

Dondrite news

No 7 | MARCH 2020

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DEAR DONDRITES,

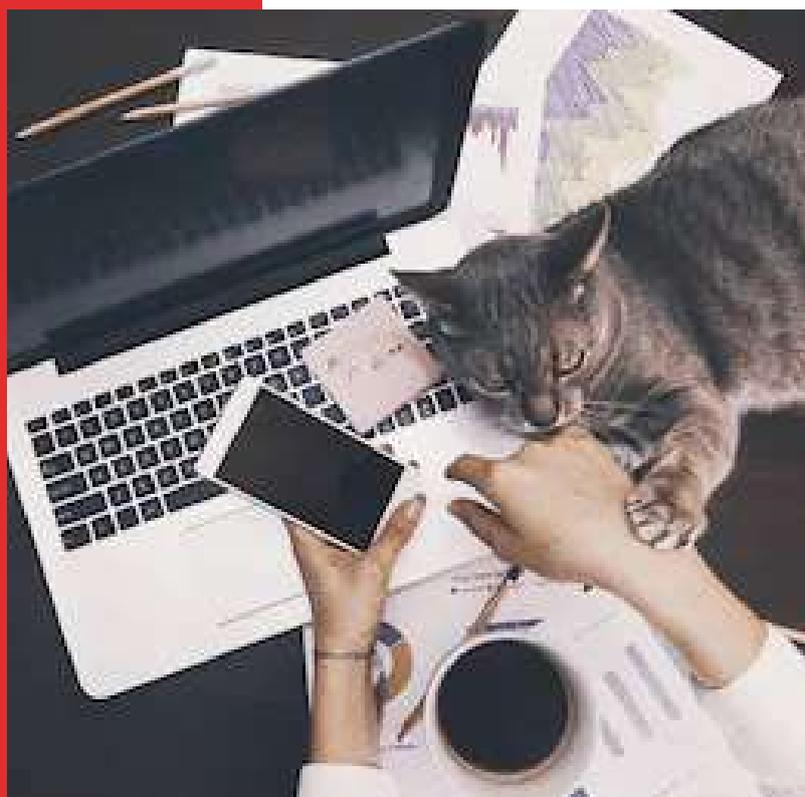
First and foremost, we hope everyone is healthy and safe!

March has been a wild month, with lectures and meetings being held online and everyone mostly staying at home. For most people, this also means that a lot of social contact is lost and anticipated events are cancelled. The silver lining however is that you can now follow lectures in your pajamas and that, of course, Dondrite News is still here for your entertainment! We hope you like reading about Mike "the IT guy" van Engelenburg, the recap of the gala and the career event, filling out the crossword puzzle, and hopefully the monthly meme gets a chuckle out of you!

We are happy to inform you that Dondrite News will continue to be sent out every month, whether or not with some items (such as upcoming events) left out.

Stay healthy and safe, and happy reading!

Love,
Scribe



MARCH



"OUR BIGGEST SECRET IS THAT WE KNOW HOW TO USE GOOGLE"

Getting to know Mike van Engelenburg

At the Trigon, we mostly just hear about all the researchers that are there every day conducting their research. But there are many more departments that are crucial for the whole place to function. This time, Scribe reporters wanted to find out more about the technical group of the DCCN and Cognitive Neuroscience department of the Radboudumc at Trigon. The technical group consists of 12 people that make sure that all workspaces and lab environments are well connected and work properly. We sat down with Mike van Engelenburg.

Mike is a systems engineer. His main role is managing all computer systems, alongside other tasks that come up, such as maintenance on beamers or other technical stuff that needs to be taken care of (such as the infamous big red button that professors just can't seem to figure out). "During my studies in ICT management, I was looking for an internship. My boss at that time had also been an intern at the Donders Institute and said the Donders environment would be a good fit for me as a person. So he recommended me to look for an internship here." Via this internship he got at the Donders and has now been working here for 5 and a half years. What he really likes about the type of work environment is that it is not like a commercial environment. "In some ways, it is a bit more laidback. Of course there is a lot of work, but the way the work is prioritized suits me." In addition, the fact that the Donders is such an international environment is something he really enjoys. "Every person that comes in here has a different background, different culture. That keeps it interesting for me."

