SME FOUNDATION & Mii NEWSLETTER

The SME Foundation Buckets

- SMEF General Fund
- SMEF Endowment Fund
- ABET – Accreditation Board for Engineering & Technology
- GEM – Government, Education, & Mining
- Mii – Mineral Information Institute
- MMSA – Past Presidential Scholarship Fund
- Professional Registration Program – PE Exam
- Rong Yu Wan Memorial Research Award
- George V. Weisdack Memorial Scholarship

SME Foundation

Barbara J. Arnold
President of the SMEF

David L. Kanagy
Executive Director

October 2011

2012 SME Foundation Silent Auction

Drew A. Meyer, SME president-elect and SME Foundation board member

Plans are underway for another great silent auction at the 2012 SME Annual Meeting and Exhibit. With your help, we'll make the 7th Annual SME Foundation Silent Auction the best one yet!

The silent auction is an important fundraiser for the SME Foundation. It supports SME programs such as Mii, GEM, ABET, the PE Exam Committee, and the Foundation general fund.

We are fortunate that many members and friends of SME generously donate items, trips, and cash to make the silent auction an event to look forward to.

Can you donate anything to help with the success of the event? Perhaps you would prefer to make a monetary contribution toward the purchase of a few unique items to increase interest. Just send your check to the address below and let us know it is your contribution towards the 2012 silent auction.

Items of high interest for bidders have been:

- unique mineral or fossil specimens
- quality jewelry or gem specimens
- pieces of art, Prazen statues, prints, or photographs
- models of heavy equipment
- televisions, electronics, tablets
- weekend getaway packages

This year we are excited to once again be able to offer the Pebble Project trip/tour to Alaska for four, generously donated by the Pebble Ltd. Partnership. This trip is valued at $14,000 by Pebble Ltd Partnership. Previous successful bidders have called it a trip of a lifetime. This is a unique opportunity to see what will be one of the largest copper mines in the world.

Newmont Mining has also generously donated their trip for four to the Carlin Mine in Elko, NV. This amazing trip is valued at $5,000 and has been a source of frenzied bidding by participants.

In past years, a corporation or individual has chosen to match the one-day auction proceeds. One year a company matched the entire auction total! Would you consider doing this as your tax deductible contribution to the SME Foundation's programs, or suggest prospective candidates we can contact? Email the Foundation at Smith@smenet.org and let Nancy know that you are willing to match the proceeds or the contact that might be interested in doing so.

We need enough items for a three-day auction. We normally present about 50 items each day, and are ready to accept your donations between now and February 1, 2012.

An online donation form can be found on the SME website. Go to www.smenet.org/foundation and click on the SMEF Silent Auction Donation Form button. You can also designate a monetary contribution towards the auction if you do not have items to donate. Please submit the donation form online and send your auction items to:
Nancy Smith, SME Foundation
12999 E. Adam Aircraft Circle, Englewood, CO 80112

Items donated for the silent auction are now displayed on the SME website and the contributor recognized. Pictures of many gems and mineral specimens are ready and waiting for you to bid on this February during the SME Annual Meeting. The Auction will run from Monday – Wednesday during the meeting at the SME Foundation exhibit booth.

I hope to hear from each of you. Contact me by e-mail at drew-m@msn.com or to Nancy Smith at Smith@smenet.org. You can also reach the Foundation offices at 303-948-4224.

On behalf of the Foundation trustees, I sincerely appreciate your support and invite you to join your fellow members and friends of SME in the bidding in Seattle.

GEM Committee

The GEM Committee has been preparing for the 2011 National Science Teachers Association conferences. The first one kicks off the last week of October in Hartford, CT. We have several wonderful volunteers set to work with us to make it a successful event. We look forward to meeting with 2,500 potential new teachers across the nation and introduce them to our products and services.

Professional Engineers Exam Committee

The SME Professional Engineers Exam Committee (PE) prepares exam problems for the Mining/Mineral Processing (M/MP) engineering examination for licensure by the states as a Professional Engineer. This national exam consists of 80 multiple-choice questions and is offered once a year, in October. The committee sends problems and solutions to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), which formats the exam and transmits it to the individual states for administration. The October 2010 Mining/Mineral PE Exam was taken by 70 examinees. The pass rate for first-time takers was 78 percent and 46 percent for repeat takers.

The initial exam assembly for the October 2012 exam is complete and was submitted to NCEES in July. New exam problems can now be reviewed and discussed online through a secure NCEES-sponsored Web site called "Base Camp." Committee members are using Base Camp at greater frequency. NCEES maintains a high-quality data bank of M/MP problems that have been prepared by SME. New problems from the October 2011 and October 2012 exams will be added to this database.

There are currently 39 members on the PE Exam Committee. Karl Zipf is the current committee chair and Don Larson is the chair-elect. Members of the committee agreed to write problems on specific topics for the October 2012 and 2013 exams.

The review course for the 2011 exam was held in St. Louis, MO, in September, 2011, under Dr. Raja Ramani's direction. The PE Exam Committee office has received numerous inquiries for information on this course and on PE licensure in general. Last year, 40 engineers took the review course in Denver, CO. This year we had a record number of 56 attending.

Dave Krebs, longtime PE Exam Committee Coordinator retired in August, 2011. We welcome the new coordinator, Andrew Schissler. Andrew comes to us from Tetra Tech and has been an active member of SME since 1978 and a Registered Professional Engineer for 31 years.

