

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Future
forecaster of
Kenyan weather

ANNE VAN DEN BAN FONDS

Giving back
to WUR

ALUMNI

Prestigious
award for
soil research

FOUNDATIONS

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Dear donors and relations

We are proud to present the 2019 University Fund Wageningen (UFW) annual report. As always, we worked hard this year to facilitate unique research projects, grant scholarships and awards to promising talents, and maintain life-long connections with more than 53,000 alumni from Wageningen University & Research (WUR). In doing so we contributed to the growth and success of the university throughout the year.

Early 2019 marked a moment of reflection after a very busy 2018, in which UFW made a significant contribution to 100 Years WUR and concluded 'Food For Thought', our fundraising campaign. We started the new year with a strategic plan for 2019-2022 aimed at better reaching, connecting and mobilising stakeholders to contribute to WUR's social role.

The key goal in the years ahead is to be the central organisation for WUR with regards to strategic relation management with philanthropic partners and the leading expert in the field of philanthropic fundraising. The essence of our approach lies in centralising the personal connections with our relations, or, as we like to call it: 'friendraising before fundraising'. We establish 'partnerships for impact' with these relations to help realise pioneering research within WUR. The article by Gerlinde de Deyn in this report showcases a good example. Having won the 'FoodShot Global' award, Gerlinde is now conducting fundamental research into fermented sorghum in Africa, a beverage with the potential to eradicate nutrient deficiencies on the African continent.

Our new plan also addresses new developments in the field of alumni relations and philanthropy. We will strive to connect alumni to WUR at all stages of their lives via a targeted alumni policy. A dedicated programme is currently being established to encourage students and young alumni to join us at an early stage. In addition, we will be working on increasing the transparency of the University Fund and enhancing the personal involvement of donors in our projects in the coming years.

This Annual Report has a different look & feel to previous editions. We share stories that demonstrate our results and let the people who benefit most from our efforts and your support speak for themselves. In this framework, Anne van den Ban Fund student Alex Ogelo shares his dream of becoming a meteorologist in his home country of Kenya, alumna Annemarie van Zaayen explains why she has included one of our named funds in her will, and various alumni tell us why they like to give back to their alma mater. Moreover, our figures illustrate how much effect we have actually had, the award pages feature all winners from the past year, and our student section underlines how we supported students to prepare for their careers.

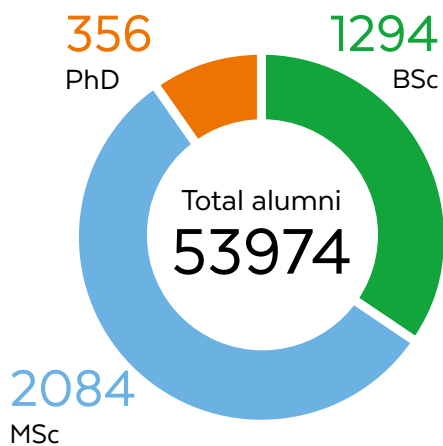
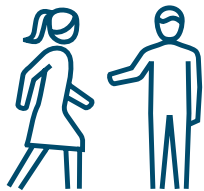
It is because of you and many others that we can share these stories. Any donation (in time or money) enables us to finance unique initiatives and studies, and help students and scientists realise their dreams. We hope we can continue to count on your involvement in the future. On behalf of all beneficiary students, scientists and other people involved, we thank you for your engagement and support.

On behalf of the Board of University Fund Wageningen,
Jan Karel Mak (chair)

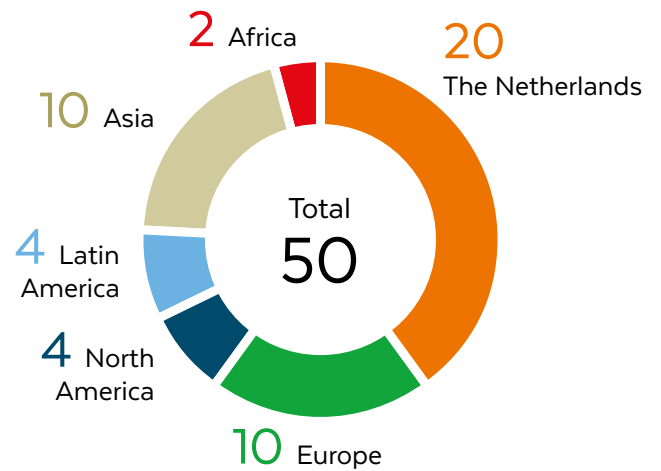
What do our figures say?

Alumni

In 2019, WUR has gained 3734 alumni



Alumni events



Alumni Chapters & Networks



Planted UniversiTREES in 2019



10

National



7

International

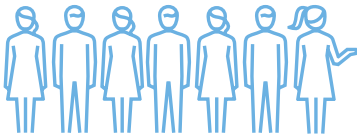


28*

Total since 2018

* of the 100 intended trees

Volunteers



350

Volunteers involved with UFW, 3000 hours in total

Fundraising

€ 571.990 raised in large donations

€ 2.240.281 raised in perennial commitments

€ 28.846 raised in crowd funding



Named Funds

In total € 635.983 earmarked

and € 35.904 unearmarked



27 named funds



6 crowd funding projects



In total 50 scholarships given to international students

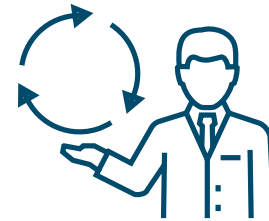
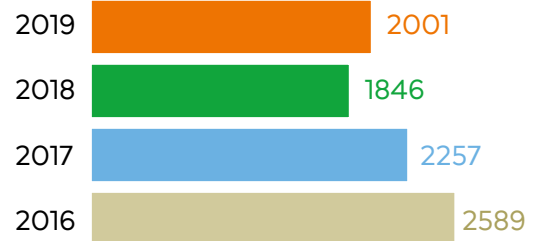


