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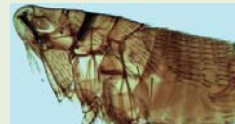
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UNIVERSITEIT
STELLENBOSCH
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AGRI SCIENCES WETENSKAPPE

Vink, Van Rooyen vat voor op wêreldverhoog

Twee landbou-ekonome van die Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe is tot die hoogste leierskapsposisies in internasionale verenigings verkies. Prof Nick Vink is as aangewese president van die Internasionale Vereniging van Landbou-ekonome (IAAE) aangewys en prof Johan van Rooyen is die nuwe president van IFAMA, 'n internasionale vereniging wat fokus op die bestuur van voedsel- en agribesighede. Nie net is hulle die eerste uit Afrika om hierdie toonaangewende verenigings te lei nie, maar dit is ook die eerste keer dat die leierskap van albei instellings van dieselfde universiteit afkomstig is.

Vink, 'n voormalige ontvanger van die Suid-Afrikaanse Landboukundige van die Jaar-toekenning, het 'n wye belangstelling in landbou-ontwikkeling in Afrika en is 'n gereelde kommentator oor aangeleenthede soos grond- en landbouhervorming, beleid en die wyn-ekonomie.

Hy is onder meer 'n ere-lid van die Suid-Afrikaanse en Afrikawye genootskappe vir landbou-ekonome, asook dié van die Amerikaanse Genootskap van Wynekonome. Hy dien die volgende drie jaar as aangewese president van die IAAE en in 2018 word hy president.

Die IAAE is reeds in 1929 in Brittanje gestig, en het al verskeie Nobelprysweners in Ekonomie in sy geledere gehad. Tans het hy sowat 1 800 lede wêreldwyd. Vink sê die vereniging moet sorg dat hy fokus op môre se probleme en nie gister s'n nie, en dat hy

gerat is om daardie probleme aan te spreek. Sy onmiddellike taak is om vir die program te sorg wat tot soveel as 1200 lede na die vereniging se volgende konferensie in Vancouver in Kanada in 2018 sal lok.

Van Rooyen is reeds 20 jaar lid van IFAMA (International Association for Food and Agribusiness Management) en dien al die afgelope dekade in sy raad. IFAMA het 'n wêreldwye ledestal van sowat 2 000 lede en sluit studente, akademië en verteenwoordigers van verskeie agribesighede in.

Van Rooyen gryp graag hierdie vervullende geleentheid aan omdat dit hom die kans bied om binne die opwindende en groeiende landbou-besighedsbedryf en voedselsektor 'n verskil te kan maak. "Veral landboubesigheid in Afrika bied opwindende geleenthede vir 'n organisasie soos IFAMA met sy unieke ledesamestelling," sê hy.



Proff Nick Vink en Johan van Rooyen.

IFAMA hou jaarlikse konferensies om die toekoms van landbou- en voedselbesigheid onder oë te neem. Gereelde gespreksforums met wêreldleiers in die bedryf word ook gehou.

Van Rooyen vat IFAMA se werksaamhede soos volg saam: "Die fokus val op sake soos mededingendheid, voedselsekerheid, agribesighedsintelligensie, klimaat-slim landboupraktieke en voedselstelsels, en die ontwikkeling van jong talent." Hoog op sy prioriteitslys is die totstandkoming van 'n Afrika-afdeling vir IFAMA.

Van Rooyen is 'n gewese uitvoerende bestuurder van die AgriSakekamer van Suid-Afrika en die Suid-Afrikaanse Wynraad en het onder meer in die direksies van die Landbounavorsingsraad, landboubesighede en die Landbank gedien. Hy is 'n kenner op die gebied van mededingendheid en transformasie binne die landbousector. Hy is ook erelid van die Landbou-ekonomie Vereniging van Suid Afrika.

Marianne McKay bags prestigious CHE / HELTHASA award

Ms Marianne McKay of the Department of Viticulture and Oenology (DVO) has won the Council for Higher Education (CHE)/HELTASA National Excellence in Teaching Award (2015) for the calibre of her teaching in Oenology and related fields at Stellenbosch University (SU). The prestigious award will be officially presented at a gala dinner during the annual HELTASA conference at North West University from 17 to 20 November.

