Impressions
2016  The year in photos

Universiteit Leiden
The Netherlands
A very special honorary doctor is welcomed in the Pieterskerk: Jennifer Chayes, Director of Research for Microsoft. Under her leadership, major breakthroughs have been achieved in the field of complex networks.
After 27 years of loyal service, beadle Willem van Beelen handed over to his successor, Erick van Zuylen. Sadly, Van Beelen passed away suddenly a short while after retiring.
New premises for Leiden University in The Hague: at the end of 2016 researchers and students from six faculties moved to Wijnhaven, one of the three locations of the campus in The Hague, the administrative centre of the Netherlands.
Politicians need to have better control over international civil servants. This was the message given by Kutsal Yesilkagit, Professor of International Governance and Dean of the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs, in his inaugural lecture.

Sandra Groeneveld, an expert in Public Administration, talked at her inaugural lecture of the dichotomy faced by government: the choice between much-needed bureaucracy and a more individual, tailor-made approach.
The university cherishes its relationship with its alumni. The newly renovated Alumni House at Rapenburg 68 opened its doors in 2016. The teams headed by Lilian Visscher (Director of the Alumni Office) and Siep Wijsenbeek (Director of the Leiden University Fund) work together in the Alumni House.
A kind of marketplace for knowledge, experience and networking. The new online mentor network is where alumni - spread throughout the world - help students and new graduates with their careers.
'The refugees of today are the Dutch citizens of tomorrow.' This is the message with which former refugee and biology student Lesage Munyemana opened the academic year. He is the initiator of Meeting Point, an informal meeting place in Plexus Student Centre where refugee students can go for advice and a listening ear.
Learning to teach subjects ranging from the universe to intercultural communication. Syrian lecturers can follow The Mobile Educator course and learn to develop their own lessons. The certificate, here presented to Nour Fattouh by Andrée van Es, chair of the National UNESCO Committee, helps them find work. This free course is the result of crowdfunding and was developed by ICLON and Dutch Academic Services.
Congratulations! The first class of students of Leiden’s recently introduced English-taught Bachelor's Programme in Psychology have graduated. The university is becoming increasingly international and, besides dozens of English-taught master’s programmes, now also offers eight English-language bachelor's programmes.
Getting off to a good start: 295 students at the Faculty of Science earned their first-year certificate in just one year. Well done!
The university wants to encourage innovative and entrepreneurial students and researchers. HUBspot, the new Leiden Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, is a breeding ground for student researchers who want to conquer the market with their creative ideas. HUBspot is an initiative of the municipality of Leiden, the Leiden Hogeschool and Leiden University. The university is now in fourth place in the Reuters ranking of the most innovative Dutch universities.
Which is hipper: cool or awesome? The Language Museum, an initiative of Leiden University, kicked off with an exhibition in Leiden’s Town Hall. Many Leiden researchers are involved in the Museum.
Two Leiden researchers received the Heineken Young Scientists Award.

Historian Karwan Fatah-Black was awarded the prize for his research on slavery in the Golden Age.

Biomedical specialist Mariëtte Boon was honoured for her research on ‘brown fat.’ Her work will make a difference to how diabetes is treated.
Elian Yahe, a student of International Relations and Organisations, will be representing Dutch young people for two years at the United Nations.

Law students won the De Brauw Innovation Prize for their app for objecting to fines.

Esther Mangelsdorf (centre), a student of Public Administration, won the Ben Pauw Thesis Prize for the best master's thesis in the field of Public Affairs.
Measuring renal function

