

Department of Mining Engineering

BLACK DIAMONDS WV

table of contents

Scott Pack Delivers Spring
2008 Poundstone Lecture 1

Syd Peng Among Most
Influential 1

Hyita Presents Fall 2008
Poundstone Lecture 2

Watts Inducted into
Coal Hall of Fame 3

Alumni News 6

In Memoriam 6

Spindler Reflects on his
Years in Mining 7

MRAC Banquet 8

SME Student Chapter 9

Goodbye, WVU 11



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got coal?

SCOTT PACK DELIVERS SPRING
2008 POUNDSTONE LECTURE

A. Scott Pack, Jr., a 1982 graduate of WVU with a degree in mining engineering, is a senior vice president of Foundation Coal Holdings, Inc., and president of Foundation Energy Sales, Inc. His lecture, "Got Coal?" was held April 23, 2008. With more than 25 years of experience in the coal mining industry, Pack has held various engineering, sales, transportation and management positions at Enron Global Market, Consol Energy, Cannelton Industries, Maple Meadow Mining and New River Company. Pack is a member of the College of Engineering and Mineral Resources' Advisory Committee, a member and past president of the Coal Club of Philadelphia and a board member of the New York Coal Trade Association. His lecture was very informative, covering coal issues from local aspects to the world view of supply and demand.

Pack began his lecture with highlights about Foundation Coal, specifically stating that they are the fourth largest U.S. producer of coal by volume, operating 13 mines in Wyoming, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Their current productive capacity of 76 MM tons per year includes: 55 MM PRB, 14 MM NAPP, and 7 MM CAPP.

Foundation's primary market is North America, but they also export coal. The primary products Foundation produces are for the steam markets and include high grade met coal. Foundation is the only producer with a major presence in both NAPP and PRB. While focusing on safety and environmental issues, the company also focuses on their people, productivity and process improvement.

Pack stated that there are incredible opportunities for new graduates, as a large portion of the industry's workforce is approaching retirement.

[continued on page 2...](#)



A. Scott Pack, Jr.

Syd Peng Named One of 100 Most Influential People

Syd Peng loves coal. He has dedicated most of his adult life to underground mining — how to understand it, how to mine it, and how to respect it. Dr. Syd S. Peng of the Department of Mining Engineering has been named as one of the 100 Most Influential People in 2008 by the Dominion Post. Peng's primary research interests are in the areas of ground control, longwall mining and subsidence. Peng has written three books, "Longwall Mining," "Ground Control Failures - A Pictorial View of Case Studies" and "Coal Mine Ground Control." He is Charles E. Lawall Chair in Mining Engineering and a member of National Academy of Engineering.



Syd Peng

Hyita Presents Fall 2008 Poundstone Lecture



On November 13, 2008, **Bart J. Hyita**, chief operating officer: Coal for CONSOL Energy, Inc. [presented](#) the William Poundstone Lecture on "Current Projects to Increase Coal Production and Utilization."

Mr. Hyita holds a B.S. in Mining Engineering from the University of Utah, as well as advanced certifications in environmental engineering. He joined CONSOL in 2001, and assumed his current position in 2007. Prior to joining CONSOL, Hyita's career includes progressively advancing management positions with United States Steel

Company, Kaiser Steel Company, Amax, Inc., Utah Power and Light, PacifiCorp, and RAG American Coal Holding, Inc.

He began his lecture by acknowledging several noteworthy initiatives of CONSOL Energy, such as their "Absolute Zero" safety campaign, the opening of the new headquarters in Canonsburg, PA, and their successful advertising campaign as "America's On Switch." These initiatives were designed to call attention to CONSOL's continued leadership in producing high-quality coal with an enviable safety record, consistently less than 50% of the U.S. coal industry's incident rate in recent years. He then pointed out that CONSOL employs 8,000 people and is particularly committed to hiring engineering professionals; they currently employ 180 mining engineers.

In addressing the theme of the lecture, Mr. Hyita pointed out that CONSOL's installed coal-mining capacity is 76.5 million tons per year, with 77% coming from longwall mines in Northern Appalachia.