Marianne has been teaching since completing her undergraduate degree 30 years ago! She trained as a teacher while working in the UK and on her return to the RSA in 2007, she was accepted as a lecturer in Oenology in the Faculty of AgriSciences. Her teaching strategy includes an extensive commitment to the professional development of students through her use of engaged learning activities.



Marianne McKay explaining the use of an ebullimeter to PYDA students during a specially developed Oenology short course this year.

She works closely with colleagues in the DVO and also with Dr Antoinette Smith-Tolken of the Division for Social Impact conducting research into work-integrated and service-learning aspects – she has published her research and addressed national and international conferences in South Africa and the United States. Marianne bagged the award based on a comprehensive portfolio of evidence and a gruelling interview with the CHE selection committee. Her portfolio of evidence included testimonials from present and past students, colleagues at the University and community engagement partners, such as the Pinotage Youth Development Academy.

She says all credit is due to her colleagues and research partners, and students, who willingly assisted her in gaining the award; she is also grateful to the CTL for assisting with the portfolio and the Faculty for nominating her.

KALENDER 2015

5 November	Konvokasie (19:00)
18 November	November-eksamen (1ste geleentheid eindig)
19 November	November-eksamen (2de geleentheid begin)
5 Desember	November-eksamen (2de geleentheid eindig)
9 Desember	Gradeplegtigheid (10:00)
10 Desember	Doktorandi-gradeplegtigheid (14:00)
24 Desember	Universiteitskantoor sluit

Pictured here are the newly elected members of the Agri-Sciences Students Association (ASA) which boasts membership of approximately 1300 and constantly strives to improve their academic as well as their social interests. This goal is achieved by having representative members in various committees within the faculty, as well as through socialising with other student societies both on and off campus. Back (left to right): Charys Barnes, Leanne Jordaan, Daphne Wabule (chair), Tumelo Makofane and Megan Jooste. Front (from left): Tsepho Mokototela (Vice-chair), Delphin Jamme and Anrich Vorster.



Linus Opara honoured with an IMPRESSA Award

A top agricultural engineering researcher in the Faculty of Agri-Sciences, Prof Umezuruike Linus Opara, widely known for his un-stinting efforts to help build Africa's human resource capacity, has been honoured by the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) with the IMPRESSA 2015/2016 Award. Opara is the present incumbent of the DST-NRF South African Research Chair in Postharvest Technology and a distinguished professor in the Department of Horticultural Science.

RUFORUM is made up of 46 universities spanning the African continent – the prestigious award was presented to him in Windhoek recently during its annual general meeting. The IMPRESSA Award recognises impact research and

science in Africa, and honours outstanding university scientists who have made a significant contribution in the field of agricultural research and science for development in Africa, including human and institutional development.

Opara was very modest about the IMPRESSA Award: "While I am delighted that my work has been recognised on a continent-wide scale, to me the award also recognises Stellenbosch University and the small team of dedicated and productive students and staff I have worked with over the years."

Since joining Stellenbosch University in 2009, Opara has established a state-of-the-art research laboratory that develops and tests various postharvest technologies and advancements.

He works on a wide range of

products – from the postharvest handling and storage of fruit and vegetables such as table grapes and apples and pomegranates to fish preservation and the use of cassava flour as an alternative bread making option.

Opara is particularly recognised as the world's leading researcher of matters relating to postharvest technology suitable for pomegranate fruit. The National Research Foundation recently estimated that the efforts of his team to develop handling technologies for this antioxidant and rich fruit has brought direct and indirect benefits to South Africa's fledgling pomegranate industry to the value of some R65 million.

Forty graduate students (19 PhDs and 21 MSc students) and four postdoctoral fellows from over



Prof Opara (right) received the IMPRESSA Award from Prof Levy Nyagura, outgoing Chairman of the Board of Trustees of RUFORUM and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe.

15 African countries have thus far benefitted from the training and mentorship in agricultural science and engineering research he has provided at Stellenbosch University.

