

**From:** Colorado School of Mines <communications@mines.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2024 4:14 PM  
**Subject:** The 150: A Newsletter Celebrating Mines at 150

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**The 150: A monthly update on all things Mines at 150**



*During Homecoming, a special burro came out of retirement and returned to campus after a more than 30-year career as the Mines mascot. The burro, actually named Blaster, is a racing burro who began running the field during football games in the 1990s when he was just a few years old. He retired in 2021 and is now is 37 years old, enjoying his days on a ranch in Idaho Springs with his owner Bill. Thanks for your long commitment to Mines, Blaster!*

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## What's up Oredigger nation?!

Homecoming may be over, but the memories of Mines' 150th celebration are still fresh on our minds. It was an historic, record-breaking celebration that culminated with nearly 7,000 people at Marv Kay Stadium, rooting our Orediggers on to victory over Black Hills State.

Thanks to our Mines community, we broke our football attendance record, and more importantly, reinforced the positive impact that we have on the Golden community and the state of Colorado. But that moment was neither the start nor finish of the work we are doing to meet the goals of Mines@150.

Successes from the past year certainly include victories on the field, trips to national championship games and many other milestones. We are just as proud of our success outside of competition. In less than six months we have made significant facility upgrades and improvements that will benefit hundreds of student-athletes.

- A new artificial surface at the Joe Coors, Jr., Softball Field provides the team with an improved space to practice and compete, and makes it a top-tier facility for area youth to attend camps.
- A complete overhaul of the Stermole Track & Field Complex and Crouch Field Events Complex included new artificial turf, a new track surface and numerous upgrades to the throwing areas – providing benefits to our varsity teams, and the hundreds of participants in Mines club and recreational sports programs.
- We also added and continue to work on the Kraemer Beer Garden and McKee West End Zone at Marv Kay Stadium to enhance the game-day experience for our fans.

All upgrades, funded in part by private investment, help widen the gap between Mines and everyone else, affirming our position as a top-of-mind and first-choice university. The improvements help us expand and diversify our varsity, club and recreational sports offerings.

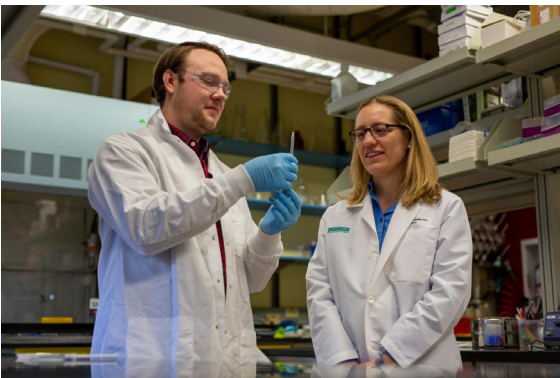
Our game-day atmosphere strengthens our fans' affinity for Mines. It creates a perfect storm that allows for innovation and entrepreneurship such as the official [online Mines Athletics Store](#) or partnerships with local businesses. Plus, it doesn't hurt our chances at winning either. So, thank you to all who have made it possible, and everyone who will continue to make it possible.

Ready to cheer on the Orediggers? [View the schedule](#) and join for upcoming games throughout November.

Go Orediggers!

**David Hansburg**  
**Director of Athletics**

*Celebrate*  
**150 YEARS**  
*with us*



## Spotlight on the Inaugural Mines Venture Fund

The Mines Venture Fund invests in startup companies founded by alumni, faculty, students and Westgate NREL partners, and is in the process of raising \$10 million with three investments already made:

GelSana, founded by Assistant Professor Melissa Krebs. GelSana develops hydrogel products to heal wounds by reducing inflammation and providing sustained drug delivery while providing a moist, protected, anti-inflammatory environment.

Infinite Outdoors, founded by Mines alumni Sam Seeton '16 and David Rhine '19. Infinite Outdoors provides access to high-quality game habitats for hunting and fishing enthusiasts by connecting them with private landowners. They are recognized for their conservation efforts and passion for the outdoors.

AndrenaM, founded by Matej Cernosek '18, MS '19 and Alex Chu '18. AndrenaM specializes in maritime autonomous systems, AI-driven swarm

## A Space for Gamers

In September, Mines Rec Sports partners and leadership celebrated the launch of the Mines Esports Lab, a dedicated gaming space equipped with high-performance PCs, 11 popular games, a professional broadcast room, and more. The lab serves as the official venue for the Mines Club Esports team to practice and compete, while also providing open rec hours each week for students of all skill levels to connect and play. Designed with top-tier equipment and a variety of games, the lab encourages students to unwind, compete, and build friendships in a supportive environment.

Located in the basement at 1600 Jackson, the new lab features 12 PCs optimized for games such as Counter-Strike, League of Legends, Rocket League, Overwatch, and Valorant. A broadcasting space allows the Mines team to stream live on Twitch and YouTube, inviting the campus and community to follow their progress in real-time and support Mines' growing presence in collegiate esports.

defense solutions to support national defense by providing real-time maritime sensing, communication, and drone technology.

[Watch a video tour of the lab on Instagram.](#)

We anticipate tailwinds for our startups benefiting industry and society.

## Upcoming Events



### **The Orion Spacecraft: Carrying Humans to the Moon and Beyond**

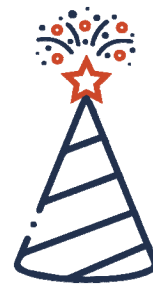
Join Sigma Xi for a lecture by Heather McKay '07 (Lockheed Martin) on **November 5** at noon in the Student Center Ballroom A.

