



# PURA News

Purdue University Retirees Association

## December 2022

### What's Inside:

<b>Welcome!</b> .....	1
<b>PURA Business</b>	
December PURA Monthly Meeting: .....	2
The Evolution of Purdue Pete and The Boilermaker Special	
Jerry's Jottings:.....	2
PURA Flu Shots Program a Success	
November's Tech Toys for the Holidays Program	
United Way Update	
November <i>PURA News</i> —thank you to authors	
Highlight: PURA Benefits Committee	
We're Back! PURA's Annual Spring Conference on April 19, 2023 .....	3
PURA's 2022-23 Scholarships Awarded to 8 Students .....	4
<b>Health/Benefits</b>	
Renew Active Coming Soon .....	3
Melissa Newell: Improving Communications Strategies for Patients with Hearing Loss.....	6
<b>Features</b>	
Recap: PURA's October Tour of New Veterinary Medicine Hospitals .....	5
Sara Jane Coffman: One of the Top 10 Museums in Indiana .....	7
Through Dec. 31, Holiday Doings in Indiana.....	8
PURA's Historic Characters: Lillian Moller Gilbreth (1878-1972) .....	9
<b>Events/Calendars</b>	
December Campus/Community Calendar Highlights .....	11
Upcoming PURA Events.....	12
Purdue Academic/Holiday Schedule .....	12
<b>About <i>PURA News</i></b> .....	12
<b>Zoom Connection Information for PURA Meetings</b> .....	13

### Welcome Current & New *PURA News* Readers!

The PURA newsletter, published 10 times a year, regularly features articles on retiree benefits, Purdue news, upcoming opportunities to hear interesting speakers with other retirees, health topics, humor, Indiana travel, and PURA business.

We welcome your comments and suggestions (send to: [pura@purdue.edu](mailto:pura@purdue.edu)), and we invite you to join us at our in-person and virtual programs.

## December PURA Monthly Meeting: The Evolution of Purdue Pete and The Boilermaker Special



How many times has the thought crossed your mind about how Purdue Pete and the Boilermaker Special evolved? Or, how many times have people ASKED you about this, and you scratched your head trying to come up with the answer? Well then, join us on December 5 and get the details.

Our Speaker is Trevor Luzum, a Senior at Purdue who's graduating in December, and who is a member of Purdue's Reamer Club, the organization responsible for the Boilermaker Special and in charge of maintaining the traditions for this iconic mascot.

Trevor calls his home Kansas City, Missouri, but for the last three and half years has called Purdue his home-away-from-home. He has been studying Industrial Management with concentrations in Data Analysis, Innovation Management, and Entrepreneurship within Purdue's School of Management. Trevor appreciates PURA asking the Reamers to share information about Purdue's Mascots and is looking forward to meeting us.

---

### Jerry's Jottings



The grass that was covered with golden brown leaves last month is now covered with snow. Winter is just around the corner! Another sign is that basketball season has begun, and regular season football is winding down. By the time you read this we will have gathered for Thanksgiving and will be rushing towards the holiday season and the new year. At the moment though, my mind is still stuck somewhere back in early fall.

On October 19, 228 flu shots were administered at the second walk-in event, for a total of 557 shots delivered at the two walk-in events. Add that to 232 shots administered at the drive-thru event, means a grand total of 789 shots were given to PURA members this fall. Wellness Screenings were also available at our two walk-in events, and 94 wellness visits were completed by Purdue Nursing students. Although PURA's program is complete, it is not too late to get a flu shot. Visit a local pharmacy or your health care provider to receive one.

At the November "first Monday" luncheon Norm Long, subbing for Program Chair Bob Ritchie, posed the Purdue Trivia question "How many students were admitted the first year Purdue opened for classes?" The correct answer is 39. Congratulations to Roy Johnson, the winner of the insulated Purdue cup for his closest correct guess. Our speaker, Scott Ksander, presented "Tech Toys and Other Computer Topics" for the fifth year. I was intrigued by the Wi-Fi enabled bird feeder equipped with a camera for you to see who is eating at your bird buffet, and facial recognition to identify the bird species. I wonder if Loona, the dog robot, will catch on? A recording of the presentation and Scott's slides are available from the Home page of the PURA website, at the top of the page, right under the title "Did You Miss It?" I want to thank Jeris Eikenberry and Roy Johnson for bringing music and singing back to our luncheons.

Please join us on December 5 at the VFW for our next monthly luncheon meeting. Lunch will be available beginning at 11:45 a.m. ET for \$10 per person. The program begins at 12:30 p.m. ET. Our presentation will be by a member of the Purdue Reamer Club, Trevor Luzum, on the "Evolution of Purdue Pete and the Boilermaker Special". It should be fun and informative! (Note that the start of lunch availability has changed from 11:30 to 11:45 a.m. ET.)

United Way update: As of November 15, over \$163,000 towards our \$175,000 goal—or over 93%—has already been pledged or contributed. In 2021 retirees contributed over \$188,000 to the Purdue United Way campaign. Even though the United Way Celebration event was held on November 17, contributions through the end of the year are credited to this year's campaign. Again, thank you to all who choose to generously support this important community agency, in Greater Lafayette or in your local communities.

