

Campuskrant

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KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT
LEUVEN



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FOR SURGEONS

Conservation project for one of the university's crown jewels

Unique bible manuscript gets face-lift and public baptism

“Overwhelming, sublime, of absolutely the highest quality...” Professor Jan Van der Stock speaks in superlatives about the beautifully illustrated Anjou Bible. Currently, a preservation project is preparing the fourteenth-century manuscript for its introduction to the general public.

Reiner Van Hove

“**T**he manuscript originated in the beginning of the fourteenth century at the court of Robert I of Anjou, king of Naples,” recounts Van der Stock, scientific co-ordinator of the project. “The history of the manuscript – full of court intrigue – reads as a Hollywood film script.”

The manuscript was intended as a wedding present from Robert to his heir-apparent Andreas, who was murdered before he had the crown placed on his head. The bible continued to circulate among royals, until around the beginning of the sixteenth century when it ended up at Arras College in Leuven, via the Bishop of Arras. In 1970, the Major Seminary of Mechelen deposited the manuscript at the Maurits Sabbe Library of the Theology Faculty,

K.U.Leuven. Since then, it has become one of the highlights of the university's patrimony, a status that was confirmed at the beginning of this year when it was added to the Flemish Community's cultural heritage list.

Alongside its historical importance, the manuscript also – and primarily – has art-historical value. The 338 folios of the manuscript contain two whole-page miniatures and more than 160 initial decorations and smaller miniatures alluding to the biblical texts and occurrences in the royal house. They are the work of many Neapolitan artists. Van der Stock: “The opening miniature is the most overwhelming: an allegory representing the king among the virtues ascribed to him. But in truth, all its miniatures are sublime, of absolutely the highest quality. The text itself was



Lieve Watteuw examining the Anjou Bible's opening miniature.
(© Rob Stevens)

also certainly important: Christoffel Plantijn (*influential printer and publisher, ed.*) used the Anjou Bible as one of the basic texts for his Polyglot Bible.”

Whoever is still not convinced of the manuscript's value by this encomium might be impressed by its financial translation: “The manuscript is valued at EUR 15 million. It is safely stored in a reading room in the Faculty of Theology's library, which is in fact a safe. Naturally, one can't simply request the

to open. Moreover, the parchment is folded and the pigments and the gold-leaf contain lacunae.”

Thus, a preservation project has recently been undertaken: “The practical execution is in the hands of our Illuminare Study Centre for Miniature Art, which is working in collaboration with the Royal Institute for Artistic Heritage. Specialist Dr. Lieve Watteuw from Illuminare will remove the folios from the covers one by one, and then scan, examine and clean them.”

“And next, the pictorial layers, the gold-leaf, and the ink will be stabilized using the most advanced techniques. High-resolution photographs will digitize the manuscript. Finally, the folios will get a new preservation cover. The cost for the project – EUR 80,000 – is funded by the InBev-Baillet Latour Foundation.”

In 2011, the general public will get the chance to see the miniatures in flesh and blood – or better: in parchment and pigment: “We are planning an exhibition in Leuven's new Museum M. The most beautiful miniatures will be shown, and via a touch screen, visitors will be able to leaf through a complete digital version. Naturally, the rich and exciting history of the manuscript will feature as well.”

Developments within the project can be followed via the Web site of Illuminare: <http://www.illuminare.be>.

Translation: John Hymers



“The history of the manuscript – full of court intrigue – reads as a Hollywood film script.”

manuscript ‘just to see it.’ Sometimes researchers with the necessary documents get the opportunity to study it.”

Un-bound

Despite the richness of the manuscript, it has almost never been displayed in public. And it was never decently examined, because the circumstances in which it was stored were far from ideal. Van der Stock: “In the beginning of the twentieth century, it was regrettably poorly re-bound. The covers are too tight, making the manuscript difficult

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Dear Reader

"Leuven won't let go": so runs the title over an article in this issue of *Campuskrant International* telling you how the Faculty of Business and Economics is keeping close contact with its alumni by organizing a home-coming and placing ambassadors in every country. But naturally we hope that all alumni feel like K.U.Leuven ambassadors. And we, through *Campuskrant International*, do our part by keeping you fully informed about the comings and goings here at your alma mater.

Now is that time of year when we welcome many new international students and researchers, whom I heartily wish an enriching stay in Leuven. For them, this is their introduction to *Campuskrant International*. And as always, like an octopus with our eight arms (or: eight pages) we have tried to offer a relevant and varied armful of K.U.Leuven news.

So, you will read how a 'crystal ball' can help orthopaedists choose the correct treatment, and you will learn what the consequences of stress during pregnancy can be. Naturally, some of the articles have an international touch: we will tell you how K.U.Leuven is sharing its expertise with universities in Africa and Bosnia, and you will meet alumnus Bryan Ding, our man in Beijing. We also offer you a glimpse of one of the crown jewels of our university's patrimony: the Anjou Bible manuscript, with its beautiful miniatures.

Compared to that unique manuscript, *Campuskrant International* is perhaps a modest publication, but we are convinced that you will also enjoy our 'miniatures.'

Professor Mart Buekers
Vice-President International Policy



Estimado Lector

"Lovaina no suelta a sus alumnos": ésta es la portada de uno de los artículos en este número de *Campuskrant International*. Vd. podrá leer cómo la Facultad de Economía y Ciencias Empresariales mantiene vínculos estrechos con sus alumnos organizando días de regreso y designando embajadores en cada país. Por supuesto que esperamos que todos los alumnos se sientan a su vez embajadores de la K.U.Leuven. Queremos tenerles al corriente de nuestra universidad gracias a este periódico.

