

Professional Development Newsletter

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For information regarding The Center for Professional Development Education, please visit the new website at <https://www.mines.edu/cpe/>

Interview with Kamini Singha, Ben Fryrear Endowed Chair for Innovation and Excellence

Tell us about your role at Mines.

I am a professor in the Department of Geology & Geological Engineering, with courtesy joint appointments in the Departments of Civil & Environmental Engineering, and quite recently, Geophysics. I currently serve as the Interim Director of the Hydrologic Sciences & Engineering graduate program and the Associate Department Head in Geology.



How long have you been at Mines? What brought you here?

I moved to Mines in 2012, after 7 years as faculty at Penn State. I moved here largely for the outstanding hydrology program we have on campus, and the number of colleagues at Mines who are interested in water in a broad sense.

How did you become interested in professional development?

One of my mentors, Rosemary Knight at Stanford, told me many times about trying to be a “positive force for change”, which really resonated with me. At a place like Mines, there’s so much opportunity to build something if you’re interested in doing so, because we’re so small. For me, investing in the future of the university through its faculty is a way to help ensure that we build a community of scholars, and that this is the kind of place where big ideas launch.

Describe your current efforts in professional development on campus.

I currently act as the Ben Fryrear Endowed Chair for Innovation and Excellence, and my mission is to raise the level of professional skills of faculty, which I aim to do by offering workshops. There are a ton of motivated people on campus already working on professional development, so I’m hoping to collaborate with anyone interested to get these workshops off the ground without reinventing the wheel. I have a series of workshop topics, largely focused on assistant and associate professors, and a number of interested collaborators, although I’m still looking for more. These workshops will start rolling out in the fall.

What are you passionate about outside of your work?

Like many people living in Colorado, I love being outside. I enjoy rock and ice climbing, road and mountain biking, and both front and backcountry skiing. I also enjoy learning new things that may have some (perhaps limited) practical value, ranging from piloting single-engine planes to bartending to residential electrical wiring.

Open Office Hours for Graduate Students

This is an opportunity for graduate students to discuss any question or concern. Please don't hesitate to take advantage of the office hours of:

- Roel Snieder, Prof. of Professional Development Education, Wednesday 2-3pm, GH 314
- Wendy Zhou, Dean of Graduate Studies, Tuesday 2-3pm, GH 324
- Or by appointment at other times (wzhou@mines.edu or rsnieder@mines.edu)

Sample Agreements for Graduate Students and Their Advisors

Students and advisors often enter into a working relationship without having a conversation about specific expectations, obligations, and the practical aspects of working together. Important questions need examination, such as: How often do we meet? What do we hope to achieve in these meetings? How do we spend our time most effectively? What are the responsibilities of the student and the advisor for creating the right work environment? On the Professional Development's website, you will find [templates for agreements](#), which can be used as a guide for conversations between graduate students and advisors with the goal of facilitating a collegial and collaborative working relationship.

Workshops

March 15, 2018, 12-1:30PM, Boettcher Room, Library. *Author Rights and Open Scholarship* (Ye Li, yeli@mines.edu)

Understand your rights as an academic author, how open access help enhance your research impact, and how to protect your intellectual property while opening up your research.

March 22, 2018, 1-3 PM, MZ106, Sustainability/Ethical STEM

Enhance your understanding of the role of ethics in STEM professions.

April 4, 2018, time and location TBD, (part of [GRADS conference](#)). *Collaboration Tools for Managing Research and Publishing Workflow* (Ye Li, yeli@mines.edu)

Introduce technology options, including electronic lab notebooks, Open Science Frameworks, reference management tools, Overleaf, open repository and preprint servers etc., and good practices for managing your research and publishing workflow.

April 12, 2018, 1-3 PM, MZ106, Publishing Research

Panel discussion to extend your understanding of the publication, submission, and review process.

Training Opportunities Available Upon Request

There are numerous training opportunities available upon request, such as: *Time Management and Mitigating Stress*, as well as the *Modern Scientist 101 Series*. For a complete listing of training opportunities, please visit our website at <https://www.mines.edu/cpe/training-upon-request/> or contact [Roel Snieder](#) with a request for a topic that is not on the list.