West Virginia University

2008 - 2009

Annual Report

Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration
# Table of Contents

Introduction .............................................................................................................................................. 5

West Virginia University Department of Mining Engineering and the Student Chapter of SME ........... 5

Department Chairman and SME Student Chapter Advisor - Dr. Christopher J. Bise ......................... 6

President – Adam G. Patterson ............................................................................................................... 7

Vice President – Logan H. Hall ............................................................................................................... 7

Treasurer – Brad Nelson ....................................................................................................................... 8

Secretary – Jacob R. Kerch ................................................................................................................. 8

Program Chair – David R. Eisenhauer ................................................................................................. 9

GEM Coordinator – Perry Longacre .................................................................................................... 9

Media Coordinator – Joshua Pigza ...................................................................................................... 10

SME Student Chapter and Department Members .................................................................................. 11

2009-2010 SME Officer-elects ............................................................................................................. 12

Officer Reports .................................................................................................................................... 13

President’s Report ............................................................................................................................... 13

Treasurer’s Report ............................................................................................................................... 14

Secretary’s Report .............................................................................................................................. 15

GEM Coordinator’s Report .................................................................................................................. 16

SME Student Chapter Meetings .......................................................................................................... 17

Objective of SME Meetings: ................................................................................................................ 17

1st Meeting – Ryan Murray, Murray Energy Corporation ................................................................. 17

2nd Meeting – Wes Shoff, Strata Safety Products, LLC ................................................................. 17

3rd Meeting – Bill Reid, Coal News Magazine .................................................................................. 18

4th Meeting – Mike Fabio, Strata Services ......................................................................................... 18

5th Meeting – Bradley Lewis, ICG AddCar Systems .......................................................................... 18

6th Meeting – Rick Allen & Vince Richardson, Continental Crushing and Conveying ................... 19

7th Meeting – Joel & Jan Hutwelker, Earth Res Group ................................................................. 19

8th Meeting – Patrick Pelley, Morton Salt ......................................................................................... 19

Industry Tours ..................................................................................................................................... 20

Murray Energy's Powhatan No. 6 Mine ............................................................................................... 20
Extracurricular Activities

Beamley Pocahontas Mine .................................................................................. 20
Peabody’s Twenty Mile Mine .............................................................................. 21
ICG ADDCAR Highwall Mining Systems Tour .................................................. 21
Government, Education, and Mining (GEM) ....................................................... 22
8th Grade Day ..................................................................................................... 22
Freshman Social and Recruiting ......................................................................... 22
Engineering 199 Presentations .......................................................................... 23
Annual GEM, Mineral, and Fossil Show ............................................................. 23

Industry’s Conference and Ceremonial Dinners .................................................. 24

Objective ............................................................................................................. 24
MRAC Dinner ...................................................................................................... 24
Bluefield Coal Symposium ................................................................................... 24
“Falsehoods & Fossil Fuels” - Don Blankenship ................................................ 25
SME/WVCMI ....................................................................................................... 25
SME/PCMIA ....................................................................................................... 26
Continental Conveying and Crushing Trip........................................................... 27
Poundstone Fall Lecture – Bart J. Hyita ............................................................... 28
Poundstone Spring Lecture – James L. Laurita, Jr. ............................................... 28
Northern West Virginia Coal Preparation Society ............................................. 29
MINEexpo International – Las Vegas, NV .......................................................... 29
SME Annual Meeting – Denver, CO ................................................................. 30
Company Information Sessions and Interviews ................................................. 31

Extracurricular Activities .................................................................................... 32

Doc’s Picnic ......................................................................................................... 32
Trunk-or-Treat .................................................................................................... 32
Dr. Heasley’s Rafting Trip .................................................................................... 33
SME/SPE Annual Picnic ..................................................................................... 33

Awards and Acknowledgements ......................................................................... 34

PCMIA Mine Design Award .............................................................................. 34
SME Student Chapter Awards .......................................................................... 34
SME/SPE Awards Banquet ................................................................................. 35
Industry Acknowledgments

Graduating Students

Industry Professionals and University Professors

2009-2010 President’s Future Outlook
Introduction

West Virginia University Department of Mining Engineering and the Student Chapter of SME

The mining engineering curriculum at West Virginia University is designed to provide a broad background in mining practice to prepare the students in mining engineering to become professionals. Graduating students are primed for career positions in mining engineering related to operations, mine development, mine design, construction, sales and economics, and management of mines. The Department of Mining Engineering at West Virginia University has established several articulation agreements with related majors at West Virginia University and other West Virginia institutions as conjunctive feeder programs during the 2005 - 2006 academic year. This included cooperative degrees with the Civil Engineering and Geology curriculums at West Virginia University; West Virginia Technical School in Montgomery, WV; and Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College in Logan and Wyoming Counties, WV. These new developments in the mining engineering program have significantly increased student interest and enrollment.

The insurgence of new engineers eager to fulfill the demands of industry has promoted growth in the student chapter of SME at West Virginia University. The student chapter is designed to encourage students in all levels of schooling to participate in educational activities as a group while learning and gaining valuable experience. The student chapter has taken the role to introduce new students into the mining department; network with graduate students, professors, and industry professionals; expose students to all aspects related to mining ranging from conference meetings to underground tours to summer employment; and gain a better understanding about mining while learning priceless leadership skills. The SME student chapter experience is indisputably one of the most significant occurrences in a students’ academic and professional career.
Department Chairman and SME Student Chapter Advisor  
- Dr. Christopher J. Bise

Dr. Christopher Bise is the head of West Virginia University Mining Engineering Department. He stepped into the position in the fall semester of 2006, after the retirement of Dr. Syd S. Peng. Dr. Bise is a Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME) member along with being a member of International Society of Mine Safety Professionals. Dr. Bise holds degrees in B.S, Mining Engineering, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1972, a M.S., Mining Engineering, The Pennsylvania State University, 1976, a Ph.D., Mining Engineering, The Pennsylvania State University, 1980, and finally a M.H.S., Environmental Health Engineering, Johns Hopkins University, 1998. Dr. Bise came to us from Penn State University. On his arrival as Chair of the Mining Engineering department he started taking interest in SME student chapter, and we feel that he will greatly enhance the student chapter with his experience and knowledge.

Dr. Bise grew up in the Philadelphia, PA area and received his undergraduate education in mining engineering at Virginia Tech. From 1972 to 1974, Dr. Bise worked for Consolidation Coal Company as a Resident Engineer for two underground coal mines in eastern Ohio. In 1974, Dr. Bise started graduate studies at Penn State and joined Penn State's mining engineering faculty in 1976, rising from instructor and through the professorial ranks to the George H. and Anne B. Deike Chair. Dr. Bise chaired Penn State's mining engineering program since 1993, and created and chaired the Industrial Health and Safety program since 1996. He is a registered Professional Engineer. On August 31, 2006, Dr. Bise retired from Penn State as Professor Emeritus of Mining Engineering and Industrial Health and Safety. On September 1, 2006, Dr. Bise was appointed C.T. Holland Distinguished Professor and Chairman of the Department of Mining Engineering at West Virginia University.

