

Stellenbosch researchers help to strengthen livestock genomics in SA

Animal scientists, geneticists and researchers in AgriSciences' Departments of Animal Sciences and Genetics are helping to develop South Africa's Livestock Genomics Initiative. This Initiative, driven by government, industry and academia, was set up in 2011 to enhance local breeding methods and capacity. Breeders of seed stock (stud) animals and other organisations and individuals will benefit from advances made via this endeavour.

Livestock genomics is all about the genes (and therefore the hereditary qualities) of specific livestock such as cattle, chicken and sheep that are part of farming efforts in South Africa. Work done through the various partners of the Livestock Genomics Initiative is combining the already available phenotypical (or observable and measurable breeding characteristics) information about specific breeds with genetic information to obtain the genomic Estimated Breeding Value (gEBVs). With a gEBV for each breed, farmers and producers can more accurately and efficiently rank their livestock based on their genetic merit, and therefore their suitability to breed.

Prof Kennedy Dzama, chair of the Department of Animal Sciences, is one of the Initiative's task team members, along with

various other researchers.

The Livestock Genomics Task Team has helped to draft South Africa's Technology Innovation Agency's (TIA) proposed platform for animal breeding and reproduction technology (AB RTP). It was discussed with stakeholders in Pretoria recently during a workshop for academics, researchers, government officials and members of the game, beef, dairy and sheep industries. Through the AB RTP, government and industry will drive the funding, setting up and managing comprehensive national gene banks to enhance local breeding methods and standards in livestock farming.

The animal genetics unit of SU's Department of Animal Sciences is a leader in the field of animal genomics.

Says Dzama: "Existing collaborations with the Western

Cape Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural Research Council make us a natural collaborator in this whole initiative, and we are excited about the prospects. Our research on the genetic characterisation of SA livestock breeds such as Nguni cattle, major sheep breeds such as the Dorper, SA Merino and Dohne Merino sheep, indigenous chicken and pig breeds use both molecular techniques and quantitative approaches. This will hopefully provide the backbone on which the reference populations for genomic selection and future breeding efforts will be built, so that South Africa can join other top livestock producing nations in the world of genomic selection."

- For more information on the Livestock Genomics Initiative, visit: www.livestockgenomics.co.za

Akademiebekroning vir Marena Manley

'n Besondere groot eer het prof Marena Manley, hoogleraar in Voedselwetenskap, te beurt gevallen sy onlangs deur die Raad van die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns bekroon is. Die Akademie het die Erepenning van die Fakulteit Natuurwetenskap en Tegnologie aan haar toegeken. Dit word net in uitsonderlike gevalle toegeken vir prestasies en bydraes ten opsigte van die bevordering en ontwikkeling van die besondere vakgebied. Die Akademie se verklaring lui: "Prof Manley is 'n nasionale leier in haar vakgebied. Sy word vereer vir haar wetenskaplik-gebaseerde bydrae tot voedselwetenskap. Haar laboratoriumnavorsing lê die grondslag vir volhoubare voedselsekerheid." Manley het die nuus in België, waar sy tans met navorsingsgeleentheid is, van dr Dioné Prinsloo van die Akademie ontvang: "Ek kon nie anders as om dadelik almal se gesigte voor my te sien wie vir my soveel geleenthede deur die jare gegee het nie. Natuurlik ook al my nagraadse studente. Ek deel dié toekenning met elkeen van julle!"



KALENDER

2014

29 Mei	Laaste dag vir betaling van 75% van studentegelde vir 2014
31 Mei	Sluitingsdatum vir aansoeke 2015
15–19 Jun	IFAMA-kongres CTICC
23–24 Jun	5th Postharvest Physiology and Technology Short Course of Fresh Horticultural Crops
20 Nov	Fakulteit se Ghofdag

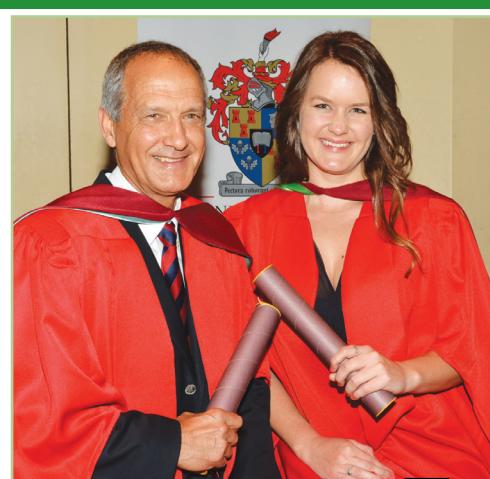
Pa en dogter word saam-saam doktore

Om 'n doktorsgraad te verwerv, verg harde werk. Om joune saam-saam met jou pa te ontvang, maak 'n gradeplegtigheid nog meer besonders.

