

STUDENT LIFE

PERSPECTIVES

FALL 2020



Learn how Hall of Music and others on campus collaborated to produce an on-demand commencement, rising above the challenges of COVID-19 in the pursuit of the student experience beyond the classroom.

A WORD FROM OUR VICE PROVOST


When the COVID-19 pandemic began to impact Purdue University in March, so much of what makes up the Student Life experience was upended. Like so many of our colleagues at institutions of higher learning around the world, we were left wondering what our next steps would be. There is no playbook, no experience with a global pandemic that we can fall back on to guide us. What we can use to guide us however, are the principles that make us who we are as Boilermakers. Innovation. Persistence. Doing the hard work necessary to ensure that our students get the experience they deserve. In this issue of Perspectives, we share the results of that work.

One year ago, we launched Steps to Leaps – a program focused on resiliency and well-being. The relevance of this program has been immediately put to the test in a profound way and the returns have been promising. We can see impact in the areas of student support, academic connection, research, assessment and communication. Steps to Leaps continues to adapt and push forward to offer programming and engage with students, faculty and staff.

The past nine months have required Student Life organizations to reimagine everything from the use of their physical spaces to the ways in which they offer programming. Recreation & Wellness, for example, made an immediate pivot to the online world to bring its offerings to Boilermakers wherever they were completing the spring semester – all while preparing for their successful reopening in time for fall semester. Resident assistants and Residential Life staff remained on campus to assist students who could not leave campus during the spring and have formed the backbone of the residence hall experience this fall. Purdue Musical Organizations and Bands & Orchestras have adapted with new equipment and performance venues to share the gifts of music with the campus community. The stories highlighted in these pages are but a small taste of success in the face of adversity throughout all of Student Life.

Student organizations have also helped ensure the success of this abnormal fall semester. In organizations like Purdue Student Union Board and Old Masters, we can see how students have been able to adapt to preserve generations of tradition and impact. PSUB and Old Masters, like many other organizations on campus, continue to find ways to execute their mission and provide meaningful experiences for the Purdue community. Finally, we also recognize some outstanding individuals who have earned local and national recognition.

These stories are a small sample of the continuing work Student Life is engaged in to provide Boilermakers with the meaningful experiences they crave that occur beyond the classroom. While we can't predict what the immediate future may hold, we can always rely on our ability to innovate, persist and leave nothing undone in our pursuit of the next giant leap.



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PERSPECTIVES

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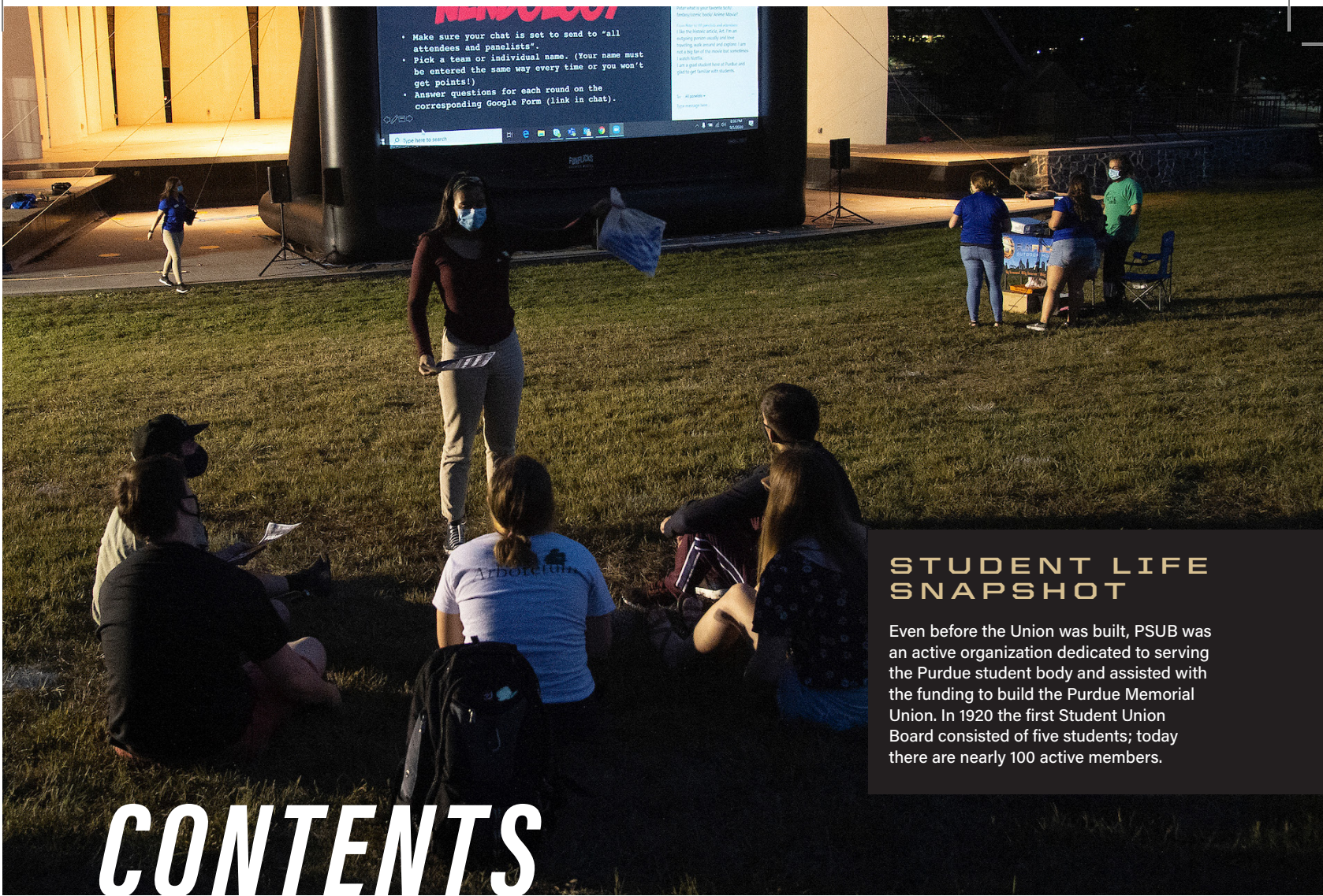
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Perspectives is a bi-annual publication from the Office of the Vice Provost of Student Life. An electronic version of this publication and past issues can be found at:

