

THE SURVEYOR

Gift Planning Strategies from
Colorado School of Mines

FALL 2024



IN THIS ISSUE

New Heritage Society Members

Donor Profile: Bob Pozzo

Impact of the Beck Venture Center

Legacy Match for MINES@150

Bob Pozzo rides at a show
jumping competition

NEW HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERS

April 2024–September 2024

The Mines Heritage Society honors individuals who have committed a gift to the Colorado School of Mines Foundation from their wills, retirement plans, life income gifts or other deferred gift arrangements.

H. Peter Larsen '69 and Mary L. Larsen

To be determined

Bob '52 and Marilyn Pozzo

Supports the Beck Venture Center

Andy Flynn '86 and Francine Slack

Supports the Slack-Flynn Family Endowed Fund

Katherine Burdick

Supports the Frank Weagant '51 Endowed Scholarship Fund

Steve '85 and Lynne Smith

Supports the Smith Family Endowed Scholarship

Bruce Henry '61

Supports the McBride Honors Program

Rafael '68 and Lilia Rodriguez

Supports the Rodriguez Endowed Fund

Mark '78 and Tina Berkstresser

Supports the Mark W. Berkstresser Endowed Fund

Two Heritage Society Members wish to remain anonymous

Learn more about the Heritage Society online at
plannedgiving.mines.edu/mines-heritage-society

**MINES
FOUNDATION**

Heritage Society

DONOR PROFILE

Venture Capitalist Develops People and Potential Through Legacy Gift to Mines

Bob Pozzo '52 credits his Mines education with providing opportunities he wouldn't have had otherwise. Recently, he donated \$1 million to the Beck Venture Center, and to honor his late wife, the second-floor balcony is designated the Bob '52 and Marilyn Pozzo Terrace. His contribution will be augmented by the Legacy Match for MINES@150 to benefit Entrepreneurship & Innovation programming.

"We're so grateful for the generous contribution of Bob Pozzo. His gift blazes a path for students, alumni and faculty to cultivate entrepreneurship at Mines," said Colorado School of Mines Foundation President and CEO Brian Winkelbauer. "This matching legacy gift creates new possibilities for innovative solutions at the Beck Venture Center."

In 1949, Pozzo, a walk-on to play freshman football, was subsequently given a full football scholarship. He was a running back, and at times, a quarterback. He participated in social activities through the fraternities, Beta Theta Pi and Theta Tau, as well as the Blue Key Honor Society—these associations helped him develop values that launched his career.



Taking Risks as an Entrepreneur

“I was always willing to take a chance,” said Pozzo. “I wasn’t brilliant, but I was a hard worker. When you are younger, it’s all such a gamble because you don’t know what lies in the future and you don’t know what your capabilities are and what is possible in industry. I played along, and I was fortunate that Mines was one of the big keys.”

After graduation, he worked as a sales engineer for General Electric. After 6 years he went to the Harvard Business School for an MBA. Then he developed a business called Pylon Co. with a partner, just before solid state electronics became available. They developed equipment using their patented Pogo Contacts to test integrated circuits. Then they purchased three other companies related to electronics.

The companies merged with the Augat Co, a New York Stock Exchange Company, in 1982. Pozzo became associated with Zero Stage Capital, a venture capital firm in Cambridge, Mass. Pozzo attributes a good part of his career accomplishments to his Mines education and the atmosphere of striving to succeed that prevailed there.

Mines Entrepreneurial Spirit

While pursuing his metallurgical and materials engineering degree, Bob met fellow classmate, Frank Labriola. He describes Frank as a smart and innovative guy who later started a successful aluminum business.

After a successful career, Frank became one of the most generous supporters of Mines’ Entrepreneurship & Innovation Ecosystem by naming the Labriola Innovation District, which helps students foster their prototypes and testing ideas into potential entrepreneurial ideas.

Now after his self-made success, Pozzo’s gift to the Beck Venture Center is helping students, alumni and others to tap into a collaborative community to learn and launch startups.

“This gift shows my appreciation to Mines for the opportunities it gave me,” said Pozzo. “The atmosphere there was serious and everyone was interested in learning. It made you realize if you wanted to get anywhere, you needed to work. We only raised hell on the weekends.”

