
BSc degrees in English

Executive Board wants to start
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RESOURCE [EN]

For everyone at Wageningen University & Research

no 17 – 20 April 2017 – 11th Volume



Jessica Duncan

Why everyone loves the
Teacher of the Year 2017 | p.12

**INTERNATIONAL
EDITION**

MUSCLE POWER

As if the Farmers' Walk, carrying 160 kilos, wasn't tough enough already, student Robbert Lens carries his sports mate Sven Bartlink on his back as well. The pair of them were in front of the Forum on Wednesday 12 April together with other strapping men and women of student sports association The Wageningen Beasts, to promote their Strength Day. During this event on 18 May, anyone who fancies it can take part in typical strong-man exercises such as throwing tractor tyres. All are welcome, trained or untrained.  LvdN, photo: Sven Menschel



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WU WEN AND XING YA

So many people have jumped on the panda bandwagon; I've heard it all by now. We've had the Panda bamboo grower (I started keeping track five years ago), the Panda cupcake maker (yummy, new recipe) and even a Panda liqueur (chocolate and orange). Don't get me wrong, I am not panda-ed out; in fact I rather enjoy it all. The one I liked best of all was the crowdfunding campaign to save the 'polder panda'. Never heard of her, but she turns out to be grazing just around the corner from my house. The SZH, a foundation for living heritage, has taken up the cudgels on behalf of this old Dutch breed of cow with panda eyes, whose survival is under threat. Even more so now that cow numbers must be slashed to reduce phosphate production. Fortunately the secretary of state has seen the light and the polder panda is no longer headed straight for slaughter. Thanks to those polder pandas I am suddenly learning a lot about our very own Dutch cows and their uncertain future (see page 18). So let's start giving them just as much attention as we're giving Wu Wen and Xing Ya. Then we won't be crying over spilt milk later.

Edwin van Laar



>> [The stresskip-app helps control feather pecking | p.9](#)

'WUR UNDERESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION OF WISE'

Wageningen University & Research underestimated what it would take to set up the new student information system WISE, concludes the WUR Council in its evaluation report *Sadder and Wiser*. The organization did not prepare properly, underestimated the effort that would be required, and hung on to the project too long, says the council.

The Executive Board gave the go-ahead in 2011 for the purchase of a new student information system, later called WISE. Five years later the board called a halt to this project. An earlier attempt by WUR to establish the project information system Kameleon had run aground too. The WUR Council wants to learn the lessons of the failed IT

projects, and conducted an evaluation based on documents and discussions with the staff involved.

In this project started together with Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences when it was still part of WUR, mistakes were made in every phase of the introduction of the new information system for registering students, courses and grades, says the evaluation report. The Requirements Programme was no good from the start, as it placed too much emphasis on the basic registration system and not enough on the complex student tracking system, in which the degree programme options and the courses required are described. Five years later, WISE came to grief over this tracking system because the provider could not meet WUR's additional

requirements on this point.

Once the project was launched WUR underestimated its scale and costs. There were no project managers with experience of large-scale projects either in the policy department ER&I or the IT department of Facilities & Services. The project got through four project heads in four years, two of them externally recruited. In the course of the project WUR discovered that it required multidisciplinary teams of people with IT, education and administrative expertise. But repeated changes of manager meant repeated changes in management and communication style, and roles and mandates remained unclear.

After the departure of Van Hall Larenstein in 2013, WUR considered abandoning WISE, but decid-

ed to carry on with it. During that phase the staff involved were increasingly dubious and questioned whether the new system had as much to offer as the old one which WUR had put together itself. That criticism was not appreciated, notes the WUR Council in the evaluation. Staff felt their doubts could be held against them.

The failed implementation of WISE cost WUR millions of euros. The Executive Board has not yet responded to the report. **AS**

There is a link to the evaluation report on resource-online.nl

SPORTSPEOPLE OF THE YEAR SALUTED

For the second year in succession, triathlete Julie van Gruenigen has been declared Wageningen student sportswoman of the year. She received the prize on Tuesday 18 April during the Thymos Sport Gala in De Toekomst party centre.

Athlete Joep Kluwen was sportsman of the year, the Tartlétos

men's athletics team won the title of sports team of the year and volleyball coach Jacques van Leersum was announced sports coach of the year.

Julie van Gruenigen gained first place last year in the Triathlon Challenge in Roth in Germany. She also made the best time in the Ironman Challenge in Major-

ca. These achievements earned her the title of Wageningen student sportswoman of the year. She beat swimmer Francesca Marcato and lacrosse player Lin Peterse. Athlete Joep Kluwen won for his achievements in several student championships including the Batavieren race (in which he came second). The Tartlétos

men received their honour primarily for their unequivocal promotion from the third to the second division.

Trainer and coach Jacques van Leersum was among the prize-winners because he has worked hard for student volleyball club WaHo for 31 years. He is bowing out after this season. **VK**



Triathlete Julie van Gruenigen just after receiving her prize.

EXTENDED TIMETABLE RAISES QUESTIONS

The Student Council has many questions about the extended timetable proposed by the Executive Board to accommodate the growth in student numbers, reports chairperson Karlijn Hendriks.

Hendriks is pleased that WUR has decided against evening lectures, but is not overjoyed about the extended timetable. 'At present the lunch break is 75 minutes and in the new teaching timetable it appears to be only 30 minutes. A great many events and meetings are scheduled in the lunch break but the new timetable may make this difficult. Perhaps we would prefer to have a fixed lunch break of an hour and shorter breaks at other times of day.'

Hendriks also wants an educational opinion on the shorter lecture sessions. 'Shortening the teaching periods by five minutes gives students less opportunity to ask questions. I am curious to know how lecturers think they can deal with that.'

In addition, the Student Council still has some objections to teaching in the early evening. 'While the extended timetable offers more flexibility than evening lectures, we also see disadvantages. The Student Council is therefore keen for the Executive Board to come up with more scenarios from which we can choose.'

In early May the various consultative bodies will hold a discussion evening about the extended timetable. **AS**

COLUMN|STIJN

Fact-free propaganda

What am I to think of this? The 'March for Science' in the Netherlands. This demonstration on 22 April, which is supported by WUR, is a protest against the rise of anti-intellectual tendencies.

I'm sure it is well-intentioned but the main impact of their 'statement' on me is to make me sceptical. Every sentence I read makes me ask myself: oh really, is that so? Please don't hold it against me; it must be my scientific tendencies.

Take the second sentence for instance: 'It (science) does not serve particular interests.' Is that true? Wasn't the original idea of science precisely that it was practised purely out of a consuming interest? Of course, what the organizers mean here must be 'vested interests' rather than fascination. Their focus on science was so strong they lost sight of semantic nuances. Oh and incidentally, one of the organizers puts his scientific knowledge to work for an 'oil and gas company'.

And a bit further on: 'Anti-intellectual thinking has been subtly present for years but is now growing faster than ever and can no longer be ignored'. Further on again they imply with an example that this is the case in the Netherlands too. Interesting. So what is the situation, exactly? Are there any studies on this? Alas, the 'statement' offers no scientific evidence whatsoever.

But with sentences like 'Entire movements ignore (...) scientific evidence...', the impression is created that anti-intellectualism is rife. A kind of enemy is created and we, as the supporters of science, must unite against it. This sounds to me like fact-free propaganda which exploits the prevailing sentiments among the supporters of science.

Not what we should want as scientists, surely? **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

>>HEALING GARDENS

Garden for cancer patients

Personal professor of Nutrition and Cancer Ellen Kampman opened the Healing Gardens project in Almere on 12 April. In this trial garden, convalescing cancer patients will grow vegetables and share their experiences. Researchers will study the physical and psychological effects of these activities. The project, which will start with a group of 15 patients, is part of the AMS research programme The Feeding City. If this pilot is successful, a group of 150 patients will start working in the gardens next year. **TL**

>>AID 2017

Master's mentors wanted

The AID board is looking for Master's mentors for the Annual Introduction Days (AID) 2017. Several dozen mentors have signed up, but 140 are needed. Registration started at the end of March. As always, it didn't take long before there were enough Bachelor's mentors but for the Master's programmes (Regular and Light) it is always harder to find enough mentors. Last year the board was forced to enlarge the groups. The current board hopes to avoid this by actively recruiting mentors through Facebook, adverts and posters. Look on www.aidwageningen.nl **LvdN**

>>TEACHER OF THE YEAR

WUR Talks for students

The Teacher of the Year 2017, Jessica Duncan, will use her 2500 euros in prize money for WUR Talks for students. She hit upon the idea after talking to hydrologist Roel Dijk-



ma, last year's winner. He used his money for a lecture series, which resulted in WUR Talks. These are presentations in which staff, alumni and students talk about their consuming interests. 'Roel told me there was a lack of students among the speakers.' So Duncan is thinking of a series of events at which students tell their personal stories. 'Something like WUR Chronicles or Wag City Chronicles: true stories.' She wants to use the money to run training courses for students who have a nice story to tell but lack the skills and confidence to tell it. **LvdN**

Read the interview with Jessica Duncan on p. 12.

WUR TESTS CHINESE SOLAR GREENHOUSE

Wageningen University & Research opened a Chinese solar greenhouse on 12 April at its research centre in Bleiswijk. In this type of greenhouse, vegetables can be grown in winter using solar power alone, but the greenhouse has its drawbacks as well. WUR hopes to solve those.

The highly productive Dutch greenhouse horticulture is dominant globally but is dependent on fossil fuels. In China, vegetable growers make extensive use of a different kind of greenhouse in which they grow vegetables using solar power. These greenhouses consist of a plastic dome and a thick wall in which the heat of the sun is stored.

