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## Half-open access

WUR manages it for almost half of its publications | [p.8](#) |

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## Riddle

Where did the extra education funding go? | [p.12](#) |

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## Rubber boat

Claude from Syria made it and is taking classes here now | [p.18](#) |

# RESOURCE [EN]

For everyone at Wageningen University & Research

no 12 – 8 February 2018 – 12th Volume




## Ten billion people? No problem!

Professor: 'Humanity is not a plague' | [p.20](#)

**INTERNATIONAL  
EDITION**

## FREE MASSAGE

On 1 and 7 February, students with sore muscles from all their revision could get free treatment from professional masseur Bart Heijnemans. His massage chair was installed in the Relax Corner of the library. 'I always wanted a massage but I never got one because it is so expensive,' says Naomi Kroon. 'It is super that they offer this in such a stressful week.' Fancy a massage too? You can still get one, on Thursday 13 February from 19:30 to 21:30.  MR, photo Guy Ackermans

Read the whole story  
on [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl)



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no 12 – 12th volume



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## STORIES

First day at the office. Someone says, 'They've discovered an enzyme that breaks down antibiotics.' It goes quiet for a moment at the daily 'central table consultation', at which various WUR editors and communication departments discuss subjects for stories. Is that good news or bad news? 'Good news, because it means we can do something about them,' is the conclusion for now.

Other subjects are raised. The media are full of stories about plastics and recycling, and a WUR researcher wants to go on Dutch TV talk show *De Wereld Draait Door* to talk about his research on the best place to land on Mars. Wageningen gets everywhere.

I am on an introductory round with *Resource* editor-in-chief Edwin van Laar. I'll be standing in for him for the next six months while he busies himself with all the stories around the WUR centenary. There is no shortage of stories, that's for sure. Stories about the history of the place, but also plenty about the present and the future. 'There is a potential Nobel Prize winner walking around here,' an information officer divulges. Oh? Tell me more.

Here at *Resource* we'd love to hear your story. Nobel Prize or not.

*Anton van Elburg, Acting editor-in-chief*

### AND MORE...

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# OPEN ACCESS: ONLY HALFWAY THERE

**In two years time, there must be open access to all scientific articles. That will be a problem. Wageningen is about halfway there according to an overview by open access expert Marco van Veller of WUR Library.**

Van Veller and his colleagues have been reviewing the state of affairs regarding open access since 2015. In that year, 35 percent of all peer-reviewed articles by Wageningen authors and co-authors were available via open access. One year later, that had increased to 42 percent. The figures for 2017 are not yet known but the proportion is expected to be about half.

This increase is the result of the negotiations that the universities have jointly been conducting with the big publishers since 2015. One element in the deals that have been made is that in addition to the journal reading rights (subscriptions), articles can also be freely available. However, scientists have to make the effort to arrange that themselves. The WUR library director Hubert Krekels says open access publication is currently possible for 7500 journals. That seems a lot but it is only a quarter of the journals included in



PROF. DR. ARTHUR MOL  
(RECTOR MAGNIFICUS)

**'Open access helps to further increase the impact of our science!'**

Open up to open access

View the options at [wur.eu/library/open-access](http://wur.eu/library/open-access)

WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

openaccess.nl

Posters have been put up around campus in which professors highlight the importance of open access.

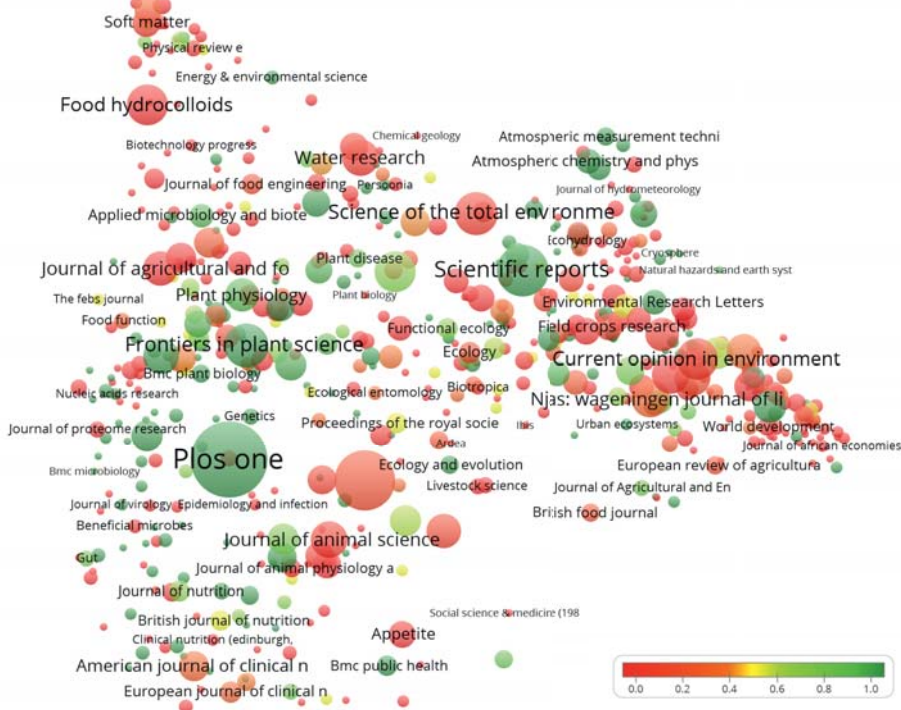


ILLUSTRATION: MARCO VAN VELLER

A figure showing 531 journals in which WUR authors published papers in 2016. The size of the circle corresponds to the number of WUR articles in the journal. The colour gives the proportion with open access, whereby red means 0 percent and green 100 percent.

the Scopus database and the Directory of Open Access Journals.

## HYBRID JOURNALS

When considering these figures, it should also be noted that only 16 percent of the articles offer open access according to the 'gold standard'. Gold means there is full open access to the journal in question. Most open-access articles are published in hybrid journals that facilitate open access alongside a subscription system. The European Union, the Netherlands and the universities are aiming for complete open access by 2020. If the current rate of change continues, this target will not be achieved.

The 2020 deadline is not attainable even with hybrid open access, says Krekels. But he also thinks it would help if scientists were to make good use of the options they already have. That means for example that scientists should try and be the corresponding author of their articles

wherever possible. 'The open access deals we have require the corresponding author for the article to be employed by WUR. So make sure you are the corresponding author,' says Krekels. 'Find out about the options and how it works.' At present, 30 to 40 percent of Wageningen articles do not have a Wageningen author for correspondence.

## JOURNAL BROWSER

The library has created a journal browser to make it easier for scientists. The browser covers more than 30,000 journals, showing the agreements that have been made in each case with the publisher and what it costs to publish an article with open access. Krekels also suggests that scientists could deliberately opt for an open access journal. 'That may mean you end up in a journal with a lower impact factor. To be sure, this is at odds with our strategy of publishing as "high up" as possible, but that's a choice you can make.'

In addition to gold and hybrid open access, there is a third option for making articles freely available. That is to include an (unformatted) PDF version in your own archiving system, an approach known as green open access. Most publishers allow this. The library has the Staff Publications system available for this purpose. But the author does have to take the initiative to supply the library with the article, stresses Krekels. The obligation to do this is formally documented in the recently compiled WUR open access policy.

For what it's worth, because there are no sanctions if scientists fail to comply. An information campaign has been started to make researchers aware from all the options. It is a follow-up to the national campaign for open access that has been going for over nine months. Posters and banners dotted around the campus show professors drawing attention to this issue. **OR**

## COMMITTEE POSITIVE ABOUT EDUCATION

**The international visitation committee that visited last week is positive about the quality of Wageningen education and the university's quality control system. The committee reported these conclusions in a presentation on Friday 2 February.**

The five-strong international committee spent a week talking to some 175 teachers, administrative staff and students. The committee will present the written report on its Institutional Audit in a few months' time, making recom-

mendations to the Dutch-Flemish Accreditation Organization (NVAO).

The committee was very impressed by the culture around Wageningen education. One typical feature is the informal policymaking process in which students and teachers can put forward and discuss their ideas. Having all the education under one faculty puts the different degree programmes in a good position to share knowledge and courses. Nonetheless, the committee recommends strengthening the position of the programme directors. By

giving the programme directors more clout, the programme committees would be better able to exercise countervailing power, thinks the committee.

Something that surprised the committee was the title 'personal professor'. The committee says they should just be called professors. Another suggestion is that the university increase the number of examination committees. With the growth in student numbers, the work is getting too much for the four existing committees, said the auditors. **AS**

## COLUMN|VINCENT

### Safe

It was raining as we strolled across the courtyard of the Binnenhof, the seat of Parliament and the Prime Minister in the Hague. A fraternity mate of mine who was on an internship there showed us around. He pointed out some beehives standing in the little garden. They had been put there by Dion Graus, an MP from the far-right PVV party. 'To show that bees in the city are less affected by pesticides than those in the countryside.' There wasn't a bee to be seen; they were probably staying inside.

Elsewhere in The Hague recently, the National Bee Strategy was proudly presented. This is an action plan for bees and other pollinators, signed by 43 parties. Besides WUR, signatories included chemical firms BASF, Bayer and Syngenta. Fortunately, because – regardless of any of Dion Graus's other standpoints – it is certainly true that bees and pesticides don't always make a good combination.

The action plan is clear about that too. It focuses mainly on food supply and nesting opportunities, but it also includes a lot of phrases such as 'wise use of crop protection chemicals'. To find out exactly what is meant by 'wise' you have to refer to a memo mentioned in a footnote. While a lot of stakeholders have been positioning themselves clearly in the debate on the authorizing of individual pesticides, the National Bee Strategy does not mention a single product by name.

That really is a bit strange. Nobody would deny that you should deal with pesticides sensibly but what constitutes 'sensibly' depends, for a start, on the substance in question. No two pesticides are the same and we are none the wiser for vague talk of 'wise use'. I don't think that will lure Dion's bees out of their hives. **B**

**Vincent Oostvogels (22)** is exploring the delicate interface between nature management and food production through his two Master's programmes, Forest and Nature Conservation and Animal Sciences



### in brief

#### >> CAREER DAY

##### Tasting tomatoes

More than 60 companies introduced themselves to about 950 students at the WUR career day in Orion on Tuesday. They included well-known multinationals such as Unilever, Bayer and Mars. Seed breeders were present in large numbers too. Monsanto invited its potential future employees to taste tomatoes. The chemicals and plant-breeding company says it is looking for staff with a variety of backgrounds. **B** **SVG**

#### >> RESEARCH AWARD

##### Annual prize

The Research Prize for young scientists will be awarded every year from now on. The University Fund Wageningen (UFW) has hitherto rotated this prize, the Press Prize and the Prize for Outstanding Alumni. So the Research Prize was awarded every three years. The UFW has made the change because it wants to let gifted researchers enjoy the limelight more often. The Research Award 2018 will be presented on 12 March at the end of the symposium on 'What is Life?' **B** **LvdN**

#### >> POP-UP LIBRARY

##### Discussions with researchers

The WUR library is actively seeking out researchers to talk with them about the services they want. The first pop-up library appeared in Helix last week. 'We want to explain what we



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER

**How many recent WUR graduates are unemployed? Find out at resource-online.nl**

can do for them,' says information specialist Anna Besse, 'as well as to hear what their needs are.' The pop-up library will be in the Leeuwenborch on 6 March, in Radix on 15 March, in Axis on 22 March, and in Vitae on 29 March. All the drop-in sessions are held between 12:00 and 13:30. **B** **AS**

# WUR AWARDS FOUR NEW HONORARY DOCTORATES

During its 100<sup>th</sup> Founders Day, Wageningen University will award four honorary doctorates. All the new honorary doctors will give a talk about their work. They are Swedish ecologist Carl Folke, Russian evolutionary biologist Eugene Koonin, Chinese plant scientist Fusuo Zhang and British environmental sociologist Katrina Brown.