Hoy en día les damos también la bienvenida a numerosos nuevos estudiantes internacionales e investigadores, a quienes les deseo una estancia enriquecedora en Lovaina. Para ellos es el primer encuentro con *Campuskrant International*. Como de costumbre tratamos de hacer, como un octópodo, con sus ocho brazos — lea: nuestras ocho páginas — una pertinente y variada selección de las noticias en nuestra universidad.

Así Vd. podrá leer cómo un globo de cristal podrá ayudar a la medicina ortopédica para escoger el tratamiento correcto, y Vd. podrá enterarse de las consecuencias del estrés durante el embarazo. En el artículo español el profesor Florentino García Martínez nos cuenta sobre su investigación de los Rollos del Mar Muerto y sobre la condecoración real que le fue otorgada. Por otra parte Vd. podrá echar un vistazo a un verdadero tesoro de nuestro patrimonio universitario: el manuscrito bíblico Angevino, con sus espléndidas miniaturas.

Comparado con este manuscrito único, nuestro periódico *Campuskrant International* es a lo mejor una publicación bastante modesta, pero estamos convencidos de que Vd. disfrutará también de nuestras 'miniaturas'.

Profesor Mart Buekers
Vicepresidente Política Internacional

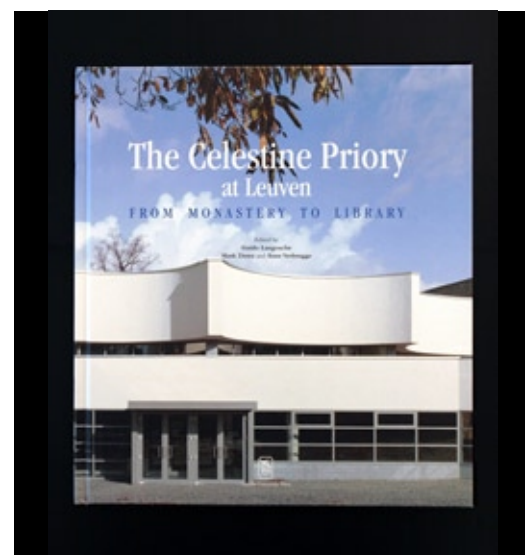
campuskrant international quiz

WIN A BOOK ABOUT THE CELESTINE PRIORY

Campuskrant International has been seized by a fit of generosity: take part in our contest and you will have a chance to win a copy of the book 'The Celestine Priory at Leuven. From Monastery to Library.'

To be eligible to win the prize, just send us the correct answers to the following three questions. Two of the three answers can be found in this issue of *Campuskrant International*; the third answer is in the previous issue (May 2008). If you have already recycled the previous issue, you can consult it online at: <http://www.kuleuven.be/ck/international/>. Good luck and happy hunting!

E-mail your answers to: campuskrant@kuleuven.be, or send this page by regular mail to the editor (address: see masthead).



The correct answers to last issue's questions:

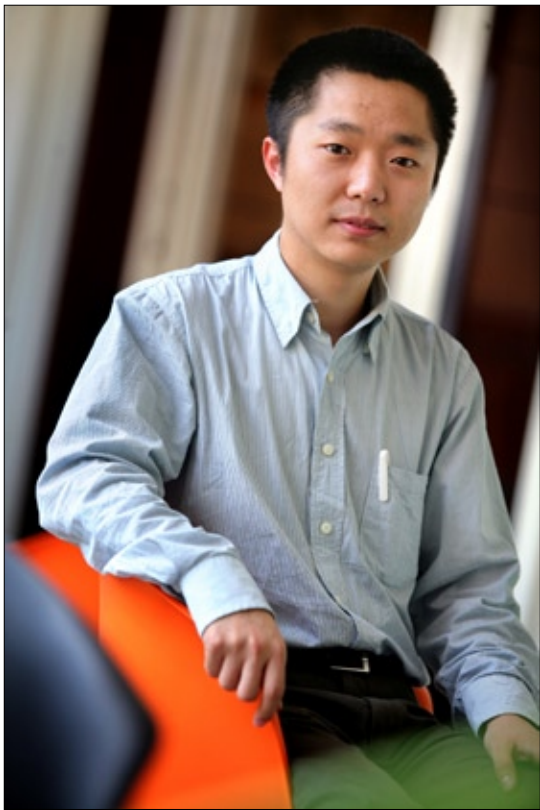
1. The camera pill developed at the Electrical Engineering Department is **2 cm long**.
2. Athlete Kim Gevaert won European gold in **Göteborg**.
3. The acronym SOLFA stands for **Solidarity Fund for African Women**.

An impartial outsider picked out the winner from among last issue's quiz contestants: **Julia Wasilewska**. She receives a copy of the book 'Lectures for the XXIst Century'. Our heartfelt congratulations!

1. For which three words does M3 stand in the M3-BIORES Department?

2. What is the name of the library of the Faculty of Theology?

3. Which square in Leuven was the location for a huge 'cantus' on April 10?



(© Rob Stevens)

Alumnus Bryan Ding mans K.U.Leuven's first office abroad

Our man in Beijing prepares pioneering role

Understandably, a representative in China for K.U.Leuven and its sister university Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL) has to know both universities and their programmes inside out. That's why **Bryan Ding** spent a couple of weeks in Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve in June to meet people from both universities. Remorselessly, *Campuskrant International* claimed a spot in Ding's overfull schedule, but the amiable alumnus nevertheless took his time to contemplate and answer our questions.

Reiner Van Hove

"A classmate of mine was studying in Leuven and he recommended the university to me," Ding recalls his first acquaintance with his new employer. "In 2003 I came to Leuven myself, to take the Master in Industrial Management. It was my first experience abroad and it really broadened my world view. Of course, I took advantage of Belgium's central position to visit some countries around it. My study in Leuven also helped me in terms of my career: it gave me more options than just becoming an engineer."

