

## Renowned bioinformatician joins SU



[Prof Tulio de Oliveira](#), the world-renowned bioinformatician who identified a new variant of COVID-19 in South Africa in December 2020, is to set up a new institute at SU aimed at understanding and controlling epidemics and pandemics in Africa and the global south.

He will do so in his capacity as professor of Bioinformatics at SU's School for Data Science and Computational Thinking. He will also work closely with SU's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences as well as its Faculty of Science.

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## Internasionale erkenning vir US fisioloog



Prof Kathy Myburgh, uitgelese professor en bekleër van die [Suid-Afrikaanse navorsingsleerstoel in Integrale Skeletspier Fisiologie, Biologie en Biotegnologie](#) by die US, is onder 'n uitgesoekte groep fisioloë vanoor die wêreld wat tot Genote van die [International Union for Physiological Sciences \(IUPS\)](#) verkies is. Met 3 voormalige

Nobelpryswenners wat as eregenote verkies is, vorm die 30 Genote die intreelede van die nuutgestigte IUPS Akademie van Fisiologie.

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## Amazon research award for Computer Science student



Mr David Baker Effendi, an MSc-student in Computer Science, has received an [Amazon Research Award](#) based on his innovative research in program analysis with applications in bug-finding and

cybersecurity. David says the award will help to cover his tuition fees and living expenses but, most importantly, it will provide him with much needed computing resources for his experiments and research.

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## Sinchrontrou-kundigheid by US gevestig

Twee navorsers van die US se Departement Biochemie, [dr Anton Hamann](#) en [dr Blake Balcomb](#), is suksesvol as proteïen-kristallograwe opgelei danksy die [Synchrotron Techniques for African Research and Technology](#) (START) program.

Hulle was onder die meer as 80 navorsers van regoor Afrika wat voordeel getrek het uit 'n £ 3,7 miljoen toekenning deur die Verenigde Koninkryk se Wetenskaps- en tegnologiefasiliteitsraad se navorsingsfonds geoormerk vir globale uitdagings, ten einde sinchrotronkundigheid in Afrika te ontwikkel.

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### In other news

#### Twee topstudente deel Dekaaansmedalje

Die Fakulteit Natuurwetenskappe se 2019 dekaansmedalje vir volgehoue uitstekende akademiese prestasie word gedeel deur mnr. [Fred de Villiers](#), 'n nagraadse student in toegepaste wiskunde, en me. [Emma King](#), 'n nagraadse student in kwantumfisika.

#### New COVID-19 wastewater surveillance platform

SU implemented a wastewater-based surveillance platform to detect institutional SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks on two of its campuses. "This flows from the institution's commitment to do everything realistically possible to protect the campus community", says [Prof Gideon Wolfaardt](#), director of the SU Water Institute and professor in the Department of Microbiology.

#### Darwin se laaste wens - die bestudering van gehandheid by plante

Die meeste blomme bestaan uit beide manlike en vroulike dele en kan dus potensieel met hulself paar (selfbestuiwing) of met 'n ander plant (kruisbestuiwing). Maar vind hierdie proses slegs per toeval plaas? Navorsers glo dat hulle (meer) bewyse gevind het van [vroulike keuse](#) onder plante.

#### Research forms pillar for SA's efforts against invasives

The research conducted by institutions such as the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and the [DSI/NRF Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology](#) (CIB) at SU forms the foundational pillar upon which SA's work against biological invasions are based. This is according to Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Ms Barbara Creecy, at the launch of the 2nd Biological Invasions Report recently.

#### Grys walvis stel nuwe afstandrekord op

In Mei 2013 het mariene bioloë verstom gestaan oor die nuus dat 'n [grys walvis](#) vir die eerste keer ooit suid van die ewenaar aan die kus van Walvisbaai in Namibië waargeneem is. Was hierdie walvis moontlik 'n oorblyfsel van 'n Atlantiese bevolking wat volgens vermoede al lankal tot uitwissing gejag is? Of was dit 'n aanduiding van die begin van 'n nuwe bevolking in dié area?