

FABI SPOOF 2014: “THE CIRCUS CARNIVAL”

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This year, at the annual FABI Society for the Presentation of Outrageous Findings (SPOOF) the circus came to town. The FABI Freak Show joined hands and gave the performance of a lifetime. SPOOF is a challenging event that tests our research and deduction skills and allows us to showcase our amazing and miraculous findings for the whole world to see. Each research group that form part of the Stupendous FABI Freak Show was tasked with preparing their findings and displaying them in our show. These findings were awarded with great prizes. This year we had two prizes, one for best oral presentation and one for best multimedia presentation. SPOOF was hosted in the Plant Sciences Auditorium

The SPOOF event was left in the capable and willing hands of the FABI Social Club, who had to co-ordinate and produces a wondrous FABI carnival, which was no trivial task. As FABIans entered the carnival hall they were welcomed by the Social Club Freaks who offered wonderful snacks. From cotton candy to popcorn, the treats were endless. Inside the hall they were welcomed by the master of ceremonies, the ringmaster herself, Stephanie van Wyk. When everyone was seated, the show started. The Social Club started with an intimate retelling of the breath-taking discovery of LSD by Albert Hofmann (<http://www.fabinet.up.ac.za/index.php/gallery-show?gallery=50>). The ringmaster welcomed each research group that presented their findings with a fitting logo, and the SPOOF presentations were started.

The presentations were started by Dr Artimis Aardvark by enlightening us on the use of random variable rewards and other techniques to create desired, compulsive behaviour among postgraduate students. We then joined the Dark Side of FABI, where the FMG (Fantastic Magnificent Geneticists) answered the age-old question: “Which is better – Coca Cola, or Pepsi?” Our student representative, Darryl Herron then joined centre stage and showed us an interesting formula of how to measure the scientific field: “Science = $(Fu)^n \times W/Strange: A formula$ ”, put simply, and led us through a barrel of laughs. Three research groups gave us multimedia presentations (<http://www.fabinet.up.ac.za/index.php/gallery-show?gallery=50>). we had a brief introduction to lab safety by the Bacterial Genomics and Plant Pathogen Interactions group. We were then introduced to the multi-award winning television show, LABgear by the Plant Virology group. The paranormal and terrifying side of science was shown to us by the Alpha Lab where they investigated paranormal activity that went on in the FABI labs, which left us speechless, absolutely frightened and shocked.

During the interval we were shown the lighter side of the carnie-life, with our own personal magician, Magical Marc, who stole the hearts of the audience and showed us how awkward situations could be amongst scientists.

The show was over and the party was about to begin. Before leaving to dine in the BIG TOP ARENA on the Plant Sciences Complex roof, we announced the best-dressed male and female FABI freaks. Best-dressed male went to our untameable lion – Lucas Shuttleworth, and best-dressed female, was awarded to our Carnie-folk representative, Simone Foucé.



Best dressed Male (Lucas Shuttleworth) and Female (Simone Foucé)

After dinner the FABI presentation awards were announced. Best oral presentation went to the “The Man” himself, Mr Darryl Herron, and best multimedia presentation went to The Plant Virology lab for their popular television show, LABgear. The FABI Circus Carnival ended with a bang and it will be a night few will ever forget.



FABIANS enjoying themselves