



For Students

April 29, 2026



Nontraditional Student Finds New Purpose, Career Excitement at PFW

Though Mr. Rogers always taught valuable life lessons, sometimes it takes years for them to truly take hold.

The late children's program personality once said, "You don't ever have to do anything sensational for people to love you." In other words, everyone deserves to be loved simply for being themselves.

"When you let go of having to do something incredible, you start seeing all the things where you can make a difference around you," said Zach Andrews, Purdue University Fort Wayne graduate student.

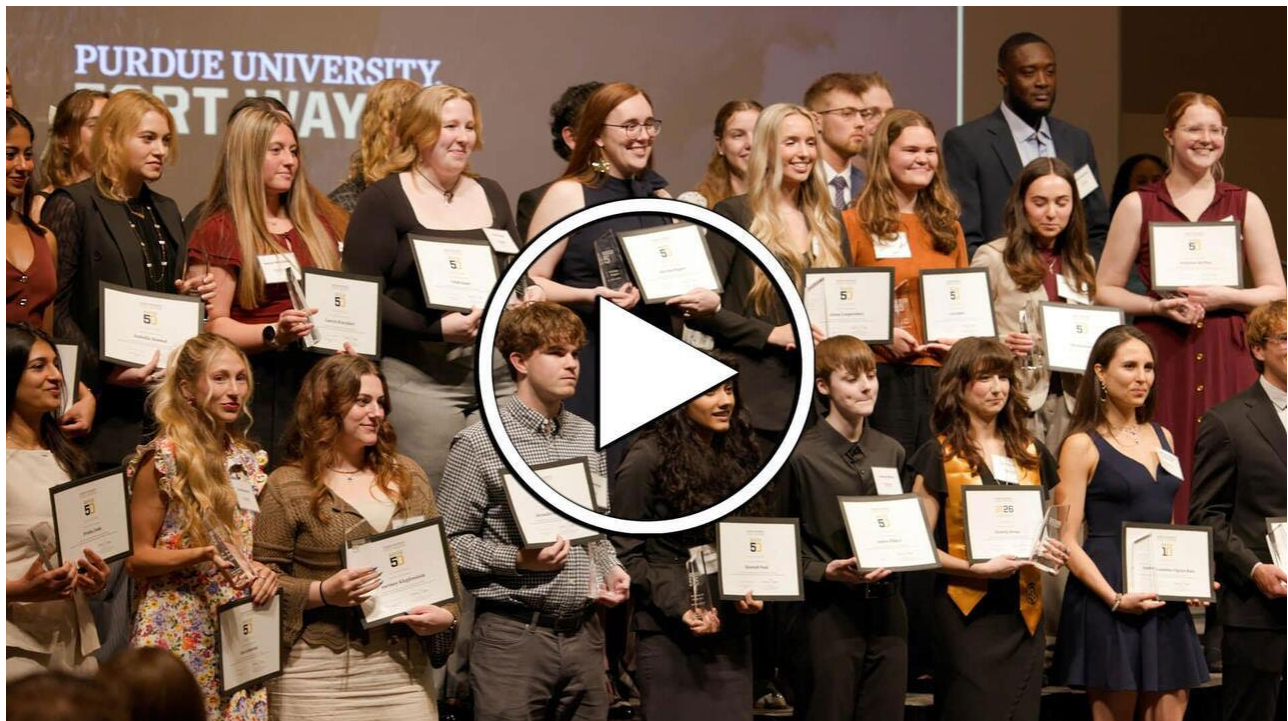
Andrews, 30, has seen his life change over the last 10 years as he continues to find ways to make a difference for others. While studying creative writing at the Savannah College of Art and Design, he met his future wife, Esther, during his senior year. They moved to New York City for work, but eventually burned out and decided to come to Fort Wayne, her hometown.

Checking out PFW's class catalog led to taking a linguistics class taught by Shannon Bischoff, chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and professor of linguistics. As Andrews said, it felt like being grabbed by gravitational forces.

