

BIOLOGY AT PURDUE

TIMELINE



1869 PURDUE FOUNDED

Purdue University is founded following a donation from John Purdue to establish a college focused on science, technology, and agriculture.

FIRST CLASSES

1874

The first classes are held at Purdue, laying the foundation for future academic departments, including the biological sciences.



1875 SARAH OREN HAYNES

Sarah Oren Haynes hired as the first female faculty member at Purdue. She was also the first faculty member, male or female, to receive a Board of Trustee's citation in appreciation of her work for the university.

STANLEY COULTER

1907

The School of Science is established with Stanley Coulter as its founding dean, encompassing various scientific disciplines.



1926 HOWARD ENDERS

Howard Enders named Head of Department and serves from 1926-46.



1930 GEORGE CUMMINS

George Baker Cummins begins his association with Purdue, focusing on the taxonomy and biology of rust fungi, and later serves as curator of the Arthur Herbarium.

PHILLIP TETRAULT

1946

Phillip Tetrault served as Acting Head from 1946-48.



1948 JOHN KARLING

John Karling became Head of the department and served from 1948-1959.

ROSS BIOLOGICAL RESERVE

1949

Outdoor ecology teaching and research facility. The first of it's kind in the state of Indiana.



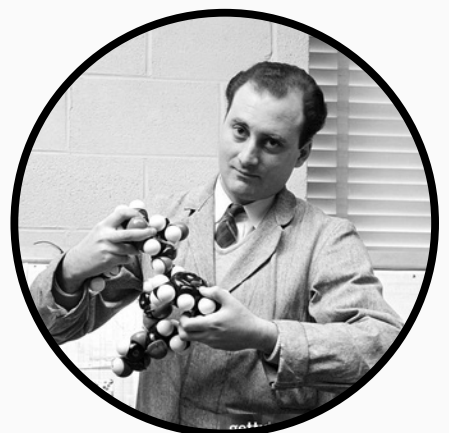
1949 DOROTHY POWELSON

Dorothy Powelson joins Purdue's faculty as an assistant professor of bacteriology, contributing significantly to microbiology research and mentoring future scientists.

SEYMOUR BENZER

1953

Seymour Benzer returns to Purdue as an Associate Professor of Biology.



HENRY KOFFLER

1959

Henry Koffler becomes a professor at Purdue, later serving as head of Biological Sciences from 1959 to 1975, during which he elevates the department to international prominence.



1961

RESEARCH PARK

Purdue Research Park opened by the Purdue Research Foundation, focuses on life sciences and advanced research

MICHAEL ROSSMANN

1964

Michael Rossmann joins Purdue's Department of Biological Sciences, making groundbreaking contributions to structural biology, including determining the structure of the common cold virus.



1968

JOSEPH ALTMAN

Joseph Altman joins Purdue Biological Sciences Faculty.

LILLY HALL

1969

The Lilly Hall of Life Sciences was constructed, providing a new home for the Department of Biological Sciences.



1970

ALTON A. LINDSEY

Alton A. Lindsey, a professor at Purdue from 1947 to 1973, publishes "Natural Areas of Indiana and Their Preservation" influencing the creation of nature preserves in Indiana.

H.E. UMBARGER

1970

H. Edwin Umbarger becomes the Wright Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences at Purdue.



1975

STRUTHER ARNOTT

Struther Arnott named department Head and fills the role from 1975-1980.

DENNIS SMITH

1980

Dennis Smith becomes Head of the department and serves from 1980-1987.



1982

REORGANIZATION

The Department of Biological Sciences underwent a major reorganization, integrating various sub-disciplines to foster interdisciplinary research.

LOUIS SHERMAN

1989

Louis Sherman served as Department Head from 1989-2000



2000

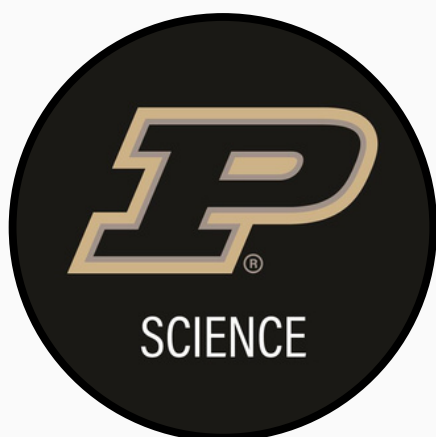
HOCKMEYER HALL

The Hockmeyer Hall of Structural Biology was inaugurated, expanding research facilities for the department.

DISCOVERY PARK

2001

Purdue establishes Discovery Park, a 40-acre multidisciplinary research center that includes facilities like the Bindley Bioscience Center, fostering collaborative research in the life sciences.



2004

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

The School of Science is renamed the College of Science, reflecting its growth and the expansion of its departments, including Biological Sciences.

RICHARD KUHN

2005

Richard Kuhn serves as Department Head of Biological Sciences from 2005-16



2005

BINDLEY CENTER

Bindley Bioscience Center opens in Discovery Park to support interdisciplinary life sciences research.

PI4D

2014

Purdue Institute for Inflammation, Immunology and Infectious Disease (PI4D) is established to tackle global health challenges through cross-disciplinary research.



2016

PIIN

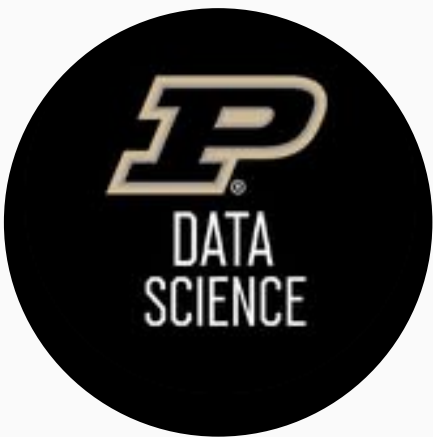
Purdue Institute for Integrative Neuroscience (PIIN) launches to advance brain and behavior research across departments.

STEVE KONIECZNY

2016

Steve Konieczny serves as Interim Department Head from 2016-18





2018

DATA SCIENCE

Purdue launches the Integrative Data Science Initiative with a goal to build “data science for all” ecosystem making data science education part of every student’s learning experience.

JANICE EVANS

2018

Janice Evans becomes first female Department Head, serves from 2018-2023.



2023

PURDUE COMPUTES

Purdue launches the Purdue Computes initiative, boosting research that spans strategically selected areas in artificial intelligence, especially at the intersection between the virtual and the physical.

INDIANAPOLIS

2024

Purdue launches the Purdue in Indianapolis expansion bringing the West Lafayette programs in an urban setting.



2024

PERISTERA PASCHOU

Peristera Paschou serves as Interim Department Head from 2024-25

ONE HEALTH

2024

Purdue launches the One Health initiative aiming to further advance research to tackle complex challenges with real-world impact at the intersection of human, animal and plant health.

