



Department of Mining Engineering

# BLACK DIAMONDS WV

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Editors: Faculty and Staff  
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## Spindler Presents Spring Poundstone Lecture, "In Defense of Industry"

On April 15, 2010, Garold R. Spindler, chairman and CEO of Imagin Minerals, Inc., as well as Zeox Corporation, a TSX listed junior industrial minerals company, presented the William Poundstone Lecture entitled "In Defense of Industry."

Mr. Spindler's career has included a number of senior positions within the United States, Canada, and Australia. Notably, he was president and CEO of the Pittston Coal Group, and also served as president and CEO of Cyprus Amax Minerals Company. The early years of his career were spent at Consolidation Coal Company, where he held numerous progressively more responsible positions including vice president of exploration and head of the Transportation and Baltimore Dock divisions. A West Virginia native, Mr. Spindler has worked in mining for 40 years, beginning as a laborer and machine operator, section foreman, mine superintendent, and general superintendent.

Garold R. Spindler holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in mining engineering from West Virginia University,



*Garold Spindler stresses a point during his Poundstone Lecture.*

as well as an M.S. in management from Stanford University. He received the 2008 Erskine Ramsay Medal from the American Institute of Mining and Petroleum Engineers where he was recognized for his contributions to mining technology in the U.S., Canada, and Australia and was also recently recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus of The West Virginia School of Mines.

The full text of the lecture appears at the following website: <http://www.mine.cemr.wvu.edu/>  
Click on the **Alumni/Distinguished EM Awards/2010** news item.



## West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame

Two new members were inducted into West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame at a ceremony of the West Virginia Coal Mining Institute on Friday, May 7, 2010, at Glade Spring in Daniel, West Virginia. The new members were Thomas W. Howard (BSEM '43, MSEM '45) and James (Jim) Lewis Laurita (BSEM '82).



Thomas W. Howard, (BSEM '43 and MSEM '45)

Howard began his mining engineering education at WVU in 1940 and graduated with a BSEM in January 1943 during the middle of World War II. His class included only one other student, his good friend, Dave Zegeer.

Howard entered the U.S. Navy after graduation, but returned to WVU to obtain his master's degree in mining engineering after the war.

In 1945, he obtained employment with The New River Company in Mount Hope, West Virginia. Howard became a section foreman at Summerless, and then an

assistant to the superintendent at Stanaford No. 2 Mine. Later Howard became the chief engineer for the company.

In 1961, Howard formed his own consulting mining engineering firm – Thomas W. Howard, Inc. His firm continued in business for 47 years. Ultimately, it was taken over by Howard Engineering, Inc., owned and operated by Howard's son, Charles.

While continuing to operate his consulting firm, Howard became general manager of the Beaver Coal Company, Ltd. He has served the company for 20 years in different capacities. In addition, as a retired Professional Engineer in West Virginia, Howard served on the WV State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers. He is a Legion of Honor Member of AIME, and a longtime member of the West Virginia Coal Mining Institute and Careers in Coal.

Howard lives with Betty, his wife of nearly 62 years, in Mount Hope, West Virginia. They have three children and six grandsons.



James Lewis Laurita (Jim Sr.)

Jim Laurita, a West Virginia native, joined the U.S. Navy after graduating from Morgantown High School. While stationed in Washington, D.C., he met his wife, Beverly. They are blessed with two sons, James Jr., and Thomas, as well as a daughter, Toni.

Laurita's career in coal mining started in 1959 when he joined his father and his brother, John, in purchasing three coal trucks and forming a trucking business. Over the next twenty years, the father and sons developed their trucking business and expanded into contract excavation and property development. Laurita opened their first fully mechanized underground mine in Maidsville, West Virginia in 1969.

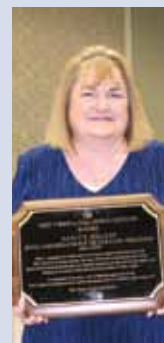
Over the years he opened a number of additional underground and surface mines in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Laurita subsequently constructed a coal preparation plant and a barge loading facility which became the center of the mining operations called the Maidsville Complex.

During the 70s and 80s Laurita bought the assets of the various companies from his father and two brothers and became the sole owner of the family's mining companies.

The Laurita family was instrumental in conceiving and developing the Longview power plant, a 15 year project which will commence operations this fall.



