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Prince Harry lends a hand to Leslie and her team...

Making the acquaintance of Britain's Prince Harry in the African bush was the experience that recently befell Dr Alison Leslie and her research team of the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology. And it was by no means merely a brief encounter as they were assisted by the prince for a few days while in the Majete Wildlife Reserve in Malawi, participating in a huge mammal relocation project. Leslie's research team also placed satellite collars on the three largest adult lions in the Majete to gather data for a study on the diet and habitat use of the lion pride.

At the same time as the translocation event, an adult male Black rhino was donated to the Majete by Liwonde National Park (also in Malawi) and Prince Harry accompanied the rhino to its new home. He also made time to assist the capture and research team in the bush for a few days.

- Pictured here shortly after a satellite collar was placed on one of the Majete Reserve's three largest lions, are Britain's Prince Harry (right) with Dr Alison Leslie (second from the left), MSc students Charli de Vos and Willem Briers-Louw, and Kester Vickery of the Tracy & Du Plessis Game Capture concern.

Lancewood, Yara en Nexus^{AG} vat voor as gholfdag-borge

“Die Fakulteit verleen jaarliks finansiële ondersteuning aan akademiese verdienstelike studente waarsonder baie nie hul studies sou kon voortsit nie. Daarom is ons diep dankbaar oor die positiewe wyse waarop industrieën note en ander ondersteuners die Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe gholfdag ondersteun, en sodoende ook 'n beursfonds waarby ons behoefteige studente direk kan baat.”

Só gesels prof Danie Brink, waarnemende dekaan van die Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe, op die vooraand van die sewende jaarlike Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe gholfdag wat op 17 November plaasvind.

KALENDER 2016

03 Nov	Konvokasie
16 Nov	November-eksamen: eerste geleentheid eindig
17 Nov	November-eksamen: tweede geleentheid begin
23 Nov	Laaste dag vir elektroniese inlewering van tesisse en proefskefifte vir Des-gradeplegtigheid
02 Des	Bekendmaking van November-eksamen (1ste geleentheid)
03 Des	November-eksamen: (2de geleentheid) eindig.
07 Des	Gradeplegtigheid (17:30) (vyfde plegtigheid)
08 Des	Doktorsgradeplegtigheid (14:00) (sewende plegtigheid)
23 Des	US-kantore sluit 12:45



Foto: Carl Fourie/Gallo Images

BScAgric-student Kobus van Dyk is vanjaar aangewys as die WP-rugbyspan se mees belowende voorspeler. Dié agsteman is 1,96 meter lank, weeg 108kg en hoop om aan die einde van die jaar graad te vang (kyk berig op bl 3).

borg word. Die medeborge vir vanjaar se geleentheid is die kaasvervaardiger Lancewood, die gewasoplossingsdiensverskaffer Nexus^{AG} en die gewasvoedingsmaatskappy Yara Cape.

Lancewood

Lancewood is 'n gereelde ondersteuner van die Fakulteit se gholfdag, en tree vanjaar vir die eerste keer as medeborg op. Die maatskappy is bekend vir sy verskeidenheid kase en smere, waaronder talle pryswenners. Dit ondersteun gereeld soortgelyke geleenthede.

Maans Ammon, Lancewood se nasionale handelsbestuurder, het die hoop uitgespreek dat meer studente 'n loopbaan in die suiwelbedryf sal oorweeg, omdat kundigheid so 'n belangrike aspek van die bedryf se sukses is. Hy sê daar is groot druk op melkproduksie in Suid-Afrika, weens die droogte en die groot aanvraag na suiwelprodukte.

“Die getal suiwelboere daal jaarliks, en dit veroorsaak kommer oor toekomstige produksies. Dit wil voorkom asof die kundigheidsbasis in die suiwelindustrie aan die afneem is.”

Nexus^{AG}

Dit is reeds die derde jaar dat Nexus^{AG} by die gholfdag betrokke is. Die onderneming verskaf volhoubare gewasoplossingsdienste in terme van oesbeskerming, plantvoeding en grondkondisionering aan plaaslike landbouprodusente. Landbou is dus die ekonomiese sektor waarbinne Nexus^{AG} grootliks sake doen.

“Ons ag dit daarom belangrik om geleenthede aan die landbouleiers van die toekoms te bied,” sê Jacques du Preez, hoofuitvoerende bestuurder van Nexus^{AG} in die Paarl.

“Oorgenoeg landboukundigheid is nodig om voedselsekerheid wêreldwyd te verseker, en dit word onder meer gekweek by tersiêre instellings soos die US se Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe.”

Benewens die betrokkenheid by die gholfdag ondersteun Nexus^{AG} ook vyf onderrigbeurse op nagraadse, voorgaarde en skoolvlak. Vier van dié beursstudente studeer tans 'n landbouverwante program aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch.

Yara Cape

Yara verskaf plantvoedingsprodukte aan die primêre landboubedryf in meer as 150 lande. Yara Cape het 'n bemarkingsnetwerk vir produkte en dienste vir alle gewastipes regoor die Wes-, Suid- en Oos-Kaap.

Die gholfdag is nie die enigste manier waarop Yara Cape by die werkzaamhede van die Fakulteit betrokke is nie. Die onderneming borg onder meer drie nagraadse beurse vir studente in die Departement Agronomie en Hortologie, en ondersteun navorsingsprojekte by laasvermelde departement. Daarby borg dit ook die kunsmis wat jaarliks deur die Departement Agronomie benodig word.

