

University of Kentucky

Mining Engineering

UK
UNIVERSITY OF
KENTUCKY
College of Engineering
Department of Mining Engineering

Greetings from the Chair

The 2012-13 academic year will be remembered as a year when significant milestones were achieved and longtime members of the mining engineering faculty and staff left the program. The changes in the faculty and staff are highlighted in this newsletter which includes introductions to our two new faculty members and student advisor who will begin their careers in the department during the 2013-14 academic year.



Rick Honaker, Chair

Similar to my report in past newsletters, the department continues to grow in the number of enrolled students and graduates. However, I am even more pleased to report that the quality is exceptional as indicated by the passage rate on the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam. This spring, 26 undergraduate students took the FE exam and 25 passed which equates to a 96% passage rate. The national average is 64% for currently enrolled mining engineering students. According to Tom Lester, our former dean, this is the highest passage rate for a group of this size that he can remember in his 22 years as dean of the college. The faculty and staff extend our congratulations to the students who participated in this remarkable achievement!

A total of 38 students graduated from the program in 2012-13 which includes 28 B.S., eight M.S. and two Ph.D. degree graduates. The total number of program graduates is a record for the department which exceeded the previous high of 36 in 1981. The average cumulative UK GPA for the B.S. graduates was 3.10 and the average time to completion was 4.5 years. Ten B.S. graduates completed their degree requirements in four years. Four

of the B.S. graduates and one M.S. graduate were female which represents another department record.

Job placement is a growing concern given the current state of our industry and the U.S. economy in general. I am pleased to report that all graduates except one had either a permanent job upon graduation or a plan to attend graduate school. Approximately 52% of the graduates secured jobs in the coal industry while 18% obtained positions with non-coal producers. The remaining graduates are working for consulting companies or attending graduate school.

The incoming freshman class for fall 2013 will number around 60 and represent one of the brightest groups on the UK campus as indicated by average ACT scores of 27.8 Composite and 28.8 Math among those who have been admitted. Total undergraduate enrollment is expected to be approximately 215. The number of anticipated B.S. graduates in 2013-14 is around 38 while Ph.D. graduates should be five. Both graduation numbers would set new records for the department.

The faculty enjoyed another successful year in attracting new research awards. The total amount of new funding will exceed \$2 million. Their research findings were published in 25 peer-reviewed journal publications and 22 full conference papers. Department faculty members were also involved in starting the Central Appalachian Regional Education and Research Center (CARERC) which is funded by NIOSH. The focus of the center is to train occupational health and safety professionals for industries operating in the central Appalachia region.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the many years of dedicated service to the department provided by Drs. Richard Sweigard and G.T. Lineberry. Dr. Sweigard

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Joseph G. Evans Receives Distinguished Alumni Award



Joe Evans (right) receiving his Distinguished Alumni Award from Mining Engineering Foundation chair Bryan Lummus.

Joseph G. Evans received the University of Kentucky Department of Mining Engineering Distinguished Alumni Award at the 31st Annual Mining Awards Dinner held April 19 at the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort. Evans earned a bachelor's degree in 1980 and a master's degree in 1987, both in mining engineering. His time at UK prepared him for a successful career in the coal mining industry that has lasted over 30 years.

During his acceptance speech, Evans spoke fondly of his days as a student and how Professors Kot Unrug and Andrejz Wala, as well as laboratory supervisor Ed Thompson, became lifelong friends.

"I was in the first graduating class with these men in place and they have been very supportive with their help and advice at every mine I have worked at," he said.

During the early years of his career, Evans was involved in both surface and underground mining as well as engineering and production duties in Pennsylvania and Kentucky. In 1994, while working for A.T. Massey Companies, Evans became president of Independence Coal Co., in Twilight, W.Va., where he was responsible for the production, budgeting and capital of two room and pillar mines. He later held the same role at Performance Coal Co. and Progress Coal Co., both located in West Virginia.

"I listened to a great Kentuckian and American when Joe Evans addressed the 2013 mining engineering graduates, and it was with deep pride that I reported his words and observations to the Board of Trustees at the May meeting."