Donors



2001

Donors



754

Regular donors



To which funds

621

Donors

University Fund Wageningen

761

Donors

anne vanden banfund

885

Donors

Fund Belmonte Arboretum

Alex Ogelo

Future forecaster of Kenyan weather

Alex Ogelo had to overcome many challenges to get where he is today. In his home country Kenya, he sold bananas on the street to earn money for school and faced times of hunger during his bachelor's studies. This discipline enabled him to finish his degree in meteorology, after which Alex applied for a master's degree in Earth and Environment at WUR. With the financial support of the Anne van den Ban Fund, he is currently on his way to become an influential Kenian weather forecaster. "I was overwhelmed with joy and happiness when I heard that I got a scholarship from the fund. Out of nowhere, I could suddenly pursue a study that can give me my dream career."



Once Alex finishes his master's degree and returns to Kenya, he wants to participate in improving and providing a timely weather forecast in his country. "The main problem Kenyans are facing is the increasing unpredictability of the rainy season. When I was a young boy, we knew when the long rainy season would start, and we therefore knew when to prepare the land, till the soil and make terraces in preparation. Over the past years, however, the rainy season has become erratic, starting well before or after the usual time."

Weather forecasters face uncertainty in models, especially in predicting weather shifts, and so farmers have tended to stick to what has worked in the past. If the seasons remain unpredictable and there are no trustworthy, accurate ways to model the weather and tell farmers about it, harvests will increasingly fail.

"The weather forecast is a lot more accurate in the Netherlands," Alex says. "Dutch weather experts manage to give timely forecasts despite the fact that the weather here fluctuates more than in Kenya – it's not rare for a sunny day to turn cloudy or vice versa. In Kenya, a day that starts sunny tends to stay that way. This is why I wanted to study in Wageningen, and, with the help of the Anne van den Ban Fund, I am now doing just that!"

Real challenges

Alex's studies in Wageningen have already helped him gain the expertise and experience necessary to improve weather prediction in Kenya. "I now know how to make predictions of future atmospheric scenarios using different models. These models all show different results, which can be put together to give an accurate projection of the future. I have also gained a great deal of practical experience. In Kenya we only learn the theory of how certain models work. In the Netherlands, we start modelling in our first year and conduct fieldwork to see if our predictions

are accurate. We get to experience some of the real challenges in science, like the pressure one might feel when having to report back quickly after a natural calamity.

"I will soon start an internship at Utrecht University, where I will work with machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI), trying to connect carbon fluxes to environmental drivers. This will give me highly relevant skills, since AI and ML are widely used in the field of atmospheric sciences. I may be among the first Kenyans to apply these new techniques in the meteorological department!"

The weather in 42 languages

Alex sees many different job opportunities for himself when he returns to Kenya. "I hope to get a job either with the government, a university or an agricultural institution where I can employ the use of models I have learnt into the Kenyan situation."

He has also been thinking about the best way to pass weather information onto local farmers. "There are 42 tribes in Kenya, and at least as many languages. We need to involve local TV and radio stations and experts who understand the weather and speak the local language, so they can explain the forecasts in lay terms. If we can also include the relevant ministries, they could advise farmers in different regions to start planting in a given week. All these things would help get farmers to trust and understand the forecast."

An appreciated opinion

Alex loves studying in Wageningen together with other Anne van den Ban (ABF) students. "They have become like family to me. We meet often and have lunch together." In class, Alex really enjoys the two-way interaction between student and professor. "The professors listen to us, and everyone's opinion is appreciated as long as they can explain it. Even if you are wrong, they appreciate your effort. In Wageningen, failure isn't considered a

bad thing – in my culture, it can feel like committing a crime! If a person fails a test in Kenya they keep it a secret, but in Wageningen it is seen as an opportunity to improve. That is motivating. I can also call my professor by their first name and talk about their weekend. That would never happen in Kenya.”

Why the fund matters

Alex hopes that more people will donate to the Anne van den Ban Fund. “There are so many people from my country who would really love to advance in education and improve the livelihood of other people, but are not in a position to do so.”

He hopes that the fund can keep on improving lives and helping people realise their dreams. “The children that are yet to be born will live in a world with better solutions to the problems we face today. This future will be helped by the Anne van den Ban community.” Alex is very proud to be part of this community. “It will be my greatest achievement when I hold my diploma in my hands in August.” ●

About the Anne van den Ban Fund

The Anne van den Ban Fund allows promising students from developing countries to pursue a master’s degree at Wageningen University & Research. After graduation, most of them return to their country and contribute to sustainable development.

More information

www.annevandenbanfund.eu

Arnold Bregt, Dean of Education: “Thanks to the Anne van den Ban Fund the international classroom is enriched with motivated and concerned students. Through our collaboration with the fund we as WUR contribute to capacity-building in developing countries.



Prestigious award for soil research

Gerlinde de Deyn is a ground-breaker in every sense of the word. The WUR Personal Chair Professor in soil biology was presented with the GroundBreaker Award from the FoodShot Global platform in New York in June 2019, receiving a sum of 250.000 USD for her research into the interaction between plant diversity and soil biology. It was a welcome recognition for Gerlinde de Deyn as a scientist “and also an overdue recognition of the soil itself,” she adds. “As the chair of FoodShot Global, Victor Friedberg, said: ‘the soil isn’t very sexy.’ And that’s true. While so much attention is paid currently to improving our food system, there’s been very little interest in the soil to date.”

Scientists looking to explore new territories or work on an interdisciplinary level may have difficulty raising funds in the normal way. This holds true even if these studies have pioneering potential and may offer new solutions to the major issues of our times. With this in mind, UFW utilises its considerable network and capacities to bring research to the attention of wealthy foundations, networks and private individuals. At the same time, we help these parties find a suitable destination for their contribution.

