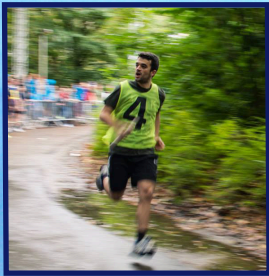


Aeroplane

VLAAMSE TECHNISCHE KRING

Monthly - Edition 1: November 2014



**24 Hour Run
Photo Report**



Leuven Secrets



**Last month in
engineering**



**Interviewing
Internationals**

**Visiting the historic
city of Ghent**

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Word from the president

Dear international students, this is your president speaking. Please fasten your seatbelts as we are entering a zone of turbulence: Leuven student life.

I don't have to tell you this anymore as we're almost 2 months in, but we, VTK, love to bring you a variety of activities, ranging from fun, cultural, sports and more, just for you guys and girls or to mix with the locals. Well, not really locals, students from all over Flanders come to study at the KU Leuven, so you'll get a good idea of the average Flemish youngster.

VTK isn't just about activities however. We do like to party, but we also have our sandwich bar, open every weekday from 10:30 to 14:00, we sell you your course material as cheap as we can, and help you get in touch with future employers. Moreover, we are your student representatives and will protect your rights as well as the quality of our education. We've got your back, don't worry, but you can also take part in this yourself, if you are interested.

All those lectures and meetings make a student thirsty, so I hope you have found your way to our very own pub 't Elixlr. Not pub but Fakbar (short for faculty bar) I should say, as it is now a recognized label. It is the place to be for a chat with fellow students, for a cheap drink, and for weekly awesome parties.

I have been talking way too much about VTK by now, let's talk about you. You're in a new city. Quite a small city with nice people. I can't really prove that last statement, if I go abroad the people there seem more friendly and happy, just cheer us up if you get the same impression, will you? Thanks in advance! Also, expect a lot more rain. This is a wet country but the weather has been very kind lately. But you're warned now, brace yourself, winter is coming. Not only for the weather but also for the exams. Things may be quite different here than at your home university, so I want to wish you the best of luck this year with your studies!

Well, I told you before what VTK can do for you, there's one more thing. As icing on top of all of this, we now have our very own international magazine, specially tailored to our friends from abroad.

Enjoy!

Manu De Block (praeses@vtk.be)

Word from the vice-president

This year will be amazing for engineering students! Why? Because we have won the 24 hour run! It's been 9 years since our previous victory and now we are back.

I'm in my fifth and last year of study and when you think you have experienced everything, there is another goal we have reached. The 24 hour run will always have a special place in my heart. In my first year I was a "schacht" (impossible to translate, someone who is new, like a freshman) and if you want to be part of the "corona" (the real, older and smarter students) you have to undergo some kind of baptism. One of the mission is to go to the 24 hour run between 5 and 8 am. That makes for a real team spirit with the other freshmen. In my third and fourth year I have been there the full 24 hours. Because I was part of our VTK sports team, I just had to be there. The highlight until this year, was crossing the phenomenal limit of 1000 laps last year. There was only one thing on my wishing list: winning!

This dream has become reality, thanks to all of you! We, VTK, have been waiting a long time but finally we did it again: we have won! First, I have to thank our sports team. They have finished what I have put so much time in last year. But they obviously couldn't do this alone. Thank you to all our runners, you have made sure that we walked out a little further every time. Special thanks to you guys, our international students, thanks to you, we are one big team! Also thank you to our supporters, you were the voice (which I had lost), you brought the winning atmosphere. Thank you to every member of VTK, as one team we have made history this year.

I am proud to be your vice-president,

Emily (vice@vtk.be)

CityTrip: Ghent

As the <Gopass 10> allows people under the age of 26 to travel anywhere in Belgium for only five euros, most of you will find it very easy to take a day off on the weekend and visit one of Belgium's beautiful cities. Every month, we'll give some practical information and background on one of these cities, featuring this month: Ghent



With a rich history as a trade hub in the middle ages, and a more recent history as a Belgian student hub rivaling Leuven itself, Ghent has much to offer for every kind of traveling student. In the daytime you will find yourself surrounded by tourists and people from the city proper, but at night, the streets are suddenly crowded with students looking for a drink. It is exactly this hybrid construct of students and city that makes Ghent a wonderful place to visit.