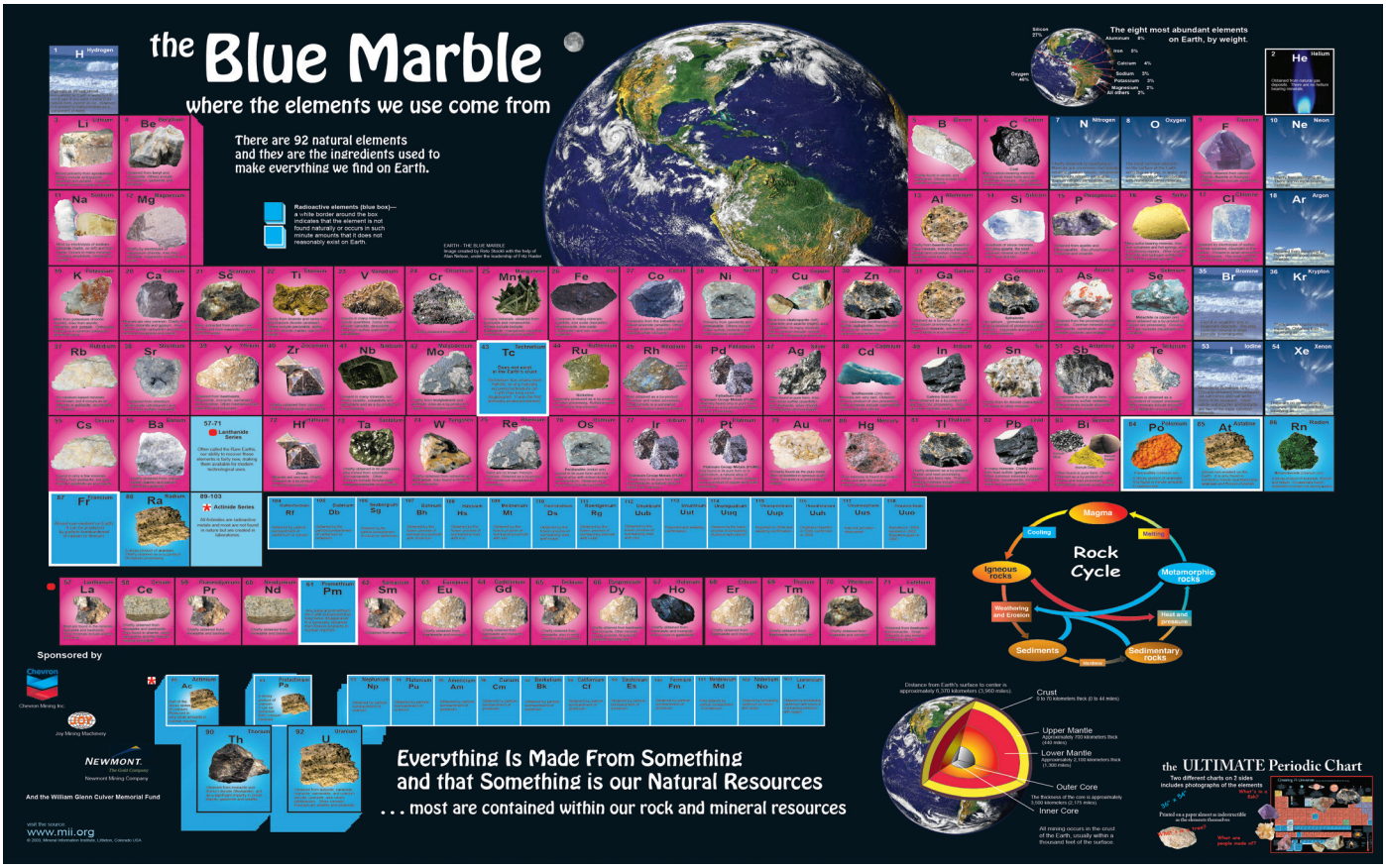
Mii Outreach Hits Record Numbers

The Mii/GEM booth at the Denver Gem & Mineral Show was totally swamped with more than 1,500 students and teachers on opening day. Thanks to all the GEM members who volunteered their time to help spread the word about the importance of mining and minerals to our everyday lives. During the 3-1/2 day event, we distributed several different posters, our mineral fact sheets, Mineral Baby cards, career brochures, product order forms, and sign-up sheets for teachers.

New Website materials include a Copper Unit, Molybdenum Unit, and seven downloadable word game activities. We continue to develop and post new materials on the Website monthly.

Since the beginning of the year, Website activity has averaged 171,000 visits and 3.7 million hits per month. Our busiest month so far was March, with 221,000 visits and 5.4 million hits. October is traditionally our busiest month, so we expect even greater numbers during the school year. Our Careers in Mining booklet and Mining 101 Unit remain popular downloads, as well as our Packet entitled "A Study of the Earth".

Our most popular teaching tool remains the Blue Marble Vinyl Periodic Chart. If you're looking for the perfect holiday gift, this is it! This awesome poster can be ordered online at http://www.mii.org/store/blue-marble-vinyl-periodic-chart



Society for Mining, Metallurgy,
and Exploration Foundation, Inc.

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SME Foundation/Mii/GEM Newsletter

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CASINO NIGHT

SME Foundation 21st Birthday Celebration

Make plans now to join the SME Foundation for their annual dinner Sunday, February 19, 2012, in Seattle, WA, during the SME Annual Meeting.

Come dressed in your best old Vegas glitz and glam and celebrate our 21st birthday while enjoying raffles, bucket auctions, poker and blackjack tables and many other games of chance. Take the time to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

This year you can also sponsor a table—so get all your friends together and help support SME Foundation programs.
For more information visit our website at www.smenet.org/foundation and click on the 2012 Foundation Dinner button. You can also purchase individual tickets with your annual meeting registration or by contacting Nancy at the Foundation by calling 303-948-4224.

We look forward to seeing you at our dinner and celebration on Sunday, February 19, 2012
6:15 pm – 11:00 pm.