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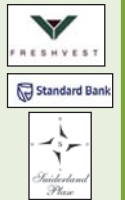
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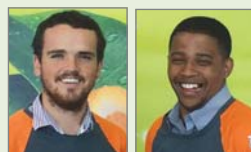


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AGRI SCIENCES WETENSKAPPE

New chair focuses on events in SA's fruit orchards

Prof Karen Theron of the Department of Horticultural Science has become the first incumbent of the Chair in Applied Pre-harvest Fruit Research in the Faculty of AgriSciences. The Chair is primarily funded by HORTGRO Science and also by Stellenbosch University. Its operations focus on the pre-harvest side of the industry – thus basically on what happens in the orchard.

Prof Linus Opara, who holds the South African Research Chair in Post-harvest Technology, is also part of the Department of Horticultural Science.

Hugh Campbell, general manager of HORTGRO Science, says the chair enhances the valuable liaison which already exists between the academic world and the industry. He explained: "Because horticultural science is the

key discipline on which our fruit industry is based, it is necessary to constantly ensure that sufficient expertise is trained locally."

HORTGRO Science already supports a variety of research posts at SU and has invested more than R15 million in student bursaries over the past ten years.

Together with her postgraduate students Theron does trials on pears, apples and stone fruit such as plums, nectarines and peaches, to mention only a few. She works on the application of growth regulators, as well as chemical and mechanical thinning of stone fruit and pome fruit. Her insight and knowledge are highly regarded by the industry – both locally and internationally. She enjoys membership of the International,

American and South African societies for horticultural science.

Karen Theron has been associated with the Department of Horticultural Science since 1985 – she has been head of Department and acting Dean and has been involved with the training of around 60 MScAgric students, many of whom have gone on to make their mark in various SA fruit industries. She is keen to be a mentor to young researchers and technicians who are still finding their feet in the deciduous fruit industry.

HORTGRO Science hopes that Theron's new position will afford her the opportunity to also become involved in strategic issues in the local industry, such as the quality and evaluation of plant material.



Karen Theron of the Department of Horticultural Science will serve as the first Chair in Applied Pre-harvest Fruit Research at SU. The contract to finalise was signed by Hugh Campbell, general manager of HORTGRO Science, and Prof Leopoldt van Huyssteen (right), SU's Acting Rector. Pic: Engela Duvenage

Gholfdag stu fondse vir beurse

Die Nexus-span het onlangs die botoon gevoer in die jaarlikse Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe-gholfdag. Dié geleentheid is vyf jaar gelede in die lewe geroep ter ondersteuning van die fakulteit se beursfonds vir studente wat landbouwerwante programme aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch (US) volg.

Altesaam 35 spanne het onlangs op De Zalze-gholfbaan buite Stellenbosch meeding. Die naasweners was die span van Freshvest, wat ook hoofborg van die dag se verrigtinge was. Capespan was derde.

Benewens die ondersteuning van die finansiële dienste verskaffer Freshvest het Standard Bank en Suiderland Plase ook as medeborge opgetree. Dit is reeds die vierde jaar dat dié bankgroep by die gholfdag betrokke is – Suiderland het in 2012 toegetree met 'n borgskap.

"Die borgskappe word gebruik om geleenthede vir voor- en nagraadse studente te skep sodat hulle hul vaardighede kan slyp. Sodoende dra ons by tot die volhoubaarheid van die plaaslike landbousektor, en voeg waarde daartoe by," sê Pieter le Roux van Freshvest.

"Die ondersteuning van ons nywerheidsvennote is van onskatbare waarde in ons pogings om te verseker dat genoeg studente landbouwerwante programme volg," verseker organiseerder me Carin Bruce van die Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe. "Daarbenewens is die gholfdag ook 'n gesellige manier vir talle van ons oudstudente om weer by die fakulteit betrokke te wees."

Nywerheidsvennote en alumni is welkom om 'n bydrae aan die beursfonds te doen. Vir nadere besonderhede kontak Carin Bruce by cbruce@sun.ac.za of 021 808 9047.

