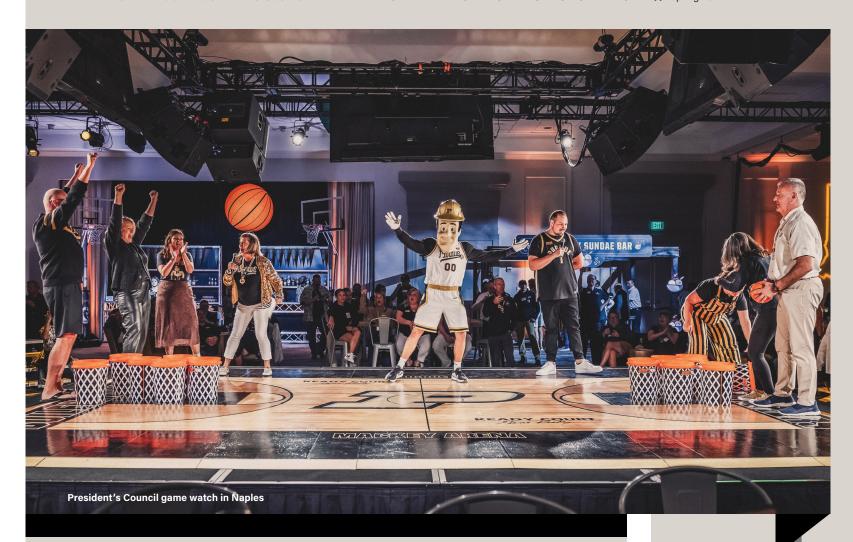
# PULSEPOINT



PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

THE NEWSLETTER OF PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL: THE HEART OF PRIVATE GIVING AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY // Spring 2024



### Spring has sprung!

As flowers begin to grow on campus and usher in commencement season, I am excited to share some of the ways our President's Council is growing as well. Over the past few months, we've enjoyed making memories with our President's Council family. It was great to see so many of you in Naples for Back to Class, lunch with President Chiang, and at the game watch cheering on our Boilermakers for another win over IU. Our travel offerings have expanded, with captivating new international trips to Italy and Southeast Asia as well as enhanced domestic travel options, such as our first-ever women's trip to New York City. And we have a lot to look forward to this fall with football tailgates and Annual Weekend. These experiences provide the perfect opportunity to forge new friendships, connect with fellow Boilermakers, and create cherished memories.

Your unwavering support and enthusiasm continue to inspire us. We encourage you to get involved and strengthen our President's Council community even further.

Ever Grateful,

April Heady

April Headdy // Executive Director, President's Council

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- + Donor Spotlight: Jack and Kay Hayes
- + Bigger Impact:
  Facilities
  Faculty
  Programs
  Students
- + Tailgates and Travel



## The heart of private giving at Purdue University

PULSEPOINT // Spring 2024

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#### DID YOU KNOW?

You can view your giving history, including information about current pledges, corporate matches, endowments, and annual giving summaries; verify your membership in giving societies; and check your Convos points—all in one convenient location. Go to purdueforlife.org/pc and choose "Log In" at the top of the page.

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#### PROUD BOILERMAKERS JACK (CHE'70, MS NE'76) AND KAY (EDU'72) HAYES

regularly make the trip from their home in Maryland to West Lafayette to attend Purdue men's basketball and football games. Over the years, the couple has made financial gifts to the John Purdue Club and various athletics programs. They also have generously supported the Davidson School of Chemical Engineering, the School of Nuclear Engineering, the College of Education, and Purdue Musical Organizations.

Jack and Kay both enrolled at Purdue as first-generation college students. While he grew up on a dairy farm in Kankakee, Illinois, she hails from Wanatah, Indiana. "As a child, I used to visit my aunts and uncles in Michigan City," Jack says. "Sometimes we'd go to the lake there and pass through Wanatah. Little did I know my future wife was playing with dolls just a street over."

The two quickly made the transition from living in smaller towns to thriving at a state university. "You had to learn how to navigate everything as new students, and you had to work hard to get through the core academic requirements," Kay says. "But we knew we were at Purdue for a reason."