Renal biopsy

LUMC is the world’s first medical institution to offer a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) on kidney and pancreas transplantation. Dr Marlies Reinders is one of the MOOC’s lecturers. In 2016 Leiden offered twenty free MOOCs that could be followed by individuals anywhere in the world.
What do business and the government know about you, and what do they do with that information? This was the topic of the lecture by Bart Schermer, an expert on privacy and internet law, at the University of the Netherlands. The lectures given by Schermer and other Leiden academics were broadcast on TV and are available online via universiteitvannederland.nl (in Dutch).
A record number of prospective students, almost 7,000 of them, came to the Open Day. They attended lectures, bombarded current students with all their questions and made a tour of the student associations to get a taste of what student life is like.
Physics – a study for boys? No way! Dozens of girls in their final year at high school came to the Physics Ladies’ Day to find out about the programme and meet female physicists in Leiden.
A spectacular change of scene: starting on International Women's Day for a month long portraits of women professors only were on display in the Senate Chamber. The initiators of the exhibition, four women professors under the name of Athena’s Angels, want to broaden the position of women in science. The university gives its full support to their initiative.
An inclusive and diverse university where everyone, irrespective of background or personal preferences, can feel at home. A very diverse group of students and alumni are advising the university on this subject.
More insight into Moroccan culture and society. Both science and society benefit from the expertise of Nimar, the national expertise centre for Moroccan Studies. The centre is located in Rabat and is part of the Leiden Faculty of Humanities.
More than 100 Leiden scientists are conducting research on Africa, from Angola to South Africa. The university aims to encourage more of this research. After many years of working together, the African Studies Centre Leiden (ASCL) is now part of Leiden University.
Learning what it's like to plead a case in a ‘real’ court of law. Thanks to a very successful crowdfunding campaign, Leiden’s Law Faculty now has its own courtroom, where students can practise how to present a case in court. The courtroom is named after Hans Nieuwenhuis, emeritus professor of private law in Leiden who died in 2015.
What is the role of the Prime Minister in the Council of Ministers? The best person to answer that question, Prime Minister Mark Rutte himself, gave a lecture to Leiden’s law students. Rutte studied history in Leiden.
What’s it really like being a professor? Like an anthropologist on safari, documentary maker Michael Schaap talked to professors to find out. He presented his findings in a film portrait of Leiden’s professors.
Portraits of professors who joined the procession during the Dies Natalis for the first time in 2016. ‘I think it's wonderful - it's a real part of belonging,’ one of them commented.
Several Nobel Prize winners have worked at Leiden’s Faculty of Science, and right now the faculty is at the forefront of the quantum world. The faculty celebrated its 200-year anniversary in 2016.
Henk Kamp, Minister of Economic Affairs, opened the new Biotech Training Facility, a test lab on the Leiden BioScience Park. Students and professionals in life sciences can practise their research skills in the lab.

