality of education in Wageningen and its small scale.

I'm not against a selection system because you get good students that way. Our chair group does not have problems of high work pressure. Every year we divide the teaching amongst us and we rotate courses to keep ourselves on our toes. We also share the teaching load with other chair groups by combining courses. That is of particular interest in smaller courses such as Population and Quantitative Genetics, which is needed for both Genetics and Animal Breeding and Genetics. We combine the two groups – 60 students in total – and they each get half the education funding. There are other natural matches like that. It's fine to look at the total result at

the department level. A chair group which teaches a lot of Bachelor's courses will have a heavier teaching load. People who are able to start a lot of projects with businesses and get a lot of PhD researchers on board, will be better placed financially.'

Kees de Graaf



Professor of Sensory Science and Eating Behaviour

'Our department consists of five chair groups which form a whole in terms of facilities, funding and a joint support staff. This cooperation just grew up. In the 1980s

when a second nutrition-related chair group was added, it didn't split off from the first. And the three chair groups which were added later stayed within the department too. It works because we have shared interests. Being a bigger group makes you a bit more flexible too. Of course you need clear rules and every chair group should take its fair share of responsibility. We've arranged the supervision of students so that lecturers supervise PhD candidates, and PhD candidates supervise students writing their theses. Of course, to do that you need enough PhD candidates and therefore enough research funding. And because there is so little room for manoeuvre at the moment, we have set up 'thesis rings', in which students discuss each other's work without any supervision from a teacher. I am really pleased that we recently entered into collaboration with Food Technology. We are working on new courses for the interdisciplinary track on Food, Digestion & Health on the Master's programmes in Food Technology and Nutrition & Health. If it works out it will generate research too. And that helps research and education keep pace with each other.'

Alfons Oude Lansink



Professor of Business Economics and director of the WASS Graduate School

'In the social sciences, clusters of chair groups have been formed which collaborate on the core business and on secretarial services, and

are growing closer. Within some clusters there is now also talk of pooling education resources. Not because of work pressure but for the sake of efficiency. It helps you get the best teachers for each course. I haven't yet noticed any increased work pressure due to higher student numbers. But if we want to keep on giving students plenty of attention we shall have to have an efficiency drive, especially in teaching methods. Things like thesis rings and further digitalization. But balancing the chair group budgets at department level, the way Van Boekel proposes, doesn't solve anything in the long term. You can't keep a chair group going that is systematically performing poorly, financially.'

Sampling other cultures

Uzbek food, Chinese music and partying African-style. During One World Week from 30 March to 5 April students and staff had a chance to savour the great cultural diversity of the WUR community. Resource dropped in on a Chilean wine-tasting and a Nepalese party.

Latin American tunes blare out in the crowded Impulse building, which is decorated with a blue-and-white flags with a star on them. There is a smell of wine. Chilean wine, you understand. For One World Week, Chilean WUR students are running a wine-tasting event.

Over 100 students and staff members are sipping at their glasses, for some of them the last of four glasses of wine they could taste. 'I'm a bit sloshed already,' says chemistry lab assistant Guillaume ten Dam. On the table beside him stands a bowl of *sopaipilla*, fried pumpkin bread in a spicy sauce. 'I needed the snacks, otherwise I would keel over.' He didn't really like them though, any more than he liked the wine. PhD candidate Ying Deng is a lot more enthusiastic. 'This is really high quality. Better than expected.' She didn't realize Chile was a major wine exporting country.

There is a mixture of people here, but it is striking how much Spanish one hears – and at the volume you would expect. Last year the tasting ended in a spontaneous Latin American party for 200 people, prompting WUR to set a limit of 100 for this year. It was fully subscribed within a couple of days, says

Begoña Arellamo of the Chilean student organization.

NEPALESE TREATS

The visitors to the city centre living room called *Thuis* look up in amazement from their plates full of Nepalese treats as loud Asian music suddenly blasts out of the speakers. Now they understand why the chairs are arranged in rows. Four Nepalese students start dancing in traditional red and blue dresses. 'This is really cool,' says the Italian Master's student Alice Caranchini with conviction. She deplores the lack of such dancing and costumes in Europe. Caranchini is one of the guests at the party the Nepalese student community is throwing for One World Week. Wageningen resident Jacqueline Kok has come along too and is watching guests who are now hesitantly trying to imitate the moves of the elegant dancers. 'We are so wooden by comparison,' she says.

