

West Virginia University

2019-2020

SME Annual Report



Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and
Exploration

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Advisor's Introduction

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased and excited to write some sentences for our SME Student Chapter at West Virginia University. The Chapter under the leadership of Ricky Shipe did a fantastic job in organizing meetings, attending various on campus and off campus activities.

The Chapter did a fantastic job in putting together a team that participated in various activities at the SME Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. The West Virginia University's Department of Mining Engineering has strong alumni support and the SME Student Chapter continued the tradition of maintaining a strong relationship with the **alumni**.

The Chapter in addition to the regular activities participated in the freshman outreach activities and proved to be better than any regular professional societies. In all I am very pleased with the Chapter as the officers and students who worked hard to raise the Chapter to new heights.

Sincerely,



Dr. Brijes Mishra

Syd S. and Felicia F. Peng Endowed Professor

WVU SME Chapter Constitution

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Student Chapter of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc. (SME) at West Virginia University.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this organization shall be to act as a professional development platform for its members. Comprehensive accomplishments in this purpose shall include participation in the University, the community, and the SME/Minerals Industry platform.

ARTICLE III. STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The voting membership of this organization shall be limited to organization members who are West Virginia University students in good standing, academically.

Section 2. This organization will not deny membership based on race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this organization shall be the President, Vice President (also responsible for Chapter financial matters), Secretary, GEM/Media Coordinator, and Program Coordinator.

Section 2. The duties of the Officers shall be to seek the participation of all members in SME activities and ask volunteer members to participate in special projects activities. The Officers shall be the group leaders for such special project activities.

Section 3. The Officers shall be responsible for major fund raising to support chapter activities through fund raising. The President and the Secretary/Treasurer of the chapter shall prepare a donation letter, approved by the Department Chairman of Mining Engineering of WVU, to send to prospective donors. The President of the Chapter will also prepare and send a letter of thanks/gratitude to the donors

Section 4. To hold an elected, or appointed office in this organization, a member must have at least a 2.25 GPA average at the time of election or appointment. Furthermore, the member may not be on academic or disciplinary probation.

Section 5. The service term of each officer will be the length of one academic year (Fall and Spring Semester). Officers must be re-nominated and re-elected to serve numerous terms.

Section 6. Each year, the officers shall select a faculty member to serve as the Faculty Advisor to the WVU SME Student Chapter. The Faculty Advisor provides guidance, support, and advice to the Chapter, and assists the Chapter during the election cycle. The Faculty Advisor also serves as the communication link with the parent organization, and must be a member of SME in good standing.

ARTICLE V. OFFICER ELECTIONS

Section 1. Potential officers shall be nominated at the February Meeting of the Chapter.

Section 2. An election shall take place between the February and March Meetings of the Chapter.

Section 3. Ballots may only be cast by members in good academic standing.

Section 4. New officers will be announced during the March Meeting of the Chapter; their tenure will become effective after Spring Commencement. This period of overlap with the existing officers will provide for a smooth transition and assure that additional Chapter requirements, such as the submission of the Annual Report to SME.

ARTICLE VI. SPECIAL WVU REQUIREMENTS

This organization will adhere to the West Virginia University Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of the Chapter shall be conducted on a designated Weekday of each month when classes are in session. The meetings of the Chapter will typically be scheduled after 5:00 pm.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by any member of the Chapter Officers.

Section 3. Quorum shall be constituted by the President or the Faculty Advisor of the Chapter.

ARTICLE VIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Parliamentary Authority shall be granted to the Bylaws of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc. as amended and restated on September 20, 2008.

2019-2020 SME Officers



Left to Right: Jeremy Diehlmann, Ricky Shipe, Lauren Masterson, Rince Longo, John Dickson

President: Richard Shipe

Richard “Ricky” Shipe is a senior double majoring in Mining and Civil Engineering. He is originally from Johnsonburg in Elk County, PA and is a graduate of the Johnsonburg High School Class of 2015. He has worked as an intern for the Jones Township Road Department in Wilcox, PA, Warrior MET Coal in Brookwood, AL, and Peabody Energy’s Metropolitan Colliery in Helensburgh, New South Wales, Australia. Ricky has been involved in a number of student organizations, including: SME (President 19-20, Vice President 18-19), Ducks Unlimited (Chairman 18-19, Co-Chairman 17-18, Secretary 17), Mine Rescue (Tail Captain, Gas Man, BG-4 Benchman), ISEE and the WVU Powerlifting Team (Athlete 19, Public Relations Director 19-20). Ricky’s future plans include moving to the Elko, NV area to work for a consulting firm and obtain his PE License. The COVID-19 pandemic has made finding immediate work difficult, but Ricky has an unofficial offer from a company who cannot send the official offer until the quarantine is closer to its end and the state of Nevada returns to normalcy.

