

PULSEPOINT



PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL: THE HEART OF PRIVATE GIVING AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY // Spring 2022



President's Council is the big 5-0!

We are celebrating 50 years of your loyalty and leadership giving to Purdue. From creating student scholarships and cutting-edge programs, to funding state-of-the-art facilities and groundbreaking research, your generosity has inspired a spirit of private giving at Purdue since 1972. We kicked off our year of celebration during Naples weekend in February, and we have much more planned through the remainder of the year. Check out our calendar of events and consider joining us as we look forward to the next 50 years of memories, milestones, and taking the next giant leap in transforming higher education for current and future Boilermakers.

Thank you for setting the bar high for philanthropy at Purdue.

Ever Grateful, April Headdy

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PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

The heart of private giving
at Purdue University.

PULSEPOINT // Spring 2022

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TREASURED MEMORIES INSPIRE GIFT TO THE PURDUE MEMORIAL UNION

■ **WHEN MICHAEL PATTERSON ARRIVED AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY** as an incoming freshman, he had no idea his first night on campus would have such a lasting impact on his life. Nearly 50 years later, that significant experience has greatly influenced his support of the Purdue Memorial Union renovation.

Patterson earned his bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary engineering (now called engineering education) in 1980, focusing on mechanical engineering and construction management. "I wasn't sure what I wanted to do in terms of engineering or even architecture," he says of his decision to pursue a technical field. "But I knew I wanted to design, build, and operate things."

Growing up in Erie, Pennsylvania, Patterson had exhibited strong proficiency in math and science—skills that ultimately defined his academic and career trajectories. A fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers with three patents to his name, Patterson retired from Intel in 2018 as a senior principal engineer and now calls the state of Washington his home.

Patterson has fond memories of his undergraduate days in West Lafayette, from joining Alpha Kappa Lambda fraternity to taking unique courses, including one that examined the physics of sailing. "Our professor had a love of sailing, and a number of us students were into it as well," Patterson says. "We all talked about the engineering aspects of how and why sailboats move through the water, so that was certainly something I enjoyed."

Beyond the classroom, one of Patterson's most memorable moments involved his late mother, Kathie Beeken. "My first night at Purdue, Mom and I had moved me into my rented room at a house on Oak Street. She wanted to know if I wanted to spend the evening with her or go explore," Patterson says.

Choosing to venture across campus, he hugged his mother goodbye, made plans to meet her for breakfast, and went to join a high school friend who was also attending Purdue. After discovering his classmate had already left, Patterson took what he calls a “lonely walk back to his room,” deciding to cut through the lower level of the Union.

“To my surprise—and rarely admitted joy—there was my mom, sitting there having a Coke,” he says. “We had a fine evening talking about life challenges and opportunities, and in some ways it was the best first night of college one could hope for.”

Several decades later, Patterson learned about the University’s plans to renovate the Union. He chose to support the West Terrace Breezeway, located near the exact spot where he and his mother had visited that memorable night. The area will be called Kathie’s Porch in her honor, a personal touch Patterson finds fitting, given his mother’s love of porches and cool breezes—plus her strong support of academia.

“My mother was always a huge supporter of education, and she made some of her own gifts toward scholarships and promoting education at other universities,” Patterson says. “She instilled that in all of her children.”

Higher education has clearly played a defining role in Patterson’s life. In addition to his Purdue degree, he earned a master’s in management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and both a master’s and a PhD in mechanical engineering from the University of Vermont. Beyond his long tenure with Intel, he enjoyed career success with General Dynamics and IBM.

Patterson previously supported a bench in front of the Lambert Fieldhouse at Purdue; he sees his most recent gift for the Union as a way to enhance campus life for generations to come. “I hope Kathie’s Porch becomes a place where students can sit and relax so they have somewhere to go outside of their usual haunts for a while,” he says. //



The Purdue Memorial Union has begun providing straws that will completely bio-assimilate into nothing more than carbon dioxide, water, and biomass in 12–24 months. Created with patent-pending technology, the SPTek ECLIPSE straws represent a positive alternative to conventional plastic straws, which can take more than 450 years to decompose. Thank you to President’s Council member Dave Hale (EE’59) for providing these groundbreaking straws produced by Smart Plastic.

