



The Book of Great Teachers

Honoring the University's finest teachers

The Book of Great Teachers, dedicated on April 23, 1999, is a permanent walnut and bronze wall plaque on display in the west foyer of the Purdue Memorial Union.

It bears the names of 309 past and present faculty members who have devoted their lives to excellence in teaching and scholarship. The plaque honors the accomplishments of Purdue's best faculty and recognizes their long-term contributions to the University.

It is time to add new names to The Book of Great Teachers. The nomination process occurs every five years and will resume in 2013. New initiates will be recognized in fall 2013.

Eligibility Information

- Professors on the West Lafayette campus with 10 years of service to the University who have been previously honored with the Charles B. Murphy Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award and 10 years of service, or recognized as Indiana Professor of the Year, or those named by the trustees as distinguished professors for teaching, are automatically included in the book
- Faculty nominees (West Lafayette campus) without the awards above must have 15 years of service to the University to be included in the book.

Among the 309 faculty members listed in The Book of Great Teachers are:

- **Herbert Brown**, professor emeritus of chemistry and winner of the 1979 Nobel Prize in chemistry, who is internationally recognized for his contributions to the field of synthetic organic chemistry.
- **Lillian Gilbreth**, professor emeritus of industrial psychology and renowned researcher in time-motion studies, who served the University first as visiting professor of industrial engineering in 1924 and later as professor of management from 1935 to 1948.
- **Michael Golden**, professor and later head of practical mechanics, who came to Purdue in the 1880s. He was a great teacher at Purdue back when faculty challenged students to a football game each year and was known to be as tough on the gridiron as in the classroom.
- **Mary Matthews**, professor of domestic economy, who served the University for 40 years and was the founding dean of the School of Home Economics in 1926, which was later renamed the College of Consumer and Family Sciences.
- **Andrey Potter**, dean of engineering from 1920 to 1953, largely credited with leading Purdue to its position among the top engineering schools of the world.