In addition, as an energy company, CONSOL has expanded into coalbed-methane and oil-and-gas recovery through its CNX Gas Company.

[continued on page 3...](#)

[continued from page 1 \(Pack\)...](#)

Also, the U.S. still has an abundance of coal. Pack said there are nearly four trillion tons of coal beneath American soil and according to North Dakota Geological Survey, an additional 1.3 trillion tons of coal have recently been announced to exist beneath the state. However, most of this coal is deep below the surface and cannot be extracted using today's technology. This is where the next generation and beyond may be able to help.

Gas-fired capacity additions in early 2000 were nearly 70,000 MW per year. Today it is down to around 17,000 MW per year and is projected to decline rapidly by 2014. The US coal plants under construction are expected to burn primarily PRB, CAPP and NAPP coals, and Foundation Coal is well positioned to supply these new plants.

Coal is the fastest growing fuel in the U.S. for the generation of electricity. Today, 50 percent of the electricity in the U.S. is fueled by coal. By 2030, the EIA forecasts coal will generate over 57 percent of U.S. electricity. Due to this increase, and as the only abundant, domestic energy resource, coal consumption is expected to continue to grow. While renewables are also expected to grow rapidly, they cannot keep pace with coal's growth, according to the EIA. The US growth rate is forecasted to increase by 1.6 percent annually.

The catalysts driving the market are: favorable US currency, relatively high natural gas prices, favorable ocean freight rates, close to normal domestic stockpiles and lead time to increase U.S. production.

These recent events have accelerated international market tightness: China has become the projected net importer beginning in 2008, China has curtailed coal exports through February/March, India's utility stockpiles are low, while Venezuela has ordered contract re-pricing. In January/February, Australia had monsoons resulting in multiple force majeure and South Africa has production issues of low-utility inventories and power outages.

Pack focused on the overall positive outlook for coal industry growth and job opportunities for the next generation of industry workers and professionals. In addition, Foundation Coal is well positioned and nationally diversified to capitalize upon any new opportunities that are expected to arise in the U.S. and export markets.



Royce J. Watts and his family (left to right): Maureen (daughter in law), Royce J. Watts, Caroline Watts and Royce J. Watts, II (son).

Watts Inducted into West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame

Royce J. Watts was inducted into the West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame. Watts earned both his BS and MS degrees from WVU, and joined the faculty as an instructor of accounting and economics in 1955. He continues to teach while also serving as Associate Dean for Administration in WVU's College of Engineering and Mineral Resources. He has received many awards for his service to WVU, the Mineral Resources Alumni Chapter of WVU and the West Virginia

Coal Industry. In 1997, he was recognized as a Distinguished West Virginian by Governor Cecil Underwood for his contributions to the continuing education of mining professionals. Watts has long been involved with the Mining, Petroleum and Natural Gas Museum at WVU.

In 2005, the West Virginia Coal Mining Institute endowed the museum and renamed it the Royce J. and Caroline B. Watts Museum to honor the

couple's contributions to WVU and the state's mining heritage. In 2007, Watts received the Erskin Ramsey Gold Medal by the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers. In the same year, he received the Most Loyal Faculty Mountaineer during WVU's Homecoming celebrations.

[continued from page 2 \(Pack\)...](#)

Focusing on coal mining, he highlighted several project developments, including efforts to:

- Provide more energy by expanding existing operations to meet increasing market demand (Brownfield Projects),
- Provide more energy by potentially developing untapped reserves to meet future market demand (Greenfield Projects),
- New clean coal technologies incorporating CO₂ sequestration, and
- Coal conversion projects producing fuel and chemical feedstocks.

[continued from page 2 \(Hyita\)...](#)

CONSOL's commitment to longwall mining, which began several decades ago, continues today in projects focusing on face extensions. One interesting slide he presented showed the steady march toward longer and longer faces over the years, from 600 ft wide in 1985 to 1500 ft wide this year. He also showed photographs of the Bailey Mine's 5-miles-long, 72-inches-wide overland-belt project, and the Shoemaker Mine haulageway and overland belt project. Other projects that he described included environmentally responsible surface mining, the CO₂ sequestration project in Marshall County, WV, and various coal-conversion projects.

