

# Senior Spotlight 2021-22



## COLE PEARSON

Continuously  
Seeking to  
Improve, Learn,  
and Serve

**Hometown:** Delphi, Indiana

**Major & Concentration:** Agribusiness Management

**Minors or Certificates:** Collaborative Leadership Certificate

**Why did you come to Purdue:** Purdue made sense for me in numerous ways. I had seen successful students, who I looked up to, come and thrive at Purdue. I wanted to study agribusiness and the program here is among the best in the country. Also, it is close to home.

**Favorite Purdue tradition:** Fountain Runs

**Top three influences at Purdue(people, ideas, experiences):**

1. Amy Jones, Ag Ambassador and Cooperative House Advisor, encouraged me to strive for more. She has been incredibly supportive of me and an advocate for trying new things.
2. The Study abroad to Peru opened my eyes to different perspectives in seeing agriculture and business management decisions.
3. My cooperative house has allowed me to develop in my relationship building, time management, and problem-solving skills.

**Top five memories of your time at Purdue:**

1. Agriculture Future of America (AFA) leaders conferences and institutes
2. Serving as a BGR Team leader
3. Hosting astronaut, Mike McCulley when he came to campus for The UDO Annual weekend. He was such a good storyteller, sharing his experiences with young students.
4. Joining Mortar Board
5. The EMV retreat focusing on strengths with Purdue's CELD office

**Places you have been as a Purdue student:**

1. Kansas City, Washington DC, and Chicago for AFA conferences
2. Peru (Lima, a dairy in the Andes Mountains, and the Amazon rainforest) for a winter break Study Abroad
3. Washington DC for the Ag Ambassador Summit
4. Uzbekistan for an internship

**Favorite club/organization:** I am involved in several great organizations that are important for my leadership development, but my small church group is my favorite because they always support and accept me.

**Favorite Student-led event/initiative:** I was able to be a part of Purdue Foundation Student Board's (PFSB) Student Organization Alumni Relations (SOAR) program. It is truly students helping other students improve their outreach and engagement with alumni. Even in our first-year pilot program, we were able to collaborate with organizations to spur ideas of how they can improve.

**Favorite Purdue event:** Ag Week on Memorial Mall

**Favorite Social Activity:** The College of Agriculture Ice cream social! I tend to have melted ice cream before I top it because I get talking to friends that I hadn't seen all summer.

**Favorite place to study:** AGAD 121: I am likely to see friends that I can talk with or study alongside. I benefit from being near others who are studying so we can motivate one another in our subjects.

**Favorite spot on campus:** Visiting my mom when she is on campus.

**Favorite thing about CoA:** The College of Agriculture is often the only college that has its own... Fill in the blank: Study abroad office, week of giveaways (who doesn't like free food), etc. This points to how much we in the college of Agriculture care. We get together for cookouts, ice cream, hot chocolate, Farmer Olympics, and celebrations of our faculty. You can tell we care because we prove it.

**Favorite thing about your major:** I like that there is a culture of self-improvement. People are constantly seeking to improve, and I can celebrate people's successes when they come.



**Favorite class:** SOC 310 my first semester with Dr. Duker has had an impact on how to see the world. He would embrace the way we saw others and approached race with a different angle than it is discussed in the political spectrum.

**Favorite professor:** I was fortunate to have Dr. Doering in his last year as a professor. He had rich life experience and would teach for an hour without glancing at his notes but once or twice.

**Coollest project:** For EDPS 317, the capstone of the collaborative leadership certificate, we were paired with another student and served as a mentor for them. As it was their first college experience and we were in a pandemic, things were tough for our mentees. We were able to listen deeply, empathize, give advice, and become friends with these students who had less channels to make friends than we did when we started at Purdue.

**Three biggest accomplishments:**

1. Being elected as a State FFA officer
2. Traveling to and around Uzbekistan
3. Being named an outstanding Student in the College of Agriculture

**Things on your resume not listed above:**

I had an internship with the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Grain Buyers and Warehouse Licensing Agency. I also Served as the Vice President of Risk Management for Purdue Cooperative Council.

**Where do you want to end up:** I would like to make my way back to my family in the Lafayette area. However, I am finding the world is too big to be fixed in one place.

**Advice for underclassman:** Take advantage of the time you have with the people around you! Be the first one to reach out to friends, professors, mentors, etc. Once you leave, it is difficult to get everyone together again.

**Biggest takeaway from Purdue:** Do not stop pushing yourself to learn through experiences. At Purdue there are more opportunities than you can take. Dedicating yourself to the right organizations, missions and people will help you to continuously improve. That is what has worked for me.