Four years later, Ding is back in Leuven to prepare for his new job. What motivated him to apply for the position? "I had been a patent engineer for some

time, and felt it was time to give my life a twist and look for more opportunities. I received the job advertisement in March, through the Chinese alumni mailing list, and thought it was worth a try. As a student, I was active in the Chinese Student Association, and recently I've been involved in the Chinese Alumni Association, so I've always had a passion to contribute to the university. You can imagine I was very happy when I heard I was selected."

Bottom-up approach

The office is located in the heart of Beijing, in a business centre which provides services mostly to Belgian companies. Ding is a bit of a pioneer, since this is the first office K.U.Leuven has opened abroad. Ding: "China is a very important partner for K.U.Leuven. Last year, Rector Vervenne and a K.U.Leuven delegation came to Beijing to set up an institutional collaboration agreement with Tsinghua University, and we have

collaborations with several other Chinese institutions. Part of my job is to develop these relationships further. In this regard, K.U.Leuven takes a bottom-up approach: if there already is cooperation on a faculty or group level, we try to take it a step further. But of course, we will also be looking for new partners."

Another part of Ding's job description is to promote the university and attract more students from China: "For instance, student fairs offer a good opportunity to meet students face-to-face. I have a couple of them scheduled in October and November. Academic quality is the most important trump card to attract students, scholars, and academic staff. But in addition, Leuven offers a great, international atmosphere. For Chinese students, Leuven really is the ideal city for a completely different experience. Those are selling points I will certainly stress. I think the alumni in China can also help us to establish our reputation and intensify our presence. There already is a Chinese Alumni Association, but its activities are quite limited at this moment. We will take

new initiatives to turn it into a more dynamic network."

"The Beijing office will also communicate and promote doctoral programmes to potential candidates, and facilitate the contact between them and the faculties. If there is a need to conduct an interview, we offer the possibility of video conferencing. And I can help out with the application. But I will also be assisting students and researchers who travel in the other direction: students, scholars, and visiting delegations from Leuven who come to China. They can contact me to facilitate their stay."

Are there any misunderstandings about K.U.Leuven Ding expects to encounter often? "The difference between K.U.Leuven and UCL sometimes is difficult to grasp for Chinese students: I have to explain they are really two separate universities. Another possible source of confusion is the adjective 'Catholic' in the university's name. Sometimes I have to make clear that this doesn't mean we only offer religious education — far from it."

El profesor Florentino García Martínez
nombrado Caballero de la Orden del León Holandés

"Después de treinta años los Rollos del Mar Muerto siguen cautivándome"

Durante toda su vida científica, el profesor **Florentino García Martínez** se dedicó al estudio de los Rollos del Mar Muerto, una colección de manuscritos que fue descubierta en el año 1947 cerca de Qumrán. Gracias a su obra, los escritos de Qumrán, se han desarrollado en uno de los más importantes instrumentos para comprender el Judaísmo y el Cristianismo antiguo. García Martínez es catedrático en las universidades de Lovaina y de Groningen, Países Bajos. En Holanda recibió hace unos meses una condecoración real: fue nombrado Caballero de la Orden del León Holandés.

Sofie Bas

"Mi primer contacto con los Rollos del Mar Muerto ocurrió en el año 1969, cuando estudiaba en el Pontificio Instituto Bíblico de Roma", cuenta García Martínez. "Antes, como sacerdote en mi

parroquia en España me enfrenté con el régimen Franquista, por lo cual tuve que exilarme de mi país. Sin embargo, mis estudios de los escritos de Qumrán empezaron unos años más tarde, por la muerte de mi mentor. Este docente tenía que dirigirme en mis estudios de escritos rabinos y apocalípticos. Por esta razón perdí mi beca. Gracias al consejo de mi profesor español Alejandro Díez Macho, quien me dijo que a lo mejor había dinero para una investigación de los Rollos, pude empezar en la Escuela Bíblica Francesa de Jerusalén."

"Al final de los años setenta mi predecesor Adam van der Woude buscaba un sucesor a la jubilación de su colega. Quería alguien que estuviera especializado en el Judaísmo antiguo para poder él centrarse en el Antiguo Testamento. Así llegué a la universidad Groningen a la cual debo mucho. Adam era un hombre magnífico, por quien tengo muchísimo respeto. Cuando miré a su retrato en el edificio de la universidad en el cual tenía exactamente la misma condecoración que yo recibí al ser nombrado Caballero, estuve muy emocionado."

Controversia

"Mi condecoración como Caballero de la Orden del León Holandés fue entera-

mente inesperada. El nombramiento en una Orden Holandesa es cosa muy especial para un español. De hecho mi candidatura fue una iniciativa de mis colegas de Groningen, quienes me consideraban sinceramente como uno de ellos, a pesar de mi descendencia extranjera. Solamente ya por esta razón valoro enormemente esta condecoración. En Groningen somos por un lado colegas, y por otro un gran grupo de amigos."

"Después de treinta años los Rollos del Mar Muerto siguen cautivándome. Imagínate que durante más de 2000 años estos escritos se quedaron en las cuevas de Qumrán. Gracias a estos Rollos cada día se descubren novedades respecto al Judaísmo antiguo. Así, en el año 1988, hemos presentado la 'Hipótesis de Groningen' que propone por un lado que la comunidad de Qumrán nació de una rotura dentro del movimiento esenio y por otro que solamente una parte de los escritos encontrados pertenecen realmente a esta comunidad. Así, hay mucha controversia frente a la tesis estándar que la comunidad de Qumrán estaba compuesta de un grupo de esenios que ocultaron sus escritos en cuevas durante la Guerra Judía de 66 a 72 después de Cristo."

