

Patricia Berjak - Award Winning Seed Scientist



The University of KwaZulu-Natal is delighted to announce that Professor Patricia Berjak from the School of Biological and Conservation Sciences will be invested with the Order of Mapungubwe: Silver - by His Excellency, President T M Mbeki, at a ceremony in Pretoria on 27th September 2006, in recognition of her "excellent achievements in and contributing to the understanding of seed science."

The Order of Mapungubwe is South Africa's highest honour. It was instituted on 6 December 2002, and is granted by the President of South Africa, for

achievements in the international area which have served South Africa's interests. The order has four classes:

- Platinum (OMP), for exceptional and unique achievements,
- Gold (OMG), for exceptional achievements,
- Silver (OMS), for excellent achievements,
- Bronze (OMB), for outstanding achievements.

The order is named after Mapungubwe, an ancient African nation which existed a thousand years ago in what is now the northern part of the Limpopo province.

Other recent notable recognition of Patricia Berjak as a scientist, include her being the 2004 recipient of the Distinguished Woman Scientist Award of the National Department of Science and Technology, and, also in 2004, being elected as a Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences.

Professor Dasarath Chetty had this to say about the investiture: "It is academics of this calibre that give the University of KwaZulu-Natal its 'World Class' reputation. We are particularly proud of the achievement."

Issued by
Professor Dasarath Chetty
Public Affairs and Corporate Communications

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