



2017

# Purdue Stamps Scholars

2018



# Letter from the Executive Board

---

Over this past year, the Purdue Stamps community has grown to 31 scholars, adding seven freshmen to the mix. Kicking off the school year with many dinners and informal gatherings, the Purdue Stamps community has become more close-knit. The idea of individual “Stamps Families,” a mentoring program which began last year, has blossomed. The families consist of scholars from each academic class, and families meet amongst themselves outside of regularly scheduled Stamps gatherings. The implementation of Stamps Families has no doubt fostered close relationships among all of Purdue’s Stamps Scholars.

Many scholars have utilized their enrichment funds to travel abroad and to attend conferences this year as well. Purdue’s Honors College continues to grow and thrive within its nearly two-year-old building full of collaborative learning spaces and amenities. Looking forward, we hope to continue to build the Stamps Scholars community at Purdue.

We wish the best of luck to all of the graduating Purdue Stamps Scholars and look forward to welcoming new freshmen this coming fall. Lastly, we would like to thank Dr. and Mrs. Stamps for their generosity in giving us many of the opportunities you will read about in the coming pages.



Left to Right: Savannah Woods, Chyna Ferguson, and Erica Colarusso

Not pictured: Kristen Frohning

# Graduating Scholars

---

## Samuel W. Albert

*Nashville, TN*

**Major: Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering**

**Minor: Global Engineering Studies**

**Next Steps: Master's in Aerospace Engineering, CU Boulder**

Stamps has been a major part of my undergraduate experience at Purdue. Thanks to the enrichment funds, I was able to study abroad multiple times and pursue my Global Engineering minor. Living and working in another culture is an invaluable way to learn not just about a new place, but about yourself and your own culture. The financial support of Stamps allowed me to spend my time getting involved in campus in organizations like Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS) – which I highly recommend! One of my fondest Stamps memories is attending the Stamps Scholars National Convention at Georgia Tech in 2015. There, I got to bond with fellow Stamps scholars from Purdue and from all over the U.S. I also received a valuable piece of advice from the Georgia Tech Outdoors Club Director: you don't learn from experiences, you learn from having an experience and then reflecting on it. This has proven very true, so I try to make a point of reflecting on experiences, good or bad, to learn what I can from them. As I reflect now on my time at Purdue, I know I've learned at least as much from the experiences I've had and the people I've met as I did in the classroom, and the Stamps community was an important part of that.



## Mikaela Meyer

*Chesterton, IN*

**Majors: Math/Stat, Stat/Math, and Applied Statistics**

**Minor: Political Science**

**Next Steps: Ph.D. in Statistics, focusing on the intersection of statistics and public policy, Carnegie Mellon University**



After moving in to the dorms freshman year, I was concerned that it would be difficult to find my place on such a large campus. However, by becoming involved in activities that aligned with my interests, I began to call Purdue my second home. As the President of Purdue College Democrats, I became more politically active both on campus and in the community. My traveling experiences ranged from driving to debate tournaments, going across the country for conferences, and flying to Italy and Colombia. Through my research experiences, I discovered a greater love of learning, and figured out how to combine my interests in statistics and public policy in my future career. The National and International Scholarships Office successfully guided

me through the Truman Scholarship application process, which made me even more excited to pursue public service jobs.

Thanks to the Stamps Family Foundation, Purdue University, and the Honors College, I took part in a wide variety of experiences that I never imagined having as a nervous freshman. Beyond these adventures, I will never forget the faculty mentors I met who connected me to multiple internship and research opportunities, encouraged me to take chances, and were willing to help me at a moment's notice. I hope future, nervous freshmen find the activities that make them happy, and say "yes" to as many opportunities as possible. You never know how one person or one experience will connect you to future possibilities.

