

PULSEPOINT



PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

THE NEWSLETTER OF PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL: **THE HEART OF PRIVATE GIVING AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY** // Summer 2026



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Greetings, President's Council family!

As we enjoy summer and look ahead to an exciting fall at Purdue, I want to thank our President's Council members for another extraordinary year of connection, camaraderie, and unforgettable experiences. Together, we explored new places, celebrated the university's continued momentum, and strengthened the bonds that make this community so special.

There's nothing quite like autumn in West Lafayette, and we have a season full of memorable activities planned for you—from cocktail hours and football pregame tailgates to Annual Weekend, Homecoming, and more. The months ahead offer wonderful opportunities to reconnect with friends, make new memories, and deepen your ties to Purdue and our President's Council family.

Thank you for all you do to advance the university through your generosity, engagement, and unwavering loyalty. I look forward to seeing you on campus soon.

Hail Purdue!

Hadley Thomas
Vice President, Donor Relations and Stewardship
President's Council
Purdue for Life Foundation



PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

The heart of private giving
at Purdue University

PULSEPOINT // Summer 2026

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and the Purdue for Life Foundation

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Support Purdue for generations to come.
Learn more about planned and estate giving
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purdueforlife.org/ways-to-give/planned-and-estate-gifts



A LIFE IN ENGINEERING COMES FULL CIRCLE

The wide range of opportunities
mechanical engineering offers
inspired Frank Incropera to
pursue a career in the field. This
ultimately led him to Purdue—
and one of the nation's top
engineering programs—in 1966.

Incropera spent more than three decades
at the university, including nine years as
head of the School of Mechanical
Engineering. In 1998, he left Purdue to
become dean of engineering at Notre Dame.

"My late wife, Andrea, and I started with
very little financially, and the opportunity to
work at Purdue was life-changing for us,"
Incropera says. "Looking back, I consider
those 32 years there the best of my life."

That experience inspired Incropera to
give back to the program that helped him
grow his career.

"I am very grateful to Purdue for the
opportunity to teach and conduct research
in areas I was passionate about for many
years," he says. "When I learned they were
renovating the Mechanical Engineering
Building—a place that meant a great deal

to me and where I spent countless hours—I
knew I wanted to contribute."

Incropera made a significant gift to the
renovation, but his generosity didn't end
there. With two of his daughters who both
studied mechanical engineering at Purdue,
he later endowed a scholarship for women
in the field. Most recently, Incropera also
established a bequest to support a named
professorship in heat transfer within the
School of Mechanical Engineering.

After years of work and contributions in
heat transfer at Purdue, he wanted to help
ensure the specialty continues to receive
the resources needed to maintain its
distinguished reputation.

"As an academic for most of my career,
I fully appreciate the value a named
professorship adds to the work of its
recipient," Incropera says. "Among other
things, the extra resources allow exploration
of novel ideas that need additional proof-of-
concept before a solicitation of external
funding to bring them to fruition. They also
provide a buffer to continue research that
may temporarily be impacted by disruptions
to funding. In essence, they amplify the
already significant impact the recipient is
having on science and technology."

Frank Incropera and family:
Terri, Shaunna, Andrea, and Donna



Incropera and his daughters weren't the only ones who developed a passion for Purdue engineering. Andrea Incropera worked on staff in the Mechanical Engineering Technology Program and served on the advisory council her husband helped establish.

"Andrea was always the rock in our family," Incropera says. "She was also central to the Mechanical Engineering Technology Program. Those who served on the advisory council with Andrea will remember her well. As the wife of an engineer and the mother of engineers, she understood the field well enough to work effectively with corporate recruiters. And as a mother who raised three daughters, she connected naturally with students and truly loved her work."

Even after Incropera moved to Notre Dame, Andrea retained a deep love for the university. "When Purdue played Notre Dame in football, we sat on opposite sides of the field," Incropera says. "She's the reason I began thinking about expressing my appreciation for Purdue in meaningful ways. It has been a pleasure to give back to the university and community that gave so much to me and my family." //

"Looking back, I consider those 32 years [at Purdue] the best of my life."



