

PURA News

Purdue University Retirees Association

December 2020

Winter Lights Illuminate Academic Park



A lighting display, designed by Purdue alum and local business owner Jim Heath, illuminates Purdue West Lafayette's Academic Park in celebration of the holidays through Dec. 5. Read more about alternatives to the traditional Memorial Union tree at: <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2020/Q4/purdue-christmas-celebration-goes-on,-mostly-virtual.html>

(Article and photo courtesy of Purdue Marketing and Media.)

Join PURA for our December 7 and January 4 virtual meetings. Meeting details on page 2 of this newsletter. Zoom connection information is included again on page 14.

Purdue Departments Moving to New Building

Due to the discontinuation of several leases, Purdue units located in several buildings—including Human Resources and central finance areas—are moving to the facility located at 2550 Northwestern Avenue (formerly occupied by State Farm Insurance corporate offices). Departments involved in the move had resided in the Kurz Purdue Technology Center (KPTC), Purdue Technology Center Aerospace (PTCA) second floor, and Ross Enterprise Center (ROSS).

Though retirees may not be visiting these offices in-person at the moment, all USPS and campus mail should be sent to the new addresses, effective immediately. A list of affected departments and instructions for formatting mailing addresses may be found here:

<https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/purduetoday/releases/2020/Q4/new-address-for-purdue-departments-moving-to-2550-northwestern-avenue.html>

2020 PMO Christmas Show

On Saturday, Dec. 19, Purdue Musical Organizations will present their 87th Annual PMO Christmas Show—"A Different Kind of Christmas"—which for the first time will be a virtual performance. There's no charge to attend but sign-up is required.

Performance time and details are not yet available. Check PMO's website for more information: <https://www.purdue.edu/pmo/christmas-show/>



Past PMO Christmas Show Finale

What's Inside:

Regular Features

Norm's Notes: United Way, Flu Shot Receipt, PURA Benefits, Upcoming Monthly Meetings	2
Confessions of a Book Addict	5
What to Celebrate: December	7
Road Trip! PNW's Gabis Arboretum	8
PURA Tech Bytes: The Truth About Holiday Cookies	10
Smile Corner: Thank You Notes.....	12
December Campus Calendar.....	13
Mark Your Calendar: PURA Events.....	13

Articles

Winter Lights Illuminate Academic Park.....	1
Purdue Departments moving to New building.....	1
2020 PMO Christmas Show.....	1
Preventative Dental Care Plan Discontinued	2
PURA's Student Scholars Speak Out	3
Additional PURA Scholarships Awarded	5
Year End Giving: Double Your Gift with Matching Money.....	5
2021 PLIR Virtual Presentation.....	6
PURA Common Read: "A Reluctant Icon: Letters to Neil Armstrong"	6
Stay Warm!.....	7
Benefits Available to Purdue Retirees	9
PURA Tours Haan Museum Gardens.....	11
Christmas Lights!.....	11
Zoom Connection Information for PURA Meetings.....	14

Preventative Dental Plan Discontinued

The Voluntary Preventive Retiree Dental Plan that is sponsored by Purdue University and PURA through Anthem BlueCross and Blue Shield (serviced by AmWINS Group Benefits Inc.) was reviewed for renewal. The following issues surfaced:

- Participation has not increased as expected when the plan was introduced.
- The premium cost of the plan increased by 25% for 2020.
- Renewal of the plan for 2021 would come with another 25% percent premium increase.

Due to the above, the plan has become less cost effective, and therefore less attractive to offer to University retirees. After careful review of the renewal proposal with

the PURA Benefits Committee, it has been determined that the plan will not be offered in 2021.

While there will not be a sponsored dental plan for retirees over age 65 going forward, the following options are offered for your consideration:

RIPEA-AMBA/Ameritas:
<https://www.ambadentalvision.com/rtpea>

UHC-Golden Rule:
<https://www.uhone.com/content/uhone/en>

AARP-Delta Dental:
<https://www.deltadentalins.com/aarp>

If you have questions, please contact the Human Resources Service Center at hr@purdue.edu or call 765-494-2222 (local) and 877-725-0222 (toll free).

Norm's Notes: December Updates



United Way

For retirees living in the greater Lafayette area, the PURA support for the Greater Lafayette United Way Campaign is very close to reaching our 2020 PURA goal of \$165,000. As of this issue, we stand at \$161,917 contributed. Our thanks and deep appreciation go out to each donor for your support of this worthy cause. We should take pride in the important role that PURA and its members fulfill in the overall Purdue United Way campaign and in campaigns in other communities.

If you send your support to Greater Lafayette United Way via a third-party check we ask that you take personal action to clearly mark your gift as being from a PURA member. (Third-party checks are those issued and sent to the United Way on your behalf from an IRA or similar financial account.)

We have been assured the 2021 contributor's form for Greater Lafayette United Way will be redefined to encourage and accept third-party contributions and to appropriately recognize the respective organization. Hence, for 2020 we seek your attention to ensure you and PURA are properly credited for your gift to the United Way Campaign.

Flu Shot Program—Need a Receipt?

Handling vaccines this year through CustomPlus Pharmacy was new for us and a bit of a learning experience. For those who desire or need a "receipt" that shows proof of your obtaining a PURA flu shot, here is your answer: Please contact David Norris, Pharmacy Manager, CustomPlus Pharmacy, at 765/463-2600 or send email to David@customplusrx.com. He will be pleased to

provide you with a copy of your vaccine record in person or by email. If you have ideas or thoughts about the 2021 PURA flu shot program, please share them with David.

PURA Benefits

Please take a few moments to read and think about the PURA benefit information that appears as a part of this newsletter, especially note the revised list of PURA benefits and the dental plan change.

Upcoming PURA Monthly "Meeting" Zoom Calls

December 7, 2020, 12:45p.m. EST. The December PURA Zoom call promises to be one of fun, without comments on politics or COVID! A few announcements, some special guests, an entertaining presentation by Dr. Tom Turpin and Henrietta along with music from this year's Purdue Christmas Show, all promises to be a great close for our 2020 PURA programs.