- Spesiale dank aan ons hoofborg, Freshvest en medeborge, Standard Bank en Suiderland Plase.



Die Nexus-span het met die louere weggestap, gevolg deur die spanne van die hoofborg Freshvest en Capespan. Hier is van links na regs Jacques du Preez, Adrian Kuiper, Dirk Taljard, prof Danie Brink (waaremende dekaan van die Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe), Ben de Villiers, Carin Bruce en Daleen du Preez (albei van die Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe) en agter is Johann Swart.



Acting Dean, Danie Brink (middle), is pictured here with six of the nine recipients of doctors' degrees – from the left, Nadia Sitas, Diane Mostert, Greta Geldenhuys, Hamman Oosthuizen, Minette Karsten and Elsje Kleynhans.

Nine doctorates among 268 degrees awarded

December marked the graduation of 268 undergraduate and postgraduate students who completed their studies in the Faculty of AgriSciences. Among them were 28 students who did research at master's degree level, and nine students who received their doctorates.

Four doctorates were awarded in the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology to Berlize Groenewald, Minette Karsten, Elsje Kleynhans and Nita Sitas.

Dr Groenewald completed an in-depth study of precisely how insects exchange gases, under what conditions these processes work best, and how they are strictly controlled. In turn, Dr Kleynhans' results will help to manage a major sugar cane pest, *Eldana saccharina*.

Dr Karsten focused on the population genetics and abundance of two *Ceratitis* fruit fly species that cause problems in the South African agricultural sector.

Dr Sitas' work focused on the Eden District of the Southern Cape, and provides guidelines on how local

decision makers can incorporate information on ecosystem services into their planning.

For his doctorate in agricultural economics, Dr Hamman Oosthuizen combined various climatic and hydrological models to simulate how climate change will impact the financial bottom line of farmers around Hoedspruit, Carolina, Moorreesburg and Vredendal. Two doctorates in Plant Pathology were also awarded, both for work on specific species of the disease-causing fungus *Fusarium*. Dr Glaudina Mostert investigated the diversity and distribution of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* (Foc) in Asia. Dr Aneen Schoeman studied the *Fusarium verticillioides* fungus which causes ear rot to maize and contaminates the kernels with toxic residue.

Through her studies in Food Science, Dr Greta Geldenhuys investigated the qualities of Egyptian geese meat and Dr Ignacio Serra-Stepke's studies in Viticulture investigated how Pinotage vines lose water through their leaves.

New timber product recommendations bring huge success



Philip Crafford

Recommendations made by the Department of Forest and Wood Science concerning a new method of producing structural timber from young eucalyptus trees have proved to be spot on and the company involved has commenced manufacturing the new product. It has also been patented and prospects appear to be most promising.

Currently only Pine timber is used as structural timber in South Africa. Due to a shortage of suitable land for afforestation it is estimated that South Africa will have to import nearly half of its Pine structural wood requirements within the next two decades.

A new method to produce structural timber from young eucalyptus trees was recently conceptualised by Biligom, a small sawmilling company based in Limpopo province. Biligom approached the Department of Forest and Wood Science to test the concept.

Philip Crafford (picture), an MSc student in Wood Products Science, and his supervisor, Dr Brand Wessels tested the product and proposed additional manufacturing steps in order to produce a commercially viable product. Biligom followed virtually all the recommendations. The final process and product has proved a huge success and the company recently started manufacturing the new product which has also been patented. Both the South African Timber Auditing Services (SATAS) and Mitek, the largest manufacturer of nail plates and roof truss design software, have endorsed the product. Biligom plans to increase the manufacturing volume of this new product exponentially by licensing other sawmills for production.

Van Rooyen is Africa's first IFAMA President



Prof Johan van Rooyen, Director of the Standard Bank Centre for Agribusiness Leadership & Mentorship Development in the Faculty of AgriSciences has been selected to serve as the next President of IFAMA (International Food and Agribusiness Management Association). His term of office will run from June 2015 to 2017. (See report elsewhere on Van Rooyen's sporting prowess.)

