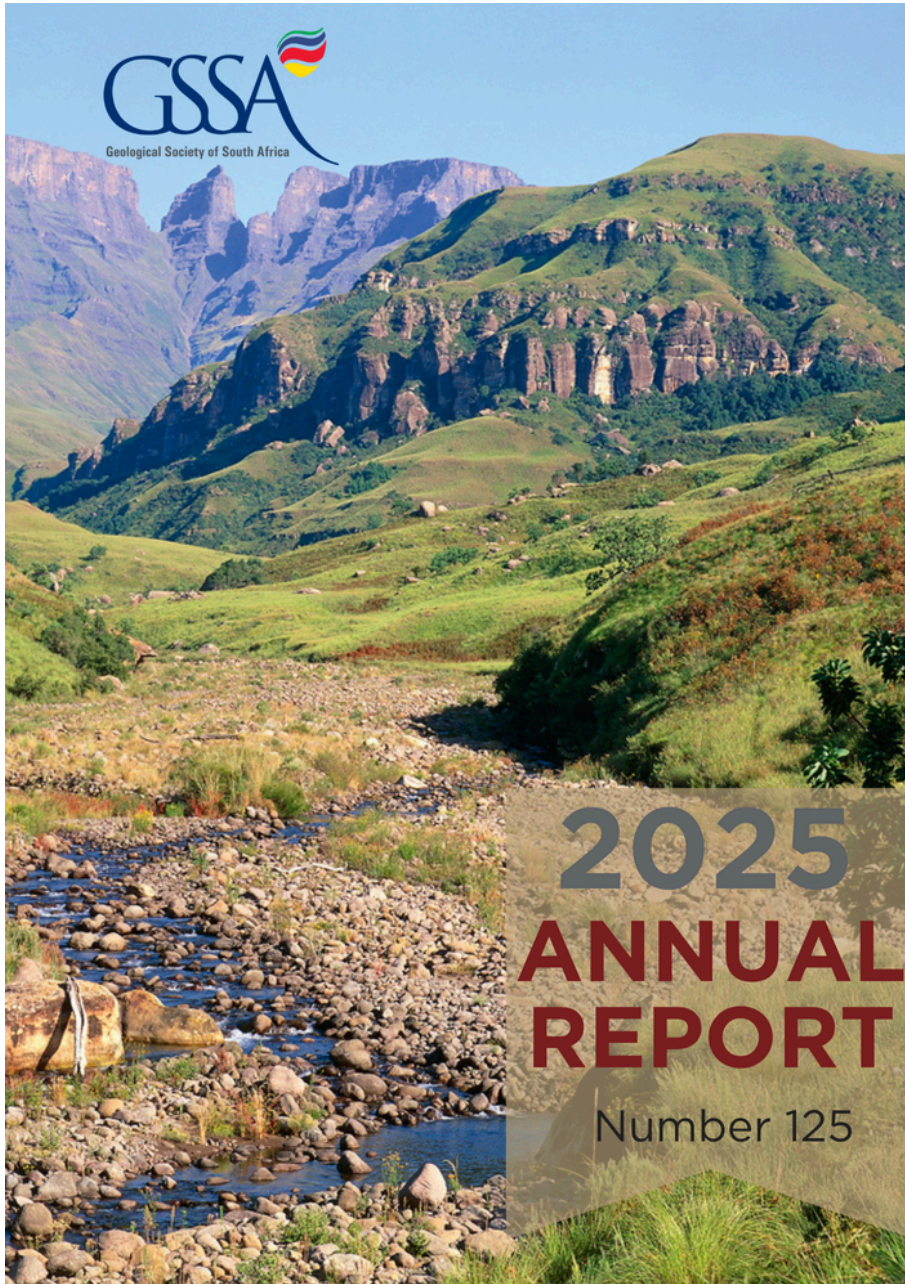




NEWSLETTER

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Noleen Pauls

Contributing to Geoscience and Community

The Geological Society of South Africa is pleased to welcome Noleen Pauls as the new President of the GSSA for the year 2025/26

With over 30 years of experience in the mining and geological sector, Noleen Pauls has held diverse roles in government, industry, and consulting. Her expertise spans multi-commodity exploration across Africa and South America, with a particular focus on gold, platinum, chrome, and iron projects. Noleen's proficiency extends beyond fieldwork to include database management, GIS, and mineral rights administration, underscoring her strength in both technical and regulatory aspects of geoscience.

