



Ryan Meriwether, assistant director of admissions, will be one of six guest speakers at the Journey to Black Excellence gala on February 19.

MASTODON LIFE

## Black Student Union Celebrating Black History Month with New Event

Though Black History Month is celebrated in February, members of the Black Student Union hope their upcoming event can have an impact all year.

The first-ever “A Journey to Black Excellence” gala at Purdue University Fort Wayne will be held on February 19 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Walb Student Union Classic Ballroom. Highlights include jazz music, guest speakers, and catered soul food. Formal attire is requested. Tickets cost \$5 and are on sale each of the next two Fridays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the skybridge between Helmke Library and Walb.

“This is important because we want to encourage our classmates and friends to become excellent leaders and feel confident in their Black excellence,” said Makenzie Dabbs, president of the Black Student Union. “It is Black History Month, but we want to encourage people to be aware of their Black excellence all year long.”

[READ ARTICLE](#)



MASTODON LIFE

## Volunteers Still Needed for Homecoming

Help make “Blizzard of Dons” PFW’s best Homecoming ever! Next week will be packed with fun activities and opportunities to engage with students and each other.

A few volunteers are still needed; view the schedule and [sign up asap](#).

## #HelloPFW Town Hall

The Human Resources and Office of Institutional Equity leadership team invites all PFW faculty and staff to the upcoming #HelloPFW Town Hall on Wednesday (Feb. 15) at 1 p.m., [via Zoom](#).

During this session, which will be facilitated by Associate Vice Chancellor Ken Christmon, Associate Director of HR Christine Marcuccilli will discuss the importance of freedom of expression. Marcuccilli will also share information about the university’s ongoing civility training efforts and upcoming opportunities to participate.

If you have questions related to the agenda, please submit a question prior to the session using this [topic inquiry form](#). You may also contact the office directly at [hr@pfw.edu](mailto:hr@pfw.edu). Agenda-related questions will be addressed during the town hall, time permitting.

## Dedicated People

*Our campus community’s growth and success is the result of faculty and staff who work tirelessly to help make the university such a special place to work, learn, and flourish. This series helps us recognize those who exemplify PFW’s positive progress.*



## Wilson Haunts Auer Performance Hall for Love (of His Job)

As a joke, Tom Wilson likes to call himself the Quasimodo of the Auer Performance Hall. Maybe it’s because he’s usually crawling the rafters to fix things like audio, video, and lighting equipment, or because his upper-level office in the back of the hall has blacked-out windows. Most people can’t tell if he’s even there.

It could also be because he’s likely the only one in the hall during the daytime, as most performances or presentations happen in the evening.

As Purdue University Fort Wayne’s technical and facilities manager under Special Events, Wilson’s team, which consists of eight full-time employees and more than 10 student employees, is on call for almost every event on campus that doesn’t involve a classroom. Annually, that schedule includes more than 200 in Auer and more than 2,000 others. Whether it’s a rock concert in Auer, or an hour-long meeting in Walb Student Union, the Special Events team guides clients from booking to completion of a successful event.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

## Featured Events

*There’s always plenty to do at Purdue Fort Wayne. Some opportunities are exclusive to university employees and their families. Check the full [events calendar](#) often to see what’s happening on campus.*

FEBRUARY

11

Sat., 2:30–4:30 p.m.

### Music Therapy Client Recital

Share the joy of music with practicing music therapists who assist their client performers in demonstrating skills they developed through participation in music therapy services...

FEBRUARY

14

Tues., noon–2 p.m.

### Puppy Love: Therapy Dogs

Don’t spend Valentine’s Day alone—get some love, hugs, and tail wags from visiting therapy dogs!

## In a Snap

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



Student teams spent the weekend in the Classic Ballroom at Walb Student Union for the latest Global Game Jam, an international competition where teams have 48 hours to create a game based on a revealed theme. This year’s theme was “Roots.” Purdue Fort Wayne’s teams were advised by Thomas Bolinger, lecturer in computer science.

News Center



Events Calendar





Athletics



Ripples



*Inside PFW* is an official university communication for faculty and staff. All submissions should be sent to [inside@pfw.edu](mailto:inside@pfw.edu) no later than 2 p.m. on the day prior to the next edition to be considered for inclusion. Newsletter guidelines can be accessed in the PFW News Center by [clicking here](#).

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