Contents
Advisor’s Introduction ............................................................................................................................... 4
WVU SME Chapter Constitution ............................................................................................................... 5
2018-2019 SME Officer ............................................................................................................................. 7
  President: Keegan Patrick ..................................................................................................................... 7
  Vice President / Treasurer: Richard Shipe .............................................................................................. 7
  Secretary: Robert Harless ..................................................................................................................... 8
  Program Coordinator: Jeremy Diehlmann .............................................................................................. 8
  GEM Show / Media Coordinator: Ben Safer ......................................................................................... 9
2019-2020 SME Officers ............................................................................................................................ 9
Officer Reports ........................................................................................................................................ 10
  President’s Report ................................................................................................................................. 10
  Treasurer’s Report ................................................................................................................................. 11
  Secretary’s Report ................................................................................................................................. 11
  Member List ......................................................................................................................................... 12
Service ...................................................................................................................................................... 13
  Ducks Unlimited / SME River Clean Up ............................................................................................. 13
Outreach .................................................................................................................................................. 14
  GEM & Mineral Show ............................................................................................................................. 14
  Merit Badge University .......................................................................................................................... 14
  High School Visitation Days (October 20\textsuperscript{th} 2018, March 30\textsuperscript{th} 2019)........... 15
  Discover/Decide WVU Days ............................................................................................................... 15
  Fall Family Weekend .......................................................................................................................... 16
New Organization Women in Mining ........................................................................................................ 16
WVU SME Monthly Meetings .................................................................................................................. 16
  August SME Meeting (August 28\textsuperscript{th}, 2018) ...................................................................... 16
  September SME Meeting (September 11\textsuperscript{th}, 2018) ......................................................... 17
  October SME Meeting (October 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2018) .................................................................... 17
  November SME Meeting (November 13\textsuperscript{th}, 2018) ......................................................... 18
  January SME Meeting (January 15\textsuperscript{th}, 2019) .................................................................. 18
  February SME Meeting (February 19\textsuperscript{th}, 2019) ............................................................. 18
  March SME Meeting (March 19\textsuperscript{th}, 2019) ....................................................................... 19
  April SME Meeting (April 25\textsuperscript{th}, 2019) ............................................................................. 19
Company Information Sessions ............................................................................................................... 20
  Professional Events .............................................................................................................................. 20
Advisor’s Introduction

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased and excited to write some sentences for our SME Student Chapter at West Virginia University. The Chapter under the leadership of Keegan Patrick did a fantastic job in organizing meetings, attending various on campus and off campus activities.

The Chapter did a fantastic job in putting together a team that won the 3rd place in the NSSGA competition at the SME Annual Meeting in Denver. The West Virginia University's Department of Mining Engineering has strong alumni support and the SME Student Chapter continued the tradition of maintaining a strong relationship with the alumni.

The Chapter in addition to the regular activities participated in the freshman outreach activities and proved to be better than any regular professional. In all I am very pleased with the Chapter as the officers and students who worked hard to raise the Chapter to new heights.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brijes Mishra
Syd S. and Felicia F. Peng Endowed Professor
ARTICLE I. NAME
The name of this organization shall be the Student Chapter of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc. (SME) at West Virginia University.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE
The primary purpose of this organization shall be to act as a professional development platform for its members. Comprehensive accomplishments in this purpose shall include participation in the University, the community, and the SME/Minerals Industry platform.

ARTICLE III. STUDENT MEMBERSHIP
Section 1. The voting membership of this organization shall be limited to organization members who are West Virginia University students in good standing, academically.

Section 2. This organization will not deny membership on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS
Section 1. The officers of this organization shall be the President, Vice President (also responsible for Chapter financial matters), Secretary, GEM/Media Coordinator, and Program Coordinator.

Section 2. The duties of the Officers shall be to seek the participation of all members in SME activities and ask volunteer members to participate in special projects activities. The Officers shall be the group leaders for such special project activities.

