



Black Diamonds

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From the
Department of Mining Engineering
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND MINERAL RESOURCES
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

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Benjamin M. Statler, President/CEO, PinnOak Resources, named the Distinguished Engineer of Mines, Spring 2004

Ben Statler, President of PinnOak Resources, presented the Spring term's Poundstone Lecture, "The Entrepreneurial Acquisition: *One Day at a Time . . .*" and received the Distinguished Engineer of Mines Award on April 22nd, 2004.

Mr. Statler was born just west of Morgantown, West Virginia as a third generation coal miner. In high school he started working for Consolidation Coal Company and was thereby motivated to pursue a degree in mining engineering at West Virginia University. During his college years, Ben continued to work midnight shifts for Consol and earned his foreman papers before obtaining his B.S. Engi-

Ben Engineered the Creation of PinnOak Resources, LLC



Ben Statler presented the Poundstone Lecture.

neer of Mines degree in 1973. After graduation, Mr. Statler proved to be an energetic and focused graduate and was

promoted to mine superintendent for Consol within 3 years. Ben continued through various management positions at Consol Energy until he reached Senior Vice-President of Mining, in charge of coal mines in five

states producing 42 million tons annually.

In 1999, Ben moved on to the next stage of his career, the

entrepreneur, as presented in his lecture. From 1999 through June 2003, he engineered the creation of PinnOak Resources, LLC, of which he is the president and (See Statler, Page 2)

MAJOR STORIES

- Ben Statler Named Distinguished Engineer of Mines
- EM & MinE Alumni News
- Alumni Feature Articles
- Jim Bunn, Sr., Inducted to the 7th Class, WV Coal Hall of Fame
- Several Notable Awards and Scholarships
- MinE Recruiting Program-Information Seminar
- SMESC Student Activities and Class Field Trips

MinE Visiting Committee Met on April 23, 2004 Reviewing the State of MinE Program and Interviewing MinE Students for Program Improvement



MinE Dept Visiting Committee Members Attending the Meeting, (Left to right) John Murphy, University of Pittsburgh; Jeff Kelley, BSEM '81, President, Alcon Planning & Consulting; Scott Pack, BSEM '83, RAG American Coal; Ben Statler, BSEM '74, PinnOak Resources; Jim Boyd, BSEM '69, John T. Boyd Co.; (Wahab Khair, MinE/WVU; Dan Alexander, MinE/WVU); Jim Cosaro, BSEM '66, Penn Virginia Resources Partners LP; and Walter Scheller, III, BSEM '86, CONSOL Energy.

James Omer Bunn, Sr. Inducted into the 7th Class WV Coal Hall of Fame at the Joint Meeting of WVCMI and WVCA



(Left to right) The Bunns: James O. Bunn, II, Kay Bunn, James O. Bunn, Sr., and Joseph Glen Bunn at the 7th Class WV Coal Hall of Fame Installation Ceremony, Glade Springs, Daniel, WV.

James O. Bunn, Sr., BSEM '74, managing member of The Eagle Companies, Bristol, VA, was inducted into the West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame at the Joint Meeting of West Virginia Coal Mining Institute (WVCMI) and West Virginia Coal Association (WVCA) at Glade Springs, Daniel, WV on May 10, 2004. From 1981, Mr. Bunn has been heavily involved in acquiring coal properties in southern WV and SW Va with his longtime partner F. D. Robertson of Grundy, VA. Jim is presently involved in Kanawha Eagle Coal, Coal River Energy, Eaglehawk Carbon, Black Eagle Minerals, etc. Jim is also a charter board member of Asian-American Coal Co., based in Richmond Va and operating in China. Mr. Bunn is also a member of the Old-Timer's Club and Careers-in-Coal.

Jack R. Fairchild (deceased), Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Fairchild International, Glen Lyn, VA, and Marshall S. Miller, Chairman & CEO Marshall Miller & Associates, Bluefield, VA were also inducted into the WV Coal Hall of Fame at the same Ceremony. MinE faculty attended the Joint Meeting. Dr. A. Heasley representing MinE, WVU, presented

the progress report of CERB projects.