Eric Poot of the Greenhouse Horticulture business unit at Wageningen Plant Research thinks Dutch technology providers can



PHOTO: GERARD-JAN VLEKKE

The solar greenhouse in Bleiswijk was opened by Guosheng Zhang of the Chinese embassy (fifth from the left) and the King's Commissioner for South Holland Jaap Smit (behind the lady with the cymbals).

improve production in this Chinese solar greenhouse. The biggest downside is the high humidity, a cause of many diseases and pests which the Chinese control with

chemicals. In the trial greenhouse in Bleiswijk, ventilation has been introduced to relieve this problem. Also, the vegetables in the greenhouse are growing in substrate, so

that the grower is not bothered by soil diseases, and can install an environmentally friendly water circulation system.

The Greenhouse Horticulture business unit is going to study whether the Dutch approach in the Chinese greenhouse increases yields and reduces diseases and pests. The research is being done together with a consortium of Dutch companies keen to sell their technology on the Chinese market.

The Chinese are already interested, Poot observed during a recent visit to China. In turn, Poot hopes to learn something from the Chinese solar greenhouse too. 'We are curious how much heat the greenhouse can store during the day, and how much is released at night. And how do the vegetables react to the temperature differences?' **AS**

NEW PARTY PUTS YOUNG WAGENINGEN CENTRE STAGE

A new party – Connect Wageningen – has been founded under the leadership of Mark Reijerman, a student of Nutrition and Health. From 2018 the party wants to see the young people, students and international residents of Wageningen better represented on the municipal council.



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHTEL

Mark Reijerman

among international residents of Wageningen doesn't even get a mention in the social policy,' says Reijerman. 'Whereas every international student I talk to agrees that this is a problem.' Connect Wageningen also feels people have too little say on issues of sustainability. Reijerman: 'The sustainable student organizations don't get drawn in at all. We shall actively seek discussion with these people.'

Apart from better representation of young people in the municipal council, the party has not formed any substantial positions yet. Nor is the list of candidates ready. Connect Wageningen intends to use the coming period for discussions with other student and youth organizations. **TF**

The founders of Connect Wageningen see too few young council members among the established parties. 'To become a candidate with a chance of being elected in those parties you have to have been active for a long time and have achieved a lot. Most young folk in Wageningen haven't had the chance to do that yet,' says Reijerman. He is currently a council member for the City Party. This position gives him plenty of scope to go down a different road in the elections of March 2018. Connect Wageningen believes that the current shortage of young people on the council leads to inadequate policies. 'The issue of isolation

EXECUTIVE BOARD WANTS ENGLISH-TAUGHT BACHELOR'S

The Executive Board has taken the provisional decision of making Wageningen Bachelor's English-taught. They want to start the first programmes in September 2018. This is stated in a letter from the Board to the Student Staff Council.

Five programmes will pioneer the transition. These are Soil, Water, Atmosphere; Animal Sciences; International Land and Water Management; Food Technology, and Environmental Sciences. All these programmes are enthusiastic about a full transition to English. If the Student Staff Council agrees to the plan, the five programmes will no longer be offered in Dutch as of September 2018.

The university has been considering becoming fully English-speaking for some time now. The primary argument for this step is the international domain in which WUR operates. Education director Tiny van Boekel spoke on this topic in September 2016: 'Themes like food pro-

duction, climate change, soil, water and atmosphere are international. You give students an extra learning experience if you view these not only from the perspective of the Dutch situation.' Other arguments are: better preparation for an international work field, strengthening international cooperation and better use of the international teaching staff.

A working group has recently been studying the consequences of introducing English-taught Bachelor's. These will include a greater influx of international students, who will need accommodation and possibly extra support. Some programmes are already having difficulty catering for the current growth in student numbers. The working group has advised the Executive Board to appoint an *internationalization coordinator* to monitor such developments.

The Executive Board would like a response from the Student Staff Council before 29 May. **LvdN**

Read more about this at resource-online.nl

COURSE COORDINATORS COMMENDED

On 6 April the course coordinators of the 30 highest-rated WUR courses received an Education Award from Rector Magnificus Arthur Mol. All award winners received a statuette of a seedling and 1000 euros to spend on education.

Like last year, there were four categories: introductory courses, in-depth courses, special courses (such as Capita Selecta) and large courses (with more than 400 students). The surprising winner of the last category was *Academic Consultancy Training* by Tjeerd-Jan Stomph. The course, which 743 students are taking this year, usually comes in for plenty of criticism from students. It is a complex, demanding and complicated course, says Mol. 'That the course has received such good appraisals by students is due not only to the team of lecturers and experts, but also to



All the award-winning course coordinators received a statuette of a seedling.

Stomph's close involvement.'

The best introductory course was *Forest Resources and Sustainable Management Systems* by Ute Sass-Klaassen, a lecturer who has also been nominated several times for the Teacher of the Year Award. The course *Reproduction of Plants* by

André van Lammeren also received an award. Having officially retired last year, he continues to teach practicals.

The winner in the category of best in-depth course was *Food Quality Management Research Principles II*, coordinated by Pieterneel Lun-

ing. The best special course was *Intuitive Intelligence* by Marjan Wink.

📍 LvdN

The list of award winners is posted on resource-online.nl

WORM-CHARMING AS A COMPETITIVE SPORT

On Thursday 20 April the orchard of the organic experimental and teaching farm at Droevendaal will host the first open Wageningen Worm-charming Championships. The participants will be teams of soil scientists and ecologists.

The poetically named worm-charming has come over from England, where it has been a competitive 'sport' since 1980. The aim is for teams to comb an area of 3 by 3 metres and lure as many worms as possible above ground in half an hour by the only method allowed: vibrating the ground with a pitchfork.

The initiator and director of the competition is Professor of Soil Biochemistry Jan Willem van Groenigen. He hopes the competition will generate more interest in his subject area. Van Groenigen and his group do research on

the link between worms and soil quality. There is a practical side to the competition too: Van Groenigen is looking for residents for his 'worm hotel' on the Bornsesteeg.

This hotel consists of 15 boxed-in plots of 3 by 3 metres. Van Groenigen wants to fill the 'rooms' of his hotel with all the species of worm found in the Netherlands. Once sorted, the harvest of the competition will be brought to the hotel, which serves as a store of live material for scientists who need worms for their research. Ten teams of scientists, most of them from Wageningen, will compete in the first championships. But this is not the real target group, says Van Groenigen. 'Ultimately we are aiming at secondary school students, but we are starting a bit smaller this year to try out the concept.' 📍 RK

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MUSSEL MOLECULE PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO BUILDING WITH DNA

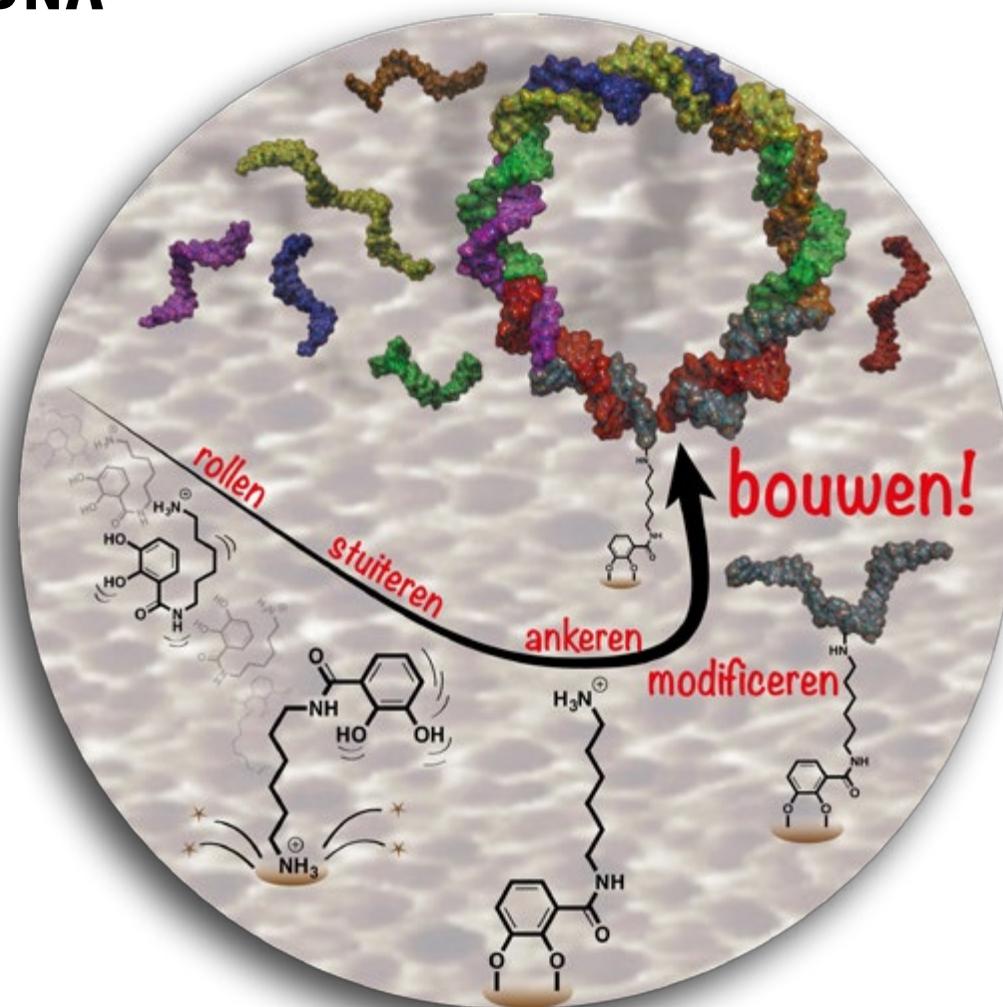
DNA can be used to build all sorts of nanostructures, from medicine capsules to nano-tweezers. But how the building happens has remained a mystery. Now, Wageningen researchers have found a way to bind the DNA to a sheet of mica, so they can track the entire process under a microscope and modify it if need be.