Section 3. The Officers shall be responsible for major fund raising to support chapter activities through fund raising. The President and the Secretary/Treasurer of the chapter shall prepare a donation letter, approved by the Department Chairman of Mining Engineering of WVU, to send to prospective donors. The President of the Chapter will also prepare and send a letter of thanks/gratitude to the donors.

Section 4. To hold an elected, or appointed office in this organization, a member must have at least a 2.25 GPA average at the time of election or appointment. Furthermore, the member may not be on academic or disciplinary probation.

Section 5. The service term of each officer will be the length of one academic year (Fall and Spring Semester). Officers must be re-nominated and re-elected to serve numerous terms.

Section 6. Each year, the officers shall select a faculty member to serve as the Faculty Advisor to the WVU SME Student Chapter. The Faculty Advisor provides guidance, support, and advice to the Chapter, and assists the Chapter during the election cycle. The Faculty Advisor also serves as the communication link with the parent organization, and must be a member of SME in good standing.
ARTICLE V. OFFICER ELECTIONS

Section 1. Potential officers shall be nominated at the February Meeting of the Chapter.

Section 2. An election shall take place between the February and March Meetings of the Chapter.

Section 3. Ballots may only be cast by members in good academic standing.

Section 4. New officers will be announced during the March Meeting of the Chapter; their tenure will become effective after Spring Commencement. This period of overlap with the existing officers will provide for a smooth transition and assure that additional Chapter requirements, such as the submission of the Annual Report to SME.

ARTICLE VI. SPECIAL WVU REQUIREMENTS

This organization will adhere to the West Virginia University Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of the Chapter shall be conducted on a designated Wednesday of each month when classes are in session. The meetings of the Chapter will typically be scheduled after 5:00 pm.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by any member of the Chapter Officers.

Section 3. Quorum shall be constituted by the President or the Faculty Advisor of the Chapter.

ARTICLE VIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Parliamentary Authority shall be granted to the Bylaws of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc. as amended and restated on September 20, 2008.
2018-2019 SME Officer

President: Keegan Patrick
Keegan is a graduating senior in West Virginia University’s Dual Civil and Mining Engineering program. Originally, from Scott Depot West Virginia, Keegan graduated high school in 2014, entering in the engineering program that fall. Keegan decided on the dual major his sophomore year and subsequently became involved in the department’s student organizations such as SME, ISEE, the Mine Rescue Team, and Women in Mining. Outside of school, Keegan played rugby for two years on the men’s club team, and has competed in a number of professional design competitions.

After his freshman year Keegan spent the summer in Wyoming working as an outfitter. The following year he found himself in his hometown working for ZMM, Architects and Engineers, after spending time in the civil industry, Keegan spent a summer working as an intern at San Juan Underground facility in Farmington, New Mexico, followed by a summer in New South Wales, Australia working for Peabody Australia as an engineering intern. Upon graduation, Keegan will begin working for Murray Energy Corporation at their Lila Canyon underground operation in Price, Utah.

Vice President / Treasurer: Richard Shipe
Richard “Ricky” Shipe is a dual major in Mining and Civil Engineering from Johnsonburg, PA. He is entering his fifth year in the program in Fall of 2019. Ricky has been very active in university organizations over the last few years. He has been a member of the Mine Rescue team since the Spring of 2018, winning the national championship in the BG-4 bench that semester, as well as, taking first place in the fall competition as a tail captain. He has also been involved in the WVU chapter of Ducks Unlimited, where he has held the secretary, co-chairman and chair positions. His first internship was with Jones Township out of Wilcox, PA, where he assisted in the rehabilitation of road systems. During the summer of 2018, he worked as a Mining Engineer intern in Brookwood, AL for Warrior Met Coal, spending equal time in production, engineering and surveying. His plans include traveling to New South Wales, Australia, where he will intern for Peabody Energy at one of the three locations within the state.
Secretary: Robert Harless
Robert Harless is a graduating senior, dual majoring in Mining and Civil Engineering. Robbie has been extremely active in SME since he joined in his sophomore year. Along as serving the 2018-2019 SME Student Secretary, Robbie was a Member of the Student Aggregate Design Competition. During the summer months Robbie has intern for the Department of Highways in West Virginia, and Mining Engineer intern for GMS Mine Repair and Maintenance.

