

SHORT NEWS

Digital Dutch library

The Koninklijke Bibliotheek (Royal Library) will not only digitize printed works, but will archive digital works such as web pages. According to the Dutch newspaper *Trouw*, the first 10% of 600 million book pages to be digitized should be available in 2013. One of the main goals listed in the strategic plan are to digitize all Dutch books, newspapers and periodicals from 1470 to today. The library hopes to guarantee free access to collections by making copyright agreements better.

Middle Eastern poetry night

In the framework of the week-long Poetry Marathon Enschede, an evening is dedicated solely to poetry from Middle Eastern poets. Poems will be read in Turkish, Kurdish and Arabic languages in the Roombeek neighborhood on Friday, 29 January at 8pm.

Free entrance. For registration and more information contact 053 851 23 23 or email sukran@hetvrijdag.nl

Robotic suit

The MIRA Research Institute and TU Delft are working together on the development of a new robotic suit to help people who are confined to a wheelchair after having suffered from a spinal cord injury or a cerebral hemorrhage learn to walk again. When a patient thinks about walking, a stylish helmet picks up the brain signals and relays them to robotic legs, allowing the patient to take steps and move. The new system called *Mindwalker* can benefit thousands of people. Researchers hope to have a prototype of the suit ready in three years.

Inaugural speech

For many years, the guiding principle for businesses to innovate was the scientific method known as the gold standard, in other words, best practice. The principle is based on the ideal that there is one ideal way to organize processes of innovation. De Weerd-Nederhof will argue: 'There is no single organizational form that can guarantee successful innovation all the time.' She will give the example of Ericsson Enschede that closed its doors for business in 2003 despite they had followed the 'golden standard.'

Professor Petra de Weerd-Nederhof will give an inaugural speech on 28 January at 4pm at Vrijhof Amphitheater.

SCIENTIST DISCOVERS NEW LIFE AS MOM

Slovenian balances career, family and life abroad

Textile chemist, Dr. Pavli Križman-Lavrič, 33, recently moved to Enschede to work under the Faculty of Engineering and Technology (CTW). Baby girl Aurora (Italian for 'dawn') also brought new changes for Križman-Lavrič and her husband Miha.

While we stomped through the snow during a UT campus tour and later chatted in her office, lab, and campus apartment, Križman-Lavrič shared some of her thoughts about being a scientist, a woman, mother, and Slovenian. Born on the Adriatic coast, Križman-Lavrič, graduated from the University of Ljubljana with a PhD from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering. She is now a Marie Curie post doctoral researcher on the Advanbiotex project under the professional chair Engineering of Fibrous Smart Materials.

What does your research at the UT involve?

'Basically, we are trying to develop a surface modifying system, using hydrogel microparticles. Once these hydrogels, which are sensitive and responsive to temperature, pH and humidity, are incorporated into textile materials, the liquid management of textiles can be

adjusted. In this way, we can create fabric for sportswear that will permit the accumulated body sweat to evaporate properly, allowing for more comfort.'

Have you always wanted to be a scientist?

(laughing) 'Oh, no! I became a scientist because I happen to be good in math and sciences. Better than languages! (She says this in perfect English, which she speaks besides Serbian, Italian, and her native Slovenian.) I scored well on my exams and my studies were funded by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology in Slovenia. The University of Ljubljana has a renown Department of Textiles, so I did my research on how best to bleach and prepare cotton for dyeing.'

What about Slovenia? It's a fairly new European country; isn't it?

'Yes, it was part of Yugoslavia but gained its independence in 1991. After WWII, the province of Istria, where I was born, was divided into two zones. In 1954 with the signing of the London Declaration, it was decided the zone where my family lived would become part of Yugoslavia. But my father was without any documents and unable to travel for three years. During that time,



Home is where the heart is: Križman-Lavrič (left), her husband Miha and their daughter Aurora relax in their UT campus apartment. Photo: Gijs van Ouwkerk



Križman-Lavrič uses a padder to impregnate functional finishing into the textiles. Photo: Gijs van Ouwkerk

his Italian name was changed to a Slavic one and finally in 1958, he received a passport. Much of our land was nationalized, and we are still trying to reclaim it from the government today.'

