



# *LAVENDER GRADUATION YEARBOOK*

CLASS OF 2021



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**PURDUE  
UNIVERSITY®**

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,  
Transgender, and Queer Center



*Gateway to the Future. Credit: Purdue University Marketing & Communications*

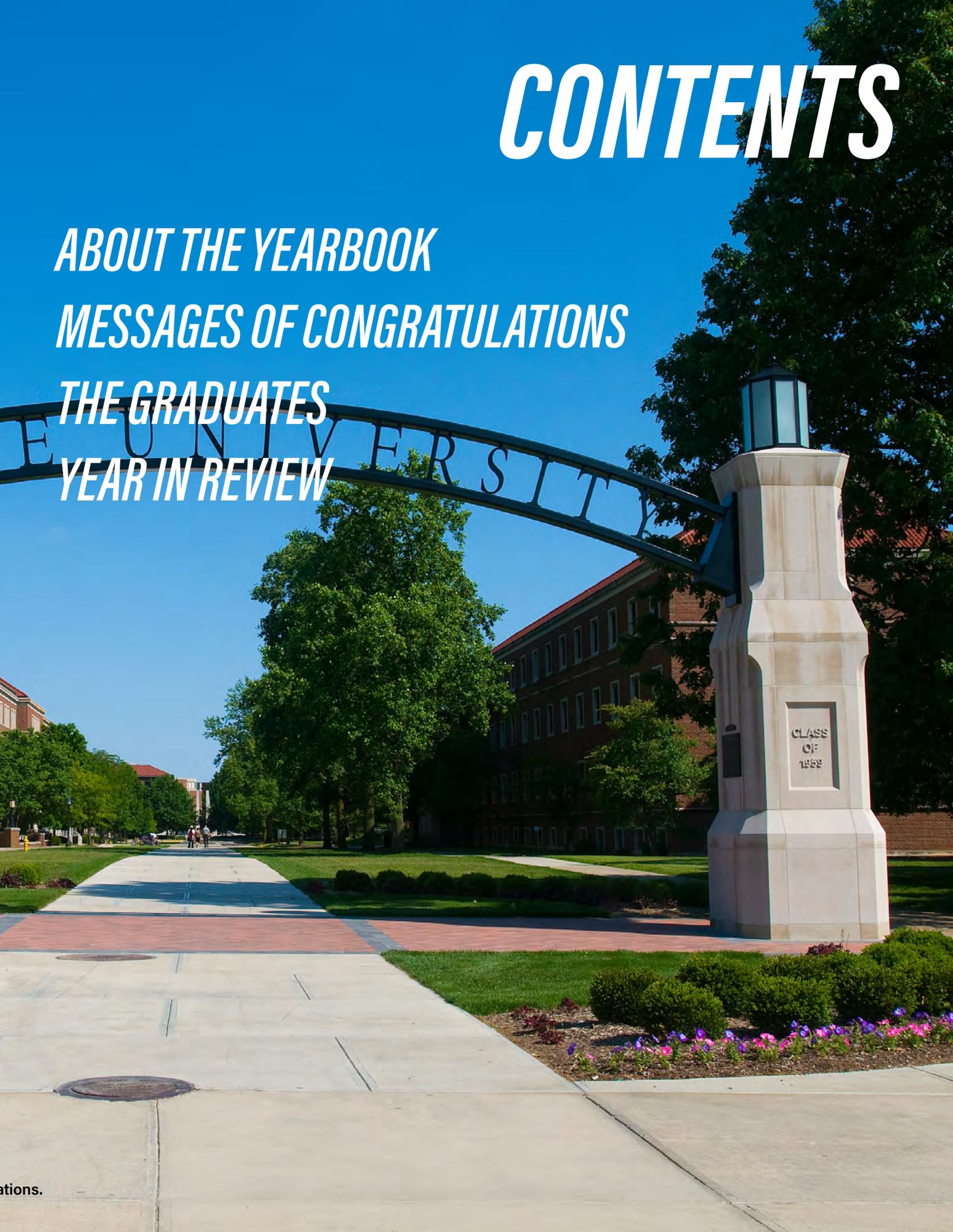
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# ABOUT THE 2021 YEARBOOK

The Purdue LGBTQ Center is proud to publish the 2021 Lavender Graduation Yearbook. While we wish we could celebrate with an in-person ceremony, this project has been a wonderful demonstration of the community and support that is present on Purdue's campus. Thank you to everyone who supported the creation of this publication.

This year, we are celebrating our largest class yet with ninety-one graduates! Collectively, they represent every college and every degree level granted by Purdue University. The accomplishments of the Lavender Graduation Class of 2021 are many and each member has left an indelible mark on Purdue University.

In preparation for this year's publication, we wanted to ensure that the achievements of LGBTQIA+ graduates could be honored, regardless of whether they are able to live openly. Though we continue to press toward equity for LGBTQIA+ people, the national conversation regarding systemic racism and oppression demonstrates that we have much work ahead of us before every person can live openly and freely.

Each graduate had the option to choose how they wanted their journey at Purdue to be recognized. Many chose to be featured publicly in the yearbook, but many opted to be recognized privately by LGBTQ Center staff and those closest to them. To each graduate, we see you and we celebrate your achievement.

We hope that this publication retains the essence of what Lavender Graduation is about: celebrating LGBTQIA+ graduates and their achievement.



Dear Lavender Graduates -

Congratulations on your fabulous achievement!

Lavender Graduation is a celebration that our community looks forward to every year as an opportunity to reflect on how far we've come, the legacy we are co-creating for future LGBTQ+ and Ally Boilermakers, and the incredible impact that you, our graduates have made during their time at Purdue. When the LGBTQ Center first coordinated this celebration in 2013, there were 6 graduates. This year we have the honor of recognizing a record-breaking 91 undergraduate and graduate students with certificates and rainbow stoles which can be worn during the Purdue University main graduation ceremony.

Your engagement, visibility, and leadership on campus throughout your Purdue career has helped our institution become one of the "Best of the Best" for LGBTQ+ students in the nation. Despite overwhelming challenges and seemingly insurmountable obstacles during this past year, you persisted through the pandemic to demonstrate the incredible resilience that is a hallmark of our community. You are Amazing.

The LGBTQ Center team hopes that this digital yearbook presents you with an opportunity to pause, celebrate, and receive all of the love and supportive messages from Purdue leadership, friends, and campus community members. We are so proud of you and your accomplishments, and we are certain that the best is yet to come...so please keep in touch with us at the LGBTQ Center. Congratulations once again!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lowell Kane".