www.purdue.edu/vpsl/perspectives



Student Life



**STUDENT LIFE
SNAPSHOT**

Even before the Union was built, PSUB was an active organization dedicated to serving the Purdue student body and assisted with the funding to build the Purdue Memorial Union. In 1920 the first Student Union Board consisted of five students; today there are nearly 100 active members.

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TRADITIONS



PSUB ADAPTS TO PRESERVE TRADITIONS OF ENTERTAINMENT, ENRICHMENT

Purdue Student Union Board has been part of the fabric of the Student Life experience for 100 years. Founded in 1920, the first Student Union Board consisted of five students. Today the organization, affectionately known as PSUB, boasts nearly 100 active members.

PSUB provides a variety of programs and services that exist to enrich the lives of college students through cultural experiences and entertainment. In addition to working hard to present exciting programs to the campus community, the board also provides a hands-on experience in event planning and innumerable leadership and professional development opportunities for its members. PSUB also serves as the voice of Purdue students in the cooperative management of the Purdue Memorial Union.

Generations of Boilermakers have enjoyed movie showings in Fowler Hall, social hours, trivia nights, the annual Holidays at the Union celebration and more, thanks to PSUB. Holidays at the Union is an annual favorite of Boilermakers and visitors to campus. The board began procuring a Christmas tree for display in the Purdue Memorial Union

during the 1930s. Originally, the tree was brought in Wisconsin or Northern Indiana; since 1975, the trees have come from local, philanthropic residents. The iconic display of the tree in the Great Hall has been enjoyed by generations of Boilermakers. Other aspects of the celebration include a tree lighting ceremony, events highlighting holiday celebrations around the world, musical entertainment, breakfast with Santa and more.

While specific activities and events presented over the years by PSUB have changed, the tradition of providing enriching experiences for students remains intact – even in the face of challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic. This year’s modified Holidays at the Union celebration included a light display in Academy Park designed by Purdue alumnus Jim Heath. Virtual events included Zoom visits with Santa and live readings of holiday stories by Mrs. Claus on the PSUB Facebook page. The ability of PSUB to modify these events for the Purdue community is a testament to the organization’s persistence.

PSUB has additionally taken advantage of outdoor space to present movie nights in Ross-Ade Stadium, where a limited audience can enjoy a showing on one of the largest video boards in a college football stadium. PSUB additionally played a lead role in a collaborative effort to host outdoor student watch parties for the first two Purdue football games of the season. The organization has also hosted online trivia nights, virtual talent shows, game nights and a speaker series.

As PSUB begins its next 100 years of work, the organization remains in a

strong place thanks to the commitment and ability to adapt to challenges by its members.

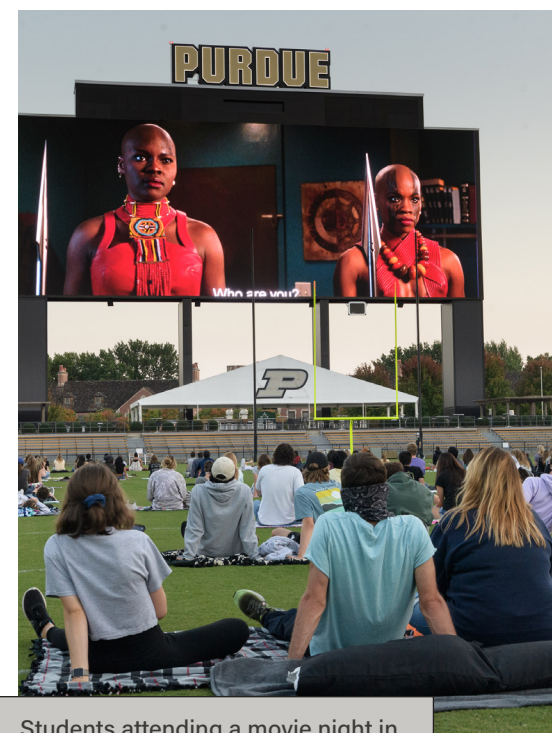
Connect with PSUB via social media to stay informed of upcoming events.

 /PSUB01

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union.purdue.edu/psub



Students attending a movie night in Ross-Ade Stadium.

