

PURDUE STUDENT ENGINEERING FOUNDATION ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

January 2026 ISSUE



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LETTER TO OUR ALUMS

Written by Luke Uhlenbrock

A strong end to the 2025 year and a fast-paced start to 2026. We are sending a cordial 'Happy New Year' from everyone hard at work back in West Lafayette. The fall semester of 2025 had everyone hard at work. This semester begun accelerated, as a longer summer break meant one less week at the beginning of the semester. Nonetheless, PSEF continued to shine bright and get to work sharing our mission.

With our feature event of the 30th anniversary (thank you to all alumni who attended), the org hit the ground running. Shortly after, we welcomed in our fall 2025 new member class helping to add to an already dynamic group. Of course, tours ensued and PSEF was there to answer the call, continuing our regular EIS, IPD and miscellaneous tours in between.

We hope everyone had a great holiday season and a wonderful start to the new year. It's been a cold and snowy winter up in West Lafayette so far. We hope everyone is staying safe and warm!

Boiler Up!

NEW MEMBERS FALL 2025



Aliyah Husaini

Year: Freshman
Major: Biomedical
Hometown: Lincolnwood, IL
Committee: Outreach
Fun Fact: Aliyah can draw a perfect circle!



Nicholas Zang

Year: Sophomore
Major: Electrical
Hometown: Fremont, CA
Committee: APEX
Fun Fact: Nicholas can split an apple in half with his bare hands!



Brandon Kang

Year: Freshman
Major: Nuclear
Hometown: West Lafayette, IN
Committee: Tech Coordinator
Fun Fact: Brandon is pursuing a political science double major!



Vishek Desai

Year: Freshman
Major: Chemical
Hometown: Allentown, NJ
Committee: Member Development
Fun Fact: Vishek can juggle and can solve a Rubik's Cube in under a minute!



Ana Samayoa

Year: Sophomore
Major: Industrial
Hometown: Guatemala
Committee: Public Relations
Fun Fact: Ana loves playing tennis and I taught herself the Ukelele!



Daren Crusenberry

Year: Freshman
Major: Mechanical
Hometown: Tucson, AZ
Committee: Outreach
Fun Fact: Daren has a cereal addiction!



Kai Offenbacher

Year: Freshman
Major: Civil or Nuclear
Hometown: Winnetka, IL
Committee: Industrial Relations
Fun Fact: Kai is a music producer and DJ and likes tennis!



Jacqueline Tran

Year: Sophomore
Major: Chemical
Hometown: Cincinnati, OH
Committee: APEX
Fun Fact: Jacqueline can play three types of saxophone!



Averi Jones

Year: Freshman
Major: Construction
Hometown: Batesville, IN
Committee: Public Relations
Fun Fact: Averi enjoys painting and loves watching Purdue basketball!



Aidan Policelli

Year: Sophomore
Major: Electrical
Hometown: West Hartford, CT
Committee: Industrial Relations
Fun Fact: Aidan is a Patriots super fan!

FALL RETREAT RECAP

PSEF was excited to welcome 10 New Members this semester. Our retreat was held at First United methodist church, and we started the night with playing the sheet drop to learn everyone's names. After that, we gave the new mems their custom shirts tailored to their interests, and we ate burritos from Chipotle that were chopped in half by our VPP, Emma Bedwell, and her machete.



We then moved into committee skits - IR was trying to survive the apocalypse, MD were performative males, APEX was bull fighting, PR was survivor themed, and outreach presented a dramatic courtroom scene.

We then took on a challenge that we later used in APEX - designing a helmet for an egg. A crowd favorite this semester was the balloon game, where we all tied balloons to our ankles and tried to stomp and pop the balloons to get each other out. After that, we played sardines, basketball, took pictures, and never collected the New Mems socks. Finally, we ended the night at IHOP and concluded a successful retreat.



HOMECOMING AND PARADE

Written by Shelby Britton

The homecoming game this year was against Rutgers, and although the Boilermakers lost 27-24, PSEF still turned out to support the team. The stands even featured a crowd favorite, the Tark Sharks.



