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For Students

September 25, 2024



Biology graduate student Allison Renno and Lisa McLellan, assistant professor of biological sciences.

\$1.77M NIH Grant Inspires Passion in PFW Students, Assistant Professor

Lisa McLellan, an assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Purdue University Fort Wayne, recently received a \$1.77 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. McLellan and Robert Shields, an assistant professor at Arkansas State University, are starting a five-year study of how bacteria cells in the human mouth exchange DNA and evolve. On average, the mouth has 20 billion bacteria representing 650 species. Some of these bacteria, which McLellan studies, cause dental cavities and diseases.

It's a critical issue as about 90% of adults in the U.S. have had at least one cavity sometime in

their lives, including 25% currently, costing \$136 billion annually. Further, every 15 seconds, someone visits an emergency room because of a dental condition.

“We can examine oral bacteria and their DNA and how that DNA is transferred from one bacterial cell to another,” McLellan said. “Bacteria are constantly adapting to conditions in your mouth and potentially causing diseases. By understanding these processes, we can understand how these bacteria are evolving and think about ways we can better treat these bacteria. It’s an important medical question.”

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PFW Celebrates Dedication of W. Paul and Carolyn Wolf Bridge

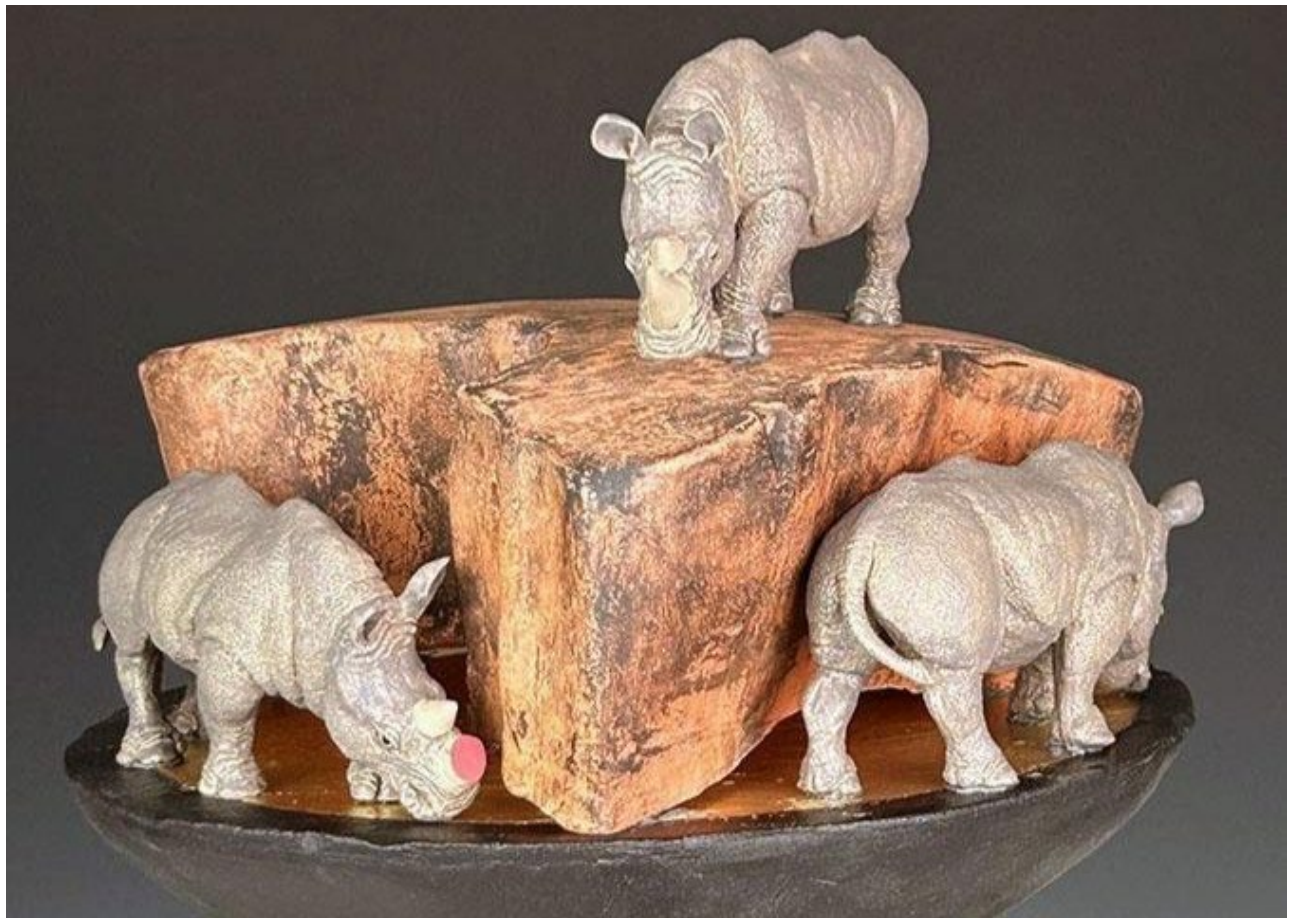
Purdue University Fort Wayne dedicated on Monday afternoon the pedestrian bridge across Crescent Avenue that connects its Main and Waterfield campuses. Now named the W. Paul and Carolyn Wolf Bridge, the recognition honors the Wolfs’ support of the university and commitment to Mastodon Athletics. Surrounded by student-athletes and coaches, Paul Wolf said he would like this span to also be viewed as the “Students’ Future Career Bridge.”

