



**Society of Mining Professors**  
**Societät der Bergbaukunde**

# **30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

## **1990 - 2020**



**June 2020**



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Universidad Nacional de Colombia,  
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Namibia University of Science &  
Technology, Namibia

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Langefeld, TU Clausthal, Germany

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Agioutantis, University of Kentucky, USA

Members for Europe: Jürgen Kretschmann,  
TH Georg Agricola, Bochum, Germany;  
Marilena Cardu, Politecnico di Torino,  
Torino, Italy

**This document has been compiled by  
Prof. Vladislav Kecojevic  
June 2020**

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Societät der Bergbaukunde**  
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Vladislav Kecojevic  
SOMP Secretary General

## Preface

Dear SOMP Family,

It is such honor to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of the Society of Mining  
Professors (SOMP)/ Societät der  
Bergbaukunde!

Since its founding in 1990, SOMP has played a critical role in supporting the field of mining engineering and contributing to information exchange, research, education, and other collaborative activities among its members. We have continued to be the leading international society for mining school professionals, recognized for effective networking; for fostering collaboration and innovation in research, teaching, and learning practices; and for our relevance and impact on the global mining sector and society at large. The SOMP has been at the forefront of challenges facing mining engineering education and has passionately contributed towards a sustainable minerals supply for society; we have done this through actively developing and supporting the mining engineering discipline, fostering the development of long-term professional relationships, exchanging innovative experience in teaching and learning practices, sharing research experiences, capabilities, and future challenges, and fostering professional career development and social awareness.

On occasions such as this one when we celebrate our successes and achievements, it is worthwhile to recall the road that we have taken since our inception in 1990, during a special inaugural meeting of 20 professors hosted by the Montanuniversität in Leoben, Austria. At its beginning, the Society functioned primarily as a European entity of senior academics in the mining engineering discipline. Over the last 30 years, the SOMP has become an international society with 251 members representing 111 mining schools in 43 countries. We are very excited about our achievements in being a diverse and inclusive society, welcoming to those from around the globe.

We have much to be proud of over the course of the last 30 years. All of what we have achieved would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our SOMP members, and I am confident that we will continue to excel as we move forward into the future. Finally, the SOMP President Oscar Jaime Restrepo Baena and I are very grateful to host universities of Annual General and Regional Meetings and remarkable group of SOMP members (Ludwig Wilke, Wilmar Lukas, Oliver Langefeld, Michael Karmis, Pierre Mousset-Jones, Bruce Hebblewhite, Zach Agioutantis, Günhan Paşamehmetoğlu, Vladimir Pavlovic, Nicolae Ilias, Susana Arad, Farshad Rashidi Nejad, Giovanni Badino, Alexander Khokriakov, Elisabeth Clausen and Mikael Rinne) for their contributions and help in the production of this document.



SOMP Annual General Meeting in  
Bochum, Germany, 2019



# The History and Roots of the Society of Mining Professors / Societät der Bergbaukunde

by

Oliver Langefeld and Michael Karmis



Ignaz von Born [1]



"Bergbaukunde" - The cover of the original publication [1]

The Society of Mining Professors (SOMP) has its roots far back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The German name, "Societät der Bergbaukunde" establishes SOMP as the successor of the first-ever international professional scientific-technical society, which was founded by Ignaz von Born in 1783 at Schemnitz (Banská Štiavnica) in what is now Slovakia. The "Societät der Bergbaukunde" was vibrant and global with 154 members from 21 countries. The Society also recognized distinction and accomplishment by electing Honorary Members.

Ignaz von Born was appointed as a mining advisor in Prague in 1770. He visited several mine sites in different regions and countries to expand his theoretical knowledge with the practical appreciation and experience in the field of mining and metallurgy. He was member of several societies, some international based in Stockholm, Sweden and London, England, where he was able to connect with scientists, engineers and academics from around the world. Starting in 1781, von Born began to work on the amalgamation process for extracting gold and silver from ores. In 1783, after intense research and investigation, he was finally able to present to the professional world this new, more efficient and healthier technique, with a large-scale demonstration facility in Glashuette near Schemnitz. Besides the local experts, international scientists, engineers and practitioners from Great Britain, Scandinavia and even Mexico and Nicaragua attended the trials at the Glashuette facility. The success of this demonstration motivated the participants who attended to establish an international society dedicated to mining engineering, named "Societät der Bergbaukunde".

An Organization Committee of nine members, with von Born as President, was selected by the participants of the Glashuette meeting. Their duties included to develop the First Statutes of the new Society and extend invitations to other professionals to join. The formal invitation letters to join the Societät der Bergbaukunde were sent in 1786 and were directed to universities and other institutions related to mining all over the world. The letter was signed by von Born and the eight other members of the Organizing Committee.

Members were supposed to publish their newest studies, developments, successes and failures from their respective working fields. All this body of knowledge was to be steadily collected at a central archive in Zellerfeld, in the Harz mountains of Germany. Important publications would have been published for free and all material would be available to members demand. Based on that concept, a publication, the "Bergbaukunde" (i.e., "Mining Engineering") Volumes 1 and 2, was released and was to remain the sole publication of the Society. Famous scientists and engineers around the world became members of the new society, included James Watt, the Scottish engineer and inventor of the steam engine, Antoine Lavoisier, the French illustrious chemist and creator of modern chemistry, and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, the most celebrated German poet whose position as Privy Councillor at Weimar included the mines of the Duchy.

The history of the Society was short and many reasons are quoted as to why one of the most respected scientific initiatives of that time came to an end in 1791. The death of

the founder and first President, Ignaz von Born, in July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1791, was definitely a factor. In addition, and at about the same time, the French members died during the French revolution. And perhaps, at a time of political instability and turmoil, it was difficult for a young Society to survive and grow. Nevertheless, even as the society existed just for a short time, the fact that the Societät der Bergbaukunde was founded in 1783 as the first ever international scientific-technical society, is a unique and special achievement.

The "Society of Mining Professors / Societät der Bergbaukunde" is today an organization that follows the 1873 origins and traditions to serve as an international networking community focused on the mining discipline. Although the current name, Society of Mining Professors, encompassed more specifically the academic community of Mining Engineering, SOMP is proud to include "Societät der Bergbaukunde" in its name as a tribute to the foresight, legacy and contributions of Ignaz von Born and his fellow campaigners and colleagues.

## Reference:

1. Born, Ignaz von; Bergbaukunde, Leipzig 1789 -1790, Bibliothek ETH-Zürich; [www.e-rara.ch](http://www.e-rara.ch); Persistent Link: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3931/e-rara-20276>



SOMP Annual General Meeting in  
Wroclaw, Poland, 2012



## TIMELINE

**Since its inception in 1990, the Society of Mining Professors (SOMP)/Societät der Bergbaukunde membership has been served by thirty Presidents, four Secretary Generals, and four Deputy Secretary Generals, and the SOMP has organized thirty Annual General Meetings (AGM) and nine Regional Meetings.**



# SOMP Presidents



**Günter Fettweis**  
Foundation 1990



**Gunnar Almgren**  
1990-1991



**Jan Palarski**  
1991-1992



**Verner Vogt**  
1992-1993



**Uros Bajzelj**  
1993-1994



**Ferenc Kovacs**  
1994-1995



**Lev Puchkov**  
1995-1996



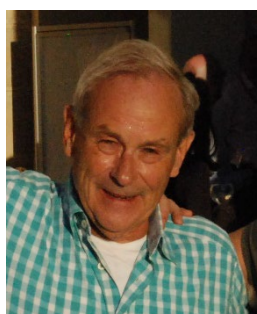
**Raimo Matikainen**  
1996-1997



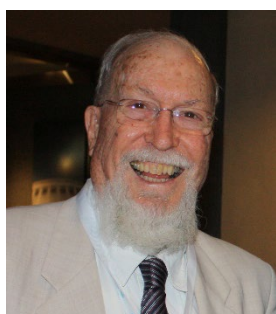
**Giovanni Badino**  
1997 - 1998



**Ivan Dementiev**  
1998 - 1999



**Hans de Ruiter**  
1999 - 2000



**Tim Shaw**  
2000 - 2001



**Nicolae Ilias**  
2001 - 2002



**Michael Karmis**  
2002 - 2003



**Carsten Drebenstedt**  
2003 - 2004



**Günhan Paşamehmetoğlu**  
2004 - 2005



**Pavol Rybar**  
2005 - 2006



**Vladimir Pavlovic**  
2006 - 2007



**Per Nicolai Martens**  
2007 - 2008



**Bruce Hebblewhite**  
2008 - 2009



**Ingo Valgma**  
2009 - 2010



**Mario Cedron Lassus**  
2010 - 2011



**Monika Hardygora**  
2011 - 2012



**Zach Agioutantis**  
2012 - 2013



**Ronny Webber-Youngman**  
2013 - 2014



# SOMP Presidents



**Helmut Mischo**  
2014 - 2015



**Vladislav Kecojevic**  
2015 - 2016



**Marilena Cardu**  
2016 - 2017



**Zhongxue Li**  
2017 - 2018



**Jürgen Kretschmann**  
2018 - 2019



**Oscar Jaime Restrepo Baena**  
2019 – 2021\*



**Harmony Musiyarira**  
2021 - 2022



**Oliver Langefeld**  
2022 - 2023



**Serkan Saydam**  
2023 - 2024

\* Oscar Jaime Restrepo Baena will be serving two years as the SOMP President (2019-2021) since the SOMP Council decided to postpone 2020 AGM in Colombia to 2021 due to coronavirus outbreak.



**Past SOMP Presidents at the AGM in Johannesburg, South Africa, 2014**



# SOMP Secretary Generals



**Tim Shaw**  
Royal School of Mines  
1990 - 2005



**Michael Karmis**  
Virginia Tech  
2005 - 2012



**Bruce Hebblewhite**  
University of New South Wales  
2012 - 2018



**Vladislav Kecojevic**  
West Virginia University  
2018 - to date

## SOMP Deputy Secretary Generals



**Hans de Ruiter**  
TU Delft  
1997 - 2012



**Ludger Rattmann**  
TH Georg Agricola  
2012 - 2019



**Serkan Saydam**  
University of New South Wales  
2018 - to date



**Elisabeth Clausen**  
RWTH Aachen  
2019 - to date



SOMP Annual General Meeting in Torino, Italy, 2017



# SOMP Annual General Meetings

Year	Host University	City	Country
1990	Montanuniversitat	Leoben	Austria
1991	Lulea University of Technology	Lulea	Sweden
1992	Silesian University of Technology	Gliwice	Poland
1993	Technical University of Clausthal	Clausthal	Germany
1994	University of Ljubljana	Ljubljana	Slovenia
1995	Miskolc University	Miskolc	Hungary
1996	Moscow State Mining University	Moscow	Russia
1997	Helsinki University of Technology	Helsinki	Finland
1998	Politecnico di Torino	Carrara	Italy
1999	Urals State Mining and Geological Academy	Ekaterinburg	Russia
2000	Delft University of Technology	Delft	Netherlands
2001	Royal School of Mines, Imperial College	London	UK
2002	University of Petrosani	Petrosani	Romania
2003	National Technical University of Athens and Technical University of Crete	Milos	Greece
2004	TU Bergakademie Freiberg	Freiberg	Germany
2005	Atilim University	Ankara	Turkey
2006	Kosice University of Technology	Kosice	Slovakia
2007	University of Belgrade	Belgrade	Serbia
2008	RWTH Aachen	Aachen	Germany
2009	University of New South Wales	Sydney	Australia
2010	Tallinn University of Technology	Tallinn	Estonia
2011	Universidad Catolica del Peru	Arequipa	Peru
2012	Wroclaw University of Technology	Wroclaw	Poland
2013	Technical University of Crete	Milos	Greece
2014	University of Pretoria and the University of the Witwatersrand	Johannesburg	South Africa
2015	TU Bergakademie Freiberg	Freiberg	Germany
2016	West Virginia University, Virginia Tech, University of Kentucky	Washington, DC	United States of America
2017	Politecnico di Torino	Torino	Italy
2018	China University of Science and Technology Beijing	Beijing	China
2019	TH Georg Agricola University	Bochum	Germany



## The Founding/Inaugural Meeting, Leoben, Austria, 1990



On October 21<sup>st</sup>, 1990, a group of some 20 Professors of Mining gathered at the Montanuniversität in Leoben, Austria after being summoned by Professor Günther Fettweis. Prof. Fettweis had long considered that there should be a Society of Mining Professors, and he had been lobbying all those who attended and a number of others who could not come to get such a society started. This was then the formative meeting of such a Society, as most of those attending (and many of those who could not come) had agreed in advance that such a Society was needed. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Fettweis who thus became the first President of the newly formed Society when all those attending agreed on its formation.

Prof. Fettweis pointed out that the first ever international scientific society had been the Societät der Bergbaukunde, which had been formed in 1783 in Schemnitz (Banska Stiavnica), in what was then the Austro-Hungarian Empire (but is now in Slovakia). Its members included most of the well-known scientists of the day. In light of this, it was decided that the new Society would be called the Society of Mining Professors (SOMP) in English, but it would also have the German name Societät der Bergbaukunde in memory of that original society.

It was agreed that a Constitution of the Society would be presented and discussed at the next meeting in Lulea, Sweden. Meanwhile, it was decided that there would be a Committee to run the Society consisting of the President, who would be a nominated mining professor at the University which would hold the next Annual General Meeting (AGM). The general running of the Society would be undertaken by a Secretary General, who would also be on the managing committee and would have a five-year term of office. The first elected President (and second president of the Society) was Prof. Gunnar Almgren as it was decided that the AGM would be held in Lulea in Sweden the following year. Prof. Tim Shaw from the Royal School of Mines in London, United Kingdom was elected as the first Secretary General of the Society.









## The 2<sup>nd</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Lulea, Sweden, 1991

The 2<sup>nd</sup> SOMP AGM was organized at the Lulea University of Technology in Lulea, Sweden under the leadership of Prof. Gunnar Almgren. This meeting was held in the week of September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1991. It was an excellent meeting at which the first SOMP Constitution was agreed upon. A total of 26 members attended, which was a good turnout corresponding to a high percentage of all the SOMP members at that time. The next AGM was planned to be in Gliwice, and Prof. Jan Palarski was elected as the third SOMP President.



## The 3<sup>rd</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Gliwice, Poland, 1992

The 3<sup>rd</sup> SOMP AGM was hosted by the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice, Poland from September 20-23, 1992. Prof. Jan Palarski was the President of the Society for the year. There were 22 members attending the meeting, representing 12 countries. The attendance was slightly lower than the previous meetings in Sweden, but it still was a high percentage of the Society's membership. It was interesting to note that Prof. Michael Karmis (USA) was the only SOMP member outside of Europe attending this meeting.

