

HIGHLIGHTING: ALL-CAMPUS & COMMUNITY CHORALE | HEART & SOUL | PURDUE BELLS | PURDUE VARSITY GLEE CLUB | PURDUETTES | UNIVERSITY CHOIR

Yours in Song

A PUBLICATION
FROM PURDUE
MUSICAL
ORGANIZATIONS

WINTER 2019



Santa Claus takes a 'giant leap' in the 85th annual Purdue Christmas Show.



Dear Friends,

This year brought many opportunities to celebrate some milestone anniversaries, including the Glee Club 125th Anniversary and the 85th Anniversary

of the Christmas Show and founding of Purdue Musical Organizations. With each anniversary, of which PMO has had many, inevitably the thought of “what’s next?” arises.

I believe that the past, in and of itself, is not a destination but rather a context-finding tool to work toward a bright future. We owe it to the giants upon whose shoulders we stand to continually grow and innovate so that this organization can continue to operate with excellence for another 125 years. With this in mind, I’d like to share a few thoughts for the future of Purdue Musical Organizations.

It is a dream of mine to have PMO and Bailey Hall be a hub of arts education for the entire Greater Lafayette community. In the coming years, I hope to create after-school and summer programming for young people. I would love to have a summer camp that culminates with a musical and to involve our students in that process.

I believe that participation in all of our PMO ensembles complements a world-class Purdue education and our graduates continually attest to this fact. In an increasingly competitive world, the skills that our students learn – time management, respect, teamwork and the ability to connect with strangers, to name a few – will differentiate them from their peers. This is a hallmark of participation in PMO ensembles and I hope to continue to offer these powerful “out of the classroom” learning opportunities to our students.

The data shows that our PMO students exceed academic expectations not in spite of but because of what they do here in Bailey Hall and when they are traveling with their ensembles. The 2017-18 Purdue undergraduate grade point average was 3.03. The PMO grade point average last semester was 3.33. Our students graduate within four years at a rate that exceeds the Purdue average and are increasingly involved in other first-rate organizations on campus, such as Mortar Board, Phi Beta Kappa and Old Masters.

All of these achievements speak to the ability of this program to encourage academic success, which most certainly leads to success in life. I would like to find even more opportunities to support our students academically, because that is

the reason why they sing with us — as a complement to their academic studies at Purdue.

PMO is proud to offer music as a way to recruit talented young people — all of whom will study something other than music — to attend Purdue University. Since 2012, PMO has awarded \$2,027,000 in scholarships to 892 students, and the number of scholarship recipients continues to grow every year.

We are incredibly thankful for our generous alumni and supporters who have made all of our achievements possible. As a program, PMO relies on the support of our alumni and friends for more than 50 percent of our annual operating budget. You are truly the difference makers for us and we are incredibly grateful.

As we begin the New Year and our students return for another exciting semester, I invite you to connect with us and stay engaged in all that is happening here at PMO. Our door is always open, and we hope to see you soon!

Hail Purdue!

William E. Griffel
Director of Purdue Musical Organizations



Jake Stensberg

New Faces Join PMO Staff

Last summer, PMO was thrilled to welcome two new faces to the staff: **Jake Stensberg** and **Jenny Grayless**.

A 2016 graduate of Butler University’s choral conducting master’s program, Jake Stensberg serves as the Assistant Director and specialty coach for the Purduettes and University Choir, as well as the Director of the All-Campus & Community Chorale and PMO Kids Choir.

Before joining the PMO staff in July, Stensberg served as the Butler University graduate assistant in music theory and ear training and conducted

the Butler Chorale and Butler Symphony Orchestra. In his spare time, Stensberg served the broader arts community of Indianapolis by performing with many local choirs and theatre groups.

According to Stensberg, his favorite part about working with students is the rehearsals. “I love learning, growing, openness, laughter and yes, even mistakes. Rehearsals are just a garden of great moments, and I love when students are able to conquer new challenges, work as a team, support each other and share both the joys and hardships together.”

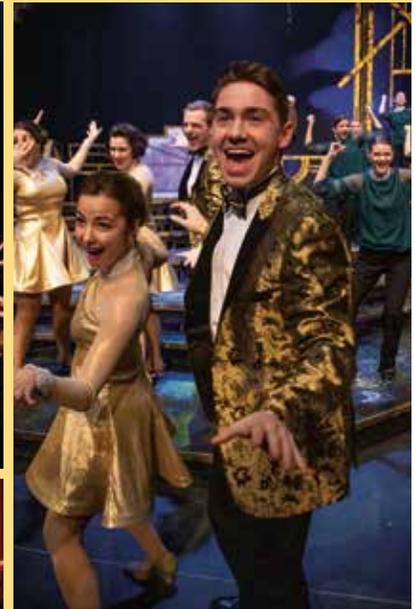
Stensberg has already made a positive impact on PMO students and looks forward to meeting members of the extended PMO ‘family.’ He says, “If you come to a performance, please introduce yourself.”

85th Annual Purdue Christmas Show Takes “Giant Leaps”

The 85th annual Purdue Christmas Show took “giant leaps” as PMO celebrated the University’s 150th Anniversary. In honor of the Purdue Sesquicentennial Celebration, this production featured legendary icons who used their Purdue experience as a launchpad for success and helped pave the way for future generations of Boilermakers.

Notable characters including John Purdue, Albert P. Stewart, Amelia Earhart and Neil Armstrong entertained more than 18,000 enthusiastic patrons in the Elliott Hall of Music. More than 300 student and community performers showcased their talents during four weekend performances on Dec. 1-2. Audience members were wowed by Santa’s surprise moon landing entrance during the Act I closing number and celebrated the spirit of the season with sacred carols during the Act II Cantata.

PMO thanks all who attended and invites you to join us as we celebrate the 86th annual Purdue Christmas Show on Dec. 7-8, 2019!



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Jenny Grayless joined PMO as the new Account Clerk in June.

Although she may be new to PMO, Grayless is already familiar with Purdue. Before joining the PMO staff, Grayless served as the Account Clerk for the Elliott Hall of Music and continues to split her time between Bailey Hall and the Hall of Music.

An active mother of three boys, Grayless devotes her free time to watching her sons’ sporting events, participating in 4-H activities and spending time with family and friends. “Everyone has been so welcoming,” says Grayless. “I am so excited to be a part of the staff and look forward to new experiences with PMO.”

Please join us in welcoming Jake Stensberg and Jenny Grayless to the PMO staff!



Jenny Grayless



Purdue Varsity Glee Club Commemorates

125 Years of Song

“Six words into
the piece, and my
body suddenly
knew the song.
And that was
when I knew I
had come home.”

Larry Russell
Glee Club '65 alumnus

Eight generations of Purdue Varsity Glee Club alumni gathered to celebrate the ensemble's 125th Anniversary in October. The historic weekend brought nearly 800 Glee Club alumni, PMO supporters and friends together to remember the past, honor the present and solidify a foundation for future generations of the Purdue Varsity Glee Club.

Originally founded by Professor Cyrus Dadswell in 1893, the Purdue Varsity Glee Club began as 11 men singing in their director's living room. Today, the Glee Club has grown to a group of more than 70 singers, traveling around the world as ambassadors for Purdue University. For many alumni, the weekend on campus was their first time returning to visit since graduation.

“I had not returned to the campus in more than 50 years since I graduated on that stage,” says Larry Russell, Glee Club '65 alumnus. “It's not just the mind that remembers. I felt the resonance in my

chest ... like a wave of sound that gathers the listener up. It wasn't nostalgia that brought tears to my eyes. It was the sheer beauty of participating in a group as one body expressing an experience that only music could deliver.”

As part of the 125th Anniversary Celebration, Glee Club alumni warmed up their vocal chords and dusted off their tux tails to perform in the Alumni Anniversary Concert in the Elliott Hall of Music on Saturday, Oct. 20. More than 350 Glee Club alumni joined together onstage to sing with their fellow “brothers in song.”

“Six words into the piece, and my body suddenly knew the song,” Russell says, “And that was when I knew I had come home.”

Former Glee Club Directors William Allen, Brian Breed, and Dianne (DeDe) Mantock joined current PMO and Varsity Glee Club Director William Griffel onstage to conduct the chorus of alumni singers.



Dr. Albert P. Stewart Directorship Endowment Exceeds Expectations



A momentous achievement of the Glee Club 125th Anniversary Celebration is the establishment of the Dr. Albert P. Stewart Directorship Endowment, named for the irreplaceable founder of Purdue Musical Organizations. Thanks to generous donations from PMO alumni and supporters, the endowment exceeded its fundraising goal of \$1.5 million!

