

BLACK DIAMONDS WV

DEPARTMENT OF MINING ENGINEERING

College of Engineering
and Mineral Resources

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William N. Poundstone "My Career in Coal"

William Poundstone making his presentation.

Namesake Gives Poundstone Lecture

The esteemed namesake of the Department of Mining Engineering's William N. Poundstone Lecture Series served as its 2010 speaker.

William N. Poundstone, consultant and retired executive vice president of Consolidation Coal Company, delivered his presentation, "My Career in Coal," in September at Erickson Alumni Center.

Poundstone's re-enrollment in WVU's School of Mines after his service in World War II was driven by a firm belief that there was an opportunity for improvement in the science of coal mining. The fact that coal prices remained steady at \$5 for more than 20 years, Poundstone said, was an indicator that the use of technology could enable mines to stay financially competitive. Early in his career, he participated in the introduction of boring-head continuous miners in the Morgantown region and

helped modify the machines so the technology could be successfully applied in the Pittsburgh No. 8 coalbed.

Poundstone moved through the ranks of CONSOL rising to the post of executive vice president. He assumed responsibility for the company's service functions, including engineering, exploration, land, and environmental services, long-range planning, mining research, and the design and building of all new mine functions. He remained in that position until he retired in 1982.

He is the holder of 34 U.S. patents and has authored numerous technical publications. Poundstone has served as spokesman for the coal industry in testimony at numerous Congressional hearings on environmental and mining research matters.

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Editors: Faculty and Staff
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William Poundstone surrounded by former CONSOL employees during his period of executive leadership. Photo (l-r): John Katlic, Ronald Stovash, Dan Alexander, Bill Poundstone, Christopher Bise, David Eyer, and Pramod Thakur.

Poundstone Lecture continued from page 1...

He has received many awards and honors throughout his career including induction into the West Virginia Coal Miners Hall of Fame and recognition by the North American Coalbed Methane Forum for his pioneering work on development of drilling techniques for coal seam degasification, mine safety, and coalbed product. He was awarded the 1991 COMER Outstanding Alumni of the Year, as well as an Honorary Degree from WVU in 1981.

Poundstone expressed how grateful he was to work for companies that provided him with the opportunity to impact “the science of coal mining” both nationally and internationally. His message to the students was simple, “Look for ways to improve the way we mine our product. Don’t be afraid to innovate. You should, however, carefully consider any changes that you consider making, and be certain the benefits outweigh any possible negative effects.”

Good advice from a true gentleman who began his career “to improve the science of coal mining.”



William Poundstone (left) receives a Distinguish EM Alumni Plaque from Christopher Bise, chair of Mining Engineering Department, WVU.

Students Receive Awards at PCMIA Conference

Five students from Mining Engineering received awards at the annual joint meeting of the Pittsburgh Coal Mining Institute of America (PCMIA) and the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration-Pittsburgh (SME), held in October. Seniors **Robert Burke**, **Jared Forman**, and **Jacob King** took top honors in the senior mine design project competition, while **Eric Howe** was awarded the 2010 PCMIA-SME-Pittsburgh Student Grant Award. **Ted Klemetti**, a doctoral graduate student, received the John T. Boyd Memorial Young Engineering Award.

Mining schools require graduating seniors to complete a capstone design project to demonstrate their knowledge of engineering fundamentals and analysis of a problem. Burke, Forman, and King were nominated by faculty from the University and the project was guided by **Dr. Keith Heasley**. According to the awarding organization, the purpose of the award is to serve as a tangible stimulus for excellence for outstanding effort in the preparation of the senior design project.

Howe has spent three summers working for CONSOL Energy in a variety of roles, including mine foreman assistant and as a member of the ventilation and track crews. He has also spent time working toward improving mining safety, traveling with inspectors, and conducting audits on training at various mines.

The Boyd Award is given annually to people working in the coal industry. After receiving his bachelor's degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering from WVU, Klemetti worked for National Personal Protective Technology Laboratories, where he was exposed to the unique safety and health issues of coal miners. He returned to WVU to earn a master's degree in mining engineering while working for the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health's Pittsburgh Research Laboratory. After spending time on weak roof projects, Klemetti developed a program to conduct an analysis of retreat mining pillar stability evaluation of database case history, later assisting in workshops to introduce the mining community to the new software. Prior to returning to WVU to earn his doctorate, he served as principal investigator for research on red zone definitions for bump probe mines. He serves on the national marketing and outreach strategic committee for SME.



