

## **Motivation for the award of the 2012 Wadden Academy HBO Final Paper Prize**

Since 2009, the Wadden Academy has been awarding the annual Wadden Academy Prize, with a value of five thousand euros. The Wadden Academy has instituted this prize to encourage research into the Wadden region by young researchers. This prize alternates each year between the best doctoral thesis on the one hand, and the best university masters paper and HBO final paper on the other. For the assessment of the submissions for the HBO Final Paper Prize, the Wadden Academy appointed a jury consisting of five members of the socio-economic think tank set up by the Wadden Academy:

Menno Groeneveld, Gasunie energy transition manager and initiator of the Afsluitdijk sustainability centre;

Nynke-Rixt Jukema, architect;

Frans Keurentjes, farmer, councillor and Friesland Campina supervisory director;

Martinus Kusters, former member of the Executive Board of NHTV Breda University of Applied Sciences;

My name is Rindert Dankert, I am a botanist, administrator and chair of the socio-economic think tank. I am acting as chair of the jury.

For the 2010 HBO Final Paper Prize, three candidates submitted entries. The jury considered this a disappointing number. At the time, we thought that one of the reasons could be that the Wadden lecturers had not informed their students about the prize. And perhaps the Wadden Academy website was visited insufficiently by HBO students or there were few HBO students who devoted their final paper to Wadden region subjects, although the jury considered this unlikely.

When I presented the 2010 HBO Final Paper Prize to Bart Zeegers of the Hanze University for his research into the Wadden float, I stated that when the prize was due to be awarded next time, the number of submissions would have to be far greater in order to justify the award of the prize.

Unfortunately, this was not the case. This year too, only three papers were submitted, and the jury did not consider the level to be high enough to warrant a prize of five thousand euros. Regrettably, the jury therefore decided not to award the 2012 HBO Final Paper Prize. The Wadden Academy board supports this decision of the jury and will consult with the lecturers in question about possible alternatives.