

## Daniels shares ideas on the future of Purdue under his leadership



*Purdue President Mitch Daniels spoke to retirees at the annual kickoff luncheon Sept. 9 at the Four Points by Sheraton hotel. (Photo by Mark Simons/Purdue University)*

In early September, President Daniels sat down with PURA Communications Committee chair Jill May and addressed several questions she asked concerning the future goals and endeavors of Purdue University under his leadership. Shared below are the questions and President Mitch Daniels' responses.

**JPM:** When you were asked to consider the position of Purdue University president, what first appealed to you?

**President Daniels:** "At first the

idea of becoming Purdue University's president didn't appeal to me." Daniels explained that he had been invited to apply for several other jobs — including "a couple of higher education institutions outside Indiana" — but he had planned to wait until he had finished his term as governor of Indiana before he turned his attention to his next occupation. His commitment to Indiana ultimately factored into his decision.

His family had moved from Georgia

when he was in elementary school, and he had attended public schools in Indianapolis. While he was an undergraduate at Princeton, he worked as an intern for then Indianapolis mayor Richard Lugar, and he was invited to work for him when he graduated from college. Although he began attending law school in Indianapolis, he did three-quarters of his law school education in Washington, D.C., while he was working on Sen. Lugar's staff.

According to Daniels, "The Purdue University job became appealing to me because, as a land-grant institution, Purdue has a high mission to serve the state. Its place in the larger national arenas of science, engineering and technology, and its reputation for training intellectual leaders, also were important aspects."

**JPM:** Each president at Purdue has set an agenda for Purdue's mission based on his or her strengths and has set fundraising goals that fit with the mission. What are your thoughts about Purdue's mission and its future in fundraising?

**President Daniels:** "I told the search committee when they approached me that Purdue has a solid mission statement. Purdue needs to execute the goals of the mission statement." Daniels added, "Purdue University is not a vocational school. Its students can get good jobs that pay off their bills when they graduate." He explained: "Purdue University can help the nation find answers for the questions we find in the recent books written

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## A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR FIRST JISCHKE SCHOLAR

By Betty Nelson

It is always in style to show one's appreciation for recognition and acts of generosity. But when the recipients are the retiring president and first lady of a world-class research university, what gift would not become next year's contribution to a white elephant gift exchange? That was the challenge of the officers of PURA when President and Patty Jischke announced they were retiring and becoming members of the Purdue University Retirees Association. How could we say "thank you" to them in a tangible way with a gift that would make a difference? Who once recommended that we give nothing that has to be fed, dusted or painted? Excellent advice, but it limited our choices.

During his tenure, President Jischke was a strong proponent of additional donor funds for scholarships and initiated the Purdue Opportunity Awards (POA) for income-eligible Twenty-first Century Scholars from Indiana. These students agree to participate in the Purdue Promise support program for the next four years. They must maintain at least a C+ GPA, complete a minimum of 30 credit hours each academic year, and participate in programs that improve study skills and academic discipline. PURA's retirement gift to the Jischkes was a POA named for them. Individual members made contributions to this endowed scholarship to guarantee its availability indefinitely. In addition, Fidelity Investments made a \$5,000 gift to the scholarship in recognition of its new role helping Purdue employees plan for retirement. Finally, in 2012, a Martin C. and Patty Jischke POA was part of the financial aid package offered to Michael J. McCormick, a beginning student at Purdue, and Michael became our first Jischke Scholar.

Michael and his parents, John and Rebecca Haram, attended the June luncheon at MCL and were introduced for the first time to PURA members. Michael had just



Betty Nelson stands with Michael McCormick, the first Jischke Scholar. (Photo by Mark Simons/Purdue University)

completed his freshman year. Again, at the 2013 fall kickoff luncheon, Michael was acknowledged by PURA President Bob Bain and was welcomed by the large number of Purdue retirees, President Mitch Daniels, President Emeritus Steven Beering and Jane Beering, and Patty Jischke.

McCormick will continue as a Jischke Scholar throughout his undergraduate program as long as he meets the requirements of the Purdue Promise agreement and maintains good academic and citizenship standing.

