

FOURTEEN FABIANS CAPPED AT UP SPRING GRADUATION

Congratulations to 14 FABlans whose degrees were conferred at the Spring graduation of the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Pretoria on 4 September. Below are their names as well as thesis and dissertation titles.



PhD's

Dr Natrisha Devnarain

Thesis: Elucidation of drought tolerance mechanisms in South African *Sorghum bicolor* (L.) Moench landraces

Supervisor: Dr Bridget Crampton

Co-supervisor: Dr John Becker

External co-supervisor: Dr Maretha O'Kennedy (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research)

Dr Delphin Kandolo

Alternaria blight of sweet potato in South Africa and development of an integrated disease management strategy

Supervisor: Prof. Terry Aveling

Co-supervisor: Prof. Jacquie van der Waals

External co-supervisor: Dr Mariette Truter (Agricultural Research Council)

Dr Godfrey Kgatle

Alternaria blight of sunflower caused by *Alternaria alternata* and its control in South Africa

Supervisor: Prof. Terry Aveling

External co-supervisors: Prof. Bradley Flett (Agricultural Research Council), Dr Mariette Truter (Agricultural Research Council)

Dr Esther Masumba

Mapping of QTL associated with resistance to Cassava Brown Streak and Mosaic Diseases in outcrossing cassava farmer varieties from Tanzania

Supervisor: Dr Albe van der Merwe

Co-supervisor: Prof. Zander Myburg

External co-supervisor: Dr Morag Ferguson (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Kenya)

Dr Osmond Mlonyeni

Characterization of genetic variability in the *Sirex-Amylostereum-Deladenus* symbioses

Supervisor: Prof. Bernard Slippers

Co-supervisors: Prof. Jaco Greeff, Prof. Mike Wingfield, Prof. Brenda Wingfield

Dr Margot Otto

Bacterial canker of cherry trees: biology and epidemiology of the causal agent

Supervisor: Prof. Teresa Coutinho

Co-supervisor: Prof. Jolanda Roux

External co-supervisor: Dr Yolanda Petersen (Agricultural Research Council)

Dr Zelda Pieterse

Fungal biodiversity associated with selected Aizoaceae in the Namaqua National Park in the Succulent Karoo biome

Supervisor: Prof. Terry Aveling

External co-supervisor: Dr A Venter (Agricultural Research Council)

Dr Melissa Simpson

Mating in *Ceratocystis fimbriata*

Supervisor: Prof. Brenda Wingfield

Co-supervisors: Prof. Mike Wingfield, Dr Martin Coetzee, Dr Magriet van der Nest

Dr Collins Tanui

Transcriptome profiling of *Pectobacterium carotovorum* subsp. *brasiliense* reveals genes involved in ecological fitness and virulence mechanisms during infection

Supervisor: Prof. Lucy Moleleki



MSc's

Daniel Ali (posthumously)

Cryphonectriaceae from native Myrtales in Indonesia, La 'Reunion and South Africa

Supervisor: Prof. Mike Wingfield

Co-supervisors: Prof. Jolanda Roux, Dr AR McTaggart

Yves du Toit

The development and use of a comparative transcriptomics analysis tool for *Eucalyptus* defence interactions

Supervisor: Prof. Sanushka Naidoo

Co-supervisor: Dr Nanette Christie

Donovin Coles

Functional characterisation of *Arabidopsis thaliana* nitrate transporter NRT2.5 in plant defence

Supervisor: Prof. Sanushka Naidoo

External co-supervisor: Dr Ritesh Mewalal (Oak Ridge National Laboratory, USA)

Angel Maduke

Botryosphaeriaceae on native and exotic Myrtaceae trees in southern and eastern Africa

Supervisor: Prof. Jolanda Roux

Co-supervisors: Prof. Mike Wingfield, Dr Draginja Pavlic

Alandie Niewoudt

Development of a CRISPR-Cas9 system for genome editing in *Exserohilum turcicum* (Pass.) K.J. Leonard & Suggs (Pleosporaceae)

Supervisor: Dr BG Crampton

Martin Wierzbicki

Systems genetics of xylan modification in *Eucalyptus grandis* x *E. urophylla* hybrids

Supervisor: Prof. Zander Myburg

Co-supervisor: Dr Eshchar Mizrachi