

BLACK DIAMONDS WV

DEPARTMENT OF MINING ENGINEERING

College of Engineering
and Mineral Resources

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Chris Hamilton "Coal, Energy, and Mountaintop Development"

Hamilton Gives College of Engineering and Mineral Resources Distinguished Lecture

Chris Hamilton, senior vice president of the West Virginia Coal Association (WVCA), presented a speech on "Coal, Energy, and Mountaintop Development," as part West Virginia University's College of Engineering and Mineral Resources Distinguished Lecture Series on March 28.

Hamilton has nearly 40 years experience in the coal mining industry, 25 with the WVCA. He is responsible for legislative, regulatory, and technical matters affecting the industry. He serves as co-chair of the West Virginia Coal Forum, a joint labor-management group designed to foster a dialogue between miners and coal operating personnel, and as co-chair of the Mountaintop Mining Coalition.

The former owner of a safety training consulting firm, Hamilton served as training director for the West Virginia Department of Mines before joining the WVCA. He has worked as an underground miner and section foreman and possesses mine foreman certifications from West Virginia and OH. Additional appointments include the West Virginia Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety, the West Virginia Board of Miner Training Education and Certification, the West Virginia Mine Safety and Technical Review Committee, and the West Virginia Diesel Equipment Commission.

Hamilton earned a master's degree in business from West Virginia University.



Summer 2011 / Vol.11, No.1

Editors: Faculty and Staff
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DEPARTMENT NEWS

Bise Receives AIME Mineral Industry Education Award



Dr. Christopher J. Bise (right) accepts the AIME Mineral Industry Education Award from AIME President DeAnn Craig at the organization's annual banquet and awards ceremony held in Denver, Col., this past March.

Dr. Christopher J. Bise, the Charles T. Holland Distinguished Professor of Mining Engineering and chairman of the Department at WVU, was the recipient of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers Mineral Industry Education Award. The award is given for distinguished contributions to the advancement of mineral industry education. According to the organization, Bise's career, "epitomizes that of an academic leader by combining practical mining experience with dedication to excellence in teaching, research, and service."

Bise's career spans more than 35 years of teaching, research, and service to the mining engineering profession. In addition to being a licensed professional engineer in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, a certified mine safety professional, and a board-certified forensic engineer, Bise worked as a mining engineer for Consolidation Coal prior to pursuing his career in academia at Penn State and WVU.

In addition to receiving many teaching, advising, and service awards, Bise is a Distinguished Member of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME) and the SME Pittsburgh Section. He previously served as chair of SME's Coal and Energy Division and received the organization's Ivan B. Rahn Education Award, and received the Old Timers' Award for Excellence in Mining Engineering Education.

Heasley Receives SME Peng Ground Control in Mining Award



Dr. Keith Heasley (left) accepts the SME Syd S. Peng Ground Control in Mining Award from Dr. Peng at the 2011 Annual SME Meeting held in March.

Dr. Keith Heasley, professor of mining engineering at WVU, was named the recipient of the 2010 SME Syd S. Peng Ground Control in Mining Award. The award was presented in recognition of his significant contributions to solve complex problems using both numerical and experimental techniques.

Prior to joining the faculty at WVU, Heasley earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in mining engineering from Penn State and, while working at the U.S. Bureau of Mines, completed his Ph.D. at the Colorado School of Mines. His dissertation topic, "Numerical Modeling with a Lamination Displacement-Discontinuity Code," was a major contribution to the understanding and modeling of the complex interactions of multi-layered rock formations.

Upon completion of his degree, he returned to the Bureau and continued the advanced development, refinements, and publication of the LaModel software before deciding to join the faculty at WVU in 2001, where he specializes in rock mechanics and numerical modeling in his teaching and research. He has been an active member of SME since 1978, and has served on several committees and as chair of the Coal and Energy Division in 2006. He is also active in the American Rock Mechanics Association.



