

Department of Mining Engineering Student Collection

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Finding aid written in English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

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<http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/>

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Summary Information

Repository: Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

Title: Department of Mining Engineering Student Collection

Identifier: MTU-225

Date: 1905-1984

Date: Majority of material found within 1964-1980

Physical Description: 0.01 Cubic Feet (1 folder)

Container Information: SC_box MTU 2, Folder: 43 (Mixed Materials)

Overview

Collection, 1905-1984, of photographs and newspaper clippings pertaining to student activities and progress in the Michigan Technological University Department of Mining Engineering.

Preferred Citation

MTU-225, Department of Mining Engineering Student Collection, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

Conditions Governing Access

Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections.

Conditions Governing Use

Various copying restrictions apply. Guidelines are available from Michigan Technological University Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections.

Collection Scope and Content Summary

Collection, 1905-1984, of photographs and newspaper clippings pertaining to student activities and progress

in the Michigan Technological University Department of Mining Engineering. The bulk of the materials are from between 1964 and 1980 and address field trips to local mines, departmental extracurricular activities, student participation in competitions testing mining skills, and graduations of senior students. A limited amount of departmental correspondence is also included.

Historical Note

The study of mining engineering at Michigan Technological University has the earliest origins of any of the institution's educational offerings. At its inception in 1885, the Michigan Mining School was intended to train men for careers in mines at home and abroad, and students benefitted from the proximity of their school to some of the world's richest copper mines. As the Michigan Mining School grew into the Michigan College of Mines and later the Michigan College of Mining and Technology--expanding its offerings as the economy and student needs changed--its commitment to an outstanding education in mining engineering remained constant. In 1958, Walfrid Been, head of the Department of Mining Engineering, remarked that the rigor of the program might have led to a high attrition rate, but those who graduated "will be standouts" among mining engineers.

Although copper mining in the Keweenaw went dormant at the end of the 1960s, and the region largely deindustrialized, mining education continued at Michigan Tech. In 1976, the Department of Mining Engineering entered into a collaboration with industrial partners and opened the MTU Experimental Mine (also known as the Mining Research Lab) on Quincy Mining Company property in Hancock. The remarkable facility, which featured a classroom and an array of advanced equipment, allowed students to regain the hands-on opportunities lost when the mines closed. Students also furthered the practical aspects of their education by participating in competitions that pitted their mining skills against those of aspiring engineers from universities in other mining areas, such as Idaho, Colorado, Arizona, and South Dakota.

The mining engineering program entered a difficult period in the late 1980s, however. Despite student objections, Michigan Tech shuttered the Experimental Mine in 1987; it was resurrected in 1992 but closed again shortly thereafter. With budget challenges looming and enrollment in mining programs lower than other majors, the university proposed to combine the Department of Mining and Mineral Processing Engineering with its geological sciences division, a measure that was eventually approved. By the conclusion of the 2003-2004 academic year, mining engineering at Michigan Tech remained an option only for those pursuing master's and doctoral degrees.

In 2012, mining was revived as a minor course of study for undergraduate students; plans later emerged for the university to introduce a new, multidisciplinary mining engineering major option, drawing on the contributions of faculty from across the campus but hosted by the Department of Geological and Mining Engineering and Sciences. Continuing the tradition established by the Michigan Mining School in 1885, the new program "prepares students to address the challenges of modern mining practices and positions them for a leadership role in the mining industry."

Processing History

Emily Riippa, 8/1/2017

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

- Clippings (Information artifacts)
- Contests
- Letters (Correspondence)
- Michigan Technological University
- Mining engineering -- Study and teaching -- Michigan -- Upper Peninsula
- Photographic prints
- Students -- Michigan -- Upper Peninsula

Collection Inventory

Bertin Thomas with high school student, 1984

Date: 1984

Mining Engineering students, 1979

Date: 1979

Mining Engineering students in the field (2 photographs), August 1960

Date: August 1960

Mining Engineering students at Quincy Hoist, undated

Date: undated

Mining class at Michigan School of Mines, 1905

Date: 1905

Mining Engineering class of 1966 photograph, 1966

Date: 1966

Mining Engineering class of 1964 photograph (2 copies), 1964

Date: 1964

Mining Engineering summer survey class, 1980

Date: 1980

Mine survey crew, 1980

Date: 1980

State legislator visit to Experimental Mine, circa 1976

Date: circa 1976

Experimental Mine newspaper clippings, circa 1980

Date: circa 1980

Tunnel wall newspaper clipping, undated

Date: undated

"Tech drillers fare well" clipping, circa 1985

Date: circa 1985

"Drill-driving gals" clipping, 1987

Date: 1987

Climax Molybdenum Company tour clipping, 1953

Date: 1953

"A New Underground Movement at Tech" clipping, 1978 January 11

Date: 1978 January 11

Women in Engineering workshop clipping, 1984 June 22

Date: 1984 June 22

Bert Thomas with air compressor clipping, undated

Date: undated

Tram in Michigan Tech Experimental Mine, undated

Date: undated

Experimental Mine tour clipping, 1978 January 11

Date: 1978 January 11

Monitoring laboratory in Experimental Mine clipping, undated

Date: undated

Roof bolting clipping, undated

Date: undated

Letter from Henry A. Pohns to Clyde Work, 1979 May 18

Date: 1979 May 18

"There is Room at the Top" advertisement, undated

Date: undated

Western U.S. Intercollegiate Mining Competition press release, 1979

Date: 1979

University of Arizona winning team photograph, Intercollegiate Mining Competition (2 copies), April 1979

Date: April 1979

Stake driving contest photograph, Intercollegiate Mining Competition (2 copies), April 1979

Date: April 1979

Carbide Lamp Award photograph, Intercollegiate Mining Competition (2 copies), April 1979

Date: April 1979

Feed leg drilling contest photograph, Intercollegiate Mining Competition (2 copies), April 1979

Date: April 1979

Hand mucking contest photograph, Intercollegiate Mining Competition (2 copies), April 1979

Date: April 1979

"Women gear up for mining competition" clipping, 1987 April 18

Date: 1987 April 18