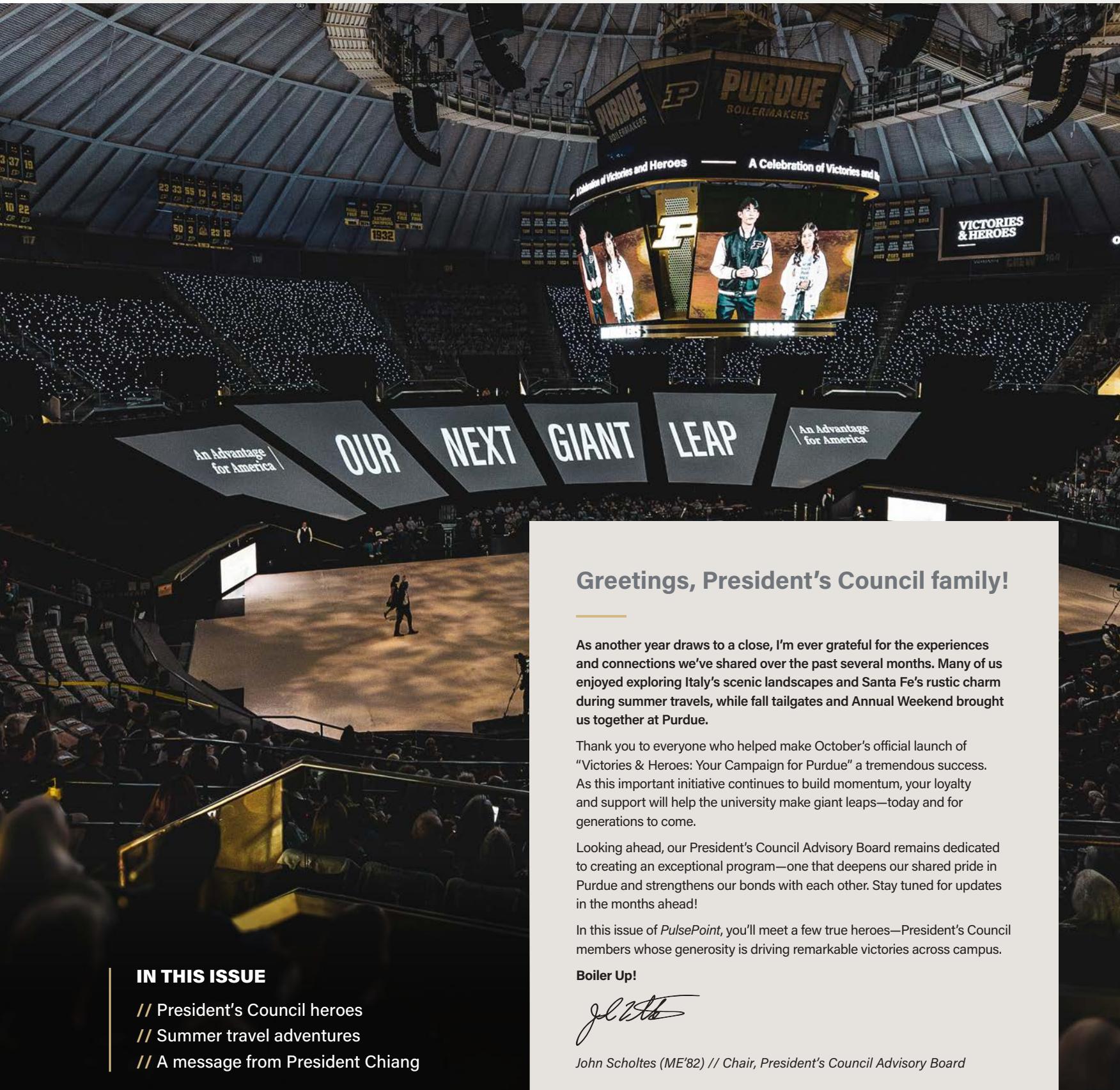


# PULSEPOINT



PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

THE NEWSLETTER OF PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL: THE HEART OF PRIVATE GIVING AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY // Winter 2025



**IN THIS ISSUE**

- // President's Council heroes
- // Summer travel adventures
- // A message from President Chiang

**Greetings, President's Council family!**

As another year draws to a close, I'm ever grateful for the experiences and connections we've shared over the past several months. Many of us enjoyed exploring Italy's scenic landscapes and Santa Fe's rustic charm during summer travels, while fall tailgates and Annual Weekend brought us together at Purdue.

