

July 29, 2019

Dear Fellow Selection Committee Members,

With this letter, I would like to nominate Dr. David A. Newman for the SME *Syd S. and Felecia F. Peng Ground Control in Mining Award*. Accordingly, I have provided a short bio, short CV, and bibliography for the Committee's review. I hope that you will find and agree that Dr. Newman's (Dave's) credentials are worthy of this outstanding and prestigious award.

Dave's passion for mining and ground control began while growing in eastern Pennsylvania with stories of his grandfather, who worked in the anthracite coal and limestone mines around Reading PA. It was further influenced through his college years by such notable scholars as John Abel at CSM, Z.T. Bieniawski at PSU, and Joseph Leonard at UK, all three of which provided Dave with opportunity, challenges, and mentorship that he willingly and opportunistically accepted.

After receiving his Ph.D. from the Department of Mining Engineering and Pennsylvania State University, Dave and his wife Heidi moved to Lexington Kentucky in order to pursue a teaching career at the University of Kentucky. While at UK, Dave and Heidi quickly acclimated to Central Appalachia and its vibrant coal industry where "mines dotted every hillside".

In 1985, after only a year of teaching, Dave founded his own mining engineering consulting business, Appalachian Mining and Engineering Inc (AME). After another three years, with the increasing success of AME, Dave decided to leave his teaching position at UK to run AME full time. Five years later, he expanded AME to include Geolab, a rock testing laboratory capable of ASTM and ISRM standards testing. Today Dave is the owner and President of AME which will celebrate its 35th anniversary in 2020. Furthermore, in 2018, Dave's youngest son Chris, himself a recent Ph.D. graduate of UK's Mining Engineering Department, joined AME, not only exemplifying the success of AME, but assuring his legacy.

During the thirty or so years that I have known Dave, what strikes me most is the practicality of his research and engineering solutions, regardless of the complexity of the problem he is addressing. Through AME, Dave provides practical solutions to real world problems. Above and beyond, he has never shied away from sharing his real-world projects, methods, and solutions with the greater ground control and mining communities, exemplified in part through his many publications.

During his career, Dave has authored (mostly) or coauthored over 50 papers, on topic matters ranging from multiple seam mining and coal bumps, to mine subsidence, geological investigation, and limestone mine design. Additionally, he has been a staple at the International Conference on Ground Control in Mining (ICGCM) for the last 26 years, where he has authored or coauthored 17 papers and provided nearly as many presentations. Furthermore, in a conference which thrives off mine operator involvement and interaction, Dave's papers are typically case-study oriented and coauthored by operators, whether from the coal or stone industries. It is likely that if you are searching for case studies related to the aforementioned topical matter, you have come across and utilized papers by Dave Newman. I know that I have – many times over.

On a personal note, I have known Dave for almost three decades, and have found him to be a pleasant, and consummate professional. His commitment to the ground control community is

undeniable, as exemplified by 34+ years of AME, and his willingness to share his findings and to assist in advancing the ground control knowledge base is commendable.

In closure, I hope that you have the opportunity to review Dave's credentials in detail and consider him as a viable candidate for the *Ground Control in Mining Award*. If you require any further information or details, please advise.

With best regards,

Greg Hasenfus