Systems engineer, technical group... All very broad terms, but what is it that he really does? What does a typical day look like? "It always starts with coffee, otherwise I am unable to function," is the first thing he mentions. "My primary job is to support researchers with problems with their workspace or lab environment. People come to me with certain software they want to install, problems with software that is not working, issues with their screen or whatever." Aha! We prepared for that. We were curious about that typical IT question that is actually quite simple to fix, but that just keeps popping up and he'd really wish people would just figure out. Turns out: that's not the case. "We don't really get these things here. People working here are very self-reliant, so simple problems like a cable that is not connected aren't the types of problems we see here. Plus, if I tell people a thing once, they remember it. So the type of IT questions we get here are very diverse all the time. There is not really one particular problem that keeps coming back."

One thing that can be a struggle in his job sometimes is the fact that everybody thinks that their problem is the most important problem there is. "People come to me with a problem and say that it needs to be fixed right here, right now. When the Donders was smaller, we could help people very fast. But now with so many more people working at the Donders, yet the same amount of people at the technical group, people have to adapt to the fact that sometimes we can't help them right away." According to Mike, the team has to become bigger in the future. "We see that researchers like their research more tailor-made. This gives them the best and fastest results, but it means that we as the technical group need to put in a lot more effort." For example, one lab wanted a touchscreen for their experiments. The support and setup of such a lab is very different, which makes it more difficult for us."

"Our biggest secret is that we really know how to use Google. A lot of our work is googling all day."

What is the secret about the IT department at this place that keeps everything running smoothly? "I think our biggest secret, and the secret of any good IT person or environment, is that we really know how to use Google. A lot of our work is Googling all day."

The biggest surprise Mike encountered when he started working at the Donders, was the fact that even though it is relatively small, there is a lot of budget for IT.

We have a certain freedom to invest in certain systems, to make the lives for the researchers and our lives much easier. This really helped me during setting up stuff at the beginning." So a pretty big budget for IT, but there are also computers still running on Windows 2000 or Windows XP: what's up with that? "That is the downside of some lab systems. They usually have software that is really old, so we have to have old systems there to run that." Naturally we wondered: does that make it fun? All he had to say was: "It makes it interesting."

Windows or Mac?

"As my whole career is based on the fact that people use Windows, I'd have to say Windows."

Any IT advice we need to know? Apart from the obvious, like use VPNs, have good virus and malware protection, and of course: don't trust printers; anything else we should know, Mike? "Don't buy a laptop that is too cheap," he recommended stringently. "Sometimes people buy a laptop for €300 and expect it to run like Matlab properly, but it is just not realistic that it will run great on your €300 laptop. Invest a little bit more in your laptop." This sparked our interest, so we went for the most dangerous question known in the tech world: Windows or Mac? "Well, as my whole career is based on the fact that people use Windows, I'd have to say Windows. But it really depends on the type of work you do. If you only need it for Matlab, maybe a Mac." Along with technical advice, he also had a more personal message. "I am also a part of the OC of the DCCN. I see a lot of young people put under a really high workload. And a lot of people are scared of telling others that their workload is too high. So I'd say ring the bell as soon as possible if you experience this. Just go talk to some confidentiality person about this in time."

"If you experience a too high workload, ring the bell as soon as possible. Go talk to a confidentiality person about this in time."

And, as tradition dictates, , we cannot end an interview without asking the most important question of all. Pineapple on pizza; yay or nay? Surprisingly (don't tell any of the Italians!), we got our very first yay! "When Betty&Mora's oven broke down some time back, we actually wanted to prank Mora by getting Dominos Hawaiian pizzas and eating those in front of him in his canteen. Though in the end, we didn't dare to."

