The WAAIME Executive Committee is seeking nominations for the incoming Executive Committee member. Nominees will be selected from the outgoing committee member’s area. Since the outgoing committee member is the eastern representative, the incoming committee member will be from an eastern section. Please email an electronic copy of a photo and a brief biography of the nominee to AnnMarie Kochevar at kochevar@smenet.org. If you have any questions, contact Kochevar, WAAIME, 12999 E. Adam Aircraft Cir., Englewood, CO 80112, phone 303-948-4239, fax 303-948-3845, kochevar@smenet.org.

The due dates for nominations are:
- **Nov. 28** - All nominations with photos and biographies must be received at SME headquarters.
- **Dec. 1** - SME headquarters will forward the nominees to the WAAIME Executive Committee.
- **Dec. 15** - WAAIME chair will notify SME headquarters of the incoming committee member.
- **Dec. 22** - WAAIME chair will notify the incoming committee member and invite her to the 2015 SME Annual Conference and Expo.

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Executive Committee will meet in Denver

The WAAIME Executive Committee will meet at the Hyatt Regency Convention Center Hotel on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2015, 8 am to noon. On Monday, Feb. 16, from 5-6:30 pm, WAAIME will host a reception for members and scholarship recipients, also at the Hyatt.

If you are interested in sponsoring the reception, please contact Laura Johnson, johnson@smenet.org, or phone 303-948-4222. This year, WAAIME will host a silent auction in the Hyatt lobby. Please see the midyear report below for details. If you have any questions regarding the WAAIME events, contact AnnMarie Kochevar@smenet.org or phone 303-948-4239.

Synopsis of the WAAIME midyear meeting

by Jean Davin, 2014 WAAIME Chair and Eastern Representative

Hello WAAIME members. The WAAIME Executive Committee met during the SME midyear meeting in Phoenix, AZ and packed in a lot of meetings in that short time. Following is a summary of our discussions and decisions including some that will directly affect the WAAIME Sections.

Financials

WAAIME is currently using UBS as its brokerage firm. Growth has been steady with a well-diversified portfolio emphasizing the interest and dividends needed to support our scholarships and expenses. All sections are required to complete their annual financial report for our audit.

WAAIME received a wonderful letter from Howard Kraus, a former scholarship recipient, who has given us permission to share his story and who has donated $9,000 to our funds. A copy of his heartwarming story follows this article. The executive committee discussed plans to reach out to other scholarship recipients asking them to send support for future generations of students.

At the 2015 SME Annual Conference and Expo, WAAIME will sponsor the Iris Whinnen-Owen Silent Auction featuring mining and nonmining items donated by our members. Earnings will be distributed to the sections. If you have any items you would like to donate, please forward them to us at SME headquarters, 12999 E. Adam Aircraft Cir., Englewood, CO 80112 USA.

The section grants of $2,000, given out to 10 sections, were very popular, and that program will be reviewed at our annual meeting. WAAIME has applied for a co-operative grant program with AIME and is waiting for a decision from the AIME board.

The five WAAIME international sections will receive an increase in their yearly scholarship funds to $12,000 next year. The yearly stipend has not been increased since its inception, and current market conditions permit this increase.

Scholarships

SME implemented new scholarship program software for its divisions (currently on SME’s website at www.smenet.org/scholarships) and WAAIME has been included. The committee asked that the WAAIME financial page include the requirement of a copy of the assistantship agreement for all Ph.D. candidates. Also, a new interviewer review form has been forwarded to all sections to assist the interviewers with their decisions. WAAIME has decided to limit student scholarships to three years. This will accommodate fifth year seniors and graduate students.

SME Foundation

An SME ad hoc committee proposed that WAAIME
Missouri-Rolla Section uses grants for student activities

By Laurie Miller, Education for Tomorrow Chair

The Missouri-Rolla WAAIME section is thankful for the WAAIME grant money that the section was able to use to help our rural schools. They are so often overlooked and underfunded in the area of science. Through the grant, the section sent the eighth grade class of Salem, MO on a field trip to the Doe Run Mining Co. This trip is important to the children because many of their parents or family members work in the mines, and they can see geology, metallurgy and mining in action.

