

### **LAUDATIO Ben de Pater: door studentlid Faculteitsraad**

Dr. Ben de Pater is a lecturer at the Faculty of Geosciences for more than 30 years. He is probably one of the most well-known teachers in the degree programmes of Human Geography and Planning. There is yet to be found a bachelor's student who has not attended one of his classes. Students praise Ben for his passionate way of teaching and his expertise of the subjects he teaches. The amount of books and papers in his room might look overwhelming, but his students praise his classes as being well structured, clear, with a common thread and depth. And Ben doesn't use Powerpoints, Prezi's or other digital means to get his message across.

Ben is not only a great teacher, but has also written numerous articles and books on Human Geography.

In addition, Ben de Pater has played a crucial role in improving and renewing courses and curricula. He aligns his courses to current issues, relates in his lectures to challenging societal dilemmas and continuously triggers students to improve themselves. He creatively and actively contributes to discussions on curricula in both bachelor and master phases, for example in the recent process of redeveloping the master Human Geography. Moreover, he innovatively bridges the disciplines within Geosciences as he is the founding father of several Geosciences-wide courses, amongst them the course "Bedreigde Aarde" (Endangered Earth).

Ben, the jury is very impressed by your dedication to teaching, the inspiration you are to students and your contributions to the Geosciences education as a whole. After more than 30 years of exceptional teaching, we are very honoured to award you the title Teacher of the Year 2015!

### **LAUDATIO Cedric Thieulot: door studentlid Faculteitsraad**

Cedric Thieulot is a recently appointed Assistant Professor at the Department of Earth Sciences. Ever since he was in high school, he envisaged himself being a Math's teacher, just like his mother. After completing his Bachelor's in Mathematics, he pursued a Master's degree in Fundamental Physics and a Master's degree in Musical Acoustics at universities in Paris. He completed his PhD in Groningen and then moved back to France to teach Numerical Modelling at the University of Rennes. He taught for one year, but then continued his career within research. Seven years later, in Utrecht, Cedric finally finds himself teaching again. Even though he teaches rather tough, abstract subjects – such as learning to code and mathematics - he has a very inspiring way to make the topics at hand more accessible. Cedric uses structured presentations, a lot of humour, his music and a self-designed programme to make sure students understand the teaching material. For example, Cedric plays guitar in class to demonstrate how differential equations can be used to calculate the vibrations of a string.

Cedric's teaching talent is not exclusive to our Earth Sciences students. He also pays visits to high schools and has given a lecture at the Oerol festival. This shows that Cedric is capable of bringing his message across to a wider, non-academic public.

Cedric, your enthusiasm, your excellent talent to explain complex matters to students as well as to the wider public has convinced the jury to award you the Teacher Talent Award 2015!

Congratulations and keep up the good work!