



Renae Gaff, B.A. '23, gained hands-on experience by interning with Out of Jam, a local nonprofit.

English Class Students Broaden Their Experiences by Working with Local Nonprofits

Though they approach the work they do from different angles, Beth Keller and the Fort Wayne nonprofits she works with through her English classes try to accomplish similar goals. The Purdue University Fort Wayne associate professor of English is encouraging her students to open themselves to the wider world, and the nonprofits help their clients take advantage of more of what the world has to offer.

In 2018, Keller started assigning students in her upper-level writing for multiple media and project management for writers classes projects to support some of Fort Wayne's 400 or so nonprofit organizations. Groups of students are asked to assess things such as an entity's website engagement or its marketing efforts, while also creating original content and offering suggestions.

"Several students I've taught in these classes over the years have gone on to intern and work for the organizations we've worked with, or ones with similar missions," Keller said. "I want to help students create solid, experience-based portfolios and résumés

that help them get the jobs they are qualified for. I'm all about seeing a need, making an opportunity for them to succeed, and then getting out of the way. The work they produce is brilliant!"

[READ MORE](#)

How We Work

How much do you really know about Purdue Fort Wayne? The "How We Work" series explores some of the untold stories about the university's daily operations, its support for students and employees, its engagement in the community, and its various achievements.



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.

[READ MORE](#)



Black Student Union Enjoys Cultural Trip to Nashville

A group of 20 Purdue University Fort Wayne students, staff, and faculty representing the Black Student Union traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, Feb. 2-4 as part of the union's second annual cultural trip. During three days in Music City, the group visited the National Museum of African American Music, the Tennessee State Museum, and Tennessee State University, one of the country's 101 historically Black colleges and universities.

"The energy was just different," said Cicelle Beemon, BSU advisor and program assistant to the Women's Center. "The students were intrigued by how the Tennessee State campus has so much historic culture, as well as the other activities that are student-led."

TSU's marching band has won two Grammy Awards, and the university has produced several Olympic athletes, including Wilma Rudolph, who won three gold medals in 1960.



Final Day to Register for Employee Recognition Gala is Monday

Time is running out to RSVP for the 2024 **Employee Recognition Dinner**, a gala scheduled for Thursday, March 14, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union. If you haven't registered, there's still time; the deadline has been extended to Monday.

Honorees have received personal invitations, and the free event is open to all PFW employees who want to show their appreciation. RSVP on the [event webpage](#).

As a reminder, any honoree who wishes to have a work-related photo appear in the event slideshow should contact Elizabeth Miller, HR coordinator, at millerej@pfw.edu.

Additional questions may be sent to hr@pfw.edu.

Good to Know

2024 Summit Scholars Showcase

Mark your calendars for the 2024 Spring Summit Scholars Showcase on April 13 at 9 a.m. in the IDEAspace at Helmke Library.

Explore a diverse array of research and community-focused capstone projects, spanning campus composting initiatives to fostering student engagement in STEM activities. Additional details will be available at a later date.

Faculty and Staff Portrait Session Set for March 5

If you would like to have your portrait taken, you may do so March 5 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The photographer will be set up on the north end of the skybridge connecting Helmke Library and Walb Student Union.

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

26

Mon., noon–1:15 p.m.

Panel Discussion: Two Years of War in Ukraine

To commemorate the two-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, James Toole and Ann Livschiz will conduct a panel discussion. In addition to prepared comments by the panelists, there will be an opportunity to ask questions...

FEBRUARY

26

Mon., 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Love is in the Air Choral and Band Concert

This concert will feature love songs from multiple musical eras including classics from the Great American Songbook. Featuring Chamber Treble Singers, Choral Union, University Singers, and the Symphonic Band...

News Spotlight

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

PFW's Hartley Hutton headlines 7th Annual WBA Leadership Luncheon

Fort Wayne-area media | Feb. 13

Regionally Speaking: Gary native Curtis L. Crisler named Indiana Poet Laureate

Lakeshore Public Media | Feb. 12

In a Snap

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



Business major Isabel Hollis and partner Owen Saalfrank dressed the parts for a viewing of the film “The Mummy” on Tuesday evening. The event was part of the Medieval Movie Nights series presented by Damian Fleming, associate professor of English and linguistics and coordinator of the Minor in Medieval Studies. The screening took place in Neff Hall, Room 101.

News Center



Inside PFW Archive



Athletics



Ripples



Inside PFW is an official university communication for faculty and staff. All submissions should be sent to inside@pfw.edu no later than 2 p.m. on the day prior to the next edition to be considered for inclusion. Newsletter guidelines can be accessed in the **PFW News Center**.

Inside PFW is produced twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday by the Office of Communications and Marketing. *Inside PFW 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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