



# BLUE KEY

## HONOR SOCIETY

*"SERVING, I LIVE"*

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CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2005

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### **Announcements** - The annual Blue Key Leadership

Conference will be hosted by the Blue Key Chapter of the [University of Toledo](#) in Toledo Ohio on June 10-12, 2005. A copy of the agenda will be posted soon in the [Leadership Conference Section of the website](#).

Reminder: Effective July 1, 2004, the Blue Key Board of Directors set dues at \$40 for new members. This is a lifetime membership.

Your chapter can place Blue Key merchandise orders throughout the year. Take a look at <http://www.bluekey.org/merch.html> to see what merchandise is available.

### **Blue Key Family**

Please email the [webmaster](#) with any news, announcements or updates regarding your chapter so that they can be included in future editions of the newsletter.

### **Chapter Spotlight**

The main purpose of this newsletter is to feature an outstanding Blue Key Chapter. Future newsletters will spotlight different Blue Key chapters from across the country to honor that chapter's achievements and hard work. We hope you enjoy learning about how the Colorado School of Mines Blue Key Chapter contributes to campus life!

### **Colorado School of Mines**

#### **Blue Key Chapter History:**

"Watchdogs Of The Campus"

Even before a Blue Key National Honor Fraternity had been formed, a select group of Mines students felt the need for a "watchdog society" on campus. No one is quite sure when the impromptu group started, but Pi Warren, '13, sensed that they were operating undercover on the campus when he returned to Mines in 1923. Operating like the vigilantes of the early west, they called themselves "Vigilantes". According to Maxwell McCormack, he and two others of the Class of '26, Cookie Evans and Johnny O'Connor, were responsible for the formation of the Vigs, with O'Connor the driving force. A lot of the campus shenanigans could be attributed to the Vigs, including the building of a "Denver University Toonerville Trolley", which was paraded before the Mines-DU game. Quite often they would borrow coffins from the local undertaker and hold wakes on campus, particularly at Homecoming rallies.

Many of the Vigs stunts were impromptu, such that no one was ever sure which members had been responsible for a campus shenanigan. Vigs would rise early and set off dynamite in the clay pits on Saturday mornings. Others would paint "Give 'em Hell Mines" signs around the campus and downtown. There were mysterious midnight raids that created a lot of scuttlebutt around the campus among the faculty and student body. Miners, not living up to cherished traditions, might be escorted up the canyon, given a lecture, advised to "Shape up or Ship Out", and given the privilege of walking home. No one relished the thought of a return visit.

**THE VIGS** - Finally, the Vigilantes came out in the open. In October 1925, they officially organized and published their purposes: "(1) To promote Mines spirit, and (2) To advocate those ideals of college life which will be of credit to each of us, and to our Alma Mater." Johnny O'Connor, a hell-raising Irishman, who felt that having fun and enjoying life was part of the game, was always the leader of that group.

**BLUE KEY** - After the Vigs announced themselves publicly, Johnny O'Connor and others began to discuss the possibility of forming a Blue Key National Honor Fraternity. On January 29, 1926, Vigs and representatives from various fraternities and the Barbs met at the Berrimoor Hotel and the Vigilante Chapter of Blue Key was formed. Of the original group of Vigs, all but Leroy Brown became members of the Blue Key. Besides the nine original Vigs, seven additional students became charter members of Blue Key.

**BLUE KEY ROLE** - Since its conception, Blue Key National Honor Society has continued its role of leadership on the Mines campus. Each member pledges to the motto, "Serving, I live", Eligibility, as always, is based primarily on all-around leadership in student affairs and in high scholastic achievement. Blue Key is a watchdog society that is concerned with Mines Spirit, and they take care of the M on the hill which symbolizes Mines spirit.



**M History** - Even Miners who were in school at the time do not agree as to when the M went up on Mt. Zion, several use the year 1907 and Mines Magazine once credited the Class of '10 with construction of the M during their freshman year. An article in the March 15, 1932 Oredigger by Dick Vincent, '33,

noted: "Records show that the giant M on Mt. Zion was actually built on May 16, 1908." Yet in the May 9, 1908 issue of the Golden Globe, it was reported that the Colorado School of Mines would declare a holiday on May 15 "to place a big, white M on Mt. Zion." It would seem that newspaper accounts at the time should be accepted as the most likely date. According to a perpetual calendar, May 15 fell on a Friday, a more likely day for a holiday than Saturday. About May 1, Walt Brown, '10, laid out the outline of the M on the mountain. It would be 104 feet by 107 feet, with 10 foot legs, and rested on a 23-degree slope..campus life!

