To our most loyal Boilermakers,

This issue of Forge marks the end of its second year, and it is without a doubt the most unusual issue our team has put together. Our goal with this issue was to do what we do best—share and celebrate the stories of the incredible student-athletes here at Purdue. Their schedules have been disrupted and many collegiate athletics careers were cut short, but they have handled this ever-changing situation with grace and we are extremely proud of them.

Our department is continuing to prepare for the athletics events that we know are on the horizon, and we are keeping up with Big Ten, state and federal guidelines. Our primary focus is that our sporting events take place in a safe and responsible way. We are excited that the south endzone video board project is progressing ahead of schedule, and it will provide an incredible fan experience when football season begins.

We also are doing our best to support our student-athletes, coaches and staff be it here on campus or wherever they chose to finish their spring semesters. We are also proud of our student-athlete alumni, featured on page 10, who have gone on to work in the healthcare field and serve their communities on the front lines of this crisis.

All of this is what makes the involvement of John Purdue Club members so important. When student-athletes arrive on campus to compete for the university, we make them a promise that we will support them and their overall growth and development in every way possible. It may look different these days, but that’s still what we are doing. Now more than ever, we are encouraging student-athletes, coaches and staff to stay in touch and work together. We are proud to be Boilermakers.

Stay safe. Be well. Boiler Up!

Mike Bobinski
Vice President — Director of Intercollegiate Athletics

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A Waterford Crystal vase occupies a place of honor in the condominium Tyler Duncan shares with his wife, Maria, in Ponte Vedre, Florida.

The eight-inch vase was a gift the former Purdue golfer (2008-12) received for playing in the 2018 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am golf tournament. Etched with the Pebble Beach logo, the vase is filled halfway with Titleist golf balls, each representing a memorable shot Tyler has struck as a professional golfer. You might call the vase Duncan’s Greatest Hits.

There is the ball Duncan used to make a hole-in-one at the Byron Nelson Tournament in 2018. Another from back-to-back eagles at Boise in 2019 and another from the 2019 Travelers when he buried a 130-yard wedge for an eagle 2 on the first hole of the second round.

“There’s plenty of room in there for more balls,” Duncan admits. But at the rate the vase has been accumulating balls lately, Duncan is going to need a bigger vase.

Last November, Duncan added three balls alone from the RSM Classic at Sea Island, Georgia. If those greatest hits were songs, the first one would be played loudly.

From 114 yards, Duncan could only see the top half of the eighth-hole flagstick. His gap wedge approach crashed off the stick and disappeared. The audible clatter left Duncan awe-struck and confused.

“My caddy and I just looked at each other, like ‘Where did it go?’ It made
just two weeks until their wedding in Vincennes, so they headed home to get ready. Duncan had some unfinished business on the golf course. Before he could be Schenk’s best man, there was plenty of golf to be played.

Saturday’s 18 straight pars left Duncan four shots off the lead heading into the final round. “I knew if I had another solid round I could be looking at a top 10 finish, maybe even top five,” he says. But while longevity on Tour may be defined by dollars, history remembers titles.

In Vincennes, Schenk was breaking down wedding gift boxes and burning them in a bonfire behind Kourtney’s house when Duncan inauspiciously started his final round with a bogey.

Schenk checked his phone a few minutes later. “Tyler just birdied 3,” he told Kourtney. Another birdie at 7, and Schenk began to get antsy. It was about time to put out the fire, go inside and turn on the television.

On the course at Sea Island, Duncan allowed himself a first peek at the leaderboard when he made the turn after the ninth hole. “We make a couple of birdies,” Duncan told caddy Zach Guthrie, “and we’re right in this thing.”

Then came a stretch of golf that would change Duncan’s life, starting with a birdie on the par 3, 12th hole. Now 15 under par for the tournament, Duncan was within reach of the leaders, former U.S. Open champion Webb Simpson and Brendon Todd, the hottest player on Tour, who had won the previous two events.

Duncan’s driving accuracy was almost flawless. After that forgettable first hole, he missed only one fairway all day. And when he birdied the 15th hole with a two putt, he was tied for the lead with Simpson, playing two holes behind.

Back in Vincennes, Schenk was standing in front of the television, trying to coax every Duncan shot toward the hole. Schenk missed the cut at the RSM Classic by three strokes. He and his fiancée, Kourtney, had just two weeks until their wedding in Vincennes, so they headed home to get ready. Duncan had some unfinished business on the golf course. Before he could be Schenk’s best man, there was plenty of golf to be played.

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Duncan says, “I was so excited I didn’t know what to do. It was an awesome feeling when that putt went in the hole.”

And his vase got a little more crowded.

But the hole that gave him the highest of highs also gave him the lowest of lows on the first playoff hole with Simpson.

From a near identical line to the 25-footer he drained to get in the playoff, Duncan’s first playoff putt slid five feet past the hole. Make the putt and head back to the tee for second playoff hole, Mass and head home with the second-place check.

“Standing over that putt was the most nervous I’ve ever been on a golf course,” Duncan admits. But the one aspect of his game that has improved the most on tour is his putting. He has improved a full stroke per round played since teaming up with putting coach Ramon Bescansa a year ago. The five-footer dropped, and Duncan and Simpson headed back to the tee for the second playoff hole.

Once again, Duncan piped his drive. And when Simpson pushed his second shot into a greenside bunker, Duncan had a huge advantage. Simpson splashed out to four feet, setting the stage for Duncan’s second vase-worthy shot in three holes.

It was three hours before Schenk could reach Duncan following his win. This time, he didn’t bother texting.

“I don’t remember what I said,” Schenk says. “I just remember there was a lot of screaming.”