The first day of the meeting was held at Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice, while the second day of the meeting took place at the University of Mining and Metallurgy in Krakow.

There was already an emerging core of committed SOMP members who attended each year and who were responsible for building the Society. At this meeting, serious discussions took place about the curricula for mining engineering degrees and some agreement was reached on what should be taught by mining schools. A significant time was spent on discussion related to Constitution of the Society.





The 3<sup>rd</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting  
in Gliwice, Poland, 1992



Second day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> AGM, Krakow,  
Poland, 1992



Those attending the AGM made the decision to establish two grades of SOMP membership, which were:

- **Member:** A full professor in the most comprehensive use of the word, i.e. a professor of the standing and status of a University Professor in the sense used in Germany or a Professor with a personal Chair as used in the United Kingdom. Heads of a Mining Engineering university, i.e. Rectors, Principals, etc. who do not have the title Professor may also be offered membership provided that they are mining engineers. Members would have to be active professors still teaching at a university. Only Members will have the vote in Society affairs and be able to stand for office in the Society.
- **Corresponding Member**, which were one of three types:
  - Retired full Professors of Mining who may or may not have been Members of the Society before retirement.
  - Professors of Mining who are still active but who have not yet achieved the status or level of a University Professor in German practice or of a conferred chair in English practice.
  - Persons teaching mining engineering at a very senior level who are not Professors but who, for example, are the Head of Mining Engineering Department.

It was confirmed that all the current retired members will be listed as Corresponding Members of the Society in the future. Corresponding Members may attend all meetings and take a full part in the debates but will not be able to vote nor will they be able to hold office in the Society. The proposal relating to membership fees was also discussed. It was agreed that a small charge for membership to cover the costs of running the Society should be introduced. This was approved at the level of £10 per annum for the year 1992/1993.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in Clausthal, Germany, and Prof. Werner Vogt was elected as the fourth SOMP President.



**The 3<sup>rd</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting  
in Gliwice, Poland, 1992**

## **The 4<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Clausthal, Germany, 1993**

The 4<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held at the Technical University of Clausthal, Germany from September 25-30, 1993. There were 34 members present (some of whom were elected to membership at the meeting) and five non-members. These members were from 25 universities representing 17 countries.

Some excellent technical sessions were held with Prof. Werner Vogt acting as President. The Society finally agreed on the fundamentals of what should be taught to aspiring mining engineers, while at the same time leaving room in the calendar for each university to specialize in whatever aspect of mining engineering they desired. On the last day of the AGM, the members were able to visit two mining operations. One group went to the BKB lignite/power generating operation and the other to the K&S underground potash mine. Both visits were well-organized and well-received by the AGM participants.



## The 5<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 1994

The 5<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held at the University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia from September 18-21, 1994. Prof. Uros Bajzelj was the President for the year. Attendance was down when compared to the previous AGM in Clausthal, Germany, with only 21 members. Nevertheless, the Society had a very productive meeting and a lot of work was completed.





## The 6<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Miskolc, Hungary, 1995

The 6<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held at the Miskolc University, Miskolc, Hungary from September 17-20, 1995. Prof. Ferenc Kovacs was the President for the year. This meeting had an attendance of 34 members, representing 18 countries. The meeting was well-organized but tended to have more social events than working time planned. It was agreed that at each AGM, there needed to be a fundamental two days of technical conference; then each host could add tours and social functions the day before the start or the days immediately following the AGM.

The members also discussed to amend the SOMP Constitution to allow for the Council to expel from membership those members who fail to pay their annual membership subscriptions. This was necessary since the subscription to the Journal Mineral Resources Engineering has become included in the membership fee. The Society was liable for the journals sent to all members, and thus non-payment of fees would place the Society in a difficult financial situation.

The Secretary General Tim Shaw then reminded members that in 1994, the annual subscription for 1994-1995 had been set at £85, which included the subscription to the journal and also an amount to help get the Society officially registered. The latter surcharge would not be included again and therefore the suggested subscription for 1995-1996 was £75 (or its other hard currency equivalent), which would cover the subscription and the small running costs of the Society. It was agreed that the subscription for 1995-1996 would be £75.

Since this meeting marked the end of the first five years of the Society's existence, there was a need to elect a new Secretary General. Prof. Tim Shaw, the outgoing Secretary General, agreed to stand for re-election; with there being no other candidates, he was re-elected for another term of 5 years.

Arising from the selection of the venues, and according to the Constitution of the Society, Prof. Lev Puchkov of Moscow State Mining University was elected as the SOMP President for 1995-1996.



## The 7<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Moscow, Russia, 1996

The 7<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held at the Moscow State Mining University, Moscow, Russia from August 25-28, 1996. Prof. Lev Puchkov was the President for that year. Attendance at this AGM was again excellent, at 35 members with representation from 18 countries, the highest turnout since the Clausthal meeting. It was at this meeting that it was decided to shift the AGM forward in the year to make it more convenient for members to attend. They have taken place earlier in the year ever since. Once again, there were good working sessions and the Society was highly productive.

Arising from the selection of the next SOMP venue, and according to the Constitution of the Society, Prof. Raimo Matikainen of Helsinki University of Technology was elected as the SOMP President for 1996-1997.



## The 8<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Helsinki, Finland, 1997

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was held at the Helsinki University of Technology in Helsinki, Finland from June 1-3, 1997. Prof. Raimo Matikainen was the President for the year. A good turnout at 30 members from 15 countries was recorded. This one too was notable for the first attendance of a number of new members. Once again there was an excellent technical program of discussions on the topics of mining education, mining research, and indeed all aspects of mining engineering.

There followed a fairly comprehensive discussion on membership and while it was agreed that the Society needed to expand its membership, it was reaffirmed that Professors at European universities should be actively recruited; however, those from universities outside Europe should be recruited on a selective and invitation only basis. The objective was to have as broad a coverage within Europe as possible and also to have representatives from most major mining countries, but on a more selective basis. China and countries in South America (other than Brazil, which is already represented) were mentioned as countries from which members needed to be sought.





It was also decided at this time that, in order to help with this task and some others that were undertaken by the Secretary General, a deputy to the Secretary General should be appointed. Hans de Ruiter was suggested as the right person to perform this role, proposed by Prof. Fettweis and seconded by Prof. Karmis. He was prepared to stand and was then unanimously elected.

The composition of the Council was discussed next, and it was decided that there should be representatives of the retired members and of the members from countries outside Europe on the Council. Prof. Fettweis was elected as the representative of the former group and Prof. Karmis of the latter group.

## **The 9<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Carrara, Italy, 1998**

The 9<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was hosted by the Politecnico di Torino. It was held at Carrara, Italy from September 12-17, 1998, with Prof. Sebastiano Pelizza as the President. Unfortunately, he was engaged in other important business for most of the period of the meeting, and Prof. Badino, who was responsible for the organization of the meeting, stood in as President during the working sessions. Attendance was a record to date as 37 members from 22 countries were present. This was the first meeting which the Society held in conjunction with another body; in this case, it was the European joint body from Mining and Minerals professional bodies - Eurominerals. This was excellent publicity for the Society within the industry. Also, with this new joint body, it was agreed that a joint document highlighting the importance of mining would be prepared and would receive a launch at the International Congress on Mining for Tomorrow's World in Dusseldorf, Germany, from June 8-10, 1999.

There was a fairly comprehensive discussion on membership. This arose from a recommendation by Prof. Mousset-Jones that the membership of the Society be thrown open to all mining professors worldwide. This was discussed fully and the problems involved were aired. It was pointed out that mining education in Europe was not yet in a stable state and that we still had many problems to discuss and take concerted action on.





The 9<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting  
in Carrara, Italy, 1998

Secondly, there was already a problem of the venues for the meetings and their organization; this would be exacerbated if the whole world was included. So, while it was agreed that the Society needed to expand its membership, it was reaffirmed that Professors at European universities should be actively recruited, but that those from universities outside Europe should be recruited on a selective and invitation-only basis. A slow increase of non-European membership was the target. The objective was still to have as broad a coverage within Europe as possible and also to have selective representatives from most major mining countries. Once again, China and countries in South America other than Brazil were mentioned as countries from which members needed to be sought.

Further comments on the issue of enlargement were then raised. Prof. Fettweis said that there should be no change in the Statutes of the Society, but that we should slowly enlarge, taking in outside members where interest was shown. Prof. Badino agreed that this was the correct method, and said that a decision to this effect should be recorded for this meeting. Both Profs. Karmis and Fettweis then moved the topic of some mechanism whereby younger faculty could attend the Professors meetings. This would be in the interest of bringing them on to develop themselves and their expertise. It was also suggested that it might be possible for students to be invited to attend part of the meetings as well. It was agreed that this would be a topic for discussion at next AGM, and members who had suggestions in this regard should send proposals to the Secretary General.

The date and venue of the next meeting was the next item for discussion. They would be hosted by the Urals State University of Mining & Geology in Ekaterinberg, Russia in July 1999. The university is in an area of great mining activity; as such, there would be some very interesting technical visits attached, so it was recommended that all members plan to be there. Since the Urals State University of Mining & Geology was the next venue for the meeting, by the rules of the Society, Prof. Dementiev was unanimously elected as the President of the Society for the period from the end of this meeting until the end of the meeting in Ekaterinberg in 1999.



## The 10<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Ekaterinberg, Russia, 1999

The 10<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held at the Urals State Mining and Geological Academy in Ekaterinberg, Russia from July 9-14, 1999. Prof. Ivan Dementiev was president for the year. Unfortunately, due to the difficulties of travelling to this location, attendance was down on previous years with only 23 members from 10 European countries attending. This was unfortunate, as this was a superbly planned meeting; there were good and useful technical sessions and the pre- and post-conference activities were extremely interesting.

Membership was discussed, and it was agreed that all retired members should be asked to send in the names of their successors (if the latter are not already members) so that they could be asked to join. It was also agreed that the suggestion of Prof. Mousset-Jones that membership should be open to all professors in the world should be discussed again at the next meeting, because it was felt the problems in Europe were beginning to merge with those of the rest of the world.

The next item on the agenda was future meetings. It had been agreed in Carrara that the next meeting would be held in Seville, Spain. However, in the period since the Carrara meeting, there had been no indication from Spain of any meeting planning. E-mails from the Secretary General to Profs. Manana and Pla had not been answered about the meeting, and there was no representative from Spain at the Ekaterinberg meeting to give the delegates any information. This posed several problems. The Professor organizing the next meeting is elected president of the Society. Since it could not be known in their absence which professor would be responsible for the meeting in Spain, the Society could not elect its president. Secondly it was considered too risky to assume that all would be well with next year's meeting without at least some indication that planning was underway. It was therefore agreed that it was compulsory for any member university hoping to host a conference to be represented at the meeting preceding their proposed one.

In the light of the above, it was decided that the next meeting would not be held in Spain. The alternative of Istanbul was considered as Prof. Eskikaya had made a strong case at Carrara to be allowed to host a meeting. Unfortunately, they too were not represented in Ekaterinberg, and therefore it was not possible to consider them. Ultimately, the offer from Prof. Hans de Ruiter of Delft University was accepted. The next AGM of the Society would therefore be held in Delft in the Netherlands in July 2000. Having selected a site for the next meeting, the new President of the Society was elected, being Prof. Hans de Ruiter.



The 10<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting  
in Ekaterinberg, Russia, 1999



## The 11<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Delft, Netherlands, 2000

The 11<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held at the Delft University of Technology in Delft, the Netherlands from July 1-5, 2000. Prof. Hans de Ruiter was the President for the year. The meeting in Delft attracted the highest turnout recorded thus far for meetings of the Society, with 45 members from 20 countries attending. This was a superbly planned meeting and a lot of work was completed.

Prof. Shaw gave the Secretary General's annual report. The membership of the Society had risen to some 115 members, some 30 of whom were retired members. He also reported that there was a core of active members which kept the Society active. Three members had attended all 11 meetings, four had attended 10 of the 11, two had attended 9, and another 12 had attended more than half. These 21 were the "core" of the Society.

Prof. Shaw then sought the Society's opinion on expanding membership to be fully worldwide. As members knew, the Society was largely European, with invited members from many countries around the world but on an invitation-only basis. The Secretary General pointed out that now that a list of mining universities existed, it was possible to identify professors at these institutions. They could then be contacted and membership suggested to them. However, Prof. Fettweis and Prof. Wilke argued strongly that for the foreseeable future, the Society should remain mainly European. The success of the Society was based mainly on those who attended the annual meetings. These members had all been in Europe. It was doubtful if the attendance would be as good if the meetings moved to other remote countries. It must be noted that, while the members present accepted these arguments and agreed that the balance of membership should stay European for the present, the members from Australia and the USA were not in agreement. For example, Prof. Brady pointed out that the industry itself was now mainly outside Europe, having migrated to the new world, and that there should be adequate representation from those countries where the industry was now located. It was decided to make no changes, but the Secretary General was charged with developing objective criteria for invitation for membership, and with seeking to increase membership by targeting those universities within Europe which were not yet represented. It was also considered important to try to recruit active members, so the criteria should include some assessment of the likelihood of active participation.

Again, the Society had now been in operation for ten years, so at this meeting there was a need once again to elect a new Secretary General. Prof. Shaw, the outgoing Secretary General, again agreed to stand for re-election; there again being no other candidates, he was re-elected for another term of 5 years. Prof. Shaw, as the organizer of the next meeting, was also elected President of the Society, and Prof. Ilias, as the organizer of the subsequent meeting, was also elected onto the Council.





## The 12<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, London, United Kingdom, 2001

The 12<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM meeting was held at the Royal School of Mines, Imperial College, in London, United Kingdom from May 11-15, 2001. This meant that for one year only, Prof. Shaw was both President and Secretary General of the Society. This meeting also had a good attendance, with 40 members from 20 countries present. This meeting was held in conjunction with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Royal School of Mines. The meeting started with a day of technical sessions which was opened by the Princess Royal, Princess Anne. There were keynote talks by the top experts in the various fields of expertise taught at the Royal School of Mines. They were a superb set of papers, and it is regrettable that though it was planned to publish a volume containing them, this never happened (though the responsibility to do so did not rest with the Society).

Prof. Shaw reported on the need for new members as the membership was now an ageing group. Although the membership was still rising slowly, there were more people retiring than were being added as members. While retired members were often still very active and did work for the Society, he felt this was not a good long-term situation. He raised for discussion again the possibility of throwing the membership open to all worldwide, but again the members present thought it should stay mainly European for the present time. It was also agreed that the Society would actively recruit younger academics as associate members of the Society.