"Shannon Bischoff pulled the curtain off of language, and said, 'This is what we don't know about language,'" Andrews said. "I had no idea this is what I was going to learn, but it was exactly what I needed to learn. I'm obsessed with learning, and studying how language works and doesn't work is incredible."

[READ MORE](#)

Share the story:



Celebrating Excellence at Purdue Fort Wayne

On April 24, Purdue Fort Wayne honored its 2026 Exemplar, Top 50, and the inaugural Top 10 Graduate Student recipients for their remarkable accomplishments and community impact. Click the link to watch "You are Becoming..." and join us in celebrating their exceptional journeys.

WATCH VIDEO



Bruce Kingsbury, director of the university's Waterfield Environmental Resources Center

Outside Opportunity Leads to Massive College of Science Project

Whenever faculty in the Purdue University College of Science get the chance to push students outside the classroom, they seize it. Still, waiting will be a key part of a massive collaboration PFW is starting with Michelin North America's BF Goodrich Plant, located at 18906 Old 24 E. Rd.

Opened in 1961, the 1.9 million-square-foot factory employs around 1,500 people to produce car and light truck tires. The factory is located on 40 acres of a 500-acre property near Woodburn, which is where PFW is getting involved.

Factory representatives recently reached out to Sean Ryan, PFW's director of the **Office of Engagement**, who helps local businesses interact with university resources. In this instance, BF Goodrich wanted more information about the site's potential ecological opportunities, so Ryan connected them with Bruce Kingsbury, director of the university's **Waterfield Environmental Resources Center** in the College of Science. One of the university's 15 **Centers of Excellence**, the ERC is dedicated to promoting the understanding and conservation of the region's natural resources through scientific research and educational programs.

In an attempt to become more environmentally responsible, Michelin North America has proposed a three-phase project at the plant, which it hopes to complete by 2034. Many areas of the College of Science will be involved in the first and third phases.

[READ MORE](#)

Share the story:



PFW Expands Club Sports Program with New Teams, Strong Student Demand, and Transformational Gift

Purdue University Fort Wayne is expanding its club sports program in a major way—driven by tremendous student interest, the addition of new competitive teams (hockey and lacrosse), and a significant gift from longtime supporter W. Paul Wolf.

Since announcing plans to grow club sports opportunities, nearly 400 students have already completed the university's "recruit me" form, signaling strong demand from both current and prospective students eager to continue competing at the collegiate level. Information sessions have also drawn high attendance, reinforcing the program's momentum heading into its fall 2026 launch.

Building on that enthusiasm, PFW will now offer as many as 15 club sports, including the newly added men's hockey and men's lacrosse. These join a dynamic lineup that includes men's and women's soccer, tackle football, women's flag football, men's and women's rugby, coed running, men's and women's volleyball, disc golf, and existing programs such as men's basketball, esports, and dance.

A major advancement for the program comes through the generosity of W. Paul Wolf, whose gift will directly support the growth and visibility of club sports at Purdue Fort Wayne.

READ MORE

Share the story:



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

30

Thurs., 9 a.m.–11
a.m.

SAB: Donut Stress Out

Finals creeping up? Donut stress out! Take a quick break and join SAB for a free Rise-N-Roll donut to help you power through your day...

APRIL

30

Thurs., 10:30 a.m.–
2:30 p.m.

Car Smash

Get ready to crush, smash, and destroy at this event! Whether you're drowning in deadlines, stressed from studying, or just want to have a blast, this is your chance to let it all out...

MAY

Biology Senior Seminar Poster Symposium

1

Fri., noon–3 p.m.

Biology seniors have been hard at work this semester—in the classroom, in the lab, and in the field. See what they've been working on at our Senior Biology Poster Symposium. They'd love to share their work with you...

Mastodon Moments

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



Music therapy students met outside in the Arts Plaza on Thursday to tie-dye some namesake T-shirts.

[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.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
FORT WAYNE

