

# THiNK

MAGAZINE

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS | *Fall 2017*

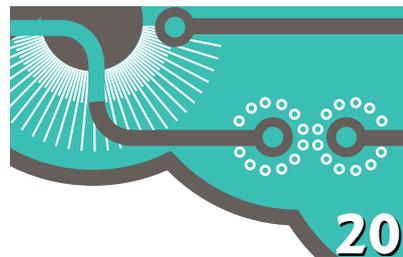






Design students from the Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Visual and Performing Arts won first place at the SOFA Chicago CONNECT student design competition with their installation *A Natural Urban Environment*. Continued on page 8.

Photo provided by Sigrid Zahner.



# THiNK MAGAZINE

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THiNK Staff

*Art Director and Designer:* Patty O'Friel

THiNK Contributors

*Writers and Editors:*

Georgette Beatty, Petronio Bendito, Lorri Foster, Bridget Williams Golden, Kristin Hill, Gabrielle Hlavek, Catherine LaBelle, Avery Nunez, Caroline Shanley, Elena Sparger, Lori Sparger, Dorothy Wallheimer, Shelby Ward, Sam Watermeier

*Photographers and Illustrators:*

Petronio Bendito, Lorri Foster, Jarrod Hurt, Charles Jischke, Deborah Keller, Trevor Mahlmann, Mark Simons, John Underwood, Vince Walters, Rebecca Wilcox

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*THiNK Magazine*

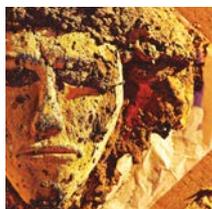
Purdue University  
College of Liberal Arts  
100 N. University Street  
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2098  
(765) 494-3663  
thinkcla@purdue.edu

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**Keeping your letters current:** In order to share your thoughts in a more timely manner, we are posting the comments and letters previously featured in "Your Views" as we receive them to our website. Join us at [cla.purdue.edu/think](http://cla.purdue.edu/think), email us at [thinkcla@purdue.edu](mailto:thinkcla@purdue.edu), or write to us at the address noted above.

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**ON THE COVER.** Face from a wooden coffin found in a New Kingdom period burial at the site of Tombo. The item was uncovered during a burial archaeology dig in the Nile Valley. The yellow paint color of the face is usually associated with women in ancient Egyptian burial practices. Photo provided by Professor of Anthropology Michele Buzon.



# | C O N S I D E R   T H I S |



Photo by Mark Simons.

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share exciting updates from the College that build upon goals I outlined in this space a year ago.

**The College rolled out our Degree in 3 program** in September, offering students a three-year path to a bachelor of arts degree in all of our academic units. For students who want a robust, expedited undergraduate experience and significant cost savings, Degree in 3 is a compelling option.

**Our Cornerstone Integrated Liberal Arts program launched** this fall with students from a variety of colleges across campus enrolled in our first introductory Transformative Texts classes. Cornerstone positions the College to better define our role in the education of all Purdue students.

**With our commitment to helping our students make connections to launch their careers, we opened our Career Center** in February. Partnerships and developing corporate relationships already are creating connections that have led to internships and jobs for our students in the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors.

**Faculty in the College continue to advance important research in the arts, humanities, and social sciences.** I am proud to see their work recognized by top agencies and funders, such as the National Science Foundation and the Gates Foundation, that enable them to expand research that addresses important challenges. Also noteworthy is the

Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities, which placed our Brian Lamb School of Communication #17 and the Department of Sociology #36 in its global ranking.

In the coming year, we will do the following:

**Scale up Cornerstone** to offer more Purdue students the opportunity to choose a first-year experience that includes classes with some of our best faculty.

**Continue to grow our recruitment of incoming students**, which saw an increase of 11 percent this fall.

**Build awareness of the excellent work of our faculty** and encourage their efforts to secure external support for their research programs.

This fall, the College has benefited from noteworthy and very public support for our initiatives from the central administration of the University. Together, I am confident that we can continue to elevate the reputation of the liberal arts at Purdue.

Thank you for your support of these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Reingold". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

DAVID A. REINGOLD  
*Justin S. Morrill Dean*



# Understanding German Idealists

**E**ven at a time when much of the world's information is accessible at the click of a button, the opportunity to conduct research on-site in Germany has been invaluable to Christopher Yeomans, professor and incoming head of the Department of Philosophy. As an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Research Fellow at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Yeomans has combined his research on the philosophies of three prominent 18th-century German Idealists with the historical context of the time in which they lived and wrote.

Yeomans says that conducting his research in the three philosophers' country of origin was critical for two important reasons. Not only was he able to confer across Germany with experts on the three, but he was also able to examine how their philosophies could apply to both modern Germany and the United States.

"I was able to see the pattern of social division playing out in a very different society, as Germany struggles with many of the same issues as we do in the United States but in importantly different ways," he says. "Seeing the issues arise in a third, historical context—in addition to 'saddle period' Germany and contemporary American society—helped me to get a sense of what is conceptually basic as opposed to what is determined by historical context."

Yeomans hopes that his research will help draw parallels between the social and political struggles faced by Germans in the 18th and 19th centuries, and those we face today. "In the United States at the moment, we face a political divide between urban and rural populations, between cosmopolitanism and traditionalism, and between a competitive, success-oriented capitalist economy and deep rootedness in family and community," Yeomans says. "These tensions would not have seemed so strange to the German Idealists, who struggled with them at the beginnings of the modern era. The hope is that the conceptual resources they developed for that struggle will be helpful to us as we try to understand our own political moment." Yeomans makes these comparisons himself in an upcoming forthcoming essay using Hegelian concepts to interpret J.D. Vance's *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*.

Yeomans had his first serious foray into historical research in 2013, under the guidance of history professors Charles Ingrao

and Whitney Walton as part of the Provost's Faculty Fellowship for Study in a Second Discipline. That research spawned the first of two projects he worked on in Munich, which he describes as "an attempt to construct a theory of historical subjectivity... [or] a theory of what it is like to approach the world with the self-consciousness that one's perspective is only one among many and also with the self-awareness that this perspective can and probably will change over time." He formed this theory using concepts set forth by German Idealist Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, whose work Yeomans has researched and written about extensively over the course of his career.

Yeomans' research on Hegel has already culminated in two books that focus on whether radical free will is possible and the necessity of multiple forms of that free will in people's lives. His previous work on Hegel seeped into the projects he worked on in Munich, including his second focus, in which he attempted to understand the differing perspectives of three German Idealists, Immanuel Kant, J.G. Fichte, and Hegel, each of whom worked in the 18th and early 19th centuries during the "saddle period" between early and late modernity in Europe.

According to Yeomans, these three were idealists "in the sense that they thought reason was the structure of the world and human beings should be optimistic about their ability to...rationally organize a society." Each believed that a rational organization of society should hold freedom as an inalienable value, and they each attempted to conceptualize what such a rational organization of society would look like during the pivotal historical era in which they lived. To make sense of the divergent approaches these three took to the visualization of their rational societies, Yeomans used the methodologies he learned during his



CHRISTOPHER YEOMANS

fellowship with the Department of History to take a deep dive into the changes in social and economic structures that occurred during Kant, Fichte, and Hegel's time.

Yeomans' research was supported primarily by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Fellowship for Experienced Researchers, which was granted to him after an application process including a project proposal and peer review. The Humboldt Foundation's fellowship supported Yeomans' travel throughout Germany, but he's earned lifelong support from the foundation for future research in Germany.

By Elena Sparger. Photo by Christopher Yeomans (page 4).  
Photo by Trevor Mahlmann (this page).



VENETRIA PATTON

## Interdisciplinary Engagement

For people with community service ingrained in them, the question is not whether to get involved, but where.

Venetria Patton, head of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and professor of English and African American studies, knew she would continue her work with the NAACP when she moved to the Lafayette area in 2003. However, it was an unexpected phone call about after-school care for her son that sparked a yearslong passion for the Hanna Community Center. “I spoke with the director, and the conversation left me so positive about my move that I knew this was a special place,” she says of the center and of Greater Lafayette in general.

Having lived in multiple towns, cities, and even outside of the United States as a child, Patton has always felt a strong need to dive into every community and make it her home. “It was the way I was brought up,” she says. “I had this sense that you were supposed to give back to others, that you can’t get anywhere by yourself.” Patton explains that her parents were both heavily involved in philanthropy and service work when she was a child.

As her own son has grown up in the Lafayette area, Patton has demonstrated the importance of giving back and has helped him get involved with the Hanna Community Center as well. “He is very busy with school at Purdue, but I’m hoping I have inoculated him with the community

service bug,” she beams, going into detail about the service projects he has participated in through Hanna.

Not only has community engagement informed Patton’s parenting, but it has also changed her outlook on her students. “I’ve been given a different insight to my students,” she says. “I participated in a conversation about the climate for African American students in a local high school, and the experience helped me think about where the students in my own classroom might be coming from.”

Patton explains that students’ lives have evolved drastically from when she was in school. “When I was in school, I was a full-time student,” she says. “I have conversations with students at Purdue and in high school, and their time is so constrained with work and obligations that I never had to think about.”

Although Patton is busy leading the new school, she remains active in her sorority’s Family Strengthening Committee. That service allows her to work closely with Hanna on educational programs. In giving back, Patton has also developed skills in leadership and communication. “I’ve been able to develop professionally through my time on the board of the Hanna Center,” she says. “While I was giving to Hanna, they were giving me invaluable tools I use in my professional life. You can learn so much from others while giving back, and that is really powerful to me.”

By Catherine LaBelle. Photo by Trevor Mahlmann.

# Made by History

In an ever-changing media landscape where the truth is being contested, Kathryn Cramer Brownell, assistant professor of history, seeks to bridge the gap between the breadth of academia and the accessibility of traditional news sources. She is a co-editor of *Made by History*, a new website published by *The Washington Post* that adds historical context to current events in the United States through writings by historical experts and faculty from around the country.

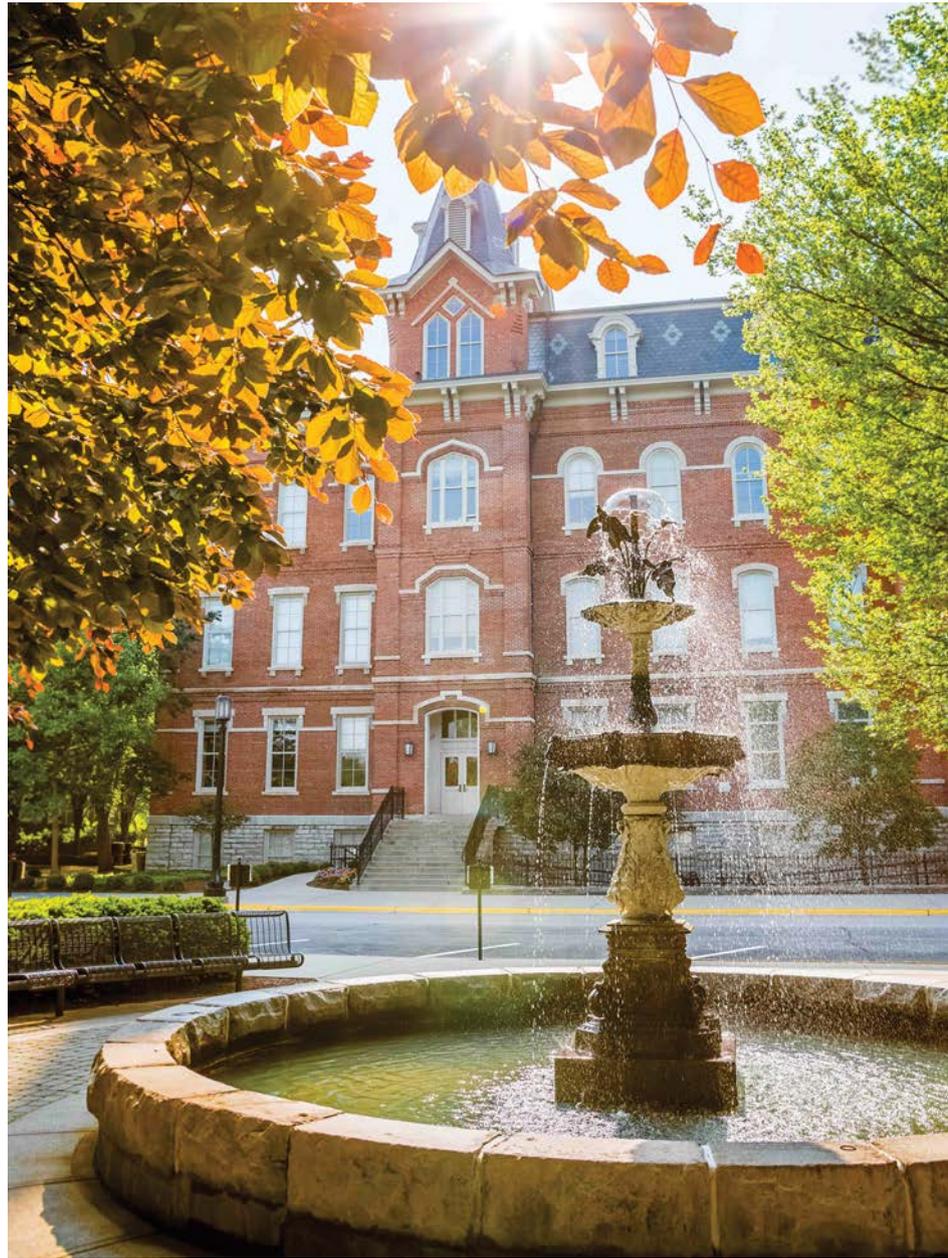
According to Brownell, people need to understand and apply principles of American history now more than ever. She intends to bring “the rigor of an academic journal” and combine it with “with the reach and speed of a news organization to facilitate engagement between historians and the public.”

