Purdue “All-American” Marching Band Helps IMS Celebrate 100th Running of the Indianapolis 500

Marching in the footsteps of 97 years of band students preceding them, more than 250 members of the Purdue “All-American” Marching Band will take center stage at the 100th Indianapolis 500 Mile Race on Sunday, May 29, when they play for the race’s opening ceremonies.

On Race Day, the Purdue “All-American” Band will be the headliner in the traditional Parade of Bands that begins at 8:00 am at the track. Each year, Purdue invites bands across the United States to participate in the event, which is dominated by high school musicians. This year, 13 bands from across the state of Indiana, Washington, and Florida will be joining the Purdue Band. As it has done for many years, the band will play “On the Banks of the Wabash,” as well as play entertaining music for the mass crowd prior to the start time.

It was the marching band’s first director, Paul Spotts Emrick, who forged the initial relationship with the Indianapolis 500 in 1919, the race’s ninth year of existence. Always interested in promoting his band and Purdue, Emrick leapt at the chance to be associated with the young race that was quickly establishing an international reputation. At that time, the band was a military unit of men enrolled in Reserve Officer Training Corps at Purdue University.

Purdue’s band will again be featured in the IPL 500 Festival Parade at noon Saturday, May 28, which begins at North and Pennsylvania, and winds its way through downtown Indianapolis. The 500 Festival Parade was added to the race month activities in 1957 and the Purdue “All-American” Marching Band has appeared in every parade since then.

PURCHASE “THE HEARTBEAT OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY” NOW!

NEW! Purdue “All-American” Marching Band CDs are now for sale. Listen to your favorite game day tunes and school songs by purchasing your copy today. Visit www.purdue.edu/bands to place your order.

DR. AL G. WRIGHT TURNS 100, CELEBRATION SET FOR JUNE

A community wide celebration to honor Dr. Al G. Wright has been set for June 23 at Riehle Plaza in Lafayette. In partnership with the Lafayette Citizens Band, Purdue Bands & Orchestras invites alumni, friends, and community members to attend the event, which will begin at 7:30pm. To kick off the evening, the Lafayette Citizens Band will perform pieces that have been significant to Dr. Wright throughout his professional career. Immediately following the concert, the Purdue Band & Orchestra Alumni Club will be serving cake and punch. A live broadcast will be made available for those who cannot attend. Follow @PurdueBands via Periscope to join the celebration. For further details, visit www.purdue.edu/bands/events.

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I am from Carmel, Indiana. Carmel High School was an excellent place to develop musically and academically. Musically, I was the first chair trombonist in my high school’s jazz bands and concert bands. I also played in the pep band and a small group jazz combo. I attribute a great deal of my success to the heads of the band program, Richard Saucedo and Michael Pote.

There are many reasons why I chose Purdue. First, I was pretty sure that I wanted to study engineering, so I wanted to choose a great engineering school. However, it was really important to me that the school be large so that it would offer a lot of diverse opportunities, especially musical ones. After all, it is only possible to think about engineering for so many hours a day! Purdue is perfect for all of those reasons because it is a huge school, highly ranked in many majors, including engineering, and has a great band department.

Through Purdue’s Office of Professional Practice, I have been able to try out engineering first hand by participating in a co-op. I am working at the Cincinnati location of Ethicon Endo-Surgery, which is a Johnson & Johnson company that makes medical devices for surgeries. My team is working on a circular stapler, and it has been really neat to use what Purdue has taught me as I am performing tensile loading tests, designing a die tool, and documenting test flow. It is also really nice to see the work reaching for a purpose — saving patient’s lives. Also, the music never stops, so I have been going to Sunday night jazz jam sessions at a coffee house and playing keyboard at church while I am here. I am currently involved with SWE — the Society of Women Engineers and NAME – Never Alone Ministry to the Elderly. NAME is a church group, and through that organization I volunteer by visiting a nursing home patient who is in hospice and by playing piano in the lobby of the nursing home.

I continued music in college because it is a way I express myself, it is relaxing, and it is a great way to meet new people. I am in the Purdue Jazz Band. I have played piano and trombone in the jazz bands here during different semesters. Most recently, though, I split my time between playing piano and composing a piece for the band, called “My Favorite Swings.” I got involved in the jazz band because jazz is one of my favorite styles of music. I would hesitate to say that it is my absolute favorite because I enjoy concert band music, but there are only so many hours in the day to play all the music I love. Jazz is a creative art, and I knew that I would love to play music in some ensemble at Purdue, so I chose jazz band.

