



**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY®



**PURA**

Purdue University Retirees Association

**SPRING CONFERENCE**

APRIL 22, 2026

[WWW.PURDUE.EDU/RETIREEES](http://WWW.PURDUE.EDU/RETIREEES)



Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to visit the PURA website!

## THANK YOU TO OUR PLATINUM SPONSORS **\$3,000**

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### **United Health Care**

- Joe Larson,  
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Minneapolis, MN 55419
- [joe.larson@uhc.com](mailto:joe.larson@uhc.com)



### **Purdue Federal Credit Union**

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### **Cumberland Pointe Health Campus**

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### **Guardian Angel Hospice**

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### **HomeCare By Design**

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### **Home Instead**

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### **Lafayette Regional Rehabilitation Hospital**

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### Pure Regenerative Medicine

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### Saint Anthony Rehabilitation & Nursing Center

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### SOS Relocation Specialist

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### Vogler Estate and Elder Law, LLC

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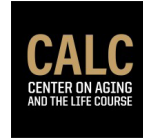
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**American Senior Communities**  
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**Anew Hospice, Palliative Care,  
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**Purdue Center on Aging and  
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**Greater Lafayette Civitan Club**  
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**Clinton House**  
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**Elara Caring Hospice**  
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**Franciscan Home Care, Hospice  
Care & Palliative Care**  
Jill Campbell  
jill.campbell@franciscanalliance.org



**FDH Cleaning services  
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Fdhcsm14@hotmail.com



**Hahn Groeber Funeral Homes**  
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sally.niehoff@gmail.com



**Hippensteel Funeral Home Service**  
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**Hunt & Gather Estate Sales**  
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**Joyful Journey**  
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**Lafayette Hearing Center**  
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**Lafayette Area Parkin's Support**  
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**Miracles Fitness**  
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**Paradigm Health**  
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**Public Schools Foundation of  
Tippecanoe County**  
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**Exteriors by Thayers**  
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**Village Caregiving**  
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**West Lafayette Assisted Living**  
Kim Burns  
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## WELCOME



On behalf of the PURA Executive Board and the Spring Conference Planning Committee, we welcome you to our 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Conference.

We are always in awe at the number and elevated level of interest of people who prioritize being in attendance for this unique educational event. It is clear that from your post-event survey responses that you value the networking and connections made whether they are with old or new friends.

The work done in preparation for today's event, like managing the exhibit area, printing name tags, acquiring qualified speakers and programs, ordering food, setting up, organizing door prizes, are all important, sort of like "setting the table" for a family gathering. We take pride in completing those tasks, but what really makes our PURA gathering special is not that we have a stage, or what food we eat. It is all of you – **The Retirees of ole Purdue** – that make this event so special.

We want to express our gratitude to the resolute people and organizations who have made today's event possible:

Our sponsors, Platinum, Diamond, and Gold supporters who provided the Lion's share of the \$28,000+ budget in 2026.

- Our university leadership through Amy Boyle, PURA HR Liaison.
- Our friends at Purdue Conferences and the Hall of Music.
- Christos for their service and high-quality menus.
- Our PURA Board of Executive Directors.
- Our dedicated volunteers who work, plan, and execute this annual event.

PURA is rich in many resources, but the resource that PURA curates and cultivates best is People. All of you have people who are part of your Purdue story – those who made an impact on you or went out of their way to help you when needed.

**The People of PURA** are the faculty and staff who nurture knowledge and curiosity in the minds of the next generation.

**The People of PURA** are alumni and friends, who stay connected by volunteering their time to speak to classes, serve on the PURA Board, attend events, provide support, and offer time for meaningful programs.

**The People of PURA** are all of YOU, the resource that makes Purdue thrive. YOU are the People who make Purdue so special. And YOU are the reason we are **EVER GRATEFUL** to be Purdue Boilermakers.

**Dr. Norman D. Long** | *Chair, Spring Conference* | [longn@purdue.edu](mailto:longn@purdue.edu)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello to the members of Purdue University Retirees Association who are attending this 2026 Spring Conference. The Committee worked all year to create this day for socializing, learning a few new things, having some fun and visiting with our great vendors. We hope that you indeed experienced all those elements of the program and will tell your friends and neighbors who may be very recent retirees of the University that they too are members of PURA and we would love to have them be active in this organization.

