

A refreshing liqueur

This year Limoncello di Fiorito was acclaimed as one of the best limoncellos in the world. Benno Fiorito and his brother Franco are now looking to increase production of this lemon liqueur based on a family recipe.



Photo: Sam Rentmeester/FMAX

In Italy everyone makes their own limoncello. "Every family has its own recipe," says Benno Fiorito (age 31). And he should know, as his grandfather is Italian. During a visit to his family in Sicily in 2007, Fiorito tasted a glass of homemade limoncello. He was impressed. "You can buy limoncello in the Netherlands, but it doesn't taste good," says Fiorito. He asked his aunt for the recipe and then had a go at making it himself.

After a few tips from the family, he produced a good end-product. "When friends came to dinner they'd say: 'Great, will you be serving the limoncello?' Strangers who had heard about it by word of mouth asked if they could order a few bottles."

And then his hobby began to get out of hand. And it was a hobby, because at the time Fiorito was studying Systems Engineering, Policy Analysis and Management, with a specialisation in Transport and Logistics. His graduation project involved redesigning the KLM cargo terminal, and he is currently a demand chain planner at DSM, where he is optimising the supply of microbial cultures. When catering

'Limoncello should be drunk ice cold'

establishments began to show an interest in the limoncello, Benno and his brother Franco, a 33-year-old tax economist, thought about starting a business. "I thought we could rent our own premises and set up a production site. I've had experience with that at DSM."

But this wasn't so easy, because of all the red tape involved. "The limoncello is now made by a distillery in Schiedam. I'm involved in the production and product quality."

The Fioritos chose a bottle with a swingtop cap, as limoncello should be drunk ice cold, and corked bottles do not chill well. And then things really took off. "We found a great Italian restaurateur – Toscanini in Amsterdam – who thought our limoncello tasted really good. He agreed to include us in his product range". Other businesses soon followed."

The Fioritos then heard about the International Wine and Spirits Competition and submitted a couple of bottles in May of this year. "I was honeymooning in Sardinia at the end of July when my brother phoned to say we'd won the silver medal!

Enthusiasts can now taste the liqueur in some 20 to 30 restaurants. (CvE)

www.limoncellofiorito.nl

Cars as power plants

Paid parking, who *doesn't* hate it? Nevertheless, it will soon be a fact of life at TU Delft, too. Perhaps the only person who cannot wait for this is Professor Ad van Wijk. The newly endowed professor of Future Energy Systems predicts that the familiar scenario will be turned on its head and instead he will be paid to park his car.

Professor Ad van Wijk, who is also the director of the Green Campus Company, is seeking investors and bright minds to transform the campus into an icon of sustainable technology. One of his hobbyhorses is an idea for multi-storey car parks that pay out.

"Multi-storey car parks are our future power plants," the professor says. "It might take another ten or 15 years but sooner or later many cars will be fitted with fuel cells. These cars generate electricity more efficiently than large power plants. And that electricity can easily be tapped in car parks which have the appropriate fuel supply, such as natural gas, biodiesel or hydrogen. Paid parking suddenly takes on a whole new meaning; that is, you get paid to park your car."

Prof. Van Wijk beams, and then makes a quick calculation: "A car generates an average capacity of 80 kilowatts, so 500 cars with fuel cells would generate 40 megawatts. Suppose those cars are parked for eight hours a day, 300 days a year: this would generate a total of nearly 100 million kilowatt hours, which is twice the campus' power consumption."

'So 500 cars with fuel cells would generate 40 megawatts'

The green entrepreneur also hopes to realise plans for a hotel on campus in the foreseeable future. "I always say within five years," jokes the professor, before continuing. "If you want to realise sustainable projects with companies, it's important to create an environment in which you can negotiate with the CEOs. Every university abroad has its own hotel where meetings are held. You cannot treat commercial contacts to lunch in the canteen – they're not students, after all."

Naturally, the campus hotel will be sustainable, with an electricity-generating dance floor and gym where the people exercising can convert their hard work into electricity. The fitness equipment registers the amount of generated electricity on a card, which the owner can then use to pay for a coffee, for instance. All the artificial lighting will be from LEDs, fitted in the walls, furniture and even the glasses.