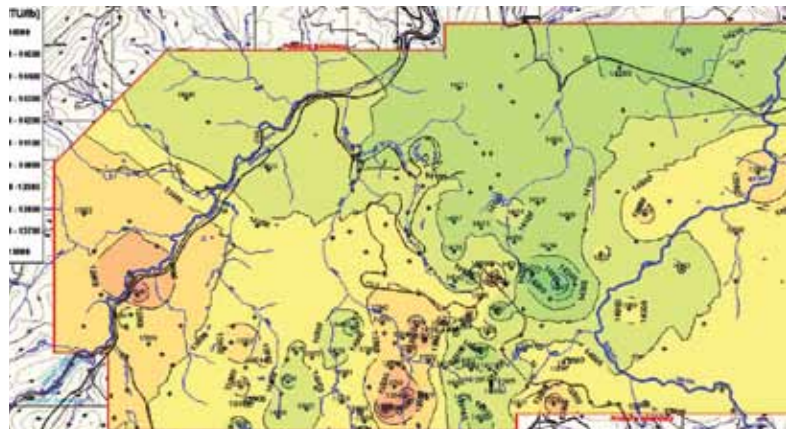
(r-l) Robert Burke, Jared Forman, and Jacob King accepting first place of the Best Senior Mine Design Project award. The senior design project was guided by Dr. Keith Heasley.



Ted Klemetti (right) receives the John T. Boyd Memorial Young Engineering Award from Richard Gray.



Eric Howe (right) receives the Students Grant Award from Ryan Desko at the SME-Pittsburgh Section/PCMIA Annual Joint Meeting.



BTU isopach map from award-winning senior design project.



Student News

Students Tour Upgraded CONSOL Processing Plant

Sophomore mining engineers toured CONSOL Energy's Loveridge Coal Preparation Plant, located near Fairview, W.Va., in early November. The plant was recently updated from three cleaning circuits to four to take care of issues related to longwall mining in the Pittsburgh coal seam. The plant produces an average of 6.5 million tons of coal at

yield average of 80 percent. The class, taught by **Dr. Felicia Peng** (top photo, second from left), would like to thank Rick Shaw (first from left), manager of process/quality control, and Darrell Smith (far right), plant superintendent, for the guided tour.



Student SME Chapter Captures Top Honors

Members of WVU's student chapter of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME) have a lot to smile about. The students took top chapter honors for the Government, Education, and Mining (GEM) Program, and were named first runner-up in the overall student chapter contest. 2009-2010 officers of the WVU Student

Chapter of SME, elected in April 2009, are (l-r) **Jeffery Lorimer**, program chair, **Kevin Hatfield**, vice president, **Alison Sears**, GEM coordinator, **Logan Hall**, president, **Katarina Gump**, media coordinator, **Sarah Hurr**, treasurer, and **Jared Forman**, secretary.



Degree Recipients Mining Engineering

August 2010

Bachelor of Science

Brian Cappellini
Bongani Dlamini
Karl Ivanisin
Ryan Richman

Master of Science

Patrick Bucks
Meng Yang

Doctor of Philosophy

Xinshi Du

December 2010

Bachelor of Science

Kevin Burton
Chad Collins
Mitchel Funk
Jeremy Holt
Samantha Hyita
Jacob King
Drew Morgan

Nathan Sypolt
John Tipton

Doctor of Philosophy

Tapas Das



Nathan Sypolt, Mitchel Funk, and Dr. Bise at the 2010 December Convocation reception.



WVU SME Student Chapter officers and students participated at the WV Coal Mining Institute Fall Meeting held at Greenbrier. (l-r) Jake Nelson, Eric Howe (program chair), Kevin Hatfield (president), Albert Johnson (GEM coordinator), Katarina Gump (secretary), Sara Hurr (vice-president), Alison Sears, and Shannon Gidley.



Bryan Brown, from FACES of Coal, was a guest speaker on October 20, 2010.

SME Student Chapter Activities

Bryan Brown, coordinator of the Federation for American Coal, Energy, and Security (FACES) of Coal, an industry educational group, was a guest speaker at an October meeting of SME's student chapter. FACES is affiliated with the West Virginia Coal Association and its educational arm, Friends of Coal. The goal of both organizations is to gain support for the coal industry.

CEMR's annual Career Fair was held in November. SME student chapter officers had a booth at the fair and explained the benefits of a career in mining engineering.

Mining engineering students were invited to participate in the Bluefield Coal Symposium and Coal Show, held in September in Bluefield, W.Va. The invitation to attend the symposium, themed "Continuing Along the Road to Zero," came from symposium chairman and chief editor of *Coal News*, Bill Reid.

Chapter members participated in the annual Cheat Lake Fossil and Mineral Show, held in late September. Their program, "Minerals for Kids," explained the sources of minerals and coal and their utilization in daily consumables.



CEMR's Career Fair - mining engineering booth



WVU's SME Student Chapter participated in the Bluefield Coal Symposium and Coal Show.

(right photo) Members of the SME GEM student chapter participate in "Minerals for Kids," which teaches children about common minerals that are used in everyday life.



Alumni News

Doug Fala, BSMINE '99, is general manager of Midland Trail Mining Complex, located at Campbells Creek, W.Va. The complex is owned by Patriot Coal Corporation.

Randy Hansford, BSEM '78, was appointed vice president of West Virginia operations for United Coal Company. He will serve as president of Pocahontas Coal Company in Beckley, W.Va., and Carter Road Coal Company, in Mill Creek, W.Va. He will also serve as chairman of the board of managers of Affinity Coal.

