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Come all over here

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RESOURCE [EN]

For everyone at Wageningen University & Research

no 18 – 17 May 2018 – 12th Volume



‘You are not just a number to me’

Henry van den Brand knows all his students by name | p.12



INTERNATIONAL EDITION

RIGHT AND WRONG

What do you do if your beloved wants to sign the declaration of loyalty to the German government of occupation and you don't, or the other way round? WUR student Pippi-Lotte Maessen and professional actor Roderick Bredenoord showed us in the play *Getekend (Marked)*, which was performed four times in the Junushoff theatre. Nine students, two members of staff and four actors got into the shoes of the Wageningers who were presented with the declaration of loyalty in 1943. Signing meant continuing with your studies; refusing meant going into hiding or to the German labour camps. The play gave the audience a sense of how 'right' and 'wrong' were not always straightforward categories during the war.

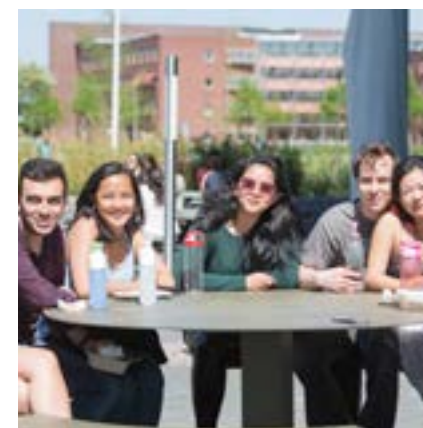
photo Moon Saris

Read the whole story
on resource-online.nl

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KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

There is nothing nicer than hearing a highly skilled person talking passionately about their profession. Henry van den Brand is such a person. He has been chosen by students as the best teacher of the past year. When you read the interview with him on page 12, you understand why. Transferring knowledge is a skill in itself: showing connections, telling stories, finding new metaphors to explain something again. And not all students learn the same way. Some love to listen to explanations, others prefer to read them. Yet others need to investigate the material for themselves. And so on. Van den Brand stands out precisely for his attention to individual needs. How teachers explain things and do justice to the nuances depends a lot on their language skills too. Reason enough to be alert to the Denglish spoken by some teachers. So student union SAW is drawing attention to it with a pronunciation bingo (p.24). 'Short through the curve' perhaps – as we say in Dutch. But necessary.

Anton van Elburg, acting editor-in-chief



>> You can make bioplastic from an aroma in sage | p.10

PHONES TO BE ENCRYPTED

From now on, WUR phones will be automatically encrypted to enable better data protection. As a result, phone numbers and confidential emails will no longer leak so easily if the phone is stolen.

This is one of the measures that WUR is taking in view of the new privacy law that takes effect on 25 May. This law requires all organizations and companies to deal confidentially with personal data. WUR also hopes the encryption will improve the protection of research data. That is necessary because WUR has also been the target of attempts to steal research data.

The encryption of the phones is not the only measure. Automatic encryption with password protection was previously introduced for the hard disks on WUR's computers. Indeed, in some cases data are only stored on the WUR servers in a coded form, and there is no local copy on the laptop. Staff who need the data retrieve the information temporarily, unlock the data on their computer and work with

that. After they have finished, the local copy is deleted and the data are stored exclusively on the server. However, this secure method only works for staff who have a permanent internet connection so it will not be implemented everywhere, assures Maarten Brouwer of FB-IT, the department responsible for ICT at WUR.

FB-IT had already announced that a second element will be introduced in the login procedure. Anyone who wants to check their WUR emails while off campus, for instance, will need to give permission via a WUR app on their phone in addition to the password. WUR is doing this to protect the organization against forms of 'spear phishing', an advanced and increasingly prevalent form of fraudulent emails with a fake site. The hacker first gathers targeted information about the victim via social media, for example about when the chair group's assistant is due to go on holiday. The swindler then uses that information to send emails, supposedly from the assistant's



private email address say, with a request to log into a fake site. In future, if you end up on such a fake site, you may inadvertently give away your password but you won't get permission from the app to log in.

The app will be introduced in phases and will gradually be used for more and more WUR services.

Its use will depend on the location, though. For example, anyone logging in on a WUR laptop on campus won't need to use the app but you will if you log in off campus. FB-IT hopes this will limit the inconvenience. **SVG**

See too the background article about data security on page 18.

SKELETON

The wind blows as it will through the skeleton of the derelict Biotechnion, which towers over the other buildings of the Dreijen campus like a huge, pastel-tinted haunted house. Demolition began on the former WUR building in August 2016. It was due to take nine months, but is taking longer because asbestos was found in the building. 'We have now removed everything from the tall building,' says project leader Niels Werkhoven of demolition company G.E. van Dam. He expects that all the asbestos will have been removed by the summer vacation. 'We expect demolition to be complete by the start of 2019.'

TL



PHOTO: SYEN MENSCHÉL

WUR AND RADBOUD ARE GOING TO TRAIN TEACHERS

From September, Wageningen students who want to go into teaching will have the option of an education component in their Master's programme. WUR and the Radboud Teachers Academy have developed this teacher-training programme together.

The programme will be offered to Master's students of Earth and Environment and Molecular Life Sciences who have taken a minor in Education as part of their Bachelor's degree. They can train at the

Radboud Teachers Academy as 'grade one' teachers of Physics and Chemistry respectively, qualifying them to teach throughout secondary school.

The collaboration starts as a three-year pilot, with which WUR and Radboud University (RU) hope to help reduce the shortage of teachers in the country. 'Demand for science teachers is particularly high,' says Hetty van der Stoep, Policy Advisor for Education and Student Affairs at WUR.

WUR has been offering the

possibility of a 'grade two' teaching qualification for lower secondary classes and vocational streams for a while.

Now it becomes possible with in the Master's curriculum to gain the 'grade one' qualification for teaching the upper school classes in the academic streams. 'This way we offer students a fast-track route into teaching,' says Van der Stoep. Normally, WUR students wanting to become teachers have to do an additional teacher-training year after their Master's. **TL**

in brief

>> UNIVERSITY PREMISES Wageningen in walks guide

Urban architect Paul Kurstjens has created a guide with 13 walks in the Netherlands that take in university premises. The 10-kilometre Wageningen walk goes from the oldest buildings in the town centre and on the hill to the new buildings on campus. What makes the walk so special is the arboreta, says Kurstjens. 'Lots of universities have botanical gardens, but Wageningen has an arboretum. Two, even!' The walks guide will be launched on 24 May during the VSNU Education Festival in Orion.

KvZ



▲ The Wageningen walk passes Blaauw's 'ship', among other buildings.

>> LOUISE FRESCO Reappointed as president

Louise Fresco (1952) will stay on for another four years as president of WUR's Executive Board. This was announced by the Supervisory Board today. Fresco took office on 1 July 2014. The Supervisory Board is pleased with the 'strengthening of WUR's position in society' and 'the visibility in public debate' that has been brought about since her appointment. 'Within the organization she has increased the cohesion between the various science groups under the motto One Wageningen, thereby linking societal issues with research and education more effectively,' says the Supervisory Board.

LdK

Read Louise Fresco's response on resource-online.nl

>> IPCC CLIMATE REPORT WUR provides authors

Professor of European Forests Gert-Jan Nabuurs and public administration expert Robbert Biesbroek will be working as coordinating lead authors on the next report of the international climate panel IPCC. Nabuurs was coordinating lead author (CLA) of the report on Good Practices Guidance for Land Use in 2003, and of the chapter on forests in 2007. Biesbroek is new to the IPCC circus. He applied and was selected. Biesbroek studies how governments integrate the consequences of climate change into existing policy. A total of 721 experts from 90 countries will work on the sixth IPCC report. **RK**

COLUMN|VINCENT

Image

'Welcome to the dark side.' With her first slide, the teacher of Forest Management showed she was aware of timber harvesting's negative image. And image is something students are sensitive to. According to Dutch newspaper *Het Financieele Dagblad*, anyway. 'Technical talent says no thanks to career with Shell', proclaimed the paper recently. The oil company had dropped a few places in the annual poll on preferred employers. When the paper asked around among Delft students who pretty much confirmed this impression, a trend emerged: students want no more to do with multinationals with a reputation for pollution.

So Shell is morally out of bounds for Delft technicians. But where does the lower limit lie for Wageningen idealists? If image really is the decisive factor, Monsanto is an obvious candidate. You can't sink much lower in public opinion. And yet when I asked around I could still find plenty of people interested in a career with the biotechnology giant. So maybe that rejection of companies with a negative image is not so widespread after all. Or, as *Het Financieele Dagblad* might put it: green talent says yes to Monsanto.

Is that a failure of idealism? Maybe. Unless what we already knew about timber harvesting before the lecture – that in spite of its image it *can* contribute to sustainable development – applies to a career with 'dirty' multinationals as well. **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



WUR WILL NOT CAP RECRUITMENT FROM ABROAD

Dutch universities want to be able to control the influx of international students, says a memo by the universities association VSNU. Wageningen understands the universities' wish but is satisfied with its own proportion of foreign to Dutch students.

The VSNU sent an internationalization agenda to minister of Education Van Engelshoven on Monday 14 May. The document says the universities want to be able to control the influx of students from abroad. One way of doing so would be to raise the tuition fees for students from outside the European Economic Area (EEA). These fees are already four to eight times as high as the legal Dutch rate of about 2000 euros. Another option is an enrollment cap on popular English-taught degree programmes.

The total number of students at the 14 Dutch universities has gone up by 10 percent since 2013, from 250,000 to 275,000. Two thirds of that growth is due to international Bachelor's and Master's students. If the current trend



PHOTO: SYEN MENSCHIEL

continues, in 2025 one in five students will come from abroad, says the VSNU.

According Wageningen University & Research spokesperson Simon Vink, the VSNU memo addresses 'a lot of issues related to internationalization policy'. 'The increase in international students is one of these, but there is also the basic funding for education for Dutch students.'

The latter issue does pose a problem for Wageningen as well, says Vink. 'But the interna-

tional classroom is one of our fundamental educational principles. The issues that are studied at WUR are international ones, and so therefore is the context in which we teach.' There are, however, degree programmes and universities that focus on the Dutch market, and they lack instruments for controlling enrollment, explains Vink. 'We are not recruiting too many international students: the percentage has remained stable for at least 10 years. But we do support the wish that others have expressed for a more subtle and differentiated internationalization policy per institution or faculty.'

WUR has approximately 12,000 students, more than half of which are Master's students. Of those, about 40 percent are international students. The number of international students on Bachelor's programmes will grow slightly from September too, because the university will offer five more English-taught Bachelor's degrees. Until now there was only one English-taught Bachelor's degree (in Leisure, Tourism and Environment). **LVdN**

WILLEM DE VOS'S STARTUP WANTS TO COMBAT OBESITY

The startup A-Mansia, a joint venture by WUR and the University of Louvain, has raised 13 million in starting capital. Over three years, one of the company's goals is to launch nutritional supplements to fight obesity.

