



Student Develops Unique Way to Help Track Research Animals

As he answers questions in a study room, Andrew Danielson pulls pieces of PVC pipe and cut-up sections of a tape measure from his backpack. Then he starts slotting them together, using screws to affix everything crosswise to the 3-foot-tall pipe.

The obvious observation is that something so simple can't be that remarkable, right?

Danielson, a Purdue University Fort Wayne junior, said buying the parts and producing the brackets cost about \$24, and he used the 3D printer in the **Mastodon Makerlab** to create the brackets holding different parts together after using modeling software to make sure they were spaced properly.

The result looks like something from a fifth-grade science exhibit, or maybe the creation of an Eagle Scout, but the antenna Danielson produced works with a high degree of efficiency. While the antennas are not fancy, they're exceptionally effective, especially when used in the field to help track research animals.

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ROTC Positions Cadets for Leadership Roles during and after Military Service

Though an excellent student, Audrey Dickerson was unsure where she wanted to go to college and even considered enlisting with the Army after four years participating in the Marion High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program. However, some teachers encouraged her to apply for an ROTC scholarship, and that led Dickerson to Purdue University Fort Wayne to study public policy with a concentration in criminal justice.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in 2022, she returned to campus this fall as a recruitment officer and is now training as an Army field artillery 2nd Lieutenant in Oklahoma.

"It was very much worth it and changed my life," Dickerson said of her experiences at PFW. "It put me on a path where I don't think I would have had the discipline and developed the work skills that I have without it."

Specifically, the ROTC experience transformed her, Dickerson said, building her into a confident, tough, strong, and more assertive leader. She tested herself, honed skills, and now plans to make the Army her career.

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Brazile to Provide 2024 Perspective during Omnibus Presentation on Thursday

Though America's focus on political discourse seems to change by the hour, Donna Brazile has a solid idea for how she will frame her Omnibus Speaker Series presentation on Thursday in Auer Performance Hall at Purdue University Fort Wayne. She will stress three principles: the importance of civic engagement, compromise is not a dirty word, and the need for community.

"Washington is still a dynamic place," said Brazile, who teaches a weekly course at Georgetown University. "The problem is, of course, that polarization runs deep in the waters, but I still believe the American people should have some hope and optimism."

Brazile, a veteran Democratic political strategist, will present "Political Outlook: A Comprehensive Picture of What's Going on in Washington" starting at 7:30 p.m.

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Purdue Fort Wayne student and 500 Festival Princess Bridget Bale (left) volunteered Feb. 9 at a local observance of Night to Shine, a prom-like celebration for people with special needs. She is pictured here with her buddy, Bradley Klotz.

PFW Senior Named 500 Festival Princess

Purdue University Fort Wayne's Bridget Bale is one of 33 college-age women selected to serve as princesses for this year's 500 Festival. As a member of the 500 Festival Princess Program, Bale will take part in activities throughout the month of May, leading up to the Indianapolis 500 on May 26, and beyond. Other outreach opportunities for these ambassadors include visits to hospitals, nursing homes, schools, community celebrations, and various youth programs.

A senior in the PFW Honors Program, Bale is majoring in education studies with minors in psychology, sociology, and mild interventions, earning a behavior analysis and techniques certificate.

"PFW gave me my unique connections in the community with different internships and opportunities to serve with organizations as a volunteer," Bale said. "I was able to speak with confidence about my studies with passion because I truly love my minors and elementary education. I love being able to represent PFW and the Fort Wayne area. It is home!"

After graduating in May, Bale will continue to work in special education while also attending grad school to become an elementary school guidance counselor. She chose PFW because a flexible class schedule allowed her to work as a substitute teacher and administrative assistant.



Sidewalk Leading to Door #1 of PFW Music Center Temporarily Closed through March 8

Preliminary site work outside of the PFW Music Center's south and west entrances that needs to be completed before construction begins on a **new music technology building** will cause a temporary detour for anyone who uses the center's door #1 and its adjacent sidewalks. The closure will start Wednesday and last through March 8, although the door will still be accessible as an emergency exit.

The time frame for this work was chosen to coincide with PFW's spring break, which starts Monday.



Graduating in May? Remember These Deadlines

If you're planning to participate in the May 8 commencement at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, don't forget to keep these deadlines and details in mind:

- To include 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 the after party is very helpful for PFW's advance planning.
- **Order your cap and gown**. 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.

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.

FEBRUARY

29

COLA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Lecture Series 2024

Seung-kyung Kim, Ph.D., is the Korea Foundation Chair in the Department of East Asian Language and Cultures and Founding Director of the Institute for Korean Studies at IU-Bloomington. She will present “Why Fewer Women Are Choosing Marriage: Shifting Trends Among Millennials and...

MARCH

1

Fri., 7–11 p.m.

Spielfreaks Campus/Community Game Night

Play all kinds of modern tabletop board games like Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, 7 Wonders, Splendor, and more. Bring your favorites or learn something new. Either way, you’ll find an eager crowd that’s ready to play...

News Spotlight

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

Northeast Indiana regional science and engineering fair returns to PFW

Fox 55 | Sunday

Engineers Week Model Bridge Building Contest

Fox 55 | Saturday

Mastodon Moments

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



In preparation for this afternoon's **Mastodon Career Expo**, one of several student models struck a pose at the Career Development Center Dressing for Your Success Fashion Show, held in the Classic Ballroom at Walb Student Union on Thursday. Tony Betton Jr. from 21Alive served as the emcee.

Athletics



Events Calendar



News Center



Don Life Archive



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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