

FABI SHINES AT AUTUMN GRADUATION

Fifty postgraduate students affiliated with FABI were awarded their degrees at the Autumn Graduation Ceremony of the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences on April 18. FABI applauds the 12 PhD, 14 MSc and 25 BSc Honours graduates capped on the day. Listed below are the graduates and the titles of their dissertations as well as the Honours students with projects in FABI over the past year.



PhDs

Dr Gerda Fourie:

Evolution of mitochondrial genomes in the *Fasarium fujikuroi* species complex

Supervisor: Prof ET Steenkamp

Co-supervisors: Prof BD Wingfield, Prof MJ Wingfield, Dr NA van der Merwe

Dr Luke Jimu

Diseases and pests of *Eucalyptus* species in Zimbabwe with particular reference to

Teratosphaeria stem canker

Supervisor: Prof J Roux

Co-supervisors: Prof MJ Wingfield, Dr E Mwenje

Dr DongHyeon Lee

Biology of *Ceratocystis albifundus* and *Ceratocystis pirilliformis* in South Africa

Supervisor: Prof MJ Wingfield

Co-supervisors: Prof J Roux, Prof BD Wingfield

Dr Waheed Mahomed

Describing the continuum of salicylic and jasmonic acid mediated defence responses in the avocado-*Phytophthora cinnamomi* interaction

Supervisor: Prof N van den Berg

Co-supervisor: Dr BG Crampton

Dr Ronishree Mangwanda

Transcriptomic responses of host and fungal pathogen in the *Eucalyptus grandis* and *Chrysosporthe austroafricana* interaction

Supervisor: Dr S Naidoo

Co-supervisor: Prof AA Myburg, Dr NA van der Merwe

Dr Ritesh Mewalal

Functional characterisation of cell wall-related proteins of unknown function (CW-PUFs) in *Arabidopsis thaliana*

Supervisor: Prof AA Myburg

Co-supervisor: Dr E Mizrachi

External co-supervisor: Prof SD Mansfield (University of British Columbia, Canada)

Dr David Read

Overcoming bias in Citrus tristeza virus (CTV) genotype detection and a population study of CTV within Southern African Star Ruby grapefruit orchards

Supervisor: Prof G Pietersen

Dr Markus Wilken

Mating in *Ceratocystis*

Supervisor: Prof BD Wingfield

Co-supervisor: Prof MJ Wingfield



MSc

Khumbuzile Bophela

Enterobacter and Xanthomonas species associated with blight and die-back of *Eucalyptus*

Supervisor: Prof TA Coutinho

Co-supervisor: Prof SN Venter

Vanessa Cronje

Infection and colonization of onion seedlings by *Pantoea ananatis* and *P. allii*

Supervisor: Prof TA Coutinho

Co-supervisor: Prof N van den Berg

Herman de Bruin

Characterising the diversity of *Beauveria* species infecting insects in South African plantations

Supervisor: Prof B Slippers

Co-supervisor: Dr ZW de Beer

Simone Fouché

Molecular characterisation of an accessory chromosome of *Fusarium circinatum*

Supervisor: Prof ET Steenkamp

Co-supervisor: Prof BD Wingfield, Dr MPA Coetzee

Claire Melinda Martin

Elicitation of medicinally active dicaffeoylquinic acid derivatives from *Helichrysum populifolium* (Asteraceae)

Supervisor: Dr Bridget Crampton

External co-supervisors: Dr I Gazendam (Agricultural Research Council); Dr HM Heyman (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, USA)

Rofhiwa Nesamari

Identification of diseases and pests of cycads in South Africa

Supervisor: Prof J Roux

Co-supervisor: Prof TA Coutinho

Gi Yoon Shin

Investigation of the genetic diversity of *Pantoea ananatis*

Supervisor: Prof SN Venter

Co-supervisor: Prof TA Coutinho

Kirsti Snyders

Detection and isolation of homogeneous genotypes of Citrus tristeza virus for use in virus control through cross protection

Supervisor: Prof Gerhard Pietersen

Collins Tanui

Characterising quorum sensing regulation of virulence in *Pectobacterium carotovorum* subsp. *Brasiliensis*

Supervisor: Prof LN Moleleki

Stephanie van Wyk

Molecular characterisation of the growth rate determining quantitative trait locus in *Fusarium circinatum*

Supervisor: Prof ET Steenkamp

Co-supervisor: Prof BD Wingfield, Dr L de Vos, Dr NA van der Merwe

Andi Wilson

Sexual Reproduction in the Genus *Huntia*

Supervisor: Prof BD Wingfield, Dr MA van der Nest



BSc Honours students affiliated with FABI:

Gabriella Barnard, Johnathan Bredenkamp, Katrien Brown, Edohan Clasen, Donovan Coles, Esna du Plessis, Stephanus Engelbrecht, Hanlica Erasmus, Juanita Hanneman, Candice Herd, Xongani Khoza, Nadine Koen, Marike Louw, Malebo Makunyane, Katlego Masike, Wilma Nel, Alandie Nieuwoud, Monique Otto, Naomi Park, Shamara Polliack, Robyn-Leigh Smith, Catherine Tatham, Azille Schulze, Elzette Wentzel and Catherine Wickham.