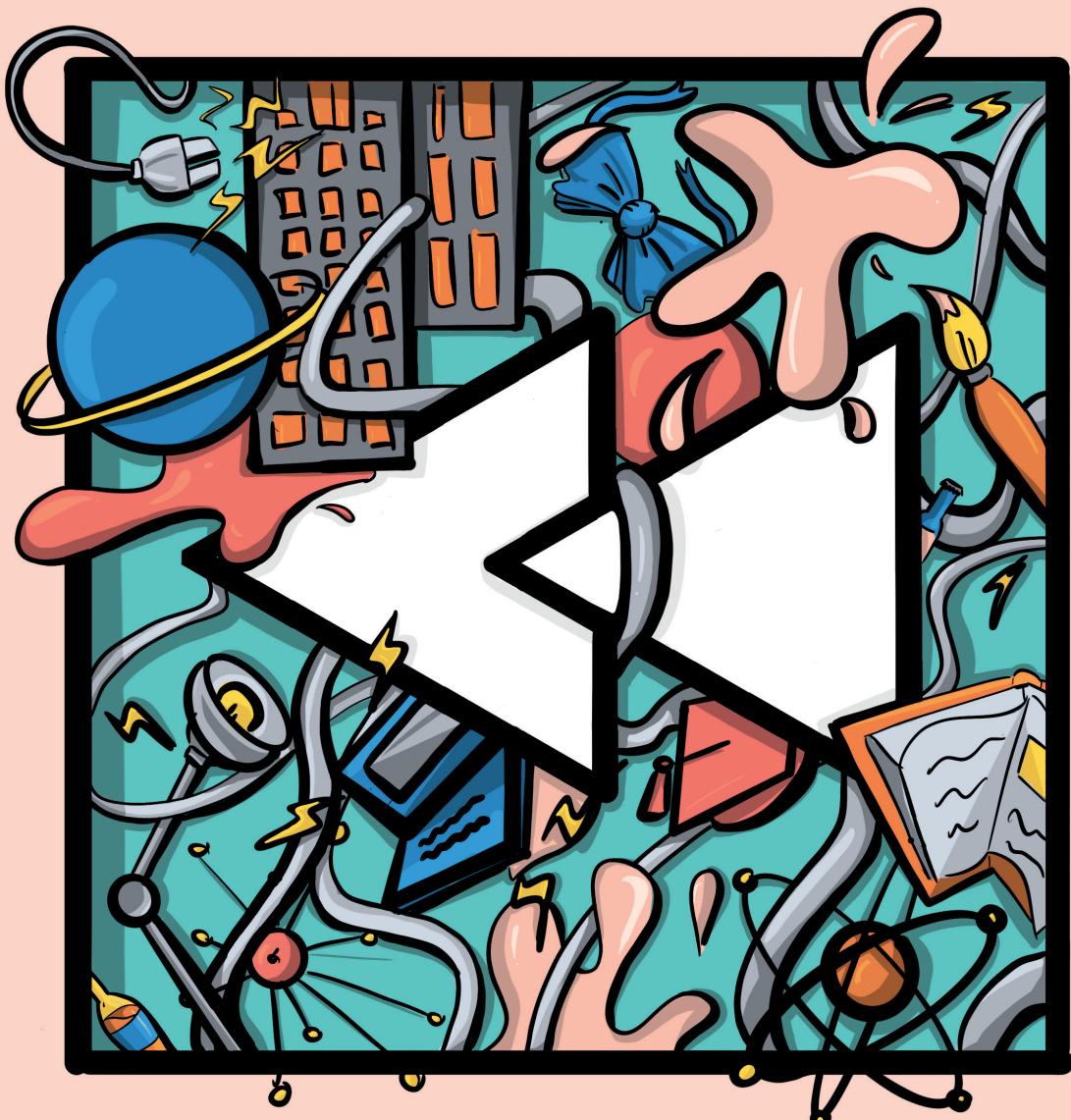


# CONTEXT



H.S.A. Confluente

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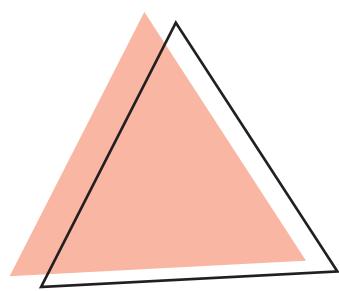
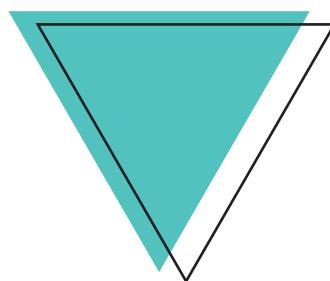
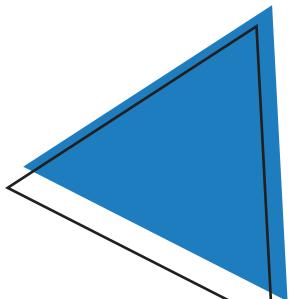
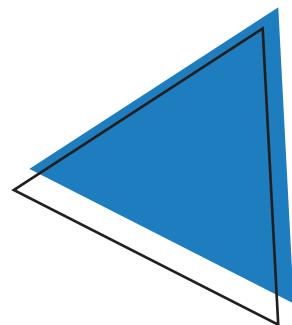
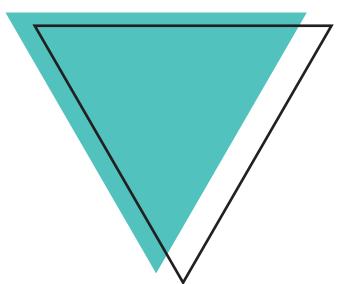
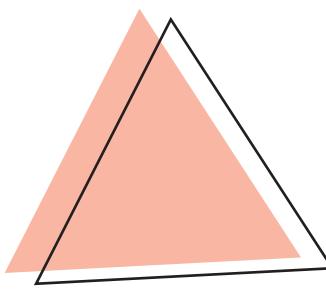
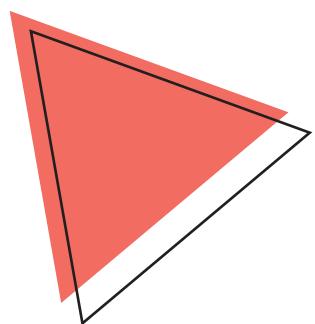
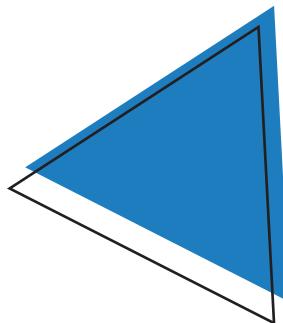
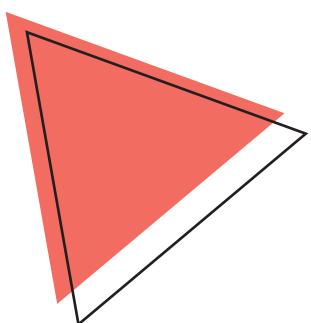
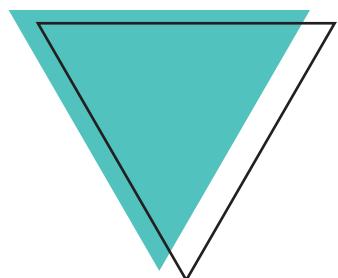
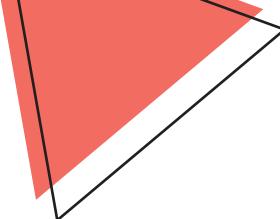
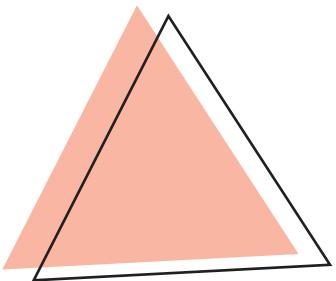
How it all started

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Which board member are you?

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Surviving the final assessment



# Hello,

We are from H.S.A Confluente, the study association of the Honors Academy. As a growing association, full of enthusiastic members, we have a lively community with amazing people. Since both our members and collaborating entities are doing such amazing things, we thought it would be a shame to let all those amazing things be forgotten. Therefore we made this.

With pride, we introduce to you the first official edition of the H.S.A Confluente magazine: Context. Considering that this is the first Lustrum year of the association, it seemed like the perfect time to start a magazine. This edition has a focus on the past years; how we grew from a small committee organizing a study trip, to an organization with around two hundred members. It includes opinions of our members, ideas of companies, tips, and much more! We carefully selected all the interesting topics. Enjoy!

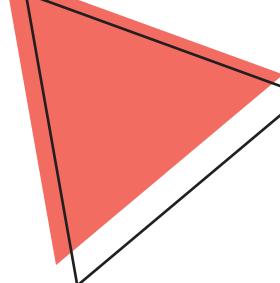
The PR committee



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# Board 2019-2020

## Benjamin Rodatz

The Commissioner of Internal Affairs of this year's board. He is in his third year of the bachelor Computer Science and Engineering and works on the River project within the CPPS track.

## Marijn Stijvers

The secretary of the 2019-2020 board is in her third year of the bachelor Industrial Design and works on the project 5G-MOBIX within the track Smart Mobility.



Text & Graphics by Emma

### Tom Suelmann

Representing Confluente this year as the chair and is also Commissioner of External Affairs. He is in his third year of the bachelors Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics and is in the CPPS track.

