

# PURDUE STUDENT ENGINEERING FOUNDATION ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

February 2025 ISSUE



## LETTER TO OUR ALUMS

*Written by Luke Uhlenbrock*

It feels like the crew got back to campus yesterday, and in the blink of an eye, the semester is quickly approaching the halfway point. With all the passing time comes plenty of new and exciting changes for PSEF. The beginning of the new year means the privilege of welcoming both a new exec and member class (coming next edition) to ensure the club continues to grow and flourish. This change is welcomed amidst another busy season of PFM days where we continue to leave our mark on thousands of admitted students each spring.

This edition of the newsletter will recap some of the top events of 2024 and lay the foundation for us to hit the ground running this year. First, we will then introduce our new exec as well as our directors for the year. Next, we will detail the new PACER program put into place by our 2024 president, Jessica Mu. Then, we will highlight some of our favorite events to end our year. We will close the letter with a summary of some of the top happenings in West Lafayette this past year.

We wish you all the best in 2025, and are excited to celebrate PSEF's 30th anniversary later this year (more details incoming). As we hit the ground running - or walking backwards I guess I should say - we will continue to follow in the footsteps of those before us, ensuring our stories are heard and our love for Purdue touches all we meet.

Boiler Up!

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# INTRODUCING THE 2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD



## Kayla Manley President

Kayla is a junior studying Mechanical Engineering with a Minor in Chemistry from Midland, MI. She joined PSEF as a freshman in the Spring of 2023. Outside of PSEF, Kayla is involved with the Purdue crew team, EPICS, and undergraduate research. She intended last summer at Midea last summer, and will be interning at PepsiCo this upcoming summer. Kayla is most looking forward to representing PSEF and supporting each member in achieving their personal and professional goals!



## Veronica Miller VP Communications

Veronica is a junior studying Nuclear Engineering with a Minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation from Denver, CO. She joined PSEF as a freshman in the Spring of 2023. Outside of PSEF, Veronica is involved with the Purdue Fencing Club, the Society of Women Engineers, and College of Engineering Ambassadors. She has previously interned at Gulfstream and ASML, and she will be interning at BAE this summer. Veronica is excited to keep PSEF's momentum going through GMs, retreat, and banquet, and to strengthen our internal community!



## Emma Bedwell VP Personnel

Emma is a junior studying Mechanical Engineering from Aurora, IL. She joined PSEF as a freshman in the Fall of 2022. Outside of PSEF, she is involved in Purdue Mechanical Engineering Ambassadors, Higher Ground Dance Company, and the Women in Engineering program. She worked with John Deere last summer. Emma is most looking forward to seeing how all of our members grow throughout the year, and is excited to support our members as they provide outreach to prospective families!



## Alexis Lee VP Finance

Lexi is a sophomore studying Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering from Seattle, WA. She joined PSEF as a freshman in the Spring of 2024. Outside of PSEF, she is involved in the Purdue Space Program, the Women in Engineering program, and the Minority Engineering Program. She has interned with Orca Pacific Inc. and will be working with NAVIAR this upcoming summer. Lexi is excited to serve PSEF and help reach our goal of financial sustainability!

# MEET THE 2025 DIRECTORS



## Top Row From Left to Right:

- Emilynn Johns - IE '26
  - Member Development
- Luke Uhlenbrock - ME '27
  - Industrial Relations
- Frederick Lang - EE '27
  - Public Relations
- Alexandra Slywka - BME '27
  - Outreach

## Bottom Row From Left to Right:

- Rika Chang - EE '27
  - APEX
- Andrew Kuntz ChE '27
  - Tech Coordinator
- Samhita Shantharam
  - APEX



# IMPACT REPORT & PACER UPDATE



Written by Jessica Mu

The PSEF annual impact report began under the 2023 PSEF President, Griffin Laihinen BSEEE '24. The report serves to provide a synopsis of PSEF's events, updates, and impacts through the wide network of people and communities we reach.

It has been my greatest pleasure serving this organization, and I am immensely proud to reflect on the past year and how far our members have taken PSEF. In one year, we launched PACER (PSEF Alumni Coordinated Engineering Experience), secured annual funding from the College of Engineering, and saw a record high number of applications to the organization. For faculty, parents, and peers, it is always hard to believe how much our organization accomplishes as a group of only 55-60 students. Knowing the dedicated group of students we have, I am not the least bit surprised, but am continuously impressed.

## 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.

It goes without saying I owe a huge thank you to the 2023 Executive Board for leaving PSEF in a great position for me to pick up on. I also could not have completed this year or this report without the OFE (Office of Future Engineers) and our two advisors, David Bowker and Nate Engelberth, who continue to value our organization's unique mission and support our new initiatives.

This report summarizes the past academic year, from the Fall 2023 to Spring 2024 semesters. I am excited to share the second PSEF impact report, and I hope the time and energy our members invest into Purdue engineering is visible through its pages.





# FESTIVUS RECAP

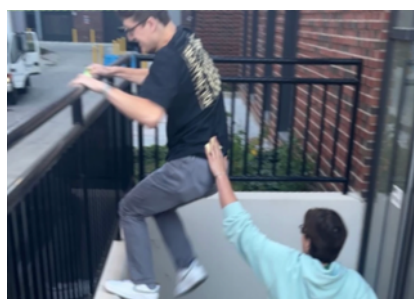
Written by Sarah Brown

This past year ended with every PESFers favorite holiday tradition, Festivus. It started off with the usual odd shaped white elephant gifts and enough pizza and cookies to inspire a new years resolution. However, a new tradition was born this year called “The Milkers”. Inspired by Micah Morkuni, who in the previous year, attempted to chug a gallon of milk during Festivus, participants each drank a half gallon of milk. This tradition was unforgettable for both participants and the bathrooms in Armstrong. Some of the most memorable gifts included a creepy doll holding a chainsaw and a staintory bike that found its new home at 308. Overall, it was a great year closed out with an amazing Festivus!