With his first PGA Tour win in November, Tyler Duncan earned a lot more than the $1,188,000 first prize.

In becoming the first former Purdue player to win on the PGA Tour since Joe Campbell won the Tucson Open in 1966, Duncan earned 50 FedEx points (a season-long Tour competition); a two-year exemption on the PGA Tour; invitations to the next Masters, PGA, Players and Tournament of Champions events, as well as invites to the Arnold Palmer Invitational and Memorial Tournament; a three-year invitation to the World Golf Championships; and a loving cup big enough to use for backyard chipping practice.

Clearly, winning on the Tour is a life changer. Back when Campbell was picking up his oversized Happy Gilmore checks, a win wasn’t a guarantee of fortune and fame.

When Campbell was earning the PGA Rookie of the Year title in 1959, playing on the Tour was a non-stop, nomadic life. A relentless routine of chasing the sun each spring, driving across the country, playing four rounds of golf, grabbing the check, hopping in the car and heading down on the road to the next tour venue.

In 1961, Campbell and his wife, Imogene, loaded their Buick (a favorite among tour players because its trunk was large enough to sleep four) and headed west.

“My wife and I would drive to Los Angeles in the early spring to qualify for the L.A. Open,” says Campbell, who played on the Tour for 14 seasons. “The next week we drove down to play in Tijuana, then back up to the Crosby Tournament at Pebble Beach, down to Palm Springs, over to Phoenix, then Tucson, Dallas, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Jacksonville, Wilmington and Greensboro before we got a week off.

“Back then, every week we were playing for a living. Today, everyone on the tour is a millionaire. Now, they are just playing for titles and trophies.”

The Campbell would put 70,000 miles on their car each season. Wins in 1961 (Beaumont Invitational) and 1962 (Baton Rouge Invitational) both paid $2,800. His second win gave Campbell the confidence he could thrive on the PGA Tour.

Meanwhile, Campbell had taken a shine to Purdue athletics director Guy J. “Red” Muckey’s gold Buick. The jet-black tires made it look like a custom-made Boilermaker Special.

Campbell had the Buick dealer in his hometown of Anderson, Indiana, order a six-month waiting period for a gold paint job. But when Campbell revealed he was interested in purchasing a second gold Buick (a favorite among tour players), Campbell was involved in a head-on automobile collision near his home in Lake Wales, Florida. Injuries to his ribs and sternum kept him off the golf course for 14 weeks. Now recovered, Campbell, the Purdue men’s golf coach from 1974 to 1993, plays golf four times a week with his friends at the Grenelefe Golf Club near his home.

“Hard to believe,” Campbell says, “but that was a lot of money back then.”
The coronavirus pandemic has gripped the nation, impacting the lives of people in every corner of the country and throughout the world. Lives have been lost. Shelter-in-place orders were instituted to flatten the curve and stop the spread. Cities became ghost towns as many sectors of the economy came to a stop. As a result, job losses have reached record highs. The rush was on to combat the pandemic. And former Purdue student-athletes have been doing their part.

Forge caught up with six Boilermakers who are among those making a difference. Here are their stories detailing what they are doing in this difficult, yet critical, time.

IT’S BEEN INTERESTING TO BE A PRACTITIONER, EVEN THOUGH I’M A TRAINEE, SEEING HOW ITS IMPACTED OUR EXPERIENCE IN THE SURGERY WORLD. I’M NOT ON THE FRONTLINES FIGHTING CORONAVIRUS. BUT THAT BEING SAID, EVERY HOSPITAL’S REACTION AND PRECAUTIONS HOPEFULLY REDUCES THE EXPOSURE TO CORONAVIRUS AND IMPACTS EVERYONE IN THE HOSPITAL. THE CORONAVIRUS IS AN UNKNOWN. IT HAS IMPACTED THE U.S. QUICKLY, AND WE HAVE HAD TO TAKE SUCH DRASTIC MEASURES TO PROTECT AS MANY PEOPLE AS WE CAN.

I WAS ON OUR MAIN HOSPITAL PLASTIC SURGERY SERVICE WHEN THEY STARTED GETTING SOME OF THE FIRST PATIENTS WITH CORONAVIRUS AT NORTHWESTERN. WE HAVE COME TO A STANDSTILL AS MOST HOSPITALS HAVE IN TERMS OF ELECTIVE SURGERY. WE ARE STILL WORKING, BUT IT’S AT SUCH A REDUCED CAPACITY THAT HOPEFULLY ALL THOSE MEASURES WILL HELP US TO ABSORB THE CORONA PATIENTS.

I’VE BEEN TRYING TO HELP US DO OUR PART AND TALK THROUGH THINGS WITH THE LEADERS IN OUR PROGRAM. AND (IT HAS BEEN A CHALLENGE) TO PROTECT OUR FAMILIES THAT WE LIVE WITH. I HAVE TWO YOUNG KIDS, A HUSBAND AND A NANNY. THEY ARE IN NASHVILLE, WHERE WE HAVE MORE SPACE AND BETTER WEATHER.

NORTHWESTERN HAS A LOT OF BACKUP MEASURES IN TERMS OF ANTICIPATED NUMBERS (IN CASE OF A SURGE). THEY HAVE EVALUATED OUR TRAINING AND HOW WE CAN BEST BE UTILIZED. RIGHT NOW, THAT’S THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT SINCE MANY OF OUR UNITS HAVE BEEN CONVERTED TO POTENTIALLY HOUSE MANY MORE COVID PATIENTS.

