

## MASTODON LIFE

### Dare to Share: Walb Piano Players Show Courage and Add to Atmosphere

Continuing a long tradition, there are maybe a dozen performers who show courage and dare to share by playing the 1973 Grand Model L Steinway and Sons piano tucked away in the corner of the Walb Student Union's ground floor.

Though not music majors, most are self-taught within the last few years or took lessons long ago. They won't become professionals, but always show a performer's fearlessness. Some play for reasons more important than personal enjoyment, though that always comes through.

Piano playing can also positively influence others, changing the building's atmosphere and the moods of those listening.

[READ STORY](#)

[WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)

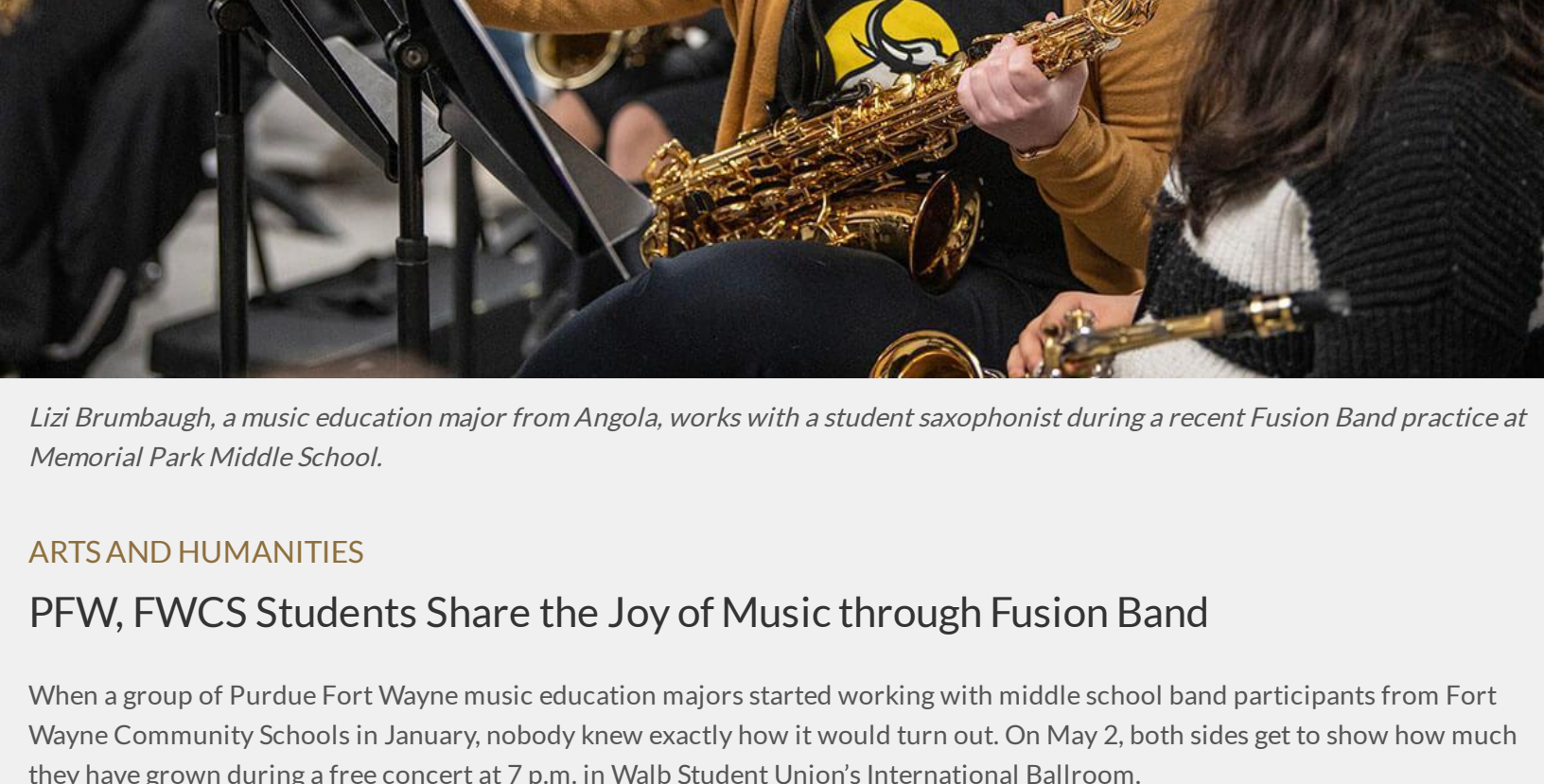
## Featured Faculty Award Winners for 2023 Chosen

The Office of Academic Affairs has announced the Featured Faculty Award winners for 2023. This annual recognition honors those who have demonstrated outstanding performance in engagement, research, service, or teaching/librarianship.