# Graduating

---

## Emma Alexander

*Columbus, IN*



**Major: Mechanical Engineering**

**Minor: Management**

**Next Steps: Working for John Deere in the Engineering Development Program**

Words cannot begin to express the gratitude that I feel towards the Stamps Foundation and the many invaluable experiences being a Stamps Scholar has granted me. Reflecting on my four years at Purdue and as a Stamps Scholar, I am struck by the realization that this program has enabled me to pursue my greatest aspirations and exercise my passions in so many meaningful ways. But not only that, it has ignited the flames of entirely new passions, taught me a great deal about myself, and allowed me to develop greatly as a leader and scholar. I've also been profoundly impacted by my access to and work with the national network of scholars. From attending leadership conferences to co-directing the first ever National Day of Service to chairing a national Stamps conference, I've met many of my inspiring peers and have borne witness to the

incredible developments the program has made in such a short period of time. Most importantly, I've made it one of my foundational objectives to give back. And while that took the form of many student organizations, leadership roles, and volunteer positions during my college career, I have no intentions of stopping or even slowing down once I'm gone.

---

## Jana Mudrock

*New Lenox, IL*

**Major: Biological Engineering**

**Minor: Food Science**

**Next Steps: R&D for PepsiCo**

I have been honored to be a member of the Stamps Scholar Community during my time at Purdue. Since my first day of classes, being a Stamps Scholar has given me an amazing group of friends who share my enthusiasm for learning. Some of my favorite memories with the Stamps Scholars have been our annual Thanksgiving dinners and going to the Stamps Scholar National Conference in Atlanta. The enrichment funds have given me the opportunity to study abroad with spring break programs in England and France. These were two once-in-a-lifetime opportunities that I never would have experienced without the generosity of the Stamps family. Outside of Stamps activities, I have been actively involved on campus as an undergraduate research assistant, a member of the Purdue Engineering Student Council (PESC), an Honors College Peer Mentor, and a small group leader for the Women in Engineering Program. I also enjoy running, cooking, reading, and spending time with my friends and family. I chose Biological Engineering as my major because it combines my love for math, problem solving, and biology. I pursued a Food Science minor because I also have a passion for developing nutritious, high-quality food products. I have accepted an offer with PepsiCo for after graduation. I will be working as a Research and Development Engineer at their Gatorade, Tropicana, and Quaker R&D facility in Barrington, Illinois. Being a Stamps Scholar at Purdue has been an unforgettable experience. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity, and I am excited to take what I have learned and apply it to the next chapter of my life.



# Scholars

---

## Claire Lee

*Indianapolis, IN*

**Majors: Political Science and Economics**

**Minor: Management and Certificate in Public Policy**

**Next Steps: Law School, University of Chicago**

I am ever grateful for my time at Purdue and the friendships, opportunities, and memories that the Stamps Scholarship has afforded me. My Stamps experience allowed me to broaden my own understandings and perspectives through a summer study abroad in Venice, Italy, the experience of a lifetime studying Harry Potter Culture in London & Edinburgh, and by attending the Stamps Scholars National Conventions and Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference. While I used my enrichment funds to travel the world and learn, it has been my fellow Stamps Scholars that have impacted me the most and helped me become a true Boilermaker. When I look at my campus involvement in Old Masters, Purdue Foundation Student Board, the Honors Leadership Council, and Mortar Board each memory and lesson learned is intrinsically tied to a fellow Stamps Scholar that was either part of that organization or helped guide me to find my place on campus. My fellow Stamps Scholars continuously pushed me to be a better friend, student, and community member and will continue to motivate and inspire me even after graduation. I will forever cherish the Stamps wallyball nights, late nights in Pappy's, and early mornings in the dining courts taking a break from academics to talk about life, hopes, and plans. While my Stamps experience took me to the canals of Venice and the streets of London, the Stamps Scholars themselves are the ones that motivate, inspire, and impact me the most.