Carl Folke



Eugene Koonin



Katrina Brown



Fusuo Zhang

Folke (62) is an environmental scientist who has earned his stripes on the cutting edge between the natural and the social sciences. He is one of the thinkers behind the principle of resilience in natural systems, which is posited to underlie human behaviour. Folke is professor of Natural Resource Management at the University of Stockholm and founder/ director of the Stockholm Resilience Centre.

The concept of resilience is

central to Katrina Brown's work too. She is professor of Social Sciences at the University of Exeter and specialized in how individuals and communities in developing countries cope with climate change.

Eugene Koonin (61) is a researcher at the National Centre for Biotechnology Information in Bethesda in the US. He is one of the brains behind the Crispr technology, the latest miracle

tool with which geneticists can tinker with the genome. He works closely with John van der Oost's Wageningen Crispr group.

Zhang is professor of Plant Nutrition at the Chinese Agricultural University in Beijing. He made his name in Chinese agriculture with the development and application of techniques for boosting harvests, with an emphasis on optimal use of the

available nutrients.

Wageningen University awards new honorary doctorates at every 5th anniversary. A total of 58 honorary doctorates have been bestowed between 1918 and 2018. Katrina Brown is the first woman to receive this honour since 1993. As far as we know, she is the fourth woman with a WUR honorary doctorate. **RK**

# FORUM INCIDENT SUSPECT CAN'T STAY AND CAN'T LEAVE

**The student who is accused of wounding two people in the Forum on Thursday 18 January has been released. The university does not want him attending classes while he awaits trial. But he cannot return to his own country.**

The 28-year-old international student is suspected of stabbing a fellow student with a tail comb and hitting a WUR employee who came between them. The court in Arnhem decided on 1 February that he did not have to remain in custody, and he was released one day later. While waiting for his court case the student, who was suffering a psychosis at the time of the attack, is banned from using alcohol or drugs. The court made that a condition of his release.

After the incident, the suspect stayed a few days in a closed ward of a hospital while doctors made a diagnosis. The doctors do not believe he is now a danger to himself

or others. The student did not go back to his room in a student complex, however, because his flatmates do not want him back after the incident. Because he did not report immediately to housing provider Idealis, he was homeless for a few days. But Idealis has now found him another room.

Ingrid Hijman, head of the Student Service Centre, would prefer to see the suspect return to his home country and be treated there. She could terminate his registration on the basis of a disturbance of the peace, but that would have far-reaching consequences. If he is not registered, his visa will run out and he will have to leave the country. And he cannot do that because the police have confiscated his passport to prevent him leaving the country before his trial. 'We have our responsibilities as a university,' says Hijman. 'I don't want the suspect to end up on the streets and be forced to remain in the Netherlands illegally.'

So Hijman does not want to



The mentally unstable student who attacked a fellow student in the Forum on 18 January was arrested shortly afterwards near the Droevendaalsesteeg student accommodation.

deregister the suspect at this stage, which means he still has to pay his tuition and, strictly speaking, could walk back into classes on campus. WUR does not want that, though. Hijman wants to advise the student to suspend his studies for the time being, as she will tell him in a meeting with him today.

What annoys Hijman is that

the police and the court do not confer with the university about the best line of action for the suspect. He seems to have landed in a story by Franz Kafka. 'I think the institutions involved should put our heads together to decide how to deal with this situation.'

It is not known when the suspect is to appear in court. **AS**

## A CENTURY OF WUR EDUCATION IN SIX MINUTES

**Roel Dijkma, lecturer in Hydrology and Quantitative Water Management, is working on a film about 100 years of WUR education, with interviews with ex-students. The oldest interviewee is 98 years old.**

The six-minute film shows how WUR education has developed since it started in 1918. 'I want to tell the overall story line in a way that will mean it is still interesting to read in a few years' time,' says Dijkma, who was Teacher of the Year in 2016. He is making the film for the WUR centenary this year.

Dijkma started by delving into the history books and selecting periods in which something remarkable happened, such as World War II or the arrival of the first women students at the Agricultural College. 'Then I thought about what kind of person it would be appropriate to interview for the different periods.' Dijkma then approached 16 suitable candidates through the University Fund Wageningen's alumni network. The oldest alumnus he

spoke to is 98. 'Just the very fact that he studied in Wageningen so long ago makes it interesting to listen to,' says Dijkma.

Two students, Tessa van Hateren and Maaïke Gaaff, do the interviewing. 'The contrast between then and now comes out strongly and the nicest stories come to light.' About the introduction of computers, for example. At the end of the 1980s, a large central computer stood in the Leeuwenborch, with a small number of terminals you could work on. If you came in too late, you ran the risk that all the terminals were taken. So students were starting work earlier and earlier. 'We can no longer imagine a situation in which at 6.30 in the morning, you can't log on to a computer anywhere,' says Dijkma.

Dijkma's film is due to be screened for the first time on 24 April, at the start of Education Month. Anyone interested in seeing more after viewing the six-minute film can find the full interviews online. 'They go on no more than 10 minutes each but if you want to see them all it will take at least two hours.' **RDV**



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

Lecturer Roel Dijkma made his film to paint a picture of education in the past.

### THE STUDENT GRANT MINISTER

Jo Ritzen had to do quite a lot of explaining during his term as minister of Education. He presided over the introduction of the student public transport pass in 1991, and the much-reviled performance-related grant in 1996. A lot of students hated his guts. This intriguing photo was taken in Wageningen. Is the minister getting a warm welcome? Or is he being greeted with protest banners? We'd love to hear the story behind this photo! Drop in at the *Resource* office in Atlas or send an email to [linda.vander-nat@wur.nl](mailto:linda.vander-nat@wur.nl). WUR celebrates its 100th anniversary next month. Ahead of the festivities, *Resource* has been digging up interesting photos from the archive.

**Look up the 100 years of... VIP visitors on [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl)**



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS



# 600,000 TO DEVELOP GAS SENSOR

Science funding organization NWO has given chemist Louis de Smet 600,000 euros to develop a new type of gas sensor that works at room temperature and can also determine the kind of gas and concentration.

De Smet is the man behind the Louis de Smet Research Lab, part of Professor Han Zuilhof's Organic Chemistry chair group. His group focuses on developing organic materials capable of selectively binding certain compounds, for example for the purpose of purification or detection.

Existing gas sensors work by adsorbing gases onto metal oxides, explains De Smet. 'The disadvantage is that they work at very high temperatures. They are also non-specific: they detect gas, but don't tell you which gas or in what concentrations.' This means their applicability is limited.

De Smet wants to make sensors based on porous organic polymers, which he creates using an (organic) amine and an aldehyde. He connects them up using what is known as an imine bond. That produces flat, honeycomb-like networks. Stacking these networks creates cavities that can hold the gas. He also wants to use building blocks that are not planar to create 3D networks. 'Think of a kind of sponge,' says De Smet. Coating sensors with the polymer will result in a new type of gas sensor that can operate at room temperature.

That is the basis. But the nice thing about



Chemist Louis de Smet wants to develop gas sensors based on porous organic polymers.

the concept, thinks De Smet, is that the sensors can in principle be designed to be highly selective in the gases they detect. It is a question of adding the right chemical 'grippers' to the cavities. 'The research will initially focus on establishing the proof of principle for the technique,' says De Smet. 'If this platform works, you can use the chemistry to make the sensors selective.'

The idea is that the new sensors can be used in industry, the food sector, healthcare and security services.

De Smet got his grant from the NWO's new Start-Up fund. The chemist already secured a major EU research grant three years ago at Delft University of Technology and in 2007 he was awarded a Veni grant. **RK**

## 'BRUSSELS OBSTRUCTS NATURE-INCLUSIVE FARMING'

**Nature-inclusive farming can benefit both nature and the farmer, but only under the right conditions. This was the conclusion drawn from the Farmers for Nature research project. One of the necessary conditions is permission from the EU to subsidize the approach, says research leader Judith Westerink of Wageningen Environmental Research.**

Over more than 10 years, WUR and several partners studied four farms which were participating in Farmers for Nature, an arrangement by which farmers integrated nature and agriculture themselves. This is what is now called 'nature-inclusive farming'. The idea is quite simple. There is no contract stating, for instance, that a farmer must leave a field edge for wild flowers, but it is agreed that he brings in fertilizer from outside. 'The farmer therefore

runs short of nutrients on his land, so he leaves the edges and corners of his fields unfertilized,' says Westerink. She presented the final conclusions of the study last Monday.

The conclusions are broad and hedged around with ifs and buts. The researchers see, for example, that the farms genuinely did create more nature elements such as flowery field margins. The meadows also became more varied and flowery. However, field birds such as the black-tailed godwit did not benefit from that change. And not bringing in any nutrients at all from outside was obviously too much to ask.

The study did not provide the researchers with hard statistical evidence of the success of Farmers for Nature. 'For that you would have to study far more farms, and then you can't take such a thorough look at how everything fits together on an individual farm.'



Multi-annual subsidies proved necessary to compensate for loss of income. Those subsidies are a sore point because the European Commission still has to check whether they count as prohibited state support. At present this is the biggest obstacle to the further expansion of Farmers for Nature. **SVG**



## BREEDING FOR EVEN HEALTHIER CHICORY

**With new plant-breeding techniques, a group of European researchers aim to extract healthy nutritional fibres and medicinal substances from chicory. WUR is leading the research consortium, which will get 7.3 million euros from the European Union.**

Chicory is a little plant with pretty blue flowers, but its most interesting part is underground. The chicory root is a source of the nutritional fibre inulin, which is used in bread, dairy products and cereal bars because it has a positive effect on digestion.

From years of research, plant scientists know quite a lot about how to grow chicory and what nutrients the root contains. But it is not easy for them to increase the production of these healthy substances because the plant is difficult to breed using traditional cross-breeding and selection.

Recently, new breeding techniques such as Crispr-Cas have appeared on the scene, with which chicory can become an even more valuable crop, thinks the EU. It has allocated 7.3 million euros to an international consortium of universities, institutes and companies, to be led by WUR. The researchers will be focusing on good nutritional fibres and medically active ingredients in chicory. The

research programme was presented in Brussels on Tuesday 6 February.

The programme aims to develop varieties of chicory which manufacture other health-giving substances besides nutritional fibres, says research leader Dirk Bosch of Wageningen Plant Research. These could include new types of antibiotic or cancer drugs, he says. Certain substances in chicory can limit the growth of bacteria, fungi and tumours.

The researchers want to introduce selected mutations into chicory by switching particular genes on and off using the new breeding techniques. Because these techniques are controversial, they want to get the wider community in on the research. But they are also looking for new ideas for making traditional cross-breeding easier, and for improving the 'crop architecture' of chicory.

The research programme, called CHIC, will be financed from the EU's Horizon 2020 programme. Along with WUR, 17 different partners from 12 different countries are taking part, with researchers from France, Germany, Italy, Finland, Serbia and Poland. The Wageningen breeding company Keygene and the Dutch inulin producer Sensus BV are also involved in the research programme. **AS**

## VISION

### 'Not so easy to recycle all plastic'



**Last week, 11 big multinationals including Coca-Cola and Unilever promised that they would make all their plastic packaging recyclable by 2025. That fits in with the EU's requirement for all packaging to be recyclable by 2030. 'A good initiative but a lot of problems still need to be resolved to make that deadline,' says Ulphard Thoden van Velzen of Wageningen Food & Biobased Research.**

#### *Why is such a switch important?*

'Just over half of all packaging is suitable for recycling. Take PET bottles, for example. Recycling companies can turn them into new high-grade packaging. But recyclable packaging gets mixed up with plastic that can't be recycled. Recycling this plastic mixture is expensive because it first has to be sorted again. What is more, the products made from it are not such good quality. They are brittle, for example, or have a cloudy colour, smell strange or contain hazardous components that could end up in food products. If we were to switch entirely to recyclable packaging, that would mean a huge improvement in the recycling system.'

