

# **The Pennsylvania State University**



## **Society of Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration Penn State Student Chapter**

Annual Report 2019-2020

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The SME student chapter provides the students the opportunity to be involved with the industry, to build a network, and to enjoy the membership advantages of being a paid member of the society. The purpose of this paper is to report the performance of the 2019-2020 academic year officers.

In this report, the audience will be able to understand all the effort that the board members did to achieve excellence during their leadership. The audience will be able to follow the perspective the officers brought to the chapter and its impact in the department in general.

Here, we are reporting all the events that we had, all the speakers that we received, and the way we managed our finances. You will also understand the impact of the pandemic era in our chapter's activity.

The President, the Treasurer, and the Secretary reported their activities in different chapters of the report.

There is a list with the names of the officers for the 2020-2021 academic year.

In the end, you will see a letter from the academic advisor of the chapter, which reflects the work that the officers performed.

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# **1 President's Report**

## **1.1 Synopsis**

I, Edgar Liberato, am a senior student at The Pennsylvania State University, in the College of Earth and Mineral Science, majoring in Mining Engineering. During my academic studies, I recognized the incredible importance of the SME student chapter in our department, which captivated in me a desire to be part of it. Thus, I decided to run as the President of the chapter for the 2019-2020 academic year.

The Mining Engineering program held around 40 students during the 2019-2020 academic year, the majority being international students. The willingness of our faculty and staff to help the chapter grow was terrific. Our faculty members helped with guest speaker connections, financial assistance for the events outside of school, and many other details.

As the President of the chapter, I was satisfied with the interaction that was brought to the chapter, which resulted in better attendance in the weekly meeting, comparing to the past years.

The Penn State chapter has four officers, the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer, and the Secretary. For the 2019-2020 academic year, these positions were occupied by the following students:

**President** – Edgar Liberato  
**Vice-President** – Valdneide Silva  
**Treasurer** – Joelson Alves  
**Secretary** – Jose Quiala

## **1.2 Goals**

For this team, the essential goal was to bring the department together, so all students could feel comfortable with one another and with the faculty. As I write this report, I assure my audience that this goal was achieved. The reason that leads us to have this as an essential goal was that many students complained that in the past, there was not enough contact among students of different classes. Seniors would hangout only with seniors, juniors with juniors. Nevertheless, by the end of the term, the reality was different.

This team had considerable ambitions to make the department greater, envisioning activities that would enhance the student's interaction with the industry. To make this possible, my team and I thought about what could be done differently from the past year to bring more involvement, and what the next board can do to improve our performance. We built a schedule for the whole academic year, including different types of events. First, we choose a day and time that would allow everybody to participate in weekly meetings. Then, we contacted people from the industry to fill up some of the days, saving other days for field trips, conferences, and other activities. In the previous year, the meetings were biweekly. This change allowed more connections in the department. I am sharing below the schedule of the past academic year.

### **Fall 2019:**

- September 8<sup>th</sup> – Picnic (Tradition meeting)
- September 18<sup>th</sup> – Atkinson Constructions (Company Presentation)
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> – York Building (Company Presentation)
- October 8<sup>th</sup> – Share your experience (Students activity)
- October 15<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Mohammad Rezaee (Guest Speaker)
- October 24<sup>th</sup> – PCMIA Conference
- October 26<sup>th</sup> – Mine Rescue Contest
- October 29<sup>th</sup> – Joe Sbaffoni (Guest Speaker)
- November 5<sup>th</sup> – Victaulic (Company Presentation)
- November 19<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Barbara Arnold (Guest Speaker)
- December 4<sup>th</sup> – Saint Barbara Day Dinner

### **Spring 2020**

- January 28<sup>th</sup> – ISEE Conference (Denver) / Thomas Rauch (Guest Speaker)
- February 11<sup>th</sup> – SGI (Company Presentation)
- February 18<sup>th</sup> – How to behave (Barbara Arnold) / Elections
- February 25<sup>th</sup> – SME Annual Conference
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Vermeer (Company Presentation)
- April 14<sup>th</sup> – Rosebud Mining (Company Presentation / Via Zoom)

**Note:** Most of the meeting after March 3<sup>rd</sup> had to be canceled due to the COVID 19 situation, including a field trip with the SGI company, and our annual event with Komatsu.

