



About a year ago the excitement of the 2010 Soccer World Cup was almost touchable in the air. So was the upcoming IUFOST 2010 international conference and the NIR 2011 international conference...

2011 has started with a big bang with new exciting projects. And yet again we are so to speak halfway through another year.

As the autumn leaves have started falling and the glimpse of a break from classes and normal routine is around the corner, it is time to reflect upon the activities of the past six months.

The building project is well on its way and everything seems to be going according to plan. (See more about the building plans in a later article)

NIR2011 took place with huge success at the CTICC in Cape Town. (More about that elsewhere as well)

Veronique Human has settled in well in our midst & Prof Corli Witthuhn, is on her way to Bloemfontein to take on a new challenge

Somebody once said that the more things change the more it stays the same. Well, all I know is that it has been a busy and fruitful six months, like always!

A Lombard



Gradeplegtigheid, Maart 2011

A Lombard

Tydens die Maart 2011 gradeplegtigheid is 14 grade aan studente van Departement Voedselwetenskap toegeken.

Elf van hierdie grade was vir MSc studente, waarvan 5 kandidate hul MSc in Voedselwetenskap *CUM LAUDE* verwerf het.

(Harry) Xiaoyi Huang van China het 'n Honneurs in Voedselwetenskap verwerf.

MSc

Chrispin Mapanda

Evette Roux

Danwille September

Naomi Steyn

Enette van der Merwe

Jana Visser

MSc *CUM LAUDE*

Paulina Engelbrecht

Ilona Koch

Kim O'Kennedy

Cato Steyn

Amy Strydom



Foto(Inr): Cato Steyn, Paulina Engelbrecht, Jana Visser, Evette Roux, Ilona Koch
Voor: Kim O'Kennedy

Ilona Koch het tydens hierdie gradeplegtigheid 'n medalje ontvang vir beste Magisterstudent in die Agriwetenskappe fakulteit.

Meeste lede van hierdie groep is reeds deur die Voedselindustrie opgeraap en ek is seker daarvan dat hulle reeds met groot heimweë terugdink aan hul sorgelose studentedae. Nietemin, baie geluk aan elkeen van julle met 'n puik prestasie!



Construction update

G Sigge

The winter has arrived, but the construction is steaming ahead nonetheless. A large portion of the roof is already up, and the remainder should follow in the next couple of days. Construction has luckily, not been too badly affected by the rain, with only two or three days having been lost. However, timeous gains have been made inside the building – especially on the first floor. Bathrooms have already been tiled, and the carpenters are busy with the first-fix of laboratory cupboards and

work stations. Painters have also been busy applying primer coats and testing the paint colours chosen to make up the new buildings colour scheme.

The construction site is a hive of activity on most days with various artisans busy with their trade – so between electricians, carpenters, ceiling installers, stone masons, plasterers, paint consultants, interior decorators, quantity surveyors, engineers and inquisitive food science staff there are many feet passing through the site every day.

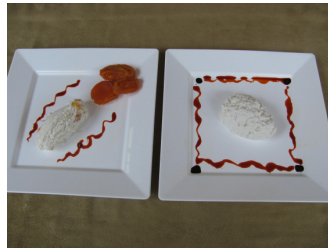
We received some good news recently – when some of the originally planned changes to our existing building (that had to be shelved to make budgets balance) were again approved to form part of the renovations. These “additions” include expansion of the undergraduate product development laboratory, an undergraduate computer room, a new chemical store, postgraduate open-plan seating area and refurbishment of the departmental canteen.

As the construction enters the final phase, so too does the noise and dust – but fortunately between the concerted efforts of the contractors to plan in such a way as not to inconvenience us too much and everyones positive attitude – the disruption is manageable. I think the main reason for the positiveness, is the fact that we can see the building and all it's exciting opportunities taking shape on a daily basis! We look forward to sharing our excitement and facilities with you all in the not too distant future.

Produkontwikkeling: Mei 2011

A Lombard

On the 5th of May 2011 we had our bi-annual Product Presentation Day at the Olive Groove (Infruitec, ARC). This very popular event was well attended by members of the food industry, friends & colleagues around campus, staff and students from the Food Science Department as well as families of the 4th years. It was a huge success and although the questions were tough at times and the nerves tested, our students did us proud. Congratulations to Prof Britz & his team! A big thank you to **SAAFoST** for sponsoring the prizes for 'best overall presentation' & 'most commercially viable product'.



The most commercially viable product



DATING

Sweet and delicately flavoured date syrup



Best overall presentation



LOCO-COCO

Creamy dairy-free frozen dessert with a dash of fun



Winners of the Truida
Prekel prize: to attend a workshop on Product development



SOYLAMI

Fermented soy-based vegetarian meat substitute

NIR at the end of the Rainbow

M Manley

The 15th International Conference on Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIR 2011) was hosted for the first time on the African continent at the CTICC, Cape Town. Prof Marena Manley chaired NIR 2011 and, with the team of Conferences et al behind her, is pleased to report on a successful conference.