---

## Hannah Basham

*Fort Wayne, IN*

**Major: Forestry**

**Minor: Wildlife Sciences**

**Next Steps: Serving in the Peace Corps in the Environment and Agriculture Sectors**



Looking back at my undergraduate career, I could not be more grateful for my time at Purdue. Whether it was being involved in various student organizations, cheering on the Boilers as we beat IU at Mackey, studying abroad in China and New Zealand or interning for Grand Teton National Park, the past four years have been filled with experiences that birthed growth, laughter, challenge, friendship, change and learning. The Stamps Scholarship has been an integral part in making so many of my experiences possible. Through Stamps, the university and some very dear professors, I was able to discover how to integrate my passions and social involvement with my academic pursuits.

I would encourage students to know and be confident in their values and goals and let those motivate and guide them in whatever decisions they make. This is something I have learned here in examining academic, social and post-graduate options at Purdue. During my time here, I have grown to deeply love the Greater

Lafayette community, Purdue University and the Stamps Foundation. Though this chapter of my life is coming to an end, the relationships I've built and the knowledge I've gained will continue to impact me in the years to come. Hail Purdue!

# Graduating

---

## Mary Mulligan

*Dyer, IN*

**Major: Chemical Engineering**

**Next Steps: Master's Program for Ecology**

I will be graduating in May from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering. My involvement in two research groups has accompanied my Purdue studies. I lead an undergraduate team that researches pulsed electric field pretreatments for improving lipid extraction for enhanced biodiesel production. The second project involves analyzing satellite data sets to assess seasonality in South American tropical rainforests. International experiences have also enhanced my undergraduate education. I studied abroad last spring at the Danish Technical University and participated in a School for Field Studies rainforest management program in Australia and New Zealand. I am currently applying to Ecology masters programs in Germany and Austria and aspire to be a leading scientist in conservation biology and restoration ecology.



## Eric Buedel

*Evansville, IN*

**Majors: Computer Science and Mathematics**

**Next Steps: Working as a Security Engineer for Apple**



Looking back on my time at Purdue, I am grateful for all of the opportunities I've had to grow through meaningful, interesting activities, including holding officer positions in Math Club and ALDPES Honor Society, playing on the Club Tennis Team, conducting computer science research, expanding my piano repertoire, and learning Japanese for fun! My favorite memory as a Stamps Scholar was attending SSNC15, where I grew closer to fellow Stamps Scholars at Purdue and met new Scholars from across the country, listened intently as Mr. Stamps addressed us about being leaders, and obtained great insight on what it means to be a Stamps Scholar. Using my enrichment funds, I traveled to DEF CON 24 in Las Vegas, NV, where I learned from prominent hackers about research in the field of computer security. This spring break, I will be traveling to Japan through a Purdue study abroad program, where I can't wait to use my language skills.

One of my favorite memories at Purdue is staying up until early in the morning in Lawson with my friends, writing programs and little games with the goal of creating something cool. One time, a student who was also working early in the morning asked us what homework we were working on, and he seemed somewhat confused when we said we were just there for fun! I once made the comment to a professor that I didn't know how to choose "the right" concentration for my computer science major since they all seemed interesting. His response was that it didn't matter which one I chose; as long as it was interesting to me and I worked hard, I couldn't make a "wrong choice." That response stuck with me, reminding me instead of stressing out about choices, make a confident decision, work hard, and success will likely follow. I think that is good advice for incoming students to remember, since they may be faced with many choices that seem intimidating.

# Scholars

---

## Beau DeLaet

**Major: Construction Engineering and Management**

**Minor: Management**

**Next Steps: Working as a Field Engineer for Mortenson Construction**

My four years at Purdue have been an adventure. When I first arrived, I felt the weight of high expectations, especially as a Stamps Scholar. As time went on, that weight faded away and was replaced by an excitement about growing as a student and as a person. There was so much more than achievement and expectations that defined the Stamps Scholars community. These new friends were caring, funny, inspirational, and supportive. Some of my favorite memories are with these friends.