The leadership team has been busy. This year, we have moved to a new location for our monthly meeting. Please be sure to find us in the Kurz Center on Win Hentschel Drive at 10:00 AM on the first Monday of the month. John Sautter and his committee is putting together a program of monthly speakers who we think will speak to the interests that we all share in our community. We have re-imagined our Campus and Community Tours under the guidance of John Norberg and his committee. We "visited" with John Purdue and admired the renovation of University Hall, the oldest building on campus. We marveled at the farm to table menu at the Lawrence. We have added a semi-annual event at Westwood, now a part of the Westwood Lecture Series, under the guidance of Vic Lechtenberg. We had a PURA members-only opportunity to enjoy the Haan Museum with its massive collection of Indiana art. Our visit was in a Christmas setting that made it even more special. And we enjoyed a special showing at the Civic Theatre with our PURA members-only performance of "A Christmas Carol: Live Radio Play".

There are so many benefits when PURA members become active with their PURA membership! We want to be the organization that keeps you connected in the community and with the university and helps you have more purpose in your retirement years. We want to be your partner in supporting your physical and mental health. Reach out to your friends and neighbors and tell them about your PURA experiences. Who knows—they may be members and don't know it.

Wishing you all the best retirement experience,

**Charlene Sullivan** | *PURA President* | [sullivaa@purdue.edu](mailto:sullivaa@purdue.edu)

## CHAIR ELECT THOUGHTS & PLANS



Dear Retirees, I join others in welcoming you to our annual Spring Conference of the Purdue University Retirees Association. My name is Tim Luzader. Over the past quarter century, I had the pleasure of working with many of you while assisting Purdue students in selecting majors, pursuing internships, and finding post-graduate success. As your President-Elect of PURA, I am delighted to welcome you to this event.

Norm Long and his team have pulled together an excellent program that I'm sure you'll learn from and enjoy. If you haven't yet been involved in PURA, we enthusiastically invite you to get involved in an area of interest to you. A great way to start is attending our monthly meetings, held on the first Monday of each month (except September) at the Kurz Purdue Technology Center, located at 1281 Win Hentschel Boulevard in West Lafayette.

PURA also offers several active committees, briefly described below.

- **Benefits** — Monitors medical plans for retirees, evaluates changes, and investigates alternatives.
- **Campus and Community** — Provides informative and entertaining opportunities in the Greater Lafayette area, with activities planned each fall and spring.
- **Finance** — Attracts gift funds placed in a Purdue endowment and reviews funding proposals from the PURA community.
- **Hospitality** — Encourages retirees to participate in PURA activities and special events, including flu shots, health fairs, and Spring Fling.
- **Kickoff Luncheon** — Plans the Annual Fall Kickoff Luncheon, an opportunity to reconnect with friends and colleagues and hear about University initiatives.
- **Marketing Communication Technology** — Maintains connections with retirees via the PURA website, newsletters, Zoom meetings, and electronic surveys.
- **Monthly Meeting Program** — Plans and coordinates speaker presentations at monthly meetings.
- **PURA Spring Conference** — Plans an annual educational and entertaining conference that offers meaningful and relevant topics of interest to retirees.
- **Student Scholarship** — Works to grow two scholarship endowments for student residents of Indiana with significant financial need.

If any of these committees match your interests, index cards at your table allow you to request involvement for the 2027 PURA fiscal year. Your participation enriches everyone's experience.

Yours truly,

**Timothy Luzader** | *PURA President Elect* | [luzader@purdue.edu](mailto:luzader@purdue.edu)

## WHAT PURA DOES

*All official University retirees and spouses are automatically PURA members, and there are no fees!*

### Offers monthly programs

- Join us! PURA meets the first Monday of the month to listen to guest speakers on a wide range of topics.

### Presents a kickoff luncheon each September

- PURA starts its year with a luncheon featuring speakers, awards and door prizes.

### Hosts the Annual Spring Conference

- In the spring, a day long program presents speakers, demonstrations, panels and vendors to help enhance retirement.

### Gives back

- Purdue retirees continue to support their University and community in many ways:
  - **Scholarships:** PURA raises funds to support two scholarships for financially challenged students
  - **Giving to Purdue:** Retirees have given generously to support Purdue academics and athletics
  - **United Way:** PURA coordinates the retiree portion of the Tippecanoe County United Way Campaign and our members traditionally give generously

### Recognizes excellence

- The **Arthur G. Hansen Recognition Award** recognizes the efforts of University units - departments, divisions, sections, colleges, schools, etc. - that cultivate and maintain meaningful relationships with affiliated retirees.
- The nomination form is available on the PURA website or you can email [pura@purdue.edu](mailto:pura@purdue.edu) to obtain a copy.
- Traditionally, a trophy and \$2,500 cash award from TIAA has been presented to the selected unit.
- The **Betty M. Nelson Special Recognition Award** recognizes University departments, units or individuals, who have meaningful relationships with a wide range of University retirees, are especially supportive of retirees and their needs and / or have provided important services to retirees. The PURA board makes nominations and selections, and a trophy is presented to the winning department, unit or individual.

