

Record Attendance at the 24th International Conference on Ground Control in Mining

The 24th International Conference on Ground Control in Mining was held in Morgantown, West Virginia, on August 2-4, 2005. The Conference, cosponsored by West Virginia University, West Virginia Coal Association, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Mine Safety and Health Administration, has been held annually since 1981. The purpose of the Conference is to bring together the international mining community including industry, labor, academia, manufacturers and government to present new ideas and technologies for improving ground control in mining and to provide a forum for discussion. The 24th Conference was attended by 251 ground control specialists representing 11 different countries. Attendees from the United States included representatives from 21 different states.

The keynote address "Like



**Keynote Speaker:
Peter Lilly, CONSOL.**

Déjà Vu All Over Again" was delivered by Mr. Pete Lilly, Chief Operating Officer, CONSOL Energy, Inc. Mr. Lilly pointed out that coal still lacks influence and support due in large part to poor public attitude toward coal. He also said a safe mine is a productive mine and all should seek to instill safety as a core value in every person working in the mine, strive to build a special relationship among safety, productivity and the workplace. He went on to illustrate how important tech-

nology is in CONSOL's being the largest underground coal producer. He also said what lies ahead is the challenge of environment and changing geology in all coal basins.

Following the keynote address, 42 presentations and 10 poster papers were delivered over the next 3 days. The major themes of the 24th Conference included longwall mining, multiple seam mining, pillar extraction, subsidence, numerical modeling and roof bolting tech-

nology. Roof bolting technology led the way at the Conference with 13 presentations and 2 poster papers. Several new technologies were introduced including Hilti's self-drilling OneStep roof bolt, MARGIS (roof geology mapping system using roof bolter signature), stability mapping system that combines AutoCAD SurvCADD and LAMODEL, etc. A conference proceedings is available from Dr. Syd Peng, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV.



Program in Session



Time for Picnic. Who wants a hat?

The 25th ICGCM Plans: Plans have already been initiated for the 25th International Conference on Ground Control in Mining and a special program is being prepared in celebration of the silver anniversary of the Conference. Next year's Conference will be held in Morgantown, WV, at the Lakeview Scanticon Resort and Conference Center on August 1-3, 2006. Invited papers, with retrospective views of the past

25 years on important topics, will be delivered at the Conference. A banquet will also be held and a number of honor awards will be presented. Abstracts for next year's (25th) Conference, can be sent by January 13, 2006, to:

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24th ICGCM Organizing Committee members attending Conference are (from left to right): Wahab Khair, Mike Jenkins, Bruce Hebblewhite, Frank Kendorski, Steve Tadolini, Kelvin Wu, Greg Hasenfus, Keith Heasley, Gerry Finfinger, David Bigby, Chris Mark, Dick Gray, David Newman, John Rusnak, Vince Scovazzo, Doug Hardman, James Pinkley, John Hoelle, Naj Aziz, Syd Peng, Mike Amick, Hani Mitri, Tom Blevins. Not shown are Bruce Cassidy and Klaus-Dieter Beck.