



2019-2020

# ANNUAL REPORT

Society of Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration –  
University of Texas at El Paso Chapter

**PREPARED BY**

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Chung and Yongteng Dong

**Submitted To:**

Mona Vandervoort

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*I have reviewed the Annual Report of the University of Texas at El Paso Chapter of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration for the 2019-2020 school year and attest that the information presented is accurate.*

## SME UTEP Purpose

The SME Chapter at UTEP, in coordination with the University of Texas at El Paso in the Department of Metallurgical, Materials, and Biomedical Engineering shall be to promote among its members continued professional growth in the areas of mining, metallurgy and exploration, and to encourage professional responsibility that includes ethical, social, economic and safety considerations. The SME UTEP Chapter is the link between the school and business, which enables students to build broad-based understanding of the industry and networking opportunities.

## Membership

### 2019-2020 Officers

- President – John R. Lindquist, III
- Vice-President, Internal – Luis A. Riojas
- Vice-President, External - Jiahao Xu
- Secretary – Seungwon Chung
- Treasurer – Yongteng Dong

### 2020-2021 Officers

- President - Wayne Campbell
- Vice-President - Jiahao Xu
- Secretary - Ariel Gamon
- Treasurer - Cassandra Orozco

### Faculty Advisor

- Dr. Guikuan Yue

### Local Section Counselor

- John P. Quinn (Freeport-McMoRan El Paso Operations)

## Student Activities

### General Meeting

A general meeting was held in September 2019 that established club expectations, planned activities and challenges the group faces, even now. Principally, it was established that outreach and membership were of greatest concern, especially reaching out to the geological sciences department despite past efforts. Additional ideas regarding outreach were brainstormed and potentially budgeted.

### Officer Meeting

Shortly after the General Meeting, an officer meeting was held to better flesh out the ideas discussed during the general meeting. Specifically, ideas on outreach and which departments should be contacted to encourage membership. Our member, Cassandra Orozco, volunteered to assist in building contacts within the chemistry department while John was responsible for contacting the geology department and the business department. Some success was held in bouncing emails throughout the

chemistry and geology departments, but no such luck was had with the business administration department. During the officer meeting, fundraising ideas were also discussed, with Cassandra and John volunteering to pursue different avenues with support from the other members.

### Freeport-McMoRan Refinery Tour

The UTEP Student Chapter of SME, in conjunction with other courses and majors, visited the local Freeport-McMoRan El Paso Operations. This visitation once again took place during the both Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 semester as this allows students in a variety of fields to see at least part of the refining and other processes that occur in industry. Majors included metallurgical, materials, electrical and mechanical engineering with plans for future tours to include geology, chemistry and other related fields.

### Professional Chapter Bowling Fundraiser

The local professional SME chapter hosted a fundraiser at a bowling alley over the 2019 summer months, to which some members of the SME UTEP chapter attended. At the event, student members had the opportunity to build professional connections with the professional members through a fun, jovial environment. Funds raised were meant to assist the local professional chapter grow and set up scholarships for the future.

### Student Chapter Bowling Fundraiser

Following in the footsteps of the local professional chapter, a fundraiser was held by us to help us grow as well, but this was held months later in October. The event was successful as it managed to raise over \$200 for the Chapter, amounting to approximately \$246 in total funds. This event was successful enough that it is highly recommended to happen annually for the group. A coordinated effort was held as amongst the officers and the faculty sponsor to try to get word out about our event, to great success.

### Social Gathering Post-Career Fair

Following the Fall career fair, SME members, both student and professional, met and socialized at a local bar, affording the ability to further strengthen the connection between both Chapters. Additionally, this allowed the professional chapter to give constructive criticism to the students as they had the chance to interview and interact professionally with students at the career fair.

### Chino Mine Site Tour

In conjunction with the local professional chapter as well as Freeport-McMoRan, a tour of their mine site in Chino, New Mexico was planned for April 3, 2020. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic, this event was cancelled. Though it may yet happen in the future as its planning took many months.

## Reports

### President's Report

The Fall 2019 semester primarily focused on trying to build SME into a more well-connected group with roots in the most directly relevant colleges (metallurgy, geology) then expanding into all other colleges. Though there were significant hurdles, such as cultivating interest even within the home department (metallurgy), some traction has gained since then within the department. However, meaningful connections have yet to take hold with geology and other departments. This should be a major focus in the coming school year.

