

C. V.

Leo Wilhelm Siebe de Graaff

Born in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on the 28th of February 1938.

July 1958:

High School Diploma (HBS-B: scientific direction, including modern languages (English, French and German) at the 'Westfries Lyceum', Hoorn (Noord-Holland).

July 1958:

Two-week Aviation Course (including medical and psycho-technical tests, link training and 10.5 hours flying on Tiger Moth plain).

December 1958 – July 1960:

Military Service (infantry, from July 1959 serving at the General Headquarters (ground forces), Logistics Department (G4) in The Hague.

July 1960:

Pre-examination (cum laude) Physical Geography and Soil Science (Prof. Jan P. Bakker, University of Amsterdam) followed by summer fieldwork courses.

September 1960:

Subscription as regular student in physical geography, geology and soil science.

Start of life-time membership of the Koninklijk Nederlands Geologisch en Mijnbouwkundig Genootschap (KNGMG) and of the Koninklijk Nederlands Aardrijkskundig Genootschap (KNAG).

July and August 1962:

Start of MSc fieldwork in France (Prof. Jan P. Bakker). Field research continued in the summers of 1963, 1964, 1965-1967.

September 1962:

Student-Assistant (12 hours/week) mainly for clay-mineralogical analyses (including lecturing) at the Laboratory of the Dept. for Physical Geography and Soil Science.

July 1965:

BSc Diploma (Physical Geography, Geology and Soil Science) cum laude. Subjects:

- meteorology and climatology (senior lecturer Gerard F.A. van Zuijlen¹)
- cartography (senior lecturer Gerard F.A. van Zuijlen¹)
- general physical geography and geomorphology (prof. Jan P. Bakker¹)
- soil chemistry (prof. Henk Müller)
- geomorphology and alpine geology/geomorphology (prof. Gerard L. Smit Sibinga²)
- general and structural geology (prof. Egeler²)
- stratigraphy and paleontology (prof. Henk McGillavry²)
- crystallography and X-ray diffractometry (prof. Caroline H. McGillavry³)
- mineralogy (prof. Wim. P. de Roever²)
- anorganic chemistry and phase rule (prof. Gerding³), (senior lecturer Donald McGillavry³)
- long-term practicals: interpretation of aerial photographs and (two-month) excursion and mapping course Vorarlberg (senior lecturer Adolf L. Simons²)
- human geography, land description, physical anthropology (several subjects, 20% of the course curriculum of the first three years; a.o. prof. H.D. de Vries Reilingh, prof. J. Heinemeyer⁴)

Staff members: ¹⁾ Physical Geography and Soil Science, ²⁾ Geology, ³⁾ Physics and Chemistry, ⁴⁾ Human Geography

September 1965:

Candidate-Assistant (20hours/week). Main tasks: guiding the clay-mineralogy lab. (including clay-mineral analyses, research, instruction of assistants and lecturing); field guidance in France for post-graduate students in physical geography (general guidance prof. Bakker), Dept. for Physical Geography and Soil Science.

July 1968:

MSc Diploma (Physical Geography, Geology and Soil Science).

Main subject geomorphology (cum laude) (prof. Jan P. Bakker¹)

Secondary subjects:

- soil chemistry cum laude (prof. Henk J. Müller)
- clay mineralogy/clay mineral analyses cum laude (prof. Wim P. de Roever²)
- crystallography and X-ray diffractometry (prof. Carolina H. McGillavry²)

Additional advanced courses: interpretation of aerial photographs (Adolf L. Simons), periglacial geomorphology and quaternary geology (prof. Gerard J. Maarleveld), soil science and land classification (prof. Anton P.A. Vink) and basic course in palynology (prof. van der Hammen).

Some minor reports (contract work) and publications appeared during the study period.

July and August 1968:

Full-time research assistant, Dept. for Physical Geography and Soil Science. In this period a choice had to be made out of three directly offered earth scientific posts: 1) geologist for private enterprise in the study area in France, 2) field geologist (exploration of bauxites), to be followed by a laboratory/management post ALCOA, USA, and 3) junior lecturer at the University of Amsterdam. The latter was most attractive.

September 1968:

Appointment as junior lecturer (on a 4-year temporary basis: 70% teaching/30% research programme) for landscape analyses, geomorphology, quaternary geology, clay mineralogical analyses and research, Dept. of Physical Geography and Soil Science.

Additional free-choice activities (from the summer of 1969 onwards):

Excursion and fieldwork assistance for training of under-graduate students in Vorarlberg (guidance Adolf L. Simons), followed by successful own initiatives and actions (in the period 1969-1971) to maintain the field training programme in Vorarlberg within the curriculum for 3rd year students after Simons' retirement.