At the end of the Spring 2009 semester, the student chapter’s advisor, Dr. A. Wahab Khair, retired from his teaching and advising position of 28 years. Dr. Khair was our student chapter advisor for many years. He was always there when our student chapter needed help or advice on any matter. To fulfill this empty advisor position, the 2009-2010 SME Student Chapter officers nominated Dr. Christopher Bise as the new 2009-2010 advisor for the SME Student Chapter. He happily accepted the offer. The officers feel that Dr. Bise can bring an added source of integrity and intellect to the chapter, as well as excellent hard work ethics and industry leadership skills.
2008-2009 SME Officers

President – Adam G. Patterson

Adam Patterson is a Senior Mining Engineering student at West Virginia University. He was born and raised in Charleston, West Virginia where he graduated from George Washington High School in 2005. Adam chose to pursue a degree in Mining Engineering due to his love and respect for coal mining and his families' involvement in the industry. For the last eight generations, at least one man on the paternal side of his family has worked in the coal industry. Adam was elected Vice President after his sophomore year and was in charge of recruiting for the SME student chapter. Currently, Adam is the President for SME WVU Chapter. He worked two summers at CONSOL Energy's Loveridge #22 mine and one summer at Peabody’s Twentymile Mine. Adam will graduate in May 2009 and plans to begin a career in the coal industry with Peabody at the Twentymile Mine.

Vice President – Logan H. Hall

Logan Hall is a junior in Mining Engineering. He was born in Bluefield, WV and raised in the coalfields of Wyoming County, WV. Logan graduated from Wyoming East High School in June 2006. He then chose to follow the Mining Engineering path because of a family heritage in mining and having grown up in the heart of the coalfields. Also contributing to the decision, Logan worked at S&T Welding (which repairs and manufactures mine equipment) all through high school where he discovered just how intriguing and fascinating the mining process really was. He was elected Vice President after his sophomore year and was in charge of various activities in which SME was involved. He has currently been elected to be President for the 2009-2010 academic year. For two summers, Logan interned for Cliffs Natural Resources at the Pinnacle Mine in Wyoming County, WV. For the summer of 2009, he will be interning for Brooks Run, a subsidiary of Alpha Natural Resources. Logan will graduate in 2010 and plans to pursue a career in the coal industry.
Treasurer – Brad Nelson

Brad is a senior in Mining Engineering. He was born in Baltimore, MD and grew up most of his life in Morgantown, WV. Brad graduated from Valley High School in Des Moines, Iowa. He chose to pursue a degree in the Mining Engineering field because of its growing employment demand, sound academic scholarships, and an overall interest in the mining process. Brad worked for Alliance Coal for three summers at their Mettiki Mine where he earned his Miners’ Certificate for the state of West Virginia. He is currently serving as the chapter’s Treasurer after being elected at the end of his junior year. Brad has been a member of SME for 4 years. Brad has currently been accepted into Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, NH where he will pursue a degree in the Law field. Brad will graduate in May of 2009 with one of the biggest graduating classes in the Department’s history.

Secretary – Jacob R. Kerch

Jacob Kerch is a senior Mining Engineering student at West Virginia University. He was born in Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania and grew up in Holbrook, Pennsylvania where he attended and graduated from West Greene High School in 2005. Jacob chose to pursue a degree in Mining Engineering after his freshman year at WVU after learning more about the program. He also has strong ties to the mining industry as he will be the third generation of his family to work in the industry. Currently, Jacob is the secretary for SME WVU Chapter. He has worked for Consol Energy for three summers at a number of their operations including their Blacksville #2 and Enlow Fork mines as well as their corporate headquarters. Jacob will be graduating with his B.S. in Mining Engineering in May of 2009. Upon graduation, he will begin his career with Consol Energy working in southwestern Pennsylvania.
Program Chair – David R. Eisenhauer

David Eisenhauer is a Senior Mining Engineering student at WVU. He was born and raised in Charleston, WV where he graduated from George Washington High School in 2005. David chose to follow the mining engineering path because of a family history and the complexity itself of the mining industry. He has worked for Consol Energy all of his summers during college and recently accepted a full time job at Consol’s new Shoemaker Mine. Dave has been a member of SME for four years and was elected program chair after his junior year of college. Dave has been in charge of setting up every chapter meeting and mine tour that the student chapter has had. Dave will graduate with his B.S. in Mining Engineering in the May of 2009. He looks forward to entering the mining community and hopes to make an impact.

GEM Coordinator – Perry Longacre

Perry Longacre is a West Virginia University Mining Engineering senior from Latrobe, Pennsylvania. He attended Westminster College for three years and received a bachelor degree in physics before attending West Virginia University to study mining engineering. He chose mining engineering because of others he knew that had been successful in the mining industry. Perry did internships with Amerikohl Mining Inc. and Laurel Aggregates in the fields of surface coal, surface aggregate, and underground aggregate mining. He now works for Amerikohl Mining Inc.
Josh Pigza is a senior in Mining Engineering student at West Virginia University. In addition to this he is working on a Geology Minor. Joshua was born in central Pennsylvania and moved around a good bit, finally coming to a rest in Morgantown, where he graduated from Morgantown High School in 2004. Upon entering the engineering school, he declared his major as computer science. However, after one year he did not think this was the right path, and decided on mining engineering. Since entering the program, Josh has been an active member in SME, helping at 8th Grade Day and GEM Show. During the fall 2007 semester he was nominated to the newly created position of Media Coordinator. He was worked as an engineering intern for two years with Foundation Coal. Upon graduation, Josh is looking forward to entering the industry.
### SME Student Chapter and Department Members

#### Seniors

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Alexander</td>
<td>Josh Jackson</td>
<td>David Eisenhauer</td>
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<td>Thomas Appel</td>
<td>Larry Jimison II</td>
<td>Jared Forman</td>
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<td>Matthew Ashley</td>
<td>Jacob Kerch</td>
<td>Mitchel Funk</td>
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<td>Evan Ashworth</td>
<td>Jacob King</td>
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<td>Greg Barclay</td>
<td>Jeffrey Lorimer</td>
<td>Jake Haney</td>
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<td>Matthew Beerbower</td>
<td>Brad Nelson</td>
<td>Kevin Hatfield</td>
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<td>Gabriel Boggs</td>
<td>Adam Patterson</td>
<td>Jeremy Holt</td>
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<td>David Brown</td>
<td>Joshua Pigza</td>
<td>Stephanie Hubbell</td>
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<td>Robert Burke</td>
<td>Ryan Richman</td>
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<td>Kevin Burton</td>
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<td>John Tipton</td>
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<td>Kyle Clark</td>
<td>John-David Schultz</td>
<td>Bryan Troast</td>
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<td>Chad Collins</td>
<td>Christopher Stewart</td>
<td>Michael Curry</td>
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<td>Sean Combs</td>
<td>Charles Strope</td>
<td>Bongani Dlamini</td>
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#### Juniors

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<tr>
<td>David Blake</td>
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<td>Jake Nelson</td>
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<td>Derek Butler</td>
<td>Ian Shaw</td>
<td>Benjamin Parker</td>
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<td>Brian Cappellini</td>
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<td>Justin Wingerd</td>
<td>Alison Sears</td>
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<td>Oliver Conner</td>
<td>Travis Hartsog</td>
<td>Jason Mash</td>
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<td>Samantha Evans</td>
<td>Geoffrey Howe</td>
<td>Devin Milton</td>
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<td>Steven Guenther</td>
<td>Zachary Linn</td>
<td>Drew Morgan</td>
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<td>Katarina Gump</td>
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<td>Nicholas Hajdul</td>
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#### Sophomores

