Merci

What an easy word to express what I have in the heart. Not easy to say, though.
I will certainly remember the years I spent up there in Leiden with all of you, for lab and also personal reasons. I enjoyed being there, just by chance. So many people I have met, most have left, some are still around. And that was my time to leave. I will remember the time in the lab, discussions, chat and laughs; the time outside the lab, diners, lab days, barbecue and birthday parties (both for parents and kids).
First of all I am grateful to Fred Berger, without who I would not have known what research work is. I discovered in Lyon my attraction about endosperm, ovules, embryo, polarity... And thanks to you I came to Leiden.
Adam and Carlos, thanks that you agreed to escort me during this defense. What an honor!!! I don’t know what to say, you’ve done so much for me during these 5 years. I don’t know where to begin, so I don’t !!
You welcome me here, always present to help and discuss work or not work stuff. I am really grateful.
Werner, I already miss you. You and your music. You’ve been my little Calimero. Are you happy now? And yes I like you!!!
Fang, that was great to have you around. First as a student, not at an easy position for you since I was going in maternity leave. Then as a PhD-mate, I was really happy to hear that you continued with us. You deserve it. And finally it is not always as difficult as we thought…
Ab, thanks for helping me doing all these crosses and generation of the sextuple mutants. What a work I asked from you. I greatly appreciated your help and your joking stories.
Marcelo, Felipe the Brazilian team. You can not always win !! Thanks to you.
To the corridor people, past and present, thanks. Chat, help, coffee break… every such small moments were welcomed.
Gerda, thanks for your appreciate availability and knowledge. I always liked to discuss with you.
Ward, thanks for your continuous help in the kitchen.

Steph, comment dire… merci pour ton aide, tes conseils, tes pauses clopes qui me font prendre l’air, ton soutien, ta présence joyeuse. Et ce n’est pas fini, non ? La « Robert team » va faire des ravages !!
Gwen, Simone, the people of the “Second Floor”, I enjoy to come to chat time to time.

Papa, Maman, Mamie, Anne-Marie, Patrice… Merci à tous de votre soutien, enfin le grand jour est arrivé. Mieux vaut tard que jamais comme on dit ! Et un gros bisous à Papy où qu’il puisse être.
Enfin le dernier, mais on garde le meilleur pour la fin, non ?!! Je ne serais jamais comment exprimer le confort que ça a pu être de t’avoir avec moi, et presque rien que pour moi. Je crois que j’ai fait pas mal de jalouses !! Je te suis reconnaissante de ta patience, de ton soutien et de ta présence à mes côtés durant les hauts et les bas de ces années passées, ainsi que pour les futures, m’am…
Ma thèse sera à jamais associée à ta naissance, mon KRob, ma joie, mon sourire.

And as we say: “Life is just like a box of chocolates, [you know what you take but] you will never know what you’re gonna get”, Forrest Gump, 1994.

Hélène
May 21, 2008