



# Society of Mining Professors Societät der Bergbaukunde

## The 2008-2009 Council

### Council Officers:

- President: **Prof. Bruce Hebblewhite, University of New South Wales, Australia**
- President-Elect: **Prof. Ingo Valgma, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia**
- Immediate Past President: **Prof. Per Nicolai Martens, RWTH Aachen, Germany**
- Secretary General: **Prof. Michael Karmis, Virginia Tech, USA**
- Deputy Secretary General and Treasurer: **Assoc. Prof. Hans de Ruiter, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands**

### Council Members:

- Member for Oceania: **Prof. Bruce Hebblewhite, University of New South Wales, Australia**
- Member for South America: **Prof. Mario Cedron Lassus, Universidad Catolica del Peru, Peru**
- Member for South Africa: **Prof. Huw Phillips, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa**
- Member for Asia: **Prof. Kenichi Uchino, Kyushu University, Japan**
- Member for North America: **Prof. Pierre Mousset-Jones, University of Nevada, Reno, USA**
- Member for Europe: **Prof. Carsten Drebenstedt, TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany**
- Co-opted Members:
  - **Prof. Günter Fettweis, Montanuniversität Leoben, Austria**
  - **Prof. Yevgeni Kuzmin, Moscow State Mining University, Russia**

**Newsletter Number 33**

**June 2008**

## **News and Progress of the SOMP by the Secretary General** *(For comments or questions please contact: mkarmis@vt.edu)*

This newsletter, identified as Number 33, serves to notify members of the conclusions of the Annual General Meeting in Aachen, Germany, May 16-20, 2008, to provide information on other initiatives pursued by the Society and to communicate SOMP news.

### **2008 Annual General Meeting**

The 19th Annual General Meeting of The Society of Mining Professors / Societät der Bergbaukunde was held in Aachen, Germany, May 16-20, 2008. The meeting was the best attended AGM of the Society with 64 participants and 16 accompanying persons, and 11 invited guests, representing 28 countries and all continents. Additional information, including the program of the meeting, activities and events and all the presentations delivered during the formal sessions, can be found on the web site at [http://www.mineprofs.org/info/annual\\_meetings/2008/](http://www.mineprofs.org/info/annual_meetings/2008/). The business session agenda and supporting information can also be found at [http://www.mineprofs.org/info/annual\\_meetings/2008/SOMP-08-Business.pdf](http://www.mineprofs.org/info/annual_meetings/2008/SOMP-08-Business.pdf)

In addition to the general meeting information, Society members can preview the official minutes of the meeting by linking to the Members only section (i.e., access site at <http://www.iidesk.nl/somp/> enter username and password and login to the Members only section; at the top of that page, click on the link “here” below the first line).

### **Report of the 2007-2008 Membership Committee**

The Membership Drive undertaken by the Society to recruit new members during the 2007-2008 year included contacts by the regional representatives, advertising via the website, SOMP exposure at major mining meetings (SME Annual Meeting 2008, IASMIN), international visits by the Secretary General and Officers of the Society and nominations by SOMP Members. The 2007/08 membership campaign resulted into the election of 11 new members listed below (the nominating SOMP member is in parentheses):

1. Dr. Marion Wilde, Directorate General for Energy and Transport, EU (Pavlovic)
2. Dr. Edin Delic, Assistant Professor, University of Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Kecojevic)
3. Prof. Damien Goetz, Director of Geosciences and Geoengineering Research Department, Ecole des Mines de Paris, France (Duchene)
4. Dr. Ronny Webber-Youngman, Head, Mining Engineering Department, University of Pretoria, South Africa (Thompson)
5. Dr. Evgen Dervaric, Ass. Professor, Faculty of Natural Science & Engineering, Univ. of Ljubljana, Slovenia (Bajzelj)
6. Prof. Abdulah Basic, Professor and Dean, Faculty of Mining, Geology and Civil Engineering, University of Tuzla (Kecojevic)
7. Prof. Vojin Cocorilo, Professor and Head, Mining Mechanization Chair, University of Belgrade, Serbia (Colonja)
8. Dr. Marinela Panayotova, Assoc. Professor and Vice Dean, Mining Technology Faculty, Sofia Mining and Geology University, Bulgaria (Wotruba)
9. Prof. Jürgen Kretschmann, Professor and President, TFH Georg Agricola, Bochum, Germany (Martens)
10. Prof. Christoph Dauber, Professor, Department Geoengineering and Mining, TFH Georg Agricola, Bochum, Germany (Martens)
11. Dr. Theodore N. Michalakopoulos, Assist. Professor, Dept. of Mining Engineering, National Technical University of Athens, Greece (Panagiotou)

