

# NEWS March 2009



## 2009 SAWISE-Angus Scholarship Awardee

Rumidzai Mukungunugwa (left) is our 2009 awardee! Rumidzai has completed a BSc degree majoring in computer science and mathematics majors at the University of Fort Hare. She will be doing an Honours degree in Computer Science at the University of Pretoria in 2009.

**SAWISE's New Chair of the Scholarships subcommittee**: Prof. Jacquie Greenberg (left in the pic below).



Prof. Jacquie Greenberg's special areas of interest are inherited blindness and genetic conditions that result in mental and physical handicap. She is particularly interested in the rapidly expanding group of conditions caused by unstable trinucleotide repeats like HD and the inherited ataxia's (SCA's) as well as the field of predictive testing of late onset genetic disease (in particular HD, SCA and RP). Her current research focus in on translational genetics which is centred around the need for genetic counselling research which

will broaden the scope of this new profession here in SA by generating research literature from and for the continent of Africa. The overall benefit of such research will be to fulfill the need for advanced training in health education and service development for the people of Africa who suffer from genetic disease."

#### SAWISE's New Chair of the Education Subcommittee: Dr. Laura Roden

Laura Roden's research interest is in circadian rhythms in plants and animals. More specifically, the control of flowering time, signalling, and the regulation of gene, including transgene, expression in plants. She has a BSc and BSc (Hons) from Wits. Thereafter, she did a PhD at the University of Cambridge, and post-doctoral research at the University of Arizona. Thereafter, she spent some time in the UK at the University of Warwick trying to



understand photoperiodism (flowering in response to day length) and circadian rhythmicity in Arabidopsis thaliana, and later also worked as a

Research Scientist at Broom's Barn Research Station researching bolting and flowering in sugar beet. She is excited about being back in South Africa and at UCT's Molecular and Cell Biology Department, and is thrilled about her involvement with SAWISE to stimulate interest in science among the next generation.

#### SET4Women, Pretoria, February 2009.



Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan (left) and Diane Wilcox (right) recently attended the NACI workshop on Science and Technology for women in Pretoria. Several women's networks (academic as well as corporate associations) were represented. One of the main outcomes of the meeting was that NACI would facilitate communication between the various organizations.

## SAWISE at UCT Science Day, March 2009

SAWISE members has a wonderful opportunity to "showcase" science to about 1800 learners from previously disadvantaged communities. We had a range of interesting specimens on display at SAWISE stand – crocodile and lion skulls, as well as a whole display on "microbes and food". On the right is SAWISE stalwart Nomvuyo Mgoqi with a beaming learner!



# UPCOMING: SAWISE-Element 6 Women's Day Event, August 2009.

We are pleased to announce that this year we have once again obtained funding from Element Six to host a special event for National Women's Day. This year the event will be held at MTNSciencentre – who are also actively involved in the planning and execution of this event. We are considering a morning event for school learners, and perhaps and afternoon event for professional women. Any ideas and/or suggestions for speakers/activities etc., are welcome.

# WORKSHOPS

Over the past few years we have had several workshops (e.g. time management, professional development, Science communication, etc). We are wondering what sorts of workshops would work well for 2009. What are your "needs'? Please can you use our <u>sawise-l@uct.ac.za</u> to make suggestions or alternatively contact Melinda Griffiths (our SAWISE communication person, <u>m.grifitths@uct.ac.za</u>) or me directly.

### Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan

Please send "news' to include in our next SAWISE newsletter to: <u>anusuya.chinsamy-turan@uct.ac.za</u>