Pre-conference courses (14-15 May)

During the weekend before the conference six short courses, attend by 110 delegates were presented at Stias, Stellenbosch. The courses were found to be hugely beneficial and covered sampling and spectroscopy, process analytical technology, aquaphotomics and science communication.



Welcoming function (15 May)

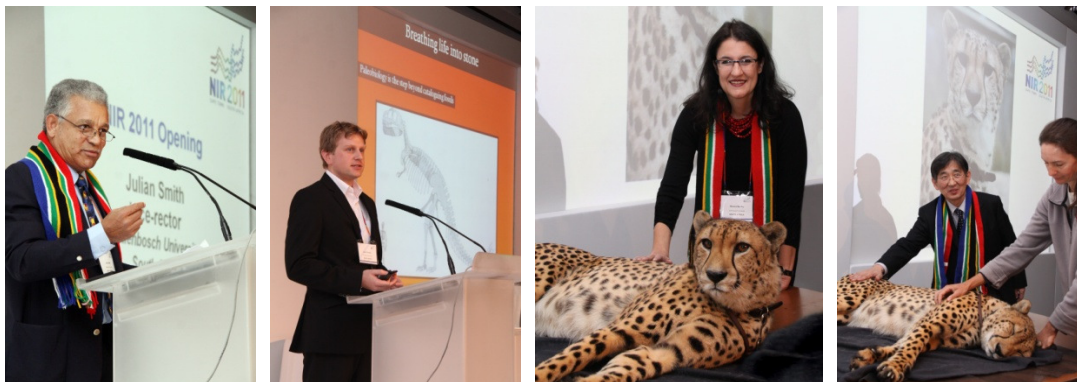
Marena, Okasie's flower girls and the Cape Minstrels welcomed the delegates on the red carpet at the CTICC in Cape Town on Sunday evening. It was a pleasant evening of meeting old friends and enjoying local music food and wine.



NIR 2011 Opening (16 May)

The delegates were welcomed to South Africa and thanked for the good work they do by praise singer Bulelani Zantsi. Prof Julian Smith, Vice-Rector (Community Interaction and Personnel), Stellenbosch University opened the conference followed by two keynote speakers from South Africa and Japan, respectively. Daniel Thomas illustrated how NIR data, collected from fossil antelope bone, can provide evidence for ancient pore water suffusion. Hideo Itozaki showed a liquid explosive detector, developed using NIR, which can be used at security gates at airports. The delegates were then introduced to Joseph (cheetah from Spier Cheetah Outreach programme).





Conference presentations and attendance

The conference was attended by 258 delegates. During the week 63 talks and 110 posters of high scientific quality were presented. The keynote addresses were presented by scientists from South Africa, Japan, Germany, Portugal, Spain and France. NIR 2011 was supported by 23 sponsors. As the next conference (NIR 2013) will be hosted by France, a representative from the French Embassy did a short presentation at the conference to encourage delegates to also attend NIR 2013.



Foss Technical Session (16 May)

Foss sponsored a technical session where speakers invited by them presented their NIR applications. As was the case throughout the conference – also this session was attended by almost all the delegates.

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is a progress; working together is success.” **Unknown**

“People rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they are doing.” **Dale Carnegie**

“Not to know is bad; not to wish to know is worse.”

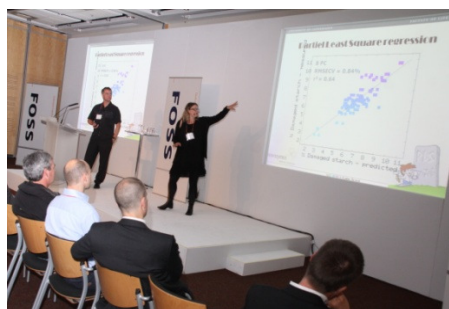
African Proverb

“The scientist is not a person who gives the right answers, he's one who asks the right questions.” **Claude Lévi-Strauss**

“Facts are not science - as the dictionary is not literature.” **Martin H. Fischer**

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Bruker Two Oceans Aquarium Cocktail (17 May)

Tuesday evening all delegates relaxed in the Two Oceans Aquarium enjoying a cocktail function sponsored by Bruker. Delegates were entertained by local musicians and one of the keynote speakers who added vocals! Fun was had by all!



NIR African Affair (19 May)

On Thursday evening the NIR African Affair took place at Moyo, Spier Estate, Stellenbosch.