Said Van Rooyen: "I'm honoured to have been selected. Globally the agricultural sector faces some awesome challenges and I believe IFAMA is at the apex of finding solutions through engaging high-level thought leaders in industry, government, NGO's, policy makers, academia and students."

Thad Simons, IFAMA's current president, said Van Rooyen is a natural choice for IFAMA as he understands its fundamental commitment to talent development in the agri sector and is able to straddle both the private and academia sectors. Simons added: "He is also the first IFAMA President from Africa which is a fact that will help us continue to expand our global footprint on this continent."

Van Rooyen teaches agri-business strategy, agricultural and rural development and business problem solving at the universities of Stellenbosch, Free State, Pretoria, and Ghent in Belgium. He brings extensive agribusiness experience and industry know-how to IFAMA through his previous work as CEO of the African Wine Industry Council and as Executive Director of the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa. As co-chair of programme planning for

the 2014 IFAMA conference in Cape Town, he was able to mobilize and partner with many local and global organizations to place the spotlight on the issues impacting agribusiness in Africa.

Van Rooyen said he is looking forward to working at a new level of engagement in IFAMA. "The 2015 IFAMA conference in St Paul, Minnesota in the USA from 14 to 18 June, will roll out a new type of platform for IFAMA where all participants are engaged and contributing to the solutions."

The aforementioned conference will focus on Innovation, Talent and Technology and structured conversations will identify the issues and linkages underscoring the following thematic areas: Food Security 2050; Food and Agribusiness Talent Flow; Climate-Smart Food and Agribusiness Systems and Big Data.

The programme is structured to produce science-based decision-making. Stakeholders will deliberate on the necessary public-private collaborations to facilitate development and execution of sustainable and superior solutions which explore opportunities designed to enhance individual organizations' value innovation capacity.

- IFAMA is an international management organization based in Washington, DC bringing together current and future business, academic and government leaders along with other industry stakeholders to improve the strategic focus, transparency, sustainability and responsiveness of the global food and agribusiness system. IFAMA has over 700 members in more than 50 countries.



Wyn-Oppie-Rooiplein-fees uiters gewild

Die Welgevalle-kelder het saam met enkele ander plaaslike winkelders 'n wynproestalletjie by die Wyn-Oppie-Rooiplein-fees as deel van die Studenteraad se jaarlikse Matieweek beman. Studente kon kaartjies koop om 10 verskillende wyne van die deelnemende kelders te probeer. AgriWetenskappe se wynstalletjie met Die Laan- en Maties Rooiplein-wyne was uiters gewild onder die studente en heelwat van hulle was aangenaam verras dat die Universiteit Stellenbosch oor sy eie wynreeks beskik – met name wat eie aan die Matie-kultuur is. Nog inligting oor die wyne is beskikbaar op die Facebook-blad "Die Laan wines," of by winesales@sun.ac.za

Terra Vino-stoet verkoop top genetika op jaarlikse veiling

Die Terra Vino-stoet van die Universiteit Stellenbosch (US), het onlangs op die jaarlikse ramveiling op die Departement Landbou (Weskaap) se Elsenburg-proefplaas aan produsente die geleentheid gebied om van die top genetika van die stoet te bekom. Uit 57 Dohne



Merino-ramme wat te koop aangebied is, is 55 verkoop. Twee ramme het onderskeidelik die hoogste prys van R29 000 behaal. Die gemiddelde prys wat per ram op die veiling betaal is, was R9 582.00. Die veiling is deur BKB Beperk aangebied. Op die foto is mnr Peter Delpont (regs) van GAF Boerdery BK-Caledon wat een van die top ramme gekoop het, saam met (vlrnr) mnr Willem Daniëls (hanteerder verbonde aan die US), John Morris (kuddebestuurder van die US se Terra Vino-stoet) en Appie Maritz (stoetvee-afslaer van BKB Beperk in die Paarl).

