

PURA News

Purdue University Retirees Association

April 2022

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Welcome Current & New PURA News Readers!

The PURA newsletter, published 10 times a year, regularly features articles on retiree benefits, Purdue news, upcoming opportunities to hear interesting speakers with other retirees, health topics, humor, Indiana travel, and PURA business.

We hope you'll find this publication informative and entertaining, but if you're not interested you may, of course, opt out.

We welcome your comments and suggestions (send to: pura@purdue.edu), and we invite you to join us at our virtual programs.

Purdue Global Featured at April 4 PURA Meeting



On April 4, please join PURA for a discussion of Purdue Global's Evolution, with special presenter Jon Harbor, Provost, Purdue Global. His presentation will describe the growth and development of Purdue Global and the role it plays in higher education today.

Dr. Harbor was born in England and completed his undergraduate studies at Cambridge University and his PhD in geological sciences at the University of Washington. He joined Purdue's Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences in 1994. During his time at Purdue he served in a variety of leadership positions and received a number of awards, including the Book of Great Teachers, the Murphy Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching and the Provost's Award for Outstanding Graduate Mentorship.

His research and education initiatives have been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency, NASA, National Geographic, and international science foundations. Harbor has served as a Fulbright Senior Scholar, an American Council on Education Fellow, and a European Union Marie Curie Fellow. In 2015, Stockholm University awarded him an honorary doctorate. He currently has emeritus status in EAPS.

At the University of Montana he served as the provost and executive vice president for and as executive director of digital education.

In 2020, he joined Purdue Global as Provost, where he continues to champion teaching excellence and the expansion of quality online education to meet the needs of diverse learners. He is experienced in designing processes that help academic organizations develop and implement novel strategies for success, with a particular focus on access, innovation, and excellence.

This virtual meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. ET as usual, with the speaker starting at 12:40 p.m. The Zoom connection information may be found at the end of this newsletter, and a reminder email will be sent closer to the date.

Bill's Bulletin—April's Celebrations



April Fool's

April is a month of celebrations, beginning with All Fool's Day on April 1. Through the ages, wisdom and folly have been quipped by many, even the great poets:

A fool sees not the same tree that a wise man sees. – William Blake

A fool must now and then be right by chance. – William Cowper

It is better to be a fool than to be dead. – Robert Louis Stevenson

The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool. – William Shakespeare

Let us be thankful for the fools. But for them the rest of us could not succeed. – Mark Twain

Easter

This year, Easter will be celebrated April 17. Easter is traditionally celebrated on the first Sunday following the full moon, just on or after the spring equinox. Some fun facts about Easter celebrations:

- The traditional Easter egg roll on the White House lawn began in 1878.
- The first chocolate eggs were made in Germany in the 19th century.
- Americans buy more than 700 million marshmallow Peeps. Yellow Peeps are the most popular, followed by pink, lavender, blue, and white.

(continued on page 3)

- 16 billion jellybeans are made specifically for Easter, enough to fill a 9-story building.
- Candy isn't just for the kids: Americans over 18 consume 65% of candy produced each year. And while Americans eat 25 pounds of candy per person annually, the people of Denmark eat 36 pounds each!

Patriot's Day

Patriot's Day was historically celebrated on the third Monday in April, commemorating the Battle of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts where the Revolutionary War began on April 19, 1775. Current calendars recognize Patriot's Day on September 11 to commemorate the attack on the World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon, and United Airlines flight 93 on 9/11/2001. Only Massachusetts, Maine, and Wisconsin celebrate the holiday in April, but it is worth remembering the inception and history of Patriot's Day.

On the evening of April 18, 1775 British Commander-in-Chief Thomas Gage ordered Lt. Col. Francis Smith to secretly destroy Colonists' war supplies held in Concord. Doctor Joseph Warren learned of the plan and sent William Dawes and Paul Revere to warn the Patriots. Paul Revere rode 16 miles from Boston to Lexington, where the British arrived in early dawn on April 19, 1775. It was there that the Patriots and British gathered and a shot was fired, known today as "the shot heard 'round the world".

But the story we all know of Paul Revere's ride, shouting, "The British are coming!" is not true. In reality, Paul Revere never finished his ride. Revere, Dawes, and a third rider, Dr. Samuel Prescott, were detained by a British patrol on their way to Concord. Revere escaped without his horse and walked back to Lexington; Dawes got lost and never made it to Concord; only Dr. Samuel Prescott reached Concord, where he delivered the warning.