"Aunque comencé por casualidad



(© Rob Stevens)

la investigación de los Rollos del Mar Muerto, sin embargo sigo entusiasmado por ellos. Además enseñé la literatura española, fui presidente del Instituto Qumrán, y en 2002 fui nombrado catedrático de la K.U.Leuven y ayudé a las excavaciones arqueológicas. Siento mucho que no me sobra tiempo para leer, estudiar y gozar de la vida. En general soy un hombre contento, tengo una esposa e hijos maravillosos y muy buenos amigos en Groningen y en Lovaina. Tal vez no seré muy eclesialístico, sin embargo vivo mi fe en casi todo. Para vivir la fe no hay nada mejor que un delicioso puro cubano con un 'single malt'!"

Traducción: Beatrice Schotsmans, Paula van Eupen

Materialise Chair in Patient-specific and Image-based Biomechanics

Crystal ball in the making for surgeons

How well will patients still function after a knee or hip operation? For doctors and surgeons, it is currently impossible to predict this accurately for the long term. However, researchers in Leuven are now working on a crystal ball within the framework of a new chair.

Benedict Vanclooster

Problems with the skeleton ideally demand treatment tailored to the patient. "Everyone has a certain body weight, the measurements of the bones differ from person to person, and the places where muscles join the bones are different, as is muscular strength. If doctors want to perform an optimal operation when they, for instance, insert a knee or hip prosthesis, then they should be able to tailor the planning and preparation for the operation to the patient," says **Jos Vander Sloten** of the Biomechanics and Engineering Design Section.

The professor is holder of the new Materialise Chair in Patient-specific and Image-based Biomechanics. "The intention is to develop biomechanical models enabling doctors to calculate what treatment would be most fitting for each individual orthopaedic patient. Such a model is a 'finite elements formulation,' and looks like a three-dimensional computer image of the skeleton."

The development of this biomechanical

model need not start from nothing. "We have built up almost ten years of experience in this domain," says Vander Sloten. "We want to make the model more patient-specific by introducing as many individual parameters as possible. Skeletal measurements will be entered for each patient, as well as the rigidity and strength of the bone material, and the load on the bones. Moreover, we know how the bone will react to mechanical stimuli. Bone is actually a living material that disappears if it is lightly loaded, such as in outer space, and grows as it is more heavily loaded."

Step by step

The researchers are basing the design of their biomechanical model on medical imaging information. "Through x-rays, but also more modern techniques such as computer tomography scans or magnetic resonance images, we learn how the insides of a patient look. We request the imaging material from the radiology services of the university, with whom

we collaborate, and from the clinical network of our sponsor Materialise."

Using the model that will come about through the means of the chair, doctors can compare different treatment techniques with each other and decide what would be best for the patient's long-term functionality. "If they have a biomechanical model, they can estimate how the bones will develop after the operation under the influence of forces or exertions," says Vander Sloten.

Still, the professor does not want to crow victory too early. "I fear that our crystal ball might never be completely finished. For, the functional prediction depends on so many individual parameters and many pieces of the puzzle are still missing. It is not possible to model the entire genome and all hormonal information by tomorrow. But we proceed step by step."

With the financing of the chair – EUR 260,000 spread over four years – Materialise underlines the confidence that it is placing in the Biomechanics Section.

"We have been working intensely with the university for eighteen years now," says **Fried Vancraen**, CEO of Materialise. "The chair expresses gratitude for this exchange and creates a framework for going forward."

"Materialise is active in different medical markets as a manufacturer of patient-specific products. Our software makes it possible to plan surgical interventions and to develop the necessary implants and instruments for these. Thus, Materialise provides software for half of the hearing aids that are tailored for an individual ear. Around seven thousand oral implantologists use our software to plan operations based on CT images for each individual patient. A similar system is currently being launched together with Biomet for the placement of knee implants. The chair's research gives Materialise the chance to further perfect its software and designs for implants."

Translation: John Hymers

Negative emotions during pregnancy influence development until adolescence

The amount of anxiety a mother experiences during pregnancy influences how her children process information. Thus concludes **Maarten Mennes** of the Health Psychology Research Group and the Department of Paediatric Neurology in his doctoral research.

Ann Fransen

More than twenty years ago, Mennes's supervisor Professor **Bea Van den Bergh** distributed a questionnaire among pregnant women. Statements such as "I am calm" and "I am nervous," coupled with a scale of values, were intended to give a picture of the extent to which the women experienced negative emotions. Subsequently, Van den Bergh examined the children during regular developmental intervals. Among other things, she showed that attention problems and hyperactivity in children can partially be explained by how anxious the mother was during her pregnancy.

The measurements were carried out in three periods of the pregnancy. Mennes: "I stepped into the study when the children turned fifteen. My research results show that the feelings of anxiety experienced especially in the first measurement period – twelve till twenty-two weeks – influenced the child."

For his doctoral research, Mennes studied both the behaviour and the brain activity of the participants. The results are remarkable. The children of mothers who were anxious during their pregnancy encountered difficulties when asked to think up a strategy to optimally perform in a task. If a strategy was imposed on them, no problems arose.

"We asked the twenty-year-olds from the research group, for example, to press a button whenever a square appeared on their computer screen. If a circle appeared, they were not to press it. This task presented absolutely no problems. Namely: the squares and circles gave the strategy that had to be followed. A task that seemed more difficult was to combine several jobs. Thus, we asked the

participants to look for a large number of objects on a large sheet and to count sounds at the same time. Children of anxious pregnant mothers appeared to have difficulties in finding the right strategy for combining both tasks. Either they paid too much attention to the objects on the sheet, or to the sounds."

