

Purdue Fort Wayne Announces Exemplar and Top 50 Recipients for 2023

Purdue University Fort Wayne has chosen its next classes of **Exemplar** and **Top 50 recipients**. These students not only excel academically, but go above and beyond outside of the classroom.

Each year, college and school deans, department chairs, and/or faculty select students to be Exemplars. Those receiving this honor must complete an undergraduate degree in December, May, or during the summer semester of the current academic year; have graduated with or be tentatively qualified to graduate with distinction; demonstrate excellence in their areas of study; and have a record of community outreach in their field.

In addition to achieving high GPAs, individuals who are part of PFW's Top 50 classes also make a difference with participation in university activities, events, and organizations—and through community engagement both here in Fort Wayne and in their hometowns.

All honorees have been invited to a dinner and awards ceremony on April 28 in the Walb Union International Ballroom. The event begins at 6:30 p.m.

[READ MORE](#)



MASTODON LIFE

Spring Carnival on Friday Always a 'Big Night' at Purdue Fort Wayne

As Purdue Fort Wayne gears up for the end of its spring semester, the 2023 edition of **Mastodons Big Night** will give students, faculty, staff, and community members a chance to kick back and relax along the banks of the beautiful St. Joseph River. In what has become an annual carnival extravaganza on the PFW campus, rides, games, and plenty of opportunities to socialize will be on the agenda for all who attend. As expected, food and dessert items from sources such as Aladdin, Local Apple Cart, King Arthur's Trolley, and Wicked Good Cupcakes will also be available for purchase.

Mastodons Big Night is set for Friday between 5 and 10 p.m. in parking lots 10 and 11 on the west side of the main campus. Tickets for PFW and IUFW employees and their family members are \$20 per person, and \$25 for members of the general public. Admission includes access to all the rides.

Dine with the Chancellor after Commencement on May 10

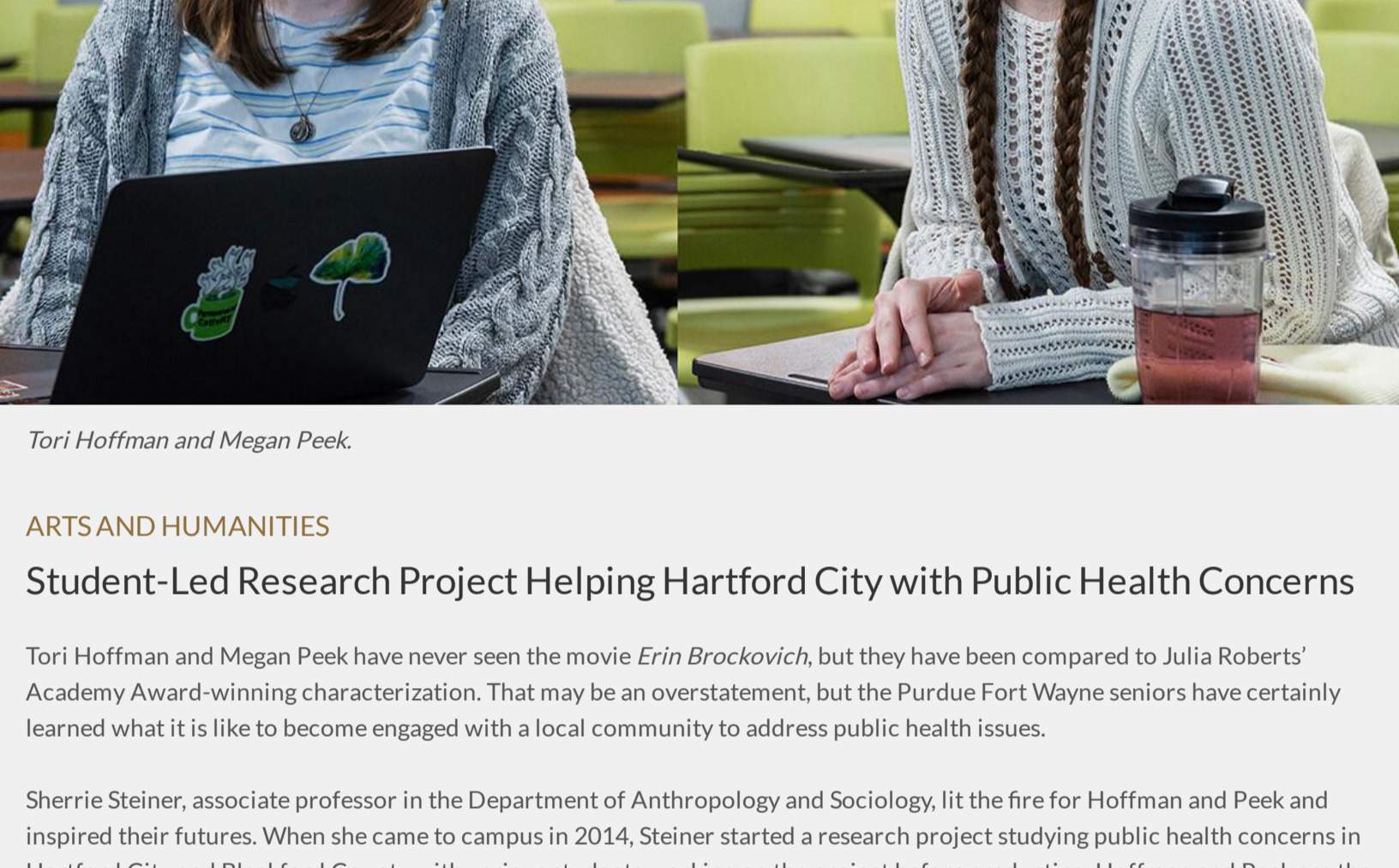
After Commencement, it's time to celebrate! The Mastodon Alumni Community invites graduates, family, and friends to the inaugural Chancellor's New Alumni Dinner in Expo II at Memorial Coliseum. Menu choices include chicken, beef, and vegetarian plated meals, and a cash bar option.