### Robin van Hoorn

The treasurer of this year's board at Confluente. He is in his third year of the bachelor Computer Science and Engineering and works on the project AI consultancy at VBTI within the CPPS track.



Loes Hoefnagels

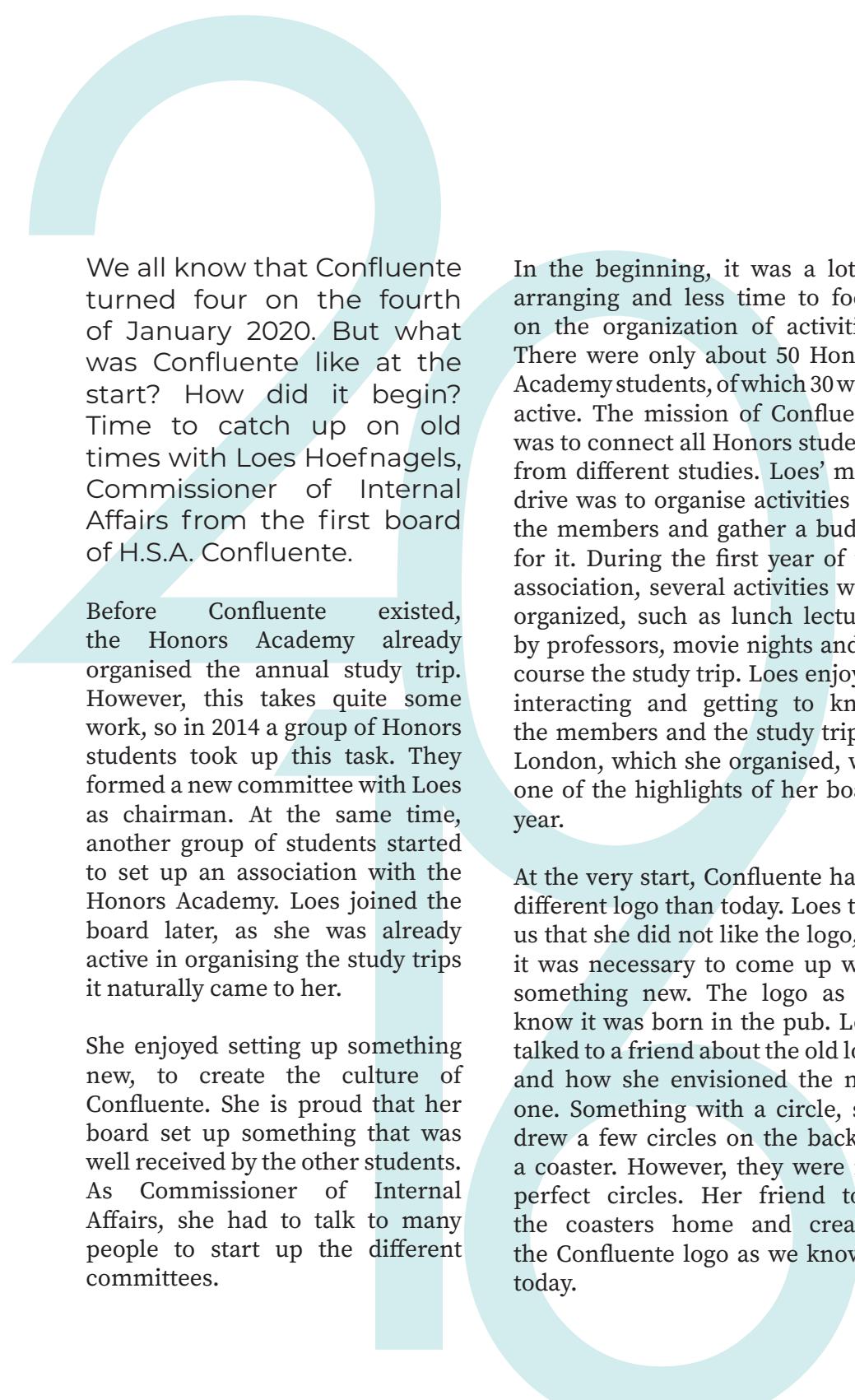


Board 1B

# HOW

The logo for Confluente, featuring a large serif font 'H' and 'W'. In the center where the two letters meet is a circle containing the word 'CONFLUENTE' above three wavy lines.

## it all started



We all know that Confluente turned four on the fourth of January 2020. But what was Confluente like at the start? How did it begin? Time to catch up on old times with Loes Hoefnagels, Commissioner of Internal Affairs from the first board of H.S.A. Confluente.

Before Confluente existed, the Honors Academy already organised the annual study trip. However, this takes quite some work, so in 2014 a group of Honors students took up this task. They formed a new committee with Loes as chairman. At the same time, another group of students started to set up an association with the Honors Academy. Loes joined the board later, as she was already active in organising the study trips it naturally came to her.

She enjoyed setting up something new, to create the culture of Confluente. She is proud that her board set up something that was well received by the other students. As Commissioner of Internal Affairs, she had to talk to many people to start up the different committees.

In the beginning, it was a lot of arranging and less time to focus on the organization of activities. There were only about 50 Honors Academy students, of which 30 were active. The mission of Confluente was to connect all Honors students from different studies. Loes' main drive was to organise activities for the members and gather a budget for it. During the first year of the association, several activities were organized, such as lunch lectures by professors, movie nights and of course the study trip. Loes enjoyed interacting and getting to know the members and the study trip to London, which she organised, was one of the highlights of her board year.

At the very start, Confluente had a different logo than today. Loes told us that she did not like the logo, so it was necessary to come up with something new. The logo as we know it was born in the pub. Loes talked to a friend about the old logo and how she envisioned the new one. Something with a circle, she drew a few circles on the back of a coaster. However, they were not perfect circles. Her friend took the coasters home and created the Confluente logo as we know it today.

C O M

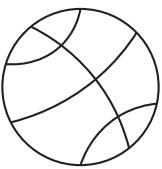
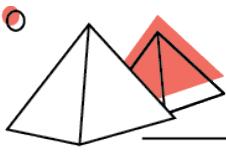
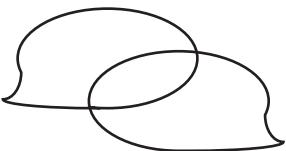
M I T

E E S

## Part 1

# GALA

The Gala Committee organizes a grand gala. Both our own students as well as Honors students from all other Honors Study Associations are warmly invited to attend this wonderfull event.

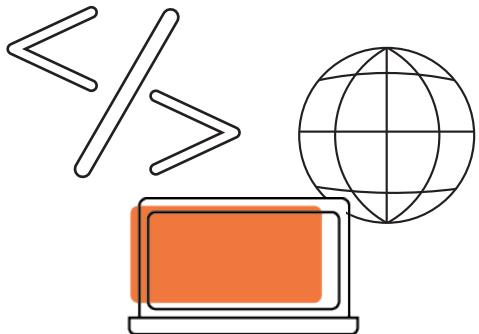


# INTRO

The Intro Weekend Committee is responsible for organizing the introduction of Confluente at the beginning of the year for all new first year honors students.

# WEB

The Web Committee is responsible for the website of Confluente. They also handle all the other computer and data related items of the association.



# PR

The purpose of the Public Relations committee is to provide the outreach of Confluente. This includes the design of clothing, this brand new magazine and providing pictures.

# Which board member are you?

Always wondered if you are as chaotic as Tom, energetic as Marijn, passionate as Robin or thoughtful as Ben? Or do you just want to know more about them? Take the quiz and you will find out!

## What is your favorite food?

- A. Take away, like kapsalon or Chinese (number 21 and 43).
- B. Indonesian Sambal goreng telor.
- C. Risotto.
- D. Korean Bulgogi.

## You favorite holiday destination?

- A. You love everything about Italy.
- B. Discovering all the islands of Indonesia.
- C. Off the beaten track, Buthan is on your bucket list.
- D. Your next trip is a Confluente study trip .

## What animal would you be?

- A. An Arctic wolf, because they are smart. There is no leader, it is the group that works together to survive.
- B. You want to live the easy life of a cat.
- C. A baby goat! They are always busy and jumping around.
- D. Of course a dog, you love dogs and their ability to excite people.

## What is your useless talent?

- A. You can flip a coaster and then catch it.
- B. You are overly enthusiastic about C. little things.
- D. You know many useless facts.  
You just learned to juggle.

## If you had a superpower, what would it be?

- A. That I would not need any sleep, so I can do other things than studying.
- B. The ability to tell people what you think without them getting angry.
- C. Being super annoying.
- D. Flying, boring answer, but who cares, it's awesome.

## What would you do if you won the lottery?

- A. Sponsor Confluente of course! Or invest it to prevent yourself from spending it all at once.
- B. Give most away to family and charity.
- C. The smartest thing to do first is to find a lawyer, because statistically, 70% of the people who win a lottery lose all the money within 10 years, due to several clauses.
- D. Keep on studying, because you want to know more about psychology and philosophy. You would also find a better place to live in.



### Most A

Like Tom, you spend most of your time studying or socializing in the Honors room, your favourite place in Eindhoven. You are all over the place and manage to put too much in a day, but you are always on time, just on time.

### Most B

You look most like Marijn. A curious, creative, but a bit clumsy bouncing ball is how others describe you. They can always find you at Confluente events, because it's the people that make Eindhoven your favourite place.

