



November 2025 Update

Hold the Date for these PURA and Purdue Annual Events

HAAN MANSION TOUR is scheduled for December 9, 2025. Space is limited, and reservations will be required. See registration information below.

A **PURA EVENING AT CIVIC THEATRE** is scheduled for December 10, 2025 at Civic Theater of Greater Lafayette located at 313 N. 5th Street in Lafayette. Attend a free performance of the play “A Christmas Carol – Radio Play.” See registration information below.

PURDUE SPRING SEMESTER CLASSES begin on January 12, 2026.

The **2026 PURA ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE** is scheduled for April 22, 2026 at the Beck Agricultural Center located at 4550 US 52 West in West Lafayette.

Upcoming PURA Monthly (First Monday) Meeting Schedule

Location: IN-PERSON at Lafayette VFW, Duncan Road, Lafayette, Indiana. Also, via ZOOM broadcast from our studio at the VFW.

Time: 10:00 am ET to approximately 11:30 am ET.

Monday, December 1, 2025 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Jay T. Akridge, Trustee Chair in Teaching and Learning Excellence, Professor of Agricultural Economics - Purdue
- Jay Akridge teaches classes on leadership and agribusiness management and conducts research on agribusiness issues including technology adoption and human talent needs. Jay is co-author (with David Hummels) of the Substack *Finding Equilibrium* which is focused on the future of higher education. He served from 2017-2022 as Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity at Purdue. Jay previously served for 9+ years as the Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture. Jay is listed in Purdue's Book of Great Teachers. His family owns and operates a fourth-generation farm supply business in Fredonia, Kentucky.
- Topic: Rebuilding Trust in Higher Education: The Opportunity for Land-Grant Universities
- Public trust in higher education has eroded over the past two decades. Many factors have contributed to the loss of trust and created a set of extraordinary headwinds currently facing the sector. What are the factors leading to this loss of trust and what are the implications for higher

education? Despite the current challenges, land-grant universities with their unique tripartite mission (learning, discovery, engagement) have an opportunity to provide the blueprint for rebuilding trust in higher education through their relevance and impact.

Monday, January 5, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Mark Kebert, Director of Risk Management - Purdue
- Topic: Risk Management at Purdue University

Monday, February 2, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Astrophysicist Dr. Danny Milisavljevic – Purdue
- Topic: WEBB Telescope Update

The November Monthly Meeting Program – Tech Toys & Other Computer Topics

Our PURA program on November 3rd featured Scott Ksander, our very own self-described “Computer Geek”. 57 in-person attendees and 48 via Zoom confirmed the popularity of this annual offering. Scott shared nearly two dozen, reasonable priced, tech toys and helpful tech devices complete with vendor, prices, and full descriptions. They range from an Electric Santa Hat (Walmart), to Memory Orb Ornament (displays photos) (Amazon), Santa’s Magical Telephone (Mr.Christmas.com), Toy Racing Adventure (thetoyrealm.com), to a really cool Space Projection Light (Amazon). Scott was especially high on the Key Smart Wallet Tracker Card (thin as a credit card, enabling you to track most anything (keys, wallet, suitcases, your spouse) (Life360). Information on all devices can be found on Scott’s presentation slides that are posted on PURA’s website: purdue.edu/retirees/.

Also, at the meeting Larry Pherson and Kate Lamar shared information and answered questions on PURA Group Health Insurance Plans. We are fortunate to have retirees representing us and directly involved in negotiating these plans, balancing benefits and costs. Thanks to Larry and his committee.

Summary provided by John Sautter, Chair of the PURA Program Committee.



PURA University Hall Tour - Where the past meets the future

University Hall was to be the first building on the Purdue campus where classes began in the fall of 1874. It wasn't. It was the last of the six original buildings to open its doors in 1877. Today it is the only one of the original buildings still standing and the only one remaining partially funded by John Purdue who oversaw its early construction.

The October 13th PURA tour of University Hall that has been remodeled and restored to its original student focused purpose was a huge success. Forty-nine people expressed interest in going, many more than could be accommodated. The College of Liberal Arts was very generous, especially Erin VanEmon, CLA Director of Projects. The original one tour was expanded to three and the first thirty-four retirees who responded were taken through the building, ending with a presentation from John Purdue talking about his involvement with the University that shares his name and University Hall.

More special PURA tours are planned. Summary provided by John Norberg, Chair of the PURA Campus & Community Committee.

Haan Mansion Tour – December 9

Join us for a special tour of the Haan Museum of Indiana Art on Tuesday December 9 at 2:00 pm. The Museum will be decorated throughout with special holiday-themed rooms and an amazing train layout that goes through three rooms. If you have never been to the Haan than this will be a special treat as the furniture, paintings and ceramics are really world class even without all the special seasonal decorations. The tour, limited to twenty people, is partially underwritten by PURA and cost is \$10/person. Please reserve your place by E-mailing Debby Sherman at dsherman@purdue.edu. Provide your full contact information including phone. We prefer payment sent in advance to: Debby Sherman, 2817 Bentbrook Lane, West Lafayette, 47906. This will speed things along when arriving at The Haan although it will be possible to pay at the door if there is not time to mail payment in advance. **Checks should be made out to The Haan.**

A PURA Evening at Civic Theatre – December 10

CIVIC Theatre has invited PURA members and their guests to a free evening performance of "A Christmas Carol – The Live Radio Play" on Wednesday, December 10th. The evening will begin at 6:00 pm with appetizers courtesy of PURA and a cash bar. The theatre will open at 7:00 pm with the performance starting at 7:30 pm. The show is free, but you will need to request a reservation. Please email Lucia Anderson at Luciaanderson25@gmail.com with your request for the number of tickets you need. She will confirm via return email that she has received your request. Space is limited to the first 150 attendees. Reservation requests must be sent to Lucia by November 23rd.

