

\$1.32 Million in Recent Gifts Help Purdue Fort Wayne's Doermer School of Business Continue Transformation

A lot can happen over the span of four months. Granted, in this age of the 24-hour news cycle, an observation like that hasn't been mistaken for a true revelation since the turn of the century – and exactly which century is open for debate – but waves of positive news can generate strong momentum. For example, since Nov. 20, gifts totaling \$1.32 million have been pledged to further the success and growth of the Doermer School of Business at Purdue University Fort Wayne and its students.

Recent commitments from four different sources included:

- Doermer Family Foundation – \$800,000
- English-Bonter-Mitchell Foundation – \$300,000
- Max and Janet Laudeman – \$150,000
- Edward M. & Mary McCrea Wilson Foundation – \$70,000

Money from the first three gifts will help fund a total renovation of the Doermer School of Business Building's second floor. The project has an expected completion date of August 2026. It will allow for the addition of 10 classrooms and the relocation of all

Doermer School of Business faculty and staff from other locations across campus. The Laudeman donation has also been earmarked to fund a matching gift campaign.

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New Entrepreneurship Class Breaks From the Norm to Produce Something Unique

It was opening night of a new business course at Purdue University Fort Wayne and Greg Fenton, CEO of the textbook company RedShelf, a Chicago-based edtech startup, had no idea what he was in for. Fenton was a featured guest recruited to give students a chance to pick the brain of an expert. After an introduction from the professor, the floor opened for student questions. An hour and 10 minutes later, Fenton finally called uncle, saying, "I've got to leave," but not before giving his email address to anyone who wanted to continue the discussion.

That's how the inaugural session of Entrepreneurship and Innovative Design in the Doermer School of Business kicked off this semester. Organizers were hoping for 25 students, but ended up getting 34 for the three-hour class that meets on Tuesday evenings.

"It's good that there's so much energy, because that's why we're here," said MBA student Carrie Vollmer-Sanders. "Professionally, I work on projects like this, but for a company. This is for me."

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Spring Beats Concert Date Set

Get ready to let the beat drop. Spring Beats, a concert event for students, faculty, and staff, is happening at the Gates Sports Center on April 26. And we're going big—we're talking Grammy-nominee big. Mark your calendars because you won't want to miss this.



Mastodon Women's Basketball to Host Eastern Kentucky in the WNIT Tonight; Free Tickets with Student ID

The Purdue Fort Wayne women's basketball program will host Eastern Kentucky tonight in the first round of the 2024 Women's National Invitation Tournament. Tip time is set for 7 p.m.

The game will be played on campus at the Gates Sports Center. Tickets are \$15 for the lower-level seats and \$10 for upper-level seats. Tickets for Purdue Fort Wayne students are free with a current ID.

With a win, the Mastodons will move on to play Cincinnati. The full bracket can be found [here](#).

Herd That

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



Spring Break Trip to London Tunes up Inspiration for Music Students and Professors

The long and winding road for 24 students in the commercial music and music industry programs at Purdue University Fort Wayne included a magical mystery tour of London over spring break.

Along with four faculty members from the School of Music, students explored the artistic and social culture of a city that laid the foundation for music recording and production. Along with sitting in on lectures at The Institute of Contemporary Music Performance, and experiencing a concert at the legendary Royal Albert Hall, there was also a visit to Abbey Road Studios, where some of the greatest songs of all time have been recorded, particularly by The Beatles.

“I’ve found that with a lot of students here, they might feel a little stuck in Fort Wayne and the surrounding region, whether they are looking for jobs, or internships, or what to do after graduation,” said John Buteyn, clinical assistant professor of music; director of popular music, music industry, and music technology programs; and director of Gold Top Music Group. “There are great opportunities in Fort Wayne, but there’s a load of other opportunities out there, and a lot of our students haven’t had the chance to have an international experience like this before.

