

donlife



For Students

August 14, 2024



Welcome to *Don Life* 2024–25

All of us at *Don Life*—Purdue Fort Wayne’s student newsletter—hope you’re having an amazing summer.

For those of you who are new to our campus community, *Don Life* is an official university communication sent weekly on Wednesday to all registered students. Here you’ll find big updates, news you can use, event listings, and features that help describe the student experience—your experience!

Don Life special editions delivered outside of the regular schedule cover breaking news and time-sensitive information directly related to university operations. These communications can include items such as decisions to close the entire campus because of hazardous travel conditions and severe winter weather.

Much of the information you'll find in the newsletter is also posted to PFW's **News Center**, which is a great place to catch up on what's been happening on campus over the last few months.

Enjoy the rest of your summer break, and see you very soon!



Chen Secures Two Major Grants to Develop AI-Supported Recycling Systems

Whenever he finishes teaching his machine learning course at the end of a semester, Bin Chen knows he has to start preparing for the next time the class is offered.

"In engineering, we have to update our knowledge consistently," the Purdue University Fort Wayne associate professor of electric and computer engineering said. "There is no way to teach the course the same way for 10 years. The instructors and faculty members must continue to learn and adjust to the new technology and developments in the field."

Recently, competing against universities nationwide, Chen received two major grants from the Department of Energy for recycling research projects.

The first is funding a two-year, \$100,000 effort to help UHV Technologies Inc. create a machine to sort a variety of recyclable plastic bottles for conversion into chemicals and/or other usable materials.

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New PFW Portal Set to Launch Thursday



As announced in Friday's **special editions of *Don Life* and *Inside PFW***, a new goPFW portal that will offer a better experience for employees and students will be launched Thursday.

Users can preview the big changes now by visiting the existing go.pfw.edu and clicking on the "do so here" hyperlink in the Luminis Announcements message.



Division of Continuing Studies Settles in to New DSB Digs

The third floor of the Doermer School of Business Building on Purdue Fort Wayne's South Campus is where students, faculty, and staff will now find the university's **Division of Continuing Studies**. Except for a few last items on the IT checklist, much of the summer move is complete.

The division's main entrance is Suite 300, and nearly 20 offices and cubicles make up the space. A classroom in Room 320 is also included in the footprint.

In addition to DCS programs and services, the new location also houses the northeast Indiana office of the Small Business Development Center, an affiliate of the university that's staffed by business advisors who meet with clients from all over the region. Chadi Braish, executive director of continuing studies, believes a physical address at the DSB building is a huge benefit to the SBDC.

"While the campus is wonderful, it can be confusing for a visitor to locate a specific building and office," Braish said. "Thanks to our amazing business school partners, we have already hosted SBDC workshops in DSB classrooms with great success."

DCS also provides training and outreach to the community through its noncredit programs. Braish said these too will massively benefit from easier accessibility and a dedicated classroom that is equipped for the multitude of courses that are offered.

Even with the move to the South Campus, the division's teams have been able maintain normal operations this summer with a combination of in-person interactions and those easily accomplished remotely.

Email learn@pfw.edu or call 260-481-6619 for additional information.



Julie Fowler, B.S. '23, and Buck Jordan, director of the Doermer School of Business Student

Success and Advising Center, at the 2023 Commencement in the Memorial Coliseum.

New Rule Makes It Easier for Transfer Students to Graduate with Distinction

After transferring to Purdue University Fort Wayne from Ivy Tech with an associate degree, Julie Fowler, B.S. '23, thrived as a business major, graduating with a 4.0 grade point average. Even with her stellar academic record, Fowler was not eligible to graduate with distinction because she had not earned the required 65 credits while at PFW.

Fowler's experience inspired Buck Jordan, director of the Doermer School of Business Student Success and Advising Center, to begin posing questions as a member of the university's transfer advisory group, which has been working together since 2022. Under university rules, many transfer students from two-year institutions had difficulty reaching the 65-credit criterion at PFW to graduate with distinction in any program, including those offered through DSB.

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Grounds Crew Completes Planting of New Trees on Campus

It's easy sometimes to overlook the efforts of the Facilities Management grounds crew, but a

recent project at Purdue University Fort Wayne is leaving fresh evidence all over campus.

The team recently finished planting more than 45 new trees. The project started before Arbor Day, which is observed annually on the last Friday of April. The trees might be more noticeable this year because some feature green plastic bags around their base. There are more than 100 examples of this practice that helps trees with limited access to irrigation, according to Tad Smith, director of grounds operation.

READ MORE

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.

AUGUST

23

Friday, 5–7 p.m.

Welcome Back BBQ

All PFW and IUFW students—even those who don't live in Student Housing—and their families are invited to enjoy a Welcome Back BBQ to meet faculty and staff in a casual setting...

AUGUST

25

Sunday, 7–9 p.m.

S'mores with SAB

The Student Activities Board invites all PFW and IUFW students to enjoy s'mores—even those who don't live in Student Housing...

Mastodon Moments

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



As the fall semester rapidly approaches, Mastodon Campus Store staff such as new employee K.J. Suttle are making sure inventory is where it needs to be.

Athletics



Don Dates



News Center



Don Life Archive



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