



*Graduate research assistant Justin Moore holds an adult Franklin's ground squirrel.*

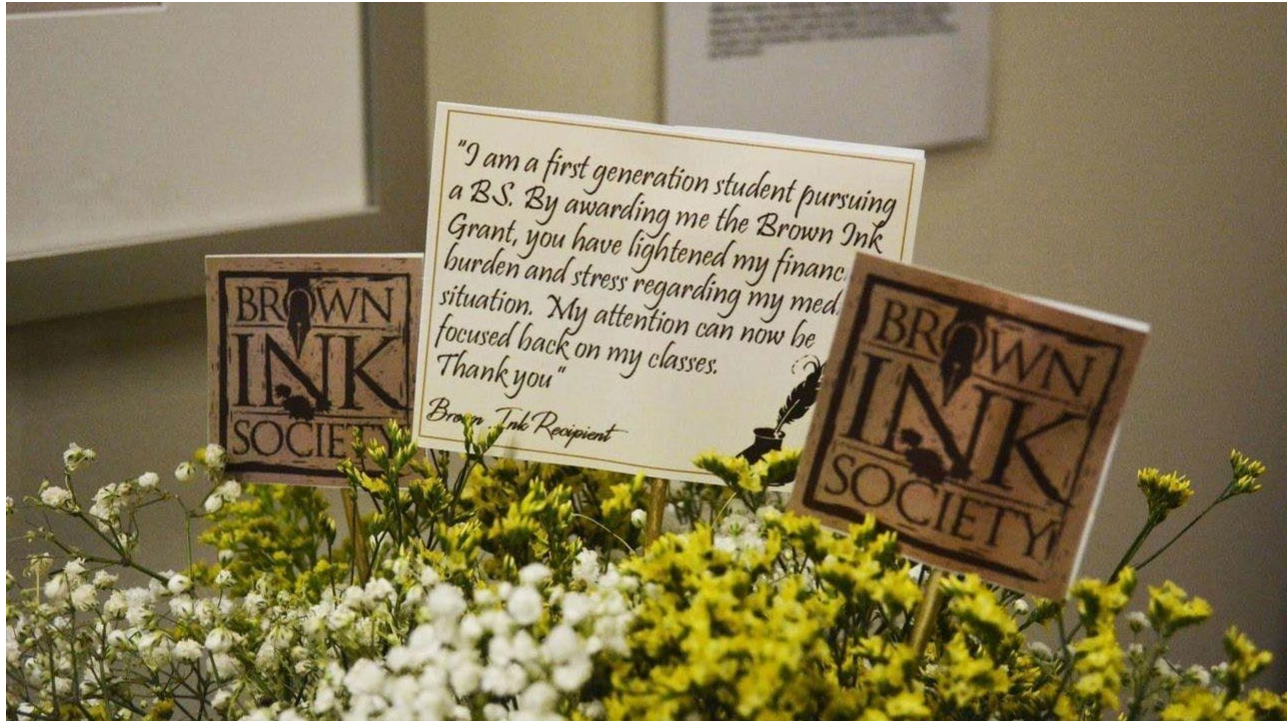
## Endangered Squirrels Find New Guardians

As a Purdue University Fort Wayne assistant professor of biology, Scott Bergeson loves sharing his environmental philosophy with his students.

"Any endangered species, if we as humans have done something to cause them to decline, then we have a responsibility to help them be restored," Bergeson often says. "If we can help, we should help."

A current project Bergeson and graduate research assistant Justin Moore are working on with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy is helping an endangered variety of squirrels find a new future. With support from local wildlife officials, Moore snagged 25 Franklin's ground squirrels from South Dakota in May to repopulate the Efrogmson Prairie at Kankakee Sands. The area contains 8,400 acres of prairie and wetlands in northwest Indiana's Newton County on the Illinois border.

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## Brown Ink Society Continues Mission to Help Students in Financial Need

Before he passed away in 1998 from a heart attack and cancer, Steve Hollander was known for marking his students' papers using brown ink. Throughout a 30-year career, the professor in the Department of English and Linguistics also built a reputation for helping with minor emergencies by offering financial assistance.