January 4, 2021, 12:45 p.m. EST. Our January PURA Zoom call will feature a "Fire-Side Chat: What Seniors should know about COVID-19 in 2021". Our guest will be Dr. Pam Aaltonen, a fellow retiree. One of her specialties is Public Health. She has been involved with the School of Nursing and its students, in the delivery of our flu shots at the Turf Center, and is one of the Purdue Experts listed on the media contacts tab of the Protect Purdue website.

The Holiday Season is a special time for all of us as our thoughts are drawn to the people and businesses that have enhanced our lives. As we close out an unforgettable 2020, may your New Year be filled with health and happiness. I hope this greeting brings you and your loved ones a safe and blessed Christmas and Holiday Season.

With kindest regards,

Dr. Norman D. Long
PURA President

PURA's Student Scholars Speak Out:

Dear PURA Members...



Hi! My name is Alyssa Hudgins, and I am a PURA scholarship recipient. I am majoring in biomedical engineering and minoring in biotechnology. I am going to graduate in May 2023, all thanks to your generosity and support! Without your aid, I would not have the amazing opportunity to continue my

education past high school.

With this scholarship, I was able to pursue my dream of getting an engineering degree at Purdue. Your generous funding allows me the time and opportunity to be devoted to my studies as well as organizations and opportunities that further my growth.

This semester, I am part of the Protect Purdue Ambassadors, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and the Women in Engineering Mentor and Mentee program. I am part of a dedicated subcommittee for mental health awareness and an improvement project through a regional hospital. I also had the opportunity to have some of the best professors here at Purdue this semester. I am so honored to be taught by Purdue's finest!

Recently, I applied to some summer internships with Stryker, a medical device company. Hopefully, I will get one for this summer! I registered for my next semester's classes and I am so excited. I am taking a lot of biomaterials and circuit courses next semester which are some things that I was always interested in learning. After I graduate, I hope to work at Stryker or a medical device company that gives back to its community. I love the social outreach that Stryker participates in and I feel that it is a valuable aspect of what makes companies part of their local community.

Many thanks,
Alyssa Hudgins
PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke
Scholarship
Sophomore, College of Engineering, LaPorte, Indiana

Keep Those Email Address Updates Coming

Thanks so much for your email address updates! As you know, we have been working to keep retiree email addresses current so you can receive the PURA newsletter and important updates (such as upcoming virtual events and benefits news).

As global campus addresses change (such as the changes to @pnw.edu and @pfw.edu) we hope to work with University Development to update anyone using those forms of email address.

As always, you may send contact information updates to pura@purdue.edu, or update your information directly in the Retiree Directory (link and instructions for use are provided on the PURA website, www.purdue.edu/retirees).



I would like to first express my gratitude for granting me the PURA student scholarship. Not only does this help cover tuition and other fees, but it's also nice to know that people are willing to "invest" in someone like me. Receiving a donation such as this gives me tremendous motivation. I would like to take this time to tell you a little about myself.

My name is Samuel Laird. I am currently a junior studying mechanical engineering technology with an electrical engineering technology minor here at Purdue. While at Purdue I have been a part of the sailing team, residence hall clubs, and even undergraduate research which focuses on improving the resolution of 3D printing. This semester, fall 2020, I became interested in entrepreneurship, which opened up the door for me to receive an entrepreneurship certification that I expect to receive when I graduate, in May 2022.

Receiving this scholarship is important to me because I am an only child who was raised by a single mom trying to graduate debt free. As of now, I have been trying to pay for school out of pocket, which has not been an easy task to say the least. Receiving generous funding, such as this PURA scholarship, has really allowed me to put into perspective that I wouldn't be here without people/organizations like you. The money has allowed me to gain access to all that Purdue has to offer, whether that be open labs, Big10 sporting events, friendships from all over the world that will last a lifetime, or an education that is second to none. There is no place I'd rather be than right here at Purdue University surrounded by amazingly gifted people, and I am honored to be considered a Boilermaker.

This upcoming spring semester I will be on co-op at Avery Island working for Cargill's salt mine. I plan to continue my education in fall 2021 where I will have to take a sizable workload to ensure I graduate on time.

When I return, I plan to continue my research with my undergraduate team and will be sure to utilize the Purdue resources. After college, everything is still up in the air, but I am hoping that through my co-op experience I will figure out what I am more interested in doing.

Again, thank you for your generosity—it has not gone unnoticed.

Many Thanks,
Samuel D. Laird
PURA Student Scholarship
Senior, Purdue Polytechnic Institute, from Fort Wayne, Indiana

(Student Scholars Speak Out—continued on page 4)



My name is Shamari Walker, a sophomore from Hammond, Indiana, currently majoring in Computer Science. After the fall of 2020, I will be transferring into Systems Analysis and Design instead of Computer Science. My expected graduation date is May 2023. My purpose of writing this letter to you is to thank you for the amazing scholarship you enabled me to be a recipient of.

The scholarship is important to me because every amount of money awarded to me helps. Affording college was something that I had always worried about, and if it wasn't for the scholarship and grant money I have received from amazing organizations and people like you, I wouldn't be at Purdue on a full ride right now.

On campus I am very involved as a brother in my social fraternity, Delta Sigma Phi. Since I was initiated in fall of 2019, I have gone above and beyond to do as much as possible in my chapter house. This year I was appointed the position of Community Involvement where I am in charge of creating community service opportunities for the brotherhood by working with organizations in the West Lafayette and Greater Lafayette Area. I created the Diversity and Inclusion Chairman role in our chapter house and led a committee of 10 brothers to create guidelines for our brotherhood to abide by and compile ways we can make our house more diverse and inclusive of people from all backgrounds. I also understudy the Treasurer (Executive Position) and will be running during our chapter elections to hold the position throughout the year of 2021. On top of all my involvement in my chapter house, I was recently chosen as the Vice President of Programming and Education on the Interfraternity Council (IFC) executive board at Purdue. The funding you have provided me has allowed me to do all the things listed above this semester.

