Greetings from West Lafayette, where the fall semester has just begun. As the associate director of Residential Academic Initiatives and lead for the Executive in Residence program, it is my privilege to share the first issue of our quarterly Executive-in-Residence newsletter. We are excited to show you how the Executive-in-Residence program is evolving and look forward to your future visits to campus.

As I begin my second year at Purdue, I’ll start with an overview of the 2021-2022 school year. We hosted nine different executives and facilitated over 200 events to connect them with students. First-time executives included Marcy Alstott, Rick Brajer, Mark Ferrara, Rodrick and Rodney Glass, Joseph Pabst and Ghenno Senbeta. Patrick Mosher and Art Norins were returnees, and we are so grateful for the contributions all made to our students and the program.

As you know, Executive-in-Residence visits are a unique mentorship opportunity. Most visits last one week. During that time, our students interact and share meals with you, learn about your chosen profession, talk in both formal and informal settings and hear about your successes and failures. It is a highlight that few students at other campuses can experience and we are proud to host it in University Residences and Purdue Dining & Culinary.

I am honored to introduce myself as the new alumni relationships and special events director for University Residences and Purdue Dining & Culinary (UR PD&C). I am a storyteller in every fiber of my being. I believe a core element of my role will be telling the story of UR and PD&C and encouraging others to give voice to their own Purdue story. It is my aim to share our continuing story with you and help make your story part of our cherished history.

It is my mission to connect with each of you to highlight how your experiences contributed to our story. Your experiences are the heart of UR and PD&C. Together, we will inspire tomorrow’s student leaders. I look forward to learning from you and strive to be of service in ensuring Purdue remains a place you proudly call home.

Bryan Austin, Ph.D.
Associate Director of Residential Academic Initiatives

Renee Kashawlic, M.S.
Alumni Relationships and Special Events Director
University Residences and Dining & Culinary

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@reslifeatpurdue
This fall, we will launch our very own Executive-in-Residence Learning Community! More than 90 students applied to the program and 16 were chosen to live on the second floor of Frieda Parker Hall. This core group will plan, host visits and connect you with students while experiencing the learning community on a deeper level. Andrew Jensen, the newly elected student body president, will serve as the resident assistant. The students will work on social media accounts, provide content for this newsletter, train the ambassadors and develop engagement activities. These students are also excited to meet you! We asked them to share a little bit about themselves. Their photos are below as well as a little bit more about who they are. We also have several students who are participating in the EiR LC, but who do not live on the floor. We will introduce these students to you in a future newsletter.

Andrew Jensen
Purdue Student Body President and Resident Assistant
West Lafayette, Indiana
Senior | Cybersecurity
Me in One Word: Legacy
My Why: “My why is to build on the legacy and inspiration that my parents have set the foundation for.”

Andrew Nguyen
Indianapolis, Indiana
Junior | Aviation
Me in One Word: Search
My Why: “I am constantly seeking opportunities and knowledge that help form me into a well-rounded and capable individual.”

Aniya Martin
Indianapolis, Indiana
Sophomore | Graphic Design
Me in One Word: Thoughtful
My Why: “My family is my Why. I know that I have the passion and drive to keep going because of the family that I have.”

Caleb Welch
Lafayette, Indiana
Freshman | Mathematics Secondary Education
Me in One Word: Faith
My Why: “My faith is why I strive to live each day with purpose.”

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Christopher “Chris” Kiki
Indianapolis, IN
Freshman | Cybersecurity
Me in One Word: Leadership
My Why: “To be a leader amongst my class and devote myself to working hard and success so I can make others work harder for themselves.”

Daniel Zheng
South Brunswick, New Jersey
Freshman | Electrical Engineering
Me in One Word: Exploration
My Why: “My why is that I am driven by my desire to find myself – to explore the world, and my place in it.”

Deniz “Dennis” Eksioglu
Fayetteville, Arkansas
Freshman | Mechanical Engineering
Me in One Word: Determined
My Why: “We should experience everything we want and not let anything come in the way.”

Christopher “Chris” Wilson
Chicago, Illinois
Freshman | Finance and Data Analytics
Me in One Word: Experiences
My Why: “My why is improving myself as a person over time and gaining experiences through every possible outlet.”

Christopher “Chris” Wilson
Tonawanda, New York
Sophomore | Mechanical Engineering
Me in One Word: Innovation
My Why: “Because I love innovation, I love the curiosity of what’s next and what I can do to help get there.”

Gabriel Calleja Sanchez
Weston, Florida
Freshman | Integrated Business and Engineering
Me in One Word: Happiness
My Why: “I try to do my best in everything, knowing that I self-fulfillment will come out of my efforts.”
Konnor Kinnaman  
Avon, Indiana  
Freshman | Electrical Engineering Technology  
Me in One Word: Resolute  
My Why: “It feels good to work hard and help others by working with them to help them achieve their goals.”

Nakshh “NK” Kohli  
New Delhi, India  
Freshman | Computer Science  
Me in One Word: Inquisitive  
My Why: “The lack of seamlessness everywhere is what drives me to learn.”

Oda “Jack” Drake  
Algonquin, Illinois  
Freshman | Engineering  
Me in One Word: Driven  
My Why: “To build on my leadership experiences through an abundance of unique and exciting opportunities to learn and further grow.”

Priyal Chhawchharia  
Kolkata, India  
Junior | Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering  
Me in One Word: Flight  
My Why: “I have wanted to be an astronaut since my childhood.”

Santiago “Santi” Chapa  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
Freshman | Engineering  
Me in One Word: Family  
My Why: “My why is to be worth every blessing that has been given to me.”

Selene Cabrera  
Carmel, Indiana  
Biomedical Health Sciences  
Me in One Word: Happiness  
My Why: “My why is to make small everyday choices that contribute to my success and happiness later.”

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Umaima “Omi” Baqai
Schaumburg, Illinois
Freshman | Accounting and Management
Me in One Word: Fulfillment
My Why: “My why is that success is not a plan, but a work in progress.”

FUTURE EiR VISITS AND CONNECTIONS

We are busy filling our 2022-2023 schedule and still have some dates available. If you are interested in visiting this year, please let us know. As always, if you plan to be on campus at any point during the year, we would love to connect.

Finally, stay tuned for fall 2024, when we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Executive-in-Residence program. We will send out information about the program later this year. There are still many stories to tell and we look forward to partnering with you to share them.