This schedule shows how much this team wanted to keep the students active and together. You can see different events in the schedule, which worked together towards the goals that the team had for the chapter activities. These are:

- Have the picnic
- Have guest speakers
- Have company recruiters
- Attend the conferences
- Attend the Mine Rescue Contest
- Have the Saint Barbara Day Dinner
- Have field trips

### **1.3 Achievements**

- During the first three meetings, I often emphasized the importance of our students to become paid members of the SME, and many of them became. This was the first achievement.
- In our meetings, I often emphasized the scholarship opportunities, and more students applied and were awarded than the previous year.

- The only activity that we could not achieve was the scheduled field trip, which had to be canceled due to the pandemic situation.
- We were able to have a remote meeting during the pandemic time.
- The communication was excellent. The students received an email before every meeting, we had power points available in the buildings which were a significant change, and these facts allowed us to achieve the goal of having higher attendance in our meetings.
- We were able to participate in the outreach activity held by the school (EMEX), where we had the opportunity to talk to high-school students about the importance of Mining.

I intended to implement a MEC position in our board and to create an undergraduate research competition; however, we need to comply with specific rules that the school demands. On the other hand, some of our students were able to participate in the Student Design Competition held by SME for the second consecutive year. It is our purpose to continue to motivate the next chapter to be more involved with SME activities.

## **2 Treasurer's Report**

### **2.1 Synopsis**

The financial assets and liabilities of the SME Penn State Chapter were managed efficiently with no significant issues. Students' expenses were reimbursed accurately and promptly. Saint Barbara's Day dinner and the SME annual conference trip were the two major expenses this year. Fundraising was conducted to maximize the chapter profits. The fundraising consisted of selling clothing items to Penn State alumni and friends during the conferences, chapter meetings, and various other events. Communication and transparency between the student account office, officers, and faculty advisers have improved this year compared to last year, which helped to maximize profit and finance more events.

### **2.2 Balance Brought/Carried**

The initial balance at the beginning of the year was \$1,700. The expenditures included the meetings' catering which was \$100 for all the 11 guest speakers' events, St. Barbara's Day dinner which cost \$1,749 at the Graduate Hotel in downtown State College, and the SME annual conference trip which cost \$5,000 for travel tickets and lodging for 17 students. A request was asked to the University Park Allocation Committee (UPAC) to fund the trip for the SME annual conference, and it was allocated \$5,000 for student travel covering more than 80% of all costs. Upon return from the trip, the university fund was released to the chapter account, and students were reimbursed in a timely manner. The clothing sales were carried during the chapter meeting, conferences, and dinners. This year, the sale of clothing items was maximized and provided a profit of \$1,000, and the other \$500 came from guest speakers who paid for the catering of their events. The total and final balance for the 2019/2020 academic year consists of \$7,999 in expenses, \$6,550 in profits, and a positive balance of \$251.

**2.3. The following tables summarize the balance on the account.**

<b>SME 2019/2020 Expenses</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Expense</b>
9/8/2019	Mining Department Picnic	\$ 150.00
9/18/2019	Atkinson Construction Presentation	\$ 100.00
10/2/2019	York Building Presentation	\$ 100.00
10/8/2019	Student Activity: Share your Experience	\$ 100.00
10/15/2019	Guest Speaker: Mohammad Rezaee	\$ 100.00
10/29/2019	Guest Speaker: Joe Sbaffoni	\$ 100.00
11/5/2019	Victaulic Presentation	\$ 100.00
11/19/2019	Guest Speaker: Dr. Barbara Arnold	\$ 100.00
12/4/2019	Saint Barbara Diner	\$ 1,749.00
1/28/2020	Guest Speaker: Thomas Rauch	\$ 100.00
2/11/2020	SGL Presentation	\$ 100.00
2/18/2020	Guest Speaker: Barbara Arnold	\$ 100.00
2/22/2020	SME Annual Conference	\$ 5,000.00
3/3/2020	Rosebud Mining Presentation	\$ 100.00
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>\$ 7,999.00</b>

<b>SME 2019/2020 Profits</b>	
Clothing Sales	\$ 1,000.00
Fundraising	\$ 500.00
UPAC Travel Fund	\$ 5,000.00
UPAC Operational Fund	\$ 50.00
<b>Total Profit</b>	<b>\$ 6,550.00</b>

