



## National Science and Technology Forum

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

### Message from Jansie Niehaus, NSTF Executive Director

#### Calling all official representatives of NSTF member organisations

The annual general meeting of the NSTF will take place on 13 November 2015 at Emperors Palace in Gauteng (see news item below). The AGM breakfast meeting will be addressed by Prof Lee Berger (Wits) on the recent, many publicised paleontological discoveries. All representatives need to be present to ratify important decisions.

I would also like to draw the attention of our readers to the [Science Forum: South Africa – 2015](#), which will take place on 8-9 December at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria. The theme is “*Igniting conversations about science.*” This event, initiated by the Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor, is inspired by events such as the [European Science Open Forum](#), the [Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science](#) and the [Japan Agora](#) (pdf file). The forum aims to ignite a vibrant discussion on the role of science, technology and innovation in South Africa and to create a platform for government, academics, scientists, industry, civil society and students to interact. [Click here](#) for more information on exhibition opportunities at the event.

In our monthly Policy Brief (see below under **SET Policy News**) we focus on the Science and Technology Laws Amendment Act.

#### [Annual General Meeting of the NSTF: 13 November 2015, Gauteng](#)

We call on all our members to make a concerted effort to attend this meeting, since we cannot make important decisions without sufficient numbers of representatives present. Our guest speaker, Prof Lee Berger, will talk about his team’s recent paleontological discoveries. Watch out for the official invitation, which you will receive later this week. [Click here](#) for more information, and to view the programme.

#### [Getting to know the winners of the 2014/2015 NSTF Awards, in partnership with South32: Prof Andrew Forbes](#)

In the third of our monthly series introducing the 2014/2015 award winners to our readers, the spotlight falls on Professor Andrew Forbes from the school of physics at the University of the Witwatersrand. Prof Forbes won the special Annual Theme Award for an exceptional contribution in photonics research. He is regarded as an international expert in laser-beam shaping and heads a research programme investigating digital holography, optical communication, optical trapping and tweezing, and high-dimensional quantum entanglement. [Click here](#) to read more about Prof Forbes’ work, or listen to a [podcast](#) (mp3 file) of an audio interview with him.

#### [The NSTF Brilliants Programme – For our future innovators: Meet the 2014/15 Brilliants students](#)

The NSTF Brilliants Programme, sponsored this year by the Department of Science and Technology, recognises 18 first-year students studying in the science, medicine and engineering fields, who received top marks in mathematics and physical science in the National Senior Certificate Examinations last year. This month we introduce you to the Western Cape’s [Mari-Alet Smith](#) (pdf file), a chemical engineering student at Stellenbosch

### Issue: October 2015



Jansie Niehaus

[SET Policy news](#)

[Upcoming SETI events](#)

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**Share your organisation’s bursary information -**

[www.sciencebursaries.org.za](http://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](mailto:enquiries@nstf.co.za) for more information.

University, and [Washington Wachira](#) (pdf file) from the Eastern Cape, who is studying chemical engineering at the University of Cape Town.

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

This programme profiles NSTF award winners as ambassadors and role models of science, engineering and technology. During September, David Mauchline, manager of additive manufacturing at the Vaal University of Technology, presented two talks on additive manufacturing at Africa Engineering Week at Mangosuthu University of Technology in KwaZulu-Natal. He attended both events on behalf of Prof Deon de Beer of North West University, who won the 2014/15 NSTF Award for research leading to innovation, by a team or individual through a corporate organisation. [Read more](#) (pdf file).

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#### Video of 2014/2015 NSTF Awards Gala Dinner now available

The video of the glamorous awards gala dinner, held in Johannesburg on 9 July 2015, is now available on YouTube. [Click here](#) to view the event in all its glory!

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#### NSTF Awards: Call for nominations: 2015/2016

Please note that the call for nominations for the **2015/2016 NSTF Awards** will be distributed towards the end of October.

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### SET Policy News

[Policy Brief 8/2015: Science and Technology Laws Amendment Act \(2014\)](#) (pdf file)

The Act aims to increase ministerial oversight over entities such as the Human Sciences Research Council, the National Research Foundation and the Technology Innovation Agency, allowing the minister to appoint board members and dissolve boards. Previously, this power was vested with the Parliamentary portfolio committee for science and technology. [Read more](#) (pdf file).

