

# donlife



For Students

April 10, 2024



## Eclipse Day at PFW Doesn't Disappoint

The weather on Monday cooperated. In fact, it turned out to be the kind of spring day many dream of in the dead of winter. And after a slightly harrowing launch, the balloon did eventually clear those assembled on the Science Mall—and the Liberal Arts Building.

All in all, eclipse day 2024 gave students, faculty, and staff of Purdue University Fort Wayne who gathered with members of the community a great setting to witness an amazing celestial event.

[VIEW THE ACTION](#)



## PFW Students Prepare to Celebrate Commencement, Start Professional Careers

In less than a month, more than 800 Purdue University Fort Wayne students will celebrate their graduation with nearly 9,000 friends and family at the Memorial Coliseum. PFW's 2024 Commencement on May 8 will be filled with joy, friendship, and a sense of satisfaction that comes from this kind of life-changing achievement.

For these soon-to-be PFW alumni, it required sacrifice, perseverance, and hard work to earn the degrees that will help them launch careers across the region, the country, and even the world.

Here are a few of their stories.

[READ MORE](#)



## Plan Ahead for New Safety Measures at Commencement

For added peace of mind, all those wishing to enter the Coliseum's main arena before and during the 4 p.m. ceremony will participate in safety and security measures consistent with many major events across the country. All individuals will pass through metal detectors, and bags and purses will be physically screened by security personnel. Small items such as keys, phones, and wallets may be carried by hand through one of 8-10 screening zones.

To accommodate these new steps, doors to the Coliseum will open earlier this year. Students, ceremony participants, and guests can begin entering at 2 p.m.

The university and representatives of the Coliseum are in regular contact to review expected traffic patterns so the flow of individuals into the main arena can be completed as quickly as possible. The idea is to give everyone plenty of time to find the perfect seat. Continue to check the 2024 [Commencement website](#) for all updates and additional information.



## Commencement After-Party and Chancellor's New Alumni Dinner

After the pomp and circumstance is over on May 8, be sure to stop by the commencement **After-Party** in the Conference Center lobby and Room C to enjoy appetizers and even a cocktail at the cash bar. And be sure to share your photo station snaps to social media! New graduates at the party will also receive a free commemorative gift.

Want to skip the crowded restaurants afterward? The Mastodon Alumni Community invites you to the **Chancellor's New Alumni Dinner** in Conference Center rooms D and E. Dinner choices for graduates, family, and friends include chicken, beef, and vegetarian plated meals with a cash bar option. Ticket prices for the dinner are \$10 for 2024 graduates and children ages 3–12, and \$25 for adults. Children 2 and under eat for free. [Register for the dinner here.](#)

*Please note, you must be 21 years or older to purchase alcoholic drinks at either post-commencement event.*

## Herd That

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*The student experience is a big part of who we are as Mastodons. Here's one of our stories.*



## Dons Got Music Competition Will Lead to Epic Opportunity

Three groups competing in Monday's first-ever Dons Got Music competition are hoping strong performances lead to PFW immortality. The winner will be the opening act for Flo Rida on April 26 at Gates Sports Center.

Dons Got Talent is free to attend. This battle of the bands runs from 6 to 9 p.m. in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union. Mauve, Punching Lucky, and Natalie and Crew advanced to the finals via auditions that took place Feb. 12 and 13.

"This is our first performance where we are playing for something," said junior Michael Boyd, drummer with Natalie and Crew. "These are big stakes with over 2,000 people who are possibly going to be in the building, and we're opening for a big-name artist. This is something bigger than what we've ever done."

[READ MORE](#)



## Tickets for Michael Beschloss Omnibus Presentation Available Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

Award-winning historian, scholar, and bestselling author **Michael Beschloss** will be the final guest in the 2023–24 Omnibus Speaker Series at Purdue University Fort Wayne. His April 25 presentation titled, “What History Can Predict about Our American Political Future” will start at 7:30 p.m. in the Auer Performance Hall.

Tickets will be released Thursday at 1:30 p.m. They are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis through the **Schatzlein Box Office** or **PFW’s online ticketing platform**. A \$1.50 convenience charge is assessed per ticket for online orders, with a limit of four tickets per person.



## New Academic Standing Terminology Adopted

As part of its ongoing commitment to support student success, Purdue University Fort Wayne has revisited terminology it uses in describing academic standing. The new terminology that's been adopted and its associated definitions are described below:

- **Academic Notice** will replace Academic Probation – A student shall be placed on academic notice if their fall or spring semester GPA, or cumulative GPA at the end of any fall or spring semester, is less than a 2.0.
- **Academic Suspension** will replace Academic Dismissal – A student on academic notice shall be placed on the suspension list at the close of any fall or spring semester in which their semester and cumulative GPA is less than a 2.0.
- **Readmission** – A student who has been suspended from PFW, or from another university within the Purdue system, may not enroll at PFW until one fall or spring semester has passed. All students who earn readmission are placed into probationary status and are subject to stipulations implemented as a condition of readmission. A student who is academically suspended more than once is not eligible to enroll for at least one year.

