

# CASA First-Year Family Newsletter

March/April 2024 Issue

**MINES**

Center for Academic  
Services and Advising

Welcome to the CASA First-Year Family Newsletter! This opt-in newsletter will be sent out three times per semester to help keep parents, families, and guardians up-to-date on academic advising for the first-year student. We will feature different advisor profiles, academic services, tips to support your student, programs, and important dates each month.

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## Important Dates

- Spring Break - March 16th-24th
  - Priority Registration for Summer and Fall Terms - April 1st-5th
  - Last Day to Withdraw from Individual Courses - April 12th
  - E-Days - April 12th-14th
  - Classes End - May 1st
  - Click [HERE](#) to see the full academic calendar online
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## Advisor Highlight:

### Katie Ludwin

**Katie advises new transfer students  
and students returning to Mines**




**About Katie:** Originally from Alaska, completed undergrad in the Pacific Northwest, and came to Colorado for some skiing and adventure. Having spent time in Wyoming and Colorado in recent years, Katie enjoys being outside (except when it's too hot!) and experiencing life with her partner and kids. Her favorite things about Golden are the views, the people, the creek, and Mines!

**Advice from Katie:** Take a minute to pause every now and then. Too often we get stuck in our to-do lists, stresses, and the fast pace of our lives. At Mines, there is always something else to work on. I try to remind those around me to take a breath, look at the beautiful place where we get to live/work/study, and find ways to relax and recharge. I believe this is an integral part of a successful educational journey.

# Student Staff Highlight:

## Brandon Bayer

### CASA Peer Advisor



**About Brandon:** I am a Junior Mechanical Engineer with a focus in biomechanics. Since moving to Colorado in 2008, I have immersed myself in the outdoors and spend my free time hiking, mountain biking, and skiing. I am a practicing Catholic and take time to be a part of the Mines Campus Ministry.

**Advice from Brandon:** As a student, check your email!! It will make everything easier as you'll stay on top of all the different logistics and events happening at Mines. Take time to enjoy your college experience. A good work-life balance will motivate you to do well in even the most difficult classes!

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## Tips and Tricks to Help Your Student

- As midterms approach, students may be feeling some stress around exams. Here are some helpful tips for students to get through those mid-year tests:
  - Make a study plan starting a week in advance. Map out what you will go over each day and prioritize conceptual information as much as practice problems.
  - Build in time to see a tutor or visit faculty office hours for final questions before the exam.
  - Actively engage in studying; take notes as you're reading, re-write class notes into own words, or teach someone else a concept or problem.
  - The brain needs to review information in different contexts over time, which is why cramming the night before is not very effective.
  - Get a good night's sleep the night before the exam. Our brains need to be challenged, but they also need rest.
- Now is a good time for students to narrow down their major options. All first-year students will be invited to declare their major at the end of April.
- Priority Registration for Summer and Fall 2024 classes is April 1st-5th. Here is some helpful info:
  - The Registrar's Office will email students in mid-March with registration information and their registration time ticket. For most first-year students, they will register that Thursday or Friday.
  - CASA will offer First-Year Group Advising to help students navigate degree plans, learn about summer classes (on and off campus), and plan for the fall.
  - For more information on registration visit: <https://www.mines.edu/registrar/registration/>
- CASA offers great online resources for time management, study skills, and academic wellness. Click [HERE](#) for the full list of resources.
- All first-year students are enrolled in our advising Canvas course. Canvas will have information on degree plans, registration, academic policies, minors, and more.

# Academic Support: Bounce Back



Bounce Back is a semester long course that gives students a concentrated academic coaching experience, providing structure, resources, accountability, and caring support to help each student achieve their goals. In addition to academic skills such as time management and test preparation, the course focuses on resilience and having the skills to bounce back from adversity, including finding and building a support network of peers and campus resources.

<https://www.mines.edu/casa/bounce-back/>

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## Check out these programs!

### Mechanical Engineering

Mechanical Engineering has a strong hands-on curriculum that emphasizes fundamental engineering analysis and practical engineering design. Tracks in the degree include Aerospace, Automotive, Automation and Controls, Biomechanics, Energy, Manufacturing, Materials, and Nuclear Energy. The department prides itself in providing a challenging yet rewarding experience for students to develop as engineers, scholars, and citizens.



<https://mechanical.mines.edu/undergraduate-program/>

### Civil Engineering

Civil Engineering typically builds and maintains the built environment like buildings, roads, bridges, tunnels, reservoirs, and water treatment facilities. Students are exposed to subfields such as structural engineering, water resources engineering, geotechnical engineering, engineering surveying, construction engineering, and environmental engineering. Civil Engineering is incredibly broad and diverse; there are more licensed civil engineers than in any other field of engineering.

<https://cee.mines.edu/bs-civil-engineering/>



## Construction Engineering

Construction Engineering expands students' knowledge to prepare them for design, oversight, management, inspection, and planning career roles in support of the construction sector. Students will learn the fundamental and practical skills to apply engineering skills, sustainable practices, and management principles into the built environment. The curriculum includes topics in scheduling, estimating, project economics, cost control, communication, and project administration.

<https://cee.mines.edu/b-s-in-construction-engineering/>



## Environmental Engineering

Environmental Engineers are responsible for the protection of our natural environment and its inhabitants including ensuring the distribution of clean and safe drinking water to communities and cities. Students are exposed to subfields such as hydrology and water resource engineering, water and wastewater treatment processes, site remediation, sustainable design, pollution, prevention, and policy.

<https://cee.mines.edu/bs-environmental-engineering/>



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## FERPA - Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act of 1974

The Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student educational records, affording them certain rights with respect to those records. FERPA gives students who attend Mines the right to inspect and review their own education records. Furthermore, students have other rights, including the right to request amendment of records and to control the disclosure of personally identifiable information from those records.

<https://www.mines.edu/compliance/ferpa/>

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Contact CASA

[casa@mines.edu](mailto:casa@mines.edu) | 303-384-2600