



## WATER FITNESS

One of Mines' newest research centers, the Advanced Water Technology Center (AQWATEC), is leading the way in advanced wastewater treatment research, thanks in large part to private support. **Aqua-Aerobic Systems**, a leader in the design, manufacturing and application of municipal and industrial wastewater systems, has contributed equipment, funding and technical support for a wastewater test site at Mines Park and an on-site demonstration wastewater treatment prototype that has created a one-of-a-kind opportunity for the school. Since 2007, Aqua-Aerobic Systems has contributed more than \$175,000 through the Colorado School of Mines Foundation for site development and student support. The company also made a significant investment in the equipment needed to perform this leading-edge research at Mines

"We're exploring the energy-water nexus," says Associate Director of AQWATEC Tzahi Cath, "and looking for cost-effective, sustainable approaches to water and wastewater treatment, reclamation and reuse." With Aqua-Aerobic's support, he explains, Mines faculty and students can take their research further toward the development of workable solutions to global water challenges. "We are proud to partner with such an industry leader and to provide our special expertise in this arena," says Cath. "This is a very important industry tie for Mines - together, we can make real strides in improving wastewater treatment system technologies and energy use efficiency."

"Our company invests in wastewater technology and application knowledge, and we're always looking for ways to leverage our resources," says Aqua-Aerobic Systems President and CEO Robert J. Wimmer. "Our relationship with Mines has allowed us access to state-of-the-art thinking and the latest advances in wastewater technology. We are proud to be associated with the university, AQWATEC, and the students and faculty we've had the pleasure to work with at Mines."

AQWATEC Director Jörg Drewes says, "The industry partnership we established with Aqua-Aerobic Systems significantly improved our research infrastructure and provided for us a truly unique asset - one that not only attracts talented students to Mines, but also helps us bring in additional research funding." It is AQWATEC's hope that the demonstration system, which they will continue to operate in partnership with Aqua-Aerobic Systems for another couple of years, will ultimately serve as a model for future innovation in this area and further strengthen Mines' research mission and its service to industry and society.

## THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE

Bringing renowned experts like **Dr. Peter Gleick** to campus adds vitality to the Mines academic experience. Gleick, an authority on water sustainability and head of the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security in Oakland, California, was the featured speaker at the 2009 Young Environmental Symposium, an annual lecture event made possible by contributions from the late Herb '39 and Dodie Young. In addition to the support the Youngs provided for the lecture series during their lifetimes, the couple's entire estate was bequeathed to Mines and will sustain the symposium for years to come.

*"Bringing a standout in the field of water research to campus for this year's Young Symposium was especially relevant considering our global concern over water resources. Since my work focuses on water treatment, I was especially encouraged that his talk brought water issues into focus for members of the Mines community."*

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