She is a Registered Professional Natural Scientist (Pr.Sci.Nat) with SACNASP, an acknowledgment of her professional standing within South Africa's scientific community.

GSSA INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP

- Fellow of the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) — a recognition of her longstanding professional contributions to the geosciences.
- Served as Vice President for both the Meetings and Professional Affairs Portfolios on the GSSA Council, contributing to professional development and outreach efforts.
- Regularly features as a speaker and panel chair at GSSA-related events, including technical workshops on drilling techniques and exploration strategies.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, Noleen co-ordinated the virtual GSSA Lunchtime Talks, ensuring continuity of knowledge-sharing and community engagement.
- Co-host of the "Fossils by Firelight" podcast, where she engages in insightful conversations with geoscience professionals, highlighting diverse career journeys and perspectives.

ADVOCACY, MENTORSHIP & INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP

- Founding member of Women in Mining South Africa (WiMSA) (est. 2010); served as Chairperson from 2014–2016, and continues to serve as a board member.
- Recognized among the Top 100 Global Inspirational Women in Mining (2016), honouring her impact on the industry.
- A passionate advocate for mentorship and gender equity, Noleen frequently speaks at prominent industry platforms, including Mining Indaba, Mines and Money, Mining Lekgotla, and the UN Business Linkages Forum in Kenya.
- Deeply committed to supporting the next generation of geoscientists, she mentors young professionals and students, championing greater diversity, visibility, and representation in the mining and geoscience sectors.

WHY IT MATTERS

Noleen Pauls exemplifies the powerful synergy of technical excellence, professional leadership, and social advocacy. Her contributions to the GSSA, WiMSA, and broader industry communities demonstrate a consistent effort to support professional growth, encourage dialogue, and create space for diverse voices. Through her work, she continues to play a part in building a stronger, more connected geoscience community in South Africa.



NOLEEN PAULS

GSSA PRESIDENT

A Message from the Incoming GSSA President: Looking Ahead Together

Dear GSSA Members,

First off, thank you! I'm incredibly grateful to MANCO, Council, and every single one of you for the trust you've placed in me. It's a true honour to take on this role, and I'm excited for the road ahead with all of you.

The Geological Society of South Africa has a long, proud history. Thanks to the work of so many dedicated people before me, we've got a solid foundation to build on. I'm stepping into this role knowing that I'm following in some pretty big footsteps.

As we look ahead, I want to share three key areas I think we should focus on together—goals that will help us stay relevant and resilient in the years to come. These ideas build on everything that's already been achieved, and I hope they speak to what many of you are already thinking about too.

Growing Our National Footprint and Partnerships

If GSSA is going to be the go-to voice for Earth Science in South Africa, we need to be active and engaged everywhere, not just in Gauteng.

That means:

- Supporting and strengthening our regional branches and divisions. They're often our closest link to schools, students, communities, and local industries, and that's where real impact happens.
- Working more closely with universities and student groups. Whether it's through partnerships, events, or mentorship, we want to help make those transitions from student to professional smoother.
- Deepening our relationships with peer organisations like SAIMM, MINSA, SAGA, OGG and others, both locally and internationally.

By working more collaboratively, we can:

- Speak with a stronger, unified voice on key issues.
- Host joint events, share resources, and reach more people.
- Avoid duplication and bring more value to our members.

Supporting the Next Generation

We need more young people to join, and stay involved, in the GSSA. It's not just about getting student and young graduate sign-ups, though. It's about:

- Creating real opportunities for young professionals to lead, share their ideas, and help shape our direction.
- Offering mentorship, networking, and clear professional development paths that make it easier to grow in their careers.
- Making the GSSA feel like a welcoming, energising space for young geoscientists - where their voices matter and their input is valued.

Young members bring fresh thinking, new energy, and tech-savvy perspectives. It's up to us to make sure they have room to thrive.

Keeping the GSSA Strong and Sustainable

Sustainability must stay front and centre—whether we're talking about our strategy, our operations, or our people.

