

NSTF Science and Technology Awards and Gala Dinner for 2002:

The 5th NSTF Science and Technology Awards Gala Dinner for 2002 was held on Friday, 30 May 2003 to celebrate the outstanding achievements of the period. These awards were characterised by increasing levels of collaboration and partnerships, which included the DST, the Telkom Foundation, Eskom and the British Council. The NSTF is indebted to the SA Agent for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA), formerly known as FEST, for its assistance in the administration surrounding this event. This noble occasion was also honoured and dignified by the Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, Ms Sonjica and Deputy Minister of Education, Mr Mangena. We thank them sincerely for their interest and support.

Winners of this year's event were:



An Individual over a lifetime - **Dr Kelvin Kemm** of Stratek, Pretoria.



An Individual through Research and Innovation over the last two years - **Professor Sarah Howie**, Associate Professor Curriculum Studies and Centre Head, University of Pretoria.



An Individual through Activities other than Research and Innovation over the last two years - **Professor Peter Clayton**, Head Computer Science, Rhodes University.



A Not-for-Profit Organisation over the last three years - **Africabio** from Centurion.



An SMME over the last three years - **Róth Medical Components (Pty) Ltd**, Cape Town.



A corporate organisation (or Department or Division) over the last ten years - **ARC Exotic Disease Division** at Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute.

NSTF Projects

The following recognitions were also acknowledged:

Science competitions (Learners), four categories: Expo for Young Scientists - Kimantha Naidoo, Lanaya Naidoo and Londiwe Ntuli; Mathematics Olympiad - Tamara von Glehn, Marietjie Venter and Ishara Sukhraj; Science Olympiad - Lidia Auret, Virlene Goliath and Jane Stamp; Technology Olympiad - Jenna Keightley.

Female Matriculants - Kenosi K Rapoo (Gauteng), Brenda E Mpaphuli (Limpopo), Zibuyile Mncwabe (KZN), Boitumelo S Motshwanedi (NW), Anima Osei-Amankwah (EC), Matseliso Thabane (FS), Vuyisile Manqele (Mpumalanga), Faith Z Gwangqa (WC), Precious D Melakeco (NC).

Teachers - Mr Frans C Murphy (NC), Mr MP Masango (Limpopo), Mr ML Zulu (Mpumalanga), Mr Steve Maditjana (NW), Mr A Makhubedu (Gauteng), Mr Martin Tshabalala (FS), Mrs Maryna de Lange (WC), Mr ZR Sonkwala (EC), Mr T Mchunu (KZN), Mr Felang Pebane (retired teacher of the year).

Schools - Mbilwi High (Limpopo), Makgestse High (NW), Melife-Raucall Senior (Gauteng), Zingiza Senior Secondary (EC), Leseding High (FS), Kasselsvlei Comprehensive High (WC), Inkomazi Senior Secondary (Mpumalanga), Mshweshwe High (KZN), Carlton van Heerden High (NC).

Post Graduates - Dr D Schmulian and Mr D Swanepoel of the University of Pretoria.



SET Awareness and the Public Understanding of Science, Engineering and Technology (PUSET):

The NSTF visited and made presentations to policy formulators and decision makers. The aim was to inform them on the NSTF's endeavours to promote SET and to introduce the Growth and Innovation study, which was commissioned by the NSTF and NACI. All information on this study was made freely available.

Visits were made to the following:

- ▶ Mr Mosibudi Mangena - Deputy Minister of Education;
- ▶ Mr Valli Moosa - Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism;
- ▶ Dr Ben Ngubane - Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology; and
- ▶ Portfolio Committees on Trade and Industry, Finance, and Arts, Culture, Science and Technology.

As a result of these visits, the need arose for a mini-workshop on PUSET, which was subsequently organised by the NSTF. This workshop was well attended by participants from various organisations of the SET community. As a result of the deliberations, it became clear that a more comprehensive workshop is needed. A Discussion Document will be compiled from the submissions of the participants. The outcomes of the next workshop will be communicated to government in the form of a Position Paper. You are invited to join this important process in the interests of our society.



Immigration Laws and the Brain Drain:

Three years ago the NSTF engaged the Department of Home Affairs (DoHA) on the Immigration Act and brain drain issues. These issues raised a concern to some of our stakeholders (Business and Higher Education sectors). The discussions with the DoHA led to a well-attended workshop, organised by the NSTF. The outcomes of this workshop indicated that more work needs to be done to establish the extent and the effects of the brain drain in South Africa. The NSTF will work in collaboration with other stakeholders to establish solutions on this issue.

The NSTF is committed to uniting South Africa's SET community and to seeing our experts walk away with a Nobel Prize in Science, Engineering and Technology!





SET Policy Issues:

Policy issues attended to during this period included the following:

- ▶ National Research and Development Strategy - dealing with the Department of Science and Technology (DST);
- ▶ National Curriculum Statements for Further Education and Training schools - dealing with the Department of Education (DoE);
- ▶ Biodiversity Bill - dealing with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT);
- ▶ Contribution to the formulation of the following strategies - dealing with the DST:
 - ▶ Technology Transfer;
 - ▶ Intellectual Property Rights;
 - ▶ Indigenous Knowledge Systems;
 - ▶ Immigration act and brain-drain - dealing with the DOHA; and
 - ▶ Participation in the NEPAD process - dealing with the National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI), DST and the NEPAD Secretariat.



Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education (STEAME) Initiative:

The NSTF continued to be involved in this initiative. We continued to emphasise that education in Mathematics, Science and Technology is essential in building South Africa's economy and SET society.

We interacted with the National and Provincial Education Departments to help to promote Mathematics, Science and Technology Education through various means. We are grateful for your support of this initiative and implore you to continue with this support.

Ethics in Science and Technology in South Africa:

This initiative lost momentum during the last period due to slow buy-in by government. Different approaches are now being followed to accelerate this process. Civil society has been well mobilised. Government is an important partner and cannot be left out. It is important to note that Ethics in Science and Technology is becoming increasingly important globally. Groundwork has been done by the NSTF to kick-start the process. A Discussion Document and a Charter have been developed. Your participation is crucial in this project.

NEPAD:

The NSTF has continued to be involved in the NEPAD process linked to Science and Technology. During the period under review, the NSTF collaborated with the National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI) in facilitating a NEPAD-SET conference, which was held during October 2002.

During February 2003, the NSTF actively participated in a NEPAD workshop organised by the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The purpose of the workshop was to develop a Science and Technology Framework for NEPAD. The NSTF will continue to support and to promote NEPAD in SET in whatever possible way. To keep the fires burning on this process, the NSTF will endeavour to organise regular platforms to encourage discussions and involvement by the SET community.