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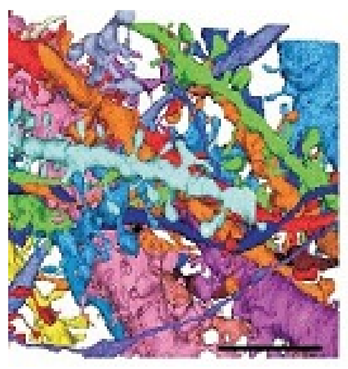
SCIENCE
NATUURWETENSKAPPE
EYOBUNZULULWAZI

1918 · 2018

## NEP grants put SU on forefront of molecular imaging in Africa



Thanks to two successful National Equipment Programme (NEP) applications, the SU will be acquiring two state-of-the-art laboratory instruments which have, until now, not been available on the African continent. The applications were for an imaging flow cytometer and a serial blockface field emission scanning electron microscope (SBF-SEM) which will be managed by the SU's Central Analytical Facilities (CAF). The instruments are valued at R12,6 million and R15 million respectively.

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## Om te grawe vir sirkoon - tydkapsules uit die verlede

"Dis soos om te soek na skatte wat begrawe is. En wanneer jy uiteindelik daardie sirkoon kry in die rots waarin 'n fossiel ingebed is, weet jy dat jy 'n tydkapsule van die prehistoriese verlede in jou hande hou."
Aan die woord is Dr Ryan Tucker van die Departement Aardwetenskappe by die US. Hy is lid van 'n internasionale span wat *Moros intrepidus* ontdek het, 'n klein tirannosourus wat ongeveer 96 miljoen jaar gelede gedurende die Kryttydperk geleef het.

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## Quantum dots used to track flowers' pollen

A pollination biologist from SU is using quantum dots to track the fate of individual pollen grains. This is breaking new ground in a field of research that has been hampered by the lack of a universal method to track pollen for over a century.
In an article published in the journal *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* recently, Dr Corneile Minnaar describes this novel method, which will enable pollination biologists to track the whole pollination process from the first visit by a pollinator to its endpoint.

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## *Katalisfonds* vir nagraadse studie in Natuurwetenskappe

Die Fakulteit Natuurwetenskappe bied elke jaar aan nagenoeg 700 nagraadse studente ŉ eersteklas-navorsingsomgewing, met omvattende institusionele ondersteuning en kundigheid. Die meeste van hierdie studente sou egter nie met nagraadse studies kon voortgaan sonder finansiële ondersteuning in die vorm van beurse of lenings nie.
In 2018 is Suid-Afrikaanse universiteite swaar getref toe verskeie regeringsinstellings navorsingstoekennings vir nagraadse studente drasties verminder het. Teen hierdie agtergrond het die Fakulteit tydens ons eeufeesjaar ŉ beursfonds gelood om dié studente by te staan. Die beursfonds staan bekend as die *Katalisfonds*, omdat ons glo dat toekomstige wetenskaplikes wat hierby baat, 'n verskil in Suid-Afrika en in die wêreld kan maak.

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### In other news

#### Science research showcase in Gauteng: 7 June 2019

The Faculty of Science is hosting its first research showcase in Gauteng, in collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering on Friday 7 June, from 12:00 - 18:00. You are welcome to attend to engage with the researchers, browse the research themes in your own time, or attend a talk. We are looking forward to see you there.

#### Polimeerwetenskaplike internasionaal vereer

Prof. Harald Pasch, 'n uitgelese professor wat ook die SASOL Navorsingsleerstoel in Analitiese Polimeerwetenskap by die Universiteit Stellenbosch beklee, is internasionaal vereer "vir sy massiewe bydrae tot die ontwikkeling van polimeerkarakteriseringstegnieke".

#### The role of biomimicry in additive manufacturing

Additive manufacturing technology, also known as 3D printing, has shown tremendous growth and development over the last few years.
Today it is possible to print not only plastic prototypes, but serious functional end-use mechanical parts can be produced in a variety of material types including a large range of polymers, composites, ceramics and metals. While it is an expensive process, the main advantage is the complexity of design that can be realised by this method. This is where biomimicry comes in.

#### Genetiese bloudruk vir houtetende fungus uit N-Kaap

'n Relatief onbekende fungus, *Coniochatea pulveracia*, wat heel toevallig op 'n Akasia-boom in die Noord-Kaap gevind is, het mikrobioloë aan die gons oor dié fungus se uitsonderlike vermoë om hout af te breek. In die wêreld van biotegnologie kan dié vermoë met groot sukses in die hernieubare hulpbronne industrie toegepas word.

#### Honorary doctorate for Oxford mathematician

Prof Lloyd Nicholas Trefethen, a mathematical scientist from Oxford University, was awarded an honorary doctorate from Stellenbosch University during a graduation ceremony in April 2019. The award was made, inter alia, for his support over 30 years to develop the field of numerical mathematics in South Africa.