DID YOU KNOW...

- The file server (on which research data is stored) has a netto capacity of ±500 Terabyte. In the course of 2020 this will be updated to 1 Petabyte (1000 Terabyte).
- The DCCN has 72 computers working in the compute cluster, with an average system memory of 256 Gigabyte and 16-32 processors.
- On an average day, every moment there are about 400-600 jobs (tasks of the researchers) running.
- The connection between the compute cluster and the file server is a fiber-optic communication with a transmission speed of 80 Gigabit (which is a theoretical speed of 10 Gigabyte per second!).

A WORD FROM THE BOARD

To our fellow Dondrites,

We know this is a difficult time for everyone and we want to say first and foremost, you are not alone. If there is something Dondrite can do, please reach out and we will do our best to do so, no matter how small the request. You are always welcome to contact any committee as well as us on the Board, so please do not hesitate to do so.

On a brighter note, there were some highlights from this past month. The first being the Gala, which was organized by the activity committee. The theme for which was "A night in Venice". We can't speak for others but we, the Board, had a great night. We each showed off our creative sides with our personalized masks and danced the night away. The second event was the career event, which was co-organized by our very own education committee. This gave our members the opportunity to see what else was out there for them in terms of future careers. We hope you found it as informative and useful as the rest of us did. We also had our RAGweek event, which was to support two good causes, Free a Girl and the Food Bank. The activity committee planned nice prizes for the winners of their Brain and Bingo event, vouchers for free lunch at the best food on campus, Betty and Mora's canteen. In the end, we were able to raise more than 50 euros for these noble charities and will hope to make more charitable contributions next year! Finally, the travel committee organized and planned an amazing trip to Athens, with educational and cultural stops to enrich our members. However, due to the growing global concern, the trip was unofficially cancelled. We want to thank the committee for all their diligent work leading up to the trip as well as their continued work handling the crisis.

As Board members, we of course always have to look forward to future plans for Dondrite, which means we're already looking into planning our next General Assembly, what we have to do for it and which documents we have to get ready. This also means that we are on the lookout for new board members as well as application committee members (to help us make the best decision). You can sign-up to become a member of the board [HERE](#) and for the application committee [HERE](#). As for the date of the next GA, we are intending for it to happen before the end of the semester and will update you when we plan the exact date.

In conclusion, to reiterate, if there is something Dondrite can do, please reach out and we will do our best to do so, no matter how small the request. We want to make sure we are helping our members as much as we can during these unprecedented times.

Best wishes,

The Board



RECENT DONDRITE EVENTS



CAREER EVENT

At the end of our research master, we find ourselves at a crossroad: do we want to pursue a career within academia or step out of the bubble and go into industry? But what is out there for us and how do we choose which way to go? At the Career Event, organized by the Education committee of Dondrite, Maizena and Mosaic, multiple speakers from different careers came to shed some light on the different possibilities out there for us.

As the keynote speaker of the evening, Natalia Bielczyk (career advisor, author and founder of Stichting Solaris) opened the event with her talk on the various different environments there are to pursue a career in. What are they like, what are the advantages, what compromises do you have to make... Natalia divided them up in 8 different fields, ranging from most work certainty but least work freedom, to most work freedom but least work certainty:

1. **The public sector**
2. **Research jobs in academia, but not in a path towards becoming a professor (more supporting jobs in research)**
3. **Corporations**
4. **Start-up companies**
5. **Consulting**
6. **Academia**
7. **Freelancing**
8. **Entrepreneurship**

Ultimately, it is about what you would need from a work environment. With what kind of tribe of people do you fit in? Because that is what recruiters are trying to find out: do you fit the tribe of a certain company? Therefore, having an idea of what it entails to work in different work environments and which aspects you value most, is essential for you to find out. Do you want to follow work policies in a company and have certain structure, or do you value your work freedom more? Or if you want to stay within academia: are you sure you want to work in an environment where about 40% of your colleagues is chronically depressed? Those were questions she made us aware of.