The following BSEM



Ben Statler Accepted the Distinguish Engineer of Mines Award.

(Statler from Page 1)

CEO. PinnOak Resources is the company that acquired the two remaining USX coal mines, Pinnacle No. 50 Mine in Pineville, WV and the Oak Grove Mine near Birmingham, AL. In order to create this new company, Ben put together a highly experienced and knowledgeable team. He organized financing, worked through multiple business issues and closed the deal June 30, 2003. The revitalized work force and production at the two mines was on track when the Pinnacle Mine experienced a methane explosion in the gob. At this date PinnOak Resources has successfully extinguished the fire and brought the mine

Alumni also participated in the Joint Meeting: Michael Amick, '87, Minova USA, Inc.; Elizabeth Chamberlin, '78, CONSOL Energy, Inc.; Fred Conner, '78, Peabody Energy; Russel Combs, '79, PinnOak Resources, LLC.; Jim Corsaro, '66, Penn Virginia Resources Partners Co., LLC.; James Dean, '90, Mining Extension, WVU; Frank Dulin, '80, Swanson Industries; Bob Ellis, '88, Kanawha Eagle Coal; Larry Evans, '88, Marshall Miller & Associates; Randy D. Hansford, '78, Riverton Coal Production, Inc.; A. Wahab Khair, BSEM '68/MSEM '69, MinE, WVU; Chad S. Mooney, '99, Natural Resource Patners, LP; Gerald Swanson, Jr., '77, Eastern Associated Coal Corp., Peabody Energy; and David Zatezalo, '77, AEP Coal.

Alumni News

- **Steve Bessinger** (PhDMinE '92) is Manager of Engineering, San Juan Mine, BHP Billiton's new underground coal mine in Waterflow, NM. He has a staff of more than 20 due to various sets of problems some of which are unique to the mine. MinE faculty and staff visited his mine on February 20 in conjunction with SME Annual Meeting in Denver, CO (See San Juan Mine Trip, Page 5).

- **Raymond H. Blowers, Jr.** (BSEM '51) died on May 5, 2004 in Gallipolis, OH. We are saddened by the passing of Mr. Blowers.

Mr. Blowers left a portion of his estate in his will to the Department of Mining Engineering, WVU.

- **Christian J. Breckenridge** (BSEM '94) is a Mining Engineer, with Moody and Associates, Inc., Washington, PA. cbreckenridge@moody-s.com.

- **Daniel Curry** (BSMinE '01) is a Mining Engineer, Peabody Energy, Eastern Associated Coal Corp., Federal No. 2 Mine, Fairview, WV. We saw him in the Coal Preparation Plant where he is a trainee, on April 28, 2004.

- **W. Brent Dodrill** (BSEM '72) is a General Manager of Loverdige Mine, CONSOL Energy Inc., Fairview, WV. On behalf of

(See Alumni News, Page 6)

back into production. This recent fire mitigation, along with the other trials and triumphs in Ben's life serves as a perfect example of his closing remarks to the students: "You won't reach your goal – or your vision – without hurdles. But with patience, perseverance and focus ... you'll have the best shot. Never give up."



A View of the Ben's lecture attendants including, Alumni, Students, Faculty and Friends, in the Auditorium.

Robert E. Murray, Mining Engineer, Murray Energy Corporation, Proud of his Achievement at WVU

by Rob Murray
BSEM '98

I am very honored and delighted to submit this article commenting on how my WVU education helped to prepare me for my professional career. By way of introduction, I am employed by Murray Energy Corporation, a family owned and operated underground and surface coal mining and sales enterprise, whose affiliated Companies produce a total of approximately 25 million tons of clean coal annually from the Illinois Basin, Pittsburgh No. 8, and Central Pennsylvania coal fields. I am currently an Account Executive working in Marketing and Sales, as well as the Manager of Transportation, Distribution, and Quality Control. Additionally, I am currently enrolling in an Executive MBA program to further my education. I am very happily married to my wife, Kelli, and we reside in St. Clairsville, Ohio, with our beautiful one year old daughter, Julia.

The most significant life-long attribute that I developed during my WVU experience while prevailing through countless academic challenges is **"PERSEVERANCE"**.

