

donlife



For Students

September 13, 2023

NEW BEGINNINGS



PFW

New Beginnings

Living in southern Indiana, La’Kendra Deitche, B.A. ’21, experienced a horrible childhood with epileptic seizures, an absent father, and a mother who relinquished parental rights to her when she was just 13. Deitch was rescued by a group of South Side High School teachers and then a group of Purdue Fort Wayne faculty and staff who guided her to overcome obstacles and build success.

She never gave up, because PFW always encouraged her to find new beginnings.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



Mastodon Runners Double up on Sibling Camaraderie

As Nathan Mills recalls, the Purdue Fort Wayne cross country teams were jogging through a warm-up run early last year when someone mentioned twins. After all, Mills had a twin brother Nick, B.S. '23, on the team, then-freshmen Colin and Colten Gasson were joining the squad, and then-junior Mercedes Sarver had come to PFW as a freshman with her twin sister, Kiannah.

“It was the beginning of practice one day when others started saying, ‘I’m a twin,’ ‘Yeah, me, too,’ and ‘I have a twin,’” said Mills, B.S. '23, who along with his brother still has a year left in eligibility. “All these mystery twins started popping up because these others had twins, too. Half our team seemed to be twins.”

Almost, though the Mills and the Gassons are the only full sets in the program because the twins of other runners do not complete. Senior Kehinde Oladapo has a twin sister, as does junior Kobe Milledge, and sophomore Harrison Niswander. Sarver’s sister transferred and still runs for Cleveland State.

[READ STORY](#)



PFW Salutes Affiliated Students, Staff, and Faculty with Military Appreciation Day

Purdue University Fort Wayne's annual Military Appreciation Day will be Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Science Mall.

The event includes a scheduled flyover from the 122nd Fighter Wing, Indiana Air National Guard, featuring two A-10s at approximately 11:11 a.m., weather permitting. The flyover is subject to change based on guidance from the wing. The significance of the timing is to remember the armistice that went into effect at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, which signaled the end of what was at that time considered to be the "war to end all wars."

[READ STORY](#)

Constitution Day Ceremonies Set for Monday



Emily Tock

While the signing of the United States Constitution took place 236 years ago this coming Sunday, Purdue Fort Wayne will observe the occasion a day later.

Emily Tock, **Helmke Library**'s reference and instruction librarian, has asked university and Fort Wayne dignitaries to participate in ceremonies from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday. Along with an opening presentation by Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry, the highlight of the event will be two readings of the Constitution in front of the library on Mastodon Way. There will also be several stations, including one that will involve a discussion led by the Department of Political Science on what the next amendment should be.

[READ STORY](#)

Good to Know

Kiura Awarded Visiting Professorship to Kenya

Mary Kiura, and assistant professor in organizational communication, has been awarded a visiting professorship to Kenya by the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa. This award will take Kiura to Meru University of Science and Technology next summer where she will conduct research, mentor graduate students, review communication curriculums, and establish institutional collaborations. **CODESRIA** is an independent, pan-African, non-governmental research organization founded in 1973 by African researchers.

Handshake Accounts

If you have noticed that your Handshake account has been deactivated, please hit the submit button to reactivate it. You should receive an email once that is done. If you have any issues, stop by the Career Development Center in Kettler Hall, Room 109, or contact careercenter@pfw.edu.

Herd That

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



Top 50 Recipient Continues to Explore Countless Ideas around Every Corner

When Parker Tysinger arrived at Purdue Fort Wayne as a freshman, she purposely left her major as undeclared.

Now entering her senior year, Top 50 designee Tysinger is on track to graduate in May with a history degree, but she's found so many other things at PFW to explore, too. Her cornucopia of ideas isn't empty, which is why she has minors in medieval studies, art history, religious studies, and women's studies.

"I am distracted frequently, but I do things to 100 percent completion in the best possible way I can do it," Tysinger said. "I focus on my passions and see where that takes me."

[READ STORY](#)

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.

SEPTEMBER

14

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

DAC Rock Painting Party

Feeling creative? Come to the Disability Access Center's rock painting party! Keep the rock for yourself to remind yourself of something positive, or spread cheer by hiding it on campus for someone else to find...

SEPTEMBER

15

Fri., 7:30–8:45 p.m.

Friday Night at the Observatory

Join the physics department on the third Friday evening of each month for the public lecture at 7:30 followed by stargazing with faculty and members of the Society of Physics Students...

SEPTEMBER

20

Wed., 5–7 p.m.

Hispanic Heritage Movie Night Pre-Bingo Event

Celebrate Hispanic history by viewing a Hispanic-themed movie before the Student Life bingo game. Movie viewers will be admitted to bingo without waiting in line...

Mastodon Moments

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



After a rehearsal, music performance major Nate Weaver prepares to store his tuba for another day.

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.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
FORT WAYNE

