



National Science and Technology Forum

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

Message from Jansie Niehaus, NSTF Executive Director

The month of July is upon us, and that means it's time for the annual highlight of the NSTF calendar, the 2014/2015 NSTF Awards, in partnership with South32 (previously BHP Billiton). On Thursday 9 July, the cream of SA's science, engineering, technology and innovation (SETI) community will gather in Gauteng to celebrate the outstanding achievers in our midst at the awards gala dinner, presided over by the patron of the event, Ms Naledi Pandor, the Minister of Science and Technology. If you haven't made your [online table or seat bookings](#) yet, do so without delay. We hope to see as many of you as possible at this glamorous event!

We have received a request for assistance from Marinda Maree, of the University of Pretoria, who is doing her PhD on the importance of social-cognitive factors in the careers of women in SETI. She is looking for women who work in the field to complete a questionnaire in this regard. I call upon our women scientists to take time out of your busy schedules to assist Marinda in her research endeavour (see item at the bottom of the newsletter).

In our monthly Policy Brief (see below under SETI Policy News) we focus on the recently published Regulations for Petroleum Exploration and Production (shale gas/ fracking regulations).

[Getting to know the 2013/2014 NSTF-BHP Billiton Award winners](#)

Professor De Wet Swanepoel and Dr Herman Myburgh of the University of Pretoria won an award for their outstanding contribution to SET through research leading to innovation in a corporate organisation or institution. Combining Prof Swanepoel's expertise in early hearing loss detection with Prof Myburgh's knowledge of emerging mobile and smartphone technology, they developed [a smartphone-based hearing loss detection solution](#).

Starting in the next issue of this newsletter, we will be introducing one of the 2014/2015 award winners to our readers every month.

Latest activities: NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards [Share 'n Dare outreach programme](#)

This programme profiles NSTF-BHP Billiton award winners as ambassadors and role models of science, engineering, technology and innovation (SETI). During June, Prof Donald Cowan, Director of the Genomics Research Institute and Director of the Centre for Microbial Ecology and Genomics at the University of Pretoria, visited the University of Johannesburg Science Centre to talk to learners about living and working in Antarctica. Prof Eric Bateman, Emeritus Professor and Director, University of Cape Town (UCT) Lung Institute, and Honorary Consultant, Division of Pulmonology, UCT Department of Medicine addressed approximately 140 learners and teachers on 26 June 2015 at the iThemba Labs in Cape Town.

Issue: July 2015



Jansie Niehaus

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Share your organisation's bursary information -

www.sciencebursaries.org.za - S.E.T. for life!

The [NSTF Science Bursaries website](#) allows bursary providers to register and upload the bursaries they are offering, with total control over their bursary information. The site also provides career guidance in SETI-related fields, and regularly profiles young SETI achievers, as well as accomplished senior role models in the field.

Do let us know if you are planning a youth outreach event; we will be more than happy to arrange for one of the NSTF-BHP Billiton Award winners to be present at your event.

Contact us at enquiries@nstf.co.za for more information.

[Read more.](#)

As part of the *Share 'n Dare* Programme, all the award winners are telephonically interviewed about their research to help the public understand the winners' individual disciplines, and why they won the awards in their respective fields. [Podcasts](#) of these interviews are now available on the NSTF website. These interviews are great mediums to use for motivational purposes at youth outreaches and we encourage you to make use of it wherever possible.

Organisations are invited to join hands with the NSTF and broaden the reach of the programme by inviting award winners (through the NSTF Office) to relevant outreach programmes. Contact Ms Fulufhelo Gelebe (+27 12 841-3987 or enquiries@nstf.co.za) to make the necessary arrangements.

Remember to share your organisation's bursary information and reach out to SA's youth – www.sciencebursaries.org.za – S.E.T. for life! We also encourage you to refer learners and students to this portal for career guidance and to be inspired by stories of role models and the experiences of young talent in the field. Contact us at enquiries@nstf.co.za for more information or to request posting of your bursary information.

SETI Policy News

- [Policy Brief 5/2015: Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 28 of 2002: Regulations for Petroleum Exploration and Production, 2015](#)

The purpose of the regulations, published on 3 June 2015 by the Minister of Mineral Resources, is to prescribe standards and practices that will ensure the safe exploration and production of onshore operations. We provide background to recent developments and useful links to related media reports.

