



## WAAIME attended the AIME 150-year Celebration

by Beth Price

Beth Price, of the Nevada-Reno section of WAAIME, attended the AIME 150-year celebration in early October. She made a brief presentation of some of WAAIME's history as well as present efforts in scholarships. Each of the four member societies of AIME — AIST, SME, SPE and TMS — was represented at the meeting.

Highlights of the weekend include the dedication of a commemorative plaque on the Lehigh University campus where the second meeting of AIME was held, a dinner at the historical Sun Inn in Bethlehem; historical presentations, a field trip to mining and mining-related sites in the Bethlehem area with a stop at commemorative plaques in Wilkes Barre, PA, where the first meeting of AIME was held, and culminating with a gala dinner at the Iococa Center on the Lehigh campus.

The presentations and pictures of the weekend are available at <https://aimehq.org/what-we-do/milestone-recognition/150th-anniversary/aime->

and-member-society-leadership-install-plaque-lehigh-university-150th-0. Congratulations to AIME on 150 years. ■



Dedication of commemorative plaque at Lehigh University campus.

## La Serena section gives notebook computers to scholarship recipients

by Pía Álvarez Bustamante, La Serena-Chile section chair

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 has been a good year for the La Serena-Chile section of WAAIME. We met our goals as two of our scholarship recipients — Exequiel Martínez and Mathias Jamett — graduated in the first semester as mining engineers from the University of La Serena. We are continuing with two other scholars.



Kimberlyn Contreras Jofré receiving her notebook from Pía Álvarez Bustamante, chair of the La Serena section.

Last December, the section gave each of them a notebook computer as a gift, bearing in mind the pandemic scenario and the need to be even more connected online. The notebooks were gratefully and happily received by Martínez, Jamett, Cesar Varas, a geology student at the University of La Serena, and Kimberlyn Contreras Jofré, a geology student at Pedro de Valdivia University.

We have also decided to support a future graduate student related to mining engineering with a WAAIME scholarship. Javier Henríquez will be pursuing his master's degree at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. He was to start his studies in September, but his departure was postponed because of the closure of Australia's borders due to the pandemic.

With a decrease in COVID-19 and increase in allowed capacity, we restarted our monthly face-to-face meetings last December at the home of our chair Pía Álvarez Bustamante but then had to return to virtual meetings. Since August, however, we have been meeting again in person at the homes of our members, enjoying great attendance and many pleasant reunions. ■

## Peru section holds first Talk meeting; launches new and improved website

by Veronica Valderrama Garibaldi, Peru-Lima section chair

In 2021, the Peru section of WAAIME held its 1st Talk meeting on “Stories that inspire: WAAIME scholars, three generations” to share the stories of four former scholars from different generations, with the aim of publicizing our work and attracting more sponsoring companies to join our mission. The event had the support of our strategic partner Proactivo.

In addition, the board of the SME Student Chapter of the National Engineering University (SME-UNI) invited our chair, Veronica Valderrama Garibaldi, to hold a workshop with the aim of promoting the job profiles of the students who attended.

### Scholarship activities

During the year, we have been conducting remote group workshops and individual coaching sessions with our scholarship recipients, focused on leadership, emotional intelligence, and the development of soft skills.

The coaching program consists of:

- Individual sessions, held once a month, with topics developed and adapted to the needs of each scholarship recipient. Coaching conversations are

open for the learning required in each case.

- Group workshops, held three times a year, where, depending on the workshop topic, scholars can interact and develop teamwork, group dynamics, plenary conversations and commented practices.

Among the group coaching workshops carried out were a workshop on Redesigning Ourselves: Employability and Pandemic, held in June, and a workshop on Your Energy in the New Times, held in September.

On Oct. 10, we welcomed 15 new scholars for the 2021-II period. At the meeting, chaired by Susana Palomino, vice president and director of WAAIME Scholarships, the scholarship recipients had the opportunity to meet and interact with one another. They also received information on the coaching program and how to make the most of their scholarships.

The next day, we held a meeting to formalize the renewal of scholarships for students who have, with effort and dedication, kept their WAAIME scholarships in force. We are proud to have them as part of our family.

### Virtual scholarship award ceremonies

On March 23, we held our WAAIME 2021-I virtual scholarship award ceremony, where 10 scholarships were awarded to outstanding young students with fewer resources from different universities throughout Peru. This was followed on Oct. 19 by our WAAIME 2021-II virtual scholarship award ceremony, where we awarded a further 15 scholarships to outstanding students from various universities across the country who are on career paths related to mining and energy.

