

## President's Corner

### What do You want?

#### tomorrow

(noun)

a mystical land where 99% of all human productivity, motivation and achievement is stored

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My children are playing in the softball league for primary schools and their teams are doing rather well. The changes in their abilities year on year never stops to amaze me. In the first year, the little ones get a stationary ball “pitched” at them where they only need to swing and strike the ball. Later the balls are pitched from an increasing distance and with increasing speed. I got to experience an u/19 Boys’ pitch at 130 km/hr, which needs to make you swing faster. Not much time to think what to do. Every time this ball is missed, frustration grows, which make you try harder. The harder you try, the more you miss, which makes you try harder and miss further. A vicious circle that is broken only by a deep breath and one focused hit. H – O – M – E – R – U – N!!

Isn't it funny how life sometimes throw you these curve balls, strike after strike, which you cannot seem to connect. Exam on exam, you cannot get it right. Visits to working places never seems to hit the real cause of instability. Secondary support contractors never meet a realistic target. The classic production apology: “Sorry sir, check me next month.”

The **dream of being** the best Rock Engineer is good, but sometimes we need to wake up from that sleep and **start being** the best Rock Engineer (or Strata Control Officer or Observer or Anything you WANT to be).

Only by starting will progress be made. **Procrastination** (the action of delaying or postponing something) has its place and time; like the procrastination on getting hurt. Some of us are not necessarily procrastinating, we are just very productive in doing the unimportant stuff. The only way to make progress is to take the next step. As I often tell my students, when in doubt, just do the next calc. The answer will come.

The next round of exams is coming up and the practical exams will soon follow. If that's your NEXT, let that be the focus for now. If you advanced to the next stage, find your next and focus in achieving that. Life is all about solving problems. The better we get at that, the better life will be. I heard a quote a while back which goes: "It does not get easier. You just get faster". Endure the "pain" and learn from it. Make life simple and next time the "pain" will pass sooner.

As council has their eyes focussed per portfolio we will make SANIRE the professional body it deserves to be **BUT** for that we need your participation. After all, we are all batting for the same team. It does not help if you sit on the side shouting to the batter when to swing, but when he/she moved to the first base there is no one to bat. Get your socks up, your gloves on and let's swing some composite steel bat!

Batter up!

Jannie



# ISRM News

## Recent developments

The 14th ISRM Congress will be held in Foz do Iguassu, Brazil in September 2019. Very few abstracts were received from South Africa by the 12 September. It is important to have good representation from South Africa and the deadline has therefore been extended until 30 October 2018. Please submit your abstracts.

EuRock 2018 was held in St. Petersburg, Russia during May. Rocdyn-3 was held in Trondheim, Norway during June 2018. Brazilian Symposium on Rock Mechanics, SBMR 2018 was held during August.

Two new videos on suggested methods have been included on the website:

- Uniaxial compressive strength and deformability of rock materials (updated version),
- Brazilian tension test.

Prof. Xia-Ting Feng, immediate past president of the ISRM was elected as president of the Federation of International Geo-Engineering Societies (FedIGS). FedIGS is a collaborative forum within which learned societies or associations involved in Engineering with, on, or in geo-materials can meet and interact. The purpose of the Federation is to facilitate interaction among the member societies, explore opportunities to promote their common interests and provide a unified response to common issues through effective collective actions that are more effective than individual responses of the members.

The members of the Federation are:

- International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE),
- International Society for Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering (ISRM),
- International Association of Engineering Geology (IAEG),
- International Geosynthetics Society (IGS).

Two new ISRM Online Lectures are available for viewing or downloading on the ISRM website ([www.isrm.net](http://www.isrm.net)):

- 22nd Online lecture: Professor Hakan Stille: Rock grouting-theories in practical application,
- 23rd Online lecture: Professor Maurice Dusseault: Subsurface Geomechanics Challenges in Naturally Fractured Rock Masses (as of 18 September 2018).