Congratulations to the new members. Special recognition is also due to the many new members that were able to attend the Aachen meeting. With the addition of the colleagues above, the Society has 156 active members at the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

During the Council and the AGM Business meetings, the role of the Council and in particular of the regional representatives, in promoting the Society and recruiting new members was discussed. In addition, it is important for individual SOMM members to be active in nominating colleagues to Society membership. At the discussion it was also noted that there is a need to attract younger colleagues and encourage participation from institutions and countries currently unrepresented at SOMM.

#### **Announcement of the 2009 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The 20<sup>th</sup> AGM will be held in Sydney, Australia, June 27 to July 5, 2009. The incoming Society President, Prof. Hebblewhite, presented plans for the meeting, as shown in [http://www.mineprofs.org/info/annual\\_meetings/2008/SOMP-09-Program.pdf](http://www.mineprofs.org/info/annual_meetings/2008/SOMP-09-Program.pdf). A truly exiting program with opportunities to visit world-class mining facilities, is planned for Australia and colleagues are encouraged to participate in all scheduled activities. The SDIMI 2009 meeting will be held July 6 to 8, 2009, in Queensland, Australia, immediately following the 2009 AGM. All colleagues are encouraged to attend both meetings.

#### **Announcement of the 2010 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The 21st Annual AGM will be held in Tallinn, Estonia, under the Presidency of Prof. Valgma, between June 18 to 22, 2010. Prof. Valgma, presented plans and a schedule for the meeting, as shown in [http://www.mineprofs.org/info/annual\\_meetings/2008/SOMP-10-Program.pdf](http://www.mineprofs.org/info/annual_meetings/2008/SOMP-10-Program.pdf).

#### **Announcement of the 2011 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual AGM will be held in Arequipa, Peru, under the Presidency of Prof. Cedron, in September 2011. Prof. Cedron, presented plans for the meeting, as shown in [http://www.mineprofs.org/info/annual\\_meetings/2008/SOMP-11-Program.pdf](http://www.mineprofs.org/info/annual_meetings/2008/SOMP-11-Program.pdf). This AGM will be held in conjunction with the 2011 Peruvian Mining Convention and Expo. The latter event is one of the largest world-wide and will provide a unique opportunity for SOMM members to participate and become familiar with Latin American mining. All colleagues are encouraged to attend both meetings.

#### **2008 Emeritus Members**

Upon the recommendation of the Honorifics Committee, Prof. Lev Puchkov was honored at the Aachen AGM as the 2008 Emeritus Member, in recognition of his contribution to the mission and goals of the Society. At the Aachen AGM, the 2007 Emeritus recipients, Prof. Horst Gerhardt and Prof. Walter Knissel, were also presented with their award. Congratulations to our colleagues.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

The fiscal affairs of the Society were reviewed and discussed at the meeting in Aachen and full information on current and expected balance sheets has been included in the meeting information posted on the web site at

[http://www.mineprofs.org/info/annual\\_meetings/2008/SOMP-08-Business.pdf](http://www.mineprofs.org/info/annual_meetings/2008/SOMP-08-Business.pdf)

At the Aachen meeting, a proposal by Prof. Hebblewhite was endorsed to use some funds to sponsor young member participation at the 2009 AGM in Australia.

