

PURDUE STUDENT ENGINEERING FOUNDATION ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024 ISSUE



LETTER TO OUR ALUMS

Written by Kayla Manley

With a new semester rolling in, students are busy preparing not just for classes, but also for the upcoming spring tour season! We all know from experience that spring is the busiest, but also so much fun! Our days will soon be filled with Pizza with PSEF, Purdue's for Me, Engineering Information Sessions, and more! Before we can start these outreach events, we will need to pick new members. (Coming soon!)

This newsletter, however, is a recap of our final fall events! It starts with a summary of our Fall Retreat and a very successful APEX, then leading into a fun insight into PSEFers traveling to Minneapolis for a conference! We wrap up this newsletter by recognizing the alumni who participated in our recent alumni panel and recognizing PSEF for our impact over the 2023-2024 school year!

Please read on to hear more about these topics and see some familiar faces in the photos! PSEF is always looking to build upon the foundation laid by our alumni- so hopefully you will see the growth Emma and Amareah have been able to achieve with APEX (formerly called EXPO) while still keeping PSEF traditions alive! And don't worry- we are not going to get rid of the Buffalo Chicken Dip during retreat!

Boiler up!

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FALL RETREAT RECAP

Written by Luke Uhlenbrock

Each fall and spring, a select new crew of aspiring leaders are accepted into PSEF met with a warm round of applause and a barrage of questions at their new member GM. Shortly following, they are formally introduced to our club, its people, and some of the traditions that foster our tight knit community at PSEF retreat. Fall retreat 2024 once again found its home at First United Methodist, where the crew was quickly acquainted with a game of sheet drop. After the ice was broken and the night had commenced, families were soon born and new members were given their fashionable new outfits for the night.



As the new families began to settle in together, PSEF was blessed with a hearty selection of Chipotle, complete with sides and desserts to fuel us for the rest of the activities in store. Shortly after everyone was fed, PSEF quickly switched from engineers to actors, rehearsing and preparing their scripts to perform committee skits introducing the new members to their directors and fellow committee members. This year's skits took on a variety of forms from Master Chef to frat rats to The Bachelor. The performances were met with plenty of laughter and showers of applause as each new member was welcomed to their committee with open arms.

The transition between skits and our next round of activities provided just enough time for a coffee, tea, and snack break which included our famous midnight buffalo chicken dip. Snack time also had the chance to carry outside, as the weather for this retreat was perfect for a bond fire. Here, we roasted smores, listened to music, and soaked up the fall air surrounded by both new and familiar faces.



Fueled by caffeine and good vibes, PSEF quickly transitioned into our final activities, running through our APEX activities, playing a game of link, and finally, to cap the night, a game of if-then. Retreat provided another great environment for bonding, and a warm welcome to our fall new member class. As the night closed down, a group of brave souls who had not yet succumbed to the lack of sleep made the journey to IHOP, topping the night off with 4am stacks of pancakes and lifelong memories.

FALL 2024 APEX

Written by Brian Schmidt

On Saturday, November 9, 145 students from across the state of Indiana reported to the Wilmeth Active Learning Center for the first ever APEX in the Fall. This semester's theme was biomedical engineering, so all of the day's activities revolved around the intersection of engineering and healthcare.



To start the day, guest speaker Dr. Elsje Pienaar from the Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering gave a fascinating presentation about her journey through higher education, and she spoke about her research in computational modeling of host-pathogen interactions.



After Dr. Pienaar's presentation, the students engaged in a variety of challenges, from designing a hospital floor layout, to designing an artery thrombectomy device, to a prosthetic design impromptu. They also received the classic PSEF engineering campus tour through the mechanical and electrical engineering buildings, as well as Lambertus Hall.



APEX Committee Directors Amareah Bead and Emma Bedwell shared their enthusiasm for what made this year's event stand out from those in the past. Amareah highlighted that this was the first event of its kind with no registration fee for the students. This is due to the tireless efforts of PSEFers over the past months to secure funding for the event. It is also the first event where we were able to give our traditional campus tour to students, since the events were all hosted at WALC.



Emma focused on how this year's event was not geared toward official field trips, rather it was better suited for individual students and friend groups, creating a more accessible and personable atmosphere. She also mentioned that this was the first APEX in the Fall semester, and the first calendar year with two APEX events.



This turned out to be a very successful day for all involved, and it wouldn't have been possible without the tremendous efforts of the APEX committee, all PSEFers who dedicated time to the event, and donations from alumni!

PSEF OFF CAMPUS: OUT4UNDERGRAD

Written by Alexis Lee

In September, PSEF members Maeve Hegarty ('26) and Tess Obuchowski ('25) attended the Out4Undergrad (O4U) Conference in Minneapolis– a national event that unites LGBTQ2+ students pursuing careers in engineering and life sciences while still embracing their identities. Maeve and Tess spent a packed weekend participating in workshops on personal biases, anti-racism, and professional growth, gaining fresh perspectives alongside peers from diverse backgrounds.

For Maeve, the conference revealed many pivotal career opportunities. She secured interviews with major civil engineering firms like Clark Construction, where recruiters – many of which were former O4U attendees – connected with her on both a personal and professional level. Tess gained valuable insights into graduate school applications and research, bolstering her plans for specialized work in R&D. Both emphasized the unique experience of queer people in STEM, sharing how O4U provided an empowering space to discuss challenges and successes with others who related to the added layers of identity they bring to their fields.

They also reconnected with PSEF alumni Griffin Laihinien ('24) and Maddie Christy ('24), enjoying the chance to catch up and share the latest in their lives– a reminder of the strength of connections within the PSEF community.



Now back at Purdue, Maeve and Tess reflect on the transformative experience with a renewed appreciation for the supportive LGBTQ+ resources on campus. “Some people don’t have the privilege to have [LGBTQ+] support,” Maeve shared. “But when you have the opportunity and privilege, try your best to find the good in people, but also just *good people*. Slay.” She said with a smile on her face.

This opportunity was shared with us back in February by a PSEF alum! Thanks to an email from Jordan Loeser (Comp E '20), these PSEFers were able to learn more and participate in this event! Jordan himself participated in these conferences when he was an undergraduate student, and for him, it's where he got connected with his first internship experiences and where he met many of his closest friends! Thanks, Jordan!

ALUMNI PANEL

Written by Kayla Manley

In November, Claudia Guevara (IE '26) organized an alumni panel geared towards answering questions PSEF members had about grad school! These alumni answered questions, shared their experiences, and connected with each other! Special shoutout to Kevin Chamberlin (IE '19), Jake Halpern (NE '23), and Ryne Rayburn (Comp E '11) for participating, and to our current members: Claudia and Paul Hamas (FYE) for hosting!



IMPACT REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Written by Jessica Mu

Data is from the 2023-2024 school year.

Purdue

Student

Engineering

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KEY PERFORMANCE METRICS



637 tours of Purdue engineering Facilities given by PSEF.

1305 hours dedicated by PSEFers to prospective student outreach events.

1380 admitted students connected to Purdue engineering virtually through PSEF's discord platform.

15306 prospective high school students interacted with PSEF through outreach events.

\$40,597,547 estimated tuition revenue from students attending PSEF events and accepting their offer.

54.39% VS 33.62%

admitted student yield rate of students attending PSEF events.

admitted student yield rate of the College of Engineering overall.