

TOP LECTURER AND WEREWOLFS

LECTURER OF THE YEAR AND GAME AFTERNOON

On October 7 the longed for Lecturer of the Year Award was awarded to the best lecturer of the academic year 2007-2008. The nominees were Gül Gürkan (Orientation OR/MS, Stochastic Models), Willem Haemers (Modeling in Business Administration, Applied Linear Algebra), Roger Laeven (Issues in Finance and Insurance), Hans Schumacher (Orientation QF/AS, Financial Models, Issues in Finance and Insurance) and Arthur van Soest (Empirical Applications).

Roger Laeven turned out to be the winner. When he was given the opportunity to express his first reaction, he seemed very astonished. It was the first year he had lectured at Tilburg University and he felt a lot of things could still be improved this year. As a real econometrician, he mentioned the words 'negatively correlated' whilst talking about how the relation between those improvements and his evaluation from students this year should not be.

A few students who voted for their favorite lecturer have also taken the opportunity to fill in a personal note about that lecturer. These notes were not mentioned on October 7, but some of them are too nice to ignore. Willem Haemers is the lecturer who talks the "most nonsense ;)", and he is "not only funny, but he also explains things very clearly". His sense of humor seems to have made students forget to actively participate. Gul Gurkan "succeeds in explaining quite difficult stochastic models and keeping students active in lectures, without being too demanding. For the first time students did actually participate in lectures!" It takes a little more to win though, Roger Laeven "articulates well, has an elegant style and is humorous".

Afterwards the game afternoon took place. We played lots of games: from Werewolfling to Abalone, and from Stef Stunt Pilot to Guitar Hero. The game Werewolfling attracted the most players. Just as in real-life you do not know who is a werewolf and who is not, so innocent citizens can get lynched by other citizens. During the day, players discuss whom to lynch. This discussion is conducted by the mayor, who is voted by all the

"Your main goal is to stay alive"

citizens and whose vote counts twice. As an individual player, your main goal is to stay alive. If you are a citizen, your second goal is to kill the werewolves, but not too devotedly since it will get you killed at night. If you are a werewolf, your second goal is to kill the citizens, but not too obviously since it will get you lynched. Finding the optimal strategy is left as an exercise for the reader.

There were two irregularities during the afternoon. Kolonisten van Catan, which was the most popular game last year, was only played briefly by a few people who didn't even finish the game and Ruud Hendrickx was not present even though people played chess. Unfortunately, there are too few observations to say anything about the relationship between these two events.

My compliments go to the people at Asset|Econometrics who organised the Lecturer of the Year Award, The Game Afternoon and the drinks afterwards.