The Nepalese students come around with a big pan. Its contents have a famous flavour, apparently: rice pudding, but then with onions in it. There are also fried savoury biscuits and a spicy salad on offer. Lois Dejalle, a volunteer at *Thuis*, enjoys it all thoroughly. 'Normally you never get to taste food from countries like Nepal. I really like the fact that you can do so in One World Week.' **RMvdH**

During One World Week there was a Chilean wine-tasting in Impulse and a Nepalese party in *Thuis*. (Photos Sven Menschel)



Check out the photo series on resource-online.nl



PHOTO: REMO WORMMEESTER

Blind date

In Café Loburg on Monday evening students could join in a round of speed dating. To add to the suspense one of the two was blindfolded. So the only way these students could form a picture of their 'dates' was through their voices and what they said. Lying on the table were items and questions the participants could use to break the ice. No one knows whether any of the pairs have made another date. The 'blind speed date' was organized by the international student organizations IxESN and ISOW. **LvdN**

Self-help group for highly gifted students

Being highly gifted has its uses but it can also land people in psychological or social problems. That is why dean Ruur Boersma has set up self-help groups for highly gifted students.

'One third of highly gifted adults get into a fix at some point,' explains Boersma. 'They have a burnout, they are dissatisfied or they are off work because of conflicts with their employer.' The same goes for students, Boersma thinks. In her consultation hours she regularly sees highly gifted students who are dissatisfied or overworked. She decided they needed more guidance. She took a look at what is done at Leiden University, where extra guidance is already provided, and decided to organize lunchtime meetings for groups of four to six highly gifted students. Sixteen students have already signed up for the meetings, all of whom had previously been to see Boersma. The students set their own goals they want to work on over the five time they meet. They help each other achieve those goals, with guidance from Boersma. Besides the lunchtime meetings, there is a dinner once a month that is open to all the students. 'It is not just about development, but also about meeting each other and recognition,' says Boersma.

PERFECTIONISM

One of the obstacles which highly gifted students run up against is the Bachelor's thesis. 'This can have to do with the feeling that it is never good enough,' explains the dean. 'I also notice that the students find it hard to ask for help. So it is a combination of perfectionism and fear of failure.'

Another problem is that highly gifted students often take on too much and therefore end up with a burnout. Boersma: 'You often see that highly gifted people are also highly sensitive. That means they get overstimulated, and they need to process that and take time for it.' Time which they often don't have or don't take.



Dean Ruur Boersma (left) talks to five highly gifted students during a lunchtime meeting. Three of them didn't want to be recognizable in the photo.

MOTIVATION

Motivation is another tricky issue. 'To begin with, courses are often very nice, but if it goes too slowly, students can lose motivation,' explains Boersma. 'And if something doesn't work you often find they give up. Or they don't even start because they are convinced it won't work.'

Highly gifted students often lack study skills too, because they didn't have to work hard enough at secondary school. There was already a study skills course at the university, but for the first time in January there was a group made up exclusively of highly gifted students. That is worth doing, says Boersma: 'They often don't know many people they really get on with and therefore tend to feel they are out on a limb. They really want to have deep discussions on all sorts of topics, and not everyone is up to that.'

TIP OF THE ICEBERG

Increasing numbers of students have been knocking on the doors of the WUR's deans and psychotherapists in recent years. This may be partly to do with highly gifted students, says Boersma. She hopes to offer this group a solution through the lunchtime meetings and dinners.

The 16 students who have signed up now are just the tip of the iceberg, she says. She hopes more highly gifted students will overcome their embarrassment and come to the meetings. 'Once you understand that your problems are related to being highly gifted, many pieces of the puzzle usually fall into place.' **MvdH**

If you would like more information about the lunchtime meetings for highly gifted students, or would like to sign up, you can email ruur.boersma@wur.nl.

UNSALTED

Nocturia, or needing to pee at night, is a typical old person's ailment. Japanese scientists at the University of Nagasaki have discovered a simple remedy: cutting down on salt. That makes you have to 'go' less often. The reason is obvious. Salt makes you drink more. No more crisps then. Unsalted food helps the aged sleep better.

SICK

Lonely people suffer more from a simple cold than others, showed an experiment carried out by psychologists at Rice University (US). They gave people colds, shut them up in a hotel for five days and studied the effects. The lonely people (identified with a test beforehand) clearly suffered the most. The researchers' conclusion: if you have friends you don't get so sick.