Her role in the operations of *Made by History* includes editing, developing articles, and reviewing submissions. In the site’s welcome post, the editors make clear that despite the stereotype that historians care only about dates, they really “aim to make sense of the debates of the past.”

As co-editor, Brownell has pushed for her colleagues in the Department of History to become contributors, and many have stepped up enthusiastically. Cornelius Bynum, associate professor of history, recently explored President Harry Truman’s Executive Order 9981, which desegregated the military. Bynum breaks down the impact the law had on the years following, particularly during the civil rights era. In keeping with the vision of the *Made by History* editors, Bynum links the history of desegregation to help contextualize and understand racism and racial struggles that remain today.

From a classroom perspective, *Made by History* demonstrates how lessons learned in a classroom reach beyond academic discourse to provide insight and understanding in a contemporary political climate.

By Caroline Shanley.



University Hall, home of the Department of History. Photo by Trevor Mahlmann.

# A Win for Repurposed Art



Students' winning design incorporated recycled fabric, porcelain, wood, and cement.

Photos provided by Sigrid Zahner.

When Kara Hampton (BA 2016, Fine Arts) began drawing detailed sketches of the dead insects found in her studio, she knew little of how big her idea would become.

"The premise was that there is compelling design and beauty in a small and abandoned natural form," notes Sigrid Zahner, associate professor of fine arts in the Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Visual and Performing Arts.

That premise was the inspiration for a core team of four students: Hampton, Gabrielle Bennett, Miranda Herring, and David Marchese, who all then created an immersive interior space that received first place at the fourth annual CONNECT student design competition in Chicago. The four students, advised by Zahner and associate professor of industrial design Laura Drake, utilized leftover materials to produce an entire interior installation. The final product was based on the idea of regeneration and the allure of the seemingly mundane. As Zahner emphasizes, "The quotidian is often overlooked, and our intent was to reverse the oft quoted 'look outside the box.'"

The CONNECT competition, which is on display during the Chicago SOFA Fair, selects only six universities to compete annually in an innovative design challenge that highlights the most prestigious design programs across the country. This collaborative, selective competition encourages students to design environments based around certain principles, which include seating, lighting, and an overall theme. The SOFA (Sculpture Objects Functional Art and Design) Fair in

Chicago, now in its 23rd year, is the premier gallery-presented art fair dedicated to three-dimensional art and design.

The students and their advisors named their work *A Natural Urban Environment*. This title reflects their central theme, as the proposal describes it: "the tension that is often felt between human intervention and natural spaces."

One of the most intriguing aspects of the project was how the team selected its materials for constructing the furniture and other pieces on display. While attending classes in Yue-Kong Pao Hall, the students noticed that there were many discarded materials that were never reused between the various studio spaces. "The greater metaphor," says Zahner, "is that even that which has been discarded or seems to have no purpose or value can have essential beauty and usefulness."

When looking around the space, one can see how many materials were repurposed for aesthetic use. Using items ranging from copper to cardboard, the students were able to hone their specific crafts and work as a team. The chair cushions were fashioned from burlap coffee sacks, sporting prints of Hampton's dead insect drawings. The saying "one man's trash is another man's treasure" takes on new meaning now for these students and their faculty advisors. Zahner emphasizes, "We want to show that just because something is perceived as trash doesn't mean that it can't be redesigned into something useable."

By Caroline Shanley.

# Enabling Sustainable Change

As an undergraduate majoring in philosophy, Leigh Raymond was constantly asking himself, in regards to environmental issues, “Not only what *can* the government do, but what *should* government do?”

Now a professor of political science, Raymond says he has always been interested in ways to improve the world and environmental issues, and from an early age, he saw politics as a way to make that happen. After working for several environmental organizations, he decided to focus on how government can solve environmental problems. His most recent research concerns finding a way to make energy-efficient housing and transportation more affordable for low-income families.

Raymond—along with a team of experts including Torsten Reimer, associate professor in the Brian Lamb School of Communication, James Braun, Herrick Professor of Engineering, and Panagiota Karava, associate professor of civil engineering—is addressing the issue of how to make buildings more energy efficient in a way that also improves quality of life for the people living and working in them.

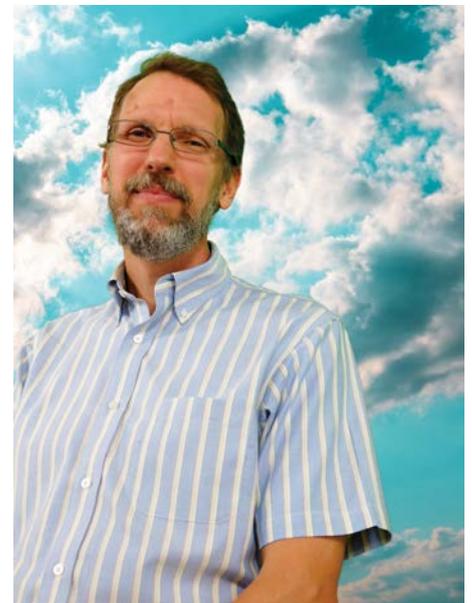
The team’s Affordable Net Zero Housing and Transportation Solutions project received support from Discovery Park’s Big Ideas Challenge in the spring of 2017. This support was followed by funding from the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Smart and Connected Communities program. Growing partnerships with affordable housing developers, a leading renewable energy consulting firm (Energy Systems Network), and the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority further support the project.

The interdisciplinary NSF funding program brings engineers, computer

scientists, and social scientists together to think about the latest developments in computing technology in order to help enable sustainable change. The grant supports research and capacity-building activities that integrate multiple disciplinary perspectives and undertake meaningful community engagement. This grant will bring \$3.5 million to Purdue to expand the work started in the team’s Big Ideas proposal. That idea revolved around using integrated computing technology for smart homes and vehicles to improve the quality of life and solve other big challenges in cities and rural areas. Raymond says that the project is intended to benefit people living in new housing developments so they will have better choices in terms of how to heat, cool, and light their apartments and homes more affordably.

“[Net Zero Housing] is a really exciting project because it is such a diverse collaboration, and it’s a great example of how people in our college, Liberal Arts, can contribute in important ways to a much bigger set of issues. Seeing the success of this grant is especially exciting because it shows how our college can be a part of these large grant applications, even to funders who we might think of being more focused on engineering or science. Really, people are at the heart of everything. In the College of Liberal Arts, we think a lot about people. I’m especially excited about the large and effective nature of our team, how important that was to the funders, and how great it is for CLA to be a part of it,” says Raymond.

Raymond is also making an impact with his recent book *Reclaiming the Atmospheric Commons*, which won the 2017 Lynton Keith Caldwell Prize for the best book on environmental policy.



LEIGH RAYMOND

“The book is really about how governments use economic incentives to solve environmental problems,” says Raymond. “It is specifically about a type of policy that is called ‘cap and trade.’ I’ve been studying cap and trade policies for 20 years. This book, in particular, tries to explain how policy advocates were able to change cap and trade policies in a very important and very surprising way.”

Raymond was very surprised and happy when he found out that he was being recognized for the award. “Books are funny. You work on them a long time, and so it’s especially gratifying when they finally come out and are recognized in this way. If people are reading it and you are getting positive feedback on all that work, that’s a nice part of the job.”

By Avery Nunez. Photo by Lorri Foster.

# #LiberalArtsWorks

The Liberal Arts Career Center helps students launch their careers. Through company partnerships, alumni connections, and career-focused programming, the Career Center works to help students gain practical experience alongside their academics and get a foot in the door with potential employers. The Job-Ready program provides financial support—up to \$2,000—to make nonpaid or low-paid career-launching internship opportunities a viable option for Liberal Arts students. The following are some of the experiences our own students had using the Career Center and the Job-Ready program for their summer internships.



► **Allison Hemingway: Film and Video Studies/Mass Communication Senior**

Company: Odd Machine

Internship Title: Production/  
Post-Production Intern

“The most meaningful experience to me personally in this internship came from the networking. I met so many incredible people throughout this summer, and almost all of them reached out to me with endless ways to help both during my time at Odd Machine and after I had left at the end of the term. Each person I met impacted me in a different way, and I know their advice and help will help me on my journey throughout the rest of my time at Purdue and into my career.”

► **Destiny Moore:**  
**Sociology | Senior**

Company: Ascend

Internship Title: Talent Identification  
Coordinator, Campus Coordinator

“Ascend Indiana has helped me identify skills I didn’t realize I have. The Talent Identification Team does an outstanding job helping you to identify your skills and develop a personalized career path.”



◄ **Adam Cullers: Public Relations and Strategic  
Communication/Political Science/  
Professional Writing | Senior**

Company: The Office of Mayor Joe Hogsett of the City of Indianapolis  
Internship Title: Communications Intern

Adam’s summer 2017 internship was “an intersection between each of the three disciplines I’m studying and shed light on the opportunities I could pursue with my unique combination of coursework. Prior to this experience, I wasn’t entirely confident in my majors nor this career path, but I am now eagerly searching out additional opportunities that can expand on the past summer’s experience.

“The communications office of any government office must be able to function with little to no time to prepare, and I can safely say that Liberal Arts has prepared me to work in such an atmosphere. I was consistently having to work on projects last minute and under time constraints, and so time management became crucial in these situations. Additionally, the basic skill of networking and sociability was likely the most important skill I used for my internship. A large component—and arguably the most important component—of government work consists of networking, and walking into this position, I never once I doubted my ability to communicate and connect with other employees.”



## ◀ Jasmine Edison: Mass Communication/ Political Science | Senior

Company: Kheprw Institute

Internship Title: Summer Equity Intern

Jasmine’s summer 2017 internship “prepared me immensely for a career in public service by working with community organizations, local government officials, and youth in the community. I was able to understand how to take the needs of the community and apply them to meaningful and intentional solutions. Staying in communication with community partners and others within my nonprofit organization was a significant part of the work, as was engaging in meaningful discussion around different issues and solutions regarding equity and community. The most exciting aspect of my role was being able to work with a host of different community members and partners and learn about the initiatives that different organizations are working on. I was able to learn so much about the Indianapolis community and its effort to promote equitable living.”

## ▶ Sara Frey: Theatre Design and Production | Senior

Company: The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis

Internship Title: Production Intern at the Lilly Theater

“Working with the Lilly Theater has been a wonderful career-building experience!

“My educational background in the multiple facets of theater helped me to be successful in this internship. I am adaptable; I was not set in one position as an intern—meaning I wasn’t confined to just stage management. I set props, helped make costumes, did paperwork, gave tours to donors, and helped as an usher. The theater program at Purdue gave me the tools and knowledge to succeed in these ventures, thanks to the introduction-to-design courses that are part of my curriculum.”



## ► Colleen Rose:

### Visual Communications Design/General Communication | Senior

Company: Indy Eleven Professional Soccer

Internship Title: Merchandising Intern

“In the sports industry, there are not many typical days. On game days, I would show up about five to six hours before kickoff to help unload all of the merchandise to our two locations. My team would set up tents and then spend the next two hours setting up the stands and the merchandise. Once the gates opened, it was all about selling and interacting with customers.

“I was able to use a lot of what I have learned in my Visual Communications Design degree because I was given the opportunity to design merchandise. The most exciting thing about my internship was seeing a T-shirt I designed on a person; it was surreal seeing something I designed and sold out in public.”