The site of the next meeting was the next item on the agenda. There were bids on the table from Petrosani (which had been agreed as the site for next year at the last meeting of the Society), Crete, Madrid, Krivoy Rog (to be held in Yalta), and Croatia. As stated, the next meeting would be in Romania in June 2002 to be hosted by the University of Petrosani. This meant that Prof. Nicolae Ilias would be the President of the Society for the year 2001-2002.





## The 13<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Petrosani, Romania, 2002

The 13<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held at the University of Petrosani, Romania from May 31 - June 7, 2002. Prof. Ilias was the President of the Society for the year. This meeting was fairly well attended with 34 delegates from 15 countries making the journey to Romania. The fact that it was planned to start in Bucharest was a bonus, as it made travel there a lot more practical. The meeting started off in Bucharest; the conference was a rolling one which covered a large part of the country. The first technical session was in Ploiesti, the main technical meeting was held in Vata Bai, and finally the delegates ended up in Petrosani itself. Unfortunately, some of the travel took longer than anticipated, which meant that the last planned technical session in Petrosani had to be abandoned after a very short session. The delegates certainly got a very good insight into Romania and its problems during this long conference, which lasted almost a week (the longest one yet).

For the next Annual General Meeting, a proposal by Profs. Karmis and Agioutantis for a meeting to be held in Greece on the island of Milos was accepted. It was supposed to be hosted by four universities: the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, the National Technical University of Athens, the Technical University of Crete, and RWTH Aachen. At that point, the question of the Presidency of the Society came up, as a professor from one of the four universities organizing the conference needed to be chosen as the next president. Prof. Fettweis proposed Prof. Karmis as the President, indicating that the other universities had been canvassed and that this was acceptable to them. As it happens, Prof. Karmis was also the President of the U.S.-based Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME) in that year. It was unanimously agreed that Prof. Karmis would be the next President of the Society.

It should be noted that the next Society meeting was held at the Escuela Tecnica Superior de Ingenieros de Minas, in Madrid, Spain from December 1-4, 2002. This was not the SOMP AGM due to a ruling that the university holding the next conference had to have members present at the previous one. Since Madrid was unable to send any members to Romania, it was not possible to elect a Madrid professor as President; hence the meeting in Madrid, which coincided with the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their founding, was made an Ordinary General Meeting. Since the next AGM would now be in Greece, Prof. Karmis was elected President for the year. This not being an AGM also regrettably meant that the attendance was rather low at only 11 Society members. This was disappointing, since it was an excellent meeting held in conjunction with a meeting of the Asociacion Iberoamericana de Ensenanza Superior de la Minera (AISEMIN). Several joint sessions were held with AISEMIN as well as the Society holding its own meeting separately. Perhaps because there were so few attendees, the members that were present did achieve a lot of discussion and planning for the future of the Society.







SOMP members and guests at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting



Tim Shaw and Hans de Ruiter (from left to right) during the Business Meeting



Michael Karmis, Günhan Paşamehmetoğlu and Giovanni Badino (from left to right) at the 13<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting



## The 14<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Milos, Greece, 2003

The 14<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM took place on the Island of Milos in Greece at the George Eliopoulos Conference Centre, from May 18-21, 2003. This was a well-organized meeting with 36 members from 21 countries attending. This AGM was organized jointly by the National Technical University of Athens and the Technical University of Crete. In a change from normal practice, Prof. Karmis from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University was elected President for the year and the organization was done mainly by Prof. Agioutantis from Crete and Prof. Panagiotou from Athens. This well-planned meeting was organized so that the delegates could stay after the meeting to immediately attend a conference on Sustainable Development Indicators in the Minerals Industry. This meeting also had strong technical sessions and made a number of changes to the way the Society was run, making the Society, which thus far had been mainly European in nature, more global in concept. This meant that between now and the next AGM, a new Constitution for the Society needed to be drafted for discussion. A special committee consisting of Profs. Agioutantis (Greece), Archibald (Canada), Badino (Italy), Cedron (Peru), Drebenstedt (Germany), Durucan (United Kingdom), Galvin (Australia and Oceania), Karmis (USA), Martens (Germany), Palarski (Poland), Pasamehmetoglu (Turkey), Phillips (South Africa), Ramirez (Spain), de Ruiters (Netherlands), Scoble (Canada), Shaw (United Kingdom), and Wagner (Austria) was formed to carry out this task. It was at this meeting also that the "Milos Declaration" was approved for signature by the Society.

The Mineral Resources Journal was then discussed, as it had closed due to a lack of subscriptions. There were no publications for the 2003 issue. The implication was that membership dues were no longer justified. Prof. Karmis agreed to try the SME, CIM, to see if they would take over the journal; otherwise electronic publication might be a solution. In the light of the lack of a journal, the Secretary General proposed that the membership fees should be €40.

Prof. Drebenstedt as the convenor of the next SOMP AGM was voted in as the new President, and it was decided that the next AGM will take place in Freiberg, Germany in June 2004. Prof. Agioutantis was elected Treasurer of the Society. In the afternoon, there was a visit to the operations of the Silver & Baryte Ores Mining Co.





## **The 15<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Freiberg, Germany, 2004**

The 15<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held in the old mining town of Freiberg, in the Erzgebirge (Ore Mountains) in Germany from June 12-16, 2004. The host was the TU Bergakademie Freiberg, and Prof. Carsten Drebenstedt was the President for the year. This meeting achieved the second largest attendance yet as 43 Society members from 21 countries were present. This was again a very productive meeting at which a lot of work was completed - in particular on the new SOMP Constitution. A first draft of this Constitution was accepted as a working document to apply for one year until the following AGM, at which point a final Constitution was to be agreed upon. Therefore, there was an interim Constitution for the period of June 2004 to June 2005.

It was proposed that Prof. Pasamehmetoglu, as the host for the next meeting, be elected as the President of the Society for 2004-2005. This was carried unanimously. In line with the new Constitution, the next post to be discussed was President-Elect. Prof. Rybar, as the host for the next following AGM, was proposed and elected unanimously.

Prof. Shaw then pointed out that he was in his third term of office as Secretary General of the Society. Not only did he consider it time for a change, but the new Constitution would allow only two consecutive terms of office. This meant that he would retire from the post at the meeting in Ankara. However, he felt that it was important to have an orderly handover of duties and suggested that the new Secretary General be selected and elected right then, to take office in 2005. Prof. Michael Karmis was proposed for the post and was unanimously elected as the future Secretary General of the Society to take office in 2005. He and Prof. Shaw would work closely together in the intervening period to ensure the smooth change over.

Also included in the new Constitution is the post of Deputy Secretary General/Treasurer of the Society. Up until now, the Secretary General had acted as treasurer along with his other duties. Prof. Hans de Ruiter was unanimously elected to this post.

On the last day of the AGM, several members went on an excursion to the Overburden Conveyor Bridge – System / F60 at the “Lignite Mine „Nochten“, Vattenfall Europe.

## **The 16<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Ankara, Turkey, 2005**

The 16<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held in Ankara, Turkey from June 11-16, 2005. Prof. Pasamehmetoglu was the President for the year and our host was technically Atilim University (which does not actually have a mining department). The attendance was lower than in previous years, at 36 members from 21 countries. This was an important meeting in the life of the Society as the new Constitution was ratified and took effect immediately, opening up the membership to new classes and also enshrining the global reach of the Society. These classes of membership (all of which were subject to the discretion of the Membership Committee) included: Member, Associate Member, Junior Member, Emeritus Member, and Corporate Member.

This also signaled a change in the management of the Society, as Prof. Shaw's third term as Secretary General of the Society was now complete. He had indicated at the previous SOMP meeting in Freiberg that he felt that it was time for a change, and he would not stand again. Prof. Michael Karmis was confirmed as the new SOMP Secretary General. One of the changes in the Constitution was to create a new category of Emeritus Membership of the Society. These were to be members who had retired from active teaching at their universities and had given great service to the Society. They would be elected on merit and the first three were so elected at this meeting. Prof. Fettweis as the founding father of the Society, Prof. Wilke as one of the founding fathers and one of the most active members in the Society for all its years of existence, and Prof. Shaw for his work as Secretary General over the preceding 15 years were so honored.





The 16<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting in Ankara, Turkey, 2005

It was decided that the fees for full Members would be €40; for Retired Members and Associate Members, it would be €20. Prof. Pasamehmetoglu then gave to the members an update on the progress on printing the Journal Mineral Resources Engineering. Atilim University Press was doing all the print work for free. Members were given a free hardcopy as well as the libraries of the universities. Also, the journal became accessible on the internet, and it was left to the SOMP Council to decide on the fees to be charged to other subscribers.

Saturday was given over to a technical visit. In the morning, an underground visit to the Park Group's Underground Lignite Mine was organized. This mine was operating using longwall mining and is one of the most productive underground coal mines in Europe. After lunch, the thermal power plant served by the mine was visited. Following that, attendees visited a planned Trona Mine (not yet in operation but which would eventually be using solution mining) at Cayirhan/Bey pazari, approximately 100 km. northwest of Ankara.



Tim Shaw, Günhan Paşamehmetoğlu and Vladimir Pavlovic (from left to right)





Presentation of the first Emeritus Awards ( from left to right:  
Ludwig Wilke, Günter Fettweis, Tim Shaw and Michael Karmis)



Hans de Ruiter and Tim Shaw  
(from left to right) during the  
mine visit at the the 16<sup>th</sup>  
SOMP Annual General  
Meeting



## The 17<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Kosice, Slovakia, 2006

The 17<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held in Kosice, Slovak Republic from June 17 - 21, 2006, organized by Prof. Pavol Rybar at the Kosice University of Technology. The meeting was one of the best attended meetings of the Society, with 46 participants representing 24 countries. The membership drive undertaken by the Society to recruit new members during the 2005-2006 year resulted in the election of 20 new members. At the Kosice meeting, two constitutional amendments were approved: (a) regarding the Industry Member Class, and (b) the addition of the Membership Committee to the structure of the Society. The Society had a number of standing committees: Research and Development Committee, Education Committee, Industry Committee, and Membership Development Committee.

Upon the recommendation of the Honorifics Committee, the following three members were recognized at Kosice as Emeritus Members in recognition of their contributions to the mission and goals of the Society: Profs. Vanni Badino, Raimo Matikainen and Uros Bajzelj.







Visit to Banska Stiavnica



Pavol Rybar, Raimo Matikainen, Vladimir Pavlovic, Tim Shaw, Hans de Ruiter, Michael Karmis, Ludwig Wilke, Pierre Mousset-Jones, Günhan Paşamehmetoğlu, Carsten Drebenstedt, Bruce Hebblewhite (from left to right) and Giovanni Badino (sitting) at the 17<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting





Prof. Fettweis at the 17<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual Meeting, Kosice, Slovakia, 2006 (beside the Statue of Professor Delius)



## The 18<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Belgrade, Serbia, 2007

The 18<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held in Belgrade, Serbia from June 23-25, 2007, under the leadership of Prof. Vladimir Pavlovic at the University of Belgrade. The meeting was the best attended AGM of the Society with 57 participants and 21 accompanying persons, representing 26 countries. The membership drive undertaken by the Society to recruit new members during the 2006-2007 resulted in the election of 14 new members. With the addition of these new colleagues, the Society had 136 active members at the close of this AGM.

During the Council and Business meetings, the role of the Council and in particular of the regional representatives in promoting the Society and recruiting new members was discussed. It was suggested to further mobilize the Council and ensure active regional representation. A number of options were suggested for improving SOMP presence in the Far East (China, India and Indonesia) and Africa, and possible representatives to the Council from these regions were discussed.

Upon the recommendation of the Honorifics Committee, Profs. Horst Gerhardt and Walter Knissel were recognized at Belgrade as Emeritus Members in recognition of their contributions to the mission and goals of the Society. The official recognition would be conducted at the Aachen AGM in 2008.





## The 19<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Aachen, Germany, 2008

The 19<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held in Aachen, Germany from May 16-20, 2008 under the leadership of Prof. Per Nicolai Martens of RWTH Aachen. The meeting was the best attended AGM of the Society with 64 participants and 16 accompanying persons, as well as 11 invited guests, representing 28 countries and all continents. The 2007-2008 membership campaign resulted into the election of 11 new members. With the addition of these colleagues, the Society had 156 active members at the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> AGM.

The Society once again recognized the tireless efforts of Prof. Pasamehmetoglu to reestablish and direct the publication of the MRE journal. The SOMP proposed several recommendations to ensure the sustainability of the journal. Finally, the Society members agreed to provide formal input to the EU Directorate working on the Draft Communication on Sustainable Access to Raw Materials via an ad hoc committee that was established to this effect.

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



The 19<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting in Aachen, Germany, 2008



Technical session at the meeting in Aachen





SOMP visit to surface lignite mine during the Annual General Meeting in Aachen, Germany, 2008



## The 20<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Sydney, Australia, 2009

The 20<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held in Sydney, Australia from June 27-July 5, 2009, organized by Prof. Bruce Hebblewhite of the University of New South Wales. The meeting was attended by 42 SOMP members from 20 different countries. It was extremely successful and offered a great opportunity to visit world-class mining operations. An important aspect of the technical program was a road mapping exercise lead by President Hebblewhite. The results of this effort were summarized in a brief report that was forwarded to SOMP members.

The 2008-2009 membership campaign resulted in the election of 18 new members and two Junior members. With the addition of the colleagues above, the Society had 177 active members at the close of the 20<sup>th</sup> AGM. The membership represents about 70 Mining Engineering Departments in 40 different countries.

During the Council and 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 was important for individual SOMP members to be active in nominating colleagues to Society membership. At the discussion, it was also noted that there was a need to attract younger colleagues to SOMP and encourage participation from institutions and countries currently unrepresented at SOMP.