#### *What requirements does recyclable plastic need to satisfy?*

'There is no widely accepted definition of "recyclable". The Germans have a programme in which packaging is assessed according to 641 criteria to determine how recyclable it is. That's great but it is too complicated for much of the packaging industry. The EU will have to come up with a definition.'

#### *Is a complete switch feasible?*

'It's easier for the multinationals. They know exactly what plastics go into their packaging. But smaller companies, which are responsible for most of the packaging on the market, often don't know what is in their packaging. In addition, there are currently no good recyclable alternatives for laminate film packaging, which is used for processed meat, cat food, potato chips, part-baked baguettes and dry soup mixes, for example. The same applies for blister packs for medicines. Given this, 2030 is really not that far away. At present, very little research is being done on alternatives and that will have to be scaled up enormously. Otherwise we won't make the deadline.' **TL**



# USING FERRIES TO MEASURE SAND TRANSPORT

If it is up to Ton Hoitink, all ferries would soon be fitted with equipment for monitoring currents and sediment transportation in rivers. These measurements could add much to our understanding of erosion, sedimentation and salinization in the Dutch delta, says the newly appointed personal professor of Environmental Fluid Mechanics.

Riverbeds change constantly as a result of erosion and the deposition of particles. Those processes are influenced by the currents in the water. The volume of water and sediment on the move determines whether erosion or its opposite, sedimentation, takes place. An additional factor closer to the coast is the intrusion of salty seawater.

An understanding of all these processes is crucial to keeping the rivers navigable and freshwater fresh. There are models for this, but to test those models against reality requires large amounts of data. And that is why measurements are so crucial, explains Hoitink: measurements such as those currently being taken on a daily basis on the ferry between Den Helder and the island of Texel. Acoustic measurements there are providing a picture of the currents and the particle transport in the Marsdiep tidal channel.

The technology used is called an ADCP: Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler. 'The apparatus transmits high frequency signals which are reflected back by the particles in the water on the way down to the riverbed. The Doppler effect that then occurs is related to the speed of



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

Ton Hoitink wants to establish a salt monitor, 'like a weather radar system but for salt intrusion'.

the current in the water. The strength of the reflected signal also tells us something about the number of particles in the current.'

As it plies up and down, the ferry collects 'an incredible dataset'. Hoitink would like to use this equipment at other locations too, starting with the Nieuwe Waterweg to find out more about the influx of salt water in the Zeeland delta.

All this measuring should result in a salt monitor, says the professor. 'Like a weather radar system but for salt intrusion. A website where you can see roughly how much salt intrusion there is going to be in the next few days. A service like this could be very useful for farmers, water boards and drinking water suppliers.' **RK**

# NO GOOD ALTERNATIVE FOR KILLING MALE CHICKS

**Around 40 million one-day-old chicks are killed every year in the Netherlands. There are alternatives, but no one option gets overwhelming support from the general public, according to a survey by the chair groups Adaptation Physiology and Philosophy. Interestingly, the technology that the government is investing in is the least popular.**

The male chicks of laying breeds are worthless from an economic point of view. They don't lay eggs and are not suitable for meat production. They are therefore killed immediately after they hatch. Professor of Ethics Bart Gremmen and

his team asked over 2000 Dutch people what they thought would be the best alternative.

For example, you could use the make chicks for meat after all. One third of the respondents thought that would be a good idea. However, this costs more time, feed and space. Gremmen: 'That makes the meat more expensive and worse for the environment. Another option is the dual-purpose chicken, which can produce both meat and eggs. But that too is less efficient than today's specialized poultry farming.'

A further option is to identify the male chicks while they are still in the egg and only hatch the females. Wageningen Livestock Research

has worked on a technique for introducing a fluorescent gene in chickens so that the sex can be determined as soon as the egg has been laid. But the Dutch government called a halt to the development of this technique in 2014 because of the controversial use of genetic modification. Instead, they opted for a different technique that measures hormone levels. However, this technique turned out to be the least popular option: only six percent of respondents thought it a good idea. 'To do this, you have to stick a needle in the egg,' explains Gremmen. 'Afterwards, you can no longer eat the eggs and people find that wasteful.'



PHOTO: SHUTTEROCK

A third option is to determine the sex using a laser beam. 11 percent of the people surveyed thought that was the best alternative while genetic modification got 21 percent of the votes. **TL**

The *Resource* website gives you the latest news every day. Here is a selection from the past week.

### OWN DOOR



The students taking part in the Green Student Challenge have been given their own entrance in Atlas. This lets them work on their design for a sustainable urban greenhouse seven days a week, 24 hours a day, even when the building is closed to other users. A path has been laid out to the door especially for the students.

The students taking part in the Green Student Challenge have been given their own entrance in Atlas. This lets them work on their design for a sustainable urban greenhouse seven

and talk in English. We will only communicate in Dutch if that's possible,' says policy officer Lilian Halsema on the news site Cursor. WUR spokesperson Simon Vink says in a response that Wageningen is and will remain bilingual.

### STUDENT JOBS



The new company Student2Work wants to help students in Wageningen find a part-time job to combine with their study. Cleo Kortenhorst, Economics and Consumer Studies Master's student, helped set up the agency. Both international and Dutch students can apply.

The new company Student2Work wants to help students in Wageningen find a part-time job to combine with their study. Cleo Kortenhorst, Economics and Consumer Studies Master's student, helped set up the agency. Both international and Dutch students can apply.

### ENGLISH ONLY



If it's up to the board of Eindhoven Technical University, English will become the official working language at the university as of 2020. 'The basic principle is that we will write

Check them all out  
at [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl)

## MEANWHILE ONLINE

### CORRECTION

In the article *Cradle of a global brand* in the *Resource* of 25 January, 1949 was given as the year in which Indonesia gained independence. Indonesian students and researchers have lodged objections to this. For Indonesians, independence dates back to Sukarno and Hatta's declaration of Indonesian Independence on 17 August 1945. This declaration was rejected by the Netherlands, which led to a war that went on until 1949. The United Nations gives 27 December 1949 as the official Independence Day. Many countries follow Indonesia and stick to 17 August 1945. The Dutch government has done so too since 2005.

## PROPOSITION

### 'He exchanged small toys for big ones'

The defence of his thesis went well and Wenbo Liu is now showing his parents around in the Netherlands. While they are on the train, he takes some time for a phone call to explain his remarkable proposition about his own sex. 'Yes, men can be childish. I see it when I look at myself and my male friends.'

'Many of us are crazy about things that are similar to the toys we used to play with in our childhood. One friend of mine, for example, is a big fan of cars. He knows everything about car brands, car parts and car performance. Like many boys, he used to play with toy cars when he was young. When he grew up, he just exchanged small toys for big ones.'



Wenbo Liu received his PhD on 26 January for a study on anaerobic manganese- or iron-mediated pharmaceutical degradation in water.

Many men also like to go on adventures and explore the unknown. Of course women do too sometimes, but often they care more for their

community. Males sometimes pay less attention to the welfare of others; they basically want to do as they please.

One friend of mine always prepares little surprises for his girlfriend. Little childish gifts like a shiny stone that he picked up from the road and put into a box. His girlfriend complains; she appreciates his efforts but says the gifts are not useful. But my friend just keeps on doing it.

Another example: my father. He is a big fan of eating meat. However, because of health issues my mother has forbidden him to eat too much meat. At every meal he complains about the small portion, and at every meal my mother tells him he behaves like a little boy. And me? I like to play computer games. I really like it! But I manage to restrict myself to playing for about five to six hours a week.' LdK



# Where does education funding go to?

Student numbers are growing. The university gets extra funding to cover that, and increases the education budget of the chair groups every year. But those groups are taking on very few additional lecturers. So where is that education funding going to? *Resource* investigated.

text Albert Sikkema illustration Paul Gerlach

**F**or the past year, the WUR Council, the main consultative body of Wageningen University & Research, has been discussing a tricky dossier with the Executive Board. Student numbers in Wageningen continue to grow at a rate of about five to ten percent per year, and more students means more teaching. This growth is financed by the Executive Board. If the number of students on a chair group's courses goes up, that chair group gets extra funding. WUR's education budget therefore increased from 30 million euros in 2006 to 53 million in 2016. This year the Board is dividing as much as 59 million in education funding between the chair groups.

And yet the chair groups grumble like mad about the growing teaching load and work pressure they experience. Student numbers are growing, but staff numbers are not, they complain. And they are right. In 2013, there were 3014 people working at the university, says the annual report. Three years later, staff numbers had gone down by 140, while 1500 more students came in during that period. Even if you only look at the number of teachers, you see that it did not keep pace either. In 2010, the university had 1 teacher to every 12 students; in 2017 it had 1 teacher to 17 students.

## EXPENSIVE BUILDINGS

So where did all the extra education funding go, if it is not being spent on additional teaching staff? Ivonne Rietjens, professor of Toxicology, knows exactly what she has spent the extra money on in recent years: Helix. The net accommodation costs of her group, which moved into the new building on campus in 2016, have risen from

174,000 euros in 2011 to 242,000 euros in 2017. That is a difference of 68,000 euros, which would have been enough for a full-time member of staff.

The accommodation costs just go on rising, notes Rietjens. This year her chair group is paying 375,000 euros for its space in Helix. The Board covers 100,000 euros of that, so her group has to pay 275,000 euros net. 'Where does the Executive Board think we are going to get that money from every year?' asks Rietjens. The university is giving her chair group extra education funding with one hand, and taking extra money for accommodation with the other.

This account is echoed by Rietjens' colleague Sacco de Vries, professor at the Biochemistry chair group. He too says his group's accommodation and overheads costs are going up every year. And staff are getting more expensive every year too. 'So you can never appoint a lecturer without getting deeply into the red. That is why it is not usually permitted by the management of the Sciences Groups.'

## THE EXTRA EDUCATION FUNDING GOES ON...

1. Higher accommodation costs
2. Higher ICT costs
3. Higher salaries
4. Extra lecturers for BSc courses
5. Permanent staff who are getting less research and doing more teaching