Op die onlangse April-plegtigheid het dr Carien Coetzee haar PhD in Wynkunde ontvang oor oksidasie van Sauvignon blanc-wyne. Prof André Coetzee, hoof van die US Departement Anesthesiologie en Kritieke Sorg, het met sy DSc-navorsing hartsirkulasie en die toediening van narkose bestudeer.

PhD-grade is ook aan nog 18 AgriWetenskappe-studente toegeken. Hulle is dr Richard Bugan (Grondkunde), dr Rinus Knoetze (Nematologie), drs Nina Bougas en Leanie Louw (Wynkunde), drs Custodia Macuamule en Melanie Nieuwoudt (Voedselwetenskap), dr Willem Olivier (Veekundige Wetenskappe), drs Arno Erasmus, Cheusi Mutawila en Saskia von Diest (Plantpatologie), en drs Mariëtta Brand, Jessica da Silva, Matthew Zylstra, Lize Joubert en Paul Grant (Bewaringsekologie). Fakulteitspersoneellede, dr Brand Wessels (houtprodukkunde) en dr Khalid Salie (Akwakultuur), is ook deel van dié groep.

Daarby het 48 voorgraadse studente en 46 MSc-studente van die Fakulteit ook hul grade ontvang.



Dr Carien Coetzee en haar pa, Prof André Coetzee, wat saam-saam doktorsgrade ontvang het.

Sleutelrol vir Karen Esler in Noorweegse NORHED-projek van R32m

Die Universiteit Stellenbosch (US) is een van vier vennote in 'n projek van 32-miljoen rand wat deur die Noorweegse Agentskap vir Ontwikkelingsamewerking (Norad) onder die nuwe NORHED-program (Noorweegse Program vir Kapasiteitsontwikkeling in Hoër Onderwys en Navorsing vir Ontwikkeling) befonds word. Dit skep 'n belangrike geleentheid vir navorsing en kapasiteitsbou in natuurlike hulpbronbestuur en -beheer, -ekonomiese en -bestaansmiddele.

Die ander vennote sluit in die Copperbelt University in Zambië (hoof kontraktuele vennoot met Norad), die South African Wildlife College in Limpopo-provinsie en die Departement Internasionale Omgewings- en Ontwikkelingstudies aan die Noorweegse Universiteit van Lewenswetenskappe.

Professore Karen Esler (Bewaringsekologie en Entomologie) en Kobus Muller van die SPL (US se Skool vir Bedryfsleiding) is die Stellenbosse navorsers wat saam met prof Brian Child van die Universiteit van Florida en The Nature Conservancy Council, en ook buitengewone professor aan die SPL, daarvan deelneem. Daar sal aan elk van hulle oor die volgende vyf jaar 12 PhD-kandidate toegewys word. Hulle sal opleiding ontvang deur die TsamaHub (Kruisdissiplinariteit in Volhoubaarheid: Ontleding, Modellering en Beoordeling), wat fokus op opleiding vir volhoubare oplossings

tot Afrika se probleme in kompleks sosio-ekologiese stelsels.

Die projek is van stapel laat loop omdat 'n belangrike bron van kommer m.b.t. groot beskermde gebiede en buffersones in suidelike Afrika is dat hulle in 'n bose kringloop van landelike armoede en agteruitgang van die omgewing vasgevang is. Onvoldoende kennis oor die praktiese aspekte van mikrobestuur en -beheer, devolusie en ekonomiese beleid, swak leerstelsels vir belanghebbers, en 'n groot tekort aan professionele mense met ekonomiese, bestuur-en belanghebbervaardighede vorm die kern van hierdie uitdagings.

