

NEWSLETTER

Promoting the study and advancement of Earth Sciences since 1895



GSSA EVENTS FREE STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The GSSA in conjunction with their event partners will sponsor a limited number of students for selected events - contact, online and/or hybrid.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Complete Application form
- Provide Motivation letter
- Successful applications will receive a sponsorship code to register for the event

APPLY HERE



info@gssa.org.za

Students who wish to apply for sponsorship please do not register for any event without an approved sponsorship code

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www.gssa.org.za





STEVE MCCOURT

GSSA PRESIDENT

Let me start this newsletter with the hope that 2024 will be a peaceful and prosperous year for all GSSA Members and Fellows. For the Society, 2024 will be a year to remember.

We will relocate the office from the Mandela Mining Precinct (see column from Craig Smith for more information), host the 36th Alex du Toit Memorial Lecture Series and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the discovery of the Merensky Reef. In addition, we will offer a range of continuing education options, continue with the very successful SACNASP Candidate Mentoring Programme through the office of the VP Professional Affairs, strive to revitalize several of our Branches, launch new divisions and plan for events in 2025 including the Namaqualand Diamond Centenary (NDC) conference in March and Geocongress 2025 later in the year.

The 36th Alex du Toit Memorial Lecture Series will run from February 15th through to February 28th with campus-based lectures in Stellenbosch, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Durban and Mbombela (see flier elsewhere in this newsletter for details). In addition, to accommodate those members unable to reach any of the venues, the lecture at Wits on February 22nd will be recorded and uploaded to the GSSA YouTube Channel at the end of the lecture tour. The biennial Alex du Toit Memorial Lecture is organized by the Fellows Committee, but the hard work is done by the regional representatives and for this series of lectures I recognize and thank Tahnee Otto (SU), Matome Moitsi (UFS), Grant Bybee and Robyn Symons (Wits), Tanja Reinhardt (UKZN) and Xolane Mhlana (UMP).

In terms of the By-laws of the GSSA, the Fellows Committee serves for 2 years after which it must be reconstituted. In keeping with this process, a new Fellows Committee has been selected for the period January 2024 to December 2025. Paul Nex has decided to step down from the committee and the Executive thanks Paul for his contributions over the last few years. Judith Kinnaird has stepped down as Chair but will remain on the committee at least for 2024. Andrew MacDonald and Bertus Smith are welcomed as new members of the committee and Louise Coney has been elected as the new Chair. As a result, Louise will serve on both Manco and Council. The role of the Fellows Committee is to oversee the evaluation of nominations received for the various awards and memorials of the GSSA and to make recommendations to Council on the recipients for these awards e.g., the Alex du Toit Memorial Lectureship, the Draper Award, the Des Pretorius Award, the Jubilee Medal, Student Awards, Honours Award, Honorary Membership and Life Membership.

Hans Merensky and his Lydenburg Platinum Syndicate discovered the first economic platinum deposit in South Africa, at the Mooihoek dunite pipe (Eastern Limb, Bushveld Complex) on 15th August 1924 (Roger Scoon pers. com.). To celebrate this important discovery and to honour Hans Merensky, the GSSA is organising The Merensky Reef Centenary Meeting combining a two-day scientific conference, with pre- and post-Conference field trips to the Eastern, Western and Northern limbs of the Complex and a pre-conference workshop. The dates are 15th to 23rd August 2024. More details, including information on registration, is available under the Events tab at www.gssa.org.za.



CRAIG SMITH

EXECUTIVE MANAGER



The GSSA is vacating its office in the CSIR Mandela Mining Precinct. We have enjoyed prime office space in the MMP since 2017, at no cost to the Society. The site boasted a small conference facility which we made good use of. There was ample storage space, as well as good security and accessibility. We thank the CSIR for the hospitality shown to the GSSA staff and visitors.

However, all good things come to an end, and the pandemic was the catalyst in this case. Most of the organizations resident in the MMP adopted remote working practices, including conferencing, and never reverted to pre-pandemic office usage. This is a very expensive site to maintain for the few staff present on any given day. The site has been sold, and the tenants must exit.

Post-pandemic, the GSSA staff also adopted remote working, with the office being manned for only two to three half days per week. It makes little sense to maintain expensive office premises for remote working, and even less sense to put all the furniture, library and other collections into storage when they may not be used for a very long time. The extensive rock collection will go to Wits, where it can be used and displayed. The library will also go to a university with a final decision being made by end month. The office furniture will be sold, and we have an offer in hand for all as one lot. Should any of our members wish to be considered, bids can be accepted until close of business on February 1. However, we will not sell item by item; it is all or nothing!

