It’s often said that spring is a time for renewal, but in higher education it sometimes seems as if fall is really the time for renewal. In this case, it’s the renewal of our promise to Boilermakers to prepare them for success in and out of the classroom while they’re here and prepare them to excel once they graduate.

One of the new ways we’re working to fulfill this promise is the launch of Steps to Leaps, a collaboration between numerous campus partners to help students develop well-being and professional skills, achieve and succeed academically, and provide for continued development in careers and post-graduate pursuits. Steps to Leaps is based on five content pillars designed by students for students: Well-Being, Leadership and Professional Development, Impact, Networks and Grit. You can find more information on Steps to Leaps on pages 6-7.

Equipping students to succeed beyond Purdue is one of Student Life’s greatest missions and the success of this is evident in University Residences’ Women’s Leadership Series. In these women, we can see how empowering leaders can make an impact across generations. This type of impact can’t happen without selfless people, and with that in mind we also take a look at the dedication of Denton Sederquist – a truly special Boilermaker.

This fall, we are also wrapping up the celebration of Purdue’s sesquicentennial and 150 years of “Giant Leaps.” In these pages, we look back on some of the performances, celebrations, developments and even an exciting academic partnership that brought a new Purdue ice cream to market. We also look back at 100 years of tradition in an iconic event and recognize a group of students who represented the University with distinction on the national stage.

We hope you’ll enjoy this sample of what’s happening in Student Life and join us as we renew our commitment to helping Boilermakers take “Giant Leaps” for the next 150 years.

Hail Purdue!
Purdue’s All-American Marching Band appeared for their 100th time in the Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in May 2019. The Purdue Alumni band also joined in the performance.

While race fans across the world watched the 103rd running of the Indianapolis 500 on Memorial Day weekend, Boilermakers watched with an added dose of pride as the Purdue Marching Band, led by Golden Girl Kaitlyn Schleis, appeared in the parade that precedes the race.

Performing before an audience of nearly 400,000, the Purdue Marching Band is popular with fans who take commemorative pictures of the band considering it a fundamental part of the lineup of celebrities.

With no music school, Purdue is an anomaly among universities. Participation in the marching band is voluntary with no academic credit available for students. The fact that Purdue’s band has been chosen to play an integral role musically at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for the past 100 years makes a profound statement as to the band’s talents, commitment and attraction.

Learn More
purdue.edu/bands
@PurdueBands
@PurdueBandsOrchestras

Addie Darling, shown here in the Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade circa 1958-60, was Purdue’s third Golden Girl. In 1958 at the Purdue vs. Notre Dame football game, Darling brought national attention to the position of “Golden Girl.” At halftime, Darling performed on top of an old bass drum on the field. She caught the eye of TV cameramen and created a media sensation. Throughout the country, headlines were written about Purdue’s Golden Girl.

Purdue’s 30th Golden Girl Kaitlyn Schleis led the All-American Marching Band in its 100th appearance at the Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade in May 2019. Schleis is a senior from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, studying Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences.

Purdue Dining & Culinary partnered with students in the Department of Food Science to produce a new ice cream flavor in celebration of Purdue University’s 150th anniversary.

Known as Boiler Tracks, the ice cream consists of a vanilla base with chocolate pieces, toffee and caramel. Boiler Tracks debuted March 1 in conjunction with Dining & Culinary’s month-long celebration of its contributions to the “Giant Leaps” taken by the University over the last 150 years. The ice cream is served in the residential dining courts, Harrison Grill and Pappy’s Sweet Shop, and is available for purchase in half-pints at campus markets.

Development of the ice cream began when Dining & Culinary partnered with students in Dr. Dharmendra Mishra’s FS 443 Food Product Design class during the Spring 2018 semester. Seven teams of students developed ice cream products from concept through marketing as part of the project. Their work included developing a sensory profile, creating a recipe, preparing samples, product testing, packaging and branding. From the seven teams, three finalists were chosen by Dining & Culinary to evaluate for release to the Purdue community. The winning submission was the brainchild of FS 443 students Deklin Veenhuizen, Joel Mohring, Ywenn Bao, Luping Xu, Molly Powell and Cameron Wicks.

“We had seven teams working on this project and it worked out quite well,” said Mishra. “The students had to go through product concept all the way through pilot trials to commercialization concepts. I’m so delighted to see that it is moving forward. I’m glad for all of the students who worked hard on the projects.”

Student groups presented initial concepts and final products to Dining & Culinary administrators as part of their classwork. Boiler Tracks initially began as a reimagining of the popular Moose Tracks flavor before evolving into its final form.

