



Jenna Hoppe is the senior director of the First Year Advising Center.

First Year Advising Center Evolving to Help Mentor Students

Getting off to a good start is the goal of all students, especially those who are entering the world of higher education for the first time. Purdue University Fort Wayne understands that and is always working to help its Dons get the most from their college experiences. The latest example of this is the **First Year Advising Center**, which is a reimagined and retooled successor to the former Student Advising and Advocacy Center.

According to Jenna Hoppe, the center's senior director, as many as 75% of students switch majors from their initial choice. One of the center's goals is to help make that process more efficient, hopefully saving students time and money. The philosophy change has been developed over about five years and implemented over the last year.

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Coyne An Example of Importance of Student Involvement

Now that she's a senior, Sydney Coyne has a clearer perspective on the anxiety she faced during her initial weeks as a freshman in 2020. Then she started to wonder if college was the right option for her.

But one of the things she noticed walking around the Purdue Fort Wayne campus was the annual Campus Connections Fair on the Science Mall, which student organizations use to introduce themselves to members of the university community. Coyne talked with a representative of the **Student Activities Board**, and a couple of weeks later attended the organization's call-out meeting.

"It was the first time at college that I felt like I was part of something, and I was doing something that was not stressing me out," Coyne said. "I just started to go to more meetings and events. If I didn't have SAB, I don't know that I would have made it because I would have just spent all that time in my dorm being anxious and waiting for a bad test score to come in."

[READ STORY](#)

SAB Adding New Items to Busy Events Calendar

The **Student Activities Board** is continually trying out new events to entertain students, and they've filled the fall 2023 semester with some whacky ideas.

To start—answering one of the questions most commonly asked by students, yes, **Bingo** is coming back Sept. 30. Participants are usually lined up hours ahead of time each month to get a seat for their chance at the amazing prizes.

As for new SAB events, **Mastodon Music Monday**, a monthly acoustic session starts next week at the Mastodon Statue in **Alumni**

Plaza from noon to 2 p.m. Local recording artist **Jonah Baker** starts everything off next week. The shows run through November. If the weather threatens, the concert moves inside the Walb Student Union atrium.



Good Times, in a Kayak, Down by the River

A flotilla of 25 kayaks is making its debut today as part of **Rec Fest**. There are still a few slots available between 1–2 p.m. and 2–3 p.m. for this new, on-campus experience—and it's not too late to sign up! Paddle the St. Joseph River by registering at wellrec.pfw.edu at least 10 minutes before the posted start time.

Follow WellRec on **Instagram** @pfw_wellrec for announcements of future kayaking dates.

Important Honors Program Information

Each of these Honors Program deadlines in Sept. 8:

- **H-Option contracts:** Contact Farah Combs, program director, to start the contract.
- **Fall Honors Scholarship applications:** Begin the **application process** and access the information about the **different scholarships**. Students must have successfully completed at least three PFW honors credits to be eligible to apply for honors scholarships.
- **Honors Project Proposals:** If you are a graduating senior pursuing the Honors Certificate, start that **application process** to complete the form electronically. More information is **available here**.

Fall 2023 Honors Project Showcase presentations will be held in the Honors Center in Helmke Library, Room 211, on Dec. 1. Questions? Contact Combs at combsf@pfw.edu.

Helmke Library Launches the Library of Things

Library of Things collections are a growing trend in libraries around the world and consist of nontraditional items that patrons can borrow for free with a library card. These collections provide access to pieces that may not be easily affordable or practical for individuals to own. They also offer an opportunity to obtain an item for a one-time project or acquire the necessary materials to explore a new hobby.

Helmke Library has succeeded in soliciting donations to create a **Library of Things** collection for the Purdue Fort Wayne campus community. The collection features musical instruments, kitchenware, outdoor supplies, tools, exercise equipment, and arts and crafts materials for a two-week loan period. Students, staff, and faculty are eligible to use the collection.

Herd That

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



Campus Kickoff 2023

The Herd is back! Purdue Fort Wayne celebrated the first day of classes on Monday with Campus Kickoff, a festive gathering on the Science Mall with a variety of games, fun in the sun, and free T-shirts.

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.

AUGUST

24

Thurs., 11:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

WellRec and the American Red Cross are inviting all healthy and eligible individuals to give blood at the Red Cross Bloodmobile...

AUGUST

28

Mon., Noon-2 p.m.

Mastodon Music Monday

Listen to some awesome music and meet new people...

AUGUST

28

Mon., 6–8 p.m.

Students With Families: Friends and Family Cookout

Come and learn about The Women's Center, upcoming events, services, and resources. Play a few games, enjoy a dinner, and win

prizes for the whole family! RSVP by Aug. 27...

News Spotlight

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

Purdue Fort Wayne 2023 move-in days highlight record occupancy in student housing

Fort Wayne-area media | Aug. 17 & 18

PFW supports region via annual job fair, year-round outreach

PFW media relations | Aug. 16

Mastodon Moments

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



Students could duke it out in an inflatable boxing ring on Monday, one of many fun activities at Campus Kickoff.

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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