The company is using *Akkermansia muciniphila*, a bacterium which occurs naturally in the human gut, and helps combat overweight and possibly also conditions such as fatty liver disease. *Akkermansia* was discovered by De Vos in 2004, more or less by chance. At that time the professor of Microbiology was looking for bacteria that grow on substances our guts generate themselves, such as mucus.

Four years after the discovery, De Vos began to collaborate with Belgian professor Patrice Cani of the University of Louvain on identifying the health effects of the bacterium. Mice that had been

dosed with the bacterium were then less prone to obesity and diabetes type 2. The Belgian group discovered later that the bacterium is safe for humans. 'The nice thing is that the bacterium still works in a pasteurized form,' says De Vos. 'That makes it much easier to use it in foods.'

It is probably because the bacterium is relatively easy to use that A-Mansia, which holds several patents related to *Akkermansia*, could raise the starting capital it needed amazingly quickly. The French investment fund Seventure put a lot of money into it. In the coming years, A-Mansia will use that money to do further research on the uses of the bacterium.

A-Mansia is not De Vos's first startup. He was involved in at least three new companies in the Netherlands, and his research formed the starting point for all of them. **SvG**

A HISTORY LESSON FROM ALUMNI



PHOTO: LIUK ZEGERS

A student watches Roel Dijkma's video series 'WUR 100 years of education' on the screen in the Forum. In this series, 14 alumni talk about different periods in WUR history. Weather man Gerrit Hiemstra, former *rector magnificus* Martin Kropff and 12 other distinguished alumni talk about their university days. Asked which was his favourite interview, Dijkma (teacher of Hydrology

and Quantitative Water Management) says he is especially pleased with the series as a whole, because 'the storyline is the main thing.' **LZ**

Read more and watch Dijkma's video series on resource-online.nl

HOW MANY CLOSE PARTNERS DO YOU NEED?

Not all WUR's alliances with external partners are equally important, says Bram de Vos of the Strategic Partnerships strategy group. Vos and nine other members have considered what could be improved.

No, De Vos won't be mentioning any less useful partners by name. He is, however, prepared to explain what the strategy group has been doing. 'First we looked at what a strategic partnership actually means. We eventually concluded that you need to have two or more science groups involved, but really all of WUR ought to benefit from the partnership.'

The committee then considered how to assess the effectiveness of the collaboration. 'We initially took a broad view, looking at educational partners, knowledge val-

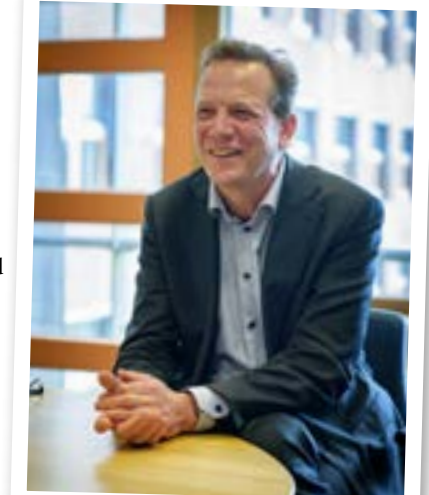
orization partners such as companies and research partners. But the Executive Board wanted us to focus on the last category. That is more of a partnership between equals. You can set up joint EU research projects with these partners, for example.'

The project group reviewed the existing 'strategic partnerships'. 'Is this an active partnership? If not, can we reactivate it? Are there synergy benefits for us? It must be a collaboration that benefits both partners.' The partnership should also contribute towards the strategic objectives. Although it was difficult for the group to assess that as the strategic objectives themselves are being determined by another strategy group. So the partnership group probably won't come up with a specific list of future partners that WUR should focus on.

The group is still struggling with the question of how many strategic partners WUR needs. 'We currently have 10 to 15. You might be able to achieve more with fewer partners but then other important partners might feel left out. We'd love to hear from anyone with good ideas on this.'

Incidentally, De Vos thinks smaller-scale partnerships will definitely remain as important as they are now, but they don't count as 'strategic for WUR as a whole'

SvG



▲ Bram de Vos

PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

Theme: Strategic Partners

WUR intends to present a new strategic plan next autumn. One of the 10 themes in that plan is Strategic Partners. If you would like to join in the debate, you can. Post your ideas on the theme group's web page at intranet.wur.nl or drop in on the coordinators, Bram de Vos and Tiny van Boekel.

€0.25M FOR 'BORDERLESS TEACHING'

WUR has been given a grant of nearly 0.25 million euros to break down borders in teaching. The university will use the money to achieve better integration between disciplines, bolster exchanges with society at large and improve intercultural integration.

The university wants to give students tools that will let them tackle 'complex societal issues', explains Dean of Education Arnold Bregt. 'You will virtually never be able to resolve such problems drawing on only one specialist field. You are always dealing with other disciplines, society and other cultures. Our teaching should take that into account and I think we can improve that integration.'

Bregt gives the new Master's in Biobased Sciences as an example. 'This degree aims to be interdisciplinary but the review panel concluded

that for a real interdisciplinary approach you need to do more than offer "plants", "biotech" and "economics" as separate subjects in one programme. The panel feels this needs to improve and I think that applies to other programmes too.'

WUR wants to use the grant in the first instance to find out how connections are currently made in teaching at Wageningen. Indicators will then be developed to allow the degree of integration to be monitored. The next step will be to see how to transmit the best practices to other specialist fields. Finally, the curriculum will be revised where necessary.

The grant is the result of an application for a Comenius Leadership Fellowship. Bregt submitted a personal application for this grant to the Netherlands Initiative for Educational Research, part of the science funding organization NWO.

SvG

Food

22 May	Thymos Health Week
22 May	Studium Generale The Modernization of Dutch Agriculture in Films 1923-1982 - Modernization and Gender
24 May	VSNU Education Festival
24 May	Gather, Collect and Measure - Anne Geene, Artist in Residence. In collaboration with Beelden op de Berg

You'll find everything about 100 years of WUR on www.wur.eu/100years

INSECTS NEED A NEW WAY OF FARMING

If the insects in the Netherlands are to be saved, farmers are going to have to drastically change the way they farm. And the time is ripe, says professor of Plant Ecology and Nature Management David Kleijn.

Kleijn is the main author of a study of the decline in insect populations in the Netherlands done for the ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. The study was prompted by German findings that created a big stir last year. They came from a long-term study that showed that insect numbers had gone down by three quarters in a period of 30 years.

Although it got support, the German study also came in for criticism, including from Wageningen. The criticism was unwarranted, Kleijn and his colleagues concluded. The German study was sound. The situation in the Netherlands is probably less dramatic, suggests the Wageningen evaluation. Nevertheless, there is certainly cause for concern, says Kleijn. But he confirms that it is not clear precisely how serious the situation is for insects. Precise data is lacking. Thanks to years of monitoring of the more appealing insects such as butterflies and dragonflies, we have a fair idea of the populations of these groups. What we lack is data at the biomass level, about the total insect numbers. That makes a study like the one in Germany impossible in this country.

The studies that do exist have come up with different findings. The decline in species in nature reserves, for instance, seems to have been halted somewhat, but the loss of species dependent on the agrarian landscape continues. Not that there is much reliable data on this latter group. Counting insects tends to be the work of volunteers, and they prefer to count in



▲ It is indisputable that agriculture plays a decisive role in the decline in insect numbers, says Professor David Kleijn.

nature reserves. Besides, says Kleijn, until recently no one was interested in the biomass of insects. 'That has only changed in recent years, in response to the discussion about bee deaths and the decline in field birds. We are slowly realizing that bulk insects are important too.'

Kleijn had advised the minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality to concentrate on getting a fuller picture of the insect situation in agricultural areas. There is also a need for more insight into insect communities. 'We don't actually know which group dominates the compo-

sition of the insect population in a particular habitat.' Nor is it known exactly why insects are faring so badly. But it is indisputable that agriculture plays a decisive role in their decline, says Kleijn. It is time for a change in agriculture, he believes. 'Everyone thinks so, actually, even most farmers, although understandably they want to be sure that they'll be able to earn a decent living from any new way of farming. There is an intention to switch to a more nature-friendly farming method. The time is ripe for it.' **Ⓜ RK**

'DUCKWEED BURGER' COMING SOON

Fancy a duckweed burger? It might sound like a future dream now, but a veggie burger based on duckweed is on its way. Jurriaan Mes of Wageningen Food & Biobased Research and Ingrid van der Meer of Wageningen Plant Research are working on it with several partners.

The new vegetarian snack won't be called a duckweed burger, says

Mes. 'Consumer research suggests that the name duckweed doesn't go down very well; it would be better to call it by the plant's other name, water lentils.'

Most people think of duckweed as the green stuff that ditches are full of. But the plant contains a lot of protein, explains Mes. 'And since it grows so fast, it is an interesting source of protein.' So interesting that WUR has been doing research

on duckweed for three years.

The main focus of that research is on getting water lentils and the protein extracted from them accepted for human consumption. Mes and his colleagues are working hard on putting together a 'Novel Food Dossier', which precedes a place on the supermarket shelf. More research is also needed on the digestibility of the plant for humans.

This project pays attention to the extraction of the protein as well. Biorefinery Solutions in Groenlo is taking care of that component. And Bobeldijk Food Group in Deventer is working on developing new products. Lingewaard municipality is overseeing the the cultivation of the duckweed, which it sees as a nice solution to the problem of disused greenhouses. **Ⓜ RK**

YOU CAN SMELL BREAD WITHOUT BUYING BREAD

People who smell freshly baked bread are not more likely to buy some. This surprising conclusion was drawn by Wageningen food researchers in an article in *Food Quality and Preference*.

It is a classic example of scent marketing: seducing people into buying bread with the smell of freshly baked loaves. But a study by Monique Vingerhoeds of Wageningen Food & Biobased Research, and colleagues at Human Nutrition, shows that it is not as simple as that.

MRI brain scans of the test subjects did show that the smell of bread has an effect: the reward centre in the brain was activated. But when the test subjects had to choose between pictures of white bread, brown bread and cookies, exposure to the smell of bread had a variable effect. The smell appeared to increase the tendency to choose cookies, whereas the smell of burning wood more often led people to opt for brown bread.

Vingerhoeds thinks it would be going too far to conclude that the smell of bread makes people buy cookies. Follow-up research in a real-life setting would be needed to confirm that. This time the test subjects were lying in a special MRI scanner and were exposed

to aromas through a tube in their noses as they looked at a series of pictures.

But what the researchers did clearly see was that spreading the smell of bread in a supermarket won't help to sell a particular type of bread, such as wholemeal bread. The researchers think this is because most people put bread in their trolleys without thinking about it. 'The choice of bread is governed by habit,' says Vingerhoeds. 'And we think that is why an aroma doesn't do much.'

