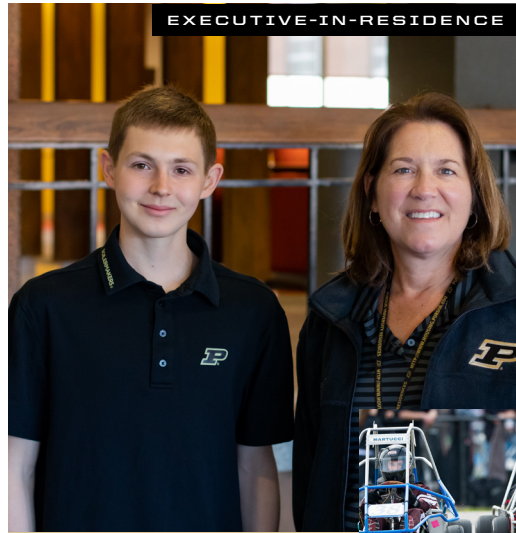


PERSPECTIVES

SPRING 2020

For the 2018-2019 academic year, Purdue Greek and Cooperative Organizations raised over \$820,000 for charitable causes.

EXECUTIVE-IN-RESIDENCE



Grand Prix was originally formed as a way for engineering students to employ their skills, knowledge and enthusiasm while having a good time.



ACE FOOD PANTRY



The Purdue Marching Band was ranked as the #4 college marching band in the country in 2019 by the website thoughtco and #6 by College Raptor.



KATHERINE PETTS



JAY GEPHART

“ My advice for students is to not only be proactive about networking with people and getting their contact info, but also maintain the relationship, keep in touch with them. Don't let it fade away. I think that has really helped me. ”

— Katherine Petts

A WORD FROM OUR VICE PROVOST

Impacting students beyond the classroom. That's our Giant Leap. No matter what challenges we may face, we adapt to continue to provide the essential out-of-classroom opportunities that help define the Boilermaker experience. In this issue of Perspectives, you will find stories of impact from across Student Life.

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged us to think of new ways to provide impactful experiences to Boilermakers beyond their online classwork. Student Life is adapting to meet this challenge by providing resources that focus on well-being. Departments within Student Life continue to provide opportunities for connection through online events, workshops and more. A link to the virtual home of Student Life can be found on the back cover.

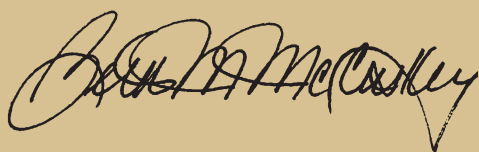
Every giant leap starts with a small step and we can see these small steps begin to manifest in students like Austin Lawrence and Katherine Petts. Serving as a mentor and receiving mentorship due to a key connection he forged as part of a leadership experience have figured prominently in Austin's journey thus far. Networks built through a student organization have allowed Katherine to gain hands-on experience in the music industry. These two students represent numerous similar stories across Student Life.

Programs such as Executive-in-Residence also help students realize how their small steps at Purdue prepare them for giant leaps in their next endeavors. Whether it's in a one-on-one interaction over coffee with an aspiring entrepreneur, time spent with a student ambassador or in a panel discussion, visiting executives continue to lend their time to impacting Boilermakers.

In this issue, we also celebrate some of the exceptional people who support Student Life and help foster an out-of-classroom experience that encourages students to pursue excellence. The generosity of Marc and Sharon Hagle will help transform the experience of members of Purdue Bands & Orchestras with the construction of a new practice and rehearsal facility. We also recognize five exceptional individuals with our inaugural Student Life Impact awards, which highlight accomplished alumni and friends of Student Life.

Every Boilermaker strives to leave their footprint. Though our circumstances may change, that ideal remains at the root of what it means to be a Boilermaker. We in Student Life are proud to continue to pursue innovative opportunities for students to realize their ability to make an impact on their experiences at Purdue and beyond.

Thanks for reading and Hail Purdue!



Dr. Beth McCuskey

Vice Provost of Student Life
Purdue University



PERSPECTIVES

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Perspectives is a bi-annual publication from the Office of the Vice Provost of Student Life. An electronic version of this publication and past issues can be found at:

www.purdue.edu/vpsl/perspectives



Student Life



STUDENT LIFE SNAPSHOT

Students are a part of the solution to food insecurity on campus through their work with ACE Campus Food Pantry. Located on the bottom floor of the Baptist Student Foundation, ACE makes food more readily available to members of the Purdue community who may be experiencing food insecurity. ACE has remained open on Tuesdays for those in the Purdue community who are facing food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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GENERATIONAL IMPACT



THE PURDUE
GRAND PRIX

The first race was held on
May 17, 1958.