DUMB (1)

Smart bumble bees contribute less to the colony's food supply than the slow learners among them. So say researchers from the University of Guelph (Canada). The explanation is that smart bumble bees put a lot of energy into their wee brains. Instead of into foraging. A comforting thought: being dumb has its uses.

DUMB (2)

On the initiative of the WUR Council, paid parking was introduced on the campus last Saturday. The idea was that paid parking would be good for the accessibility of the campus. You've got it: Saturday was April Fool's Day. The prank was aimed at making staff and students more aware of the WUR Council's role in representing their interests. Wonder whether that worked.



GNSK in Wageningen to go green

Sports association Thymos has appointed a board for the organization of the Great Dutch Students Championships (GNSK) of 2018, which is to be held in Wageningen. The board wants to give the event a Wageningen twist with knotsball and a green image.

The seven-strong board (five women and two men) is tasked with organizing one of the biggest student sports events in the Netherlands in the spring of 2018. During the GNSK, sporty students from all the university towns in the Netherlands compete over two days in a range of sports: eight fixed events and a number of additional sports which vary with each edition of the championships.

Rick Oomen, a Master's student of Manage-

ment, Economics and Consumer Studies, is chair of the board. If it was up to him, the whole campus would be taken over by the GNSK. 'It would be nice if the students all camp, do their sports, and party on the campus.' About 1500 students usually attend the GNSK. In the next few months the new board will be getting to know each other and will meet with the board of the GNSK 2017 in Eindhoven on 9, 10 and 11 June. Rick: 'I am curious to hear how they went about it. I want to learn from that, and then give it a Wageningen twist.' Two Wageningen touches he has in mind are knotsball as an additional sport, and ways of 'greening' the GNSK.

The other board members are Marye Bosboom, Annelies Lantinga, Femke Riensema, Bo Brigge-man, Simone van Veen and Luc Roefs. **LvdN**



High standard in Campus Run

The Campus Run on Wednesday evening, 29 March, attracted more participants than ever. They ran faster than ever too. Joep Kluwen completed the circuit in the quickest time.

At seven o'clock sharp, exactly 266 runners (mainly students) set off for a maximum of two laps round the campus. That is a record for the Campus Run, which was held for the sixth time. The Campus Run decides who gets picked for the WUR team that will compete in the Batavierenrace. Team leader Laurelynn Cornfield is confident about their chances in that relay race this year. 'We

have been able to put together a strong selection.'

The fastest woman was Lindsey Faken. She ran the 5.5 kilometres in 21.23 minutes, which is a speed of 15.5 km per hour. All the women who were selected ran faster than 14.5 km per hour. The standard was high among the men too. The winner Joep Kluwen ran the race in 17.40 minutes, giving an average speed of 18.7 km per hour. All the men in the Batavierenrace team ran faster than 16.5 km per hour.

Women made up 56 percent of the participants in the Campus Run, which is very much in line with the overall student population in Wageningen. **RK**

Testing cakes in Happietaria

Happietaria Wageningen's cake baking competition *The Great Wageningen Bake Off* might have been held on Saturday 1 April but it was no April Fool's joke. Baking enthusiasts of all ages brought their cakes to the ideological pop-up restaurant. Wageningen locals could eat as much as they wanted for five euros. The proceeds will go to a health-care project in India.

'27 people registered but one girl phoned in the morning to say her cake was burnt,' says Gerdine Bakker, a WUR student and Happietaria Wageningen committee member. So in the end there were 26 cakes on display on the table. That was more than enough, says jury member Annemarie Pronk, the winner from the Dutch bake-off TV programme Heel Holland

bakt. 'I thought 26 tiny bites would be OK but all in all, it was actually rather a lot.'

The jury was very positive. 'All the cakes were of an extremely high standard. We did our best to give as detailed an assessment of the cakes as possible so that the participants would be able to use the feedback.' That was precisely why some of them took part. For example, Hebert Perez-Pereira from Den Helder, who came third: 'I want to introduce more people in the Netherlands to my Uruguayan cake so I was curious to find out what this jury thought.'

The visitors were mainly friends of the participants and local residents who dropped in. Others came purely to gorge on the cakes, like WUR student Irene Leemans and her newly



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHIEL

graduated friend Maritza Bode Bakker, who tried 15 different cakes between the two of them. 'I wouldn't be much good on the jury – I think they're all deli-

cious,' says Irene.

