Midyear report on WAAIME activities

by Lydia Hull, Chair, Executive Committee

Dear WAAIME members,

I hope this finds our members well and healthy. I understand several members and their family members across our membership have contracted the Covid-19 virus. I’m happy to say the ones who have notified me are well on their way to a complete recovery.

This past July, WAAIME chair Jean Davin, found it necessary to tender her resignation from the Executive Committee. This was due to the illness of her husband and the need for many tests and procedures. He is now doing well. Because of Jean’s resignation, the Executive Committee nominated and selected Lydia Hull (me) as chair to serve Jean’s remaining term.

2020 Scholarships

WAAIME scholarships were sent out in August after verification with the universities due to the Covid/CDC restrictions. Scholarships totaling $215,000 were received by 213 students at 22 schools. Additionally, scholarship funds were wired to the WAAIME International Sections for their students in the amount of $50,000. WAAIME also approved $60,000 for its Lou Henry Hoover Fellowship recipient, Alexander Douglas, who is in the third year of his Ph.D. program at the Missouri University of Science & Technology (pursuant to the SME Foundation guidelines.) Our total outreach in 2020-2021 to students was $325,000 — well spent for the future.

Membership Directory

WAAIME is attempting to update the Membership Directory with current names, addresses, phone numbers, and a valid email address for each member. If you do not have an email address, perhaps a friend or family member could provide their address to relay information to you. It appears we all must move forward in this internet savvy world. This is the fastest and easiest method to keep in touch with our membership. If there have been any changes in any area of your information, please send an update to Tanya Kriss, our SME/WAAIME liaison, at kriss@smenet.org. We would like to have a completely updated directory for 2021. International section updates are being completed by their members. We will attempt to touch base with every U.S. member without recently confirmed information for updates.

Finances

Our portfolio, overseen and invested with UBS, seems to be holding at $9.45 million. Our investments are in various stocks, bonds, and a new hedge fund recommended by UBS. Our financial “guru,” Jean Davin, and the Executive Committee receive monthly updates in regard to our investments and any recommendations. Jean stated, “The volatility of this year’s market has been daunting, but the Executive Committee stayed conservative and within budget for its expenditures.” Thank you Jean for your diligence in this matter.

Midyear meeting

We had our first, and unprecedented, virtual meeting

(Continued on page ?)

Eugenia Lomelin will receive the WAAIME Founders award

Eugenia Lomelin was born in Mexico City, graduated as paralegal secretary in 1952 and worked for the U.S. Embassy in Mexico (1956-1965). Her husband joined Peñoles in 1971 and, in the same year, she joined the Peñoles Ladies Committee that works for the families of mining communities where the company operates.

In 1971, Eugenia joined WAAIME and served as president of the Mexico City Section in 1982-1983 and 1986-1987. She was the founder of the Torreon Section. She also served as president of the Women’s Committee of the Mexican Institute of Chemical Engineers (IMIQ) in 1972, and she is a member of the Mexican Association of Mining Engineers, Metallurgists and Geologists of Mexico (AIMMGM).

Eugenia has participated in several WAAIME meetings in the United States and Peru, and she took Communities Development training courses in Spain. She is an active fundraiser in support earth-science students and promotes English courses to students interested in pursuing graduate studies in the United States. During the last 40 years, she has served as the International Representative of the Mexico City and Torreon Sections to WAAIME and she participates with the SME Committee.

Eugenia says, “Education is the most important element to develop Mexico, so I will continue helping students until the end of my days.”

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The 2020 scholarship recipients from the Santiago de Chile section have been able to function well during the time of the pandemic, despite all the difficulties that have arisen. Here are a few words from them about their understanding of WAAIME and whether, in the future, they would be willing to contribute to WAAIME to benefit other students.

Nicolas Antonio Rojas Saez is a civil-mining engineering student at the University of Chile and president of the Mining Student Center at the school. “I only knew about WAAIME that it was a nonprofit organization and that it helped students who study about the earth. It is the minimum that one must do to restore part of the aid so that new young people are benefited.”