Prof. Van Wijk also foresees an enormous harp-shaped windmill situated at the motorway exit to Delft Zuid and a sound barrier along Kruithuisweg, full of little wind turbines and solar panels. And the people who earn a little extra money by parking their cars in a car park on the outskirts of the campus can then travel to their offices via a mono-rail suspended from the sound barrier. (TvD)

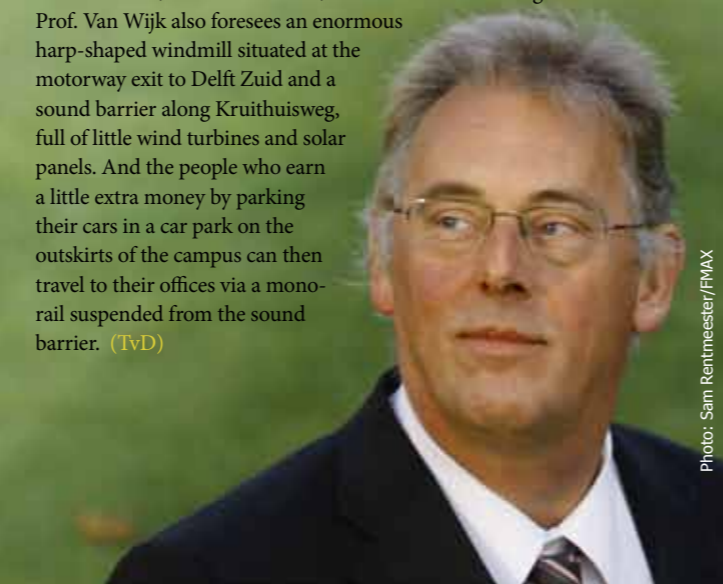


Photo: Sam Rentmeester/FMAX



The excellent quality of our drinking water sector may be under threat from company takeovers, cutbacks and the erosion of expertise. Thus argued Professor **Hans van Dijk** (Drinking Water Supply) in his valedictory address in September, in which he looked back at developments in the drinking water sector over the last 40 years.



Professor **Kees van Weeren** could hardly have wished for a better case study for research and teaching-purposes than the fire at the faculty of Architecture. This autumn the professor of Structural Design bade farewell. During his valedictory address, he spoke at length about the fire. According to him, "there are few large fires whose progress has been so closely monitored."



Professor **Marcel Stive** (Hydraulic Engineering) was awarded an ERC Advanced Grant worth 2.9 million euros by the EU. Over the next five years he will use this funding to enable better predictions to be made about coastal changes. Current models are still too elementary. He aims to catalogue the physical processes involved on a smaller scale, using satellite and video observation.



In the world of wind energy he is known as the Smart Rotor Professor. In late October, professor of Wind Energy, **Gijs van Kuik**, was awarded the EAW Science Award by the European Academy of Wind Energy. The academy presents this annual award to scientists who have made a significant contribution to wind energy research.



After ten years, the department of Ship Hydromechanics and Structures (3mE) once again has a professor: Professor **Mirek Kaminski**, the Dutch shipping and offshore industry. "Our students' knowledge regarding the construction of ships and offshore facilities has gradually deteriorated over the years. The industry wants to turn this trend around," said Prof. Kaminski in *Delta*.



Dr **Bert Geerken** has been appointed the new dean of the faculty of Civil Engineering and Geosciences. Geerken studied Applied Sciences at the University of Twente. He is presently the acting managing director of the Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience (NIN) of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). Prior to that he was the general director of Naturalis.



According to the Dutch Network of Women Professors (LHNV), she really shines in her field, which is why Professor **Nynke Dekker** of the department of Bionanoscience (Applied Sciences) was awarded a certificate and 5,000 euros by the LHNV.



As of 1 December, **Annemieke Wisse** will be the new director of YesDelft. Among other positions, she was previously the director of New Venture, the national business plan competition. Wisse will lay the foundation for the further development of YesDelft, which is in her eyes the formula for success for high-tech start-ups.



Soon the government may be able to find your personal data and your exact position with just a couple clicks of the mouse: efficient but worrying, feels professor of Systems Engineering, **Frances Brazier**, of the Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management. Prof. Brazier, who delivered her inaugural address as professor of Engineering Systems Foundations on 14 October, is researching how still-to-be-designed technology could strengthen the position of the citizen. "It is no longer possible to impose matters on the citizen from above."

A disaster is imminent in Rotterdam and the population needs to be evacuated immediately. Brazier used this scenario in her inaugural address to illustrate how phenomena such as Facebook and Twitter

have strengthened citizen's autonomy. "Until now the authorities could have evacuated Rotterdam one district at a time. This type of central coordination is now much more difficult. Social media enable groups of people to not only be more quickly informed about what is going on, but also to organise themselves more quickly. The use of these technologies is changing the dynamics of society. I feel that people can demand the right to take up their responsibility within a complex, dynamic system. And they must have access to the right information in order to be able to exercise this responsibility."