The Purdue Grand Prix, known as “The Greatest Spectacle in College Racing,” began with five students taking turns driving a homemade car powered by a lawnmower engine.

The idea for the Purdue Grand Prix originated at the Delta Upsilon chapter house in fall 1957. Member Peter Helferich led the charge to receive approval from the University to start what would become a springtime annual Purdue tradition. Thirty-three drivers and teams participate in the 160-lap or 50-mile race each spring at the conclusion of Gala Week.

Grand Prix was originally formed as a way for engineering students to employ their skills, knowledge and enthusiasm while having a good time. The first race was held on May 17, 1958, and an article about the race appeared in the September 1958 issue of Popular Mechanics.

The first race was run on North Intramural Field and an adjacent parking lot. Each built-from-scratch kart could barely exceed 30 miles per hour. The Purdue Auto Club was the original governing body of Grand Prix. After



Drivers and crew prepare for
the Grand Prix race.

the club disbanded, the Grand Prix Foundation was founded in 1965 as the sanctioning body of the race.

A university-sponsored student organization, the Grand Prix Foundation is led by students with the primary purpose to raise funds for student scholarships. The Grand Prix Student Ambassadors represent the spirit of Grand Prix in the local community. Student Activities and Organizations (SAO) works with Grand Prix to help maintain a safe and enjoyable event. SAO works with numerous organizations on campus, and Grand Prix has been a wonderful partner taking full advantage of the resources available for student organizations when planning a

successful event, particularly regarding risk management.

In 1969, a track was built near Ross-Ade Stadium. In 1995, Ian Smith set a record as the first student to win the race for three consecutive years. Through the years, Phi Sigma Rho and the Society of Women Engineers at Purdue have had the only all-female Grand Prix race teams. At the 50th anniversary of the race in 2007, Liz Lehmann was the first and so far the only woman to win Grand Prix.

Today, the race is run on a premier track at McCormick Road and Cherry Lane modeled after the World Kart Championship Track in Japan.

STEPS TO LEAPS

INAUGURAL
SEMESTER A
SUCCESS

Purdue's Steps to Leaps initiative that launched in the fall 2019 semester is even more valuable for students now as they navigate the changes brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. Steps to Leaps is a campus-wide program geared toward bolstering student success. The initiative focused on student resiliency and well-being is co-led by Dr. Beth McCuskey, vice provost for student life, and Dr. Jenna Rickus, associate vice provost for teaching and learning, under the care and direction of the Office of the Provost. Steps to Leaps is aligned with long-term University goals under the Provost Road Map for Transformative Undergraduate Education.

"President Mitch Daniels has challenged us to help our students become more resilient, and the Provost's Road Map for Transformative Undergraduate Education calls upon us to maximize the impact on our residential campus on the growth and success of our students," said McCuskey.

As a collaborative effort, Steps to Leaps was created by staff along with students to foster lifelong habits and promote a growth mindset in the areas of well-being, leadership, impact, 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.

Director of Residential Education Carl Krieger assists with content development and student staff outreach. Krieger

said, "I was pleasantly surprised at the excitement that was around Steps to Leaps in the first semester. Both students and staff have been excited about nearly every aspect. They understand the purpose of Steps to Leaps—to align us all around a language that points us in the direction of supporting our students in the best possible ways and to help them find the resources they need to be the best possible selves they can be."

Grounded in the unique attributes represented by Generation Z, Steps to Leaps provides students with tools, resources and support to help them realize their personal definitions of success. "Steps to Leaps content areas, or pillars, are broad representations of life-skills that everybody can tap into and refine for themselves," McCuskey said. "Purdue has approached the model with the understanding that every student has enormous capacity and talent, and through engaging in the pillar topics and modules, can grow even more."

Director of Leadership Programs Stephanie Knight assists with content development and works with student interns to create the messaging around Steps to Leaps. Knight said, "The inaugural semester was really exciting because we spent last summer looking at what Steps to Leaps could be, then we launched it with students, faculty and staff. People have really latched onto the overall concept and have wanted to be involved. We had many people come forward who are either doing great work already within these areas or who are

making an intentional effort to become involved moving forward."

Steps to Leaps 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 the understanding of well-being and resilience. Dr. Louis Tay, associate professor of psychological sciences, at Purdue focuses on developing the research and assessment framework for the Steps to Leaps program. A well-being and assessment expert, Tay is aligning the pillars with scientific research and providing guidance for all Purdue departments and units interested in fostering and assessing resilience and well-being. Among many, one of the goals is to lead the assessment of the key concepts that other universities can leverage, learn and eventually utilize.