2011 Mining Engineering Industrial Visiting Committee met on April 15, 2011 in Mineral Resources Building. The Participating members were (left to right) Jeff Wilson, Principal, Wilson Energy Advisors, LLC.; Jeff Kelley (BSEM, '79), project manager, IGC Tygart Valley; Joseph Sweetnich (BSEM '79), manager of engineering, Patriot Coal Corp., Federal No. 2 Mine; Barry Dangerfield (BSEM '73, MSEM '81), senior vice president, Cliffs Natural Resources; Keith Hainer, director of maintenance, Alpha Resources-Massey Coal Services; John Murphy (committee chair), University of Pittsburgh; and Gary Hartsog (BSEM '79, MSEM '85), president, Alpha Engineering Services, in the front of the Mineral Resources Building, Evansdale Campus.

Annual Recognition Banquet

Students, faculty, alumni, and friends were recognized for their distinct achievements at this year's Recognition Banquet, held at Lakeview Resort in April.

John E. Caffrey, who earned his engineer of mines degree from WVU in 1950, was the recipient of the 2011 Mineral Resources Outstanding Alumni Award. Caffrey has held responsible charges in all facets of mining, including prospecting; property acquisition/sale; opening and equipping mines; processing of the mined product; environmental evaluation; pre-, during-, and post-mining reclamation; and permitting.

While serving as chief engineer for USX's Gary, West Virginia Operations, Caffrey had responsibility for all engineering actions in matters of appropriations, construction, electrical, environmental, mechanical mining, and property. He has served as an expert witness regarding engineering, malpractice, mine injuries, product liability, property damage, coal tax shelter, mine disasters, condemnation, and bankruptcy. Caffrey has also served as vice-president of engineering and surveying for several companies, and as president of several small coal mining companies. He served in Governor Cecil Underwood's administration as director of the state's Division of Environmental Protection.

Caffrey is a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, National Academy of Forensic Engineers, Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, and the West Virginia Coal Mining Institute. He served as a past member of the West Virginia Educational Board, Bluefield State College Governing Board, WVU COMER Visiting Committee, and the McDowell County Economic Development Board.

The following additional awards were presented at the banquet:

The Charles T. Holland Award: *presented to Katarina Gump*

The Careers in Coal Award and the SME Student Chapter Award: *presented to Kevin Hatfield*

The Old Timers Award: *presented to Eric Howe*

MRAC Award: *presented to James Lovejoy*

The West Virginia Coal Mining Institute Award: *presented to Martin Smay*

Lower Division Award: *presented to Jeffrey Stevens*

Mining Engineering Faculty Awards: *presented to Albert Johnson, Benjamin Parker, Ihsan Tulu, and Simon Prassettyo*

SME Student Chapter Award for an Outstanding Faculty Member in Mining Engineering: *presented to Dr. Vladislav Kecojevic*

SME Student Chapter Officer Award: *presented to Dr. Felicia Peng*

The Calvin Kidd Fellowship Award: *presented to Bill Reid*

The Department of Mining Engineering also provided additional scholarships to students from funds supported by various donors. A list can be found on our website at: www.mine.cemr.wvu.edu/students/scholarships.php?level=ugrad.



Katarina Gump (l) receives the Charles T. Holland Award from Dean Gene Cilento.



Kevin Hatfield (l) accepts the Careers in Coal Award and the SME Student Chapter Award from Dr. Christopher Bise.



Old Timers Award winner Eric Howe (l) receives the award from Calvin Kidd.



James Lovejoy (l) receives the MRAC Award from Christian Breckenridge.



Martin Smay (l) was awarded the West Virginia Coal Mining Institute Award.



The Lower Division Award went to Jeffrey Stevens.



The Mining Engineering Faculty Award was presented to (from left) Albert Johnson, Benjamin Parker, Ihsan Tulu, and Simon Prassettyo.



The SME Student Chapter Award to an Outstanding Faculty Member in Mining Engineering was presented to Dr. Vladislav Kecojevic.



Dr. Felicia Peng received the SME Student Chapter Officer Award for dedication to the mining profession and for offering a challenging atmosphere for student growth and development.



Bill Reid (l) accepts the Calvin Kidd Fellowship Award from its namesake.