The New Orleans native was a key member of women’s basketball teams that won two Big Ten Tournament titles and made two NCAA Tournament Elite Eight appearances. Mioton Connor won a Big Ten postgraduate scholarship and was a finalist for a Rhodes Scholarship. After Purdue, Mioton Connor attended medical school at Vanderbilt on a full scholarship from 2009 to 2014. She has been in residency ever since at Northwestern University. Her husband, Jonathon, works in hospital administration for a company based in Nashville, Tennessee.

How Mioton Connor is helping fight COVID-19 in her own words:

LAUREN MIOTON CONNOR
Job: MD, plastic and reconstructive surgery
Employer: Northwestern University
Years at Purdue: 2005-09
Sport: Basketball
Degree: Biology
Tweardy was a decorated diver for the Boilermakers – an All-American on the 10-meter platform and two-time team captain. The native of Elyria, Ohio, competed in the 2016 Olympic Trials and was a member of the USA National Team. Tweardy also was the 2015 Big Ten Medal of Honor recipient.

Tweardy works in the R&D department at physIQ – a start up that is backed by Purdue – where she develops algorithms used on wearables for use in the clinical trial space.

The Delphi, Indiana, native has been practicing medicine for years. He’s an internist in the Lafayette area who mainly works in outpatient medicine. His wife Susan is a nurse and also a Purdue graduate.

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NOKEIRU UGWOABA
Job: Nurse Practitioner
Employer: Stanford University
Years at Purdue: 2008-11
Sport: Track & Field
Degree: Exercise Physiology

UGWOABA
NKEIRU

How Ugwoaba is helping fight COVID-19 in her own words

I WORK AT STANFORD AS A NURSE PRACTITIONER. I WORK ON SERVICES FOR HEART, LUNG TRANSPLANTS AND MCS — MECHANICAL CIRCULATORY SUPPORT — WHICH IS ANY TYPE OF BALLOON PUMP OR DEVICE THAT CAN BE INSERTED TO HELP THE HEART.

I MOVED FROM NEW YORK AT THE END OF 2019. BUT I DO HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES THAT ARE STILL THERE AND I SEE HOW IT’S AFFECTING THEM. FOR ME, WE HAVE TO LOOK OUT AS PROVIDERS TO PROTECT OUR PATIENTS BECAUSE HEART AND LUNG TRANSPLANT PATIENTS ARE IMMUNOSUPPRESSED, MEANING THEY’RE HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO GETTING INFECTIONS EASILY. WE MAY CARRY THE INFECTION AND NOT KNOW, AND THEN PASS IT ALONG TO THEM, WHICH COULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR HEALTH.

WE HAVEN’T BEEN HIT TOO BADLY IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. I THINK THAT COULD BE DUE TO THE FACT THAT WE’RE IN SILICON VALLEY, AND WHEN THEY INITIALLY PUT OUT THE SUGGESTION TO SHELTER IN PLACE, A LOT OF PEOPLE TOOK IT SERIOUSLY AND MANY WERE ABLE TO START WORKING FROM HOME.

I’M HOPEING THAT PEOPLE NOW SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HAVING SOME TYPE OF STRUCTURE IN PLACE TO WHERE WHEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS, PEOPLE AREN’T SCRAMBLING.

I WAS IN NEW YORK FOR ALMOST 10 YEARS, SO I KNOW THERE ARE A LOT OF COMMUNITIES THAT MAY BE FIRST GENERATION FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD WHERE BEING TOGETHER IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THEM. SO, THEY MAY NOT REALLY UNDERSTAND, SAYING, “OH, THIS IS MY GRANDCHILD OR THIS IS MY GRANDMOTHER OR MY AUNT OR MY UNCLE, SO IT’S NOT REALLY A BIG DEAL: WE NEED TO DRIVE HOME WHAT IS AND WHAT ISN’T A BIG DEAL.

LIKE A LOT OF PEOPLE, I’M WORKING FROM HOME. I’M NOT CLINICAL FACINGS, SO I DON’T INTERACT WITH PATIENTS. WE HAVE OUR TEAM MEETINGS ONLINE. MY DEPARTMENT HAS SHIFTED FOCUS QUITE A BIT DUE TO THE VIRUS. WE DEVELOPED SOME NEW REPORTING TOOLS FROM SCRATCH REGARDING THE VIRUS AND THE HOSPITAL’S RESPONSE. WE HAVE DEVELOPED GRAPHS THAT GIVE THE COUNTS OF NUMBER OF PEOPLE DIAGNOSED AND NUMBER OF PEOPLE TESTED AND ADMITTED.

ANOTHER AREA THAT IS PRETTY SIGNIFICANT FOR US IS UTILIZATION — HOW LONG PEOPLE ARE STAYING IN THE HOSPITAL, ESPECIALLY AFTER ADMISSION. WHETHER THEY’RE JUST A REGULAR PATIENT OR ARE IN AN ICU, HOW LONG THAT IS, IF THEY’RE HOOKED UP TO A VENTILATOR, ALL THIS HAS TO BE MONITORED CONSTANTLY.

WE ALSO TRACK SAFETY-RELATED ISSUES LIKE THE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE). WE TRY TO CAPTURE ALL THAT DATA, IT’S KIND OF LIKE PERFORMING A TEMPERATURE CHECK ON THE HOSPITAL, SO ANYONE CAN JUST PULL THIS INFORMATION UP ON THEIR WEB BROWSER OR PHONE OR WHATEVER AND SEE A QUICK SNAPSHOT OF HOW WE’RE DOING.

KIRK LARSEN
Job: Safety & Quality Engineer
Company: Massachusetts General Hospital
Years at Purdue: 1995-2000
Sport: Swimming
Degree: Psychology

Larsen was a team captain his fifth year and as a junior was part of the 200-meter freestyle relay team that was honorable mention All-Big Ten and All-American.