Happietaria Wageningen at Rustenburg 5 is open until 26 April. See happietariawageningen.nl.

ⓑ AvdH

MEANWHILE IN... AUSTRALIA

'Charity aid is needed after cyclone Debby'

On March 28, the largest cyclone in years struck northern Queensland, Australia. In the days that followed a vast area, almost the size of Texas, was flooded. Houses were washed away and at least three people died. Lizzie Richardson puts the event in an Australian perspective.

'I heard about the cyclone on the news and via twitter. Especially abroad I notice social media can reach you fast. As I am not from Queensland, the most discussed topic among my friends and family is the charity aid: how much should they donate? Clearly, the national government doesn't have enough resources to cover the one billion dollar damage, so charity aid is needed. However, I feel that the current situation is not as alarming as with cyclone Yasi in 2011. It is severe, but still under control.

Cyclones like this one can be expected every year in northern Queensland, so once every few years a severe one will strike. When

I was in the capital Brisbane myself, I saw that the city is vulnerable but well prepared. Overflow areas can be evacuated really fast and that is exactly what hap-



PHOTO: IGOR COROVIC / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

pened last week. The stereotype image that Australia is scarcely populated does not count for this region. Quite a lot of people are living close together and the infrastructure is built for that. In a larger perspective, this cyclone illustrates the intensifying extreme weather in Australia. Where the cyclones are more frequent and intensive in the north-east, droughts are increasing in the south-west. This is likely to be linked to the hole in the ozone layer, which is repairing itself but is still there. The rest of the world may have forgotten about it, but for Australians it is still a reality." ⓑ TF



Lizzie Richardson, Master's student of Biotechnology from Australia, explains the impact of cyclone Debbie on the country.

YOU ON CAMPUS

Some friends call him MC Flowerhill, but his real name is Lukas Blumberg (22). Two and a half years ago he left Heidelberg, Germany, for Wageningen. The Bachelor's student took a summer course in Dutch and understands almost everything, but he prefers to talk in English.

English is the dominant language in Lukas's social life and most of the courses in his second year of the BSc in Biotechnology are also in English. He thinks this is a good thing: 'This makes your Bachelor's degree useful not only in the Netherlands, but all over the world.'

At high school in Germany, Lucas already focussed on biotechnology, but mainly on the microbiology side of things. Now he is learning more about process technology, which he finds very interesting. 'I would like to grasp all of it, although I need some more time.'

When Lukas arrived in Wageningen, he lived in housing for international students on the Haarweg. Later, he helped renovate the Computech-nion building at the Dreijen, a former education building that now houses students. Then he got to choose his own room there. Computech-nion not only gives him a place to live, but also new hobbies such as indoor gardening. He can do this with the Urban Grow Community Computech-

Lukas grows vegetables in the Computech-nion

nion. 'At first, we planned to grow all the vegetables that we need, but unfortunately we don't have enough space for that.' Because most members are busy with their studies, Lukas hopes that more people will become

involved and that they will be able to expand the project.

Lukas will probably do his Master's in Wageningen as well, so he will be here for quite some time. He hopes he can continue to live at the Dreijen, even though it is only a five-year project: 'I can imagine that investors want to build houses here, but I think it is best that the university uses it for student housing.' **AB**

