



# The National Quarterly

## WOMEN IN MINING

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### Missouri S&T Student Chapter

This year Missouri S&T's Mining department hosted its 13th annual haunted mine. It is the department's largest fundraiser and supports student organizations such as Women in Mining, International Society of Explosive Engineers, Society for Mining Metallurgy and Exploration, and National Sand Stone and Gravel Association... This year a total of 2275 visitors went through and a total of \$14,210 will be distributed among the societies according to student participation.

The mine is setup by students with help from the department and mine staff. This year two students, Joshua Davis and Alex Hopkins, took on the challenge of managing the haunted mine and did an excellent job. A lot goes into the planning, preparation, and maintenance of the mine; and many man-hours are needed to make the mine a success. Students logged over 2548 hours in preparation, operation, and cleanup this year. In order to be eligible to attend society conferences, students are required to work at least 20 hours at the haunted mine. In addition to these requirements, many students also volunteer their time to help out. Once the haunted mine is completed, each student decides how to distribute the hours they put in to the available organizations. This is how Women in Mining and other student organizations earn the money necessary to travel to the National Conference.

The Haunted Mine was the idea of current MST Professor Dr. Paul Worsley and former student Keith Wheeler. Worsley initially thought of the idea after seeing the success of haunted houses near St. Louis. He had little luck getting the student chapter of SME interested until Wheeler became president. "Keith pushed it forward through the university and I ran interference for him at every hurdle", said Worsley. In 1997 UMR had their first haunted mine and it has been an annual event ever since. Both Worsley and Wheeler attend haunted mine each year. Wheeler Portal is actually named after the co-founder.

The haunted mine takes place in the underground portion of Missouri S&T's experimental mine. Since many people have not experienced going underground in a mine, it frightens even the toughest guests. Even though the objective of the haunted mine is to scare those who enter, we must also always keep safety in mind. Being underground leaves guests exposed to many more hazards than other haunted house such as low ceilings, confined spaces, and tripping hazards. This is why many precautions are taken when planning and operating the mine.

The visitors at the mine are given a hard hat that must be worn at all times while in the mine. Regular atmosphere checks are performed to ensure that proper levels are kept at all times. The mine is inspected by officials before opening and is regularly checked during operation. This year guests entered through the Kennedy portal and slowly made their way through underground haunted forests and creepy clown rooms, being scared when they least expected it. It is a long trek to the exit at Wheeler portal taking between 10 to 15 minutes, depending on how long the chainsaw killers would chase their victims. Many went in, some were scared, some laughed, several cried, everyone had a good time.

Preparation is the one of the most important stages of the mine. Planning started in September with meetings to discuss themes, responsibilities, and safe appropriate ways to frighten little children. During the planning stage, the mine was mapped out and sectioned off into "rooms", each with a different theme. This year, some of the themes included the dropping mineshaft, flame projector, chain saws, torture room, maze, clown room, and a haunted forest. A list of what was needed to make each room a success was made and tasks were delegated based on priority. Through the leadership and cooperation of the students, the mine is completed over the period of a month.

On the nights of the event, the workers show up an hour early in order to prepare. People are assigned to the rooms that are not already covered by a certain organization. After these assignments are passed out, everyone gets dressed in their costumes and head into the mine where they wait for that night's victims.

Throughout the night, the screams of victims can be heard; the roar of the flame projector echoes through the parking lot, and once cheerful guests can be seen fearfully exiting the premises. Any three bringing wide smiles to the faces of the students whose hard work finally paid off.

Also offered at the mine are grilled meats and tasteful treats, including hamburgers, hot-dogs, and a variety of beverages, a covered area for eating, and fire barrels to warm up on cold nights. This year the event ran on October 23-24, and the 29-31. The admission was \$7 per adult, \$6 per military, and \$5 per child. A dollar discount was given with the donation of two canned goods. The canned food collected was donated to the Russell House, which is a safe shelter for abused women and children.