A native of the Chicago suburb of Palatine, Illinois, Larsen works for the Center for Quality and Safety at Massachusetts General Hospital. The department reports and analyses data internally for performance improvement and also externally for regulatory requirements for state and federal guidelines.

Larsen’s particular focus is on patient experience and he also supports activities at Mass General by aggregating this data and putting it into more presentable formats for busy executives and the leadership within the hospital to review. Data gathered includes things like emergency department capacity and the volume of patients flowing through different departments.

How Larsen is helping fight COVID-19 in his own words

PEOPLE AFFECTED BADLY WITH THE VIRUS NEED A VENTILATOR TO BREATHE AND SURVIVE. THIS COMPANY IS DESIGNING A LESS EXPENSIVE VENTILATOR TO BE BUILT WITH EASILY SOURCED PARTS THAT THEY CAN START MANUFACTURING QUICKLY.

NORMAL VENTILATORS COST $35,000 TO $50,000 EACH. THE VENTILATOR WE ARE DESIGNING IS JUST FOR CORONAVIRUS PATIENTS, SO THEY ARE MUCH SIMPLER AND COST $500 TO $3,000. THE NON-PROFIT IS WORKING ON APPROVAL FROM THE FDA THROUGH AN EMERGENCY APPROVAL PROCEDURE.

I AM TRYING TO GET THINGS SHARED, RUNNING ADS ONLINE, UPDATING THE WEBSITE. WE ARE TRYING TO GET MORE PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED.

THEY ARE CONFIDENT IN WHERE THEY ARE MANUFACTURING-WISE, THEY CONTINUE TO HAVE A LOT OF HELP FROM PEOPLE IN OUTREACH. DONATIONS ARE UP PRETTY SIGNIFICANTLY.

JACOB THIENEMAN
Job: Defensive Back
Company: NFL and The Ventilator Project
Years at Purdue: 2014-18
Sport: Football
Degree: Mechanical Engineering

Thieneman is trying to carve out a career in the NFL as a safety. He went undrafted in 2019, before landing in San Francisco. Thieneman still has found time to help the nation deal with the COVID-19 pandemic by working with The Ventilator Project, a non-profit based in Boston that wants to produce low-cost ventilators to help those dealing with the virus.

A co-founder of the project is Tyler Mantel, a Purdue graduate and entrepreneur who has shifted his focus from startup Watertower Robotics to The Ventilator Project.

Thieneman’s role is to help spread the word about The Ventilator Project through social media and public relations.

How Thieneman is helping fight COVID-19 in his own words

THIENEMAN
JACOB

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THIENEMAN
JACOB
Samara Miller almost didn't come to Purdue.

Coming out of high school at Neuqua Valley in Naperville, Illinois, Miller trekked to West Lafayette for a high school track meet. And, things didn't go well.

“When I came, it was initially a bad experience,” Miller says. “My parents (Renard and Sharon) didn't know where we were going. It was super confusing. And I didn't perform that well. I didn't think I'd ever run track at Purdue. I had a bad taste in my mouth.”

But Miller had a change of heart and signed with Purdue. Not only has she become one of the Boilermakers’ best track & field athletes ever, but she also has developed into a key leader in the athletics department's Student Athlete Advisory Committee, also known as SAAC. Miller is the president.

“SAAC is the voice for student-athletes to the coaches, administrators, to the Big Ten and to the NCAA,” says Cathy Wright-Eger, leadership advisor for the athletics department. “It's about leadership, communication.”

Miller has been one of the better leaders SAAC has had at Purdue. Each university in the Big Ten has a SAAC organization.

“I was kind of blindsided when I came aboard,” Miller says. “There wasn’t a road map or detailed principles for me to follow. So, I took it upon myself to create a SAAC handbook and write up the rules for each SAAC rep.”

Miller created an advisory board, which consists of Lacee Carmon-Johnson (director – professional development and associate director – academic support services), Wright-Eger and Peyton Stovall (assistant athletics director for student-athlete development). The trio provides a liaison between the student-athletes and the sports administrators.

“They provide direction so we know who to talk to about issues,” Miller says.

Breaking it down further, SAAC is divided into four distinct areas:

- Diversity and inclusion
- Outreach
- Student wellness
- Care

The organization was called Captain's Table by former athletics director Morgan Burke and morphed into the BAC, a.k.a. Boilermaker Athletic Council. Now the group uses Boiler SAAC as its name.

It was around when Wright-Eger coached the women’s swimming team, a post she left after 21 seasons in 2008. When she left coaching, she began to take a much larger role running the meetings. But she recently loosened the reins.

“This past year the student-athletes ran the meetings and I do a leadership lesson as advisor,” Wright-Eger says. “Upon Wright-Eger’s retirement on June 30, Stovall and Carmon-Johnson will serve as advisors.

Among Miller’s initiatives is helping SAAC improve its focus on mental health. Part of that push has been the advent of Boilermaker Brave, a student mental health organization that is the brainchild of Hannah Melchiorre, a junior on the soccer team. That is one of the many ways SAAC impacts student-athletes.

Community outreach is another.

“One year on Martin Luther King Day, every team wanted to do something impactful and we picked the YWCA,” Wright-Eger recalls. “From 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., we had a bus take teams back and forth from Purdue to the YMCA to engage with members.

“I love when the student-athletes think of something and execute it. As advisors, we're in the background to help, but when they take the
I THINK COLLEGE ATHLETICS ARE SO PURE...THAT IS SO INSPIRING TO ME. PROFESSIONALS ARE GETTING A PAYCHECK. STUDENT-ATHLETES AREN'T. THEY DO IT FOR THE LOVE OF THE SPORT.