Joel F. Hutwelker, BSMPE '87, is chief operating officer and senior project manager at EarthRes Group, Inc., an environmental engineering and consulting firm, located in Pipersville, Pa. He brings more than 15 years experience to ERG, having previously worked with BASF and the Engelhard Corporation.

Neal H. Merrifield, BSEM '71, has been named as administrator for metal/nonmetal with EarthRes Group, Inc., an environmental engineering and consulting firm, in Pipersville, Pa. He has held various engineering and operations positions in the industry over the past 30 years, including serving as vice president of operations for Freeman United Coal Mining Company. He joined MSHA in 2003.

Robert E. Murray, BSMINE '98, is vice president of business development and external affairs, with Murray Energy Corp., Pepper Pike, Ohio.

George J. Schuller, BSEM '86, was named vice president of engineering and technical services for Peabody Energy. He joined the company in 1986 as a mine engineer and has more than 20 years experience in operations and engineering. Schuller has held various mine management positions at U.S. operations and

served as general manager of mining support for Australian operations.

Thomas H. "Pete" Simpson, BSEM '77, was named operations manager for Federal No. 2 near Fairview, W.Va. Simpson, a 35-year veteran in underground mining and management, succeeds Joseph B. "Blair" McGill, who is retiring.

T. Anthony Toney, BSMPE '80, MSMR-MPE '88, is project manager of process and facilities engineering for Norwest Corporation, Evansville, Ind.

Ryan Toler, BSMINE '01, PE, is superintendent of Patriot Coal Corporation's Speed Mining, LLC, located in Dawes, W.Va.

Richard M. Whiting, BSEM '76, has assumed the role of president of Patriot Coal Corporation. He continues in his current capacity as CEO.

In Memoriam

Claude A. Goode, 85, of Pleasant Hills, Pa., died Tuesday, November 2, 2010. Goode was born August 22, 1925, in Maybeury, W.Va., son of the late Claude Z. and Helen M. Goode. He and his wife, Annabel Hatfield, attended Concord College, in Athens, W.Va. He is survived by daughters, Sara and Victoria, both of Morgantown, W.Va., and son, Claude of Allentown, Pa. Goode earned bachelor's ('61) and master's ('66) degrees in mining engineering from WVU. A World War II U.S. Army veteran, Goode worked for the Department of Interior's U.S. Bureau of Mines in Pittsburgh until his retirement. Goode's publications include "IC 9149 Coal Mine Bumps: Five Cases Studies in the Eastern United States" (Compoli, Alan A., Kertis, Carla A., Goode, Claude A., 1947); and "Post Preparation/Storage and Loading" (Meikle, Philip G., Bucklen, Okley B., Goode, Claude A., and Matoney, Joseph T., 1991, *Coal Preparation – 5th Edition; USBM Bulletin 680*).



Make A Difference in the Lives That Follow

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nearly 300 Attend Annual Ground Control in Mining Conference



Nearly 300 people attend the 29th International Conference on Ground Control in Mining (ICGCM), held at Lakeview Golf Resort and Spa in Morgantown, W.Va., in July. This was the conference's largest turnout since 2004. ICGCM has a new website,

www.icgcm.org, in an effort to facilitate submission of abstracts and manuscripts and online conference registration. Next year's conference will celebrate the organization's 30th anniversary. Visit their website for more information.



Alumni Update Winter 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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Chair's Message

Greetings from Morgantown! As I look back on fall semester, 2010, review the contents of this newsletter, and compose this message six hours prior to the Super Bowl kickoff, I was struck by how busy we were as a Department, and how we continue to grow.

The semester began with the revised scheduling and arrangements for the Poundstone Lecture. Having the lecture in the new Erickson Alumni Center in September facilitated logistics, such as guest parking, the post-lecture dinner in the same building, etc. Having William Poundstone provide the first lecture under the new arrangements was extra special; it enabled many of his industrial friends, students, and WVU guests to show their appreciation for his establishment of this significant Departmental activity. The next Poundstone Lecture will be held on Thursday, September 22, 2011.

Our student body continues to grow, both in terms of numbers and quality. This academic year, we will graduate more than 20 bachelor of science degree recipients for the first time in many years. Despite the pressures on the mining industry, career opportunities for our graduates remain excellent. The excellence of our students in academic performance and professional development are obvious from several of the articles contained in this newsletter. The Department has been able to provide more than \$100,000 in scholarships to deserving students; we greatly appreciate the corporate and individual financial support that makes that possible.

Sadly, a longtime friend and alumnus of the program, Claude A. Goode, passed away on November 2, 2010.

A career employee of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, he will be missed, particularly for his thought-provoking insight into, and comments on, various mining-related activities at meetings of the PCMIA and SME/Pittsburgh Region.

On a more personal note, several of you have been aware that two members of

our faculty, Dr. Vladislav Kecojevic and I, have had some health issues during the latter half of the fall semester, which slowed us from our typically busy pace. We both are now doing fine, and I know that I speak for Vlad when I say that we appreciate the kind words, thoughts, and considerations shown by many of our friends. Thank you!

Take care, and I hope that 2011 brings you great joy!
Christopher J. Bise



Dr. Christopher Bise