

# PULSEPOINT



PRESIDENT'S  
COUNCIL

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



## Adventure Awaits!

Our President's Council travel adventures are more than just vacations; they are opportunities to meet new friends, strengthen bonds, and connect with fellow Boilermakers passionate about supporting the future of our university. I've had the pleasure of connecting with so many new travelers on these trips, including our recent trips to Scotland and Norway (above) with more than 100 President's Council travelers.

If you haven't joined us yet, now is the perfect time! Our upcoming itineraries include a cruise from Singapore to Hong Kong, an Italian Splendors cruise, and a long weekend in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

In addition to our trips, we are eagerly anticipating a busy fall football season filled with tailgates, Annual Weekend, and the welcoming of four new members to the President's Council Advisory Board. Our trips and events are always filled with fun, laughter, and a shared love for Purdue. They provide the perfect setting to meet new friends and reconnect with familiar faces.

I am deeply appreciative of your commitment to Purdue and involvement with President's Council, and I hope to connect with more of you this fall!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'April Headdy'.

April Headdy // Executive Director, President's Council

## IN THIS ISSUE

- + **Donor Spotlight:**  
Mary Findling
- + **Bigger Impact:**  
Facilities  
Faculty  
Programs  
Students
- + **President's Message**



**P**  
**PRESIDENT’S COUNCIL**

**The heart of private giving  
at Purdue University**


**PULSEPOINT //** Fall 2024


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This group page is exclusive to President’s Council members.

**TWITTER**  Search: PUPresCouncil  
This is a public account.

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This is a public account.

**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 Convo points—all in one convenient location. Go to [purdueforlife.org/pc](https://purdueforlife.org/pc) and choose “Log In” at the top of the page.

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Mary Findling (right) with her husband, John Hurt

■ **GROWING UP ON A FARM IN DALEVILLE, INDIANA, MARY FINDLING (LA’72) DIDN’T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL.** While studying abroad as a Purdue student, however, she developed a deep passion for seeing the world and now enjoys providing others with similar experiences.

In 2014, she established the Mary Findling Liberal Arts Scholarship Challenge, which matched up to \$1 million for scholarships in the College of Liberal Arts, including funds to support study-abroad experiences.

“I’ve always believed people should give back to their universities or to other charitable organizations,” Findling says. “Studying abroad in Germany was such an enlightening time for me—and probably one of the best years of my life.”

When she was 6 or 7, Findling visited her maternal grandfather and great-grandparents who were living in Massachusetts but hailed from Italy. While her grandfather spoke English, her great-grandparents did not. That experience changed her life.

“I remember going to their home, and they were speaking Italian,” she says. “I found it so interesting that they were communicating in another language.” Findling then asked her mother for an Italian-English dictionary and started learning some words. By high school, she recognized her keen ability to understand languages and how they work.

After graduating from Purdue, Findling attended the University of Michigan to complete her graduate studies in German and Germanic languages and literature. She then obtained a teaching license and became a German instructor at Muncie Central High School in Indiana.

“Some people can learn foreign languages easily, while others have great difficulty with it,” Findling says. “I happened to be someone who can pick up languages fairly quickly, and I could see that ability in some of my students as well. They had a knack or natural ability for the language and were able to learn German quickly and speak it well.”

Findling went on to earn her law degree and after nine years of teaching became a medical malpractice lawyer. She continues to work part time and will soon become a citizen of Italy, a country that allows dual citizenship with the United States.

An Indianapolis resident, Findling also loves traveling the world with her husband, John Hurt, and considers Paris her favorite destination. “We’re going to London this year, plus the Basque Country in Spain and France,” she says.

Closer to home, the couple attends Purdue football and basketball games to cheer on the Boilermakers, something Findling enjoyed doing as a student. “I never missed a game while I was attending Purdue,” she says, noting that she equally enjoyed her time in the classroom.

“The professors I had at Purdue, particularly in the German department, truly cared about instructing and helping us learn the language,” Findling says. “It was a wonderful experience.” //

**“I happened to be someone who can pick up languages fairly quickly.”**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**2024**

<b>August 20</b>	Virtual Event // One Health
<b>August 30</b>	Cocktail Reception at the Union Club Hotel
<b>August 31</b>	Pregame Tailgate // Indiana State
<b>September 13</b>	Cocktail Reception at the Union Club Hotel
<b>September 14</b>	Pregame Tailgate // Notre Dame
<b>September 26</b>	Cocktail Reception at the Union Club Hotel