The soil as basis for food system 3.0

The GroundBreaker Award was part of the Innovation Soil 3.0 challenge – in which soils 1.0 and 2.0 refer to the premodern agricultural system and the artificial fertiliser-rich system, respectively. According to FoodShot’s executive director Sara Eckhouse, soil 3.0 involves a symbiotic relationship between agriculture and soil, which requires an understanding of how plants and soil interact. De Deyn: “A big challenge in soil research is studying soil processes without disturbing plant and soil, as most techniques are based on lab analyses of field material. By developing fitting remote sensing technology (together with WUR colleague Lammert Kooistra) we can gain insight in soil processes without physical disruption. This does not only give a more realistic representation of the field; it also saves time.”





Foto: Roy Steiner

The research into the interaction between plant diversity and soil biology has led to many practical applications for farmers, which led FoodShot Global to award De Deyn this prize. Sara Eckhouse: "The practical applications of the research by Gerlinde de Deyn give farmers the option to rebuild the soil function via plant diversity and the microbiome. This enables them to grow nutritious products without negative effects on the environment. It is precisely the type of pioneering research we need to develop a healthier, more

sustainable and fairer food system." FoodShot Global aims to set up an annual challenge for various topics related to food, and the soil innovation challenge was the first. De Deyn agrees with the choice of this topic to kick off the series... "because the soil provides the basis for a healthier and more sustainable food production."

Sorghum: from poor man's crop to hunger killer

The GroundBreaker Award prize money will be used for a new project that was

struggling to attract funds. "I hired a PhD student for my 'spicing up the soil' project, in which we study the interaction between the microbiomes of the soil and plant roots used for the mildly fermented drink munkoyo in Africa, starting with Zambia."

Munkoyo is popular in African countries and contains a wealth of nutrients. Roots of specific wild plants are added to grains to start the fermentation process. It is usually made from maize, a widespread crop in Africa, but can also be made from sorghum, which is much more drought-resistant and far more suitable for the African climate. "However, sorghum is seen as a 'poor man's crop' in Africa. If we can increase its nutritional value by using it in a beverage via fermentation, farmers can earn more.

This changes the perception of sorghum and benefits the position of women, who are normally charged with food processing and small-scale farming." Munkoyo made with sorghum is a promising beverage to combat nutritional poverty, especially in times of climate change. "But we don't know a lot about it. Once we know precisely which roots should be collected and which micro-organisms help with the fermenting process, we can promote their cultivation among farmers." The wild plant roots should, however, be widespread. "Otherwise we might even have to start cultivating the plants."

Making more impact

UFW supported De Deyn in submitting her entry for the award and is pleased with her choice for the possibly revolutionary research into sorghum, in which De Deyn works together with several colleagues from WUR Plant Sciences and Food Microbiology and from the University of Zambia. The resulting PhD is a promising start to "spicing up the soil", but De Deyn estimates that she will eventually need three PhD students to complete the project. "I would ultimately like to start using accessible remote sensing to study the interaction between soil and plant diversity as in my previous research.

This would mean, for instance, that farmers can use leaf or soil scanners to pass on information via their mobiles, which we can then analyse." Therefore, UFW is currently looking for additional funding for this project. ●

For more information

www.tinyurl.com/spicingupthesoil

"In Africa, sorghum is seen as a poor man's crop"



Photo: Sijmen Schoustra

FoodShot Global is a partnership of venture capital funds, banks, corporate strategy investors and wealthy foundations with a shared mission: to be a catalyst for bold ideas and companies to accelerate the transformation to a healthy, sustainable and fair food system. Together they form a platform that provides investments and awards to support these ideas and companies. WUR is one of the partners in FoodShot Global since 2020.

In addition to her research work, De Deyn has found other ways to have the soil capture people's imagination. In 2016, she set up a crowdfunding campaign via UFW to buy video material for making time-lapses of the soil. The resulting clips were shown during the opening of the Olympics in 2016, in BBC's Autumnwatch and in a few NPO (Dutch public broadcast) shows.

www.tinyurl.com/soil-in-action



Rockefeller Foundation Summer Academy

In June 2019, UFW had the honour of hosting The Rockefeller Foundation Summer Academy, together with Wageningen Academy. In five memorable days, the senior food team of the Rockefeller Foundation and representatives of other international philanthropic institutions were presented with the latest research highlights, facilities tours, off-campus excursions and applied case studies on sustainable food systems by WUR experts.

In close contact with the Rockefeller Foundation, UFW and Wageningen Academy developed a tailor-made programme, providing the participants with the knowledge necessary to adequately respond to the world's key challenges and transitions in the future of food. Each day, a different topic ruled the agenda, among which the power of plants, climate change, sustainable nutrition and a field visit to Flevoland.

The programme was positively received by the participants, a curious and passionate group of professionals from Africa, the USA and Europe. Sara Farley, Managing Director of Food Initiative of The Rockefeller Foundation, stated on Twitter that she had an... "incredible time at the 'Summer School' in The Netherlands with

my new Rockefeller team exploring nutrition science, emerging food innovation and cutting edge research to drive the implementation of our brand new strategy."

Additional to this intense knowledge-based programme, UFW organised a social side-event in the Kröller-Müller Museum in Otterlo. In a museum tour specifically designed for the Rockefeller Foundation Summer Academy, the group was guided through several key European masterpieces collected by Hélène Kröller-Müller with a focus on the history of food and peasant life. The evening was concluded with a dinner and a keynote from prof. dr. ir. Louise O. Fresco, President of the Executive Board of WUR.