Boiler Tracks is the latest example of a productive relationship between Dining & Culinary and the Department of Food Science. The two departments previously worked with the Boilermaker Butcher Block to develop the apple bratwurst that is served in Wiley Dining Court and have teamed up to offer internships to food science students and work on plans for food storage.

New Ice Cream Flavor Result of Academic Partnership
Student Life has launched Steps to Leaps, a campus-wide initiative geared toward bolstering student success. Steps to Leaps is based on a set of five pillars to help students build lifelong habits in areas such as well-being, leadership, impact-making, network building and grit.

Steps to Leaps offers goal setting, action planning, worksheets, short motivational videos and more for self-assessment or facilitator-led assessments to help students celebrate their strengths while learning paths to improvement. Students may navigate the activity and assessment modules contained in a pillar on their own time; faculty and staff may suggest Steps to Leaps to a student who may be struggling or need confidence building. The modules are created as complete lesson plans that guide a facilitator through each step.

Several factors have converged to lead to the development of Steps to Leaps, said Beth McCuskey, vice provost for student life.

"First our president and provost have challenged us to help our students become more resilient," said McCuskey. "Second, we have seen an uptick in students calling on our Counseling and Professional Services with problems that have more to do with coping than mental health disorders."

Third is the arrival of Generation Z students, who grew up with the Internet and social media, but also are very career focused, she said. They tend to have a history of being high achievers and haven’t fully developed the shock absorbers needed to meet bumps in the road.

Steps to Leaps was created to support Generation Z students, with a goal of helping them further develop skills to maximize their talents while minimizing the stress and pressure they put on themselves.

The content areas, or pillars, are a broad representation of life-skills that everybody can tap into and refine for themselves. "We have approached our model with the understanding that every Purdue student has enormous capacity and talent, and through engaging in these topics, can grow even more," McCuskey said.

A unique attribute of Steps to Leaps is that it taps into the strengths and talents of the broad Purdue community. "Faculty with research interests related to the five pillars are invited to join a research community focused on furthering our understanding of well-being and resilience," said McCuskey. "Led by Dr. Louis Tay, an organizational psychologist specializing in well-being research, we have already engaged with faculty across many disciplines, including communication, engineering, chemistry, and hospitality and tourism management."

Tay said, "The Steps to Leaps program is a holistic one focusing on the core aspects of improving student well-being. Among many, one of our goals is to lead the assessment of the key concepts that other universities can leverage, learn, and eventually utilize."

Student groups are integral to the rollout, which will take advantage of a wide range of communication vehicles, including a hashtag campaign. Residence Hall advisors and student groups, such as the Purdue Student Government, are actively engaged.

Steps to Leaps helps students learn how to find and access Purdue’s wealth of resources available through the Office of the Dean of Students. When a student has a challenge or a question, Purdue has the person and/or program to help or can offer input as to where to find assistance.

Skylar Clingan is one of the undergraduate students who helped develop Steps to Leaps.

"I am a first-generation college student," Clingan said. "So Purdue has been a learning experience for me every step of the way. By working on the Steps to Leaps project, I hope to provide developmental resources for all Purdue students."

A Steps to Leaps Summit was held on September 30 in the Purdue Memorial Union ballroom. The open-invite kickoff featured lunch, a welcome by Provost Jay Akridge, introductions by Beth McCuskey and Jenna L. Rickus, associate vice provost for teaching and learning, a student panel discussion, breakout sessions and more.
Leadership Activities Lead to Impactful Purdue Role

Opportunities offered through Purdue Student Life spurred two students to become student trustees. Since 1976, an undergraduate or graduate student from any of Purdue’s campuses has served as one of the ten members of the Purdue University Board of Trustees. The student is appointed by Indiana’s governor and has an equal vote on all actions taken by the board. The Purdue Student Government oversees the application and interview process with support from Student Life.

Daniel Romary, from New Haven, Indiana, ended his two-year term as a student trustee in June 2019. He obtained a bachelor’s and master’s degree in biomedical engineering in May 2018 and May 2019, respectively. Now he is a medical student at IU School of Medicine in Indianapolis.

Noah Scott, from Warsaw, Indiana, succeeded Romary as Purdue’s 23rd student trustee on July 1, 2019. Scott is a senior studying industrial engineering technology, organizational leadership and pre-law. Both Romary and Scott point to their leadership in student organizations as building the foundation for their student trustee positions.

“I was involved with student government from the time I was a freshman,” Romary said. “I like representing students and I saw the student trustee role as an opportunity to move from a suggestion maker to a decision maker.”