We'll do this by:

- Staying committed to good governance and transparent leadership.
- Continuing the Society's strong record of financial stewardship, so we're ready to face challenges and grab new opportunities.
- Revisiting our strategic goals to keep them aligned with what's happening in science, education, the environment, and industry - both in South Africa and globally.

Things are changing fast, and we need to keep evolving too, without losing sight of our core mission: advancing Earth Science and supporting the people in it.

Looking Ahead

The GSSA is full of smart, passionate, and generous people and I'm really looking forward to working with all of you. Whether it's through projects, events, ideas, or conversations, I hope we'll grow our community together.

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." - African Proverb

Thanks again for your trust. I can't wait to see what we build - together.
Warm regards,

Noleen Pauls
President, Geological Society of South Africa

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 2025/26

MANCO (MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE)

Noleen Pauls - President

Steve McCourt - Past President

Bertus Smith - VP Academic Affairs

Joshua Kilani - VP Meetings

Loni Gallant - VP Sponsorship & Marketing

Natalie Brand - VP Professional Affairs

Thomas Molelengoane - VP Finance & Admin

Craig Smith - Ex Officio - Executive Manager

George Henry - Ex Officio - Editor SAJG

Louise Coney - Ex Officio - Chair Fellows Committee

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Andries Botha

Nikki Wagner

Gillian Drennan

Peace Zowa

Grant Bybee

Peter Roberts

Jaques Nel

Reinhard Meyer

Johannes Henckel

Sifiso Siwela

Martin Clark

Stephen Buttner

Mike Knoper

Tahnee Otto

Neale Baartjes

Tania Marshall

REGIONAL/DIVISIONAL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Chris Lambert - Western Cape

Emil Burger - Bushveld

Frederick Roelofse - Free State

Igor Zelico - MINSA | GSSA rep on SAIMM Council

Marcia Van Aswegen - Chair Geoscience and Society

Riaan Botes - Kwazulu Natal

Rorisang Malebye - YGP

Stephen Prevec - Eastern Cape

Loni Gallant

Loni Gallant is an Exploration Geologist with over 21 years of industry experience in Africa, Middle East and South America. She is a registered Professional Natural Scientist (SACNASP), and holds Fellow member status at the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) and the Society of Economic Geologists (SEG). She has successfully led exploration projects from Discovery to Resource Definition across various mineralization styles and deposit types and is skilled at guiding multidisciplinary teams through complex environments.

Loni worked as GSSA Sponsorship Coordinator from 2023 to 2025, and served as Chairperson of the Northern Cape Branch of the GSSA from 2022 to 2024, including Pioneer Executive committee member of the Branch from 2019 to 2021.

We welcome Loni in her new role as Vice-President (VP) of Marketing and Sponsorship of the GSSA.



Natalie Brand



Natalie has an M.Sc. in Geology from the University of the Witwatersrand and is professionally registered with SACNASP. Having spent nine years in the industry, she has enhanced her skills in exploration project management, mineral target generation, database management and business development. Natalie has successfully led and contributed to projects across various commodities including base metals, iron ore and more recently, both hard rock lithium and lithium in brines.

She has recently joined Micromine as the Customer Success Manager for the Africa, Middle East & Asia (AMEE) region, focusing on advancing Micromine's mission by enhancing user support, broadening training initiatives, and cultivating stronger professional networks within South Africa's mining sector.

We welcome Natalie in her new role as Vice-President (VP) of Professional Affairs of the GSSA



IS IT ROPO OR RPO?

In the original (2000) version of the SAMREC Code, the definition of a Competent Person (CP) was defined as “a person who is a member of ... any other statutory South African or international body that is recognised by SAMREC.” In the 2007 version of the SAMREC Code, the phrase “any other statutory South African or international body that is recognised by SAMREC” was replaced by the term “Recognised Overseas Professional Organisation or ROPO”. The 2016 version of the SAMREC Code refined this definition to simply a “Recognised Professional Organisation, or RPO”.