Lowell Kane  
Director, LGBTQ Center  
Director, Student Engagement and Belonging

# ABOUT THE LGBTQ CENTER



## MISSION

The Purdue University LGBTQ Center strives to expand equity in all facets of campus life for all students, staff, and faculty through educational programs, engaging events, innovative training approaches, and university-wide advocacy efforts.

## VISION

To establish equitable access to a discrimination-free campus and position Purdue University as a leader in LGBTQIA+ inclusion strategies across higher education.

## HISTORY

The LGBTQ Center opened in July 2012 as the fourth cultural center within the [Division of Diversity and Inclusion](#) in order to 1) address concerns of safety and inclusion for LGBTQIA+ community members at Purdue and 2) create a more inclusive campus through education, advocacy, and academic engagement. A product of student, staff, and faculty activism, the LGBTQ Center supports approximately 7,500 students on campus who identify somewhere along the LGBTQIA+ spectrum, serves staff and faculty, and provides extension resources for the entire state in alignment with Purdue's land grant mission.

*PERSISTENCE  
REWARDED.*

CONGRATULATIONS to the

LESBIAN, GAY,  
BISEXUAL,  
TRANSGENDER,  
AND QUEER  
CENTER

**P** PURDUE  
UNIVERSITY



**LOWELL  
KANE**  
*DIRECTOR*



**AIDEN  
POWELL**  
*ASSISTANT DIRECTOR*



**KELSEY  
CHAPMAN**  
*PROGRAM COORDINATOR*



**AMY  
KIRCHGESSNER**  
*OFFICE MANAGER*



**LAUREN  
MURFREE**  
*GRADUATE ASSISTANT*



**SAVANNAH  
BROWN**  
*STUDENT WORKER*

# ABOUT THE LGBTQ CENTER

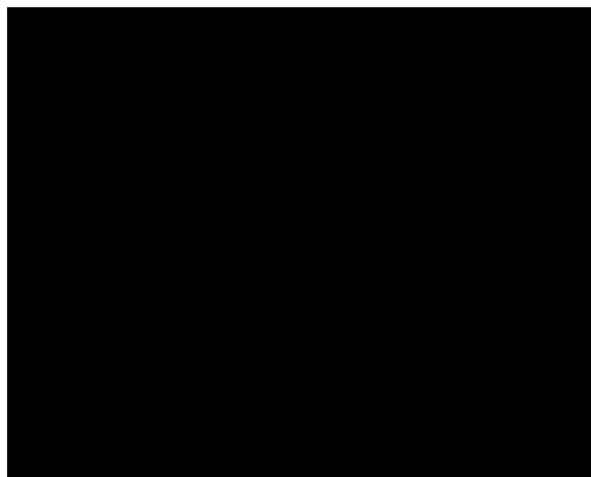
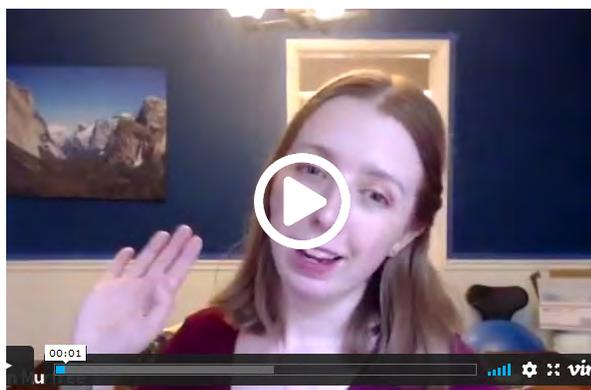
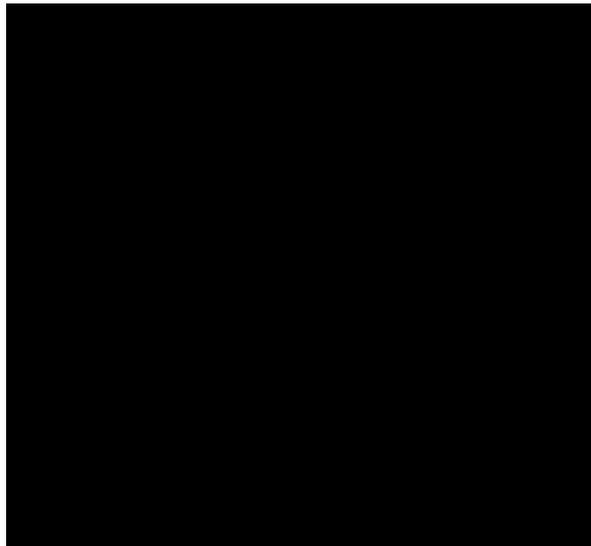
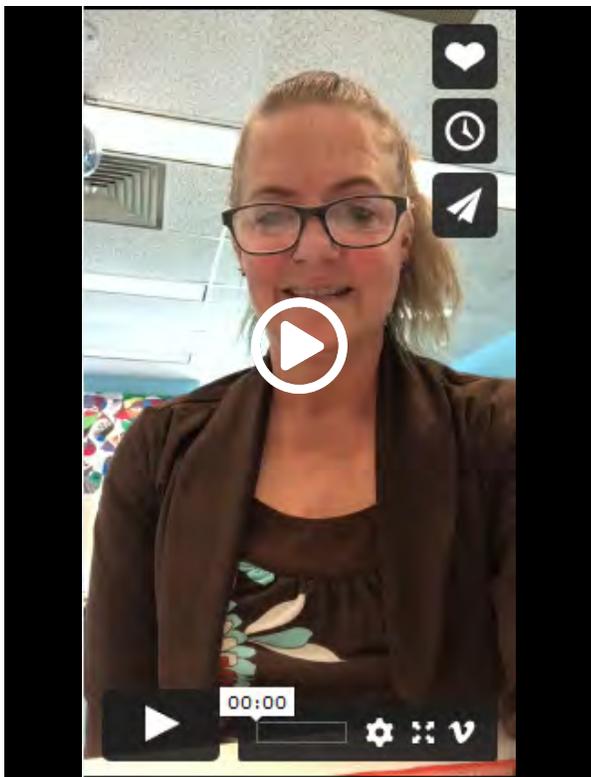
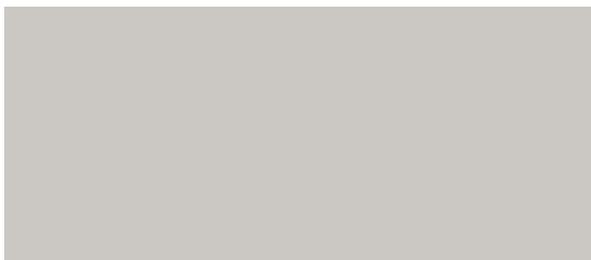
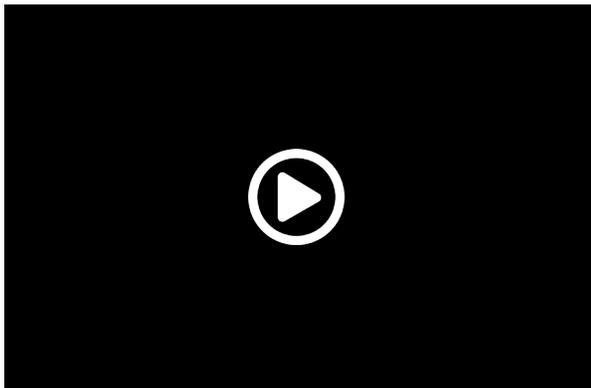


