

Proud

by Laura de Graaf, Executive Secretary Section Business Science

I'm proud to present to you the first edition of our section's newsletter and newspaper in one. Local Business is about getting to know each other better within our section, about serious business, good to know business and fun business. Besides the email version, this newsletter is available on Microsoft Teams. You are welcome to react there to news items and to ask attention for subjects that matter to the whole section.

I'm proud that Jacco Leguijt takes care of this news platform. Besides working on the website, he introduces storytelling as essential part of communication, which results in community building and making our core business - education and research - more visible to the outside world.

I'm proud to represent the section at several occasions, working on strategic issues (like governance and strategic investments) and to be able to unburden all or several chair groups when issues come up that concern them all (like data management). I appreciate a lot your willingness to give input on these issues, when asked for. I think we can all benefit more from being a section by sharing experiences and by thinking from a section perspective. Together we have a louder voice and the end user's perspective will be in the picture of policy and system makers. Please let me know if we can assist you in any matter! To contact us, please send an email to office.sbs@wur.nl



Starting a new job during a pandemic

by Sander de Leeuw, chair holder of the Research Operations and Logistics group

If you look at the internet nowadays there are all sorts of pieces of advice popping up if you search for 'starting a new job during the Corona crisis'. However, that is not of much use if you start your job just before the start of the crisis – because that advice was not available. What is it like to start a new job in such times?

I started my job as a chair of the Operations Research and Logistics team on March 1 this year, just 2 weeks before we went into full lock-down (but of course I did not know at that point in time). Before moving to Wageningen University I had worked at Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam for more than 15 years, first in part-time capacity and from 2008 onwards in a full-time role.

My career path is not what you would probably see with most academics. After finishing my PhD at Eindhoven University of Technology in 1996 I went to Cambridge (USA) to start as a post-doc at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. To finance the second year of my research I worked part-time as a visiting assistant professor at Babson College teaching Operations Management. After two years in the USA I decided that I wanted to understand what practice was like and left academia. I started working for a Dutch software firm (Baan Company), after which I moved to consulting for a few years (in a large firm and later in a smaller firm). It was great but not entirely what I aspired so when I got the chance in 2004 to join Vrije Universiteit on a part-time basis I grabbed the opportunity.



Luckily, I had already met the ORL team a few times before March 1st, as well as several colleagues in the Business Science section. My previous employer was so kind to allow me to start attending relevant meetings well before my official start date. In hindsight I think that has helped me tremendously not feeling somewhat lost in my new position. What also helped is that I had gotten accustomed to working remotely with colleagues over the past 10 years or so due to the many projects with researchers abroad. Working with people you do not know well, via only a camera or even without visuals, did not feel strange to me for that reason – though I also felt that people not knowing me makes some discussions difficult to do online: 'trust needs touch'. It is easier if you can walk into someone's office to ask a question or discuss a specific topic.

That the ORL team consists of very seasoned educators and researchers has definitely facilitated my start during a lockdown situation. I felt that the move to online teaching occurred almost naturally and in a matter of a few days only. Although this required a lot of work, the colleagues in the group helped out each other by sharing good (and not so good) practices and by finding ways to solve issues together. Without such an experienced team my start would not have been that smooth in any type of situation.

I am happy that things are slowly getting back to normal, not only for the team but also for the new staff members we are hiring. This also gives me the opportunity to finally meet my SSG colleagues and colleagues from other departments in person instead of only through a camera.



Behind the scenes

by Jacco Leguijt, Website and Communications Support SBS

Since September last year I have been working behind the scenes of the university of Wageningen. Or, better said, of the WUR website. The websites of the chair groups of the Section Business Science are my responsibility. Working behind the scenes, I make sure that project pages are uploaded, that news is published, and that old content gets removed. In this peak behind the scenes, I would like to tell you more about how your profile in We@WUR is connected to your profile on the website of your chair group.



As you probably know, this profile can be accessed through the people page of your chair group. Clicking on your picture on the people page will bring you to your profile page. This profile is filled with information from your We@WUR profile. Any changes made to your We@WUR profile will appear in your profile on the website. It will take some time before these changes are visible. Your profile on the website is updated overnight. The day after you changed, let's say, your profile picture, the change will be visible on the website. You cannot change your profile on the website directly. This must be done through changing it in We@WUR.

That's it for now. To ask me your website related questions you can send an email to office.sbs@wur.nl or to my personal email adress. As the editor of the Local Business, you can also approach me with questions or ideas regarding our newsletter. Feel like writing? **You can deliver your copy to office.sbs@wur.nl up to the second week of September for the next edition.**



Jacqueline Bloemhof-Ruwaard
(1969-2020)

Former chair holder of the ORL group.

In beloved memory and with great respect.

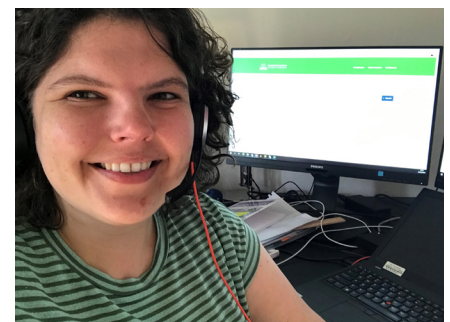
Education in Corona Times

by Willemien Nieuwstad, Education Officer BMO

Oh, how we long for the days we could set our alarm clocks, get up early, pack up a lunch, shower every day and leave home just in time to hit traffic at its worst... Was it really only 3 months ago? But who can actually remember putting on a nice outfit, working without blasting your Spotify list out loud and having to deal with your colleagues in person? Isn't it amazing how quickly one can get used to working in your pajamas and having no social calendar to fill up your evenings?

For over two months now, the BMO group is working from home. Being an international group, home can be anywhere. Every Friday at 2:30 pm, people are skyping in from Copenhagen to Berlin, and from the bustling streets of Arnhem to the empty streets of Wageningen. Some of us struggle with entertaining little kids while trying to work, others struggle because they took their elderly parents in, have bored teenagers lying around the house or are home alone all the time. Luckily, the saying 'a problem shared is a problem halved' proves to be very true and we manage to cheer each other up quite a bit during these weekly meetings.

Like our work routine, our education routine changed drastically as well. We moved all our classes to the Virtual Classroom in Brightspace. And sure, more than once we accidentally threw all the students out of these virtual sessions, all the while frantically trying to conjure up a new meeting and spreading the word through Brightspace announcements.... And sure, every now and then we definitely made them wait half an hour because a guest lecturer forgot that Brightspace doesn't work in Internet Explorer.... but all in all, I'd like to say: we did good! That extra hour of sleep in the morning, combined with, you know, the pressure to make it work, really helped in getting all of our professors to shine in online courses.



However, we do miss our students and, dare I say it, each other. And although missing out on many birthday cakes must have done wonders for our health, there's nothing like working and celebrating big mile stones together. So let's all hope we are able to put on trousers, leave our houses and hit that traffic jam at the WUR roundabout very soon!

