



Message from NSTF Executive Director

The annual highlight of the National Science and Technology Forum's (NSTF's) events calendar, the [NSTF-South32 Awards gala dinner](#), held in Gauteng on 30 June 2016, was a glamorous event that brought together stakeholders in the local science, engineering and technology (SET) community to celebrate what Prof Ali Dhansay, NSTF chair, calls the “tenacious big-thinkers” in our midst.

Speaking at the event, Science and Technology minister Naledi Pandor said SA had shown the world that the country had the capacity to compete with the best in the world in emerging scientific fields and new technologies. “We have built, and are building, global infrastructure for global science. We are improving policy to enable investment by the private sector,” she said. The [winners](#) of these coveted awards, as well as the [nominees](#), are all playing a part in enabling South Africa to compete in the global arena. Congratulations once again to all these inspiring individuals.



NSTF News

Brilliants 2015/2016

The NSTF [Brilliants Programme](#), sponsored again this year by the Department of Science and Technology, recognises 18 first-year students (a young man and woman from each of the nine provinces) studying in the science, medicine and engineering fields, who had received top marks in mathematics and physical science in the National Senior Certificate Examinations the previous year. Meet the 2015/2016 group of brilliant [students](#), some of whom achieved results of above 94% and 93% for physical science and mathematics respectively (a few even achieved 100% in these subjects!) Unfortunately some of these remarkable young people have not been able to secure bursaries. Contact the NSTF Office at enquiries@nstf.co.za if you would like to invest in their studies. Starting next month, we will also introduce you to some of the individual students through a series of interviews.

Annual Science Councils Symposium: September 2016: SA's water crisis

The next NSTF [discussion forum](#) of 2016 will take place at the beginning of spring in September. Appropriately, the event will be aimed at facilitating exchanges and solution-driven deliberations around the water crisis in South Africa and the shortage of scarce skills in the water sector. Watch your mailbox for the formal invitation. [Subscribe](#) colleagues who may be interested to the NSTF's SET community database now to ensure that all stakeholders are involved.

Feedback: Discussion Forum on Pulses and Food Security

The above mentioned [event](#) took place on 2-3 June in Gauteng. The agreement of participants captured in the [media release](#) was that government, public and private institutions need to invest in the monitoring and evaluation of farming activities and provide training and assistance on an ongoing basis to ensure the country's food security. Other recommendations include sharing the [proceedings of the conference](#) with other government departments and establishing centres of excellence around the country to deal with technologies in IKS and biodiversity. In addition, participants emphasised the need for increased efficiency

in production processes and the creation of partnerships between business, government, civil society and academia. The [policy recommendations and outcomes](#) were summarised with a call for action to become involved. Make your interest known to the NSTF at enquiries@nsthf.co.za

Getting to know the work of the 2015/2016 NSTF-South32 Award winners: Prof. Bert Klumperman, winner of the Lifetime Award

Prof Bert Klumperman, Distinguished Professor of Polymer Science at Stellenbosch University (SU), is an [A2-rated](#) scientist and Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa. He investigates nano-structured materials for biomedical applications, conducts mechanistic and kinetic studies of radical polymerisation processes, and performs exploratory polymer chemistry for advanced applications. He has received numerous awards and accolades, published around 170 papers and is currently supervising over 20 postgraduate and postdoctoral students at SU. [Read more.](#)



SET Policy News

SET-related policies currently open for public comment

- [Spatial Data Infrastructure Act: Spatial Data Infrastructure Regulations: Draft](#)
Comments by 10 July
- [Public comment invited: 2016 Draft Carbon Tax Bill](#)
Comments by 29 July

- [Petroleum Products Act: Regulations: Petroleum products specification and standards: Draft amendment: Comments invited](#)
Comments by 3 Aug 2016