This year's recipients are:

- **Featured Faculty for Research and Excellence:** **William Sauerland**, assistant professor, School of Music, for research presented at multiple national and international conferences, many invited talks, and four publications to date, including his book *Queering Vocal Pedagogy*.
- **Featured Faculty for Teaching/Librarianship Excellence:** **John LaMaster**, senior instructor, Department of Mathematical Sciences, for 34 years of innovation and initiatives to enhance active learning in his own classes and those of his peers.
- **Featured Faculty for Engagement Excellence:** **Julia Smith**, assistant professor, Department of Teacher Education, for her sustained and very successful efforts to engage her peers, her students, and several community partners with the School of Education Urban Garden.

These dedicated faculty members will be honored at a campus-wide celebration during the fall semester.



*Lizi Brumbaugh, a music education major from Angola, works with a student saxophonist during a recent Fusion Band practice at Memorial Park Middle School.*

## ARTS AND HUMANITIES

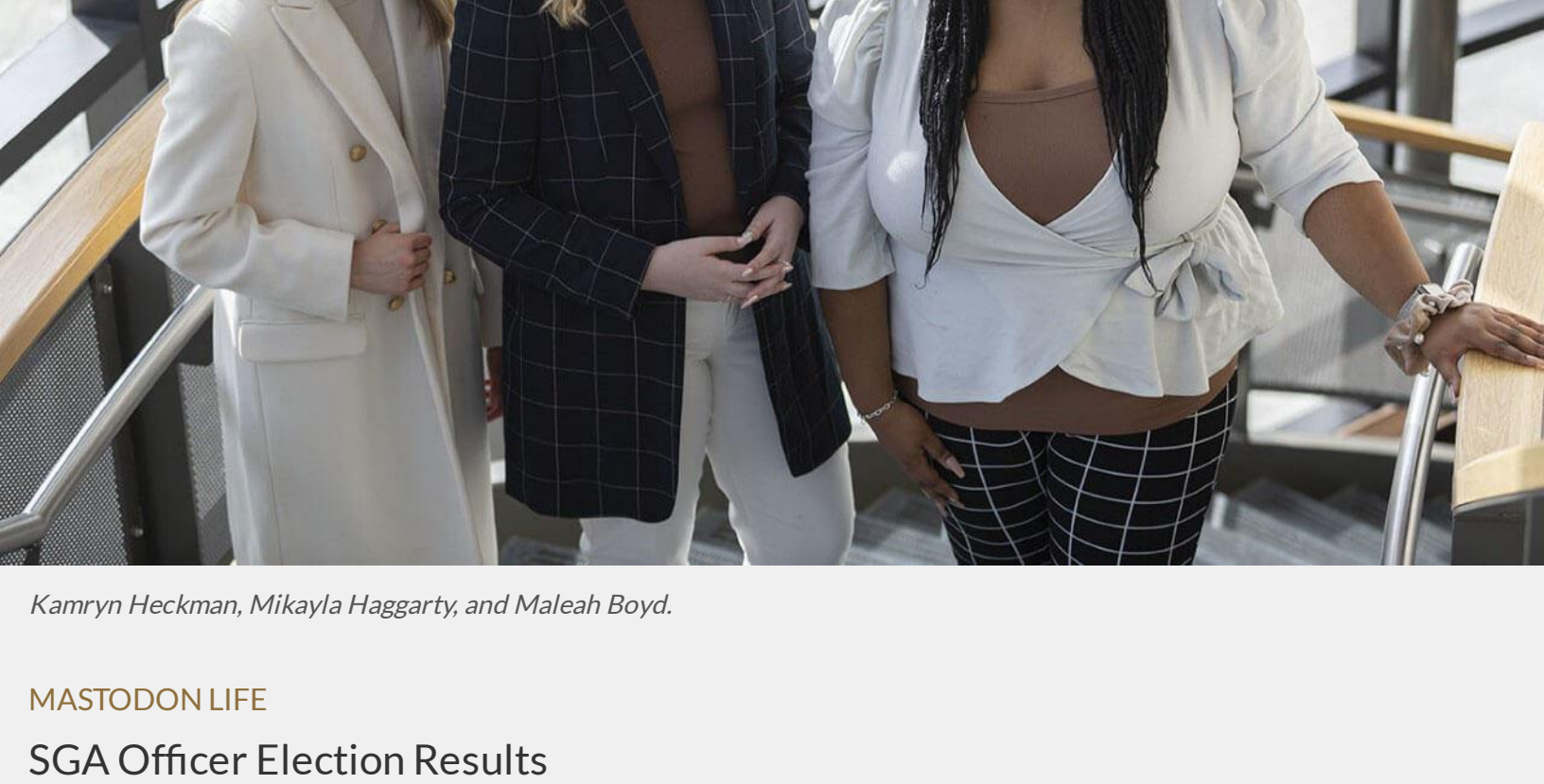
### PFW, FWCS Students Share the Joy of Music through Fusion Band

