



For Students

April 15, 2026



Mastodon Men's Golf Wins Big with Horizon League Bobby Fong Award

Big news for the Mastodons! The Purdue Fort Wayne men's golf team has been named the 2026 recipient of the Horizon League's Bobby Fong Award—an honor that recognizes leadership, integrity, and making a positive impact on and off the course. Even better, this is the first time a PFW team or student-athlete has earned the award.

From volunteering at events across Fort Wayne to leading the department with a 3.35 team GPA, the team continues to raise the bar. Two players were even recognized by local leaders after helping rescue a man from a car in a pond—an incredible example of stepping up when it matters most. Way to represent, Dons!

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PFW Helps Fire up Student's Dream of Becoming a Lawyer

"Go sit back down, kid," the receptionist told my 7-year-old self with a smirk. My jaw clenched and my face grew hot. So many thoughts were going through my head as I slowly glanced at my father, who spoke no English and looked at me, confused by the situation. I felt helpless. I was there for one main reason: to interpret during the family's government assistance appointment. Yet I was denied."

That moment sparked Mansan Kiim's desire to help fight the wrongs of a system that hurts immigrants.

Purdue University Fort Wayne helped turn that spark into a raging fire.

Kiim, a senior majoring in human services, described the embarrassing incident in a three-page essay she's submitting with law school applications. How many people can point to something that happened when they were 7 years old that changed their life forever—something that has built into the intensity of determination that attending PFW has only refined?

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Eden Bailey shares a poem at a public reading before an audience of his peers.

Writers Go Off-Book during Student Reading Sessions

Public speaking is always a big challenge, but when you're reading a story or poem you created, the anxiety doubles. "Will the crowd react the way I want them to? Will they like it? Will they understand the message? Am I any good at this?"

But the only way to move past those doubts is to keep reading aloud in public until it becomes second nature, which is one reason Curtis Crisler, a professor in the Department of English, holds public readings/open mic sessions near the end of each semester. It also reminds Crisler of his own days as a Mastodon student, when public readings served as a way for young writers to showcase their work and encourage one another.

"If you're representing your own thing, don't you want them to get the best representation out there?" Crisler asked a small audience during a reading in November. "And since they are your

words, you can represent them the best.”

Writers get 10 minutes during lunch break in Walb Student Union, Room G21, to present samples of their work, which can include poems, a manuscript chapter, or any form of creative writing. There’s no microphone, but it takes courage to share.

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Share the story:



Celebrate Your Journey at Senior Send-off 2026

Congratulations, Class of 2026! It’s time to celebrate you and your journey as a Mastodon. As a way to celebrate our graduating seniors, the university will host this year’s Senior Send-off and Celebration on April 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Classic Ballroom at Walb Student Union.

Graduating students can enjoy food, drinks, photo ops, cap decorating, postgraduation resources, and a senior gift.

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.

APRIL

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Thurs., 5–7 p.m.

SAB Cooking Demo

Ever wanted to master the art of making a perfect Alfredo Primavera? Join SAB and our wonderful chef for a live Cooking Demo! Get hands-on, learn some new skills, and eat like a pro...

APRIL

17, 18, 23,
24, 25

8 p.m.

April 19, 2 p.m.

The Spitfire Grill

This heartwarming musical follows the mysterious, young Percy Talbott to Gilead, Wisconsin—a town she chose from a picture in a travel book—where she hopes to begin a new life after a recent incarceration. There, she finds a new job and community at the local restaurant, the Spitfire Grill, where she helps the entire town rediscover their sense of human kindness...

APRIL

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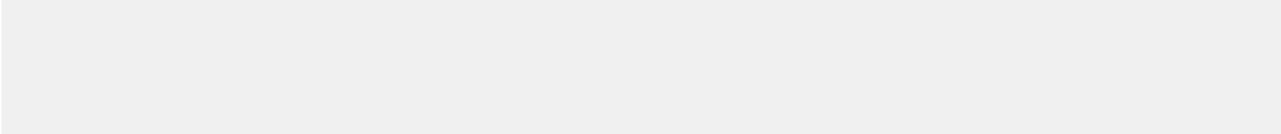
Mon., 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

America 250 Time Machine

This event, in collaboration with Historic Fort Wayne, will feature costumed interpretation, historical demonstrations like weaving and 18th century games, historical presentations, a colonial-era 'coffee house' with moderated debates, the reading of documents like the 'Declaration of Independence,' and much more...

Mastodon Moments

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





Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer was the featured speaker at the Purdue University Board of Trustees meeting that was held on campus last Friday. His presentation included updates on curriculum enhancements, regional workforce needs, enrollment challenges, reputation and recognition, and student engagement opportunities. He also reported on campus construction projects that will wrap up this summer, including the Surack-Sweetwater Music Industry Building and the Trace student apartment complex, as well as a new, donor-funded art gallery expected to break ground this summer. Chancellor Elsenbaumer also recognized and thanked Vice Chancellor Jerry Lewis and Dean John O’Connell, both of whom are retiring at the end of this semester.

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