

The Elephants In The Room...

Survivors speak out

Marisa Macias
Staff Writer

In the wake of George Floyd and police brutality protests erupting across the country, some Mines students stepped up and raised their voices as well. Many students have been vocal about their less than ideal experiences at Mines concerning discrimination on social media through their personal accounts and even through community pages.

On July 6th, several stories of racism experienced on campus were posted to @BIPOC_at_Mines (formerly @black_at_mines). The account was created by several Black students whom created a change.org petition: "Improve the experience for minority students that attend and plan on attending CSM." The creators believed that creating the account and sharing the stories of current and past students would garner more signatures, as well as provide a place where anyone could share their story and know they are not alone. "Without the voice of the people, nobody would suspect that these are occurring at Mines," one of the creators of the account and petition believes. They have been very vocal about their personal experiences of racism on their personal social media accounts as

Cont'd on Page 13 >>

How COVID-19 has changed our campus experience



Image courtesy of Mines Flickr.

Rachel Kelley
Staff Writer

The pandemic changed just about everything when it comes to how the general public acts on a daily basis, but it still looks very different for students than it does for the rest of the population. The number of students on campus has been reduced (especially with some students opting to learn remotely) but we still had to implement major changes to accommodate for the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) regulations to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. While you are likely very aware of

most of these changes, it is important that you know of all the changes that were made—including the accommodations for remote-learning students.

The most noticeable change is the mask requirement in every facility at Mines; it should be noted though, that masks are also required when walking around campus as well. And although everyone is wearing a mask, all individuals on campus should be social distancing as well. This means maintaining a distance of approximately 6 feet whenever possible.

In order to maintain social dis-

Cont'd on Page 6 >>

News @ A Glance

Wondering how many students opted-in to receive a "grade" of Pass/No Pass in at least one class last semester? 2400. That is, out of a total student population of 6,605 (5,154 undergraduate and 1,451 graduate).

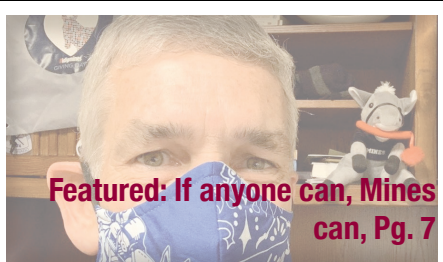
According to the most recent Campus Master Plan, we have two more residence halls coming to campus! The South IM field is slated to become the South Intramural Field Residence Hall and Indoor Recreational Facility, and the first-year parking lot will be the South Campus Residence Hall. The Board of Trustees recently approved a budget of 93 million dollars for Residence Hall VII. So what's on the chopping block first? The South IM field or the first-year parking lot?

During the same board meeting, the library was allotted 13 million dollars as a part of the Five-year Capital Construction Plan (10 of which have been requested from the state and 3 in the form of a donation)!

As another promising figure, compared to last year, Mines is up 3% in overall underrepresented freshman!



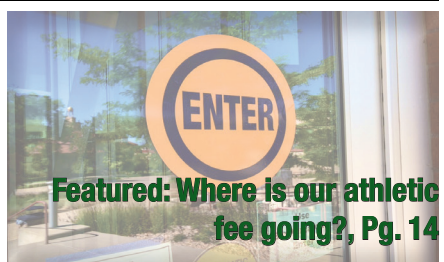
Featured: International students face challenges, Pg. 4



Featured: If anyone can, Mines can, Pg. 7



Featured: September Horoscopes, Pg. 10



Featured: Where is our athletic fee going?, Pg. 14

Letter from the Editor

Yes, we are still printing. No, you have not compromised yourself by picking up a copy of our beloved newspaper. Yes, you can relish this relic of a bygone era.

On behalf of the Editing Staff and Staff Writers of the 101st volume of *The Oredigger* student newspaper, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to campus for (what's the current bet? Two? Three weeks?) the fall semester.

In the age of that which shall not be named (cough... cough... COVID), I couldn't help but think of Aragorn's speech from Return of the King...

Hold your ground! Hold your ground! Sons and daughters of Mines... my colleagues and acquaintances! I see in your eyes, the same bleary look that would zap the energy of me! A day may come when the connection of Zoom fails, when we forsake our professors and break all codes of conduct... but it is not this day! An hour of self-isolation and stay-at-home orders when the age of In-Person comes crashing down... but it is not this day! This day we commute! By all that you hold dear, on this good campus, I bid you read-on, Orediggers of Mines!

On behalf of the Board of Student Media (BSM), we want every student to know that they have a platform to share their thoughts and opinions with, and express themselves within, the Mines community. We are here to represent your voice through journalism, discourse, and the visual arts.

That is, by channeling Oredigger diversity into building connections and camaraderie through BSM: *The Oredigger*, Mines Internet Radio, High Grade, *The Prospector*.

Besides shaking virtual trees and hitting virtual rocks or dreading our return to the comatose Zoom-state, we have been thinking about the importance of independent student journalism and media for the proper functioning of a student body. This sentiment, I hope, is a timely one, as current students face a quasi-normal learning environment and new students experience an impaired acclimation to Mines. With any luck, you will all come to appreciate the benefits created by our college's newspaper, radio station, fine arts journal, and yearbook.

We are always looking for journalists and artists to join our team and express their unique student voice. Channel your joys, frustrations, apprehensions, and accomplishments into meaningful journalism. Email oredig@gmail.com for more information on how to get involved with newspaper operations.

It takes a village. A special thanks to this year's editorial staff as well as this issue's staff writers. Shout out for working with a one-week turnaround.

Soon we will all be able to say that we survived the Zoom apocalypse in addition to the COVID pandemic and forest fire smoke and economic downturn and civil unrest and... Until then, godspeed! 🍀

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Photo of the Week

Thank you Blue Key for carrying out the M-Climb COVID style!

Image courtesy of Mines via Instagram.



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Mines Student Organizations Battle COVID's Attack on Social Life

Sophia Becker
News Editor

Extra! Extra! Read even more about it! Worldwide pandemic delivers a crushing blow to gatherings of any kind!

I'm sure you're being bombarded with COVID information from every direction, though maybe not in a 1920s newspaper boy voice. However, the newspaper boy is correct; social life has changed dramatically since March. This means that the social life of many Mines students (myself included) has taken a hit as well, considering how many of us socialize through extracurriculars. This summer, the leaders of our student organizations were hard at work trying to figure out how to support their members from a distance. I reached out to some of the biggest organizations on campus to find out what they were doing to stay connected--abbreviated strategies are below, with my favorites underlined. Complete statements can be found on The Oredigger website.

Note: The membership of many organizations is not accurately represented by the students listed as members on its Engage page. However, the numbers do provide some information that can be used for comparison purposes.

Society of Women Engineers (SWE)

1445 Engage members

Source: Taryn Tucker, President

"Welcome back to campus SWE-ple, we can't wait to be with you all again!"

- Book club
- Meetings with other campus organizations
- Evening meeting slots once a month
- Skills-based workshops in collaboration with campus labs
- Virtual meetings with attendance prizes

Graduate Student Government (GSG)

~1420 graduate students (Mines site)

Source: Maxwell Silver, President

- Providing student emergency funding, expanding travel grants, allowing the compensation of virtual speakers
- Transitioned the entire Graduate Research and Discovery Symposium (GRADS) to a virtual format
- Coordinated with departments to ensure policies are respectful of TA safety and comfort levels
- Week-long social distanced scavenger hunt (starting Monday!)
- Partnering with USG to work on improving the experiences of our BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ community.

Panhellenic Council

~867 members. According to the Mines website, Fraternity/Sorority life accounts for roughly 17% of undergraduate students.

Source: Abigail Osburn, Panhellenic President

"Panhel and all of FSL [fraternity/sorority life] is primarily focused on our member's safety, while still wanting to provide opportunities for connection, fun, and educational growth through the semester."

- In-person events adhering to rigorous standards & regulations developed with SAIL/admin
- Online/virtual programming being developed

International Student Council (ISC)

679 international students last year, according to the Mines website

Source: Uzma Kamarul, ISC President

"[Despite current challenges,] the ISC remains positive and are here to support the returning and incoming international students. Although a large number of first-years are still abroad in their home country, the ISC is planning for virtual events that they could take part in, welcoming them to the campus community."

American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)

385 Engage members

Source: Max Dumler, Secretary

- Virtual general meetings featuring employers/companies of interest
- Gauging interest for completing online collaborative projects
- Tutoring for "mechanical engineering and related courses to provide students support through these tough times."