"We are moving toward tracking where Purdue students stand on well-being and resilience," said Tay. "In terms of promoting well-being, Dr. Kim Plake from Pharmacy is leading an effort to build and test a Purdue-based mobile app that delivers positive psychology interventions to students, and in terms of pedagogy, I will be teaching a new course in Fall 2020 'Beyond Mental Health: The Science of Well-Being.'

Dr. Angela Duckworth, a world-renowned researcher and author of *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*, will share her insights on passion and perseverance in a talk scheduled at Purdue in fall 2020.

A monthly Steps to Leaps Lunch and Learn series runs through April. On January 23, Director of Orientation Programs for Student Success Craig Johnson made a presentation on Growth Mindset and PERTS (Project for Education Research that Scales). Last



STEPS TO LEAPS CONTINUED

year, PERTS modules and the concept of growth mindset were made part of students' Boiler Gold Rush experience. Growth Mindset for College Students is an evidence-based program designed to increase college students' academic motivation, resilience and achievement. PERTS is an applied research center at Stanford University that helps educators apply evidence-based strategies in order to advance educational excellence and equity on a large scale.

The Lunch and Learn series was well-received during the fall 2019 semester. Krieger said, "People had been looking for a conversation like those we had in the Lunch and Learn series. The conversations were deep, thoughtful and all about care. We talked about how the Steps to Leaps concepts can be aligned on campus. On the student side, when I worked with them to develop the initial modules, I could see that they were excited to be involved in something like this. They wanted to give back to their peers."

During the spring 2020 semester, a group of eight student interns have been developing more modules for the Steps to Leaps program and sharing the initiative with students across campus. Knight said, "We want the student interns to share Steps to Leaps on a student-to-student approach. Steps to Leaps came about in part because we found that students were not aware of the resources available on campus. Purdue already does great things providing services for students. We need to make sure a student knows what they need when they need it. I'm looking forward to helping the intern team take Steps to Leaps out on the road."

Though the format of staff Lunch and Learns has been challenged due to social distancing recommendations in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, these events have been continued via WebEX, a video conferencing and online meeting platform. Discussion topics have been modified to share and discuss the latest ways Steps to Leaps can be used to provide resources for students as they learn remotely.

GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT STEPS TO LEAPS
OR THE LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES BY VISITING:
PURDUE.EDU/STEPSTOLEAPS/



**Austin Lawrence with
mentor Michael Hiles**

MENTORS

LAWRENCE'S LEADERSHIP GOALS
FURTHERED THROUGH MEANINGFUL
CONNECTIONS

After serving as president of student council and being heavily involved in sports during high school, it was natural that Austin Lawrence wanted to make an impact at Purdue University - he just wasn't sure how.

Lawrence's initial approach to finding a leadership position was to seek opportunities to impact the most amount of people he could. Lawrence says not knowing exactly what he was looking for led to some dead ends. Developing a friendship with his resident assistant, Matt Watkins, piqued Lawrence's curiosity about becoming an RA and he discovered that the role suited him.

"I was looking more to impact 40,000 students here and that really wasn't what I needed," says Lawrence. "I needed something like being a resident assistant where I can deal with a floor of about 50 residents or a hall that has 800 students and is more of a small-scale community. I feel like I've been able to be a lot more impactful and that it was definitely what I was looking for. I just didn't know it at the time."

Lawrence is now in his second year as a resident assistant in Harrison Hall, where he leads a floor of 47 students and works closely with participants in the Larsen Leaders Academy Residential Program, part of a partnership between University Residences and Krannert School of

Management. As an accounting major who has served as a teaching assistant in Krannert, Lawrence is able to provide additional mentorship to his residents by relating his previous experiences with classes and other programs to students in the learning community.

"I obviously want to be a model for them and there's about 20 kids who are doing exactly what I did two years ago," says Lawrence. "I'm able to help all of those guys in concepts they don't know. It's been really cool being able to help them along their path. All the things I didn't know before, I'm hoping to pass on to them."

Lawrence was also an enthusiastic participant in the Men's Leadership Series. It was there he met Michael Hiles, who served as the mentor for the group of students Lawrence was partnered with in the series. Hiles is no stranger to leading at Purdue, having served as a residence hall counselor and staff resident in Residence Hall Apartments North (now known as Hilltop Apartments).

Hiles' mentorship beyond the series inspired Lawrence to nominate him for the Men's Leadership Series Mentorship Award, which Hiles was presented with at the final series event. He says he saw the series as an opportunity to create meaningful connections.

"I just felt like this was my opportunity to be the best mentor that I can be," says Hiles. "One of the things I remember in college was how important having somebody to be able to bounce ideas off of or be a good listener was, so I wanted to be that kind of person for these students."

Lawrence says the lessons imparted by Hiles were helpful in framing his ways of thinking, particularly with regard to how to deal with failure.