“Ons sien die Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe as 'n belangrike rolspeler en vennoot om kennis- en kundigheidsvlakke in die landbou-sektor uit te brei én jong landbouwetenskaplikes op te lei,” vertel Julie de Kock, bemarkingsbestuurder van Yara Cape.

Hy hoop dat die maatskappy se ondersteuning van die gholfdag – en daardeur dus ook die Fakulteit se beursfonds – sal bydra tot kwaliteit landbou-opleiding vir mense met 'n passie vir die bedryf.

vervolg op bl 2

Akademie goud vir Michael Samways

Insekbewaringskundige en biodiversiteitskenner prof Michael Samways is vanjaar se ontvanger van die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns se Goue Medalje. Dit is op 8 Oktober by 'n geleentheid op Stellenbosch aan hierdie A-geëvalueerde navorser oorhandig.

Hy het reeds in 2007 die SA Akademie se Senior Kaptein Scott Medalje ontvang, asook die Goue Medalje van die Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) in 2008.

Prof Samways was vir jare die voorstitter van die Departement Bewaringsekologie en Entomologie. Dié gewilde studieleier en mentor vir talle jong akademici is tans 'n

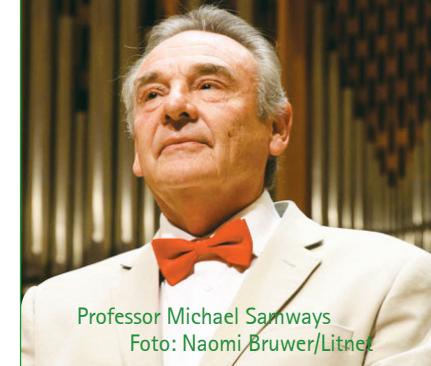
uitgelese professor en akademiese prinsipaal in die departement, en sit sy navorsingswerk oor onder meer naaldekokers en ander insekte voort.

Die SA Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns se Goue Medalje is aan hom toegeken uit erkenning vir die uitstaande navorsingsrekord in verskeie veldes wat hy oor die afgelope 40 jaar opgebou het. Samways word as die mees produktiewe navorser wêreldwyd oor aspekte rondom insekbewaring beskou, en het 'n hand gehad in meer as 375 wetenskaplike artikels en 15 boeke. Sy mees onlangse boek is die 224-blad *Manual of Freshwater Assessment for South Africa: Dragonfly Biotic Index*, wat hy

in samewerking met dr John Simaka van die Departement Grondkunde geskryf het.

Oor die jare het hy talle insekspesies ontdek of herontdek, en daarby het hy ook 'n groot rol gespeel om Cousine-eiland in die Seychelles tot sy natuurlike glorie te herstel. Samways is reeds die afgelope paar jaar die president van die Internasionale Vereniging vir Orthopteriste vir diegene wat 'n belangstelling in sprinkane en krieke het.

Die Akademie het ook melding gemaak van die wyse waarop hy dit deur sy loopbaan heen reggekry het om met die korporatiewe sektor en bewaringsorganisasies saam te



Professor Michael Samways

Foto: Naomi Bruwer/Litnet

werk, en sodoende sy bevindinge in praktykgerigte toepassings omgesit het. Samways werk onder meer saam met groot Suid-Afrikaanse maatskappye om houtproduksie te optimaliseer sonder dat dit te veel impak op die omgewing het.



The proud S'coolBeans team (from left) Carin-Marie Engelbrecht, Shannon Howell, Megan Kleyn, Cenette Bezuidenhout, Taryn Harding and Nicholas Grobbelaar and Prof Gunnar Sigge (back row), chair of the SU Department of Food Science.

S'coolBeans bags second spot in Dublin competition

S'coolBeans, a nutritious chocolate spread containing sweet potato and sugar beans, was placed second in the international Food Science Students Fighting Hunger product development competition. The low-cost spread is the brain child of a group of Food Science students. They travelled to Dublin in Ireland to compete against nine other teams from Costa Rica, Singapore, Indonesia and South Africa.

The competition was held at the 18th World Congress of Food Science and Technology of the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFOST). This competition encourages undergraduate

students to use their knowledge and skills to develop innovative food products to combat hunger.

S'coolBeans is a low cost chocolate and hazelnut flavoured spread made from fermented red speckled beans (also known as sugar beans) and sweet potato. It potentially provides a good way by which parents can sneak more vegetables into their children's meals.

S'coolBeans was developed in 2014 by Cenette Bezuidenhout, Carin-Marie Engelbrecht, Nicholas Grobbelaar, Taryn Harding, Shannon Howell and Megan Kleyn, as part of product development, a final year BSc Food Science module. Cenette,

to attract a potential manufacturer that can take it further.

The competition was won by a team from Costa Rica, for a nutritious tortilla mixture aimed at pregnant women. A team from the University of Pretoria received the prize for the best presentation.

Alumnus deur SA vrugtebedryf vereer

By die onlangse geleentheid van die Suid-Afrikaanse Vrugtebedryf het die Innovasieprys aan steenvrug-onderstamkennner dr Piet Stassen gegaan. Dié oudstudent van die Fakulteit het in 1980 sy PhD-graad onder leiding van prof Daan Strydom verwerf, en het daarna voortgegaan om deeglik sy merk as navorser in onder meer die vrugte-en rooibosbedryf te maak. Hy is van die min kenners in die plaaslike bedryf wat oor 'n PhD én 'n DSc-graad in landbou beskik.