The smell of bread hereby joins a series of methods that have been studied and rejected as a way of inducing people to buy wholemeal bread. The research just published is part of a large project on inducing healthy choices. Another approach that has been studied is to make wholemeal bread the first thing shoppers are presented with in the supermarket. Yet another is to draw extra attention to wholemeal bread. Up to now, not much has been found that really helps tempt people who currently buy brown bread to switch to (higher fibre and therefore healthier) wholemeal bread. People see bread essentially as something to put spreads on, says Vingerhoeds. 'What does work, as we have seen, is putting a special offer on wholemeal bread.' **Ⓜ AJ**



▲ Spreading the smell of bread does not seem to be an effective way of improving sales of wholemeal bread.

VISION

'The arguments for the ban on neonicotinoids are weak'

From 1 January 2019, farmers will no longer be allowed to use the insecticides imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam – the neonicotinoids – out of doors. They are harmful to birds and bees, the EU has concluded. Farmers and the chemicals industry are angry and are threatening to go to court. Hilfred Huiting, a researcher at Wageningen Research in Lelystad, thinks they have a point.

Is a ban really so terrible for farmers?

'There is a solution for everything, but the question is whether some crops will still be viable in the short term once farmers are no longer allowed to use these pesticides. That applies to sugar beet and certain vegetables such as cabbage.'

But the ban is good for nature, isn't it?

'That is debatable too. Now, sugar beet seeds are often coated in neonicotinoids. That protects them well against pests, and the insecticide is only toxic to insects that eat the plant, because the crop is not pollinated by bees or bumble bees. Soon a lot of farmers will spray their crops with other insecticides several times a year. That is damaging not just for the insects that eat the plant, but also for insects flying around nearby. Politically, I understand the total ban, but scientifically, I don't think it is backed up by good arguments.'

Aren't there any other, more environmentally friendly alternatives?

'Oh yes. For some crops, such as maize, these neonicotinoids were banned a few years ago. There are good alternatives for those crops.'

Sometimes the alternative is different pesticides, sometimes it is a different management strategy. For example, click beetles in maize can be controlled well by ploughing over the soil at the right moment in the year. That kind of option is often a partial solution, whereas neonicotinoids are an off-the-shelf solution. Those partial solutions require a lot of knowledge and we don't have that for every crop, by any means. Not enough has been invested in that recently, either.'

Can we expect to see that investment now?

'A ban does stimulate the development of alternatives. So maybe it will turn out to be a good thing in the long term. But try telling that to a farmer who faces serious problems now.' **Ⓜ SvG**



BIOPLASTICS FROM SAGE AROMA

You can make bioplastics from citrus aromas (volatile monoterpenes) in plants. PhD candidate Esmer Jongedijk developed the pathway that makes this possible.

The fresh scent of oranges and lemons comes from the cyclic terpene limonene, which is used as an aroma and flavouring in numerous products. At present, limonene is mainly extracted from residues from the manufacture of orange juice. But that source is under pressure due to diseases and the use of pesticides in the cultivation of citrus fruit. Monoterpenes can be synthesized from sources such as petroleum, but plants produce them too. Jongedijk recently obtained a doctorate for a study of how plants make terpenes and how you can use that method in the production of bioplastics.

For the proof of principle, Jongedijk used methyl perillate, a natural derivative of limonene. She found that you only need two chemical steps to turn methyl perillate into terephthalic acid, a building block for the polymer used for PET bottles (polyethylene terephthalate). In theory, this means she has solved the trick of making PET from monoterpenes. Jongedijk chose a sage species, *Salvia dorisiiana*, as the source for the methyl perillate. This herb smells of fruit. 'They call it the fruit-scented sage.'



▲ The leaves of *Salvia dorisiiana* produce methyl perillate, a compound that can easily be converted into terephthalic acid, a building block for certain plastics.

Jongedijk was able to identify four genes in the sage plant that are involved in producing methyl perillate. She inserted the genes in a model plant of the tobacco family, which indeed went on to produce methyl perillate. Proof, says Jongedijk, that she had got the right genes. These genes may provide a commercial route for making PET from monoterpenes, but that does not mean the PET bottles are 'growing on the tobacco plants'; extracting methyl perillate

from plants is technically challenging. But the genes she found can also be inserted in microorganisms such as yeasts. Jongedijk has already developed a strain of yeast that can make limonene.

The yeast pathway has commercial potential, says Jongedijk, especially if the focus is on specialist materials, such as plastics for LCD screens, rather than cheap, bulk PET plastic as the end product. **AK**

PHOTO: LABORATORY OF PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

SMELLING WITH NO SENSE OF SMELL

It has now been demonstrated for the first time that the brains of people who can no longer smell still respond to odours and the act of sniffing. In such situations, it may still be possible to train the sense of smell.

These findings come from research by the Smell and Taste Centre, run by Wageningen University and the Gelderse Vallei hospital, in partnership with researchers from the University of Graz. The study was published in *Human Brain Mapping*. The researchers used data on patients whose olfactory sense was fully or partially impaired. They examined whether and how these people's brains responded to odours and to sniffing odourless air.

First they determined the degree to which the sense of smell had been affected, using an odour test. Then the researchers used functional MRI to get a picture of the activity of the neural networks in the brain. The results were sur-

prising. When the patients were exposed to an odour, the researchers saw activation not just in the brain's odour network but also in the cerebellum and the visual network.

Research leader Sanne Boesveldt says this is the first study that shows there is any brain activity at all in people without a sense of smell and that it involves more than one neural network. 'The interesting thing is that we don't just see brain activity when the patients are exposed to smells but also when they sniff odourless air.' According to Boesveldt, the findings are an indication that training in smelling and sniffing could also help people who have completely lost their sense of smell.

'If there is still activity in the brain, that suggests the relevant nerve routes are still intact,' concludes Boesveldt. 'And that presents possibilities for training.' Given the observed effect of sniffing on brain activity, she speculates that training in sniffing could help

achieve at least partial recovery of the sense of smell. At present, doctors only use olfactory training for people with a partly impaired sense of smell. **AJ**



Every day on the Resource website you'll find the latest news, opinions, videos and photo series. Here below, a sample of what's on offer.

ALUMNUS BECOMES ALDERMAN



Anne Janssen has become part-time alderman for Neighbourhoods & Housing and Culture for the PvdA in Wageningen. Janssen graduated from WUR in 2003 with a degree in Environmental Sciences. She is still living in Amsterdam West at the moment, where she is chair of the PvdA party.

LOCAL NATURE



The small and often forgotten tracts of natural vegetation in the neighbourhood

should be given the status of municipal monuments. Under the direction of professor of Plant Ecology and Nature Management Joop Schaminée and his colleague Anton Stortelder, five pilot projects have already been developed in Oost-Gelre, Peel en Maas, Schouwen-Duiveland, Stein and Tytsjerksteradeel.

WRITING FOR WIKI



Students taking the Master's course 'The Carbon Dilemma' got an unusual final assignment from their teacher

Thom Kuyper: write an article for Wikipedia about a controversy in Soil Science. They had to explain the theories clearly in under 1000 words, with references to solid literature and without giving their own opinion.

GRANT FOR TRACK CYCLIST



Biology student Steffie van der Peet hopes to make the grade in track cycling sprint races in the near future. She plans to use the sports grant of 1500 euros she received last week from the Niels Smith Fund to enter more races.

MEANWHILE ONLINE

WAGENINGEN UP STOPS



Wageningen UP is throwing in the towel after 10 years. The digital events diary was hacked and build-

ing the site again turned out to be too much work. 'It's enough now too,' says founder Tim Möhlmann. The PhD student has been looking in vain for someone to take over for some time. The Wageningen UP Facebook page, with nearly 45,000 likes, will stay online for the time being.

Check them all out at resource-online.nl

PROPOSITION

'Your freedom stops where you restrict someone else's'

Floor Biemans and her partner might want to get married some day and they are glad they live in a country where they can. But it pains Biemans that one in four Dutch MPs voted against gay marriage in 2000.

'I think representatives of the people should make a distinction between their own opinion and the law. Homosexuals contribute as much as anyone else to society: they work, pay their taxes, do voluntary work. So on what grounds do you deny them the right to get married? If you don't want to marry someone of the same sex, fine, but who are you to say someone else is not allowed to? If I don't like Brussels sprouts, I don't eat them. But I don't forbid anyone else to eat them.'



Floor Biemans received her PhD on 9 May for a study of the influence of genetics on the spread of infectious diseases in cows.

Opponents often bring up religious objections to gay marriage, but marriage ceased to be a religious institution long ago and non-religious people get married too. Making marriage accessible is just a reflection of a society's social progress. I personally have never experienced hostility but I still stand up for gay rights. And I was determined to include a proposition about them in my list. Visibility is important. The unknown is scary so you must make sure it becomes less unknown. No, according to my proposition, the Netherlands is not a civilized country. Of course that is a loaded statement: it had to be provocative didn't it? But I really do think it's a pity that some MPs cannot separate their personal opinions from equal rights issues. You own freedom stops where you start restricting someone else's.' **LdK**

In a civilised country, the entire parliament should vote in favour of gay marriage

‘For tuition fees of 2000 euros you have the right to quality’

Wageningen’s best teacher this year swears by ‘chalk and talk’. And of course, plenty of attention to students. Education comes before research, is Henry van den Brand’s creed.

text Roelof Kleis photos Guy Ackermans

De *Leermeester* (The Tutor) stands on the corner of the bookcase. The proud winner, Henry van den Brand, moves the statue carefully to his desk in his office in Zodiac. The Teacher of the Year studies the figurine, which has a slight air of the magician about it. ‘Maybe you do have to be a bit of a magician,’ he laughs. ‘I think it’s beautiful and I’m very proud of it.’ When the Teacher of the Year Award was announced on 24 April, Van den Brand was somewhere in the sky between Budapest and Amsterdam, returning from an annual teaching assignment. ‘As soon as we were taxiing on the runway I turned on my phone and saw the messages pouring in.’

Van den Brand, who teaches in the Adaptation Physiology chair group, was picked from the five nominees for the prize. He was on the shortlist a year ago too, but then the prize went to Jessica Duncan of Rural Sociology. ‘And I thought that was so right. What with all she does for students, and all the energy she puts into education. Jessica was one of the nominees again this year. But apparently the students decided I should get it.’ And that for someone who hadn’t wanted to be a teacher and was thrown into the deep end in 2001 without a scrap of teaching experience.

Van den Brand (48) was born in Kootwijkerbroek, a little village on the Veluwe. His parents had a mixed farm. ‘Actually it was clear from the start that I wanted to stay in the livestock sector,’ he says. He came to Wageningen after doing a degree at AERES University of Applied Sciences in Dronten. ‘A whole new world opened up to me. The applied sciences course had too little depth for me. At Animal Sciences in Wageningen, I had to think for myself. And that was fantastic. I took two Master’s programmes, Animal Nutrition and Animal Husbandry.’ He graduated in 1994 and was very keen to get a PhD position. ‘But the funding didn’t work out. Then I went into the commercial sector as a junior researcher with a company producing feed for veal calves.’

