

“The first time I interacted with Jan Buckles was my junior year in the Nutritional Sciences BS Program. I was taking a required food science course that included a lab where students had to create variations of food products with health benefits, run taste tests, and analyze and report findings in a final report. I created peanut butters with varying amounts of soy nuts added to enhance the phytoestrogen content for bone health. Jan had provided all of the supplies I would need on two nicely organized trays, including three food processors so that I could efficiently mix my three nut butters. Long story short, things didn't go so well, and Jan was nothing but supportive when I brought back not one, but two food processors filled with lumpy nut paste and burnt up motors. I was so scared to tell Jan that I had destroyed the equipment she had provided for my project. But tender-hearted Jan wasn't upset at all. She gave me a big hug, helped me problem-solve, and told me not to worry about the food processors. That night I learned that the Storeroom in Stone Hall was a very special place where you could find love, support, and friendship from Jan Buckles. As I finished my BS and transitioned into the Nutritional Sciences Doctoral Program at Purdue, I continued to enjoy Jan's company while seeing how she gave so much to each and every student in the Nutrition Programs. Jan created a sense of community and family in Stone Hall that has built a strong network and continues to thrive.” - Corrie Whisner

“I wasn't introduced to Jan until my final year at Purdue, but she quickly became a mentor and a friend. Every time I walked into the storeroom in Stone Hall, I was greeted with a smile and a word of encouragement. Jan's work ethic truly showed her selfless, generous nature and ultimately her dedication to enriching the lives of all the students who crossed paths with her. To this day, Jan continues to be a source of inspiration and hope in my life through her small acts of kindness. I am forever grateful for our time together at Purdue!” - Rebecca Ballenger

Jan created a special place in the storeroom that became a home away from home at Purdue. It was a place where you went for comfort or advice or encouragement. She made everyone feel welcome and always had a smile and made the best food! The caring environment she created in the Nutrition Department was a priceless of my time at Purdue.

“Working with Jan at Camp Calcium are some of my favorite college memories. The kitchen was often hot and the dishes to wash were endless, but she made the work so fun during those summers. She was not just a boss but also a mentor. Congratulations Jan! You are so deserving of this award.” - Staci Gerken

“Jan is such an amazing mentor, colleague, and friend. She always leads by example, and her heart and passion is the students she worked with and ensuring she always set us up for success.

One of my favorite memories with Jan was spending a summer working alongside her organizing the storeroom. No shelf was untouched, no product unturned. We would play music and work the day away. One of the greatest things about Jan is that spending time with her never felt like work. And, if a student needed a special ingredient for a project, you better believe she would make sure the student had it! She embodies altruism at her very core, and she created an environment that made us feel a home away from home. Jan made my transition into college a breeze because I could feel how much she cared for me and all of the students she worked for. (And she would correct me here and say ‘Kayleen, it’s all of the students I worked WITH!’) Many of us even referred to her as our ‘mom’ or ‘Mama Jan’.

Jan also has a beautiful smile, and I still tell her that I strive to live my life more like her everyday...hardworking with a kind heart. As Jan would say, ‘You make my heart smile!’

She is a fantastic colleague, person, mentor...and no one is more deserving of this award than Jan Buckles!” - Kayleen Weister

“I never had the honor of working as a student assistant to Jan in her infamous 4 walls. However, I do remember coming into the Food Science lab for class or rummaging through her cabinets for props and platters, and there she was! She had grocery bags in her hand, humility in her aura, and a smile on her face. Jan didn't teach in the form of lectures, she role modeled. She taught me so much about what's important in life - kindness. She is the most thoughtful person I know, and I took her lessons with me when I graduated.” -**Colette Tyler, RD**

““The most truly generous persons are those who give silently without hope of praise or reward.”- Carol Ryrie Brink.

Little did I know back in 2006 when I opened up the big double doors of the storeroom in Stone Hall that the person beaming back at me would become my lifelong friend and my American ‘Mammy Jan’. While I’ve lived in many places since I left Purdue in 2008, I have yet to meet anyone as compassionate, generous, and kind as ‘Mammy Jan’ Buckles.

While Jan will humbly refer to herself as just ‘the storeroom lady’ she was so much more to any student who was lucky enough to meet her. She took every student under her wing and provided the encouragement that was often needed on the long hard evenings during labs. As the weeks wound down though, it was Jan’s post-seminar Friday lunches that really brought nourishment and good cheer to the whole department!

But it was outside the walls of Stone Hall that I truly felt the warmth and caring nature of Jan. Jan was the first person I called when I was homesick after returning back from Ireland. She was the one who came to my door and wiped my tears away when my husband left to start his military career. She was the person who took me to the doctor and held my hand when I was in pain. The person who brought me to the store when I needed food and picked me up at 05:30 on her way to work so I didn’t have to walk to class in the cold.

While I lived thousands of miles away from home and often struggled with my health during my time at Purdue, I never struggled alone. Jan was a dependable, motherly figure I could always rely on. I fondly started to refer to her as my American ‘Mammy’ Jan. My parents found great comfort knowing I had someone like Jan watching out for me. To this day, we all still refer to her as our ‘Mammy Jan’.

