

donlife

For Students

February 4, 2026



PFW Pair Receives Honor at Model UN Conference

Two Purdue University Fort Wayne students were recently honored at the American Model United Nations Conference in Chicago.

Matilda Radcliff and Nate Wilcox received their committee's award for Outstanding Delegation at the annual event. As part of the exercises, the group served as representatives of Ecuador to the UN General Assembly's First Committee. Traditionally, more than 1,200 students representing approximately 90 schools participate in the Chicago conference, which starts three days before Thanksgiving.

Radcliff is a junior majoring in political science, and Wilcox is a junior majoring in history.

[READ MORE](#)

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Tescarollo Remains Key Player in Promoting Marcus Legacy

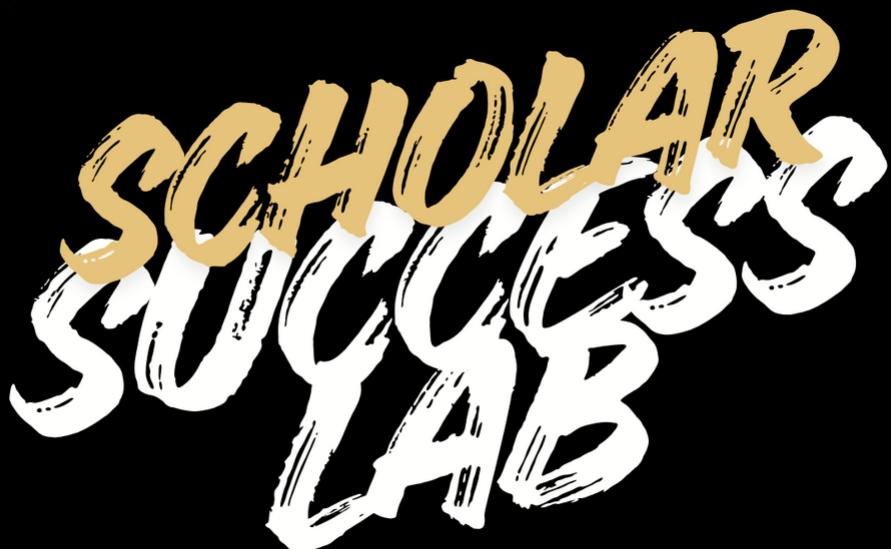
It's extremely challenging to fulfill the dreams of a loved one who has passed, but how big is the struggle for someone you never met? There's little doubt Wilda "Gene" Marcus would be thrilled with what Hamilton Tescarollo has built in her name at Purdue University Fort Wayne.

As he was being hired as the director of keyboard studies in 2007, Tescarollo was told one of his responsibilities would be building an event program to honor Marcus, a renowned piano teacher at the school from 1968 to 1986. Before passing in 2005, Marcus established an endowment with the university asking that young piano players be encouraged and offered unique opportunities to enhance their skills.

In 2012, Tescarollo established the Gene Marcus Piano Competition, held annually in January and February, and the Gene Marcus Piano Camp and Festival which takes place each June. The camp is limited to middle and high school-aged participants, while the competition is open to devotees up to age 18 who live within a 100-mile radius of Fort Wayne.

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Share the story:



Students Encouraged to Make Sure They're on Track to Graduate

The **Scholar Success Lab** will bring essential academic and financial campus resources together in one spot on Feb. 19 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Classic Ballroom at Walb Student Union.

Stopping at one or more of these resource stations will earn attendees a free lunch. This is a great way for students to make sure they are on track to graduate!

Participating Stations:

- **Advising:** Degree audit, credit hour progress; questions/concerns, schedule follow-up
- **Financial Aid:** FA check-in; file FAFSA for 26/27; practical financial literacy materials/FAQ's
- **Career Development Center:** Career coaching, TypeFocus7 Assessment; job search/exploration, schedule follow-ups for résumé help, cover letters, and mock interviews
- **Student Leadership:** Leadership opportunities with SGA; community service opportunities, volunteer projects; student organizations
- **Graduate School Outlook:** Grad programs overview/FAQ's; steps and expectations for ongoing education post-bachelor's degree
- **21st Century Scholar Exit Check-in:** ScholarTrack check-in; Success Plan check/review

The Scholar Success Lab counts toward the Passport to Success program.

Understanding Academic Progress Reports

You might receive a progress report from your professors soon. Think of these as a helpful "check-in" to let you know exactly where you stand. They highlight your strengths and pinpoint where you can grow, giving you plenty of time to adjust your strategy and finish the term strong.

Receiving a progress report notification is an opportunity to take proactive steps toward success. Here is a recommended action plan:

- **Connect with your professor:** Reach out to discuss your performance, ask specific questions, and clarify next steps for improvement. This shows initiative and provides valuable insight into the course expectations.
- **Meet with your academic advisor:** Schedule a meeting with your advisor to create a collaborative plan for success. Together, you can identify strengths, address challenges, and develop strategies to support continued success.

Remember, you are not navigating this alone—your professors and academic advisor are here to support you every step of the way.



Speech Class, Leadership Role Helps PFW Junior Find His Voice

Anyone who gets to watch Dell Kaufeld expertly and smoothly operate a game table at Saturday's MastodonCon might think this story is made up.

Though he's president of Purdue University Fort Wayne's Tabletop RPG Club and has worked at nationally recognized game conventions for six years, the junior describes himself as being a much different, significantly socially awkward person entering college. Even speaking before small groups was an almost impossible challenge.

"No matter how confident you are in speaking to people one-on-one, public speaking is entirely different," Kaufeld said. "Every single time, I was physically shaking."

[READ MORE](#)



Eventful

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

5

Thurs., 5:30–6:30
p.m.

Reflecting on the Declaration at 250

This panel discussion will feature faculty from the History, English, and Political Science departments...

FEBRUARY

6

Fri., 10:30 a.m.–noon

International Mixer

Join us for an international mixer where you can connect and socialize with international faculty and staff! Connect with the campus community members who come from diverse backgrounds. Light refreshments provided...

FEBRUARY

9

Mon., 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Concerto and Aria Orchestra Concert

This concert features the PFW School of Music students chosen, by competition, for an opportunity to solo with the orchestra. Student soloists featured include Braden Koble, Carter Vernon, Evan Sroufe, Christian Urizar, and Elias Washer...

FEBRUARY

10

Tues., 7–10 p.m.

SAB Valentine Night Dinner

Join the Student Activities Board for a night of good food and good times. Whether you're bringing a significant other or celebrating with friends, this is the perfect way to spend the evening...

News Spotlight

A sampling of external news coverage of Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Fort Wayne to host Midwest's best young pianists

WANE 15 | Jan. 31

Mastodon athletes collect 90 Horizon League Academic Honor Roll nods

Mastodon Athletics | Jan. 30

Kids Who Care: Middle schoolers envision the cities of tomorrow

FOX 55 | Jan. 27

Mastodon Moments

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



William Meyer and Trista Evans are recognized at center court during Saturday's basketball game at Memorial Coliseum after being crowned this year's homecoming king and queen.

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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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