In summary, Mr. Hyita's Poundstone Lecture underscored how a coal-mining company, this one with a 150-year-old history, continues to evolve into a successful energy producer.



The West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame

The concept of the West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame was first articulated at the 1993 Spring Meeting of the West Virginia Coal Mining Institute, which was held at the Lakeview Resort and Conference Center in Morgantown in May, by Institute President G. J. "Joe" Hatfield of Peabody Energy.

Hatfield suggested that the West Virginia Coal Mining Institute (WVCMI), the West Virginia Coal Association (WVCA) led by William B. Raney, and the West Virginia Mining and Reclamation Association (WVM&RA) led by Benjamin C. Greene, combine forces to establish a venue to recognize those individuals associated with the coal industry who had made a significant contribution to the growth and development of the West Virginia coal industry. Over the next five years, 1993-1998, representatives of the three founding organizations, Royce J. Watts, WVCMI, William B. Raney, WVCA, and Benjamin C. Greene, WVM&RA, met intermittently to hammer out the details of the proposal. On the table for discussion were such concerns as (a) which of the three organizations would lead the effort, (b) where would the physical Hall of Fame be located, (c) what would be the criteria for nomination and selection to the Coal Hall of Fame, (d) how would selected members be recognized, (e) how many members would be selected each year and how would they be selected, and finally, (f) many other logistical details regarding the induction ceremony needed answered. Finally, in the Fall of 1997, all of these

questions were answered and the decision was reached to induct the first class of the West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame in the Spring of 1998. The key to the process was the establishment of the criteria for selection, which is simple but clearly distinguishes a large pool of dedicated leaders who have made significant contributions to the West Virginia coal industry. These criteria are:

- 1) Must have made a significant contribution to the growth and development of the coal industry in West Virginia as evidenced by documented accomplishments, etc.
- 2) Must have devoted a minimum of five (5) years of his/her mining career directly related to the West Virginia coal industry.
- 3) Must have served as an operator, manager, owner, engineer, educator, or other major contributor to the growth and development of the West Virginia coal industry.
- 4) Both living and deceased persons are eligible for selection. However, no more than one (1) deceased person may be elected each year.

Other major decisions regarding the establishment of the West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame were:

- 1) The West Virginia Coal Mining Institute will serve the lead role in administrating the logistical arrangements of the Coal Hall of Fame.
- 2) The West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame will be physically located in the Mineral Resources Building, College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, West Virginia University,

Morgantown, WV. Inductees will be recognized by a wall plaque indicating year of selection and an 11"x 14" color photograph located in the designated "Hall".

- 3) The induction ceremony for new members will be held during the Friday evening banquet of the Annual Spring Meeting of the West Virginia Coal Mining Institute and the West Virginia Coal Association in May of each year.
- 4) The original class, Class of 1998, would include ten (10) inductees with the stipulation that subsequent classes would consist of three (3) inductees. (Note: Following the merger of the WVCA and the WVC&RA, effective with the Class of 2008, the number of inductees will be limited to two per year.)
- 5) Each organization, currently WVCMI and WVCA, will appoint a committee to receive nominations and select the year's inductee by following the established criteria.

The Eleventh Annual Induction Ceremony was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Charleston, WV on May 2, 2008. To date 39 individuals who have made significant contributions to the growth and development of the West Virginia coal industry have been inducted in the West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame. Their photographs are mounted on the Coal Hall of Fame Wall in the Mineral Resources Building at West Virginia University. Please stop by and visit the Wall when you are in the area. Contact Royce J. Watts for more information.

The names of inductees, by year of induction are:

CLASS OF 1998

B. R. "Bobby" Brown, C. E.
"Jim" Compton
Lawson W. Hamilton, Jr.
James H. "Buck" Harless
Tracy W. Hylton, Sr.
James C. Justice, Sr.
E. Morgan Massey
Allen S. Pack,
Robert H. Quenon
Raymond E. Salvati

CLASS OF 1999

Herbert E. Jones, Jr.
F.B. "Fil" Nutter
John L. Schroder, Jr.