I came up with the idea for my first jazz band composition over a year ago, and I started writing the piece but got stuck. Dr. Trout, friends, and family, encouraged me to keep it going. I continued writing it during the fall 2015 semester. Then, Dr. Trout gave me the incredible chance to rehearse and conduct the piece with the band. I made some tweaks, which included voicing adjustments and removing notes that saxophones are not physically designed to play. Then, I conducted the piece at the next concert. The band did a great job, and it was such an incredible experience! I hope to submit the piece for a jazz composition competition. Some of my solo piano pieces have done well in other competitions, so hopefully this piece will do well also. I am most proud of a piano piece that got first place in the senior division through the Music Teachers National Association.

My Purdue Bands & Orchestras experience means a great deal to me. It means that I have been able to join the family and feel really connected to the program and to my school. It also means that I have been able to keep performing, which I love. Being able to debut my first jazz big band composition was an opportunity I never expected and it has been rewarding. I am passionate about Purdue Bands & Orchestras because they have done so much for me and the other students on campus. They have created this place where all these amazing musicians can just come together and make music. It is fun to be a part of, and I appreciate that Purdue Bands & Orchestras have put so much work to allow us to do what we love to do. I love the department because of the people in it, I also love the feeling of being backstage with the jazz band before a performance.
I am from Middlebury, Indiana. I attended Northridge High School, where I was very involved in the music department, both band and choir. As the youngest of four boys in my family, I was able to watch my brothers perform in music, sports, 4-H, and other activities before I even had the chance to try them out myself.

I got involved in Purdue Bands & Orchestras because of my love for music and my desire to build relationships with other musicians. I loved performing so much in high school and I did not want to miss out on any of those opportunities just because I was in college. Purdue offers amazing performance experiences and I am so thankful I have been a part of the program.

I play trumpet in the Purdue “All-American” Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, and American Music Repertory Ensemble (AMRE). I also sing as a part of the jazz band program in AMRE. I am also a Student Ambassador for Purdue Bands & Orchestras, which involves recruiting incoming students.

I love being on the Orchestra Board and working with other students to create a stronger, more tight-knit community within the orchestras. I want to see the program grow bigger and better with every semester. I love the department due to the musical opportunities it presents. Without having such an outlet, my college experience would be completely different, where my schedule would be filled entirely with science and pharmacy-related courses.

I am also currently involved in Purdue Asian Fusion Dance Association, Purdue Baking Club, American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists, and Hui Na Opio O Hawaii (Purdue Hawaii Club).

It means so much to me that I can come in every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to play excellent music with great people. I am very grateful to have received two scholarships through Purdue Bands & Orchestras. In addition, I have been able to meet Yo-Yo Ma, gain valuable leadership experience, and most importantly, have an orchestra family to call my own.

I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and my hometown is Carmel, Indiana. I started playing cello in sixth grade and this is my ninth year playing in an orchestra.

I had a great experience in the orchestra program at my high school, and I wanted to continue making good memories and great music at the university level. Currently, I play in the Philharmonic Orchestra and it is my third consecutive year doing so.

I chose Purdue not only because of its academic excellence, but also due to the variety of opportunities outside of the classroom. Purdue has numerous cultural organizations that offer rich learning experiences, as well as a great band and orchestra department.

As the Head Music Librarian of Carmel High School Orchestras, I found it rewarding to help out with behind-the-scenes work. I wanted this same experience with Purdue Bands & Orchestras, so I joined the founding Orchestra Board during my freshman year. Three years later, I’m still happy to be involved in the orchestra community. My experience in Purdue Bands & Orchestras has been invaluable. Since my freshman year, the orchestra community has grown, and I have grown along with it.

I love being on the Orchestra Board and working with other students to create a stronger, more tight-knit community within the orchestras. I want to see the program grow bigger and better with every semester. I love the department due to the musical opportunities it presents. Without having such an outlet, my college experience would be completely different, where my schedule would be filled entirely with science and pharmacy-related courses.

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DEPARTMENT UPDATES

MATTHEW R. CONAWAY ASSUMES ROLE AS DIRECTOR OF BOILER BRASS

Professor Matthew R. Conaway has been named the next director of Purdue’s Boiler Brass men’s basketball pep band beginning with the 2016-2017 season. This appointment comes after the announcement by Professor Max Jones to step down as Boiler Brass director.