## ISRM Conferences

The following ISRM Conferences are scheduled:

| Event title                                                                                                                                          | Start date | End date   | Country   | City          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| ARMS10 - the ISRM 10th Asian Rock Mechanics Symposium                                                                                                | 2018-10-29 | 2018-11-03 | Singapore | Singapore     |
| 4th Australasian Ground Control in Mining Conference - AusRock 2018                                                                                  | 2018-11-28 | 2018-11-30 | Australia | Sydney        |
| 2019 Rock Dynamics Summit in Okinawa                                                                                                                 | 2019-05-07 | 2019-05-11 | Japan     | Okinawa       |
| ISRM 14th International Congress on Rock Mechanics                                                                                                   | 2019-09-13 | 2019-09-18 | Brazil    | Foz do Iguaçu |
| YSRM2019 - the 5th ISRM Young Scholars' Symposium on Rock Mechanics and REIF2019 - International Symposium on Rock Engineering for Innovative Future | 2019-12-01 | 2019-12-04 | Japan     | Okinawa       |
| EUROCK 2020 - Hard Rock Excavation and Support - the ISRM European Rock Mechanics Symposium                                                          | 2020-06-00 | 2020-06-00 | Norway    | Trondheim     |

# SANIRE AGM

SANIRE Council hosted the Annual General Meeting on the 31st of August 2018, whereby numerous awards were handed over whilst interesting discussions around the education and the future of SANIRE was conducted.



| Award                                            | Recipient                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Lifetime Achievement Award: Honorary Life Fellow | DS Minney                                     |
| Lifetime Achievement Award: Honorary Member      | Trevor Clements                               |
| Salamon Award                                    | Dr. Michael du Plessis & Prof. Francois Malan |
| Ortlepp Award                                    | Paul Couto                                    |
| Practitioner of the Year Award                   | Naomi Ayres                                   |
| Rockstar of the Year Award                       | Edeshni Munsamy                               |
| Best Student Award (UP)                          | SC Khoza                                      |
| Best Student Award (Wits)                        | Tabotabo Talane                               |

| Award                                                                          | Recipient        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Candidate Award - October 2017<br>Highest mark > SCO Theory<br>(Metalliferous) | Gustav Heuer     |
| Candidate Award - October 2017<br>Highest mark > Paper 1                       | Prince Mulenga   |
| Candidate Award - May 2018<br>Highest mark > Paper 1                           | Yolanda Chambati |
| Candidate Award - October 2017<br>Highest mark > Paper 2                       | Johan van Zyl    |
| Candidate Award - May 2018<br>Highest mark > Paper 2                           | Thomas Ngwato    |
| Candidate Award - May 2018<br>(Highest Mark > Paper 3.1                        | Junior Vezi      |



# Rock Star of the Quarter



**Full Name:** Edeshni Munsamy

**Position:** Strata Control Officer

**Company / Organisations:** Lonmin

**Date and Place of Birth:** 26 September 1990; Durban, Kwa-Zulu Natal

**Education:** Joined Lonmin, as a Mine Technical Services student. I have since, obtained my Blasting Ticket in 2015 and Strata Control Ticket in 2016. I am currently employed as a Strata Control Officer at Rowland Shaft and working towards my Rock Engineering Ticket.

**First Job:** Personal assistant at Discovery Life

**Personal Best Achievement/s:** Obtained 5 distinctions in Matric.

Received the student of the year award for the Mine Technical Services Programme. Qualifying as one of 4 members to represent South Africa at the AfriRock 2017 Rock Bowl. Achieving the best presenter award at the Early Career Forum at AfriRock 2017. Achieving the Rock Star of the year award 2018.

**Philosophy of Life:** Everything in life happens for a reason, someday it will all make perfect sense.

**Favourite Food / Drink:** I am a foodie in general. Seafood, especially prawn and crab curries are my favourites but chicken briyani will always have my heart.

**Favourite Sport:** Cricket

### **How did your career in the mining industry begin and where are you now?**

In 2014, I joined Lonmin as a Mine Technical Services Cadet. The year long program offers young people the opportunity to join the mining industry with little to no knowledge about the industry. The program exposes students to the different fields within the Technical Services banner. Once I have gained the basic knowledge and skills of the different fields, I then chose to build my career in the Rock Engineering discipline. In 2015 I completed my Blasting Ticket. In 2016, I completed Strata Control Practical and was employed as a Strata Control Officer. I have since obtained Rock Engineering Paper 1 and 2 and I am currently working towards completing my Rock Engineering Ticket.