Jack fondly recalls many campus traditions he experienced beyond the classroom. "My first semester, we had to wear a tie every night for dinner in Harrison Hall," he says. "We also had to wear a sport coat or suit coat on Wednesdays as well as at Sunday dinner."

The two met during Jack's junior year, when Kay was a freshman. "I had breakfast one day with some friends who knew Jack, and we sat down at his table," she says. The two began dating a year later.

"College has changed a lot from when we first came to Purdue. There are so many more academic and social opportunities available now."

Many of the couple's memories center around the Purdue Memorial Union, a vibrant hub of campus activity. "The Union brought students together," Jack says. "We would try to find a seat on one of the leather couches to take a break in between classes." The two also enjoyed live performances by Bob Hope and legendary musical acts like Simon and Garfunkel, the Association, the Temptations, and Smokey Robinson and the Miracles.

Jack's distinguished career in engineering included working in the nuclear industry with more than 40 years with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), an agency tasked with promoting public health and safety related to nuclear energy. Now retired from the NRC, he continues to run a tax business he launched in 1983.

Kay taught elementary school for 30 years and served another 12 as an assistant principal. "I miss the energy of young children and how they keep you moving," she says. "Once you get into the classroom, regardless of what has happened in your personal life, your students consume you. All of a sudden, you have 25 little people who need you."

On the home front, the couple raised three children of their own who all graduated from the Naval Academy— Jacquelyn, Jonathan, and Stephanie. Jack and Kay also have four grandchildren, and they appreciate the freedom that retirement affords to visit both their family and their alma mater.

"When we started coming back to campus in 2017, we would eat in Fred and Mary Ford Dining Court because we wanted to observe the students in their daily life," Jack says. "College has changed a lot from when we first came to Purdue. There are so many more academic and social opportunities available now."

As the couple supports Purdue, the personal relationships they've formed with campus representatives have made their philanthropic pursuits even more rewarding. "We want to give back, and having that personal connection with people at the university makes it real to us," Kay says. "We also enjoy coming to campus for events with Chemical and Nuclear Engineering and Education. Our family supports us in this 100%, and we even celebrated our 50th anniversary at Purdue two years ago." //



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To learn about future trips, events, and experiences, visit purdueforlife.org/pc

#### 2024

April 18-21	Bourbon Experience (Sold out!)
July 7-12	Scotland (Sold out!)
July 12-23	Norway Cruise (Sold out!)
July 18-19	Grandparents University
July 25-26	Grandparents University
August 8-11	Traverse City, Michigan (Limited space available!)
August 30	Fall Cocktail Reception
August 31	Pregame Tailgate // Indiana State
September 13	Fall Cocktail Reception
September 14	Pregame Tailgate // Notre Dame

ANNUAL WEEKEND	
September 26	Fall Cocktail Reception
September 27	Back to Class and Annual Dinner
September 28	Pregame Tailgate // Nebraska (Homecoming and President's Council Annual Weekend)
October 18	Fall Cocktail Reception
October 19	Pregame Tailgate // Oregon
November 1	Fall Cocktail Reception

October 19	Pregame Tailgate // Oregon
November 1	Fall Cocktail Reception
November 2	Pregame Tailgate // Northwestern
November 15	Fall Cocktail Reception
November 16	Pregame Tailgate // Penn State
December 5-8	Holidays in NYC—the Ladies Take Manhattan (Selling quickly!)

#### 2025

January 7-21	Singapore to Hong Kong Cruise
•	(Limited space available!)
February 12-16	Purdue for Life Weekend in Naples
July 10-20	Italian Splendors Cruise (Limited space available!)

#### **Broaden your horizons**

JULY 10-20, 2025

The Purdue for Life Foundation offers lifelong learning opportunities that will help your goals become a reality. Browse our catalog of more than 300 courses to learn a new hobby, develop a new skill, or take your career to the next level. *Visit purdueforlife.org/lifelong-learning* today!