The left photo (left to right) shows **Wendy Spaw** (new office administrator), **Nancy Ireland** (former office administrator), **Caroline Watts**, **Royce Watts**, and **Danielle Petrak** (curator of Royce and Caroline Watts Museum). Royce Watts, associate dean for administration in the College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, has served as secretary-treasurer of West Virginia Coal Mining Institute and assumed responsibility for semi-annual meetings and other activities for more than 30 years. **Nancy L. Ireland** was his office administrator for those years. She was also the secretary-treasurer and was honored with an award (photo at right) to recognize her 25 years of dedication to the Institute and to the coal mining industry.





On April 9, 2010, the College of Engineering and Mineral Resources held its Outstanding Academic Achievement Ceremony. In this photo, **Dr. Christopher J. Bise** (right), Chair of the Department of Mining Engineering receives the College's "Outstanding Advisor Award" from **Dr. Eugene Cilento**, Dean of the College.



## The Department was well represented at the CEMR Outstanding Academic Achievement Ceremony

In this photo (right), Dr. Bise is joined by several mining engineering students who were honored for being on the President's List or Dean's List for this year. Students pictured from left to right are **Jacob Haney**, **William McBrayer**, **Drew Morgan**, **Katarina Gump**, **Amy Burt**, and **Christopher Rombold**.

Missing from the photo are Robert Burke, Matthew Beerbower, Kevin Burton, Kellen Davis, Logan Hall, Mitchell Hankinson, Geoffrey Howe, Stephanie Hubbell, Jeffrey Lorimer, Charles Ndhlovu, Skyler Roberts, Alison Sears, Rachel Sellaro, Jared Stein, and Nathan Sypolt.



The ceremony was also well-attended by family and friends of the recipients. Shown below are the proud family members of some of our students (clockwise from upper left): **Lloyd and Paula Burt** (Amy's parents); **Joann and Lloyd Rombold** (Christopher's parents); **Lucky Oesterheld** (grandfather) and **Sheryl Haney** (Jacob's mother); **Craig and Maureen Morgan** (Drew's parents).



## Coal Preparation Society Provides Scholarships



The Northern West Virginia Coal Preparation Society (NWVCPS) has added an additional \$10,000 to the existing NWVCPS Scholarship Fund to bring the total amount to \$40,000. The Society intends to add additional \$10,000 to the scholarship fund every year. **Katarina Gump** (left) and **Robert Burke** (center), mining engineering seniors, attended the March 10, 2010 meeting of the Society to accept scholarship checks from **Darrel Smith** (right), secretary of the NWVCPS.

## Martin Smay and Alison Sears Receive SME Scholarships



**“Martin Smay** (left) receives the 2009 - 2010 SME Coal and Energy Division Scholarship Check from **Dr. Christopher Bise**, chair of the Department.



**“Alison Sears** was named the recipient of the 2009 - 2010 SME Mining and Exploration Division Scholarship.

## Make A Difference in the Lives That Follow



**LEAVE A LEGACY®**

The “value added” factor for the mining industry is a high one. Without the efforts of mining engineers, our nation wouldn’t be able to maximize some of its most significant natural resources.

Maximizing the benefits of WVU’s mining engineering program is something that anyone may consider doing. One supportive way is through including a gift provision in your will or revocable trust to the West Virginia University Foundation, Inc. for the benefit of the College of Engineering and Mineral Resources Department of Mining Engineering.” Another option is to make the Foundation the after-death beneficiary of a retirement asset account and then contact the Foundation to establish a coordinating agreement to benefit the Department.

As you specify, your gift can help your gift meet the Department’s greatest needs for (1) opportunity funds, (2) professorships, or (3) scholarships.

What is an opportunity fund? It provides support for unrestricted use by the Department to meet its most pressing needs at that time. You may

specify an **endowed** opportunity fund of \$100,000 or more or a **non-endowed** opportunity fund of \$25,000 or more. The difference is that the endowed fund is permanent and operates in perpetuity by providing an annual payout from its earnings. Either fund may be named for anyone the donor wishes to honor.

A named endowed professorship requires a gift of \$500,000 or more. It can be named for someone special and will yield annual support to further an outstanding faculty member’s endeavors in mining engineering.

An endowed scholarship is, of course, a helpful way to support future generations of mining engineering students at WVU. A gift of \$25,000 is needed and will be named for whomever you choose for that honor.