**2021  
BEST  
COLLEGES  
FOR  
LGBTQ+  
STUDENTS**  
campuspride.org

the persistent pursuit of a  
more inclusive community for all.

EA/EOU

# CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE LGBTQ CENTER!



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# *CONGRATULATIONS*

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# *GRADUATES!*

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Congratulations, Graduates!

You made it! You have met the challenges of a rigorous Purdue education, made even more challenging by the global pandemic that has affected virtually every aspect of your lives and your families' lives. We could not be more proud of your achievement!

I am sorry that we are not yet able to gather in person for Lavender Graduation, and I want you to know that I will miss doing so. I have attended a number of previous Lavender Graduations and they have always been moving, inspirational and truly joyous occasions. That said, I do hope you are able to attend the Ross-Ade commencement ceremony – or the Ph.D. ceremony in the Elliott Hall of Music – and will look upon this time with great pride for what you were able to accomplish under these most difficult circumstances.

I am so proud that we have 86 Lavender Graduates this year – some increase from the six students in the first Lavender Graduation cohort in 2013! The positive growth is in large measure because of LGBTQ Center Director Lowell Kane ... and you. You have been such an important part of the energy, excitement, innovation, support, and growth of the LGBTQ Center, the LGBTQ+ community, and our University more broadly, and that is another part of your Purdue legacy.

Congratulations again on your graduation and thank you for choosing Purdue. I wish you every continued success as you begin the next exciting chapter of your lives.

Hail Purdue!

Jay T. Akridge  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity



Dear Graduate,

You made it! It is with tremendous pride and a full heart that I celebrate you as a member of the 2021 graduating class of Purdue University. Truly, your success is the culmination of countless achievements—large and small, both within and outside of the classroom. Whatever the future holds, you will meet it as a Boilermaker; with cutting-edge knowledge and skills, creative ideas, and an exciting vision of tomorrow.

I also honor the struggles through which you have passed on your way to this milestone. As members and allies of LGBTQ communities, you will continue to find your way in a world that is still learning acceptance and inclusion. Despite significant advances in recent years, living a fully out and proud life remains out of reach for many people and you, too, may encounter familiar challenges as you move on to new pursuits. In such moments, I hope you remember to trust and take care of yourself, to seek out and build community, and to provide support and validation to others.

Although there remains some uncertainty about the future of the current pandemic, there are also countless examples of progress and reasons to be hopeful about the future. As you graduate into this ever-evolving situation, we at Purdue believe that you are now well-positioned to find ways of contributing to recovery efforts, to discover new, uncharted career paths, and to drive the forms of technological, social, and cultural innovation that will be needed in the coming years and decades.

Finally, I hope you also remember to believe in yourself and to remain committed to developing your own potential. Continue to discover and contemplate new aspects of your identity and to question and evaluate the assumptions others make of you. Cultivate an expanding awareness of the challenges faced by others as well as the privileges you experience. Although your time on our campus may have come to an end, you will continue change and grow. Wherever your journey takes you from here, travel confidently, authentically, and with a whole lot of flare!

Congratulations and Boiler Up!



John Fitzgerald Gates, Ph.D.  
Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion  
Clinical Professor, Krannert School of Management



Office of the Vice Provost  
for Student Life

Congratulations Graduates!

Soon you are about to become Purdue Alumni. I hope that you can reflect back to your time at Purdue with fondness for what you learned, the people you met, and the person you grew into.

Know that your accomplishments burn even brighter because this has been a most difficult year. You are to be commended for your dedication and your commitment to making it through.

Wishing you my absolute best as you begin this next phase in life!

