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PFW Computer Science Majors Fare Well in Big Competitions

Maybe last spring's results should have been a hint. Purdue University Fort Wayne's **National Cyber League** team finished 36th out of 315 in a major cybersecurity competition, which was PFW's best finish since it first fielded an NCL team in 2018.

That outcome came in the more challenging experienced division because one team member held a job in cybersecurity. Not surprisingly, there were high hopes for this fall's NCL competition that took place Nov. 3–5. This semester's PFW team participated in the inexperienced (undergrad) division, though it did include an intimidating 1,062 total combatants.

PFW's collection of computer science majors matched last spring's performance to finish 36th again despite the increase in competitors.

[READ MORE](#)



Important Information for December Graduates

There is no winter commencement at Purdue Fort Wayne; however, the university's spring commencement is held each May and open to all students who have achieved their degree during the previous year, regardless of which semester they graduate. If you graduate in December, you will be able to take part in the ceremony on May 8, 2024.

Here are some deadlines and details to keep in mind if you want to participate in the annual observance at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum:

- If you would like to see your name in the commencement program, remember to apply to graduate by March 31. Complete the application in [goPFW](#) under Registration Tools in the Enrollment section.
- After you apply to graduate, [register yourself and your family](#) for the event. Tickets aren't needed, but sharing an estimated number of your family and friends who will be attending the ceremony and after party is very helpful for PFW's advance planning.
- [Order your cap and gown here](#). All orders will be shipped directly to the address that you enter, along with a return shipping label. December graduates who aren't planning to attend commencement in May can order a cap and gown for pictures.
- Visit the [commencement website](#) often for important information, reminders, and updates.

Two Student Events, One Night—Tonight!

The last bingo event of the semester is TODAY at 7 p.m. in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union. Members of the Black Student Union will be calling the numbers.

This session will be holiday-themed; be sure to wear your best ugly sweater because there will be a contest for the best (worst?) dressed!

Following bingo, the Division of Enrollment Management and the Student Experience's engagement board will host a late-night breakfast in the Classic Ballroom at Walb, starting at 9:30 p.m.

Herd That

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



The Herd Roars during Arizona Basketball Road Trip

When Purdue University Fort Wayne men's basketball coach Jon Coffman mentioned the idea in August, he thought **The Herd** traveling with his team would benefit his players. Turns out that members of PFW's athletics student cheering section benefitted even more.

A group of 14 Mastodon maniacs traveled to Glendale, Arizona, from Nov. 16 to 19 to cheer on Coffman's squad at the Arizona Tip-Off. The trip was paid for by the Student Government Association's Travel Committee and the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. Jacob Allard, fan engagement and marketing coordinator for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, serves as the group's advisor and drove the 15-passenger van in Arizona.

The best part? The Mastodons beat Northern Arizona 77-67 on Nov. 17 and South Dakota 93-81 on Nov. 18 to win the tournament title. In recognition of the support, players rushed to hug their fans after both victories.

[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.

DECEMBER

7

Thurs., 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Destress with Dogs: Therapy Dog Visit

Therapy dogs can help you calm down, relax, and refocus. They are ready for pets and cuddles! Stop by and enjoy spending time with these furry friends...

DECEMBER

8

Fri., noon–3 p.m.

Biology Senior Seminar Poster Symposium

Biology seniors have been hard at work this semester—in the classroom, in the lab, and in the field. See what they've been working on at this symposium. They'd love to share their work with you...

DECEMBER

8

Fri., 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Jazz Ensemble: Holiday Tunes with Bonuses

Enjoy an evening of holiday tunes with bonuses, as the premiere University Jazz Ensemble presents festive, big band arrangements to celebrate the season...

News Spotlight

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

Gold Top Records hosts 3rd annual Goldstock Music Festival

WANE 15 | Thursday

A Tale of Two Zip Codes: Allen County has highest and lowest poverty rate in the state

wane.com | Thursday

Mastodon Moments

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



Natalie and Crew performed for a full house at **Goldstock '23** on Thursday, Ten bands played a variety of covers and original songs at the **Gold Top Music Group** event, which was held in the Sweetwater Performance Theatre.

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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