To learn more about these important support options, contact Dawn Sandone, director of development, at **(304) 293-4036** or **Dawn.Sandone@mail.wvu.edu**. She can help you “engineer” the best gift around!



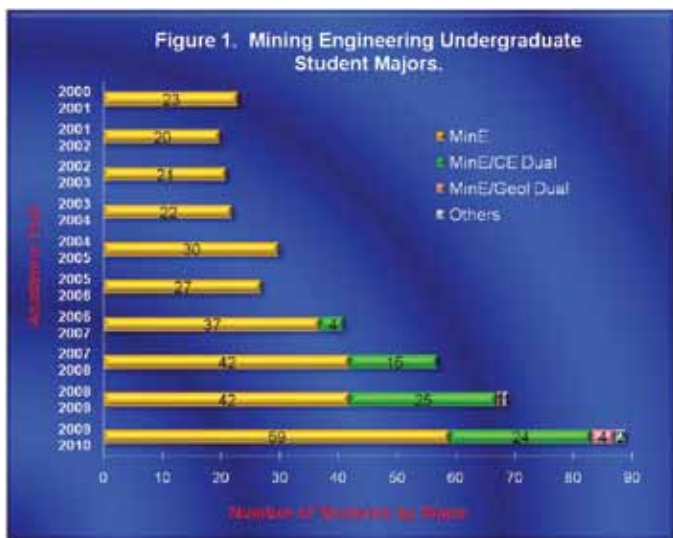
# By the Numbers... WVU Mining Engineering Enrollment

by Christopher J. Bise

In the four years that I have been chairman of WVU's Department of Mining Engineering, the most common question I have been asked by alumni and friends of the program has been, "How's enrollment?" That's to be expected in a small department and an industry with a cyclical history of job opportunities. However, one additional aspect that has fascinated me since coming to WVU is how the demographics of West Virginia high-school graduates have impacted recruiting. Interestingly, WVU's enrollment is rapidly approaching 50% out-of-state students.

As a result, I would like to provide an update for our friends concerning the Department's enrollment patterns over the past decade and to also provide an idea of the areas from which we draw our students.

Overall, the picture is strong: our Department's undergraduate enrollment (declared majors: sophomores, juniors, and seniors) has more than quadrupled in the past decade. During the 2009-2010 academic year, we had a total of 89 students. (Figure 1)



This increase in enrollment has been affected by the corresponding growth in job opportunities. Also, the establishment of dual-degree programs with civil engineering and geology has contributed to this growth.

Undergraduate student credit hours, a measure not only of enrollment growth, but also of faculty productivity and the ability to attract students into mining engineering from other disciplines, has also experienced significant growth. Mining engineering has quadrupled student-credit hours over the past decade (Figure 2). I anticipate continuing increases, at a more gradual rate, in these numbers as faculty members develop new technical electives.



Finally, to address the issue of enrollment by home state, I would like to provide a snapshot of our 2009-10 student body. During this past year, our 89 students came from the states shown in red (Figure 3). Fifty students came from West Virginia, reflecting the interest in career opportunities close to home. Students also come from the following states, in decreasing numbers: Pennsylvania (13), Maryland (9), Ohio (8), Virginia (4), Georgia (2), and Connecticut, Michigan, and New Jersey (1 each). Enrollment from Georgia, Maryland, and Ohio is aided by the provisions of the Academic Common Market, which enables students from participating states to major in mining engineering for West Virginia in-state tuition. It is interesting to note that the percentages of mining engineering students, both in-state and out-of-state, closely parallel the University's percentages.



**Figure 3. Department of Mining Engineering Undergraduate Student Enrollment by States.**

## Alumni News



**Danrick W. Alexander** (PhD MinE '06) (right of photo) received the 2010 SME Distinguished Member Award from Nikhil C. Trivedi, 2010 SME President.



**David Bartsch** (BSEM, '76) P.E., is a professional engineer and certified mine foreman in West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. On March 24 of this year, he spoke to the WVU SME

Student Chapter on mine ventilation. His speech emphasized the practical aspects of mine ventilation.

**Douglas Fala** (BS MinE, '99) P.E., was promoted to General Manager of Midland Trail Complex, Patriot Mining Company LLC.



**Christopher N. Moravec** (BSEM, '79) joined Rhino Energy LLC as Senior Vice President of Business Development in March 2007. In September 2009, Mr. Moravec was also named President of Rhino's Kentucky mining operations – CAM Mining LLC, Pikeville, KY.

