



DOWN TO EARTH



Newsletter of the Department of Earth Sciences, U.W.O.

Friday October 10, 2008

News Alert

N. Banerjee

Journey Toward The Center Of The Earth: One-of-a-kind Microorganism Lives All Alone
ScienceDaily (Oct. 10, 2008) — The first ecosystem ever found having only a single biological species has been discovered 2.8 kilometers (1.74 miles) beneath the surface of the earth in the Mponeng gold mine near Johannesburg, South Africa. There the rod-shaped bacterium *Desulforudis audaxviator* exists in complete isolation, total darkness, a lack of oxygen, and 60-degree-Celsius heat (140 degrees Fahrenheit).

New research published by **Gordon Southam**, **Greg Wanger**, and colleagues in this week's issue of *Science* has been highlighted on Sciencenews.org, ScienceDaily.com and other news outlets. Read more about the article and see their images at:

- http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/37478/title/Community_of_one
- <http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/80beats/2008/10/10/deep-in-a-goldmine-an-ecosystem-of-one/>

Access the [original journal article](#)

Congratulations Gord and Greg!



Geophysics Travel Scholarship

Call for Applications: Awarded to students who are travelling to scientific conferences that are related to their thesis research. The scholarship is available to fourth year honors undergraduate Geophysics students and to full-time students registered in the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Students must have an average of B+ or higher. Any one student will be limited to one travel scholarship per MSc program and two for the PhD program. However, at the discretion of the Selection Committee, a student may be awarded one additional scholarship, provided that it does not deny an award to another

qualified applicant who has received fewer Geophysics Travel Scholarships.

Deadline: October 31, 2008.

Value: \$1,000.

Apply by letter addressed to Dr. Kristy Tiampo, with a copy of your abstract approved for the meeting which is the subject of your application.



Xstrata Scholarship Program for 2nd-4th year Engineering and Geology students

Xstrata's University Engineering Scholarship program provides financial assistance and valuable practical work experience to students who are studying engineering at a Canadian university and are interested in pursuing a career in engineering that is relevant to the mining industry and with Xstrata. The Scholarship is valued at \$8,000 per academic year to assist with educational costs. The bursary is paid directly to the student by Xstrata in two instalments of \$4,000 at the commencement of each academic term as long as the student progresses successfully in their course of study and meets the scholarship conditions.

Students also participate in paid summer vacation employment that is appropriate to their level of education and experience at one of the Xstrata Canada operations from May-August during their second and third year.

Eligibility:

- fulltime student at a university in Canada
- must be enrolled and attending a fulltime engineering or co-op engineering program, or geology program
- has completed their first year of study in engineering
- are currently engineering students in second, third or fourth year of university