## ◀ Peter Green: Law and Society | Senior

Company: House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security

Internship Title: Intern

Peter’s summer 2017 internship “has given me an invaluable insight into how the federal government functions, as well as how federal law enforcement is supervised and organized. I was able to connect with and speak to staff from many different organizations, which helped me narrow my area of focus in law enforcement. The questions I was able to ask them regarding how to take the next step in my career and how to make myself stand out will help me for the rest of my career. This summer has only fueled my desire to pursue a career in law enforcement, and it has given me the confidence I need to advance with my career.

“One highlight of my experience was a behind-the-scenes tour of the National Archives. As a group, we were staring at the most important documents in our nation’s history. We were looking at the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the United States Constitution. The overwhelming sense of history and patriotism made me realize we were part of history during this summer. The bills we had been a part of, including the reauthorization of the Department of Homeland Security, would be forever inscribed in history.”

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To see more Job-Ready internship stories, head to [cla.purdue.edu/Job-Ready](http://cla.purdue.edu/Job-Ready). All photos provided by students.

# Unwavering Focus

**K**ristin Graham still has a screen capture that lists her in the credits as a producer of *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. It's the kind of thing you want to show your folks. For Graham, who earned her bachelor's degree from Purdue in Theatre Stage Management, it was the culmination of a decade of job applications and an unwavering focus on finding a way to work with the Queen of Talk.

Graham arrived at Purdue as a chemical engineering student. Despite making the Dean's List, she knew that major wasn't in sync with her passions. During a yearlong study abroad program in England, she pursued film and television studies, which sparked newfound career excitement. Without hesitation, she returned to Purdue, switched her major, and never looked back.

After graduation, Graham landed a stage management job at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago. Around the same time, she became drawn to *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. "Oprah has the power of connection. You can learn from her, but you can also laugh with her. The rich and poor wanted to connect to Oprah. All just wanted to be heard and validated," she says.

Graham had her first brush with the Oprah show in the most unconventional way. An announcement during an episode urged viewers to write in to Oprah and tell her their dreams. Graham's letter read, "My dream is to be the stage manager for *The Oprah Winfrey Show*." Two months later, a team of Oprah's producers and a camera crew surprised Graham backstage at the Goodman. Oprah's producers had chosen her to have her dream come true.

"I was told I had been selected and would be following Dean Anderson around as stage manager for the day on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*," she explains. Did it land her the job? No, but it was her first real experience working in



television, and she was hooked. She knew then that she wouldn't stop until she was able to officially make her dream come true.

It was not easy to get a job working for Oprah, and Graham knew it. "No one really leaves *The Oprah Winfrey Show*; job openings don't happen that often," she says. "I applied for anything and everything, just to get my foot in the door."

Even as she held on to her Oprah dream, Graham sought out film and television work to gain experience and better prepare her for the day the right job opened at the show. She worked on movies and television shows such as *Barbershop*, *Surviving Christmas*, *The In-Laws*, *Spider-Man 2*, *What About Joan*, and *The Kennedys*, among others. One particular job found her working on *The Jamie Kennedy Experiment*, a candid camera show involving pranks on unsuspecting bystanders.

As luck would have it, the show collaborated with *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, following Oprah as she pranked her crew and audience members. During filming, Graham's team worked alongside Oprah's producers, inevitably allowing her to make an impression with Oprah's team.

After filming wrapped, an Oprah producer walked up to Graham and said, "I really enjoyed working with you. Is there any chance at all that you'd possibly consider coming to work with *The Oprah Winfrey Show*?" Less than two weeks later, she had a full-time job as a member of Oprah's production team.

### The Dream Job

Graham remembers being nervous and excited on her first day, as everything she had been working toward for 10 years was finally coming to life in front of her. "It felt right," she



Graham stops to take a photo during the workday with Oprah Winfrey.

says. "I thrived at the creative challenges. It was not easy, but nothing worth it ever is."

"The job lived up to every expectation," she continues. "It was extremely competitive, trying to produce the impossible with integrity. I remember trying to get Shaun White to the Chicago studios the morning after his gold medal ceremony in Canada. He had already booked a satellite interview with *The Today Show*, but I worked some Oprah magic and convinced him to do the Oprah show. That wasn't the hardest part, though; we had to get him there. I quickly booked a private plane, but he'd be arriving to Border Patrol at 2 a.m.—when they're closed. I convinced Customs to meet him, and he made it to the studio 20 minutes before we went live."

Graham worked on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* for nine and a half years, staying with production until Oprah wrapped her 25th and final season in 2011. "Everyone knew that what we were doing on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* was special," she says. "Our production style was unique—it could not be copied—and we were making history." From catching America's most wanted criminals to building schools in South Africa, Graham and her team knew they were making a difference: "It was important work. We knew it. No one left early, and 100-hour weeks were not uncommon."

As the show wrapped up its final season, Graham recalls being there on the last day, shutting the studio doors, and locking them up. "It was time," she says. "We gave our heart and soul to that show. It was time to go our separate ways and make our own new paths. It was the end of an era."

How do you come off a decade rush of nonstop work and excitement at your dream job? For Graham, it was time to take a moment for herself. "I was exhausted. I took a breath and didn't worry about applying for work anywhere," she says. "But when you've just worked on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, offers start coming to you, so I didn't get much of a breather."

These days, Graham finds her life well balanced. She divides her time between being a landlord, playing guitar, competing on her volleyball team, and traveling for her current job as executive producer of NBC's *Naturally, Danny Seo*. "The show is all about eco-friendly and sustainable living, everything I believe in, so its intentions align with mine. Another perfect fit," she says.

After landing three of her major dream jobs, Graham is content to see where each day takes her. "I don't have the next dream set," she says. "I'm living in the moment right now."

By Catherine LaBelle. Photos provided by Kristin Graham.



# DEGREE EXPANDS ACROSS



## Why Four?

That's a question Mitch Daniels confronted as a student at Princeton University. Then, he opted for three and a half, graduating a semester early. As president of Purdue, he raised the question again when he challenged the University community to develop a three-year undergraduate degree.

"The notion that it requires four years to complete an undergraduate degree is really little more than a matter of tradition, a uniquely American tradition," says Daniels. He goes on to note, "It's more clear than ever that a solid grounding in disciplines like English, history, political science, philosophy, or communication is invaluable in today's collaborative, information-based economy."

This fall, the College of Liberal Arts rolled out Degree in 3, a comprehensive program offering more than 20 three-year degree options in every academic unit within the College. Degree in 3 builds on a road map that the Brian Lamb School of Communication created in response to Daniels' challenge in 2014 and marks a transition to a three-year degree college.

"As we look at undergraduate liberal arts education, this is a compelling option," says David Reingold, Justin S. Morrill Dean of Liberal Arts. "It positions students to meld the benefits of the in-demand skills a liberal arts degree provides—great communication, creative thinking, and analytical problem solving—with an exceptional value proposition. We hear the concerns about the cost of higher education. Degree in 3 offers savings over a four-year degree. Add to that the income these students will enjoy by virtue of entering the workforce a year earlier. That extra year of earning power will put them ahead of their peers on the road to success.

"It is incumbent upon leaders in higher education to find innovative solutions to remain viable and to remain relevant," Reingold continues. "Degree in 3 represents innovation at its best. It is a simple alternative to address the issue of cost. We anticipate that students will see this,

**IN 3  
CAMPUS**



Charlotte Tuggle, a three year degree graduate of the Brian Lamb School of Communication, poses after the May 2017 commencement ceremony.

Photo provided by Charlotte Tuggle.

too, with a three-year degree becoming increasingly common in our college and, I suspect, in 21st-century undergraduate education in general.”

Unlike many three-year degrees, the Purdue Degree in 3 does not require that a student enter Purdue with Advanced Placement (AP) or other credit. All course maps are built with the expectation that students will start with no credit. Students who do have AP or other credit can reduce their course loads as appropriate. Students will be able to participate in study abroad programs, internships, and campus life, building a robust three-year college experience.

Degree in 3 students will benefit from priority class registration, access to University leadership, and special opportunities to connect with Purdue alumni and guest speakers, as well as the opportunity to join a new learning community being developed to help build fellowship among students pursuing the three-year degree option. “It will be a great point of pride to be a Degree in 3 student,” says Reingold. “We respect the students who are choosing that option and will celebrate their commitment.”

### Truly Motivated

For students who are driven, motivated, and focused, Degree in 3 allows them to enter the workforce or graduate school a year earlier than traditional plans of study. A cost-effective undergraduate degree option, Degree in 3 can save students \$10,000 to \$20,000, depending on residency and other factors. Alongside that, students get a jump on earnings. With an average starting salary for Purdue Liberal Arts students in excess of \$37,000, the numbers add up in a big way.

The cost savings tied to Degree in 3 can be the key to bringing a Purdue education within reach for prospective students.

“I was an out-of-state student, so the price of tuition was higher than what our whole family was comfortable with paying. But with the three-year program, we saved about \$20,000,” says Charlotte Tuggle (BA 2017, Brian Lamb School of Communication). “My parents were definitely excited about the idea. They were confident that I was capable of graduating a year early, and it definitely made conversations about my going out of state for college much easier. They agree that it was a great decision, and they’re very proud.” A reporter for *The Purdue Exponent* and Purdue’s NPR affiliate WBAA, Tuggle was named the 2016 Student Journalist of the Year by the Indiana chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. She graduated on May 13 and started a full-time position with WBAA on May 15.

“Honestly, I think the three-year degree option is a great fit for Liberal Arts. I think that in our college, there’s an emphasis on experience-based learning, and while being in the classroom is important, it should be a jumping-off point. Once you have the tools from class, I think there’s an enthusiasm to start working as soon as possible—maybe because us Liberal Arts kids like our majors,” Tuggle adds. “It’s a great way to hit the job market earlier and save a lot of money. Now that I’ve finished my degree, it was absolutely worth it.”

Tuggle’s mother, Becky, appreciated the support her daughter received at Purdue. “I knew that completing a degree in three years at Purdue would be a challenge that Charlotte was well prepared for,” she says. “In addition, she received excellent guidance after accepting the three-year program. Her advisor helped her stay on track to complete her short- and long-term goals. I believe Charlotte was given opportunities at Purdue that would not have been available to her at any other college.

Purdue faculty and staff mentored her and provided invaluable tools to help her succeed in college and beyond.”

“I’m excited about this new program,” says Reingold. “What we’re doing expands the alternatives available to Liberal Arts students, and for some, the associated savings will open the door to attend Purdue. Degree in 3 offers an option for the student who is hardworking and committed. I’m also pleased that we are building elements that will support students in Degree in 3, like a learning community that will debut in fall 2018 and programming that will engage these students and create a sense of shared focus among students who choose to complete a Degree in 3.”

For Kelsey Dilday (BA 2015, English), who completed her degree in three years without the benefit of a formal plan to do so in her major, support for students like her is a welcome evolution. “I was ecstatic to hear about the new three-year degree options. To me, the single best thing about the new three-year programs is that there will now be more people actively encouraging incoming students to

take a three-year path. I had an amazing time at Purdue, and I wouldn’t change a thing.”

Dilday, who will enter her third year of study in the McKinney School of Law at Indiana University this fall, says she explored the three-year degree path to save money. “My parents were generous enough to pay for my undergraduate education, but I knew that attending from out of state, even with Purdue’s generous scholarships, was expensive. Saving my parents a year of tuition was the least I could do for all they’d given me while growing up.”

“It takes guts to say you will complete a Purdue degree in three years,” says Reingold. “There are no shortcuts here. These students will complete every requirement of a Purdue bachelor’s degree, and they will do it in three years. It will reflect a particular focus and work ethic that will set Degree in 3 students apart. When they walk into the world, whether it’s for graduate school or into the workforce, I assure you there will be no question they earned it.”

By Lori Sparger. Artwork by Deborah Keller.

## ALWAYS CONSIDERED

A peek into the Purdue archives reveals that the Degree in 3 concept surfaced nearly a century ago.

In the course of his research on Purdue’s history and people for a book to commemorate the sesquicentennial in 2019, writer John Norberg discovered that President Edward Elliott may have been the first to advance the concept of a degree in three years at Purdue.

Early in his 23-year tenure as president, Elliott put forth the idea. In a May 3, 1924, speech, “Pursuit of Power,” at the Purdue Semi-Centennial, he said, “I am convinced that the present four-year program of training for all students is unwise, uneconomical, and unjustified. It is my intention, shortly, to propose to the faculty of the University that our curricula be reorganized so as to permit students of ability and persistence to complete the work for a degree within three years instead of four.”

In fact, at various points in Purdue’s history, students have found a way to do exactly that.