**Dan A. Permenter** (BSEM, '77), P.E., Advisor, Products, and Services, and Managing, Carroll Technologies Group and Delta Electric, Inc., Beaver, WV.

**Ryan Toler** (BS MinE, '02), P.E., was promoted to superintendent of Speed Mining, LLC., Patriot Mining Corporation, Dawes, WV.



**Dr. Steve Tadolini** (PhD MinE, '04), despite travel plans that were affected by the Icelandic volcano, was able to attend BAUMA, the largest trade fair for construction and mining equipment in the world which is held every third year in Munich Germany.

## Spring Break in Haiti

Katarina Gump, MINE Senior

**Katarina Gump**, a WVU MinE senior, visited the earthquake-ravaged Port-au-Prince, Haiti during her week-long spring break to do mission work.

Originally, Gump planned to volunteer at the Cap-Haitien Children's Home for orphans, but her plans grew much larger upon meeting three other Americans with similar plans. The three formed a team.

"Working alongside each other and combining our talents, connections, and funds, we were able to supply food and clothing to many children, families, and orphanages," said Gump.

The team helped one man finish his small house, prayed with families who had to beg for food, and dispersed medicine to the sick and crippled. Along the way, they were able to learn about the Haitian culture and way of life.

Gump's transition to a Haitian-based lifestyle was almost immediate. On the second day of her trip, she traveled three hours in the back of a truck bed on a bumpy road that made West Virginia's roads feel freshly paved. The team was soaked from a downpour, and it was becoming dark due to lost traveling time spent fixing the driver's front wheel that was threatening to shear off. The team was hungry, wet, tired, dirty, and sunburned. Despite this, they sang together—a common sound in Haiti.

As they approached the city limits, Gump recalls thinking to herself how nice it would be to take a hot shower and sleep in her comfortable bed. She quickly realized though, that this wouldn't be possible until she flew home six days later.

One thought remained in her mind after this experience: "The people of Haiti never have

those luxuries to look forward to."

Gump understands that Haiti is at a turning point. Her team has already made plans for another, more extensive trip in May with more trips to follow.

"I see this as an opportunity to take what I have learned in my engineering and environmental courses at West Virginia University to a country where it is desperately needed," noted Gump.





**Anthony T. Iannacchione**, left, accepts the 2010 Syd S. Peng Ground Control in Mining Award from **Dr. Peng**.

## Iannacchione Receives Peng Ground Control Award

The 2010 Syd S. Peng Ground Control in Mining Award was presented to Anthony T. Iannacchione "in recognition of his tenacious and tireless ground control research efforts to protect the safety and health of miners around the world" at the 2010 SME Annual Meeting Banquet at Phoenix, Arizona. Since 2008, Iannacchione has served as the director of the mining engineering program at the University of Pittsburgh; prior to his current appointment, he worked for the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health for 33 years conducting ground-control research in areas such as developing controls for hazards associated with coal mine bursts; high horizontal stress; and inadequate entry, pillar, and roof support performance. His educational background includes two degrees in civil engineering (Ph.D. and M.S.) and two in geology (M.S. and B.S.).



Session chairs and presenters of the "Best of Ground Control" at the 2010 SME Meeting were (left to right) **Steve Tadolini**, **Dennis Dolinar**, **Roland Walker**, **Scott Britton**, **Matt Petrovich**, **Luke Stull**, and **Syd Peng**. Not shown in the photo is **Murali Gadde**.

## "Best of Ground Control" at SME Annual Meeting

The "Best of Ground Control" session was presented at the 2010 SME Annual Meeting and Exhibit on March 28, 2010. The six best technical papers from the 2009 International Conference on Ground Control in Mining were selected by a committee based upon technical originality, merit, and presentation quality. In its second year, the session consisted of six papers presented by: Dennis Dolinar, NOISH-Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Murali Gadde, Peabody Energy Co., St. Louis, Missouri; Luke Stull and Mathew Petrovich, CONSOL Energy, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania; Scott Britton, Dave Conover, and Tim Ross, Agapito Associates, Golden, Colorado, and Baja Mining Corporation, Vancouver, Canada; and Roland Walker, DSI Mining America, Clearfield, Utah.