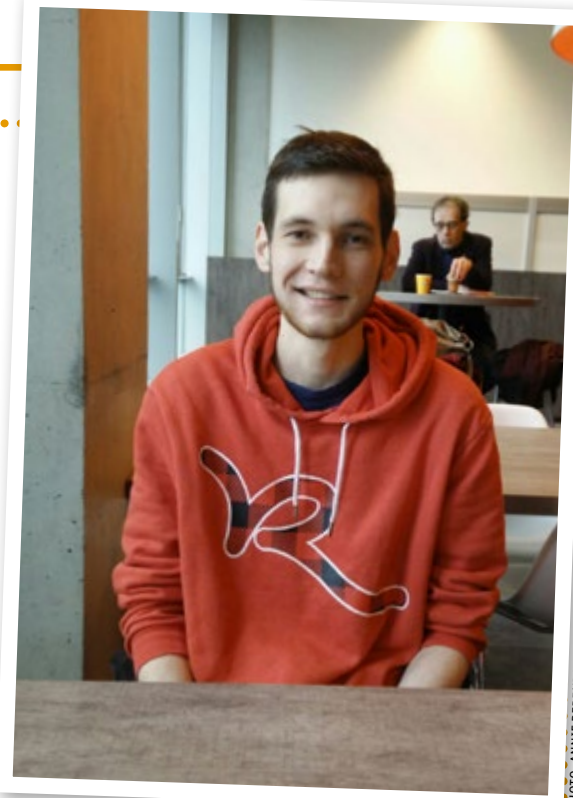


PHOTO: ANNIE BERENDSEN

PARTIES

In the party mood? Wageningen Party Promotion (WUP) tells you where to find one. See too www.wageningenup.nl.

AGROS UNIFARM - DE VEETELERS ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Thursday 6 April from 20.30 to 02.00

Study association De Veetelers is celebrating its 55th anniversary. The celebrations will end with a barn party at Agros Unifarm (on campus, behind Radix). It's common knowledge that livestock farmers are party animals, so it's definitely worth going if you like a wild time. And straw.

LUCA - SQUAD 105

Saturday 15 April from 23.00 to 04.00

There is often not much going on in Wageningen in the weekend. Luca is trying to change that, this time with the energetic DJ duo Squad 105. Worth staying in Wageningen for.

SPORT - THYMOS SPORTS GALA

Tuesday 18 April from 20.00 to 23.00

The best sportspeople in Wageningen will be chosen at this event. It ends quite early so you can go along and still be fit enough the next day to play sports (and study). **AB**



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER

The International Club reverberated with music from all over the world on Friday 31 March at the Bohimio Cosmopolitan Bash to mark One World Week.

Wageningen Master's students do internships and thesis research all around the world, getting to know their field and other cultures. Here they talk about their adventures.

Having coffee with Ethiopian farmers

'Ethiopians won't often tell you something's going wrong because political correctness is very important. So it was something very special when I suddenly found myself having a frank conversation with a farmer. I was doing qualitative research on what prompts farmers to adopt new technologies. Because my plans had already changed a thousand times by then, I was flexible when the farmer asked me to look at his field of carrots as well as his field of malt barley. What he really wanted was to give me sensitive information about his frustrations with the malt barley organization when no one else was around to hear. It was thanks to that information that I reached the main conclusions of my research.

HOTEL ROOM


The farmer told me he was so open because I wasn't like other researchers. I spent 26 days walking around there and sitting for hours looking at how farmers organized their lives in and around the fields. He had also seen that I was involved and that I spent a lot of time having coffee and eating with the farmers. On the days that I wasn't in the village I was often alone in my hotel room, which I didn't enjoy. I didn't usually want to go out alone, because everyone touched me, called out at me and sometimes even spat at me. Sometimes there were foreigners in the hotel and I hung out with them.

I found it very difficult to see problems local people had, especially when they were sick. Once I was having coffee with a farmer when a maid was carried out by her arms and legs. She was unconscious; she had had a miscarriage. You know she won't get proper treatment, or at least not in time. I felt so powerless.

KALASHNIKOVS

I saw the New Year celebrations of the Sidaama tribe too. They all get dressed up in traditional dress. The different groups each sang their own songs while the men brandished spears and stamped on the ground. Decorated

horses galloped past too. But when they started shooting into the air with Kalashnikovs, I thought: what am I doing here? I was the only white person and I was in amongst them. It was great and scary at the same time, because the different groups quarrel at times. Eventually my interpreter suggested we leave.

It was incredibly tough in Ethiopia, both physically and mentally, but it was one of the best experiences in my life. You learn so much from it. I learned to stand up for myself, for example, and to step out of my comfort zone, and feel alright about that.'  MvdH

THE WORKS

Who? Mariëlle Karssenberg, Master's student of International Development
What? Thesis research at Cascape and the Centre for Development and Innovation (CDI)
Where? Guguma, Ethiopia

