Young Leaders Committee welcomes the Class of 2015

SME is pleased to announce the Young Leaders Committee (YLC) class of 2015. SME initiated the Young Leaders Committee in 2001 to provide young SME members with opportunities for professional development. The Young Leaders program gives the younger membership of SME the opportunity to:

- Network with key players in the industry.
- Gather technical information important to professional growth.
- Remain involved with SME after graduation.
- Transition into more active leadership roles throughout SME.
- Develop and lead professional development programs within SME.

Each year, the Young Leaders recruit outstanding young professionals with leadership potential and motivation to serve a four-year term on the YLC. Candidates must be younger than 35 years old and possess significant professional experience and demonstrated leadership ability. YLC members are asked to attend the annual SME meetings, participate in monthly conference calls and quarterly mentoring sessions, and undertake special projects. All activities are designed to help committee members enter into the leadership structure of the society, in addition to providing networking, educational and leadership opportunities.

For more information about the Young Leaders Committee, visit www.smenet.org/youngleaders. SME congratulates and welcomes the class of 2015.

Kori Clyde


CLYDE

Kori Clyde is a mining engineer for North American Coal in central Mississippi. Clyde graduated from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T) in May 2014 with a bachelor of science degree in mining engineering and management. As a student at SDSM&T, she was active with the student chapter of SME, holding the office of secretary. While in school, she spent two summers as an intern for Hills Materials at its Rapid City quarry and one summer as an intern for Cloud Peak Energy at the Cordero Rojo Mine.

Paul Schmidt

Paul Schmidt has been a mine engineer at the Barrick Goldstrike openpit mine for two and half years. He has held the positions of dispatch engineer, ore control engineer and short-range planning engineer. Schmidt has been the site champion for a site-wide, wireless network upgrade and led the implementation of procedures in ore control and dispatch that will help accommodate the startup of the Arturo JV Mine just north of Goldstrike. He has completed the Barrick Compass I development program, where he explored all aspects of the mining cycle. He holds a B.S. from the Missouri University of Science and Technology in mine engineering.


SCHMIDT

Ali Haghighat


HAGHIGHAT

Ali Haghighat finished his bachelors degree in mining engineering in Iran in 2006. After seven years of experience in the industry, he enrolled at the Missouri University of Science and Technology (S&T) to finish his master's degree in mining engineering. He worked in several areas of ventilation during his studies, such as the numerical modeling of airflow, ventilation network analysis and fire simulation. Haghighat was chosen as a member of the Honor Society at Missouri S&T in May 2014 and graduated in August 2014. He has published papers on the analysis of ventilation networks and numerical modeling of airflow. He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree at Virginia Tech.

Melissa Boerst


BOERST

Melissa Boerst graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in 2012 with a bachelors degree in business administration and geology. After graduation, she joined ALS Minerals in Reno, NV as the U.S. client services representative. She took over drill core services and subsequently became the Reno sample prep manager. She was then given the opportunity to open a new, sample-preparation lab in Tucson, AZ, where she was the branch manager. In October 2014, she joined Skyline Assayers and Laboratories in Sparks, NV as the Nevada operations manager. She is a member of the SME Tucson Local Section, the Arizona Geological Society and the Geological Society of Nevada.

Luis Felipe Velasquez A.

Luis Felipe Velasquez A. is a senior studying mining engineering at the National University of San Marcos. He also


VELASQUEZ A.

has a B.A. in education from the same university. He has worked as an editor and proofreader at San Marcos Publishing and as a technical office assistant at Cosapi for the Constancia Mine in Cusco, Peru, where he translates documents and supports the technical office. Since October 2013, he has served as vice president of the newly formed University of San Marcos SME Student Chapter.

Briana Gunn


GUNN

Briana Gunn is currently the Mountain Region mining business line leader for URS Corp. She coordinates and develops projects and pursuits for the mining groups in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. She has bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Colorado in civil engineering with a water resource emphasis. She is a licensed professional engineer in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Arkansas and is a member of the SME Professional Engineers Exam Committee. She has experience in hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, civil hydraulic design, construction engineering and project management. Gunn has also been involved in design and construction of storm water conveyance and storage, and water-quality design for residential and commercial development.