'n Verskeidenheid sleutel belanghebbers het die stigtingsvergadering bygewoon – insluitend verteenwoordigers van Game Rangers International, Higher Education Africa (CHET), die Ministerie van Landbou, Mosambiek (*Direcção Nacional de Terras e Florestas*), Panthera, SabiSands, SanParks, The Nature Conservancy Council (TNC), die Verenigde Nasies se Ontwikkelingsprogram (UNDP), Wits Rural, die Zambian Forest College, en die Zambian Wildlife Authority (ZAWA), sowel as verteenwoordigers van die gemeenskappe omliggend aan Kafue en uit die privaatsktor.

• Foto onder: Deelnemers aan die werkswinkel wat tydens die bekenstelling van die Noorweegse projek van R32-miljoen, aangebied is.



Faculty's Nick Vink labels land reform programme a disaster

Prof Nick Vink of the Faculty's Department of Agricultural Economics says, despite some 70 billion rand spent on land reform since 1994, the people who were supposed to benefit, are still poor.

Vink was one of the speakers at a two-day conference on land reform held at SU's Faculty of Theology recently. The theme of the conference was *Land Reform in South Africa: Enabling faith communities towards informed and constructive engagement*.

Vink labelled the current system of land reform a disaster and said it has added to poverty because the money spent could have been put to better use. Referring to failed policies and implementation, Vink said: "What we have tried so far hasn't

worked. We don't know what we wish to achieve with our land reform programme."

He argued that one of the reasons why land reform has not had the desired outcome, especially in terms of agriculture, is because of "government's inability to establish people on farms and helping them to farm effectively".

Vink criticised a one-size-fits-all approach and said land reform in the Karoo should, for instance, not be the same as land reform in the Western Cape. He said people in different districts should be involved in land reform so that they could offer their vision on land reform for their specific areas.

The current land reform programme was also criticised by Prof



Delegates at the conference on land reform.

Anton Jordaan

Sampie Terreblanche, Emeritus Professor in Economics at SU.

Said Terreblanche: "After 20 years, we are in a great mess. Government should rather use the money being spent on land reform for public poverty upliftment."

Another speaker, Prof Juanita Pienaar of the Department of Private Law at SU, said although land reform is embedded in the Constitution, the definition in the South

Hoffman heads Horticultural Sciences

Dr Lynn Hoffman is the new chairperson of the Department of Horticultural Sciences in the Faculty. Her appointment took effect on 1 February and her term of office runs until 31 December 2016.



Hoffman hails from the Overberg and has been with Stellenbosch University since 1998. She also lectured at the University of Limpopo and conducted research for the Department of Agriculture at Roodeplaat near Pretoria. Her research focuses on the cultivation and export of cut flowers, and specifically fynbos species. Prof Gerard Jacobs supervised her SU doctorate on the manipulation of the flowering period of Protea Carnival as an export product. She recently received two research grants from the Dutch Productschap Tuinbouw for further studies on the postharvest cold storage of protea species.

Hoffman says the Department of Horticultural Sciences recently started a process of recirculation to review the training offered to agriculture students. She has invited interested parties from industry to offer input where appropriate, and to be part of the process.

African context is too narrow.

"Land reform is extremely multidimensional and shouldn't be seen as an automatic solution to all our economic and developmental challenges. Achieving equality and dignity through land reform still poses a major challenge,"

Pienaar argued that a synergy between the Constitution and all other components of land reform is crucial for its success.

Microbially polluted irrigation water and its impact on food safety

Water from several rivers in South Africa is unsafe for irrigation of fresh produce. If water from these rivers is used to irrigate produce that is consumed raw or without further processing steps, there is a high risk of exposure to human pathogens (disease producing agents). Many of these could cause gastroenteric illnesses if raw produce irrigated with contaminated water is consumed.

The aforementioned is included in the findings of a research project funded by the Water Research Commission (WRC) and co-funded by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) with the purpose of establishing the link between water quality and safety of fresh produce by confirming the carry-over of specific indicator and index organisms (bacteria, protozoa and viruses) from the water to the produce.

For more than a decade there has been growing concern about the "safety status" of South African agricultural products, especially those that are consumed raw. Contamination of these products would impact not only the health of the final consumer but also that of people living next to rivers and those producing the products. Moreover, this would

immediately impact both the national and international "trading status" and cause a suspension of exports. During this time there have been constant reports in the news media on the shocking "environmental status" of South African rivers.