Romary was a senator for the College of Engineering and a student body secretary. “One of my big projects was working to get more mental health resources for students on campus,” Romary said. Romary was also involved in the Purdue Foundation Student Board (PF SB), working closely with the University Development Office. “I got to interact with a lot of alumni and donors and understand the importance of philanthropy in the University,” Romary said.

Scott likes that the student trustee position can make an impact behind the scenes. “It’s a role where you can leave a lasting legacy and leave the University better than when you got here in a way that not many other positions can,” Scott said.

Scott served as a host for the Old Masters Program where students serve as a liaison for ten individuals who are invited to campus as an “Old Master” to share philosophies and experiences with students. He also served on the Community Standards Board of the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, which holds student conduct hearings. “I really enjoyed it,” Scott said. “Not necessarily the topics or what had to happen, but being able to give back in that way.”

Scott then obtained a position working in the Student Conduct Office working closely with his peers in their times of need and challenge. Dovetailed with that job was Scott’s involvement with Interfraternity Council (IFC) student conduct issues. Scott is a member of Sigma Tau Gamma.

When an investigation occurred concerning student conduct in a fraternity, Scott received a report, took it to the IFC judicial board and recommended a sanction. Scott said, “That role was a big influence on who I am today and why I wanted to be a student trustee. The gravity of my decisions was something that I had not experienced before.”

Advisors Jennifer White in organizational leadership and Cassie Pendleton in industrial engineering technology helped Scott through the student trustee application process.

“They are incredible people,” Scott said. “They are giving, understanding and caring. They always listen, whether you are talking about something that is academic related or a problem. I didn’t realize an advisor could be more than someone who helps you schedule classes until I knew Jennifer and Cassie.”

After he was selected to be a student trustee, Scott contacted Brandon Cutler, associate dean of students for fraternity, sorority and cooperative life. “I thanked him and told him that unfortunately I had to step back from my position with IFC because of my new role as a student trustee,” Scott said.

“I would not be who I am today and I would not have gotten the trustee position without the IFC experience and without people like Brandon Cutler giving me advice. Stepping back from that position was one of the most difficult things I have had to do at Purdue. The A. A. Milne quote embodies how I felt. It reads: ‘How fortunate I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.’”

Romary looks back fondly on his time as a student trustee and his collaboration on the 50-year campus master plan. “To have a hand in something that’s going to affect the way campus looks for the next 50 years was really neat, and I’m proud of the way the plan turned out.”

Scott felt an aura of comradery during his first Board of Trustees meeting. “I walked into the executive session, and it was like a meeting of old friends. They were ecstatic to see each other, giving hugs, and they welcomed me. It was a neat dynamic. Of course they spar on intellectual disagreements or different ideas, but at the end of the day, they all want betterment for Purdue, its students, community and alumni.”
Sederquist Honored with Special Boilermaker Award

Denton Sederquist, assistant director of Residential Life, has been honored with a Special Boilermaker Award in recognition of his commitment to student success and personal investment in mentoring Purdue students.

Known for his tireless work ethic and his policy of having an open door for students to come in and receive guidance, Sederquist works with professional and paraprofessional staff (resident education assistants and resident assistants) to ensure student success in University Residences. The one-on-one attention he gives to students extends to group settings and he is often requested as a presenter by numerous campus organizations. Whether it’s providing individual attention or sharing expertise with a group, Sederquist’s mind is always on the outcome for the students involved.

“It’s about what’s best for students. Yes, it’s a service, but there’s also education in it,” says Sederquist. “I don’t think you can give education without service and I don’t think you can give service without

education. That’s what my motto is. Everything’s an educational moment if you make it that way and make yourself available to let students ask you the ‘why.’”

In addition to working directly with students, Sederquist endows RAISE Fund scholarships in Wiley Hall and Cary Quadrangle and, along with his wife, Kim, supports a scholarship for Purdue Bands. He also serves as president of the Purdue Club of Tippecanoe County.

Established by the Purdue Alumni Association in 1981, Special Boilermaker Awards recognize and honor faculty and staff who have contributed significantly to the improvement of the quality of life and the betterment of the educational experience for a substantial number of students and whose life-works have improved the public image of the university. Sederquist was presented with a pewter locomotive keepsake etched into the achievement obelisk on the Engineering Mall.

Learn More


Student Life Represents
Twirlers Earn Team, Individual National Titles

Purdue University Twirling performed with distinction at the 2019 USA Twirling National Championships, winning a pair of titles.

The Purdue Twirlers earned the 2019 Grand National Collegiate Halftime Show Team championship. The routine honored the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 and Purdue’s sesquicentennial.