Purposeful Living In Retirement (PLIR): April 20, 2022

At this year's PLIR there will be 3 formal presentations, with 2 breaks. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Will Miller, author, ordained minister, Ethics and Social Media Professor at Krannert, and former headline comedian. The second presentation will be Briony Horgan, Associate Professor Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, on "NASA's Perseverance Rover: A giant leap in the search for life beyond Earth". The last presentation will be Mike Bobinski, the Purdue Athletic Director. He will bring us up to date with Purdue's take on the 2021 changes within NCAA Sports. Please see the article in this issue for more details.

Thought for the day: Don't wait for sleep to start dreaming!

William Bennett, President, PURA

Reminder: Still a Few Openings In PURA's Tour of "Provenance" Residential Area

On Thursday, April 14 at 2:00 p.m. ET, PURA has the opportunity to visit Provenance, a residential area just west of campus in West Lafayette. Its multi-phase plan includes townhomes, apartments and single-family homes. Community amenities include a community clubhouse, nature trails, parks and restaurants within walking distance.

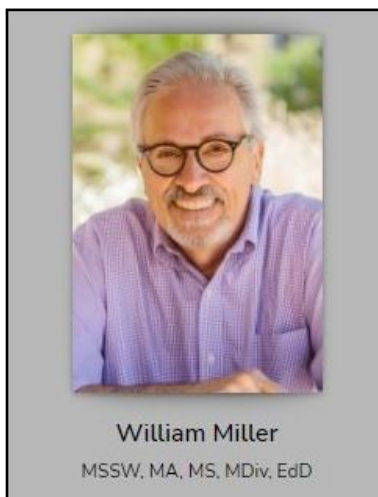
If you're interested and hadn't yet signed up, there are still a few spots available for the tour. Space is limited so do contact PURA soon. Please make a reservation by sending email to PURA@purdue.edu, **by Monday, April 11 at 2:00 p.m. ET.**



Provenance Model Home



Dr. Will Miller To Present Keynote Address at Purposeful Living in Retirement Program, April 20, 2022



Dr. Will Miller will present “Returning to Resilience: Emerging from Our Mental Health Trial” as the keynote address at the virtual PLIR program on April 20, 2022. Dr. Miller is an author, ordained minister, and Ethics and Social Media Professor at Purdue.

His presentation will be followed by a video introduction by Tom Turpin to Peanut Butter and Jelly, the 2021 Thanksgiving turkeys pardoned by President Biden and now in permanent residence on campus.

After a short break the second presentation will be Briony Horgan, Associate Professor of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences on "NASA's Perseverance Rover: A giant leap in the search for life beyond Earth". Her presentation will be followed by "Exercises Accomplished in the Home" presented by David Caldwell, a PURA member who teaches in the Silver Sneakers programs.

The third presentation will be Mike Bobinski, the Purdue Athletic Director. He will discuss the many national changes that are on the scene in college athletics.

The free virtual conference will begin at 9:00 a.m. ET and conclude by noon. It will be offered to all PURA members. There will be no mailed paper marketing and no online registration. PURA members will receive Zoom instructions via email the end of March and a reminder the week before the program. Members will then simply log in the day of the meeting with the provided address.

We hope to “see” you there!

PURA’s Historical Characters to Provide Program for The Purdue Women’s Club 100th Anniversary

The Purdue Women’s Club (PWC) will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in 2022, and four of PURA’s Historical Purdue Characters will be providing the program at PWC’s annual spring luncheon on April 7: Amelia Earhart, portrayed by Mary Alice Nebold; Lillian Gilbreth, portrayed by Carolyn Jones; Virginia Meredith, portrayed by Joyce Miles; and Mary L Matthews, portrayed by Olivia Wood.

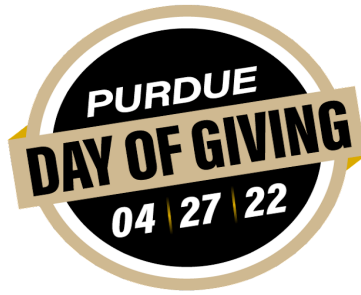
PWC is an independent non-profit organization founded by female members of the Purdue faculty in 1922 for the purposes of “...bringing of the women of the university circle into an organization to promote sociability.” The first meeting to discuss forming the group, and the first formal meeting of the PWC were both held in 1922, in the then-unfinished Purdue Memorial Union.