Dr Piet Stassen en skrywer, Engela Duvenage

Vryskutskrywer Engela Duvenage, wat gereeld berig oor die Fakulteit se navorsingsprojekte en bedrywighede, het op haar beurt die Izethelo Mediatoekenning vir Uitstaande Joernalistiek ontvang. Sy doen veral graag verslag oor nuwe navorsingsbevindings en oor die wetenskaplike wat agter die skerms daaraan werk, onder meer ter bevordering van die landboubedryf.

Lancewood, Yara en Nexus^{AG} vat voor as gholfdag-borge (van bl I)

De Kock voeg by: "Die Suid-Afrikaanse landbou het ondanks vele uitdagings, 'n vooruitstrewende toekoms indien dit reg bestuur word, en daarom is kennis en kundigheid 'n noodsaaklike hulpbron. Ons maatskappyfilosofie heg ook groot waarde

daaraan, en daarom is ons slagspreuk 'Knowledge Grows'".

- Gholfdag-organiseerder, me Carin Bruce van die Fakulteit Agriwetenskappe, sê die speellys vir die dag is reeds vol, maar

industrievnette en oudstudente is steeds welkom om by te dra tot hierdie waardevolle fondswerwingspoging. Vir meer inligting, kontak haar by cbruce@sun.ac.za of 021 808 9047.



Further SAWMA honour for Louw Hoffman

Prof Louw Hoffman (picture) of the Department of Animal Sciences, has been selected to serve another term as an honorary member of the council of the South African Wildlife Management Association (SAWMA).

Louw, together with colleagues Drs Helet Lambrechts and Monlee Rudman, recently attended the annual SAWMA symposium at the Tzaneen Country Lodge in Limpopo Province. The event was hosted by Limpopo Province's Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, and had as theme *Sustainable Wildlife Management: Striking a Balance?* It was attended by some 180 delegates from academic institutions, local NGOs and conservation-related government departments.

Monlee, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Animal Sciences, presented part of her PhD research entitled "*The use of permanent passageways in fences to accommodate warthog movement*," while Lambrechts facilitated the presentation of the first ever SAWMA Student Quiz competition. The latter was sponsored by Game Farm of the Plaas Publishing Group and was won by the Leeuloop team of the University of Venda.

Faculty welcomes RUFORUM participants



Pictured here are the more than 300 students and academics who visited the campus as part of RUFORUM.

The Faculty's facilities and staff made an impression on the more than 300 students and academics visiting the campus as part of the programme of the 5th African Higher Agricultural Education Week and the Biennial Conference of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM).

The students from all over Africa were afforded the opportunity to visit one of the Faculty's 11 departments, and learnt more about the research, study programmes and transdisciplinary initiatives offered.

At the Department of Food Science, for instance, lecturers highlighted work being done on product development, food safety, wastewater treatment and the X-ray scanning of cereals. Visitors to the Department of Forestry and Wood Science received a crash course about the different informative university websites, while presentations about PhD research being conducted in

the Department of Genetics led to lively discussions about attitudes towards using biotechnology to ensure food security on the continent.

The RUFORUM visitors were also treated to a short campus tour and a picnic in Jan Marais Park.

Acting dean Prof Danie Brink, new chair of the RUFORUM Dean's Forum, hosted more than 80 deans of agricultural faculties across Africa. Ways to motivate staff members to pursue further academic qualifications and the necessity to include concepts of entrepreneurship within agriculture curriculums were discussed.

Brink says RUFORUM as a platform allows for discussions about how to address the challenges faced throughout Africa: "It helps SU to build networks throughout the continent by which it can help to collaboratively and adequately address these issues."

International recognition for Food Science's Sigge and Gouws

Dublin, Ireland, has been extremely kind to the Department of Food Science in 2016.

Firstly, Prof Pieter Gouws was appointed as the South African representative on the ICFMH (International Commission of Food Microbiology and Hygiene) during its recent conference (FoodMicro 2016) in Dublin. Secondly, also in Dublin, the Department was awarded accreditation for its undergraduate Food Science degree by the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST). This was in recognition for the high standard of the Food Science

degree at Stellenbosch, placing it on par with food science degrees around the world.

In 2015 Prof Gunnar Sigge was elected to the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) Annual Meeting Scientific Programme Advisory Panel (AMSPAP) for the 2016 and 2017 versions of the Institute's Annual Meeting and Food Expo. During the abovementioned IUFoST Congress, Sigge was invited to chair the Panel for IFT17, which will be held in Las Vegas, USA, from 25 to 28 June 2017. Sigge is only one of two non-Americans to serve on AMSPAP.



Profs Gunnar Sigge and Pieter Gouws.

The "luck" of the Irish certainly was with the Department in Dublin in 2016 (see also the S'coolbeans success story on page 2 of this Newsletter).

Historic invite from major Mozambican fish farm

This year's final year Aquaculture students of the Department of Animal Sciences recently paid a historic visit to the MozTilapia Fish Farm at Tofu, north of Maputo in Mozambique. It was the first time that MozTilapia had extended an invitation to SU's Aquaculture final years to visit its facilities. The group was accompanied by Dr Neill Goosen of the Department of Process Engineering.

MozTilapia is pioneering commercial aquaculture in rural Mozambique, and approached SU some time ago to collaborate on research projects that address tilapia growth performance and the manufacturing of aquaculture feeds from locally available raw materials. The logistics around feed supply are difficult in Mozambique and MozTilapia is thus planning to build a feed factory that could provide a reliable and affordable product to the growing number of rural fish farmers in the country.

