

# Mining Engineering

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## Dr. Kot Unrug Retires

Former and current students from over 20 graduating classes, faculty, staff, friends and family gathered April 14, 2012 at Lexington's Marriott Griffin Gate Resort to celebrate Dr. Kot Unrug's retirement from the University of Kentucky.

As professor in the Department of Mining Engineering for 34 years, Dr. Unrug dedicated himself to the education of mining engineering students and providing service to the industry. He played pivotal roles in the formation of the Mining Engineering Foundation in 1983 through his friendship with Mr. Catesby Clay and in the construction of the Mining and Mineral Resources Building in 1988.

Rick Nunnery, a 1998 mining graduate commented, "I was a student of Dr. Unrug's from 1994-1998. I can honestly say he is one of the best professors I ever had. He was honest, blunt at times, but kind, professional and beyond talented. His retirement will be a true loss for those students coming into the mining engineering department. His abilities and knowledge were a true asset to the university."



*Dr. Kot Unrug and Ed Thompson with the Unrug family (from left) granddaughter Carmen Maria, wife Maria, daughter-in-law Ester, and son Dr. Thomas Von Unrug.*

Upon learning of Dr. Unrug's intentions to retire at the end of the fall 2011 semester, 1981 mining graduate Mr. Stan Pigman pledged \$100,000 to name the rock mechanics laboratory in honor of Dr. Unrug's service to his students, the university, and the mining community. Alpha Natural Resource's generous matching pledge of \$110,000 along with a successful fund-raising effort by the department culminated in the announcement and dedication of the "Dr. Kot Von Unrug Rock Mechanics Laboratory" at his retirement dinner in April.

With all pledged monies now received, the department ordered a state-of-the-art laser

*continued on page 6*



*Dr. Kot Unrug with former students at his retirement dinner on April 14, 2012.*

see blue.

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## Chair's Report

The 2011-12 academic year was another productive year for the department with growth occurring in several areas and significant improvements realized in laboratory facilities. The department highlights and achievements of the faculty, staff and students are presented in this newsletter.

Perhaps the most exciting achievement was breaking the barrier of 20 in the number of B.S. graduates produced. A total of 23 students graduated with a B.S. degree. Considering that approximately 60 of the 210 undergraduate students were classified seniors, graduation rates between 25 and 30 are expected within the next couple of years. All but two of the 2011-12 graduates obtained full time employment or were admitted to graduate school. The average annual salary for those entering the industry was around \$67,000.

The quality of the incoming freshman class in fall 2011 was exceptional. The 61 freshmen achieved an average GPA in high school of 3.85, an average ACT composite score of 28.0 and an ACT math score of 28.3. An approximately equal number and quality of freshmen is expected for fall 2012 which will maintain our total enrollment above 200. This represents the largest undergraduate mining engineering enrollment in the U.S.

The students arriving in fall 2011 were pleased with the opening of a new computerized mine design laboratory with 25 work stations. The lab was made possible by a generous donation from the Richard & Leslie Gilliam Foundation. In addition, the H. Lewis and Mary H. Kirkpatrick Automation and Control Laboratory, which contains eight Allen Bradley workstations, was dedicated in April 2012. The lab would not have been realized without the extensive efforts provided by Dr. Tom Novak and Mr. Ed Thompson to construct each workstation from its basic components. The first course in Automation and Control will be taught in fall 2012.

A significant event during the 2011-12 academic year was the retirement of Dr. Kot Unrug who served the university and industry for the past 34 years. In recognition of Dr.



*Rick Honaker, Chair*

Unrug's contributions to education and service to the industry, over \$250,000 in donations were received from industry, alumni and friends to name the rock mechanics laboratory in his honor. The announcement of the honor was given at a dinner held to recognize his contributions and celebrate his career. The donated funds were used to make significant upgrades to the rock mechanics laboratory and to purchase new equipment that enhanced the department's capabilities in this area.

On the research front, the faculty has been very successful in attracting over \$1.6 million in new

awards. A significant portion of these funds was awarded to Dr. Kyle Perry, an assistant professor in our program. The award was issued by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to assist in training the next generation of professionals in the rock mechanics area and to develop innovative techniques to identify potential roof and highwall hazards. This award was a great start to a promising academic career for Dr. Perry.