A similar progression can be seen in all of the CRIRSCO (and related) Codes:

- The JORC Code first used the term ROPO in their 2004 version (previous reference had only been made to various Australian Professional Organisations). By the 2012 version of JORC, the term RPO had replaced ROPO.
- SME 1999 simply refers to a “professional society for earth scientists or mining engineers”. The SME 2007 (and more recent) version uses the term RPO.
- The 2001 IMM and UK Reporting Codes refer to recognised professional bodies and specifically referenced IMMM, EFG, GLS and IGI. PERC 2009 required professional membership of “an approved institution in Europe (and elsewhere of equivalent status)”. The 2013 and later versions use the term RPO.
- The 2006 CRIRSCO template uses the term “recognised professional body” and the 2019 version uses the term “Recognised Profession Organisation (RPO)”.
- The 2005 CIM standards refer simply to a “professional association”. This same term is used in all of the later CIM Standard Definitions and the 43-101 Companion Policy documents.
- S-K 1300 uses the term Qualified Person (QP) (as does the Canadian CIM definition), as synonymous with the CRIRSCO term Competent Person, using the term RPO as a key definer of professional membership.

So, the correct (current) term under all jurisdictions is **RECOGNISED PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION (RPO)**. The term ROPO is outdated and is no longer in use.

A final comment is that, in all jurisdictions, it is only the professional category of membership of the applicable RPO that is relevant to CP/QP sign-off. No individual in a Student, Candidate or Affiliate category may be classified as a CP/QP. Certain RPOs also have specified categories (chartership, etc) that are applicable to CP/QP signoff. Please check with your RPO before signing off on any relevant document.

EMPOWERING GEOSCIENTISTS BEYOND THE ROCKS

On 17 July, the GSSA hosted a vibrant and thought-provoking “Soft Skills for Geoscientists” workshop.

The session explored key non-technical abilities like communication, leadership, teamwork, and emotional intelligence - all crucial for success in today's fast-paced, collaborative work environments.

One key takeaway?

“Being technically strong is no longer enough. In today's geoscience environment, your ability to communicate across disciplines, manage stakeholder expectations, and work collaboratively is what will set you apart.”

From navigating complex projects to leading diverse teams, soft skills are becoming just as important as technical know-how - whether you're in exploration, research, consulting, or environmental work.

This workshop is part of GSSA's ongoing commitment to developing well-rounded, adaptable professionals ready to take on the challenges of a rapidly evolving global industry.

Stay tuned for more events designed to support your growth - both in and beyond the field!

Call for Contributions

We would love to feature your contributions – If you have news, updates, insights or articles you would like to share with the Geological community please submit your content to **lully.govender@gssa.org.za** - Your contributions will be reviewed and if approved will be included in the newsletter.

MEET THE GEOLOGIST UNCOVERING EARTH'S SECRETS IN SOUTH AFRICA



Tebogo Makhubela, a South African geologist recipient of one of the prestigious National Geographic 2025 Wayfinder Awards



GSSA STUDENT AWARDS



John Handley Award

Tamera Heeralal, University of Kwazulu Natal

Submerged gravel shorelines of the Inner to Mid-Shelf Offshore Hottentot's Bay, Namibia

Supervisor: Prof. Andrew N. Green



Corstorphine Medal

Joshua van Blerk, University of Cape Town

Oxygen isotope composition of megacrysts from the Monastery kimberlite

Supervisors: Dr. Geoffrey Howarth, Prof. Chris Harris and Prof. Phil E. Janney

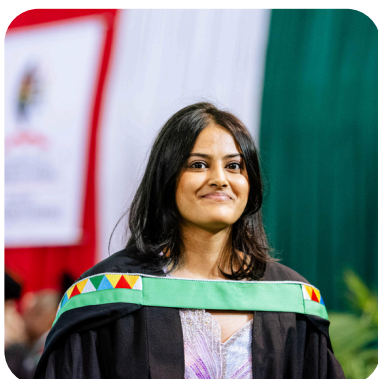


Haughton Award

Nomonde Miya, University of the Witwatersrand

Tectonomagmatic History of Anorthosite and Orthogneiss in the Qaqortorsuaq Anorthosite Mine, Southern West Greenland: Constraints from Zircon U-Pb Geochronology

Supervisors: Dr. Scott MacLennan & Dr. Karen Smit



SACNASP Award

Ishta Maharaj, University of Kwazulu Natal

B.Sc Honours year mark of 81 per cent, and achieving first class passes in all subjects

