



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."

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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.

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Dons to Host WNIT Super 16 Home Game Tomorrow Night

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 CollegelInsider.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 for additional coverage on both games and more.

Good to Know

Faculty and Staff Portrait Session Set for Tuesday

If you would like to have your portrait taken, you may do so Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The photographer will be set up on the north end of the skybridge connecting Helmke Library and Walb Student Union.

Summit Scholars Showcase

Faculty and staff are invited to the **Summit Scholars Showcase** on April 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the IDEASpace at Helmke Library. Junior Summit Scholars will unveil their proposals for their capstone projects, while senior Summit Scholars will present their completed endeavors. The day will include breakfast, coffee, and lunch. **Secure a spot** before April 5 to ensure a complimentary lunch.

Mastodon Campus Store Clearance Sale

Save at least 25% off clearance items; no additional university discount will be applied. Stop by for some new spirit wear and PFW merch.

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

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...

APRIL

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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...

APRIL

Multicultural Coffee Café

This month's café will feature Irish coffee...

News Spotlight

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

Nature's destruction becomes class topic for Purdue University Fort Wayne students

The Journal Gazette (subscription required) | Saturday

New study finds salary needed to live comfortably in Fort Wayne higher than current average

21Alive | Friday

In a Snap

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.

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](#).

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