

Dondrite NEWS



N° 5.

Nijmegen, Friday, March 24, 2017

Spring is in the air, the sun is shining, what a time to be alive! Your life will become even better, because there is a whole new edition of Dondrite News for you to read. We listened to your feedback and changed a few things. Moreover, we now have included a columnist from the known and feared Drite family... Read on if you want to know more!

We are also proud to present to you the official logo of Dondrite! An overwhelming amount of 47 people voted. 59,6% voted for this font and 57,4% liked this dendrite style the most. We thank you all for voting and would like to thank Floortje Fransen-Bouwkamp for the amazing design.

Cheers, your Dondrite Board

Introduction of the Dondrite Board and Committees

This month, the chair of the Synapsium committee introduces us to their team and the upcoming symposium.

“Dear fellow Dondrites,

While you might not have seen or heard much from us yet, this will change soon - we have finally opened registration for this years' CNS symposium, the #Synapsium2017! Anyone can apply to present their research in form of student presentations or posters. If you have not started your Masters project yet, you can

also present interesting work you did during your Bachelor :).

We are a rather large committee, but every member is essential to our mission - making Synapsium great again! Eline R, Yingdi, Stephanie, Levan, Meret, Violeta, Cansu, Flavia, Dalina, Tristan, and Teun are putting their heart and soul into this project and can answer all of your questions regarding the Synapsium, which will take place on the **8th of June**.

Thanks to our lecturers and the masters'

management - who believe the Synapsium is a great way to experience exchange with like-minded people - you won't have any lectures on the day of the Synapsium. This

means you will be able to enjoy everything we have planned, including drinks and meeting people from other Universities and countries (watch out for the #BuddyProgramme).”

Recent Dondrite Activities

Career event:

On a mild winter evening, a total of ten different Radboud alumni took some time to talk to us about their post-research master lives. We hope you enjoyed listening to their experiences, and the cookies paid for by our dear faculty. Besides arming us with some useful tips, a recurring theme also seemed to be that you can never fully plan or predict the path you are going to take. Life happens!

RAG week:

Spring is just around the corner, the exam

period is over (Yes, we are intentionally ignoring retakes, no, we don't want to talk about it.) and this makes us feel so good that we thought about giving back. So we took up arms and shot other research master students for the greater good, in a thrilling laser quest tournament. In addition, some very motivated Dondrites baked and sold delicious snacks to raise even more money. In cooperation with the study associations Maizena and Mosaic we managed to raise a whopping €288,21 for Estrela de Favela and children with cancer. So thanks for your efforts and contributions

Upcoming Dondrite & Donders Activities

Paintball with Donders PhDs:

The battle about the PhD positions is nearing, but while we're still students, let's shoot them! On the 1st of April (honestly) the Donders-wide paintball tournament will be held. For €40,- you can play for 3 hours, you will get 500 paintballs and refreshments! If you're not fainthearted and up for the challenge, sign up before **Monday March 27** via:

<https://goo.gl/9vwIYI>

Info: April 1, 14:00, Paintballworld Arnhem

Python Course:

The education committee is proud to present the long awaited Python programming course with Teun van Gils!

There will be a total of 6 classes, divided in two blocks between April and May. The first block is an introductory course covering the basics of Python and will be held on the 4th, 11th and 18th of April. In the second block the classes will be more independent from each other and it is possible to attend individual ones. Keep your schedule free from the beginning of May - specific dates to be announced soon!

Sign up before the **30th of March** to attend the lectures!

[Google form link](#)

Board Games:

By popular demand, the next event organised

by the activity committee will be an afternoon of board games! Nice people to relax with while playing fun games, we can't wait. We will keep you posted!

Info: April 20, 15:00

Upcoming Donders Events:	Date:
Formal DCC Lecture Daniel R. Lametti [url]	Tuesday, March 28, 12:30-13:30
Finding common ground On the neural mechanisms of communicative language production [url]	Wednesday, March 29, 12:30
DCCN Colloquium Adam R. Aron (UC San Diego) [url]	Thursday, March 30, 13:45-14:45
Mind the step in cerebral small vessel disease: Brain changes in motor performance [url]	Wednesday, April 5, 14:30
Decision-Making in Social Interactions: Behavioural, computational modeling, clinical and neuroimaging perspectives [url]	Monday, April 10, 14:30
Combined DCC - CLS/MPI Lecture Charles Spence [url]	Tuesday, April 18, 12:30-13:30
Multi-nutrient interventions and brain metabolism in Alzheimer's disease: A spectrum of effects [url]	Tuesday, April 18, 12:30
Donders Session: Mechanisms of the will [url]	Thursday, April 20, 10:30-12:00
Opening Translational Neuroscience Unit [url]	Friday, April 21, 12:30-17:00

For more information see: <http://www.ru.nl/donders/agenda-news/agenda/>

Dondrites of the Foreseeable Future



We would like to award the most prestigious title of ‘Dondrites of the Foreseeable Future’ to a group of soldiers who, to be quite honest did

not really risk anything, but still fought gallantly to bring honour to us all. With their athletic skills, their very fashionable team outfits, and their uncanny ability to bend the rules, these four gentlemen were undefeated in the Laserquest Tournament:

Nocturnal Animals, we salute you.