## ASSASSINS DEBRIEF

Written by Mikalah Wiles



The Fall 2024 round of Assassins was nothing short of legendary, with plenty of surprises, strategic maneuvers, and unforgettable moments! Right from the start, Matt Schaller was the first eliminated, but Nick Pantazopoulos made a name for himself by racking up the most deaths in the shortest time. On the other end of the spectrum, Sam Altenburger emerged as a force to be reckoned with, securing the title for most kills in the shortest time! Regarding creative tactics, Luke Uhlenbrock stole the spotlight with the dirtiest kill, reminding everyone that in Assassins, it's not about winning but how you do it. Micah Morikuni dominated the field with the most kills overall! In the end, it all came down to Victoria Knott, who outlasted 22 other agents and claimed the coveted title of Last Standing. She showcased patience, strategy, and a keen sense of survival.



# 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Written by  
Paulie Hamas

Purdue University and PSEF had an eventful and productive year. From thrilling highs and tough lows in sports to leadership changes within PSEF and a number of successful events, 2024 was nothing short of exciting! As we wrap up 2024, it's time to look back on a year filled with growth, challenges, and incredible achievements. Let's take a trip down memory lane and celebrate the year that was!



## PURDUE MEN'S BASKETBALL MAKES A RUN TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

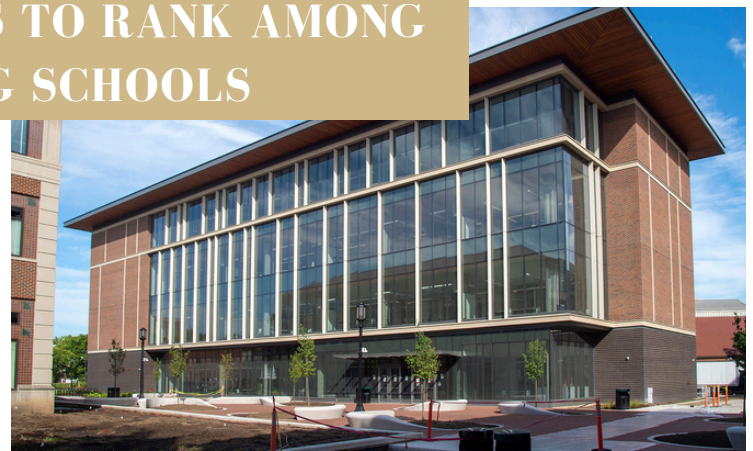


After securing their second consecutive Big Ten Championship, Purdue Men's Basketball entered the 2024 NCAA Tournament as the Midwest Region's #1 seed. The Boilermakers started strong with commanding victories over Grambling State and Utah State before taking down #5 Gonzaga in the Sweet Sixteen and #2 Tennessee in the Elite Eight. With the win, Purdue advanced to the Final Four for just the second time in program history. There, they dominated South Region champion NC State to

earn a spot in the National Championship game against UConn. Despite an incredible tournament run, Purdue fell short in the title game, losing 75-60 to the Huskies. Purdue Men's Basketball has kicked off the 2025 season on a strong note, boasting a 16-5 record with four wins over ranked opponents. Their impressive performance has earned them the #10 spot in the AP Poll, solidifying their position among the nation's top teams.

## PURDUE UNIVERSITY CONTINUES TO RANK AMONG THE NATION'S TOP ENGINEERING SCHOOLS

According to U.S. News & World Report, Purdue ranks as the #6 undergraduate engineering school in the nation, with several disciplines earning top spots.



Thanks to 13 consecutive years of frozen tuition, Purdue continues to offer world-class engineering education at an exceptional value. Notably, the university holds the #1 ranking in Agricultural Engineering, #2 in Aerospace Engineering, and #5 in Civil Engineering, along with numerous other top 10 placements across various engineering fields.



## APEX 2024: A HIT AMONG FUTURE ENGINEERS

This year's APEX competition, led by Amareah Bead and Emma Bedwell, was a huge success, bringing together 100+ participants for a day of creativity, problem-solving, and hands-on challenges. Teams tackled real-world problems like designing a hospital layout, creating a thrombectomy device, and building a prosthetic hand. Beyond the competition, students heard from Dr. Pienaar and engaged with Purdue Engineering students, gaining valuable insights. While the focus was on biomedical engineering, participants explored various disciplines, getting a true taste of Purdue's world-class engineering community.



## PURDUE FOOTBALL TAKES A STEP BACK IN 2024

After a disappointing 4-8 record in 2023, expectations were low for the Boilermakers heading into the 2024 season. Facing a brutal schedule that included ranked opponents such as Notre Dame, Oregon, Ohio State, and Penn State, Purdue was widely projected to struggle. The season started on a positive note with a win over Indiana State, but momentum quickly faded as the Boilermakers failed to secure another victory for the rest of the year. The rough campaign ultimately led to the dismissal of head coach Ryan Walters and saw 32 players enter the transfer portal, marking a period of major transition for the program. In response, Purdue hired former UNLV head coach Barry Odom on a six-year, \$39 million contract, ushering in a new era of Boilermaker football. With a new season quickly approaching, and spring ball on the horizon, the football team aims to improve upon past woes and welcome some conference wins back to Ross Ade. Despite past woes, the Boilermaker proud will welcome our squad home this fall for a highly anticipated 2025 season!