The research found that the microbial pollution levels of rivers and fresh produce monitored in different provinces of South Africa over a period of four years were of an unacceptable microbiological standard and did not meet international faecal guidelines for safe irrigation or for human consump-

tion. The total coliform (a broad class of bacteria found in the environment including the faeces of man and other warm-blooded animals) and faecal counts were in most cases higher than World Health Organisation standards and guidelines recommended by retailers. Water from some of the rivers is undoubtedly unsafe for irrigation of fresh produce. The source of contamination of agricultural products was without doubt identified as polluted irrigation water and – more seriously – the contamination occurs during pre-harvest irrigation.

The Stellenbosch University Water Institute recently participated in the "Walk for Water and Sanitation" around the University Campus – this formed part of a global event which took place world-wide. The event started at the Al Perold Building close to the "Rooiplein." Pictured here Walking for Water were from left at the rear: Brian Meyer, Morney Engelbrecht, Adam Johnson, Thanja Allison and Annalene Sadie. Middle: Martha Kannemeyer, Marlene Isaacks, Hanlie Swart and Celeste Mockey. Front: Welma Maart and Feriese September.



Henry Wiggins op 67 in treinongeluk dood

Dr Henry Wiggins, 'n vriend, mentor en waldoener van die Fakulteit oor vele jare, is onlangs op tragiese wyse dood toe hy voor 'n trein beland het. Hy was 67.



Henry Owen Wiggins matrikuleer in 1964 aan Paarl Gimnasium en verwerf 'n BA-graad in Volkekunde aan die US. Hy tree in diens by die destydse Stellenbosch Boerewynmakery (vandag bekend as Distell) waar hy tot logistieke bestuurder vorder. Hy behaal ook twee MBA-grade – een in Gent, België, en die ander aan die US – asook later 'n DComm aan die US.

Wiggins het in sy leeftyd veel gedoen om mense te help om klein sakeondernemings in die landbou op die been te bring en was die mentor van talle opkomende entrepreneurs. Die laaste 15 jaar van sy lewe het hy aan opheffingswerk in die gemeenskap gewei. Hy het die toekoms van die land gesien in klein sake-ondernemings en mensontwikkeling. Hy word oorleef deur sy vrou, Jackie, en twee jong kinders.

Learners introduced to fresh produce sector

Learners and teachers from as far afield as Oudtshoorn were recently afforded the opportunity to learn more of the wide variety of careers within the fresh produce sector during the 3rd Agri-Food Careers and Bursary Exhibition held at Stellenbosch University (SU).

The one-day exhibition in the Neelsie Student Centre was presented by the South African arm of the Produce Marketing Association (PMA) and SU's Faculty of AgriSciences. More than 20 companies and organisations from across the fresh produce supply chain introduced their products, services, career opportunities, bursary schemes and internship programmes to learners and students.

Teachers from the Boland, Cape Metropole and Little Karoo, among others, also enjoyed a luncheon at STIAS.



Among the speakers were Stuart Symington, CEO of the Perishable Product Export Control Board (PPECB), Tom Mabesa, CEO of the Association for Veterinary and Crop Associations of South Africa, and Gysbert du Toit, Marketing Manager: Fruit of the Du Toit Group in Ceres. Monika Basson, Manager: Strategic Projects & Recruitment at SU's Faculty of Agri-Science says initiatives such as the Agri-Food Exhibition present an excellent opportunity to expose young people to a variety of study programmes in the Plant and Soil Science graduate programme.

Attending the 3rd Agri-Food Careers and Bursary Exhibition and Luncheon were (from left) Madeline Hess (Kylemore High), Milly Cyster (Groendal Secondary, Franschhoek), Jeandre Fourie (Langenhoven Gymnasium, Oudtshoorn), guest speaker Tom Mabesa (CEO of Association for Veterinary and Crop Associations of South Africa), Monika Basson (Faculty of AgriSciences) and Sherna Smith (Rhenish Girls' High).

Photo: Engela Duvenage



Agronomie-dosent besoek Mauritius

Dr PJ Pieterse van die Departement Agronomie het op uitnodiging 'n werkswinkel in Mauritius oor onkruid identifisering en -bestuur bygewoon. Dit was deel van die WIKWIO (Weed Identification and Knowledge in the Western Indian Ocean)-projek.