In nature, DNA is neatly rolled up in a double helix. Nowadays, however, scientists are able to fold separate strands of artificial DNA into all sorts of structures. This DNA origami, as it is called, is used in medicine to form 'boxes' with which to dose chemotherapy locally so that patients suffer fewer side-effects, explains co-author Bauke Albada of the Organic Chemistry group. 'These boxes have locks which only open when it binds to a cancer cell.'

But according to Albada, precisely how the DNA origami is formed has long been a black box. 'You put the pieces of DNA together in a specific sequence, and you filter the end result out of the solution and study it under a microscope. Then you might see some well-formed boxes, a few half-formed boxes, or a box without a lid. But you have no idea where it went wrong, exactly.' So Albada and his team developed a new technique that enables them to watch 'live' as the DNA origami develops. They published their results last week in the journal *Angewandte Chemie*, which gave the publication its 'hot paper' label.

MUSSEL ADHESIVE

As DNA origami is too small to be seen using a standard microscope, the researchers use an atomic-force microscope, in which a tiny probe moves over the surface, registering every bump. A three-dimensional image of the molecule is generated in a process which Albada compares to reading Braille. 'Because the probe is very sensitive to bumps, the background must be as flat as possible.' The mineral mica is the ultimate flat material. But that is a big disadvantage too: mica is so smooth that nothing sticks to it. Luckily, nature comes to the rescue. Mussels are masters of the art of sticking to the slipperiest of surfaces. Inspired by mus-



This is how the process works. The adhesive molecule makes a dent and adheres to the sheet of mica, and then construction can continue. With thanks to: Bauke Albada.

sel adhesive, Albada and his colleagues developed a molecule that does stick to mica, and then added a surface anchor that provides a starting block for the other DNA pieces. Helpfully, this anchor also ensures that the molecule sticks to the mica extra strongly. Under the microscope, Albada saw that the anchor makes a small dent in the mica when it comes into contact with it. 'This gives the molecule more grip, a bit like when you're skating and you dig a little pit in the ice to stop yourself sliding.'

Once the DNA is securely attached, the researchers can see under the microscope how the other DNA pieces pile on top of it.

'Because we can see exactly what is happening, we can also modify the process, by putting a different lid on the box, for example.' The adhesive molecule is only 1 nanometre (a millionth of a millimetre) thick and does not distort the measurements, says Albada.

Albada has now made a circular DNA structure. 'You don't usually see this shape in the final stages, because it falls apart at the filtering stage.' In the future, he would like to apply this technique to functional structures such as DNA nano-tweezers. 'A possible use for these is to break down pathogenic proteins in the body.' **TL**

WEEVILS AND FUNGI CAN CONTROL WATER HYACINTHS

The water hyacinth is invading surface water in Ethiopia, but there are weevils and fungi that can control the plant. PhD candidate Firehun Yirefu Gebregiorgis studied how these natural enemies of the water hyacinth could be used to fight it.

Many rivers and lakes in Ethiopia are covered in a blanket of green leaves and purple flowers. Water hyacinths look pretty but they grow fast and are difficult to keep under control. People whose livelihoods depend on fishing or farming are affected because a thick carpet of hyacinths makes fishing impossible and blocks irrigation canals. Fortunately, the weevils *Neochetina eichhorniae* and *Neochetina bruchi* are natural enemies of the water hyacinth and can be put to work. Firehun Yirefu Gebregiorgis recently gained a PhD in Farming Systems Ecology for a study of the potential use of these beetles to control water hyacinth in Ethiopia. The beetles cut the reproduction rate of water hyacinth by 72 and 66 percent respectively, Gebregiorgis found. Larvae of the weevils tunnel into the leaves and the beetles themselves devour the plants. The beetles have been used for

some time in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, but they do not thrive in regions with changeable climates. So in South Africa an alternative option is used: a fungus which impedes the growth of water hyacinths.

A combination of weevils and the fungus *Alternaria alternata* can slash the reproduction rate by 85 percent, claims Gebregiorgis. The fungus grows on the nibbled leaves. Neither of these two natural enemies of the water hyacinth have yet been used in Ethiopia to control the plant. Instead, people remove the weed by hand or with mechanical diggers. In some areas they use pesticides, in spite of the high costs and pollution this entails.

Gebregiorgis's supervisor Paul Struik says the results of the study have been well received by Ethiopian farmers and the government. 'But before they can use the beetles, they will first have to breed them in large numbers,' he says. There is no need to fear a plague of beetles, as these weevils eat hardly anything but water hyacinths. As soon as they run out of these plants, their numbers will decline, so a natural balance will be maintained. **© DdV**



FOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

VISION <<

Feather-pecking app

Livestock feed company Voorgroep Zuid has developed a software programme for smartphones which assesses the risk of feather pecking in laying hens. The stresskip (stress chicken) app is a nice aid but is no substitute for the skills of a poultry farmer, says Wageningen researcher Thea van Niekerk.



Van Niekerk doesn't know the app because 'you can't download it yet with a Windows phone'. But she doesn't think the app will solve the feather-pecking problem. 'An app can help but the poultry farmer's intuition is crucial. He has to sense today that something's going to go wrong in the barn tomorrow.'

Why do hens peck each other?

'We don't know exactly. There are many factors involved. The stage of growth to adulthood is very important, as is good bedding. The chickens' genetic predisposition, lighting and management all play a part. The wrong feed can have an effect, and so can too many changes to the composition of the feed.

That is why feed providers are often closely involved in the raising of laying hens. It also explains why it is a feed manufacturer that developed this app. Flocks of chickens with sharp, untrimmed beaks, have proven much more sensitive to disturbances, stress and disease than flocks with trimmed beaks. So from next year, when beak-trimming will be banned, poultry farmers are going to need to be much more alert to signs of stress.'

Why are hens with untrimmed beaks more sensitive?

'We are doing research on that, but we haven't answered that question yet. A calm atmosphere in the barn is an important factor and the presence of sharp beaks may be upsetting. These are relatively new questions. Previously, when they farmed battery hens, poultry farmers didn't need to take hen behaviour into account. Once batteries were banned they had to learn how to keep chickens all over again. Now that the beaks have to stay whole, they must learn to look at the animal's behaviour even more thoroughly.'

How can an app help?

'Breeding and feed companies keep track of data on the flocks of laying hens they supply or feed. That fast-growing mass of field data can contain information about the conditions under which chickens start feather pecking. In that sense, big data can bring us closer to the truth.' **© AS**



CYANIDE FISHING IS A WAY OF LIFE

Illegal cyanide fishing in Indonesia is doing a lot of damage to exotic coral reefs. But in spite of being banned, this illegal practice continues to flourish. Nature management organizations are failing to get to grips with it. Anthropologist Annet Pauwelussen wondered why. She spent one and a half years with the fishers and received a PhD with distinction for her report on that experience.

One of the species cyanide fishers dive for is sea bass. These fish hide in amongst the coral and to get them out, the divers spray them with a solution of sodium cyanide. This stuns them and makes them easy to catch. Then the fish are revived and shipped live to China. In the better restaurants of Hong Kong the fish can easily fetch 100 euros each, says Pauwelussen.

Fishing with cyanide is dangerous. The fishers of the Bajau people regularly die or become partially paralysed. Divers' disease, a westerner would call it. But that is a typically western way of looking at things, explains Pauwelussen. 'In my research I came across ideas about the sea and how people relate to it which are fundamentally different to the western view of nature.'

SEA SPIRITS

'I went to sea with them for weeks,' says Pauwelussen. 'I went to islands that aren't even on the map. I realized that I should go to sea with them if I really wanted to get to understand their world. Their idea of time is cyclical rather than linear. To us, what we do with the coral today has consequences



PHOTO: ANNET PAUWELUSSEN

This Indonesian diver is using cyanide to get fish out of the coral.

for tomorrow. But that is not always the logic of it for the Bajau. To them the relationship with sea spirits is central. The coral is a place where various sea spirits live, which you need to stay on good terms with.'

Cyanide fishers have been criminalized for decades now and depicted as impoverished folk driven by greed,' adds Pauwelussen. 'But that kind of explaining away only makes it harder to grasp how they think. If nature managers want to intervene, they need to start by understanding the world of the fishers: what do they do and why do they

do it that way? I take their reality seriously. It is important for the decisions they make.'

Equality between nature conservationists and the people who make their living from the sea is crucial, in Pauwelussen's view, to a good dialogue about nature management. 'On an equal footing you can look for common interests. It is important that you don't place one reality above another. And that is precisely what happens at the moment. The Bajau belief in sea spirits is real, because it affects the decisions they make.' **IRK**

YIELD GAP ANALYSES FOR LIVESTOCK TOO

French farmers with Charolais beef cattle only get 53 percent of the potential yield, says Aart van der Linden, the first person to make a yield gap analysis for a livestock branch. His method provides insight into how production in livestock farming can be boosted sustainably.

The scope for increasing crop production, the yield gap, is the difference between the actual yield and the yield that is theoretically possible if all the production conditions are optimal. Ever since the 1960s, Wageningen researchers have been analysing yield gaps for crops, but never yet for a livestock farming system.

Van der Linden, who recently received his PhD for research supervised by Wageningen professors Imke de Boer and Martin van Ittersum, was the first to develop a generic method for analysing the scope for increasing production in livestock farming. He then linked the yield gap for Charolais cattle with an analysis of the feed crops for these beef cattle. This generated a yield gap for meat production per hectare. And this yield gap is remarkably big. This is because there are limiting factors for both the cultivation of cattle feed and the production of beef. French Charolais farmers produce most of their feed on their own farms. The average beef farmer

produces only 53 percent of what is theoretically possible with the feed used and the rainwater currently available for crops. This makes the yield gap 47 percent.