“It was so special to represent such a huge part of Purdue’s history,” said Mackenzie Joefreda, captain of the All-American Twirling Team. “We put together a mix of space-themed songs, including ‘Fly Me to the Moon,’ ‘Space Jam,’ and ‘Rocket Man,’ wore space-themed costumes and created props to go along with the theme as well. There was also a dance part of our routine, which is fun for us as most of us have dance backgrounds too.”

The championship routine featured a combination of the All-American Twirling Team and all five Purdue Solo Twirlers. The team began work on their nationals routine in February, practicing together twice a week for the duration of the spring semester. This left three months before the national event in July, during which members of the team practiced on their own and met back on campus on two occasions to continue preparation.

In addition to the prestigious title, the twirlers were also each awarded with a scholarship.

Individually, Golden Girl Kaitlyn Schleis won the 2019 Grand National Collegiate Solo Champion title. Schleis topped a field made up of more than 100 collegiate participants from schools around the nation. For Schleis, the championship represented the culmination of 18 years of dedication to twirling.

“It was just a surreal moment that all the hard work I’ve put in from three years old until 21 has paid off,” said Schleis. “There were a lot of days where I wondered if this was even worth it or possible. That moment was the validation.”

Schleis says she typically practices 2–4 hours every day during the school year and ramps up her efforts to 8–10 hours per day once the summer begins. She began developing her routine in April, incorporating her signature moves and style into a segment that satisfied judging requirements. One of Schleis’ signature moves involves a three-baton pickup.

“I have two batons on the ground and I push them so they roll around in a circle,” said Schleis. “They roll back to me and I pick them up and start to baton. When I do it, people always think I made a mistake and then, all of a sudden, the batons just come right back to me.”

The winning performance came at the end of an exhausting day that saw Schleis compete in 12 events. For her efforts, Schleis was awarded the $2500 Susan Dailey Orr Scholarship and received a traveling, seven-foot tall trophy.

Members of Purdue Twirling who competed in the championship include: Joefreda (Team Captain), Schleis (Golden Girl), Amanda Coy (Girl-in-Black), Alicia Dennie (Miss Boilerette), Alexis Piskulic and Brooke Wyatt (Silver Twins), Emma Schafer (Co-Captain), Marin Parker, Ashley Brazeau, and Leah DePasquale.
This year’s series provided several experiences and passing on their knowledge to the next generation of leaders. As exciting as it is to see students begin to shape their world through their pursuits on campus, oftentimes, it’s years before we see how leadership has fully manifested itself in a former student’s life. University Residences’ Women’s Leadership Series has provided the unique opportunity to see how this leadership manifests across generations of Boilermakers. This year’s series provided several examples of Purdue connections that have empowered individuals to impact the world around them.

One such connection is between Betty Nelson, dean of students emerita and a participant in the series, and Teresa Roche, chief human resources officer for the City of Fort Collins (Colorado), who presented as a speaker. Roche and Nelson have enjoyed a relationship built upon friendship traced to their first meeting in the mid-1970s, when Roche negotiated several career moves. Nelson mentored Roche through her work with AWS and, later, as a graduate intern in the Office of the Dean of Students. Nelson’s friendship, Roche says, has been a constant in her life for four decades. During that time, Roche has worked in the private sector, returned to Purdue with her husband and newborn child to pursue a doctorate, and negotiated several career moves.

Roche says she specifically selected the dates of her stay as part of University Residences’ Executive-in-Residence program so she could participate in the series as a speaker. Her message centered on experiences in her life that connect with the book “The Gifts of Imperfection,” by Brené Brown, which participants in the series read as part of their experience.

“I’ve had a lot of opportunities along the way to feel very keenly about girls and adolescents needing to understand their options, to value themselves and to respect themselves,” says Nelson. “The Women’s Leadership Series here was natural for me to be a part of. If I’m available to be part of something like this that shows support for women being all they can be, I’m there.”

Furthering the connection across generations were two Women’s Leadership award nominees, each of whom are daughters of women who once worked with Nelson when she was Dean of Students. Anna Szolwinski, the winner of this year’s award, cited her mother, Jenni (Birch) Szolwinski, as an influence in her choice to pursue leadership opportunities on campus.

“My Mom has definitely been a big role model in my life, especially as a woman who is strong and confident and can empower other women as well,” says Szolwinski. “She’s really encouraged me to dive in to leadership positions here at Purdue and really get involved on campus because that’s something that made her college experience so rich when she was here.”