"One of the things I really enjoyed that Michael would talk about is that failure is a kind of mindset," says Lawrence. "There are going to be times where you're going to fail on Monday, but it's only a failure if you don't chase it again on Tuesday. I think that as a leader you only fail someone if you stop trying to work with them. You only fail at an activity if you fail to continue to try to achieve what you were aiming for in the first place."

After finishing his undergraduate degree this spring, Lawrence will work a summer internship with an accounting firm in Indianapolis before pursuing a Master of Science in Accounting at Purdue and preparing to take the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam. The principles of model, connect and involve communicated in *Lead Simply* by Sam Parker, the book read by participants in the series, figure heavily into his ideas of how to be successful in these next steps. He says he sees the lessons he's learned as a mentor and mentee through his leadership experiences as an advantage as he pursues his future goals.

"I think if I can model, connect and involve with that firm and then bring that back to my class group, it sets me up to be really successful in the master's program," says Lawrence. "I think it also sets me up to be really successful with the CPA exam and hopefully when I go back to that firm in the future."

It's clear that through these experiences, Lawrence has found his leadership niche on campus and feels prepared as he pursues his next endeavors.



BUILDING TO A CRESCEND

PURDUE'S
NEW BANDS AND
ORCHESTRAS
BUILDING

After 75 years of practicing in the basement of Elliott Hall of Music and scattered spaces across campus, Purdue Bands & Orchestras is building a new home thanks to a generous leadership gift given by Marc and Sharon Hagle. The 37,500-square foot Marc and Sharon Hagle Hall will be located at Third and Russell Streets along the heart of the student corridor. Additional donations are needed to see the \$20 million building to fruition. Construction is expected to start in September 2020 and finish by spring 2022.

Marc Hagle began playing percussion in the Purdue "All-American" Marching Band and Symphony Band in 1966 when Al Wright was the director. The following year, Hagle marched in the Rose Bowl where Purdue played the University of Southern California. Hagle holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, a master's in industrial administration and a warm place in his heart for Purdue Bands & Orchestras. Hagle is CEO of Tricor International, a real estate development company headquartered in Winter Park, Florida.

In 1949 when there were 150 members in the band, Elliott Hall of Music was an adequate rehearsal space, but as the band program grew—with more than 1,200 students participating in 30 ensembles today—it became cramped and inefficient.

Jay S. Gephart, the Al G. Wright Chair of Purdue Bands & Orchestras, is looking forward to the new building that will raise the bar for students, faculty, alumni and the University as a whole. "The new building will be a real game changer for our department," Gephart said. "Our facility has been adequate for the last 75 years, but times have changed so much. Technology has changed and our department has grown significantly."

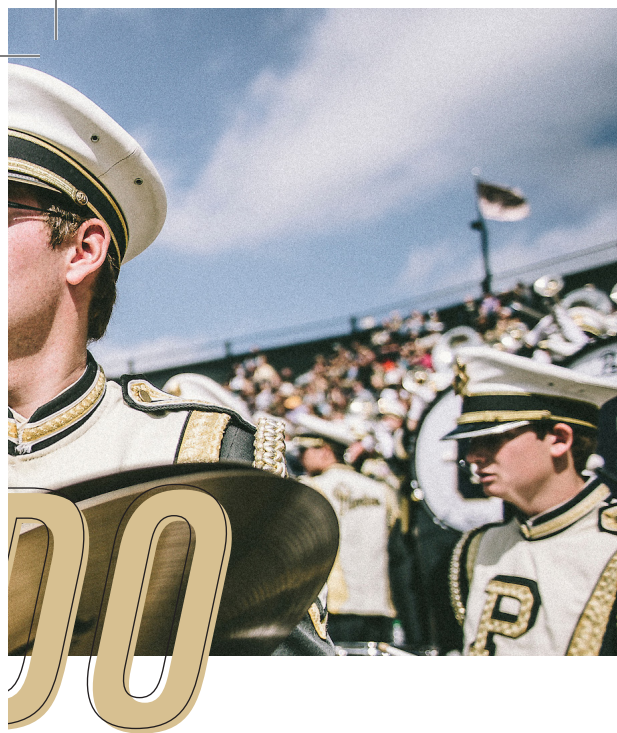
Hagle sees Purdue Bands & Orchestras as not only enhancing the college experience for students but also enriching overall University life.

"The band was one of the reasons that I went to Purdue," Hagle said. "My desires were to receive an excellent education and also be involved with a stellar band program. The Purdue band was stellar then and is stellar today."

The new building will have state-of-the-art acoustics, ample storage and space to welcome the Purdue Jazz Bands under the same roof. For the past 15 years the Jazz Bands have been rehearsing at Slayter Center for the Performing Arts.