### Most C

Enjoying life to the fullest is the motto you share with Robin. You are also incredibly committed to things although you don't have time for it. After a long day of hardworking in the Honors room, you like to relax at home.

### Most D

You are as bright-minded as Benjamin and a decent amount of sleep is your secret. Connecting people is your quality, no wonder Hubble is the place where people can find you.

# *Ines* LOPEZ

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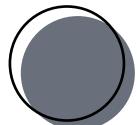
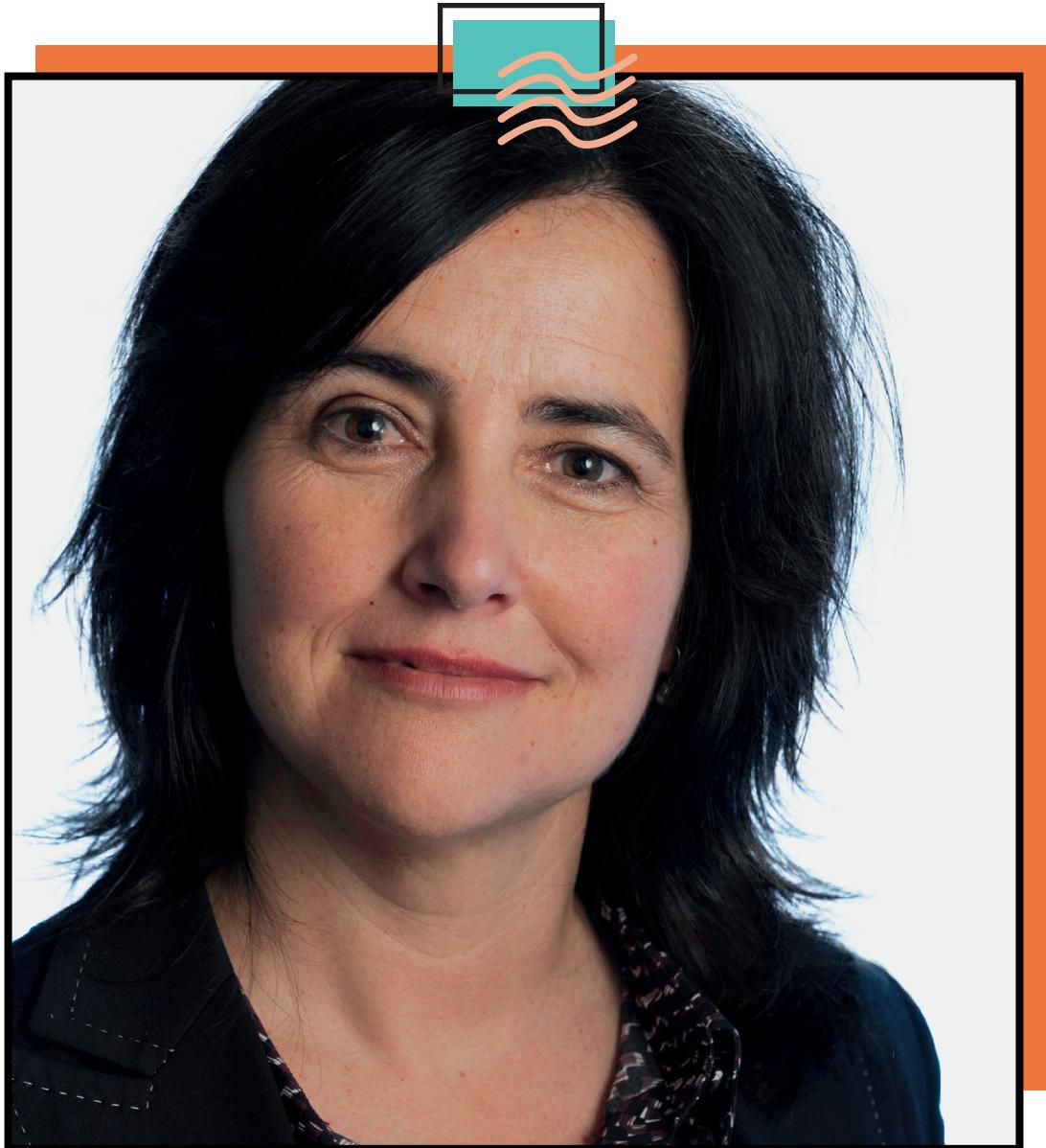
**Ines Lopez Arteaga** is professor at the Department of Mechanical Engineering here at the TU/e as well as at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. She specialized in the field of acoustics and vibration. Originally she is from San Sebastian in Spain, where she studied Mechanical Engineering and completed her PhD.

In 2001 she came to the Netherlands and started working at DAF, near the end of 2002 she started working at the TU/e, where in February of 2018 she became dean of the Honors Academy.

The main reason for her to take the job as dean of the Honors Academy is that she is very much interested in educational innovation, she believes it is beneficial to teach different

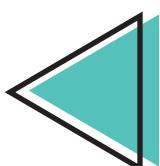
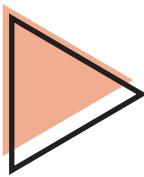
students in different ways, and part of this, of course, is to have an Honors Program for the better students. In her experience, it is very important for students to develop themselves, and the sooner they start the better. She understands this is not always why students choose to do Honors, but even then the combination of technical challenges and personal development benefits them strongly.

Before becoming dean she had not worked with the Honors Academy before, mainly as it would not fit in her schedule. This did not mean however that she was not actively working on education innovation, she had been working with that since 2008, already ten years before she got involved with the Honors Academy.



Dean of the Honors Academy is Ines Lopez Arteaga, which we are very happy to have had an interview with for this magazine. Read further and you will find what she thinks is important about Honors, what could be improved, and also what she thinks of Confluente!

# **“You will need to reinvent yourselves every ten years.**



An example she gave of how she did this was that she already included quizzes in her lectures in 2009. Except it was not just the case that doing well in the quizzes could give you half a point extra, she made it into a proper competition where the best three students would get something. The top prize was going to the test track of her previous employer DAF trucks. By doing this she hoped, and successfully managed, to get not only the students that needed the extra half-point motivated for the quizzes, but also those that did not need the point as much, but were interested in winning this prize. Of course, this quiz was still quite a small thing but it genuinely seemed to motivate students and that made the extra effort she had to put in worth it.

When posed with the question of what the best thing was about the Honors Academy she quite quickly answered that the students are the best part of it all. Mainly because the Honors Academ students are really motivated, to learn and to create something new. As such she also very much enjoys the symposium at the end of the year when she gets to see

what everyone managed to achieve. Other than the students themselves and the coordinators that allow it all to take place, she appreciates that the Honors Academy pushes students to develop themselves and that the Honors Academy very nicely implements challenge-based education.

This does not mean there is no room for improvement, however, and she acknowledges this, in her opinion, there could, for example, be a bit more structure in the Honors Program for master students, since at the moment it allows for so many different things that students do not quite know what to do or what is expected of the Honors Program. More relevant to the bachelor Honors Program is that she would like an option for students to work individually rather than in larger project teams. Yet, the problem that must be faced with ideas like this is how it would be set up within the current organization of the Honors Academy. It is very difficult to place such ideas within the current track structure and still make it so that these students can feel as if they are a part of the larger Honors community.

On the topic of the Honors community, Ines feels that an association is crucial to the Honors Academy. It helps the Honors Academy run the Program by offering activities and filling the atmosphere, but also by getting input from the students and giving feedback on what could be improved for Honors. The way she sees it is that Confluente is next to the Honors Academy, making sure everything works as well as it possibly can.

If she could give one piece of advice to any student, whether they are part of the Honors Program or not, it would be to work on their personal development, “you cannot start early enough”. She would suggest developing a habit of asking yourself why you do the things you do, why you choose one thing over another. Set goals for yourself, maybe 5 years is far away but setting goals for the end of this year already helps more than you would think.

**So you need to start  
[developing yourself]  
now, that is my advice.”**



*Emma Driesse*

# Empowerment of Health and Wellbeing

Within the track, there is a variety of health-related projects to choose from, with groups from three to five people. All projects are in cooperation with a company. Such as MedApp and the Máxima Medical Centre.

Emma is a student within this track and we interviewed her to get some insights. She is doing a project for the company MedApp, which is an application to help people remind to take their medicine. Emma and her team are exploring ways to extend the application, mainly physically oriented. The focus is currently on helping people to not forget to take their medicines with

them. This is the second year that she is working on the same project, which is a great opportunity.

Emma chose to do Honors Academy because she is interested in projects regarding healthcare and therefore searched for a way to explore this field more. Besides that, she wanted to see what it was like to work with students from other faculties. The Honors Academy helps her to set her own goals that are not directly feasible within her study. For instance, getting in contact and cooperation with companies, which is supported by personal feedback and coaching.

