

Class of 2005 joins the SME Young Leaders Committee

The Young Leaders Committee (YLC) has announced 12 new committee members for 2005. The objectives of the Young Leaders Program are to target and recognize the young leaders of SME, to increase the involvement of these professionals within the society and to use the Young Leaders Program as a tool to add value to SME by developing professional-development programs for the society as a whole.

Participation in the Young Leaders Program involves a four-year service commitment to the YLC, a standing committee that was created in 2002. It will be the task of the YLC to implement new

programming and services relevant to younger professionals and students in the industry. The first professional development program was offered during the 2004 SME Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. At the 2005 annual meeting in Salt Lake City, the American Management Association presented a two-day short course, Leadership and Team Development for Managerial Success.

SME has created this program to help equip young professionals with the tools needed for success in SME and in the mining profession. The future of SME depends on the development of qualified, capable individuals who have the vision and

dedication to lead the society in this new century.

Of the 29 applications received for the 2005 program, the committee selected 12 new members. Those not selected were sent a thank-you letter for their interest. Our new young leaders are: Bharath K. Belle, Ian Firth, Ronel Kappes, Sean Kautzman, Adam Knight, Kathryn Marten, Gevan McCoy, Samuel Rasmussen, Shelley Shalvis, Grant Wenker, Brett Wissel, Megan Wissel. Congratulations to you all.

For more information about the YLC, please visit www.smenet.org/SCRD/SCRDInfo.cfm?BUID=141.

BHARATH K. BELLE

Bharath Kumar Belle graduated from National Institute of Technology Karnataka, India, in 1993 with a B.S. (honors) in mining engineering. He holds an M.S. degree in mining engineering from The Pennsylvania State University and a Ph.D. in mining engineering from the Uni-



BELLE

versity of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. He is currently working as a senior ventilation and occupational hygiene engineer-mining with the technical division of Anglo American in Johannesburg, South Africa. While at Penn State, he worked on projects for the former U.S. Bureau of Mines. He also received the Ardeth Frisby award and the Penn State outstanding international student award. Before joining Anglo, Belle spent six years at the CSIR Kloppersbos Fires and Ex-

plosion research center in South Africa. He has ventilation and dust project experience in coal, gold, diamond and platinum mines. He has published more than 20 technical papers. He is a member of underground ventilation committee of SME and honorary editor of the *Journal of the Mine Ventilation Society of South Africa*. He received the 2000 CSIR-Miningtek innovation award and the 2003 Anglo Technical Director's Award for technical excellence.

IAN FIRTH

Ian Firth graduated from the Royal School of Mines, London, in 1993 with a Master of Engineering degree (honors, first class) in mining engineering and rock mechanics. He began his career with Tarmac Roadstone as a graduate trainee and assistant quarry manager. He joined Rio Tinto in South Africa and worked as the mine planning engineer for Palabora Mining. He then served as regional engineer and area manager for ICI

Mining Services in Botswana. Firth moved to the United States in 1998. He began working towards a Ph.D. in mining engineering at the Mackay School of Mines, investigating blast movement measurement for openpit blasting. In 2002, he joined Hanson Aggregates in San Diego, CA as the area operations manager for various aggregates operations in San Diego county.

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Obituaries

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RONEL KAPPES

Ronel Kappes earned a baccalaureate degree in chemical engineering from Potchefstroom University, South Africa in 1998. There, she received the SASOL Award for Outstanding Final Year Student in Separation



KAPPES

Processes. In 2003, she completed a Ph.D. in mineral processing at the University of Utah, under the guidance of Jan D. Miller. During her tenure at Utah, she received several awards and fellowships. These include an International Precious Metal Institute Graduate Research Award. She also served on the Student Advisory Committee for three years. She has been a member of SME

since 1999. She has recently joined the Colorado Section and is a member of the board of directors. Since completing her Ph.D., Kappes has been working for Newmont Mining as a senior metallurgist at the Malozemoff Technical Facility in the technical services group. Her main research interest is in, but not limited to, sulfide mineral flotation. She has published and presented several papers on the topic.