The Mining Engineering Peer-Assisted-Learning Program

by Christopher J. Bise

When I began my tenure as Department chair in September 2006, one of the many things which impressed me was the effectiveness of the internal scholarship policies. One particular aspect requires scholarship recipients to participate in Department activities to maintain their scholarships. Credit was given for active participation in the SME Student Chapter; attendance at Departmental functions (i.e., the Poundstone lectures); and outreach activities, such as recruiting students or participating in the annual Gem Show. I saw an opportunity to expand the list of acceptable activities.

I always felt that the best way to learn a subject was to try to teach it to others. It has also been my observation that students will turn to other students, first, when they are having difficulty in their courses. As a result, I thought that a formal student-to-student mentoring program had possibilities.

While attending the 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Engineering Education in Austin, Tex., I learned how other engineering programs established similar mentoring programs. I was encouraged that we could implement a successful program within the Department.

The Department has established a Peer-Assisted-Learning (PAL) program. Scholarship recipients can earn participation credit for volunteering at least one hour per month to tutor other mining engineering students in courses that they have successfully completed. These contact periods between students are formally scheduled by the students themselves in the newly converted Mine Planning Laboratory (233 MRB). Another reason why I wanted to establish this program was my desire to establish a greater camaraderie among all of the mining engineering undergraduates.

According to Kevin Hatfield, president of the WVU SME Student Chapter, the PAL program has been quite successful. "The Peer-Assisted-Learning program has proved itself to be a great tool, allowing students to help other students," said Hatfield. "Not only are students able to learn and study together, but they are also able to interact and create friendships that help make the atmosphere and educational experience within the WVU Department of Mining Engineering a great success."



Recent graduate Kevin Hatfield, left, provides academic assistance to Andrew Ellis, a sophomore in mining engineering, in the Mine Planning Laboratory.

Northern West Virginia Coal Preparation Society Donates Additional Funds to Scholarship



In 2007, the Northern West Virginia Coal Preparation Society (NWWCPS) established a scholarship in the Department of Mining Engineering to promote the mineral processing disciplines. In February, the Society presented a check to WVU's Student Chapter to further fund the scholarship. SME Chapter representatives Albert Johnson (left), 2010-2011 GEM coordinator, and Kevin Hatfield, 2010-2011 president, accepted a check from Paul Bradley (right), president of NWWCPS. The scholarship(s) will be awarded annually to encourage the development of mining engineers who are interested in a career in mineral processing and associated fields and living within a 100-mile radius of Morgantown, W.Va.



In His Own Words

By Kevin M. Hatfield

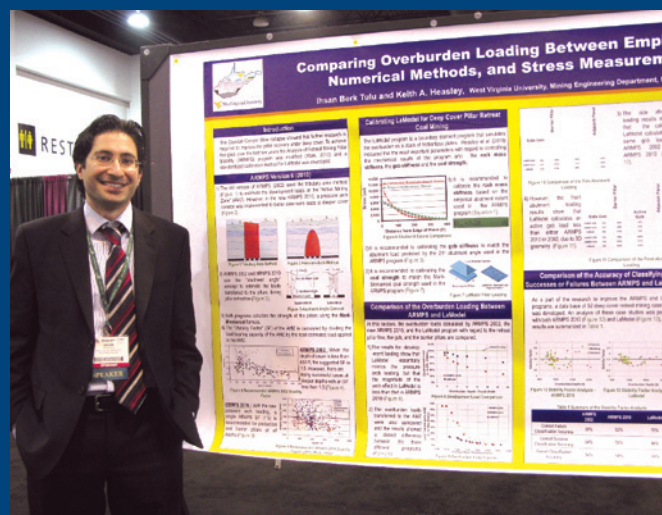
Over the past several years, it has been a privilege and an honor to have been a part of the Department of Mining Engineering at West Virginia University.

The education, skills, and experience I have gained under the leadership of the Department's professors far exceeded anything I could have ever imagined.

As I prepare to leave WVU and begin my career in coal with Cliffs Natural Resources, I look back and know that any success my future may hold can be attributed to the dedicated faculty and staff of the Department, for seeing that I received the best education possible. Not only have they broadened my knowledge that will guide me throughout my career, they have also encouraged the qualities necessary to be a great leader.