French livestock farmers could reduce the yield gap by, for example, grazing more cows per hectare of land, thus increasing beef production per hectare. The purpose of the analysis is to pinpoint the most feasible options for improving production, and not to maximize production, emphasizes Van der Linden. 'That is why we also look at sustainability indicators. Respect for people, animals and the environment must be upheld when reducing yield gaps.' **AS**

MEANWHILE ON...

RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

BIOTECHNION IN 1991

WUR celebrates its centenary in 2018. *Resource* has been delving into the archives and digging up interesting photos. We've grouped them into seven thematic series. The lab in this photo was located in the Biotechnion, the WUR building on the Dreijen which closed its doors for good last year and is now under demolition. This picture was taken in 1991 by Guy Ackermans. Perhaps you have a nice story to tell about this lab, or a memory related to another photo from the series *100 years of... workplaces*? 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

WOMEN ONLY

Stijn van Gils's column *Women only* in *Resource* 16 did not go down well with all our readers. The new women's network *500 Women Scientists* – the subject of the column – wrote on the Resource site that Stijn's viewpoint won't help to create a united academic community. 'While this piece may have been an attempt at humour, it only served to perpetuate stereotypes about groups of 'angry women', misinform the readers, and do a great disservice to efforts to create a united and inclusive scientific community.' The organization goes on to reiterate why it is so important to address the inequality of women in science: 'The time has now come to accelerate the transition towards a more gender-equal scientific community. The 500WS platform aims to unite women and help accelerate the change to an inclusive scientific community. Therefore, even though some meetings are open to women only, the actions of 500WS will be for the benefit of all scientists (Herschberg et al. 2014). We invite men and non-scientist allies to support this development, and encourage discussion on how to build an inclusive scientific community.'

Peter Vermeulen, a former postdoc at WUR, hit the keyboard too. He responded in the form of a column along the lines of Stijn Gils's: 'If the writer thinks it is ridiculous that he was not invited to a *500 Women Scientists* gathering in Wageningen, you tend to buy into it. His big plan to protest against such an injustice was to write a passive-aggressive column in *Resource*, as I gathered from a male colleague who read the piece out loud to me, managing to keep his intonation completely neutral. I already feel sorry for all the males who agreed with the column. Talking at the coffee machine about the burden society puts on them of being researchers, fathers and lovers at the same time, while being denied a year's extension on their surely deserved Vidi grant application; gossiping about the women hired on tenure track without having worked abroad or acquired any research experience outside of the Wageningen womb.'

Read the reactions
on resource-online.nl



TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2017

JESSICA DUNCAN GETS YOU ON BOARD

She is committed and friendly and her classes are dynamic and sometimes a little bit wacky. Students are crazy about Jessica Duncan, the Teacher of the Year 2017. She knows exactly how to get students involved in the class and give them a taste of 'the best job in the world'.

text Linda van der Nat *photo* Guy Ackermans



When she returned to her workplace after the Teacher of the Year Award ceremony, it was obvious that her colleagues knew she had won. Next to the lift in the hall stood a coat rack/ umbrella stand adorned with numerous photos of her and the text: 'Jessica Duncan Teacher (and sweetie) of the Year 2017'. Her office was decorated with streamers and ticker-tape. 'Super-nice', but a bit overwhelming as well.

The assistant professor of Rural Sociology is over the moon about her prize. In fact, she has been walking on air ever since she heard she was among the 16 best teachers. Her inbox is still filling up with congratulatory emails, she has met all sorts of interesting people and last Friday morning her students treated her to apple pie.

It is a big achievement for Jessica to have

'There is always room for improvement: every year you can find better articles, think up better exercises and activities and make better slides'

won: she has only worked at Wageningen University for three years, and had not been nominated or longlisted before. She is modest about it: of course she is honoured, but it does feel a bit strange too. After all, she doesn't teach alone. Her wacky approach to teaching, which students love so much, would not be possible without the support of her colleagues. They teach as a team, try to introduce new things together, and always discuss what is going well and what could be improved on next year. So, yes, it does feel a bit funny to be singled out for a prize.

TRICKY

Duncan, from Canada, coordinates three courses (two of which won her the Education Prize last year) and teaches on three others, from different degree programmes. She also teaches two courses for PhD students. Getting knowledge across to diverse groups from different academic backgrounds is tricky because the students cannot all go into the subject in the same depth. But she makes sure she draws all the students into her classes, even those at the back who sit staring at their

mobile phones. She spends a lot of time preparing her classes. An awful lot of time. After all, there is always room for improvement: every year you can find better articles, think up better exercises and activities and make better slides. Her classes are always dynamic. Partly because she has a spontaneous, sparkling personality and brings a lot of energy into the classroom. But also because students do not sit still much during the class. Duncan literally gets her students moving: forming new groups all the time, getting them to stretch, doing memory games or pub quizzes (only without the beer). Is that wacky? The fact is that even in the best-case scenario, the best, most committed student – the one who loves coming to class, who prepares for the class beforehand and who studies the notes afterwards – will only remember 20 percent of what you said two weeks later. And one month later, 10 percent. That means that if you stand

in front of the class and just tell your story, you are wasting 80 percent of your energy. That is why Duncan and her colleagues are always looking for ways of transferring knowledge *and* making sure students will retain in. Which leads her to use some unusual methods.

What never ceases to amaze her is that students will do anything. As long as she is up-front and fair, and says, 'Guys, I'm trying something new, and if it doesn't work I'll do it differently next time,' she can get them to do almost anything: making farm animal noises to relax in the middle of a lecture that's tough going, or asking culinary quiz questions when attention is flagging. She provides a secure environment for her students and that makes a lot of things possible.

CONFERENCE

Besides the more standard courses, Duncan sometimes gives a *capita selecta*, taking a small group of students to a conference of the world food organization FAO in Rome, so they can see with their own eyes how negotiations about food security are conducted at the

global level. It is nice for her to get the chance to teach in her research field, nice for the people at the FAO to see that they are interesting enough to be studied, and nice for the students to see for themselves how food policy is made.

ABROAD

In the jury report, Duncan is praised for her efforts to let students sample 'the real world'. She gives priority to enabling students to really see where policy is made. She talks about it during lectures, she reconstructs debates with students, but the fun really starts when they get to see it for real, complete with headsets for the live interpreting. She is currently working with the International Land Coalition, with the aim of organizing a trip to Indonesia to take part in the Global Land Forum. If she manages to get funding, she wants to take a group of 10 students there in 2018.

And to think that it was never her dream to become a teacher. As a young student she wanted to become a lawyer. Because in Canada, if you are a smart, confident young woman, people tend to say, 'You should become a lawyer'. But in her first year she took a sociology course which changed her life. From that moment on, she wanted to be a researcher. And since teaching was part of the deal, she made the best of it. It can be scary, standing in front of a class, and as a young woman it can be hard to give off an aura of natural authority. The first classes she taught, while doing her Master's, were 'horrible', really, 'the worst'. Now she gets tremendous energy from teaching, but there are still days when she is completely exhausted. Luckily she has a very nice mentor; Bettina Bock is 'the greatest', and she can always go to Dirk Roep and Han Wiskerke for help too.

Duncan is the second woman to win the prize, and that is telling. There's room for improvement on the gender front in Wageningen. That a woman has now won the Teacher of the Year Award shows woman students that an academic career is possible. She knows that woman students are diffident or can be put off by the thought of an academic career. And it is 'overwhelming'. But it is also 'amazing'. Her work involves reading great articles, constantly meeting interesting people and travelling around the world. She is never bored. And now, as Teacher of the Year, she gets a chance to put all this in a positive light and show women that this opportunity is there for them. She really does have the best job in the world. 



Solar cells with an extra layer of OLED lamps make it possible to have night-time lighting in any colour you want. According to Van Heeswijk, residents could vote online every day on what colour the lighting should be.

Power from solar canopies

What would a city look like that gets all its electricity from the sun? Tom van Heeswijk envisages a future full of spaces roofed with solar panels.

text Roelof Kleis illustration Tom van Heeswijk

We all like the idea of a sustainable city. Why not, if it is good for the environment? But what would such a city look like? How does a sustainable energy supply fit into an urban environment? Huge wind turbines everywhere you look? Not very likely. Many people are opposed to wind turbines because of their visual impact. A year ago, Master's student of Landscape Architecture Tom van Heeswijk saw a nice subject here for his thesis research: can you generate sustainable energy in a city in a way that *is* accepted by the public?

He applied his question to solar energy. A practical choice. Wind turbines are not only much the most controversial source of sustainable energy, they are also hard to integrate into an urban environment. Van Heeswijk: 'Wind turbines take up a lot of space. Solar energy offers many more design options. You can get solar panels in all sorts of shapes and sizes. You can play around with them.'

PLAYING WITH SOLAR PANELS

That creative playing with solar panels leads to faster acceptance, as Van Heeswijk showed in a study he did before he started to design anything himself. He studied how residents from Ouddorp, Almere, Nijmegen and Oss felt about an existing solar panel project in their area.

The message was clear: the more attractive the design into which the solar panels are integrated, the greater the acceptance. And if it serves another purpose besides that of generating energy, all the better. Van Heeswijk took this message to heart and came up with the simple idea of the pergola. Nothing could be more Dutch than a pergola with plants providing shelter from strong sunshine. But Van Heeswijk covers his pergola not with plants but with solar panels. Not the standard ones found in large numbers on roofs but a semi-transparent and flexible foil known as organic solar cells.

For the practical application, Van Heeswijk used a section of the Amsterdam housing project Zeeburgereiland as a laboratory. The pergola idea turned into canopies for a range of public spaces such as streets, café terraces or sports fields. The solar canopies in question are not solid

but are made up of separate modules connected with cables, with enough space between them for rain or snow to drain away. The designs look futuristic, and they are. There are sure to be plenty of ifs and buts that could get in the way of actual implementation of the idea. 'It doesn't necessarily have to be totally achievable,' explains Van Heeswijk. 'The point is to inspire people and get discussion going. But I do believe this will become feasible in future.'