RECOGNIZES

MEMBERS OF FRATERNITY, SORORITY AND COOPERATIVE LIFE COMMUNITY HONORED

Three individuals associated with Purdue's Fraternity, Sorority and Cooperative Life community have received recognition from the North American Interfraternity Conference. Brandon Cutler, associate dean of students for Fraternity, Sorority and Cooperative Life, received the Advisor Award of Distinction, as did Bill Miller, chapter advisor for Phi Gamma Delta. The award recognizes individuals who have shown exceptional commitment to guiding and mentoring a chapter, council or community. Nathan Longo received one of nine Undergraduate Award of Distinction honors, which recognize fraternity men who embody the values of their fraternity in their development as both a leader and better man.



BRANDON CUTLER



NATHAN LONGO



CASSANDRA SALAZAR

SALAZAR HONORED BY TIPPY CONNECT YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Cassandra Salazar, student affairs specialist for Student Activities and Organizations, has been named a Top 10 Under 40 award recipient by Tippy Connect Young Professionals. The honor highlighted Salazar's work as a champion of diversity in the Greater Lafayette area through her work with the Latino Center for Wellness & Education. Salazar advises and coaches diverse student organizations on campus.

PURDUE RECOGNIZED AS A DON CLIFTON STRENGTHS FOR STUDENTS AWARD WINNER

Purdue University has been recognized as a 2020 Don Clifton Strengths for Students Award winner, selected from a small number of finalists among more than 1,000 schools which partner with Gallup on their strengths-based strategy. Purdue partners with Gallup to introduce Clifton Strengths for Students®, an online talent assessment, to incoming Boilermakers. Known as myStrengths, the assessment is administered through the Roger C. Stewart Leadership Experience at Purdue and the Leadership and Professional Development Initiative. Since its inception in 2016, more than 34,000 Boilermakers have taken the assessment.



2020 Special Boilermaker Award recipients Margie Jones, Amy Glenn and Nancy Cross.

JONES HONORED WITH SPECIAL BOILERMAKER AWARD

Margie Jones, assistant director of student involvement for Student Activities and Organizations, has been recognized with a Special Boilermaker Award from the Purdue Alumni Association. The award honors members of the Purdue faculty or staff who have contributed to the improvement of the quality of life and/or the betterment of the educational experience for a substantial number of Purdue students. Jones advises the Barbara Cook Chapter of Mortar Board and Old Masters, and serves as a liaison to help student organizations engage with their alumni. She assists students through their leadership journey while helping them develop skills in leadership development, personal growth and budget management.

EXPERIENCE

OLD MASTERS: 70 YEARS OF TRADITION IN A NEW FORMAT

Purdue Old Masters, an annual event that connects distinguished Purdue alumni with the student body, adapted with an innovative twist this year in response to challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A new, virtual format allowed the event to continue its 70-year tradition of enriching traditions, uniting generations and empowering Boilermakers. Rather than traditional, in-person events, Old Masters engaged in interactive online platforms including personal host calls, virtual classroom talks and meetings with student organizations, concluding with a hybrid version of a discussion panel known as An Evening with Old Masters. The development of the Old Masters Podcast has created additional opportunities for enrichment beginning before and continuing beyond the event.

The Old Masters program dates to 1950, when a shared definition of success among students, business representatives and university officials sparked the idea to invite a group of 10 successful and outstanding individuals to campus to share ideas with the student body. This group became the first Old Masters. Over the past 70 years, more than 600 Old Masters have helped grow and enrich this Purdue tradition.

THIS YEAR'S OLD MASTERS WERE:

KEN ARMSTRONG
BA 1984, political science and government.

MELODY BIRMINGHAM
BS 1994, organizational leadership.

STACEY BAITINGER BURR
BS 1984, MS 1991, industrial engineering.

JULIE DUSSLIERE
BA 1994, Russian.

STEPHEN MCKINLEY HENDERSON
MA 1977, theatre.

LUKE MARKLIN
BS 2007, construction engineering and management.

TED MCKINNEY
BS 1981, agricultural economics.

REINI WIRAHADIKUSUMAH
MS 1996, PhD 1999, civil engineering.

Wirahadikusumah has the distinction of being one of only a few international Old Masters in the program's rich history. She joined the events from Indonesia, where she serves as the first woman president in the 100-year history of Institut Teknologi Bandung, a university located in Bandung, West Java.

Old Masters is executed by the Central Committee, made up of 12 Purdue students and three advisors. During their stay on campus, each Old Master is typically escorted by a group of hosts and hostesses chosen by the Central Committee. This year's hosts

took on these responsibilities virtually, introducing Old Masters during events and completing additional projects such as creating introduction videos and gifts, and working to make each Old Master's time run smoothly.

One aspect of hosting an Old Master is creating a "hype box," which serves as a gift for the Old Master. Elise Boessler, a third-year student majoring in brain and behavioral science and political science, was part of the host team for Armstrong, an award-winning journalist who served as editor-in-chief of the Purdue Exponent while in school. Boessler's group created a box wrapped in the Exponent's masthead and added practical gifts with Purdue ties. They additionally created a magazine to introduce themselves to Armstrong, as well as a welcome video for use in the opening ceremonies.

"These projects are the deliverables that help connect us, as the hosts, to our Old Master so we can best tailor their experience and celebrate them in ways they would personally appreciate," says Boessler. "The projects really bonded our host group because it forced us to critically think about connecting in meaningful ways despite the challenge COVID-19 hurled at us. Even though the Old Masters couldn't physically meet their hosts, the online platform really pushed us all to be creative for tasks that might seem menial, like introducing ourselves."

