

# donlife



For Students

May 8, 2024



## Purdue Fort Wayne Cybersecurity Team Finishes Season with No. 14 National Ranking; Highest Spot of Any University in Indiana

One of the nation's highest-ranked teams in a cybersecurity competition that just concluded was made up of six computer science majors at Purdue University Fort Wayne.

During the National Cyber League's spring 2024 season, Purdue Fort Wayne's first team finished 14th out of 1,034 total squads who participated. That was the highest place of any university in the Indiana, and among the top 2% of all teams taking part in this biannual competition. The **Cyber Power Rankings** released Friday is a list generated by Cyber Skyline in partnership with the NCL.

"This achievement not only showcases our students' highly demanded cybersecurity skills, but it also highlights our university's competitiveness on a national level," said Adolfo Coronado, chair of the Department of Computer Science. "Competitions like these are valuable opportunities for our computer science majors to prove to themselves and others that they're ready to take what they've learned in the classroom and apply it to scenarios they'll see throughout their careers. That's important."

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*Abby Lewis and Casey Hunter, juniors in the School of Education, are two of the PFW students who spent Tuesday mornings at Study Elementary this year.*

## SoE Juniors Grow with Early Classroom Experience

Holly Hullinger-Sirken continually tells her students, "We learn by doing." This is why the associate clinical professor in the School of Education at Purdue University Fort Wayne was seeking to give them practical experience before becoming student teachers.

Hullinger-Sirken asked Fort Wayne Community Schools to partner in a new program that would initiate juniors into classrooms before traditionally entering student teaching as seniors. During the past two semesters, students in Hullinger-Sirken's language arts and reading courses spent Tuesday mornings at Study Elementary. A grant from PFW's Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching provided materials, among other things.

After attending a lecture in the media center, the PFW students spent two hours working with classes, small groups, and individuals, concentrating on reading. Sometimes that meant working with third grade students to help them prepare for Indiana's IREAD test.

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## The Bradley Provides a Unique Venue for VPA Creators

Since finding a camera buried in her parents' closet at age 13, Madison Foreman has been consumed by photography and gotten pretty good at almost every style. She's even started a wedding photography business with six assignments this summer.

Some of her favorite images are the spur-of-the-moment shots, those things that just happen to appear serendipitously when instinct takes over. That's why two of her works are hanging at The Bradley in downtown Fort Wayne, part of an exclusive collaboration between Purdue University Fort Wayne and the boutique hotel.

When the building was going up in 2019, PFW's Rebecca Coffman, chair of the **Department of Art and Design**, was invited for a tour where a pitch was made for students, faculty, and staff creations to be displayed in the hotel, which is owned by Fort Wayne's Barbara Bradley Baekgaard and Provenance Hotels. Provenance owns 14 total and always stresses highlighting the local art scene.

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## Dining Services and Pantry Set Summer Hours

Don's at Walb, Einstein Bros. Bagels, and Java Spot, as well as the FRIENDS of the University Pantry, are closed this week.

Summer hours for Don's at Walb will begin Monday. They are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Friday from 10 a.m. to noon.

New this summer, Einstein Bros. Bagels on the ground floor of Kettler Hall will be open to serve the campus community on a trial basis. This will run through at least June 15, and may continue all summer, based on utilization. The adjusted hours will be Monday–Thursday, 7:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.; closed on Friday.

The FRIENDS of the University Pantry location at the Student Housing Clubhouse will be open Mondays from noon to 2 p.m. Special appointments can be made by contacting Conner Miller at [mill3335@pfw.edu](mailto:mill3335@pfw.edu). The pantry location in Walb Student Union, Room G36, will be open Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



## Director of Community Research Institute Deciphers the Data

Among hundreds of experts in their field—professors, administrators, and coaches—Rachel Blakeman may be the most quoted person on the Purdue University Fort Wayne campus. As director of the **Community Research Institute** in the Doermer School of Business, Blakeman has been interviewed by the media almost 300 times since 2020 to give stories perspective and add context.

Blakeman says her job is, “The idea of helping people understand what is happening around them.”

Since joining Purdue Fort Wayne in July 2017, Blakeman has been studying northeast Indiana data and trends to gain knowledge about the region, something she excelled at early in her career as a journalist, and then as a city government compliance officer and spokesperson. She knows where to find legitimate, reliable statistics and reports to provide answers for those looking.

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## Earlier Entry Added at Commencement to Help All Get to Where They Need to Be

That special moment for our graduates is here—today is the day! Purdue Fort Wayne's 2024 Commencement is also an opportunity for undergraduates to celebrate what the university does to change lives for the better. All are welcome to attend.

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 begin entering 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. Check the [2024 Commencement website](#) for additional information.

## Payroll Notification for Student Employees

Payroll would like to remind student employees that the preferred method for using Webclock is to use the Big Button to clock in and out at the beginning and end of each shift instead of manually entering time pairs. The Big Button method reduces payment delays and issues with incorrect time.

If you have issues accessing Webclock or have questions regarding payments, contact [payroll@pfw.edu](mailto:payroll@pfw.edu).

# Hostage Negotiator Training in DSB Building Next Week

University Police and the Fort Wayne Police Department, with assistance from the FBI, will be conducting a basic-level hostage negotiator training Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Doermer School of Business Building. Monday through Wednesday will be classroom time; Thursday and Friday will be scenario-based training. All departments that are housed in the building have been notified, and signs will be placed at the doors.

Be aware of increased traffic and squad cars next week, as well as the possibility of two large command vehicles on the lot.



## Be on the Lookout for Special Editions of *Don Life* as Weekly Newsletters Pause for the Summer

During the 2023–24 academic year, you received 37 weekly and five special editions of *Don Life* delivered directly your inbox. That's in addition to other official communications like messages from Chancellor Elsenbaumer and the *What It Takes* emails.

For anyone who wants to revisit a previous student newsletter, including Mastodons looking to stay in the loop after graduation, the [Don Life archive](#) is there so you can find back issues in one convenient location. All this and more is easily accessible in the university's [News Center](#).

Like many of you, *Don Life* is also going to take some time off this summer. After today, the weekly edition will be on hiatus until August. During this pause, important university updates and breaking news will still arrive via special editions—so continue to check your PFW email account regularly.

From all of us at *Don Life*, have a safe and relaxing summer!

# Mastodon Moments

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



*April 30 was a beautiful day to break out the sun hat during a finals week break. The peony bush pictured is in front of the Indiana Landscape sculpture on the south side of Neff Hall.*

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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