## The Pathways Explorations Series

The Pathways Explorations Series features large-scale, TED-style talks where motivating and inspiring speakers tell their personal, academic and professional stories to our Mines campus community. Join on **November 6** at noon in Bunker to hear Dorothy Kanini Mwanzia, graduate student in Geophysics, and then on **November 13** at noon in Bunker hear from Julia Greer, professor of Materials Sciences, Mechanics, and Medical Engineering at California Institute of Technology.



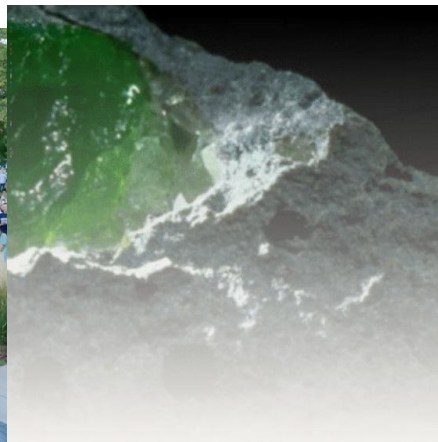
MINES@150 CELEBRATIONS



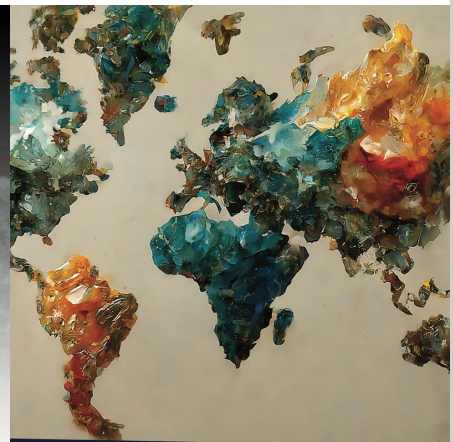
## University Headlines



**Orediggers  
United for**



**The Untapped  
Energy Potential**



**Payne Institute  
for Public  
Policy 2024**

## Homecoming @150

Mines continued our 150th-anniversary celebrations with a weekend of unforgettable events, including the unveiling of the Sesquicentennial Bell and a 52-24 victory on the football field, and more.

[Watch more.](#)

## of Geologic Hydrogen

Geophysicists Mengli Zhang and Yaoguo Li are working with the U.S. Geological Survey as part of a joint industry program to develop exploration techniques to find hydrogen trapped underground.

[Read more.](#)

## State of Critical Minerals Report

A new critical minerals report from The Payne Institute for Public Policy highlights the vast potential from mining tailings, the steep cost curve for Nickel and new legislation.

[Read more.](#)

# Mines in the News

## Westword

[Mines police officer gives gift of life to Aurora man searching for donor for years](#)

Mines police officer Abby Lutalo donated a kidney to an Aurora man after seeing the sign he put on the back of his car. "I just feel

## Denver 7

[Crested Butte celebrates permanent protections for its 'Red Lady'](#)

"If the commodity market had been different, they would have opened that mine," said Jessica Smith, a professor in

## INL.gov

[Mining for talent: Education's crucial role in America's clean energy, mineral-driven world](#)

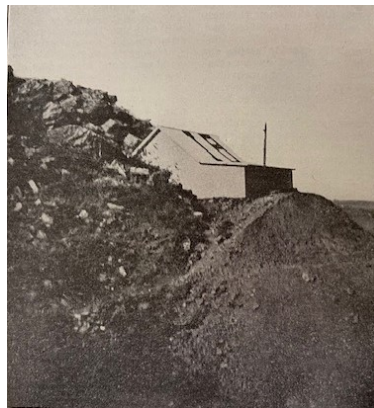
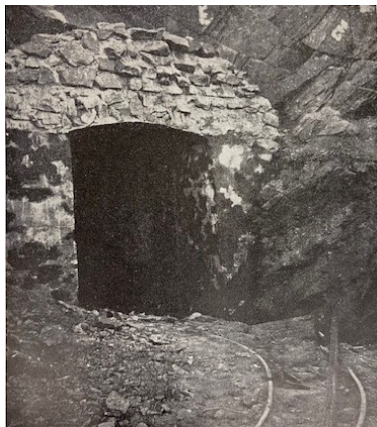
"Colorado School of Mines mining engineering curriculum includes courses on

grateful that I was able to do something in this world and make a difference in someone's life," Lutalo said.

the engineering design and society department at the Colorado School of Mines who has written about Mt. Emmons.

waste management, water management and mine closure, as well as courses on community engagement and responsible mining.

## #Mines150History



Did you know that there used to be a mine within walking distance of campus? A space for instruction and research, Mines' first Experimental Mine was constructed in the foothills of Mt. Zion in 1907. Though the mine did not contain any ore, students excavated new tunnels to expand the mine and even built a road leading to it. The space included a Shaft House which was a popular gathering space for students. Seniors would leave their mark by painting their graduation year on the walls over that of the previous year. The "School Tunnel," as the mine was called, was short-lived and was demolished in 1922 when the Edgar Mine in Idaho Springs was acquired by the university.

Now Edgar Mine is used to give students in the Mining Engineering Department and researchers from other disciplines hands-on experience in geological mapping, rock fragmentation, blasting and much more.

Celebrate **150 YEARS** with us  **150.MINES.EDU**

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