During the evening, poster prizes were awarded by Perten to Fabrice Davrieux, Pierre Dardenne and Roumiana Tsenkova. Q-Interline awarded Vincent Batten for the best paper demonstrating efficient use of sampling. Subsequently ICNIRS Fellowships were awarded to Thomas Isaksson, Ian Cowe and Peter Flinn.



Comments on NIR 2011 received from delegates:

"It was an excellent conference."

"I found the scientific quality of the conference very high.... I enjoy it!"

"All the organisation was perfect, nothing to say just to congratulate you and your team for this. Happy to have spent these 10 days in your lovely country ... I hope to come back ..."

"I will never forget the NIR2011 conference, a keystone in the NIR Galaxy... a star with a NIR pattern that will always mean a great success!!! You did it! You got it!"

"Thank you for the wonderful conference and all the South African hospitality."

"There were many people attending the conference but I felt part of a big family."

"I wanted to thank you again for all your efforts to make this conference a success and for the so warm personal touch of yours that made the whole difference."

"I must emphasize that this last conference had the virtue of combining high level contents and excellent presenters. It was a great learning experience, with interesting papers and lots of challenging topics."



Anreza van der Merwe in België vir verdere studie

Anreza Van

Anreza is vanaf Februarie tot Junie vanjaar op 'n uitruilbesoek aan die Universiteit van Gent in België. Tydens haar besoek aan hierdie Universiteit het sy twee vakke geneem wat deel vorm van nagraadse programme aan UGent. Sy het ook aan 'n projek gewerk wat Belgiese verbruikers se voorkeure vir verskillende appelkultivars, asook hul kooppatrone, bestudeer het. Hierdie projek het plaasgevind onder leiding van Prof. Wim Verbeke, een van die bekendste publisiers van landbou ekonomiese artikels. Naas Brussels en Antwerp, is Gent die derde grootste stad in België, en raak al hoe meer gewild as bestemming vir uitruilstudente vanaf US.



Anreza in Brussels op die Grand Place (foto links).

Onder is 'n tipiese straattoneel van die waterkanale in die pragtige dorpie Gent.



SAVVS Kongres 13-15 April 2011, Bloemfontein

Amy Strydom

Drie studente, Amy Strydom, Melanie Pitout en Lionie Schutte is deur SAMPRO (South African Milk Processors' Organisation) geborg om die SAVVS se jaarlikse kongres by te woon.

Tydens die kongres is daar klem gelê op volhoubare suiwelproduksie, die ontwikkeling van nuwe fermentasie kulture asook melkpreserveringstegnieke. Amy het 'n praatjie oor "*Cronobacter*: Typing and Phylogeny" gelewer, Lionie het 'n poster aangebied terwyl Melanie 'n akademiese prys ontvang vir Beste Akademiese Prestasie deur 'n derdejaar student.

Die kongres is by die pragtige Swartberg Hotel naby die Lesotho grens, buite Bloemfontein, aangebied. Baie dankie aan SAMPRO wat hierdie uitstekende geleentheid vir 3 van ons studente moontlik gemaak het.

Paul Williams visited Sweden in February

P Williams

From the 26th February to 11 March 2011, in the heart of winter, I had the opportunity of visiting the laboratory of Professor Paul Geladi at the Unit of Biomass Technology and Chemistry, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Umeå, Sweden.

There I was greatly assisted with the analysis of NIR hyperspectral image data collected from maize samples inoculated with *Fusarium verticillioides* and I had the opportunity of meeting the developers of the dedicated software, Evince, used in our research group.



Real European winter
....brrr

Die Holland is weer Kaaps....

Melanie Nieuwoudt

Six students from the Food Science Department at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa thought it well to add a little adventure to their post-graduate careers and applied for a scholarship at an elite Dutch University. This scholarship is known as the SKILL project and is funded by the Dutch embassy in South Africa. This bursary included a return plane ticket, medical aid, travel insurance and study costs. The students also received a very generous allowance of 970 Euros (more or less R9700) per month. Through this scholarship registered Masters Students had the opportunity to study for periods of up to 3 months at top Dutch universities. The six South African students were all placed at Wageningen University and Research Centre, on the grounds of the subjects chosen.

Melanie Nieuwoudt chose to follow a course in Biophysical Imaging, while Nicci Neetling, Jeannine Neetling, Greta Geldenhuys, Theresa Beelders and Adina Bosch followed a course in Advanced Food Quality Management. The Dutch university calendar works different than what any South African is used to. The academic year is divided into periods with variable durations. These particular students had the option to attend courses for period 4 (4 weeks) and period 5 (6 weeks). Subjects completed would be recognised by the home university as additional credits. All the girls held the South African name high by passing all their subjects with ease and will be receiving official certificates in the near future.