Marc and
Susan Fooksman

Building Opportunity in Indianapolis

When Marc (ME'81) and Susan (HHS'80) Fooksman toured the Academic Success Building last fall, they knew they wanted to support the facility and Purdue's growth in Indianapolis.

"I was really impressed with what Purdue is doing," says Marc. "I think the urban setting provides an additional option for students who might prefer a city environment, and the building is the anchor of what's going on in Indianapolis."

The Academic Success Building—planned to open in the spring of 2027—will include 248,000 square feet of state-of-the-art facilities intended to be a place where students can live, learn, and launch their careers. It will house 15 floors of residential areas, learning centers, and an admissions center that will serve as an inviting first stop for prospective students and their families.

Supporting Purdue's vision for Indianapolis is something the Fooksmans encourage—as it creates an experience that ensures giant leaps can happen anywhere.

"Most of us alumni went to West Lafayette for our degrees, so we don't really know what's going on down in Indianapolis," says Marc. "But taking that tour and seeing it for ourselves made us want to support the project."

The Fooksmans aren't new to staying connected with the Old Gold and Black. As alumni, the two make sure to return to campus for sporting events. Marc has also become more involved with the School of Mechanical Engineering—where he earned his bachelor's degree—as a judge for the senior design class.

"I've come back twice now and get to talk to students about what the judges look for in terms of projects and also provide career advice for students getting ready to enter the workforce," Marc says.

The Fooksmans have also set up a scholarship within the School of Mechanical Engineering that they support on an annual basis. With the scholarship, Illinois Tool Works matches three dollars to every one dollar the Fooksmans donate to help generate more opportunities for students.

"My mechanical engineering degree from Purdue opened a lot of doors for me throughout my career," says Marc. "So, when Susan and I became able to support the university through philanthropy, we wanted to make sure students received the same opportunities we did, so that one day they can also give back to the next generation of Boilermakers." //

To learn more, visit → purdue.edu/indianapolis

AN INVESTMENT IN BOILER BUSINESS LEADERS

As CEO of the ODP Group, Craig Gunckel (T'94) believes great organizations are built by great leaders. This inspired him and his wife, Michelle, to make a gift naming the career advising suite in Purdue's new Mitch Daniels School of Business building, helping Boilermakers develop the skills and confidence to lead and succeed.

Craig's leadership expertise has guided a distinguished career. He currently leads more than 18,000 coworkers throughout North America across Office Depot, OfficeMax, ODP Business Solutions—one of the country's largest business-to-business distribution networks—and Grand & Toy.

Michelle studied physical therapy at Indiana University and met Craig at a classmate's wedding. "Since I attended IU, you can only imagine we had the 'house divided' license plate right away, but we love the competition," she says. "I also love my career choice and being able to help people."

After 10 years as a physical therapist, Michelle chose to stay home with the couple's sons—Payne, Hayden, and Logan. A devoted mother, she enjoys giving back and serves as vice president of philanthropy for the Young Men's Service League in Atlanta.

The couple's middle son, Hayden, eventually followed his father's path to West Lafayette to study aeronautical and astronautical engineering. "I knew Hayden was going to be an engineer and that Purdue would be a great fit for him," Michelle says.

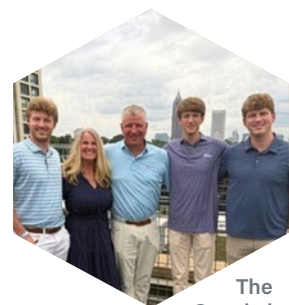
The Gunckels' experience as Purdue parents has given them a front-row view to the university's impact on students. Through their support of the business school, they hope to help young Boilermakers thrive professionally.

For Craig, their gift is also personal. "Purdue changed the trajectory of my life," he says. "The education I received, the people I met, and the experiences I had prepared me for opportunities I could never have imagined. If we can help students gain the confidence, guidance, and leadership skills they need to succeed, that's an investment worth making."

A member of the Daniels School Dean's Advisory Council, Craig has been encouraged by the vision and momentum created by Dean Jim Bullard. "Having strong technical expertise combined with business acumen, leadership capability, and an understanding of free enterprise is incredibly important," Craig says. "Jim understands that—and he's building something very special at Purdue."

