His ability as a teacher and a researcher has been widely recognised both nationally and internationally. He has held visiting教授 appointments at the University of California at Santa Cruz, Ben Gurion University, Israel, and the University of Cape Town, and was a visiting senior researcher at the John Innes Research Institute in the United Kingdom. He has also served on a number of important committees, the most notable being the Mining Naudé Commission of Enquiry into the position of National Botanic Gardens of South Africa. The findings of this commission had far-reaching implications for botany and resulted in many changes now being implemented by the National Botanical Institute.

Christopher Cresswell has always had a passion for and loyalty to his major discipline, botany. He was a founding member of the South African Association of Botanists, which he served with distinction as a Council member and President. His contributions were recognised by the award to him of the Association’s Senior Medal and honorary life membership. A recent issue of the South African Journal of Botany was dedicated to him in honour of his services to botany.

He has received many other awards and honours in recognition of his enormous contribution not only to botany but to science in general. Some of the most noteworthy were: his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa; the Claude Leon Harris Foundation Award; Fellowship of the University of Natal; the Gold Medal of the South African Association for the Advancement of of Science, and an Honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of Natal.

Christopher Cresswell has always been an inspiring lecturer, research worker and supervisor of postgraduate students, many of whom now hold senior positions at universities and in the private sector. He is fondly remembered by all who have worked with him as a person of outstanding integrity. Above all he will be remembered as a caring human being who, despite his busy schedule, would always find time to listen and offer wise counsel and advice to all who sought it.

How fitting it is that, in the year in which it celebrates the seventy-fifth anniversary of its foundation, the University should show its deep appreciation of the dedicated services of Christopher Cresswell to its academic well-being, the advancement of botany, science in general and tertiary education in particular, by conferring on him its highest degree, that of Doctor of Science honoris causa.

HONORARY GRADUATE

Desmond Aubrey Pretorius

Born in Johannesburg in 1925, Desmond Pretorius attended Marist Brothers College, where he matriculated in 1942 with a first-class pass. From 1942 to 1948 he attended the University of the Witwatersrand, where he obtained the Bachelor of Science (Engineering) degree cum laude in Mining Geology in 1946 and the Master of Science (Engineering) degree also in Mining Geology in 1948. In 1970 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by this university.

Between 1947 and 1959 Desmond Pretorius worked in most countries throughout eastern and southern Africa, and in Greece, Egypt and Iraq. The thirteen years were spent working for government geological surveys, mining companies, exploration organisations, private consultants and international aid schemes.

In 1959 Desmond Pretorius returned to South Africa to head the then newly established Economic Geology Research Unit, an institution that was founded for applied research, and jointly sponsored by the Chamber of Mines of South Africa and the University of the Witwatersrand. EGRU, as the Research Unit is commonly referred to, was nurtured through infancy and guided to excellence in maturity over a period of thirty years by Professor Pretorius, who put to good use his practical experience gained in the years prior to his appointment as its Director. In this position he also held an ad hoc interim Chair of Exploration Geology at the University, a distinction conferred on him in 1961, and he fostered relationships with the mining industry in the formulation of strategy and tactics for mineral exploration, particularly in South Africa, but also in the southern hemisphere as a whole. He retired from EGRU in December 1990.

Whilst he was at EGRU Professor Pretorius pioneered the application of quantitative sediimentology in exploration as well as its use in the exploitation of the gold deposits of the Witwatersrand. The approaches he developed have been applied in paleosol placer gold-sediments districts throughout the world. The work was not only important to industry in its search for new deposits and in extending known ones, but was also seminal to the basic understanding of the processes by which these greatest of all gold deposits and their host strata were transported and laid down. A second major research contribution was work on the tectonic evolution and framework of southern Africa, which has given new insights into the metallogeny of this vast region and the origins of its all-important immense reserves of gold, diamonds, chrome, platinum-group metals, and manganese.

Also whilst at EGRU Professor Pretorius made the Unit a vehicle whose role the industry in other developed nations of the western world would do well to contemplate. It was he who brought the unit to rich fulfillment of its original mandate of effecting improved interaction between the minerals industry and the academic environment. Industry benefited in improved efficiency in exploration and utilisation of mineral resources, and the science of Economic Geology gained vastly improved basic knowledge of ore deposits. EGRU became the prototype of three other comparable organisations in southern Africa: in Cape Town, Pretoria and Harare. Professor Pretorius was also consulted by the Australian mining industry which investigated the setting up of a similar organisation in that country during the 1970s.

Desmond Pretorius played a decisive role in training, supervising and monitoring numerous masters and doctoral candidates, whose work, among that of others, led to the wide dissemination of quantitative sedimentological techniques of ore-resource evaluation. His role as a teacher who presented stimulating lectures to generations of undergraduates at Wits and elsewhere has similarly been of inestimable benefit to the mining industry. Many of his students have distinguished themselves and today hold senior and influential positions both in the mining industry and in academia.

Professor Pretorius has held visiting professorships in the United States and Australia and has been an invited speaker at universities and research institutions in Germany, Switzerland, Canada, the United States, Australia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.
A long list of awards stand to his credit. In 1949 the Geological Society of South Africa conferred on him the Corstorphine Medal for his Master of Science dissertation. The Geological Society of South Africa presented him with its highest award, the Draper Memorial Medal. In 1981 he received an Honorary Fellowship of the Geological Society of America, 'a singular honour given by the Society to individuals who are not residents of North America who have distinguished themselves as geological investigators'. In 1986 honorary life membership of the Geological Society of South Africa was awarded to him. The highest award of the Society of Economic Geologists, the Penrose Gold Medal, was presented to Professor Pretorius in St. Louis, USA, in 1989. In 1990 the Geological Society of London conferred on him the William Smith Medal, awarded for distinguished achievement in the field of applied geology. The most recent honour bestowed on Professor Pretorius was the Brigadier Stokes Memorial Award for 1993, presented to him by the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. In doing so the SAIMM stopped, for the first time in its history, outside a confining practice that limited honours to the technologies of mining or metallurgy, or to the captains of the industry which it serves, and in its hundredth year selected a geologist for its highest accolade.

Desmond Pretorius has contributed enormously to the science of Economic Geology both within South Africa and around the world. His dignified presence has made him a legend among his contemporaries and his students and fellow scientists at UFS and in the Department of Geology at Wits. All benefited enormously from the discipline he instilled in the working environment as well as the rewards he extended for a job well done.

The University is proud to be able to express its appreciation of the lifelong irreplaceable work of one of its distinguished graduates by conferring on Desmond Aubrey Pretorius the highest honour it can bestow, the degree of Doctor of Science 'honoris causa'.

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