Supervisors: Prof Andrew Green & Dr Lauren Hoyer

2025 GSSA EVENTS : AUGUST - NOVEMBER



| | | |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 5 August | Introduction to Drilling Workshop | Online Free |
| 9 September | Professionalism & Code of Ethics Workshop | Online Free |
| 11 & 12 September | Data Analytics and Machine Learning for Geoscientists | Online |
| 20 & 21 September | Structural Geology course and field trip | KZN Southbroom |
| 29 & 30 September | SAMREC/SAMVAL Compliance and JSE Reporting Workshop / 25 th Anniversary of SAMREC | Jhb Country Club - Hybrid |
| 11 & 12 September | Data Analytics and Machine Learning for Geoscientists | Online |
| 14 & 15 October | Geometallurgy Conference | Muldersdrift |
| 21 & 22 October | Mineral Resource Mastery: Tools, Trends, and Industry Insights | Online |
| 12 & 13 November | African Exploration Showcase | Jhb Country Club - Hybrid |

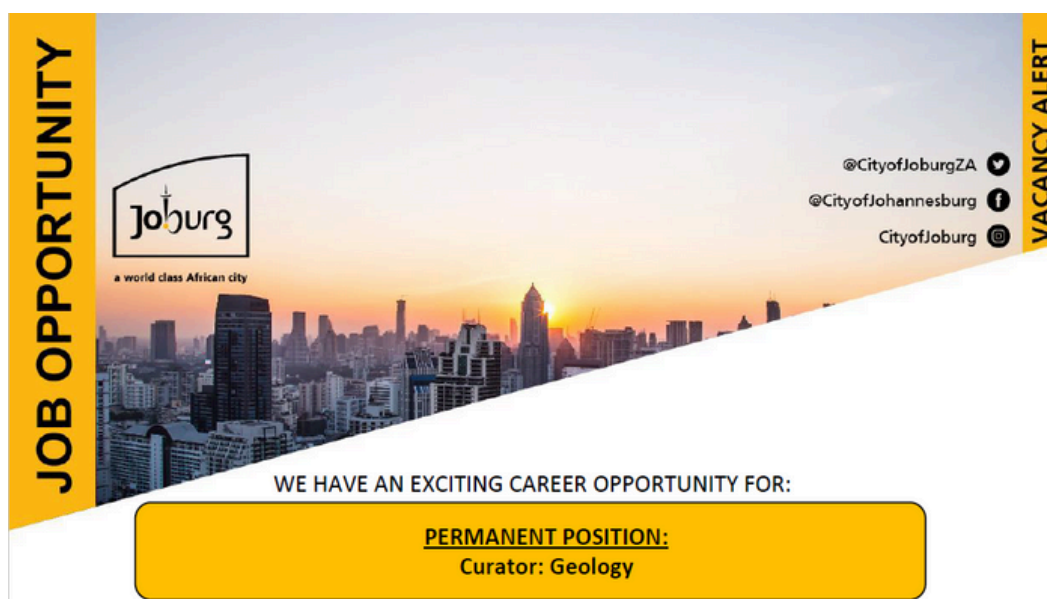
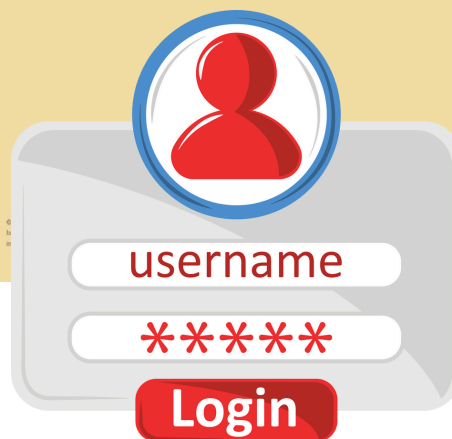






SAVE THE DATE

10-13 SEPTEMBER 2026

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SYMPOSIUM**

QR Code

Keynotes
Dr L Linzer (SRK) Prof R Stacey (Wits)




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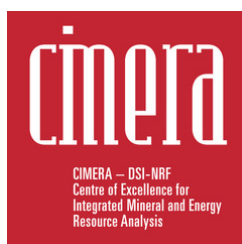
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