

## FABI CELEBRATES FIRST PH.D. FOR 2018

FABI celebrated the completion of the first Ph.D. for 2018 on 23 January when Tanay Bose presented his Prestige Seminar “*Phytophthora* species diversity associated with native and non-native forests in South Africa” before successfully defending his thesis. Tanay (pictured below) presented to a packed FABI Auditorium with numerous visiting guests and FABI Alumni from around the globe - probably the most people to attend such a seminar in FABI’s two-decade history.



His supervisors were Proff Mike Wingfield, Jolanda Roux and Treena Burgess. The two external examiners were Prof. Andre Drenth, from the University of Queensland, Australia and Dr Ana Perez-Sierra, from Forest Research in the United Kingdom. His internal examiners were Prof Emma Steenkamp and Prof Lucy Moleleki.

*Phytophthora*, literally meaning “plant killer” is a plant pathogen with 164 species identified globally. It is an important pathogen of wattle, eucalypt and avocado trees in South Africa. Twenty-two species of *Phytophthora* have previously reported, the first being in 1917. Tanay’s study is of great importance as it identified 43 species: 20 new species including seven new phylotypes.