Vice President / Treasurer: Rince Longo

Rince Kabondo Longo is a graduating senior, dual majoring in Mining Engineering and Geology. Originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rince joined the chapter as a member in 2018 and has since been an active member participating in different events including two national conferences. It has been his privilege to serve as the 2019-2020 Vice President/Treasurer. Along with serving as Vice-President, Rince worked as a Rock Mechanics laboratory assistant. His plan includes graduate studies in underground construction and tunneling.

Secretary: John Dickson

John Dickson is a dual major in Mining and Civil Engineering from Salisbury, MD. John will be going into his fifth year in the major starting in the fall of 2020. John joined SME as a sophomore but became active his junior and senior years. As a junior John was captain of the team that competed in the aggregates design competition and placed 3rd nationally. John had two internships his freshman and sophomore summers in the construction industry. During the summer of his junior year, he worked for Coronado Global Resources at their Buchannan mine located in Virginia. Here he served as an operations intern getting to experience all facets of the mining operation. This upcoming summer in 2020, he will be working for Compass Minerals, a salt mining company in Louisiana as a maintenance intern. John's long-term goals are to get a job in the mining industry somewhere out west or abroad.

Program Coordinator: Jeremy Diehlmann

Jeremy Diehlmann is a fifth year Mining Engineering student graduating in May 2020. He is from Crofton Maryland. Former department chair Dr. Chris Bise recruited him to join WVU. He has been extremely active with SME and Mine Rescue since his freshman year. Jeremy has had many internship opportunities over the years. He began his career with an internship as a Maintenance Engineer intern at his High School. Jeremy's first Mining internship was with Murray Energy at their Marshall County Coal Mine in West Virginia. He continued his Mining experience by working in Mining Sales with Nalco Water as a sales engineer intern. In Summer 2019 Jeremy continued his experience with Victaulic as an Engineering Intern at their Alburtis Foundry in Alburtis Pennsylvania. Jeremy is grateful he was able to serve as Program Coordinator for the last two years. Jeremy has accepted a full time offer from Victaulic. He will join as an Application Engineer. Jeremy looks forward to being an active SME member on the industry side.

Media Coordinator: Lauren Masterson

Lauren Masterson is a graduating senior in West Virginia University's Dual Mining and Civil Engineering Program. Lauren is from Baldwin, Maryland and graduated high school in 2016. She originally came to West Virginia to pursue a degree in Petroleum Engineering, however quickly changed majors after visiting the Mining Departments and attending the student organization fair. After realizing the impact student organization fairs have on perspective students, Lauren decided to get involved her sophomore year. As a senior, she is a member of ISEE, Quartermaster of Mine Rescue, Media Coordinator of SME and Vice President of Women in Mining.

In the freshman year, Lauren was able to get her first internship in a surface aggregates plant with Vulcan Materials Co. She gained the experience she needed to understand her surface class and liked Vulcan so much that she went back her sophomore year to the same plant. Junior year Lauren took an internship with Allan Myers in Aberdeen, Maryland to experience the Civil side of her dual major. Upon graduation Lauren will be working for Whiting-Turner as a Project Engineer

2020-2021 SME Officers

President: Shannon Seitz

Vice President: William Geldhauser

Secretary: Mackenzie Stone

Program Coordinator: Alec Elliott

Media Coordinator: Samantha Fowkes

Officer Reports

President's Report

The 2019-2020 school year posed many uncharacteristic hurdles with the COVID-19 pandemic halting events and activities in the spring semester and up until graduation. This created a large amount of uncertainty for many students in their job and internship search. Our Chapter of SME is extremely grateful to have such a loyal faculty and alumni network and, through Dr. Vlad's efforts, most people have still been able to obtain summer work, which is incredible under the current circumstances.

Despite the early end of in-person spring activities, the fall semester was arguably one of our most successful in terms of outreach. The WVU Statler College of Engineering held numerous open houses and high school visitation days over the course of the semester. Our chapter of SME consistently provided more volunteers than any other student organization within the engineering college. This allowed us to be able to open students' eyes to the mining industry and we were able to gain the interest of quite a few kids who had little to no interest in mining beforehand. The passion and enthusiasm of our chapter went above and beyond, and we were able to make prospective students feel at home.

