

## **SSSSA COUNCIL/GVSA RAAD: 2007-09**

<b>President</b>	<b>Dr J.E. Hoffman</b>
<b>Vice-Pres./Vise-Pres.</b>	<b>Dr C.W. van Huyssteen</b>
<b>Past Pres./Oud-Pres.</b>	<b>Mr D.G. Paterson</b>
<b>Secr. Treas./Skr.-Tes.</b>	<b>Mr T.E. Dohse</b>
<b>Members/Lede</b>	<b>Ms H.G. Jansen van Rensburg</b>
	<b>Dr M.P. Nempfumbada</b>
	<b>Dr D.P. Turner</b>
	<b>Dr R. van Antwerpen</b>

### **ADDRESS/ADRES**

**P O Box/Posbus 65217  
Erasmusrand  
0165**

### **TELEPHONE/TELEFOON**

**President: (021) 808-4789  
Sec./Skr.: (012) 310-2504**

### **WEB PAGE/-BLAD**

**<http://www.soils.org.za>**

*The SSSSA does not necessarily agree with opinions expressed in this newsletter.*

*Die GVSA onderskryf nie noodwendig die menings van bydraes tot sy nuusbrieff nie.*

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/BOODSKAP VAN DIE PRESIDENT**

In die akademiese wêreld staan ons jaar einde se kant toe. Die week probeer ons vir ou laas nog die laaste kennis vir die jaar aan die studente oordra en volgende week begin die eksamen. My termyn van twee jaar nader ook sy einde en dan wonder 'n mens, het ons ons doelwitte behaal?

*In the academic world, the year is coming to an end. This week, we try to impart the year's last bit of knowledge to the students before the exams that start next week. My two-year term is also finishing soon, so now one wonders, have we met our objectives?*

In my eerste brief het ek 'n beroep gedoen op lede om te help om die beeld van Grondkunde in Suid Afrika uit te bou. Heelwat lede het hierop gereageer en hulp aangebied. Ek het as president ook 'n aantal kere op RSG oor Grondkundige aangeleenthede gepraat. Onder andere is die swak boeke waarmee Grondkunde as skoolvak aangebied word, uitgelig. Die uitnodiging aan boek skrywers om die GVSA te kontak oor insette en hulp, het egter min reaksie uitgelok.

*In my first message, I made a call for members to help to promote the image of Soil Science in South Africa, and many members reacted and offered assistance. As President, I have talked a number of times on RSG about Soil Science. The poor textbooks that are used to teach soil science in schools were also highlighted, but the invitation to authors to contact the SSSSA about contributions and help got little reaction.*

Die raad het voort gegaan om 'n Grondkundeprys op die nasionale EKSPPO vir jong wetenskaplikes te borg. Die gevolg hiervan was dat meer projekte oor Grondkunde in die Landbou kategorie jaarliks ingeskryf word. Die beoordelaars bestaan uit 'n paneel van ons plaaslike ervare lede. Vanjaar is daar 'n eerste en 'n tweede prys toegeken (Sien nuusberig elders in die nuus brief). Daar is besluit om die eerste pryswenner, Anel Kitching van Hoërskool Middelburg, Oos-Kaap en haar ma na die kongres vir een dag te nooi waar sy haar projek kan bekend stel.

*The Council continues to sponsor a Soil Science award at the national Expo for Young Scientists and the result has been that more projects concerning Soil Science in the Agriculture category have been entered. The judges comprise a panel of our local, experienced members and this year a first and second prize was awarded (see elsewhere in the Newsletter). It was decided to invite the first prize winner, Anel Kitching from Middelburg High School (Eastern Cape) and her mother to attend the Congress for a day where she can exhibit her project.*

Die webblad is opgedateer maar lede ondervind egter nog steeds probleme. Veral aanlyn registrasie van nuwe lede lewer nog probleme op. Dalk is dit tyd om die webblad totaal en al te herbeplan en van vooraf te ontwerp. Ons sal 'n daadwerklike poging moet aanwend om nuwe jong lede te werf. Baie studente lede sluit aan, net om

later weer weens swak betaling van die lidmaatskaprol geskraap te word. In die verlede het maatskappye studente lede geborg, maar as hulle self moet betaal dan het hulle bedank. Dalk is dit tyd om op die webwerf 'n belangegroep (Blog) spesifiek vir jong Grondkundiges te skep waar hulle vrae kan vrae of met mekaar kan kommunikeer. Enige voorstelle in die verband sal verwelkom word. Vanjaar is daar ook vir die eerste keer via die elektroniese media gestem. Die huidige stempersentasie is tans heelwat hoër as in die verlede.