The Gunckels' support of the Daniels School is part of a broader commitment to the university, as they are also proud supporters of Purdue Athletics and active members of the John Purdue Club.

"Much of our charitable giving has focused on helping young people realize their potential through education," Craig says. "Our hope is that this investment helps Purdue continue developing exceptional leaders who will make a positive impact in business, their communities, and the world." //



The
Gunckel
family

To learn more, visit → business.purdue.edu

VICTORIES & HEROES

BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL MEMBER GIFTS

143,423

TOTAL DOLLARS GIVEN BY MEMBERS

\$1 BILLION
(45.8% OF CAMPAIGN TOTAL)

Your support of "Victories & Heroes: Your Campaign for Purdue" has been nothing short of amazing. Together, we are expanding access to a world-class education, advancing knowledge and discovery, and strengthening our communities for a better world.

MEMBER GIVING BY STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

\$131.9 MILLION
MITCH DANIELS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

\$229.3 MILLION
ONE HEALTH

\$47.9 MILLION
PURDUE COMPUTES

\$15.6 MILLION
INDIANAPOLIS

\$590.1 MILLION
OTHER PRIORITIES



LEARN MORE: [PURDUE.EDU/CAMPAIGN](https://Purdue.edu/Campaign)

A GIFT FOR FUTURE IMPACT

Florence (MS'92) and Paul (EE'84, MS'87) Stahura agree that Purdue has changed their lives for the better. It's where they earned their degrees, where they met, and where their three children attended college.

Yet, the impact of their Purdue experience isn't just about celebrating the past—it's about paying forward the opportunities they received. "Florence's and my parents were very passionate about ensuring their children were educated, so it was important that we follow in their footsteps and help provide education for others," says Paul.

There's also another factor to their support—Purdue always seems to have its fingers on the pulse of what's to come. With new cutting-edge buildings, academic programs, and groundbreaking initiatives on the rise, the Stahuras are proud to see Purdue's investment in the future. "You can see the impact and that they're trying to keep up with the areas where there's momentum," Florence says.

The Stahuras have given back where they can, including Purdue Computes, which empowers the university to advance to the forefront of a rapidly changing technological world. Purdue Computes focuses on four sectors within the College of Science and the College of Engineering: computing, physical artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and quantum science and engineering.

"Purdue fits this phase of advancing humanity very well," Paul says. "My degree deals in robots, and for a long time they weren't really a thing. Yet, there were professors at Purdue doing research on them, even if it wasn't impacting humanity at the time. In the '60s and '70s, Purdue was heavily invested in space, and now space exploration is even bigger than before."

Amid this new age of space exploration, Florence will be adding her name among the university's storied space legacy as a crew member of Purdue 1—a Virgin Galactic suborbital flight featuring a Purdue professor of aerospace engineering, a graduate student, and two additional alumni.

The flight is scheduled for 2027 with a mission to conduct and oversee experiments pertaining to gravity. "I'm very excited," Florence says. "For most of my career, I have done research, so it's really cool to be able to go into space and continue researching—now in zero gravity." //

To learn more, visit → purdue.edu/computes



Florence and Paul Stahura

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2026

Aug. 13-16	John Purdue Club Retreat (JPC event)
Aug. 13-20	Alaska Cruise (sold out!)
Sept. 4	Purdue vs. Indiana State Tailgate
Sept. 11	Cocktail Hour
Sept. 11	Old Gold and Black Dinner (JPC event)
Sept. 12	Purdue vs. Wake Forest Tailgate
Sept. 25	Cocktail Hour
Sept. 26	Purdue vs. Notre Dame Tailgate
Oct. 9	Cocktail Hour
Oct. 10	Purdue vs. Minnesota Tailgate
Oct. 16	Purdue vs. Washington Tailgate
Oct. 16	Fall Athletics Director's Dinner (JPC event)
Oct. 31-Nov. 3	Men's Basketball vs. Gonzaga in Las Vegas (JPC event)
Nov. 5	Cocktail Hour
Nov. 6	Back to Class and Breakfast
Nov. 6	Annual Dinner
Nov. 7	Homecoming Tailgate
Nov. 20	Cocktail Hour
Nov. 23-27	Men's Basketball Tournament in Ft. Myers (JPC event)
Nov. 21	Purdue vs. Wisconsin Tailgate

Note: No registration is required for the cocktail hours.