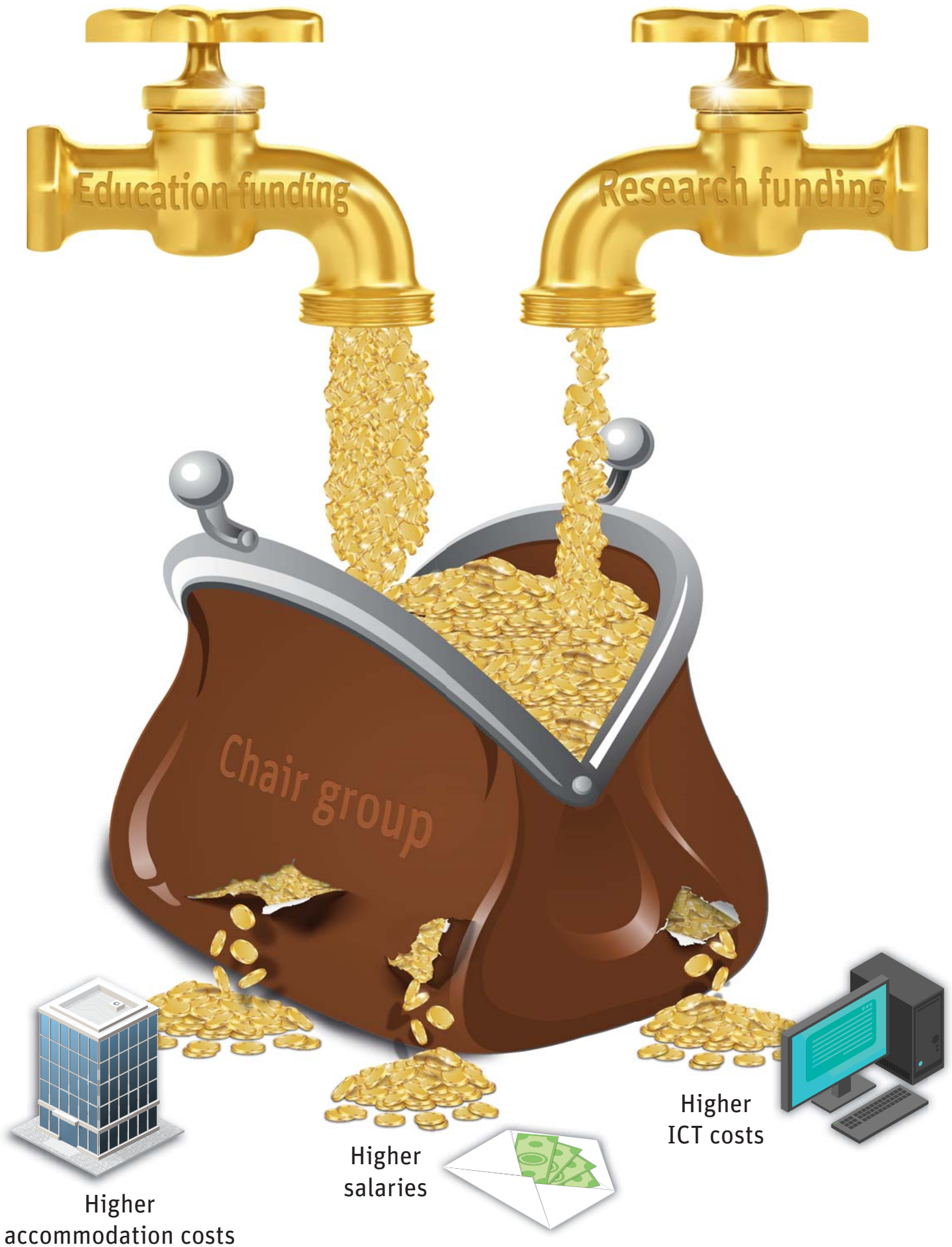




PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

## 'Accommodation costs keep on going up'

Ivonne Rietjens

### RADIX

It seems these are not the only chair groups from the Agrotechnology & Food Sciences Group that have had to spend their additional education funding on a new home on campus. And their bills have gone up in stages over the years to the current high price per square metre in Helix. Chair groups from other Sciences Groups have already experienced that kind of price hike. The housing costs for the plant scientists, for instance, rose sharply when they moved into Radix on campus in 2009, but they have stopped rising now. 'Accommodation costs in Radix are not too bad,' says Niels Anten, professor of Crop and Weed Ecology. 'In other words: they are exorbitant, but haven't gone up in the past couple of years, except when you have to rent some extra space because of the growth in student numbers.'

### ICT COSTS

So the professors in the Plant Sciences Group give a different answer to the question of where the extra education funding has gone to. Some of that money has gone into rising ICT costs, says Entomology professor Marcel Dicke. 'An account which cost 995 euros a year in 2014 costs 1219 euros this year: a rise of 23 percent!' What is more, the chair groups with a lot of students writing theses face rising costs for materials. 'We spend more on that per student than we get in education funding.'

Most of the chair groups point to more than one reason for the evaporation of the extra education funding. In Niels Anten's group, for example, the basic costs of education go up every year, as do salary costs. In Rik Lee-mans' Environmental Systems Analysis Group, the impact of soaring staff costs is even greater. Like some other groups, he has a lot of staff on tenure track. If they are successful, they get promoted and cost more.

### BIG DIFFERENCES

Yet there are a few chair groups that have appointed additional staff. One of these is the Cell Biology and Immunology chair group. 'We had a steady growth in education funding,' explains Professor Geert Wiegertjes. 'The

course that has grown most is the first-year course in Cell Biology, which is now taken by 800 students. We have now appointed one member of staff exclusively for education, on a permanent contract for three days a week.'

The Wageningen director of education Arnold Bregt has investigated how the education funding is being spent, and can explain why some chair groups can invest in teaching staff while others cannot. He discovered that the workload varies a lot per degree programme. The staff-student ratio on Bachelor's degree programmes averaged 1 to 11 last year, almost unchanged since 2010, but the ratio on Master's degree programmes is 1 teacher to 20 students, with extreme cases of 25 or 30 students. So the problems are at the Master's stage, Bregt concludes. Chair groups with popular, broad Bachelor's courses get a lot of extra education funding and can often afford to appoint an extra lecturer. Chair groups with a lot of Master's students, who have to supervise a lot of thesis research, get less funding and cannot appoint an extra lecturer.

### THESIS TOPICS

There is yet another problem at the Master's stage, according to Bregt's analysis. Chair groups with a lot of students writing theses also need to be doing a lot of research: they need topics on which they can provide supervision for the students. Bregt knows of chair groups which do not have enough thesis topics for their MSc students, partly because they have cut back on research.

The education director has figures to back this up too. The number of 'AIO' research assistants at the university has gone down by 100 in the past three years. And it is these research assistants who suggest thesis topics and supervise Master's students. The drop in their numbers is not immediately obvious because the total number of PhD researchers in Wageningen has remained about the same. The number of PhD candidates not appointed at the university has in fact gone up, but those external PhD candidates are rarely involved in teaching. Having fewer AIO assistants has therefore meant a drop in teaching



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

## 'An ICT account has gone up in price by 23 percent in four years'

Marcel Dicke



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

## 'Increasingly, chair groups assign all their permanent staff to teaching'

Arnold Bregt

capacity in many chair groups.

### LESS CONTRACT RESEARCH

How did that drop in AIO assistant numbers come about? The university's annual accounts offer an insight into this. Academic contract research shrank by 24 million euros between 2013 and 2016. Researchers have more and more difficulty in getting their research proposals accepted, partly because of the disappearance of certain important research funds and the technological top institutes. And those research assignments were usually carried out by AIO assistants.

Until five years ago, Wageningen research grew with Wageningen education, but then the university was presented with the bill for the ministry of Economic Affairs' top sector policy, which was cutting half a billion euros from its knowledge development budget. That led directly to a drop in the number of AIO assistants at the university, says Bregt. In 2007, WUR had 490 such assistants, their numbers swelled to 883 in 2014, and subsequently dropped to 623 in 2017.

This fall in contract research has affected some chair groups more than others. Groups with a lot of contract research and a lot of Master's students had a problem in the last few years. Groups with less contract research and far more first-year courses had an easier time of it financially, and could appoint extra staff to focus exclusively on education. And you can see that from the figures. In 2008, the university had 51 lecturers on its books, and in 2017 the number had grown to 119. This increase has not kept up with the growing shortfall in teaching capacity, however.

### MATCHING

Recent research by the Rathenau Institute exposed another way education funding has been used. Universities spend a lot of that money on 'matching' funding for research projects. The reason for this: research financiers such as the European Union, the Netherlands Organiza-

tion for Scientific Research NWO and top sectors only partially fund the approved research projects and expect the universities to cover some of the costs themselves. This matching is costing universities more and more money, show the Rathenau Institute's calculations: for each euro the universities attract in the form of contract research, they put in 74 cents from their own coffers.

Here lies the explanation for the decline in the university's contract research which Bregt has noticed. The universities, including WUR, are acquiring fewer assignments but also get a smaller percentage of funding per research assignment they take on. In WUR's case this led to a drop of 24 million euros' worth of contract research over three years. The Rathenau report suggests that the universities are spending their extra education funding on research, that this causes the education problem, and that the government should earmark the extra funding for education to solve the problem. This reasoning is based, however, on the assumption that research incomes have remained stable. In reality, the groups have been receiving more education funding but less research funding. And they therefore spend less time on research. Bregt: 'In many groups the emphasis used to lie on research and a few people taught the big courses. Increasingly, in busy periods, chair groups assign all their permanent staff to teaching. They are simply delivering education.' In other words: the extra funding also goes to pay existing staff who are acquiring fewer research assignments and are teaching more.

### LIMIT ENROLMENT?

What should be done? According to Bregt, the university can 'turn two major taps off or on' to take off the pressure on education. It could put a cap on student enrolment, or it could expand the staff of the chair groups. The Executive Board and the WUR Council are going for the second option: this year all chair groups are to receive an extra 25,000 euros. 'That is stable funding with which they can employ a part-time teacher.'

The question is whether this is enough, though. Professor Sacco de Vries thinks not. He points out that a junior lecturer costs well over 50,000 euros per year, and that the chair group has to pay 34.8 percent overheads to the Science Group on top of that. 'So that 25,000 euros from the Executive Board is just enough for one third of a teacher.' He sees this contribution as totally inadequate for the current student body and the expected growth in numbers. ⑥





# GOT MILK?

'This farmer from the peaty rural area near Utrecht is making cheese. The photo comes from a series for emeritus professor Jan Douwe's research on business styles. I always enjoyed taking these photos because they are about friendly, very dedicated people. Notice the child in the corner. That says a lot about the way work fitted into family life. This farmer used all his milk for cheese production. To the last drop, because I still remember that the milk for my coffee came out of a carton from the supermarket.'





PHOTO: ANNEKE KHO

Guy Ackermans has been photographer for *Resource* and WUR for 35 years now. Capturing special moments through all those years. In this celebration year for WUR he shows us one of his most special 'pics'.

# Refugees rescued from forced inactivity

At the start of this academic year, it was not just hundreds of first-years who turned up to class in Wageningen for the first time, but also nine refugees. Thanks to a few dedicated WUR staff members.

text Linda van der Nat photos Sven Menschel



Egbert Kanis

**I**n September 2016, Marjolijn Dannenburg of WIMEK Graduate School read about Utrecht University's InClUusion programme on the university's website. The programme enables refugees (both with and without resident status in the Netherlands) to take courses at the university. The idea held immediate appeal for Dannenburg, who remembered a former flat-mate who was a refugee from Ethiopia. They used to watch television together, they cooked together and spent Christmas and New Year together. He was an intelligent young man but he was not allowed to work, study, or do anything. He read English newspapers in the library every day or watched TV to keep up with the news from Ethiopia. This way of life got him down, he started drinking and ended up dying of a brain haemorrhage after getting his residence permit. Who knows how things might have gone for him if there had been something like InClUusion for him too?

## INHUMAN

Dannenburg was already feeling ashamed of the way the Dutch government treats people who have had to leave their homes and loved ones to go in search of safety. They are forced into inactivity while they wait for a residence permit. That is ill-advised and inhuman, thinks Dannenburg.

'Why haven't we got something like this in Wageningen?' she asked her colleague Johan Feenstra. He had already paid a visit to the head office to ask whether the university couldn't do more for refugees. Nothing had come of that. This time he persevered. He started by finding out how much interest there was among lecturers and study advisors in Environmental Sciences in opening up courses to refugees. The response was enthusiastic: in no time 40 courses were open. To Feenstra and Dannenburg's delight, the Executive Board gave the green light for using working hours to set up the pilot project, which they called WURth-while.

## RESILIENCE

Intake interviews are held with interested refugees to see whether their previous education and command of the English language equip them for taking the course they are interested in. One of the 19 interviewers is Egbert Kanis of Animal Breeding & Genetics. He already has enough on his plate, really, as a study advisor to about 200 students and lecturer on five courses. But he has a strong drive to help these people. He soon developed his own way of conducting his intake interviews. He asks the refugees about their backgrounds without being intrusive or prying. The



Marjolijn Dannenburg

journeys people have made never cease to shock him. And he is also impressed by their resilience and motivation. Instead of allocating them to one of the available courses, Kanis looks together with the refugees to see which courses go best with their existing knowledge, backgrounds and wishes. If the course is not on the list of already available courses, he

## Asylum seekers from Syria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ukraine and Iraq are now following lectures

emails the lecturer in question to ask whether there would be space for one more student. There always is.