As always, the West Virginia University Chapter of SME is an extremely tight knit group of professionals who always represent the department well at events. The last event we were able to attend was the National Conference in Phoenix, AZ, where we took 18 undergraduate students plus another 6 students to compete in the Aggregates Design Competition. This is undoubtedly the largest contingent of students from WVU student chapter to attend the National Conference.

Although unfortunate to have had to end activities earlier than expected, such as we could not completed a service project this year. Our chapter continued to thrive and excel at the local and national levels. I am very proud of our efforts over the last year that I have been president and am certain that this incoming group of leaders will do an exceptional job running the show.

- Richard E. Shipe III

Treasurer's Report

With the support of the Mining Engineering department and external donation, West Virginia University Chapter of SME was able to organize its monthly meetings and a trip to Phoenix, AZ for the conference. The chapter expenses were directed towards supporting these events. For our monthly meeting, we spent \$1,100 to provide refreshments and food to participants. This year, the chapter spent \$12,000 to sponsor 18 students to participate in the SME Annual conference and 6 to participate in the NSSGA Aggregate Design Competition. The cost included participant's flights and hotel for the duration of the conference. A breakdown of the expenses is shown in the table below.

Table: Itemized breakdown of the expenses incurred

Item	Value (\$)
Meetings	(1,108.18)
Conference Admission	(1,900.00)
Flights	(7,970.98)
Hotels	(1,338.12)
Other Travel Expenses	(807.00)
Donations	1,050.00
University Funding	12,399.00

Secretary's Report

WVU SME remains a constant growth of student members. The primary way to contact our members is through email and social media. We always have a strong presence at outreach events. The officers would keep a complete list of every event that our society had planned. Another great responsibility was to keep a complete list of events that all our members had attended. Our society only supports a select group of students to the Annual Meeting. Throughout the year, we kept track of events they attend and then decided based on the accumulated points the top students are able to attend the conference. Involvement this year was an all-time high for our organization.

Member List

Abdallah Al Mandhari	Deniz Tyncay	Jian Yang	"Nadiya Robinson"
Adawale Adeniji	Djime Keita	John Dickson	"Nathaniel Reed"
Ahmed Al Ghattami	Dmitri Agnew	John Samonsky	Nicole Abend
Alec Elliott	Donovan Key	John Vance	Noah Reed
Alexis Hartman	Dylan Bennett	Jonathan Cramer	Nyeer Burley
Alyssa Bolinger	Dylan Powers	Jonathan Slezak	Ornella Kayiranga
Amir Eskanlou	El Hacen Saleh	Jordan Smith	"Richard Campbell"
Andrew Martin	Emily Carroll	Joseph Beville	Ricky Shipe
Andrew Moore	"Emily Horowitz"	Kayla Gibson	"Rince Longo"
Ben Safer	Eric Blinkhorn	Kyle Jenness	Samantha Fowkes
"Bert Waldron"	"Eric Renzelli"	"Lauren Masterson"	Samuek Escobargil
Braden Hamm-Fleming	Erica McCauley	Lazar Zujovic	Sena Cicek
Brett Duft	Estrugo Gabriel	"Lucas Poe"	Shannon Seitz
Brian Welsh	Francisco Patino	Mackenzie Stone	Takoda Kelly
Camden Renehan	Franklin Moats	Madison Nichols	Thomas Prince
Carter Dillion	Gabi Kosakowski	Mario Bendezu	"ThomasWetzel"
Chase Mowery	Garrett Borum	Matthew Kondel	Toussaint Boulaz
Christopher Prince	Haochen Zhao	Maureen Ghee	Trenton Yerger
Colin Bourn	Hazem Al-Salmani	Maxwell Gustafson	Tyler Samonsky
Connor Baker	Ian Bird	Maxwell Schafer	Victor Valencia
Daniel Ausherman	Inwoo Kim	Megan Sibley	Wes Connell
Danqing Gao	Jacob Borgwardt	Mladen Dragic	William Burow
Dawson Apple	Jacob Godfrey	Mohommed Bamakhalef	"William Chmelik"
Debashis Das	James Pollock	Molly McFarland	William Geldhauser
Deniz Talan	Jared Broyles	"Morgan Kearney"	Zoey Carper
	Jared Morse	Mustafa Suner	
	Jeremy Diehlmann		