American Society of Civil Engineers (ACSE)

224 Engage members

Source: Celeste Carmignani, President

- Virtual technical presentations
- Virtual networking event (Building the Connections)
- Virtual volunteer opportunities involving K-12 outreach
- Members on call to answer the questions of prospective students during Preview Mines

National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)

139 Engage members

Source: Leonard Igberaese, President

"We hope doing these new things will keep our members engaged and interested during this academic school year."

- Providing self-care resources
- Virtual meetings
- "Along with MASU [Mines African Student Union], we've had listening sessions with the Mines community, MEP, and the President's office regarding racial injustice and ways we can improve campus culture."
- Virtual social events:
 - Online gaming tournaments
 - Kahoot!/trivia games
 - Movies nights
 - Hot topic discussions

Alpha Phi Omega (APO)

58 Engage members

Source: Jessica Horii, Treasurer

"It's been really nice being able to just see familiar faces once a week, even if it's over zoom, and to talk about how everyone's doing. We've had to cancel some of our bigger events, but we hope that we will be able to come up with lots of fun alternatives and take some time to plan ahead."

- Virtual chapter meetings
- Virtual recruitment including:
 - Trivia night
 - Jackbox game night
 - Self-care workshop

American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)

47 Engage members

Source: Chloe Poindexter, President

- Coordinating with other MEP organizations to keep members informed of professional opportunities
- Virtual social events
- Virtual info sessions

I'm thoroughly impressed with the dedication and creativity our student organizations have shown in keeping their members involved. If you're not already involved in a Mines organization, I highly recommend it!

Go to orgs.mines.edu for SAIL's most up-to-date guidelines on hosting safe events. ✨



2020 Convocation. Image courtesy of Mines Flickr.

Mines Enrollment

Caleb Pan

Staff Writer

After endless construction, campus opened this fall with Spruce Hall, Jackson Hall, and the parking garage (some of which may or may not be still under construction... ahem). Awkwardly, a pandemic happened and our new structures ready-ish to support everyone were reduced in capacity. Given the world being on fire, collegiate policy a hot mess across the country, and fees increasing anyway, how many first-year students are enrolled this year exactly?

The Mines group Institutional Research holds the data to answer such questions. I reached out regarding our new first-year class size. First a caveat: the data on enrollment each semester is not finalized until census

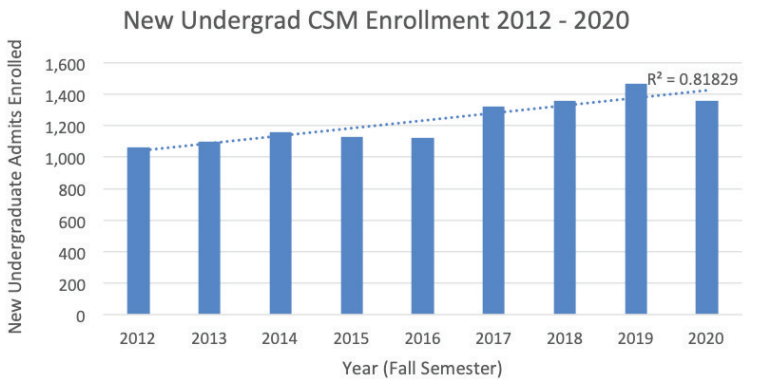
day. Therefore, keep in mind the data for fall 2020 in this article is only preliminary.

The short answer is 1,361 incoming undergraduate students for fall 2020. Because everyone here likes math or something, here's a graph (enrollment data from Institutional Research bi-annual reports).

Lori Kester, the Associate Provost of Enrollment Management, provided insight regarding enrollment during this difficult year:

"We know this has been a tremendously difficult time for all students. Some lost the best months of their high school senior year, while others were unsure of what campus would look like when they returned. But I think what most people have come to realize is that students need college and their Mines community.

Currently, we have 1,189 incoming first-years confirmed for fall 2020.



Graph of new undergraduate enrollment data. Image courtesy of Caleb Pan.

We also have 172 transfer students confirmed. In total, we have 1,361 incoming undergraduate students... Our overall enrollment is looking strong for continuing undergraduate students. Currently, we have 5,205 undergraduate students registered for fall 2020. Our goal for fall 2020 was to bring in 1,200 freshmen, so as of right now we are close, but did fall short due to the challenges we faced this year."

On an ending note, welcome again to the Class of 2024. We didn't expect to meet you like this, but we're glad you're here. When we're finally out, from Mines and COVID-19, I imagine our work is cut out for us as scientists, engineers, and problem-solvers. Looking forward to working with you all.

Oh, and that R-squared value in my graph is higher than most iron labs I've seen. Nice. 🍀

International Students Face Extraordinary Challenges

Sophia Becker

News Editor

According to the "Mines by the Numbers" site, 10.4% of the student body were international students last year. With a combined enrollment of 6,522, that means that there were 679 international students. That means 679 people who have had to figure out how to deal with the pandemic while being hundreds, more often thousands, of miles from home. On top of that, they've had to face government plans to make

them choose between quarantine and staying in the country. I contacted the Mines International Student Council (ISC) to hear directly from some of our fellow students how they were impacted by this unprecedented combination of current events.

Wan Jun Aida, ISC Secretary, detailed the effect on international student admissions and learning modes: "The pandemic has severely affected international students in the States, and the international community at Mines is not excluded, only 18 new



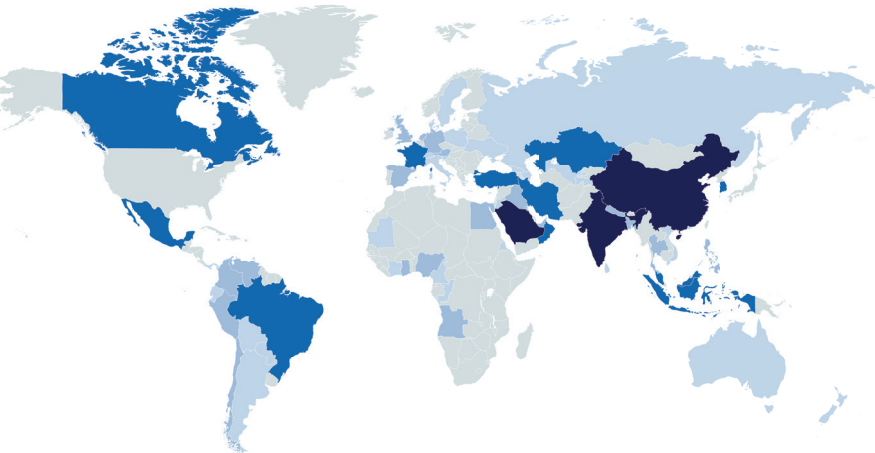
ISC Graduation Banquet 2018. Image courtesy of ISC.

international students came to Golden for the Fall semester instead of the usual 250 (appx.) new students anticipated every Fall. On top of that, about 30 percent of continuing students opted for remote learning from their home country. These numbers may change until mid-September."

"The pandemic has definitely impacted all students worldwide, but the struggles of an international student differs from local students," said Uzma Kamarul, ISC President. "From worrying about the cost of living to quarantine locations as well as visa insecurity, it has brought a lot of stress and anxiety to a lot of international students." She went on to explain the compounded effect of the current political climate. "Piling on election-year stress and a global pandemic is definitely a high stress and high anxiety situation. We, inter-

national students, had our eyes glued to the news when ICE decided to turnover their policies from March. While it was a huge relief that the current policy allows international students to stay in the States while taking a fully online course load, it shows how volatile the situation is. Anything can change overnight and we are expected to be prepared for every scenario."

"Despite the challenges posed by the COVID19 epidemic, the ISC will not stop connecting Mines international students with both local and international communities," said ISC Treasurer Alwaleed Alqarni. "The ISC and the ISSS [International Students and Scholar Services] office have been working on ways to conduct safe and responsible events. Stay safe and always be proactive." 🍀



Countries of origin for Mines international students; the darker the country, the more Mines students. Image courtesy of Undergraduate Admissions.