Thank you to everyone who helped make October's official launch of "Victories & Heroes: Your Campaign for Purdue" a tremendous success. As this important initiative continues to build momentum, your loyalty and support will help the university make giant leaps—today and for generations to come.

Looking ahead, our President's Council Advisory Board remains dedicated to creating an exceptional program—one that deepens our shared pride in Purdue and strengthens our bonds with each other. Stay tuned for updates in the months ahead!

In this issue of *PulsePoint*, you'll meet a few true heroes—President's Council members whose generosity is driving remarkable victories across campus.

**Boiler Up!**

  
John Scholtes (ME'82) // Chair, President's Council Advisory Board



## PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

The heart of private giving  
at Purdue University

### PULSEPOINT // Winter 2025

A publication of Purdue President's Council  
and the Purdue for Life Foundation

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# HONORING A MENTOR'S IMPACT

**Richard Stroupe (PhD T'23)  
knows learning is a lifelong  
pursuit, which inspired  
his return to school to earn  
his doctorate after 25 years  
building his career and leading  
two software companies.**

At the same time, his son, Trey (M'25), enrolled as an undergraduate and joined Purdue's Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp (AFROTC) program.

“Experiencing the university together, from two very different stages of life, gave us a shared appreciation for the culture, tradition, academic rigor, and Boilermaker spirit that define Purdue,” Richard says. Trey found a strong sense of discipline, belonging, and pride in the AFROTC, shaped in large part by program commander Col. Joseph McKenna.

“From the moment Trey joined, McKenna became a mentor, coach, and steady presence in his life,” Richard says. “He pushed cadets to meet the highest standards and took the time to know them personally. Trey didn't just receive

military training—he gained life lessons in resilience, humility, and servant leadership that will guide him far beyond his Space Force career.”

Richard describes McKenna as someone who leads by example, blending accountability with mentorship to mold principled, adaptable leaders—qualities he sees reflected in his son. Richard believes service is rooted in humility and commitment, and that true leadership is measured by how we empower others and strengthen our communities. For him, that means showing up, following through, and leaving things better than we found them—principles McKenna modeled every day.

When McKenna announced his retirement after 26 years of service in the Air Force, the Stroupe family created the Col. Joseph W. McKenna AFROTC Endowment Fund to honor his legacy. The fund provides financial support to Purdue AFROTC cadets, easing their burden so they can fully focus on becoming exceptional military leaders.

“I want McKenna to know how deeply he has impacted not just Trey, but our



The  
Stroupe family

entire family," Richard says. "His leadership helped shape the man and officer Trey is becoming, and that influence will echo throughout his life. This fund is more than a financial gift—it's a way to ensure McKenna's legacy continues long after he's left campus. Every cadet who benefits from it will, in some way, be touched by his example."

Richard believes everyone has the power to create lasting impact, whether through giving, service, or community engagement.

"None of us reaches our goals entirely on our own," Richard says. "We've all benefited from mentors, opportunities, and institutions that invested in us. Giving back is how we honor those investments. It's a way to ensure that the doors once opened for us remain open—or open even wider—for those who come after."//

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**"He pushed cadets to meet the highest standards and took the time to know them personally."**

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Brooke  
Patterson

## ***The Human Side of Health Care***

**From an early age, Brooke Patterson (DP'04) witnessed her family's commitment to lifting up others—an experience that led her to make a double impact for Purdue students and the Indianapolis community.**

In July, Patterson made a gift to name Purdue's Patterson-McCallum-Mareta Charitable Pharmacy at Gleaners Food Bank's south Indianapolis facility.

"The name honors my family, who were my first role models in giving back," Patterson says. "Their legacy continues to guide my own path in service. This ethos—that service is fundamental to who we are—is the cornerstone of the new pharmacy."

Staffed by pharmacists, students, and volunteers, the pharmacy will provide free medications to uninsured and underinsured people.

"Just as important, this will be a training ground where Purdue pharmacy students will learn how to care not just for illnesses, but for people," Patterson says. "They will come face to face with the real, human side of health care."