When a group of Purdue Fort Wayne music education majors started working with middle school band participants from Fort Wayne Community Schools in January, nobody knew exactly how it would turn out. On May 2, both sides get to show how much they have grown during a free concert at 7 p.m. in Walb Student Union's International Ballroom.

Simply put, The Fusion Band rocks!

Made possible through an Amplify Art grant and under the guidance of John Egger, the School of Music's director of music education, the project lets 16 PFW music education students teach 50 middle school band members from across the district. During the spring semester, the group gathered for two hours every Tuesday evening for 12 weeks at Memorial Park Middle School.

[READ STORY](#)



*Kamryn Heckman, Mikayla Haggarty, and Maleah Boyd.*

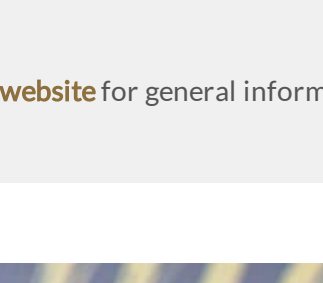
## MASTODON LIFE

### SGA Officer Election Results

Thanks to everyone who voted during the Student Government Association elections earlier this month. Your 2023-24 SGA officers are:

- Mikayla Haggarty | student body president
- Maleah Boyd | vice president of legislation
- Kamryn Heckman | vice president of finance

## Important Commencement Instructions for Graduates



If you are graduating on May 10, make sure you're ready for the big day! Please review the instructions and bring a copy to the ceremony.

- [Undergraduate instructions](#)
- [Graduate student instructions](#)

Also remember to check out the [Commencement website](#) for general information and FAQ. Questions? Contact [commence@pfw.edu](mailto:commence@pfw.edu).



### Omnibus Finale Lets Takei Boldly Take Audience Where He's Been, Where We're Headed

Long-lauded as a groundbreaking author, best-selling author, and diligent social justice advocate, George Takei became a passionate history professor Tuesday night as Purdue University Fort Wayne's final guest in the 2022-23 Omnibus Speaker Series. The story of the challenges Takei's family faced while incarcerated in World War II Japanese American internment camps riveted a packed auditorium, drawing a standing ovation at the end.

Twenty years after internment, Takei became a Hollywood star as the character Hikaru Sulu in the legendary TV show *Star Trek*, highlighting his long-lasting and prominent acting career. He became a vibrant social activist, including his passionate fight for LGBTQ+ rights and marriage equality in America.

While speaking to PFW Honors Program students earlier in the day, Takei compared *Star Trek's* ideals to the challenges of today's society, urging the students to keep fighting for positive change.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

## Dine with the Chancellor after Commencement

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.

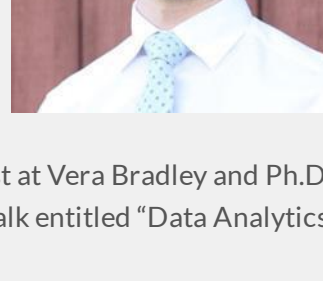
- 2023 Graduates | \$10
- Adults | \$25
- Children (3-12) | \$10
- Children (2 and under) | Free

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](#)

## Data Analytics: From the Social Sciences to Industry



Kyler Hudson, a senior merchandising data analyst at Vera Bradley and Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, will present a talk entitled "Data Analytics: From the Social Sciences to Industry" today from noon to 1:15 p.m. in Kettler Hall, Room 246.