While at Purdue for the next two years, I plan on doing much more than I already have. If elected into the position of Treasurer in my chapter house, I will be holding two executive positions throughout 2021. In the fall of 2021 I plan on either running for president of my fraternity chapter or for president of the Interfraternity Council (IFC) at Purdue.

After my graduation from Purdue, I plan on working for Amazon as a software engineer in Seattle, Washington. I was named an Amazon Future Engineer scholarship recipient my senior year of high school, which rewarded me with a \$40,000 scholarship (\$10,000 each year) and a guaranteed paid internship with Amazon the summer of my freshman year. I ended up completing my internship this past summer virtually and received a return offer for next summer from my manager due to my performance. As of now, I plan on returning to Amazon each summer leading up to graduation and then working for them full time.

Once again, I would like to thank you so much for this scholarship. You have helped me do so much more than you can begin to imagine. May the best blessings come your way.

Thank you,
Shamari Walker
PURA Student Scholarship
Sophomore, College of Science, from Hammond, Indiana



My name is Esther Kirgiss and I am currently working hard to finish my second semester as a junior here at Purdue in the renowned Hospitality and Tourism Management program.

As a non-traditional transfer student, my graduation timeline isn't a typical 4-year program. I will be graduating in December 2021, immediately following my fourth and final semester at Purdue University. I am taking time to write and try to properly express my most sincere gratitude for the generosity of the individuals involved in PURA that allow myself and other students like me to focus on school by generously supporting them with financial scholarships.

Receiving this scholarship truly means the world to me. I went back to school at age 26 to pursue my HTM degree while working full time in restaurants. It is a constant struggle to balance my sincere desire to succeed in my studies, with the financial burden of school. Because of your generosity I am able to focus more on my work as a teaching assistant for a hospitality management and operations course for undergrad students, as well as volunteering on the Black-Tie Dinner student board as the 2021 Wine Director.

Beyond my heavy class load, I also work part time at East End Grill in downtown Lafayette. As I pursue my Hospitality degree I moonlight as a wedding coordinator around the Greater Lafayette and Indianapolis areas. With COVID-19 shutting down much of the industry that I work in, the financial strain has hit my family quite hard. The news that I was gifted this scholarship made a huge difference in my personal success this semester.

I am doing my best to fill my time and dedicate my energy to things that will help me grow as an individual and a future professional. I am taking full advantage of the nurturing environment that Purdue offers me, and I have come to realize that I love mentoring other students and sharing my experience in the classroom setting.

My goal after graduation is to work in a position where I can train and mold young leaders/managers who are entering the work force and eventually go back to school to teach at the collegiate level. The help I have received from my PURA scholarship has relieved stress and allowed me to focus on and explore what kind of impact I can make on my fellow students and my community.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,
Esther Kirgiss
*PURA Student Scholarship
Junior, School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, from
Lafayette, Indiana*



PURA Scholarships—Great News!

Five additional students have been awarded PURA Student Scholarships for the 2020-2021 academic year, bringing the total to seventeen Indiana students:

- Everett Pfeifer, a senior from West Lafayette, is studying in Computer and Information Technology in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute.
- Alexis Puente, a senior from Indianapolis, is pursuing a degree in Kinesiology in the School of Health and Human Sciences.
- Jackson Williams, a junior from Thorntown, is studying

Mechanical Engineering in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute.

- Esther Kirgiss, a junior from Lafayette, is pursuing a degree in hospitality management in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. (See her letter to PURA on page 4.)
- Shamari Walker, a sophomore from Hammond, is pursuing a Systems Analysis and Design degree in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute. (See his letter to PURA on page 4.)

Congratulations to our most recent scholarship recipients.

Year End Giving: Double Your Gift While Supporting Indiana Students

Dollar-for-dollar matching money is available, so let's continue building the PURA scholarship endowments to assist even more students. This year alone PURA members are helping two Jischke scholars and seventeen PURA Student Scholarship Endowment recipients—all Indiana students with significant financial need. Add these students to the other seventeen that PURA has assisted since 2012, and you can see the impact you have made in providing educational experiences to future Boilermakers.

In these trying times, when our current scholarship recipients tell us that they and their families struggle with lost jobs and lost opportunities, these scholarships are a lifeline to realizing goals. Alex Newall, from Connersville, Indiana, is a first year student in Purdue's exploratory studies program. He said in a note to PURA members, "You have no obligation to add to a scholarship fund, but you do. You have helped ease some of the burden college expenses will put onto me and allow me to focus on my education and gaining experience in my field. I know the other recipients of your fund feel the same way. People like you help enable future industry leaders and hard workers to change our nation for the

better." These same sentiments and expressions of thanks are shared by all of the scholarship recipients.

Please consider a year-end donation to either of the PURA scholarship endowments—PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke and/or the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment. Matching money is available for both.

You may make a donation by phone (1-800-319-2199) or by check payable to The Purdue Foundation for Life, with the specific endowment* noted in the memo line. Send the check to:

The Purdue Foundation for Life
403 W. Wood Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2007

For those of you over 70 ½ years of age, gifts from your IRA are not taxable income and also qualify for your required minimum distribution (RMD). To learn more about IRA Rollover opportunities, or to make an IRA Rollover charitable contribution, please contact the Office of Planned Giving, 765-494-8657.

*PURA Student Scholarship Endowment or PURA Purdue Opportunity Award in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke.

Confessions of a Book Addict

By Jo Thomas



Some people find red herrings entertaining. Some find them "irritating". Lady Dorothy Dunnnett must have loved them because she released a whole school of herrings when she wrote "The Lymond Chronicles".

This is not a book, but a series of six books. Each book's title refers to a chess piece or move. In order they are: The Game of Kings, Queen's Play, The Disorderly Knights, Pawn in Frankincense, The Ringed Castle, and Checkmate.