The American Heritage Dictionary's defines persevere as "...to persist in or remain constant to a purpose, idea, or task in the face of obstacles or discouragement". How many of you can relate to this definition in reminiscing about your academic achievements? I'll bet just about every single one of you, including yours truly!

You see, it is has been my experience that perseverance breeds success, and subsequently, success breeds confidence. As a working professional, one must be confident in their capabilities in order to enjoy success, which is the



Robert E. Murray proudly displays his BS Degree Certificate from WVU

ultimate goal. But the entire process starts with accepting new challenges and simply not giving up until your goals are achieved. The fruits of perseverance are exemplified time and time again throughout history; for example, from the journeys of Christopher Columbus, to the vision of the Founding Fathers of the American Revolution, to the incredible story of Mr. Bill Gates.

CEMR's Department of Mining Engineering faculty and staff create a culture that en-

courages and inspires students to strive for success. The Department faculty does not accept failure or allow any student to become complacent. The members of the faculty go to considerable effort to personally understand the goals and objectives of each student to effectively motivate them. The faculty is thereby training their students to persevere, which in turn builds confidence as he or she earns success in achieving their goals.

Lastly, I would offer to all current students that although perseverance may not get you the highest possible grade point average, you will earn the academic achievement you attain and, more importantly, gain confidence in your abilities to succeed in your professional careers.

MSHA Mine Academy Tour

The students and instructors in the Mine Management and Safety, and the Mine Vent-

ilation classes visited the MSHA Academy in Beaver, WV on April 5-6, 2004. The participants



(left to right) Jim Dean, Michael Moton, Matthew Jordan, Christian Warfield, Kevin Rakes, Joe Zirkel, Derrick Kiblinger, Jack Toombs, Rizwan Qayyum, Anthony Olajide, Zhengxing Gu, and Michael Mullins. Dr. Yi Luo is taking the photo.

toured the facilities and received training in mine ventilation, dust regulations and current issues in mine safety and health. The students also ob-

tained training materials that were of interest to them from the Academy's wide selection of training products. Thanks to all the staff of the Academy for the warm welcome they received.

Calendar of Events Fall, 2004

Aug 3-5 23rd International Conference on Ground Control in Mining, Morgantown, WV.

Sept 17 Mineral Resources Alumni Banquet, Erickson Alumni Center, Morgantown, WV.

Sept 27-30 2004 MINExpo Las Vegas, NV.

Oct 21-23 WVCMI/SME CAS Joint Meeting, The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, WV.

Oct 21-22 SME/PCMA Joint Meeting, Meadowland, PA.

Nov 11 William Poundstone Lecture and Distinguished Engineer of Mines Award, Mineral Resources Building, Morgantown, WV.

Nov 12 MinE Visiting Committee Meeting, Morgantown, WV.

2004 Recognition Banquet

The annual Mineral Resources (MRAC) Award Banquet was held on April 4, 2004 at the Lakeview Resort and Conference Center, Morgantown, WV. MinE alumni turned up for the event. After a welcome by Michael John, the president of MRAC, several awards and scholarships were



Christopher Lilly received the 2004 Old Timer Award from Bob Murray.



Dr. Yi Luo received the Outstanding Faculty Member in MinE award from Kris Lilly, President of SMESC.



Matthew Jordon received the MRAC Award from Gary Smith.

SME Student Chapter New Officers for 2004-2005

President: Kevin Rakes
Vice-President: Lucas O'Neal
Secretary: Sam Stahle
Treasurer: Brandon Williams
Media: Michael Moton
Outreach: Joe Helbig
Program: Eric Lilly, Michael Mullins
Industry Advisor: Bill Maloney
Faculty Advisor: A Wahab Khair

given to the students and faculty. They included the Old Timer Award, the Career in Coal Award, MRAC, WVCMI Awards, Coal & Energy Division Scholarship, WAIMME Scholarship, and many other Scholarships.



Dr. Keith Heasley received the SME Officer's award from Kris Lilly, President of SMESC.



Kevin Rakes received the Careers in Coal Award from Richard Bolen.



Joe Zirkle received the WVCMI Award from Gregory Patterson, President of WVCMI.