During her time as a pharmacy student, Patterson worked at the Purdue University Pharmacy, where she fondly remembers applying her coursework alongside her closest friends. She also experienced several other immersive working and learning experiences.

"I conducted self-study with my mentor, Dr. Nick Popovich, and became involved in a health outreach program for unhoused individuals in nearby Lafayette," Patterson says. "This was my first encounter with community health workers, and I learned the profound impact of treating patients with dignity and compassion."

Now serving as the therapeutic area lead for leukemia and lymphoma at Johnson & Johnson Medical Affairs, Patterson helps doctors and researchers understand approved and investigational drug therapy options.

"Because of Purdue, I had gained wonderful experiences in communicating with patients and considering each one as an individual with unique needs and complexities," Patterson says. "This continues to influence how I think about patient impact in my current role."//

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**"This was my first encounter with community health workers, and I learned the profound impact of treating patients with dignity and compassion."**

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## BOILERMAKER BONDS

**When Juan Ernesto de Bedout (IE'67, MS IE'68, HDR E'13) graduated from Purdue and returned to Colombia to start his career in industrial engineering, he knew he wanted to remain involved with the university in any way possible. So, he purchased a lifetime membership in the Purdue Alumni Association.**

Little did he know that this connection would span generations, uniting his family with Purdue for decades.

As esteemed engineering alumni, Juan Ernesto, his son Juan Manuel de Bedout (ME'94, MS ME'96, PhD ME'00), and nephew Juan Diego Velazquez de Bedout (IE'98, MS IE'03, PhD IE'09) have created a family legacy of supporting areas that made the greatest impact on their lives.

"I'm fortunate to have received so much from Purdue over the years that I think it's my turn to do my part and give back," Juan Ernesto says. He has served on such committees as the College of Engineering Advisory Council and the Industrial Engineering Advisory Council. He has also received numerous engineering awards, including an honorary doctorate in 2013, and was selected as an Old Master in 2014.

Juan Ernesto and Juan Manuel also share the honor of being named Distinguished Engineering Alumni—Juan Ernesto in 2000, and Juan Manuel in 2021.

"To share that with my father means a lot to me," Juan Manuel says. "It's a very prestigious group of people, so we take that with a lot of humility."

On top of his service to Purdue, Juan Ernesto has supported the university through giving. He's helped establish endowments

in honor of his mother, Berta Molina de Bedout—which includes a piazza near Grissom Hall—and for his father-in-law, Larry Cargnino, who was a professor in the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics for 39 years.

Juan Ernesto also supports the Colombia Purdue Partnership, which is led by Juan Diego. The partnership creates opportunities for Boilermakers and their Colombian peers to study and conduct research in each other's countries, fostering an exchange of ideas and cultures.

The connection between the de Bedout family and Purdue is a strong one too, as Juan Manuel and Juan Diego have both followed in Juan Ernesto's philanthropic footsteps.

Says Juan Ernesto: "I just want to touch as many lives as I can, since so many people touched mine—and I think that was contagious with Juan Diego and Juan Manuel. We can only encourage others to think similarly."

At Purdue, Juan Diego is the director of the Office of Global Partnerships, which aims to increase the impact of Purdue's global partnerships with institutions, governments, foundations, and companies around the world.

Juan Manuel, the chief technology officer at RTX, has been a member of the Mechanical Engineering Advisory Council since 2014 and has supported both the School of Mechanical Engineering and the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

"All of us learned from Juan Ernesto and his ethos of supporting the communities he has been with," says Juan Diego. "It's just who he is." //



Juan Ernesto de Bedout (center) with grandchild and son Juan Manuel



## Victories & Heroes Plaza

YOUR LEGACY, OUR FUTURE

Through "Victories & Heroes: Your Campaign for Purdue," the historic Purdue Mall will be revitalized as the Victories & Heroes Plaza—a vibrant crossroads showcasing the power of philanthropy and celebrating Purdue's shared victories and the heroes who inspire them.

Honoring those whose generosity propels Purdue forward, the plaza will feature engraved recognition for campaign donors, host a variety of naming opportunities, and create a prime campus gathering spot.

Concept renderings subject to change.

