



For Students

February 26, 2025



*Ron Friedman, dean of the College of Science, and Michelle Drouin, Jack W. Schrey Professor of Psychology.*

## New 'Science Spotlight Podcast' Helping CoS Make Connections

A year ago, Elizabeth Graves turned her reading hobby into a podcast with her friend Liz Schurtz. It's called "Liz and Liz Get Literary" and the discussions focus on female authors. The two have a blast conversing about their passion, which comes through to the listeners.

The experience also got Graves, a lead administrative assistant at Purdue University Fort Wayne, thinking about proposing a podcast for the College of Science. Luckily, she works next door to Ron

Friedman, dean of the college, and he's usually open to trying new things.

With Graves already owning the necessary equipment, Friedman recently started hosting the "**Science Spotlight Podcast**," where he interviews PFW educators about their interests, background, and research.

[READ MORE](#)



*Retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was one of six guest speakers during the 2008–2009 Omnibus season.*

## Celebrating the Wisdom of 150 Omnibus Series Speakers

When it was announced 30 years ago that the university was going to start a signature lecture series for not only the campus but the entire community, Gerald McBride, chair of the Omnibus Lecture Series Committee, said, "We want to showcase the university through this series by bringing nationally – if not internationally – known speakers here."

For three decades, what's now called the Omnibus Speaker Series has been a gift from Purdue University Fort Wayne to northeast Indiana. Thanks in part to the original and continued support from the English-Bonter-Mitchell Foundation, tickets are still free and open to the public. Speaker



No. 150 in the series is award-winning marketer and University of Michigan professor Marcus Collins. His public presentation will take place Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Auer Performance Hall.

The following are just a few of the quotes that help tell the Omnibus story.

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## Don Dollars Debit Accounts to End June 30

Due to increasing costs and relatively low utilization, debit account programs across the Purdue system including BoilerExpress and Don Dollars will end June 30. At that time, participants will no longer be able to conduct transactions. Students, faculty, and staff with Don Dollars are encouraged to make plans to utilize their remaining funds prior to the end of June. Instructions on how to manage or request refunds for any remaining balances will be provided well before the end date.

It is important to note that no changes are expected to other PFW campus services; this closure is specific to Don Dollars stored value accounts. Don Dollars Scholars, Department Charge, or Dining Dollars accounts will not be affected.

More details, including timelines and next steps, will be shared in the coming months to ensure a smooth transition. Any immediate questions or concerns may be directed to Campus Credentials

and Transportation at [cct@pfw.edu](mailto:cct@pfw.edu).

PFW is already exploring options for a new and expanded version of the Dining Dollars program that will be more beneficial to the university community.



## Military Student Services Adds Lounge, Event to Support Veterans

Since Purdue University Fort Wayne added the Office of Military Student Services in 2020, one of the long-term goals has been to establish a lounge where veterans on campus could visit between classes.

Through persistence and determination, an area in the **Military Student Services** office located in Kettler Hall, Room 110, recently opened. It features various snacks, coffee, hot chocolate, water, Roku, an Xbox, and a mini projector for movies. Though family and friends are also welcome, it's a unique place for military-focused students who are often three or four years older than traditional students.

"I just want it to be a safe area for veterans to come back to," said junior Brodie Johnson, an MSS student worker whose father recently retired from the military. "The more people we can get back here, the better. My goal is not only reaching out to veterans, but also helping them transition into regular civilian life. We want to build our community and keep expanding the numbers."



## Graduating in May? Don't Forget These Deadlines

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.

# Good to Know

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## Deadline for *Confluence* Magazine Submissions is March 28

*Confluence* is Purdue Fort Wayne's student-run literary magazine featuring poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and visual art. Submissions are currently open for the Spring 2025 issue. The Spring 2024 issue is **available as a PDF** and will also be available in print-on-demand format in the near future. Past issues of the magazine are also available. Learn more **here**.

## Collins Omnibus Lecture Approved as Civics Literacy Requirement

Thursday's Omnibus Series presentation by **Marcus Collins** has been approved as an educational activity for students to count toward their Civics Literacy Proficiency Requirement. The show will start at 7:30 p.m. in Auer Performance Hall. Free tickets are available through the **Schatzlein Box Office**.

## LaVere to Explore How Joan of Arc's Image Has Been Used in American Culture and Society

Suzanne LaVere, interim director of women's studies and associate professor, will deliver the next presentation in the George R. Mather Lecture Series on Sunday at The History Center, 302 E. Berry St., in downtown Fort Wayne. LaVere's presentation, "**Spectacles, Politics, and Patriotism: Cultural Uses of Joan of Arc in Fort Wayne and Beyond**," will start at 2 p.m. Admission is free.

# 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.*

FEBRUARY

26

Today, noon–1:15  
p.m.

## Panel Discussion: Russia's War in Ukraine, Year Three

Professors Ann Livschiz and James Toole will discuss the last three years of Russia's war in Ukraine. Sponsored by the Department of History and the Department of Political Science...

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FEBRUARY

27

Thurs., 2–4 p.m.

## Global Eats and Treats

The Office of International Education is hosting this annual campus event. Stop by the Classic Ballroom and try a few new treats from around the world...

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MARCH

5

Wed., noon–3 p.m.

## Mastodon Career Expo

The Mastodon Career Expo is open to all students and alumni from PFW and IUFW. There is no charge to attend. Employers will be recruiting for all positions: post graduation, internships, part-time, and full-time jobs. All seeking employment are welcome to attend...

## Mastodon Moments

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



*Isaak Bachmann, a freshman in construction management, holds the wreckage of his high-scoring bridge made of popsicle sticks. Bridges were placed in a specialized machine to judge their construction, load, and durability under continuous pressure. The event was one of several that promoted the College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science during National Engineers Week, Feb. 16–22. Other activities included drone flights, 3D printing, and information and demonstrations on ETCS projects.*

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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