

Pondering growth

Students and staff want a fundamental discussion | **p.4** |

Food in Africa

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Room shortage

Dutch students have to wait longer | **p.26** |

RESOURCE [EN]

For everyone at Wageningen University & Research

no 21 – 29 June 2017




Dutch soya

A student and an alumnus are experimenting with it | **p.24**

**INTERNATIONAL
EDITION**

THE EFFECT OF BEACH REPLENISHMENT

How can you spray sand onto the Dutch coast without doing a lot of damage to nature? Research currently being carried out by Wageningen Marine Research aims to answer this question. The researchers are looking at things like the effects of beach replenishment on the distribution of fish in the coastal zone. In this net on the research boat the Luctor there are fish caught 15 minutes by boat from the coast at Heemskerk. The results of the study should provide insight into the optimal frequency, timing, locations and type of beach replenishment with sand.  TL, photo: Maarten Rutting



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OUT OF THE BOX

I recently connected with Abdelkader Benali through LinkIn. He told me he is currently 'cultural professor' at the Technical University of Delft. He takes Delft engineers to public squares – places where technologists usually just look at buildings – to pay attention to the abundant store of human stories to be found there. Culture meets science. A good idea, and for Wageningen too.

Fantasizing about it, I come up with a list of people to invite. Historian Geert Mak could take our scientists for a walk in the woods where forgotten battles were fought. Documentary maker Michiel van Erp could shed some light on the eating habits of the average Dutch person. Philosopher Connie Palmen could reflect with us on the good life, or photographer Erwin Olaf could give us a new perspective on plants. Or we could go for something a bit more disruptive, and see what comedian Paul de Leeuw, provocative novelist Heleen van Royen or ex-footballer René van der Gijp have to say about hunger or erosion. OK, I realize that's going a bit far, but what I'm trying to say is: they are on to a good thing in Delft, bringing in someone with a different take on things. Always refreshing. We should copy the idea. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Edwin van Laar



[>> Scientists call on public to help save the ash tree | p.5](#)

CALL FOR DEBATE ABOUT GROWTH

A fundamental debate is needed about the university's growth, says the new Dean of Education Arnold Bregt. The Student Council agrees.

Bregt made this plea in an interview with *Resource* about the continuing growth in student numbers (see page 18). A recent survey among staff by *Resource* revealed that this increase is causing problems. 'For a long time growth has been seen as something positive, something that we could all be proud of,' says Bregt. 'But the current education model is reaching the limits of what is possible.'

The crux of the problem is that staffing levels have not increased in line with student numbers. According to figures from the Association of Universities, student-to-staff ratios have more than doubled in the past ten years from 7 students per staff member to 15. That is leading

to unhealthy, unsustainable workloads. According to Bregt, the Wageningen education model based on extensive contact between teaching staff and students is under threat. 'We can no longer afford to teach so intensively across the board like we used to.'

The call from the new head of education is supported by the Student Council. The three student parties, VeSte, CSF and S&I, plan to raise the issue of growth in their next meeting with the rector Arthur Mol on 4 July. VeSte spokesperson Ellen de Jong: 'We've been talking about this issue for some time already. Students have been coming to us with their concerns about groups that are too big and not being able to find thesis places.'

'The big workload for teaching staff is affecting the quality of the education,' adds Ties Terlouw of CSF. The students have already mentioned the growth-related

problems several times to the rector. So far in vain. De Jong: 'But now the *Resource* survey gives us figures we can use to back up our concerns. We fully support the call by Arnold Bregt. The university needs to have a vision about growth.'

The students say the Strategic Plan can hardly be used at all as a guide for growth. De Jong: 'It's all too vague and unspecific'. 'The university has come from a period around the turn of the century when it nearly went bankrupt,' adds Terlouw. 'So it has always embraced growth. You can see that's a factor whenever you raise the issue of growth.' De Jong: 'It would be quite an achievement if we could get the Executive Board to acknowledge there is a problem.' **✎ RK**

See also the article "Time to close the door?" on p.18.



The new Unilever building, seen from the north.

LOTS OF GLASS IN UNILEVER BUILDING

The new Unilever building on the Wageningen campus is to have an 'open' feel, with lots of glass. This can be seen from the design the company presented this week.

The new Global Foods Innovation Centre is four storeys high, plus an underground carpark. The design by the Amsterdam-based firm Paul de Ruiter Architects has an aura of openness due to the plentiful use of glass. And that is no coin-

cidence. Knowledge exchange and transparency are key in this building, says Unilever.

The eastern side of the ground floor will house the Pilot Plant, a mini-factory where new products will be made. On the western side there is room for the Food & Customer Experience – the nursery for new products, if you like. There will also be testing kitchens and a Concept Store. Upstairs there will be three more floors with a restaurant, offices and laborato-

ries. Underneath the building there will be a carpark where WUR staff are welcome to park their cars too – free. The building will be constructed by Dura Vermeer, and should be finished by mid-2019. Unilever will concentrate its current R&D branches in Vlaarding, Heilbronn and Poznan here. About 550 staff will be transferred to Wageningen. The Unilever building will be flanked by FrieslandCampina to the east and Plus Ultra to the west. **✎ RK**

YOUR COLUMN HERE?

Are you passionate about writing? Are you quite outspoken about your opinion? Is that opinion often thought-provoking and can you express it in an interesting way? If you can answer 'yes' to all these questions, you could be the new columnist *Resource* is looking for.

Write an attention-grabbing column of maximum 250 words and send it to edwin.vanlaar@wur.nl by 1 September. Introduce yourself briefly as well. The only requirement is that your story has something to do with WUR.

The submissions will be assessed by Executive Board chair and NRC columnist Louise Fresco, the current *Resource* columnist Stijn van Gils and editor-in-chief Edwin van Laar.

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Mud


'If you need something here, it is there for you,' she says, recalling with frustration her own university in Italy. 'All that waiting. The queues. If it wasn't for the terrible weather here, I would never leave. And the mountains – I miss them too. The Netherlands ought to be located in southern Europe.' I sigh. 'Your endless pining for the mountains. Just wait until you've seen the Wadden Sea.'

And there we were, walking over an expanse of mudflat in – thank goodness – lovely weather. She talks for hours about seals, shells and the gorgeous weather; the word 'mountain' seems to have been deleted from her vocabulary. The Netherlands: heaven on earth.

Suddenly there is a scream: 'Stijn!' Startled, I look behind me. She is up to her knees in the mud. I pull her out forcefully. 'Ow, ow, ow,' she yells. The pain gets worse in the weeks that follow. Walking gets harder every day but the GP doesn't want to do anything. 'A scan? No, we don't do that here in the Netherlands just like that,' he says after five weeks.

A visit to the physiotherapist is fruitless too. 'Sorry, I can't do anything for you. You need a scan. Oh, your GP doesn't want to do one? I'll give him a call. (...) Sorry, your GP really doesn't want to.'

She switches to another GP. 'A scan? I think that's a good idea. I'll make an appointment for you.' She goes to the MRI department. 'You have an appointment? Well, something's gone wrong somewhere. There is nothing in our system.'


'You know what?' she says as she limps home. 'You can keep the mountains at the moment, but in other ways I'm really missing Italy. All that waiting, all those queues. But at least in the end someone comes along who is really willing to help you.' 

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

>>PUBLIC ACTION


Save the ash

Wageningen scientists are involving the general public in efforts to save the ash tree. Anyone who spots an ash which is not affected by ash dieback is asked to contact the Centre for Genetic Resources on essentaksterfte.nu. The fungal disease is raging through north-west Europe but a small proportion of ash trees are resistant to it. Wageningen researchers, among them Paul Copini, want to use these healthy trees to breed a resistant ash. To do that, they need to get hold of 200 healthy trees in the short term. 

>>RING ROAD

Not through Carus

A ring road around the campus must not go through the Carus compound, WUR has told the municipal authorities. Wageningen Municipal Council has proposed a ring road which will run past the Noordwest neighbourhood and through the Dassenbosje wood. This plan met with strong objections, so alderman Han der Maat recently discussed with the WUR board the possibility of shifting the route eastwards. The eastern route runs right through trial fields, which would therefore become unusable, says WUR. It would also mean moving Carus buildings, which would cost at least 10 million euros. WUR is not closing the door completely, but it does want the route that goes

through the Dassenbosje to be included in the environmental impact assessment in any case. The council will make its decision on Monday 3 July. 

>>AFGHAN TEACHER TRAINING

6.6 million euros in support

The Dutch government has made more funding available for the agricultural teacher training college in Kabul which was set up with the help of WUR. The sum of 6.6 million euros will support the National Agricultural Education College (NAEC) for another five years. Since 2012, 635 students have successfully completed the training programme. Graduates of the college are qualified to teach in agricultural high schools in Afghanistan. The Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) supports NAEC. 



Students at a practical class at NAEC in Afghanistan.



ENGLISH AT BSC LEVEL AFTER ALL

Five Wageningen Bachelor's programmes will switch to English from 1 September 2018. The Student Staff Council ratified the Executive Board's proposal after all on 14 June. Eight members were in favour and six against.

The Student Staff Council had previously said it would reject the proposal unless the board met 13 additional conditions. In a letter the board then expressed willingness to meet 9 of the 13 conditions, including monitoring the impact of the English-language Bachelor's programmes.

The board also has plans for monthly reporting on recruitment to the five programmes so they can impose an admissions cap in good time. And the board wants to be prompt in providing a picture of the quality of the teaching on the five programmes. **AS**

LIKELY YES TO EXTENDED SCHEDULE

The Executive Board is close to reaching an agreement with the consultative bodies on the introduction of the extended day-time schedule in September 2018.

The Student Council voted against the measure two weeks ago because the members want all students to have two long lunch breaks a week for the next three years. In response, the board has guaranteed two long lunch breaks for the next two years, and 'as many as possible' in the third year. The board does not agree to recording all the 11th and 12th classes of the day for absentees, as the Student Council would like. The Student Staff Council did vote in favour of the new timetable two weeks ago. They only asked for the concession that support staff will not have to work split shifts. The board is not making that concession because split shifts are not out of line with the CAO. The board had already agreed to other concessions asked for by the councils. So it looks as if both councils will ratify the plans next week. **AS**

Follow the decisionmaking process on resource-online.nl



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

Rens Buchwaldt: 'I think I can get great satisfaction out of the opportunity to contribute to the development of WUR.'

