

Tracey Hanton and Melody Monday in the Mastodon Career Closet.

MASTODON LIFE

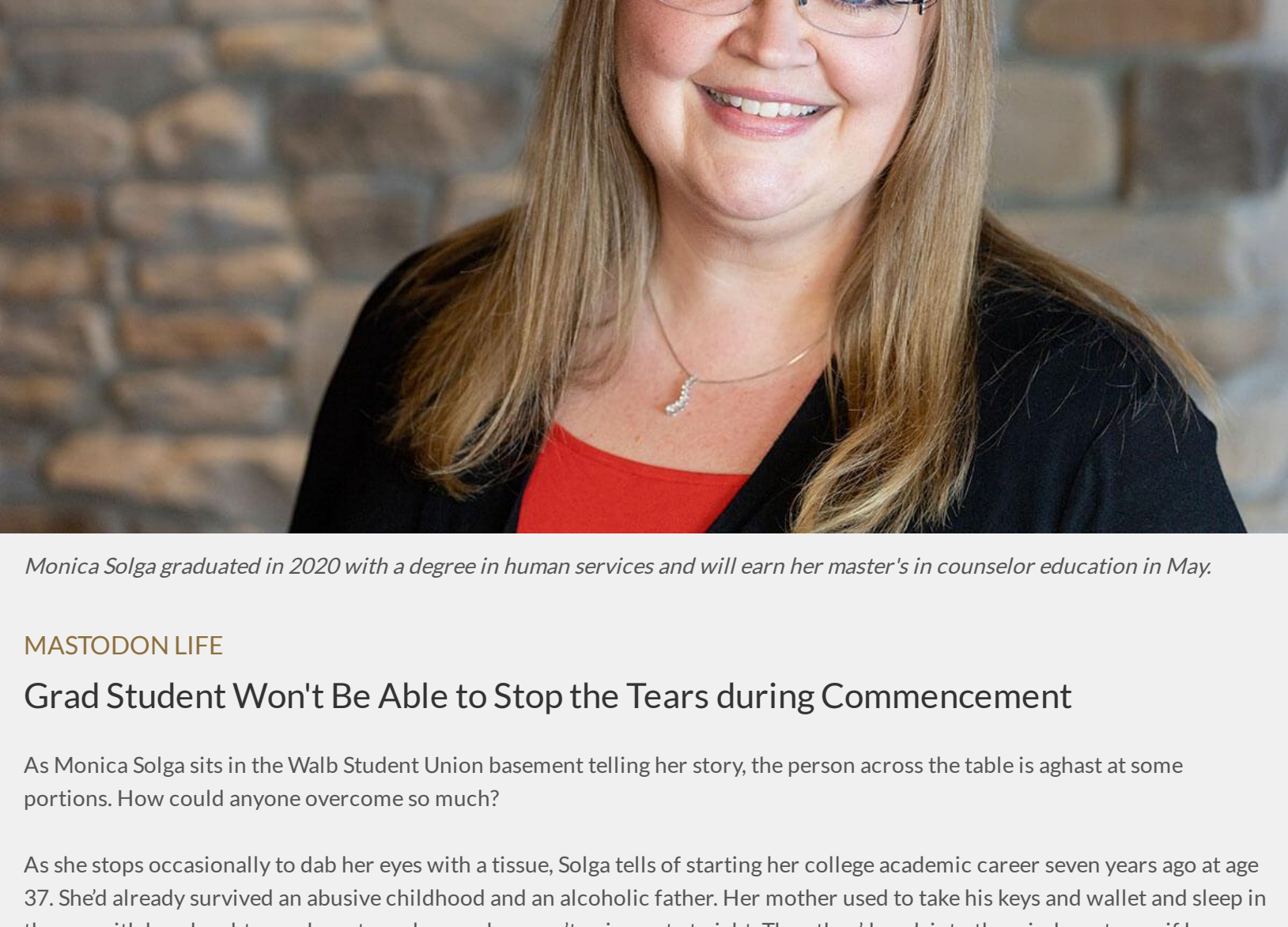
Career Closet Opens Door to Employment Possibilities

A career counselor in the Purdue University Fort Wayne Career Development Center, Melody Monday's favorite part of her job happens when she's nowhere near her Kettler Hall desk. She likes to get more personal with students.

For almost two years, Monday has also been the Mastodon Career Closet coordinator, with about 40 percent of her work happening in Neff Hall, Room 361. With a room full of donated and new items placed on department store racks, she helps students coordinate their outfits for job interviews and career fairs, changing outlooks inwardly and outwardly.

"You can see the difference in the students," Monday said. "I've watched them put on a blazer and feel so much more confident and look so much better. It's amazing! I love my job."

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Monica Solga graduated in 2020 with a degree in human services and will earn her master's in counselor education in May.

MASTODON LIFE

Grad Student Won't Be Able to Stop the Tears during Commencement

As Monica Solga sits in the Walb Student Union basement telling her story, the person across the table is aghast at some portions. How could anyone overcome so much?

As she stops occasionally to dab her eyes with a tissue, Solga tells of starting her college academic career seven years ago at age 37. She'd already survived an abusive childhood and an alcoholic father. Her mother used to take his keys and wallet and sleep in the car with her daughter and son to make sure he wasn't going out at night. Then they'd peek into the windows to see if he was asleep and if they could sneak back in.

She married young and had two children, but then Solga's husband left after 18 years.

"I was starting life over as a single mom," she said. "I figured I was either going to struggle keeping my life afloat, or I was going to struggle improving life for me and my kids."

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Sophomores up Next for Early Registration

The next major milestone toward earning a Purdue degree arrived for some this week. The most recent group of Dons to take advantage of early registration for the spring 2023 semester included juniors, honors students, student-athletes, and students with disabilities. Sophomores, you're up next!