<b>SME 2019/2020 Balance</b>	
Starting Balance	\$ 1700.00
Expenses	\$ 7,999.00
Profits	\$ 6,550.00
<b>Total Left</b>	<b>\$ 251.00</b>

## 3 Secretary's Report

### 3.1 Synopsis

SME Penn State Student chapter held their meeting weekly, usually on Tuesdays. After organizing a poll for all the mining department students, Tuesdays were the most flexible day of the week for students to meet and to have any event. Attendance was ranging between 17 to 23 students per meeting. The guest speaker held the highest attendance due to the impact of the guest speaker in the mining industry and the intrigued topics presented by the speakers. Info Session of companies with internship and job opportunities also had high attendance. Students resonated with the idea of career opportunities. Finally, department events had a very unusual high attendance for the magnitude of the event, its significance, and the presence of graduate students.

The SME student chapter schedule was divided into two parts according to each semester, fall 2019 and spring 2020. Event is also divided into subcategories such as company presentation (info session), guest speaker, department event, and industry event.

#### Fall 2019 Schedule:

- September 8th – Picnic (Tradition/department event)
- September 18th – Atkinson Constructions (Company Presentation)
- October 2nd – York Building (Company Presentation)
- October 8th – Share your experience (Student activity)
- October 15th – Dr. Mohammad Rezaee (Guest Speaker)
- October 24th – PCMIA Conference (Industry Event)
- October 26th – Mine Rescue Contest (Event)
- October 29th – Joe Sbaffoni (Guest Speaker)
- November 5th – Victaulic (Company Presentation)
- November 19th – Dr. Barbara Arnold (Guest Speaker)
- December 4th – Saint Barbara Diner (Department Event)

#### Spring 2020 Schedule:

- Jan 28th - Thomas Rauch (Guest Speaker)
- February 4th – SGI (company Presentation)
- February 11th – SME Annual Conference Preview & Election for 20-21 board (Event)
- February 25th - SME Annual Conference (Industry Event)
- March 3rd - Vermeer (company Presentation)
- March 10th - Spring Break (school Break)
- \* March 17th/19th - ISEE joint meeting
- \* March 27th - Open
- \* March 31st - Rosebud Mining Company
- \* April 7th - Attempt to visit a high school institution to talk about the importance of Mining in our society.
- April 14th – Zoom meeting with Rosebud Mining (Company Presentation)
- \* April 21st – Komatsu



*\*Events canceled due to coronavirus pandemic.*

### **3.2 Minutes**

This section includes a brief overview of each meeting chronologically. All the official SME student chapter meetings require a small summary to report what was covered in the meetings as well as the meeting date, location, time, and attendance. Below is the fall 2019 and spring 2020 meetings and their briefs in a chronologic order:

- **September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Picnic (Tradition meeting)**

The Department of Mining engineer and the SME student chapter has the tradition to organize and invite students to the annual mining engineering picnic. This event has the purpose of creating an environment with an excellent opportunity to talk and interact with other students in the major as well as with the mining faculty. Also, an excellent opportunity to get to know the new SME officers for this academic year. The other mining student associations such as ISEE and Mine Rescue Team were also there, creating an opportunity to learn more about them. There were games, food, and great conversation among students and professors. Below are the details of the event:

Location: Sunset Park (850 McKee St, State College, PA 16803)

Date: September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Time: 3:00 PM

Attendance: 27 people

- **September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Atkinson Constructions (Company Presentation)**

The SME student chapter 2020 leadership had the privilege to host the first information section on September 18<sup>th</sup> with The ATKINSON Construction company. During this meeting, Atkinson construction talked about their company, internship, and job opportunities. They had a brief about the company culture, objective, and products. Matt Ulizio was one of the members of the company and Penn State alumni who were presenting. They also held interviews for students interested in the following positions: 5-6 Engineers - Full Time, 2-3 Safety Coordinators - Full Time, 1-2 Interns - Spring/Summer/Fall, and 1-2 Surveyors - Full Time. Below are additional details of the event:

Date: September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Location: 157 Hosler Building, State College, Pa 16802

Time: 6 PM

Attendance: 19 students

- **October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 – York Building (Company Presentation)**

York Building products were also one of the companies that had an info session with the students and members of SME student chapter. This info session was focused on the company talking about their career opportunities. They had multiple full-time plant management trainee position at Port Deposit. MD in their Belvedere plant. They did a detailed presentation on the position activities, responsibilities, compensation, and companies' culture. They continue by

holding interviews with interested students on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. TJ Greene was one of the people who presented about the company. He is also a graduate and Penn State Alumni of the 2019 class.