*The web page has been updated, but members still experience problems, especially with on-line member registration. It could well be time to re-design the site from the topsoil down! We must also make a concerted effort to recruit new young members. Many students join, only to be later scrapped from the membership list due to non-payment of fees. In the past, companies sponsored student fees, but if they have to pay themselves, many resign. It could be time to establish an interest group ("Blog") for young soil scientists, where they can ask questions and communicate. Any ideas will be welcomed. Also, this year, voting for Council was done electronically, and the voting percentage increased significantly.*

Die ouer lede van die Grondkunde vereniging geniet ook tans aandag. Tydens die volgende algemene vergadering tydens die kongres in Stellenbosch sal daar meer terugvoer wees. 'n Funksie is onlangs deur die Grondkunde-besprekings groep op inisiatief van Bennie Diedericks, aangebied waar die leiers in Grondkunde van die Weskaap vereer is (sien nuusberig elders).

*The older members are also receiving attention, and more information will be given at the AGM at the Stellenbosch Congress. A function, initiated by Bennie Diedericks, was recently held by the Soil Science Discussion Group to honour leaders in soil science in the Western Cape (see item elsewhere).*

Die reëlins vir die gesamentlike kongres wat Januarie 2009 in Stellenbosch gehou word, is in plek en die laaste registrasies word ingewag. Weens die gewildheid van Stellenbosch as kongresbestemming is die belangstelling baie goed en min plek is nog by van die funksies beskikbaar. Weens fisiese beperkings, is die getalle wat by die funksies geakkommodeer word, beperk en daarom moet lede wat nog nie geregistreer het nie, gou maak. Geniet die rus wat met die Kersvakansie voorlê en ek hoop ek sien u by die Gesamentlike kongres in Stellenbosch.

The arrangements for the Combined Congress in Stellenbosch in January are in place and the final registrations are awaited. Due to the popularity of Stellenbosch as a Congress venue, the interest is excellent and some of the functions are almost full. This is due to physical size restrictions, so members are urged to register as soon as possible. Enjoy the coming festive season and I hope to see you in Stellenbosch.

Groete/*Regards,*

**Eduard Hoffman** (Tel 021-808 4789; ehoffman@sun.ac.za)

**EDITORIAL/REDAKSIONEEL**

My decade as SSSSA Council Member is almost up, but I will be staying on as Newsletter Editor, as well as trying to co-ordinate the web-site (when time allows). These are times of ever-increasing reliance on instant electronic information, so the Society wants to make the web-site as useful and user-friendly as possible. We already have uploaded previous Newsletters, as well as a collection of photos, and the next step is to try and place previous Congress abstracts.

If you have ideas (perhaps tips from other sites that have impressed you), please contact me, so that we can build a really good site for all the members and visitors, both here and overseas. I look forward to hearing from you.

Also, once again to all those members who have something interesting to share, or who have news from their specific corner of the country, send me what you have – it will be used!

Regards,

**Garry Paterson**

(012) 310-2601; 083 556 2458; [garry@arc.agric.za](mailto:garry@arc.agric.za)

## **COUNCIL MATTERS/RAADSAANGELEENTHEDE**

**New Members:** we welcome the following new SSSSA members:

Ms B Dube  
Ms S Forbes  
Ms MN Mafonyongo  
WPJ Maré  
ST Maseko  
Ms IL Mathys  
LA Moloto  
GJ Nortjé  
FT Seabi

Our membership now stands at 260, continuing the gradual upward trend!!

Membership fees for 2009 will be R206 for full members and a very reasonable R50 for students.