I was not the only Irish student who fell in love with Jan and felt her warm reception. Her generosity and caring nature are known by the many Irish students who have studied at Purdue. Jan became a legendary host of the Irish students, welcoming them at the airport and setting them up for a successful and memorable experience. She hosted many holiday parties and dinners and gave each Irish student a truly positive American experience, including obligatory trips to the mall!

Jan gives wholeheartedly without expecting anything in return. While her generosity can never fully be repaid by all those she has helped and cared for, her induction into the Purdue Hall of Fame is truly fitting as a reward for her dedication to Purdue. Congratulation Mammy Jan Buckles.” -**Fiona McKiernan**

“I had the great fortune of getting to know Jan during my time as an undergrad at Purdue. Like many students, I had worked with her on various school projects over the years, but it wasn’t until my senior year that I got to know her on a more personal level. She was looking for volunteers to help her prep food for a few events she was catering for the department, and I thought it sounded like a fun opportunity. Little did I know I was going to make a lifelong friend in the process. Jan and I quickly bonded over our love of trying new recipes and our dreams of opening a catering business one day. In the brief time we

spent together, I felt like I gained a “second mom” - one that I still to this day refer to fondly as my “Purdue Mom.”

Over ten years have passed and I’m so blessed to be able to say that I still receive many thoughtful cards, gifts, and kind words from Jan. She has been one of my greatest supporters as I’ve made the transition from a shy, young undergrad to a working professional, wife, and mom. Her warm heart and thoughtfulness continue to inspire me, and I can only hope to one day be a fraction of the woman that Jan is. I cannot think of a person more deserving of this award!” - **Jacquie Vail, Class of 2011**

“As a Nutrition Science undergraduate and working in Stone Hall, it did not take me long to find out who was “Momma Jan.” The first time I met Ms. Jan, I was greeted with open arms and immediately felt like a part of the Nutrition Science family. It never mattered how busy she was running errands or organizing the store, she always had time to check in and see how you were doing.

There were many late nights and early mornings with Mini Camp Calcium. I could always count on Ms. Jan to give me a big hug and share some words of encouragement. It was always the trick to get me through those rough days.

Ms. Jan is and always will be the biggest fan of Purdue Nutrition Science. Sending support to students and their dietetic internship, creating a “Wall of Fame” with alumni, making t-shirts to show the passion for the department.... The list goes on! I know I can speak for many as she has touched so many hearts, including mine. The relationship we have built is to last a lifetime. I am so honored to have met Ms. Jan during my time at Purdue and seeing her being nominated for the Nutrition Science Hall of Fame Honor for 2022.” - **Kim Ziarko**

“I still refer to Jan as “Mama Jan” because in so many ways I feel that she was the mother of our department - not just to me but for many students. I loved working with and learning from her when I worked in the kitchen with Camp Calcium back in 2004 or 2005. I remember one night when I was going to ride my bike home and it was raining and we heard thunder... Jan absolutely insisted on giving me a ride home so that I would be safe. I could always stop by the storeroom for a quick hello or an item I was in need of when I was helping prepare food for research studies. Surrounding her desk, there were always pictures and cards from current and former students. She had absolute faith in my ability to land an excellent dietetic internship and I remember her encouraging me to apply to Mayo Clinic, which I did, and celebrating with me when I received acceptance at Johns Hopkins Bayview, which I had ranked as my top choice.

Later, as a graduate student, my classmates and I all looked forward to the amazing luncheon spreads that Jan would prepare for the department. It isn’t hard for Jan to win over your heart, and when coupled with her cooking skills we were all so grateful. She hosted get-togethers and potlucks big and small at her home where we got to meet her darling “fur babies” and her wonderful husband Steve. During the holidays she organized a cookie baking party where we all brought our favorite recipes, created a little personalized recipe booklet and swapped cookies to take home.

Jan has done an amazing job across the years and the miles staying in touch via Facebook, cards, and gifts that she loves to send in the mail. Now that I’m back in the area we get to meet for brunch and catch up on all the news. Jan demonstrated an incredible work ethic at Purdue, and true dedication to the College, the students, and her job. She also has one of the most generous hearts that I have ever encountered. I am so delighted that she is being inducted into the Hall of Fame!” - **Selena Baker**

“I worked for Jan off and on while she was the storeroom manager. She was a wonderful boss; she was kind and caring, and gave 110%, always. Many days she was at work by 4:30 am and often didn't leave until late evening. She was so organized and thoughtful; always went above and beyond for the students, staff, and faculty. The well-being of the students always came first for her; she was a mother figure to many undergraduates and graduate students, many who were far from home.

One of her favorite things to do was host. When Purdue brought in students from other countries such as Ireland, she often would volunteer to pick them up from the airport. She helped them get set up in their temporary homes, always making sure they had cooking utensils, sheets, and other comforts of home. She invited them over to her home numerous times, especially for holidays like Thanksgiving when they couldn't go home.

Jan and I became very close over the years when I was at Purdue. I lost my mother at a young age, and she became "my other mother", or M.O.D. She and I would often go shopping together in Indianapolis. One of our favorite places to go was The Cheesecake Factory at Keystone mall, and then to Crate and Barrel. She is honestly one of the best humans I know.” -Lauren Neuenschwander