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Exploratory Studies  
Young Hall, 6th Floor  
155 South Grant Street  
West Lafayette, IN 47907  
(765) 494-0843  
exploratory@purdue.edu
HOMETOWN: Valparaiso, IN
I am an Indiana girl! I was born and raised in Valparaiso, and moved to West Lafayette to attend Purdue in 1997.

EDUCATION
BA, Public Relations, Purdue University
MS, Communication & Media, Purdue University

ADVICE FOR NEW BOILERMAKERS
College is a wonderful privilege and transformative experience. Be grateful that your situation allows you to be here, and treat it kindly. Make brave choices – don’t run from a challenge! Working hard builds character, knowledge, and helps you grow in ways you can never predict. College is much more than advanced job training so don’t forget you are also nurturing your intellect and beginning to become the next generation of global citizens this world so badly needs. Balance is key, so keep working toward it. Work hard but also have fun. Finally, utilize campus resources to their fullest! You have A LOT of people here that believe in you!

FUN FACTS!
I am a huge sports fan and I cheer loyalty for my Chicago Bears and Chicago White Sox (no matter how painful).
I love to read popular fiction books - my favorite genre is fictional murder mysteries.
I LOVE CAMPING and go several times a year. Tents rock!

GET TO KNOW
KARLA CUNNINGHAM

HOMETOWN: Paris, IL
EDUCATION:
B.A. French Education, Indiana State University
M.S. Student Personnel, Indiana State University

ADVICE FOR FUTURE BOILERMAKERS
COLLEGE IS A TIME TO LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF WHILE YOU’RE ALSO LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM SETTING.
Take advantage of this time to try new opportunities and adventures. Join new student organizations. Take a chance in meeting new people. As you’re changing and growing, be sure to keep focused on your academics. Your time in college will go fast, so be sure to slow down from time to time.

FUN FACTS
• I love travelling, and I have traveled to 49 of the 50 states.
• I love trivia contests and playing card or board games.
• I am always up for trying a new restaurant or exploring a new city.
• My favorite sport to watch is college basketball, especially during the NCAA tournament.
Emily Goldsmith

HOMETOWN
Lafayette, IN

EDUCATION
B.A. Film & Video Studies
Purdue University

Advice for Future Boilermakers
It's perfectly normal and OK to feel overwhelmed as you begin your college career. Try not to panic, and remember to breathe. Try to stay positive, and always be kind - to those around you, and to yourself. Never neglect your academics, but try to make time for fun and relaxation as well. Keep an open mind in everything you do, and be open to change - change is scary, but often leads to much better things!

FUN FACTS
- I have mild trichromia -- I can see more shades of color than most people!
- I love wildlife and am passionate about nature conservation. I also love any and all domesticated pets, though at the moment I only have one dog and two cats. I hope to have a bearded dragon and donkey (miniature or full-sized) someday!
- I have been collecting succulents for several years. Friends, family, and co-workers often get succulents as gifts because I can't bring myself to throw any away.

Kara Green

Hometown:
Bremen, IN

Education:
B.A., Mass Communication
Purdue University
M.S.Ed: School Counseling,
Purdue University

Advice for Future Boilermakers
College is one of the most unique experiences you get to have, take advantage of every opportunity to explore who you are. Get involved, go to sporting events, join an organization, get to know the people around you, don't be afraid to ask for help and make sure to take care of yourself. Give yourself grace along the way, life is a wonderful journey through all the ups and downs, enjoy it!

Fun Facts
- I LOVE the mountains (ironic, I know) and will go anywhere there is a mountain. I took my 86-year-old grandma 2,000 miles to look at mountains in Canada.
- As a Purdue student I was a member of the Reamer Club and have spent a lot of time on the Boilermaker Special - and am also a wealth of random Purdue history knowledge.
- I am a self-described life long learner (or as my husband says an “investigator”) and will gladly enter a Wikipedia wormhole for hours learning about new things.
GET TO KNOW

LINDA GREGORY

HOMETOWN: WESTVILLE, IN
I was born and raised in northern Indiana. After attending Purdue, I married and moved out east for several years. Now I am happy to call West Lafayette home again!

EDUCATION
B.A. French Education, Purdue University
M.S. Academic Advising, Kansas State University

ADVICE FOR FUTURE BOILERMAKERS
Purdue is a big campus, but it can become small really fast!
4 years fly by quickly - enjoy it all! Get involved and try new things. Experiment with your electives. Sleep is amazing – consider getting it regularly. Don’t be afraid to fail – that’s how learning happens!

FUN FACTS
• I met my husband at Purdue; we eloped two weeks after I graduated.
• We have two children (one who’s a Purdue Alum also).
• I love dogs, drink TAB (yes, it’s still available), enjoy traveling and playing games of all sorts.