SEAN KAUTZMAN



KAUTZMAN

Sean Kautzman earned a B.S. in mining engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla (UMR) in 2000. He was

active in UMR's SME student chapter and was a member and trainer of the school's mine-rescue team.

Upon graduation, Kautzman went to work for Lafarge North America at a variety of aggregate sites across Missouri. Since 2003,

he has worked as a resource manager for Lafarge's aggregate operations in southeastern and northern Ontario. He is a member of the Aggregate Producers Association of Ontario and serves on the Community Relations and Rehabilitation committees.

ADAM KNIGHT



KNIGHT

Adam Knight graduated in 1997 from the Mackay School of Mines, University of Nevada-Reno, (UNR) with a B.S. in mining engineering. At UNR, he was named Out-

standing Mining Engineering Student of the Year and Speaker of the Year. He served as president of the John Mackay Club, the SME Student Chapter, and was the recipient of the 1997 Old Timers Watchman Award.

Knight began his career working underground for Consol Coal in southwestern Pennsylvania. He then moved to Elko, NV as chief

surveyor underground at the Jerritt Canyon Joint Venture. In 1998, he became the mine engineer at the SSX Mine and was later promoted to senior underground engineer.

In 2002, he joined Premier Chemicals in Gabbs, NV as the general assistant superintendent of one of the oldest, continuously operating mines in the country. He is currently general manager.

KATHRYN MARTEN

Kathryn Marten graduated cum laude from Michigan Technological University in 2004 with a B.S. in mining engineering. She served as president of the SME Student chapter from 2003-04. In 2003, the group won the Student Chapter Development Award. She

also participated in four mining team competitions. While working as an intern for Soil and Materials Engineers, Marten was awarded the Co-op of the Year award, which is nominated by the office and project staff. She is currently a member of an SME ad hoc com-

mittee to update the SME strategic plan.

Marten is an environmental engineer for Knight Piésold Consulting in Denver, CO. She is heading the efforts to complete a GAP analysis and working on permitting a large silver mine in Bolivia.

GEVAN MCCOY

Gevan McCoy graduated from the University of Missouri-Rolla in 1999 with a B.S. in mining engineering. He became interested in

the mining industry through summer employment in the tunneling industry.

McCoy began his career with W.

L. Hailey & Co., Nashville, TN, as an intern-project manager. He was promoted from project engineer to project manager, overseeing \$3-\$12

million underground projects. He has been project engineer or project manager for a number of tunneling

SAM RASMUSSEN

Sam Rasmussen graduated from the Colorado School of Mines in 1992 with a B.S. degree in chemical engineering and petroleum refining. He joined Phelps Dodge Mining in 1993. He has worked in hydrometallurgical-operations plants in increasingly responsible positions, from metallurgist to operations superintendent. He has worked at the Morenci operation

projects using tunnel boring machines, a pump station and two sewage tunnels. He is also experienced in

in Morenci, AZ and spent one year as the technical-services manager at the Sierrita operation in Green Valley, AZ. While in Arizona, he was a Technical Committee chair for SME's Arizona Conference. Rasmussen then served for four years as process plant manager at the El Abra operation in the Atacama Desert near Calama, Chile. He was named operations

obtaining environmental permits and maintaining compliance with environmental regulations.

general manager in 2004. In April 2005, he was named operations general manager at Phelps Dodge's Candelaria operation in Copiapó, Region III, Chile.



RASMUSSEN

SHELLEY SHALVIS

For the past four years, Shelley Shalvis has worked for Rockwell Automation–Dodge and Reliance Electric as a field sales engineer. She resides in Knoxville TN, where she travels throughout east Tennessee, eastern Kentucky and southwestern Virginia. She works with users, original equipment manufacturers and distributors to

increase production time by providing reliable products and services. She is currently a member of the Coal and Energy Division's Membership and Underground Mining committees.

Shalvis graduated with honors from West Virginia University's (WVU) mining program in 2002. She served as SME student chapter

president for two years and was the winner of the Old Timers Leadership Award, the PCMIA/SME Design Award and the WVU Careers in Coal Award.