'There is a Slovenian tourist slogan: "In two hours, you can swim in the sea and then go skiing." We have the Alps and I miss the mountains very much. Everything here in the Netherlands is so flat!

What other impressions do you have about the Netherlands?

'I like their way of living. I was impressed at first to find so many people on bicycles and how cars have to give right-of-way. I think the Dutch people are very brave to bicycle in winter weather with these icy conditions. And all the beautiful flowers! I am a woman, after all.'

How is it to be a new mom and a scientist?

'It's difficult to organize my

time between being a mother and my career. My husband is a microbiologist and could not find work in his research area at the UT. Since we are here for one year, he has agreed to take care of Aurora and that is a big help. But, for me, being a mother is the most important role in my life. The feelings are so huge. I feel like a volcano sometimes. Where does all this love come from?'

Where do you find your inspiration?

'I very much respect climatologist Dr. Lučka Kajfež Bogataj, a Slovenian woman scientist who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore in 2007. She stands up for what she believes in, is brave and self-confident. I also like to relax with knitting and cross-stitching. And then, there's always my playtime with Aurora!'

Catherine Ann Lombard

Reviewing The Dutch Tongue

Most linguists approach language with a firm hand on the facts, mining out nuggets of truth and keeping their feet moving in an esoteric theoretical landscape of words. In the cold winter months, readers can come along with two intellectuals on their journey and exploration of the Dutch language.

Author Ben van der Have, having spent much of his life as a teacher, brings together an unlikely pair, an American professional, Nancy Collins, who like many expats wants to learn how to speak the local language. Her knowledgeable teacher, who is a retired general linguist from the University of Amsterdam, takes her on an

incredible expedition- not only to learn proper Dutch- but to give her an insight into the origins of the language itself in relationship to the estimated 6,000 languages spoken throughout the world.

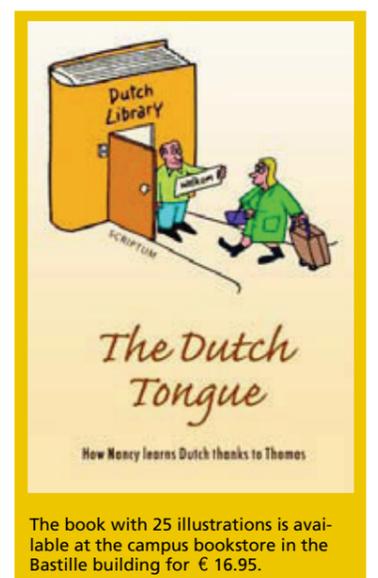
Is Dutch an easy language to learn? Thomas van Zanten answers her question with the ambiguity it deserves, saying, 'Languages aren't easy or difficult. You find a language easy if it is similar to your own language and difficult the more it differs from your own language.'

As he explains all this to her, adding in his two cents about the strange sounds, the handy words and the 'cruelty' of Dutch grammar rules, he offers his insights into linguistic structures of languages. He

tells Collins, 'In Indonesia, they simply repeat a word (to form a plural): for example, *anak* is child and *anak-anak* is children. The Chinese don't have any plurals at all.'

Collins background, rooted in her mother language of English, allows her to banter with Van Zanten, and also compare commonalities in rich sequels of dialogue. The author makes it clear to readers that you could ask the same questions from a background in any other language.

The answers given in *The Dutch Tongue* are universal and ring true in many languages. Anyone who wants to learn a foreign language will find the book a useful tool to acclimate themselves in any foreign country.



The book with 25 illustrations is available at the campus bookstore in the Bastille building for € 16.95.