'I PREFER HANDS-ON LEADERSHIP'

Rens Buchwaldt (55) is Tijs Breukink's successor, taking over the Finance, Business & Services portfolio on the Executive Board from 1 September.

Buchwaldt stepped down in April last year after ten years as financial director at the ornamental plant cooperative FloraHolland. He took some time for his children and for reflection. When he was approached by a headhunter earlier this year about the job at WUR, he had a good feeling about it from the start. 'Wageningen aims to contribute to a better world and has a great reputation. I am eager to collaborate on that with the knowledge I've acquired over the years.'

That knowledge is not related to education or research, but to business operations. 'FloraHolland supplies the infrastructure for the flower and plant sector, which consists of about 4000 small to medium-sized enterprises. I learned how to weigh up those interests.' Buchwaldt also has experience of improving business operations. This is mainly a matter of minor interventions, but at FloraHolland he carried out a sweeping reorganization too. 'Just like WUR, FloraHolland is non-profitmaking, but of course you have to avoid making a loss.'

In 2014 Buchwaldt was the subject of controversy because he received a bonus from

FloraHolland, while people were made redundant elsewhere in the organization. 'That was a case of keeping to what was agreed. I had achieved my targets. In 2009 I turned down the option of variable remuneration because I didn't think it was appropriate in the circumstances then. But that didn't get into the papers.' He earned a 'nice salary' of 400,000 at FloraHolland, and has no problem with taking a considerable drop in salary to work at WUR. 'I think I can get great satisfaction out of the opportunity to contribute to the development of WUR. It comes with a good salary which is not negotiable: it is fixed and it is public.'

Buchwaldt does not see himself as a director from a distance. 'I prefer hands-on leadership, steering things in consultation with staff and stakeholders, to board work. I want to know the important details. At FloraHolland, for example, I was the board member dealing with stacking trolleys. We wanted to go from two types to one, and the way the trolleys linked together was important to that decision. I literally got down on my hands and knees to have a look so I could help make a decision.' **AS**

Read too the goodbye interview with Buchwaldt's predecessor Tijs Breukink on p.12.

FORTY COURSES FOR REFUGEES

From September, refugees with or without residence permits can take courses at Wageningen University & Research free of charge. The teachers of 40 courses have opened up their classes to this group. In this way WUR hopes to contribute to the integration of refugees in Dutch society.

Behind this initiative is Johan Feenstra, coordinator at Wimek Graduate School, who was actively involved in the refugee organization VluchtelingenWerk Nederland for many years. He saw that Utrecht University has a programme for asylum-seekers and he wanted to start one in Wageningen too. 'I asked a few people to help think it through and everyone was enthusiastic straightaway.' The Executive Board included Feenstra's proposal in the university's refugee policy as a pilot.

Refugees with an academic background and an adequate command of the English or the Dutch language can join in forty courses from next academic year. The courses range from Biology of Animal Production to Nutrient Management. Feenstra: 'We hope more teachers will open up their courses.'

According to Feenstra, the programme – called WURth-while – can help refugees to integrate better. Asylum-seekers who are still waiting for a residence permit often feel excluded from society. Feenstra: 'It is nice for them to have something to do and to keep up to date in their professional field while they are waiting for a residence permit.'

WUR is collaborating on the programme with the eastern Netherlands branch of VluchtelingenWerk. Coordinator Annet



PHOTO: GUY AVKERMANS

Timmerman: 'The story is already going around that this programme is coming. Five refugees in Wageningen have already come to me about it. People very much want something to do.'

An overview of all the courses can be found on the website wur.eu/WURth-while. Teachers who would like to add their classes to the list can send an email to johan.feenstra@wur.nl. LvdN



WAGENINGEN

Hesselink van Suchtelenweg 6(a)

A unique monument situated on the edge of Wageningen, in the middle of lush green surroundings overlooking the Rhine River. This gorgeous home (and home office) location is a former laboratory for the Dutch Geodesy Association, dating back to 1950-1953 by famous Dutch architects F.E. Röntgen and A. Kruidhof, in aesthetical-functionalist style.

More information:
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'THE FREE MARKET CANNOT FEED AFRICA'

African governments must intervene in the economy to prevent food shortages, claims Wageningen agricultural economist Niek Koning in a new book. He argues for food buffers. Other economists have less faith in them.

If African countries do not make haste to support agriculture rather than leaving it to the mercies of the free market, the continent will face much more hunger in future than it has known to date. So says agricultural economist Niek Koning in his book *Food Security, Agricultural Policies and Economic Growth*.

Koning, who used to teach at Wageningen University and is well-known for his criticism of neoliberal market thinking, describes how agriculture opened a 'geological savings account' in 1850. The use of fossil fuels made transport, tractors and artificial fertilizer possible, boosting food production. Up until 1850, population growth was always followed by famine and population decline, but the 'fossil revolution' made it possible for the world population to grow to 7.5 billion. Only: the savings account is nearly empty, or should no longer be drawn on

because of climate change.

This is why Africa is now threatened with famines like those of the pre-fossil fuel era, says Koning. With conflict and migration as a consequence. The population is set to quadruple between now and 2100, while agriculture on the continent remains poorly developed. This is because African governments do not support their own agriculture sectors. They import cheap rice from Asia and cheap chicken from Europe, and African farmers then receive lower prices. African countries which do want to support their farmers are thwarted by the World Bank, the IMF and the European Union.

Koning proposes an extensive programme of measures aimed at turning the tide. He wants to stabilize the price of food crops worldwide by creating buffers. An international organization should buy up food as soon as prices drop too far and then sell it when prices go too high. Trade quota and production limits should also be used to help prevent large stockpiles from building up. And African countries should introduce import duties and build good roads in rural areas.



PHOTO: SARINE ARSLANIAN, SHUTTERSTOCK

Koning drew support this month at a symposium on his book in Wageningen. According to emeritus professor Rudy Rabbinge, liberal economic policy must stop, and fast. Faith in the free market is eroding fast among economists, agrees Erwin Bulte, professor of Development Economics at WUR. 'For far too long we've been afraid of interfering with the global market. It is much too optimistic to think we can leave food security in Africa to the market.'

Bulte agrees that African countries should protect their own agriculture sectors. But he has his doubts about a price stabilization

system. Food buffers attract smuggling and corruption, says the development economist. He argues for solutions at the micro level: when farmers more often keep their crops in storage instead of selling them straight after harvest, that stabilizes prices too.

Economist Ruerd Ruben of Wageningen Economic Research has his doubts too. 'Price stabilization for food via the government is an expensive policy. A better approach is to improve efficiency in the food chain, by investing in roads, for instance. Then local production can compete better with food imports.' **RT**



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

ORGANIC ASPHALT SMELLS WOODY

The new organic asphalt cycle path between the Bornsesteeg and the Kielekampsteeg, which was officially opened on Monday (photo), is nothing out of the ordinary to look at. But it smells different. Woody. That is because the bitumen, an adhesive made out of petroleum, has been partially replaced by lignin, the polymer which lends firmness to materials such as wood, grass and straw. Wageningen Food & Biobased Research has been doing research on ways of using this polymer for years. Three kinds of lignin have been used in the Wageningen cycle path. **RT RK**

**Read the whole story
on resource-online.nl**



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

BREEDING MEALWORMS ON LEFTOVERS IS SAFE

It is probably safe to eat mealworms that have been grown on plant waste flows. Mycotoxins from fungi that can thrive in leftover food do not accumulate in the insects, shows research by the Laboratory of Entomology and Rikilt.

Currently, mealworms are mainly bred on wheat bran, explains researcher Sarah van Broekhoven of the Laboratory for Entomology. But they could be bred more sustainably, for example by breeding the larvae on breadcrumbs or other leftovers. However, food waste can contain mycotoxins such as deoxynivalenol (DON for short). If people ingest this substance, it can cause symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhoea. It was not clear, either, what effect the toxins have on the mealworms themselves. Van Broekhoven: 'A lot of research has been done on fungal toxins in livestock feed, but relatively little is known about the risks it poses in the breeding of edible insects.'

The researchers fed mealworms of the *Tenebrio molitor* L. species three different diets: DON-free feed, feed that is naturally infected with DON (4.9 mg per kg), and feed to which extra DON was added

(8 mg per kg). The mealworms thrived equally on all three diets and no DON was found in the fully grown mealworms. It was found in their faeces, however.

The larvae fed on naturally infected feed eventually excreted 14 percent of the DON they had ingested. The larvae fed on feed with additional DON excreted three times that much. Apparently, then, most of the toxins were broken down. It is no problem for the consumer that the toxins end up in the faeces, says Van Broekhoven, since the mealworms are cleaned first. 'It could pose a risk, though, for the people who work with the mealworms.'

So it seems unlikely that mealworms bred on waste flows are a food safety risk. But more research must be done before we can state this with absolute certainty, says Van Broekhoven. 'Now we only looked at the DON mycotoxin because we know it is fairly common in Europe. But we don't know what the situation is for other mycotoxins. And further research is also needed on how mealworms break down DON, and whether the substances released in that process are safe.' **TL**

VISION <<

'The great tit is the canary in the coalmine'

Great tits in the Veluwe nature area are suffering from calcium deficiency. Their eggs break easily and often don't hatch, and some young great tits have broken legs. This is due to acidification, say the *NRC Handelsblad* and *AD* newspapers. Animal ecologist Hugh Jansman of Wageningen Environmental Research thinks the ailing great tits are just the tip of the iceberg.

The Veluwe looks as if it's in a good state. Is the acidification really so bad?

'When people go for a walk in the Veluwe, they think it's fantastic. But researchers see it in a different light. In the 1980s, the acid rain washed out the poor sandy soil. Now nitrogen, in the form of ammonium from intensive livestock farming, has become the main cause of soil acidification. The nitrogen in the soil reduces the availability of essential minerals such as calcium and magnesium. That means they are not getting in the plants or further up the food chain either.'

Are things really that awful for great tits?

'If you look at the Veluwe as a whole, it's not so bad. Birds living in the vicinity of built-up areas, for instance, can get their calcium from the crushed shell paths as well. If you look specifically at the woods on poor sandy soil or areas where the heathland has been brought into cultivation, there does indeed seem to be a problem. When you examine the nest boxes in detail, you can see that there are more failures.'