Program Coordinator: Jeremy Diehlmann
Jeremy Diehlmann is a fourth year Mining Engineering student graduating in May 2020. He is from Crofton Maryland and was recruited by former department chair Dr. Chris Bise. He has been extremely active with SME and Mine Rescue since his freshman year. Jeremy has had many internship opportunities over the years. He began his career with an internship as a Maintenance Engineer intern at his High School. Jeremy’s first Mining internship was with Murray Energy at their Marshall County Coal Mine in West Virginia. He continued his Mining experience by working in Mining Sales with Nalco Water as a sales engineer intern. In Summer 2019 Jeremy will continue his experience with Victaulic as an Engineering Intern at their Alburnts Foundry in Alburnts Pennsylvania. Jeremy aspires to be an Applications Engineer after graduation and looks forward to being involved with SME on a professional level.
GEM Show / Media Coordinator: Ben Safer
Benjamin O. Safer is a senior Mining Engineering student at West Virginia University. In the past, he has interned at Warrior Met Coal in Brookwood, Alabama and Cleveland Quarries in Vermilion, Ohio. This upcoming summer he will be interning for Coronado Coal in Raven, Virginia. He is currently in his second term of being President of the Phi Sigma Theta National Honor Society, WVU's chapter and served as Gem Show/Media Coordinator for the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration at West Virginia University. In the past, he has served as the Captain of the Quidditch Team, various other leadership positions for Phi Sigma Theta, the Mountaineer Maniacs Executive Board, and the Mountaineer Week committee. In his free time, he enjoys hanging out with his friends, and watching WVU and Cleveland's Sports teams.

2019-2020 SME Officers
President: Ricky Shipe
Vice President: Rince Longo
Secretary: Thomas Wetzel
Program Coordinator: Jeremy Diehlmann
GEM Show/Media Coordinator: Lauren Masterson
Officer Reports

President’s Report

The West Virginia University Student Chapter of SME has an extraordinary year filled with activities, awards and honors. At the beginning of the year the organization’s leadership, team and advisor all sat down to begin the year on the same page. Over the course of this initial meeting, we identified strategic events and opportunities that we wanted to use to help define us as an organization for the year, as well as major goals that we would use as benchmarks for performance.

West Virginia University is a conglomeration 28,000 students in one or more of 350 offered majors. Our organization represents less than one percent of the students at the university but is involved in one of the world’s largest and most vital industries. We were faced with the dilemma of how we can guide the organization to best serve our members and positively represent the industry to the university. We collectively agreed that our meetings would be focused on benefitting our students and our external activities would benefit the community.

Our monthly meetings included a resume building session, a salesman, a recent graduate panel, and a safety professional who sent our students to the workforce with the right mindset. Otherwise, we made tremendous efforts to continue our traditional community events such as the gem show, as well as getting creative and coming up with new events. Our Vice President, Ricky Shipe, organized a river clean up with Ducks Unlimited, the largest wetland conservation organization in the world, our Program Coordinator Jeremy Diehlmann along with our Media Coordinator Ben Safer were involved in teaching the Mining in Society Merit Badge to boy scouts. Our secretary Robbie Harless was involved in organizing our members to go out to their local high schools to present on Mining Engineering. Without the dedication and service of our officer team, our goals would not have been achieved.

Members are the real key to any organization’s success and it is no different for WVU SME. Our members gave up countless Saturday mornings to interact with prospective students, and volunteer at local community events. They were the true reason we were able to achieve our community outreach goal, their enthusiasm and passion helped put a new and exciting face to mining in West Virginia.

A unique opportunity was presented to the organization that further helped support our students as the newest student chapter of Women in Mining was started here in Morgantown, West Virginia. Lead by Shannon Seitz, Erica McCauley, and Lauren Masterson, the new organization helps to support female students in the mining community by involving both men and women in the community and discussion.

