Places of Engagement

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Top: With about 150 other professors, Bert van der Zwaan bikes to a primary school in order to teach a class of ten to twelve-year-olds. Each professor visits a different group of children, and altogether over 100 primary schools participate. The classroom activities focus on research, the fun of science, and what it is like at a university. This highly successful annual event is called ‘Meet the professor’ and was started in 2016. Photo: Jos Kuklewski

Bottom: All professors participating in ‘Meet the professor’ are asked to make a selfie with their group of kids. This is Bert van der Zwaan’s attempt. Photo: Bert van der Zwaan
Top: Bert van der Zwaan with Kurt Deketelaere, Secretary-General of the League of European Research Universities (LERU). In 2016, Bert van der Zwaan was appointed president of LERU. Photo: Steven Snoep

Bottom: Rectors (or Vice-Chancellors) of member universities of LERU meet in the University Hall in Utrecht. The portraits on the wall include those of Antonius Aemilius and Gisbertus Voetius, the second and third Rectores of Utrecht University in the first half of the seventeenth century. Van der Zwaan was Rector Magnificus number 333. Photo: Veerle van Kerckhove
Top: Bert van der Zwaan with the board of trustees of the Prince Claus Chair for Development and Equity and H.M. Queen Máxima of the Netherlands, who is honorary patron of the Prince Claus Chair. Utrecht University alternates with the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam in appointing an outstanding young academic from a developing country to this chair. Photo: Robert Oosterbroek

Bottom: Bert van der Zwaan together with Jan van Zanen, mayor of the city of Utrecht, at a costumed parade to celebrate the university’s anniversary. In 1836, during Utrecht University’s bicentennial celebrations, the tone was set for this parade, which has since been organized by the fraternity Utrechtsch Studenten Corps. Photo: Bas van Hattum
Top: ‘UIT’ stands for Utrecht Introduction Time, a week in which the approximately 3,500 freshmen of Utrecht University are given information about the university, student life, the city, and about their study programme. Here, Bert van der Zwaan addresses the students. Photo: Robert Oosterbroek

Bottom: Bert van der Zwaan having a conversation with members of the board of one of the student organizations during drinks after the formal opening of the academic year in Utrecht’s Dom Church. Photo: Robert Oosterbroek