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RESOURCE [EN]

For everyone at Wageningen University & Research

no 19 – 31 May 2018 – 12th Volume




Why learn Dutch?

Course helps international students make friends | **p.24**

INTERNATIONAL
EDITION

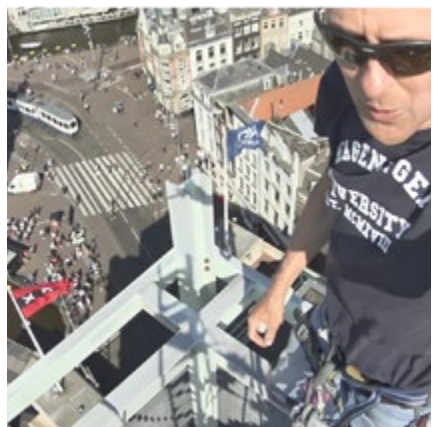
SLEEPING UNDER CARDBOARD

There was a festival vibe on the grass between the Forum and Atlas last weekend. About 55 students were bivouacking in the sorts of cardboard tent you sometimes see at music festivals. The campers were taking part in the Innovation Summer Camp. By day, they attended workshops and lectures on the perfect learning environment of the future, and by night they partied on the roof of Orion. The summer camp resulted in nine plans, ranging from apps to help you study to tips for relaxing in times of stress.  LvdN, photo Sven Menschel



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 Even though Han Zuilhof would also have enjoyed being a philosopher

SDG, WHO'S IN?

The Dutch government wants to contribute to poverty alleviation, good education and clean drinking water for everyone, sustainable production and consumption, and action against climate change. To these ends, all the Dutch funding bodies are allocating money to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs – see p.6).

The Dutch Organization for Scientific Research NWO, for example, has two funds for projects focusing on the SDGs. The ministry of Foreign Affairs has a fund for SDG partnerships (whereby participants still have to bring in 50 percent of the budget themselves). And WUR has its own Interdisciplinary Research and Education Fund, also targeting the SDGs.

Two things could happen now. One: all the WUR groups cheerfully set to work independently of each other, submitting their own projects all over the place in hit-and-run fashion. Two: someone coordinates the applications for these funds, first of all finding out whether WUR is allowed to use its own INREF money for the co-funding for NWO and Foreign Affairs projects. Have we got far enough yet with One Wageningen for the latter scenario to become a reality?

Albert Sikkema, editor

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[>> Do you know these animals? Then you can help the Hoge Veluwe! | p.6](#)



‘WATCH OUT FOR CAMPUS THIEVES’

Cases of items being stolen in and around the teaching buildings on campus have occurred regularly in recent months. This is clear both from Wageningen police figures and students’ stories. Forum location manager Ludy Zeeuwen thinks the number of thefts has increased. She advises students to be careful.

In the first few months of 2018, Wageningen police received reports of the theft of four laptops, six bikes, one wallet and one mobile phone on campus. More items have probably been taken in practice, says Zeeuwen, because she has the impression that people do not always report this to the police.

Orion and Forum in particular, both of which have unrestricted access, seem to be popular with thieves. The above-mentioned thefts of the laptops, wallet and phone all took place in these

buildings. The bicycles were stolen from Atlas, Helix and Axis.

‘Students working in a quiet place assume they can leave their laptop for a moment,’ explains Zeeuwen. ‘I can understand that, if you pop off to the toilet or just need a break. But if you go off and leave your laptop for three quarters of an hour with your Master’s thesis on it and no backup, this can have nasty consequences.’

On 30 April, first-year Management, Economics and Consumer Studies student Aniek Hoonhorst was chatting to a friend in Forum. When she went to pick up her bag, which was next to her, she discovered her laptop was missing. ‘I was in shock.’ There was a similar incident one week later. Nutrition and Health student Eva Elseman had her laptop, wallet and keys stolen from her bag while she was doing an exam in Orion.

The community police officer



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHHEL

▲ Students often leave their laptops behind in the library when they take a break.

Jos Smits does not think we are seeing a peak in the number of thefts. ‘But every theft is one too many. So even if you pop off just for a moment, take your laptop with you or leave it in a locker.’ In-

formation screens in the teaching buildings warn students not to leave their valuables unattended. People who have had an item stolen are advised to report it to the police. **R LZ, KT**

‘WUR NEEDS TO BECOME EVEN MORE RELEVANT’

Louise Fresco (1952) will be staying on as president of the WUR Executive Board for another four years, the Supervisory Board has announced. In the coming period, she wants WUR to both ‘simply remain in the global top’ and increase its social relevance.

What have you achieved in the past four years?

‘There are key issues at the heart of our domain. I have therefore worked from day one on conducting a dialogue with society. Value creation has also been an important point. We have operations in several countries and have initiated partnerships with more parties. In the context of One Wageningen, I have also sought to strengthen links between the units, and between fundamental and applied science as well.’

What are your plans for the coming period?

‘These are crucial times with big changes around WUR. Society’s perception of the food and agrosector has changed considerably in recent years. We need to allow for this and not just claim that science is right. We need to spell out

the consequences of certain societal choices and provide options that politicians and society can then debate. The geopolitical context has also changed. Take Brexit, for example, and the rise of China. What impact will that have on the regulation of genetic modification, say? There is also the question of what will happen to education. Will we continue to focus on 18 to 22-year-olds or will we be concentrating more on life-long learning?’

Where will WUR be in four years’ time?

‘From an internal perspective, One Wageningen will need to be even more solid. From an external perspective, WUR needs to become even more relevant. Society is facing major transitional challenges in agriculture, food and energy. Money is not the limiting factor; it’s the question of how you give shape to that transition and innovation. WUR can play a role here by coming up with good options. And of course we need to simply remain in the global top in terms of research and education.’ **AV**

See also the IMO section on page 22.



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

▲ Louise Fresco: ‘We need to spell out the consequences of certain societal choices.’

NO LONGER THE MOST SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY

Eindhoven: Gold. Wageningen: Silver. Hard to swallow, maybe, but Wageningen is no longer the most sustainable university in the Netherlands.

After topping the ranking by *Studenten voor Morgen* (Students for tomorrow) for five years in a row, this year Wageningen University saw the SustainaBul 2018 award go elsewhere. Wageningen came in behind Eindhoven University of Technology (TUe) by a margin of six

points (392 and 386). And that's bad news, says Erna Maters of Facilities and Services. 'But Eindhoven deserved to win.'

TUe came in for a lot of praise for its student teams. These groups of students take up projects which often lead to start-ups. The Solar Team, for example, is making a solar-powered family car. Blue Jay is developing an indoor drone that could provide health care assistance.

According to Maters, Wageningen was less successful

this year in putting appealing sustainable projects in the limelight. 'We put forward our activities related to modern slavery. But apparently *Studenten voor Morgen* didn't see those as an example of sustainability.'

Only 13 universities, including four universities of applied sciences, competed in the ranking this year, as opposed to 20 last year. The organization plans to simplify the questionnaire so that it is less of a job to participate. **Ⓡ RK**

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Veni applicants worse off

It is incredibly hard to make a career in academia. First you must get your PhD, and then there are usually very few postdoc positions open to you. If you have managed to find a series of postdoc places, and travelled around the world for a couple of 18-month contracts, now you'll just have to hope a vacancy comes up somewhere for a permanent job in your field.

The vast majority of researchers drop out at some stage along the way, either through disillusionment or simply due to not finding a new job at the end of a contract. Actually there is only one thing that can save you in that situation: a personal grant. Then you can bring in your own research funding, which enables you to gain a foothold in academia.

The most sought-after personal grant available to young researchers is the NWO's Veni grant of 250,000 euros. This is enough money to set up your own study. But this year, the NWO and the universities association VSNU changed the rules for Veni applications. Applicants must now guarantee that a university is willing to provide them with facilities for their research for three years. In practice, this means your university determines whether you can apply for a Veni, and if you get one, you can't then shop around with your 'own funding'.

In short, the new rules give the university more power and make the researcher more dependent. A bad development for the researcher and the research. **Ⓡ**

Guido Camps (34) is a vet and a postdoc at the Human Nutrition department. He enjoys baking, beekeeping and unusual animals.



PHOTO: UITGEVERIJ BLAUWROK

in brief

>> PHOTO ALBUM

Wageningen nature

The hashtag *outdoorwageningen* on Instagram showcases nature in and around Wageningen. Ilonne Bongers of Bas Buitensport started the online album over two years ago to liven up her outdoor sports shop's new website. It now boasts more than 900 posts, some from WUR staff and students. The loveliest photos have now been collected in a book, *#outdoorwageningen*. The photo book of nearly 100 pages is for sale at Bas Buitensport, Kniphorst and Bruna in Wageningen for 12.50 euros. **Ⓡ RK**



>> ECONOMIC RESEARCH

Moving to Atlas

Wageningen Economic Research will move from the Leeuwenborch to Atlas on the Wageningen campus at the beginning of 2019. The university's social scientists need more space, due to the growing student population. Since an extension to the Leeuwenborch is impossible, the nearly 100 Wageningen Economic Research staff there will move to the fourth floor of Atlas, which will be vacated this year when the soil and environmental scientists move to Lumen and Gaia. As well as 100 staff in Wageningen, Wageningen Economic Research has about 150 staff in The Hague. They will move this summer from the Alexanderveld to the World Trade Centre. **Ⓡ AS**

>> PARNASSIA PRIZE

Award for PhD candidate

Thijs Fijen, a PhD candidate in the Plant Ecology and Nature Management chair group, has won the Silver Parnassia. This prize, a silver statue of the parnassia flower, is for up-and-coming researchers who are making a contribution to nature conservation. Fijen won the prize for his research, which helps the cause of nature conservation, and for his voluntary work. He is editor of the journal *Dutch Birding*, he is a bird call expert, and he has served on the board of the Dutch Youth Association for Nature and Environmental Studies (JNM). In his PhD research, Fijen looks at the effects of wild pollinators such as bees and hoverflies on the production of leek seed. His supervisor David Kleijn nominated him to the jury. **Ⓡ SVG**

GAME-SPOTTING ON YOUR SCREEN

There are about 70 game cameras dotted about the Hoge Veluwe National Park, which take about a million snapshots of animals a year. The database now contains about four million photos, only half of which have been looked at. From this week on, anyone can help identify the animals.

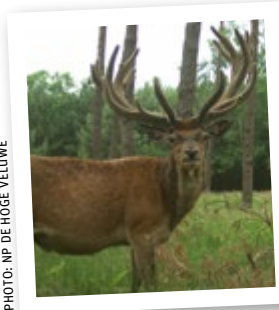


PHOTO: NP DE HOGE VELLUWE

'The pictures give us an idea of how intensively the animals use the different areas of the park, and at what times,' says ecologist Patrick Jansen of the Resource Ecology chair group. Those data can be used when evaluating management strategies, for

example. According to Jansen, you don't have to be an expert on animals to help. On hogeveluwe.nl/snapshot, participants are given a step-by-step guide to identification. 'Everyone can pick out a fox, but it is not so easy to tell the difference between a red deer and a roe deer.'