Outreach

Merit Badge University

Every year West Virginia University hosts Merit Badge University. This is an opportunity for Scouts from the Boy Scout of America to receive a Merit Badge in certain fields. Five WVU SME members assisted Mining Engineering adjunct professor Dr. Danrick Alexander in hosting the Mining in Society Merit Badge. During this event, WVU SME took a group of 10 scouts to visit a lime



stone quarry. The SME members gave talks and made activities discussing the requirements for the Merit Badge, including mine safety, mining careers, reclamation, minerals, mining's local presence, mining on the moon, and the dangers of abandoned mines. This event went over well with the scouts; with the popularity of the Mining in Society Badge WVU SME has been invited to local Boy Scout troops to assist the scouts with earning their Mining in Society Merit Badge.

High School Visitation Day

WVU SME assisted with Benjamin Statler College's High School Visitation Day (HSVD). During this Event SME had a booth set up in a student org fair. In addition, SME assisted the Mining Engineering Department with tours of department facilities.

The student organization fair during HSVD is a great way to help spread the word of our department. During this portion selected active WVU SME members met and talked with junior and seniors of high school from across the country to share our message as a student chapter of SME. This also was a great opportunity to give out information and facts about the status of the Mining Industry.



Eight families selected Mining Engineering as the Department they chose to visit. The Mining Department Faculty gave a presentation lead by SME Officer Jeremy Diehlmann. This presentation spoke about the Mining department's class structure, research, and extracurriculars. Active SME members spoke of their internship experience in metal mining, aggregate mining, coal mining, and sales. We also show the department lab facilities and demonstrated a Uniaxial stress test and a ventilation demonstration.

This Event is a large outreach tool for both the Statler College and Mining Engineering, with over 500 people attending we were able to meet with several interested future Mining Engineers.

Discover/Decide WVU Days

Much like High School Visitation day, Decide WVU Day gives the SME student chapter the opportunity to interface with admitted WVU students and their Parents. We inform the prospective freshman on Mining Engineering. It is important to note that our students are very excited about mining and being a part of such a world-renowned program. This past summer we had student members in Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, Alabama, South Africa and as close to home as Maryland and Morgantown itself. Another high point is student engagement. In the mining department we are just one great big family

We are proud to say that our students are highly involved in activities such as Decide WVU Day. We strongly believe that the best way to spread a positive message about mining is interacting with students.

Fall Family Weekend

During the beginning of the Fall semester Statler College hosted weekend activities for families of current engineering students. SME members were able to meet with younger siblings of current Engineering students and talk with them about the Mining Engineering department at WVU. This is a smaller event, but it can help spread the positive light on Mining.

WVU SME Monthly Meetings

Due to COVID-19 Pandemic WVU SME had to stop meeting after the month of February.

August SME Meeting

WVU SME's speaker for the first meeting of the school year was the Mining Engineering Department Chair, Dr. Vladislav Kecojevic. Dr. Kecojevic spoke of the current and future of the Department and his expectations from the SME student organization. He also discussed about the scholarships, internship interviews and student conduct at various events.



September SME Meeting

Mike Sustar former WVU SME President gave a talk on his journey after graduation. He worked all over the world from Colorado to Australia. He told student members how to tackle obstacles head on, and to accept every opportunity, even if one is unsure of the outcome.



October SME Meeting

Senior Vice President of Murray Energy and a WVU Mining Engineering Alumni, Jim Turner was our guest speaker for the October SME meeting. Jim advised students on how to survive in the real world with his presentation titled Random Words of Wisdom. He gave advice such as “if you make a mistake...own it!” and “Be brutally honest”



November SME Meeting

For the November SME Meeting our organization held a Young Alumni Panel consisting of Rachel Boothby '17 (GMS), Cory Krall '17 (Arch Coal), Greg Parker '17 (SGI), and Zach Minton '17 (Martin Marietta). The panel gave advice on how to survive college successfully. They spoke on tactics to get a job or an internship, and to be successful in any selected field of mining engineering. This meeting went extremely well, as it was not tried before and with the results, it will be continued in future SME meetings



February SME Meeting

Mr. Bob Seitz, father of SME President-Elect Shannon Seitz, joined WVU SME as the last speaker for the school year. He spoke about the political side of Mining, and keyways to help open a Mine and how to earn the public's trust. This was very entertaining talk and appreciated by both faculty and SME Students.