One of the hallmarks of the Old Masters program is that it produces small group and one-on-one interactions between the Old Masters and current students. Matthew Brazil, a fourth-year student studying industrial engineering, served on the host team for Burr. He says one-on-one and small group interactions with Burr and the rest of the Old Masters were his favorite parts of the experience.



“Easily the best experience was interacting with all the Old Masters,” says Brazil. “It was incredible to speak to and learn from people who left Purdue and made lasting impacts on the world in incredible ways. Listening and getting to know Stacey profoundly affected me and opened my eyes to career paths and incredible knowledge which I couldn’t have found anywhere else.”

Boessler says she found similar value in her interactions with Armstrong.

“I can remember feeling extremely nervous to meet him because here I was sitting at my apartment table, full business professional suit, talking with one of the most awarded journalists in American history,” says Boessler. “My nervous excitement quickly turned to inspiring admiration for a person who is truly one of the most humble and genuine people I have ever met.”

Over the course of the program, each Old Master had the opportunity to share their experiences and perspectives in their own, unique ways. The culmination of the events was An Evening with Old Masters, a public discussion panel. This year’s hybrid format was anchored by student hosts Marisabel Segovia and Humza Syed, and livestreamed via YouTube. Segovia and Syed directed

prepared questions to each of the Old Masters, who also answered questions from student leaders representing various student organizations. A recording of the livestream can be viewed on YouTube.

Of the messages shared by the Old Masters, those of persistence resonated with Brazil.

“The most important thing I learned in the Old Masters program was to never give up and always be open to growth – not only professionally, but in one’s personal life,” says Brazil. “Growth comes from failure and this growth should never be feared, but welcomed with open arms.

“Another takeaway from the program was that everyone has something to teach you,” continues Brazil. “Regardless of age or any demographic, people – especially Boilermakers – are incredible and all people’s knowledge should be respected and admired.”

Hearing about the different paths the Old Masters have taken to their respective fields of success struck a chord with Boessler.

“I feel like nowadays there is this ominous pressure to have a super clear-cut future planned out, almost as if this straight-lined path necessitates whether one will truly make a difference,” says Boessler. “In college especially, the unknown future can spark the revolving door of doubt and existential crises. Listening to the Old Masters’ stories, I felt peace in the fact that I haven’t had a straight path so far at Purdue. Ultimately, I learned that it’s okay to have challenges and to pivot.”

While the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the viability of numerous events around the world, the Central Committee, hosts, advisors and Old Masters persisted to continue Old Masters’ mission to enrich traditions, unite generations and empower Boilermakers. **To learn more about Old Masters, visit purdueoldmasters.org.**



SCAN HERE TO WATCH
AN EVENING WITH
PURDUE OLD MASTERS

ADAPTS

PURDUE RECREATION & WELLNESS ADAPTS WITH ONLINE PROGRAMMING, ENJOYS SUCCESSFUL FALL RE-OPENING



Student Life departments have had to reinvent the ways in which they make their programming available to students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Purdue Recreation & Wellness has risen to the challenge, first to offer online programming as students learned remotely during the spring and then with a safe reopening in time for the return of students to campus for the fall semester.

When classes moved online and many campus buildings closed during the initial stages of the pandemic in March, Recreation & Wellness was posed with the question of how to continue to connect with students. The solution was to implement online programming on the fly. Within a matter of days, RecWell student staff and professional staff connected with Hall of Music Productions to record and produce

online content to help students continue to practice and build wellness habits during their time away from campus. Programming included cooking demonstrations, recorded workouts, live group fitness classes, trainer tips and wellness tips. The success of these programs is evident with more than 300,000 interactions with RecWell's virtual content through its website, social media, newsletter and other online platforms.

“We had to answer the question of how we continue to serve our students and staff with what they need,” says Mike Warren, director of Recreation & Wellness. “That’s why we made the shift to the digital world. That put us instantly right back out to the students. We continued to expand on it and find ways to improve because it was new to us.”

RecWell student staff played a key role in the development of online content, both as sources for what students would enjoy and as instructors in demonstration kitchen, workout and group fitness videos.

“Student staff are essential to keeping online offerings interesting and relevant,” says Jessica Rorick, assistant director of Nutrition Education Programs. “They’re the best resource for what their peers are looking for in online programming.”

The move to the online world also brought about the opportunity for Recreation & Wellness to dive into esports, which involves competitive multiplayer online gaming and is one of the fastest growing competitive sports in the world. RecWell's program features gaming options for students as well as opportunities for viewers to watch live streams through platforms such as YouTube and Twitch. Since its launch during early summer, there have been more than 800 unique participants in RecWell's esports offerings.

“The benefit of being at Purdue is that we have a massive STEM population,” says Jason Maynard, professional intern with RecWell Sports Programs. “The correlation between STEM fields and gaming is quite significant and we knew we had a great population here because of the already well-developed gaming clubs on our campus.”

