

Young leaders Committee Class Of 2024

Taliat Afosi



Taliat Afosi is a graduate of Federal University of Technology Akure, specializing in mining engineering and currently the Head of Communications & Information at Council for African Youths in Minerals. Taliat excel in tools like Surpac, FLAC, and Examine 2D to optimize mine operations.

His leadership journey took a significant leap as he assumed the role of Country Director at Afrimine, followed by a pivotal two-year tenure as the Director of Communications. Leveraging his strategic mindset and networking prowess, he forged valuable partnerships with key industry stakeholders and professionals. These partnerships significantly enhanced the organization's reach and impact, solidifying its position as a driving force in the African mining landscape. This experience not only honed his organizational and leadership skills but also granted him unparalleled exposure to renowned individuals in the global mining industry. He was the secretary for SME FUTA CHAPTER for over 5 years where he facilitated access to technical and educational resources, empowering students to embark on their career journeys with confidence.

Taliat Afosi continued...

As a determined, creative, and people-oriented individual, he is committed to driving innovation, sustainability, and responsible practices within the mining sector. His passion lies in leveraging cutting edge technologies and fostering collaboration to push the boundaries of what's possible in mining. He's aspired to contribute actively to the continuous growth and development of the industry, making a lasting impact on its future.

Guillermo Alzamora Casilla



I am a young man in constant achievement of professional and personal goals. I am interested in the areas of mining planning, drilling and blasting. I have experience working in open pit and underground mining. I lead groups of young people in participation and leadership through the development of activities that enhance formal mining activity.

During my time as a student, I was a leader within my school, I managed to form the first chapter of SME students along with other classmates. I seek to promote responsible mining in society by supporting groups of volunteers from other careers, transmitting the benefits that responsible mining has for society and the environment.

I am currently working in the mining sector, within the Quellaveco Project in southern Peru with the company STRACON S.A. within the mining operation.

Roya Bakzadeh



I'm Roya Bakzadeh, a passionate mining engineering researcher pursuing a Ph.D. at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. My research centers on "Automation in the Mining Industry," specifically enhancing safety and health through innovative regulation and Search and Rescue Robots(GPA=4.00)

I hold an MSc in Tunneling and Underground Space Engineering and a BSc in Mining Engineering. I actively share my research on "Automation in Mining-Search and Rescue Robot" at prestigious events, such as the New Mexico Mine Association and SME conferences. I bring experience as a Technical Expert from Tunnel Saz Machine, where I conducted feasibility studies, managed geotechnical reports, and ensured safety and quality control. Furthermore, my involvement in the Tehran Metro Line 6 project strengthened my expertise in evaluating engineering geological parameters, geological mapping, and quality control., I excel in problem-solving, leadership, planning, communication, teamwork, and cooperation.

Stephen L. Benyo



Stephen L. Benyo is a Brazilian/American based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

Throughout his adult life, he has continuously proven to be a motivated, enthusiastic professional. These qualities are replicated from his father, as they had a family business serving the tri-state region of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia.

Having experience in multiple industries, his perspectives are unique and valuable to those he engages with.

During his personal time, he enjoys exercising, playing sports, training his German Shepard, and reading books to his daughter.

He wishes to continue to make a difference in the world, both economically and socially, and leave a better world for the generation after.

Juan Bernal



Juan Bernal is a bachelor in Mining Engineering from the National University of Cajamarca. In addition, He was the founder and former secretary of the Student Chapter SME of the National University of Cajamarca.

Moreover, he was finalist of the Move Mining 2022 competition, won the honorific mention in photo contest SME 2022 and participated as volunteer of international congress Perumin 35 in 2022.

Juan has demonstrated a great passion for the mining industry, transmitting responsible and sustainable mining through articles on LinkedIn, videos on TikTok and YouTube and getting about 30k views. He is focused on software development, process optimization, mechanics of rocks and care the environmental and the welfare of the community. In addition, he has great leadership, always being proactive, emphatic and critical thinker.

Daniel Buonanno



Daniel Buonanno is currently a Junior Mining Engineer at Hatch located in Salt Lake City, Utah. He is a recent graduate of Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in mining engineering. During his time at Penn State, he had three internships with Allyndale Limestone Corp., Lehigh Hanson, and Nevada Gold Mines. In addition, Daniel was involved in multiple professional organizations serving as the President of the SME student chapter, and Treasurer, Vice President and President of the International Society of Explosive Engineers (ISEE). Now at Hatch, Daniel works on multiple mining projects providing engineering, quality assurance, and client relations support.

Hannah Chop



Hannah Chop is a master's student at Penn State studying Energy and Mineral Engineering. She graduated with honors in Environmental Systems Engineering from Penn State in 2023. Hannah's research includes the revalorization of tailings and critical mineral resources in the Northern Appalachian region. She was recognized as one of Penn State's top undergraduate student leaders and has held leadership in Penn State's Mine Rescue Team and student SME Chapter. Through internships with Navajo Transitional Energy Company and Nevada Gold Mines, she has experience with environmental risk mitigation, permits, and reclamation bonds. She looks forward to graduating in 2024 and joining the Pennsylvania coal industry.

