



SOCIETY OF ECONOMIC GEOLOGISTS, INC.

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Student Chapter Annual Report Cover Page

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Submit to: studentprograms@segweb.org

Month/Year Reported: From 09/2021 (mm/yyyy) – To 09/2022 (mm/yyyy)

STUDENT CHAPTER:

Check if update needed at segweb.org

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Chapter Executive Committee (*in office during the time frame captured on this report*) (type "Vacant" if position not filled):
The new committee is reported on the Student Chapter Membership Information form (SCMIF).

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Name E-mail

VicePresident: Jamie Kelly jk21g14@soton.ac.uk
Name E-mail

Secretary: William Collett wesc1n19@soton.ac.uk
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Treasurer: Daniel Howcroft dch2g19@soton.ac.uk
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Southampton Society of Economic Geologists Student Chapter Annual Report



Contents

1. General information and Committee.....	(3)
2. Executive Summary.....	(4-5)
3. Events.....	(5-6)
4. Society Bank Account.....	(6)
5. Student Field Trip Update.....	(7)
6. Future Plans.....	(7-8)
7. Summary.....	(8)

General information & Committee

About the Society

The Society of Economic Geologists, Inc., (SEG) originated in 1919 and is an international organization of individual members with interests in the field of economic geology. The Society's membership includes representatives from industry, academia, and government institutions. Annual conferences, field trips, short courses, and publications ensure an active communication of economic geology-related concepts within the membership and with the economic geology profession at large. An individual may apply for membership as a Fellow, Member, or Student Member. At present there are over 7000 members in more than 90 countries worldwide and a total of 110 student chapters currently active in 31 countries.

Committee for reporting period (30/09/2021-30/09/2022):

President: Edmund McNulty* - 3rd year student

Vice-President: Jamie Kelly* - PhD researcher

Treasurer: Daniel Howcroft - 3rd year student

Secretary: William Collett - 4th year Msci student

Other members/participant in the society during reporting period:

Dr Tom Belgrano* – Postdoc Researcher

Thomas Hennings – 3rd year student

Joe Crump – 3rd year student

Dion George – 3rd year student

Ellis Press – 3rd year student

Christian Bishop – PhD Researcher

Asterisk denotes active SEG members

Incoming Committee For 2021/22

President: Daniel Howcroft*

Vice-President: TBC

Treasurer: Jamie Kelly*

Secretary: TBC

Contact Information

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Executive Summary

This year has been a rather frustrating year for the society after much progress the previous year in gaining members and securing the SEG Stewart Wallace grant for the Cyprus field trip. Although the funds for the Stewart Wallace grant have been received on our behalf by our academic sponsor, the original plan was to open a new society bank account with Santander plc since the old account was lost during the covid pandemic. Despite providing all relevant details to the bank, several miscommunications and delays have been experienced starting from October to present day. At this moment in time, the society is still attempting to open a new bank account to receive the Stewart Wallace funds. The society is exploring all potential options of banks to complete this with after the experience with Santander. As a result of this frustrating endeavour, it has been challenging to plan society activities, workshops and the Cyprus field trip.

Most efforts this year were focused on delivering the Cyprus field trip in collaboration with Cardiff SEG. Contact with Trinity College Dublin SEG fell through but the proposed trip was still plausible by combining both Cardiff and Southampton chapters. Unfortunately, the proposed field trip has yet to go ahead for a number of reasons involving conflicting university and work schedules, flight cancellations over the summer and industry sponsor falling through. Contact was made with Caerus Mineral Resources, an exploration company focused on developing Cu deposits on Cyprus. Initial discussions were promising and they had agreed to assist with the field trip. However, in 2022, Caerus have been wrapped up in a legal dispute with the Cyprus defence ministry over some tenements which they have since lost access to. This legal issue compromised the ability for Caerus to provide assistance due to the increasing workload. In general, the society has found it challenging to find suitable contacts for guidance in Cyprus and to provide access to the historic Skouriatissa mine, a key component of the itinerary. As such the proposed trip is on hold until suitable contacts can be secured and academic leads tied down.

The society is actively planning a contingency trip should the Cyprus field trip be unable to run. Proposed locations at this stage include Scotland, Republic Of Ireland and Portugal, although discussions among the committee continue. Collaborations with other SEG societies will be sought out in order to increase trip attendance and provide a better education. Any planned trip going forwards will attempt to involve a minimum of 10 students.