Over its hundred year history, many women from Purdue and the surrounding community have been members. The organization’s mission is to provide opportunities for women of Purdue or the greater Lafayette area to grow educationally, socially, and creatively. PWC also financially supports Purdue’s Span Plan Adult Student Services Program (commonly referred to simply as the Span Plan), which provides academic, career, and personal counseling that assists non-traditional adult students to succeed at Purdue.

Mary L Matthews was a charter member of the PWC in 1922, became the first Dean of Home Economics in 1926, and PWC President in 1930-31. In 1935, Lillian Gilbreth was the first female full professor in Industrial Engineering and interacted with Amelia Earhart when she was on campus that same year as a visiting instructor.

In 1921 Virginia Meredith became the first female appointed to the Purdue Board of Trustees. She and David Ross were assigned to all aspects of financing, construction, and managing a Union Building. She was responsible for most of the exterior and interior design of the Union, which was finally finished in 1930. The terrazzo tile and beautiful woodwork present today were all her selections in 1922.

Meredith, Earhart, and Matthews all have Purdue buildings named in their honor.



Reminder: Purdue Day Of Giving on April 27

Support the PURA student scholarship endowments on Purdue Day of Giving, April 27, 2022. Dollar for dollar matching money is still available for the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment and the PURA Purdue Opportunity Award in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke. Currently the endowments are assisting 16 students. Your continuing contributions will allow PURA to support an equal number of students in the fall of 2022.

A dedicated online link to contribute to the two PURA endowments will be emailed to you prior to April 27. If you prefer to mail a donation, write a check payable to the Purdue for Life Foundation, with either the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment or PURA POA Endowment in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke noted in the memo line.

Send the check to: Purdue for Life Foundation, 403 W. Wood Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2007. You also may call 1-800-319-2199 to make a donation. And for those of you over 70½ years of age, gifts from your IRA are not taxable income and qualify for your required minimum distribution (RMD). To learn more about the IRA Rollover opportunities, or to make an IRA Rollover charitable contribution, please contact the Office of Planned Giving, 765-494-8657

PURA's Student Scholars Speak Out: Part III

Dear PURA members . . .



Shamari Walker, center

My name is Shamari Walker, a junior from Hammond, Indiana, majoring in Systems Analysis and Design while focusing on receiving the Certificate of Entrepreneurship as a minor. My expected graduation date is May 2023. My purpose of writing this letter to you is to thank you for the amazing scholarship you have provided for me. I have previously been selected to receive the PURA scholarship for the 2020-2021 school year and I am more than thankful to receive it again this year.

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 weren't for the scholarship and grant money I have received from amazing organizations and people like you, I wouldn't be at Purdue 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. In the 2020-2021 school year, I was appointed to the position of Community Involvement where I was in charge of creating community service opportunities for the brotherhood by working with organizations in the West Lafayette and Great 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 ways we can make our house more diverse and inclusive of people from all backgrounds. I also understudied the Treasurer (Executive Position). On top of all my involvement in my chapter house during that year, I was chosen as the Vice President of Programming and Education on the Interfraternity Council (IFC) executive board at Purdue as well. In the 2021-2022 school year, I held the treasurer position in my fraternity over the summer and fall 2021, and as of a few weeks ago, I was elected to be the president of my fraternity chapter. Our chapter is currently above 110 members, making it one of the biggest on campus. The funding you have provided me has enabled me to do all the things listed above these past few years.

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While at Purdue for the next year, I plan on finishing my term as chapter president and enjoying the little time I'll have left with my friends in celebration. After my graduation from Purdue, I plan on working for Oracle as a software engineer in Austin, Texas. I received an internship offer for Summer 2022 there and plan to work hard to receive a return offer for full time. I have done two software engineering internships for Amazon Headquarters in Seattle, Washington previously and planned to work for them full time after a third one, but moved my eyes toward Oracle after I experienced Amazon in person instead of virtual.

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.

Sincerely,
Shamari Walker
PURA Student Scholarship Recipient 2020/2021, 2021/2022
Junior, Purdue Polytechnic Institute, from Hammond, Indiana



Daniel McClelland

My name is Daniel McClelland, and I am a recipient of the PURA scholarship for the 2021-22 school year. I am writing to you to express my utmost gratitude for your generosity and support. As a freshman, I have so many goals here at Purdue, and this scholarship fund will help me to achieve those goals. I am studying cybersecurity here at Purdue, and I am looking into double majoring in Network Engineering in Technology. I have such great expectations for my future here at Purdue, as I strive towards the great achievement of graduating in 2025.