In September 2017, nine students embarked on 10 different courses. Another nine started in the second period, and six apiece in the third and fourth periods. They were a diverse group: Syrians, Ethiopians, and someone from Ghana, from Ukraine and from Iraq. They took courses such as Basic Statistics, Plant Breeding, and Basics in Food Technology. Forty six refugee students have signed up so far and the number of courses open to them has grown to 120.

### COMMUNITY

The work involved in this project has got too much for Feenstra and Danneburg. If the university wants to go on with it, it should no longer be run from the Graduate School, unless funding is released for additional support. The Executive Board sees WURth-while as a sympathetic programme, but because it concerns a small group of students, the Board sees the work entailed as part of the staff's existing workload. So there is no additional funding. The university does realize that the coordination work is now too much for Feenstra and Dannenburg, and it is possible that Education & Student Affairs will take over the coordination of WURth-while.

Feenstra and Dannenburg also want to form a network of volunteers to help with the registration, intake and supervision of the students. They want WURth-while to offer more than just the possibility to take courses at the university. They want it to provide a community, a big family. A start has been made. Partly thanks to the Christian Student Council party CSF, all the refugees who took a course in period 3 were assigned a buddy who helped them find their way around Wageningen education. **6**

## 'NOW I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO'

Claude Alber was one of the first students to sign up in 2017 for courses at Wageningen University through the WURth-while project. The Syrian has been in the Netherlands since the end of 2015, after a two-week journey through Lebanon, Turkey, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Hungary and Austria. He crossed the Mediterranean Sea in a rickety rubber dinghy.

Alber was a student at Tishreen University in Latakia. He has a Master's in Horticulture, just like his parents. After graduating, he worked at the prestigious Domaine de Bargylus vineyard, which lies in the middle of a war zone. In June 2015, two stray mortar bombs went off in the vineyard, although no one was wounded.

Alber is happy with WURth-while. 'It gives me the chance to do something useful with my time. Now I can get to know the education system while I'm learning Dutch.' He notices big differences. 'In Syria we sometimes had a book but normally we wrote down what the teacher said. Here we have group work, lab work, online lectures and Blackboard. And a much more personal relationship with teachers. During the first lecture, the teacher asked, 'Who is Claude?' It turned out he had worked in Syria and he spoke a little Arabic.'

Alber doesn't want to talk about why he fled his country. That is not safe, he says. He prefers to focus on his future in the Netherlands. The people are nice, and the country too, in spite of the rain. Alber is determined to get a Wageningen degree. Much to his regret, he did not pass the courses he took in periods 1 and 2, but in September he can start on the Plant Biotechnology Master's, with support from the Foundation for Refugee Students UAF. 'Now I've got something to look forward to.'



Claude Alber



# There is still space

Is the world overpopulated? It depends how you look at it, says Professor Cees Buisman. If we invest in greater awareness, we can conquer hunger and environmental problems, he argues in his essay *De mens is geen plaag (Humanity is not a plague)*.

text Roelof Kleis illustration Shutterstock

‘Terrifying,’ was his verdict on publishing a book. But ‘so far so good’. The book was on its second printing after two weeks. ‘I’m getting very positive responses and the first reviews are reasonably positive too.’ In the essay, subtitled ‘on the dangers of a demystified world’, Buisman, professor of Biological Recycling Technology and director of the successful water institute Wetsus, deplores the technocratic approach to our environmental problems. As an alternative, he maps out a new route that is based on greater awareness and less egocentricity.

*In your book you strongly oppose common rational perspectives on humanity, such as the beliefs that life emerged by chance and that there is no such thing as free will. You say such ideas take the mystery out of life and make it seem purposeless. What is the problem?*

‘The point is for me that there is something that goes beyond our knowledge. If we could ultimately figure out and explain everything, and if we saw humanity as no

**'With better cooperation the earth can accommodate 10 billion people'**



PHOTO: JELTE BOSMA

more than some sparks of electricity and a load of atoms, where would we get the inspiration from to do anything for anyone else? I can't imagine many people find that a very uplifting or inspiring starting point for a quest to become a better person, and to become more aware.'

**What do you mean by awareness?**

'Awareness is one of the three great transcendent things: the emergence of matter, the emergence of life, and the emergence of awareness. Awareness means gaining self-knowledge. Since its beginnings, human awareness has grown continuously. To me, that is the most optimistic thing about this book: humanity is growing in awareness. And as awareness grows, we become less self-centred.'

**With more awareness you believe the earth can easily accommodate 10 billion people. Because the more aware we are, the less self-centred we are, the more we share and the faster the environmental crisis is solved. Is it as simple as that?**

'Don't you think so, then? It seems logical to me. Currently one billion people use 80 percent of all the natural resources on earth. And the other six billion used the remaining 20 percent. If those one billion people used the same amount as the other six, there would be no problem at all. There would easily be room for another three billion people. Mainly because it's not just us who need to become more aware, but the whole world. That means we have to cooperate better everywhere. In Africa, for instance. If there was better cooperation there, there would be much less hunger.'

**You say the current scientific and technological approach is not going to save the world. You propose a new, natural technology. What is that?**

'That is technology that tries to be more careful with human health and nature. We do a lot of things that are bad for the environment. One of the reasons for this is that we do not understand the whole complex ecological web. We extract a little piece of the whole, out of context, and do research on it. And then we think that we have gained an understanding of the whole. We do this all the time, whether you are talking about the effects of a medicine, pesticides or manure injection. And time and again we come to the conclusion years later that we had got the wrong end of the stick and have done a lot of damage. I call that simplistic, technocratic and unreflecting technology. The opposite of that would be natural, complex and aware technology.'


**Are you involved in natural technology yourself?**

'I've been working on environmental technology for about 35 years and I'm moving steadily in that direction. Look at wastewater purification, a beautiful example. That is a natural process that normally takes place in the river. Using the same natural bacteria we try to optimize the process in the purification of water from the sewers. Now, for example, we are looking at how best to extract organic matter from the sewers that should go back into the soil. What kind of treatment is right for that purpose, should you ferment it or compost it, and which process has the greatest added value for the soil? That is highly complex.'

**In the book you take up the cudgels for a ban on artificial fertilizer. Why?**

'We are living in a country where 35 million kilos of phosphate is burned or used in road-building every year, while at the same time we are still using phosphate fertilizer. That's incredible, isn't it? The Netherlands destroys vast amounts of phosphate. Phosphate sludge from the sewers – human manure – is used as fertilizer all over Europe, except here. Here that is illegal, ostensibly because there are too many heavy metals in it. But there are far more heavy metals in cow and pig manure. The real reason is that we have too much manure. The manure of humans, cows, pigs and chickens between them contains four times as many nutrients as are required by Dutch agriculture. So we burn the sewage sludge and chicken manure, and export the cow and pig manure. And we still use artificial fertilizer ourselves. That is just bizarre.'

**How do we arrive at a higher level of awareness?**

'I don't know either. I am not a psychologist or a spiritual teacher. But I do know that if we are only interested in growing in wealth and not in awareness, the environmental problem will only get bigger. I believe awareness can grow. And in order to become more aware you need some introspection. We live in a world in which external stimuli have been multiplied to the maximum through smartphones and social media. We need to turn our gaze within more.' 

*Humanity is not a plague, on the dangers of a demystified world, Cees Buisman, publisher Bornmeer, 144 pages, 15 euros.*

# TIME FOR ACTION?

Germany is spearheading the campaign for open access. More than 200 German academic institutes are trying to force publisher Elsevier to adjust its business model. The Netherlands should follow suit, asserted Professor Bram Büscher in the last *Resource*. Is it time for a boycott?

text Tessa Louwerens illustration Henk van Ruitenbeek

## Marcel Zwietering



**Professor of Agrotechnology and Food Sciences**

'I don't see any reason for a boycott at the moment. A publisher delivers a service, both a logistical one and in terms of quality control. **Sometimes you have to go into action to**

**steer things in a particular direction, but I think we're already on the right road, thanks to all the negotiations.**

The previous system was that readers paid for access to an article. Now we're in a gradual transition to an open system in which researchers pay to be allowed to publish and readers get free access. We research institutes must watch out that, during the transition phase, we don't end up paying twice: for publication and for subscriptions. In 2017 we could publish open access free of charge in 260 Elsevier journals, and in 2018 in 400 journals. Comprehensive open access is not realistic. Nobody except other academics in our field wants to read 80 percent of what we publish. If certain parties – such as small businesses or researchers in developing countries who cannot afford access to the publications – are interested in an article, they can always ask us for it.'

## Dolf Weijers



**Professor of Biochemistry**

'I share the grievance against the big publishers and their business model. On the other hand, many of their journals do have added value because of their professionalism. **Seals of quality that were estab-**

**lished over many years and are internationally recognized are not easy to replace.**

Publishing is expensive and when it is done by commercial organizations, it has to make a profit as well. The fundamental question is not just whether there is something wrong with the big publishers' business models, but whether it is acceptable under any circumstances to make a profit on academic publications funded with taxpayers' money. It is hypocritical to

say it is not allowed, because we also use taxes for things like laboratory equipment at commercial firms. But it is not on for the publisher to get money out of subscribers and authors, while part of the work – the reviewing – is done voluntarily by scientists. A boycott would open up the discussion but it is a drop in the ocean. If we want to really change anything, we can achieve more in Brussels and The Hague.'

## Bram Büscher



**Professor of the Sociology of Development and Change**

'If Elsevier doesn't drastically adjust its business model, a boycott will indeed be necessary. **If commercial publishers go on using sub-**

**scriptions and 'green' or 'gold' open access systems to make obscene levels of profit directly out of public money, we'll have to pull out.**

The VSNU (the Dutch Universities' Association) has made progress with a number of the big publishers, but the job's not done yet. Alternatives to them are the non-commercial publishers or the principle of fair open access, run by the academic community. Maybe we should found an organization that would help journals make the transition to full open access and pour profits back into publicly funded science. The Dutch universities pay 42 million a year to publishers between them. If they all spent five percent of their budget for journals and books on an independent body of that kind, you'd soon have a reasonable funding base.'