Juan Domingo Vallejos Toro is a civil-mining engineering student at the University of Santiago, Chile. “WAAIME is a group of women who help finance the final part of the career of students associated with mining. Yes, of course, (I would contribute) because it is a nice opportunity for many people.”

Patricio Enrique Nuñez Vasquez is a civil-mining engineering student at the University of Santiago, Chile. “WAAIME is an association of women related to earth sciences area. Yes, I would be willing to support whatever is necessary, since this action is very important, so that students like us who apply can achieve their goals.”

Priscilla Liz Leiva Urqueta is a civil engineer in mines student at the University of Santiago, Chile. “WAAIME is an association of women linked to the mining world with a delegation in Chile. It awards scholarships to students pursuing careers related to the mining world. Yes, I would love to continue helping this scholarship reach more students.”

Matias Ignacio Cubillos Lara is a civil engineer in mines student at the University of Santiago, Chile. “WAAIME is an association of women who financially help students in the mining and earth sciences area. Yes, (I would contribute, because) it would be a way to return the aid so that another student receives it.”

Felipe Ignacio Acevedo Navarro is a civil engineer in mines student at the University of Santiago, Chile. “WAAIME is an association of women related to mining engineering with a subsidiary in Chile. Yes, I would be delighted to be able to help later as this creates ties and networks that later in the industry, and in life, are very valuable.”

To ensure that you receive all WAAIME member information in a timely manner, SME needs to have your current and unique email. Please send any email or directory updates to Tanya Kriss at kriss@smenet.org.

Important Due Dates — Every Year

Jan 15 RSVP and register for the Annual Meeting
Apr 1 Section Officer and Member Address Updates
Jul 1 Nominations for the WAAIME Founders Award
Sep 1 RSVP and register for the Midyear Meeting
Nov 1 Section Financials
Nov 30 Nominations for the WAAIME Executive Committee

For more information about any of these items, please contact www.waaim.org or kriss@smenet.org.
Section News - Torreon

Torreon section presents essay contest winners and scholars
by Concepción Cortés, Torreon section Chair

This year the winners of the Annual Mineral Essay Contest were awarded in Torreon. The call for contest entries is made in several high schools in Torreon. This contest consists of writing about a particular mineral, indicating its location, its uses, and its impact on daily life, etc. This year, the essay was about strontium. The photos below right show the two winners.

First place went to Jimena Ríos, and second place went to Marcelo Cadena. Accompanying the students in the photos is the principal of Carlos Pereyra High School, Beatriz Orozco, and the ladies representing WAAIME Section Torrón, Patricia Cárdenas and chair Concepción Cortés. Because these students are taking their classes virtually, the awards were held in their respective homes, with the corresponding sanitation measures, and in outdoor spaces.

Scholarship students’ testimonials

The Torreon section has also been in contact with its scholarship students. All of them are studying at home, and some of them have been having internet connection problems. They have told us that it has been difficult for them to take the exams online, due to the little privacy they have at home. But all have solved their difficulties and are moving forward. They are creative young students.

One student said he was happy despite the pandemic and the challenges it brought, because he was able to continue studying. He will not miss the school year and will be able to graduate on time.

We have two other students who finished their studies and internships in the month of June, but have not yet completed their graduation protocol, as their university is closed. Here are their testimonials.

Juan Manuel Lara Félix: I would like to express my sincere thanks to WAAIME. Because of its support I have been able to finish my professional studies at the Technological Institute of La Laguna in chemical engineering with a specialty in extractive metallurgy. Due to the pandemic, we do not yet have graduation photos. Thanks to you, I was able to do it. Thanks for the support to be able to pay the expenses that a professional career entails, and thanks for the security that WAAIME gives to each of us. People like you make a better future possible, a better life for scholarship recipients.