The section also sent a student to a summer program called It’s a Girl Thing at the Missouri University of Science and Technology (S&T). This is a week-long residential program designed to provide fun along with an introduction to engineering, science and technology for girls entering seventh or eighth grade. The girls are exposed to the various science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers and encouraged to explore their personal interests through group projects and design competitions.

It was a $400 scholarship open to a girl who was good student. The teacher had several students who wanted to go, so she had a competition for the scholarship. This is a pivotal age for girls to see women in science. They make the camp fun, and the women of Missouri S&T are great role models for the girls.

Alicia Barnett, who attended the camp this summer, said, “I want to thank you for supporting me with the tuition that allowed me to attend the camp. I learned about

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WAAIME News

Susan Harwood is honored by Virginia Tech’s mining department

The Virginia Tech Department of Mining and Minerals Engineering honored WAAIME member Susan Harwood at its annual scholarship and awards banquet held in April 2014 at the Inn at Virginia Tech. Harwood was taken by surprise by the recognition, which was accomplished with the assistance of various members of the West Virginia-Southern (WV-S) section of WAAIME. According to department head Greg Adel, Harwood was recognized for “her tireless support of Virginia Tech mining engineering students and her strong advocacy on their behalf in her role with WAAIME.” She was given a Gary Prazen statue entitled Dedicated.

Adel noted that Harwood is a past national president of WAAIME and currently serves as vice chair of the WV-S section, which supports students in the mining programs at several schools, including Virginia Tech. In her various roles with WAAIME, Adel said that Harwood “has provided unparalleled support to mineral-related education programs around the world.”

Since 2000, WAAIME has awarded more than $750,000 in scholarships to Virginia Tech mining engineering students. According to Adel, while many members of WAAIME make this possible, none has represented the face of the organization in the Appalachian region and at the national level like Harwood. In addition to securing scholarships, she has been a strong advocate for getting extra support for students in difficult financial situations at risk of having to drop out of school. Numerous mining engineers today attribute their success to her help.

Utah-Coal Section awards nine scholarships

by Gail LaFrentz, Scholarship Committee Chair

The Utah-Coal section is fortunate that it has been able to sponsor the Coal Country Classic Scholarship fundraiser, in conjunction with Ellis Pierce of Pierce Oil/Golden West Industries, for the past 19 years. Because of this event, the section is able to award several academic scholarships each year and to help our community with earth science educational projects.

The section starts sending out scholarship applications in January, which also requires a essay on a topic of our choosing. This year’s topic was the future of the steam coal industry in America — reserves, market, labor forces, energy policy and environmental concerns. I am lucky to have two great WAAIME ladies on my scholarship committee, Jenny Richins and Danelle Boren, and our treasurer Lisa Mortenson. She does a great job writing the checks for us to take to the awards banquet. We each receive a copy of the students’ applications, and we read and re-read them before making our final decision. This year we were able to

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Section News

WAAIME News

Missouri-Rolla

(Continued from page 2)

several new and interesting things, not to mention I had a lot of fun, too. My favorite experience at camp was the glass blowing shop. It was really cool how they melted the sand and other elements to form the beautiful colors and made vases, flowers and paperweights. I wish that every girl could share the same experience that I got to have by attending this camp.”

Funds for the science wish list

The section also decided to give $325 to each of the following schools: Dent-Phelps R3 school, Licking junior high school, Maries County R2 school and St. James middle school. Once we approve the science wish list, we will send the money. The teachers are happy to send us pictures of the children with the new equipment. The section would like to continue to fund the mine trip and to send more girls next year to camp. And, of course, we place a lot of value on continuing the science equipment wish lists.