I am very proud of our organization’s achievements and I look forward to seeing the students in the various student organizations continue to grow, and achieve in the industry. It is very exciting to see a new incoming officer team come in to add there mark to the culture of the organization and I have no doubt that they will continue to grow the organization and look for creative ways to be involved in the community and industry alike.
Treasurer’s Report

Through departmental financial support and external donations, the West Virginia University Chapter of SME has continued to thrive. With nearly $12,000 in support, we were able to send eleven students to the SME Conference in Denver, CO on behalf of our chapter. The chapter worked with BB&T Bank to manage all our finances. We started the year with $2,600 in the account and ended with $3,200. A simplified breakdown of expenses is provided below. Meeting supplies consisted of predominantly food and drink expenses to feed chapter members at the meetings and flights/hotels are the costs that we covered for the eleven students to travel to Denver. Negative expenses are denoted in parenthesis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>(1,147.44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flights</td>
<td>(3,749.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotels</td>
<td>(4,308.96)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>11,492.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Secretary’s Report

This past year I have taken on many different responsibilities. I was the link line from officers to the members of the society. I would send out emails of upcoming events weekly or biweekly depending on the amount of activities held during that period. If a member had a question of an upcoming event, the president or I were the first person of contact. I would keep a complete list of every event that our society had planned. Another great responsibility that I took on was to keep a complete list of events that all our members had attended. Our society only takes a select number of students to the Annual Meeting. Throughout the year, we kept track of events they attend and then I decided based on the accumulated points. Involvement this year was an all-time high for our organization.
**Member List**
The following is a comprised list of members organized by activity participation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Robert Harless</th>
<th>Emily Carroll</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ricky Shipe</td>
<td>Josh Michael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keegan Patrick</td>
<td>Molly McFarland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Safer</td>
<td>Ornella Kayiranga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Dickson</td>
<td>Jacob Borgweralt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Diehlmann</td>
<td>Alexis Hartman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shannon Seitz</td>
<td>Jared Morse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Masterson</td>
<td>Mackenzie Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rince Longo</td>
<td>Deniz Talan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Wetzel</td>
<td>Deniz Tuscay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Chmelik</td>
<td>Lazar Zujovic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erica McCauley</td>
<td>Miladen Dragic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Vale</td>
<td>Richard Campbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Auscherman</td>
<td>Dmitri Agnew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Horowitz</td>
<td>Neel Gupta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Kalski</td>
<td>Hua Jiang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren Boord</td>
<td>Danqing Goa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Nash</td>
<td>Jian Yang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Moore</td>
<td>Debashis Das</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Burton</td>
<td>Duncan Manor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Service

Ducks Unlimited / SME River Clean Up

The West Virginia University student chapter of Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration collaborated with the West Virginia University student chapter of Ducks Unlimited to clean up a mile stretch of the Monongahela River above the dam. Ducks Unlimited is the nation’s leading wetland conservation organization, who as an organization take on more than 20,000 conservation efforts nationwide.

We had a mixed turn out of DU and SME members who on their Saturday waded along the riverbanks picking up trash and debris from the river. In almost 2 hours, we collected a pickup truck full of trash. As a student organization, SME completes one service project per year, in the past we have helped build a hiking trail, cleaned up homes affected by the floods in southern West Virginia as well as many others. This year we saw so much need and the impact 2 hours can have on our main waterways that we would like to complete a second project with even a larger turnout. This was a fantastic opportunity for both organizations but for SME it was an opportunity to give back and align themselves with the reclamation initiatives of the industry as well as the SME organization.
Outreach