CLASS OF 2000

Benjamin C. Greene
John E. "Jack" Katlic
James R. Thomas, II

CLASS OF 2001

Stonie Barker, Jr.,
James L. Magro
Joseph L. McQuade

CLASS OF 2002

James W. "Bill" Anderson
C. Wes McDonald
Garold R. Spindler

CLASS OF 2003

Victor N. Green
Robert H. "Bob" Jeran
Joseph F. Joy

CLASS OF 2004

James O. Bunn
Jack Fairchild, Sr.
Marshall S. Miller

CLASS OF 2005

Josef Ehrengurber
William N. Poundstone
Stephen G. Young

CLASS OF 2006

Eustace Frederick
Frank L. Gaddy
Elmo J. Hurst

CLASS OF 2007

Omar M. Bunn
Richard C. Mullins
Syd S. Peng

CLASS OF 2008

Charles T. Jones
Royce J. Watts

Gale Receives Ground Control in Mining Award



Winston J. Gale received 2007 SME Syd S. Peng Ground Control in Mining Award from Dr. Syd Peng.

Dr. Winston James Gale has more than 20 years experience in the international underground coal mining industry. He has a strong background in geo-mechanics research and development which has been expanded into the field of commercial consulting. Dr. Gales has specialized in consulting engineering design, research, and training services for strata control and mine design in underground coal mines.

In 1989, Gale established Strata Control Technology Pty Ltd (SCT), a mining consulting and research group. This organization has established an international reputation as a leader in the development, introduction and application of advanced strata control design techniques and rock bolting technology for underground coal mines.

Dr. Gale played a key role in the introduction of Australian underground roadway support technology into the United Kingdom (U.K.) coal mining industry. From 1988 - 1994, he was project consultant/adviser to British Coal for the introduction of rock bolting technology. The successful and widespread application of this technology throughout the UK industry, resulted in the establishment of a U.K. based joint venture operation in 1994. Gale was instrumental in the establishment of this company and currently holds the position of technical director.

Gale is a Fellow of the Institute of Mining Engineers, a member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, and a member of the International Society of Rock Mechanics. He has been the recipient of the Webster Medal, awarded by the Midlands Institute of Mining Engineers

(U.K.) for the best paper presented in 1989 - 1990 on strata control design for underground coal mining, the Futers Medal awarded by the UK Institution of Mining Engineers for a Joint Paper with Mr. R. G. Siddall "Strata Control—A New Science for an Old Problem" in 1992; an award for Excellence in Coal Geology, awarded by the Coalfield Geology Council of NSW for contribution to the science of coal geology and for services to the mining industry in 1997; and the Excellence in Research Award, awarded by the Australian Coal Association for the best underground research project in 1998, entitled "Improved Assessment of Ground Behaviour Around Longwall Faces".

The citation reads: "*In recognition of his unrivaled ability to use critical mechanics, observations, field measurements, and numerical models to understand complex ground control issues*".



<< Syd S. Peng received the Distinguished SME Member plaque from George W. Luxbacher, 2008 SME president.

Matthew Vance, 2007-2008 SME Student >> Chapter president, accepted the 2008 Outstanding Student Chapter award from Arnold. James, 2007 SME president.



Alumni News

Randy Hansford (BSEM, '78) president of Riverton Coal Production, Inc. has retired, after many years of dedication in the coal industry. Hansford has been with Riverton Coal Production and its predecessors since 1984.

Mark Schuerger (BSMS, '81) vice-president of operations, has been named as president of Riverton Coal Holdings, Inc., replacing Randy Hansford who is retiring. Riverton Coal Production, Inc. provides shared service to Foundation Coal affiliated operations in West Virginia. He joined Riverton Coal in 1997. Prior to that, Mark held various engineering and managerial positions in mining industry. He has his P.E. along with certificates of land surveying, Assistant Mine Foreman, and Mine Rescuer.

George J. Schuller, Jr., (BSEM, '86) vice president of New Mine Development at Peabody Energy. Schuller most recently served as vice president of operations improvement. He has more than 20 years of mining and management experience with Peabody, including positions in WV and KY, where he served as mine manager, superintendent, and operations manager. He also served as general manager of operations support and underground operation for Peabody's Australia Operation in Queensland. In addition to his BSEM, he also received MBA from the University of Charleston.



