



September 2025 Update

Hold the Date for these PURA and Purdue Annual Events

RETIREE FLU SHOTS are scheduled for September 26 and October 3 and 17, 2025. See information below.

PURA WESTWOOD LECTURE (a new PURA program in cooperation with the President's Office) is scheduled for September 30, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. The speaker will be Matthew S. Waninger, Ph.D. Capacity is limited, and reservations will be required. See registration information below.

UNIVERSITY HALL TOUR (the first offering of the reestablished PURA Campus and Community Committee) is scheduled for October 13, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. Space is limited, and reservations will be required. See registration information below.

PURDUE HOMECOMING 2025 is scheduled for October 25, 2025.

HAAN MANSION TOUR is scheduled for December 9, 2025. Space is limited, and reservations will be required. More information and registration details are coming soon.

A **PURA EVENING AT CIVIC THEATRE** is scheduled for December 10, 2025 at Civic Theater of Greater Lafayette located at 313 N. 5th Street in Lafayette. Attend a free performance of the play "A Christmas Carol – Radio Play." Reservations will be required. Registration details to follow.

The **2026 PURA ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE** is scheduled for April 22, 2026 at the Beck Agricultural Center located at 4550 US 52 West in West Lafayette.

Upcoming PURA Monthly (First Monday) Meeting Schedule

Location: IN-PERSON at Lafayette VFW, Duncan Road, Lafayette, Indiana. Also, via ZOOM broadcast from our studio at the VFW.

Time: 10:00 a.m. ET to approximately 11:30 a.m. ET.

Monday, October 6, 2025 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Jay Gephart, Al G. Wright Chair of Bands. Jay S. Gephart is only the 5th person in Purdue's 155-year history to serve as the Director of the "All-American" Marching Band. He stepped down from that position in December of 2024. Under Professor Gephart's leadership, the Purdue "All-American" Marching Band is the "flagship" ensemble for Purdue Bands and Orchestras and has traveled literally around the world. With performances in Beijing China, the Macy's Thanksgiving

Day Parade in New York City and three times at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland, just to name a few. The "All-American" Marching Band has also performed at numerous bowl games throughout Professor Gephart's tenure at Purdue. As well as a tenured full professor, Professor Gephart has served as a guest conductor, clinician, lecturer, and adjudicator both nationally and internationally.

- Topic: The Purdue All American Band: Experiences of the Director
- Established in 1886, the Purdue "All American" Marching Band is an icon of Purdue University. It was the first band to break military ranks and create a formation. It became part of the Indianapolis 500 Race in 1919. It proudly sports the "World's Largest Drum" and many other "firsts". Join us to hear about this highly organized operation that we are all so proud of and enjoy hearing.

Monday, November 3, 2025 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Scott Ksander, Retired, Exec. Director IT Network & Security – Purdue
- Topic: Tech Toys & Other Computer Topics

Monday, December 1, 2025 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Jay Akridge, Professor – Ag Econ, Former Provost – Purdue
- Topic: Update for Higher Education

PURA Annual Kickoff Luncheon – Wrap Up

The 2025 PURA Kickoff Luncheon was held on September 8th at the Courtyard Marriott in Lafayette. A delicious lunch, an interesting talk, and lively interaction with fellow retirees were enjoyed by 120 PURA members and special guests. The scheduled keynote speaker, Dr. Mark Lundstrom, had to make a last-minute Purdue business trip to Taiwan, but we were fortunate to have Dr. David Janes, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, step in for Dr. Lundstrom. His presentation was an excellent balance of transistor development history, the fabrication of microchips, current application of microchip devices, and an overview on workforce development. Numerous door prizes and table decoration chrysanthemums were given away to attendees.



Betty Nelson was presented with the 2025 Betty M. Nelson Award. A different approach was taken this year to identify nominees for the Betty M. Nelson service award. We looked over the list of past winners and asked the question of who was missing. There was an obvious answer to that question. Betty had never received the Betty! Yes, the award was named in her honor back in 2004, but no one else can match the contributions over the years to Purdue retirees and PURA. Congratulations Betty!

