



## VPA Dean's Long-Awaited Dream Hits the Stage Before Retirement

When John O'Connell first experienced the play "The Taming of the Shrew: The March for the Vote" in Chicago in 2017, he was enraptured.

"The minute I saw it, I said I have to direct this play," the dean of Purdue University Fort Wayne's College of Visual and Performing Arts said.

Serving at PFW since 2007 and VPA's dean since 2012, O'Connell's hope was to direct the play as quickly as possible, but circumstances such as acquiring or creating two sets of period costumes pushed his timeline back. Now, he's almost out of time, with his June retirement date approaching.

Though there are only 13 cast members, this is a full-department endeavor, as everyone wants to make sure the last of O'Connell's directing efforts at PFW turns out perfect. No pressure!

"I think there will be many emotions from everyone," said Olivia Albertson, a senior. "This cast feels like a wonderful, loving community, so I am sure there will be the bittersweet tears on closing night!"

[READ MORE](#)

Share the story:



## Omnibus Series Classroom Visits Illuminate Possibilities and Paths for PFW Students

In more ways than one, the IDEASpace at Helmke Library is a good place to be for folks who want to see what's happening out there in the real world. Featuring windows that stretch almost all the way from floor and ceiling, multiple video monitors, and a steady stream of captivating programs, it's easy to understand why some consider this central spot on the campus of Purdue University Fort Wayne to be a hub of academic pursuits.

Throughout the year, it's also a setting where students get exclusive opportunities to interact with

honored guests of the university's Omnibus Speaker Series before the main event a couple hours later. The classroom discussions are insightful, refreshingly candid, and conclude with question-and-answer sessions that frequently draw compliments from all involved.

The most recent classroom experience took place Thursday when Atlanta Hawks executive and professional sports trailblazer Melissa Proctor visited campus to describe her journey to executive vice president and chief marketing officer for the Hawks and State Farm Arena.

According to Proctor, her desire to connect with students is driven by not having comparable opportunities when she was in college.

[READ MORE](#)

Share the story:



## Update PFW Shipping Address for FedEx Packages

To avoid delivery delays or returned items, all FedEx packages intended for Purdue Fort Wayne must be addressed to **5190 St. Joe Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46835**. FedEx is no longer able to efficiently reroute packages marked for 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd. to the correct location. Please ensure all shipments use the correct address, which includes the 46835 zip code.

For questions, contact [mailsrv@pfw.edu](mailto:mailsrv@pfw.edu).



## Celebrate Service and Excellence at the Employee Recognition Reception

The annual Employee Recognition Reception will be held March 26 in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union. Doors open at 4 p.m., with the formal program beginning at 4:30. The event will honor employees reaching service milestones, recent retirees, and the latest winners of the APSAC and CSSAC Excellence Awards. Guests can enjoy a selection of hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

RSVP by March 12 via the [registration portal](#).

Those who earned a degree in 2025 and would like to have the achievement included in the program and on the employee recognition webpage may send an email to [hr@pfw.edu](mailto:hr@pfw.edu) and include their name, degree earned, major, and university.

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

19

Thurs., 7:30–9 p.m.

## Guest Artists: Gaudete Brass

Hailing from Chicago, Gaudete Brass supports the idea that chamber music can powerfully communicate both the poignant and the exuberant. Since 2004, the quintet has engaged in creatively expanding the brass quintet repertoire, developing unique programs that have resonated with audiences all over the country...

FEBRUARY

23

Mon., 7:30–9 p.m.

## PFW Jazz Ensemble Presents: Gordon, Tom, and Friends

Join the PFW Jazz Ensemble for a fun night of eclectic jazz favorites by Gordon Goodwin, Tom Kubris, and friends The Big Phat Band...

FEBRUARY

24

Tues., 3 p.m.

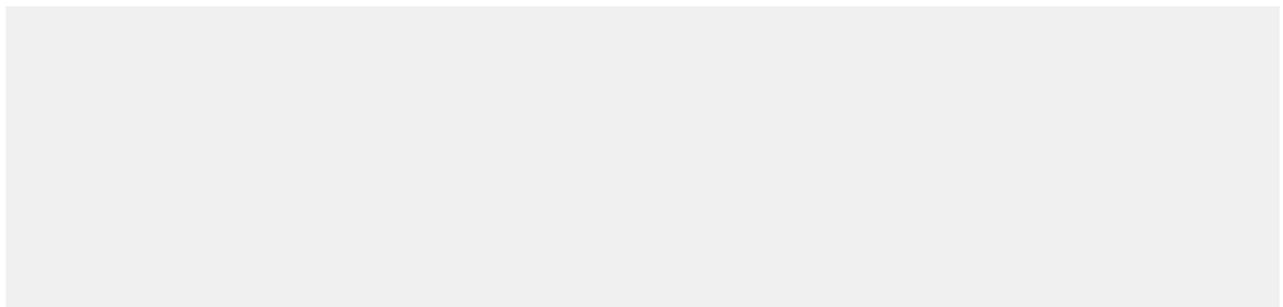
## Russia's War in Ukraine: Year Four Panel Discussion

Panelists will include Ann Livschiz, Department of History; Craig Ortsey, department of Political Science; and James Toole, Department of Political Science...

## In a Snap

---

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





Love was in the air in the Classic Ballroom at Walb Student Union on Feb. 10 when the Student Activities Board held its annual Valentine Night Dinner, complete with a movie.

News Center



Inside PFW Archive



Athletics



Ripples



*Inside PFW* is an official university communication for faculty and staff. All submissions should be sent to [inside@pfw.edu](mailto:inside@pfw.edu) no later than 2 p.m. on the day prior to the next edition to be considered for inclusion. Newsletter guidelines can be accessed in the PFW **News Center**.

*Inside PFW* is produced twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday by the Office of Communications and Marketing. *Inside PFW Special Edition* is a supplement to the regularly scheduled newsletter. It covers breaking news and time-sensitive information directly related to university operations.

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY**  
**FORT WAYNE**