For alumna Judy Brandau (BA 1970, Spanish), it was her freshman academic advisor who first mentioned that a three-year degree could be an option based on her high school advanced placement credits. “It sounded great to me,” says Brandau. “An additional benefit of my particular three-year plan was that by my senior year, I was taking some graduate-level Spanish classes in order to fulfill my credit requirements. Since I had planned on going to graduate school after Purdue, I was able to get a teaching assistant’s position to offset some grad school costs at the University of Missouri. So in four years, I had both an undergraduate degree from Purdue and a master’s from Mizzou!”

Brandau went on to a successful career, retiring as vice president of international business operations with Marriott International. Her first car also came courtesy

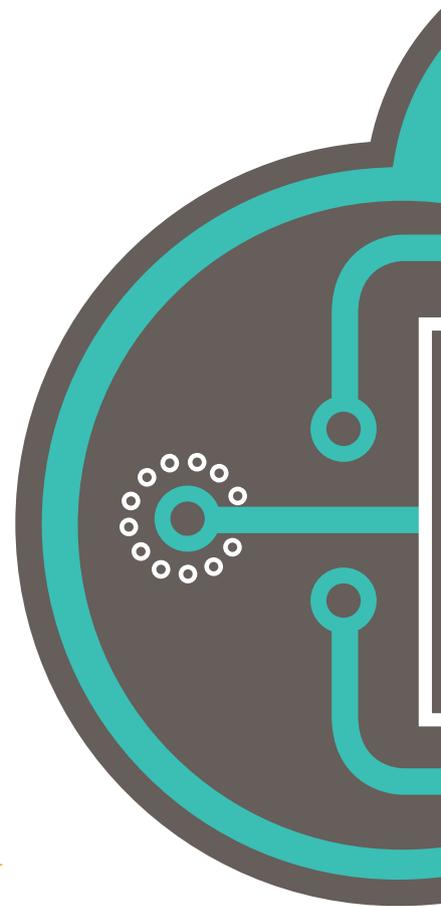


of her parents and her three-year degree. “My parents promised me a car if I did indeed graduate in three years!”

“I am really excited that Purdue is formalizing this three-year option,” says Brandau. “Having a more structured plan would have been extremely helpful. Also, as an out-of-state student, had my parents known in advance that they were only committing to three years financially, the decision to select Purdue over other universities would have been a slam dunk. Just as I got a head start with my three-year plan, Purdue will get a competitive head start over other universities with this program.”

Photo provided by Judy Brandau.

# Reimagining Undergraduate Education



**P**urdue's new Cornerstone Integrated Liberal Arts program aspires to redefine the first-year student experience and reimagine a contemporary liberal arts education for students by offering introductory, faculty-taught classes that challenge students intellectually and nurture lifelong learners.

As part of a broader national effort to redefine liberal arts education in the 21st century, the 15-credit certificate program, intended for students in all fields of study, launches this fall. Cornerstone students will develop an understanding of historical contexts, communication skills, an appreciation of the complexity of human problems, and a learning orientation that will make them strong business and industry leaders as well as good citizens. Students who enroll in the Cornerstone program will take at least one of two foundational courses titled "Transformative Texts" and then continue with three courses focused on one of a series of themes: Science and Technology, Environment and Sustainability, Healthcare and Medicine, Management and Organization, or Conflict Resolution and Justice.

Through the Cornerstone certificate, students fulfill many of their University Core Curriculum requirements while exploring themes that complement majors in science, engineering, technology, management, and other disciplines through the lens of the humanities and the social sciences. Cornerstone enables students to pursue a well-rounded education alongside their areas of specialization.



**CORNERSTONE**  
**INTEGRATED LIBERAL ARTS**



The first generation of Cornerstone Integrated Liberal Arts Faculty Fellows: Antonia Syson, associate professor of classics; Jeffrey Turco, assistant professor of German; Mary F. (Molly) Scudder, assistant professor of political science; Patrick P. Kain, associate professor of philosophy; Yvonne Pitts, associate professor of history; Christopher J. Lukasik, associate professor of English and American studies; Kim Gallon, assistant professor of history; and program director Melinda S. Zook, professor of history. Photo by Charles Jischke.

“The liberal arts combine intellectual and self-development in a way that other disciplines, by design, do not—allowing students to continually reshape and re-educate themselves over the course of their lives,” says Jeffrey Turco, assistant professor of German and a Cornerstone Faculty Fellow. “Simply put: The liberal arts are essential for teaching you *how* to think, not simply *what* to think.”

In the Transformative Texts sequence, students study classic texts from across the world—ranging from Shakespeare to Plato and Aristotle to the Quran. The courses are taught by award-winning tenured and tenure-track professors, says Melinda Zook, Cornerstone director and professor of history. Zook worked with seven “first generation” Cornerstone faculty to develop the introductory sequence and the overall program.

“We have these fantastic mentors, these fantastic scholars, who can turn these young people on to history and political science by looking at classic texts,” she says.

The initial Transformative Texts courses, SCLA 101 and SCLA 102, give students a chance to dive into some of the “big questions of the past and the present, and grapple with some beautiful and dangerous ideas in their first year . . . as they begin work on their major,” says Patrick Kain,

associate professor of philosophy and a Cornerstone Faculty Fellow. He believes students will appreciate the purposeful paths outlined through the Cornerstone themes. “It can be tough for students in other colleges to know where to begin with liberal arts or how to connect it to their own major,” he says.

Cornerstone is a new program that embraces an old idea, says Turco. “The sciences are part of the liberal arts in a bold and original way,” he explains. “The classical and medieval *artes liberales* included disciplines we now locate among the sciences, such as mathematics and astronomy, in addition to the study of logic, rhetoric, and grammar. The liberal arts traditionally shunned the *artes mechanicae*—applied sciences and training for the professions—that form an important part of Purdue’s mission as a land-grant university. Cornerstone combines these two visions.”

Yvonne Pitts, associate professor of history and a Cornerstone Faculty Fellow, points to immense benefits to Purdue students who enroll in the program. “On one level, the experience will give students exposure to historical and contemporary texts and ways to think that will encourage them to take active, informed roles in their civic and professional lives,” she says. “It also provides a heavy emphasis on developing oral and written communication skills in different settings that complement their primary disciplinary training and increases their desirability to prospective employers.”

Zook believes the Cornerstone program can only help students as they prepare for a competitive job market. “The societal implications of the things they do—that’s what liberal arts teaches these students,” she says. “Then they are able to work across disciplines, and that shows [future] employers they can read and write and have all those critical thinking and communication skills needed to move up the ranks.”

Liberal arts courses can bring out even more fully the imagination, empathy, and intellectual adaptability that Purdue students throughout the University already possess, says Antonia Syson, associate professor of classics and a Cornerstone Faculty Fellow. “Curiosity, flexibility, and analytical rigor are what employers look for,” she adds. “Whether or not students pursue majors in liberal arts, there is no substitute for devoting part of their undergraduate experience to the humanities, social sciences, and arts.”

David A. Reingold, Justin S. Morrill Dean of Liberal Arts, believes Cornerstone will be an important part of the Purdue experience. “I am very excited about the opportunity Cornerstone offers to enhance the educational experience of all Purdue students,” he says. “The liberal arts can be an integral feature of what defines Purdue graduates and reinforces the centrality of the liberal arts to a comprehensive university education.”

In 2015, Purdue President Mitch Daniels sent an open letter that challenged the University to reassess not only its practices but also its basic operating philosophies.

“Our land-grant assignment, and frankly that of any institution claiming to deliver ‘higher education,’ is not limited to the teaching that produces scientific or technical expertise. Our task calls up to produce citizens, men and women who are able to think reflectively and creatively not only at the workplace but also to thrive in those domains of well-being,” Daniels wrote.

In touting the value of liberal arts education, Daniels noted that Purdue leaders were working to redefine the current core curriculum to “make sure future Boilermakers do not leave West Lafayette without having encountered the essential facts and ideas central to the preservation and success of a free society.” Disturbed by the large percentage of Purdue students who graduate without courses that explore these ideas, for the past two years, he has encouraged incoming students to HELP themselves during their time at Purdue. The mnemonic stands for history, economics, literature, and philosophy. Daniels charges all Purdue students to take at least one course in each of those areas.

### Enter the Cornerstone Program

Pitts points out that even though many students come to Purdue to study in the “hard sciences,” this new certificate option facilitates the well-rounded coursework Daniels is advocating.

“Often amidst their difficult programs, [these ‘hard science’ students] have little contact with the arts and humanities, the social sciences, or the disciplines of philosophy, political science, and history,” she says. “Obtaining a Cornerstone certificate ensures purposeful and in-depth exposure to problem-solving skills that deal with global problems they are already studying, but from a different perspective.



Purdue president Mitch Daniels welcomes University advisors to a luncheon previewing Cornerstone Integrated Liberal Arts. Photo by John Underwood.

“Practically, Cornerstone does not require much additional coursework because many of the courses are in the University and other colleges’ cores.”

There are benefits for the faculty involved in Cornerstone, too. Kain says most curricular initiatives happen at the disciplinary, departmental, or program level—for good reason. “Yet working across units to imagine a new integrated option in the liberal arts, for students of quite different majors, has given me a broader perspective on undergraduate education, and a deeper understanding and appreciation of my colleagues in other departments,” he says.

One main reason faculty involved believe that Cornerstone will be successful is that it is integrated into a student’s chosen course of study.

“Learning how to learn and collaborate effectively is the ideal preparation for the varied and unpredictable career paths that are normal in the 21st century,” Syson says.

Kain points to the profound changes and “disruptions” that shape life in the 21st century. “As much as we need highly trained experts in various professions, we need leaders of all kinds that are reflective and creative and wise, and as individuals, we better be prepared for complicated career trajectories that we haven’t yet imagined,” he says. “An integrated liberal arts education can inspire us, teach us how to grapple with puzzles and disagreements and crises, and prepare us for a lifetime of learning.”

By Dorothy Wallheimer. Artwork by Jarrod Hurt (page 21).

# Strengthening Spanish Linguistics

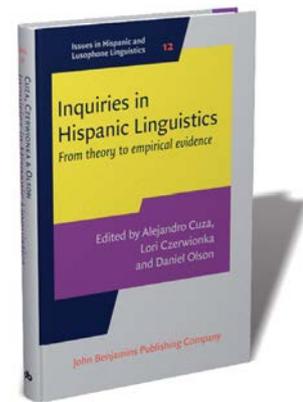


Daniel J. Olson, Alejandro Cuza-Blanco, and Lori Czerwionka at the 2014 Hispanic Linguistics Symposium.

The personal experiences of three School of Languages and Cultures faculty members fueled a passion for linguistics, which led them each to pursue a career in Hispanic linguistics. Their work together has continued the strong presence of Spanish linguistics courses and programs at Purdue, and they have made important contributions to their field of study. Most recently they collaboratively published a new volume, *Inquiries in Hispanic Linguistics: From Theory to Empirical Evidence*.

For Alejandro Cuza-Blanco, professor of Spanish and linguistics, his interest in linguistics was sparked as a high school student in Cuba, where he studied English and French at a language school at night. Daniel J. Olson, assistant professor of Spanish and linguistics, worked in a mostly Hispanic community in Texas where nearly everyone spoke English and Spanish. An elective linguistics course as an undergraduate nurtured an interest for Lori Czerwionka, assistant professor of Spanish and linguistics.

Following the 2014 Hispanic Linguistics Symposium (HLS) hosted by Purdue, the three researchers came together to edit *Inquiries in Hispanic Linguistics*. The book contains three major sections that reflect each professor's individual area of expertise. Cuza specializes



in Spanish morphosyntax and semantics in bilingual populations and second-language learners. Czerwionka's work addresses Spanish pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and second-language learners' development of pragmatic norms and intercultural competence. Olson focuses on Spanish phonetics, phonology, and psycholinguistics, particularly in bilingual populations.

The HLS is one of the foremost conferences in the field and routinely attracts over 200 scholars from around the world. The volume showcases current research, and it features papers from some of the most well-known researchers in the field.

By Avery Nunez. Photos provided by Lori Czerwionka.



DEREK PACHECO

## Influenced by Hawthorne

Literary minds have taught and discussed the novels and short stories of Nathaniel Hawthorne since their publication in the mid-19th century. Hawthorne's dark romantic works, including notable novels like *The Scarlet Letter* and *The House of the Seven Gables*, have shaped American literature and have garnered a following of scholars interested in his views on romance, history, and the inherent evil of humanity.