The visiting students were tasked to evaluate the farming systems and assess the potential of conducting research and accommodating research groups for short visits. Future collaboration will involve the placement of postgraduate students at Tofu to carry out research projects relevant to the need of the local industry.



Dr Neill Goosen (kneeling) is pictured here with the group of Aquaculture students he accompanied on a visit to the MozTilapia Fish Farm in Mozambique. They are (from left to right) Stephan Gericke, Myles van Heerden, Tiaan Scholtz, Nadia Heye and Devon Anderson.

Kobus van Dyk aangewys as mees belowende WP-voorspeler

Kobus van Dyk, 'n BScAgric-student, is as die mees belowende voorspeler in vanjaar se Westelike Provinserugbyspan aangewys. Dié toekenning is onlangs op die WP-Rugby Voetbalunie se jaarlikse prysuitdelingsgeselskapheid aan hom oorhandig.

Van Dyk, wat agtstem van sy sokkies staan en 108 kg weeg, het vroeër vanjaar sy debuut vir WP gemaak. Hy het ook een wedstryd vir die Stormers gespeel.

Van Dyk was die afgelope seisoen die enigste heeltydse Matie-student in die senior WP-rugbyspan. Hy is 'n finalejaarstudent en volg die program BScAgric met Landbou-ekonomiese en Agronomie as hoofvakke.

Hy vertel sy sportloopbaan het eers op universiteit behoorlik momentum gekry. Hy was die afgelope twee seisoene een van die Maties se voorste driedrukkers in die Varsitybekerreeks en het ook WP se o/21-span verteenwoordig.

Van Dyk sê dit was vir hom nog altyd 'n uitgemaakte saak dat hy na afloop van sy rugbyloopbaan wil gaan boer. Daarom het hy gekies om 'n landbougerigte studieprogram te volg.

"Ek het al van kleintyd af saam met my pa op die plaas rondgery en gehelp waar ek kon," vertel die oudste van drie seuns wat op die graanplaas Anyskop naby Caledon grootgeword het.

Hy erken dit verg die afgelope paar maande baie fyn beplanning om sy studies én sportbedrywighede te kombineer, maar weet dat sy harde werk saam help vorm aan sy toekomsdrome.

Hy vervolg: "Op die oomblik het ek nie baie aftyd nie, want as ek van oefening af kom, moet ek begin leer of take doen en ek is dankbaar vir die wyse waarop my dosente my tegemoet kom. Ek probeer om nie my studies af te skeep nie, want hoe vinniger ek dit kan klaarkry, hoe meer tyd gaan ek hê om aan my rugby te bestee." Dit is 'n uitgemaakte saak dat hy heel realisties op sy studies ingestel is.

Benewens graad vang aan die einde van vanjaar, is sy visier ook daarop ingestel om 'n kontrak by die Stormers-groep vir 2017 los te slaan, en soveel moontlik speelkans in Kaapse spanne te kry.

"Nadat ek hierdie jaar al die gevoel van Super Rugby in een wedstryd ervaar het, kan ek nie wag om nog te speel nie," vertel dié oudleerdeur van die Hoërskool Overberg op Caledon en Rüens Kollege by Klipdale. En voeg hy by: "Ek gaan dus baie hard werk om daardie doel te bereik."

Leslie wins coveted IUCN-CSG Castillo Conservation Award



Dr Alison Leslie (picture) of the Department of Conservation Ecology has won the prestigious IUCN-Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) Conservation Award for her contribution to crocodile research in Africa. The award was presented to her at the IUCN-CSG's meeting held in the Kruger National Park. The meeting was attended by 352 participants from 43 countries.

The "unglamorous" trophy (see picture on contents page) will be held by Leslie until May 2018 when the next meeting of the IUCN-Crocodile Specialist Group takes place in Argentina. Leslie donated the monetary part of her award to one of her colleagues studying the highly endangered gharial crocodile in India, who has subsequently established the Dr Alison Leslie-Subir Chowfin Corpus Fund for Gharial Research and Conservation in northern India.



Field visit by South Africa-Sweden collaborative research team

Experts to scrutinise organic fruit production in the Western Cape

An international team of research entomologists, nematologists and plant pathologists gathered in Stellenbosch recently to initiate a collaborative project entitled: *Ground cover management in organic orchards in South Africa: Trade-offs between above- and belowground ecosystem services*.

The project aims to understand the ecological mechanisms that underlie the simultaneous provision of above- and belowground mechanisms, which will assist organic growers to make informed decisions about ground cover management practices. In South Africa, very little scientific information exists for effective organic fruit production, and as a consequence very few certified organic fruit growers exist, particularly in the Western Cape.

This project is funded by the Ekhaga Foundation in Sweden, and is managed by Dr Klaus Birkhofer of Lund University in Sweden. Collaborators from SU's Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology include Drs Pia Addison, Antoinette Malan, Nomakholwa Stokwe, Corey Bazelet, Fisayo Daramola, and Matthew Addison and Caro Kapp.

The first meeting included field visits to select trial sites, and a workshop to discuss the trial layout and sampling protocols. Field work will start in November with focus on ground cover management in various fruit types (primarily stone fruit). The project duration is 18 months, during which time there will be several opportunities for the collaborators to meet and work together to gather data.