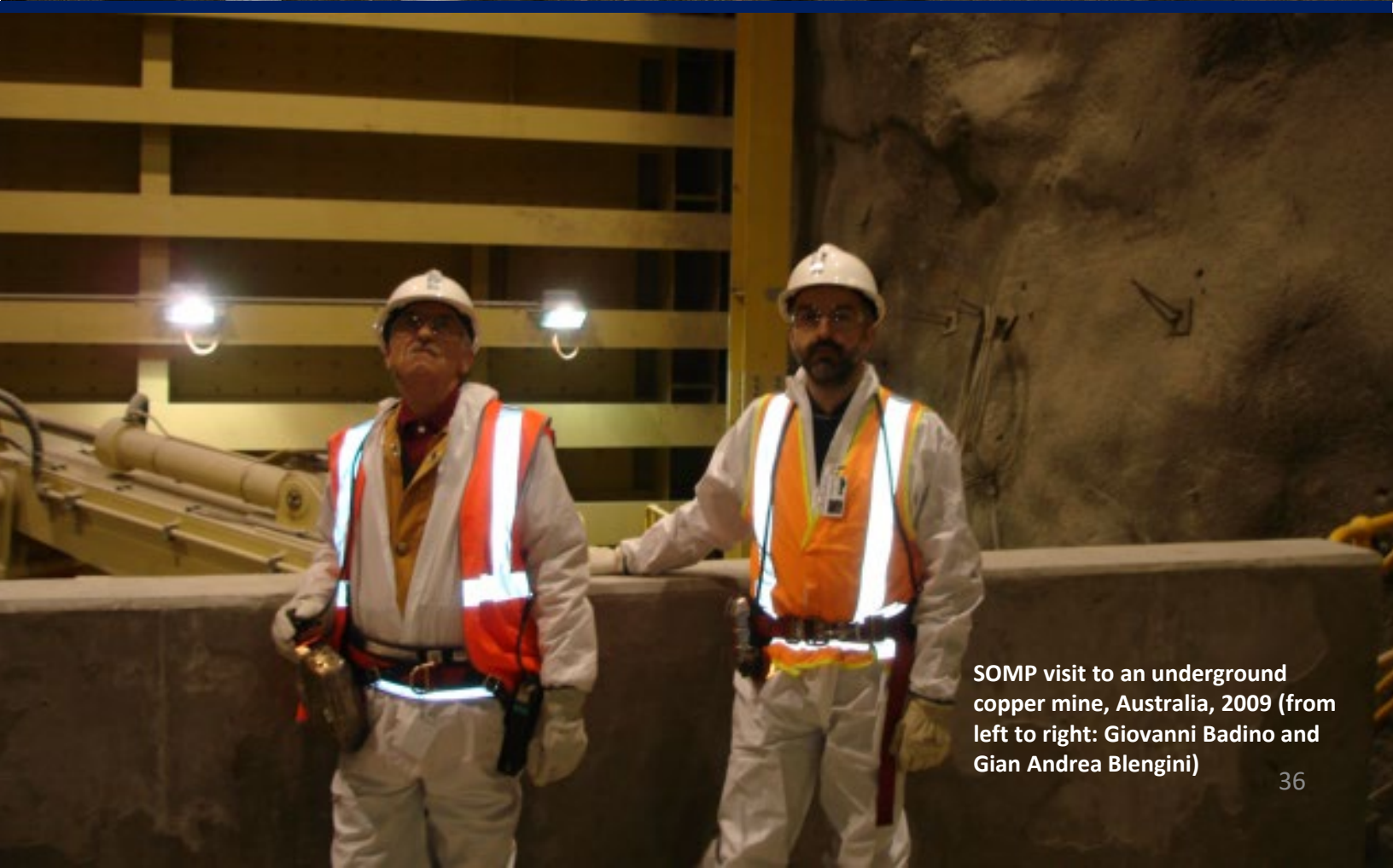
During the meeting, Prof. Pasamehmetoglu, the Chief Editor of the MRE journal, expressed concerns over the quality and number of submitted papers and the interest of members to publish in MRE. The Secretary General made a commitment to develop alternatives that would sustain or at least recognize the history of the journal.







SOMP visit to a surface gold mine, Australia, 2009 (from left to right: Gian Andrea Blengini, Vladislav Kecojevic, Hans de Ruiter, Bruce Hebblewhite and Farshad Rashidi Nejad)



SOMP visit to an underground copper mine, Australia, 2009 (from left to right: Giovanni Badino and Gian Andrea Blengini)



## The 21<sup>st</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Tallinn, Estonia, 2010

The 21<sup>st</sup> SOMP AGM was held in Tallinn, Estonia from June 18-22, 2010. The meeting was extremely successful and was attended by 63 SOMP members and 15 invited guests representing 22 countries.

The 2009-2010 membership campaign resulted in the election of 14 new members. With the addition of these colleagues, the Society had 170 active members at the close of the 21<sup>st</sup> AGM. The membership represented over 70 Mining Engineering departments in 40 different countries.

Prof. Huw Phillips, who had represented Africa since the inception of the Council, announced his resignation in line with his retirement from the position of Head, School of Mining Engineering, University of Witwatersrand. The position was filled by Ronny Webber-Youngman, Head of the Mining Department of University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Regarding the future of the MRE, the Society has examined alternatives that could sustain and recognize the history of the journal. The most significant development was a proposal to integrate the MRE journal into Mining Technology, which is Section A of the Transactions of the Institutions of Mining and Metallurgy. This journal was created by merging the Proceedings of the AusIMM with the Transactions of the IMM (now IMMM). The motion to "merge the MRE journal with the Transactions and accept the proposal to allow online only access (no hard copy) to SOMP members" was approved by majority vote.

After the Tallinn meeting, the SOMP Council enthusiastically approved establishment of a new Society award in order to recognize active society members for accomplishments in education, research, and professional service. This award was named as the "Günter Fettweis Award " in recognition of Prof. Fettweis's contributions to the profession and for his efforts and leadership in rejuvenating the Society.

In a fashion similar to the Sydney exercise, breakout sessions were developed to thoroughly discuss specific topics that could be incorporated into the SOMP Roadmap document. The three main simultaneous breakout sessions were chaired by Profs. Bruce Hebblewhite (on education), Jan Palarski (on research), and Vladislav Kecojevic (on membership development).







Participants at the meeting in Tallinn



Technical session at the meeting in Tallinn



## The 22<sup>nd</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Arequipa, Peru, 2011

The 22<sup>nd</sup> SOMP AGM was held in Arequipa, Peru from September 12-15, 2011. It was organized by Prof. Mario Cedron Lassus of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, jointly with the Iberoamerican Association of Higher Education in Mining (AIESMIN) and in conjunction with Perumin, the Peruvian Mining Convention and Exhibition. The meeting was attended by 38 SOMP members, as well as 3 invited guests, representing 18 countries.

The membership drive undertaken by the Society to recruit new members during the 2010-2011 year included contacts by the regional representatives, advertising via the website, SOMP exposure at major mining meetings (SME Annual Meeting 2011 and IASMIN), international visits by the Secretary General and Officers of the Society, and nominations by SOMP members. The 2010-2011 membership campaign resulted in the election of 13 new members. With the addition of these colleagues, the Society accounted for 138 active members at the close of the 22<sup>nd</sup> AGM. The membership represented over 70 Mining Engineering departments in 40 different countries.

During the meeting, the Secretary General discussed the role of the Council and in particular of the regional representatives in promoting the Society and recruiting new members. The Society should undertake an effort to rotate council members on a regular basis to assure diversity and better representation of all global regions of the Society.

The MRE journal was successfully incorporated into Mining Technology, Section A of the Transactions of the Institutions of Mining and Metallurgy. With this merger, three SOMP members were selected to serve on the Editorial Board: Profs. Oliver Langefeld (TU Clausthal, Germany), Vladislav Kecojevic (West Virginia University, USA), and Zach Agioutantis (TU Crete, Greece). They joined one additional SOMP member, Prof. Pierre Mousset-Jones (University of Nevada-Reno, USA), who had already been serving as a member of that journal board.

The last session of the Arequipa meeting was devoted to updating the strategic document and SOMP Roadmap. Prof. Bruce Hebblewhite led the discussion, and a number of recommendations and action items were proposed and developed. After the AGM in Peru, the Roadmap was updated in accordance to these discussions and circulated to the members, as well as being posted to the SOMP website.





Specific items from these discussions included:

- SOMP was assuming global leadership in developing education surveys of the mining schools around the world. Instead of the traditional way of collecting information via questionnaires, SOMP would develop a dedicated survey tool on its website where institutions can directly input and update their information. This capability would allow a more complete response to the surveys and continuous updating.
- SOMP should encourage younger colleagues and senior postgraduate students interested in entering academia to attend the annual meetings. To expedite this, it was recommended that poster sessions should be included during the AGM aimed specifically at these groups.
- SOMP should prepare a generic presentation on its history, mission, and activities that members could use for outreach and other presentations to the public.
- SOMP should encourage the development of regional meetings. These meetings would enhance and expand the reach of SOMP beyond the traditional AGM opportunities.
- SOMP members should take advantage of electronic networking to exchange ideas, foster cooperation, and expand educational and research opportunities.

The Secretary General noted that SOMP had accomplished a number of objectives during the past 10 years in the following areas:

- Membership (e.g., number of members, member demographics, regional representation, participation by younger colleagues)
- Annual Meetings (e.g., content, format, regional presence, location)
- Programs (e.g., partnerships, interdisciplinary/joint initiatives, best practices, promoting discipline and pride)
- Strategic Documents (e.g., strategic plans with goals, directions, and a continuous improvement process)

Looking forward as noted in the Sydney Roadmap (2009), *“SOMP needs to be more than an informal network that meets once per year...we should develop goals and action items that can be pursued by the membership via our Council and Committee structure.”* Opportunities for enhancing membership recruitment and development, expanding and enriching future AGMs, creating strategic partnerships within institutions and industry, and simply staying in the academic forefront all require SOMP to continuously update and rejuvenate to expand the Society’s reach and relevance.

To accomplish this, the SOMP needed to have a leadership succession plan for the eventual ‘changing of the guard.’ To expedite this, the Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary General, and Treasurer initiated a nomination process to fill these positions in the near future, in a way that promoted an orderly succession of leadership for SOMP. Nominations had already been received and Members were encouraged to provide additional nominations directly to the Secretary General. It was decided that the Society planned to offer recommendations for the new SOMP leadership team for approval at the next AGM in Poland.





## The 23<sup>rd</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Wroclaw, Poland, 2012

The 23<sup>rd</sup> SOMP AGM was held in Wroclaw, Poland from July 12-16, 2012. The AGM was organized by Prof. Monika Hardygora of Wroclaw University of Technology. The meeting was attended by 73 SOMP members and 27 accompanying persons, representing 28 countries. The meeting comprised of 35 presentations and two panel discussions, including the keynote session. The membership voted for the proposed changes put forward by the Strategic Planning Committee. Also, the Society elected Prof. Bruce Hebblewhite of University of New South Wales, Australia as the new Secretary General and Dr. Ludger Rattmann, RWTH Aachen, Germany as the Deputy Secretary General.

New Secretary General Prof. Hebblewhite acknowledged and thanked both Profs. Karmis and Hans de Ruiter for the tireless and invaluable efforts that both have put into our Society over many years. They had provided strong and capable leadership and our Society had been greatly strengthened and refreshed through their efforts.

There were several changes in SOMP Council membership. In particular, Prof. Zach Agioutantis from Greece had taken over from Prof. Monika Hardygora as the new SOMP President for 2012-2013. There were a number of other new names on the Council membership, including Prof. Oscar Jaime Restrepo Baena from Colombia, who replaced Prof. Mario Cedron Lassus as our representative for South America, and Prof. Helmut Mischo from Freiberg, Germany, as a new President Elect Designate.

One of the major decisions at the AGM was the adoption of a new Constitution for the Society, together with a set of Rules and Procedures. Both of these documents were made available to the membership on the Society website after the AGM in Poland.

A significant announcement at the AGM was the creation of a new SOMP Award approved by the Council, the "Ludwig Wilke Award", in honor of the contributions by one of our very long-standing members, Prof. Wilke, from Germany. This award recognizes *"SOMP members whose research and publications have made significant contributions to the scientific body of knowledge in mining engineering."*







Delegates at the 23<sup>rd</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Wroclaw, Poland, 2012

One of the tributes paid by the SOMP President Monika Hardygora at the formal dinner for the 2012 meeting was to recognize all past Society Presidents who were in attendance, together with the next President.

There were two additional special recognition occasions that took place at the 2012 meeting's final dinner. The first of these was the awarding of Emeritus status to our two retiring management team representatives, Prof. Michael Karmis and Prof. Hans de Ruiter. This honor was bestowed by the Society on the recommendation of the Honorifics Committee. The second was the inaugural award of the Günter Fettweis Award, to recognize *"active SOMP members for accomplishments and excellence in education, research, professional service and contributions to the Society."* The 2012 highly deserving recipient of this Award was, once again, Prof. Michael Karmis. It was a great privilege to have Prof. Fettweis present with us at the dinner to present the Award.



Günter Fettweis and past Presidents at the 23<sup>rd</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Wroclaw, Poland, 2012





Presentation of the first Günter Fettweis Award to Michael Karmis (from left to right: Michael Karmis, Monika Hardygora and Günter Fettweis)



Visit to Wieliczka salt mine and museum in Poland



## The 24<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Milos, Greece, 2013

The 24<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held in Milos, Greece from June 26-29, 2013, organized by Prof. Zach Agioutantis of the Technical University of Crete. The meeting was attended by 60 SOMP members representing 21 countries. This AGM was coordinated with SDIMI 2013, which was also organized by the Technical University of Crete.

The Deputy Secretary General reported that according to the database, there were 185 SOMP members, of which 6 were Junior Members, 16 were retired Members, 14 were Emeritus Members, and 3 were Associated Members. The Deputy Secretary General gave an overview about membership payments in the years 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013. The percentage paid dropped from 98 % in 2010, to 79 % in 2011, to 68 % in 2012, and to 33 % in 2013 (24<sup>th</sup> June 2013). The total amount of missing payments was roughly €10,000. This is even more unfortunate, as the Society pays €14.50 per member for the Mining Technology Journal.

It was decided that the membership fees for 2014 should stay on the same level, i.e. Member: €60; Retired Member: €30; Emeritus Members: No Fee, and Junior Member: No Fee.

At the 2013 AGM in Milos, the membership supported the Council's recommendation to change the name of the Recruitment and Capacity Building Committee to become the Capacity Building Committee. This is a better reflection of the strategic focus of this group, which is very active in this purpose on behalf of the Society. The new website of the Society was also introduced during the AGM by Prof. Zach Agioutantis.

Apart from a very successful program for the meeting, our annual dinner also saw several significant 2013 awards presented – all of which were very well deserved. These were as follows: Prof. Huw Phillips – Emeritus Award; Prof. Pierre Mousset-Jones – Emeritus Award; and Prof. Jan Palarski – the inaugural Ludwig Wilke Award for contributions to mining research.



The 24<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Milos, Greece, 2013



## The 25<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2014

The 25<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from June 26-30, 2014 under the leadership of Prof. Ronny Webber-Youngman of University of Pretoria. The event was hosted both by the University of Pretoria and the University of the Witwatersrand. Prior to the meeting and in coordination with the organizers, a WFEO capacity building workshop was held in the Maslow Hotel.