The Rockefeller Foundation is one of the largest philanthropic organisations in the world with a major ambition to achieve sustainable food security, and with WUR being the number one agricultural university in the world, it was a great opportunity to host this training course and learn from each other. UFW and WUR hope that the future holds many possibilities to continue working together with The Rockefeller Foundation towards a sustainable, healthy and fair food system. ●



“We hope other people will follow our example”

Clemens de Vos and Ditsy de Vos-Thijssen are supporting research on combatting tick- and insect-borne diseases with a named fund of their own. “This makes us happy.”

PhD candidate Antoine Cribellier improved the design of a mosquito trap so that it now catches about three times as many malaria-carrying mosquitoes as the original trap. This is an example of the Wageningen research that the De Vos Fund has cofinanced in recent years. The generous donors behind the fund are Clemens de Vos and Ditsy de Vos-Thijssen from Wageningen. Five years ago, they decided that they wanted to donate money to a number of good causes during their lifetime. “We have both worked hard for this,” says Ditsy. Clemens in his IT firm Epicenter and Ditsy in education. “Sadly, we don’t have children, so we don’t need to save money for them.” They decided on the Dutch Brain Foundation (the Hersenstichting) and a fund of their own under the auspices of the University Fund Wageningen. Clemens: “We didn’t study in Wageningen but we have been living here for over 20 years and we feel a bond with the town and the university. My brother works there as a researcher, we have neighbours who work there, and we hear a lot about the research.” They chose to set up a named fund, with the aim of supporting research on combatting tick- and insect-borne diseases such as malaria, the Zika virus and Lyme’s disease. “Because that

is where biology and health meet.” says Clemens. The couple have a say in the choice of research topics and the researchers update them annually on the results. Clemens: “It is nice to be able to pick something that appeals to you.”

PhD Research

Between 2015 and 2019, the fund has donated a total of 50,000 euros to research on diseases transmitted by vectors such as insects and ticks. “With that money we supported four PhD research projects which were beyond the scope of the PhD students’ project budget,” says Wageningen mosquito expert Sander Koenraad, who is on the fund’s supervisory board. “As an example, Cribellier is a biomechanical scientist and has used high-speed cameras to film the flight behaviour of mosquitoes around the trap,” Koenraad goes on. “In the footage he saw how mosquitoes get away from the suction effect of the trap. By factoring that in, he could design better traps.” Koenraad: “As a researcher, you make a plan for four years, but sometimes you find out as you go along that you’d like to change direction slightly and you need extra funding for that. This fund makes that possible.”





Mosquito expert Sander Koenraad (right) explains his research to De Vos - Thijssen, founders of the De Vos Fund.

And it is also very nice for a young researcher aiming at an academic career to be able to put on his CV that he has independently secured substantial funding."

Tick-borne diseases

The first research that Clemens and Ditsy co-financed was that of tick researcher Helen Esser. She has now graduated with a PhD thesis on the influence of biodiversity on the transmission of diseases by ticks in Panama. She used the money to identify ticks with the aid of advanced molecular techniques. "Helen gave very enthusiastic accounts of her research," recalls Ditsy.

"I learned a lot in the process. I didn't know anything about ticks. Now I know that large ruminants are important for the transmission of tick diseases to humans." Ditsy's pupils at primary school learned something new too.

"Sander Koenraad wanted to pay us back in some way, and he gave my class a guest lesson about mosquitoes. He demonstrated that mosquitoes like the smell of sweaty feet using a sock of one of the children's, which they thought was hilarious. They also loved it that Sander was on the children's TV programme Klokhuis." Ditsy and Clemens are pleased with their fund's results and are going to support the research on vector-borne diseases with a further 50,000 euros over another five years from 2019 onwards. "This makes us happy," says Ditsy. Clemens adds, "We hope other people will follow our example, especially alumni." ●

www.wur.eu/devosfund

Support a specific goal within the

The University Fund Wageningen managed 27 named funds in 2019, all of which are contributing to the growth and flourishing of research and education at Wageningen University & Research. This year we raised a total of € 671.888 for these funds.

Named funds offer students, (young) scientists and other staff members at Wageningen University & Research the chance to build on their (international) experience and strengthen their position in the labour market, while international students receive a grant to study in Wageningen. Donors who make a large

Anne van den Ban Fund

Enables promising students from developing countries to follow a master's programme at WUR. After the completion of their studies they can contribute to the sustainable development of their country.

Fund Belmonte Arboretum

Provides in the maintenance of the Belmonte Arboretum Wageningen as a preeminent botanical, historical and scenic garden.

Rob Goldbach Fund

Promotes virology at Wageningen in the broadest sense, to prevent and combat viral diseases in plants and animals.

European Cereal Atlas Fund (ECAAF)

Facilitates and promotes knowledge exchange about classic grains for PhDs and other researchers in The Netherlands and abroad.

Wellensiek Fund

Finances PhD research in horticulture and related fields.

Nico Buisman Fund

Stimulates education and research in the field of environmental technology.

Fund Wageningen Ambassadors

The Wageningen Ambassadors are WUR alumni and are all leaders the corporate world and the government, who want to give back to WUR. By using their network, experience and financial means, they wish to build a bridge between WUR and society.

Gijsbert Oomen Fund

Supports Indonesian students in financing their studies at WUR. These students will return to Indonesia after graduation with new knowledge and skills.

Future Animal Nutrition Africa (FANA) Fund

Offers African students the possibility to gain knowledge in Wageningen in the field of animal nutrition. After their graduation they can contribute to the development of their country.

Fund Niels Smith

Gives a talented young top athlete an extra financial impulse allowing them to combine their passion with their studies.

Middelhoven Fund

Enables students and employees of WUR to finance an internship or field trip abroad within the field of microbiology. By doing so, they get the chance to work together with the top in this field of research.

Aalt Dijkhuizen Fund

Provides scholarships to talented MSc and PhD students and postdoc researchers from WUR who want to travel to a foreign preeminent institution to gain new, high tech knowledge.