### Chair decorated by Peru government

Garibaldi, our chair, received the Decoration of the Labor Order, in the degree of “Official,” from the Ministry of Labor and Employment Promotion, as part of



At the Peru section's first Talk meeting on “Stories that inspire: WAAIME scholars, three generations,” four former scholars from different generations shared their stories.



The Peru government acknowledged the contributions of Veronica Valderrama Garibaldi, chair of the Peru section of WAAIME, with its Decoration of the Labor Order.



the commemoration of the Bicentennial of the Independence of Peru.

This decoration is conferred upon people who have meritoriously contributed to education, the promotion of employment, diversity, inclusion and social security in the country, from their different positions in society.

### Enhanced digital presence

Continuing our goal of attracting more sponsoring companies to join our mission, we launched the new WAAIME Peru website.

The new website has a more modern, simple and efficient interface, providing an agreeable browsing experience for those interested in knowing more about our institution.

The website features content such as who we are, the role of our partners, our sponsors, what one needs to be a WAAIME scholarship recipient, and news topics. It is designed in a responsive model, which helps make it easily visible on both computers and cellphones. It is accessed at <https://www.waaimeperu.com>.

### Premier of new institutional video

In order to have a more visual tool to disseminate our work and to thank the contributions of all those who make



In addition to a new, enhanced website, the Peru section developed a video as a visual tool to disseminate information and thank supporters.

our mission possible, we produced a new institutional video with much love, dedication and the participation of all of our members. Through this video, we aim to reinforce our commitment to continue forging the new leaders that our country needs and thus contribute to a fairer and more equitable mining and energy sector for all. The link to the video is <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6856669601489543168>. ■

## Mexico City section congratulated Lomelin on receiving Founders Award

by Irene Sandra de Figueroa, MxCity-Mexico section recording secretary

Sponsored by Mary Paz Alexandri, the Mexico City section of the WAAIME held Zoom monthly meetings from January to June and resumed them in September, missing the times when we could have lunch together. During the most recent meetings we considered new scholarship applicants, as some of our current students were due to graduate soon. Most of our students are still having online classes, but one of them is already working, as part of his thesis research. Even though our in-person meetings had been discontinued due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most of our associates paid their regular dues.

Barbara Martínez, Lucy de Morales and Mary Paz Alexandri organized a Zoom meeting to congratulate Eugenia Lomelin on receiving the Founders Award. The meeting saw 50 attendees from South America, United States, Torreón and Mexico City.

In June, Martínez held a breakfast for Torreón treasurer Mayela de la Garza, attended by our section president Minerva Rubio and secretary Sandra de Figueroa. The discussion centered on legal and tax changes that in some way hinder our scholarship program. At that event, de la Garza bought from the section a beautiful picture that

Nina de Rodríguez Bucheli, who was named an honorary member in September, had painted and donated for fundraising.

In October, we attended a lunch hosted by Magdalena de Alvidrez. Four Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México students' scholarship applications were accepted, adding to those from Instituto Nacional Politécnico. We also agreed on a small increase to our monthly dues. ■



October lunch meeting hosted by Magdalena de Alvidrez.



# Excerpts from the minutes of the 2021 Midyear Meeting

by Winnell Burt and Michelle Kroeger

The WAAIME Division midyear meeting was held Sept. 11, 2021 from 8:00 to 11:30 am Pacific daylight time as a Zoom meeting.

Division members present were Winnell Burt, Chair; Katherine Pinochet, Vice Chair; Lydia Hull, Scholarship Chair; Jean Davin, Financial Adjunct; Karen Jaas, Membership Adjunct; Tere Arias; Blanche Blattner; De Carenen; Conception Cortes; Susan Harwood; Klothn Hecht; Patricia Kosa; Barbara Murguia; Olga Navarro; Susana Palomino; Beth Price; Irene Sandra; Usuario Rosita; Gillian Worsey, and Michelle Kroeger, SME Director of Finance and Administration. Guests were Thomas Austin and Ryan Smith of UBS.

Burt opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. She asked for any updates to the minutes from Feb. 25, 2021. None were stated, and the minutes were approved.

## UBS investment presentation

Austin and Smith presented the market and economic outlook, with the following highlights:

- Great rates of return are expected for next quarter.
- Expect U.S. inflation to remain elevated at 3 percent, possibly toning down by year-end to 2 percent.
- U.S. stocks continue to trade near record highs, propelled by a strong corporate earnings season and outlook, continuing COVID-19 inoculations, and signs of further fiscal stimulus on the horizon.
- Stocks continue to climb the wall of worry supporting balanced portfolio returns this year.
- Risk assets had a mixed month.
- Stocks do not look expensive versus bonds.
- Recent value outperformance has more room to run.
- Policy response and vaccine progress have been impressive.
- Travel and leisure are showing signs of improvement, but the labor market likely has a longer road to recovery.