Another exciting development was the awarding of funds from NIOSH to establish the Central Appalachian Regional Education and Research Center at the University of Kentucky. The center will train occupational health professionals through a graduate program for the industries in Central Appalachia as well as provide continuing education events for practicing professionals. Dr. G.T. Lineberry will lead the significant role that the department will have in the center.

In closing, I extend my sincere appreciation to all the companies and individuals who have assisted the department over the years. Without your support, we could not have realized the growth and the many improvements in the program described within this newsletter. The faculty and staff of the department look forward to opportunities to work with you to further enhance our abilities to serve your needs, provide a quality educational experience and make the Big Blue Nation proud!

## Richard W. Storey Receives 2012 Mining Engineering Foundation Distinguished Alumni Award

Richard Storey, Sr. received the 2012 Mining Engineering Foundation Distinguished Alumni Award at the Student Awards Dinner on April 27, 2012. Mr. Storey, or Dick, as he is known to his friends, was born into a coal mining family on October 11, 1922 in Greensburg, Pa. When he was seven he moved to Harlan County, Ky. where his father was chief engineer at U.S. Steel in Lynch.



Upon graduating from high school, Storey entered into the mining program at the University of Kentucky; unfortunately, with the outbreak of World War II, the mining program was suspended. When Mr. Storey graduated in December 1943, he received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering with a mining option instead of a mining engineering degree. However, the professional engineering registration boards in Kentucky and Texas recognized the mining option and issued him a professional mining engineer license.

Mr. Storey's first job after graduation was with the L&N Railroad. Based in Middlesboro, and later Louisville, he designed rail yards, coal sidings and terminals. He later went to Virginia with Clinchfield Coal Corporation as a mining engineer, but eventually returned to U.S. Steel in Lynch where he helped develop the Splint seams that would add underground access to surface mines. Storey was then recruited to be a mining engineer at Consolidated Coal Company in Jenkins, Ky., where he would spend 17 years.

Mr. Storey's next assignment took him to India for the World Bank where, as the only civil/mining engineer

on the assignment, Dick designed a modern coal mining town under the constraints that it conform to the Cass system. Then it was on to South Korea for three years where, under a contract with Pierce Management, he evaluated every active mine for the government—exploration, mining development, mine feasibility studies, mine operations, deployment of mining equipment, establishment of improved mining methods, upgrading of safety procedures, coal processing and studies

of coal characteristics and coal utilization.

Continuing his career in coal and consulting, Storey spent over a decade with the Paul Weir Company as director and senior vice president. There, his assignments focused on exploration, mining feasibility studies, mine planning and design, mine operation problems and development of mining properties in the U.S., Turkey, Australia, Canada and Africa.

After formally retiring in 1985, Mr. Storey continued consulting on a limited basis. Currently he and his wife Olivia are enjoying retirement in Lexington.

Mr. Sam Johnson, a long-time friend and colleague commented that, "Dick's recognition is a testament to the diversity and quality of mining engineers educated at UK's Department of Mining Engineering." We congratulate and express our thanks to Mr. Storey for his dedication to mining and commitment to the University of Kentucky.

## New Mining Engineering Honorary Society Mu Nu Gamma Established

Several years of effort by Dr. G.T. Lineberry paid off successfully with the establishment of the new Mining Engineering Honor Society “Mu Nu Gamma” at the University of Kentucky. It is the first honor society solely devoted to the mining engineering profession, whose purpose is to honor top-performing mining engineering students. Qualified juniors and seniors were initiated at the college awards banquet in 2011 and were recognized again at the annual mining department awards dinner this past April.

Dr. Lineberry explained, “About two years ago, after at least that long contemplating it, I made a move toward establishing an honorary for mining engineering undergraduates, modeled after Chi Epsilon for CEs, Eta Kappa Nu for EEs, etc. Finding no counterpart for mining engineering, I contacted the Association of College Honor Societies, the ACHS, which has been very helpful in guiding me along the process of establishing a founding chapter of Mu Nu Gamma here at the University of Kentucky. With the help of Marco Rajkovich, a local attorney and a 1977 UK mining engineering graduate, Mu Nu Gamma has been incorporated in Kentucky as a nonprofit organization. The Kentucky Professional Engineers in Mining (PEM) group also has been very supportive, both financially and through their encouragement during this start-up phase, as has Dr. Honaker, our chair.”