Some materials such as essential business records and some book stocks will be put into storage in Midrand. Meetings and events can be scheduled at any number of facilities anywhere in the country, and we have access to the Johannesburg Country Club. The GSSA will have a business address for legal purposes. Dispensing with a physical office is a bold step for the Society, but is not a giant leap. We have in fact been functioning remotely since the pandemic. The support and service we provide to the Membership will not change.

SAVE THE DATES

2024 Provisional Events Calendar

CLICK HERE



MISSED OUR PAST 2023 COURSES

**RECORDING
AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE**

CLICK HERE



- **Introduction to SAMCODES** - 15 & 22 March 2023
- **Advanced Excel for Geologists** - 18 April 2023
- **Sampling & Data Management** - 2 & 3 May 2023
- **Data Analytics** - 26 & 27 September 2023
- **3D Geological Modelling Workshop** - 03 October 2023
- **Mineral Resources & Mineral Economics** - 24 & 25 October 2023
- **Kimberley International Diamond Symposium** - 23 - 27 August 2023
- **African Exploration Showcase** - 15 & 16 November 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.

NETWORKING EVENT



Date: 21 February 2024

Time: 17.30

Location:

The Daily Grind

Bryanston Natural Market

40 Culross Road

Bryanston

Sponsored by SACNASP

RSVP



SACNASP
South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions

Consultants - Code of Ethics



The GSSA is aware of complaints by individuals/companies on geoscientists with respect to fraudulent and unethical practices and would like to remind all geoscientists that:

- In order to practice as a consultant (either as an independent, an academic, or as part of a consulting company), you **MUST** be registered with SACNASP. Simply being a member of the GSSA is insufficient.
- In due recognition of the Code of Ethics of both the GSSA and SACNASP, consultants may only practice within the scope of their competency - you may not accept work for which you are not properly qualified.
- The Codes of Ethics also require that you do not take on more work than you or your company is able to handle at that time.
- The clauses dealing with ethics and honesty in dealings with clients and communities must be carefully considered in all your dealings.



CHRISTOPH HEUBECK

ALEX DU TOIT MEMORIAL LECTURES



FEBRUARY 2024

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

2024

LOGO COMPETITION

Presented by:
GSSA-YPG



[SUBMIT NOW](#)

The Young Professional Geoscience serves as a bridge between students and early career geoscientists under the age of 35 and the broader Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA). This division seeks to fill a significant gap in the GSSA parent organization by ensuring the younger demographic feels represented, heard, and catered for in terms of resources and opportunities.

Competition Outline

Design a logo that:

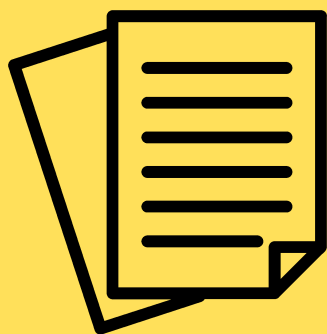
- Is original and innovative.
- Has a professional appeal.
- Represents GSSA-YPG's mission and values.

[READ MORE](#)



100 YEARS OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE NAMAQUALAND DIAMONDS

11 - 20 MARCH 2025



FIRST CIRCULAR AND CALL FOR PAPERS



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FIELD TRIPS



For all delegates contemplating joining the fieldtrip, please note that we will be visiting a number of operating diamond mines on which security is a significant part.

- On-mine (internal) security clearances will be required for Kleinzee, Alexkor and Namdeb – the relevant forms will need to be completed by the end of January 2025. These will be mailed in Q4/2024.
- Namdeb is located in Namibia – a valid passport will be required by all delegates. It is the delegate's responsibility to ensure that their travel documents are in order.
- The restricted areas permit (RAP) for entrance into the Namdeb onshore marine diamond mining operation will require a police clearance certificate, not older than one year. It is any potential delegate's responsibility to acquire this certificate timeously. Currently, in South Africa, such certificates can take 4-6 months, due to the backlog at the SAP. PLEASE APPLY FOR YOUR CERTIFICATE in good time – you will not be able to enter the minesite without it.