Die WIKWIO-projek word deur die ACP (African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States) Science and Technology Programme gefinansier. Dit beoog om voedselkureit in die eilande van die Westelike Indiese Oseaan, asook Suidoos Afrika, te verbeter deur opknapping van gewasproduksiestelsels.

Vir meer inligting oor die program, kontak dr Pieterse by pjp@sun.ac.za of 021 8084805.

- Bo demonstreer dr Thomas le Bourgeois, koördineerde van die WIKWIO-projek, die toepassing wat op tablet en slimfoon gelaai kan word om onkruid te identifiseer.
- Inlaafoto: dr PJ Pieterse.

Loopbaan in vrugtebedryf 'net 'n fees' vir prof Daantjie

Or die weë wat sy lewe ingeslaan het, is die 84-jarige prof Daantjie Strydom geensins spyt nie – dit was inderwaarheid alles “een groot fees”!

Prof Strydom was vanaf 30-jarige ouderdom drie dekades hoof van die Departement Hortologie. Onder sy leiding is die departement se naam destyds van Pomologie tot Hortologie verander en is die grondslag vir wêreldklas navorsing en opleiding gelê.

Navorsing saam met sy studente het onder meer aan die bedryf die 1-2-3 snoeireël vir kernvrugte gegee, asook die eerste Suid-Afrikaanse werk oor hervestigingsprobleme by appels. Setprobleem by Packhamspere is ondersoek, protokolle vir hardehoutsteggies se vermeerdering

uitgewerk, rusbrekende middels geëvalueer en chemiese uitdunprotokolle vir appels ontwikkel. Danksy hom is die opleistelsels vir kernvrugte verander van die kelkfatsoen na die gebruik van sentrale leiers by aanplantings teen hoër digthede.

Hy ag sy betrokkenheid by die destydse Kaaplandse Pomologiese Vereniging steeds as 'n loopbaanhoogtepunt. Strydom het op 60 die akademie verlaat vir 'n tweede loopbaan as konsultant in Suid-Afrika en internasionaal, en was onder meer by Ceres Fruit Growers en die Dutoit Groep betrokke. In 2012 is sy diens tot die sagtevrugtebedryf erken met die OSH Reinecke-toekenning.

Dit is dus gepas dat die PROF DAAN STRYDOM-BEURSFONDS

van stapel laat loop om die studies van 'n volgende geslag hortoloë aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch te ondersteun. Daarby word die toekenning aan die US se topstudent in hortologie herdoop na die Daan Strydom/HORTGRO Science-prys.

“Wat ek bereik het, het ek nie alleen gedoen nie, maar het dit reggekry danksy ongelooflike mense waarmee ek saamgewerk het.”

– Engela Duvenhage



Alumni van die Departement Hortologie aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch en vriende uit die vrugtebedryf word genooi na die bekendstelling van die Prof Daan Strydom Beursfonds en die Daan Strydom/HORTGRO Science-prys. Die funksie vind om 12:00 op 30 Mei in die Funksiekamer, Kleine Zalze, Stellenbosch plaas. RSVP by Melissa Nel 021 808 2112 of melissanel@sun.ac.za

- Skenkings aan die Beursfonds kan inbetaal word by Standard Bank, Stellenbosch, rekeningnommer 073006955, verwysing R1715 5373.

STIAS venue for short course

The 5th Postharvest Physiology and Technology short course on Fresh Horticultural Crops will be presented by the Department of Horticultural Science in collaboration with HORTGRO Science from 23 to 25 June this year at Stellenbosch University's main campus. It will be hosted at STIAS.

- For further details, contact Retha Venter at: reventer@netactive.co.za or tel 082 656 7088.

Hortgro investing in the future

In an effort to secure the future of the South African deciduous fruit industry, HORTGRO has invested more than R20 million during the last ten years in “human capital”.

Said Hugh Campbell, general manager of HORTGRO Science: “By creating bursary schemes for young talent we are confident that they will be well equipped to take this very scientific and technical industry into the future.”

Campbell was addressing HORTGRO bursary students of Stellenbosch University and various other institutions of higher learning at Stellenbosch.

“Business is about people,” Campbell said, “and the fruit industry realised a long time ago that we need to invest in the youth of this country in order to grow, and that is why we have chosen to sponsor young potential to study in the various agricultural fields. A bursary programme was just common sense.”