Lineberry commented, “this April, UK inducted its third set of scholars (we do it both in fall and spring). At present, we have a total of 28 members.”

To be considered eligible to receive an invitation, one must meet the following qualifications:

- Enrolled in the University of Kentucky with mining engineering as their declared major
- Completed 60 semester hours or equivalent\*
- Completed 9 hours designated with a mining prefix
- Have a minimum UK GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Rank in the top 35% of their class
- Obtain a 2/3 vote from current active members

Dr. Lineberry serves as both the Kentucky Mu Nu Chapter advisor and, *de facto*, the organization’s

Executive Director. Since founded at UK, UK’s Alpha chapter will forever be the founding chapter of Mu Nu Gamma and honor graduates wear a distinctive honor cord (which includes blue and white, of course) as recognition of their scholastic accomplishment. Lineberry is now encouraging the other 14 ABET-accredited programs world-wide (there is one in Turkey and one in Saudi Arabia) to start local chapters at their respective institutions. In April 2012, the Virginia Tech Beta chapter was formed, inducting its first 12 members at their annual scholarship banquet in Blacksburg, Va.

\* Transfer students may be admitted after 30 hours at the University of Kentucky.

### 2012 Student & Alumni Award Winners

Professional Engineers in Mining Award  
– *Clayton Cross*

Mu Nu Gamma Junior Academic Achievement Award – *William Walker*

Academic Excellence Award  
– *Alexander Douglas*

ISEE Leadership Award  
– *David McLane*

Tau Beta Pi Recognition  
Outstanding Senior – *Bradley Coleman*  
Outstanding Junior – *David Norton*  
Outstanding Teacher – *Dr. Braden Lusk*

Outstanding Graduate Student  
– *Jhon Silva-Castro*

Gatesby Clay Leadership Award  
– *Kathryn Gardner*

Careers-In-Coal Lamplighter Award  
– *Justin Ratliff*

Old Timers’ Club Award  
– *Mallory Miller*

MEF Distinguished Alumni Award  
– *Richard Storey, Sr.*

## Student Reflections

### Katie Heath (BSMNG '11)



When in the midst of demanding classes, looming deadlines and upcoming exams, engineering school seemed to drag on forever. Now, when I look back and realize that the four short years of study at the University of Kentucky are already over, it seems to have gone by far too fast. During my time in the Department of Mining Engineering, I was able to gain knowledge and skills through a number of different opportunities, both inside and outside of the classroom. These opportunities allowed me to have a college experience that most never experience and ultimately prepared me to have a promising career in the mining industry. Through my studies I was given the opportunity to live in different areas of the United States, work in two different mining industries and meet industry leaders in the field.

I wasn't the typical mining student recruited to the program directly out of high school, or one who came from a family made up of generations of miners. I honestly knew very little about the mining industry when I graduated high school and actually began my college career in the civil engineering program. After a year and a half spent pursuing that field, I realized something was missing, but fortunately found what I needed while exploring the Department of Mining Engineering the fall semester of my sophomore year.

I came into mining engineering late compared to most freshmen students, but quickly learned of the many opportunities the department had to offer. In the classroom I was challenged with rigorous work that taught me determination and commitment, as well as time management and problem-solving skills vital in the engineering field. Not only was I taught to be a competent and successful engineer, I had the privilege to learn from a number of mining engineers who are highly regarded in their areas of expertise throughout the mining industry.

During my two and a half years spent in the department, I was able to participate in numerous student activities. The Society of Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME), Women in Mining and the College of Engineering Ambassadors were just a few. Through the SME student chapter I met a number of

### Clayton Cross (BSMNG and MBA '12)



I feel confident in saying the Department of Mining Engineering at the University of Kentucky is one of the most close-knit, helpful and rewarding programs on the entire campus. The small, but growing department allows for focused instruction from world-class professors. It is also structured such that every student has the greatest opportunity for success in the mining industry.

