

2019 Review | 2020 Outlook

Building bridges



Dear Sir/Madam,

The presentation of scholarships and awards was the most exciting day of the foundation year 2019. The high quality of the work submitted again made it difficult for the jury to make the right decisions last year. The assessments are the outcome of often lengthy discussions between the jury members behind closed doors. It is only on the day of the awards ceremony that the works receiving an award are published - this is when the excitement among the nominated award winners increases.

There is traditionally a relaxed evening before the awards ceremony. We invite all participants to attend so that we can foster mutual exchange in a relaxed atmosphere. This allows our young talents to make new contacts throughout Europe.

Other events also offer the opportunity to establish and strengthen networks. The international Field Robot Event taking place this year in Erwitte/Lippstadt is a forum dedicated to young IT professionals in agricultural engineering, for example. The cooperation between Harper Adams University and the University of Osnabrück through the "Hands Free Hectare" project also promotes relations between two universities across national borders - a commitment that we at the CLAAS Foundation are particularly pleased to support in the current times.

Best regards,

Sylvia Looks

Frank Klüsener



CLAAS Foundation Board



The young talents of the CLAAS Foundation's 20th year with the Board of Trustees and the jury.

2019 Foundation Awards

Awards for young talents

The CLAAS Foundation, established in 1999, has awarded students of agricultural sciences for their final theses in the field of agricultural engineering with a scholarship for gifted students for the 20th time now.

The Helmut Claas scholarships, bonus prizes and international student prizes with a total value of over €60,000 were awarded to emerging talents from Bulgaria, Germany, the United Kingdom, Ireland, the Netherlands, Hungary, Slovakia, Russia, Poland and Romania.

The first prize, a scholarship worth €7,200, went to Kristian Evgeniev Velkovski, a student at the "Angel Kanchev" University in Ruse (Bulgaria). He studies digital communication at the Department of Engineering and Electrical Technology and his bachelor thesis focused on the design and development of a cost-effective and autonomous small robot platform for precision agriculture.



Kristian Evgeniev Velkovski accepted the certificate from Helmut Claas.

Impressions of the evening event before the awards ceremony can be found on the next page.

Evening event before the presentation of the 2019 Foundation Awards

Networking and presentation of the projects



From the left: Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stefan Böttiger (Board of Trustees), Thomas van Klompenburg (Wageningen University, Netherlands), Thomas Böck (CEO of CLAAS)

Dr James Brighton (Board of Trustees) informed himself about Benjamin Brocka's thesis (University of Agriculture in Nitra, Slovakia)



Top: Prof Dr Eckart Kottkamp (former CLAAS Managing Director) with Frank Klüsener (Executive Board)
Left: Silvia Looks (Executive Board) in conversation with Siba Laurent Koropogui from Guinea, a student at the Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences

2019 Field Robot Event

Neck-and-neck race

The "HELIOS evo" and "Carbonite" field robots fought a neck-and-neck race at the 2019 Field Robot Event. The "Field Robot Event Design Team" from the Technical University of Braunschweig won the competition with better individual ratings. "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," explains Frank Klüsener from the CLAAS Foundation Board.

The next Field Robot Event, which will again be supported by the CLAAS Foundation this year, will take place in Erwitte/Lippstadt in Germany from 16 to 18 June 2020 as part of the DLG Field Days.



Contented winners: The team from TU Braunschweig secured victory with the HELIOS evo.

CLAAS Foundation supports international master's programme

Exchange facilitates double degree

Master's degree students Cornelius Werring and Niklas Rietmann are taking part in a partner exchange programme between Harper Adams University and the Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences, whereby they will acquire two master's degrees at once.

The 26-year-old students are sponsored by the CLAAS Foundation and Amazone. "We were the first to come here through this exchange program, so it was a sort of test run," explains Niklas.

Cornelius and Niklas are participating in the "Hands Free Hectare" project as part of their master's thesis. The award-winning project was initiated in 2016 to grow and harvest crops remotely using autonomous machines. The two students assess the HFHa project from an agro-economic perspective. "I am working on a usability study that examines which autonomous agricultural concepts are available, and I am analysing various scenarios," explains Niklas. The two of them aim to obtain a Master of Research in the field of Precision Farming with their final theses in addition to the regular master's degree at the Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences. The content builds on their prior knowledge from the Bachelor of Engineering in agricultural and food technology and economics.

Niklas emphasises how important the exchange programme is for their personal development "We have also gained life experience through the programme". Cornelius adds: "The experiences gained from the project will prepare us for the real world. We take on tasks that are typically handled at a higher level."

Dr Lowenberg-DeBoer, professor at Harper Adams University, spoke about the importance of the exchange program: "Students such as Niklas and Cornelius are creating an opportunity for the mutual exchange of research knowledge in crop robotics between Osnabrück and Harper Adams. Work is being carried out in Osnabrück on specially developed weed and scout robots, while Harper is working on retrofitting conventional equipment.



From the left: Cornelius Werring, sponsored by the CLAAS Foundation, and Niklas Rietmann, sponsored by Amazone, are earning two master's degrees from Harper Adams University and Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences.



+++ News in brief +++



+++ Dr Angela Werner (editor-in-chief of *agrarzeitung*) succeeded Catrin Hahn on the German jury in 2019.



+++ Prof Dr Wolfgang Büscher (Institute of Agricultural Engineering at the University of Bonn) has been supporting the German jury of the CLAAS Foundation since 2019. He will succeed Prof Dr Eberhard Hartung.



+++ 48 M-Bots were delivered to six grammar schools, comprehensive schools and secondary schools in the Harsewinkel region. The teachers first familiarised themselves with the small robots in a workshop before the students. The mBot is a mobile educational robot for robotics and programming beginners. The "AgTech Competition" takes place in June near Osnabrück.