



# The adventures of Nola



Part 3: What does it all mean?

# Nola gets a make-over

*Nola was born in New Orleans in November 2013 as the younger sister of Disney's Toy Story character Jessie. As the mascot of HU Honours she soon grew into a celebrity herself. And with fame came..... identity issues.*



Nola goes to church for some soul searching. She decides she wants to avoid any mix-up with her big Disney sister and a make-over will be the best thing to do.



Nola now feels proud to represent the blue-red colours of the HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht.



Nola's first official visit is at the PeerReview in Amsterdam. Here all the RIPs (really important people) gather to exchange experiences, while 'the judge' (auditor) quietly observes if everybody is meeting the criteria for government funding. Nola is mostly inspired by the creative 'visual notes' that sum up the outcomes.

Excellence ➔ Honours

# HU Honours 2.0

The new year was the start of transforming HU Honours from a funded experiment on excellence in higher education into a solid Honours programme. Of sorts....

HU Honours project leaders teamed up in Seat2Meet for a day of talking Vision and Mission.

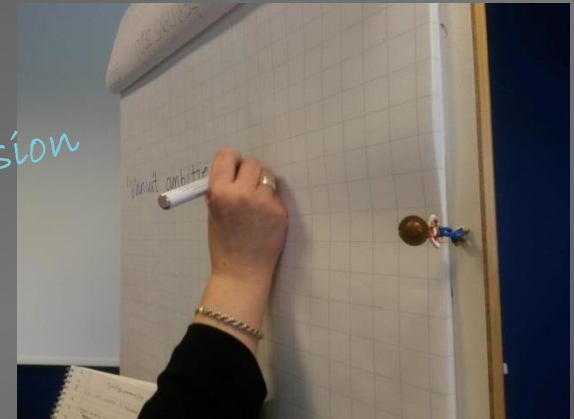


Mind mapping and post its, so this is how brainstorming works.....  
Lots of brain, that's for sure,  
Nola wonders when the storm is going to hit?

Nola watches and listens closely,  
it's her future as well after all.  
Daring to be different.....  
seems like good start.

VISION

Another friendly brainstorm with visiting colleagues for external input and cross checking....all aboard for take off?



It is still a mystery to Nola how Vision becomes Mission and where the one ends and the other starts....or maybe it's just not as linear as all that, Nola wonders.

*so Ambition Academy*

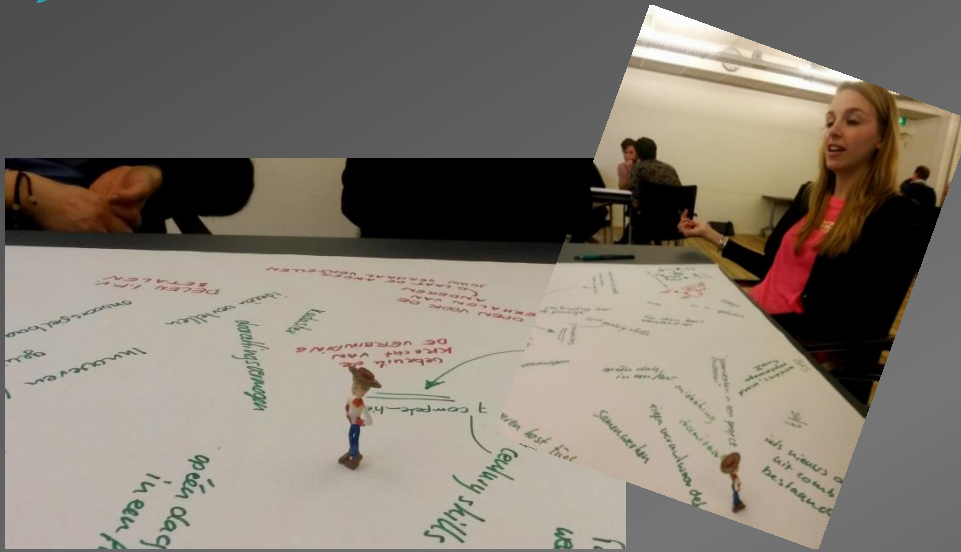
Nola learns that it helps to visualize your Mission and give it a catchy name....  
Ah well, Nola knows all about names and identity....



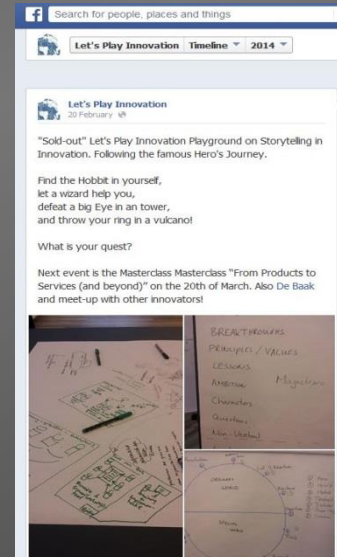
# Honours Inspiration

The honours team struggled with the next level, transferring mission to the reality of everyday education. Looking for inspiration and inspiring others proved a good strategy....in the end.

Let's play innovation



Nola finds out that encountering kindred minds and new ideas is not just an inspiration to your own project but a boost to your energy.



In the meantime old ideas are still current, there is Joseph Campbell's [journey of the hero](#) again, the Monomyth. Nice music too, Nola thinks..... but that's another story.



