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### ***NCKRI News and Announcements for 2022-12-28:***

#### **Raise Your Glass to the International Year of Caves and Karst!**

##### **Job, Student, and Researcher Opportunities:**

- **Funding Opportunity for Bat Protection**
- **Applications Accepted for Undergraduate Research Program**
- **30<sup>th</sup> International Karstological School: Karst – Approaches and Conceptual Models**
- **Undergraduate Research Opportunities in Cave and Karst Science: Call for Applications**
- **International Course: Characterization and Engineering of Karst Aquifers**

##### **Recent and Upcoming Publications:**

- **Newest ISCA Newsletter Now Available**

##### **Various News:**

- **Vandalism of Australian Rock Art Cave Site**

##### **Conferences and Meetings**

- **14th International Pseudokarst Symposium: Registration is Open**
- **Sinkhole Conference: Free Short Courses!**
- **List of Upcoming Cave and Karst Meetings**

Please contact the people and organizations listed below for more information, and feel free to share this message with anyone who may be interested.

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#### **Raise Your Glass to the International Year of Caves and Karst!**

The International Year of Caves and Karst is coming to an end. At midnight on 31 December, join friends of caves and karst around the world and raise your glass to toast the International Year. Toast its many successes in over 800 events in dozens of countries. Also, toast the new year and pledge to continue your work to support caves and karst in whatever ways you can in the years ahead

Share photos of your toasts by tagging them to #iycktoast. This will be the final event of the International Year. Let's make it is big one!

If you do not use social media and cannot use #iycktoast, send your photos for posting to a friend who is on social media. Join us!

Also, many you have sent in late but very welcome report on your International Year events. Thank you! Please continue sending reports, old or new, on any activity that promotes or teaches or excites people about caves and karst, no matter how small, should be sent to our fabulous website manager, Jasmina Rijavec ([webmaster@uis-speleo.org](mailto:webmaster@uis-speleo.org)), in the simple format you see on the website:

Location:

Date:

Event name:

Event description:

Event report: [usually one or more simple links to websites, social media, and/or news media reports]

Thank you again for supporting the International Year of Caves and Karst.

George Veni

UIS Past-President, 2017-2022

Executive Director, National Cave and Karst Research Institute

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### **Funding Opportunity for Bat Protection**

A new funding opportunity from the US Department of Energy Wind Energy Technologies Office is seeking proposals to develop bat deterrent technology for wind turbines. For more information, visit: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/wind/articles/weto-releases-28-million-funding-opportunity-address-key-deployment-challenges>

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### **Applications Accepted for Undergraduate Research Program**

Applications are now open for The University of Texas at Austin's Environmental Science Institute's summer undergraduate research program, which offers a

fantastic opportunity for students to engage in environmental science and sustainability research. The program is aimed at rising juniors and seniors and open to students who are U.S. citizens in good academic standing. The program description in the link below does not describe caves and karst, but such work is very much supported. We especially invite applications from members of traditionally underrepresented groups. The deadline to apply is 2 February 2023. Program information, including the online application, is available at: <https://www.esi.utexas.edu/education/summer-research-experience-for-undergraduates-reu/>. If you have questions, please email us at [esi@esi.utexas.edu](mailto:esi@esi.utexas.edu).

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### **30<sup>th</sup> International Karstological School: Karst – Approaches and Conceptual Models**

On 19-23 June 2023, the Karst Research Institute will host the 30th International Karstological School in Postojna, Slovenia. It will be dedicated to various approaches to karst research and the development of conceptual models. Early studies of karst in Europe date back to the 16th century, where researchers focused mainly on the movement of groundwater, large springs, ponors and sinking rivers, and some caves. In the 19th century, modern scientific methods began to be applied, focusing mainly on geomorphology, but soon expanding to other areas of research. Karst research is highly interdisciplinary and has made great progress in recent years. Modelling studies and conceptual models have given us a rich new understanding of karst, speleogenesis, karst aquifers, and ecosystems. As research methodologies and technologies have greatly improved over the past decade, the theme of the 30th anniversary of IKS is a more than justifiable choice.