The meeting was based at the Maslow Hotel, but also included two-day visits to each of the hosting universities, which provided an informative showcase of their facilities and research activities. The meeting was followed by mine tours of both coal and deep gold mines in the Johannesburg area. A further benefit from the involvement of SAIMM in the SOMP meeting was the agreement that an entire future journal issue of the Transactions of the SAIMM would be devoted to a selection of papers from the 2014 SOMP meeting. After the meeting, a selection of papers was forwarded to SAIMM for full and independent scrutiny by their own peer review process.

Regarding new membership, all members were reminded that membership is not restricted just to those who are full professors. Under the constitution of the Society, any person who is directly involved or affiliated with mining engineering education is eligible to join SOMP. In fact, the SOMP leadership strongly encouraged younger mining academics or faculty members who were just setting out on a mining academic career to consider joining SOMP to benefit from the ever-increasing international network of fellow mining academics. The SOMP Deputy Secretary General reported a total of 190 members of which 5 were junior, 14 retired, and 14 emeritus.

A change was made to SOMP Council membership immediately after the 2014 Annual Meeting. Prof. Zach Agioutantis had been responsible for developing and managing the SOMP website for some time. Part of the new website included the online membership application process. Council had therefore agreed to appoint Prof. Agioutantis to the role of Director, IT and Membership, and to appoint him as an invited member of the SOMP Council.

Apart from a very successful program for the meeting, the SOMP annual dinner also saw the presentation of the second Günter Fettweis Award, recognizing contributions to both mining education and our Society. This award went to Prof. Huw Phillips, the former long-serving Head of the School of Mining Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand, and a long-standing SOMP member.



The 25<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2014





Plenary session at the meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa



SOMP members at the University of Pretoria, South Africa





Presentation of the Günter Fettweis Award to Huw Phillips (from left to right: Michael Karmis, Huw Phillips and Bruce Hebblewhite)



## The 26<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Freiberg, Germany, 2015

The 26<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM took place in Freiberg, Germany from June 21-26, 2015 under the leadership of Prof. Helmut Mischo. The event was hosted by the University of Freiberg in conjunction with the celebration of the 250 years of Bergakademie Freiberg. The meeting was attended by 77 SOMP members and 46 external guests and partners.

Prof. Zach Agioutantis reported that there were 234 members from 41 Countries and some 90 universities in the SOMP database. For members with outstanding membership fees, the Council agreed on the following procedure: if a SOMP-member does not pay the membership fee for 2 years in a row, they will be contacted by the Deputy Secretary General. If the member does not respond within a reasonable period of time, they will be contacted again. If the member once again does not respond, their membership will be cancelled by the membership committee.

Secretary General Prof. Bruce Hebblewhite presented the SOMP Strategic Plan – Towards 2020 and Beyond, which was developed during the SOMP Strategic Planning Committee Workshop in Aachen in May 2015. It was formally adopted by the Council and the membership at the AGM in Freiberg.

During the AGM a total of 29 papers and 10 posters were presented in seven technical sessions, not only on internationalization/globalization of mining education and its opportunities and challenges, but also on new technologies, strategies and research in mining engineering, deposit evaluation, geotechnical engineering, and mine safety.

The traditional Awards Dinner, this time a typical Saxonian Miners' evening, saw the presentation of several SOMP awards. They were: Günter Fettweis Award to Prof. Per Nicolai Martens of RWTH Aachen; Ludwig Wilke Award to Prof. Hans de Ruiter of TU Delft; and Emeritus Awards to Prof. Vladimir Pavlovic of University of Belgrade and Prof. Per Nicolai Martens of RWTH Aachen.







Plenary session at the 26<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Freiberg, Germany, 2015



Presentation of the Günter Fettweis Award to Per Nicolai Martens (from left to right: Per Nicolai Martens, Michael Karmis, Hans de Ruiter and Ludger Rattmann)





Presentation of the Ludwig Wilke Award to Hans de Ruiter (right) by Ludwig Wilke (left)



Presentation of the Emeritus Award to Vladimir Pavlovic (from left to right: Vladimir Pavlovic, Michael Karmis, Hans de Ruiter and Ludger Rattmann)



## The 27<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Washington, DC, United States of America, 2016

The 27<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held in Washington, DC, from September 21-24, 2016 under the leadership of Prof. Vladislav Kecojevic of West Virginia University. The event was co-organized by West Virginia University, Virginia Tech, and the University of Kentucky. There were 85 SOMP members from 46 institutions spread across the 23 countries, and it was the highest member attendance of all SOMP AGMs to date.

It was reported at the AGM that, as of the end of May 2016, there were 267 SOMP members from 45 different countries, representing 112 different institutions across all continents. These numbers were very encouraging, demonstrating that SOMP was truly a representative international Society.

There were several very notable keynote addresses, including one from the US Senator from West Virginia Joe Manchin, and also Dr. Jessica Kogel, the incoming Associate Director for Mining (ADM) in the Office of the Director of the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

The program of the AGM included presentations related to education, research, membership development, and capacity building, and significant time was devoted to workshops and panels in order to benefit all those attending the AGM. The highlight of the event was the workshop on mentoring of young academics developed by the SOMP Membership Development Committee. This AGM was what SOMP is all about – not just another international conference of multiple paper presentations, but a select number of presentations, integrated with informative and practical discussions, workshops, and panels covering our major interest areas of future education needs, collaborative research opportunities, member development, and capacity building for new mining programs in developing parts of the world.







During the Awards Dinner, a number of awards were presented.

- The inaugural presentation of the Tim Shaw Award for Innovation in Teaching & Learning to Dr. Elisabeth Clausen, from TU Clausthal, Germany. The award was presented by Prof. Tim Shaw.
- Presentation of three well-deserved Emeritus Awards to Prof. David Laurence, UNSW Australia; Prof. Christoph Dauber, TFH Georg Agricola, Germany; and Prof. Pinyo Meechumna, Chulalongkorn, Thailand. Unfortunately, Prof. Meechumna was not present at the meeting; the award was accepted on his behalf by Prof. Jürgen Kretschmann.
- Presentation of the Ludwig Wilke Award to Prof. Monika Hardygora, Wroclaw University of Technology, Poland.
- Presentation of the Günter Fettweis Award to Prof. Mario Cedrón Lassus, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP), Peru.

Prior to the AGM, a group of members and guests participated in a field trip to mines in both Virginia and West Virginia; university visits to Virginia Tech and West Virginia University; WVU mine rescue and training facilities; and a game of American Football at Virginia Tech.





Presentation of the first Tim Shaw Award to Elisabeth Clausen (from left to right: Vladislav Kecojevic, Michael Karmis, Elisabeth Clausen, Tim Shaw and Bruce Hebblewhite)



Presentation of the Ludwig Wilke Award to Monika Hardygora (from left to right: Michael Karmis, Monika Hardygora and Bruce Hebblewhite)



Presentation of the Günter Fettweis Award to Mario Cedrón Lassus (from left to right: Michael Karmis, Mario Cedrón Lassus and Ludger Rattmann)



Presentation of the Emeritus Award to Christoph Dauber and David Laurence (from left to right: Vladislav Kecojevic, Michael Karmis, Christoph Dauber, David Laurence and Bruce Hebblewhite)





SOMP visit to surface mine in West Virginia, 2016



SOMP visit to underground coal mine in West Virginia, 2016



## The 28<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Torino, Italy, 2017

The 28<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held in Torino, Italy from July 3-6, 2017 under the leadership of Assoc. Prof. Marilena Cardu, Politecnico di Torino. The meeting was attended by 75 members (from 26 countries) and approximately 20 accompanying persons. The AGM was followed by a fascinating post-meeting tour to the Carrara marble quarries, Tuscany and the Cinque Terre.

The meeting was a wonderful success in every way – from the planning and organization, to the venue, the level of attendance, all activities, and its program. Again, this was not the standard international conference of multiple paper presentations, but a select number of presentations, integrated with informative and practical discussion forums and mini-workshops.

It was decided that the membership fees for 2018 be as follows: Member, €70; Retired Member, €35; Emeritus Members, No Fee; and Junior Member, €35.

During the meeting and at the Awards Dinner, a number of awards were presented. Firstly, the second annual presentation of the Tim Shaw Award for Innovation in Teaching and Learning was made to Assoc. Prof. Serkan Saydam, from UNSW Sydney, Australia. Serkan delivered an inspiring presentation on his various initiatives involving virtual reality and off-earth mining, to name just two.

Two Emeritus Awards were given – to Prof. Piotr Czaja, from AGH Krakow, Poland, and to Prof. Bruce Hebblewhite, from UNSW Sydney, Australia.

One further award was presented at the Awards Dinner in Torino – the Ludwig Wilke Award, which was presented to Prof. Bruce Hebblewhite.





As Secretary General for the last five years, Prof. Hebblewhite believed it was the time for the change in SOMP leadership and that the Society needed to elect a new Secretary General. The SOMP Council voted to appoint Prof. Vladislav Kecojevic of West Virginia University as the new Secretary General effective after the AGM meeting in Beijing, China in July 2018. Prof. Kecojevic was then unanimously elected and approved by the SOMP membership at the AGM in Torino. He and Prof. Hebblewhite would work closely together to ensure the smooth change over.



Participants at the 28<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Torino, Italy, 2017



Participants at the 28<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Torino, Italy, 2017





Presentation of the Ludwig Wilke Award to Bruce Hebblewhite (from left to right: Bruce Hebblewhite, Ludwig Wilke and Michael Karmis)



Presentation of the Emeritus Award to Piotr Czaja (from left to right: Marilena Cardu, Piotr Czaja, Michael Karmis and Ludger Rattmann)







SOMP visit to famous marble mine, Carrara, Italy, 2016



SOMP visit to famous marble mine, Carrara, Italy, 2016





## The 29<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Beijing, China, 2018

The 29<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM had made a mark in history. For the first time, the SOMP had moved to China, the largest mining region in the world, as well as one of the largest mining education sectors in the world. Under the leadership of Prof. Zhongxue Li, the 29<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held in Beijing from July 3<sup>rd</sup> through July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018; it was hosted by the University of Science & Technology Beijing (USTB), China, assisted by the China University of Mining & Technology (Beijing) and the North China Institute of Science & Technology. A total of 66 international and 26 Chinese delegates attended the meeting, as well as 17 accompanying persons. The post-conference tour was attended by 16 persons.

Technical programs included several introductory presentations on both coal and hard rock mining research and education opportunities and challenges with China's Belt and Road Initiative and Double First-Class Initiative, while SOMP Committees organized interesting presentations and panel discussions on teaching innovations for the young generation of mining engineers; mine safety and health; community and sustainability; members development; and capacity building.

During the meeting and at the Awards Dinner, several awards were presented. Firstly, the third annual presentation of the Tim Shaw Award for Innovation in Teaching and Learning was made to Simit Raval from University of New South Wales, Australia. He delivered his presentation on the changing landscape of learning and teaching.

In recognition for organization and contributions to 29<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM and overall service to SOMP, special memorable medals were awarded to 2017-2018 SOMP President Zhongxue Li and Secretary General Bruce Hebblewhite, as well as incoming 2018-2019 SOMP President Jürgen Kretschmann and Secretary General Vladislav Kecojevic. At the end of the meeting, an oral and video tribute to the outgoing Secretary General Bruce Hebblewhite was presented by incoming Secretary General Vladislav Kecojevic; it warmly moved all the audience.

The meeting was enriched by unique visits to Chinese cultural and historical gems, including the Temple of Heaven, the Forbidden City with Palace Museum, the Tiananmen Square, the National Museum of China, and the Great Wall of China. Another unforgettable attraction was the Beijing Olympic Park. The technical tours included visits to both an underground Tashan coal mine with top coal caving longwall in Datong and the Anjialing open pit (a successor of the Antaibao coal mine) in Shuozhou, as well as the Museum of China Coal Pingshuo Coal Company. Visits to the mines and museum deeply impressed the participants on the post-conference technical tour.







2018-2019 SOMP President Zhongxue Li and delegates at the 29<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Beijing, China, 2018



Closing session, the 29<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Beijing, China, 2018



Awards recipients at the 29<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Beijing, China, 2018 (from left to right: Vladislav Kecojevic, Simit Raval, Bruce Hebblewhite and Jürgen Kretschmann)







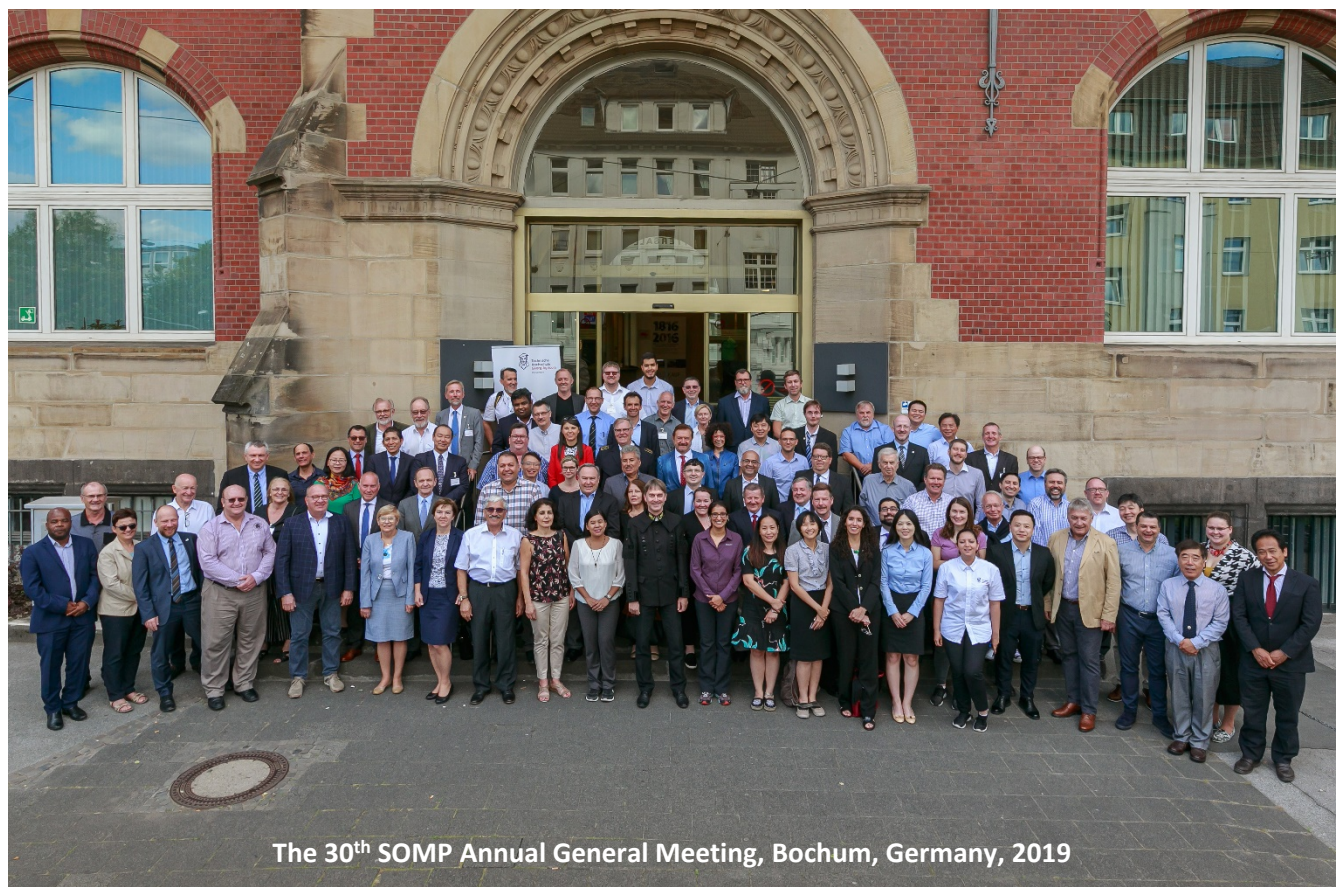


# The 30<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Bochum, Germany, 2019

The 30<sup>th</sup> SOMP AGM was held in Bochum, Germany, between June 29<sup>th</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The meeting was hosted by the TH Georg Agricola University under the leadership of Prof. Jürgen Kretschmann. It included a three-day program with a plenary session on the morning of the first day of technical meetings. It also included technical tours in the Ruhr Area on July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The meeting was attended by 110 participants, where Germany was represented by 29 participants, the USA was represented by 11, and Australia was represented by 9. There was a total of 30 countries represented in the meeting.

