## AUGUST 2023 | ISSUE 101



# NEWSLETTER

#### Promoting the study and advancement of Earth Sciences since 1895





#### Apply for GSSA Membership

- Professional Development
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- Resource Support



#### Fellows Dinner - Save the Date

The GSSA Fellows dinner will be held on 16 November at the Johannesburg Country Club – Auckland Park.

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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# **STEVE MCCOURT**

**GSSA PRESIDENT** 

Let me start this message by thanking the Council of the GSSA for appointing me as President of the Society for 2023/2024, I am honoured and humbled.

To my mind, the broad aims of the Geological Society of South Africa are:

- To promote Earth Science education/research and awareness, including public awareness
- To contribute to our understanding of the Earth through publication of peer-reviewed research
- To promote professional excellence and a professional code of ethics among our members

Thanks to the hard work of the Management Committees of Ed Swindell, Sifiso Siwela and, in particular, Tania Marshall over the last six years, the Professional arm of the Society is in a strong position to provide the support and services required by the membership. As a result, and in keeping with my experience and expertise, initially at least, I will focus on the learned and academic aspects of the Society but, together with my team of hard-working VPs, will maintain the emphasis on Professionalism in the Earth Sciences, continue to strengthen both Membership and the Branches and Divisions and stay current on the challenges in digital publishing.

Two issues that will be prioritized over the next 12 months are the preparation of a new edition of the textbook, 'The Geology of South Africa' and the renewal of the South African Committee for Stratigraphy (SACS), the latter in partnership with the Council for Geoscience.

The current volume of **"The Geology of South Africa"** was published in 2006 and includes contributions by more than 70 authors. Although the book is still relevant as a basic reference for the lithostratigraphy of South Africa, the majority of the chapters need to be updated to incorporate the research findings, across a range of sub-disciplines, that have been published over the last 20 years. This is a daunting task. The original book took over 10 years to compile, and many of the specialists used to write the various chapters are no longer available to the Society, nor is the level of editorial support provided by colleagues in the CGS. If rewriting the book in its entirety is not a viable option, then other options need to be explored. I propose to set up a task team of 3-5 people to take this forward.

**The South African Committee for Stratigraphy (SACS)** is a regulatory body responsible for the nomenclature and definition of lithostratigraphic and lithodemic rock units, unconsolidated deposits and soils that, together, constitute the geological record of South Africa. Although the focus of SACS is local, the body is globally relevant being a member of the International Subcommission on Stratigraphic Classification (ISSC) within the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS). The latter being the largest scientific body in the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS).

SACS was established in 1971 as a partnership between the erstwhile Geological Survey of South Africa, the GSSA and Academia. Over more than 50 years, SACS has assisted the geoscience community by promoting and managing the orderly development of stratigraphic classification together with the nomenclature of geological units and their correlation, as well as maintaining a database for these units. This work is a prerequisite for all geological research involving the subdivision of rock strata into so-called mappable units based on stratigraphic principles, and by extension, for the production of all geological maps in South Africa. Unravelling the geological evolution of South Africa requires an organized, internationally acceptable, stratigraphy and SACS, has the responsibility of managing this important task.

The main activities of SACS are funded by the Council for Geoscience with the National Secretary for SACS traditionally being a full-time employee of the CGS. This position has been vacant since mid-2020 and, as a result, SACS activities, including the publication of lithostratigraphic descriptions in the SAJG, have been negatively affected. I am therefore pleased to report that Dr Johann Neveling a Senior Specialist Scientist in palaeontology with the CGS has accepted an appointment as the new Secretary for SACS. The next step is to appoint a new National Committee for SACS on which representatives of both the CGS and the GSSA will serve.

In closing I wish to remind members of the support available through the Research, Education and Investment (REI) Fund. This fund, which is administered by a committee chaired by Reinie Meyer, allocates funds to GSSA Members, including post-graduate student members, to help offset field expenses, analytical costs, conference registration, conference travel and the promotion of the Earth Sciences in the public domain. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis and applicants must be GSSA members in good standing. Awards from the REI fund cannot be used to cover tuition or residence/accommodation fees or made available as a study bursary. Information on applications to the REI Fund is published in the December issue of the Geobulletin and on the GSSA website.



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# AFRICAN EXPLORATION AND TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE 15 & 16 NOVEMBER 2023

JOHANNESBURG COUNTRY CLUB AUCKLAND PARK

# Sponsorship Opportunities <u>Click here</u>

REGISTER NOW

#### Hosted by Geological Society of South Africa, Geological Societies of Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia

The African Exploration and Technology showcase aims to provide an opportunity for professionals in the industry to be informed about new African exploration projects and current developments. It is an ideal opportunity to learn more about deposits that could potentially add significant economic value to the continent's pipeline.

Our speakers are from major and junior mining companies, and from large consulting companies to independents, which should ensure an interesting event.

Registration Fees

Members - R2500 | Non-Members - R3250 | Student/Retired - R1000 CPD Points : GSSA - 16 | SACNASP - 2



# EVENTS CALENDAR



**SPEAKER - IAN BASSON** 



### 24 & 25 OCTOBER 2023

ONLINE MINERALS RESOURCES & MINERAL ECONOMICS



#### 15 & 16 NOVEMBER 2023 JHB COUNTRY CLUB - AUCKLAND PARK AFRICAN EXPLORATION SHOWCASE











## SAJG ALERTS



# Members are alerted to the following papers that have been published online as Early Publications

<u>Okorusu tailings – Part II: REE mineralisation, and oxygen and carbon isotope variations</u> <u>S. Lohmeier; J. Machleidt; R. Klemd; R. Ellmies</u>

<u>Okorusu tailings – Part I: General characterisation of superficial tailings</u> <u>S. Lohmeier; R. Ellmies; T. Adolffs; S. Sindern</u>

<u>Review of the thermo-tectonic evolution of the Central Zone of the Limpopo Complex</u> with implications for conflicting published geodynamic models <u>D.D. van Reenen; M.D. Clark; C.A. Smit; T. Tsunogae; O. Safonov</u>

Manuscripts can be accessed and downloaded in PDF format through the Members Portal on the GSSA website – www.gssa.org.za



- Introduction to SAMCODES 15 & 22 March 2023
- Advanced Excel for Geologists 18 April 2023
- Sampling & Data Management 2 & 3 May 2023



Once you have completed viewing, please send an email to info@gssa.org.za and a certificate will be sent to you to claim CPD points.



