

### SME announces Young Leaders' class of 2003

The Future Leaders Program was initiated in 1998. It recognizes those members, under the age of 35, who have demonstrated leadership skills and initiative within their companies, communities and SME. And it aims to further integrate them within the society. In 2001, the program began an exciting evolution into what is now the Young Leaders Program. The objective of the Young Lead-

ers Program is now twofold:

- to target and recognize the young leaders of SME and increase their involvement within the society and
- to use the Young Leaders Program as a tool to add value to SME membership through professional development programs for the society as a whole.

Participation in the Young Leaders Program involves a four-year service commitment on the Young Leaders Committee (YLC), a standing committee that was created in 2002. The YLC will implement new programming and services relevant to students and younger professionals in the industry. The first professional development program will be offered during the 2004 annual meeting in Denver, CO.



ADU-ACHEAMPONG

Albert Adu-Acheampong graduated from Western University College, Ghana, with a

#### Albert Adu-Acheampong

B.S. (honors) in mining engineering. He also holds an M.S. degree in mining engineering from the Mackay School of Mines, University of Nevada-Reno. At Mackay, he was vice president of the SME student chap-

ter and a member of the fundraising committee. He currently works for Agapito Associates in Grand Junction, CO. He has worked in the areas of rock mechanics, ventilation and resource estimate studies.

Jeffrey L. Best is a strategy manager in Accenture's Global Metals and Mining Group. He works with global mining companies on operations and business process challenges. Prior to join-

#### Jeffrey L. Best

ing Accenture, he was a mining engineer and a mine shift supervisor with Phelps Dodge's Chino Mines. He earned a B.S. in mining engineering from New Mexico Tech and served as vice president

of the SME student chapter. He also has an M.B.A. from The University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. Best is a former U.S. Marine and a veteran of Desert Storm.

Matt J. Blattman obtained a B.S. degree in mining engineering from the Mackay School of Mines at the University of Nevada-Reno in 1996. He received the 1996 Out-



BLATTMAN

standing Mining Engineering Student of the Year award. While in school, he worked for Mine Development Associates (MDA) as a software technical support engineer and project technician. Upon

graduation, Blattman continued working for MDA as a project engineer. In 1997, Blattman joined Hecla Mining as a project engineer at the Rosebud Mine near Winnemucca, NV. His duties included short- and long-term production planning, ventilation design and pumping. He was also involved in several corporate mine-planning projects. In 1999, he won the Mining and Exploration Division's Outstanding Young Professional Award. Blattman returned to MDA in October 2000 as a project engineer. He is an active participant in the Western Underground Mining

#### Matt J. Blattman

Association's annual conference in Elko, NV. He is a member of the SME Accreditation and Curricular Issues subcommittee and is involved with the local Northern Nevada Section of SME.

(Continued on page 86)

#### SME NEWS CONTENTS

Membership	
87	
Personal News	
90	
Obituaries	
91	



(Continued from page 85)



**DEWICKI**

Grzegorz (Greg) Dewicki is an advanced technology manager for Overland Conveyor, based in Littleton, CO. He earned a B.S.

### Grzegorz Dewicki

in engineering from the Colorado School of Mines where he studied electrical and mechanical engineering. He also served as an adjunct professor. He has a wide range of experience ranging from military telecommunications to the mining industry. His most recent projects

involved the application of various numerical modeling technologies, ranging from discrete element methods to bulk material handling problems. He has developed cost-effective computer simulation tools for engineers in the mining and aggregate industries.



**DURGIN**

Scott Durgin received a bachelor's degree in mining engineering and a master's degree in technical man-

agement from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Since 1991, he has worked in the gold mining and coal mining industries as a mining engineer, a planning engineer and an engineering and environmental manager. He is

currently the production manager for Powder River Coal at its North Antelope/Rochelle Complex in Gillette, WY. Durgin has served for three years on the executive committee of the SME Powder River Basin local section.

### Scott Durgin



**HARWOOD**

Cary P. Harwood Jr. received a B.S. degree in civil engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI) in 1994,

with concentrations in structural

### Cary P. Harwood Jr.

and environmental engineering. He received his M.S. degree in mining engineering from VPI in 1996 with concentration in ground control. After graduation, Harwood joined the management trainee program at A.T. Massey Coal in West Virginia. He later served as assistant to the president of Sidney Coal in Sidney, KY and president of Performance Coal in Naoma, WV. He

is currently senior applications engineer for BLNA Hardmaterials in Henderson, KY. He wrote *Optimizing Secondary Tailgate Support Selection* that was published in the *Proceedings of the 15th International Conference on Ground Control in Mining, 1996*. He is the winner of the Coal and Energy Division's 2000 J.W. Woormer Young Engineer Award.

Antonio Nieto is an assistant professor in the Mining Engineering Department at Virginia Tech. Nieto received his doctorate in mining in 2002 and his master of science degree in 1995 from the

Colorado School of Mines. He also received a masters degree in geostatistics from Ecole des Mines de Paris in 1997 and a bachelor's degree from the Guanajuato School of Mines, Mexico in 1990. Nieto has

worked as a mine foreman, mine superintendent and project manager in underground and openpit mines. He currently teaches project engineering, mine management and the elements of mine design.