After a decade long tenure as Director of Bands at West Lafayette High School in West Lafayette, Professor Conaway was appointed to the Purdue faculty in August 2012. He currently serves as an associate director of the famed Purdue “All-American” Marching Band and directs the Concert and Varsity bands during the spring semester. In addition, Professor Conaway is the faculty supervisor for the band’s various auxiliary units, serves as the department’s technology advisor, and organizes the annual Purdue Band Day event. He is responsible for coordinating marching band travel, including recent international trips by the “All-American” Marching Band.

Professor Conaway mentors many students, serving as faculty sponsor for the Beta Sigma chapter of Tau Beta Sigma and the Purdue Musical LGBTQ+ Society. Conaway also serves the university as a member of the Advisory Committee on Equity.

Conaway is an award-winning, internationally-known composer for concert bands, with nearly fifty original works currently in publication. He is also an accomplished arranger, and has written for athletic bands at Purdue University, Indiana University, and many high schools and colleges throughout the country. Millions of people have heard Conaway’s arrangements at multiple festivals, bowl games, basketball tournaments, and other major sporting events since 1999. His compositions and arrangements are available globally through the C.L. Barnhouse Company and the Hal Leonard Corporation.

“Matt Conaway is one of the most talented directors and arrangers in the country and we are honored to have him on our faculty at Purdue. He will do an amazing job as the new director of Boiler Brass”, says Director of Bands, Jay Geprint.

Professor Conaway received his Bachelor of Music Education degree with Distinction in 2001 from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, and earned a Masters of Music degree from the American Band College of Sam Houston State University in 2010.

NEW “VOICE” ANNOUNCED FOR PURDUE “ALL-AMERICAN” MARCHING BAND

John Hultman, a Purdue Band Alum and speech major who graduated from Purdue in 1958, will be the next “Voice” of the Purdue “All-American” Marching Band. The announcement was made at the annual Purdue Bands & Orchestras banquet held Sunday, April 24. The announcement comes after Roy Johnson’s decision to retire as the announcer of the Purdue “All-American” Marching Band following this academic year.

John has spent his entire career in broadcast media. After graduation from Purdue, he did a brief stint as “Uncle John” on a kids’ TV show in Fort Wayne, then moved to Detroit where he ran the gamut from disc jockey to reporter to weekend anchor. In 1968 he returned to his hometown of Chicago and joined the staff of WBBM Newsradio, Chicago’s all-news radio station. While working for WBBM, Hultman rose to the position of News Director, a role he filled for ten years.

For years, John Hultman’s voice was recognized by hundreds of thousands of Chicagoland residents. He anchored the WBBM “morning drive” for eighteen years of his career and continues to work there part time. As a correspondent, he covered many big stories, including Pope John Paul’s visit to Chicago, the tragic crash of Flight 191 near O’Hare in 1979, and joined former Governor Jim Thompson on trade missions to Budapest, Warsaw, and Moscow.

John is a member of the Society of Professional Journalists and the Chicago Headline Club. He is the past president of the Illinois News Broadcasters Association and was named Illinois Journalist of the Year in 1994 by the Northern Illinois University Department of Journalism. He is also a retired major in the United States Army Reserve.

John has performed on stage at Orchestra Hall as narrator with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, and at Pick-Staiger Hall at Northwestern University with the North Shore Concert Band.

Of his three children, two have attended Purdue and have played in the band. In 2009, 2011, and 2013, John and his two children marched on the field together during Homecoming as members of the Alumni Marching Band. John has also served as the “go to” substitute announcer for the band on several occasions. “Being in Purdue Bands & Orchestras can lead to a lifetime of music and I am happy to be back to support an organization that meant so much to me,” said John. He and his wife Wilma live in Northbrook, Illinois. In addition to their three children, they have six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. John enjoys sailing, singing in the church choir, and baking hundreds of loaves of bread each year, most of which he gives away!