<b>ANNUAL WEEKEND</b>	
<b>September 27</b>	Back to Class and Annual Dinner
<b>September 28</b>	Pregame Tailgate // Nebraska (Homecoming)
<b>October 17</b>	Cocktail Reception at the Union Club Hotel
<b>October 18</b>	Pregame Tailgate // Oregon
<b>November 1</b>	Cocktail Reception at the Union Club Hotel
<b>November 2</b>	Pregame Tailgate // Northwestern
<b>November 15</b>	Cocktail Reception at the Union Club Hotel
<b>November 16</b>	Pregame Tailgate // Penn State
<b>December 5–8</b>	Holidays in New York City (waitlist)

**2025**

<b>January 7–21</b>	Singapore to Hong Kong Cruise
<b>February 12–16</b>	Purdue for Life Annual Weekend in Naples
<b>July 10–20</b>	Italian Splendors Cruise
<b>August TBD</b>	Adventure in Santa Fe, New Mexico

**ITALIAN  
SPLENDORS  
CRUISE**

**JULY  
10-20  
2025**

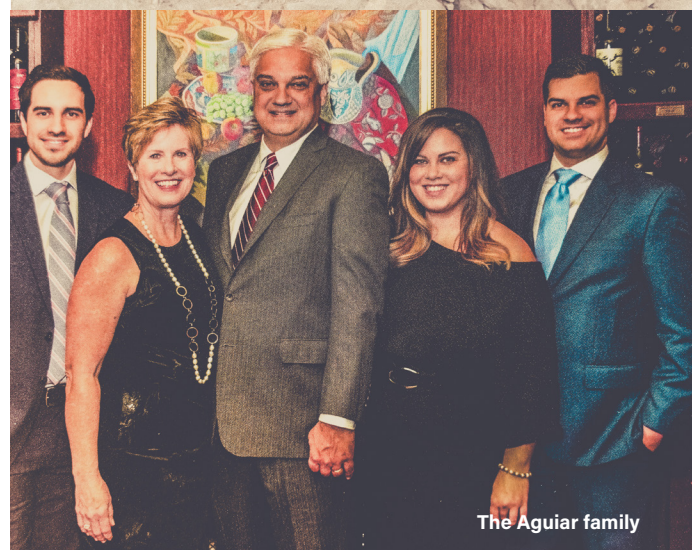
Enjoy an unforgettable 10-night voyage aboard the Windstar Wind Surf sailing yacht. Experience Southern Italy’s celebrated history, rich culture, and delicious cuisine while touring Sicily, Malta, and the Amalfi Coast.



# BIGGER IMPACT



Joyce and Matt Aguiar



The Aguiar family

## FACILITIES

### FULLY INVESTED IN BUSINESS EDUCATION

■ **A RETIRED EXECUTIVE WITH EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL COMPANY, MATT AGUIAR (MS M'80) VALUES THE GRADUATE EDUCATION HE RECEIVED AT PURDUE.** Now, the proud Boiler-maker is paying it forward, funding a named space in the Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. School of Business with his wife, Joyce.

Matt earned a degree in chemical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute before studying industrial management at Purdue. "I had great professors, including Bill Lewellen in finance," Matt says. "I enjoyed taking courses with him as well as Arnie Cooper in accounting. I never thought I would like accounting, and I even ended up marrying an accountant."

Joyce earned her accounting degree from the University of Nebraska and met her future husband when the two worked for ExxonMobil in Houston, Texas. "There were so many young people employed there at the time, and we all interacted," Joyce says.

"I was recruited by ExxonMobil directly out of Purdue as a financial analyst and enjoyed a pretty diverse career," Matt says. "I ended up going back into technical work within manufacturing and eventually took on a myriad of business assignments, including senior management roles." This included professional posts within the U.S. and abroad. Matt and Joyce spent nearly 10 years living in Singapore.

Last fall, Matt spoke at the Executive Forum, sharing his professional experiences with Purdue business undergraduates. During his visit, he was struck by how much the university had evolved over the past 40 years. This, in turn, sparked his desire to support the reimagined Daniels School of Business and its future facilities by naming a yet-to-be-identified space within the building.

"I think the business school and its academic building are going to be impressive, and I thought it would be great to leave a legacy at Purdue," Matt says.

Over the years, he has also enjoyed connecting with future business leaders by serving as a mentor, whether by helping Purdue students fine-tune their interviewing skills or fielding their questions regarding his career path. "I've stayed in touch with some of them through LinkedIn and enjoy seeing how they've developed," he says. "It's been extremely gratifying."

Matt and Joyce reside just outside of Asheville, North Carolina. They are the proud parents of three grown children: Rachel, Nathan, and Sean.