2023 Graduates | \$10
 Adults | \$25
 Children (3-12) | \$10
 Children (2 and under) | Free

Note: You must be 21 years or older to purchase alcoholic drinks.

In addition, you're invited to join the alumni after-party in Expo III. Listen to the band A Night to Remember, enjoy an appetizer, grab a cocktail at the cash bar, and snap a pic for your socials at the photo station. Graduates will also receive a free commemorative gift.

[REGISTER FOR THE DINNER](#)



Tori Hoffman and Megan Peek.

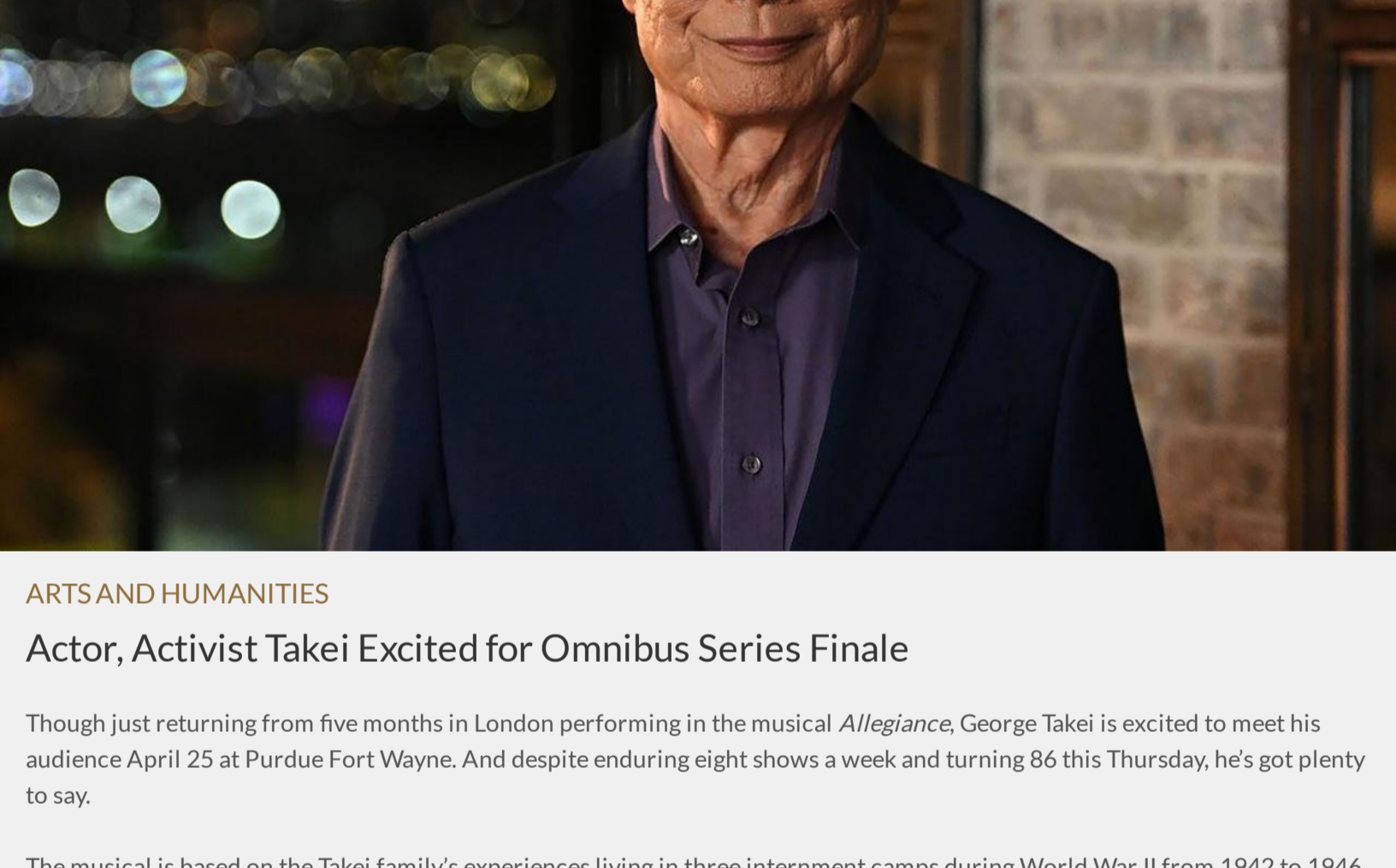
ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Student-Led Research Project Helping Hartford City with Public Health Concerns