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<tr>
<td>Edward Asuzu</td>
<td>Sarah Hurr</td>
<td>Christopher Rose</td>
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<td>Erik Augenzucker</td>
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<td>Kyle Matthews</td>
<td>William Wallace</td>
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<td>Corey Bodnar</td>
<td>David Miller</td>
<td>Cheston Weese</td>
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<td>Marvin Chambers</td>
<td>Charles Ndlovu</td>
<td>Corey Westerman</td>
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<td>William Craddock</td>
<td>Liem Pham</td>
<td>Austin Gilmore</td>
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<td>Kellen Davis</td>
<td>Michael Dietz</td>
<td>Rachel Grzybek</td>
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<td>Shanna Gidley</td>
<td>Samuel Hesson</td>
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#### Freshman

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<tr>
<td>Nathan Adams</td>
<td>Cody Redmond</td>
<td>Mathieu Gascon</td>
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<td>Bradley Anania</td>
<td>Jared Stein</td>
<td>Alan Hoffman</td>
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<td>Jeremy Ash</td>
<td>Joseph Taylor</td>
<td>William McBrayer</td>
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<td>Matthew Brown</td>
<td>Harold Vass</td>
<td>Jaclyn Powell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justin Breton</td>
<td>Amy Burt</td>
<td>Colton Wise</td>
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2009-2010 SME Officer-elects

President-elect – Logan H. Hall
Vice President-elect – Kevin Hatfield
Program Chair-elect – Jeffrey Lorimer
Treasurer-elect – Sarah Hurr
Secretary-elect – Jared Forman
GEM Coordinator-elect – Alison Sears
Media Coordinator-elect – Katarina Gump
Officer Reports

President’s Report

As the 2008-2009 West Virginia University SME Student Chapter President, I am happy to say that this has been yet another extremely successful year for our chapter and department. All of the effort put forth by our chapter officer’s allowed us to participate in five mine tours, over half a dozen local and national conferences, eight student chapter meetings, several community out-reach events, and dozens of other events.

With enrollment in our student chapter at a recent high of over 100 students, it was the goal of all of the officers at the beginning of last fall to find enough events to participate in so that each student had the opportunity to be an active member. With that being said, I am extremely happy with the events that we attended and can confidently say that participation in our chapter’s events is at a level that it has not seen in recent years.

As I look forward to the group of officers that has been elected for next year, I can without a doubt say that they will lead WVU’s SME Student Chapter to heights it has not seen before. They have already started planning many events for next year and I am extremely happy with the ideas that they have come up with. I wish all of them all the best of luck with next year’s activities.

Lastly, I would like to take this time to thank the various individuals who have contributed to the success of our chapter this year and in the past. First, I would like to thank all of this year’s chapter officers for the hard work they put forth. I would also like to thank all of the Mining Engineering Professors and Staff for their involvement and support of our chapter’s activities. Finally, I would like to thank all the gracious alumni and industry friends that have contributed to the success of our student chapter over the years. It is their support that has made our student chapter as well as the entire Mining Engineering Program at West Virginia University what they are today.

Regards,

Adam G. Patterson
Treasurer’s Report

The 2008–2009 school year was financially sound and productive. The Fall 2008 semester began with approximately $12,000 carried over from Spring 2008. These funds were raised by officers from the previous year. Through donations received early in the Fall semester, this amount was increased to just over $24,000.

Generous donations from the coal industry enabled our student chapter to attend two major meetings– the Las Vegas MINExpo and the annual SME meeting in Denver, Colorado. The trip to Las Vegas cost the chapter approximately $9,000 while Denver was just over $14,000. Money used for the trips to Las Vegas and Denver was spent on airfare and hotel accommodations. Without the donations, travel to the conferences would have been greatly inhibited. Students also attended the SME/WVCMI meeting in White Sulphur Springs. This meeting cost the chapter around $1000, which was used for travel and hotel accommodations. Meetings on campus throughout the semester also required funds of approximately $150 each, used for food and drink.

Our chapter’s funds were well managed and watched closely. The trips to Las Vegas and Denver put more strain on funds than in previous years. We will be finishing out the school year with approximately $8,000 in the bank. These funds should assist the 2009-2010 officers with next year’s events.

Regards,

Brad T. Nelson
Secretary’s Report

During my time as SME secretary for the 2008-2009 academic year, I was responsible for keeping the chapter up to date on upcoming events. Before all of the meetings and other events, I would send out emails to inform the entire chapter of the coming event. I was also in charge of recording the minutes for each of the meetings, keeping an accurate record of all the events and other issues that the chapter needed completed. A calendar was also made up and emailed out to the students at the beginning of each semester that showed the events for the entire semester.

Our student chapter takes pride in giving back to the community, teaching other people about mining and the industry as well as recruiting new engineering students for SME. Some of the events that our chapter co-sponsored, or volunteered at were; the gem and mineral show, the engineering college’s 8th grade day, the freshman social, freshman recruiting, and visiting local high schools to present students with information about the mining industry and mining engineering.

Numerous companies have come to campus this year in order to interview students for potential jobs and internships. Most of these companies have been coal mining companies including Consol Energy, Patriot Coal, Foundation Coal, Peabody Energy, and Alpha Natural Resources among others. These companies offer our students the opportunity to spend their summers working in industry and gaining valuable experience.

The chapter has accomplished many goals this semester and has grown tremendously just in the past year. With the participation the chapter has received, the SME chapter has set itself apart from other organizations on campus.

Regards,

Jacob Kerch
The GEM Chair at West Virginia University is responsible for many things including recruitment, educational programs and student outreach. The recent recruiting has been very successful as can be seen from the increasing number of active SME student members at the University. Also, many students have returned to their High Schools to give presentations promoting the Mining Engineering field of study. Apart from giving the normal in class presentations on the department, a booth was set up to display the many interesting things that mining has to offer at the freshman social event. This event allows the mining students to have more one-on-one time with the prospected students to inform them about our studies and the many exciting events that go on in our department. This year there were a little over 60 in attendance.

The main educational events that were held this year included the annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show and 8th grade day. The Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show is located at the WVGES office at Cheat Lake, WV. This event allows us to show children and their parents the many minerals in which they use every day and talk about how these minerals are mined. It also allows us to give a better perspective on mining in general, as most of what these people know is from the media. This two day event is one filled with many interesting and educational exhibits that people of all ages can enjoy. Each person that attends the SME student chapter booth is given a mineral kit filled with all the minerals they have learned about to take home and enjoy. There were over 400 people in attendance. 8th grade day is an event that is held every year at the College of Engineering to allow 8th graders to get a hands on look at what the different engineering fields have to offer. At the SME booth there were stations set up so that each child could take an unknown mineral and try to identify it by its characteristics such as hardness, luster, fizz test, etc. Twenty students and faculty members volunteered at the booth this year. Both of these events were considered a success not only by us but also by the children’s parents who are anxious to return next year. New to the chapter this year was the Trunk-or-Treat participation. Ten of our student chapter members voluntarily dressed up in Halloween costumes and decorated a student’s truck in representation of SME. The students handed out candy and treats to youngsters as they walked around to each vehicle in search of the infamous “trick or treat.” At the end of the night, two student members were judges for the best costume award of the night. This event displayed our chapter’s generosity and involvement to the community; the kids and parents were both equally thrilled that we cared enough to give the little kids a great Halloween.

