



Timya Townsend as Celie in "The Color Purple."

PFW Impact on Civic Theatre's 'The Color Purple' Years in the Making

Shortly after MarTeze Hammonds started as Purdue University Fort Wayne's chief diversity officer in 2020, one of his first invitations to speak on campus came from the Department of Theatre. Faculty members had recognized his background in professional theatre and performing.

When Hammonds finished, student Timya Townsend asked if he had any advice because she was considering a transfer.

"It was a really big deal for me," Townsend said. "Finally, I had someone who looked like me, did the same thing as me, and listened and understood everything I was going through. It was nice to have a mentor figure that I could actually relate to."

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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.



Environmental Resources Center’s Purpose Continues to Expand as the World Changes

Growing up in Southern California, Bruce Kingsbury always loved snakes, which is why he studied biology, eventually earned a doctorate, and in 1992 started teaching at Purdue University Fort Wayne.

At some point during the journey he realized something else about his fascination with reptiles—he also wanted to protect them.

“I actually remember being at a party about when I was finishing my Ph.D. Someone asked me, ‘Why do you study snakes?’ a question I had been asked many times before,” Kingsbury said. “I had always simply responded, ‘Because they were cool.’ But I realized then that my historically convenient reply didn’t resonate the same way anymore. I had transitioned from thinking I just wanted to learn about them because they were fascinating, to somebody compelled to protect them. And the way you protect them is you understand what they need and then try to get the powers that be to provide that.”

That's how the seed for PFW's Environmental Resources Center in the College of Science, one of the university's 13 Centers of Excellence, started forming in Kingsbury's mind. He was interested in studying wildlife ecology, but also in promoting conservation. He believed he could find the funding necessary to fulfill his work on imperiled species while also filling the need for sharing expertise about growing community and societal needs.

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Fans were treated to a high-flying display of acrobatics offered up by the Indiana Pacers Power Pack during halftime of Thursday's homecoming week "Whiteout" at Memorial Coliseum. The men's basketball team (15-8) came up short versus Milwaukee 68-65 before bouncing back on Sunday at Gates Sports Center with an 82-78 victory over Youngstown State.

Blizzard Warning Expires; Homecoming Memories Remain in Effect

The Blizzard of Dons has cleared, but last week's Homecoming 2024 celebration left a flurry of Mastodon pride in its wake.

After a crafty Tuesday evening of making blankets and bracelets, Wednesday's Dons in Vegas casino night attracted a full house of players winning gear and prizes. The fun stretched into the weekend with a night of ice skating, a Saturday feast from Fresh Ideas, and the first-ever PFW lip-sync championship, where dance group Bollywood Jhoom electrified a crowd of more than 1,000 fans to take home first place.

Meanwhile, Mastodon student-athletes dominated the weekend with a four-game sweep at the Gates Sports Center. Women's basketball defeated in-state rival IUPUI, men's volleyball took down Saint Francis (Pa.) and nationally ranked Penn State in a pair of thrilling matches, and men's basketball iced the Youngstown State Penguins. And to cap it all off on Sunday, **six Mastodon greats** were inducted into the PFW Athletic Hall of Fame.

To relive the fun of this year's Blizzard of Dons, check out the [homecoming photo album](#) on the Purdue Fort Wayne Facebook page.



Deadline to Order Academic Regalia for Commencement Is April 4

Purdue Fort Wayne's 2024 Commencement will be held on Wednesday, May 8, at 4 p.m. in the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. All faculty and staff are encouraged to attend and participate in this joyous occasion that is the culmination of our students' academic experience—and one of life's special moments. If you are a faculty member and wish to participate in the ceremony, you can find the registration link [here](#).

Faculty are asked to wear academic regalia (tams optional) for the ceremony. If you need to rent regalia, please use this [online form](#); the university will cover the cost of rentals. There will be no pickup on campus this year, as everything will be shipped directly to recipients and will include a return shipping label. The deadline for orders is April 4.

Subscribe to the AAUP Listserv

Since 2016, the PFW American Association of University Professors listserv has connected hundreds of members of the PFW community. The mission of the listserv is to promote the free exchange of ideas related to the good and welfare of Purdue Fort Wayne. It is not just for AAUP members.

Discussions in the past few months have ranged widely, including posts on graduate education in the Purdue system, awards and grants going to Indiana institutions and faculty, academic freedom across American higher education, changes to federal financial aid policy, and student demographic trends.

To subscribe, send an email to LISTSERV@listserv.pfw.edu. In the body (not the subject) of the email, type: SUBSCRIBE AAUP-L. Once subscribed, posts should be emailed to AAUP-L@LISTSERV.PFW.EDU. The listserv is gently moderated by the PFW AAUP chapter.

Now Accepting Submissions for The Summit City Journal

Faculty mentors supporting student research and creative projects are encouraged to remind students that they may submit their work to The Summit City Journal: A Student Research Publication. This is a great platform to spotlight PFW and IUFW undergraduate and graduate students' research and creative endeavors. The publication is peer-led, peer-reviewed, and showcased online. View the current issue [here](#).

Because of the online publishing format, 3D renderings of submissions can be provided. This can bring creations to life so readers can see and appreciate the entire piece.