Overall, the Haunted Mine is both a fundraiser for the department, a fun time for the students, and a way for the students to give back to the



WIM President Steven O'Donnell tends to his web between scares

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I trust everyone had a very Merry Christmas, followed by a great bringing in of the New Year! I refuse to use the current politically correct term: Happy Holidays. Each holiday has its own identity and celebrates two entirely different events!

The subject of my last message was the seemingly endless powers of the federal regulatory agencies in our industry. The main agency affecting the industry, on a national and global plane is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency\*. This agency was created under executive order, bypassing Congressional approval. It currently works intensely with the United Nations and its various treaties, few of which have been ratified by Congress. This means to me that they are acting outside of the bounds of our Constitution. Other agencies we are dealing with are the BLM, USFS, USDA and MSHA. All are operating in much the same manner: ramrodding their overly environmental agendas through, with or without seeming concern for how their actions affect us humans.

In my last message, I called for WIM volunteers to form a new committee that will stay on top of all these issues and report back to us about what is going on and if any individual or collective action is recommended. I am happy to report that WIM has recently formed the WIM Legislative Action Committee. It is unique in its make-up. All other committees are Chapter-specific; the LAC is comprised of members from WIM's entire membership and maintains contact via email and quarterly conference calls. It will give quarterly reports to the National Board and hopefully present articles in our National Quarterly. Initially, the committee will disseminate information to WIM members and as we get more acquainted with the lobbying process, statements will be sent to pertinent politicians and press releases to the public in general.

The brave members of this committee are to be commended on this monstrous undertaking. Stephen Tibbals (NV President) serves as its technical and compliance advisor. Debra Struhsacker (NV) is the overall advisor. Georgene Robertson (EF & At-Large) is the chairperson. Other members include Bobbi Meikel, Rhonda Wright & Dayan Anderson (all CA), Debbie Schumacher (At-Large) and new member Serena Carlson (At-Large). Kudos to you all! If any WIM member encounters something of interest that is within the scope of this committee, we welcome you to send it to Georgene Robertson [grobertson@archcoal.com](mailto:grobertson@archcoal.com) or myself [jhiqdemwim@gmail.com](mailto:jhiqdemwim@gmail.com).

I would like to draw special attention to the article in this NQ, presented by our almost new Student Chapter: University of Kentucky. They are well on their way to becoming our third Student Chapter. Please welcome: President: Katie Gardner, Vice President: Brandy Chenault, Treasurer: Katie Heath, Secretary: Tessa Monday, National Representatives: Melyssa McFarland & Cindy Ballinger and others! We look forward to hearing more from them.

Finally, a dear friend of mine, Bob Hopper, passed away Tuesday January 4, 2011. He was a lifelong miner and in 1990 bought the legendary Bunker Hill Mine here in Idaho's Silver Valley. Legendary in two ways. First, it has been historically labeled the world's largest silver/lead/zinc mine, as far as miles of underground workings. Second, it is the focal point of the Bunker Hill EPA Superfund site, of which he was named as a Potentially Responsible Party. Mr. Hopper spent years opposing the EPA on a variety of issues. (The EPA originally listed the site as covering 21 square miles around the mine, but has since increased it to over 1,500 square miles and predicts a need to be involved for over 120 years!)

Bob donated many valuable, high quality mineral specimens from his mine to several mining museums, including the Colorado School of Mines. Bob was an instrumental resource in a recently published book entitled "North Idaho's Superfund: Facts and Fraud", written by Fred Traxler, a mining professional and scientist. Mr. Hopper was founding member of a committee of scientists formed to critique the EPA and get the National Academy of Sciences

involved. He was in the foreground as our county began the process of “invoking Coordination” against the EPA and other federal agencies, which is provided for in the National Environmental Policy Act\*\*. Bob had his own radio show “The Mining and Money Report”, which aired locally weekdays and then made available via the internet at [www.silverminers.com](http://www.silverminers.com). Nationally, Mr. Hopper was known for his work on the Sagebrush Rebellion that actually began with a meeting at his kitchen table!

