



Beschloss Stresses the Importance of Protecting Democracy before It's History

Even with final exams at Purdue Fort Wayne starting this week, there was still time for one last inspiring lesson on Thursday night. Best-selling author Michael Beschloss delivered a masterclass on presidential history as the final presenter in the 2023–24 Omnibus Speaker Series.

Assuring the audience that he is nonpartisan and has voted for presidential candidates from both major parties—while also saying he would avoid naming any current candidate—Beschloss made pointed comments about living political figures to draw parallels to other moments in time.

“I think we are as close to a potential choice between dictatorship and democracy as we have ever been in American history, including in 1940 and 1860,” Beschloss said after being introduced by Richard Weiner, chair of the Department of History. “Too many people have given up their lives on the battlefield, abroad and domestically; in civil rights marches and women’s marches to expand the rights of all of us. Where we should be going is our rights as individual Americans should be expanding. That used to be a conservative notion, to protect individual rights.”

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Shannon Bischoff, chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, is presented the Outstanding Research Award by Carl Drummond, vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Bischoff Earns Purdue Fort Wayne Outstanding Research Award for 2023–24

Shannon Bischoff, chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Purdue University Fort Wayne, was officially presented with the 2023–24 Outstanding Research Award at a ceremony on Friday.

Bischoff's areas of specialty include linguistic anthropology, language policy and planning, educational linguistics, computational linguistics, formal linguistics, linguistic rights, and human rights.

The Outstanding Research Award honors a tenured, full-time faculty member for outstanding performance in the area of research, scholarly activity, or creative endeavor. The honoree must have achieved an exceptional record of contributions to the body of knowledge or creative works in his or her discipline—and must also have had great success communicating that information to a wide audience. Bischoff was chosen for the honor by the Outstanding Research Award committee that consisted of past ORA recipients and his peers. The award is sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs.

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College of Liberal Arts Announces Inaugural Day Camp June 10–14

Proving that not all summer camp experiences require sunscreen and bug spray, a first-of-its-kind offering from the College of Liberal Arts at Purdue University Fort Wayne will give anyone age 14 to 18 a different way to stay entertained and sharp during

their upcoming break.

“The Collaboratory” is a day camp that will engage participants in collaborative activities, exciting field trips to museums and archives in Fort Wayne, and thought-provoking conversations centered around a wide range of topics related to the liberal arts.

The camp takes place daily June 10–14 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

“The liberal arts are frequently misunderstood and undervalued,” said Janet Badia, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. “One of our goals is to foster a deeper appreciation for the value of the humanities and social sciences, especially the ways everyone’s lives and communities have been shaped by such knowledge. The liberal arts are more relevant than ever—and the more complex our world becomes, the more important the liberal arts are.”

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Volunteers Needed for Commencement After-Party and New Alumni Dinner Setup

The Mastodon Alumni Community is seeking volunteers to help set up for the Commencement After-Party and New Alumni Dinner on May 8. Volunteers are welcome to help on either May 7 or 8 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

This is a great way to show support for PFW graduates and join the celebration!

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

Mastodon Family Zoo Day Scheduled for May 18

The Mastodon Alumni Community is hosting its first Mastodon Family Zoo Day on May 18 at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo. The event is open to alumni, faculty, staff, students, community members, and their families. Tickets are \$30 per person.

Admission includes all-day zoo access, a picnic lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., ice cream treats, and unlimited passes on select rides. Tickets are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



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, will be closed May 6–10.

Summer hours for Don's at Walb will begin May 13. 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. The pantry location in Walb Student Union, Room G36, will be open Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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.

MAY

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Fri., 7–11 p.m.

Spielfreaks Campus/Community Game Night

Play all kinds of modern tabletop board games like Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, 7 Wonders, Splendor, and more. Bring your favorites or learn something new. The event is open to students, faculty, staff, and community members...

MAY

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Mon., 9–9:15 a.m.

HealthKick: Virtual Lifestyle Education Program

Join HealthKick, a virtual education program featuring brief daily videos (about 5 minutes long) that address physical activity, nutrition, creating healthy habits, and decreasing stress. Register by Sunday...

From the Field

Several colleges, departments, and programs at PFW publish e-newsletters. Follow these links to read the latest:

BioScope | Department of Biological Sciences

SOE Newsletter | School of Education

In a Snap

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



The latest group of Supervise for Success graduates received their certificates of completion on April 18.

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Ripples



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Inside PFW is produced twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday by the Office of Communications and Marketing. *Inside PFW 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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