In better news from Homecoming weekend, PSEF took home second place and a prize of \$75 in the Homecoming Parade Float Decorating contest. The theme this year was Boilermakers Reach for the Stars, and PSEF chose to decorate our float like Gru's car from Despicable Me. Our golf cart was complete with Gru's logo, an engine, and even the moon. PSEFers dressed as Gru, Vector, and minions, and the PSEF bear even made an appearance as Dr. Nefario.

As our cart zoomed down the parade we listened to many hits from the movies such as Double Life, Happy, and Despicable Me.



FALL COOKOUT

Written by Michael Bertaux

Purdue basketball, freezing cold winds, sledding down Slayter hill and finals week are just a few of the elements that describe the winter months here on Purdue's campus. But for a few precious weeks on campus, before the winter months, and after the heat of the summer are a magical couple weeks in which the beauty of the fall season shines through in West Lafayette. Leaves changing color from green to vibrant shades of orange and red, Purdue football going full steam ahead (regardless of the team's record) and October Halloween spooky season are just some aspects that make up the special fall season on campus.



The portable grill has already been used on numerous occasions in the short couple weeks since its debut and the organization would like to give many thanks to the PSEF alum from the PSEF 30th anniversary that gifted PSEF the portable grill. Ultimately, it was another successful PSEF cookout with many highlights. But the core ingredients remain constant, good food and good company. The tradition holds strong and is an amazing event to enjoy the precious fall season before PSEF students must start to hunker down for the onset of the winter weather and final projects end exams.



With all these fall spectacles comes of course the PSEF fall cookout tradition. In the fall of 2025 PSEF made its way to Happy Hollow Park, right off Purdue's campus in West Lafayette. This year's cookout included activities ranging from spike ball in the grass, exploring the trails of the park, throwing frisbee and football and of course breaking bread. Cheeseburgers, turkey burgers and hot dogs with other snacks and drinks completed the menu at cookout, with many PSEFers taking an interest in hammering down on the grill. But not just any grill that is. This year's cookout introduced a new PSEF signature item that is proving to become a PSEF staple - the grill from PSEF's 30th anniversary. Said grill was gifted from PSEF alumni to the organization after the PSEF 30th anniversary gameday tailgate.



PSEF 30TH ANNAVERSARY

This year marked PSEF's 30th anniversary—a milestone worth celebrating! From September 5-7, current PSEF members hosted a full weekend of events to welcome alumni back to campus and highlight both Purdue's historic landmarks and its exciting new additions. The weekend kicked off on Friday with a casual lunch gathering at Harry's Chocolate Shop, a spot beloved by generations of Boilermakers. On Saturday, members and alumni came together for a celebratory luncheon at Nine Irish Brothers, honoring three decades of PSEF's impact and community. It was wonderful to reconnect with familiar faces and meet alumni who even brought their families back to campus for the occasion.



That evening, the Purdue vs. Southern Illinois football game provided the perfect backdrop for more celebration. Members and alumni tailgated together before heading into Ross-Ade Stadium to watch a Purdue win under the lights. The festivities wrapped up on Sunday with campus tours led by current PSEF members, showcasing both the timeless landmarks alumni remember and the newest developments shaping Purdue's future. Overall, it was a special weekend filled with tradition, connection, and pride in 30 incredible years of PSEF.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: AMAREAH BEAD

This past September, Amareah, a senior in civil engineering, was named one of seven students selected as a Purdue Engineering Fellow for the 2025-26 academic year. A dedicated leader and passionate student, Amareah is known for uplifting those around her through her positive energy and genuine commitment to others. Throughout her time at Purdue, Amareah has been deeply invested in supporting her peers and sharing the opportunities she has experienced. Not only has she dedicated her time to the Purdue Student Engineering Foundation as a co-director of the APEX committee, but she has also served as president of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE).



In addition, she has represented the Lyles School of Civil Engineering as an ambassador and most recently became a proud member of Mortar Board. Academically, Amareah has excelled as a Purdue Kiewit Scholar and has earned a place on the Dean's List every semester of her college career. Amareah has truly made the most of her Purdue experience, and her future continues to shine. This summer, she will return to HNTB for another internship with the firm.



There, she will continue gaining hands-on experience in the field she is passionate about, bringing her one step closer to her dream of engineering an iconic bridge. Following her internship, Amareah plans to continue her education at Purdue, where she will pursue a master's degree in civil engineering.