## **AGENDA**

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|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>8:00 AM</b>  | Registration, breakfast snacks, visit vendors, and fellowship  |
| <b>9:00 AM</b>  | Welcome/Comments   |
| <b>9:30 AM</b>  | <b>Dr. Eric Barker</b> , Dean of Pharmacy—Purdue One Health:<br>Innovating at the Intersection of People, Pets, Plants, and<br>the Planet  |
| <b>10:00 AM</b> | Questions for <b>Dr. Barker</b>  |
| <b>10:15 AM</b> | Restroom break/visit vendors   |
| <b>10:45 AM</b> | Educational Panel Presentation<br><b>Michelle Jansen, Moderator</b> , Senior Director of HR<br>Business Partners at Purdue University <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Dr. Joel Hartman</b>, Sr. Director, Volunteerism and<br/>College Engagement, Being a Purdue Volunteer</li><li>▪ <b>Lisa Duncan</b>, Nonprofit Engagement Director<br/>Purdue University Office of Engagement</li><li>▪ <b>Dr. Cathy Liu</b>, Purdue Director of Center on Aging<br/>and the Life Course, An Age Friendly University</li><li>▪ <b>Leslie Fernung</b>, Purdue Director on Life-Long<br/>Learning, Purdue Grandparent University</li></ul> |

AGENDA 

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>11:45 AM</b> | Noon break for hot buffet meal/visit vendors/fellowship<br><b>Dave Sattler</b> available for personal sketches <i>(pending)</i>           |
| <b>1:00 PM</b>  | Afternoon Program Begins  |
| <b>1:10 PM</b>  | <b>Dr. Vic Lectenbug</b> , Former special asst to Purdue President, Former Dean of Agriculture, Vice Chair of the PURA Benefits Committee |
| <b>1:15 PM</b>  | <b>Dave Sattler</b> , Humorist, Purdue cartoons about Ole Purdue  |
| <b>1:45 PM</b>  | Armchair Exercises with <b>Dave Caldwell &amp; Mike Roumbakis</b>   |
| <b>2:00 PM</b>  | <b>Adriana Harmeyer</b> , Associate Clinical Professor:<br>"My Journey with <i>Jeopardy!</i> "  |
| <b>2:45 PM</b>  | Door prizes   |
| <b>3:15 PM</b>  | Hail Purdue/depart for home/visit vendors   |

## **DR. ERIC BARKER Dean of Pharmacy–Purdue One Health**



Eric L. Barker is Vice President for Health Affairs and the Jeannie and Jim Chaney Dean of Pharmacy at Purdue University. A faculty member since 1998, he is also Professor of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology. Dr. Barker previously served as Associate Provost for Graduate Programs (acting), Associate Dean for Research, and Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs. A neuropharmacologist, his research focuses on the molecular actions of drugs affecting the brain. He is an award-winning teacher and former editor-in-chief of *Pharmacological Reviews*, with numerous honors recognizing his research, leadership, and excellence in teaching and service.

**Eric L. Barker, PhD**

*Vice President for Health Affairs  
Jeannie and Jim Chaney Dean of Pharmacy  
barkerel@purdue.edu*

Heine Pharmacy Building,  
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## PANEL SPEAKERS

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### **Joel Hartman**

Joel Hartman is a 2007 graduate of Purdue and has worked within advancement here at Purdue for the past 15 years. Most of that time was spent with the College of Agriculture development team, while the past two years able to serve as the senior director, volunteerism and campus engagement within Purdue for Life Foundation. Joel's wife, Kara Hartman, serves as the program manager for study abroad in the College of Agriculture. They have two children, Hannah (13) and Ethan (10) who hope to be the next generation of Boilermakers. Joel's life

mission is to serve and help others. He does this through his official role with Purdue for Life, in board leadership roles for Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette & Lafayette Urban Ministry. In addition to being a faculty fellow for McCutcheon Hall, advisor for Habitat for Humanity student chapter – Purdue, serving his church at Northview, and a certified financial coach. The family enjoys traveling domestically and internationally, along with helping on the family farm operation in Rensselaer.