REGISTRATION OPEN

100 YEARS OF THE MERENSKY REEF

HANS MERENSKY - BUSHVELD COMPLEX

One hundred years later, the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) believes that this is a milestone worth celebrating. To honour Hans Merensky, platinum and all things Bushveld Complex related, the GSSA is organising a two-day scientific/technical conference (including a poster session as well as a trade show), combined with various pre- and post-Conference field trips to the Eastern, Western and Northern limbs and different social events during the period 15 -23 August 2024.



15 - 23
AUGUST 2024



REGISTER NOW



Sponsorship Opportunities



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https://www.gssa.org.za/?page_id=7330

More Info

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Call for Nominations for Student Awards

The GSSA is calling for nominations for the GSSA Student Awards for the 2023 academic year. The Fellows Committee of the Geological Society will be responsible for adjudicating the submissions for the GSSA awards, with awards scheduled to be announced at the mid-year AGM. In order for the adjudication process to be completed on time, we need to have digital copies of the nominated theses and short motivations submitted by mid-April, 2024.

READ MORE >>

Geobulletin – December 2024 issue

Geobulletin is published by the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) and appears quarterly during March, June, September and December each year in digital and print format.

DOWNLOAD

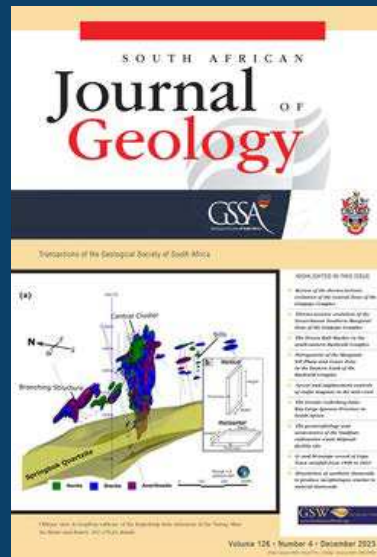


35IGC Legacy Fund – 2024 Call for Grant Applications

The generous support received from sponsors, donors and over 4,000 registered delegates resulted in a financial surplus after the 35th International Geological Congress that was held in Cape Town during 2016. These funds have been invested and are administered by the Board of 35IGC Legacy Fund to ensure that the legacy of this successful event will benefit the South African geoscience community long into the future.

READ MORE >>

SAJG 126-4 available online



Members are alerted to the publication, at GeoScienceWorld, of SAJG 126-4. The issue, which completes volume 126, comprises 9 peer-reviewed research papers across 300 printed pages.

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

The SAMCODES Standards Committee (SSC)

The purpose of the SAMCODES Standards Committee (SSC) is to develop, maintain, administer, ensure compliance with and promote the South African Mineral Codes, collectively known as the SAMCODES. The SSC's purpose is to ensure that all reports prepared in accordance with the SAMCODES comply with the requirements of the SAMCODES. The SSC aims to ensure the highest ideals of ethics in the professional fields of practice associated with the purpose of the SAMCODE relied upon by the public to provide expert opinion and service, in the public interest.

Patrons of the SSC Committee

The SSC operates under the joint auspices/funding of

The Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA)

The GSSA was established in 1895 and is one of the oldest and largest societies of its kind in Africa. The GSSA promotes the study of the earth sciences, facilitates the professional development of its members, and advances the use of geoscience in the academic, professional, and public sectors.

The Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM)

This learned society started in 1894, a few years after the invention of the cyanide process had saved the gold mining industry in South Africa. The SAIMM is a professional institute with local and international links aimed at assisting members to source news and views about technological developments in the mining, metallurgical and related sectors as well as embracing a professional code of ethics.



2024 ANNUAL EVENT SPONSORS



Make smarter decisions with your data

Are you in the business of working with our earth's valuable resources? If so, you're probably facing a number of challenges, including:

- navigating deeper mines
- exploring increasingly complex ore bodies
- experiencing rising scrutiny of ESG issues from your community
- striving to operate more efficiently while reducing costs and your impact on our earth.

It's a lot to manage.

Get more from your data

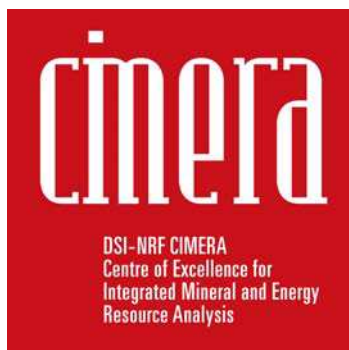
That's why data management is critical for companies working with our earth's resources. From mining valuable commodities to monitoring an assortment of environmental aspects acQuire has helped companies make smarter business decisions for over 25 years. Dedicated to the continual evolution of information management, acQuire combines people, process, and technology to translate your data into business-critical intelligence.