2027

Feb. 10-13	Purdue for Life's Annual Week in Naples
April 8-11	Presidents, Principles, and Place: An Immersive Journey Through Historic Virginia (register now!)
July 22-29	Iceland Cruise (register now!)
July 30-Aug. 7	Ireland (register now!)

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

PCAB EXPLORES ENGAGEMENT

The President's Council Advisory Board (PCAB) gathered in June for a discussion centered on elevating the member experience and shaping future engagement opportunities.

Highlights included plans for fall Back to Class, Naples '27, and President's Council travel. PCAB members also heard updates on key Purdue for Life Foundation initiatives, campaign momentum, and strategies to deepen member engagement and stewardship. The meeting concluded with a collaborative exchange of ideas focused on enhancing the President's Council experience and advancing Purdue's long-term philanthropic impact and engagement goals. //

BOWENS RECEIVE TOP HONOR

This past February, Bob (CE'62, HDR E'07) and Terry Bowen received the Crystal Train in Naples for their longtime dedication to the university—including a transformational \$10 million gift to name the Bowen School of Construction within the Purdue Polytechnic Institute. The Crystal Train—President's Council's highest award—is presented to benefactors who have given beyond the Pinnacle level, enabling Purdue to continue taking giant leaps. //



Bob and Terry Bowen

SUPPORTING THE STORIES THAT SHAPE PURDUE

When Peggy (Rehmer) Haeger (LA'78) was 4 years old, she made the front page of *The Exponent*. She just didn't realize it until decades later.

A few years ago, while searching Purdue University Archives and Special Collections for materials related to her father—who served as pastor of University Lutheran Church during Haeger's childhood—she stumbled upon a surprise.

"I went to the archives to find old copies of *The Exponent*, and lo and behold, in September 1958, there was a short story on the front page about a Lutheran pastor coming to West Lafayette," Haeger says.

That pastor was her father, Reverend Dr. R. F. Rehmer.

"My dad was very involved with the university in a lot of different ways," Haeger says. "He was always talking to people and showing up for the community. Whether it was sports, the arts, religion, history, alumni relations, local government, or

news and radio, my parents were a big part of the greater Lafayette community."

This discovery brought back vivid memories of her childhood in West Lafayette. Haeger remembers riding her bicycle down South Chauncey—then lined with trees and houses—and making frequent trips to the West Lafayette Public Library to stock up on books.

"As soon as my mother let me cross State Street by myself, I would check out all the books I could carry home to read," Haeger says. "The library was one of my favorites."

Her father shared that love of reading and learning with Haeger.

"He was always writing or studying, and that became a big part of my life too," she says. "The chapel had a small library my father expanded while we were there, and I was responsible for cataloging all the books."

Campus has changed dramatically over the past 50 years, so discovering her family's history preserved in the archives

left a lasting impression on Haeger—one that ultimately inspired her to make a gift supporting Purdue Archives, located in Stewart Center.

"In my father's files I found pictures of the corner of State and Chauncey, when it was only grass and trees," Haeger says. "That is where University Lutheran Chapel was built. To be able to see how campus used to look and think about how much it's grown is really valuable."

Beyond her personal connection, Haeger was fascinated by the breadth of the collection itself.

"There's an exhibit with Eugene Cernan's glove that still has moon dust on it," she says. "It's incredible. I also saw a book written by Copernicus that Frederick Hovde acquired for the collection. I know history isn't for everyone, but I think the more you explore it, the more you learn." //



Peggy Haeger

PURDUE, PETS, AND FAMILY

Sue Ann Werling had a dream that a sculpture of her late dog, Brandi, was added to Purdue's Dolores McCall Pet Tribute Garden, located near the College of Veterinary Medicine's Small Animal Hospital. The garden honors donors' animal companions with plaques and several life-size bronze statues of pets.