Nick Gow


GOW

Nick Gow graduated from Montana Tech in 2008 with a B.S. in metallurgical and materials engineering and an M.S. in metallurgical engineering. In 2011, he obtained a B.S. in chemistry. He is currently working on a Ph.D. in chemistry and metallurgical engineering at the University of Montana, which he will defend in the spring of 2015. Gow has been working as an engineer for FLSmidth since 2012, first as a research engineer with the Hydromet R&D division and then as a metallurgical engineer for its Dawson laboratory testing group. He currently serves as an MPD member of the Student Affairs Committee.

Xihui Yin

Yin is a research scientist with Kemira Chemicals in the oil and mining segment of the Research and Development Department. She works on new product development projects for mineral processing applications. Yin earned her B.S. degree from Beijing University, China and an M.S. degree from Michigan Technological University,


YIN

where she majored in material science and engineering. In 2012, she finished her Ph.D. program in metallurgical engineering at the University of Utah. After graduation, Yin joined Newmont Mining Corp. as a metallurgical engineer, where she worked on process development projects, provided operational support and participated in R&D projects. She received the Industrial Minerals & Aggregates Division Outstanding Young Scientist Award in 2015.

Manuel Reynaldo Montenegro P.


MONTENEGRO P.

Manuel Reynaldo Montenegro P. began studying in the mining engineering program at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (UNMSM) at the age of 16 and obtained his B.S. in July 2014. While in school, he held leadership roles in the SME student chapter and in other student institutions. He was the main promoter in the creation of the student chapter at UNMSM. He served as secretary on the first committee and was president of the chapter in 2013. He has been an SME member since 2012.

William Thompson


THOMPSON

William Thompson graduated magna cum laude in 2013 from the Missouri University of Science and Technology with a B.S. in mining engineering. He served as treasurer, vice-president and president of the SME student chapter. Upon graduation, he accepted a position with Lhoist North America as a mine engineer at a limestone quarry. He primarily works on long- and short-range planning and is involved in the sampling and surveying necessary to ensure the quality of the stone. He is on track to sit for the professional engineers exam in 2017 and hopes to work his way to a head position in an engineering department.

Heather N. Lammers


LAMMERS

Heather Lammers graduated from the University of North Dakota in 2008 with a B.S. degree in geological engineering. She joined Golder Associates and is a project engineer located in the Lakewood, CO office. She provides geotechnical analysis and design consulting services on reclamation, mine waste and heap leach projects. Other responsibilities include technical reporting, project

management, proposal preparation and business development. She also is the health and safety lead for the Engineering Division in Golder's Lakewood, CO office and is responsible for communication with and the compliance of all division members with health and safety procedures. Lammers is a member of the Denver Chapter of Women in Mining.

Mohammad Rezaee


REZAEE

Mohammad Rezaee graduated with a B.S. in mining engineering from Amirkabir University of Technology, Iran in 2008. After two years as manager of a surface mining department, he began work on a masters degree in mining engineering and mineral processing at the University of Kentucky. Currently, he is pursuing a Ph.D. in mining engineering with a focus on sustainable mining waste disposal and a concurrent masters in mechanical engineering in the field of computation fluid dynamics. In 2012, he received the best Graduate Student Poster Award and in 2014, he received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award. He has published his research results in books, journals and at conferences.

Jordan McCourt


McCOURT

Jordan McCourt has been the chief surveyor and lead draftsmen for GCC Energy since 2013. He has brought technical proficiency to mine planning, permitting and mining operations. Previously, he worked as a junior engineer at the Denison Mine from 2009-2013. His responsibilities included MSHA compliance, management of exploration projects, supervising surveying, environmental compliance and he acted as a task manager for mine leadership.

Kumar Vaibhav Raj


RAJ

Kumar Vaibhav Raj received his bachelor's degree in mining engineering from BIT Sindri in 2006. After graduation, he worked at the Central Mining Research Institute (CMRI) Dhanbad for a short period and went on to pursue a master's degree at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur. At IIT, he was exposed to geostatistical ore research estimation techniques, production scheduling, and operation research applications in mining. During his tenure at IIT, he realized that a Ph.D. degree is essential to a career in research. So, he is currently a Ph.D. candidate in mining engineering at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. His research focuses on issues that directly impact the health, safety and productivity of the mining industry.

Justine Sorensen


SORENSEN

Justine Sorensen joined the Wipro Technologies ENU practice as a domain consultant specializing in mining operations and has plans to grow the mining consultant practice at Wipro. She obtained a master's degree in mining engineering and a bachelor's degree in mining engineering and management from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Her previous work experience was primarily in quarry operations. She has worked as a blasting specialist, quality control technician, mine planner and equipment operator, and she has spent significant time running and operating the finishing plant operations. During college, she was active in the SME student chapter.

