Letter from the Executive Director:

Dear SME Members and Friends,

During the SME Foundation annual meeting, the SMEF Trustees agreed to engage the services of Campbell and Company to complete a market study that will provide direction to the Foundation on its programs and potential contributors.

The market study is in full swing now and for the past two months, the SME Foundation has been actively engaged in the study to determine what projects resonate well within the SME membership and the leadership of the mining industry. The feedback to date has been very useful and we look forward to receiving the final report in September.

One of the pieces developed was a prospectus to be shared with those selected for the market study interview. This prospectus detailed the programs of the foundation, with some ideas for new programs focused on the future of the industry and securing the necessary talent to move the industry forward.

As you may be aware, the SME offices have moved. We have set a date of August 25 for an open house. If you will be in the area, please make plans to attend. We would welcome the opportunity to see you and update you on some of the Foundation activities.

While we do this, the Foundation programs continue to move along. The GEM program has begun to plan for the fall NSTA programs. The programs will be held in Seattle, WA, Hartford, CT and New Orleans, LA this year. If you are in one of those areas and can assist at an NSTA program, please contact us, we’d welcome the support. Mii is developing a series of new activities as well. Mining 101 is a teaching aid that I believe is long overdue and will really help to give a broad overview of mining to younger students. Mii is also sending another 10,000 teacher packets this August. The packet will include the Ultimate Periodic Chart poster, the poster of the elements comprising the human body, as well as 16 pages of lesson plans for mineral identification, the rock cycle, plate tectonics and idea starters for using the periodic chart in the classroom.

This is an exciting time for the Foundation and we hope that we can count on your support!

Best regards,

Dave Kanagy
Executive Director

www.smenet.org/foundation
GEM Award Nomination Procedure

The purpose of the GEM Committee is to serve as the SME public education leader, assisting in efforts to educate the public regarding the importance of mining and minerals in our everyday lives. The Individual GEM Award is designed to recognize outstanding contributions by an individual. Nominations for the GEM Award may be made by any member or local section of SME. The nominee must be an SME member and have clearly demonstrated a desire to further the purpose of the GEM program. Please provide us with details about the individual's participation in specific GEM-related activities. Include any additional information that might be useful to the judges in selecting this year's winner.

PURPOSE:
The purpose of the GEM Awards is to recognize outstanding contributions by an individual and a student chapter.

NUMBER OF AWARDS:
A maximum of two awards will be presented each year: one to an individual and one to a student chapter.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE:
Any member or local section of SME may submit nominations for the Individual GEM Award on an Individual GEM Award Nomination Form. This application can be found at www.smenet.org/foundation, the SME Foundation website. Click on the GEM bucket. The nomination form can be photocopied for multiple nominations. Additional information about the nominee may be attached to the forms. The SME Student Chapter GEM Award is handled through the student chapter reporting procedures.

SELECTION PROCESS:
GEM Award winners are selected by a four-member panel from the National GEM Committee. Members of the award panel are the GEM Committee Chair, immediate Past Chair and its two Vice Chairs. The panel will submit the names of the selected award recipients to SME Headquarters, who shall in turn submit them to the SME Board of Directors for final approval. The Individual GEM recipient will be selected by the end of August and the student chapter will be selected in September. All winners will be notified by December 1, 2011.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:
GEM Awards will be presented during the SME Dinner at the 2012 SME Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA.

Please submit completed nomination forms by August 30, 2011 to Mona Vandervoort (vandervoort@smenet.org).

Professional Engineers Exam Committee Update

The PE Exam for October 2011 is completed, pre-tested and in final form at NCEES. The 2012 exam is in preliminary assembly and review. It will be submitted to NCEES in August. New problems for the 2013 exam are being written and reviewed by the committee members. The exams have been performing well with good statistics.