Marlene Luna García: I just finished my studies in chemical engineering with a specialty in extractive metallurgy. Fortunately, a year-and-a-half ago, I was chosen to receive one of the scholarships that WAAIME provides. These words are to thank you for the support you have given me, and not only for the financial aid, but also for the fact that I have benefited from an association that aims to provide a better future for students. Thank you very much for taking me into account, accepting my application and for the trust that you have placed in me. This support allowed me to have fewer difficulties in my university life. In general, my academic experience was good and positive, and you were part of it. You helped me achieve one of my goals.
The Peru Section of WAAIME took advantage of virtual platforms to remain connected and engaged. Several virtual coaching workshops and discussion groups were held for the scholars. We were able to reinforce their strengths and self-confidence to inspire leadership, teamwork and managing emotional skills.

**Coaching workshops**

- Emotions and breathing in times of Covid-19.
- Best practices for LinkedIn résumé writing.
- Discussion groups.
- The communication.
- High performance habits.
- How to prepare and get organized during the Covid-19 crisis.
- Current panorama and how to “surf it.”

**WAAIME Perú scholarships 2020**

In August, the section delivered scholarships to 17 students. It was a virtual ceremony in which the students and some of the members of the WAAIME board participated. (see photo above right.)

**EY Events 2020**

The Peru Section held virtual events with the participation of leading chief executive officers (CEO) of companies in the minerals industry and many executive women from the mining, petroleum, gas and energy sector.

Roundtables were held with the support of EY (Ernst & Young) and Magazine G CEO Roundtable: “Leading through The Covid-19 crisis.”

Webinars were also held with the support of EY and Magazine Proactivo.

1era Sesión Virtual: “Aprendizajes y prácticas para el trabajo durante la pandemia en el sector minero energético,” May 2020

The crisis of this pandemic has not allowed us to hold our monthly meetings and has interrupted a 46-year tradition. It hurts us to communicate only through WhatsApp and phone calls, but we have managed to stay up-to-date, lively and, most importantly, healthy.

Those who no longer work have started new tasks and learning about different topics and have read a lot. Those of us who work had to adapt to teleworking. Instead of giving us more time, this has had the opposite effect. Many meetings and the face-to-face work that we used to do take much more time now, because the interaction between the collaborators is slow and it is difficult to review the documents together.

**Family Baskets charity**

We have had the opportunity to support the families of our city who are suffering from lack of work, especially in the tourism and commerce sector. We provide goods for sustenance called “family baskets” and have also assisted with the purchase and fitting out of water ponds for the most isolated sectors. The water element became more essential due to the frequent hand hygiene necessary to avoid contagion.

The health crisis in our country has been well-managed and contagions are controlled. However, the economy had been in trouble since October 2019 due to acts of uncontrolled violent men who sought to destabilize the government. Despite this, the government has been able to respond to the new emergencies caused by the pandemic. Essential and productive activities were maintained, especially mining, which is the main activity in Chile. The mining industry demonstrated great responsibility in safeguarding the health of its workers and in maintaining their productivity.

**Stories of our scholarship recipients**

In these months in which we have been affected by the Covid-19 virus, with extreme sanitary measures and forced quarantines, people have suffered from great uncertainty and confusion. It makes us see how fragile we are as human beings and has caused much worry about academic development and professional futures.

Families have been strongly affected by quarantines and joblessness. Many stores and small industries were forced to close and work gradually decreased. This situation generated much stress and anguish, because in some of our families the father lost his job, the mainstay of the family’s livelihood.

The academic field also suffered an impact, since teachers and students had to adapt to noncontact classes. This has created complicated situations and radically changed teaching methods. To this is added the problems of internet connection and lack of computers, since everyone in the family nucleus, students and workers alike, depend on them. In the photograph below, César Varas Aguilera, a geology student at the Catholic University of the North, is studying at home.

Among scholarship recipients, there is a consensus that online classes do not allow the achievement of academic objectives, and theoretical learning is much lower. But the most important thing is that the students have not been able to participate in laboratory studies and field trips, which leaves a gap in the study plans.

There is a general opinion that without face-to-face classes students lose motivation, since there is no interaction between teacher-student. In addition, staring at a screen and not seeing people face-to-face, students lose the feeling of communicating with their peers.

