

For Students

March 15, 2023



### MASTODON LIFE

## Esports Program Continuing Rapid Growth to Acceptance

For years, frustrated parents told their kids that playing video games will never amount to anything. "You're wasting your time; go outside and play with your friends," is a familiar refrain. They might have been wrong, though, as university esports teams are now proving.

Because they play and understand the attraction of electronic games, Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Technology Services and Chief Information Officer Mitch Davidson and Assistant Director of Technology Support Brian Spaulding launched the **Purdue University Fort Wayne esports program** in March 2020. They drew 10 to 15 players on three teams to start.

Three years later, there are six teams, with varsity and junior varsity squads of around 45 total players. PFW plays universities like Kansas, Ole Miss, and all the Big Ten schools, beating some head-to-head. Some **streaming Twitch matches** draw more than 1,500 spectators, and there's also a dedicated campus message board of more than 300 recreational players.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

[MEET THE MASTODON ESPORTS TEAM](#)



### ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

## Zhuming Bi first Purdue Fort Wayne Faculty Member to Be Awarded Fulbright-Nokia Distinguished Chair

Zhuming Bi, a professor of mechanical engineering at Purdue University Fort Wayne, has been awarded a Fulbright-Nokia Distinguished Chair in Information and Communications Technologies for the 2023–24 academic year.

Bi, who teaches in the Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering in the **College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science**, is the first PFW faculty member to have earned this appointment. As part of the grant program, he will conduct research on sustainable manufacturing at the Lappeenranta University of Technology in Finland from September to December.

[READ ARTICLE](#)



*Suzanne LaVere, interim director of women's studies, spoke at the introduction of a digital exhibit documenting the women's studies archives that was held in the IDEASpace at Helmke Library on March 1.*

### ARTS AND HUMANITIES

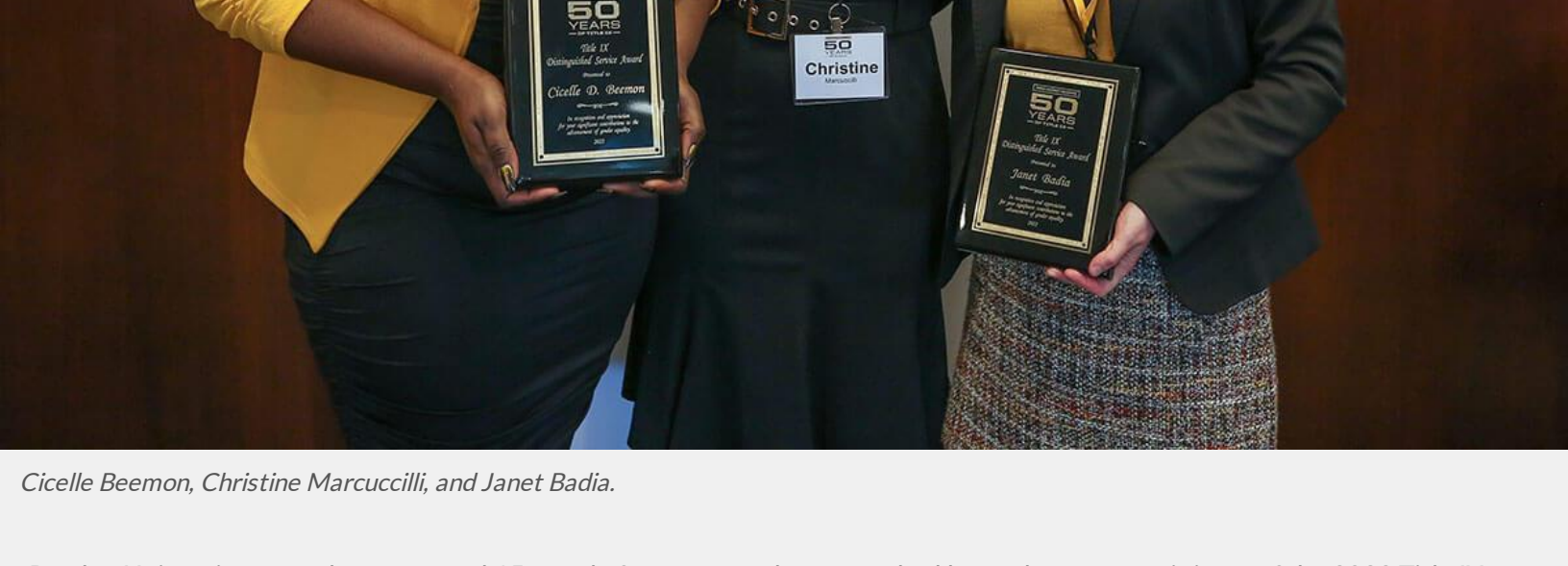
## Women's Studies Celebrating 50 Years at PFW

When thinking of pioneers, most historians look back hundreds of years to people long passed. What if it was possible to talk with people still alive whose society-changing work continues to inspire?

