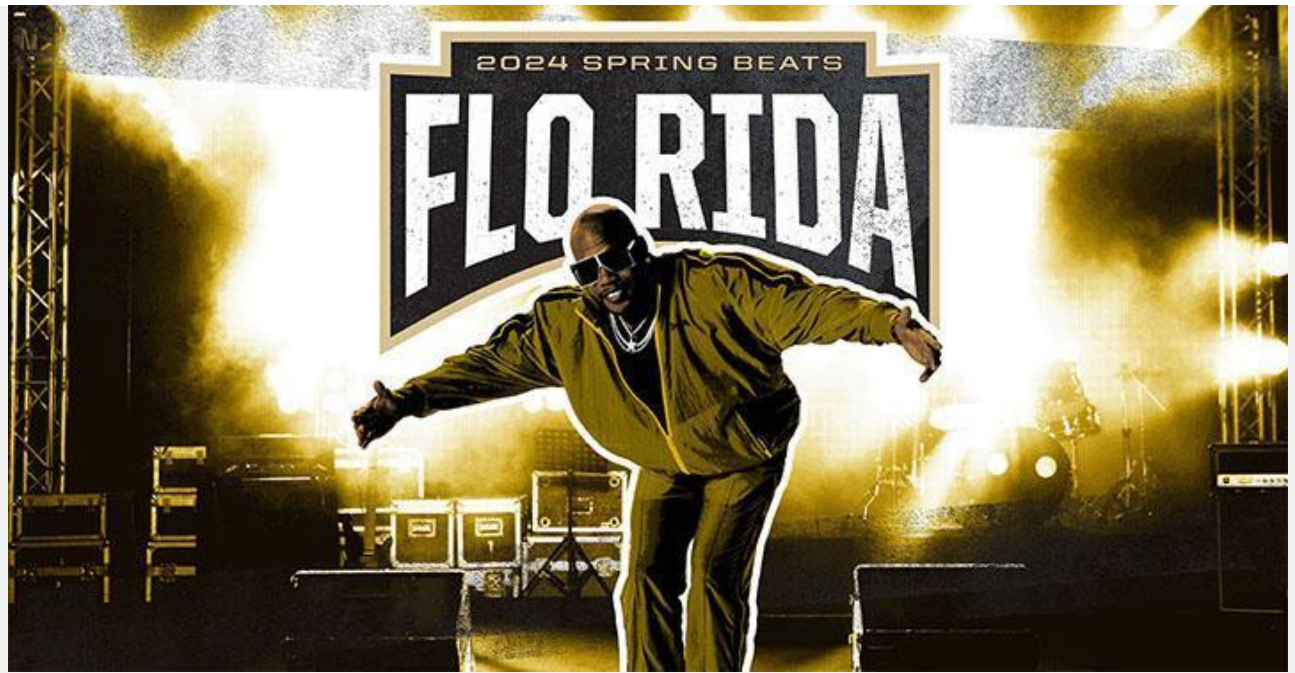


donlife



For Students

April 24, 2024



Friday's Flo Rida Concert Years in the Making

Since arriving at Purdue University Fort Wayne in 2009, Krissy Surface has wanted to bring a big-name performer to campus. It's also something students have annually asked of the vice chancellor for enrollment management and the student experience.

"As our campus continues to grow and attract directly from high school students who crave the college experience, it is a must that we deliver that," Surface said. "And, what says fabulous college experience more than a huge concert on campus?"

So, what made this year the right time to bring best-selling recording artist Flo Rida to campus Friday night at Gates Sports Center? Partly, Surface said, she found the right partners in the Student Government Association, Student Activities Board, and Fort Financial Credit Union.

[READ MORE](#)



Commencement Will Bring Special Joy to Daughter and Mother Team

As Tonya Burns likes to say, she raised her two children to take on the world. Though always loving her, they didn't always like her methods as she pushed them through difficult times to find out who they should and could become.

That's especially true for daughter Jordan who was born with arthrogryposis, a variety of conditions involving multiple joint stiffness. She's undergone many surgeries and countless hours of therapy to function, now using a mobility scooter.