Janssen says the response is very enthusiastic. 'It was only announced a few hours ago but hundreds of people have signed up and about 40,000 photos have already been identified!' **TL**

NEW DEVELOPMENT POLICY OFFERS SCOPE FOR WUR

The new Dutch development policy opens up opportunities for WUR, says Eric Smaling, the coordinator of several WUR projects in developing countries. It includes provision for a 40-million-euro Climate Fund and a 70-million-euro fund for pursuing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Sigrid Kaag, minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, announced the new Dutch policy on Monday 28 May. It rests on three pillars: promoting trade, combating poverty and controlling migration. The first two pillars are closely connected because the emphasis in poverty alleviation has shifted away from aid. According to Kaag, all the developing countries want a trade relationship rather than an aid relationship. In such a relationship, the minister wants to lay the emphasis on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Those goals provide the framework for developing programmes for aid and trade.

Secondly Kaag wants to concentrate on West and North Africa and the Middle East. This relates to the migration issue. The Netherlands wants to offer more work and opportunities in those regions as well as to quash migration, says Smaling.

Several chapters of Kaag's policy paper address Wageningen themes such as food security, agricultural development and water. This includes attention to land rights and the establishment of programmes in small towns in the Sahel. Other areas that get priority are the climate, with a new 40-million-euro Climate Fund, the task of making global value chains more sustainable, and the use of big data and blockchains in trade flows.

There will be 70 million euros in funding for projects related to the SDGs. The key themes (work and incomes, nutrition, value chains, and the circular economy) are highly relevant to WUR, says Smaling. 'The point is that this SDG partnership programme provides a 50 percent subsidy. Those submitting proposals have to come up with the rest themselves.'

As well as opportunities for assignments, Smaling predicts that the policy will pose some challenges for WUR. 'WUR will have to take a good look at how its core business relates to job creation, refugees, emergency aid and camps, so as to reduce the need for migration. We must also look at whether we have a firm enough base in North Africa and the Middle East to apply our expertise there.' **AS**



PHOTO: GEERTJAN BRUINS

IN THE SHOP WINDOW

Tourists look at a vertical vegetable garden using LED lamps at the Atheneum bookshop on the Spui in Amsterdam. For the next two weeks, the window of the famous bookshop is devoted to the themes of food, agriculture and other Wageningen domains. This is part of a WUR project for introducing the big cities of the Netherlands to its research. The project is part of the centenary celebrations. **LdK**

EXHIBITION DISPLAYS SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE

A lot of universities have their own museums. Wageningen doesn't, but De Casteelse Poort Museum is filling the gap for the time being. An exhibition called *Made for City and World* is intended as a gift to the town to mark the university's centenary.

The title resonates with the famous papal blessing *Urbi et Orbi*: for the city and the world. And Wageningen University is certainly a blessing for this city, said chair of the museum's board Jelle Vervloet (ex-professor of Historical Geography) at the opening last Sunday. 'What would Wageningen be without WUR?' he asked.

The exhibition itself barely touches on that question. The creators focused their efforts on showing the fruits of 100 years of Wageningen research. The exhibition pins this history to 15 remarkable people, most of them the founders of their chair groups, such as Van Uven (Mathematics), Politiek (Livestock breeding), Sprenger (Horticultural Plant Breeding), and Bijhouwer (Garden and Landscape Architecture).

There are two women among the 14 leading lights: Mien Visser, the first woman professor

(Domestic Science) and teacher/author Iteke Weede (known for her work on issues related to emancipation). The only still-active scientist with his own place in the exhibition is aquatic ecologist Marten Scheffer, with his tipping point theory. His 'shop window' is also the only one to feature moving images.

In spite of the somewhat static nature of the exhibition, there is plenty to entertain the visitor. One eye-catcher is Hofstee's 'cartophoot', a forerunner of today's infographics. Hofstee became Wageningen's first professor of Sociology in 1946. He worked with a jigsaw puzzle manufacturer to develop a map of the Netherlands with 800 pieces, each representing a municipality of that era. So the cartophoot is really a kind of flexible jigsaw puzzle, with every municipality available in different versions, with variations of colour and shading. This is the ultimate in scientific heritage. As are the Edelman soil drill, Sprenger's apple varieties, and Bijhouwer's park designs, all of which are on display too. The exhibition is the tip of an iceberg. A tip that whets the appetite for more. **Ⓜ RK**



▲ Visitors to the exhibition about 100 years of WUR study Hofstee's cartophoot.

Made for City and World, De Casteelse Poort Museum, Bowlespark 1a. Running until 28 October. Opening times: Tuesday to Friday 11.00-17.00; Saturday and Sunday 13.00-17.00.

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www.sciencecafewageningen.nl

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

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MANY PLANTS HAVE LOST ABILITY TO FIX NITROGEN

A group of international plant scientists have shown a 25-year-old dogma to be rubbish. They discovered that there was much more symbiosis millions of years ago between papilionaceous plants and nitrogen-fixing bacteria.

In the symbiosis between papilionaceous plants and rhizobium bacteria, the plants produce carbon for the bacteria, which in return produce nitrogen for the plant. This means they supply pulses like soya beans and peas with 'natural fertilizer'. After a DNA analysis of 30 plant species, researchers including Wouter Kohlen of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology discovered that many plant varieties have lost that symbiosis with the bacteria. The results of the research have been published in *Science*.

'For years, we thought that nitrogen-fixing symbioses had evolved on multiple occasions in different plant families,' says Kohlen.

'Based on the DNA analyses, we now think that the symbiosis probably only developed once and was widespread. However, over time many plant species lost this property again.'

The Wageningen researchers had already reached a similar conclusion in an article in *PNAS*. They compared the genome of the tree *Parasponia*, which fixes nitrogen, with closely related species of the genus *Trema*, which are unable to. They found that plant genes that are important for the symbiosis have been lost independently of one another in the genomes of the *Trema* species.

In the *Science* study, 30 nitrogen-fixing plants were compared with plants of similar species that do not fix nitrogen. The plants



▲ Rhizobium bacteria form nitrogen-fixing nodules on the roots of papilionaceous plants.

without nitrogen fixing turned out in all cases to have lost two genes during evolution.

Kohlen believes that only a handful of genes are exclusively intended for nitrogen fixing. 'Evolution shows us what we need to do to make non-symbiotic plants symbiotic again.'

Nitrogen fixing has been seen as one of the holy grails of plant science for decades. If scientists could manage to introduce nitrogen fixing into crops like rice and wheat, that would improve food security, with less fertilizer required, in large parts of the world. **AS**

CONSUMERS NOT INTERESTED IN CULTURED MEAT

Consumers are sceptical about cultured meat. They have doubts about the sustainability claims and are not sure how to place the product, according to research by the Marketing and Consumer Behaviour chair group.

The first commercially manufactured cultured meat recently arrived in the Netherlands. A small group of pioneers would have been happy to try out the sausage but the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority put a stop to that. The EU's Novel Food Directive says that all food products that were not in common use in Europe in 1998 must first

undergo extensive food safety tests.

WUR researcher Arnout Fischer of the Marketing and Consumer Behaviour group is not surprised. 'If the kiwi were to be launched now, that would also be tricky. This is an issue for the consumption of insects and duckweed too.'

But a study by Fischer's group shows that the cultured meat sector may have more of a problem with resistance among consumers. 'Consumers have difficulty placing cultured meat. To some extent they see it as a meat substitute, so cultured meat is often associated with "dry and tough". We also saw that meat eaters tend to be relatively traditional and less inclined to try something new. Consumers al-

so have doubts about the sustainability of cultured meat. The food industry has made big claims in the past that later turned out to not so impressive.'

Another problem for cultured meat is that consumers are increasingly accustomed to not eating meat at all. 'It's now much more common to eat meat substitutes that don't look remotely like meat,' he says. The technology behind cultured meat may have improved fast and the price dropped 'but it is still too expensive, and the technology behind traditional meat substitutes has advanced even faster,' says Fischer. 'So the niche for cultured meat is becoming ever smaller.' **SvG**

DAIRY COWS BOOST HAPPINESS IN BHUTAN

Has the introduction of improved cattle breeds contributed to the Gross National Happiness of Bhutan? A bit, says PhD researcher Tashi Samdup. Farmers in intensive agriculture areas with a good market have benefitted especially.

Since 1972, the kingdom of Bhutan in the Himalaya has made Gross National Happiness its goal, as an alternative to striving solely for economic growth. PhD candidate Tashi Samdup wanted to look at what this happiness means for farmers. Bhutan's largely small-scale farmers grow crops and keep livestock – mainly cows. In recent years, Bhutan has introduced cross-breeds of local cattle breeds and the European Brown Swiss and Jersey breeds, in order to boost milk yields. Samdup wanted to know if this had boosted happiness as well. He translated happiness into factors including: more milk, more income, greater literacy and clean drinking water.

Samdup studied four zones in the mountain state, ranging from a remote region with only extensive agriculture and local cattle breeds grazed on communal pastureland, to two intensive farming regions with a lot of improved cattle, better quality livestock feed and easier market access. In 2000 and 2004, he arranged for more than 180 farming

households in these regions to be interviewed. In 2015, he repeated this for 123 of the households; the other 60 had moved or stopped farming.

The improved cattle clearly produced more milk (two to four times as much) and generated more income than the local breeds, Samdup found. But one reason for that was that the improved cattle were mainly in the intensive farming areas where more feed is available. In the extensive farming areas, where predominantly local cattle roam on communal pastures, there was a shortage of feed.

All in all, the farmers in the intensive farming regions did better socially and economically than those in the remote region. This was partly because these farmers had better access to extension workers, the sperm of good European bulls, and the market for dairy products. That combination of market conditions increased the farmers' Gross Happiness.

Yet Bhutan cannot be said to be undergoing sustainable stable rural development, says Samdup. Labour shortages and urban migration hold back that development. Samdup can formulate policy on the basis of his research, since he is director-general of the ministry of Livestock in Bhutan. He received his PhD on 16 May from Imke de Boer, professor of Animal Production Systems. **AS**



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

▲ PhD candidate Tashi Samdup had more than 180 farming households interviewed in four zones in Bhutan.

VISION

'Box tree moth is here to stay'

The box tree moth caterpillar was not found in the Netherlands until a couple of years ago, but the greedy insect has since spread throughout the southern half of the country. According to entomologist Rob van Tol of Wageningen Plant Research, the destructive little caterpillar is here to stay.



