

January 2026 Update

Hold the Date for these PURA and Purdue Annual Events

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. Registration information will be shared soon.

The **2026 PURA ANNUAL KICKOFF LUNCHEON** is scheduled for September 14, 2026 at the Courtyard Marriott at 150 Fairington Avenue in 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 am ET to approximately 11:30 am ET.

Monday, February 2, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Astrophysicist Dr. Danny Milisavljevic – Purdue
- Dr. Danny Milisavljevic is an Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy, arriving at Purdue in 2017. According to Astrobites, a daily astrophysical literature journal written by graduate students in astronomy, “Dr. Milisavljevic is a strong advocate for public outreach, and believes that as scientists funded by taxpayer money, it is our responsibility to share all the excitement behind the research that we do, as well as find ways to communicate it meaningfully for the general public.”
- Topic: WEBB Telescope Update
- The James Webb telescope, launched in December, 2021, is the most powerful space telescope ever built, giving humanity breathtaking views of newborn stars, distant galaxies and even planets orbiting other stars. And to interpret those views is Purdue’s own Dr. Danny Milisavljevic, Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy. Dr. Danny leads a research group dedicated to the study of astronomical transients, especially supernovae, in trying to understand their explosion mechanics and progenitor stars using a variety of observational and theoretical tools. He can explain that!

Monday, March 2, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Mike Warren, Senior Director Recreation & Wellness - Purdue
- Topic: Co-Rec - Operations & History

Monday, April 6, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Lt. Anthony Standifer, Officer Police Department - Purdue
- Topic: Purdue Police K-9: How They Are Used on Campus

Important Note Regarding Weather – If there is bad weather on the day of the PURA Monthly Meeting, please check local media. If Tippecanoe School Corp (TSC) is closed that day, the PURA Monthly Meeting will be cancelled.

What to do if you are having problems receiving PURA emails

If you are not receiving PURA emails, send an email to gifts@purdue.edu explaining that you are a Purdue retiree and are not receiving emails from PURA (Purdue University Retirees Association) sent out through Purdue for Life. Purdue for Life maintains the Purdue retiree information including email addresses in its Salesforce CRM software. Please pass this information along to any retiree friends who are not receiving our emails.

The January Monthly Meeting Program
Managing Institutional Risk & the Basic Application of the Risk Management Mindset



Our PURA program in January featured Mark Kebert, Executive Director and Chief Risk Officer for Purdue University. 32 in-person attendees and 16 “Zoomers” heard a very interesting presentation on the nature of Risk Management in Higher Education. Mark reminded us that the campus is like a small city with

unique risk challenges that include its own airport and power plant. Plus, its own fleet of airplanes and flight school add to the uniqueness. Other areas of focus are research activities, IT operations, student life, athletics, and global programs. Mark walked us through how they deal with risk evaluation including: Identify, Assess, Mitigate, Monitor and Communicate. An interesting Risk Management Matrix charted “Risk: Likelihood vs Severity/Impact” on a scale of “Low to Critical.” It seems that at Purdue, in cooperation with Purdue’s Office of Emergency Management, Police and Fire Departments and local agencies, we have an exceptionally good risk management culture that encourages “see something/say something.” The complete presentation can be found on the PURA website: purdue.edu/retirees/.

Summary provided by John Sautter, Chair of the PURA Program Committee.

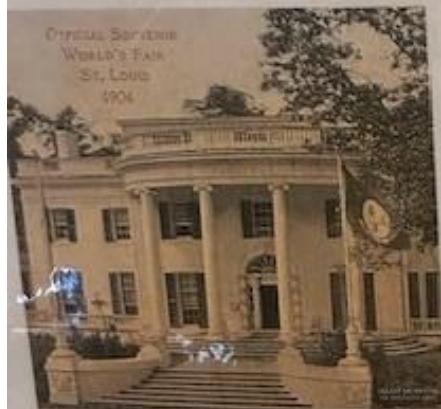
Haan Mansion Tour – December 9

The special tour of the Haan Museum of Indiana Art on Tuesday December 9th was enjoyed by those in attendance. The Museum was beautifully decorated for the holidays. Thanks to Norm Long for taking and submitting these photos.



A BRIEF HISTORY

1904 World's Fair Mansion Turned Museum



Connecticut State Building at the World's Fair

This house was the Connecticut Building at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. The St. Louis World's Fair, officially known as the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, ran from April 30 through December 1, 1904.

The Fair was the last of the great World's Fairs. There were just under 20-million people in attendance, and the Fair covered 1,270 acres. (For comparison, the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 had 21 million in attendance and covered 630 acres.)

The house was auctioned off at the end of the Fair, and William Potter purchased it, as his wife, Fanny, had fallen in love with the house. The house was dismantled piece-by-piece, loaded onto about 20 freight cars, brought here, and re-assembled. Two generations of Potters lived here: William and his son, George.

Bob and Ellie Haan purchased the house from George Potter's estate in 1984.

The Haans started collecting Hoosier art after their sons began moving out in 1992. Within four years, museums were coming to the Haans to borrow works. This house features the finest collection of Hoosier art anywhere.

In 2015, the house was turned over to the museum. The contents will be turned over to the museum in time.

Copyright © 2020 Haan Museum of Indiana Art



PURA Evening at Civic Theatre – December 10

Over 100 PURA members and guests attended a free evening performance of “A Christmas Carol – The Live Radio Play” at the CIVIC Theatre on December 10th. Attendees enjoyed delicious appetizers provided by PURA, the availability of a cash bar, and a wonderful evening of entertainment. Thanks to Lucia Anderson for coordinating this event.

Thanks for Helping Purdue Students - PURA Scholarship Endowments

Purdue students are most thankful for your continued support of the two PURA scholarship endowments, and the Scholarship Committee wants to thank you for your 2025 year-end donations. One of our 2025 students expressed appreciation by stating: "My time at Purdue has helped me grow in ways I never thought possible. The people I've met and the experiences I've gained will undoubtedly shape the rest of my career and my life. None of this would have been possible without your generosity. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this journey possible. I will be forever grateful."

The balance in the PURA Purdue Opportunity Award in honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke Endowment is approaching \$65,000 and the balance in the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment is close to \$280,000. The investment income annually produces approximately \$3,000 for the Jischke POA endowment students and approximately \$12,000 for the PURA Student Scholarship students.

Donations to these endowments are welcome at any time. You may contribute by check payable to Purdue Foundation, designating on the memo line the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment or the PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke. Mail the check to: Purdue Foundation, Gift Processing, P.O. Box 772401, Detroit, MI, 48377-2401. You also may donate by phone: 1-800-319-2199.

Volunteer Opportunities for PURA Members

- PURA members are eligible to apply to be classroom volunteers with teachers or students in grades K-6. Volunteers can serve in any K-6 school in Lafayette, West Lafayette, or Tippecanoe School Corporations. First time volunteers would attend an orientation session with school staff to answer questions and prepare them to serve as volunteers as well as an opportunity to observe a volunteer in action. Reach out to Jim Freeland jhfreeland45@outlook.com for more information or to volunteer.
- PASE Purdue Alumni Student Experience is looking for volunteers to help connect students to Purdue alumni and friends. Their mission is to build loyalty to the university, instill a culture of giving, and foster the Boilermaker spirit. They would welcome the participation of PURA members. More details on these spring semester events will be shared in future Updates.

Alumni Networking Night - March 5th,
6 pm - 8:30 pm in Dauch Alumni Center

Career Readiness Night - April 15th,
6 pm - 9 pm on the second floor of the Stewart Center

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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.