

For Students

August 20, 2025



## Fall Semester to Kick Off with a Wave of Fun

It's a safe bet Purdue University Fort Wayne students will be energized heading into next week's start of the fall semester. To capitalize on that enthusiasm and help get those new to campus better acclimated, there will be much to see and do.

Some activities start even before classes; the official Move-in Day at Student Housing on the Waterfield Campus is this Friday. It will be capped off by a welcome back barbeque at 5 p.m. And Sunday's S'mores with the Student Activities Board that includes lawn games and fire pits for socializing gets started at 7 p.m.

As classes start Monday, the annual Campus Kickoff celebration will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Science Mall. It will feature free food for students, T-shirts, Frisbee spin art, live music, lawn games, and more. This is traditionally one of the most well-attended events of the fall.



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## Herd Hub the New Home for Student Organization Information and Activities

**Student Life** at Purdue Fort Wayne is launching a new student organization management and event tracking tool called Herd Hub. Using the Suitable platform, Herd Hub users can gain access as contributors, find other student organizations, and see the activities listing.

This web platform and its corresponding app will serve as the home for all student organization information and activities, as well as student programming from the Division of Enrollment Management and the Student Experience. It will also be used to check students into events throughout the academic year, an attendance tracking feature that student organizations can use for their own events.

It's recommended that all students download the Suitable app on their phones and login with their PFW email address. This allows for an expedited check-in process using a QR code. Download the Suitable app from the App Store or Google Play.

Students will also be able to check in at programs via the web platform, but will need to use multi-factor authentication each time with that option.

Access to the Suitable platform over the internet can be gained by [clicking here](#). Students can log in with their PFW email and complete the single sign-on. The dashboard will serve as the



landing page. Users can then navigate to the activities tab and view all upcoming programs.



## Important Updates for Shuttle Riders

The Student Shuttle Program will continue to offer service to PFW and IUFW students throughout the upcoming academic year. For specifics on hours, pick-up locations, and more, **visit the SGA website.**

There are three key changes to note for 2025–26:

- **Extended service hours:** Shuttle service will now run until 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, which is one hour later this year.
- **Route adjustment:** Service to The Grand at Shoaff Park, formerly Yugo Fort Wayne Arch, will no longer be offered.
- **New stop added:** A new shuttle stop has been added at Canterbury Green Apartments on Truemper Way, near the mailbox.





## Changes and Additions at Student Housing

For most living in Student Housing on the Waterfield Campus, getting to PFW's Main Campus often includes a walk across the W. Paul and Carolyn Wolf Bridge. Depending on which direction you're heading, the first or last building on the Waterfield side of that path is the new home of student housing's administrative team. Its members include the executive, associate, and assistant directors. They started moving over from Cole Clubhouse to what's currently called the Development Building in late July. That name will change in the future.

Group spaces at this location will be used for events in the evening. The front of the building also serves as a campus shuttle pickup and drop-off spot.

The clubhouse remains the primary front desk for current housing residents. It's a natural starting point for housing tours and easy access to a model showroom. In addition to being a check-in spot for a FRIENDS of the University Pantry satellite location, other functions of the front desk include workorder support and mail and parcel pickup.

With more room to maneuver now that multiple offices have transitioned out, evolving strategies for the clubhouse are starting to take shape.

"Later in the fall, we expect to introduce a new campus dining option that will feature night and weekend service while providing more variety for our students," said Marcus Weemes, executive



director of housing and dining services. "This is just one exciting change we're looking forward to as phase one of a campus-wide expansion of dining services."

Not just for Mastodons and Red Foxes, outside the clubhouse and Development Building are Amazon pickup lockers that are also available for the entire community to use 24/7.

As part of this summer's changes and additions, the Office of Development and Alumni Engagement is transitioning primarily from the Development Building on the Waterfield Campus to the Steel Dynamics Keith E. Busse Alumni Center on the West Campus. That move will allow all those team members to come together under one roof.

"We are excited about this move and the opportunity it presents to enhance the use and energy for alumni and donors within this great building," said B. J. Hull, chief development officer.

Minor structural work and technology upgrades to the alumni center are being funded with past rental fee revenue designated for building upkeep and renovation. The project is scheduled to be completed in mid-September.



## Recent Grad Seeks Unique Path in Music Therapy for Older Adults

Because she knew her daughter loved music and psychology, Brooke Sullivan's mother suggested she consider music therapy as a potential career. After one job shadow, the high school senior



looked at her mother and said, "That's what I'm going to do the rest of my life!"

Sullivan, B.S. '25, has always been fascinated by working with older adults, particularly those living in retirement communities, but she didn't know how to get a career working with them until she attended Purdue University Fort Wayne to study music therapy. Along the line, Sullivan met Nancy Jackson, program director; Peggy Farlow, senior lecturer; and Eileen Garwood, clinical associate professor. Including classes, these faculty members helped her find practicums working with the elderly—essentially creating a new field of study.

"And the thing I really appreciated, especially with Peggy, was her saying, 'This is going to be very hard,'" Sullivan said. "They didn't know if there would be a job for me when I finished college. That made me work even harder."