The number of examinees in Mining and Mineral Processing held steady last year, with 70 engineers taking the exam, versus 71 in 2009. The pass rate for first-time takers was 79%.
Mii – Your Source for Educational Outreach

The Mineral Information Institute is here to be your resource to help teachers and students learn more about the fascinating and important world of our mineral and energy resources. Whether it’s for your facility open house, your association’s teacher workshops or visiting your local school, we’ve got the materials that teachers want and need to supplement their rocks and minerals curriculum. And we can give you a special price for bulk orders. When you give these materials to a teacher, you will be making a friend forever!

Minerals In Your World CD-ROM

The Minerals In Your World CD was created in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey. This interactive CD includes photographs of minerals, maps showing the locations of U.S. mines and processing plants, and photographs of products manufactured from minerals. Teachers will use these for STEM programs. With orders of 50 or more, your name can be printed on the jacket cover.

50 or more CDs shipped to one location (plus s/h) . . . . . . $6 ea.
Fewer than 50 CDs (plus s/h) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $13 ea.

It’s Just a Rock – What’s It Worth? DVD

The “What’s It Worth?" video was created by the Smithsonian Institution, and encourages students to think of valuable minerals in terms of their usefulness and not just their price. Other videos on the DVD include Progress Through Aggregates; Common Ground: Modern Mining and You, and Let’s Do Mineral Science. The DVD fits within the STEM program criteria. With orders of 50 or more, your name can be printed on the jacket cover.

50 or more shipped to one location (plus s/h) . . . . . . $6 ea.
Fewer than 50 DVDs (plus s/h) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $13 ea.

The Blue Marble Vinyl Periodic Chart

The 2-sided Blue Marble Vinyl Periodic Chart has become the #1 teaching tool that we offer. Teachers are spending their own money to purchase this awesome poster. We took The Ultimate Periodic Chart and printed another Periodic Chart on the back side with color photos of minerals. Perfect for STEM programs. 37”x54”. Printed on polyart vinyl and folded.

100 or more shipped to one location (plus s/h) . . . . . . $10 ea.
Fewer than 100 posters (plus s/h) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $20 ea.

Contact Jackie Dorr (303) 948-4236 or dorr@smenet.org for more information.

Blue Marble….a Big Hit!

I recently taught 4 different classes of 4th graders about minerals, rocks and coal mining.

I used the BLUE Marble poster to start the class off and it was a big hit. We picked out our top 10 favorite rocks, then had a great time talking about how important they are to us.

Susan Bealko
Past Chair
SME Pittsburgh Section
Supporting Tomorrow's Professionals Today

The SME Foundation and SME's Divisions provide scholarships to assist students pursuing careers in the mining and minerals industries. During the 2010-2011 academic year, we awarded over $80,000 in scholarships to more than 30 students and we kicked off several new scholarships, including:

- McIntosh Engineering Scholarship – established in 2010 and open to all undergraduate students entering their junior year of an accredited undergraduate degree program in mining engineering with a focus on underground mining.
- RETC Executive Committee Scholarship – established in 2011 and open to undergraduate or graduate students who desire to develop their skills in the rapid excavation and tunneling field.
- UCA of SME Scholarship – established in 2010 to encourage the introduction of undergraduate and graduate academic pursuits and careers in the field of tunneling and underground construction and numerous associated disciplines involved in the development, planning, design, and construction of underground infrastructure.
- George V. Weisdack Memorial Scholarship – established in 2010 by the Pittsburgh Section of SME, in memory of George V. Weisdack, and open to all undergraduate students in the field of Mining Engineering.

With tuition rising, the scholarships SME and the Foundation provide go a long way in assisting the mining professionals of tomorrow to graduate with less debt and the ability to hit the ground running in their chosen career. As you know, our scholarship programs are fully funded by generous contributions from supporters like you. The more contributions the scholarship receives, the more students we can award monetary assistance to. With eight different scholarship funds to choose from, we have something for everyone! You can now contribute to the scholarship of your choice through the SME Foundation website. Just visit www.smenet.org/foundation and click on the “make a contribution” button. You will see the scholarships available to support.

Did you receive a scholarship when you were in school? If so, today is the day to “pay it forward” by donating to one of our many scholarship funds.