He supported both WOMEN IN MINING and a local mining educational non-profit Natural Resources Education Outreach, of which I was once an officer. Our country and our industry have suffered a terrible loss. God blessed you Bob; I love you!

Now, let us enjoy the final months of winter and see what spring has in store for our industry!

Jann Higdem  
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\* Information on EPA – <http://epa.gov/oia/io/unep.html>

\*\* Information on “invoking Coordination” <http://americanstewards.us/>



Bob Hopper  
Bunker Hill  
Mine

## NEVADA CHAPTER

The Nevada Chapter has been very busy this quarter. Our 2011-12 Career Calendar sales have been going quite well. Many of the area mines are purchasing copies in bulk and we have the calendars for sale in several businesses around the State. Our chapter members are being asked to intensify their own efforts to sell them as well. We are offering a discount on orders of 20 or more of 20% plus free shipping.

Our holiday parties have been going great with many members coming in to help tend bar. Our last party will be on the 10th of December and all of us will welcome a rest until after the New Year.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** The committee appointed to handle the upcoming Annual Meeting has had a couple of meetings and are in the process of finalizing the details. We have picked the dates so mark your calendar: **May 19th, 20th, and 21st**. The headquarters will be John Ascuaga’s Nugget in Sparks, NV. Registration will be \$150.00; rooms are either \$69.00 or \$79.99 for single/double plus tax and resort fee, depending upon if you want a regular double room or an executive business room.

We will be sending out more information once we have the information on rooms and final schedule.

The tentative schedule for 2011 **National Meeting** will be as follows:

Thursday May 19: Noon. EF website and Director's meeting followed by a training session of new activities.  
Reception with an Honored Guest

Friday May 20: All day field trip to include an open-pit gold mine and a geothermal plant, ending in Virginia City for dinner on your own.

Saturday May 21: National WIM meeting Part I  
Lunch with Speaker  
National WIM meeting Part II  
Reception  
Dinner with speaker

### DENVER CHAPTER

The Denver Chapter has been privileged to have variety with our monthly meetings. We have had some history lessons, college lectures and a talk about current events on mining.

In September, Forest Whitman, Gilpin County Commissioner and local historian, spoke about women miners. It was a lively discussion about three groups of women in mining pioneers. He told of the hardship and aggravation of the first female miner in the Climax Mine at Leadville. She was one of the first groups of six women hired to go underground, and the only one not to quit during the first year. Up until then, women were not welcome in the mines and their presence in a mine was considered to be bad luck.

This led to a lively discussion by our own Carolyn O'Dell who was also a pioneer at the Climax Mine. As a young college graduate, she was the first female to be hired at the Climax Mine research laboratory, and was a groundbreaker for women in the field. She related some very interesting anecdotes about the prejudices she encountered.

Every state seems to have a story of a famous lady with "a heart of gold" and the next famous woman Mr. Whitman discussed was Colorado's Baby Doe Tabor, who started her Colorado career in Central City and ended, tragically in Leadville. Baby Doe's story was one of "from rags to riches" and unfortunately, in her case, from riches back to rags. He gave the side of Baby Doe that the legend never tells: that she was a smart, astute mining engineer in her own right. Ms. O'Dell grew up in Leadville and also had some interesting observations about Baby Doe.

The last group of women miners discussed was women that currently work in Gilpin County and of their independence and determination to pursue their dreams. It was a very interesting, fun, and lively discussion on the important role of **women in mining**.

In October, Professor Christopher Shorey, Colorado School of Mines Department of Geology and Geologic Engineering presented a narrative about modern teaching methods using modern technology and media. One of his fields of expertise is meteorology and he presented some of his dynamic graphic images of developing storms and other weather images. He also discussed new technology used in teaching including pod casts and other social media.