Plant Resources of the World (PROW) Fund

Supports the collection and availability of formal scientific knowledge and informal practical knowledge in the field of useful plant species, with the goal to improve living conditions in developing countries.

University Fund Wageningen

donation can consider setting up a named fund. The donor can decide on the name of the fund and choose a specific objective, as long as this is within the general objectives of UFW. Below you can read about the specific aims of these various funds.

If there is a particular subject that you would like to support or you require more information on a fund, visit www.universityfundwageningen.eu

Would you like to set up a new named fund yourself? Contact us at ufw@wur.nl for more information.

Storm - van der Chijs Fund

Stimulates and supports female scientists of WUR in their career.

Organic Plant Breeding Fund

Finances an endowed professorship in biological plant breeding at WUR.

Hans de Jong Fund

Enables researchers, companies and organisations to gain knowledge in bulk material collection.

Huub en Julienne Spiertz (HJS) Fund

Invests in young agrobiologists and crop scientists to advance research in agrobiology and crop science, with special attention to sustainable food production.

Leniger Bruin Kühn Fund

Stimulates excellent education and innovative research in food technology and food safety at WUR.

Paul Speijer Fund

Offers African students the possibility to follow master's programme in Plant Sciences at WUR. Preferably these are students who work at a local research institute focused on crops.

Lucie Timmermans Fund

Supports the development of young female researchers at WUR in the field of experimental zoology, animal cell biology, entomology and animal physiology.

Fund de Vos

Gives financial support to scientific research into and education about the (biological) control of human and animal vector-borne diseases (diseases spread by vectors like ticks and mosquitos).

Pavlos Condellis Fund

Provides scholarships to excellent Greek students to follow an MSc programme at WUR. They can contribute to the development of the agricultural sector in Greece after graduation.

Marina van Damme Fund

Supports talented female WUR alumni in the next step or turn in their career.

Dairy Science & Technology Fellowship

Stimulates students to follow the MSc specialisation Dairy Science & Technology.

Food Security Fund

Supports the discussion about worldwide food security.

L. Bos Fund

Finances an endowed professorship in ecological plant virology by prof. dr. ir. René van der Vlugt.

CWF Fund

Enables students from developing countries to follow a programme at WUR or partner universities in the field of human consumption and/or food technology.

“We mustn’t let the practical plant virology die out”

“I am very enthusiastic about my subject and I want to leave my money to a good cause,” says virologist Annemarie van Zaayen. That is why she has included the L. Bos Fund for plant virology in her will.

With great regret, Annemarie van Zaayen (79) relates how she saw funding for her subject area, ecological plant virology, dwindle during the course of her career. “That is a great pity because new viral diseases are emerging all the time, and it is exactly that practical knowledge about symptoms and how diseases spread that is still needed. An infectious tomato virus turned up recently in the Westland greenhouses, for example.” By contrast, molecular research on plant viruses in laboratories has made great strides. “It really is marvellous what they can do with genetic analyses. But it doesn’t solve everything. In the lab, they find DNA or RNA of all kinds of viruses but then they don’t know what they do: are they harmful or in fact beneficial? Which symptoms do they cause, and how do they spread?” So a donation to the L. Bos Fund for ecological plant virology was an obvious choice for Van Zaayen when she came to make her will. This fund was established by the family of virologist Lute Bos (1928-2010) and has financed special professor René van der Vlugt’s chair of Ecological Virology at Wageningen University & Research for one day a week for the past five years. Ecological plant virology looks at the role of viruses in farming systems and in nature. This “green” plant virology was Lute Bos’s subject and his passion. The fund

is almost empty now, but the university has extended Van der Vlugt’s appointment for five years and is now paying his salary.

Van Zaayen: “I don’t have a partner anymore, I have no children and not much family. I am very enthusiastic about my field and I want to leave my money to a good cause. So I thought: I support the objective of the L. Bos Fund, let me invest it in that. And I’ve had a guarantee from University Fund Wageningen that when my legacy comes in, they will dedicate it to a useful purpose in the chair group. I know, for instance, that Van der Vlugt needs a lot of assistance at the moment.” Van Zaayen thought it was important to make good arrangements for her will while she is still healthy. And she hopes to inspire others to follow her example. “I prefer to keep out of the limelight, but I thought I should tell my story because we mustn’t let this subject area die out.” After graduating in Plant Pathology in 1966, Van Zaayen did research at the then Institute for Phytopathological Research (IPO) – where Lute Bos worked too – on a destructive viral disease that was affecting mushrooms and posing a serious economic problem for mushroom growers.

Electron microscope

“In Wageningen I studied the virus under the electron microscope, and at what was then the Mushroom Experimental Station in Horst I did the practical experiments to study how the disease spread.” This research led to her obtaining her PhD in 1972. Van Zaayen went on to work as a plant pathologist at the Mushroom Experimental Station in Horst, at the Bulb Laboratory in Lisse, at the tissue culture company PhytoNova in Rijnsburg, and for a short while at the IPO. For the last 10 years of her career, she was head of a branch of the then Netherlands Inspection Service for Arboriculture Products NAKB (now Naktuinbouw (the Netherlands





Photo: Aldo Alessie

Inspection Service for Horticulture) in Roelofarendsveen), which maintains and promotes the quality of horticultural products. After Van Zaayen had arranged for the L. Bos Fund to be included in her will, she was invited to Wageningen by Professor Van der Vlugt. "We know each other from the IPO and the Plant Virology circle, which sadly is not very active at present. At that time he gave a short overview of his projects especially for me. I was very interested to hear how dynamic it is: he works on a lot of different topics and has students from tropical countries too. Viral diseases are often unknown there, or badly researched. Another thing that fascinates me is a project on maturity resistance against aphids – which transmit certain viruses – in sugar beets and how viruses can inhibit this resistance mechanism. I'm sure we can expect a lot more nice results from this research." ●

About the L. Bos Fund

The L. Bos Fund is a named fund under University Fund Wageningen. Donations to this fund support scientific research and education in the Wageningen Ecological Plant Virology chair group. More information: www.universityfundwageningen.eu/lbosfund

Legacies in a will

More and more people are including charities in their will. Would you like to leave (a part of) your legacy to science? Contact Arianne van Ballegooij, arianne.vanballegooij@wur.nl. More information can be found at www.universityfundwageningen.nl/legacy.