*By giving to Your Fund for Victories & Heroes, you can leave a lasting mark on the plaza—and help grow Purdue's endowment for generations to come.*

# FROM LAPS TO LEGACY

The late Al Unser discovered his dream of becoming a race car driver while working in his father's auto repair shop in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Drivers competing on dirt tracks from California to Ohio would stop there for repairs before heading to the next race. Legends like A.J. Foyt, Lloyd Ruby, and Parnelli Jones were teenage Al's idols.

The legendary Unser family went on to build an enduring legacy in the racing world, collectively winning nine Indianapolis 500s. Al himself claimed four of them. He left an incredible mark on the world of racing that now has a direct impact on Purdue students in the Circle City through a new scholarship program established by his wife of 21 years, Susan.

"We met on a blind date and were married by one of the two judges who introduced us," Susan says. "We had both just retired, and that first date begged the question, 'What are you going to do for the second half of your life?' We did some traveling, sat on the porch for a few months, and then realized we needed a project."

First, the couple founded the Unser Racing Museum in Albuquerque. The next project was to remodel a building for the first 170 students admitted into Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School—New Mexico's first public International Baccalaureate school.

"Interacting with the founders, staff, and students, Al recognized how important it is to have a broad education," Susan says. "He was the official greeter each morning and was amazed by the energy, enthusiasm, and joy they brought to him and the campus."

In 2004, Al was diagnosed with hemochromatosis. He passed away in 2021 after a 17-year battle with cancer.

"Not one to ever complain, Al embraced every day," Susan says. "During his last year, he and I did a lot of reflecting on our lives and how we could share how fortunate we have been."

Susan ultimately created the Al Unser Sr. Legacy Scholarship, which gives a full ride to selected Purdue students enrolled in the motorsports engineering program. Through the only accredited motorsports engineering degree in the country, Purdue University in Indianapolis teaches engineering with a focus on racing. Students get hands-on experience and direct connections to the industry in the "racing capital of the world."

"Al always gave credit to the team he was on and to the engineers and crew who gave him a good car to win," Susan says. "I know this scholarship would have made him very happy." //



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2026

January 10-15	Peru Pre-Cruise
January 15-24	Galapagos Islands Cruise (waitlisted)
February 10-15	Purdue for Life Annual Week in Naples
July 5-12	Danube River Cruise
August 13-20	Alaskan Cruise

To learn about future trips, events, and experiences, visit → [purdueforlife.org/pc](http://purdueforlife.org/pc)

## VICTORIES & HEROES

Join us in building a legacy—one gift at a time!

[purdue.edu/campaign](http://purdue.edu/campaign)



## PCAB NAMES NEW CHAIR

The President's Council Advisory Board (PCAB) met in June to refine strategic goals for the coming year—and also welcomed John Scholtes (ME'82) as PCAB's new chair. Scholtes succeeds Patsy Mellott, whose term as president concluded this fall. She remains on the board in an advisory capacity for an additional year. The board also welcomed new members Amy Adams (IE'88), Greg Adams (IE'88), and Scott Briney (M'90). We extend our sincere thanks to each of them for their dedication and service to President's Council.

## FINDLING RECEIVES PINNACLE AWARD

The university presented Mary Findling (LA'72) with the Distinguished Pinnacle Award on September 13. This honor recognizes her generous support of the College of Liberal Arts, including major gifts for the renovation of University Hall, the School of Languages and Cultures, and student scholarships. A loyal Boilermaker fan, Findling received her award in the president's suite during the Purdue-USC football game.

## A SOARING LEGACY

**Tamara Aretz-Baum (M'86) has heard a family story passed down through the years that Amelia Earhart babysat her father. Whether or not that happened, Tamara's grandfather, L.I. "Cap" Aretz, worked with Earhart while he was the manager of the Purdue University Airport from 1935 to 1945.**

To honor her grandfather's dedication to aviation training, Tamara and her husband, Kevin Baum (ECE'87, MS ECE'88), established the Aretz Instructor of Excellence Endowment in 2024 at Purdue.

"Cap loved teaching," Tamara says. "He taught Purdue students to fly and expanded the aviation teaching program. That's when Purdue started growing into a pilot school."



L.I. "Cap" Aretz (right) with Purdue students

The Purdue Airport was founded in 1930, and Cap began managing the airport just a few years later.