Are great tits the only victims?

'Acidification is a problem for other plants and animals too but great tits are monitored extensively. They could be the canary in the coalmine. The problem is that nitrogen studies tend to be small-scale. But if I add it all up, I get a strong impression that the entire ecosystem in areas of poor sandy soil is under severe pressure.'

What now?

'Like climate change, acidification is a very complex and largely invisible problem. The Netherlands is the most heavily fertilized country in the world and we won't get anywhere unless we reduce fertilization levels. We need more research to get a better understanding of this problem.' **TL**



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

‘USE LIFESTYLE MORE AS MEDICINE’

A healthy diet and exercise should be used more often as ‘medicine’ for chronic diseases. Patients would then be prescribed not just pills, but also fruit and vegetables, cycle rides and walks. This is the suggestion of experts from WUR and elsewhere in a report on the potential of diet in treating chronic diseases (*Kennisynthese voeding als behandeling van chronische ziekte*) written for the Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development ZonMW.

‘Thanks to research, we have known for some time that a change of lifestyle can be effective in treating chronic conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases,’ says project leader Renger Witkamp, professor of Nutrition and Pharmacology in Wageningen. Diabetes patients, for instance, can sometimes stop taking drugs altogether thanks to a healthy diet and more exercise.

So big health improvements can be achieved with diet and exercise. That this is not happening much at the moment is partly to do with the way healthcare is funded in the Netherlands, says Witkamp.

‘Health insurers are remunerated for treating diseases. So they work mainly with short-term models, and there is more to be gained by prescribing pills, the effect of which can be seen straightaway.’

Scientific evidence is trickier for dietary studies, too. In drug trials you can give one group a pill and another group a placebo. But in nutritional research, these kinds of studies are difficult to carry out under any conditions, says Witkamp, let alone with large groups of patients with chronic illnesses. ‘So we argue for a different approach, looking at the health effects of lifestyle interventions at the level of individual patients.’

Before optimal use can be made of diet as part of treatments, Witkamp believes the health funding system will have to be changed. And more attention should be paid to the importance of diet and lifestyle in the training of GPs and other medical staff. Research shows that diet and lifestyle are currently mentioned in no more than a quarter of consultations with GPs. Doctors and policymakers could also make better use of the expertise of other healthcare professionals such as dietitians and coaches, says Witkamp. **TL**



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

PIGS BITE EACH OTHER DUE TO PROTEIN DEFICIENCY

Pigs with a low health status that don't get much raw protein in their feed are more prone to biting each other. This problem can partially be solved by adding extra amino acids to the feed, shows a study by the Wageningen Animal Sciences group.

In the interests of sustainability there is a trend in the livestock feed industry towards putting less protein in feeds, says Yvonne van der Meer of Animal Nutrition. The question is, however, what this does to the pigs. ‘We discovered a link between the health status, the feed composition and the biting behaviour of pigs.’

The researchers spread 576 porkers over several pens. Some of the pigs were kept at a ‘low health status’, meaning they were not vaccinated, did not get antibiotics and their pen was not disinfected. The ‘high health status’ pigs did get all these treatments. The pigs got feed with normal or low protein levels, with or without supplementary (synthetic) amino acids.

Pigs with low levels of protein in their feed bit each other more, as did pigs with a low health status. The addition of extra amino acids to the feed reduced ear-biting but only



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

among pigs living in low health status conditions. Van der Meer suspects that the immune systems of pigs with a low health status are stimulated more often. ‘Then their immune systems need more amino acids. If the pigs don't get these from their feed, they want to root more to find protein-rich food. And if there isn't much to root for in their environ-

ment, they resort to their companions. But if we give them amino acids in the feed, the urge is not so strong.’

Another possible explanation is that certain amino acids function as signal substances in the brain. A deficiency of these substances can cause stress and aggressive behaviour in pigs. **TL**

MEANWHILE ON...

RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL



PHOTO: PETER VAN MULKEN

OCCUPATION

In 1996 the student union WSO occupied the administration building at Duivendaal in protest against changes in the university governance system. The demonstrators felt students were getting less and less say in matters affecting them. Ex-WSO member Korné Versluis (lower right on the photo): 'My fellow-occupier Rolf Marteiijn had brought along a mobile phone, which was very hip in those days. It didn't help much because we were still taken by surprise by the riot police, who got in through an opening in the roof.' The arrest was peaceful. 'No one was bothered that the occupation only went on for two hours.' Do you have a story about this photo? Or is there another picture in the series that brings back memories? Drop in on the editors or send an email to Vincent.koperdraat@wur.nl

**See the photo series
'100 years of ... our own opinions'
on resource-online.nl**

CHINA AND TAIWAN

Chinese PhD candidate Wenbiao Shi was annoyed by the article *Meanwhile in Taiwan*, in which Taiwanese student Lena Chang says that China should accept Taiwan as a signatory of the Paris agreement. Shi calls this 'provocative' and says such a move would be tantamount to accepting Taiwan as an independent country. 'This is an obvious political trick, which is unacceptable to China,' says Shi. He does agree with Chang that climate change must be addressed and that Taiwan has a contribution to make too. But he sees a different solution: 'What if Taiwan sets aside the geopolitical barriers by recognizing itself as a part of China? Under this consensus Taiwan would be welcome to contribute to combatting climate change together with China. This would be a more effective and practical way for Taiwan to make an international impact, for China to take more responsibility on the international stage, and for Lena Chang and other environmen-

talists in Taiwan and China to make dreams come true.'

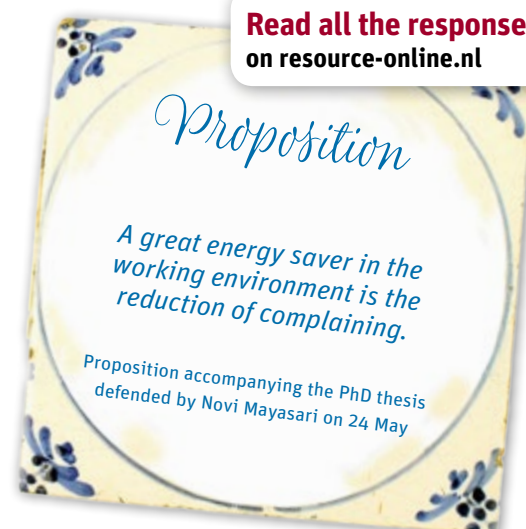
**Read the whole letter
on resource-online.nl**

STUDENT HOUSES

Wageningen municipal council wants to prevent student houses becoming a nuisance in neighbourhoods by tightening regulations around them. The bulletin about this brought in 17 responses on the site. One resident of the Julianastraat got worked up about 'those lads on the Lawickse Allee': 'Ceres dudes in a fabulous corner house. Noise every day, bonfires and junk in the garden, and shouting at night. Terrible.' Jordy adds: 'Honestly, those student society dudes have got to go. My pregnant sister and her boyfriend are having to live with his parents and can't even get a house here. And those pathetic students living off their parents do get a house.' Angry stu-

dent sees it differently: 'Precisely when the room shortage is getting worse and there are increasing complaints about high rents and exploitative landlords, the municipality decides to tighten up the regulations? Absolutely idiotic. Wageningen is a university town and student houses are part of the deal.'

**Read all the responses
on resource-online.nl**



Campus builder says goodbye



Building an entire campus without borrowing a single euro — that is the greatest achievement of Tijs Breukink, the ‘financial man’ on the Executive Board. On 5 July he will be saying goodbye after twelve years in the role. ‘The progress WUR has made is certainly not all down to me but I *am* very proud of it.’

text Albert Sikkema and Edwin van Laar photos Guy Ackermans

‘I’ve got mixed feeling about leaving,’ says Tijs Breukink. ‘My head says twelve years is long enough. It’s good that I’m going, for both WUR and myself, as you can’t keep coming up with fresh ideas after such a long period. But my heart says I’d like to stay. I have the freedom here to develop policy and build a campus with really committed and motivated people around me. Not many people can say that.’

Twelve years ago, Breukink joined the WUR Executive Board and became responsible for finance, operating procedures and campus development. The university and the DLO institutes — now known as Wageningen Research — were in a very different state compared to now, he recalls. ‘When I started in Wageningen in 2005, I found an organization that was in difficulties. Wageningen UR was in the middle of a cost-cutting exercise, Focus, in which 1000 employees had to go. Student numbers had reached a low point of 4500 and the operational procedures were antiquated. Now we are looking healthy again. Our finances are sound, we are attracting a lot of students, doing ground-breaking research and have an excellent reputation. That is certainly not all down to me but I am still very proud of this progress.’

EDUCATION BUDGET

So far, Wageningen University has coped well with the persistent growth in student numbers, thinks Breukink. ‘All the

university’s financial indicators are good. The only possible issue is that the university doesn’t have any additional financial reserves. That’s because of the cap on direct government funding by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, which has lost us 30 to 40 million euros in the past few years.’ Breukink is referring to the so-called two-percent rule, which says that Wageningen’s education budget can increase by a maximum of two percent a year, regardless of the actual increase in student numbers. ‘Despite this, we have chosen to continue funding our education entirely along the lines of the Brascamp model. That means that we make up for the shortfall in the government funding for the chair groups with contributions from central funds, and we are using efficiency measures to make sure we can compensate for that shortfall within a few years. The university’s overhead is about 19 percent, one of the lowest percentages for any Dutch university. That lets us invest money in our teaching.’ Breukink has a question for the interviewers. ‘Have you noticed that there is hardly any squabbling within the university about how the money is divided up? That’s because of the “box system” in which each chair group gets some basic funding and can earn the rest of its money through teaching and research. This is a robust, businesslike model that enjoys broad support and allows no room for favouritism. The professors see that everything’s above board. Other universities get more arguments about this. The box system, which we developed ourselves, creates a harmonious atmosphere.’ >>

But Wageningen Research is not in such a healthy financial state as the university, is it?