News

Golden Area Trail Network Grows

Aidan Lewis
Staff Writer

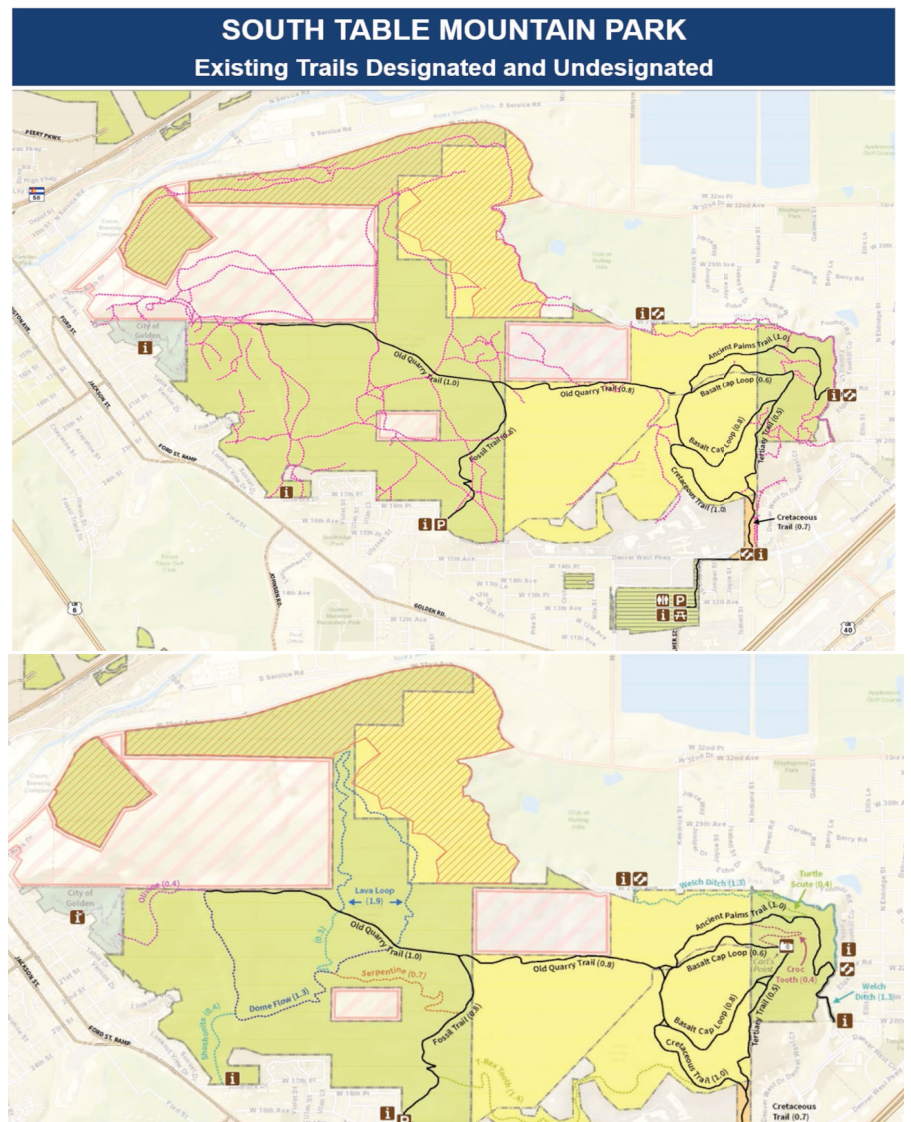
This summer, two major trail building projects progressed on public lands in the Golden area. The first project is a buildout of trails on the western half of South Table Mountain Park. The second project is an extension of the Clear Creek Trail father into the Clear Creek Canyon. These projects, when completed, will complement Golden's existing trail infrastructure by creating more opportunities for recreation in our natural areas.

In 1977, at the request of local residents and leaders, Jefferson County began buying up and seeking conservation easements on the land that makes up South Table Mountain for the purpose of preserving open space and creating a park. By 2019, most of the land on the mesa had been secured (with a few notable exceptions including the famous castle rock, but more on that in the next issue). The eastern half of the park was acquired earlier than the western half and as of 2019 had an established trail network before this summer. The more recently acquired western half however had mostly unofficial trails. These trails tend to be narrow and unmarked. Many are unsafe due to steepness and many were redundant. These sorts of trails can confuse or hurt hikers and are inaccessible to bikes. In addition, the high trail density and the possi-

bility of confused hikers winding up off trail threatens the natural features of the mesa including raptor nests and delicate lichens.

Knowing this, in 2019 Jefferson County Open Space developed a plan to create a more proper trail network on western South Table. This plan included the closing and remediation of unplanned trails, new signage throughout the park, and the construction of several new official trails. One of these was the Olivine trail. Accessible from 19th Street and Belvedere Drive in Golden, this trail winds gently up the Golden side of South Table. It travels below and then the large G and then swings around to connect Golden to the rest of the trails in South Table Mountain Park. Unlike an old unofficial trail that it replaces, the grade of this trail is accessible by mountain bikers and it is stable and safe. The full plan will not be realized until 2021 but volunteers have completed the Olivine trail.

The other big trail project in Golden that progressed this summer was work on extending the trail along Clear Creek by 1.75 miles. This project is a small component of the Peaks to Plains Initiative, which aims to build a continuous 65 mile long paved trail from the Continental Divide to Denver, in part through Clear Creek Canyon. This part of the project, built through the narrow canyon, is significantly more complex than the work conducted on South Table.



South Table Mountain Park Trails. Image courtesy of Jefferson County.

To build this trail, rock had to be cleared and a bridge across the creek constructed. In addition to the peaks to plains trail segment, a parallel trail higher up on the hillside in the canyon, called the Welch Ditch trail, will be extended as part of the project. The two trails have an existing con-

nection and another connection will be created farther into the canyon which will serve to create a loop. New parking lots and restrooms along Clear Creek Canyon Road are also being constructed.

To learn more about the projects visit jeffco.us 🌿

Grewcock Presidential Scholars Program Launches

Sophia Becker
News Editor

If you follow Mines on social media, you likely saw that the school received \$30 million from alumnus Bruce Grewcock and his wife Debra. According to the Mines Newsroom, these funds will provide scholarships covering tuition and fees to ten new students each year in addition to activities and travel opportunities.

The program aims to develop leaders not just in industry, but in gov-



Bruce Grewcock, '76.
Image courtesy of Mines Newsroom.

ernment and business as well. The program will not interfere with traditional Mines STEM degrees, rather, it will be offered in conjunction with them. Said Bruce Grewcock, "Mines students are already high achievers with great drive and technical savvy. Through this program, students with exceptional leadership potential will gain the skills and knowledge they need to take initiative, inspire others and successfully advance our ever-changing world."

Skills will be developed through travel opportunities focused on leadership, regular meetings, and mentorship from professional leaders. Given that Grewcock is the former

CEO of Kiewit Corporation, a Fortune 500 company, I would venture a guess that students in this program will make some high-powered connections.

Overall, the Grewcock Presidential Scholars program sounds like it has a lot of potential. As the former Mines SWE President and a student in the Engineering & Technology Management program, I have to say, I'm a bit envious. Not just of the funding--I would love the opportunity to supplement my degree with a program like this. But, alas, it looks like I started my undergraduate degree four years too early. I look forward to seeing how the program develops! 🌿

Are Mines Graduates Immune from the COVID-19 Recession?

Sophia Becker

News Editor

As a recent Mines graduate who chose to get my Master's instead of heading into the workforce (partially for COVID-related reasons), I was curious. I reached out to Wendy Winter-Searcy, Director of the Mines Career Center (who you'll likely be hearing from often in the time leading up to Career Day). Her answers to my questions were not quite what I expected . . .

Internships

You probably knew the answer to this one. Internships suffered significantly throughout the country this summer and, unfortunately, Mines students were not immune. At worst internship programs were cancelled. At best, interns worked remotely. According to Winter-Searcy, some employers compensated with offers of scholarships, guaranteed future jobs or internships, and online training programs. "Many students had to scramble to find alternative plans for their summer," said Winter-Searcy. "Students who were proactive to find other ways to increase their marketable skills by taking classes, exploring other fields, volunteering, etc. will be the most resilient from a difficult situation."



A bunch of people shaking hands in close quarters, aka Career Day. Image courtesy of Mines Flickr.

Full-Time

Good news! So far, full-time job offers have stayed consistent. According to Winter-Searcy, "... positive outcomes for full-time employment are trending at about the same rate as this time last year. 2020 grads don't seem to be significantly impacted by the pandemic and economic downturn on preliminary assessment, though it may have shifted how long it is taking to find employment."

When I asked if any majors seemed relatively unaffected, she noted that computer science and civil engineering majors are doing especially well. However, that has been true in previous years.

Better news! Overall starting salaries have increased since last year. Majors with significant increases include Computer Science and Computational & Applied Mathematics. It's too soon to compare post-graduation outcomes to other schools, but so far it looks like our graduates are doing pretty well.

Graduate School

Contrary to my hypothesis, the proportion of students attending graduate school has only increased slightly as compared to the proportion of students employed in the field.

