February 2024

Proposal for Book Funding/Sponsorship

Purdue’s Female Founders: The Untold History

by

Angie Klink

“Climbing is unadulterated hard labor. The only real pleasure is the satisfaction of going where no man has been before and where few can follow.”

—Annie Smith Peck, Professor of Latin, Purdue University, 1881-1883. Record-breaking mountain climber.
Overview

Author Angie Klink seeks funding to publish her manuscript *Purdue’s Female Founders: The Untold History*. The book reveals for the first time in one volume the fortitude and achievements of the twentieth-century foremothers of Purdue University. This engaging book is a collection of profiles on female faculty who shaped Purdue University from its beginning in the late 1800s through the twentieth century.

Read about Purdue women who pioneered teaching and research; established departments, schools, and colleges; and blazed paths where only men trod. Compelling stories in this 350 to 450-page book celebrate women in art, science, nutrition, literature, nursing, speech, engineering, fashion design and textiles, home economics, family life, psychology, agriculture, health and kinesiology, management, and more. *Purdue’s Female Founders* covers 125 years of Purdue history told through the female lens.

Work to be Conducted by Author Angie Klink

- Conduct research and write manuscript, procure photos, write photo captions, edit, proof, collaborate with cover designer, write cover copy.
- First draft of the manuscript is complete.
- Coordinate project elements and communicate with key people involved in the book’s creation, production, and donations.
- Market the book via author’s website, social media, book signings, presentations.

Sampling of Women Featured

- **Laura Fry**, professor of industrial arts beginning in 1891 and a patent holder for a ceramic glazing technique used by Rookwood Pottery in Cincinnati where she had worked. Established the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette and the Purdue Women’s Club.
- **Mary Lockwood Matthews**, first female dean on campus when she became dean of the School of Home Economics in 1926. That same year, she created Indiana’s first nursery school at Purdue. Matthews Hall is named in her honor.
- **Anna Akeley** was born in Vienna, Austria, and escaped the Nazis, arriving in Lafayette, Indiana, in 1942 to marry a Purdue physics professor. The couple were avid art collectors and donated part of their valuable collection to Purdue. Akeley was the only Purdue physics instructor tenured without a degree.
- **Gertrude Sunderlin** led the development of Master Mix in 1948, establishing the beginning of all baking mixes.
- **Helen Clark** conducted groundbreaking research on high-lysine corn and in 1974 was the first woman to be recognized as a Distinguished Professor at Purdue.
- **Anita Dickson** established the Superior School of Home Economics in Vicosa, Brazil, as part of the Purdue-Brazil program.
- **Laurentza Schantz-Hansen**, artist and head of the Department of Applied Design from 1929-1955. She organized campus art activities, including the Hoosier Salon in the Purdue Memorial Union.
- **Esther Fern Rupel** preserved Purdue’s historic costume collection.
• **Helen Johnson** founded Purdue’s School of Nursing in 1963.
• **Virginia R. Ferris**, first female faculty member in School of Agriculture, first Assistant Dean of Graduate School & first Assistant Provost who conducted groundbreaking research on nematodes.
• **Helen Bass Williams**, an activist who marched with Martin Luther King, became Purdue’s first Black faculty member in 1968, and strove against odds to bring more Black students to Purdue.
• **Clara Bell** founded the Minority Students in Nursing organization.
• **Jo Brooks** originated the Indiana Family Health Clinic.
• **Leah H. Jamieson**, Dean of the College of Engineering, Co-founder of Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS).
• **Susan Kontos** founded the Center for Families.
• **Rachel Stark**, member of the first team of women to climb the Himalayas in 1955. At Purdue created the first coding system describing infants’ sounds.
• **Macalyne Fristoe**, inventor of the renowned Goldman-Fristoe Test of Articulation still used today and translated into Spanish.
• **Charlene Sullivan**, associate dean of undergraduate programs at Krannert in 2011, launched the Larsen Leaders Academy and the Brock-Wilson Center for Women in Management.
• **Carolyn Y. Woo**, immigrated to the U.S. from Hong Kong to attend Purdue in 1972, obtained three degrees before becoming a faculty member and Krannert administrator. Served as associate executive vice president for academic affairs. Returned to Purdue in 2016 as Distinguished President’s Fellow for Global Development. Received 2022 Indiana Living Legends Award.
• **Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth**, founding co-director of the nationally groundbreaking Military Family Research Institute.
• **Christine Ladisch**, Inaugural dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences.

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Opportunity to Give
and
Bring Purdue Female Faculty to the Forefront

The exact cost to publish the book is to be determined with the publisher, potentially Purdue University Press. The final cost will be based on quantity, decisions such as hardback or paperback, and other factors defined by the publisher.

Estimate to print a hardback, 350-450 page book—$20,000.

Payment to Angie Klink to foster the book to print—$20,000.

Total: $40,000

Klink has completed the first draft of the manuscript and will:
- procure beta readers and address feedback
- work with publisher on editing
- procure photos
- write photo captions
- proof multiple times
- collaborate with graphic designer on cover
- write cover copy
- write copy for Amazon description and other promotional text
- promote book
- other, as needs arise

About the Author

Angie Klink is a freelance writer and author of twelve books, many about Purdue. She is a historian, biographer, essayist, scriptwriter, and copywriter. She has written for the American Writers Museum and Ms. Magazine. She is published in Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History magazine published by the Indiana Historical Society. Her essay “Amelia Earhart’s Quests Realized at Purdue University” will be in the 2024 anthology Fast Famous Women published by Woodhall Press.

Klink was the scriptwriter for two documentaries narrated by actor Peter Coyote: the public education film Rise Above the Mark and Eternal Flame about Tom Kelly, member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Her most recent books are WBAA: 100 Years as the Voice of Purdue and Pledge and Promise, both published by Purdue University Press Scholarly Publishing Services.

In 2024, Klink received the Excellence in Historic Preservation Medal and Certificate from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The most prestigious preservation award the National Society presents, The Medal honors an individual whose volunteer service, promotion, and dedication to historic preservation has made a distinguished contribution on the national, regional, or state level for many years. The Certificate recognizes and honors an individual who has done recent remarkable volunteer work at the community level. The award recognizes achievements in all areas of historic preservation, including publishing books.
Klink writes and presents about the late author, poet, and artist Evaleen Stein (1863-1923). She is the energy behind the application, fundraising, and placement of a 2024 Indiana Historical Bureau marker honoring Stein’s life and literary contributions placed at Stein’s former home in Lafayette, Indiana, located across the street from where Klink resides.

Klink has received sixty-one American Advertising Federation ADDY Awards, including a Lifetime Achievement honor. She received the 2022 Outstanding Service Award from Purdue Fraternity, Sorority and Cooperative Life for authoring the book *Pledge and Promise*. She was honored as a 2023 Salute to Women *Woman of Distinction* by YWCA Greater Lafayette.

Klink is currently serving on the City of Lafayette Bicentennial Committee planning year-long events to celebrate the city’s 200th birthday in 2025. She is a former member of the board of directors of YWCA Greater Lafayette and the National Women’s History Alliance, the organization behind the founding of March as National Women’s History Month.

A five-time attendee of the Erma Bombeck Writers’ Workshop at the University of Dayton, Klink received an Honorable Mention in the Erma Bombeck Writing Competition. She holds a BA in communication from Purdue University and lives in Lafayette, Indiana. Learn more at [www.angieklink.com](http://www.angieklink.com)