A teacher’s thank you

Thank you for allowing us to go to the mines again. We had a wonderful time. As you can see from the pictures we even had students drive the remote control dump truck. While at the mines students learned about drilling for core samples and did a hands on simulation. They met with a geologist and identified minerals based on density. They visited the smelter and were able to see slag for the first time, some even got to touch it. And of course we went underground to see the actual mining. Doe Run gave each of the students a piece of Galena, the state mineral.

This is the field trip that the students look the forward to all year. It is such an awesome opportunity to be able to take the entire eighth grade to the mines and let the curriculum come to life for them. Thank you for providing the funds to make that happen for us.

Debbi Ritchey, eighth grade science teacher, Salem Middle school

Santiago section honors scholarship students

Members of the Santiago Section of WAAIME presented scholarships to several students during a section luncheon. Those attending the scholarship presentation included (l-r) Claudia Barria, scholar; Benilda Dahmen, section chair; Nadia Mery, scholar; Alejandra Gomez, scholar; Betty Vargas, WAAIME vice chair; Rosita Klohn, WAAIME Hospitality chair; Andres Velasco, scholar; Boris Leal, scholar; Gonzalo Sepulveda, scholar; Hector Painevilo, scholar and Pablo Hechersdorf, scholar.
PHYLLIS LaPRAIRIE

Long time WAAIME member, Phyllis LaPrairie, passed away Aug. 8, 2014. She was an important member of the Reno, NV WAAIME section and served at various times as the chair and co-chair of the section. She frequently hosted the meetings at her house as well as hosting the summer picnic, so we could use her swimming pool. In addition, her son, Roger, was the chef for the section’s picnics.

LaPrairie was born Oct. 13, 1926. Her father, Waldron Green, was a mining engineer, and her husband, Jules LaPrairie, was also a mining engineer. She lived in many mining towns, including Flin Flon in northern Canada, Leadville, CO, Ely, NV, Butte, MT, Balmat, NY and Vancouver, BC, Canada. She was a nurse and found time and energy to raise five children. Two of her sons also became mining engineers.

SHIRLEY DAY

The Missouri Rolla section has donated $150 to the Expanding Your Horizons program in memory of Shirley Day, a recently deceased, long-time member of WAAIME. Day was an enthusiastic supporter of education. She was the wife of Delbert Day, a ceramics engineering faculty member at the Missouri University of Science and Technology since 1961.

The Expanding Your Horizons program is a one-day camp for more than 500 girls in seventh and eighth grades from across the state of Missouri. It gives them an opportunity to learn about careers in science and engineering by attending presentations and workshops by women who have chosen careers in math, science and engineering. The donation will provide lunch for two tables of students at the Nov. 7, 2014 event.

Utah-Coal

(Continued from page 3)

give out $12,500 divided among nine students. Eight of the students were from the University of Utah’s Department of Mining Engineering and one was from the Chemical Engineering Department.

In April 2014, the Department of Mining Engineering held its annual awards banquet, and the author was able to attend. This year’s event was held at the University Guest House in Salt Lake City, UT. There are more than 17 awards given out at the banquet, some for academic excellence, others for leadership. A new one was given to recognize a faculty, staff or student member that showed exemplary service in support of the Mining Engineering Department.

It is always rewarding to talk to the students to whom we have given scholarships, both this year and in the past. The graduating class always receive their hard hats, presented by the professors. And the newer students, who have just begun their journey, are eager to start their summer internships with companies across the United States. They all are so grateful for the help they get from the scholarships, that we always come away with a full heart and a smile on our faces.

Future section plans

In August, the section had its first meeting to make plans for the coming year. We will again give out scholarships and help with the Carbon Science Fair, but we are always open to new ideas to help our community with earth science projects. We also made plans for the 20th Coal Country Classic fundraiser that would be held in September. Everyone spends the day at the event, and we have made many friends in our industry. Look for more details in the May newsletter.