Sue Ann's dream became a reality. A sculpture of Brandi now sits in the Pet Tribute Garden, and it's all thanks to Sue Ann's generosity and support from her Purdue contacts. It's no wonder she considers the Boilermaker community her family despite not having attended Purdue.

In 2004, Sue Ann and her late husband, Evan, began their journey with Purdue when Brandi was diagnosed with bladder cancer. Their veterinarian, Blake Deckard (S'82, DVM'86), recommended Brandi receive treatment at Purdue due to ongoing trials there.

"It was important for us to support the trials to help Brandi have a wonderful quality of life and keep her in our lives for as long as we could," Sue Ann says. "We also wanted to support future generations of animals with bladder cancer."

Without these treatments, Brandi was given only three months to live, but thanks to Purdue, she lived for more than a year and a half. At Purdue, the Werlings worked closely with the oncology team, led by Deborah Knapp, distinguished professor and Dolores L. McCall Professor of Comparative Oncology and director of the Evan and Sue Ann Werling Comparative Oncology Research

Center. Dogs have a similar anatomy to humans, so the team is studying cancer in dogs and sharing their research findings with those who study humans.

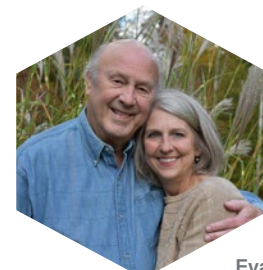
The Werlings regarded Knapp and her team highly and continued to give back to them years after Brandi died. In 2022, the couple made a gift to name the comparative oncology research center at Purdue. During this time, Evan was struggling with pancreatic cancer.

"We were able to share our thoughts on the business plan and get the naming in place prior to his passing," Sue Ann says. "Evan knew where his legacy would be, and that meant the world to him. Working on this gave him something to look forward to every day."

Evan died in 2023, so unfortunately, he did not make it to the center's dedication in 2025. Yet, that day still manages to provide fond memories. "There weren't real words to describe how emotional the dedication was for me," Sue Ann says. "My family and Evan's family traveled to the ceremony. The whole oncology team was there with smiles on their faces. They're our future, and it was overwhelming to see them in the audience."

The sculpture of Brandi was unveiled at the dedication too, making the day even more emotional.

"Evan and I have always felt like Purdue is our family," Sue Ann says. "We felt like we could pick up the phone and call any of our contacts at the university. Purdue is a very, very special place." //



Evan and Sue Ann Werling

THE AMERICAN DREAM

Studying always required an additional book for Paul Orefice (ChE'49, HDR ChE'76). In front of him, a chemical engineering textbook would lie open on one side and a translation dictionary on the other.

After his family moved to Ecuador to escape direct threats from Italy's Benito Mussolini, Orefice arrived at Purdue knowing fewer than 50 words of English.

He would eventually become fluent in five languages and lead the Dow Chemical Company as president and CEO from 1978 to 1987 and as chairman from 1986 to 1992.

"My dad lived the American dream," says Paul's son, Andy Orefice (M'83). "He was passionate about this country and the opportunities it provides."

After graduating from Purdue, Orefice served in the U.S. Army for two years. He joined Dow Chemical in 1953 and rose through the ranks due to his understanding of global economies, his tenacity, and his entrepreneurial spirit.

"Even with all of his important jobs, my dad always made time for me and my sister," Andy says. "We shared a passion for sports—especially Purdue Athletics and Purdue basketball."

In fact, Orefice loved Purdue sports so much he once spent weeks trying to figure out how to attend a home football game—at the invitation of President Mung Chiang—in the middle of a day of cross-country travel. He was 96 years old.

"I think it took a couple of weeks for him to realize that the entire day would be too much," Andy laughs.

Orefice was committed to philanthropy, with major priorities including Parkinson's disease and cancer research. He also helped transform the tennis courts in his town of Midland, Michigan, from dirt courts on Main Street into a thriving complex.

However, Orefice instructed that his foundation be liquidated after his death, with the largest percentage designated for Purdue.

Later this year, thanks to a \$2.5 million gift, the east entrance of Mackey Arena will be named in his honor.

