



For Students

January 10, 2024



PFW Turning to 'Fresh Ideas' for Dining Services

Please read carefully as the menu has changed.

That's right, dining services on the campus of Purdue University Fort Wayne underwent a passing of the spatula while students, faculty and staff were away for winter break. Food service management company **Fresh Ideas** now oversees daily operations including catering.

With an eye to the future that will ultimately include more user-friendly options such as mobile ordering and expanded grab-and-go choices at multiple locations, Fresh Ideas has been recruited to concentrate first and foremost on delivering an enhanced level of service for all patrons. Its vision to improve the overall culinary experience campus-wide will, as the name suggests, focus on fresh ideas and fresh food. Those objectives may sooner than later include more international and vegetarian selections.

The behind-the-scenes transition to Fresh Ideas began a few weeks back with a goal of it being seamless for anyone standing on the customer side of the counter. Hours of operation at all locations will also remain unchanged.

Be on the lookout in upcoming editions of *Don Life* for more information and specific details on “grand opening” events to welcome Fresh Ideas to campus and you to what it brings to the table.



Purdue Fort Wayne Ready to Help Students Understand, Complete New Financial Aid Forms

The much-anticipated release of a new and improved Free Application for Federal Student Aid form, or FAFSA for short, began with a soft launch on Dec. 31. The U.S. Department of Education announced in November that the form will help 610,000 new students from low-income backgrounds receive Federal Pell Grants and 1.5 million more students receive the maximum Pell Grant.

To help students, their families, and the general public better understand the new form and also assist in its completion, PFW's Office of Financial Aid has scheduled 24 FAFSA support sessions on campus over the next two months. All will take place in the Classic Ballroom at Walb Student Union. The dates are today and Jan. 18, and Feb. 7 and 20. [Click here](#) for specific times. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Here are some helpful tips to help you get started:

- If you are considered a dependent student, you can bring a parent with you. If they can't be present at the session, be sure you can provide their name, date of birth, social security number, and an email address.
- If possible, you should create an FSA ID, or Federal Student Aid Identification, in advance.
 - The FSA ID is a username and password for logging in to U.S. Department of Education online systems. It is your legal signature and shouldn't be created or used by anyone other than you—not even your parent, your child, a school official, or a loan company representative.

- To create an FSA ID, go to [Log In | Federal Student Aid](#). Dependent students and one or both of their parents, based on how they file their taxes, will need an FSA ID.

READ MORE



Brace Yourself: Blizzard of Dons to Hit in a Few Weeks

Homecoming 2024—Blizzard of Dons—is on track to hit campus on Monday, Jan. 29. Forecast models are predicting with near certainty a weeklong festivity storm the likes of which Purdue Fort Wayne has rarely experienced. Each day calls for Mastodon volleyball and basketball games and fun events, such as a poster competition, craft night, casino night, ice skating, and a barbecue. And make room on your calendar for the Blizzard of Dons Celebration on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 5 p.m. in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union, hosted by the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.

But wait, there's more. Check out the tropical theme at a men's volleyball game and the lip-synching finals at a women's basketball game, which is just the tip of the iceberg ... sorry. Where will all this fun be? When will all this fun occur? Look no further than pfw.edu/homecoming for all the info. Throw on an extra scarf, call your friends, and get ready for the Blizzard of Dons!



Starting Over Helping Student and Family Succeed

Growing up in Noble County, best friends Phill Taner and Kevin Krock always had big dreams and told each other they'd know one of them made it when they purchased a pool table.

Krock, B.S. '19, reached the symbolic milestone first about three years ago, and Taner, B.A. '14, was there to help his buddy set up the table in the basement. At the time, Krock was working as a civil engineer and Taner as a server at a local restaurant. Both had started families of their own—Krock and his wife having three children, and Taner and his fiancé expecting their first of two. Knowing Taner was still searching for the right fit professionally, Krock encouraged his good friend to go back to school.

Starting in 2020, Taner has been pursuing his new-found passion to become a mechanical engineer while continuing to work at the restaurant on weekends to earn money. Along with classes at Purdue University Fort Wayne, he's pursuing internships and been elected vice president and treasurer for PFW's chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. There are also now two boys at home, and he's the College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science representative to the Student Government Association's Student Senate.

At age 33, he's busier with the new roles but also happier than ever.

[READ MORE](#)



Purdue Fort Wayne Selects Nodir Adilov as Dean of its Doermer School of Business

The new year also signals the start of a new era at Purdue University Fort Wayne's Doermer School of Business. The university announced Dec. 19 that Nodir Adilov, a professor of economics, has been chosen to become the business school's new dean. Adilov had been serving in the position on an interim basis since July.