The main character, Francis Crawford, who has been cast out by his family, is the brother of a Baron. This is historical fiction seeded with actual events and people. It

begins after the death of Henry VIII and is from the Scot's point of view. Rather than trying to explain, I will borrow the quotes of book reviewers.

"Dorothy Dunnnett is a story teller who could teach Scheherazade a few things". *The New York Times*.

"Dunnnett evokes the sixteenth century with an amazing richness of allusion and scholarship, while keeping a firm control on an intricately twisting narrative", *London Sunday Times*.

"A masterpiece of historical fiction". *Washington Post*.

"Splendid colored scenes are always exciting, dangerous, fascinating." *Boston Globe*.

Mark Your Calendars: 2021 PLIR Virtual Presentation with Dr. Philip Low

The Purposeful Living in Retirement (PLIR) committee will be coordinating a virtual presentation for the April 21, 2021 meeting.

Dr. Philip Low will provide the sole address on “Drugs in the Pipeline for Treating Many Human Diseases”. Known nationally and internationally for his research, and an excellent speaker, Dr. Low is the Presidential Scholar for Drug Discovery and the Ralph C. Corley Distinguished Professor of Chemistry-Biochemistry. He will summarize upcoming therapies to address many maladies including, but not limited to, cancer, malaria, viral diseases,

autoimmune diseases, sickle cell anemia, fibrotic diseases, and bone fractures.

Dr. Low’s presentation is currently planned for 1:00 p.m. EST, on April 21, 2021. You will need to register for the presentation and registration information will be communicated in early Spring of 2021.

We will miss our usual conference format which has provided meals, vendors, door prizes, and social interaction. We hope to offer the full conference agenda in the spring of 2022. What a celebration we will have when we can all meet together again!

PURA 2020 Common Read—

“A Reluctant Icon: Letters To Neil Armstrong”

By Mary Alice Nebold,
Campus & Community Activities Committee

We attendees at the Zoom 2020 Common Read presentation greatly appreciated and enjoyed the informative presentation made by Tracy Grimm, the Barron Hilton Archivist for Flight and Space Exploration.

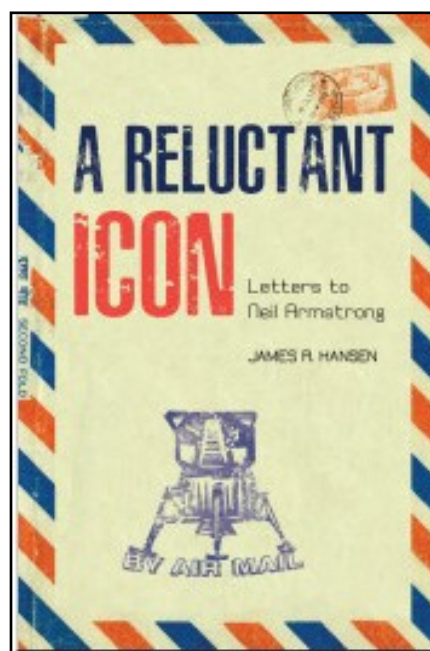
Here’s a summary of what we learned. Did you know:

- 450 boxes of Neil’s papers are housed in the climate controlled storage areas of the archives.
- Neil received thousands of pieces of fan mail in both written and recorded form.
- One of the objectives of the archives staff is to teach students how to do archival research by helping them do a document analysis and build a story.
- Fans first congratulated Neil in their communiqués, and then asked him for “something” – a picture, his autograph, for him to be a guest speaker, etc. Neil responded to each communiqué with a thoughtful, succinct, and witty note.

Tracy highlighted letters from a variety of sources: Phi Delta Theta fraternity brothers offered prayers for his safe return from the moon and asked Neil to be a guest speaker at their annual convention in 1970; Margaret Cooley, a child about 7 or 8 years in age; well-known people, including: Esther Kisk Goddard (wife of Robert, the creator and builder of the world’s first liquid-fueled rocket in 1926, ushering in the era of space flight and innovation); Sid Caesar, the comedian; Spiro T. Agnew, Vice President of the United States under Nixon, stating astronauts were the best ambassadors we Americans have; Mickey Kapp, the record producer who made customized mixtapes for astronauts; and C. Montgolfier, descendant of Montgolfier brothers, the inventors of the Montgolfier-style hot air

balloon in 1783; the Air Force Museum asking Neil to take the large piece of fabric from the left wing of the Wright Flyer at Kitty Hawk to the moon. [Upon return the fabric was to be cut into sections. Two sections, each approximately 24 x 25 inches, are in the Purdue archives.]

Tracy showed the “CBS This Morning – Saturday” documentary clip in which Jim Hansen, Neil’s official biographer, discussed with Jeff Glor, co-anchor of the CBS show, other selected letters to Neil. These included letters from Russia, the Eastern Block, and people expressing concern about environmental degradation caused by the trash left on the moon. It concluded with a heart touching letter from a young boy and his mother who let Neil know that her son did not know he was terminally ill. The young boy, with a smile on his face, died two hours after receiving Neil’s response.



Stay Warm!

Chris Rearick, MSN, RN
Purdue Nursing Center for Family Health

The cold weather is upon us. Did you know that being cold could actually make you sick? When our body temperature becomes very low, we develop hypothermia. Illnesses such as diabetes, thyroid issues, arthritis, dementia and Parkinson's can make it more difficult for your body to stay warm. Taking certain medications may also affect your body temperature. In an older adult, a body temperature of 95 degrees Fahrenheit can lead to significant health problems. Symptoms of hypothermia include cold hands and feet, shivering, sleepiness, slight swelling in face and confusion. Later signs may include clumsiness, a slowed heartrate, shallow breathing and loss of consciousness.

Check the temperature outside before going out so you may dress appropriately. Loose layered clothing will allow air between the layers to help keep you warm. You lose the most amount of body heat from your head and neck so wear a hat and a scarf. A waterproof coat will help repel dampness from snow. Keep gloves on your hands.