Despite the frustrations above, the society was able to participate in a number of events across the reporting period. These are summarised below

- IAEG-ODH 2021 conference – Attendance to the virtual Irish association of economic geology conference. Several members in attendance at the event, learning from leading researchers on Irish type Pb-Zn deposits and geothermal power potential.
- NewGenGold conference 2021 – SEG committee attended virtually the annual NewgenGold conference hosted in Perth, Australia. Several talks focused on gold deposit discoveries were presented and keynote speakers. Highlights include the Paterson orogeny talk by Prof Simon Jackson, Newcrest presentation on Havieron deposit, Rio Tinto presentation on the Winu discovery and De Grey mining presentation on the Hemi gold deposit. (November 2021)
- Dr Tom Belgrano – “Southampton Lab Facilities showcase” – brief talk/tour of the Southampton University analytical equipment that is used in researching ore deposits, how they work and their benefits. Good education for Msc students and beyond who may use the equipment in their projects.

- Dr Antony Mamuse – “A preliminary appraisal of Zimbabwe’s industrial minerals” – talk hosted by Cardiff SEG on the potential of Zimbabwe’s industrial minerals such as kyanite, garnet and other aggregate minerals. SEG Committee of Southampton attended the Zoom talk (24th March 2022).
- Dr David Cohen & Dr Dennis Arne - Exploration geochemistry workshop – pre-SGA 2022 conference workshop delivered virtually involving a series of short lectures and follow up exercises on loGas concerning the evaluation and interpretation of geochemical data.
- SGA 2022 conference – Attendance of the Society For Geology Applied To Mineral Deposits 2022 conference. The conference spanned 28th-31st March and included a talk by committee member Jamie Kelly.
- Virtual Platinum Symposium 2022 – Run by several postdoc and PhD students globally, a series of lectures and QGIS workshop were conducted over a period of 6 weeks. The QGIS workshop and lecture on the Bushveld Complex were attended by the chapter. (29th April-5th May 2022)
- Received Stewart Wallace Fund for \$1525 for use in a collaborative field trip either to Cyprus (As previously proposed) or another destination in collaboration with another SEG chapter.
- Attempts were made to host other speakers including Alistair Clayton (Artemis Resources) and Niki Schafer (Newcrest Mining), however due to work commitments these were unavailable.

Going forwards, the chapter aims to expand its current membership base and to begin hosting virtual events where in person events are not possible. It was thought with the pandemic easing, in person talks would be simpler to organise. However, this was an oversight and going forwards both options will be explored to open up more opportunities for speakers to present to our chapter. Furthermore, efforts will be made to deliver a student field trip in 2023 with the Stewart Wallace grant already received in collaboration with another UK student chapter.

Events

Following the pandemic, the ability to host in-person events became possible. Emphasis was placed on getting in-person speakers rather than hosting online events as it was thought students would be burned out from online meetings. However, owing to increasing work commitments likely as a result of improving commodity prices and exploration budgets, no speakers we contacted were available to travel to Southampton to give a talk. Instead, the chapter participated in a number of events hosted by other organisations throughout the reporting period. The key events attended are detailed below.

Irish Association For Economic Geology – Ireland: Mineral Potential Of The Emerald Isle 13-14th October 2021

The first event of the year was a collaborative effort between IAEG and Ore Deposits Hub to host an online conference with several speakers talking about different ore deposits and economic geology of Ireland. The chapter committee and its members benefitted from the expertise at the conference, providing insights into Irish type Pb-Zn deposits such as Lisheen and Silvermines and Ireland’s geothermal resources.

NewGenGold Conference 2021 – 9th-10th November 2021

Several chapter members virtually attended the NewGenGold conference hosted in Perth, Western Australia. Major mining companies such as Rio Tinto and Newcrest Mining gave talks at the event, in addition to keynote speakers from the Geological Survey Of Western Australian and Geological Survey Of Victoria. Some of the best gold discoveries such as Hemi, Havieron and Winu were presented on, in some cases for the first time, provided excellent up to date knowledge for attendees. The conference proceedings were sent to the chapter following completion.

Dr Antony Mamuse – A preliminary appraisal of Zimbabwe’s industrial minerals – 24th March 2022

A rare opportunity, hosted by the Cardiff SEG, to hear from Dr Antony Mamuse, current Dean of mining sciences and engineering at Midland State University in Zimbabwe. The talk took a break from traditional metal deposits such as copper and gold to focus on aggregate or industrial minerals. Zimbabwe has a wealth of kyanite, garnet and talc that remains to be fully explored. Members appreciated the break from the curriculum of metal deposits normally discussed at length in undergraduate courses.

Society For Geology Applied To Mineral Deposits – SGA Conference 2022 – 27th March-31st March

The SGA 2022 Biennial conference was initially supposed to be hosted in Rotorua, New Zealand. However, due to ongoing covid restraints in New Zealand, most attendees were virtual. Chapter members that attended had access to a comprehensive programme of speakers under a wide range of topics covering all deposit types and issues such as mine waste management and ESG in mining. Committee member Jamie Kelly also gave a talk on his PhD research up to date at the time.

Prior to the conference starting, workshops were provided that could be registered for. Some members attended the exploration geochemistry workshop run by Dr’s Dennis Arne and David Cohen. The course covered a range of principles of exploration geochemistry through a series of short lectures and IogAs exercises to work through. Overall, the course was well received and the material provided useful going forwards.

