A Note from the SME Board:

The SME CO Section is busy! Our two September events, Mining 4 Beer at Joyride Brewing Company, and the Miners Give Back clean up day at the Jefferson County Open Space, were both great successes, with good showing by our section members and industry professionals. Let’s keep this momentum going for our events this fall! Keep up to date on events through the SME CO Section Website. Congratulations to our scholarship recipients! Biographies of each recipient are featured in this newsletter.

Health and Safety

Driving Awareness – Give Wildlife a “Brake”

Take care and drive cautiously in areas of higher animal density. During dusk and dawn driving visibility is the lowest and wildlife activity is highest. Consider limiting driving in wildlife areas at night.

If you do encounter an animal in the road, brake firmly but try to avoid locking the breaks. Do not swerve or leave your lane, as this may result in a larger accident. Once the animal crosses, proceed slowly – there may be more animals nearby.

SME Colorado Section Member Renewals

Please renew membership with the SME Colorado Section! Section dues for 2022-2023 are $35.

Mail (cash or check) to:
Phil Martin – SME Colorado Section Treasurer
1400 Wewatta St, Suite 850
Denver, CO 80202-1471

Online Payment (PayPal):
https://community.smenet.org/colorado/membership
Joint Webinar with WIM on October 5, 2022

Effect of Supply Network Trends
11:30am – 12:30pm MST

Jehal Shah of Kiewit will share a view of today’s supply network, including an overview of supply chain bottlenecks and an outlook for common commodities utilized in mining capital projects. Jehal will also share ways to mitigate risks associated with supply chain challenges.

Register here!

Colorado School of Mines on October 20, 2022

Joint General Meeting with CSM Student Chapter

What: TBD. Stay Tuned!
Where: Colorado School of Mines, CTLM 102
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Cost: Member Fee = $30, Students = Free!
Registration: SME Event Calendar to Eventbrite Link

Event Calendar

November 17, 2022: Holiday Happy Hour
January 19, 2023: Virtual Krumb Lecture – Lunch & Learn
February 16, 2023: Monthly Meeting with Colorado State University
March 16, 2023: Mining4Beer Joint Event
April 2023: TBD
May 2023: SME Gala - TBD

SME Colorado Section

Chair: Melissa Chalona (mchalona@enganalytics.com)
Vice Chair: Amanda Davis (amanda.davis@maptek.com)
Treasurer: Phil Martin (pmartin@rcflp.com)
Secretary: Eric Poeck (epoeck@bgcengineering.ca)
Program Chair: Richard Schwering (rschwering@hardrock-consulting.com)
Publicity Director: Maddy Sova (madeline.sova@wsp.com)
Minerals Education Coalition at the HardRock Summit! (September 2022)

Young visitor checks electrical conductivity of various minerals with assistance from Jarod Comas, Colorado School of Mines Student Chapter MEC volunteers.

MEC Volunteers Akudo Nwokeukwu and Dick Beach staff display at the Denver Gem & Mineral Show.

CSM Student Chapter MEC Volunteers, Jarod Comas and Kendall Helbig, discuss the role of mining and mineral resources with visitors at the Denver Gem & Mineral Show.

SME Colorado Section Annual Golf Tournament! (August 2022)
Isabel Casabuenas is a Mining and Metallurgical Engineer from Colombia. She holds a master’s degree in the Mining Department at the Colorado School of Mines. Currently, she is pursuing her Ph.D. in the mining engineering and space resources program. Her professional goals are to contribute to solving problems related to the mining industry in Colombia. Isabel has experience with environmental issues, artisanal and small-scale mining, ventilation, and underground mining. She an active member of SME, SEG (Society of Economic Geologists), SOMP (Society of Mining Professors), and WIM (Women in Mining – Colombia Chapter).

The SME CO Section congratulates your hard work, Isabel!

John Dill is a Junior in Mining Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines. He grew up in Pennsylvania and chose the career path of Mining Engineering because many of his family members were coal miners. John decided to continue their legacy and gain an education in mining. John is interested in pursuing a degree in underground hard rock mining. “Becoming a Mining Engineer was one of the best decisions I made, and I couldn’t see myself doing anything else.”

Congrats on your achievements John! The SME Colorado Section is proud to support your studies and future in the mining industry.

Alejandro Delgado is a Mining Engineer and Ph.D. candidate in the Earth Resources Development Engineering program at the Colorado School of Mines. Alejandro has over 10 years of experience in multidisciplinary research and consulting projects including mining policy, mining operations, mining business analysis, and sustainability in the mining industry.

Congratulations to Alejandro on all his hard work! We are happy to have him as part of the SME Colorado Section community.
Heath Orcutt is a second-year graduate student at Colorado State University studying the influence of geochemical alterations on the geotechnical stability of tailings. She obtained her Bachelor’s of Science in Environmental Engineering from the University of Oklahoma and was introduced to SME during her summer internship with Freeport-McMoRan (Morenci 2018, Henderson 2019). She is currently interning at SRK (Denver) and applying for a Fulbright scholarship to work on artisanal small-scale gold mining in southern Ecuador. She is passionate about closure/reclamation, protecting water resources, and sustainable development. Upon graduation, her dream is to work as a geo-environmental engineer on progressive closure projects. Excellent work Heath! The SME CO Section congratulates you!

Joe Bindner is a second-year Ph.D. student at Colorado State University (CSU) and serves as the CSU SME chapter president. Joe received his B.S. in geological engineering from Missouri S&T followed by his M.S. in civil engineering at CSU. Joe then practiced as a geotechnical consultant before returning to CSU for his Ph.D. Joe is passionate about K-12 education outreach and works with the Minerals Education Coalition to pilot tailings outreach programs.

Congratulations Joe! Your hard work and dedication to the industry are outstanding. The SME CO Section is proud to support you!

Liam Gilbride is a student in the mining engineering department at Colorado School of Mines, going into his third year. He plans to obtain a graduate degree in mineral finance after he graduates. He has interned two summers in a row for DA Smith Drilling Company, where he worked as an over-coring technician. Mr. Gilbride looks forward to graduating and pursuing his goal of entering the workforce in the consultation industry of mining engineering.

Congrats Liam! The SME Colorado Section is happy to award you this scholarship!