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AGRI SCIENCES WETENSKAPPE

Department of Ecology and Entomology shines on CNN

AgriSciences' Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology has been featured on CNN, one of the world's largest television news networks. A recent CNN Inside Africa television report featured efforts to manage agricultural pests in the Western Cape by researchers and associates of the aforementioned Department.

The eight minute report was titled 'Sterilized fruit flies could save South Africa's crops'. It showed alternative pest management methods being developed in collaboration with the Department's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) researchers, Drs Antoinette Malan and Pia Addison to manage fruit flies. These methods include the use of the Sterile Insect Technique and entomopathogenic nematodes that kill off other insects.



Also interviewed was Matthew Addison, who is a HORTGRO research fellow in the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology, and researcher Sheila Storey of the diagnostics laboratory Nemlab, who works in collaboration with the aforementioned Department in commercialising entomopathogenic nematodes.

Dr Addison explained: "These biological control options are currently being implemented and optimised in deciduous fruit and vine crops in the Western Cape. The ultimate goal of the research is to reduce producers' reliance on synthetic chemical pesticides. Fruit flies are a quarantine pest, and can have a direct, devastating effect on fruit

production in the region. They are also of concern with regards to international trade matters, and their presence could hamper fruit export markets if not managed correctly."

CNN picked up on their research following a recent article in *The Conversation Africa*, co-authored by Drs Addison, Malan and Ken Pringle and Mr Addison. It was titled "Pesticides are not the only way to deal with our biggest food competitors – insects."

- To view the CNN report, go to <http://edition.cnn.com/videos/world/2016/01/25/inside-africa-south-africa-animal-science-spc-a.cnn>
- To read the researchers' article in *The Conversation Africa*, go to <https://theconversation.com/pesticides-are-not-the-only-way-to-deal-with-our-biggest-food-competitor-insects-47282>

Linus Opara bags one of the AU's most prestigious awards

The African Union (AU) has bestowed one of its highest honours upon agricultural engineer and postharvest technology expert Prof Umezuruike Linus Opara. He received the AU's Kwame Nkrumah Continental Scientific Award for senior researchers in the category



Prof Linus Opara (middle) received the AU's Kwame Nkrumah Continental Scientific Award at the AU's recent summit in Ethiopia. With him are the newly elected AU Chairperson, Mr Idriss Deby Itno of the Republic of Chad, and South Africa's Dr Nkosazana Dhlamini-Zuma, Chair of the AU Commission.

Life and Earth Science at the annual AU's summit in Ethiopia recently. Prof Nyokong Tebello of Rhodes University was similarly honoured.

The AU awards programme has since 2008 honoured the scientific achievements, valuable discoveries and findings of top African scientists.

Opara holds the DST-NRF SA Research Chair in Postharvest Technology, and is distinguished professor in AgriSciences' Department of Horticultural Science. His multi-disciplinary research team is the leading group worldwide working on postharvest practices that improve the postharvest handling, packaging and marketing of pomegranate fruit. He is recognised globally as the leading individual researcher on postharvest technology of pomegranates.

Opara's research group also tests and develops packaging and quality control methods relating to the handling and storage of fruits and vegetables such as table grapes, citrus and apples. These efforts are focused on alleviating

unnecessary food loss and waste in the fruit and vegetable sector. His team also recently investigated the preservation and quality of fish, and the use of cassava flour of which to make bread.

"It is an honour to have one's work recognised on such a continent-wide scale, but credit should also go to my research team and industry for supporting my ideas and research interests," says Opara, who graduated in agricultural engineering from the University of Nigeria Nsukka and holds a PhD from Massey University in New Zealand.

He added: "Scientific research can play a crucial role in enhancing the profitability and sustainability of agribusiness. This award is particularly special because it also recognises the impact of our research on building human capacity in South Africa and Africa as a whole."

Since joining Stellenbosch University in 2009, Opara has mentored the studies of 18 PhD and 21 MSc students from 15 African countries.