## IN MEMORIUM

### **Prof A.A. Theron**

Prof. Attie Theron, ere-lid en voormalige president van die GVSA is op 21 Junie 2008, drie dae voor sy 79ste verjaarsdag, na 'n lang siekbed oorlede. Adriaan Andries Theron is 1929 op Canarvon gebore. Hy het sy skoolopleiding op Steynsburg, Uitenhage en Stellenbosch ontvang. Vanaf 1947 het hy aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch studeer, waar hy die grade B.Sc en M.Sc (beide in Chemie) verwerf het. Van 1952 tot 1953 het hy as chemikus by AECI in die Strand gewerk. 'n Week na sy troue met Hiltrud Papendieck in Junie 1954 vertrek die nuutgetroude egpaar per skip na die VSA waar hy in September 1957 die graad Ph.D Landbouchemie (nou Grondkunde) aan Cornell Universiteit behaal.



Na sy terugkeer uit die VSA word hy in Desember 1957 as assistent-vakkundige beampte in die Afdeling Landbouchemie van die Departement Landbou op Stellenbosch aangestel. In 1959 word hy as senior lektor in Landbouchemie (nou Grondkunde) aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch aangestel. Giel Laker en Robert Prehn was daardie jaar die enigste twee Landbouchemie hoofvakstudente onder die bykans 100 studente in die Landbouchemie 1 klas. In Januarie 1961 word hy op 31 jarige ouderdom tot professor in Landbouchemie bevorder. Giel Laker was daardie jaar die enigste student om 'n BSc(Landbou) graad met Landbouchemie as hoofvak by US te behaal. Hierdie pos het prof. Theron tot en met sy aftrede in 1989 beklee.

Na hulle terugkoms uit die VSA vestig die Theron-egpaar hul in 'n idilliese omgewing op die oewer van die Eersterivier in Stellenbosch. Vier kinders word uit die huwelik gebore. In 1994 verhuis hulle na Paradyskloof Villas. Vanaf 2003 het prof. Theron se gesondheid dramaties verswak. In 2006 is hy opgeneem in die siekeboeg by Paradyskloof Villas waar hy oorlede is.

Prof. Theron word deur sy oud-studente onthou vir sy vlymskerp intellek. Hy het die vermoë gehad om begrippe te kon integreer en moeilike begrippe maklik te maak. Hy het die indruk geskep dat hy nooit opgehou het om te leer nie. Hy het 'n wye algemene kennis gehad. Dit sluit 'n diepgaande kennis van proteas in, selfs van die raarste spesies. Hy het 'n wonderlike versameling foto's van proteas gehad wat hy self afgeneem het tot in die verste uithoeke.

Sy oud-studente onthou veral sy medemenslikheid en sy persoonlike hulp en raad te alle tye, selfs later in hulle loopbane. Het het werklik in elkeen belanggestel. Hy was nie net 'n dosent nie, maar 'n opvoeder. By vroeëre kongresse het hy jong grondkundiges aangemoedig en betrokke probeer kry. Oud-studente se waardering word weerspieël in hulle gereelde navrae tydens sy lang siekte. Ons wil ons waardering uitspreek vir die deernisvolle wyse waarop mevrou Hilti Theron hom gedurende die moeilike tye bygestaan het. Sy het ons ook verstom met die persoonlike kennis wat sy steeds het van sy oud-studente van bykans 50 jaar gelede.

Prof. Theron het ons met verskeie lewenswysshede gelaat, soos: Moenie bang wees om te sê “Ek weet nie” as jy nie die antwoord op 'n vraag by 'n boeredag (mens sou seker ook kon sê kongres) weet nie. Dis nie 'n skande as 'n mens iets nie weet nie. Moenie 'n vals antwoord probeer fabriseer nie. Jy gaan uitgevang word en dan verloor mense alle vertroue in jou.

Ons eer sy nagedagtenis.