With the appointment of Tommy, Steven, Leo and Nic, we will close the Dondrite of the Month column as requested in your feedback. But only to replace it with an exciting new item, Dondrite Spotlight! In this column you will find a short interview with a different Dondrite or Donderian each month.

Dondrite Spotlight

As mentioned above, the Dondrite Spotlight will be here to replace the Dondrite of the Month column. Each month we will ask one Dondrite or Donderian three questions, no more, no less. Four questions we shall not ask, neither do we ask two, excepting that we then proceed to three. Five is right out. We will ask our third question every month.

The very first Dondrite we will shine our spotlight on is the hard-working and enthusiastic second year CNS student Ine Alvarez van Tussenbroek. Ine has held a variety of student assistantships during her studies, and so is the perfect person to tell us about



what it is like to have and how to get these much coveted positions.

1. **Why do you think student assistantships are important?**

I am currently doing a research assistantship at the MPI, and the MPI is very rich in research resources (e.g. guest lectures). So if you do a student assistantship there, you get new input not only from the Donders, but also from the MPI. Moreover, you can more easily ask people who are working in the same institute for help, also for issues not directly related with the student assistantship. Doing a student assistantship is of course also great for your cv, as it is a research related job. Additionally, I really liked the diversity of work vs. study. When you are bored or dissatisfied with one,

you can go do the other. Lastly, and not unimportantly, you get paid. This can be especially useful if you, after you have graduated, can still continue to work on your student assistantship while looking for a full time job.

2. How does one become a student assistant?

The most obvious thing would be to say to check out vacancies on the various websites, but while you can certainly find a job through that route, it is often not the easiest way to find a student assistantship because many people apply. Promotion of these job opportunities often go through word-of-mouth with other student assistants telling their fellow students if there is a vacancy. In this way, many vacancies are actually filled through networking even before they are made public. One useful tip - which might require some courage - is that whenever you are having a conversation with a professor or lecturer about

a topic you find really interesting, you should explicitly mention that you are interested in this subject and would really like to do a student assistantship in it. Asking the lecturer to contact you if she hears about a vacancy on the topic works really well.

3. What is your favourite brain structure and why?

I might be biased by the work I am doing for my internship, but right now I would say the Primary Auditory Cortex (A1). In my internship I am studying the A1 of bats. While you might think, like I did, that A1 serves a very basic/simple function, namely sound processing, my work in bats really seems to show it is much more complex. Due to their ability of echo location, the A1 of bats is very different from humans. I think this is amazing, because it means that the same function of sound processing can apparently be realized in a completely different way, depending on what you use it for.

Ask Consigliere Axoni



As Boss of the Drite (Italian pronunciation: [dri:té]) Family, our be-

loved and well respected Don Drite has made

us an offer we would never want to refuse - even if we could. In addition to the continued use of his Facebook account (among other services we will not make public here), Dondrite News will host a new monthly Q&A column with consigliere Axoni! This will put us slightly more in Don Drite's debt than we already were but we don't think this is going to

be a problem. For reasons relating to Axoni's function in the waste disposal business, we were requested to remain silent about our consigliere's identity - the only thing that you need to know is that this super qualified person will have an answer to all of your questions, even the ones you don't really dare to ask.

Like so many Italian immigrants that have in recent days journeyed to the small town of Nijmegen to find their fortune at Donders, Axoni beamed with ambition. Axoni quickly rose through the ranks of the Don's organization, and has now faithfully served the Don with sage advice for many years. At the behest

of Drite, Axoni will gladly give us Dondrites the answers we have been looking for.

So if you are looking for a recipe for that perfect pasta, if you want to know what David Norris' spin dances truly mean, or if you are simply looking for the meaning of life, be sure to ask these or any other questions you might have anonymously in this google form:

<https://goo.gl/forms/xGw4gpbZFQXWARp63>

We will make sure consigliere Axoni receives your questions in good form and will select one each month to be answered extensively.

Important warning: We have heard the consigliere is disguised as a CNS student. So be careful what you say about Axoni to your fellow students: it could be anyone!

Fun Fact

Did you know that on April 3 a 'Spar University' supermarket will open beneath the Erasmus Building? This will be a totally hip and cool supermarket designed for us youngsters, where quotes such as 'Lol, this croissant looks like a smiley', 'You can't eat without posting it on Instagram' and 'Your

relationship is only official if it's on Facebook' will be used to lure us into buying their products. #SW4G #YOLO #WHALE Unfortunately they won't be selling alcohol, so we have to drown our sorrows somewhere else. For example, during the Dondrite drinks every first Friday of the month!