### **Why did you choose Rock Engineering?**

The Rock Engineering fraternity is a relatively new science with excellent scope for new research and contributions. Working in this field therefore inspires me to be pro-active and involved as I have the opportunity to originate new ideas and positively contribute towards strengthening the industry. In addition the Rock Engineer's contribution towards the Mining Department remains exceptionally relevant and I absolutely thrive on making a relevant contribution in my work.

### **Please tell us a bit more about your career journey?**

My career began in 2014, when I joined Lonmin through a Mine Technical Services Learnership program. During the program I obtained my Strata Control Theory. I then proceeded towards obtaining my blasting certificate in 2015. In January, 2016, I completed my Strata Control Practical and obtained my Strata Control Certificate. In April 2016, I was appointed as a Strata Control Observer on Lonmin's Rowland Shaft. In October 2016, I obtained my Rock Engineering Paper 1. In April 2017, I was appointed as a Strata Control Officer and completed my first project entitled 'Support Strategies to Safely and Effectively develop through the Elandsdrift Fault Zone', the project was presented at the Young Geo-Technical Engineers Conference in September 2017 and AfriRock in October 2017. In April 2018, I was given the opportunity to act as Rock Engineer at Lonmin's Hossy Shaft (for a month), a challenge which was rewarding in my career development. In May 2018, I obtained Rock Engineering Paper 2. In August and September 2018 I presented my second project at MineSafe 2018 and SAIMMs 4th Young Professionals Conference respectively, titled 'Large Scale Instabilities pre-empted through pro-active hazard identification and Monitoring in a UG2 panel on Lonmin's Rowland Shaft.'

### **What are some areas that you believe will become of increasing importance in the near future of the Rock Engineering discipline?**

The influence legislative role players have on the Rock Engineering fraternity remains controversial and is becoming of increasing importance. The line between the professional input by a certified specialist and that of a legislative role player should be drawn. Furthermore, the technology available and becoming available in the industry plays an important role in enhancing the service provided by Rock Engineering personnel and if utilised effectively can revolutionise safe, maximum extraction. With the mining industry growing, many shafts are mining at their boundaries and mines are getting deeper, it is of paramount importance that the Rock Engineering personnel adapt to this change as our role in this evolution is significant.

### **What advice would you offer people aspiring to be in your position?**

Always aspire to build a solid foundation in your career and formulate a C.V which can compete amongst the talented and industrious individuals in the mining industry and South Africa at large. Furthermore, your career should be multi-faceted, one should focus not only on their daily work but rather broaden their scope and engage in branding themselves and building prestige. The opportunities to share knowledge and actively participate in networking and learning from industry leaders are endless. Set the tone and the rest will follow. But most of all I stand by the fact that success is HARD WORK and CONSISTENCY.

### **Who is your role model / mentor?**

My role model is certainly my mother, her exceptionally competitive nature and strength as a woman is what I strive to encompass. My mentors are Willie Liebenberg and Michael du Plessis, these are individuals who have always wanted more for me than I knew possible. Words cannot express the vital role my mentors have played in my development not only in my career but as a person.

### **What is the best advice you have ever been given?**

It is inevitable that we all have strengths and weakness and its important that you always capitalise and play to your strengths.

With a little assistance, a mammoth task is much smaller than it appears.

Remain humble and kind despite any success you may achieve.

**I live by the following phrase: "The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential, these are the keys to success."**