I want to draw your attention to the November PURA newsletter, as I thought it was an outstanding issue. As usual, a fun and entertaining article by Sara Jane Coffman—this one about Purdue memories—the book review by Jo Thomas, and technology articles by PURA members Scott Ksander and Connie Bilyeu, and Kate Pottschmidt of Purdue For Life, were featured. Sara Jane, Jo, and Scott are monthly contributors to our newsletter, and we thank them for their dedication in sharing with fellow retirees. Also included last month was an article by Nancy Grenard about persimmons and photos provided by Curt Snyder for the pawpaw article. We thank them for their contributions to our newsletter and encourage other retirees to consider submitting articles or photos.

To help recruit new PURA committee volunteers, I plan to feature a different committee in my notes each month. This month I would like to feature and give special recognition to the PURA Benefits Committee. They annually review and negotiate the group health insurance plans offered by PURA, represent PURA on several university committees, monitor legislation and other changes that affect retirees, and spend considerable time monitoring other benefits offered to Purdue retirees. Larry Pherson chairs this important committee.

And finally, Boilermaker football, now 8 and 4, will appear in their first Big 10 Football Championship game on December 3. Boilermaker basketball season is off to a strong start, winning the Phil Knight Legacy Tournament and moving to 5<sup>th</sup> in the AP Poll. Go Boilers!

Thanks, and happy holidays!

Jerry Day  
PURA President

---

## Renew Active Coming Soon



It should, by now, be no surprise to anyone! Effective January 1, 2023, **Renew Active** will replace **Silver Sneakers**, as the fitness program available through PURCare Senior Supplement and Group Medicare Advantage PPO plans.

If you have questions regarding your transition to this new fitness program, please refer to the October 2022 edition of the *PURA News* newsletter. The article entitled “Renew Active Q&A” answers many of the questions you may have. (The article is also available on the Benefits page of the PURA website: <https://www.purdue.edu/retirees/committees/benefits.html>.)

Most importantly, getting transitioned to Renew Active is easy! Your fitness facility will assist you. Just take your UHC-issued PURCare Senior Supplement or PURA Group Medicare Advantage (PPO) membership card to a participating facility. Facility staff, using information from your membership card, will facilitate your enrollment in Renew Active. You will receive a facility membership card permitting your use of that facility. If you use other fitness facilities, perhaps when traveling, you will need to activate your membership for that facility using the same process.

If after reviewing the article, you have additional questions, please contact the following:

PURCare Senior Supplement; 1-800-851-3802; 8am-8pm; Monday through Friday.  
United Healthcare group Medicare Advantage (PPO); 1-800-457-8506; 8am-8pm; Monday through Friday.

---

## We're back! Don't miss this one! PURA's Annual Spring Conference

Mark your calendar for April 19, 2023. The name has changed from Purposeful Living in Retirement to PURA Annual Spring Conference to reflect the intent and the content of this exceedingly popular and highly informative event more accurately.

Attend the PURA Annual Spring Conference at the Beck Center located on Highway 52, just northwest of the Purdue Campus, in West Lafayette. Here is a thumbnail sketch of what to expect at this year's in-person Spring Conference:

- Living with chronic pain without addiction.
- Library services available for Seniors.
- Lots of door prizes from 30 Vendors.
- A full hot breakfast and a selection of box lunches.
- Exercise breaks.
- Information regarding our PURA health benefits.
- Two of the presenters will be West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis and Professor Emerita of the Purdue Department of Management, Charlene Sullivan.

And more...

Plan now to attend. Registration will begin online in the early spring. Watch for more details in future issues of the *PURA News*.

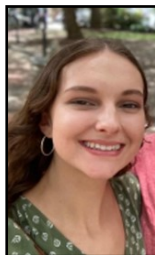
## **PURA Scholarships Awarded to Eight Indiana Students for Academic Year 2022-2023**

The Purdue Division of Financial Aid selects the Indiana students who receive funding from the PURA scholarship endowments. Three students shared \$3,500 of available income for distribution from the PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke Endowment and five students shared \$12,950 available from the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment.

The PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke Endowment recipients are:



Sierra Cox  
Junior from Topeka, Indiana, majoring in Computer Science.



Hannah Garner  
Senior from West Lafayette, Indiana, majoring in Mechanical Engineering Technology.



Abdulrahman Saleh  
Sophomore from Syracuse, Indiana, majoring in Elementary Education.

The PURA Student Scholarship Endowment recipients are:



Renee Bauer  
Freshman from Sunman, Indiana, majoring in Game Development.



Lauren Bell  
Sophomore from Marion, Indiana, majoring in Nutrition and Dietetics.



Erin Conway  
Junior from Granger, Indiana, majoring in Law and Society.

Additional recipients of the PURA Student Scholarship are: Seth Michel, a freshman from Mitchell, Indiana, majoring in Law and Society, and Preston Walling, a freshman from Indianapolis, Indiana, majoring in Computer Science. (Photographs for Seth Michel and Preston Walling were not available at press time.)