Construction on the Daniels School building is scheduled to begin this year, with occupancy expected in fall 2027. The facility will sit on the current site of the Krannert Center for Executive Education and Research and the Wesley Foundation building. //

## FACULTY

### CELEBRATING A FATHER'S LEGACY

■ **THE UNITED STATES WAS INVOLVED IN WORLD WAR II WHEN EDWIN "ED" F. PETERS (S'42) GRADUATED FROM PURDUE WITH A DEGREE IN CHEMISTRY.** He had arrived on campus in the fall of 1939 and learned about the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941 while listening to the university's radio station.

Ed graduated a semester early after Purdue accelerated its class schedules following the declaration of war. A note accompanying his diploma refers to the Class of 1943 as the Purdue War Division of 1942.

An inventor and author on 44 U.S. patents, Ed watched both of his sons—Edwin (S'66) and Norman (S'74)—follow in his footsteps by earning chemistry degrees from Purdue. Ed died in 1991. Now, an estate gift from son Edwin—who died in 2023—combined with personal contributions from son Norman will establish the Edwin F. Peters, Class of 1942, Professorship in the Department of Chemistry.

"This was predominantly my brother's idea," Norman says. "I didn't know he was thinking about it until two or three years ago. He had sent me his will and was talking about establishing something to keep our father's name alive."

In 1943, Ed began working for Magnolia Petrochemical Corporation in Dallas, Texas, as a chemist doing olefin catalytic polymerization research and development—most likely on polyethylene, as his employment provided a draft deferment. Secretly used to insulate military wiring, polyethylene's light weight facilitated the instillation of radar systems in airplanes.

When his deferment ended, Ed was filling out paperwork to enlist in the U.S. Navy when news broke about the 1945 bombing of Hiroshima. He eventually worked for Standard Oil Company/Amoco Chemicals Corporation from 1946 to 1981. Hired as a

senior research chemist, Ed received several promotions, culminating in his being named a research consultant in 1979—the company's highest technical position at the time. After retiring, Ed did some consulting work for Amoco.

An inventor and author on one U.S. patent, Norman was employed by Monsanto/Solutia in fiber intermediates research and development from 1980 to 2007. His brother, Edwin, worked for Glaxo Smith Kline in medical analyses.

Norman recalls his father as a meticulous, dedicated man. "Dad was always at work at least a half-hour early and stayed at least a half-hour late," Norman says. "He normally spent several hours after dinner going over the previous day's work and making notes. He also would only buy his company's gasoline, even when our car was running on fumes." //

**"Dad was always at work  
at least a half-hour early  
and stayed at least a  
half-hour late."**



Edwin "Ed" F. Peters



The Peters family



## BIGGER

## IMPACT

Randy and Deb  
Sergesketter

## PROGRAMS

SUPPORT AS STRONG AS  
A JOHN DEERE COMBINE

■ **"ONE OF THE THINGS WE LEARNED AT JOHN DEERE WAS THE VALUE OF GETTING OUR CUSTOMERS SOME ACTUAL 'SEAT TIME' IN OUR PRODUCTS AND IN THE FIELD,"** retirees Randy (T'80) and Deb Sergesketter say. The couple now supports programs they believe provide some Purdue "seat time" earlier in a young person's development, helping them make informed decisions about their future—and maybe even become a Boilermaker.

Randy and Deb met while working for John Deere. He held numerous positions before retiring as a senior vice president, and she retired as a graphic designer. Randy also served as John Deere's key executive for Purdue and as a member of the Dean's Executive Council for nearly 25 years, enjoying an inside look at what was happening at his alma mater.

"I worked with a lot of great Purdue leaders who were driving change and expanding educational opportunities to a broader and more diverse group of young people," Randy says. "We were able to support these efforts both personally and through John Deere, and I am privileged to work with the Dean's Executive Council as well as a new Diversity Advisory Council within Purdue Polytechnic Institute."

The Sergeskettors have given back to the university in a variety of ways, including their support of the Polytechnic Excellence Accelerating Knowledge (PEAK) Scholars Program and the STEM Academic Boot Camp (ABC).

PEAK is designed to recruit and support high school students who show an early interest in polytechnic disciplines.

"The purpose of PEAK is to help break down barriers that hinder the retention and success of students who are often not typically equipped to benefit from higher education," Randy says.

"By providing tailored support, fostering a sense of belonging, and promoting a culture of inclusivity, we aim to empower these students to excel academically, graduate, and become the next generation of leaders who will drive positive change."