John Zachwieja

John Zachwieja (BSEM, '74) vice president of coal operations support at CONSOL Energy with responsibility for engineering and production support for CONSOL coal mining operation. Prior to his present assignment, Mr. Zachwieja was vice-president of Central Appalachia Operations overseeing mining operations in East Kentucky, Southwestern Virginia and Southern West Virginia. He has a BS in Mining Engineering, from West Virginia University and attended the executive program at the University of Virginia.

In Memoriam

Timothy Andrew Salvati (EMBS '51), a long-time member and friend of the coal industry, has passed away. Salvati, '78, succumbed to cancer on Saturday, November 24, 2007. Born on January 14, 1929, he was the son of Raymond and Pearl Salvati. He graduated from the WVU School of Mines and proceeded to work his professional career in the mining industry in West Virginia. Tim was associated with many companies throughout his career and upon his retirement went into consulting. After his consulting career, he and his wife, Carol, relocated to Raleigh, North Carolina. Tim is survived by his wife and children. The Salvati family is a long-time supporter of the scholarship fund for undergraduate students.



Garold R. Spindler.

Spindler Reflects on his Years in Mining

By Garold R. Spindler (BSEM, '70, MSEM '76)

When asked to write about my career in mining, I initially thought this was an easy task: I could rattle off my degrees, my various jobs, and wind up talking about my various awards and plaques, not to mention my prized belt buckle collection and the brass key to the City Of Hazard that all proudly adorn my office walls and shelves. Happy is the old man who is content with his toys.

I never made a conscious decision to enter mining. I wanted to be the next John Steinbeck and write the all-American novel. By accident, I embarked on a career and journey that has allowed me to travel widely and colorfully over the past forty years.

I have been underground in eight different countries and at surface mines in as many more. Always it has been interesting, often times exciting, and never without the sense that each experience is unique. You can't sign up on Expedia for the tours I have taken.

Twenty-six years old, a superintendent at Osage, I thought I had seen and done all I would ever do in the mining world. Little did I expect that years later I would be working on draglines in North Dakota in the winter nights at temperatures 50 degrees below. Or flying into Cardinal River from Edmonton in winter storms and white-outs in a Citation at 300 feet following the road below. Or working in exploration in Alaska and nearly being blown off the side of a glacier in my truck with my late good friend Pete Bond. Or trekking around knee deep in water in Ukrainian coal mines with a translator with pneumonia coughing into my ear for 12 hours a day. Or working in the Australian outback, keeping a fearful and watchful eye for poisonous spiders and red-bellied blacksnakes. Damned if I didn't feel like Indiana Jones! Experiences I never could have imagined sitting in Professor Sandy's Introduction to Mining class at WVU. Oh, and did I mention, I also got paid?



A decade or so into my career I had the opportunity to take a sabbatical from the working world and was a Sloan Fellow at Stanford University. Armed with my newly minted MBA, I was ready and eager to join the ranks of the corporate mining industry. I had the opportunity to participate in IPO's mergers, and acquisitions. But none of this prepared me for the real world of labor strikes, disgruntled employees showing up at my office with shotguns, or the endless hours sitting on a Hogan floor negotiating with the Navajo Indians.

Looking back, one of the great thrills of my work has been the people I have met throughout my career and travels. A mine foreman in Wyoming County whose stories were so hilarious that the insights didn't dawn on me until the following day. A Scottish mine manager whose infectious enthusiasm made him fascinating, even though I couldn't understand a single word he spoke. Or the erudite boss I couldn't understand without consulting Webster's. I have been welcomed into people's homes and been the recipient of unparalleled generosity. I have been served wonderful meals on heirloom family china and crystal. I have feasted on Jell-O molds at backyard BBQ's. There was the generous invitation which I accepted to stay in a 16th century converted woolen mill in Wales. And the casual conversation on work boots that led to the generous gift of a pair of Gokey boots. The memories are endless.

I have worked for mining companies of all sizes. I even own one. I have mined the alphabet soup of minerals, from aggregates to zeolite. I have mined with high tech draglines and longwalls, as well as your basic pick and shovel rock-hounding with my daughter across the Southwest. I have never been bored a day in my life. Each day is like no other and the opportunities and challenges are endless.