Theodore Winkelmann


WINKELMANN

Theodore Winkelmann graduated from Montana Tech in 2010 with a B.S. degree in metallurgical engineering. He completed a master's in business administration through Phoenix DeVry and Capella University online programs. He has worked as an intern for Newmont Mining at its Denver laboratories, as well as at the Carlin South pit and North Lantern pit in Northern Nevada. Winkelmann has been working for Mercator Minerals for the last three and half years. His is area of focus is in the grinding and flotation of molybdenum of sulfide ores.

Rahul Thareja


THAREJA

Rahul Thareja is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering at the University of Nevada Reno. He is currently doing research on the NIOSH grant, "Weak rock mass in Nevada gold mines: Behavior, support design and performance." The primary objective of the research is to address the ground control design issues in weak rock masses currently faced by most underground mines operating in Nevada and thus help enhance safety of mining operations in weak rock formations. Thareja's primary role is in the numerical modeling of the weak rock conditions in various mines and calibration of the model according to the instrumentation data from different cases at the underground mines.

Thomas Rauch


RAUCH

Thomas Rauch holds B.S. degrees from The Pennsylvania State University in mining engineering and energy business and finance, focused on engineering, operations and global markets. He has worked in production, engineering, procurement and construction, and as an independent consultant. He has spent significant time working in Canada, China and Mongolia. Currently, Rauch works for Jacobs, based in Calgary, AB, Canada, as part of a seven-member team on the company's highest-risk projects. Thomas enjoys working to foster community and support industry growth.

Hannah McNally


McNALLY

Hannah McNally graduated cum laude from Missouri University of Science and Technology in 2013 with a B.S. in mining engineering. She served as SME student chapter secretary, manager for the mining engineering recruitment team and as national secretary of the Women in Mining. McNally received the 2013 Mines and Metallurgy Academy Scholar Award. After graduation, she joined the Doe Run Co. as a mining engineer and utility crew supervisor. She primarily works on utility planning but also takes on engineering and continuous improvement projects. She plans on starting an MBA program in 2015.

Sterling Ziegler


ZIEGLER

Sterling Ziegler earned a B.S. in mining engineering, with a certificate in engineering management, from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in 2012. He interned at surface and underground mines with Barrick Gold in Nevada. Upon graduation, he went to work for Barrick at the Goldstrike openpit in Elko, NV as a planning engineer, developing life-of-mine plans and waste rock placement schedules. Rotating into the dispatch engineer position, he managed the openpit dispatch systems and production database. In 2014, he moved to Davey Bickford in Salt Lake City, UT. He currently works as a product implementation engineer assisting customers across North America.

Donald S. Swartz II


SWARTZ

Donald Swartz is a vice president with John T. Boyd Co., an international mining, geological and energy consulting firm in Canonsburg, PA. A mining engineering graduate of West Virginia University, Swartz is experienced in engineering, management and the evaluation of domestic and international mining operations with an increased focus in the operational and engineering aspects of underground mining. He has worked on projects throughout the United States, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Poland and South Africa. ■

Mohan Singh is guest lecturer at ISM Dhanbad

by Karan Bhatia, ISM student member

The SME student chapter and mining engineering society at the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad organized a guest lecture by Dr. Mohan Kr. Singh, chief inspector of Mines, Papua, New Guinea. He is a proud alumnus of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad and has served in many mining firms in India.

The first lecture delved into the philosophical macrocosm and was entitled Mining the Mine. The lecture emphasized using one' s mental and spiritual energy to attain the pillar of excellence, which is being physically fit, mentally strong, spiritually driven and emotionally balanced. Mining engineering is a challenging job and, therefore, requires a healthy and mentally sound personality to face the challenges of the mining industry.

The SME ISM chapter with Mohan Singh.

The second session was interactive and revealed new technologies in deep sea mining. The focus of the lecture was in the areas of inception and the route map of deep sea mining activities in Papua, New Guinea. Singh discussed the specifics and stipulations of deep sea mining using dynamically positioned ships, bulk cutters, remotely operated vehicles and production support vehicles.

The session was attended by V.M.S.R. Murthy, associate dean of International Relations and Alumni Affairs, and faculty from the Department of Mining Engineering, V.P. Sinha, chair professor, National Mineral Development Corp., A.K. Mishra, chair professor, Uranium Corp. of India Ltd. and R.M. Bhattacharjee, chair professor, Ministry of Labor and Employment. ■