

CONSERVATION BIOLOGY AWARD



Award-winner Sarah Lewis with Prof. Phil Hockey (left) and Peter Johnson.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Percy FitzPatrick Institute in 2010, the Johnson Family Trust has offered an award to recognise the achievements of the top student in the anniversary year's Conservation Biology (CB) MSc Class. The award is in memory of Patrick Niven, long-standing board member of the institute

and son of Cecily Niven, who was the driving force behind the establishment of the FitzPatrick Institute.

The Patrick Niven Conservation Biology Award was presented to Sarah Lewis at an event at the FitzPatrick Institute in August. Lewis is one of four students who completed the CB course with distinction

this year. Her course project was 'Valuing an ecotourism resource: a case study of the Boulders Beach African Penguin *Spheniscus demersus* colony', supervised by Associate Professor Peter Ryan.

Lewis was born and educated in England. Her BSc Honours dissertation at the University of Nottingham in June 2009 focused on how supplementary food affects the reproductive success of Blue Tits *Cyanistes caeruleus*. Prior to her university career, Lewis travelled to various parts of Africa, volunteering at wildlife rehabilitation centres in Limpopo Province and KwaZulu-Natal. It was here that she discovered her passion for African wildlife and experienced firsthand many of the problems that it faces. She anticipates developing a career in African conservation, so the CB programme provided the perfect opportunity to develop her skills in this area.

'We are extremely grateful to the Johnson Family Trust for this generous award, which will further stimulate the Conservation Biology MSc class to achieve excellence,' said Prof. Phil Hockey, Director of the FitzPatrick Institute. □

 The advertisement features a large photograph of a woman wearing a tan bucket hat and looking through black binoculars. The background is a scenic landscape with a body of water, green grass, and distant hills under a blue sky with clouds. At the bottom of the image, there is a blue banner with the text 'Inspiring Outlook' and a pair of Zeiss binoculars. In the bottom left corner, there are two small circular logos: one with 'FL' and a fish, and another with 'ZEISS' and a globe.

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