COUNCIL



**■** IN 1983, AS HEAD OF PURDUE'S DEPARTMENT

**OF POLITICAL SCIENCE,** David Caputo received special permission to surprise his wife, Alice (MS LA'83), by presenting her diploma during her master's graduation. This may be at the top of Caputo's highlights from Purdue, but he spent 26 years on the West Lafayette campus collecting memories.

Caputo was dean of the College of Liberal Arts from 1987 to 1995, and he fondly remembers when the Liberal Arts and Education Building, now the Steven C. Beering Hall of Liberal Arts and Education, was built. "The hall itself gave great recognition to the importance of the liberal arts on Purdue's campus and also signified that the university, including the Board of Trustees, was willing to make a major investment in furthering the teaching and research capabilities of the College of Liberal Arts," says Caputo.

In July 2025, the College of Liberal Arts administration will move to University Hall. Opened in 1877, University Hall is the oldest building on campus and is currently undergoing renovations, reinforcing the university's dedication to the liberal arts.

Caputo frequently taught in University Hall and is now supporting a naming opportunity for the dean's office, which would also honor his late wife. He was the first occupant of the dean's office in Beering Hall, so he thought this was the perfect full-circle moment.

In addition, Caputo pledged to create a named scholarship fund. Upon his death, the scholarship will support first-generation undergraduate students. "I remember teaching and working with first-generation students who needed financial help," he says. "Now, I think it's very important that I do my part to reach out and support current students in that situation."

During his time at Purdue, Caputo built a web of connections with Boilermakers who continue to impact him. After his wife passed away in January, a handful of his former Purdue graduate students reached out to share their graduate school memories and career successes. "We go into teaching for the impact we can have on students—both graduate and undergraduate," he says. "I enjoyed interacting with students and encouraged them to challenge me, ask questions, and think critically." //



FACULTY

#### A GIANT LEAP FOR VETERINARY DENTISTRY

#### RAJ SINGH (S'86, DVM'90, MS'91) HAS A PASSION FOR ANIMAL CARE.

After receiving his degrees, he practiced veterinary medicine in the California Bay Area for several years before he and his wife, Melissa, purchased Sunnyvale Veterinary Clinic. They later opened a feline-only practice and a third practice, Oakridge Veterinary Clinic. The couple sold all three practices in 2020.

Raj and Melissa recently endowed a professorship to support College of Veterinary Medicine faculty and research, particularly related to veterinary dentistry.

"Because we are so thankful for the foundation Purdue's College of Veterinary Medicine provided to Raj, we contacted the college and spoke with Dean Willie Reed, who just happened to be one of the vet school professors when Raj was a student," Melissa comments. "It was an easy discussion about what would be best for the veterinary school, students, and pet owners of Indiana."

"We knew veterinary dentistry was an important component of patient care and business success at the three practices we owned," Raj continues. "Therefore, when Dean Reed recommended a professorship in veterinary dentistry, we enthusiastically agreed. We hope that graduates leave with the skills and knowledge to diagnose and treat dental disease, which is the most common disease in cats and dogs."

This was not the first gift the couple gave to the university. The Singhs also started the Mahesh and Julia Singh Family Scholarship to recognize and memorialize Raj's parents. "We are happy to see that the scholarship has contributed to the education of many students in the College of Science," Raj says.

"Both of Raj's parents had a Boilermaker-like work ethic, loved to write, and were excellent at math," Melissa says. "They were compassionate, loving people and instilled that in our family, and we share this now with our Purdue family."

Additionally, Raj and Melissa helped found the College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 1990 Memorial Scholarship in memory of Raj's classmates who died from cancer and multiple sclerosis. "This scholarship helps us remember my classmates and encourages others to support Purdue," Raj says.

Raj and Melissa extend a "Boilermaker-sized thank you" to Dean Reed and the College of Veterinary Medicine, the Purdue Veterinary Medicine Clinical Hospital team, and the School of Veterinary Nursing for all they have done for Purdue, the state, veterinary medicine, and Raj's career. "We also thank our families for being supportive and setting us up for success in veterinary medicine, business, and life," Raj says. //



# ■ "LIFT AS YOU CLIMB" IS A PHRASE MARK (S'95) AND MELANIE KIDDER HAVE COME TO LIVE BY.

"You lift somebody else up and help them climb to the top with you," Melanie explains.