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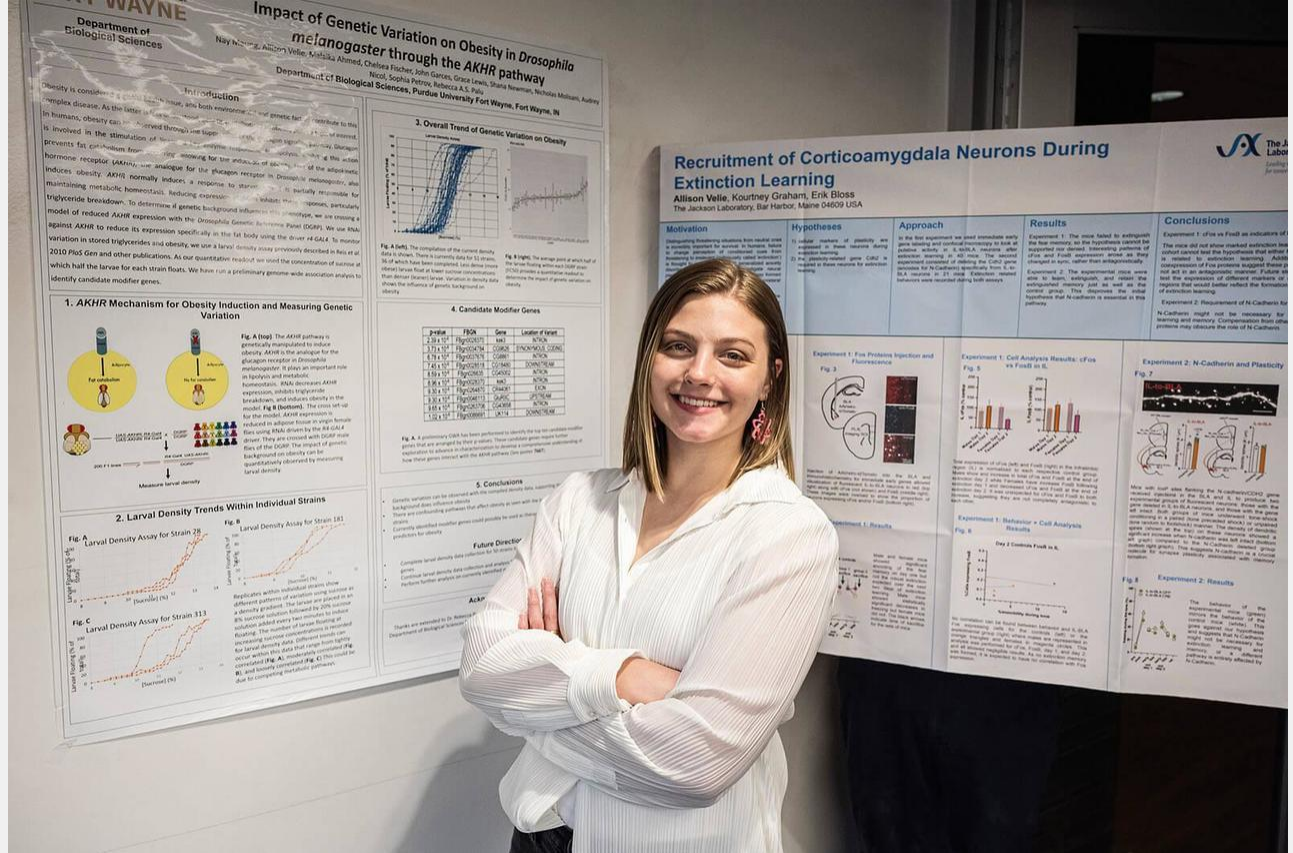
1 Day Left to Complete Student Housing Survey and Win Prizes!

Gauging student preferences and recording that essential input are essential steps in PFW's planning for future student housing. First reported in **last week's edition of *Don Life***, the university has partnered with The Scion Group to collect that information

As part of the analysis, Scion created a confidential survey that covers aspects of student housing such as desired floor plans, rates, and amenities.

To show appreciation for taking the time to participate, respondents are eligible to enter a drawing to win one of the following prizes: **Two iPads and One \$200 Amazon gift card.**

Access the survey by **clicking here**. This opportunity is available to all current PFW and IUFW students.



Research Symposium Presents New Challenge for Future Science Communications Specialist

From the time she turned 13, Purdue University Fort Wayne senior Allison Velie has served as a nanny. She currently works with the offspring of three families—seven girls in all—who benefit from her knowledge as a biology major.

“When you have an inquisitive 7-year-old who asks why this food is healthy and this food is not,” Velie said, “I explain the microbiome and tell her how this food helps us because it feeds the good bacteria. [I focus on] different age levels and ranges of understanding to break it down.”

It’s good training as Velie is considering a career as a science communications specialist, breaking down complex studies and research so others can understand, making her own work and that of others relatable. She’s loved science since the fifth grade, loves research and learning, and has a passion for sharing comprehension.

That’s a big reason why she will present three posters at Friday’s 27th annual **Student Research and Creative Endeavors Symposium**, which is held all day on the skybridge between Helmke Library and Walb Student Union. There are graduate and undergraduate categories, as well as Deans Choice awards from each college.

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SGA aide and sophomore Brian Waltz shows off a shirt that students can acquire at Saturday night's men's volleyball match by trading in gear from another school.

Get Free School Swag at Clothing Trade-Off during Saturday's Volleyball Match vs. Ball State

Saturday night's PFW men's volleyball match against Ball State will have some extra emphasis for students in attendance. From 6 to 9 p.m. at the Gates Sports Center, in what is being called "SGA Gear Trade-Off," students can swap clothing that bears the name of another school for new clothing representing Purdue University Fort Wayne or Indiana University Fort Wayne. The goal is to offer up an easy way to increase pride among all members of the campus community.

The idea started last summer when Maleah Boyd, vice president of legislation for PFW's Student Government Association, met with Athletic Director Kelley Hartley Hutton, who shared the suggestion. SGA ordered 300 pairs of pajama pants, along with 400 long-sleeved shirts and hoodies.

"The pajama pants are the star of the show, though," Boyd said. "There's never been a giveaway on campus of pajama pants, and a lot of students like to wear them."

All the tops are colored white, with either Mastodons or Red Foxes running down the right sleeve. Each student can exchange two pieces of clothing for the trade-in.

Boyd said she hopes this becomes an annual event.

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.

MARCH

21

Thurs., 1–6 p.m.

NCAA Watch Party

Join WellRec and student housing and cheer on your favorite basketball teams during March Madness. Free snacks and drinks provided...

MARCH

22

Fri., 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Student Research and Creative Endeavors Symposium

Engage with students' poster presentations and celebrate their research and creative endeavors from all disciplinary fields...

MARCH

25

Mon., 6:30–9:30 p.m.

SAB: Barbie Movie

Watch the Barbie movie and enjoy a pre-movie trivia game with prizes...

Mastodon Moments

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



Students lined up as their favorite characters on Friday at the Indian Student Organization's Bollywood Night.

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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