'Wageningen Research is financially sound too. The institutes' reserves are up to a good level, which is why we can invest in recovery plans this year. I don't just mean the downsizing plan for Wageningen Environmental Research with the loss of 100 jobs but also for example additional investments in data management at Wageningen Economic Research. Almost all the institutes have downsized in the past few years but fortunately we have also made savings so that we can invest in modernization. I am proud of the fact that we haven't had to take any more drastic measures since the Focus cost-cutting exercise, and that was needed because nothing had been done for so long. We've only had a few minor reorganizations and organizational adjustments. You have to make sure you know the market and then continually adapt the organization to fit its environment; being one step ahead of any problems is also a much more considerate approach for your staff in the long run.'

How do you do that, get one step ahead of the problems?

'You have to keep a finger on the pulse. After I arrived, we developed a sound planning and control cycle that lets us get status reports ten times a year on the contracts, productivity and financial situation of the science groups. The provision of financial information has been systematized and automated to such an extent that we can get a reliable summary, which lets us make adjustments in good time.'

We've heard that you don't like surprises.

'That's right. A surprise means something has happened that you didn't foresee; you missed something and that puts you at a disadvantage. Ideally you should be aware of all the relevant trends so that you can key into them fast. In the past few years we have made huge progress, from recording data to making risk assessments, scenarios and predictions for the future. That has really helped us keep WUR on course.'

Many of the applied research organizations have merged. Do they still have a future?

'I have indeed seen a big increase in the concentration of applied animal research institutions. For example, four experimental dairy farms have been combined at the Dairy Campus in Leeuwarden. There is only one experimental pig farm left and the centre for applied poultry research has even been closed due to a lack of assignments. What hasn't helped is the fact that the agricultural commodity boards were abolished and nothing has come in their place in the way of properly organized research. I think our

applied research centres only have a future if they can become part of an innovation cluster. In Leeuwarden, WUR is collaborating with Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, PTC+ and dairy companies on a science campus. The question now is whether the pig farming sector will also be able to set up such a science campus jointly with us. We need to rethink the innovation clusters in applied research.'

ORION OR NO ORION?

Breukink's most important visible legacy is undoubtedly the Wageningen campus. There was already a campus plan with drawings of the Forum when he arrived but it was Breukink who built and extended the campus. A second teaching building, Orion, was erected, and the construction of Helix was brought forward, which meant an additional 100 million was needed on top of the construction budget of 200 million euros. 'I am proud that this has been achieved without external funding and that we even managed to repay the final bank loan from before that period last January.' The original plan did not envisage having so many companies based on campus either. 'The companies in StartHub

'Staff often assume all those rules are thought up on the sixth storey of Atlas. But that's not the case'

and Plus Ultra, FrieslandCampina and the imminent arrival of Unilever all mean that we will be able to share facilities, collaborate in research and teaching and build a global knowledge hub.'

The construction of Orion was not foreseen in the initial plans and it led to some heated discussions with the Supervisory Board, as Breukink recalls. 'When we decided to build Orion in 2009, we had about 6000 to 7000 students. We could easily accommodate them in the Forum, but student numbers were predicted to grow to 10,000. However, there were also people saying: don't do this, it's too big a risk. But we made the right choice.'

So why not add a third teaching building now that student numbers are continuing to rise?

'We can't afford it. A building like that can easily cost 100 million euros and it has to last for 40 to 60 years. The demographic forecast shows student numbers falling again in five years' time. Besides, we need to make much better use of our existing buildings. That is possible with our

proposal for an extended daytime schedule. We live in a 24-hour economy and students expect our facilities to be open in the evenings. If you then consider how few hours in the day our classrooms are in use, that seems outmoded and at all sustainable.'

ARBORETA

The concentration of WUR activities on campus also led to the university relinquishing buildings and sites elsewhere in Wageningen. Breukink had to see whether they had any future. 'We gave the arboreta a new lease of life, for instance. De Dreijer Arboretum was handed over to Utopa, which has now created a lovely sculpture museum in the park, and Belmonte has been transferred to a foundation that currently manages the park with the help of volunteers. I was personally closely involved in that transition. WUR has saved 600,000 euros a year in maintenance costs, which we can spend on teaching and research instead, and the Belmonte Arboretum has a new future. I could also have stuck a sign in the garden saying 'For Sale' and sold it to the highest bidder, but this feels better.'

We haven't seen you much in the local press talking about the arboreta or access issues. Are you the invisible man behind the scenes?

'I am less visible than my colleagues. That's partly because of my portfolio and partly my character. I feel no need to be in the limelight when it serves no purpose; it's not an end in itself for me.'

WISE

Breukink gets somewhat irritated by the suggestion that many WUR IT projects have failed — think of the student information system WISE or the project information system Kameleon. He emphasizes that business processes only make the news when they perform poorly. Are we aware, for instance, of the many business processes that have been successfully standardized and automated in the past few years? 'For example, take the electronic ordering system, the payroll system and Agresso. In recent years, there have been dozens of upgrades and implementations every year that have ensured effective and efficient support for teaching and research.'

Noted. But what lessons should we draw from the botched introduction of WISE?

'We let ourselves be influenced too much by existing practice in education. We wanted to use a standard IT system for our unique approach to teaching in Wageningen with a great deal of flexibility and room for choice. We didn't succeed. Now the Verreth committee is investigating the

pitfalls. I'm expecting an intense debate in which the university will have to make choices in how it delivers education in order to create a properly functioning education registration system.'

Are the operational procedures becoming more and more complex?

'Definitely. That's mainly because of all the new regulations. We are increasingly being held to account. Think of the Work and Security Act, the Work-incapacitated Persons Act, tender legislation, privacy legislation, rules on sideline activities, the Freedom of Information Act, rules on matching funding, corporate income tax, VAT legislation — you name it. It's an enormous mishmash that's creating a bureaucratic burden. And the accountants check everything according to the letter of the law as they are afraid of repercussions from the regulatory authorities. We are trying to keep the overheads down at WUR but overhead costs are undeniably rising due to the overkill in regulations.'

This has its roots in society's call for transparency and accountability but it is really a deep mistrust of people's behaviour in our kind of organization. A mistrust that leads to detailed rules aimed at having some control over the expenditure of what may or may not be public money. Staff often think these rules are thought up on the sixth storey in Atlas. No, most of the rules come from the government and we have to implement and incorporate them in order to avoid sanctions.'

And you yourself were held to account for your high salary.

How did that feel?

'I didn't enjoy that discussion. Before joining WUR, I worked for Arcadis. I didn't take this job at WUR for the money. I have a good salary but after a few years a new perspective emerged on university administrators: they were painted as fat cats. Public opinion painted me as a semi-criminal, which was not nice at all. The strange thing was my salary decreased but society's views on that salary became increasingly critical.'

What are you going to do now?

'I don't know yet. Nothing has turned up so far and it has been so busy that I haven't really given much thought to my next career move. I am open to trying something new.' ®

TIJS BREUKINK'S FAREWELL

Board member Tijs Breukink will be officially leaving WUR on 5 July. The farewell event will be in Orion from 15:30. The programme includes speeches by Geert van Rumund, mayor of Wageningen, Cees van der Knaap, the chair of Foodvalley, and Loek Dijkman, who established Utopa Foundation and the sculpture gallery Het Depot. Registration is still open via wur.nl.



MSc REGULAR PROGRAMME AID 2017



WELCOME TO WAGENINGEN

It is common knowledge in Wageningen that the abbreviation AID stands for Algemene Introductie Dagen (General Introduction Days). The whole town and of course the campus provide the backdrop for the welcome extended to all new students. For six days, MSc students from all the corners of the globe are shown around the city of Wageningen, the university and their degree programme by two experienced students. Needless to say, they also plunge into Wageningen student life. New friendships, a lot of fun and not much sleep.

FRIDAY 18 AUGUST

Registration

Orion (10.00-12.00)

Welcome to Wageningen! At registration you'll receive your AID bag and the armband which gives you access to everything the AID has to offer you. And you'll meet your AID group too!

Opening AID

Festival grounds (12.00-13.00)

The Rector and the Mayor of Wageningen will open the AID officially. Let's get started!

Lunch and Campus Games

Festival grounds (13.00-16.00)

After lunch it is time to explore the Wageningen Campus in the course of fun games run by student societies and other organizations.

Society presentations

Student societies (16.00-17.00)

Dinner

Various locations (17.30-19.30)

Opening party Festival

grounds (20.30-00.00)

Enjoy the first party of the AID and show off your dance moves to the rest of your AID group!

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST

Picnic in the Park

Duivendaal (11.00-12.00)

Start the day with a delicious brunch in the park, and get ready for another great AID day!

Crazy 88

City centre (12.00-15.30)

Complete as many tasks as possible with your AID group, from walking on skis to a wedding for your AID papa and mamma.

Society presentations

Student societies (15.30-17.30)

Dinner

Various locations (17.30-19.30)

Street theatre

City centre (20.00-23.00)

Artists from all over the Netherlands will liven up the centre of Wageningen this evening. Enjoy the skills of acrobats, jugglers and many other artists.

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST

Religious morning (optional)

Orion (9.00-11.30)

The Christian societies are running a church service this morning, and you are welcome to attend it if you wish.

Sport brunch

De Bongerd (11.30-12.30)

Aerial photo

De Bongerd (12.30-13.30)



Sports Day

De Bongerd (13.30-17.00)

Time to put your best foot forward in sports you know and sports you don't.

Society presentations

Student societies (17.00-18.00)

Dinner

Various locations (18.00-20.00)

Open air film

Duivendaal (20.30-23.00)

After an active afternoon you can sit back and enjoy a movie this evening in the fresh air. Time to relax.

MONDAY 21 AUGUST

Brunch with your mentor

At your mentor's house (11.00-12.00)

Wageningen Classroom Campus (12.00-17.00)
You and your group work together to solve a problem relevant to Wageningen University.

Barbecue

Campus (17.00-20.00)

Sing-in (optional)

19.30-20.30

Crossing Borders

Campus (20.00-23.00)

Wageningen University is a diverse international university, and tonight you get a glimpse of what all these different cultures have to offer.

TUESDAY 22 AUGUST

Degree programme day

(11.00-16.00)

Today you meet your fellow students and study advisors, and you get more information about your degree programme.

Cantus

Festival grounds (16.30-18.30)

Let your AID group hear how well you can sing and sing along with the greatest hits.

Dinner

Various locations (18.30-20.30)

Meet the Dutch

Various locations (20.30-23.00)

A nice way to get acquainted with our Dutch culture.