Luis Aaron Goicochea Sánchez



Luis Goicochea is a graduate of Mining Engineering from the Universidad Nacional de Cajamarca. In addition, he ranked second in his class. He is an active member of the Student Chapter of the Universidad Nacional de Cajamarca, he was secretary of the board of directors of the 2022 - 2023 chapter, achieving first place in the 2023 contest of the most outstanding SME student chapter.

Luis has a great passion for the mining industry, always participating in different educational and social events, with the aim of transmitting responsible and sustainable mining. He is focused in the areas of Mining Project Management and Mine Planning, always keeping in mind safety and environmental care. In addition, he has leadership, innovation and the ability to take initiative in each project.

Baxter Jones



Baxter Jones is a Mining Engineer with Luck Stone, he has worked there full time for two years and worked there for 15 months on a co-op during undergrad. Baxter attended Virginia Tech and graduated in 2022 with a BS in Mining Engineering. At Luck Stone Baxter works within the Quarry Design and Development department and his work consists of mine planning (long and short term), fill planning, permitting, surveying and mapping, and project management. Baxter is currently an EIT and working towards his PE. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, fishing, bike riding, baking, playing dominoes, playing cards, and reading.

Carolyn McCannon



Carolyn McCannon has 13 years of leadership and project management experience as a consultant with a primary focus on cement and lime producers. She leads a team of multi-disciplinary engineers and geologists to support the mining industry, including cement, crushed stone, lime and gypsum producers. Project clientele includes domestic and international private companies, publicly listed companies, and government organizations. Project types include acquisition and divestment due diligence of multiple site assets, Feasibility Studies, Prefeasibility Studies, Resource and Reserve disclosures, engineering design, long-term and 5-year mine planning, cost modelling, expert witness reports and litigation support, and permitting.

Junior Alexander Mendoza Bedregal



Junior Mendoza received his professional's degree in Mining Engineering from National University of San Agustin in 2019. As a student SME member, he participated in the Second Mine Planning Design Contest (2017) organized by SME Latin America and took the second place with his team, he participated in the mining planning contest (CONEIMIN 2018), taking first place at the national level. Also, he was the winner of multiple scholarships, for example Pacific Alliance Scholarship, OMA-Congress Scholarship, OMA Qarikuna Rumi Scholarship. He has 4 years of experience in mine planning, process modeling and automation. He worked in mining companies such as Southern Perú, REDCO Mining Consultants, Freeport-McMoRan. Currently, he is a mine planning engineer at Cerro Verde Company.

Christy Miller



Christy is a project geologist at Barr Engineer Co. where she works on multi-scale drilling programs for mining, refinery, and environmental projects. She holds a bachelor's degree in geology from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. Outside of project work Christy sits on the executive committee as secretary for the SME UT Chapter, and vice president for the Women in Mining UT Chapter. She is also passionate about education initiatives, and is working with Women in Mining UT Chapter to promote mining education to K-12 students, college students, and the general public across the state.

Amid Morshedlou



As a mining engineer and a dedicated PhD candidate at the Colorado School of Mines, my research focuses on the application of cutting-edge Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence in the mining industry. My primary mission is to enhance safety within mines through innovative technology and data-driven solutions. I am deeply committed to expanding my knowledge and embracing new challenges, and I firmly believe in the power of collaboration and teamwork to drive progress.

Beyond my academic pursuits, I am a social individual who thrives on meaningful interactions with others. Helping people and taking initiative are fundamental aspects of my life. Whether it's contributing to a team project or lending a hand to those in need, I am driven by a sense of purpose and the belief that positive change is best achieved together.

Emmy Muhoza



Emmy Muhoza is Process Engineer at Rio Tinto Kennecott. Prior to joining Rio Tinto, Emmy earned his B.Sc. in Mining Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University (2016-2020) and a M.Sc. in Mineral Processing from West Virginia University (2021-2022). Emmy worked briefly as a Metallurgist at Nyrstar ETN Mines in Knoxville, Tennessee before joining Rio Tinto. Emmy's professional and research interests are in the areas of mineral processing, novel approaches to froth flotation and recovery of REEs, sustainability, metal recycling and e-waste management.

Kody Musick



Kody Musick is a graduate of the Mining and Minerals Engineering department at Virginia Tech. He has over 5 years of experience in the mining industry, with the majority of that time being in operations. He spent 3 of those years working in underground coal as a graduate engineer, project supervisor, and supervisor of a continuous mining section. After leaving the coal industry, Kody moved west to Salt Lake City to work for Rio Tinto Kennecott. His first year there he held supervisor positions within the haulage and drill and blast departments. His current role is Engineer – Underground Technology. Kody is supporting the Kennecott underground development from a technology and automation standpoint. He thoroughly enjoys this role as the mining industry continues to evolve and automate more underground processes.