Work pressure

The researchers concluded that the negative emotions a mother experiences during pregnancy could cause subtle deviations in the brain development of the foetus: "These changes form the ba-

sis for the displayed effect on the later development of the child. Moreover, the research shows that the effects are long lasting and do not disappear as the child becomes older. However, we hypothesize that the measured functions are controlled by a brain area that develops until about age twenty-five. One hypothesis, which must still be researched, is that children of anxious mothers can regain their lost ground as soon as the brain area in question is fully developed."

Even though the link between anxiety during pregnancy and the devel-

opment of the child does not lead to serious disorders, Mennes wants to emphasize that the findings must be taken into account: "Too much pressure at work for pregnant women, for instance, can lead to anxiety and stress, and thus possibly influence the child negatively for life. Further research is needed to see if reducing pressure at work during pregnancy, improving the support a pregnant woman receives from her surroundings, and relaxation exercises can reduce the effects."

Translation: John Hymers

Noble visitor

The Caribbean author **Derek Walcott**, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature for 1992, visited Leuven on May 15. He read from his works and answered questions from the public. Walcott was visiting K.U. Leuven at the invitation of the **Herman Servotte Fund**, established in 2004 in honour of the deceased English literature professor. The fund supports the study and promotion of English literature and calls attention to how literature takes up the challenges of meaning-giving. In 2006, the South African author **Nadine Gordimer** held the first **Herman Servotte lecture**.

(© Rob Stevens)



Energy expert Claude Mandil receives honorary doctorate

“Without quick action, we are headed straight for an energy crisis”

As the former director of the International Energy Agency, Claude Mandil used to call into Brussels frequently. But on May 14, his first visit to Leuven was to receive an honorary doctorate from the Science, Engineering, and Technology Group. “I have earned diplomas at engineering schools, but I do not have a university degree. Recognition from Leuven, not surprisingly, is a great pleasure.”

— Benedict Vanclooster —

“Why didn’t you come here with public transportation?” asks Mandil when he hears that we came to the Champs-Élysées by car. After all, high automobile CO2 emissions are a thorn in his side. “We all know that energy consumption in the world is problematic, but all too easily we see that as a concern for our neighbours and cast away our glance,” says Mandil. “No — I am not free of blame either. According to my wife, I lecture eloquently in my speeches about energy conservation, but I am still the last to turn off the lights at home.”

The leaders of Western states and governments are sticking their heads in the sand, thinks Mandil, who attended the G8 conferences at Gleneagles (2005), Saint Petersburg (2006), and Heiligendamm (2007). “The problem is not so much that we will exhaust our energy supplies. Technological progress will shield us from that. Thirty years ago we were proud as peacocks when we brought up petroleum in the North Sea from 200 meters. Now we can drill more than 2,000 meters deep. Undoubtedly, technology will lead us even deeper, to new levels. However, it is a fact that current investment in energy production is not matching our quickly increasing consumption.”

But what is really worrying Mandil is the climatological limit that we are running up against. “The greenhouse effect is urgently compelling us to emit less CO2 and thus to use less petroleum. Moreover: if we don’t do that, then we are threatened with becoming even more dependent on an ever-shrinking number of suppliers — with all the consequences for energy prices. Thus I did not agree with President Bush at all when he announced two years ago that we would have to wait patiently for the development of new technologies to find a solution for climate change. Luckily, his discourse meanwhile has become completely different. For action is demanded quite immediately.”

Energy bug

Claude Mandil has stuck closely to the energy problem since the beginning of the 1980s. “When I worked in the cabinet of Prime Minister Mauroy in 1981, energy was one of my responsibilities. I have not shaken that bug. After a five-year break with a French investment company, I ended up once again in the energy world, for instance as managing director of Gaz de France and as chair of the Institut Français du Pétrole.”

From February 2003 until his retirement in September last year, Mandil was the head of the International Energy Agency (IEA), headquartered in Paris. This G8 think-tank, where around 190 energy experts from twenty-seven countries work, was born in the wake of the first oil crisis in 1973. “Oil prices

are currently breaking all records, but there are still important differences with the situation then,” says Mandil. “The crisis of 1973 was caused by actions taken by the Arabian oil-producing countries. Today, objective, market-bound mechanisms are chasing the prices up. Oil consumption in the world, especially the growth poles of China and India, is rising faster than investment in production. Another difference is that the average European, relatively speaking, spends much less

on energy than in 1973 and thus, all in all, can continue to make ends meet without difficulties.”

For this reason some people dare to say that the high oil prices are even a blessing, because these will stimulate the development and use of other, more environmentally friendly energy sources. “I would not take that logic so far,” says Mandil. “These price increases are an absolute disaster not only for rich but also for poor countries. Moreover, there is still the question of whether

the higher prices at the pump will decrease our oil consumption. I do not have that impression.”

Belgian sore spots

Nevertheless, if we do not change our pattern of energy consumption today or tomorrow, we are headed straight for an energy crisis, Mandil fears. “With its relatively limited CO2 emissions and diversified energy supply, Belgium belongs among the better pupils of the IEA. Still, I also see three points where progress must be made. Like all Europeans, the Belgians must deal with energy more efficiently. I believe in the efficacy of the market, but stress at the same time the need for regulation. All houses must be excellently insulated. For household appliances, a maximum level of use must be imposed. And the automobile policy must be stricter.”

“The two other sore spots are specific for Belgium. I argue for the integration of the gas and electricity markets. Concerning the deregulation of the market, it is a bad state of affairs that a small country like Belgium has no less than four regulators. Finally, I would really mourn the closing of Belgian nuclear power stations, at least as long as they are safely managed. Leaving nuclear energy behind would lead to more air-borne CO2 and make Belgium more dependent on the gas supplier Russia.”