The historic center is built around the point where the rivers 'Schelde' and 'Leie' meet, which made it an excellent location for trade. The city has multiple medieval market squares, and the central banks of the Leie, called the Korenlei and the Graslei, are lined

with guilds and tradesman's houses. Heading off from the Korenlei, you immediately run into 'the three towers', forming a line that marks the center of the medieval city. These are the Saint-Nicholas church, the Belfry, and the Saint Bavo cathedral. The Belfry was used as a watchtower with warning bells, and on top of the tower you can find the metal dragon of Ghent. The cathedral of Saint Bavo is known for housing the 'Lamb of God', one of the most famous works of art from the medieval world.

Another famous landmark of Ghent is the Gravensteen, a medieval castle that housed the counts of Flanders in the middle ages. It is one of the most well-preserved medieval castles in Northern Europe, and therefore

re it is often seen as the most iconic building in Ghent. The last time this castle was conquered, however, was not in the middle ages. In 1949, students from Ghent were, as the story goes, dissatisfied with the increasing price of beer, and as a consequence they took over the castle. The police and fire brigade tried to retake the castle, but were initially kept out by 'ammunition' brought in by the students, which largely consisted of fruit and grass. After a few hours of siege, the police found a weak spot above the gate, and used ladders to eventually retake the castle. Because of the prank's originality and harmless nature, no students were taken in by the police, and the event is still annually celebrated by the students.

If you want to visit the engineering side of Ghent and aren't scared by the long walk, you can make for the harbor to see the huge docks of Volvo and ArcelorMittal. Ghent has one of the largest ports in Belgium, and the sight of the ships and the wharfs is something impressive to behold.

After a day of sightseeing, you can easily get a quick bite at the Korenmarkt or the surrounding streets. As evening comes, students will flock towards the bars and restaurants



to enjoy the mellow beginning of the semester. Some of them will head towards the Vlasmarkt to find a pub, or towards the Overpoort for more serious partying. In planning your visits, be sure to check <http://www.visitgent.be/en/events> for any special surprises the city may have for you, such as the Ghent Film Festival or the heartwarming Winter Festivities.

All in all there's much to see and do in our fellow student city, and now that you're in Belgium, there's no reason why you shouldn't grab some friends and discover all the awesome stuff this country has to offer. Have fun exploring!



Interview: Ahmed & Ghada

Moving to Leuven is easy for some, for others the cultural shock is bigger than imagined. We spoke with Ghada and Ahmed, both from Egypt, about their experiences so far. A conversation about Egyptian cinemas, Belgian apartments, and an ode to the bicycle.



Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

Ghada: I grew up in Cairo, where I first went to a German school, and afterwards went to the American University to study Electrical Engineering with a minor in Math. During my time at the university I joined a lot of clubs, and at one point even became orientation leader for international students, pretty much like you guys. I also spent a semester in California, which was a completely different experience. And now I'm here.

Ahmed: I'm not originally from Cairo, but from a town called El Mahalla, where I went to an Arabic school, after which I went to the American University as well. We've

studied engineering there together for five years, even did our graduation project together, but going to Leuven was actually a separate decision, which by chance brought both of us here. I applied for four universities, and happened to receive a scholarship to go to Leuven.

So did you both get here on the same plane?

Ghada: The plans to come here were actually separate, I applied for three universities, two of which accepted me, and I decided to go to Leuven. We got here in different weeks, and went looking for a place to live individually. But in the end, we still have class together, and we can still go for coffee

afterwards.

How were your first weeks in Leuven?

Ahmed: Everything went really well, we took part in all of the activities of the orientation days. I especially liked the campus challenge, as we really didn't know anything about the campus, and the challenge was a great way to discover the campus, play some games, and meet new people. We even met so many people that week that I forgot most of the names I heard, but I remember everyone who was on my team during the challenge.

Ghada: We even met a girl from Greece on our very first day, and we still see her a lot after class.

Do you usually get to enjoy your day after class?

Ghada: We'd love to, but it takes some getting used to the Belgian schedule. In Egypt, we used to have a maximum of three classes a day, usually only two. And a class would last one hour and fifteen minutes, so you'd have most of the day to yourself, to study at home and enjoy the evening thereafter. Here, our schedules are packed and we will have to study even more after classes, so it's completely different.

Schedules are different in Egypt?

Ghada: Entirely. We had far less hours of class a day, having 15 credits per semester over the course of five years instead of 30 per semester over the course of three. The method of evaluation is different as well, we used to have quizzes and midterms all year so we would have to keep studying. Here everything is packed into one exam at the end of the year, so you have to motivate yourself and do more planning.