Career Day

Currently, it seems that Career Day has suffered a little in terms of employer attendance. According to Winter-Searcy, "Fewer employers are registered for Career Day by about a third, though that could change as we continue to accept registrations. Employers seem to be taking longer to make decisions, perhaps waiting to see final decisions for recruiting this year." However, she also noted that "[t]he virtual format may allow for additional opportunities to interact with employers and create a positive impression, such as information sessions, webinars, panels, etc." The Career Center has been hard at work to maximize interaction opportunities in the new virtual environment.

Recommendations

So, seniors, you can relax a little. Overall, it's good news! However, if you're still concerned about your future career, like most of us are, Winter-Searcy has a few recommendations to combat any employment issues you've encountered due to the "Corona Crash":

"Seize the moment and take advantage of the current opportunities presented. Employers are hiring now, whereas that could change based on the course of the pandemic. Take

advantage of every opportunity to increase in-demand skills and build career-readiness through increasing professionalism and networking. Students who engage with the Career Center are more likely to achieve their goals and have positive outcomes upon graduation.

"The Career Center staff is still here for students while operating mostly virtually. We are dedicated to students' success and eager to engage and to see you succeed." ✨



A (now rare) sighting of in-person networking. Image courtesy of Mines Flickr.

Cont'd "COVID & Campus" >>

tancing at all times, Mines has placed signs at the entrance to nearly every room—even elevators—marking the maximum number of people that should be allowed so that everyone is properly separated. Classrooms and lecture halls have decreased their capacity by 20-80% which has resulted in much smaller class sizes. While it feels very odd in a classroom where students are not allowed to sit next to each other, there is a positive to the smaller classes. Fewer students mean fewer interruptions and distractions and provides more opportunities for interacting with your professor and your peers. It is a more ideal learning environment for many students.

Remote classes are a little more difficult for Mines students. Learning by watching a lecture from your bedroom sounds great in theory, but there are so many challenges that accompany it, mainly trying to stay focused in a very distracting environment. Mines has devised methods to combat this though; there are quiet spaces all over campus that you can learn remotely in, you can find their locations on the school's website un-

der Coronavirus and returning to Mines. Administration and faculty have attempted to provide as many amenities and accommodations as possible to ensure the safety of everyone on campus; including equipping nearly every single classroom and lecture hall with a video camera that provides a remote learning option so that students can continue learning if quarantined.

And then there are athletics. Many sports have either cancelled or postponed their seasons and those that are still allowed to practice, do so while following all CDC guidelines. It is a very different world on campus compared to every year before, but these changes are essential to keeping everyone safe. The more strictly we adhere to these guidelines, the sooner we will be able to return to life before COVID. But in the meantime, don't forget to seek out the positives; keep your mind healthy and happy as well as your body and just remember that there are still plenty of resources available to you, whether you are on campus or not. ✨

Opinion

If Anyone Can, Mines Can

Emma Braun
Staff Writer

Prior to my first day of classes this semester, I made sure I had everything set out and ready to go – backpack, laptop, maybe a pen, maybe a pencil and perhaps, the most important item (at least, according to the dozens of emails in my inbox this summer) – my three-layer cotton mask, something that uniquely graced my ‘school supplies list’ for the first time in my life, but with good reason. You’d have to have been living under the largest rock imaginable for the past couple months to not know about the global pandemic gracing our planet. But in reality, that’s not what this article is about or even something anyone needs to read even more about. I’ve been lucky enough not to have been impacted by COVID, however as a college student, I am part of the demographic that has had to deal with its repercussions, namely new procedures in place here at Mines.

While this may be the Opinion section, believe me, I’m not about to complain about these procedures because I, like I think many of my peers, believe that these new standards are going to work to keep us as normalized as possible. Our campus is in an unusual situation because while campuses across America are shutting down due to outbreaks, I personally think Mines might be able to persevere. We are a small campus and with that, we have a low density of students, some of whom already chose to take their courses completely online (and I’m sure the notion that all of us are introverted computer geeks plays a little too well in our favor right now). Additionally, we believe and understand the science behind wearing a mask. Sure, it’s uncomfortable at times and believe me, lab goggles and my Blaster mask will in no way be gracing a fashion runway anytime soon; however, we all are wearing them. I’ve even had classmates wear them in Zoom sessions after they for-

got to take them off. Even first year students are wearing their masks in their dorms. The administration has noticed our commitment and with that, it helps encourage them to stay committed to keeping campus open too. I’m sure I’m not the only one that felt a little proud after reading PCJ’s email to us at the end of the first week. There is a commitment on this campus to stay open from so many different perspectives that I think we might be able to pull it off.

Yet, even as I type this conclusion, I have the lingering thought in my mind that maybe in several weeks, the words I type now will be completely irrelevant. I will have lauded the Mines’ campus for nothing, because even though we stuck it out longer than our counterparts at Notre Dame and UNC, we’ll still have eventually succumbed to the second wave of Coronavirus outbreaks.

And if that does happen, I think my comments about my fellow Orediggers still stand true – we are a committed group of students, professors, faculty, and administrators, a community that will work through this challenge together. The amount of work that has been put forth by each of these groups to make sure the others can enjoy campus should not go without notice and support. We made a promise at the beginning of this semester to stay safe and I believe we can do it together. Mask up, friends. 🐘



PCJ is here for you and proud of you.
Image courtesy of Mines Facebook.

Hazeless M-Climb

Caleb Pan
Staff Writer

Hello to our new admits of Fall 2020. Welcome to the only school in the world where a rock is on your packing list! You probably applied to Mines hearing about the famed M-Climb: “Each fall, incoming freshmen carry a 10-pound rock up to the M and then coat the symbol with fresh whitewash.” Well, like most things, our favorite pandemic changed Mines’ ancient tradition. So what’s M-Climb like in a normal year? Well, a succinct summary “it was fun, but I wouldn’t do it again.” Basically, state-sanctioned hazing – that was fun, of course. The common 3.14 miles we hike together starting from the IM fields.

There will be several times your “group” will be stopped to space out progression. You better have memorized the fight song (that may have been plagiarized by Georgia Tech or they plagiarized from us, sources vary). At these times you will need to scream it. If your vocals aren’t echoing off the mountainside or your lyricism isn’t deemed adequate by the upperclassmen, the water will come. By water I mean you’re absolutely getting soaked, occasionally with soapy water. Cups, buckets, trashcans, water guns, hoses, water cannons, automated turret (shoutout to Mines Robotics), a cut out of the Pope to high-five.

Dread it. Run from it. The wet

socks arrive all the same.

There are a few who are the embodiments of human cruelty: they will dump water right onto your feet. However, I did discover a way to fight back. There was an assailant who attempted a direct hit on my shoes by tossing her water in a high arc. However, they miscalculated the trajectory and missed my feet by an inch. I slyly commented, “Someone failed fluid dynamics, huh?” Their face fell and I felt a little bad. Just a little, though.

So you finally make it to the top. Next, comes a long wait as they squeeze everyone onto the M. Sitting on 10-pound rocks while drenched for a while isn’t the most exciting... but the excitement returns when everyone gets splashed with white-wash! Might be a good time to mention everything you wear should lack all sentimental value.

Good news: you get bussed back to campus. Bad news: there are only so many buses. I was one of the fortunate ones to get on the first bus. You could’ve also been like my roommate who ran down Mt. Zion because waiting around longer isn’t too much fun.

Was it fun? Absolutely. Would I participate again? Certainly, the cycle of abuse must roll on. Fret not, I am sure you will all have a formal M-Climb when the pandemic ceases. Your rocks on the temporary M will join the rest eventually. When the time comes, I will be cheering you on – and spraying without mercy. 🐘



View from the “M”; M-Climb 2019. Image courtesy of Caleb Pan

The opinions expressed in the Opinion section strictly reflect the author’s beliefs. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions held by our staff or the campus at-large. Contact us at orediggerstories@gmail.com for any comments or questions.

Our ability to communicate is important

John Cook

Staff Writer

“For millions of years mankind lived just like the animals. Then something happened which unleashed the power of our imagination. We learned to talk.”

Stephen Hawking/Pink Floyd

I think psychology books need to be rewritten. What is now regarded as normal behavior I think of as abnormal. It seems many younger people are not comfortable with face to face communication. They seem to prefer projecting their personality through their phone and social media. I worry about the future wellbeing of society if folks can't talk to each other.

For tens of thousands of years, society and language have coevolved together. We learned to cooperate and understand each other and solve problems through talking. Apparently the art of conversation is going extinct.