**GEM & Mineral Show**

The Gem show is an annual event that happens at Mylan Park in Morgantown, WV and during which the participation of the SME-WVU Chapter has been requested for the past years as a sponsor. The SME Pittsburgh Section helped our chapter by providing mineral kits containing bituminous coal, anthracite coal, marble, limestone rock, halite, gypsum, and copper, and the booklets explaining the importance of such minerals and rocks in our daily life. During the event, children ranging from 4 to 18 years old participated in a small mineral activity that taught them how to identify different minerals and their used in our everyday lives. At the end of the activity, they were given mineral kits and booklets as souvenir. This year, we also incorporated an informational display board with fun facts about mining which attracted many school teachers. Most of these teachers took boxes of mineral kits to share them with their respective students and teach them about minerals and geology. Many of the kids told us they would come back each year looking forward to showing up at our booth. Our booth also had multiple mining items and diagrams on display for other parents and children interested in learning more about the mining engineering.

**Merit Badge University**

Every year West Virginia University hosts Merit Badge University. This is an opportunity for Scouts from the Boy Scout of America to receive a Merit Badge in certain fields. Five WVU SME members assisted Mining Engineering adjunct professor Dr. Danrick Alexander in hosting the Mining in Society Merit Badge. During this event, WVU SME took a group of 7 scouts to visit a limestone quarry. The SME members gave talks and made activities discussing the requirements for the Merit Badge, including mine safety, mining careers, reclamation, minerals, mining’s local presence, mining on the moon, and the dangers of abandoned mines. This event went over well with the scouts; with the popularity of the Mining in Society Badge WVU SME has been invited to local Boy Scout troops to assist the scouts with earning their Mining in Society Merit Badge.
**High School Visitation Days** (October 20\(^{th}\) 2018, March 30\(^{th}\) 2019)

WVU SME assisted with Benjamin Statler College’s High School Visitation Day (HSVD). During this Event SME had a booth set up in a student org fair. In addition, SME assisted the Mining Engineering Department with tours of our facilities.

The student organization fair during HSVD is a great way to help spread the word of our department. During this portion selected active WVU SME members met with a talk with junior and seniors in high school from across the country to share our message as a student chapter of SME. This also was a great opportunity to give out information and facts about the status of the Mining Industry.

Eight families selected Mining Engineering as the Department they chose to visit. The Mining Department Faculty gave a presentation lead by Dr. Luo and Dr. Alexander. This presentation spoke about the Mining department’s class structure, research, and extracurricular. Active SME members spoke of their internship experience in metal mining, aggregate mining, coal mining, and sales. We showed the department lab facilities and demonstrated a uniaxial stress test and a ventilation lab demonstration.

This Event is a large outreach tool for both the Statler College and Mining Engineering, with over 500 people attending we were able to meet with several interested future Mining Engineers.

**Discover/Decide WVU Days**

Much like High School Visitation day, Decide WVU Day gives the SME student chapter the opportunity to interface with admitted WVU students and their Parents. It is here where we really try to inform perspective freshman on Mining Engineering. It is important to note that our students are very excited about mining and being a part of such a world-renowned program. We like to highlight the opportunity to travel, this past summer we had student members in Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, Alabama, South Africa and as close to home as Maryland and Morgantown itself. Another large selling point for our department is student engagement. In the mining department, we are just one great big family. One that hangs out on the weekends, study is together, and gets dinner together regularly.

We are proud to say that our students are highly involved in activities such as Decide WVU Day; we are firm believers that the best way to spread a positive message about mining is having excited students talk about it and the opportunities it provides students.
**Fall Family Weekend**

During the beginning of the fall semester, Statler College hosted weekend activities for families of current engineering students. SME members were able to meet with younger siblings of current Engineering students and talk with them about the Mining Engineering department at WVU. This is a smaller event, but it can help spread the positive light on Mining.

**New Organization Women in Mining**

Students from the WVU mining department started a student chapter of Women in mining this year. The group is approved by the both the college and the university and can now receive SAC hours. The organization has started recruitment for the upcoming 2019-2020 year and has received a lot of interest from students in the mining department and other disciplines. Meetings will begin in the fall and speakers will be invited to share their experiences with members. There will also be opportunities to volunteer for college events and community outreach. The advisor for the group is Dr. QingQing Huang, President is Shannon Seitz, Vice President is Lauren Masterson, and Secretary is Erica McCauley.