Associate professor of English Derek Pacheco discovered a love for Hawthorne during his undergraduate studies. "I took a senior seminar on Nathaniel Hawthorne and discovered *The Whole History of Grandfather's Chair*, a series of children's books about early New England history," says Pacheco. "I remember being really surprised to learn that Hawthorne wrote literature for children and not just novels like *The Scarlet Letter*. To this day, one of my favorites is *A Wonder Book for Girls and Boys*, which retells classic Greek myths as fairy tales for children."

Pacheco continued studying and researching Hawthorne in graduate school; one of his advisors, a foremost literary scholar on Hawthorne, encouraged him to continue his studies. With this passion, Pacheco has been appointed president-elect of the

Nathaniel Hawthorne Society, a national organization dedicated to the global study and appreciation of the influential 19th-century author and his works.

Pacheco's dedication to American literature and Hawthorne has impacted his research and teaching career as well as influenced him to write his first book, *Moral Enterprise: Literature and Education in Antebellum America* (The Ohio State University Press). It focuses on transcendentalism, education, and professional authorship in mid-19th-century America and includes a chapter on Hawthorne's early children's literature, which grew out of Pacheco's earlier interests in Hawthorne. Pacheco is in the process of writing his second book, *Hawthorne's Literary Offspring*.

As president-elect of the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society, Pacheco will work with current president Sandra Hughes of Western Kentucky University before he officially assumes the position in 2018. The Hawthorne Society promotes scholarly research but also engages with broader questions of public interest: Are authors like Hawthorne still relevant or worth our time? What value might we glean from him, what lessons for a

digital and increasingly vocational age? Can Hawthorne help us make the case for the humanities' value today?

Pacheco will also participate in an international collaboration during his term. "In 2018, we're hosting an international conference in Kyoto, Japan, co-sponsored by our partners: the Edgar Allan Poe Studies Association, the Poe Society of Japan, and the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society of Japan," Pacheco explains. "I'm really looking forward to it!"

Pacheco previously served as assistant editor of *The Nathaniel Hawthorne Review*, which is a scholarly publication distributed by the society containing essays and discussion about the life and works of Hawthorne.

Pacheco's interest in literary greats goes beyond Hawthorne, too; he also serves as the editor of the *Emerson Society Papers*, a newsletter that features articles and news about the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society.

Pacheco's passion for Hawthorne's works has shaped his career and his future. He continues to educate his students and the general population on the influence of Hawthorne, and as he moves into his position as president-elect, he will continue to share the influence of Hawthorne on a global stage.

By Shelby Ward. Photo by Trevor Mahlmann.

# Musical Phenomenon Becomes Course

Eight years ago, at the White House Evening of Poetry, Music, and the Spoken Word, actor-composer-playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda breathed new life into American history. He unfurled the story of the nation's first Treasury Secretary, Alexander Hamilton, in a raw, riveting rap song, which went on to become the opening number in his groundbreaking Broadway musical, *Hamilton*. A new course this fall, "*Hamilton: The Musical: History, Artistry, Impact*," asks students to do what Miranda did back in 2009—bring history to life onstage and make the old new again.

The course is a collaboration between John Larson, professor of history, and Amy Lynn Budd, visiting assistant professor of theatre. While Budd brings 20 years of performance experience to the table, Larson draws on his years as the research director of Conner Prairie, an interactive history park in central Indiana. A deep appreciation for storytelling courses through their veins. They use it to bounce ideas back and forth in class and ultimately convey how history and storytelling collide.

Larson's Wednesday lectures examine the era explored in *Hamilton* and put it into a larger historical context, while Budd's Friday lectures push students to ultimately interpret history onstage.

"The class works not just as a history lesson but as an examination of how creativity works," Larson says. "It explores the processes

of interpretation and presentation, which start with the fundamentals of research."

The class treats the students as performers, providing lectures and historical readings to help them prepare in the same way an actor conducts research before playing a part. "Anything an actor learns can feed their imagination," Budd says.

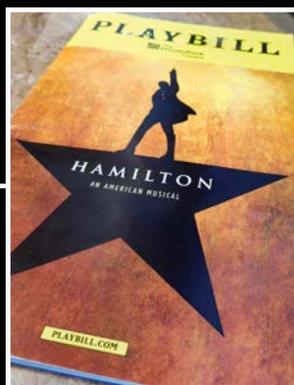
Budd discovered that most of the students are coming into the class without acting experience or any background in theater.

"They've been a bit shy at first, so I'm eager to see them jump onstage and act silly and just go for it," she says. "There's scarcely any stillness onstage in *Hamilton*, so I'm curious to see them reach for that level of stamina in their performances."

The final project asks students to imaginatively interpret a historical figure in the same way Miranda fleshed out the titular founding father in *Hamilton*. They must pick a figure from before 1950 and compose an "I Am" song (like the opening number of *Hamilton*) or an "I Want" song (like the soundtrack's third track) using any musical genre, design, and theatrical framework they like.

Budd and Larson never imagined that the story of Alexander Hamilton would turn into a smash hit hip-hop musical. Like the show itself, their class serves as a testament to how art can come from the most unlikely sources—and how it can stand tall alongside the history that inspired it.

By Sam Watermeier. Photo by Lorri Foster.



# Drones Aid Archaeological Research



The use of drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles, sparks debate on many fronts. For one College of Liberal Arts professor, drones are an innovative component of his research methodology.

“Drones are a new tool in archaeologists’ toolkits,” says Ian Lindsay, associate professor of anthropology. Lindsay has been excavating in the South Caucasus region, which spans Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, since 2000. Lindsay has long been fascinated by the pastoral societies that occupied the region centuries ago. His area of research concerns how these groups, nomadic in nature, developed political institutions and engaged in warfare during the Bronze Age and the

Iron Age, or from 200 to 1500 BCE. To do this research, Lindsay and his colleagues were tasked with planning site analyses as well as unearthing artifacts and structures. Cue the drones.

Flying 300 meters from the ground, Lindsay’s drone recorded a 3:49 minute video, available on Vimeo. The video depicts lush, hilly landscapes, giving Lindsay’s team the necessary insight into preparing an excavation.

“This will be a collaborative tool for archaeologists in the region to add and edit data about field sites,” Lindsay says. “It also will be helpful to update legacy sites, which are sites that were identified or excavated but

have not yet been published.” Cheaper than traditional satellite technology, the drone footage even allowed Lindsay to count the numbers of burials on the site.

Beyond the spatial analysis, Lindsay sought to examine the fortresses and other structures left behind by the civilization. “We want to understand how these structures were used politically, religiously, and socially; we also want to know about the lifestyle of people who lived in the shadow of these forts.”

The drone videos give students in a West Lafayette classroom “a sense of actually being there at the site. And it’s more engaging than just looking at a map.”

By Caroline Shanley.



LEFT: Ian Lindsay launches a drone to collect multispectral and thermal images of a Bronze Age cemetery in Armenia. RIGHT: Lindsay and an Armenian collaborator, Arshaluys Mkrtychyan, modify a DJI Phantom 3 drone to carry a Parrot Sequoia multispectral sensor for use in the aerial survey of sites.

Photos provided by Ian Lindsay.

## Clearly Expressive



DORSEY ARMSTRONG

Ever since she can remember, Dorsey Armstrong has had a soft spot in her heart for medieval times. “I think I was just born with it,” she says with a chuckle. A professor of English and medieval literature at Purdue since 2002, Armstrong is a recipient of this year’s Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in Memory of Charles B. Murphy—Purdue’s highest undergraduate teaching honor.

Although Armstrong has always been bewitched by the distant past, her destiny became clear during her junior year at Stanford University as she watched Professor Seth Lerer speak passionately about the medieval classic *The Canterbury Tales*.

“I thought, ‘Wait a minute—someone might pay me to do this, to speak about literature I love?’” she says.

In her early years at Purdue, Armstrong worried about the immense amount of information she had to pack into her classes. “I was very nervous about making sure students walked away with all of the information they needed,” she says.

Now Armstrong finds that her classes have more breathing room, opening up time for students to bring their own perspectives and to make new discoveries about the material. One of her favorite discoveries was a student’s suggestion that the mythical King Arthur is an immortal figure much like the zombies on the TV show *The Walking Dead*. This inspired her to write an essay comparing the themes explored in both medieval literature and the zombie genre, such as the fear of foreigners, disease, and the decay of society.

“After all these years, I’m still learning, discovering, and finding inspiration,” Armstrong says. She credits her students with making her fall in love with literature all over again.

Armstrong’s classes are ultimately exuberant celebrations. Instead of a final exam, one class ends with a medieval feast complete with authentic food and entertainment. She fondly recalls when one student made a knight’s coat of chain mail and another replicated the medieval sling used to hurl heavy stones at castle walls. In his demonstration, he launched wet sponges from Heavilon Hall toward the Purdue Memorial Union.

Outside her classes, Armstrong publishes extensively about medieval culture, particularly the legend of King Arthur. In January 2009, she became editor-in-chief of *Arthuriana*, the official journal of the North American branch of the International Arthurian Society. This prestigious publication explores the Arthurian legend from its medieval origins to its impact in the present day.

The passion Armstrong was born to follow keeps rewarding her again and again. “I have to pinch myself sometimes,” she says in response to finding her dream job. “I feel lucky every day.”

By Sam Watermeier. Photo by John Underwood.



# Redesigning Communication

As her students say, Melanie Morgan has a knack for making even the murkiest, most complicated material seem crystal clear. Such is the art of communication, the subject she has been teaching at Purdue for the past 16 years.

An associate professor in the Brian Lamb School of Communication, Morgan is a recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in Memory of Charles B. Murphy—Purdue’s highest undergraduate teaching honor.

Morgan arrived at Purdue in 2001 as an assistant professor and was heavily involved in the direction of COM 114: Fundamentals of Speech Communication. She was later asked to develop a course that applies those fundamentals to science, showing how complex data can be presented in an accessible, engaging way. The result was COM 217: Science Writing and Presentation. Morgan also teaches a communication course focused on quantitative research methods.

“One student said to me, ‘You teach things to people that they don’t want to learn and make them have fun doing it. You teach statistics to COM majors and communication to science students,’” Morgan says. “I had never really thought of it that way before.”

Although communication is her specialty, Morgan doesn’t spend much of her class time

speaking. She keeps her lectures short and sweet—no longer than 15 minutes. Rather than standing at the podium, she prefers to step back and let the students engage with the material in a more hands-on manner.

“I try to create an environment where students feel free to try new things, share ideas that may be new to them, and take chances,” Morgan says. She enjoys watching them experiment and put the pieces of information from each class period together like a puzzle. Morgan always hopes that students walk away not only with an enhanced understanding of the content but also with new perspectives on the world.

Outside the classroom, Morgan serves as the graduate director in the Brian Lamb School of Communication and as interim associate dean of the Graduate School. She also frequently lends her expertise to publications such as *The Journal of Communication*, *Health Communication*, and *Communication Studies*. But at the end of the day, her true passion lies in teaching students. This is why she considers the Murphy Award the most meaningful honor of her career—it’s a reward for doing what she loves the most.

By Sam Watermeier. Photo provided by Melanie Morgan.



MELANIE MORGAN

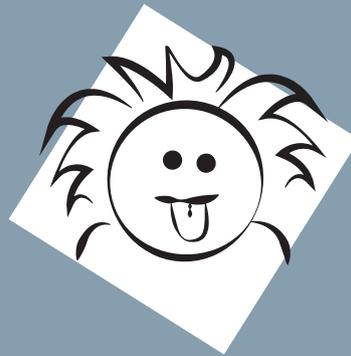


Dorsey Armstrong and Melanie Morgan were surprised in the spring by their colleagues with the news of being named recipients of the 2017 Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in Memory of Charles B. Murphy. Photos by Rebecca Wilcox (page 28) and Mark Simons (this page).

**ORIGINALS:  
HOW NON-CONFORMISTS  
MOVE THE WORLD**

**BY ADAM GRANT  
2016: PENGUIN RANDOM  
HOUSE LLC, NY, NY**

**BOOK REVIEW AND VISUAL NOTES:  
PETRONIO BENDITO  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF  
VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN**



**PICASSO**

**EINSTEIN**

**MAYA ANGELOU**

**1.** In his *New York Times* best seller *Originals: How Non-Conformists Move the World*, Adam Grant nurtures the spirit of innovation in each of us. His tactics involve challenging the reader's presumptions about what it means to be an original person as he draws a multifaceted picture of known and lesser-known innovators. He examines not only their virtuosities, creativity, and inventiveness, but also their limitations. Ultimately, the book provides new insights about the complex and multilayered process of achieving originality.



