



*Sophomore Finn Finney, physics major (left), and Eugenio Ursino, assistant professor of physics.*

## PFW Targets Safe Gazing, Education on Eclipse Day

When the near-total solar eclipse on April 8 peaks at around 3:10 p.m., the instinct may be to take it all in with the naked eye, but Purdue University Fort Wayne plans to offer a safer, more informative option on what is truly a once-in-a-lifetime event.

Cutting to the chase, it's dangerous to look even indirectly at a solar eclipse without using certified solar glasses. That's why faculty and students from PFW's College of Science and its College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science will be providing, while supplies last, more than 2,000 free pairs of specialized glasses to anyone who wants to stop by the heart of campus to catch all the action.

The updated eye protection, which is much denser than typical sunglasses, will be distributed on the Science Mall starting at 1:30 p.m. The mall is located just east of the Science Building. Parking lots 4 and 5 will also be reserved from 1 to 4:30 p.m. for use by the general public. Check out the PFW [campus map](#) for additional guidance.

READ MORE



*Mastodon WBB dominated Cincinnati 84-58 on Sunday to move on to the WNIT Super 16.*

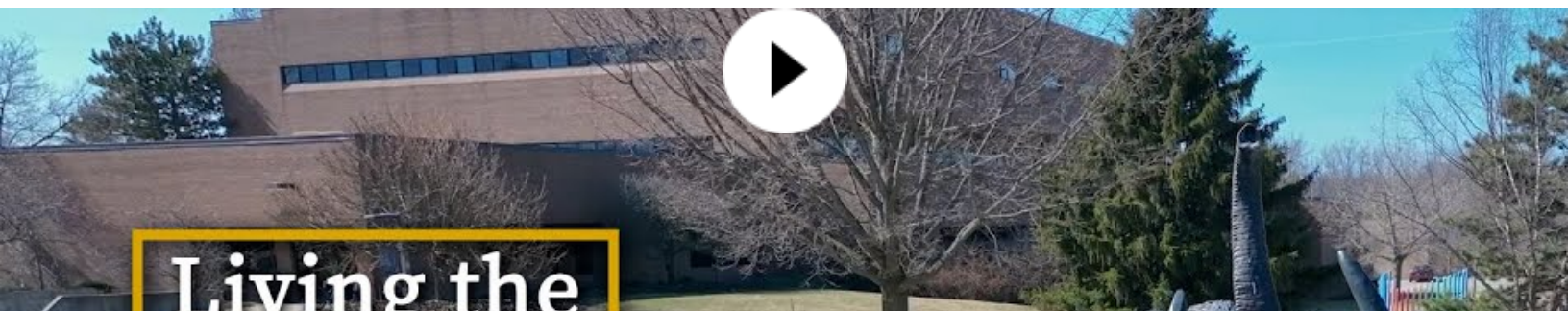
## Dons to Host WNIT Super 16 Home Game on Friday; Free Tickets for First 200 Students

The Purdue Fort Wayne women's basketball team will host Saint Louis (19-18) on Friday at 7 p.m. in the Super 16 Round of the 2024 Women's National Invitation Tournament. The game will take place on campus at the Gates Sports Center. The first 200 students will get free tickets thanks to the Student Activities Board. [Click here](#) to purchase tickets.

The Mastodons (23-12) advanced to the WNIT's Super 16 after defeating Cincinnati, 84-58, on Sunday in Cincinnati. Friday will be the Mastodons' second home game in the WNIT after topping Eastern Kentucky on Wednesday, 83-75.

PFW's men's basketball team has reached the championship game of the CollegenInsider.com Postseason Tournament after beating Tarleton State, 73-72, in a semifinal matchup on Monday night. That contest took place in Stephenville, Texas. The Dons (23-12) will battle Norfolk State (23-11) for the CIT title on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Norfolk, Virginia.

Continue to check out [gomastodons.com](http://gomastodons.com) for additional coverage on both games and more.



# Living the Landrigan Legacy



## Living the Landrigan Legacy

Patrick Landrigan grew up on a farm outside Huntington and was the first member of his family to go to college. His Mastodon experience started with a master’s degree in education that he earned on the campus of Purdue University Fort Wayne in 1970.

Landrigan and his wife, Susan, had four sons and three daughters. All seven followed in their father’s footsteps by earning degrees under the Mastodon banner. Three met their spouses while on campus.

Patrick and Susan’s seven children and their future spouses produced 48 children of their own. More than 20 have graduated as Mastodons. Theodore graduated in 2023, which leaves Lizzie, a senior, Mary Catherine, a sophomore, and Kate, a freshman, still at PFW—but more are on the way. The first member of the family’s fourth generation, Henry Landrigan, will join his father, Matt, and his grandfather, Dan, as proud members of the Herd this fall.

Back in the third generation, Mary Catherine’s sister Claire will be another newcomer in August. The current undergrads admit a full audit hasn’t been considered until now, but including spouses, more than 50 members of the Landrigan family have either graduated or are on track to graduate as Mastodons.

[READ MORE](#)

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



## Students Show Off Their Academic Passions at Student Research and Creative Endeavor Symposium

Working for anywhere between one semester and multiple years, Purdue University Fort Wayne students were able to show off their academic passions Friday during the 27th annual Student Research and Creative Endeavor Symposium. Representing a significant increase in participation from a year ago, 115 students combined forces to display 81 posters on the skybridge connecting Helmke Library and Walb Student Union. The work was judged by faculty members as hundreds of members of the campus community and others walked through to examine the results.

