



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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### Final Day for Ordering Academic Regalia for Commencement

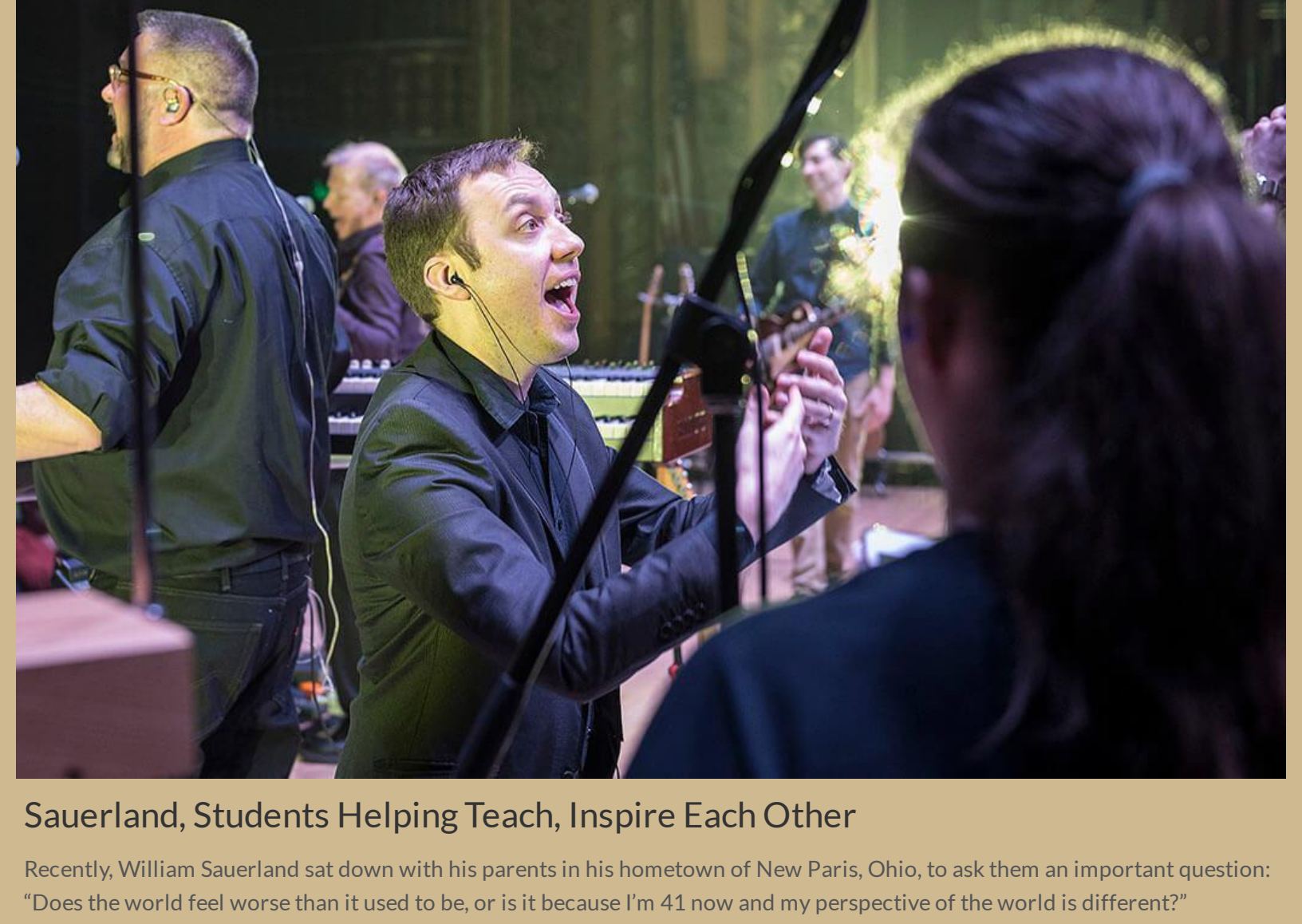


Purdue Fort Wayne's 2023 Commencement will be held May 10 at 4 p.m. in the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. All faculty and staff are encouraged to attend and participate in this joyous occasion that is the culmination of our students' academic experience—and one of life's special moments. If you are a faculty member and wish to participate in the ceremony, you can find the registration link [here](#).

Faculty are asked to wear academic regalia; tams are optional. If you need to rent regalia, please use this [online form](#); the university will cover the cost of rentals. There will be no pickup on campus this year, as everything will be shipped directly to faculty members and will include a return shipping label. The deadline for orders is today (April 6).

## 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.*



### Sauerland, Students Helping Teach, Inspire Each Other

Recently, William Sauerland sat down with his parents in his hometown of New Paris, Ohio, to ask them an important question: "Does the world feel worse than it used to be, or is it because I'm 41 now and my perspective of the world is different?"

Sauerland's parents told him indeed, the world does feel worse than it used to be, that it is more politically divided, and feels less safe to them.

It could be assumed Sauerland is pessimistic about everything going on but actually, it fuels his optimism and invigorates his work as a Purdue University Fort Wayne assistant professor of music and director of choral studies for the School of Music.

"Teaching is my calling because it is the one way that I have any opportunity to change the world for the better," Sauerland said. "A classroom is an exciting space where we can discourse on almost any topic through music, a book chapter, or an article to foster critical thinking skills that reach beyond music making."

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## 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.*

APRIL

10

Mon., 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

### Spring 2023 Student Exhibition B.F.A. in Art, B.F.A. in Design, and B.S. in Interior Design

B.F.A. and B.S. candidates graduating from the Department of Art and Design will display their senior thesis projects in the Allen County Public Library Main Branch through April 28. Admission is free for everyone...

APRIL

10

Mon., 5:30–8:30 p.m.

### CPR and AED Certification Class

American Heart Association Basic Life Support and First Aid classes teach basic life-support techniques—including CPR using various methods to assist victims of all ages—and how to operate an AED, or automated...

APRIL

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Tues., 7:30–9:30 p.m.

### Strings Studio Recital

Students from the School of Music bowed string instrument studios will present music from a broad variety of composers and styles. The Chancellor's String Quartet also will perform on this program...

## News Spotlight

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

### Northeast Indiana colleges help career-changers Transition to Teaching

The Journal Gazette (subscription required) | Saturday

### Watch out! Creepy kudzu coming?

Spartan Newsroom | Friday

### Purdue blocks access to Tik Tok on campus networks

WANE 15 | March 29

## In a Snap

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



The Department of Art and Design sponsored its Sixth Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser in the Walb Student Union International Ballroom on Tuesday. Individuals who donated \$35 received a handcrafted bowl and complimentary grab n' go soup lunch, as



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](#).

*Inside PFW* is produced twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday by the Office of Communications and Marketing. *Inside PFW 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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