We look forward to welcoming John Hultman as the “Voice” of the Purdue “All-American” Marching Band at our first home football game on September 3, when Purdue takes on the Eastern Kentucky Colonels at Ross-Ade Stadium.
RAY AND KIM LEE

Ray grew up on a farm in LaCrosse, Indiana and attended Purdue to major in Agricultural Economics (BS '85). Kim is from Cambridge City, Indiana and attended Purdue to major in Electrical Engineering (BS '86). Since graduating, Kim has worked as a software engineer for McDonnell Douglas, a software consultant at Digital Equipment Corporation, Anheuser Busch, Monsanto, a software project manager for Federated Software Group, and a software program manager for Tapestry Solutions, a Boeing subsidiary. She currently leads the F/A-18 Mission Planning team for foreign military customers. Ray has spent most of his career working in Supplier Management with Boeing. He is currently working as a cost reduction leader for the 787 Dreamliner. Ray has an MBA from St. Louis University and Kim has a Masters in Engineering Management from Washington University.

Ray and Kim were both trumpet players in the Purdue “All-American” Marching Band. They met at band camp when Kim was a freshman and Ray was a sophomore. They started dating a year later and they have been together ever since. “We got married a month after Kim graduated, and moved to St. Louis, so we will be celebrating our 30th wedding anniversary this summer. At band camp when Roy Johnson said ‘look around this rehearsal room, your future spouse might be in here,’ he was right on the money,” said Ray.

In addition to being four year members of the marching band, both Ray and Kim went to all four Indianapolis 500 races. Kim was a Fanfare trumpet. Ray was a Fanfare trumpet, a four year member of Boiler Brass, and a member of Kappa Kappa Psi. Ray traveled with Boiler Brass to three NCAA tournaments, and to Japan his senior year. “Our favorite trip together was the Peach Bowl in Atlanta on New Year’s Eve 1984,” said Ray and Kim.

Ray’s freshman year coincided with Dr. Bill Moffit’s first year as director of the Purdue “All-American” Marching Band. Ray overachieved on his playing test and was selected to play first part. His high school was really small (29 in his graduating class and only about a dozen in the band) and he had never marched before coming to Purdue. Prior to band camp, he traded in his high school cornet for a brand new trumpet. Dr. Moffit was impressed with how shiny his trumpet was, and they struck up a friendship on day one. Kim also attended a small high school, but they did have a marching band. She was also a cheerleader, and typically marched the half time show in her cheerleading uniform. “To come from a small band and then be part of the AAMB was just incredible. To use one of Dr. Moffit’s favorite phrases – it was awesome! We filled the field with 360 musicians – end zone to end zone – while marching his signature Patterns in Motion,” said Kim.

Dr. Moffit had tremendous energy, enthusiasm, and passion for the band. He inspired each student to be their best and even convinced them to do some silly things (X-jumps, world’s largest cymbals, and singing songs like Elvira). Jeanette Moffit had abundant love for the band students as well. Bill & Jeanette were role models for all their students and were like second parents to most. The Moffit era alums have always been well represented at Homecoming alumni band. After Homecoming 2011, Tracy Hine-Bullion created a Purdue Band Moffit Kids Facebook page as a way for everyone to keep in touch. Through the Facebook page, alumni have been able to reconnect and once again, Jeanette Moffit, resumed her role of band mom. After her passing came the suggestion to create a scholarship in Dr. Moffit’s honor. “We knew we wanted to be a part of it. We are appreciative that Boeing matched our donation, essentially doubling our gift to the band. We simply view our gift as a way to honor Dr. Moffit,” said Ray and Kim.

“...we will be celebrating our 30th wedding anniversary this summer. At band camp when Roy Johnson said ‘look around this rehearsal room, your future spouse might be in here,’ he was right on the money,” said Ray.

"To come from a small band and then be part of the AAMB was just INCREDIBLE."
David had an amazing Purdue experience as a student and was very active on campus. In addition to playing cello in the Purdue Symphony Orchestra, he was very involved in Purdue Student Government, where he held the positions of Student Senator for Cary Quad, Chairman of the Internal Affairs Committee for the student senate, Executive Director of Academics, and Student Body President. David was also involved with the Association of Big Ten Students, where he held the position of President. He was also President of Cary Quad SW and a member of Interfraternity Council’s Lower Board. He made many friends at Purdue that continue to be very important to him in his life today.

After graduating Purdue in December 1999, David began his career as a Middle Market Commercial Banking Credit Analyst at American National Bank & Trust Company of Chicago, a subsidiary of Bank One, N.A. He completed the program, which consisted of a two year intensive training program mixed with many classroom training sessions and rotations through different lending areas of the bank. After completing the program, he was promoted to an Underwriter, and then later to an Associate, Officer, and Assistant Vice President. “My focus was on providing lending and banking services to hedge funds, which was later expanded to include mid-sized manufacturers, distributors, and service firms, as well as senior housing and long term care facilities,” said David.