The spring submission deadline for the 2024 journal is Feb. 29. Click [here](#) to learn more.

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

8

Thurs., 7–9 p.m.

Trivia Night with the Mastodon Alumni Community

Join the Mastodon Alumni Community at Summit City Brewerks for prizes, snacks, and community competition...

FEBRUARY

9

Fri., noon–12:30 p.m.

Employee Fitness Class: Chair Yoga

Chair yoga is helpful for people who sit for long periods of time or who struggle with stiffness, tense muscles, musculoskeletal pain, balance, or movement challenges. This low-impact exercise accommodates all body types, ability levels, ages, and more...

FEBRUARY

10

Sat., 2:30-4 p.m.

Music Therapy Client Recital

Share the joy of music with practicing music therapists who will assist their client performers in demonstrating skills they developed through participation in music therapy services...

On the Job

Check out the new faces in new places.

New Hires

- Emily Roman, athletic academic specialist | Mastodon Academic Performance Center
- RaeAnna Olson, administrative assistant | College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science

From the Field

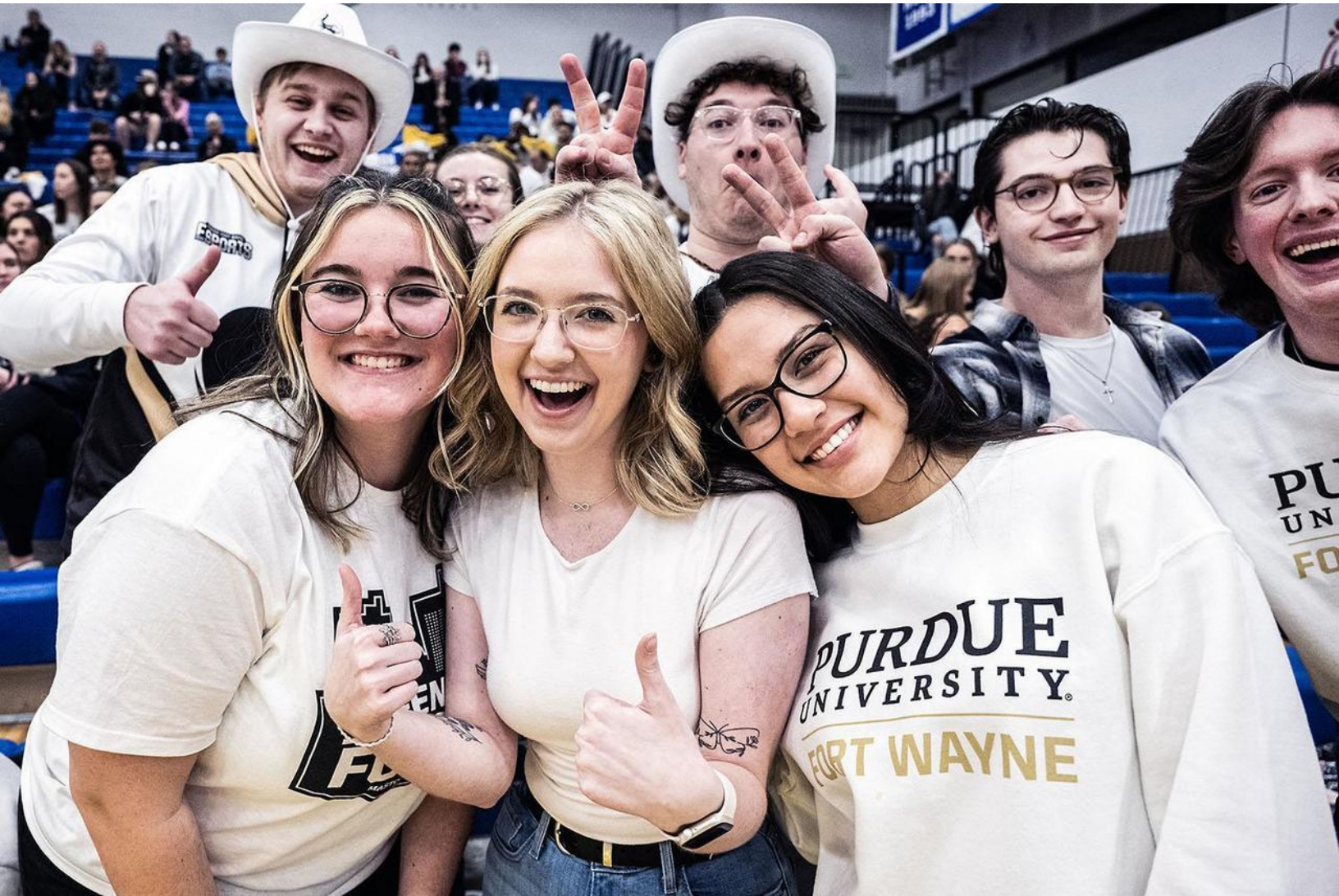
Several colleges, departments, and programs at PFW publish e-newsletters. Follow these links to read the latest:

Expressions | College of Visual and Performing Arts

News Brief | Environmental Resources Center

In a Snap

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



Members of The Herd gave a big thumbs up at the women's basketball game on Saturday. Purdue Fort Wayne (15-9) defeated Horizon League rival IUPUI 68-65 during the homecoming week contest.

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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