I just want to say thank you so much for this scholarship, as it truly means the world to me. I had always dreamed of coming to Purdue, even as a young child. I loved the idea of a school with such strong academics, athletics, as well as the overall amazing atmosphere of the campus. I also had family ties to Purdue, as my mother went here for her undergraduate degree as well as graduate school. My dad also went here for graduate school, so I am beyond thrilled that I can now call myself a Boilermaker. This scholarship allows me to pursue my education without a heavy financial burden. Academics have always been a priority to me, and I am so grateful to be able to continue my education here at Purdue, which, in part, has been made possible by your generosity. While academics are very important to me, I am also able to enjoy time with new friends. I have even found some cool clubs that interest me, such as a Purdue Hackers club and a puzzles club that enjoys meeting to solve Rubik's cubes, sudokus, and various other logic puzzles. Ever since I came to Purdue, I have met so many amazing people, both students and staff. Every day, I am reminded how lucky I am to be able to attend this incredible university and experience all it has to offer, and I can do so without being bound by financial concerns, thanks to you.

Like I said before, I have so many goals and expectations for my future here at Purdue. I want to see myself pursue a major that I love, which I am sure that I will. After finishing my undergraduate degree, I hope to find a great job in something that I will enjoy. I would love to see myself working for something like a government agency or a big tech company. Regardless of the career I end up pursuing, I am confident that my education here at Purdue will supply me with all the knowledge and tools that I will need to be successful. It is still quite early on for me to decide, but I have considered pursuing a master's degree after spending several years in the workforce. I am beyond excited to continue to learn and grow as a person throughout my college experience at Purdue. I want to again stress that this is all made possible through your support.

Again, thank you so much. I am extremely grateful, and I deeply appreciate your generosity and support.

With thanks,
Daniel McClelland
PURA Student Scholarship Recipient 2021/2022
Freshman, Purdue Polytechnic Institute, from Westfield, Indiana

(continued on page 7)



Peyton Batchelor

My name is Payton Batchelor and I am a sophomore in Professional Flight Technology pursuing an Entrepreneurship Certificate. My expected graduation date is May of 2024. My purpose in writing is to thank you for your generosity and support of my academic career this school year.

This scholarship is so important to me because funds for my college career have been very tight. This scholarship has helped lift the financial burden slightly and enabled me to focus more on my academics. It also has enabled me to be heavily involved in an on campus Christian Ministry group, Campus Outreach. I am in a Discipleship Group, which gives me a unique leadership position in Campus Outreach, allowing me to start off our meetings and invite many other people to join. In my academics, I am currently moving towards my Instrument rating and Commercial license which will open even more doors in the industry for me. Once I receive my Instrument rating, as I will be getting this first, I can apply to be in Cadet programs at different airlines. The Cadet programs can set me up nicely for my future plans after college.

To go into depth about these Cadet programs, I would explain them as a way to get my foot in the door at an airline and meet many people in successful airlines. If accepted into the Cadet program at various airlines, I have to meet multiple criteria, and then choose which airline’s Cadet program I would want to be in. In most cases I would sign a contract with the airline, be able to train with them at some point, and be employed there after graduation. I currently have my eyes on the Republic Cadet program because I would love to work for them someday.

Once again, I would like to thank you so much for choosing to support me in my academic career and let you know that I am so appreciative of your generosity!

Sincerely,
Payton Batchelor
PURA Student Scholarship Recipient 20221/2022
Sophomore, Purdue Polytechnic Institute, from Plainfield, Indiana



Alyssa Hudgins

My name is Alyssa Hudgins, and I am a junior in Biomedical Engineering. I am expected to graduate in May 2023, thanks to your help and support! I appreciate your generosity and support because I would not be able to attend Purdue without it.

I am very appreciative of the opportunity to study and continue my education, especially at such an esteemed university like Purdue. From this opportunity, I was able to meet so many amazing people and learn so many new things! I am currently involved with the Women in Engineering Mentors and Mentees program for the second year now. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to be a mentor for new engineering students here. It’s interesting to see the perspective of and help guide new students and to see their perspectives shift as they go through their first year. I can focus solely on studies while I am here. This semester is considered the hardest in the biomedical engineering program so not having to worry about financials has been a huge relief.

In the future, I hope to be able to be more involved in research and study abroad at Purdue. I am planning on applying for a study abroad in Scotland during this year’s Maymester. I am really excited at the possibility of being able to travel outside of the country!

