



Choi-Frank Award Aims to Help Students with Childcare Costs

As an associate professor in the Department of Management and Marketing in the Doermer School of Business, Sheena Choi empathizes with students who have children.

“We are a non-traditional campus, and I have students who have a full-time job, family and children, and then they are also full-time students,” Choi said. “I just think, ‘You are a super human being. I don’t know how you can manage that.’”

With the help of her husband, Bill Frank, Choi decided to help, instituting The Choi-Frank Students as Parents Childcare Support Award. After announcing a \$30,000 gift during Purdue University Fort Wayne’s Day of Giving in April, the program started this semester with 10 awards of \$500 for students to use to pay for childcare. The awards are renewable each semester.

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Campus Initiative Helps Expectant Mothers with Parking

As part of its ongoing effort to meet the unique needs of its students, Purdue University Fort Wayne has designated with new signage 10 parking spaces across campus for expectant mothers. The spots, an initiative of Christine Marcuccilli, director of compliance and the Title IX coordinator, are near the entrances of major academic buildings.

“I was noticing an increase in the number of students who were requesting pregnancy modifications, such as excused absences,” Marcuccilli said. “Based on the increase, I was trying to think of how else we could assist our pregnant parents and students. As a parent myself, I knew parking spaces like this were something very helpful to me when I was expecting.”

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Weemes Came Home to Help Students Find Their Places

As Purdue University Fort Wayne's director of student housing, Marcus Weemes said his job helps keep him younger than he feels some days. He loves the interaction with students because of their vitality, ideas, and passion. He also enjoys taking part in the events around housing as an opportunity to engage in developing community. That's partly why the Student Activities Board is sponsoring more events at housing this year, which are open to all PFW and IUFW students.

"I think one of the things that is really important is helping people find their space and their identity away from their family and helping them develop," Weemes said. "There are a lot of programs the RAs do themselves and partner with a lot of offices on campus to make those things happen."

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Next Omnibus Speaker Series Kicking Off Sept. 21 with Rainn Wilson

The 28th season of Purdue University Fort Wayne's popular **Omnibus Speaker Series** will entertain and inform the university community with topics that explore national politics, artificial intelligence, presidential history, breaking through NFL barriers, and how one famous actor turned his "office" experiences into discussions that dig deep into some of life's biggest questions.

The 2023–24 lineup includes:

- "An Evening with **Rainn Wilson**" | Sept. 21
- "How AI/ChatGPT is Shaping the Cyber Landscape" | **Theresa Payton** | Nov. 7
- "Political Outlook: A Comprehensive Picture of What's Going on In Washington" | **Donna Brazile** | Feb. 29
- "Breaking Through: My Journey to Becoming the First Female NFL Official" | **Sarah Thomas** | March 26
- "What History Can Predict about Our American Political Future" | **Michael Beschloss** | April 25

For more information about the series itself, visit PFW.edu/omnibus.

READ RELEASE



Show Your School Spirit at College Colors Day on Friday

The Purdue Fort Wayne university community will join a national observance of College Colors Day on Friday. Mastodon students, faculty, staff, and fans are encouraged to show their school spirit by wearing black and gold.

Mastodon Athletics will be giving out prizes across its social media platforms to celebrate, so be sure to tag @GoMastodons while repping the black and gold!

And keep an eye out for the Mastodon Athletics marketing department handing out Mastodon swag to students sporting school pride. They will be on campus by the Alumni Plaza from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Friday.

Don't forget to gear up for the occasion by stopping by the [Mastodon Campus Store](#) or heading to gomastodons.com/amazon for all the latest Mastodon apparel.

New and Returning Student Surveys Offer Chance to Reflect and Be Heard

Two surveys have been sent to all students—one for new students and one for returning students. The New Student Survey gives our newest Mastodons the opportunity to think about their future goals and how Purdue Fort Wayne can help achieve them. The Returning Student Survey provides all other students the opportunity to reflect about their time at the university so far and their goals after graduation.

Both surveys allow you to share your responses with specific people on campus so that you can talk with them about your goals. At the end, you'll see a summary of how other students at Purdue Fort Wayne responded.

Both surveys opened on Monday and will remain active through noon on Sept. 30.

The emails were sent to PFW addresses from pfw@hedsconsortium.org. Each email has a unique survey link, so please don't share yours.

If you have any questions about the survey, contact Lindsey Dutrieux, research analyst, at dutrieul@pfw.edu, or Irah Modry-Caron, executive director of institutional research, at modryi@pfw.edu.

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

30

Wed., 7-9 p.m.

Foam at the Disco

Party it up in the foam pit with your friends...

AUGUST

31

Thurs., 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Connections Fair

Come out to the Science Mall to meet some awesome student and local organizations...

SEPTEMBER

1

Fri., 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Big Gay Field Day and Picnic

Play old school field games and other lawn games. Big Gay Field Day is for everyone—athletic or not—celebrating diversity, equality, and acceptance...

Mastodon Moments

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



A hungry crowd gathered last week for an SAB-sponsored Food Truck Friday on the circle drive outside of Walb Student Union.

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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