*Saamgestel deur Giel Laker. Biografiese inligting is verskaf deur Jan Lambrechts. Insette omtrent prof. Theron as mens is gemaak deur Francois Claasen en Jons Terblanche.*

## **MEMBER MOVEMENTS/ LEDE BEWEGINGS**

### **Packing for Perth**

**Martin Fey**, Professor of Soil Science at the University of Stellenbosch, will move to Perth at the end of 2008 to take up a four-year contract position of Professorial Fellow (Utilisation and Management of Mineral Processing Waste) in the School of Earth and Geographical Sciences at the University of Western Australia. Four large bauxite refineries operate in South West Australia and produce residues that together with other products of the mineral industry are being investigated for beneficial uses. Research is also required to develop sustainable vegetation and management practices to rehabilitate the residue storage areas. Martin will carry out research on the utilisation and management of mineral processing wastes with an emphasis on the alumina industry and will also to teach and supervise student research in this field.

After graduating with the BSc (Agric) and PhD degrees in Natal, Martin worked briefly for the Department of Agricultural Technical Services and a mineral (bauxite) exploration company before pursuing his academic career, first as a postdoc at Texas A&M University and then lecturing at the Universities of Natal (1979-93), Cape Town (1994-2000) and Stellenbosch. He says what is most challenging about this new job is to find out how to turn red mud (the caustic residue produced in extracting aluminium from bauxite, which is soil) back into soil again, sustainably. It will require an integrated perspective of subjects ranging from chemical engineering processes in

alumina plants to biological processes on rehab sites and the surface chemistry of iron oxide minerals.

For those interested in the Soils of South Africa book that Martin has been working on, he says he is optimistic that it will be in final form ready for the press by the end of the year, so it should be on the shelves in the first half of 2009.

### **University of Limpopo**

**Frank Vanassche** was appointed as Head of the Department of Soil Science at the University of Limpopo with effect from 1 August 2008. Frank reports that he still a senior lecturer though, so no promotion. Further news is that the Department of Soil Science is expanding again with the appointment of Prof **Pearson Mnkeni** (formerly at Fort Hare) as professor in Soil Science and Mr **Edwin Moshia** as lecturer (Replacing Mr Boy Mashatola).

### **ARC-ISCW**

**Snipes Koyi**, **Brilliant Petja** and **Elvis Mulibana** have all left the Institute for various new pastures, which leaves a big hole in a number of projects. **Louw Potgieter** and **Willem Kirsten** have both decided to join the ex-ISCW colony at Golder. However, **Faith Seabi** has joined the Pedology Division.

### **Retirement**

Prof **Andries Claassens**, of University of Pretoria, is retiring at the end of 2008. Andries worked at the Department of Agriculture from 1964-1975, while obtaining his BSc (Agric) and MSc (Agric) degrees. He was appointed as lecturer at Tuks in 1975, where he obtained his DSc (Agric) degree in 1985. He was appointed Associate Professor in 1999.

Andries is the author or co-author of over 40 refereed articles, over 90 Congress and Symposium presentations and numerous other reports, book chapters and articles. He has been supervisor of over 30 Post-graduate students, covering a very wide field of research. Andries will still be available for the next couple of years to help his current Post-graduate students (hopefully) finish their theses.

Andries has also been on the Organising Committees of numerous symposia and Congresses, as well as enabling the SSSSA Newsletter to be published at the UP Printing Works. The Society thanks him for all his efforts and wishes him all the best in the future.

At ARC-ISCW, **Massoud Samadi** retires at the end of November. Massoud arrived in South Africa via his birthplace, Iran, then Nigeria and Canada, where he obtained his MSc at the University of Saskatchewan. He was a lecturer at University of Fort Hare from 1991-1995, before joining ARC-ISCW for the last 13 years. He was responsible for land evaluation projects, as well as the SOTER database for SA and was involved in aspects of soil classification correlation with the WRB.

## **MEMBERS OVERSEAS/LEDE OORSEE**

In July Rian van Antwerpen and Maurits van den Berg (both from SASRI) undertook a fact finding mission to Brazil, with the main aim being to discuss and collect first-hand information on the use of vinasse and CMS, as well as the state of research thereon, particularly regarding long-term effects on soil and sugarcane productivity and to reinforce contacts in the field of sugarcane crop modelling.