Unlike the majority of the students within the department, I am from an area of the state with little mining activity. The small class sizes, financial aid opportunities, career outlook and intriguing nature of mining were enough incentive for me to give it a chance after high school. I have not regretted my decision once, and actually get more excited to begin a career as I near graduation.

I have been given the opportunity to accomplish so much while being a part of this department. I have traveled to Denver, New Orleans and Seattle; taught elementary students about the importance of mining; and built invaluable relationships with industry leaders.

Earning a mining engineering degree is difficult and demanding, but hard work pays off tenfold. Top-tier mining companies visit the department every week to sell their company to the students and conduct interviews the following day. If you are driven and hard working, you can have a summer internship between every school year and it is not uncommon to have half-a-dozen full time job offers upon graduation.

My undergraduate education with the UK mining engineering department could not have been a better experience. From the technical skills to professional relationships I have developed, I feel well prepared and am very excited to begin my career in the challenging mining industry. I cannot thank the entire department faculty and staff enough for providing me so many opportunities to excel in the future. I look forward to being among the active and supportive alumni of the UK Department of Mining Engineering.

*continued on page 6*

## Kot Unrug Retires

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scanner that was received in June. 2012. Dr. Kyle Perry, assistant professor and now head of the Von Unrug Laboratory recently said, “Dr. Unrug sees this as the future of stability monitoring and surveying in mining. He has been pushing me to find the funds to purchase one of these, but it was not possible until all of the pledges were fulfilled. I want to thank the people who donated to the Von Unrug Laboratory so we could move forward with the order. Kot is working with me on a research project and we can already see numerous uses for the scanner. This equipment will not only benefit our research, but also industry. I have spoken to several industry members and they are very impressed by the capabilities of the scanner and are eager for us to visit them. I look forward to working with Kot in the future as he is a great mentor and even better friend.”

For Dr. Unrug, retirement hardly means inactivity. As an emeritus professor, he plans to continue consulting with industry and working on his various research projects. He just published an E-Book on Amazon Kindle entitled “As Seen by an Engineer” containing 10 chapters dealing with contemporary issues of society.

Dr. Unrug also recently started playing golf at age 72. His goal now is to have an average score equal to his age – as you can see, he’s a dreamer!

Throughout the past 34 years, Dr. Unrug’s reward was seeing his students become successful and do well in life. He demanded professional conduct of all he taught and many students acknowledge today that those lessons helped shape their careers. Added Dr. Perry, “If you are ever in Lexington and want to play golf or just need a putting lesson, call Kot. He will teach you with the same passion he did in Rock Mechanics!”

Dr. Kot Unrug’s personal and professional journey from his childhood and early adulthood in Poland to his retirement at the University of Kentucky will hold a special place in departmental history – we wish him all the best as he embarks on the next phase of his life!

## Student Reflections - Katie Heath

*continued from page 5*

mining industry leaders and was fortunate to sit in on countless company presentations highlighting east to west coast mining. SME provided a means of social interaction for me and other mining students outside of the classroom environment. Participating in SME sponsored football tailgates and community service events with fellow classmates enriched my college experience, and I was able to make life-long friends, many of whom I hope to work and cross paths with one day.

By attending and participating in SME functions, I earned two internships that gave me the opportunity to live in Texas and Nevada, where I worked in both coal and metal mining. By working for two different companies, Luminant Mining and Newmont Mining, I was able to broaden my scope of expertise and apply what I had learned from my professors. Through my second internship with Newmont Mining I was able to secure a full-time position following graduation and now I’ve had the opportunity to venture out west to Nevada.

Though my time in the mining engineering program was shorter than most, I was still able to gain so much. These college experiences would not have been possible without the guidance and education received during my two and a half years. I will always look back and remember the good times, events, people and opportunities that I was presented and had the privilege of experiencing while studying in the University of Kentucky’s Department of Mining Engineering.

## Mark Your Calendar

### **August 17**

KY Professional Engineers in Mining Seminar  
Marriott Griffin Gate Resort

### **November 2**

Mining Engineering Foundation Board  
Meeting  
The Hilary J. Boone Center  
UK Campus

# Respiratory Dust Study in Kentucky Coal Mines

By Dr. Tom Novak, Professor & Alliance Coal Academic Chair

Drs. Tom Novak and Joe Sottile are conducting a respirable coal-dust study, with the cooperation of Alliance Coal Company. The one-year project is funded by Kentucky's Department for Energy Development and Independence.