"He wouldn't boast about it, but as his very, very close friend, sometimes I would know the story of how he helped a student who needed a tire or they couldn't get to school," said David Young, professor emeritus of psychology. "He would take care of it. He was close with the students, and he cared."

Hollander's friends and colleagues founded the Brown Ink Society in 2000 to honor him and further the cause. Since then, the society has awarded 468 students a total of \$186,533 to aid with small emergencies. The money can't be used for tuition, books, or meal plans. Last year, \$16,892 was distributed to 32 students.

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## PFW Hoping to Expand U Can Crush Hunger Campaign Total

Purdue Fort Wayne is again joining local colleges and universities in the fight against hunger by participating in the 10th annual U Can Crush Hunger campaign to collect funds and/or nonperishable food items. The campaign will begin Monday and run through Nov. 8. Last year, PFW led all Fort Wayne-based universities and colleges and finished second overall in the region by collecting a school-record 27,814 pounds.

This friendly competition will help the Community Harvest Food Bank provide meals to thousands of northeast Indiana families during the holidays, as well as support food pantries on college campuses. Donations made to PFW will directly benefit efforts to fight food insecurity on this campus.

Options for donating:

- Place nonperishable food items in the donation bins located outside the Herd Hideout on the first floor at Walb Student Union and near the Helmke Library side of the skybridge. These items will help stock **The FRIENDS of the University Pantry**.
- Make a secure donation online through the Community Harvest Food Bank by selecting Purdue Fort Wayne. Each dollar donated is enough to purchase four pounds of food. Online donations collected through this option will be divided in half between the pantry and the Community Harvest Food Bank Farm Wagon program.

The pantry's hours of operation are 10 a.m.–2 p.m. on Thursdays in Walb Student Union, Room G36, and 4–7 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays in the Cole Clubhouse at Student Housing on the Waterfield Campus.

During the 2023–24 academic year, the pantry served 8,287 people.



## Diwali Festival of Lights Celebration Coming to PFW

Purdue University Fort Wayne's Multicultural Center is sponsoring a Diwali Festival of Lights celebration from 5 to 7 p.m. on Oct. 31 in the Classic Ballroom at Walb Student Union. India's biggest holiday of the year is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains across the world. The festival emphasizes new beginnings, the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness.

"There are a lot of Indian students on campus, but there are not a lot of Indian festivals celebrated here," said Abhishek Srikanth, a graduate student in computer science who came up with the idea for the festival near the end of the spring semester.

Of the 442 international students registered for fall classes, 228 are from India.

The event is free for all to attend, and Indian cuisine will be provided by BB's Indian Kitchen of Fort Wayne.



## Mastodon Career Closet Offers Professional Clothing Options to Students

The Mastodon Career Closet in Neff Hall, Room 361, offers students opportunities to check out free professional clothing options they can use during job interviews or career fairs. Like other Career Development Center services, 60-minute **appointments** to the closet can be made through Handshake. The idea to allow students to obtain free professional attire on a first-come, first-serve basis started in the spring of 2020.

Clothing is acquired through faculty and staff donations, grant money from the Student Government Association, and the center's Day of Giving focus. The center also has a donation box, and coordinator Melody Monday makes pickups that can be initiated by an email to [careercloset@pfw.edu](mailto:careercloset@pfw.edu).

Along with business suits and dresses, shoes, purses, neckties, pocketbooks, belts, and scarves are available. Each student is permitted one outfit per semester.

## Good to Know

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Michael Barbaro Tickets Still Available for Thursday's Omnibus

## Series Presentation

Tickets for “The Moment Demands an Explanation—*The Daily* Is on a Mission to Find It” by Michael Barbaro, Purdue Fort Wayne’s first presenter of the 2024–25 Omnibus Speaker Series season, are still available. Barbaro will appear Thursday in Auer Performance Hall at 7:30 p.m.; doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

To guarantee a seat, tickets should be reserved in advance, either online through the university’s [website](#) or at the [Schatzlein Box Office](#) in the Music Center lobby.

## 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.*

OCTOBER

26

Sat., 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

### Students With Families: Halloween Zoo Day

Celebrate Halloween in style with Fort Wayne’s Children Zoo. Come dressed in your most hauntingly creative costumes for some spooky fun! Open to all students and their immediate families...

