

PURDUE STUDENT ENGINEERING FOUNDATION ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024 ISSUE



LETTER TO OUR ALUMS

Written by Kayla Manley

A new year, new leaders, and new members (coming in the next newsletter)! During this first month back at school, our current members have been incredibly busy with callouts and recruiting events to bring in these new members. Our new executive board and committee directors, who we will introduce to you in this newsletter, have done a great job engaging with students at callouts and representing PSEF. We would also like to thank any current and past members of PSEF who have contributed to the recruiting process by giving tours to students who now attend Purdue and are interested in joining PSEF! Your enthusiasm and hard work are incredibly impactful!

Also in this newsletter is a celebration of various accomplishments ranging from Festivus awards to a special member spotlight. If you read on, you will get to hear from members that have either just completed a co-op or are on one right now! While we miss having everyone on campus, PSEF is proud to recognize our members that are making an impact in the workforce and enhancing their educational experience!

While we prepare to welcome new members, hopefully you take the time to learn more about our current members and their experiences at Purdue and beyond! PSEF is full of high achieving, service-oriented individuals, and we would love for everyone to appreciate them as much as we do!

Boiler Up!

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FALL 2023 FESTIVUS RECAP



Written by Luke Uhlenbrock

Wrapping up another great semester of activities at our last general meeting, 'Festivus', some PSEF members who went above and beyond had the chance to be recognized with a warm applause in front of the group. As an addition to the annual white elephant gift exchange, group dinner, and holiday spirit, a multitude of awards were happily received (for the most part).

Member of the Year

Starting off on a serious note, we had some individuals who made a notable impact on the organization beginning with Maeve Hegarty, who won PSEF Member of the Year for 2023. On top of a wonderful personality, always making herself available to peers and offering a helping hand to anyone who needs it, Maeve also excels professionally. After winning Purdue's Rising Boilermaker award, Maeve did not back down, remaining involved with PSEF over the summer and taking on a parenting role upon returning to campus. Maeve also provides great insight, offering ideas on member inclusivity and wellbeing, going on to earn herself a Member Development directorship title. Congrats Maeve!



Founder's Award

The next award recipient is Ayrton Desai. Ayrton won our Founder's Award this semester namely for his contribution to a new iteration of PSEF Assassins, an absolute hit amongst the club. Assassins is a fun game played by PSEF members, who are tasked with eliminating other members by tagging them with a sticky note within a certain time period. As a new member tasked with the large responsibility of organizing this game, Ayrton also found time to hit the ground running- giving tours and becoming involved from the start. Ayrton also brings great humor and insightful fun-facts to the table. The future is bright for this new member!



PSEF ASSASSINS

With the conclusion of professional awards, fall '23 Assassins victors were recognized, outlasted by this semester's champion: Brady Beck. With a stellar performance, Brady amassed 4 eliminations while swiftly avoiding attacks from hungry assassin and elimination leader, Zev Meyer, who managed to hunt down seven foes. Our next awards went out to the unluckier few, starting with Brendan Duffy who was this semester's first man out, earning him the Golden Post-it award. Better luck next year, Brendan! Our last Assassins award this semester went to Delaney Partridge, picking up the award for most eliminations after she was somehow eliminated twice?!



Introducing the 2024 Executive Board

Written by Mikalah Wiles



Jessica Mu: President

Jessica is a Junior studying Electrical Engineering from Kansas City, KS. She joined PSEF as a Freshman in the Spring of 2022. Outside of PSEF, Jessica is involved with the Equestrian Team at Purdue. She has interned with Burns & McDonnell and will work at United Airlines this summer. She is excited to give back to PSEF as it has given her so many great experiences.



Silvana Cuervo: Vice President of Communications

Silvana is a Junior studying Industrial Engineering with a Minor in Statistics from Greenville, SC. She joined PSEF as a Freshman in the Fall of 2021. Outside of PSEF, Silvana is involved with the Latino Cultural Center and has interned at Disney. She has been a part of PSEF since her Freshman year, so she is excited to give back to an organization that has given so much to her.



DJ Kim: Vice President of Personnel

DJ is a Sophomore studying Industrial Engineering with a Minor in Management and a Certificate in Systems from Frisco, TX. He joined PSEF as a Freshman in the Fall of 2022. Outside of PSEF, DJ is involved in Engineers Without Borders, Sports Analytics Club, and the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers. He will be interning with GE Healthcare in their Operations Management Development Program in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this summer. DJ is looking forward to growing with other amazing members of PSEF and advancing the organization to a better place!



Victoria Knott: Vice President of Finance

Victoria is a Junior studying Mechanical Engineering from Bolingbrook, IL. She joined PSEF as a Freshman in the Spring of 2022. Outside of PSEF, Victoria is involved in Purdue Bands and Orchestras (Drumline, Wind Ensembles, and Percussion Ensembles), and Women in Mechanical Engineering. She has interned at MAK & Associates, Peerless-AV, and will work at Polaris this summer. She is excited to get to know the Exec team and Directors more, as well as serving PSEF from a different point of view.

Meet the 2024 Directors!

