



Favorite Role Leads PFW Professor Back to Stage

When he couldn't find a good fit for the part during student auditions for the "Urinetown, The Musical" character Lockstock, show director John O'Connell tried a longshot. Dean of Purdue University Fort Wayne's College of Visual and Performing Arts, O'Connell met with Jeff Casazza, a professor of theatre and accomplished director himself with more than 20 Department of Theatre productions under his belt. Though Casazza has never acted on PFW's stage, O'Connell already knew Casazza was an excellent performer, he loved the play, and especially the part.

Casazza replied, "Ah ... Oohhh ... I don't know about that," O'Connell recalled, knowing he'd offered him an intriguing opportunity.

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FORWARD *TOGETHER*

Why We Choose to Move Forward Together

Why do faculty and staff find working at Purdue Fort Wayne to be so rewarding? What excites them about the university's future? What makes our students so special? Watch *Forward Together*, a video that helped kick off Monday's strategic planning meeting, and find out.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



Theresa Payton Excited for Omnibus Experience

Though it may sound odd, one of the world's leading experts on technology and cybersecurity says she often learns just as much from the audience as they do from her during presentations. Their questions often send the discussions off on fascinating tangents, sort of the way artificial intelligence seems to be branching into all aspects of humanity.

"The Q&A session is dessert for me, my favorite part," said Theresa Payton. "I find the dialogue to be the nexus of where you can have the biggest impact. I learn so much from the questions I receive on the road."

Payton, who became the first female White House chief information officer while serving former President George W. Bush, will be the Omnibus Speaker Series presenter on Tuesday in Purdue University Fort Wayne's Auer Performance Hall. Tickets to the 7:30 p.m. event are free and available through PFW's [Schatzlein Box Office](#) or its [online ticketing platform](#).

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Purdue Fort Wayne Adding 2 Health Care Business Options to Course Catalogue

The Doermer School of Business at Purdue University Fort Wayne is adding two new undergraduate options for students wishing to pursue degrees and employment in the health care field. Both will be available for the upcoming spring semester.

Recognizing the essential role health care plays region-wide, and its increasing demand for trained professionals, PFW will offer a health care administration concentration as part of an existing management major, and a minor in health care decision making, which will be available to students from any major. The minor will be offered both online and in-person. The **Doermer School of Business** has achieved accredited status from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business for its Bachelor of Science in Business and MBA degrees.

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Sophomores up Next for Early Registration

The most recent group of students who got the chance to start taking advantage of early registration for the spring 2024 semester included juniors, honors students, student-athletes, and students with disabilities. Sophomores, you're up next!

For the next two Mondays, starting at 8 a.m. each day, students who make up the remaining priority groups will also have the chance to begin reserving a spot in the classes they want at the times they need.

The next windows of opportunity for early registration include:

- Nov. 6: Sophomores
- Nov. 13: First-Year Students and others

It's also not too late to meet with your advisor so they can answer any questions you may have and make sure you're on track.



Annual Brunch Thanks Those Who Serve Community

Purdue University Fort Wayne's third annual "Serving Those Who Serve" brunch will be held Nov. 9 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union. Organized by **Military Student Services** and sponsored by PFW's Student Government Association, the event honors all students in service-oriented degree programs or careers including, but not limited to, education, nonprofit, the military, healthcare, or any field where service is provided to the community.

Representatives from PFW, Indiana University Fort Wayne, and community leaders will serve a complimentary brunch to those attending as a thank-you. The list of dignitaries holding the spoons and spatulas is highlighted by PFW Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer, members of his cabinet, and other university leaders including deans from the related fields of study.

"The brunch is becoming a signature event on campus," said Michael Kirchner, director of Military Student Services. "It has a special kind of purpose, which ties together so many people."

[READ MORE](#)



ThanksStudentsGiving Is Tuesday

Calling all students—everything you do for the campus community is appreciated!

The Division of Enrollment Management and the Student Experience invites you to a FREE Thanksgiving-style meal served by PFW faculty and staff on Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union.

While you're spending time with friends at the event, take a moment to share what you're thankful for on the gratitude wall.

First-Generation Celebration Nov. 8

In observance of the anniversary of the Higher Education Act of 1965, signed into law on Nov. 8 of that year, and its creation of the term "first-generation college student," the entire campus community is invited to celebrate Purdue University Fort Wayne's vibrant and thriving first-generation students, faculty, staff, and graduates.

A **First-Generation Celebration** will take place Nov. 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Classic Ballroom at Walb Student Union. The event will include a photo booth, lunch, a group photo, and a panel discussion.

For more information, contact Shubitha Keever, associate chief diversity officer, at kevers@pfw.edu.

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



Spielfreaks Game Night Continues to Grow in Popularity

Ten people who are mostly strangers to each other are encouraged to sit at the table and listen to John Kaufeld start his magic. The card game is called 6 Nimmt, and though most have never heard of it, Kaufeld can turn the mildly curious into fans. Within 20 minutes, everyone playing at the most recent gathering on Oct. 6 had become friends, laughing and teasing each other, though bragging rights were the only stakes.

An instructor in the Department of Organizational Leadership at Purdue University Fort Wayne, Kaufeld is the coordinator, teacher, and ringmaster of Spielfreaks, which means “game freaks” in German. This board games night is held the first Friday of the month in the atrium at Walb Student Union. He uses 6 Nimmt as his icebreaker to help the newbies warm up at 7 p.m.

Two months ago, 76 players participated, including more than 60 students. In September, there were 63, including more than 50 students. It's a free entertainment option on a Friday night, students and community members interacting easily as if they were all grade school friends. By 11 p.m., many are already making plans for a return trip.

[READ MORE](#)

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.

NOVEMBER

2

Thurs., 2–4 p.m.

Diamond Painting DIY

Diamond Painting is a mix between Paint By Numbers and Cross Stitch that lets you apply tiny resin “diamonds” to a numbered adhesive canvas to create shimmering works of art...

NOVEMBER

7

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...

News Spotlight

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

‘You Cannot Be What You Do Not See’

WANE 15 | Oct. 25

2023 Chancellor’s Chili Fest draws students, area newsrooms

Fort Wayne-area media | Oct. 24

Mastodon Moments

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



Sophomore music student Tyler Summers got his face painted to play the French horn in the Woodwind Spooktacular, an eerie evening of chamber music performed by students from the School of Music. The concert was held in the Rhinehart Recital Hall 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.

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