Opening, welcome, and keynote talks were delivered by Prof. Jürgen Kretschmann, Bärbel Bergerhoff-Wodopia (Member of the Board of Executives, RAG Stiftung), and Jürgen Brune (on behalf of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration). Following these talks, the SOMP Business Session was conducted by Prof. Vladislav Kecojec (SOMP Secretary General).

Prof. Michael Karmis (Virginia Tech), Prof. Ismet Canbulat (UNSW Sydney), Prof. Jan Palarski (Silesian University of Technology), and Prof. Ronny Webber-Youngman (University of Pretoria) were panelists for the open session on Research Funding. The purpose of this panel was to dig into the topic of interest to many SOMP members, not only those who are seeking promotion and/or tenure at their universities, but also to those academics who aspire to stay research active. The panel included a number of Q&A and interactive discussions amongst SOMP members. The first day of the AGM also included several presentations on a variety of research topics and post-mining. The second day of the SOMP meeting included a series of presentations on education, elements of career development, graduate student numbers and trends, an inspirational talk, a workshop, and an interactive panel discussion on the SOMP Young Talent initiative. The last day of the SOMP conference covered topics related to capacity building, the future of SOMP, and presentations on upcoming AGM and Regional meetings.



The 30<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Bochum, Germany, 2019



Prof. Elisabeth Clausen of RWTH Aachen was elected as the new SOMP Deputy Secretary General Treasurer, replacing Prof. Ludger Rattmann (TH Georg Agricola), who served as the Deputy Secretary General Treasurer for almost a decade. Profs. Pinyo Meechumna (Chulalongkorn University), Ronny Webber-Youngman (University of Pretoria), and Helmut Mischo (TU Bergakademie Freiberg) had tirelessly served our Society as the SOMP Council Members from Asia, Africa, and Europe, respectively. As their terms came to an end, the SOMP Council nominated and the membership at the meeting in Bochum approved Assoc. Profs. Nguyen Nga (Hanoi University of Mining and Geology), Harmony Musiyarira (Namibia University of Science and Technology), and Marilena Cardu (Politecnico di Torino) as the new Council Members from Asia, Africa, and Europe, respectively.

The Mining Technology Journal had been an official SOMP journal for almost a decade. All members of the Society were able to receive electronic online access to Mining Technology, included with their membership fee. At the same time, the SOMP had been paying a subscription fee, i.e., approximately 10 Euros + VAT per SOMP member. The last payment to the journal publisher was €3,666 for 2018. This had been a significant burden on SOMP's already limited budget. Therefore, the SOMP Council and membership at the AGM in Bochum decided to cancel its subscription to this journal, effective December 30, 2019. At the same meeting, the council and membership decided to endorse a new journal, the International Journal of Mining Science and Technology, published by Elsevier. The SOMP would not pay any subscription fee to this journal, there would be a significant representation of SOMP members on the journal editorial board, and all members would have access to this journal free of charge.

The SOMP Council proposed and the membership at the meeting unanimously approved two new SOMP Awards:

- The Michael Karmis SOMP PhD Fellowship Award to recognize a SOMP junior member who desires to pursue an academic career by acquiring a PhD in the field of Mining Engineering and/or Mineral Processing.
- The Bruce Hebblewhite SOMP Best Paper Award to recognize author(s) presenting papers at the SOMP Annual General Meeting (AGM) for their contributions to our body of knowledge.



Plenary session at the 30<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Bochum, Germany, 2019





These two awards have been established in order to (a) recognize two distinguished and inspired SOMP leaders who have transformed and positively impacted the Society, and (b) use the SOMP financial resources to support its members through the competitive process and encourage their active engagement in SOMP activities.





During the Awards Dinner, several SOMP members were recognized for their accomplishments: Prof. Jürgen Kretschmann (TH Georg Agricola University) was the recipient of the Günter Fettweis Award. Prof. Michael Karmis (Virginia Tech) was named the recipient of the Ludwig Wilke Award. The fourth annual presentation of the Tim Shaw Award for Innovation in Teaching and Learning was made to Assoc. Prof. Andrea Brickey (South Dakota School of Mines and Technology) for devoting significant effort to develop teaching and learning innovations, promoting educational excellence, and motivating and inspiring students to learn. In recognition for contributions to strengthen the international academic network in education and research, special Medals of Honor were awarded by the host institution to four SOMP members during the opening ceremony: Assoc. Prof. Nguyen Nga, Prof. Jürgen Brune, Prof. Oscar Jaime Restrepo Baena, and Prof. Vladislav Kecojevic.

The AGM in Bochum was enriched by attendance to the Night of Industrial Culture and German Mining Museum. The technical tours included visits to RAG Mine Water Control Center at former mine “Pluto”, former mine site “Ewald”, active opencast lignite mine Garzweiler, and ESCO - European salt company GmbH & Co.

The meeting was a great success in every way, from the planning and organization, to the venue, to the level of attendance, to all activities, and to the program itself.



Education session at the 30<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Bochum, Germany, 2019



Capacity building workshop at the 30<sup>th</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting, Bochum, Germany, 2019





Presentation of the Günter Fettweis Award to Jürgen Kretschmann (from left to right: Vladislav Kecojevic, Jürgen Kretschmann and Michael Karmis)



Presentation of the Ludwig Wilke Award to Michael Karmis (from left to right: Vladislav Kecojevic, Monika Hardygora, Michael Karmis, Bruce Hebblewhite and Jan Palarski)





Presentation of the Tim Shaw Award to Andrea Brickey  
(from left to right: Vladislav Kecojevic, Andrea Brickey  
and Rudrajit Mitra)



Presentation of the Medals of Honor (from left to right: Bärbel  
Bergerhoff-Wodopia , Nguyen Nga, Jürgen Brune, Oscar Jaime  
Restrepo Baena, Vladislav Kecojevic and Jürgen Kretschmann)





SOMP visit to a surface lignite mine, Germany, 2019



SOMP visit to an underground salt mine, Germany, 2019



# SOMP Regional Meetings

**The Society of Mining Professors (SOMP)/Societät der Bergbaukunde has organized nine SOMP Regional Meetings (RM) over the last ten years.**

Year	Host Institution	City	Country
2013	Chulalongkorn University	Chiang Mai	Thailand
2014	Hanoi University of Mining and Geology	Vung Tau City	Vietnam
2015	Namibia University of Science and Technology	Windhoek,	Namibia
2016	Universidad Nacional de Colombia	Medellin	Colombia
2016	Chulalongkorn University	Bangkok	Thailand
2018	MEESA and SAIMM	Johannesburg	South Africa
2018	Universidad Santo Tomás	Santiago	Chile
2018	Bandung Institute of Technology	Bandung	Indonesia
2019	TH Georg Agricola University	Bochum	Germany

## The 1<sup>st</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 2013

The 1<sup>st</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting took place in Chiang Mai, Thailand from November 13-15, 2013, under the leadership of Prof. Pinyo Meechumna of Chulalongkorn University. The program included two days of meetings and one day of field trips to local mines. The meeting was attended by the participants from Australia, Germany, Japan, Spain, Thailand, Vietnam, and the USA and included SOMP members from the following universities: UNSW, TFH Bochum, RWTH Aachen, TU Freiberg, Hokkaido University, Kyushu University, Huelva, Chulalongkorn, Chiang Mai, Hanoi University of Mining and Geology, Hanoi University of Natural Resources and Environment, and Hochiminh City University of Technology. Company representatives came from Vietnam (e.g. Besra Vietnam - gold mining, Ymeris Vietnam, Petro Vietnam Drilling Technical Training and Certification, and Mining Chemical Industry Holding Corp.).



The 1<sup>st</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting,  
Chiang Mai, Thailand, 2013





The 1<sup>st</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting,  
Chiang Mai, Thailand, 2013



The 1<sup>st</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting,  
Chiang Mai, Thailand, 2013

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# ASEAN++ 2014 Moving Forward



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## SOCIETY OF MINING PROFESSIONALS

### The 2<sup>nd</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting, Vung Tau City, Vietnam, 2014

The 2<sup>nd</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting was held in Vung Tau City, Vietnam from October 19-20, 2014. During the two-day meeting, after the report of the SOMP AGM in South Africa and expectations for the regional meetings (by Dr. Ludger Rattmann) and the brief overview of the planned SOMP activities in 2014 - 2015 (by Prof. Helmuth Mischo), a follow-up from the first regional SOMP meeting in Chiang Mai Thailand in 2013 was presented by Prof. Pinyo Meechumna. Participants were briefed on trends in capacity building in Southeast Asia and the capacity of mining R&D. Workshops were held with the SOMP Capacity Building Committee, which included topics on sustainable development, cooperation networking, and social media. The workshop from the World Federation of Engineering Organization was also integrated into the SOMP regional meeting. Dr. Jessica Kogel of SME spoke about mining in the context of sustainable development, and Assoc. Prof. David Laurence talked about operationalizing sustainable development. From the Southeast Asia side, Bresa Vietnam presented an example of using water at this company, which was followed by a panel discussion. The panel of stakeholders discussed mining and water utilization in Southeast Asia, and it was chaired by Prof. Jürgen Kretschmann and representatives from industry, government, and NGOs.

Pictured: Jürgen Kretschmann, Nguyen Nga, Pinyo Meechumna and Paul Hagan (from left to right)





The 2<sup>nd</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting, Vung Tau City, Vietnam, 2014



The 2<sup>nd</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting, Vung Tau City, Vietnam, 2014





## The 3<sup>rd</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting, Windhoek, Namibia, 2015

The 3<sup>rd</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting was held between September 28 and October 2, 2015; it was organized by the Namibia University of Science and Technology's Department of Mining and Process Engineering. The theme of the meeting was "Building Capacity for the Mineral Industry" and featured technical presentations from academics, government, and industry professionals on a wide range of topics.

The first half of the conference was hosted in Windhoek, the capital city of Namibia, while the second half was held in Swakopmund, a major uranium mining hub on the Namibian coastline.

The meeting and conference provided a stimulating and professional platform for active engagement amongst leading academics, mining industry leaders, and government representatives. While the schedule was intense, the meeting equally provided a platform for information sharing and facilitated the active role of industry as a key stakeholder in minerals education. The meeting and conference attracted delegates from a broad range of universities on the Southern African region, namely Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, and Namibia. In addition, there were also delegates from Australia, Spain, and Germany. The attendance was quite impressive, with a total of forty delegates attending the conference, including notable figures representing the Namibian mining industry and government. The broad attendance also highlighted the commitment and enthusiasm of all the key stakeholders that have a role in minerals education.

Going forward, it is important to point out the immense support received from all the SOMP members across the globe whose input and immense contribution made the conference a great success. The presence of the SOMP Secretary General, Prof. Bruce Hebblewhite and outgoing SOMP President, Prof Helmut Mischo also testified the commitment of SOMP to enhancing minerals education and consolidating its presence as an organization in Southern Africa. It is equally important to recognize the immense contribution of International Mining for Development Centre (IM4DC) for sponsoring the Zambian and Mozambican delegates to attend the conference.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting, Windhoek, Namibia, 2015



# The 4<sup>th</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting, Medellin, Colombia, 2016

The 4<sup>th</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting was held in Medellin, Colombia from May 26-28, 2016. The meeting was organized by the Universidad Nacional de Colombia under the leadership of Prof. Oscar Jaime Restrepo Baena. The theme of the meeting was “Mining Education in Latin America: Current Status and Future Challenges and Prospects.”

The meeting aimed to bring the academic mining community together and foster growth and collaboration; it also aimed to facilitate the exchange of information, research, teaching, and collaborative activities among its members. It was an excellent opportunity to share knowledge, information, and academic programs and to strengthen the undergraduate and graduate programs in the area of mineral resources. It also aimed to develop a strategy to strengthen mining research in the regions of geology, mining and metallurgy.

The meeting was a great success, with many South American attendees as well as delegates from North America, South Africa, and Europe.







Visit to Universidad Nacional de Colombia  
during the 4<sup>th</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting,  
Medellin, Colombia, 2016





## The 5<sup>th</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand, 2016

Building on the success of the 1<sup>st</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in 2013, followed by the equally successful Regional Meetings in Vietnam, Namibia, and Colombia, the 5<sup>th</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand from July 30 - August 1, 2016. The meeting took place at the famous Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

There were two days of meetings and one day of field trips to the local potash project, which is expected to be the next significant mining investment in Thailand. It was an excellent opportunity for participants to meet with mining professors and academic staff from mining schools in ASIAN/ASEAN and other regions together with members of SOMP who came from various parts of the world. The theme of the meeting was "Mining for a Sustainable Future – Opportunities for Mining Education and Research in the ASEAN Region and Beyond."



## The 6<sup>th</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2018

The 6<sup>th</sup> SOMP Regional Conference was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from March 11-14, 2018. It was hosted by the Mining Engineering Education South Africa (MEESA) and the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM). The theme of this Regional Meeting was “Overcoming Challenges in the Mining Industry through Sustainable Mining Practices,” and included papers on topics from research and development, sustainable development, and innovations in learning and teaching.