**Looking forward**

The forced isolation has had a positive side, since it has allowed us to meditate and make a personal analysis of our situation and improve our understanding of the problems of others. The teachings and changes in life that this event leaves are significant and will help us improve day-by-day as people.
WAAIME Scholars

Recipients of WAAIME national scholarships

California State Polytechnic University
Garrett Stewart

Colorado Mesa University
Sherri Buxton

Colorado School of Mines-CSM
Anuradha Khetwal
Cansu Perdeli Demirkan
Carolina Navia Vasquez
Chloe Poindexter
Claire Kincaid
Hamilton Pinheiro
Kyle Karably
Linda Mishell Jaramillo Urrego
Muthu Vinayak Thyagarajan
Natalia Soares Rodrigues
Stela Cayatte

Michigan Technological University
Brianna Elbe

Missouri University of Science & Technology
Adam Rice
Atta Ur Rehman
Jianqiao Leng
Maurice Sunkpal
Meghan Lenox
Meghan (Elliot) Sutalski
Nana Kobina Amoako Amoah
Prosper Ayawah
Royans Sible
Caelen Johnson
Deja-Shea Williams

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
Arezou Rasti
Elham Rahimi
Gbenga Oshokoya
Hamid Ranjkesh Adarananabadi
Hector Garcia
Keith Diegel
Maria Pineda
Mubarek Alpkiray
Younes Shekarian

The Pennsylvania State University
Behzad Vaziri Hassa
Brendon McClearn
Cove Klaas-Bentley
Dave Blackstock
Eric Kemper
Hayley Halula
Jack Core
Kyle Mossop
Mark Hovingh
Michael Campion
Morike Sisoko
Sarah Marsh
Sidharth Agrawal
Tristen Bressler

Saint Francis University
Guofang Zheng
Ian Gabig
Jake Wyland
Jay Hardy
Teresa Reid

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology-SDSM&T
Akash Adhikari
Benjamin Custer
Bryce King
Elisa Staat
Garret Hohn
Henri Blanctet
Jamison Smith
Judith Buaba
Karen Schottler
Kassidy Kitzmiller
Kate Schumann
Kathrynheaton
Kole Vollmer
Madylin Fesenmaier
Mariah Soebebing-Volk
Melinda Raynaas
Patrick Tody
Safiatu Barrie
Tanner O’Hara
Yifei Wang
Christopher Mathews

University of Arizona
Fatemeh Molaee
Hossein Siavoshi
Juanita Parkerson
Molly Radowany
Nicholas Overleas

University of Kentucky
Ahmad Nawab
Anastasia Xenaki
Audry Henson
Caroline Gerwig
Clay Wohlwender
Cristian David Cardenas Triana
Jesus Castillo
Juan Diaz Martinez
Katllyn Mullins
Kayla Thurman
Kyle Ressler
Matthew Cross
Neeraj Gupta
Peijia Lin
Samuel Hoover
Stephanie Pena
Tait Doeringer
Tushar Gupta
Vasileios Androulakis

University of Minnesota-Duluth
Elayna Meyer
Hope Enright

University of Nevada
Christopher Hood
Gillian Mandel
Hector Solorio
Iuri Alfenas Ramos
Joe Maldonado
Meirzhan Salimov
Norma Perez
Rosemary Robison

University of North Dakota
Chioma Onwumelu
Ogochukwu Ozotta

(Continued on page 8)
Photos of WAAIME national scholarship recipients

Pictured below are just a FEW of the students who received WAAIME scholarships this year. Photo captions list the students left to right. Congratulations to them all.

St. Francis University - Guofang Zheng, Jake Wyland, Teresa Raid and Jay Hardy.

Michigan Tech - Brianna Elbe

University of Arizona - Nick Overleas, Dr. Moe Momayez, Juanita Parkerson.

University of Kentucky - Caroline Gerwig, Matt Cross and Tushar Gupta.

University of Minnesota-Duluth - Elayna Meyer, Hope Enright.

WVU - Djime Keita.

WVU - Sena Cicek.

CSM - Claire Kincaid
in September, arranged by SME. It went amazingly well, with 23 members participating from every country in which we have sections. It appeared to be well-received, and I look forward to our annual meeting in February when, hopefully, even more WAAIME members will participate.