Formation in 1972 of the alpine working team, consisting of Rupke (succeeding Simons, background: structural geology and geomorphology), de Graaff (background: geomorphology and quaternary geology) and Verhofstad (background: mineralogy and geomorphology, joining the alpine team after 1974). Later the alpine working team became known as the AGRG (Alpine Geomorphology Research Group) of the University of Amsterdam.

September 1972:

Appointment as lecturer (80% teaching/20% research programme; fixed appointment on the basis of merits for 1) lecturing, 2) guidance of the clay mineralogical department, and 3) an unpublished study (thesis) on the morpho-tectonic structure of the Arroux Basin (Dept. Saône et Loire, France). Further studies of staff members and students in France then were cancelled and gradually replaced by alpine research on pre-graduate and post-graduate levels.

Most of the teaching efforts of the alpine research group were centred around the training courses in Vorarlberg. This area and adjacent parts of Germany, Switzerland and Liechtenstein became systematically explored by means of large scale geomorphological mapping and other methods applied in field inventories (mainly sedimentology and quaternary geology).

September 1977:

Appointment as senior lecturer ('wetenschappelijk hoofdmedewerker', nowadays ranked as assistant-professor; continuation of the 80% teaching/20% research programme). Similar duties as mentioned before.

Some internal reports and publications appeared up to 1979.

September 1980 – September 1982:

Temporary detachment as a project advisor, succeeding prof. Alfred Meijering (ITC, Enschede) at the Colombo University, Sri Lanka in a bi-lateral Dutch-Sri Lanka project: "Training and Survey in Rural Area Development". Project leader: Prof. Herman Verstappen (ITC, Enschede), with participation of the departments of physical geography of the University of Amsterdam and of the University of Utrecht.

Tasks: 1) Training of junior staff members in physical geography and soil science, Dept. of Geography, Colombo University, 2) Organizing and conducting multidisciplinary, one-year diploma-courses (including excursions and fieldwork) in rural area development for government officials and other post-graduates, active in this field, 3) Setting-up a laboratory for earth- and soil-scientific analyses.

Coastal research was carried out, partly as contract work with local counterparts (e.g. for the Sri Lanka Ministry of Fisheries).

Several reports were delivered and a few publications resulted afterwards.

September 1982 – April 2001:

Continuation of regular duties as senior lecturer at the University of Amsterdam. As the yearly training courses in Vorarlberg could not be maintained after 1985 (reduced financial support from the University of Amsterdam) the 80% teaching/20% research programme gradually shifted to (a better) 60% teaching/40% research ratio. Since 1983, much research time, however, was used for contract work, in order to raise funding for the continuation of a post-graduate training programme in Vorarlberg.

An increasing number of reports and publications appeared during the nineties (see list).

Subduties:

- September 1982 – September 1984: Secretary General of the Koninklijk Nederlands Aardrijkskundig Genootschap (KNAG: Royal Dutch Geographical Society)
- September 1984 – September 1988 President of the Dept. of Physical Geography of the KNAG.
- From 1994 onwards: member, later core-member of the CERG (Centre Européen sur les Risques Geomorphologiques, European Council, Strasbourg)
- During the nineties: a. o. Guest lectures at the universities of Heidelberg, Mainz, Tokyo, Strasbourg, Camerino and Uppsala.
- Several one-week excursions in Vorarlberg for other Dutch universities (Utrecht and Wageningen: 5 times)
- Contract work concerning slope instability, etc. (see list of reports and publications).

March 2001:

Preliminary retirement from the University of Amsterdam, caused by reorganisations.

March 2001 onwards:

Establishment and President of RFASE (Research Foundation for Alpine and Subalpine Environments) with Harry Seijmonsbergen (Assistant-Professor at University of Amsterdam, Secretary of RFASE) and Mat De Jong (ENRES, Haarlem, Treasury of RFASE).

Activities RFASE/LdG:

General: geomorphological mapping, unravelling the glacial history of the alpine Rhine Glacier System, landscape/geotope and contract research, education (o. a. organisation of one-week excursions and international courses - 2002, 2003 and 2006 - largely with support of other institutions ([inatura](#) Dornbirn, Vorarlberger Landesregierung, UNESCO Paris, CERG Strasbourg, IAG: International Organisation of Geomorphology, etc.).

Guest lectures LdG at universities of Rome, Bonn and Mainz; presentation of papers at international conferences (o. a. Zaragoza, 2005, for reports and publications see list of AGRG and RFASE publications). Yearly presentation and guidance of one-day field excursions for local and regional institutions. Taking part in the regular the field training of students. Preparations for new publications and conference contributions in 2008 are running.

Additional current research topics: 1) The ^{10}Be -age dating programme with the University of Barcelona, and 2) The Gasserplatz research programme with the universities of Amsterdam and Groningen.

Broek op Langedijk, 15th October 2007.