A total of 46 delegates from twelve countries participated at the meeting, with attendees from four continents including Asia, Africa, Australia, and Europe. A total of 32 papers were independently peer-reviewed by experts in the respective specialist fields in order to ensure the highest level of relevance and quality.

The conference had three keynote speakers – Mr. Lucky Kgatle (Senior Vice President, Sasol Mining Pty Ltd), Ms. Deshnee Naidoo (CEO, Vedanta Zinc International), and Prof. Cuthbert Musingwini (Head of the School of Mining Engineering, University of the Witwatersrand). The meeting also had a panel discussion on “Mining Education of the Future.” The panelists were Prof. Bruce Hebblewhite, School of Mining Engineering, UNSW Sydney and Secretary General for SOMP; Mr. Gary Lane, Director, Vuuma Collaborations; and Dr. Gordon Smith, Executive Head, Technical, Anglo American Platinum Ltd. This panel was very well received by the delegates and it served as the basis for a similar discussion in the SOMP Annual Meeting in Beijing. A technical visit was made to South Deep mine, which is operated by Gold Fields.



Participants at the 6<sup>th</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2018





Visit to South Deeps gold mine



Visit to South Deeps gold mine





## The 7<sup>th</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting, Santiago, Chile, 2018

The 7<sup>th</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting was held in Santiago, Chile from April 23-27, 2018. A total of 40 participants from Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Spain, Argentina, and Brazil attended this meeting. The major areas for discussion centered on new trends in mining education, with a focus on mining education in Latin America. Each country had an opportunity to present its experiences based on their needs while highlighting possible areas for collaboration. The need to train future professionals in hard and soft skills has been the key to developing well-rounded graduates. The participants were also encouraged to learn a second language in order to be able to link with peers in other world regions. Prof. Oscar Jaime Restrepo Baena made a presentation about SOMP, outlining its mission and the benefits of being part of SOMP. He also invited and encouraged colleagues to join SOMP. The conference was held within the framework of Expomin, the largest mining fair in Latin America; the participants were able to enjoy both events. A technical visit was also made to an underground copper mine, including its processing plant.





# The 8<sup>th</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting, Bandung, Indonesia, July 26-27, 2018

The 8<sup>th</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting was held in Bandung, Indonesia from July 26-27, 2018 under the leadership of Profs. Rudy Sayoga Gautama and Aryo Prawoto Wibowo of Bandung Institute of Technology. Nineteen international delegates from Australia, Spain, Germany, Japan, China, Namibia, South Africa, and Vietnam participated, as well as 73 delegates from Indonesia. It should be noted that almost 60 Heads of mining engineering study programs in Indonesia, representing universities of higher education with mining engineering in Indonesia, attended this meeting.

The major areas for discussion centered on mining development in Asia, including challenges and opportunities for Asian mining education. The welcome speech was given by Prof. Rudy Sayoga Gautama (Chairperson of the 8<sup>th</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting), followed by the opening speech by Prof. Jürgen Kretschmann (2019 SOMP President). The session on Capacity Building included presentations on effective capacity building by empowerment teaching by Prof. Kretschmann; an innovative education approach by Prof. Carsten Drebenstedt; current status of mining engineering schools in Indonesia by Prof. Ganda Marihot Simangunsong; and industry engagement as a facet in enhancing sustainability of mineral education by Assoc. Prof. Harmony Musiyarira. The second session on International Collaboration included presentations on international cooperation at Hanoi University of Mining and Geology by Assoc. Prof. Nga Nguyen; mines of the future by Prof. Serkan Saydam; international field practice 2017 - cooperative program for resources engineering between Kyushu University & Hokkaido University in Japan by Prof. Hideki Shimada; and international collaboration in education in mining engineering of ITB by Prof. Syafrizal Lillah. The session on Innovation in Teaching and Learning included presentations on new mining curriculum at the School of Mining Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand by Assoc. Prof. Rudrajit Mitra; curriculum of mining engineering in ITB by Prof. Rudy Sayoga Gautama; the education of economic geology in the world today by Antonio Arribas; going beyond flexibility: maximizing student personalization through flexible learning spaces and styles by Prof. Paul Hagan; and mining museums and education by Prof. Domingo Javier Carjaval Gomez.

A technical visit was also made to ANTAM UBPE Pongkor, an underground gold mine. There was a total of 19 international participants, as well as a number of student and academic participants from ITB at this mine tour.



The 8<sup>th</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting, Bandung,  
Indonesia, July 26-27, 2018





The 8<sup>th</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting, Bandung, Indonesia, July 26-27, 2018



Visit to an underground gold mine





## **The 9<sup>th</sup> Regional SOMP Meeting, Bochum, Germany, October 17-20, 2018**

The 9<sup>th</sup> SOMP Regional Meeting was held in Bochum, Germany in October 2018. This meeting was hosted by the TH Georg Agricola, under the leadership of 2018-2019 SOMP President Jürgen Kretschmann. The theme of this Regional Meeting was “Technological Footprints of German Hard Coal Mining,” and included nine presentations on topics related to ground control at great depth, extraction technology, mine ventilation and mine climate, health and safety, water management, and logistical functions. A total of 105 delegates, including 37 SOMP members from 10 countries across four continents (Asia, Australia, Europe and North America), participated in this event. It was encouraging to see the presence of almost 30 students from TH Georg Agricola, as well as six journalists from various German news outlets.

The delegates had an opportunity to visit RAG’s Prosper-Haniel coal mine, the mining museum in Bochum, the Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Gasometer Oberhausen (Europe’s tallest exhibition hall), and an amazing Miner’s Night event.





Visit to mining museum in Bochum



Visit to RAG's underground coal mine



# SOMP Strategic Committee Meetings

## **Delft, The Netherlands, 2004**

The Society of Mining Professors/Societät der Bergbaukunde has been in existence for some fourteen years, functioning primarily as a European society of senior academics in the mining discipline. At the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society in Milos, Greece in 2003, a decision was made to examine the role of the society in global minerals education, reassess its vision and membership guidelines, and develop the future direction of the organization. A special Planning Subcommittee was formed to undertake this task and also to draft any necessary constitutional changes, with the mandate to present recommendations to the membership at large that could be adopted at the next general meeting of the Society.

The subcommittee met in Delft on January 12-13, 2004 and have continued discussions electronically through the completion of this final report. Those present were Profs. Agioutantis, Badino, Drebenstedt, Durucan, Galvin, Karmis, Martens, Palarski, Phillips, de Ruiter, Shaw, and Wagner. Prof. Ramirez sent his apologies for being unable to participate. The report by this committee and the updated Constitution was developed and prepared for the next AGM in Freiberg, Germany, in 2004.

## **Delft, The Netherlands, 2012**

The SOMP Strategic Planning Committee (including current and future officers and active members representing the global nature of SOMP) met in person in Delft, the Netherlands (April 19-20, 2012) to discuss the future of the Society.



The SOMP Strategic Planning Committee in Delft, the Netherlands , 2012



Those present were Profs. Zach Agioutantis, Michael Karmis, Bruce Hebblewhite, Vladislav Kecojevic, Ronny Webber-Youngman, Monika Hardygora, Hans de Ruiter, and Dr. Ludger Rattmann. After two days of intensive work, the committee proposed the implementation of changes in governance and practice that would move the Society forward. Among the proposed changes were changes to the Constitution, the adoption of Rules and Procedures, the implementation of regional meetings, restructuring of the active SOMP committees, etc. A review of the SOMP committee structure was undertaken as part of this meeting. This included redefining the names and objectives of each Committee, and also reviewing the membership. It was agreed that each Committee should be comprised of a selected group of “working members” who would be asked to undertake specific tasks throughout the year, reporting on their activities at each annual meeting. At the time of the annual meetings, it was intended that the committees would meet face-to-face. Any other SOMP members would be welcome to contact the Committee Coordinators at any time of the year to offer suggestions and raise issues. They were also welcome to attend the annual face-to-face meetings at the AGM as observers and/or contributors. The results and report of this committee was presented to the Council and membership at the 23<sup>rd</sup> SOMP Annual General Meeting in Wroclaw, Poland, in 2012.

### **Aachen, Germany, 2015**

In June 2014, a major commitment was announced in South Africa – our plan to survey the full SOMP membership to gain insights into member response to recent SOMP activities and developments, plus seeking ideas for future strategic directions. The survey was conducted online in March-April 2015, receiving responses from 60% of all members. Responses were largely very positive about the directions of the Society over recent years, but a large number of very useful suggestions for the future were also made.

A meeting of the SOMP Strategic Planning Committee was held in Aachen, Germany at the end of May 2015 to review the outcomes of the survey and other strategic planning information; this helped develop an updated Strategic Plan for the Society. Those present included Profs. Zach Agioutantis, Michael Karmis, Bruce Hebblewhite, Vladislav Kecojevic, Ronny Webber-Youngman, and Dr. Ludger Rattmann.





## Bochum, Germany, 2018

The SOMP Strategic Planning Committee met on October 16-17, 2018 at Technische Hochschule Georg Agricola (THGA) in Bochum, Germany. The Committee members in attendance were 2018-2019 SOMP President Jürgen Kretschmann, Secretary General Vladislav Kecojevic, Deputy Secretary General Treasurer Ludger Rattmann, Director of IT & Membership Zach Agioutantis and SOMP members Profs. Bruce Hebblewhite, Michael Karmis, and Elisabeth Clausen. Other SOMP members also contributed to discussions during two-day meeting, including Profs. Pinyo Meechumna, Nguyen Nga, Domingo Javier Carvajal Gomez, Paul Hagan, and Michael Hitch.

The Committee reviewed the following major SOMP documents: SOMP Constitution, SOMP Statute, SOMP Rules and Procedures, and SOMP Executive and Committee Structure and Roles. The Committee also discussed implementation of decisions by the SOMP Council from the 2018 meeting in China, 2018 SOMP Survey results, potential future SOMP annual and regional meeting venues, and Agreements/MOUs with various professional mining societies and organizations.

The Committee suggested several updates to major SOMP documents which would essentially reflect changes in SOMP over the last decade (an exception being the SOMP Statute, which is a legal document and would need a significant involvement of legal representation). It was decided that the proposed changes be reviewed by the SOMP Council during the Annual General Meeting in Bochum in 2019 and then presented to SOMP membership.

It was proposed that SOMP be even more diverse and inclusive, especially in relation to SOMP Officers and Committees. Although we have had representation on the SOMP Council and SOMP Committees from every single continent, it was proposed to diversify our Society even further and propose some changes in the SOMP leadership.

The Committee also proposed to hire a professional accountant who understands tax laws to assist a Deputy Secretary General Treasurer in relation to financial issues.

After reviewing SOMP financial books, it was determined that there were a number of members who had not paid their membership fees for several years. This impacted the financial bottom line of the Society and services that SOMP provides to its members. Our Society has solely been supported by membership fees, and SOMP pays for many activities and services used by SOMP members. Therefore, it was proposed that the Secretary General should send a request by email to SOMP members that these dues should be paid to our Society by the end of 2018 calendar year. Those who did not pay by the end of the year would receive a final note for payment from the SOMP President and Secretary General, and if the payments were not received by the end of January 2019, their membership would be canceled.

SOMP conducted a survey of its members in September 2018. The purpose of the Survey was to obtain members' views on the future and current role of the Society, as well as what we as the Society could do to enhance our activities. Almost one third of members responded to this survey. Those who responded to the SOMP Survey indicated that the valuable outcomes from their membership in SOMP included the following: networking, making friends from all around the world, learning about open positions at various universities, learning about curricula at other universities, professional development, international project collaboration on education and research, opportunity for exchange of students and professors, participating at MS and PhD committees at other universities, opportunities for mentoring, visiting other universities and countries, and opportunity for exchange of ideas in teaching and research. There were 30 collaborative projects among SOMP members from different universities as the direct results of networking through SOMP. There appeared to be a need to expand coverage in our Newsletters with specific topics, such as news/reports on the exchange of students among SOMP schools, short profile of new members, case studies on collaborative projects among SOMP universities, inclusion of interviews with SOMP members related to successful collaborative projects on education and research, and reports on major awards of SOMP members.





The SOMP membership was asked to indicate what they would like to see strengthened or added to the SOMP activity agenda in the future, and to comment if any current SOMP activities should be reduced or eliminated altogether. The overwhelming majority of the members were happy with what we have done so far. Some additional comments included suggestions to lower registration fees for the AGM for more people to attend (particularly those from developing countries), to have more discussions, workshops and panels during annual meetings with topics of interest to all SOMP members attending the meetings, to have one day of technical presentations for selected papers so more people can justify attending AGM, to organize AGM so it provides more visits to universities, and to establish an award for collaborative education and research projects among SOMP members.

The SOMP Strategic Committee proposed the development of a formalized agreement with the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME), a professional organization with almost 15,000 members worldwide.

This agreement would include a significant representation of SOMP members in official roles in major SME education-related committees. It was decided to formalize this agreement during the annual SME meeting in Denver, Colorado in February 2019.

The results and report of this committee were presented to the Council and membership at the 30<sup>th</sup> AGM SOMP Annual General Meeting in Bochum in 2019.



# SOMP Sessions at Professional Meetings

## SOMP at the SME Annual Meetings

Every year, the US-based Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME) holds a large annual meeting and expo in the United States. The SME is the largest mining-focused professional organization in the world, with 15,000 members; these annual meetings attract not only a large contingent of US mining industry people, university professors, and students, but also a growing number of international delegates. For a number of years, several SOMP members have attended these annual SME meetings and have gathered informally for get-togethers, as both a social occasion and also an opportunity for a brief informal meeting to discuss any current SOMP initiatives.

In 2004, the SOMP leadership decided that we should go one step further; we requested and were assigned a formal session within the 2015 SME meeting and expo program. This was publicized in the SME meeting material, but also to every US mining School/Department, with an encouragement to attend and participate.

The first SOMP session at the SME Annual Meeting and Expo was held in Denver, Colorado in 2015, co-chaired by Prof. Bruce Hebblewhite and Prof. Vladislav Kecojevic. There were two senior industry keynote addresses by Dr. Craig Stegman (RioTinto) and Mr. Bruce Watzman (National Mining Association). These were followed by an interesting open forum discussion on future directions of the mining industry and the educational challenges posed. Panel Speakers were two industry representatives and SOMP members Profs. Michael Karmis (Virginia Tech), Helmut Mischo (TU Bergakademie Freiberg), Mario Cedron (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú), Jürgen Kretschmann (TH Georg Agricola), and Hans de Ruiter (TU Delft). With an attendance of over 50 delegates, there was a consensus that we should seek to make this an annual initiative to provide greater exposure of SOMP within the North American educational and industry sector.