Read all the interviews on resource-online.nl



Leeuwenborch Irregular Opening Hours May and June 2017

	2017	The Building	Coffee Bar/ Restaurant	The Library
Monday - Thursday	1 - 4 May	7 am - 10.30 pm	8 am - 5 pm	8.30 am - 6 pm
Friday Liberation Day	5 May	7 am - 6 pm	Closed	Closed
Saturday	6 May	8 am - 5.30 pm	Closed	Closed
Sunday	7 May	Closed	Closed	Closed
Monday - Thursday	8 - 11 May	7 am - 10.30 pm	8 am - 5 pm	8.30 am - 6 pm
Friday	12 May	7 am - 10.30 pm	8 am - 5 pm	8.30 am - 5 pm
Saturday	13 May	8 am - 5.30 pm	Closed	Closed
Sunday	14 May	Closed	Closed	Closed
Thursday Ascension Day	25 May	Closed	Closed	Closed
Friday	26 May	7 am - 10.30 pm	9.30 am - 3 pm	Closed
Friday	2 June	7 am - 10.30 pm	8 am - 5 pm	8 am - 5 pm
Saturday	3 June	8 am - 5.30 pm	Closed	Closed
Whit Sunday - Monday	4 - 5 June	Closed	Closed	Closed

After 6 pm entrance is only possible after registration at the reception desk.



Orion Irregular Opening Hours May and June 2017

	2017	The Building	Bike basement	Restaurant	The Spot
Monday - Thursday	1 - 4 May	8 am - 6 pm	8 am - 8 pm	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	8 am - 8 pm
Friday Liberation Day	5 May	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Saturday	6 May	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sunday	7 May	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Monday - Friday	8 - 12 May	8 am - 6 pm	8 am - 8 pm	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	8 am - 8 pm
Saturday	13 May	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sunday	14 May	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Thursday Ascension Day	25 May	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Friday	26 May	8 am - 6 pm	8 am - 8 pm	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	8 am - 8 pm
Friday	2 June	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Saturday	3 June	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Whit Sunday - Monday	4 - 5 June	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed



Forum Irregular Opening Hours May and June 2017

	2017	The Building	The Library	Student Desk	IT service Point	WURshop	Restaurant	Grand Café	Wageningen in'to Languages
Monday - Thursday	1 - 4 May	8 am - 12 am*	8 am - 12 am*	10 am - 5 pm	9 am - 4 pm	9 am - 4.30 pm	8 am - 7 pm	8 am - 5 pm	9 am - 5 pm
Friday Liberation Day	5 May	8 am - 11 pm	8 am - 10 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Saturday	6 May	9 am - 7 pm	9 am - 7 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sunday	7 May	9 am - 7 pm	9 am - 7 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Monday - Thursday	8 - 11 May	8 am - 12 am*	8 am - 12 am*	10 am - 5 pm	9 am - 4 pm	9 am - 4.30 pm	8 am - 7 pm	8 am - 5 pm	9 am - 5 pm
Friday	12 May	8 am - 11 pm	8 am - 10 pm	10 am - 5 pm	9 am - 4 pm	9 am - 2.30 pm	8 am - 7 pm	8 am - 5 pm	9 am - 5 pm
Saturday	13 May	10 am - 6 pm	10 am - 6 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sunday	14 May	10 am - 6 pm	10 am - 6 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Thursday Ascension Day	25 May	10 am - 6 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Friday	26 May	8 am - 11 pm	8.30 am - 5.30 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	Closed
Friday	2 June	8 am - 11 pm	8 am - 10 pm	10 am - 5 pm	9 am - 4 pm	9 am - 2.30 pm	8 am - 2 pm	8 am - 5 pm	9 am - 5 pm
Saturday	3 June	10 am - 6 pm	10 am - 6 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Whit Sunday	4 June	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Whit Monday	5 June	10 am - 6 pm	10 am - 6 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

*Attention 12 am is midnight



30
May

WeDay

Sign up from **24 April to 22 May**

Join us again for this year's edition of the afternoon filled with sporty activities for all employees! Want to try your hand at Escape Room, strength training or a pole dancing class? Check the We Day intranet page for more information and registration details.