Tori Hoffman and Megan Peek have never seen the movie *Erin Brockovich*, but they have been compared to Julia Roberts' Academy Award-winning characterization. That may be an overstatement, but the Purdue Fort Wayne seniors have certainly learned what it is like to become engaged with a local community to address public health issues.

Sherrie Steiner, associate professor in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, lit the fire for Hoffman and Peek and inspired their futures. When she came to campus in 2014, Steiner started a research project studying public health concerns in Hartford City and Blackford County with various students working on the project before graduating. Hoffman and Peek are the current team leads with contributions from Hailey Brenneman, Kira Creech, Elizabeth Mann, and Hannah Richendollar.

[READ ARTICLE](#)



ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Actor, Activist Takei Excited for Omnibus Series Finale

Though just returning from five months in London performing in the musical *Allegiance*, George Takei is excited to meet his audience April 25 at Purdue Fort Wayne. And despite enduring eight shows a week and turning 86 this Thursday, he's got plenty to say.

The musical is based on the Takei family's experiences living in three internment camps during World War II from 1942 to 1946. Those events will also be the theme of Takei's presentation next week in Auer Performance Hall.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

Entrepreneurial Spirit Takes Center Stage at High School Pitch Competition on Purdue Fort Wayne Campus

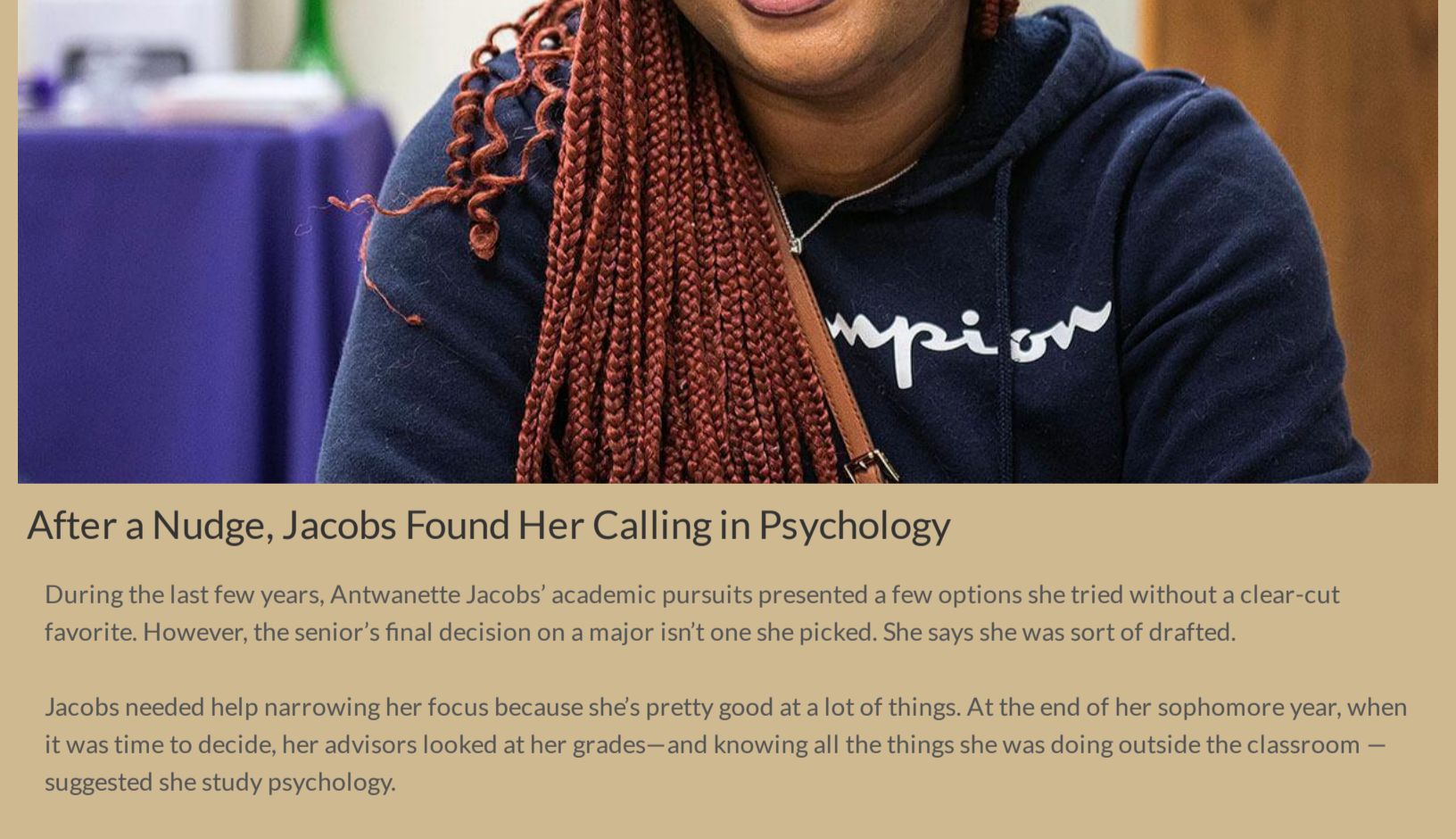
With nearly 2,500 statewide sign ups, the STARTedUP Foundation's Innovate WithIN program is the largest high school pitch competition in the country. During the month of April, 51 teams across Indiana are competing to qualify for the state competition in Indianapolis later this spring.