Below are additional details of the event:

Date: October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

Location: 157 Hosler Building, State College, Pa 16802

Time: 6 PM

Attendance: 15 students

- **October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Share your experience (Students activity)**

The "Share Your Experience Activity" is an activity the 2020 SME leadership students have created to allow students to share their mining summer internship and increase the bond among the mining engineering students in the department. It was an extraordinarily successful meeting with a lot of different pieces of knowledge and experiences. In this meeting, all the students who had received the WAAIME scholarship award took a group picture requested by SME. The following students shared about their experience:

**Edgar Liberato** - Vibrations (Consulting) at Vibra-Tech Engineers Inc

**Brandon Matejik** - Non-metal at Lehigh Hanson company

**Savern Lau** - Non-Metal at Vulcan company

**Kevin Toe** – Metal at Barrick Gold company

**Jose Quiala** - Underground Coal at Consol Energy Inc

**Joelson Alves** – Blasting at Barrick Gold company

Below are additional details of the event:

Date: October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Location: 157 Hosler Building, State College, Pa 16802

Time: 6 PM

Attendance: 20 students

- **October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Dr. Mohammad Rezaee (Guest Speaker)**

The SME Penn State Student chapter had the pleasure to host their first guest speaker, Dr. Mohammed Rezaee. On October 15<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Rezaee spoke on the subject of sustainable Mining. Students had the opportunity to learn more about the subject and be challenged with future tendencies. This was a remarkably successful event with a lot of Q&A at the end of the meeting.

Below are additional details of the event:

Date: October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Location: 157 Hosler Building, State College, Pa 16802

Time: 6 PM

Attendance: 23 students

- **October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – PCMIA Conference**

Some undergraduate and graduate students of the Mining Engineering program of the EME department at Penn State University attended PCMIA (Pittsburgh Coal Mining Institute of America) annual conference in Pittsburgh on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Faculty of Mining Engineering program encourages the students to attend this conference for its technical content and networking opportunities. The students left University Park at about 4:30 PM on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and came back on the 24<sup>th</sup> late in the evening (ETA 8 to 9 PM). The mining engineering department took 14 students to this conference. SME student chapter was responsible for planning the event in many various ways, from registering the students, take care of transportation and accommodation, and come up with a schedule for the students while there. It is essential to mention that three of our students were honored with awards. The following students were nominated with the specific awards:

**Kevin Toe** – PCMIA Donald S. Kingery Student Grant award

**Jose Quiala** – Mike Kotch Memorial Scholarship award

**Joelson Alves** – Claude A. Goode Memorial Scholarship award

Below are additional details of the event:

Date: October 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Location: Pittsburgh, Pa

Attendance: 14 students

- **October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Mine Rescue Contest**

No event this week due to the Mine Rescue Contest held at West Virginia. Since most of the students who participate and are members of SME Student chapter are also members of the Penn State Mine Rescue Team, SME student chapter did not plan any event for this specific week.

- **October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Joe Sbaffoni (Guest Speaker)**

The SME student chapter held a meeting with the second guest speaker of the fall semester. This was a meeting where we were excited about the chance we were given. On July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002, coal miners at the Quecreek mine in Somerset County, PA, accidentally cut in the poorly documented Saxman mine holding approximately 70 million gallons of water. This caused the flooding of the Quecreek mine, trapping nine miners. Joe Sbaffoni, director of the PA Bureau of mine safety at that time, directed the rescue effort that lasted four days and brought back all nine miners to the surface. Mr. Sbaffoni joined us to tell his account of the incident and this "miracle" rescue that has shaped many of the mining laws we follow today.