After completing my degree, I hope to make a change. I want to be able to do this via research and development in the medical device industry. I ideally want to learn more about developing patient-centric care since it is an area that needs such vast improvement.

Thank you again for your generosity and making my dreams possible! Without your help, none of this would have been possible!

Many Thanks,
Alyssa Hudgins
PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke Scholarship Recipient 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022
Junior, College of Engineering, from LaPorte, Indiana



Not able to listen in to the recent COVID-19 update at the March virtual monthly PURA meeting? You can link to the recording from the home page of our website: www.purdue.edu/retirees

Links to previous meeting recordings are available from the Archive page. Just click the Archive item on the gold menu bar at the top of the Home page to get started.

Purdue Cooperative Extension Retiree Committee Offers End-of-Life Planning Seminar

As noted in the last issue of *PURA News*, the Purdue County Extension Service Retirees are sponsoring an end-of-life planning seminar on May 9, 2022, which is open to PURA members/spouses and a guest. In fact, attendees are encouraged to bring their spouse or a family member to this program.

Titled “What Your Family Needs to Know Before You Go”, this in-person seminar will be held in Noblesville, Indiana, at the Hamilton County Extension Office. Cost to attend the program is \$20.00 per person or \$30.00 per couple (this includes lunch).

If you wish to attend, request a registration form from Nancy Schuman at schumannj92@centurylink.net. An information letter, directions and registration form will be emailed upon request. Registration is due by Friday, April 15.

Program

- 9:30 a.m. ET—Registration begins; program starts at 10:00 a.m. ET.
- 10:00 a.m. ET to 12:00 noon ET—Morning divided sessions.
 - * “How to Navigate the Purdue Benefits Process” presented by PURA member, and chair of the PURA Benefits Committee, Larry Pherson.
 - * “How to Navigate the Federal Benefit Process” presented by Tammy Flannigan, a federal benefits expert.
- 12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET—break for a box lunch.
- Afternoon sessions, presented by Purdue Cooperative Extension Service Educators:
 - * 1:00 – 1:45 – “Without A Will in Indiana” or “The Art of Goodbye”
 - * 1:50 – 2:35 – “Strategies for Estate Planning” or “Code Red Contingency Planning Tool”
 - * 2:45 – 3:30 pm, “How I Ended Up with my Mom’s Turkey Roaster”

Research Participation Opportunities

If you didn’t see the recent announcement in Purdue Today, Purdue researchers are looking for people to participate in a variety of research studies. Some are voluntary; some pay a stipend. If you’re interested you can check out the list here:

<https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/purduetoday/events/researchers-in-various-studies-looking-for-participants.html>

Writing: A Joyful (and Angstful) Hobby

By Sara Jane Coffman



Does writing come naturally for you or is it as frustrating for you as it is for me?

Don't get me wrong. I love crawling up into my brain and spending time digging around trying to find the right words. Or the right phrases. Or the right rhythms. I especially love that my writing helps me connect with other people.

That said, for me, the process of writing is full of angst. When things aren't going well, I've been known to shake my keyboard with both hands, yell sailor-obscurities at my monitor, and kick my printer.

In this column, I'll share some advice about writing that I've gleaned from my own experience – along with some advice from some famous authors.

Step One: Getting an Idea

According to the British playwright and novelist, Somerset Maugham: “There are three rules for writing. Unfortunately, no one can agree what they are.”

Certainly, Rule (or Step) #1 is to get an idea.

I rarely get ideas when I'm looking for one; I get them when I'm busy doing something else. Like sleeping. When an idea pops into my mind in the middle of the night, I promise myself I'll write it down in the morning, and turn over and go back to sleep.

Of course, by morning, it's gone.

I also get ideas when I'm trying to meditate, when it's my turn to present a report in a staff meeting, and when I'm in the middle of an argument with Comcast about my latest phone bill.

Step Two: Sitting Down to Write

O.K. You have your idea and are now ready to sit down and write. How do you start? You could take Comedian Stephen Wright's approach. He once announced to his friends: “I'm writing a book. I've got the page numbers done.” The literature suggests you should write when you're at your best. For example, if you're a morning person, you should write in the morning.

I'm a morning person, but that doesn't work for me.

Or you should write when the spirit moves you. That either.

I once read that you should set aside a specific time each day to write. Nope.

I also read that you should have a “writing corner” – a specific area of your house set aside for writing. Toward that end, I bought a beautiful, gold-velvet recliner and put it in a corner of my bedroom. The problem was: once I leaned back and raised the footrest, I fell asleep. I haven't written a word in that chair.