If I were to make a pie chart graph of my interactions with other people,

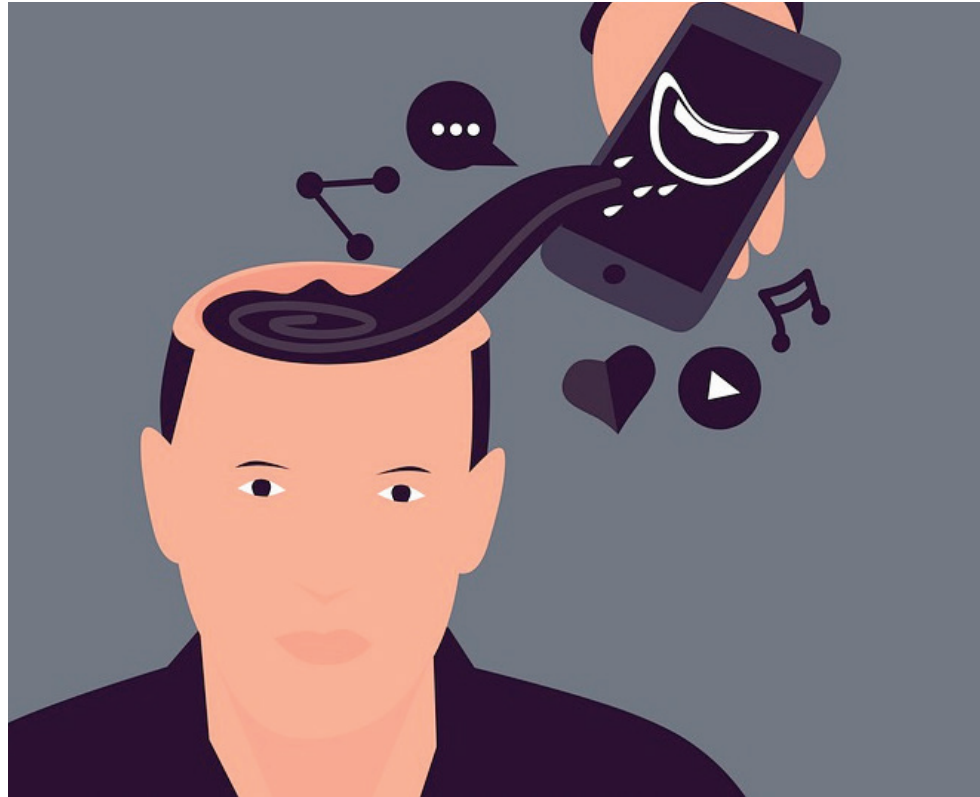


Image courtesy of Pixabay.

it would be 70% face to face communication, 15% phone call conversations, 10% email, and 5% mail.

“Not a thing to do but talk to you”

Cheap Trick/In The Street - That Sev-

enties Show theme song

I can remember in pre-internet/pre-cell phone days we used to sit around and talk. We'd tell stories and jokes or debate various issues or comment on the news of the day. The subtleties of a conversation are complex. You get a sense of someone's

character through conversation. I don't think you can get the same clarity of communication and meaning through an email or text message.

I think for many people nowadays, social media is their primary means of communication. Social media has caused more problems than it has fostered real communication. It is mind boggling to think of the bandwidth being squandered with useless data such as selfies and pictures of food.

Now any imbecile can spew useless drivel to potentially thousands or even millions of people. This does not enrich society. The profane and vulgar becomes amplified and it degrades society.

We need to cultivate our relationships and friendships by talking. If we get to know each other better, perhaps we can understand each other and get along with each other better.

“All we need to do is make sure we keep talking.”

Stephen Hawking/Pink Floyd ✨

**Check out our Board of Student Media partner organizations:
Mines Internet Radio (MIR) and High Grade, CSM Journal of the Arts**



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Golden Restaurant Review 2020

Aidan Lewis

Staff Writer

Downtown Golden is home to a wide variety of restaurants. Their menus include foods from around the world. Their interiors range from historic to modern, and eclectic to thematic. Some even offer specials or discounts that make them more affordable to students. While not an exhaustive list, this article will introduce you to many of the best eateries within walking distance of the campus of the Colorado School of Mines.

Bob's Atomic Burgers is well situated in a college town. Their menu is simple and classic. With a silly pseudonym assigned to you when you order, it's always fun to visit with friends. It is not uncommon for there to be a line out the door so ordering out may be the way to go. Students always receive 10% off and get 20% off on Wednesdays.

Cafe 13, located in the old Armory building on 13th street, serves a modern menu of breakfast and lunch foods at comparably affordable prices. Lovingly referred to as "Golden's living room," it is a popular gathering place for many in the community. Cafe 13 has ample indoor and outdoor seating. Its menu includes many dishes which incorporate eggs, including the outstanding 'Aussie Scramble' which is made of scrambled eggs, avocado, bacon, and blue cheese. There are many vegetarian and vegan options. Other menu items include pancakes, sandwiches, and loaded avocado toast. Drinks include coffees, teas, and ciders.

Founded in 2012, El Callejon is a small and colorful place to buy Latin American food. The floor is brick and there are tropical scenes painted on the walls. The pleasant smell of the food they serve fills the space. It's menu is home to several foods uncommonly in Colorado, of which the 'Pupusas', doughy pockets filled with different combinations of vegetables, beans, and meats, are the most popular. A punch card will allow you a free meal for every 8 you buy.

Golden Sweets looks like a candy shop your grandparents might have



Image courtesy of Mr.TinDC via Flickr.

visited when they were young. The black and white chess board floor and tin ceiling are retro and fun. Old fashioned candies and a variety of chocolate types and ice cream flavors are sold. Fun flavors such as 'Salted Caramel Oreo' and 'Funky Donkey' are unique additions to the roster. With a punch card for every 8 ice creams you can get one free.

Nosu Ramen is new to Golden in 2020. The store is modern and bright on the inside with a bit of a minimalist aesthetic. The floor is concrete, plants fill the space and a mural depicting bee hives is on one of the walls. Duck Ramen is recommended for a rich, flavorful, and beautiful ramen that may be unlike other ramens you have tried. While you can save during happy hour from 3 to 5, eating here will cost you significantly more than grocery store ramen.

The Old Capital Grill, not to be confused with the chain Capital Grill, is located in the building where the Colorado Territorial Legislature met for several years in the 1860s. The interior is historic, with a large wooden bar in the center of the space and chandeliers hanging from the ceiling.

It gives Western vibes. However, there are also neon signs in the window and televisions playing sports throughout the space. The restaurant is popular with families. Popular on their menu are smoked meats (voted best in town) and the Bison Burger.

At Sherpa House you can try authentic foods from Nepal. Honored with a variety of culinary and social awards, Sherpa House is well recognized for being an excellent restaurant and good neighbor. Founded by an immigrant from Nepal, the restaurant supports volunteer work there. It is located in a former private home, which leads to the dining area being spread out across several smaller spaces. Along with the historic detail of the building and a variety of Nepalese artifacts, it contributes to a personal feeling dining experience. The menu has many great choices including naan breads, masalas, samosas, and traditional nepalese foods such as 'Daal Bhat'. Lunch specials are available.

The Trailhead Taphouse is a low key place with high quality bar food. Some surfaces in the space are covered in stickers. You can sit on metal

stools at high tables. Pizzas and sandwiches are on the menu but the Cajun food is what makes this place really unique. Mines students can get 15% off every Monday. Get a dollar off appetizers happy hour from 3 to 6 on weekdays.

The Windy Saddle is a homey feeling coffee and sandwich shop. It features a large library, local art, and a community information board. Exposed brick and low lighting set the mood. Pastries are baked fresh daily. The most popular of their sandwiches is the 'Thunderbird' consisting of sliced turkey, avocado, tomato, white cheddar cheese, greens, and chipotle mayonnaise.

Founded in 1993, Woody's Wood-Fired Pizza is a quintessential Golden hang out. Their pizzas, with crust properly eaten dipped in honey, are famous throughout the area. Their pizza buffet is particularly popular. Also on the menu are wings and burgers. Inside there is a large bar. The ceiling is low and the atmosphere is coxy. Woody's takes pride in their excellent service and commitment to

Cont'd on page12 >>

September Horoscopes

Zachary Barry

Arts and Culture Editor

Hello and welcome back to all the returning Colorado School of Mines students, faculty, and staff. I hope that you all had a restful summer and are ready to hit the ground running as school starts up again, whether you are running to or away from something. To all the new Mines students, faculty, and staff, I hope that you grow to love Mines as much as the rest of us, even in these troubling times. New readers might be a little shocked to see that the student newspaper publishes Horoscopes, but let me assure you Astrology is basically a science. Astrologists use similar tools to other scientists, telescopes to view the stars, make detailed observations, the horoscopes, and have a tightly regulated professional society, the National Astrologist Dean Association. Plus, At the end of the day, now more than ever, being able to laugh between studying for all the classes Mines offers is important. Without further adieu, let's see what the real stars of this article have to say.