## SME Establishes Syd S. Peng Ground Control Scholarships

The Society of Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration has established the Syd S. Peng Scholarship Award. The primary objective of the Scholarship is to promote the science of ground control. Recent trends show a decline in mining engineering professionals competent in ground control engineering. To help remedy this situation and to promote the discipline, Dr. Peng has established two scholarships to be awarded annually to an undergraduate and a graduate student to encourage their development of ground control engineering. The first two Syd S. Peng Scholarship recipients are Jeffrey B. Kerr, sophomore in mining engineering at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and Anthony M. LeBaron, master's student in mining engineering at the University of Utah. Both students have demonstrated high academic achievement and a dedication to the ground control discipline. Both were recognized at 2010 SME Annual Meeting Banquet in Phoenix, Arizona.

Accepting Syd S. Peng Scholarship Awards from **Dr. Syd S. Peng** are **Jeffrey Kerr**, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (top left photo) and **Anthony LeBaron**, University of Utah (bottom left photo).



## Faculty and Students Attend SME Meeting in Phoenix

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Society for Minerals, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME) was held in Phoenix, Arizona from February 28 to March 3. Fifteen student members and faculty from the Department of Mining Engineering attended the meeting. Dr. Yi Luo presented two papers - "Investigation and Solutions to a Ventilation Program of a Small Coal Mine Compounded with Massive Roof Falls," and "Analytical Approach to Simplify Ventilation Network Solutions in MEMC Systems in U.S. Coal Mines."



Dr. Vladislav Kecojec and a co-author presented "The CO<sub>2</sub> Emission of U.S. Coal Mining Industry and the Potential Costs of CO<sub>2</sub> Legislation." Dr. Syd S. Peng and his co-author, Reddy Kallu (PhD MinE, '10) presented, "Reinforced Concrete Seal Design for 120 psi Design Approach – Numerical Approach." Dr. Peng also chaired the session on Geomechanics: Best of Ground Control in Mining.



## Mining Engineering Spring 2010 Graduation

The College of Engineering and Mineral Resources celebrated WVU's 141st Commencement on May 15, 2010. Again this year, the University held individual college graduations, with CEMR's ceremony located in the WVU Coliseum at 2:00 pm. Prior to the ceremony, graduates, their families and friends, and the faculty from both the Department of Mining Engineering and the Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering held a brunch in the Mineral Resources Building atrium. Dr. Yi Luo served as faculty marshal for the Department, and led ten undergraduates into the ceremony.

Pictured below with **Dr. Yi Luo** (far left) are members of WVU's Class of 2010 who received Bachelor's Degrees in Mining Engineering. They are (from left to right) **Matthew Beerbower** (cum laude), **Logan Hall** (cum laude), **Karl Ivanisin** (cum laude), **Jeffery Lorimer**, **Robert Burke** (summa cum laude), **Stephanie Hubbell**, **John-David Shultz**, **Bongani Dlamini**, **Joshua Jackson** and **Jared Forman**. The cords worn by four of the students signify their academic achievement. Congratulations to all of our latest graduates!





## New Faculty Profile



### By **Vladislav Kecojevic**, associate professor

I joined WVU's Department of Mining Engineering as a tenured associate professor in January 2010. I started my academic career with the Pennsylvania State University as an assistant professor in 2001. I received

tenure and was promoted to the rank of associate professor in 2007. I held the Centennial Career Development Professorship in Mining Engineering at Penn State from 2005 through 2009.

I received my B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Mining Engineering from the University of Belgrade. Prior to joining Penn State's faculty, I was employed with Krupp Canada from 2000 to 2001. There I was responsible for the design of mining equipment and was also involved in the planning and design of coal, bauxite, and limestone mines in Serbia and Montenegro from 1992 through 2000.

My areas of research include surface mining, information technology, risk assessment, and management related to mine safety. I am particularly interested in the application of novel information technology for monitoring of production, energy consumption, carbon dioxide emission, and economic costs.

I am committed to work on enhancing current mining practices in surface coal mining in West Virginia. I would also like to work on the

development of GIS-based technology for risk assessment of safety citations for West Virginia coal mines. Such a system can eventually be applied as a powerful proactive risk assessment tool. When put to use, it can help assess and manage risks to miners stemming from major hazard-associated conditions.

Since joining academia, I have published 40 refereed papers in leading mining and safety journals, and my research work has been funded by the mining industry, equipment manufacturers, and governmental agencies such as DOE and NIOSH.