Purdue Retiree Flu Shots – Flu Season Ahead

Stay Healthy, Get Vaccinated! Purdue University is again offering flu shots to Purdue University Retirees Association (PURA) members. Flu shots will be available at the William H. Daniel Turfgrass Research and Diagnostic Center located at 1340 Cherry Lane, West Lafayette, as follows:

- Friday, September 26 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, October 3 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, October 17 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

No-cost wellness screenings will be available on all three dates. A 6-hour fast is recommended.

The Adult Flu Shot Consent Form may be completed in advance: ([Consent Form](#))

PURA Westwood Lecture – September 30

The September 30, 2025 Westwood Lecture Series speaker will be Matthew Waninger, managing director of the Crossroads Pediatric Device Consortium. Mathew will share insights into the consortium, which is dedicated to accelerating the development, approval and availability of innovative medical devices for children. The title of his presentation will be: Accelerating pediatric medical device innovation through collaboration.

This lecture will be open exclusively to members of the Purdue University Retirees Association and reflects Purdue's commitment to offering meaningful educational and social opportunities for retirees who remain closely connected to the university.

Capacity is limited, and reservations will be required. The event begins at 4:30 p.m., and there is ample parking available at Westwood. Use this link to register: [9-30-25 Westwood Lecture RSVP](#)

PURA University Hall Tour – October 13 - Where the past meets the future

University Hall was to be the first building on the Purdue campus where classes began in the fall of 1874. It wasn't. It was the last of the six original buildings to open its doors in 1877. Today it is the only one of the original buildings still standing and the only one remaining partially funded by John Purdue who oversaw its early construction.

This fall, after extensive renovations restoring it to its original status as campus hub that will invite student connection and collaboration, the 34,200 square-foot building is reopening with architectural nods to the building's original look and feel and features such as cast-iron original columns that had been hidden within walls for more than sixty years. Its last remodeling was in 1961.

University Hall has been restored to its original purpose as a student hub and will also house College of Liberal Arts student services, classrooms, meeting, and office spaces. Its two-story central atrium that once housed the school library has been returned to life. The building was also once home to the university chapel and an office used by Presidents Emerson White, James Smart, and Winthrop Stone.

The Purdue University Retirees Association (PURA) is sponsoring a tour of the historic building at 1 p.m. October 13 before its official dedication on Homecoming Weekend, October 25. The tour is scheduled for fall break to minimize disturbance of students using the hall and to make parking available in nearby University Street Garage. After the tour, the university's founding donor John Purdue, who is buried in front of the hall, will come to life and talk about its history, location, and its special meaning to him, along with the story of his funeral that shutdown most of the community. Purdue served as contractor for University Hall and inspected construction of the stacked-stone foundation on the day he died, September 12, 1876.

Because of space limitations, the tour is open to the first twenty people to register with John Norberg, jbnorberg@purdue.edu.

Universities create the future and preserve the past. University Hall is the place where the past and future merge in the 21st century.

Campus Bus Service Changes

The University's CityBus contract for on-campus routes ended in August. While CityBus continues to provide local services to the campus community, the on-campus routes will be replaced by the Purdue Campus Transit (SP +) service. With the Purdue faculty/staff/retiree ID, retirees can ride the Purdue Campus Transit SP+ campus shuttles at no cost. Fares are required for off-campus transit around Greater Lafayette on CityBus with CityBus's Route 41 (The Connector) fare-free for all connecting campus and the downtown districts. For further details on the SP+ on-campus routes and service, visit <https://www.purduecampustransit.com>.

REMINDER - Purdue Retiree Parking Permit Renewals

Purdue retiree parking permits expired on Aug. 15, 2025. Renewals for the 2025-2026 academic year are available now. Parking Services sent emails to retirees that held permits during 2024-2025 with instructions on how to renew their permits.

Information about Retiree permits is available on the [Parking Operations website](#).

Parking Operations staff are available until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 765-494-9497 or parking@purdue.edu, and the lobby in Stewart Center G054 is open until 4 p.m.

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way to stay connected to the campus. Sign up for Purdue Today at this link if you are not already a subscriber. <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/faculty-staff/purdue-today/>

Visit the PURA website www.purdue.edu/retirees for information about PURA activities and benefits.

Questions about PURA may be sent to pura@purdue.edu.