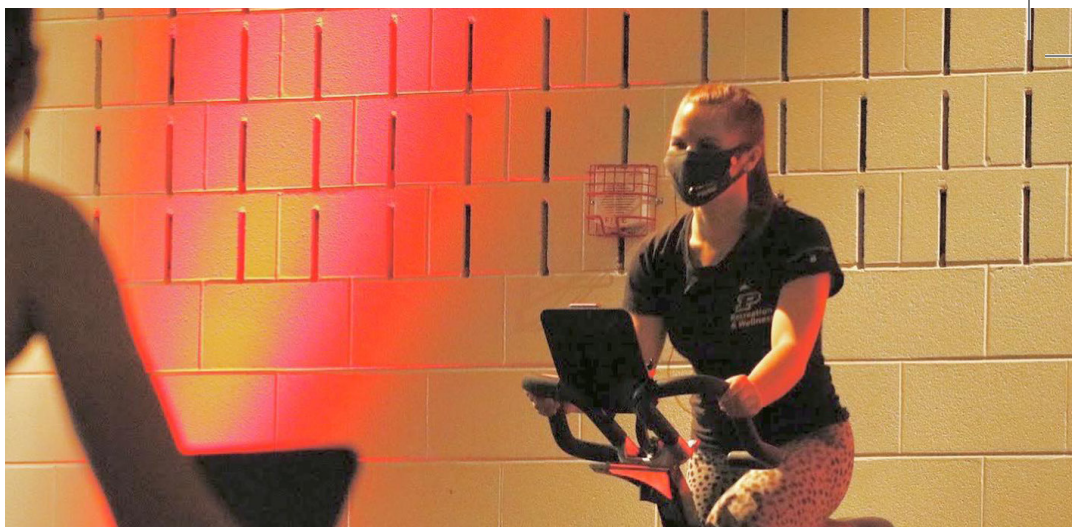
While the move to the online world was taking place, RecWell staff was busy at work preparing for a physical reopening. Nearly every space in the



France A. Córdova Recreational Sports Center (CoRec) had to be reimagined and de-densified to ensure proper social distancing, including workout areas, gathering spaces and check points – all without knowing the specific parameters of what restrictions would be in place when the building reopened. All decisions were made in accordance with local, state, national and Protect Purdue guidelines.

“Safety was the number one consideration all around,” says Brian Smith, interim assistant director of Facilities and Maintenance. “Some parts of that consideration were easily done with simple tasks like adding plexiglass barriers. Other parts, such as de-densifying workout areas and figuring out how to get people in and out of the building, took a lot more planning.”

The CoRec reopened to members late in the summer and has remained open for the entirety of the fall semester. New procedures include a reservation system, which requires all members to reserve a time to come into the building, and a contactless entry via the RecWell app or a self-swipe station. All members are required to wear masks, even while exercising, and additional sanitizing stations are available throughout the



facility. Under reopening guidelines, the CoRec can accommodate approximately 400 people per hour and 3,000 per day, plus another 150 in the aquatic center.

RecWell is also making use of outdoor spaces as part of “ReEntry Purdue Atmosphere,” a campus-wide initiative to offer in-person events and programming for students. RecWell’s efforts include outdoor group fitness classes and a game zone. RecWell has additionally implemented an equipment-loan program, known as RecWell GO, which allows students to borrow equipment for free.

Sports have also made a comeback to campus, with more than 200 teams signing up for sand volleyball and an additional 50 for a fall kickball league. RecWell is continuing to explore ways to create opportunities for students to play sports that produce “low risk” contact as defined by local, state, national and Protect Purdue guidelines.

In true Boilermaker spirit, RecWell has also been a strong partner to other campus organizations. The Turf Recreation Center (TREC) has been used as the on-campus location for COVID-19 testing, providing a valuable service to the Purdue community. Areas within the CoRec have also been used for studying and socially-distanced dining spaces.

“These aren’t normally what you would think of as recreation or wellness pieces, but this year, they are,” says Abby Whaley, senior associate director of Facilities and Operations. “It’s important to have spaces to go study or eat that are safe, and going to get a COVID-19 test is part of campus safety and wellness. It’s very different from what we would normally do, but it’s important that we contribute to the overall campus community.”

RecWell leaders say they can foresee future application for some of the measures implemented during the pandemic. Warren says RecWell plans to continue to grow the esports program

and is adding to its library of online content for future needs.

“I think the digital space can always complement our in-person programming,” says Warren. “We do hope that our in-person facility and programming can always be our featured area and at the spine of what we do, but we always want to reach those who may be more comfortable engaging from their homes.”



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REENTRY PURDUE ATMOSPHERE



SCAN HERE TO VISIT
VIRTUAL RECWELL

Connect with RecWell on social media for more information.

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SUCCESS

RESIDENTIAL LIFE STAFF, STUDENTS
CONTRIBUTE TO SUCCESSFUL ON-CAMPUS
EXPERIENCE

It is not typical for a resident assistant to change residence halls during the school year, but March was not a typical time on the campus of Purdue University.

Haleigh Meny, a resident assistant in Owen Hall, was one of approximately 1,200 students who elected to remain on campus to complete their studies after classes moved online for the remainder of the spring semester. Meny was one of the resident assistants selected to continue RA duties to assist and lead the students remaining in the residence halls. The result was a move from Owen Hall to Honors College and Residents North as students were relocated to residence halls that could better support privacy and social distancing.

The transition from Owen to Honors and social distancing requirements meant an adjustment in how Meny could connect with the 20 residents she was tasked with supervising, but she was committed to making sure social connections could still take place. In addition to digital meetings, conversations and events, Meny offered opportunities for

her new residents to connect with her individually, of which several students took advantage. She says offering these opportunities was important for students who may have been feeling isolated or stressed about the transition to online learning.