The couple has been working to lift up women in science at Purdue and beyond. After graduating, Mark regularly contributed to the Computer Science Excellence Fund, a scholarship fund for students in need. "It would have been hard for me to continue my studies at Purdue without the help of that fund," he says. "My Purdue degree has opened a lot of doors for Melanie and me. Thanks to our success, we can help, and I feel we have a responsibility to do so."

Mark and Melanie were first-generation college students, and they are proud to help those who may otherwise be unable to attend Purdue. "Obtaining a college degree is a game changer," Melanie says. "We don't want talented individuals to miss out on the opportunity to pursue their dreams because they can't afford to do so."

The Kidders have made annual gifts to the Purdue Women in Science Program (WISP) since 2017 and recently started a scholarship for students in the program. WISP serves students in the College of Science, creating a sense of belonging and facilitating personal and professional growth. "This program is unique in that it offers tutoring and mentoring by faculty and upperclassmen," Mark explains. "I think everyone goes through times where they feel lost or discouraged. Having someone to go to may encourage students to stay in the program."

Programs like WISP strive to increase the presence of women in science, technology, and engineering fields. "I've recognized a deficit when it comes to females in industries like information technology and software engineering," Mark says. "I hope my participation in this program will help build a pipeline for females pursuing careers in science."

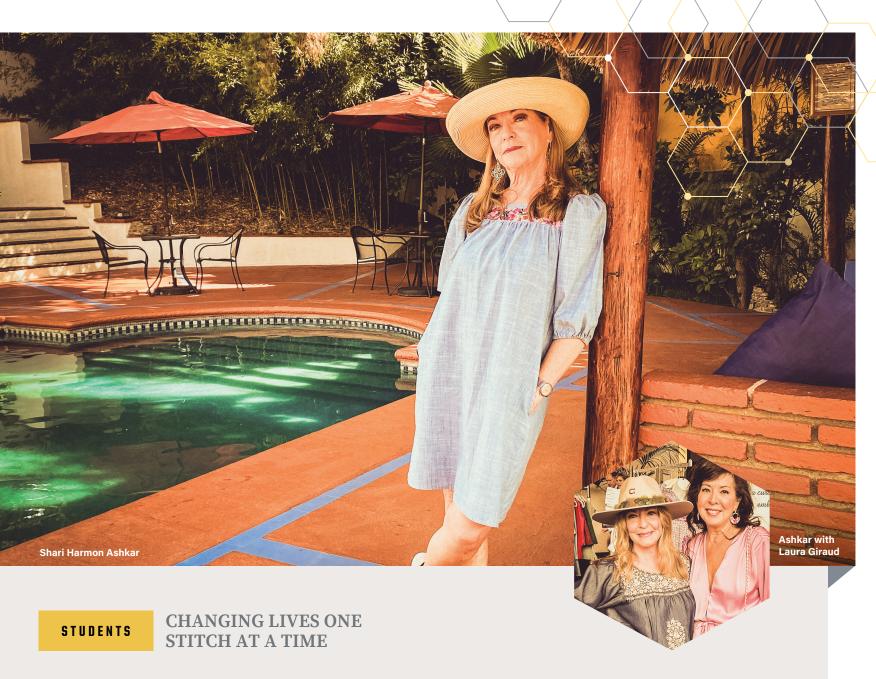
Melanie sees the same challenges in her work with startup companies. "I don't come across very many female engineers at these startups," she says. "It's hard to be the only woman in a room—I have experienced that in my own career. We want to do everything we can to change that."

"WISP is ever grateful to Mark and Melanie for their passion to uplift and empower women in science," says Connie Kaspar, associate director of science diversity and director of the Women in Science Program. "Our students will benefit greatly from the Kidders' generous support."

