November 2026 Update

Hold the Date for these PURA and Purdue Events

PURDUE SPRING SEMESTER CLASSES begin on January 11, 2027.

The **2027 PURA ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE** is scheduled for April 21, 2027 at the Beck Agricultural Center located at 4550 US 52 West in West Lafayette.

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Upcoming PURA Monthly (First Monday) Meeting Schedule

Location: IN-PERSON Large Meeting Rooms A & B Near the Railyard at the Kurz Purdue Technology Center, 1281 Win Hentschel Boulevard, West Lafayette, Indiana. Also, via ZOOM broadcast.

Parking in the lots around Kurz does not require a permit.

Time: 10:00 am ET to approximately 11:30 am ET.

Monday, December 7, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Cathy Liu, Director, Purdue Center on Aging and the Life Course (CALC). Dr. Liu's research seeks to develop, test, and advance scientific knowledge of marriage and family processes that both influence and are influenced by health and well-being, particularly in later life.
- Speaker: Paige Ebner, Assistant Director CALC. Paige completed her master's degree at the University of Illinois Chicago and her bachelor's degree at The University of Tennessee. Before joining CALC, Paige worked in fundraising. She is a native of Birmingham, Alabama, but as a 20-year resident of Lafayette, the Midwest is home now.
- Speaker: Destiny Ogle, PhD Candidate. Destiny's research interests focus on intergenerational relations and well-being with a particular emphasis on grandparent-grandchild and sibling relations in adulthood.
- Topic: Aging Matters: The Purdue Center on Aging and The Life Course
- The Purdue Center on Aging and the Life Course (CALC) is a university-wide entity to strengthen interdisciplinary inquiry on aging. We advance research to optimize the aging experience of diverse populations and prepare future leaders for the field of gerontology. Learn about the history

and structure of CALC, current Purdue-led research on aging, our community engagement effort, and a PhD student's perspective on gerontological education.

Monday, January 4, 2027 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Kyle Charters, Publisher, *Exponent*
- Topic: The Storied History of the *Exponent* and the Demise of Local News

Monday, February 1, 2027 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Tommy McClelland, Athletic Director - Purdue
- Topic: Introducing Purdue's New Athletic Director

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.

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PURA Westwood Lecture



Professor Melinda Zook speaking to PURA members at Westwood on October 28, 2026

Envision this. You are sitting in a Purdue classroom with 30 other freshmen students. There are no cell phones or laptops in sight. Students are glancing through the pages of a hard-back book before the instructor arrives to start class. Some of the students are in Freshman Engineering. Some are majoring in Nursing. Some are in the School of Agriculture. All are talking about the chapter they had been assigned to read from the Odessey. No Kidding! This is the scenario that Professor Melinda Zook described to about 40 attendees of the Westwood Lecture Series hosted by Interim President Mitch Daniels for PURA members on October 28, 2026. Professor Zook, the Germaine Seelye Oesterle Professor of History, is the Director of the Cornerstone Integrated Liberal Arts Program that enrolls about 6,000 students every semester and is designed to engage students with the fundamentals of the learning process through reading and interacting with transformative texts. Replacing the University Core Curriculum courses of Engish106 and Communication 114, which were intended to teach students how to write and communicate, the Cornerstone program engages students in reading, writing, listening, and speaking while discovering historically important works in literature. Move over AI! Here comes those Purdue students who are developing their skills of critical thinking, while being engaged in meaningful conversations and projects with other students and seasoned instructors, all for the purpose of making them better thought leaders in their classrooms, as citizens and in their professional lives.

Summary provided by Charlene Sullivan, PURA Past President.

