

# donlife



For Students

December 11, 2024



*PFW's Model UN club team members and faculty advisors included (left to right): Sasha Poda, Staci Bougher, Zachary Hughes, Lara Alfadhli, Martin Masters, Hunter Felton-Kaminskas, James Toole, Ye Yint Phone Myint, Thaylea Pierce, Rashida Lan, Loai Mohamed, and AC Chaudhary.*

## Intense Experience Has PFW Model UN Team Coming Back for More

One way to describe attending the annual American Model United Nations Conference in Chicago might be controlled chaos that becomes more organized as the days pass. Participating might seem even more frantic in person, but also very fulfilling, as PFW students describe it. They must also enjoy it, because many of the 10 students who are eligible to participate often go back the following year. Seven from PFW returned this year—for the third time.

"The conference absolutely lives up to its reputation," said senior Sasha Poda, a political science major and PFW's Model United Nations club president. "All the staff and participants come prepared and fully committed to their roles. The energy is high, and there is a shared excitement among everyone. It's a dynamic and immersive experience that truly brings diplomacy and

international relations to life.”

The extracurricular club was initiated in 2008 by James Toole, associate professor of political science. One of those first students was Staci Bougher, now a limited-term lecturer in political science and co-director of the club.

[READ MORE](#)



*Pictured from left to right are Carson Morton, Pia Briz, Heather Tierney, associate professor of economics, and Josh Fairchild.*

## PFW Team Places Highly in Federal Reserve Board National Competition

While the Federal Reserve Board of Governors continues to wrestle over interest rates, three Purdue University Fort Wayne students have been peeking over their shoulders.

As part of a class taught by Heather Tierney, associate professor of economics, seniors Carson Morton and Pia Briz and junior Josh Fairchild worked since before the fall semester to enter a video in a national competition called the College Fed Challenge and sponsored by the Fed. Teams of three to five students assume the role of advisors to the Federal Open Market Committee in the conduct of monetary policy.

The PFW squad was notified recently it finished in the top 18 out of 119 universities from across the country, placing among the top three in the Federal Reserve of Chicago District, only behind the University of Michigan and alongside the University of Chicago. Tierney has taught the class at PFW since 2016 and also guided a PFW team to the national semifinals in 2022.

[READ MORE](#)

## Disability Awareness Month Award Nominations Now Being Accepted

The Disability Access Center has announced the introduction of new awards to recognize individuals and organizations across the campus community who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to creating an equitable and inclusive environment for individuals with disabilities. These awards are intended to honor those who go above and beyond in fostering accessibility and support.

The inaugural awards will be presented in March, coinciding with Disability Awareness Month. Nominations will be accepted through January. A dedicated committee will review all nominations and select the winners.

Award recipients will be recognized with a certificate of appreciation and a special gift as a token of gratitude for their outstanding contributions.

[SUBMIT A NOMINATION](#)

## Fitness Center and Pantry Finalize Adjusted Schedules

Over the next few weeks, the Fitness Center and both FRIENDS of the University Pantry locations will be operating under different hours and/or closed on specific dates.

### **Fitness Center**

Dec. 16–20 | Regular hours  
Dec. 21 | 8 a.m.–2 p.m.  
Dec. 22 | Noon–5 p.m.  
Dec. 23–Jan. 5 | Closed  
Jan. 6–10 | 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

### **FRIENDS of the University Pantry**

Student Housing Clubhouse  
Dec. 23–Jan. 5 | Closed (special appointments can be arranged by contacting the building RA)  
Jan. 6–7 | Noon–2 p.m.

Jan. 11 | 8 a.m.–2 p.m.  
Jan. 12 | Noon–5 p.m.  
Jan. 13 | Regular hours resume

Walb Student Union, Room G36  
Dec. 19 | 10 a.m.–2 p.m.  
Dec. 20–Jan. 1 | Closed  
Jan. 2 | 10 a.m.–2 p.m.



## Purdue Fort Wayne Celebrating 25th Year with *FIRST* LEGO League

Purdue University Fort Wayne will celebrate its 25th year of involvement with the *FIRST* LEGO League by hosting the Northern Indiana Semi-State Tournament on Saturday in the Lutheran Health Fieldhouse at Gates Sports Center. There will be 48 teams of students ages 9–14 hoping to advance to the Jan. 11 state finals in Speedway.

Including judges, referees, and more than 100 volunteers, there will be approximately 2,000 people participating from the opening ceremonies at 8:30 a.m. until the awards ceremony, which starts at 6 p.m.

[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.*

DECEMBER

**11**

Today, 7–9 p.m.

## Student Life Bingo Blowout

Don't be late for Bingo Night! This is the end-of-the-semester double prizes blowout event. Always one of the most-attended events of the year...

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DECEMBER

**11**

Today, 7:30–9:30  
p.m.