Henk assists the young Aquaculture generation in Nigeria; gathers facts on the Norwegian Aquaculture industry

- Henk Stander (picture), who is associated with the Department of Animal Sciences' Aquaculture Section, was recently appointed as an Aquaculture Project advisor to the Young Fishers Global Network, a non-government organisation (NGO) established to educate Nigerian youth to become tomorrow's leaders in the country's aquaculture industry. The NGO works with 54 African secondary schools on Fisheries and Aquaculture projects, and is mainly involved with education and knowledge transfer, and extension and developmental work. It is registered with the Federal Government's Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) in Nigeria, and appears on the list of the UN Global Compact initiatives, which enjoy the approval of UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon.
- In August 2011 the late Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof Russel Botman, signed a research contract in Oslo, Norway, with the Aquaculture Technology company STORVIK AQUA when he accompanied State President Zuma there on a formal State visit. Recently Stander visited Norway to learn more of the activities in Norwegian aquaculture industries. He visited research institutions that included the Institute of Marine Research of the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science in Oslo, and the Atlantic Salmon production facilities of LERØY and STERNER. The research relationship with STORVIK AQUA was also enhanced by a formal two-day visit by Henk.



CITES listings elate SU shark researchers

Stellenbosch University shark geneticists are elated about the news that greater protection has been given to thresher sharks, silky sharks and various mobula ray species. These marine species were included on the CITES Appendix II list at the recent Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) convention of the parties (CoPI7) in Johannesburg.

CITES is widely recognised as an effective tool to reduce global trade in endangered species.

According to Dr Aletta Bester-van der Merwe of the Department of Genetics and her research affiliate Katie Gledhill the CITES listing ensures that international trade in these species are managed sustainably and will not impact wild populations.

Gledhill is a PhD student at the University of Technology Sydney and works as a research scientist for the South African Shark Conservancy. Her PhD work is also supervised by Bester-van der Merwe of the Molecular Breeding and Biodiversity Group of Stellenbosch University's Department of Genetics. The Group has several ongoing shark genetics projects, among others on exploited shark species such as the CITES-listed smooth hammerhead shark.

"Our current research at Stellenbosch University on shark species demonstrates the connectivity of shark populations in different regions and highlights the need for a trans-national approach to the conservation and management of threatened shark and ray species," says Bester-van der Merwe.

Gledhill was an invited speaker at a pre-CITES CoPI7 shark conservation workshop in Cape Town in mid-September hosted by the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). The workshop was attended by delegates from Southern Africa and the West Indian Ocean region.

She presented information about the unique biodiversity of Southern African sharks and rays, including aspects of her postgraduate research. She is investigating the population genetics of South Africa's endemic catsharks, and assists marine scientists to distinguish different species based on molecular and taxonomic data.



Alan Winde, provincial minister of Economic Opportunities (second from the left) with the winners of the pruning competition, (from the left) Chanté du Preez (second prize), Benley Visagie (winner) and Naudé Opperman (third prize).

CPUT wins FELCO Pruning Competition

The recent 3rd FELCO-sponsored pruning competition between Stellenbosch University (SU), Elsenburg Agricultural College and CPUT final-year Viticulture students was won by Benley Visagie of CPUT.

Weather conditions were perfect for the event hosted in the Welgevallen vineyards at SU. Each of the three participating students was given a row of unpruned vines, and had to perform spur pruning, as well as prune Cazenave units where applicable, in the neatest possible fashion and according to theoretical principles.

Christophe Nicolet, CEO of FELCO Switzerland, welcomed all the guests and participants, providing them with some insights into this family-owned business. FELCO has been exporting to South Africa since 1946 – 70 years and is still growing!

Livio Tognon of Simonit & Sirch, the Italian vineyard specialists, presented a talk on “pruning, respecting the sap flow,” which challenged the audience’s more conventional approach to pruning. This method has, however, gained momentum over the last three years in the South African wine industry.

Alan Winde, provincial Minister of Economic Opportunities, joined the festivities, giving his take on pruning with an entertaining political slant. Rico Basson from VINPRO followed with a motivational talk about innovation in the industry, and what it is going to take for this generation of future winemakers and viticulturists to stay ahead of the game.

Gys Liebenberg, managing director of FELCO, announced the winners, with Benley Visagie (CPUT) taking first prize, Chanté du Preez (Elsenburg) second prize and Naudé Opperman with his 1965 FELCO Popular from SU, claiming third prize.

- A big thank you to FELCO for sponsoring this event.

Royal Forestry visit to Forestry and Wood Science

The Royal Forestry Society's (RFS) Education Manager, Ted Wilson, recently visited the Department of Forestry and Wood Science to discuss forestry education in the UK and South Africa, and identify potential areas for future collaboration. Several SU students have had successful placements and internships outside

South Africa in recent years, and it is hoped that the RFS can help promote opportunities with the UK and Europe as part of local future foresters' programme.



Ted Wilson (second from the right) is pictured here at Stellenbosch with (from the left): Cori Ham and Pierre Ackerman of SU's Department of Forestry and Wood Science, and Reino Pulkki (Lakehead University, Canada).



Pictured here are delegates from 19 African countries who attended the kick-start meeting of a fruit fly project at the Eduardo Mondale University in Mozambique.

Addison part of fruit fly project with 19 African countries

Dr Pia Addison of the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology has been invited to collaborate on a new regional project involving enhancing capacity for detection, surveillance and suppression of exotic and established fruit fly species through integration of sterile insect technique and other suppression methods.

The first meeting to kick-start the four year project took place recently in Maputo, Mozambique, at the Eduardo Mondale University, funded and co-ordinated by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and FAO. The overall objective of the project is to enhance agricultural productivity in Africa and the Indian Ocean region by supporting the production of fruit fly free fruits and vegetables, meeting international standards.