**WVU SME Monthly Meetings**

**August SME Meeting** (August 28th, 2018)

WVU SME’s speaker for the first meeting of the school year was Dr. Vladislav Kecojevic the Mining Engineering Department’s new chair. Dr. Kecojevic spoke of the new plans for the Department and his goals for the student organization. This meeting also served has the kick off for the New Year, to see what students wanted to see different in the school year.
**September SME Meeting** (September 11th, 2018)

WVU SME’s keynote speaker for our September Meeting was WVU Mining Engineering Teaching Assistant Professor Dr. Mark Sindelar. Dr. Sindelar gave a presentation on “How to Make a Successful Resume”, September is the month of the Statler College Career Fair. This presentation helped students prepare their resumes for the upcoming Career Fair. He also spoke on how to catch hiring manager’s attention with a successful cover letter. This is a meeting held every year to prepare for Career Fair as well as online applying for jobs and internships.

**October SME Meeting** (October 2nd, 2018)

WVU SME invited Mr. Justin Smoak P.E. from Samson Ropes to be our speaker for our October meeting. His presentation was on a nontraditional career in mining engineering. Mr. Smoak gave advice to students who would be working in both the traditional mining engineering path and the ones who are going into sales. He also talked about Samson Ropes and their applications within the mining industry. His presentation showed how synthetic rope could be more efficient than steel chain in hoisting applications within the mining industry.
November SME Meeting (November 13th, 2018)

For the November SME Meeting our organization held a Young Alumni Panel consisting of Rachel Boothby ’17 (GMS), Cory Krall ’17 (Arch Coal), Nick Grieshop ’16 (CNXC), and Kyle Clark ’09 (GMS). The panel gave advice on how to survive college successfully. They spoke on tactics to get a job or an internship, and to be successful in any selected field of mining engineering. This meeting went extremely well, as it was not tried before and with the results, it will be continued in future SME meetings.

January SME Meeting (January 15th, 2019)

Lee Anderson a Mining Territory Sales Manager from Victaulic and active SME member joined WVU SME to be our guest speaker. Lee’s presentation was on the key uses of Victaulic products in the coal mining industry. This presentation purpose was to expose future mining engineers to a safer and more cost-effective way to join pipe. Lee gave advice to students interested in pursuing a career within sales. Lee is also a mentor to one of our members and is in an active relationship with our organization.

February SME Meeting (February 19th, 2019)

Richard Lewis a member lawyer at Steptoe & Johnson, and alumni of WVU Mining Engineering class of 1985 was SME guest speaker for the February meeting. He shared his life story within the mining industry, how he started as an intern in low coal to a Harvard graduate and a lawyer. He spoke on how his technical degree in Mining Engineering benefited his career of being a lawyer. He gave advice to the students on how to succeed in their careers and spoke of thing he wished he had done differently as an engineering student.
March SME Meeting (March 19th, 2019)

William Lepro P.E. an alumnus of WVU Mining Engineering class of 1982 was SME’s guest speaker for the March SME meeting. Mr. Lepro is currently the Surface Superintendent for Blue Mountain Energy at the Desarado Facility; he also serves on the Board of Directors for the Colorado Mining Association. His presentation gave a retrospective view of his mining experience, what it takes to become a successful engineer and the importance of learning engineering fundamentals as they apply to mining. This presentation went over extremely well with both the faculty and the students of WVU SME.