BUSINESS WORLD

He got the chance to do a PhD two years later. But after he got his PhD in 2000, history repeated itself: once again, there was no funding to stay on as a researcher and Van den Brand took refuge in the business world. This time as a poultry researcher. ‘This was a whole new world for me. Very nice too, but not a university. I would have preferred to do fundamental research.’ In 2001 he got a job as an assistant professor in Wageningen after all. ‘Without any teaching experience at all. Absolutely none. This is your

‘Give me a blackboard and chalk’



subject, go ahead. In the first few years, I got my basic teaching qualification, but at first you stand in front of the class with your knees knocking. I wasn't prepared for it at all.'

Is that sensible?

'That's a difficult one. You see, I started from nothing and now here is *De Leermeester*. If you go for it, lots of things are possible. But I know too that a lot of top researchers don't necessarily make the best teachers. I was secretary of the programme committees for Animal Sciences, and then you see all the student evaluations. Some of them make me think: what a hard time the teacher must have had in that classroom. Whereas they are extremely good researchers. Many teachers get appointed on the basis of their research capacities. They do the teaching on the side.'

Should that change?

'I think it would be good if there was more emphasis on the standard of education throughout the university. The university is an educational institution first and foremost. You should put education first, in my view. If you don't, you should go and work in contract research. And a university should invest in that education. That goes for tenure track as well, the career track for researchers. The requirements for the teaching side of tenure track could be stricter.'

In what way stricter?

'If you want to go on tenure track, you should meet a few basic requirements for good teaching. One should be that you must at least be on the list of 200 teachers from whom the Teacher of the Year is elected every year. I would definitely recommend that.'

Van den Brand certainly throws himself into his teaching

with heart and soul. He acquired his teaching skills as he went along through Education Institute courses on topics such as intercultural communication, designing exams, and conducting one-to-one discussions. For the rest, he reckons it's a question of having some nerve and trying new things now and then.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Personally, Van den Brand thinks he won the prize primarily because he invests a lot in students. 'I always prepare my lectures in great detail. I don't just recycle last year's lectures. And I take time for that. How shall I approach it this time? How could I relate it to current affairs? How much do these students already know? Who is my audience?' Van den Brand takes that last question quite literally. He likes to be able to put a name to every face and he works on that. 'I usually have 100 or more students. I aim to know at least half their names after two weeks, and all of them by the end of the course. And I make use of that knowledge: I address my students by name. I think that personal touch is very important. Students appreciate it enormously. You are not just a number to me, but a person. That's how I would want to be treated myself. And during the breaks I don't stay at my PC, but walk around to have a chat with different people. I ask for feedback about the lecture or practical. What do you like, and what could be done differently? If things are not going well for someone, I make time for them. If necessary, they come here for an hour of individual tuition. I claim that space.'

That personal approach earns Van den Brand a lot of credit with his students. And that is now tangible in the form of *De Leermeester*. And not long ago, the Kloosterman trophy, the annual prize awarded by the study association *De Veetelers*, which graces his bookcase too. This trophy is a 30-centimetre-high dark blue milk churn that has been passed on to a new winner every year since 1976.

A choice: a blackboard or a smartboard?

'A blackboard, no doubt about it. I've cut down on my use of PowerPoint. I've had enough of it, and only use it as a support tool in the lecture. Give me a blackboard and some chalk of several different colours any day. Preferably a big board like the one in room 222 in the Forum. In the Bachelor's course Immunology and Thermoregulation, I teach

'The university is an educational institution first and foremost'

'A lot of top researchers don't necessarily make the best teachers'

the Thermoregulation part. Put simply, that is about how animals or humans regulate their body temperatures and what factors influence that. So it's really basic knowledge, but quite abstract. Then I start building up my story from left to right on the board, with figures, tables and diagrams. From a to b to c to d. And once I'm at d, I can point back at the relation with a or b. Then the student can see the connections at a glance. You can't do that on a smartboard. It's only two square metres in size and when it's full, you swipe it all away. Building up the whole story like that gives students an overview. And it slows you down, so students can follow it better. You do have to stick to the key points, though. And you have to make that very clear from the start: what is covered in class is limited; you must read up on the rest in the textbook.'

Can you work like that everywhere?

'No. The Forum has a big board. Zodiac has a fantastic board and the Chemistry building at the Dreijen is good too. But Orion is a disaster in this respect. There are only smartboards or small whiteboards there. I am not a great fan of the technical innovations. I'm more of a storyteller. I come from farming stock and I make use of my practical knowledge in my lectures. If I explain something very abstract I try to use a real-life example. I sketch the situation and ask students how they would deal with it. I challenge them, I ask questions.'


Discrepancy

Van den Brand is critical of the standard of education. And students have the right to be more critical too, he thinks. 'For 2000 euros in tuition fees – and foreign students pay a lot more than that – you have the right to quality. Look, there are students who come here just to get their piece of paper. They are satisfied with sixes and sevens on their grade lists. But there is also a category of students, certainly among the foreign students, who come here to aim for the top. They want value for money. And quite right, in my view. There is absolutely no doubt about the standard of the expertise at our university. But there is a discrepancy between having knowledge and transferring knowledge. Students have the right to have a good teacher lecturing and tutoring them, who is also a good researcher.'

But Van den Brand is equally critical of the students. He says the level of the VWO exams at the end of secondary school is inadequate, to put it mildly. 'They often lack very simple basic knowledge. There are students who don't know what a gradient is on a graph. That really happens. That is material for the second year of the less academic HAVO stream at secondary school. At the more aca-



ademic VWO level nowadays, it's all about learning how to look things up rather than actually learning things. And there's a price to pay for that. I think it would be a blessing if students were selected more strictly. Make students take a test, set grade requirements or hold interviews or something. It is badly needed.'

He is not referring to the good ones here, of course. In fact, he gives priority to excellent students. Just as he did when he was nominated for the Teacher of the Year Award last year – all nominees get 2500 euros – Van den Brand is donating his prize money to the chair group. 'It can be used to enable excellent students to attend a conference to present their research at the end of their degree programme. We cover all the costs. I earned that money working with students, so it is nice to be able to spend it on students too.' 



WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

'The loss of their hair doesn't seem to bother these Ceres members. The beer probably softens the blow. I don't think these are first-years that have just had their heads shaved – they look too full of themselves. So it can't have been part of the first-year initiation. Secretly I'd love to know what these gentlemen do now. And what their hairstyle is, of course. How much of that hair has disappeared for good since 1984?'



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 some of his most special 'pics'.

Data security guards: We must not be naive

The ICT department has its hands full keeping data secure. Not only because there are hackers at large and laptops get lost. The government too is imposing more stringent requirements on data security. 'The question is not *whether* a sizeable data leak is going to occur, but *when*.'

text Stijn van Gils photos Guy Ackermans

Modest and inconspicuous is an apt description of the building on the edge of the campus. This is where WUR's gold bullion is kept: no fewer than 3500 terabytes of data. Much of which is backed up on duplicate servers. To spread the risk there is also a second location in Wageningen. Just in case.

Housed in the datacentre is the entire genome of the banana and information about how a female great tit chooses her partner. There are figures on the leaching of nitrate on wheat plot 34.1 at experimental farm Vredepeel and the details of all kinds of secret microbiological discoveries that may have patent potential. And personal data too. Student grades. Sensitive information about patients who took part in a nutrition study. Or the per-

sonal photos of a student who uses his personal M-drive as a back-up.

What is the exact value of all this information and which information is the most sensitive? On that topic, no one is prepared to make any statements (see panel).

ATTACKS

That Wageningen data attracts interest from illegal quarters is evident from the dozens of attacks repelled by the IT department of Facilities & Services (FB-IT) on a daily basis. 'Some are very targeted,' says Raoul Vernède, security officer at FB-IT. 'As for others, they are more akin to someone checking whether you've locked your bike. If it's not locked, they'll take it.'

Just how successful attacks of this nature are, FB-IT is reluctant to say. Nor can the department say exactly where

the attacks are coming from. Has WUR been hacked by Iranians who are supposed to have penetrated a Dutch university last year? Or by other countries? 'I can't say,' states Maarten Brouwer, head of the department.

The General Intelligence and Security Service (AIVD) writes in its annual report for 2017, however, that Russian officers have gathered intelligence, some of it in the field of science. The AIVD also observed China make targeted efforts to 'gather information on economic and political topics'. In a recent report, SURF, the ICT umbrella organization for the Dutch universities, also named Iran as a country engaged in hacking. 'In general I can say that we must not be naive,' says Brouwer. 'We too are under attack. A laptop containing sensitive data, for example, is something no one should consider taking to China.'

KEYLOGGERS

As well as espionage by governments, there are other threats. 'Like anywhere else, we too have some students with malicious intentions. In the past we've had to deal with keyloggers, for example, physical devices connected to a lecturer's PC in order to find out passwords,' says Brouwer. And consider the employee who stores personal data on an unencrypted USB stick that can easily get lost, or who walks away without locking their computer.

According to Brouwer the question is not whether a sizeable data leak is going to occur, but when. 'Laptops are stolen here regularly. That is not only material damage, but also a potential data leak. So it makes sense to be well prepared.'


A new aspect of data security has been introduced with the stringent requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation, new privacy legislation that comes into force on 25 May. Personal data may now be collected only when essential. So collecting more research data than is strictly necessary is no longer an option. And which data are being stored must be known to the central administration. If someone turns up at WUR requesting his or her 'dossier', WUR has to be able to report within 72 hours which personal data have been collected on this person by any and all of the WUR's 5000 employees. In addition, personal data must be deleted as soon as they are no longer needed, as a rule after only two years.

CONFIRMATION

In order to keep data more secure, FB-IT is introducing various changes. For example, for some time now it has been standard practice to encrypt the hard drives of WUR laptops. Without a password, it is almost impossible to retrieve the data. The same principle will soon be applied to telephones. And an app is on the way, as a second factor in addition to a password. Employees and students who want to log in will need first to enter their password before confirming on the app that they really do want to log in. Anyone who accidentally enters their password on a fake site won't receive a confirmation on the app. But according to Brouwer, the safe management of data is not the responsibility of his department alone. Every employee must, he believes, be aware of the risks and must handle data with care. This awareness is growing,

says Brouwer. Employees understand the risks better and understand the need for a measure like the app.

COSTS

In the meantime, Brouwer must ensure his services do not become too expensive. Two years ago Resource discovered that some research groups were managing their own data, without the intervention of FB-IT. 'IT does offer storage, but it is much too costly,' explained Professor Dick de Ridder of Bioinformatics at the time. It was subsequently decided centrally that the costs of data storage had to be subsidized internally. Every year FB-IT now receives 100,000 euros, enabling it to pass on less of the cost. These days De Ridder is so satisfied with the attitude of FB-IT and the new prices that his group's data archives will soon be moved to the central storage facility. 