So just who is "our" Jischke Scholar, this young man who will be part of PURA's activities the next few years?

Michael grew up in Lebanon, Ind., and moved with his family to Colfax several years ago. He is the oldest of four siblings. His sister is a student at Western Boone High School, and his two younger brothers are homeschooled. A rehabbed Queen Anne farmhouse "in the middle of a cornfield" is home, and the nearby Civil War-era barn was upgraded to house the family's furniture refinishing business.

Purdue seemed like the perfect fit for Michael, since being an engineer has been a long-desired career goal. His father attended Purdue, and West Lafayette is "away" but not too far and it offers an outstanding education if one is ready for it. As with many first-year students, Michael

had an epiphany about the nature of "Purdue-style" engineering and whether this highly theoretical discipline was a perfect fit for his interests and talents. After two semesters, he processed a change of degree objective (CODO), and his coursework is now directed toward a degree in electrical engineering technology. So much of what one learns in college occurs outside the classroom, and Michael learned dramatically the importance of setting priorities, being organized, having the personal discipline to stay focused and how to keep a balance between work (studying) and play (socializing). An older and wiser Michael began his sophomore year.

A secondary passion for Michael is music. He is developing his skills with a guitar, drums and the piano. Combined with learning these instruments, he is enrolled in Introduction to Sound Systems and wants to learn more about careers in the audio industry – the technology of recording sound or a job in industry developing sound equipment. Owning and operating a recording studio would be the fulfillment of a life dream for Michael. His "wish list" also includes the possibility of international study and/or travel. Any country would be attractive if it provides additional exploration of the interface between engineering, technology and music. Michael is doing exactly what one should in college: exploring different intellectual and career possibilities and learning how they fit him.

The Purdue landscape offers many opportunities for students to develop essential leadership skills. This year Michael has started his leadership journey by serving as a mentor to a group of beginning students in Purdue Promise, listening to their concerns and connecting them to appropriate resources on campus. Another leadership goal is to become a group leader at his in-town church.

To test his ability to balance his schedule successfully, Michael added a part-time

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## Those Were the Days: The Polio Epidemic in Magic City

by Jo Thomas

Epidemics seem to run in my family. For my grandmother, it was smallpox. In 1918, my uncle stood in roll call and watched his fellow soldiers drop from the Spanish flu pandemic. In 1949, it was my turn.

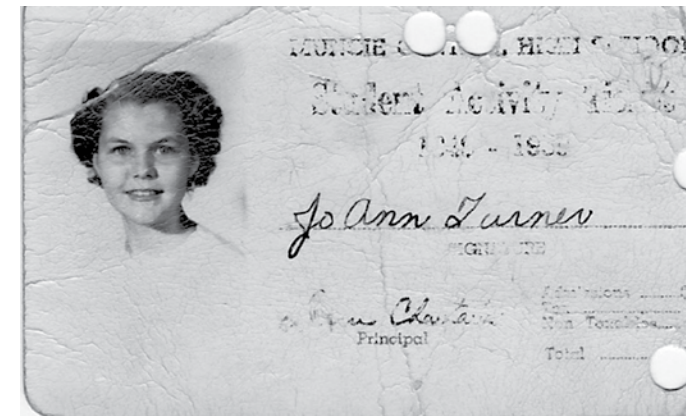
In Muncie, Ind., it was a typical July, hot and lazy. It began quietly with an article in the local paper of a case of poliomyelitis, or infantile paralysis as most people called it then. It was thought to be a disease of children, even though President Roosevelt had been struck down with it as an adult. Though the virus had been identified as early as 1908, no one knew how it was spread or how to stop it. As the number of cases grew, the authorities did the only thing they knew. They closed the pools, movie theaters, even the churches, and told everyone to stay home. Ball Memorial Hospital was not equipped to handle the

numbers of people struck with the disease. They only had two iron lungs, and there were increasing numbers of the bulbar type of infliction that affected breathing.

to build an iron lung. Using two alcohol barrels, vacuum sweepers, sponge rubber and plywood, he fabricated an iron lung. After that, he and his workers toiled round the clock to fill the need.