"The new facility will provide rooms for individual and small group practice, which is something that we do not have in the Hall of Music," Gephart said. "It's something that is desperately needed. Our students want to practice outside of their rehearsal times, but they just don't have locations to do it."

Something as simple as an elevator is a major turning point. For the first time in 75 years, large equipment will not have to be manually moved up stairs to leave the building for performances. "Right now, the only elevator we have is the orchestra lift in the Hall of Music," Gephart said. "And the only time we can use that is when it's available to us. During November and December, once the PMO Christmas Show has moved in, our students have to carry timpani, marimba, xylophones, chimes and all the large percussion equipment up a flight of stairs



The new building will have state-of-the art acoustics, ample storage and space to welcome the Purdue Jazz Bands under the same roof.

to move it out of the building for concerts. In fact, it is really quite dangerous to move these instruments."

When not in use, the Big Bass Drum will have its own prominent place in a display window in Marc and Sharon Hagle Hall that can be seen from the outside. "Folks will be able to walk by the building and have their picture taken in front of the drum," Gephart said.

The Third and Russell Streets building will be the main site. A secondary site will be created as an addition to the existing Turf Recreational Exercise Center (TREC) north of Hull Field where the marching band practices. The addition will feature changing facilities as well as instrument and uniform storage, making it possible for the band to practice on Hull Field without spending the 26 minutes each day marching there from Elliott Hall of Music and back, as is the current practice. "We use that time to rehearse, but that is a lot of rehearsal time that could be spent at Hull Field preparing for performances," Gephart said.

While seeing and hearing the band march across campus each day in the fall is a magnificent sight and sound, it has drawbacks. "I talked to Al Wright about that and he said it became a tradition out of necessity," Gephart said, "When he was the director (from 1954-1981), he did exactly the same thing we do today. And it was just an organized way for the students to get to the drill field and back. It was never intended to be a daily parade rehearsal!"

When the weather is bad, the new TREC space will provide much-needed indoor practice area on a turf field. "Now when there is inclement weather, the students go into the Hall of Music and stand out in the seats," Gephart said. "We rehearse on the edge of the stage. It's not the greatest."

Membership in the band program grew 65 percent between 2013 and 2018. The department is a draw for students because of the quality Purdue offers. "We have an incredible faculty here and it's very attractive to our students," said Gephart. "We also talk about the concept of the Purdue Band family. Students feel like they are part of something special when they come to Purdue and become involved in the band and orchestra department."

About 70 percent of students in Purdue Bands & Orchestras are in STEM disciplines, with 40 percent of those students in engineering. While some may

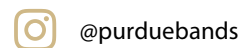
see music as an added extra to the STEM focus, Gephart sees it differently.

"I believe that music and the arts have to be treated as something significant, standing alone," Gephart said. "We can't view the arts as something that just props up STEM. For Purdue to be a world-class University, it has to be more than just a STEM-centric place. It has to provide students with an outlook that they seek and often that outlook happens to be in the arts."



WATCH A SHORT VIDEO ABOUT
PURDUE BANDS & ORCHESTRAS
[YOUTUBE.COM/WATCHV=YR07WCCCKK8&FEATURE=YOUTUBE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YR07WCCCKK8&feature=youtu.be)

FOLLOW PURDUE BANDS &
ORCHESTRAS ON INSTAGRAM:



TO GIVE TO PURDUE BANDS & ORCHESTRAS, PLEASE VISIT:

bit.ly/PurdueHagleHall

NETWORKS

STUDENT ORGANIZATION HELPS BUILD PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

Senior Katherine M. Petts wants to work in the music industry after she graduates, so as marketing co-chair of Purdue Student Concert Committee (SCC) she energetically networks with the performers she meets. A marketing major from Los Angeles County, California, Petts runs promotional campaigns for the concerts that SCC brings to campus. She also leads a marketing street team that helps with pamphlets and social media promotions.

Through SCC, Petts personally meets a variety of performers and others in the music industry. "One of the things we do is drive artists around," Petts said. "I picked up MadelnTYO from the airport, and it was really interesting to talk to his tour manager."

MadelnTYO (pronounced Made in Tokyo) is a rapper who performed with the Big Gigantic duo for Homecoming 2019. Petts talked to his support manager, obtained his contact information then kept in touch.

"Every chance I get, every person who works in the industry that I meet, I always make sure that I take the initiative to get their contact info, start a conversation with them, get to know them and then continue to maintain that relationship," Petts said. "It's great to have those people in my network to reach out to and ask advice."

Petts is also a production intern with Purdue Convocations working backstage assisting artists with their needs, seizing opportunities to network with the performer's crew and managers. "I do my best to make conversation and learn from them," she said.