'Every employee must be aware of the risks'



WUR'S CROWN JEWELS

WUR has all kinds of valuable datasets. In view of this, some of the WUR's data have extra stringent security. But on which data these are, or which research groups tend to produce the sensitive data, ICT staff will not be drawn. Various sources reveal, however, that Wageningen Research has more 'secret' datasets than the university. Perhaps only logical given that Wageningen Research does more in the way of contract research and thus also manages more sensitive commercial information, for example. Ultimately, more information must become freely available. 'We make our valuable soil data, for example, freely available via open access channels,' says Bert Jansen, science information officer at Wageningen Environmental Research. 'After all, this information

has been obtained with public money.' According to Willem Jan Knibbe of the Wageningen Data Competence Center, which supports developments in the field of big data and data science, the value of any dataset is by definition subjective. 'It depends entirely on what you want to do with it. Sometimes the precise value of a dataset is evident only with hindsight. Coupling a value to an individual dataset also implies that data that are freely available to everyone have no value. Actually, I don't think that's true. Freely available data may well be the most valuable. Nor do I think that data in and of themselves are WUR's most important asset. Rather our ability to understand and interpret data is where our capital lies.'

Disco fish swim into the polder

Research into the migration of glass eels in Dutch waters should shed light on the likely causes of the decline in eel numbers. A report.

text Tessa Louwerens photo Ben Griffioen



◀ The marked fish light up under the UV lamp.

Ben Griffioen waits patiently while the *Emma* bobs gently up and down in the sluice at IJmuiden. Fortunately, it is a lovely sunny day. The signal is given and the sluice gates to the sea swing open. From here, it is less than a minute by boat to the glass eel detector.

Every spring, millions of glass eels, young eels, migrate from the sea to the freshwater waterways of the Netherlands, where they will grow up. Along the way, on the seaward side of the sluices at IJmuiden, they encounter the glass eel detector: a climbing wall of sorts covered with a coconut mat that leads to a basin. 'We pump brackish water from the North Sea Canal

into the basin that stands on the pontoon,' explains Griffioen, a researcher at Wageningen Marine Research. 'That water then flows over the coconut mat and attracts glass eels that slither up it during the night and fall into the basin.'

DISASTROUS

Griffioen and his colleagues from the Netherlands Fisheries Service (VSN) and elsewhere are studying the migration of glass eels. Their work has been commissioned by various parties, including water authorities. As the Netherlands has a network of some 15,000 waterworks such as weirs, sluices, dikes, dams and pumping stations, the glass eels have to overcome a fair

number of obstacles to reach the inland waterways. These waterworks ensure that our feet stay dry, but also make it difficult for eels to enter and leave the fresh water. This, says Griffioen, can have disastrous consequences. Eel are doing poorly worldwide. Griffioen, 'In the Netherlands we have been monitoring glass eels since as early as 1938 and their numbers have declined drastically. The catch in the period since 1980 is down by 95 percent compared to the preceding period.' Exactly why that is, the researchers do not know. As well as the obstacles that hinder the arrival and departure of the eels, it may also be due to factors like water pollution, changing ocean currents and the fishing industry.

IJmuiden is an important hub for the glass eels, because it offers access to the 26-kilometre long North Sea Canal. From there, the glass eels swim into the Dutch polders. The researchers are keen to find out how many glass eels enter the North Sea Canal, how they spread, how long they take to do this and whether they encounter any obstacles. To study this, this spring more than 6000 glass eels in total are being caught, marked and released.

FINE NEEDLE

The researchers fit the glass eels with a VIE tag, as the fluorescent mark is called. It is inserted under the skin using a very fine needle while the fish are anaesthetized. Marking these small, slippery creatures is quite a fiddly job and they are indeed as slippery as an eel. 'Once you've acquired the knack, it is a pretty quick process,' says Griffioen. 'With a team of three, we do 300 an hour and we have pricked our fingers only twice.' The glass eels suffer no adverse effects, he believes, and once they are adult, there is no trace left of the tag.

In the meantime, several dozen glass eels – the night's catch – are wriggling madly in a bucket on board the *Emma*, the researchers' sloop. Some glass eels have retained their natural transparency, others are an even brown. These ones number among the 7600 glass eels marked with the aid of a colour bath. 'That is a lot quicker and it was useful because we had to mark so many of them,' says Griffioen. 'The disadvantage is that for this group we can't say exactly when they were marked.' A single glass eel has a striking orange stripe. 'That orange fellow is one we marked and released five days ago, together with some 900 others, near the fortress island on the seaward side of the sluice.'

UV LAMP

The boat is now back at the landing stage. Here, the glass eels are placed in an aquarium and in a darkened room held under a UV lamp. The marked 'disco fish', as the researchers call them, light up. The colours reveal when and where the fish were released. Some of the glass eels were released on the seaward side of the IJmuiden sluices, others on the landward side. 'This enables us to establish whether and how fast the glass eels pass through the sluices,' explains Griffioen. The ratio of marked to unmarked glass eels also gives the researchers an idea of the total number of glass eels trying to swim inland and whether their efforts to do so are slowed down in any way.

Based on these data, targeted measures can be



▲ The glass eel detector with the 'climbing wall' being emptied by Bram van Wijk of the Netherlands Fisheries Service (VSN). The North Sea Canal has twelve of these detectors dotted along its length.

taken to improve the flow of glass eels. In the North Sea Canal area, regional water authorities are already taking steps to improve their migration conditions. At various other places in the Netherlands fish passages have been installed, enabling glass eels to bypass a pumping station, for example.

EFFECTS

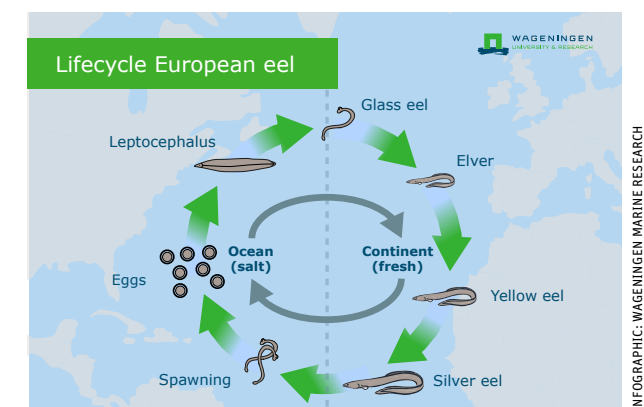
According to Griffioen, it will take a while before the effects of the measures are evident. 'It will take 10 to 15 years before we see the effects of all we are currently doing for the glass eel, when their offspring arrive at IJmuiden.' Moreover, there is little point in

taking action limited to the Netherlands if no European measures are taken. After all, there is no such thing as a 'Dutch eel' whose offspring return dutifully to the Netherlands.

On the landing stage, meanwhile, all the data have been gathered and the bucket is being emptied over the side of the boat. The glass eels weave their way rapidly to the riverbed. If everything goes well, some of them will return to this spot in more than 10 years' time as adult silver eels. To embark on the long journey back to the place of their birth to reproduce and then die. 🐟

6000 KILOMETRES FOR SEX

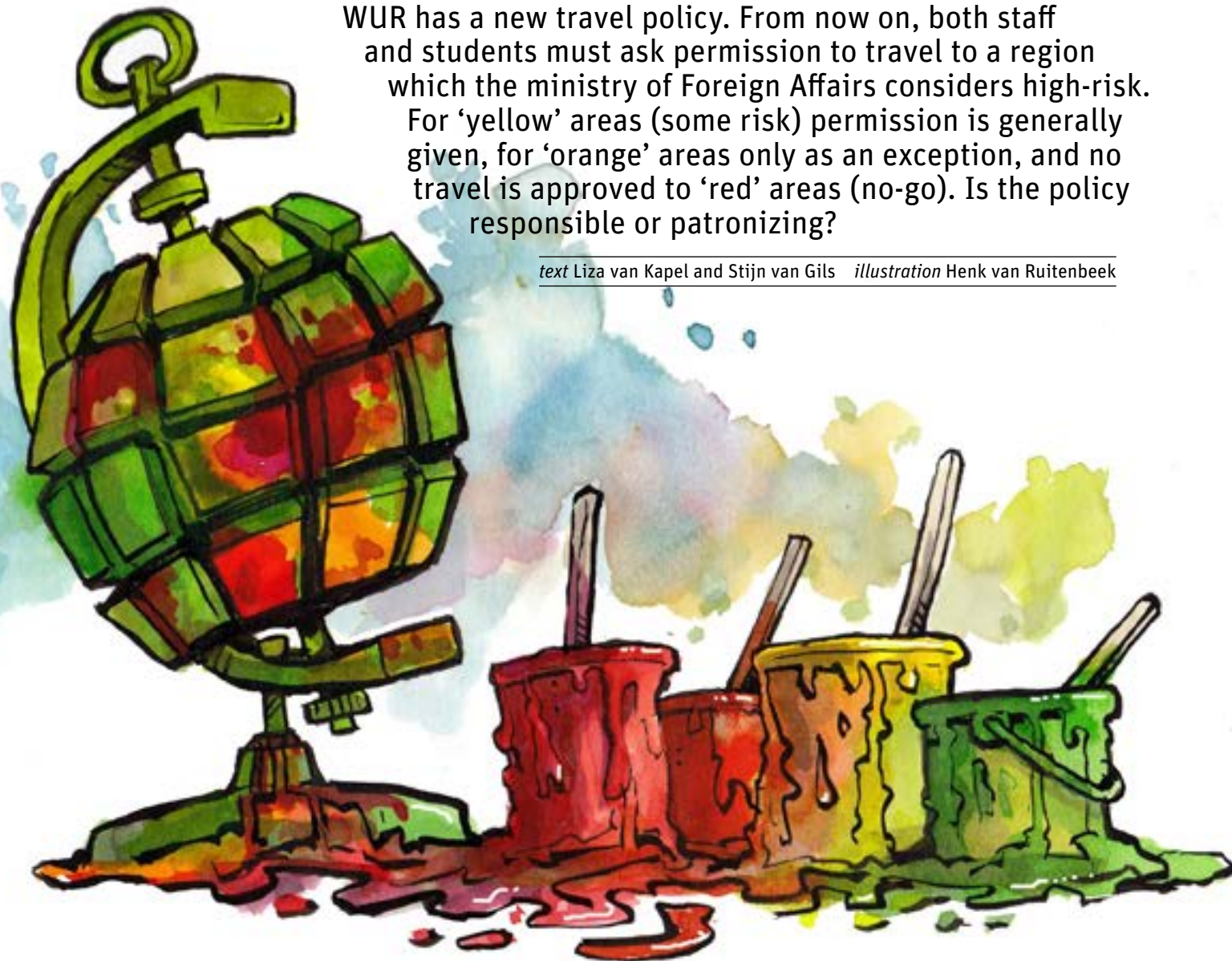
As young adults, eels live in fresh water. When they are ready to mate and lay their eggs, European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*) make the journey to the Sargasso Sea. When the larvae hatch from the eggs they are roughly a half centimetre long and, for the first year of life, shaped like a willow leaf. The larvae are transparent, which is necessary because they live at depths of up to 200 metres where there are few places to hide. After this stage, the larvae swim and drift along on the Gulf Stream for a couple of years towards Europe, a journey of some 6000 kilometres, becoming glass eels in the process. In European fresh waters, they become adolescent elvers, then adults. Some 10 to 15 years later, they embark on the long journey back to their spawning grounds. This is also their last journey, for after mating the eels die.