Purdue Retiree Flu Shots – By the Numbers

There were 544 PURA members vaccinated, and 114 members received a wellness screening during the three flu shot clinics. We would like to give a special shoutout again to all the Purdue School of Nursing students who assist in staffing these flu shot and wellness clinics. We would also like to thank Purdue HR for underwriting these flu shots and the Center for Healthy Living for coordinating the shot clinics.

Thinking about year-end giving – Consider the PURA Scholarship Endowments

In early December you will receive a reminder with a dedicated web-site address to contribute to the two PURA scholarship endowments: the PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke and the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment. These endowments have provided financial assistance to over 75 Indiana students pursuing bachelor's degrees in agricultural, life science, engineering, aviation technology, liberal arts, computer science, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, etc.

While planning your year-end giving, please consider a donation to one or both of the endowments. The student recipients over the years have been amazed that the Purdue retirees have given so generously to the endowments and in their thank you notes some have mentioned that they will do the same after they graduate. What a legacy the PURA members have started.

Let's continue to support our Indiana students wanting to become a Boilermaker.

Purdue's United Way 2025 Fund Drive

Purdue's 2025 United Way fund drive is winding down. You may have received a United Way mailing earlier this fall that included a letter from PURA President Charlene Sullivan inviting your participation. Historically Purdue retiree donations make up a significant percentage of the overall Purdue funds raised for this worthy cause. If you have already given, thank you. If not, it is not too late to participate. [Purdue United Way](#)

Volunteer Opportunities for PURA Members

- The College of Agriculture is looking for PURA volunteers to help with hospitality at an event during Fall Commencement on December 21 from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm. Parking pass will be provided. Contact for information and to volunteer is Danica Kirkpatrick danica@purdue.edu. If interested please make contact by November 26.
- PURA members are eligible to apply to be classroom volunteers with teachers or students in grades K-6. Volunteers can serve in any K-6 school in the Lafayette, West Lafayette, or Tippecanoe School Corporations. First time volunteers would attend an orientation session with school staff to answer questions and prepare them to serve as volunteers as well as an opportunity to observe a volunteer in action. Reach out to Jim Freeland jhfreeland45@outlook.com for more information or to volunteer.

Purdue Honors PURA Member John Norberg

John Norberg, Purdue University historian and acclaimed author and journalist, has been named the 2025 recipient of Purdue's Distinguished Boilermaker Award. The honor recognizes individuals who embody the spirit of the Boilermaker — industriousness and innovation, dedication and diligence, gratitude and grit, and service above self.

Norberg has helped preserve and share the university's story for generations of students, alumni, and friends through his nine books chronicling Purdue's remarkable people, history, and traditions, and through his engaging portrayal of benefactor John Purdue at campus and community events. His work reflects a deep and abiding love for Purdue and a life that exemplifies being "ever grateful, ever true."

Norberg joined Purdue in 2000 as speechwriter to then-President Martin C. Jischke and later served as director of communications for development. Before coming to Purdue, he built a distinguished career with the Lafayette Journal & Courier, where he wrote a popular column for more than 40 years and earned more than 50 state and national journalism awards. His writing has appeared in USA Today, Time, the Christian Science Monitor and the Saturday Evening Post, and he has been featured on CBS News Sunday Morning and NPR's Big Picture Science. Among his many honors, Norberg is a member of the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame, and he also has received the Purdue for Life Foundation's Special Boilermaker Award and the Block P Award from Purdue Bands & Orchestras.



Reminder - Parking for Events at the Elliott Hall of Music

Effective October 2, 2025, paid event parking at campus parking garages and lots that support evening and weekend events at the Elliott Hall of Music will be required. A paid event parking pass through ParkMobile will need to be purchased for the following parking locations starting two hours before each weeknight or weekend event:

- Northwestern Avenue Parking Garage
- University Street Parking Garage

- The parking lot directly north of Lawson Computer Science Building
- Accessible parking spaces in the Armory lot

Eligible Purdue parking permit holders, including retirees with an “A” parking permit, who are parked in one of the locations above prior to the two hours that the event parking rates take effect will be able to remain parked with no event parking pass required.

When arriving for an Elliott Hall of Music event after the time the event parking begins at the four event designated locations, individuals will either need to pay for the event parking rate or seek alternative, free parking in one of the following lots:

- On Russell Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets
- On Waldron Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets
- South of Duhme Residence Hall

Event parking passes cost \$11.50 and may be purchased in advance through ParkMobile: <https://app.parkmobile.io>. Event questions may be sent to Purdue Convocations at convos@purdue.edu, and event parking or the use of ParkMobile questions may be directed to Parking Operations at parking@purdue.edu or 765-494-9497.

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Visit the PURA website www.purdue.edu/retirees for information about PURA activities and benefits.

Questions about PURA may be sent to pura@purdue.edu.