The prevalence of Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis (CWP), commonly referred to as black lung, has steadily declined over three decades (1970 through 1999). However, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) indicates that the downward trend ended in 2000 and actually began to increase, as shown in Fig. 1. This recent upward trend occurred primarily in several geographic hot spots including parts of Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. To combat this upturn in black lung disease, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) instituted a Comprehensive Initiative to "End Black Lung," which includes rulemaking, enhanced enforcement, collaborative outreach and education and training.

Present regulatory standards require coal mine operators to continuously maintain the average concentration of respirable-dust exposures for mineworkers at or below 2.0 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. Mine operators are required to obtain bimonthly respirable dust samples from designated equipment operators and submit the samples to the MSHA for analysis. Each designated equipment operator is required to wear a Coal Mine Dust Personal Sampler Unit (CMDPSU), as shown in Fig. 2(a), for an eight-hour period during the work shift. Compliance with the dust standard is determined by the average dust concentration of five valid samples taken during five consecutive, normal-production shifts (multiple-shift samples). With existing regulations, a normal-production shift is defined as a shift where coal production is at least 50% of the average production for the 30 most-recent production shifts.

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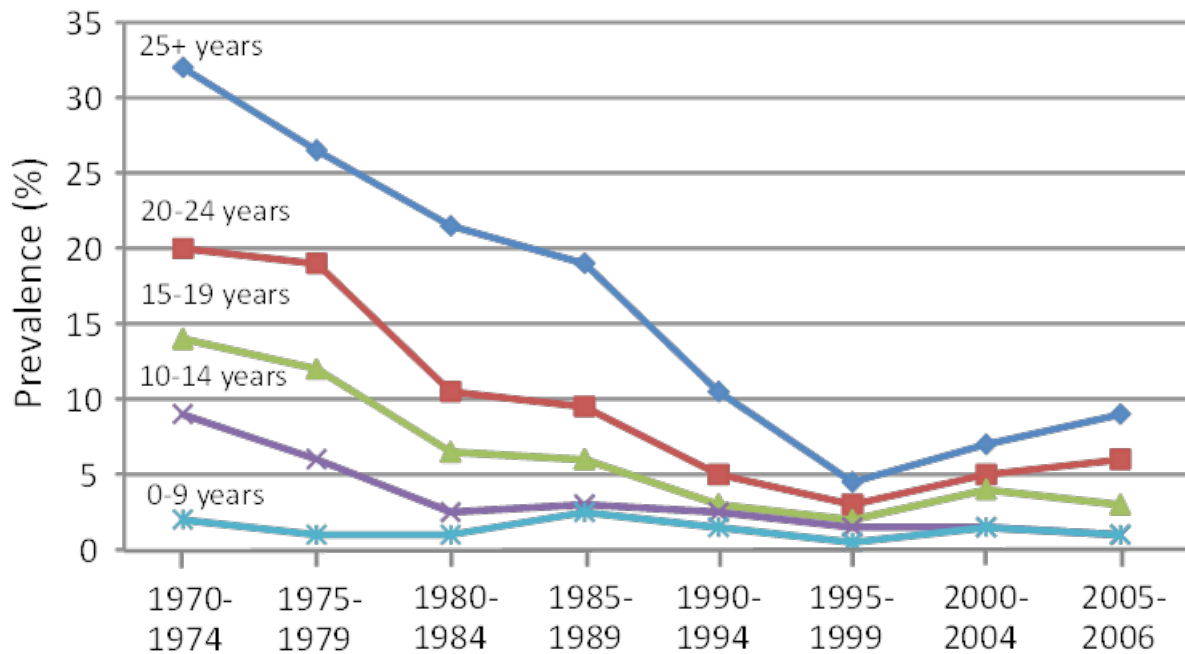


Fig. 1. Prevalence of CWP among examinees employed at underground coal mines. (Source: NIOSH Coal Workers' X-ray Surveillance Program)

## Respiratory Dust Study in Kentucky Coal Mines

continued from page 7



a. Coal Mine Dust Personal Sampler Unit



b. Continuous Personal Dust Monitor

Fig. 2. Dust samplers. (Source: NIOSH IC 9517, Information Circular, 2010)