Is there a future for the box tree in the Netherlands?

'Box was always a very easy shrub that would always grow. That is a thing of the past now, because this moth is not going to go away. If you catch it early enough, the caterpillar can be controlled easily. It's mainly a question of keeping a good look out, because it is not easy to spot an infestation in the early stages. If you see that part of the hedge is growing well and part of it isn't, it is worth taking a closer look. And it is always a good idea to push aside a few branches now and then and inspect the inside for stripped, nibbled branches.

Professional gardeners can combat an early infestation with the caterpillars well using a biological pesticide based on the *Bacillus thuringiensis* bacterium. Others can use natural pyrethroids. But use them with care because they kill other insects too.

Where have these moths come from all of a sudden?

'The box tree moth comes from Asia originally but it has been found in southern European countries for a long time. It was only a question of time before it turned up in the Netherlands. The insects might have hitched a lift with holidaymakers, or have been blown here by the wind. New pests like these often come in on infected plants from abroad, but we have a lot of box nurseries in the Netherlands and import very little box. Exports are much bigger.'

Can those nurseries shut up shop or can WUR save the day?

'To be honest, I don't think the moth is a problem for them. Box is vulnerable to the mealybug as well, and growers are already spraying against that. The insecticide they use deals with the box tree moth as well. There is hardly any research funding because the tree nursery sector is so fragmented. Someone growing standard trees in the Betuwe doesn't want to contribute to research for a rose grower in Brabant, and vice versa. So we are not doing much in this sector anymore.' **SvG**



METEOROLOGIST MEASURES HOW AMSTERDAM 'BREATHES'

How does Amsterdam 'breathe'? To find out, Bert Heusinkveld of the Meteorology and Air Quality chair group has placed equipment on top of the Carlton Hotel, on a high-level artwork.

And the film clips the Wageningen meteorologist made up there himself are breath-taking. You can see him at work at 45 metres high, balancing on a couple of narrow iron beams. Rest assured, he is secured. 'Still, it's quite scary,' admits the experienced mountaineer. 'If you fall, you come down hard.'

Heusinkveld wants to get a unique series of measurements using the installation on the Carlton. The aim of the project, financed by the Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Metropolitan Solutions, is to gain an understanding of how a city responds to the climate. 'We want to measure the flux in Amsterdam, the exchange of heat and moisture, CO₂ and methane in the layer of air above the city. How much heat does the city absorb? Does the city absorb CO₂ on average, or just the opposite?' Or, to put it more poetically: how does the city breathe?



PHOTO: BERT HEUSINKVELD

▲ Bert Heusinkveld on top of the Carlton Hotel in Amsterdam to install measuring equipment.

'We know quite a lot about the fluxes in forests, farmland and oceans,' says Heusinkveld. 'But it hasn't been studied much in cities.' A city such as Amsterdam, where there is not much high-rise in the centre, lends itself to such a study, says Heusinkveld. But to measure a kind of average for the city, you have

to position your apparatus high enough. Looking for a suitable location, Heusinkveld ended up at the Carlton, opposite the Munttoren. On top of the Carlton is a steel structure which is meant to be a work of art. He got permission to install his measuring equipment there. He did so one month ago, and measure-

ments have been pouring in since then. Heusinkveld can follow them on his smartphone, and he can also see his apparatus on a camera stream. **RK**

Watch the video on resource-online.nl/video

SUN CREAM DAMAGING BONAIRE CORAL

Coral reefs off Bonaire may be harmed by the use of sun creams that contain oxybenzone, according to measurements by Diana Slijkerman at Wageningen Marine Research. Wageningen biologists are now investigating how damaging the compound is precisely.

Slijkerman's research was prompted by a scientific study showing that some UV filters are bad for coral. The Bonaire government sent water samples taken in a bay popular with tourists to Wageningen and Slijkerman got down to work. 'This showed that those substances are present in such concentrations that you can't exclude the possibility of an effect.'

The main problem compound is oxybenzone, which is added to sunscreen products to protect against ultraviolet light. Depending on the concentration, it can cause coral to 'bleach', whereby the coral loses the algae living in it. 'Oxybenzone disrupts development in the coral's larval stage and makes algae more susceptible to infections,' explains Slijkerman.

This means the effect of oxybenzone is similar to that of rising temperatures due to climate change, adds coral researcher Ronald Osinga. In Slijkerman's project, he performs tests on the effect of oxybenzone, water temperatures and the combination of these two stress factors on two species of coral. 'The initial results suggest an urgent need



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

for a follow-up study,' he says. That follow-up study is now starting.

Meanwhile, Slijkerman has joined forces with local sustainability organization Boneiru Duraero to set up a campaign funded by the World Nature Fund

that is aimed at making tourists more aware of the impact of certain sun creams. According to Slijkerman, surveys among tourists show that Americans are the main users of creams containing oxybenzone. **RK**

There is more to *Resource* than the paper edition. On resource-online.nl you can find videos, photo series and fresh news daily. Here below, a sample of what's online:

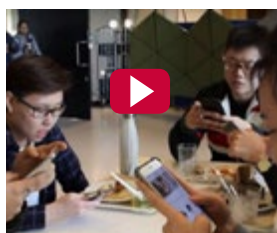
FISHING IN THE POND



At this time of year, there's a good chance you'll see groups of students fishing in the campus ponds. Resource's

video team went along with teacher Sabrina Simon and her students. On the video you can see how the students establish which fauna lives in the ponds. They are doing this for the course on Biodiversity in the Netherlands, which is part of the BSc degrees in Biology, and Forest and Nature Management.

OH THOSE SOCIAL MEDIA



Well over one third (35.1 percent) of 18- to 25-year-olds report themselves as achieving below their capacity at school or university because they are distracted by social media, reported Statistics Netherlands recently.

On the other hand, the number of people who

thought social media were good for their studies had doubled (from 6.9 percent in 2015 to 16 percent in 2017). Students talk about the role of social media in their lives in a video.

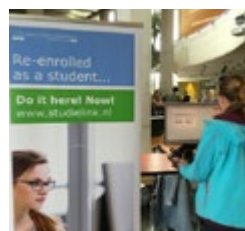
STRONGMEN



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER

Lifting tree trunks, throwing heavy stones over a metal construction, flipping huge tractor tyres. On Thursday 17 May, the Wageningen Beasts took over the campus for their annual Strength Day. See Sven Menschel's photo series on resource-online.nl.

WIN A BIKE



before they can continue with their studies. The

Students can now register for next academic year on Studielink. Every year there are students who forget to do this, and who then have to wait another year before

MEANWHILE ONLINE

Student Service Centre wants to avoid that this year through a poster campaign and a lottery with a WUR bicycle as the prize.

WELCOME MUST LEAVE



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

The art work Must Leave was given a festive welcome in the afternoon of Wednesday 16 May. The massive water beetle was treated to speeches and music. See Guy Ackermans' photo series on resource-online.nl.

See Guy Ackermans' photo series on resource-online.nl.

Check them all out at resource-online.nl

PROPOSITION

'You even have to repeat animal experiments'

Nadia Vendrig understands that people want animal experiments kept to a minimum. But she sees a problem too. Animal experiments tend to produce small data sets in which chance plays a big role. Repeat studies are therefore essential, believes the PhD candidate.

'It is a condition for applications for research approval by the Animal Experiment Committee that the research should be new. That sounds logical because if we already know something, there is no need to repeat that experiment. You don't want to use any more lab animals than necessary. But in animal experiments too, statistically significant effects can come about by chance. It is good to use no more lab animals than strictly necessary, but that does give experiments less statistical weight. It only takes something to go wrong – two rats falling ill, or something like that – and the group is too small to draw firm conclusions. Many other factors play a role too. For example, it could be that the results are

only valid for that one mouse strain at a particular age.

If you don't repeat that study, it will also take longer before you find

out that something is not right. Meanwhile, follow-up experiments are being done, so they are based on false results. The pressure to publish plays a role in this too. If you don't find any correlations, your results don't usually get published. That makes people go on looking until a statistically significant correlation turns up somewhere.

The aim of my PhD research was to optimize the statistical analysis of automated home-cage experiments. In these experiments, animal behaviour is recorded by cameras placed in their own cages. The advantage of this is that you can collect much more data per animal than with traditional animal experiments, in which the animals have to be moved for the experiment and then observed by people. This increases your chances of demonstrating an effect without having to use more animals.' **TL**



Nadia Vendrig graduated with a PhD on 25 May for her study of statistical methods of analysing animal behaviour data.

The changing face of the WUR international student

From all the corners of the earth



From planters' sons from the Dutch East Indies to PhD students from rich oil-producing countries. From mature students from developing countries to young Europeans and Asians. The international WUR community has changed a lot over the past century. And this is reflected by the International Club, once the place to be for international students in Wageningen.

text Alexandra Branderhorst

'We formed a really close group. The International Club was like a living room for us: open every evening,' says Kees Hopmans, who studied Tropical Irrigation at Wageningen between 1961 and 1970. The International Club was launched in 1958, specially for international students and interested Dutch students such

as Hopmans who wanted somewhere to meet each other. More and more foreign PhD students began coming to Wageningen in the 1950s, most of them from rich oil-producing countries, as well as some from India and Suriname. 'The Netherlands had agreements with certain countries for people to come and do

EXUBERANT

At first, the members of the International Club used to get together in the foyer of the Junushoff theatre, but in June 1962, the municipality provided the club with quarters of its own on Rustenburg in the town centre, and Princess Beatrix came to Wageningen for the ceremonial opening of the clubhouse. In the early



▲ Princess Beatrix opens the International Club's new clubhouse on Rustenburg in 1962.

'MOST OF THE MUSIC WAS SURINAMESE, WHICH MADE FOR AN EXUBERANT ATMOSPHERE'

PhDs in Wageningen. The PhD students themselves came from better-off families. They were a bit older and many of them already had families, who often accompanied them to the Netherlands,' says Hopmans. The Dutch student societies were too immature for these students, so they needed a meeting place of their own.



▲ In the early 20th century, the Agricultural College in Wageningen attracted a lot of sons of planters in the Dutch East Indies.

1958

The International Club is set up for overseas PhD candidates and other students in Wageningen

1962

Princess Beatrix opens the International Club's own clubhouse on Rustenburg

1960s, Hopmans was the only Dutch member of the six-person board of the club, with an Iraqi chairperson and other members from India, Egypt and Suriname. A lot of the members came from these countries, but there were also a few from other countries such as South Africa, Indonesia, Israel, Italy and Hungary. Dutch students who were internationally oriented joined the club too.

