

2018 Review | 2019 Outlook

Conveying enthusiasm for technology



Dear Sir / Madam,

In addition to its Day of Agricultural Engineering, for which pupils were invited to the CLAAS factory in Harsewinkel, the CLAAS Foundation also organised its first ever competition exclusively for schoolchildren, under the motto "Making technology fun". The next generation of inventors assembled electric model tractors, which they then had to use to accomplish further tasks. At the end of the day, both pupils and organisers were extremely happy.

There were also grounds for celebration at the Foundation Awards ceremony. Helmut Claas personally presented scholarships and other prizes to talented students from eleven countries. Learn more about Patrick Lehr, recipient of the first Helmut Claas Scholarship prize, and his project in our interview.

Beyond the Foundation Awards, we were also active again at an international level last year. A robotics team from Denmark, who we were supporting for the first time, won first prize at the Field Robot Event during the DLG-Feldtage trade fair in Bernburg-Strenzfeld. The CLAAS Foundation is advancing the further expansion of its international relations by promoting an exchange project: this will enable students from Osnabrück to work on a project at Harper Adams University in the UK.

Best regards,



Sylvia Looks

Frank Klüsener

CLAAS Foundation Board



The prize winners, jury and Board of Trustees after presenting the awards

2018 Foundation Awards

Talented students honoured from eleven countries

The CLAAS Foundation honoured talented graduates of agricultural sciences for their degree theses on agricultural engineering. Four Helmut Claas Scholarships and other prizes worth over €45,000 were awarded to students from eleven European countries.

Patrick Lehr, University of Hohenheim, received first prize for the Helmut Claas Scholarship. His bachelor thesis investigated the relationship between cutting and other

processing techniques for vines, as well as biochemical changes in plants (see interview on the next page).

"The scholars and award winners were selected based on their topics and the scientific quality of the bachelor theses they submitted. But the independent jury was also interested in their personal development, interests and social commitment," says Sylvia Looks from the CLAAS Foundation Board.



Students Edis Besirovic and Sopiko Glonti (MBA Agricultural Management at the Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences) were awarded a scholarship.



At home in Palatinate: Patrick Lehr

Winner of the 2018 Helmut Claas Scholarship

An interview with Patrick Lehr

What are you currently doing? What are you working on?

I'm currently at the end of the first semester of my MSc Agricultural Sciences and Crop Production Systems course at the University of Hohenheim. My particular specialisms are stress physiology and product quality. I'm currently preparing for the next exam phase, which starts in February.

Why did you decide to study agriculture?

While at school, I'd already developed my interest in biology. I heard about the agricultural biology course at the University of Hohenheim and during my pre-study placement, I realised just how fascinating farming is and decided to study agricultural sciences.

What is your family background? How did this influence your decision?

As a small child, I spent a lot of time with my parents in our garden, where we grew fruit and vegetables, but my family does not own a farm.

What do you like most about your degree programme?

The agricultural sciences course at the University of Hohenheim is extremely varied. I have been particularly fascinated by plant science and crop production. My masters in agricultural sciences and crop production systems gives me the opportunity to do exactly what interests me most: a combination of fundamental research and applied problem solving for farming issues.

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

The agricultural engineering modules that I completed for my bachelor's degree also gave me the opportunity to attend lectures given by Prof Böttinger. During my second semester, Prof Böttinger also talked about the CLAAS Foundation and its funding programmes. After completing my bachelor's dissertation, I recalled this, sought more information about the foundation and came across the Helmut Claas Scholarship. This August, I was delighted to receive a positive response from the jury.

How do you think farming will change in future?

Land use both internationally and in Germany will alter due to climate change and fluctuating consumer demand. I believe that specialisation in new crops or particular product features, such as regionality, represents a great opportunity for Germany. Not only can new crops, such as soya, durum wheat or in favourable areas even figs, provide opportunities, but modern cultivation processes can also produce new varieties. Technical progress, with options such as artificial intelligence, will also play a major role in meeting the increasing demands on product quality.