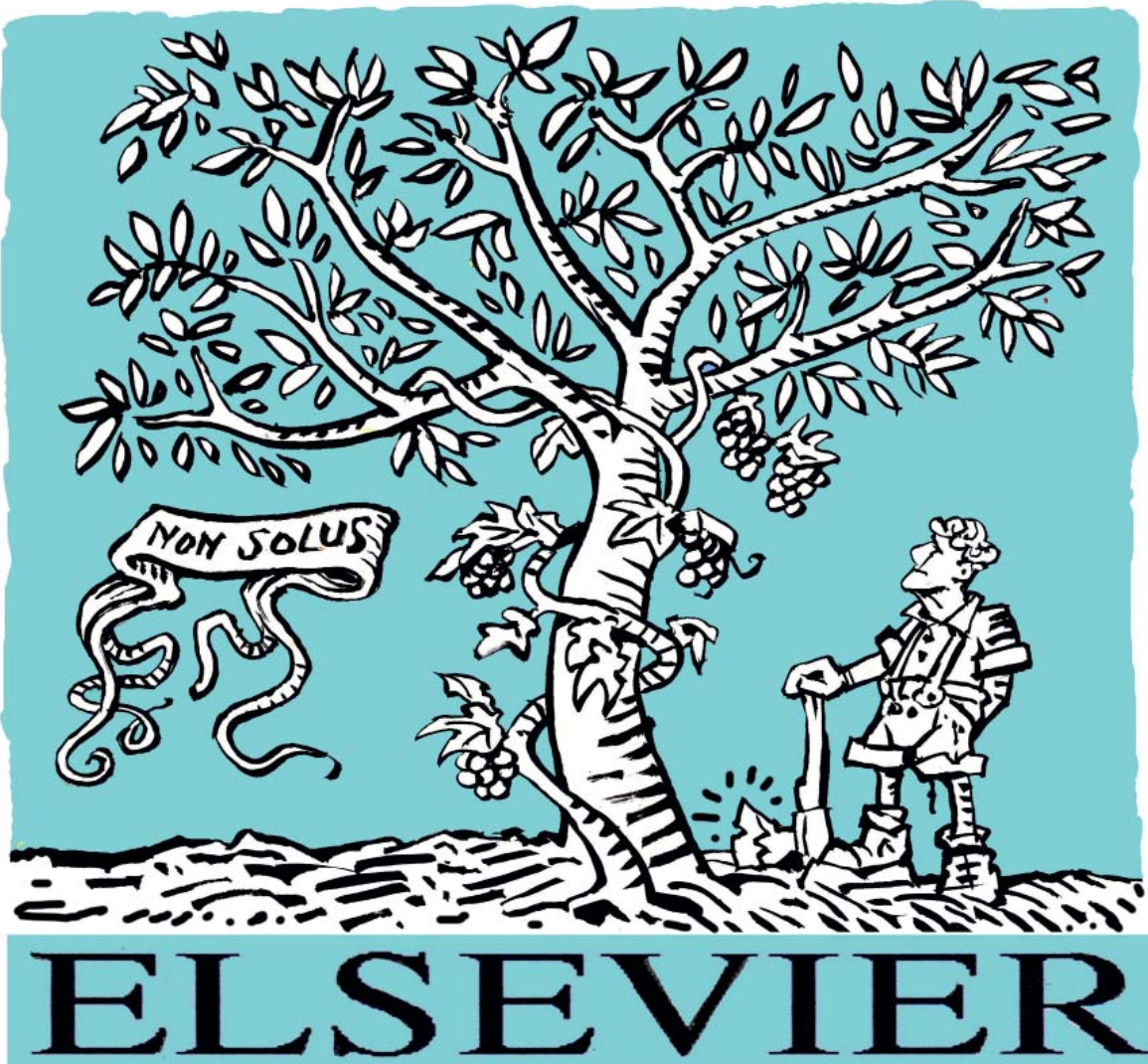
## Richard Visser



**Professor of Plant Breeding and Dean of Research**

'A boycott is a good way of applying pressure. But if you do something like that you must put up a united front. That would be possible for the VSNU, but at the moment they

are still engaged in negotiations. Open access is nice and publications should be available to anyone who is inter-



ested in them. In the old days, institutes published the journals themselves. At some point the choice was made to put them in the hands of the publishers, who also safeguard quality. They are commercial organizations, so they have to make a profit. Somebody needs to do research on whether those profits are realistic. **It doesn't feel right if a big group of people are working for nothing while others are making a lot of money out of their work.** At least some of the profits should flow back into research. Publishing will always cost money. The question is, who picks up the tab. Even open access journals such as PLoS, BMC and Frontiers make a profit. You pay about 1500 to 2000 euros to get published by them. In our projects there is rarely any funding for that kind of expenditure. We have about 100 publications a year, so you are easily talking about 150,000 to 200,000 euros. At the big publishers you only have to pay extra if you go over the standard length or want, say, colour photos with your article.'

### Katrien Termeer



**Professor of Public Administration and Policy**

'Everything will have to become open access in the end, and everyone will need to be able to afford to publish that way. **You need action if you want change but I do question whether a boycott is the most sensible way to go.** Maybe, if we really can't solve it through the negotiations with the publishers. There are scientists who are dependent on their publications in these journals too, and not everyone can afford to turn their backs on them. I don't think we need publishers as much as we used to. In the old days it was a question of printing journals, but with the rise of online publishing, the publishers don't have to do as much of that and I don't think we need their name either. We could organize our publishing ourselves through a different channel.'

# Career-building is hot

**Business dinners, talks by successful alumni, and careers fairs. Wageningen student societies are running more and more careers events. And drawing bigger and bigger crowds of ever-younger students. 'As well as fifth-years you now also get first- and second-years.'**

Student society Ceres has its Career and Business Club Wageningen, KSV Franciscus has its Commercial Relations committee, student rowing club Argo has its Business Club and SSR-W its Acquisition & Business Relations committee. Most of these committees have shifted their focus in recent years from attracting sponsors to running careers activities with an emphasis on providing information and on recruitment. The KSV committee organizes recruiting dinners and training courses; Ceres runs business fairs and invites ex-members to the Captains Tour, based on the Dutch TV talks show *College Tour*. Argo organizes regular business evenings too. The societies draw mainly on their networks of former members for these activities. KSV chair Marijn Schippers: 'Former members enjoy coming back and sharing their experiences.'

## INCREASING INTEREST

These activities at the societies cater for an increasing interest among their members in everything related to their future careers. Olivier Olgers, treasurer of Ceres, notices that students are increasingly keen to develop in areas outside their studies. 'Perhaps that is most obvious at the study breakfast we organize during revision week. We used to get about 30 people, and nowadays we get almost twice that number. And people are not put off by the idea of committee work either, even though the pressure of coursework is greater than ever.'

Bram Roes of Ceres's Career and Business Club Wageningen: 'Not only do we get more and more visitors at our careers fair, but they have also got younger. Where it used to be mainly fifth-years who were looking for an internship or a job, now you see first- and second-year students orienting themselves too.'

Even prospective students can already be interested in information about their future careers, it has been noticed at KSV. Jan Dae-nen of the Commercial Relations committee: 'We already show this more serious side of our society during the introduction days, but the students attending the AID also inquire about



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER

Ceres frequently invites ex-members to the Captains Tour to talk about their careers and give current students tips.

it more often. They like the fact that we make good use of our network.'

There is also plenty of interest in serving on the committees responsible for contacts with business within the societies. 'It is easier to find members for the Commercial Relations committee than it is for the catering committee, for instance, even though that might be more fun,' says KSV chair Schippers. 'The fact that you learn from it and that it looks good on your CV is increasingly important.'

## NON-MEMBERS WELCOME

Ceres decided a few years ago to open up some of its events, such as the careers fair and the Captains Tour, to non-members. According to Ceres treasurer Olivier Olgers, this sometimes smooths the path to contact with companies. 'Companies where ex-members work are positive about Ceres, of course, but other firms can be wary of being directly associated with a student society. Anyway, we think all Wageningen students can benefit from this.'

The Ceres committee is also collaborating more with other Wageningen organizations. Olgers: 'The careers point in the Forum

started joining in our open events this year. Integrand and AIESEC are nice partners to work with, too. This year we are also organizing an event together with StartHub, because we are noticing a growing interest in entrepreneurship among our members.'

## VISIBLE

Astrid van den Heuvel, the coordinator of Student Career Services at Wageningen University, values all the career activities that are organized in Wageningen, including those at student societies. 'Student societies are at an advantage in that they've got a flourishing alumni network. Of course we would like it very much if they opened up their activities to all Wageningen students, but we understand that that is not always in their own interests.' Van den Heuvel is keen to make all activities organized in Wageningen, including members-only events at the societies, visible on the Student Careers Service website. 'As an umbrella organization, we hope to be able to support their activities, and we would very much like to hear what their wishes are, too.' **TF**





Rieke Oosterhuis has been singing all her life. This year she was selected for the Dutch Student Chamber Choir.

PHOTOS: SVEN MENSCHEL

# Bach, beer and top B

**She loves Bach and drinking beer. But Rieke Oosterhuis knows they don't always go together very well. After a night out in the pub, her voice cannot always reach the high notes.**

Sometimes her boyfriend asks her to shut up for a while. He needs a bit of peace and quiet. 'I sing so much that I don't always even realize I'm doing it,' says Rieke Oosterhuis. She laughs: 'I can imagine it can be quite irritating for other people. But even he sings more now that he did when we first met. And he can sing in tune.'

The student of International Development Studies has been singing all her life. As a child in the church choir, then in the National Children's Choir, and recently as a soloist. This year she is one of the talented singers in the Dutch Student Chamber Choir (NSK). This choir has been going since 1974 and is formed every year by the best singers among Dutch students. Of the nearly 80 students who auditioned this year, 38 were selected.

Oosterhuis is one of the four highest sopranos. That means a lot of difficult high notes. 'With top B, I often think, oh no, here it comes again. But if your voice is properly warmed up

and you have enough breath, it goes OK in the end.'

## PIANO AND GUITAR

In her student room in Wageningen town centre, she has a piano and a guitar. She plays the cello as well, but it is a bit too delicate to keep in her room. Her parents and brother are musical too. Nevertheless, Oosterhuis decided against the conservatoire. 'That life is terribly hard. I would be afraid that my passion for singing would disappear if it wasn't a hobby any more. And besides, I love studying and research.'


So Oosterhuis took the plunge into student life. It turned out to be difficult to combine it with singing. The second-year student belongs to the student society D.L.V. Nji Sri, and sometimes stays 'far too long' in the bar. 'That has an immediate effect on your singing, because the next day you are not on top form, mentally or physically.'

Oosterhuis deliberately doesn't sing easy Top 40 songs. She likes a challenge. 'Pop songs are geared to popularity and not to originality. I love Bach, but most of all I like modern pieces. If you don't sing those right, it sounds as though you've dropped all the china in your grandmother's cup-

board.' She knows chamber choirs have a dusty image. 'But the NSK is full of fresh energy. We work very hard, but during a rehearsal weekend we also like to go down the pub together after a day of rehearsing.'

## PERFORMANCES

Oosterhuis will be performing with the NSK from 13 February. The choir will be in the Arboretum church in Wageningen on 1 March, and will perform in the Forum at the opening of the WUR centenary celebrations on 8 March. The group has been rehearsing hard since December. 'We can practise one tiny piece for a whole day. If it sounds good at the end of the day, we get a real kick out of it. That makes me very happy.'

Rieke Oosterhuis is not the only Wageningen student in the NSK. Others who sing in the choir are BSc student of Environmental Sciences Frank Cornelisse, MSc student of Biology Laurens de Mooij, and MSc student of Plant Sciences Clara Polzer. 

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



**RINSING**

Moderate drinking is good for the brain, say scientists from the University of Rochester. Alcohol rinses and cleanses the brain, you see. Not directly but through the cerebral fluid. Moderate alcohol consumption - two glasses a day - stimulates this rinsing effect, cleansing the brain of toxic waste substances. Here's to rinsing!

**CHECKMATE**

Can women play chess? Yes. And even better when they play men, shows a British study by the University of Sheffield. Women score better against men than you would expect from their FIDE ranking, show the results of more than five million games by 160,000 players. Mind you, only 16,000 of these were women.

**DÉLICIEUX!**

Mealworms are less disgusting in a foreign language, psychologists from the University of Chicago have discovered. Willingness to taste mealworm cookies, in vitro meat or purified wastewater changed dramatically when they were recommended in a foreign language that the panel members understood. Oh no, you mean *escargots* are snails?

**RAT-LIKE**

People exchange 'services'. If you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours. This capacity for conscious cooperation is typical of humans. But also of rats, shows a study by the University of St Andrews. Rats groom each other selectively in exchange for food. This kind of conscious give-and-take behaviour has never before been demonstrated in animals. Question is: does it make rats more human or humans more rat-like?

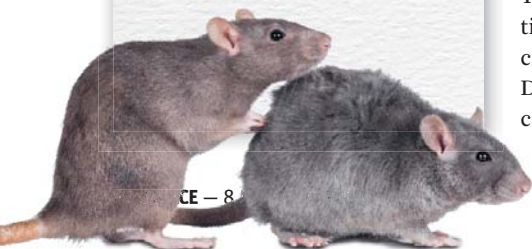


PHOTO: JULIA SCHÄFER

The founders of the plant shelter: Lotte Littooij, Tutku Yüksel, Kirsten Snels and Mirjam Dijksterhuis.