KALENDER 2016

27 Feb US Opedag	28 Mrt Gesinsdag
4 Mrt Alumni-saamtrek	29 Mrt Aanvang van klasse vir tweede kwartaal
14 Mrt Gradeplegtigheid AgriWetenskappe (10:00)	31 Mrt Laaste dag vir registrasie van nuwe M- en D-studente
16 Mrt Gradeplegtigheid vir doktorandi (10:00)	27 Apr Vryheidsdag
18 Mrt Einde van klasse eerste kwartaal	29 Apr Laaste dag waarop modules van die eerste semester amptelik by fakulteitsekretarisse gestaak mag word
21 Mrt Menseregtedag	
25 Mrt Goeie Vrydag	

Maak gerus 'n draai by die Tuiskomsnaweek

Omkring die datum 4 Maart, want dié middag (van 14:30 tot 17:30, kamer 1027, JH Neethlinggebou, Victoriastraat) gaan daar kopstukke gesels word oor landbou, navorsing, uitdagings, oplossings en waarom jou Alma Mater die voorste universiteit vir landboustudie in Afrika is – en dit alles oor 'n glasie lawende wyn en 'n verskeidenheid smaaklike snoeperye. Registreer sommer nog vandag by www.matiesalumni.com

Die waarnemende dekaan, prof Danie Brink, verwelkom almal om 14:30 waarna me Lulama Traub van die Departement Landbou-ekonomie 'Megatrends shaping the African food system' bespreek. Voor die wynproegeselligheid (omstreeks 15:40), gesels prof Altus Viljoen van die Departement Plantpatologie oor 'Playing chess in a Banana Field'.

Pia Addison chairperson of international symposium



Pictured here are Dr Pia Addison (right) and members of the TEAM 2016 Organising Committee, Dr Marc de Meyer from Belgium (left) and Dr Minette Karsten, a colleague of Addison's, who met recently to discuss the upcoming symposium.

Dr Pia Addison of the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology was successful in being selected to host the third International Symposium of Tephritid workers of Europe, Africa and the Middle East (TEAM) from 11 to 14 April 2016 in Stellenbosch. This is the first time it will be held on African soil.

The symposium, which takes place every four years, will provide the opportunity for researchers from the different regions to interact on important issues relating to true fruit flies (*Tephritidae*), as well as a platform for communication of scientific research to the local fruit industry.

Because the symposium is to be staged in Africa for the first time there is strong focus on bringing African delegates to Stellenbosch. Addison is liaising closely with Dr Marc de Meyer from Belgium, chairperson of the international steering committee for fruit fly research, and other members of the organising committee on obtaining substantial sponsorships for these delegates – a total of approximately 40 – to attend the meeting. Currently, around 100 people are expected to attend.

Dr Minette Karsten, post-doc in Conservation Ecology and Entomology, is also assisting with the organisation of the meeting along with seven other fruit fly researchers from South African Universities and research organisations.



Prof Florian Bauer (links) en prof Kennedy Dzama saam met die waarnemende dekaan, prof Danie Brink (regs).

Dzama en Bauer nou uitgelese professore

Prof Kennedy Dzama van die Departement Veekundige Wetenskappe en prof Florian Bauer van die Departement Wingerd- en Wynkunde tel onder die 15 hoogleraars wat onlangs as Uitgelese Professore aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch aangestel is.

Dit is slegs die tweede keer dat die US hierdie eerbewys aan sy voorste akademici betoon.

Die kriteria om in aanmerking hiervoor te kom sluit in: Die kandidaat moet ten minste vyf jaar by die US as professor aangestel wees; deurlopende uitnemende prestasie oor die laaste drie jaar behaal het; internasionale status hê; en na gelang van die spesifieke fakulteitskonteks, bewese uitsonderlike prestasie en leierskap in hoër-onderwys in navorsing en publikasies, nagraadse studieleiding, leer en onderrig, en gemeenskapsinteraksie gelewer het. Die aanstelling geld vir vyf jaar en heraanstellings kan oorweeg word.

Tydens die geleentheid het prof Wim de Villiers, Rektor en Visekanselier van die US, gesê die titel "Uitgelese Professor" is ingestel om erkenning te gee aan die instelling se beste akademici wat die kruin van sukses in hul universteitsloopbane bereik het.



Dr Ruan Veldtman

Hoe meer wilde bye, hoe groter kleinboere se oes

Dit is die advies na afloop van 'n vyf-jaar lange wêreldwye studie oor bestuiwers, waarvoor geskryf is in die toonaangewende vaktydskrif, *Science*. Dit sluit data in wat in Limpopo versamel is.

Een van die mede-outeurs van die *Science*-artikel is die ekologiese insekkundige dr Ruan Veldtman van die SA Nasionale Biodiversiteitsinstituut (SANBI) en die Universiteit Stellenbosch.