Samara Miller

initiative, it makes all the difference in the world.” Team building is another focus as the following notable events orchestrated by SAAC indicate:

» Men’s basketball wanted to do things as a team off the court and implemented Madden Mondays to play football video games and Taco Tuesdays for team gathering time.

» Women’s golf instituted a Friday night date night. They cooked and talked culture, shared stories and learned what it’s like to be a good teammate from each other.

» A dance took place in the Ross-Ade Stadium press box involving all student-athletes.

“We are all here together developing champions, scholars and citizens,” Wright-Eger says. “That’s our mission. You have to have a culture of expectations that need to be taught as soon as kids get here. And the leaders sustain that culture.

“The coaches can’t decide culture. It’s the athletes that do.”

Yet, it’s Miller’s organizational skills that have helped elevate SAAC and its culture.

“Samara is great at multi-tasking,” Wright-Eger says. “She’s in graduate school, she has a job, she’s just a go-getter. She’s a four-time Big Ten champion. To represent all the student-athletes, that’s a big job and she does it all very well.”

Yes, Miller has done a great job representing Purdue on the track, too. As a freshman in 2017, she helped the team win the Big Ten outdoor title.

“To come in and win your first outdoor Big Ten was super exciting,” Miller says. “I have won a Big Ten medal every year since then. It wonderful for me that I can say I won a Big Ten ring every year here.”

Purdue associate athletics director Tom Mitchell has seen Miller’s work first-hand while Miller served as an intern in his compliance office.

“Yes, Miller has done a great job representing Purdue on the track, too. As a freshman in 2017, she helped the team win the Big Ten outdoor title.

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Purdue Athletics looks a little bit different these days, but the JPC is doing its best to keep us moving forward. Although many of our student-athletes moved off campus for the remainder of the Spring semester, they had remote access to support services and staff that they would normally work with on campus. For example, they were in contact with their dietitian and strength coach, worked with a sport psychologist remotely and had the option for virtual tutoring as they finished the semester.

Our staff continues to work from home, but our daily operations and goals have stayed the same. We are reaching out to, and being reached out to, by hundreds of people each day looking to renew memberships, purchase tickets, process donations or just chat about Purdue. We have been keeping in touch with our coaches and operations staff to make sure we, and our members, have the most up-to-date information.

We are keeping up with emails, voice mails and social media feedback, and a member of our staff has been going in to the office each day to check the mail. Says Race Johnson, JPC operations assistant and 2017 football alum, “Purdue and the John Purdue Club gave me everything they could while I was a student-athlete here, so helping us help our student-athletes feels like I am repaying what was done for me while I was here.”

Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, the feedback by JPC members has been inspiring.

“Across the board, our membership has responded positively to our outreach,” says Tim House, senior associate athletics director and vice president for development. “We hope we can continue to provide a welcome distraction through the outlet of Purdue Athletics.”

With that said, we want to meet you where you are. If you have the means to support, it means more now than ever before. If you need some flexibility, reach out to your Boilermaker Athletics Representative to discuss payment plan options and monthly giving. If supporting isn’t feasible for you right now, we invite you to stay on the team by keeping in touch with your B.A.R. and following along with us on social media.

This is your team, and we want you to be a part of it in any manner that feels right for you.

Craig Smith ’72 John Purdue Club member
John and Jana Anthrop answer almost simultaneously about the number of high school state championships their four sons won at Lafayette Central Catholic. The next sentence is almost equally in sync.

"But it should have been more."

Three of the four Anthrop boys — Dru, Danny and Jackson — followed in their father's footsteps as varsity athletes at Purdue, while their first son, Jade, played at nearby St. Joseph’s College in Rensselaer. It’s a family fueled by faith, love and a fierce competitive spirit. In short, it’s a family that was born to be Boilermakers.

CHANCE ENCOUNTER

John Anthrop grew up a stone’s throw from Harrison High School in West Lafayette, but attended Central Catholic, where he was a standout in basketball and baseball. He walked on to Purdue in both sports, starting several games for the baseball team and eventually earning a scholarship in basketball, coming off the bench for the Boilermakers’ Final Four team in 1980.

Jana Newell went to nearby Lafayette Jefferson High School, where she was also a star athlete. The two were familiar with each other through newspaper accounts of their sports exploits, but didn’t meet until they got to Purdue. They began dating and eventually married in 1983.

John has worked for the United States Department of Agriculture since graduation and Jana has been a teacher and coach in the Catholic school system. It was only natural, given their backgrounds, that their sons would be interested in athletics.

John and Jana both felt it was important for Jana to stay home with the boys while they were younger, so she took a break from teaching from the spring of 1988 to the fall of 2001. However, she kept coaching at the varsity level in tennis and volleyball and took the boys along with her to practice and matches.

The boys were encouraged, if not forced, by their mom to play outside in anything short of abysmal weather. “We had a saying that we won’t remember the dust in the house, but we will remember playing outside,” says Jana, an outstanding tennis player who hit balls with her racket to her sons to hone their baseball fielding skills.

John, who also has served as an athletics director at the grade-school level, coached the boys in several sports. The earliest success came in elementary school when Jade and Dru played for a state championship super hoops team, beating a team that featured future Butler and NBA standout Gordon Hayward on its roster.

All four boys played a variety of sports throughout their school careers, something that both parents encouraged.

“I never thought there was such a thing as burnout, but I saw it happen with some kids,” John says. “We monitored the boys, but we never had any issues with any of them.”

LEADING THE WAY

Oldest son Jade started as a three-sport athlete, but a broken arm and cracked vertebrae in eighth grade ended his football career. He and Dru won the family’s first state title, in baseball, teaming with former Purdue guard Brian Walker’s son Sam on the championship run in 2007. Jade, now an account manager with Packaging Systems of Indiana, played both baseball and basketball at Division II St. Joseph’s. While he didn’t play at Purdue, he had a huge impact on his younger brothers.