Virgo: When I meet with Virgo this month, she mentioned that my blue disposable mask clashed with the blue shirt I was wearing. She tried to explain to me just because I claimed 'they are both blue' doesn't mean that they match. I still don't get it, so just to be safe, I threw out all of my blue shirts. If anyone reading this understands what Virgo meant, please email me at Confuseddude@aol.com.

Libra: It's fortunate for all of us that you will be returning to school. Your presence is needed to prevent the rabbits that live on campus from breaking into the different labs and becoming super smart and strong. Though they would obviously be super cute, Libra assures me they would have animosity in their little itty-bitty hearts.

Scorpio: I'll be honest with you; I don't remember the advice Scorpio had for you. I was more focused on a nightmare I just had when he was de-

livering your horoscope. In it, I was back on the Mines campus, but people were pointing and laughing at me. I was worried it was because I wasn't wearing pants, but when I looked down, I was. Eventually, I saw myself in a mirror and realized people were pointing because I wasn't wearing a face mask. Thank you, 2020 for reinventing the, I forgot to wear clothes to school nightmare.

Sagittarius: Does anyone else find it a little funny that in some classes it used to be no using a computer or the internet, now it's no class without using a computer and the internet. What's next, are we going to need to buy number 3 pencils to fill out the new scantrons next semester?

Capricorn: Sometimes, less isn't a bad thing. For example, it's a good thing that Mines doesn't have a psychology department. If it did, we'd all have to worry about ending up in an experiment where the one-way traffic flow signs lead in a big circle.

Aquarius: Having another living thing to take care of might help to create some structure in these chaotic times and give you a sense of accomplishment. Is it cheating to get a cactus that you only have to water once a week? Maybe.

Pisces: Pisces suggests that to get off to a good start this semester, you should develop study habits similar to potassium nitrate. They didn't elaborate too much on what they meant by that, but they assured me it was a solid plan.

Aries: If life is really like a box of chocolates, 2020 is definitely the year that everyone takes a bite of and puts the rest back.

Taurus: The average college student spent roughly \$1,200 on textbooks during the last school year, according to a recent study. With twelve thousand dollars, you could buy 1,200 Beef Burritos from taco bell, an ounce of gold bullion, or even a Ford Taurus from the early two-thousands.

Gemini: After five months away from

campus, it's bound to feel strange to return. To help make it easier, try practicing your Mines vernacular. Stand in front of a mirror and watch how your lips move as you say things like, "The iron lab is the worst," "They put what into the grilled cheese sandwiches?" and "I'm sorry to hear you're a Chem-e."

Cancer: There are bound to be things that we all find a little annoying about the COVID safety protocols, but try to make it into something fun, not an inconvenience. You might try imagining when the library staff asks to see your blaster card, you're an undercover FBI agent, who has just arrived on the scene of a crime. Just don't take it too far and start drawing chalk circles on the library's carpet, the staff tends to get a little mad when you do that, even if they are six feet apart.

Leo: Please visit change.org and sign Leo's petition to change the name for perfect vision from 20/20 because, and I quote, "nothing about 2020 is perfect." 🐾



It's pretty obvious which one is the 2020 of the bunch. Graphic courtesy of Zachary Barry.

Let's Not Go to the Lobby (Because It's Been Replaced)

Louis Cogan

Staff Writer

In early March of this year, literally--almost--no individual could have predicted the nearly absolute shutdown of the American economy that would soon occur due to the international COVID-19 pandemic. Both the federal and state governments temporarily closing all types of businesses piece by piece, essentially placing the population in an emergency lockdown situation made the streets appear as nothing more than deserted roads. This was a sign that the culture of the United States would be taking a detour for the next few weeks. Unfortunately, a few weeks stretched into a few months, and with the possibility of said few months continuing on into a little over a year, movie theaters have metaphorically been placed on the economy's endangered species list. Fears regarding the proximity between patrons, as well as the cycling of several groups throughout each day, have created a stalemate between consumers and the theater chains themselves: the former is apprehensive to enter these establishments, and the latter is anxious of opening too soon/without enough precautions in place. Regrettably, this and many other factors concerning media consumption have already sealed the cadaverous fate of cinemas. Over the next year, going to the movies will likely become as unnecessary as coughing into a friend's mouth (just some crude humor to guarantee your attention toward the Oredigger's first issue back on campus).

Aside from the lack of expedition from both consumers and vendors, the other major factor contributing to the downfall of movie theaters resides in the public's newly reinvigorated attentiveness to streaming services. While early stages of the stay-at-home orders resulted in internet fame for the most recent shows available, such as Netflix's *Tiger King*, HBO's *Westworld*, and almost everything available on Disney+, the efforts by studios, production companies, and even media conglomerates to



Image courtesy of piqsels.com.

prevent quarterly losses also resulted in many films planned for theaters to be placed on VOD and even straight to subscription-based streaming services. Examples include Paramount's *The Lovebirds* on Netflix, as well as Warner Bros.' *Scoob!* and Universal Studios' *Trolls: World Tour* available for order on demand, the latter of which garnered over \$100 million in the first week of release. Though not all efforts have been wildly successful, the lack of reported failures to industry officials has at least proven that the foray into a totally digital medium could be viable in the near future. To prevent major losses for the year, Walt Disney Studios has even announced the relocation of the live-action remake of *Mulan* to Disney+ for a one-time price of thirty dollars. This action has indirectly announced the confidence of Disney to, at the very least, return their initial investment and advertising costs (approximately only 15% of Disney+ subscribers must purchase the film to cover said costs).

While streaming's dominance in consumer media had been building over the past few years before Coronavirus was even publicly known, a nationwide quarantine urged several

companies to each launch their own online services before they were even fully ready. Both HBO Max and Peacock received criticism for their unstructured user-interfaces and sparse libraries, yet they still received many customers purely because of the opportunity for viewers to stave off the potential boredom that could occur over the future months. As a result, the collective streaming services have somewhat covered all possible media that could be consumed, since they not only provide past titles but also produce original content with production values almost comparable to studio blockbusters. Even if there were concerns about the variety of original content, Netflix and Amazon Prime have proven they are more willing to invest in artistic projects from amateurs more than any major studio. This is most likely because they possess no ability to make box office profits in the first place, so the films are purely designed to satisfy niche audiences; this still makes for successful customer acquisition because of the cost-effectiveness to watch such movies, as well as word of mouth for award-winning films (*Roma*, *Manchester by the Sea*, *Marriage Story*, etc.). Looking at the big

picture, one can see that what theaters used to provide has been successfully placed in the comfort of one's home, so why should the public travel to a different location and pay far more for only one showing at a time?

Admittedly, there may still be hope for the future of movie outings due to the recent, cautious efforts by theater chain Regal Cinemas to boost reopening numbers. Over the coming weeks, Regal Cinemas establishments will be playing classic films for only five dollars, a price even the most broke college student can get behind with titles such as *Jurassic Park*, *The Dark Knight*, and *Rocky*. Although limited seating capacity has limited total possible sales, recent attempts to purchase tickets online have yielded sold-out rooms (with social distancing, of course.) This weekend, the Colorado Mills UA Theater has plenty of showings with a new focus on cleanliness and social distancing, implying that they intend on returning even under continual restrictions. Only time will actually tell whether or not theaters will return as a major source of entertainment, but, for the time being, many are better off keeping their wallet closed and staying home. ✨

Public Art Spotlight-Manare

Zachary Barry

Art and Culture Editor

The Colorado School of Mines campus quickly becomes a second home for the roughly 1,400 new students that join the Oredigger family each year. With many classes being offered virtually and aimlessly wandering around campus being discouraged, it's likely some of the campus' character will be lost to new and returning students alike. I believe, part of what makes the Mines campus charming is its public art. Mines' large collection of public art is, in part, thanks to Colorado's Art in Public Places Program, which mandates one percent of any new construction or renovation budget is allocated to purchasing art. Since Mines is a public school, almost all renovations and construction on campus after 1977 have been accompanied by the addition of art to campus. Throughout this semester, The Oredigger's Arts and Culture section will share the stories of some of these pieces of art. We hope that it helps Mines students continue to feel connected to campus, regardless of how frequently they visit it in person.

