

# donlife



For Students

September 18, 2024



## Archaeology Students to Show off Skills during Weekend Dig

For thousands who plan on attending this weekend's annual Johnny Appleseed Festival, their trek may start across Coliseum Boulevard on the campus of Purdue University Fort Wayne. Hoping to capitalize on this built-in interest in time travel, PFW students and professional archaeologists will be camping out on both sides of the Ron Venderly Family Bridge on Saturday to show off their passions to visitors walking by.

"It's a pretty cool experience to talk to the public and tell them we are archaeologists," senior Emily Doctor said. "We're here to engage the public in archaeology and hope they get a better appreciation for it."

Students will be digging from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to demonstrate techniques and methods as part of Indiana's Archaeology Month. They'll also give away coloring books created by

archaeologists, crayons, and stickers for the younger fans. The event is sponsored in collaboration with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

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## Video Recap Captures Spirit of Groundbreaking Celebration

It's suggested quite often that an event or activity is "history in the making." There's a burden of proof that has to be met for that kind of claim to be true, but for anyone who had the chance to attend Tuesday's groundbreaking ceremony for the new Surack–Sweetwater Music Industry Building on the campus of Purdue University Fort Wayne, it was clear that an important initiative years in the making had reached a major milestone that will be long remembered.

Focusing on the many people who made this achievement possible, including Chuck and Lisa Surack whose name will adorn the state-of-the-art facility, the formal program helped spell out the significance of the project to students and the region.

To help all members of the university community enjoy this springboard to the future, a video recap of the ceremony can be viewed by clicking on the button below.

[VIEW VIDEO](#)

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## Multicultural Center to Screen Award-Winning Doc 'The Girl in the Yellow Scarf' on Tuesday

The Multicultural Center will host a screening of the award-winning documentary "The Girl in the Yellow Scarf" on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in Neff Hall, Room 101. Tickets are free and can be picked up in the Multicultural Center at Walb Student Union, Room 118.

Based on the book by Fort Wayne native and film producer Sandra Chapman, the **documentary** chronicles a cold case investigation of the 1968 murder of 21-year-old Black woman Carol Jenkins in Martinsville. The case's outcome was resolved in 2001 through a television news series produced by Chapman. She will be in attendance on Tuesday and participate in a Q&A session after the screening.

"Chapman deserves to be featured in her hometown, and we need to remember things that happened in our past," said Rhonda Meriwether, director of the Multicultural Center. "This young lady was a college student who was going to work her summer job when she was killed. Her family and friends didn't know what happened for 30-some years until this investigative reporter started digging and was able to discover what happened."

Earlier this year, the project won Best of Hoosier Lens Feature and Audience Choice awards at the Indy Film Fest. In recognition of the achievements, and to highlight Chapman's visit to the PFW campus, Fort Wayne Mayor Sharon Tucker has signed a proclamation naming Sept. 24 as Sandra Chapman Day in the city.



## New SAB Program Encourages Participation in Campus Events

Hoping to encourage more student participation in Student Activities Board events, engineering major Emerson Stobbe will spend part of his senior year implementing an SAB All-Stars rewards system. Students enter by using their student ID card to sign in at events, and Stobbe's goal is to identify the top 50 individual participants throughout the fall semester.

Those who make the list will be invited to an exclusive late-semester party at Crazy Pinz with transportation and prizes provided. Students already sign in to events using their ID cards, and Stobbe said the use of that system is essential.

"It's a goal to pilot it for one semester and then we'll be able to analyze the data," Stobbe said. "Hopefully, it turns out great and students and campus staff enjoy the idea, and then maybe it becomes something that permanently stays at PFW. I'm hoping this can increase student participation and engagement on campus."

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## Cooklev Shares Expertise in Wireless Communications with Students Across the Globe

Many who watch the stock market understand the impact of technology on the global economy. Purdue University Fort Wayne's Todor Cooklev trains the technology leaders of tomorrow.

A professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Cooklev focuses on most aspects of wireless communications, including software and hardware architectures, particularly how to build the chips that allow cellular and Wi-Fi networks to function.

"We see the technology these leading companies are developing and how it is transformative," Cooklev said, "and the reason why is they have changed the way people live. This is the criteria for a company. If you can change the way people live, then success is guaranteed, and wireless communications has been a very big part of that. We can't live without Wi-Fi, and now we can't imagine how people lived without it."

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*Isabel Hollis and Owen Saalfrank dressed the parts for a viewing of the film "The Mummy" on Feb. 20. The event was part of the Medieval Movie Nights series.*

## Medieval Movie Nights Offer Different View on Literary Classics

About 12 years ago, while teaching a particularly enthusiastic group of students taking a course in classical mythology, Damian Fleming one day asked, "Hey, there's all this stuff inspired by classical mythology. Would you be interested in watching movies together?"

That's how Medieval Movies Nights started. Early features included Disney's "Hercules" and "Troy." These days, attendance is voluntary, there's no extra credit to be earned, and anyone can come for free. And the numbers are pretty good. Last spring, about 70 people watched "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," which was related to Fleming's old English class.

*"Look, that rabbit's got a vicious streak a mile wide! It's a killer!"*

Fleming's goal is for everyone to relax, eat pizza, and enjoy a movie together. Afterward, there's often a short Q&A, which always surprises him because so many people stay for it. The films start around 6 p.m., usually in Neff Hall, Room 101, with everything wrapped and cleaned up by 9 p.m. There are four and sometimes even five movies per semester.