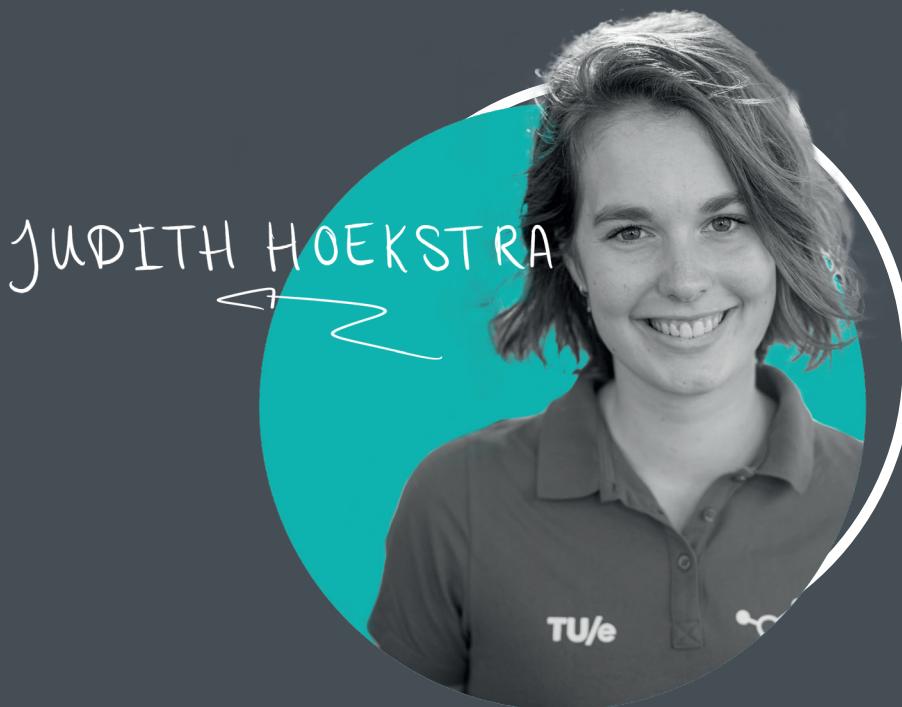
# SensUs

We interviewed Judith Hoekstra, the treasurer of SensUs. The vision of SensUs is to personalize healthcare in the future, in which medicines are personalized on the patient's needs. SensUs' mission is to stimulate innovation and education in the field of biosensors, by organizing an international student competition. SensUs is part of the innovation space and have their own room to work on the projects. Every Monday evening the seventeen members of SensUs come together for a plenary evening, eat together and have fun activities such as laser gaming.

It is Judith's second year of Honors and she currently is the treasurer of SensUs. Besides that, she is working on a project with high school students to challenge them to build

their own theoretical biosensor. "I really want to contribute to the future of healthcare, and I believe that being part of SensUs I can have an impact."

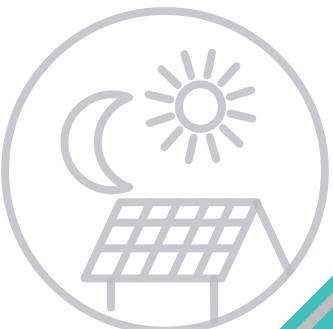
Judith chose Honors Academy to develop skills besides her study both professional and personal. She especially chose SensUs because it gives her the ability to start the year with her own goals and work on them within Honors. This year she wanted to learn more about finances, improve her planning and collaboration skills and challenge herself to seek for innovation. The most challenging part for her is: "Within SensUs, you can always find a new interesting project and challenge yourself more.". Within SensUs there are many projects to choose from.



## Anti-solar cells: A photovoltaic cell that works at night

What if we tell you that solar cells can be adapted to work at night? The department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at UC Davis have design a photovoltaic cell can produce up to 50 watts of power per square meter under ideal conditions at night. This value is about 1/4 of what a conventional solar panel can generate in a daytime.

University of California - Davis. (2020, January 29). Anti-solar cells: A photovoltaic cell that works at night. ScienceDaily. Retrieved April 25, 2020 from [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/01/200129174512.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/01/200129174512.htm)



## Wearable health tech gets efficiency upgrade

Engineers have demonstrated a flexible device that harvests the heat energy from the human body to monitor health. The device is more efficient than other flexible harvesters that use body heat as the sole energy source.

Engineers of the North Carolina State University have built a flexible device that only uses the heat energy produced by human body in order to monitor health. Nowadays, for instance, most of the flexible harvesters require constant recharge of batteries. This device, in turn, needs “a high thermal conductivity silicone elastomer doped with graphene flakes”.

North Carolina State University. (2020, January 30). Wearable health tech gets efficiency upgrade. ScienceDaily. Retrieved April 24, 2020 from [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/01/20013015431.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/01/20013015431.htm)

## ● First all-optical, stealth encryption technology

BGN Technologies, Israel has introduced the first all-optical “stealth” encryption technology that contributes to more secure and private data transmission for the highly sensitive cloud-computing and data. “Basically, the innovative breakthrough is that if you cannot detect it, you cannot steal it,” says Prof. Sadot to Science Daily magazine. “Because an eavesdropper can neither read the data nor even detect the existence of the transmitted signal, our optical stealth transmission provides the highest level of privacy and security for sensitive data applications.”

American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. (2020, January 29). First all-optical, stealth encryption technology developed: Optical end-to-end solution includes encryption, transmission, decryption, and detection. ScienceDaily. Retrieved April 25, 2020 from [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/01/200129091411.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/01/200129091411.htm)

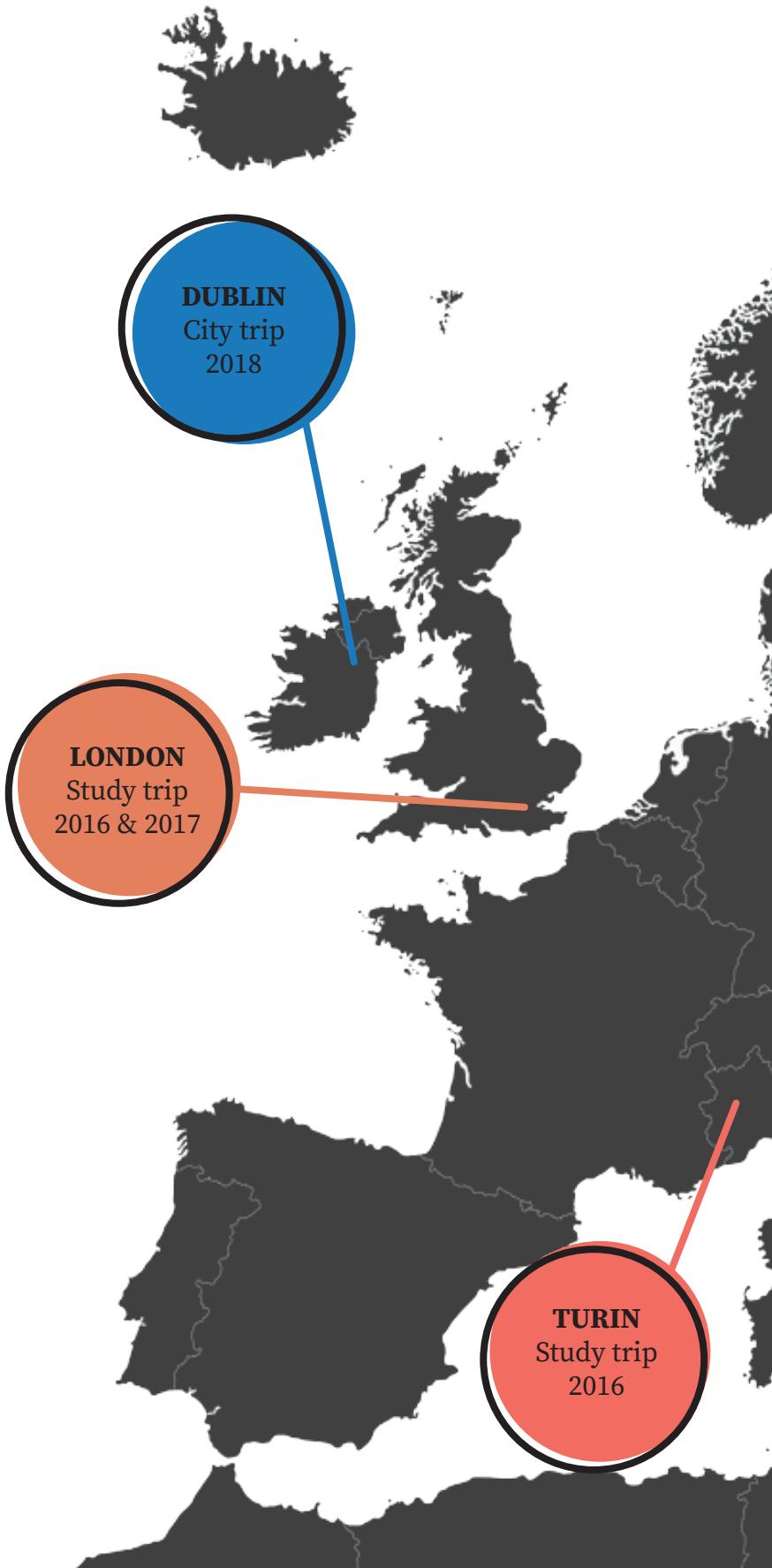
## Nano-thin flexible touch screens printed like newspaper