Giving back to WUR

Active alumni tell their story

UFW commits to maintain a close bond between alumni and WUR. We organise a variety of alumni activities in The Netherlands and abroad every year and held the first Alumni Open Day in 2019. These activities can take place thanks to the involvement of our more than 350 alumni volunteers who want to give back to their alma mater. In 2019, they have put in some 3000 hours for WUR with their involvement with a committee, coaching students, organising meetings and many other projects. In this article, four alumni tell why they commit their time to WUR.

IRIS VENDEL

WUR MSc Food Technology (2014). Analytical chemist at Olam Cacao. MSc. Co-founder of Alumni Chapter Belgium.

"When I lived in Louvain for my PhD, I was approached by the WUR alumni office to start up an Alumni Chapter in Belgium together with another alumna. It was quite tricky to reach people at first, as not everyone passes on their new address after graduation. We started with an invitation from the alumni office and spreading information by word of mouth. The first meeting had 15 attendants, which I already thought was a good result. Since then, we've organised meetings with as many as 80 people. Our concept entailed an alumnus showing us around at his place of employment followed by a dinner. There's always someone who says: 'You can come to my work next time', which has brought us to many unique places and taught us lots of new things. It's

always fun to meet up with alumni from Wageningen as they have a broad range of interests and can talk about anything. The way in which WUR alumni like to learn the true story from a critical perspective is different to what I have experienced at other universities. And our meetings of course also invoke a sense of nostalgia." ●



LENNART VAN DER BURG

WUR MSc Environmental Sciences (2008). Business Developer green hydrogen at TNO and committee member in the Utrecht Regional Chapter.

"After graduating I joined the regional Alumni Chapter in Rotterdam/The Hague, then moved to the Utrecht chapter for the last seven years. I believe that it is important for Wageningen alumni to stay in touch. We are all on the same wavelength and it allows us to remain connected to the university. Wageningen alumni are socially engaged and have learned to substantiate their opinion well. The regional meetings represent a unique platform for organising debates about social issues with people from the industry. We come from many different places and cover a wide variety of topics. For instance, we discussed the local community at the Oranje Fonds, local transitions to circular agriculture at Willem & Drees, and the energy value of a can of cola at Pepsi. One of the bigger challenges we face is getting young alumni involved. That's a shame: becoming active as an alumnus is the preeminent way to get a sneak peek in different work environments. Wageningen alumni are everywhere! We hope that by addressing subjects like entrepreneurship and innovative companies we can attract a younger target group. I would like to encourage all young alumni to visit a regional meeting." ●

PETER REINDERS

WUR Forestry Techniques (1985) and with a doctorate from the Mathematics department (1989), is Managing Partner at Lexence, a law firm in Amsterdam with 160 employees and a focus on corporate law (transactions, employment law, notarial services and litigation) and real estate law (full chain). He is the chair of Wageningen Ambassadors and a former Board member of UFW.



"I owe a great deal to Wageningen: I was taught to think long-term, work in a multidisciplinary way and know that a solution can always be found if you put in enough energy. Although my career was not traditional for a Wageningen student, these characteristics still benefit me in my current position when I have to switch quickly between finance, marketing and strategy matters while simultaneously managing complex processes. Wageningen is truly unique in its combination of studying, having fun and being outdoors in a beautiful and diverse environment. I most enjoyed

the way you can build personal relationships with our lecturers – I used to meet with one of my professors every week to solve mathematical problems. When offered the opportunity to give something back to WUR around ten years ago, I therefore didn't hesitate. As Wageningen Ambassadors we support WUR. This includes helping with the honours programme, financing and organising the World Lectures (Wereldlezingen), and giving workshops as part of the Business Skills Programme and various other projects. We meet twice a year to attend lectures and have intrinsic

discussions. The entire Executive Board generally attends too, which has allowed the Ambassadors to establish a direct relationship with them. As an Ambassador, I was also part of the UFW Board for eight years. If I can help in any way in my role, I am happy to do so. And I think that applies to nearly all Wageningen alumni." ●

RIANNE VASTENHOEW

MSc Organic Agriculture (2020), intern assistant project manager Agrisim, Young KLV Ambassador since 2014 and board member KLV.



"I am a brand-new alumnus, but I have been actively involved with WUR throughout my studies as Young KLV Ambassador and a board member of the KLV Wageningen Alumni Network. A Young KLV Ambassador acts as the bridge between students and becoming an alumnus: by involving students in the KLV alumni association while they are studying, we stimulate them to remain active after

graduation as alumni. But we also help them prepare for the first steps in their careers, providing workshops on topics like succeeding at job interviews and network building. This position is also giving me important experience in preparation for my own career and I'm pleased to have been given this opportunity. I will miss my time in Wageningen. No one is just a number at WUR

and all teachers know you by name. That for me represents the unique Wageningen feeling." ●

Do you also want to be an active alumnus?
For more information, send an email to alumni@wur.nl

University Fund Wageningen is there for students who do not have the means to study in Wageningen and those who wish to gain extra knowledge and experience besides their studies. The various funds we manage provide scholarships for students from abroad, enable specialisations in education, and provide grants to students and young scientists to travel for their education. Our incentive scheme has also helped some 190 students gain experience abroad by financing study trips or enabling them to present their research at international conferences. Moreover, the annual gift of 2019 allowed UFW to organise a Business Skills Programme that supports WUR students in preparing for the first steps of their career.