Funding to help support these students is available because of the generosity of PURA members. The income-producing balance in the PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke is \$56,439, and the balance for the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment is \$240,814 as of October 15, 2022. Please consider making a year-end donation to either of these endowments and help ease the financial burden for Indiana students.

To make a donation, send a check payable to the **Purdue for Life Foundation**. The address is: Purdue for Life Foundation, Dauch Alumni Center, 403 West Wood Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2007. Please designate the name of the endowment you wish to support: PURA Student Scholarship Endowment or PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke Endowment.

---

## PURA's October Tour of the Purdue University Veterinary Hospitals



On Friday, October 21, 23 PURA members attended a tour of the new veterinary facilities that recently opened for business on the south side of campus.

Dedicated in April, the new facilities are located adjacent to Lynn Hall, which has served as the home of the College of Veterinary Medicine since its inception. The new facilities cost \$108 million including \$73 million in support from the State of Indiana and \$35 million from Purdue University and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

PURA members were able to tour the three hospitals that make up the new facilities including a small animal hospital, equine hospital, and farm animal hospital. The new David and Bonnie Brunner Small Animal Hospital building provides state-of-the-art space for primary pet care, 24/7 emergency care, and a referral practice for cases requiring specialized diagnostics or care. It substantially expanded the space available in the old small animal hospital, which is still being used.



The equine hospital offers state-of-the-art diagnostics and care for horses. PURA members got to see a height-adjustable CT unit, one of only three in the country, that can be used to perform scans of standing horses regardless of their height.

The Farm Animal Hospital features a new drive-through drop-off system that allows farmers to pull their trailers into the building to drop off animals in need of care. Both the Equine Hospital and the Farm Animal Hospital feature a new monorail system that can be used to transport animals safely within the facility even when the animals are not ambulatory.



PURA members greatly enjoyed the tour, the chance to see the new facilities, and to see some of the four-legged patients who were in for treatment on the day of the tour. The new facilities are a wonderful asset to the university, the State of Indiana, and the surrounding region.

## Improving Communication Strategies for Patients with Hearing Loss

Melissa Newell, Au.D., CCC-A/FAAA

(she/her/hers)

Clinical Assistant Professor

Purdue Department of Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences

Presbycusis, also known as age-related hearing loss, is common, typically occurring between ages 65-74 and becoming more likely over 75. Typically, hearing loss occurs gradually and, in both ears, making it difficult for patients to realize they are having a problem. It's understandable that if you don't hear something in your environment, you may not know you have missed something. Many studies also indicate that hearing problems can cause significant stress in relationships, often bothering the "significant other" more than the person with a hearing loss. For various reasons, many people do not wear appropriately fitted hearing aids when needed. Hearing aids have improved drastically over recent years but do not entirely correct hearing. They provide amplification for sounds but, indeed, are "aids" for communication. Understanding speech in crowded and noisy environments is difficult for many people, even when properly fitted with hearing aids. Using strategies to manage these difficulties can be vital in maintaining good communication with those important people in our lives.

With or without hearing aids, clear speech strategies can make communication easier for everyone, improving intelligibility and reducing misunderstandings. Over time and with practice, using these strategies can become second nature. So many patients tell audiologists, "You're so easy to understand!" because we practice these strategies daily. Although fitting hearing aids can be a part of rehabilitating hearing loss, our goal as audiologists is to improve communication.

First, speech should be used at a medium rate, not too fast or too slow. Younger people or people from some geographical locations can often speak quickly. However, rapid speech is difficult to follow, especially for people with hearing loss and/or cognitive delay. When speech is misunderstood, it takes time to process what has been heard and to decode the message. This process requires additional mental effort, which is fatiguing over time. Frequently, the conversation continues, and the misunderstood speech is not decoded. Adjusting the speech rate can help avoid misunderstandings and give the listener time to process what has been heard.

Secondly, use an appropriate volume level for the setting. Slightly raising your voice can help but shouting distorts speech and turns a typical exchange into a rude, aggressive tone. Shouting also distorts lipreading cues, causing more confusion. No one can sustain these conversations for long, and the person with hearing loss is often left out of the discussion. Over time, the patient with hearing loss often begins to feel more isolated, leading to depression or anxiety and reduced interactions.

Thirdly, consider turning your body to address the person face-to-face. We all understand each other better when making eye contact. Making sure you have someone's attention, possibly saying someone's name or touching them on the shoulder and waiting until they make eye contact, can improve communication significantly. Often patients with hearing loss report that they miss the beginning or ends of words/sentences. Obtaining attention first makes the patient less likely to miss important parts of the conversation, and visual cues can be beneficial for individuals with hearing loss.

Fourthly, think about what you say and try to pronounce each sound in words. We all tend to mumble or abbreviate words when speaking with familiar people. Take time to articulate words. It's fine to continue using lively speech but intentionally stress critical words and carefully articulate each sound. Frequent pauses between phrases can give the listener time to process the speech before moving on to the next thought.