## **Mineral Resources Engineering Journal**

The Society would like to recognize the tireless efforts of Prof. Pasamehmetoglu to re-establish and direct the publication of the MRE journal. It is vitally important for the Society Members to support this journal by submitting quality papers for publication and to promote the journal with colleagues in their institutions. The web site for the MRE is available on-line at <http://www.mre.atilim.edu.tr/>. Submission of papers can be forwarded by e-mail to the Editor-in-Chief at [gunhan@atilim.edu.tr](mailto:gunhan@atilim.edu.tr).

Prof. Pasamehmetoglu was unable to attend, but in a note to the Secretary General identified a number of issues to be addressed regarding quality and quantity of submitted paper, delays in the review process and timely publication of the journal. Proposed recommendations to ensure the sustainability of the journal include:

- Pursue quality papers
- Streamline the paper review process
- Consider paper presented in conferences and symposia for MRE journal review and publication (similar to the SME process)
- Plan topic-specialized issues

This matter was discussed at the Council and the AGM meetings and the following actions were agreed:

- Devote an issue on Health and Safety
- Devote an issue on Automation
- Submit proceedings papers/other meeting papers for review to MRE

## **Membership Development**

At the Aachen meeting, the importance of engaging in membership development activities that can support individual members, as well as their institutions, were discussed. Opportunities included:

- Teaching collaboration
- Educational initiatives
- Research programs
- Industry partnerships
- Staff exchanges
- Student exchanges

The success of a number of meetings supported by SOMP and the exposure of our society was also discussed in Aachen. In addition to meetings connected to the 2009 and 2011 AGMs discussed earlier, Prof. Valgma, during his presentation at the Membership Committee session, provided a brief report on the status of TAIEX, including the TAIEX meeting in Baia-Mare, Romania, November 2007 and discussed the potential for future such meetings.

## **Letter to the EU Commission**

The Society members agreed at the Aachen meeting to provide formal input to the EU Directorate working on the Draft Communication on Sustainable Access to Raw Materials. The Secretary General proposed and the membership approved an ad hoc committee to draft this letter, consisting of the following colleagues: Matikainen, Martens, Palarski, de Ruiter, Cross and Rattmann. The committee completed its work and a formal letter was forwarded to the EU under the signature of Past-President Prof. Martens. A copy of this letter is attached to this newsletter for reference.

### **Website Updates**

The website is continuously updated and upgraded to reflect the needs of the membership and to ensure that all appropriate information is included. Members are encouraged to submit comments, questions or suggestions for improvements to our colleague Prof. Zach Agioutantis at [zach@mred.tuc.gr](mailto:zach@mred.tuc.gr).

Please insure that your personal information is correct as it appears on the membership list on the website. In addition to the general meeting information, members can also preview the official minutes of the AGMs by linking to the “Members Only” section. If you have any difficulties accessing your information or the “Members Only” section, please inform Prof. de Ruiter at: [J.J.deRuiter@tudelft.nl](mailto:J.J.deRuiter@tudelft.nl)

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,



Professor Michael Karmis, Secretary General

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Education:

- Additional financial support from national governments and regional authorities by giving geosciences and resource related university programmes a higher ranking and more priority than in the previous years
- EU funding for the existing and an extension of the Erasmus Mundus Master Courses (Erasmus Mundus Minerals and Environmental Programme - EMMEP) including funding for EU students, not just non-EU students
- Additional funding for exchange of teaching staff

Research (thematic areas):

- Technologies and methodologies for a more efficient utilisation of mineral resources (e.g. autonomous mining, bio-mining, communication and information technology, unconventional extraction of deposits, sustainable reserve estimation, etc.)
- Finding new resources (e.g. geological, geochemical, hydrological and environmental models of mineral deposits, prospecting and exploration technology, geo-information management systems, etc.)
- New types of resources and making them available (e.g. deep resources and mining, small scale resources and mining, mining under harsh environment, deep sea minerals and mining, etc.)

Framework:

- Encouragement for additional partnerships between university and industry funded EU research
- Creation of EU clusters and competence centres on mineral resources and their utilisation

We would very much appreciate if this could be included in the Communication.

Best regards



Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dipl.-Wirt.Ing. P. N. Martens  
Past President of the Society of Mining Professors