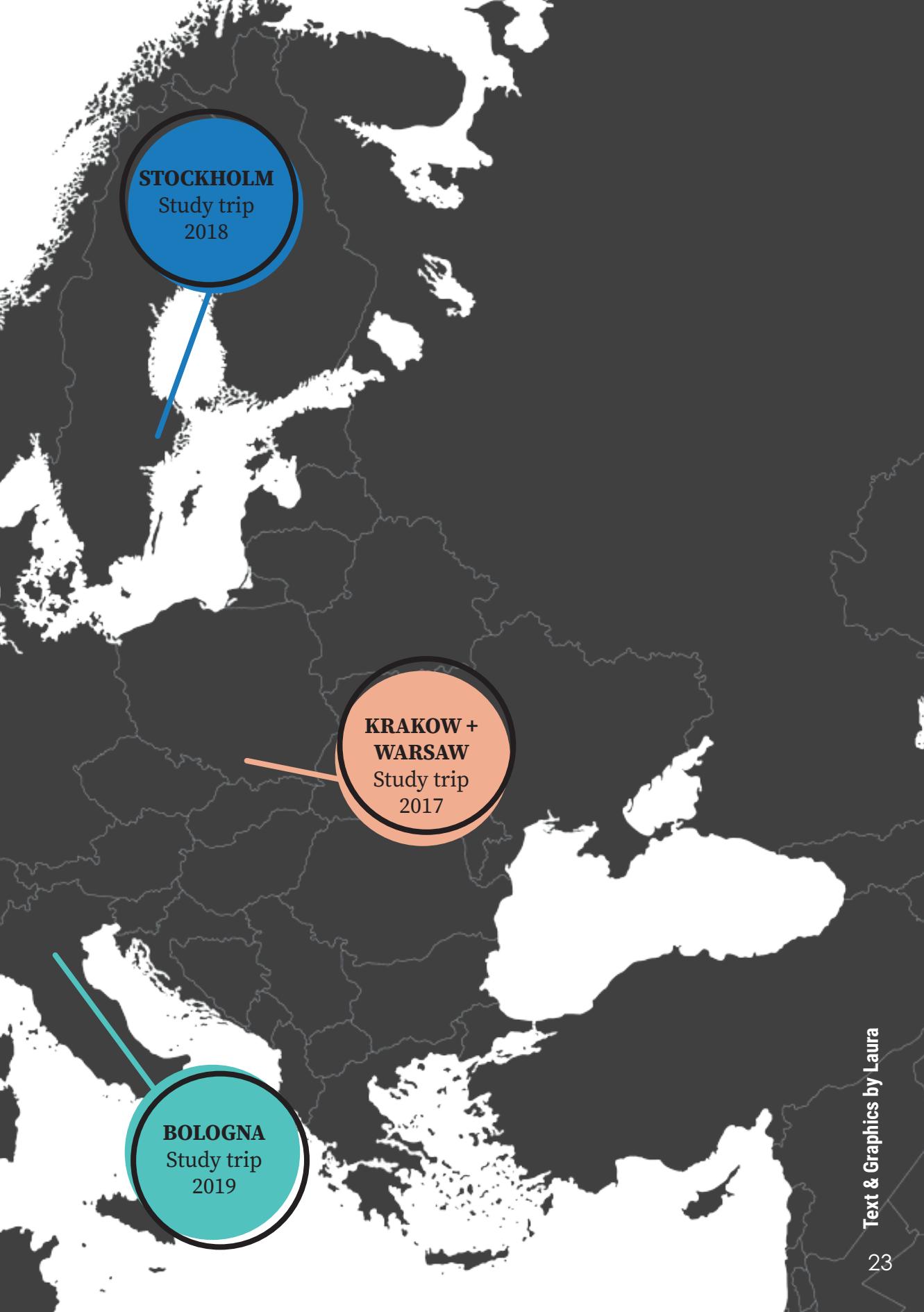
RMIT University research group has developed an ultra-thin and flexible electronic touchscreen material that can be printed and rolled like paper. By exploring a thin film applied in cell phone touchscreen technology, researchers held a chemical reaction using liquid metal chemistry to shrink it from 3D to 2D. In the interview to Science daily, Daeneke, an Australian Research Council DECRA Fellow at RMIT said: “Turning it two-dimensional also makes it more transparent, so it lets through more light. This also means a cell phone with a touchscreen made of our material would use less power, extending the battery life by roughly 10%.”

RMIT University. (2020, January 24). Nano-thin flexible touchscreens could be printed like newspaper: New touch-responsive technology is 100 times thinner than existing touchscreen materials and so pliable it can be rolled up like a tube. ScienceDaily. Retrieved April 25, 2020 from [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/01/200124112927.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/01/200124112927.htm)

# CONFLUENTE AROUND EUROPE

An overview of the ascension holiday and end of year study trips which Confluente made and is planning to make.





## INTRODUCTION OF THE TRACKS



ENDI SELMANAJ

# High Tech Systems

The High-tech systems (HTS) track focuses on the application of unmanned aerial vehicles and ground robots.

The project requires innovative technology and algorithms. The two project teams of HTS are Syfly and the Drone Referee Project. We spoke with Endi Selmanaj from team Syfly. The team consists of 15 members who meet at least once a week in Innovation Space to work on their project.

Team Syfly is working on a modular fleet of drones for agriculture. The drones are going to help farmers to gather big data on the condition of their animals and plants, to

increase yields. The team is split into several sub-teams, with clearly defined tasks. Endi tells that the team is looking for new members who want to work on the business plan and manage public relations.

Endi wanted to do an extracurricular activity next to his Electrical Engineering bachelor. He is interested in high-tech, therefore he chose the HTS track. Honors Academy allows Endi to get practical experience in his field of interest, which he misses in his major. *“It is a pretty cool program because you can decide the project you are working and how you develop yourself.”*

# Energy Transition

Currently, there are four teams within this track: Nano, RED, Core and RenewCO<sub>2</sub>. Thei from Nano explained more about their project and why he decided to join the Honors Academy.

The first year of studying went quite well for Thei, he felt like he could do something extra. After he heard about the success of student teams who started as an Honors Academy team, he decided to join. Thei chose for Energy Transition because he wanted to apply his physics knowledge to real-life problems. He enjoys the atmosphere of students who are ambitious, motivated and always willing to help. His advice for new

students? “Go for it, there is no harm in trying”.

Team Nano started this year as a new project team and consists of eight members from different majors. Thei explains that it can be challenging to explain things to each other, as everyone has their expertise. However, Thei believes that working within a multi-disciplinary team is useful and fun. He enthusiastically tells about the project: “*We are making Triboelectric nanogenerators, which can convert mechanical energy into electricity*”. The team aims to improve the current designs, build and test prototypes and eventually incorporate it in a useful product.



Thei Breukers

H.S.A. Confluente  
Lustrum 2020



# A JOURNEY THROUGH THE SEASONS



A graphic design featuring three large, stylized letters: 'C', 'O', and 'M'. The 'C' is black with blue wavy lines extending from its top left. The 'O' is gray with a solid orange shape at the bottom right. The 'M' is black with blue horizontal lines and an orange triangle pointing upwards at the top right.

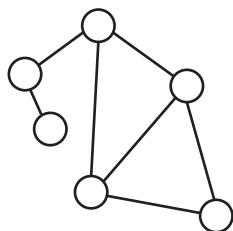
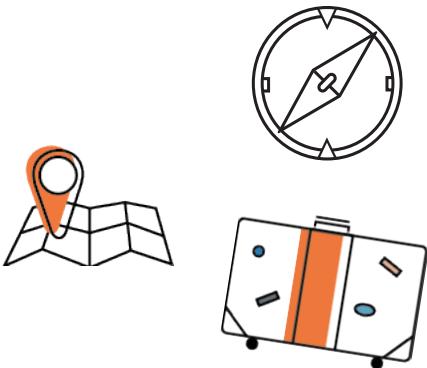
A graphic design featuring four stylized letters: 'M', 'I', 'T', and 'T'. The 'M' is black with orange mountain-like patterns at the bottom. The 'I' is black with a red circle at the top and orange dots at the bottom. The first 'T' is black with a teal circle at the top and orange dots at the bottom. The second 'T' is black with a blue bar at the top and orange mountain-like patterns at the bottom.

A graphic design featuring three stylized letters: 'E', 'E', and 'S'. The first 'E' is black with a teal circle at the top and orange wavy lines at the bottom. The second 'E' is black with an orange bar at the top and blue horizontal lines at the bottom. The 'S' is black with a red semi-circle at the top and a teal semi-circle at the bottom.

## Part 2

# STUDY TRIP

The Study Trip Committee arranges a trip to a destination outside of the Netherlands. This trip entails multiple company and university visits, workshops and sight-seeing.



# ACQUISITION

The purpose of the Acquisition Committee is to acquire contacts and sponsorships from companies, and strengthening the existing ties between companies and Confluente.

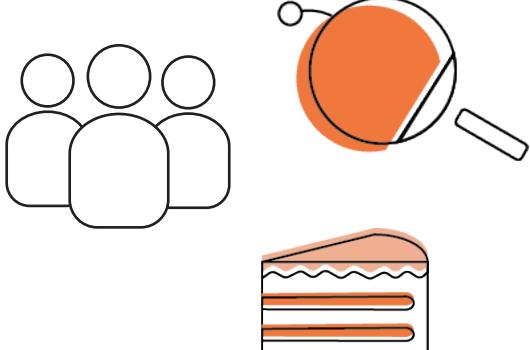
# EDU

The Educational Committee is responsible for the educational activities Confluente offers. For example lunch lectures, company visits and workshops.



# ACTIVITY

The Activity Committee is responsible for the recreational and team building activities, which add to the community of Confluente.



# 1.

## Preparation

The best way to prepare for your assessment? If a friend would ask about what you did, do you need preparation for that as well? You worked on it for almost a whole year, so you know what you did. The only preparation you can do is to read through your deliverables.