Other SET-related policy news

- [Pandor urges SA to engage venture-capital companies to invest in science and technology](#) (Engineering News)
- [SA takes steps to nurture nascent biomanufacturing industry](#) (Engineering News)
- [Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation to take-over-SA's spatial planning and fix fragmented policies](#)
- [DST considers R&D Tax Incentive report by government-industry task team](#) (AllAfrica.com)
- [Report highlights need for spatial transformation in SA cities](#) (Engineering News)
- [Govt prioritises fight against acid mine-water in Gauteng](#) (Engineering News)
- [Expedite platinum fuel cells to boost economy - Deputy minister](#) (Engineering News)



Upcoming SET Events

- [Borehole Geophysical Logging and Seismic Reflection in Litho-Structural Mapping: Johannesburg, 7 July 2016](#)
- [35th International Geological Congress: Cape Town, 27 August-4 Sept 2016](#)
- [Change of dates: Geomatics Indaba 2016: 12-14 Sept, Gauteng](#)
- [Mathematical Sciences Workshop: 15-16 Sept 2016](#)
- [Celebrating a Centenary of Geography in SA: Stellenbosch, 25-28 Sept 2016](#)
- [9th International SA Technology Network Conference: Cape](#)

- [Town, 12-14 Oct 2016](#)
- [World Psychiatric Association International Congress 2016: Cape Town, 18-22 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](#)



proSET News

SA Maths Foundation News

Read about maths whizz-kid Mpho Nkwana from Soshanguve, the SAMF's courses to improve teachers' problem-solving skills, and the foundation's new website. [Read more](#).

35th International Geological Congress (35 IGC): Cape Town, 27 Aug – 4 Sept 2016

Earth sciences impact significantly on society and on the global economy, as well as being fundamental to understanding the planet we inhabit. 35 IGC, an event sponsored by the NSTF proSET sector, will cover a multitude of earth science topics and is a reflection of the state of modern earth science. [Read more](#)

Engineering

- [Development of the Industrial Engineering Profession in SA](#)
- [SA space engineering technology to help clean up space junk](#) (Engineering News)

Science and pure research

- [Read the latest issue of Physics Comment, the newsletter of the SA Institute of Physics](#)



SET Community News

- [SA scientists in data-storage breakthrough](#) (IT Online)
- [How do you encourage innovation across a continent of more than a billion people?](#)(timeshighereducation.com)
- [Read the latest issue of the SA Journal of Science](#)
- [Microbes in extreme heat and cold hold lessons about life on earth and beyond](#) (theconversation.com)
- [SA mining set to benefit from R&D resuscitation](#) (Engineering News)

Environment, Climate Change and Energy

- [SA conference discusses food safety and security](#) (foodqualitynews.com)
- [Renewable energy costs rapidly decreasing](#) (Engineering News)
- [Southern African gas industry shows economic potential](#) (Engineering News)
- [Sub-Saharan Africa has long way to go to crack food insecurity](#) (Polity.org)
- [Free State poised to be helium pioneer as gas developments unfold](#) (Engineering News)
- [Africa needs agricultural innovation to ensure food security](#) (Polity.org)

Higher Education

- [Shifting grounds in higher-education partnerships](#) ([insidehighered.com](#))
- [Sasol experience shows sharing information with universities benefits both sides](#) (Engineering News)
- [Technology can revolutionise university access](#) (Daily Maverick)
- [Rise in black and female science graduates a glimmer of hope for SA despite challenges](#) ([htxt.co.za](#))
- [SA's black sci-tech doctoral graduates steam ahead](#) (IT Web)

Resources and Opportunities

- [New MacArthur competition to award \\$100 million to help solve critical problem of our time](#) *(To participate, applicants must register on the website by 2 September 2016. The deadline for proposals is 3 October 2016.)*



People in SET

- [SA students win major international supercomputing competition](#) (Times Live)
- [Prof Danie Hattingh: Driving innovation through engineering at eNtsa](#) ([rnews.co.za](#))
- [NMMU biomedical graduate scores highest marks in SA](#) ([rnews.co.za](#))

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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