As of Sept. 7, 2021 the WAAIME portfolio is made up of 3 percent cash, 28 percent fixed income, 66 percent equities and 3 percent in Atlas, a hedge fund. Total expected cash flow over the next year is \$192,346. The year-to-date rate of return is 10.28 with a seven-year rate of return of 7.59.

## Financial presentation

Kroeger presented an overview of the financials:

### Programs

- Revenue: YTD as of 7/31/21 \$1,797,053; FY2021 Forecast \$1,830,218; FY2022 Budget \$860,094

- Expenses: YTD as of 7/31/21 \$81,067; FY2021 Forecast \$436,060; FY2022 Budget \$494,000
- Net Income: YTD as of 7/31/21 \$1,715,985; FY2021 Forecast \$1,399,151; FY2022 Budget \$366,094

### Administration

- Expenses: YTD as of 7/31/21 \$20,046; FY2021; Forecast \$23,578; FY2022 Budget \$126,009

The rate of return for the investment portfolio was 20.5 percent as of July 31, 2021. Withdrawals totaling \$524,543 were used to fund scholarships and pay administrative costs.

## Update on scholarships

Hull gave an update on scholarships given out during the year. A motion was passed to fund six students at \$10,000 each for a total of \$60,000 for the Ph.D. program in fiscal 2022.

## Founders Award

Not discussed because winner had not been notified yet.

## Proposals

**Proposal for monthly Zoom meetings.** Monthly zoom meetings with the membership that will alternate between morning and evening were discussed.

### Proposal for changes to the relationship with SME.

The Executive Committee decided to meet with Lee Terry, the SME lawyer, to discuss these issues. Subsequently, a meeting was held with the Executive Committee, Jaas and Terry on Sept. 28, 2021.

**Second Century Fund Proposal.** Raising money, including the possibility of hiring a fundraiser to provide ideas, was discussed. Points raised were a need to revitalize the sections and their raising funds, perhaps like the Miners Give Back program, and asking previous recipients of scholarship funds to donate.

## Other items

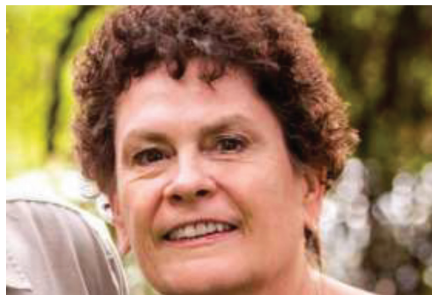
- Discussion on finishing the directory: One more hard copy before it is moved to digital. Blattner will try to identify someone willing to head the project.
- Discussion on new recommendation from the audit committee on financial oversight of sections and how it might impact the WAAIME sections.
- Discussion on sending \$30,000 to Peru by wire transfers: It was approved to send \$15,000 to two different bank accounts. Blattner will provide bank information to Joe Mow, SME Controller. ■

## Leadership handover; Next WAAIME meeting will be in Salt Lake City

The next regular WAAIME meeting will be held in Salt Lake City, UT during the MINEXCHANGE 2022 SME Annual Conference & Expo to be held Feb. 27 to March 2, 2022. During that meeting we will hold our annual reception honoring all students, especially our scholarship winners. Door prizes will be awarded. We also plan to continue our “selfie tag” game at the convention center with cash prizes. In February, Winnell Burt will step down as chair, and Katherine Pinochet will take that position.

### Winnell Burt

Born in Chicago, IL, Burt moved to Arizona at the age of six and grew up on a cattle ranch. She graduated from San Manuel High School in 1971 and the University of Arizona in 1973. In 1976, she married Christopher Burt, who worked for Magma Copper Company in Superior, AZ while she taught in the elementary school. After her husband transferred to Magma Copper in San Manuel in 1982, Burt joined the WAAIME AZ/T-SM section. She then joined the WAAIME UT-N section in 2001 when



**Winnell Burt**

her husband's job took them to Utah, and she served several years as secretary and chair. She also became involved at the national level in 2003 and served in numerous capacities until 2008, when WAAIME

became a division of SME. Burt rejoined the AZ-T/SM section in 2007 when she and her husband retired in Tucson. She serves her local section as their treasurer, chair, and national and local scholarship chair and is the group's national representative. Burt served on the WAAIME Executive Committee in 2009 and as chair in 2010, and is again currently serving as chair for the 2021-2022 term.