## Jingle and Swing: Holiday Favorites with the University Jazz Band

Experience the magic of the holiday season with the University Jazz Ensemble, a concert filled with festive favorites and jazzy arrangements that will add sparkle and swing to your celebrations...

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DECEMBER

**12**

Thursday, 11 a.m.–1  
p.m.

## “Paws”itively Relaxing: Make Your own Stress Ball + Therapy Dogs

Finals week is coming up, but don't fret! Stop by Walb Union, Room 114 to make your own stress ball, and then check out the adorable therapy dogs in the bookstore hallway who are ready to be petted and cuddled!

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DECEMBER

**12**

Thursday, noon–1  
p.m.

## Lunch and Lead: Lindsay Butcher

Get to know Lindsay Butcher, assistant director of Conduct & CARE. While you're there, enjoy some FREE Qdoba!

# News Spotlight

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

## Conservation Through Research and Education

Business People | Dec. 2

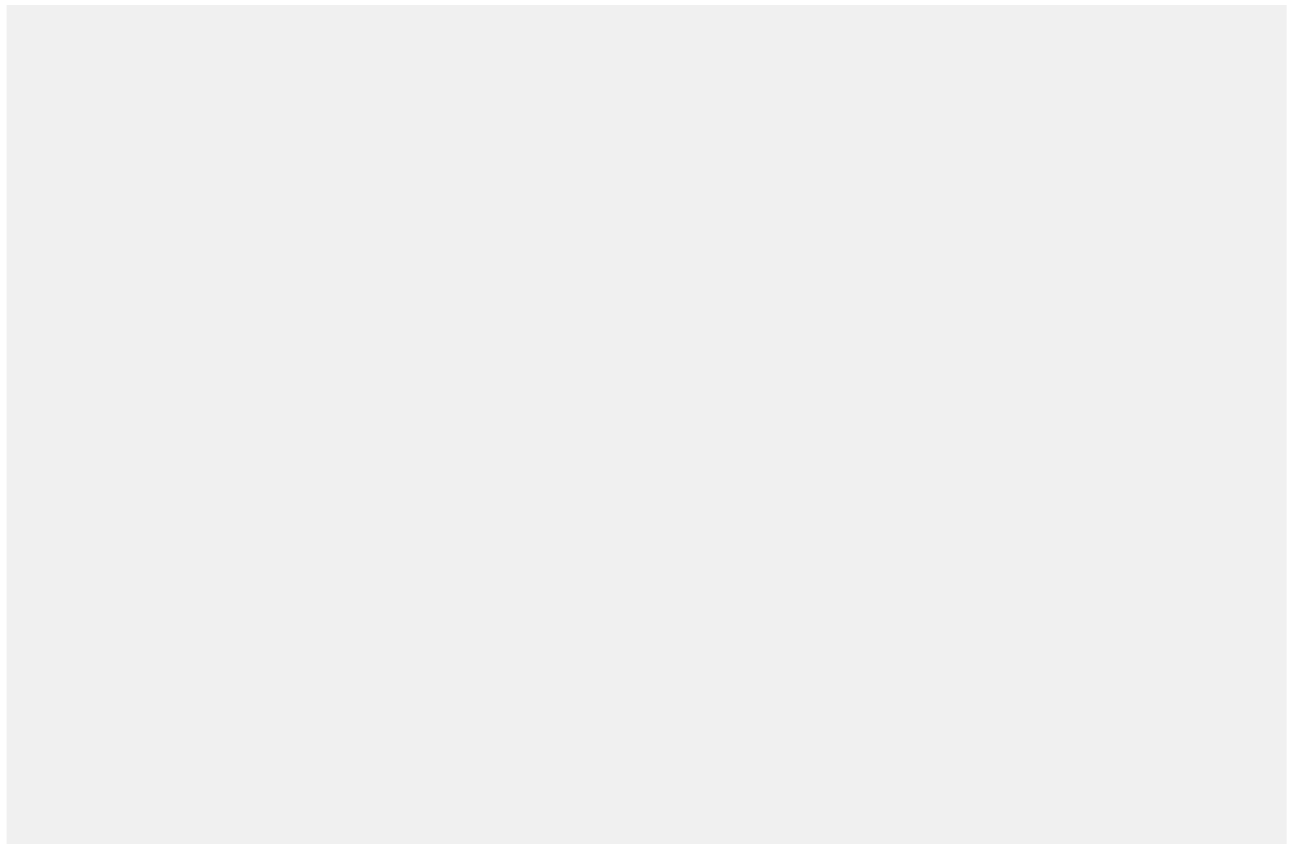
## Allen County gets federal grant to help with battery recycling

wboi.org | Dec. 2

# Mastodon Moments

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





*These lucky students scored some donuts at the Student Activity Board's "Donut Stress Out" event on Monday. In case you missed it, don't worry, you have another chance. Head on over to Walb Student Union, Room 210, on Thursday.*

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.

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY**  
**FORT WAYNE**