Ahmed: And the weekends in Egypt are on Friday and Saturday, so we are used to starting our classes again on Sundays. I think we will get used to the schedule, but it will take time, and when we get home from class these days we're usually really tired, and there's still much that we have to arrange, like furniture for our apartments.

You are still moving in furniture?

Ghada: We already brought in a lot of stuff, but without a car it's really difficult to move furniture around, so we can

only take one chair at a time. But luckily there's still a lot to do in Leuven for the rest of the day. We even went to see the movie '100 foot journey' in Kinopolis, which was great!

Ahmed: And we can get anywhere in the city by bike, which is really amazing. After all, Cairo is home to 20 million people, that's much more than the entirety of Belgium. Ghada actually lived in Cairo, and went to the American University, also in Cairo, and they were 70 kilometers apart, just to give a scope of the city. Going everywhere by bike is really convenient considering that taking the bus from the city to campus is very uncomfortable in the morning traffic. It even takes about half an hour, when cycling is just ten minutes. Regarding that, we even have an idea for a startup: automatic locks for bikes. When you're on campus, most people spend most of their breaks between classes just locking and unlocking their bikes, and an automated lock would be cheaper than those heavy locks and save time as well.

Was cycling something you could do in Egypt as well?

Ahmed: Nobody ever cycles in Cairo, as the streets are crowded with cars, and there's a lot of dust in the air. So it would be really dangerous, and even if you made it to your destination safely you would still be covered in dirt. Here we have to carry pretty much anything around by bike, but it is okay for us as we can actually breathe while cycling here, and there's almost no traffic.

Ghada: In Cairo, breathing

while cycling would be something like smoking 20 cigarettes with each breath.

How did you guys feel about settling into your rooms in Leuven?

Ahmed: The first room I went to see hadn't been rented in the past three years, so it was really damp. Luckily I was able to transfer to another room, which was great. The previous owner had painted it really well, so I think I landed in the right place.

Ghada: Eventually I was able to rent a studio on the Bondgenotenlaan through Kotwijs, which was convenient as I arrived in Belgium without a place to stay. I checked into a hotel and went looking for studios for hire straight away, and I found the studio right now which has everything I need and is close to the city center.

So it's not that easy arranging for a place to stay upfront?

Ahmed: Before you actually get to Leuven, there's a lot of paperwork you need to get in order. For example, just for one certificate, we had to go to the ministry of education, then to the ministry of foreign affairs, take the documents to the translator, and finally bring the translated documents to the embassy.

Ghada: If there's a lot of waiting time, arranging things becomes really difficult. For example, at one point I had to wait five months, only to get my papers in order one month before my next deadline. This made arranging things in Belgium really hard to do before I got to Belgium.

What is the biggest cultural shock you got when you came here?

Ahmed: Shops here close at six! In Egypt, you can go to shops and supermarkets 24-7. Same goes for restaurants, and even movies.

So if I'm in Cairo, and want to go to the cinema at 4 o'clock in the night, I can?

Ahmed: Certainly! Most people have to work during the day, so it makes no sense for a lot of businesses to close at six, because it's only later in the day that people have time to shop. We went to Ikea in Brussels on their anniversary, and it was announced that because of this Ikea would close two hours earlier. This is really strange for us, as anniversaries are something that should be celebrated with customers. Another thing that's new for us is that working hours are so

early. In Egypt it's actually more common to start later in the day, and also work during the evening.

True, we work early, usually with coffee to get us through the day.

Ahmed: Same here, we need coffee in the morning in order to follow the two hour lectures.

Ghada: Yes, it's really strange that the lectures are two hours, and without a break in between. Usually when we get to our second class, which starts at the same time that the first class ends, the room is already full. Unfortunately, this leaves no time to grab a coffee between classes.

Anything you'd like to tell your fellow internationals?

Ahmed: Go out and do stuff! Go out with friends, take part in activities. There's so much to do in Leuven, so many people to meet and cultures to discover.

Also, Koffie Onan serves the best coffee we've ever tasted.

Ghada: Something completely different, but professors here pronounce π as the Dutch/German pi, which in English sounds like pee. Everyone in the world pronounces it that way, except for the Americans, who pronounce it like it is an English word to avoid all the silly jokes. It's only a small thing, but it's one of those things you notice.