Brand new! Science students and researchers work in the new Gorlaeus Building in labs equipped with state-of-the-art apparatus.
Two key themes from the Dutch National Research Agenda (NWA), *Cancer Pathogenesis and Therapy* and *Vascular and Regenerative Medicine*, are being given a new impetus at LUMC. The arrival of professors Neefjes, Oova and Van Dongen will strengthen Leiden research on cancer. Ton Rabelink advocates within the NWA for greater investment in regenerative medicine.
LUMC contributes to the health of the inhabitants of The Hague with its research and teaching and its general practitioner programme. The first trainee doctors pose on the steps of the campus in The Hague.
Studying in hypermodern and traditional China. More and more Leiden students are choosing to study in China. They can take a crash course in ICT in China’s Silicon Valley or practise their Mandarin in a rural area.
Congratulations! Fifty international students were awarded a scholarship from the Leiden University Excellence Scholarships Programme. More than 750 students applied, and scholarships were awarded to those with the best grades and the strongest motivation.
Clothing from a royal wardrobe was discovered off the coast of Texel. Cultural historians Nadine Akkerman from Leiden University and Helmer Helmers from the University of Amsterdam discovered that the clothing belonged to one of the ladies of the court of 17th-century English Queen Henrietta Maria.
Drones are a useful tool for mapping changes in the landscape. Geophysicist Till Sonnemann and his colleagues from the archaeological project NEXUS1492 experiment with drones in areas of the Caribbean that are difficult to reach.
More solar panels on the roofs of university buildings? Less meat in the canteen? Students and staff with good ideas for making the university more sustainable can contact the Leiden University Green Office. The office is run by students, who also help put the ideas into practice.
No fewer than 36 ditches make up the Living Lab. The specially constructed water channels are exposed to low dosages of agricultural chemicals to test the effects on nature. The knowledge gained can be used to better protect our waterways. The funding for the Living Lab was collected via a crowdfunding campaign.
More than 4,000 visitors came to the Leiden Night of Art and Science to indulge in some science and culture. They learned about the magic of maths in Leiden’s beautiful Schouwburg theatre, painted with bacteria in the National Museum of Antiquities, and ended the night with rousing music by popular band, My Baby.
Put two unattached singles in one container and what do you get? Science! A team of Leiden psychologists got visitors to the Lowlands festival dating while fitted with electrodes. Can you predict a successful date based on non-verbal communication and physical responses? The initial results point in that direction.
A selfie with T.rex, or with hundreds of other first-years and mentors in the bright and sunny Leiden El Cid week, the introduction week for new students. The whole of Leiden is transformed into one big open-air festival, with alumni nostalgically looking on.
A first! Leiden students in The Hague had their own introduction programme, the HOP week (Hague Orientation Programme). They visited all the city’s best locations, such as the Binnenhof and the beach. More than 700 new students got to know one another, the university and the city of The Hague.
What should you do if you discover someone has committed plagiarism? The film *On being a scientist* teaches students about integrity in science. Bas Haring, Professor of the Public Understanding of the Natural Sciences, was project leader of this film that is now used in lectures.
What’s the most effective way of combatting terrorism? Leiden University’s Institute of Security and Global Affairs organised two international conferences on security. The main conclusion: professionals working in the field and academics should work more closely together so that research can make a real contribution to fighting terrorism.
A major impetus for the search for new antibiotics. Edith Schippers, Minister of Public Health, will be investing over six million euros in this field over the coming four years. Some of the research will take place at the Leiden Centre for Antimicrobial Research, where Leiden scientists work together with colleagues from Groningen and Amsterdam.
The LUMC opened the Netherlands’ first faeces transplant bank, so you can now donate faeces in the Netherlands. This ‘poo bank’ helps people with intestinal problems. Transplanting good intestinal flora has been shown to be an effective treatment.
Using your smartphone to reduce stress and over-thinking. Leiden psychologists have developed a course where participants will receive a daily app with advice on how to handle stressful events.
How can you do research on the social behaviour of children in the school playground without interrupting their play? Leiden computer scientists and psychologists have found a solution: they use video and sensors to record the children’s play behaviour. Free playtime and physical games seem to be particularly important for children’s social development.
Thanks to a subsidy from the ERC (the European Research Council), these researchers can continue and build on their research in a broad array of fields, varying from Assyriology to Psychology. You can read about these and other prize winners in the Hall of Fame 2016 on our website.
Astronomer Henk Hoekstra studies the characteristics of dark matter and dark energy, together with the European Space Agency (ESA). A space vessel is being built specially for this purpose. Hoekstra was one of seven Leiden scientists who received a VICI grant in 2016.
A new addition to the University Library: a convoluit. Law Dean Rick Lawson presents Rector Magnificus Carel Stolker with this volume of rare legal disputations dating from 1596 to 1604. The volume is a gift from Leiden Law alumni.
Peter Akkermans and other Leiden archaeologists are frequent commentators in the media on the destruction of heritage sites in Syria. The archaeologists had to halt their local research when civil war broke out in 2011.
Joanne Liu, international president of Médecins Sans Frontières, was appointed Cleveringa professor in 2016. Her determined leadership was key to bringing the global Ebola epidemic in 2014 under control. With Liu’s appointment, Leiden University aims to make a contribution to the societal and scientific debate on the refugee situation.
What's going to happen after Brexit? Europe has to respond better to unexpected developments, Luuk van Middelaar, Professor of the Foundations and Practice of the European Union, said in his inaugural lecture. Dozens of Leiden academics – lawyers, political science specialists, public administration experts and historians – study European developments from their own field of expertise.
Leiden archaeologist Wim Kuiper found a fossilised bear claw in Noordwijk. The claw is from one of the last Dutch wild bears to inhabit the wooded dune areas in the tenth century. Leiden and Groningen archaeologists published an article on the find in the journal *Lutra*. Hunting and encroaching human habitation meant that brown bears had already become very rare in Western Europe as early as Roman times. This find shows that bears still inhabited the Netherlands after that period.
In 2016, 417 PhD candidates, 197 of them women, defended their dissertations in Leiden’s Academy Building. 44 per cent of the PhD candidates came from abroad. One of the international candidates was Achmad Adhitya from Indonesia.
Would you like to know more?
You can find the stories behind the photos at: www.universiteitleiden.nl/impressions2016

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