— Jo Hern Curriss, Member of UK's Board of Trustees and the Mining Engineering Foundation

Since 1998, Evans has been president and chief operating officer at LEECO Inc., and Blue Diamond Coal. He oversees the operation of six deep mines along with two preparation plants and associated impoundments.

Evans is a strong supporter of the Department of Mining Engineering. He was principally responsible for providing the funding needed to initiate the football tailgate that is a significant fundraising event for the students of the program. He has donated funds on many occasions that were used to enrich the educational experience of mining engineering students.

Toward the end of his speech, Evans offered students in attendance a few challenging words of wisdom. Specifically, he reminded them that being a pro-coal ambassador will be a part of their job wherever they go.

"Learn and understand the law. Learn how to justify that you can be a miner and an environmentalist and that the two are not mutually exclusive. You can be a greenie and still surface mine and be profitable with best practices and sound reclamation techniques. You can deep mine and help provide for families and not be considered a tyrant. What we do should be considered patriotic; we provide a secure energy source for our great country and have for the past century."

Greetings *continued from page 1*

has left UK to become dean of engineering at the University of Memphis and Dr. Lineberry accepted a position as an associate provost at UK. Their impact on the program was significant in their faculty and leadership roles. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

It has been a pleasure to work alongside our new dean of the College of Engineering, John Walz. Dean Walz began his responsibilities almost one year ago and has a compelling vision for the future of the college.

I hope you enjoy the articles in this newsletter and thank you for your continued interest in the Department of Mining Engineering.

Sincerely,

Rick Honaker, Chair

Student Reflections



By David Norton, B.S. '13

Throughout my teenage years, I was always told, “Your college years will be the best years of your life.” I never understood the magnitude of truth in that statement until right now, a month away from my graduation, as I reflect on my collegiate career. Joining the Department of Mining Engineering at the University of Kentucky has arguably been the most impactful and rewarding decision I have ever made and has shaped my future in an unchangeable way.

With the combination of top-notch professors and a wide variety of technical mining courses, the small, yet ever-growing Department of Mining Engineering has gone above and beyond sufficiently preparing me for a successful career as a mining engineer. During my years at UK, I have been involved in extracurricular activities within mining, including being an active SME member for four years, SME treasurer for one year and a participant in the International Intercollegiate Mining Games for two years. I have also been privileged to have the opportunity to travel around the country on various mining related trips. To say the least, it has been a rewarding and unforgettable journey. Above all, I value the relationships I have made with peers and industry leaders during my time at UK.

Unlike many other mining students, I grew up in central Kentucky and do not have a family history in the industry. I began my college career in the Department of Civil Engineering, but soon realized that mining engineering was where I belonged due to my interest in and love of earth sciences. The instructors and staff had compassion for us as students and they strived to mentor and prepare us for any challenges we might face. It is their willingness to go above and beyond that I will never forget.

I joined the Mosaic team in central Florida upon graduation. I have been given a set of technical and social skills that will allow me to adapt quickly to the mining industry that has also shaped me as a person. I am proud to say I am a graduate of the University of Kentucky and a product of the Department of Mining Engineering’s exceptional guidance and direction.



By Kathryn Gardner, B.S. '13

My three and a half years in the mining department at the University of Kentucky set me in a direction I was not expecting. I entered UK in my second semester of college and did not have a clue what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I had grand notions of doing something important, but not a clue how to do it. It was not until I went to my first SME meeting in the fall 2009, persuaded by several mining engineers in my geology class, that I thought about mining. After talking to Ron Robinson, famous among the students for being a persuasive recruiter, as well as Dr. Shannon Lusk and several students, I decided I would make the jump to engineering, knowing it would set me behind my original expected graduation date. This decision was one of the best I could have made. Since then, I have been introduced to the vast world of mining, meeting many people across the U.S. and internationally, as well as having the chance to intern in Florida and Nevada, where I have started a full time job.