In addition to clear speech techniques, other communication strategies can also improve understanding. If the person with hearing loss does not seem to understand and asks for repetition, consider rewording or using different phrasing. Try not to communicate from other rooms of the house. Even with hearing aid use, sound cannot be heard well from a distance. Moving nearer to each other will improve communication. Reduce background noise, if possible, particularly when having meaningful conversations. Understanding speech in noise is especially difficult for patients with hearing loss; eliminating or reducing noise significantly decreases misunderstandings. Use appropriate lighting and avoid covering your face, if possible, to improve visual cues. Finally, consider checking with the listener to see if they understood the conversation. Asking questions shows that you care about communication with this important person.

Listening fatigue is a common problem for patients with hearing loss. Clear speech techniques reduce misunderstandings and can give the listener time to process what is heard, and the human connection that can only occur through communication can continue to flourish. It is important to remember that we hear with our brains, not our ears. The ears send

signals to the brain, but the brain has to make sense of what has been heard. By using clear speech and other communication strategies the brain can more appropriately direct cognitive function to improve listening, reducing fatigue and effort while benefitting the patient and the significant others.

*To reach Professor Newell:*

<https://www.purdue.edu/hhs/slhs/clinics/audiology.html>  
Purdue University  
715 Clinic Drive  
West Lafayette, IN 47907  
Phone: (765) 494-4229  
Fax (765) 494-0771

---

## One of the Top Ten Museums in Indiana (And My Personal Favorite)

By Sara Jane Coffman



If I were to tell you that one of the top ten museums in Indiana is here in West Lafayette, what would you say?

You don't need a reservation, and there's no entrance fee. You can spend as little time there as you want, or you can take your lunch and spend the day. You can stroll around on your own—or, as I did—have a docent show you around. McKenzie, my docent, pointed out so many amazing things on my tour that all I could say was: “Oh, my.” “Oh, my.” “Oh, MY!”

This museum is primarily known for its rectangularly-shaped intellectual artwork and its life-sized (practically-antique himself) owner, named John von Erdmannsdorff. John is quite proud of his “museum” and enjoys answering questions about the place. If you want to chat with him, you might need to have someone go and find him. He's likely either bent over behind a pile of books, searching for something in the attic, or organizing books down in the basement.

The thing is, this place isn't advertised as a museum—they call themselves a bookstore. It all started when John and his wife were graduate students at Purdue. They (and their classmates) had trouble finding the books they needed, so John would order them and store them in his dining room. Then in his living room. Then in the second floor of their apartment.

In 1973, John moved the books into his store on State Street and has been ordering books for Purdue students, and the community, ever since. John believes in stocking a variety of titles and he must have well over a million books.

Let me give you a quick tour. The front door doesn't really do the place justice, so imagine a quaint wooden door on a Victorian bookstore where a bell tinkles as you enter. As you step inside, you're immediately surrounded by books. Books on carts, books in piles on the floor, books on upright shelves, and books on shelves at an angle. There are sale books, best-selling books, and books recommended by the staff.

Take six steps, make a right-hand turn, then stop and take in the displays of unique and unusual collectibles. Where else would you find a Ruth Bader Ginsburg stuffed rag doll? An old-fashioned tin of Edgar Allen Poe mints? Mr. Rogers game cards? A Charles Darwin candle? “The Office” puzzle?

Take a few more steps and you'll find yourself standing in front of an old wooden desk. That's their main office where you can ask questions or pay for your discoveries. Behind the desk you'll find the life-sized (also practically-antique) manager. Jim was one of John's first customers and has worked there for 50 years.

Jim is easy to find. According to his son, Jim has been standing in the exact same spot for the entire 50 years. While you're standing there, listen for the click of a typewriter. Jim uses a typewriter instead of a computer. But it's not his original typewriter. He admits he's worn out several over the years.

After you pass through the bookstore, you walk up a slight incline, into a second room. You have now entered the twilight zone! There's so much to look at, and you'll want to touch everything.

The center of the room is dominated by a humongous table with tiny containers of every kind of rock and crystal you can imagine. You can use them to make your own jewelry or select pieces and have someone on the staff make something for you.

There are (I'm not kidding) millions and millions of strands of colorful beads hanging on the walls. Around the perimeter of the room there are pieces of Native American pottery, candles, picture frames, tiny stone animals, stone chess sets, and unique, modern-day kitchen items, like a carrot-shaped carrot-peeler.

But wait! There's more. If you can pull yourself away from that room, you enter a third room. This room contains trendy, hippy clothes for young women. Even if you're not a trendy, hippy young woman, walk down the aisle and take in the earthy colors and different styles. They even have some wrap-around clothes for people who still have the ability to wrap things around themselves.

This is the room where you should just hand your teen-age granddaughter your credit card and go back and wait in the book section.

I challenge you to leave that room without buying a pair of fun socks from their huge selection for yourself or for someone else. Or buy a ring. Or a wig. They have both natural wigs and party wigs in case you want to have blue hair for a day.

But wait. There's more! If you can pull yourself out of the third room, you'll enter their music room.

This is where to bring your younger grandkids. There are hundreds and hundreds of stuffed animals, comic books, posters for their bedrooms, puzzles, and unique and unusual toys. Your grandkids might even talk you into getting them a hand-woven Tibetan rug to play on.

But there's stuff for people our age, too. There are vinyl records of both new recordings and classics. And there's a wonderful selection of greeting cards that you won't find at the grocery store.