Hail Purdue!  
Beth McCuskey  
Vice Provost for Student Life

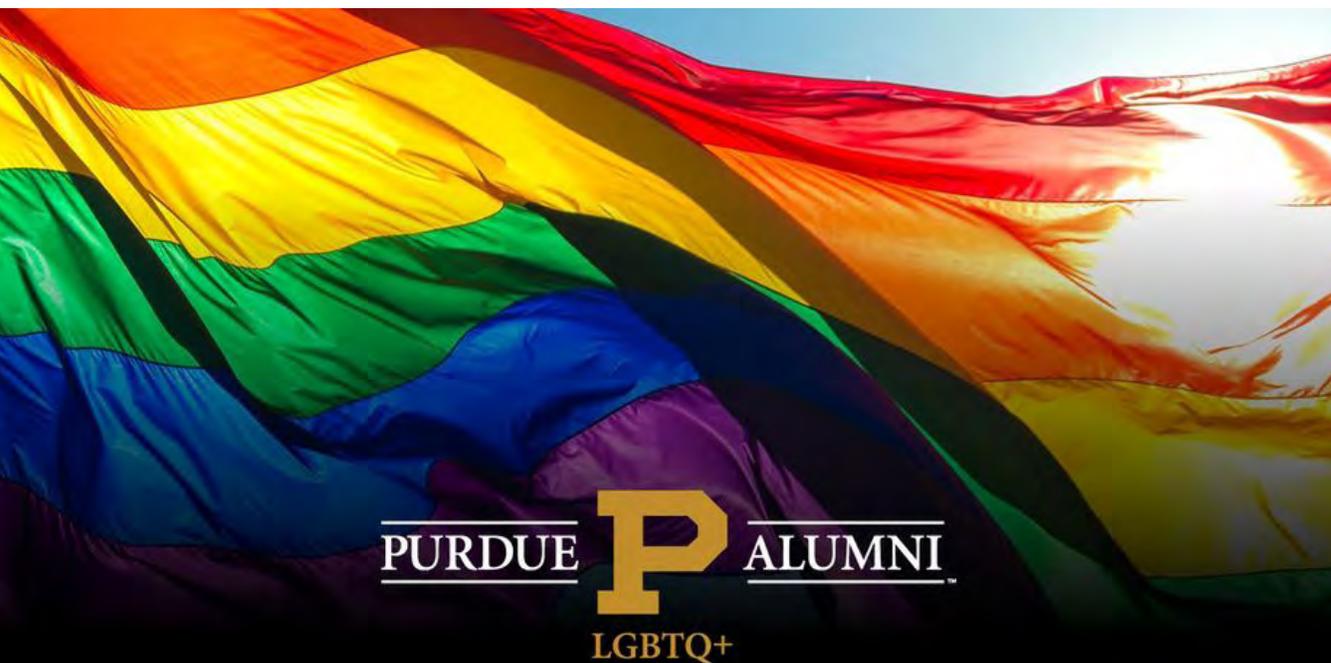


On behalf of all Purdue LGBTQ+ alumni & allies that have come before you, congratulations to every single one of you! You have made your LGBTQ+ community so proud of your Purdue journey thus far. Now that you have graduated from the best university in the world, we invite every single one of you to join us on your new journey with Purdue – your Purdue for Life journey. The [Purdue LGBTQ+ Network](#) connects a rich and diverse community of LGBTQ+ alumni & allies with opportunities to stay involved and connected to the University and one another. Learn more about us under Affinity Networks at [purdueforlife.org](http://purdueforlife.org).

Again, congratulations graduates! You inspire all Purdue LGBTQ+ alumni & allies more than you could ever imagine. We hope to meet you soon.

Hail Purdue!

- Christopher Rost (he/him/his), Purdue LGBTQ+ Alumni Network Chair & Maria L. Whipple (she/her/hers), Assistant Director, Regional Outreach, Purdue for Life Foundation



LGBTQ+ ALUMNI NETWORK

# CLASS OF 2021





# THE GRADUATES



## RESHAWYAL ABBAS

RETAIL MANAGEMENT, GENERAL COMMUNICATION

*B.A., B.S.*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

I'm the secretary of FRO and part of the TRIO program at Purdue called Horizons. I've gotten scholarships through that to help with tuition.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

I want to be a fashion designer and be an advocate for my community.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

I think it's hard to navigate as cis-dominant place for trans folx, because we don't fit the binary definition or standard of society, but what I can say is that above all else, we are all human, and that in itself can help us connect with one another, understand each other, and put ourselves in each other's shoes.



## GINA ANDREATTA

ANIMAL SCIENCES

*B.S.*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Presidential Scholarship 2017; Purdue Pre-Vet Club 2017-2021; Phi Mu Sorority 2017-2020

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

"Openness may not completely disarm prejudice, but it's a good place to start."  
-Jason Collins



## HEATHER BATTINICH

MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING  
TECHNOLOGY

*B.S.*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

I was involved with the Women in Technology programs as a teaching assistant for the WIT learning community seminar, a mentor with WiTty sisters, and an active participant in the student organization. And I so wish I would have gotten to be involved with the LGBTQ+ center sooner!

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

I will be participating in a rotational program at Subaru in Lafayette with the goal of working as a manufacturing engineer!



## SILENZE BENJAMIN

NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

*B.S.*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

SKY @ Purdue Club; Purdue Student Sustainability Council; Martin Agriculture Research Scholarship; NRES Commencement Student; Charles O. McGhaughey Leadership Award; Outstanding Student Award in Sophomore class in NRES; Citizens Award in Junior Class in NRES

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

Conduct research in the microbial environmental sciences in Dr. Hoagland's Lab at Purdue and contribute to systemic environmental changes in the life sciences.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

In the face of uncertainty, adversity, and hopelessness dare to continue to care about the things that give you a sense of peace and wholeness. Take care of yourself as you pursue the visions of an alternative better society/reality for others and the planet. Life is messy, but it is up to us to make what we want out of it. Take a deep breath, be kind to yourself, we are works in progress. (if this is too long, then I'll just summarize with: "Be kind to yourself, we are all works in progress")

# THE GRADUATES



## SYDNEY BLANN

INTEGRATED STUDIO ARTS;  
WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND  
SEXUALITY STUDIES

*B.F.A.*

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

After graduation I plan on using the skills and knowledge that I have learned as a

Studio Arts major to start my own business. I plan on creating my own studio space to create ceramic & metals work!



## KALEB BYERS

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING,  
POINT-OF-CARE RAPID  
DIAGNOSTICS FOR PATHOGEN  
DETECTION

*PhD*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

I served as President and various other leadership in BMEGSA. Was briefly a Purdue Climbing Club member. I am also an Activist Member of the Lafayette

chapter of the Younger Women's Task Force (YWTF) and a current Director of the Greater Lafayette chapter of Standing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). I've also been lucky to receive a Ross Fellowship and various travel grants to fund my PhD and cover international conference travel.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

I'm hoping to find a job in industry jobs where I can apply my skills to solving public health issues through low-cost, laboratory-free healthcare diagnostics.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

No one can do anything alone, even if everyone pretends to.



## EMILY CAIN

ENGLISH EDUCATION  
B.A.

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Executive Board Member and President (20-21), Convocations Volunteer Network (CVN); Usher, Loeb Playhouse and Elliott Hall of Music events; most memorable being Kinky Boots, STOMP, Blue Man Group, 88 Rising; Backstage involvement with a couple Purdue theatre productions; Worked as a set painter, stage hand, and assistant stage manager

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

Leo Bloom: Stop the world, I wanna get on! - The Producers



## JUSTIN CAMPBELL

WEB DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN  
B.S.

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Kayaking Safety Instructor, Purdue Outing Club; Member, Purdue Linux Users Group; Member, Purdue Navigators, President, localhost Cybersecurity club, Team Captain, Cyberforce and MITRE cybersecurity competitions, and active in the Purdue Standup Comedy Community. Recipient of several Purdue Promise scholarships.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

I've been working with Purdue ECN heading a large software development project for nearly two years and will continue to do so until this Fall where I hope to take a position with the College of Science IT group doing similar work.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

My favorite quote of all time is by W. E. B. Du Bois: "A man does not look behind the door unless he has stood there himself." To me this embodies my own experience that it takes living through difficult times to be able to support others in similar situation -- by extension those who are the most caring have often been hurt. In my mind this sets the stage for everyone having a story to tell and fuels my own desire for intentional relationships with everyone to learn their story.

# THE GRADUATES



## EMILY CARLSON

DEVELOPMENTAL AND FAMILY  
SCIENCE

*B.S.*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

I was a research assistant in the Measurement, Autism, and Child Development Lab

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

I am currently looking for jobs in the human services field, but want to attend graduate school in a few years.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

“Don’t sweat the petty things and don’t pet the sweaty things.” - George Carlin



## DOMENIC CONVERSA

COMPUTER SCIENCE

*B.S.*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Team Leader, 2019 Boiler Gold Rush; Member and design team leader, TEDxPurdueU; Ambassador for College of Science since Spring of 2019. Recipient of Purdue Presidential Scholarship, The Boeing Company CS Corporate Partners Scholarship (2019), and the CS Endowment Scholarship (2020, 2021).



## ABBIGAIL COPELAND

STUDIO ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY  
B.A.

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Gallery attendant, Purdue University Galleries. Recipient, Art and Design Departmental Awards (for painting and photography); Purdue University Presidential Scholarship; Purdue University Marquis Scholarship; Purdue University Alumni Scholarship; Walmart Stores Scholarship; Whitley County Community Foundation Scholarships; Purdue University Dean's List.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

Will begin working in management at Amazon in the fall.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

Never before have I worked so hard. I have learned so much about myself in just these short four years, it feels like I'm a completely different person than when I started. I want to say that I am forever grateful for my family and friends for getting me through these times, I don't know where I'd be without them. And now that I've graduated, I am excited to begin a new portion of my life.



## JOEY DOLAN

PSYCHOLOGY IN APPLIED  
BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS  
B.S.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

It is my plan to sit for my board certification as a coach before continuing on in my education journey to become a psychologist.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

"I believe that no one should ever have to choose between a career we love and living our lives with authenticity and integrity" --Out & Equal Executive Director Selisse Berry

# THE GRADUATES



## JARED FOEPPPEL

ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCE  
*B.S.*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Member of Purdue Undergraduate Geological Society (PUGS). Received the Henry Silver Undergraduate Scholarship.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

MS in Environmental and Green Chemistry at George Washington University.



## NICO GHANDHI

AEROSPACE ENGINEERING  
*B.S.*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Recipient of the Presidential Scholarship; Previously involved with SAE Aero, DBF, NOGLSTP (Vice President), Purdue Energetics Research Center; Currently involved with Project Boom!

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

“Radness Not Sadness”



## KIRSTEN GIBSON

COMMUNICATION  
M.A.

## ASSATA GILMORE

FINANCE  
B.S.

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Student Body President (2020-2021); Student Body Vice President (2019-2020);  
Business Opportunity Program(BOP); Black Voices of Inspiration (BVOI);  
Charles O McGaughey Award; Class of 1937 Award; Frances A Cordova Award;  
Jane Brock Wilson Scholarship

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

Financial Services Consulting - KPMG (Chicago)

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

Favorite quote/piece of advice: Don't wait for someone else to tell your story!

# THE GRADUATES



## GIOVANNI GUTIERREZ

ACCOUNTING  
B.S.

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

I am an active member of various organizations including the Golden Key International Honour Society and Business and Management Student Association.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

I plan on attending Purdue University Krannert School of Business for my master's in accounting spring of 2022.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

"Suddenly, he felt that the world had no place for him, despite how large it was." - Mo Dao Zu Shi



## EVAN HODES

MATHEMATICS, APPLIED  
STATISTICS  
B.S.

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Campus tour guide, Office of Admissions; Teaching assistant, Calculus I and II Impact courses; Resident Assistant, Cary Quadrangle. President, Swipe Out Starvation; Recipient, Mark Hopyy Memorial Scholarship from the Mathematics Department.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

Work as an actuarial analyst at a healthcare consulting firm in Chicago.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

"The sun comes up and the world still spins."



## QUINN HOULIHAN

WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES; ANTHROPOLOGY

*B.A.*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Member, PAST(Purdue Anthropology Society), Triota Honor Society, FACT (Feminist Action Coalition Today), LGBTQ Student Alliance; Treasurer, PAST & Triota; Student peer coach, Span Plan; UTA, Purdue Writing Lab.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

I plan to attend grad school after I graduate from Purdue.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

If an opportunity presents itself, grab it. You never know where it will lead. The best things happened when I stepped out of my comfort zone and challenged myself. It either works out or it doesn't, but I never looked at anything as a failure, just something to learn from.



## LOUISA HOUSKAMP

PROFESSIONAL FLIGHT, GERMAN  
*B.A., B.S.*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Treasurer, Purdue Flight Team. Member & Bronze executive board member, Purdue Bells. Member, Delta Phi Alpha, a German honors society. Purdue Flight instructor, teaching instrument, commercial, and simulator courses. I've assisted in the development curriculum for an upcoming Part 142 jet type rating program at Purdue.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

I hope to flight instructor job to build flight time and experience. Eventually, I would like to fly business jets at a charter or corporate aviation operation.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

“So whatever you want to do, just do it. Making a damn fool of yourself is absolutely essential.” -Gloria Steinem. I picked my college and career because I thought it would be fun (and because I rolled a die and went with what it landed on). In the end, I'm incredibly glad I went this route and couldn't imagine being elsewhere. I am just hoping to continue to make a fool of myself by making those decisions that bring me, and hopefully those around me, the most happiness.



## DANA KIEFER

NURSING  
*B.S.*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

I am a part of the Purdue University Honors College and a member of Gamma Rho Lambda National Sorority.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

After graduation, I will be working in Fort Wayne at Parkview Regional Medical Center as a registered nurse.



## LOGAN KULINSKI

COMPUTER SCIENCE

B.S.

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Course Coordinator, CS18000, 2017-2021. Assisted with instruction of Java Programming Language & object-oriented programming concepts. Recipient, Computer Science Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Award.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

I am looking to work as an entry level software engineer and later work on Java

Programming Language & Virtual Machine in OpenJDK. I'd like to apply my skills and knowledge to coffee or politics (two my other interests).

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

I would like to thank everyone at the LGBTQ Center for the great memories and discussions that I've had. I've learned a lot about myself and others, and hope to keep in touch in the future.



## QUENTIN LANGE

SELLING & SALES MANAGEMENT

B.S.