Just like all IEA countries, Belgium has a strategic oil supply in cases of need to guarantee the security of supply. Mandil: “The USA only has raw petroleum in stock and no refined products. They could have never imagined that a number of their largest refineries in Texas and Louisiana would lie closed for a month or two because of flooding. Nevertheless, this happened in 2005 during the passage of Hurricane Katrina. The European countries then rushed to help by releasing their raw oil onto the market. This was an exciting moment for me as director because, discounting the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, there had never been a transition to the use of the strategic reserve.”

Since September 1, Mandil’s IEA chair has been occupied by Nobuo Tanaka from Japan. What has Mandil advised his successor? “My most important tip is that he must always remember that the staff is the greatest treasure of the Agency. As director, he can ensure that his formidable team delivers good work and comes to the Agency gladly.”

Mandil himself intended to use his retirement by spending more time with his wife, five children, and his grandchildren. “On that score, I am only partially successful, because I am frequently invited to conferences and colloquia, and also to chairs in different boards of directors. What matters is that I can continue to put myself at service, and that I have the feeling that what I do is useful.”

“The problem is not so much that we will exhaust our energy supplies. Technological progress will shield us from that. However, it is a fact that current investment in energy production is not matching our quickly increasing consumption. We are threatened with becoming even more dependent on an ever-shrinking number of suppliers.”



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Translation: John Hymers



Jean Zida (Université de Ouagadougou) and Mitiku Haile (Mekelle University).
(© Rob Stevens)

Project supports African universities in developing international dimension

“Not only the university profits from internationalization”

With the Edulink-AUDIS project, coordinated by the University of Padua (Italy), European and African universities are collaborating on strengthening the international dimension of African universities. In the project's first phase, the issues to be addressed were determined. In its second phase, organized by co-promoter Martine Dekoninck of K.U.Leuven's International Office, the universities are now tackling these issues through seminars and internships.

Tine Bergen

Professor Pierpaolo Faggi from the University of Padua coordinates the Edulink-AUDIS project: “Edulink is a programme that supports cooperation projects between African and European universities. The project we are now working on is called AUDIS: African Universities International Dimension Strengthening. We assume that a stronger international position of African universities is positive for Africa and Europe. Each partner of the Coimbra Group, a group of ten European universities, has thus invited its African partner to join the project.”

“In the first phase, last December, we met in Saint-Louis, Senegal, to determine the primary issues concerning internationalization. These turned out to be funding, mobility, management, and language. Seminars on these themes were held June 4-6, 2008, in Leuven. Two representatives from each African university were present, who were responsible respectively for the academic and administrative levels of internationalization.”

Open forum

Professor Mitiku Haile is president of Ethiopia's Mekelle University. “During the seminars, we heard success stories, but we also heard where things went wrong, making this a very open forum. You can also talk about your weak points, and together look at how these can be improved.”

“Of the four themes, naturally the search for funds is and always remains very important for every university,” puts in Jean Zida. He is the director of

international cooperation of the Université de Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso. “But much could also happen concerning mobility. Not only by exchanging students and professors between Africa and Europe, but a professor also need not limit him or herself to one university within Africa. If many students benefit from it, it is simpler if the professor moves, for instance.”

“At our university, you can experience that it is possible to work without the stress that is so typical of Europe.”

“Additionally, internal and external management is also very important,” Haile chimes in. “Students and staff must clearly know what a specific curriculum contains, how an exchange runs... Management also has a practical side, such as housing. And this is connected with the image of the university. The world must receive a clear image of what our university stands for and what somebody stands to gain when choosing us. At our university, for example, you can experience that it is possible to work without the stress that is so typical of Europe.”

“Language is very important,” says Zida. “There needs to be a basis for communication. But this means wanting to understand each other's language. Language is part of your culture and

the person who you are. These are things that you can never surrender. In the story of the Tower of Babel, the different languages were put forth as a punishment, but it is also an enormous enrichment.”

Broad vision

After the seminars in Leuven follows a series of one-week internships at two different European universities. Haile is going to the Universities of Bologna and Padua. “We already have good relations with Leuven, and now I want to experience what the differences are at a Mediterranean university.” Zida is going to Groningen and Louvain-la-Neuve. Then, everybody comes back together again to provisionally evaluate the project.

Our interviewees are positive: “You cannot ignore globalization, and exchange is a part of that,” says Zida. “By ending up in a totally different environment, you learn that there are also other ways of looking at things. Your own view becomes so much larger.”

“And it is really reciprocal,” stresses Haile. “The students who come to us are not coming to ‘take.’ For instance, a small group of researchers has gathered together money to plant trees. And another group has provided bee hives, so that the women of that area can now sell organic honey. Not only the university profits from internationalization. You get people with a broad vision, who are creative, and who dare to think. These are people who can change many things!”

<http://www.coimbra-group.eu/audis/>

INSHORT

Programmes & application deadlines

K.U.Leuven offers an extensive range of programmes in English. You can find an overview at <http://www.kuleuven.be/admissions/>.

Non-EEA citizens must apply before February 1 for the Dutch-language programmes, and before March 1 for the English-language programmes. We prefer to receive the applications of EEA students before June 1. There is no deadline for predoctoral and doctoral programmes, nor for international and visiting scholars and specialization programmes.

Information about the application procedure and about our university, its admission policy, study and research programmes and their diploma and language requirements, etc., can be found on our Web site <http://www.kuleuven.be/english> or at the International Office: International Admissions and Mobility Unit, (t) +32 16 32 88 07, (f) +32 16 32 37 73, admissions@kuleuven.be.