It is important to keep warm while inside also. Keeping your furnace temperature at 68-70F degrees in the winter is preferred. Closing the air vent and doors in the rooms you do not use will help you keep the rest of the house warm and may decrease your heating bills. If you use a

space heater, be careful to keep objects clear of it. Space heaters can be fire hazards and even lead to carbon monoxide poisoning. More information on space heater safety is at:

Seven Highly Effective Portable Heater Safety Habits—
<https://www.cpsc.gov/safety-education/safety-guides/home/seven-highly-effective-portable-heater-safety-habits/>.



Dress warm while in the house and keep a blanket to cover your legs when relaxing. Wear socks and slippers. When going to bed you can add long underwear under your pajamas. Have a plan in case there is a power outage and you lose your heat. Stay in touch with a family member or friend so you may check on each other.

Winter will come and go, so enjoy it. Drink some hot cocoa, have homemade soup and bake some cookies. Eating extra calories will help keep a thin layer of fat on you. That thin layer of fat will also help in keeping you warm.

Need help with your energy bills? The following site can provide information on assistance:

www.in.gov/ihcda/2329.htm , www.areavagency.org/early-childhood-education/energy-assistance

Please feel free to email Chris with any additional questions or suggestions for future health columns. Chris Rearick, crearick@purdue.edu or, you may call Chris at (765) 496-0308 and leave a message for her.

What to Celebrate: December



Dec.. 2—National Fritter Day



Dec. 5—Bathtub Party Day



Dec. 10 to 18—Hanukkah



Dec. 12—Poinsettia Day



Dec. 14—Roast Chestnuts Day



Dec. 16—National Chocolate Covered Anything Day



Dec. 18—Bake Cookies Day



Dec. 21—Winter Solstice



Dec. 24—National Egg Nog Day



Dec. 25—Christmas Day



Dec. 26—Boxing Day (UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand)



Dec. 26 to Jan. 1—Kwanzaa



Dec. 27—Make Cut Out Snowflake Day



Dec. 30—Bacon Day



Dec. 31—New Year's Eve and Omisoka (Japan)

Road Trip! PNW's Gabis Arboretum, Valparaiso, Indiana

By Karen Lembcke



Gabis Arboretum, now under the auspices of Purdue Northwest, is a wonderful nature preserve located on the outskirts of Valparaiso (450 W 100 N, Valparaiso, IN 46385-9230).

This preserve was formerly known as Taltree Arboretum and Gardens. The Arboretum consists of 300 acres that feature a restored prairie, display gardens, wetlands and approximately 6 miles of hiking trails through the woodlands.

From November through March admission to the Arboretum is free, otherwise, the charge is \$10 a car. Memberships are available for \$40 for those 55 plus. They also honor the American Horticultural Society Reciprocal Admissions Program. Their hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CST (i.e., Chicago time).

One of the most interesting features at the Arboretum is the Railway Garden but, unfortunately due to COVID-19, this exhibit is closed. But for model railroad buffs, this is a "must-see" when the exhibit reopens, as it features g-gauge model train cars and depicts the history of the steam engine.

The Arboretum consists of various gardens. The Native



Above, from left: "Homage" by Rich Kiebdaj; a beautiful, quiet and restful setting for a picnic; one of the trails; and main building with restrooms and entrance to the Depot and Railway Garden.

Top right: "Woman with a Hat" by Terry Karpowicz; butterfly (no artist credited).

Plant Garden features plants native to northwest Indiana, and provides a natural habitat for local wildlife. The Rose Gardens feature over 70 roses that surround the Celebration Rose Pavilion, which makes a beautiful setting for outdoor weddings. Another wonderful feature is the Treesong Music Garden which combines nature with unique outdoor instruments.

The trails are basically grass and easy to navigate. It is a wonderful place to take your grandchildren as there are several areas they really enjoy.

Gabis Arboretum offers educational seminars/webinars once a month. Upcoming are these:

December 3, 2020 – 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. CST. Facebook Live Q & A: "Indoor Plants and Holiday Evergreens." Free.

January 16, 2021 – 2:00-3:00 p.m. CST. "The Lost Landscapes of Indiana." Fee \$5 /\$6.24 with service fee.

For further information on these seminars, check out the website: <https://www.pnw.edu/events/category/gabis-arboretum/> and click on the event for further information.



Benefits Available To Purdue University Retirees

The PURA Benefits Committee would like to remind PURA members that many privileges and benefits are available to faculty and staff retirees from all campuses, who are official retirees. Some of the benefits are also applicable to an official retiree's spouse, surviving spouse and/or children. A complete updated list of retirees' benefits follows. (Note that due to COVID-19 restrictions, some of the identified benefits may be curtailed or not available at this time.)

Purdue provides numerous benefits for faculty and staff from the West Lafayette and regional campuses who are Official Retirees (see Official Retiree definition at the end of this document).

The University also provides benefits to Qualified Surviving Spouses and Qualified Children of deceased Purdue Official Retirees; these benefits are denoted with an asterisk (*).

Included among these benefits are the following, the majority which are available to Official Retirees from all of the Purdue campuses:

- A faculty/staff photo identification card.
- University contributions to an employee's Defined Contribution or PERF account on any terminal vacation pay an Official Retiree receives.
- Opportunity for continued participation at cost in the University's group life insurance plan up to age 65.
- Participation at cost in University/PURA-sponsored Medicare supplement and pre-65 medical insurance plans. *
- Customer service provided by Purdue University Human Resources, including pre- and post-retirement counseling and assistance with health insurance issues (765-494-1694).
- Complimentary parking permit for the West Lafayette campus good through August 31, 2022 for retirees whose retirement dates were before January 15, 2018. Retirees after January 15, 2018 register their vehicles for campus parking via the License Plate Recognition (LPR) software. Current retirees with the gold "A" parking permit are not required to convert to the LPR system but may do so if they wish.
- Convenient access to no-cost flu shots for retiree and spouse. *
- Access to a free yearly wellness health screening.

