

Mining Foundation Distinguished Lecture

April 21, 2016

Mining Around the World—An Industry in Turmoil

Presented by

Mr. Steve Gardner, PE, SME-RM

2015 President-The Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration

Reception from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Marriott Griffin Gate Resort—Lexington, Kentucky

Lecture begins at 6:00 p.m. (open to the public)

Observations From the World's Largest Mining Professional Group



2015 was a tumultuous year in mining all over the world, from the hollows of Appalachia to South America, Asia and Africa. Literally hundreds of thousands of people lost their jobs as commodity prices plummeted and regulatory influences affected the ability of miners to turn profits. Worldwide protests occurred against new mining proposals and the public perception of mining is at an all-time low.

Mining supplies virtually everything that modern society requires from the raw materials for cell phones to solar cells, the buildings we live in, the roads we drive on and the fertilizers to grow food to feed the world.

Steve Gardner spent a year as President of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME) traveling around the US and the World as the mining profession's ambassador. SME is arguably the world's largest mining professional group with engineers, geologists, scientists, economists, and attorneys among its 15,000 members. With members from academia, government and industry, one of SME's roles is to be the bridge between those sectors providing good science and engineering while combatting bad science that perpetuates negative public perceptions. Steve presents his observations from around the world and reflects on the future of mining in society.