The John J. Gurney Postgraduate Research Scholarship at the University of Cape Town

A competitively awarded scholarship, in honour of the late Prof. John J. Gurney, is being offered to support postgraduate research on some aspect of the geology of kimberlites, diamondsor the deep lithosphere (mantleand/or lower crust)at the University of Cape Town. The scholarship provides ZAR150 000 (South African Rand) to cover living expenses, plus an additional ZAR50000 toward research-related expenses (this can include tuitionfees, which range from ZAR30 000-40 000 per year) for a total of ZAR 200 000 per year. The maximum terms of the scholarship are two years for the MSc or three years for the PhD. Continuation of funding after the first year is contingent upon satisfactory progress. The recipient must have a primary supervisor who is a UCT academic staff member, but co-supervision by academic or industry scientists from other institutions is possible, as are joint degrees with other universities. Postgraduate study in the Department of Geological Sciences is by dissertation only, although the recipient will have the option to undertake coursework if deemed necessary. The primary supervisor need not necessarily be in the Department of Geological Sciences.

Applicants of any nationality are eligible. Candidates must provide: (1) a short CV providing the applicant's educational and relevant professional background and list of publications (if any), (2) transcripts of undergraduate and any postgraduate coursework/degrees (electronic copies must be provided, they need not be certified at this stage),(3) names and contact details of two appropriate referees familiar with the applicant's work and ability, and (4) a short proposal (two pages maximum) outlining the candidate's chosen research problem, the approach s/he intends to use to address it, and the names of the supervisor(s) with whom s/he intends to work. Applicants will be ranked on the basis of academic excellence, strength of recommendation letters and the feasibility and quality of the research proposal. In the case of multiple similarly ranked top candidates, residents of SADC countries will have preference. Awardees who are non-South African residents will need to obtain a study permit from the South African Department of Home Affairs.

The University of Cape Town has a world-famous collection of upper mantle research specimens (mantle and lower crustalxenoliths, kimberlites, megacrysts, etc.), as well as a wide range of analytical instrumentation (electronmicroscopy and EPMA instruments, XRF, XRD, solution and laser ablation quadrupole and multicollector ICP-MS and a stable isotope laboratory with laser fluorination). Academic staff members in Geological Sciences cover a wide range of relevant fields (geophysics, sedimentology, lithospheric dynamics, isotope geochemistry, kimberlite and mantle geology, petrology and geochemistry, metamorphic petrology and mineralogy, please see the department website: http://www.geology.uct.ac.za). It is recommended that, prior to applying, prospective applicants contact UCT academic staff member(s) with whom they would be interested in working.

The application deadline is October 31, 2023, with notification of the outcome by early December. Please send all application materials as a single PDF document to Prof. Phil Janney (phil.janney@uct.ac.za). Evaluation of applications will be performed by a panel including UCT and international academics and industry scientists. The start date is flexible, but should be sometime in 2024 and no earlier than the start of the first semester at UCT in February.



#### Job Summary:

The team at Geodyssey is seeking a GIS and database assistant to work with them at The Evolutionary Studies Institute, University of the Witwatersrand. Geodyssey is a locally developed interactive geoscience mobile app which aims to promote South African geoheritage and geoeducation by putting South Africa's rich geological heritage in the palm of the users hand. Geodyssey is expanding their reach and are looking for a recent vibrant and upstart graduate to assist the team on a one-year contract (subject to renewal) in expanding the scope and footprint of the app by capturing, building, and curating geoscientific databases, manipulation of geospatial data as well as the creation of new content assistance in app-based quality assurance and ongoing research and development.

#### **Minimum Requirements:**

- BSc Hons degree in Geology (preferable) and/or Geography, GIS, Archaeology or Life Sciences
- Background and knowledge of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) with intermediate to advanced skill in GIS software's (ArcGIS Pro, ArcMap, QGIS, etc.) and cartography
- Intermediate to advanced IT capacity; experience with MS Office and in visual creation software's (Illustrator, Photoshop, Inkscape, GIMP, etc.)

- Key Competencies:
- Sound knowledge of South African geology, stratigraphy and geoheritage
- Resourceful
- Creative
- Task and deadline driven.
- Excellent attention to detail.
- Good interpersonal skills
- Must work as part of a team
- Integrity, reliability and dependability

Only applicants who meet the minimum requirements should apply by submitting their cover letter (one page maximum), detailed CV (five page maximum), certified copies of all educational qualifications and identity document with names and e-mail addresses of 3 referees to the provided email address. "Geodyssey GIS and database assistant" must be included in the email header. Successful candidates will be notified and invited for an interview before 15 October 2023.

Email address: Cameron.Penn-Clarke@wits.ac.za

Closing date: 15th Sept 2023

Find us at: www.gssawc.org.za/geodyssey



# Southern Africa User Conference and Training Event

maxgeo

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Kloofzicht Lodge, Muldersdrift, Johannesburg 18-22 September 2023

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Ekati, Canada's first diamond mine, Northwest Territories. Copyright © Arctic Canadian Diamond Company

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