The problem is being addressed through a larger, regional project due to the transboundary nature of fruit flies; the need to exchange experiences and share research outputs between participating countries and the need for a standard response to outbreak protocols; as well as co-operation among member states on the response to potential invasions of exotic fruit flies and creation of areas of low pest prevalence – to secure export markets.

Nineteen African countries are involved, including the southern African region, West and East Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands. Stakeholders include ministries responsible for surveillance and eradication of invasive flies, agricultural research and extension services, as well as agricultural colleges and universities.

CP van der Merwe palm Ballie Wahl-merietetoekenning in

CP van der Merwe, 'n finalejaarstudent in die Departement Hortologie, is vanjaar die derde ontvanger van die Ballie Wahl-merietetoekenning.

Hierdie toekenning word jaarliks toegeken aan die beste derdejaarstudent in die sitruskursus wat deur die Departement Hortologie aangebied word. In die kursus word aandag gegee aan aspekte soos kultivarselkies, invloed van klimaat op produksie, asook die vestiging en bestuur van 'n sitrusboerd. Voorts word die onderliggende fisiologie wat vrugkwaliteit kan beïnvloed, asook boommanipulasie en die gebruik van plantgroeireguleerders om vrugte van optimum interne en eksterne kwaliteit te produseer, ook in diepte bestudeer.

Die Citrus Technical Association (CTA), 'n vrywillige assosiasie van tegniese kundiges wat sedert

1984 bestaan en direk by sitrusnavorsing, produksie en uitvoere betrokke is, borg die onlangs ingestelde toekenning. Met die toekenning van hierdie merieteprys verleen die sitrusbedryf erkenning aan uitmuntendheid en moedig ook verdere studies in sitrus aan.

Ballie Wahl is nie net in Suid Afrika nie, maar ook wêreldwyd een van die bekendste name in die sitrusbedryf. Sy tegniese kennis en vermoë om al die komplekse aspekte met betrekking tot produksie van sitrusvrugte te integreer, word nasionaal en internasionaal hoog aangeslaan. Ballie is 'n alumnus van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch. Nadat hy sy BScAgric-graad in 1966 verwerf het, het hy by die sitrusbedryf betrokke geraak as deel van die Sitrusbeurs se tegniese span. Sedertdien het hy die SA-sitrusbedryf



CP van der Merwe (regs) en Ballie Wahl tydens die oorhandiging van die Ballie Wahl-toekenning.

in verskeie posisies gedien voordat hy in 2006 amptelik agetreee het.

CP van der Merwe is van Piketberg en volg die program BScAgric met Hortologie en Grondkunde as hoofvakke.

Landbou-ekonomies groet Brian Meyer na 43 jaar

Na 'n "leeftyd" by die Departement Landbou-Ekonomie het Brian Meyer in September afgetree. Jan Greyling het met hom gesels.

Brian het pas na skool in 1973 by die Departement aangesluit, en sedertdien het die Universiteit, die mense en die land baie verander.

Brian vertel: "In die begin het ons nie 'n betaalstrokie of selfs 'n koevert gekry nie. Ons moes bloot aan die einde van die maand by die kluis aanmeld waar die fakulteitsbestuurder ons kontant in die hand gestop het. In 1973 het ek R30 'n maand verdien. Dit was nie min nie, ek kon my meisie bioskoop toe neem en daarvan leef. Ons het gewoonlik ook minder as die R30 gekry, want die fakulteitsbestuurder het ook lekker goed verkoop – monkeys, slangetjies, toffies en daai soort dinge – en hy het eers jou skuld afgetrek voor jy geld gekry het."

Oor die mense: "Ek onthou nog toe Nick (Vink) en Theo (Kleynhans) as eerstejaars by die Universiteit aangekom het. Hulle was toe nog pure kind; ek en Theo het een dag resies gehardloop in die gang. Ek onthou ook die tyd toe Karaan as een van die eerste swart studente by die Departement ingeskryf het. Almal het hom gevra waarom hy landbou studeer, maar toe hulle sy punte sien, het hul ophou vra."

Oor die veranderinge in die land sê Brian: "Hoewel dinge buite die Departement anders was, het ek nooit gevoel dat dit 'n geval van ek en hulle was nie. Ek onthou die dag toe prof Kassier my gevra het om 'n ander departement uit te help. Daardieoggend het een van hulle

personeellede my kom oplaai en hy het my agter op die bakkie laat sit. Hy moes glo óók iemand anders oplaai... die dag was lekker koud, so dat jou ore pyn van die wind. Toe ons by Coetzenburg kom en dit steeds net ons twee was, het ek maar afgeklim en teruggestap Departement toe. Ek het die situasie aan prof Kassier verduidelik en hy het hulle opgebel om te sê dat ek hulle nie kan help nie. Hy het ook so paar ander dinge bygevoeg wat ek nie kan herhaal nie."

Oor waarom hy so lank gebly het sê Brian: "As ek kon, sou ek by die Departement bly tot ek tagtig is. Deur die jare was ek baie bevoorreg om saam met goeie mense te werk. Jy kan maar kyk, mense bly lank by die Universiteit."

bou-Ekonomie
TURAL ECONOMICS



Brian en sy sak.

- Na 43 jaar wil ons almal vir Brian baie dankie sê vir sy ewig positiewe teenwoordigheid, ons gaan jou sekerlik mis. Ons sien egter uit om nog gereeld te kuier, en wens jou alle sukses met die verfkontrakteursbesheid toe.