After the talk by Natalia, 3 rounds took place with 2 speakers taking the floor at the same time: a product researcher at Phillips, a data scientist, a teacher at Fontys University of Applied Sciences and programme manager at the Van Kleeft Institute, 2 PhD students, and a policy researcher/advisor. They all followed different trajectories after their studies.



Something we need to remember according to one of the speakers, is that after your research master, you have more transferable skills than you might realize. In addition, remember to network. Talk to people around you about what you're looking for. Even if you know you don't want to stay within academia; talk to your supervisor about it. Maybe through his/her network, you might find your next challenge. Don't be scared to reach out to people to get to know what they do, and maybe even (if possible) come with them for a day to see what it is actually like.

All in all, it was a night with a lot of interesting career stories, and that left us with lots of topics and questions to think about.

MASQUERADE BALL

On Saturday, March 7th, Dondrite Activity committee organized the fourth official Dondrite & Donders Gala! A night inspired by Masquerade balls of public festivities of Italy during the 16th century with the tradition of the Venetian Carnival. This evening had more than 100 attendees who came in very elegant dresses, suits, and comic characters with beautiful masks. The gala with such a theme was held at the classy Renaissance architecture De Waagh with a royal red carpet entrance.

The evening started with Neue Grünhause live band, followed by Subdiv.7 DJ. The floor was open for everyone to dance their heart out till 1 a.m. There was an intermittent supply of cheese puffs and drinks. While everyone was having fun, Victor Reinier captured crazy candid pictures and group pictures. A photo booth with instant copy was also placed to engage all the audience. Overall, the atmosphere at the gala was thrilling and it was evident that people were having their whale of a time.

Thank you Activity Committee for organizing this amazing evening!



UPCOMING DONDRITE & DONDEERS EVENTS

As a result of the international pandemic, there unfortunately are no planned upcoming events for either Dondrite and Donders. You will be informed as soon as more information is available.



MONTHLY MEME



FUN FACT



April Fools' Day is a day to play pranks of other people. There are different forms around the world. Here's a short overview about what this day looks like in other countries.

The French people call the day as Le Poisson d'Avril. They eat chocolate figurines in the shape of a fish and tape fish-shaped paper on the backs of their friends. The Dutch folk loves to play practical jokes like fooling your parents that your class is suspended for the day. In Greece, they believe that when someone becomes the victim of a good prank, whatever misfortune the person suffered, will turn into good luck. In Brazil the day is called dia das mentiras, or "the day of the lies". April Fools' Day in England is celebrated according to strict rules; the jokes should only be played before 12:00 noon and it is not acceptable if the joke is revealed late in the day. Lastly, Iran takes great joy in April Fools' Day as well, but they're sure to apologize by the end of the day.

What's the best April fools' joke you've ever played? Let us know!

NOTICEBOARD



THE BOARD NEEDS YOU!

The Dondrite board is looking for two new members! Don't hesitate and sign up here:

[Sign Up](#)

Yearbook questionnaire

You have already seen it in the last Dondrite News or on Brightspace: the yearbook questionnaire! The yearbook isn't complete without you, so take a couple of minutes and fill out the questionnaire!

[Questionnaire](#)

Do you have anything you want to share here? Send us your message at

scribedondrite@gmail.com

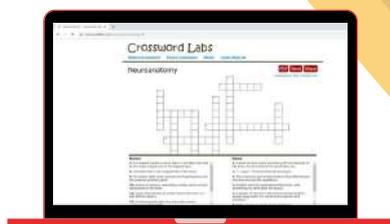


CROSSWORD

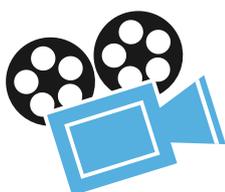


With everyone sitting at home, solving a nice crossword could be your new hobby! This month's crossword will be about Netflix series. Can you figure out which shows we mean with these descriptions? Have fun!

