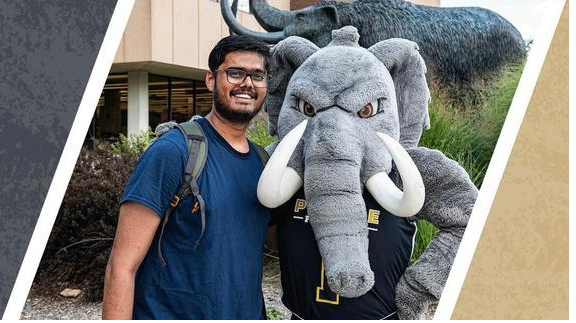


# donlife



For Students

October 4, 2023



## International Student Enrollment Reaches Record High

Including a 30-hour flight from India, and various disruptions caused by a delayed 2 a.m. arrival, things could have fallen apart for Tanvi Chandru Rawtani's in-person introduction to Purdue University Fort Wayne. Instead, the freshman found a friendly home.

"The PFW community is very warm and welcoming," Rawtani said. "I'm really, really poor with directions, and I'm always switching my rights and lefts and ending up in different places I don't want to be. And the people I've been asking for help have been very kind. This place is also very beautiful!"

Rawtani represents the largest group of first-year international students in PFW history—182 from 22 countries—which adds to the university's diversity and intellectual distinction. In all, PFW has 499 international students hailing from 62 countries. There are 334 graduate students and 165 undergrads.

[READ STORY](#)



## Pence Thrives with Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research Opportunity

When approached last year about joining the student editorial board of the **Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research**, Purdue University Fort Wayne's Anna Pence didn't know about it or what it entailed—or how she could fit it into her schedule.

She was already coaching multiple YMCA children's soccer teams, working as a **Student Government Association** executive assistant, taking a full class load, serving as a teaching assistant, and working as an interim aide for a speech pathologist with an area school district. Whew!

But taking on those previous responsibilities is what made Pence stand out to be offered the opportunity with the editorial board. She persevered, and learned more about herself by pushing through, discovering that her schedule limitations and workload tolerances were higher than expected. And she could strive for more, gaining confidence and aptitude through the new opportunity.

[READ STORY](#)



## Review Current Strategic Plan in Preparation for Oct. 30 Session

Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer kicked off the lead-up to PFW's Oct. 30 Forward Together strategic planning meeting with a **special message to the university community** on Thursday.

"This will be a great opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate the university's progress during the past few years and to plan the next chapter of our institution's future," Elsenbaumer wrote.

Now is a good time to take a self-guided refresher course on Purdue Fort Wayne's current strategic plan, *Empowering Transformation, Strategic Plan 2020-25*.

For any questions or suggestions, contact strategic planning design committee cochairs Farah Combs at [combsf@pfw.edu](mailto:combsf@pfw.edu), Joel Givens at [givensj@pfw.edu](mailto:givensj@pfw.edu), and Shubitha Kever at [keevers@pfw.edu](mailto:keevers@pfw.edu).

The Oct. 30 session will take place in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. A light breakfast, lunch, and refreshments will be provided, and there will be a wine and cheese reception immediately following the afternoon session.

As of Wednesday morning, more than 150 students, faculty, and staff had already registered to participate.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## Mastodon Alumni Community to Host Movie on the Lawn

All members of the campus community—not just graduates—are invited to gather with family and friends on Oct. 13 at the Keith

E. Busse Steel Dynamics Alumni Center, 1528 E. California Road, for a special 7 p.m. screening of “The Nightmare before Christmas” at Movie Night on the Lawn presented by the Mastodon Alumni Community. A spooktacular evening of fun and entertainment awaits those who attend. This story of the misadventures of Jack Skellington in Halloween Town is PG-rated.

Seating starts at 6:30, so there will be plenty of time to set up lawn chairs and blankets before the movie begins. General admission tickets are \$5. As a special treat, children under the age of 12 can attend for free, making it a perfect outing for the whole family. Snacks and refreshments will also be available.

In addition to the movie, a kids and adult costume contest with a chance to win exciting prizes will also take place during the event; winners will be announced throughout the evening.

For help or questions, call or text 260-438-1429.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## Don Dates

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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.

OCTOBER

10

Tues., 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

### Talent Tuesday: Meet Your Next Employer

Speak with employers who are offering internship positions and part-time and full-time positions that you wouldn't get the chance to know about otherwise...

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OCTOBER

10

Tues., noon-1 p.m.

### Banned Books Discussion

This discussion will center on the current state of banned books in America and why these books have caused a stir...

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OCTOBER

11

Wed., noon-1 p.m.

## Path to Your Future: Slaaay Your Internship Experience

This workshop will provide participants with practical tips and advice on how to be a valuable intern, build strong relationships with colleagues, and make a positive impact in the workplace....

## News Spotlight

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

### Community Research Institute measures economic impact of 122nd Fighter Wing

Fort Wayne-area media | Monday

### Dons row, row, row their boats at 'Day on the River'

Fort Wayne-area media | Thursday

## Mastodon Moments

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



Students enjoyed pizza, yard games, and a fun bounce house at student housing's Bounce Back event on Thursday.

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**