→ Learn more at CHANGETHEPLASTIC.COM/ECLIPSE-STRAW

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To learn about future trips, events, and experiences, visit PURDUEFORLIFE.ORG/PC

2022

April 27	Purdue Day of Giving
July 17-24	Southern France River Cruise
September 3	Pregame Tailgate // Penn State
September 10	Pregame Tailgate // Indiana State

ANNUAL WEEKEND

September 23	Back to Class and Annual Dinner
September 24	Homecoming and Pregame Tailgate // Florida Atlantic
October 13-16	Charleston, SC Weekend Adventure
October 15	Pregame Tailgate // Nebraska
November 5	Pregame Tailgate // Iowa
November 19	Pregame Tailgate // Northwestern

2023

January 21-February 1	Egypt and the Nile
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2024

January 15-25	South Africa and Victoria Falls
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Kathie Beeken

BIGGER

IMPACT

A LOOK AT HOW
YOUR SUPPORT AT THE
PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL
LEVEL EMPOWERS PURDUE
TO MAKE GIANT LEAPS.



Jim and Deborah
Peters with Izzie

FACILITIES

COMPASSIONATE CARE PROMPTS VET GIFT

■ **WHEN THEIR BELOVED DOG IZZIE FELL DEATHLY ILL,** Jim and Deborah Peters found Izzie lifesaving care at Purdue University Veterinary Teaching Hospital. The couple resides in East Jordan, Michigan, and recently pledged \$25,000 to benefit the hospital and its equipment support fund, naming the dialysis room in Izzie's honor.

"At Purdue, Izzie was treated as a member of the family," Deborah says.

"We were given the sense she was very well taken care of at Purdue," Jim adds.

When the young French Brittany dog became sick last spring, a blood analysis indicated acute kidney failure of unknown origin. The couple's veterinarian referred Izzie to an emergency hospital in Michigan. However, the staff there believed Izzie's prognosis was bleak—even if she were to undergo dialysis—and recommended putting her down, something Jim and Deborah refused to do.

The couple soon learned Purdue performs dialysis and that Izzie was a strong candidate. "They were waiting for us," Jim says. "We pulled up to the front door, and they took Izzie from us and put her on a blanketed table and rolled her inside the hospital. There wasn't much life left in her."

After her third dialysis, Izzie started showing initial signs of improvement; by the fourth procedure, her characteristic sassiness had started to return. "We got to visit with Izzie that day. We were so happy and relieved to see her," Jim says.

After nearly two weeks at Purdue, Izzie finally headed home. Yet questions remain regarding the cause of her illness. While two analyses ruled out leptospirosis, a bacterial disease, Jim and Deborah have since learned grapes can be toxic to pets. The couple grows several acres of wine grapes, and they wonder if Izzie consumed grape mummy berries that fell to the ground during or after the harvest—or if she ate leftover grape residue from the winemaking process.

This concerns them due to the large number of dog-friendly wineries, so they plan to share their story with other dog owners. They also will continue to relate their appreciation for Purdue's veterinary team.

"We can't thank the staff enough for saving Izzie's life," Jim says. "When we run across people with dogs, we are quick to inform them about Purdue." //

**"At Purdue, Izzie was treated
as a member of the family."**



FACULTY

EQUIPPING PROFESSORS FOR SUCCESS

■ **THANKS TO MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES AS BOTH A STUDENT AND A PROFESSOR**, Terry Riordan affirms the power of higher education.

"I can't imagine what I would have done if I hadn't gone to college," he says. Having briefly attended another university where he played golf, Riordan learned about Purdue's expertise in turf science and eventually earned three degrees here: a BS in turf management (1965), an MS in plant breeding (1968), and a PhD in plant breeding (1970).