Katherine Petts

Last September, Petts attended The Hubb, a two-day music industry conference held in Nashville, Tennessee, to help college students break into the industry. She applied and was accepted to the conference where she met many people who work at well-established music companies. She met other students from across the country who are equally passionate about working in the industry.

Also last September, Petts was hired to work at the Pygmalion music festival in Champaign, Illinois, after she networked with the festival founder when he spoke at Purdue the year prior.

"I went up and talked to him after, and then I reached out to him later and asked if there were any music marketing opportunities that he knew about," Petts said. "Then he asked me if I wanted to be a campus ambassador to promote the Pygmalion music festival at Purdue, and work the festival as a paid gig. It was really cool to see how everything came together, and how it was organized."

Petts is bold and consistent when it comes to networking.

"My advice for students is to not only be proactive about networking with people and getting their contact info, but also maintain the relationship, keep in touch with them. Don't let it fade away. I think that has really helped me."

FOR MORE STUDENT STORIES, VISIT:

bit.ly/StL-StudentSpotlight

RECOGNITION

GALLUP NOMINATES PURDUE FOR STRENGTHS AWARD

In recognition for its strength-based approach to impacting student engagement and thriving during and beyond their time in school, The Gallup Education team has nominated Purdue University for the 2020 Donald O' Clifton – Strengths for Students Award. Purdue is one of a small number of finalists among the more than 1,000 schools which partner with Gallup on their strengths-based strategy.

Purdue partnered with Gallup to introduce CliftonStrengths for Students®, an online talent assessment, to incoming Boilermakers. Known as myStrengths, this program helps students identify their biggest strengths from a list of 34 talents. The assessment is administered through the Roger C. Stewart Leadership Experience at Purdue (LEAP) and the Leadership and Professional Development Initiative (LPDI). Students are introduced strengths concepts in their pre-arrival information and during orientation programs. LEAP and LPDI provide ongoing training for students through workshops held throughout the school year.

Since its inception in 2016, more than 33,000 Boilermakers have taken the assessment. During the Fall 2020 semester, more than 2,300 students participated in strengths-based workshops – all of which take place beyond the scope of in-class curriculums.

COGNITIONS



Jay Gephart,
Director of Bands & Orchestras

UNITY COMMITTEE RECOGNIZED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

The Student Life Unity Committee has been recognized for its contributions to the Purdue United Way campaign.

The History of Horror Tour, a walking tour of campus highlighting true events from Purdue's rich historical past and sponsored by the committee, was honored for being the highest grossing event. The tour raised more than \$2,400 of the \$28,522.44 Student Life contributed in support of the campaign. Overall, the Purdue community raised more than \$700,000 for United Way of Greater Lafayette.

Contributions from Purdue University enable United Way of Greater Lafayette's work to affect positive change in the Greater Lafayette community through investment in health, education and financial stability initiatives. United Way is engaged in nearly 1,800 communities across more than 40 countries and territories worldwide. The organization focuses on creating community-based and community-led solutions that strengthen education, health and financial stability.

The Student Life Unity Committee consists of Cassia Dean, Katherine Dietz, Amanda Adams, Emily Pearson, Jason Stensberg, Caitlin Benner, Mark Royer, Kelly Kiser, Wanda Woodhams, Zenephia Evans, Amanda Smith and Rachael Rayford.

Student Life
Unity Committee

CUTLER ELECTED TO BOARD OF NATIONAL FRATERNITY/SORORITY ORGANIZATION

Brandon Cutler, associate dean of students for fraternity, sorority and cooperative life, has been elected to the board of directors of the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors (AFA). Cutler will serve a two-year term with AFA concluding in December 2021.

"I am humbled and excited by the opportunity to serve the association and its members through a time of transformation within the fraternal industry," said Cutler. "I hope the board of directors role will provide ample professional development opportunities and allow me to learn from the membership."

Cutler will help foster AFA's mission to enhance its members' abilities to foster impactful fraternity/sorority experiences. He has provided leadership for all areas within the Purdue fraternity, sorority and cooperative community since April 2013.

GEPHART AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS HONOR

Jay Gephart, director of Purdue University Bands & Orchestras, was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash, one of the state of Indiana's highest honors. Purdue President Mitch Daniels presented the award on behalf of Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb at the Fall 2019 Purdue Bands & Orchestras awards banquet.

Gephart is the Al G. Wright Chair of Purdue Bands & Orchestras. Gephart has elevated the national and international prestige of Purdue Bands & Orchestras as director, with performances in venues such as Carnegie Hall and in events including the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. The "All-American" Marching Band has also continued the tradition of playing to a worldwide audience before the start of the Indianapolis 500 each May.