Below are additional details of the event:

Date: October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Location: 157 Hosler Building, State College, Pa 16802  
Time: 6 PM  
Attendance: 23 students

- **November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Victaulic (Company Presentation)**

The Victaulic company held a meeting which they covered many aspects of their company. The meeting was very straight forward. They covered the history of Victaulic company, pipe joining methods in Mining, victaulic water management solutions, and Q & A. Also, they presented some job Opportunities within Victaulic for the students.

Below are additional details of the event:

Date: November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Location: 157 Hosler Building, State College, Pa 16802  
Time: 6 PM  
Attendance: 16 students

- **November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Dr. Barbara Arnold (Guest Speaker)**

On Tuesday, November 19th, the SME hosted a guest speaker who talked about Water in Mining and Processing. This is a subject that will continuously come throughout our careers as Mining Engineers, so we had a huge opportunity to learn more about the subject. Below abstract of the presentation and our guest speaker.

#### Water in Mining and Processing

Water is a valuable commodity. This presentation will provide insight into water use in the mining and mineral processing industries with an emphasis on the use in coal processing, the water quality required for efficient processing, and dewatering technologies for recycling and reuse of water. The presentation will conclude with some pointers for career development in the mining and mineral processing industries.

#### Abstract

Dr. Arnold holds a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Mineral Processing from The Pennsylvania State University, where she specialized in coal froth flotation, fine particle processing, and coal petrology. Her research and development experience have included projects for government and industry funding agencies as well as private companies. It has covered the development of a coal cleaning simulator, coal handling, coal blending, coal cleaning characterizations, flowsheet evaluations, and rare earth elements. Her experiences with US Steel and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) have provided insight into coal properties and their effect on industrial processes. Since 1997, she has been the President of PrepTech, Inc., which provides engineering consulting services to coal companies and others in the area of coal cleaning. PrepTech is the US representative for PrepQuip (South Africa), TH Minerals (Spain), SizeTec (Ohio), and CLIMAXx Equipment Company (Pittsburgh). Dr. Arnold is active with the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc. and served as the 2018 SME President and serves on

the SME Pittsburgh Section Board of Directors. Barbara also serves as Secretary of the Coal Preparation Society of America and is the US representative to the International Organizing Committee for the 2019 and 2022 ICPCs.

Below are additional details of the event:

Date: November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Location: 157 Hosler Building, State College, Pa 16802

Time: 6 PM

Attendance: 21 students

- **December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Saint Barbara Diner**

Saint Barbara's Day, on December 4th each year celebrates the patron saint of miners. On this day, throughout the world, you will find mining engineers gathered to honor the patron saint and partake of food and drink and enjoy the camaraderie of our friends and colleagues in Mining. The Penn State Mining Engineering program has a long history of continuing this tradition, as many of the upperclassmen know. New students were encouraged to start their tradition of participating in this grand celebration of Mining. Our tradition is to gather in a local restaurant and have a nice dinner along with lots of conversation. The SME and ISEE PennState Student Chapters were responsible for planning this event. About 40 students participated in this event.

Below are additional details of the event:

Date: December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Location: The Graduate Hotel

Time: 7 PM

Attendance: 40 students 10 faculty members

- **January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - Thomas Rauch (Penn State)**

SME student chapter hosted Tom Rauch. Tom gave a talk on Metallic Property Development. Below is the abstract on the topic and the biography of the speaker.

Abstract:

In the global metals mining industry, property development progresses in one of two pathways: either by Majors or by the Junior market. From financing through operations the pathway, a property develops under impacts the timeline and results. The type of metal, the location of the property, number of developers, the number of operators, and the investor market make a significant difference to the strategy. This presentation will walk through the elements of metallic property development and a case study for the purchase of a small-scale gold property to be developed into operation through the Junior development route.

Bio:

Tom Rauch is a Sr. Project Manager with Black Mountain, a diversified energy and mineral operator and investment group based in Fort Worth, TX, where he is leading investment guidance on mining & metals projects. Tom holds a BS degree in Mining Engineering (focused in Mineral Processing) and a second BS degree in Energy Business and Finance (focused in Commodity Finance) both from Penn State. Prior to joining Black Mountain in 2019, Tom worked for Kappes

Cassiday & Associates, Jacobs Engineering, and Taggart Global (now DRA Minerals). Tom's career has focused on EPC (Engineering, Procurement, & Construction) project delivery in the Mining, metals, oil & gas, and chemical industries with a specific focus on taking projects from late-stage engineering through construction and startup/handover. Tom continues to focus on high-risk project delivery, tying late-stage project lessons into project execution planning and preliminary engineering

Below are additional details of the event:

Date: January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Location: 157 Hosler Building, State College, Pa 16802

Time: 6 PM

Attendance: 18 students

- **February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - SGI**

The SGI company held a meeting in which they covered many aspects of their company. The meeting was very straight forward. They talked about career development. They also talked about specific paths an individual can take to develop one's career in their companies. There were Q&A at the end of the meeting and job opportunities.

