



For Students

December 3, 2025



## Exciting Changes Planned for Commencement Week 2026

With a well-deserved winter break just around the corner, it's time to celebrate the seniors and graduate students who will complete their degrees in December. It's also a great chance to look ahead to PFW's 2026 Commencement in May, which will honor fall, spring, and summer term graduates.

Important dates and exciting changes for 2026 have now been finalized!

### **Tuesday, May 12 | Graduate Student Commencement**

- 4 p.m.
- Embassy Theatre, 125 West Jefferson Blvd., downtown Fort Wayne
- Master's degree candidates will be hooded and recognized on stage.

## Wednesday, May 13 | Undergraduate Student Commencement

- 4 p.m.
- Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave.
- This will be a traditional ceremony for undergraduate degree candidates.

Seniors planning to take part in commencement need to ensure they have applied for graduation by Feb. 15. Important information about graduation, updates on commencement activities, and additional FAQ can be found by [clicking here](#).

More details will be shared directly with graduating seniors and published in *Don Life* during the spring semester.



## Support Available to Complete Title IX Requirement

For many PFW graduates, one of the most memorable parts of earning their degree was doing it alongside friends and classmates who helped make the journey all the more worthwhile. Current students are encouraged to think about the members of their personal support team and ask them if they are on track to rejoin the Herd for the spring 2026 semester.

Any student with a current registration hold because of incomplete Title IX training risks having their dream of building a lasting career delayed or even deleted. Those unsure of where they stand are invited to get help with that requirement by emailing [success@pfw.edu](mailto:success@pfw.edu).



As first reported in last week's *Don Life*, advisors will also be on hand today until 11 a.m. to lend assistance with training and registration for the spring 2026 semester.

While there, grab a free donut, the breakfast of choice for Dons and future graduates!

Make no mistake, Title IX training must be completed before registration holds are lifted. Regardless of where that box gets checked, do not let this missed assignment add precious time and added cost to an achievement of a lifetime.



## Home for the Holidays Concert Requires Advance Planning, Unique Preparation

Almost as soon as the last notes are played at Purdue University Fort Wayne's annual "Home for the Holidays" concert, planning for the following year's production begins as conductors Kevin McMahon and William Sauerland start thinking ahead.

The impressive two-hour extravaganza requires an extra degree of effort to maintain the expected high standard.

"There's a lot of hard work involved and stress in wanting to have a performance at a certain level," said McMahon, assistant professor of music and the orchestra conductor. "I think both of us have the goal of wanting our students and the audience to have a really great time, and you can't do that if you're not having a really great time, too."

This year's concert will be held Monday at Auer Performance Hall, starting at 7:30 p.m. The **general admission tickets** cost \$9.50. Discounted rates of \$8.50 for seniors and \$6.50 for

students from other universities are also offered. Admission is free for PFW students with ID and anyone under age 18.

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## Jingle Jubilee Delivers a Raucous, Joyful Celebration

It's very possible dozens of children will be so excited about Christmas this Saturday that they'll be bouncing off the walls of the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union. Now, those walls will be the bouncy house set up at one end of the hall, but that pure display of joy is a regular response during the Jingle Jubilee, which is the culmination of Purdue University Fort Wayne's annual Adopt-A-Don program.

Faculty, staff, and campus organizations make donations to support students with families who need help providing Christmas presents. The limit is \$250, but looking at the number of wrapped gifts each family typically receives, let's just say "Santa" is very generous. Last year, more than \$8,000 was raised to support 32 families, and everyone who donated gifts received thank you notes.

Curt Hosier, senior lecturer in sociology, came up with the Adopt-A-Don idea five years ago. Since then, the event has gotten a little more joyous and jolly.

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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.*

DECEMBER

4, 5

Thurs., 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Fri., 8 a.m.–6 p.m.

### Ceramics Club Pottery Sale

Support local students and find unique handmade gifts you won't find anywhere else. Profits from the sale help support students travel to Detroit for the National Council On Education for the Ceramic Arts conference in March...

DECEMBER

5

Fri., 3–5 p.m.

### FAFSA Completion Event

Stop by to get personalized support, ensure your FAFSA is filed accurately, and set yourself up for success. Don't miss this opportunity to make the most of your financial aid options...

DECEMBER

10

Wed., 7:30–9 p.m.

### The Fire and the Frost: A Big Band Holiday

This thrilling musical journey will explore the passion of heat and the mystery of cold. From the smoldering swing of fiery jazz standards to the crisp, cool elegance of wintry ballads, this concert will capture the elemental extremes of emotion and atmosphere...



DECEMBER

11

Thurs,, 2–4 p.m.

## End of Semester Celebration Table

You've survived another semester, you deserve a little somethin'! Stop by for free energy drinks and grab-and-go snacks! Located on the second floor of Walb in front of the Mastodon Campus Store...

## Mastodon Moments

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



Though not really his preferred climate, this weekend's heavy snowfall allows "Don at Work" to enjoy a change of pace on Monday. The fiberglass statue, located in front of Building L at Student Housing on the Waterfield Campus, is one of 102 that were created in 2005 for Mastodons on Parade, a community art project that celebrated the university's 40th anniversary.

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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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