Travel grants

If you are a European student seeking to carry out some of your study programme (thesis research, practical training) in a developing country, you can apply for a travel grant of EUR 1,000. This is an opportunity for young people to experience reality in the South.

Your assignment in the South should take at least one month. You will be welcomed and guided by a local organisation: a university, an NGO, a government institution, or a hospital. And your promoter or supervisor in Leuven will support your project abroad.

If you have reached the third year of your bachelor's programme, or are in master's or doctoral programme, you can travel to the South with this grant. Depending on your destination, you should apply either for a VLIR-UOS grant or an IRO travel grant.

Deadlines for application are in December and March.

http://www.kuleuven.be/international/development_cooperation/travelgrants.html

Orientation Days

To help new international students and researchers get settled during their first days in Leuven, the university offers a special Orientation Programme (September 17-25) with guided tours, trips, and lots of useful information concerning living and studying in Leuven.

New students can also ask for a personal Flemish buddy (see the Web site).

On the morning of Friday September 19, a special welcome and introduction session will be organised for new doctoral students and researchers.

For further information and registration, please visit <http://www.kuleuven.be/vesta>. International Office, Naamsestraat 63, Leuven, (t) +32 16 32 37 46, Vesta@kuleuven.be

Faculty of Business and Economics expands international alumni activities

Leuven won't let go

Through a network of 'ambassadors,' Ekonomika (the alumni association of the Faculty of Business and Economics) has recently been striving to provide information centres for alumni throughout the world. And Professor Piet Sercu hit upon the idea of organizing home-coming days, making it attractive for international alumni to return once more to Leuven.

Tine Bergen

"It actually began with a question from two of my former doctoral students who now teach in Hong Kong," recounts Professor Sercu. "They proposed holding a conference for alumni here, so that they had a reason to come back to Leuven once more. Ekonomika organizes many activities for alumni, but, for instance, nobody would just get on a plane for a half-day company visit. Thus, we organized our first-ever International Alumni Days, June 1-3."

Roelof Makken is such an international alumnus. He graduated in 1986 from Leuven with a master's degree in economics. "I completed my bachelor's degree at Brock University in Canada, and then, following the advice of my professor in Canada, came to Leuven for my master's degree. I have always been very thankful for that, because I had a lot of fun studying here. Not only is the programme excellent, but I also met many interesting people. For instance, I remember sitting Sundays at noon on a terrace with Father Jan Lemmens, but also a lecture series featuring an East European army commander and a bishop. Leuven really is the crossroads of Europe."

Roelof is not only returning to Leuven out of nostalgia. "In the meantime, I have my own consulting business in Canada, and I sit on the board of Brock University. When there was talk a few years back about more internationalization in the direction of Europe, I offered to hold talks with K.U.Leuven. Successfully. Last night I had a drink on the Oude Markt with two students from Brock who have already been studying here a year. They are, just as I was then, incredibly enthusiastic."

Networking

Olaf Hermans graduated in 1988 from Leuven in applied economics and now lives and works in Breda, Holland, as a lecturer in hotel management. "I have now reached that age where you look back at what you have accomplished so far, and education certainly plays a role. Thus, the invitation for this reunion came at precisely the right moment. I feel twenty years younger again. And people such as the vice rector, who earlier seemed so out of reach, now actually seem approachable. They also have a sincere interest in the itinerary that each of us have followed."

For Olaf, affinity is the main reason why he is participating: "It is a good initiative, which I really want to support. I have always worked in customer relationship management – networking is my speciality. That is also what must be furthered here: building up networks among these thousands of very different alumni. Whatever you want to do after graduation, there have always been alumni who have preceded you. It would be a shame if you could not first listen to their stories."

Ambassadors

Not only were international alumni invited to the International Alumni Days, but also all Belgian alumni who currently live abroad. Ekonomika is working hard on a network of 'ambassadors'



Alumni Olaf Hermans and Roelof Makken, and 'ambassador' Carl De Smedt.

(© Rob Stevens)

to ensure that K.U.Leuven graduates can find information centres spread throughout in the world.

One of the ambassadors for Spain is Carl De Smedt. At the end of the 1970s, he studied economics and earned an MBA in Leuven. In Louvain La Neuve, he met his Catalan wife. Meanwhile, he has lived in Barcelona for almost

twenty-five years and works as the CFO at Grandvalira Ski Resort in Andorra. "I immediately joined the ambassadors project, because I find it very important that alumni be able to keep contact with Leuven," says De Smedt. "As an ambassador, I want to be an information centre, both for the Leuven Erasmus students who come to Spain and for the

Spanish students who go to Leuven. Additionally, I also hope to make Leuven better known to the Spanish universities and government."

<http://www.ekonomika-international.be/ambassadors.htm>

Translation: John Hymers

Tempus project supports doctoral programme in Sarajevo and Banja Luka

K.U.Leuven is supporting the nascent doctoral programme in food technology in Bosnia-Herzegovina's universities. "It gives all participating institutions the chance to exchange ideas," says Professor Josse De Baerdemaeker from the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering and chair of the Arenberg Doctoral School for Science, Engineering, and Technology. "This is also interesting and useful for our university."

Bosnia-Herzegovina has experienced hard times. During the civil war, the industrial and academic worlds were as good as flattened. Not surprisingly, the Universities of Sarajevo and Banja Luka jumped with enthusiasm onto the Tempus bandwagon, which devotes itself to expanding higher education and re-

search through intensive cooperation in participating countries. For the doctoral programme in food technology, six European universities have joined forces. "The Universities of Sarajevo and Banja Luka are in great need of strengthening their knowledge at the level of doctoral programmes," says De Baerdemaeker. "The participating universities are now thinking together about how doctoral research in the field of food technology can best be done, and organized most efficiently."

