



## Engineering & Mines

357 Duckering Building, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK 99775-5960  
(907) 474-7730 • (907) 474-6994 fax • [cem.dean@alaska.edu](mailto:cem.dean@alaska.edu) • [cem.uaf.edu](http://cem.uaf.edu)

**Dr. Patrick H. O'Neill is celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 11, 2015!**

Patrick and his wife Sandra would like to do something meaningful to commemorate this significant birthday by enhancing the scholarship created in his name at the University of Alaska Fairbanks College of Engineering and Mines. Patrick is very grateful to the university for the benefits reaped from his education, and this is a way to pay it forward for generations to follow.

In lieu of gifts, please help us celebrate Patrick's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday by contributing to the **Patrick H. O'Neill Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company Scholarship** at the University of Alaska Fairbanks College of Engineering and Mines. When endowed, this special scholarship fund will provide scholarships to UAF mining engineering students in perpetuity.

For more information, go to: [cem.uaf.edu/giving](http://cem.uaf.edu/giving) and follow the links, or send contributions to: UAF College of Engineering and Mines, Attn: Ann Ringstad, PO Box 755910, Fairbanks, AK 99775. Reference Scholarship #20738

### Background:

Patrick H. O'Neill, *UAF BS'41, MS'53, ScD (Hon) '76*, was recently inducted into the National Mining Hall of Fame. This almost-lifetime miner followed in the footsteps of his grandfather who had been a part of the famous great Alaska Klondike gold rush.

Patrick began his career at the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, (now UAF) thanks to strong encouragement and a job opportunity from university president Charles Bunnell. It took nine years for him to achieve his first two of three degrees in mining engineering - a decision that ultimately took him all over the world, starting in Colombia, South America, where he revitalized a failing mining operation, eventually becoming president of the International Mining Corporation. He credits the School of Mines Dean Earl Beistline for critiquing his master's thesis on the analysis of mining operation lifespans, and for leading him south to Colombia to pursue the challenge of turning around a failing mining operation.

His mining career took off when he worked for the US Smelting, Refining and Mining Company out of Fairbanks, rising up through the ranks, and working along side many prominent Alaska pioneers. Dr. O'Neill would go on to serve as president or chairman of eight affiliated mining companies, and director of several others including The Fresnillo Company, Zemex Corporation, Placer Development, Moly Corp, Rosario Resources and others. These companies developed and operated some of the western world's great metal resources.

National Mining Hall of Fame Board Chairman Paul C. Jones praises O'Neill, stating: "Patrick has set a classic example of the leadership and work ethic that has made America's mining industry the world leader in technically sound, environmentally and socially correct, and economical mineral production that sets the standards for mining worldwide."

This small town boy brings honor to UAF and the College of Engineering and Mines. Along with his three degrees obtained from UAF in 1941 and 1953, UAF awarded Patrick with the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1971, and an honorary Doctorate of Science degree in 1976 in recognition of his professional achievements and service to his university.

The author of *'From Snowshoes to Wingtips'*, (UA Press 2007), Patrick O'Neill reflects on his secret to longevity, crediting his wonderful wife Sandra for her encouragement to achieve his dreams. When you ask him what his greatest achievement in life has been, without hesitation he responds, "It's the education I received at the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines. Absolutely the best thing I could have done in life!"

Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company has now officially named their scholarship at the UAF College of Engineering and Mines the 'Patrick H. O'Neill Hecla Greens Creek Mining Scholarship' in honor of Dr. O'Neill for his decades of service and innovation in the mining industry worldwide. This scholarship provides support to mining engineering students at UAF to assist them in their pursuit of their mining degrees.

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