MINING 101

By Nathan Tafoya

The San Xavier Mining Laboratory is the only facility of its kind in the United States because of its working vertical shaft and because it is structured much like an operating mine. The laboratory, which is located about 32 miles away from the UA, is entirely student-run.

"We run equipment, run drills, we dig, we develop, we conduct lab work and we go underground," said Claudia Coniso, a mining engineering senior. "We come out here every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m."

The student mine management is responsible for nearly every facet of the facility, including safety programs, mine planning, regulatory compliance and most administrative functions. While clocking in the usual eight-hour shifts per week at the mine, engineering students are exposed to some of the latest technological advances in mining and excavation through hands-on training.

"It's a small mine, but you get an idea of what it's like in the real world," he said.

Coniso was in Georgia this past summer working with a company constructing tunnels 18 feet in diameter for a 10-mile subway system. Job placement for mining engineering is 100 percent, said Hugh Miller, associate professor and director of the mines. The high demand makes it the second or third highest paying degree.

See MINES8

STUDENTS MAN THE MINES AT UA’S UNDERGROUND CLASSROOM

By Dana Crudo

As ASUA tries to tackle the problems between students and neighbors, they’re turning to a fellow senator whom no one voted into office.

Cmdr. Brian Seastone of the UAPD has been the honorary adult senator in the ASUA senate for the past eight years.

Usually at Wednesday senate meetings, he sits quietly off to the side, but when a debate arises among the senators, he often pipe up to clarify an issue or offer some insight they might not otherwise have discussed.

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