The crossword can be filled out using:
shorturl.at/dpvM9

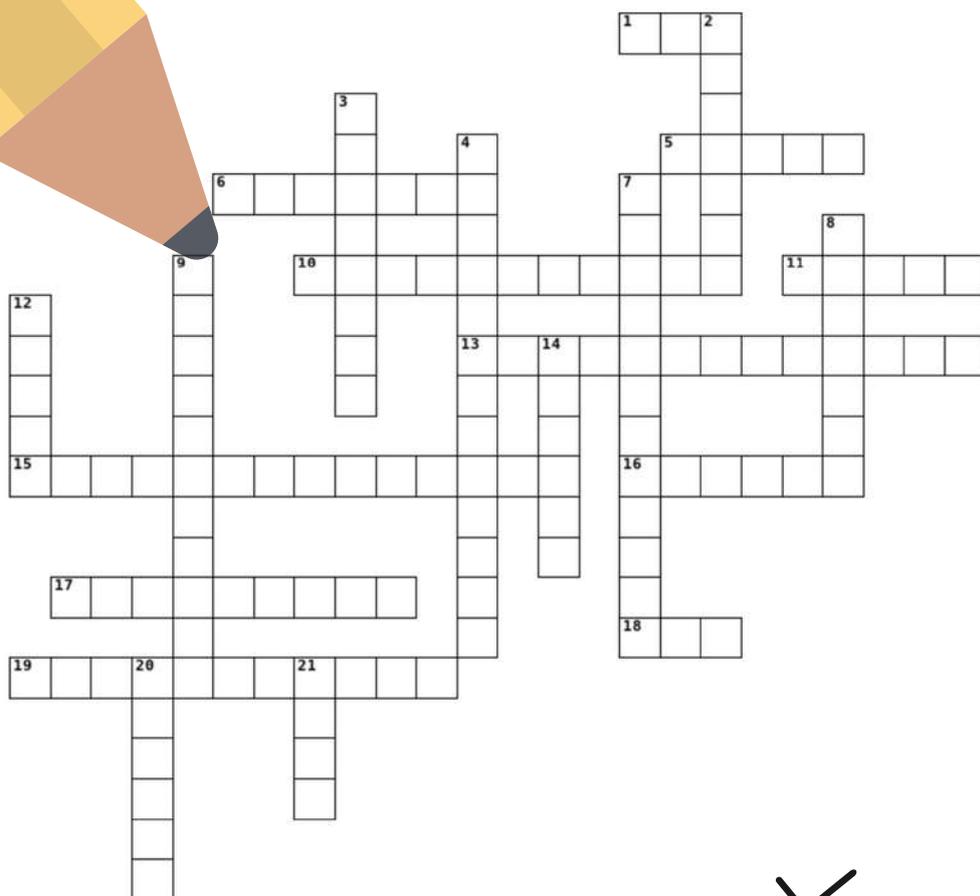


On the next page you will find the solution to last month's puzzle.



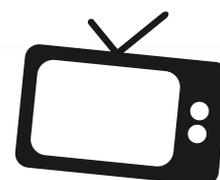
Down

- 2. The devil coming back to earth
- 3. American hero/terrorist?
- 4. British gangster family in 1919
- 7. Deadly video tapes
- 8. How you doin'?
- 9. Going into jail on purpose
- 12. The serie which makes everyone dreaming about being a lawyer
- 14. girl You know you love me xoxo
- 20. Water, earth, fire, air
- 21. Teen kids from the McKinley High New Directions choir