Gunnar Sigge help nou internasionale kongresse beplan



Die voorsitter van die Departement Voedselwetenskap in die Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe, dr Gunnar Sigge, sal die volgende twee jaar as lid van die wetenskaplike adviespaneel dien wat sal sorg vir die programinhoud van die Amerikaansegebaseerde Instituut van Voedselwetenskap (IFT) se jaarlikse kongresse.

Veertien kenners is deel van dié paneel en Sigge is die enigste lid wat nie uit die VSA afkomstig is nie.

Hy sal verantwoordelik wees vir die saamstel van programinhoud wat aangeleenthede rondom volhoubaarheid tydens die IFT-kongresse in 2016 en 2017 gaan bekyk.

Die IFT se jaarlikse kongresse bevorder die algemene organisasie van voedselwetenskap en die toepassing daarvan regoor die wêreld. Die IFT het in 1939 ontstaan – dit is 'n dinamiese forum met lede in 90 lande.

Top international recognition for Michael Samways

Prof Michael Samways of the Faculty's Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology has received top and richly deserved international recognition for his contribution to invertebrate conservation.

Invertebrates are the most numerous species of all organisms. They play a major role in shaping the world as we know it, helping form the soil, pollinate plants and maintaining resilience in ecosystems. They have only recently been included in the world agenda for future sustainability of the planet.

One of the major players in global conservation is the World Conservation Union (IUCN), with the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN responsible for development of the world-famous Red List of Threatened Species, as well as numerous other conservation initiatives.

Samways has been involved in IUCN/SSC activities for 25 years and for the last decade developed and chaired the IUCN/SSC Invertebrate Conservation Sub-Committee (ICSC), which has consolidated global invertebrate conservation. He recently retired as Chair of the ICSC although he continues to be active within



Dr Simon Stuart, Chair of the IUCN/Species Survival Commission, reading the Citation of Excellence for Michael Samways at the recent Chairs Conference in Abu Dhabi.

IUCN/SSC. At the recent Chairs Conference of the IUCN/SSC in Abu Dhabi, Samways received top and richly deserved recognition for his contribution to invertebrate conservation by being awarded the SSC Chair's Citation Excellence. This was done in absentia as he could unfortunately not be present at the time, but the certificate was presented in Cambridge at an earlier meeting.

Veekundige Wetenskappe maak stem dik op kongres

Prof Kennedy Dzama en dr Helet Lambrechts het verlede maand saam met nagraadse studente verbonde aan die Departement Veekundige Wetenskappe die 48ste jaarlikse kongres van die Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Veekundiges op Empan-

geni in Kwa Zulu-Natal bygewoon.

Die kongres het bestaan uit 62 kongreslesings en 149 plakkate waarvan die Departement onderskeidelik 'n totaal van 15 kongreslesings en 23 plakkate aangebied het.

Twee van die Departement se nagraadse studente, Tersia Needham en Daniel van der Merwe, het elk 'n prys vir beste plakkaat in onderskeidelik die sessies vir Voeding (geborg deur AFMA) en Fisiologie (geborg deur SA Stamboek) ontvang. Tersia het ook 'n brons medalje ingepalm vir haar Meester-projek oor immunokastrasie in varke.

Die XXY span, wat bestaan uit Colette Engelbrecht, Nadine Nowers en Robin Welsh, het 'n derde plek in die jaarlikse vasvrakompetisie wat deur Veeplaas-tydskrif geborg word, behaal.



Daniel van der Merwe



Tersia Needham

Prime example of community based research steams on

All is still well with the Genadendal Honeybush Knowledge Partnership which started with the simplest research tools: observation of and conversations with local farmers. The area is a known site for traditional honeybush tea harvesting. In other areas honeybush (*Cyclopia spp.*) is being over-harvested in the wild.

The process was initiated in 2012 with initial visits to Genadendal by lecturers Ms Rhoda Malgas and Dr Shayne Jacobs (both from Conservation Ecology and Entomology). By 2013, Entomology student Eleonore Slabbert completed her

4th year project on insects associated with honeybush, forming the foundation for an MSc in 2014/2015. Prof Alex Valentine, legume specialist, and newly appointed agronomist, Dr Marcellous le Roux joined the initiative in 2014. Since then a modest multidisciplinary research group has been moulded around honeybush research-based on the needs and requests of small-scale farmers of Genadendal and elsewhere.