The club was a place where members could have a drink and a chat, or join one of the many activities. There were film evenings, recalls Hopmans, with films like Laurel and Hardy or Peter Pan. At Country Evenings, members gave talks and

slide shows about their countries. Children's birthdays were celebrated at the club, and there was a Social and Cultural Evening every month, with a band and a dance show. 'Most of the music played was Surinamese. That made for a colourful and exuberant atmosphere,' says Hopmans. But people could also come to the club if they were having difficulty with their research or studies. 'There were several professors who were always ready to help.'

COLONIAL AGRICULTURE

Wageningen had been very international for 50 years before the International Club was started. This was due to the Dutch colonies, which needed knowledge about tropical agriculture and forestry. The majority of Wageningen graduates, 63 percent of the 924 students who graduated between 1918 and 1940, got degrees in colonial agriculture or forestry. Most of their fathers worked in the Dutch East Indies as planters or civil servants. A handful of Surinamese came to Wageningen

too, often with a government grant. It wasn't a fortune. In 1915, the agricultural college sent the minister for the Colonies a handwritten calculation of what a newly arrived scholarship

'THE DEANS RECEIVED COMPLAINTS ABOUT DUTCH STUDENTS WALKING AROUND THE HOUSE NAKED'

student from Suriname needed for the first month. It came to 368 guilders, including 'room and board', tuition fees, boots and a secondhand winter coat. 'And we get 200, or at the most 250 guilders,' the note added pointedly. World War II and the Indonesian war of independence that followed it put an end to the close links between Wageningen and the Dutch East Indies. In the 1950s and 60s, the

Agricultural College cast its net wider, including tropical and subtropical regions all around the world. There was increasing concern about global inequality and new degree programmes were established such as Non-western Rural Sociology. The Dutch-taught science degrees attracted quite a lot of students from Suriname, then still a Dutch colony. In its early years, the International Club had 30 Surinamese members. The Surinamese students eventually started their own society (see inset). The small but steady stream of PhD students from Arab countries dried up when the Netherlands took sides with Israel in its war with its Arab neighbours at the end of the 1960s.

THIRD WORLD

In the 1970s, development aid really took off. The Agricultural College wanted to help develop the 'Third World' too, by training people from these countries. The first English-taught Master's programme in Wageningen, Soil Science and Water Management,



▲ The International Club functioned as a living room for foreign PhD students in Wageningen in the 1960s.

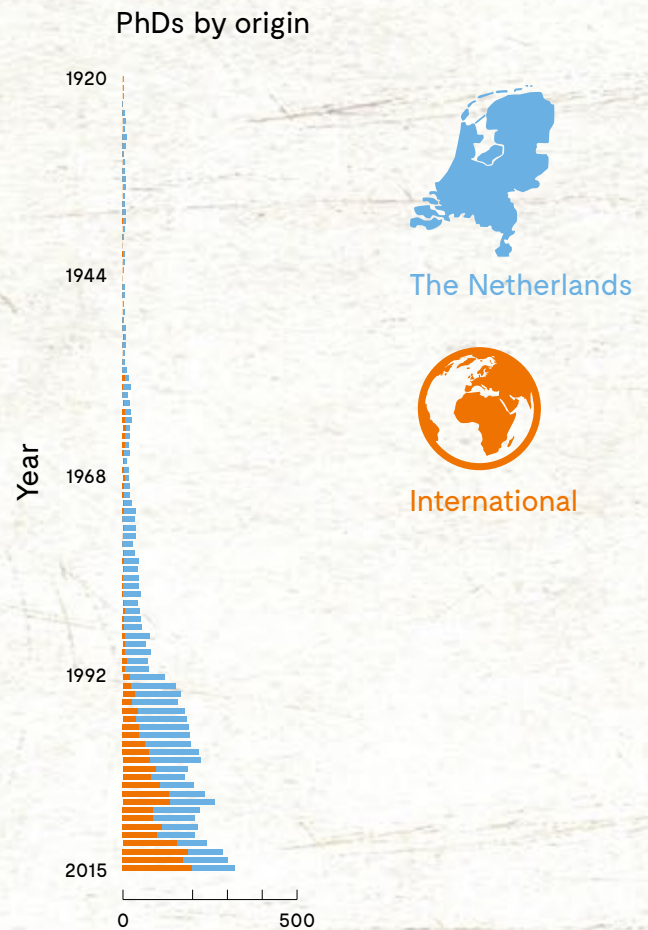
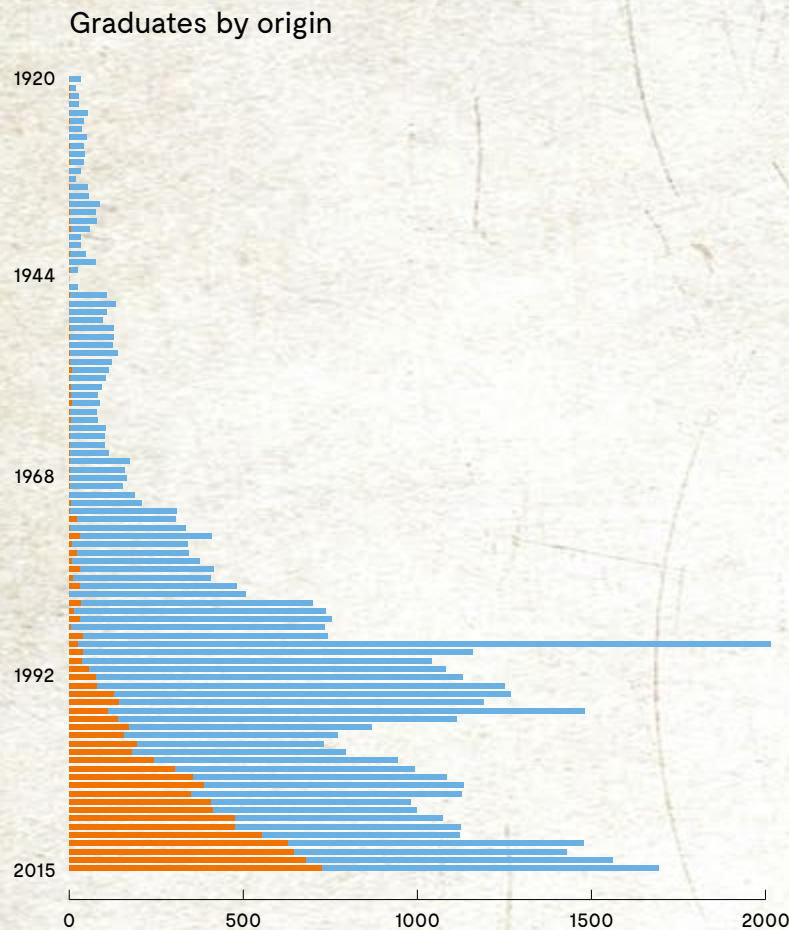
PHOTO: RIKES HOPMANS

1971

Twenty students start on the first English-taught Master's programme in Wageningen: Soil Science and Water Management

1983

The International Club moves to a former farmhouse on the Marijkeweg



▲ Internationalization in Wageningen picked up speed in the 1990. Now over 40 percent of Wageningen Master's students and more than 60 percent of the PhD students come from outside the Netherlands.

started in 1971 with 20 students. Most of these students came from English-speaking African countries, Latin America, Asia, Turkey, India and Egypt. 'The students had to have work experience and a job in their own country,' says Ankie Lamberts, who was secretary for the programme at the time. It wasn't always easy for these students to share housing with young Dutch students. Lamberts vividly remembers a student from Malawi proudly relating how he had taught his flatmates how to clean the kitchen. And the dean of students got regular complaints about Dutch students walking around the house naked, something that was deeply embarrassing for foreign students.

WORLD MUSIC

The International Club changed along with the international community. The family living room in the 1960s made way for a more laid-back venue for parties and get-togethers. 'There wasn't much to do in Wageningen, but

'THERE WASN'T MUCH TO DO HERE BUT THE INTERNATIONAL CLUB WAS ALWAYS OPEN'

the International Club was open almost every evening, and it played world music, especially African and Latin American music,' says Ben Onwuka from Biafra, who came to Wageningen in 1975 and did the MSc in Biology between 1981 and 1983. A Country Evening was still held monthly, with food and music. 'We even organized a Dutch evening once, with clog-dancing.' The audience consisted of Latin American, African and Dutch students, as well as some older immigrants. At the end of the 1970s, Onwuka joined the



▲ International Master's students at a degree ceremony in Wageningen in 1988.

board to help save the club after funds had disappeared. In 1983, with the help of the municipality, the club moved to its current location on the Marijkeweg. 'The quarters on Rustenburg did not have sound proofing. Because the

1987

Three new English-taught Master's programmes are launched

1999

WUR introduces the Bachelor's-Master's system: all Master's programmes become English-taught and internationalization really takes off

PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS



▲ A party at the International Club on the Marijkeweg in December 1984.

police station was nearby, we quite often had policemen stopping by because of noise,' says Onwuka. The monthly bands and the New Year party were popular. 'After the fireworks everyone would come to the International Club. There was always a live band and then it was full to bursting.'

In the mid-1980s, the International Club nearly went bankrupt. The chair had secretly lent money from the club's kitty to her Ugandan boyfriend who wanted to start a business in Uganda, says Onwuka. 'That money, about 30,000 guilders, never came back. Nor did her boyfriend.' A new chairperson managed to pay off the debts in a few years, although there was a conflict with some ex-board members. Not many of the club members were bothered, however, as long as the parties were fun.

BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S

With increasing interest in the one and only English-taught Master's programme, Wageningen Agricultural University – as it was known by now – decided to internationalize further. From 1987, three new Master's programmes were added: Animal Science and Aquaculture, Management of Agricultural Knowledge Systems, and Tropical Forestry. As a result, international student numbers grew and eventually so did the number of international PhD students.

The International Club still attracted a big crowd, albeit a slightly older one. That was why an Indian and an Italian student set up the International Student Organization in Wageningen (ISOW) in the 1990s. ISOW still runs trips and language and dance courses, as well as sports events and parties.


In 1999, Wageningen went over to the Bache-

lor's-Master's system, and since then all the Master's programmes have been taught in English. The university also intensified its efforts to recruit students overseas. Wageningen graduates became ambassadors of sorts and helped recruit students in their home countries in Asia, Latin America or the Middle East. Students

who needed a grant had to apply for one themselves from now on, and the number of African students plummeted as a result. On the other hand, more and more international students were being funded by their government or by their parents.

Now, in 2018, more than 40 percent of Wageningen Master's students and more than 60 percent of PhD students come from outside the Netherlands. For most of them the club no longer functions as it used to, as a living room or refuge. The Marijkeweg clubhouse is known more as a place you can go to when all the other nightlife venues close, and an affordable place for graduation parties. At the moment, the club has lost its bar and catering license because the board failed to apply for an extension. If this is rectified in time, the club can celebrate its 60th anniversary in October.