WEDNESDAY 23 AUGUST

Arboretum Brunch

Arboretum (12.00-13.00)

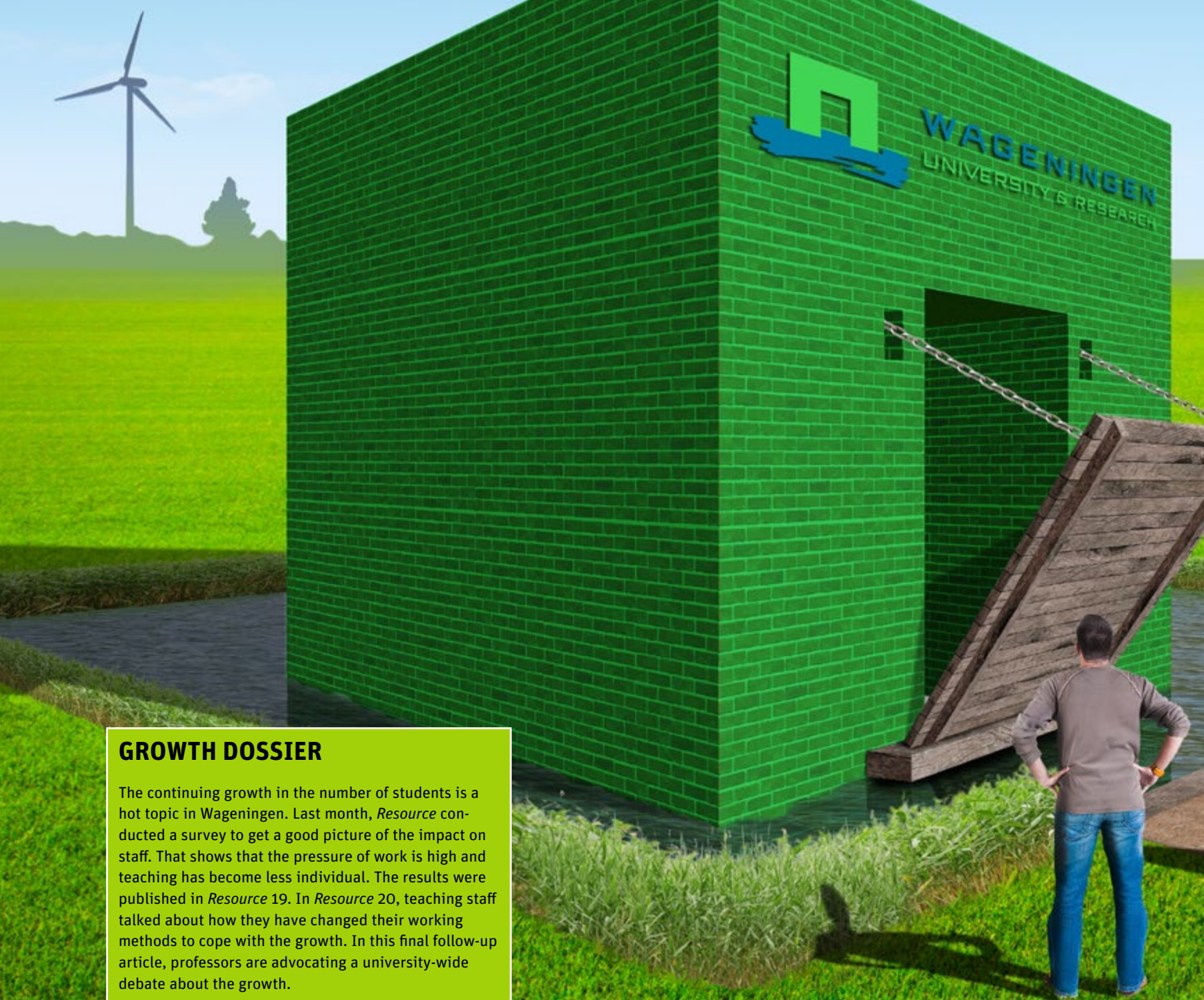
Information fair Arboretum (13.00-16.00)
Wageningen has a lot to offer besides student organizations. This afternoon you get the chance to see what else you can do in Wageningen.

AID Festival

Festival grounds (17.00-00.00)


The last evening of the AID. Make the most of the tasty snacks and drinks from Wageningen food trucks. You and your friends can look back on an unforgettable week and end the evening with a whale of a party!

Time to close the door?



GROWTH DOSSIER

The continuing growth in the number of students is a hot topic in Wageningen. Last month, *Resource* conducted a survey to get a good picture of the impact on staff. That shows that the pressure of work is high and teaching has become less individual. The results were published in *Resource* 19. In *Resource* 20, teaching staff talked about how they have changed their working methods to cope with the growth. In this final follow-up article, professors are advocating a university-wide debate about the growth.



The pressure that the growth in student numbers is putting on education at Wageningen is starting to turn unhealthy. The limit has been reached and it is time to make choices. This is what various professors are saying, including the Dean of Education Arnold Bregt. 'At the moment, growth is just something that happens to us'.

text Roelof Kleis illustration Paul Gerlach

Rik Leemans, professor of Environmental Systems Analysis, gives a concise explanation of the problem. Do the maths. 'Our student numbers are growing by ten percent a year, so doubling every seven years. But an agreement in the past means our university's education budget can't increase by more than two percent a year. It therefore takes 34 years for that budget to double. So growth and the budget soon get out of sync.'

In everyday practice, that means more work pressure, among other things. An example from Leemans' experience: 'Ten years ago, the European Consultancy Workshop for Master's students was organized once a year for 30 students. Now we are giving this course five or six times a year. The course lasts seven weeks, during which students spend two weeks abroad. In the past, three lecturers would have gone with them. But with six groups that would mean having 18 staff members away for two whole weeks. That's not possible. So we have reduced the supervision to two teachers per group. Of course that will affect the quality.'

STUDENT-STAFF RATIOS

Many chair groups are struggling with similar problems and need more teaching staff, as is shown by a survey that *Resource* carried out among full professors and education programme coordinators (see box). Half of the professors say they have taken on additional staff to cope with the demand for teaching. More than 60 percent would like to hire even more staff but don't have the money.

Other figures also point to this key factor underlying Wageningen's growth problems. Arnold Bregt, professor of Geoinformation Science and Remote Sensing and the new Dean of Education, picks up a policy document on funding higher education that was recently sent to Parliament. Of all Dutch universities, Wageningen saw by far the biggest increase in student numbers, with a rise of more than 50 percent in the period 2011-2016. The student-to-staff ratio rose between 2006 and 2015 from seven students per teacher to 15. 'The problem is that staff levels have remained roughly constant whereas student numbers have increased enormously,' says Bregt. 'While additional investments have been made internally in education, that has not always led to more staff being appointed.'

Sacco de Vries, a professor of Biochemistry, is scathing about the impact of the extra money that the Executive Board is making available for education according to the 'Brascamp model' in order to alleviate the situation. 'I don't see any difference in my staffing levels in the final analysis. The funding has increased but so have the other outgoings. The problem is that a lot of that extra money is then deducted to pay for accommodation, overheads, HR, IT and other support departments. In practice, Biochemistry is smaller than it was 20 years ago. And that is definitely not the case for the support departments.'

DOUBLE THE PRESSURE

Leemans points to another facet of the money problem — the tenure track. He does not see anything wrong with the career instrument itself. 'It lets young lecturers pro-



gress to becoming a professor holding a personal chair within ten years. That demonstrates an ambition to go for high quality in both research *and* teaching. But that does mean that successful chair groups like ours are gradually becoming more expensive because a higher position implies a higher salary. That is why we are barely able to take on any more staff. Using assistant professors and personal professors for teaching is not really financially viable.'

Professor Remko Uijlenhoet of Hydrology and Quantitative Water Management even claims that 'on average there are now fewer staff available for teaching' due to the tenure track. 'The emphasis in the tenure track is more on research and securing new funding than in the past. Staff have been given more additional tasks. Teaching and research should strengthen one another but there is a lot of pressure on both sides: on teaching

due to growing student numbers and on research due to shrinking budgets. They are starting to look mutually incompatible.'

LOWER EDUCATION STANDARDS

The pressure on the education side is affecting research in other ways too. According to Leemans in *Environmental Systems Analysis*, the pressure of work is giving researchers less and less time for writing good proposals to secure funding. 'So you drop the step of having your proposal reviewed by a colleague. That means the proposals are poorer quality and there is less money coming in.'

De Vries at Biochemistry also points to the gradually declining standard of the education, which also impacts on the research. 'You see it in particular in the Master's thesis, where students do research in the chair group. The students vary a great deal in their capabilities at the start.

They are good on the theory but less so on the practice.' The PhD candidates supervising them spend a lot of time teaching the students basic skills, time that could have been spent on their own research. 'In the past we had ten MSc students in the room but now it's just five or six because the supervision takes up so much time. And it's not just the international students. Students' practical skills have declined across the board. I'm already getting comments from companies that our students have difficulties with the practical work.'

TIPPING POINT

Increasing workloads, stagnating budgets and increasing pressure on the quality of teaching and research inevitably raise the question of whether Wageningen can still cope with the growth if it continues like this, say the professors. 'When I started as a professor here 20 years ago, Wageningen was at death's door,' recalls the new head of education Bregt. 'Student numbers were really low. A new education policy was introduced then that we still cherish. Good quality teaching on a small scale in attractive buildings with decent facilities.

That worked. But is that approach still appropriate? The current education model is reaching the limits of what is possible. The small scale with a lot of contact between teaching staff and students is highly valued by the students. But there is a tipping point and some chair groups and degree programmes have already reached that point.'

Bregt says the biggest problem is in the supervision of thesis students. 'That thesis is an essential part of their degree. That is when students learn to do research. It's the stage at which a lot of skills are learned. We need to do something about that bottleneck, and I have an idea what. Perhaps we shouldn't be looking at the education side for a solution but instead consider strengthening the research. Student numbers have doubled but the research budget has remained virtually unchanged in all that time. What if each chair group were to use ten percent of the education budget for additional research? That would come to 60,000 to 100,000 euros for an average chair group. That would enable you to hire a researcher. Taking the university as a whole, this would give 80 extra researchers. Unfettered research with no strings attached that produces thesis topics that students could work on.'