Awards for parasite ecology research at international conference in the Kruger

Two postgraduate students of the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology, supervised and co-supervised by Dr Sonja Matthee, received awards for their presentations at the second International Conference on Parasites of Wildlife which took place at Skukuza in the Kruger National Park. The conference was hosted by the Parasitological Society of Southern Africa

The Parasite Research Group in the Faculty focuses on parasite ecology, phylogenetics and phylogeography and, of late, on landscape epidemiology. Ms Karlien Malan (MSc) received the Best First-time Poster Award for her presentation entitled *Ecology of chigger mites (Trombiculidae) on rodents and insectivores in the Cape Floristic Region, South Africa*, and Mr Luther van der Mescht (PhD) received the Best Second-time Presenter award for his oral presentation entitled *Phylogeographic distribution of fleas associated with small mammals in South Africa*.

Several of Matthee's other students also presented their research. Ms Andrea Spickett's (PhD) presentation focussed on *Helminth diversity of Rhabdomys species collected in Fynbos and Savanna Biomes in South Africa*, Ms Milana Troski's (MTech) presentation

focused on *Molecular detection of vector-borne haemoparasites in wild rodent species in South Africa* and Dr Götz Froeschke (postdoc) presented data from two recent publications (one in the International Journal of Parasitology and the second published in Parasites and Vectors) in an oral presentation entitled *Life-history strategy and landscape characteristics influence parasite responses to habitat fragmentation*.

The conference also provided an opportunity to interact with renowned international scientists. The success of Matthee's research is based on the fact that she has a multidisciplinary approach to her research through active collaboration with experts in their field.

Three international collaborators also attended and presented at the Conference. In particular, Profes-



Attendees at the International Conference on Parasites of Wildlife held in the Kruger National Park – in front, from the left: Prof Serge Morand (CNRS-CIRAD, France), Luther v.d. Mescht (PhD student, Conservation Ecology and Entomology), Dr Sonja Matthee (Conservation Ecology and Entomology), Dr Irina Khokhlova (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel), Karlien Malan (MSc student, Conservation Ecology and Entomology), Prof Boris Krasnov (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel), Dr Götz Froeschke (Postdoc, Conservation Ecology and Entomology), Prof Sandra Eßbauer (Institut für Mikrobiologie der Bundeswehr, Germany) and behind in red, Dr Wolfgang Eßbauer.

sor Sandra Eßbauer (from the Institut für Mikrobiologie der Bundeswehr in Germany) presented results from a collaborative project with Matthee on *Rickettsia diversity associated with small mammals in South Africa*. In addition Professor Boris Krasnov (of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel) presented results on *Scale-dependence of assembly rules in flea communities on two spatial scales: combining information on abiotic factors, host composition, geographic space, phylogeny and traits*. Lastly, Professor Serge

Morand (CNRS-CIRAD, University of Montpellier2, France) presented one of the conference keynotes on *The zoo within: Evolution and ecology of host-parasite relationships*.

After the conference Professors Eßbauer and Morand visited Matthee's laboratory in the Faculty of AgriSciences where they interacted with postgraduate students and staff. During this time both visitors also presented guest seminars in the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology.

Cooperages donate oak barrels to Welgevallen cellar

Several cooperages have donated new oak barrels to the Welgevallen cellar of the Department of Viticulture and Oenology (DVO) in the Faculty of AgriSciences for the barrel maturation of 2013 Die Laan Pinotage wine. The maturation of red wine in oak wood barrels is a crucial step in the winemaking process.

These wines were tasted on 9 October by the final year Oenology class, as well as by representatives of the DVO and the cooperages. On this occasion the cooperages were also afforded the opportunity to give students more information regarding their companies and products. Afterwards students had a much clearer idea what effects different types of oak barrels may have on the taste of wine. They also learnt to know some of the oak wood suppliers in South Africa.

The DVO wishes to extend its gratitude to the cooperages, which include Radoux, Sylvain, FS Smit (Nadalie) and Boutes.

