

WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATIONS

Eric R. Achelpohl
Department of Mining Engineering
Undergraduate Student Explosives Emphasis
University of Missouri-Rolla

ABSTRACT

The paper follows the introduction of a college student into the explosives industry. The opportunity of experiences from classes and work at the University of Missouri-Rolla, along with summer internship experiences are highlighted.

These experiences started as a laboratory assistant at the University of Missouri-Rolla's Rock Mechanics and Explosives Research Center in the explosive laboratory, setting up tests and conducting experiments. These early experiences were reinforced by the explosive classes in the Mining Engineering curriculum and the development of a new Explosives Emphasis by the department. The other part of this equation is the summer work experiences in the explosives industry, first with an explosive company performing shot service and second with a construction company working with their drilling and blasting section on a highway project in North Carolina. These helped to reinforce what was learned in the classroom and gave an excellent insight into how the industry functions.

Finally, advice is given on how to gain the most during a college education for those wishing to enter the explosives and blasting industry.