The Sagamore of the Wabash was created during the term of Gov. Ralph Gates, who served from 1945-49. The term "sagamore" was used by the tribes of the northeastern United States to describe a lesser chief or a great man among the tribe to whom the true chief would look for wisdom and advice. The award is the highest honor which the governor of Indiana bestows. It is a personal tribute usually given to those who have rendered a distinguished service to the state or governor.



CELEBRATE

FIVE YEARS OF IMPACT THROUGH
EXECUTIVE-IN-RESIDENCE

One of the key components of the Student Life experience is granting students the chance to learn in ways not afforded within classrooms. One program that continues to award unique opportunities to students is University Residences' Executive-in-Residence (EiR), which celebrated its fifth anniversary during Homecoming 2019. The celebration included a gathering of returning executives culminating in a panel discussion.

EiR was established in 2014-15 to connect students to alumni industry leaders. Four executives typically visit campus for up to a week each semester, living on campus in an apartment in Third Street Suites while they interact with and mentor students in various settings, from lecture halls and residence halls to dining courts and basketball

courts. The hallmark of the program is the opportunities it provides for students to engage with executives one-on-one and in small group settings.

Each visiting executive helps plan their visits according to their areas of expertise and even their own hobbies and interests. Organized interactions with students can include meetings with academic departments, Residential Life groups, other student groups and individual interaction during Coffee & Consulting, which allows students one-on-one time to receive career advice, discuss other areas of the executive's expertise or share thoughts on their Purdue experience. Events organized by executives have included poker nights, racquetball tournaments, "Shark Tank" style exercises and executive-board simulations which teach students about the decision-making process inside an executive boardroom.

Student ambassadors are also part of the planning process and each executive's visit. Ambassadors attend EiR committee meetings, escort executives to different events on campus and provide assistance at EiR events, which can range from introducing executives to helping facilitate discussions. These duties lead to even more one-on-one time with executives.

Sophomore EiR student ambassador Brandon Dimitri says two major lessons he's learned from visiting executives are to be willing to take risks and to get involved in different clubs on campus. Dimitri says he has learned lessons from being an EiR ambassador that he can also apply to his career.

ITES

“I think as a whole it’s helped me to improve my professional skills just by talking with these people who have had successful careers and are now holding these executive positions within companies,” says Dimitri, who is majoring in aerospace engineering. “It’s real unique to say I had this experience and take some of the things they’ve taught me about finding that special niche within a career.”

The keynote event of the EiR anniversary weekend was a panel discussion featuring 15 returning executives. Moderated by Drew Mattison, the event brought more than 430 years of combined professional experience in front of students, faculty and staff on the Fowler Hall stage.

While there were light-hearted moments shared with the audience, particularly in relating stories from especially difficult classes, executives also related pieces of advice to those in attendance. One theme that was reflected throughout the discussion was that students should try new things and not be discouraged by setbacks.

“These four years are a gift,” said Emily Liggett, CEO of Novatorque. “It’s a laboratory and a safe space to try new things and take some risks and it’s in those risks that we get out of our comfort zone and we really learn a lot. We learn about ourselves and we grow a tremendous amount.”

Returning executives often remark about how focused students are on finding the ideal career and perfect job right out of college. Given the circuitous journey many of the returning executive have taken to their current positions, many of the executives, such as Steve Furry, CEO and Founder of Catalyst Healthcare Advisors, emphasize to students that they shouldn’t be discouraged if they don’t find their dream job right immediately after graduating.

“If there’s one thing I had to hone in on in the message we’ve tried to share with students who come in and speak with us is that your career path from here is not always a straight line,” Furry said. “We’re here to tell you that path has a lot of zigs and a lot of zags. It’s ok if you fall forward every once in a while. You’re not going to get it right every time.”

Hearing messages like this is reassuring to students like Dimitri, who says he feels more freedom to experiment with different jobs to find the right fit.

“After meeting some of these people and hearing their stories, I don’t feel like I have to, on the first try, get the job right,” says Dimitri. “If I find out that I don’t like what I’m doing at first, I have the freedom to change and that’s not necessarily going to hold me back for my entire career. I’ll also have that chance to grow and if I work hard like these people, both in school and in my career, I’ll be able to maybe one day hold one of these positions.”

EiR continues to build momentum. After a successful spring semester that brought four executives to campus, EiR is booking executives well into the future.

STAY UP TO DATE ON UPCOMING EIR VISITS AND OPPORTUNITIES BY VISITING:
[HOUSING.PURDUE.EDU/ABOUTUS/EIR/](https://housing.purdue.edu/aboutus/eir/)



STUDENT LIFE

HONORS

2020
STUDENT LIFE IMPACT AWARDS

The Division of Student Life has recognized five outstanding individuals with the inaugural Student Life Impact awards. These awards have been established to honor, recognize and engage exceptionally accomplished alumni and friends of Student Life at Purdue.