According to Carl Drummond, vice chancellor for academic affairs, the selection of Adilov was the culmination of a national search. "He brings to the position extensive administrative experience, an outstanding record of scholarship, strong interpersonal skills, and a long-standing commitment to student success," Drummond said. "The school could not be in better hands."

Adilov's work, which spans the fields of space economics, media economics, industrial organization, energy economics, and applied economics, has been featured in prominent national and international publications such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Financial Times*, and *The Washington Post*. He and his co-authors have also appeared in leading economics and policy journals, which cited their findings on the development of the first theoretical economic models of space debris.

[READ MORE](#)



PFW Counts on Office of Institutional Research and Analysis for Answers

Most people on campus have never heard of it, and it can be somewhat difficult to define or quantify for the layperson what the **Office of Institutional Research and Analysis** at Purdue University Fort Wayne does, but the information it collects is vital. Much of it helps PFW plot its course for the future.

Irah Modry-Caron, executive director, and his team of Dmytro Podgorniy, B.S. '10, M.S. '13, and Brian Matve are often whom the administration, faculty, and sometimes staff go to when they want questions answered about what is happening in the bigger picture of the university. Usually, those are statistical in nature, but sometimes the trio can spot trends or potential problems in the campus data collected and suggest solutions.

“People ask you really interesting questions, and from there you can go and really dig out a story,” Modry-Caron said. “If you are really good at your job, you are a storyteller. You make sense of this mass of information and make it coherent. It’s finding out what’s in the data and then coming up with a solution to people’s problems.”

[READ MORE](#)

Important Honors Program Information

Each of these Honors Program deadlines is Jan. 26:

- **H-Option contracts:** Contact Farah Combs, program director, after you get the initial approval from your professor to start the contract.
- **Fall honors scholarship applications:** Begin the **application process** and access the information about the **different scholarships**. Students must have successfully completed at least 3 PFW honors credits to be eligible to apply for honors

scholarships.

- **Honors project proposals:** If you are a graduating senior pursuing the honors certificate, start the **application process** to complete the form electronically. More information is available **here**.

Spring 2024 Honors Project Showcase presentations will be held in the Honors Center at Helmke Library, Room 211, on April 11 and 12.

If you are planning to participate in the pinning ceremony, **submit your application** for the honors pin no later than Jan. 19. You need to have already successfully completed 9 honors credits to be eligible for the pin.

Questions? Contact Combs at combsf@pfw.edu.

Do You Need Financial Assistance for Childcare Costs?

There are 14 second-semester spots available as part of the **Choi-Frank Students as Parents Childcare Support Award** program. Operated through **The Women's Center**, the award offers \$500 in financial assistance to PFW student parents who need help paying for childcare expenses. There's a preference for full-time students and single parents, but the awards are based on need and not academic achievement. Requirements include submission of childcare receipts and related documents to demonstrate financial need. Interested students should complete the **online application**.

The program, which kicked off in the fall, was made possible through a \$30,000 gift from Sheena Choi, associate professor in the Department of Management and Marketing in the Doermer School of Business, and her husband, Bill Frank. Committee representatives from the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion review and administer the awards. Recipients are eligible for one award each academic year and may receive up to three over the course of their time at PFW. Applications must be completed within the first 15 days of the fall or spring semester when the award is being requested.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday 1 of 2 Remaining University Holidays for Current Fiscal Year

The last two holiday/recess dates for Purdue University Fort Wayne for fiscal year 2023–24 are:

- Monday, Jan. 15 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Monday, May 27 | Memorial Day

Spring recess for students is March 4–10. These dates are not included in the university's official holiday schedule for employees.

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.

JANUARY

10

Wed., noon–1 p.m.

Career Connections: Real-World Scoop with the Career Development Center

Meet your Career Development Center team and learn all the ways they can help you prepare for internships and job opportunities for now and your future...

JANUARY

13

Sat., 10 a.m.–noon

Students with Families: Sky Zone

Jump into the New Year at Sky Zone! Snacks will be provided. Must RSVP by Friday at 5 p.m...

JANUARY

16

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.

PFW to help students and parents understand FAFSA changes

WANE 15 | Jan. 3

Expanding with intent

Business People magazine | Jan. 3

Fort Wayne economist weighs in on the impacts of Indiana's \$7.25 minimum wage

FOX 55 | Jan. 3

Mastodon Moments

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



The first student of the first day of spring semester was sighted Monday strolling through Alumni Plaza at 7:40 a.m.

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

