

FABI Inaugurates New Facility

The Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) is a unique research organization (<http://fabinet.up.ac.za/>). Located on the campus of the University of Pretoria, it is the brainchild of APS member **Mike Wingfield** (Ph.D., plant pathology, University of Minnesota, 1983). Although it only began in December 1997, FABI now has major programs on the protection and improvement of forest trees, tropical fruits, and indigenous and other food crops. In support of this research, it has significant capacities in DNA sequencing, bioinformatics, and genomics. FABI plays an important role in educating young scientists in Africa and has a current roster of 55 Ph.D. and 64 M.S. graduate students. In total, more than 140 faculty, students and staff work at the

(University of Florida, Homestead) gave keynote addresses.

FABI Square substantially increases FABI's core competence in plant protection and improvement. On the first two floors it contains labs and South Africa's largest quarantine greenhouse facility. On a third floor, it houses a bioinformatics unit: it is a node on the National Bioinformatics Network and is comprised of a major computing facility, a sequencing and plant biotechnology core, and a training center.

It is fitting that the inauguration of FABI Square coincided with the 10th anniversary of democracy in South Africa. FABI is proud of its international makeup and the diverse ethnic backgrounds of those who work there. More than 30 languages are spoken by "FABIANS:" seven are endemic to South Africa, and another nine are spoken else-

given to support research on late blight resistance in potato. During the project titled "Testing Stable Resistance to Late Blight in Mexico (1950–1980)," **Ken Deahl** (USDA-ARS, Beltsville, MD), **Louise Cooke** (Northern Ireland), and **Dave Shaw** (Wales) will examine materials generated by Neiderhauser in Toluca, Mexico, the putative center of origin for *P. infestans*.

Those who are interested in submitting a proposal for future JANE funding should visit www.apsnet.org/members/oip/jane.asp

New Members of the OIP Advisory Board

OIP is pleased to announce new appointments to its advisory board. Beginning on August 4, 2004, the following individuals will begin three-year terms and join current board members **George Abawi** (Cornell University, Geneva, NY), **Sally Miller** (Ohio State University, Wooster), and Randy Ploetz.

Mohammad Babadoost is an assistant professor and extension plant pathologist in the University of Illinois' Department of Crop Sciences in Urbana. He will begin a second term as coordinator of OIP's library assistance program. Babadoost has been instrumental in identifying materials and the support with which to ship them to needy libraries in the developing world. In the interest of providing greater assistance to these libraries, he will investigate cooperative relationships with other agricultural societies that produce useful crop protection and production materials. To this end, discussions have begun with the International Affairs Committee of the Entomological Society of America.

Jacqueline Fletcher is the immediate past president of APS, and Sarkeys Distinguished Professor of Agricultural Science in the Oklahoma State University Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology in Stillwater. Fletcher has served APS in numerous capacities, including current membership on the Crop Biosecurity Committee and past service as secretary, councilor-at-large, senior editor of APS Press, and associate editor of *Plant Disease*. She currently has collaborative international research projects in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Italy, and Thailand and will be responsible for directing APS/OIP efforts to establish collaborations with other phytopathological societies worldwide.

Niklaus J. Grünwald is a research plant pathologist with the USDA-ARS in



The FABI team in front of their new building, FABI Square.

institute, including professors **Terry Aveling**, **Teresa Coutinho**, **Nico Labuschagne**, and **Brenda Wingfield**, as well as **Jolanda Roux** and **Altus Viljoen**.

On May 25, 2004, FABI inaugurated a new three-story complex, FABI Square, during a two-day celebration that was attended by more than 200 visitors and 40 overseas guests. During the opening ceremony, APS members Wingfield, **Wally Marasas** (PROMEC, Tygerberg, South Africa), **Lise Korsten** (University of Pretoria), and **Pedro Crous** (CBS, Utrecht, Netherlands) gave invited lectures. During symposia on the following day **Tom Gordon** (University of California, Davis) and **Randy Ploetz**

where on the African continent. OIP congratulates FABI and Wingfield on the outstanding success of this organization and the contributions it has made to forest and agricultural research in Africa.

JANE Award

The John and Anne Neiderhauser Endowment (JANE) was created to facilitate international cooperation in the research and management of plant diseases, with emphasis on those that are caused by species of *Phytophthora*. Considering Neiderhauser's outstanding contributions to potato improvement, it is particularly appropriate that the JANE Award for 2004 has been

Corvallis, OR. Grünwald has served APS as a member of the advisory board of OEC and is a current member of the editorial board of *The Plant Health Instructor*. He has conducted extensive research on potato late blight and serves on the steering committee of the GCTE/GILB Potato Late Blight Network. He will serve on the OIP committee that evaluates submissions for the JANE Award, will become the chair of OIP's Education Committee, and will be the OIP liaison with APS's Education Center and *The Plant Health Instructor*.

Gareth Hughes is currently a reader in the University of Edinburgh School of Biological Sciences. He received the APS Lee M. Hutchins Award in 2000 and is a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and Its Applications. Hughes is currently coauthoring a textbook for APS Press with **Larry Madden** and **Frank van den Bosch**, *The Study of Plant Disease Epidemics*; is serving a second consecutive term as senior editor for APS Press; and is on the advisory board of OEC. He will be the OIP liaison with APS Press and OEC.

Douglas P. Maxwell is professor emeritus and former chair of the University of Wisconsin Department of Plant Pathology in Madison. He is a Fellow of APS, has served APS as a councilor-at-large, and received the first International Collaboration Award from the Institute of Plant Pathology (ARC, Giza, Egypt), the Spitze Land Grant Award, and the BIFAD International Award for Excellence. Maxwell has been very active overseas and has current projects in Costa Rica, Egypt, Guatemala, Jamaica, Jordan, India, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Nicaragua, Palestine, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, and the AVRDC in Tawian. Maxwell will chair OIP's Awards Committee.

James R. Steadman is currently professor, and former acting head, of the University of Nebraska Department of Plant Pathology in Lincoln. He is an active member of the Bean/Cowpea CRSP (see *Phytopathology News* 37:161) and has received Outstanding Service awards from both OIP and OPAE in recognition of prior service to APS. Steadman has had a long association with OIP and will guide the development of an international mentoring program.

OIP is excited and honored to have such an excellent group join its advisory board. We thank these individuals for their willingness to serve and look forward to their input in developing APS's international vision for the future.

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