All of these events allow us to educate the local children of the importance and severity of the use of minerals in their lives, as well as demonstrate our loyalty to the community for which has supported our University and program for decades. Allowing children to experience this community involvement at such a young age is crucial in their development throughout their lives and could also lead to some recruits with fresh, new ideas in the future.

Earnestly,

Perry Longacre
Objective of SME Meetings:

As part of SME Student Chapter's activities, various guest speakers are invited to present their experiences in the industry. The student chapter tries to bring in a wide variety of speakers from production, preparation, manufacturing, accounting, to cover all aspects of the mining industry. This year the student chapter was able to hold eight chapter meetings. This is due to the great involvement of alumni, industry, and to the hard work of Dr. Khair and David Eisenhauer. Due to their great commitment, they were able to arrange these technical meetings. The meetings were held on Wednesdays at 7 pm, and usually lasted two hours. The meetings provided the students with refreshments and pizza as well as a wealth of knowledge. They began with any important information and upcoming events giving the officers an opportunity to inform the other members. The average turn out rate for these meetings was forty to fifty undergraduate students, six professors, and five to ten graduate students.

1st Meeting – Ryan Murray, Murray Energy Corporation

The first meeting was held on Wednesday, September 10th, 2008. Ryan is currently the vice president of operation for Murray Energy and holds a Bachelors of the Sciences degree from West Virginia University as well as a M.B.A. from the Ohio State University. His talk began with an overview of Murray Energy and their operations. From there it led into the importance of, and the required skills to be a good manager. He also talked on the advantages of being a privately held company and the differences in union and union free mines. There was a good turnout to the meeting, about 55 students, as it was the first one.

2nd Meeting – Wes Shoff, Strata Safety Products, LLC

The second meeting was held October 22nd, 2008. We discussed the upcoming PCMIA conference in Pittsburgh and the Greenbrier trip. The guest speaker was Wes Shoff, President of Strata Safety. His talk focused mainly on the new laws and regulations under the new MINER Act and what Strata is doing to comply with them. He went into detail about the design and approval process for the new strata portable refuge chambers and also expanded on the options available for the for different applications. There were around forty students in attendance.
3rd Meeting – Bill Reid, Coal News Magazine

Dave The third meeting was held November 19th, 2008. We discussed the upcoming Poundstone lecture and the Central Appalachian Section SME West Virginia Coal Mining Institute Conference. Mr. Reid is the president and chief editor of Coal News, a prestigious newsletter in the mining industry. He talked about the current state of the US coal industry and compared it to the past in terms of personnel, mechanization, and production. The main focus of the speech was to talk the upcoming changes in the labor industry in the mines with the generation gap and the problems associated with the very young and inexperienced workforce.

4th Meeting – Mike Fabio, Strata Services

The forth meeting was held March 11th, 2009. This was the first meeting for the spring semester with a great turn out of 50+ students. The guest speaker was Mike Fabio, the president of Strata Services. His main focus was on the new seal regulations under the new MINER Act as well as the options that strata has to offer for these applications. He talk a lot on the new pumpable seal they have to offer as well as the prefabricated overcasts available.

5th Meeting – Bradley Lewis, ICG AddCar Systems

The fifth meeting was held March 25th, 2009. Bradley Lewis is the sales representative for the ICG Addcar highwall mining system. He explained the history behind the design of the system as well as a detailed explanation of how the system works. He also talked about the leasing and owning options and the number of systems in service and the production of each. He gave away three prizes, $100, $50, and $25 for the top three ideas of how to improve the current system. This was a big turnout of around 55 students.
6th Meeting – Rick Allen & Vince Richardson, Continental Crushing and Conveying

The sixth meeting was held April 8th, 2009. Both Rick and Vince are sales representatives for Continental Conveyor and Crushing. They went through the step-by-step process for their belt design program and the parameters that have the most effect on a belt design. They talked about the different systems available thru Continental as well as some pricing information to help with senior design. Overall there were about 40 in attendance. The upcoming years officer election was also held during this meeting.

7th Meeting – Joel & Jan Hutwelker, Earth Res Group

The seventh meeting was held April 22nd, 2009. Jan is the president and founder of EarthRes Group; a consulting firm for the mining industry based out of Philadelphia, Pa. Joel is his brother and was recently hired on to help expand the company. They are both WVU graduates. They gave an overview of the consulting business as well as information on their company and what they had to offer. Their main focus was landfill gas to energy and other forms of renewable energy. They stressed the importance of obtaining the fundamentals of engineering licensing as well as obtaining you professional engineer’s license.

8th Meeting – Patrick Pelley, Morton Salt

The eighth meeting was held April 29th, 2009. This was the last meeting for the 2008-2009 school year and the speaker was Patrick Pelley, a May 2008 graduate of the Mining Engineering program at WVU. Pat is currently the project engineer at Morton Salt’s Fairport mine. His talk was on what an engineer can expect during their first year out of school. He started out with an overview of the company and the salt mining industry. He then expanded on the importance of mechanics and maintenance in the industry.
Industry Tours

Murray Energy’s Powhattan No. 6 Mine
On October 20\textsuperscript{th}, 2008 twenty underclassmen were fortunate enough to tour Murray Energy’s Powhattan No. 6 Mine in Northern Ohio. Our students left early in the morning and traveled two hours to the mine site where they were greeted by mine superintendent Kevin Hughes. While there they first heard a presentation on the history of Murray Energy by Mr. Hughes. Then they went through the necessary safety procedures before heading underground. Students had the opportunity to see their longwall mining system as well as a one of their continuous miner development sections. The tour lasted approximately four hours and when done students were served lunch. Overall this was a very informative tour and helped us recruit several new students to the Mining Engineering Department and SME Student Chapter.

Beckley Pocahontas Mine
On December 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 2008 eight of our senior students along with Dr. Keith Heasley toured ICG’s Beckley Pocahontas Mine. This tour was set up by our great friend Mr. Charles Howard of Howard Engineering. While at the mine our students split into two groups and each toured a continuous miner section. This was a very in-depth underground tour and provided our students ample time to ask questions to the various mine personnel. We also had the opportunity to visit their state of the art preparation plant after coming out from underground. Overall this was a very informative tour and provided our seniors with a great deal of information that they were able to apply to their senior design projects.
Peabody’s Twenty Mile Mine

While in Denver for the 2009 SME Annual Meeting, 18 of our students had the opportunity to tour Peabody Energy’s Twentymile Mine located outside of Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Our students arrived at the mine around 10am on February 26th. When we arrived we were greeted by Human Resources Director Steve Callahan and President of Colorado Operations Walt Scheller. The students were given a brief introduction to the mine before beginning an extensive question and answer session with Mr. Scheller. Our students then traveled underground where they visited Twentymile’s state of the art longwall system. Seeing this mine was a great opportunity for our students. The mine is extremely unique and operates much differently than most of the mines our students have been exposed to during past tours and summer internships.