The last stop on your tour is the basement where they store their used books. You can get there by going down a one-of-a-kind, old-fashioned, wooden staircase (luckily quite wide), or, if you're not big on walking down stairs, Jim will run down and get the book for you. (Or, if his knees are acting up that day, he'll send one of their younger "docents.")

For me, visiting Von's is like going to a museum. It fills me with wonder and sparks my imagination.

And to think -- it's in our very own backyard.

**APOLOGIES**—The editor sincerely apologizes to authors Sara Jane Coffman and Nancy Grenard for the unfortunate errors which appeared in their articles in the email version of the November *PURA News*. Despite best efforts by all involved, the newsletter's complexity and short turnaround time sometimes gets the best of us.

## Through December 31, Holiday Doings in Indiana



### Hanukkah, Nov. 28 through Dec. 6:

- **Indy Hanukkah Guide.** <https://indywithkids.com/indy-hanukkah-activities/>
- **WTHR Where to celebrate the Jewish Festival of Lights in Central Indiana.** <https://www.wthr.com/article/life/holidays/hanukkah-central-indiana-celebrations-jewish-festival-of-lights/531-42e642df-1a76-42ce-ac64-2e721d4b4d47>

### Christmas:

- **"A Christmas Story" Comes Home**—South Shore Railroad's Indiana Welcome Center. Hammond, Indiana. Six animatronic window displays from Macy's Department Store in New York, featuring scenes from Gene Shepherd's "A Christmas Story". <https://www.southshorecva.com/achristmasstory/>
- **Carmel Christkindlmarkt.** Carmel, Indiana. Thursdays-Sundays. <https://www.carmelchristkindlmarkt.com/>
- **Shipshewana's Lights of Joy.** Drive-through holiday lights display. 345 Van Buren Street, Shipshewana, Indiana. <https://www.shipshewanalightsofjoy.com/>
- **Blue Jacket's Fantasy of Lights.** Ft. Wayne. Includes 8 new displays and theme nights. <https://www.bluejacketinc.org/events/Lights>

Visit *Indiana Website* (<https://www.visitindiana.com/events/holiday-season-celebrations>) for more seasonal celebrations across the state.



## PURA's Historic Purdue Characters: Lillian Moeller Gilbreth

As you know, to help celebrate Purdue University's 150th anniversary in 2019, PURA recruited some of its members to portray historic characters from Purdue's past. The reenactors researched their characters, developed costumes and personas, then appeared at a number of public events sharing the stories of these important Purdue figures with the public.

In this new article in the series, please meet another remarkable Purdue "character," Lillian Moller Gilbreth, written by reenactor Carolyn Jones, the PURA member who has portrayed Gilbreth throughout the project.



**Carolyn Jones, portraying Lillian Gilbreth. [Photo taken at the Purdue Women's Club's (PWC) 200th anniversary luncheon in 2022. Photo courtesy of PURA member Karen Weatherwax and PWC.]**

### **Lillian Moller Gilbreth (1878-1972)**

**Risk Taker—Ground Breaker—Innovator—Glass-ceiling Breaker—BOILERMAKER!**

Lillian Moller Gilbreth clearly checked all these boxes. She grew up in an era when women desiring to be professionals had basically three choices—be a teacher, a nurse, or a secretary. Of the three, Lillian chose to become a teacher. To accomplish this meant she'd need to go to college. Clearly the desire was there, but her father presented an obstacle. Like many men near the turn of the century, he unequivocally believed the woman's place was in the home. Even though the University of California Berkeley was less than ten miles up the road from the Moller home in Oakland, he remained adamant. His answer was, "NO." Try as hard as she did, Lillian was unable to change his mindset. Finally, she came up with a compromise. If she could go to U. Cal., she would agree to live at home. She posed this to her father. He wanted to talk it over with her mother. Two weeks later, he finally told her they had decided if she lived up to her word to live at home and commute by trolley to college, she could go. Obviously, she was elated. Not only was she going to be able to pursue her dream, but she had outwitted her father. What he didn't know at that time, but she did, was all four dorms on the Berkeley campus were for men. Girls attending U. Cal. HAD to live at home.

Because Lillian liked to read, she chose British Literature as her major. The four years went quickly. She became highly involved in campus life, and in several areas was the leader. She also was named class valedictorian. The tradition at U. Cal. was the top student in each graduating class became the class speaker. Lillian was the first woman in U. Cal.'s history to be accorded this honor. Her parents came to hear her. Afterward, her father let her know he was one of the proudest dads in the crowd!

After completing her bachelor's degree, Lillian went back and earned her master's degree. That, too, was in British Literature. Immediately after graduating, she and three classmates celebrated their accomplishments by going first to Boston for a couple of weeks then on to Europe for three more. While in Boston, she met Frank Gilbreth. Two years later they were married.

By that time, Frank a former bricklayer, construction manager, and contractor, had started his own consulting firm, Gilbreth Inc., which specialized in helping companies increase efficiency and productivity. He developed a process he called Time and Motion Studies that involved

visiting factories and taking movies of the employees interacting with machines. Then he would bring these movies home and analyze them. Lillian would often observe the latter. Eventually, she began to notice he was spending much more time analyzing the efficiency of the machines than the physical and working conditions of the employees and the impact these had on their efficiency. Quietly she pointed this out, and he listened!