Pramod Thakur, CONSOL CBM Expert, Presented Coalbed Methane Production in Northern Appalachia

Dr. Pramod Thakur, Manager, Coal Seam Degasification, Coal Shared Services, CONSOL Energy, Inc. presented his experience in developing coal bed methane (CBM) projects to the students and faculty in Mining Engineering (MinE), and Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering (P&NGE) under an Interdisciplinary study program.

More recently, Dr. Thakur explained that rather than coal mine safety driving new technology development, the economics of producing coalbed methane

from uselessly dissipating into the atmosphere. Today, CONSOL Energy is the largest coalbed methane producer in the Appala-



Students and faculty attend CBM production lecture by Dr. Pramod Thakur.

have improved so much that gas producers like CONSOL are pushing the research forward. Any methane gas drained from the coal seam before mining reduces the amount that needs to be handled by the ventilation system. If it is captured for sale, it also helps pay the bills and prevents a waste product

chian Basin. Dr. Thakur led the R&D technical group that perfected the drainage methods. Under a DOE contract, CONSOL is demonstrating injection of CO₂ into deep, unminable coal seams to enhance CBM gas production and sequester a major Greenhouse Gas.

The 2nd Runner up for SMESC Annual Report Competition



SMESC is the second runner up for 2004 SME Student Chapter Annual Report Competition. The winning team are (left to right): Bill Maloney (Industry Advisor), Rebecca Hardy, SMESC Officers: Kevin Rakes, Kris Lilly, Joe Zirkle, and Justin Bushneck.

MS at Mining Engineering, WVU Can Open Many Doors

by **Bob MacDonald**
MSEM '98

Following graduation in 1981 from the Technical University of Nova Scotia in Canada, I took a job with the Cape Breton Development Corporation, a coal mining company located in industrial Cape Breton, Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada. During my time spent in the university I was frequently informed that as an engineer there would be many doors made available to me to open. For the past 23 years I have enjoyed working in eight positions covering areas of planning, design, project management, engineering management, mine general manager to my current position of General Manager of Real Property.

One of many opportunities that occurred in 1992 was when I was asked by the Corporation to take a masters program in mine design. This was a big commitment compared to

other continuing education programs I had taken previously. At the time the Corporation had engaged mining experts to assist in dealing with ground control problems in some of our operating mines. These experts were from Britain, USA and Canada. One of the USA experts was Dr. Syd Peng, the MinE Department Chair at WVU.

The Corporation's requirement was for a full masters program, however because of the demands in my job I could not leave full time. A review was conducted of various universities that were carrying a ground control program. We were interested in a university that focused specifically on coal mining and had a strong research program that recognized innovation in mining techniques. Our discussions with Dr. Peng reinforced the fact that WVU had a progressive Mine Engineering program that was recognized worldwide. This was important because our mines



Bob MacDonald made a presentation on the development of hydro-geochemical model for the abandoned 1A and No. 5 Mines, Cape Breton Development Corp., Nova Scotia, Canada on April 7, 2004.

were experiencing significant ground control problems associated with mining at depths greater than 700 meters, below the Atlantic Ocean.

Following my graduation from WVU, I was able to implement some significant changes in how our mines approached strata control underground. There were many doubtful people at first but the training I received at WVU gave me a strong foundation to build on and develop a level of confidence with the work force, unions and senior management. Also, the knowledge gained

from this program gave me more confidence and a better understanding of how I could influence change. I began to author papers on some of the ground control problems and types of solutions implemented. This led to invitations to speak at Dr. Peng's Ground Control Conference, as well as, conferences in Germany, Canada, United Kingdom and Japan.

I will leave you with three things to remember as you navigate through your career:

The half-life of an engineer is 18 months, the world is yours to conquer and enjoy what you are doing.

After 18 month of graduation you will have forgotten half of what you learn to get your degree, so it is important to continue to educate yourself. The world is full of opportunities and it is your responsibility to yourself to conquer them. And last but not least, enjoy what you are doing, because if you do not enjoy it you better leave and move on for your benefit and that of your employer.