That's the beauty and the benefit of Purdue University Fort Wayne's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the College of Liberal Arts **women's studies program**. Coinciding with Women's History Month in March, the program is hosting events such as a panel discussion with founders on March 21 in the IDEASpace at Helmke Library, and a gala on March 30 at The History Center in Fort Wayne.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

## 5 Members of University Community Receive Title IX Distinguished Service Awards



*Cicelle Beemon, Christine Marcuccilli, and Janet Badia.*

Purdue University recently announced 15 people from across the system had been chosen as recipients of the 2022 Title IX Distinguished Service Award. Four Purdue Fort Wayne employees—Janet Badia, Cicelle Beemon, Kelley Hartley Hutton, and Ashley Malone—and former two-sport standout Laura Stegall, the Female Athlete of the Year in 2001, were recognized "for their significant contributions to the advancement of gender equality in higher education, intercollegiate athletics and at Purdue University."

The recipients were honored by Purdue's Office of the Vice President for Ethics and Compliance, Office of the Provost, the systemwide departments of Intercollegiate Athletics, and the systemwide offices of Institutional Equity at a reception on February 28 in West Lafayette.

## Register for Senior Leadership Experience on March 31

Learn about leadership and prepare for life after college at the Senior Leadership Experience. Held in downtown Fort Wayne, this daylong retreat will include a tour of Parkview Field, sessions on engaging in the community as a young professional, opportunities to network, and guidance on transitioning your leadership skills from campus to the workplace. You'll also have the opportunity to engage with community leaders, including Mayor Tom Henry.

During the Senior Leadership Experience—for both seniors and graduate students—you'll learn about group dynamics, workplace cultures and environments, and how to make connections. You'll also learn strategies for transferring your leadership skills into the community, and how to focus on career leadership strategies in your job search.

This unique opportunity is open to the first 45 seniors or graduate students who sign up.

[REGISTER FOR THE RETREAT](#)

## 'Our Voices, Our Stories' Women's Conference March 22

Four compelling Purdue University Fort Wayne leaders will be among the featured speakers at the "Our Voices, Our Stories" women's conference on March 22. Offered in conjunction with **Women's History Month**, the free event runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Classic Ballroom at Walb Student Union.

Topics for the conference include considering the different needs and life expectancies of women, long-term financial planning, finding power from within, and taking a look at how women have contributed to the educational system historically and in the present.

[Click here](#) for a full agenda.

Same-day registration and coffee starts at 10 a.m. A networking lunch begins at 12:30 p.m.; boxed lunches will be provided to those who **register by Friday**.

The conference is sponsored by the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, The Women's Center, the Doermer School of Business, and the Career Development Center. It is open to all faculty, staff, and students. All genders are welcome.

There are 18 events being hosted on campus to celebrate Women's History Month. You can find a link to the **full calendar of events** on the Women's History Month webpage.

## Share Your Feedback about Greek Life at PFW

The university is taking steps to see if there is interest in expanding Greek life on campus in an effort to advance enrollment, retention, and strategic plan aspirations. Part of this work is collecting feedback and opinions of Greek life from current stakeholders—students, faculty, and staff members. That's where you come in.

Student focus group sessions will be offered throughout spring semester to chat about general thoughts and feelings around expanding Greek life at PFW, as well as specific needs students have in order to participate in Greek organizations, such as finances, cultural values, etc.