MSHA is now proposing significant changes to the existing dust regulations. Major provisions of the proposed respirable-dust rule include the following:

- Lowering the existing exposure limit from 2.0 mg/m<sup>3</sup> to 1.0 mg/m<sup>3</sup>
- Requiring full-shift sampling, converted to an 8-hr equivalency, instead of the standard 8-hr sampling
- Redefining the term *normal production shift* from 50% or higher of the average coal production for the 30 most-recent production shifts to 100% or higher of the average coal production for the 30 most-recent production shifts
- Requiring single-shift-compliance sampling, instead of the average dust concentration of five valid samples taken during five consecutive, normal-production shifts
- Requiring the *designated operator* (DO) in each mechanized mining unit to be monitored during each production shift, seven days per week (Sunday through Saturday), 52 weeks per year, instead of bimonthly, and
- Establishing sampling requirements for the use of a recently commercialized Continuous Personal Dust Monitor (CPDM), which is shown in Figure 2(b).

The proposed rule totally phases-out the use of CMDPSUs for dust sampling within 12 months of the effective date of the final rule. These devices will be replaced by CPDMs. NIOSH funded the development of the CPDM, which is a continuous dust monitor integrated into a miner's cap-lamp/battery assembly. The CPDM is designed to operate continuously for 12 hours and displays three values – (1) respirable-dust concentration for the most recent 30-minute period, (2) the average respirable-dust exposure from the beginning of the shift, and (3) the current percentage of the exposure limit.

While mine operators support efforts to eradicate black lung, they question the effectiveness and validity of some of the proposed regulations. Two initial studies at Alliance Coal's River View Mine have been performed to establish a baseline comparison for the CMDPSUs and CPDMs. The data from these studies are in the process of being statistically analyzed and a major study began this spring, which includes three mines. Novak and Sottile are hopeful that the results of these studies will answer some of the coal industry's questions.



## Laboratory Updates

The Computer Mine Design Room (room 125 MMRB) opened 2011 fall semester. This room holds 24 workstations, a complete teacher work station, a multi-media ceiling projector and plotter. Several classes are now being held in this lab including our capstone Mine Design Course and students use the room frequently to work on class projects and assignments.

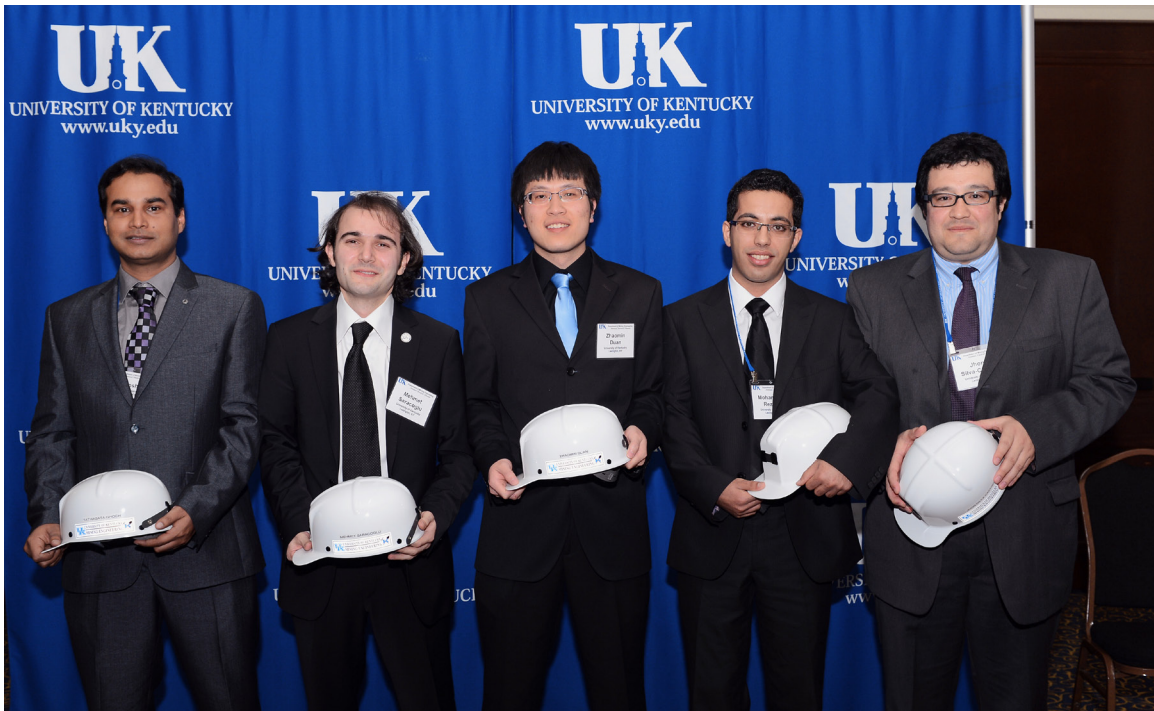
The H. Louis and Mary H. Kirkpatrick Automation & Control Laboratory (room 120) has now been renovated with new furniture, eight Allen Bradley workstations and 14 computers. Mr. Kirkpatrick, a 1949 mining graduate along with his wife Mary, bequeathed over \$300,000 to the department through a charitable remainder unitrust. The Automation & Control in Mining course (MNG 599) is scheduled to be taught in fall 2012. The department was also fortunate to use a portion of this gift to equip the Catesby Clay Room (room 110) with new computer and video conferencing equipment.

