Colleen Banter ............................................................................................ 3
Lynette Bleed .............................................................................................. 4
Jo Boileau ................................................................................................... 5
Jessica Chapman ......................................................................................... 6
Leah Criss .................................................................................................... 7
Karla Cunningham ....................................................................................... 8
Kara Green .................................................................................................. 9
Linda Gregory ............................................................................................ 10
Miranda Jack ............................................................................................ 11
Mary Beth Lencke ...................................................................................... 12
Jennifer McDonald .................................................................................... 13
Ashlyn Ruff ................................................................................................ 14
Angie Sigo ................................................................................................. 15
Scott Vana ................................................................................................. 16
Cara Wetzel .............................................................................................. 17
Kate Winton ............................................................................................... 18
Nathan Wong ............................................................................................ 19
Andrea Yeoman ......................................................................................... 20

Colleen Banter

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
M.S., Communication & Media, Purdue University
B.A., Public Relations, Purdue University

ADVICE FOR FUTURE 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 and meaningful 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 now and beyond college, 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 loyally 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!

Table of Contents
My last name “Bleed” came with the guy a long time ago. (Note: He’s not a vampire or a hematologist. Too bad — either of those would be super cool with the last name of Bleed!) Together we raised three amazing kids who are now adults.

My first name “Lynette” can mean “little bird” or “graceful”. Not sure why, but my kids say I should go with “little bird.”

One of my first professional jobs was in consumer sales for Oscar Mayer. I sold hot dogs to bring home the bacon, and that’s no bologna! One year I won the Carl G. Mayer award for a Wienermobile retail promotion that I had created. I was honored to be invited to Oscar Mayer Foods’ dedication of the first Wienermobile to the Henry Ford Museum.

**ADVICE FOR FUTURE BOILERMAKERS**

- Approach your college career as you would a job: 1) Show up—to class, to your laptop, to your appointments. 2) Learn the job functions of being a college student—critical thinking, academic writing, and learning. 3) Schedule your workday with classes and blocks of study time. 4) Meet some people who are different than you! 5) Connect with people who can help you become great at your “job as student” (your profs, RAs, advisors, support staff, fellow students). 6) Remember, you are the CEO of your success!
- Expect obstacles but be confident that you have access to everything you need to succeed! Ask about all the amazing resources available to you as a Purdue student.
- Create a LinkedIn account as a freshman and build it throughout your college years.

**FUN FACTS**

- My name “Lynette” can mean “little bird” or “graceful”. Not sure why, but my kids say I should go with “little bird.”
- One of my first professional jobs was in consumer sales for Oscar Mayer. I sold hot dogs to bring home the bacon, and that’s no bologna! One year I won the Carl G. Mayer award for a Wienermobile retail promotion that I had created. I was honored to be invited to Oscar Mayer Foods’ dedication of the first Wienermobile to the Henry Ford Museum.

---

I was born in upstate New York, spent time living in Canada, but ultimately - I call Nashville, Tennessee home.

**EDUCATION**

B.A., Political Science; Concentration in International Relations; Minor in Environmental Politics and Policymaking; Purdue University

**ADVICE FOR FUTURE BOILERMAKERS**

My greatest piece of advice is to always seek balance.

If you’re anything like me, you’re over-involved and want to do a smattering of everything! Here’s my recommendation: have an involvement with an organization or club on campus that is related to your academics. This will keep you accountable and plugged into what’s happening in your field. Then, have an organizational involvement with something that is a skill you’d like to be better at; for me, it was debate. I competed on Purdue’s Model UN team. Finally, have an involvement (no matter how casual) that is your go-to stress reliever. For me, it was playing ultimate frisbee with friends and total strangers alike. A perfect combination of these three helps strike balance... and it took me a while to learn that.

Finally, take some time to take stock of where you are. It is so easy to get caught up in the day-to-day of college life and all of its perplexities, deadlines, exams, and commitments. Taking some time every now and then to go for a walk on campus and just being appreciative for where you are can be a truly profound experience. Always had my best moments of clarity atop Slayter Hill in my hammock.