The National Convention during my freshman year was overwhelming, in a good way. Meeting other scholars and listening to speakers left me feeling inspired and thankful. I took that spark and used my enrichment funds for a handful of different experiences. The first was a week in Ecuador working on small improvement projects at a childcare center and interacting with my host family. The University of South Carolina hosted a regional conference that I was able to attend. Networking was fantastic, and the planning committee gave us great advice for our Purdue conference. More directly related to my studies, I attended a construction conference for young managers in Washington D.C. That was my first time in the city, so I enjoyed exploring the monuments. My last use of funds will be for the University of Pittsburgh regional conference where I will learn from the past to become a better future leader.

My favorite involvement during the time I was actually on campus was the Purdue Student Engineering Foundation. As the largest outreach organization on campus, PSEF organizes tours and other experiences for high school students who are interested in Purdue and engineering. I have met people from around the world through these events. I served as Vice President of Finance for a year. I developed a new confidence to make decisions through that role. I joined Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity during my junior year, and it's been refreshing to be a part of a group of men who want to shatter the negative stereotypes surrounding Greek life. One of the older brothers became my biggest role model. He taught me a lot about how to handle adversity and how to love other people.

---

*Wausaukee, WI*



# Advice from our Graduating Scholars

“Thanks to the Stamps Family Foundation, Purdue University, and the Honors College, I took part in a wide variety of experiences that I never imagined having as a nervous freshman. Beyond these adventures, I will never forget the faculty mentors I met who connected me to multiple internship and research opportunities, encouraged me to take chances, and were willing to help me at a moment’s notice. I hope future, nervous freshmen find the activities that make them happy, and say “yes” to as many opportunities as possible. You never know how one person or one experience will connect you to future possibilities. “

-Mikaela Meyer

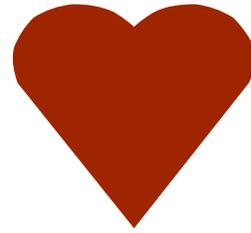
“The greatest piece of advice I can give is to identify your purpose, find your passions, and allow them to drive your actions and decisions. How will you spend your time each day? Which organizations, teams, or charities will you become involved with? How will you nurture and develop your personal relationships? These are all questions I’ve struggled to answer as some point in time. But, by allowing myself to fully accept my purpose as a Stamps Scholar, a Purdue student, a mentor, and a friend, I’ve been able to derive infinitely more meaning in every action every day. Find your passion. Find your purpose. And simply, pursue it.“

-Emma Alexander

“I would encourage students to know and be confident in their values and goals and let those motivate and guide them in whatever decisions they make. This is something I have learned here in examining academic, social and post-graduate options at Purdue. During my time here, I have grown to deeply love the Greater Lafayette community, Purdue University and the Stamps Foundation. Though this chapter of my life is coming to an end, the relationships I’ve built and the knowledge I’ve gained will continue to impact me in the years to come. Hail Purdue!“

-Hannah Basham

# Stamps = Family



F.R.I.E.N.D.S



Meeting President Mitch Daniels



Halloween



Walleyball Team

# Enrichment

## *Stamps Take on the World!*



**France**



**Ireland**



**Denmark**



**New Zealand**



**London**

# Funds Conferences

**The University of Pittsburgh Regional Stamps Conference** offered an impressive set of experiences in just one weekend. At dinner on the night of arrival, we heard from multiple speakers about the city of Pittsburgh's history and the role that students play in the development of cities. We also heard from the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation's Connelly Crowe about her experience as

a Stamps scholar and about what the Foundation has been doing recently. A performance from, "Pitches & Tones," an A Capella group from Pitt, wrapped up the welcoming activities. We closed the night playing an intense, Stamps-themed game of Jeopardy!

The Panther Leadership Summit was hosted on Saturday where speakers touched on multiple leadership topics. My biggest takeaway was a quote, "When the student is ready, the teacher will appear," a reminder that we can be learning at all times from everyone around us. Following the Summit, we toured a handful of nationality rooms in the Cathedral of Learning ("Cathy"). Our group was even allowed to travel to Cathy's top room, the Babcock Room, which seemed to be regarded as highly as Purdue's Jedi Room. The views of the city were breathtaking. Sunday began with a case study about potential issues genetic testing services (like Ancestry.com and 23 and Me) could create for their users and how to best address those issues. One final speaker led an activity aimed at reminding us to find our purpose in the midst of distractions and pressures around us. There were plenty of pictures taken, good food eaten, and networks broadened. Pittsburgh did not disappoint!