Two years ago at Christmas my wife and I were the guests of an MP and having tea (quintessentially British!) in a private room at Parliament overlooking the Thames. While we were meant to be discussing mining and business, I couldn't help but be distracted. I was overwhelmed. I never would have thought that a kid from Morgantown, West Virginia, who once wanted to be a writer, would be sitting here amidst such splendor and history. Mining brought me here, and I am reminded of the Dr. Seuss classic titled, "Oh, the Places You Will Go". I can't wait.

Maybe I will write that book yet.

Garold R. Spindler received 2008 AIME Erskene Ramsay Metal from AIME. The citation reads, "For his career-long dedication to the coal mining industry worldwide, his contribution to the success of many global mining companies and operations, and for his role in new mine developments and programs in the United States, Australia and Canada"

Mineral Resources Alumni Chapter Banquet

THE MINERAL RESOURCES ALUMNI CHAPTER AWARD BANQUET WAS HELD AT LAKE LYNN CONFERENCE AND RESORT ON MAY 22, 2008.



The following students received awards (from left to right): Robin Oldham, Adam G. Patterson, Dave Eisenhauer, Thomas Xinzhi Du, Rajagopala R. Kallu, Patrick Pelley, Jr., Jacob Kerch, and Brad Nelson (not in photo).



Matthew Bonnell received the Careers in Coal Award.



Charles Howard (BSEM, '83) received the Alumni of the Year Award from Calvin Kidd.



Dr. A Wahab Khair received Faculty of the Year from Matthew Vance, SME WVU Student Chapter President.



Adam G. Patterson received Joy Manufacture Machinery Scholarship.

SME Activities

2008 SME ANNUAL MEETING AND EXHIBIT AT SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, FEBRUARY 25-27



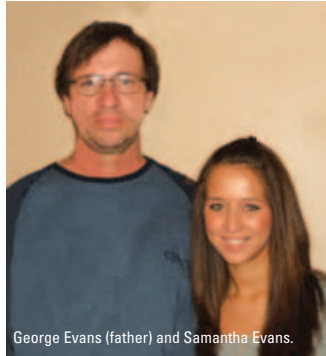
Students Connections to the Coal Industry



Dan Clark (father) and Kyle Clark.

Kyle Clark is a senior. Kyle's father, Dan Clark (BSEM, '80), has worked as a Mining Engineer for several years. Presently Dan serves as a Mine Foreman for Magnum Coal.

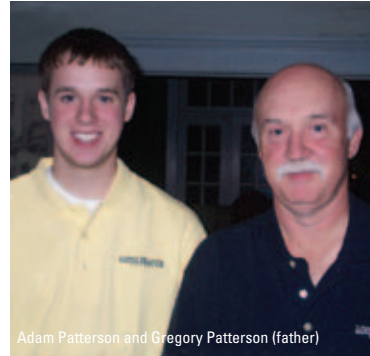
Samantha Evans is a junior, Samantha's father, George Evans is a BU operator, roof bolter, shuttle car, coal hauler and headgate and shear operator on longwall at Eighty Four Mine for CONSOL Energy, Eighty Four, PA. She has a large family working in coal mining industry. This includes her grandfather, Alex Evans, who worked as mine



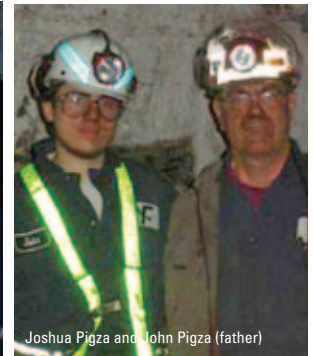
George Evans (father) and Samantha Evans.

foreman at Bethlehem Mines, Mine 51, her uncle, Jack Evans worked at Bethlehem Mines, Mine 51 and New Warrick mine, PA. William Evans, her uncle, who worked as mine foreman at Bethlehem Mines, Mine 52, PA. Her uncle, Tom Jenkins, worked at Marianna Mine.