LINKS FOR LIFE

One thing that never changes, however, is the links across borders that are forged for life. Kees Hopmans, who graduated in 1970, benefitted a lot from such links in his international career. During a trade mission to Iraq in 1983, for instance. 'The consultations reached a total impasse. So then I called Al Azzawi, who was chair of the International Club when I was on the board. The talks got going again thanks to our mediation. Personal contact is so incredibly important.' 

▶ New students get to know the Surinamese society Redi Doti during the 1993 AID.

SALSA AND ROTI AT REDI DOTI

Redi Doti was set up in 1967 by and for students with Surinamese roots and other Surinamese in Wageningen. The society rented a premises on the Veerweg, with financial support from Wageningen Municipality, and parties were hosted there monthly. A Caribbean band would play and Surinamese food would be served, such as rice and beans or roti. 'The atmosphere was different to that of the Dutch student societies, where there was a lot of drinking and a bit of bopping. We had a meal together and dance salsa and merengue,' says Errol Zalmijn, who studied Biosystems Engineering in Wageningen from 1985 to 1991, and chaired the society for two years from 1987.

Redi Doti – 'red earth' in Sranang Tongo – prepared students to go back home. 'Of course you were in Wageningen with a mission, namely to make use of your knowledge later in Suriname,' explains Zalmijn. That motive became less important after Suriname independence in 1975. Besides parties, study evenings and sports events, Redi Doti also ran lectures and discussions on agriculture, development aid and the environment. 'You had the real party animals, and a hard core of people who were steeped in politics and ideology. Somewhere in the middle was a majority who wanted a bit of both,' says Zalmijn.

Redi Doti usually had between about 60 and 90 members. When Suriname could no longer provide good funding, numbers slowly dwindled. In 2007, the society gave up the ghost. But many Wageningen alumni were doing good work in Suriname, as farmers or policymakers in agriculture, forestry or nature management. Former Redi Doti member Jim Hok even became minister of Natural Resources, a post he held from 2010 to 2015.

PHOTO: JACINTHA VIGELANZOON



2018

Five Bachelor's programmes will switch entirely to English from September

CIVILIZED PROTEST

'I photographed this demonstration in June 1986. If I remember correctly, it was a group of cleaners and canteen staff at the Agricultural University who were protesting against the outsourcing of their work to external companies. I had photographed a lot of student demonstrations, but this was a new sight for me: 'civilized' citizens (and their children) taking to the streets to stand up for their rights. They carried immaculate banners, but were no less vehement for that. It didn't help, though: the catering and cleaning were outsourced anyway.'



PRIVATISERING
NEE



PHOTO: ANNEKE KHO

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



Han Zuilhof, the philosophical chemist

‘My whole life is a gift’

He could have become a philosopher but he chose a career in chemistry. And not without success. The British Royal Society of Chemistry recently made Han Zuilhof a fellow – the first Wageningen academic to receive this honour.

text Roelof Kleis photos Guy Ackermans

There is a large vase on Professor Han Zuilhof's desk on the top floor of Helix. Until he took them home, it contained the flowers he was given in honour of his joining the ranks of the illustrious at the prestigious British Royal Society of Chemistry. This great day was suitably celebrated in Zuilhof's Organic Chemistry chair group – once the news had sunk in, that is. ‘I opened an email from the Royal Society of Chemistry in which my rights as a fellow were explained. ‘Hey, have I missed something?’ I replied. It turned out that the letter of appointment had been sent by mail, and was still at the secretariat. I was just back from two weeks in China.’

POSITIVE VALUES

Han Zuilhof (53) laughs about it now. He is casually dressed in light brown summer trousers and a striking blue T-shirt with Avoid Negativity printed on it, above the mathematical function $f(x) = |x|$. A statement wrapped up as a joke: the formula only allows for posi-

tive values. There is a tall bookcase full of philosophy and chemistry books against the wall. On top of another cupboard stands a portrait of Simon Olivier, Wageningen's first professor of organic chemistry. A tribute to an illustrious predecessor. On the door opposite the desk hang portraits of his two sons.

‘Splendid, of course,’ says Zuilhof of his fellowship. Only people who have made an outstanding contribution to the progress of chemical science qualify – if nominated – for honorary membership of the Royal Society of Chemistry. ‘It is an acknowledgement of the work my team and I have been doing for the past 20 years.’ And it is an honour that has not been bestowed on very many Dutch scientists. ‘As far as I know, physical chemist Hans Lyklema is the only honorary fellow from Wageningen.’ But that is another category, and it was after he retired. ‘To date I am the only one to join the Society as an active chemist.’

And that for someone who might have become a philosopher. What's the story?

‘After leaving secondary school in Sassenheim I went to Leiden to do chemistry. But after a year I wanted to do something else as well. I had theology in mind, actually, but if you don't have a talent for languages, learning Greek, Latin and Hebrew is quite a task. So then I started studying philosophy and that was just the job. After graduating (double cum laude, RK) I was offered a PhD place in both subjects. Then I compared the two fields in terms of what it would mean practically and came to the conclusion that being a philosopher is a

‘The peace and quiet of philosophy attracted me, but working in a laboratory is much more sociable.’



▲ Professor of Organic Chemistry Han Zuilhof: 'I spent much of my first four years in hospital. I had a tumour on my face.'

very lonely business. On the one hand, that peace and quiet attracted me, but working in a laboratory is much more sociable. That was decisive. And I've never had any regrets.'

Did Zuilhof the chemist pick up anything from Zuilhof the philosopher?

I gained a lot from it. Philosophy students had to hand in an essay every Tuesday. Whether you had any inspiration or not. So you learned to write and to structure a narrative. As a scientist you have to write proposals and articles. So 'I had already been trained to do that. And as a philosopher I concentrated mainly on theory of knowledge: what you can know and what you can't. That gives me a meta perspective. Chemistry is a great subject, but it is of course just a profession like any other. Modern science is a rat race. You get carried along with the tempo of things, and that tempo just gets faster and faster. There is a risk of your field of

vision narrowing. In that sense it is nice to have anchor points outside your own field, which make such a meta perspective possible. There are of course other ways of doing that than studying philosophy.'

AMERICAN ACCENT

After getting his PhD in Chemistry, Zuilhof went to the United States for two years. That is where he picked up his American accent – which not all his colleagues appreciate. He laughs. 'Yes, absolutely. But not only in that period. The Leiden r matches the American r perfectly.' Back in the Netherlands, he opted for a job as assistant professor at Wageningen. 'I had never been to Wageningen. There was a vacancy in an interesting physical-organic chemistry group.' Zuilhof started in 1997 under chair-holding professor Ernst Südholter and then rose up through the ranks, in his own words. 'I became

'A romantic surface rejects everything except that one substance that you are interested in'

personal professor at the beginning of 2007. Südholter went to Delft in 2006 and at the end of 2007, they were looking for a successor. I sent off my letter of application on the last day it was possible. Being personal professor is a wonderful job: you can do a lot of research without all the admin you have to do if you are a chair-holder. But if you really want to steer the research, you do have to lead the group.'

The focus of the chair group changed a lot after that. Why?

'To be honest, there wasn't really any focus. And that is not good for a group. So then we went down a successful new route together, focusing on the modification of inorganic surfaces with organic material, in order to give it more functions.'

Do you have an interesting example?

'The romantic surfaces! That is a term I introduced into the literature. In a romantic relationship you say no to everything and everyone except that one special person. A romantic surface does the same thing. It rejects everything, but picks out that one substance that you are interested in. That is of particular interest for medical diagnosis. In blood serum, for instance, there are all sorts of proteins, cells and other biological material, but sometimes you want to fish out one specific biomarker. We are working hard on that, on strong bio-selective surfaces that can be used in biometrics. An example would be something like a lab-on-a-chip, with which you can analyse processes or get hold of and develop selected components. When you do that, you make a liquid containing a tiny quantity of something you want to detect flow through a small channel in a microchip. You stop after a while and rinse the liquid away with another solvent. Then it is concentrated enough for you to measure it. These kinds of surfaces are now being launched on the market by a spin-off.'

You mean Surfix, in Plus Ultra?

'Yes, I set that up in 2010. In the years before that I applied for three patents for methods of coating surfaces, with the idea of doing something with it. But I am not a businessman, I am a professor. So I first looked for someone who could use that patent to create and market a product, and then I found two financiers. The company, led by Luc Scheres, one of my ex-PhD students, now employs 15 people and is going great guns worldwide.'

ADOPTED SON

Alongside his work in Wageningen, Zuilhof also works for universities in Saudi Arabia and China. He linked up with the King Abdul-Aziz University in Jeddah through a postdoc who got a job there. One of his motives behind this collaboration was that he wanted to support an increased role for women in science. 'The Saudis want that themselves, and slowly by slowly it is starting to come.' Zuilhof adds that the university has excellent analytical equipment which is not available in Wageningen. 'That means we can look at things on an atomic scale there. We do part of the analysis there of samples we make here. But I don't go there very often. Most of the contact goes via DHL, email and WhatsApp.'

He travels to China a lot more often. Zuilhof spends five or six weeks a year working at

'I have patents but I am not a businessman'


Tianjin University 'on things that complement what we do here'. His connection with China goes beyond work, though. He points to the portraits of his sons on the door. 'The one on the left, the 16-year-old, has my genes, the one the right, the 14-year-old, doesn't. He is an adopted child from the south-west of China, and he was a wonderful present, just like his brother. I love them both equally. I really don't notice any difference,' he adds, forestalling the question adoptive parents are often asked. 'Passing on your genes is important scientifically. So there is a kind of mental instinct underlying your love of your child. But it goes beyond that too. It's beautiful to experience that. Love goes beyond blood ties.'

