

COLORADO SECTION NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY 2021



## Health and Safety Minute

### Housekeeping

Poor housekeeping can create hazards at mine sites:

- Even small items out of place can become tripping hazards.
- Buildup of material on walkways, stairways, or the beltlines can fall on miners walking below catwalks or cause tripping hazards.
- Cleaning up spills and leaks prevents slips and falls.

## Colorado Section Chair Report

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the holiday season and are having a good start to 2021.

The SME Colorado Section programs committee has been busy pulling together a set of mining-inspired trivia questions for an upcoming virtual happy hour on Friday, January 15. We hope you can sign off from your work calls and begin your weekend early with us! Details are included in the January meeting announcement.

Did you know that you can help the SME Foundation every time you shop online with Amazon? Amazon donates a small percentage of your total qualified purchase amount to your charity of choice (*the Society for Mining Metallurgy and Exploration Inc.*) each time you make a purchase through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). This is a great way to show your support for several Foundation activities throughout the year including PhD Fellowship and Career Development Grant awards, University accreditation, professional engineer licensure, and the minerals education coalition.

The 2021 SME Annual Conference & Expo and 123<sup>rd</sup> National Western Mining Conference will be held virtually March 1-5. If you have not been able to attend an annual conference before, now is your chance to attend from your home or office! Reduced rate registration ends on January 15, [www.smeannualconference.com](https://www.smeannualconference.com).

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as chair of the Colorado Section. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out ([hammers@golder.com](mailto:hammers@golder.com)) if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. We are actively seeking input from our members regarding upcoming programming opportunities and welcome any feedback to help steer us along!

Stay safe and healthy,  
Heather Lammers

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## January Colorado Section Virtual Happy Hour

Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> 4-5pm via Skype Meeting ([LINK](#))

### Happy Hour – Mining Trivia

Let's shake things up in 2021 by partaking in a *classic* 2020 activity: a Skype Happy Hour!

Please join the board of the Colorado SME Section and your fellow members for drinks and a casual round of Mining Trivia.

In addition to announcements from the Board and generally wishing “farewell and good riddance” to 2020, we've prepared a set of mining-inspired trivia questions. The person with the most points at the end of the night wins a \$25 Amazon gift card as well as a truly invaluable prize: an SME Order of Merit bestowed by our fearless leader, Heather Lammers.\*

- Do you possess arcane knowledge of Colorado's many historic mines?
- Have you been on (or LED?! ) a CSM campus tour?
- Do you pride yourself on knowing the difference between a grinder and a crusher?
- Are you stuck at home anyway and miss engaging with the sparkling talent and wit of your fellow SME members?
- Do you need an excuse to log off your work calls an hour earlier on a Friday afternoon?

If you answered “yes” or even “meh” to any of these questions, we look forward to seeing you. Obviously, “BYOB” to your home office, but I prefer to think of it as DCFO (“Don't Compromise For Others”).

*\*No, the SME Order of Merit is not a thing, which is why Heather is so willing to bestow it!*

## 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 2020 - 2021 year.

### How to join or renew:

**Online:** Credit card payments can be made online by visiting our website and selecting the 2020 - 2021 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.

## Time Kid of the Year was previous MEC Winner



Front row left to right; Gitanjali Rao, Ainsley Crist, & Sarah Bian  
Back row left to right; Alan Cram, Miles Johnston



Gitanjali Rao, a 15-year-old Colorado high school student and scientist, has been named Time Magazine's first-ever "Kid of the Year."

SHARIF HAMZA FOR TIME VIA AP

In 2018, Gitanjali Rao won High Honors recognition at the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair from the Colorado Minerals Education Coalition (MEC) judges for her project Detection of Chemical Contaminants in Water Using Carbon Nanotube Sensors. The high honors award included \$250, a certificate, backpack, rock kit, and supplies. Gitanjali was named the 2020 Time magazine "Kid of the Year" for her many science projects including detecting contaminated drinking water, preventing cyberbullying, and identifying opioid addiction. The Colorado Sections of SME/MEC attend the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair annually to award outstanding student projects related to mining industry. Funding for these awards is secured through annual membership dues and through the SME Local Section Grant program. The Colorado Science and Engineering Fair is only part of our commitment to public outreach and education. We look forward to the future achievements our awardees will make in mining industry, or otherwise, and offer our sincere congratulations to Gitanjali Rao.