ICG ADDCAR Highwall Mining Systems Tour

On March 18th, 2009 nearly twenty of our students toured Murray Energy’s Red Bird West Mine located in Brilliant, OH. This is a surface mine employing an ADDCAR highwall mining system. This mine was opened in 2007 and is Mr. Murray’s first large scale eastern surface mining operation. Our students had the opportunity to see this productive highwall mining system in operation. For almost all of our students, this was their first time visiting a surface mine that uses a highwall mining system. Students were given the opportunity to ask questions about the operation before heading back to Morgantown for the evening.
Government, Education, and Mining (GEM)

8th Grade Day

Eighth Grade Day is a special event that the WVU SME Student Chapter does every year to help inform younger kids in the local community about mining, mining practices, mineral identification and uses, and a possible career choice when they enter into college. All participating members of SME are given a particular mineral such as copper, gold, iron ore, coal, etc, to talk to the kids and their parents about. Most of the eighth graders are surprised to know all the uses of common minerals that are a part of our lives, and how our every day conveniences would not be possible without the mining of these minerals. A few of the SME members brought down some illustrations of different mining techniques that are implemented today, and explained the mining process to the students and their parents. They are also informed on the Mining Department at WVU and told what they can expect if they would enroll in the program or if they were to choose mining engineering as a career. This activity is very important to the growth of our mining department and also in informing the community of aspects of the mining industry in which they may not be accustomed.

Freshman Social and Recruiting

This yearly event, held in the fall, is when the students are required to visit a set number of booths to receive credit for one of their freshman engineering classes. All of the organizations involved with engineering attend the event and spit out their recruitment speech. Naturally, this is where we sign up the freshman for the chapter’s mailing list. Once on this list, they will be informed about upcoming events and meetings. Usually 800 – 1000 students show up for the event; obviously, we cannot recruit every individual, but we can implant some mining knowledge into their brains so they understand what mining is and why the world needs it. Taking part of the social is a key player in our recruitment tactics. Generally, we average 200 – 400 names that show up on our mailing list after the event.
Engineering 199 Presentations

Engineering 199 is a class that every engineering freshman must complete. It is a one hour course that gives each and every student a view of each engineering discipline offered at the University. This helps the undecided students make an educated decision about which field they want to enter. Many students in my 199 class as a freshman were befuddled at how intense and complicate the mining process is. Out of our department, Dr. Keith Heasley presents our spill on what our department is about and what we can offer. He starts with listing all of the classes needed to graduate, and then shows our students’ prior work done by previous students in the program. Dr. Heasley explains that there is many types of mining, because a lot of students around West Virginia only see the coal mining industry and none of the aggregates or metals businesses. He ends the presentation with a mining video that showcases all aspects of mines from the immense equipment involved to the finite calculations that must be accounted for.

Annual GEM, Mineral, and Fossil Show

For the seventh consecutive year, officers and members of West Virginia University’s SME student chapter participated in the 16th Annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil show at the WV Geological Center, Mont Chateau, Cheat Lake, WV. SME GEM Coordinator Perry Longacre coordinated this year’s “Minerals for Kids” booth. Twenty students and faculty participated in this event, which teaches youth and their families about ten common minerals that are used in everyday life. Stations were set up for each mineral at which a SME member explains where the mineral originates and its use in society. This was accomplished via items such as iron, cereal, soap, toothpaste, kitty litter, and chewing gum. For our SME Student Chapter members, this event is a great way to provide a service to the community. Many people do not realize how much the items we use in everyday life depend on mining. This event is a good way for children to learn about items they encounter in everyday life and how they all depend on mining. After the children learned about all ten of the minerals, they got to take home a mineral kit of their own. The Society of Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration, Pittsburgh and Central Appalachian Sections, supplied the approximately 350 mineral kits. Approximately 200 children visited our booth this year and attendance has been steadily increasing in the past. Hopefully next year SME will be able to teach 300 children about the importance of minerals and the mining of these minerals.
Industry’s Conference and Ceremonial Dinners

Objective
The student body is very active in various conferences and dinners throughout the year. This year we were able to attend five different conferences and dinners. These meetings allow our chapter to branch out to different companies within the industry. We are very thankful to our department in allowing us to attend such a high amount of meetings. Below are the dinners and conferences:

MRAC Dinner
One event that our students look forward to attending every fall is the Mineral Resources Alumni Chapter Dinner. The Mineral Resources Alumni Chapter is made up of Alumni from both the Petroleum and Mining Engineering Departments. This dinner provides our students with the chance to meet many professionals from both the mining and petroleum industries and also the opportunity to do some networking. This year over 25 students attended this dinner.

Bluefield Coal Symposium
On Wednesday August 27th, 2008 fifteen of our students attended the Bluefield Coal Symposium in Bluefield, West Virginia. This was the first year our student chapter attended this event. The title of the symposium was “Coal Mine Safety: The Road to Zero Harm”. At this meeting our students heard presentations from many highly respected industry professionals including Bill Raney, President of the West Virginia Coal Association; Michael Quillen, Chairman of Alpha Natural Resources; Lou Barletta Jr., Vice President of Safety for Consol Energy; and Richard Whiting, President & CEO of Patriot Coal. This was an excellent event and provided our students with great insight to recent safety practices that are being applied in the coal industry.
“Falsehoods & Fossil Fuels” - Don Blankenship

On Wednesday, November 5th 2008, 7 of our students attended a campus wide presentation by Massey Energy CEO Don Blankenship. The talk was titled “Falsehoods & Fossil Fuels”. Nearly 100 WVU students attended this event, many of whom did not support coal mining. Mr. Blankenship’s speech helped to clear up many of the untruths that a large percentage of the public think about the coal industry. He was quoted as saying, “You have to base things on facts and truth and not on popularity. Telling a story or a truth a thousand times may cause people to think it’s true but it’s still not true.” After the presentation, Mr. Blankenship was kind enough to talk to our students and provided them with great advice that he has learned during his years in the industry.

SME/WVCMI

The SME student chapter attended the annual SME/West Virginia Coal Mining Institute meeting at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. The chapter was well represented with approximately 15 students in attendance. The first evening at the Greenbrier consisted of a welcome reception, where students and faculty mingled with individuals from the mining industry. Several students were invited to join mining professionals for dinner. Presentation of technical papers and presentations was the agenda for most of the next day. Discussion of the current state of coal mining in West Virginia was presented from professionals with varying backgrounds. These included people from engineering, production, and law as it relates to mining.
The 2008 SME / PCMIA annual joint meeting was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in South Pointe, PA on October 30 and 31. The WVU student chapter was able to take twenty three students to the meeting. The SME / PCMIA meeting was an excellent opportunity for students to meet and converse with a number of different companies and industry professionals. This year, the main topic of the meeting was mine safety. The meeting began on the morning of Thursday, October 30, 2009 with the opening session held by Robert P. Kudlawiec of Murray Energy Corporation. Mr. Kudlawiec is also holds a position as Chairperson for SME Pittsburgh Section. Throughout the morning, two technical sessions were held. The topic for session number one was mine rescue and recovery. Susan B. Bealko, NIOSH, and William E. Moser, Murray Energy Corporation spoke on this subject. Technical session number two covered the topic of New Technology where Chairperson John Kovac of NIOSH, and Dr. Jeffery Kravitz of MSHA spoke. Following the Technical Sessions was the Student Luncheon. Robert A. Penigar, PCMPIA President, made the opening address to the students. The Awards Presentation followed the opening address to the students. After the Awards Presentation, students were permitted to visit booths in the lobby that were set up by various mining companies, such as Drager, Bucyrus, CSE, Consol Energy, and Pennsylvania DEP. The day ended with a tour of the new Consol Energy / CNX Gas complex. Following the tour was a reception which was also held at the new Consol Energy / CNX Gas complex.
WVU SME chapter’s annual Continental Crushing and Conveying trip is always one of the many highlights of the school year. Each year Continental, along with representatives Calvin Kidd and Rick Allen, sponsor members of West Virginia University’s SME student chapter to attend the Kanawha Valley Mining Institute Conference in Charleston, West Virginia. Along with sponsoring the SME department to go to the KVMI meeting, Continental also takes the time to set up a mine tour of a local area mine for the students to experience. This year, Continental took the department to Patriot Coal’s Speed Mining, located in Cabin Creek. Once there, mine general manager, Doug Fala, a 2000 graduate of the WVU Mining Engineering program, led us on a tour of their underground longwall mine. A technical representative from Continental also came along and explained many of the different belt drive motors that Continental had newly installed in the mine including variable frequency motors and the new fluid coupling soft start motors. Being underground was a first time experience for many of the students that came along. They were able to leave with a new found knowledge of how an underground mine operates and also experience the kind of environment they would be subject to working in.

