

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN IN SCIENCE AWARDS 2018 RECOGNISES THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TWO FABIANS

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has since 2003 hosted the annual Women in Science Awards, this year renamed the South African Women in Science Awards (SAWiSA), to celebrate and reward distinguished female researchers in South Africa. The prestigious event hosted on 23 August in recognition of Women's Month, emphasised the importance of education, especially for young girls and encouraged attendees to be role models to youngsters interested in following careers in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields.

Minister of Science and Technology Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane opened the gala event, which was held in celebration of the late anti-apartheid struggle stalwart, Mama Albertina Sisulu, who would have celebrated her 100th birthday in October. SAWiSA has five categories that celebrate scientists at all career levels. Individuals must be nominated to apply for consideration. Nomination and recognition in the categories come with a considerable cash prize.



The FABI flag flew high at The Ranch Resort in Polokwane, with two representatives attending as finalists: Dr Irene Barnes, a research leader in the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Tree Health Biotechnology (CTHB), and Danielle Roodt, a PhD candidate in the Forest Molecular Genetics (FMG) programme. Dr Barnes received the first runner-up award in the 'Awards for Distinguished Young Women Researchers' category, while Danielle was a winner in the 'DST-

Albertina Sisulu Doctoral Fellowships' category. The FABlans were treated to sponsored hair and make-up services and beauty products from L'Oréal, meals and accommodation at The Ranch Resort, flowers and chocolates, and each received a copy of "What a Great Idea!, Awesome South African Inventions" by Mike Bruton. Representatives from the DST also interviewed them and they attended the live broadcast of Morning Live on 24 August, which featured the Minister Kubayi-Ngubane and winners in other categories. Brief biographies of all the finalists were published in several newspapers and snippets of the event are on the DST's website and Facebook page.