

## FABI STUDENTS DO WELL AT SA BOTANY CONGRESS

A group of FABLans participated in the 45<sup>th</sup> conference of the South African Association of Botanists (SAAB) in January, which was held in conjunction with the Southern African Society for Systematics and Biosystematics (SASSB) and the African Mycological Association (AMA) on the campus of the University of Johannesburg. The FABI team did well and walked away with several prizes. Chrizelle Beukes won the prize for the best PhD presentation in Systematics, while Seamus Morgan and Shawn Fell respectively won the prizes for the best MSc and Honours presentations in Mycology. Congratulations to these students for flying the FABI banner!



### ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Juanita Avontuur - The many faces of Bradyrhizobium: from nodulation to photosynthesis

Chrizelle Beukes - *Bradyrhizobium leobordeae* sp. nov., a rhizobial symbiont of the indigenous South African papilionoid *Leobordea polycephala*

Prof Martin Coetzee - Multilocus phylogenies and morphological analyses revealed new and previously described *Ganoderma* species in South Africa

Prof Wilhelm de Beer - The Polyphagous Shothole Borer and its fungi: a threat to native forest ecosystems in South Africa?

Shawn Fell - Ambrosia beetles and their associated fungi infesting native *Combretum* trees in Pretoria

Seamus Morgan - Insights into mating systems of *Quambalaria* and other Exobasidiomycetes using genome sequences

Dr Marike Palmer - All ANIs are not created equal

## **POSTERS**

Runlei Chang - Ophiostomatoid fungi associated with mites phoretic on bark beetles in Qinghai, China

Lazarus Mavima - The taxonomy of *Paraburkholderia* and *Paraburkholderia tuberum*-like isolates from South Africa

Khumbudzo Ndhlovu - Characterization of wild isolates of alpha and beta rhizobia for nodulation of essential legumes