The second hero was superintendent of nurses Nellie Brown. She had her finger on the pulse of the entire hospital and even knew which circuits were available and which would blow with the extra electrical needs. In 1949, there were 120 cases of polio in Muncie. Many recovered, some with the aftermath of atrophied limbs. In 1950, there was an auction at the Muncie Field House to raise money for the hospital. The highest bid was for Nellie Brown's nurse cap. In 1952,

Jonas Salk announced his discovery of a preventive vaccine. Our trials would never be seen again as long as people were vaccinated!



Jo Thomas (then Turner) as a high schooler in Muncie.

Two heroes emerged. Jack Reichart owned a small factory that made popcorn machines. By chance he had read an article in *Popular Mechanics* on how

## SALLA HONORED WITH NELSON AWARD FOR HER PURA SERVICE



Human Resources employee Michele Salla accepts the Nelson Award from PURA President Bob Bain at the annual kickoff luncheon in September. (Photo by Mark Simons/Purdue University)

Human Resources employee Michele Salla received the Betty M. Nelson Recognition Award for Outstanding Service to Purdue retirees from the Purdue University Retirees Association.

Salla accepted the award during the association's annual kickoff luncheon on Sept. 9.

The Nelson Award was established by PURA to provide special recognition for individuals, departments and outside agencies that provide significant service to all Purdue retirees. The award is named in honor of Betty Nelson, dean of students emerita and former PURA president, as a reminder of her contributions to the organization and her efforts to have retirees maintain a vital role in the Purdue family.

## HANSEN AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2013-14

The Arthur G. Hansen award is presented by the Purdue University Retirees Association and the Office of the President to a university unit that excels in fostering a strong relationship between their retirees and the university. The award is named in honor of President Arthur G. Hansen because of his leadership and support in establishing the initial Purdue retirees' organization.

Nominations are now being accepted for this year. Any Purdue retiree can submit a nomination of a college/school, department, division or section for its efforts to maintain a strong relationship with its retirees. Forms are available online at [www.purdue.edu/retirees](http://www.purdue.edu/retirees) or from Human Resources in Freehafer Hall. The nomination document should be no longer than five pages. Only material submitted by the nominator(s) will be considered. Nominations are due to PURA, c/o Human Resources, FREH, by February 1, 2014.

## PURA NEWSLETTER

The *Purdue University Retirees Association Newsletter* is published for official retirees of Purdue University by the Office of Marketing and Media. For change of address, please use the form on the back page of this newsletter or send email to [julie1@purdue.edu](mailto:julie1@purdue.edu).

Any suggestions or ideas for PURA should be referred to Office of Retiree Affairs, 401 S. Grant St., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2024. Telephone 765-494-1779 or 877-725-0222. Email [masalla@purdue.edu](mailto:masalla@purdue.edu).

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PURA communications committee chair/editor: Jill May

## PURA News Briefs

### PET INSURANCE NOW AVAILABLE FOR RETIREES

Purdue retirees, faculty and staff can now enroll for coverage through Veterinary Pet Insurance (VPI).

"Employees have expressed interest in pet insurance for a number of years," says Luis E. Lewin, vice president for human resources. "We're pleased to add this insurance to our lineup of voluntary benefits."

VPI plans cover dogs, cats, birds and exotic pets for health problems and conditions related to accidents, illnesses and injuries. The company offers a variety of plan options.

For more information on pet insurance and a price quote, call 877-PETS-VPI (877-738-7874).

### EXERCISE OPTIONS ABOUND AT THE CO-REC

A number of great options for exercise are now available to PURA members at the France A. Córdoba Recreational Sports Center.

Ask at the Co-Rec desk for a schedule of Group X limited retiree options that are generally available before 2 p.m. on weekdays. The price is only \$20 for the classes, in addition to the semester membership charge of \$75, and the price of each is pro-rated by the month as the semester advances.