After the mine tour, all of the students attending the Kanawha Valley Mining Institute Conference, where they had an amazing dinner planned with lots of door prizes and goodies to give away. The guest speaker at the conference was industry wide known William “Bill” Raney, President of the West Virginia Coal Association. Bill has been fighting for the rights of coal mining and coal miners for more years than most all students on the trip have been alive. Mr. Raney spoke about his recent trip to Washington D.C. and his pursuit to persuade congress in all of their decisions concerning coal mining, especially mountain top removal, and try to convey the importance coal has on this state and nation. Mr. Raney ended his speech by reading the exact words he had spoken to congress in the previous weeks. The next morning, all the students were treated with a light breakfast and a short trip to Massey Energy’s new regional headquarters office right outside of Charleston on Rt. 119. There, the students got to speak with the Vice President of all surface operations for Massey Energy. He invited all of the students to sit down and ask any Massey or industry wide questions that they wanted. After leaving Massey, Calvin Kidd once again outdid himself by treating the department to lunch at Red Lobster. Overall, the trip was fun filled and very educational, and has left all that attended anxious for the next years Continental Crushing and Conveying trip.
Poundstone Fall Lecture – Bart J. Hyita

Bart J. Hyita, chief operating officer-coal for CONSOL Energy, spoke here at West Virginia University on Thursday, Nov. 13, as part of the Department of Mining Engineering's William N. Poundstone Lecture Series. The lecture is free and open to the public, and all attendees are invited to attend a dinner that will follow the lecture. Every member of our SME chapter and the mining department attended the lecture. Hyita's lecture was titled "Current Projects to Increase Coal Utilization." Hyita received his bachelor's degree in mining engineering from the University of Utah with advance certifications in environmental engineering and has over 25 years of management experience at both surface and underground operations. He joined CONSOL Energy in 2001 as Vice President of Coal Operations Support. He then served as Senior Vice President of Administration & Planning before becoming the Chief Operating Officer-Coal. In addition, Hyita has worked for Scottish Power/Pacific Corp and served as Director of Business Development for RAG American Coal Holding Inc. The Department of Mining Engineering established the William N. Poundstone Lecture Series in 2000 to honor Poundstone, a distinguished alumnus of the department, and to bring mining industry experts to campus to share their expertise with students and faculty. The lecture was a valuable learning experience for all of our students.

Poundstone Spring Lecture – James L. Laurita, Jr.

James L. Laurita, Jr., president and CEO of MEPCO, LLC., was the speaker for the Spring 2009 edition of the Department of Mining Engineering's William N. Poundstone Lecture Series. The lecture, entitled "Longview Power: The Completion of a Vision of Sustainability and Reduced Market Risks" gave students an excellent insight to MEPCO’s new state of the art power plant. Laurita, born in Morgantown, began working in the family mining business at an early age and while attending West Virginia University. After receiving his bachelor's degree in mining engineering in 1982 he began working with MEPCO, a privately owned coal company located in Morgantown. While at MEPCO, Laurita held a series of jobs within the company, developing and managing surface and underground coal mining operations. In 1990, Laurita became president of Mepco and expand company's operations, and developed a large quarry operation in Southwestern Pennsylvania. In 2000, he became the Chief Executive Officer. Laurita is a registered professional engineer. MEPCO, LLC., has developed the 685 megawatt Longview mine mouth power plant operation located in Monongalia County, and is currently under construction. Longview will have taken nearly fifteen years to develop and construct, and is the largest single project with respect to dollars spent in the history of West Virginia. The presentation discussed the rationale behind the decisions for a coal producing company to build a power plant, and the required ingredients for success.
Northern West Virginia Coal Preparation Society

The society has been active for over 25 years, promoting the knowledge, experience and technology of Coal Preparation. The society meets on the second Wednesday of each month starting in September and finishing in April. A cocktail mixer starts at 6:00 PM followed by a dinner at 7:00 PM and a great presentation. The student chapter was asked to send two student representatives who express enthusiasm for the coal preparation and mineral processing industry. The two students that attended were Logan Hall and Robert Burke. Dr. Felicia F. Peng, a member of the society also attended with Logan and Robert. Dr. Peng is a faculty member of the Mining Engineering Program at West Virginia University and an expert in the area of Coal Preparation. While at the meeting, the students were able to socialize with coal preparation workers, researchers, and industry suppliers. After the dinner, Logan and Robert accepted $10,000 on behalf of West Virginia University that went towards the scholarship fund of the Mining Engineering Department. Also, to demonstrate their appreciation for attending, the society awarded Logan and Robert individual scholarships of $100 apiece for books, food, and general college living.

MINExpo International – Las Vegas, NV

Last October, sixteen of our student chapter members were fortunate enough to attend the 2008 International MINExpo in Las Vegas. The students were very fortunate for the expo only comes to the U.S. every four years. Out of the sixteen that went, only two had ever been to Las Vegas. While at the expo, students were exposed to the immense networking power the mining industry possesses. The students were absolutely blown away by the 793 Caterpillar rock trucks and the enormous P & H shovel that could eat several school busses. The exhibit rooms were so massive, that it would take all three days at the expo to make it around to every booth. The student chapter had our own booth at the expo where we would pass out information regarding our department’s specifications.

After hard spent days exploring the expo, the chapter would meet up with recent graduates from WVU for dinner and recreation on the strip. Some also attended Joy, P & H, and Continental Crushing and Conveying’s hospitality event at the Harley Davidson Café. Overall, the trip to Las Vegas was well worth the effort in the fact that the students received a great deal of information and also had the time of their lives in the vast city of Las Vegas.
SME Annual Meeting – Denver, CO

