Letter from the President

Dear SME Members and Friends:

The 2017 SME Annual Conference & Expo and CMA 119th National Western Mining Conference will be here soon! I hope to see all of you February 19th in Denver. There will be a lot of technical sessions and programs and, of course, the exhibit hall will be bursting at the seams with all the new technology the mining industry can muster. Perhaps the major reason we all enjoy the Annual Conference so much is the opportunity to see old friends and network with our peers in the industry.

Speaking of networking and seeing old friends, one of the highlights of the Annual Conference & Expo is the SME Foundation’s Annual Gala Dinner on Sunday, February 19 at 6:00pm. This year’s theme is “Casino Royale” - James Bond 007. Please join the Foundation Board of Trustees and volunteers for an evening of great food, fun prizes, a little dancing, and a few brief scholarship and donor recognition awards.

The SME Foundation will be holding their annual Silent Auction during the Gala Dinner as well. I encourage you to rummage through all that mining memorabilia you have collected over the years and donate a piece or two for our auction. You will be surprised at what some of those miniature equipment models can bring. Please send them to the SME Foundation at 12999 E. Adam Aircraft Circle, Englewood, CO 80112-4167.

Out west here in Reno, we are getting a lot of snow this year and the skiing is excellent. Hopefully this will make up for the drought these past few years. When the weather cooperates it makes everyone feel good, which leads to feeling more generous as well. Please join your fellow SME members in remembering to support your Foundation.

See you all in February at the 2017 SME Annual Conference & Expo in Denver.

Best Regards,

Dennis P. Bryan

SME Foundation Executive Committee

Dennis P. Bryan  SMEF President
Bart J. Hylta  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
SME Program Evaluator makes first U.S. Geology Degree Program ABET Accreditation visit

The first ever United States B.S. in geology degree program to ask for accreditation by the Applied and Natural Science Accreditation Commission (ANSAC) of ABET was visited during September 2016. This program at the University of Arkansas Little Rock and its host college asked that SME provide the program evaluator for the visit as a part of its accreditation request to ABET, knowing that most of SME’s geological engineering and some mining engineering trained program evaluators also have significant backgrounds and experience in the area of geology. This request was forwarded by ABET to SME. Hence, the Visitor Selection Committee nominated C. Dale Elifrits as the program evaluator. His nomination was accepted by the program and its institution. The visit was conducted with Dr. Elifrits as a team member of a four-PEV team that visited two programs. The report is now making its way through the editing process in ABET. The team's recommended action, as contained in the report, will be considered at ANSAC at its July 2017 regular summer meeting.

Continued Program Evaluators Need

The Visitor Selection Committee is pleased to note that Srikanth Annavarapu, John Raymond Craynon, Bill A. Hancock, Kurt Katzenstein, and Sathanjheri A. Ravishankar have completed training as Program Evaluators for ABET accreditation visitors to engineering degree programs. The addition of these five professionals supplements our cadre of available program evaluators for engineering degree programs but, with the growth of ABET accreditation efforts in foreign countries, SME continues to need more engineering degree program evaluators. Further, since SME has offered to be the participating professional society for accreditation of geology and similarly-named degree programs, we now find ourselves needing to have trained geology program evaluators to supplement the mining engineering, geophysical engineering, and geological engineering PEVs who have geology credentials. Contact Mona Vandervoort, SME Education Coordinator at vandervoort@smenet.org to become a part of this important effort.
Let’s have a big round of applause for...

The five finalists for the Move Mining Competition!

These top five teams have been selected to pitch their ideas at the SME Annual Conference & Expo on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 to our panel of distinguished judges.

Montana Tech - Club MET
Miles of Smiles
Team Atwood
Queen’s University Mining Department - Group 5
Wasatch Wonders

2017 Jamboree Coming July 15 - 29

The Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME) Foundation partnered with Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and successfully launched the Mining in Society merit badge on February 24, 2014. This merit badge introduces Scouts to the industry and teaches them about minerals and rocks, how to explore for minerals, mine planning and operations, mineral processing, mining potential for the future, health and safety in mines, stay out of abandoned mines and stay alive, sustainability in mining, careers, mining resources and reclamation. As you know, there are many aspects to mining and surrounding industries. Being able to open a scout’s eyes to the many career options and how mining affects their everyday lives is quite an honor.

Many people do not realize the impact mining has on their everyday lives. Things such as making electricity from coal, or all the metals used in a smart phone are things most people don’t stop to think about. It is our gift to be able to educate the public to the positive impact mining has and its necessity for our everyday lives. Reclaimed mining land is used for many things from recreational areas to housing developments, and to show that the mining industry is responsible and actively concerned with returning the land for future use is important.

In the first 22 months, 8,132 scouts earned the Mining in Society merit badge. BSA asked SME to participate in the 2017 Jamboree in Glen Jean, WV by hosting a merit badge booth. Over 40,000 scouts, ventures and leaders from North America will congregate to experience camping, activities and earn merit badges. This is an incredible opportunity to reach so many Scouts that would not normally have the opportunity to speak with professionals in the field of mining and surrounding industries, especially since this Jamboree happens only once every four years.

SME Foundation is looking for help to make this a successful endeavor and needs to raise $40,000 to cover cost of patches, handouts, booth supplies, marketing, shipping and some staff expenses. If you or your company can donate, please go to www.Crowdrise.com and search “SME” under “Find events.” Larger donations can be made directly to SME at the address below but any amount makes a difference and is greatly appreciated. SME Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and donations will receive a receipt for tax purposes. We also need a few more volunteers at the Jamboree for the weeks of July 15-22 and 22-29.

For more information, please contact: Ginger L. Hustrulid
MiSm 2017 Jamboree Coordinator for SME
239-989-6180
ginger.h@att.net.
Mail contributions to:
SME Foundation
Attn: BSA Jamboree -Tanya Kriss
12999 E. Adam Aircraft Circle
Englewood, CO 80112-4167

Sponsorship Opportunities at:
http://www.smefoundation.org/events/upcomingevents
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.