I currently serve as the editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Mining and Mineral Engineering; associate editor of the SME peer-review board for Mining Engineering and Transactions; program chair of the 2011 SME Coal and Energy Division; a council member of the Society of Mining Professors (SOMP); chair of the SOMP Membership Development Committee; a member of the International Committee for Mine Planning and Equipment Selection; and an external reviewer for professional journals and governmental proposals. I was named a 2008-2009 SME Henry Krumb Lecturer based on my research work on risk assessment of equipment-related fatalities in the mining industry.

I very much enjoyed teaching my first course at WVU (MINE 206 - Surface Mining Systems) during Spring Semester of 2010, and I look forward to additional challenges in the future.



### By **Brijes Mishra**, assistant professor

I joined the WVU Department of Mining Engineering as an assistant professor in the fall of 2009. A few years back, I had joined the same department as a graduate student to develop my interests in research and teaching. As a graduate student at WVU, I was fortunate to meet numerous academicians and

researchers at the International Conference on Ground Control in Mining and the U.S. Rock Mechanics conferences. It also helped me to develop new relationships in the form of friends and mentors.

After my graduation from WVU, I joined RE/SPEC, a geotechnical consulting firm, which enabled me to further develop the skills acquired in my doctoral years at WVU. It also provided an excellent work environment with some of the best experts in theoretical and experimental salt mechanics.

I worked on the time-dependent deformation of salt, subsidence of salt caverns, and stability of salt mines. I also had an opportunity to read various geotechnical reports on the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico, which I believe is an excellent example of refining research through continuous integration of theory and field performance. I was also a member of RE/SPEC'S DUSEL committee.

However, due to unavoidable circumstances, I had to leave RE/SPEC and join the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSMT). At SDSMT, I taught many courses, such as Rock Mechanics, Introduction to Mining Engineering, and Materials Handling. In Fall 2008, WVU announced an opening for new faculty, and I couldn't resist the temptation to join the WVU faculty.

I am now teaching mine surveying in the fall and advanced rock mechanics in the spring. I am also working on coal bump and experimental rock mechanics projects. I look forward to making significant contributions to the Department of Mining Engineering in research and teaching.

## Farewell to College Life

Logan Hall (BSMINE, '10)



During my time at WVU with the great people of the Mining Engineering department, I was lucky enough to make great friends, network with industry professionals, and earn an education from one of the best engineering schools in the country. The mining professors here at WVU are of some of the best in the country and have instilled in me a great amount of knowledge to enable me to confidently enter my career as a mining engineer.

As I leave WVU and begin my career at Alpha Natural Resources, I can confidently say that the last four years of my life

have been well spent. From all the cookouts, mine tours, and SME Annual Meetings, I will look back on my undergraduate education with many great memories. I would like to personally thank all of the mining engineering professors for everything they have done for me over the years. I never met one professor in the department who did not show sincere dedication to the students and the university.

Also, I would like to thank all of the industry professionals who I have had the pleasure of working with; you have given me excellent insight into the mining industry and how I should conduct myself in the workplace. Without your support through mine tours, guest speakers, and donations, my educational experience would not have been as rewarding. Finally, I would like to wish all undergraduates, professors, and industry professionals the best of luck, and I look forward to working with all of you in the future.

## Farewell WVU

Jeffrey Lorimer (BSMINE & BSCE, '10)



I began my career at West Virginia University by transferring as a civil engineering student from Youngstown State University. During a tour of the college, I visited both the Civil and Mining Engineering Departments. The facts about the mining industry, job prospects, a few short mining videos, as well as the industry's future outlook presented by Dr. Heasley and Dr. Bise, were enough for me. I knew the dual Mining/Civil Engineering program would fit my interests quite well.

The department does an excellent job of providing students with summer and full-

time employment through company visitations. The industry has supported the students through numerous employment opportunities, providing mine tours, and sponsoring students at social events, including the SME Annual Meeting. Through these activities, I have been able to meet many respected industry professionals.

The Department of Mining Engineering has definitely prepared me for my future in the mining industry. I know that if I need anything throughout my career I will be able to ask one of my professors. They have been quite helpful with any academic questions and were willing to offer advice if asked. I feel that my professors truly care about their students and want them to succeed. I will remember my time at WVU. I am leaving the Department of Mining Engineering with a great education and many lifelong friends.