Our November meeting was an important discussion on the difficulty of educating the public about the importance of strategic minerals to the booming sustaining energy industry, such as wind farms and solar energy. Paul Jones, an officer of the Mining and Metallurgical Society of America presented a summary of a symposium held in Washington, D.C. last spring entitled "Minerals for a Green Society." The symposium focused on the need for, and availability

of minerals in the development of a “green society,” whether it is by use of solar, wind, other types of renewable energy, critical minerals are needed for modern technology.

The meeting highlighted facts about minerals that are critical for our changing society, including what is needed and how vulnerable, the U.S. may be to disruptions in global supply. He gave dire warnings about the future of the country if we continue to depend on foreign entities for these strategic minerals, especially those that don't particularly like us. We invite the membership to go to the website (listed below) to learn more and to educate others.

This quarter was ended by a fun and relaxing Christmas tea party (not to be confused with the annual Tea Party) at the Briarwood Inn in Golden. Our expert meeting organizer, Sharon Kirts, was the facilitator and thirty-one of our members were there to party down.

If anyone is interested in reading articles about the items mentioned above, these are links to the articles mentioned

- Article by Forrest Whitman about Baby Doe Tabor contact Commissioner Whitman at govgilpin@gmail.com
  - Dr. Storey invites anyone to download his audio lectures from iTunes. The lectures are free and can be accessed on any MP3 player. To obtain the lectures, go to iTunes, click on Podcasts, and search for the Colorado School of Mines. His series is recorded as a supplement for his SYGN 101, Earth and Environmental Systems class.
- View information for the “Minerals for a Green Society” symposium at <http://www.mmsa.net/SymposiumFeb4-2010.htm>

## **CALIFORNIA CHAPTER**

The California Chapter of WOMEN IN MINING (WIM) established as one of their goals for the 2009- 2010 annual year to acknowledge those mining companies that have supported our efforts since our inception.

When I speak of “inception” it brings to mind the fact prior to 1990 a California Chapter was formed, but because of lack of interest, they had started the process to discontinue the Chapter. Thankfully, Maureen Lennon, former Governmental Affairs and Legal Council for U.S. Borax, heard about the status of the California Chapter, attended the annual meeting of the organization, and saw the value of keeping the California Chapter alive.

Soon the Chapter was back “up-and-running” and many people saw the potential of how WIM could impact young “rising stars” in California schools to take an interest in the industry and consider being a part of it in their years ahead. WIM members regularly go into classes and present mineral educational lessons that show how something that comes out of the ground ends up as a product that we can all use....like toothpaste! Many different classes have been given over the last twelve months and we have found that teachers really appreciate our knowledge and support with their mineral education programs.

To keep our WIM Members informed, we make bi-monthly trips to different mines or places that hold special mineral history. For example, in September we enjoyed meeting at the Big Bear Discovery Center. Prior to the meeting, we climbed aboard military type, canvas covered transport vehicles and took roads up to abandoned gold mines in the San Bernardino mountains. What a fabulous experience! The vehicles took narrow trails that required us to “lean-in”....because shrubby branches would hit us if we didn't. Upon arrival we disembarked and climbed up to the old mine and had the pleasure of hearing what had taken place at this historical site.

Back at the Discovery Center, we were able to tour the museum area and then to see the mineral “classroom” they were developing for visitors. As a result, the California Chapter plans to help develop the mineral displays for the classroom.

As we were driving down from the Big Bear area in the mountains, we were reminded of what it must of taken for those prospectors to make their way up to where they hoped they would locate California's gold! Many did....and history was made.

In October, we had an amazing meeting and tour at the OMYA mine in the mountains above the Lucerne Valley in California. As the meeting started, we were able to present Jim Stewart, the Plant Manager of OMYA Inc. California with a plaque recognizing their commitment to the California Chapter of WIM. After a great buffet dinner, Howard Brown, a Senior Geologist for OMYA provided a visual presentation that showed what we were about to experience when we took the tour. The history of the mine, how their calcium carbonate mineral is mined and how they discovered the White Knob Limestone Quarry where piles of glowing rocks waited for our arrival. Over 20 WIM members arrived at the site and out came the "black lights" that were necessary to see the colors in the rocks. With only the glistening stars in the sky to disrupt our view....the rocks began to splash out bright colors of orange, green, blue, yellow, purple.