We welcome you to participate!

For more information:

ORGANIZER

Karst Research Institute ZRC SAZU

Titov trg 2

SI - 6230 Postojna

T: (+386) 5 70 019 00

E-mail: [iks@zrc-sazu.si](mailto:iks@zrc-sazu.si)

Web: <http://izrk.zrc-sazu.si/en>

Contact: Astrid Švara ([astrid.svara@zrc-sazu.si](mailto:astrid.svara@zrc-sazu.si))

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## **Undergraduate Research Opportunities in Cave and Karst Science: Call for Applications**

Dear all,

This upcoming summer we are going to be hosting for the second time the REU site: UROCKS (Undergraduate Research Opportunities in Cave and Karst Science) at James Madison University. UROCKS is the first and only REU dedicated to study different aspects of cave and karst research in the US.

We are currently looking for 10 undergraduates for the duration of the program (May 22nd to July 28th, 2023). Successful applicants will be provided the following:

- \$600/week stipend + \$100/week for food allowance
- Transportation (airfare or mileage)
- Housing (10 weeks)
- Professional development sessions
- social events
- Field and lab experience

UROCKS is open to everyone that is enrolled as undergraduates at a two or four-year US-based institution. Per NSF regulations, applicants must be U.S. citizens, naturalized citizens, or permanent residents of the United States. Applicants must be rising sophomore, junior, or senior undergraduate students at the start of the REU. Applicants must be willing to commit for the entire 10 week residential summer program. Students from underrepresented groups and first generation college students are highly encouraged to apply.

To learn more and apply, please visit <https://www.jmu.edu/geology/urocks/index.shtml> - Application deadline is January 31st, 2023. Send inquiries to Dr. Ángel A Garcia Jr: [garci4aa@jmu.edu](mailto:garci4aa@jmu.edu)

Dr. Ángel A. García Jr., Assistant Professor  
Chair of the Geological Society of America's Diversity in the Geosciences  
Committee  
Department of Geology and Environmental Science  
James Madison University  
[Garcia's](#) Group

Are you an Undergraduate and interested in Caves?, please see: [REU site: Undergraduate Research Opportunities in Cave and Karst Science \(U-ROCKS\)](#)

Thank you!

[Note: While the names are similar, this is not NCKRI's UROCK program, which is based at New Mexico Tech, but we at NCKRI support all cave and karst educational programs.]

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### **International Course: Characterization and Engineering of Karst Aquifers**

The international course Characterization and Engineering of Karst Aquifers (CEKA) will be held in Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina from May 29 to June 4, 2023. As part of the course, a celebration of the decennial anniversary of this expert course in the field of karst hydrogeology will be organized.

At the beginning of the course, a Ceremonial Academy will be held on the occasion of 15 years of existence and work of the Centre for Karst Hydrogeology (CKH), furthermore a Workshop will be held, with lectures by eminent experts dealing with karst hydrogeology, who will later be lecturers at the decennial CEKA course.

For more information: <http://www.karst.edu.rs/en/index.html>

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### **Newest ISCA Newsletter Now Available**

Dear ISCA Members and Friends,

As you can see, the first International Show Caves Association (ISCA) newsletter of the year is coming earlier than expected (the reason is I'm leaving tomorrow until January 4th!).

Please, follow the following [link](#) to download it:

- [ISCA Newsletter: January & February 2023](#)

I wanted to wish you all a Happy New Year and I really wish all your dreams come true.

Thanks for being there, and Merry Christmas!