The Brazilian government's policy to produce ethanol from cane molasses as a source of renewable fuel has stimulated the sugar industry to invest in distilleries attached to the mills. The production of vinasse (a by-product rich in K from the distilleries) at every mill resulted in a relatively short distribution distance (less than 30 km), which made transport of this by-product with a high water content through a series of canals, dams and pipes, economical.

Concerns for the environment are high on the priority list and strict guidelines regarding the use of vinasse are in place to protect the environment. Vinasse application quantities are guided by K recommendations and no adverse soil or crop effects were noticed over many years where this rule was followed. Loss of  $\text{NO}_3^-$  due to leaching was pointed out to be a bigger threat to groundwater pollution than K or any other substance from vinasse.

Despite the low pH (4.5) of vinasse, the net result on the soil is a small increase in pH. Very little is known about the effect of using CMS (the concentrated product of vinasse) in the presence of a trash blanket. In Brazil the presence of a trash blanket does not seem to affect nutrient uptake from vinasse. This is possibly due to the larger volume of water used to apply the nutrients and the relatively low amount of trash present compared to SA varieties.

Crop modelling activities are restricted to isolated initiatives of small groups from e.g. ESALQ, University of Viçosa and EMBRAPA. However, the interest in modelling is great, both from Research Institutes as well as from the Industry (e.g. Cosan group) due to the interest in crop forecasting.

## AWARDS/TOEKENNINGS

At the recent Eskom Expo for young Scientists, held as usual in Pretoria, the SSSSA award and R1 000 prize was made to Anel Kitching (below left), from Middelburg High School (E Cape) for her project “Feeding South Africa”, which was both innovative and practical. It was also decided to award a second prize (along with R500) to Johan van Greunen (below right), from Ladybrand Primary School for his project “Sorg vir die natuur en die natuur sorg vir jou”.



## DEGREES OBTAINED/GRADE BEHAAL

**Faith Seabi**, now at ARC-ISCW, was awarded his MSc Agric (Soil Science) degree by the University of Limpopo on 19 September. The title of his dissertation is “X-Ray Diffraction Studies of Clay Minerals in Selected Soils of Capricorn District in Limpopo Province”.

## CONGRESSES/KONGRESSE

### SSSSA Congress, Stellenbosch

The Combined Congress will take place from 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009 in Stellenbosch. As is usual in the winelands, it promises to be a memorable occasion, but as the Presidents’ Message intimated, place is limited (as well as accommodation!), so if you haven’t already done so, go to the website ([www.combinedcongress.org.za](http://www.combinedcongress.org.za)) and register!

### African Soil Science Society (ASSS)

The 5<sup>th</sup> Congress of the ASSS will be held from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2009 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The theme is “Soils and New Challenges for Sustainable

Development in Africa” and interested parties can go to the website [www.asssonline.org](http://www.asssonline.org) or [www.asssland.org](http://www.asssland.org).

### **Enviro Water Conference**

There will be an International Conference and Exhibition on Water in the Environment that will be held from March 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> 2009 in Stellenbosch. The Conference is being organized jointly by the University of Stellenbosch and the University of Duisberg-Essen in Germany and more information can be obtained on the Conference web site <http://www.envirowater.de/> or from Dr G.O. Sigge at (021) 808-3581 or [sigge@envirowater.de](mailto:sigge@envirowater.de)

### **Mine Water Conference**

An International Mine Water Conference, covering all aspects of Mine Water quality and management, will be held in Pretoria from 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009. It is being organized by the Water Institute of Southern Africa, together with the International Mine Water Division, and enquiries can be made to Dot Zandberg at (011) 805-3537 or on the web site at [www.wisa.org.za/minewater2009.htm](http://www.wisa.org.za/minewater2009.htm)

## **MISCELLANEOUS/ALGEMEEN**

### **Sugar News**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2008 the South African Sugar Industry Agronomists’ Association held its annual AGM, which was well attended by farmers, scientists, extension officers and representatives of the fertilizer trade. Soil sustainability and production was the main concern and this year’s theme was Cane Nutrition – A Whole New Ball Game whereby the organisers acknowledged that farmers have to change tack in order to survive the current troubled times. Two guest speakers were invited, of which one needs no introduction in soil circles – Dr JJ (Koos) Bornman (a past president of the SSSSA). His talk addressed P fertilization and how P costs can be reduced with liming. Another interesting talk with the potential to increase the income of farmers was by Dr Neil Miles (SASRI) who enlightened the audience on how to maximise yields of older cane ratoons through sound soil acidity management. These and the other presentations are available from the SASRI Knowledge Manager ([Michelle.Binedell@sugar.org.za](mailto:Michelle.Binedell@sugar.org.za)).