– Wessel du Toit

In Memoriam • In Memorium

Dagbreker gegroet



SYBRAND ENGELBRECHT, wat 'n MSc-student in Landbou-ekonomie was, is in 'n motorongeluk oorlede. Die ongeluk het gebeur terwyl Engelbrecht van Toska naby die Botwana-grens op pad terug Stellenbosch toe was. Dié inwoner van die manskoshuis Dagbreek was 25 jaar oud, en sal onder meer onthou word vir sy geloof en sy liefde vir sing.

Hy laat sy ouers, Frans en Irna, twee broers en sy verloofde, Marguerite Boshoff, agter. Hy was juis op pad om haar met 'n besoek te verras toe die ongeluk gebeur het.

Tsholofelo dies at age 23



TSHOLOFELO BRUTTY SEGONE who graduated with a BSc in Viticulture and Oenology in April of this year, has died at the young age of 23. She was laid to rest in her hometown of Mafikeng on 4 October. Tsholofelo, who was born on 1 August 1991, died after a short battle with a liver disease. She is survived by her mother, Dimakstso and her two younger sisters.

Tsholofele will always be remembered by all who knew her as a most pleasant person, a true lady and a gentle soul. Tsholofele's passion for the wine industry was a remarkable one and was at its peak when she completed her internship at Quoin Rock and Distell. She referred to her harvest as 'an experience I will treasure to infinity and beyond.' Sadly for the wine industry, this very special young woman's sojourn here on earth has come to an untimely end.

- Daar is ook met leedwese verneem van die afsterwe van nog 'n oudstudent van die Fakulteit, mnr Marthinus de Wet Laubscher van Senekal in die Vrystaat. Hy was 78. Mnr Laubscher het die graad BSc in Landbou in 1957 hier verwerf en was 'n inwoner van die manskoshuis Dagbreek.

Greta kyk fyn na kolgansvleis

Kolganse mag miskien baie gewild onder jagters wees, maar hulle was nog nooit 'n groot gunsteling onder smulpape nie. Al hang die vleis vir 'n volle twee weke uit om te verouder, bly dit bra taai. Boonop het dit veral in die wintermaande 'n kenmerkende metaalsmaak. So vertel dr Greta Geldenhuys, wat deur haar doktorsgraadstudies in voedselwetenskap onder andere faktore ondersoek het wat die gehalte en smaak van kolgansvleis beïnvloed.

Kolganse (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*) se groeiende getalle in Suid-Afrika het tot gevolg dat hulle dikwels deur plaasboere en jagters geteiken word. Dié voëls kan na beraming tot R1.5 miljoen skade aanrig in 'n graanland van 500 hektaar. Aangesien al hoe meer ganse gejaag word, het dr Geldenhuys die vleiskwaliteite ondersoek om 'n idee te kry van die bemerkbaarheidspotensiaal daarvan onder plaaslike vleisetters.

Haar navorsing is gedoen onder leiding van prof Louw Hoffman (Departement Veekundige Wetenskappe) en me Nina Muller (Departement Voedselwetenskap).

Verskeie internasionale wetenskaptydskrifte het reeds dr Geldenhuys se bevindings gepubliseer.

Invloed van die seisoene

Die vleis se gehalte, smaak en voedingswaarde word grootliks deur die seisoene bepaal, aangesien die voëls se dieet gedurende die winter

en somer drasties verskil. Die ganse eet gedurende die somermaande hoofsaaklik graan, terwyl hulle deur die res van die jaar wei aan 'n verskeidenheid plantmateriaal wat wissel van waterplante tot saailinge en gras.

“Veral in die winter het die vleis 'n meer wilde en onaangename metaalsmaak, terwyl dit in die somer soeter en vetteriger is en 'n soortgelyke geur as beesvleis het,” brei dr Geldenhuys uit. Die metaalsmaak is die resultaat van 'n hoë ysterinhoud. Dis moontlik skerp in die winter weens 'n verskil in die vetsuurverhouding.