# 2.

## Talk to others

If it is the first time you are doing the assessment, talk to the second year honors students of your track. They have survived it last year, so they might still remember the hardest question they had during the assessment. If your team members have the assessment before you, talk to them as well.

# Surviving the end assessment

It might sound scary, like your effort of a whole year is decided in just 20 minutes. But look at it from the other side, you have worked on your project for a whole year, so you know what you did. During the interview they will ask about your deliverables: the (team) results, your contribution to it and your personal development.

3.

Show evidence

Your assessors want to see evidence for your deliverables. What better way to show it than to actually bring something? Okay, your project might be too big, but a picture will do as well. Print your final report, so you have all the information and pictures with you.

The assessment will be almost like an open-book test. Or did you make a collage to show your ambition? Just bring what you want to focus on, it is easier to talk about something if you have it with you.



4.

Assessor

Your coach is your second assessor. It depends on who it is, but it might be your cheerleader during the assessment. Your coach has seen your personal development during the year (if you have regular meetings with your coach), so your coach will ask questions about topics you know and you can demonstrate your knowledge to the other assessor.



5.

Reflection

Next to evidence, reflection is the main thing your assessors are looking for. What was the key to your success? It is okay if not everything went well. As long as you can reflect on what you learned from it and what you would do differently next time. This is part of your personal development.



BIGGEST FLOP  
OF THE BOARD



Let's be honest, even though board 5 tries their hardest, not everything works out. Everyone makes mistakes, including the board. This can include small things such as typos in newsletters. Yet, in this column, we will give you some other insights too, just to make clear that not everyone is perfect, not even us. Making mistakes is something everyone does, something we should learn from and not feel embarrassed by. Therefore, the board is sharing one of their most stupid flops.

## **“ We were founded on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January in 2016, right? ”**

At the beginning of this year, we switched from a regular google drive to a G-suite. Setting everything up was quite a hassle, especially the details. One day Benjamin, Robin and Marijn decided this was a task to do together, figuring everything out in one go. While making groups and folders for committees, we also implemented details such as a logo.

At one point Marijn came to a setup page where our age and address was asked. Full of enthusiasm, the board wanted to add the birthday of the association, which is January 4th 2016.

This magazine is honoring the first lustrum of H.S.A. Confluente. We have just turned four. Even though all our members are adults, the association is still a toddler, learning new things every single day. Thus G-suite decided to lock the whole board out. The platform wouldn't accept us having an account there! Everything turned out fine eventually, even though the association is now 24 years old according to G-suite, but we will just imagine that '2' not to be there.

So, as you see one can never think of everything. Our suggestion? Just do one thing at a time. Do not try to do work simultaneously, it will cause more harm than good. Though if it happens, just make sure that you put it in a nice coat like it was intended to be just like that. In the end, think of how little impact that mistake will have ten years from now.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE TRACKS



# AI

*Eileen Westergaard*

Industrial design student Eileen was looking for an extra challenge next to her study. She spoke to several people who did Honors and were excited about it. Therefore, she decided to give it a try and join the Artificial Intelligence track.

In high school, Eileen was already interested in AI and wrote a few papers about it for projects. So the choice for an Honors track was easily made. The field of AI is different from her study, but she thinks it is interesting to learn about another field and Honors Academy allows her to dive deeper into the content.

Currently, Eileen and her team are working on an AI e-sports competition. They have to write

a neural network for an agent so it can go through a labyrinth with traps. Eileen does not have much experience with programming and AI and the topic is broad, so she finds it challenging to know where to start. But at the same time, the various directions of AI allow her to learn new things, which she enjoys. Time management is one of the most challenging parts of combining a bachelor with Honors and committees, but Eileen believes that if you are passionate about your topic you are willing to spend time on it.

Eileen also joins almost all activities of Confluente. She enjoys broadening her knowledge with the educational activities, having fun and meeting new people.

# CPPS

The Compitative Programming and Problem Solving track is a bit different from all the other Honors tracks because the students do not work on a specific project. We interviewed Samuel to get to know more about CPPS and his experience with Honors Academy.

Samuel heard from friends that it is fun to be part on Honors Academy, so he decided to give it a try. He chose the CPPS track, because he studies Computer Science and is interested in programming. CPPS is more like training, you need to make exercises to get better at programming. Besides, the students participate in competitions. As a small team, the students sign up for a competition and try to perform as best as possible. Samuel enjoys the competitions the most, because

you work towards a goal and it is satisfying if you manage to solve the problems.

Samuel likes the fact that CPPS is quite flexible on how you spend your time on it, one week you can do a bit less and the next week do more exercises. However, he believes the track has a steep learning curve. Sometimes he gets why the answer is correct but finds it hard to come up with the way to get to the answer yourself.

Most importantly he finds it a lot of fun and the skills of algorithmic thinking and the mindset might be helpful for a future career. “*Netflix is a waste of time, so why not do something and sign up for Honors?*”

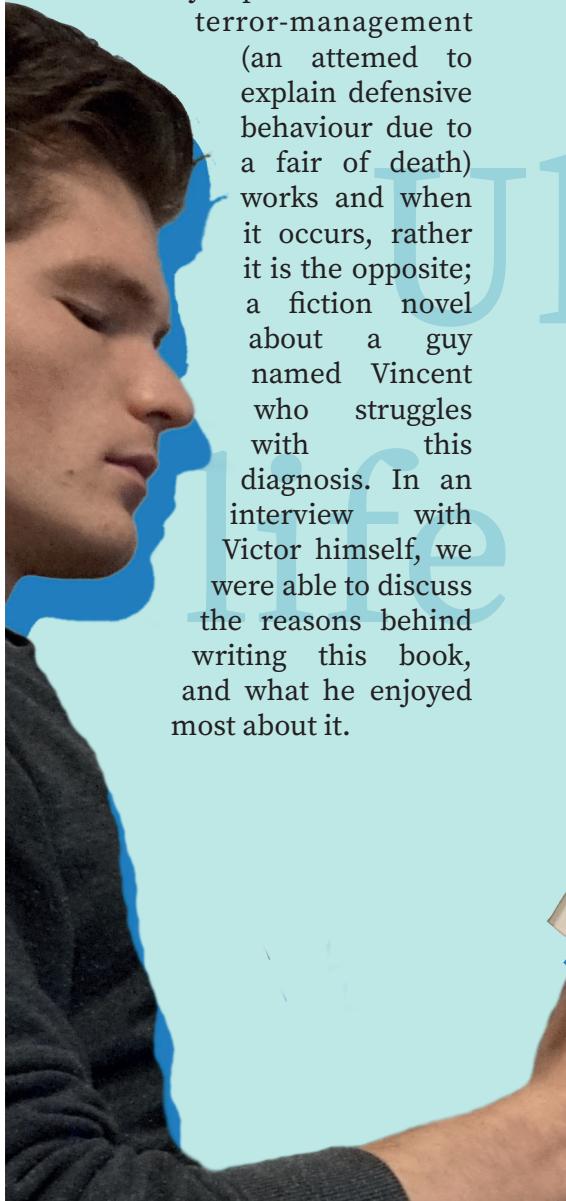


SAMUEL OOSTERHOLT

# THE DENIAL OF LIFE

**Everyone** has their own interests. Some are more interested in music, art, psychology or quantum physics. There are different ways of expressing these interests to others. Even though not completely accurate, 'The Denial of Life' by Victor Brouwers gives some interesting facts and insights about a psychological phenomenon called terror-management in a fascinating way. This book is not a theoretical encyclopedia of how terror-management

(an attempt to explain defensive behaviour due to a fear of death) works and when it occurs, rather it is the opposite; a fiction novel about a guy named Vincent who struggles with this diagnosis. In an interview with Victor himself, we were able to discuss the reasons behind writing this book, and what he enjoyed most about it.



How did you come up with writing this book?

I started reading about terror-management in 'The denial of death' by Ernest Becker, which is quite a difficult book to read through. However, I found this subject incredibly interesting. At one point in high school, I had this sentence, which came to be stuck in my mind; ultimately life is a tragedy.

I kept thinking how I could use this sentence. It was only after around two years, in my first year at university that I decided to write a book, using this sentence and explaining how I understood terror-management.

The book is not read in chronological order, what is the reason for this?

Before I started writing this book I had the whole storyline planned out. I knew what had to happen and also the order in which it should. Therefore, I actually wrote the book in the same order as it is read, jumping through time, were you start somewhere in the middle and then jump to the first chapter, back to the middle and so on. Furthermore, this also gave the opportunity to include sessions with the main character's therapist, Inscuis, who is actually the one explaining the concept of terror-management. The reason for me to do this is because of the plot twist. The plot twist happens right in the middle of the storyline, and therefore it wouldn't be interesting to read everything after if you would just place the book in chronological order.

Why did you start writing in the first place, and what inspired you?

For sure, 'the denial of death' inspired me in writing this book, and additionally the sentence that came to be stuck in my mind. However, there is also a movie called: 'Memento', in which they jump in a similar order as what I am using in this book, and I found this very interesting.

What did you enjoy most writing about?

There is one chapter in the book, where the main character is hunting with a friend, yet he is quite distracted by a little bug. In this chapter, the words just came out of my fingertips, and everything seemed to fit, which made this chapter very enjoyable to write. Even though, this chapter was not written on purpose.

Are you working on a new book? Or trying to publish this one?