Currently, David is a Principal at Ares Management, L.P. Ares Management, L.P. is a publicly traded, leading alternative asset manager with approximately $94 billion in assets under management. The company operates three distinct, but complimentary, investment groups that invest in credit, private equity, and real estate markets, and have the ability to invest in all levels of a company’s capital structure. His responsibilities include developing and overseeing senior housing and long term care lending for the company.

David got involved with Purdue Bands & Orchestras in 2011 when he met with Jay Gephart in Chicago. “I really enjoyed working with Jay when I was in school, as he was the director of the Purdue Symphony Orchestra. I really was inspired by his vision for the department. I also really connected to his plans of advancing the orchestra forward, including getting a designated director, which we have today,” said David.

David also serves as a Board Member on the Purdue Bands & Orchestras Advisory Board. Within the board, David serves on the Strategic Planning Committee. This board provides a place for Jay to share his vision and ideas for the department and a resource to provide him with ideas and help to advance that vision. In addition to that, the Strategic Planning Committee has conference calls in between meetings. “I decided to start donating to Purdue Bands & Orchestras because I wanted to make an impact on the student experience within the orchestra. The university continues to work very hard to keep tuition costs from increasing, unlike most other universities out there. As a result, the department’s budget has to remain tight. To deliver the quality programs the department does, donations are critical to the success of the program,” said David.

In 2014, David and Ashlea decided to start the David & Ashlea Varca Principal Cellist Scholarship for the Principal Cellist in the Purdue Philharmonic Orchestra. “This has provided us such a sense of joy to be able to help provide some financial support to encourage one of Purdue’s top cellists to continue playing the cello and go to school. The reason why we put the scholarship in both of our names is that, having met at Purdue, Ashlea had the opportunity to attend concerts and interact with people in the orchestra. It was very special to her to be able to see me doing something that I am passionate about. I would tell someone who is thinking about donating or volunteering to the department that your efforts, big or small, will have a tremendous impact. The department is not a large company with wasteful spending and a lot of bureaucracy. It is a very lean organization that has only one mission, providing a place where students can continue their lifelong journey with music as performers, patrons, and advocates for the arts, while pursuing a degree in any of Purdue University’s disciplines. Simply put, it is about Purdue students and their joy of music. By donating or volunteering to the department, every little bit will have a significant impact on the student experience,” said David.

Even though Purdue does not have a music school, the department can still put on top performances and be innovators, leaders, and models for other college music schools and departments across the country. “The students in the department are a huge factor in helping me make my decision to give back my time, as well as gifts, to the department. The department’s students are truly passionate about playing, and doing this on top of their rigorous studies. I love this kind of dedication. And after all, it is all about the students,” said David.
CROWDFUNDING GOAL FOR BIG BASS DRUM SURPASSED

Every year, upkeep is needed to keep the Big Bass Drum in good working condition. This includes new drum heads, paint, wheels, transportation costs, beaters, and uniform components. With many appearances on campus, at football games, around the United States, and around the world, the drum has yearly wear and tear that must be addressed. “At 94 years old, I knew we needed to start raising funds to help keep costs manageable. When the development office approached our department, we jumped on the opportunity to preserve Purdue’s oldest icon,” said Jay Gephart.

In just 28 days, more than $30,000 was raised for the iconic Big Bass Drum via a new way of fundraising—crowdfunding. Crowdfunding is a project-focused fundraising tool that enables groups to raise money to pursue meaningful projects that make an immediate impact on students. In partnership with University Development, Purdue Bands & Orchestras was able to participate in Purdue’s first crowdfunding campaign.

The department started the crowdfunding initiative with an initial goal of raising $10,000 for general maintenance and upkeep for the drum. The goal was quickly surpassed, and the stretch goal of $25,000 was also exceeded.

“(I am) truly ecstatic. With every new fundraising initiative, there is always a concern about meeting goals and expectations. In this case, the passion that our students, alumni, parents, friends, faculty, and staff had for the project, helped us achieve and exceed our original goal of $10,000 very quickly,” said Courtney Downey.

After 28 days, the department knew an endowment could be established. Endowments generate funding that last a lifetime. Because of a lead gift from Charles and Samantha Howard, plus support from 156 other donors, an endowment for the Big Bass Drum now exists at Purdue University.