Alhoewel ganse wat in die somermaande gejaag word, aangenamer smaak, is die vleis van dié wat in die wintermaande geteiken word gesonder omdat dit 'n gunstiger verhouding van omega 6 en omega 3 vetsure bevat.

Taatheid van vleis

“Almal wat kolgansvleis ken weet dat dit van nature 'n taai vleis is,” vertel dr Geldenhuys. “Dit is beslis een van die groot struikelblokke wat oorkom sal moet word alvorens die vleis suksesvol bemark sal kan word.”

Sy het onder meer vasgestel dat wryfies se vleis sagter is as dié van mannetjies. Beesvleis word gewoonlik vir twee weke in 'n koelkamer gehang om sag te word. Dieselfde typerk veroudering skyn egter geen effek op die taatheid van kolgansvleis te hê nie. Dr Geldenhuys reken dat bykomende navorsing daarvoor nog lig sal kan werp op die redes waarom die vleis so taai is.



Dr Greta Geldenhuys ondersoek 'n kolganse

Research adds impetus to battle against banana disease

A plant pathologist who hails from Springbok, Dr Diane Mostert, is helping to unravel some of the intricacies surrounding the genetic make-up of a fungus that is devastating banana plantations worldwide.

As part of her doctoral studies, Mostert investigated the diversity and distribution of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. cubense (also known as Foc) in Asian countries such as Cambodia, Vietnam, Taiwan and Malaysia. In the process, she discovered five variants of the fungus previously unknown to science.

Mostert was awarded a doctor's degree at Stellenbosch University in Plant Pathology a few days ago. She is part of the research group of Prof Altus Viljoen of the Department of Plant Pathology. His team forms part of an international group of researchers working together to curb the disease worldwide.

Says Mostert: “It seems that Foc in Asia is more diverse than previously thought, and we are now only discovering new variants that developed or evolved over time.”

One of these is a highly destructive form of the *Fusarium* wilt fungus, called Foc TR4 which was recently found in Africa for the first time – on a commercial banana export plantation in northern Mozambique.

After the discovery of Foc TR4 in Mozambique, a workshop was convened in Stellenbosch by the Southern African Development Community. This was followed by the release of a Stellenbosch Declaration, which set out the joint commitment of partners and stakeholders to understand and prevent the spread of Foc TR4 to new areas in Africa.

The research efforts of Viljoen's group are providing valuable technical insights to the handling of banana *Fusarium* wilt on the African continent. One of his doctoral students, Patrick Karangwa, is working on the diversity of the fungus present in African countries such as Burundi, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

MSc student Morgana Miller is testing whether the current quarantine and sanitation methods employed on farms are efficient in curbing the spread of *Fusarium* wilt. Rueben Tendo Ssali, a Ugandan citizen, is researching disease resistance in bananas, and Saif Al-Kaabi is characterising the fungus in Oman as part of efforts to manage its spread in his country.



Dr Diane Mostert presenting her work on *Fusarium* banana wilt at a recent international symposium on bananas.

Kalsium en boor saam 'n goeie sonskerm vir Golden Delicious-appels

Sonbrandskade aan Golden Delicious-appels kan verminder word deur bome te spuit met 'n mengsel van kalsium en boor. So meen doktore Elmi Lötze en Lynn Hoffman van die Departement Hortologie in die Fakulteit Agri-Wetenskappe, in 'n artikel in die *Journal of Horticultural Science & Biotechnology*. Hulle proewe het gewys dat sonbrandskade tot die helfte minder voorkom indien bome na volblom gespuit word met dié mineraalryke voedingstofkombinasie.

Weens Suid-Afrika se

warm klimaat is verliese weens sonbrandskade by veral vatbare kultivars besonder hoog, en kan tot 20% van Golden Delicious- en 40% van Granny Smith-appels nie uitgevoer word nie. Dié syfers is baie hoër as wat die geval in ander appelproduserende lande soos die VSA is.

Verskeie bekampingsmaatreëls om die voorkoms en intensiteit van sonbrand te verminder, word reeds met wisselende sukses gebruik. Geen enkele oplossing bestaan egter reeds wat betekenisvolle vermindering in sonbrandskade op deurlopende basis op kommersiële skaal kan waarborg nie.

