

SHORT NEWS

Lecture Whitesides

George Whitesides, a Harvard professor in biochemistry, material science, catalysis and physical organic chemistry, who was awarded an honorable doctorate at the UT in 2001, will speak at the Bergveld Lecture on Monday October 19. The lecture, organized by the BIOS Lab-on-a-chip group, is named after emeritus professor Piet Bergveld. Whitesides (b. 1939) who is recognized as one of the world experts in the field of nanotechnology. He attended the farewell of UT colleague David Reinhoudt in September 2007.

Indonesian festivity

The Indonesian Student Association Enschede (PPIE) presents an Indonesian Evening 'Exploring the Sumatra Island,' where the heritages of the biggest island Sumatra will be explored. Traditional Sumatra dances and musical performances by the Indonesian Music Club (PPIEMC) and Peter Fennema will highlight the evening. 'The Indonesians are very proud of their country and culture. The way in which I express myself when singing Indonesian pop songs is rather unique. I touch people with my music,' says the Groningen-born musician who now resides in Enschede. The entertainment also includes the talk show 'Let's Go Internship to Indonesia' which will feature the actual experiences of Dutch students who went on internships in Indonesia and a traditional island game Gasing (Wooden Spinning Top) Admission is free, but students also can taste Sumatran cuisine with the purchase of food coupons at the venue for only 3 euros. For more information, click www.ppienschede.com.

Friday 18 September, 6pm, Bastille building, free admission, 3 euros/food coupons.

Fire Safety Awareness

'Meer Rood Op Straat' equals community safety. With fire safety of student housing in focus and as a follow up to the information activities at the Kick-in 2009 on August 26, the local fire department will visit fourteen student houses to review fire evacuation plans with students. Helping to spread awareness with citizens and business owners, fire officials will dedicate the last weeks of September to educating students on fire safety. Together with the owners, student rooms will be checked and approved to follow safety regulations. The student houses are selected according to the accessibility and complexity, and students will also be asked to perform an escape route test.

For more information, contact Joost Nijenhuis, Coordinator Community Safety for Brandweer Enschede: 06-10484087.

WINNER OF EDUCATION PRIZE COMMENTS ON TWENTE AND PLASTERK

An old reactionary gentleman

Professor Jan Willem Drukker has been teaching the history of design at the UT for the last two years. He's the kind of teacher who throws objects like crockery at his students. He jokes and tells stories, and he likes to laugh. Reciprocity, he says, was his reason for entering the Central Education Prize, which he was awarded last month. 'The students like it and I like teaching, so it's fun to do.'

Drukker began his career in Groningen where he studied quantitative economy. 'I thought that was a bit boring,' he says, 'so I took economic history as a minor. My professor sent me to the United States to Purdue University to complete the main part of my masters in economic history. I got my first job there as a student assistant making punch cards on the data of American slaves for a research project for Robert William Fogel who went on to win the Nobel prize for economics in 1993.' When Drukker returned to Groningen he took a job teaching economic history and statistics. He went on to become professor of design history and eventually taught in both Delft and Groningen at the same time.

As a classical guitar player, Drukker wears artificial fingernails on one hand. He laughs about the reaction this provokes, 'When people here see my



Drukker says he loves the University of Twente. 'Here, I am a very old and reactionary gentleman, but it is fun, oh the stories I could tell you.' Photo: Gijs van Ouwwerker

nails they think I'm some kind of sadomasochist. But when I'm in Spain, they say, oh, you play the guitar.' Drukker played with a colleague in Delft for many years and is now looking for a replacement on campus. 'Preferably someone more virtuosos than I am,' he says.

Drukker received his award at the opening of the academic year, and has strong views on the speech given by minister Plasterk. 'You don't have to be prophetic to see that he was fooling the academic community. He said we have to change

the whole system. Well, the Netherlands used to be in the top of the European Community (EC) for the expenditure per head of population for higher education. Now we have dropped down to the middle of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). So the money has gone to other priorities, and now they want to change the system. I don't understand why the universities don't say to the government, first see that the level of expenditure is back on a normal EC level, not in the middle of the OECD and then we can talk about changing the system. But now the universities are being fooled. It's very disappointing from a man who was a really good scientific researcher. We would expect a man like him to stop the downward trend in the financing of higher education.'