We Day location: Wageningen Campus, Sports Centre de Bongerd

Do you play in a band with WUR colleagues and do you want to perform at the We Day on May 30? Then we are looking for you! Grab this opportunity and register! Sign Up for April 20 next and send a link of your performance to we.day@wur.nl



Joop van Mourik
Makelaars
taxateurs en hypotheekadviseurs



Rick Zeedijk Makelaardij

Bovenindsestraat 31, KESTEREN



Dit prachtige, riante landhuis in bijzondere stijl op zeer mooie locatie staat op u te wachten! Schroom niet en kom snel een kijkje nemen. Deze woning beschikt over een inhoud van maar liefst 1130 m³. Op deze heerlijke rustige plek met erg veel privacy aan de nostalgische Rijnbandijk, kunt u genieten op een prachtig royaal perceel van wel 4340 m². De grote tuin is leuk en gezellig aangelegd met meerdere zitjes, hagen, een leuke speelplaats en een veranda waar u heerlijk de zomeravonden door kunt brengen, kortom, het geluksgevoel alsof u op vakantie bent! De woning is in een bijzondere stijl gebouwd, dit resulteert in mooie lichtinval in de woning en een fantastisch uitzicht. Het is ook heerlijk vertoeven in de ruime living en eetkamer van wel 82 m². De ruime oprit van deze woning biedt plaats voor meerdere auto's en heeft daarnaast een dubbele garage en carport. Het dorp Kesteren ligt op kleine afstand van Rhenen, Wageningen en is gelegen aan de A15. Het heeft alle voorzieningen.

VRAAGPRIJS € 750.000,-

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(0344) 62 60 60

www.joopvanmourik.nl

www.rickzeedijk.nl

announcements

ODOUR PANEL

Do you have a good sense of smell and would you like to earn some easy money (€9 net per hour)? Have you got a lot of spare time? Buro Blauw in Wageningen needs people for an odour panel: geurlab@buro-blauw.nl, or call 0317-466699.

agenda

Thursday 6 to Wednesday 19 April
4 FILMS FOR STUDENTS

Matthäus Passion: a much acclaimed performance of Bach's masterpiece conducted by Reinbert de Leeuw, screened with high quality sound and picture. *Manchester by the Sea*: a fantastic piece of social realism about a man who would like to disappear but whose sense of responsibility towards his family is just a bit too strong. *The Happiest Day in the Life of Olli Mäki*: the comical, heart-warming story of Finland's most successful boxer, who fell in love just before the world championship. *Levende Rivier*: magical footage of the flora and fauna around the Rhine, by Ruben Smit (who made *De Nieuwe Wildernis*).

WWW.MOVIE-W.NL

Wednesday 12 April, 16.00

WEES SEMINAR

Butterfly behaviour expert Dr Michael C. Singer will talk about his work and the novel aspects of evolutionary mechanisms that generate or oppose local adaptation. Prior to the seminar: a workshop for BSc, MSc and PhD students (registration required). Drinks and discussion after the talk. Venue: Orion C2035. WWW.WEESWAGENINGEN.NL

Friday 21 April, 9.00-16.45

SYMPOSIUM 'GREEN HAPPINESS' TO MARK S.V. NITROCA'S THIRD JUBILEE

A jubilee symposium held by the International Land and Water Management study association, which will include talks and workshops by Arcadis, Eleaf, Acacia Water and Mott-Macdonald. Venue: Lumen.

WWW.NITOCRA.NL

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

colophon

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>>TYPICAL DUTCH




ILLUSTRATIE: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK

Lovely Dutch gardens

Many Dutch people love gardening. It is amazing how they creatively arrange diverse types of plants in their small yard or even on their balcony. There is no particular style of gardening that can be distinguished as 'Dutch-style' but that makes it all the more interesting. People here just decorate their yard freely with their own unique ideas, resulting in wonderfully diverse plant exhibitions.

One afternoon I was walking around near my place when I saw a house with a small front lawn full of messy bushes, or so I thought. When I looked more closely, I realized that the plants were not carelessly planted at all. The owner had arranged them immaculately according to their types and colours. The garden was like a living flower bouquet. While Dutch people don't generally have very spacious yards, size does not really matter when it comes to gardening. Even when they live in an apartment and only own a balcony, they will hang their plants in pots along the balcony edge. To me, those hanging gardens are super-cute. I always look up every time I pass by apartment buildings.

Inspired by many gardens I have seen here so far, I am now trying to make my own 'garden' in my room too. Although some plants will probably not survive my near-zero gardening skills, it is still an enjoyable hobby that I hope I can continue even when I am back in my country.  **Nindya Putri Pamungkas, Master's student of Nutrition and Health, from Indonesia**

Dutch gardens show that size doesn't matter when it comes to gardening

Have you had an interesting encounter with Dutch culture? Send your anecdote (in 250 to 350 words) to resource@wur.nl and earn 25 euros and a jar of Dutch sweets. The editors reserve the right to shorten and edit the contributions before publication.