“Connecting with your friends, seeing people and seeing your family is important to mental health,” says Meny, now a junior who has returned to RA duties in Owen Hall. “A lot of people can’t see their family and friends and that can just be really hard to deal with. You’re dealing with all of these changes and you might not have your group of friends or family to help you.”

“In addition, when walking through the halls, you just didn’t see very many people,” says Meny. “It almost felt like you could be alone at times and I didn’t want anyone to feel that way under the stress.”

Thankfully, the implementation of the Protect Purdue plan and the reopening of campus allowed students to participate in a residential campus experience in Fall 2020. While the innumerable opportunities to build friendship and gain leadership and professional development experience may not be taking place in a traditional manner, resident assistants,

student leaders and residential staff have persisted to find ways for residents to create connections and enjoy the social activities the residential campus experience is known for.

Residential Life staff and student leaders have been tackling those challenges with gusto under the direction of Christa Pazera. At the forefront of Residential Life’s efforts, Pazera says, is the desire to ensure continued opportunities to build relationships.

“We do this because of the relationships and the connections,” says Pazera, director of Residential Life. “That hasn’t changed. It’s just the way we go about it that has.”

One of the major changes to the residence halls this fall has been the de-densification of spaces in order to comply with social distancing guidelines. This has meant converting room configurations to allow each resident to have an ample amount of space. In some cases, this meant rooms were converted to a lower occupancy, such as double rooms being changed to single occupancy. These changes have understandably resulted in modified opportunities for students to interact indoors. However, small and socially-distanced events have continued, and residents have taken advantage of outdoor spaces and the virtual world

to create connections. More than 2,500 in-person and virtual events have taken place during the fall semester.

Organizations such as UR Global and University Residences Multicultural Connections have been particularly active in organizing a mix of indoor, outdoor and virtual events. These have included a well-attended arts and crafts night, de-stress events, attending virtual presentations and weekly wellness walks. Hall clubs and resident assistants have organized numerous outdoor gatherings, ranging from opportunities to play games such as Spikeball and frisbee to meeting to eat in outdoor dining tents together. Other indoor activities have included socially-distanced movie nights and discussions of important world events. Virtual events have included study sessions, video games and even a painting tutorial.

Faculty have also impacted the residential experience in positive ways in this changing environment through learning communities and the Faculty Fellows program. One learning community that has found creative ways to create community is Engineering in

the World of Data, which includes 68 students (48 residential, 20 online) from 12 countries. The learning community has been innovative in the online world, with an active Discord (chat room) server and virtual trivia, coffee hours, game nights, movie watch parties and biweekly contests that have included a virtual pet show, photo contest, COVID-19 data scramble and meme contest.

As with nearly every other aspect of life on campus during the pandemic, University Residences and Residential Life continues to learn, adapt and evolve to suit the needs of its residents.

“We’re going to have to be creative,” says Pazera. “We’re going to get some great ideas from students and we’ll implement those. We’re learning things from other colleagues at other institutions and we’ll try to implement those as we go, too. One of the core values of the institution is innovation and we’re going to do it.”


Connect with UR Global via social media to stay informed of upcoming events.

 /URGlobal

housing.purdue.edu/ResidentialLife/URGlobal

Connect with URMCM via social media to stay informed of upcoming events.

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STUDENTS FROM THE ENGINEERING IN THE WORLD OF DATA LEARNING COMMUNITY WIN BIWEEKLY CONTEST TROPHY

PARTNERS

STUDENTS SHARE "MY QUARANTINE STORY"

The Office of the Vice Provost of Student Life partnered with Cornerstone Liberal Arts (CLA) to prompt students to reflect on the unique historical moment they are experiencing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students connected their experience with assigned readings in CLA classes. Topics included reflections on how students' worlds have changed, how isolation has changed students' vision of themselves and their futures, and more. More than 70 submissions were

received and judged by a panel of seven Cornerstone faculty judges.

First place was awarded to Brandon Watson for his essay "An American Dystopia," which compared aspects of the current crisis to Margaret Atwood's *Gilead* in *A Handmaid's Tale*. Watson is now a senior majoring in political science. He received \$100 for his winning submission.



SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON QUARANTINE STORIES

STUDENT LIFE PARTNERS IN PROJECTX SAFE CAMPUS

More than 300 student volunteers participated in ProjectX Safe Campus, a five-week summer consulting experience to help the University create solutions for the return to on-campus learning in the fall.

ProjectX Safe Campus emanated from the Safe Campus Task Force and the Protect Purdue implementation team. Partners included Krannert School of Management, the Protect Purdue Residential Life implementation team and the Office of the Vice Provost for Student Life. Student worked in teams of two to six students and combined to submit 67 projects.

Students participated in educational webinars and collaborated with team members to generate recommendations for the Protect Purdue Residential Life implementation team. They also connected with 77 Krannert alumni, who served as mentors for students as they finalized their presentations.

HAGLE HALL, THE NEW HOME OF BANDS AND ORCHESTRAS, BREAKS GROUND

Marc and Sharon Hagle joined Purdue University officials on November 12 for the groundbreaking ceremony of Marc and Sharon Hagle Hall, the new home of Purdue Bands & Orchestras.