Coal Country Classic

Our section would like to give a special thank you to the Coal Country Classic Committee. It doesn’t matter how busy everyone is, they still find enough time to help put this event together. Ellis Pierce has been the chairman for this event for 20 years, assisted by committee members Jim Kellow, Tony Martines, Charlie Philips, Robert Richins and the WAAIME UT-Coal Section. And another big thank you to all the sponsors and players who give so generously to our event each year. We would not have the scholarship and educational programs without your help.

Necrology

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WAAIME presents scholarships at Virginia Tech
by Susan Harwood, West Virginia-Southern Section

On April 4, 2014, Virginia Tech held its annual mining banquet to honor its students achievements in 2013-2014. At the banquet, the WAAIME West Virginia-Southern (WV-S) section presented scholarship certificates to students sponsored by the Pennsylvania Western (PA-W) and WV-S sections and also to those students receiving Young scholarships.

Lydia Hull, scholarship chair for PA-W, was unable to attend the banquet and asked the WV-S section to present the PA-W section awards. It is always wonderful to see our students working toward the future. Erik Westman, assistant professor at Virginia Tech, joined the WAAIME sections in presenting the scholarship awards.

The Young Scholarships

The Lewis E. and Elizabeth W. Young scholarship grants are administered by WAAIME’s Pennsylvania-Western section. The funds are awarded as grants and may vary in amount depending on the money available from the investment of the capital funds donated to WAAIMEs by Lewis and Elizabeth Young. An eligible recipient must be a graduate from a high school located in the general area of the Pennsylvania-Western Section (western Pennsylvania, West Virginia or Virginia) or a student enrolled in a college or university in the general area of the section. The grants are awarded on the basis of need, satisfactory scholastic achievement (C+ or better) and good character. Students must plan to study mining engineering, metallurgical engineering, material science or petroleum engineering in a four-year curriculum.

Lewis Young was a noted mining engineer and president of AIME in 1949. Elizabeth Young was an active member of the Pennsylvania-Western section for many years.

Susan Harwood, (far left) and Erik Westman (far right) presented Young Scholarships to Virginia Tech students (l-r) Dillon Clark, Adam Lis, Stephanie Poole, Elizabeth Van Nostrand, Brittany Wilson and Sam Sydnor.

University of Pittsburgh students received Young Scholarships presented by Badie I. Morsi, director of the petroleum engineering program. They are Payton Forrest, Yemin Hong, Morsi and Patrick Soloski.

Students sponsored by the WAAIME WV-S received scholarship awards, (l-r) Susan Harwood, WAAIME; Andres Dahmen, Aubrey Athey, Chelsea Barrett, Izaak Dail, Greg Jennison, Jack Maxey and Marion King.

Students sponsored by the WAAIME PA-W received their awards from Susan Harwood, WAAIME (far left) and Erik Westman (far right). They are (l-r) Tyler Faulkner, Megan Huber, Tyler Daugherty and William Thomas.
WAAIME scholarship album 2015

West Virginia University (WVU) students (l-c) Jeffery Stevens and Mehdi Rajaeebaygi received WAAIME scholarship checks from Christopher Bise (r), chair of the Department of Mining Engineering at WVU, presented on behalf of the WAAIME WV-S section.

University of Kentucky students (l-c) Douglas Addo and Kevin Harris received WAAIME scholarship checks, which were presented by professor Rick Honaker (r).


The University of Utah WAAIME scholarship recipients were recognized April 22, 2014 at the Department of Mining Engineering’s annual awards dinner. They are: back row (l-r) Aaron Young, Nathan Ellgen, Nathan Rigby, Olan Nielson, Ryan Burton, Joshua Howard, Russ Spaulding, Kyle Spaulding, Sheldon Kargis and Jake Seiter. Front row (l-r) Ashley Hodgson, Natalia Healey, Michale Stine, Tyler Peck, Kendall Bergman, Oleg Serdyuk, Jordon Prestwich, Crystal Darger and Dixie Hale, UT-Northern scholarship chair.

University of Nevada-Reno scholarship recipients (l) Virginia Ibarra and (r), Ebrahim Karimi-Tarshizi.