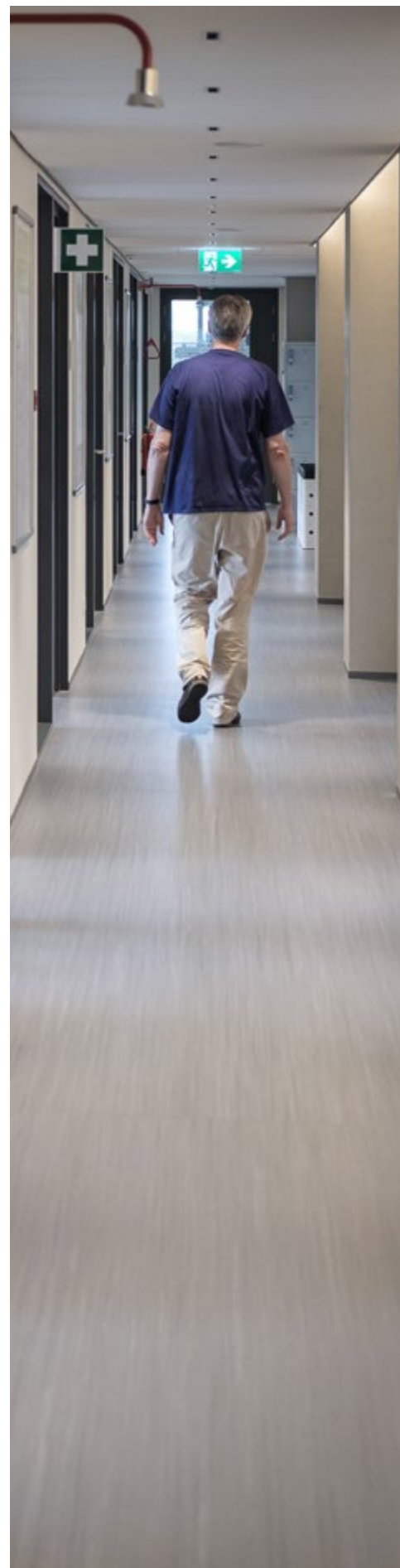
STARGAZING

Philosophy is never far away with Zuilhof. Earlier in our discussion we talked about astronomy. At night Zuilhof loves to gaze at planets, stars and galaxies through his telescope. Anything he can spot that gives off perceptible light. 'It puts the human race in its place. Light rays from the Andromeda galaxy were sent out three million years ago. That fascinates me. It shows how small we human beings are in one sense.' And then he talks about the scar above his right eye, with its slight squint. 'As a tiny baby I was in a critical condition and spent much of my first four years in hospital. I had a tumour on my face. As a result I am almost blind in my right eye. I was in a ward with four infants. Two of the four survived and two did not. I realize every day: wow, I have lived to see another day. It could have been different. My whole life is a present.'

And some days bring additional presents, such as a fellowship at a prominent chemistry society. This raises the question of what Wageningen's future looks like, as far as chemistry is concerned. 'We are still expanding,' says Zuilhof. 'The group, now at about 50 men and women, is getting bigger and bigger. This is partly because we've attracted successful young members of staff such as Maarten Smulders and Louis de Smet, both of whom are members of Wageningen Young Academy. De Smet is trying to reclaim materials by tuning porous surfaces – getting lithium and phosphate out of water, for instance. With the techniques he develops for this, he helps other very different applications advance further too.'

MATERIAL DESIGN

Zuilhof's group is also interested in predicting the properties of materials on the basis of the properties of the molecules they are made up of. 'That's material design. By improving preparatory and analytical techniques we are increasingly able to look at large aggregates of molecules rather than just at isolated molecules. Measuring is becoming ever more important. You can see that everywhere in society. We don't just want to know that there is a certain substance in a sample; we want to know exactly how much of it there is in the sample, and where. We stand to gain a lot from that development from molecule to material,' says Zuilhof. 'Like this my hope as a scientist is that I can pass on all I've been given to society.' 



HAPPY ABOUT FOUR MORE YEARS OF FRESCO?

The Supervisory Board has reappointed Louise Fresco as president of the WUR Executive Board (see also p.4). Staff are generally pleased with the decision. 'Everyone has heard of her, and that in itself puts you 1-0 ahead.' But some wishes are expressed too. 'WUR should stick its neck out more in public debate.'

text Tessa Louwerens and Albert Sikkema illustration Henk van Ruitenbeek

Tia Hermans



Researcher at Wageningen Environmental Research

'Louise is often praised for her efforts for society but I would like her to pay more attention to biodiversity.

She talks a lot about the food supply and agriculture, but she neglects the role of nature and biodiversity. So I hope Louise will broaden her field of vision in the next four years, to address the importance of nature and biodiversity and how you can create more space for them in the context of the powerful agriculture sector and the economy. There are people at ESG who know a lot about that, such as David Kleijn, Arnold van Vliet and Herbert Prins. It would help ESG if Louise took a position on it too, as board president. After all, she has more impact than we do.'

Guido Camps



Researcher at Human Nutrition

(NB: Camps is chair of the WUR Council but speaks here in a personal capacity)

'Wageningen has a wonderful university and we deserve an excellent figurehead. In Wageningen we can sometimes be a bit too inward-look-

ing and then you run the risk of not selling yourself well in the big cities. **So in my view there is no better person for the job than Louise Fresco, with her authority, her outward-looking attitude and her good network.** So I am very pleased about her reappointment. And she should definitely carry on with public dialogue and things like the new collaboration with the technical universities. I hear criticism of Fresco as well, but then I think: so what do you want? Can you tell me who is the president of the university of Utrecht, Nijmegen or Groningen? We've got Fresco. Everyone has heard of her and that in itself puts you 1-0 ahead.'

Jaap Schröder



Researcher at Wageningen Plant Research

'I think a multitalented person like Fresco is more capable than her predecessor of harnessing synergies and economic

trends. **Anything is better than a monomaniac president who confuses 'efficient agriculture' with 'clean agriculture'.** What did disappoint me was the prospect Fresco outlined in *De Volkskrant*. It came across as a blind defence of high-tech farming, as if it didn't have to be weighed up against nature-inclusive alternatives. Hopefully that was a one-off slip. I also hope that in the next four years Fresco will have the courage

to address non-Wageningen issues such as cutting meat consumption and family planning – which are good for nature and the environment too. At the moment Fresco tolerates categorical statements by WUR staff that livestock is indispensable to the circular economy. And that really is too big a claim.'

Bart Gremmen



Professor of the Ethics of Life Sciences

'I think it's a very good thing that Fresco has made a point of One Wageningen: that has pulled down fences that separat-

ed the university from the institutes. It is unfortunate that we now come under two different ministries, which is bound to increase the red tape. So One Wageningen is extra important now. **I still think Wageningen has an important role to play in public debate.** I think WUR should stick its neck out more there. WUR has made a massive contribution to the benefits of present-day agriculture, but we don't talk enough about the downside of that agriculture. Fresco is always positive; she thinks we can achieve food security with agriculture and technology, but during this centenary year we have yet to see any discussion with the critics of the current agriculture model. WUR should support that discussion, I think.'

Karin Schroën



Personal professor of Food Technology

'Fresco has a broad perspective on what is going on in the outside world and she brings the sciences into that too. **Not only**

does she engage in dialogue with society, but she also brings in the credibility of scientists and fosters confidence in science. As scientists, we need that to be able to play our role. In my work, public acceptance of new technologies is very im-



portant. It is my impression that the outside world has been more welcome in WUR since Fresco's arrival. And that's a good thing because we progress better and faster together with society.'

Hans Dagevos



Senior researcher at Wageningen Economic Research

'I certainly don't mind at all that she is staying and I hope she will go on doing her best to give the various views and disciplines in our organization a voice.'

Nowadays we are officially a technical university, but the Social Sciences Group is not just a fifth wheel. I have noticed that Fresco makes a point of showing that. In the research world too, there is a growing realization that a future-proof world cannot be achieved with technology alone, but that we also need social


change and a different pattern of consumption. This relates to Fresco's interest in food culture and traditions. To me this is confirmation that she will carry on defending and preserving WUR's breadth and diversity in the years to come.'

Bart Lagerwaard



Chair of Wageningen PhD Council (WPC)

'As a council we think Louise Fresco is doing great work to increase the visibility of WUR and stimulate social debate. It's an

honour to have such a nationally and internationally renowned figure as president of WUR. **For the next term we hope that, as president of the board, she takes a clear stand on education as well.** We are facing a large increase in student numbers, which has an impact on the teaching load of PhD candidates.' 

Learning Dutch helps international students to integrate

“Grappig” is a funny word for funny

International students in Wageningen can easily get away without learning Dutch. And yet there are students who take the trouble to learn the language. ‘If I speak a few words of Dutch, people react more cheerfully.’

text Yvonne de Hilster photos Guy Ackermans

Fine, see you Friday’, emails Italian student Donatella Gasparro to confirm our interview appointment. In Dutch. She is studying Organic Agriculture and she started a Dutch course at Wageningen in’to Languages in January. ‘During the first week of my AID, I heard nothing but “gggg” all around me. Now I can hear some structure in the sentences. But the g is still my favourite Dutch sound, and “grappig” is a funny word for funny,’ she tells me during the interview.

The course Gasparro is taking is Social Dutch, a beginner’s course offered by Wageningen in’to Languages. There are three levels (see inset). The teacher speaks Dutch only throughout the class. ‘That is quite difficult for them,’ says Sanne Hogenhuis, a teacher of

Dutch as a second language. ‘But we put the students to work themselves as much as possible, getting them to talk a lot and practise their pronunciation. We talk about Dutch culture too, like the fact that you are served cake at a birthday party and are not expected to bring it yourself.’

Gasparro started the Social Dutch course for several reasons. ‘I like learning new languages, because you also learn to think in new ways; it opens doors in your head. And language is culture too, and I’ll be staying here at least two

‘It’s easier to make contact with people if you try to understand their culture’

years, so it would be silly not to learn any Dutch.’ She is already using her Dutch as a student assistant at Farming Systems Ecology. One of the things she helps out with is field trips in the Netherlands. ‘Not everyone you visit finds it easy to speak English.’

DO YOU NEED STAMPS?

Raissa Rustandi from Indonesia, an MSc student of Food Technology, started the Social Dutch course because she thinks it will improve her career prospects. ‘At the Career Day, I heard one company say that they expect international employees to be able to conduct an everyday conversation in Dutch. And it can be an advantage for a job with a Dutch company in Indonesia. I also think foreigners coming here should adapt to the Netherlands.’

▲ Donatella Gasparro from Italy: ‘Learning a new language opens doors in your head.’

Luckily, everyone in Wageningen is very open-minded, but old people would rather speak Dutch with you.'

The emphasis in Social Dutch is on understanding numbers, phrases such as 'how are you', 'thank you' and 'do you need stamps', and pronunciation, says Rustandi. 'I think it's a good thing the teacher speaks Dutch in class. It trains your ears. Understanding and speaking are hard, but reading is quite easy.' It helps a bit that she had a couple of years of German at school in Indonesia, and did an internship in Germany during her Bachelor's degree.

AT THE MARKET

Mathilde Coutant, a French Master's student of Animal Sciences, is on Social Dutch III. Her biggest difficulty is with Dutch sentence structure and word order, as well as with remembering words that don't ring any bells for her. 'There are lots of words that I can't relate to English, French or Latin, such as *huur*, *wortel* and *tuin*.'

Coutant never imagined she would learn Dutch. 'When I came to university here, I knew you could do everything in English and I thought I would go straight home after graduating. I was more interested in improving my English. I started Social Dutch last year to surprise my boyfriend – who is Dutch. But after the first course I went on because I noticed that my other Dutch friends appreciate it when I try to speak Dutch. I find it makes it easier to make contact with people, because you show you are trying to understand their culture. I have noticed that if I speak a few words of Dutch in shops or at the market, people react more cheerfully. Speaking Dutch has its advantages in group work too, if you can follow the conversations between Dutch students, and pick up the subtle details.'

