

# donlife



For Students

November 6, 2023



## PFW Bulldozing Ahead on New Student Housing Project

It's uncommon at a groundbreaking ceremony to see bulldozers already pushing dirt, or to hear that familiar beeping sound as they move in reverse, but progress is happening quickly on the 600-bed student housing project on Purdue University Fort Wayne's North Campus.

The work did stop long enough on Tuesday for PFW Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer to welcome a full tent of attendees that included the project's key stakeholders, members of the campus community, elected officials, and other area leaders. Multiple speakers described how the 213,000-square foot complex, which will be called Trace at Purdue Fort Wayne, helps the university's ongoing evolution.

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*Carl Drummond, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, presents a plaque to Zesheng Chen, associate professor of computer science, during Friday's ceremony.*

## Chen Honored with PFW Outstanding Research Award

Along with the positives artificial intelligence potentially brings to society, there are also increased risks coming from those who want to use the advances for malicious purposes. Those intentions require others to counter and serve as defenders.

Zesheng Chen, an associate professor of computer science who specializes in machine learning security, is one of those key defenders. To recognize his expertise, Chen was honored with the Purdue University Fort Wayne Outstanding Research Award for 2024–25 during a ceremony on Friday.

The Outstanding Research Award honors a tenured, full-time faculty member for outstanding performance in the area of research, scholarly activity, or creative endeavor. The honoree must have achieved an exceptional record of contributions to the body of knowledge or creative works in his or her discipline—and must also have had great success communicating that information to a wide audience. Chen was chosen for the honor by the ORA committee, which consisted of past recipients and his peers. The award is sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs.

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## Serving Those Who Serve Brunch Scheduled for Tomorrow

The fourth annual "Serving Those Who Serve" brunch at Purdue University Fort Wayne will be Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union. Sponsored by Military Student Services, the event honors members of the campus community who are veterans and those in service-orientated degree programs and professions such as first response, social work, law enforcement, healthcare, and education.

Everyone on campus is welcome to take part.

"We want to not only bring in our veterans, but we want the whole community to understand that we want to honor those who serve in any fashion," said Nicole Welsh, senior compliance officer.

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## Tickets for Luke Russert Omnibus Presentation Now Available

Purdue University Fort Wayne's popular Omnibus Speaker Series continues Nov. 19 when writer and television journalist Luke Russert takes the stage at Auer Performance Hall lectern at 7:30 p.m.

The son of longtime "Meet the Press" host Tim Russert, Luke Russert published "Look for Me There: Grieving My Father, Finding Myself," a 2023 book capturing the essence of his search for meaning after his father died in 2008. He'll share his insights during "Grief Journey," which is a tale of travel and adventure, but also a profound exploration of grief, faith, and self-discovery, along with a vision of the future.

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## Elementary School Children Dig into New SoE Garden Project

With the vocal energy that only exuberant elementary school students can generate, 120 from Abbett swarmed over the Purdue University Fort Wayne School of Education's urban garden. Though it took a while to get them organized and on to the three buses that brought them to the PFW campus on Friday morning, the students were anxious to explore as soon as they arrived at the plot of land located outside the Allen County Purdue Extension Office.

"I don't think they could fully comprehend what they were going to be doing, so this is just a very exciting experience for them," said kindergarten teacher Caroline Chesney, who has taken some certificate and master's level classes at PFW. "The whole project is going to be a great combination of science and life-learning experience for them, especially for the children who don't experience growing food at home."

The Growing Gardens Program is a partnership with Abbett funded through a Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne grant. The students will grow starter plants in their classrooms this winter that will be planted in the urban garden next spring. They will return to PFW in the fall for harvest, sharing the bounty with their families and PFW's FRIENDS of the University Pantry.

[READ MORE](#)

# 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.*

NOVEMBER

8

Fri., noon–1 p.m.

## Don Talks with Mikayla Haggarty

Mikayla Haggarty was the SGA student body president elect for the 2023–24 school year, acts as the current Enrollment Management and Student Experience undergraduate intern, and has held many roles across campus. Grab a bite to eat and get to know Mikayla and her journey as a Mastodon...

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NOVEMBER

9

Sat., 5–10 p.m.

## Y2K Party

Free entry to this Back to the 2000s Party that features games like Kapong, limbo, flip cup, head-shoulders, musical chairs, and more! There's a 2000s dress code—and be ready to show off those retro dance moves. Free pizza and pop provided by the African Student Organization...

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NOVEMBER

12

Tues., 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

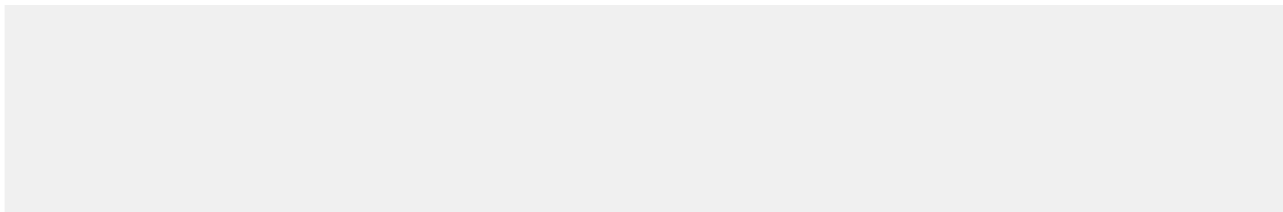
## ThanksStudentsGiving 2024

To show how grateful the university is for all of the students (both PFW and IUFW), a free traditional Thanksgiving meal will be offered to all...

# Mastodon Moments

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





*"Unwelcomed: A Fair Housing History of Sales and Lending Discrimination" is on display near the Multicultural Center in Walb Student Union. The educational exhibit, sponsored by the center and the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana, will be displayed until Nov. 25.*

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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