GOAL

\$1,500,000

Of the numerous donors who supported the directorship endowment, PMO would like to specially thank Jack Calhoun, whose incredibly generous contribution completed the endowment fundraising campaign. Calhoun is a 1987 graduate of Purdue University and the Purdue Varsity Glee Club.

In addition to serving in leadership roles within the Glee Club during his time at Purdue, Calhoun was involved in the Purdue Student Union Board, Iron Key, Omicron Delta Kappa and Grand Prix, and he was a recipient of the G.A. Ross Award, given to the outstanding senior man in each graduating class. Calhoun credits much of his achievement to his time in the Purdue Varsity Glee Club. PMO is grateful for his generosity and his example as a successful and proud Glee Club alumnus.

PMO thanks all the alumni and supporters who donated to the directorship endowment, which will provide financial stability for future generations of the Purdue Varsity Glee Club and Purdue Musical Organizations for years to come.



Purdue Becomes a “Professor” of Spacewalking



Written by: Jared Pike | Communications Specialist
School of Mechanical Engineering
Photography by: Trevor Mahlmann, NASA

Visit her office at NASA’s Johnson Space Center, and you’ll see it: an impressive display of Astronaut Barbie dolls. These 11-inch figures represent every era of space travel, from the earliest Mercury missions to the spacewalks of today. The blond-haired blue-eyed dolls stand there, at attention, purposely defying your expectations of who gets involved in the space industry.

“It’s a great representation of my personality,” says Allissa Battocletti Noffke (Purduettes ’10). “On the one hand, I’m an aeronautical engineer working at NASA; and on the other hand, I’m a blond, sparkly, show choir girl. I’m proof that you can definitely be both.”

HEAD IN THE CLOUDS

The story of how Allissa came to NASA begins, as many of these stories do, with one small step. Growing up in Indianapolis, she listened to her father talking about the Apollo missions, including Purdue alum Neil Armstrong’s moon landing. Six-year-old Allissa couldn’t help but get swept up in it. “I remember in second grade filling out the what-do-you-want-to-be-when-you-grow-up paper,” she says. “Most people said princess or firefighter. I said, aerospace engineer!”

She focused on math and science in high school, and when the time came to choose a university, there was really only one choice. “Everyone told me that if I wanted to be an engineer, I had to look at Purdue,”

says Allissa. During a campus visit, she happened to interact with a current student enrolled in a co-op program at NASA. “She said she worked at Johnson Space Center, and that’s all I needed to hear! I went up to her and asked, ‘what’s a co-op, and how do I get involved?’”

That Purdue-NASA connection (through the Office of Professional Practice) has launched hundreds of careers in the space industry, and Allissa always tells current Purdue students to take advantage of it. “You need to get as much real-world experience as you can,” she says. “Don’t wait until you graduate! Do it while you’re a student. You’ll get tons of experience, and you’ll also get the chance to figure out what positions interest you, so you’ll know what you would (or would not) enjoy as a full-time job.”

SING, SING, SING

One other aspect of Purdue caught Allissa’s eye: the musical groups. “I had been singing with Indianapolis Children’s Choir,” says Allissa, “and I knew I wanted to keep singing in college. When I learned about the Purduettes, it was perfect!”

She sang for the premier women’s choir during all four years at Purdue, including Christmas Shows, touring concerts, and numerous other functions. “It perfectly fulfilled both sides of who I am,” she remembers. “You have what you’re majoring in, and then you have something else that you love doing. For me, that was the Purduettes.”

She even had an unexpected astronaut encounter. “During one of our

performances for the President’s Council, I learned later that Neil Armstrong had snuck in the back to listen to our show! I kept saying, ‘Is this real life?’”

Being a member of the Purduettes provided more than just a creative outlet. As a performer, Allissa also learned how to give presentations, and interact with audience members in a productive way. “I got my technical skills from the aero program,” she says, “but Purduettes helped me with life skills, and social skills. You can’t just be an engineer and sit at your desk all day; you have to be able to talk to people, and present your ideas. It really comes in handy at my current job.”

PROFESSOR OF SPACEWALKS

Allissa works for the Flight Operations Directorate at Houston’s Johnson Space Center. Her area of expertise is Extra Vehicular Activity (EVA) Operations: spacewalks. She explains: “When you become an astronaut, there are so many things to learn. Astronauts have to get a degree in how to be an astronaut. And I am a professor of spacewalking.”

