

## FABIans RECEIVE AWARDS

### 1. 2008 SOUTH AFRICAN AWARDS FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

The South African Department of Science and Technology (DST) has created recognition awards to celebrate “Women in Science” as a direct response to the vision encapsulated in the National Research and Development Strategy of ultimate improvement in the quality of life of South Africans.

The role of women in the development and sharing of knowledge that contributes to improvement in people’s economic status and quality of life has been limited. In addition, the contribution of outstanding women in scientific research has not been fully recognised. This lack of recognition has resulted in inequity of access by women to the research professions. The further lack of prominent women scientists as role models has hampered both the public understanding of Science, Engineering and Technology and the participation of women at all levels of science.

It is with these objectives in mind that the Department of Science and Technology has created various types of recognition awards to celebrate “Women in Science”. The 2008 awards are:

- Distinguished Woman Scientist Award in the area of Life Science
- Achiever Award for a Woman Scientist in Industry
- Best Emerging Young Woman Scientist Award in the area of Life Science
- Two L’Oréal South Africa 2008 Fellowships for Women in Science
- Three Women Scientist Fellowships

We are proud to announce that at the award winners’ function held in Johannesburg on 8 August 2008, **Prof Brenda Wingfield** was awarded the Distinguished Woman Scientist Award in the area of Life Science. The adjudication criteria were a proven research publication record; evidence of international eminence; experience in supervising researchers; national and/or international acclaim for the research and contribution of research outputs to building the knowledge base; and exploitability of outputs. Congratulations Brenda!!



## 2. BEST POSTER AT THE MICROSCOPY SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA CONFERENCE

All FABIans were delighted and very proud to hear the news that **Veloshnie Govender**, who passed away early in July, won best poster at the MSSC conference held in Gaborone, Botswana during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in July. Velo's supervisor for her PhD, Prof Terry Aveling, presented the poster and received the award at the congress dinner on behalf of Velo and her family.

## 3. MIKE WINGFIELD RECEIVES TWO PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

### *AMERICAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY (APS) AWARDS*

The Society grants this honour to a current APS member in recognition of distinguished contributions to plant pathology or to The American Phytopathological Society. Fellow recognition is based on significant contributions in one or more of the following areas: original research, teaching, administration, professional and public service, and/or extension and outreach. Recipients of this honour receive a certificate and recognition granted to only a few Society members.

On Tuesday 29 July 2008 the awards ceremony to 21 recipients took place as part of the APS Centennial conference in Minneapolis, MN. We are proud to announce that **Prof Mike Wingfield** was one of 12 recipients of the prestigious APS *Fellow award*. To quote the President of the APS, Prof Ray Martyn: "It gives me great pleasure to inform you that you have been elected an APS Fellow this year. As you know, this is the highest honor our society bestows upon a member and it recognizes your outstanding career and service to APS".

### *ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OF SOUTH AFRICA (ASSAf) GOLD MEDAL*

Mike Wingfield was awarded the ASSAf Science-For-Society 2008 Gold Medal for his outstanding contribution to South African science. The committee of the ASSAf were particularly impressed by Prof Wingfield's self-initiated research, his record of training postgraduate students and the potential contribution of his research to South African society.

Well done Mike – more wonderful awards to the Director of FABI!!



#### **4. UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA'S EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG RESEARCHERS**

One of the University of Pretoria's most important goals is its delivery of quality research outputs. To give recognition to the people who are responsible for the establishment and development of the University's reputation as a research institution of note, the University annually holds its Awards Ceremony to honour its outstanding achievers in the academic field. There are three categories for these awards: the Chancellor's Awards, the Outstanding Achievers: Academic, and the Exceptional Young Researchers Awards.

This year Dr Bernard Slippers received recognition as one of the seven recipients of the exceptional young researchers' award at the University.

Bernard is a senior lecturer in the Department of Genetics and is also a member of the Tree Protection Cooperative Programme and the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence in Tree Health Biotechnology, which is hosted by the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI). His research interests are in molecular ecology and the evolution of fungal pathogens and insect pests of trees and their biological control agents (including the development of biological control programmes). He has published 34 papers in ISI- rated journals, receiving a total of 342 citations.

Well done Bernard – we in FABI are proud of you!!