Currently the Genadendal Honeybush Knowledge Partnership is affiliated with eight research projects. These include two PhDs,

one MSc and four fourth year projects (equivalent to Honours) – one of them by a student from the Netherlands.

Participation of local farmers is key to the work being done. Results from analyses are presented to them as soon as they become available and they in turn render input on interpretation of the data, and generate questions and ideas for further research and practical application.

The team was recently invited to present the initiative as a case study in community-based research by SU's Division for Social Impact.



Abie Joorst (local farmer), Shayne Jacobs, Earlon McCloen and Rhoda Malgas (all from SU), Anna Joorst (local farmer), Casper Brink and Eleonore Slabbert (both SU) and Birgit Jilisen (Van Hall Larenstein, The Netherlands).

Plant Pathology students learn about proper sprayer calibration



The 4th year Plant Pathology students learn about sprayer calibration at Neethlingshof.

The 4th year Plant Pathology class recently attended a practical on how to calibrate vineyard, orchard, knapsack and boom sprayers. It was presented by Gideon van Zyl of Citrus Research International and the Department of Plant Pathology, assisted by Johan van Zyl, an agricultural consultant and chemical rep of Nexus AG on the farm Neethlingshof near Stellenbosch.

Students first listened to a theoretical lecture on sprayer maintenance, pre-spray season preparation, proper sprayer calibration, record keeping, spray nozzle selection, dose rate determination, spray technology and good spraying practice.

Afterwards a full sprayer calibration was demonstrated on an axial fan, boom and knapsack sprayer. Spray safety topics such as how to reduce spray drift and operator exposure were also discussed and briefly demonstrated. Then the importance of proper calibration and the impact it has on disease control was discussed with them.

- A big thank you to Hannes van Zyl of Neethlingshof for providing the tractor and sprayers for the demonstration and to Johan van Zyl for his input.

Study is first to include molecular data for fleas of small mammals in SA

A study by Luther van der Mescht of the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology has proved to be the first to include molecular data for fleas of small mammals in the RSA and provides baseline data for future research into flea systematics in the region.

Van der Mescht recently investigated the mechanisms involved in shaping flea distribution throughout South Africa as part of his PhD thesis. Flea taxonomy in SA is characterized by many uncertainties, mainly due to subtle morphological variation and the absence of molecular data. The flea subgenus *Dinopsyllus* is endemic to the Afrotropical region and contains species that are known vectors for plague in SA.

Following morphological descriptions much controversy exists surrounding the classification of species within the subgenus. For example two taxa *D. ellobius* and *D. abaris* are closely resembled in morphology, geographical range and host preference. This has lead flea taxonomists to speculate that they are in fact a single species, *D. ellobius*. In an attempt to provide clarity on the matter, fleas were sampled from 830 rodents and shrews trapped at 31 localities throughout SA. Morphological and molecular data (using several genetic markers) was compared and provided support for the notion that the two species should be considered as separate entities.

Although the exact mechanisms involved in the evolution of the two species could not be determined, it does appear that the two are geographically separated and have different ecological requirements. The research has been published in the *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*.



Dinopsyllus ellobius male flea recorded on rodents.

Trips of major importance for seven final year Forestry students

by Brendan Marais

Final year Forestry students of the Faculty of AgriSciences recently travelled to plantations to gather data for a much revered management plan project, the equivalent of an undergraduate thesis. This year seven made their way to several plantations in the RSA, and a few of them headed for Rwanda...

The New Forests Company (NFC) is a sustainable Pan-African forestry company established in 2004 and operating in Rwanda. The Nyungwe buffer zone plantation is situated in the south-western region of Rwanda and was formally established in the early 1980s. Eucalyptus

maidenii, *Pinus patula*, *Acacia melanoxylon* and *Cupressus bentharii* are just some of the species featuring there. The plantation was established as a means to inhibit local communities from encroaching on the already stressed indigenous Nyungwe forest, but was later abandoned due to the civil war in the early 1990s.