## **Blue Key Chapter Service Projects:**

The Mines Chapter of Blue Key arose out of a group originally called the Vigilantes or. They were known for letting the "less spirited" Mines students know that spirit was alive at Mines. Currently we support the campus by participating in many campus activities and volunteering in the community. At homecoming we sponsor an event, build a float to participate in the homecoming parade and bring Blaster, the Mines mascot, to the game to run on the field at halftime. Blaster, a miniature donkey, is also a hit at the game with the local community. We participate in Engineering-days, the largest extra curricular event at Mines. At this event we sponsor events such as Cold Spiking; where students get to compete at cheating on homework, and Donkey Races. As an organization we attend as many sporting events as possible to cheer and get the crowd cheering.

### **Community Involvement**

Our chapter is committed to serving at Mines and in the Golden/Denver community. Some of the events we have been actively involved in as a group include the following:



- Decorating the Golden Chamber and Pioneer Museum for the holidays.
- Thomas the Tank Engine - When Thomas is at the Colorado/Golden Railroad Museum we volunteer to help anywhere they need us - in their Thomas store, helping children on the train and serving food.
- Special Olympics - Special Olympics sponsors a day at a local ski resort and we send volunteers.
- In local elementary schools - Our chapter members have participated in judging local elementary school science fairs. We actually got to use some of our engineering knowledge.
- We provide support and workers for a local elementary fundraising carnival.
- Into the streets - this is a CSM effort where all CSM student organizations sign up to volunteer wherever Golden needs us. This year we participated in yard work for one of the local historical buildings and museum.
- Our chapter members participate in the annual CSM Thanksgiving food drive by conducting a trick-or-treat for cans drive to obtain food, assisting in delivering boxes to campus departments, picking up the food, helping to sort the food, and make and distribute the boxes.
- Habitat for Humanity - Our members have participated in building a habitat house, and will do so again this spring
- Colorado School of Mines Career Fair – Members assist over 90 different companies with setup and takedown of recruiting booths. We also act as student liaisons during the career fair.
- Mines Graduation – At graduation ceremonies in the fall and spring, our

members serve as ushers and babysitters. The school has asked only Blue Key to perform these duties, and has showed great appreciation for our services.

### Winter Carnival

Over the past years Blue Key has sponsored a Winter Carnival where we negotiated bargain prices for ski lift tickets. Two years ago we decided to bring the Carnival to full glory. We negotiated packages and enlisted a local resort to assist us. We sponsored a full day of skiing and events for Mines students, faculty and staff. It was one of the first events that brought all of the community together. Based on the great success of the carnival, it has become a new "Mines Tradition."



#### Cardboard Sled Racing

One of the many events that students participated in at Winter Carnival.

Students are invited to participate in a fun filled day at a local resort. Winter Carnival was revised by CSM Blue Key in 2004 with hopes of becoming a long standing tradition.



#### Event List

- Free Skiing
- Ski Obstacle Course
- Human Bowling
- Cardboard Sled Racing
- Kick off Party
- After Party
- Raffle



## The "M"

As you know our chapter is proud to say that we are the caretakers of the M on Mt. Zion. The M is the oldest continuously lighted school letter on a mountain in the entire country. Our chapter members are dedicated to the maintenance of the M and keeping it lit. In addition to the M being lit we also use it to symbolize events. At the holidays we turn it red and we change it to numbers and have a graduation countdown at the end of each semester. Chapter members design a "unique" design for each campus event and change the M to that design. At the beginning of each year Blue Key leads the incoming freshmen up the slopes of Mt. Zion to the M. Upon reaching the M freshmen are given hundreds of gallons of white wash and told to 'paint the M'. Usually most of the whitewash ends up covering the students.