So, when do I write? Well, I've learned that the moment I get an idea, I write it down on a post-it note. I carry post-it notes in my pockets, my purse, and my car. The problem with that is, they sometimes get jumbled up which is why some of my articles make more sense than others.

Step Three: Editing Your Work

O.K. You've labored for hours, days, or even years, and now it's time to polish your work. I don't know about you, but my first drafts are like driving over a gravel road in a car with no shock absorbers. There have been times when I've edited a piece to such an extent that by the time the story was finished, the only words that appeared in the original draft were the articles: “a,” “an,” and “the.”

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Let's turn again to two experts on this subject: Thoreau and Hemingway. Thoreau's advice about editing was: "Simplify! Simplify! Simplify!"

(Shouldn't he have just written: "Simplify"?)

You might like Ernest Hemingway's advice better: "Write drunk. Edit sober."

Luckily for me, my friend Pam edits my work in return for food (and the condition that she never sees herself in one of my stories). Not only does she correct things that need to be corrected, but she's tactful. For instance, instead of editing the last story I gave her, she laid it on my desk with a sweet note that read – "Why don't you save this for your next book?"

She knows I'm not planning to write any more books.

Step Four: Showing Your Work to Others

Most writers can't wait to get feedback. It's especially important for humor writers. We're continually asking ourselves: "Is this funny? I think this is funny. Are other people going to think this is funny?"

When I invite my friends over to read my work, I pace back and forth behind them. If I hear them laugh, I rush over and ask them to point to exactly what it was they laughed at.

Not only do I grill my friends about my work, I grill strangers who make the mistake of mentioning that they've read my books.

"Which book did you read?"

"What story did you like best?"

"Do you remember the places where you laughed?"

"I have other books!" I'll call after them as they walk away.

Step Five: Submitting Your Work to a Publisher

This is a great idea if your last name is Grisham, Baldacci, or Rowling.

Most writers have boxes full of publishers' rejection letters. My favorite rejection letter is the one that Dr. Samuel Johnson wrote, ostensibly from a publisher to a would-be author: "Your manuscript is both good and original. But the part that is good is not original, and the part that is original is not good."

I have a rejection letter that has spaghetti stains on it, a handwritten note telling me to never submit anything to that publisher again, and a note from a publisher who told me we could work something out if I'd send him \$5,000.00.

In Closing

Of course, the most important thing writers need is a sense of humor. Stephen Wright used his when he said: "I wrote a few children's books. Not on purpose."

I hope you find these suggestions of some value. I'm going to end now because the Geek Squad is coming over to fix my printer.

It took quite a beating when I was writing this column.

True Tales of an Entomologist

By Tom Turpin

Editor's Note: This is the ninth installment of Tom Turpin's colorful experiences, which appear in his self-published *Memoirs*.



Holding a Tarantula is a Scary Thing

Arachnophobia is a disease defined as an unreasonable fear of spiders and other arachnids, such as scorpions. It is estimated that between three and six percent of the human population worldwide suffers from the disease.

In general though even people who do not suffer from arachnophobia are often reluctant to hold a spider when given the opportunity. Based on my experience there does not seem to be any group of people – young or old, male or female - more or less likely to react negatively to holding a tarantula.

We often give people the opportunity to hold a tarantula as an activity associated with learning about insects and spiders. That opportunity has provided many memorable moments.

One of these moments occurred when I was doing a science event one evening at a middle school in the Indianapolis area. We had a table and were offering students and their parents attending the event, the chance to hold any of a number of large insects, a giant millipede, and a tarantula.

One young woman – who I would guess was 10 or 11 years old – along with her parents, were watching people hold the tarantula. This was a school in the area where some of the players for the Indianapolis Colts football team and their families resided. I don't know for sure but the father in the trio appeared to be a pro football lineman for the Colts. He was a huge individual--at least six foot six in height and probably 300 or more pounds in weight. At one point the mother asked her daughter if she was going to hold the tarantula. After some discussion the mother said, "If your father holds the tarantula will you?" The girl said, "Yes." Both Mom and the daughter then were looking up at Dad. The gauntlet had been tossed! Dad had little choice but to step up and put out his hand to hold the tarantula.