IS THE TRAVEL POLICY RESPONSIBLE OR PATRONIZING?

WUR has a new travel policy. From now on, both staff and students must ask permission to travel to a region which the ministry of Foreign Affairs considers high-risk. For 'yellow' areas (some risk) permission is generally given, for 'orange' areas only as an exception, and no travel is approved to 'red' areas (no-go). Is the policy responsible or patronizing?

text Liza van Kapel and Stijn van Gils illustration Henk van Ruitenbeek



Fred de Boer



Thesis coordinator, Resource Ecology
'I want to discuss the likely effect of this new policy with my colleagues first. I have just seen that even South Africa is completely yellow. **The idea of having to apply separately for every student from now on appals me.** Or of

their having to do extra courses, at the risk of delay. The question for me is who is actually responsible at the end of the day. Our students are very keen to see the other side of the world. Precisely because it is so different to the Netherlands, you learn new things there, such as how to do research in remote areas under difficult logistical conditions. That comes with certain tensions. Is it then our responsibility if something happens? I'm not sure really. The publication of the new policy is the right moment to give this some thought.'

Roel Dijkstra



Lecturer in Hydrology and Quantitative Water Management

'Personally, I usually follow the advice of Foreign Affairs. The ministry often has a better overview than the information I get from local contacts. A few years ago I wanted to send a student to South Sudan. The people out there said it was safe, but I didn't do it in the end. Luckily not, because things went badly wrong there a few months later. **Imagine I had done it, how could I have justified it?** I totally agree with tightening up the rules: I think you run more risk at WUR since the niche in which WUR does research is often located in high-risk regions. It is never entirely risk-free, of course, but you shouldn't go courting danger either and you certainly shouldn't put students in danger. Their safety and that of staff always comes first.'

Madhura Rao



MSc student of Food Safety, from India

'For my Master's thesis I was supposed to study the working conditions on the tea plantations in north-eastern India. The chair group I was working in thought that was fine, but in the end I didn't get permission to go. According to the Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs, it was too dangerous there. I don't understand that. **The Dutch assessment is based on the presence of activist groups that were there 10 years ago.** Those groups no longer play any role at all. Our own government thinks it is quite safe, so why shouldn't I be allowed to go?'

Martijn Hackmann



Director of operations in the Social Sciences Group

'I assess a lot of applications myself and I think it's good we've got this policy. As an organization we have to take responsibility for students and staff who travel. **And yes, that comes with some bureaucracy, but you need that to do everything possible to ensure safety.** I think it's good that we base it on the colour coding system at Foreign Affairs. After all, they have more information to base an assessment on; WUR doesn't have a network of embassies. In a few cases, their assessment might be a bit too strict, but we try to work on a case-by-case basis as far as possible.'

Richard Chepkwony



PhD candidate in the Resource Ecology Group, from Kenya

'Let me look at the map of Kenya. Those red areas in the east, that's right. That is the border with Somalia. I really wouldn't go there myself. But to make my home area yellow? No, that could easily have been green. The same goes for the area where I'm doing my fieldwork for my thesis. If it isn't election time in those areas, it is quite safe. **Even Dutch students really don't need a security course or anything like that.** Anyone wanting to do an internship in Kenya needs permission from our government anyway. You won't get that for dangerous areas, so the Dutch travel guidelines are totally unnecessary here.'

Anusha Mehta



MSc student of International Land and Water Management, from India

I understand where WUR is coming from, but I think it is only partly their responsibility, the rest is the responsibility of students and staff themselves. I think this especially applies to older students and staff, so maybe an age barrier can be used. I feel like the rules are too strict: in my opinion the yellow areas should be accessible for everyone, the orange ones should be subject to approval, and for all fields of study, and the red ones should stay off limits. I want to focus on transboundary water conflicts for my thesis, which focuses on dangerous areas, as do other geopolitics topics. **I'm afraid we will end up stopping research on a lot of topics if the rules are too strict.** Also I think it is strange that some people are not allowed to go back to their home countries for research. 🇳🇵

Student Union goes into action against Dunglish

Students from the Wageningen student union SAW are using a game of pronunciation bingo to draw attention to the 'Dunglish' spoken by some lecturers. The students are worried about the standard of the teaching. The university does not believe there is much of a problem.

Teachers who call all illustrations 'cartoons' or who wish their students 'success with your assignment': something needs to be done about the English language skills of WUR lecturers, reckons Student Alliance Wageningen (SAW). During the next course period, the stu-

dent union will be handing out bingo cards featuring examples of poor pronunciation by Wageningen teachers. Their fears for the standard of education have been prompted by the announced launch of five English-language Bachelor's programmes in September. 'It is an issue both in Wageningen and nationally,' says Giulia Homs, chair of SAW. 'More and more programmes are being taught in English. If teachers and students do not have a good command of that language, it affects the standard of the education. We want to make people think about whether that is a good idea.' They aim to raise that awareness both among students and among the teachers themselves.

Students can fill in the bingo cards during lectures. The winner is the first one to fill their card. 'The standard needs to go up among both students and teachers. Everyone has to adapt. This campaign is fairly kind to both groups,' says Homs.

EXTREMES

Sylvia van der Weerden, head of Wageningen in'to Languages, sees it as a good thing for students to be critical of their teachers' level of English. But she does put in a word for the teachers. 'A game like that quotes the extreme examples, but it doesn't reflect the reality. In my view the teachers are being unduly criticized – for their accent, for example – when their message comes across fine.'

Dean of Education Arnold Bregt sees the students' idea as 'a bit of fun'. 'It reminds me of the little book *I always get my sin*, about mistakes the Dutch make in English. I don't get the impression that our lecturers' English is a very big problem. That has certainly never come out of students' evaluations. But it is always a good idea to keep on improving.'

Currently, all Wageningen teachers are being tested on their English by Wageningen

in'to Languages. Van der Weerden: 'All the teachers at the Environmental Sciences Group have been tested, and we are working with the Animal Sciences Group as we speak.'

After getting a baseline assessment, the university plans to take the necessary steps to improve the teachers' standard of English. The university wants all teachers to have a near-native speaker command of the language (level C2). According to Van der Weerden, most of the teachers in the Environmental Sciences Group are at a high C1 level. 'Well on the way but not all at the target level.'

HESITATION

Many teachers hesitate to come along, notes Van der Weerden. 'Work pressure is high, they have often been teaching in English for a long time and they have other priorities. I understand that, but it's not good. It's the bad pronunciation of the weaker ones that gets onto those bingo cards. So it is incredibly important that every teacher takes a test to establish their starting point, because you can't get everyone up to the top level from one day to the next.'

According to SAW, the teachers are only tested on their comprehension skills, and not on pronunciation, clarity and fluency in the language. That is not true, says Van der Weerden. 'The test consists of an online test and an oral intake. After that we also suggest a quick scan of an online lecture. When we do that we assess how at ease the person is in English, how well they respond to questions, and how extensive their vocabulary is. That gives us a fair impression of a person's command of the language.' These quick scans are not yet being done very often, much to Van der Weerden's regret. 'Heads of departments should get onto this and encourage people to do it. Maybe they are not aware enough of the option yet.' **FV, LvdN**



▲ Participants in the debate on sustainable use of furniture could make their own sustainable lamp out of cardboard.

So much discarded furniture. Are there other options?

How do you make sure furniture is used sustainably when students are constantly moving? That was the key question on 4 May at Furniture Futures, an afternoon with debates and a workshop organized by the Circular Economy Student Hub (CESH) in StartHub Wageningen.

The CESH students want to encourage the transition to a biobased, circular economy in which materials are reused as much as possible. They see a role here for research and education. This year, CESH chose furniture as its theme. WUR student Elke Sauter from CESH says this is an important topic because of the new teaching buildings and the growth in the number of students in Wageningen. Student flats have a big turnover and students don't always take the furniture with them.

To get the debate about furniture waste going among students, furniture makers and

second-hand shops, CESH had a discussion panel with representatives from Flokk Nederland (a circular-economy furniture manufacturer), Herso (which makes furniture from second-hand wood), Emmaus Wageningen (a second-hand shop) and the Forum library (which used circular-economy furniture in its renovation).

The panel members talked about consumers' attitudes to sustainability and how their company or organization contributes towards a more circular economy. For example, Rick Ruijgrok from Herso said they had not bought any new material for 18 years. Petra Otten from the library said that when the library was renovated, they aimed to reuse the existing furniture. Furniture that was no longer functional was sold to circular-economy buyers, and they had a strict list of requirements for the new furniture they purchased.

As a group, they saw big opportunities for

improvement at the stage when furniture breaks and is thrown away. Products should already be designed for reuse at the manufacturing stage, for example by making sure that parts can be replaced (so that you don't have to discard the entire product) and that those parts can be recycled. Both businesses and students should take this into account.

Co-organizer Sauter acknowledges that there is a long way to go before furniture is part of the circular economy. For instance, how do you connect up the different parties involved in the process and make sure that the waste produced by one party becomes the raw material for another? 'My dream is to have a kind of database for this,' says Sauter.

At the end, students got the opportunity to craft a cardboard lamp. That was actually what most of the 15 students attending the event had come for — to do something creative during this self-study week. **LVK**

SOLAR POWER

The green sea slug *Elysia chlorotica* uses certain algae like solar panels. The slug sucks the alga dry and uses the plastids (energy-producing organs) it absorbs as a motor, researchers at Rutgers University (US) have discovered. So through photosynthesis in its body, the creature lives a bit like a plant. The researchers are very curious to know how the slug maintains the stolen solar panels. That could be a lucrative trick.

TICKLISH

The fewer the touch receptors it has, the more ticklish a mouse is, discovered researchers at Washington University in tests on mice they tickled with thin nylon thread. This might explain why the elderly are more often bothered by itchiness on being touched. The older skin has fewer touch receptors. The theory is now that touch receptor cells moderate itching. But quite how they do so is not clear.