## Students open plant refuge

**Two hundred enthusiasts attended the opening of Wageningen's new plant shelter on Saturday 27 January. Spider plants, sanseverias and loads of other house plants found new owners.**

The plant shelter is a meeting place for students and residents of Wageningen seeking to off-load, take over or swap a plant. It was started by students Mirjam Dijksterhuis, Lotte Littooij and Kirsten Snels, and the mastermind behind it, Tutku Yüksel of community centre Thuis.

'We all thought it would be nice to have a plant shelter in Wageningen. We met each other through a planting workshop and a brainstorm session in Thuis,' says Dijksterhuis.

The opening was a great success. 'A lot of people brought something along, so we had more than 300 plants. But many of them were taken away again. We even had a small maple tree. That went pretty fast.' The four volunteers identify the species of every plant that comes in and give advice about looking after it. 'We also treat plants which are not

thriving,' says Dijksterhuis.

Through the week, she and her colleagues look after the plants that haven't found a new owner yet. To do this, they need soil, pots and plant food. The plant shelter asks for donations to cover these costs, and the team wants to spend some of the money that comes in on organizing workshops.

Tutku Yüksel of Thuis hopes the plant shelter will form another bridge between the university and the town. The plant shelter is open every Saturday. **JS**

## Ceres celebrates anniversary on Dreijen

**Student society Ceres will be running five days of activities in the Mathematics Building on the Dreijen this summer, in honour of its 140th anniversary. There will be other events throughout the year too, such as a reunion with an auction, a symposium, and a ball.**

The week of anniversary festivities will not take place at the clubhouse, however, but on the Dreijen, the former university campus which will be rechristened the Elysion from 7 to 12 July.

The organizing committee thought it would be nice to do something different this year, explains committee chair Lorraine Smits. The Mathematics Building is about 800 metres from the clubhouse, and has a lot of charm, thinks Smits, with its big lecture halls and the balustrades on the first floor. The family day on 8 July and two big open parties on 8 and 12 July will take place on the festival grounds.

There are currently five people living in the building. The anniversary committee has asked them if they could stay elsewhere for a few days during the festivities. 'Of course they are very welcome at the party, but they can only go back into their rooms when the party's over and everything is cleaned up,' says Smits. She says the residents responded positively to the request. The anniversary week starts on 7 July with a reunion. **LvdN**

# No top act for WUR centenary

**With more than 1100 votes, the Arctic Monkeys were the favourite act to perform at WUR's centenary celebrations. But now it seems the organization wants a student band.**

A Facebook message posted 15 March last year showed how seriously Wageningen University & Research was taking its anniversary. 'Of course one of the festivities will be a big opening party,' read the university's post. The organization called on everyone to vote for their favourite performing artist. The message on WUR's Facebook page ended with 'We will do our best to get the most voted artist here in Wageningen!'

The call got a huge response with more than 4500 people casting a vote. With almost 24 percent, the

Arctic Monkeys were the clear winners in this poll. The British indie rock band finished comfortably ahead of numbers two (the Swedish DJ Avicii with 12.6 percent) and three (the US group Major Lazer, 12.5 percent).

But now it turns out that the ambitions for the WUR party are rather more modest than was originally suggested. No international acts — instead the Dutch National Student Orchestra (NSO) and WUR band the Sound of Science will be opening WUR's centenary celebrations.

Geurt Heimensen of 100 years of WUR no longer remembers how that message got abroad initially. At first they had big ideas about the programme, he says. 'We only started thinking about the specifics of the programme in March.' Even so, he is pleased they have got the two

bands. 'It is unique and rather special to have the Dutch National Student Orchestra come to Wageningen.'

Students on campus were philosophical about the decision. 'I didn't actually expect it to happen even when I voted,' says Lola Koppelman. The Nutrition and Health student thinks it's 'also nice' that there will be a student band. Others are not bothered by the change either. Max Steenbrink, an International Land and Water Management student, immediately adds that the Ceres band Malac Banda is available too.

There is indeed a good chance that this band will get a place on the stage during WUR's centenary: there is a festival on 15 September for which they are still looking for Wageningen bands. **SVG**



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN BERTRAND / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Arctic Monkeys singer Alex Turner will unfortunately not be performing in Wageningen.

## MEANWHILE IN... CHINA

### 'Young people imitate the hip-hop artists'

**In an effort to protect viewers from 'low taste content' and 'vulgarity', the Chinese government has recently banned all references to hip-hop culture and all artists with tattoos from the media. Xiyu Jiang is a big fan of hip-hop music, yet she understands the reasons behind the ban.**

'The government banned hip-hop culture in order to promote a more positive atmosphere for viewers across the country. In recent years, the TV show 'Rap of China' set off a big frenzy. Many people became fascinated by hip-hop culture and the number of hip-hop listeners increased rapidly. The problem with this kind of music is that many underground artists produce songs which promote detrimental ideologies.

I'm really into hip-pop but I support the action taken by the Chinese government. Some young people are easily influenced by what is depicted in the media and start to imitate the lifestyle and behaviour of

the artists. Undesirable habits such as smoking are on the rise because of this influence. For us, this hip-hop culture is foreign and it can have a negative impact on our native culture.



Xiyu Jiang, an MSc student of Food Technology from China, tells us about recent events in her country.



Understandably, though, many people who are ardent fans of the genre are very angry about this regulation.

Artists with tattoos may have been banned from the media because of the negative connotations attached to having tattoos on your body. In the past, only members of criminal gangs had a lot of tattoos. As a result, even today, many Chinese people associate tattoos with undesirable characters. China's mainstream media has never accepted tattoos. However, this doesn't mean that ordinary citizens are banned from getting tattoos. Many young people sport tattoos these days and will continue to do so.

Chinese hip-hop artists are a small group compared to other genres, so the industry isn't big. The new regulation should not affect the careers of many artists because they will find other ways to promote their work, possibly by shifting their focus to Chinese rap or by performing at live shows.' **MR**

# YOU ON CAMPUS

**Students from all over the world come and go at WUR. Sometimes they stay for years, sometimes only for a few months. Savvas Paschos (21) has been in Wageningen for six months for his BSc in Nutrition, but his Erasmus exchange period is almost up now. 'Wageningen has just started to feel like home; it is hard to leave now.'**

Paschos was at university in Greece and decided to go abroad. 'I wanted to experience life in a country that is not as relaxed as Greece. Here, daily life is more scheduled and planned.' He liked this about the Netherlands and if he could, Paschos would stay another six months, partly so as to experience the spring and summer. 'People tell me I've only experienced the worst period, so I would like to see the country in the other seasons as well.' Being in another country for an entire year would also be a challenge. 'I would like to see how it is to live away from home for a longer time.'

Paschos did not really mind the grey Dutch

winter. 'People warned me about the bad weather but it was not a big problem to me.' He is surprised that even though there is a lot of rain, people still cycle everywhere. 'I really like the whole bike thing. It is one of

**'I wanted to experience life in a country less relaxed than Greece'**

the best things about the Netherlands. It makes your life easier: you can go anywhere!' He thinks it's a shame that there is less opportunity for cycling around the cities of Greece. 'At least we have good weather for cycling in Greece.'

Apart from missing Greek food, Wageningen was a good experience, according to Paschos. 'It is a small city but there is a lot to do.

I have met people from all over the world.' Paschos often joined ESN events and was also part of an international basketball team. 'This Saturday will be my last game; it will be a bit emotional. Many of my international friends are staying here, and it feels like I'm the only one who's leaving. I have invited them to come and visit me in Greece, and I'm planning to come back for a couple of days to see them all again.' **AVdH**



PHOTO: ANNE VAN DER HEIJDEN

## PARTIES

**In the party mood? Wageningen Party Promotion (WUP) tells you where to find one. See too [www.wageningenup.nl](http://www.wageningenup.nl).**



**CAFÉ LOBURG - LOBURGLIVE: THE WEDDING RIOT + DJ MYLUSKA**  
**Friday 9 February from 23:00 to 02:00**

If you are not going to a carnival in the south of the Netherlands, The Wedding Riot's show might be up your street. The band plays covers from between the 1980s and the present day.

**CAFÉ LOBURG - KABAAL REGIONAAL 2018**  
**Tuesday 20 February from 19:00 to 23:00**

The Kabaal am Gemaal podium is always a high point of the Wageningen Liberation festival on 5 May. During this preliminary round, eight bands compete for a slot on the podium.

**WAGENINGEN STUDENT SOCIETIES - PARTY OF THE CENTURY**  
**Friday 9 March from 23:00 to 06:00**

The university is 100 years old and that deserves a celebration! That is what the nine main student societies thought. Together they are throwing a party such as Wageningen has never seen before. **AVdH**



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER

The dance floor at De Wilde Wereld came to life at Shout's Mad Scientist party on Saturday 3 February.

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.

# Tracking blue-throated macaws in Bolivia

'The savannah of the Barba Azul Nature Reserve lies so totally in the middle of nowhere that there was no other option than a direct flight to the park. In the rainy season, the roads are too muddy for cars or motorbikes, so Barba Azul is only accessible by air. That idea took a bit of getting used to when I first got there. What if something happened, what if you got bitten by a snake or fell seriously ill? The packing list I was sent included a supply of antibiotics and once I was there, I understood why. There was nothing there, except a few houses for the rangers and cabins for tourists.

## FOREST ISLANDS

The reserve is named after the blue-throated macaw, an endemic species of parrot which is now only found in this area. Motacú palms grow here and there on mounds created long ago by the indigenous population, and about 150 macaws still live on these 'forest islands'. Their habitat is disappearing in Northern Bolivia due to large-scale livestock farming. When the savannah is flooded by heavy rains, the cows seek dry land on the forest islands and eat up all the young trees. Farmers also burn the savannah to promote grass growth. As the little patches of forest shrink, the blue-throated macaw is facing extinction. Barba Azul was set up especially to protect the habitat of these birds.

## GESTURES

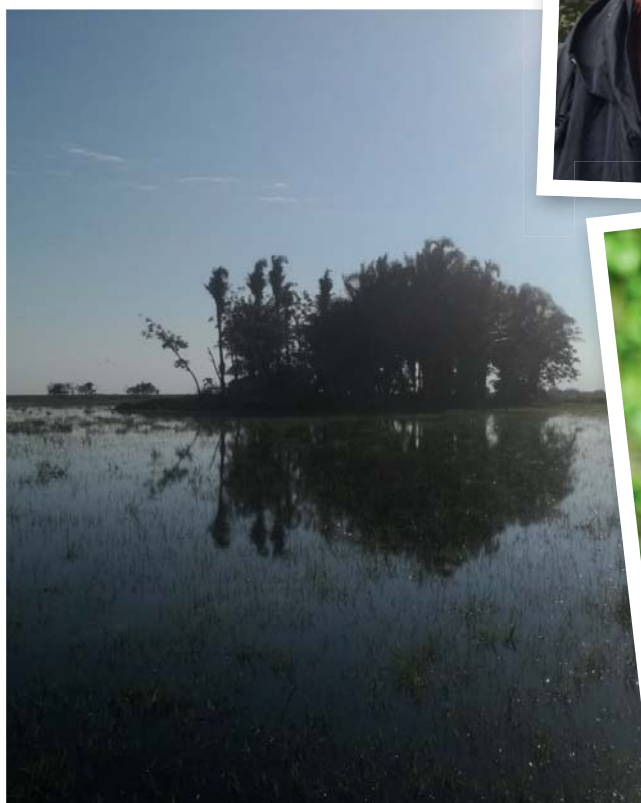
My research was about whether this method of protection works. I stayed in a little house that used to belong to a cattle farmer. I spent two months there, far away from any

towns or cities, in the company of three Bolivians. When I arrived I hardly spoke any Spanish. I had practised a little bit using Duolingo, but at first we communicated a lot through gestures. In my work I generally went my own way, so I didn't need to chat very much. Until the day when the cook fell ill and one of the rangers took her to the nearest hospital. Then the other ranger and I stayed behind together and we had to talk to each other.