“In discussing the present terms, we felt the language used was not consistent with PFW’s commitment to student care,” said Kent Johnson, executive director for academic accountability and student success. “We believe these changes better reflect the priority we place on helping students succeed.”

Students who are suspended from a program with academic standards higher than the university standard may be eligible to continue in another program and are encouraged to seek guidance from their primary staff academic advisor.



## ETCS Students Show Strong Drive to Produce Sports Car Performance

On a \$450 investment, ETCS Motorsports Club members have received a huge return, and there are still more good opportunities for learning ahead.

After looking for a car they could fix up to compete in local competitions, club president and junior Wyatt Newcomer found a 1998 BMW Z3 near St. Louis and left with his dad and a trailer to retrieve it on Jan. 2, 2022. It was a very long day on the road, but the BMW started on site and the son-father duo arrived back to their Elkhart home.

The early stages of the project included organizing and registering the club with the Student Government Association. Newcomer and senior Quentin Carr, the group's vice president, also needed various university permissions and an actual spot on campus to work. With guidance from Gary Steffen, an associate professor and director of the School of Polytechnic, the details worked out, allowing multiple mechanical engineering technology majors who had joined the team to park and work on the car in a lot adjacent to the ETCS Building.

[READ MORE](#)

[WATCH VIDEO](#)





## PFW Music Ed Students Inspire Levan Scott Academy Fifth Graders

No one wants to leave a warm bed in the middle of the winter to be at school before 8 a.m., but a group of Purdue University Fort Wayne music education students did just that this semester and found joy in the early morning experience. Under the direction of Casey Collins, clinical assistant professor of music education, four are earning field hours by serving as music teachers at Levan Scott Academy, a Fort Wayne Community Schools institution.

Considering none of the students had any idea what to expect in the beginning, the results have been remarkably positive. Responses from a few of the younger LSA students have centered on themes such as “It’s over already?” and “I don’t want music class to be done yet!”

“This is such high praise for a teacher!” PFW student Leah Pranger said. “The best part of taking on this project with Levan Scott has been the elementary students. They come to our class time ready to learn about music. It’s been incredible to have a chance to practice our teaching skills. The whole experience has completely reinvigorated my drive and passion to teach music.”

[READ MORE](#)



## Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month-Inspired Events on Campus

Though Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month is observed nationally in May, two related activities are taking place on the campus of Purdue University Fort Wayne throughout April so a greater number of people can participate before the spring semester concludes.

The first opportunity is a panel discussion on Wednesday in the IDEASpace at Helmke Library from 12:30 to 2 p.m. The topic is a celebration of personal journeys and diversity.

The panelists are Glen Nakata, vice chancellor for financial and administrative affairs; Victory Paw, a graduating senior majoring in general studies; Pooja Singh, senior compensation and classification analyst in Human Resources and Office of Institutional Equity; and Xueqian Wang, adjunct instructor of medical education at Indiana University Fort Wayne.

An Asian Fest will also be held April 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Alumni Plaza. It will feature various student and employee organizations showcasing their cultures and activities. If the weather is poor, the event will move indoors to Walb Student Union.

The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the Multicultural Center are sponsoring the events. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## Don Dates

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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.

APRIL

10

Today, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

## Popular Music Ensembles Showcase I

Gear up for a journey through the world of musical innovation and passion, because when these ensembles hit the stage, you'll be hooked from the first beat to the last! Free admission...

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APRIL

11

Thurs., 4:30–7 p.m.

## BFA Thesis Seminar Exhibition Opening Reception

BFA degree candidates from the Department of Art and Design will exhibit their thesis projects as the culmination of their thesis seminar I and II classes. A variety of mediums will be exhibited including metalsmithing, printmaking, painting, graphic design, and web design...

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APRIL

16

Tues., 1–3 p.m.

## SAB: Groovy Tie Dye

Come out and enjoy the Spring Fling Tuesday event! Grab a free T-Shirt to tie dye. The Student Activities Board will provide the materials—you supply the creativity...

## Mastodon Moments

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



*Around 3:10 p.m., the scene on the Science Mall looked a little like those old black and white photos of folks watching a 3D movie in the 1950s. Without question, the PFW campus was a popular place to gather and experience the wonder of Monday's near-total solar eclipse.*

Athletics



Don Dates



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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