'We should adjust student numbers to match the available staff'

There is a price tag to transferring those funds. 'You force chair groups to introduce more differentiation in the subjects. Broad where possible and focused where necessary, as in the thesis supervision. We can no longer afford to teach so intensively across the board like we used to. We are obsessively trying to preserve the old approach but with far larger groups of students. We can't keep that up.'

DEBATE ABOUT GROWTH

Quite apart from the adjustments in the short term, Bregt wants to start a structural debate about growth. 'What kind of a university do we want to be in terms of size and setup? An MIT-style institution in which the purpose of the students is to support the research, or an education hub? I want to develop three scenarios, including calculations of the financial effects and of what it means for staffing levels. At the moment, growth is something that just happens'.

Hydrologist Uijlenhoet also agrees that a debate about growth is needed. 'It is time to reconsider. Let's pause for a moment. If it is already clear that staff numbers aren't going to keep pace with the growth, you have to think hard about whether you want to continue growing. Everyone is working their fingers to the bone to keep everything going. The education model and recruitment of students have been incredibly successful. Mission accomplished. But now it is time to see how we want to develop over the next 10 to 20 years.'

SETTING LIMITS


'Great, a debate like that on growth,' says Leemans, 'because I don't have the solutions. I have repeatedly raised the work pressure problem with the directors over the past four years but they just refer it back to the chair groups. The Executive Board came up with the solution of bringing in DLO workers for teaching tasks but that is just not possible. They are much too expensive. My solution is to use PhD candidates for teaching but that is at the expense of their research. If more money for lecturers is not an option, we'll have to set limits on the growth or even return to taking on fewer students.'

Assistant professor Frits Claassen in Operations Research and Logistics disagrees. 'Growth is a nice problem to have and a challenge. I remember the days of falling numbers, when our university was under a dark cloud. And look at what we have now! Fantastic.' But this does not mean he is blind to the issues. Claassen thinks a great deal would be achieved just by giving teaching the position and appreciation it deserves. 'At present, the incentives are weighted too much towards research and securing new projects. Research brings in rewards but that is hardly the case for education at all. Give young tenure track staff who are good at teaching career prospects and the opportunity to develop themselves. I'm convinced there is a lot of educational talent among the young staff. But you have to pick them out and that isn't happening. There are PhD candidates who are barely involved in course teaching at all. Isn't that a bit odd? PhD candidates and postdocs are the new generation of researchers and lecturers.'

ADMISSION CRITERIA

According to Uijlenhoet, any debate about growth needs to include the question of the quality of the students who are admitted. 'You need to be careful not to fall into the trap of thinking everything used to be better in the past, so I want to make that proviso. But it does seem as if there is greater variation in the standard and ambitions of the students we take on, both in the Bachelor's and in the Master's. There are still first-class students but there is a long tail of students who require a disproportionate amount of attention. In Wageningen all you need for admission is a VWO [secondary school] certificate. You might ask whether that low hurdle is future-proof. Nowadays, we are increasingly recruiting students who might be better off at a university of applied sciences.'

Uijlenhoet thinks Wageningen should present itself more as a technical university. 'We have joined the 4TU Federation and that's a good move. We are a university that is geared to technical applications so we should convey that message. We train engineers. Send the message that you have to work hard here and not everyone with a VWO certificate will make it.'

'For years it was not the done thing to study in Wageningen,' says De Vries (Biochemistry). 'Now we make the front page of the Volkskrant newspaper every week. That's great. But then you also get students who don't have a correct picture of what a Wageningen degree involves. Perhaps we should reverse things, take the available staff as our starting point and adjust the student numbers to match.' 

See the Growth dossier at resource-online.nl.

GREEN HOLIDAYS?

Taking the plane to your holiday destination is cheap and convenient but of course you are talking substantial CO₂ emissions. So how do Wageningen students deal with this, given how concerned most of them are with the future of the planet? How 'green' are their holidays?

text Teun Fiers and Anne van der Heijden illustration Henk van Ruitenbeek

Jiahui Yu



MSc student of Urban Environmental Management

'I'm from China and I fly home once or twice a year. It's a long flight and not very sustainable. However, my priority is seeing my family. **I still want to go home, so never taking a plane would not**

be an option. Here in Wageningen, I can learn how to solve environmental problems in China, and travelling around the world also teaches you a lot, even though you have to fly for it. Staying put is not the solution. Within Europe, I often take the bus rather than fly somewhere, but more because of comfort than for environmental reasons.'

Tijmen Wiegiersma



MSc student of Molecular Life Sciences

'I'm a member of a youth nature society called WoesteLand. We organize nature holidays that often have a sustainable or nature-related theme. **We work outdoors during the day for the nature management agency Staatsbosbeheer**



for example, in exchange for which we get to stay in amazing locations. We also eat vegetarian and organic food. We do sometimes go abroad but always to places you can get to by bus or train. You don't have to go far to see interesting things. I almost never fly; I prefer to carpool or hitchhike. But I do dream of going to Iceland for example and then I would have to fly.'

Yorick Vink



MSc student of Urban Environmental Management

'I do think about sustainability when considering where to go on holiday, but it's not my only criterion. I usually try to go by train or bus. I've gone hitchhiking twice. That's sociable, free and sustainable. **It's an interesting contradiction that people who think about sustainability a lot are also often the ones who want to explore the world.** Unfortunately if you want to travel far, you have to fly. That stops me doing it sometimes, but not always.'

Aleid Teeuwen



BSc student of Plant Sciences

'A few years ago, I looked at how I could reduce my personal impact on the environment. **The two biggest sources of environmental damage are flying and eating meat. So I stopped doing those two things.** I come from Oslo and I go back to Norway about twice a year. I always take the bus for that trip. I use the bus or train for all my other holidays too, and if that doesn't work out I carpool or hitch a lift. The bus costs more and takes longer but I'm prepared to make that sacrifice. I don't even look at plane tickets so I can't make that comparison. Perhaps I'd have to fly if I wanted to travel really far. But if it's for a stay of more than six months, I find that acceptable.'

Fabian Verhage



MSc student of Climate Studies

'I had to go to Brazil last year for my Master's thesis. I didn't want to fly because I don't want to be responsible for climate change. At first I thought of a sailing boat but that's expensive and would take a month. **Eventually I went to Brazil by container ship.** That took two weeks. I was going to take a cruise ship for the return journey but I broke my leg so I had to fly anyway. I'm currently working on sustainable air and sea transport for my internship. I would advise people not to fly within Europe as that's irresponsible. Compensation helps a bit, mainly because it shows airlines that passengers find the climate important. That's relevant because planes could

eventually switch to biofuel. At any rate, you won't find me on a plane again any time soon; this summer I'm going sailing.'

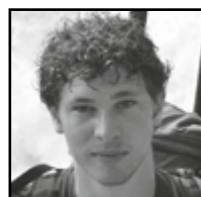
Dieke Schutjens



MSc student of Climate Studies

'This summer I'll be attending the Climate-KIC Summer School on sustainable entrepreneurship. The organization advised us to use sustainable transport to reach the starting location and return from the final destination. However, the return journey from Helsinki was difficult enough by plane; there weren't many other options. I could have taken the train for the outward journey but that didn't work out: my boyfriend comes back from his trip the day before and I want to see him for a day before I set off. So I'll be flying after all — which is cheaper too. Of course I'll be compensating. **I selected climate compensation by Hivos, in which you support a biogas project in Cambodia.** But I'm sceptical about the effect of the compensation because the costs are so low even then.'

Timon Weitkamp



MSc student of International Land and Water Management and GIS

'**In a couple of weeks I'll be flying with my year group to Bulgaria, where we'll hire a van.** We've got visits to a castle, a nature park, a city and a sunny beach on our itinerary. We don't have too many other options given that we're only together for eight days. If we went by train we'd never be able to visit so many places. I normally like to travel by public transport, preferably the same way the locals do in that country. But with this trip we didn't feel like making things more difficult for ourselves.'

Alex Crump



Former intern at Eleaf Wageningen

'**After my internship, I decided to go on a cycling holiday through Europe, from Amsterdam to Athens.** Unfortunately, I didn't get further than the Czech Republic. Cycling on the flat went fine but the inclines in the Harz Mountains damaged my knee. Now I have a plan to go cycling in France but I've also realized that bikes are mainly good for getting around towns. For long distances I prefer to combine cycling with the train. My principle is only to travel by plane if I'm going to be staying somewhere for a longer period. Otherwise it's not worth the "true costs".' ®

Watch a video report of Fabian's journey by container ship on resource-online.nl





Student is growing Dutch soya

Tom Grobбен's parents have 70 dairy cows. To which they have recently added one hectare of soya beans. This is an experiment by the Master's student and his brother Bart, who want to develop their own soya products.

text Linda van der Nat photo Sven Menschel

The plants on his parents' farm in Enschede are looking healthy, says Tom Grobбен. About 30 centimetres tall with fresh-looking leaves. Although the weeds between the plants are running wild. The Management, Economics & Consumer Studies student (25) and his brother Bart (28), a WUR alumnus, are now investigating how best to deal with this. As sons of a dairy farmer they do have some experience of growing crops such as maize for the cows, but soya bean cultivation is new.

Tom is nearing the end of his Master's degree programme in Wageningen. He is currently on an internship at Wageningen Economic Research, where he is researching business succession in the farming sector. An appropriate topic because, like the farmers' sons and daughters he has spoken to, Grobбен has doubts about taking over his parents' business.

ENTREPRENEURIAL TYPES

'Cows are great animals and my brother and I both love them but the question is whether we've got enough enthusiasm. You always have to be on the spot with cows, 24/7. You have to get up at night too. I'm not sure yet whether I want all that.' That doubt is a frequent topic of conversation around the kitchen table. 'Bart and I are real entrepreneurial types. We'd like to continue with the business and we see a future in it. But the question is what kind of future.' Many different ideas have been put forward in the past few years. The one that got the entire family enthusiastic was Dutch soya beans.

Grobбен: 'At the moment, most soya is imported from South America, where unfortunately they are still chopping down tropical forests to plant soya fields. You also have to con-

sider the carbon footprint of the transport, the social impact on the local communities and the whole debate around genetically modified crops. It would make a big difference if we could grow our own non-modified soya here in the Netherlands.'