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**Joel Hartman**  
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College Engagement*  
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**PANEL SPEAKERS**



**Leslie Fernung, Purdue Director on Life-Long Learning, Purdue Grandparent University**

Leslie Fernung is the Senior Director of Lifelong Learning at the Purdue for Life Foundation. In her role, Leslie identifies learning opportunities for alumni, fans, and friends of the University that allows them to continue their learning long after they leave Purdue. These opportunities include online classes offered through Purdue Global and Purdue University Online, workshops offered through various college units as well as coordinating the Purdue Women's Conference and

Grandparents University programs.

Prior to her time at Purdue for Life, Leslie worked for The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette and has a deep appreciation and understanding of the nonprofit landscape in the Lafayette community.

Leslie and her husband have resided in Lafayette for the past 30 years.

**Leslie Fernung**  
*Senior Director, Lifelong Learning*  
*Purdue for Life Foundation*  
LAFernung@purdueforlife.org

Dick and Sandy Dauch Alumni Center  
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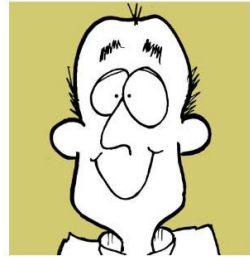
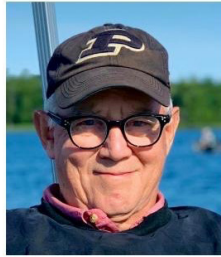
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## DAVE SATTLER

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Dave Sattler first applied for the job of editorial cartoonist for The Journal and Courier as a Purdue University student at the age of 20. He had been drawing cartoons for the local weekly paper, The Lafayette Leader, since high school. Dave graduated from Purdue in 1971 with a degree in Industrial Management. Over 49 years later, Dave was still drawing cartoons for the Lafayette Journal and Courier until his position was eliminated in April 2017.

Over the years, Dave built a strong readership and demonstrated leadership in the Greater Lafayette community. Citizens looked to Dave for humor, direction, insight, and nostalgia, and appreciated that he was not afraid to offer biting criticism when it was justified.

Through the years, he published three books of collected cartoons: Out of the Mothballs – 1983, Lighter Lafayette – 1993, and My View from Here – 2003. All three featured commentary on pivotal events in Lafayette, Indiana, and the nation over the years. Dave was selected for inclusion in Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year 24 times from 1982 to 2015.

He received the Hoosier State Press Association Award for "Best Editorial Cartoonist of the Year" in 1996 and 2004, and was awarded second place in 2002, 2006, and 2008.

Dave served as a director on many community boards, including Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette, United Way of Greater Lafayette, St. Elizabeth Hospital Foundation, Indiana Vocational Technical College Development, Wolf Park, and Wabash Center.

In addition to all his community involvement, he is, foremost, a husband to his wife, Nancy, and a devoted father to his four grown children and nine grandchildren.

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(Cell) 765.714.2030



## **ADRIANA HARMEYER Associate Clinical Professor**



Adriana Harmeyer is the Archivist for University History and Clinical Associate Professor at Purdue University. Her work includes all aspects of acquisition, management, and use of university-related collections, as well as rare book and medieval manuscript collections. She teaches courses across the university about archival research, primary sources, and the history of Purdue, and co-teaches courses on research methods for rare books and medieval manuscripts. Adriana is a co-author of articles on archival literacy and the book *Purdue at 150: A Visual History of Student Life*.

In 2024, Adriana won 15 episodes of Jeopardy! and was a finalist in the Jeopardy Tournament of Champions. In 2025, she appeared on Jeopardy Masters, the highest level of competition in the show's storied history.

### **Adriana Harmeyer**

Clinical Associate Professor | Archivist for University History

Purdue University Archives & Special Collections

<https://www.lib.purdue.edu/spcol>

[aharmey@purdue.edu](mailto:aharmey@purdue.edu)

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## PURA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS

Over the last 19 years PURA members have helped support Indiana students wanting to earn a bachelor's degree from Purdue University through their generous donations to two endowments: the PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke, created in 2007, and the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment, created in 2015. The scholarships awarded from the interest income of these endowments are determined by the Purdue Division of Financial Aid and the amount is a part of a total funding package for each student.

The Jischke endowment was created to allow a student to receive funds annually for four years, provided the student met the academic requirements and stayed in good standing. There have been nine distinct students receiving awards: three completed four years, two completed three years, two completed 1 year, and there are two successfully navigating their route to four years. To date, awards for the Jischke endowment have totaled in excess of \$26,000. To put this in perspective, the book value of this endowment was \$62,254.44 on June 30, 2025.