“He was such a successful role model and excelled at every sport. If not for him, his younger brothers wouldn’t be what they are,” Jana says. “He was the quietest one of the boys, but he was very tough to compete against.”

After St. Joseph’s closed in 2017, it was easy for Jade to find a “new” alma mater. “I feel like an honorary Boiler,” he says. “I’ve been proud to watch my brothers play at Purdue.”

Dru was the first to have that opportunity. He played basketball, baseball (two state titles) and tennis in high school, and a scheduling quirk helped lead his way onto a Purdue roster.
“My senior year, Central Catholic played teams that had D.J. Byrd, Patrick Bade and Kelsey Barlow. All three of them were coming to Purdue, so the coaching staff that was there to watch them had a chance to see me play,” Dru says.

He played well, scoring 101 points and helping his team win all three games. The performance earned him a walk-on role for two seasons and a scholarship for his final two years. He served as a solid practice player and found his way into the rotation as a senior. It was then that he exhibited some of the family toughness.

“Late in the season, we were playing at Northern Eastern, and I broke my hand. I thought my season was over, but they were able to make a protective cover and I finished out the season,” Dru says.

Dru has been able to stay in basketball since his graduation in 2013. He currently serves as head video coordinator and player development coach for the Los Angeles Lakers. It’s a long way from the 2-on-2 backyard games with his brothers.

“I take the most pride in the fact that we’ve got, hard-working people who were genuine on the field and do everything we can to help people,” he says. “Central Catholic and Purdue have meant a lot to our family.”

DEVIL BEWARE

In contrast to his older brothers, Danny was the most outgoing member of the Anthrop clan. “When he was little, he would tell people all the time that, “My name’s Danny and I’m not afraid of the devil,” Jana says with a laugh. “In fact, he thought his middle name was Don’t, because it was, ‘Danny, don’t do this’ or ‘Danny, don’t do that.’”

Danny won two state titles in baseball and ran track, finishing fourth in the 100-meter state finals. But his forte was football. He scored 101 points and helped lead the 2017 Catholic basketball team played in a tournament next day,” John says. “On Saturday, his Central Catholic team won the state championship.

“Every time we played them, we knew it was going to be tough, and we knew we had to be prepared,” John says. “They were a well-coached team, and they had a lot of talent.”

Danny, now a member of the Lafayette Police Department, caught 113 career passes, including 57 in his senior season with the Boilermakers. His junior season was cut short by a gruesome knee injury at Nebraska, but he has no regrets looking back.

“The people are what I remember,” Danny says. “It’s hard to remember a lot of the games, but keeping in contact with my teammates has been a great experience.”

TOUGH AS NAILS

Jackson, like Danny, won state championships in football (two) and baseball (one); his football numbers included 105 touchdowns, 55 coming his senior year. And like his older brother, he was not inundated with scholarship offers. It certainly wasn’t from a lack of effort.

“There was a week during the summer before his senior year where he played two baseball games on a Thursday night in Westfield for the Indiana Bulls, and then we drove all night to Nashville where he went to football camp at Vanderbilt the next day,” John says. “On Saturday, his Central Catholic basketball team played in a tournament at Wabash College, and then he went back down that night and played baseball at Westfield.

He played two more baseball games there on Sunday and then went to football camp at Illinois State on Monday and an Indiana State baseball showcase the next day.”

That schedule illustrates the work ethic the Anthrops have established. It also speaks to the dedication of their mom and dad.

“We went to camps all through the summer, and he would run incredible times in the 4-3-4-4 second range and clearly stand out against the other players. At several of those college camps, the coaches would have him run extra times to confirm they timed him right,” John says. “But for whatever reason, the offers weren’t coming.”

Given his strong Catholic upbringing, a visit to Notre Dame was enticing. Had the Fighting Irish offered a scholarship, it might have made for a difficult decision. But once Purdue pulled the trigger, the search was over.

“When coach (Danny) Hope offered, Danny practically jumped out of his chair to shake his hand and accept,” Jana remembers.

Danny was fitted with a special shoe to allow him to play in the final two games of the season.

“You only get so many opportunities to play as a Boilermaker,” Jackson says. “I knew how thin we were on the depth chart, and I wasn’t going to sit on the sidelines.”

LAST HURRAH

John and Jana plan to make their final trips as parents to Ross-Ade Stadium this fall. As in the past, they will arrive about three hours before kickoff and will be much too nervous to eat anything until long after the game is over.

But it won’t be long before they’re in the stands rooting on the next generation of Anthrops. Jade, who is married to former University of Southern Indiana basketball standout Amie Newshart, has three children, with the eldest already playing tee-ball. Jade is hoping they carry on the family tradition.

“Besides doing things the right way,” he says, “we hope we inspired younger kids in some way who watched us both on and off the field and court.”

The following year, Rondale Moore won the starting spot at slot receiver and had an All-American season. Rather than pouting, Jackson put his efforts into becoming a top special teams player.

“I was really proud of the way he reacted,” Danny says. “Not a lot of people in that situation would have handled it with the class that he did.”

Jackson bounced back last season with 37 catches. He also displayed the toughness that has been an Anthrop trait. He broke his foot two days before the Wisconsin game.

After being assured he could do no further damage, he was fitted with a special shoe to allow him to play in the final two games of the season.

“Not a lot of people in that situation would have handled it with the class that he did.”

When coach (Danny) Hope offered, Danny practically jumped out of his chair to shake his hand and accept,” Jana remembers.