The recently dedicated Dr. Kot Von Unrug Rock Mechanics Laboratory has undergone a major renovation with a major new purchase. A SATEC 300 ton compressive testing machine purchased in the 80's was recently outfitted with a new computer system, controlling system and software. It is essentially a brand new machine. The new setup



is on the cutting edge for testing core samples, concrete or anything else. The nearly \$50,000 update will allow students to learn on the latest and greatest and understand how rock properties are quantified. The major purchase for the lab is a Maptek I-Site 8800 Laser Scanner. The scanner can be taken into the field and with proper surveying points or GPS, it can put a GPS point on every point within its field of view up to two kilometers away. The high resolution allows for displacements to be monitored over time and the software can do various calculations such as volumes, areas, distances, etc. The faculty members are very excited about this piece of equipment as is industry.

## 2011-2012 M.S. and Ph.D. Graduates



**2011-2012 M.S. and Ph.D. Graduates** *left to right:* Tathagata Ghosh (Ph.D.), Mehmet Saracoglu (Ph.D.), Zhaomin Duan (M.S.), Mohammad Rezaee (M.S.), Jhon Silva-Castro (Ph.D.); *Not pictured:* Erin Morris (M.S.)

## SME Activities and Events 2011-2012

*Kathryn Gardner (BSMNG '13), Norwood Student Chapter President*

The 2011-2012 overall academic year showed great participation from active members, with involvement from many new students. This allowed the chapter to expand various activities, from increasing the number of tailgate sponsors to the number of conferences in which the chapter was involved. In addition, associated groups such as Women in Mining (WIM), the International Intercollegiate Mining Competition Team (Mucking Team), and International Society of Explosives Engineers (ISEE) showed growth in participation and activities, with promise to expand even further in the coming year.

Both the fall and spring semesters were busy for the student chapter. Many new freshmen joined the student chapter, as well as becoming involved with the various activities the chapter hosted. The mentor-mentee events continued to be a wonderful avenue for introducing younger students to upperclassmen. The fall semester tailgates were also very successful, with the sponsorship expanding even further for the fall 2012 semester. The annual golf scramble, intramural sports, weekly meetings and events such as the holiday dinner rounded out the fall semester. The spring semester saw the chapter hosting a cookout during dead week in order to allow students to socialize with fellow mining students.

The chapter was heavily involved with various local community service and education outreach projects

throughout the entire academic year. During the College of Engineering's annual "E-Day" younger children had the opportunity to learn about mining and compete in the chapter's coal loading contest. Chapter students attended the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) conference, had discussions with various schools and provided information for several articles in the *Kentucky Kernel*. The latter even led to a joint event between WIM and the Kentucky Energy Club with a tour of the heating plant on campus and lecture the following day.