San Juan Mine Trip, Farmington, NM, February 20, 2004

San Juan Mine owned by BHP Billiton produces 6.5 M tons per year. The mine extracts Fruitland #8 seam coal (about 10,000 BTU/lb) using longwall mining. It supplies coal to the San Juan power plant

right next door, owned by Power New Mexico (photo below), to produce 1600 MW electricity. This is an exclusive agreement: the mine only supplies this power plant and the power plant only buys from this mine.



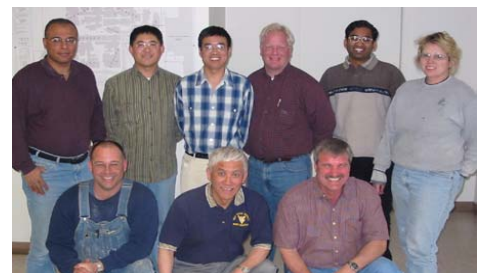
(Left to right) Syd Peng, James Pile, Nigel Goff, Larry Randlet, Dan Alexander, Keith Heasley (kneeling), Yi Luo, Edin Delic, Yunqing Zhang. Felicia Peng and Yunkai Xia are not in the photo.

Mine was awarded a project to design and recommend roof bolting plans for the Vermilion Grove Portal, Black Beauty Coal Co. (BBC), Ridge farm, IL. The project team visited the Portal as a follow-up to study the results of the trials of various recommended roof bolting plans on April 12, 2004.

San Juan Power Plant



Control of Very Weak Roof in Illinois Coalfield



Front Row (left to right): Todd Ground (Mine Manager), Syd Peng and John Hill (BSEM '76 and Director of Underground Mines). Rear Row: Khaled Morsy, Jisheng Han, Yunqing Zhang, Dick Reisinger (Mine Engineer), M. Gadde, Penny Padgett (Sr. Underground Geologist).

Value-Added Factor for Mining Industry is a High One

by **Deborah Miller, JD**
*Director of Planned Giving
 West Virginia University
 Foundation, Inc.*

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. As an alumnus, you benefited from WVU's mining engineering program, and now I hope you will consider some options to sustain this important mission.

Maximizing the benefits of WVU's mining engineering program is something that we can all consider doing. One helpful way is through including a gift

provision in our 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."

Your attorney can add special language to 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. A gift provision can provide for an endowed opportunity fund of \$100,000 or more or for a non-endowed opportunity fund of \$25,000 or more. The differ-

ence is that the endowed fund operates in perpetuity and provides an annual payout. It may be named for anyone the donor wishes to honor.

A named professorship requires a gift of \$250,000. It is an endowment and can be named for someone special. It will yield annual support to further an outstanding faculty member's endeavors in mining engineering.

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

Thanks for Thinking of Helping MinE Department

Thinking of making a gift to benefit our Department in your will, living trust, IRA, or other manner? If so, the proper wording is very important to ensure that your gift works out the way you intended.

Have your attorney include a provision directed "to the West Virginia University Foundation, Inc. (i.d. #55-6017181) to benefit MinE Department, CEMR." If you would like further assistance with your gift plans, call Bob Bragg, CEMR at (304) 293-4821, or Syd Peng at (304) 293-7680.

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CONSOL, he attended the CEMR's Capital Campaign Celebration dinner on March 27, 2004.

- **Raymond G. DuBois** (BSEM '79) is president and general manager of Trapper Mining Inc., Craig, CO with annual production around 7 million tons. We saw him at the SME MRAC Reception on February 24 in Denver, CO.
- **Mike Duvall** (BSEM '81) is a Manager of Engineering with Arch Coal, Inc., Hobet Mining Inc. Madison WV. He came to recruit our students for summer & permanent positions on March 10-11, 2004.
- **Jeffery Kelley** (BSEM '81) is the President of Alcon Planning & Consulting, Buckhannon, WV.
- **Douglas Montgomery** (MSMR '88) is with RAG American Coal, Emerald Mine Coal Preparation Plant, Rt 218, Waynesburg, PA. We met him at Emerald Coal Preparation plant during a recent



Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Murray.

plant trip.