Switzerland, Belgium, the European Union, as well as the World Bank, all donated funding and know-how to the establishment of the plantation. After its subsequent abandonment, the limited plantation infrastructure and all of the timber stood unmanaged for some 20 years – until 2011 when the NFC came aboard.

The NFC has signed an agreement with the Rwandan government to develop a delineated section of the Nyungwe buffer zone plantation as a concession for the next 49 years. The challenges facing NFC are enormous; roads have not been maintained and terrain is steep with average slope greater than 60%. This is an amazing opportunity to once again bring sustainable development to the otherwise impoverished rural south-western region of Rwanda. Very few can imagine the absolute tragic consequences of the devastating civil war, but hope and potential for an already blossoming future exists, and the NFC is perfectly positioned to make this happen.



Eucalyptus-stands

Honing the skills of young maize breeders in Africa

Ms Nakisani Netshifhefhe, a 1st year Master's student in the Department of Plant Pathology, was one of only eleven females invited to take part in this year's New maize breeders training course held in Lusaka, Zambia, recently. The course forms part of a CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre) Global Maize Programme initiative, and was jointly presented by CIMMYT, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the Zambian Agricultural Research Institute.

Nakisani's research focuses on understanding the inheritance of resistance to Fusarium ear rot of maize and subsequent reduced mycotoxin (fumonisins) accumulation in the grain. The three week training course covered various aspects of maize breeding in Africa including conservation agriculture, advanced technologies, evaluation and release of breeding material, biometrical techniques and publicly available online tools. Various CIMMYT project leaders delivered lectures, supervised the field and

laboratory visits and interacted with participants throughout the course.

Topical issues such as gender mainstreaming in the maize value chain and building successful networks between public and private enterprises were also unpacked. Moreover, the course provided ample opportunity for networking with researchers and students from across Africa.

- A huge word of thanks to CIMMYT for sponsoring Nakisani's visit to Lusaka.



Nakisani Netshifhefhe attended the "New maize breeders training course" held in Lusaka, Zambia, in September.

'Spitbraaiing' for Heritage Day... AgriMaties style!

by Kayleigh Hattingh

The ASA Year-end function which took place recently was quite in time to "qualify" for a Heritage Braai celebration. The evening promised must pleasantness to come with a mouth watering 'spitbraai' of lamb, good music and good company, and the theme was set to the mood of a barn party.

It was indeed a very special get-together made even better by the presence of so many students. The food, music, atmosphere and ambience made for a spectacular night to remember (and left everyone wanting more).

A special thanks from the ASA to our

guardian Dr Paul Williams, Erna Blancquaert, Prof Danie Brink and the outgoing ASA for every ounce of effort during the year. We also wish to express our sincere gratitude to the following for sponsoring tickets to students: Agricultural Economics, Animal Science, Conservation Ecology and Entomology, Food Science, Food Science Student Association, Horticultural Sciences and Viticulture and Oenology.

With all that said, our year in office as ASA went by as quick as you could say "AgriMaties." It was a year laced with many difficulties and hardships on campus, but every moment we, as a committee, spent together was worth all the



It was smiles all round at ASA's recent 'spitbraai' commemorating Heritage Day.

trials and tribulations we faced. From our first event to our last, we enjoyed every single minute. So this is us, signing off for the last time... All the best to the new committee!

- #kickASA !!!



Welgevallen Cellar, home of DIE LAAN and MATIES wines, produces wine on commercial scale, as well as for external clients. The cellar has a capacity of 120 tons and boasts excellent winemaking equipment and other facilities, such as barrel storage. Below is a list of available wines and prices. Contact the Cellar Manager, Mr Riaan Wassung via e-mail: winesales@sun.ac.za or rww@sun.ac.za should you wish to order; or visit their Facebook page: DIE LAAN Wines. (Prices include VAT.)