Die projek het sedert 2010 data ingesamel in 344 landerye op klein- en grootskaalse plase in nege lande, asook Suid-Afrika. Daardeer is die getal en verskeidenheid van bestuiwende insekte wat daarop voorkom oor 'n tydperk van vyf jaar getel, asook die opbrengs wat gelewer is.

Veldtman was lid van 'n groot groep bestuiwingskundiges en insekkenners wat tot die studie bygedra het. Die Suid-Afrikaanse data wat in die studie gebruik is, is deur SANBI in 'n sonneblom-saadproduksiegebied in Limpopo versamel. Die *Global Pollination Project* (GPP) het daarby ook die

nagraadse studies van twee MSc-studente en twee PhD-studente aan die US ten volle of gedeeltelik befonds. Die studente het gekyk na die bestuiwing van appels en hibriede saaduië, en die voedselbronne wat nodig is om bestuurde heuningbykorwe te onderhou.

"Ons wilde byeswerms moet gekoester word, sowel as die bestuurde heuningbye wat ons byeboere in boorde en lande uitsit sodat bestuiwing kan plaasvind," meen Veldtman.

Die hoeveelheid beskikbare bestuiwende insekte is egter aan die daal. Dit is onder meer die gevolg van habitatvernietiging, die onoordeelkundige gebruik van gifstowwe en die verspreiding van verskillende siektes en parasiete die wêreld oor. Die beskikbare plantegroei wat as voedselbronne dien, is ook aan die kwyn.

Die *Science*-artikel het bevind dat kleinboere 'n beduidende toename in hulle opbrengs kan sien as hul moeite doen om wilde bestuiwende insekte na hul plases te lok. Dit het die grootste impak

op grondgebied kleiner as twee hektaar en kan lei tot 'n toename van tot 24% in opbrengs.

Die navorsers het plase wat met meer as twee hektaar gewasse beplant is, as groot geklassifiseer. (Gemiddeld was die groter plase wat bestudeer is 14 ha groot). Sulke plase is geneig om naby of aangrensend aan ander landbougebiede van soortgelyke groter te lê. Sodoende word kilometers van aaneenlopende getransformeerde grondgebied geskep waarbinne slegs enkele kolle natuurlike plantegroei gevind word. Die drakrag van hierdie natuurlike veld is net genoeg om 'n handvol verskillende soorte wilde bestuiwers te onderhou, maar nie in groot genoeg getalle sodat die insekte aangrensende gewasse of boorde volledig kan bestuif nie.

Om die opbrengs van 'n tipiese grootskaalse kommersiële plaas te verhoog, kan net gebeur as boere verseker dat genoeg bestuiwers beskikbaar is om elke enkele hektaar blomme van 'n gewas of boord te bestuif.

Hortologie-navorsers blink uit op jaarlikse kongres

Navorsers van die Departement Hortologie het op die onlangse gesamentlike kongres van die Suider-Afrikaanse Hortologie, Gewas- en Grondkundeverenigings in Bloemfontein uitgeblink.



Wonder Doe het die toekenning vir die beste MSc Hortologie-aanbieding ontvang.

Dr Mariana Jooste en haar mede-outeurs het die toekenning ontvang vir die beste artikel deur 'n Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Tuinbouwetenskappe (SAVTW)-lid vir 2015 met hulle artikel, *Comparison of antioxidant levels and cell membrane composition during fruit development in two plum cultivars (Prunus salicina Lindl.) differing in chilling resistance*, en dr Lynn Hoffman en haar mede-outeurs het die toekenning ontvang het vir die beste navorsingsartikel wat in die South African Journal of Plant and Soil Sciences vir 2015 gepubliseer is met die titel, *The role of nutrient solution composition on the uptake of nutrients, growth and vase life of tulips grown hydroponically under South African conditions*.

Jakkie Stander het die toekenning vir die beste PhD-aanbieding (Hortologie) en Wonder Doe albei die toekennings vir die beste MSc Hortologie-aanbieding en die beste Hortologie Student van die SAVTW ingepalm. Sy pryse sluit in 'n boek en R10 000 ter ondersteuning van die koste vir die bywoning van 'n internasionale kongres.