From left to right: Sizophiwe Dinwa, Sindisiwe Myeni and Jade Tobin, three BSc(Agric) students and HORTGRO bursary holders, enjoying the “Meet and Greet” evening that was recently held in Stellenbosch.

Over the last ten years HORTGRO invested R5.2 million in the bursary programme, focusing mostly on undergraduates, and created 74 bursaries in the process. In the same period HORTGRO Science invested more than R15 million in bursary schemes for postgraduates working on HORTGRO Science projects with an average of 30 to 40 bursaries annually.

'Taxi to Protea-Ville...'

Toddy I am going to tell you more about the taxi services to Protea-Ville. No, I will not be discussing South Africa's public transport systems. I would rather like to tell you more about a different kind of transport system found in nature.

Our research takes place right here in our own backyard, the Fynbos. Fynbos can only be found here in the Western Cape. This makes it quite special worldwide and therefore we need to look after it. Now Protea is one of the main characteristic plant groups in Fynbos. It is also being cultivated for the export of their flowers and fruits. My research looks into what makes these Protea ecosystems stay healthy and stable. I would like to tell you about a unique taxi service hidden within

these Protea ecosystems. I refer to these as the biological taxi services.

Protea beetles and Cape sugarbirds are insects and birds that are typically found in Fynbos and what we call endemics. They move around between Protea plants visiting the flowers and pollinating them. It is worldwide accepted that insects and birds are the main pollinators of flowers, BUT we have found information that might change this view within Protea ecosystems. Previous studies found that insects are actually transporting minute spider-like organisms called mites.

When we look closer we find that some of these mites have very specific little carry bags on their bodies. Previous research indicated that these bags are filled with fungi spores. These fungi are similar to those that cause disease in pine forest and could be detrimental to Protea. Currently we have not

by Natalie Theron
Conservation Ecology and Entomology

found evidence of any harm to Protea. Our research has now found that in addition to fungi, some mites can also carry another type of baggage, namely pollen! This raises the possibility that these tiny passengers might play an important role in Protea pollination and are potentially using birds as taxis too.

To keep the Fynbos healthy and stable, we need to understand what influences them. Firstly, fungi that are known to cause diseases in other plants are being distributed in the Protea ecosystem. Secondly, pollen that is necessary for seeds to form can also be dispersed in the environment. This is all being done by mites! These biological taxi services help these mites distribute the fungi and potentially the pollen.

This information is important for making informed decisions regarding environmental management. Also, Protea farmers and exporters can increase their production,

leading to better salaries for workers or more job opportunities.

A healthy and intact Fynbos is important for eco-tourism as people all over the world come to South Africa to experience our nature. And the general public; the plain beauty and uniqueness we have around us in our own backyard.

In summary we can say that insects and birds can be seen as biological taxi services carrying around mites as their passengers. These mites again can carry baggage, fungi and/or pollen. This is important to understand for keeping Fynbos healthy and intact.

So next time you find yourself in traffic and see taxis driving around picking up or dropping off passengers, think about natures biological taxis, that in a different way, does the same thing.





Die wenners...

Agriwetenskappe kroon potjiekoskonings vir 2014

Die AgriStudente Assosiasie (ASA) het onlangs sy jaarlikse potjiekoskompetisie op die Welgevallen-proefplaas gehou. Die spanne het om 16:00 vure aangestek en reën kon nie 'n demper plaas op verrigtinge nie.

Die beoordelaars (prof Louw Hoffman, Departement Veekundige Wetenskappe, prof Maret du Toit, Departement Wingerd- en Wynkunde, Arno Buitendag, deelnemer in die TV-reeks, "Kêrels wat kan kook" en David-John Farao, sjef in die Hotel Hilton, het hulle goed van hul taak gekwyt.

Die Muscats het die geesprys sowel as die derde plek verower. Die Potkoppe was tweede en die Vinnige Fannies is aangewys as die wenspan.

Die spanne het elkeen waterbottels, geborg deur Nedbank, en geskenkbewyse ontvang wat onderskeidelik deur Helshoogte Super Spar, Ginos en Panarottis geborg is. Die aand was 'n reuse-sukses en beslis een van die hoogtepunte op die ASA se sosiale kalender.



Horticultural Sciences a finalist for LINK Round IV

The Department of Horticultural Sciences has made it as a finalist in LINK Round IV. LINK (Learning and Innovation Network for Knowledge and Solutions) is part of the Global Knowledge Initiative (GKI) which strives to build connections aimed at solving challenges related to eliminating hunger and reducing poverty through agriculture.