- [New members of National Planning Commission announced](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Global water, sanitation concerns now in government's priority crosshairs - Minister](#) (*Polity.org*)
- [Treasury looking into infrastructure funding bottlenecks, says Nene](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Government seeks comment on power corridor environmental framework](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Lack of internet access is holding back innovation - Pandor](#) (*hxt.co.za*)
- [ICT Policy White Paper to be published before financial year-end, Minister assures](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [227 companies receive R&D tax incentive](#) (*itweb.co.za*)
- [Building health innovation partnerships](#) (*Scidev.net*)

#### Energy

- [Geothermal technology is expensive, but should be part of SA's energy mix](#) (*Polity.org*)
- [Nuclear the cheapest, subsidises renewables - Minister](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Nuclear build will be affordable - Minister](#) (*Polity.org*)
- [Diversification of SA energy mix a "no-brainer" - Gibb](#) (*Polity.org*)
- [Gas emerges as key focus area for DoE in immediate future](#) (*Engineering News*)

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### Upcoming SETI events

- [12th IIER International Conference on Applied Physics and Mathematics \(ICAPM\): Cape Town, 1 November 2015](#)
- [12th IIER International Conference on Chemical and Biochemical Engineering \(ICCBE\): Cape Town, 1 November 2015](#)
- [IIER 16th International Conference on Recent Innovations in Engineering and Technology: Cape Town, 1 November 2015](#)
- [16th Annual International Conference: Rapid Product Development Association of SA \(RAPDASA\): Pretoria, 4-6 November 2015](#)
- [2nd International Conference on Information Security and Cyber Forensics \(InfoSec2015\): Cape Town, 15-17 November 2015](#)
- [17th Annual Conference: Southern African Association of Science and Technology Centres: Mafikeng, 16-19 November 2015](#)

- [Science Forum: South Africa – 2015: Igniting conversations about science: Pretoria, 8-9 December 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](#)
- [7th International Conference on Mechanical, Industrial, and Manufacturing Technologies: Cape Town, 1-3 February 2016](#)
- [5th International Conference on Information and Industrial Electronics \(ICIIE 2016\): Cape Town, 1-3 February 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](mailto:enquiries@nstf.co.za).

## Community News

### Science

- [Meet Homo Naledi, a new species of human discovered in SA video](#) ([thesouthafrican.com](http://thesouthafrican.com))
- [Homo Naledi - A link in our understanding of evolution](#) ([Polity.org](http://Polity.org))
- [Watching the stars: World's largest radio telescope establishes R50m university partnership](#) ([Biznews.com](http://Biznews.com))

### Engineering & Technology

- [CSIR test-flies aircraft pod intended as flying laboratory](#) ([Engineering News](http://Engineering News))

### Environment, Climate Change and Energy

- [Eskom plans six major power corridors ahead of decentralised capacity trend](#) ([Engineering News](http://Engineering News))
- [SA steps up efforts to reduce vulnerability to impacts of climate change](#). It is our preference that if you wish to share this article with others you should please use the following link:  
<http://www.polity.org.za/article/efforts-stepped-up-in-climate-change-2015-09-15fforts-stepped-up-in-climate-change> ([Polity.org](http://Polity.org))
- [Global nuclear power capacity may grow more than 45% in next 20 years](#) ([Engineering News](http://Engineering News))
- [CSIR projects drastic temperature increase over Africa](#) ([Engineering News](http://Engineering News))
- [Africa's first World Forestry Congress under way](#) ([TimesLive](http://TimesLive))
- [SA set to host international renewable energy conference](#) ([Engineering News](http://Engineering News))
- [Gas represents a R250bn opportunity for SA - Mckinsey](#) ([Polity.org](http://Polity.org))

### Higher Education

- [Closing the research gap between Africa and the rest of the world](#) ([AllAfrica.com](http://AllAfrica.com))
- [Pandor announces 42 new research chairs for female academics](#) ([TimesLive](http://TimesLive))
- [Postgrad study key to development](#) ([Mail & Guardian Online](http://Mail & Guardian Online))

### SET people in the news

- [New CEO for National Research Foundation](#) ([AllAfrica.com](http://AllAfrica.com))

### 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](mailto: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 Awards** are unique in SA, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SETI. [www.sciencebursaries.org.za](http://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.

For more information, contact the NSTF Secretariat at:

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