

2004 SME Pittsburgh Section Grant Awards

Brandon Williamson
West Virginia University



Brandon Williamson is currently a junior in the Mining Engineering department at WVU. He is a good student in and out of the classroom. His cumulative grade point average is 3.35 and plans to increase that this semester. Out of the classroom, he is involved in a few activities including the treasurer of the student chapter of the Society of Mining, Metallurgical and Exploration, Inc. (SME). In that capacity he takes care of all the finances associated with that organization. He is also a very active member of Pi Kappa Phi National Fraternity. Being an active member of both of these organizations as well as a full time student and doing well, he certainly has very good time management skills. Before he began his career as a student he was no stranger to the mining industry. The day after he turned eighteen he started working for Consol Energy Inc. at their Bailey Mine. Here he began working underground laying railroad track. After a few months, Brandon decided to go to college. Since enrolling in college, Brandon finds he enjoys the experience and is eager to learn and complete his Bachelor of Science degree in Mining Engineering. He is also interested in earning a Masters Degree in Business and Administration in the future.

Paul Vuljanic
The Pennsylvania State
University



Paul Vuljanic's experience in mining started toward the end of high school in 1999 where he worked at a surface mine for Energy Resources Inc. operating equipment, working on drill rigs, and he gained some preparation plant experience. This work continued through his first year of college in 2001 at The Pennsylvania State University. During the summers of 2002 and 2003, Paul worked at the American Energy Corporation in Ohio. There, Paul worked with the longwall support group. He also gained experience on a continuous miner section as a general laborer, operating equipment such a shuttle cars, scoop car, miner, and roof bolter. These experiences contributed to learning valuable maintenance and production techniques. In addition, Paul conducted surveying work underground and while working with Surv-Cad/AutoCad he gained a better understanding of the fundamentals of engineering and learned the benefits of a cost-efficient mine plan. Paul's 2004 internship was with The American Coal Company located in Illinois. Here Paul gained a greater understanding of the mining industry and maximized his effort to obtain hands-on practical experience.