Meanwhile, the cooperation has been running for two years and will be continued for yet another year. "At this moment, we are collecting together all the most important publications in the discipline. We are specifically looking for documentation and research material that is also directly relevant to industry in the region." A second aim is to give doctoral students from both universities experience in foreign laboratories. "That is difficult for many, because a majority of them have another job alongside their doctoral research at the university. For those who succeed in working abroad for a while, it is a

perfect opportunity to gain experience and to take a different look at the research world."

Josse De Baerdemaeker also finds the cooperative network crucial for K.U.Leuven. "This also expands our view. Our doctoral schools can only be the better for it." De Baerdemaeker is just as dedicated to these schools. "They are developing quickly and I can only applaud that. We stress the importance of competencies and skills for our doctoral researchers. They are very specifically focused for years on their research, which naturally is great, but at the same time we need to give them the chance to prepare decently for the business world and to gain experience in areas outside of research. I certainly hammer away on that aspect of the doctoral programme – also for the food technology project in Sarajevo and Banja Luka. And I have the impression that they are integrating those ideas very well." (im)

<http://www.tempus40030.com>

Translation: John Hymers

PictureTHIS



(© Rob Stevens)

Shadow dancing

For the third time, the Ladeuzeplein served as an extra-large dance floor this past May 14. During the Carillon FestiBAL, revellers were able to folkdance to the sounds of the sixty-three carillon bells once again. After this successful third edition, Culture Coordination has plans for another sequel, so keep an eye on their Web site — also for other cultural events during the new academic year.

<http://www.kuleuven.be/culture/>



(© Rob Stevens)

Biker gang

For a few months now, K.U.Leuven has been providing a bike for every staff member who agrees to use it to travel to and from work (in Dutch: *woon-werkverkeer*), and for short trips from office to office (in Dutch: *van dienst naar dienst*). The name of these bikes — 2WD — is an abbreviation of these two functions. More than 1,000 staff members have already signed up. The 2WD bikes have become an accustomed sight in Leuven's street scene, thanks to their uniform appearance and the K.U.Leuven logo emblazoned on their frames and chain guards. And a personalized sticker on the baggage rack ensures that staff members can recognize their own bikes. During K.U.Leuven's Trip Trap staff party on June 28, a festive tour with the bikes was organized. At the head of the pack rode Rector Vervenne (left) and Frank Vandenbroucke, Flemish minister of Work, Education, and Training.

500 words

David Schuld (23), American student in the Master of European Politics and Policies programme (MEPP)

“I felt homesick for Leuven when I was back in the States briefly”

Interview

Reiner Van Hove

“I DID MY UNDERGRADUATE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AT JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY, a very small Jesuit university in Ohio. I was interested in European politics, and I took part in three European Union simulations. I actually pretended I was Guy Verhofstadt (Belgium's Prime Minister between 1999 and 2008, ed.) twice. We also got to visit the Belgian embassy for the exercise. I was chit-chatting with one of the representatives there, and he talked about K.U.Leuven. I'd been to Leuven before when I was travelling around Europe, and really liked it then. So I looked into the possibility of studying here and came to Leuven in September.”



(© Rob Stevens)

“ALL MY COURSES WERE OF HIGH QUALITY, so it's hard to pick a favourite. This semester, I had a course on social policy. I had no idea about the welfare state — it is non-existent in the States — so it's really interesting to learn about that. And I'm quite into foreign policy and external relations, so I like the courses on those topics as well.”

“STUDYING IN LEUVEN IS A GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE, but also an amazing life experience. It has given me the chance to travel around Europe and make friends from Portugal, Greece, England.... I also like Belgians a lot — they know how to have a good time. Belgians have tough shells, but once you crack that shell, they are the nicest people I know.”

“I WAS INVOLVED IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT AT MY UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY and really enjoyed that. So I wanted to commit myself in Leuven as well, and luckily there was an opening. They ran it like an election: I had an opponent and my colleagues in the programme voted. As the student representative for the MEPP, I offer student insight into the administrative decisions for the programme. And if students have problems, they can come to me. The professors really welcome the students' opinions, which will make this programme even better in the future.”

“AT THIS MOMENT, I'M DOING AN INTERNSHIP FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, in the policy department of external relations. As an internal think-tank, I'm following the United States and some other countries. I make analyses and reports about Congress, the EU-US summits, the economic situation ... and recently I even did some research on poultry. The US isn't allowed to export poultry into Europe — I didn't even know that: chickens are a big deal! (laughs) I love going to work every day. I may not be a European, but it's a cool feeling to be working for the people directly.”

“THANKS TO THE INTERNSHIP, I can put the academic knowledge and the real experience together. That's the best way to do it. My experience in Brussels will also be a benefit when I go to Washington. It's been a dream of mine since I was sixteen to run for the state legislature in Ohio or work in Washington, for the Democratic Party.”

“I HAVE AN AMERICAN FLAG IN MY ROOM, but I really don't miss that much — except a real American hamburger, of course. Actually, I felt homesick when I was back at home to vote for the primaries (laughs). I missed the Oude Markt a lot. Just to enjoy a sunny day with a Duvel out on the plaza (as we are doing during the interview, ed.) is an amazing experience.”

“THE GOOD THING ABOUT BELGIAN BEERS IS: you have one for every mood. When I'm in a summer state of mind, I get a Hoegaarden. On a quiet night, I go for a Leffe Brown. And when I've had a bad day, or just want to relax, a nice Duvel works out. You can really tell a lot about people from the beer they drink.”

<http://www.kuleuven.be/mepp/>