Firstly I would like to thank the AIG for their support and decision to fund my bursary application, it has been of great personal and professional benefit. The ‘Meeting of the Americas’ was an international conference run by the American Geophysical Union held at Foz do Iguaçu in southern Brazil between the 8th and 13th of August 2010. The conference was a great success and attracted more than 1700 delegates from around the world.

There were many benefits I gained from attending the Meeting of The Americas and presenting results from the first module of my PhD. Learning to effectively and concisely communicate scientific data within a 10-15 minute window was an important skill I developed further at this conference. This was followed by opening up the floor for discussion with other scientists in the audience. Answering questions and being challenged to think differently about my results was also of great benefit and through this forum I made a number of new connections with other scientists. These connections have lead to the possibility of continuing further work and research in the disciplines of plate tectonics, past climate and Earth’s biogeochemical evolution.

In addition to this, presenters in this session were invited to submit a manuscript to a special publication in the journal Gondwana Research, which has a high impact factor of 4.6. Last week I received confirmation that the manuscript I submitted has been accepted by the chief editor and has been sent out for peer review.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank the AIG for supporting me to attend this conference and opening up future opportunities in my professional career. I have attached two slides from my talk showing the title and subject of my work and also a summary slide showing the most important points from my presentation. I would welcome the opportunity to talk further with AIG members of my experience and to encourage other student members to apply for such valuable bursaries.
The Toekems basin, Namibia – Evidence for mid-Cryogenian low latitude glaciation

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The Chuos glacial interval regarded as Sturtian in age as it overlies U-Pb date of 756 ± 2 Ma (Hoffman et al., 1996)

However the basal pegmatite from Toekems is 763 ± 5.2 Ma indicating initial sedimentation predated this by some time

There is glacial influence on significant amount of sediments within the Toekems basin and no break in sedimentation prior to the Chous...

This basin may preserve sediments from a pre-Chuos (Sturtian) Neoproterozoic glaciation (Note: age constraint currently only based on single pegmatite sample)

Palaeogeographic reconstructions suggest these glaciers were within the tropics, very near to the equator