## New Officers for the 2010-2011 SME WVU SME Student Chapter

Left to right: **Rachel Sellaro** (Treasurer), **Tim Miller** (Media Coordinator), **Albert Johnson** (GEM Coordinator), **Kevin Hatfield** (President), **Eric Howe** (Program Chair), **Sarah Hurr** (Vice President), and **Katarina Gump** (Secretary).



# Alumni Update Summer 2010

PLEASE WRITE TO US!! We want to know where life has taken you since you left West Virginia University. Complete and return this form with your news and comments. Also, pass this Newsletter on, or let us know any alumni who are not receiving *BlackDiamondsWV*.

Send to: Department of Mining Engineering • West Virginia University • 365 MRB, PO Box 6070 • Morgantown, WV 26506-6070

Or, email updates to [karla.vaughn@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:karla.vaughn@mail.wvu.edu).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Mailing Address: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Brief News of Professional and Family Activities for Future

Newsletters: \_\_\_\_\_

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Suggestions/Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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For more information, visit our Department web site at  
[www.mine.cemr.wvu.edu](http://www.mine.cemr.wvu.edu)

## Donors to the Department of Mining Engineering

We would like to thank our alumni and friends who have supported the Department of Mining Engineering for 2009-10 through the WVU Foundation.

### Over \$1000

Alpha Natural Resources

Dr. Christopher J. Bise

Consol Energy

Eastern Associated Coal, LLC

(Patriot Coal Co.)

Gimme Foundation, Inc.

Massey Foundation

Mepco, Inc.

Mineral Resources Alumni Council

Murray Energy Corporation

North Carolina Coal Institute

Peabody Energy

Penn Virginia Operating Co., LLC

Peter's Creek Coal Association

Wells Fargo Insurance Services, Inc.

(Energy & Mining Group)

West Virginia Coal Association

### \$501 to \$1000

Mr. James O. Bunn

Dr. and Mrs. Abdul W. Khair

Joy Mining Machinery

W. Douglas Blackburn

James L. Laurita

### \$101 to \$500

Mr. and Mrs. Keith D. Horton

Southern Coals Conference

Ms. Marjorie A. Wolfe

Norman W. White

Kristopher C. Lilly

### Up to \$100

Mr. and Mrs. Barry Dangerfield

Mr. and Mrs. J. Kelly Gilmer, Jr.

Mr. Bradley C. Lewis

Mrs. Grace W. Sharpenberg

Frederick Z. Shafferman

Robert E. Browning

Shumin Lin

Philip G. Meikle

# BLACK DIAMONDS WV

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## Chair's Message

At the outset, this has been the most difficult "Chair's Message" that I have written to you. I was prepared to summarize all of the wonderful things that have happened in the Department during spring semester but the tragedy at the Upper Big Branch Mine in April seemed to temper everyone's enthusiasm toward the end of the semester. Since the explosion occurred in a West Virginia mine, the effects were felt all over the state, and several individuals in the WVU Department of Mining Engineering family were directly affected. The incident is a constant reminder that those of us who are students, educators, or operators in the mining industry must constantly realize that we are all involved in a profession that has its inherent dangers, no matter how hard we try to reduce or eliminate them. Therefore, constant care and vigilance are the keys to improving mine safety and productivity.

This newsletter contains several articles that highlight the achievements of our students, faculty, and alumni. I would like to call your attention to the articles written by our two new faculty members: Dr. Brijes Mishra and Dr. Vladislav Kecojevic; we look forward to their contributions to our Department.

Also, I would like you to know that we were recently contacted by ABET about the quality of the self-study report that we submitted for our visit last fall. ABET requested permission "to put the self-study on display for others to view as [an example of a] well-written documentation." Granting

permission to ABET to do this with our report is a source of great pride for our Department. Since many of you provided survey input for its preparation, we want you to share in this recognition. Thank you.

Finally, as the newsletter indicates, we had a very successful spring semester including the 2010 Poundstone Lecture provided by Garold Spindler. Speaking of the Poundstone Lecture, I remind you that we are changing the format to once per year. The next lecture will be at the new Erickson Alumni Center on September 23, 2010 at 4:00 pm, with guest lecturer William Poundstone. Please circle your calendars for that date!

Take care, and I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer!

Christopher J. Bise



Dr. Christopher Bise