

President's Page



Students

The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM) places a high value on its student members, for these people will ultimately become corporate members and will, it is hoped, play an active role in the affairs of the Institute.

Why should young persons at University or Technikon want to become members of our Institute? There are several reasons.

Firstly, they will be making a significant move into the profession in which they expect to spend the rest of their lives.

Secondly, they will receive the **Journal**, which will expose them to research that is being carried out, and keep them informed of activities within the industry. During their years of study, when they are acquiring a great deal of knowledge, it is important for students to realize that this knowledge has some relevance in the world outside the University or Technikon.

Thirdly, student members are invited to become involved in the activities of the Institute by attending colloquia and branch meetings. As an added encouragement to student members to attend colloquia, they can do so at reduced prices. The branches of the SAIMM have developed a number of activities aimed at students. The annual Mineral Processing Symposium held by the Western Cape Branch encourages post-graduates to present progress reports on their projects. The Pretoria Branch holds seminars during which project work is presented. The Johannesburg Branch hosts an evening function at which invited guests from the industry can hear a presentation on the best project or thesis in mining and metallurgy by undergraduates at the University of the Witwatersrand and Technikon Witwatersrand. These are important occasions at which student members are able to meet seasoned members of the Institute.

The Institute also encourages its student members to strive for higher levels of academic performance. This is done through the award of the following student prizes.

UNIVERSITIES

- **Student Prize.** This is a prize (R400 plus certificate) for a thesis written for a final-year B. Sc. Engineering degree. The thesis is selected by the university for submission under the three main interests of the Institute:

Mining
Extraction Metallurgy
Physical Metallurgy.

A prize is awarded annually under each topic, provided that the Awards Sub-committee gives an average mark higher than 75 per cent. The prizes are presented at the Annual General Meeting. All student members at every university in South Africa are eligible.

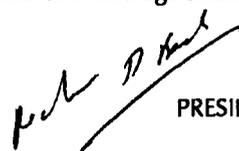
- **Prestige Prize.** This prize (R500 plus certificate) is awarded to the best student in the Department of Mining and Metallurgy at the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Pretoria. The best student is nominated by the Head of the University Department concerned, academic achievement, as well as non-academic activities, such as active membership on student councils or committees, being taken into account. The prize is awarded only when a student of sufficient all-round merit is available, and might not be awarded every year. This prize is presented at the university's graduation ceremony.
- **Book Prize.** A cheque for R250 is awarded to the best fourth-year student in the field of mining and metallurgy at the Universities of Pretoria and the Witwatersrand. This prize is presented at the university's graduation ceremony.

TECHNIKONS

- **Prestige Prize.** A prize (cheque for R400 and certificate) is awarded to the best final-year student of the four-year course for the National Diploma for Technicians, or the National Higher Diploma in mining or metallurgy. An aggregate of 80 per cent or higher is required for a student to be eligible for this award.
- **Masters Diploma in Technology.** A prize (cheque for R500 and Silver Medal) is awarded to the best student at the completion of the fifth year of the Masters Diploma in Technology in Mining Engineering, and the best student at the completion of the fifth year of the Masters Diploma in Technology in Metallurgy.
- **Third-year Student** (not proceeding to fourth year). A prize (cheque for R400 and certificate) is awarded to the best student, who must have averaged 80 per cent throughout the course.

I believe that these attempts to encourage academic performance in the fields of mining and metallurgy are very important.

I urge our student members to strive to win these prizes, and ask all the members of our Institute to encourage students in our fields of interest to join the SAIMM.



PRESIDENT