Platinum Group Symposium 2022 – 29th April-5th May 2022

A QGIS workshop run by Dr. Bijal Chudasama on mineral prospectivity was attended by members of the chapter on 29th April. The purpose of the course was to improve QGIS skills for those unfamiliar with the software. The following week, a lecture on the Bushveld complex was given. Two subsequent talks on Nor’ilsk and layered intrusion were also given but were not attended by members mainly due to clashes with the university timetable.

Society Bank Account & Funding

The chapter received the Stewart Wallace funds totalling \$1525 in 2020/21. Initially, the plan was to receive the funds into a newly opened society bank account with Santander Plc. However, despite the process beginning in October, several miscommunications by the bank and obstacles have prevented the opening of the new account at present. Alternative banks are currently being sought out and hopefully a new account can be opened in the first quarter of 2022/23. The chapter will update SEG on the new bank account when it is created, the \$1525 will be transferred to the new account. Email correspondence between SEG and the chapter suggested the grant was to be received on our behalf by our academic lead, Prof Steve Roberts. It is unclear if this has been received. As a result, no new applications for funding will be made in the following year.

Student Field Trip Update

The start of the 2020/2021 year was during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic and here in the UK, the country entered lockdown in November and following Christmas. Prior to the 1st lockdown, an application to the Stewart Wallace fund was made in collaboration with Trinity College Dublin and Cardiff SEG Chapters on a proposed field course to Cyprus in order to study the VHMS deposits that occur there and their formation. In January 2021, this application was deemed successful and the allocation of \$1525 was held for the field course to run during the easter period (April-May 2021). Unfortunately owing to the continued presence of Covid-19 and the ongoing travel restrictions by the UK govt and in turn UK Universities, the decision was made to postpone the field course until the pandemic eased enough for international travel to be permitted and confidence in the trip going ahead.

Heading into 2021/22, collaboration continued with Cardiff SEG chapter, however communication with Trinity College Dublin ceased for an unknown reason. Contact was made with Caerus Mineral Resources who kindly offered to assist with the field trip, providing site access and potentially as a guide around the island. Towards the end of February 2022, Caerus mineral resources lost access to tenements around the Kalavassos region due to the Cyprus ministry of defence installing a buffer zone around the region. The ongoing legal dispute and uncertainty around Caerus' ability to provide access meant it was unclear if they could support the trip. Furthermore, difficulty in identifying contacts in Cyprus for access to key sites of interest such as the Skouriatissa mine meant part of the itinerary was in jeopardy. Academic leads were difficult to pin down because of upcoming fieldwork or cruises. The combination made planning the Cyprus field trip too challenging and the decision was made to delay until academic leads and industry contact could be secured in place.

Continuing to pursue the Cyprus trip without an adequate alternative has been a detriment, therefore other potential field trip ideas and itineraries are being thought up. Alternative field trip destinations considered thus far include Scotland, Republic Of Ireland and Portugal. A decision will be made which to prioritise this October and the Stewart Wallace funds received previously applied. No extra funding will be applied to by the chapter this coming year.

Future Plans

The Southampton Society of Economic Geologist Chapter plans to expand its membership base and plans to host 2-3 talks on different ore deposits for the reporting period. Where possible, events will be hosted in person providing a more personable, interactive environment. With the easing of pandemic restrictions, more freedom is available to host workshops and in person talks. This is vital in building a larger membership base to sustain the future of the chapter.

To grow the membership base further, the chapter aims to:

- Advertise regularly SEG events, grants and field trips to students within the host institution
- Promote the society chapter in each year group at the start of the academic year and in the new year to attract prospective members
- Host 2-3 key speakers and potentially a workshop to deliver quality extracurricular content to students, making membership worthwhile
- Provide discounted access to the proposed student field trip for those that have an SEG membership.
- Renew the SEG Mining Careers event and expand the scope to a broader conference similar to Imperial College into Mining conference

- Deliver greater networking opportunities with industry by attending conferences and career events

A new idea proposed by the committee called “research highlights” aims to provide a short format for Msc and PhD students to talk about their research in a less intimidating environment than at international conferences. This will be trialled in the first quarter with some students at the University Of Southampton before other research students at other institutions will be contacted.

Summary

In summary, the Southampton Society of Economic Geologists student chapter has endured a frustrating year which we hope will be behind us for the upcoming year. A meeting to decide whether to continue with the plan for Cyprus or to begin planning a different field trip is to be held in October. In any case, the Stewart Wallace funds granted to us will be utilised for a field trip and no application will be submitted for new funds until these have been used. The chapter will be focused on providing 2-3 talks for the upcoming year, preferably in person but not discounting online formats. The chapter aims to grow its membership base to ensure the continuing presence of the society at Southampton and a growing awareness of the potential for geologists to enter the mining space.