Drukker explained that in the current system, universities are paid per student and everyone is welcome. While the number of students has enormously increased, the number of teachers has remained the same. 'The extra money generated by the students,' he says, 'went to the bureaucrats. There has been an enormous growth in facility and support services while the number of people teaching has remained constant. What has actually increased is bureaucracy. Twente is paradise compared to larger organizations, because it's small scale. There are very short control lines. If I need to speak to the dean I can normally walk straight into his office. I don't have to make an appointment with the secretary of the dean's secretary in order to make an appointment to see the dean.'

Audrey Rhodes

HIGH TEC HITTERS RELAX ON A FIELD OF DREAMS

Softball, a good stress reliever

Manicured grass edging a perfect diamond, clear blue skies, worn-out leather gloves, aluminum bats and red-stitched balls are some of the essential ingredients for a lazy Sunday afternoon at the ballpark. Mix in players from the High Tec Hitters (HTH), the university's recreational softball and competitive baseball teams, and you gain the home advantage. All Dutch universities cannot brag about playing on a field they can call their own, except for the UT.

Coach Marco Wevers who plays for the Hengelo Giants Club trains the baseball team every Wednesday evening, preparing them to compete in league games on weekends. Taking firm root at the UT and founded in 1987, the HTH Club started out as a group of friends who could combine fun with sports.

Nowadays Trudy Miller, head trainer of the HTH softball team who has played softball for the last thirty years, starts each training session on Tuesdays with a run around the field, warming-up exercises, catching and throwing practice, followed by infield technical drills and finishing with batting training. 'They are a good bunch of students,' pipes Miller whose husband Seirgei, a PhD candidate in the construction management &

engineering department, coached her when she represented the western province in the South African National Championships. 'My husband umpired in South Africa. He also worked for the Dutch Umpires Association during his studies in Delft and still umpires games at Tex Town Tigers,' the local club that clinched the ladies first team national championship just last year.

Miller makes no contentions about her reasons for long time involvement in the sport. 'Softball is really a good stress reliever for men and women of all ages, mostly because in a team sport, you not in it only for yourself. At my age, I now prefer to play on a mixed team (men and women), where there is no pressure to win.' The makeup of a recreational team, says Miller, creates a learning and social environment where the skill level of players varies to such a degree that each player must adapt to the strengths and weakness of their teammates, requiring in her opinion, much tolerance but the reward is lasting friendships.

A student in chemical engineering, Ken Bijkerk along with his fellow teammates, recently played in the mixed recreational tournament against eleven national competitors at Tex Town Tigers on the Kotkampweg in Enschede. 'I love the relaxed atmosphere,' says Bijkerk, 'No arguments. No fighting with the umpires. It's all for fun.' The university team earned

seventh place in the competition against 11 teams, winning two games and losing two in a close match against a high-ranked team from Groningen. In this tournament, says Ellen Norde, a bachelor's student in Advanced Technology, 'We thought that we'd be slaughtered because Caribe was good, but Henk was pitching very well, and we lost with only a two-point difference. Tournaments are always a good way to learn the game.'

Outside the 'rigors' of the once a week training sessions, ending sometimes with a cold beer and burger, naturally ball players find more occasions to unwind, socializing at Christmas dinners and cocktail parties to keep the ball rolling off-season.

Bijkerk, who has played the game for the past six years, says he prefers softball over baseball. 'When you play baseball, the game is more static with less movement. Softball games, on the other hand, continuously flows which allows for increased dynamics in the game.' Closing out the regular season for the HTH softball and baseball teams, a whole weekend of games will take place, as Dutch and German competitors measure their skills in the Double Swing tournament, starting on September 25 and highlighted with a party on Saturday night, featuring the one man trash band Ottoboy. The HTH team is offering an introduction training on September 19,

open to all UT, ITC, Saxon students and employees with an Xtra-card or Sports card, and the membership fee is reasonable priced, 22 euros for one year, contact Ellen Norde: 06-13128683 or email e.norde@student.utwente.nl.

Robbin Engels



The High Tech Hitters played on the Cottonfields in its fourth annual softball tournament against Dutch regional and national teams at the Tex Town Tigers Club in Enschede on Saturday, September 6. Photo: Joop Mazerier