Now an emeritus professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Riordan has supported his alma mater in a variety of ways. A provision in his will provides funding for two named chairs: the Dr. Terrance P. Riordan Chair in Turf Science and the Dr. Judy Stump Riordan Chair in Special Secondary Education. The latter honors his late wife, Judy, who he met at Purdue. Judy graduated from the University in 1968.

A skilled plant breeder, Riordan previously worked for Scotts, a global leader in lawn care, before joining Nebraska's faculty in 1978. "I developed grasses and had a couple of them that did well," he says.

Eventually, Riordan successfully combined his golf affinity with his green thumb. When the United States Golf Association (USGA) was seeking grasses that required less water and fertilizer, Riordan helped draft Nebraska's winning grant proposal. "It was a successful project and probably brought in a million and a half dollars in grant support from the USGA and other companies wanting to market the grass we were working on," he says.

Nebraska then tapped Riordan to create a professional golf management program; launched in 2004, the program had educated 100 students by the time Riordan retired in 2009.

"At one point, I even decided to go through the apprentice program and experience what students had to do to earn PGA membership and graduate from Nebraska," he says. "I think it gave me credibility with them."

At Purdue, Riordan has also funded scholarships in turf studies and special education, which was Judy's passion. "She came down with cancer in her early 40s and lived with it for 34 years," he says. "She went back to graduate school while she was under radiation and got her PhD, and then she had a really good career for about 25 years," Riordan says. "All during that time, cancer was lurking. I felt Judy deserved this honor." //



Terry pictured with his late wife, Judy



"I can't imagine what I would have done if I hadn't gone to college."



Terry pictured with daughter Laura, a fellow Purdue grad

BIGGER

I PACT

"Our affinity for Purdue continues because we see it aiming to be intentional and create opportunities for all to achieve."



Warren and Aneasha Moore



PROGRAMS

COUPLE SUPPORTS TWO PURDUE INITIATIVES

■ **LIKE MANY PURDUE COUPLES**, Warren (PharmD'02) and Aneasha (PharmD'02) Moore met as students, both studying in the College of Pharmacy. And for everything Purdue has done for them, the Moores want to give back, believing that "when you're blessed, you should be a blessing to others."

The couple's respective paths to West Lafayette were quite different. Originally from South Bend, Indiana, Aneasha attended a science program at Purdue during the summer of her seventh-grade year. She returned every summer thereafter, ultimately developing a keen interest in pharmacy. After participating in that program for five summers and other recruitment programs, she knew Purdue was the right choice for her.

Warren hailed from Memphis, Tennessee, and visited the University as a football recruit. While he received several offers to play at other large schools, he saw benefits in attending Purdue. The University's strong academic reputation, the opportunity to play Big Ten football, and his meeting with academic counselor Jackie Jimerson in the College of Pharmacy all made him eager to become a Boilermaker. Warren credits his personal support system of people like Coach Leroy Keyes, who promised Warren's parents the staff would do everything to ensure his success, as to why he feels led to give back and help the next generation.

Warren credits the rigor of his academic and athletic career at Purdue with positively shaping his life: waking up at 6 a.m. for workouts and doing more than most people do all day, having to be steadfast in his efforts while pursuing challenging goals, and navigating being a minority student while maintaining his cultural identity in a community where very few people look like you. All of this culminated in the winning of a Big Ten championship, the attainment of his Doctor of Pharmacy degree, and personal relationships with professors and University leaders he maintains today.

The Moores now live in Arkansas, and both work for Walmart. Aneasha is a Walmart pharmacist, and Warren is a vice president leading a new business focused on improving health equity by addressing the social determinants of health. Together, they chose to support two Purdue initiatives with which they feel connected:

// **The College of Pharmacy's Emerging Leaders Program:**

This program makes a six-year financial commitment to underrepresented minority students, providing resources for leadership development and academic success with the goal of graduating more pharmacists that reflect state and national demographics.

// **The Leroy Keyes Athletics Leadership Fellowship:**

This fellowship will focus on addressing the cultural discrepancy in athletic-director positions in the Power 5 athletic conferences, with the hope of providing minority candidates the opportunity to launch their career with skills for upward mobility.

