



Rainn Wilson led an engaging conversation with a large group of students in the IDEASpace at Helmke Library before his Omnibus presentation on Thursday.

Wilson Provides Spiritual Insight to Open Omnibus Series

Playing characters on critically acclaimed television shows may have proven Rainn Wilson's acting range, but the depth of the man behind the makeup is incredibly more interesting. Wilson opened the 28th season of Purdue University Fort Wayne's Omnibus Speaker Series on Thursday night in front of a full house at Auer Performance Hall on the PFW campus.

Speaking about overcoming his mental health struggles, Wilson encouraged the 1,500 in attendance to continue striving for inner peace to fight off the malaise and cynicism of the times. Don't let them turn you off so much that you quit trying, he said. Look inward to find the spirit of fulfillment because craving more accomplishments, adulation, and acquisitions will ultimately not provide fulfillment.

[READ STORY](#)



Ceramics Students Get Fired Up for Long Kiln Process

Though wearing thick gloves, Purdue University Fort Wayne students Alexa Ross, Anna Gottlieb, and Nicole Pitcher were participating in some hands-on classwork a couple of Friday nights ago.

The trio was helping Seth Green, associate professor of ceramics, during a 33½-hour kiln firing behind the Visual Arts Building. Utilizing “The Train” wood-burning kiln that Green, PFW students, and Ted Neal, professor of ceramics at Ball State University, built in 2017, the students’ ceramics work was part of 200 items being fired.

Trying to maintain 2,531 degrees, the process requires nearly two cords of wood and constant attention from a handful of attendants who continually stoke wood through various fire boxes and document the temperatures. They know qualities of woods like a grill master knows cuts of meat, and combining the science and chemistry shows part of the craftsmanship that’s necessary in ceramics.

[READ STORY](#)



Last Day to Register for Sunday's Family Picnic

For anyone who considers procrastination to be their thing, congratulations, it's **the final day to register** for this weekend's Mastodon Family Picnic. This final invitation to take part in Purdue Fort Wayne's annual fall event is being redelivered to all holdouts one more time on a "blu" platter. Simply put, Sunday is shaping up to be one of those days most folks will be longing for in late January. So bring the sunscreen, the kids, a hearty appetite, an enjoyment of fall colors, and an enthusiasm for life.

As reported in the Sept. 19 edition of *Inside PFW*, an exciting new development for this year's picnic is the addition of Catablu's popular BluSpoon Catering, which has been recruited by the university to add some real flavor to the dining options. And on top of traditional beverages for picnickers of all ages, the Mastodon Watering Hole will also be serving up free specialty drinks for guests 21 and older with a valid ID.

Catch live music from the Fort Wayne Funk Orchestra, a local band known for their funk, hip-hop, rap, and soul tunes. A full list of fun and games for the entire family and more information can be found online at the **event website**.

All the festivities will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. on the Alumni Plaza, next to the Mastodon Statue. Come on out to be with hundreds of others who make PFW's university community a special place.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

Safety Expo on Thursday to Start with 1 p.m. Emergency Alert Test

The annual Safety Expo for Purdue Fort Wayne's campus community will be held Thursday from 1 to 4 p.m. on the Science Mall. This is an opportunity for students, staff, and faculty to learn about the important safety resources that are available.

The event starts with a semiannual test of the university's emergency notification system at 1 p.m., which includes alerts that can be sent to mobile phones. For faster notification in an emergency, register your number for [Rave alerts](#). The average time to receive emergency notifications via text is less than four seconds.

[READ MORE](#)

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](#)

Good to Know

PERF Retirement Program Overview

Join Jennifer Lowery from Indiana Public Retirement System for a special Public Employees' Retirement Fund program overview on Oct. 6 at 10 a.m. in the IDEASpace at Helmke Library. PERF participants will have the opportunity to learn more about their retirement program and retirement income options. Can't attend in person? See the online session during the biannual [Road to Retirement](#) program today at 10 a.m. or 1 p.m.

Social Media Office Hour

Campus social media publishers are invited to attend a monthly virtual office hour led by the Office of Communications and Marketing's social media specialist, Dave Fenker. The next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Oct. 3, via [this Microsoft Teams link](#).

Featured Events

There's always plenty to do at Purdue Fort Wayne. Some opportunities are exclusive to university employees and their families. Check the full [events calendar](#) often to see what's happening on campus.

SEPTEMBER

27

Wed., noon–1:15 p.m.

Anthropology Club Lunchtime Lecture Series

Melody Pope is an environmental review archaeologist with the IDNR Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. She specializes in the study of stone tools and historic preservation...

SEPTEMBER

27

Wed., 1–2 p.m.

Healthy Boiler Virtual Workshop: The Risk of Anxiety and Depression during Retirement

If you are heading into retirement, this workshop will discuss the warning signs and risk factors of depression and anxiety. It will also provide coping mechanisms and helpful tips on how to be proactive to these and other mental/behavioral health concerns...

SEPTEMBER

28

Thurs., 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Kylie Stultz-Dessent Faculty Recital

Dr. Kylie Stultz-Dessent of PFW and Dr. Ji Hyun Kim of Bradley University will present a duo recital of music for clarinet and piano...

In a Snap

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



A new initiative to launch DonZone training began Sept. 19 in the Mastodon Athletics Performance Center. The initiative, which is similar to SafeZone, Disability Zone, and Green Zone, is intended to help faculty, staff, and administration learn about the PFW athletics programs.

News Center



Events Calendar



Athletics



Ripples



Inside PFW is an official university communication for faculty and staff. All submissions should be sent to inside@pfw.edu no later than 2 p.m. on the day prior to the next edition to be considered for inclusion. Newsletter guidelines can be accessed in the [PFW News Center](#).

Inside PFW is produced twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday by the Office of Communications and Marketing. *Inside PFW 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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