**2.** The theme of the book is discussed in unexpected ways. Grant wants to convince the reader that procrastination is a beneficial aspect of the creative process. He posits that, contrary to popular belief, innovators are more likely to take risks moderately and many originals aren't "gifted." Like everybody else, they go through stages of fear and doubt as they develop their innovations.

**3.** Grant believes that originality can be taught. By examining originality from the perspective of ordinary events in our daily lives and by challenging general preconceptions, he wants to convince the reader that we all are potential change makers who can move the world forward.

**?**

**ORIGINALS**

THEIR CREATIVITY IS FUELED BY

- CURIOSITY
- AWARENESS
- COURAGE
- NON-CONFORMISM

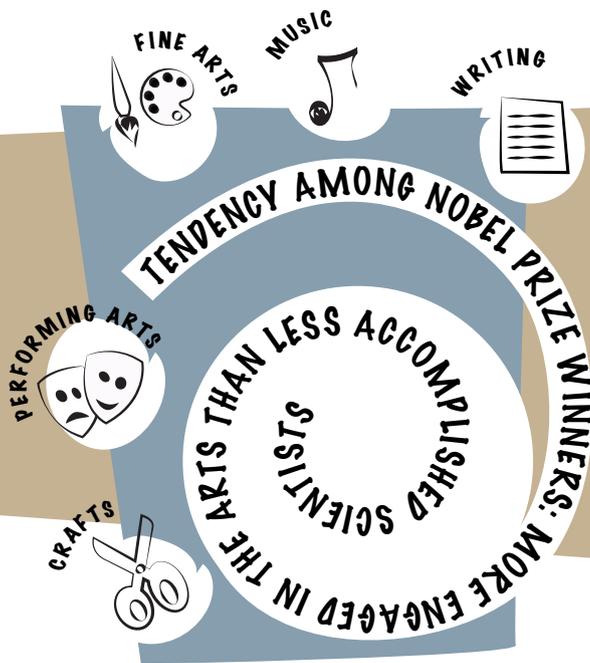
**BUT** → MANY AREN'T USUALLY GIFTED.

**&**

THEY "fear" AND HAVE "DOUBT", TOO.

**HOWEVER** → THEY ARE MASTERS OF TAKING **ACTIONS**

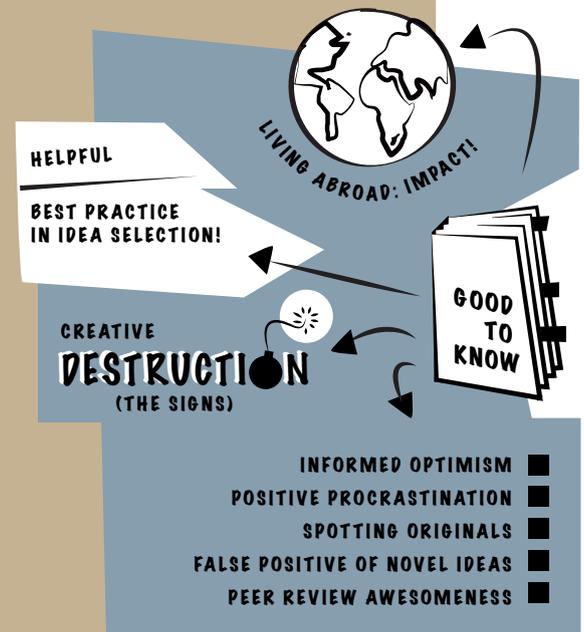
**M.T.A.**



**4.** Although I support the idea that we all are potentially innovators, being original requires more than knowledge. It can't be mastered by simple understanding. Originality that moves the world requires a deeply rooted belief in change, a desire and passion to make the world a better one. Embracing a lifestyle that is conducive to originality flourishing requires, for the most part, leaving our comfort zones and constantly reinventing ourselves. Doing so isn't easy.

**5.** Grant uses several examples that illustrate innovators' passion and ability to turn ideas into tangible outcomes. Originals are avid makers. They bring ideas to life, no matter what.

**CONCLUSION:** Paulo Freire in *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* postulates that awareness is a powerful tool for self- and social transformation. In this sense, I believe that Grant's *Originals* has the potential to nourish or even awaken that which is original in each of us.





**BRIDGET WILLIAMS GOLDEN**

BA 1998 English;

MA 2001

## Congruence

My oldest son is in sixth grade and recently had math homework on congruent triangles; these triangles have equal sides and angles. I asked him, “How can you live congruently?” Despite the eye roll and the “Mom, I’m not going to be a triangle for Halloween” (what a great idea, by the way), we had a lengthy conversation about how our actions and words must mirror our values. I believe that through our education, work, and life, we must be true to our passions and values.

My liberal arts degree has allowed me to live my own congruent geometry, balancing my family, profession, and community. For me, my Purdue experience is the base of this triangle. I arrived at Purdue in August 1994 as an English education major and Dean’s Freshman Scholar. I loved, and still love, writing, reading, and thinking; liberal arts was a perfect fit and my passion.

Throughout my Purdue collegiate experience, I was involved in and out of the classroom.

A Gallup–Purdue University study surveyed six key student experiences, aptly called the “Big Six”: having at least one professor who made them excited about learning, having professors who cared

about them, having a mentor, working on a long-term project, having an internship, and being extremely active in extracurricular activities and organizations. According to the study, only 3 percent of all college graduates nationwide experience all six. The College of Liberal Arts afforded me the opportunity to experience all six; these meaningful connections and experiences continue to impact me. My experiences in Tri Delta, Purdue Musical Organizations, Old Masters, and Mortar Board enriched my in-class learning and experiences. I realized I liked college so much that I would just stay forever, and I pursued a master’s degree in higher education and student affairs at Ohio State. I had the opportunity to return to Purdue in 2001 in the Office of the Dean of Students, encouraging students to take an active role in their learning and co-curricular experiences.

The equal sides of family and profession make up the remainder of my triangle. My congruence and engagement with what matters and my passion have stayed with me and have led me to my current career and being present for my family. Since being tapped for Mortar Board in 1997, I have stayed involved and connected as an alumna and a volunteer. As my professional life changed

as our family grew, I was able to turn this commitment into a job in 2011. The Mortar Board national office is located in Columbus, Ohio; I work from my home in Tennessee, engaging our alumni and collegiate chapters. An organization that values and celebrates scholarship, leadership, and service is a perfect fit for me and reflects my values. In addition, as part of my personal “Big Six,” I am working for someone who mentored me at Purdue, Jane Hamblin.

My engagement at Purdue in the College of Liberal Arts and across campus is a huge part of who I am professionally and personally. There is congruence between my passion and what I do professionally as well as in my roles as volunteer, advocate, and parent. Liberal arts majors are often asked, “What are you going to do with that?” And I can confidently answer, “It’s my passion. And it’s congruent.”

*In addition to working for Mortar Board, Bridget Williams Golden (BA 1998) serves as vice president and treasurer of the College of Liberal Arts Alumni Board. She is married to her co-conspirator, Thom; they have three sons, Andrew, James, and Patrick, and live in the greater Nashville area.* Photo provided by Bridget Williams Golden.



**PERRY HAMMOCK**

**PERRY HAMMOCK** (BA 1975, Speech; MA 1977, Brian Lamb School of Communication) served as executive director for the Indiana Bicentennial Commission, a project that ended in June 2017. Under his direction, 1,650 legacy projects—representing all 92 counties—were endorsed. Each project represented one of the four pillars of the Bicentennial effort: youth and education, historical celebration, community involvement, and nature conservation. One of the biggest events, the Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay, was largely supported by Purdue University and Alcoa. Together they developed the lightweight high-tech torches that made their way through every county.

Hammock has been a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) since 1998. With this certification and his philanthropic nature, he has helped many organizations and communities. He is the U.S. liaison for Fair Winds Trading Company and serves on the board in grant and funding development. Hammock's next venture, Vitruvian LLC, is a philanthropic organization that consults higher education and nonprofit groups. Through Vitruvian LLC, Hammock is currently working with the State of Illinois and consulting on its bicentennial program. As a project consultant, he will assist the State of Illinois and other future clients with project direction, design input, and resource acquisition.

As an alumnus of the Brian Lamb School of Communication, Hammock loves to engage others and get them excited about a future in the College of Liberal Arts.

Photo provided by Perry Hammock.

## Class Notes

### 1970

**KENDALL SVENGALIS** (BA, English; MA '73, History) published *The Great Emerson Art Heist* (Duneland Press), the sequel to his novel *Conspiracy on the Housatonic*. Part biography, part historical fiction, the book includes over 2,000 SAT words and is intended to promote vocabulary building and cultural literacy.

### 1971

**JANIE O'HAROW JACOBS** (BA, Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Visual and Performing Arts) was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). She has served ASID's Indiana chapter as president and has held regional and national positions for ASID.

**SUSAN MCNAB** (BA, Sociology) was named a 2017 Distinguished Alumnus by Purdue Liberal Arts. She has served as a corporate officer for 30-plus years in companies of various sizes. Prior to her retirement, she was the vice president and chief human resources officer for 11 years at PEMCO Financial Services.

**DOREEN SIMMONS** (BA, Political Science) was included in *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2017. She is the leader of Hancock Estabrook LLP's environmental practice.

### 1972

**CHERYL WHITE MASON** (BA, Sociology) was honored at the Tennessee State University Women of Legend and Merit Awards for her work as adjunct professor of law at Vanderbilt Law School and vice president of litigation at HCA.

**SALLY ANN ZOLL** (BA, Humanities and Social Sciences) serves as the CEO of United Through Reading, a nonprofit that creates bonding experiences for military families. United Through Reading provides books and video facilities at bases and ships for service members to record readings to be shared with their families. In February 2016, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society recognized United Through Reading with its inaugural Community Service Hero Award.

### 1974

**DARYL RICE** (BA, Political Science; MA '79, PhD '84, Political Science) has been appointed the associate vice chancellor of academic affairs at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

### 1975

**JOHN Z. GUZLOWSKI** (MA, English; PhD '80, English) was named winner of the 2017 Montaigne Medal by the Eric Hoffer Award for his book *Echoes of Tattered Tongues: Memory Unfolded*.

**MARK A. KRENTZ** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) is the new mayor of La Porte, Indiana, having taken over for Blair Milo. Krentz most recently served as talent attraction coordinator for the Greater La Porte Economic Development Corporation.

### 1976

**CAROLYN CURIEL** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication; HDR '08, Liberal Arts) was named one of the top journalism educators in the nation by *Crain's Newspro*, a leading publication for news media professionals. She is the founder and executive director of the Purdue Institute for Civic Communication.

### 1977

**STEPHEN MCKINLEY HENDERSON** (MA, Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Visual and Performing Arts) was recently in two Oscar-nominated films, *Fences* and *Manchester by the Sea*.

### 1978

**KIM KOELLER** (BA, School of Languages and Cultures) was named a 2017 Distinguished Alumnus by Purdue Liberal Arts. Kim is the managing director of Horizon Group International and established Gluten & Allergy Free Passport to foster global social change for gluten-free diets, celiac disease, and food allergies.

### 1979

**JERRY SICHTING** (BA, Political Science) served as the assistant coach for the New York Knicks during their 2016–2017 campaign.

## 1980

**BART PETERSON** (BA, Political Science), senior vice president of corporate affairs and communications, left Eli Lilly and Company on March 31, 2017, to pursue personal business interests and expand his community volunteer commitments.

## 1981

**ANGIE KLINK** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) was elected to serve a three-year term on the board of the National Women's History Project, which provides multicultural women's history information, resources, and products designed to expand the understanding of women's historical contributions to the United States. She was editorial advisor for *First Woman: Celebrating the Historic Presidential Campaign of Hillary Rodham Clinton and Other First Women in Government*, published by the National Women's History Project.

## 1983

**JOHN GAUDER III** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) has been appointed by Comcast as regional vice president for California. He oversees all Comcast cable operations in California, where the company serves more than 2 million customers and has more than 5,000 employees.

**ROBERT MARTIN** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) was named director of communications at Kids Place. In this role, he is responsible for the planning, development, and execution of external communication strategies in support of the national organization's mission and operations.

**JEFFREY C. MCDERMOTT** (BA, Political Science and Government) was recently named president and CEO of the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, Indiana, and the affiliated Great American Songbook Foundation.

## 1984

**LORI K. SCHROEDER** (BA, English) has accepted the position of provost and dean of the college at Franklin College in Indiana. Schroeder was most recently associate dean at Knox College.

## 1985

**KEN ARMSTRONG** (BA, Political Science) was a 2017 inductee of the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. Established in 1966, the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame honors media professionals with Indiana ties. Ken will join ProPublica as a senior reporter following his work with the Marshall Project, where he won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting for his collaboration with ProPublica's T. Christian Miller.