"When this opportunity presented itself, I knew it was the type of thing my dad would've loved," Andy says.

"He just never would've done it for himself.

"I think one of the reasons my dad loved Purdue basketball so much was because of how Coach Keady and Coach Painter have built the program—it's counter to so much of what's going on in Division I. He loved the commitment our players show and the way they represent their university.

Working hard and not taking the easy way out were principles he devoted his life to, and that's why this Mackey Arena gift is the perfect way to honor my dad." //



Andy and Paul Orefice



TRAVEL ADVENTURES

Galapagos Islands // January 2026

Sailing aboard the ultra-luxury *Silver Origin*, our President's Council travelers embarked on an unforgettable journey through the Galapagos Islands in January.

From close encounters with giant tortoises and sea lions to snorkeling, guided island hikes, and breathtaking scenery, this fun and scenic adventure was filled with once-in-a-lifetime experiences and countless picture-perfect moments. Many travelers also enjoyed the optional Peru pre-cruise option, visiting Cusco, the Sacred Valley, and Machu Picchu before setting sail for the Galapagos.

→ We hope to see you on our next trip!
purdueforlife.org/pc/travel

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



TRAVEL THE WORLD

WITH PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL



APRIL 8-11, 2027

**Presidents, Principles, and Place:
An Immersive Journey Through Historic Virginia**

Join us in Virginia's Blue Ridge foothills where three early U.S. presidents lived within 30 miles of each other. Enjoy expert guidance at every stop and exclusive conversations with scholars as we learn how ordinary people became leaders, forging a democracy through disagreement, civil discourse, and shared values.

JULY 22-29, 2027

Iceland Cruise

Set sail on a seven-night cruise exploring Iceland's dramatic lands of fire and ice. Discover spectacular waterfalls, geothermal wonders, and abundant wildlife aboard the *Windstar Star Pride*.



JULY 30-AUGUST 7, 2027

Ireland

Take an eight-night luxury journey through Ireland, featuring charming small towns and the Emerald Isle's rich cultural heritage. Visit Dublin, medieval Killarney, and the noble Dromoland Castle.

Combine Iceland and Ireland into one iconic trip!

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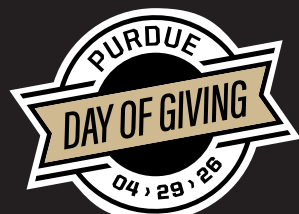
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BY THE NUMBERS

**President's Council made
an incredible impact on
Purdue Day of Giving.**

Thank you—once again—
for your continued loyalty
and commitment.

TOTAL MEMBERS WHO GAVE

4,604

TOTAL MEMBER GIFTS

14,889

TOTAL DOLLARS GIVEN BY MEMBERS

\$65.6 MILLION

TOP ACADEMIC AREAS OF SUPPORT

College of Engineering (\$24.3 million)
Mitch Daniels School of Business (\$6.4 million)
College of Veterinary Medicine (\$4.9 million)



**As America commemorates its 250th birthday, we honor
the generations of Boilermakers whose contributions have
helped shape our nation. Their legacy continues to inspire
us and lives on through the values that define Purdue today.**

This past spring, we welcomed our newest class of alumni when more than 10,000 graduates took their next giant leap during commencement. As we celebrate their vast accomplishments and the impact they will make in the world, we remain ever grateful for our President's Council family and the shared victories advancing Purdue.

Time and again, you have set the gold-and-black standard for private giving to the university. This is especially evident through your faithful support of "Victories & Heroes: Your Campaign for Purdue," which has strengthened our momentum and put us ahead of schedule. You also played a pivotal role during the 13th annual Purdue Day of Giving, helping us receive more than 34,400 total gifts benefiting the university's students, faculty, and programs.

Thanks to your generosity, Purdue's future remains brighter than ever. We couldn't do it without you, and I hope to see you on campus this fall.

EVER GRATEFUL,

Julie Dussliere (LA'94)
*President and CEO
Purdue for Life Foundation*

VICTORIES & HEROES | **YOUR CAMPAIGN FOR PURDUE**

