



Purdue Fort Wayne's 2023 Commencement Highlights the Big Payoff for Grads

In addition to some clear social benefits, students dive into higher education looking to build future opportunity and set up the next phase of their lives. More than 850 of the 1,408 Purdue University Fort Wayne students who have already received, or are on track to receive, a degree this academic year will celebrate the conclusion of their studies later today during the 2023 Commencement at Memorial Coliseum. They're expected to be joined by nearly 8,000 guests.

Then the graduates will spread across the city, the country, and even the world to launch their careers.

Many students representing all six of PFW's colleges and schools have shared how the university helped them prepare for the future. Here are just a few of their stories.

[READ STORY](#)



Jospeter Mbuba Purdue Fort Wayne's 2nd Fulbright Recipient for 2023

For the second time in two months, a member of Purdue University Fort Wayne's faculty has received a prestigious Fulbright grant. Jospeter Mbuba, a professor and chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and Public Administration, was recently notified of his selection for the Fulbright Award to Zimbabwe. His five and a half months devoted to curriculum development at Africa University will begin in August.

"On behalf of Purdue Fort Wayne, I would like to congratulate Dr. Mbuba on receiving this distinction," said Connie Kracher, director of University Research and Innovation. "We are proud of our faculty scholars as they engage in high impact teaching and other academic activities. Jospeter will be building long-lasting collaborations with his international colleagues and we look forward to learning about these experiences when he returns to Fort Wayne."

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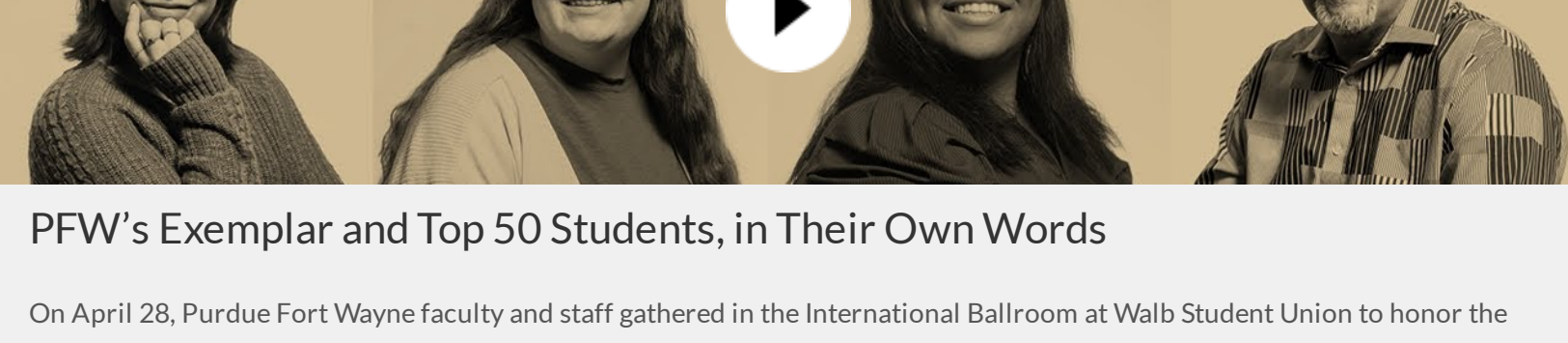
Sun Sets on Sunshine the Therapy Dog's Career

When people walk into Helmke Library at Purdue Fort Wayne, they might be surprised to sometimes see a bear-size dog laying on a blanket about 30 feet inside the door.

What in the world?

Except Sunshine, a 150-pound, 7-year-old Newfoundland, is an invited and highly prized guest. She's a therapy dog who has been a frequent visitor to the library over the past six years. During the last two semesters, she made two or three weekly appearances and has been known to interact with as many as 200 students during a visit. Licensed by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs, she's become part of the library family for students, faculty, and staff members who rush to pet or even lie down with her.

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PFW's Exemplar and Top 50 Students, in Their Own Words

On April 28, Purdue Fort Wayne faculty and staff gathered in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union to honor the 2022-23 Exemplar and Top 50 recipients. These students not only excel academically, but go above and beyond in their communities.

Each year, college and school deans, department chairs, and/or faculty select a handful of students to be Exemplars. And since 2016, PFW has also recognized via its Top 50 classes a larger group of Mastodons for their enthusiasm and success in making the most of the full college experience. The Top 50 recipients are selected by a committee; these individuals not only have high GPAs, they also excel in university activities, events, and organizations—and through community engagement both here in Fort Wayne and in their hometowns.

Hear from a few of them about what it means and what it takes to achieve these distinctions.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Summer Hours for Some Key Services Announced

- Dining**
- Don's at Walb | Monday–Friday, 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
 - Einstein Bros Bagels and Java Spot will be closed throughout the summer

- Fitness Center**
- Monday–Thursday | 7 a.m.–8 p.m.
 - Friday | 7 a.m.–7 p.m.
 - Saturday | 8 a.m.–2 p.m.
 - Sunday | Noon–5 p.m.

- The Pantry**
- Monday, 2–4 p.m. | Student Housing Clubhouse
 - Thursday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. | Walb Union, Room G36

Be on the Lookout for Special Editions of *Don Life* as Weekly Editions Pause for the Summer

During the 2022-23 academic year, you received 37 weekly and six special editions of *Don Life* delivered directly your inbox. That's in addition to other official communications like the messages from Chancellor Elsenbaumer. The Office of Communications and Marketing continues to strive to make this a valuable part of your student experience and hopes you enjoyed the additional photos and videos that have been a big part of this semester's publications.