**FUN FACTS**

- I’m from Nashville, Tennessee and love the Nashville Predators!
- I’m also a coffee-shop junkie and am always in search of the best spots everywhere I go.
- I enjoy hammocking, going to the gym, and tossing a frisbee during those crisp first few days of Midwest Spring.
Jessica Chapman

HOMETOWN
Pine Village, IN

EDUCATION
M.L.D., Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College
B.A., Communication, Blackburn College

ADVICE FOR FUTURE BOILERMAKERS
Having a growth mindset will help you succeed inside and outside of the classroom.
Grow your thoughts. Grow your friendships. Grow your campus involvement. Being a Boilermaker means that you will have exposure to new ideas, people and activities. You don’t know what you don’t know, so get out there and grow!

FUN FACTS
• I am married to my best friend who is opposite of me in all our career and personality assessments.
• We have one daughter that keeps us busy with her dance schedule.
• As a family, we love to travel and try new foods. Our most adventurous family meal while traveling was at a hot dog restaurant in Colorado where we tried an ostrich and elk “hot dog.”

Leah Criss

HOMETOWN
West Lafayette, IN

EDUCATION
B.A., English Language in a Global Context and Linguistics; Minors in Asian American Studies, Chinese, and German; Purdue University

ADVICE FOR FUTURE BOILERMAKERS
It’s the memories and the relationships you build that will remain with you after graduation.
Study well, attend all your classes, join a student organization, and make time for friends. Don’t put off opportunities merely because there are still four more years. You never know when a pandemic or another emergency will prevent you from being able to experience those things.

FUN FACTS
• Due to my interest in language acquisition, I’ve studied German, French, and Mandarin Chinese. Eventually, I hope to add more languages to that list.
• I invented a language family. Most of my languages are great for epic poetry and smiting an enemy with lightning, but they’re not so great for everyday use.
• I changed my major three times before I even started college.
GET TO KNOW

Karla Cunningham

HOMETOWN
Paris, IL

EDUCATION
M.S., Student Personnel, Indiana State University
B.A., French Education; Minor in English Education; 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 travelled 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.

---

EDUCATION

M.S., Student Personnel, Indiana State University
B.A., French Education; Minor in English Education; Indiana State University

Bremen, IN

M.S.Ed., School Counseling, Purdue University
B.A., Mass Communication, 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. I am also a wealth of random Purdue history knowledge.
- I am a self-described life-long learner (or, as my husband says, an "investigator"). I will gladly enter a Wikipedia wormhole for hours learning about new things!
- My husband and I are excited for our growing family and will be welcoming our first child this year (maybe a future Boilermaker).
GET TO KNOW

Linda Gregory

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

ADVICE FOR FUTURE BOILERMAKERS
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 to Hawaii two weeks after I graduated.
• We have two children (one who's a Purdue Alum also).
• I love dogs and enjoy traveling and games of all sorts.

GET TO KNOW

Miranda Jack

HOMETOWN
I spent my childhood in Albany, NY and my formative years in Denver, CO. I came to Indiana for graduate school and still call it home.

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

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 free time 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 good recommendations!
HOMETOWN

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

EDUCATION

B.L.A., Landscape Architecture, Ball State University

ADVICE FOR 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, and my family.
- I love learning! My interests include film, music and music history, fashion and fashion history, dance, education, animals, science, travel and culture, and technology. In addition, I have two magnificent, leash-trained felines. Their dorkiness makes me laugh every day!
**Ashlyn Ruff**

**HOMETOWN**
Monticello, IN
Born in Monticello, lived in Indianapolis, and now calls Lafayette home.

**EDUCATION**
M.S., Communication: Strategic Communication, Purdue University
B.S., Communication: Electronic Media; Minor in Theatre; University of Indianapolis

**ADVICE FOR FUTURE 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. 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.
- My family loves Christmas, and our house is fully decorated for the holidays by the end of the first week of November.

