

## ADMINISTRATION

### Like Father, Like Son

On February 2, the Purdue University Fort Wayne Police Department welcomed its newest officer, Ali Gill, with what was described by some as the best-attended badge-pinning ceremony ever hosted on campus.

One reason might be that Gill, age 22, partially grew up on campus. His father, Nasir Gill, has worked here as a boiler operator for Facilities Management since 2007. So not only did attendees include members of PFW's police force, but also Nasir's coworkers and his entire family.

Police Chief Tim Potts said that in their search for a new officer they were looking for someone with a strong work ethic who could command the respect of others, traits which Nasir has demonstrated in his 15-year career at PFW.

Ali had joked with his father that he would work with him one day, but Nasir shrugged it off as his son being funny. He never thought he would see his son become a cop, much less at the university where he also works, but he couldn't be more proud.

[WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)



## ARTS AND HUMANITIES

### Tickets for The Onion Co-founder's Omnibus Series Appearance Still Available

Scott Dikkers, co-founder of the iconic comedy empire *The Onion*, will make an appearance at Purdue Fort Wayne at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday as part of the Omnibus Speaker Series. Dikkers' presentation titled "The Funny Story behind the Funny Stories" will be held in the 1,500-seat Auer Performance Hall.

Tickets are free on a first-come, first-served basis with a limit of four per person. There is a \$1.50 convenience charge per ticket for [online orders](#).

[READ ARTICLE](#)

### PFW's Chief Diversity Officer to Host Town Hall on DEI Strategy and Progress

The university's [strategic plan](#) establishes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as a key pillar in its efforts to empower transformation at Purdue Fort Wayne.

You are invited to join Chief Diversity Officer MarTeze Hammonds at a town hall on February 22 at 1:30 p.m. in Neff Hall, Room 101, to learn more about PFW's strategies for and progress toward moving **DEI FORWARD**. The session will also be [livestreamed via Zoom](#).



### Student Life Rentals Can Add Spice to Events

Are you part of a student organization holding an event and want to try to make it a little extra special? If so, [Student Life](#) has a few fun options for [relatively cost-effective rentals](#).

Things like board games, light-up letters for signage, tents and accessories, table covers, backdrops, decorations, lawn games, and board and card games.

Support for food and beverage includes a coffee urn, a cotton candy machine, a popcorn machine, a nacho cheese warmer, and a snow cone maker.

Looking toward spring, there are all kinds of lawn game options, including the traditional corn hole and ladder golf, but also unique things like giant checkers and chess. Staying indoors, the list of regular-sized board games starts with 5-Second Rule, A Little Wordy, All of Us, Apples to Apples—the options in the catalog keep going for 25 pages. If you want to play, Student Life probably has it.

As expected, there are also some [rules to be followed](#). All of the items can be checked out at the Student Life office in Walb Student Union, Room 210.

### Nominations Open for Student Leader Awards

Are you the Student Leader of the Year? Does your student organization deserve to be recognized for all it has done? Has your supervisor inspired you? Nominations are now open for the 2023 Student Leader Awards!

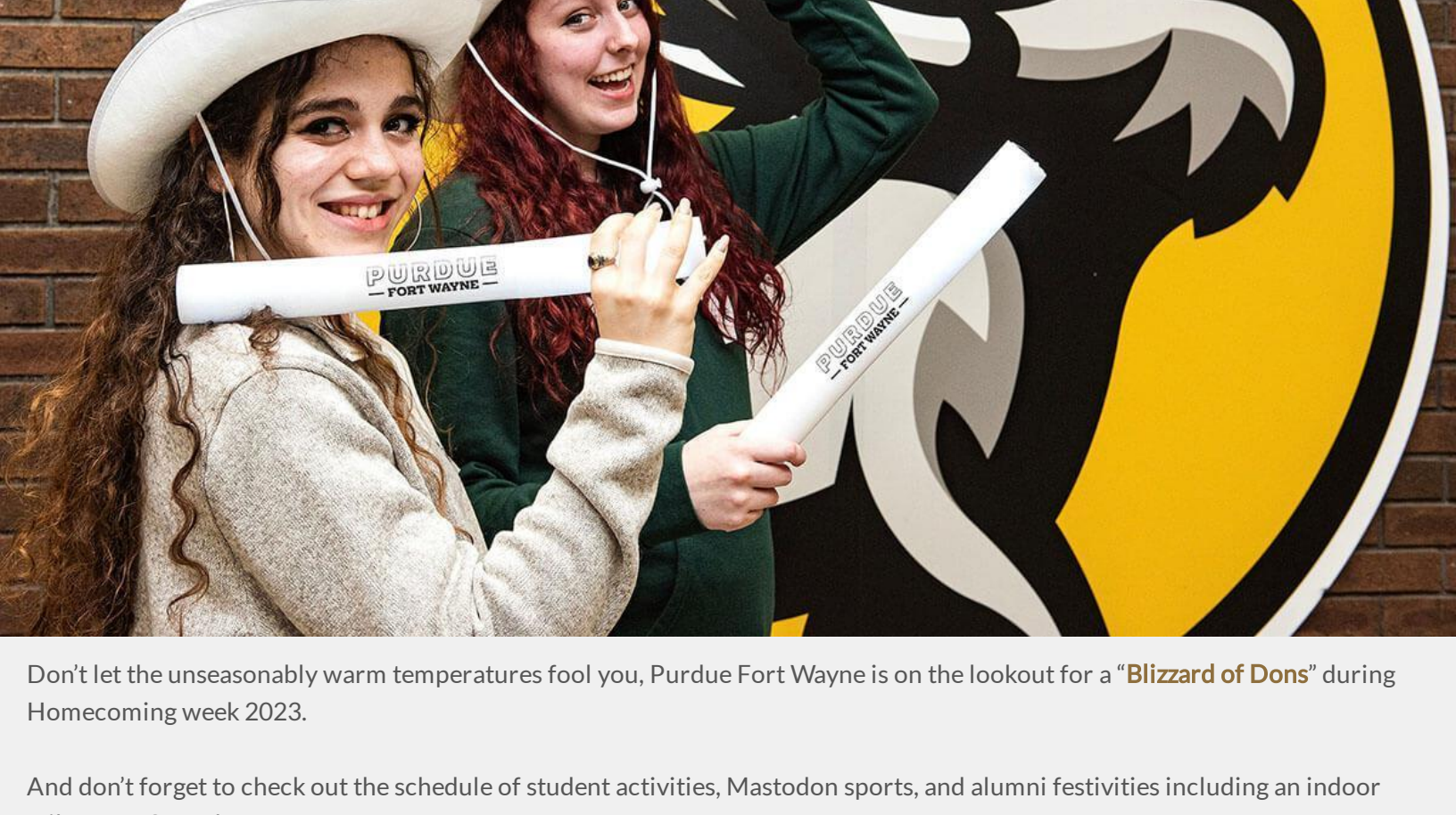
Nominate yourself, peers, staff, and faculty to celebrate their accomplishments during this academic year. View the various award descriptions [here](#) and submit your nominations via [this form](#).