Company Information Sessions

Every year the department and the SME student chapter collaborate to get recruiting companies in for information sessions, so students are aware of the opportunities for internships and full-time positions. The companies included; Alliance Coal, Coronado Coal, Contura Energy, GMS, Arch Coal, , Murray Energy, Martin Marietta, , Westmorland, RESPEC and United Coal . A pictorial glimpse of the companies on campus is shown below

	
Contura Energy	CEMEX
	
Alliance Coal	GMS
	
Cornado Coal	Blackhawk Mining



Martin Marietta



Komatsu Mining

Professional Events

Poundstone Lecture

In September 2019, WVU SME student chapter attended the Poundstone Lecture, which was delivered by the WV Governor, Mr. James C. Justice II. The lecture was attended by state officials, WVU faculty, students, alumni and guests.



PCMIA

Every year the student chapter has the great opportunity to attend the annual SME/PCMIA meeting in Canonsburg, PA. The meeting is held over the course of a couple of days and students have the opportunity to attend technical sessions and presentations as well as meet and reconnect with alumni. At this year's meeting, our student chapter was honored to have our SME President Richard Shipe and his teammates placed second in the student design competition. The members of that group were all previous members of the WVU student chapter



WV Coal Symposium

Every year the West Virginia University student chapter are invited to attend the West Virginia Coal Association's annual Coal Symposium. This year 33 graduate, undergraduate, and faculty members attended the event where we were able to interact with industry professionals, and state government officials. While here our students were able to listen to the West Virginia Governor, Governor Jim Justice, and were then provided the opportunity to speak with Governor individually where he encouraged our students to continue on our path of education and excellence. The student chapter owes a huge thank you to Mr. Calvin Kidd and Quaker Houghton for sponsoring our students to attend the event.



SME Annual Meeting

Every year the West Virginia University SME student chapter attends the annual SME conference, this year held in Phoenix Arizona. West Virginia University SME was able to send 18 undergraduate students to this year's conference. While in attendance our students were able to interact with industry professionals, vendors, and other students. Six of our members attended the conference early in order to compete in the NSSGA/SME Aggregate Design Competition. Three Graduate students competed in the Move Mining Competition, where they placed second. Our students took advantage of every opportunity afforded to them, including the Komatsu student mixer, Women in Mining Breakfast, and Victaulic Networking event. Many of our members were awarded scholarships from the SME Foundation, Coal and Energy Division, Mineral Processing Division, and Mineral Exploration Division. We were very excited to bring such a large student group to represent the department in such a professional capacity. This would not have been possible without the help of our alumni, the industry, and department's support.



Move Mining Competition

WVU Graduate Students (Sena Cicek, Mustafa Can Suner and Mario Alejandro Bendezu de la Cruz) attended SME Move Mining Competition. The competition aims at changing negative perception towards mining and increasing awareness of importance of mining industry. In the first round of competition, Team “Let’s MINE Mountaineers” prepared a 3-minute video to summarize their concept and describe how they are planning to change the negative mining perception. After international virtual voting, Team “Let’s



MINE Mountaineers” is selected as one of the five finalist and invited to live event at the MineX-Change 2020 SME Annual Conference & Expo in Phoenix, Arizona, February, 23-26. In live event in Phoenix, Team “Let’s MINE Mountaineers” explained how to improve the way world views mining in front of the judges and audiences and took a second-place prize of \$3000.

Mine Rescue

Twice a year, once a semester, West Virginia University sends two teams of highly dedicated and determined students to competitions across the eastern United States with the goal to test their skills in Mine Rescue, Smoke Exploration, and apparatus benching against other highly decorated schools. The West Virginia University Mine Rescue Team was established in 2011. Our SME chapter Members that are involved with Mine Rescue find themselves working mine disaster problems that bring them hand on experience and real world application.

As part of the SME Eastern Collegiate Mine Rescue Organization (SME ECMRO) West Virginia’s Gold and Blue Teams, find themselves pitted against other coal-oriented schools from around the area. University of Kentucky, Penn State, Virginia Tech, and Southern Illinois University all compete for the traveling trophy and the title of National Collegiate Mine Rescue Champions.