Other options include Zumba Gold from 8:30 a.m. to 9:20 a.m., and Tai Chi from 9:30 a.m. to 10:20 a.m. on Monday. On Tuesday, Step N' Sculpt is scheduled from noon to 12:50 p.m. On Wednesday, Zumba Gold is from 8:30 a.m. to 9:20 a.m., and Vortex Challenge is from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. On Thursday, Water Walking is from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., and Deep Water Fitness is from noon to 12:45 p.m. See the schedule for other more vigorous options on weekdays and weekends.

### CENTER FOR HEALTHY LIVING OPEN TO RETIREES ON THREE HEALTH PLANS

Purdue's new Center for Healthy Living opened Feb. 27 in the Purdue West Shopping Plaza at 1400 W. State St. The center serves benefits-eligible employees, retirees and their dependents covered on the Purdue Choice Fund, Purdue Incentive or Purdue Copay medical plans. Retirees must be covered by one of these three medical plans to be eligible to use the center. Retirees 65 and over with United Healthcare (PURcare and Medicare Advantage PPO) are not eligible to use the services of the Center for Healthy Living at this time.

For more information about the center, including services, costs and hours, visit [www.purdue.edu/healthyliving](http://www.purdue.edu/healthyliving). For questions, call the center at 765-494-0111 or contact Purdue Human Resources at 765-494-2222.

### TAX-TIME VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

As the local coordinator of the AARP TaxAide group, PURA member Bob Pierret is seeking volunteers to help with the preparation of tax returns at nine sites located at the YWCA, Lafayette Senior Center, Morton Community Center, Fairington Apartments, Indiana Veterans Home, Salvation Army, Friendship House, Wabash Center and Brookston Library.

The TaxAide program is geared to assist low- to moderate-income taxpayers, especially those 60 and older. Volunteers are provided with detailed tax preparation information and five days of training in January. Tax returns are prepared beginning in February. Volunteers choose the level of their involvement.

For additional information, contact Bob Pierret at 765-463-7372 or [wlpierret@hotmail.com](mailto:wlpierret@hotmail.com)

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about higher education." The issues of academic standards, the place of technology in higher education, the cost of attending a university and the question of who should attend a four-year university are ones Purdue should address.

Daniels added, "Purdue University should continue to train scientists and engineers who can explain complex ideas and research in ways that can be understood by others who are not in their fields, and liberal arts students should absorb enough knowledge of technology to be able to help their fellow citizens understand its implications. The liberal arts are an absolutely necessary part of the university. STEM is also important. The strength of Purdue's diverse educational system attracts the best and the brightest Indiana students and brings excellent students from other areas of the country."

A large agenda for Purdue's future has been set, including the growth of the College of Engineering to help address the national need of some 10,000 new engineers each year, increasing the size of the computer science program by 27 percent, modernizing and investing in the College of Technology, placing

high priority on research discoveries in drugs and plant science, and reframing classes across the campus in hybrid models that fit the 21st century students' capabilities.

**JPM:** What is the biggest challenge you have faced since coming to Purdue and beginning as the president of this university?

**President Daniels:** "The process of meeting and sharing ideas with the Purdue University community — including faculty, administration, students, alumni and retirees — has been exciting. My biggest challenge has been in getting a sense of how resources are distributed and used at Purdue, a challenge that is directly linked to the goal of affordability that we're committed to. I want to continually affirm Purdue's role in Indiana as a land-grant institution and firmly secure its place in the larger national dialogue about higher education." Daniels believes that one of the biggest challenges facing Purdue is understanding how change evolves, how funding distribution must support and sustain Purdue's highest endeavors.

**JPM:** What aspects of the position most appeal to you as you face your day-to-day activities and settle into your Purdue routine?

**President Daniels:** "As I venture across the campus and into larger higher education venues, I enjoy interacting with the 'Purdue family.' I believe that Purdue is still firmly meeting the goals of a land-grant institution. Justin Smith Morrill's legislation was signed into law by President Lincoln in 1862, and it called for institutions of higher education that centered on agriculture and the mechanical arts." According to Daniels, if you update Morrill's terms for a high-tech, information age, you have the Purdue of today. "Purdue has become the home of many first-generation college students. These young people are smart students who will remember Purdue and loyally support its efforts. I continually have people who graduated from Purdue tell me, 'If not for Purdue, I would not have achieved what I have in life.'"