Best,

Juanjo Tíscar Moya  
ISCA Secretary

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### **Vandalism of Australian Rock Art Cave Site**

The Nullarbor Plain is the largest arid/semiarid karst landscape in the world (220,000 km<sup>2</sup>). It has been identified as having World Heritage values. Although incompletely explored, more than 5,000 karst features including many caves—some large and long. Many of the caves have values to the indigenous people of the area for access to water, flint mining, and various types of art. Pre-eminent amongst these is Koonalda Cave—perhaps “was” is the correct word following the vandalism reported below (although access to the cave was gained by digging under a substantial steel gate, not barbed wire as the article says):

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-64049711>

Andy Spate

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### **14th International Pseudokarst Symposium: Registration is Open**

Dear Members and Friends of the Pseudokarst Commission

I cordially invite you to participate in the 14th International Pseudokarst Symposium, which will take place on 22-26 May 2023 in the Stołowe Mountains, Sudetes (Poland). Participation in it will be possible both in person and online, but of course participation in person will be much more profitable. I am attaching the 1<sup>st</sup> Communicate and the Application Form. Information about the Symposium will also be available soon on its website:

<https://14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com/> ,

Cordially inviting you, I wish you all the best for the Christmas Season and New Year!

President of the UIS Pseudokarst Commission  
Jan Urban

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### **Sinkhole Conference: Free Short Courses!**

Did you know that for the first time, short courses are included in the price of registration at the Sinkhole Conference?!

The *Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst* (usually referred to as "the Sinkhole Conference") is the longest-running international conference of its type. Since 1984, engineers, geologists, hydrologists, land managers, biologists, and many others have gathered at these meetings to exchange cutting-edge information on karst and its many benefits and challenges.

Its short courses are taught by leading experts in the field and celebrated in excellent reviews. They are opportunities for students and long-time professions to expand and/or refresh their skills and knowledge of various engineering and environmental aspects of karst research and management.

The 17th Sinkhole Conference will be held at the University of South Florida campus in Tampa, Florida March 27-31, 2023. Many great papers have been submitted, two excellent field trips are planned, and there will be much more to see and do.

To register for information about the conference, visit <http://www.sinkholeconference.com/>.

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### **List of Upcoming Cave and Karst Meetings**

*If you are interested in any of the following events, contact the following websites or organizers directly for more information.*

- 1) [GeoModelling/VisualKARSYS N4 Course](https://www.visualkarsys.com/), 22-23 February 2023 (online),
- 2) [17<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst](http://www.sinkholeconference.com/), 27-31 March 2023 (Tampa, Florida, USA),

- 3) 4<sup>th</sup> International Planetary Caves Conference, 4-7 May 2023 (Haria Municipality, Lanzarote, Spain), <https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/4thcaves2023/>
- 4) Clay Minerals Society Conference: Karst Trip, 20-25 May 2023 (Austin, Texas, USA), <https://cvent.utexas.edu/event/b8822615-d0e8-4730-89e4-2ef519cbeb5b/summary>
- 5) 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst, 22-26 May 2023 (Sudetes, Poland), <https://14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com/>
- 6) National Speleological Society Convention, 26-30 June 2023 (Elkins, West Virginia, USA), <https://caves.org/convention/convention-registration/>
- 7) 37<sup>th</sup> Brazilian Congress of Speleology, 26-29 July 2023 (Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil), <https://www.cavernas.org.br/37-congresso-brasileiro-de-espeleologia/>
- 8) Summer School on Speleothem Science, 6-13 August 2023 (São Paulo, Brazil), <https://www.speleothemschool.com/s4-2023>
- 9) Geological Society of America Convention, 15-18 October (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA), <https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2023/home>
- 10) 3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Karst, Speleology and Enhancement of Natural Heritage, 2-5 November 2023 (Rabat, Morocco), <https://speleorabat23.sciencesconf.org/>
- 11) 9<sup>th</sup> US Geological Survey Karst Interest Group Workshop, 22-24 October 2024 (Nashville, Tennessee, USA), <http://www.usgs.gov/kig-workshop>
- 12) 19<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology, 20-27 July 2025 (Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil), for preliminary information see volume 63-1 of the UIS Bulletin at <http://uis-speleo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/uisb631.pdf>