

PhD students

Balako Gumi Donde (since 01.01.08)
 Fiebig Lena (since 01.12.06)
 Kaufmann Muriel (since 01.05.08)
 Mahamat Béchir (since 01.01.08)
 Müller Borna
 Ngandolo Bongo Richard (since 01.01.08)

Pham Duc Phuc (since 01.05.08)
 Saurina Jennifer (since 01.02.07)
 Tschopp Rea
 Weibel Daniel

Completed PhDs

Dürr Salome, Dr. med. vet. (to 31.07.07),
 Vetsuisse Fakultät Bern, University of Bern

Hilty Markus, PhD (to 31.10.06)
 Locatelli Sabrina, PhD (to 31.04.08)
 Ould Taleb Moustapha, PhD (to 01.07.08),
 Université de Cocody, Abidjan,
 Côte d'Ivoire



Prof. Marcel Tanner, director of the Swiss Tropical Institute, was presented with an honorary doctorate at the University of Neuchâtel's "Dies academicus" on Saturday, 1 November 2008. Other awardees included Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General and co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for 2001.

Marcel Tanner was made an honorary doctor of the Faculty of Science in the University of Neuchâtel's Jeunes-Rives auditorium before more than 500 invited guests for his outstanding contributions to promoting public health in developing countries and emerging economies, as well as to fighting diseases of poverty. In making the award, Prof. Felix Kessler, dean of the Faculty of Science, underscored the major role played by Marcel Tanner and the Swiss Tropical Institute in building organisations such as the Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) in Tanzania and the Swiss Centre for Scientific Research (CSRS) in Côte d'Ivoire. Prof. Kessler pointed out that the IHI, which recently received the 2008 Prince of Asturias Award for International Cooperation, and the CSRS are now research institutions of international standing. Indeed, Kessler said, Marcel Tanner deserves much of the credit for bringing partnership and networking to the fore in development cooperation. Both Kofi Annan and Marcel Tanner clearly understand the mutual responsibility and importance of partnering that come with globalisation. These represent tools for solving the urgent problems of the world's poor, not least among them the fight against disease.

Pictures from the celebration. (Photos J. Pelikan)

