

The logo for 'donlife' features the word 'don' in a bold, yellow, lowercase sans-serif font, followed by 'life' in a white, lowercase sans-serif font. A thin yellow curved line is positioned below the 'don' portion of the text.

For Students

February 11, 2026



## PFW Helped Grad Student Stacy Abraham Overcome Cancer, Find New Focus

Stacy Abraham lives up to her name. Though she goes by Stacy, her real first name is Anastasia, which means “resurrection.”

“So, I carry my name very proudly, and it’s been my mantle for my life,” the Purdue University Fort Wayne graduate student from Ghana said. “No matter how many times life knocks me down, I would always get back up, always resurrect.”

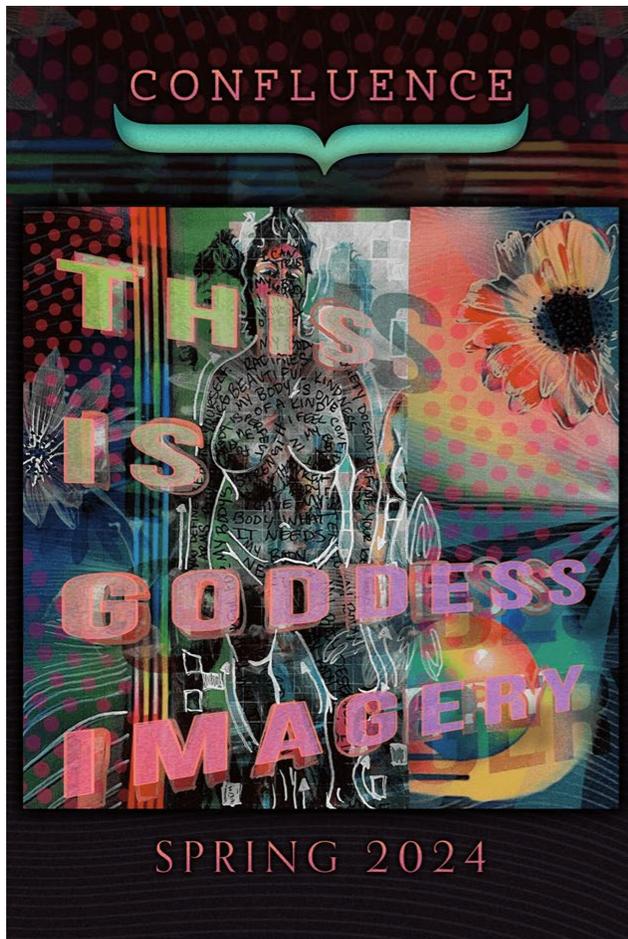
Abraham arrived at PFW 2023 to pursue her master’s degree in professional communication studies. A month after classes started, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. The devastating news was delivered to her over the phone one morning while she was on campus.

"Ma'am, I'm sorry to see that you have Stage 2 breast cancer," the caller said.

Except for sharing her emotions with immediate family in Ghana and Tracy Peterson, a "wonderful" friend who drove Abraham to her initial doctor appointments, Abraham initially kept everything private out of fear. Would the school take away her assistantship, requiring her to go home? After all, the doctor already told her to pause her studies because fighting cancer would require everything she had. If she stopped now, would she ever be allowed to return?

READ MORE

Share the story:



## Student-Led Magazine Helping Aspiring Writers Gain a Foothold

Though currently a professor in Purdue University Fort Wayne's Department of English and the Indiana Poet Laureate, as a student on campus, Curtis Crisler once tossed a stack of writings onto the desk of mentor George Kalamaras and asked, "Now am I a poet?"

Kalamaras explained that he couldn't answer that, only Crisler could, and that determination might

take more time.

PFW writing students still wrestle with that question today, and one way to learn the answer is by publishing and seeing the reactions of others, which is why **Confluence** has been so important. PFW's student-run literary magazine has been published since 1989, serving as a platform for learning writers to prove to themselves and others what they can do. Crisler contributed content before he graduated in 2004, and so did current Confluence advisor Sarah Sandman, now a professor of practice in English and linguistics.

Besides publishing her writing in the magazine, Sandman was also the editor in 2006 and 2007 as a graduate student. Now she's the caretaker of the legacy, following the examples of her mentors, Rick Ramsey and Steve Amidon, who helped build her passion.

[READ MORE](#)

Share the story:



## NBA Trailblazer Joins PFW Omnibus Series Thursday Night

Atlanta Hawks executive and professional sports trailblazer Melissa Proctor is the next featured guest of the Purdue University Fort Wayne Omnibus Speaker Series. She will step onto the Auer Performance Hall stage Thursday at 7:30 p.m. to present "From Ball Girl to CMO," the title of her 2020 biography.

General admission tickets are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis through PFW's

## Good to Know

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### Summer Registration Opens Monday

Summer is the perfect time for students to stay on track and make progress toward their degree. With flexible schedules, two six-week sessions, and both online and in-person options, classes can be fit around summer plans. Explore available courses, plan a schedule, and get a head start at [go.pfw.edu](https://go.pfw.edu).

### The Final Countdown: Important Steps for Graduating Students

This spring, Purdue Fort Wayne will conduct two commencement ceremonies—one for graduate students at the Embassy Theatre on May 12, and the other for undergraduates at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum on May 13—both at 4 p.m. Graduating students have important information and dates to keep in mind. Please refer to the Jan. 30 **special edition of *Don Life*** for the details.

### Student Appreciation Day at the Mastodon Campus Store is Feb. 19

Celebrate Student Appreciation Day on Feb. 19 with special in-store savings just for students. Stock up on academic and personal needs and take advantage of a 20% discount on clothing and gifts. This exclusive event is only being offered in the store on the second floor of Walb Student Union.

## 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

12

Thurs., 5:30–7 p.m.

### Explore the Rhythm of the Balkans: Kud Zlatnik

Enjoy Bosnian folk dances, singing, and Bosnian food. Learn the kolo dance and explore the Bosnian culture. Free admission...

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FEBRUARY

16

Mon., 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

## Career Closet: Our Doors Are Open!

Get prepared for your next big interview, a classroom presentation, or the Mastodon Internship and Career Fair by taking home a professional outfit from the Mastodon Career Closet. No registration is needed...

FEBRUARY

18

Wed., 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

## SAB National Pancake Day

Join the Student Activities Board for free pancakes and crafts. Whether you like them fluffy, syrupy, or plain, you don't want to miss this tasty celebration...

## Mastodon Moments

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



To celebrate Love Liberal Arts Week, crafts, cookies, and click pics were offered in the Liberal Arts Building lobby on Tuesday, where one could fashion a fancy valentine.

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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**FORT WAYNE**