- [Relationship between govt, private sector key to SA's reindustrialisation](#) (Engineering News)
- [SA adds two new biosphere reserves to portfolio](#) (Engineering News)
- [SA oceans to unlock opportunities in economy](#) (Engineering News)

Energy

- [DoE confirms 1800 MW renewables reopener on the way](#) (Polity.org)
- [Antifracking group slams DMR for 'inadequate' shale-gas regulations](#) (Polity.org)
- [Govt signals firm commitment to nuclear build](#) (Engineering News)
- [SA to release CoGen IPP bid documents this week](#) (Polity.org)



Upcoming SETI events

- [9th Annual Skills Development Summit: Pretoria, 4-5 August 2015](#)
- [Geomatics Indaba 2015: Ekurhuleni, 11-13 August 2015](#)
- [8th SA Innovation Summit: Cape Town, 26-29 August 2015](#)
- [Online course in Science Communication: An introduction to theory, best practice and practical skills: Stellenbosch University, 5 October – 15 December 2015 \(Applications close 31 August 2015\)](#)
- [9th Annual UKZN Teaching & Learning Conference: Durban, 21-23 September 2015](#)
- [8th Annual SATN International Conference 2015: Entrepreneurship Education for Economic Renewal: Vaal University of Technology, 19-21 October 2015](#)
- [16th Annual International Conference: Rapid Product Development Association of SA \(RAPDASA\): Pretoria, 4-6 November 2015](#)



[17th Annual Conference: Southern African Association of Science and Technology Centres: Mafikeng, 16-19 November 2015](#)

- [Smart and Sustainable Built Environments: University of Pretoria, 9-11 December 2015](#)
- [International Conference on Competitive Manufacturing \(COMA '16\): Stellenbosch, 27-29 January 2016](#)
- [35th International Geological Congress: Cape Town, 27 August-4 Sept 2016](#)

Send us your news

The NSTF invites you to send us information on news, meetings, conferences and activities of interest to the broader SETI community. The deadline for all items is the 20th of every month, for publication in the NSTF eNews that is distributed at the end of the month. Send your contributions to enquiries@nstf.co.za.

Community News

pro**SET** – Professionals in Science, Engineering and Technology, a sector of the NSTF

pro**SET** is currently supporting the [South African Chemical Institute](#)'s series of workshops on activity-based chemistry teaching for high-school teachers (in Durban from July 1-3, Pretoria 6-9 July and Cape Town 13-15 July 2015) which will be presented by Jerry A. Bell, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts, and Senior Scientist (retired) of the American Chemical Society.



Science

- [Cleanroom ensures good manufacturing practice](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Using technology for a quantum leap](#) (*IOL*)
- [Investment to boost African scientist numbers](#) (*BD Live*)
- [Inaugural space and industry dialogue hosted by SA National Space Agency](#) (*Defenceweb*)
- [SA's geoscience desperately underfunded - Nedbank Capital](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Africa expanding workforce in science through astronomy](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Read the latest issue of the SA Journal of Science](#)

Environment, Climate Change and Energy

- [Renewable energy shines for economy](#) (*BD Live*)
- [Experts eye Rosatom, Westinghouse reactors for SA nuclear power](#) (*Polity.org*)
- [Catastrophic climate woes ahead](#) (*IOL*)
- [New Saskatchewan carbon capture facility a global test bed](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [SA's wind fleet grows to 294 turbines, association targets 2 500 by 2020](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Hydrogen fuel cell technology bringing power to schools in the Eastern Cape](#) (*AllAfrica.com*)
- [Investors show huge interest in SA's wind and solar programme](#) (*BD Live*)

Higher Education

- [R30m injection for former black varsities](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [SA-Swiss health research chair launched at UCT](#) (*BD Live*)

Resources and Opportunities

- [Global agriculture forum seeks innovative ideas in Africa competition](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Online course in Science Communication: An introduction to theory, best practice and practical skills: Stellenbosch University, 5 October – 15 December 2015](#) (*Applications close 31 August 2015*)

Call for assistance: Questionnaire: Women in Science

Marinda Maree is a PhD student doing research on the factors that influence women to stay or leave STEM/SET careers. The emphasis is on psychosocial factors that keep women in these careers. Although some research has been done in South Africa, this area is still under explored and she needs information on your unique situation and experience to describe the issue fully.

Please take the time to complete the [questionnaire](#); it should not take more than approximately 20 minutes. Any personal information you might divulge in the questionnaire will be regarded as strictly confidential; Ms Maree is interested in aggregated trends which means you cannot be identified.

What do you [think of this newsletter](#)?

If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve this newsletter, please email the NSTF Secretariat at enquiries@nstf.co.za

Send us your news

The NSTF invites all our members, as well as all SETI role players, to send us information on meetings, conferences and activities of interest to the broader S&T community. We require one month's notice to communicate your news to all stakeholders on our database, and publish it in our newsletter. Contact Wilna Eksteen (details below) for more information.

Disclaimer:

The NSTF has taken all practical measures to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is correct. The NSTF reserves the right to make changes as it deems necessary. Contact details submitted by individuals for subscription purposes will be treated confidentially.

The **National Science and Technology Forum** (NSTF), established in 1995, is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all SETI organisations in South Africa, which seeks to influence policy formulation and delivery.

The **NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards** are unique in SA, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SETI.

www.sciencebursaries.org.za - SET for life! This exciting web portal is a 'one-stop shop' for learners and students who are interested in pursuing a career in the sciences, engineering or technology.

Privacy

Registration details submitted to the NSTF will be treated confidentially and will only be used by NSTF to communicate with its members and subscribers.

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