- Die Laan Viognier 2014** – wooded (R30 (promotional price) limited stock)
Floral and dried fruits on the nose; light wood flavours, balanced acidity, smooth and lingering aftertaste
- Die Laan Sauvignon Blanc 2015** – unwooded (R45)
Light style, typical gold/green colour, tropical flavours, accessible acidity, fresh and clean finish
- Die Laan Chenin Blanc 2015** – unwooded (R40)
Golden colour, ripe fruit with balanced acidity, great drinking wine
- Die Laan Pinotage 2012** *Veritas Silver Medal 2014 (R60)
Dark, lively colour; plums and red berries on the nose, good wood integration, full and soft on the finish
- Die Laan Merlot 2014** (R50 (available Nov 2015))
Excellent dark colour, cassis and red berries on the nose, subtle wood, good tannin structure, clean and long finish
- Die Laan Cape Blend 2012** (R50)
Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinotage and Petit Verdot blend. Red berries, cassis on the nose; lively colour, subtle wood, full and soft on the finish
- Maties Rooiplein** (R45)
Drink now or within 2 years of purchase, everyday drinking wine
- NEW: Die Laan Cape Fortified 2005** (R90)
Ripe berries, cassis and spices on the nose; lively colour, subtle wood, full and soft on the finish; best served chilled

DIE LAAN VIOGNIER – ONLY R30 PER BOTTLE!

The Cellar's promotion wine in October is Die Laan Viognier 2014 (wooded). Floral and dried fruits on the nose; light wood flavours, balanced acidity, smooth and lingering aftertaste.

Dankie aan AgriKultuur/Culture

Die Fakulteit AgriWetenskappe wil AgriKultuur/Culture graag bedank vir die voortreflike samewerking die afgelope jaar. AgriKultuur/Culture is 'n maandelikse alternatiewe gratis aanlyn-tydskrif wat die landbou kombineer met leefstyl, reis, wyn, voedsel, die varsste nuus, tendense en pret vir die hele gesin. Dit is 'n kommunikasiekanaal waarop kennis, inligting, die nuutste tegnologie, tendense, vaardighede en begrip in die landbou en verwante bedrywe met sy meer as 147 000 lesers gedeel word. Besoek www.agrikultuur.com/ en teken in om elke maand 'n gratis aanlyn-uitgawe te ontvang.

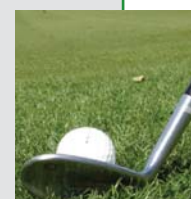


Faculty's Golf Day – 19 November

It's all systems go for AgriSciences' annual Golf Day which takes place on 19 November at the picturesque De Zalze Golf Estate just outside Stellenbosch en route to Strand and Somerset West. The proud sponsors of this year's event are Freshvest, Suiderland Plase and Nexus.

The proceeds of the day are in aid of AgriSciences' bursary fund for current undergraduate and postgraduate students striving to pursue a career in Agriculture. and also for prospective students who wish to study in the Faculty.

For further information on the Golf Day and sponsorships for the Faculty's Bursary Fund, contact Carin Bruce at cbruce@sun.ac.za (tel. 021 808 9047), or Monika Basson at e-mail: mh@sun.ac.za (tel. 021 808 2978).



AfroSense 2015 sal die smaak-breinselle prikkel

Indien jy belangstel in die wetenskap wat bepaal hoe die mens smake en geure ervaar, sal die eerste AfroSense 2015-konferensie in jou kraal wees. Dit word van 23 tot 27 November op Stellenbosch aangebied, en sal ook fokus op wyses waarop die nywerheid die sensoriese gehalte van produkte bepaal.

Die Universiteit Stellenbosch (US) se Departement Voedselwetenskap en die Instituut vir Wynbiotegnologie in die Departement Wingerd- en Wynkunde bied die konferensie aan. Dit sal 'n akademiese inslag hê – internasionale wetenskaplikes wat spesialiseer in sensometrie, sensoriese wetenskap

en verbruikersgerigte studies sal navorsing aanbied wat uniek is tot die plaaslike wyn- en voedselnywerheid.

Onder die sprekers is gerekenende internasionale kenners en daar is aanbiedings oor verskillende

data statisties te ontleed, word ook bespreek. Nog 'n trekpleister is 'n neurowetenskaplike aanbieding oor hoe kennis oor die brein se respons op smaaksensasies in die bemarking van kos en drank aangewend kan word.

vinnige sensoriese analisemetodes wat die nywerhede kan aanwend met die ontwikkeling van nuwe produkte en 27 November se werkswinkel handel oor hoe kulturele en sielkundige verskille verbruikers se smaakvoorkeure beïnvloed.

