What's the best way to kick off the SME Annual Conference & Expo?

Be our guest for the SME Foundation Dinner Gala and Silent Auction and experience great food, lots of fun and great networking opportunities. Tickets are available online with conference registration.

A video/slide presentation of the past 25 years of the SMEF will be created for the 2016 SME Foundation Gala dinner. So look through your photo albums for photos to share for this memorable night. Please scan and email the photos directly to the Foundation at wayne@smenet.org. We are also accepting items for the silent auction. Make your tax-deductible contribution today.

Letter from the President

Dear SME Members and Friends:

The SME Annual Conference & Expo is fast approaching and I hope you are planning to join us in Phoenix, AZ. There is a wide variety of technical sessions and programs, the exhibit hall will be filled and it's a great opportunity to network. One of the highlights of Annual Conference is the SME Foundation's Annual Gala Dinner. This year we are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Foundation with an "I love Mining" golf theme. Join the Foundation Board of Trustees and volunteers for an evening of donor recognition, great food, fun prizes and live entertainment provided by the Walkens Band. Thank you to J.H. Fletcher & Co. for sponsoring the door prizes of Amazon gift cards this year. Your continued partnership and support is greatly appreciated.

Be sure to visit the Foundation booth in the Conference Cafe in the exhibit hall.

In order to ensure that our auction is truly meaningful, we need your donations (items or monetary). Please send them to the Foundation at 12999 E. Adam Aircraft Circle, Englewood, CO 80112-4167.

Best Regards, Dennis P. Bryan

SME Foundation Executive Committee

Dennis P. Bryan  SMEF President
Bart J. Hyita  SMEF Past President
Bill A. Hancock  President Elect
C. Dale Elifrits  Vice President of Finance
Dave Kanagy  Secretary
Robert P. Kudlawiec  Trustee-At-large

To donate to the SME Foundation, please visit us at www.smefoundation.org
Minerals Education Coalition

Recap of the 2015 NSTA area conferences - 2,000 educators reached MEC partnered with local SME members, SME section members, SME student chapter members and other mining and geoscience organizations to provide rock and mineral samples at the 2015 National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) area conferences: Reno, NV (October 22 - 24), Philadelphia, PA (November 12 - 14) and Kansas City (December 3 - 5).

Rock and mineral samples and free educational resources were provided to more than 2,000 educators from 49 states, Washington, D.C., Canada and Beijing, China. A survey will be sent to the educators for feedback on MEC materials and how MEC can better serve them in the future. Thank you to the Conference Planning Team, volunteers and sponsors who made these events possible!

Find more information in the MEC article in the January 2016 and February 2016 issues of Mining Engineering magazine.

MEC supports local outreach efforts of SME members, sections and student chapters. MEC has created a series of resources to support local outreach efforts of SME members, sections and student chapters, increasing two-way communication about local outreach challenges, successes and outreach resources available through MEC.

- www.MineralsEducationCoalition.org/SME-outreach-resources provides easy access to resources available for local outreach, including free and low-cost materials, outreach ideas, funding and recognition.
- SME Outreach Resources Community group allows members to share information on ideas for local outreach.
- Monthly MEC outreach conference calls are open to all SME members, sections and student chapters. The calls provide a forum for the members to share and learn about local outreach.

To learn how you can get involved, join the SME Outreach Resources Community group, email mec@smenet.org or call Rachel Grimes, MEC Outreach Coordinator, at 303-948-4247.

For the most up-to-date MEC content, follow @MECeducation and “like” Minerals Education Coalition’s Facebook page.

ABET Update:

Proposed Changes to ABET General Criteria for Engineering Degree Programs

C. Dale Ellifits and Gary Skaggs

Since the late 1990s, the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of ABET has used the General Criteria based upon outcomes of the B.S. engineering degree program to evaluate such degree programs in the U.S. and the world. These changes were made in response to ABET’s Industry Advisory Council and input from many Deans of engineering and engineering degree program leaders who asked for programs to have more flexibility to innovate their educational requirements and be nimble in making changes. During the past five to seven years the outcomes that were established then have been reviewed and input has been collected from engineering degree programs and industrial advisory groups across the nation. The results of this multi-year effort are shown in proposed changes to ABET Engineering General Criteria three and five. These may be examined at: http://www.abet.org/news/abet-releases-criteria-proposal-for-public-comment/

The Educators’ Forum (3:00 to 5:00 P.M. Sunday, February 21st) at the 2016 SME Annual Conference & Expo will feature a summary of the background information that supports these proposed changes and a discussion of anticipated impacts of these changes on engineering education. Jeff Keaton, Ph.D., P.E., P.G., SME’s former Engineering Accreditation Commissioner for geological engineering, EAC/ABET Executive Committee Member, incoming Vice Chair of Operations, served ABET and the profession as Chair of the EAC Criteria Committee while these proposed changes were being developed and vetted within ABET prior to their release this past October for a one-year of comment period before final adoption is considered. At this year’s Educators’ Forum, presentations will be made about the proposed changes by Joe Sussman, PhD, FASME; ABET Chief Accreditation Officer, Chief Information Officer; Charles Hickman, ABET Managing Director; Constituent Relation Services; and Jeff Keaton. This panel and current SME EAC Commissioners: David R Hammond, Geological Engineering; David G. (Gary) McMahan, Mining Engineering; and Gary Skaggs, SME’s ABET Board of Delegates Member and SME’s EAC Area Delegation Member will respond to questions and comments.

The Forum program will then turn to an update from the SME-F Ph.D. Fellowship and Career Grant Program given by Hugh Miller, Chair of the SMEF Grant Program committee.

Professional Engineers Exam PE Update

Your SME PE Committee, composed of 49 Licensed Professional Engineers and SME members, is hard at work performing many important duties for advancing the process of Professional Engineering for Mining/Mineral Processing. The Committee is authoring and supplying the required three reviews of potential problems for the PE exam. Many Committee members along with non-PE SME members are writing Edition II of the best seller Mining Reference Handbook. The Forum program will then turn to an update from the SME-F Ph.D. Fellowship and Career Grant Program given by Hugh Miller, Chair of the SMEF Grant Program committee.

Please contact Dr. Andrew P. Schissler PE, SME PE Exam Coordinator, for more information at (303) 948-4252 or Schissler@smenet.org.

For the most up-to-date MEC content, follow @MECeducation and “like” Minerals Education Coalition’s Facebook page.
Thank You!

The SME Foundation thanks our Corporate Roundtable Partners for their encouragement, support and assistance in creating a stronger industry around the world, developing tomorrow’s professionals and leaders, and strengthening relationships within our communities. To find out more or to lend your support, please visit the Foundation website at www.smefoundation.org.

The mission of the SME Foundation is to be the source of funding for education and outreach of SME and the community it serves.

For additional information regarding the SME Foundation, please contact:
AnnMarie Estrada, Foundation Manager at 303-948-4239 or estrada@smenet.org.