### **SACNASP**

Council has decided that for the coming term, the PAC (Professional Advisory Committee) for Soil Science will consist of Cornie van Huyssteen (Chair) along with Dave Turner and Eduard Hoffman. This panel will evaluate applications for registration with SACNASP as a practicing soil scientist.

The SSSSA is also currently involved in making recommendations to SACNASP concerning the fields of practice where soil scientists will most probably be involved, bearing in mind that many, if not most of these areas involve “cross-over” activities, eg geology, agronomy etc. Recommendations concerning the academic curricula for soil science qualifications will also be discussed.

### **Wetland Soils**

One of the focus areas today is the delineation of wetlands, and how to ensure that this is done by properly qualified people and that it is carried out consistently.

To this end, a course was held at Cluny Farm, Midrand recently and was presented by Johan van der Waals (Terra Soil Science), assisted by Cornie van Huyssteen (UFS), where the whole spectrum of wetland soil properties and their identification was discussed. The ±35 attendees included a range of private consultants, as well as other interested parties, and Johan reports that there is huge interest in repeating the course, both in the Lowveld and in KZN.



*Cornie van Huyssteen (in white hat) and Johan van der Waals (at auger) during the Wetland Soils Course*

## **IUSS Alerts**

### **1. Field Estimation of Soil Water Content - A Practical Guide to Methods, Instrumentation and Sensor Technology**

This publication is part of IAEA's Training Course Series produced by the Soil and Water Management and Crop Nutrition Sub-Programme. This Guideline is the product of an international study conducted by IAEA comparing the advantages and disadvantages inherent in the various soil water measuring techniques. These techniques include electromagnetic (EM), soil moisture neutron probe (SMNP), electrical resistance and gravimetric methods.

The manual (131 pp) can be freely downloaded here

<<http://www-pub.iaea.org/mtcd/publications/PubDetails.asp?pubId=7801>>

### **2. Soil Exhibition opened 19th July - Smithsonian, Washington, USA**

There are more living creatures in a shovel full of rich soil than human beings on the planet. Yet more is known about the dark side of the moon than about soil. These are just a few of the fascinating facts visitors can learn at the National Museum of Natural History's new exhibition, "Dig it! The Secrets of Soil," that opened at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. The 460 square meter exhibition reveals the complex world of soil and how this ecosystem underfoot supports nearly every form of life on earth. "Dig It!" includes interactive displays, hands-on models, videos, and 54 soil monoliths. For further information click here <<http://www.sites.si.edu/soils/index.html>>

### **3. Soil atlas of Europe - Free**

The Soil Atlas of Europe can be downloaded for free. The user has to download each page separately (128 pages in total). The PDF versions provide a better quality version compared with the JPEG files. There are 20 plates of maps that are included as 2-page PDF files, pages 40-79. Users may navigate and select the files to download either by browsing the whole Atlas or by selecting one of the sections in the Contents. Each page has a title and belongs to one of the 7 sections of the Atlas (Introduction, The Soil of Europe, Soil Maps of Europe, European Soil: A Global perspective, A Soil Database of Europe, Key threats to soil in Europe, Additional Information). More info here <[http://eussoils.jrc.it/projects/soil\\_atlas/Download.cfm](http://eussoils.jrc.it/projects/soil_atlas/Download.cfm)>

### **4. National Geographic Magazine**

The September 2008 issue of the National Geographic Magazine has a cover story on soils, entitled: "Where food begins". Inside the magazine there is a long article: "Our Good Earth - The future rests on soil. Can we protect it?" with stories from North and South America, Africa and China and as always, with nice pictures. There is also story on soil degradation in Haiti. Both the article and pictures can be viewed online for free at [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com). The English edition of the National Geographic is read by 40 million readers, but there are editions in many languages and all have the Soil story on the cover!