The second SOMP session at the SME Annual Meeting and Expo was held in Phoenix, Arizona, co-chaired again by Prof. Bruce Hebblewhite and Prof. Vlad Kecojevic. The session included several brief keynote talks by international speakers, including “Overview of SOMP and the Current Strategic Plan and International Initiatives” by Prof. Hebblewhite; “Center of Excellence in Mining - a Collaboration Between Academia, Industry and Government in Peru” by Prof. Mario Cedron; “Training and Insertion of Female Professionals in the Chilean Minerals Industry: Chile vs. USA” by Profs. Jose Botin, Mary Poulton, and C. Gatica; “Mine Sustainability Education Project: Developing Collaborations and Innovative Partnerships” by Profs. Oscar Jaime Restrepo, Emily Sarver, and Kray Luxbacher; “Fully Sharing Modern and Updated Course Materials in an Organized Way Between SOMP Members” by Prof. Roussos Dimitrakopoulos; and “Prerequisites of an Effective International Knowledge Transfer: Experiences from Lectures in Southeast Asia” by Prof. Kretschmann. These presentations were followed by a panel discussion, covering topics of collaborative education and research (industry/universities/government) and distance education. The panel speakers included Profs. Michael Karmis, Mario Cedron, Mary Poulton, and Helmut Mischo.





We continued the tradition of scheduling a special SOMP session at the SME annual meeting and expo which was held in February 2017 in Denver, CO, USA. This year, the session had a theme of “Distance Education – Pitfalls and Opportunities,” which provided a number of very informative presentations on international experiences on this important topic, as well as some lively discussion. The session was attended by a good representation of SOMP members from the US and elsewhere, as well as a number of interested visitors to the session who were informed on SOMP’s mission and what we have to offer prospective new members. Once again, it was a very successful session. SOMP members also took part in the traditional Komatsu academic gathering for professors and students.

The SOMP Membership Development Committee helped to organize and host a special workshop for junior and aspiring faculty called Developing Your Professional Career to Tenure and Beyond. The workshop was held in February during the 2018 Annual SME Meeting and Exhibit in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Following a brief lecture on dossier development by Prof. Vlad Kecojevic, there was a panel discussion with the objective to guide tenure-track faculty members in mining and metallurgical engineering in developing their professional career to tenure and beyond, i.e., to enhance an understanding of the tenure process, the nature of competitive academic environment, academic requirements related to teaching, research, and service, and developing one’s career after receiving tenure. In total, there were about 50 participants. Again, the SOMP members took part in the traditional Komatsu academic gathering for professors and students.



Many SOMP members were very active during the 2019 SME Annual Meeting and Expo held in Denver, CO in February 2019. Assoc. Prof. Andrea Brickey and Prof. Vlad Kecojevic chaired the SOMP session on “Moving Mining Curriculum to Embrace the Future.” This session included presentations on the 2019 SOMP AGM in Bochum, Germany by Prof. Jürgen Kretschmann, followed by presentations on “Mining Engineering Curriculum of the Future” by Assoc. Prof. Rudra Mitra; “Keeping Mining Engineering Curriculum Relevant” by Assoc. Prof. Scott Rosenthal; “Coupling Innovative Technology in the Academic Environment with Theory-Based Curriculum” by Maureen Moore; and “The MINETRAIN Project; Developing an Advanced Level Training Program for Mining Industry Professionals in an Actual Deep Mine Site” by Dr. George Barakos. SOMP members also took part in the traditional Komatsu academic gathering for professors and students. The SOMP members had a very productive meeting with the SME leadership team, including David Kanagy (SME Executive Director), Barbara Arnold (SME President), Hugh Miller (SME President Elect), and Robert Schafer (SME President Designate). This meeting provided an opportunity to establish a strong professional relationship between SOMP and SME in our educational efforts.





SOMP session at the SME Annual Meeting and Expo, Denver, Colorado, 2019)



SOMP members at the Komatsu reception for students and professors, SME Annual Meeting and Expo, Denver, Colorado, 2019 (from left to right: Serkan Saydam, Vladislav Kecojevic, Jürgen Kretschmann, Michael Karmis, George Barakos and Rudrajit Mitra)





Assoc. Prof. Andrea Brickey (South Dakota School of Mines and Technology) and Dr. George Barakos (TU Bergakademie Freiberg) chaired the SOMP session on “SOMP: Careers in Academia – Choosing the Best Path for You” at the 2020 SME Annual Meeting and Expo in Phoenix, AZ, US. This session included an intro presentation on SOMP and its activities by the 2019-2020 SOMP President Oscar Jaime Restrepo Baena and Secretary General Vladislav Kecojevic, followed by presentations on “Career Power in Mining Engineering” by Prof. Priscilla Nelson (Colorado School of Mines); “Transitioning from Industry to Academia: Is the Grass Really Greener?” by Prof. Michael Hitch (Tallinn University of Technology); “Female Faculty Development in Southeast Asian Mining Schools” by Assoc. Prof. Nga Nguyen (Hanoi University of Mining and Geology); and “How Teaching in the Mining Engineering Program at Clausthal University Changed My Career Goals” by Dr. Alex Hutwalker (Clausthal University of Technology). After the presentations, panelists Vlad Kecojevic, Priscilla Nelson, Michael Hitch, Nga Nguyen, and Alexandar Hutwalker answered questions regarding the various paths to a successful and rewarding career in academia around the world. SOMP members also took part in the traditional Komatsu academic gathering for professors and students.







**SOMP members at the Komatsu reception for students and professors, SME Annual Meeting and Expo, Phoenix, AZ, 2020 (from left to right: Berk Tulu, Jürgen Kretschmann, Serkan Saydam, Michael Karmis, Derek Apel, Zach Agioutantis, Vladislav Kecojevic, Oscar Jaime Restrepo Baena, Qingqing Huang, George Barakos and Victor Liu)**



## SOMP PhD Candidate Research Day

During mid-May 2019, Michael Hitch and George Barakos organized the inaugural SOMP PhD Candidate Research event which was held at TalTech's Särhaua field school in central Estonia. The event was an opportunity for PhD candidates from SOMP Membership universities to present their research and fields of interest. The organisers, Michel Hitch (TalTech), George Barakos (TU Bergakademie Freiberg) and Veiko Karu (TalTech), saw this as an opportunity for young researchers to network with other scholars from other universities in the region develop presentation skills and perhaps establish life-long relationships that typifies the spirit of SOMP participation. A total of ten PhD scholars participated in the event that presented topics ranging from 3D printing of cutting tools, phytoremediation of post-mining landscapes to numeric modelling. Of the presentations given, three stood out and were awarded a small cash prize; Bruno Grafe from TU Bergakademie Freiberg; Diana Lezcano from THGA Bochum and Antonios Kalogeropoulos from NTUA Athens. As part of the prize package, these three scholars were invited to the SOMP Annual Meeting in Bochum (two attended) (kindly sponsored by Jürgen Kretschmann and THGA Bochum) and were presented to the membership in a special session dedicated to capacity building and membership development at the earliest stages of one's academic career.

Given the success of the event, and the reception these bright, young people received at the annual meeting, more events like this are planned at the regional level to further the SOMP message, and to continue to develop our future talent.

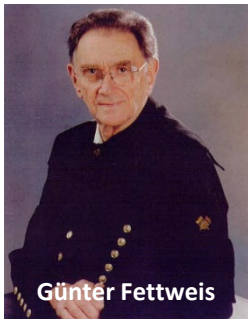




# SOMP Awards

The SOMP has established several awards in order to recognize distinguished and inspired SOMP members for their accomplishments and achievements through the competitive process.

## The Günter Fettweis Award



The Günter Fettweis Award recognizes active SOMP Members for accomplishments and excellence in education, research, and professional service to advance the discipline of mining engineering and for significant contributions to the Society. The award is named after Prof. Guenter B. Fettweis, who in 1990 assembled a group of Mining Engineering Professors at his University, Montanuniversität in Leoben, Austria, and reconstituted the historic Society of Mining Professors. Prof. Fettweis became the first President of the newly formed society and an inspired leader of SOMP. Prof. Fettweis serves as an example to his colleagues for his enthusiasm and commitment to the goals of the Society.

### Past recipients

Year	Name	Citation
2012	Michael Karmis	<i>In recognition of his accomplishments in education, research and professional service and for his vision and contributions to the Society of Mining Professors</i>
2014	Huw Phillips	<i>For his contributions to the educational programs of the society, his leadership in representing Africa in the society's council and for his role in building, promoting and transitioning Mining Education in South Africa.</i>
2015	Per Nicolai Martens	<i>For his distinguished contributions to the advancement of underground mining systems, his pioneering work on mass flow of metallic raw materials and sustainable resource management and for enriching the profession through outreach workshops and conferences.</i>
2016	Mario Cedrón Lassus	<i>For his significant contributions to the international mining education community, his commitment in promoting sustainable development mining practices and his leadership in SOMP activities in Latin America</i>
2019	Jürgen Kretschmann	<i>For his dedication to the mission and goals for the Society of Mining Professors, exceptional enthusiasm in developing international programs and partnerships, unique contributions to capacity building efforts and his leadership and accomplishments as the 2018-19 President of the Society</i>



## The Ludwig Wilke Award

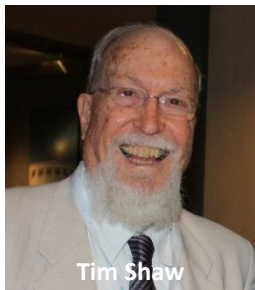


The Ludwig Wilke Award recognizes active SOMP Members whose research, publications, and innovative educational initiatives have made significant contributions to the Society and to the body of knowledge in mining engineering. The award is named after Prof. F. Ludwig Wilke, one of the founders of the Society of Mining Professors. A distinguished engineer, researcher, and academic, Prof. Wilke has promoted research programs and partnerships, encouraged scientific publications, and provided leadership and mentoring to his SOMP colleagues.

### Past recipients

Year	Name	Citation
2013	Jan Palarski	<i>For his contributions to the advancement of improved mining systems and practices, his innovative research in the area of clean coal technology, including underground coal gasification and carbon dioxide storage, and for his service to the Society of Mining Professors.</i>
2015	Hans de Ruiter	<i>In recognition and appreciation of his vision that resulted in the development of innovative, global, university educational partnerships in the broad field of Minerals Engineering, his contribution to establishing international curricula and his tireless mentoring of students worldwide.</i>
2016	Monika Hardygora	<i>For her distinguished contributions to the improvement of mining solutions meeting environmental challenges, and her promoting of transnational research and teaching activities.</i>
2017	Bruce Hebblewhite	<i>For his pioneering work as a researcher, his accomplishments as a global educator, his leadership and vision as the Secretary General of the Society and his dedication to the mission and values of SOMP.</i>
2019	Michael Karmis	<i>For his distinguished contribution to body of knowledge in mining engineering, his innovative research, and significant service and commitment to Society of Mining Professors.</i>

## The Tim Shaw Award



The Tim Shaw Award for Innovation in Teaching and Learning recognizes rising SOMP members who have devoted significant effort to develop teaching and learning innovations, promoted educational excellence, and motivated and inspired students to learn. This award recognizes Professor Tim Shaw, one of the founders of the Society of Mining Professors and its first Secretary General, for his dedicated service to the Society, his interest and contributions to global mining education, and his continued enthusiasm and support of the mission and programs of SOMP.

### Past recipients

Year	Name	Institution
2016	Elisabeth Clausen	TU Clausthal, Germany
2017	Serkan Saydam	University New South Wales, Australia
2018	Simit Raval	University New South Wales, Australia
2019	Andrea Brickey	South Dakota School of Mines and Management, United States



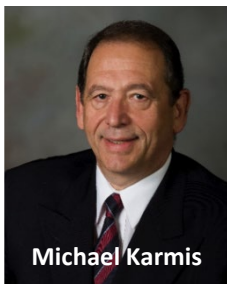
## The Emeritus Member Award

The Emeritus Member Award recognizes retired SOMP Members who have made significant contributions to the Society and are committed to remain active and engaged members in retirement.

### Past recipients

Year	Name
2005	Günter Fettweis; Ludwig Wilke; Tim Shaw
2006	Vanni Badino; Raimo Matikainen; Uros Bajzelj
2007	Horst Gerhardt; Walter Knissel
2008	Lev Puchkov
2010	Victor A. Kharchenko; Gunhan Pasamehmetoglu
2012	Michael Karmis; Hans de Ruiter
2013	Pierre Mousset Jones; Huw Phillips
2015	Per Nicolai Martens; Vladimir Pavlovic
2016	David Laurence; Christoph Dauber; Pinyo Meechumna
2017	Bruce Hebblewhite; Piotr Czaja

## The Michael Karmis SOMP PhD Fellowship Award



The Michael Karmis SOMP PhD Fellowship Award, established in 2019, recognizes a SOMP junior member who desires to pursue an academic career by acquiring a PhD in the field of Mining Engineering and/or Mineral Processing. This award is strictly limited to SOMP junior members who are currently enrolled or have been formally admitted in a PhD degree granting program with emphasis on Mining Engineering and/or Mineral Processing. The Fellowship Award funds are intended to cover the research related expenses, or to be used for traveling expenses to the SOMP AGM.

## The Bruce Hebblewhite SOMP Best Paper Award



The Bruce Hebblewhite SOMP Best Paper Award, established in 2019, recognizes author(s) presenting papers at the SOMP Annual General Meeting (AGM) for their contributions to the body of knowledge. The papers for consideration for the award 1) must be submitted as full papers to the SOMP AGM and 2) must be presented at the annual meeting by the author(s). At least one of the award recipient(s) must be SOMP member for a minimum of three consecutive years.



# **MINES OF THE FUTURE**

Version 1.0 (Major Findings)



2019

SOMP has published the “Mines of the Future” Report which is co-edited by Serkan Saydam, Bruce Hebblewhite, Michael Karmis and Michael Hitch. This report has aimed to produce a high quality, internationally focused reference report. It provides a vision of the mines of the future, for 2030 and beyond, and the impacts on required skills and future educational curricula and research needs. There are five main chapters, with the topics in each chapter focusing on the Current Status, the Future, and Transitioning to the Future: Operational Efficiency; Novel Mining Systems; Sustainable Mining Practices; Education and Research.

The Mines of the Future Version 1.0 (Major Findings) Report is expected to be a leading international reference for the future – primarily for mining educators and researchers, but also for other mining industry stakeholders such as mining companies, equipment suppliers, governments and other interested parties.