Even more than the honor, the Wolfs seemed to enjoy meeting the current Mastodons during a small reception afterward in the Development Building. Paul greeted more than a dozen student-athletes who were predominately products of northeast Indiana high schools, a theme important

to the Wolfs.

"Our hope is that more local students will consider coming here to study and compete in the future," Paul Wolf said. "I told several of them that they should go home and tell their mom and dad they did a real nice job. They are all just nice. When you have a faculty that is friendly, it flows through the students, and they in turn are going to produce that the rest of their lives and pass it on to their children."

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PFW Artwork on Display in Local Exhibition

Four Purdue University Fort Wayne faculty members are part of six artists featured until Oct. 20 at Crestwoods Frame Shop and Gallery, 314 N. Main St., in Roanoke.

The exhibition is called "Endangered Species: Environmental Ethics." Rebecca Coffman, chair of the Department of Art and Design and professor of ceramics; Derek Decker, Visual Arts Gallery coordinator and studio tech; John Hrehov, professor of drawing and painting; and Robert Schroeder, limited term lecturer, are presenting pieces. Their works include painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, and metalsmithing.

According to Crestwoods, "The artists have focused on many endangered species within our complex world. All of these threatened creatures are at high risk of eventual extinction due to human manipulation of the natural world. Including us, our fragile existence relies on finite resources on this planet."

The show opened Sept. 14. The gallery's hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. More information and samples of the artists' work, which is available for purchase, can be found on the gallery's [Facebook](#) page.

Song of My Blood Performance Coming to Campus Saturday

A handful of Purdue University Fort Wayne departments are sponsoring a unique cultural music experience on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. in the Music Center. "Canturia de Mi Sangre," or "Song of My Blood," honors the universal poetry of Gabriela Mistral, the first Latin American to receive the Nobel Prize in literature. She championed the rights of women, children, and Indigenous communities. Her poetry embraced sorrow, hope, and profound humanity. The concert includes original compositions inspired by Mistral's work, weaving, past, present, and future.

The event is free to attend and is organized by [Bridging Worlds](#), a Fort Wayne-based cross-cultural arts and education organization, which is hosting musicians Kike Galdames and Claudio Gonzalez from Chile. PFW sponsors of the event are the College of Visual and Performing Arts, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the College of Liberal Arts, the School of Music, and the Department of International Language and Cultural Studies.

Good to Know

Hispanic Heritage Month: Women in the Arts

The Women's Center is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with events that honor the rich cultural values and traditions of Hispanic communities. Join the center on Thursday at noon in the IDEASpace at Helmke Library to hear from local Afro-Latina-inspired artist Bonjo, who will highlight the importance of family, language, and customs that shape her identities. Register [here](#).

Last Week to Register for Adopt-a-Don Holiday Project

The [Adopt-A-Don](#) Holiday Project assists selected students and their families during the holiday season. Faculty, staff, campus departments, and/or student organizations are asked to "adopt" a student and their family for the 2024 holiday season. The minimum amount of \$250 is allowed per

family. Registration ends Friday. Apply [here](#).

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.

SEPTEMBER

30

Mon., 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Pride Week: Community Pride Fair

The Pride Fair will feature several LGBTQ+ resources and LGBTQ+ friendly and affirming local organizations set up out in the Alumni Plaza. Free food for students upon first-come, first-served basis...

SEPTEMBER

30

Mon., noon–2 p.m.

