



National Science and Technology Forum

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

Message from Jansie Niehaus, NSTF Executive Director

What do ethics have to do with science? Do SA's engineers and other professionals have sufficient professional integrity to avoid disastrous consequences? The first [NSTF discussion forum for 2015](#), set to take place on Thursday 19 March at Emperor's Palace in Gauteng, will shed some light on these (mostly invisible) issues. Participants will also be asked to consider and express their opinion on whether the various measures and structures in place in SA to promote ethical practice are sufficient, generally known, well enforced, and whether they are too time-consuming, getting in the way of the work that has to be done. Please join us for this discussion - we would like to bring together as many role players and stakeholders as possible in order to reach consensus and make informed recommendations. Visit our website to [register](#) (before 13 March) or view the [draft programme](#).

[Nominations: 2014/15 NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards](#)

The deadline of the second and final stage of the nomination process is 12:00 on 6 March 2015. The completed nomination form/s may be e-mailed to the NSTF at enquiries@nstf.co.za at any time up to the closing date. *Today's research... tomorrow's innovation*

[2013/14 NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards winners](#)

Outstanding contributions to scientific research, technological innovation, management, education, capacity building and science communication were announced in July 2014, at the 16th Annual NSTF Awards Gala Dinner, celebrated in partnership with BHP Billiton since 2011. We are introducing each of the twelve winners to our readers through a series of articles. This month we feature [Professor Brenda Wingfield](#), Acting Dean: Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Pretoria, and winner of the award for an outstanding contribution to science, engineering and technology through research capacity development over the past five to 10 years. Prof Wingfield was one of the leaders in developing DNA-based phylogenetics of tree pathogens. More recently, her research group sequenced the first eukaryote genome (the pine pitch canker pathogen) in Africa.

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). Knowledge-transfer activities aim to clarify the fields of expertise of the Award winners and highlight career opportunities among students at tertiary institutions and high-school learners visiting science centres and schools. Other objectives include enhancing public understanding and the knowledge of communities; and participation in campus and community radio talk shows. In January, Prof Azwinndini Muronga, associate professor at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) and director of the UJ Soweto Science

Issue: March 2015



Jansie Niehaus

SETI Policy news

Upcoming SETI events

Community News

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.

Centre, visited three schools in Limpopo, as well as the University of Venda. Prof Muronga is the winner of the 2013/14 NSTF-BHP Billiton Award for his outstanding contribution to SETI through science communication for public awareness and outreach over the last five years. [Click here](#) to read an article on the visit.

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 1/2015: Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Amendment Bill](#)
We provide a summary of the main aims of the Bill, background to recent developments and a discussion of the effect of key clauses, as well as other useful links.
- [Call for public comment: Draft National Register of Artisans Regulations, 2015 Skills Development Act, 1998 \(Act 97 of 1998\)](#)
[Click here](#) to view a brief description of the regulations. Appendix C contains a Code of Conduct for Artisans. Please have a look at this with a view to our forthcoming [discussion on Ethics and Professional Integrity](#), on 19 March 2015. If you send your comments to the NSTF at enquiries@nstf.co.za by 11 March, we will compile a coordinated response from proSET/NSTF members to submit to the DHET.
- [Skills development vital in reducing youth unemployment](#) (*dti*)
- [Chamber of Mines welcomes budget allocations, opposes carbon tax](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Molewa's emission reprieve criticised](#) (*Polity.org*)
- [SA's looming water crisis](#) (*The Intelligence Bulletin*)
- [Water-energy nexus key uncertainty in Africa](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training identifies key areas to be addressed by DHET](#) (*AllAfrica.com*)
- [SA renewables programme "a global case study"](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [State of the Nation 2015: Mining and energy: Comment by SA Institute of International Affairs](#) (*Polity.org*)
- [DST wants to help innovators](#) (*Polity.org*)



Upcoming SETI events

- [Non-renewable Resources Energy Conference: Where to from here? Johannesburg, 12 March 2015](#)
- [ACU SARIMA Conference 2015: Research and Innovation for Global Challenges: Johannesburg, 11-14 May 2015](#)
- [5th Annual Ethics SA Conference: Gallagher Convention Centre, 18 May 2015](#)
- [CTBT: Science and Technology 2015 Conference: Vienna, Austria, 22-26 June 2015](#)
- [Manufacturing Indaba: Ekurhuleni, 29-30 June 2015](#)
- [Power-Gen Africa 2015: Cape Town, 15-17 July 2015](#)
- [Eding! International Science Festival](#) (**supported by the Department of Science and**



Technology/SAASTA): 20-24 April 2015 at Polokwane Showgrounds and 21-24 July 2015 at North-West University, Mafikeng Campus. Contact Bushy Moabelo at 081 333 4930 for more information.

- [Call for papers: Geomatics Indaba 2015: Ekurhuleni, 11-13 August 2015](#)
[Spotlight on science and research leader, CSIR](#) (www.bizcommunity)
- [9th Annual UKZN Teaching & Learning Conference: Durban, 21-23 September 2015](#)
- [First Call for Abstracts: Smart and Sustainable Built Environments: University of Pretoria, 9-11 December 2015](#)

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

Science

- [IBM expands global research network into SA](#) (antaranews.com)
- [SANSA joins Africa2Moon official supporters](#) (AfricanBrains.net)



Engineering

- [CESA worried about secondment of Cuban engineers](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of Southern Africa \(Seifsa\) extends Awards of Excellence submission deadline to 24 April](#) (*Engineering News*)

Innovation

- [Two African leaders unite to boost innovation on the continent](#) (Africanbrains.net)
- [Innovative Western Cape entrepreneurs awarded R62m](#) (Polity.org)
- [Innovation puts shackles on the cool track](#) (*Times Live*)
- [Quality of SA innovations lauded](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Home-grown bioremediation process turns harmful industrial sludge into useful fertilisers](#) (*Engineering News*)

Environment, Climate Change and Energy

- [Shale gas an 'unlikely' prospect, not necessarily cheap - WWF SA](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Tests show SA is ready for carbon tax](#) (tax-news.com)
- [Work to begin this month on three additional SA wind projects](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [SA maize crops may decline due to climate change](#) (Sowetanlive.co.za)
- [Study outlines ways to decouple growth from environmental degradation](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [World Bank study calls for integration of energy, mining](#) (*Engineering News*)

Higher Education

- [SA universities get R37m in funding to fight cancer](#) (Health24.com)
- [Course introduced to strengthen postgraduate supervision](#) (*Mail & Guardian*)
- [Stellenbosch engineering students showcase talents with mobile palletising solution](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [UFS research on shack dwellings holds potential for alternative housing](#) (*Mail & Guardian*)
- [TUT: Flora explorers to cross herbal hurdles](#) (*Times Live*)
- [Wits enters into trilateral agreement to boost opportunities for entrepreneurs](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Nzimande 'not likely' to agree to extra year of varsity study](#) (*Mail & Guardian*)

Resources and opportunities

- [Internship funding opportunity for employers: National Itukise internship for unemployed graduates, TVET College or University of Technology students](#)
- [TRECCAfrica II 2015 scholarship call now open](#) (closing date: 22 March 2015)

SETI people in the news

- [Parliamentary Portfolio Committee pays tribute to retiring SKA head](#) (*AllAfrica.com*)
- [SA Aids researcher wins prestigious African Union science prize](#) (*www.caprisa.org*)
- [NRF appoints acting CEO](#) (*Engineering News*)

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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