Die konferensie vind by die STIAS-konferensiefasiliteit op die kampus plaas. Vir nadere besonderhede besoek die US-webwerf: <http://conferences.sun.ac.za/index.php/afrosense/afrosense2015>.

Kontak dr Hélène Nieuwoudt van die Instituut vir Wynbiotegnologie by hnn@sun.ac.za of Nina Muller van die Departement Voedselwetenskap by mm7@sun.ac.za



sensoriese analisemetodes wat die bedryf gedurende produkontwikkeling en gehalteversekering kan aanwend. Wyses om ingesamelde

Twee halfdag-werksinkels vir belangstellendes uit die nywerheid word op 26 en 27 November aangebied. Eersvermelde fokus op nuwe,

Alison Leslie and students at SAWMA Symposium



Dr Alison Leslie (third left) of the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology, is pictured here with four of her graduate students who recently attended the Southern African Wildlife Management Association (SAWMA) symposium held in Kimberley. Dr Donna Cawthorn (left), a postdoctoral candidate of the Department of Animal Science, also attended the symposium. Kate Spies (right) presented her work on the ecology of impala and waterbuck in the Majete Wildlife Reserve in Malawi. Frowin Becker (second right) presented his research on vulture flight paths and the issue of wind farms. Francois Retief's poster displayed his research on the ecology of spotted hyena in the Majete Wildlife Reserve and Corle Jansen (second left) presented her research findings on the diet of leopard, jackal and caracal in the Northern Cape and farmer/leopard conflict issues. The conference was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Forestry Indaba held at NMMU

The Forestry Indaba 2015 held recently at the George campus of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University was officially opened by the Director General of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Prof Edith Vries.

DAFF was keenly involved in the proceedings but there appeared to be a lack of industry participants although the programme offered some interesting discussion topics. Debates and discussions especially focused on the manner in which major industry companies conduct business and the way the government is regulating transformation.

A highlight of the Indaba was the youth participation and special sessions to gather their thoughts on the industry. General Bheki Cele, deputy minister of DAFF, also participated in some of these discussions. He made time to especially participate in the youth perspectives meeting and address various issues some of which were:

- that the Government should help increase the GDP of South Africa with the privatisation of the industry and helping individual enterprises;
- that youth must be included in all sections of the industry as they will lead the future of the industry;
- that funding in the industry must be re-evaluated – money should be placed in a fund;
- that climate change should be addressed more strongly, because “we would like to leave the earth in better state than we found it for future generations;”
- that academia must support the industry.

The XIV World Forestry Congress: A youth experience of note

by Kutelani Tshivhase,
Kyle Schwegman and
Tatenda Mapeto

The XIV World Forestry Congress held in Durban showcased extensive youth involvement. A greater percentage of the youth delegates were South African.

The International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) of which all South African forestry university students are part, was involved in co-ordinating the youth involvement at the congress both from a local and international perspective. Their involvement brought direction and synchronisation of the

diverse youth that met during the discussions and sessions.

The youth had a focused story line for the entire congress. They participated in plenary panel discussions, in side and special event discussions both as panellists and participants. A unique feature of the youth delegates was that though they attended multiple sessions and at different times, they converged at the end of each day to share experiences and exchange insights thus ensuring everyone had a grip on the congress proceedings. The international diversity of the youth participants was a knowledge catalyst in itself as they learnt from



Pictured here are some of the attendees at the XIV World Forestry Congress.

each other's perspectives as well.

Some discussions at the congress had a strong youth focus and also facilitated the filtering of youth specific outcomes at the congress. A side-event, jointly organised by the International Union of Forestry Research Organisations and IFSA, explored forestry education in Africa.

One of the outcomes of the

discussion, titled *Enhancing Forestry Education in Africa* was that the youth reiterated that there was a need to align curriculums at African institutions. It was alluded that as universities focus on student numbers increase, they tend to gravitate towards special programmes that are in some cases not relevant to our current challenges in the forestry industry.