## Colorado School of Mines Blue Key Officers:

**Robert T. Wagner** - Chapter President; Former Vice President of CSM SME; CSM Student Government Representative; CSM Peer Mentor

**Brennan Harn** - Vice President; National Deans List Member; Lead Subsystem Engineer SAE Mini Baja; Student Liaison for Career Day

**Kristin Horkey** - Secretary

**Pamela Schaedler** – Treasurer; Association of Geoscience Students (AGS) Secretary; Mines Little Theater Member

**Cameron Moyer** - CSM Blue Key Honorary Chair; CSM Head Ambassador

**Marissa Reigel** - Winter Carnival Chair

**Tim White** – M Chair

**Mitesh Pradhan**- Assistant M-chair; MEP Professional Development Workshop Commissioner

**Michelle Kozel** – Chapter Advisor; Blue Key National Treasurer



## Members:

**Sarah Alsbrooks**

**Heather Angel**

**Michael Brunel** - Worked on the "M"

**April Berendt** - Service Co-Chair

**Krista Burke** - SME

president; Panhellenic VP  
Recruitment; ISEE secretary

**Cristin Cammon** - School of  
Mines Resident Assistant; New

Student Orientation Leader; Student Ambassador

**Eloy Celis** - President of the CSM ASME student chapter

**Austin Christensen**

**Emily Dunham** - Staff Leader for Wild Week Youth Camps; Bible Study Leader;  
Activity Committee Member for Campus Crusade

**Bryce Farber** - Historian for the Gamma Kappa Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta

**Heather Fenstermaker**

**Andrea Fleming**

**Megan Fry**

**Timothy Gabrielson** - Leadership team of Campus Crusade for Christ; Recording  
Secretary of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society; Leader of Bible Study group  
at First Baptist

**Ashley Gronewoller**

**Lora Haley** - CSM Peer Mentor; Former VP Chapter Operations for Alpha  
Phi; Kappa Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honor Society

**Randy Hansen**

**Andrew Scott Harrison** - M committee member; Captain of Varsity Swim Team  
Vice President of Kayak Club; Social Chair of American Society of Mechanical  
Engineers (ASME)

**Brett Hesterberg**

**Justin Keener** - Admissions Intern

**Max Kraxberger**

**Amy Latham** - One of the Leaders of Faith Bible Chapel's young adult ministry

**Elizabeth Major** - CSM Peer Mentor; Kappa Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honor  
Society Treasurer

**Jessica Miller** - President of CSM Women's Club Soccer; Secretary of CSM Sports  
Club Council; Vistaview Condo Association Secretary/Treasurer

**Ryan Miller**

Jessica Moehle-Organic Teaching Assistant; Mines Madness Bike Race Budget  
Team Leader

**Maribeth Moll**

**Michelle Moorman** - Winter Carnival Committee; ASCSM President (Associated  
Students of Colorado School of Mines); CSM Intern (Ambassador); E-Days  
Corporate Sponsorship Chair

**Zach Nyland**

**Jenn Ogawa** - Service Committee Co-chair; Service Committee Chair (03-04)

**Tamara Oliver**

**Naomi Ott** - American Institute of Chemical Engineers Student Chapter Vice-  
President; Campus Crusade for Christ Student Chapter Vice-President; Society of  
Women Engineers Student Section Vice-President

**Ryan Pennington**

**Kelly Rhoades**

**Ashley Sacks**

**Matt Sauer**

**Katlin Schmidt**

**Jeremy Sell**

**Andrea Struble**

**Sarah Rames** - Winter Carnival Committee Member; Society of Women Engineers Student Section President; Society of Women Engineers Regional Student Representative; American Chemical Society-Student Affiliates Student Section Vice President

**Jeremy Sell** - Sigma Nu Treasurer; Sigma Nu Historian

**Andrea Struble** - Service Committee; Secretary/co-leader of Campus Crusade for Christ; Girl Scouts Badge Day Chair - Phantastic Physics Badge

**Chad TeBeest**

**Ross Wagle** - CSM Varsity Track Captain; Junior class president of Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS); President of Future Business Leaders of America at PSHS

**Thomas Wagner** - SME GEM Chair

**Brett Warta** - Former Vice President for ASME; Former Cataloger for Tau Beta Pi; Student Justice for CSM's Honor Code Committee

**Katie Wissink**

**Gwen Woods** - Spirit Committee Chair; Circle K club president