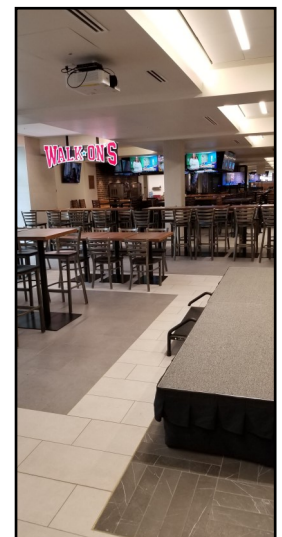
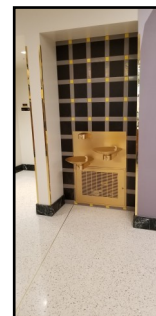
As I always do when placing the tarantula on a person's hand, I put my hand under the holder's hand to make sure the tarantula isn't tossed into the air in response to first touch. This man's huge hand was shaking like a leaf! However, I placed the tarantula on his hand and he held it like a trooper. His daughter then held the tarantula and said to her Dad, "It wasn't that bad was it?" It was a wonderful example of how parents and teachers are great role models for kids. I can't say for sure but it appeared to me that holding a tarantula might have been more frightening for that mountain of a man than facing some pro-football defensive lineman!

I'm sure the family has had a lively discussion or two about the day Dad took the lead in a tarantula holding adventure.

Sneak Peak: Coming in the May issue



PURA toured the Purdue Memorial Union ground floor renovations in March—you won't believe it! New food court options, outdoor patios, performance stages, light and airy. . . even the water fountains are snazzy. And is that a *SPORTS BAR*?



April 2022 Campus Calendar

Academic/Holiday:

6 May—Spring semester ends.
12-15 May—Commencement ceremonies.
15 May—Summer semester modules begin.
31 May—Memorial Day holiday. No classes. Offices closed.
4 July—4th of July Holiday. No classes. Offices closed.
22 August—Fall semester begins.

Music:

Note that guests are required to follow Protect Purdue guidelines and local COVID-19 mandates at time of event. Dates and times are subject to change. Unless otherwise noted, events are free and open to the public.

- 1 April, 2022—University Choir.** In concert. 7:30 p.m. ET. Free and open to the public; no tickets required. St. John’s Episcopal Church, 600 Ferry Street, Lafayette.
- 10 April, 2022—Purdue Percussion Ensemble.** 2:30-4:30 p.m. ET. Stewart Center, Loeb Playhouse.
- 16 April, 2022—Purdue Philharmonic Orchestra.** 8:00 p.m. ET. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 111 N. 6th Street, Lafayette.
- 22 April, 2022—Showcase 1: Collegiate Band and Wind Ensemble.** 8:00 p.m. ET. Elliott Hall of Music.
- 23 April, 2022—Symphony Orchestra and String Orchestra. (Date change from original schedule.)** 2:30 p.m. ET. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 111 N. 6th Street, Lafayette.
- 23 April, 2022—Purdue’s Spring Spectacular Concert.** 7:30 p.m. ET, Long Center for the Performing Arts, 111 N. 6th Street, Lafayette. Tickets available through Purdue Account Manager, Ticketmaster: <https://am.ticketmaster.com/purdue/>
- 23 April, 2022—Showcase 2: Campus Band and Symphonic Band.** 8:00 p.m. ET. Elliott Hall of Music.
- 24 April, 2022—Showcase 3: Varsity Band, University Band, and Concert Band.** 2:30 p.m. ET. Elliott Hall of Music.
- 24 April, 2022—PMO Spring Show, featuring All-Campus and Community Chorale, Heart and Soul, Purdue Bells, and University Choir.** 4:00 p.m. ET, Long Center for the Performing Arts, 111 N. 6th Street, Lafayette. Tickets available through Purdue Account Manager, Ticketmaster: <https://am.ticketmaster.com/purdue/>
- 26 April, 2022—Chamber Recital 1, an evening of instrumental chamber music.** 7:00 p.m. ET. Stewart Center, Fowler Hall.
- 28 April, 2022—Chamber Recital 2, an evening of instrumental chamber music.** 7:00 p.m. ET. Stewart Center, Fowler Hall.
- 29 April, 2022—Purdue Varsity Glee Club “End of Season” Concert.** 7:00 p.m. ET, Stewart Center, Loeb Playhouse. Tickets available through Purdue Account Manager, Ticketmaster: <https://am.ticketmaster.com/purdue/>
- 1 May, 2022—Jazz on the Hill.** Annual event featuring all of Purdue’s jazz bands. 2:30 p.m. ET. Slayter Center of Performing Arts. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

Theatre:

15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24 April, 2022—“Men on Boats” by Jaelyn Backhaus. Purdue Department of Theatre. Directed by William W. Lewis, visiting assistant professor. An 1869 expedition to map the Colorado River had four boats and 10 men, but the play casts the characters with women and nonbinary actors and explores storytelling, not just a river. Times vary by date; Pao Hall, Nancy T. Hansen Theatre. Performances are in-person with options to view digital recordings available; livestream available opening night, April 15. Tickets available from: <https://cla.purdue.edu/academic/rueffschool/theatre/Tickets/box-office-info.html>

Art:

Free and open to the public. Protect Purdue protocols apply.

