Missouri S&T
Campus Wide Distinguished Lecture
Thursday 25 February St. Pat’s Ballroom A, Havener Center
Organised by Faculty and Staff from the Rock Mechanics and Explosives Research Center

Technical Excellence Flows from R&D and Communications

Going beyond calculations to drive constructive societal policy

Societal stakes are too high for technical professionals to continue to ‘let George do it’ on the communications front.

As President Lincoln aptly observed: “With public sentiment, nothing can fail. Without it, nothing can succeed.”

Richard Phelps will address both research and development as well as communications and education in the context of his over-40-years' experience in the mining industry. The latter comprises roles in production, mine design and permitting, global finance, international communications, crisis response planning, and higher education.

The stakes for technology-based endeavors in general and natural resources in particular have never been higher over the past decade. And, going forward, proposed legislation like the U.S.’ Cap-and-Trade will only heighten manufacturing and basic industries' technical and economic risks. So technical professionals who are both insightful, technically proficient, and articulate will lead. And MST should maintain its leading role in the U.S.’ sciences and engineering.

RICHARD W. PHELPS

Phelps has had diverse experience in his over-40-year career in the mining industry, ranging from operations and finance through communications and risk avoidance and crisis response. His exposure to the various sectors in mining runs virtually the gamut of the industry. He has had hands-on involvement in the: silver, potash, shaft-sinking, steelmaking, coal sectors. His professional travels include Europe and Africa, spanning the Americas to Australasia. Specific activities include:

Consulting. Phelps furnishes services in mining addressing: communications, acquisitions, financing, and environmental litigation, the latter aggregating over $1.1 billion.

Education. Created and teach a course at MST on practical mine finance for graduate degree candidates. Taught a short course on project finance for a mining delegation from the Peoples Republic of China.

Risk response. As managing director of Global Mining RiSC, he provided integrated risk assessment, safety and training oversight, and crisis avoidance services to mining companies, as well as assisting companies globally in enhancing their investor relations.

Communications. As editor-in-chief he managed the premier, over 130-year-old Engineering & Mining Journal serving over 23,000 executives and mining and metallurgical professionals internationally.

Finance. As a vice president of Continental Bank, he provided technical management of a $2 billion ($2010) mining loan portfolio--vetting both prospective and current clients' mines and management.

Operations. In various roles at Bethlehem Steel and Atlantic Richfield, he supplied engineering services at mine, divisional, and headquarters levels. It included applied R&D, capital spending evaluations, as well as acquisitions and design and permitting of what has become one of the U.S.’ largest and most productive underground coal mines.

Phelps has authored over 60 bylined feature articles for mining publications in the U.S. and U.K. Additionally his work has been entered as Congressional testimony for the proposed MINER Act II. He was also an editor of the first-ever, 985-page Mining Environmental Handbook. And his live interview on the $C6.2-billion Bre-X gold-mining scam was carried by CNN International.

Phelps' certifications include Qualified Professional (Sarbanes Oxley, Canada's NI 43-101 etc.), Pennsylvania Mine Foreman, and Missouri EIT. Phelps is a member of the Mining & Metallurgical Society of America.

He holds BS and Professional Degrees in Mining Engineering from University of Missouri-Rolla, becoming a member of the Tau Beta Pi and Sigma Gamma Epsilon honoraries while on campus. He also received the Old Timers Award and Illinois Mining Institute Scholarship.