Vermelde hortoloë se bevindinge hieroor is byna toevallig gemaak. Lötze wou aanvanklik kyk of die voorkoms van bitterpit in Golden

Delicious-appels verminder kon word deur 'n kommersiële produk wat kalsium bevat met en sonder boor toe te dien as blaarspuit. Na die eerste seisoen het sy 'n 50% afname in die voorkoms van sonbrand by bome gevind wat gespuit is met die kalsium- en boorkombinasie, teenoor die bome wat net met kalsium of net met boor behandel is.

Die proef is weer die volgende jaar herhaal en die eerste seisoen se positiewe resultate op die vermindering van sonbrand is weer gevind.

Die proewe is uitgevoer in die Vyeboom-distrik op die plaas 'Queen Ann'. Bome is weekliks vanaf drie tot tien weke na volblom gespuit, afhangende van die spesifieke behandeling.

Nog navorsing is nou nodig

om te verstaan hoe en waarom die kalsium- en boorkombinasie so goed werk op Golden Delicious-appels. Die navorsers wil ook vasstel of dit net so goed sal wees om sonbrand by ander kultivars te verminder, en of dit ook in ander formulasies toegedien kan word.

Lötze meen: “Die voorkomende gebruik van 'n blaarspuittoediening van boor en kalsium kan vooroesverliese betekenisvol verminder. Dit is 'n volhoubare, omgewingsvriendelike en bekostigbare alternatief om die alomteenwoordige, ernstige probleem van sonbrandskade in die boord aan te spreek.”

Lötze en Hoffman se navorsing is finansieel deur ElimKunsmis Edms Bpk ondersteun.



Auret and Daniëls attend PMA's programme in California



Francois Auret and Ivanhoe Daniëls.

Francois Auret and Ivanhoe Daniëls of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Food Science respectively, were recently amongst only nine foreign students in a group of 41 who were invited to Anaheim in California to attend the Produce Marketing Association's (PMA) Fresh Summit Conference and Expo as part of the Pack Family Career Pathways Program.

The PMA Foundation Career Pathways Program brings top agriculture, agribusiness, food marketing students and faculty members from universities to one of six industry events each year. The 41 students invited in October were from 13 universities worldwide – 32 were from universities in the US.

The programme, jam packed with opportunities to learn and to network, offered valuable skills to operate within the fresh produce sector in the future. Auret and Daniëls were introduced to people that have made it to the top of their profession and they shared their secrets and ideas through panel discussions and one on one networking opportunities. The conference itself, attended by roughly 26 000 attendees, offered a wealth of workshops introducing the two Maties to some amazing speakers and interesting topics, ranging from global trade flow to best practices on retaining employees.

The Expo itself – one of the largest in the world – showcased all the latest technology and gave the two students a glimpse of how the future of the industry would look like. Visiting the 1100 exhibitors on one day was quite a challenge!

Auret and Daniëls say they gained vast knowledge from this opportunity. They expressed their heartfelt appreciation to the Citrus Academy, Univeg and the Rhodes Food group for financially supporting them to enjoy “an experience of a lifetime,” and to the Faculty of AgriSciences for affording them the opportunity to attend.



Die drie finaliste vir die Maties-kanoklub se Turbo Toppie van die Jaar-wisseltrofee is (van links) Arrie de Kock, Johan van Rooyen (wenner) en Mossie Serdyn.

Maties-kanoklub vereer sy super Turbo Toppies

Maties-kanoklub het vanjaar die eerste keer sy ouer lede vereer met die toekenning van 'n Turbo Toppie-wisseltrofee vir uitsonderlike prestasie in dié roeisport.

Johan van Rooyen (66) is aangewys as die eerste wenner uit drie finaliste wat Arrie de Kock en Johan (Mossie) Serdyn ingesluit het. Die bepalings vir die toekenning is onder meer dat die persoon ouer as 50 moet wees en 'n ingeskrewe lid van Maties Kanoklub is. Vervolgens word die persoon se roeiprestasies die afgelope seisoen in ag geneem.