FROM TWENTE – AND PROUD OF IT

There are only a few Dutch farmers growing soya beans. Conditions in the chilly Netherlands are not ideal for this tropical crop. But the Grobбен family, with their two Wageningen-educated sons, were still prepared to go for it. That's the

'In South America they are still chopping down tropical forests to plant soya fields'

nice thing about studying at WUR, says Grobбен. 'There is so much knowledge about soya cultivation, for example about new varieties and ways of increasing the yield. Everyone is more than happy to talk to us and help us come up with solutions. That's a real luxury and you need to exploit that as a student.'


The Grobбен brothers not only plan to grow soya beans, they also want to develop a soya product for human consumption. Grobбен: 'In the West, soya is mainly used in the production of animal feed, but food products like tempeh, tofu, soya milk and soya yoghurt are becoming increasingly hip. That's another reason that it's ideal I'm studying in Wageningen. StartHub and StartLife have brought me into contact with people who can help us take this initiative further. We want to make something for which there is demand, rather than yet another veggie burger.' Grobбен is not sure yet what it will be.

'I'd really like to develop a well-balanced product in association with a leading chef and a nutritionist. Preferably a chef from Twente; I'm from Twente and proud of it.'

PIGEONS

The soya seeds were sown at the end of April. 'We were able to borrow the farm machinery from our neighbour and he helped with the sowing as well. It was new for him too. When his phone rang, he would say "I'm planting soya beans at the Grobbens", and then he'd have to explain the whole story. That was quite funny and eventually all the neighbouring farmers knew about it. They like the fact that we're trying something new but they are also sceptical. They don't know anything about soya cultivation and find it strange that we're putting so much effort into it.'

Grobбен will be able to harvest the plants after the summer, when they have grown waist-high. Until then, he is paying regular visits to his parents' farm. In between, his brother, who lives and works in Enschede, sends him messages with status updates. 'They say soya is an easy crop but it's still a worry. Once the first shoots appear, pigeons can demolish the entire field in a week, for instance.' Fortunately, they were in luck this year. 'Perhaps the pigeons in Twente haven't learned to appreciate the delicious taste of young soya plants yet. Or else they weren't paying attention.'

His parents do have difficulty with the fact that their dairy farm may come to an end, says Grobбен. 'They have never said it in so many words, but they work day and night with the cows. Of course it's hard to think that might stop. At the same time, in our talks they have always stressed that we should do whatever makes us happy. Our intention is to carry on with the farm — that's our top priority. That the two of us — Bart and I — are exploring this entirely new terrain is just fantastic.' 

Master's student Tom Grobбен (left) and his brother Bart want to continue with their parents' farm, but preferably not as a dairy farm.

SEX FOR SENIORS

Sex is good for the aging brain, shows a study by the University of Oxford. The more often you have sex – whether alone or with someone else – the better you score on tests of verbal fluency and spatial insight. Respondents in this study of 73 people aged between 50 and 83 chose between frequencies of never, monthly and weekly. Quite how sex increased brain power is not clear.

GROWTH

Is WUR growing too fast? Its growth rate is peanuts compared with that of the world population. The UN predicts that the current population of 7.6 billion will grow to 8.6 billion by 2030. In 2015 there will be 9.8 billion people on earth and today's young children will live to see a global population of 11 billion. Time for a fertility cap?

MOBILE

Having a smartphone within reach reduces our available cognitive capacity, discovered researchers at the University of Austin. They put 800 people through tests, some with their mobile close at hand and others with it in the next room. Those whose telephones were out of reach performed significantly better. A mobile in your field of vision is an unconscious distraction, according to the researchers.

PANDA DIPLOMACY

We are practically falling over pandas in Europe these days. First Austria, then Spain, the UK, France, Belgium and (not long ago) the Netherlands, and now it is Germany's turn to rent a panda. In fact, two. The pair arrived in Berlin past weekend and the official handover will be presided over by Chancellor Merkel and President Xi Jinping before the start of the G20 summit. The height of panda diplomacy.



Idealis expects room shortage

First-years looking for a room next academic year are going to have to exercise patience. Idealis does not expect to be able to house all the Dutch students by 1 May.

The room shortage will be caused by a delay in obtaining planning permission for a student residence at Kortenoord. Idealis wanted to complete 300 temporary units there by the end of October, but they will not now be

ready until spring 2018. Spokesperson Hellen Albers: 'It requires an extensive procedure, whereas we were aiming at the regular procedure. So everything in our planning has had to be postponed.'

What is more, an above average number of students and recent graduates are not vacating their rooms. Albers: 'That is tricky because we badly need the accommodation.' Idealis is now trying to stimulate current ten-

ants to vacate their rooms: the first 100 students to end their rental contracts from 9 June will receive 100 euros. International students, who are guaranteed a room by the university, can all be accommodated, expects Albers. 'For the peak period this year we've got two buildings at the barracks in Ede, where we can house 140 people. And we have been reserving rooms vacated over the past few months for the foreign students.' **LvdN**

No seat despite the most votes

Giulia Homs got 320 votes in the latest elections for the Student Council, more than any other candidate. But despite this, the Environmental Sciences Bachelor's student did not get a seat. She was eighth on VeSte's list and that party only got seven seats. She also just missed getting in on preference votes, falling short by 32 votes.

Disappointed?

'I knew in advance that I would be eighth on the list. VeSte asked me to stand in the elections because they were one candidate too short. They wanted someone from Argo, which is why they chose me. I thought a year on the council would be a good way to both represent students and develop myself. But I knew that VeSte would have to win eight seats or else I would have to get to persuade an awful lot of people to vote for me personally. Unfortunately I didn't manage to get on the new council. That feels strange but I was prepared for it. I would have preferred for us all to be in the council because as candidates we became a really close team.'

How did you manage to get so many votes?

'I talked to people during the election week and tried to per-



Giulia Homs: 'A year on the council struck me as a good way to represent students as well as develop myself.'

suade them to vote for VeSte. A lot of people came up to me too because they thought I had good ideas about improving the sports facilities. I also asked people what they would want to improve about the university.'

Will you be campaigning again for VeSte next year?

'No, I don't think so. I didn't enjoy badgering people. Some people got really irritated and I had a few negative reactions.'

MR

International students lack support

Inaccessible language courses, high rents, inadequate government communication and half-hearted integration. These are topics that bother international students in Wageningen, they said last week at a meeting of the new political party Connect Wageningen in Impulse.

Connect Wageningen organized the meeting to get ideas for the programme with which the party wants to run in the municipal council elections in March 2018. The emphasis lay on the views of international students, which are rarely heard at the municipality, according to Connect Wageningen. Those who attended the meeting confirmed that they did not always feel they were noticed. 'If Wageningen University actively seeks to recruit international students, it should support them in other areas too,' commented one student.

Several people at the meeting said they thought Dutch language courses were expensive and inaccessible. International PhD candidates have great difficulty in finding an affordable apartment, too. International students also feel the need for more integration



International students were invited by Connect Wageningen to talk about the problems they run up against in Wageningen.

with fellow students and the local community. Lastly, students mentioned the fact that communication by the authorities is in Dutch. That is inappropriate in an international place like Wageningen, concluded chair Mark Reijerman. 'The municipality should make it easier for international stu-

dents to live here.' The party is going to categorize the problems mentioned, come up with a plan and discuss it with various parties. Connect Wageningen represents Dutch students too. Party member Romy Stijssiger: 'In the coming period we shall organize more meetings on different topics.' **EvK**

MEANWHILE IN... PORTUGAL

'Cooperation of landowners is necessary to prevent fires'

In the past weeks, a record number of forest fires started in Portugal. The damaged area covers tens of thousands of hectares. Tomás Roquette Tenreiro was not so surprised by the fires, but argues for better fire prevention by forest management.

'My family is a forest landowner in the south of Portugal. Luckily, the current forest fires are in the north, like almost every year. Maybe the last few years were less intense, but cases like this happen regularly. In the north, property areas are smaller and therefore effective forest management at a landscape level gets more complicated. It is the tragedy of the commons. Therefore, more cooperation from landowners is necessary to prevent fires like this one.

In this case, many things went wrong. The largest number of casualties was on a national road which should have been closed. Also, the fire fighters could have better intervention plans if they were not only vol-

unteers and using old equipment. It is interesting how public funding is always lacking with left-wing governments. In the media and politics, a lot of blame is put on the eucalyptus and pine tree plantations



in the area. If you ask me, it is not the tree species but the management that is at fault. We should be grateful to these species that forestry is still profitable in the area. Because a forest that does not generate value becomes an abandoned forest. With our climatic conditions, abandoned land has the highest risk of fires. Enough soil moisture combined with high temperatures makes the local ecosystems highly biomass productive and ignition power builds up fast. Then for the landowners, a forest fire feels like losing a child. I experience that every time a fire gets close to our family land. Building a productive forest requires long-term investment, and this can be destroyed in seconds. I find that idea really scary.' **TF**



Tomás Roquette Tenreiro, Master's student of Plant Sciences from Portugal, comments on the forest fires in his country.

YOU ON CAMPUS

The grass on one side of Forum has been slightly blue for a couple of days now. That's because Pamela Acuña Kuchenbecker (32), a Master's student of Landscape Architecture, is spraying boxes with blue paint.

Pamela is making these boxes with other students who are taking the same course: Atelier. 'Atelier is our version of ACT'. They want to use the boxes for a social experiment in Amsterdam. 'We want to see if placing an object is enough to liven up a place, or if a place needs to be lively already for an object to work'. Basically, they will put the boxes in a public space and see if people will play games with them. 'The boxes needed to have a fun colour that was light and playful and stood out.' Pamela says this was the first time she has done applied research like this in Wageningen, but she has done things like this before in Peru.

Pamela is from Peru, where she studied architecture. 'We had longer periods in Peru, so there was more time for big experiments like this'. Compared to Lima, where Pamela

used to live, Wageningen is really small. 'Especially when you want to get some food in the evening. Everything closes in Wageningen. There is always life in Lima; food places are open throughout the night.'

Peru is not the only country Pamela has lived in. 'We moved to Germany when I was four because of terrorism in Peru. However, we moved back when I was six, when the situation improved in Peru.'

