



Exciting Teams, Chill Activities to Highlight 2024 Homecoming Blizzard

The best way to adjust to winter weather often involves moving the action indoors, and that's just what Purdue University Fort Wayne has in mind for its Homecoming 2024 observance.

A **"Blizzard of Dons"** is getting ready to blanket the campus with an extra layer of school spirit Monday through Feb. 4. The fun will include a **full calendar** featuring top-notch Mastodon Athletics, social activities, and various other competitions. To energize the Herd as the atmosphere heats up, there will also be tons of food and giveaways galore.

The week's athletic activities will focus on three up-and-coming programs that began their current campaigns red-hot—men's basketball, women's basketball, and men's volleyball.

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Faculty, Staff to Show Off Artistic Talents during Exhibition

As Purdue University Fort Wayne metallurgist and mechanical engineering technology professor Barry Dupen says, each person who finds their creative process learns to engage their mind as well as their hands and the tools.

“I believe when you’re able to make things with your hands, whether it’s painting, sculpture, woodcraft, metalworking, fiber arts, etc., it adds something to your life,” Dupen said. “It also means that you have to be inventive and use the same parts of your brain that engineers use in designing mechanisms, or computer programmers use in writing code.”

Dupen enjoys woodworking and was one of the first members of the campus community to sign up for PFW's inaugural **Creative Arts Exhibition**. All proceeds will be used to fund scholarships for students in the **Department of Art and Design** in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. The free exhibition starts Monday and runs through Feb. 25. Patrons may visit the gallery from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. An opening reception will be held Feb. 1 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

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Family Day Scheduled for Feb. 24

Purdue Fort Wayne is excited to welcome families to campus on Feb. 24 for Family Day! Participants can get a taste of local restaurants, shop local businesses, and experience several other interactive activities at Gates Sports Center from 2 to 4 p.m.

Those wishing to really cause a spike on the Don-O-Meter can stick around to show their school spirit at the men's volleyball match vs. McKendree at 4 p.m.

Family Day is a free event; however, if you are interested in attending the match, tickets are limited. Please register as soon as

possible.

REGISTER FOR FAMILY DAY



Global Game Jam Event Offers Collaboration across Disciplines

Almost every college student has played them, but have you ever wondered how video games are created?

Purdue University Fort Wayne's **Association for Computing Machinery** chapter's annual "Global Game Jam" can explain and give players a chance to develop their own game from 5:30 p.m. on Friday to 6 p.m. on Sunday. That's followed by a three-hour reception showcasing the finished products. The event is free to join and held in Neff Hall, rooms B27 and B88. Participants may also work remotely from locations off site.

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Guest Speaker to Discuss Experience Surviving Genocide

For the fourth consecutive year, Purdue University Fort Wayne's **Q Center** and the **Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies** in the College of Liberal Arts are collaborating to observe International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Jan. 27, a date which was chosen by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005 to coincide with the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz during World War II. Jeanine Ntahirageza, founding director of the Center for Genocide and Human Rights Research in Africa and the Diaspora at Northeastern Illinois University, will speak on Thursday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the IDEASpace at Helmke Library.

"Jeanine's work on genocide and human rights research in Africa and the diaspora is a vital bridge between the catastrophic murder of six million Jews during the Holocaust and the ongoing and ever-present threat of genocide that into the 21st century continues to cast long shadows across the African continent and elsewhere," said Steve Carr, PFW director for the Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies in the College of Liberal Arts. "She is a remarkable scholar whose research, based on her own experience as a survivor of mass atrocities, helps put meaning behind making 'Never Again' a reality."

A native of Burundi in central Africa, Ntahirageza lost her father, two brothers, and cousins to genocide in 1972. Since 2013, she has served as chair of NEIU's Genocide and Human Rights Research Group, an interdisciplinary research team that hosts an annual symposium on the topic. She has presented about genocide and mass atrocities both domestically and globally.

Thursday's event is free to attend.



College TV Fort Wayne Has Solid Reputation for Developing Talent

Maybe the hardest part of teaching his intro to TV production class is that Art Herbig has to lower the students' expectations just a bit before he can start raising them.

"You made a 10-minute movie? Wow, that's amazing," the Purdue University Fort Wayne director for the **Center for Collaborative Media** said. "What I want is three minutes of quality. I'm not going to be grading you based on length. Three good minutes is way greater than 10."

And Herbig has a pretty good track record of teaching talented students who are now spread throughout the area at TV stations and advertising agencies. Others are working across the country in TV and movie production. They all started by earning a television production minor, most majoring in communication.

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Nominations Open for 2024 Student Leader Awards

Are you an exceptional leader? Does your student organization deserve to be recognized for all it has done this year?

As first announced in Sunday's *What It Takes* email, nominations are now open for the 2024 Student Leader Awards. Nominate yourself, peers, staff, and faculty to celebrate their accomplishments during this academic year. You can view the various award descriptions [here](#) and submit your nominations via [this form](#).

Nominations will close March 1. All nominees will receive an invitation to the banquet scheduled for April 24.

For additional information, [visit the webpage](#) or contact Abbey Wang, assistant director of Student Leadership and the Student Government Association, at wangal@pfw.edu.

Eventful

There's always plenty to do at Purdue Fort Wayne. To find your favorites—or discover new activities—check the full [events calendar](#) often to see what's happening on campus.

JANUARY

26

Fri., 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Thrift Swap and Campus Coffee Crawl

Clean out your closet and get thrifty! Plan ahead and donate some gently used clothing at any of the donation centers. For every three items donated, you will receive a voucher to redeem three clothing items on the day of the event. There will be coffee during the event where you can sample some...

JANUARY

29

Mon., 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

WellRec and the American Red Cross are inviting all healthy and eligible individuals to give blood at the Red Cross Bloodmobile. Please check the eligibility guidelines before signing up...

JANUARY

30

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.

“Purduber:” PFW student shuttle program sees growth, success 1 year after inception

wane.com | Thursday

Fort Wayne officially has a new police chief

wane.com | Jan. 16

Mastodon Moments

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



Grant McGibbon, a sophomore in Information Systems, trims excess plastic from one of the many 3D printing projects currently being produced in the Mastodon Makerlab.

Athletics



Events Calendar



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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