Van Heeswijk was given a 9 for his thesis by his supervisors Sven Stremke and Rudi van Etteger. But that wasn't the end of the story. Stremke encouraged him to send his idea in to the Post Fossil City competition run by the Urban Futures Studio at Utrecht University. There too, his designs were received with acclaim. Of the more than 250 entries from 40 countries, that of Van Heeswijk and his team got through to the final round. He will have to compete with nine other finalists. The designs will be exhibited in Utrecht on 15 June. On the same day the winner will be announced and presented with a cheque for 10,000 euros. **6**

LIVING LAB

Van Heeswijk's designs stand a chance of becoming more than an applauded exercise on paper. There are cautious plans to get a pilot off the ground in Binckhorst, a neighbourhood of The Hague. The Wageningen team, which besides Van Heeswijk is made up of landscape architects Sven Stremke and Wiebke Klemm and artist Sabrina Lindemann, are keen to test the solar canopies in a 'living lab'. Klemm: 'With municipalities, market players and users we can then see what the results are in terms of energy production as well as the effects on things like the climate and air quality in the city, and how residents feel about the canopies aesthetically. We are now looking for other possible partners and locations besides the one in The Hague.'



A BREATH OF FRESH AIR AMONG THE PEARS

It's chilly out. Now and then the sun peeps out through the clouds. And that is a sight for sore eyes in the blossoming pear orchard for WUR fruit research on the edge of Zetten. This is Alma van der Heiden's workplace. She is the newest recruit

at Wageningen Plant Research, where she has been working since October. Two months before that she attended an open day at the research station and pretty much fell on her feet: there was a vacancy. WUR is her first employer. Van der Hei-

den is a fresh graduate of the HAS University of Applied Sciences in Den Bosch. 'Applied Biology, majoring in plants.' She enjoys her job. 'I wanted something practice-oriented and in research. A lot of people with my background end up in plant



RS

breeding, so they spend their days in the controlled environments of the greenhouses. But I really like working in the fresh air like this, with all the changing conditions caused by the weather and the pests that go with it.' It helps that her holiday

jobs used to be in the fruit-growing sector. Not to mention that she loves apples. 'I enjoy tasting all those different varieties.' In her job she is currently working on testing varieties for their suitability for the Dutch climate. 'These varieties

come from breeding companies both at home and abroad. We look at how they do here and look for possible improvements to make. I help process the results.' And that means regularly popping outside. **© RK, foto Margriet van Vianen**



The Dutch government wants to reduce dairy livestock numbers in order to cut down phosphate production. Dairy farmers will then get rid of their less productive cows, a move which puts Dutch heritage cattle breeds at risk. These breeds are already a rare sight in the meadows of the Netherlands.

text Tessa Louwerens *photos* Veeteelt & Inke Fiona Crossen

Meet the Dutch heritage cattle breeds

If you Google 'Dutch cows' you'll find a motley collection of photos of cows in green meadows, their noses just a bit too close to the lens, and a blue sky with fluffy white clouds in the background. An iconic image of traditional Holland. Or is it? Most of these ladies are Holstein-Friesians, an originally American breed descended from Dutch Friesian cattle.

It all started in the 19th century when an American sea captain docked in Amsterdam harbour bought a black and white cow to provide his crew with milk on board ship. The cow carried on producing milk even after the Atlantic crossing and the Americans were very impressed. It didn't take long before ships laden with thousands of Dutch cows were setting sail for the land of opportunity. 'The Americans selected the best milk cows for further breeding,' says Sipke Joost Hiemstra, director of the Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands (CGN) at Wageningen University & Research. 'And so a new breed developed, the Holstein-Friesian: now the most productive dairy cow in the world.' Today more than 99 percent of Dutch dairy cows are Holstein-Friesians and this champion milk producer's picture adorns all Friesland-Campina packaging. Meanwhile you see fewer and fewer specimens of the real old Dutch cattle breeds. So which are those breeds, actually? A brief round of introductions:



Dutch Friesian
 Status: threatened
 Trend: falling
 Numbers: 1621*

THREATENED

Although in 1975 the Dutch Friesian cow was still the dominant breed in the Netherlands, there are now fewer than 2000 female breeding animals in the country. Whereas in the US the descendants of the original Dutch Friesian cattle were bred over many generations for milk production, here in the Netherlands there was more emphasis on appearance and the cows became smaller and smaller. The famous *Ūs Mem* statue in Leeuwarden is of a Dutch Friesian cow.



Red and White Friesian
 Status: threatened
 Trend: growing
 Numbers: 520*

THREATENED

The Red and White Friesian is a breed which should, officially, be extinct by now. In the Middle Ages most Dutch beef cattle were red and white but after an outbreak of rinderpest and floods around 1750, new black and white cows were imported from Denmark and Germany. In the Dutch beef cattle breed registry established in 1874, three cattle breeds were recognized: the black and white Dutch Friesian cow, the red and white Maas-Rhine-Ijssel cow, and the Groningen White-Headed cow. No other breeds could be registered for breeding. But a number of farmers kept a Red and White Friesian bull in a barn so the breed continued to exist.



Groningen White-Headed
 Status: threatened
 Trend: stable
 Numbers: 2190*

THREATENED

The White-Headed cow is all black or red with a white head and tail tip. It gets dubbed the 'polder panda' because of the characteristic rings around its eyes, and its rarity. This is an old breed which was described as long ago as the 14th century, before there were official breeds. The White-Headed cow is known for its strong legs, great fertility, good-quality meat and low-maintenance robustness.



Dutch Belted
 Status: threatened
 Trend: stable
 Numbers: 1600*

THREATENED

The Dutch Belted cow is an old breed, described as far back as the 12th century. The breed owes its name to the band of white around its middle. Because Dutch Belted cows were originally owned by nobility they were known as 'castle' or 'park' cattle. When the castles and estates largely disappeared, the Dutch Belted cow became a threatened breed and at its lowest point there were only about 300 specimens left in the Netherlands. Numbers have now recovered and the breed is gaining popularity, not least because of its unusual appearance.



Maas-Rhine-Ijssel (MRIJ)
 Status: normal
 Trend: falling
 Numbers: 15.567*

This red and white breed developed on the fertile plains between the Maas, Rhine and Ijssel rivers. These cows produce less milk than Holstein-Friesians, but the protein content of their milk is higher, so it is worth more. This is a strong, calm, low-maintenance cow. In the 1960s and 70s, half of all Dutch cattle were MRIJ, but after that their numbers went into a steep decline. With the introduction of milk quotas in 1984, they became more interesting economically, and details from accountants' firms show that farmers could make a good living from this robust dual-purpose breed.



Deep-Red Cattle
 Status: threatened
 Trend: growing
 Numbers: 941*

THREATENED

This breed was named for its dark reddish, in places almost blackish colour. Its lower legs, belly and tail tip are white. The Deep-Red cow is strong, long-lived and fairly winter-hardy. It is therefore suited to grazing in nature areas. One company makes a special, hard and nutty-tasting 'Deep-Red' cheese from its milk. This is one of the few breeds that is growing in numbers, although it is still on the threatened list.

In contrast to the specialized Holstein-Friesians, the original old Dutch cattle breeds are what is known as dual-purpose breeds, which is to say that they are suited to both dairy and beef production. Although they produce less milk than the Holstein-Friesian, these old breeds can fend for themselves better, says Hiemstra, and they do well on more extensive farms or with an element of nature reserve grazing. Besides, they are part of our living cultural heritage and we should look after that diversity.

**EFABIS database, data from 2014. Threatened means there are less than 3000 female breeding animals.*

more cattle breeds
 on efabis.cgn.wur.nl

Personal data under lock and key

Legal expert Frans Pinggen has been data protection officer for WUR since 1 January this year. His task is to develop policy for protecting the personal data of staff and students stored on the WUR server, and preventing data leaks. These days the news is full of such leaks, some caused by malicious hackers and others by ignorant users. Pinggen has four practical tips.

text Albert Sikkema *photo* Shutterstock

Privacy is a constitutional right which is under pressure. Facebook, Google and webshops accumulate shedloads of personal information in order to steer our media and consumer behaviour. The American security services tap our phonecalls and listen in via our TVs. And Russian hackers and Islamist terrorist organizations send us spyware in order to steal money and passport details. Even within WUR it is high time serious thought was given to privacy and data protection, says Pinggen. The risks of identity fraud are increasing fast. If your personal data are leaked, someone else could easily rent a car or do something worse than that at your expense. Also, grade lists can be hacked, leading to qualifications being called in question.

There is new legislation which makes it compulsory to report any incident of data being leaked and getting into the wrong hands. From next year heavy fines will be imposed on any organization which does not protect the data it is entrusted with properly, says Pinggen. So a steering committee and a project group are going to prepare WUR to fulfil the requirements. Meanwhile, Pinggen offers four things students, staff, and WUR as a whole can do to protect privacy.





Frans Pinggen

1 REPORT A DATA LEAK

We read reports of data leaks in the media every day. In November 2016, Erasmus University in Rotterdam had a data leak through which details of thousands of students may have fallen into the wrong hands. This was not just a question of addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers on the hacked website, but also of health data from forms filled in for student psychologists. Academic institutions with a lot of personal data in their systems are vulnerable. For this reason, SURF – the ICT organization for Dutch academic institutions – organized a major exercise last year involving a simulation of a data leak at Food & Biobased Research at WUR. It is important to practice emergency procedures for dealing with data leaks, says Pinggen.

Staff can sometimes be the cause of a data leak too. If your private or work laptop containing WUR files and emails gets stolen, you should report it to the IT helpdesk. They will assess whether this constitutes a data leak, and whether the leak concerns personal data which should be reported to the Personal Data Authority. Sometimes, for instance, students' course grades are still on old computers because a teacher has forgotten to delete them after saving them to the student information system. But there might also be other personal data about race, religion, sexual identity or health issues. The helpdesk can delete these kinds of files off old computers from a distance.