Tech: Chris Sigmund

Public Relations: Matthew Schaller

APEX: Amareah Bead & Emma Bedwell

Industrial Relations: Kayla Manley

Outreach: Delaney Partridge

Member Development: Maeve Hegarty



MEMBER CO-OP PROFILES



Written by Max Cervantes, Samhita Shantharam, Mikalah Wiles

Name: Alex Cheng

Major: EE '25

Co-Op: Product Engineer, Cummins

Focus: Diesel turbo engines used in Ram pickup trucks

COMPLETED

After completing his co-op, Alex believes that “the teamwork experience [he] had at Purdue helped him to better fit into the industry”, especially in situations that were completely new, like navigating communicating between suppliers and customers. He stated that he learned what a co-op was only after coming to Purdue and sought for one only after his sophomore year. Alex firmly believes that “the co-op program is a great opportunity to explore different industries... and understand what is important to be a good engineer.”

Name: Joslyn Ferguson

Major: BME '25

Co-Op: Product Lifecycle Engineer, Cook Biotech

Focus: Next-gen product development

COMPLETED

Joslyn worked on a product from the stage of feasibility to submitting the product to the FDA. She did implantation testing, tensile testing, and writing reports and protocols. For her, the coolest part about working at Cook Biotech was teaching the operators how to make their device. Joslyn got to see how production works and how the aseptic technique is used in work-world applications because all of Cook Biotech’s products are implanted inside patients. After recognizing the support she had in her team, Joslyn learned to be more confident in herself and more outspoken with her ideas.

Name: Brooke Yorio

Major: Bio E '25

Co-Op: Manufacturing Engineer, Merck & Co.

Focus: Manufacturing the Gardasil vaccine



Originally not thinking she’d do a co-op, a summer internship at Merck changed her mind when she realized she had an interest in the pharmaceutical industry. Her current work at Merck & Co. aligns with her future career aspirations to work on vaccines and compounds on her on-campus research of HPV diagnosis. The advice she has to give to Purdue students seeking similar opportunities is “don’t be afraid to try the unexpected and push yourself outside of your comfort zone. College is the time to try new things ...and that starts with being a little bit uncomfortable!”

Name: Aurelia Lau

Major: ME '26

Co-Op: Process Engineer, Tesla

Focus: Model S and X battery manufacturing line



This semester, Aurelia will be supporting the Model S and X battery manufacturing line by designing solutions aimed towards improving efficiency and reducing costs. Aurelia stated that she “really wanted to gain more industry experience prior to graduation and taking advantage of Purdue’s strong co-op program would give [her] the chance to learn more about the field and specific industries that spark [her] interest.” Aurelia particularly enjoys the unique problem solving mindset that comes alongside service manufacturing.

Name: Claudia Guevara

Major: IE '26

Co-Op: Technical Program Manager, Tesla

Focus: Factory planning for Cybertruck line



Currently in Austin, TX, Claudia is coordinating different departments in technical programs to design, build, and implement the production line for the Tesla Gigafactory. Claudia’s main project is the Cybertruck line where she implements new machines and re-makes the coating process. She decided to go on co-op because she wanted to define her career path and this position allowed her to combine both of the things she likes the most: construction and manufacturing. Her advice to those working in a similar role is to always ask for help and be curious!



We are so proud of all of our members that have taken the time to participate in a co-op! Good luck! We can’t wait to see you back on campus soon!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Written by Kayla Manley

Last semester, our 2023 PSEF President, **Griffin Laihinen**, was recognized as a Purdue Engineering Fellow. He is a senior in Environmental and Ecological Engineering with a minor in Environmental Politics and Policy and a certificate in Collaborative Leadership. Griffin has made a significant impact on PSEF, the EEE program, and the people around him. Grateful for the mentors and strong community that PSEF has provided him during his earlier years at Purdue, he has applied this mindset during his time as President and to his specific college too, creating opportunities for students' well-being. In addition, Griffin has shaped the EEE curriculum to better assist students in developing their professional skills. He believes in helping students by giving them the confidence and opportunity to talk about their strengths, which is incredibly important to EEE students as their program is only 12 years old. Passionate about empowering others and facilitating ethical environmental decisions, Griffin plans to work as a Water Resource Engineer at SRF Consulting after graduation.

"The world is not a pie. You getting something good does not take away from someone else. Helping and supporting others is key."



PSEF is incredibly proud! Congratulations, Griffin!

SENIOR HIGHLIGHTS

Written by Geoffrey Ladue

Several senior members shared the highlight of their senior year so far! We are so grateful for our seniors and look forward to making more timeless memories in the months ahead!

Cait Schmeiser

The highlight of my senior year was winning tap trivia on my birthday! My parents surprised me by visiting and came in absolute clutch on the final question!



Sree Panuganti

I have way too many to choose from but I especially loved the last minute fall break trip I took with some besties (including Griffin!) where we stayed on a boat house in West Virginia. Also loved the various cookouts and dinner parties, with many more to come!

Maddie Christy

A highlight that immediately comes to mind for me is family weekend from last semester! My roommates and I had so much fun bringing our families to breakfast club and tailgating before the football game against Syracuse!



Geoffrey Ladue

I had the humbling opportunity to speak at the IE Awards Ceremony, and I was able to pay tribute to my dad, who inspired me to become an Industrial Engineer and is my greatest role model!