During this time, the Gilbreths moved to Providence, Rhode Island. Becoming increasingly intrigued with the human side of Frank's Time and Motion Studies, Lillian contacted Brown University about enrolling in a Ph.D. program in psychology. While they had nothing that matched what she sought, the faculty agreed to put a special program together for her they'd call Applied Psychology. They did. She completed it and received, as promised, a Ph.D. for her work. At the time it was the only doctoral program of its kind in the nation. Thus, Lillian became the first of the pioneers in the field of industrial management to have a Ph.D. However, as the Gilbreths' fame grew, more universities began offering similar doctoral programs under the title Industrial Psychology.

Throughout her time at Brown, Lillian used what she was learning to study and analyze worker effectiveness. After graduating, she became the first American to blend principles of psychology with the prevailing organizational leadership theme of the day, Frederick Taylor's Scientific Management, and apply the combination to the field of engineering. Soon thereafter, the Gilbreths became known as the Father and Mother of Modern Management, and they spent the rest of their professional lives together developing and promoting interdisciplinary research-based recommendations and management practices to help companies identify and implement "The One Best Way To Do Work." Their extensive research on worker fatigue became the forerunner to present day work in the field of ergonomics.

Tragically, Frank died suddenly of a heart attack in 1924. Lillian took over Gilbreth, Inc. and as Frank had done, she traveled both nationally and internationally speaking, teaching, and consulting. In addition, she took over the eight years remaining on his ten-year contract as a visiting lecturer at Purdue University. In the latter role, she came to the campus at least twice a year to lecture and to help the faculty incorporate the results of Frank's latest research as well as hers in human factors into the Engineering curriculum.

During this time, Lillian also turned more of her attention toward the kitchen—not to cooking, for she was not a very good cook—but to kitchen layout and equipment design. She developed an optimal work triangle placing the sink at the apex in the middle with the icebox/refrigerator a few feet away on one side and the stove/oven a few feet away on the other. She also promoted adapting the height of counters to the height of the worker. Because she felt the kitchen frequently served as the housewife's office, she also recommended placing a planning desk there that included a shelf for cook books and recipes as well as two drawers—one for storing paid and unpaid bills and the other for storing "housewife tools." In addition, she designed a service table with wheels to minimize walking while setting a table and transporting food to the dining room. Forever looking to increase efficiency, she also designed pull-out shelves in refrigerators as well as special places in the door to store butter and eggs. Adding a foot pedal to open a closed waste container was another of her ideas, as was putting a switch on a wall to turn lights on and off, eliminating the need to walk to the middle of a room to pull a string hanging from a light fixture for this purpose.

In the mid 1930's, Purdue President Edward Elliott brought several prominent professional women to campus to be role models and help female students expand their horizons, consider the possibilities, and aspire to professional careers which at that time were male-dominated domains. Lillian Gilbreth and Amelia Earhart were among those invited to participate in this program. Lillian was hired as an Associate Professor of Engineering and given part-time appointments in engineering, psychology, home economics, and the Dean of Women's Office, the latter as a career counselor for women. Amelia Earhart served as a visiting professor and consultant in Aeronautical Engineering as well as a career counselor in the Office of the Dean of Women. Because neither planned to establish permanent homes in West Lafayette, Dean Dorothy Stratton made special arrangements with Helen Schleman, Director of Women's Residences for each of the two visitors to have apartments in the Windsor Halls complex. Consequently, Lillian and Amelia spent considerable time together eating with students and in the evening, talking with each other. As a result, they became close friends. When Lillian first discovered the two would be working together, she exclaimed, "I'm so glad because I'm one of her ardent admirers!" Afterward, Amelia noted, "The most rewarding part of my time at the University was my association with Lillian Gilbreth."

Lillian was promoted to Professor of Engineering at Purdue and remained here until her retirement in 1948. Amelia left in 1936 to prepare for what became her life-ending attempt to fly around the world. Even today, the indelible marks each made on the campus remain alive at Purdue.

Lillian Gilbreth was not only a very productive ground-breaker and creative innovator, she also was an amazing woman. Her list of accomplishments, honors, and accolades is both wide-ranging and numerous. A sampling of these includes the following:

- Served as advisor to five U.S. Presidents: Hoover, Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson
- Served on innumerable federal agency committees and advisory boards
- Became the first woman Professor of Engineering not only at Purdue but nationally
- Became the first woman to be inducted into the prestigious National Academy of Engineering
- Received 23 honorary doctoral degrees--one of which was from Purdue
- Became both an honorary member and a full member of the American Society of Industrial Engineers and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (second woman in both)
- Selected as an honorary member of the British Women's Engineering Society
- Received the Association of Management and Industrial Engineers of the Philippines Award
- Inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame
- Has her portrait hung in the National Portrait Gallery
- Had a US. Postal Services stamp issued in her honor
- Inducted into membership in Phi Beta Kappa—University of California-Berkley
- Selected as an honorary member of Mortar Board by Purdue students
- Selected as an honorary member of the Society of Women Engineers by Purdue students

While all of the above is awe-inspiring, that's not all—there's more!