Pinggen advises data hygiene: save as little personal data as possible and remove it as soon as it is no longer needed.

2 AVOID USING USB STICKS OR EXTERNAL DRIVES

Do not use external drives or usb sticks to store extra data. There could be programmes on those external drives which will infect your computer. What is more, you can easily lose them, which counts as a data leak. Put information in safe places on the WUR server and only in the cloud if the IT department has done a security check on it. Don't be naïve, says Pinggen: security services and hackers can use all sorts of equipment to spy on your laptop. The camera on your laptop can be used by uninvited guests to take photos of you when you log in. So Pinggen's advice is to cover the camera while you are not using it.

3 USE SERVICES APPROVED BY WUR

Google, Facebook and Apple make their living from our data and do what they like with it because we have given them permission to do so. We do that by accepting conditions – often without reading them. We are constantly giving away data like that. So have a good look at your privacy settings and be critical. Some search engines are safer than others. You can also install ad blockers. And before you purchase IT applications or cloud services, get the IT department to carry out a security check. Pinggen also suggests WUR reconsider whether it wants to pay

companies for certain services in data about the surfing behaviour of visitors to our websites.

4 STORE RESEARCH DATA PROPERLY AND SECURELY

WUR researchers are obliged to keep their research data for ten years so that it can be validated. Sometimes things go wrong, for instance when a foreign PhD candidate returns home after graduating, taking data with them. That is not on, says Pinggen: we must store the data here. That will be easier now that the IT department has significantly lowered the costs of data storage. What is more, the researchers should anonymize any personal information included in their data. This approach has its uses: a few years ago a PhD researcher's computer crashed, and he was unable to prove how he came to his scientific conclusions, says Pinggen.

Any questions about privacy and data protection? Are you worried that your personal data might not be properly protected? If so, contact privacy@wur.nl

THREE STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

WUR has three student information systems, which for reasons of security are not linked with each other.

AIR. This is the student information system where students' personal data, the courses they take and the grades they get are stored. These data are only used for educational purposes, says Ingrid Hijman, head of the Student Service Centre. 'We are under no circumstances allowed to give this information to third parties, so we don't even tell parents whether their child is a student here or how they are doing. Parents often find that hard to understand, but these are the rules with a view to protecting personal data.'

SPA. This is the course planning system in which students submit the programme of courses they want to follow for their degree. This programme has to be approved by the study advisor and the exams committee, which therefore also has access to SPA.

CORSA. Deans and student psychologists have their own system, which is not public. Not even the study advisors can access it. The privacy rules state that this information can only be shared after students have given explicit permission for that. Hijman and the data protection officer between them make sure the procedures make sense, the systems are secure and the right people have access to the systems.

MARCH FOR SCIENCE IS THERE ANY POINT?

All around the world people will be taking to the streets on 22 April to draw attention to the importance of science. In the Netherlands there will be two such Marches for Science, in Amsterdam and Maastricht. But why are these demonstrations necessary? And is there any point in taking to the streets?

text Yvonne de Hilster illustration Henk van Ruitenbeek

Elmar Veenendaal



Assistant professor at Plant Ecology and Nature Management

'I think it's a good thing that this protest is being organized. We scientists don't make ourselves heard enough.

We must make clear to people that we are not out to take them for a ride

but to try to understand as precisely as possible how things work. And that we are constantly checking up on each other, trying to expand knowledge, and teaching students who will continue the pursuit of knowledge with critical minds. Of course things can go wrong, as happens if researchers only carry on if the results they get suit them. The need to publish results and make a name for yourself can also drown out the nuances. But nowadays a kind of alternative reality gets created in the public arena, where opinions are given the same weight as evidence-based science. It's fine for people to disagree with something, but please do so on the basis of carefully considered arguments. This is why I am definitely planning to join the gathering in Amsterdam.'

Adri van den Brink



Professor of Landscape Architecture

'I had heard of the March for Science, and your question is a wake-up call. I am in Vienna on that day for work purposes, but there is a demonstration there too. I might go along. I see it as a good initiative to make the public

and governments more aware of the value of science. **We make use of science without thinking about it: telephones, cars, armaments and election hackers... they are all made possible by science.** At the same time you can see that respect for science is dwindling. That worries me because of the big role of knowledge in society. I have noticed for years that decisions are often taken with more attention to the process than to the issue at stake. But to say that we are the

good guys and the others are the bad guys is too easy. For me the March is also an appeal to scientists to look in the mirror and ask ourselves whether we are still on the right track. There is nothing wrong with repositioning yourself and rethinking your role and how to fulfil it.'

Suzanne Brandon



PhD candidate at Sociology of Development and Change

'I am American and I'll be joining the March for Science because I am against the drastic cutbacks in the sciences in the United States. The current government's failure to pay

attention to health and safety in my country calls for a strong countermovement. Visibility is important. It's the only way to get heard. I also feel that this is an opportunity to open up dialogue in the scientific community and society, and to talk about how we as researchers relate to policy and politics. **I went on the Women's March in Washington in January and I intend to go on demonstrating.** It is important to keep up the momentum and go on voicing your point of view.'

Marloes Kraan



Researcher at Wageningen Marine Research in IJmuiden

'I have heard of the March for Science but it is still not clear to me what the March for Science is for, or who it is against exactly. **From what I hear it seems to have a mixed bag of objectives and that makes me doubtful.** I think you should separate the different issues. Locking up scientists is of a different order to discrediting the scientific consensus on climate change. The main issue in the Netherlands is the tension between applied and fundamental science. I think a lot about the role of science and it's important to me for



science to come down from its ivory tower. In my scientific work I think a lot about the meeting points between science and society. How can science be improved by including other sources of information – in my case from fisheries? An over-simplistic use of the word ‘facts’ makes me uneasy; there is often a lot of uncertainty and facts do not solve problems. In earlier demonstrations in the US, the finger was pointed at the way the social sciences place facts in a relative light. That makes me doubtful about taking part too.’

Anna Lith



Bachelor’s student of Forest and Nature Management

‘I hadn’t heard of the March for Science; I have heard of the People’s Climate March one week later. **I do feel concerned but I never make time for that sort of thing.** I have heard of concerns related to science, related to the pressure to publish and financing problems. But what I notice most of all is that people who don’t belong to the scientific world don’t always understand how it works and have a bit of a strange attitude to it. They are quick to think: that’s probably right; you shouldn’t believe everything those scientists say. If I explain what I’m working on to my family in words of one

syllable, I don’t feel understood. You can question whether people really want to know, but that can just generate suspicion. Whereas I notice myself that the more you know, the more you understand, and the more you realize how much you still don’t know.’

Erik Lu



Master’s student of Environmental Sciences

‘I understand why people are going to demonstrate in defence of science. Science is not always taken seriously anymore, and seems to be losing in importance. I’m not going on the March for Science myself. I am mobilizing people to go on the People’s Climate March which takes place one week later all around the world, including Amsterdam. I’m doing that as a participant in the civil society initiative Food and Future. Our aim is to get not just government but also ordinary citizens to take their share of responsibility for implementing the climate agreement. It may be that citizens can make an even bigger contribution. **A protest march all around the world will definitely have an impact.** It illustrates that people and countries mustn’t point the finger at each other but address problems together.’ 

Part-time jobs for international student

Students and jobs on the side are often mentioned in the same breath. Many students take it for granted that they earn a bit alongside their studies. It's a different story for international students, though. The language is often a barrier and there can also be cultural barriers that are hard to overcome. And for non-European students, employers are obliged to ask for a work permit or a rubberstamp. But there are quite a few students who don't let these obstacles defeat them.

text Madhura Rao and Anna Luijten photos Sven Menschel

SUNIL RAAJU MSc Plant Sciences, Indian

'Initially, it was difficult to find a job without knowing the Dutch language but later I managed it after finding out about the WURkforce website. I work as an activity manager with the Spectrum SP&C organization. I can't speak Dutch but I have done a beginners course. My lack of Dutch doesn't cause any problems at my work. But it's always better to know a bit of Dutch. I usually work during the lunch hours or in the evening after my lectures. As I am an internal activity manager I have to plan for the things to be done for the events and divide the tasks among the team. I plan my schedule so that I have more work at weekends than on weekdays. I would suggest to anyone who is looking for a job, especially for non-Dutch speakers, to register on WURkforce.nl and to look out for the jobs available at the university.'



PHIL BSc Forest and Nature Conservation, German

'I've been living in the Netherlands for five years but my financing stopped recently and my bank balance was shrinking. Time to find a job! Luckily in those five years I have learned some Dutch and that helps a lot. So there are different ways of searching and if you want to find a job on the internet you have to sign up. That is not really my style and I prefer to ask friends. I called that passive searching. In the end I found my job via a friend on facebook. She wrote that the cheese seller on the market was looking for some help. I called the guy and got the job. I get the impression that nationality doesn't matter, but age does. The first question employers always ask is "how old are you?". My dreams are not really a problem either. The cheese guy at the market just said it looked a bit too wild. Now I tie them back and that is okay.'



SIMONE CIUFFI**MSc Tourism, Leisure and Environment, Italian**

'I arrived in the Netherlands in November 2015. My family cannot support me and I don't get any government grant so I really needed to find a job to get some income. I sent my CV to a lot of hotels and let my friends know I was looking for a job. Since I don't speak any Dutch, I wasn't expecting much but who knows? I guess I was lucky because at the same time I was invited for an interview for a cleaning job, and I heard from a friend that they needed some help at a goat farm. I chose the farm since feeding baby goats is nicer. Of course the babies grew up and didn't need to be fed anymore. But the farm was so happy with me that I could stay to milk the goats instead. The funny thing is, the people at the farm don't speak any English, so we have to communicate with gestures!

