



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.”

[READ MORE](#)

Save the Date for Brown Ink Society Fundraiser: Nov. 17

The Brown Ink Society would like to remind the campus community that it provides grants of up to \$575 to currently enrolled students with financial emergencies that would significantly, but temporarily, disrupt their studies. Since its founding in 2000, more than \$186,000 have been distributed to 468 students thanks to generous donations made by faculty, staff, retirees, alumni, and community members.

The society has a [Facebook page](#) where information can be found on how to submit nominations and donate funds.

The Brown Ink Society will host an appetizer and dessert reception on Nov. 17, starting at noon. Donors who purchase \$50 tickets will also receive a free ticket to the Department of Theatre’s 2 p.m. performance of “Cabaret.” Tickets will be available for purchase in October.

For questions, contact [Ann Livschiz](#), [Teri Luce](#), or [Michele Shawver](#).

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. Gift Cards are accepted. Registration ends Friday. Adopt a family **here**.

Pool Club Students vs. Staff Event is Friday

PFW professors, staff, and resident assistants are welcome to attend the PFW Pool Club’s Students vs. Staff event at the student housing clubhouse this Friday 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 Vice President Joe Counterman at **counjp01@pfw.edu** so the club can get an estimated head count.

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

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Thurs., 7:30–9:30
p.m.

Guest Artist Recital: Brian Walker, Trumpet, and J. Bradley Baker, Piano

Brian Walker, associate professor of trumpet at the University of North Texas, will be accompanied by renowned pianist J. Bradley Baker for an evening of trumpet music. The program will showcase a variety of different composers and time periods...

SEPTEMBER

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Fri., 12:10–2 p.m.

Chamber Treble Singers Concert

The Chamber Treble Singers will perform as part of the Fridays in September concert series at Trinity English Lutheran Church. The choir will present a varied program on the themes of hope and light, including works by Victoria, Bach, and more...

On the Job

Check out the new faces in new places.

New Hires

- Divina Penalzoza, senior administrative assistant | College of Liberal Arts
- Jacob Gleason, assistant men's volleyball coach | Athletics

Transfers

- Robert Burton, assistant bursar | Office of the Bursar

In a Snap

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.

News Center



Inside PFW Archive



Athletics



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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