Students go to college for several reasons. The most important aspect to me has been the connections I have made. In my time at UK, I decided to jump into involvement with the department clubs. Until my entrance into the mining department, I had never found a group or department which interested me to the point of getting involved. This changed immediately when I met the people in the Norwood Student Chapter. The first year allowed me to travel to Phoenix for the SME conference, which I had the good fortune to attend every year of my college career. I became further involved with the student chapter, becoming treasurer and president. In addition, I became involved with the International Intercollegiate Mining Team (mucking), ISEE and founded the Women in Mining Chapter. Through these clubs, I traveled to many national and international conferences and competitions and have met some of my best friends. The mining industry is large, though it seems to be a small community.

Looking back on my time, these moments are the ones I will remember fondly and most clearly, from the tailgates before football (in both good and bad seasons!), SME weekly meetings with tasty food, golf tournaments, SME conferences and Mining Games. The friends I made in the department are connections I will keep for many years, both professionally and personally.



Students visiting the Cripple Creek Gold Mine.

Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration Student Chapter Activities

Austin J. Brock (BS '14), SME Norwood Student Chapter President

This year was a very busy and exciting year for the Norwood Student Chapter of SME. Over the past school year, members participated in a wide variety of events. From conferences to tailgates to volunteering and visiting young students in school, our chapter was always involved. Our members were very active in selflessly donating their time to make our chapter better than it has ever been.

Several years ago, our chapter teamed up with Friends of Coal and Kentucky Coal Association to host tailgates for students at home football games. Coal companies and other companies with a positive interest in the coal industry sponsor these tailgates. This is a great way for our students to meet industry leaders. Our tailgates have now expanded to a larger permanent tent complete with satellite HDTV, catered food, conversation and great times. We have increased to four sponsors per game as these tailgates remain our chapter's largest fundraiser of the year.

This was a very special year for our SME members. Twenty-five undergraduate students were able to attend the MINExpo 2012 held in Las Vegas, Nev. This event happens once every four years and is always a great time. This trip also allowed us to attend an open pit boron mine in California. All student expenses were covered.

Our annual golf scramble was held once again at Raven Rock Golf Course in Jenkins, Ky. Students were paired with industry members for a day of fun and networking on the golf course. The scramble gave players several chances to go home

a winner. Sponsored holes offered cash prizes while the overall winners received a pair of Matterhorn boots.

Community outreach is always a top priority in this chapter and this year was no different. A focus was placed on reaching out to elementary school children to teach them the positives about mining. Mining engineering students visited two elementary schools to give presentations about coal mining. In early September,

members teamed up with Habitat for Humanity to help build a house. A food drive was held between Thanksgiving and Christmas for God's Pantry Food Bank. For the second year, our members attended the National Science Teachers Association conference and handed out samples of coal and feldspar along with information about these minerals to teachers attending the conference. These samples give teachers an opportunity to return to the classroom to give their students a hands-on look at minerals.

As always, over 20 students were sent to represent the department at the annual SME meeting held in Denver, Colo. Students spent the week attending informational sessions, visiting and meeting mining company representatives as well as other mining students from around the country. Several companies were nice enough to take the students out to lunches and dinners. The students ended the trip by taking a tour of the Cripple Creep Gold Mine in Cripple Creek, Colo. The SME meeting is always a great way to end the year as students prepare for finals.

The student chapter left the SME Annual Meeting with two awards: the Most Outstanding Chapter Award and the Community Outreach Award given by the Mineral Education Coalition. The awards are testaments to the hard work our members put into the chapter. These successes could not have been achieved without the continued financial support our chapter has received. We would like to thank those who donated both their time and money to our chapter.

Jhon Silva Joins Faculty

Jhon Silva has been affiliated with the Department of Mining Engineering since 2008. As a Ph.D. student, he served as a teaching assistant in several courses. He assisted in topographic surveying, mine design and the recently created elements of mine design course. After receiving his Ph.D. in December 2012, Dr. Silva was hired to be a consultant with ECSI, Inc. He was subsequently offered the position of assistant professor in the Department of Mining Engineering, which he accepted. He assumed his responsibilities in August.

Dr. Silva is originally from Colombia, South America and has more than six years of mining experience in Colombia. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in geotechnical engineering from Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Dr. Silva's experience as a mining consultant in Colombia includes coal, alluvium aggregates, limestone, sand stone in open pit along, with underground iron, gypsum and coal. While studying at UK under Dr. Braden Lusk, Dr. Silva authored and co-authored several peer-review publications, primarily in the area of modeling the airblast and ground vibrations resulting from blasting events. Other areas of specialization include geological modeling, geomechanics and geostatistics.