I nearly forgot: I also work for the canteen of the University where I have to fill the coffee machine. I found this work via a friend as well. I guess having a broad network and making use of it is the best way to find a job.'

**MAJA TISMA****MSc Tourism, Leisure and Environment, Croatian**

'It was difficult to find a job because of my nationality. As a Croatian, I need a work permit to work in the Netherlands even if I am a student, and I cannot apply for it by myself. So I was browsing on the Internet, searching for the answers to the questions: "What do to?" and "Can I do that?" and "Can I work even if I don't speak the language?" I tried different websites for babysitting, but to do this, I do have to speak the language. I don't know how, but one website popped out! It was about 'petsitting'. I really liked the idea so I made a profile there, but my expectations were not high. After a couple of weeks, I got a first request, and then a second one! I got positive reviews and the requests just kept coming. Now I am proud to call myself a petsitter. I try to speak Dutch but I am not confident. Although I understand quite a lot, I am still not comfortable with speaking it. Most of the time I ask them if it is okay if we speak English. Then they usually say their English is not very good, but I reply that it is better than my Dutch. I do talk Dutch to my clients (animals) because I know they will not judge me!

For this job I believe it is important to know the commands in Dutch for example "Kom hier", "Zit", "Wacht" etc. I often walk dogs during my lunch break. Sometimes I feed cats and then I do it before and/or after school, depending on the owners. The good thing about this job is that it is very flexible. Sometimes I do have to cancel the appointment because of group work or a meeting or something. Most of the time I keep my weekends free for studying and leisure time. Just try; you have 50% more chance than if you don't. Good luck!'



Chilean student band Saonda at Liberation festival

RUNNING AWAY

In most species it is the female that decides whether mating is going to take place. Portuguese biologists have discovered which region of the fruit fly's brain is involved in this decision. Deactivating these brain cells causes the female fruit fly to run away from the advances of her would-be mate. And she can't stop.

STAYING PUT

The remarkable behaviour of the 'brainwashed' fruit fly has nothing to do with a change in its mobility. The female fruit fly only displays this behaviour during the mating season. Nor does the behaviour tell us anything about the relation between sex and running. They think something goes wrong with the fly's ability to draw the right conclusion from the very obvious mating signals coming from the male.

FRAGRANCE WHEEL

The library of St Paul's Cathedral smells of a mixture of wood, smoke, earth and vanilla, say visitors. We learn this from a study by University College London. Scientists there also analysed the chemical components of the smell of old books. The result is a kind of classification table, poetically dubbed the Fragrance Wheel for Old Books. The 'wheel' is intended to help gauge the age and condition of historic books.

SOCIAL

The use of social media makes children less happy, shows research at the University of Sheffield. Every hour spent on Whatsapp and the like reduces the overall level of happiness by 14 percent. By way of comparison: being part of a single-parent family means a 4.6 percent drop in happiness. The researchers put the effect down to the constant comparing with each other that goes on online. Girls are particularly affected and lose confidence as a result. **TK**

In spite of only being in existence for one year now, the Chilean WUR students of the band Saonda will take the stage for a whole hour at this year's Liberation Festival in Wageningen. 'We started playing for the fun of it and the friendship. We would never have dared dream of this.'

They can be seen and heard regularly at Latin parties, but that will be coming to an end soon as graduation time approaches for the musicians.

The four band members come from Chile and have been studying for Master's degrees in Wageningen since September 2015: Felipe Bucci does Urban Environmental Management, Felipe Lobos Climate Studies, Rodolfo Villanueva Environmental Studies and Sebastian Decap Animal Sciences. They first met at the Chilean barbecue on 18 September 2015. They still remember the date because the barbecue was in

honour of Chile's Independence Day. The students were urged to bring their musical instruments along and before long the future band was jamming away. And finding out in the process which kind of music would bring them together. That turned out to be Chilean Cumbia: a traditional South American rhythm. Felipe Lobos: 'It is great music to dance to, and that has certainly contributed to our success.' Another key factor which brought them together was Sebastian's son. 'We often say that we actually have five band members, because at the start we were often gathered around a four-year-old boy with a ukulele.'

MAKING AN ALBUM

In the first few months after forming Saonda, the guys wanted to perform a lot and were kept busy looking for venues. A gig in Villa Bloem in January 2016 was a turning point. Suddenly the band was getting regular requests to play. The high points were performanc-

es at the Chilean Independence Day festival in Rotterdam and at the Chilean embassy in The Hague. And now they're in the line-up at the Liberation Festival. On 5 May they'll be conjuring up their Chilean sound on the Salverdaplein. 'There seems to be a strong interest in South American music, and the competition is limited.'

The band will be splitting up again within a few months when the band members will be rounding off their studies. Felipe Lobos: 'In Chile there is absolutely no chance we can play together. Some band members live 2500 kilometres apart.' Saonda does hope to perform a few more times, though, and of course they'd like to leave a modest album behind when they leave. 'We don't have real fans or groupies,' says Felipe Bucci, 'The regulars at our shows are mostly friends of ours. It would be perfect to be able to give them an album as a token of our friendship.' **TK**



The Chilean band Saonda: Felipe Lobos (guitar), Felipe Bucci (base guitar), Sebastian Decap (percussion) and Rodolfo Villanueva (guitar).

PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHTEL

Argo bags trophy at Varsity

The student rowing club W.S.R. Argo had a triumph at the annual Varsity races. The Ladies Lightweight team crossed the line first in this biggest student rowing race of the year. This is the third year in a row that Argo's first-year rowers have won a trophy at the Varsity.

The 134th edition of the Varsity took place on 9 April on the Amsterdam-Rhine canal at Houten. The banks of the canal were crowded with fans from various university towns. The Varsity dates back to 1878 and was designated 'intangible heritage' last year. The first ever Varsity was a duel between Njord from Leiden and Laga from Delft. Now more than 20 clubs compete in the race. There is an important tradition at the Varsity that the members of the winning club dive into the water clad only in a tie, and swim to their champions' boat.

'Argo's Ladies Lightweight team is known for doing well,' says Deanne Verkroots, Argo's secretary. 'So the ladies had a reputation to keep up. They were in joint first place in the league table, with Triton from Utrecht. So that made the Varsity extra important to the girls.'

Lotte Demmink, Marije Kea, Sterre Bour, Tineke van Dort and cox Roos van Haeff gave their fans an exciting race. 'At 100 metres they had a clear lead, but were losing their advantage. All the more than 200 Argonauts in attendance were shouting their heads off along the Amsterdam Rhine canal. In the end they managed to push their nose across the line before the rest of the field.' The Argonauts rowing in the 'Old Four', the highlight of the Varsity, came third in the heats and didn't make it into the finals. **LN**

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MEANWHILE IN... FRANCE

'This election will bring real changes for France'

French citizens will be voting for their new president on 23 April. It is likely that, for the first time in history of the Republic, neither the Socialists nor the Republicans will reach the second voting round. Matthieu Chastel thinks these elections will be a crucial moment in history.

'I think these elections are special for several reasons. Firstly, it is highly unusual that five candidates have a reasonable chance of winning. The *Front National* has never been this popular in the polls shortly before the elections, and the candidates Macron and Mélenchon are making good progress without the strong support of a political party.

Secondly, there are already debates between candidates before the first round, when there used only to be personal interviews and reporting. This encourages candidates to put forward not only ideas but also clear solutions and actual policies. I think that is really impressive. Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, the French constitu-



PHOTO: GUILLAUME DESTOMBES / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

tion itself is questioned by most of the candidates. They are calling for reforms allowing better citizen representation. This is why I believe our country will change significantly after these elections. Personally, I have a lot of sympathy for Mélenchon. He is doing more than anyone else to make our country sustainable and he advocates establishing world peace through international diplomacy rather than military intervention. Both these points deserve more attention. Another important point is constitutional reform, which would reduce the government's power and increase citizen participation. I think the French are ready for that. What's more, Mélenchon wants to steer the European Union towards a fairer and more democratic system. These are the long-term changes that we need now. Actually, now that I am telling you this, I realise that I need to hurry to the consulate in Amsterdam to vote. Hopefully I can get there in time, so I can contribute to the change.' **TF**



Matthieu Chastel, a Master's student of Forest and Nature Conservation from France, provides context for the presidential elections.

YOU ON CAMPUS

Wageningen, international student city! An often-heard cry. Many foreigners come here to work and study, but just as many people set off from Wageningen for places all over the world. Some of them never get their fill of foreign travel. Judit Snethlage (25) was born and bred in the Netherlands, but has now lived in so many countries that by rights we should be calling her an international student too.

Judit is currently hard at work on her Master's in International Land and Water Management, a programme which takes her to all sorts of countries. 'I got back from Colombia less than a week ago,' she says. She was there doing research for her thesis. 'I lived in a mountain village at an altitude of 3000 metres.' It was cold there, but she danced to warm up. 'They had a lot of joyful music. We often danced the salsa, and I got

to celebrate carnival there.'

Colombia is not the first 'abroad' that Judit has been to. For her internship she went to Malaysia and she has spent the past two summers doing internships in Indonesia. 'I love being abroad for a longer period of time. It is a challenge to fathom all the new struc-

Judit danced to warm up at an altitude of 3000 metres

tures in a country.' Her main motive for going abroad for her studies is to give her stay a higher aim than simply travelling. 'Doing it that way gives you much more contact with normal life.' But simply travelling is something she does too. In her gap year she went to the East, to 'Russia, China and the rest of Southeast Asia. What I find fabulous

about these countries is the food. Most dishes are really delicious.'