Extra development for WUR student boards

The third edition of the Business Skills Programme took place in 2019. Designed to provide Wageningen student boards with knowledge and skills that are not standard parts of the WUR curriculum, this programme gives participants additional opportunities to prepare for a successful career. Two of the three interactive sessions were held in English for the first time in 2019, allowing international student board members to participate in the programme as well.

The Business Skills Programme is partly financed by UFW donors. Various Wageningen Ambassadors – prominent alumni from industry and government – led the sessions and shared their knowledge and experience with the 52 participating students from 11 student boards. The sessions were very well received, with special appreciation for the professional level of the organisation and friendly atmosphere. “You should absolutely continue with this programme,” commented one AIESEC board member. “It is practical in every way.” ●



The following topics were included on the 2019 agenda



Networking skills,
general conduct & etiquette



Primary legal and
administrative
knowledge



Basic business management
& financial skills



Meeting with
the media

Advocate for snow leopards honoured as Outstanding Alumnus

The University Fund Wageningen has named Dr. Charudutt Mishra as winner of the Outstanding Alumnus Award 2019. The jury praised his remarkable contribution to the science involved in the preservation of the Asian snow leopard in cooperation with local communities in the high mountains of Central Asia. The prize was awarded during the opening of the Academic Year on 2 September. In addition to a jury report and certificate, the winner was also given a sculpture called "Freedom".



Mishra obtained his doctorate in the field of ecology and the preservation of natural resources at WUR in 2001. Since then he has published over 90 peer-reviewed articles, chapters and technical reports. He also wrote a book on community-based nature management. He currently holds the position of executive director at the Snow Leopard Trust in Seattle, USA, the largest and oldest organisation dedicated to the preservation of ecosystems and nature in the high mountains of Central Asia, with the endangered snow leopard as its figurehead.

In his work, Mishra combines various scientific disciplines and easily bridges social, cultural and religious differences, says his nominator dr. Herbert Prins. The jury report states: "Unimpeded by difficult conditions, enthusiastic and with a deep conviction, Dr. Mishra is able to stimulate people from different nationalities, religions and/or cultures to work together to preserve nature. He manoeuvres at the level of local villages and that of governors or even

country leaders with the same ease, while maintaining focus on two goals: the sustainable preservation of endangered species and the economic improvement of the marginal agro-pastoral populations in the high mountains of South and Central Asia.”

Although Mishra was unable to attend the award presentation, he visited the campus several weeks later to receive his prize.



“To be recognised by my alma mater is truly special”

A huge honour, according to the award winner. “I am blessed that this work has been awarded and honoured with various prizes, but being recognised by my alma mater – the place where I was trained in science – is truly special, and I will always cherish this honour.”

In the framework of his award, he also gave a lecture on his research, where he spoke of the community-based programmes he established in various countries in Central Asia. In these programmes, he works together with the local population to find solutions or compensation in case of conflict with wild animals, like the snow leopard, of which only some 4,000 remain in the wild. This way, the animals can be protected from extinction. He also works closely with governments to create nature reserves, and has set up an alliance to protect the snow leopard with the leaders of all twelve countries in which the animal lives. ●

Excellence and remarkable achievements deserve to be rewarded with extra attention and societal recognition. Therefore, UFW and multiple named funds present several awards and stipends every year.

UFW Awards

Outstanding Alumnus Award

Charudutt Mishra

Research Award

Sumanth Mutte and Hirotaka Kato

Teacher of the Year Award

Fred de Boer

Thesis Award

Adria Fontrodona Bach, Coen Frederiks, Margaretha Veltman (overall winner) and Sten ten Klooster

Awards and stipends named funds

Dr. ir. Aalt Dijkhuizen Fund – Young Scientist Grant

Janine Tolksdorf and Emma Hinderink

HJS Fund

Niccoló Bassetti and Thomas Abrell

Marina van Damme Award

Chantal Vogels, Judith Houtman and Nienke van Staaveren

Storm-van der Chijs Fund

Lucie Sovová, Eva Johan, and Julia Krug

Fund Niels Smith

Athlete Emma Oosterwegel



The abridged financial statement gives an overview of the income and expenditure of the foundation over the year 2019.

Valuation principles for the balance sheet

The financial statement of the foundation is composed in accordance with the RJ 650 guideline for "Fundraising institutions" of the Dutch Council for Annual Reporting. Unless stated otherwise, the valuation of the assets and liabilities takes place at nominal value. The financial fixed assets are valued at market value. Receivables are valued at nominal value, minus a provision for doubtful debts where necessary. The foundation capital distinguishes between reserves and funds. The designation funds are a separate part of the established capital, of which the limited spending options are determined by third parties.

Principles for result determination

Taking into account the valuation principles, the result is determined as the difference between income from

fundraising, third-party activities and other income, minus the expenditure throughout the year. Unless stated otherwise, the income and expenditure are accounted for in the year in which they occurred.

Auditor's statement

The financial statement was composed by Verenigingen Beheer Nederland BV and assessed and approved by Schuurman & de Leeuw Accountants in Wageningen. The purport of the auditor's statement is: "Based on our assessment, there was nothing that leads us to think that the financial statement does not provide a faithful representation of the scope and composition of the capital of University Fund Wageningen (UFW) on 31 December 2019 and the result over 2019 in accordance with the Guidelines for Annual Reporting, and guideline 650 for 'Fundraising institutions' in particular." ●



Balance on 31 December 2019

Assets

Financial fixed assets	914,421
Receivables	104,810
Liquidities	2,619,842
Total	3,639,072

Liabilities

Reserves & funds

Foundation capital	552,731
Continuity reserve	481,923
Total	1,034,654
Funds	2,476,984
Short-term debts	127,433
Total	3,639,072

Fund progress

Special purposes

Balance on 1 January	2,161,573
On: Received donations	635,983
On: Interest	0
Off: Gift fee	-16,182
Off: Expenses/advance	-843,256
Balance on 31 December	1,938,118