For anyone who hasn't had time until now to check out the energized look and feel of your student newsletter, a *Don Life* archive was introduced in February to let you find back issues in one convenient location. All this and more is easily accessible in the university's **News Center**.

Like many of you, *Don Life* is also going to take some time off this summer. After today, the weekly edition will be on hiatus until August. During this pause, important university updates and breaking news will still arrive via special editions—so continue to check your PFW email account to stay in the loop.

From all of us at *Don Life*, have a safe and relaxing summer!

Herd That

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



Health Scare for Incoming SGA President Providing Focus

In November, while facing a life-threatening situation in a hospital emergency room, Mikayla Haggarty would have laughed out loud if someone suggested she could become Purdue Fort Wayne's Student Government Association president.

It's amazing how life can change in a few short months.

The junior-to-be who's majoring in organizational leadership was announced as the SGA's next student body president on April 28, along with classmates and friends Maleah Boyd as vice president of legislation and Kamryn Heckman as vice president of finance. It's the first time an all-female slate has been elected.

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News Spotlight

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

Boost from biennial budget for PFW music building project draws media attention statewide

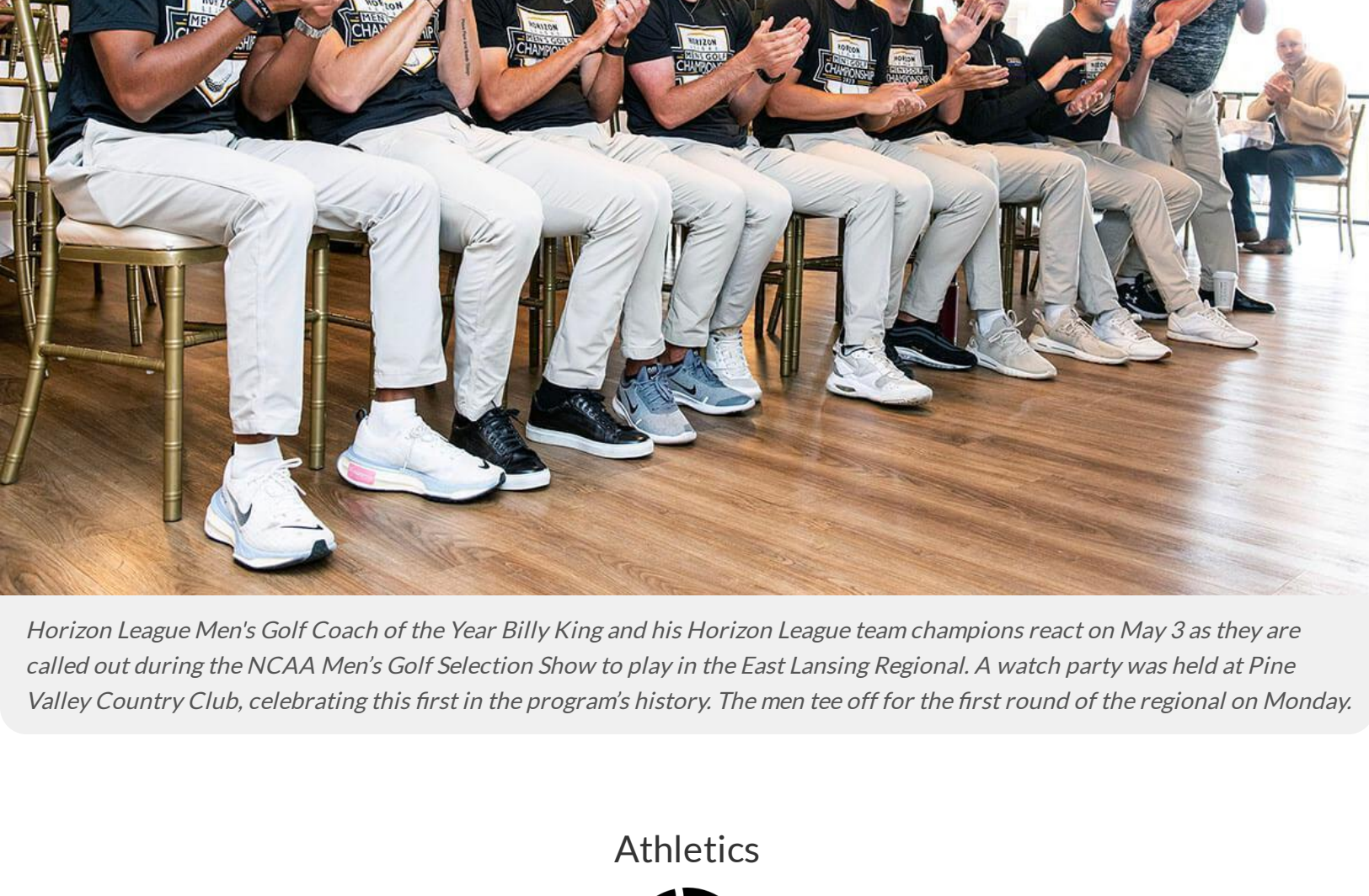
Local and state media | May 3 and Thursday

Reactions to Fort Wayne Philharmonic decision to move main performances to PFW

21Alive | May 3

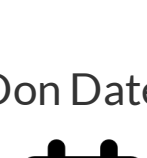
Mastodon Moments

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



Horizon League Men's Golf Coach of the Year Billy King and his Horizon League team champions react on May 3 as they are called out during the NCAA Men's Golf Selection Show to play in the East Lansing Regional. A watch party was held at Pine Valley Country Club, celebrating this first in the program's history. The men tee off for the first round of the regional on Monday.

Athletics



Don Dates





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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