Awards at HORTGRO Science researchers' breakfast



Stephen Rabe (HORTGRO Science Advisory Council chairperson) with Dr Elke Crouch who was declared winner for Best Final Report for 2015 together with Mr Tavagwisa Muziri.

HORTGRO Science recently celebrated its researchers at the annual Researcher Thank You Breakfast held at the Mont Marie restaurant in Stellenbosch. Dr Elke Crouch and Mr Tavagwisa Muziri of the Department of Horticultural Science won Best Final Report for 2015 for exploring trout pear mealiness non-destructively via X-ray computed tomography and near infrared reflectance spectroscopy. The award for the Best Visual Communication was shared by three students, Adriaan Theron, Imke Kritzinger (both MScAgric students in the Department of Horticultural Science) and Caro Kapp, PhD student.

Paul Hills to lead SA botanists

Plant biotechnologist Dr Paul Hills (picture) of the Department of Genetics in the Faculty has been elected as the new president of the South African Association of Botanists (SAAB). His term starts in 2017.

His election means that Hills will be involved in the SAAB Council for the next four years. The SAAB constitution stipulates that as the President Elect he will act this year as Vice-President, then lead as President for two years and then again serve a year as Vice-President. He has served on the SAAB Board since 2011 as treasurer, and is a member of the editorial board of the South African Journal of Botany.

Hills received his PhD in Botany from the then University of Natal in 2003. He joined AgriSciences in 2006 as a postdoctoral researcher in the Institute for Plant Biotechnology. In 2008 he was appointed as lecturer, and has since taught on molecular biology, plant biotechnology techniques and the economic and legal aspects of genetic research, to name a few.

His research interests lie in finding out how the molecular mechanisms that naturally regulate plant growth work. He explains: "It is about finding out why natural methods such as smoke water and growth promoting rhizobacteria work so well for some plants, and how these principles can ultimately be used instead of hormones to improve crop yield."



More achievements for SARChI Chair

The SARChI Chair in Meat Science, hosted by Stellenbosch University and the University of Fort Hare, has once again made a meaningful contribution to developing the capacity of postgraduate students who will contribute considerably to improving the food security of South Africa.

Projects illustrating the accomplishments of the SARChI Chair that were completed in 2015 included one MTEch project, nine Masters projects, and seven PhD projects. Two postdoctoral fellowships were also completed by Bernadette O'Neill and Gretha Geldenhuys respectively.



Prof Louw Hoffman, Co-chair of the SARChI Chair, with three of the doctoral students that graduated last December, from left to right: Adina Bosch, Liesel Laubscher and Jarred Knapp.

Williams judges in world's largest UA



Food Science lecturer, Dr Paul Williams, recently served as a judge for 2015 in the world's largest academic awards programme. It is known as *The Undergraduate Awards (UA)*, and is based in Ireland. The UA recognises innovation and excellence at undergraduate level.

Moreover, the UA identifies leading creative thinkers through their coursework and provides top performing students with the support, network and opportunities they require to further their career paths.

The 2015 programme received more than 5000 submissions in 25 diverse categories. They represented 255 universities in 39 countries. Williams acted as a judge in the Earth and Environmental Sciences category.

Dr Michael Schmeisser (picture), senior lecturer in the Department of Horticultural Science passed the Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education (Teaching and Learning) with distinction. This two year, part-time diploma was offered for the first time in January 2014 as a collaborative effort between CPUT, SU and UWC. The diploma enhances and challenges a participant's teaching practices by providing the theoretical framework for pedagogical change. He says he has always had a passion for teaching and felt that it was time to gain a deeper understanding of the pedagogy behind teaching.



Hoe ouer, hoe beter?



Chenin Blanc is die wyndruifkultivar wat seker al die langste in Suid-Afrika verbou word – al sedert Jan van Riebeeck se dae. Geskifte uit die Kaaps-Hollandse jare verwys soms na die aanplant van “Steen” en later selfs ook “Stein”. Dit was egter alles een en dieselfde ding, het die bekende wingerdkundige van weleer, prof Chris Orffer van die Fakulteit egter al in 1963 beslis.

Volgens bedryfstatistiek uit 2012 is Chenin Blanc ook die wyndruifkultivar wat die meeste in Suid-Afrika geplant word. Tot 18% van wingerde is daarmee beplant. Die hele oes eindig egter nie in tipiese liggroen of deursigtige wynebottels nie, aangesien ’n groot deel onder meer gebruik word vir die distillering van brandewyn.

