



National Science and Technology Forum

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

Message from Jansie Niehaus, NSTF Executive Director

One of the highlights on the national calendar during Women's Month was the announcement of the winners of the [2015 Women in Science Awards](#). Held under the auspices of the Department of Science and Technology since 2003, the awards were founded as an intervention to reward and recognise women in the sciences.

In her speech at the awards gala dinner on 14 August, Minister Naledi Pandor said, "The Women in Science Awards is not only a special event. It also makes a more subtle contribution. It allows young women to dream of a life in science. Far too many girls are told or allowed to assume that their dreams are irrelevant". On behalf of the NSTF, I wish to congratulate all the finalists and the winners; I also join the Minister in daring our young women to dream of a life in science!

I was privileged to attend the unveiling of the Democracy Monument at Beyers Naude Square on 24 August to mark the 59th anniversary of National Women's Month. The ceremony was combined with the unveiling of new street names in the Johannesburg city centre in honour of the four stalwarts who led the 1956 women's march – Sophia De Bruyn, Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph and Rahima Moosa. I had the opportunity to say a few words during the ceremony; [click here](#) if you would like to read the full text of my speech.

SA's forests play an important role in protecting soils and storing carbon, while also supplying in the basic needs of a large number of people, particularly rural poor communities who depend on forest resources for their livelihoods. In our monthly Policy Brief (see below under **SET Policy News**) we focus on the Draft National Forests Amendment Bill.

[Getting to know the winners of the 2014/2015 NSTF Awards, in partnership with South 32](#)

In the second of our monthly series of articles introducing the 2014/2015 award winners to our readers, the spotlight falls on Professor Robert Scholes, Distinguished Professor of System Ecology at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Prof Scholes was one of two winners of the award for achievement over a lifetime. He was recognised for his contribution in the realms of environmental science, systems ecology, savannah ecology and global change, where he enjoys worldwide recognition as an extraordinary scientist. [Read more.](#)

[The Brilliants Programme – nurturing our future innovators](#)

The NSTF Brilliants Programme, sponsored this year by the Department of

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Jansie Niehaus

SET 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.

Science and Technology, recognises 18 first-year students studying in the science, medicine and engineering fields, who had received top marks in mathematics and physical science in the National Senior Certificate Examinations last year. This month we introduce you to [Isaac Modisa](#) from Gauteng and [Thendo Muthambi](#) from Limpopo, who are both studying BSc (Mechanical Engineering) at the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of Cape Town, respectively.

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 August, Professor Deon de Beer of North West University (NWU) addressed students and staff at NWU on additive manufacturing. Dr Thulani Makhwanyane, a microbial ecologist at the University of Pretoria, addressed learners in Tshitavha village in Limpopo on his life and work, and career options in his field of research. He also spoke to learners from various schools in Tembisa, Gauteng, and participated in a Motivational Speech Day in Piet Retief, Mpumalanga. Professor Alexander Myburg, director of the forest molecular genetics programme at the University of Pretoria, addressed learners in Sebokeng on his research, which focuses on the development, growth, needs and importance of trees. [Read more.](#)

SET Policy News

[Policy Brief 7/2015: Draft National Forests Amendment Bill](#)

Initially published in May 2013, the draft bill was republished in May 2015 to provide, *inter alia*, for public trusteeship of the nation's forestry resources and to increase the promotion and enforcement of sustainable forest management. [Read more.](#)



- [dti relaunches industrial innovation-support programme](#) (Polity.org)
- [Stem-cell research outstrips legislation](#) (Mail & Guardian)
- [New determinations create framework for key IPP procurement programmes](#) (Polity.org)
- [Sustainable farming critical to food security in SA](#) (Engineering News)
- [Focus on SA's R&D tax incentive: Naledi Pandor explains](#) (AllAfrica.com)
- [Collective efforts needed to manage water efficiently](#) (Polity.org)
- [Mining Phakisa can help unlock mining exploration, investment](#) (Engineering News)
- [Legislative changes to be supportive of offshore oil, gas drilling - Zuma](#) (Engineering News)
- [Shale-gas laws still scaring foreign investors](#) (Engineering News)

Upcoming SETI events

- [5th CSIR Conference: Ideas that Work: Pretoria, 8-9 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

Science

- [SA, Japan collaborate to drive fuel cell technology](#) (*itweb.co.za*)
- [At the cutting edge with CUT's Centre for Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing](#) (*News24*)
- [Where will the next generation of Nobel Prize winners come from?](#) (*Theconversation.com*)
- [CSIR executive director to serve on responsible mining index board](#) (*Engineering News*)



Engineering & Technology

- [Brain drain real for SA engineers](#) (*it-online.co.za*)
- [CESA celebrates engineering excellence](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [International Academy for Production Engineering: Spotlight on manufacturing](#) (*BD Live*)
- [Jobs advertised in SA engineering sector increase by 36%](#) (*Engineering News*)

Environment, Climate Change and Energy

- [SA's renewables programme the basis of green economy](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Cape biogas power plant breaches 15 GWh milestone, but far more possible](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [SA's renewable benefits seen at US\\$310 million](#) (*Bloomberg.com*)
- [R650m deal may open way for mining of Free State gas resource in 2016](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Hydrogen fuel-cell technology under the lens in Cape Town](#) (*Polity.org*)
- [Domestic wind generators could be money spinners](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Fuel cell technology: Answer to load shedding?](#) (*AllAfrica.com*)
- [Water trumps energy as "red boardroom issue" - WRC](#) (*Polity.org*)
- [Digging for data on Africa's climate future](#) (*Scidev.net*)
- [Climate change hitting SA's coastal fish](#) (*AllAfrica.com*)

Higher Education

- [Financial reward for research output under the spotlight in SA](#) (*AllAfrica.com*)
- [Research chair launched at CUT](#) (*News24*)
- [Wits School of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics go for big data](#) (*wits.ac.za*)
- [R50m mine-design centre opens at UP](#) (*Engineering News*)

SET people in the news

- [SA's leading researchers honoured at 2015 NRF Awards gala evening](#) (*nrf.ac.za*)
- [DST's Women in Science Awards: Women honoured for their research and contribution to sciences](#) (*eNCA*)

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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