FREE COURSES

Like Gasparro and Rustandi, Coutant is happy with the course and its low-threshold, practical approach. And with the price too (see inset). But the Student Council thinks there should be more free Dutch courses for international students. 'It is good for their integration and inclusion if there is less of a language barrier,' says initiator Amit Choudhary of the Sustainability & Internationalization party. 'Several other universities already offer free Dutch lessons. It makes students feel welcome.'

▼ Mathilde Coutant from France: 'A lot of Dutch words, like 'wortel', don't ring any bells for me.'



▲ Raissa Rustandi from Indonesia: 'Old people would rather speak Dutch with you.'

One third of the annual WUR budget for affordable language courses for students (170,000 euros) goes towards Social Dutch, says Liesbeth van der Linden of Corporate Education & Student Affairs. The rest goes towards courses in English, Academic Writing, French and Spanish. 'With the growing numbers of students, there could be reasons to allocate more budget to this; we still need to look into that. The priority lies on English language skills because they are important for students' studies.' ⓘ

SOCIAL DUTCH COURSE

International students who want to learn Dutch can take the courses Social Dutch I, II and III at Wageningen in'to Languages. Two groups at every level, each with a maximum of 18 students, start in September, January/ February and April/ May. The groups are always full.

All the courses consist of 15 classes, twice a week, with a final test. The classes are held on campus, late afternoon or early evening. Thanks to a subsidy from the university, students pay only 90 euros rather than the full 400 euro fee. For international staff and PhD candidates there is the Basic Dutch course (12 classes).

SKYSCRAPERS

Spanish scientists have developed an algorithm for predicting the skyline of big cities. The formula calculates how many skyscrapers will go up in a city. It is based on the finding that this urban development is very similar to the way living systems grow, based on genetic rules and natural selection. Urban architecture is an organic phenomenon, then.

SMART

The more intelligent someone is, the more efficient their brain is, shows a study at the Ruhr University in Bochum (Germany). Cleverer people have fewer connections between brain cells. So apparently, the wiring of their thinking machine is more efficient. According to the researchers, that also explains why cleverer people's brains display less activity during tests than other people's brains. Yet more evidence that you can have too much of a good thing.

MARSHMELLOW (1)

The famous marshmallow test (in which the better toddlers can resist temptation, the more successful they will be in later life) turns out not to have such predictive power after all. Psychologists at New York University repeated Walter Mischel's studies from the 1960s and 70s and got little to no result. This rather strikes at the foundations of one of the classics of the psychology literature.

MARSHMELLOW (2)

The researchers attribute the difference in result to the group studied. Mischel used a small group of the children of Stanford academics. The New York scientists studied a much larger and, importantly, a more diverse group of children. Resisting temptation might be good for your teeth but beyond that you won't necessarily be any better off for it.



▲ Lisa Becking heeft de boekenclub *On the same page* opgericht.

PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER

Reading the same book together

How fun would it be if hundreds of students and staff at WUR were to read the same book and then discuss it together? Great fun, thinks assistant professor Lisa Becking. So she and the Wageningen Young Academy started a book club: On the Same Page.

How did you get the idea for "On the same page"?

'I did my postdoc at Berkeley where they have a campus-wide book club. I love reading and got inspired by how the whole university was involved with the same book during the academic year. I would like to spark connections between people at this university, both students and staff. A common interest in a book and its theme makes it easier to start a conversation – you are on the same page! Literature can surprise you with different perspectives on topics you thought you already knew all about. It may provide nuances in your thinking and can pull you out of your scientific tunnel vision. This is particularly relevant on a campus without a

faculty of art history or literature. We hope that it will become a regular fixture so we can read one or two books per year.'

Who chooses the books?


'Together with Louise Fresco, Betina Piqueras, Jessica Duncan and Eva van den Broek we have produced a very long wishlist of books. The main criteria are that the book should be available in Dutch and English and that the author can trigger good discussions. Deciding which book would be first was super difficult. We are now reading *The land of my fathers* by Vamba Sherif. We chose him because he is a relatively young author and currently very active in public debates.'

What is *The land of my fathers* about?

'I do not want to say much about the content. I would rather not prime people too much with my own ideas. Vamba Sherif writes about belonging, moving between countries and the expectations of the places you are going to. We thought this theme was

interesting for people at an international university. The theme also ties in with the 'Must Leave' beetle in our pond.'

How can people join?

The only thing you have to do is read *The land of my fathers* and join the discussion. We still have free copies to give away or you might just randomly find one in the WUR buildings. There will be a book club meeting in Impulse on 4 June, when we will talk about the book, exchange ideas and formulate questions to ask the author. On 18 June Vamba Sherif will come to Wageningen to answer questions and have a talk. Everyone is welcome, and it is okay if you have not read the whole book. It is fine to have read two chapters that capture the essence of the book. These two chapters are available online and can be downloaded for free from our webpage.' 

To find out more, search for 'On the same page' at WUR.nl.



Students organize e-conference on hunger

The world of Stephanie Rycken and Apple Espino has expanded since they started working for the international conference Towards Zero Hunger. Their main motive is the United Nations' principle of 'leaving no one behind'.

On 30 and 31 August 2018, WUR will host the international conference Towards Zero Hunger: Partnerships for Impact. The conference is about the second Sustainable Development Goal (SDG): 'end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture'.

Stephanie Rycken (25) from Belgium and Apple Espino (29) from the Philippines are two of the nine Master's students who are working on the conference. They take care of publicity and are organizing a parallel e-conference for students. For

this, they have come up with the idea of a Foodathon, during which groups of student volunteers will work for 36 hours to find solutions to assigned challenges on the topic of Zero Hunger.

The nine Master's students come from three different continents. This diversity has taught them to look at a problem from several different perspectives, and to empathize. Although it can sometimes be overwhelming to combine this responsibility with their studies, they remain dedicated, say Rycken and Espino.

Rycken was the first student to get involved in the project. In a workshop during One World Week 2017, she was inspired by Martijn Visser, the UN Youth Representative for the SDGs, to pursue the idea of a student committee for the SDG conference. Espino first found out



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHHEL

▲ Apple Espino and Stephanie Rycken (fifth and sixth from the left) meet the other students who are helping organize the conference Towards Zero Hunger.

about the conference last August when she attended a lunchtime talk by Rycken. The student SDG committee really got started in November 2017.

The SDG conference will bring together key stakeholders in order to discuss their views and what action they can take to contribute to achieving Zero Hunger. Students will have the opportunity to take

part by joining the e-conference organized by the student committee. The winning teams of the Foodathon will be partnered with interested organizations for the development of their proposals. 📍 KT

What's the video on resource-online.nl/video

MEANWHILE IN... EGYPT

'In Egypt, public insults are strictly prohibited'

A critical video posted on social media got the Egyptian Amal Fathy and her husband and children into trouble. Egyptian PhD student Ali El-Hakeem thinks activists should act as objectively and respectfully as possible; only then can they stimulate change.

'The video shows a frustrated Fathy cursing the government and all Egyptian people using bad language. I felt sorry for her and insulted at the same time. In my culture, disrespectful statements in public are taken personally and seriously while it seems to me that the Dutch are more relaxed about this. In Egypt, public insults are strictly prohibited by law. So I think it was not very smart of Fathy to share the video online.

While CNN and other media described her as an activist, Fathy's lawyer said she was speaking as a citizen. To me, an activist raises awareness of a situation by describing it as objectively as possible. Such a person provides proof for claims and suggests improvements. I follow some Egyptians on social media who provide constructive criticism in this way. Fathy's behaviour in the video was not in line with what I would expect of an activist.

My home country is facing



Ali El-Hakeem, a PhD student from Egypt, talks about the situation in his home country.



▲ Amnesty International is campaigning for Amal Fathy's release.

multiple challenges. Food, transportation and all types of services are becoming more expensive as Egypt relies heavily on imports. This forces people to concentrate on covering their basic needs instead of innovating and developing.

I know quite a few people who are trying to stimulate positive change on a small scale. Currently, they are discouraged by bureaucracy and corruption. I believe that attracting foreign investments by decreasing corruption and investing in education and research is essential. I hope that circumstances in Egypt will change for the better in the next two years. I would like to return to my home country and find a more fertile environment for me to work in to improve the quality of life there.' 📍 JS

YOU ON CAMPUS

'Let me put on some lipstick before we take the picture.' Rosalie Fidder (23) from Utrecht searches her bag and pulls out a subtle red lipstick. This situation clearly brings out the city girl in her.

Rosalie still vividly remembers her first day in Wageningen. 'On my first day I had to go to De Dreijen. I got off the bus and found myself almost in a meadow. I was prepared for more nature and cows, but nevertheless, it was a culture shock. I immediately WhatsApped my friends in Utrecht, like "Guys, I'm in a meadow!" But now I'm used to it. I love how green it is, and the fact that you can sit by the water. I also appreciate the cosiness of the campus. The university feels like a small village, even though there are about 10,000 students walking around.'

In order to get to meet new people in Wageningen, Rosalie joined the Green Office, a team of five students and one former student who together think creatively about the sustainability

of the university. 'On the one hand I wanted to become more involved with life in Wageningen, and on the other hand I thought the Green Office was an interesting initiative. I already knew the concept from Utrecht, but then I did not have the time to join in. Now,

'I immediately WhatsApped my friends in Utrecht, like "Guys, I'm in a meadow!"'

during my Master's, I do have time for it. At least, I make time for it. It is busy, but it is a nice, diverse team and I like having meetings with people that I would never speak to other-

wise. For example, the energy coordinator of the university and other staff members.' Now a couple of months into her Masters, Rosalie has found a good balance between her life in Wageningen and that in Utrecht. 'I think it's important to try my best in my studies, to prepare well and attend the lectures. When I am here, I am focused and I use all my time to read and prepare. But I have to be honest, when I am at home I don't do anything more. And I think it's nice to keep it separate. In Wageningen I am a student and in Utrecht I have my social life and my work.' **EvdG**



PHOTO: EVA VAN DER GRAAF

PARTIES

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

JUNUSHOFF THEATRE - PHD PARTY

1 June from 22:00

The PhD Party is the opportunity for PhD candidates to let their hair down for once. Arthur Mol will propose a toast to 100 years of WUR and then live band Flotsam metric and DJ Waeil will let rip.

CAFÉ DANIELS – INDIEPUB: REINO AND GIFTER

7 June from 20:30

The third edition of InDiePub has come around already. Reino plays alternative dance punk (think: Blur, Talking Heads and Franz Ferdinand). Gifter brings us catchy tunes that have already been played on 3FM. Admission free.

