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NSTF e-Newsletter

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

Message from NSTF Executive Director

All aspects of South Africa's water crisis involve skills shortages. On 26-27 September 2016, the [NSTF](#), in collaboration with the Water Research Commission and the representatives of the NSTF [science councils and statutory bodies sector](#), will host a [discussion forum on water management and skills](#). This forum aims to lobby government on interventions required on the skills shortages involved in water management and infrastructure. I hope to see as many of our members and other stakeholders as possible at this event, to ensure meaningful discussions.

This month's featured SET policy (Draft Policy on Sustainable Hydropower Generation – see below) is particularly relevant in view of the upcoming discussion forum. Do make the time to read through our briefing and share any comments you may have.

The 2016 conference of the [Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa \(AEASA\)](#) takes place in Johannesburg from 14-16 September. In support of the International Year of Pulses, and as a follow-up to the [Pulses and Food Security Discussion Forum](#) of 2-3 June 2016, the NSTF and the Department of Science and Technology will jointly host a parallel session on the topic *Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future* at the AEASA Conference, on 14 Sept. Join us for what promises to be an informative and fruitful session.

As 'Olympics fever' subsides, and 'matric fever' starts, we can reflect on what it takes to excel at extreme challenges. See the interesting article below, under SET Community News, on why triple jumpers may be the ultimate Olympians. The Maths Olympiads combine extreme challenges with academic studies – see the article under proSET News. The [NSTF-South32 Awards](#) celebrate those scientists and other professionals who work for years on solving problems, and exploring new territory, that promotes the creation of new knowledge, the improvement of people's lives, and responsible technological progress. Extreme challenges indeed - see the [award winners](#) featured on our website.



NSTF News

Getting to know the work of the 2015/2016 NSTF-South32 Award winners: Prof. Crick Lund

Prof Crick Lund is pioneering the development of policies and services designed to address mental health in low and middle-income countries. [Winner](#) of the 2015-2016 TW Kambule-NSTF Award for research and its outputs over a period of up to 15 years, by an individual, he is director of the Alan J Fisher Centre for Public Mental Health at the University of Cape Town. Read the [Mail & Guardian](#) article that was published recently about Prof Lund's research.

Engaging youth and communities through science

The NSTF [Share 'n Dare programme](#) forms part of the [NSTF-South32 Awards](#) and provides a platform for award winners to act as role models and ambassadors for SET and innovation. [Read more](#) about the talks given during the past month by Professors Thokozani Majozi and Suprakas Sinha Ray, and Dr Gonasgren Govender at Science Centres in Gauteng and North West during the National Science Week.

Meet our future innovators

The NSTF [Brilliants Programme](#), sponsored again this year by the Department of Science and Technology, recognises 18 first-year students (a male and female from each province) studying in the science 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 two brilliant young minds from Mpumalanga: [Laila Choonara](#) is a medical student at the University of the Witwatersrand, while [Stephan Louw](#) is studying biomathematics at Stellenbosch University.

News Update: International Year of Pulses 2016

- [Common beans and cowpeas as complementary foods to reduce environmental enteric dysfunction and stunting in Malawian children](#) (BioMed Central)
- [More scientific thinking needed to feed society: The NSTF tackles hunger](#) (SA Journal of Science)
- [Dekgewasse goed vir grondgesondheid](#) (Landbouweekblad)
- [Why farmers should cover-crop](#)



Featured SET policy: Draft Policy on Sustainable Hydropower Generation (2016)

The document sets down a policy position for the Department of Water and Sanitation on the establishment and development of hydropower, using existing department infrastructure, including dams, barrages, rivers, irrigation systems (canals and conduits) as well as run-of-river schemes. The draft policy also talks to promoting energy efficiency initiatives in the water and sanitation sector. [Read more](#)

Other SET-related policies currently open for public comment

- [National Environmental Management: Waste Act: Amendments to waste tyre regulations](#) (Comments by 11 Sep 2016)
- [National Research Foundation Amendment Bill: Draft](#) (Comments by 5 Oct 2016)

SET-related policy news

- [When universities aren't properly funded, everybody loses](#) (theconversation.com)
- [SA: What about free higher education for all?](#) (AllAfrica.com)
- [African scientific cooperation partnerships strengthened](#) (Engineering News)
- [Infrastructure development critical to success of oil, gas industry](#) (Engineering News)



- [2016 Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa \(AEASA\) Conference: Gauteng, 14-16 September 2016](#)
- [3rd International Conference on Research Infrastructures \(ICRI 2016\): Cape Town, 3-5 October 2016](#)
- [9th International SA Technology Network Conference: CapeTown, 12-14 Oct 2016](#)
- [27th Annual Conference of the Southern African Institute for Industrial Engineering: North West, 27-29 Oct 2016](#)
- [7th Annual Women in Engineering Conventions: Cape Town, 29 - 31 November 2016](#)

- [UNESCO - Merck Africa Research Summit \(MARS 2016\): Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: 28-29 Nov 2016](#)
- [Science Forum SA: Pretoria, 6-7 December 2016](#)
- [1st International Conference on Sustainable Materials Processing & Manufacturing: Kruger National Park, 23-25 January 2017](#)



SA Maths Foundation News

- [News on Maths Olympiads – Aug/Sept 2016](#)

Engineering

- [UP's first-in-Africa virtual reality centre to revolutionise mine safety](#)(up.ac.za)
- [Independent Development Corporation, BAIC settounveilplansfornew Eastern Capeautoplant](#) (Engineering News)



- [New, positive wind blowing through SA mining - Sibanye](#) (Engineering News)
- [Meat inspection must be beefed up in Africa to cull food-borne diseases](#) (theconversation.com)
- [Faster, higher, stronger: Science shows why triple-jumpers may be the ultimate Olympians](#) (theconversation.com)
- [SA scientists discover compound that could halt the spread of malaria](#) (qz.com)
- [Unlocking the mysteries of plant root function from Alaska to SA](#) (news.nau.edu)
- [Cape planetarium gets digital upgrade](#) (hxtt.co.za)
- [SA scientists discover unique anti-ageing potential of rooibos](#) (rnews.co.za)
- [The maths behind 'impossible' never-repeating patterns](#)(theconversation.com)
- [Inaugural Lecture:Prof Roger Sheldon, Wits School of Chemistry: Good students, bad students and biocatalysis](#) (wits.ac.za)
- [A journey to harness African wisdom](#) (AllAfrica.com)
- [Sub-Saharan Africa must preserve innovation momentum](#) (Engineering News)

Environment, Climate Change and Energy

- [Partners appointed for SA's first waste-to-energy project](#) (Engineering News)
- [Drones fly high in farming](#) (gadget.co.za)



- [Women in Science Awards 2016](#)
- [Mentoring the scientists of tomorrow](#) (IOL)
- [NMMU students do their bit for women in science](#) (rnews.co.za)

News update: International Year of Pulses 2016:

- [Watch a video to find out what pulses are, and why we should include them in our diets](#) (youtube.com)

Please forward this e-mail to your colleagues, business contacts and all interested persons!

Send us your news

The NSTF invites all our members, as well as all SET and innovation role players, to send us information on meetings, conferences and activities of interest to the broader S&T community. Please send us your news by the 20th of the month, for distribution at the beginning of the following month, to enquiries@nstf.co.za

Feedback

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

About the NSTF

The [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#), established in 1995, is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all SET and innovation 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 SET and innovation.

The [science bursaries](#) page provides information on bursaries and bursary providers for science, engineering and related studies.

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.

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Non Profit Company Registration Number: 2007/029165/08

NPO Registration Number: 92042

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