

GET TO KNOW

COLLEEN BANTER

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



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!



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GET TO KNOW

LYNETTE BLEED

ACADEMIC ADVISOR



HOMETOWN

I am a lifelong Indiana resident. I grew up in Northwest Indiana (close to Fair Oaks), went to I.U. Bloomington, spent one year in South Bend, and then moved to Fort Wayne where my husband and I lived for 30+ years before making West Lafayette our home.

EDUCATION

- M.A., Professional Communication Studies, Purdue University Fort Wayne
- B.S., Business Management; Minor in Sociology, Indiana University.

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 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.

GET TO KNOW

JO BOILEAU

(HE/HIM/HIS)

SENIOR RECRUITMENT MANAGER



HOMETOWN

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 consider myself a novice coffee connoisseur, and am always looking for the best cup everywhere I go.
- I enjoy hammocking, going to the gym, and tossing a frisbee during those crisp first few days of Midwest Spring.

GET TO KNOW

JESSICA CHAPMAN

ACADEMIC ADVISOR



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."



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KARLA CUNNINGHAM

SENIOR ACADEMIC ADVISOR



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 traveling, 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.

GET TO KNOW

ASHLEY DORAN

(SHE/HER)

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



HOMETOWN

Lowell, IN

I was a Region Rat my entire life before moving to West Lafayette in 2019. I now call Lafayette home.

EDUCATION

- A.A.S, Software Development, Ivy Tech
- Certificate, Web Foundation, Ivy Tech
- Certificate, Java Application Development, Ivy Tech
- Technical Certificate, Software Development, Ivy Tech

ADVICE FOR FUTURE BOILERMAKERS

Absorb and enjoy all your time and experiences at Purdue.

Find a healthy balance between dedicating time to class work as well as time for social occasions. Explore everything Purdue has to offer - even if that means stepping out of your comfort zone sometimes. I firmly believe it's just as important to learn about yourself in college as it is to learn about academics!

FUN FACTS

- Art is one of my favorite hobbies. I love to create things in any way possible, notably via graphite drawing, acrylic painting, charcoal, mixed media, and wood working. I aspire to incorporate my art into my professional life one day.
- I attended Purdue for several semesters as a student in plans to obtain a higher degree right before the Covid-19 Pandemic started and threw a wrench in my plans (remember to enjoy those experiences, you never know what can happen!).
- My favorite genre of music is pop-punk.
- I'm a big history fan of the Medieval Times and the Renaissance.
- I love getting new tattoos whenever I can! My artist books out MONTHS in advance, sometimes it feels like an extreme sport trying to even get an appointment!

GET TO KNOW

KARA GREEN

ACADEMIC ADVISOR



HOMETOWN

Bremen, IN

EDUCATION

- 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!

GET TO KNOW

LINDA GREGORY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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.



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MIRANDA JACK

ACADEMIC ADVISOR



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!

GET TO KNOW

MARY BETH LENCKE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



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 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.

GET TO KNOW

JENNIFER McDONALD

SENIOR ACADEMIC ADVISOR



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.Cert., Instructional Design & Technology, Purdue University Global
- 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 FOR FUTURE BOILERMAKERS

- **Be persistent.** What I often see from first-year students is a "hot start," followed by a mid-semester motivation plummet, resulting in lackluster grades and bruised egos. Instead, view each semester as if you were running a marathon, not a sprint. This requires planning, consistent action, and unflagging determination to reach your goals!
- **Be open to learning from everyone and everything.** This is my mantra - and it takes real discipline and humbleness. The more I learn, the more I realize how much I still have to learn! So, be curious, even about things that don't directly fit into your major. You are a complex and interesting being! Also, don't be afraid to talk to tons of people to gain new perspectives - even if you do not agree with them. The world's a complex and interesting place!
- **Be realistic.** Recognize and respect your strengths and your limitations. Accepting and valuing your unique abilities and personality allows you to be open to new opportunities that you never realized existed.
- **Realize that career exploration is a complex, life-long process.** Career exploration can sometimes seem like a "hurry up and wait" proposition. Everyone wants you to pick a major, career, lifestyle, etc. right now, as if it were a single, one-time event. This stressful expectation can lead to "decision paralysis" for sure! In reality, career exploration is a cycle of gathering, reflecting, and applying that you will experience many times during college - and throughout your life. Knowing that you are making small, additive decisions over a long time can take the anxiety out of the exploration process!.

FUN FACTS

- 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!

GET TO KNOW

ASHLYN RUFF

SENIOR ACADEMIC ADVISOR



HOMETOWN

I'm from Monticello, IN, lived in Indianapolis for several years, and now call 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 the fall for Halloween.
- I'm a very creative person and enjoy things like painting and crafting.
- We love to celebrate the holidays in our house! But my favorite holiday is Christmas. I always make sure my house is decorated by the end of the first week of November.



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ANGIE SIGO

LEAD ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



HOMETOWN

LaPorte, 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.

GET TO KNOW

SCOTT VANA

SENIOR ACADEMIC ADVISOR



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 nine grandkids.
- Lives on an old farm and has three donkeys, three cats, two birds, and one dog as pets.
- Performed in concert as a back-up singer with Barry Manilow while in college.
- Started college at Michigan State University as in exploratory/undecided student, but at the time it was called "No Preference".

GET TO KNOW

CARA WETZEL

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



HOMETOWN

I was raised in Porter and Chesterton, Indiana, near Lake Michigan. Most of my family still lives near there. However, I now claim West Lafayette as my home. Go Boilers!

EDUCATION

- M.S., Mathematics, Purdue University
- B.S., Mathematics, Purdue University
- A.S., Computer Technology, Purdue University

ADVICE FOR FUTURE BOILERMAKERS

It is okay to change your mind!

Take the opportunity to learn about yourself this year. Learn what you like and what you dislike. Learn what is truly important to you. As you learn about yourself, you will grow. Sometimes this growth leads you down an alternate path than the one you are on now. That is okay.

It is okay to change your mind!

FUN FACTS

- I live with my husband Jeff, daughter Zoe (a student in UX Design), son Charlie, our cats Bella and Princess, and our ferret Banana.
- I have toys and crayons in my office if you ever need to feel like a child.
- My favorite things include puns, math jokes, office supplies, Diet Dr. Pepper, cheese, and Grogu.

GET TO KNOW

KATE WINTON

ACADEMIC ADVISOR



HOMETOWN

Elkhart, IN

Currently living 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!
- I am the Study Abroad Coordinator for EXPL. So far, I've taken students to Paris and Lisbon. London is in the queue for 2024!



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NATHAN WONG

ACADEMIC ADVISOR



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.

GET TO KNOW

ANDREA YEOMAN

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



HOMETOWN

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 shakeups. 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.