Members quickly collected rocks they could physically handle and loaded them into vehicles to take as samples. They were all excited about the chances they would have to show young students as well as their co-workers what they had collected at the OMYA Mine. After a couple of hours of discussion and collection, we again were driving down the mountain, thinking of what an opportunity we had just experienced thanks to OMYA.

As stated at the start of this article one of our goals for the year was to acknowledge our supporters. The WIM California Chapter has presented eight recognition plaques to local California mining companies that have supported WIM, some for over 20 years. The award reads:

*In grateful appreciation for your many years of  
Dedicated support for WIM  
As well as for your commitment to our common goal to  
Educate the public about the value of minerals  
And the need for mining*

The plaques are now hanging on the office walls of Brubaker-Mann Inc – Barstow, CalPortland Cement Company – Mojave, CEMEX – Ontario, CEMEX – Victorville, Elementis Specialties - Rheox Inc – Newberry Springs, OMYA Inc. – Lucerne Valley, TXI Riverside Cement – Oro Grande, and in January 2011, we will present a recognition plaque to Rain For Rent in Riverside.

We value our members and the strong support we receive from the companies that support us and the employees that participate in educational events month after month. We are grateful for the WIM National organization and its supportive members, because when you think about it, there is really nothing like it anywhere! Keep up the good work everyone!



OMYA Mine  
←



→  
Big Bear



### Women in Mining: The Students of Virginia Tech

The primary goal of the student chapter of Women in Mining at Virginia Tech is to educate. The first manner in which we educate is by reaching out to grade school students in the local community. Our chapter dedicates a great deal of time to the Government Education in Mining, or GEM, program. The chapter has developed a presentation that is geared towards expanding students'

rudimentary knowledge within the realm of mining, as well as to show them what an exciting industry mining is. VT's GEM presentations are always a huge hit with the students, their favorite parts being the blasting videos and the cup cake core sample exercise. The students are always excited to see us, and, as a chapter, we are ecstatic to say that we have finally penetrated into the public schools in the area adding two more schools who expect annual presentations!

While the chapter is committed to educating local students, we also spend a significant amount of time expanding on our own knowledge. The industry sponsored field trips that we are able to participate in are wonderful compliments to our coursework at Virginia Tech. This past fall our chapter was invited by Alpha Natural Resources to visit their Mountaineer Coal Mine in West Virginia. It was a fantastic experience, especially for the younger members who had never been underground. Our chapter is looking forward to visiting a Cargill salt mine this upcoming spring. We place a lot of value on these educational trips, and I cannot convey how significant they are in our learning process!

Overall, the VT chapter of WIM has had a strong year. We are hoping to further expand our GEM program this upcoming spring, and we are also looking forward to some social dinners!



**Alpha Natural Resources Hosting the VT WIM Chapter in West Virginia**

## UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY STUDENT CHAPTER

The University of Kentucky Student Chapter formed on the UK campus in September of the Fall 2010 Semester with the goal of providing a group to educate and retain young female engineering students within the mining department. Additionally, our other main goal is to educate local middle and high school students as well as the general public about the mining industry and engineering in general.

Despite the small percentage of women within the department, activities are starting to pick up with the chapter and ideas are flowing for future events in which the group can partake.

Our first meeting was held on November 11 over ten women in attendance as well as several of the men from the mining department. Ideas for the future were discussed and much enthusiasm was present. On December 3, the chapter helped raise money for the Salvation Army by bell ringing at a local grocery store. Before Christmas break, the group hopes to hold a pre-finals study break with a film showing and hot chocolate for the members and any of the mining engineering students who wish to join.