Even though an endowment has been established, continual donations to the account are encouraged. “By the time the drum turns 100, it is my goal that all funding for scholarship support, travel costs, and annual maintenance are completely self-supported by this endowment,” said Jay Gephart.

INTERSECTIONS COLLABORATIVE CONCERT SET FOR PURDUE JAZZ BAND

Intersections, a collaborative concert and educational program to honor the importance of the African music heritage in the music traditions of the Americas, is set for September 17. This collaboration will be between the Sabrina Lastman Quartet, the Black Cultural Center’s Choir Black Voices of Inspiration, the Purdue Jazz Band, the Latino Cultural Center, and The Long Center for the Performing Arts.

The influence of African music in South, Central, and North America is vast. Sabrina Lastman is originally from Montevideo, Uruguay. Located in the southern cone of South America, Uruguay keeps a vivid tradition of Candombe, one of their most important music treasures. Candombe is an African rhythm from Bantu origins played by the slaves brought to Montevideo city by the Spanish colonization in the 18th century. Many researchers agree that the Candombe, through the development of the Milonga is an essential component in the genesis of the South American music genre called Tango.

Intersections aims to offer the Purdue community the opportunity to learn and appreciate the rich traditions of South American rhythms; the work of renowned South American composers and songwriters such as Egberto Gismonti, Hermeto Pascoal, Rubén Rada, and Astor Piazzolla, among others; and the sound of Spanish and Portuguese poetry and lyrics through song.

This concert will grant a new opportunity to students in the Purdue Jazz Band. Students will build partnerships with artists from different countries around the world, and from various cities in the United States. This experience is projected to open up a series of Latin infused concerts with the culmination being a study abroad experience in March 2017 for jazz band students.

HOMECOMING 2016 TO HONOR 1967 ROSE BOWL BAND

Save the date! On October 14-15, come back to campus for the 50th reunion of the 1967 Rose Bowl band. The Purdue “All-American” Marching Band will perform music from 1967, as well as a portion of “The Greatest Show on Earth,” a revival of the circus show the band presented during the halftime show at its first Rose Bowl appearance. All alumni are encouraged and invited to help celebrate the 1966-1967 band. Further details can be found at www.purdue.edu/bands beginning in July.
“Immeasurable”

‘Ever True’ became a part of Karen the day she proudly showed her dad the Purdue University acceptance letter. A state school, financially, was her only option, and the first of many blessings that led her to Purdue. “With a world-renowned reputation, a demand for excellence, and a small-school feel, it just always felt right to me,” said Karen. The Purdue North Central Campus was close to Karen’s home in Portage, Indiana, so she saved money by attending that campus her first year. It was her parents who encouraged her to move to the West Lafayette campus that next year, knowing the whole college experience would be invaluable. They were right! Extracurricular life in Windsor Hall Leadership (Duhme President), co-ed intramurals, Tomahawk, and a part time job kept Karen busy beyond classes. “They were wonderful years that exposed me to people from around the world. Purdue provided leadership opportunities, cultivated different ways of thinking, and provided lifelong friendships. My B.A. degree prepared me for life, and during a 34 year career with Travelers Property Casualty, it served me very well,” said Karen.

Karen was accepted into the Purdue Band program her first year and she still has the newspaper clipping to prove it. Knowing that Purdue did not march her instrument, she taught herself how to play the trumpet in hopes of marching that next fall. She often practiced in the tunnels of Windsor Hall as well. As audition day arrived, she nervously made her way to Elliott Hall of Music. To her surprise, Dr. Al G. Wright was conducting auditions. “I only recall a shy young girl, maybe a little intimidated at the Al G. Wright legacy, and lacking the confidence to continue. I slipped out the side door without playing. It is my only true regret at Purdue and one of only a few in life,” said Karen. Karen’s shyness went away but the love of Purdue Bands & Orchestras continued to grow over the years. When Karen was asked why she is so passionate about Purdue Bands & Orchestras, the answer was very simple. Her extended family was musically gifted. Karen was not one of the better players in her family, but was a six year French horn player and loved it. She knew she could not stop supporting students who had that same passion for playing.