What are your plans after graduation?

I expect to finish my masters in agricultural sciences in 2020. After graduation, I would like to start a PhD in order to focus more on scientific work. By giving lectures, I want to share information about farming topics and my motivation for research. When I started studying, my aim was always to be involved in science and to focus on scientific issues after I graduated.

What interests you besides farming and agricultural engineering?

In my spare time, I enjoy being with my parents, girlfriend and mates. I also like spending time in the picturesque Palatinate region, my home state, where I often walk through the vineyards and consider the various management strategies. I like working with vines, even in my spare time. I also enjoy travelling and discovering different cultures, attending motorsport events and practising judo.

Field Robot Event 2018

Denmark leads the field

The Maize Runners team from the Technical University of Denmark earned first place at the Field Robot Event 2018. "We sponsored the team for the first time and are delighted with its success," says Frank Klüsener from the CLAAS Foundation Board. During the annual competition, teams of students from around the world send their self-designed robots into the fields, where they have to navigate the rows of crops and solve other tasks, such as locating objects.



First place at the Field Robot Event: the Maize Runners from Denmark

Mini-tractor competition

Making technology fun

The CLAAS Foundation organised its first inter-school competition and challenged the young inventors' technical skills using mini-tractors. A total of eight teams from seven schools in Lower Saxony took part in the competition. In the run-up to the competition, each school received class sets containing 20 metal tractor kits which were assembled during lessons.

"Some secondary schools in Lower Saxony have already introduced engineering as a subject from Year 5 onwards. Engineering should be fun and you have the most fun working with others," says Sylvia Looks from the CLAAS Foundation Board. In first place was Langen I secondary school. Schule am Auetal/Ahlerstedt took second place and Gesamtschule Emsland came third. As a prize, the winning teams were each awarded tickets to a science museum, as well as a small grant for their class fund.

The competition took place at CLAAS Weser Ems GmbH in Neerstedt, which as well as hosting the event, also provided a supporting programme. This allowed the pupils to ride on real agricultural machinery and experience agricultural engineering on a larger scale.



Pupils and their electric tractors competed in three events: the slalom, an obstacle course and an assembly task.



Day of Agricultural Engineering

Award-winning pupils visit CLAAS



As well as the production facility, the pupils also visited the Technoparc.

CLAAS Foundation and Harper Adams University

New collaboration agreed



Sealing the collaboration (from left to right): Frank Klüsener and Sylvia Looks (CLAAS Foundation Board Members and Dr David Llewellyn from Harper Adams University.)

Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences and Harper Adams University in the UK will work together in future. This new collaboration between the two universities was initiated by the CLAAS Foundation, which is also providing financial support. Two students from Germany will therefore go to the UK to work on the "Hands Free Hectare" project. Dr David Llewellyn, Vice-Chancellor of the British university, signed the Memorandum of Understanding in the Technoparc.



48 pupils from the Paderborn region who were awarded the Economics Prize by the new University President, Prof Dr Birgitt Riegraf, visited CLAAS in Harsewinkel in November 2018. The programme included an agricultural engineering quiz and a tour of combine harvester production. Two apprentices also reported on their training and how they are now putting their enthusiasm for STEM subjects into practice.

+++ News in brief +++



+++ Alastair Tulloch (formerly CLAAS UK) is the new member of the British jury for the CLAAS Foundation and succeeds Dr Peter Crossley.

+++ Prof Dr Wolfgang Büscher (Institute of Agricultural Engineering at the University of Bonn) will join the CLAAS Foundation jury for the CLAAS Foundation from 2019. He will succeed Prof Dr Eberhard Hartung.



+++ Schülerforschungszentrum Osnabrück (SFZ) was established 10 years ago. An anniversary celebration in the SFZ offices in October 2018 looked back on its eventful history.