DruAnthrop has been able to parlay his passion for basketball into a career. A phone call from Matt Painter helped open a door with the Indiana Pacers, where Dru spent two seasons as a film intern. He then went to St. John’s for a season with Chris Mullin before returning to the NBL with the Orlando Magic, reuniting there with coach Frank Vogel.

After two years with the Magic, it was on to the Memphis Grizzlies for a season. When the coaching staff there was let go, Dru accepted a job at Vanderbilt. But a couple of months into that assignment, he received a call from Vogel, who had just been named head coach of the Los Angeles Lakers. It was time to pack up and head west to join one of the most iconic franchises in sports.

In his role as video coordinator, Dru helps prepare video scouting reports and head west to join one of the most iconic franchises in sports.

“I think I’ll keep the video on that one,” Dru says. “I think I’ll keep the video on that one,” Dru says. “I think I’ll keep the video on that one,” Dru says.

They arrived about three hours before kickoff and will be much too nervous to eat anything until long after the game is over.

It’s a grind, but one that offers perks. One came earlier this season after the tragic death of Kobe Bryant. The team was trying to get back into the swing of things and a practice session was devoted to shooting drills. At the end, the players drafted teams and each team had to include someone from the video staff. Lebanon James drafted Dru, and he repaid the legend’s faith with a 12 of 15 shooting performance.

“I think I’ll keep the video on that one,” Dru says. “I think I’ll keep the video on that one,” Dru says. “I think I’ll keep the video on that one,” Dru says.
Greg Goff has memories of playing pepper and long toss with his daughters, and one even spent a few years as his bat girl.

And there’s also that trip to an out-of-town Wal-Mart to buy clothes.

Spending time on the baseball diamond is not just a passion for Goff and his family, but an avenue to creating lifelong memories.

One that has led the family to Purdue, where Greg Goff just finished his first season — albeit shortened — as head coach of the baseball team; while one of his four daughters, Kiley, has signed to play softball for the Boilermakers beginning with the 2020-21 academic year.

It’s a scenario that would have been hard to predict a few years ago for a family that was entrenched in the southern part of the country. If Greg’s accent doesn’t give that away, his resume will.

Goff has led the resurrection of three programs: NCAA Division I Campbell and Louisiana Tech and Division II Montevallo. He guided all three programs to NCAA regional bids and won 40 games with each program at least once.

But that trip to Wal-Mart! Well, it coincided with a nice two-game road trip for Goff during his time at Campbell.

Kiley was going to travel with the team for its midweek game at North Carolina State. And she wanted to make a deal with her dad: If Campbell wins, Kiley gets to continue on the next part of the road trip at Virginia Tech.

“To be honest, I did not think we could beat N.C. State at their place,” Greg says. “We go up there, we play fantastic and beat them in a close game. So, I’m excited and fired up. But my wife, Tina, is looking at me strangely, and I’m like, ‘What’s wrong?’”

Kiley’s first season as head coach was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which halted athletic events across the country. Purdue was 7-7 when its season ended.

The goal for Purdue under Goff is simple, but difficult: win a Big Ten championship. Ask Goff what that will take, and he will note the commitment to facilities and academics. “Those are the underpinnings that made Purdue very attractive and why we stayed.”

Goff’s coaching style is rooted in family, specifically his mother, Cora, who coached him until he was 14.

“I always knew when that door at Alabama was closed, I hoped and prayed God would open another door for me,” Goff says. “I’m a man of faith and I think people that know me know that, so I’m not afraid to put that out there. I think God had an opportunity for me to go somewhere and do something, which is what I did.”

After two seasons with the Boilermakers in the volunteer assistant position, Purdue head coach Mark Walakowski took the head coaching position at Oregon.

That opened the door for Goff to stay at Purdue.

“When I came here, I saw the national reputation of Purdue, and everywhere we go, there is a good fan base of support,” Goff says, also noting the commitment to facilities and academics. “Those are the underpinnings that made Purdue very attractive and why we stayed.”

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The goal for Purdue under Goff is simple, but difficult: win a Big Ten championship. Ask Goff what that will take, and he will throw out common themes for winning teams, such as good pitching and defense.

“And we’re going to create an offense that people are very uncomfortable with,” Goff says. “We want to be really aggressive. We don’t lay back and try to have a three- or four-run inning. We try to score every inning and put guys in motion and put people on base.”

Goff’s coaching style is rooted in family, specifically his mother, Cora, who coached him until he was 14.

“I learned passion from her and she loved all of us as players,” Goff says. “I saw how much love and affection she would give our guys. It’s something that has always been with me, and I’m very thankful for our time together. I think it’s why I continue to do what I do. It’s just that love and what we shared together as a son, mom and coach. It’s something that made a huge impact on my life.”

The sport has been a mainstay in the Goff family. Greg and Tina have three other daughters: Kara, who plays softball at LSU; Kiley and Kenzie.

Kiley has grown up on the fields and chuckles when thinking about her father coaching third base, especially how animated his arms get — he is known as “the windmill” — when he’s trying to get a runner to take an extra base.

But the one aspect of her father’s coaching she takes away the most is his positive attitude.

“My dad is a very outgoing person and I think that’s very visible whenever anyone watches him coach,” Kiley says. “How he handles his team, himself during games, practices, on or off the field — he’s a very positive person. If it’s not a player’s game or day, he’s very encouraging and positive to that player.”

Goff finished her high school career at Harrison High School in West Lafayette, where she was a catcher. She will join Purdue as a catcher/utility player. She had planned to commit to the Boilermakers even though her father didn’t think he would still be on campus.