---

**Angie Sigo**

**HOMETOWN**
La Porte, IN

**EDUCATION**
A.S., Computer Programming & Applications

**ADVICE FOR FUTURE BOILERMAKERS**
- Don’t waste time regretting the past. It can’t be changed, and every decision you’ve made was a learning experience, as long as you treat it as such.
- Sometimes, we have to step outside our comfort zone to truly learn about ourselves - Don’t be afraid to explore new pathways at Purdue.
- Have fun, Boilermaker! Don’t be afraid to be silly with people you trust.

**FUN FACTS**
- I’m a voracious reader with no genre preference... if it’s a good story, written by a talented author, I’m in!
- I’m married to my best friend, with whom I am FREQUENTLY silly. I highly recommend this course of action.
- I have two crazy, amazing daughters. I knew I’d won parenting when they enjoyed Dr. Horrible’s Sing-Along Blog.
Scott Vana

**HOMETOWN**
Chicago, IL
Born in Chicago, IL; lived in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Kentucky, and now in the 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 who are all married and eight grandkids
- Lives on an old farm (complete with barn & chicken coop) and has lots of pets
- Performed in concert as a back-up singer with Barry Manilow while in college
- Started college at Michigan State University as an exploratory/undecided student, but at the time it was called “No Preference”

Cara Wetzel

**HOMETOWN**
Chesterton, IN, and now West Lafayette, IN

**EDUCATION**
M.S., Mathematics, Purdue University
B.S., Mathematics, Purdue University
A.S., Computer Technology, Purdue University

**ADVICE FOR FUTURE BOILERMAKERS**
Everyone will tell you that college is different than high school.
Listen to them! You will have to work harder than you ever have before to achieve your goals. Learn time management now and save yourself from being completely overwhelmed! Purdue has so many things to offer outside the classroom—learn to manage your time so you can experience them!

**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’ve been on Facebook for years—you can find me there!
- I like puns—the dumber the better.
**Kate Winton**

**HOMETOWN**
Born in Elkhart, IN, I now live in Indianapolis, IN.

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

**ADVICE FOR FUTURE BOILERMAKERS**
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**
- Maine is my favorite place to visit any time of year!
- I love to travel with my husband as often as possible and try to check art museums off my bucket list everywhere we go.
- I love to be outside! Either in my garden or paddle boarding any chance I get!
- Took 10 Exploratory students to Paris in the Spring for a study abroad!

---

**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**
M.Ed., Higher Education Leadership and Policy, The University of Texas at Austin
B.A., Sociology; Minor in Urban Planning, University of California San Diego

**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 recently retired from a hardcore raiding guild in World of Warcraft.
- When I’m not doing nerdy things, I like fishing, hiking, binge watching TV shows, collecting mechanical keyboards, and complaining about my fantasy football team.
- I also enjoy playing pranks on my cat, Gunner.
Andrea Yeoman
Lafayette, IN

**EDUCATION**
B.S., Business Administration, Indiana Wesleyan University
A.A.S., Secretarial Sciences, Indiana Vocational Technical College

**ADVICE FOR FUTURE BOILERMAKERS**

Explore opportunities to get involved in an organization.
You’ll make new friends and begin building a social network that you can lean on throughout your college journey and beyond.

**FUN FACTS**
- I’m married and have three children; one attends Purdue.
- I love elephants, scented candles, and watching Hallmark Channel.
- Volleyball is my favorite sport.
- I enjoy jigsaw puzzles and word searches.
- Summer welcomes community fair events where I can be seen making elephant ears, corn dogs, and lemonade or orange shakes. Events include: The Fiddler’s Gathering, Stars and Stripes Festival, Tippecanoe County 4H Fair, and Apple Popcorn Festival.
- My favorite radio station is K-LOVE.