The first piece of public art to receive the spotlight this semester

is one that every Chemical Engineer should be able to picture, even if they don't know its name. The 4 stories of stained glass that is Menare greet everyone who walks the main doors of Alderson, even if Chemical Engineers are likely the most familiar with it. Made of hundreds of pieces of antique stained glass from around the world, Menare was installed in Alderson Hall in 1997.

Menare translates to flow in Latin. The in-depth study of the properties of flowing fluids in the curriculum of both the Chemical Engineering Department and the Petroleum Engineering Department, who also use to call Alderson home, inspired the piece's name, as well as the flowing appearance of the Helical lines in the stained glass. Its cascading colors help give Menare a sense of movement. Scientifically speaking, to create colors in the glass, different chemical compounds or minerals are suspended in the glass while it was blown. These chemical compounds and minerals absorb specific wavelengths of light and reflect the colors that we see when we look at the stained glass. The different pieces of stained glass illustrate diffraction of light in an easily visible way, another subject that both the Chemical

and Petroleum Engineering department include in their curriculum. Not only do the colors represent several complex subjects taught at Mines, but they also serve to soften the grey halls of Alderson. The artist who created Menare, Barbara Saull, hoped that the colors would remind passing students to stop and give themselves a break every so often from the rigorous academia of Mines.

If you enjoyed this article on art in public places, then you might be interested in reading some more articles like it from a few years ago available on our website now. Visit oredigger.net and look for them under the art category. 🌸

Image courtesy of Sherry Norris Livingston via Pinterest.



Cont'd "Restaurant Review" >>

sustainability which includes composting 95% of their waste, recycling, low flow water fixtures, and a large solar array on their roof. Woody's typically hosts a college night on Mondays with all you can eat pizza from the buffet for a low price for Mines Students. This year that will not be possible but they are looking to provide a temporary alternative discount.

Other notable local establishments: The Buffalo Rose claims to be the oldest operating bar in the state of Colorado. D'Deli offers a variety of many sub sandwiches. The Golden Diner offers a reliable diner experience Goozelle is a frozen yogurt place which also sells turkish coffee. Higher Grounds is a cafe and popular study space. Nice Ice is a shaved ice truck, new in 2020. Okinawa Sushi is

a great place to get fresh sushi so far from the sea. Pangea Coffee Roasters sell of coffee from around the world. Thai Gold Restaurant is known for their curries and pad thai. The Tributary is a small food hall with a variety of options throughout the day including crepes, smoothies, and sandwiches. Golden Farmers Market, Saturdays from 8 to 1 in the Golden Library parking lot!

Research for this article was conducted mostly through in person visits and interviews. It is noteworthy that many of the restaurants in Golden are owned by residents of the town and that some owners own multiple restaurants. For example Abejas and Nosu Ramen, Windy Saddle and Trailhead Taphouse, and Woody's and the Table Mountain Inn have the same owners. 🌸



Image courtesy of Zachary Barry.

Arts & Culture

Cont'd from Cover >>

well because they served as a NSBE executive officer and saw the lack of action taken when complaints were made. “Without the testimonies of current and past students, I don’t believe that administration would have taken any action,” they said. Even now, they feel the administration has not done much past showing support on social media. They believe action must be taken to hire more diverse employees and recruit more black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) students.

Another creator of the petition said that the petition was drafted to “highlight areas that Mines needs to focus on in order to fulfill their campus diversity goals” that the school has struggled as part of the Diversity, Inclusion, & Access program. They are one of the many students that feel the administration’s responses are all talk and no action. However, they love seeing the minority community supporting each other and hope this all encourages everyone (not just minorities) to speak out against injustices on campus and in the community.

On July 8th, a message from President Johnson was emailed and posted on the Colorado School of Mines social media pages addressing the account. President Johnson urged the community to visit the page and warned readers to “be prepared” and that the stories would “provoke an emotional response.” President Johnson voiced his admiration for the

storytellers and encouraged readers to use these stories to solidify their commitment to not tolerate racism or bias in the community. The post received some appreciative comments and others asking what actions will be taken past these social media posts.

The same day as the President’s message, the athletic department (who was mentioned in several stories) also released a statement on their social media and website, addressing the BLM movement and the necessity of having open dialogue and confronting biases. However, members of the community called out the statement for lacking an apology and accepting accountability.

On July 11th, another Instagram account emerged: @CSMSurvivors. The page is meant for survivors on campus to share their stories of racism, sexual assault, discrimination, and other injustices; however, it has largely been used for people to share their stories of sexual assault. Maddy Floyd, a current Mines student, created the account because she saw the BIPOC page and was inspired to create a platform for different types of systemic oppression and violence. She started by sharing her story of rape on campus and started receiving submissions from other students as well. She believes that sharing these stories on a public platform for all to read is important because it gives people a voice and helps normalize talking about difficult topics. “A lot of times, people don’t talk about the

hard things like this, and so talking about it allows it to be normal. If people talk about consent and what they’re comfortable with, I think a lot less of this tragic stuff would happen,” she said, believing that having open communication is the key to culture change. @CSMSurvivors has received a significant amount of positive feedback, from people grateful to learn of the injustices and others that realized they were not alone after hearing other stories. There were of course negative reactions to the account, with some critics calling the account and the stories “a joke.” Maddy believes that the school is “trying to deal” with all the students speaking out through these accounts, but the administration is not necessarily doing enough. She believes that the school should be reaching out more to students to understand what the administration can do to create a comfortable and safe environment. She thinks that part of the issue is that the majority of the Mines community is very privileged and they do not realize the discrimination faced by minority groups, and reaching out and listening to these groups is important to creating change on campus.

A recent Mines graduate was one of the many stories shared to the @CSMSurvivors page. “I felt it was important to share my story because after everything that happened, nobody knew about what the perpetrator had done. It felt like everyone involved just tried to stop the word of

what he did from getting out to save his hide. So when the survivors page went up, I knew I had to submit my story so that everyone would know,” they said. Sharing their story provided closure for themselves and consequence for the perpetrator, something they felt they did not receive from the school. They were happy to see the general positive reception the account has been receiving and that the critics “are drowned out by the overwhelming support.”

Groups on campus see these stories and are listening. Fraternity & Sororite Life released an action statement on August 6th acknowledging their inclusion in the accounts (through references to fraternity and sorority members and culture on both @BIPOC_at_Mines and @CSMSurvivors) and shared their plans to address the issues and take action, including mandatory trainings and updating chapter bylaws. This summer, the Graduate Student Government focused on improving the experiences of the BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities through a poster campaign and Call to Action letter sent to President Johnson (and published to their website).

The whole country has been a witness to a civil rights movement full of protests and petitions. The movement has made its way onto the Mines campus and social media. Read, listen, pay attention. 🙏



Image courtesy of Mines Diversity, Inclusion & Access via Twitter.

Mines Athletes in Limbo

Rachel Kelley

Staff Writer

If you are not an athlete or are perhaps new to the school, you have probably heard very little about what athletics at Mines are going to look like this year. A lot has changed, but everything possible is being done to ensure that students can still practice and even compete.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) divided the sports they oversee into three categories: low-risk, medium-risk, and high-risk. Multiple factors played into the separation, but the main focus was on whether or not physical contact between athletes would be made. Sports such as football, soccer, and volleyball were determined to be high-risk. While the NCAA did not ban any sports, they did place guidelines on games, meets, and conferences that become stricter with higher-risk sports.

Mines decided that the safest decision would be to essentially reverse the season for all sports except Cross-country and golf. Unlike others, division II sports are played year-round with competitions in the Fall and mainly practices. Rather than

compete and play games in the Fall, they are simply being moved to the Spring semester. Practices are still allowed to continue, provided they follow the CDC and NCAA guidelines and protocols. This means athletes must socially distance, wear masks at all times, and be tested for COVID every two weeks. Most sports will no longer be able to practice indoors and may be required to practice in smaller groups, but their season is still expected to continue, just a little differently.

Once games and meets begin again in the Spring, it is expected that students will be able to spectate as long as they are doing so safely.

A large number of rules and regulations may seem a little challenging to deal with, but they are all necessary to ensure the safety of every student and faculty member at Mines. Test results take approximately three days to be returned, so even if an athlete followed the requirement of getting tested for COVID within 72 hours of a meet or game, they may play and interact with other athletes before receiving a potentially positive result. And while Mines is doing everything possible to prevent the spread of the

virus, we cannot guarantee that other schools are strictly following the same guidelines.