April SME Meeting (April 25th 2019)

Mr. Pat Brady Corporate director of Safety for Murray Energy joined WVU SME as a guest speaker for the last meeting of the school year. Mr. Brady spoke of his experience within the Mining Industry and spoke of the Importance of safety in the workplace. Having a safety professional as our last speaker was chosen since the officer team found it valuable to hear the importance of safety before the student members our sent off to their summer internships.
Company Information Sessions

Every year the department and the SME student chapter collaborate to get recruiting companies in for information sessions, so students are aware of the opportunities for internships and full-time positions. The companies included; Alliance Coal, Coronado Coal, Contura Energy GMS, Arch Coal, Nalco Water, Murray Energy, Martin Marietta, SGI, Westmorland, and United Coal

Professional Events

PCMIA

Every year the student chapter has the great opportunity to attend the annual SME/PCMIA meeting. The meeting is held over the course of a couple of days and students have the opportunity to attend technical sessions and presentations as well as meet and reconnect with alumni. At this year’s meeting, our student chapter was honored to have alumni receive awards for the best senior design project. The members of that group were all previous members of the WVU student chapter. Our Vice President Mr. Ricky Shipe participated in a technical session on assembling and benching the Drager BG-4 breathing apparatus used in mine rescue and recovery operations.
Poundstone Lecture

The Poundstone Lecture series, named for the late William Poundstone, invites a distinguished industry professional annually to Morgantown West Virginia. This year we were honored to listen to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Secretary, David Zatezalo, a 1974 graduate of the West Virginia Mining Engineering program. Secretary Zatezalo spoke on recently published governmental statistics and added depth through context. Students, faculty, and industry professionals attended the lecture. The conclusion of the secretary’s presentation was met with enthusiastic in depth questions.

WV Coal Symposium

Every year the West Virginia University student chapter are invited to attend the West Virginia Coal Association’s annual Coal Symposium. This year 33 graduate, undergraduate, and faculty members attended the event where we were able to interact with industry professionals, and state government officials. While here, our students were able to listen to the West Virginia Governor, Governor Jim Justice, and were then provided the opportunity to speak with Governor individually where he encouraged our students to continue on our path of education and excellence. Later in the evening West Virginia University President E. Gordon Gee surprised our students at the legislative mixer. It is a rare experience for students to meet with the Governor and the University President in the same day. The student chapter owes a huge thank you to Mr. Calvin Kidd and Quaker Chemical for sponsoring our students to attend the event.
SME Annual Meeting

Every year the West Virginia University SME student chapter attends the annual SME conference, this year held in Denver Colorado. West Virginia University SME was able to send 20 undergraduate students to this year’s conference. While in attendance, our students were able to interact with industry professionals, vendors, and other students. Six of our members attended the conference early in order to compete in the NSSGA/SME Aggregate Design Competition where the team placed third. Our students took advantage of every opportunity afforded to them, including the Komatsu student mixer, Women in Mining Breakfast, and Freeport Networking event. Many of our members were awarded scholarships from the SME Foundation, Coal and Energy Division, Mineral Processing Division, and Mineral Exploration Division. We were very excited to bring such a large student group to represent the department in such a professional capacity. This would not have been possible without the help of our alumni, the industry, and department’s support.

Student Aggregates Design Competition

Our student chapter has had six member teams compete in the SME/NSSGA Student Design Competition for the past four years. These six students are active members of our student chapter and work on the design project with the rest of their course work and other obligations. This year our student team was comprised of one graduating senior, one fourth year senior, three juniors, and one sophomore. The members were William Chmelik, John Dickson, Jeremy Diehlmann, Robert Harless, Emily Horowitz, and Andrew Moore completed phase one successfully and were asked to compete in phase two of the competition in Denver Colorado prior to the conference. The second phase was completed the Friday before the conference started and ended with a technical presentation on Sunday. The team placed third overall this year behind the University of Kentucky and Virginia Tech. Our student chapter is very proud of these students and all of the hard work that goes into these extra activities.
Mine Rescue

Twice a year, once a semester, West Virginia University sends two teams of highly dedicated and determined students to competitions across the eastern United States with the goal to test their skills in Mine Rescue, Smoke Exploration, and apparatus benching against other highly decorated schools. The West Virginia University Mine Rescue Team was established in 2011. Our SME chapter Members that are involved with Mine Rescue find themselves working mine disaster problems that bring them hand on experience and real world application.

