



For Students

March 26, 2025



Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer and two students on the way to class at Kettler Hall on Tuesday checked out one of the new screens while discussing a bit of the information that was displayed.

## New Digital Display Network Brings Campus News and Events to Life

The campus community now has a dynamic new way to stay informed and connected with the launch this week of an advanced Digital Display Network. This cutting-edge communication tool will feature campus news; upcoming events; important announcements; and other content of interest to students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

The new network, which was conceived prior to the pandemic as part of the university's Quality of Place strategic planning initiative, is designed to significantly enhance campus communications and create a more connected campus environment. The screens are being strategically placed in



high-traffic areas to maximize visibility and engagement. Approximately 50 screens are being installed and brought online this week, and another 50 screens will be installed in the coming months.

"We are thrilled to introduce this new platform that will help keep our campus community connected and informed," said Jerry Lewis, vice chancellor for communications and marketing. "The Digital Display Network is an exciting enhancement to our communications strategies and aligns with our commitment to adopt and leverage innovative technology to engage our community."

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## Switch to ParkMobile Great for Drivers Who Don't Like Change

Purdue University Fort Wayne has upgraded 80 parking meters on its Main Campus. As part of a transition that will officially conclude next week, the meters will no longer be coin-operated.

The university has partnered with **ParkMobile** to deactivate the slots and add a posted QR code users will scan with a mobile phone to pay for parking. Clicking on the QR code leads to the ParkMobile app, if already downloaded, or the company's website.

To pay for parking, a user enters the zone number posted on signs around the spot, selects the

amount of time needed, and touches the “Start Parking” button to begin the session. Users can also extend the time of the session via their mobile device.

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## Kessler Plays Games to Help Make Econ Lessons More Relatable, Bearable

Considering teaching the discipline became his specialty, it's fascinating that John Kessler never took an economics class in high school or as an undergrad in college. In fact, he only taught his first economics class because the high school principal determining his employment gave him no choice.

But then Kessler got hooked, studied further in grad school, and is now a senior lecturer and director of the Center for Economic Education at Purdue University Fort Wayne. He uses unconventional methods to encourage students to participate and interact. As a result, they regularly end up teaching themselves, which goes a long way in helping with comprehension.

"People come to econ because they are often scared," Kessler said. "I either have students who take it right away when they are starting because they had a really good high school experience, or they wait until senior year because they had a really bad high school experience, and they are dreading taking this class."



"I try to tell them it's not about math and numbers, and all this stuff you think it is. Math is a tool we use to do economics, but it's not economics."

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## PFW Faculty Share Their Research at International Mother Language Day Conference in Paris

Two Purdue University Fort Wayne faculty members spoke at UNESCO's 25th annual International Mother Language Day conference in Paris on Feb. 20 and 21. Mary Encabo-Bischoff, clinical assistant professor of linguistics, and Shannon Bischoff, chair of communication sciences and disorders, were asked to share their research and engagement activities during the two-day event.

The conference's theme was reaffirming the importance of linguistic diversity and multilingualism in fostering dignity, peace, and understanding. UNESCO estimates there are 8,324 languages, spoken or signed, with around 7,000 still in use worldwide.



## Food for Thought: Jinich Thrives on Cultural and Culinary Connections

During her short visit to Fort Wayne, chef, author, and television host Pati Jinich ate garbage for breakfast at Cindy's Diner, a hot dog for lunch at Coney Island, and a slider at Powers Hamburgers as a late-night snack. Fortunately, she also got to spend quite a bit of time Thursday on the campus of Purdue University Fort Wayne as its final guest for this season's Omnibus Speaker Series. Jinich's descriptions of Mexican food had many salivating and ready to find their own savory dishes on the way home.

Because of the Mexico City native's passionate and alluring skills as a communicator, Jinich created intoxicating word recipes that practically required audience members to wear bibs.

Even PFW Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer drew laughs by announcing to the crowd that he was hungry after Jinich's presentation.

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Students Wishing to Have Their Name Appear in the Commencement Program Need to Apply to Graduate by

## Monday

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 would like to see your name in the commencement program, remember to apply to graduate by Monday. 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. Herff Jones will also be on campus April 9 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. just outside of the Mastodon Campus Store for any last-minute orders.
- Visit the **commencement website** often for important information, reminders, and updates.

## Good to Know

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### Registration Open for Annual History Undergraduate Conference on Saturday

The annual Undergraduate History Conference is an opportunity for history majors and other history students to present their research to an academic and community audience. Papers will be organized in three panels on a wide range of topics, including the history of the CIA, American expansionism, Mexican art, wartime baseball, Ku Klux Klan violence, the Civil Rights movement, Victorian bigamy novels, French fashion, and Soviet propaganda. Download the schedule **here**.

Lunch will be provided to everyone who **preregisters for the conference** by the end of the day today. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Honors Program Showcase

The Spring 2025 Honors Program Showcase will take place April 8–11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Honors Program Classroom at Walb Student Union, Room 211. Students will present projects on a wide range of topics across various majors. This is a great opportunity to experience the showcase firsthand, especially for students who plan to present their own project in the future. The event will also be **livestreamed**.

## Green Honored by Arts United

Seth Green, associate professor of ceramics at Purdue Fort Wayne, has received the Margaret Ann Keegan Award for Arts Education from Arts United. He is an advisor to PFW's Ceramics Club, and supports various other activities across campus including the annual Empty Bowls event, which raises funds for the club and the FRIENDS of the University Pantry. Green also co-founded the Indiana Clay Conference to engage and connect the clay community in the state.

## Susan Domer Retirement Party

The entire campus community is invited to a retirement party for Susan Domer on Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. Domer has served as a senior marketing and public relations administrator for the College of Visual and Performing Arts for 24 years, helping market more than 140 events annually during that time. The gathering will take place in the Music Center, Room 120.

## 3 PFW Financial Aid Team Members Receive ISFAA Awards

The Indiana Student Financial Aid Association recognized three members of Purdue Fort Wayne's Office of Financial Aid at its annual conference earlier this month. The award recipients were Ron Herrell, 2024–25 ISFAA president, for outstanding contributions during the year; Karen Louis, who received the President's Award; and Stephanie Patrick, who was recognized with the New Professional Award.

## 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.*

MARCH

27

Thurs., 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

### Wellbeing Summit 2025

The Wellbeing Summit will feature over 50 vendors offering engaging activities, mental health and self-care resources, and educational opportunities. Events are free and will take place throughout the day, primarily in the Walb Student Union International Ballroom...

APRIL

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Wed., noon–1 p.m.

### Intercultural Awareness and Communication Training in the Workplace

For current and upcoming summer student interns, student employees,



and anyone interested in honing their communication skills in the workplace, this workshop is for you. The workplace has become a global village, communicating with people from diverse backgrounds. The Career Development Center will host this training. Lunch provided to those who...

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APRIL

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Wed., noon–1 p.m.

## Lunch and Lead with Sebastien Wilson

Sebastien Wilson, campus recreation coordinator, will discuss the meaning behind failures, the perks of having a community mindset, and more. Free lunch provided...

## Mastodon Moments

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



A group discusses a psychology research project during the 28th annual Student Research and Creative Endeavors Symposium on Friday.



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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