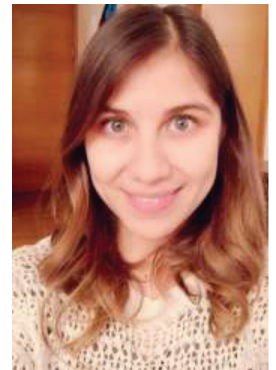
Burt and her husband have been married for 45 years and enjoy sailing, traveling the world and spending time with their two children, their children's spouses, and their four grandchildren, who all live close by.

### Katherine Pinochet

Pinochet is a 34-year-old former WAAIME scholarship recipient who holds a B.Sc. and a professional degree in geology from the Universidad de Chile. During 2022 she will complete a postgraduate specialization in groundwater

hydrology. Currently, she works as project coordinator of the hydrogeology department at SQM, a Chilean company consolidated as one of the largest producers of lithium and lithium derivatives. After graduating in 2013, Pinochet became involved with WAAIME in her local Santiago-Chile section. In 2018, she traveled to the United States for the first time to the WAAIME Midyear Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, where she met Blanche Blattner, Lydia Hull, Burt, Jean Davin and many other WAAIME women who motivated her to become even more involved with WAAIME activities.

Since 2020, Pinochet has been serving on the WAAIME Executive Committee as the international representative. Her greatest motivation is to contribute so that other students continue to receive the help that she had. Pinochet has seen how WAAIME is not just about scholarships but also about teaching, mentoring and sharing work/life experiences and knowledge. In her 2022-2023 term as chair, Pinochet hopes to inspire new generations to join WAAIME, making them see that there is something here for them, in this tremendous cause that has been sustained for more than 100 years thanks to the willingness, effort and selfless service of the women of each section in the United States, Mexico, Peru and Chile. ■



**Katherine Pinochet**



**WAAIME outgoing chair Burt and incoming chair Pinochet.**



## Torreon section gives medal to Conchis Cortez de Vazquez

by Olga Navarro, Torreon-Mexico section chair

This year the Torreon-Mexico section started Zoom meetings with strong participation by our members. Along with the change in our Board of Directors, we gave a medal in recognition to Conchis Cortez de Vazquez for her valuable work done at this time. We held our first face-to-face meeting in October, with solid participation (13 ladies, as seen in the photograph), and we have already held our second meeting this November.

In March we participated in the MINEXCHANGE 2021 SME Annual Conference & Expo, where Guerita Lomelin was awarded for her great career in WAAIME. That same month, we were present at the surprise tribute organized by the MX-Mexico section, which was very emotional. Olga Navarro, president of the Torreon section, recognized Lomelin's great work, ending with these words: "Guerita, your life has not been sterile, you continue to preserve that faith, joy and optimism that have always characterized you."

So far, we have 10 scholarship recipients. In addition to granting their financial support, our scholarship training program manager, Conchis Cortez, has included them in a program developed by the Peñoles company with a series of important conferences starting on Nov. 8, including two excellent presentations: (1) Analysis of Grinding Circuits (speaker Eng. Luis Magallanes) and (2) Rock Mechanics (exhibitor Ing. Jose Luis Flores). The next training had been scheduled for Nov. 22. These conferences were held using Zoom, and our objective is to give our scholarship recipients extra preparation and to go beyond just financial support.

Every year, our section promotes the Annual Mineral

Essay Contest for high school students, where they are invited to prepare an essay in which they explore the physical and chemical characteristics of an element or mineral that they choose each year according to technological trends. For 2021, the chosen element was chlorine (Cl). Fifty-four works were received this year, of which nine were chosen in the first selection round and, in the end, three of them were the winners. This is a highly interesting way to bring students closer to mining.

This has been a year with many fruits, and with a lot of participation from all our partners despite the COVID-19 pandemic. ■



13 ladies attended the first face-to-face meeting this year.

## Call for nominations for the WAAIME Executive Committee

The WAAIME Executive Committee is seeking nominations for the next incoming Executive Committee member.

Nominees are selected from the outgoing committee member's area. Because the outgoing committee member is the western representative, the incoming committee

member will be from a western section.

If there is no one able to serve from that section, the Executive Committee will select from other recommendations received. Email an electronic copy of a photograph and a brief biography to Michelle Kroeger at [kroeger@smenet.org](mailto:kroeger@smenet.org). ■