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# Good to Know

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## Graduate Education Info Sessions Return Tonight

Learn more about a wide array of graduate programs by connecting with directors, faculty, and admissions staff. Explore admission requirements and application deadlines, and take advantage of the opportunity to ask questions during free information sessions held throughout the fall semester. **Register today** and jumpstart your graduate journey.

## PFW Pool Club to Host Students vs. Staff

The PFW Pool Club will host a Students vs. Staff event at the student housing clubhouse on Sept. 27 from 2 to 10 p.m. The goal is to bring faculty members and staff together to go head-to-head with club members, as well as new students who love playing pool. If interested, please email [poolclub@pfw.edu](mailto:poolclub@pfw.edu) so it can get an estimated head count.

## 60th Birthday Party Set for Sept. 26

The Office of Alumni Engagement will host a 60th birthday party for the university at the Steel Dynamics Keith E. Busse Mastodon Alumni Center on Sept. 26 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. There will be food trucks, lawn games, signature cocktails, birthday cake, and memorabilia from years past. Alumni, retirees, faculty, staff, students, community members, and friends of the university are invited. **Register here.**

## Faculty Presentation: Insights from Bangladeshi Adventure

The campus community is invited to a presentation featuring Farah Combs, Honors Program director, Ahmed Mustafa, professor of biology, and Ron Friedman, dean of the College of Science, who will describe their **visit to Daffodil International University** in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The presentation will be Sept. 30 at noon in Neff Hall, Room 101.

# Eventful

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*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.*

SEPTEMBER

Student Life Bingo Night

18

Today, 7–9 p.m.

Don't be late for Bingo Night! Only the first 200 get cards/seats, and people usually have to be turned away. Big prizes...

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SEPTEMBER

19

Thurs., 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

## Occupation Exploration

Stop by the GeoGarden between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for a chance to win some pizza! Play a game designed to help you match your major with jobs through the skills you need...

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SEPTEMBER

20, 21, 22,  
26, 27, 28

8 p.m.  
Sept. 22 at 2 p.m.

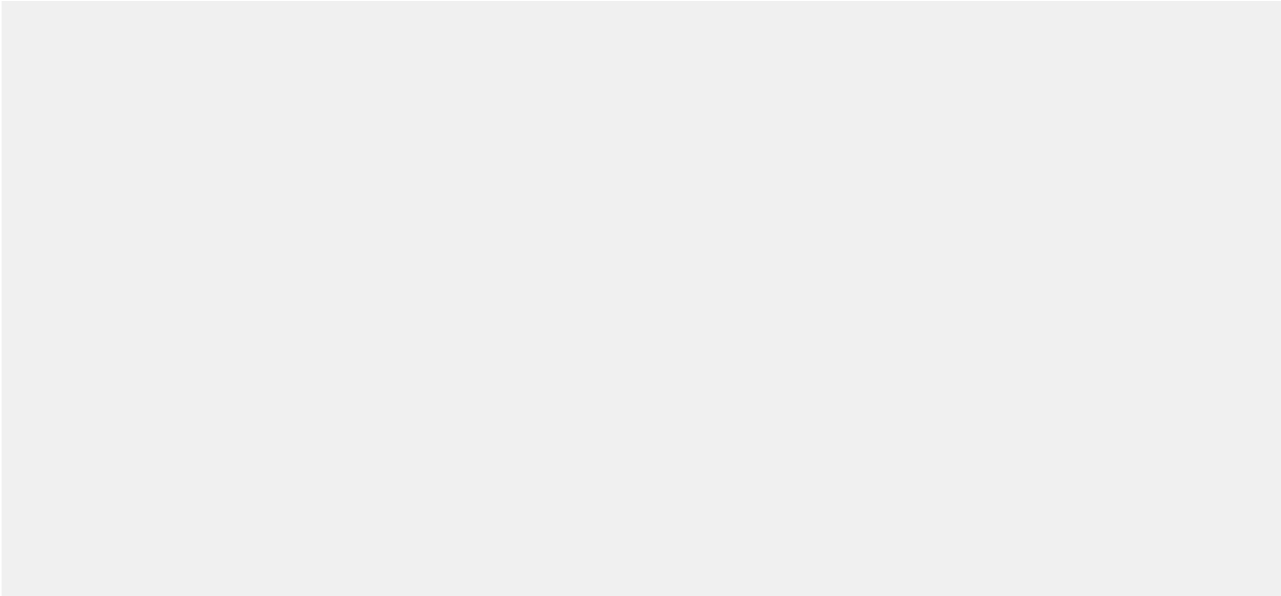
## The Catastrophist

How do you plan for a catastrophe? Virologist Nathan Wolfe, named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World for his work tracking viral pandemic outbreaks, proposed pandemic insurance years before the novel coronavirus outbreak. No one bought it. Now, in a post-COVID world, we hear his story through the voices of multiple actors...

## Mastodon Moments

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







*Students and alumni had an opportunity to practice their elevator pitch at the annual Mastodon Internship and Career Fair, which took place Friday in the Lutheran Health Fieldhouse. Employers were recruiting for internships, co-ops, part-time, and full-time jobs.*

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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**FORT WAYNE**



