

# Purdue's 1.3 Billion Dollar Gamble.

By Jacob Bauer

The presence of construction across campus is something that many students pay no attention to, other than the fact that it sometimes makes daily life more annoying. From things like closed roads to loud noises or restrictions in parking spaces.



Road closure on Agricultural mall Drive

For me personally the project that annoys me the most is the new apartment building that is being built across the street from where I live.



Harrison Street Construction.

For many students this construction is how campus has always been. Campus tour guides often joke that there is always some construction happening somewhere on campus. But over the past year

this has been painfully true for one reason. In the summer of 2022, the Purdue University Board of Trustees approved a comprehensive 10-year plan for major developments across the university. This plan included new housing for freshman, as well as renovations for classrooms, and laboratories across campus.



Heavilon Hall demolition

For the average student this seems like a great investment in the future of the university. But for Purdue administrators this is an investment of necessity.



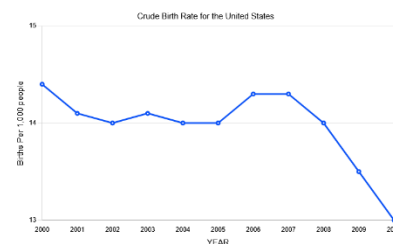
Stewart Center Construction.

The reason for this investment is due to the pressure that many colleges in the US will soon be facing. The pressure to attract perspective students among colleges is due to one fact. There are less of them now.



Daniels School of Business construction.

The reason for the decrease in the American Student population is not because of the increasing dissatisfaction with college among recent graduates. Although that number is increasing. It's much simpler than that. They were never born.



Crude Birth Rate for the US

The birth rate in the US during the 2008 financial crisis dropped off significantly and has been slowly decreasing ever since. 2008 was seventeen years ago. Or one year less than the age of a college freshman. So, over the next few years as the number of students decreases in our universities, the universities will have to fill their empty seats. With more international students. Which under this administration seems unlikely. Or attract enough students to stay afloat.



University hall renovations

With Purdue's status as a leader in technology it is unlikely that admissions will suffer but only time will tell how few students there really are.

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