His years of service to the mining industry have involved the performance of reserve assessment and analysis and the design of optimum mining practices. As a faculty member, he will oversee the instruction of computerized reserve assessment and mine design in the undergraduate program. He will also serve as the instructor in the undergraduate surface mining and the geostatistics courses. The faculty and staff look forward to Dr. Silva joining the faculty and are confident his experience and background will prove to be of excellent value in the education of mining engineering students.



Chad Wedding Joins Faculty

The Department of Mining Engineering is pleased to announce the decision to invite Chad Wedding to join the faculty upon completion of his doctoral degree in the fall. His interests include mine ventilation, industrial hygiene and explosives.

Mr. Wedding grew up on a small farm outside Morganfield, Ky., in the western coal fields. An early fascination with machinery fostered a desire to pursue engineering as a career. To that end, he attended the University of Kentucky and earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering with honors. For the next eight years, he worked as a product development engineer at Lexmark International, becoming a technical lead in print engine design. When he began looking for opportunities in the energy sector, mining engineering professor Dr. Braden Lusk invited him to enroll as a graduate student in 2009.

Mr. Wedding enjoyed his time in the program as he and Dr. Lusk researched the effects of explosives mitigation. Upon completing his master's degree in 2010, he joined Dr. Wala's group to concentrate on mine ventilation studies in pursuit of a Ph.D. in mining engineering. As a Ph.D. student, his duties expanded to include classroom experience as he assisted with mine ventilation coursework. His research area has included developing advanced mine ventilation modeling techniques. He has actively participated in national and international conferences and given numerous papers and presentations.

As a Kentucky native and a University of Kentucky graduate, Mr. Wedding is deeply committed to the program and looks forward to serving the department and industry. In his free time, he enjoys reading, tinkering in his garage and spending time with family and friends. Chad and his wife, Kathy, enjoy living in Lexington, are avid UK basketball fans and share a love of travel.





Lesley Brenner Joins Department

The Department of Mining Engineering is delighted to share that it has hired its first student affairs officer, Lesley Brenner.

Lesley is a native of Mercer County and attended Eastern Kentucky University earning a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in education with an emphasis on school counseling. She has served as both a high school teacher and guidance counselor. In the guidance counselor role, she was responsible for enrolling and scheduling students, writing letters of recommendation, planning freshman transition day, coordinating and administering all advanced placement exams as well as the ACT and PSAT and other exams. Lesley has also worked in the registrar's office at Bluegrass Community and Technical College where she assisted students with their registration needs and questions.

We are excited about Lesley's philosophy of student advising and would like to let her share it with you in her own words.

"My approach to advising is student-centered and based upon active listening and response to the student's need. Listening to the needs of the student is imperative to helping that student achieve success. Then I can explain the options, thus empowering the student to make an informed decision. When an informed decision is made, the student then understands how the decision affects them, which has the utmost importance on long-term planning and goal completion.

Advising is complex and you have to stay abreast of many changing topics and provide accurate information. Simply said, be there, be accessible to students, show concern and enthusiasm, actively listen and explore options and encourage them both academically (apply for scholarships, use repeat option if needed) and socially (explore student organizations, research, leadership roles). No problem can be addressed from the viewpoint that one solution will work best for every individual. There are many routes that can be taken to achieve the same desired outcome. When departments are working together, students get the same answers to their questions instead of conflicting answers. That is paramount to reducing tension, conflict and stress. If you begin by being there and placing students first the end result will be successful."

We're looking forward to working with Lesley and ensuring the success of our students.

Soon to Retire Wala Still on Top of His Game

In December of this year, Dr. Andrzej (Andrew) Wala will retire from teaching after serving in the Department of Mining Engineering at the University of Kentucky since 1980. However, lest anyone worry that Dr. Wala has been afflicted with "short-timer's disease," all evidence points to the conclusion that he is still engaged in serious research for the coal mining industry.