On April 27, 10 teams will be participating in the Region 5 competition hosted by Purdue University Fort Wayne. All the action will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union. The top two teams from each region move on to state where \$25,000 in venture capital funding and \$10,000 in 529 funds will be awarded to the winning pitch. The victors will also advance to a national competition in Washington, D.C.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

Herd That

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



After a Nudge, Jacobs Found Her Calling in Psychology

During the last few years, Antwanette Jacobs' academic pursuits presented a few options she tried without a clear-cut favorite. However, the senior's final decision on a major isn't one she picked. She says she was sort of drafted.

Jacobs needed help narrowing her focus because she's pretty good at a lot of things. At the end of her sophomore year, when it was time to decide, her advisors looked at her grades—and knowing all the things she was doing outside the classroom — suggested she study psychology.

[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.

APRIL

20

Thurs., 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Bands Concert II

The School of Music Bands will perform a European tour send-off concert prior to their departure in May for Paris, Geneva, Milan, Florence, and Rome. Free admission for Purdue FW students with ID and students under 18...

APRIL

21

Fri., 5–7 p.m.

Multicultural Mixer

Come meet your old friends and make some new ones. Free food and games provided...

APRIL

22

Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Undergraduate History Conference

Nine students majoring in history, secondary education, political science, English, and anthropology will present their research on a wide range of topics, including local Fort Wayne history, the Holocaust in France, the Norman Conquest, Quakers in Revolutionary America, Che Guevara, and...

Mastodon Moments

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



Students were dressed to impress in their best formal attire at the Student Activities Board masquerade ball on Saturday in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union.

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.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
FORT WAYNE