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Member, Delta Mu Kappa, Sigma Nu, Doster Leadership Conference, BGR Team Leader, Purdue Collegiate Sales Team; Peer Mentor, Disability Resource Center. I interned at several companies and studied abroad in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and in London, England. Top 10 finalist for the Outstanding Senior of the year award for my major!

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

I will leave Purdue with a full time job starting in August as an Account Executive at Microsoft out of the Washington, D.C. office.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

I think it's my personality to overcome things, learn from them and become stronger, both personally and professionally. To be honest, I welcome those hardships. -Hope Solo

# THE GRADUATES



## BRITTANY LOCK

HIGHER EDUCATION

*M.S.*

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

“The joy of life comes from our encounters with new experiences, and hence there is no greater joy than to have an endlessly changing horizon, for each day to have a new and different sun.” - Chris McCandless



## KIERSTEN LOFTON

APPLIED STATISTICS

*B.S.*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Vice President (2020-2021) and Treasurer (2019-2020) of Boiler Tracks; Treasurer (2019-2021) of Tau Beta Sigma; Soprano in the Black Voices of Inspiration through the BCC (2020-2021); Student and Tutor at Horizons Student Support Services (each year); Barista at Greyhouse (Spring 2021); Purdue Data Mine (2019-2021); College of Science Ambassador

(2019-2020); Scholarships: Emerging Leaders Science Scholar, College of Science Merit (Spring 2019), Paul Dale Memorial Scholarship (Spring 2021), Alan and Sharon Levy Scholarship (2019-2021), Actuarial Science Award (Spring 2019)

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

I will be working at Discover Financial Services in their two year General Business Rotational Program in Riverwoods, Illinois.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

Closed mouths don't get fed.



## JODEE LYNCH

SOCIOLOGY

B.A.

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Throughout my time in Gamma Rho Lambda, Purdue's Multicultural LGBTQ+ social sorority, I have acted as the President, New Member Educator, Philanthropy Director, and Public Relations Manager. Vice President of Administration, Multicultural Greek

Council, Member, the Boiler Bakers baking and decorating club; Member of the fundraising committee for Purdue University Dance Marathon.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

It is our job to disturb the comfortable. To force those who consider themselves blissfully unaffected, to engage, acknowledge, learn, witness, and act. To challenge spaces that need to be challenged. - Sarah Kay



## MARIAH MAHONEY

CHEMISTRY

B.S.

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

President of LGBTQ+ Student Alliance (2019-2021)

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

Fingers crossed for a chemist position, preferably in a medical or research lab!

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

"If not me, then who? If not now, then when?"

# THE GRADUATES



## OLIVIA MARTINEZ-RICE

MULTIDISCIPLINARY ENGINEERING  
*B.S.*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

I have been a Resident Assistant at Earhart Hall for 3 years and was apart of the theatre Co-Ed Theatre Fraternity Alpha Psi Omega all 4 years. I have been fortunate enough to receive a Civil Engineering scholarship and the University Residences Impact Award while here at Purdue.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” -Maya Angelou



## SARAH MCDANELL

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE HONORS,  
APPLIED STATISTICS  
*B.S.*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Recipient, National Merit Finalist Scholarship, Purdue Presidential Scholarship, Milliman Award in Actuarial Science, College of Science Actuarial Science Scholarship, Outstanding Senior in Actuarial Science Award, and Championing Diversity Award. Mentor, Women in Science Program (WISP); Member, Purdue’s Actuarial Club; Treasurer,

LGBTQ+ Student Alliance.; TA, The Data Mine. Head soccer official, a supervisor, and an operations specialist, Purdue Recreation and Wellness.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

After graduation, I will be moving to downtown Indianapolis, IN to work as an Actuarial Assistant for OneAmerica.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

“It’s Not Easy Bein’ Green”



## MARIAH MENDOZA

POLITICAL SCIENCE

B.A.

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Treasurer of my residence hall club; Treasurer, Purdue YDSA chapter; Student Director, Purdue Votes Coalition. I dedicated my time to serving my campus community by organizing events and encouraging civic participation. Awarded the 2020 Clare Frances De Cleene Internship Scholarship. Graduating with distinction in political science.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

I plan to do paralegal work after graduation with a law firm committed to serving formally incarcerated people and assisting them in reobtaining their rights. Later, I intend to go to law school to become an immigration lawyer.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

“I want to live the rest of my life, however long or short, with as much sweetness as I can decently manage, loving all the people I love, and doing as much as I can of the work I still have to do. I am going to write fire until it comes out of my ears, my eyes, my noseholes -- everywhere. Until it’s every breath I breathe.” - Audre Lorde



## ASMETT MORALES

TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION

M.S.

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Fulbright Scholar; I love how Purdue gave me the opportunity to meet people from different countries and backgrounds, and how learning and sharing about our cultures, experiences and point of views, helped me to become a better version of myself.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

Hopefully to become a consultant in technology and digital strategy

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

My favorite quote: “Make yourself proud” - Unknown

# THE GRADUATES



## ABIGAIL NAWROCKI

SOCIOLOGY

*PhD*

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

“But you see now baby, whether you have a PhD, DD, or no D, we’re in this bag together. And whether you are from Morehouse or Nohouse, we’re still in this bag together.”

-Fannie Lou Hamer



## MYRACLE NEWSOME

ANTHROPOLOGY

*B.A.*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

I have been an executive member of the Queer Students of Color (QSOC) for 4 years. Additionally, I’ve partnered with several campus entities to advocate for the LGBTQ+ community as a whole, including the LGBTQ+ Cultural Center, the Latino Cultural Center, the Black Cultural Center and the Asian and Asian American Cultural Center, to name a few. In 2018 I was awarded the Pride and Progress award by the LGBTQ Center.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

I look forward to entering the video game and television industries as a cultural consultant. I can’t work in a hotel forever.



## ANDRÉS OBANDO-TABORDA

SPANISH AND LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE

*M.A.*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Teaching has been an enriching experience for my students and myself; I have been also part of the French club and the LGBTQ Center, which has helped me connect with the campus community and other fields.