CANCER INHIBITOR

British scientists (at the John Innes Centre) have mapped all the genes involved in manufacturing the cancer inhibiting substance vinblastine in the rose periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus*). The quest has taken 60 years. The plant goes through as many as 31 steps to make the complicated molecule. The knowledge paves the way for producing more of this costly drug. Currently 500 kilos of leaves are needed to isolate one gram of vinblastine.

BACH

Crocodiles respond differently to classical music than to simple sounds, shows a German study by the University of Bochum using MRI scans. The animals listened to Bach (of course). The parts of their brains that were activated were the same ones used by birds and mammals to process sound. This suggests that the musical brain developed very early in evolutionary history.



Student parties are printing fewer flyers

Printing thousands of flyers before student council elections is wasteful, say student parties S&I and CSF. The flyers just end up in waste paper bins. So the two parties will be printing fewer flyers in the run-up to the next elections.

For the green and international party S&I, stopping the practice of printing flyers altogether has been on the wish list for a while. 'It is difficult because you lose the advantages it offers. Students will remember you for longer if they have a flyer,' says Amit Choudhary of S&I. But the party

persevered this year and made use of a petition: the more students signed, the fewer flyers will be printed.

During the elections last year, the three parties printed more than 10,000 flyers between them. Choudhary: 'In our eyes, that is a waste of paper. Our aim is not to use any paper at all, and this is the first step.' About 100 students have already signed the petition, which means 2900 flyers instead of 3000 for S&I. 'It is a small step,' admits Choudhary, 'but it is a start.'

For the coming elections, CSF has ordered 2500 flyers, fewer

than usual. Joanne Rink: 'We want to do our best to reuse as many as possible. Flyers often end up in the flyer bin.' For the Christian party, sustainability is high on the list of priorities, says Rink. Their newsletter is only distributed digitally, for example.

VeSte is not joining the initiative by S&I and CSF, but does applaud it. The elections for the Student Council take place between 28 May and 1 June. The candidate list can be consulted on resource-online.nl. You can sign the S&I petition on the party's Facebook page. **LvdN**



PHOTO: MARTEN SCHEFFER

Art-lifting

They usually pump iron in the gym but on Saturday 12 May, these members of Wageningen Beasts, the students' strength athletics association, got another kind of training. They helped Professor Marten Scheffer erect a massive and extremely heavy beetle in the pond between the Forum and Orion. The

sculpture by the Danish artist Vang Iversen was ceremonially unveiled on Wednesday afternoon. According to Scheffer, who initiated the project, *Must Leave* portrays the tendency of both animals and humans to trek around the world, and the innovation that leads to. **LdK**

Students take over Veluwe Run

Students are once again in charge of the Veluwe Run. A committee mainly made up of students wants to revitalize the relay race across the Veluwe.

The youthful team's chair and initiator is Koen Jansen, a fourth-year student of Forest and Nature Conservation. Despite his young age, the Tartlétos 800-metre runner is a Veluwe Run veteran. He ran as a member of his parents' team when aged only eight. Later, he took part via the student athletics club Tartlétos. 'I reckon I've run in it about 10 times in total.'

Jansen was a volunteer at one of the hand-over points for the 36th Veluwe Run in 2017. 'I'm doing a year of committee work at Thymos and it's traditional for committee members to man a handover station.' That was when he saw there was room for improvement in the organization of the Veluwe Run. 'I then said I'd like to be involved in the evaluation of the race.'

And one thing led to another. The foundation that organizes the Veluwe Run had been

trying to get new people on board for years. The organization of the Veluwe Run was mainly in the hands of older people in the 50-plus bracket. A desire to have students running the event, as in the past, was often expressed in recent years but it never got further than that. The idea is that Jansen's young team will breathe new life into the relay race.

The seven-person team consists of five students and two alumni, all athletes with roots in Tartlétos and the town athletics club Pallas '67. Jansen says the main aim is to get the event back on track in organizational terms. 'First and foremost, that means attracting enough participants to make ends meet financially.' Jansen is aiming for 100 teams. Last year, there were 67 teams at the start, while two years ago the race was cancelled due to a lack of participants.

'Most of the new teams will have to come from among the students,' says Jansen. 'That group is underrepresented. There were only 11 student teams last year. We are also targeting



university staff. It would be great if we could get a competitive atmosphere again between the various WUR units, with groups taking part in the Veluwe Run as a kind of team-building exercise.' **RK**

Registration has started for the 37th Veluwe Run on 13 October 2018. See veluweloop.nl.

MEANWHILE IN... FRANCE

'Striking is embedded in the French mindset'

French public transport was partially shut down for several weeks recently due to strikes. Air France flights were cancelled because of industrial action, and tens of thousands marched in Paris on 5 May against President Macron's reform policy. What prompts the French to protest so much? Louise Courtois believes it has to do with hierarchy and tradition.

'Indeed, striking is very common in France. I see striking as deeply embedded in the French mindset. The main underlying reason for this is the big distance between directors and their employees: there is a very strong hierarchy. Because of that, workers are unable to voice their concerns in a conversation and feel that striking is their only option. At the same time, the directors are rather isolated at the top. This creates an elite that has little understanding of the workers' lives.

In my view striking is a bit of an arbitrary way to have leverage as employees, because some sectors can naturally have more impact when striking. For instance, the public transport workers were able to affect so many people by their strikes in the past weeks, mostly ordinary people just like them. My friends in



Louise Courtois is an exchange student of Management, Marketing and Consumer Studies, from France



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

France, who travel between their parents' homes and university, were quite annoyed by the few overloaded trains that were running. Although a lot of people are annoyed by the strikes, in France this way of dealing with problems is completely normal, especially among the older generation. They remember the events of May '68, when a protest movement nearly stopped the national economy. I think that people of our generation, who travel more abroad, are realizing that other countries are better off with fewer strikes. For me, this has changed since I have been studying here. However, I think it will take many years for this strike-oriented mindset in France to change.' **TF**

YOU ON CAMPUS

After his Bachelor's in International Studies in Leiden, Michiel van de Pavert (24) came to Wageningen for the Master's in International Development Studies. That suits him better. 'This programme is more geared to solving problems. That makes all the pieces of the puzzle fall into place.' In fact, he is so enthusiastic that he is looking into the possibilities for a PhD.

The academic world nearly lost Michiel to the conservatorium. 'I played electric guitar. Now I don't have time to play every day, and a quarter of an hour a week is no good. So nowadays I just listen to music.' He does not mourn his missed musical career. 'Only a few people get to the top and the music world didn't particularly appeal to me. Making music is a nice hobby, but no more than that.' Michiel did not choose WUR for the sake of Wageningen – to put it mildly. 'The town doesn't do anything for me. I've been there about twice but there is not much going on.'

The attraction was purely the Master's programme. The only other thing Wageningen has going for it, he thinks, is the beautiful surrounding countryside. 'I love going cycling because this is a nice area for it.'

'The town doesn't do anything for me. I've been there twice; there's not much going on'

The difficulty of finding a room in Wageningen these days didn't affect Michiel. 'My girlfriend Laila has a studio in Arnhem which is big enough for us both. I don't have that many contact hours, so I can just travel up and down.' For the future, Michiel is looking into the possibility of doing a PhD with the



PHOTO: ANNE VAN DER HEIJDEN

Knowledge, Technology and Innovation chair group. 'I'm now doing an orientation course to see what other options there are. I know I want to choose this chair group but of course I should also know why I'm not choosing the others.' **AvdH**

PARTIES

In the mood for a party? Resource has some suggestions for you. For more tips see Wageningen UP's Facebook page.



SHOUT – GAYTIES PARTY

24 May from 23:00

Put on your most fabulous disco gear and go crazy on the dance floor at De Wilde Wereld. This night will be full of music from the seventies, eighties and nineties, so there will be no wallflowers.

LUCA - AFTERPARTY NACHT VAN DE FOOI: FULL MOON

26 May from 22:00 to 04:00

Drinking for a good cause feels good. Luca will be in tropical mode, with shots of Blue Curaçao for a friendly price. Photo tip: don't say 'cheese' after drinking Blue Curacao...

KSV - INTO THE FOODS

27 May from 13:00 to 19:00

A food festival in the carpark on the Stadsbrink, with music from DJs and bands, and tasty snacks made by students, children, seniors, disabled people and refugees. **AvdH**



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

▲ The Liberation Festival in Wageningen city centre on 5 May drew over 120,000 visitors.

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.

Puzzling out toxicology in Zurich

'When I started studying in Wageningen I was inspired by the lectures on food toxicology. The teachers were good at conveying what a fascinating field it is. For my Master's thesis I have been working on the presence and impact of adulterants in so-called natural nutritional supplements based on herbs. Herbal extracts are generally seen as safe because they come from a natural source. But the supplements I studied contain a lot of adulterants, such as added magnesium. I have even written a PhD proposal about food toxicology.'

PUZZLE

Now I've been in Zurich for six months on an internship, trying to detect toxic substances in human cells using various analytical instruments. Less and less animal testing is being done to ascertain toxicity and food safety. But in order to be able to build on in vitro analyses, we need to be sure that we can track down certain substances in cells. It is just like a puzzle which you have to solve by putting together as many pieces as you can.

I looked for an internship outside the Netherlands as I want to experience what it's like to live and work in as many different countries as possible. Switzerland appealed to me because I had heard that the research facilities and environment were very good. Then my Wageningen internship supervisor recommended ETH Zurich.

CYCLING UPHILL

After my time in the Netherlands I wasn't used to mountains like the

ones here anymore. Another big difference from New Zealand, where I come from, is the habit of cycling to work or school. It's easy enough in the flat Netherlands, but to my surprise people in Zurich even cycle uphill to the university.

Two things I really like about Switzerland are the high-tech facilities and the better work-life balance. That seems to be much better in both the Netherlands and Switzerland. People stop work at about 5 pm. In New Zealand, people work overtime a lot and it is normal to go home only around 7 or 8 pm.

To get a sense of the city I have already been to a lot of the museums in Zurich. My favourite was an exhibition about wolves. And I've also been to several chocolate shops to stock up. Chocolate is a Swiss speciality and I am a big chocolate fan. I'm already worried about the things I shall miss when I leave here. **AvdH**

THE WORKS

Who: Ally (Shuhuan) Zai, MSc student of Food Safety
What: Food safety internship
Where: ETH Zurich, a university of science and technology in Switzerland



More interviews on resource-online.nl

Agenda

Thursday 17 May to 31 May

FILMS FOR STUDENTS

The Modernization of Dutch Agriculture in Films 1923-1982, Studium Generale Series: Modernization of the farm, Modernization and gender, Modernization and the landscape.

Lady Bird: a comedy about a teen rebelling against her mother. *Lucky*: a comic drama about a 90-year-old cowboy. *Jusqu'à la Garde*: a drama about an acrimonious divorce. *The Bastard*: a documentary about an appalling family history. *Nico, 1988*, biopic about Christa Päffgen's last two years. Location: Wilhelminaweg 3A, Wageningen. €6.50/€5.