While at WVU, nothing but the best of opportunities were presented to me, from traveling across the United States, to mine tours, to creating contacts with industry professionals. These opportunities proved to be vital in my education; all of the experiences were irreplaceable.

As the 2010-2011 SME Student Chapter President, I hope that I have been able to leave as great an impression on the Department as it has left on me. I would like to thank each and every faculty member and professor in the Department, the numerous industry professionals who I have worked with over the years, and all undergraduate students for making my college career one of the best experiences of my life. I wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors, and hope one day to have the opportunity to work with you again.



Tulu Participates in Sustainability Graduate Poster Contest

Ihsan Berk Tulu, a doctoral candidate in mining engineering at West Virginia University, presented a thesis-related research paper for the 2011 SME Education Sustainability Graduate Students Poster Contest at the SME Annual Meeting. The contest recognizes excellence in research by SME graduate student members in an effort to encourage the pursuit of excellence through an academic career. This was the first year for the contest.

STUDENT NEWS

SME Student Chapter Welcomes Maloney

William Maloney, a drilling consultant who helped develop a plan in 2010 to free 33 trapped Chilean miners, was a guest speaker for the March 16 SME Student Chapter meeting.

Maloney is the founder of the Mine Rescue Drilling Fund, which was established to provide critical assistance for mine rescues in the United States and abroad. Convinced their expertise could aid in the rescue of the miners, Maloney and his colleagues developed the drilling technique used to successfully rescue the miners, who were trapped a half-mile underground for 69 days.

He was a co-founder and executive at North American Drillers, North American Pump and

Supply Co., and Shaft Drillers International (SDI). He grew SDI from a two-person business in 1984 to become the world-leader in large-diameter shaft drilling for mining and other industries. Maloney is currently the principal of Cow Run Energy LLC and Drill Leader LLC.

Maloney is an active member of SME, the West Virginia Coal Mining Institute, the Independent Oil and Gas Association of West Virginia, and the National Groundwater Association. He is a past chairman of the West Virginia chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors and has served as an industrial advisor to WVU's SME Student Chapter.



SME GEM Student Chapter Takes Top Honors

West Virginia University's Student Chapter of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME) took top honors at the 2011 SME Annual Meeting held in Denver, Col., for their contributions to the Society's Government, Education, and Mining (GEM) initiatives.

Among other activities, the chapter sponsors a booth at the annual Cheat Lake Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show held at the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey in Morgantown, W.Va. Working with the SME Pittsburgh and SME Central Appalachian Sections, the students distribute

Minerals for Kids, an egg carton with 10 different mineral and fossil specimens to local children ages 12 and younger. The students also explain how the minerals are used in various household products, such as detergents, cereals, and baking soda.

WVU's SME Student Chapter was also named runner-up in the Student Chapter contest.

SME Student Chapter GEM Coordinator Alison Sears (right) and Student Chapter President Kevin Hatfield accept the award for the top SME GEM Student Chapter.



2010-2011 President's and Dean's List Mining Engineering

President's List

2010 Fall

Amy Burt
Charles Ndhlovu
Jeffrey Stevens

2011 Spring

Amy Burt
James Lovejoy
Robert Seitz
Lara Smith

Dean's List

2010 Fall

John Darby
Geoffrey Howe
Kyle Hughes
Christopher Kijak
Jacob King
Martin Smay
Lara Smith
Jared Stein
William Weitzel

2011 Spring

Charlie Chase
Katarina Gump
Geoffrey Howe
Nicholas Long
Charles Ndhlovu
Cody Smith



CLASS OF 2011

The WVU mining engineering Class of 2011 (spring, summer, and fall 2011) represented the largest graduation class since the mid-1980s. Pictured below are the members of the class:

Top row (left to right): Nicholas Long, Kevin Hatfield, Austin Gilmore; Benjamin Parker, Martin Smay (cum laude), Zachary Linn; Christopher Rose, Liem Pham, Nicholas Hajduk; Katarina Gump (magna cum laude), Eric Howe (magna cum laude); C. J. Johnson, William Craddock, Skyler Roberts; Rachel Sellaro, Nicholas Blevins, James Lovejoy (magna cum laude); Timothy Miller, Jacob Haney, Zachary Leggett, Sean Combs. Front row: Bryan Troast, Alison Sears (magna cum laude), Zachary Coldebella.

