

COLORADO SECTION NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 2021



## Health and Safety Minute

Recent failures and fatalities of drill rigs and cranes reported in the news are tragic reminders of the hazards of working around large equipment.

- Ensure the operator knows where you are during operations, maintain visual contact, and be aware of pinch points at all times.
- Maintain a safe distance from heavy equipment (or objects being lifted/transferred). Discuss with the operator the planned work.
- Anticipate upset conditions and stay out of the line of fire, the height of the crane or drill mast, or the swing radius of large equipment.

## Section Chair Report

Thank you to all our sponsors and players who contributed to a successful 2021 Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament held at Arrowhead Golf Course last month. It was great to see you all in person and spend the day on one of Colorado's most scenic courses. A special thanks to Alex Holtzapple for selecting the venue and coordinating this annual event. The Colorado Section awarded six scholarships to students pursuing degrees related to mining, metallurgy, and exploration from both the Colorado School of Mines and Colorado State University.

I am looking forward to our 2021-2022 Section programming and am optimistic we be fortunate to gather in-person. The Section board will continue to follow local guidance when selecting upcoming activities. The SME Midyear Meeting and MINExpo will have many of our Section members tied up for September so we will kick off fall 2021 in October, where we will host a joint meeting with the Colorado State University Student Chapter in Fort Collins.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Colorado Sections. If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to reach out. I hope to see many of you at the SME Midyear Meeting, MINExpo, and the October Colorado Section meeting.

Stay safe and healthy,  
Heather Lammers

## Upcoming SME Colorado Section Meetings

Who: SME Colorado Section and Colorado State University SME Student Chapter  
What: Networking, Dinner (speaker, TBD)  
Where: Fort Collins (on CSU campus, TBD)  
When: October 21, 2021 (time, TBD)  
Why: Support and get to know members of Colorado's newest SME Student Chapter

## 2021 Undergraduate Scholarship Recipients

**Ben Meyers** - I'm from Maryland, and I attend The Colorado School of Mines. I am currently a 5th-year senior and graduating in May. I intend on going on to complete a Master's in Underground Construction. I'm also considering a specialty in underground production optimization. This summer I worked with one of my professors to model and optimize aggregate crusher circuits.



**Rebekka Olson** is from Monument, CO, and she is a senior in the Metallurgical and Materials Engineering program at Colorado School of Mines. She interned with Rio Tinto during the 2020 summer and Nevada Gold Mines during the 2021 summer. Rebekka is also involved with the Kroll Institute for Extractive Metallurgy group at CSM assisting with various projects.

## 2021 Graduate Scholarship Recipients

**Akash Chaurasia** is a first-year Ph.D. student in Mining Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines. He is working under Dr. Gabriel Walton on the numerical modeling of underground pillar failure mechanism and ground-support interaction. He completed his Master of Science in Mining and Geological Engineering from the University of Arizona in 2020 and his bachelor's degree in Mining Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Varanasi, India, in 2018. He also worked as a Geotechnical Engineer Intern Co-op at Call & Nicholas Inc., Tucson, Arizona, for one year during his master's program. His research lies in the field of rock mechanics and geomechanics. His goal is to become a profound engineer/researcher in the field of Rock Mechanics through collaboration with other industries, networking with renowned professionals, and sharing his views and opinion through papers, conferences, and project proposals. His hobbies include hiking, playing soccer, and tennis.



## 2021 Graduate Scholarship Recipients

**Cameron Hale** - I grew up in rural southwest Idaho collecting rocks and playing with dirt, which inspired me to pursue a career in geotechnical engineering. During my undergraduate studies at Boise State University, I worked summers as a geosynthetic cover CQA inspector at a mine in eastern Idaho. I am now completing my Master's Degree at Colorado State University with a thesis on shear strength vs water content of filtered mine tailings.



**Kemi Taiwo** is a PhD student from Nigeria currently studying at Colorado State University. Her research focuses on facies determination and its relationship to Rare Earth Elements (REE) distribution in the Bakken Shales of the Williston Basin.

**Filipe Rodriquez** - I hold a B.Sc. in Geology from Universidad Nacional de Colombia at Bogotá, Colombia, and a master's degree in Economic Geology from Queen's University at Kingston, ON, Canada. I worked as an Exploration Geologist for Senior and Junior mining companies mainly in Colombia, but also in Nicaragua, Mexico, United States and Canada. In my professional experience I had the opportunity to be part of the teams that discovered the Gramalote, and La Colosa gold deposits in Colombia. In 2019, I joined the Mining Geology Research Group to work on my Ph.D. focused on the Synergies that may be generated between the communities of Small and Artisanal Gold Miners (ASGM) and the exploration and Large Scale Mining (LSM) companies in Peru and Colombia.



## 2021 Golf Tournament Sponsors

Thank you to our corporate scholarship sponsors. The SME Colorado section appreciates your support of Colorado students pursuing degrees related to mining, metallurgy, and exploration.



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**Interested in getting involved with your local SME Colorado Section?**

We are currently looking to expand our Programs Committee and need volunteers to:

- **Assist with Monthly Section programming**
  - Tour / site visit planning
  - Reaching out to potential meeting sponsors
  - Event planning for the monthly meetings



**Please consider helping us out!**

**If you are interested, email a board member or catch us at a meeting and we will be in touch!**



**We want to hear from the Colorado SME Members!**

The Colorado SME chapter wants to connect with our members. Find us on social media!

[\*\*SME Facebook\*\*](#)

MEC on Twitter

MECEducation [@MECEducation](#)

[\*\*SME LinkedIn\*\*](#)





## SME Colorado Section Membership Renewal Reminder

If you have not done so already, please take this opportunity to sign-up for or renew your SME Colorado Section membership for the 2021 - 2022 year.

### **How to join or renew:**

**Online:** Credit card payments can be made online by visiting our website and selecting the 2021 - 2022 SME Colorado Section Dues link under the Our Events heading.

**<http://community.smenet.org/colorado/events/>**

**Mail:** Check payments of \$25 payable to *SME Colorado Section* mailed to:

Phil Martin – SME Colorado Section Treasurer,  
1400 16<sup>th</sup> St Suite 200  
Denver, CO 80202-1471.

### **Why you should renew:**

The section dues that we collect are vital to our ability to continue our programs. Our Section's focus is on advocating for our profession and industry here in our region. Some of the things that your Colorado Section dues help us to provide are scholarships for college students, majoring in mining disciplines; support for the Colorado State Science & Engineering Fair; provide teaching materials and perform outreach to Colorado science teachers through their State association, sponsorship for K-12 teachers participating in the *All About Mining – A Total Concept of the Mining Industry* course, and help support the Colorado Mining Museum and the National Mining Hall of Fame. So, by supporting the SME Colorado Section, you are directly supporting and advocating for your profession.

## SME Colorado Section

**Chair: Heather Lammers**  
*hlammers@golder.com*

**Vice Chair: Melissa Chalona**  
*mchalona@enganalytics.com*

**Treasurer: Phil Martin**  
*pmartin@rcflp.com*

**Secretary: Amanda Davis**  
*amanda.davis@maptek.com*

**Golf Tournament: Alex Holtzapple**  
*alex@metsim.com*

**Publicity Director: Kelly Donahue**  
*kdonahue@brwnald.com*

**Program Chair: Open**

**Director-at-Large: Eric Poeck**  
*epoeck@hotmail.com*

**Director-at-Large: Jon Pianetti**  
*jon.pianetti@gmail.com*

**Past Chair: Richard Schwering**  
*rschwering@hardrock-consulting.com*