MOVIE-W.NL

Thursday 17, 18, 19, 31 May & 1, 2 June, 20.30

THE SEAGULL: A STUDENT PRODUCTION IN THE BELMONTE ARBORETUM

'People are just like seagulls. It's adapt, fish or die.' Once again this

year, the beautiful Belmonte Arboretum provides the stage for the Wageningen Students' Dramatic Society's annual production. This year we are performing Chekhov's *The Seagull* – a play about love, art, lack of fulfillment and disillusion.

WSTV.NL/DE-MEEUW

Thursday 24 May, 12:30-13:20 LUNCH WORKSHOP WAGENINGEN WRITING LAB 'PLAN FOR SUCCESS'

How do you start on your writing assignment in an effective way? That's the question we aim to address during this workshop. We'll provide you with the theory behind the writing process and guide you in applying this theory to your own assignment. Don't forget to bring your assignment!

The workshop is free. Be on time, as participant numbers are limited to 20. Venue: Forum C106. Info: info.wageningenwritinglab@wur.nl.

Thursday 24 May, 19:30

VERITAS FORUM: 'WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO DO GOOD?'

What makes us human? What is morality? Where does it come from? How does this influence our actions? Philosophers Jeroen Hopster (Utrecht University) and Jeroen de Ridder (VU Amsterdam) will discuss this and other questions related to morality and looking after our environment. Venue: Forum C222. Free admission. Drinks afterwards in 'Ons Huis' (Harnjesweg). NL.VERITAS.ORG

Saturday 26 May, 10:00-23:00

NACHT VAN DE FOOI WAGENINGEN

During the *Nacht van de Foori* (Night of the Tip), the staff of lots of cafes donate their tips to development projects. *Nacht van de Foori* is a nationwide student initiative in which events, music, games and entertainment are organized in order to collect the maximum possible tips to support four sustainable, small-scale development projects.

Join in the fun and come for a drink or a bite to eat at one of the participating cafes or restaurants. Or come to the market square, where there will be lots to see all day long: shows, a clothes market and a lottery! See our Facebook page for more information.

Sunday 27 May, 16:00

OPENING BY LOUISE FRESCO OF EXHIBITION 'MADE FOR THE CITY AND THE WORLD' IN DE CASTEELSE POORT

A unique exhibition about extraordinary events and university staff (past and present) that have enriched Wageningen and the world. It is not just about science, but also about cultural developments in music and the visual arts. Altogether, a colourful collection of remarkable research, hobbies, milestones, discoveries and a whole lot more. Members of the WSKOV student choir and orchestra will perform *Ode to Science*, composed by Marten Scheffer. Location: De Casteelse Poort, Bowlespark 1A, Wageningen.

Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 May, 13:00-19:00

FOOD FESTIVAL 'INTO THE FOODS'

This event initiated by members of K.S.V. St. Franciscus Xaverius brings together the coolest tunes, tastiest morsels and a relaxed atmosphere: in other words, the perfect recipe for a pleasant Sunday afternoon. On Saturday 26 May, Wageningen students, children, pensioners, people with a disability, and refugees join forces to make delicious snacks for the festival. The snacks can be tasted for a modest price, and specialities from local eateries will be on sale too. Musical entertainment will be provided by various bands and DJs. Festival venue: Stadsbrink Wageningen. See Facebook.

Wednesday 30 May, 19:30-22:30

CAREERS FAIR XXL – JUBILEE EDITION

Have you nearly finished your degree and are you looking for an internship? Or are you still exploring to the various branches of the business world? Come to the Careers Fair XXL. This edition is bigger than usual thanks to the collaboration with W.S.V. Ceres's jubilee committee for the club's 140th anniversary. More information at lustrumwsvceres.nl and on Facebook. Location: W.S.V. Ceres, Gen. Foulkesweg 1b.

Thursday 31 May

WORKSHOP AND SEMINAR WEES

Dr Jeff Ollerton (University of Northampton, UK) will give a workshop and seminar on two of his areas of expertise: science blogging and plant-pollinator interactions. The workshop: 'Blogging in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology: why bother?' will take place in Orion C3042, 1:30pm (registration required: quint.rusman@wur.nl). Seminar: 'Macroecology and macroevolution of plant-pollinator interactions' in Orion C2005, 4pm. Drinks and discussion afterwards at The Spot!

WEESWAGENINGEN.NL

Thursday 31 May, 22:30

UNITAS PRESENTS: : FINGERLICKIN' PLEASURE CRUISE VOL. 2

The hottest party of the year is coming up: Fingerlickin' on 31 May! We'll sail on the Rhine in a mega party boat with sexy strippers and the best music our Suck my Disc DJ team can provide! Buy your tickets NOW before we're SOLD OUT.

TICKETKANTOOR.NL/SHOP/VINGERLIKKEN

In memoriam

Adrie Groeneveld (1951-2018)



After a battle with cancer, Adrie Groeneveld passed away on Friday 27 April. Adrie started work at the then Department of Animal Sciences in 1970. In those days a lad of 19 with the Dutch equivalent of a junior high school certificate could go up to a professor and ask for a job. In the mid-1970s, Adrie went on to train as a bacteriological lab assistant. Besides his lab work, he was responsible for instructing Master's and PhD students in specific techniques.

Over the course of time, Adrie's work changed to a more general level of support in the chair group and the education programme. Adrie was involved in several courses, and his input to them was described as indispensable. In 2007, Adrie made the move to Facilities and Services, providing support for practicals. Here Adrie succeeded in facilitating practicals in the Forum in close and agreeable collaboration with the teachers. He enjoyed doing this work until he retired.

Adrie retired in 2017 after more than 46 years of service. He was full of plans. First and foremost, to spend more time with his family, but also in his garden and vegetable patch. He also looked forward to having more time for his hobbies: football with his grandsons, bowls and billiards. Sadly he could enjoy these things for all too short a time.

We shall remember Adrie as a man of action who was always ready to help anyone. Adrie was highly sociable and interested in others; he was also patient and enjoyed life to the full. We shall miss Adrie and our thoughts and sympathies are with Teunie, the children and grandchildren; we wish them comfort and strength to bear this great loss.

On behalf of the PFO department as well as ourselves, Nicole Jacobs and Willem van Doesburg

In memoriam

Maurits Tilleman



The Finance & Control department (in AFSG) is shocked and deeply saddened by the death of our colleague Maurits Tilleman. Maurits was involved in a bicycle accident on Liberation Day and died of his injuries. Maurits had been working with us as project controller since 1 November 2017. Thanks to his sociable nature, we feel as though we had known him much longer than that. We shall remember him as a relaxed, interested and helpful

colleague who had just made the switch from accountancy and had kept his fresh and balanced perspective on things. He was hard at work up until Friday afternoon, with a two-hour concert by the Red Hot Chili Peppers in the background, after which he spent some time on a sunny café terrace with a few colleagues. It is hard to believe that he is gone, that he will no longer join our lunch hour walk, no longer have a snack together, no longer be 'one of the guys'. Maurits was only 25 years old. His death has hit us hard in the department and our thoughts are very much with his girlfriend, parents, brother, family and friends, to whom we send our sincere condolences.

On behalf of our colleagues at F&C, AFSG, Eric de Brouwer, Sjoerd Beikes

Colophon

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

Address

Droevendaalsesteeg 4,
6708 PB Wageningen
(Atlas, building 104, bode 31).
POBox 409 6700 AK Wageningen.
Secretariat: Thea Kuijpers,
resource@wur.nl, 0317 484020
Website: www.resource-online.nl
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Editorial staff

- Anton van Elburg (acting editor-in-chief) anton.vanelburg@wur.nl, 06 5429 8594
- Lieke de Kwant (Magazine editor) lieke.dekwant@wur.nl, 0317 485320
- Linda van der Mat (Website editor) linda.vandernat@wur.nl, 0317 481725
- Roelof Kleis (ecology, social sciences, economy), roelof.kleis@wur.nl, 0317 481721
- Tessa Louwerens (animals, nutrition), tessa.louwerens@wur.nl, 0317 481709
- Albert Sikkema (plant, animal, organization) albert.sikkema@wur.nl, 0317 481724
- Luuk Zegers (students and education) luuklf.zegers@wur.nl, 0317-481233

Others who work on Resource

Guy Ackermans, Sam van Beljouw, Annie Berendsen, Alexandra Branderhorst, Evelien Castrop, Cathy Chen, Susie Day, Teun Fiers, Marlijn Flipse, Stijn van Gils, Aart-Jan van de Glind, Eva van der Graaf, Clare McGregor, Anne van der Heijden, Yvonne de Hilster, Hoger Onderwijs Persbureau, Lotje Hogerzeil, Anja Janssen, Femke Janssen, Liza van Kapel, Echica van Kelle, Helena Ligthert, Piotr Kukla, Sven Menschel, Carina Nieuwenweg, Rik Nijland, Madhura Rao, Manon Römken, Henk van Ruitenbeek, Julia Schäfer, Eva van Schijndel, Joris Tielens, Pascal Tieman, Konstantina Togka, Friso Veenstra, Didi de Vries, Clare Wilkinson, Rob de Winter, Remo Wormmeester, Kenneth van Zijl

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Thursday, May 31
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FREE ENTRANCE

Prof. Marcel Verweij (WUR)
Dr. Alistair Niemeijer (VU Amsterdam)

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>>TYPICAL DUTCH



ILLUSTRATION: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK

Gado-gado soup

Finding Indonesian food in the Netherlands is the easiest thing. But it often happens that the so-called Indonesian menu does not quite resemble an actual Indonesian dish.

It had been a week since I had cooked a proper lunch, since I was too busy. So I had only prepared boiled vegetables for lunch. I felt bored with that menu, so I decided to buy a cup of soup as a side dish. To my surprise, one of the WUR canteens offered gado-gado soup. 'Wait, what?' I thought, 'Gado-gado soup? That is weird.' But I gave it a go. I poured two tablespoons of the soup over my cooked vegetables, because that is how you are supposed to eat gado-gado; as a sauce. It tasted... fantastically horrible. I cannot find a better word to describe how bad the taste was.

Apparently, the lady in front of me thought the same, as she said loudly to her friends: 'I am not going to take the gado-gado soup because it tastes disgusting.' Deep in my heart I wanted to tell that lady that there is a reason why it tasted so awful: there is no such thing as gado-gado soup in Indonesian cuisine!

Indonesian food improvisation by the Dutch has really gone too far. It needs to be stopped as soon as possible. The chefs should ask an Indonesian person to taste their wannabe Indonesian dishes before they actually sell them. No more misleading Indonesian food, please! Anyway, I have learned my lesson: I will never ever try another 'Indonesian' dish that does not exist in Indonesia.

📍 **Christina Dian Kurniawati, an MSc student of Plant Sciences, from Indonesia**

Indonesian food improvisation by the Dutch has really gone too far

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 and earn twenty-five euros and Dutch candy.