All of Dr. Wala's current work involves developing software packages. The first package, already developed, offered an interactive application for simulating fires in mining networks. The second and third software packages are nearing their completion and signal breakthroughs in computational simulation for mine safety.

The goal of the second part of Dr. Wala's research is to develop an automated package for computational fluid dynamics analysis of face ventilation—one which accounts for improvement of methane dilution and dust control in different systems of face ventilation, varying mining equipment, such as remote controlled continuous miners, shuttle cars, etc. Ten years of Dr. Wala's research, funded by NIOSH, provided the launching point for the software development, which will give the industry and MSHA a validated tool for 3D simulations of face ventilation.



Retirement Dinner April 5, 2014

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Graduate research assistant Todor Petrov is a Ph.D. student of Dr. Wala, and is responsible for the software development. A significant outcome of the face ventilation model is the development of a patent pending ventilation tool that has the potential to revolutionize face ventilation practices by greatly improving efficiency and the miner safety provided by face ventilation.

Assisting Dr. Wala with the third part of his research is Ph.D. student and future assistant professor of mining engineering Chad Wedding. Chad's work has involved a multi-scale computational fluid dynamics package that will utilize a one dimensional network to update boundary conditions for a detailed three dimensional model, as they change in time. While this is used in other fields of study, including pulmonary research and power generation industries, it will be new to the mining industry.

The level of serious research and development that Dr. Wala continues to produce as he nears retirement is outstanding and a reminder of what a gift his expertise and devotion to the mining industry has been throughout his illustrious career.

Arch Coal Donates Retired Rescue Equipment



Students will have some new equipment this year to help prepare them for their chosen careers, thanks to the efforts of Katie Gardner (BS '13) and Jim Vicini, chief inspector at Arch Coal. Arch's eastern operations recently donated 24 Biomarine mine rescue breathing apparatuses to the mining engineering departments at University of Kentucky, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and West Virginia University. The UK Department of Mining Engineering received eight of the 24 apparatuses.

"The units, which are used only by mine rescue teams in emergency situations, are approved four-hour devices and will be used to familiarize students in mine rescue operations and give them a flavor of real-life situations," reported Charles Snavelly, president of eastern operations.

"These are older models that we are replacing because they are being phased out of production," said Vicini, who helped coordinate the donations. "We soon will have a hard time finding parts to repair them so we are replacing them with newer models." Arch donated the apparatuses, spare parts and related supplies, valued at about \$10,000 per school."

"The industry requires mine rescue teams to compete twice a year to sharpen their skills," Vicini explained. "The universities are considering competing against one another in similar drills, and these devices will help with those training simulations."

Dr. Kyle Perry, mining professor and Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration student chapter advisor added, "The mining industry has been supportive of this idea since day one. We would like to thank Jim and Arch Coal for their generous donation, which will give our students the opportunity to learn alongside industry and compete."

2012–2013 Departmental Awards

Professional Engineers in Mining (PEM) Award

Adam Bryant

Mu Nu Gamma Junior Academic Achievement

Kristin Floyd

Mu Nu Initiates

David Albers, Loyd Amos, Kristin Floyd, Broderick Herd, Kyle Hogue, Patrick Jorgensen, Colton Parsons, Adam Thompson, Spencer Vance, John Cybriwsky, Max Shrout

Academic Excellence

Kathryn Gardner

ISEE Leadership

Chase Guengerich

Tau Beta Pi Outstanding Senior

David Norton

Tau Beta Pi Outstanding Junior

Austin Brock

Ta Beta Pi Outstanding Teacher

Dr. G.T. Lineberry

Outstanding Graduate Student

Chad Wedding

Catesby Clay Leadership Award

Austin Brock

Careers in Coal Lamplighter Award

Dylan Rohar

Old Timers' Club Award

Kathryn Gardner



2012-2013 B.S. Graduates

Back row left to right: Levi Griggs, Adam Bryant, Justin Lamb, William Turner, Brett Jackson, Doug Dorsel, Jesse Murphy, James Samples, Hongbin Zhang, Daniel Wilson; Middle row: Josh Garrison, Anthony Calk, David Norton, Brandy Chenault, Cindy Ballinger, Vincent Slone, Katie Gardner, Harvey Kornblum, Sarah Parrigin; Front row: Jacob Brashear, Dylan Rohar, Chas Johnson, Drew Schlueter, John Young; Not pictured: Jason Bates, Christopher Cook, Dustin Halcomb, Tessa Monday