Thera“Pony”: Andy the Mini Therapy Horse

Come hang out with Andy, an adorable mini-therapy horse that would love to meet you! He enjoys being petted and taking selfies...

OCTOBER

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Tues., 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Talent Tuesday: Meet Your Next Employer

Speak with employers who are offering internship positions and part-time and full-time positions that you wouldn't get the chance to know about otherwise...

News Spotlight

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

W. Paul & Carolyn Wolf Bridge Dedicated

WANE 15 | Monday

Application fees for 30 Indiana colleges [PFW] waived for National College Application Week

21Alive | Monday

Highlights of Military Appreciation Day at PFW

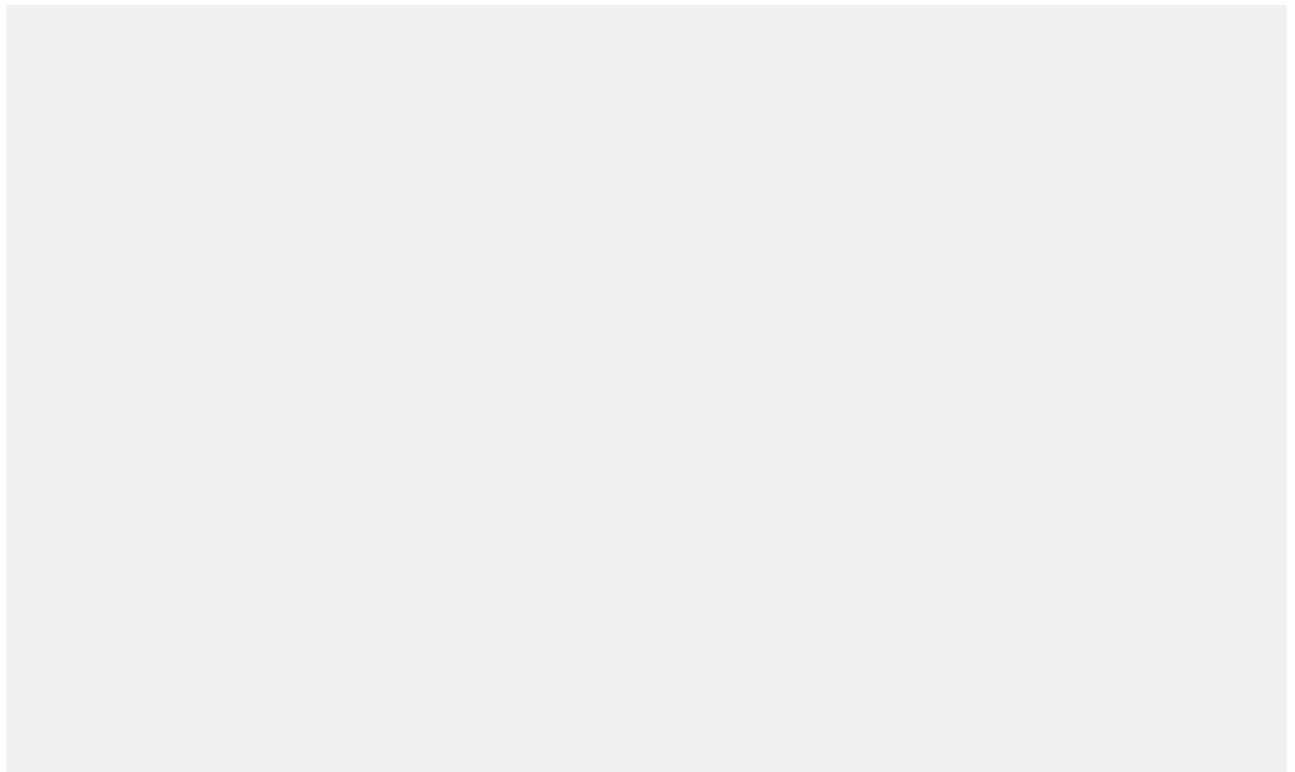
Fort Wayne-area media | Sept. 12

Indiana newsrooms take note of PFW groundbreaking ceremony

Local and state media | Sept. 10–15

Mastodon Moments

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





The "Hot Mess" Mariachi Band from Memorial Park Middle School performed at the Multilingual Northeast Indiana Gala in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union on Saturday. The gala's purpose was to shine a spotlight on the impact educators make in the lives of their students and in fostering the growth of northeast Indiana. The event was presented by the Teaching English as a New Language program and the Three Rivers Language Center in the School of Education.

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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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