



NEWSLETTER

Promoting the study and advancement of Earth Sciences since 1895



2020 Membership Fees Craig Smith

On behalf of the Council of the GSSA, I would like to thank you for your continued support and involvement with the Society. The Council of the GSSA has agreed to a 5 per cent increase in membership fees for 2020, and as in prior years, those who pay their 2020 fees prior to January 31, 2020 may elect to pay the 2019 rate as per the accompanying fees table. The fees are VAT inclusive at the VAT rate of 15 per cent.

2020 Fee Schedule

**2020 Provisional
Events Calendar**

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President's Message Sifiso Siwela

During the last quarter of the year, we have made numerous attempts to address outreach and relevance and thereby continuing to bring geoscientists together. GSSA Branches and Divisions had a lot of activities including the launch of the Northern Cape branch during the Deposits of the Northern Cape workshop held in Kathu, events at University of Venda Branch, the Egoli Branch and the Barberton Branch holding the Komatiite 50th anniversary commemoration field trip in Barberton, as well as the revival of the Western Cape Branch. The KZN Branch and Bushveld Branch also continued to hold events during this time. MINSA Division also celebrated their 40th birthday in addition to their normal events held throughout the year, which included the SEM Day and celebration of the 150th anniversary of the period table of chemical elements.

In the new year, we are planning events for Geoheritage Division which will incorporate non-members and public interest groups. In the new year, the Meetings Committee is planning to stage Geoskills “pop-up” events at University of Venda and University of Johannesburg. In 2020, which is our 125th year, we are looking forward to another Geocongress that is planned for University of Stellenbosch in June, yet another exciting opportunity to bring geosciences together. The Meetings Committee is also planning a PGE Day, which will likely be held in the Northern Limb of the Bushveld Complex.

We are also looking at continuing advocacy with other professional bodies and strengthening rapport with other affiliate societies. In addition, we are focussing on synergies with other geological societies in Africa and beyond. We also continue to educate on continuing professional development (CPD) through specific training workshops and when opportunities arise during other GSSA events held across the country and outside. We will be focussing on CPD and mentoring, the latter being a priority area next year based on our recent survey that yielded useful action points. Thank you to all those who participated in the survey and we will send more themed surveys to assist us and ensure that the GSSA remains relevant to members. We also hope to improve on communications and presence through various media.

Council, Management Committee, Portfolio Committees and Editors have set the path for a very fine 2020 with lots of great offerings. Thank you to every one of the staff and volunteers for all their efforts and I appeal to all members to also participate and remain relevant.

We hope that the recent successes for South Africa, such as those in sports, manifest themselves in the minerals industry and we also achieve bringing geoscientists together and strengthening geosciences in the ever changing world. We as the GSSA hope to make even more strides in the new year for the benefit of the membership.

I wish all members safe and happy holidays and I look forward to the new year.

Fellows Dinner held on 13 November 2019
Country Club Woodmead



Gifts sponsored by Shango



Draper Award - Bruce Cairncross



Des Pretorius Award - Jim Davidson



Jubilee Award - SAJG Article



Guest Speaker - Henk Langenhoven



Gordon Chunnett



Ron Hieber

2019 NEW FELLOWS

Lesley Andrews
Christopher Bargmann
John Barnes
Robin Baxter-Brown
Robert Bolhar
Peter Camden-Smith
Cecile Cilliers
Jacolene de Klerk
Gerrit de Kock
Maarten de Wit
Gideon du Plessis
Gerard Evans
Darrell Farrow
David Farrow
Lauren Freeman
Andries Friese

Shengfei Gan
Gerhard Hannweg
Lesley Jeffrey
Lourens Jordaan
Karl Kasch
Martin Klausen
Robert Liddle
Lindsay Linzer
Sharad Master
Barbara Michaelides
Julian Misiewicz
Charles Moon
David Mosuwe
Mettinus Oosterveld
Volker Petzel
Heinrich Siegfried

Braam Smit
Nicolaas Steenkamp
John Sullivan
Asriel van der Westhuizen
Bernard van Gottberg



RESEARCH , EDUCATION AND INVESTMENT (REI) FUND

The GSSA Research, Education and Investment Fund (REI Fund) is inviting applications from GSSA paid up-members (including current post-graduate student members) for grants from the Fund, to be received at the GSSA office not later than 31 January 2020.