SHALVIS

GRANT WENKER

Grant Wenker received his B.S. degree in geology from the University of North Dakota. There, he was vice president of the Earth Sciences Honor Society. He completed his masters degree in geological engineering at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in 1995. He has worked as a geophysi-

cal trainee in Dead Horse, AK and as a staff engineer for Consolidated Engineers and Materials Testing in Gillette, WY.

Wenker has worked for Carlson Software in Maysville, KY for the past six years as an engineer/software specialist. He is involved in the sales of and training for mining

products. As the top salesman with Carlson, he has been involved in product development, global positioning system equipment guidance and in creating better ways of modeling geology, mine planning and surveying. He is a licensed, professional engineer and a geologist-in-training.

BRETT WISSEL

Brett Wissel received a B.S. in mining engineering with honors from the University of Missouri-Rolla (UMR) in May 2003. He served the UMR student chapter of SME on the GEM Committee, as a chapter officer and by fundraising. Wissel is currently secretary of SME's Florida section. He serves the Industrial Minerals Division as a technical programming vice chair and rep-

resents the division on the Accreditation and Curricular Issues Committee. He serves on the Young Leaders Committee as the mining engineering chair and the professional development vice chair.

Wissel was an integral member of the Wingate Creek Mine startup team for Cargill Fertilizer. He is now the assistant mine superintendent at Wingate Creek, a 1.36 Mt/a (1.5 million stpy) phosphate-rock

dredge mine. Wissel is managing capital and engineering resources to refine several mining and reclamation processes while maintaining day-to-day production goals.



B. WISSEL

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Denver celebrates a musical Earth Day

The Denver Center for Performing Arts' production of *Fire on the Mountain* debuted at the Stage Theatre, April 7, 2005, in downtown Denver, CO. *Fire on the Mountain* was a month-

long musical festival of Appalachian coal-mining bluegrass music.

In celebration of Earth Day, several Colorado mining organizations took part in the opening night reception for the media. They in-

cluded the Colorado Mining Exhibit Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute, the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation, the Center for Energy and Economic Development, the American Coal Foundation and the Colorado Mining Association.

Part of the media event was a 9 m (30-ft) public-education exhibit that stayed in the lobby throughout the run of the musical. The exhibit showed the differences between coal mining 75 years ago and today's modern industry — emphasizing mined-land reclamation and today's impressive safety record. A Teachers Corner, containing free educational material, was also part of the exhibit. More than 5,000 young people saw the musical and the exhibit at matinee performances for students. Each teacher and chaperone received a bag of educational CDs, videos, posters and publications.

For more information about the Colorado Mining Exhibit Foundation, contact Guy Johnson at 303-969-0365 or GPJ222@aol.com. ■



Barbara Filas, SME President, (far left) joins other attendees viewing the mining exhibit at the opening-night reception for *Fire on the Mountain*.

Stubblefield Wins 2005 Willson Award

The John E. Willson Distinguished Alumni Award was established in 2000. It recognizes a graduate of the University of Utah's mining-engineering program who has set a high standard by his or her accomplishments in the mining industry and brings honor to the university's mining program. Professor Willson devoted his career to his students and to building a strong and viable mining engineering program at the University of Utah.

The 2005 Willson Award winner is Gary M. Stubblefield, vice president-surface mining for Norwest Corp., Salt Lake City, UT. In addition to his B.S. degree in mining engineering, Stubblefield has an



STUBBLEFIELD

with Utah International. He served in Cedar City, UT, San Francisco, CA and Craig, CO. In Craig, he supervised mine planning, permitting, development drilling, equipment selection, surveying, coal-quality and environmental compli-

M.B.A. from Colorado State University and is a registered professional engineer in Utah and Colorado.

Stubblefield began his career

during the crucial start-up years of the Trapper Mine, a 2.3 Mt (2.1 million st) surface coal mine. He was vice president of operations for Trapper when it received the 1993 Sentinels of Safety Award. He then spent about four years with Mincom in Denver, CO before joining Norwest.

Stubblefield has been a member of SME for 29 years. He is past president and a current board member of the Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute. He has also been involved with the Mining and Metallurgical Society of America, the Denver Coal Club, the Colorado Mining Association and the Northwest Colorado Energy Producers Association. ■