Sedert die 1990’s groei Chenin Blanc se aansien onder Suid-Afrikaanse wynliefhebbers, en wynmakers lê hulself daarop toe om verskillende style en prysweners te bottel.

Riaan Wassung, keldermeester van die Universiteit Stellenbosch se Welgevallen Kelder, beskryf Chenin Blanc as ’n gemaklike, se drinkwyn. Hy verduidelik dat die eindprodukt alles afhang van watter styl van voorbereiding

’n wynmaker gebruik, en of die wyn enige hout-of gismoerkontak gehad het. Vir sy volgende Die Laan-reeks beplan hy ’n voller, ryper styl.

Welgevallen Kelder se eie Die Laan Chenin Blanc is afkomstig van wingerde van by die drie dekades oud op die Bottelarypad naby Stellenbosch, en word teen sowat R50 per bottel verkoop.

Daar’s egter ’n Chenin Blanc of twee wat jou sak behoorlik sal skud, omdat hulle afkomstig is van sogenaamde “Old Vines” wingerde wat al aansienlik meer jare in die grond is. Neem byvoorbeeld “Mevrou Kirsten” in Eben Sadie se Die Ouwingerd-reeks, wat rondom R700 kos. Dis afkomstig uit 110-jaar oue wingerde aan die voet van Stellenbosch se Botmaskop, en is vernoem na die eertydse grondeienaar, wyle mev Anna Kirsten.

Goed oor die 40% van Chenin Blanc-wingerde in Suid-Afrika is glo ouer as 20 jaar oud. Van die werklik besonderse “bejaardes” word gelys op Rosa Kruger se webblad “I am Old” (www.iamold.co.za). Dit dui al wat wingerd ouer as 35 jaar oud in Suid-Afrika aan, insluitend sultanadriuwe.

Daar’s ’n spesifieke skaarsheidswaarde én romantiek verbonde aan wyne wat van sulke ou wingerde kom. Sommige mense sweer dat hierdie wyne werklik spesiale kwaliteite inhou, maar ander kenners reken dis blote bemarkingsfoefies.

Daarom doen ’n MSC-student in Wynbiotegnologie, Renée Crous, nou oor “Old Vines” Chenin Blancs navorsing. Sy wil vasstel of dié “iets spesiaals” op werklikheid of op verbeelding gebou is, en of mens dit uiteindelik chemies kan analiseer en uitwys.

Sy is besig met die chemiese en sensoriese analise van veral die mondgevoel van tien Chenin Blancs afkomstig uit wingerde wat minstens 40 jaar oud is. Dis ’n tydsame proses, want ’n sensoriese profiel oor presies hoe dit proe, ruik en lyk is nog nooit voorheen vir enige Suid-Afrikaanse “Old Vines” Chenin Blanc-wyne saamgestel nie. Mondgevoel, so vertel Renée, behels dikwels moeilike konsepte en dis ingewikkeld om ’n paneel mense op te lei om dit te analiseer. Sy bestee ook heelwat tyd in die laboratorium om die chemiese samestelling en inhoud van dié tienstuks wyne vas te stel, asook watter chemiese komponente juis vir die spesifieke mondgevoel-aspekte van die “Old Vines”-wyne verantwoordelik is.

Haar navorsing word deur die Chenin Blanc Vereniging ondersteun. Haar studieleier is dr Héléne Nieuwoudt van die Departement Wingerd- en Wynkunde.

- Om Die Laan Chenin Blanc te bestel, kontak Riaan Wassung (winesales@sun.ac.za) of besoek die Facebook blad “Die Laan Wines”.

Veekundige Wetenskappe-studente skitter by gradeplegtighede



Noelle Steyn wat die gesogte Prof AJ Perold-medalje verwerf het saam met die waarnemende dekaan, prof Danie Brink.

Verskeie studente van die Departement Veekundige Wetenskappe het op die Desember 2015-gradeplegtighede geskitter. Noelle Steyn het die gesogte Prof AJ Perold-medalje verwerf wat aan die top AgriWetenskappe-student oor die duur van ’n akademiese loopbaan toegeken word (meegaande foto).

