

Department of Mining Engineering



Announcements

- Good luck on all of your finals!
- Winter break 12/19 – 01/06
- Thanks for all your donations! Please keep them coming!
- Don't forget to meet with your faculty advisor and get on a path to graduate.

Additional Info/Announcement

- Randy Nielsen is one of our newer professors. Get to know him a little better on the following page!
- Women in Mining Christmas social Wednesday, December 7th. Hot Cocoa and borax Christmas ornaments. Come have a great time.
- Toys for Tots donations are being accepted in the College of Mines and Earth Sciences office.
- If you've received an internship or a full time job, let Brad Munns know to spotlight you in the newsletters.
- New to the department? Its not too late for a mentor to help! Contact Kyle Spaulding at kylespaulding7@gmail.com for more info.
- Finals are approaching! Finals week December 12th – 16th
- Send proof of boot point activities to Jacob Frei at jcfreister@gmail.com.
- Have a suggestion for the Mining Engineering Department? See your SAC officers and get your voice heard!

Student Spotlights



My name is Andrew Austin. I'm not new to the program, I'm a senior in the final stretch to a bachelors degree. Its been a long and tiring process but its been worth it. I've always lived in Utah, and I love the outdoors. I enjoy sports and all sorts of recreational activities, but I also wouldn't say no to staying indoors with my eyes glued to a tv and my hands on an Xbox controller. I love the mining department and am grateful for everything that they have done for me as a student and as a young adult.



My name is Brad Munns and I am a senior in the department. I am also your newsletter editor (mostly because no one else volunteered). I have a wife (Taylor) and a boy named Remington. I enjoy hunting, fishing, long range shooting and just being outdoors in general. Four years ago I wanted to be a geologist, but it only took a few weeks to realize I don't like short-shorts and sandals with socks. After talking to a few alumni of the mining engineering department I decided mining was the perfect fit. I am very excited for where mining will take me and my family in the coming months.



Professor Spotlight: Randy Nielsen

Hi everyone, I am Randy Nielsen and I am honored to be able to teach engineering students in the Mining Engineering Program. I graduated from the University of Utah in 1973 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering and attended graduate school, on a part time basis, for the next 3 years while working full time for TerraTek. I have PE licenses in 2 states. Notable classes included rock mechanics from Dr. Pariseau - taken, I think, in 1975. A pivotal moment in my career occurred shortly after it started when I asked a co-worker how to do a very simple calculation, one that I should have been familiar with. The very kind colleague answered, "Isn't it just MC over I"? Sound familiar students? It became clear right then that I needed to know more – and I signed up for a class (advanced strength of materials). Over the years I have been so grateful to so many kind people that I have worked with, and all the things they taught me. And even more important are the friendships and lessons, unrelated to work, but profoundly rewarding in life.

With that in mind, the goal in the classes I teach is to learn how to do engineering in the real world. The proficient and clinical manipulation of difficult equations is fun, sometimes, and you can impress your friends who are business majors, but the correct application is always important – although everyone should remember MC over I!

I have worked at a half dozen different place over the years – I learned as much from the Murray City Cemetery – my employer while I was in college – as I did from Raytheon Aircraft. I learned that the process of rebuilding a fancy sports car was actually more rewarding than driving it and that helping someone else with a problem is always a good thing. If I had to describe my engineering specialty it would be something like high pressure rock mechanics, or test equipment design.

My advice to students, and those that have taken my class have heard it often, if you get the chance to learn something, don't pass up the opportunity. If a friend is working on a car, go help, or at least watch – every project is an excuse to buy a new tool. If a new building is going up next to you, try to apply what you have learned in class to what is going on in real time, and then, go over and ask the builder about the things you don't understand – it will make you a better engineer. And if the world can't depend on us, who are they going to turn to? Imagine a group of attorneys and politicians trying to design a coal mine. I rest my case.

Finally, an old but pre-cautionary joke to end with, and this comes from my son-in-law who grew up in Edinburgh Scotland, "A gentleman is someone who knows how to play the Bagpipes, and doesn't!" On occasion, it behooves us all, no matter how much we think we know, to tread lightly when offering unsolicited advice to close friends and family – sometimes, outside of our profession – it is better to be kind than technically correct.

See you in class.