# New Members: 6 June to 25 September 2018

| Name and Surname             | Graded as     | Issued Number |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| William Joughin              | Fellow Member | F045          |
| Jaco Marie Jansen van Vuuren | Fellow Member | F046          |
| Navin Singh                  | Fellow Member | F047          |
| C Mutsvanga                  | Member        | M285          |
| P Wessels                    | Member        | M286          |
| M Pretorius                  | Member        | M288          |
| C Smith                      | Member        | M289          |
| BB Tati                      | Member        | M290          |
| P Spies                      | Member        | M291          |
| Felix                        | Member        | M292          |
| J Steyn                      | Member        | M293          |
| M Henderson                  | Member        | M294          |
| LL van Rooyen (Prinsloo)     | Member        | M295          |
| DB Harding                   | Member        | M296          |
| HJ van Rooyen                | Member        | M297          |
| G Hofmann                    | Member        | M298          |
| K Drescher                   | Member        | M299          |
| J Moller                     | Member        | M300          |
| FJ Little                    | Member        | M301          |
| C Rautenbach                 | Member        | M302          |
| N. Sirriram                  | Member        | M303          |
| A.J. Wright                  | Member        | M304          |
| I.F. Wright                  | Member        | M305          |
| J.P. Gouvea                  | Member        | M306          |
| A Boodoo                     | Member        | M307          |
| QL Grix                      | Member        | M308          |
| M Steinmann                  | Member        | M309          |
| N Harijhan                   | Member        | M310          |

# New Members: 6 June to 25 September 2018

| Name and Surname      | Graded as | Issued Number |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------------|
| ML Shongwe            | Member    | M312          |
| P R Shiri             | Member    | M313          |
| J du Toit             | Member    | M314          |
| SJ Etchells           | Member    | M315          |
| RO Phagadi            | Member    | M316          |
| Pierre Tshilumba      | Member    | M317          |
| Nkata Malitino        | Member    | M318          |
| Ryno Muller           | Member    | M319          |
| David Nyungu          | Member    | M320          |
| MPS Pretorius         | Member    | M321          |
| TP Bauernmaster       | Member    | M322          |
| OG Rakumakoe          | Member    | M323          |
| JA van der Westhuizen | Member    | M324          |
| C Nyoni               | Member    | M325          |
| CF van Rooyen         | Member    | M326          |
| T van Aard            | Member    | M327          |
| PJ Venter             | Member    | M328          |
| T Walsh               | Member    | M329          |
| DL Venter             | Member    | M330          |
| F Joel                | Member    | M331          |
| ML Sekwele            | Member    | M332          |
| JD Smith              | Member    | M333          |
| C Jooste              | Member    | M334          |
| D Rakometsi           | Member    | M335          |
| NP Phiri              | Member    | M336          |
| SS Prinsloo           | Member    | M337          |
| S Surujpal            | Member    | M338          |
| R van Heerden         | Member    | M339          |
| D Avutia              | Member    | M340          |
| C Selai               | Member    | M341          |

# Personality of the Quarter



**Full Name:** Naomi Ayres

**Position:** Senior Rock Engineer

**Company / Organisations:** Impala Platinum

**Date and Place of Birth:** February, 1978

**Education:** MEng Rock Eng, CoMAREC, BSc Geology

**First Job:** Waitress, while I was still at school and studying.

**Personal Best Achievement/s:** Having a family of my own, which can be hard work and very rewarding.

Completing a MEng Degree. Reaching the career which I always dreamed of, but did not know I wanted.

**Philosophy of Life:** Live and let live - Obviously without infringing on the rights of others. We are all unique with our own ideals and ways. Things are not always as they appear - to you.

Don't judge because you're uninformed or don't agree with the way that others do things.

Interestingly this is juxtaposed to our work environment where, for the standards that we need to uphold on a daily basis, there is only right or wrong.

**Favourite Food/Drink:** Pizza, Coffee

**Favourite Sport:** Sky Diving

#### **How did your career in the mining industry begin and where are you now?**

From a young age I recognised a passion for the earth, tectonics, volcanism and with some romantic idea of spending days and nights in the bush, doing exploration from the back of a Landie, thus completed a Geology Degree. Pertinently, I indicated that I would never work on a mine (Never Say Never). I was fortunate enough to work in Geophysical exploration, spending considerable time in the bush, overseas and even on mines. Being invited to join the Geotechnical Department, I found myself working underground in a massive mine environment and was surprised to realise that I loved it. No, it not just a job. I joined Impala Platinum in 2010 , with the opportunity to work on a number of different shafts and projects.

#### **Why did you choose Rock Engineering?**

During my BSc., I majored in Engineering Geology, which I enjoyed and assumed I would one day find myself in the Civil industry. I was not aware of a career called Rock Engineer in mining, but I am grateful that the opportunity found me. I have been blessed to end up exactly where I am supposed to be.