[READ MORE](#)



## NFL's First Female Referee Tells Omnibus Series Audiences 'Prove to Yourself That You Belong Where You Are'

As the National Football League's first female official—and the first to work a playoff game and then a Super Bowl—Sarah Thomas could have come to Purdue University Fort Wayne on Tuesday with an understandable female-first message. She actually aimed quite a bit higher.

Thomas used her Omnibus Speaker Series appearance to convince everyone in the room, not just the females, that they could achieve their dreams. She regaled with her insight into the hyper-male world of pro football, but not because she broke through as a female. Her story was much more personal, saying she broke through for herself, and uses that as proof that anyone can achieve anything.

"My message is not just for girls and women," Thomas said shortly after being introduced by Purdue Fort Wayne women's basketball coach Maria Marchesano. "I'm also raising two young men."

[READ MORE](#)



## Wolf Kept Busy Representing Mike Downs Center for Indiana Politics

Throughout 2024, Purdue University Fort Wayne's Mike Wolf has one of Indiana's toughest jobs. During a presidential election year that happens to include high-profile contests state-wide and coast to coast, how does Wolf take the politics out of talking about politics? How does he make all the discussion points relatable to citizens who can simultaneously curse partisanship while being totally driven by it?

As interim director of the **Mike Downs Center for Indiana Politics** in the College of Liberal Arts, along with being chair of the Department of Political Science, Wolf will be asked to participate in several weekly interviews to help interpret political news for local, state, and national media looking for perspective. During a recent week—though more than seven months away from the general election—Wolf gave four interviews.

“We do multiple goals,” Wolf said while sitting in the center’s designated space in room 214 of the Liberal Arts Building. “It’s a nonpartisan center devoted to helping the people of Indiana understand the wide-ranging impact of politics on their daily lives.”

[READ MORE](#)



## Graduating May 8? Deadline for Including Your Name in the Program is Sunday

If you're planning to participate in the May 8 commencement at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, don't forget to keep these important deadlines and details in mind:

- To include your name in the commencement program, apply to graduate by Sunday. Complete the application in [goPFW](#) under Registration Tools in the Enrollment section.
- After you apply to graduate, **register yourself and your family for the event**. Tickets aren't needed, but sharing an estimated number of your family and friends who will be attending the ceremony and the after party is very helpful for PFW's advance planning.
- **Order your cap and gown**. All orders will be shipped directly to the address that you enter, along with a return shipping label. December graduates who aren't planning to attend commencement in May can order a cap and gown for pictures.
- **Visit the commencement website** often for important information, reminders, and updates.



## Many Resources to Access at Well-being Summit

The annual **Well-being Summit** on Thursday gives everyone on campus a chance to celebrate the transition from winter to spring by taking a few moments to consider self-care. Centered around the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., various activities including health screenings, vendor presentations, and giveaways will help faculty, staff, and students prepare for the sprint to the semester's finish.

The options include mammogram screenings—call 260-483-1847 to register—massage therapy and spa treatments, a planting party, therapy dogs, miniature therapy horses, and a Mastodon-themed painting party. All events are free.

Along with free T-shirts, there will be 45 vendors in the International Ballroom from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Local businesses and interests represented will include pickleball, counseling, physical therapy, dentistry, Pilates, and trails, along with more than 20 student organizations, academic departments, and on-campus services.

“It’s to bring awareness to the resources here and around the community to help people take a minute to consider how they are doing,” said Eric Manor, well-being and recreation director. “It’s not easy, the number of hours everyone is putting in. Take a deep breath before we wind up the school year and just remember to prioritize yourself in everything you are doing for others and your school work.”





## Self-Proclaimed ‘Cripple Threat of Comedy’ to Perform at PFW on Thursday; Free Tickets Available

Despite being born with a disability in both arms, Ryan Niemiller, the self-proclaimed “Cripple Threat of Comedy” who finished 3rd in season 14 of NBC’s America’s Got Talent, will share his views of the world from the perspective of the disabled on Thursday at Purdue University Fort Wayne. The show kicks off at 7 p.m. in Auer Performance Hall and is open to all faculty, staff, students, and the general public. Free tickets are still available and may be picked up at the [Schatzlein Box Office](#) or online via the university’s [ticketing platform](#).

Niemiller’s appearance at PFW is sponsored by the [Disability Access Center](#), with help from multiple campus partners. The show was scheduled to coincide with the university’s annual [Well-being Summit](#) for students, faculty, and staff.

## Eventful

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*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

27

Today, 5–6 p.m.

## All Programs Graduate Info Session

Dive into your future! Meet with program directors, learn about graduate programs and certificates, and receive a complimentary graduate application to your chosen program when you attend...

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MARCH

29

Fri., 2–5 p.m.

## Stand up for Charity

This event features a comedian headliner Hayden Kristal—a queer and disabled stand up—with opener comedian Bailey Pope. Salsa Grille will be catered, there will be a mental health resource fair, and a silent auction...

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APRIL

2

Tues., 7:30–9:30 p.m.

## Percussion Ensemble

The PFW student percussion ensemble, directed by School of Music percussion instructor Alison Chorn, will perform varied works written for this ensemble. Free admission for Purdue FW Students with ID...

## Mastodon Moments

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



Numerous students and faculty attended the 2024 Undergraduate History Conference in the IDEASpace at Helmke Library on Saturday. Fifteen students majoring in fields such as history, secondary education, political science, sociology, anthropology, and English presented their research.

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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