“Every day is very different,” she continues. “Sometimes I’m teaching classes to astronauts. Some days we’re in the pool at the Neutral Buoyancy Lab (where astronauts train in near-weightless conditions). And when our astronauts are in space, I’m working with Mission



Control to write procedures, and actually talk the astronauts through what they need to do, as they do it.”

That leads to occasional “Apollo 13” moments, as Allissa calls them. “Let’s say a box connected to the solar panels isn’t functioning. That is a big problem, which we need to fix quickly, because the station needs power. We’ll literally dump a bunch of items onto a table, and figure out how to use them to fix the issue. Getting our team together to solve a problem is very rewarding.”

LOOKING UP

Allissa Battocletti Noffke looks forward to the day when manned spaceflight extends beyond Earth orbit. “I’m looking forward to supporting EVAs, wherever they are. It will be exciting to walk on a surface again, whether it’s on the Moon or Mars. I’m excited to see where we go!”

She also is thankful for the foundation that Purdue gave her. “My Purdue degree carries a lot of weight,” she says. “Purdue set me up to problem-solve and to think critically. That’s the most important aspect of what an engineering degree gives you. Then you can go apply that in so many ways.”



Get Ready for Purdue Day of Giving 2019!

Thanks to your generosity last year, PMO raised **\$109,900** in just 24 hours. Based on participation alone, PMO received **\$16,044** in bonus money and placed third overall for total number of donations among all Purdue participants with **993** gifts.

The sixth annual Purdue Day of Giving is scheduled for Wednesday, **April 24**, and PMO needs your help again.

Help PMO win bonus cash by participating in as many hourly challenges as you can throughout the day. The unit with the most gifts per challenge will win!

- Unit with the highest number of **donations** per hour
- Most donations from Purdue **alumni**
- Most **parent** donors
- Most **alumni** donors of the last **decade**
- Most gifts from **international** donors

In addition to these hourly challenges, PMO has the possibility to win several social media challenges throughout the day. You can help us win by sharing the Purdue Day of Giving logo on your social media accounts using #PurdueDayofGiving and unit handle #PurduePMO.

Last year’s Purdue Day of Giving was a huge success, and PMO needs your support this year so that we can continue to grant opportunities and help our students take giant leaps.

More information will be available on purdue.edu/pmo as Purdue Day of Giving 2019 draws closer.

Help PMO reach our goal of 1,500 gifts in 24 hours. Visit dayofgiving.purdue.edu on **April 24!**

Mark Your Calendars

All PMO performances and details are listed at purdue.edu/pmo/calendar, and we invite students, their families, donors, alumni and friends to be among our fans in the audience.

To pique your interest, here are a few dates on our spring 2019 calendar:

FEBRUARY 1 – 7:30 P.M.

Purdue Varsity Glee Club Concert and Glee Club Alumni Reception

Scottish Rite Cathedral
650 N. Meridian St. | Indianapolis
Ticket info at purdue.edu/pmo/calendar

MARCH 23 – 7 P.M.

Phenomena

Elliott Hall of Music | Purdue University
No tickets needed

MARCH 31 – 4 P.M.

Purduettes and Purdue Varsity Glee Club Concert

Warren Performing Arts Center
9500 E. 16th St. | Indianapolis
Ticket info at purdue.edu/pmo/calendar

APRIL 7 – 2 P.M.

PMO Spring Show | All-Campus & Community Chorale, Heart & Soul, Purdue Bells and University Choir

Long Center for the Performing Arts
111 N. 6th St. | Lafayette
Tickets available March 4 by calling the Purdue Box Office at 765-494-3933

APRIL 13 – 7:30 P.M.

Purduettes Spring Spectacular Concert

Long Center for the Performing Arts
111 N. 6th St. | Lafayette
Tickets available March 4 by calling the Purdue Box Office at 765-494-3933

APRIL 24

Purdue Day of Giving

APRIL 26 – 6:30 P.M.

Men’s Choral Festival

Elliott Hall of Music | Purdue University
No tickets needed

MAY 11 – 7:30 P.M.

Purdue Varsity Glee Club End of Season Concert

Long Center for the Performing Arts
111 N. 6th St. | Lafayette
Tickets available April 1 by calling the Purdue Box Office at 765-494-3933

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This May, the Purdue Bells and Purdue Varsity Glee Club will embark on an international performance tour of the United Kingdom. Follow along with our travels on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @PurduePMO to see exciting tour updates!   



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