Below are additional details of the event:

Date: February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Location: 157 Hosler Building, State College, Pa 16802

Time: 6 PM

Attendance: 13 students

- **February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 -SME Annual Conference Preview & Election for 2020-2021 board**

On this date, Barbara Arnold came to speak about the SME Phoenix annual conference to the students. She covered the schedule and how the student could take the best out of the conference. We also covered specific events aimed at students and tips for networking. On this same day, we also held the elections for the 2020-2021 board members. Below is the result of the election:

Harmonie Ngamuyeka – SME President

Mark Hovingh – SME vice-president

Dean Ambrogi – SME Treasurer

Morike Sissoko – SME Secretary

Below are additional details of the event:

Date: February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Location: 157 Hosler Building, State College, Pa 16802

Time: 6 PM

Attendance: 20 students

- **February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020- SME Annual Conference**

More than 20 undergraduate students of the mining department attended the SME annual meeting, including the board members. No meeting was held during this week.

- **March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 - Vermeer**

Mike Selover from Vermeer company is Penn State Mining Society speaker for March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. Below is the abstract on the topic and the biography of the speaker.

Topic Abstract

Continuous Surface Mining is a new disruptive surface mining technology that utilizes mechanical excavation to remove minerals, ore, and aggregates from an orebody. In many mining applications, Continuous Surface Mining can be a cost-effective and safer alternative to drilling and blasting. As you know, with the current restrictive environment regarding drill and blast, coupled with locations where it cannot be done (waterways, adjacent to highways and railroads, urban encroachment, overhead powerlines, buried utilities, gas lines, etc.) alternatives to drill and blast are becoming more desirable and necessary.

Bio

Mike Selover is the Corporate Accounts Manager for Vermeer Corporation's Specialty Excavation Division. At Vermeer, the Specialty Excavation Division consists of the large track-mounted trenchers and the Surface Excavation Machine (SEM) used in the mining industry for Continuous Surface Mining. Mike's role with Vermeer is to grow the category and create demand for the product category by educating the mining and aggregate industries, academia, and engineering consultants to the new Continuous Surface Mining technology as an alternative to drilling and blasting. Mike has a diverse background, he has held key management positions in several fortune 200 companies, as an entrepreneur started a successful engineering services company and now is responsible for growing a new market segment within a \$1.5 billion-dollar company. Mike has a background in Mechanical Engineering and secured an MBA degree early in his career.

Below are additional details of the event:

Date: March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

Location: 157 Hosler Building, State College, Pa 16802

Time: 6 PM

Attendance: 17 students

The following dates represent the calendar that the SME student leadership had to prepare until the final of their mandate and the Spring semester. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic and the classes being moved to be taken remotely, all the below meetings had to be canceled.

- March 10th - Spring Break
- March 17th/19th - ISEE joint meeting
- March 27th – Open
- March 31st - Rosebud Mining Company
- April 7th - Attempt to visit a high school institution to talk about the importance of Mining in our society
- April 14th – Rosebud Company (Zoom Meeting)
- April 21st - Komatsu

### 3.3 Officers

The SME student chapter at Penn State has four officer positions: President, vice president, Treasurer, and Secretary. The officers for 2019-2020 are as follows:

- President: Edgar Liberato
- Vice President: Cintia Silva
- Treasurer: Joelson Alves
- Secretary: Jose Priante Quiala

After the officer elections were held on February 11<sup>th</sup>, the officer positions for the 2020-2021 academic year are as follows:

- President: Harmonie Ngamuyeka
- Vice President: Mark Hovingh
- Treasurer: Dean Ambrogi
- Secretary: Morike Sissoko