Approved by the Purdue Board of Trustees in December 2019, the \$20 million, 37,500-square-foot, four-story facility will be built at the southeast corner of Third and Russell streets. It will be along Third Street's Student Success Corridor, which connects student residential areas with the campus's academic center.

The facility is named for Marc and Sharon Hagle in honor of their \$10 million leadership gift.

"Sharon and I are excited about a world-class home for one of the best bands in the land," Marc Hagle said.

Hagle Hall will provide dedicated space for the 134-year-old Bands & Orchestras program, which has operated in Elliott Hall since that facility's completion in 1940.

"This is a momentous day for Purdue Bands & Orchestras, its over a thousand current students and its more the 15,000 alumni around the world," Purdue President Mitch Daniels said. "Thanks to the tremendous generosity of Marc and Sharon, as well as other donors to the project, our world-class program will have this wonderful new facility to develop and showcase its tremendous talents."



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From left, Purdue Provost Jay Akridge, trustee Vanessa Castagna, Marc Hagle, President Mitch Daniels, Sharon Hagle, director of bands Jay Gephart, and Vice Provost for Student Life Beth McCuskey take part in groundbreaking ceremonies for Marc and Sharon Hagle Hall.

KEEPING THE MELODY



MUSICAL HEARTBEAT OF UNIVERSITY REMAINS STRONG AMIDST CHALLENGES

Despite logistical challenges, the sound of music can still be heard on the campus of Purdue University thanks to the persistence of Purdue Bands & Orchestras and Purdue Musical Organizations.

Each organization worked with the Protect Purdue committee to develop a plan for in-person rehearsals and performances throughout the fall. Live “pop-up” events have featured various ensembles performing in outdoor campus locations, ensuring the musical heartbeat of campus remains strong. Both Bands & Orchestras and PMO

have also offered virtual opportunities for music lovers to enjoy live-streamed performances through platforms such as Facebook and YouTube.

Personal protection equipment and technology have helped make rehearsals and performances possible. Both organizations purchased special masks designed specifically for their respective modes of performance. Pocketed masks allow for the insertion of reeds and mouthpieces for instruments such as woodwinds and horns, while specially-designed “singer’s masks” prevent the spread of particles while still allowing for the freer breathing necessary to sing. PMO students also use face shields during rehearsals.

PMO also purchased a receiver system that can be worn in-ear by students during rehearsals. These receivers work in tandem with a sound system of microphones to allow students to hear themselves, directors and the piano, even

in socially-distanced outdoor spaces. Previously implemented processes for distributing sheet music, reviewing and updating musical scores and checking individual mastery of music through various programs on Apple iPads have proven to be of value during this time as well.

Rehearsals have been a challenge, but each organization has taken advantage of outdoor venues while positioning musicians accordingly. Some Bands & Orchestras ensembles have had to rehearse and perform in a reduced capacity.

Student leaders have helped set the tone for each organization, providing guidance for younger students while adapting to changing circumstances.

“Our student leaders have done a fantastic job preparing for this semester while creating a supportive and engaged environment for our students to return to campus,” says William Griffel, director of Purdue Musical Organizations. “They really have found innovative ways to make student engagement a priority while also promoting a positive attitude during this challenging time.”



As part of ReEntry Purdue Atmosphere, students had the opportunity to perform at open pianos placed in several outdoor locations around campus. Scan the QR code to learn more about ReEntry Purdue Atmosphere.

PMO has also risen to the challenge to produce a virtual version of the Purdue Christmas Show, one of the most popular and longstanding holiday traditions at the University.

IMPACTS

STEPS TO LEAPS CELEBRATES ONE YEAR OF CAMPUS IMPACT



Purdue staff connect at one of several Lunch and Learns held prior to the pandemic.

This fall marks the one-year anniversary of the implementation of Steps to Leaps, a collaborative and campus-wide effort to focus lifelong habits and promote a growth mindset in five pillars – impact, well-being, leadership and professional development, network building and grit. This initiative has been put to the test during the pandemic, but Steps to Leaps programming and messaging has persisted through virtual and in-person learning opportunities, research and programming.

“I think what we learned as part of the transformation in March is that communication is crucial,” says Beth McCuskey, Vice Provost for Student Life. “Communication was our primary driver for how we were able to keep Steps to Leaps going during the spring semester and continue into the fall.”

Lunch and Learns began during the 2019-20 school year as opportunities for faculty and staff to gather and discuss important topics related to the Steps to Leaps pillars. Eight in-person events were held prior to the pandemic necessitating a move to a virtual format. Since then, more than 20 Lunch and Learns have been held virtually. More than 400 faculty and staff from across the university have participated in the Lunch and Learns.

Various departments in Student Life have been quick to incorporate Steps to Leaps pillars into their work. One such program is Boiler Financial Track, housed within Purdue Recreation & Wellness. The program, the result of a partnership with Purdue Federal Credit Union, uses the pillars to promote financial wellness.

“Students are utilizing multiple services offered by Boiler Financial Track,” says Junia McDole, assistant director of financial literacy education. “Of the offered services, presentations regarding beginner budgeting, credit and finances after college are requested the most frequently.”

In addition to presentations, one-on-one coaching appointments are offered to students on these topics and others related to financial wellness. Services are currently being offered virtually.