#### **Please tell us a bit more about your career journey?**

I spent several years at Reeves Wireline undertaking down hole geophysical exploration. I joined De Beers, Finsch Mine in 2004 where I was exposed to massive mining methods such as Block Cave and Blast Hole Open Stopping. Here, I completed the Strata Control and Rock Engineering Certificates. I exchanged massive for tabular mining in 2006 when I joined Anglo Platinum at Amandelbult Mine as a Shaft Rock Engineer and I started my GDE studies through Wits. In 2010, I joined Impala Platinum where I have been exposed to various shafts and projects which included the open cast section. I managed to complete my MEng in 2012.

In 2014 I was elected to Chairperson of the SANIRE, Western Bushveld Branch which seemed like a daunting task. Together with a brilliant branch committee we saw improved interest and number of attendance at meetings. This was a fulfilling commitment as it challenged me in new ways and improved my ability to talk in front of people.

## **What are some areas that you believe will become of increasing importance in the near future of the Rock Engineering discipline?**

The increasing demand that Rock Engineering become an auditing, compliance or 'policing' entity distracts from the technical aspects of the discipline. Rock Engineering must ensure that it remains a technical discipline focused on good design principles. Further Strata Control training is required for production personnel to ensure they can deal with hazards appropriately and escalate the major hazards. Rock Engineering must be provided the time to do proper design, planning and continued research. Rock Engineers must be properly trained and mentored with exposure to different mining methods and commodities to gain well rounded experience.

## **What advice would you offer people aspiring to be in your position?**

Family will be the most precious thing you ever have. Memories are made when time is spent together, memories will be all you have one day.

Believe in yourself, you are stronger than you know. The only person who will limit the height you can reach, is you. Knowing full well that you can only get there with enough hard work, nothing worth achieving is easy. It is up to you.

There is nothing to fear but fear itself. Get involved, push yourself into taking opportunities that you think you may not be ready for, if you remain humble and are prepared to ask for help, you will find along the way there are numerous mentors who are willing to guide you before you fall. You only grow when outside your current boundaries.

In mining: Never take things personally. It is always about the job, it's not personal.

Criticism: Good or bad, listen objectively, you can always learn from it.

## **Who is your role model / mentor?**

I perceive all colleagues, seniors and peers as mentors. All interactions should be considered an opportunity to learn and grow both professionally and personally. With an open mind, you can even learn from those you don't get along with. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all whom I have had the benefit of working with over the years.

Since I started at Impala I have been fortunate to work with, Les Gardner, who has been a prudent mentor to me, as to the rest of the Rock Engineering Department. His professional conduct and calm approach makes him a role model to all. It definitely needs mention that without his gentle persuasions and reminders I possibly would not have completed my Masters Degree.

## **What is the best advice you have ever been given?**

My Grade 8 teacher provided the class with life advice: There is nothing in life that you can do or that can happen which is so bad, that it would justify giving up. Advice which I have turned to at different points in my life.

A wise colleague told me: If you feel that way, it is time to get out. Don't get stuck in a situation, there are always other options, decide what you want, move on and don't look back. Do what is right for you and your family. Life may take you on the detour route, but there are better things to come, enjoy the journey.