When the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment was created in 2015, the PURA Board had an opportunity to receive matching funds from the gift of an anonymous donor to Purdue University to create new scholarships for Indiana students. The Board approved a pledge of \$50,000 to be satisfied in five years. Through the generosity of retirees, friends, and local entities, the pledge was satisfied in eighteen months and the first students received scholarships in the 2018-2019 academic year. There have been sixty-one awards made from this endowment totaling \$69,450. The book value of the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment was \$279,187.87 on June 30, 2025.

These students come from all walks of life; some are first generation students, all needing significant financial assistance. Many of them prepare statements to thank the PURA donors. They are appreciative of the generosity of the retirees "pass it forward attitude" and many commented that they want to help others after they graduate and start their careers. They shared that having these funds has helped them have time to network, take internship opportunities, and most importantly, relieve the financial burden from themselves and their parents.

Pictured are four current scholarship recipients.



**Sierra Cox**  
Jischke POA  
Liberal Arts  
Mitchel, IN



**Renee Bauer**  
PURA Student Scholarship  
Purdue Polytechnic Institute  
Connersville, IN



**Hannah Thomas**  
PURA Student Scholarship  
Purdue Polytechnic Institute  
North Manchester, IN



**Jordan Keunke**  
PURA Student Scholarship  
Pharmacy  
Huntertown, IN

Please consider a donation to the PURA scholarship endowments. You may make a donation by phone: 1-800-319-2199 or by check payable to The Purdue for Life Foundation, designating the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment and/or the PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke Endowment on the memo line. Mail the check to Purdue Foundation, Gift Processing, P.O. Box 772401, Detroit, MI 48277-2401.

## **UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

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**PURA meetings are held on the first Monday of each month. We meet at the Kurz Purdue Technology Building at 1281 Win Hentschel Blvd., West Lafayette, at 10 AM.**

### **Nursing Shortage Lecture — May 4, 2026**

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Nursing Shortage: Causes and Solutions and Update on the Purdue Nursing Program is scheduled for May 4, 2026. Dr. Libby Richards, Professor and Interim Head of the School of Nursing, is the featured speaker.

### **PURA Westwood Lecture — May 5, 2026**

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The Westwood Lecture Series speaker on May 5, 2026 will be Allie Gabriel, the Thomas J. Howatt Chair in Management. Her topic will be What Research Reveals About Helping Employees Thrive Across Work and Home. 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. Attendance will be limited to the first fifty registrants. Registration will be available online approximately two weeks prior to the lecture. Additional details and reminders will be provided later.

### **Purdue Spring Fling 2026 — May 21, 2026**

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Purdue Spring Fling 2026 is scheduled for May 21, 2026.

### **All About Purdue Musical Organizations — June 1, 2026**

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Join Bill Griffel, Director of PMO, on June 1 for an inside look at Purdue's musical organizations.

### **What's in Your Bathroom Cabinet — July 6, 2026**

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On July 6, Sarah Kennedy and Pharmacy Students explore what you may have in your medicine cabinet and what you should know about it.

### **Prophetstown State Park — August 3, 2026**

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Jenna Parks Freeman, Interpretive Naturalist with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, takes us inside Prophetstown State Park on August 3.

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

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### **PURA at the Lafayette Civic Theatre — September 9, 2026**

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PURA at the Lafayette Civic Theatre is scheduled for September 9, 2026.

### **The 2026 PURA Annual Kickoff Luncheon — September 14, 2026**

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The 2026 PURA Annual Kickoff Luncheon is scheduled for September 14, 2026 at the Courtyard Marriott at 150 Fairington Avenue in Lafayette. Angie Klink is the featured speaker. Registration will open in mid-July.

### **Volunteer Opportunities for PURA Members**

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PURA members are eligible to apply as classroom volunteers with teachers or students in grades K-6, serving in any Lafayette, West Lafayette, or Tippecanoe School Corporation. First-time volunteers attend an orientation with school staff and have the opportunity to observe a volunteer in action.

Contact Jim Freeland at [jhfreeland45@outlook.com](mailto:jhfreeland45@outlook.com) to volunteer or for more information.

**PASE (Purdue Alumni Student Experience)** seeks volunteers to connect students with Purdue alumni and friends. Their mission is to build university loyalty, instill a culture of giving, and foster Boilermaker spirit. PURA members are welcome to participate.