## 5. Global Land Cover

The Global Land Cover Facility (GLCF) provides earth science data and products to help everyone to better understand global environmental systems. In particular, the GLCF develops and distributes remotely sensed satellite data and products that explain land cover from the local to global scales. Primary data and products available at the GLCF are free to anyone via FTP. Online datasets may be accessed electronically through the Earth Science Data Interface. The majority of users accessing GLCF datasets (certainly not all) come from many communities. GLCF research focuses on determining land cover and land cover change around the world. Land cover is the discernible vegetation, geologic, hydrologic or anthropogenic features on the planet's land surface. These features, such as forests, urban area, croplands and sand dunes, can be measured and categorized using satellite imagery. Land cover change can be assessed by comparing two images of an area taken at different dates. Determining where, when, how much and why change occurs with land cover is a crucial scientific concern. It is imperative that appropriate tools be made available to better manage and adapt to change. For more information, go to <http://glcf.umiacs.umd.edu/index.shtml>

### SANCID

At the recent ICID (International Committee on Irrigation and Drainage) Conference, held in Lahore, Pakistan, the South African National Committee was nominated in the category “Best National Committee”, from the more than 30 countries that are active within the organization. The South African representative, Felix Reinders (who is also ICID vice-president) reports that the SA Committee lost out narrowly to the Iranian Committee, who have really done an excellent job in promoting irrigation in their country. Felix also reports that many of the Asian countries have millions of hectares under irrigation, contributing the largest part of their agriculture, and that they all do a really impressive job in irrigation their dry areas to produce good crops.

There is a list of Young Professionals in Irrigation (**active** practitioners younger than 40) that has been compiled by Bennie Grové, from UFS. The list is part of an ICID initiative to collate details of all young irrigation professionals world-wide, to improve knowledge transfer and global standards. If you know of anyone who should be on the list, feel free to contact Bennie at [groveb.sci@ufs.ac.za](mailto:groveb.sci@ufs.ac.za).

### STELLENBOSCH GRONDKUNDE BESPREEKINGSGROEP

‘n Funksie is op 21 Augustus by Elsenburg gehou om hulde te bring aan ‘n paar “groot figure” in grondkunde in die Wes-Kaap. Hierdie “Eregaste” was **Tesman Beyers, Kobus Conradie, Jacob Deist, Jan Lambrechts, Spine v Niekerk, David Saayman en Ary van Eeden.**

Die geleentheid is deur Bennie Diederichs gerêel en ‘n deel van die uitnodiging lees:

“Hierdie storie het ‘n lang aanloop. Dit het ‘n tydjie geneem om sover te vorder met die reëlings, maar eintlik het alles jare gelede begin toe ons met Grondkunde kennis gemaak het. Nou het ons tot hier gevorder. Tydens vele gesprekke met mede-grondkundiges, spesialiste van ander vakgebiede, produsente, ens. het dit dikwels na vore gekom dat daar ‘n groep, kom ons noem hulle “ouer” grondkundiges, is wat ‘n groot rol gespeel het in ons suksesse as kundiges en/of boere. Ons het dus ‘n behoefte om dankie te sê en erkenning te gee aan dié Grondkundiges wat so ‘n groot rol gespeel het, en nog steeds speel, in ons almal se lewens, loopbane en boerderye. Die manne wie by ons ‘n liefde vir die vakgebied gekweek het. Mense wie nie met tyd ouer geword het nie. Kundiges wie gerespekteer word as wetenskaplikes. Kollegas wat vriende geword het. Konsultante wat ons plase deurgestap het. Hierdie is dus ‘n uitnodiging na ‘n partytjie waar ons aan ‘n paar van die mense erkenning kan gee en hulle as eregaste ontvang. ‘n Middag van saamkuier met goeie geselskap, goeie kos en goeie wyn”.

En blykbaar was die funksie ‘n groot sukses, met baie wyn, baie stories en lekker kos (en elke eregas het ‘n gegraveerde knipmes ontvang!)