"Our affinity for Purdue continues because we see it aiming to be intentional and create opportunities for all to achieve," Warren says. Aneasha adds, "As the University keeps tuition affordable and creates inclusive initiatives—like the Emerging Leaders Program—we find giving back to be a great way to champion Purdue's efforts to make a positive difference." //



Brian and Rachelle Harlow with their grandchildren

STUDENT SUPPORT

HARLOW SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGE MATCH

■ **IF THERE WERE ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE BRIAN (CE'78) AND RACHELLE HARLOW**, it would probably be "dedicated." Dedicated to their family, to their faith, and very much dedicated to each other.

They've also been dedicated to Purdue since the 1970s, and—on top of previous gifts to the University—the couple recently established the Harlow Scholarship Challenge Match to support underrepresented minority students in the College of Engineering.

"Not only do we love the place itself, but we love the opportunities Purdue provides for its students," Brian says.

"We have been very blessed throughout our lives," Rachelle adds, "and we wanted to pass along our blessings in a bigger way." Both Brian and Rachelle grew up in a small town about 40 miles east of West Lafayette. She was his little sister's best friend, and her father was his Little League coach.

The two began dating in high school, and, even after Brian left for Purdue, he made it home every weekend to see her.

The Harlows got married as Brian was finishing his senior year as a civil engineering major. Rachelle worked at the McDonald's on Northwestern Avenue while the couple lived in the married student housing on Hilltop Drive.

"It was...interesting," she laughs.

"But I told her that if she could just get us through that last semester, then I would take care of the rest," Brian says.

Their love for each other—and Purdue—only continued to grow. For 25 years, they were season ticket holders for men's basketball and football. Rachelle even asked if her Indiana University diploma could be printed using gold and black.

Now they share their Boilermaker pride with their three grandsons—Levi, Machiah, and Seth.

All three boys were adopted by the Harlows' youngest daughter, and while their family has experienced the occasional awkward public interaction because the boys are Black, Brian and Rachelle know there are other Black children in this country who face larger disadvantages.

After the Harlows were asked to be part of a diversity and inclusion committee for the College of Engineering, it became apparent to them that Purdue also has work to do. "Honestly," Brian says, "the percentage of Black students is not much larger than it was when I was a student, which is something we both found really shocking. And while there are a lot of contributing factors to this problem, we wanted to make sure we were part of the solution."

The Harlow Scholarship Challenge Match allocates \$300,000 in matching dollars for scholarship endowments dedicated to the recruitment and support of underrepresented minority students in the College of Engineering, with the aspiration to see them enter the discipline of civil engineering. These scholarships will be renewable with preference given to students enrolled in the Lyles School of Civil Engineering or those enrolled in the University's First-Year Engineering Program with intent to enroll in the school.

"This is a very heartfelt gift for us because our grandsons are our motivation," Rachelle says. "Knowing that students who look like them are at more of a disadvantage, we wanted them to know that there were options available for them."

"I think most graduates will agree that the curriculum at Purdue is not easy," Brian says. "But there is a confidence that comes when you're able to apply it. And that's something that everyone should be able to experience." //

"We have been very blessed throughout our lives, and we wanted to pass along our blessings in a bigger way."



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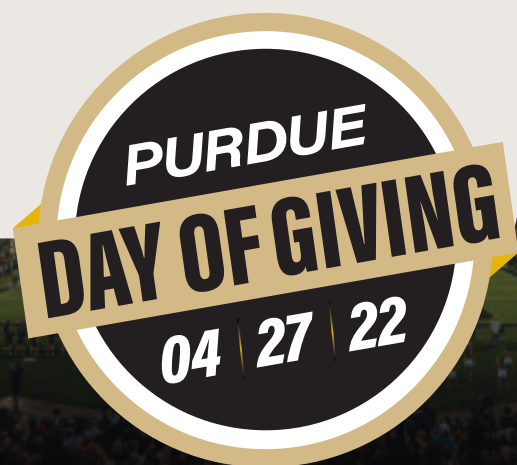
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