### **What to Do If You Are Not Receiving PURA Emails**

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Not receiving PURA emails? Contact [gifts@purdue.edu](mailto:gifts@purdue.edu), identify yourself as a Purdue retiree, and note that you are not receiving emails from PURA via Purdue for Life, which manages retiree contact information. Please pass this along to any affected retiree friends.

### **Stay Connected with PURA**

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Visit the PURA website at [www.purdue.edu/retirees](http://www.purdue.edu/retirees) for information about PURA activities and benefits. Questions about PURA may be sent to [pura@purdue.edu](mailto:pura@purdue.edu).

## **PURA COMMITTEES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

During today's event, please take time to acquaint yourself with each of the following PURA committees. Then, add your name, phone and email to one of the colored 3 x 5 cards on your table for one or more of these active committees that pique your interest and your willingness to become and serve as a member during 2026-2027.

### **Benefits Committee**

**Larry Phearson | 765-426-8349 | lphearson3744@gmail.com**

The Benefits Committee monitors Medicare and the insurance plans that supplement Medicare for retirees, evaluates changes, and investigates alternatives where advantages may be gained.

- The committee also strives to keep retirees aware of additional University benefits and privileges and promotes program improvements where possible.

### **Campus and Community Committee**

**John Norberg | 765-491-1460 | jbnorberg@purdue.edu**

The Campus and Community Committee provides informative, educational, and entertaining opportunities in the Greater Lafayette area for members of the Purdue University Retirees Association. These events usually do not require bus transportation and do not involve the collection of funds in advance.

### **Communications Committee**

**Jerry Day | 765-714-7918 | jljlday@outlook.com**

The Communications Committee is responsible for maintaining an information connection with Purdue retirees on a variety of issues and topics, such as member benefits and programs and events of interest to members.

This connection is maintained through a variety of media, both print and electronic, including the Purdue Retirees Web site, PURA Newsletter, and the Retirees Handbook.

PURA members are encouraged to assist the Communications Committee by suggesting articles and topics of interest for the newsletter and the Web page and to point out in what ways membership communication can be improved.

### **Finance Committee**

**Larry Biehl | 765-418-0193 | larrybiehl@indy.net**

The PURA Finance Committee was created to oversee and report on funds used and managed by the PURA Executive Board and to attract gift funds that will be placed in a true endowment within Purdue University; these funds will be preserved in perpetuity, and only the income will be used for the general good of Purdue retirees. The committee is also responsible for reviewing formal requests from the PURA community for projects that require implementation funds and for making a recommendation about funding to the PURA Executive Committee. Expenditures might include funds for a research project related to successful retirement, speakers for educational programs on healthy living or financial planning.

### **Hospitality Committee**

**Linda Hawkins | 765-532-1519 | linda@purdue.edu**

The Hospitality Committee brings a welcoming spirit to all PURA events and encourages retirees from every sector of the University to participate in ongoing activities. The committee serves in a liaison capacity for special events such as flu shot administration, health fairs, and retirement receptions, while working to improve communications with retirees and pre-retirees and gathering ideas for new programming. Recommended programs and projects are presented to the PURA Executive Board for approval, with the understanding that other committees may be called upon to assist in their execution.

## PURA COMMITTEES & RESPONSIBILITIES

### Kickoff Luncheon Committee

Tom Robertson | 765-337-2985 | roberttl@purdue.edu

This committee plans the Annual Kickoff Luncheon, which celebrates the beginning of the program year for PURA. It traditionally provides an opportunity for retirees to hear about the "State of the University" from the University president and a chance to reconnect with friends and former colleagues.

The luncheon generally is held on a Monday in September, preferably the first Monday after Labor Day. The announcement and registration site for this luncheon appear in the July PURA Newsletter and on the PURA website.

### Media Communications Committee

Julie Kercher-Updike | 765-496-2275 | jkercher@purdue.edu

The Media Communications Committee is responsible for the use of social media and electronic support of PURA. The committee supports the Zoom meetings, conducts electronic surveys and ballots, and updates the website. The committee works with the Purdue Development Office to update the source for PURA email data making PURA information available to a wider group of retirees.

### Program Committee

John Sautter | 765-426-4601 | jasautter@purdue.edu

The Program Committee plans and coordinates speaker presentations for PURA members during the monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month. The committee sets the meeting schedule for the coming year beginning with October and running through August of the following year. If the first Monday of the month falls on a national holiday, PURA does not meet that month.