Finally, Daniels commended the support of the retirees, saying, "Their support mirrors the strong interactions I see happening between staff, faculty, students and alumni and demonstrates the continued respect that Purdue has among its widespread community."

## HOLIDAY LIGHTS TRIP TO LOUISVILLE PLANNED FOR NOV. 30



For only \$89 a person, PURA members and their guests can enjoy a daylong trip Nov. 30 to "Mega Cavern, Lights Under Louisville," a holiday light spectacular event that features the only underground holiday light show with 2 million points of light and 750 themed characters animated with Christmas music. In addition, participants will stop at the Galt House for their KaLightoscope, another unique and spectacular display. Imperial motorcar transportation and event admissions are included. For reservations, call Imperial at 765-447-9321 or 800-642-6645 and ask to register for the PURA trip to the Celebration of the Lights.

## TREE, SCHOLARSHIP HONORS RETIREE'S SERVICE TO PURDUE

Ken Coleman, a 41-year employee of Purdue, was honored May 15 with a tree planted in his honor outside Schleman Hall.

In addition, the Ken and Jan Coleman Endowed Scholarship has been created to honor Ken's many years of raising money for Purdue and helping students achieve their highest potential.

Coleman began his service to Purdue as an undergraduate working in Windsor Dining Hall, where he met his wife, Jan. He received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from Purdue in 1962 and 1963, respectively. After graduating from Purdue, he served as associate dean of students, taught as an adjunct faculty member in Organizational Leadership and Supervision, was an academic advisor for the Undergraduate Studies Program, and was chapter advisor for the Evans Scholars and for Phi Kappa Sigma.

During his time at Purdue, Coleman was named a senior faculty fellow for Cary

Quad; was honored as Alumnus of the Year from Phi Kappa Sigma International Fraternity in 2004-05; received the Special Boilermaker Award in 2006; and was honored with the Purdue Hero Award in 2009.

The Ken and Jan Coleman Endowed Scholarship will be given to students who would otherwise be unable to afford a Purdue education in the Exploratory Studies program (formerly the Undergraduate Studies Program) and either Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity or the Evans Scholars or to students involved with the



Ken Coleman (left) stands with his daughter Stephanie Coleman Vyhanek and his wife, Jan Coleman, in front of the dedicated tree. (Photo by Brian Powell)

Exploratory Studies program.

To support this scholarship, contact Karen McCullough, director of development for Student Success at 765-494-1184 or at [mccullo2@purdue.edu](mailto:mccullo2@purdue.edu)

## TALL SHIPS VISIT TO CHICAGO'S NAVY PIER A SUCCESS

Aug. 8 was a beautiful day for the PURA trip to Chicago's Navy Pier with Imperial Tours. There was plenty of sunshine and relatively cool weather along Lake Michigan.

The visit included three Imperial Tours buses with approximately 55 people on each bus. PURA was on the first bus, which broke down due to a fuel line problem on the east side of town, but that was no problem because Imperial Tours had a secondary bus on site after 20 minutes. Once again, we were on our way on a beautiful, no traffic-clogged trip via the Indiana Tollway to Stoney Island drive, past Louis Farakhan's mosque and right into Navy Pier. Our driver, Steve, knew his way around town, and he got us out of Chicago in just the same expeditious way!

Everybody split upon reaching Navy Pier because lots of Chicago people were out and about on this Thursday morning. Our members and guests walked the length of both sides of Navy Pier and saw long lines of people waiting to get onto each ship.



They were very popular attractions! We walked around and visited the three ships with no waiting lines. When we visited the all-female staffed ship, we noticed the hold cargo gate in the bowel of the ship. One of our members asked if that's where they keep the prisoners, and our guide replied, "No, that's where we sleep!"

There was time to kill, so some of us spent money and time at the fantastic Cirque de Soleil Chinese Acrobats show. Some spent time in Harry Caray's tavern watching football and imbibing. Others toured the internal mall or took boat rides around the Chicago Skyline. There were plenty of things to do. It was a wonderful, fun day!