List of Awards:

- Student Leader of the Year Award + Scholarship
- SGA Member of the Year
- Student Organization Advisor of the Year
- Student Organization Member of the Year
- Student Organization Officer of the Year
- Outstanding Student Organization
- Spirit of the Mastodon Award
- Building Block Award
- Commitment to Diversity Award
- Student Employee of the Year
- Supervisor of the Year (staff member)
- Service to Students Award (staff member)
- Students' Choice Award for Teaching Excellence (faculty member)

Nominations will close on March 1. All nominees will receive an invitation to the awards banquet on April 24. For additional information, visit the [award page](#) on the Student Leadership website or contact Alex Backer, director of Student Leadership and Student Government Association, at [ambacker@pfw.edu](mailto:ambacker@pfw.edu).

### Homecoming Week Is Here



Don't let the unseasonably warm temperatures fool you, Purdue Fort Wayne is on the lookout for a "Blizzard of Dons" during Homecoming week 2023.

And don't forget to check out the schedule of student activities, Mastodon sports, and alumni festivities including an indoor tailgate on Saturday.

## Herd That

*The student experience is a big part of who we are as Mastodons. Here's one of our stories.*



### "Eats to the Beats" Looks to Smile More at Annual Event

When planning started for the second annual "Eats to the Beats" dinner scheduled for the end of February, the easy part was picking the caterer. The Multicultural Center reached out to former Purdue University Fort Wayne student and employee Terel Lynn.

After serving two years as PFW student body president before graduating in 2007, Lynn also worked three years in the Office of Food and Dining while earning his master's degree in organizational leadership. He left in 2019 to co-found his business "Smile More Meal Prep."

For Lynn, returning to PFW to serve at both this event and several others annually is a chance to give back to the school and its people. He can rattle off the names of influential professors, most of whom he keeps in contact with.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

## Don Dates

There's always plenty to do at Purdue Fort Wayne. To find your favorites—or discover new activities—check the Don Dates website often to see what's happening on campus.

FEBRUARY

16

Thurs., noon–1 p.m.

### #Adulting: Professional Looks for Less with the Career Closet

This session will give you a look at the Career Closet and offer tips to acquire pieces for professional wear...

FEBRUARY

21

Tues., 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

### Prep Yourself for the Spring Career Expo

Get a free haircut and simple manicure to make sure you are looking your best for the career fair. Staff from the Career Development Center will be there to review your resumé or work with you on an elevator pitch...

## News Spotlight

*A sampling of external news coverage of Purdue University Fort Wayne.*

### Active attacker training at Purdue Fort Wayne

21Alive at 5 p.m. | Tuesday

### Run, Hide, Fight responses to an active-attacker situation

21Alive at 6 p.m. | Tuesday

### Blue emergency phones on campus

21Alive at 11 p.m. | Tuesday

### Puerto Rico to Purdue Fort Wayne

21Alive | Tuesday

### Purdue University Fort Wayne presents revitalized 2023 Homecoming schedule

wane.com | Feb. 7

## Mastodon Moments

*Seen and noted around campus. Monitor our university social feeds for more great moments of Mastodon life.*



Alex Blade (top left center) and crew seen here delivering a podcast on behalf of the Black Student Union on February 8. Topics over time will include cultural awareness, mental health, personal development, and many other subjects of interest to college students. Their guest for this installment was Chief Diversity Officer Mar Teze Hammonds (top right center).

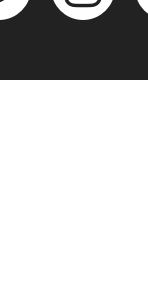
[Athletics](#)



[Don Dates](#)



[News Center](#)



Don Life is an official university communication sent weekly on Wednesday to all currently enrolled students. Don Life Special Edition is a supplement to the regularly scheduled newsletter. It covers breaking news and time-sensitive information directly related to university operations.

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**FORT WAYNE**