"Safety was one of his top concerns when teaching someone or flying," Kevin says. "Back in the early days of aviation, there were a lot of daredevils. Cap wanted to focus on safety and had high standards for his partners."

Tamara and Kevin wanted to ensure a long-lasting impact in Purdue's School of Aviation and Transportation Technology. Ultimately, they leaned into Cap's passion for teaching and his knack for safety by funding an instructorship.

"It really honors Cap for who he was," Tamara says. "We decided to give back to the young professionals who will teach so many students to fly."

During World War I, Cap served in the Army Air Corps at an airfield base, which sparked his love for aviation. He had to become a pilot one day. Later, he moved to Kokomo, Indiana, where he received his pilot's license. There, he helped start a flight school, and he managed Shambaugh Field, Lafayette's first airport, before his time at Purdue.

He eventually left the university to start his own airport, Aretz Airport, in Lafayette, where he continued to do what he loved most—teach people to fly. He still stayed close with Purdue, and in 1956, Purdue



Tamara Aretz-Baum and husband, Kevin, established an instructorship in honor of her grandfather.

Pilots Inc.—the university's student-run flying club—began at Aretz Airport.

Cap's passion trickled down and impacted his whole family.

"I grew up living on the airport property," Tamara says. "I watched planes take off over my house all day, and my first job was mowing the grass at the airport."

Tamara's father was an airplane mechanic in the Air Force. Later, he worked at the family airport as an instructor and mechanic. Eventually, Tamara's parents took on managing Aretz Airport until her mother sold it in 1998.

"My family played a big role in bringing aviation to Lafayette," Tamara says. "I wanted to carry on that legacy. Cap flew planes that looked like they were made out of just sticks and fabric. I want to honor the sacrifices people took to get aviation to where it is today." //

## INVESTING IN THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

**Bob (ME'73) and Mary (HHS'74) Feldmaiers' tenure on the Purdue Student Union Board (PSUB) shaped their Boilermaker experience. Now, by creating a scholarship at the university, they hope others will enjoy the same opportunities they did.**

Through PSUB, Bob and Mary established close college friendships, honed their leadership skills, and—perhaps most memorably—first met in the Purdue Memorial Union basement, painting signs for an event.

"We each had a friend with us, and the paintbrushes were so bad that the two girls were painting with their fingers," Bob says with a laugh. "Needless to say, I was not impressed—it wasn't love at first sight."

While the two didn't officially begin dating until Bob's senior year, their connection through PSUB laid the foundation for a memorable life together. They remained active in PSUB throughout their time at Purdue—both serving on the executive

board—and their appreciation for those experiences inspired them to create a scholarship for PSUB students facing financial challenges.

Bob and Mary understand the demands students often face when balancing their studies, part-time work, and extracurricular activities. They hope their support will ease the burden for those who might otherwise have to choose between financial stability and high-impact leadership opportunities that can help shape a young person's future.

"We don't want students to miss out on the personal and professional growth that comes from being involved in PSUB," Bob says.

"We've been very lucky," Mary says. "And we hope others who have had similar experiences will consider doing what they can to support the next generation." //

Bob and Mary Feldmaier



## GIFT THAT GROWS MINDS

**"There is nothing more crucial in this country today than encouraging young people to think critically, analyze data objectively, and distinguish fact from fiction,"**

**Kevin Kahn (MS S'73, PhD S'76)** says. "Anything we can do to help improve the next generation's ability to objectively evaluate information is vital to our future."

Kevin and his wife, Suzanne (HHS'74), have put this belief into action through their ongoing support of Purdue's Department of Computer Science. Several years ago, the couple established the Kevin C. and Suzanne L. Kahn Professorships in Computer Science to support faculty. They've also contributed to the College of Science Dean's Innovation Fund and most recently named the Kevin and Suzanne Kahn Sustainable Green Roof and Patio in the new Hall of Data Science and AI.