Forestry and Wood Science welcomes Ben Spong

Dr Ben Spong, (picture) a Forest Engineering/Forest Operations Faculty member from West Virginia University in the USA, has arrived at the Department of Forestry and Wood Science for an extended research visit.

During his sabbatical he says he would like to collaborate with faculty, students, and industrial partners working in the area of forest operations – specifically on logging capacity and productivity topics.

Spong has been involved in the logging industry since 1993 and through his current work as the Forest Operations Extension Specialist with the Appalachian Hardwood Centre at West Virginia University, he has supplied training and outreach education programmes to loggers, foresters, and many other players in the Eastern United States timber industry.

Spong's specific programming and research have focused on forest roads, logging best management practices, harvesting systems, logging safety and logging business management. He participates in many regional committees engaged in improving logging activities, including the West Virginia Forestry Association's Safety Committee, the Mountain Loggers' Safety Initiative and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative State Implementation Committee.

His work with these and other networking provides access to small logging contractors, large industrial forestry companies, and state and regional agencies and organisations to help develop and deliver educational and development programming to benefit the wide range of players in the forest products industry. Since joining West Virginia University, Spong has helped secure close to \$1.2 million in external funds to support his research and outreach programmes.

Maricel Krügel appointed as lecturer in Food Science

Dr Maricel Krügel (picture) has been appointed as a lecturer in the Department of Food Science. Maricel obtained a BSc Agriculture Food Science degree at the University of the Free State in 1999. In the following year she enrolled for an MSc in SU's Department of Food Science and upgraded to a PhD in 2002. She obtained the latter in 2006. In 2007 she did a post doctoral degree in Prof Pieter Gouws' lab at UWC and later the same year she was appointed as lecturer in the Cape Peninsula University of Technology's (CPUT) Food Technology Department. She was a senior lecturer at CPUT when she joined the Stellenbosch team in July this year.



Take up the challenge – study something new

Come 2017, three new study options will be available to students in the Faculty. One is for undergraduate students, the other for MSc students, and the third is a diploma course that offers a much clearer picture of Agronomy.

The MSc programme in Food and Nutrition Security will help policy makers and people in non-government organisations make informed decisions about food provision and food security. Included in the programme will be an overview of the socio-economic conditions, the various needs of rural communities versus city dwellers, and cultural differences in food preferences. The programme also has a solid health component, in that students will learn more about the importance of certain foodstuffs in a healthy diet and the role of epidemics, as well as about functional and genetically modified foods.

Students following the two year programme will have to attend certain block programmes at the University, but will otherwise be able to complete their studies from their home bases thanks to telematic broadcasts and video streaming.

- For more information, contact Prof Gunnar Sigge of the Department of Food Science (gos@sun.ac.za).

Enquiring minds in the seed or fertilizer industry, or those who wish to expand their knowledge of crops and fertilizer management can do a postgraduate diploma in Agronomy. It provides in-depth training opportunities to people who did not acquire their post-matric agronomy background at a university.

The course can be done full-time over one year or part-time spread over two years, so that people who are already working can also benefit

from it without giving up their jobs.

- For more information, contact Dr PJ Pieterse of the Department of Agronomy (ppj@sun.ac.za).

There is also a new option for BScAgric undergraduates, through a combination of Animal Science, Agricultural Economics and Soil Science within the overall crop production focus area of the existing Plant and Soil Science Programme.

It will provide training to would-be primary producers (thus prospective farmers and farm managers) who will have to care for the technical and financial-economic production planning of a mixed farming system. It is also ideal for future technical advisors who will be working at the input and output side of agricultural operations and who will require knowledge about different components of farming.

The new course is reminiscent of the former BScAgric Agricultural Production degree with Agronomy, Animal Production and Agricultural Economics as majors. SU has since offered different BScAgric study programmes which combine two subjects, for instance Animal Sciences with Agronomy, Agronomy with Agricultural Economics, and Agricultural Economics with Animal Sciences. The new BScAgric programme combines all three subjects.

- For more information, contact Prof Theo Kleynhans of the Department of Agricultural Economics (tek1@sun.ac.za).

Seminaar plaas soeklig op appelhervestigingsiekte

Produsente, navorsers, studente en ander kundiges is op 'n mini-seminaar op hoogte gestel van die jongste plaaslike én internasionale navorsingsnuus oor hoe om appelhervestigingsiekte sonder die gebruik van berokingsmiddels te beheer.

Die geleentheid is deur HORTGRO in samewerking met plantpatoloë van die Universiteit Stellenbosch (US) aangebied. Die sprekers was dr Mark Mazzola van die Amerikaanse Departement van Landbou (USDA), prof Adéle McLeod van die US se Departement Plantpatologie, en PhD-student Makomborero Nyoni. Mazzola, wat reeds die afgelope 20 jaar navorsing doen oor hoe om die siekte biologies eerder as chemies te beheer, is 'n buitengewone professor in die US se Departement Plantpatologie.

Appelherplantsiekte veroorsaak swak groei en lae produksie by bome wat aangeplant word in boorde waarin voorheen reeds met appels geboer is. Onder meer veroorsaak dit dat jong bome se wortelstelsel nie goed genoeg ontwikkel nie. Dit hou verband met die voorkoms van verskillende siekterveroorakende organismes en mikrobes in die grond. Die beheer daarvan is tradisioneel met chemiese middels en berokingsmetodes gedoen, maar veranderende wetgewing noop produsente

nou om toenemend na ander oplossings te kyk.