The launch of Student Support Services in the Office of the Dean of Students provides a further resource for the Steps to Leaps framework. Student support specialists help students connect with campus programs that can help in areas of need and further develop their proficiency within the Steps to Leaps pillars. This new entity has been especially important in helping students who have needed to quarantine or isolate during the pandemic.

Student organizations, such as the Residence Hall Association (RHA), have also adopted the Steps to Leaps pillars.

Brian Tedeschi, 2019-20 president of RHA and a current resident assistant, worked to implement the pillars into RHA programming and sees their value to other student organizations.

"After the Steps to Leaps student launch, we made sure it was intentional that we implemented these pillars into our programming," says Tedeschi. "Each program doesn't have to do with a specific pillar, but they can be softly implemented – whether that's during regular meetings, executive board meetings, small events, passive events or really anything you're doing. That was something we worked on and that we feel is a good strategy for student organizations to use."

Faculty have also proven to be strong partners with Steps to Leaps, particularly in the area of well-being. Louis Tay, associate professor of Industrial-Organizational Psychology and a member of the Steps to Leaps Research Collaborative, has been instrumental in sharing well-being tips of the week through the Steps to Leaps website and social media. Articles and posts have shared information on tips to reduce multitasking, get more sleep, incorporate mindfulness meditation and physical exercise into one's schedule and more, all based on well-being research. Tay also developed and launched a course on the science of well-being, which provides students with a scientific and psychological account of well-being, including its definition, determinants and outcomes.

The practice of well-being extends beyond Tay's research and into the way he leads his classroom.

"During this time, as a professor, I feel very strongly that I need to prioritize supporting and communicating with my students," says Tay. "When students feel encouraged and that they have someone they can turn to, they will thrive. One practice is to email a handful of students each week in my course to encourage them to do well and support them when they do not. Another practice is to create online communities like Slack, Facebook and other channels to help students mutually encourage one another to do well."

The Steps to Leaps Research Collaborative will also be showcased in an upcoming issue of The International Journal of Well-Being. Steps to Leaps and other programs from around the nation will be highlighted to show how

different institutions are promoting community well-being on their campuses.

Steps to Leaps interns have also actively participated in deploying the Steps to Leaps message by developing learning modules, engaging in peer-to-peer presentations and discussion, and sharing resources via Steps to Leaps social media outlets.

Jill Reabe, a junior majoring in communications, has led the social media efforts. In addition to helping share resources with her peers, Reabe says she's seen payoffs in her own development within the pillars.

"What I have seen a lot over the past several weeks is the leadership and professional development pillar," says Reabe. "Working with the Steps to Leaps team has really helped me grow and work with a team to massage different ideas. We've had to modify how we put content out as well as different events. It's really great to be a part of a team that has all of these wonderful ideas and being able to see that through and create them together."

Steps to Leaps celebrated its one-year anniversary with a virtual summit event held on October 14. The event included a message from Purdue President Mitch Daniels, several keynote speakers, and morning and afternoon breakout sessions focusing on Steps to Leaps resources for faculty and staff to use when supporting students.

The celebration included a panel discussion where students shared their experiences within the pillars. Julianna Ge, a fifth-year Ph.D. candidate in engineering education, says she has found messages in the well-being pillar particularly helpful.

"I often hear about the culture of engineering being described as suffering a shared hardship," says Ge, who is originally from China and completing her studies from Boston, Mass. this year. "I found a message of well-being particularly helpful in understanding how I can personally feel better and interact with others."

Khushboo Jain, a junior managing in finance with a concentration in data analytics, shared that the impact pillar has been important in her involvement in campus organizations.

"When I first came to Purdue, I thought impact was all about being involved so I joined a bunch of organizations," says Jain, another Steps to Leaps intern. "I thought I'd be able to make an impact in whatever I had an interest in, but over time, I realized that impact was mostly about quality over quantity. I prioritized the organizations I was a part of and, through that, I found myself making a much bigger impact because I was prioritizing my time and efforts into the organizations that I felt strongly about – Steps to Leaps being one of them."

Steps to Leaps continues to push forward to offer programming and engage with partners from around campus.

Connect with Steps to Leaps via social media to stay up to date on the latest news.

 @PurdueStepsToLeaps

purdue.edu/stepstoleaps/



SCAN HERE TO WATCH THE
STEPS TO LEAPS SUMMIT



SCAN HERE STEPS TO LEAPS
WELL-BEING TIPS



INTERESTED IN NOMINATING FOR THE SHOWCASE?

Nominations are now being accepted for the Steps to Leaps showcase. Those interested in nominating an outstanding individual should scan this QR code to complete a nomination form and submit other criteria.

STUDENT LIFE FACTS



THE PROTECT PURDUE HEALTH CENTER, AN ENTITY THAT DID NOT EXIST BEFORE THE PANDEMIC, HAS RESPONDED TO MORE THAN

**105,000
CALLS**

#5

FOR ENGAGEMENT

AMONG U.S. UNIVERSITIES

The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education, 2021

Read the full article at: bit.ly/PurdueEngagement

MORE THAN

1.6 MILLION

**MEALS HAVE BEEN SERVED TO STUDENTS USING
MEAL SWIPES**

UNIVERSITY RESIDENCES HOUSED

85.8%

**OF ITS NORMAL RESIDENT CAPACITY IN
COMPARISON TO A 51.3% AVERAGE CAPACITY AT
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