### Antonio Nieto

Travis Orser is a project manager for Outokumpu in Englewood, CO. He is the chair of the Mineral and Metallurgical Processing Division's (MPD) Crushing and

Grinding unit committee and a member of the Colorado Section's MPD subcommittee. Orser graduated from Montana Tech in 1994 where he was president of the SME

student chapter. He received the session chair award from the SAG Conference 2001. He has also worked for Cargill Fertilizer as a production supervisor.

(Continued on page 93)

### Travis Orser

(continued from page 86)

### Brian Prosser

Brian Prosser received a B.S. degree in mining engineering from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1994. He worked on subsurface ventilation for eight years with Mine Ventilation Services in

Fresno, CA. He recently accepted an engineering position with Bechtel/SAIC at the Yucca Mountain Project in Las Vegas, NV. Prosser is a registered professional engineer in Nevada and Virginia and a member of the

SME Professional Registration Committee. He has authored and coauthored several professional papers.



PROSSER

### Robert Roos

Robert Roos graduated from Montana Tech in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in mining engineering. Upon graduation, he joined Granite Construction as a

plant engineer at the company's aggregate and asphalt plants in Nevada. Roos has served as the co-chair of the SME Career Planning Workshop for the last two

years and is active on the Student Member Affairs subcommittee.



ROOS

### Dirk Sohn

Dirk S. Sohn received a Ph.D. in mining from Aachen University, Germany in 1996 where he was a member of the SME student chapter. Until 2000, he was

employed at the Mining Institute at RWTH Aachen. There, he focused on safety in mining and feasibility studies for the minerals industry. In 2001, he joined the Hypo-

Vereinsbank AG in Munich. He is now active in the field of mining finance.



SOHN

### Carey P. Stafford

Carey P. Stafford graduated from Virginia Tech in 2000 with a B.S. in mining and minerals engineering. She then joined Cargill Fertilizer's Career Development Program for

Young Professionals. She currently works as a project engineer for Cargill Fertilizer in Fort Meade, FL. Stafford has served as secretary and treasurer of the SME Florida

Section. She is also a member of the Student Member Affairs Committee.



STAFFORD

### James Stewart

James Stewart is a graduate student at Michigan Technological University pursuing a Ph.D. in mining engineering and mineral economics. While an undergraduate at Michigan Tech, he served the SME student chapter as field trip chair and on the fundraising committee. After completing un-

dergraduate studies, Stewart joined Placer Dome as a shift supervisor at the Dome Mine. He gained experience in underground and surface mining, engineering, production and international projects. He currently works on graduate research projects in mine planning, stope

optimization, underground mining methods and the development of advanced rock drills.

(Continued on page 94)



STEWART



(continued from page 93)



**TORRES**

Vanessa M. Torres is area manager for nickel projects at Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD), Brazil. She received masters and doc-

### Vanessa Torres

toral degrees in chemical engineering from the university of Sao Paulo, Brazil and the University of British Columbia, respectively. She has 11 years experience on project management, technology development, plant optimization and feasibility evaluation for gold and base metal projects. She has worked in

Canada and supervised projects in Australia, Chile, South Africa and the United States. She has received several awards, including the 1999 Robert Peele Memorial Award from the Mining and Exploration Division. She is a registered professional engineer in Brazil.



**TUREK**

Michael Turek graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a B.S. in geo-environmental engineering and

### Michael Turek

an M.S. in mineral processing. Turek has co-authored papers on coal recovery from refuse material and on particle characterization. He currently works for Unimin as a member of the Engineer-in-Training program. This is a four-year training program that

exposes engineers to field operations and engineering services in the industrial minerals industry. He recently published a paper on the recovery of bituminous coal from refuse material in the *Minerals and Metallurgical Processing* journal.



**UHRIE**

John L. Uhrie holds degrees in geological engineering, geology and metallurgical engineering from the University of Wyoming

and Michigan Tech. Upon completing his Ph.D., he accepted a position with Phelps Dodge Mining's

### John L. Uhrie

Process Technology Center in Morenci, AZ. He spent seven years in the technology center pioneering advances in stockpile and tank sulfide biooxidation. Other significant work included the development and validation of a phenomenological, numerically based leach model used as an optimization tool to evaluate different potential leaching scenarios. He has recently accepted a promotion to process

superintendent at the Cerro Verde Mine in Arequipa Peru. Uhrie is a registered professional engineer. He was chosen as the Outstanding Young Alumni for 2002 by Michigan Tech. He is also the winner of the 2003 Outstanding Young Engineer Award from the Mineral and Metallurgical Processing Division. He is 2003 program chair for the Mining and Exploration Division's Solution Mining Committee.



**VARICHAK**

Julie M. Varichak graduated from Michigan Technological University (MTU) in 2002 with a B.S. in mining engineer-

### Julie M. Varichak

ing. Currently she works for Caterpillar's Marketing Resource Division as a mining service representative in the company's corporate intern program. She has been active in SME since 1998. She was president of the SME student chapter at MTU for two

years and also served as vice president and secretary. She participated on MTU's national collegiate mining competition team. She currently serves on SME's Student Member Affairs Committee and on the Career Planning Workshop Committee.