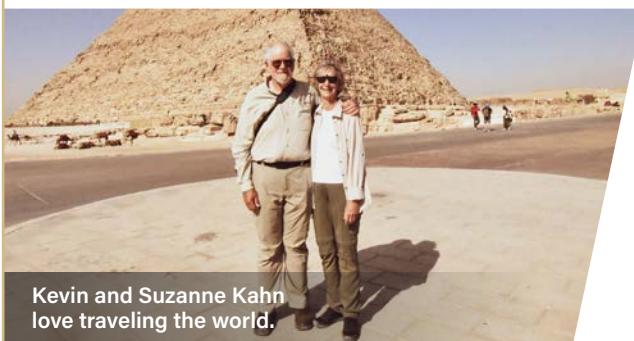
"We've always supported the university's efforts to create more educational opportunities for computer science students, and we wanted to contribute to the new data sciences facility," Kevin says. "We think the space will be a pleasant place for students and faculty to meet and collaborate."

Kevin and Suzanne met as students at Purdue. Kevin was giving a tour of the computer center to a group that included one of Suzanne's friends. That friend later introduced the two, and they soon discovered they lived in the same dorm.

After graduating, Kevin held numerous positions at Intel. One of those roles included serving as an executive sponsor, which brought him back to West Lafayette to recruit students, give guest lectures, and meet with faculty conducting Intel-funded research. Kevin also volunteered his time on the Department of Computer Science advisory board and served on the Dean's Leadership Council.

Like her husband, Suzanne has used data to make decisions, worked with people to find solutions, and relied on critical thinking throughout her career. Her professional journey—from nutrition and public health to management and infrastructure—is a great example of how a Purdue education prepares students to tackle real-world challenges.

Now retired, the Kahns spend summers in Portland, Oregon—where they are enthusiastic supporters of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival—and winters golfing in Southern California. They also enjoy traveling—whether to far-off destinations like Antarctica and Egypt or to West Lafayette to cheer on the Boilermakers at a Purdue football game. //



Kevin and Suzanne Kahn love traveling the world.



## TRAVEL ADVENTURES

Italian Splendors Cruise // July 2025



Before setting sail on the Italian Splendors Cruise, our adventures took us to the heart of Tuscany, where we were surrounded by rolling hills, sunlit vineyards, and charming towns. We enjoyed local wines, laughed over pasta-making lessons, and basked in the stunning scenery.

Our entourage then grew to 107 President's Council members who sailed around Sicily. Along the way, we explored timeless ruins, visited postcard-perfect villages, and let the sea carry us to the wonders of Gozo, Malta, and the Amalfi Coast.

At each stop, we shared stories, laughter, and connections—reminding us that President's Council travels are more than just the destination. They enrich our friendships, celebrate our shared love of Purdue, and create Boilermaker memories in unexpected places.

*We hope to see you on our next trip!*  
[purdueforlife.org/pc/travel](http://purdueforlife.org/pc/travel)

→ Let us know where you'd like to travel with PC!



# ALASKAN CRUISE

AUGUST  
13-20  
2026



Join President's Council on a seven-night cruise aboard the Silversea *Silver Moon* as we explore the Last Frontier! Sail from Vancouver to Seward via the Inside Passage to discover Alaska's awe-inspiring glaciers, remarkable wildlife, historic gold-rush towns, and rich native culture.

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**On October 24, we came together for an unforgettable evening in Mackey Arena as we officially launched “Victories & Heroes: Your Campaign for Purdue.” Surrounded by many of our President’s Council members—in addition to alumni, students, faculty, and staff—we enjoyed an inspiring program that energized us for the transformative journey ahead.**

This comprehensive campaign represents an extraordinary moment in our history. Working together, we will strengthen Purdue’s standing as the nation’s most consequential public university while advancing all Boilermaker students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

“Victories & Heroes” will invest in the university’s future, including the four strategic initiatives:

- // Indianapolis
- // Daniels School of Business
- // Purdue Computes
- // One Health

We will also raise significant support for Purdue Athletics and other key areas, fulfilling our land-grant mission of exceptional learning, discovery, and engagement.

For over 156 years, Purdue’s heroes have achieved victory after victory, a foundation to the university’s serene, sturdy, and strategic strength. Today is just the beginning—and there’s no limit to what Boilermakers will accomplish with excellence at scale.

As always, we extend our sincere thanks for your generosity that makes each giant leap possible. We would never achieve all we do without the support and loyalty of our President’s Council family.

BOILER UP!

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

VICTORIES & HEROES | YOUR CAMPAIGN FOR PURDUE