The 2009 SME annual meeting, held in Denver, Colorado was a wonderful experience for all that attended. Our student chapter was able to offer this experience to eighteen undergraduate mining engineering students through fund raising and donations from business and industries. All participants returned with a better appreciation and understanding of SME. New and old students were able to meet with professors from across the country at the Student Opening Ceremony and the Student Mixer. All the students were able to learn about the latest techniques and technology that the mining industry has to offer from the companies that were presenting exhibits at the annual meeting, as well as the great presenters and presentations at the technical sessions. While at the SME annual meeting our students were able to attend several dinners and receptions. Included was the Joy and P&H reception where students from all of the schools in attendance were able to interact with each other. Joy and P&H set up a “Casino Night” theme allowing students to gamble with fake money. The fake money then turned to real money when the school with the most fake money won scholarship dollars for their department. These receptions were great opportunities for our students to meet and speak with the leaders in the mining industry. Our students felt great honor while at The SME Coal and Energy Division Luncheon as they saw how industry leaders come together to raise money for SME. The silent auction gave students the chance to bid on mining memorabilia and other collegiate clothing in order to help raise money. The West Virginia University Alumni Reception gave our students the chance to meet and mingle with alumni. While there, the students talked with professors and classmates and shared work experiences and general information about the mining industry. Last, it was a great honor to have new members and alumni at the SME closing dinner. Our chapter was honored to see the president of West Virginia University’s student chapter sitting at the head table. On Thursday, after the Annual Meeting had adjourned, the student chapter travelled northwest of Denver to Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Located there is Peabody Energy’s Twentymile Mine. Students were given a tour of this large longwall mine. This was a great experience for all of the students to see a large western coal mine. Every West Virginia University student that attended the Annual meeting left with a new sense of appreciation for SME. As soon as we returned to the engineering building, it was a buzz with conversations by all that attended the annual meeting. Attendees spread their experiences and new found knowledge with students and professors that were not in attendance. The knowledge gained by attendees concerning networking, alumni, as well as acquired information from sessions was both informative and resourceful. After hearing about the great time those who attended had, twice as many students wish to have exposure to the same experience next year.
Company Information Sessions and Interviews

Being that Mining Engineering is such a close knit society, we are always eager for companies to come speak to the chapter. This year we were able to have many different companies present. After presenting, interviews for interested students are available. Being that Mining Engineering has stood by its 100% job placement over the last 16 years, this is a great way to demonstrate just that. Below are the different companies that came in throughout the 2007-2008 year.
Extracurricular Activities

Doc’s Picnic

Doc’s Annual Picnic was held this year on August 31, 2008. It was hosted as always by Dr. Wahab Khair, who has recently retired from the mining department after 28 years of service. It started at two o’clock in the afternoon with appetizers and drinks consisting of sodas and wings. Then Dr. Khair and his wife prepared hot dogs, hamburger, and various other side dishes. After eating, we all socialized and joined in on playing heated games of badminton. The event lasted on well into the evening. This is a great way to start out the 2008-2009 year while conversing on the past summers work experiences. Also at the Picnic the students have annual badminton games to prove who the best is. Everything goes smoothly until the professors step in and start to dominate. This is the one time for them to destroy the students in a pleasant atmosphere.

Trunk-or-Treat

To expand on our public outreach services, the student chapter participated in the “Trunk-or-Treat” program for the first time ever. The “Trunk-or-Treat” event is put on by the University’s student organizations in which each organization decorates a car or truck with a Halloween theme. All of the participants’ park in a gigantic oval around the band’s practice football field, and small children in their costumes come around to each vehicle and trick or treat, hence the name “Trunk-or-Treat.” At the end of the evening, representatives from each organization come together and judge the best costume competition. To enhance the child’s overall experience, volunteers from our student chapter also dressed up in costumes to make the evening unforgettable to the youngsters. Overall, the event was a huge success that increased SME’s public involvement in the Morgantown area.
Dr. Heasley’s Rafting Trip

Dr. Heasley organizes the greatly anticipated annual whitewater rafting trip on the Cheat River. The department had 14 students embark on the 9.5 mile adventure April 26, 2009. Dr. Heasley led two students in kayaks, while the remaining 12 were led by raft guides. The Cheat River is the home to several Class IV-V rapids which challenged each one of the students. The weather provided us with enough rain to raise the river water level several feet. We ate lunch on the river and were able to get a closer look at the large rapid, Coliseum. Dr. Heasley invited the group to a cookout at his home in the evening. Dr. Khair, Dr. F. Peng, and Dr. S. Peng also attended the cookout. We all enjoyed an exciting trip down the river.

SME/SPE Annual Picnic

The departments of Mining Engineering and Petroleum Natural Gas Engineering work together to hold an annual picnic at Krepp’s Park on May 1, 2009. The picnic included various outdoor activities for all of the students and professors to enjoy. The grill was kept hot for the many hot dogs and hamburgers cooked. The menu also included chicken wings, fruits and vegetables, cake, as well as cookies among other things were also offered. Both departments took advantage of this opportunity to relax at the end of the school year just before finals week. Many students had just finished the semester’s projects and presentations including the sophomore’s Surface Mining report to the senior’s capstone Mine Design Project and presentation. Students of all ages have a great opportunity to learn of our peers’ endeavors over the summer as well as their progress throughout the school year. Both the mining and petroleum departments alike had nearly all enrolled students in attendance throughout the evening. Several of the Mining Engineering professors attended the picnic including Dr. Khair, Dr. Luo, as well as Dr. F. Peng. Many of the professors provided the graduating class with their personal advice of what to expect while beginning their careers in the mining industry. The joint department picnic was a successful way to celebrate the conclusion to another school year.
Awards and Acknowledgements

PCMIA Mine Design Award

At the 2008 PCMIA Annual Conference, Robin Oldham and Patrick Pelley were awarded honorable mention for their 2008 mine design submittal. Their “Stony River Mine” report was submitted in the spring of 2008 and was based on an old Island Creek Mine in Grant and Tucker County, West Virginia. Patrick and Robin have both since graduated from the Mining Engineering Department and are working for Morton Salt and Martin Marietta respectively.

SME Student Chapter Awards

The WVU Student Chapter of the Society of Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration won third place in SME’s National Outstanding Student Chapter Contest for 2008. The contest was based on the chapter’s service and outreach activities. The award was presented to our student chapter at the 2008 SME Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. The chapter also came in second place in the Student Chapter Membership Challenge. In addition, the student chapter of West Virginia University hosted the student forum on the first Sunday the meeting was open. During the forum, our President, Adam Patterson, gave a presentation on the chapters’ overall goals and performances throughout the year. He also conducted the speaking portion of the forum by introducing the speakers as they made their presentations. For the entertainment of the evening, our chapter hosted a “Tug-of-War” contest between each student chapter. The contest entertained many while the students upheld their respected rivalries. South Dakota School of Mines took home the gold in the competition.
**SME/SPE Awards Banquet**

On April 5th, 2009, West Virginia University College of Engineering and Mineral Resources held the annual Mineral Resources Departments Student Recognition Banquet at the Lake View Resort and Conference Center. This banquet was sponsored by the WVU Chapters of Society of Mining Engineers, and the Society of Petroleum Engineers. The Banquet is a chance to recognize outstanding students and teachers in both fields for their outstanding achievements, and their service to the department and student chapters. The first set of awards are voted on by the faculty of mining engineering.

**The Charles T. Holland Award**

To the Outstanding Senior in Mining Engineering Who has Demonstrated a Sincere Interest in Coal and Mineral Processing. This award was presented to Robert Burke.

**MRAC Award**

To an Outstanding Senior Based on Academic Performance, Contributions to Student Organizations, and Industry Involvement. This award was presented to Greg Barclay.
The Old Timers Award

To an Outstanding Graduating Senior in Mining Engineering Based on Academic Excellence, Leadership Qualities, Commitment to Career Opportunities with the Coal Industry and Participation in Extra-curricular School Programs. This award was presented to Adam Patterson.

The Student Chapter of the Society of Mining Engineers of S.M.E. Awards

Faculty Award

To an Outstanding Faculty Member in Mining Engineering. This award was given to Dr. Yi Luo.