- **Ryan Murray** (BSMinE '02) is Assistant Superintendent, American Energy, Century Mine, Alledonia, OH. He was married to Melanie Homan on April 16, 2004 (see photo above). Attending the wedding and reception from WVU were: Dan Alexander, Syd & Felicia Peng, and Wahab Khair. We also saw Ryan Toler BSMine '02 (Federal No. 2 Mine, WV); Jim Turner, BSEM '98 (Murray Energy Corp., Alledonia, OH); and Michael Tacosik BSEM (Galatia Mine, IL).

(See Alumni News, Page 7)

Massey Energy Created Safety Award in Honor of Raymond Bradbury, BSEM '46

The annual Massey Energy's Raymond Bradbury Safety Award was held on March 17, 2004 in Charleston, WV. This year the honor went to Nicholas Energy. The award was created in honor of WVU's BSEM graduate Raymond Bradbury (BSEM 46) who established the award when he was President of Martin County Coal before his retirement. Both Raymond and



Raymond and Clara Bradbury at the Safety Award Banquet.

Clara (see photo) were present for the event.

2004 CEMR Emeritus Club Luncheon



CEMR Emeritus Club luncheon was held at the Bennet Tower, Evansdale Campus on April 30, 2004. Alumni who attended the Emeritus Club Luncheon were (left to right): Edmund Bookman Jr., (BSEM '52), Joe Larry (BSEM '52) and his wife Louise (not shown), Richard Lee (BSEM '47), and John Perfater (BSEM '54) and his wife Barbara (not shown).

The 135th Commencement, WVU, May 16, 2004



Dr. A. W. Khair and Dr. Syd S. Peng at the Commencement. The Class of 2004 attending the May Commencement were: (left to right) Sergey Zagreba (MSMinE), Asmaa Yassien (PhDMinE) and Dennis Dolinar (MSMinE), and Christopher Lilly (BSMinE).

(Alumni News from Page 6)

- **Vincent P. Richardson** (BSEM '85) is a Sales Engineer with Eriez Magnetics, Erie, PA. He gave a presentation about the processing equipment to the North West Virginia Coal Preparation & Engineering Society on March 10, 2004, Morgantown, WV.
- **Joseph Sweetnich** (BSEM '80) is a Senior Manager of Engineering at Federal No. 2 Mine, Eastern Associated

Coal Corp., Peabody Energy, Fairview, WV.

- **Sergey Zagreba** (MSMinE '04) is Operations Manager in Training with Vulcan Materials Co, Atlanta, GA.
- **Brad Zimmerman** (BSMinE '03) is a management trainee with Florida Rock, Fort Pierce, FL. He travels a lot and expects to finish his training this summer and be assigned a management position some-

where. He said he likes Florida's sunshine.

Jim Dean, Director of the CEMR Extension and Outreach unit that contains both the Mining and Industrial Extension programs, returned to teaching in the Mining Engineering Department this Spring Semester. (He was a Lecturer in Mining Engineering from 1991-1994). Jim taught MinE 471, the Mine Management and Safety course. When asked about his feelings on teaching in Mining Engineering again, he said "I am really excited about returning to the classroom. I feel that the experience

Welcome Back to MinE, Jim Dean



Jim Dean, Lecturer in MinE Department, WVU.

and knowledge I have gained from working in Mining Extension for the past 10 years can be a benefit to the students who are about to enter the mining industry. I believe that the greatest strength of our industry is the quality of the people in it and our students should be the best."

WVU School of Mines Alumni met at the Royal Palm Beach Resort, St Maarten



WVU School of Mines Alumni (a.k.a COMERAC) held its annual meeting at the Royal Palm Beach Resort on the island of St. Maarten, Netherland Antilles (in the Caribbean). (Left to right) Tim Salvati, BSEM '51 (Summersville, WV), Joseph Larry, BSEM '52 (Fairmont, WV), Thomas Howard, BSEM '47 (Mt. Hope, WV), David Zegeer BSEM '47 (Lexington, KY), John Baugues, BSEM '51 (Knoxville, TN).

The white water rafting trip on April 25, 2004 was a "Big Nasty". (left to right) Kevin Rakes, Joe Zirkle, Sarah Zirkle, Olayemi Akinkugbe and Keith Heasley.