Vyf doktorsgrade is onderskeidelik aan Edward Imbayarwo-Chikosi, Jarred Knapp, Liesel Laubscher, Ntanganedzeni Mapholi en Adina Bosch toegeken. Die navorsingsvelde vir dié graad het gewissel van die

ontwikkeling van farmaseutiese middels vir die kalmeling van wildebeeste in aanhouding tot die bepaling van hoe Weskus kreef die oseaanveranderinge veroorsaak deur aardverwarming, as deel van hulle dag-tot-dag bestaan in-pas.

Nege meestersgrade is onderskeidelik aan Zanmari Moller, Swys Viviers (albei *cum laude*), Kolawole Akinoshun, Scott Day, Daniel van der Merwe, Karla Bussman, Cecil Mitchell, Nompumelelo Shange, Thandeka Makasi en Matthew van den Honert toegeken.



Olive industry representatives gather at Plant Pathology

A research feedback meeting was held with representatives of the olive industry at the Department of Plant Pathology recently and the attendees listened to a presentation by Dr Chris Spies from Infruitec-Nietvoorbij ARC on the trunk diseases found associated with olive trees in the Western Cape, and Dr Antonia Carlucci of Foggia University in Italy (with which Stellenbosch University has a memorandum of understanding to promote collaborative research on olive and grapevine trunk diseases) who spoke on olive tree diseases in Italy. Pictured here with Spies (second from the left) and Carlucci (second from the right) were (from left to right): Karien Bezuidenhout (Manager SA Olive), Dr Francois Halleen (also from Infruitec-Nietvoorbij ARC), Dr Lizel Mostert (Department of Plant Pathology), Mr Wynand van Jaarsveld (honours student on the project) and Mr John Scrimgeour (Head of SA Olive’s technical committee).

Landbou-ekonomie neem afskeid van Jan Lombard

Dr Jan Lombard het einde verlede jaar as senior lektor in die Departement Landbou-ekonomie afgetree na 'n dienstydperk van 38 jaar. Sy lang en gewaardeerde loopbaan is tydens 'n geselligheid by Kanonkop buite Stellenbosch gevier.

Hierdie boorling van Cradock het sy MScAgric met Landbou-ekonomie as hoofvak in 1978 aan die US verwerf. Van 1974 tot 1976 het hy as navorsingsassistent van die Landbou-ekonomiese Instituut deelyds by die Departement Landbou-ekonomie aan die US begin doseer. Van 1977 tot 1979 was hy streekekonoom vir die Departement Landbou op Grootfontein, maar sedert

1980 is hy terug op Stellenbosch as dosent in die Departement Landbou-ekonomie.

Vele studente onthou met enorme waardering die stewige basis in produksie-ekonomie wat hulle onder sy leiding opgedoen het. Sy besondere kundigheid lê in die verrekening van risiko in die landbou – 'n probleemveld waarop hy ook in sy doktorsale studie gefokus het.

Een van die Fakulteit se veeleisendste administratiewe take, die uitwerk van die klasrooster, was etlike jare sy taak – met sy tipiese koelkop en geordende werkwyse het hy altyd vinnig

oplossings gevind en so in aansienlike mate meegehelp om die Fakulteit se uitgebreide akademiese aanbod prakties moontlik te maak.

Hy en sy vrou, Matthea, 'n onderwyseres en skoonheidskundige, het twee seuns.



- Die Departement Landbou-ekonomie gaan Lombard se dienste vanjaar nog gebruik. Hy sal steeds twee nagraadse modules in Landbou-ekonomie doseer.

Megaboere trek saam by US Woordfees

Die Universiteit Stellenbosch se gewilde Woordfees is nie net vir diegene wat lief is vir gedigte of dramas of swaar letterkunde nie. Verskeie gespreksreekse is ook deel van die program en 'n nuuttjie op vanjaar s'n is die FNB Megaboere-ge-spreksreeks.



Die immer gewilde Jan Boland Coetzee kuier op 12 Maart saam met die megaboere by De Vette Mossel.

Van Suid-Afrika se voorste boere sal gesels met die politieke wetenskaplike en aanbieder van die Megaboere-reeks op KykNet, dr Piet Croucamp, en US-landboukundige prof Mohammad Karaan.

Onder hulle is Phillip Retief van die Van Loveren wynplaas naby Robertson, Kallie Schoeman van Schoeman Boerdery by Delmas, Jean Engelbrecht van Rust en Vrede by Stellenbosch, Francis Visagie van Nanibees naby Kakamas, en Wildeklaar uiesaadprodusente Louis en Cora de Kock.