I recently won the first place in the LGBTQ Studies Award category in Purdue University's 90th Annual Literary Awards Contest.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

My academic plan is staying at Purdue to continue with my PhD in Spanish and Literature. Further, I see myself teaching either in USA or in other countries, specially Japan.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

"Ignorance splits people, creates prejudices. A misinformed people is a subjugated people." - Gloria Anzaldúa

# THE GRADUATES



## CAROLINE REIN

COSTUME DESIGN AND  
TECHNOLOGY

*M.F.A.*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

I was a Graduate Assistant for the Department of Theatre including designing costumes for multiple productions, and most importantly a dresser for Sasha Velour Smoke & Mirrors Tour.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

I will be moving back to California to soak up the sun, and I plan to continue working with students in either high school or higher education.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

Because true belonging only happens when we present our authentic, imperfect selves to the world, our sense of belonging can never be greater than our level of self-acceptance.” -- Brené Brown



## SYDNEY RUNNER

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

*B.S.*

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

I'm planning on moving to England for graduate school to obtain a master's degree in Forensic Psychology.



## FINLEY SIMON

ANIMATION, VISUAL EFFECTS  
COMPOSITING

*B.S.*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Honors student and part of the Stamps Scholarship program. I found a home on campus at the LGBTQ Center and made great friends there who supported me throughout my self-discovery and coming out. Their support has helped me to start my own outreach to other members of the LGBTQ+ community who might feel isolated or alone.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

Seek employment and live with my partner. I will continue my outreach to members of the LGBTQ+ community.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

“To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson



## ALLEGRA SMITH

ENGLISH (RHETORIC &  
COMPOSITION)

*PhD*

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Served the Rhetoric and Composition and Professional Writing Programs, the Department of English, the College of Liberal Arts, and the greater Lafayette community in a variety of roles. Instructor, ENGL 106, 306, 420, 421, and 505, and online writing instruction for graduate students.

Volunteer income tax preparer for elderly and low-income taxpayers, AARP Foundation. Recipient, the Department of English Excellence in Research Fellowship; the Kneale Award for Pedagogy; the Purdue Teaching Academy Graduate Teaching Award; and the ACM SIGDOC Student Research Competition Prize sponsored by Microsoft.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

Begin a position as an Assistant Professor of English at Jacksonville State University in Alabama in fall 2021.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

Be a rainbow in somebody else's cloud.



## CHERYL SUTTON

CREATIVE WRITING, SOCIOLOGY  
B.A.

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Member & Fiction Editor, Student English Association. Research assistant, Wilke Undergraduate Research Program, which included a scholarship. Spring 2018 recipient of the Helen Bass Williams Award for best critical essay on African, African American, or Black literature.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

After graduation, I will continue working full-time at the daycare I am employed at. This fall, I will ideally be starting my online Master's program in Educational Psychology. This will be my next step towards eventually get my doctorate in School Psychology and becoming a school psychologist at a public school.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

"When we speak we are afraid our words will not be heard or welcomed. But when we are silent, we are still afraid. So it is better to speak." -Audre Lorde; This quote is important to my college experience over the last few years. I have pushed myself to speak up more and build my confidence. The person I am now is miles away from who I used to be. I hope to keep growing and keep speaking up for what is important to me!



## MATTHEW VOLLO

AERONAUTICAL AND  
ASTRONAUTICAL ENGINEERING  
B.S.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

I will be moving to DC to start my job in the space sector while getting my masters degree online.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

"Science and hard work can lick what appear to be insurmountable difficulties." -William Boeing

# THE GRADUATES



## ELIZABETH WETZEL

PUBLIC HEALTH  
B.S.

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Involved with the Boiler Bakers; Volunteered with the Food Finders Food Bank in Lafayette and the American Red Cross; Worked at University Book Store; Received semester honors and was on the Dean's List for seven semesters

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

Purdue's 2nd Degree B.S.N. Program

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

"Don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion."  
-Muhammad Ali



## HALLIE WHITE

LAW AND SOCIETY  
B.A.

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Involved in Law and Society Club and American Sign Language Club. Completed an internship with Tippecanoe County Community Corrections. Semester Honors (2019-2021).

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

"I'm proud to be different. It's the best thing about me." -Kurt Hummel



## JAKE ZAVALA

POLITICAL SCIENCE

B.A., M.A.

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

My work focused on how LGBTQ+ people are affected by personal finances especially since few business that cater to them. I was fortunate to work with the HHS department chair on the disparities that minorities and LGBTQ+ population experience and how we can bridge the gap to better positive health outcomes. I received was the Provost

Scholarship in 2017, which allowed me to travel to NYC to attend a three week LGBTQ-inclusive summer program to further my research.

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

I'm excited to continue to pursue my graduate studies hopefully at Purdue for my masters in financial planning. My main focus will be to pursue my masters in political science with a supplemental masters in finance as a means to better understand what role finances play in our everyday life.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

"Today's decisions are tomorrow's realities."- Tim Storey



## ETHAN ZWEIG

HONORS PHYSICS

B.S.

### *CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT*

Phi Beta Kappa, Society of Physics Students President, Global Science Partners Learning Community leadership team, Study Abroad, Physics Research

### *POST-GRADUATION PLANS*

Pursuing Physics PhD at UCLA.

### *THOUGHTS, ADVICE, OR FAVORITE QUOTE*

It's weird that the me I was starting college wouldn't recognize me now, yet I'm happier and more comfortable than I've ever been, and I don't regret any of the discoveries I've made here.

# THE GRADUATES

*Not Shown...*

**ALICIA CHENG**, Pharmacy, *PharmD*

**MAXWELL GOLDEN**, Family and Consumer Science Education, *B.S.*

**BELLA MATTHEWS**, Political Science and Global Studies, *B.A.*

**JACQUELINE MYERS**, Film and Video Studies, *B.A.*

**LYNDSEY OROZCO**, Nursing, *B.S.N.*

**SOBANA RANGARAJAN**, Mechanical Engineering, *PhD*

**AVERY SAVAGE**, Sustainable Food and Farming Systems; Natural Resources and Environmental Science, *B.S.*

**MATTHEW SCHULZ**, Physics Honors, *B.S.*

**ARCHANA STOCKWELL**, Engineering Management, *M.S.*

**SUDHARSAN SUNDARAM**, Electrical and Computer Engineering, *M.S.*

**SHULIN WANG**, Biomedical Engineering, *B.S.*

**KAYLA LOPEZ**, Anthropology & Studio Art and Technology, *B.A.*



PURDUE UNIVERSITY LGBTQ CENTER

# *RAINBOW CALLOUT*

CAMPUS GUIDE 2020



## **QUEER COFFEE LAUNCH**

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writing gro

# ***RAINBOW CALLOUT CAMPUS GUIDE***

During a non-pandemic year, the LGBTQ Center hosts an event called Rainbow Callout in mid-September in which 100+ organizations join together to welcome new and returning LGBTQIA+ students, staff, and faculty to campus.