Efforts were also made to attempt to maintain contacts with the professional chapter, which I believe was a goal achieved (See Student Activities). Efforts were also made to raise funding for the group so as to help lessen some of the burden in this regard, at least temporarily, so the group may focus on recruitment in the coming year.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 situation has affected the entire globe, thus, since about mid-March, all chapter movement came to a halt. I hope the group is able to grow past this pause and resurge far greater than before the pandemic.

### Secretary's Report

Recruitment efforts were the priority for the academic year as membership was middling and member activity was sporadic. However, beginning with the Bowling Fundraiser and including the Freeport-McMoRan El Paso Operations tour, it is believed that interest in active membership is beginning to grow. The pandemic did, however, greatly affect us as interest may have died. It is my hope that in the coming academic year, we will be able to recruit more students from across all disciplines with an active interest.

### Treasurer's Report

Funding the group was maintained through initially acquired funding from SME, the Dept. of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering and the amounts allotted by the UTEP Student Engagement and Leadership Center. Additionally, funds were raised significantly through a major fundraising effort: a bowling fundraiser.

|               |                 |                 |                    |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Initial Funds | \$400.00        | Current Balance | \$246.00           |
| Date          | Overall Savings | Gain            | Note/Comment       |
| 10-26-19      | -               | \$206           | Bowling Fundraiser |

## Faculty Sponsor's Report

May 10, 2020

Mona Vandervoort  
12999 E. Adam Aircraft Circle  
Englewood, CO 80112

Dear Mona,

I have received the Annual Report of the Society of Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration – UTEP Chapter for the 2019-2020 academic year, and confirm that the information contained therein is accurate. This was the second year for the Chapter and as such, difficulties in recruitment, organization and commitment remained throughout the year. Especially, the coronavirus pandemic greatly affects some of the planned activities. However, through support from The University of Texas at El Paso, local Industrial Chapter, and Freeport-McMoRan, the group has ended the year strongly with a brighter, more stable future ahead. I am very pleased to work with this team, and as shown in the Report they achieved a lot throughout the year, especially by the hard work of its President, John R. Lindquist.

Growing a new student chapter in such a traditional field can be daunting. However, through my active engagement of students in my lectures and other recruitment efforts, we managed to recruit new students successfully, despite the fact that some of previous members graduated in the former semesters. As you may notice, activities planned by the Chapter, or in conjunction with local Industrial Chapter, were organized and will be continued in the coming academic year. Going forward, the Chapter intends to continue to cultivate its relationship with the local professional Chapter and improve both fundraising and engagement efforts, including recruitment and on-campus/off-campus activities, to attract more members across the whole campus.

I believe that SME-UTEP Student Chapter will grow to be a strong, active organization within the MMBME Department and College of Engineering at UTEP. I thank the membership for its dedication and efforts.

Best Regards,

Guikuan Yue, Ph.D. (Faculty Sponsor)  
Assistant Professor, Department of Metallurgical, Materials and Biomedical Engineering  
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Tel: (915) 747-6934  
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## Attendance

| Last Name | First Name | SME #      | Email                       |
|-----------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| Dieguez   | Dominic    | 04270211   | dgdiequez@miners.utep.edu   |
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| Yongteng  | Dong       | 04267464   | ydong@miners.utep.edu       |
| Seungwon  | Chung      | 04267671   | schung@miners.utep.edu      |
| Orozco    | Cassandra  | 04273553   | clorozco@miners.utep.edu    |
| Riojas    | Luis       | 04274343   | ariojas@miners.utep.edu     |
| Lindquist | John       | 04270165   | jrlindquist@miners.utep.edu |
| Campbell  | Wayne      | 4550200798 | wacampbell@miners.utep.edu  |
| Gamon     | Ariel      | 4550208284 | aagammon@miners.utep.edu    |

All members listed above are registered officially with SME UTEP Chapter and were active during the school year. Attendance to events, however, was not enforced. However, in the upcoming 2020-2021 Academic Year, attendance and participation will be expected of members who wish to remain active.



## Photos

### Bowling Fundraiser







## Freeport-McMoRan El Paso Operations Tour