Fundamental Change and other WUR projects

Balance on 1 January	66,876
On: Received donations	571,990
On: Interest	0
Off: Gift fee	0
Off: Expenses/advance	-100,000
Balance on 31 December	538,866

Income and expenses in 2019

Income

Income from own fundraising	35,904
Income from third-party activities	1,224,156
Government subsidies	0
Other income	0
Income from investments	132,654
Total income	1,392,714

Expenses

Spent on causes	
Special purposes	859,438
Food for Thought	0
Fundamental Change and other WUR projects	100,000
Other projects	25,205
Total	984,643

Management and administration costs	106,187
Total expenses	1,090,830

Balance of income and expenses **301,884**

Addition/reduction

Designation fund special purposes	-223,455
Designation fund Food For Thought	0
Designation fund Fundamental Change and other WUR projects	471,990

Mutation continuity reserve **53,348**

Complete financial statement

The complete text of the financial statement is available via www.universityfundwageningen.eu

BOARD



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Chairman



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q.q. Executive Board Wageningen
University & Research



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Network



Ir. Ronald van der Giessen
q.q. Wageningen Ambassadors

EMPLOYEES

Arianne van Ballegooij
Fundraiser

Saskia de Boer
Business
coordinator

Fanny Castel
Relations manager
international foundations

Maruscha Clarke
Project officer

Cis Doorman
Data manager

Annemarie Elbers
Relations manager
large donations

Anita Freriks
Administrative
officer

Daniëlle Grashuis
Relations manager

Janna van Hoek
Communications officer

Laura Holswilder
Management assistant

Eline Nell
Alumni relations manager

Aucke Plantinga
Relations
manager
(until Oct. 2019)

Simone Ritzer
Relations manager
(until Sept. 2019)

Tom van der Schaaf
Alumni relations manager
(until Oct. 2019)

Denise Spiekerman
Alumni relations manager

Sacha Tijmstra
Communications officer

Fusien Verloop
Relations manager
large donations

Erik Vleeming
Business coordinator

Susanne van der Vliet
Events coordinator

Delia de Vreeze
Director

University Fund Wageningen, a brief history

The tradition of donating to agricultural science in Wageningen has existed for over 135 years. It can be traced back to 1884, when close friends of the recently deceased Winand Carel Hugo Staring (1808-1877), a leading Wageningen scientist and founder of soil science, decided to use his inheritance to establish the Staring Fund to help poor farmers study agriculture. Soon, several funds followed that had the development of the Agricultural College and the spreading of its knowledge as their goal.

Agricultural College Fund as anniversary gift

This example also inspired ir. Klaas Venema, who wanted to leave his entire fortune in a named fund to the Agricultural College, the current Wageningen University & Research. It was 9 March 1951 when the Agricultural College Fund (LHF) was established to mark the 75th Dies Natalis of the university and presented as an anniversary gift to the Agricultural College.

The new fund was successful: a total amount of fl. 108.950 (roughly €405.753 today) was donated to LHF by firms in the first year, which also committed to an annual gift of fl.13.670 (now €50.911) in the years ahead. As the years passed, a number of the previously established funds were assimilated into the Agricultural College Fund, including the Staring Fund.

Fundraising and alumni relations

When the Agricultural College became the Agricultural University in 1986, the Fund also changed its name to the Wageningen Universiteits Fonds (Wageningen University Fund, WUF). From the '90 onwards, WUF started to raise funds for special projects that contribute to the growth of WUR. In 2016, a new partnership with alumni association KLV and the WUR's alumni

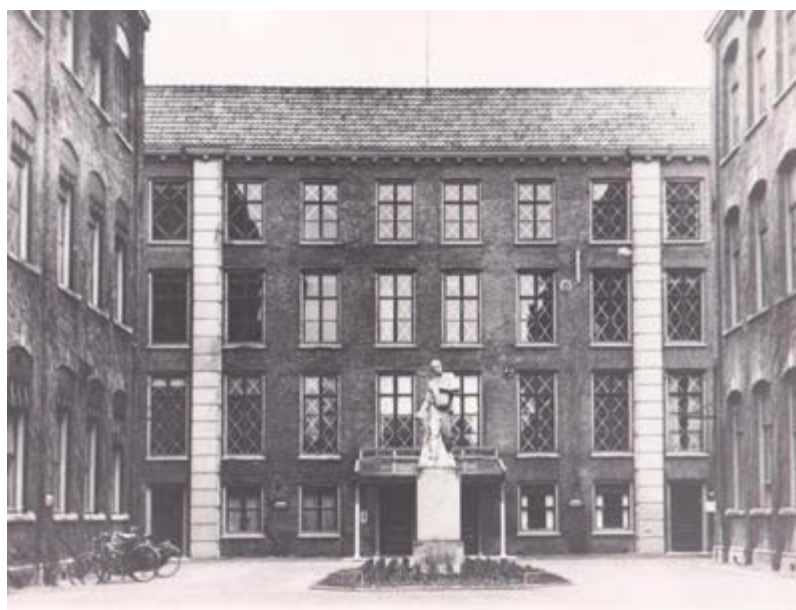


photo: Gemeentearchief Wageningen

office was established. They continued together under the name of University Fund Wageningen (UFW). From that moment on, UFW also strengthened the bonds between alumni and the WUR community.

In this way, we still contribute to that first goal of 1884. ●

COLOPHON



Smit & Moormann
notariaat

Droevendaalsesteeg 4
Postbus 9101
6700 HB Wageningen
T 0317 484 054
ufw@wur.nl
www.universityfundwageningen.eu

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Sacha Tijmstra (Chief editor)
Arianne van Ballegooij
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University Fund Wageningen

*Algemeen Nut
Beogende Instelling*
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