Student Award

To a Mining Engineering Student Who has Demonstrated Sincere Interest in the Mining Discipline and Exceptional Service to His Fellow Students. This award was presented to Mike Curry.
The Student Chapter of the Society of Mining Engineers of S.M.E. Officers Award

To a Faculty Member in Mining Engineering who has Demonstrated Superior Dedication to the Mining Profession and Offers a Challenging Atmosphere for Student Growth and Development. This award was presented to Dr. A. Wahab Khair.

The West Virginia Coal Mining Institute Award

To a Senior in Mining Engineering based on Sincere Interest in the Mining Discipline. This award was presented to Jacob Kerch.

The CAREERS IN COAL Award

To a Student Preparing for a Career in Coal Mining Who Has Demonstrated Leadership, Judgment and Maturity. This award was presented to David Eisenhauer.
Mining Engineering Faculty Awards

Based on Academic Performance and Service to the Department of Mining Engineering and the Mining Industry. These awards are divided into undergraduate and graduate. The undergraduate award was presented to Brad Nelson and the graduate awards were presented to David McGraw and Reddy Kallu.

Joy Mining Machinery Scholarship

To the mining engineer who demonstrates a strong interest in the coal industry while demonstrating leadership throughout the student body.
Industry Acknowledgments

Graduating Students

Our student chapter will take an immense hit come May 16, 2009. For 14 of our student members will have graduated with a B.S. in Mining Engineering from West Virginia University. In December 2008, three of the 14 students graduated and went on to pursue their career in the mining industry. The final eleven will graduate on May 16, 2009. We will be losing all of our officers except for the vice president. However, next year’s officers already demonstrate the drive and ethics that will keep this chapter as best in the nation. This graduating class is, perhaps, the biggest graduating class to come through the Department of Mining Engineering at WVU for the last 15 years. On behalf of the Mining Department and the student chapter of SME here at WVU, I am proud to announce that all 14 students experienced 100% job placement throughout the mining industry! This is an amazing feat that cannot be found in many careers. Our students are fortunate to be part of such a tight-knit mining community that can still offer jobs to each and every mining graduate coming out of college. The following is a list of our 2008-2009 graduates with their future company:

Adam Patterson – Peabody Energy
Dave Eisenhauer – Consol Energy
Jacob Kerch – Consol Energy
Greg Barclay – Foundation Coal
Joshua Pigza – Foundation Coal
Kyle Clark – West Virginia University Graduate School
Mike Curry – Foundation Coal
Brad Nelson – Franklin Pierce Law Center
Christopher Stewart – Consol Energy
Charlie Strope – West Virginia University MBA
Jeremy Holt – Consol Energy
Matthew Bonnell – Patriot Coal
Perry Longacre – Amerikohl Mining Inc.
Dale Hazelton – Wood Mackenzie
Industry Professionals and University Professors

The West Virginia University Student chapter of SME would like to extend our gratitude to the following people, companies, organizations, and donators listed on the following page for supporting the student chapter through thick and thin. Due to all the help and support from these people, the WVU student chapter was able to make this year a great experience for all the students. Due to our 8 meetings with guest speakers, the chapter was able to broaden the knowledge of the students in the mining and adjacent fields. The scheme of inviting a number of mining companies to give presentations and talk to students about summer jobs has resulted in 100% job placement for the summer as well as full time jobs. The students were able to choose jobs based on their own choice as well as on their own merit. We had students that worked in underground mines, surface mines, engineering, and coal preparation. The student chapter would like to thank everyone for their support, especially to the donating companies. Without these donations, our chapter would not be able to do a fourth of the activities described in the report. Last but not least, our chapter would like to thank the faculty of the Department of Mining Engineering at West Virginia University for their guidance and support throughout the entire SME experience. On the next page is a list of every professor, organization, and company that demonstrated enormous generosity towards the chapter and the department. Once again, we would like to outstretch our unsurpassed amount of gratitude towards these people.
Professors

Dr. Christopher J. Bise
Dr. Syd S. Peng
Dr. Keith Heasley
Dr. A. Wahab Khair
Dr. Felicia F. Peng
Dr. Yi Luo

Speakers

Ryan Murray
Wes Shoff
Bill Reid
Mike Fabio
Bradley Lewis
Rick Allen
Vince Richardson
Joel Hutwelker
Jan Hutwelker
Pat Pelley

Organizations

SME
PCMIA
MRAC
NWVCPS
KVMI
WVCMI

Companies

Murray Energy Corp.
Strata Safety Products
Strata Services
ICG AddCar
Continental Crushing and Conveying
Joy Mining Machinery
Peabody
Consol Energy
Foundation Coal
Arch Coal
Patriot
Massey Energy
ICG
Coal News
Earth Res Group
Alpha Natural Resources
NIOSH
Alliance
I would like to begin with that I am truly honored to be selected by the SME student body to be their 2009-2010 President. Since I joined SME my freshman year in the Fall of 2006, I have aspired to become something more than just a member in the SME chapter of West Virginia University. I wanted to become further involved in a chapter of national recognition and a history of excellence that can never be surpassed. This past year, I served as the chapter’s Vice President where I obtained a close look of how the chapter and the university worked as a whole. I made mental notes about what I liked and didn’t like as far as chapter participation and communication throughout the community and university alike. In the following year, my fellow officers and I plan on expanding the contribution level of our SME chapter to not only the university, but also to the community as well.

The first plan on enhancing the chapter’s public image and recognition is to double or perhaps triple our community service efforts to the population of Morgantown and its surrounding towns. With new, gregarious GEM and Media coordinators who have tons of fresh ideas from various other community service activities and groups, I plan on implementing new requirements for our SME Student Chapter members. In addition to attending regular SME chapter meetings and out-of-class events, students will also be required to participate in one or more community service activities. To be considered for the SME Annual Meeting and other prestigious trips, the students must have completed their requirements for the corresponding academic term. I feel that these service engagements will not only provide a feeling of self-satisfaction for the student, but also a feeling of reliance from the community.

My second commitment as President is to improve our chapter’s web page with major updates that will turn the web page into a 24/7 information center. I would like to create a calendar at the beginning of each academic year that displays all chapter events on a single calendar that students can access anytime, anywhere. This will relieve pressure of the SME chapter secretary to constantly send reminder emails, and also relieve pressure from the members by always having an immediate source of our chapter’s information. The website will also include all members’ names and email addresses for a quick reference when in doubt.

A third goal I hope to reach next year is implementation of a student mine rescue team. The team will be able to compete with actual mine rescue teams and learn valuable life-saving skills. The team would build character and teamwork as members would practice at least once a week, and three to four times on competition weeks. The vice president and I have already discussed preliminary details of the team with the Director of WVU Mining Extension Service, Jim Dean. Fundraising for equipment would be the only expense, as the WVU Mining Extension Service would provide entry fees for competition and use of the practice facilities. We only the need the commitment of several members of the chapter to get the team started. Mr. Dean and I agreed we are not going to half do it; if we start the team, then he expects everyone involved to give 100%, as so do I. I believe the mine rescue team can become a reality if a good group of guys and gals can come together and make it happen, for it would be an unforgettable experience.
All in all, I simply want the chapter to carry on with prestige and stature as it has so amply demonstrated in the past. I would like to keep old traditions alive and also bring some new traditions to the table. I am surrounded by an astounding group of people that will make success inevitable. Lastly, I would like to thank everyone involved with the SME program which includes faculty members, officers, industry professionals and our generous, active alumni, for their contributions to West Virginia University’s SME student chapter, which has been recognized as the best in the country.

Genuinely,

Logan Hall