The series is one of several experiences that has helped cultivate Szolwinski’s desire to pursue leadership opportunities at Purdue. She currently serves as director of Rising Professionals, an organization that works alongside Old Masters to unite distinguished young Purdue alumni with current underclassmen. She is also a member of the Purdue Foundation Student Board and serves as a mentor for incoming freshman in the Honors College. Szolwinski has also been in contact with Kristin Van Busum, one of the guest speakers from Women’s Leadership Series, to receive guidance about her future plans.

“It’s experiences like this series that allow me to learn more about myself and learn more about my interests and passions, which are building blocks to where I want to go,” says Szolwinski. “I think as I go through the next three years of college, I will be participating in experiences and having these connections that make me learn more about what I want to do later on.”

The Women’s Leadership Series consists of multiple events featuring a guest speaker or two who present on topics related to their area of expertise, share meaningful experiences and answer questions from participants. The events also include group discussion and networking opportunities for guests and attendees. This fall, the series will expand to include more events throughout the school year and include a collaborative event with Men’s Leadership Series participants.

Since its inception, more than 700 students and 120 staff have participated in Women’s Leadership Series. It is hoped that current participants will return to Purdue as alumni to continue to inspire and connect with future generations of student leaders.
Over the last year, Purdue University has celebrated its 150th birthday by commemorating the “Giant Leaps” the University has taken and by imagining how the next 150 years might look. Student Life organizations joined in the celebration with special events, performances and projects to commemorate the sesquicentennial.

University Residences kicked off the celebration with a tailgate featuring student and staff guest speakers during Homecoming 2018. The department also presented a panel discussion featuring staff and students reflecting on current campus housing trends and imagining the potential impact that can be made through the future campus housing experience.

In addition to the development of Boiler Tracks ice cream, Dining & Culinary co-sponsored and provided an inspired menu of space-like foods for a panel discussion featuring retired astronaut Scott Kelly. The innovative menu, created by Chef Bruce Haumesser, reflected the foods, preservation and delivery techniques developed by researchers for space exploration over the last 50 years. Among the most popular items served was Coca-Cola transformed into a semi-solid ball using a technique called spherification.

The 85th annual Purdue Christmas Show showcased “Giant Leaps” by featuring legendary Purdue icons who used their experience as a launch pad for future success and helped pave the way for future generations of Boilermakers.

Notable characters included John Purdue, Albert P. Stewart, Amelia Earhart and Neil Armstrong, as well as a surprise moon landing entrance by Santa. The Christmas Show entertained more than 18,000 enthusiastic patrons during its weekend run in the Elliott Hall of Music.

Convocations hosted the Aquila Theatre’s production of “Frankenstein” as part of the Ideas Festival, the centerpiece of the Giant Leaps Sesquicentennial Campaign. The performances were part of the Ideas Festival theme “Health, Longevity and Quality of Life.” Faculty experts led a pre-show discussion on the ethical questions posed about the nature of innovation in the story.

The “All-American” Marching Band delivered special halftime performances throughout the football season featuring themes related to the 150th anniversary celebration. The band also celebrated the 100th anniversary of its inclusion in festivities at the Indianapolis 500.

It has been an exciting year for Student Life to celebrate the accomplishments of its organizations. We look forward to the “Giant Leaps” we’ll take over the next 150 years.

Purdue’s sesquicentennial celebration wrapped up on Homecoming weekend 2019. The final celebration included a reunion of astronaut alumni, keynote speakers and more.

Learn More

takegiantleaps.org

#takegiantleaps
Day of Giving Snapshot
In addition to supporting departments in Student Life, Purdue Day of Giving is an opportunity to impact one of nearly 1,000 student organizations at Purdue. Examples of how Day of Giving funds have been used by student organizations include:

Welcome and support for student members of the Bangladesh Students Association.
The purchase of new competition tires for Purdue Electric Racing.
The continued growth of Purdue Old Masters, including additions to the host experience and opportunities to host alumni during Homecoming.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Purdue alumni, faculty, staff, retirees, students, parents and friends, the following student organizations received a significant number of gifts on Day of Giving:

Ways to Give

Online: Visit purdue.edu/vpsl/giving and choose Give Now

By Mail: Make a check payable to Purdue Foundation. Specify the name of the program or department you’d like to support on the memo line and mail to: Purdue Foundation, Dauch Alumni Center, 403 W. Wood Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907.

By Phone: 1-800-319-2199 | Questions? Email gifts@purdue.edu

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!
Purdue Day of Giving 2019 – Student Life Success
Total Raised - $1,886,634 | Bonus Funds - $99,752
Total Gifts - 9,462 | Programs Supported - 283

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