Jan Boland Coetzee gaan op 12 Maart saam met die megaboere braai en stories vertel by die De Vette Mossel.

- Kaartjies is by Computicket beskikbaar. Vir meer inligting besoek:

http://www.sun.ac.za/english/woordfees/Documents/JH34807_Woordfees_FINAAL2_electronic_reduced.pdf

Send your pictures and memories for centenary book

A century of teaching agriculture at Stellenbosch will be celebrated in 2017. Festivities will go hand in hand with Stellenbosch University's centenary celebrations.

To mark this momentous milestone the Faculty of AgriSciences is planning a celebratory publication, says Prof Danie Brink, acting Dean of the Faculty: "We plan to compile a very special publication, one that provides a comprehensive historic overview of all our endeavours during the last century."

Without the help and assistance of loyal alumni this undertaking just will not be possible. Perhaps you have a special class picture to share with us, or one taken during a field trip or experiment? What were the highlights of your study years, or of the time you spent as lecturer in one of our departments? Are there specific "firsts" you remember, or people who made an impact on your life, or further, in industry? Kindly send your memories, and/or pictures, to agric@sun.ac.za not later than 15 March.

Basic instructions:

- Please confine your anecdotes and memories to one page.
- It's preferable to send pictures in electronic format. To eliminate damage, rather send a scanned copy of an original picture.
- Please ensure that these files are of good quality. Normally this means that the file size of the picture should be 300 dpi or at least 1MB.
- Kindly provide some background in the form of a brief picture caption and also send us the names (not only initials) and surnames of those in the picture.

Genetics and IPB say hello to new staff and postgrad students



Twenty four honours students and two academic staff were officially welcomed to the Department of Genetics and Institute for Plant Biotechnology (IPB) at Welgevallen Experimental Farm recently. True to tradition this event was celebrated with a delicious "boereworsbraai," salads and good wine.

The new staff members are Dr Nathan McGregor, a lecturer in Genetics with Psychiatric disorders as main research focus, and Mr Stephan van der Westhuizen, a data scientist and lecturer in Biometry.

At the same occasion Prof Johan Burger awarded the Hofmeyr van Schaik medal for the best fourth year Genetics student in 2015 to Ilani Mostert. This award is made annually to the best fourth year student in Genetics (BScHons or BScAgric) by the SA Genetics Society. Ilani obtained her Honours degree in Genetics *cum laude* with an average of 78% and is currently enrolled for an MSc in the Vitus laboratory with Dr Hano Maree as supervisor.

Kennis en die mag van die gemeenskap...

In 2014 het 'n groepie US-dosente saam met lede van die Genadendal-gemeenskap die "Genadendal Heuningbos Kennisvennootskap" geskep met die kerndoelwit om kennis oor heuningbostee met mekaar te deel en verder uit te brei. Plaaslike kennis en boekekennis word saam gebruik om nuwe kennis te skep.

In dieselfde jaar is studente van die US getaak om navorsingsprojekte aan te pak. Met ondersteuning van CHEC, NUFFIC (SASA) en ander, is drie vierdejaar-projekte vir 2015 voltooi. Einde verlede jaar het die gemeenskap van Genadendal byeengekom om terugvoering aan te hoor oor navorsing in 2015 en US-dosente en -studente het verskeie aanbiedinge in die verband gelewer. Onderwerpe het gestrek van die fisiologie van verskillende heuningbos-spesies tot die behandeling van die grond en die interaksie en balans tussen heuningbos en insekte.

Die kurator van die Genadendal-museum, mnr Kumresh Chetty en sy personeel, het omvattende hulp verleen met logistiek en het ook die Hendriensaal beskikbaar gestel. Die volgende dag het die US-span die



kleinboere ontmoet om hulle menings oor die groei van heuningbos verder te bespreek.

Uitruil van kennis wek bewustheid oor heuningbos, met inwoners wat inligting verskaf uit persoonlike ervaring. Die belangstelling van jeugdige was ook opmerklik en so word kennis van geslag tot geslag oorgedra. Met die nuwe kennis besin kleinboere van Genadendal saam oor die volhoubare produksie van goeie gehalte heuningbostee.

Studente en dosente van Bewaringsekologie, Agronomie, Mikrobiologie en Plant- en Dierkunde is by hierdie proses betrokke.