Annual White Water Rafting Trip



NIOSH and MSHA Facility Tours on March 24, 2004



(Left to right) Larry Patts describes the function of the diesel engine to Christian Warfield, Justin Bushneck, and Matt Petrovich. Dan Alexander, Kris Lilly, Jon Gordon, Rebecca Hardy, Wahab Khair and Joe Zirkle also attended but are not shown in the photo.

Father and Son Enrolled in the Mining Engineering Program

By **Phyllip Worley**
BSEM '80

Both Phyllip and Benjamin Worley are currently enrolled in the Mining Engineering Program at WVU. Phyllip graduated in 1980 with a BSEM degree and has returned part time to pursue a Master's Degree. Phyllip's wife Sherry also began her college career here and all three of their sons are students at WVU, but Benjamin has decided to follow after his dad in mining.

Phyllip began his mining career in 1972 with Eastern Associated Coal Co. as a face-man on the longwall but left work to go to school in 1978. After making his PE in 1984 he went into underground operations mostly on longwalls and



Phyllip (left) and Benjamin (right) Worley both are currently enrolled in the Mining Engineering Program, WVU.

only returned to engineering a few years ago. He currently works as Senior Manager of Engineering at the Harris Mine. Since his boys were already in Morgantown, he used this opportunity to enroll in the Master's Program for Mining, desiring to sharpen old skills and develop new ones to become

better acquainted with the most current theories and processes for engineering problem solving. He says he hasn't been disappointed.

Benjamin, his middle son, entered WVU as a math major right out of high school but after a couple of semesters decided to follow his father's footsteps. He quit and got work as a laborer for Independence Coal Company. Benjamin found the work both challenging and satisfying; the kind of work from which a career could be fashioned. He decided to quit work and return to study Mining Engineering and hopes he'll get the

same solid education his father got at WVU. He lives with his wife Amanda, in Morgantown where she is pursuing a Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy.

There is a certain heritage both in regard to WVU's mining department and to mining for the Worley's. First, there has been one Worley going to school here continuously since 1965 in fields that either directly or indirectly are associated with mining. And secondly Benjamin will be the 6th generation coal miner in this southern WV family, the majority of which have worked for the same coal company (beginning with the old Koppers Co. and currently the Eastern Associated Coal Corp., subsidiary of Peabody Energy).

Peabody Energy, Eastern Associated Coal Corp., Federal No. 2 Mine for Coal Preparation Plant Trip

Coal Preparation class visited Peabody Energy, Eastern Associated Coal Corp., Federal No. 2 Mine, Coal Preparation Plant as part of laboratory experience.

Thanks are due to Blair McGill (Mine Manager of Federal No.2 Mine), Frank Peduti (Plant Manager) and other engineers in the Plant for safety training, explaining and showing us the coal preparation operations.



(Left to right) Hongyan Sun, Christian Warfield, Felica Peng, Cade Mason, Joe Zirkle, Kevin Rakes, Jack Toombs, Matt Jordan, Daniel Curry (BSMinE, '03), Michael Mullins, and Gregory Boyce.

Freshman Information Seminar on Mining Engineering Major

The freshmen informational seminar on Mining Engineering this past fall was very successful and helped result in one of the largest freshmen Mining Engineering classes in many years. For the first time, all the freshman engineering students are required to attend seminars given by all majors. At the seminar, Dr. Heasley explained some of the details of a career in Mining Engineering while the freshmen enjoyed pizza and pop. All of the attending freshmen received department T-shirts and a number of door prizes were awarded, including a personal data assistant (PDA).

If you know any students interested in Mining Engineering, please contact **Dr. Keith Heasley** at 304-293-7680 or at Keith.Heasley@mail.wvu.edu or **Dr. Syd Peng** at Syd.Peng@mail.wvu.edu.



One of the freshman receives a door prize from Dr. Heasley at the Mining Engineering informational seminar.

Personal Note:

Dan Alexander was invited to be one of the six member Peer Review Panel for the US Geological Survey's multiyear National Coal Resource Assessment project. USGS is preparing a new Coal Reserve Evaluation for known US coal resources. The Peer Review Panel will examine the criteria, assumptions and methodology used to model the mineable reserves remaining in the US.