During my board year at H.S.A. Confluente, last year, I did not have any time to look at it. While it still needs some alterations. That is the thing, you keep reading it over and over to alter things. In the very first edition, for example, the chapters were not numbered, which made it very confusing in which time the character was standing.

However, now it is mainly paragraphs that are being altered. And I would really like this book to be published, but then I still need to find a publisher which is very difficult. Yet, now that I have time for this again, I enjoy writing, and am slowly starting to look into publishing.



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**1.** How many scientific papers are approximately published globally each year?

- A. 700 thousand
- B. 2.5 million
- C. 8.1 million
- D. 14 million

Answer...<sup>3</sup>  
B. There is -- very little to say about this

# HIDDE'S

**2.** What percentage has the global life expectancy grown between 1900 and 2017?

- A. 74.6%
- B. 97.2%
- C. 132.9%
- D. 153.8%

Life expectancy in 1900 was actually massive<sup>2</sup>.  
Rising to about 25 by 1960 and just above  
72 by 2017. A decrease in child mortality  
certainly plays a part in this, but life  
expectancy increased at all ages, census  
data<sup>1</sup> shows that life expectancy at birth to increase  
massively.<sup>2</sup>

**3.** How many livestock animals are held in the Netherlands?

- A. 25.8 million
- B. 47.2 million
- C. 83.1 million
- D. 125.2 million

D. Not much of an answer necessary here,  
is it? One fun fact to mention is that at  
least 90 million of these animals are chicken

#### 4. Does the Web Committee deserve their own mugs?

- A. Yes
- B. Definitely
- C. 100%
- D. Absolutely

A,B,C,D. The web committee does amazing work for the association, this is the least we could do ;)



# DIFFICULT

# QUESTIONS

#### 7. How many years would curing cancer add to the average life expectancy?

- A. 2.2 years
- B. 3.2 years
- C. 5.8 years
- D. 7.5 years

E. Finding a cure for cancer won't actually influence the global life expectancy from birth by the amount most people would expect it to. The average age of cancer patients is quite high, so if cancer were to be cured, the chances of surviving to be cured, the chances of surviving relatively small portion of the population decreases. That, combined with the fact that a relatively near future due to other diseases/high that these same patients die in the impact to be quite small.

#### 8. Every day, Google processes over 7 billion search queries. What percentage of queries has never been entered before?

- A. 3%
- B. 8%
- C. 15%
- D. 26%

F. This amounts to about 1 billion searches every day, also interesting to note is that this percentage isn't decreasing noticeably, even though all these new searches are taken out of the set of options for never seen before searches. 7

#### 5. What percentage of the global population has access to the internet? (data from 2017)

- A. 48%
- B. 59%
- C. 70%
- D. 81%

G. In 2017 48% of the global population had access to the internet. Now in 2020 especially quite interesting considering the global population has increased since then quite significantly.<sup>5,6</sup>

#### 6. Which of the following countries has the lowest intentional homicide (murder) rate? (Data from 2017)

- A. Netherlands
- B. Canada
- C. Peru
- D. Czech Republic

H. A. In 2017 48% of the global population had access to the internet. Now in 2020 especially quite interesting considering the global population has increased since then quite significantly.<sup>5,6</sup>

I. China: 0.60 with 7990 cases  
Netherlands: 0.60 with 132 cases  
Canada: 0.80 with 66 cases  
Czech Republic: 0.70 with 2487 cases  
Peru: 1.80 with 960 cases  
J. The Czech Republic, even though they are more than 100 times as many cases, has the lowest homicide rate as China. In fact, China has the same rate as the Czech Republic, even though there are twice as many cases. Even though the Netherlands is only a bit higher why the Netherlands is only a bit higher than the Czech Republic. This is because the Czech Republic has the lowest homicide rate in the world, even though they have twice as many cases as the Czech Republic.

K. D. International homicide rate is measured as the amount of intentional homicides/murders per 100,000 inhabitants. This is why the Netherlands is only a bit higher than the Czech Republic. This is because the Czech Republic has the lowest homicide rate in the world, even though they have twice as many cases as the Czech Republic.

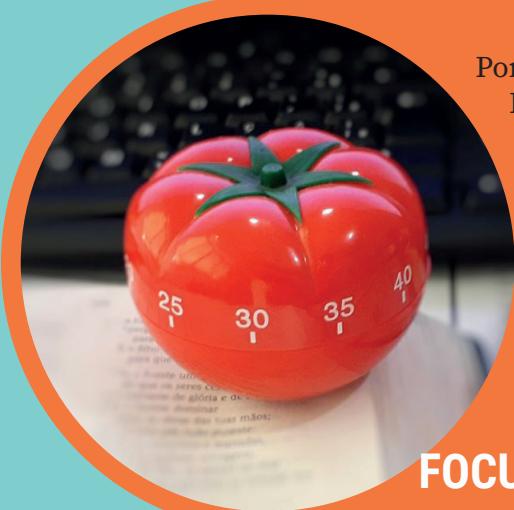
1. List of countries by intentional homicide rate. (2020, March 28). Retrieved March 31, 2020, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_countries\\_by\\_intentional\\_homicide\\_rate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_intentional_homicide_rate)
2. Roser, M., Ortiz-Ospina, E., & Ritchie, H. (2013, May 23). Life Expectancy. Retrieved from <https://ourworldindata.org/life-expectancy>
3. Statista Research Department. (2020, March 31). Netherlands: number of animals in livestock farming 2016. Retrieved from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/617676/number-of-animals-in-livestock-farming-in-the-netherlands/>
4. 21st Century Science Overload. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://blog.cdnsciencepub.com/21st-century-science-overload/>
5. Global Internet usage. (2020, March 25). Retrieved from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global\\_Internet\\_usage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_Internet_usage)
6. Clement, J. (2020, February 3). Global digital population 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/617136/digital-population-worldwide/>
7. Google Search Statistics. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.internetlivestats.com/google-search-statistics/#ref-4>

# 3 apps that will boost your productivity

As a university student, having 24 hours per day might not seem enough in order to juggle unlimited number of tasks along with family, social time, hobbies and coursework.

- With help of smart time management, one can dramatically improve study performance and eventually bring to academic success. Thanks to nowadays technology, there's plenty of tools that allow students to practice various techniques in study planning and time management. This article will introduce three apps that can make your university life easier!

# 1



Pomodoro technique was proposed by Francisco Cirillo in late 1980s, which describes the method of breaking down work into intervals of 25 minutes in length separated with a short break. One of the apps that uses the Pomodoro technique is Focus booster<sup>1</sup>. The program breaks your study into the intervals (assigned individually) and the dashboard for the usage helps users to be more productive.

## FOCUS BOOSTER

# 2

In this app<sup>2</sup>, team members are allowed to organize items into boards, lists and cards according to their priorities in a flexible way. Moreover, team collaboration is possible with the options of adding comments and attachments directly to Trello cards to make sure everyone in the team is on the same page as you are! In the end, the goal is to boost the overall productivity by streamlining the team's workflow.

## TRELLO



# 3



## FOCUS@WILL

For those of you, who cannot study without music, Focus@Will<sup>3</sup> found a way of combining the neuroscience and music to improve your productivity and “tune out of distractions”! Users have multiple options in channels, including focus, spa, cinematic and classical music. For the focus enhancement, the app skips the tracks users find distracting, and includes a timer function with a productivity tracker.

1. Simple pomodoro timer. Powerful productivity boost. Retrieved from <https://www.focusboosterapp.com/>

2. Trello. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.trello.com/>

3. Focus@will. Personalized focus music to help you get stuff done when you're stressed and under pressure. Retrieved from <https://www.focusatwill.com/>

## INTRODUCTION OF THE TRACKS



KENDAL VAROLGUNES

# Smart Cities

Honors students of the Smart Cities track can choose one of the seven projects: EquInnoLab, Modular Housing, Team RED, Electromagnetic Sensitivity (EMS) housing and others.

Third-year Bachelor Built Environment student, Kendal Varolgunes, is a second-year Honors student and leader of the EMS housing Smart Cities project. The EMS housing Smart Cities project has been tackling the issue of humans being constantly exposed to radiation. “*The main idea of the (EMS) project is to create a healthy and comfortable environment for a house with a shielding against the electromagnetic fields,*” says Kendal. The EM pollution has been a point of discussion for many research organizations

today, as the radiation is rapidly increasing with human activity and electromagnetic energy escalates without much appreciation of the possible consequences.

While discussing most challenging and most enjoyed aspects of the Honors Project, Kendal pointed out that the project poses its own challenges, such as “being a part of the team that needs to find solutions, and nobody leading you in a way of giving tasks or rubrics”. Yet, there are the aspects that Kendal enjoyed in the process of the Honors project. “*Because of this project I had many encounters with different people; I had to give many presentations and have interactions, which also brought lots of ideas in return.*”

# Smart Mobility

Next to his double degree in Automotive and Computer Science, Mihai-Dragos chose the Smart Mobility track. He sees Honors as a unique opportunity to apply the knowledge of his bachelor to a project and develop new skills. Mihai-Dragos works on the 5G-MOBIX project together with five other students. He believes the main advantage of working in a team is that you can develop new ideas one person alone could not come up with.