Adam Patterson is a senior. Adam's father, Gregory Patterson, is president of Forest Coal Company, WV. Gregory received his BSMInE from Penn State. Gregory was 1998 and 1999 former president of West Virginia Coal Mining Institute.



Adam Patterson and Gregory Patterson (father)



Joshua Pigza and John Pigza (father)

Joshua Pigza is a senior. He is working part time in an underground mine, Foundation Coal's Emerald Mine, Joshua's father, John Pigza (BSEE, Penn State, '66), is a maintenance supervisor/planner at Emerald Resources. Prior to working in Emerald Mine, John has various engineering, operations and maintenance positions at Beth-Energy Mines, Eagle Nest and Smoky River Coal.

SME Student Chapter Has a Great Year

By Matthew Vance, BSMInE '08



Matthew Vance,

As I sit here and reflect on my years at West Virginia University and the College of Mineral Resources, I begin to understand many of the lessons learned over the past four years. It has been a great honor to represent West Virginia University SME Student Chapter as president. This position has helped me develop confidence and leadership skills which led to many opportunities for personal and professional growth. I have made new friends and memories that they will last me for the rest of my life.

This year (2008) was a great year for our student chapter. Our society was able to win three National SME Student Chapter awards at the annual meeting, two of which were for our achievements in recruitment of new students into SME. The third award, Outstanding Student Chapter, is one that is extremely special to me because it is the highest award that can be earned by a student chapter for their overall achievements for the year. It has been

over 20 years since this award was last bestowed to West Virginia University SME student chapter (to be precise, 1987).

As I leave to join the industry, I am looking forward to starting my new position in mining, and to finally be a part of an extremely dedicated workforce. I now will look at WVU as an alumnus and begin the journey that awaits me from this new perspective. I am privileged to see the mining department and student chapter grow through my years at West Virginia University, and expect to see the department continue this growth.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for their assistance to me and the student chapter over the past few years. There are so many people who helped elevate the student chapter to a higher level of achievement, without you this would not be possible and I thank you.



Freshman Tour Federal No. 2 Mine

The Engineering 101 class lead by Dr. Christopher Bise visited Federal No. 2 underground mine in Fairview, W.Va. To the students in this course, this mine trip was their first underground mine experience. Dr. Bise used this opportunity to introduce the freshman engineering students to mining and to point out the advantages of a career in Mining Engineering.



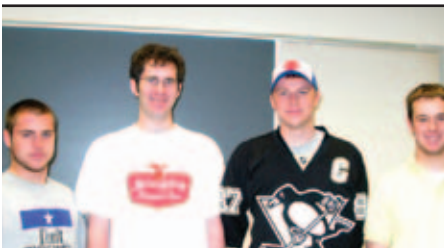
Robert P. Kudlawiec, Manager of Environmental Compliance, from Murray Energy Corporation came and spoke to the SME Student Chapter about the company as a whole and their advancement in the coal industry. This seminar was held in the Auditorium of the Mineral Resources Building, CEMR



On Eighth Grade Day in the spring, SME WVU Student Chapter members provided examples of minerals for the students to view and explained to the middle school students about mining, processing and utilization of the most commonly used types of minerals.



From left to right, Matthew Vance, Brijes Mishra and Patrick Pelley were the Annual Report editors for the 2007 First Place winner of SME Student Chapter selected by SME.



The student chapter of SME named its 2008-2009 officers:
 President - Adam Patterson
 Vice President - Logan Hall
 Secretary - Jacob Kerch
 Treasurer - Brad Nelson
 Program Officer - Patrick Pelley, Perry Longacre
 Media - Joshua Pigza



SME Student Chapter Takes Mine Tour

The SME Student Chapter attended the Annual Kanawha Valley Coal Association and Charleston Coal Mining Institute's Annual Meeting and Banquet in Charleston, W.Va. on February 7, 2008. The following day, the group took a trip to visit the new ICG Beckley Pocahontas Coal Preparation Plant, and tour Arch Coal's Mountain Laurel underground mine. The Department of Mining Engineering at West Virginia University would like to thank ICG Beckley and Arch Coal Mountain Laurel for hosting the tours and Calvin Kidd of Continental Conveyor and Crushing Equipment Co. for sponsoring the banquet and mine tours.