In the competitions, our students compete in two events one being of mine rescue. The mine rescue portion of the competition is weighted the most in the scoring and consists of teams systematically exploring a simulated underground coal mine designed to test the team’s knowledge

of the rules, ventilation, attention to detail, problem solving and most importantly teamwork. All of these aligned in fall semester for WVU Gold team who took home 1st place in Mine Rescue resulting in the subsequent crowning of WVU as National Mine Rescue Champions.

All of our student chapter members' success couldn't be done without the hard work and dedication by our advisor Mr. Josh Brady, trainers Mr. Mark Gouzd, Mr. John Sabo, and Mr. Ed "Smurf" Rannenburg, all from the Mining and Industrial Extension of WVU, as well as the support from our department, and faculty.

WVU SME Facebook Page

Our chapter throughout the year manages a Facebook page that highlights all of the events we have throughout the year. This allows us to keep a catalog of events throughout the year; Pictures are taken throughout the event, helping to make a memorial capsule for our events. In addition, the page allows us to connect with Alumni. All pictures in this report are available on our Facebook page SME WVU Chapter which can be reached by searching @SMEWVU.

Plans for the Future

I'm Shannon Seitz, the incoming president of WVU SME for the 2020/2021 academic year. I am going into my fifth and final year of a mining engineering and geology dual degree. I have previously been President of WVU Women in Mining and Vice President of WVU Mine Rescue and have been an active member of SME for several years now. I believe that experience will help me to be a good president for WVU SME and build off the successes of previous years to make this another fantastic year for our student chapter.

This previous year was a huge success. We attended several conferences including the West Virginia Coal Mining Symposium and the annual SME conference in Phoenix, Arizona. In fact, we were able to take more students than ever before. Last year's officers made it possible for 18 students to attend the conference including flying them out and housing them while in Phoenix. We also had some fantastic speakers brought in for well attended meetings giving the students even more opportunities to network and learn more about the industry they are trying to break into. The end of the year made for a unique situation with the COVID-19 pandemic so, sadly, our in-person semester was cut short. However, I look forward to resuming in-person meetings in the fall provided all goes as planned for the university. In addition, even if, for some reason, we wind up still being online, I am confident that with next year's officers we will be able to keep involvement in SME strong at WVU.

This last year could not have been such a huge success if it were not for several people. Jeremy Diehlmann, the Program Coordinator's experience as an SME officer and officer of other student groups for several years made him incredibly valuable to WVU SME. He not only made sure that we had speakers for the monthly meetings but he was able to advise on things like sending students to the annual conference and help to get so many students to attend. He also spearheaded outreach to incoming WVU students by organizing booths and students to volunteer at High School Visitation and Decide WVU days. He has passed on his knowledge and role as Program Coordinator to Alec Elliot by mentoring when he was elected to the position for 2020/2021. We wish him the best of luck in his new career.

Another person who has been pivotal in making WVU SME a success is our Department Chair, Dr. Vladislav Kecojevic, who has given us incredible support both financially and through his knowledge of both the university and the mining industry. I look forward to working with him and our advisor Dr. Vladislav Kecojevic to make this next year a good one.

I am very excited for the incoming officers I will be working with who will each contribute valuable skills and traits to our chapter of SME. Vice President, Billy Geldhauser, is enthusiastic and creative and will bring good ideas to the group. Secretary, Mackenzie Stone, is good with communication and has previous experience as secretary of WVU Mine Rescue that will help her with this position. Program Coordinator, Alec Elliott, is a very outgoing and personable officer who has already shown great initiative in reaching out to potential speakers to make sure we have good monthly meetings. In addition, Social Media Coordinator, Sammi Fowkes, is very dedicated and involved and has already started reaching out to students and this year's graduate to create posts about their internships and new jobs to show people what our students are doing.

For next year, our goals are to bring more people into SME by continuing to increase our involvement in events WVU hosts for incoming students and by continuing to reach out to freshman. We will also work hard to make sure that as many students as possible are able to attend the SME annual conference. In addition, we will work to bring as many individuals and companies as possible in to talk to our students and show them what opportunities there are for them. On top of these, my personal goal for WVU SME is to increase our activity in the community and help spread a knowledge of mining to people who do not know what it is like or have incorrect ideas of the industry. I want to help increase a knowledge and awareness of mining and get more people interested in it.

I believe next year will be a great one as we build off the work of previous years and continue to improve our chapter. I am excited to work with the new officers and all the students in the chapter and give everyone the best experience we can.

- Shannon Seitz