The Program Committee holds its primary annual planning session as part of PURA's Annual Transition Meeting in June. Committee communication is via e-mail, telephone, and personal contact. Typically, program speakers are Purdue faculty or administrators or community leaders with expertise in a variety of subjects or organizations.

### PURA Annual Spring Conference Committee

Norman Long | 765-714-3234 | longn@purdue.edu

The PURA Annual Spring Conference Committee plans the major educational program conducted by PURA and scheduled in the spring (last Wednesday in April, depending on the University calendar).

The target of the seminar or conference is to have topics and presentations that are of current interest and are understandable and useful to retirees. Input from participants of past conferences provides important guidance to the committee for planning the subsequent conference. The conference theme is "Purposeful Living in Retirement."

### Student Scholarship Committee

Melinda Bain | 765-412-8652 | melindahbain@comcast.net

The PURA Student Scholarship Committee was established in response to a matching fund, made available by a generous grant to Purdue University to create new scholarships for Indiana residents with significant financial need. The committee works to enhance growth of the two scholarship endowments (PURA Student Scholarship Endowment and the PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke Endowment) and communications with the students selected by Purdue Division of Financial Aid.

## **SPRING CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

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- **Melinda Bain** melindahbain@comcast.net
- **Dave and Betty Caldwell** caldwellhomefarm@aol.com
- **Jerry Day** jjlday@outlook.com
- **Martha Fletcher** mrfletch116@gmail.com
- **Linda L Hawkins** linda@purdue.edu
- **Lynn Holland** lholland@purdue.edu
- **Jean Homer** homerj424@gmail.com
- **Norman D. Long** longn@purdue.edu
- **Berdine Martin** berdinemartin44@gmail.com
- **Debra Pontecorvo** dponteco@purdue.edu
- **Chris Rearick** Chris\_rearick@hotmail.com
- **Gail Ruhl** ruhlg@purdue.edu
- **Scott Rumble** scottr1024@gmail.com
- **James F Schweitzer** jfschweitzer@purdue.edu
- **Carol Shelby** cshelby@purdue.edu
- **Terri Steele** tlsteele3@aol.com
- **Charlene Sullivan** sullivan@purdue.edu;
- **Thomas Turpin** turpin@purdue.edu
- **Olivia Wood** o.wood123@comcast.net;
- **Eric Smoldt** eric@ericsmoldt.com (Graphic Artist)

## **STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

- **Melinda Bain** melindahbain@comcast.net
- **Marshall Martin** marshallmartinih@gmail.com
- **Betty Nelson** bmnelson@purdue.edu
- **John Norberg** jnorberg@purdue.edu
- **John Trott** johnnotrott@gmail.com
- **Tom Turpin** turpin@purdue.edu

## PURA EXECUTIVE BOARD & COMMITTEE

**Charlene Sullivan**  
President

**Timothy Luzader**  
Vice President Elect

**Marshall Martin**  
Past President

**Melinda Bain**  
Scholarship Chair

**Larry Biehl**  
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**Amy Boyle**  
VP Human Resources

**Jerry Day**  
Communications Chair

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**Linda Hawkins**  
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**Norman Long**  
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**John Norberg**  
Campus & Community

**Larry Pherson**  
Benefits Chair

**Traci Puetz**  
Purdue HR Assistant

**Tom Robertson**  
Kickoff Luncheon Chair

**Rosie Ricci**  
Secretary

**Michele Salla**  
Historian

**John Sautter**  
Program Chair

## PURA RESOURCES

### Purdue University

#### Retiree Association

- 877-725-0222
- pura@purdue.edu
- www.purdue.edu/retirees

#### Purdue Human Resources

- 765-494-2222
- hr@purdue.edu
- 2550 Northwestern Ave., Suite 1100, West Lafayette, IN 47906

#### Medical

- **Plan 1:** PURcare UnitedHealthcare Senior Supplement
- 800-851-3802
- UnitedHealthcare Prescription Drug Plan
- 877-558-4749
- UnitedHealthcare Premium Billing Benefit Services
- 877-237-8576
- **Plan 2:** UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage PPO UHC Group Medicare Advantage
- 800-457-8506
- Purdue Pharmacy
- 765-494-1374