- Retiree rates on tickets for University athletic and entertainment events.
- Reduced rates at University recreational facilities and golf courses.
- Opportunity for official retirees to retain their Purdue email account or to apply to activate one.
- Opportunity to enroll in Purdue University classes on the same basis as active faculty/staff. Partial fee remission, however, is contingent upon the retired faculty or staff member residing in the state of Indiana or being subject to income taxes in the state of Indiana at the time of retirement. *
- Opportunity to enroll tuition-free in Purdue Global classes as well as certificate and degree programs. *
- Use of Purdue University libraries.
- Free rides on all Lafayette/West Lafayette City Bus routes.
- Access to Purdue Perks, the CSSAC-sponsored merchant discount program. https://www.purdue.edu/cssac/Employee_Discounts/index.html
- Same perks as offered to Purdue employees by the Fast Park and Relax 16 nation-wide airport parking facilities (www.thefastpark.com), including the Indianapolis International Airport. Contact RFRTeam@thefastpark.com with any questions. A Purdue email account is required for use of this benefit. For assistance in accessing the University's email, contact Human Resources at hr@purdue.edu or 765-494-2222.
- Opportunity to participate in all PURA-sponsored programs, events, trips and tours, including PURA's Purposeful Living in Retirement (PLIR) annual spring day-long educational program, featuring topics and presentations of current interest to retirees. *
- PURA Newsletter published 10 times a year. *
- PURA Website (www.purdue.edu/retirees) with monthly calendar and benefits updates, campus services news and technology features. *
- Access to Purdue Retirees e-directory at www.purdue.edu/retirees. *

(continued on page 10)

Who Qualifies as an Official Retiree?

A faculty or staff member who meets the following qualifications:

1. Age 55 or older and;
Employed by Purdue University in a benefits-eligible position for 10 or more years.

Or,

2. Employed by Purdue University in a benefits-eligible position and;
Received income replacement benefits under the University’s long-term disability program (LTD) until the age limit at which LTD benefits ended and;

Was continuously employed with the University for five years or more prior to qualifying for LTD.

Or,

3. The surviving spouse and surviving children of a person who:
 - a. Was an Official Retiree of the University and;
 - b. Had been continuously employed by the University for five or more years immediately prior to death.

Or,

4. Was a Purdue employee at the time of his or her death and;
Was continuously employed by the University in a benefits-eligible position for five or more years immediately prior to death.

PURA Tech Bytes

By Scott Ksander



The Truth About Holiday Cookies

In the tech world we talk about HTTP Cookies (aka Web Cookies, Internet Cookies, Browser Cookies, or simply Cookies). They are a small piece of data stored on the user’s computer by a web browser (such as Chrome or Safari) while connected to a Web Server/Site. Cookies contain only text, and you CANNOT get viruses from cookies. Cookies cannot cause any specific action such as pop-up screens. First usage of the term Cookie with regard to web browsers was in 1994. The idea was to have a way to store information as a user accessed a website. Probably the best example is cookies storing your shopping cart as you browse an e-commerce website and select items. Cookies were virtually unknown beyond the tech world until 1996 when the Federal Trade Commission first discussed the value of cookies in competitive trade.

There are three types of cookies: Session Cookies, Persistent Cookies, and Third-Party Cookies. Session Cookies are temporary storage for a given website. All cookies belong to a domain (such as amazon.com or walmart.com) and can only be accessed by servers in that domain. A shopping cart is a good example of a Session Cookie. Persistent Cookies are used for tracking longer term preferences such as language or authentication. Third-party Cookies (sometimes known

as Tracking Cookies) collect behavioral information and are often used for advertising purposes.

In general, Cookies are a good thing, and they help you improve your web experiences. Third-party Tracking Cookies are the most annoying and, in general, are now blocked by most current browsers. Even though blocking these is the likely default, only about 40% of internet users are currently blocking third party cookies. Somewhere along the line, they have elected to “Accept Cookies”. All browsers have a control for this. For example, in Chrome you can type the following in the browser bar: `chrome://settings/content`. There is information about cookies and a specific control to block third-party cookies.

All in all, different people will have varying opinions of Cookies. Some will enjoy the benefits of personal preference and website memory, others may feel they are completely intrusive, and the rest will fall somewhere in the middle. If you check your browser setting, you can craft the online experience that is right for you.

Time to enjoy some real holiday cookies in the real world – Happy Holidays!

Zoom Tech Tip

During our recent PURA Zoom meeting, a number of you have noticed some of our members with beautiful backgrounds that are clearly not their house. Zoom provides a feature called “virtual background”. If you want to learn more about this, take a look at the following for some tips - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Zq-b51A3dA>

PURA Tours Haan Museum Gardens

The PURA Campus & Community Committee arranged for 3 tours of the Haan Museum Sculpture Garden in August and September. The garden is located behind the Haan Museum of Indiana Art, at 920 E. State Street in Lafayette's Wabash Triangle Historic District. The tours were led by docent Sally Carter, at left below, in the blue dress.



The mansion, which was the State of Connecticut pavilion at the St. Louis 1904 World fair, was purchased and moved to Lafayette when the fair closed. Originally the home of the Potter family, Bob and Ellie Haan purchased

the property in 1984 and proceeded to fill it with Indiana's most complete collection of Indiana fine art and pottery and gorgeous American-made furniture.



All of the 25 sculptures are the works of Indiana artists in metal, stone, glass, and ceramic. The animal sculptures are perfect for a safari hunt for children. There is something for all to enjoy in this lovely garden. The garden, designed and cared for by Brenda Carton and her team of volunteers, is landscaped using native Indiana wildflowers. It is handicap-accessible and even has a theater garden with stage for outdoor performances. There is also a nature trail on the grounds. The garden and nature trail can be visited from dawn to dusk at no charge. Just park in the lot next to the museum and enjoy your visit.