6 NOVEMBER MUSICAFE

Bliz Randsome eLeKick Durza

Doors: 22h

THINK
ABROAD MONTH

JETLAG TD



MEMBERS € 2

NON MEMBERS € 3

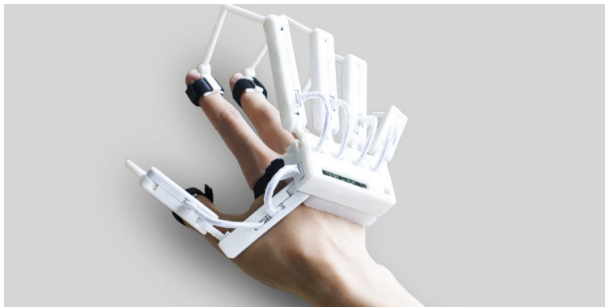
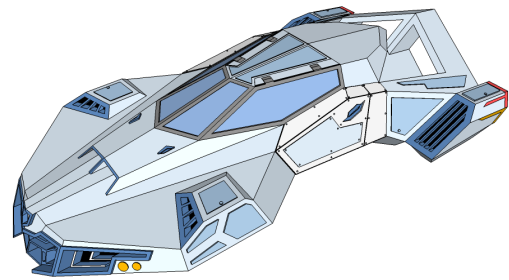
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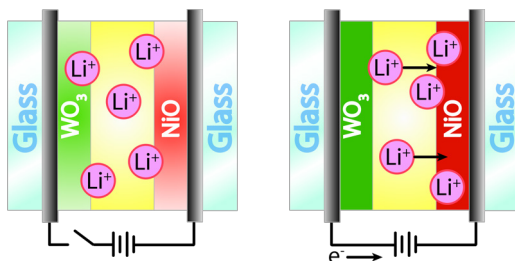
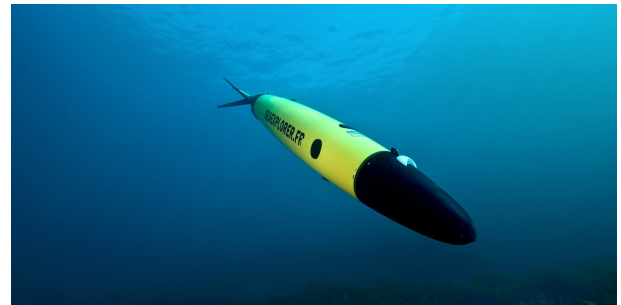
Last month in engineering

Aeromobil, a company from Slovakia, is developing a [flying car](#). The vehicle works like a regular car on the road, but can also fly 430 miles before finally having to refuel.



Whilst [intuitive VR interfaces](#) are getting closer and closer to reality, a company from China has produced a [hand](#) that can make you feel virtual objects.

A fleet of [fully autonomous robots](#) will be researching the ocean around southwest UK in order to accurately map marine life. Not only that, but two of the robots will be powered entirely by wind and wave energy.

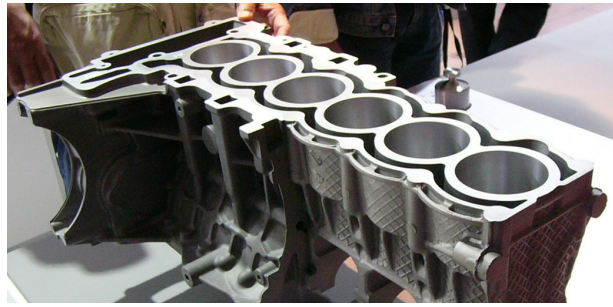


Researchers from the Nanyang technological university of Singapore have first reported a [smart window](#) that does not rely on an external power supply. The window uses electrochromic materials to function as a self-rechargeable battery, effectively supplying its own power.

The unmanned flying drones are no longer alone: the U.S. Navy is currently testing [boat swarms](#) that can communicate with each other and with a central command center in coordinated defense missions.