Also, Patrick Bucks, Meng Yang, Adeniyi Adebisi, and Simon Prasetyo earned master's degrees in mining engineering, with Tapas Das earning his Ph.D.

Congratulations to all of the members of the Class of 2011!



WVU's Student Chapter of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc. will be led by a new team of officers for 2011-2012. Elected to positions were:



(L-R) Charlie Chase, president; Amy Burt, vice president; Jon Bobbera, secretary.



(L-R) Kyle Hughes, treasurer; Zachary Thompson, program chair; Alex Stockdale, GEM coordinator; and Andrew Ellis, media coordinator.

ALUMNI NEWS



Murray Receives J.W. Woomer Award

Ryan Murray, a 2001 graduate of the West Virginia University Department of Mining Engineering, received the 2010 J.W. Woomer Award at the SME Annual Meeting this past March. The award recognizes young professionals working in the industry. Murray joined Murray Energy in 1994 and currently serves as vice president, Operations.

He also serves on the Board of Directors of the SME Pittsburgh Section and is a member of the Young Leaders Committee.



Robert Murray (second from left), president of Murray Energy, Ryan Murray '01, and James Turner '01 visited the Department's mining engineering exhibit booth during the SME Annual Meeting. Zachary Coldebella '11 (far left) joined in the discussion.

Four Inducted into Coal Hall of Fame

Four West Virginians who devoted their lives serving the mining industry were inducted into the Coal Hall of Fame at a ceremony held in Charleston, W.Va., in May.

The inductees are:

J. Robert Fletcher (deceased), chairman, board of directors, J.H. Fletcher and Company, Huntington, W.Va. Fletcher's career focused on the development of bolting and roof support systems.

Johnson C. McKinley (deceased), president of North Weirton Company, Willow Glen, W.Va. He was a noted developer of the coal industry in northern West Virginia.

Purnal L. McWhorter, general sales manager, Phillips Machine Services, Beckley, W.Va.

Robert L. Raines, president of Pocahontas Land Corporation, Bluefield, W.Va. Raines is noted for the successful worldwide introduction of mining machinery. Raines attended WVU's School of Mines and has played an active leadership role in numerous organizations in the engineering, coal mining, mine reclamation, and mining education fields.

Recollections of Those "Good Old Student Days"

By James L. Corsaro, BSEM '66, MSEM '68

I entered WVU in the fall of 1961. Most of us entering college in those days had not traveled much, and for some this was their furthest foray from home. My own trips out of state could be counted on one hand, and the senior band trip to Daytona Beach was not only my farthest, but was my first trip to an ocean beach. Lest someone think that I was terribly disadvantaged, I do not think that my experience was unique.

When my parents took me to Morgantown for the start of my college career, my impression at the time was that they pulled up in front of old Men's Hall (now Boreman South), threw my luggage out, and drove off. In reality, however, they helped me get situated, made sure that my clothes were unpacked and neatly tucked away, fed me, and then left me to fend for myself. My roommate and I each had a wardrobe, a metal desk and chair, and a metal bunk bed worthy of an austere army barrack. We had no televisions, even in any common areas, but we did have our transistor radios and an occasional stereo. We would listen to the big 50,000 watt stations, WOWO from Fort Wayne, Ind., and WLS from Chicago, Ill., both of which played all of the latest hits. I completed my undergraduate and graduate programs at WVU without ever owning a television.

There was also a code of dress for home football games. The male students were strongly encouraged to wear coats and ties, and the ladies wore dresses or skirts. I will confess that at the beginning of each of those games, the student section appeared to be a credit to the University. However, with each student amply supplied with his own provision of alcoholic beverages, the image at the end of the game was significantly degraded. But of course, the games were not televised anyway. The dress code gradually disappeared for the general student population, although a few of the fraternities and sororities held onto that tradition a while longer.