#### On-site Customer Service

- General assistance
- 765-494-2222
- hr@purdue.edu

#### Retirement counseling

- 765-496-1964
- 765-494-1694

#### Life insurance

- 765-494-2222

#### Nursing Center for Family Health

- 765-496-0308

#### Purdue Discount Program

- 765-494-7383

#### Purdue IT Technical Assistance

- 765-494-4000
- it@purdue.edu

#### Purdue Parking

- 765-494-9497
- parking@purdue.edu

#### Office of Admissions

- 765-494-1776
- admissions@purdue.edu

#### Office of the Bursar

- 765-494-7570

#### Retirement

- **Fidelity:** Purdue-dedicated customer service
- 800-343-0860
- **PERF** (Indiana Public Retirement System)
- 844-464-6777
- **TIAA: West Lafayette Office**
- 866-842-3516
- **TIAA: National Call Center**
- 800-842-2252

#### Regional Campus Contacts

- **Purdue Northwest** (includes former Purdue Hammond campus)
- 219-989-2400
- 855-608-4600
- **Purdue Fort Wayne**
- 260-481-6100
- **Purdue Global**
- 844-787-3834
- **Purdue Westville**
- 219-785-5200



**Dave Caldwell**

Silver Sneaker Instructor, former 4-H Youth Purdue Educator, Farmer.



**Mike Roumbakis**

Outreach Marketing & Lifestyle Coach



**John Obermeyer Photographer**

John Obermeyer (retired May 2025) worked in the Purdue Entomology Department, for 38 years, as an Integrated Pest Management Specialist. His activities consisted of both in-field/classroom training and creating field crop pest management publications for Indiana's agribusiness. To further enhance educational programs, he filmed and produced videos in multiple disciplines and environments. Field photography, specifically macro-photography, became a passion, with results used in a diverse number of printed and electronic formats. A digital database of over 17,000 of his crop, damage, and departmental photos have been cataloged and preserved for future use.



**Roy Johnson Song Leader**

Earned a bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering from Purdue University. Following that, he served for four years as assistant director in the Department of Bands, assisting Al Wright with the marching band and leading the military band, two concert bands and the basketball pep band. He led the basketball pep band for the dedication of Mackey Arena when Purdue hosted UCLA. Roy then moved to the Office of the Registrar, where he served as associate registrar for 29 years and served as vice-chair of the Commencement Committee and as public orator at commencements for more than 20 years. At the same time, he served as the announcer for the Purdue "All-American" Marching Band for 44 years. Following retirement in 1999, he served as president of the Purdue University Retirees Association for two years.



**Melinda H. Bain**

Chair, Student Scholarship Committee

Melinda arrived in West Lafayette in 1972 and began a Purdue career of 38 years, the first 15 in Human Resource Services and the next 23 in the Office of the Executive Vice President and Treasurer, retiring in 2010. She started on the PURA board in 2013 as secretary/treasurer and moved to the position of President in 2016. Her greatest PURA accomplishment was assisting 2015

President Olivia Wood establish the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment and create the Student Scholarship Committee which oversee two scholarship endowments.



**Dr. Vic Lechtenberg**

Former special asst to Purdue President, Former Dean of Agriculture, Vice Chair of the PURA Benefits Committee

He spent more than four decades in service to Purdue and the state of Indiana. He began his career as a professor of agronomy and served as Dean of Agriculture from 1993 to 2004, Vice Provost for Engagement from 2004 to 2011, and ultimately as Special

Assistant to the President and Director of the Center for Purdue Regional Development.



**Tom Turpin**

Tom Turpin is an emeritus Professor of Entomology at Purdue University. He is a Kansas native and holds a PhD from Iowa State University. Turpin served as President of the Entomological Society of America. He has received a number of teaching awards and is the founder of Purdue's Bug Bowl. For 26 years he wrote a biweekly newspaper column called "On 6 Legs" and is

the author of an entomology textbook and two popular books on insects.

# Hail Purdue

## Verse:

To your call once more we rally,  
Alma Mater, hear our praise!  
Where the Wabash spreads its valley,  
Filled with joy our voices raise.

From the sky in swelling echoes  
Come the cheers that tell the tale  
Of your vict'ries and your heroes,  
Hail Purdue! We sing all hail!

## Chorus:

Hail, hail to old Purdue!  
All hail to our old gold and black!  
Hail, hail to old Purdue!  
Our friendship may she never lack!  
Ever grateful, ever true,  
Thus we raise our song anew  
Of the days we've spent with you,  
All hail our own Purdue!

Oft we'll gather 'round thy banner,  
Oft we'll tread the well-known halls,  
Oft we'll praise thee Alma Mater,  
Hear our voices as they call.

From the sky in swelling echoes  
Come the cheers that tell the tale  
Of your vict'ries and your heroes,  
Hail Purdue! We sing all hail!