During the stay, students were accommodated at the Brink residence, only a 10 minute's bike ride from the classrooms. The residence also accommodated all other international students new to Wageningen, which made it difficult not to make a great deal of new friends. The very small town of Wageningen is situated in the Gelderland Province of the Netherlands. Since this university is focused on life sciences one would understand why it is then located in the country side, surrounded by farms. All in all, the stay in the Netherlands was the most wonderful, once in a lifetime opportunity any masters student could wish for. It is recommended for anyone who is willing to be placed a little outside their comfort zone and build life-long friendships!

Students interested in going to the Netherlands as part of a SKILLS bursary can see below:

Indien jy 'n geregistreerde SUID AFRIKAANSE Meestersgraadstudent in enige van die volgende rigtings is:

- * WATER EN WATER BESTUUR
- * LANDBOU
- * VERVOER EN LOGISTIEK
- * TOERISME
- * FINANSIES EN REKENINGKUNDE

bied SKILL jou die geleentheid om een of twee kursusse aan 'n Nederlandse universiteit te volg, vir 'n periode van tot 3 maande. 'n Volle beurs word toegestaan. Die universiteite wat vanjaar aan die program deelneem het is: Wageningen Universiteit, Delft Universiteit van Tegnologie, Maastricht Universiteit en VU Universiteit Amsterdam. Die SKILL projek word befonds deur die Nederlandse ambassade in Suid Afrika. Die sperdatums vir aansoeke wat later in die akademiese jaar 2011-2012 begin is:

- * Vir kursusse wat einde Oktober begin (periode 2) is die sperdatum 1 Augustus 2011
- * Vir kursusse wat vroeg Januarie begin (periode 3) is die sperdatum 15 Oktober 2011
- * Vir kursusse wat vroeg Februarie begin (periode 4) is die sperdatum 1 November 2011
- * Vir kursusse wat middel Maart begin (periode 5 en 6) is die sperdatum 1 Januarie 2012

Vir meer inligting, en om aansoek te doen, besoek gerus die webwerf:

<http://www.fsw.vu.nl/en/international-relations/savusa/skill-programme/index.asp>

Indien u verdere inligting verlang oor enige van bogenoemde, besoek asseblief die webwerf www.sun.ac.za/postgraduate/pgskills of skakel gerus pgskills@sun.ac.za



Photo left: Adina Bosch in front of one of the Wageningen University buildings (Forum Building)

From Left: Nikki Neethling; Jeannine Neethling; Melanie Nieuwoudt; Theresa Beelders and Greta Geldenhuys



Totsiens Prof Witthuhn...

N Brown



Op Vrydag, 10 Junie 2011, het die Voedselwetenskap Departement en AgriWetenskappe Fakulteit gesamentlik totsiens gesê aan Prof Corli Witthuhn, wie vanaf 01 Augustus 2011 die skoene van Vise-Dekaan vir die Fakulteit Natuur- en Landbouwetenskappe by die Universiteit van die Vrystaat sal volstaan.

Prof. Corli Witthuhn het in 1999 'n pos as Lektor in die Departement Voedselwetenskap aanvaar en is in 2003 tot Senior Lektor bevorder. In 2005 het sy vir 'n jaar as Waarnemende Departementele Voorsitter gedien en het vanaf 2006 tot Februarie 2009 die rol van Departementele Voorsitter permanent vervul.

Sedert Maart 2009 het sy die rol van Vise-Dekaan van die Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe, waar sy betrokke was by die strategiese beplanning vir die verskeie Departemente wat deel vorm van dié Fakulteit, vervul.

Tydens die afskeidsfunksie vir Prof Witthuhn, het Dr Gunnar Sigge vir Corli bedank vir haar jarelange toewyding aan die Voedselwetenskap Departement. Hierby het Prof Mohammad Karaan sy indrukke van Corli gegee, waarvan hy veral beïndruk was met haar fyn oog vir 'detail' en die feit dat Corli hoogs gerespekteerd was deur haar administratiewe en tegniese personeel tydens haar amp as Departementshoof van Voedselwetenskap. Prof Magda Fourie-Malherbe het op haar beurt vertel dat Stellenbosch Universiteit 'n sterk vroue-leier verloor.

Prof Corli Witthuhn was vir 12 jaar verbonde aan Stellenbosch Universiteit en het haar dank uitgespreek teenoor almal wat 'n rol gespeel het in haar suksesse hier. Sy het verder haar navorsingslaboratorium bedank vir hul toewyding aan hul studies en navorsingsuitsette. Ons wens Prof Witthuhn alle voorspoed en sukses toe vir haar toekoms.

Be well, do good work, and keep in touch. Garrison Keillor

Foto van links na regs: Me Amy Strydom, Dr Michelle Cameron, Mnr Hanson Arthur, Me Lionie Schutte, Prof Corli Witthuhn, Me Custodia Macuamule & Me Donna Cawthorn. Hierdie groep is almal lede van Corli se navorsingslaboratorium.