**ROBERT SCHULTZ** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) was elected to the Public Relations Society of America's College of Fellows. He is the senior vice president of marketing communications and events for Downtown Indy, Inc.

## 1986

**EARL J. HESS** (PhD, Interdisciplinary Studies) published *Braxton Bragg: The Most Hated Man of the Confederacy* (University of North Carolina Press), a biography in which he offers a more balanced account of Braxton Bragg by analyzing Bragg's campaigns and battles as well as testimony and opinions from members of the Confederate army.

## 1988

**SAMUEL ADU-MIREKU** (MS, Sociology; PhD '92 Sociology) was named the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Fayetteville State University. He assumes responsibility for FSU's largest academic unit, which offers 30 degree programs and employs 180 faculty members.

**CHRISTIE GILLESPIE** (BA, Political Science) was selected as president and chief executive officer of Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky.

**PATRICK MCLAUGHLIN** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication; MA '91, Organizational Communication) was named a 2017 Distinguished Alumnus by Purdue Liberal Arts. He is the senior vice president and chief human resources officer for Frito-Lay North America, Inc.



**KIMRA SCHLEICHER**

**KIMRA SCHLEICHER** (BA 1988, Sociology) is the Queen of Fantasy Football. She earned that title in 2016 when she became the first female Fantasy Football World Champion. Schleicher's team, named Le'Veon a Prayer, definitely showed signs of winning; she had already recorded the highest number of points in her league during the regular season and ranked seventh in the world. Her history-making moment came during a Monday Night Football game between the Dallas Cowboys and the Detroit Lions with a catch made by Golden Tate. Schleicher received a \$150,000 grand prize, an all-expense-paid trip to the Super Bowl, and the title of Fantasy Football World Champion. With her title, she hopes to encourage other women to realize that they can do this, too.

Schleicher may have a hobby that led her to some big winnings, but outside the fantasy football realm, she currently serves as vice president of operations and human resources at AJS, Inc. She and her family own and operate 26 KFC restaurants. She received her law degree from Western Michigan University Cooley Law School. She also sits on the Board of Trustees for Ivy Tech State College.

Photo provided by Kimra Schleicher.



JOHNNY SMITH

**JOHNNY SMITH** (PhD 2011, History) is the Julius C. “Bud” Shaw Professor of Sports, Society, and Technology and an assistant professor of history at Georgia Institute of Technology. His research focuses on the history of sports and American culture. Smith was named a Distinguished Lecturer by the Organization of American Historians in the spring of 2017. He recently published a book co-authored with Purdue Distinguished Professor of History Randy Roberts. Roberts was Smith’s PhD advisor during his studies.

*Blood Brothers: The Fatal Friendship between Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X* is the story of the relationship between Malcolm X and Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali). The book resulted from Roberts and Smith’s research on Muhammad Ali’s early career. It soon became apparent that the friendship between Malcolm and Muhammad was a dramatic tale of brotherhood, love, deceit, betrayal, and violence. The book has received nine honors to date.

This is the second book published by Smith. His first, *The Sons of Westwood: John Wooden, UCLA, and the Dynasty That Changed College Basketball*, was recognized in 2014 by *Choice* as an Outstanding Academic Title.

Smith is currently writing another work with Roberts, *The Year of the Slugger: When Mickey Mantle Became an American Hero*.

Photo provided by Johnny Smith.

1989

**SHARON VERSYP** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) became the winningest coach in Big Ten Tournament history with 22 victories with Purdue women’s basketball. In 1984, she was the first to hold the title of Indiana Miss Basketball. Now her freshman guard, Karissa McLaughlin, holds the title.

1990

**HENRY HUGHES** (MA, English; PhD ‘02, English) published his memoir *Back Seat with Fish* (Skyhorse Publishing). He shares stories of the fish he caught and the people he met traveling across East Asia.

**MICHAEL HUSSEY** (BA, School of Languages and Cultures) was selected as a shareholder for Brinks Gilson & Lione, one of the nation’s largest intellectual property law firms.

**CHRIS MOSS** (BA, History), commander of the 30th Space Wing and Western Range, Vandenberg Air Force Base, will retire the summer of 2017 after 27 years of active duty.

1991

**ERIC EDWARDS** (BA, Political Science and Government) has led the Washington, DC, government affairs office of Franklin Square Capital Partners since February 2015. He joined the firm as a senior vice president with over 20 years of public policy experience on Capitol Hill and in the private sector.

**DAVID MANKO** (BA, Political Science), a leader in regulatory and transactional health care matters, joined the New York office of the international law firm Proskauer in January 2017.

**NICOLE MCLAUGHLIN** (BA, Political Science) was named chair of the trademark, copyright, entertainment, and advertising division at Duane Morris LLP.

1992

**ANDREW GRETA** (BS, Economics) was appointed president of Illinois Financing Partners Services LLP (IFP), a premier Qualified Purchaser of Illinois receivables under the State’s Vendor Support Initiative.

**KATHLEEN HENSON** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) was named a 2017 Distinguished Alumnus by Purdue Liberal Arts. She is the founder and CEO of Henson Consulting, which was named by *Entrepreneur Magazine* as one of the 25 top small-company cultures nationwide.

1993

**BETH ELZER** (BA, Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Visual and Performing Arts) founded Beth Elzer Design, a creative consulting and freelance company in the Washington, DC, area that serves clients in the United States, Europe, and Asia.

**MICHAEL MALARNEY** (BA, Political Science) was promoted to executive vice president and general counsel at Driving Ambition, an Indianapolis-based company.

**INES MONTE** (BA, Political Science) was named special counsel to the Chicago office of Littler, the world’s largest employment and labor law practice representing management. She managed her own practice prior to joining Littler.

**STEPHANIE RICKE** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) was named team group leader by Ogilvy in its implementation of a global restructuring plan that kicked off in the United States early in 2017. Ricke, one of nine named group leaders, is responsible for leading Ogilvy USA in client management, talent, new business, and finance.

**LYNN STACY SMITH** (BA, English) published *Love, Laugh, Woof: A Guide to Being Your Dog’s Forever Owner* (Archway Publishing). A combination of anecdotes and instructional materials, the book offers advice on creating healthy lifestyles for dogs.

1994

**VALERIE ALEXANDER** (BA, English) was named a 2017 Distinguished Alumnus by Purdue Liberal Arts. She is an advisor for the Clinton Foundation, where she previously served as chief marketing officer.

**DAWN ROLISON** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) joined HGA Architects and Engineers as a business developer for the firm’s public and corporate practice group.

## 1995

**AMY C. FRIEDRICH** (MA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) was elected president of United States Insurance Solutions by the board of directors of Principal Financial Group.

**DAVID MOSS** (BA, English), a singer and bassist for MOSSOM, released a rock anthem, "Tribe Rallycry," in honor of the Cleveland Indians' first trip in 20 years to the World Series.

**JENNIFER PING** (BA, History) was recognized by the *Indianapolis Business Journal* as a 2016 Woman of Influence. She is a principal and managing director of strategic business services at Bose Public Affairs Group LLC and a principal at Bose Government Strategies LLC.

## 1997

**STEVEN STOFFERAHN** (MA, History; PhD '03, History) won the 2017 Caleb Mills Distinguished Teaching Award at Indiana State University.

**PATRICK STUART** (BA, Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Visual and Performing Arts) was named president of Neyenesch Printers, San Diego's largest family-owned printing company. He also co-founded NPSRS, LLC, a consulting services company, with his wife, Nancy. NPSRS, LLC, offers marketing and business management consulting services for start-ups and small businesses.

## 1998

**WILLIE TILLMAN** (BA, Interdisciplinary Studies) was hired as the defensive line coach for the Valdosta State University football program.

## 1999

**ANDY STANDIFER** (BA, Sociology) was the first K-9 officer at the Purdue Police Department. He recently became a certified trainer. Paco is his current four-legged partner.

**BEN WATKINS** (BA, Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Visual and Performing Arts) was promoted to vice president of customer satisfaction, research, and marketing at Arbor Homes.

## 2000

**DANICA KIRKPATRICK** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) became the marketing communications and engagement program manager for the Purdue Agriculture Communications Department.

## 2002

**KATE (SUTFIN) BOUSUM** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) received the Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) designation. She serves as the director of advancement at Child's Voice.

## 2003

**CORRIE (WHITESEL) BENNETT** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) joined the Plaid Agency as the communications specialist, driving the agency's public operations.

**MIKE HANSEN** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) published *When Life Hands You a Lemon* (French Press Bookworks), a fictional story about a man named Dan Lemon who is taken hostage by three criminals.

## 2004

**LAURA EAGIN** (BA, Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Visual and Performing Arts) co-founded ellell & co., a web development studio. The company has built a reputation for crafting beautiful, custom WordPress sites for small businesses.

**KYLE HJELMESETH** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) has continuing success as the second year comes to a close for God & Beauty, an influencer management and creative design firm that he founded in late 2015.

**BLAIR MILO** (BA, Political Science), as mayor of La Porte, Indiana, was tapped by Governor Eric Holcomb to serve as Indiana's first secretary of career connections and talent. He will serve as the state's chief talent recruitment officer and will oversee the State Personnel Department.

**JENNIFER SCHUSTER** (BA, English) joined the tort and insurance defense and liability litigation practice groups at Frost Brown Todd.

**SIGRID ZAHNER** (MA, Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Visual and Performing Arts) and her students won the 2016 SOFA Chicago CONNECT during the 23rd annual SOFA (Sculptural Objects, Functional Art, and Design) Expo.

## 2006

**JONATHAN KING** (BA, School of Languages and Cultures) completed his doctorate in historical theology at Saint Louis University. His dissertation was entitled "Theology under Another Form: Hans Urs von Balthasar's Formation and Writings as a Germanist."



**RYAN MA**

**RYAN MA** (BA 2015, Political Science) is the CEO and co-founder of OWL LLC. He released a new smartphone app in April 2017 during the annual 5K Run/Walk for the Kids benefiting the Purdue chapter of Asha for Education/West Lafayette. The app, OWL Fit for iPhones and Androids, is a fitness app that motivates children to be active. It centers on a cartoon owl that needs to be fed and requires that children meet activity goals (such as reaching a number of walked steps) to earn food.

When Ma was a senior at Purdue, he was a part of The Anvil, a student-run start-up incubator with a community co-working space. In conjunction with The Anvil, Ma developed a smartphone social media app called Meemees, which allows a faster connection to family and is spam- and advertisement-free.

Ma's technology earned a third-place award and \$1,500 at the 2016 Boiler Business Competition, an event hosted by The Anvil. He also received assistance from the Purdue Foundry, a start-up hub in Discovery Park that is part of the Burton D. Morgan Center for Entrepreneurship.

Photo provided by Ryan Ma.

| P R O G R E S S I O N S |



**2 0 0 7**

**JAMES BUSS** (PhD, History) was named the inaugural dean of the Salisbury University Honors College after serving as the director of the Thomas E. Bellavance Honors Program for three years.

**2 0 0 8**

**TAMARA AMMONS-JONES** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) choreographed the high-energy 30-minute stage performance of *The Purdue Express*, a touring company supported by the Purdue University Black Cultural Center. The performance is designed to encourage underrepresented minority students to become Boilermakers.

**2 0 1 0**

**VERONICA APPLETON** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) published *Journey to Appleville* (Mascot Books), a children's book about six kids of different backgrounds who embark on a quest and overcome their fears.

**MICHAEL KENNEDY** (BA, School of Languages and Cultures) was named to the 2017 Forbes "30 Under 30" list in the Food & Drink category. His company, Component Wine, takes some of the finest varietals that generally become "components" of popular blends, ages them, and then bottles them to offer fine wines in the over-\$100-per-bottle category.

**ALEXANDER PASSO** (BA, Sociology and History) was selected as an Illinois Super Lawyers Rising Star for 2017. He is a commercial litigation attorney at Patterson Law Firm.

**2 0 1 1**

**ELISE DERMINEUR** (PhD, History) is the project leader for "Women and Credit Networks in Finland and Sweden, 1750–1850" at the Stockholm School of Economics. She is a Pro Futura IX Fellow at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in Uppsala, and a docent and professor of history at Umeå University.

**JASON MYLES** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) relocated to Minneapolis in January 2017 to work for CBS affiliate WCCO-TV. He produces the weekend evening news.

**2 0 1 3**

**DAVID BOUDIA** (BA, Brian Lamb School of Communication) medaled twice in his third career appearance at the Olympic Games. He is among only a few divers to win a pair of national (NCAA) championships multiple times in their careers.