With the need for social distancing, we decided to turn the information available at the event into a digital publication. Over 100 organizations submitted information, videos, and pictures to help LGBTQIA+ students, staff, and faculty learn about their organizations and how they can get involved on- or off-campus.

## **GRAD COFFEE HOUR GATHERINGS!**

Free, Graduate Assistant  
LGBTQ Center, coordinated  
weekly gatherings for  
students. writing groups,  
graduate students to connect  
together. Graduate students  
on campus gathered virtually  
for weekly coffee hours,  
groups, and other events.



# YEAR IN REVIEW



ALL ARE WELCOME!

# FABULOUS



# YEAR IN REVIEW



## FRIDAYS





## ***PURSUING RACIAL JUSTICE TOGETHER: NYLE DIMARCO AND CHELLA MAN***

MARCH 23, 2021

In the Spring, we collaborated with the Purdue American Sign Language Club to create a virtual event with Nyle DiMarco and Chella Man as part of the Pursuing Racial Justice Together Series presented by the Division of Diversity and Inclusion. Moderated by Dr. Maren Linett, the conversation with Nyle and Chella centered Queer Deaf Community and the importance of visibility and allyship to the Deaf community. Nyle and Chella met with ASL Club members for a post-event conversation!

# PURDUE UNIVERSITY NAMED AMONG BEST OF THE BEST COLLEGES FOR LGBTQ+ STUDENTS

Purdue University was selected by BestColleges.com as the top university for LGBTQIA+ students in Indiana in 2020 and was recently recognized by Campus Pride for the second consecutive year as one of the Top 40 Best of the Best LGBTQ-Friendly Colleges and Universities in the U.S.

Purdue has maintained a score of 5 out of 5 on the Campus Pride LGBTQ-Friendly Campus Index since 2019.



The Campus Pride Index is an overall indicator of institutional commitment to LGBTQ-inclusive policy, program and practice.

## PERSISTENCE REWARDED.

CONGRATULATIONS to the

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER CENTER

2021 BEST COLLEGES FOR LGBTQ+ STUDENTS

campuspride.org



The persistent pursuit of a more inclusive community for all.

EA/EOU



## SAFE ZONE TRAINING GOES VIRTUAL

We refreshed our Safe Zone Training program during summer 2020 with a redesigned placard and an updated curriculum adapted to the requirements of a virtual learning environment.



We shifted additional training programs to synchronous virtual which resulted in record attendance for Safe Zone Training, Trans Inclusion Training, and student conversations! We now have increased attendance from service providers from Greater Lafayette and from areas in Maryland and Louisiana.

## BOILERS OUT LOUD! A MINI PERFORMANCE

Boilers OUT Loud was hosted via Zoom in April of this year in collaboration with the Department of Theatre. The stories were as powerful as ever. We are so proud of the cast this year; they found time to write and perform monologues in the midst of online learning!

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## SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND CIVIL RIGHTS DURING THE TIME OF COVID

Join us this Thursday, October 1st, for a discussion with Historian and Purdue Alumnus Dr. Wesley R. Bishop about social movements and social change during the time of COVID-19.



Join us for a lunch and learn discussion with Historian Dr. Wesley R. Bishop from Marion University. Dr. Bishop is a graduate of the Purdue History department and specializes in the history of American labor and social reform movements. This conversation will explore the intersection of how pandemics and diseases have affected social change and how social movements have worked within and been created by concerns over diseases. This lunch and learn will be interactive and include space for conversations with students about activism on campus as a result of the pandemic.

Additionally, students who decide to join in-person at the LGBTQ+ Center will be provided the chance towards the end of the conversation to decorate their respective face shields (provided in the #protectpurdue packets) and then can have a picture of their creations sent into the Indiana History Museum's COVID-19 archive. We hope you join us for this exciting and interactive Lunch and Learn!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1 | 12:30-1:30PM | ZOOM

Zoom link: <http://bit.ly/BishopTalk>



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,  
Transgender and Queer Center

PURDUE.EDU/LGBTQ

In October, we invited Historian and Purdue Alum Dr. Wesley Bishop to speak with us about social justice in the age of Covid. Dr. Bishop shared the importance of the social justice movements of Summer 2020, and connect them to historical protests.

## COMING OUT IN ACADEMIA: A CONVERSATION WITH LGBTQIA+ FACULTY AND STAFF

During the fall semeseter, Lauren hosted the “Coming Out in Academia,” a panel with LGBTQIA+ Faculty at Purdue that was well attended and impactful.

YEAR IN REVIEW



**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY®

College of Health and  
Human Sciences

On behalf of Dean Marion K. Underwood and the College of Health and Human Sciences (HHS) we congratulate the following students and other HHS Lavender Graduates.  
We wish you all the best!

**Lyndsey Orozco**  
Nursing (B.S.)

**Dana Kiefer**  
Nursing (B.S.)

**Reshawyal Abbas**  
Hospitality and Tourism Management (B.S.)

**Emily Carlson**  
Human Development and Family Studies (B.S.)

**Elizabeth Wetzel**  
Public Health (B.S.)

Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.  
Live the life you have imagined.  
-Henry David Thoreau

# CONGRATULATIONS!

Best of luck!  
- Gabi

great job!  
- Natalie  
enobel

congratulations  
+ your  
graduation  
+

Congratulations  
everyone, good  
luck on your  
future endeavors! ♥  
- Nayeli Arredondo ☺

Didn't think  
I'd get  
this far.  
- Lisa

Good Luck  
in the not  
too distant  
future  
- Micah  
Hattman

Awesome  
Job  
- Collin  
Lansell

GZ'w'  
- Matt  
Schulz

These bitches gay!  
Good for them.  
Good for them...  
- Evan Wang

H.A.G.S.  
Nicu

Congratulations!  
Good luck for the  
new chapter of  
life! - Danny  
Jia

# CONGRATULATIONS!

Loren  
Moffet

José

Kilian  
Kelly

Len Min.



**PURDUE UNIVERSITY LGBTQ CENTER**

SCHLEMAN HALL OF STUDENT SERVICES, RM 230  
475 STADIUM MALL DRIVE  
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA 47904

(765) 496-6231

[LGBTQ@PURDUE.EDU](mailto:LGBTQ@PURDUE.EDU) [PURDUE.EDU/LGBTQ](http://PURDUE.EDU/LGBTQ)



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Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,  
Transgender, and Queer Center