Robert L. Ringel Gallery. STEW. Hours: 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. ET, Monday-Saturday (except holidays).
Through May 7—“The Birthplace of the Blues.” Photographs, writings, and other media documenting the Mississippi Delta.

Patty and Rusty Reuff Galleries, Pao Hall. Hours: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. ET. Monday-Friday (except holidays, and closing at 5 p.m. on final day of an exhibition).

4-15 April, 2022—Industrial, Interaction, and Visual Communication Design MFA Exhibition.
4-15 April, 2022—Mehran Aghazadeh MFA Exhibition.
18-29 April, 2022—Integrated Studio Arts Senior Show

Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center. Humanities, Social Science and Education Library, Stewart Center 4th floor.

Through 29 April. “Not Given But Earned: Women’s Fight for the Vote.” 1:00-4:30 p.m. ET, Monday-Friday; appointment recommended. The library also has [online exhibitions](#).

(Continued on page 13)

Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming PURA Events

4 April, 2022 PURA monthly meeting.

- **Location:** Via Zoom, broadcast from our studio at the Lafayette VFW on Duncan Road. .
- **Time:** Program begins at 12:30 p.m. ET; speaker at 12:40 p.m. ET.
- **Speaker:** Dr. Jon Harbor, Provost, Purdue Global
- **Topic:** Purdue Global Evolution

14 April, 2022 Tour of “Provenance” Residential Area, west of W.L. Campus.

- **Location:** 110 Provenance Blvd., West Lafayette. Park in front of the model home, a dark blue house with a yellow door, and a large sign in the yard. Come into the model, the door will be open for everyone. Space is limited. To reserve a spot, contact Shan Chen at PURA@purdue.edu by Monday, April 11, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. ET.
- **Time:** Meet at 2:00 p.m. ET.
- **Hosts:** PMU staff.

20 April, 2022 Annual Purposeful Living in Retirement conference.

- **Location:** Virtual, via Zoom, as requested by the PURA membership.

2 May, 2022 PURA monthly meeting.

- **Location:** Via Zoom, broadcast from our studio at the Lafayette VFW on Duncan Road. .
- **Time:** Program begins at 12:30 p.m. ET; speaker at 12:40 p.m. ET.
- **Speaker:** Dan Ross, Head Coach, Purdue Swimming and Diving

6 June, 2022 PURA monthly meeting.

- **Location:** Via Zoom, broadcast from our studio at the Lafayette VFW on Duncan Road. .
- **Time:** Program begins at 12:30 p.m. ET; speaker at 12:40 p.m. ET.
- **Speaker:** Kelly Lippie, Tippecanoe County Historical Association Archives & Research Center; and Scott Ksander, PURA’s “Tech” Guy
- **Topic:** Preserving Family History

As of November, 2021, in-person monthly PURA meetings are on hold, but our virtual meetings continue via Zoom. Zoom connection information and other important updates are provided via email, the *PURA News* newsletter, and our website: www.purdue.edu/retirees

Campus Calendar, continued:

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. Athletic ticket information at: purduesports.com/tickets/pur-tickets.html

Spring Sports:

Women’s Softball: through May 1.
Men’s Baseball: through May 21.
Women’s Tennis: through April 24.
Men’s Tennis: through April 17.
Women’s Golf: through April 24.
Men’s Golf: through May 1.



John Purdue contemplates early spring on the West Lafayette campus, from the memorial mall near University Hall.

March 2022

About PURA News

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

Send suggestions or ideas for PURA or the newsletter to:

Office of Retiree Affairs
2550 Northwestern Ave., Suite 1100
West Lafayette, IN 47906
Telephone, via Purdue Benefits help line:
(toll free) 877-725-0222
Email: pura@purdue.edu

2021-2022 PURA Communications Committee:
Chair: Karen Lembcke
Members: Connie Bilyeu

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 normal monthly meetings.**

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>