Lillian Gilbreth also was the birth mother of 12 children (no twins) born just 16 years apart. Perhaps you've read the book or seen the movie "Cheaper by the Dozen". It's a true story about the Gilbreth family written by son Frank Jr. and daughter Ernestine. Yes, Lillian's the mother of that lively clan!

Frank and Lillian began married life in New York City, but a few years later needing more space to accommodate their growing family, they moved to Providence, Rhode Island. From there, it was on to a big, old Victorian mansion in Montclair, New Jersey just across the state line from New York City. This became the final home for this family which then numbered fourteen.

Once the school year was over, it was time for the family to pack up the car and head to Nantucket to an old abandoned lighthouse they bought and turned into a carefree summer home for their children. Appropriately, it was called "The Shoe" in honor of their favorite nursery rhyme. Frank and Lillian along with any guests who appeared stayed in the former caretaker's place on the property which also housed the kitchen and dining room. Imagine how much fun it must have been for the Gilbreth clan—regardless of age—to go barefoot all summer, run in the sand, play in the water, and sleep—some in hammocks inside a lighthouse with the wind whistling and the waves slapping against the outer walls. That was Nantucket, and all the Gilbreths loved it!

Major decisions in the Gilbreth household were made by the Family Council. Each resident had one vote. When Frank unexpectedly passed away, he had been scheduled to embark five days later on a six-week European business trip to speak at several prestigious international engineering conferences and make numerous contacts with prospective Gilbreth, Inc. clients. The day before his funeral, Lillian convened the Family Council. She explained the family's potential future financial situation noting that to remain together, she would have to leave for Europe in two days to fulfill all of their father's obligations. Staying home might result in the family needing to break up, move to California, and live with various cousins. She asked her children to think about these options overnight. The Family Council would reconvene the next day to continue their discussions.

Following Frank's funeral, the family got together. Before Lillian could say anything, Anne, the oldest, announced she and all her siblings unequivocally wanted to remain living together. To accomplish this they developed a plan. The four oldest would take care of the four youngest and the four in the middle agreed to take care of themselves. She had twelve votes supporting their plan, she noted. Then she asked her mother, "What's yours?" With a lump in her throat and a heart overflowing with gratitude, Lillian said, "Make it thirteen!" A day later, she left for Europe and was away from home for about six weeks.

During her return trip across the ocean, Lillian thought about the number of contracts that had been signed and prospective clients she'd met. Based on these results, she was optimistic that financially she would be able to keep her family together. Upon returning home, however, she discovered all twelve of her children had chicken pox while she was away. "Mercy Maude," she exclaimed. "How did you manage to survive?" After hearing the doctor stopped every other day to see them and the neighbors kept them supplied with what little food they wanted, she settled down and began to think. Given she felt she could support her family financially and they had already proven they could manage a major health crisis in her absence, could this be an omen that her family would be able to continue to stay together? Twelve hearty "Yes" votes followed. With confidence, Lillian once again added, "Make that thirteen!" For the Gilbreths, remaining together as a family was meant to be!

Lillian was proud, very proud, of her family which she loved so dearly. She also was very grateful she could generate the financial resources needed to hire permanent live-in help so her family could stay together even when she was traveling and had to be away for long periods of time. Lillian also was able to put all twelve children through college. Each graduated (one from Purdue) and much to her delight, all became gainfully employed in their respective fields of choice.

Internationally Renowned Engineer—National Legend—Boilermaker Icon—Beloved Wife and Mother—Purdue Mom. Lillian checked all these boxes, too. She truly was one of a kind!

What an honor it has been for me to portray her as part of the Purdue University Retirees Association's contribution to Purdue's 150th Anniversary Celebration.

---

**Author:**

Carolyn Jones

Associate Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Emerita

Purdue University Retirees Association

## December Campus/Community Calendar Highlights

### [events.purdue.edu](http://events.purdue.edu)

Purdue's one-stop-shopping events calendar, which features campus, student, and community events. Highlights for December include:

- **3 Dec.—Lafayette Christmas Parade.** Downtown Lafayette. 5:30 p.m. ET.
- **3 Dec.—Native American Winter Art Market.** Noon to 4:00 p.m. ET. Purdue Native American Education and Cultural Center.
- **3-4 Dec.—Annual PMO Christmas Show.** Elliott Hall of Music.
- **17 Dec.—Lafayette Symphony Holiday Pops Concert.** 7:30 p.m. ET. Long Center for the Performing Arts.
- **Purdue Winter Sports (basketball, volleyball, track & field, swimming & diving, wrestling), ongoing:**

Football, Big Ten Championship game on Dec 3 at 8:00 p.m. ET at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

Weekly Purdue basketball coaches' radio shows. Attend in person at Walk On Sports Bistro, in the Purdue Memorial Union (Ever True Stage), or listen on WAZY 96.5 FM.

Tues., Dec. 6; Mon., Dec. 12; Mon., Jan. 9. Matt Painter, 6:00-7:00 p.m. ET, Katie Gearlds 7:10-8:00 p.m. ET.