McLeod sê die wedersydse uitruil van inligting tussen kundiges in die bedryf is van groot belang. Sy het veral die lewendige vraetyd wat op die seminaaraanbiedings gevvolg het, geniet. McLeod meen dat sy na aanleiding van vroeë wat gestel is reeds nuwe navorsingsprojekte in gedagte het.

Appelhervestigingsiekte is uiterst kompleks, en alle beheerstrategieë werk nie altyd in alle boorde nie. Dit is dus belangrik dat nuwe metodes in verskillende streke en by 'n verskeidenheid van produsente getoets word.

McLeod het benadruk: "Ons US-navorsing word moontlik gemaak danksy industriebefondsing en ondersteuning deur plaaslike produsente, asook die toewyding van ons nagraadse studente."

HORTGRO ondersteun reeds die afgelopen jaar navorsing aan die US oor die toestand, en spesifiek in die Departement Plantpatologie. Twee projekte is reeds voltooi – een op PhD-vlak deur dr Yared Tewoldemedhi en 'n ander deur MSc-student Sharooz Moein. Makomborero Nyoni doen tans navorsing vir sy PhD-studies.

Die mini-seminaar het aan McLeod se navorsingspan die kans gebied om die eerste keer van die interessante bevindinge wat hulle oor die



Die sprekers by die mini-symposium oor appelhervestigingsiekte was dr Mark Mazzola, PhD-student, Makomborero Nyoni en prof Adéle McLeod.

Foto: Engela Duvenage

afgelope jaar gemaak het, aan die bedryf oor te dra.

Dit dui reeds duï daarop dat semi-selektiewe middels belofte inhou. Die Matie-navorsers gaan nou verder daarop uitbrei, asook studies begin om anaerobiese disinfestasie te ondersoek. Laasvermelde blyk die mees belowende en volhoubare opsie te wees om appelhervestigingsiekte te beheer.

Nyoni het onder meer in sy aanbieding aandag getrek met 'n nuwe soort sputstelselontwerp om fosfietmiddels redelik vinnig en doeltreffend op jong bome aan te wend. Deur sy navorsing hoop hy om die weg te baan dat die gebruik van fosfonate op appels geregistreer kan word.

Tersia and Maxine excel at ICoMST congress in Bangkok

Researchers associated with the SARCHI Chair in Meat Science recently attended the 62nd International Congress of Meat Science and Technology (ICoMST 2016) in Bangkok, Thailand. The theme of the five day conference was *Meat for Global Sustainability*.

ICoMST is considered the leading global platform for sharing knowledge, scientific discussion and technological advancement in the Meat Science discipline. Over 400 delegates attended the conference. Eleven researchers were selected to present their current research during the main session, along with the keynote speakers. Of these presentations, researchers under the age of 35 were eligible for the Young Scientist

Award, as judged by the Editorial Board of the Journal of Meat Science.

- Tersia Needham, a PhD student of the Department of Animal Sciences at SU, won the award for the best oral presentation by a young researcher – the award was accompanied by a 750 US dollars prize sponsored by Elsevier. She presented the early work of her PhD research on the use of immunocastration in Dohne Merino ram lambs to optimise growth and carcass quality.
- Maxine Jones, a PhD student of the Department of Food Science at SU, won the prize for the second best poster presentation by a young



Tersia Needham (left) and Maxine Jones.

scientist. Maxine's poster entitled "Effects of the addition of vinegar and degree of drying on the physicochemical properties of traditional South African biltong," also forms part of the research conducted by the SARCHI initiative in Meat Science at SU.

Cronjé en Stander by 13de Internasionale Sitruskongres

Dr Paul Cronjé en mnr Jakkie Stander van die Departement Hortologie het lesings gelewer op die onlangse 13de Internasionale Sitruskongres in Foz do Iguazu, Brasilië. Die verrigtinge

is deur sowat 1 000 afgevaardiges van regoor die wêreld, wat hulle toespits op navorsing in sitrusteling, -kweking, produksie en verskeie naoes hanteringspraktyke, bygewoon.

Cronjé het 'n lesing gelewer oor die vooroesbeheer van gepakte skil van 'Valencia'-vrugte, en ook 'n plakkaat oor laat stikstofbemesting van 'nadorett'-mandaryne aangebied. Jakkie Stander se lesing het gehandel oor die ondersoek na die rol van koolhidrate in alternerende drag van mandaryne.

Pictured here is Dr Asanda Mdithswa (right) of the Department of Horticulture, receiving a

special award for continued excellence and achievements made to her by the Agricultural Sector Education and Training Authority (AgriSETA). In 2013 she was a runner-up for the Best Graduate-Internship Award. She obtained a PhD in the Faculty in December last year.



'n Groep leerders van Paul Roos Gimnasium op Stellenbosch is hier afgeneem tydens hulle onlangse besoek aan die Afdeling Akwaponika in die Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe. Hulle het al die geriewe besigtig en is ook geleentheid gebied om vroeë te stel.

The Forestry and Wood Science third year class-practical is traditionally a highlight for the students involved and in September it was all about the long-awaited trip to Tsitsikamma after a semester of hard work. The objective of the three day outing was to measure *P. elliottii* compartments between four and 15 years of age and to visit some forestry activities at Witelsbos plantation. The tree measurements involved diameter and height measurements on good sites as well as poor sites. These measurements would later be used to develop site index (SI) curves as an exercise to implement the theory discussed in class during the first semester. However, the trip was not work all the way, and no play; in fact, it proved to be a fun-filled few days imbued with laughter, selfies, jokes and inerasable memories.