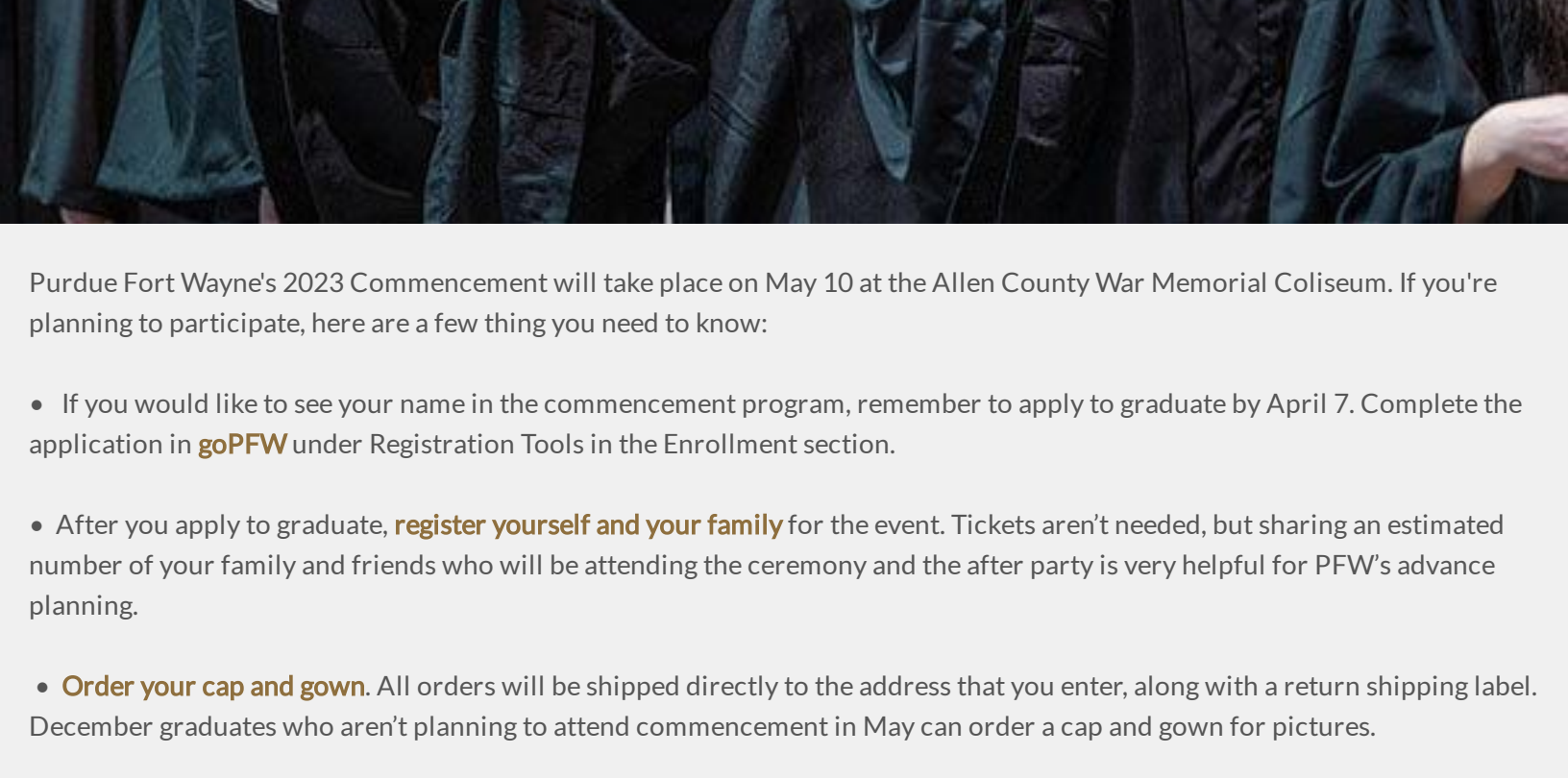
Dates/times for sessions:

March 22 | 1 p.m. | Walb 227

April 5 | 9 a.m. | Zoom

[SIGN UP FOR A SESSION](#)

## Graduating in May? Here's What You Need to Know



Purdue Fort Wayne's 2023 Commencement will take place on May 10 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. If you're planning to participate, here are a few things you need to know:

- If you would like to see your name in the commencement program, remember to apply to graduate by April 7. 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. The 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.

## Don Dates

There's always plenty to do at Purdue Fort Wayne. To find your favorites—or discover new activities—check the Don Dates website often to see what's happening on campus.

MARCH

15

Today, noon–2 p.m.

### Multicultural Tea Party

The Multicultural Center is hosting a tea party that features teas from around the world. This month's teas are blooming flower tea balls and/or pomegranate green tea from China...

MARCH

16

Thurs., 6–8:30 p.m.

### Film: 'Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark'

The Anthropology Club and Sociology Student Association is presenting the film "Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark." Pizza and popcorn are free. The movie will be followed by a short talk by archaeology professors...