STEM ABC allows incoming students to connect with their professors and advisors, meet distinguished Purdue Polytechnic Institute leaders, and become acquainted with the college's departments and opportunities. "This program is meant to give students a head start on their education by building a strong academic foundation for success," Randy says.

"We are at the point in our lives where we can give back," Deb says. "We give to people we trust will make a difference. Purdue is fortunate to have many who are committed to making the world a better place."

Randy and Deb are enjoying retirement and cheering for Purdue's athletic teams from their home in Iowa.

"We owe a lot to the education, experiences, and relationships from Purdue," Randy says. "We are excited to see how these programs will make similar opportunities possible for more students and generations to come." //

## STUDENTS

AN EXPRESSION  
OF GRATITUDE

■ **"IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHERS, WHETHER THROUGH FINANCIAL SPONSORSHIP OR THE WILLINGNESS TO COMMIT TIME AND EXPERTISE TO INSPIRE THOSE FOLLOWING BEHIND US,"** say Jody (MS'04, PhD A'08) and Rodney (A'02, PhD A'08) Green.

The couple met at Purdue two decades ago and have stayed connected to both the university and North Carolina State University (NCSU), where Rodney earned his master's degree. Rodney is a creative builder who enjoys tinkering with tools to make objects, layouts, and designs better. He works as a senior director of research and development at a consumer packaged-goods company. Jody, an entomologist and educator at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is an animal lover and arthropod rescuer, active in the Omaha running community, and an advocate of inclusive outdoor spaces.

The Greens recently established the Arthro-Pod Scholarship to benefit students in Purdue's Department of Entomology. "It was the generosity of scholarship donors that made it possible for my success during those early years at Purdue," Jody says. "Giving back through scholarship support is an expression of gratitude to the department that changed and strengthened me to pursue a career in my field."

Rodney, who also created a scholarship at NCSU, wanted Jody to be a part of an enduring legacy and established the scholarship in her honor, originally naming it the Jody Green Scholarship. After learning about this, Jody changed its name to the Arthro-Pod Scholarship, saying, "I'm still alive." The new name comes from a podcast called "Arthro-Pod," which Jody co-hosts with a few other Purdue entomology alumni. Together, they deliver insect-related topics to listeners around the world twice a month, often interviewing an expert in the field.

"For a long time, we didn't know if we were screaming into the abyss, but the show has received positive feedback from listeners, encouraged students to pursue a degree in entomology, and guided individuals toward an entomology-related career,"

Jody says. "By naming the scholarship after the podcast, we hope to encourage recipients to forge ahead in weirdness, persist with passion, and stay connected to the university and those they meet there."

During their time at Purdue, Rodney and Jody enjoyed building connections and engaging with professionals in their respective industries, some of whom became mentors, employers, partners, and stakeholders. They hope their scholarship will help increase students' access to the same support, encouragement, and advice they received.

"This gift is an investment, a living legacy for us," Jody says. "It represents everything important to our family, and we hope it inspires others to think about what they can do to positively impact future generations. The bottom line is, you don't have to be older, rich, or no longer living to give. You don't even have to have been a good student. Those future generations will be grateful." //

Jody and Rodney Green  
with their daughter, Taia





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Dear Boilermakers,

The 2023–24 fiscal year at Purdue University was filled with memorable moments of exciting momentum.

We officially launched the Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. School of Business in August, and last fall Purdue became the only U.S. institution selected as a leading university partner in all three national research hub competitions.

The new year began with Lilly Endowment Inc. awarding the university its largest single gift in history—\$100 million.

This spring, SK hynix Inc. announced it will build an advanced packaging fabrication facility for AI memory chips in Purdue Research Park, commercial air service returned to Purdue University Airport, the One Health Innovation District with Elanco was announced, and Eli Lilly and Company announced a joint pharmaceutical training facility—a key part of the Hard-Tech Corridor.

We will forever remember the men's basketball team advancing in April to the NCAA national championship game for the first time since 1969.

On July 1, the first comprehensive urban campus of Purdue launched in Indianapolis with multiple locations throughout the capital city.

With its highest aggregate ranking in history, including being named a top 10 public university in the U.S., Purdue will welcome the most selective incoming class of undergraduate students this fall. They will arrive on a campus where \$1.3 billion is being invested in 23 physical facility projects across student housing, academics, research, athletics, and infrastructure.

Thank you for your support, which contributes so much to Purdue's excellence at scale.

**BOILER UP TO 2024–25!**

Mung Chiang  
*President, Purdue University*  
*Roscoe H. George Distinguished Professor*  
*of Electrical and Computer Engineering*