GET TO KNOW

MIRANDA JACK

HOMETOWN
DENVER, CO

EDUCATION
B.A. English and Secondary Education, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
M.A. English and Communications with a TESOL Certificate, Valparaiso University

ADVICE FOR FUTURE BOILERMAKERS
Don't be afraid to ask for help.
Embrace and love who you are, and never forget where you came from and the people who helped you along the way. Try new things and be open to change and new adventures that lie ahead. The unexpected journeys can be the most rewarding and can help you to understand yourself and the world around you more. Take time every day for yourself.

FUN FACTS
• I have three young daughters who have reminded me how fun everyday can be and have consumed my days with all things Disney.
• I love to travel around the world, and I think that researching and planning a trip is almost as fun as going.
• I love watching and discussing movies, tv shows (especially period pieces), and reading fiction. I always take recommendations.
MARY BETH LENCKE

HOMETOWN
Born in Danville, Indiana. Raised in Brownsburg, Indiana. Moved around for awhile, before realizing Indiana wasn’t so bad after all.

EDUCATION
BLA, Bachelors of Landscape Architecture
Ball State University

ADVICE TO FUTURE BOILERMAKERS
I love school. (That’s why I work at one!) And you should too while you’re here at Purdue! Go to class. Do the work. Get to know your professors (and me!). Stay on campus during the weekends. Discover who you are. All students are inherently UNDECIDED... just go with it. Celebrate how wise you are to start Purdue by taking a look around. Enjoy your independence. Act responsibly. Take good care of yourself. Join a club, a sport, a student organization, or something that excites you. Just do SOMETHING! And oh yeah... remember to laugh every once in a while. That’s really important.

FUN FACTS
• I am a geek about many things: Star Wars, movies in general, books (ALL THE BOOKS!), my doggie Rosie, all dogs really, Scrabble (I win EVERY TIME), the TV show FRIENDS, my family.
• I am living proof that your college major does NOT have to match your career. I will remind you of this over and over and over again.

JENNIFER MCDONALD

HOMETOWN
I was born in Indianapolis, IN. After bouncing around to various cities in Indiana (including Bloomington), I now call West Lafayette home.

EDUCATION
M.L.S., Library and Information Science, Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis
M.S.Ed., Educational Psychology (Counseling), Purdue University
B.A., Psychology, Purdue University

ADVICE TO FUTURE BOILERMAKERS
BE PERSISTENT. What I usually see from freshman is a hot start, then a sudden mid-semester drop off in motivation, resulting in a lackluster finish (and grades). Each semester of college is like a marathon, not a sprint. It requires long-term and short-term goals, consistent training, and unflagging determination. BE OPEN TO LEARNING FROM EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING. This is harder than it sounds. It takes real discipline and humbleness. Be curious and pro-actively engaged in your education. Talk to a lot of people to gain new perspective on old issues. BE REALISTIC. Recognize and respect your strengths and your limitations. Knowing and accepting yourself allows you to be open to new opportunities that you never realized existed. REALIZE THAT CAREER EXPLORATION IS A LIFE-LONG PROCESS. Career exploration can sometimes seem like a “hurry up and wait” proposition. Everyone wants you to pick a major - right now! :) But what you really need to make a good career decision is experiences, information, and time. Get involved on campus and explore careers early and often.

FUN FACTS
I cultivate a lot of interests which ebb and flow into the foreground, including film, music, fashion, education and learning, travel and culture, history, and literature. I have two cats who spend a lot of time hissing at each other and cuddling with me (often at the same time).
Get to know

LELA MIXON

Hometown:
I received the best education from Gary West Side! Go Cougars!

Education:
B.S. Psychology, Ball State University
M.A. Student Personnel in Higher Education Administration, Ball State University

ADVICE FOR FUTURE BOILERMAKERS
Many times you are going to need all the courage and confidence you can muster to get to your next level. Try REALLY hard to listen to your cheerleaders and ignore your haters.

FUN FACTS
- I’m married with three children - one is a Boilermaker.
- I love home decor and reading.
- I love MUSIC – all kinds! Most days, you will hear it playing while I work.
- I am as comfortable being silent as I am speaking.

Get to know

KYLE PAQUIN

Hometown
Brownsburg, IN

Education
BA in Communications, Anderson University
MS in Sports Administration, University of Cincinnati

Advice for Future Boilermakers
Call your Mom AT LEAST once a week, and go to AS MANY games in Mackey Arena as you can! It is truly one of the best environments in all college sports.

Fun Facts
- I take care of over 50 houseplants.
- I am a Bonnarooovian.
- I love the Indy 500 and the entire month of May in Indianapolis... it’s my favorite!
HOMETOWN: MONTICELLO, IN
BORN IN MONTICELLO, LIVED IN INDIANAPOLIS AND NOW CALLS LAFAYETTE HOME.

ADVICE FOR NEW BOILERMakers:
MAKE PURDUE YOUR HOME!
GO OUT AND MEET PEOPLE,
GET INVOLVED!

YOU’LL HAVE THE CHANCE TO MEET SOME AMAZING PEOPLE. THIS IS YOUR TIME TO EXPLORE, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, AND GROW AS AN INDIVIDUAL. COLLEGE WILL BE ONE OF THE BEST TIMES OF YOUR LIFE AND YOU’LL HAVE A PRETTY AMAZING TIME AT PURDUE.

FUN FACTS
- My entire family loves all things Disney. One year we managed to travel to Disney World FIVE different times!! Our favorite time to visit the parks is during Halloween.
- I love to be creative and make things, but I especially love scrapbooking and crafting.
- I am obsessed with Christmas and start decorating my house the day after Halloween (no shame!!!).
Get to know

Scott Vana

HOMETOWN: Chicago, IL

Born in Chicago, IL; lived in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Kentucky and now in Lafayette area since 1996

EDUCATION

M.Div., Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
M.A., Economics, Northwestern University
B.A., Urban & Regional Economics, University of Illinois - Urbana

ADVICE FOR FUTURE BOILERMAKERS:

Not sure what you want to major in? Don’t worry!

Your time at Purdue will provide you with unlimited opportunities for exploration and learning, so make the most of it. While you’re gaining these new experiences and actively seeking majors & careers that interest you, keep listening to your heart and your head. The future path that is right for you will become evident in time. Finally, set some goals for yourself and work hard to achieve them, and you’ll never have regrets.

FUN FACTS

- Married to Sandra; have three daughters and six grandkids.
- Live on an old farm, complete with barn & chicken coops and have lots of pets.
- Performed in concert as a back-up singer with Barry Manilow while I was in college.
- Started college at Michigan State University as an exploratory/undecided student, but at the time it was called “No Preference”.

Meet Your Advisor!

Cara Wetzel

HOMETOWN: Chesterton, IN

EDUCATION:

B.S. Mathematics, Purdue University
M.S. Mathematics, Purdue University
A.S. Computer Technology, Purdue University
Licensed to teach grades 6-12 Mathematics

ADVICE FOR NEW BOILERMAKERS:

TAKE TIME DURING COLLEGE TO LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF

Learn your strengths and what is important to you. Reflect on your challenges and triumphs and use that reflection for the future. It is hard to set a goal for your life if you don’t know who you are and how you got to where you are now.

FUN FACTS

- I have two adorable children, Zoe and Charlie. Three if you count my husband!
- I came to Purdue as a student and never left. West Lafayette isn’t so bad!
- I like puns—the dumber the better. After all, seven days without a pun makes one weak.
Get to Know Your Advisor

NATHAN WONG

HOMETOWN
I was born in Los Angeles, but I grew up in Eugene, Oregon (go Ducks!). After getting my undergraduate degree in San Diego, I lived in several cities across the U.S.

EDUCATION
B.A. Sociology, University of California San Diego
M.Ed. Higher Education Leadership and Policy, University of Texas at Austin

ADVICE FOR FUTURE BOILERMAKERS
So much of what you learn in college happens outside of class.
Even if you aren’t a social butterfly, make a realistic commitment to get involved with an organization, club, or activity that aligns with your interests. With over 1,000 organizations like Pet-a-Puppy club, Disney Appreciation club, and Dungeons of Purdue, you’re bound to find something that vibes with you. Get to know one or two professors really well by visiting during office hours. They will likely be the people who write your letters of recommendation if you decide to go to grad school.

FUN FACTS
• Played Magic: the Gathering competitively and am currently in a hardcore World of Warcraft raiding guild
• A voracious reader who loves contemporary fiction, narrative nonfiction, true crime, and suspense.
• Like fishing, hiking, binge watching TV shows, complaining about my fantasy football team, and cheering for the Tennessee Titans. I also enjoy playing pranks on my cat, Gunner.

GET TO KNOW Kate Winton

Hometown
Elkhart, IN

Education
B.A. Art Education, Purdue University
M.A. Art Education, Boston University

Advice for a Future Boilermaker
TRY NOT TO FEEL PRESSURED TO MAKE A RUSHED DECISION ABOUT A CAREER OR MAJOR.
College is the time for you to discover who you are, what you enjoy doing, what you’re good at, and who you want to be. You can think of college as an evolution period, where you can develop your skills and character. You are likely never going to have as many resources, like-minded peers, and opportunities as you do in college again — so be sure to take advantage and use them wisely! Also, absolutely study abroad if you get the opportunity!

Fun Facts
• I love to be outside, especially in the garden! I am a graduate of Purdue’s Master Gardening program.
• I love to travel with my husband as often as possible and try to check art museums off my bucket list everywhere we go.
• Maine is my favorite place to visit any time of year!
• In 2019 we went to Alaska and hiked the 5 National Parks in Utah!