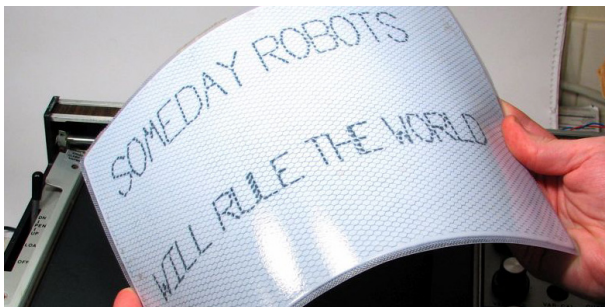
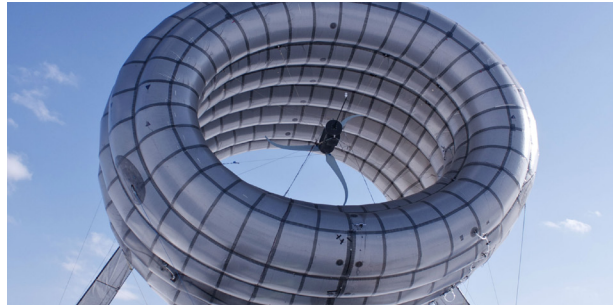


Researchers from China have developed a [metal 3D printing technique](#) called Laser Solid Forming (LSF), enabling us to make pieces that resemble cast or forged metal parts.



[PhotoMath](#), a new app available for IOS and Windows Phone, can recognize and solve mathematical equations. It can also show the step by step approach to solving the problem, allowing the user to understand and study the solution.

An MIT startup has built an [airborne wind turbine](#) to produce power for Alaskan families living off the grid. The turbine will produce energy at a 1,000 feet up in the air, where the winds are much stronger than on the ground.



The University of Saarland has found a cheap way to [print displays](#) on different materials, allowing consumers to print screens on paper.

Real-time health diagnostics may be available through [wearable electronics](#) that analyze your sweat. Researchers from Cincinnati have come up with a device that communicates with your smartphone, giving you regular updates about your health.



Leuven Secrets: Hogeschoolplein

It's late in the afternoon, 16.30 to be precise, yet the amount of people sitting at the tables around me doesn't seem to have changed at all. I listen to the distant church bells as the autumn sun glides over the buildings to the side of the square. The waiter comes out and brings me another Leffe. At the start of the academic year, when the autumn leaves fall on the still sun-sparked grass, I always return to the Hogeschoolplein.



Only a hundred meters away from the busy humdrum of the Naamsestraat, and even closer to the cosy but somewhat expensive Muntstraat, the Hogeschoolplein doesn't seem to know that there's an entire city built around it. For all the students sitting in the tiny park with their sunglasses and ice creams, the square seems eerily calm. Of course it helps that almost no cars ever drive on or off the square, and that a lot of sound is damped by the buildings that surround the square almost

entirely, leaving room for only a few tiny alleys that hold some surprises of their own.

The centerpiece of the Hogeschoolplein is café De Werf (the wharf), where I am currently drinking my Leffe. I know a lot of good places to eat and drink in Leuven, but no other place matches the cosy student vibe of De Werf. Breakfast is served in colourful plastic baskets, and when I order orange juice I have to press the oranges myself. And I wouldn't have it any other way. If you're loo-

king for a cosy place to dine at student prices, you can settle down here for a quiche or pasta, or even a chowder if you're really hungry for a plate that's filled to the rim.

After my dinner, however, I know that there's plenty to discover in the alleys surrounding the square as well. Cuddled up in one of the two roads leading to the Naamsestraat is the Irish pub Stapleton's, named after the Irish professor Thomas Stapleton who lectured here 500 years ago. On a regular day,

you may be drawn towards this pub by the shouting of enthusiastic supporters, as almost every important soccer match will be streamed live on the big screen for all the fans to enjoy. The pub offers typical Irish drinks like Guinness and apple cider, and those who feel particularly brave can even try some of the better Irish whiskeys here. The bar also offers Belgian drinks and a variety of teas. Those who try to practice their Dutch will have no luck here,

however, as most of the staff is Irish and will ask you to repeat your order in English.

As I leave the Irish pub at midnight to visit some friends in the city centre, the little park in the middle of the square still hasn't emptied. Some students are still sitting in a big circle, apparently playing a drinking game I've never seen before. As I walk past the impressive doors of the Papal College (which looks somewhat spooky at night), I see a few people



from LOKO leave their office in the corner of the square. Even though I am more of a sitting-by-the-fireplace-in-winter sort of person, it is on nights like these that I wish summer never ends.



Photo Report: 24 Hour Run





© Veto: Kalina De Blauwe

© Veto: Karolien Wilms

Massacantus der Heverleese kringen



Bios



Apolloon



Geos



Chemika



Merkator



LBK

DINSDAG 11.11.2014

IN DE TENT VOOR ALMA 3

DOORS: 17U

IO VIVAT: 18U

€10 (LEDEN)

€12 (NIET LEDEN)



Wina



VTK