

Mark:

I thank you for those kind words and overly impressive introduction. Tonight I accept the MMSA Gold Medal with a sense of humbleness and gratitude to all those who I have worked with during the past eleven years.

First, a few thank you's . . .

Thank you to Marc LeVier who I understand coordinated this honor. Marc can be rough around the edges, but he has one of the biggest hearts I know of in this industry. Thank you.

The MMSA Leadership for recognizing myself and more importantly SME. MMSA and SME are a strong partnership for the benefit of the industry and I look forward to working with MMSA for many more years.

The SME Leadership . . . would the SME Past President's stand. Thank you for all that you have done each year to work with me to move the Society forward. Each of the SME Presidents has brought different skills, talents and ideas to the table and I've enjoyed working with everyone.

The SME Staff . . . (please stand) many who have seen all of the change and I thank them for working with me every day to help advance the value that SME can provide to our members and other stakeholders. Not every day is easy and not every day ended like we wanted it to, but this staff has perseverance, a willingness to serve our members and the industry and the ability to be flexible. Thank you.

Finally, my family. My two sons, Ben and Andrew. It has been a delight to have given you the opportunity to explore many places and things in life and I only pray that you'll take all that's been given to you and give it to others in the world. And, my wife Trish, she has put up with so much during my career. We have moved many times, all over the country, giving up a few jobs, taking care of children, and myriad of other things. Thank you . . . I love you very much.

Now, I'd like to take the remaining few minutes to highlight the importance of great industry organizations. You see, in my 31 years of managing organizations, I believe that every organization with a righteous mission deserves to have its mission fulfilled. And industries like mining and metallurgy need strong industry organizations.

When I got to SME I remember the meeting I had with Art Schweizer and Barb Filas in Las Vegas, at MinExpo 2004. Barb noted that we would run out of money in 7 years or less and SME would run out of members in approximately 14 years. I calculated my age and the number of years to retirement and determined that none of those numbers worked for me. So, the only option is to improve SME's performance, and improve SME's value to members and the industry.

You see, there are many industry groups serving the industry . . . whether it is SME, AE&ME, MMSA, NMA, IMA-NA, NSSGA, CMA or the other state organizations, WIM, WMC . . . they all have a purpose and the industry is better off with collaboration and cooperation among the groups. I'm committed to strong industry groups and I'll work to help all. By the way, those are just the ones in the U.S. This list gets much longer when you step outside the U.S.

OneMine was an example of a product that was a great partnership between staff, volunteer leadership and great industry groups. I remember when we started the project, we thought about it being an SME library only, but with volunteer input, we quickly realized what a great tool this could be for the industry. I remember visiting Barney Guarnera's office shortly into the idea with Jim Arnold. We had a 45 minute discussion with Barney about the idea and asked his thoughts. He turned to me and said, "Dave, I've had my differences with SME, but this is a brilliant idea, this would be an excellent tool for the industry". We continue to work the library and today there are 8 organizations, over 110,000 documents and nearly 2 million pages to review.

The industry is changing . . . SME has reported on potential labor issues in the near future for the industry, technology continues to evolve and improve production so that we might go after lower grade ore body and process them more efficiently, commodity prices have been in decline in the past 18 months or so, and our universities have their own challenges.

SME has a strong connection to the University's teaching mining and metallurgy. This past year, SME has made a tremendous commitment to these schools. Championed by John Marsden and lead by Hugh Miller and Courtney Young, SME has committed \$8.5 million over the next seven years to a Ph.D. Fellowship and Career-Development Grants. This program will tackle a small part of the problem with the replacement of mining and metallurgical faculty and help young professors to achieve tenure at their schools.

Without the success that SME has had in recent years, we couldn't take on projects of this magnitude and even though industry is paying the majority of costs associated with it, it is the volunteers and staff working together that has put all of this together.

So, thank you for this award. I'm going to consider it the SME Team award and I again thank the volunteers, president's and staff. I'm honored and humbled. My best to MMSA and to the success of the organization.