Are you ready to make smarter decisions with your data?
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About DSI-NRF CIMERA

DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Integrated Mineral and Energy Resource Analysis (CIMERA) is hosted by the Department of Geology at the University of Johannesburg (UJ), and co-hosted by the School of Geosciences at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). DSI-NRF CIMERA was launched on the 24th April 2014 by the National Research Foundation (NRF) section of the South African Department of Science and Technology (DSI). The CoE is funded by the (previous) Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and the National Research Foundation (NRF), with contributions from the University of Johannesburg and the University of the Witwatersrand. CoE's are mandated by the DSI to supplement funding through collaborative industry and internationally funded projects.



<https://cimera.co.za/>

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<https://qotho.co.za/>

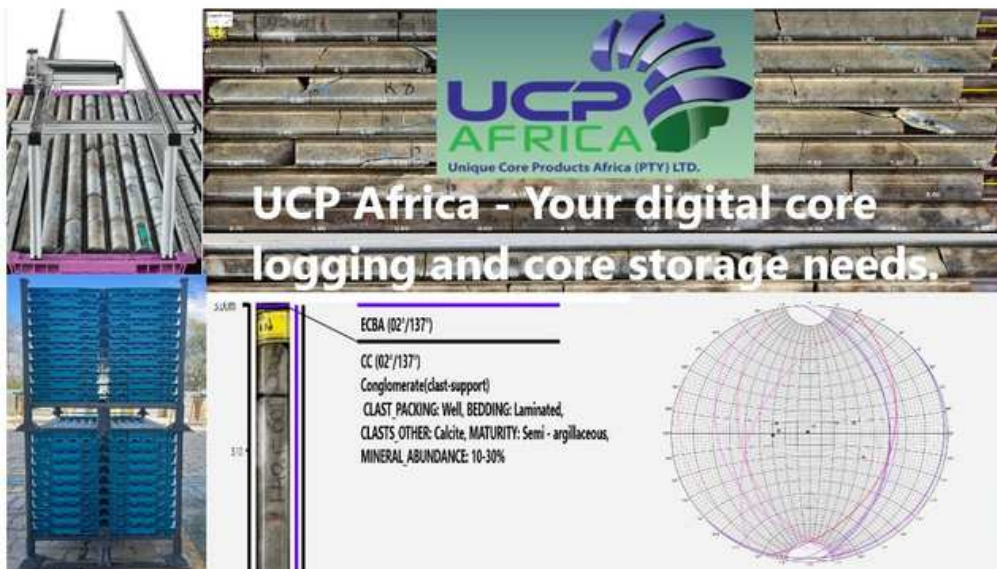
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Graham Grant, CEO at Seequent

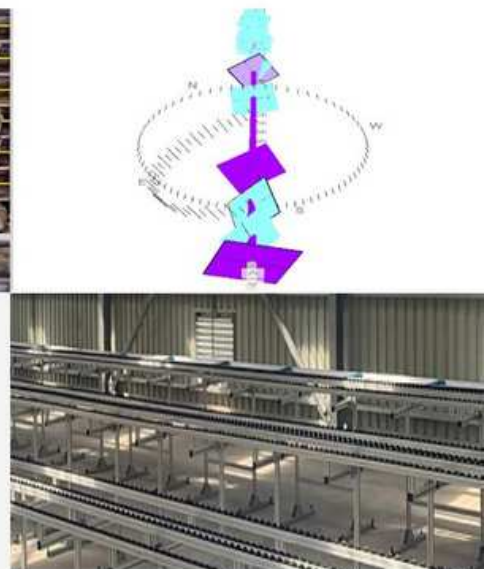
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MINERAL ABUNDANCE: 10-30%



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UCP Africa
Unique Core Products Africa (PTY) LTD.

ScanIT – Digital Core Logging Tool

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The South African Geophysical Association is hosting an Engineering Geophysics Seminar at the Mandela Mining Precinct on 26th February 2024.

Case studies and best practises in the field will be discussed.

If you are interested to receive further communications about this event then complete the form below - registration will be on a first come first serve basis as there is no fee associated with the event:

<https://forms.gle/trEDbrDWDt8JD86j7>