M.S. and Ph.D. Graduates

Left to right: Ahmed Sobhy Sayed-Ahmed (Ph.D.), Sampurna Arya (M.S.), Josh Calnan (M.S.), Al Imran Khan (M.S.), Alex Douglas (M.S.), Rex Meyr (M.S.), Josh Hoffman (Ph.D.); Not pictured: Mohammad Rezaee (M.S.), Erin Morris (M.S.), Zhaomin Duan (M.S.), Raghav Dube (M.S.), Jhon Silva (Ph.D.)

David A. Zegeer, Mining Engineering Foundation Member Passes Away



David A. Zegeer, a mining engineer and former assistant secretary for the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), passed away December 10, 2012, in his home with his wife, Louise, by his side. He was 90.

Dave was born on August 27, 1922, in Charleston, W.Va., to A.K. and Amelia Zegeer. After attending West Virginia University and serving in World War II, he became a mining engineer and then

division manager of Consolidation Coal Company and Beth Elkhorn Corporation in Jenkins, Ky., until 1977. During his 30 year career, he was active in various state and national coal associations to promote mine safety and health and received countless awards and recognition from his peers. After his retirement from active mining, Dave focused on the promotion of mine safety and health for coal miners. He served on the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on Underground Coal Mine Safety and was confirmed as assistant secretary of labor for Mine Safety and Health Administration on November 18, 1983.

His three-year tenure as assistant secretary in the Reagan administration was just as successful, as Dave made remarkable progress in safety for U.S. mining. Dave ensured that nearly 500,000 workers at more than 18,000 mines were protected from hazards to their safety and health. In each year of his appointment, there were fewer than 100 deaths in coal mining. This was the first time in U.S. history that the number of fatalities had ever decreased to those levels. He also represented the mining industry in debates with Robert Kennedy and Richard Trumpka and participated in Mine Safety and Health Administration hearings with Senator Ted Kennedy as chair.

Dave was invited to join UK's Mining Engineering Foundation as a board member in 1989, and stayed active for over 20 years. He maintained lifelong ties to the coal industry and remained active in documenting his contribution to mine safety until the last days of his life. In September 2013, Dave will be inducted posthumously into the National Mining Hall of Fame.

Over \$19,000 has been collected for the David A. Zegeer Scholarship Fund to assist mining engineering students from Letcher County. Donations are still being accepted. Please contact Geaunita Caylor at 859-257-2820 or g.caylor@uky.edu for additional information.



The Mining Engineering Foundation's 2013 Distinguished Lecture featured Mr. Joe Craft, president and CEO of Alliance Resource Partners. Mr. Craft spoke on Kentucky's Energy Policy on April 18 at the Hilary J. Boone Center on campus. "Coal is the fastest growing fuel source in the world, expected to trend up until 2035," Craft commented.

D.J. Patton Inducted into Engineering's Hall of Distinction

D.J. Patton attended UK from 1960-1966, gaining on-the-job experience through the College of Engineering's co-op program. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in mining engineering, Mr. Patton went to work for Island Creek Coal Company in Wheelwright, Ky., as a division superintendent. There, he was responsible for two large modern underground mining operations that produced 2.5 million tons of metallurgical coal under his supervision.

In 1972, Mr. Patton became the assistant to the vice president at National Mines Corporation,

Beaver Creek Division. His responsibilities entailed managing an underground mining operation covering five mines and two million tons of coal production annually. In 1976, Mr. Patton was promoted to vice president of operations, where he oversaw production, environmental compliance, safety, quality, cost and labor relations and negotiated three labor agreements with the United Mine Workers of America.

Mr. Patton's hard work and reputation for getting results earned him additional responsibilities of vice president of engineering in 1982, a position he held for ten years. During that time, he was responsible

for all long-range planning and budgetary oversight at National Mines Corporation. In addition, Mr. Patton worked with government agencies when opening, operating and closing coal mines and controlled all permits, engineering and capital expenditures for mines located in Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Arkansas.