“I do feel like Purdue is most definitely a home to me,” Kiley says. “When I was offered by Purdue, hands down I knew I wanted to come here. And after living here for a couple of years, I was excited for the opportunity.”
SUMMER 2020 FORGE

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

By Laurie Silverstein

Purdue is a perfect fit

In particular, Wright was a stickler for on-time bus departure — a task he often leaned on Nine to execute. The band members knew that if they missed the bus, they would be left behind. On one occasion, Wright was running 10 minutes late and was nowhere in sight; Nine directed the bus driver to leave without him.

Logistics and planning were always important to Nine, and that was the last time Wright missed the bus.

Game Time

Nine’s work with the band and its connections with Purdue Athletics provided an entry to becoming involved with the men’s basketball program. His attention to detail and passion for being behind the scenes paved the way for developing his relationship with the basketball student managers.

And that connection ultimately allowed for a seamless introduction to head coach Gene Keady when he came to Purdue in 1980. Over the years, Nine has stayed connected to many of the managers and credits them with helping him foster his involvement with the basketball program and all of Purdue Athletics.

Nine graduated in 1963 with a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy and, among other stops, embarked on a 26-year career with Schering-Plough Corporation, a pharmaceutical company. His work there and the relationships he built gave him the opportunity to interview and mentor summer interns … a group he often selected from the Purdue basketball roster.

Nine believes it is important for student-athletes to build diverse connections outside of their sport and get real world work experience, in the hopes that they will pay forward the same kinds of opportunities when they have the opportunity.

“Purdue will allow you to take on additional responsibilities, because employers know a Purdue person can handle it,” Nine says. “If you travel, you will make connections all over the world and make lifelong friends. These relationships aren’t short-lived; the Purdue connection is the foundation of a long-term friendship.”

The Nine family’s support has gone beyond internships to endorsing an out-of-state scholarship and making the lead gift for the Mackey Arena Lights Project. In recognition of this support, the West Club in Mackey Arena was renamed the J. Nine Club and turned into a focal point of the gameday experience in 2016.

On the Road

John and his wife, Janet, have been John Purdue Club members since 1981. Although they resided on the East Coast at the time, they started purchasing basketball tickets in 1993 so that their daughter Jenna (Purdue ’92) and son-in-law Chip (Purdue ’92) could use them.

Although it has been a while since Nine stepped foot on campus as a student, he continued to occasionally join the basketball team on road trips or on JPC-organized travel to away games. That tradition continued until 2018.

Nine has seen every venue in the Big Ten and many beyond, and he has his opinions. To wit: He made the trip to that school down south only once and vowed “never again” to visit Assembly Hall.

Ready enjoyed Nine’s company because he was a welcome distraction; they would have breakfast the morning of away games and would talk about everything but basketball. Just two friends catching up; no game plans, no lineups, no scouting.

“Coach liked to spend time together because I wouldn’t tell him how to do his job,” Nine says.

Ready agrees.

“I cherished my time with John,” the Hall of Fame coach says. “He is a good listener and a guy you not only encourage discussion with, but when he says something, it means something. His daughters also are special to me, and they have helped me many times over the years.

“The Nine family has meant a lot to Purdue basketball for a very long time, and you need people like that to be successful.”

Nine enjoys staying in touch with Ready as they talk about once a month. “He just wants to know what’s going on,” Nine says. “He always tells me to be good.”

Mackey Magic

Over the years and with all of his basketball travels, Nine could be considered the authority on what makes an intimidating gameday atmosphere.

“You want to see a good game?” Nine asks. “You won’t get the right environment anywhere other than Mackey – not in the Big Ten, not in the country. You can go somewhere else and sure, you will watch a basketball game, but it won’t be the same. You’re invested in the game at Mackey: You feel the excitement and energy of gameday time in your body whether or not you’re out on the court.”

Pressed to describe the iconic facility in one word, Nine chose “spectacular.”

The Nines believe the future is bright for Purdue basketball. They are particularly excited about the early plans for the upcoming locker room renovations that are going to create more square footage, provide necessary resources and put Purdue’s facilities on par with others in the Big Ten.

“These locker rooms are going to be a huge advantage for Purdue from a recruiting perspective, as well as the well-being of the current players,” says daughter Jenna Wright, also a big part of the family’s involvement with the Boilermakers. “Student-athletes don’t get to have the same Purdue experience as everyone else with everything on their plates — but when these locker rooms will show all student-athletes how much thought is put into their entire experience.”

Mackey Arena

The project fund will be renamed “The John Nine Fund for Purdue Basketball Excellence.” To make a gift, please reach out to your Boilermaker Athletics Representative or visit JohnPurdueClub.com.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

For the Nines, Purdue is a perfect fit

If you are familiar with Purdue basketball, you probably know the Nines. Their family has been a fixture both at Mackey Arena and on the road for more than two decades.

It all starts with connections.

When John Nine (pictured to the right of ease, with family) graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop. He graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop. He graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop. He graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop. He graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop. He graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop. He graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop. He graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop. He graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop. He graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop. He graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop. He graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop. He graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop. He graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop. He graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop. He graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop. He graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop. He graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop. He graduated from North Webster High School, he spent some time in Washington, D.C., working as a senate page while he planned his next stop.
The Archives

1980 FINAL FOUR
Forty years ago, Purdue made a magical run to the 1980 NCAA Final Four in Indianapolis. As a No. 6 seed, the Boilermakers surprised the college basketball world with wins over three higher-seeded teams: St. John’s, Indiana and Duke. Purdue was propelled by the incredible play of All-American center Joe Barry Carroll (below left) and expert coaching by Lee Rose (below right).

ONLY THE STRONG TAKE GIANT LEAPS

2020 PURDUE FOOTBALL