The chapter continued outreach in the spring by hosting a fundraiser for the Kentucky Cares fund to aid towns ravaged by the early spring tornados. In addition to other activities, the chapter was involved with a variety of conferences such as the aforementioned NSTA conference in New Orleans, the SME annual conference, the Kentucky Blasters conference and the National Women in Mining Conference. These conferences allowed students to interact with professionals in a variety of settings, as well as with their peers at other universities.

Other student organizations showed similar growth in activity, ISEE chapter students traveled to the national ISEE conference in Nashville in February. The Women in Mining chapter hosted a mine tour at Nyrstar and several outreach activities. The

*continued on page 11*



## 2011-2012 B.S. Graduates



**2011-2012 B.S. Graduates** *standing left to right:* Clayton Cross, Gregory Brenner, Charles Bearse, Andrew Goderwis, Zachary Clayton, Bradley Coleman, Justin Ratliff, Fadi Qutaish, Mark Faulhaber, Zachery Gibson, Alexander Douglas, John Rathbun, David McLane, Michael Henderson; *Sitting left to right:* Jarrod Willis, Mallory Miller, Kayla Mayfield, Justin White, William Thamrin; *Not pictured:* Brandon Phipps, Chance Robertson and Christopher Woods

## SME Activities and Events 2011-2012

*continued from page 10*

International Intercollegiate Mining Competition was held in April in Cornwall, England, at Camborne School of Mines. The University of Kentucky's co-ed team participated in the event, finishing respectably out of 11 teams. This co-ed team also competed last December in a mini-competition at Missouri S&T, providing a great opportunity for the team to practice the events in a competitive setting.

Looking to the future, the chapter is planning to attend MINExpo International with 26 students scheduled for this fall in Las Vegas. This event, held once every four years, should prove to be exciting for everyone. The next year will show an increase in sponsors for tailgates, and the officers hope that participation in events will continue to grow. As outgoing president, I would like to thank all who made a great year possible, including the indispensable industry support and the hard work and dedication of the SME student members.

## Mucking Team 2012



**Mucking Team 2012.** *Standing left to right:* Jeremy Hundley, Andrew Hill, David Norton, Anthony Calk; *Sitting left to right:* Katie Gardner, Melissa McFarland and Toni Kendrick

## 2011-2012 Departmental Highlights

- **Dr. Braden Lusk** received two prominent awards in 2012. The *J.W. Woomer Award* is a national award presented by SME Coal & Energy Division to a recipient in recognition of engineering achievement by young professionals within the industry. Only one individual is recognized yearly. The *President's Award* from the International Society of Explosives Engineers (ISEEE) is presented to those who have contributed their time and talent to the organization--for commendable volunteer effort to the Society. Also congratulations to **Dr. Lusk** who was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in April 2012.
- **Dr. Thomas W. Lester** announced his plan to step down as dean of the College of Engineering after serving in the position for 22 years. Dean Lester was a strong supporter of the program and the Mining Engineering Foundation throughout his tenure. **Dr. John Y. Walz** will serve as the next dean of the College of Engineering starting September 1, 2012. Dr. Walz is currently the department head of chemical engineering at Virginia Tech and previously served in the same role at Yale University.
- **Mr. C.K. Lane**, CEO of James River Coal, was approved by the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees as a member of the Mining Engineering Foundation Board.
- **Dr. Kyle Perry**, along with other co-investigators, received a \$1.25M grant over five years from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). While the goals of the grant cover two different areas of research, both are aimed at improving safety at surface and underground mines.
- For the past two years, the department has been pleased to see mining graduates inducted into the College of Engineering Hall of Distinction. **Mr. J. Steven Gardner** (MSMNG '91) was inducted in 2011, and **Mr. D.L. Lobb** (BSCE '79 --mining option) in April 2012. Initiated in 1992, the Hall of Distinction recognizes and honors those alumni who have demonstrated distinguished engineering professional accomplishments, outstanding character and commitment to community service.
- An outstanding recruiting video for the department was completed by the UK Center for Visualization and Virtual Environments. To view go to <http://www.engr.uky.edu/mng/>.
- **Ms. Christie Oliver**, staff support associate for the past six years, took a new job with the Kentucky Water Resources Research Institute as an information specialist. Her replacement is **Ms. Megan Doyle**. Good luck to both!



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