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# SANIRE Birthdays

## September to November

|                           |                      |                       |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| L M Linzer                | P Mulenga            | K K Kabeya            |
| K Naidoo                  | J N Poggenpoel       | J D Bosman            |
| M K Mosehla               | C Madzore            | D F Malan             |
| L L van Rooyen (Prinsloo) | VL Nokwe             | B P Watson            |
| K Yathavan                | SM Liebenberg        | K L Riemer            |
| C L Cronje                | E Munsamy            | L E Dietrich          |
| S F C van der Wath        | I Kalayamotho        | G Priest              |
| M G Magwaza               | MC van Eeden         | T Rangasamy           |
| J Brits                   | TF Ngobeni           | D P Venter            |
| I G Moseru                | R Saltanat Pouri     | F A Koen              |
| T Ntsenyana               | O Dagume             | L U Bronkhorst        |
| I P Nadisheba             | T Hudson             | GdT Judeel            |
| C Muirhead                | C Pieterse           | G More O'Ferrall      |
| M D Riley                 | G Janse van Rensburg | J M Jansen van Vuuren |
| G MacNab                  | M Gordon-Watt        | N Singh               |
| D van Heerden             | G Davie              | L van Aswegen         |
| CA Swart                  | K Rapholo            | J P E Hamman          |
| C Mutsvanga               | SI Zwane             | J van Oort            |
| P Bezuidenhout            | S Dlamini            | S Poczik              |
| P G Boshoff               | MJ Mathoma           | P Lehong              |
| Ms L Kawali               | A Muchatibaya        | C Miller              |
| Ms Z P Sithole            | T Sibiya             | B N Viljoen           |
| Ms S J Etchells           | MM Mvunge            | J J Thompson          |
| P R Shiri                 | T Sephaphati         | G J van Hout          |
| N Harijhan                | DS Mabunda           | X Mkwanzani           |
| G J King                  | F Sengani            | A Cooper              |
| C J Brink                 | ML Ntangi            | J C Esterhuyse        |
| T P Pule                  | MK Sekgobela         | R Armstrong           |
| GMHN Jansen van Vuuren    | AG Ndhukwani         | Passion Pabwe         |
| D Truter                  | K Radiphophi         | O M Barei             |
| T Q Selete                | G Ramashia           | DAW Lamprecht         |
| O F Mmutlane              | MG Nelufule          | GD Cox                |
| Henik Kruger              | J J Laas             | L Cilliers            |
| Cassius Selai             | J.J. VAN WIJK        | D E Scholtz           |
| Y Arunachellan            | N V Manganye         | H J Greeff            |
| D Avutia                  | Sumaya Khan          | E O Makinen           |
| E Mathonsi                |                      | Prof T R Stacey       |
|                           |                      | N J van der Merwe     |
|                           |                      | G van Aswegen         |



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## Advertising

The **SANIRE** Committee has decided to increase the advertising opportunities for suppliers who would like to market their business and products in the **Rock Talk**.

The table below indicates the prices for different size advertisements as well as bookings for the future.

Please contact **Alida Hartzenberg** for more details

[Alida.hartzenberg@lonmin.com](mailto:Alida.hartzenberg@lonmin.com)

| Type of advert          | Rates (Excl. VAT)<br>Solus, Casual | Availability<br>per newsletter | Mar-18   | Jun-18   | Sep-18   | Dec-18   |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Square (Not front page) | R 1 000                            | 4                              | 1 Booked | 1 Booked | 2 Booked | 2 Booked |
| Skyscraper (Front page) | R 4 000                            | 1                              |          | 1 Booked | 1 Booked | 1 Booked |
| Full page (Middle)      | R 8 000                            | 2                              | 1 Booked | 1 Booked |          |          |



# SANIRE

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ROCK ENGINEERING

**Vision:**

*To actively promote the South African Rock Engineering profession*

**Mission:**

SANIRE promotes the advancement of the Rock Engineering discipline by encouraging and promoting:

Interest and the development of education in Rock Engineering

Professional practice and high ethical standards

Networking, collaboration and information exchange

Research areas

**Values:**

- Honesty
- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Accountability
- Transparency

**Contact Information:**

Phone: +27 (0)73 426 5180

Fax: +27 (0)86 471 8199

E-mail: [accounts@sanire.co.za](mailto:accounts@sanire.co.za)

[info@sanire.co.za](mailto:info@sanire.co.za)

P O Box 463, Stilfontein, 2550, South Africa

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Did you  
KNOW?

**Five South Africans have been  
awarded with the Rocha medal**

**1990 - R.K. Brummer**

**1999 - A. Daehnke**

**2001 - D.F. Malan**

**2003 - L.M. Andersen**

**2018 - M. du Plessis**

## Editor's Corner

*This is your newsletter and I would like to hear from you.*

*If you have any information or stories that we can use, please submit them via email to*

**[alida.hartzenberg@lonmin.com](mailto:alida.hartzenberg@lonmin.com)**

*Your feedback will be highly appreciated.*