## Upcoming Conferences and Events



**MINEXCHANGE**  
2021 SME Annual Conference & EXPO

CMA 123rd NATIONAL WESTERN MINING CONFERENCE

March 1-5, 2021 Virtual



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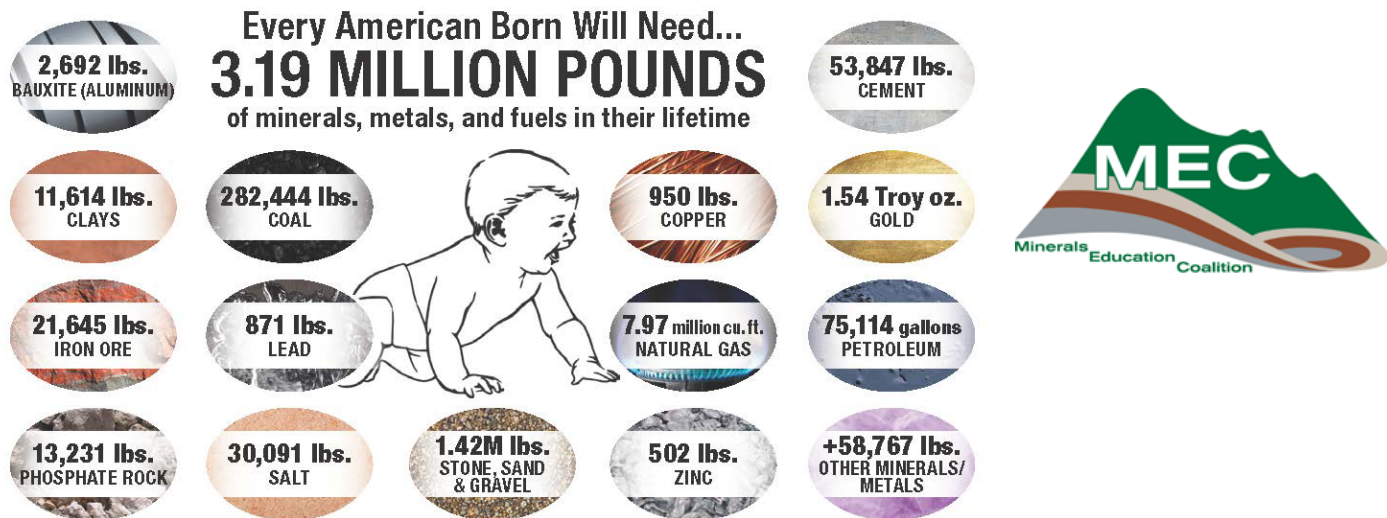
#### MEC members from the CO Section and Colorado School of Mines Student Chapter Discuss Careers in Mining with 8th Graders

Minerals Education Coalition members from the Colorado Section and the SME Student Chapter at Mines teamed up to talk with 8th-grade students from Adams County about the many opportunities for careers in the mining and minerals industry at the Adams County Career Expo on Nov. 17-18. The annual event gives all 6,000 8th Graders in Adams County a chance to investigate a wide variety of career opportunities.

While MEC members have represented the mining and minerals industry at the Expo for many years, this year was a virtual event quite different from past years. Once again, SME and MEC member Karen Jass chaired the effort, and Student Chapter MEC Co-chair Lukas Fahle compiled an excellent Prezi presentation with lots of basic information on mining for our virtual booth. Students who were interested to learn more about careers in mining had a chance to chat with a panel of CO Section MEC members and Student Chapter members. Panel members fielded many good questions from the students about opportunities in the industry, and the calm, quiet atmosphere in the chat sessions allowed for thoughtful discussions with the students.

Many thanks to Student Chapter members Chloe Poindexter, Ryan Coffin, Rahel Dean-Pelikan, Jeison Delgado-Jimenez, Lukas Fahle, Claire Kincaid, Felipe Rodriguez Novoa, and Muthu Vinayak Thyagarajan, and to CO Section members Dick Beach, Cathy Begej, Paul Chamberlin and Karen Jass, who participated in one or more of the chat sessions.

#### 2020 MEC Mineral Baby



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Learn more at [www.MineralsEducationCoalition.org](http://www.MineralsEducationCoalition.org)

## SME Colorado Section

**Chair: Heather Lammers**  
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**Vice Chair: Melissa Chalona**  
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**Treasurer: Phil Martin**  
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**Secretary: Amanda Davis**  
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