-Beau Delaet



## **Naval Academy's Breaking Barriers: Obstacles Are Opportunities**

Throughout the conference, we had the opportunity to discuss among fellow scholars and military personnel from across the world. The three days were packed with speakers from the Department of Defense, former Navy SEALs, Blue Angels Pilots, and even Former Secretary of State, Madeline Albright. While most speakers were from political or military background, the panels approached leadership from different perspectives, speaking to ideas ranging from mental health in leadership to minorities in leadership, the obstacles that accompany those positions, and how your perception and reaction to those obstacles can be life changing. We had the chance to hear from people who's obstacles should have told them to stop altogether, and yet though every speaker was widely different, those all encompassing obstacles altered their paths, and were met with a willing attitude. The conference kicked off with a speaker who mentioned that in everything his team does, whether it is receiving harsh feedback or preparing for a mission, they say the phrase, "Glad to be here." Those of us that had the opportunity to go to this conference definitely walked away with so many tools to continue to shape us as leaders. More than that, we are striving to be those kinds of leaders who train our teams to say, "Glad to be here," in the face of every challenge and obstacle.

-Kristen Frohning



A graphic of a spotlight shining from the top left corner onto the title.

# Scholar Spotlight: Sarah Rodenbeck

While my semester abroad is not yet half done, I can already tell that it will be one of my most memorable college experiences.



Thanks to Stamps, this semester I am attending University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. Academically, this has allowed me to explore a few new fields that I'm really excited about. Intelligent tutoring systems explores how we can harness the powers of artificial intelligence and data science in order to create more meaningful learning experiences for students – a perfect way to apply my concentration in machine intelligence to my interest in education. I've also enjoyed the chance to take a linguistics course. Not only does this tie in very well with artificial intelligence and my work with intelligent tutoring systems, but it has been fascinating to learn about English and accents at a deeper level.



On the weekends, there is plenty to do in New Zealand – especially if you like being outdoors! The ecological diversity and unique geologic features combine to form stunning landscapes, which I've been able to enjoy through lots of hiking (known as “tramping” here) and climbing. I've even gotten involved in a few new activities – surfing and caving. Undeniably, living abroad gives you the chance to form new appreciation for and understanding of culture, but it has also been a great opportunity to get a new perspective on higher education.

---

On the weekends, there is plenty to do in New Zealand – especially if you like being outdoors! The ecological diversity and unique geologic features combine to form stunning landscapes, which I've been able to enjoy through lots of hiking (known as “tramping” here) and climbing. I've even gotten involved in a few new activities – surfing and caving. Undeniably, living abroad gives you the chance to form new appreciation for and understanding of culture, but it has also been a great opportunity to get a new perspective on higher education.

---

## Scholars Give Back

The **Stamps National Day of Service**, originally thought of by our own Emma Alexander and Claire Lee, got its official start in April of 2016. The idea was, in the words of Roe Stamps, to embrace the fact that true leaders have a “duty to use their skills and talents to help address the important issues where they live and work.” In its inaugural year, 18 Stamps partner schools participated in their respective communities.

This year's 3rd Annual Stamps Scholars National Day of Service theme is **commUNITY: Uniting to Serve**. Leadership development is at the core of being a Stamps Scholar, and being an effective leader means taking an active interest in addressing issues of importance to your community. To serve in the Greater Lafayette community the Purdue Stamps Scholars worked with Harrison High School's chapter of National Honors Society (NHS) to offer the first ever AP Exam Study Party on May 1. Dozens of Harrison High School students took part in the six formal review sessions facilitated by the Purdue Stamps Scholars and also enjoyed social time and casual studying with peers.