## **Vacant Soil Science post at University of Stellenbosch**

### **Senior Lektoraat in Grondchemie/Senior Lecturer in Soil Chemistry**

(Verw/Ref. 10SV403)

#### **Vereistes/Requirements:**

’n PhD in Grondkunde, met Chemie op minstens tweedejaarsvlak; die bewese vermoë om Grondchemie op sowel voor- as nagraadse vlak aan te bied; uitstekende mondelinge en geskrewe kommunikasievaardighede, verkieslik in sowel Afrikaans as Engels; die vermoë om befondsing vir navorsingsprojekte te bekom en navorsingsprojekte suksesvol uit te voer; bereidwilligheid om Afrikaans binne ‘n ooreengekome tyd aan te leer (indien kandidate nie die taal magtig is nie).

Phd in Soil Science, with Chemistry to at least Second Year; ability to present undergraduate and postgraduate Soil Chemistry; excellent oral and written communication skills, preferably in both English and Afrikaans; ability to obtain funding for research and to carry out research projects; readiness to learn Afrikaans within an agreed time (if candidate is not proficient).

**Sluitingsdatum/Closing Date:** 30 November 2008

**Navrae/Enquiries:** Dr. Eduard Hoffman; tel . (021) 808 4789

## HUMOUR/HUMOR

An **ANAGRAM**, as we all know, is a word or phrase made by transposing or rearranging the letters of another word or phrase. But the real trick is to keep the meaning (well, more or less) while changing the letters.

The following examples are quite astounding! (and you can check them letter for letter, if you like)

### General

Dormitory = Dirty Room  
Desperation = A Rope Ends It  
The Morse Code = Here Come Dots  
Slot Machines = Cash Lost in 'em  
Animosity = Is No Amity  
Mother-in-law = Woman Hitler  
Snooze Alarms = Alas! No More Z's  
Semolina = Is No Meal  
The Public Art Galleries = Large Picture Halls, I Bet  
A Decimal Point = I'm a Dot in Place  
The Earthquakes = That Queer Shake  
Eleven plus two = Twelve plus one  
Contradiction = Accord not in it

**This one's amazing:** [From *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare]

To be or not to be. That is the question, whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.

= In one of the Bard's best-thought-of tragedies, our insistent hero, Hamlet, queries on two fronts about how life turns rotten.

**And the grand finale:**

"That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." (Neil A. Armstrong)

= A thin man ran; makes a large stride; left planet, pins flag on moon. On to Mars!

## **SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA: MISSION**

The SSSSA is a scientific society, which, in the interest of its members, promotes the advancement of soil science and soil technology as well as the responsible practicing thereof by its members with the view to the long-term sustainable utilization of the environment in the interest of the community.

### **Aims**

1. Promotion and protection of the professional status and prestige of soil science as a science and career.
2. Promotion and extension of the society.
3. Promotion of the standard of training of soil scientists and technologists.
4. Creation of opportunities for the free exchange of ideas on soil science and technology.
5. The obtaining and dissemination of knowledge, information and ideas having relevance to soil science by means of discussion and publication.
6. Promotion of contact between the society and other bodies with common or similar interests, both within South Africa and overseas.

## **GRONDKUNDEVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA: MISSIE**

Die GVSA is 'n wetenskaplike vereniging wat in belang van sy lede verbind is tot die bevordering van grondkundige wetenskap en tegnologie, en die verantwoordelike beoefening daarvan deur sy lede met die oog op die lang termyn volhoubare benutting van die omgewing in belang van die gemeenskap.

### **Doelstellings**

1. Bevordering en beskerming van die professionele status en aansien van grondkunde as 'n wetenskaplike beroep.
2. Bevordering en uitbouing van die vereniging.
3. Bevordering van die standaard van opleiding van grondkundige wetenskaplikes en -tegnoloë.
4. Skepping van geleenthede vir vrye gedagtewisseling oor grondkundige wetenskap en tegnologie.
5. Die verkryging en verspreiding van kennis, inligting en idees wat op grondkunde betrekking het by wyse van samesprekings en publikasies.
6. Bevordering van skakeling tussen die vereniging en ander liggame met gemeenskaplike of soortgelyke belange, beide in Suid-Afrika en in die buiteland.