Always a believer in giving back to Purdue University, it was a natural transition to think about a gift to Purdue Bands & Orchestras, specifically the Purdue “All-American” Marching Band, that reconnected Karen to the students. What came next; however, was truly a life changing journey for Karen. While Karen strongly encourages giving annually, it became clear to her that remembering the Purdue “All-American” Marching Band in her estate plan would provide a much greater impact on students for years to come. A call to Jill Anderson in the University Development Office opened that door. Through their initial discussion, Jill immediately got Karen interested in establishing an endowment. Karen’s desire was to specify the Purdue “All-American” Marching Band and Jill suggested a meeting with Courtney Downey. “While I could have accomplished everything via phone and email, I wanted to personally meet with Jill and Courtney, knowing this was a large commitment on my part. They answered all of my questions and provided numerous examples of how we could structure the endowment. Stories were exchanged and discussions about the financial need of Purdue “All-American” Marching Band members was a topic,” said Karen. Some may not be aware that even though a budget from the university does exist, 42% of the annual operating budget comes from the generosity of alumni and friends. “With help from a student friend, I questioned a few marching band members about their involvement and if it was financially easy for them to participate. For example, why did they choose to march at Purdue? Do they have to work? How would it affect them if they could not participate due to finances? Their answers ‘sealed the deal’ for me and proved the importance of giving back to such a fantastic organization,” said Karen.

Karen’s personal journey of giving back took a turn just as her nephew, Austin, was about to begin his Purdue career. Just like Karen’s parents wanted for her, she wanted for Austin. “It was heartbreaking and frightening thinking of financing a college education I had not planned for, but determined to keep his dream alive,” said Karen. Last May, they stood outside Elliott Hall of Music where years before she had been. “Both of us had grown so much and I saw so clearly what it meant to Austin that I was able to help. Look at what our gifts can do to so many others, just like Austin. He got the degree. I got the blessing,” said Karen.

When Karen returns to campus, she wonders what if she had tried out that day. Now her mind immediately drifts to what her endowment will do for the marching band, instead. While putting together the endowment, Karen kept thinking of the journey she and Austin took together and it cemented what she wanted to do for others like him. “I would hate to see a young person watching the band, instead of being in it, because of financial hardships. The joy my endowment brings to me is immeasurable, knowing many students, for years to come, will be able to participate in what they truly love. I have said many times that helping Austin was my greatest investment. Now, building this endowment is right up there with it. I hope others will consider joining me,” said Karen.
GORDON AND CAROLE MALLETT

Carole is from McLean, Illinois, where her father had a pharmacy. During the Great Depression, their family moved to Chicago. She lived in Chicago for nine years, then the family moved to Peoria. Carole spent a lot of time in her father’s pharmacy, and she first thought she would be a pharmacist. She was accepted to Purdue in the Pharmacy School. While at Purdue, she realized she had the ability and the talent to be a teacher. She transferred to Bradley University in Peoria to be near her family and to become a teacher. She earned a Masters in Education at Northern Illinois University, and did further graduate work in Student Services Administration there. For 34 years, she had a distinguished career as a teacher and in administration as Director of Student Services at Batavia High School in Batavia, Illinois.

Gordon grew up in Evansville, Indiana. As a boy, he was fascinated by chemistry. His father attended Purdue, and Purdue was a perfect choice for Gordon. He earned a B.S. in Chemistry (1949) and both M.S. (1952) and Ph.D. (1956) in Microbiology from Purdue. After one year as a civilian employee at Fort Detrick, Maryland, he was employed by Eli Lilly & Co. where he ended his career as Director of Corporate Quality Assurance.

At Purdue, in 1946, they met and dated. For several years, they did all of the fun things that young people did in those days – movies, dances, walks in Happy Hollow, cokes in the Sweet Shop, and basketball games (they were there when the stands collapsed in Lambert). They visited each other’s home towns. Then their lives took separate paths. Carole to her teaching, Gordon to graduate school. Forty years later, their paths converged again. Gordon said, “We dated and she took me to visit her mother, who said ‘I remember you! We married and celebrated our 25th anniversary not too long ago.”

Together, they have always admired the Purdue Bands (all the way from the Spotts Emrick days) spirit, enthusiasm, and musicianship. They have admired the commitment, the discipline, and hard work of all the bands and the orchestras. Their direct involvement has been with the orchestras, and started fairly recently.