As part of the SME Eastern Collegiate Mine Rescue Organization (SME ECMRO) West Virginia’s Gold and Blue Teams, find themselves pitted against other coal-oriented schools from around the area. University of Kentucky, Penn State, Virginia Tech, and Southern Illinois University all compete for the traveling trophy and the title of National Collegiate Mine Rescue Champions.

In the competitions, our students compete in two events one being of mine rescue. The mine rescue portion of the competition is weighted the most in the scoring and consists of teams systematically exploring a simulated underground coal mine designed to test the team’s knowledge of the rules, ventilation, attention to detail, problem solving and most importantly teamwork. All of these aligned in fall semester for WVU Gold team who took home 1st place in Mine Rescue resulting in the subsequent crowning of WVU as National Mine Rescue Champions.

All of our student chapter members’ success couldn’t be done without the hard work and dedication by our advisor Mr. Josh Brady, trainers Mr. Mark Gouzd, Mr. John Sabo, and Mr. Ed “Smurf” Rannenburg, all from the Mining and Industrial Extension of WVU, as well as the support from our department, and faculty.
WVU SME Facebook Page

Our chapter throughout the year manages a Facebook page that highlights all of the events we have throughout the year. This allows us to keep a catalog of events throughout the year; Pictures are taken throughout the event, helping to make a memorial capsule for our events. In addition, the page allows us to connect with Alumni, so former WVU Mining Engineers can keep up with the latest events in the department. All pictures in this report are available on our Facebook page SME WVU Chapter.
Plans for the Future

Hello, my name is Ricky Shipe, the upcoming President for the chapter over the 2019-2020 academic year. I am going into my fifth and final year of the Mining/Civil dual major. This previous year, I held the position of the Vice President and Treasurer, which I believe has tremendously helped me to learn a lot and gain a great deal of knowledge leading into this upcoming year.

The last year has been incredibly successful for several reasons. The first major reason was the hard work that our committee put in. President Keegan Patrick was very well organized and a great communicator and liaison between the faculty and the chapter. Additionally, our Program Coordinator, Jeremy Diehlmann, contributed a huge part of our success. Jeremy spearheaded scheduling, contacting and organizing a majority of our guest speakers. He was also extremely active in recruitment and attended every high school visitation day and open house, continuously reaching out to younger students to increase their activity in the department. His enthusiasm is contagious and spreads over crowds like a wildfire. It is people like Jeremy that will make this organization expand and thrive. I am very glad to continue to have Jeremy by my side going into the next year as he reprises his role as Program Coordinator, because I know what an incredible influence he will be.

Another reason that we have been, and will continue to be successful, is due to the immense support we receive from our faculty and our department chair, Dr. Vladislav Kecojevic. Dr. Vlad has great ideas and ambitions to continue to make this organization and department one of the frontrunners in the country. With his great support, as well as, the support of our advisor, Dr. Brijes Mishra, we will continue to have a great amount of participation and interest in SME.

As the incoming President, I am looking forward to working with my new set of officers, Rince Longo, Thomas Wetzel and Lauren Masterson. These three are very enthusiastic about the mining industry, our WVU mining department and our SME Chapter. We will have a very well rounded cabinet. Between Rince’s passion and good-heartedness, Thomas’ articulacy and intelligence and Lauren’s drive and determination, I am certain that we are in great hands for the upcoming year.

Our goals for next year include increasing participation in SME, spreading the knowledge of our program to prospective high school and freshman students, increasing our activity in the local community and increasing activity in our university. My personal goal is to be able to take more students on our dollar to Phoenix, AZ for the 2020 SME conference. With the market and economy increasing as it currently is, I hope that we can obtain more funding in order to do so. I intend to do extensive travel booking and research to find the lowest hotel and airfare costs that I can, because lower expenses means more people can attend the conference. It is a great experience for students to be exposed to industry people on such a large scale and can breed great opportunities for students’ futures. I am very excited to get the start of the 2019-2020 academic year underway, great things are in store.

- Richard E. Shipe III