We did go to classes, too. At that time, we were enrolled in the "School of Mines," and our classes centered around the Mineral Industries Building, aka White Hall. The new College of Engineering building was completed the same year I started at WVU, in 1961, and we went there to pick up our electrical, civil, and mechanical engineering classes.

The dean of the School of Mines was Charles T. Holland. Charlie, as we students affectionately referred to him when he was out of earshot, took more interest in us students than many of us would have signed up for. Although we

did not have much contact with him as freshmen, by the time we were sophomores, he knew most of us by name. I was attending WVU on a Semet-Solvay scholarship, and although I made good grades as a freshman, my first semester as a sophomore left a lot to be desired in the matriculation accomplishment category. But boy, did I have a great time! I think I was impressed with my ability to make good grades as a freshman, and didn't realize that I might actually have to study as a sophomore. That's when I found out that the Dean really did know who I was. I got a message that the Dean wanted to see me, and I went like a lamb to the slaughter. As I went up to the receptionist, I should have detected the pitiful look as something other than boredom. She knew something I didn't. When I got into his office, after a few amenities, he threw down my first semester grades on his desk and unleashed a steady stream of profanity for a good 10 minutes without repeating himself. Looking back, it was a rather impressive display, but unfortunately I was not in a position to properly admire his verbosity. As I recall, he not only threatened to take my scholarship away and alter my ability to procreate, he mentioned something about driving to Charleston to meet with my parents, which in those days was not a threat to be taken lightly. Needless to say, I begged, pleaded, promised to do better, and agreed to report to him on a regular basis the following semester to keep him updated on my progress. It was a real learning experience. But I did get my act together and needed no such assistance for the remainder of my college career. We later became very good friends.

One of my classes, which modern students should find interesting, was our computer class. Yes, even in the 60's, we had computer classes. Although most of our real mathematical work was done on slide rules, or for our surveying class, on a Monroe mechanical calculator, we did have a computer class. This class consisted of learning the Fortran IV programming language, writing programs, punching the program on cards, and submitting to run them on the WVU administration's IBM mainframe. That single computer took up a whole section of the Administration

Building basement and was responsible for all administration, enrollment, and business functions. We students were not a high priority. We would write the lines of the program to accomplish whatever task was assigned, some menial computational task which one could do longhand

in one-tenth the time it took to design and write the program, but then the object was to learn programming. It was a tedious process, as the first few runs would find your syntax errors, the next few runs would expose your logic errors, and hopefully after three to four weeks, you could get your simple program executed and output printed. We were then assigned to write a program to simulate one complete underground conventional mining cycle. My group included Charles McGlothlin, Jim Boyd, and Ed Calarie. It took a fair amount of work, with some contributing more than others, but we finally got the program to run and produce the desired output just prior to the end of the semester.

Upon graduation, Dean Holland hired me as a research engineer. My task was to design, build, and operate an acid mine drainage treatment facility to treat 300 GPM of highly

acidic water, and to develop design and cost parameters for the process. That project provided the opportunity to obtain my master's degree. As I left the School of Mines and embarked upon my career, I left with a debt of gratitude to the School, and to the Dean who took enough of an interest to steer me back onto the proper path back in 1963. Certainly there were others that played important roles in those college days, and some were pretty unique characters. There was E. J. Sandy, with his irascible manner, J. D. McClung, quiet and unassuming, but a stickler for details, among others, but then those are stories for another time. I even met my wife, formerly Betty Ann Sequence, in the dean's office when she was working as a temp for his secretary to help defray her college expenses. That too, is another story, but suffice it to say that many of my successes in life are attributable to my experiences and education earned at the WVU School of Mines.



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 2010-11 through the WVU Foundation.

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LEAVE A LEGACY®

Make A Difference in the Lives That Follow

By Deborah Miller, director of Planned Giving West Virginia University Foundation

Each new academic year brings additional challenges to the Department of Mining Engineering. Those challenges represent opportunities to strengthen what we do and how we do it.

Ongoing challenges include funding for endowed scholarships and support for faculty through named professorships. Satisfying these important priorities will lead to enhanced learning and career opportunities for our students. Truly, your help is needed.

One future support option is to include a gift provision in your will and another is to name the WVU Foundation as the after-death beneficiary of a retirement account.