In the future, the group hopes to take several field trips to help expose the students to different types of mining as well as beginning an outreach program to local high schools in coordination with the student SME Norwood Chapter at UK. Additionally, we hope to be able to participate in the national WIM conferences in the coming future!

*(National WIM is looking forward to final acceptance of their third Student Chapter at the Annual Meeting in May 2011.)*

University of Kentucky Chapter Tentative Membership= 23

### **2010-2011 Officers:**

President: Katie Gardner

Vice President: Brandy Chenault

Treasurer: Katie Heath

Secretary: Melyssa McFarland



## EDUCATION FOUNDATION

This quarter was a lot busier than the previous one. With the Silver Summit starting on the 21st of October, items for the silent auction were solicited from many area mines and suppliers with great success. Scotty was not able to accompany me to Spokane this year, so a member of Nevada Chapter, Christine Ballard, volunteered. She is the Alternate Representative and went all out in gathering items from companies in the Reno area.

We drove up on Tuesday the 19th as she had signed up for the mine tours in the Silver Valley on Wednesday. I had the hotel bell people get all the goodies out of my car on Wednesday and take them over to the original Davenport Hotel where the conference was held and with Jann's daughter, Audra's help we got our tables set up. We talked them out of another table and we still had to shuffle things around, hung some on the drapes behind the tables and used chairs to show off all the items.

This event is such a fun one to attend, smaller than many of the others so everyone has more time to talk to each other, and we answered many questions about our organization. Since many of the companies are Canadian, I was able to send several prospects to the WIM groups in both Vancouver and Toronto. Jann got a new At-large member for WIM.

One of the companies, Endeavour Silver, uses Silver Bulls as their logo and this year they donated the two they had made up several years ago to our auction. These are actually silver-plated and included an 18" and 12" bull. They drew a large amount of interest as the highest priced item in the auction and we did get our required bid for them. There were silver bars, rounds, and a lot of nice jewelry, crystals, wines and paintings to name a few. Some companies donated cash so Christine, Scotty and I had fun spending those funds on items to add. We more than doubled what we took in last year so it was very successful.

The Kansas City NSTA booth was handled by students from MS&T and the report I received from SME stated they did a great job. Way to go, MS&T. We ended up canceling the short course in Baltimore as two of the helpers had to back out the week before and Phyllis Lyday was not able to do the class by herself. The registration was way down for this class and after talking to Scotty, we felt it was in our best interest to cancel.

Nashville is going on right now (Dec. 2-4) with Denise Talvitie leading the short course with help from Phyllis and Travis Lyday. Between our schedules, we had some problems getting everything finalized for this one but we were able to get everything shipped off in time for the conference. Items were sent to all three NSTA conferences to be handed out at the SME booths, and I sent a box of materials to Betty Peters in California for their use. I will be sending some of the computer calendars, hardhat stickers and brochures to the rest of the Chapters in the next week so they can distribute them as they choose.

Proposals will need to be submitted by January 15 for next fall's NSTA conferences that will be held as follows:

October 27-29, 2011	Hartford, CT
November 10-12	New Orleans, LA
December 8-10	Seattle, WA

If anyone is interested in helping with the proposals, or leading or helping with one of the above conferences, please let Arloa know right away. Your help is greatly appreciated. She cannot do this alone!



## WOMEN IN MINING

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WOMEN IN MINING is a nonprofit  
501 [c][6] organization.

WIM is an organization for persons interested in or associated with the mineral resources and mining industry. WIM's purpose is to educate members concerning all aspects of the industry and to promote public awareness of the importance of minerals in our everyday lives.

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Assistant Editor: Scotty Norman



**Winter in  
Alaska  
Photos by  
Sally McLeod**

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE CALL:

**JANUARY 22, 2011**



The next National Quarterly will be published on **April 1, 2011**.

Articles are due by **March 1, 2011**.

The lead for the April 2011 edition is the **California Chapter**.