After managing companies, Pozzo made another career pivot to own and run a thoroughbred racehorse breeding farm, and he competed as a show jumper. He now splits his time between serving as a venture capitalist and spending time with his family, which includes four children, nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

IMPACT: LEGACY MATCH FOR MINES@150

Invest in Excellence

As the 2024 sesquicentennial celebrations wind down, you still have time to support the university. Planned gifts are an especially meaningful way for you to provide the critical support required for future success.

Give for the Future, Make an Impact Today

The Legacy Match for MINES@150 is an innovative matching gift program that focuses on raising funds through planned gifts while also making a current impact.

Leveraging a \$1,000,000 estate gift from Blanche Moreno as the matching pool, new and increased planned gifts are eligible for matching funds that can be directed to the area of your choice immediately. Your matched gift at any level will support Mines' distinctive mission and programs.

The match is available to donors until June 30, 2025 or until funds are exhausted. Since the start of the Legacy Match for MINES@150 in February 2024, there have been 23 donors who have given \$18,629,000 to Mines.

There are several ways you can create your legacy with a planned gift to Mines. Some popular gifts include:

- ➔ Making a gift in your will or living trust
- ➔ Naming the Mines Foundation as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, an insurance policy or a commercial annuity
- ➔ Establishing a life income gift, such as a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust
- ➔ Creating Transfer on Death or Payable on Death agreements
- ➔ Naming the Mines Foundation as a beneficiary of your donor advised fund



Contact us to learn how this match can work for you!

MINES MATTERS

Big Ideas Are Launched Through the Mines Venture Program

Mines has provided structure that students need to become entrepreneurs, but with Mines' new, full-scale Entrepreneurship & Innovation Ecosystem, students have everything they need for take off.

All students are exposed to entrepreneurial problem solving and have the opportunity to design concepts and prototypes, but for those who want to go next level and create a startup, the Beck Venture Center provides the resources for launching a business. Beck enriches the E&I Ecosystem with facilities, programming and support services for emerging companies with 31,000 square feet of creative spaces to collaborate and innovate.

Students, alumni and entrepreneurs have a holistic support system of access to Beck Venture Program training and coaching, industry partnerships, networking events and a collaborative community that teaches startup concepts. It also offers funding opportunities via grants and investment capital. The center fills the gap between innovation and commercialization.

These resources and services are available with a membership, and students who have a viable startup concept will be awarded a complimentary membership, funded by donor support.

Membership benefits include:

- ➔ 24/7 access to office space at the Beck Venture Center
- ➔ Connections to capital funding with an Investor Look Book, Demo Days, Investor Panels, Free Money Sessions and investor office hours
- ➔ Formalized mentors and advisors to set them on the path to success
- ➔ Professional services support and curated service providers for everything a startup needs, such as accounting, legal, marketing and sales
- ➔ Support for company formation with "speed dating" events with potential founders

In addition to providing financial support, entrepreneurial alumni can help students launch their startups by sharing expertise and helping to build connections.

- ➔ Attend workshops, challenges and events hosted by the Venture Program
- ➔ Promote a culture of entrepreneurship in the greater Mines community of students, faculty and alumni through the Mines Alumni E&I Interest Group

The building, named for Mike and Kelly Beck, parents of two Mines graduates, and the center's lead donors, opened in April 2024.

To support student memberships, sponsorships or other Beck Venture programming, call **574-855-8863**. Learn more and get involved at <https://ventures.mines.edu>.

MINES BY THE NUMBERS

Beck Venture Center Programming

193 Members

66 Supporting Organizations

45 Student Entrepreneurs

42 Paying Companies

40 Faculty Fellowships

51 Startup Member Companies



**\$30
MILLION**

Funding Raised
by Startup Members

FINANCIAL FACT

One of the most famous and earliest bequests was given by Ben Franklin in 1790. He left the equivalent of \$4,000 (in today's dollars) to be divided between the people of the state of Pennsylvania (76 percent) and the city of Philadelphia (24 percent) on the condition that it not be touched for two hundred years. **In 1990, when the two hundred years were up, Franklin's bequest was worth \$2.3 million.**

Colorado School of Mines Foundation
1812 Illinois St.
Golden, CO 80401

For more information on the topics covered
in this newsletter, please contact us:

303.273.3275 | giftplanning@mines.edu

plannedgiving.mines.edu



COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES
FOUNDATION

Scan here to
go directly to
the website.