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## 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.*

AUGUST

24

Sun., 7–9 p.m.

### S'mores with SAB

Join the Student Activities Board in kicking off the semester with delicious snacks, friends, and fun at Student Housing on the Waterfield Campus! All students are welcome...

AUGUST

25

Mon., 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

### Campus Kickoff

Start the year with a bang! Join the Student Activities Board for an epic welcome-back celebration featuring delicious food, giant inflatables, and live music you won't want to miss. Whether you're a freshman or a senior...



AUGUST

26

Tues., 11 am.–1 p.m.

## Paws and Relax: Therapy Dog Visit

Feeling those first-week-back jitters? We've got just the thing to help you chill out! The amazing therapy dogs from Three Rivers Visiting Dogs will be here to help you de-stress, smile, and settle into the semester with some...

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AUGUST

26

Tues., 7–9 p.m.

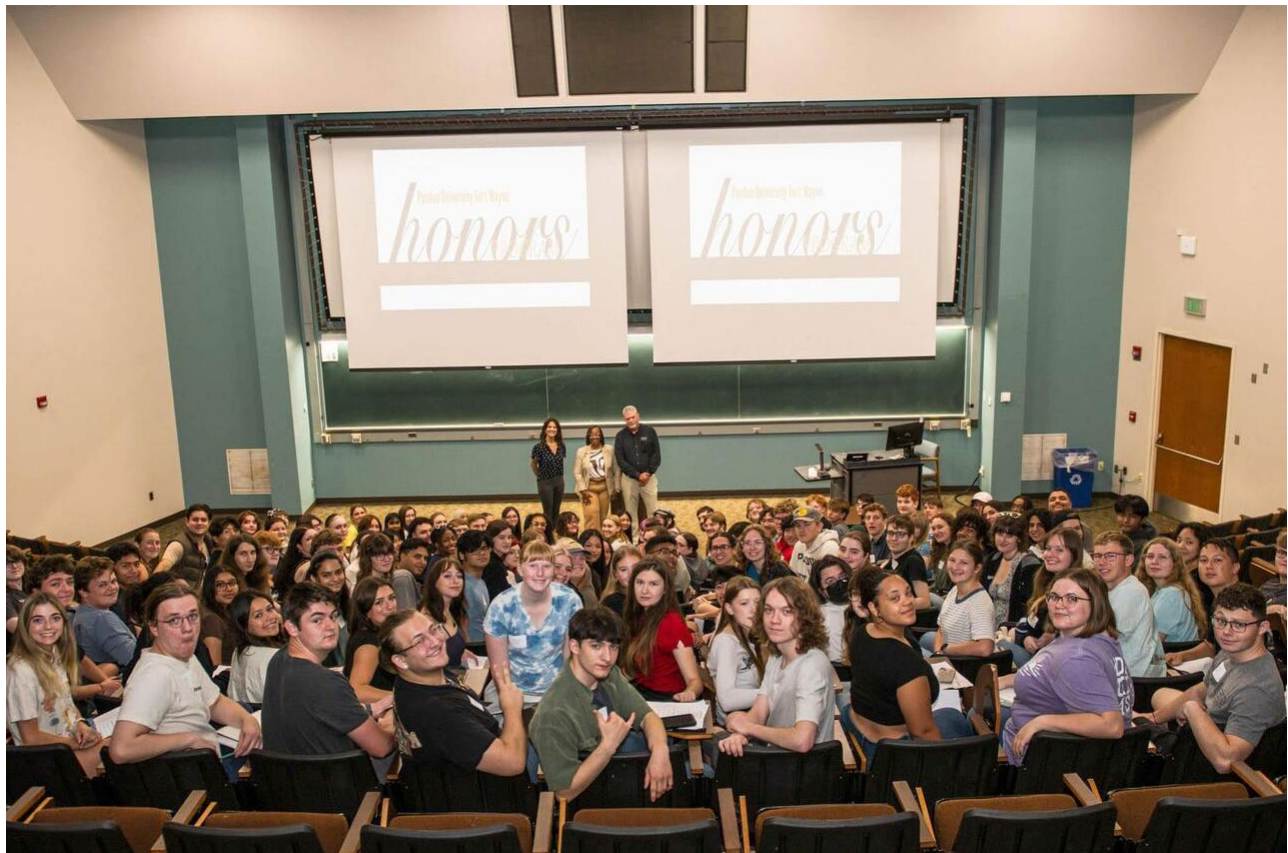
## SAB Splash Battle

Get ready to cool off and clash in the ultimate water fight of the year! It's an evening of ice cream, water battles, and nonstop laughs. Everyone is welcome to make a splash...

## Mastodon Moments

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



Fort Wayne Mayor Sharon Tucker; Carl Drummond, provost and vice chancellor for academic



affairs; and Farah Combs, director of honors and experiential learning, welcomed 126 new students to Monday's Honors Program Freshman Seminar in the Liberal Arts Building, Room 159.

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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