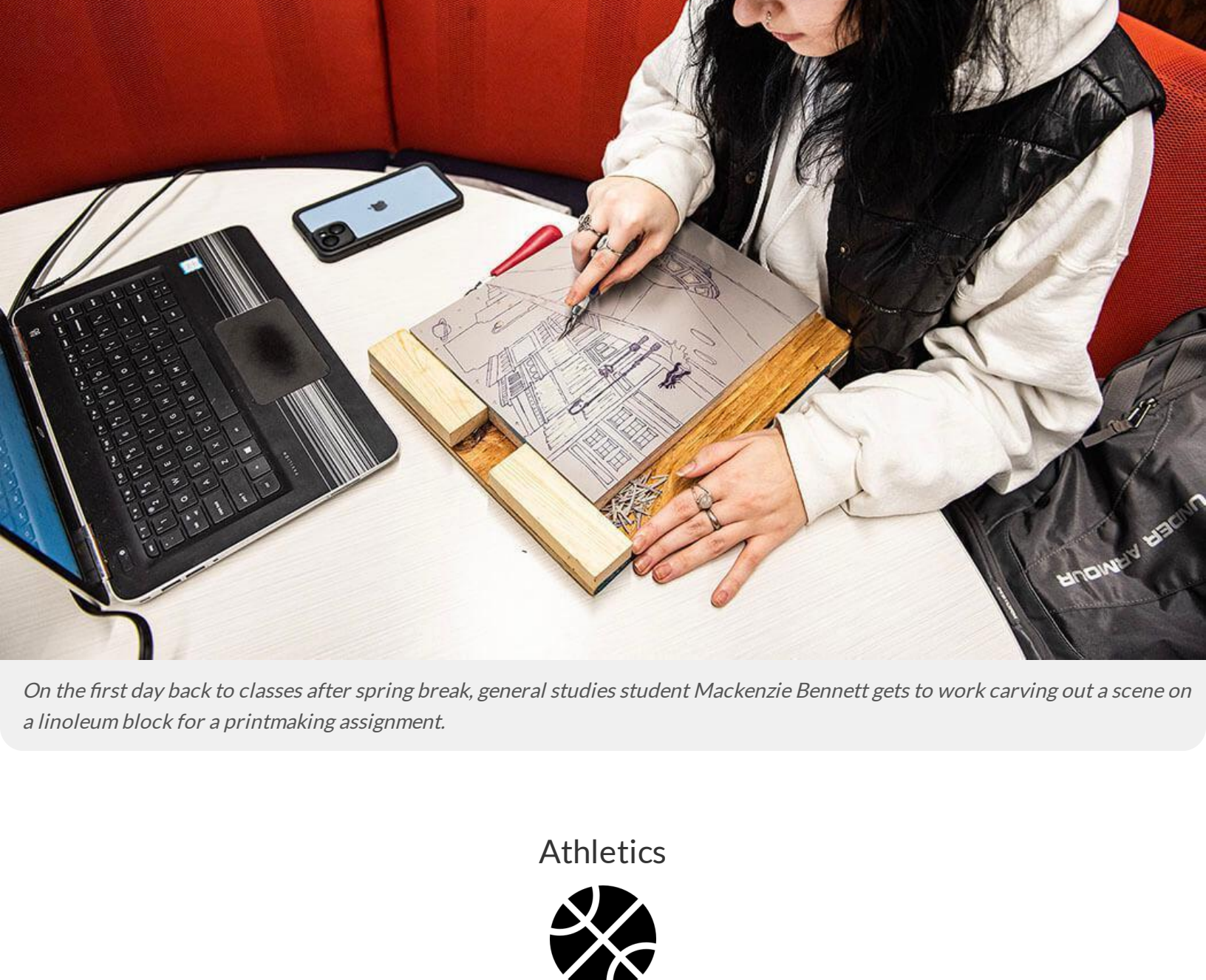
MARCH

### Diversity Dialogue: Imposter Syndrome

Are there moments where you feel like you really don't belong at the table you've been invited to? Learn what Imposter syndrome is, why you have it, and what you can do...

### Mastodon Moments

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

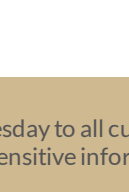


*On the first day back to classes after spring break, general studies student Mackenzie Bennett gets to work carving out a scene on a linoleum block for a printmaking assignment.*

Athletics



Don Dates



News Center



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**