*McCormick/Continued from page 2*

job to his other responsibilities — academic commitments, time to develop his music skill, mentoring new Purdue Promise students and time to hang out with friends. He is employed as an ITaP lab assistant, which allows him opportunities to meet and be helpful to other students but also to complete his homework during the slow times. PURA is betting on Michael to successfully manage this range of activities!

Within the past year, Michael has moved from knowing nothing about PURA to becoming its "star" undergraduate student, a role that might be daunting for many students. When asked what it means to be a Jischke Scholar, Michael said:

"I love being a Jischke Scholar, not just for the vast amount of networking opportunities that I have through PURA, but also because it's almost like I have 200 adopted grandparents. I love going to luncheons and talking with retirees about school and my life and being given endless amounts of advice and encouragement.

"Also, I feel that being a Jischke Scholar means that I have been endowed with a certain responsibility. Even more so now that I have met Patty Jischke. ... I represent an investment that PURA made in me in honor of a past Purdue president and, as such, I am responsible for representing myself as a student and a person worthy of that gift."

### You can make a difference

If you are interested in helping PURA grow the Jischke Purdue Opportunity Award (scholarship endowment) to support additional students, we invite you to send a check made payable to the Purdue Foundation (write Jischke POA on the memo line). Call 765-494-2730 or mail to:

University Development Office  
Dauch Alumni Center, Room 1124  
403 Wood St.  
West Lafayette, IN 47907

## Monthly Luncheon Series announced for 2013-14

We hope you will join us for lunch at the MCL Cafeteria in West Lafayette the first Monday of each month. You will have an opportunity to visit with friends and to learn from an interesting speaker who will keep us current on the activities of Purdue and the community. Lunch is available at 11 a.m., and the programs begin at 11:50 a.m. in the Purdue Room.

### DECEMBER 2

Topic: International Students and Programs at Purdue University  
Speaker: Joe Potts, associate dean  
Coordinator: Olivia Wood

### JANUARY 6

Topic: Future of the Drug War in Indiana  
Speaker: Capt. Gary Sparger, West Lafayette patrol captain coordinator:  
Don Jones

### FEBRUARY 3

Topic: Purdue University Archives  
Speaker: Sammie Morris, associate professor of library science  
Coordinator: John Trott

### MARCH 3

Topic: Research in Degenerative Diseases  
Speaker: Mary Guerriero Austrom, professor, Indiana Alzheimer's Disease Center  
Coordinator: Don Jones

### APRIL 7

Topic: Update on the Big Ten Conference  
Speaker: Morgan Burke, director of intercollegiate athletics  
Coordinator: Ken Coleman

### MAY 5

Topic: The West Lafayette Trail System: Present & Future; and update on the Morton Community Center  
Speakers: Joe Payne, West Lafayette Parks Dept. and Bess Witcosky, director of the Morton Community Center  
Coordinator: Doug Sprengle

### JUNE 2

Topic: Future of Public Education in Indiana  
Speaker: Professor James Freeland, Purdue College of Education  
Coordinator: Lyle Lloyd

### JULY 7

Speaker: Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski  
Coordinator: Dale Margerum

### AUGUST 4

Topic: Stop Fraud and Crime Before They Strike  
Speaker: Michelle Mayer, outreach services director, Indiana Office of the Attorney General  
Coordinator: Sue Scholer

# PURANEWSLETTER

PURDUE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Purdue University  
West Lafayette, IN 47907

## Check and approve your address information

The Purdue University Retirees Association is working hard to keep up-to-date with addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for retirees.

Retirees are asked to check carefully the accuracy of their name and address as it appears on the mailing label (above) of this issue of the PURA Newsletter.

Please make any changes on the form below and mail to the address indicated or email to [julie1@purdue.edu](mailto:julie1@purdue.edu). Thank you.

### Purdue University Retirees

Please help us keep your information accurate. Send any changes from the mailing label that appears above on this issue of the PURA Newsletter. Thank you for your help.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to:

Julie Thedans  
Purdue University Retirees, Human Resources  
401 S. Grant St.  
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2024

- I do not want to receive PURA mailings.
- I do not want to be included in a future PURA Retiree Directory.