

## FABI SHINES AT SASBI/SAGS CONFERENCE

The biennial joint South African Society for Bioinformatics/South African Genetics Society (SASBi/SAGS) conference was held at Golden Gate National Park in the Free State Province from 16 to 18 October. The setting was spectacular with great views of the surrounding cliff faces and the famous Brandwag butress. Presenters came from numerous South African institutions and a few international ones too. The presentations throughout the conference covered a wide range of bioinformatics and genetics related content. FABI had a significant presence at the conference with 23 members of the Forest Molecular Genetics (FMG) Programme and seven from the Tree Protection Co-operative Programme (TPCP) and Bioinformatics attending the conference.



FABI made a near clean sweep of the awards. Professor Zander Myburg received the SAGS Fellowship Award, Erik Visser claimed Best PhD Oral, Leandri Bezuidenhout winning Best MSc Oral, Daniel Harty won Best MSc Poster and Zorada Swart receiving best oral presentation at the SASBi student society presentations.

Several FABIans were re-elected to SAGS's executive committee. Prof. Sanushka Naidoo will continue as President, Dr Irene Barnes was elected Vice-president, Dr Steven Hussey secretary, Dr Albe van der Merwe as website manager and Alisa Postma-Smidt on becoming a student representative on the SASBi panel.