80 Doen, Durven <sup>en</sup> de Waarheid

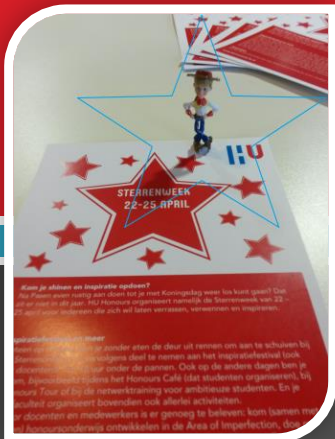


Keynote speaker  
Mariagela de Lorenzo



Is entrepreneurship a  
cornerstone of honours, or is  
it entrepreneurial attitude?

Nola visits the Honours conference at the Faculty of Society and Law and finds out that in honours 'doing different' is the truth, or at least a truth



Nola wants to visit all the activities in the Honours Week of Stars, but there is so much going on, all over campus....



1. Monday morning: breakfast with the HU Honours students.



2. Nola rushes back to help set up the Honours market in the main hall of her own faculty

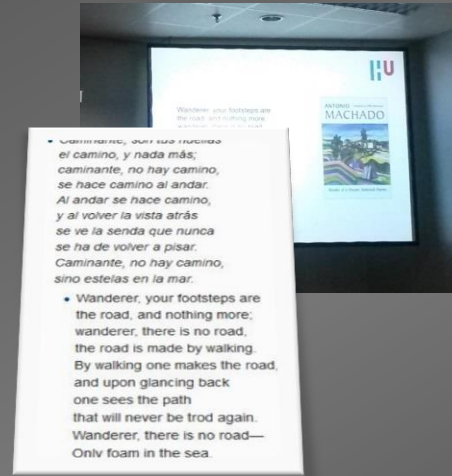


Sterrenweek 2014



3. And back again next door for the Honours assessment presentation of Gerrit Croes

4. After lunch Nola attends the master classes of Rock up Life.



The personal journey of board member Jan Bogerd is more inspiring and there's some good advice to follow: in case of doubt, choose uncertainty. Puts a smile on Nola's face: "If nothing is sure, everything is possible."

Professor Marca Wolfensberger challenges us to dare..... well we are all here aren't we? Nola wonders how we can get the other ones on board.

80 Sterrenweek 2014



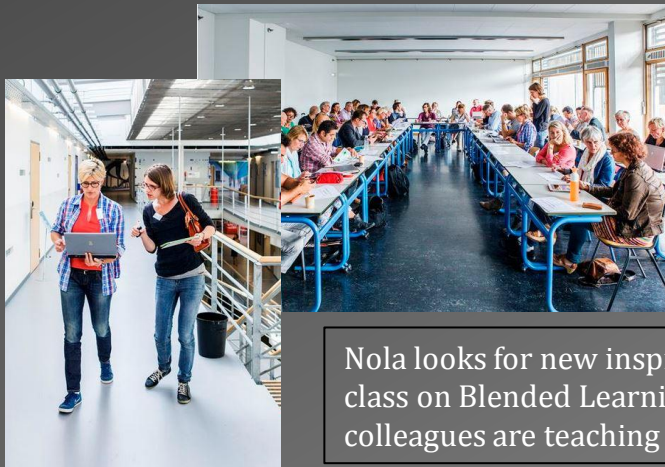




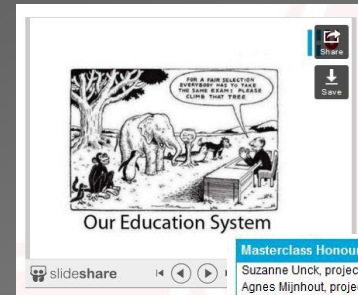
And as summer holiday approached the contours of HU Honours became more visible. Vision moved from 'challenges' to 'value creation' to 'living is learning'. The idea of an Ambition Academy enrolled into a broad HU Honours concept.

The vision of Honours fed into the educational vision of the HU and was presented in [a poem](#) by board member Jan Bogerd at the HU Start of the Academic Year.

The search for meaning and mutual inspiration co-created the didactics that will carry the Honours concept into the future. A workshop at the Day of Excellence and a master class at the HU Start conference were the first steps to expose the Dutch Didactics to the world: next stop the International Honours Conference in Denver. And of course, Nola will be there!!



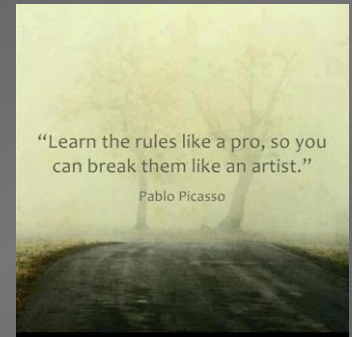
Nola looks for new inspiration in the master class on Blended Learning. Elsewhere her colleagues are teaching Honours Didactics.



**Masterclass Honours: extra uitdagingen leren creëren**

Suzanne Unck, projectleider HU Honours  
Agnes Mijnhout, projectleider FEM Honours  
Jens Gijbels, coördinator van de minor co-design studio bij de FNT

Met honoursonderwijs bieden we ambitieuze studenten de mogelijkheid zichzelf maximaal uit te dagen. Dat vraagt om een didactiek die dat mogelijk maakt: veel autonomie voor studenten, kritisch denken en ethisch handelen, complexe opdrachten, interdisciplinair en innovatief werken en ruimte voor creativiteit. En een docent die coacht, zelf ook leert, ruimte geeft. Ontwikkel jezelf tot een docent die honoursonderwijs kan ontwerpen.



Nola meets old friends and new at a Denver prep meeting \*feeling excited\*

