

# donlife



For Students

January 29, 2025



## North Side Robotics Team Boosted by PFW Presence

As soon as he walked into the room, Drew Clem, a Purdue University Fort Wayne senior majoring in electrical engineering, got hit with about five questions from the North Side High School students who were waiting for his arrival. As mentor of the Legends' robotics team, instead of getting anxious or overwhelmed, Clem just smiled, clapped his hands, and started answering. He was totally comfortable and in his element.

"One thing I like about Drew is the way he explains things is very easy to comprehend and grasp," North Side senior Thang Khual said. "Even if it's something you are not very familiar with, he'll explain it in a way you can understand it right away. It's a lot more fun when you understand what you are doing."

As North Side teacher Dennis Fisher [said](#), Clem started helping the team two years ago when help

was desperately needed. Up until that point, Fisher was guiding the group all by himself. Students who were there before and after Clem's arrival have also noticed the positive impact he's had on the team.

[READ MORE](#)



## Free Food Vouchers for First 200 Students at Thursday's Men's Basketball Game

Students attending Purdue Fort Wayne's men's basketball game versus Cleveland State at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum on Thursday will earn a chance to eat for free if they are among the first to arrive. That's because the first 200 students in the house will receive \$10 food vouchers.

But wait—there's more! Take advantage of these other great incentives, just for attending the game:

- Beyond the Arc Battle at halftime
  - \$1,000 in prizes including a laptop, 150 Don Dollars, Under Armour shoes, and other fun items
- Free beads, face paint, and additional swag to increase your chances of being seen by the cameras
- Free shuttles between student housing and the coliseum, starting at 8 p.m. and ending with

enough time to catch a ride back after the final buzzer

ESPNU will air the game live, so this will be a chance to display some Mastodon pride in front of a national television audience.

Tipoff has been moved to 9 p.m. to accommodate the national broadcast. As always, students can attend all home basketball games for free.



## Free Step Afrika! 101 Performance at Purdue Fort Wayne

To help usher in Black History Month, Purdue University Fort Wayne will welcome Step Afrika! to campus for a free performance on Monday at 7:30 p.m. in Auer Performance Hall at the Music Center. This presentation is open to the general public, in addition to students, faculty, and staff.

**Step Afrika!** celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2024. It describes itself as the world's leading authority on the art form of stepping. Performances blend percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities; traditional African dances; and an array of contemporary dance and art forms.

Free tickets can be picked up in advance at the Multicultural Center in Walb Student Union, Room 118. Call 260-481-6608 to learn more.



*Saron Girma, Maddie Boesch, Rashina Lan, and Thomas Herr met recently to discuss their experiences.*

## Herr Scholarship Helps PFW Students Study Abroad and Find Future Direction

Before he became a top Fort Wayne attorney, Thomas Herr was a student at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, trying to find a direction in life. A scholarship opportunity to study for a year in Greece changed him in all the best ways.

Herr never forgot the impact of studying abroad, and four years ago initiated the Thomas A. Herr Scholarship for Purdue University Fort Wayne students pursuing a degree in the College of Liberal Arts. As part of the program **College Year in Athens**—the same program Herr participated in—the opportunity is still a fully paid chance to study in Greece, but now it’s for a semester instead of a full year.

That’s not a bad thing, though, as the first two students to win the scholarship can’t wait to visit again, and they tell just about everyone else on campus they should apply. Current junior Rashida Lan heard about the scholarship from the first recipient, Saron Girma, B.A. '23, and then from current senior Maddie Boesch, who made the trip last spring.

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## Commencement Updates for Graduating Students

Purdue Fort Wayne's 2025 Commencement will take place May 14 at 4 p.m. in the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

Here are some deadlines and details to keep in mind if you are planning to participate:

- If you would like to see your name in the commencement program, remember to apply to graduate by March 31. Complete the application in **goPFW** under Registration Tools in the Enrollment section.
- After you apply to graduate, **register yourself and your family** for the event. Tickets aren't needed, but sharing an estimated number of your family and friends who will be attending the ceremony and the after-party is very helpful for PFW's advance planning.
- **Order your cap and gown.** All orders will be shipped directly to the address that you enter, along with a return shipping label. Graduates who aren't planning to attend commencement in May can order a cap and gown for pictures.
- Visit the **commencement website** often for important information, reminders, and updates.

*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.*

JANUARY

29

Today, noon–1 p.m.

## Holocaust Remembrance: The Threat to Democracy and LGBTQ+ Rights

This very special discussion will be about the complexities of Nazi persecution of the LGBTQ+ community. It will also trace it to today's sociopolitical climate to provide a bigger picture on perceptions of queer people, DEI initiatives, and ongoing oppression and threats to diversity...

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FEBRUARY

3

Mon., 2–3 p.m.

## Getting to Graduation Info Session

This program is geared to help students reach their goal of graduation. Learn about the program and how to enroll. Refreshments will be provided...

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FEBRUARY

4

Tues., 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

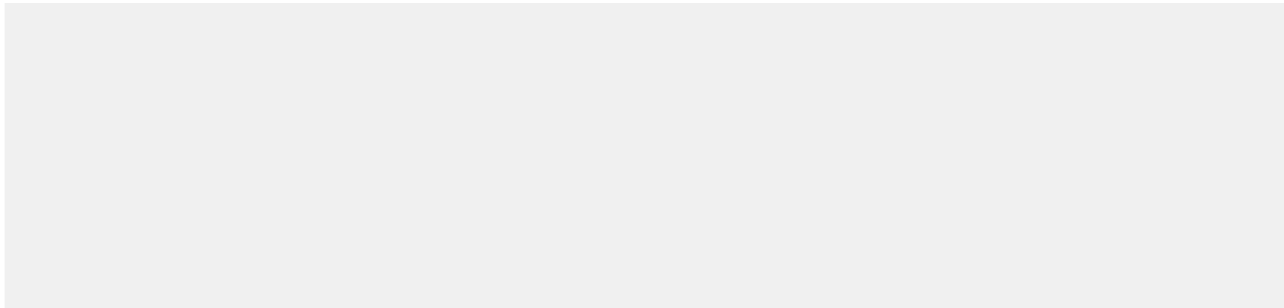
## Talent Tuesday: Meet Your Next Employer

Connect with employers in an informal setting and find out about internship positions and part-time and full-time positions that you wouldn't get the chance to know about otherwise...

## Mastodon Moments

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





*Civil engineering students in CE381 tackled the frozen earth on Monday near the St. Joseph River in a hands-on soil exploration lab. Pickaxes were first used to establish a location, then other equipment was brought in to obtain a soil sample. The collected material will be used to carry out experiments to explore concepts in construction.*

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