'There is always life in Lima; food places are open throughout the night'

Even though she lived in Germany for a while, the culture shock was still great when she moved to the Netherlands. 'I barely remember Germany'. Pamela misses the night life and the food in Lima. Luckily she found her own small Peruvian community here in



PHOTO: ANNE VAN DER HEIJDEN

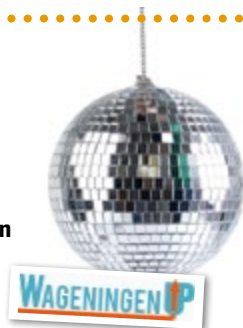
Wageningen.

'With one girl I sometimes practise dancing in heels, which was my form of exercise in Peru. Managing your balance on your heels while dancing gives you strong core stability'. Pamela also loves singing and photography, but most of all she loves landscape architecture. 'It's good that I love it, because you have to devote yourself 110 percent in this career.'

AvdH

PARTIES

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



WAGENINGEN CENTRE - LEEFFESTIVAL

Sunday 2 July from 12.00 to 18.00

Volunteers will be organizing the summer street theatre festival LEEF for the 35th time in Wageningen town centre. The theme this year is 'Drömeland' (dreamland). Saunter through the centre and admire the many performances by both professionals and amateurs. The festival is free of charge.

CAMPUS — SSR-W: SUMMER SWITCH FESTIVAL

Saturday 8 July from 15.00 to 23.45

Student society SSR-W has joined forces with Popcultuur Wageningen to celebrate 85 years since it was founded. Together they will be organizing a festival on campus with local bands and some great DJs. The timing is ideal as the last exams will just have finished. The perfect start to your holiday. AvdH



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER

A visit to the restrooms during the KSV Franciscus public party on Thursday 22 June was a surprisingly pleasant experience thanks to these lovely ladies.

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.

A sea of lights

'The Coral Restoration Foundation works on reef restoration by reintroducing nursery-reared corals. Our internship assignment was to transplant the corals and then compare the transplanted populations with wild coral populations. The organization gave us a course on coral handling, after which we carried out our project independently. We drew up our own research protocol and then spent three months conducting measurements underwater according to this protocol.

It was a big challenge and we were happy that there were the four of us to share the workload and discuss things together. We spent four hours diving nearly every day for our research. Doing research underwater is very different from doing it on land as you have to learn to communicate with your buddies. In the early days, we'd make clear agreements before the dive but later we just needed one glance to understand one another.

MANGROVE WOODS

We got to know each other extremely well during our internship as we spent so much time together. Our working days were long, we lived together and we didn't have much time for ourselves. This led to some difficult situations but we eventually learned how to resolve them. For example, if there were arguments we sorted them out at once as they cost too much energy and we had so much to do.

In our free time, we dived a lot together. We also made friends with some of the locals on Bonaire. They showed us places we would never have discovered on our own. We went snorkelling in a cave and in the mangrove woods,

where we found a nursery between the roots of a tree with tiny fish and sponges. We had some unforgettable experiences when diving in the sea too. Five days after a full moon, we went diving at night and suddenly found ourselves surrounded by thousands of little lights. It was the mating season for ostracods, which are bioluminescent microorganisms. The water looked like a sky full of stars and fireflies. We heard one another shrieking with delight underwater because it was so beautiful.

LARGE TURTLE

It was also the mating season for the loggerhead, a large species of turtle. On one of our first days, a loggerhead suddenly headed towards us at high speed. Males with poor sight are known to sometimes harass divers that they mistake for female turtles. Fortunately nothing happened, but it was quite an experience.' **BJ**

THE WORKS

Who? Sarina Versteeg, Eva Mudde, Maarten Rutting and Lieveke Crombach
What? Internship with Wageningen Marine Research and Coral Restoration Foundation Bonaire
Where? Bonaire

Read all the interviews on resource-online.nl



PHOTO MAARTEN RUTTING

Orion Irregular Opening Hours Summer 2017

	Date	Monday to Friday	Saturday and Sunday
The Building	10 July to 6 August	Closed	Closed
	7 August to 1 September	8 am - 6 pm	Closed
Bikebasement	10 July to 6 August	Closed	Closed
	7 August to 1 September	8 am - 6 pm	Closed
Restaurant	10 July to 6 August	Closed	Closed
	7 August to 27 August	Closed	Closed
	28 August to 1 September	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	Closed
The Spot	7 August to 27 August	9 am - 2 pm	Closed
	28 August to 1 September	8 am - 8 pm	Closed



Leeuwenborch Irregular Opening Hours Summer 2017

	Date	Monday to Friday	Saturday	Sunday
The Building	10 July to 3 September	7 am - 10.30 pm	8 am - 5.30 pm	Closed
Restaurant / Coffee Bar	10 July to 16 July	9 am - 3 pm	Closed	
	17 July to 20 August	11 am - 1.30 pm	Closed	
	21 August to 27 August	9 am - 3 pm	Closed	
	28 August to 3 September	8 am - 5 pm	Closed	
Library	10 July to 3 September	9 am - 5 pm	Closed	

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



Forum Irregular Opening Hours Summer 2017

	Date	Monday to Friday	Saturday and Sunday
The Building	10 July to 6 August	8 am - 8 pm	Closed
The Library	10 July to 10 September	Closed *	Closed *
Student Desk IT Service Point	10 July to 13 August	12 pm - 2 pm	Closed
WURshop	3 July to 16 July	10 am - 2 pm	Closed
	17 July to 13 August	Closed	Closed
Restaurant	3 July to 9 July	8 am - 5 pm	Closed
	10 July to 16 August	8 am - 2 pm	Closed
	17 July to 20 August	11.30 am - 2 pm	Closed
	21 August to 27 August	8 am - 5 pm	Closed
Grand Café	3 July to 16 July	8 am - 3 pm	Closed
	17 July to 20 August	Closed	Closed
	21 August to 27 August	8 am - 3 pm	Closed
Wageningen in'to Languages	3 July to 3 September	9 am - 5 pm (closed on Friday)	Closed



* Until September 8, a temporary library desk is open on working days 10am - 4pm on the 1st floor of Forum. Rooms on the 6th and 7th floor above the library are open for study purposes until September 4

announcements

WAGENINGEN WRITING LAB OPEN DURING SUMMER HOLIDAY AND RENOVATION OF FORUM LIBRARY

Do you need help with writing? From July 5 on you can book a session on weekdays between 10.00 and 16.00. Admittance via the temporary library desk on floor 1 of the Forum (opposite the canteen). A selection of books on writing can be found in the Leeuwenborch Library. Apply through wur.nl/

en/article/Wageningen-Writing-Lab-2.htm and send an email to: info.wageningenwritinglab@wur.nl.

WEEKLY OPEN HOUR FOR PARENTS AND FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS (NOT JUST FROM WUR)

Hermien Miltenburg, responsible for information for parents issued by the national association of deans NVS-VVL and higher education institutions, will be hosting a weekly Open Hour for questions of any kind about student

life, choice of degree, a gap year, funding etc. Look it up on studiekeuzekind.nl. The telephonic Open Hour is on Wednesdays from 17.00 to 18.00 on 0317-484455.

agenda

Thursday 29 June to Wednesday 12 July FILMS FOR STUDENTS

King of the Belgians: a surrealist road movie in which a rather dopey king of Belgium hears in Istanbul that Wallonia has declared independence. He must return at once, heading right through the Balkans. *Howards End*: the much acclaimed English classic, an oppressive story about rival families just before World War I. *El Ciu-dadaono Ilustre*: a mordant Argentinian tragicomedy about Nobel prize winner Daniel Montevani, who has to return to the village of his birth for a reunion. Not all the residents are happy about the way they are portrayed in his books. Location: Wilhelminaweg 3A, Wageningen.

WWW.MOVIE-W.NL

Thursday 29 June, 20.00 OPEN MIND LAB LECTURE: 'EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY: HOW TO BUILD RESPONSIBILITY INTO ACADEMIC PRACTICE?'

Education forms you to a large extent and is also a basis of your moral perspective on the world. But are scientists and students taught how to be responsible? Sociologist of science Phil MacNaghten will share his views on the topic. Venue: Impulse

Friday 30 June FARMERS' TALES

An informal lunch gathering to give you the chance to meet up with other students, PhD candidates, researchers, and farmers. Share your ideas on the practice and politics of sustainable food production, or just drop in to gain some knowledge on a variety of topics (e.g. for your thesis or internship).

BOERENGROEP.NL/RESEARCH-EDUCATION/FARMERS-TALES

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

colophon

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Sports Centre de Bongerd Irregular opening hours Summer 2017



8 July - 20 August

Monday to Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12.00-22.00	09.30-12.30	closed

21 August - 27 August

Monday to Friday	Saturday	Sunday
09.00-22.00	09.30-12.30	closed



CineMec

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FILM



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FILM



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Downey Jr.

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>>>TYPICAL DUTCH




A respected dishwasher

Some time ago I started working part-time alongside my studies. I work as a dishwasher at a cafe in the town centre. I was overwhelmed by the homely feeling I get every time I'm there. I get really nice dinners and eat with the cooks and sometimes the owner too. That would never happen in my country.

Sometimes it can be really busy at work and I have to work really hard. That's the moment that people around me make me feel better by offering a drink or something nice to eat. Sometimes the waitresses surprise me with an unexpected tip. The Dutch are very friendly and help me with practising my Dutch without making fun of my accent.

In India, I would be looked down upon, working as a dishwasher. Such jobs are low-paid and not respected. An owner will not usually talk to a dishwasher in a friendly way and I have never seen a dishwasher eating at the same table as the owner and sharing his thoughts and experiences. If it is busy or someone didn't turn up for work, the owner of the restaurant I work in sometimes even washes the dishes, works behind the bar or cooks. That is something that would never happen in my society.

In India, I would probably try to hide a dishwashing job from my parents and family. But when I tell my Dutch friends about my work they really appreciate it. No job is low here. I like this way of thinking and wish my country too would treat people at all levels respectfully.

And the wage rate is nice here too. I recently bought a new MacBook Pro from the money I earned working as a dishwasher. Cool, isn't it?  **Amit Choudhary, MSc student of Management, Economics and Consumer Studies, from India**

No job is low here. I like this way of thinking and wish my country too would treat all people respectfully

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.