Some things have changed: the RMAC conference championship race is no longer being hosted by Mines and will most likely take place at UCCS, but the cross-country sea-

son will continue. Every attempt is being made to keep students and athletes safe while allowing campus activities to return (somewhat) back to normal. 🍀



Marv Kay Stadium will have to sit empty a little bit longer.
Image courtesy of Mines Athletics.

Where is our athletic fee going?



Rachel Kelley

Staff Writer

With the recreation center running at such a low capacity and with very few services, it is understandable that students (and parents), have been questioning where their money is going. While the recreation center may not be running quite like it was last year, the fees we pay are still necessary. The facilities are still available

to students and still require maintenance, and the facilities are being cleaned much more often than they were before to help prevent the spread of COVID.

Our athletic fee is also still important and useful. While club sports are not allowed to compete, they are still allowed to participate in strength and conditioning classes that require the Mines facilities as well as an instructor. And it is important to keep in

mind that the sports season has not actually been cancelled. It has simply been rearranged so that games and meets will now take place in the Spring rather than in the Fall. The hope is that by allowing a few months to pass, there will be a more accurate and quicker COVID test, as well as potentially a vaccine or more effective treatment/prevention method.

Sports like swimming and wrestling are still on a relatively normal schedule during this time and the athletic and recreation center fees go to help keep the facilities open and safe for all the athletes that may be using them. The locker rooms are closed but restrooms are still open, so they still need to be cleaned. The fees also contribute towards the sanitizing sprays and masks that are being provided to all students at no charge. It may seem a little confusing and perhaps frustrating, but it is nec-

essary in order to keep all individuals on campus safe. 🍀



Our athletic fee is being put to use.
Images courtesy of Mines Athletics.

Health & Wellness

Staying Sane with Zoom



Zoom has become a much bigger part of our lives than any of us wanted.
Image courtesy of Mines Twitter.

Rachel Kelley

Staff Writer

The Fall semester of 2020 has barely begun, and we have already noticed the difficulties of classes through Zoom. It can be a little rough trying to stay awake, stay focused, and overall, just stay engaged when you're staring at a computer screen. Some of us have more online or remote classes than others but we are all going through this struggle together. Here

are a few tips to help you navigate the challenge of remote and online classes and meetings:

Get out of your bed. While it's a very comfortable place where you can turn off your video and just chill in your pajamas, this is the easiest way to zone out and potentially even fall asleep—especially for those early morning Zoom calls. If you can get yourself out of bed and to a desk or a table, you will find it is much easier to stay awake and there-

fore stay focused. You can even eat breakfast while you listen to your lecture or meeting, or perhaps lunch if your first class is at noon.

Turn your video/audio on if your professor allows it. This will ensure you are paying attention because everyone (including your professor) can very clearly see if you're not. It also gives you a leg-up in the participation aspect of your class; it is essentially the equivalent to sitting upfront and actively asking questions during an in-person lecture. Make sure you ask questions too, just like in a regular classroom setting, questions are the key to solidifying your understanding.

Based on my experience in the Spring 2020 semester, telling yourself that you do not need to watch the live lecture because you will just watch the recording later is a trap. Later turns into tomorrow and tomorrow turns into watching the week's lectures over the weekend and suddenly you find yourself the day before an exam trying to rush a dozen lectures by watching them at double speed. Procrastinating rarely ends well. If you just take the time to watch your lecture when your class is assigned, it will be much easier to get into a routine—and everyone loves a routine.

And lastly, make sure you take some time away from your computer or phone (quick tip: Zoom has an app that lets you connect to meetings on your phone, you can even use video). Spending the majority of your time staring at a screen is not only harmful to your physical health but your mental health as well. If you don't need to be using technology, then take some time to go outside; go for a run or a walk by Clear Creek or play a game of spike ball in Kafadar Commons. Spend an hour or two playing games with friends, there are plenty of fun card and board games that make for an awesome homework or study break. Get yourself a healthy meal at some point—homemade or store-bought or even a meal at Mines Market works but just try to find an alternative to fast food and take out every once in a while.

We are in a new world of learning, there will be some challenges as we attempt to navigate everything, but it is going to keep us safe in the end. Good luck with the remainder of your Fall semester! Make sure to utilize your on-campus resources and stay safe Orediggers! 🍀

Get outside and appreciate the small things

Shannon Keohane

Editor in Chief

If not for a conscious effort to try to document little wonders of Golden, I would have missed the honeybee *Apis mellifera* gathering pollen on my dill weed going to seed, the female broad-tailed hummingbird *Selasphorus platycercus* gathering nectar from the blossom of a Red valerian *Centranthus ruber*, the raccoon *Procyon lotor* creepily crawling into a storm drain on campus, or the bats *Chiropteras* flying overhead on the trails around Clear Creek. Especially with our increased screen exposure, it's a healthy and rather enjoyable habit to get up and go for a stroll every once and a while. I highly recommend exploring around dusk for a greater variety of wildlife. It's the little adventures that count and they can be had

any day in Golden, CO rain or shine or smoke. 🍀



Images courtesy of S. Keohane

Competitions in this issue...

Complete the Word Scramble for a chance to win a \$5 Anthony's Pizza giftcard or Find Blaster to be entered to win a \$5 Cafe 13 giftcard! Email your entry to oredig@gmail.com! While he may blend in with his surroundings, Blaster will look like this:



Word Scramble



OIASLC SAGCTININD _____

ORME RSDMO _____

MICBL TEGTHROE _____

LAL EMREESTS NI PSERNO _____

ONCKK NO ODWO _____

OOMZ PCEPLOYASA _____

TVOE STHI EBMRPTEES _____

LANPTEHE _____

NKOYDE _____

Images courtesy of Kristian Bjornard via Flickr and Malachite Studios.

The Oredigger Promise

- COMPLETE TRAINING SESSIONS
- MONITOR YOUR HEALTH DAILY AND CHECK FOR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS
- ISOLATE AND SELF-QUARANTINE
- MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE SOCIAL DISTANCING
- WEAR A MASK
- WASH YOUR HANDS
- CAREFULLY OBSERVE AND FOLLOW SIGNAGE
- PARTICIPATE IN COVID-19 TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING
- BE POSITIVE, GRACIOUS, ATTENTIVE, AND HELPFUL

Congratulations Sydney Holdampf!

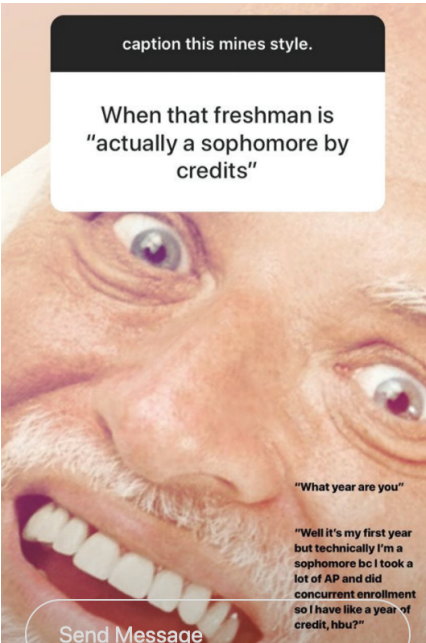
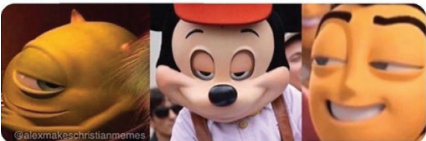
Sydney, a Ph.D. student in Mechanical Engineering, has been awarded a First Place prize in the Innovations in Nuclear Technology R&D Awards sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Nuclear Technology R&D. Holdampf's award is in the Open Competition in the category of Used Fuel Disposition.



@minesmemes

Professor: remember you must pass at least one exam to pass the class

My friends to me:



Personalities as Grassy Areas at Mines

- | | |
|---|---|
| Kafadar <ul style="list-style-type: none">- gets called "basic" but actually has a great personality- is the cool TA | Behind student center <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reads nonfiction recreationally- Plays the clarinet or the oboe |
| Straton commons <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Can't decide if they're an introvert or an extrovert- plays disc golf | Front "yard" of Maple <ul style="list-style-type: none">- attention seeker- will def ask: "you gonna eat that?" |
| Outside mines market <ul style="list-style-type: none">- confident- prefers qdoba over chipotle | |



"I actually went to the shelter to get another dog, but he'd already been adopted. So I decided to do a lap around the facility before I left, and I saw a **Mines student**. He had about ten pages of **physics** problems. His **TI-nspire CX** didn't work. **He wore chacos no matter the weather** so his **toes** were completely frostbitten. And he only had three teeth. So I thought if I didn't get him, nobody else would."