Paul Peralta Rodriguez

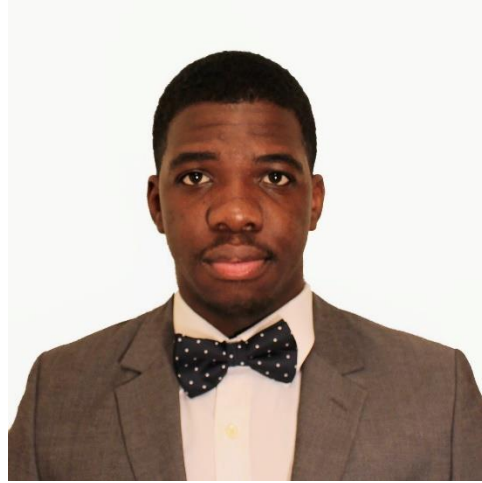


Paul Peralta is a professional graduate of the Mining Management Engineering career from the Peruvian University of Applied Sciences - UPC. He also serves as a delegate for his career, responsible for managing and participating in events.

Currently, he holds the position of president at the Student Chapter of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME) at UPC. He is a member of the Institute of Mining Engineers of Peru (IIMP) and was a finalist in the SME Peru Section's 2022 Mine Design and Planning competition. He also organized the First Mining Debate for SME Student Chapters in Peru.

Paul is passionate about the mining industry and excels in Mining Costs and Finance, as well as Mining Operations, with a strong focus on responsible and sustainable mining practices. He possesses strong leadership skills, initiative, excellent interpersonal relationships, charisma, innovation, and organization. Furthermore, he prioritizes safety, social responsibility, and ethical operations.

Jose Quiala

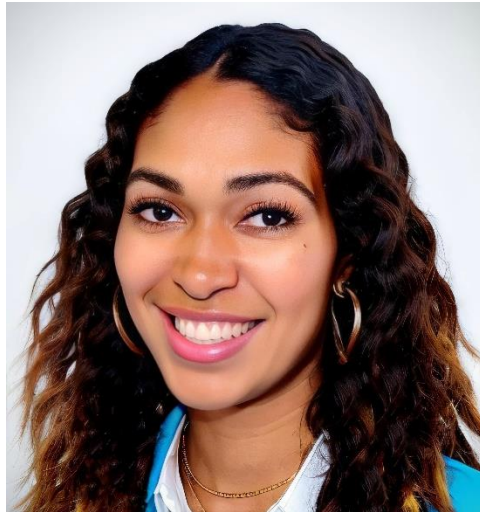


I am a dedicated individual with a passion for lifelong learning and a commitment to making a positive impact on the world. With a background in mining, I have honed my skills in ventilation, drill and blast designs, and short-range planning. I am driven by a relentless curiosity that fuels my desire to continuously grow and adapt to new challenges.

Throughout my journey, I have had the privilege of [mention any significant achievements or experiences]. These experiences have shaped me into a resilient, innovative, goal-oriented individual who thrives on pushing boundaries and seeking innovative solutions.

In both my personal and professional life, I value integrity, leadership, collaboration and strive to integrate them into everything I do. I am excited to embrace future opportunities and continue to learn, grow, and contribute to the betterment of the mining industry and our world.

Katie Slaughter



Katie Slaughter is a graduate of the University of Arizona with bachelor's degrees in both mining engineering and geosciences. Since graduating, she has joined Komatsu as an Application Engineer in Tucson, where she conducts equipment application studies and develops computer-based and mobile programs to assist in customer support. Additionally, Katie has been an active member of SM E for over four years, and now serves on the SME Tucson Executive Board as the Young Miners' Chair. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, backpacking, and painting.

Paul Stanton



Paul has over three years of experience in hard rock mining operations. These positions included Mid-Range & Short Range Mine Planning, Dispatch and Operational experience, and Financial Advisor. Paul's mine planning skills have been utilized in his current role as a consultant across the globe. His time at Rio Tinto gave him a good perspective of both the financial and physical demands to meet metal targets at an operation in the most efficient and cost-effective way. He has been selected for the American Exploration & Mining Association Mentee program for 2023, highlighting his dedication to professional growth.

Saboor Ahmad Torabi



Saboor Ahmad Torabi is a graduate student of in EME Department at Pennsylvania State University. He received his B.E degree in Mining Engineering from IIT (Indian School of Mines) where he graduated as the batch topper and "first class with distinction" student. His research interest areas are surface mining, rare earths and critical minerals, sustainable mining, and mineral exploration. He has worked in the mining and exploration sector for more than 3 years and has a strong dedication and commitment to research and professional growth and eager to contribute and make a positive impact on mining and exploration field.