For the next two Mondays, starting at 8 a.m. each day, students who make up the remaining priority groups will also have the chance to begin reserving a spot in the classes they want at the times they need.

The next windows of opportunity for early registration include:

- Sophomores: April 10
- First-Year Students and others: April 17

It's also not too late to meet with your advisor so they can answer any questions you may have and make sure you're on track.

Last Day for Placing Cap and Gown Orders is April 13

Purdue Fort Wayne's 55th annual **Commencement** will take place in the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum on May 10. If you're set to graduate soon and planning to participate, don't forget to order your commencement regalia before the ceremony.

Order your cap and gown here. All orders will be shipped directly to the address that you enter, along with a return shipping label. December graduates who aren't planning to attend commencement in May can order a cap and gown for pictures.

Be sure to order before Thursday (April 6) for the best prices. The last day for orders is April 13.

All orders will take approximately two to three weeks for delivery.

New Texting Feature for Student Appointments through the Bowen Center

The Bowen Center now has a **texting feature** that allows students to schedule, change, or cancel appointments by texting their name, date of birth, and request to 574-385-3148.

The center wants to remind clients that communicating by text message is not considered a secure means of communication, and that by using the text message feature students are giving their implied consent for the center to reply with a text message.

Study Abroad Program Possibilities Starting to Open Up Again



John Jensen

About 40 Purdue University Fort Wayne students will be packing soon to study abroad this summer on faculty-led programs in Italy, Ireland, or Spain, and in smaller groups to France, Greece, and Germany. Another 10 students studied abroad for a semester during the current academic year.

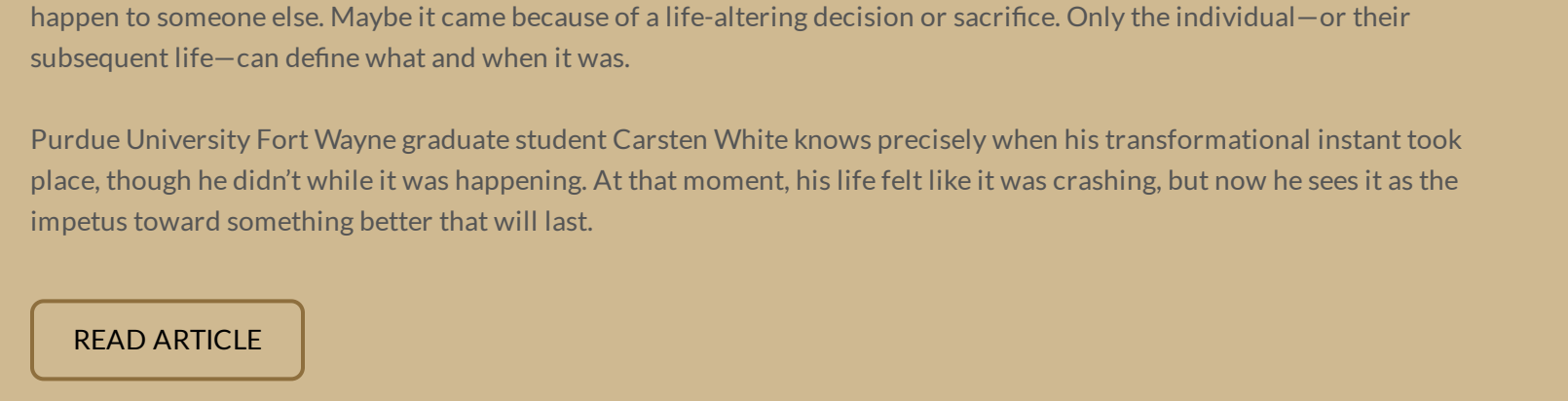
But those numbers should dramatically increase soon after taking a big hit during the harshest effects of the COVID pandemic.

John Jensen has recently been hired as PFW's Study Abroad Program and National Student Exchange program director after working in international education for 20 years, including the last 10 as director of the study abroad program at Ball State University. He's also worked at the National University of Singapore, Michigan State University, and the Institute of International Education in Bangkok, Thailand.

[READ MORE](#)

Herd That

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



Family Crisis Helped PFW Grad Student Find His Future Path

Though most rarely think about it, almost everyone can probably identify a moment when they became an adult.

Maybe it was something that happened in a relationship, the birth of a child, a challenge overcome, or seeing something happen to someone else. Maybe it came because of a life-altering decision or sacrifice. Only the individual—or their subsequent life—can define what and when it was.

Purdue University Fort Wayne graduate student Carsten White knows precisely when his transformational instant took place, though he didn't while it was happening. At that moment, his life felt like it was crashing, but now he sees it as the impetus toward something better that will last.

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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

5

Wed., 4–5 p.m.

Diversity 103

This last of three workshops on diversity will focus on understanding that we all have unconscious bias and how we can recognize it and prevent it...

APRIL

6

Thurs., noon–1 p.m.

WellRec Happy Hour

Enjoy a free beverage and light snack and learn about upcoming WellRec events and fun activities...

APRIL

12

Wed., 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

If you're interested in donating blood, please check the eligibility guidelines before signing up, then use the registration link to complete the forms and scheduled an appointment. Please bring your ID to your appointment...

News Spotlight

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

Watch Out! Creepy kudzu coming?

Spartan Newsroom | Friday

Purdue blocks access to TikTok on campus networks

WANE 15 | March 29

Mastodon Moments

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



Electrical engineering student Fiona McKinney (left) and friend Tesla Moore thought a beautiful spring Monday morning would be ideal for two-wheeled transportation.

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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