I wasn't homesick for a moment. In fact I really didn't want to come home yet. Nor did I feel lonely for a single second. Everything was so beautiful that I didn't even notice I was alone so much!' **RLH**

## THE WORKS

**Who:** Jelger Elings, MSc student of Forest & Nature Conservation and Aquaculture & Marine Resource Management  
**What:** Barba Azul Nature Reserve, Bolivia  
**Where:** Thesis research on the protection of the blue-throated macaw



Read all interviews on [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl)

**In memoriam****SASKIA VAN LANDSCHOOT**

The very sad news of the death of Saskia van Landschoot on 28 January 2018 reached us last week. Saskia will be remembered as someone who

was sociable and cheerful in company, but who experienced deep lows in her inner life. In Wageningen Saskia was an active member of Unitas youth club. She was on several committees and was part of a close group of friends. She also shared a student house with other members, and the community and support she found in Unitas was a beacon of light for her. The society and its members are deeply shocked and saddened by her death.

Saskia embarked on the BSc programme in Biotechnology with great enthusiasm. But after a successful first year in Wageningen she could no longer concentrate on her studies and eventually had to drop out. Recently things seemed to have taken a turn for the better, and in December she made plans to take up her studies again. Tragically, that was not to be. We shall miss Saskia.

*Dr Sonja Isken,  
Biotechnology programme director*

**announcements****NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING WUR SCIENTIST FOR THE RESEARCH AWARD 2018**

The Research Award is bestowed by the UFW (University Fund Wageningen) on a WUR researcher under 40 who has published an outstanding and original scientific article in the past calendar year. The prize, which consists of 2500 euros and a replica of the statue 'The Wageningen Tree', will be presented on 12 March during the symposium on 'What is Life' that is part of Science Week. To nominate someone (and see the list of previous winners) look on wuf.wur.nl under 'prizes'. Deadline for nominations: 22 February, 15:00.

**PRE-ORDER PART FOUR OF THE HISTORY OF THE 'AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY': 'METAMORPHOSIS'**

But for a narrow escape, Wageningen University might never have reached its 80th anniversary. In the mid-1990s the university went right out of fashion among potential students: IT was hot, agriculture was boring. And its image was dented by the environmental problems that were blamed on agriculture and the agricultural sciences. And yet, even though the Universities of Utrecht and Nijmegen were eager to divide the spoils between them, Wageningen rose like a phoenix from the ashes. The book *Metamorfose, van Landbouwinstituut tot Wageningen Universiteit en DLO tot Wageningen University & Research* tells the story of how the merger of the university and the agricultural research institutes became an international success story. In this fourth part of the series on the

history of the Agricultural University, journalists Martijn de Groot and Joost van Kasteren look back on the period with the main players involved. The book is published by Wageningen Academic Publishers and comes out on 15 March. You can pre-order the book on [wageningenacademic.com](http://wageningenacademic.com) for €25.94.

**WANTED: CANDIDATES FOR ODOUR PANEL**

Do you have a good nose and do you fancy making some easy money (€9 net per hour)? Do you have lots of free time too? Buro Blauw is looking for people for an odour panel. Email [geurlab@buroblauw.nl](mailto:geurlab@buroblauw.nl) or call 0317-466699.

**SHEET MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS ON LOAN**

The music library of the Van Uven Foundation provides sheet music, choral music scores and classical musical literature. The very special items can be studied by students, photocopied and borrowed (sometimes online). The foundation also lends out musical instruments. The library's opening times are: every third Thursday of the month from 20.00 to 22.00. Location: Generaal Foulkesweg 1A, Wageningen [www.vanuv.nl](http://www.vanuv.nl)

**DOPPER FOUNDATION: CHANGEMAKER CHALLENGE**

Are you a Master's student and is your graduation research related to plastic waste and/or water? Then sign up for the Changemaker Challenge and compete for research grants of up to €5.000! Submission is open until 1 April 2018. It doesn't matter what stage you are at in your research. Just

tell us the subject of your research and your ideas on how to spend the research grant!

[CHANGEMAKERCHALLENGE.NL](http://CHANGEMAKERCHALLENGE.NL)

**JOIN THE CAMPAIGN FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE**

After a very successful campaign on banning palm oil from biofuels in Europe, We Draw the Line is back with an exciting new campaign. In the coming year we'll focus on corporate accountability to hold big polluting companies and banks responsible for their actions. Together with the national team of Friends of the Earth NL (Milieudefensie), we'll fight for climate justice. If you'd like to join in, please contact the local student team in Wageningen by sending an email to [drawtheline.wageningen@gmail.com](mailto:drawtheline.wageningen@gmail.com). We'll kick off with a campaigners weekend (16-18 March) for which you can subscribe through [milieudefensie.nl/watjijkandoen/doe-mee/trainingsweekend](http://milieudefensie.nl/watjijkandoen/doe-mee/trainingsweekend). It's gonna be big, secret and exciting!

[FACEBOOK.COM/WEDRAWTHELINEMD](http://FACEBOOK.COM/WEDRAWTHELINEMD)

**SIGN UP FOR THE TFF CHALLENGE 2018**

Are you 18-35 years old and do you have a great idea for changing the world of food and agriculture? Join the 2018 TFF Challenge to form teams and develop breakthrough solutions that address the global challenge of feeding 9+ billion people by the year 2050. By participating in the TFF Challenge, you are joining a movement of young innovators from 130 different countries who are reshaping our global food system. The Challenge offers you training programmes and mentors who will help turn your idea

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## RESOURCE

For everyone at Wageningen University & Research



into a reality. Participants have the chance to receive up to \$25,000 in cash prizes, and you may be selected to participate in the TFF Startup Bootcamp, an intensive, 12-week startup training programme which culminates in the TFF Global Summit.

TFFCHALLENGE.COM/CHALLENGE

## agenda

### Thursday 8 to Wednesday 21 February FILMS FOR STUDENTS

*The Party*: a harsh but hilarious portrait of a group of friends who have lost their certainties, a statement about a broken Britain. *A Ciambra*: an energetic realist drama set in the poor southern Italian region of Calabria, about a boy who is overcome with remorse about supporting his family through crime. *You were never really here*: a thriller/mystery movie in which a traumatized veteran tracks down a politician's missing daughter and lands in a web of violence and corruption. *Body and Soul*: a love story about two tragic abattoir workers who dream the same dreams. €6.50/€5. Location: Wilhelminaweg 3A, Wageningen.

MOVIE-W.NL

### Monday 12 February, 16:00 DARWIN CAFE: THE EVOLUTION OF BEER

Bionieuws and Stadsbrouwerij Wageningen will host the next Darwin Cafe Beer on the anniversary of Darwin's birth. Food microbiologist Eddy Smid will talk about the Evolution of Beer and the latest findings about the domestications and hybridizations that form the basis of every good glass of beer. The future of beer-brewing will

also be discussed and the talk will be followed by a chance to taste the latest version of the evolutionary beer Darwin 3.0. Entrance 3 euros (including one beer). Venue: Café Rad van Wageningen, 1e Kloostersteeg 3, Wageningen. Sign up at: [www.facebook.com/DarwinCafe](http://www.facebook.com/DarwinCafe).

### Saturday 17 February, 20:15 DUTCH NATIONAL STUDENT ORCHESTRA IN CONCERT WITH HARPIST REMY VAN KESTEREN

For 66 years the Dutch National Student Orchestra (NSO) has been proving that 100 students can put together a concert of professional standard in 10 days. The NSO is starting its international tour 'NSO Dream' in the Netherlands, with music full of imagination and fantasy such as works by Claude Debussy and Igor Stravinsky. The orchestra performs with solo harpist Remy van Kesteren, who uses his harp in his own way to bridge the gap between classical and pop genres. Venue: De Vereeniging in Nijmegen.

NSO.NL

### Tuesday 20 February, 20:00 ELECTION DEBATE ON NATURE AND LANDSCAPE

Leading candidates from political parties will enter into debate on nature and landscape issues in Wageningen public library. How can Wageningen become the greenest municipality? The Wageninse Eng: should it be used for crop farming or horse paddocks? The water meadows of the Rhine: what can the municipality do to make a success of this Natura2000 area? The Binnenveld and the Nude: how can nature, landscape and recreation be supported there? The evening will be led by Simon Vink and Jelle de Gruyter. Venue: bblthk, Stationsstraat 2, Wageningen.

### Saturday 24 February CONCERT BY THE STUDENT BRASS BAND DE ONTZETTING WAGENINGEN: BEYOND IMAGINATION

The pieces we'll play include 'Harry Potter', 'The Phantom of the Opera' and 'Cape Horn' with soloist Wietske Bouwman. This is the perfect opportunity to relax at the beginning of the fourth period! The concert takes place in the Junushoff. Doors are

open at 19.30 and the concert starts at 20.15. Student tickets are €5.

ONTZETTING.WUR.NL/WINKEL

### Thursday 1 March, 20:15 NSK (DUTCH STUDENTS CHAMBER CHOIR)

Look for world peace in Arnold Schönberg's *Friede auf Edren*, listen to the consequences of wartime violence in Rudolf Mauersberger's exquisite *Wie liegt die Stadt so Wüst*, and celebrate peace with ABBA's *Waterloo*. An NSK concert is an experience in itself. Student tickets through presales: €10. Venue: Arbo-retumkerk, Delhorstpad 6, Wageningen.

NSKK.NL/NSK-2018

### Thursday 22 March, 12:30 SEMINAR 'WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICES FOR SUCCESSFUL LOCAL AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA'

Food security for Africa is an urgent global challenge. The main cause of food insecurity is inadequate food production. New weather services are key for producing better quality food more efficiently. The seminar aims to bring together leading experts from the fields of meteorology, hydrology and African agriculture. Meet key experts and professionals, discuss the practical challenges, opportunities and solutions involved in improving local agricultural productivity in African countries, and discover the latest technology, data collection and network innovations in the fields of weather, ICT and agriculture. Early registration is recommended to ensure your participation: [weatherimpact.com/seminar-22-march-2018](http://weatherimpact.com/seminar-22-march-2018). Venue: Impulse.

## colophon

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

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# >>TYPICAL DUTCH



ILLUSTRATION: HEIK VAN RUITENBECK

## Funny sounds

**It's really funny when Dutch people try to pronounce difficult English words. They try very hard but always make a 'blioliloliloli' sound with their lips and tongue before they slowly pronounce the word.**

My first encounter with this was at Schiphol Airport when I got into a conversation with a certain Dutch lady. I asked her if she spoke English and she said: 'Yes but my vocabliolilolili...' She was trying to tell me her vocabulary was limited. She got it right on the third try but pronounced it very slowly.

I thought this was just a quirk of this lady's until I had the same experience with one of my corridor mates in Dijkgraaf. He was telling me how nice Spanish people sound when they talk, and he made that same sound. He said: 'I like how Spanish people talk, especially in their restaurants. Their pronublioliloliloli...' He then corrected himself, now stating very slowly that he liked Spanish p-r-o-n-u-n-c-i-a-t-i-o-n.

My impression was confirmed once again in one of my classes when the lecturer made that same sound when trying to pronounce 'extravagant'. I know people from other countries all have their own way of speaking English, but this is so typical of Dutch people. Now that I am dating a Dutch girl, I am getting used to it. She once said 'delibliolilolili' when trying to pronounce 'delivery'.

**E Eugene Gakpo Alhassan, Master's student of Environmental Science, from Ghana**

**The Dutch always say 'blioliloliloli' when they have trouble pronouncing an English word**

*Do you have a nice anecdote about your experience of going Dutch? Send it in! Describe an encounter with Dutch culture in detail and comment on it briefly. 300 words max. Send it to [resource@wur.nl](mailto:resource@wur.nl) and earn twenty-five euros and Dutch candy.*