FORUM AND ORION – GNSK PARTY

9 June from 22:00

People will have been sweating all day over the Great Dutch Students Championship. And they can't put their feet up in the evening either, because they'll have to take to the dance floor in the Forum and Orion. There'll be DJs and cover bands. **E**



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHEL

▲ Not even the bar at Nji-Sri was safe from dancing feet during the joint party thrown by the society and student party VeSte on Thursday 17 May.

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.

'Some people eat their sick animals'

'Most communities in Sierra Leone are highly dependent on animals. People interact with them a lot, and yet they often have no one to give them advice if their animals fall sick.

The Community Animal Health Worker project was a response to the 2014 outbreak of the Ebola virus, when the disease was transmitted through animals. The project selects people from a number of villages and teaches them basic knowledge about animals. They learn the signs that an animal is sick, how it can be treated, and when it should be put in quarantine. I wrote my thesis on this project.

DANGEROUS MOTORBIKE RIDES

I did things I wouldn't have thought possible, such as riding pillion on a motorbike through remote parts of Kono district. Every day, dozens of people conducted interviews for the project in the villages. They asked people about their habits in interacting with animals. The villages were so remote that the interviewers couldn't phone us if there was a problem. So I went there with my motorcyclist every few days. I checked that the tablets they were using were still working, that there were no problems with the data, and that the interviews hadn't been accidentally deleted. Riding a motorbike can be very dangerous there, but I knew I would regret it if I didn't do it. In retrospect I really appreciate this experience.

I did a few interviews myself as well, so as to see whether the project could be of benefit to other communities as well. I realized those villages too would benefit a lot from a trained animal expert when some of my interviewees told me they eat their sick animals there. Of course that can cause diseases to spread.

FIELDWORK IN AFRICA

I wanted to go to Africa for my thesis because I had never been there before, and because I had heard good things about it. Case studies

in my courses are often about Africa, so I thought it would be interesting to go and experience it for myself. I would advise everyone to do fieldwork for their thesis. Instead of sitting at a desk looking at figures, when you do fieldwork you can relate the results to faces and places. Then you can interpret them better and I think that helps you write a better thesis.

The project was very busy so I hardly had any days off. When I did have a day off I did sports or watched matches with the locals. I miss Sierra Leone enormously and I keep an eye on flights. I can't afford a ticket at the moment but one day I'd love to go back.' **EVK**

More interviews on resource-online.nl



THE WORKS

- Who?** Leah Situnayake, MSc International Development, from Sri Lanka
- What?** Thesis on the Community Animal Health Worker project
- Where?** Koidu, Sierra Leone



In memoriam

Hans Huberts (1929-2018)



A remarkable and somewhat eccentric man, our faithful friend and colleague Hans Huberts, passed away on Sunday 22 April 2018. For roughly 15 years, Hans embodied everything Agromisa stood for. That was in the 1960s and 70s, when many Wageningen students still had relatives working as missionaries in the tropics. Agromisa still exists, in a slimmed-down form, but at that time it was a meeting point for Wageningers who wanted to make agricultural knowledge available to those involved in the hands-on work in the 'mission field'.

Hans was born into a traditional Catholic family in Bergen op Zoom on 8 March 1929. In Wageningen he neglected his studies and himself for the sake of the nuns and priests of the tropical missions. In 1972, with the help of ex-colleagues and friends, he transferred from Agromisa to the library of the then Wageningen College of Agriculture. There he mainly worked behind the scenes on cataloguing books and journals. At the same time, he was an active member of the College Council.

Until very recently Hans stayed very sharp, full of humour, and interested in the world. About six months ago his health suddenly went downhill. In the end he died quite unexpectedly of the complications of old age. Happily he was spared a long illness decline and he had people around him to the end. In Hans we lose a symbol of an era, a man who put everything to one side 'to help people in the Third World'. We remember Hans as a very special friend and colleague.

Hans Schiere and Gerard Pesch

Announcements

BEYOND CONNECTION – ME&YOU IN THE DYNAMICS OF COLLABORATION: REGISTER NOW

This course, beginning in September, consists of four workshops and four individual coaching sessions: Opening up and locate yourself, Dynamics and trust, Network and connect and Project presentation. We focus on the dynamics at play when people, groups or (project) teams meet and connect across disciplines. The trainers are Djura Prins and Cor Meurs. For more information, search the intranet for Beyond Connection or email Ann-Marie Ryan at lend.chr@wur.nl.

DUTCH DATA PRIZE 2018

Nominate yourself, another researcher or a research group by 1 July for the Dutch Data Prize. This is a prize for making research data available for both new and further research projects. The winners receive €5000 to make the data set accessible – or even more accessible. researchdata.nl/diensten/dataprijs

AFRICA THESIS AWARD

Are you interested in Africa and is your Master's thesis on a related subject? If so, the African Studies Centre in Leiden is offering you the chance to win €500. The award is presented to a student whose Master's thesis has been completed on the basis of research conducted on Africa. Any final-year student who has completed his/her Master's thesis with distinction (80% or higher or a Dutch rating of at least an 8) may apply. The thesis must have been examined in the twelve months prior to the deadline of 8 July.

ASCLEIDEN.NL

INTERNSHIP WITH TECH COMPANIES IN SILICON VALLEY

Have you always wanted to work in the epicentre of technological development? To get experience in companies such as Apple and LinkedIn? That is possible now thanks to the internship platform of the Dutch Consulate in San Francisco. The Internships in the Valley platform was proposed by Prime Minis-

Future WUR your ideas?



Information Market: New Strategic Plan WUR

(for staff and students)

Date: Monday 4 June 12.00-13.30
Location: Wisdom & Wonder Pavilion, Wageningen Campus

For example:

- new business model WR
- more rotation of chair holders?
- WUR as an attractive employer
- opportunities for new investment themes
- an international organisation?

Voucher for free ice cream or coffee.
Bon voor gratis ijsje of koffie.

Information Market
new strategic plan WUR
4/6/2018. 12.00-13.30
Pavilion Wisdom & Wonder





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ter Mark Rutte and Neelie Kroes, a former ambassador for StartupDelta. As well as internships with big tech companies, there will soon be openings to work for incubators and accelerators. During the application process you get guidance from the Consulate on practical matters such as how to find housing, apply for a visa and get in touch with the SF community.

NLINTEUSA.COM/INTERNSHIPS-IN-THE-VALLEY

Agenda

Thursday 31 May, 22:30 UNITAS PRESENTS: FINGERLICKIN' PLEASURE CRUISE VOL. 2

The hottest party of the year is round the corner: Fingerlickin' on 31 may! We'll be sailing down the Rhine by night on 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

Thursday 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 31 May & 1, 2 June, 20:30 FILMS FOR STUDENTS

Aus dem Nichts: A German drama about extreme right murders, the law and revenge. *The Rider*: a drama about a young rodeo hero trying to find his place again after a serious accident. *Nico, 1988*: biopic about the last two years in the life of Christa Päffgen, Lou Reed's muse. *Foxtrot*: an Israeli action film about a young soldier whose par-

ents are told he has died during military service at a remote border post. Venue: Wilhelminaweg 3A, Wageningen. €6.50/€5.

MOVIE-W.NL

Friday 1 and Saturday 2 June, 20:00 SPRING CONCERTS BY WAGENINGEN STUDENT CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA (WSKOV)

The choir will sing a repertoire including B. Chilcott's *Five Days That Changed The World*, an inspiring five-part piece about scientific discoveries, with piano and timpani accompaniment. This reflects the theme of Music and Science, which was chosen in the context of 100 Years of WUR. Before the concert at 19:00, Cees Mobach will give an interactive and illustrated talk about Robert Schumann's 3rd Symphony, *Die Rheinische*, which the WSKOV will perform. Venue: Friday Johannes de Doperkerk (Bergstraat 17); Saturday De Grote Kerk (Markt 1).

WSKOV.NL

Friday 8 June 20:00 SAXPLOSIEF IN CONCERT

The saxophone ensemble Saxplosief has been a regular feature of events on campus and in Wageningen town centre in the past few years. And there's a concert again this year, this time together with saxophonists from the Excelsior brass band from Eibergen and some singers from the WSKOV choir. You'll hear George Gershwin's swinging *An American in Paris*, and Gustav Holst's epic, rousing *The Planets*. Let Saxplosief surprise you with the saxophone's versatility! Venue: Arboretumkerk Wageningen, Delhorstpad 6. Costs €5. Reservations through saxplosief@gmail.com.

Saturday 9 June, 13:30-16:00 HAD ENOUGH OF SINGING SOLO? COME SING TOGETHER!

Het Andere Koor (HAK) in Wageningen has room for singers who can hold a tune! Come and meet us at the open rehearsal in the Pantarijn School on Hollandseweg 9 in Wageningen. At the rehearsal you can sing along in Gabriel Faure's Requiem, with orchestral accompaniment. It is not compulsory to sign up in advance, but it is handy: cox.merkelij@upcmail.nl. Then you'll be sent the sheet music by email.

HWSOHAK.NL

Colophon

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

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Publisher

Marc Lamers, Corporate Communications & Marketing Wageningen University & Research



>>TYPICAL DUTCH



ILLUSTRATION: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK

Goodbye heavy wallet!

One day, I was buying some fruit and vegetables at the market with my Dutch friends. Done with groceries, we decided to have coffee at a café nearby. Suddenly one of my friends stopped to check her pockets for her wallet. She found nothing and went pale. Then she tried again and after some minutes, she found what she was looking for: a tiny wallet with an ATM card inside. No cash, not even a cent.

In Wageningen I rarely see anyone carrying a 'proper' wallet, one with cash in it and lots of cards. It surprised me at first, since back in Indonesia, I used to take my wallet everywhere and anytime, full of bank notes, coins, and many cards such as an ATM card, my driving licence, student card, hospital card, and membership or discount cards for stores, the library, the skin centre, the sports centre, etc. In total, I carry 18 cards around in my wallet. So I have to use a big bag if I want to carry anything else too. Not to mention that if I want to carry coins as well, I have to put them in a separate pouch.

Here, I don't need to carry all that around with me. All I need to bring is my student card and *pinpas*, as non-cash payment is accepted almost everywhere. What surprises me most is that even at the market, most of the stalls welcome non-cash payment. So a tiny pouch is my mate during my time in the Netherlands. I only need to bring my old big wallet when I travel to other cities, so I can take along my *ov-chipkaart* and residence permit.

This is what I love most about living in Wageningen, a small city yet so peaceful. I love the simplicities, like my tiny, cute pouch. Goodbye heavy wallet! 📍 **Atina Rosydiana, an MSc student of International Development Studies, from Indonesia**

What I love most about living in Wageningen is the simplicities, like my tiny, cute wallet

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.