When Gordon and Carole brought their lives back together, they recognized two things that were of special interest that they wanted to build on – the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (ISO) and Purdue University, which lead to their involvement with Purdue Bands & Orchestras. They have both been active with the Purdue Association of Indianapolis (PAI), where Carole was previous Vice President and President, and Gordon was Treasurer for almost 20 years. Five years ago, Jay Gephart came to Indianapolis to talk with the officers of PAI. He wanted the Purdue Symphony Orchestra to play a concert at the Hilbert Circle Theatre (HCT) in Indianapolis, and he asked PAI if they could help make that happen. Gordon and Carole had been strong supporters of the ISO, they knew the people in management there, and were able to facilitate the appearance of the Purdue Symphony at HCT. PAI provided publicity in support of the concert. The Purdue Symphony was a great success at HCT. The Malletts were delighted and proud to have helped make their appearance there possible – in direct relationship to two of their major interests in life, Purdue and the ISO.

Following this involvement, Jay indicated he hoped to focus more attention on the Purdue Orchestra in the Purdue Bands & Orchestras Advisory Board. In turn, Jay invited the Malletts to become members. They were involved with the advisory board for several years, and were given the Block “P” Award by Jay at a football game in Ross-Ade Stadium. At Purdue, they have become Life Members of the President’s Council, have endowed the Carole and Gordon Mallett Theatre in Yue-Kong Pao Hall of Visual and Performing Arts, became members of the John Purdue Club, and have held Club Seats since they first became available. “One of the great thrills of our life was to walk on the football field to receive the Block “P” award from Jay,” said Gordon.

In early spring of 2013, the Malletts received a telephone call from Courtney Downey, inviting them to ride in the Boilermaker Special in the Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade. “We accepted with glee, had a very good breakfast at Butler University with the band members, and had a marvelous experience riding in the parade,” said Gordon.

A couple of weeks after the parade, they met with Jay and David Varca, an orchestra alumn and advisory board member, for breakfast. Both explained that the orchestra did not have a named scholarship and offered them the opportunity to provide one. “This turned out to be right down our alley with major interests in Purdue and the ISO. We agreed, and over the next several years completed funding the scholarship,” said Gordon and Carole.

In their giving to Purdue University, they have focused on activities that benefit students directly. In supporting the Gordon and Carole Mallett Orchestra Scholarship they will be providing personal support to a student(s) who participates in orchestra, and they look forward to meeting recipients over the years. In the orchestra, these are young men and women who are becoming well educated citizens and advocates for the arts. “Our nation has never needed such persons more, and our name will be connected forever with this cause. We could not feel more rewarded. When Jay came to discuss an orchestra scholarship, we were prepared to hear him. We admired Jay for his excellent leadership and programming for the band, and his concern for the orchestra. He recognized that a named orchestra scholarship would appeal to us, and he made it possible for us to sign up for this gift. We tell other people that our bands and our orchestras are made up of students from Science, Engineering, Liberal Arts, and Agriculture, and that they have better than average GPAs. They have discipline, initiative, and drive. They are achievers. Supporting such young men and women is a source of great personal pleasure and pride. It is something we can do in a world that has lots of needs,” said Gordon and Carole.
THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

This annual list of Purdue Bands & Orchestras donors reflects gifts of $250 or more from January 1- December 31, 2015.

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To pledge your support visit www.purdue.edu/bands or email Courtney Downey, Director of Alumni, Donor, and Public Relations at cndowney@purdue.edu
PURDUE DAY OF GIVING 2016 RESULTS

On April 27th, 2016, Purdue Bands & Orchestras competed in hourly fundraising challenges for the opportunity to win additional incentive dollars for the department.

In just 24 hours, 1,363 donations were made, eight challenges were won, and $42,515 bonus dollars were awarded—totaling in $685,550 raised for Purdue Bands & Orchestras. We could not have done it without you! Thank you for making a BIGGER & BETTER impact!

RESULTS:

- **$643,035:** Total Donations Received (non-bonus money)
- **$3,515:** 5th Place Overall Finish
- **$12,000:** First Place Overall Participation
- **$1,000:** Purdue Day of Giving Video Share Challenge
- **$3,000:** Program with the Highest Number of Donations in One-Hour Timespan
- **$1,000:** 50th Tweet with #purduedayofgiving and #pubandorch
- **$4,000:** Most Donations from Alumni Donors
- **$3,000:** Program with the Highest Number of Donations in One-Hour Timespan
- **$5,000:** Program with the Most Parent Donors
- **$5,000:** Program with the Most Donations from Young Alumni (2005-2015 grads)
- **$1,000:** 50th Tweet with #purduedayofgiving and #pubandorch
- **$4,000:** Most Donations from Alumni Donors

**TOTAL:** **$685,550**