The sculptures, as well as items in the mansion, can be sponsored with the funds going to help maintain them and add to the collections. In fact, two tour participants did decide to sponsor a painting and sculpture. More information is available at: <https://haanmuseum.org/>. December is a perfect time to visit the museum, which is decorated to celebrate the season.

Christmas Lights!



That's what our 4-year-old granddaughter shouts from the back seat—at every decorated house—as we drive around our neighborhood looking for cool lighting displays. We've been

crusing for the last several weeks, much earlier than years past. Understandable (and appreciated) that our neighbors are early, since if ever we "need a little Christmas" it's this year!

Good news is there are outdoor lights displays throughout the state that have been designed or revised to be visited safely. Several are free. Here's a sampling from the *Visit Indiana* website's blog:

Indianapolis Area

Christmas at the Zoo. Reservations needed for timed entry, lights included with Zoo admission.

Winterlights at Newfields museum. Outdoor stroll through a million and a half lights in the historic garden. Advance tickets required for timed entry.

Circle of Lights & Holiday on the Circle. Free. Sightseers can drive or walk by throughout the season.

Christmas Night of Lights, Indiana State Fairgrounds. Drive-

through holiday lights display synchronized to music. Entrance fee per person or carload, but reservations **NOT** required.

A Merry Prairie Holiday, Conner Prairie museum, Fishers. Advance tickets required.

Danville (Indiana): Winterland Holiday Light Show. Drive through. Per car fee.

Martinsville: Festival of Lights, at Jimmy Nash City Park. Drive or walk through. Free.

Marion: Walkway of Lights (view on foot or from your car), Per car fee.

Muncie: "Reimagined" Enchanted Luminaria Walk at Minnetrista gathering place. Outdoor walk through the grounds. Free.

Wabash: Charley Creek Gardens Yule Time Stroll. Walk-through. Free.

Michigan City: Festival of Lights. Largest, free, drive-through light exhibit in the Midwest.

Elsewhere in the state, *Visit Indiana* also lists other displays located in Bloomington, Elkhart, Evansville, French Lick, Ft. Wayne, Hammond, Santa Claus, and South Bend, to name a few.



For more information about these events, including dates, health safety procedures, and links to ticketing information, see *Visit Indiana's* holiday lights blog at: <https://visitindiana.com/blog/index.php/2020/11/12/holiday-lights-displays-in-indiana/>

Smile Corner

By Sara Jane (Sally) Coffman



Don't Forget Your Thank You Notes

Call me old-fashioned, but I'm a stickler for sending thank you notes. If someone gives you a gift, you send them a thank you note.

I once tried to instill this idea in my nephews by sending them the following note after not receiving thank you notes for the Christmas presents I sent them:

Dear Dirk, Brick, and Mick:

By the authority vested in me as your Aunt, I hereby suspend all future gifts of cash, gift cards, checks, presents, McDonald's coupons, and airline tickets until which time I receive—in your own handwriting—thank you notes for the Christmas presents I sent you two months ago.

Said thank you notes should include (but not necessarily be limited to) the following three things: a description of the present, a statement of how much you appreciated receiving it, and a sentence convincing me that you're using it—and enjoying it—even if you aren't.

This is the way things are done in a civilized world.

Long live civilization!

*Signed,
Auntie Sally*

You can imagine how well that went over.

I pride myself in my ability to write good thank you notes. But there was a time when my talent came back to haunt me.

The story begins simply enough. One day, a woman in the locker room at my gym complimented me on the dress I was wearing. Then she told me she had a bag of clothes in her car that were too small for her daughter that would be perfect for me. Would I like to have them?

Now, I like to buy my own clothes, but she was REALLY excited about giving me these clothes. So, after class, I followed her out to the parking lot and lugged the huge bag of clothes from her car to mine.

When I got home, I went through them and, at first, I was thrilled! The clothes were all name brands -- Talbot's, B. Moss, and Banana Republic. But once I started trying them on, I discovered that nothing fit, nor was anything my style. Now what was I going to do?

After thinking about it for awhile, I decided to take them to our local consignment shop and sell them. Not only would I get rid of them, but I'd make some extra money!

The consignment shop I had in mind had a reputation for being quite particular about what they'd accept, so I spent the day carefully washing and ironing all the clothes before I took them in.

The next day I took the clothes to the consignment shop, along with my purse to carry all the money I was going to get. But the consignment shop didn't want any of the clothes either. I lugged them back to my car.

Now what was I going to do with them?

At lunch the next day, I took my friends out to my car and showed them the clothes. Would anyone like anything? No. Would any of their kids like them? No. Did they have any suggestions for what I could do with them? No.

I ended up taking them to Goodwill.

Returning home, I sat down and wrote the lady a thank you note (because that's what I do), telling her how much I was going to enjoy the clothes. End of story.

The next week at the gym, the lady came running up to me, thanking me profusely for my wonderful thank you note!

"My pleasure."

And then she said: "Since you liked the clothes so much, I brought you another bag. It's in my car."

AARGH!

I may need to adjust my philosophy about sending thank you notes. In the meantime, you're on your own for this Christmas. . .

Sally's books are available on Amazon or at sarajanecoffman2@outlook.com.



December 2020 Campus Calendar

Academic/Holiday:

- Nov. 30—Classes resume remotely through semester end.
Dec. 12—Fall semester ends
Dec. 19 to Jan. 3 (including weekends)—Offices closed. University winter break.
18 Jan. 2021—Offices closed. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
19 Jan. 2021—Spring Semester classes begin.

Special Events:

“Pursuing Racial Justice Together” virtual lecture series. All events are free and presented virtually. Registrants (“RSVP”) will receive event link 24-48 hours before event; limit 1 “ticket” per registration. Registration ends at 3:00 p.m. EST on day of event. Visit the series’ website for more information, including a sign-up link to receive updates:

<https://www.purdue.edu/diversity-inclusion/racial-justice-series/>

- Dec. 3**—“Policing in America: A Panel Discussion.” Moderator: Coleman Hughes, fellow, Manhattan Institute. Panelists: Carmen Best, retired Seattle police chief; John Wood Jr., national ambassador for Braver Angels; Cheryl Dorsey, retired sergeant from Los Angeles Police Department. 7:00 p.m. EST.