To make a gift through your will, the wording of "to the WVU Foundation for the benefit of the College of Engineering and Mineral Resources"

Department of Mining Engineering" works very well. Specifying the gift's purpose, such as those mentioned above, is appropriate also.

Naming the Foundation as the beneficiary of a retirement account involves a change of beneficiary form from the plan administrator. A special agreement with the Foundation about the future use of the funds to benefit the Department is also needed.

Learn more at www.wvuf.org, choose *Ways to Give* and click on *Planned Giving*.

Many know the value of WVU's mining engineering program. Personal support will ensure that the reputation of the program will continue to grow over the years and guarantee students will accomplish more.

Fenix II Replica Displayed on Campus

A replica of Fenix II, the mine rescue capsule used in the Chilean mine rescue of 2010, was displayed on the front lawn of the Mineral Resources Building on West Virginia University's Evansdale Campus in early May. The 15-foot high capsule is 21-inches in diameter and weighs 2,800 pounds and was manufactured at Center Rock, Inc., of Berlin, Pa. The 33 miners were rescued after spending 68 days underground.



Events

The next **Poundstone Lecture** will be held on Thursday afternoon, **September 22, 2011**. Raymond Bradbury, an alumnus of the Department and former executive with Martin County Coal Corporation, will be our speaker.

We are excited for the upcoming WVU football season to begin as Dana Holgorsen takes over the reins as head coach and debuts a new offense.

There are seven home games on this year's schedule:

Sunday, **Sept. 4** **MARSHALL**
 Saturday, **Sept. 10** **NORFOLK STATE**
 Saturday, **Sept. 17** @ Maryland
 Saturday, **Sept. 24** **LSU**
 Saturday, **Oct. 1** **BOWLING GREEN** (CEMR hospitality tent)
 Saturday, **Oct. 8** **CONNECTICUT**
 Friday, **Oct. 21** @ Syracuse
 Saturday, **Oct. 29** @ Rutgers
 Saturday, **Nov. 5** **LOUISVILLE** (CEMR hospitality tent)
 Saturday, **Nov. 12** @ Cincinnati
 Friday, **Nov. 25** **PITTSBURGH**
 Thursday, **Dec. 1** @ Univ. of South Florida

Alumni Update Summer 2011

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 **Black Diamonds WV**.

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.

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For more information, visit our Department web site at **www.mine.cemr.wvu.edu**

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Chair's Message

Greetings from Morgantown! As I write this message, and try to develop its theme, I keep thinking of the word, "first." It seems to be a part of everything I want to share with you.

I have just returned from China, where six of our students joined students from the University of Kentucky and Virginia Tech for their first study-abroad experience. For the past two years, Dr. G. T. Lineberry of the University of Kentucky, who earned his Ph.D. in mining engineering from WVU, and I have been discussing the idea of a study-abroad experience for our students. For the initial program, G.T. took the lead and did a great job establishing the month-long program at the China University of Mining and Technology in Xuzhou, China. We secured financial sponsorship for the program from Joy Mining Machinery, for which we are very grateful. The students left for China on May 12, and G.T. and I went over two weeks later for the final 10 days of the experience. We will have a full write-up on this first study-abroad program for our mining engineering students in the next issue of *Black Diamonds*.

When I came to WVU five years ago, one of my goals was to get our graduation numbers up to 20. I'm proud to say we graduated 26 students in the Class of 2011. This is the first mining engineering graduation class at WVU to exceed 20 students since the mid-1980s. Job prospects continue to look good for our graduates, so this momentum should continue. The students and faculty continue to be recognized for our growing, quality program, and our alumni continue to be leaders in the industry.

Please circle your calendars for our next Poundstone Lecture, which will be held on Thursday afternoon, September 22.

Raymond Bradbury, an alumnus of the Department and former executive with Martin County Coal Corporation, will be our speaker. Ray brings a lifetime commitment to safe production and we are looking forward to gaining his perspective on leadership in the mining industry.

I hope that you can find time to stop by the Department and say hello if your travels ever take you to Morgantown!

Christopher J. Bise



Dr. Christopher Bise