After 13 years at National Mines Corporation, Mr. Patton was given the responsibility of vice president of operations and engineering at Mathies Coal Co., where he oversaw 1.5 million tons per year of coal produced by a mine that was jointly owned by three companies, one of which was National Mines Corporation.

After a brief stop as vice president of Chisholm Coal Company, Mr. Patton opened his own consulting agency in 1995, with himself as the only employee. He has worked for himself ever since, choosing nothing more than he can handle himself.

During his career in mining operations, Mr. Patton prided himself on taking strong stands with safety. In 47 years of working inside underground coal mines, Mr. Patton never once injured himself or others on the job.

Mr. Patton lives in Lexington, Ky., with his wife Nancy. They have three children, Brian, Brad and Mandy and three grandchildren.



D.J. Patton (center) is pictured with College of Engineering Dean John Walz (l) and Department of Mining Engineering Chair Rick Honaker (r) prior to the Hall of Distinction ceremony on April 12, 2013.

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William H. Owens
Amirala Pasha
Dexter J. Patton, Jr.
Robert J. Patton
Todor Petrov
Leland A. Pollitt
John T. Popp
L.B. Powers

Chris Prater
David & Kyra Quarles
Marco M. Rajkovich Jr.
Carol A. Riker
David Ross
Otto C. Rudley
Orby R. Sanders
Lee W. Saperstein
Howard J. Siegel
Timothy K. Slone
David K. Smith
Douglas E. Smith
Staff of Natural Resource Partners, LLC
William R. Stamler
Charles Stone
Daniel Tao
Erin M. Taylor
Randall K. Taylor
Ernest Thacker
Anthony W. Tharp
Edward D. Thompson
Justin F. Thompson
Bill Turner
David Turner
Earlene Rentz Turner
Norma J. Vaughn
Andrzej Wala
Harry L. Washburn
Nathaniel Waters
Mark & Kristie Hall Watson
M. Shane Watts
Jack E. Whitaker
Gregory F. Wooten

Mark Your Calendar

Friday, November 8, 2013

Mining Engineering Foundation Board Meeting

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mining Engineering Foundation Board Meeting and Distinguished Lecture

Saturday, April 5, 2014

Dr. Andrzej Wala Retirement Reception & Dinner at Marriott Griffin Gate Resort

Friday, April 25, 2014

College of Engineering Hall of Distinction

Saturday, April 26, 2014

Student Awards Dinner at Marriott Griffin Gate Resort

Department Highlights


Friends of Coal donated \$83,000 in support of scholarships for undergraduate mining engineering students. The donation was presented during half-time of the UK-Mississippi State football game this past fall. The funds for the donation originated from the purchase of Friends of Coal license plates by Kentuckians across the Commonwealth.

Dr. Joe Sottile was the recipient of the Stephen McCann Award for Excellence in Education. The award is sponsored by the Pittsburgh Coal Mining Institute.

Dr. Rick Honaker was selected as a Southeastern Conference Academic Leadership Development Fellow for 2012-2013. The SEC sponsors, supports and promotes collaborative higher education programs and activities involving administrators, faculty and students at its 14 member universities. Three administrators are recognized each year. Dr. Honaker also was selected to participate as a 2012-2013 SME Henry Krumb Lecturer. The lecturers are selected from the professionals who present technical papers at the SME annual meeting.

Mr. Jon Giesen, Director of National Accounts and Distributor Sales at Nelson Brothers, was approved by the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees as a member of the Mining Engineering Foundation Board.

Two undergraduate students were recognized with significant national awards at the SME Annual Meeting in February. William Walker was awarded the MMSA/SMEF Presidential Scholarship presented on an annual basis to an outstanding student whose study program encompasses any aspect of the extractive minerals industry; and Colton Parsons was awarded the McIntosh Engineering Scholarship. The McIntosh award is a competitive scholarship awarded every year to only six undergraduate juniors or seniors enrolled in a mining engineering program worldwide.

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Department of Mining Engineering

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