### 3.4 Members

The following list shows students who attended meetings and differentiates between those who are paid members and those who are not. All students were in the mining engineering major. The following abbreviations represent Their class: Fr- Freshman, Sp- sophomore, Jr- Junior, Sr- Senior, and Gr- grad student.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Paid Member? (Y/N)</b>
Behzad Hassas - Gr	Y
Sidharth Agrawal -Ggr	Y
Guijie Sang – Gr	Y
Joelson Alves-Sr	Y



Eurico J. Madureira -Sr	Y
James Peterson - Sr	Y
Qixuan Wen-Sr	Y
Savern Lau-Sr	Y
Jake Adams – Jr	Y
Dean Ambrogi - Jr	Y
Jose Quiala-Sr	Y
Richard He – Gr	Y
Michael Champion - Jr	Y
Eric Kemper – Jr	Y
Edgar Liberato -Sr	Y
Cintia Silva -Sr	Y
Kiazoa Joao -Sr	Y
Brandon Matejik-Sr	Y
Ang LIU – Gr	Y
Wilmar Adalberto Bera - Sr	Y
Jinhe Pan – Gr	Y
Mark Lawrence - Jr	Y
Emmy Muhoza - Sr	Y
Mark Hovingh - Jr	Y
Daniel Buonanno - Fr	Y
Harmonie Ngamuyeka - Jr	Y
Tony Sanders - Jr	Y
Dave Blackstock II - Jr	Y
Morike Sissoko - Jr	Y
Weza Dack-Sr	N
Vanilo Antonio-Sr	N
Manuel Filho -Sr	N
TOTAL	32

In sum, the SME Penn State Student chapter has 29 current paid SME member with their membership valid till at least December of 2020. We also have three members that are actively participants in SME events but are not paid members. Most of the members of SME Penn State student chapter are Seniors following by Juniors.

### **2019-2020 Board Members**



President

Edgar Liberato



Vice-President

Valdneide Silva



Treasurer

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Date: June 1, 2020

To: The Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME)  
From: Dr. Mohammad Rezaee  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering  
The Pennsylvania State University

RE: Advisor letter for the Penn State SME student chapter

The formal activities of the Penn State SME student chapter have waxed and waned in recent years based on enrollment in the mining engineering program. As the size of the Program has grown, so has the student chapter. The growth over the past few years has been significant, and the enthusiasm and commitment to mining exhibited by these students is second to none.

The officers got the chapter off to a good start by setting goals for the year and following this with appropriate planning. The goals were ambitious and the officers did a good job of helping the chapter achieve many of the goals. As the faculty advisor, I would capture the accomplishments of the chapter in three overarching areas.

First, the chapter has helped each student to understand the value of their professional society, i.e. SME, and the role it can play in furthering their career. This was demonstrated to the students in the chapter's activities: outside speakers to increase their knowledge; alumni participation to expand their network of mining industry professionals; attendance at regional and national meetings, e.g. PCMIA, SME Pittsburgh chapter, and SME annual meeting; and first-hand experiences to know the camaraderie that exists in the community of mining professionals through for example the alumni functions at the SME annual meeting and the St Barbara's Day Feast. Moreover, as a group they have a better understanding of the role of their professional society in the context of life-long learning.

Second, the chapter's activities helped to broaden the members' classroom knowledge through field trips and guest speakers. Scheduling difficulties limited field trip activity this year, but in addition to one trip, there were regular excellent presentations from industry and government professionals. The presentations covered a wide range of both technical and professional development topics. During the time the campus was closed and the classes were delivered remotely, the chapter continued the events and presentations through the Penn State Zoom platform and the talks were very well attended by the students.

Third, the value of "reaching out" and "giving back" was underscored in the chapter's activities: to speak with potential students about the importance of mining and the career opportunities in the mining industry; to promote mining to high school science teachers; to work with local boy scouts pursuing the Mining in Society merit badge; and to mentor incoming students.

It is also noteworthy that the activities of the chapter attracted the interest of engineering students from other disciplines. In the spring semester for example, there were meetings in which several students from other disciplines, with an interest in mining, attended. There was also good participation from graduate students in the mining and mineral processing option.

It has been a pleasure to work with this group of talented and enthusiastic students.

Sincerely,

*Mohammad Rezaee*

Mohammad Rezaee, Ph.D.