Although Melanie didn't attend Purdue, she recognizes that WISP is something special. "You can see the quality of a university through its people," she shares. "The warmth, grace, and intelligence that radiates off those I've met has shown me Purdue is an exceptional place." //



"I think everyone goes through times where they feel lost or discouraged. Having someone to go to may encourage students to stay in the program."



■ "A COLLEGE DEGREE IS LIFE-CHANGING," SHARI HARMON ASHKAR (HHS'75) SAYS. "We're so lucky to have a world-renowned university in Indiana that offers not only a wonderful education but also wonderful opportunities as you're studying. I'm very proud to join with Purdue and help someone get a head start on a better life."

Ashkar endowed a scholarship to support students in the College of Health and Human Sciences, particularly children of first responders or military veterans. "I just want to honor people who have made our country better and who serve others," she shares.

After earning her degree in vocational home economics education, Ashkar taught school for one year. A back-to-back state fair champion in the adult dress review, she was hired to be a national home economist for the White and Elna sewing machine companies. After training in Switzerland, she traveled the United States, presenting educational seminars for countless home-sewing enthusiasts and dealers.

A chance encounter seven years ago led Ashkar on a new career path. While wearing a hand-embroidered Mexican top at a church function, she was approached by a woman named Laura Giraud who sold similar tops and had grown up working in her mother's clothing boutique in Mexico City.

"I had always wanted to design embroidered apparel, and our discussion evolved into a business partnership," Ashkar says.

"We import our tops and dresses from Oaxaca, where we work in person with our vendors. We marry their beautiful artistry with fashion-forward styles that fit, flatter, and have features such as pockets—that our clients love."

The duo named their company Bella Sofia Studio, referencing the Spanish words for "beautiful wisdom." Ashkar and Giraud's business not only adds unique clothing items to their clients' closets, but it also provides job opportunities for local Oaxaca families. Sewing and embroidery are important parts of the economy in the small villages Ashkar and Giraud visit. Their partnership helps empower women and gives them opportunities to earn a living to feed their families.

Ashkar and Giraud took a leap of faith, and now Bella Sofia Studio has an extensive collection and large community of artisans. Looking back, Ashkar feels blessed by the opportunity.

"I want to encourage Purdue students to try an idea if they think people would benefit from it," Ashkar says. "I'm 71 years old. I could be sitting back. Instead, some days I'm doing alterations, and I'm so glad I can use this little talent I was able to nurture at Purdue."

Ashkar doesn't plan to put down her sewing anytime soon, and she is excited to see what the future holds. "I may be in the 'fourth quarter' of my life, but I like to remember that it's typically the fourth quarter when the game gets good!" //

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# ■ AS WE TRANSFORM THE WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION AND DISCOVERY, OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS CONTINUE TO ENSURE PURDUE'S SUCCESS.

Earlier this year, the university received a \$100 million commitment from Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc., a \$50 million grant supporting the Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. School of Business and another \$50 million grant benefiting Purdue Computes. Combined, these grants represent the largest gift in Purdue's history.

Together with Purdue University in Indianapolis—our first comprehensive urban campus opening in July—these initiatives will further elevate the university's excellence at scale for Indiana's job creation, workforce brain gain, and techdriven prosperity.

Lilly Endowment's funding will support the construction of a new building for the reimagined Daniels School. This addition will give the school three facilities, joining the Krannert Building and Jerry S. Rawls Hall. Funding for Purdue Computes will advance Purdue's leadership in computing, physical artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and quantum science and engineering.

The university also received a five-year, \$25 million grant through Lilly Endowment's statewide initiative, College and Community Collaboration. This grant will support highly collaborative efforts with community partners to improve early childhood education, child care, and transportation access within a seven-county region.

The grant will partially fund investments in and training for local child care centers to provide high-quality services to an additional 500 children in the region. It will also increase the capacity and availability of early childhood education in Greater Lafayette, including the Purdue campus.

We are truly grateful for the tremendous support from Lilly Endowment and look forward to the giant leaps made possible through our ongoing partnership.

THANK YOU, AND HAIL PURDUE!

Mung Chiang

President, Purdue University

Roscoe H. George Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering