

NEWSLETTER 1.11

CLAAS Foundation International



Dear All,

What happens to our prize-winners after they are awarded the Helmut Claas Scholarship? What are their plans for the future? And how did they get into agriculture in the first place?

We have interviewed some of our scholarship-holders about their studies, career plans and what moves them. In the spotlight this issue is Miriam Kleinknecht.

We are working with the private education institution Science Lab to ensure a consistent supply of new students – or rather to ensure that more and more young people are opting for agriculture as a career. We have set up a “Researcher Box Project” in Gütersloh as a basis for this.

There is also news from the CLAAS Foundation at an organisational level. As well as making changes to the jury, we are also bidding a fond farewell to Professor Hans-Heinrich Harms who is retiring after many years on the Committee.

We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and we wish you a wonderful summer.

Best regards



Sylvia Looks



Uwe Lütkeschümer

Executive Board of the CLAAS Foundation



Miriam Kleinknecht

Age: 24

Course: M.Sc. Agricultural Science (major: Agricultural Engineering)

University: University of Hohenheim

Qualifications: currently B.Sc. Agricultural Engineering; after Masters, M.Sc. in Agricultural Engineering

Awarded the Helmut Claas Scholarship 2010

Ten questions for Miriam Kleinknecht

Passion for agriculture and good wine

What are you working on at the moment?

I am currently working on a Masters in Agricultural Science, majoring in Agricultural Engineering. I'm in my second term. I am also working with the “Vision Heuchelberg” young vintners project on preparing for the presentation of our first wine.

What made you decide to study agriculture?

When I finished school, I knew that I wanted to do something relating to farming. By the end of my first two years at university, I was sure that Agricultural Engineering was perfect for me.

What influence did your family background have on your decision?

My family runs an arable and wine-making farm in Baden-Württemberg. So I grew up with farming from an early age, and became more passionate about it as I got older.

What do you like most about your course?

The foundation course is very flexible. Even at the major stage, there is a wide range of subjects, including livestock management systems, irrigation, use of sustainable materials, drying and agricultural machinery for crop farming, which is my favourite subject.

How did you find out about the CLAAS Foundation and the Helmut Claas Scholarship?

The supervisor for my bachelor's degree dissertation told me about the Helmut Claas Scholarship.

How do you think agriculture will change in the future?

I think the trend towards farms closing and increasing area per farm is set to continue. In areas with small structures like here in Baden-Württemberg, the structural changes will carry on, and quickly. The technical equipment in farms will become more important, and will need to perform better and become more reliable all the time.

What do you plan to do when you have finished studying?

After I graduate, I would like to work at an agricultural technology company. I can picture myself working in sales or product marketing.

What do you like to do when you are not studying agricultural science or agricultural engineering?

As well as agriculture, I am active in local politics and am a member of the Schwaigern town council. I am also passionate about sport, especially aero-wheels gymnastics.

Having fun with technology – also in Gütersloh

Renowned private educational establishment Science Lab sends its researchers' boxes into primary schools and nurseries in cities throughout Germany to encourage fun ways of learning about research and technology. It has now launched a new project in Gütersloh in conjunction with the CLAAS Foundation, which is offering nursery nurses and primary school teachers the opportunity to take a free course with the experts at the Science Lab training centre.

"This gives the teachers the necessary knowledge and equipment to promote inquisitiveness into natural phenomena in a professional yet child-friendly way," explained Sylvia Looks, Managing Director for the CLAAS Foundation, at the project launch.

At the end of the course, each nursery is given a researcher's box full of child-friendly, exciting experiments.



Fun with technology ... is what the CLAAS Foundation wants to share. Researchers' boxes are now available for schools and nurseries in Gütersloh. From left: Dr. Vera Romberg-Forkert (speaker for the Science Lab educational establishment), Sylvia Looks and Nadine Tänzler (both from the CLAAS Foundation).

Long-standing committee member retires

Professor Harms is leaving

Professor Hans-Heinrich Harms, Head of the Agricultural Machinery and Fluid Engineering Institute at the Technical University of Braunschweig, has been a Committee member since the CLAAS Foundation was established in 1999. He has now retired.

Professor Harms was born on 16 June 1947 in Diepholz, Lower Saxony, as the son of a farmer. After finishing school in 1966 and completing two years of military service, he studied mechanical engineering at the Technical University of Braunschweig, majoring in agricultural machinery and tractor construction. In 1981, he completed his doctorate on a topic related to oil hydraulics. At the CLAAS Foundation, he played a major role in defining the evaluation criteria for the Helmut Claas Scholarship and thus provided the foundations for the high quality of the

prize-winning works. Professor Harms was also committed to promoting up-and-coming scientists and technicians outside of the CLAAS Foundation.

He was enthusiastic in his support for the Field Robot Event held in Braunschweig in 2010.

His motto was "Advertising for the MINT sector is crucial if you want good engineers in the future" and in recent years Professor Harms has been working for the www.MINT-Braunschweig.de website. MINT stands for Mathematics, Information technology, Natural sciences and Technology. The CLAAS Foundation supported the setup of the website by donating €3000.



Agricultural engineering colleagues: Dr.-Ing. Hermann Garbers and Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Heinrich Harms



It's time to say goodbye: Dr. Rolf Meuther, Dr. James Brighton, Dr.-Ing. Hermann Garbers and Uwe Lütkešhümer present Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Heinrich Harms (centre) with a farewell gift.

In short

+++ **Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stefan Böttinger** is leaving the jury for the Helmut Claas Scholarship at the CLAAS Foundation Award Ceremony in 2011. We thank him for his invaluable work. **Dr.-Ing. Marcus Geimer**, Professor in Mobile Working Machinery at the University of Karlsruhe, will take his place.

+++ The **Student Research Centre Bad Saulgau** is expanding to cover a larger network: new sites have opened in Tuttlingen, Überlingen and Ulm.