Benewens podium-posisies in sy klas in verskeie rivier-wedvaarte die afgelope jaar, het Johan ook die Bergrivier-, Umkomaas-, Duzi- en Visrivier-marathons vanjaar voltooi. Voorts het hy ook nasionale kleure verwerf vir sy deelname aan die Wêreld-marathonkampioenskapsbyeenkoms vanjaar waar hy 'n bronsmedalje in die K2 en 'n vyfde posisie in die K1-afdeling in sy klas behaal het. Hy het op 40-jarige ouderdom begin roei en het reeds 25 Duzi's, tien Bergriviere en vier Port Elizabeth tot Oos-Londen skiwedvaarte voltooi.

Johan sê: “Ek roei seker omdat daar nog mooi en skoon riviere bestaan om dit in te doen en om die wonderlike avontuur en kameraadskap daarvan te ervaar, wat hopelik nooit sal verdwyn nie. Dit bied my ook die geleentheid om talle van die wedvaarte saam met my seuns Inus en Francois en 'n klompie goeie pëlle te voltooi.”

- Johan is professor in Landbou-ekonomie en ook direkteur van die Standard Bank-sentrum vir Agribesigheidontwikkeling en Leierskap.

Veekunde presteer puik op kongres



Hier is die trotse lede van die Meatmasters-span – vnr is Tersia Needham, Pierre Haasbroek en Megan North en regs op die ander foto glimlag die lede van die Spring Chickens, (vnr) Daniël van der Merwe, Simone Biggs en PJ Human.

Die aanbod van 15 kongreslesings en 17 plakkate en twee van sy nagraadse studente se plakkate wat as van die voortreflikstes aangewys is – dit was die puik prestasie deur die Departement Veekundige Wetenskappe onlangs in Pretoria op die 47ste jaarlikse kongres van die Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Veekunde.

In die studentevasvrakompetisie, wat die eerste keer in die bestaan van dié kongres aangebied is, het die Departement se spanne, die Meatmasters en die Spring Chickens, naelskraap nie eerste geëindig nie, maar wel tweede en derde met net 'n enkele punt verskil! Die studentevasvrakompetisie, geborg deur die tydskrif, Veeplaas, het sommer vir hope opwinding gesorg.

Nicole Teuchert en Ninja Boshof, wat albei pas afgestudeer en die graad MSC verwerf het, se plakkate is onderskeidelik aangewys as die algehele beste plakkate tydens die kongres en as een van die nege bestes op die kongres wat tydens 'n amptelike plakkatsessie deur 'n nagraadse student aangebied is (kyk berig hiernaas oor die prys wat Nicole gewen het). Benewens Teuchert en Boshof, het prof Christiaan Cruywagen, doktore Helet Lambrechts, Elsje Pieterse en Emiliano Raffrenato en 13 studente, die kongres bygewoon.

Nicole Teuchert, who recently obtained an MSc degree in the Department of Animal Sciences became the first recipient of the AFMA (Association of Animal Feed Manufacturers) prize initiated as an incentive for students in animal nutrition to present quality research of scientific and industry relevance. This initiative was launched at the 47th SA Society for Animal Science



(SASAS) Congress that was held in Pretoria recently (see adjacent report). The research posters were evaluated by a panel of judges from AFMA's Technical Committee, and specific aspects such as scientific expression and general presentation of the research, as well as the relevance of the science principles to industry, were considered. Nicole's poster carried the title “Comparison of production parameters, organ weights, and bone strength of broilers supplemented with Ateli plus.” De Wet Boshoff, chairperson of AFMA, is pictured here awarding the cash prize and complimentary AFMA Symposium attendance to Nicole at the prestigious SASAS gala dinner. It is envisaged that this initiative will be continued at future SASAS congresses in an effort to strengthen the relationship between industry and academia, and also to promote the important role that science in animal nutrition plays in feeding the future populations of the world.