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The November Monthly Meeting Program
Tech Toys and Other Computer Topics



Scott Ksander speaking to PURA members at the monthly meeting on November 2, 2026

Our PURA Program in November featured Scott Ksander, our very own self-described “Computer Geek”. Scott’s blend of good information, insight, ability to convert computer jargon into language we understand…all with a great sense of humor made for a very enjoyable presentation. 63 in-person attendees and 48 Zoomers were enthralled with nearly two dozen tech toys and devices along with vendors, prices, and full descriptions (check out our PURA web site to see the slides). Scott’s favorite was POWERUP 4.0, basically a device you attach to paper to create a “motorized” paper airplane. A close second was AI Sticker Printer (featured on NBC’s Today Show) …a small, 4” cube device, you request a scene, and it prints a sticker… “A dinosaur in outer space” and it is printed. Scott provided a good reminder to make sure you have “power” for your devices as you open presents…batteries (he recommends Energizer Ultimate Lithium AA…they last a long time) or the “correct” USB cord. The presentation naturally drifted into a discussion of AI and its implications. Scott told us we cannot just decide to stay away from AI or ignore it…it is all around us. The entire enlightening presentation can be found on PURA’s website: purdue.edu/retirees/.

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

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GE Aerospace Lafayette Engine Facility Tour

The tour of the GE Aerospace Lafayette Engine Facility on November 4 was attended by over 40 PURA members. Opened in October 2015, the facility plays a critical role in global aviation by assembling and servicing some of the world's most advanced jet engines. GE Aerospace employs skilled technicians and engineers at the Lafayette plant where they support new jet engine assembly for the LEAP and Passport engines as well as overhaul for the LEAP engine.



PURA members at GE Aerospace on November 4, 2026



PURA members at GE Aerospace on November 4, 2026

Photos submitted by Sally Luzader, Member of the PURA Campus and Community Committee.

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News from the PURA Benefits Committee



Kate LaMar and Larry Pherson responding to questions about PURA's 2027 health insurance plans on November 2, 2026

An open forum to respond to questions about PURA's 2027 health insurance plans was held after the PURA October 2nd Monthly Meeting. The forum was available on Zoom, and the recording can be found on PURA's website: purdue.edu/retirees/.

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Purdue Retiree Flu Shots Fall 2026 – By the Numbers

454 PURA members were vaccinated, and 91 members received a wellness screening during the three flu shot clinics. We would like to give a special shoutout again to all the Purdue School of Nursing students who assist in staffing these flu shot and wellness clinics. We would also like to thank Purdue HR for underwriting these flu shots and the Center for Healthy Living for coordinating the shot clinics.

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Thinking about year-end giving – Consider the PURA Scholarship Endowments

In early December you will receive a reminder with a dedicated web-site address to contribute to the two PURA scholarship endowments: the PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke and the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment. These endowments have provided financial assistance to over 80 Indiana students pursuing bachelor's degrees in agricultural, life science, engineering, aviation technology, liberal arts, computer science, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, etc.

While planning your year-end giving, please consider a donation to one or both endowments. The student recipients over the years have been amazed that the Purdue retirees have given so generously to the endowments and in their thank you notes some have mentioned that they will do the same after they graduate. What a legacy the PURA members have started.

Let's continue to support our Indiana students wanting to become a Boilermaker.

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Volunteer Opportunities

Stay Connected to Purdue as an EPICS Design Reviewer

EPICS (Engineering Projects in Community Service) gives Purdue students the chance to design real-world solutions for community partners. Community members from all backgrounds are invited to serve as design reviewers, offering feedback on student presentations twice each semester (October 5–9 and November 30–December 4, 2026). Each review requires as little as two hours and can be done in person or online. It's a flexible, meaningful way to stay involved, share your expertise, and support the next generation of Boilermakers.

For more information—or to be added to the invitation list—please contact Robyn Jakes, Lead Outreach Program Manager for EPICS, at rjakes@purdue.edu or by phone at 765-714-1380.

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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.

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Subscribe to Purdue Today to Keep Up with Campus News

Purdue Today, the university's e-newsletter for faculty, staff, and graduate student staff, provides updates on the latest Purdue news. Each issue celebrates achievements in research and innovation and highlights important information for employees. As a Purdue retiree you may find this newsletter a great 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/

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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.