In the Netherlands too, Judit has lived in various places. In Arnhem at home with her parents and in a number of houses in Wageningen. And in Delft, where she took a minor. Looking ahead, Judit thinks the future holds a move abroad for her. Preferably for several years so that she can build lasting friendships. 'Right now I have no ties. No house, no family, no reason not to leave.' She wants to make the most of that. 'Wageningen is a great place to come back to. It is nice for a couple of months, and then I find it too small again.' **AvdH**



FOTO: ANNE VAN DER WEIDEN

PARTIES

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

LUCA - SPANISH FIESTA PARTY

Saturday 22 April from 23.00 to 02.00

Wageningen's church on the Market Square is hosting a performance of Spanish music by a genuine Spanish orchestra, to be followed by an afterparty at Luca.

FORUM - NSW EASTER BONFIRE

Monday 24 April from 20.00 to 22.00

On campus the Christian student association NSW will build a genuine Easter bonfire outside Forum. It is always fun to sit round a camp fire with a drink in hand. Let's hope the weather stays fine.

WAGENINGEN - LIBERATION FESTIVAL 2017

Friday 5 May from 12.00 to 01.00

In case you don't yet know it: Wageningen is the place to be on 5 May. The entire city centre is transformed into one big stage. Yet again this year, the range of acts is hugely varied. You can't take your own alcohol so take enough money or lay up a stash of something tasty with friends who live in the centre. **AvdH**



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER

Some six hundred Wageningen PhD candidates swapped the lab for the dance floor at the annual PhD Party on Friday 7 April.

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.

Bringing firearms into the classroom

'CTRAL is a clinical research centre within Texas A&M University that focuses on protein metabolism. For my internship I analysed data and took measurements for four studies in heart failure, COPD (pulmonary diseases) and obesity. These studies are investigating the relationship between protein metabolism, body composition and muscle strength. I had a really enjoyable time in Texas, although many things there are different from in the Netherlands. For example, tradition and 'school spirit' are very important at Texas A&M University. Seventy thousand people study there and the campus is the same size as the city of Wageningen.

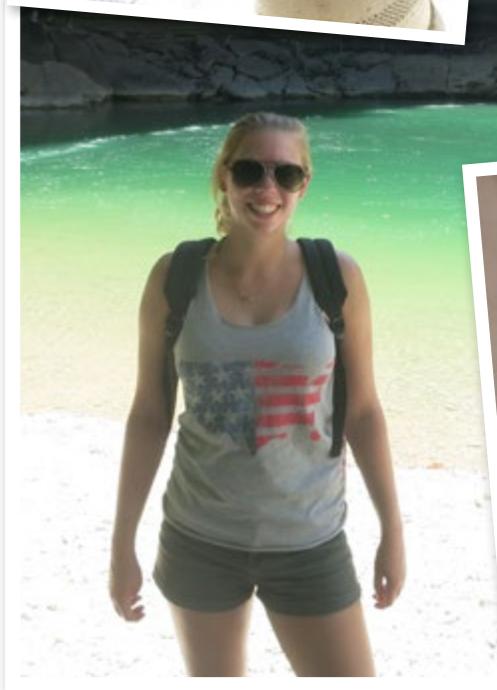
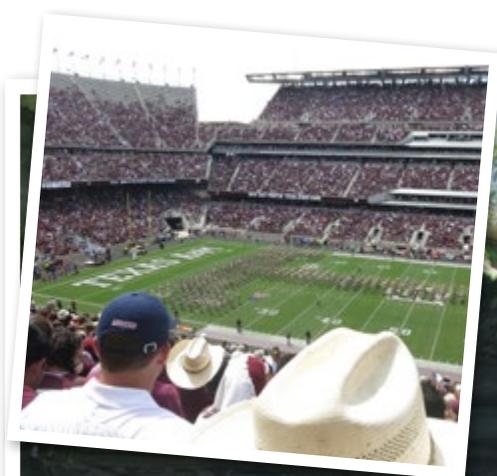
TAILGATING

It sometimes felt like I had stepped into a film. If I ate out the food was often unhealthy and there were parties in the swimming pool and halls specially for line dancing. The American football games of the university team were the high point of every week. The 'Texas A&M Aggies' play in the top division and the campus stadium seats more than 100,000 people. Tickets for games are in great demand and can easily cost 200 dollars. That's why my friends and I usually stayed in the park next to the stadium and took part in the tradition of 'tailgating'. From 8 o'clock in the morning on game days, people pitch tents, barbecue food, play games and drink. But on one occasion I did go into the stadium to watch a game. Instead of cheerleaders, Texas A&M has five men 'Yell Leaders' who use gestures to tell the spectators which songs to sing and what they should shout to support the team. It was exciting to experience this atmosphere.

My internship coincided with the US presidential election campaigns and I quickly noticed what a sensitive subject it was. Sometimes people wanted to stop talking to you if you said you thought the other candidate had better ideas. The way Americans think about firearms amazes me. They see them as providing the opportunity to protect themselves and in Texas a

law was passed last year giving students the right to take firearms into class.

Places in Texas are far apart and because I didn't have a car I missed my freedom a bit. It can also be very hot there. At 7 o'clock in the morning the temperature could already have reached 38 degrees Celsius. Which made taking a swim in the pool of my apartment block absolutely wonderful.' **IS**

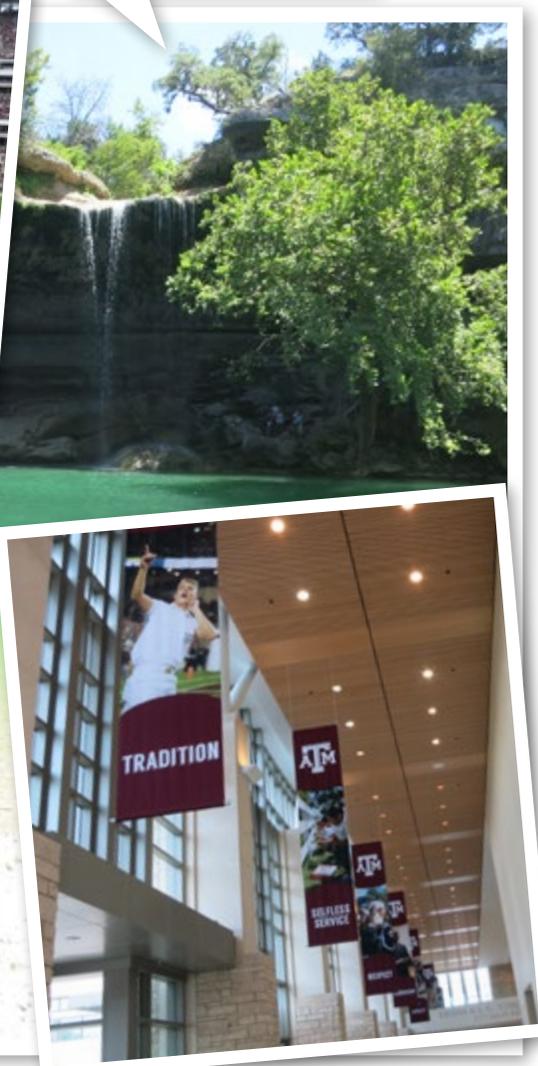


THE WORKS



Who? Iris Rijnaarts (24), Master's student of Nutrition and Health
What? Six-month internship at CTRAL, Texas A&M University
Where? Texas, USA

Read all the interviews on resource-online.nl



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 Ascencion 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



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 Ascencion 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



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 Ascencion 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.






taxateurs en hypotheekadviseurs Rick Zeedijk Makelaardij

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RESOURCE
 For everyone at Wageningen University & Research

announcements

STUDENT COUNCIL 2017/2018 ELECTION: LISTS OF CANDIDATES
 On 3 May 2017 the Student Council Election Committee will publish the lists of candidates, after they have been validated. Students who are entitled to vote will receive an e-mail from WebElect verkiezingen (info@webelect.nl) about the publication of the candidate lists. From 3 May 2017, students will know who might represent them in the Student Council next academic year. The lists of candidates will also be available for inspection at the office of the Secretary of the Student Council, or via the intranet page of the Student Council. Any person concerned may lodge a notice of objection to the validity of a published candidate list up to and including 17 May 2017, with the Secretary of the Student Council, Hermijn Speelman, Droevendaalsesteeg 4 (Room B.103), P.O. Box 9101, 6700 HB Wageningen.

AMS FLEVO CAMPUS SUMMER SCHOOL 'THE FEEDING CITY' (3 ECTS)
 MSc and final-year BSc students can apply to learn about food in the city as a driving force for a circular economy (10-21 July). Deadline registration: 1 May. www.ams-amsterdam.com

agenda

20 April to 10 May
5 FILMS FOR STUDENTS
Levende rivier: The flora and fauna of the Rhine (Ruben Smit/De Nieuwe Wildernis). *Loving:* a mixed-race couple in the American of 1958. *Verdwijnen:* about a terminally ill woman who visits her mother in Norway. *The Uncertainty has settled:* an award-winning film about climate change, with Q&A with the maker. *A Monster Calls:* a young boy's fantasy about a giant tree. Venue: Wilhelminaweg 3A, Wageningen. www.movie-w.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

Don't say sorry!

I have discovered that in the Netherlands the word 'sorry' is not used in the way we use it in Nigeria. I have even been told several times not to say this word.

Some months back, I met a Dutch friend at the Forum restaurant. We bought soup together and she took a lid to cover hers. Unfortunately, the lid slipped out of her hand and fell to the ground. I said 'sorry' and picked it up for her. She said: 'Thanks for picking it up for me, but you didn't need to apologize because it wasn't your fault.'

On a number of occasions, unpleasant things happened to Dutch people in my presence, or they told some sad stories about things that had happened to them. I always said 'sorry', as we usually do in my country. But in return, they always told me: 'You don't need to say sorry, you didn't do anything wrong.' To me, saying sorry in such situations is just a way of caring, not taking responsibility or apologizing. But I guess Dutch people don't see it that way.  **Ibrahim Jibrila, MSc student of Animal sciences, from Nigeria**

To a Nigerian, saying sorry is a way of showing you care, not of apologizing

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.