**PAULA RETO** (BA, Sociology) was in the 2017 Thornberry Creek LPGA Classic and the 2017 KPMG Women's PGA Championship.

**2 0 1 6**

**ALLISON KRAFT** (BA, History and Political Science) accepted a position at the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation as a curatorial intern. She is also working on her master's degree in museum studies with a focus in museum collections and registration at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

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Are you a fan of Liberal Arts at Purdue on **FACEBOOK** or **TWITTER**? Join today to receive updates about faculty research, student activities, and special events.

Be **LINKED IN** to the College of Liberal Arts! Join the CLA group on LinkedIn and connect with fellow alumni and students to discuss jobs, internships, and careers.

Photo provided by Purdue University.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS | ADMINISTRATION

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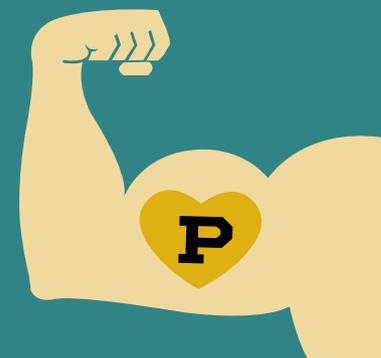
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You're part of the Boilermaker family,  
**500,000 STRONG.**

What do we all have in common? **WE ALL LOVE PURDUE!**



**THE PURDUE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXISTS TO KEEP PURDUE UNIVERSITY A STRONG, VITAL PART OF YOUR LIFE.**

Your Purdue journey doesn't end when you graduate – it's a lifelong connection, and it keeps getting stronger.

Your membership provides opportunities for career building, networking with fellow alumni, and to strengthen Purdue itself.



**AND YOUR MEMBERSHIP HELPS GIVE BACK TO PURDUE.**

Together we provide more than

**\$300,000**  
**IN SCHOLARSHIPS**

each year to current Purdue students.

**WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PERKS OF BECOMING A MEMBER?**

- Subscription to the award-winning *Purdue Alumnus* magazine
- Exclusive discounts at retailers nationwide
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[PURDUEALUMNI.ORG/MEMBER](http://PURDUEALUMNI.ORG/MEMBER)

PURDUE **P** ALUMNI

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT*
<b>NEW</b> Annual Young Alumni (35 & under)	<del>\$50</del> <b>\$25</b>	<del>\$60</del> <b>\$30</b>
Annual Membership	\$50	\$60
Annual Loyal Boilermaker	\$125	\$150
Life Membership	\$1,000	\$1,250
Life Payment Plan (5 years)	\$200/yr.	\$250/yr.
Senior Life (60+)	\$500	\$625

\*Spouses or domestic partners residing at same address.

# Distinguished Alumni

*For more than 25 years, the College of Liberal Arts has recognized the outstanding achievements of its graduates through the Distinguished Alumni Awards program. Recipients of this award have made significant contributions to society, and their accomplishments, affiliations, and careers honor the legacy of excellence at Purdue University and in the College of Liberal Arts.*



**VALERIE ALEXANDER**

*BA 1994, English*

Valerie Alexander is a senior executive with more than two decades of experience working at the intersection of mobilizing social change and awareness, applying effective communication and marketing expertise, and establishing meaningful strategic partnerships.

Alexander is the former chief marketing officer of the Clinton Foundation. During her seven years at the foundation, she built and led its global marketing, digital, special events, and partnership efforts. Prior to that, she served as a spokesperson and senior communications advisor for Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign.



**KATHLEEN HENSON**

*BA 1992, Brian Lamb School of Communication*

Kathleen Henson is the founder and CEO of Henson Consulting, a national public relations firm in Chicago. She began Henson Consulting in 2001 to reinvent the modern agency and to provide clients with strategic counsel, unparalleled creativity, and tangible results. Henson Consulting serves a wide variety of international, national, and Midwest-based clients. Prior to starting her own agency, Henson was a senior executive at Edelman. She was selected to be on the "Top Women in PR" list by *PR News* in 2016.

Henson served as co-chair of the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago's Women's Leadership Council and currently serves in its fundraising cabinet. She is also on the board of directors of Breakthrough Urban Ministries and an active member of the prestigious Women's Board of the Joffrey Ballet, for which she has co-chaired the fall fundraiser since 2013.



## KIM KOELLER

BA 1979, French

Kim Koeller is the managing director of Horizon Group International. She leads growth and innovation projects from strategy to execution for cross-industry clients ranging from entrepreneurial start-ups and midsize businesses to Fortune 500 multinational corporations. In addition, Koeller established Gluten & Allergy Free Passport in order to foster global social change for gluten-free diets, celiac disease, and food allergies. Prior to that, Koeller was a partner with Accenture in the global customer relationship management line of business.

Koeller is the creator of multiple award-winning books and mobile apps as well as a frequent speaker at national and international conferences. She holds an MBA in international management from Thunderbird School of Global Management.



## PATRICK MCLAUGHLIN

BA 1988, MA 1991, Brian Lamb School of Communication

Patrick McLaughlin is a 20-year veteran of PepsiCo, Inc., with a broad range of leadership experience in beverages and foods. In 2008, McLaughlin joined Pepsi-Cola North America to lead the human relations function through the acquisition of its two largest bottlers—a \$7.8 billion transaction that made Pepsi the largest food and beverage company in North America, doubled the employee population in the United States and Canada, and increased worldwide sales to \$66 billion.

Before joining PepsiCo, McLaughlin worked for Exxon USA based in New Orleans and developed his HR acumen in organizational development, labor, and HR generalist roles.



## SUSAN MCNAB

BA 1971, Sociology

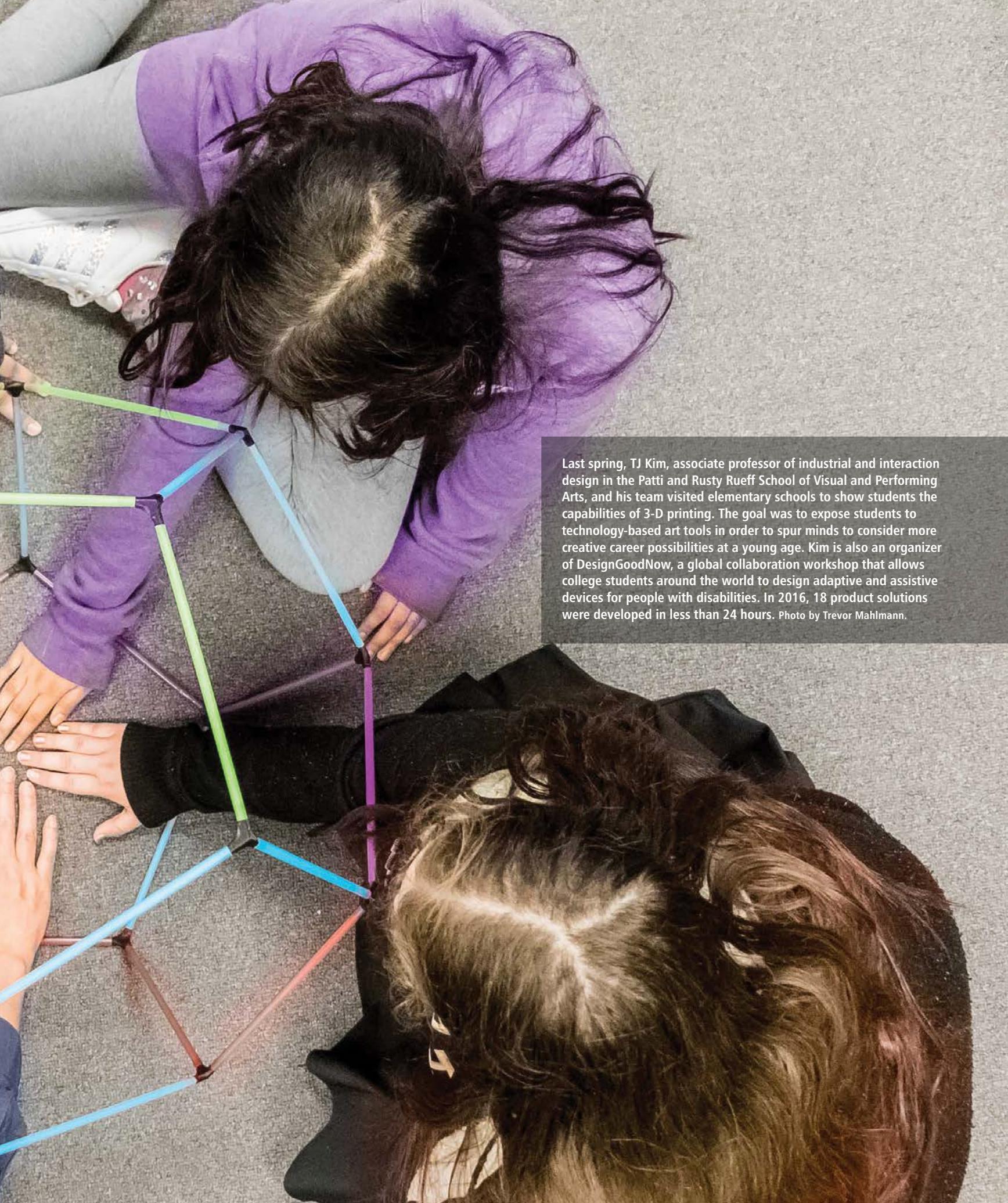
Susan McNab has served as a corporate officer at various companies for more than 30 years. She directed human resources and public relations in the acquisition of three companies and the sale of two, affecting a total of 8,000 employees. Most recently, she served as the vice president and chief human resources officer at PEMCO Financial Services in Seattle. Prior to her time with PEMCO, she was the vice president for people services and community partnerships for Starbucks and Seattle Coffee Company from 2001 to 2005.

McNab received her MA in counseling and personnel administration from the University of Maryland. She earned her MBA with an emphasis on finance and management from the University of Puget Sound. She also received her DBA with an emphasis on strategy and innovation from Capella University and an HCEO Certificate from the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California.

Photos on facing page, top to bottom: Student hosts Allison Wong (BA 2017, Philosophy/History) and Mayesha Choudhury (BA 2017, Brian Lamb School of Communication) greet guests to the awards banquet. The 2017 Outstanding Seniors pose with David A. Reingold, Justin S. Morrill Dean of Liberal Arts, and Bridget Williams Golden, vice president and treasurer of the Liberal Arts Alumni Board. Joshua Boyd, associate professor in the Brian Lamb School of Communication, presents the Outstanding Senior Award to Jessica Peine (BA 2017, Brian Lamb School of Communication). The evening's entertainment was provided by student performers from Purdue's Black Voices of Inspiration. Kayleigh Zeff (BA 2017, Spanish/Linguistics) poses with her family and Madeleine M. Henry, head and professor in the School of Languages and Cultures. David A. Reingold, Justin S. Morrill Dean of Liberal Arts, and Williams Golden, vice president and treasurer of the Liberal Arts Alumni Board, congratulate Kim Koeller (BA 1979, French) for being honored as one of the 2017 Distinguished Alumni. Guests of the 31st Annual Awards Banquet enjoyed an evening of dinner, entertainment, and celebration.

Visit [www.cla.purdue.edu/alumni/awards](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/alumni/awards) for more information about the 2017 Distinguished Alumni. Photos by Trevor Mahlmann.





Last spring, TJ Kim, associate professor of industrial and interaction design in the Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Visual and Performing Arts, and his team visited elementary schools to show students the capabilities of 3-D printing. The goal was to expose students to technology-based art tools in order to spur minds to consider more creative career possibilities at a young age. Kim is also an organizer of DesignGoodNow, a global collaboration workshop that allows college students around the world to design adaptive and assistive devices for people with disabilities. In 2016, 18 product solutions were developed in less than 24 hours. Photo by Trevor Mahlmann.

**THINK BROADLY.  
LEAD BOLDLY.**

**Michele Buzon**, professor of anthropology, is Purdue University's inaugural 2017 Lu Ann Aday Award recipient. The award is the most prestigious recognition the University bestows in the humanities and social sciences as one of its top three research honors.

**Unearthing a Way of Life**

Buzon's research focus is excavating and analyzing human skeletal remains from archaeological sites in order to address questions related to the biocultural effects of sociopolitical change in the ancient Nile Valley. Buzon, a bioarchaeologist, has an international reputation for her expertise and innovation, specifically in her research in the Nile Valley.

On the most recent excavation, Buzon—working with three doctoral students and Stuart Tyson Smith, anthropology professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara—discovered tombs of both elite and lower-class citizens of Nubia and acquired the remains of 25 people, which will be used to understand their nutrition and exposure to disease. *Photo by Vince Walters.*

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