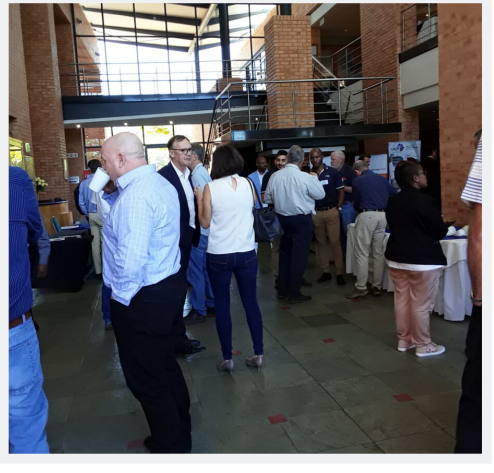
Applications can be made using the online application form available on the GSSA web site (www.gssa.org.za) or see link below for the online form.

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/GeologicalSocietyOfSouthAfrica/researcheducationandinvestmentfund>

[Read More](#)

Technology Day - 14 November

African Exploration Showcase - 15 November



Branch News

Kwazulu Natal Branch

On the 17th October 2019, the KZN Branch of the GSSA hosted a lecture by PhD candidate Ms Rebekah Singh of the Council for Geoscience. The lecture, hosted at the Science and Technology Education Centre on UKZN's Westville Campus attracted a record crowd of approximately 50 people.

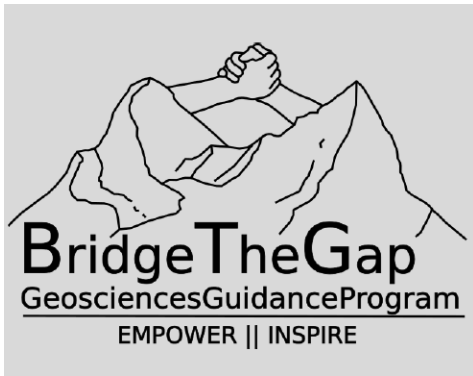
Mrs Singh, who is part of the Geophysics and Remote Sensing competency/unit, working at the CGS, KZN office, presented on her current research which focuses on the erosion susceptibility of the Wild Coast region in the Eastern Cape. The topic entitled "Monitoring soil erosion features using airborne remote sensing data: a case study from the Wild Coast, South Africa", sparked a great discussion session, with listeners eager to understand more about the variability of erosion styles in such a pristine environment. The interplay between wind orientations and dune formation was of great interest.

The KZN Branch would like to thank Mrs Singh for presenting her work, as well as thank the Council for Geoscience for the approval to present.

Western Cape Branch

The Western Cape Branch of the GSSA has restarted after some years of inactivity, except for the Geoheritage subcommittee, and two well attended meetings have been held at the Athenaeum. A talk by Chris Hartnady entitled "Western Cape Seismotectonics: Earthquake History, Hazard, Risk and Cause" in October, was followed by Robyn Pickering with the subject "Dating Rocks and Shaking the Tree: Advances in the geochronology and decolonisation of Human Evolution in Southern Africa" in November.

An interim committee was elected after this lecture, namely Mike Lain - Chairman, Michael McCall - Vice Chairman, Hayley Cawthra - Secretary, Stephen Richardson - Treasurer and Tahnee Otto as the Stellenbosch rep. This team has the task of getting the Branch ready for the main AGM in April 2020. A full programme of lectures is planned for the coming year as well as some "excursions" to notable sites of geological interest.



Call for Industry Participation

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Media release on behalf of the South African Guideline for the reporting of environmental, social and governance parameters within the mining and oil and gas industries (SAMESG)

The SAMESG Committee is excited to announce that the SAMESG Guideline is the recipient of the 2019 United Nations Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) Honours Award.

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NSTF-South32 Awards

Today's research ... tomorrow's innovation

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Naukluft Mountains Research Symposium - April 26-28 2020

The Naukluft Mountains in central Namibia are a locus for research in geology, climate, ecology, hydrogeology, natural resource management and tourism. We propose a multi-disciplinary symposium to connect researchers and practitioners from all fields with interests in the Naukluft Mountains.

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