The 5G-MOBIX project aims to increase the safety of autonomous vehicles. They are developing a remote controller, to bring a car to a save location when a sensor fails. For this project they work with a real car. However, getting

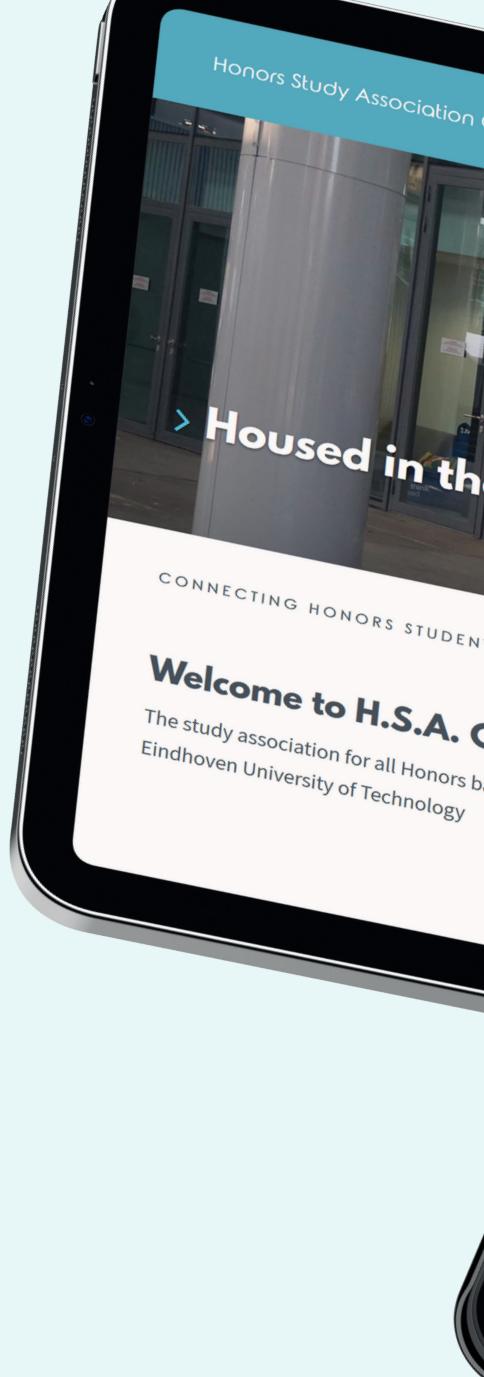
the connection properly working is one of the biggest challenges.

Honors Academy helps Mihai-Dragos to think about what his dreams are and the path to this goal. He already has a clear dream, after finishing university Mihai-Dragos wants to build a car from scratch, together with his dad. The skills learned during his bachelors and Honors will help him.

The Honors community feels like a family to Mihai-Dragos. He regularly meets Honors students not only to discuss project related stuff but also enjoys to spend time with them outside of school, like having dinner or joining one of the Confluente events.

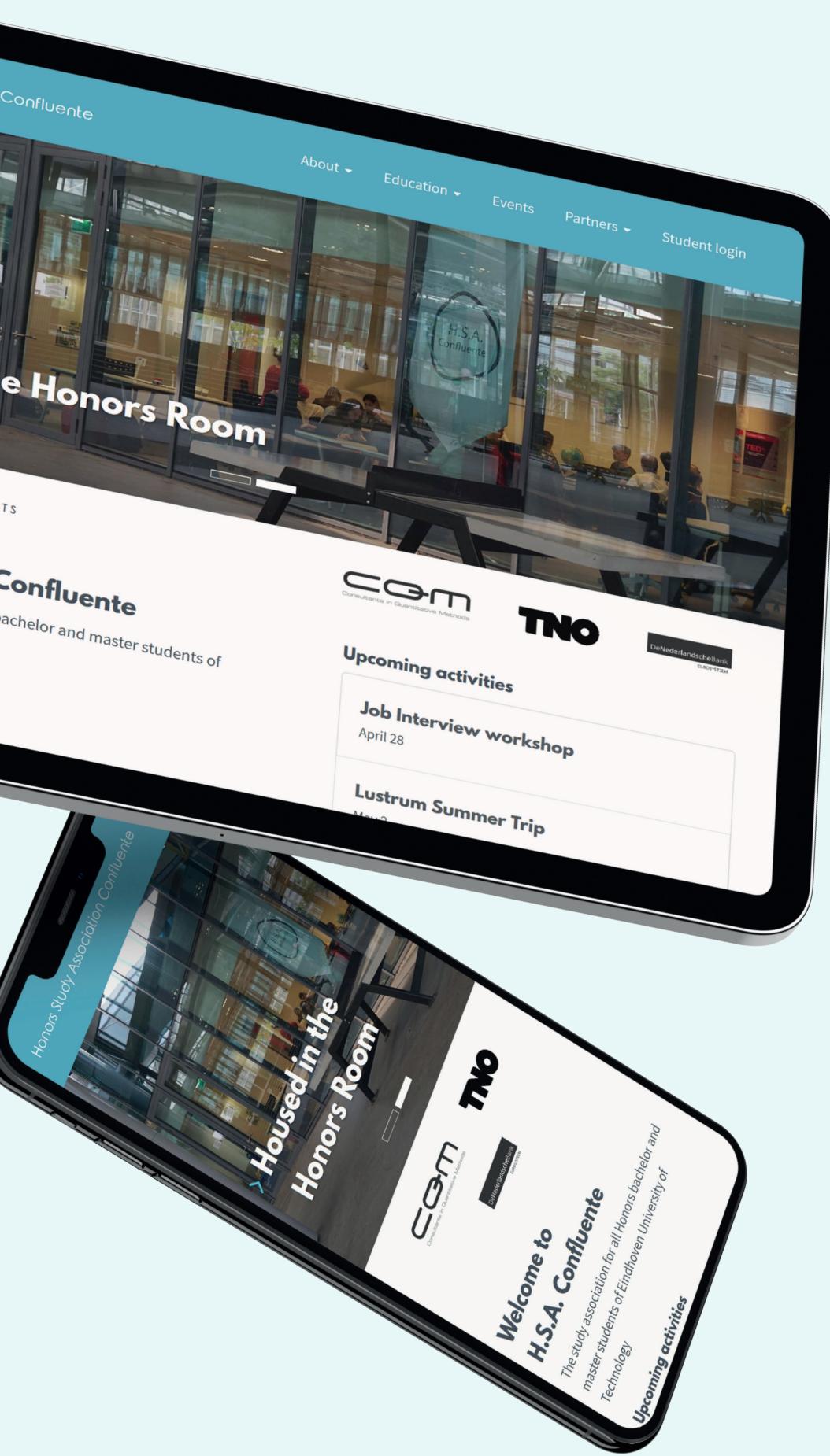


MIHAI-DRAGOS UNGUREANU



***Look at the website to know more  
about the association.***

The new version is also available on iPhone and iPad!



Harvard  
is fun, but  
it is no  
Confluente

I'm a  
woman, I  
do what  
feels nice

500 years ago the  
earth was still flat. Why  
would it suddenly be  
round?

While this association grew,

so did its traditions. Some are very innocent, such as giving cake to the guard of MetaForum during the introduction weekend in September. Others are a bit weird, like making a bad pun before the educational committee meeting starts. However, there is one tradition all our members enjoy at any moment of the day. It is the tradition to take someone else's quotes completely out of their context and then put them in the association's group chat. This makes for lines, that can be disturbing, overly prominent, confusing or hilarious, but usually it's a combination of the above. This magazine could not be printed without having some of these quotes written down.

I need to go. I locked  
someone up!

You only need two excuses in  
life: 'but it's my birthday' and  
'Oh I slipped'

A quarter  
of six is  
two

# “ DUBIOUS QUOTES OF CONFLUENTE ”

Teletubbies are  
\*\*\*\*\* scary!

Then  
make the course more  
difficult... b\*\*\*\*

You can have more  
than one entrance, right?

We are neither left nor right,  
we are the top

You can resit an  
exam, you can't  
resit a party

Free beer for only 8  
euros!

It  
is very  
amusing to  
see you panic.

Anonimous quotes,  
Text & Graphics  
by Marijn



Introweekend, 2017



Girls Night, 2018

# Highlights



First network event, 2017



Bologna trip, 2019



Battle of the Rooms, 2020



Lustrum Gala, 2020



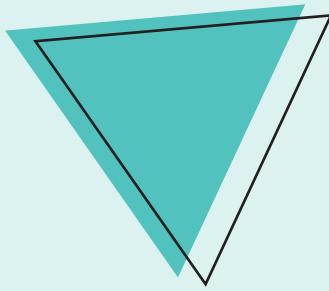
End of the year BBQ, 2019



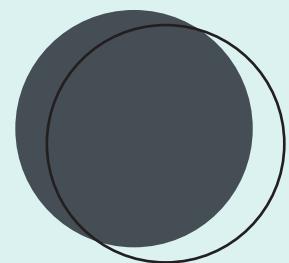
First Gala, 2019



DO YOU



- have cool ideas for issue 2 of CONTEXT,
- want to work on the Confluente clothing,
- or have any other great ideas for PR



Then

**JOIN PR!**



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Hidde Koerts thank you for providing the questions and web promo.

Big thanks to Gijs Herings and Benjamin Rodatz for reviewing the whole magazine.

## Fonts in this magazine:

Rounded elegance

Baskerville old face

Montserrat

**Roboto Condensed**

Source serif pro

Quik hand



# CONTEXT

Issue 1, 2020

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Made possible by

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HONORS  
ACADEMY

TU/e



H.S.A  
Confluente