Athletics:

All sports schedules available at: <https://purduesports.com>. Click through to the Home page, then click on **Sports** at the top to see specific sports menu.

Football: No fans due to pandemic. Telecast on BTN. Radio is on the Boilermaker Sports Network; flagship station is WAZY-96.5 FM in Lafayette.

- Dec. 5**—vs. Nebraska. Time TBA.
Dec. 12—at Indiana. Time TBA.

Men’s Basketball: No fans due to pandemic. Telecast on BTN. Radio on WAZY-96.5 FM and Purdue Sports Network.

- Dec. 1**—vs. Oakland (Mich.). 3:00 p.m. EST at Mackey Arena.
Dec. 4—vs. Valparaiso. 7:00 p.m. EST at Mackey Arena.
Dec. 8—at Miami, Florida. Time TBA. ACC/Big Ten Challenge. No fans due to pandemic. Telecast on an ESPN channel as well as those listed above.
Dec. 12—vs. Indiana State. Time TBA at Mackey Arena.

- Dec. 16**—vs. Ohio State. Time TBA at Mackey Arena.
Dec. 19—vs. Notre Dame. Crossroads Classic. Time TBA at Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Indianapolis. Telecast not listed. Radio on WAZY-96.5 FM and Purdue Sports Network. The Crossroads Classic also will feature a Butler vs. Indiana game. Times and television have not been determined. The event was not listed on the events/tickets page of the fieldhouse website. A Butler University posting of Nov. 17 said that a decision on allowing fans had not been made.
Dec. 22—at Iowa. Time TBA.
Dec. 25—vs. Maryland. Time TBA at Mackey Arena.
Dec. 29—at Rutgers. Time TBA.
Jan. 2—at Illinois. Time TBA.

Women’s Basketball: No fans due to pandemic. Radio broadcast is on WBPE “BOB” 95.3-FM and the station online.

- Dec. 3**—vs. Miami (Ohio). 6:00 p.m. EST, at Mackey Arena.
Dec. 6—vs. Valparaiso. 2:00 p.m. EST, at Mackey Arena.
Dec. 9—vs. Buffalo. 6:00 p.m. EST, at Mackey Arena.
Dec. 13—vs. Bowling Green. 2:00 p.m. EST, at Mackey Arena.
Dec. 17—vs. Northwestern. Time TBA at Mackey Arena.
Dec. 20—at Penn State. Time TBA.
Dec. 23—vs. Nebraska. Time TBA at Mackey Arena.
Jan. 3—vs. Michigan State. Time TBA at Mackey Arena.

Athletic ticket information at:

purduesports.com/tickets/pur-tickets.html

Music: Virtual Concerts, free and open to the public.

Dec. 19—87th Annual PMO Christmas Show. PMO has announced this will be a virtual performance and will be free to attend. Working title is “A Different Kind of Christmas.” Performance time and details not yet available. Check PMO’s website for more information:
<https://www.purdue.edu/pmo/christmas-show/>

Dance: Virtual Event.

Dec. 3, 4, 5—“Winter Works.” Purdue Contemporary Dance Company. Virtual event featuring student dancers and choreography by Division of Dance faculty and selected students. Created and recorded during fall semester; sound scores and light design by the choreographers and students in sound design and light design, also in the Rueff School of Design, Art, and Performance. 7:30 p.m. EST. Tickets required, per viewer per date. Note: Registration for each performance ends at 3 p.m. EST on the event date. Tickets are available at:

https://am.ticketmaster.com/purdue/buy?_ga=2.111729220.1719763492.1606531047-1656660773.1604338374#/

www.purdue.edu/retirees

PURA’s official web site. Check there for most recent PURA news, the link to the Retiree Directory, retiree benefits & health information, PURA committee rosters and organization history

Mark Your Calendars! PURA Events

7 December, 2020 PURA virtual monthly meeting, via Zoom.

12:45 p.m.—1:30 p.m. EST

Topic: “Holiday Fun” program and celebration with music from the 2020 Purdue Christmas Show

4 January, 2021 PURA virtual monthly meeting, via Zoom.

12:45 p.m.—1:30 p.m. EST

Topic: “Fireside Chat” - useful financial ideas/what seniors should know about COVID from the Pandemic

PURA events are adjusting to the “new normal” with meetings held via Zoom, for the present. PURA will provide Zoom connection information and other important updates via email, the *PURA News* newsletter, and our website:
<https://www.purdue.edu/retirees/>

Make sure we have your current email address to stay informed. Please send your information to pura@purdue.edu.

PURA News

The Purdue University Retirees Association newsletter is published for official retirees of Purdue University, and prepared by the PURA Communications Committee.

Suggestions or ideas for PURA or the newsletter, and changes of address and email, should be referred to:

Office of Retiree Affairs
2550 Northwestern Ave., Suite 1100
West Lafayette, IN 47906
Telephone: 765-494-7395 or (toll free) 877-725-0222
Email: pura@purdue.edu

2020-2021 PURA Communications Committee:

Chair: Karen Lembcke

Members: Connie Bilyeu, Jim Daniel, Jo Thomas

Zoom Connection Information for PURA Meetings

The Zoom connection information for PURA monthly meetings is shown below. **The link, Meeting ID, and password will be the SAME for all future normal monthly meetings**, beginning with the meeting on Monday, October 5, 2020.



Members who wish to join via phone call audio only will need the separate Passcode shown below. (The password/passcode for that method is different from the normal “computer connection” to Zoom.)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97285398989?pwd=MIB4U0FudEplMFRoWm1GTkZzNmYrZz09>

Meeting ID: 972 8539 8989

Passcode: BoilerUp

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,97285398989#,,,,,0#,,41051096# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,97285398989#,,,,,0#,,41051096# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 972 8539 8989

Passcode: 41051096

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/acvQQKVcnE>