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OCTOBER

28

Mon., 3–5 p.m.

### Film Screening: ‘28 Days’

The Office of Student Conduct and Care is hosting the film “28 Days,” featuring Sandra Bullock. The movie (PG-13) explores themes of self-discovery, redemption, and the challenges of overcoming addiction. Free popcorn will be available...

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OCTOBER

30

Wed., 7:30–9:30 p.m.

### Haunted Harmonies: Orchestra Concert of Classic Composers

Get into the spirit of Hallowe’en at this festive orchestra concert! Dress up in your favorite costume (not required) and enjoy an evening of eerie and enchanting music by Liszt, Gounod, Schubert, and more...

# News Spotlight

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

## MastodonCon

WANE 15 | Sunday

## Girl Scouts host free STEM Expo at PFW

FOX 55 | Saturday

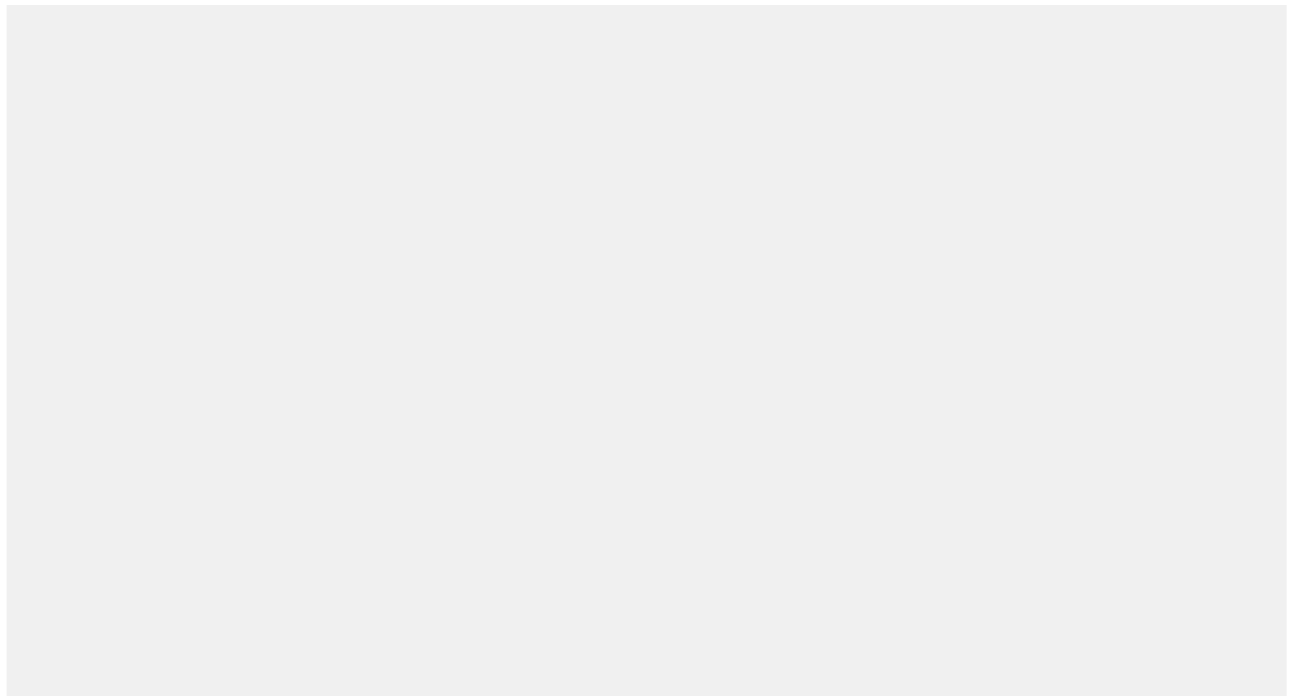
## What's behind the teacher shortage in special education?

WANE 15 | Oct. 14

# Mastodon Moments

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





*An Elvish maiden prepared for adventure at Student Life Bingo: Trick or Treat on Oct. 16. Along with prizes, there was food—including plenty of candy—and a costume contest.*

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**