Basketball, Big 10 games begin: women, Dec. 5 at Michigan State; men, Dec. 4 vs. Minnesota.

Volleyball, Big 10 contests continue through November; soccer, swimming and diving, cross country and wrestling also ongoing.

## Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming PURA Events

### 5 December, 2022 PURA monthly meeting.

- **Location:** IN-PERSON at Lafayette VFW, Duncan Road, Lafayette, Indiana. Also **VIA ZOOM** broadcast from our studio at the VFW.
- **Time:** Lunch begins at 11:45 a.m. ET; program begins at 12:30 p.m. ET; speaker at 12:40 p.m. ET.
- **Speaker:** Trevor Luzum, Reamer Club, Purdue.
- **Topic:** Evolution of Purdue Pete and the Boilermaker Special.

### 2 January, 2023 NO PURA MONTHLY MEETING due to the holiday.

### 6 February, 2023 PURA monthly meeting.

- **Location:** IN-PERSON at Lafayette VFW, Duncan Road, Lafayette, Indiana. Also **VIA ZOOM** broadcast from our studio at the VFW.
- **Time:** Lunch begins at 11:45 a.m. ET; program begins at 12:30 p.m. ET; speaker at 12:40 p.m. ET.
- **Speaker:** Dr. Jason Henderson, Sr. Assoc. Dean & Director of Extension, Purdue college of Agriculture
- **Topic:** Indiana Cooperative Extension Service, Then, Now, Tomorrow

### 6 March, 2023 PURA monthly meeting.

- **Location:** IN-PERSON at Lafayette VFW, Duncan Road, Lafayette, Indiana. Also **VIA ZOOM** broadcast from our studio at the VFW.
- **Time:** Lunch begins at 11:45 a.m. ET; program begins at 12:30 p.m. ET; speaker at 12:40 p.m. ET. Lunch begins at 11:45 a.m. ET; program begins at 12:30 p.m. ET; speaker at 12:40 p.m. ET.
- **Speaker:** Dee Nicley, Purdue Extension Educator, 4-H and Youth Development, Tippecanoe County
- **Topic:** Tippecanoe County 4-H, Then and Now

### 3 April, 2023 PURA monthly meeting.

- **Location:** IN-PERSON at Lafayette VFW, Duncan Road, Lafayette, Indiana. Also **VIA ZOOM** broadcast from our studio at the VFW.
- **Time:** Lunch begins at 11:45 a.m. ET; program begins at 12:30 p.m. ET; speaker at 12:40 p.m. ET. Lunch begins at 11:45 a.m. ET; program begins at 12:30 p.m. ET; speaker at 12:40 p.m. ET.
- **Speaker:** Deanna Watson, retired, Lafayette J & C
- **Topic:** MSM Influence on the Demise of the Lafayette Journal & Courier

### 19 April, 2023 PURA Annual Spring Conference. Beck Agricultural Center, West Lafayette.

PURA's virtual meetings are presented via Zoom. Zoom connection information and other important updates are provided via email, the *PURA News* newsletter, and our website: [www.purdue.edu/retirees](http://www.purdue.edu/retirees)

## Purdue Academic/Holiday Schedule

**17 Dec.—Fall semester ends;** winter commencements on Dec. 17-18.

**23, 26-30 Dec., and Jan. 2, 2023—University holidays.** Offices closed.

**9 Jan., 2023—Spring semester begins.**

**16 Jan., 2023—Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.** No classes. Offices closed.

**13-18 Mar., 2023—Spring Break.** No classes.

## About PURA News

The Purdue University Retirees Association newsletter is published for official retirees of Purdue University, and prepared by the PURA Communications Committee.

**Send suggestions or ideas for PURA or the newsletter to:**

Office of Retiree Affairs  
2550 Northwestern Ave., Suite 1100  
West Lafayette, IN 47906  
Telephone, via Purdue Benefits help line:  
(toll free) 877-725-0222  
Email: [pura@purdue.edu](mailto:pura@purdue.edu)

2022-2023 PURA Communications Committee:

*Chair: Karen Lembcke*

*Members: Connie Bilyeu, Jo Thomas*

**[www.purdue.edu/retirees](http://www.purdue.edu/retirees)**

## Zoom Connection Information for PURA Meetings

The Zoom connection information for PURA monthly meetings is shown below. **The link, Meeting ID, and password will be the SAME for all normal monthly meetings.**

Members who wish to join via phone call audio only will need the separate Passcode shown below. (The password/passcode for that method is different from the normal “computer connection” to Zoom.)

### Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/97285398989?  
pwd=MIB4U0FudEplMFRoWm1GTkZzNmYrZz09](https://zoom.us/j/97285398989?pwd=MIB4U0FudEplMFRoWm1GTkZzNmYrZz09)

**Meeting ID:** 972 8539 8989

**Passcode:** BoilerUp

### One tap mobile

+13126266799,,97285398989#,,,,,0#,,41051096# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,97285398989#,,,,,0#,,41051096# US (New York)

### Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 972 8539 8989

**Passcode:** 41051096

**Find your local number:** <https://zoom.us/u/acvQOKVcnE>