2021 Scholarship applications

We are preparing to open the website portal for our 2021-2022 scholarship applicants. The application portal will go live on Jan. 15, 2021 and close on Feb. 5. We welcome and encourage any WAAIME member who would like the opportunity to help screen these applicants to contact Lydia Hull, National Scholarship Chair, or Tanya Kriss, WAAIME liaison, as soon as possible. You may request a particular university, or one can be assigned. If you have never participated in this process, no problem. After receiving a brief tutorial, you will to know what questions to ask and what pertinent information you will need. There will always be someone to answer your questions. This is a great way to learn about the students, the university, and the impact the scholarship will have on the student.

Merger Agreement

WAAIME has been working with several issues deriving from conflicting interpretation of the WAAIME/SME Merger Agreement. We hope to resolve these issues soon. WAAIME looks forward to continuing its commitment to students and a stronger partnership with SME.

See you in February on Microsoft Teams!

Respectfully Submitted

Lydia Hull
Recipients of Young Scholarships

Lewis E. and Elizabeth W. Young scholarship grants are administered by WAAIME’s Pennsylvania-Western section. The grants are awarded on the basis of need, scholastic achievement and good character. Students must plan to study mining engineering, metallurgical engineering, material science or petroleum engineering in a four-year curriculum. A few of the students who received scholarships are pictured below.

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
Richard Amoako

The Pennsylvania State University
Morike Sissiko
Tony Saunders
Sidharth Agrawal

University of Arizona
Juanita Parkerson
Molly Radwany
Fatemeh Molaei
Hussein Slavoshi
Nicholas Overseas

University of Kentucky
Hailey Noel Short
Nicholas Elling
Jessica Nelson

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Danielle Gable

Ashley Woodward
West Virginia University
Amir Eskanlou

Penn State - Morike Sissiko.

WVU - Amir Eskanlou.

SDSM&T - Richard Amoako and Prof. Robert Hall.

University of Kentucky - Nick Elling, Jessica Nelson, Hailey Short.

University of Arizona - Molly Radwany and Dr. Moe Momayez.

In memoriam

PAULINE DOLEZAL

Pauline Rowley Blevins Dolezal died Aug. 26, 2020 at her home in Grants, NM. She was born Aug. 4, 1932, in Toltec, NM and was been a resident of the Grants-Bluewater area all her life. She worked for the telephone company in New Mexico.

Pauline was active in the New Mexico-Socorro section of WAAIME and was elected to serve on the National Board in 1992. She served as WAAIME President from 1995-1998, when the office was in New York City, NY, and continued to serve on the Board of Directors until 2004. She was a member of P.E.O., serving on the state board and as state president. She was also an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Pauline is survived by her son, Elbert Blevins; step-son, John Dolezal; stepdaughters, Ruthanne Shinn and Marta Jo Ortiz; 12 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; sisters Louise Eby and Dorothy Lambson; and brother Ted Rowley. She was preceded in death by her husband, Wayne Dolezal, and her daughter, Evelyn Louise Fjord.

PERIN BHAPPU

Perin Schroff Bhappu died March 4, 2020 at the age of 92. She was born Nov. 19, 1927 in Karachi, Pakistan and studied at DJ Sindh Government Science College in Karachi. She worked as a country manager for Swissair, Pakistan for 30 years and as a regional representative for American Airlines and Canadian Pacific Airlines for eight years. She married Roshan Bhappu, a past president of SME, in 1993 and worked with him at Mountain States R&D International. He was president and she served as vice president (United States).

Perin was a very active member of WAAIME and served the Arizona-Tucson/San Manuel section in many capacities, including several years as chair and membership chair. She and Roshan supported WAAIME both with time and donations to the WAAIME scholarship fund. Her son, Homee Shroff, made a $20,000 gift in her memory to the AZ-Tucson/San Manuel local section to be used for scholarships.

Perin is survived by two children, Arbez Patel and Homee Shroff; four stepchildren, Manek Bhappu, Zorine Bhappu Shirley, Soonalyn Bhappu Jacob and Ross Bhappu and many grandchildren. Her husband, Roshan, predeceased her on Dec. 28, 2019.