Goodbye WVU

By Pat Pelley, BSMinE '08



As another year goes by, I see a new round of excited freshman entering West Virginia University. I can remember my first day of college like it was yesterday. My first class was English 102, and the first question my teacher asked was, "How many of you are freshman?" And of course I raised my hand. The second question was, "And how many of you are afraid you're going to fail out?" And I raised my hand again. Now, here I am four years later, ready to graduate, saying goodbye to a place I have called home for so long.

I came to WVU as an undecided engineer. Even though I was undecided, I thought Chemical Engineering was the path I wanted to travel. After taking my first college Chemistry class,

I realized it was not what I expected it to be. I soon listened to Dr. Heasley talk about Mining Engineering during an Intro to Engineering seminar. I found it rather fascinating and thought I would give it a shot. After meeting Dr. Peng and the rest of the faculty, I knew this was a choice well made. I interned my freshman year at Enlow Fork Coal Mine and never looked back. I love the people within the industry, the applications, and the huge machines that come along with it.

Over the past four years I have met great friends, role models, mentors, professors, and colleagues. WVU students and faculty have been like a family to me, and I hope I have been like family to them. I am sad to have to leave such a great place, but I will never forget the great memories it has given me. I wish everyone who is graduating the best of luck, and all those starting college to enjoy the best years of their life. May God bless the people of West Virginia University, the faculty that serve this wonderful school, and those who live in this great state.



Thank You and Farewell

By Robin Oldham, BSMinE '08

As the final week of my college career comes to a close, I wish to thank all of you for the support you have given me during the past four years. Throughout my time in mining engineering, I have always felt like part of a family, rather than merely a student in an engineering department. I feel like I am coming out of the department with the skills needed to succeed in the mining field, and for that I am grateful.

BLACK DIAMONDS WV

365 Mineral Resources Building
Department of Mining Engineering
College of Engineering and Mineral Resources
West Virginia University
PO Box 6070
Morgantown, WV 26506-6070



Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Morgantown, WV
Permit No. 34

Chair's Message

Dear Alumni and Friends:

Looking back on 2008, we began the year with many exciting things occurring in our Department but, as the year ended, we recognized that many challenges still lay ahead.

The year began with the announcement that our SME Student Chapter was named the 1st place winner in SME's National Contest; as a result, eighteen members of the WVU Student Chapter will be coordinating the student activities at the 2009 SME Annual Meeting in Denver, February 22, 2009. Scott Pack of Foundation Coal, and Bart Hyita of CONSOL Energy presented very well-received William Poundstone Lectures in April and November, respectively. In addition, several additional endowed scholarships were established in 2008, including one from Wells Fargo, and one from ICG. We truly appreciate the support we have received from our corporate sponsors, alumni, and friends.

With our upcoming ABET visit in October 2009, work has begun on the report to be presented. This has given us a chance to review our progress, and look forward to new initiatives. You may be interested to note that our undergraduate enrollment has increased nearly 200% since our last ABET visit six years ago, and graduation trends continue to increase toward our goal of 20 to 25 per year. As a result of our growing enrollment, student-credit hours generated by our faculty also continue to grow. New initiatives, including instruction in service courses, electives, and Freshman Engineering,

also contribute to this growth. In summary, steady progress is being made in several areas.

Looking ahead, however, we will have a few challenges to address. At the outset, we are in the process of recruiting new faculty members, as a result of the announcement by Dr. A. Wahab Khair that he plans to retire in mid-August, 2009. We appreciate his 28 years of service to the program, and look forward to reporting on new colleagues!

Unfortunately, a serious and far-reaching challenge has resulted from last Fall's collapse of the financial markets. Last year, our Department was able to provide over \$115,000 in scholarships to our students; we may be challenged in our ability to provide support at that level for next year, because endowments established during the past ten years were particularly hard hit. However, I am confident that we will be able to deal with this as we move forward, thanks to the loyal support of our corporate sponsors, alumni, and friends.

Take care, and I hope you have a happy and productive 2009!
Christopher J. Bise



Dr. Christopher Bise