Alumni, Students, Faculty and Friends Packed at Alumni Reception at 2004 SME Annual Meeting , Denver, CO.

Joe Zirkle Received Coal & Energy Div. Scholarship



Joe Zirkle (left), a senior, received the \$2,500 SME Coal & Energy Division Scholarship check from Keith Heasley, Associate Professor (right), while Dan Alexander looked on.

Jerry Bay, Michael Canty, Michael Mosser, and Tammy Dickenson (below).



Joy Machinery Reception (left to right, top to bottom): Kris Lilly, Keith Heasley, Joe Zirkle, Justin Bushneck, Syd Peng, Royce Watts, Yi Luo, Wahab Khair, Yunkai Xia, Yunquin Zhang, David Tang, Christian Warfield, Rebecca Hardy, Felicia Peng, Edin Delic, Michael Mullins, Olayemi Akinkugbe and Lucas O'Neil.



(left to right) Greg Hinshaw, Francis Martino, Doug Hardman, Rob Murray, Bob Murray, Felicia Peng and Mike Gaska.



(Left to right) Steve Stulock. Bill Maloney, Melanie Homan, Dan Alexander, Ryan Murray.

(left to right) Syd Peng, Randy Acre, and Jeff Fleshman.

(left to right) Tony Iannacchione, Mike Sapko, and Gerry Finfinger.

Division Chair-Elect for SME Coal & Energy Division: Keith Heasley, Congratulation!



Dr. Keith Heasley (Top, the second from left) and Dan Alexander (bottom, the second from left) attended SME Coal & Energy Division Executive Committee Meeting in 2004 SME Annual Meeting , Denver, CO.



(left to right) Syd Peng, Raymond Dubois and Wahab Khair, Steve Tadolini and Bill Lepro (above).



(left to right) Kevin Wu, Lew Wade, and Y. J. Zhang.



(left to right) Charles Howard, John Stoeher, and Joe Burdett.

(left to right) Jürgen Brune, Syd Peng, Marshall Miller, Royce Watts, and Keith Heasley.

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Alumni and Friends

Editors: Faculty and staff, MinE Department

Everything starts with mining!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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Greetings from the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends:

The Spring 2004 William Poundstone lecture was presented by Ben Statler of PinnOak Resources LLC to a record attendance. Undoubtedly Ben's lecture topic and achievements are the major reasons. But we also believe that this distinguished lecture series has become better known, especially in the coal and supporting services industries.

The class of 2004 which covered the period from August 1, 2003 to May 16, 2004 consisted of 8 graduates: one PhD, five MS and two BS. We had our first female PhD in mining engineering graduate soon she is returning to Egypt to teach. Two MS and two BS are now working for coal companies and a roof bolt manufacturer. One

MS chose to work in stone mining while the other two MS stayed to work on their PhD. This past year, we saw a strong resurgence of company recruiting activities. We had a record number of companies including coal, aggregates and related industries came to campus for interviews.

We also had a record attendance for our alumni and friends reception at the SME Annual Meeting, in Denver, CO, February 24, 2004. There were more than 150 alumni and friends present to renew friendship and show their support. In fact, it has become one of the premier events in SME's alumni activities.

Finally, I must apologize that we are somewhat tardy in the publication of this issue of

Black Diamond because unexpectedly I had an emergency operation on May 25 that set me back more than three weeks in time. However, I must say I am very fortunate that Felicia, Karen, graduate students and NIOSH friends all came to help and kept things going. The most gratifying experience was that my graduate students provided a 24-hour watch on me during my 8-day hospital stay!

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What Summer Vacation?



SUMMER STUDENT-Gary Dankovchik, a mining Engineering sophomore from Weirton, studies his MATH 156 Calculus 2 homework in the Mountainlair. Dankovchik is among thousands of WVU students taking summer courses to fulfill their core curriculum requirements, earn more hours toward graduation or improve their grade-point averages. Summer I continues through June 29. We found this story in **WVU's the Mountaineer Spirit**, June 3, 2004.