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For Students

April 17, 2024



Purdue Fort Wayne Announces Exemplar and Top 50 Recipients for 2024

Purdue University Fort Wayne has chosen its next classes of **Exemplar and Top 50 recipients**. These students not only excel academically, they go above and beyond in their communities.

Each year, college and school deans, department chairs, and/or faculty select students to be Exemplars. Those receiving this honor must complete an undergraduate degree in December, May, or during the summer semester of the current academic year; have graduated with or be tentatively qualified to graduate with distinction; demonstrate excellent in their areas of study; and have a record of community outreach in their field.

Since 2016, Purdue University Fort Wayne has also recognized a larger group of Mastodons for their enthusiasm and success in making the most of the full student experience. Called simply the Top 50, these individuals not only have high GPAs, they also excel in university activities, events, and organizations—and through community engagement both here in Fort Wayne and in their hometowns.

A dinner and awards ceremony will be held Friday in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union beginning at 6:30 p.m.

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Wendel Leaving a Blueprint for Involvement

While growing up in St. Henry, Ohio, Isaac Wendel's parents and family instilled in him the constant desire to get involved, especially with opportunities to help others.

"Service was always such a big thing for me," Wendel said. "Our area is all about 'Help the neighbor.' If you need help, I will help you. I always have to keep my brain occupied, can never sit still, and always have to be doing something."

Since arriving at Purdue University Fort Wayne, Wendel has rarely been caught standing or sitting still. His time has been filled with the need to enthusiastically try a little bit of everything on campus. A member of the **Chapman Scholars Program**, he'll graduate in May with a degree in mechanical engineering—and a million other experiences.

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Natalie and Crew Crank Up the Quality to Earn Opening Act Spot for Flo Rida Show

Had best-selling rapper, singer, and songwriter Flo Rida somehow sneaked into the International Ballroom on Monday evening, he'd have been flattered and proud of how well the three bands competing in Dons Got Music performed selections of his music. After all, Mauve, Punching Lucky, and Natalie and Crew were competing to play the opening act of Flo Rida's concert on April 26 at Gates Sports Center. All performed with passion, skill, and lots of energy.

Though formed just within the current academic year, Mauve and Punching Lucky impressed during their 50-minute sets, but the veteran band Natalie and Crew was selected by the judges to kick off the main event in nine short days. They showed the most stage presence and drew the biggest response from the crowd. It's also a good sign when the competing bands dance and sing along to your songs.

After the announcement, Natalie and Crew promised they'd play even better for the concert, adding new songs and even more energy. The group is comprised of lead singer Natalie Dominiak, who's a junior, senior Eleysha Lee on bass guitar, senior Jesse Frausto on guitar, and senior Amara Wiley on percussion and vocals. Junior Michael Boyd plays drums, sophomore Noah Vaughn works the keyboards, and freshman Hailee Richmond handles guitar and vocals.

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A Taco for Your Thoughts: Graduating Undergrads Can Earn Free Food with Upcoming Survey

Purdue University Fort Wayne's annual invitation to graduating undergraduate students to share reflections on their experience is set to launch on Monday. In addition to introductory emails with the survey link sent from the PFW Career Development Center, on-campus opportunities to take part will also feature free food, while supplies last, for those who accept the offer.

On April 24—one week from today—those nearing the completion of their bachelor's degree can stop by the Classic Ballroom at Walb Student Union from 3 to 6 p.m. for a free taco bar. All they need to do is show the survey's final page via a printout or screenshot and then hit the buffet!

The second in-person survey session will be April 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the hallway leading toward the International Ballroom at Walb. The culinary incentive that day will be free pizza.

Work stations with laptops will be available at both sessions and career center staff will also be on hand to answer questions and lend assistance.

All eligible students are encouraged to take advantage of this great opportunity to help the university and future Mastodons benefit from their important input. All responses will be kept confidential, and results will be reported in aggregate form. At no time will names be publicly linked to the feedback.

For more information, contact Jackie Stancil, executive director of the Career Development Center, at jstancil@pfw.edu.

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 Separation** 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.



Abbi Winterhalter, Jake Fost, Tyler Summers, and Kaleb Waikel are members of the Symphonic Wind Ensemble horn section.

Wind Ensemble Performs at Prestigious Regional Conference

After a triumphant return to the world stage during a European tour last spring, the Purdue University Fort Wayne Symphonic Wind Ensemble has received some domestic recognition. The 50-member group was one of six bands from eight states selected to perform two weeks ago at the College Band Directors National Association and National Band Association’s north central division conference in Columbus, Ohio.

This is a blind, peer-reviewed honor that has never been attained in the history of the university, according to Daniel Tembras, director of instrumental studies and the group's conductor. PFW was the only regional university of the six that were selected, and one of two from outside Ohio.

"I think the ensemble has continued to get stronger every year," Tembras said. "This is our national association recognizing us because we are one of the strongest in the region. I think that says a lot about our School of Music. I'm incredibly proud of these students and their growth and the work they have been doing."

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Choral Union co-director William Sauerland shows choir members how to enhance their performance with movement.

Choral Union's Vocal Efforts Produce a Joyful Noise

When listening to Purdue University Fort Wayne's Choral Union, it's impossible not to allow a finger or toe to tap while nodding in time to the tune. After all, the performers' heads are often bobbing as they sing, with necks rolling and sometimes arms and hips swaying.

They are fully enjoying their vocal efforts, and their energy and joy are infectious as they produce layers of sound building to beautiful artistry. They may not be able to smile as they enunciate, but their eyes and attitudes sure do.

Their work is also extremely good. A community choir, the Choral Union started around 30 years ago and has been rebuilding in recent years after the pandemic restricted their efforts. After seeing the numbers whittled to 18, there are now more than 50 singing sensations who take part in four concerts each year.

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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.

APRIL

19, 20, 21

Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m.

Sun. 2 p.m.

Black Snow

Sergei Maxudov, a dispirited Russian newspaper man, has written a novel that may never pass the censors. In despair, contemplating suicide, he is interrupted by a publisher who wants to buy the novel and then accepts an offer to adapt it for the stage. The play takes a dark turn when he meets...

APRIL

23

Tues., 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Talent Tuesday

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...

APRIL

23

Tues., noon-3 p.m.

Earth Day Plant and Paint

The Q Center, The Women's Center, and the Environmental Resources Center are hosting a planting and painting event outdoors in the ERC Building's green space. There will be little plants, little pots, and paint, as well as rocks to paint...

News Spotlight

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

Cleveland rocks during search for PFW weather balloon

Cleveland-area media | April 10-11

Purdue Fort Wayne hosts annual Day of Giving

FOX 55 | April 10

Mastodon Moments

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



PFW students loaded into two buses bound for Chicago at 7:30 on Saturday morning for the annual day trip hosted by the Office of International Education.

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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