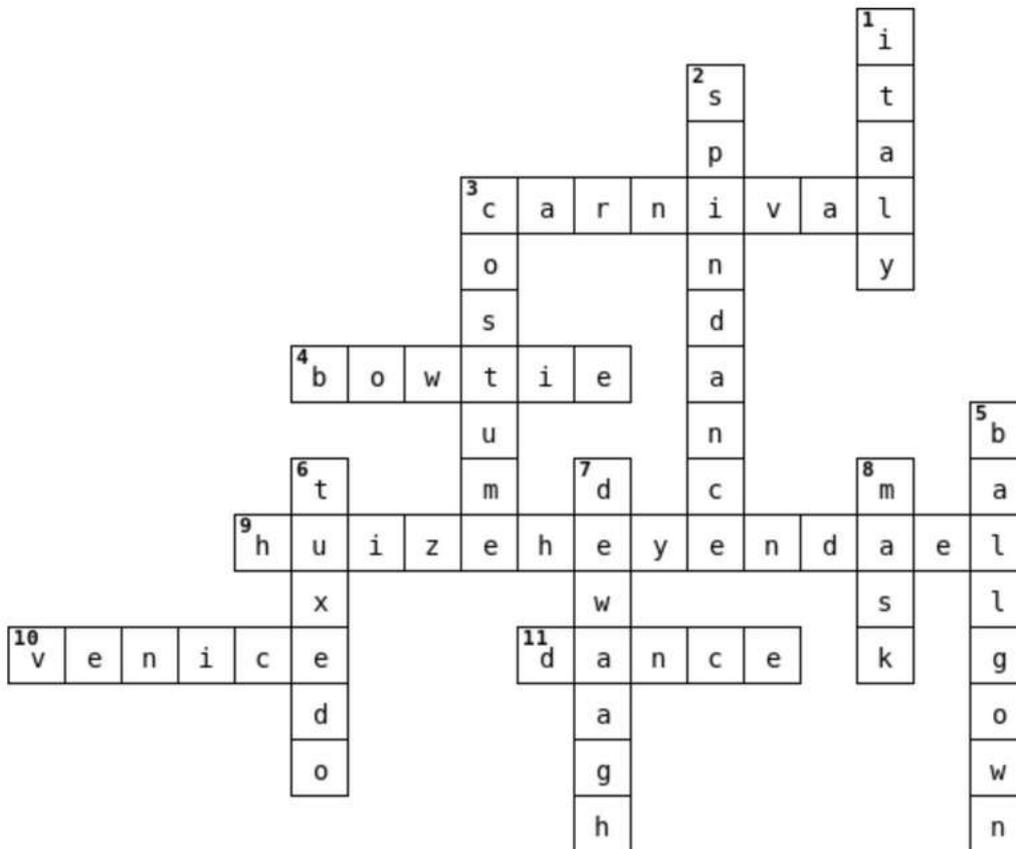


Across

- 1. Four girls being stalked by A.(abbreviation)
- 5. Legen, wait for it, dary (abbreviation)
- 6. Mum and daughter with a coffee addiction
- 10. Weird future stories
- 11. Historical drama about royalty
- 13. Serie about brilliant but socially awkward physicists
- 15. Teen kids fighting against the Upside-down
- 16. Filmed and set in Colombia
- 17. An American town, a bunch of teenagers and a dead school boy
- 18. Thriller about a bookstore manager in New York
- 19. Chemistry teacher who's setting a bad example



CROSSWORD solution



Down

1. The country where masquerade originates from.
2. (2 words) David Norris's (in)famous dance he did during last year's gala.
3. A set of clothes in a style typical of a particular country or historical period.
5. A woman's elaborate full-length dress suitable for wearing to balls and similar social gatherings.
6. A man's dinner jacket.
7. (2 words) The location of this year's gala!
8. A covering for all or part of the face, worn as a disguise, or to amuse or frighten others.

Across

3. An annual festival, typically during the week before Lent in Roman Catholic countries, involving processions, music, dancing, and the use of masquerade.
4. A necktie in the form of a know with two loops.
9. (2 words) The location of last year's gala.
10. The city where masquerade is particularly popular.
11. To move rhythmically to music, typically following a set sequence of steps.

"It doesn't make sense to get pregnant when you're running away from a tiger"

--Anonymous Professor

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