DISTINGUISHED
MENTORSHIP AWARD
BOB & JOYCE MILES

Bob and Joyce Miles were honored for their continued mentorship and financial support for areas within Student Life. The award honors and promotes the considerable efforts and accomplishments of individuals who consistently serve as effective mentors for students in areas within Student Life.

The Miles' have been staunch supporters of Purdue Musical Organizations over the years. They actively supported the construction of Bailey Hall, which serves as the home of PMO, with the Miles practice room. Bob and Joyce have served as mentors for generations of PMO students, often opening their own home to host students for home-cooked meals. Bob and Joyce are also members of the Twin Pines Cooperative alumni board and serve as mentors for students in the house. They were each members of co-op housing during their time on campus.

In addition to their support for Student Life, they established the Bob and Joyce Beery Miles Endowment Fund to help support College of Consumer and Family Sciences (now the College of Health and Human Services) programs in education and scholarships at Purdue. The Bob L. and Joyce Beery Miles Outdoor Learning Space at Lyles-Porter Hall, which serves children of all ages, was also made possible by a gift from the couple.

Joyce is a former Purduette and graduated with a degree in home economics education. Bob was a member of Fairway Cooperative and the Student Cooperative Association, holding leadership positions in both, as well as a member of the Purdue Reamer Club. He graduated with a civil engineering degree in 1965.



AWARD FOR
OUTSTANDING
LEADERSHIP
CHRISTA PAZERA

Decades of dedication to students within University Residences led to Christa Pazera's recognition as the inaugural winner of this award. The award is given to alumni who have exceptional careers and shown long-term leadership within their chosen profession, as well as noteworthy professional accomplishments that reflect favorably on their profession, Purdue University and society.

Pazera began working her way through the different levels of student affairs in higher education as a student. She served as a resident assistant, staff resident and graduate intern and was Governess of Meredith Hall. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education in 1994 and earned a Master of Science in Education with a specialization in college student affairs in 1996.

After a brief stint elsewhere, Pazera returned to Purdue as a Residential Life manager in 1999 and has served University Residences since. She has held various management and leadership positions within UR and has served as the Director of Residential Life. Pazera has been a champion for inclusion during her time at the University, earned the LGBTQ Center Advocate Award in 2015 and serving as a co-chair on the Student Life Inclusion Task Force. She has also represented the university in positions on regional campus housing organizations and was recognized with the First Year Experience Advocate Award after co-chairing the First Year Experience program for University Residences.

Pazera continues to provide vision, leadership and a student-centered focus for the professional and student staff on the Residential Life team who support students living on-campus in residence halls, apartments and student family housing communities.



SERVICE AWARD
DAVID HUHNKE

David Huhnke was named the inaugural recipient of the award, which is given to a Purdue alumnus who has demonstrated a commitment to their community through the development of, or significant contributions to private or public programs that improve or enhance quality of life.

Huhnke serves as the Director of Marketing and Communications for the City of Lafayette. He also continues to serve on the Purdue University President's Council. Huhnke previously served as a chapter advisor for Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and received the Purdue University Outstanding Fraternity Advisor Award for the years 1995-97. He was recognized with the chapter's National Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2001. Huhnke has also served as an advisor and mentor for numerous other campus organizations.

As a student, Huhnke was a member of the Purdue "All-American" Marching Band, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Purdue Student Government. He currently serves as vice president and community engagement manager for Old National Bank in Lafayette. He additionally volunteers with local organizations such as the YWCA, Leadership Lafayette and Greater Lafayette United Way.



YOUNG ALUMNI
AWARD
LORRIE NEWHOUSE

Lorrie Newhouse, the winner of the award, has continued being an active member of community organizations after being involved in campus organizations as a student. The award is given to a Purdue alumnus 35 or younger who has shown outstanding career development through traditional channels or innovative approaches.

Newhouse served as president of the Residence Hall Association and was Governess of Windsor Halls during her time as a student. She was also an active member of National Residence Hall Honorary, Purdue Student Government and University Residences' President's Roundtable. She additionally presented at regional and national student leadership organization conferences.

She has continued to be an active member of the community, earning the Evergreen Leadership 2017 Community Builder Award. Newhouse volunteers with local community organizations such as Leadership Daviess County and 4-H. She continues to support her alma mater, having served as a volunteer at the National Association of College and University Residence Halls conference hosted by Purdue in 2017 and serving as a volunteer for the University Residences Spring Leadership Institute retreat. She is employed by Tate & Lyle as a staff process engineer in Lafayette.



INTERESTED IN NOMINATING?

Student Life is accepting nominations for 2021 awards. Those interested in nominating an outstanding individual should scan this QR code to complete a nomination form and submit other criteria. Nominations are due November 1, 2020.





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