But she has limited use of her hands, so her mother has attended every one of her Purdue University Fort Wayne classes, taking notes and filling up stacks of notebooks as Jordan majors in human services. Because of the challenges, they needed eight years, but Jordan will graduate in May.

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Purdue Fort Wayne's 56th Commencement the Culmination of an Epic Journey

For those Mastodons who were either wrapping up their freshman year at Purdue University Fort Wayne in the spring of 2020 or moving into student housing for the first time a few months later, it might be hard to explain to future generations all that's happened over the last four years.

Always celebratory, PFW's 56th commencement on May 8 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum will draw energy from thousands of stories that often find that perfect blend of experiences shared and experiences that are totally unique.

[READ NEWS RELEASE](#)



New Safety Measures at Commencement Made Easier with Earlier Access to Coliseum

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 ceremony participants, students, and guests 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 for ceremony participants and students, who may begin entering at 1 p.m. Guests may enter 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 where they need to be and the perfect seat. Continue to check the 2024 [Commencement website](#) for all updates and additional information.



Deadline to Register for Chancellor's New Alumni Dinner Is Tuesday

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** by April 30.

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



Taco Wednesday? Graduating Undergrads, Your Table Is Almost Ready

Purdue University Fort Wayne's annual invitation to graduating undergraduate students to share reflections on their experience launched Monday. In addition to introductory emails with the survey link sent from the PFW Career Development Center, one of two on-campus opportunities featuring free food, while supplies last, for those who accept the offer to participate will take place 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 Tuesday 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, a common staple of any finals week diet.

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.



Winners of 2024 Summit Scholars Competition to Receive Full, 4-year Scholarships to Purdue Fort Wayne

Purdue University Fort Wayne's annual effort to identify top high school seniors who, based on their academic merit and community involvement, will receive full, four-year scholarships to PFW has reached the moment of truth.

It's called the Summit Scholars Competition and the class of 2024–25 is made up of six students identified as Chapman Scholars and another who has earned the title of Doermer Distinguished Scholar.

Conducted remotely to encourage participation from applicants near and far—including those whose families may be facing a degree of financial insecurity that would make travel to Fort Wayne a hardship—this year's competition received a record 70 applications, which was a 25% increase from last year.

[READ MORE](#)

Lavender and Multicultural Graduation Ceremonies Approaching Quickly

Purdue University Fort Wayne's Q Center is asking seniors who want to participate in the annual Lavender Graduation ceremony on May 6 to **register for the event** by May 2. The ceremony will start at 3:30 p.m. in the rainbow sculpture park between the Liberal Arts Building and Friends Pavilion. Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer will deliver a brief message, and friends and family are welcome to attend. Participants will also receive a lavender cord to wear during commencement on May 8. In case of poor weather, the Lavender Ceremony will move to Walb Student Union, Room 114.

The Multicultural Center and Office of International Education will hold their third annual Multicultural Graduation on May 6 at 5 p.m. in the International Ballroom at Walb. Last year, 70 students representing 12 counties participated in the 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.

APRIL

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Today, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Pawsitively Relaxing: Therapy Dogs and Stress Balls

Therapy dogs will be coming to spend some time with us and are ready for you to pet and cuddle them. They'll help bring your heart rate down and, of course, a smile to your face...

APRIL

25

Thurs., 7–9 p.m.

Student Life Big Bingo Blowout

Seating is limited. Get there early to make sure you get a seat...

APRIL

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Fri., noon–3 p.m.

Biology Senior Seminar Poster Symposium

Biology seniors have been hard at work this semester in the classroom, the lab, and the field. See what they've been working on — they would love to share it with you...

News Spotlight

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

2024 Champions of Change Awards finalists named

FOX 55 | April 17

PFW announces 2024 Exemplar and Top 50 recipients

FOX 55 | April 17

Mastodon Moments

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



A student realized his bull riding time was coming to an abrupt end at the WellRec and Student Activities Board Mastodon Challenge on April 17. Part of Spring Fling week activities, rain forced the event into Lutheran Health Fieldhouse this year.

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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