His presentation will focus in part on the use of global information systems and spatial analytics in academic and policy research; exploring patterns in voting behavior and setting voting districts; examining spatial patterns in crime, health outcomes, and education; and also its use in business.

Hudson is an IPFW alum who graduated with degrees in political science and history. In 2018, he was granted a Fulbright Student Award to travel to Western Canada to research rural-urban political polarization.

The talk is sponsored by the Anthropology Club, Data Hub Club, and the Pi Math Club. Free pizza will be provided.

## REM Departmental Name Change

In an effort to better serve the campus community and enhance operational transparency and understanding, Radiological and Environmental Management at Purdue University recently announced several organizational changes, including a new departmental name: Environmental Health and Safety.

To remain consistent, REM at Purdue Fort Wayne is also changing its name to Environmental Health and Safety. The department continues to be led by Stephanie Phillips, EHS manager, and supported by safety specialist Erin Turner.

EHS operates as a consultant to the university community by monitoring regulatory compliance with federal, state, and university regulations involving environmental health and safety issues. Services provided include safety program development, training, consultation, and emergency response in these primary areas:

- Environmental health
- Hazardous materials
- Industrial hygiene
- Injury prevention
- Radiation and laser safety
- Occupational safety and ergonomics

Questions about the changes may be directed to Phillips at [steels@pfw.edu](mailto:steels@pfw.edu) or 260-481-4193.

## 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

27

Thurs., 7-9 p.m.

### TMC Team Bowling

Grab a group of friends and sign up to join The Multicultural Center for team bowling at Crazy Pinz. Stop by the office in Walb 118 or call 260-481-6608 to register your team members. Teams will need to be at least 5...

APRIL

28

Friday, noon-3 p.m.

### PFW Hospitality and Tourism Career and Internship Fair

This career and internship fair is open to PFW students, northeast Indiana college and university students, and the general public. Hosted by the PFW Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, in partnership with Northeast Indiana Hospitality Association...

## News Spotlight

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

### Tell Julian: Recognizing PFW Top 50 Students

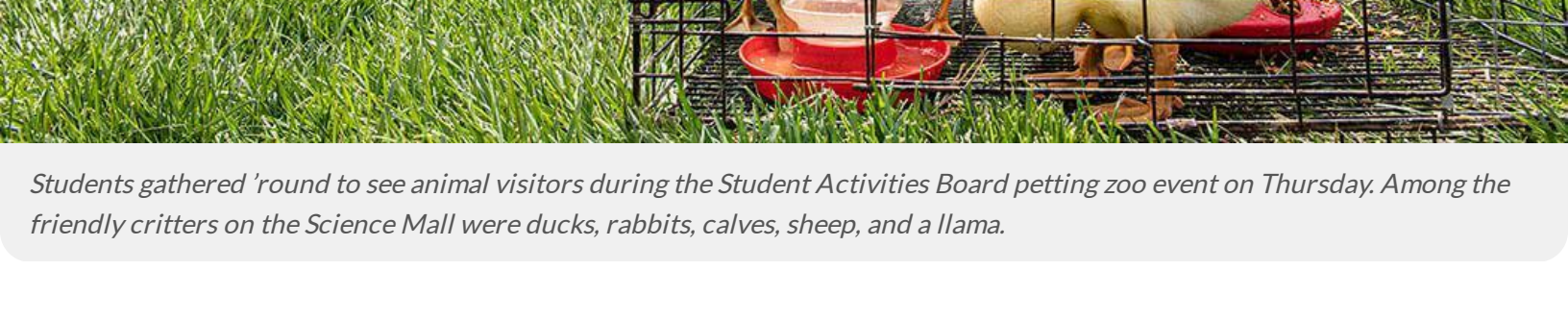
21Alive | April 4, 18, and Tuesday

### PFW's Velez helps walk area newsrooms through Mastodons Big Night

Fort Wayne-area media | Friday and Saturday

## Mastodon Moments

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



*Students gathered 'round to see animal visitors during the Student Activities Board petting zoo event on Thursday. Among the friendly critters on the Science Mall were ducks, rabbits, calves, sheep, and a llama.*



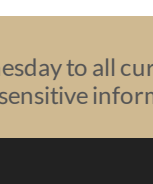
Athletics



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**