Out of a large pool of applicants, the awarded proposal aims to provide assistance to small-scale farmers through an Extension Centre linked to Horticultural Sciences. In addition, the project includes the establishment of a Model Facility where small-holder farmers can receive training and be educated on the latest developments in the use of appropriate hygiene practices and postharvest technologies. The latter would support the production of safe nutritious food and lengthen the shelf-life of fresh products.

Fun-filled Perold Vineyard Harvest Day

The Perold Vineyard at STIAS, heritage site of South African Pinotage, is a tribute to the wine pioneer and creator of Pinotage (Hermitage x Pinot noir), Abraham Izak Perold, and the Perold Vineyard 2014 was celebrated recently.

The wine and the vineyard embody the tradition of innovation characterizing Perold's work. The vineyard is planted in a unique wagon wheel pattern, allowing the rows to capture the complexity of sun interception.

The recent celebration was another fun harvest bringing the neighbourhood, STIAS fellows, Department of Viticulture and Oenology (DVO), Pinotage Association and friends of the industry together to once again appreciate the complexity of Pinotage. The incredible opportunity was made available to try the final product of the 2012 maiden vintage of which there were only 277 bottles – delicious! This year the vineyard abundantly produced beautiful bunches totalling about 2.4 tons, which has been a gradual increase from 300L in 2012 and 900L in 2013.

Everyone was clearly very excited about this rich heritage site for Prof Perold and

Pinotage, with the wagon wheel layout holding many unlocked secrets of Pinotage with regard to which hopes were high to discover as making wine from different row directions in the future is soon to commence.

The main sponsors for the vineyard – from planting to the first bottling of the 2012 Vintage – were the Pinotage Association of Stellenbosch University, STIAS, Beyerskloof and Lelienfontein. The Perold Vineyard wine label was designed and sponsored by Justin Southey (www.justinsouthey.com). The printing of the label was sponsored by Collotype (www.collotype.co.za), and the burgundy bottles by the Pinotage Association and Amorim (www.amorimcork.com).

The 2012 Vintage only has 277 bottles. The very first in the bottle is now for sale at R250 per bottle; all proceeds go to the running of the vineyard and flying the heritage of Stellenbosch University Pinotage high!

- For wine sales and more information contact those involved at peroldvineyard@gmail.com – also visit Facebook page, "Perold Vineyard" for further details.



Front from left to right: Founding visionaries of the ABSA Perold Vineyard: Grawie Groenewald, Pietman Retief, Bernard Lategan, Beyers Truter and Francois Klomp.

SU honours top first-year students

Stellenbosch University officially acknowledged the achievements of its top first-year students of 2013 at the annual first-year academic prestige event held at the Neethlingshof Wine Estate near Stellenbosch recently. Ms Maryka Botha, a second-year BSc (Oenology specialised) student, walked off with the Faculty of AgriSciences' top award. She holds a B (Optometry) degree from the University of Johannesburg, but her love and passion for wine brought her to Stellenbosch to study Oenology.



Agronomie-studente ontvang toekennings

'n Pas afgestudeerde en 'n huidige MScAgric-student van die Departement Agronomie het toekennings ontvang op die onlangse gesamentlike kongres van die SA Vereniging vir Gewasproduksie, die Grondkunde Vereniging van SA, die Suider Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Tuinbouwetenskappe en die Suider Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Onkruidwetenskap.

Geline Derbyshire, wat in Desember 2013 'n MScAgric in Agronomie cum laude verwerf het, het die Presidentstoekening vir die beste plakaataanbieding van die SA Vereniging vir Gewasproduksie verower vir haar plakaatreferaat getiteld, *The effect of foliar sprays on vase life and the occurrence of*



Geline Derbyshire



Andries le Roux

stem topper in cut tulips. Andries le Roux het die Rovic Leers-prys vir Bewaringsbewerking vir die beste bewaringsplakkaat getiteld, *The effect of soil cover on Medicago pasture re-establishment and production under CA practices in rainfed conditions*, ontvang. Buite dié twee studente, het nog 'n MScAgric-student van die Departement, Bontleng Molefe, 'n mondelinge referaat op die kongres voorgedra.