

insidepfw



For Faculty and Staff

August 12, 2026



Celebrate the Opening of The Trace

Faculty and staff are invited to help celebrate the opening of The Trace, Purdue Fort Wayne's new student housing community, on Monday, August 17, at 10 a.m. Join us for the ribbon-cutting ceremony, tours of the facility, and an opportunity to see this exciting addition to the Mastodon community.

[LEARN MORE](#)



From Volunteer to Researcher: PFW Graduate Student Helps Restore Rare Franklin's Ground Squirrels

For Purdue University Fort Wayne graduate student CJ Klopfenstein, the summer represents an opportunity to help restore one of Indiana's rarest mammals to its native habitat.

Klopfenstein, a master's student in biology, is leading research focused on the reintroduction of Franklin's ground squirrels to Kankakee Sands Nature Preserve in Morocco, Indiana, about a three-hour drive west of Fort Wayne. The project combines wildlife conservation, population monitoring, and genetic analysis to better understand how the species adapts and survives after being released into the nature preserve, which features native prairie habitat and a herd of bison.

Now in its third year, the reintroduction effort has brought approximately 25 Franklin's ground squirrels to Kankakee Sands annually. The project's first two years formed the basis of former PFW graduate student Justin Moore's master's thesis, which focused on squirrel reintroduction, habitat use, and vegetation preferences. Klopfenstein's thesis builds on that foundation by continuing reintroduction efforts while assessing the population's long-term success through trapping surveys and genetic analysis. While Klopfenstein is conducting the latest phase of the research, she is no stranger to the work. Before beginning graduate school, she volunteered on the project as an undergraduate biology student at PFW, helping Moore monitor and release squirrels in the preserve.

[READ MORE](#)[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Share the story:



Join Us for The Crave Ribbon Cutting

Faculty and staff are invited to celebrate the opening of The Crave, a new student dining concept located in the Cole Student Clubhouse. Join us for the ribbon cutting on Tuesday, August 18, from 2 to 4 p.m. Food samples will be available.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Funding Students' Futures with Ron Herrell

Paying for college doesn't have to be something students navigate alone.

In this week's Mastodon Minute, Ron Herrell, director of financial aid at Purdue Fort Wayne, shares how the Office of Financial Aid helps students understand their options, ask the right questions, and find the support they need throughout their college journey.

Learn more about how PFW is helping students invest in their education and their future.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Welcome the Herd at the Mastodon Stampede on August 21

Please join the Mastodon Stampede Committee and New Student Programs as we introduce an exciting new tradition to campus!

On Friday, August 21, we invite you to help welcome our newest students to campus by lining up along Mastodon Way as the students make their way to the Welcome Home to the Herd BBQ. At 3:45 p.m., our incoming students will "stampede" down Mastodon Way, and we hope current students, faculty, and staff will be there to cheer them on and give them a warm Mastodon welcome.

If you're able to participate, please begin lining up along Mastodon Way at 3:30 p.m. Your

enthusiasm and support will help create a memorable first experience for our newest Herd members and show them what makes our campus community so special. Additional reminders and a map will be shared the week of the event. If you have questions, please reach out to Giang Petroviak at trangc01@pfw.edu.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT MASTODON STAMPEDE](#)

Join the 2026 Campus Connections Fair: Sign Up Today

The 2026 Campus Connections Fair offers a great opportunity to engage with both new and returning students. Scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 2, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Science Mall, this midday event allows participants to recruit members, promote unique opportunities, and raise organizational awareness.

The fair serves as an ideal platform for student organizations seeking new members, university departments sharing resources or student employment opportunities, and community organizations highlighting volunteer positions, internships, or part-time jobs. Each participating organization receives one 6-foot rectangular table and two chairs.

To secure a spot, participants must RSVP by 8 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 31. Because table locations are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, early registration is highly encouraged. For inquiries, please reach out to Abby Wang at wangal@pfw.edu.

[RSVP HERE](#)

Updated Procurement, Travel Training Materials Now Available

Whether you're purchasing goods or planning your next business trip, Procurement Services has updated its training webpages to help you quickly find the information you need.

The refreshed **Procurement Training** and **Travel Training** pages organize resources by role, making it easier to access relevant training materials, job aids, and reference documents.

For travelers, the updated **Travel Training** page serves as a central hub for resources on booking business travel, understanding university travel procedures and navigating the travel reimbursement process.

Visit the appropriate training page, select your role and explore the resources available. If you

experience issues accessing SharePoint materials, follow the **SharePoint login instructions** provided on the Purdue IT website.

Questions may be directed to **pstraining@purdue.edu**.

Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events

Trace Ribbon Cutting

August 17 | 10 a.m.

Crave Student Dining Opening

August 18 | 2 p.m.

W. Paul Wolf Field Naming

August 31 | 10 a.m.

Convocation

August 31 | Noon

Surack-Sweetwater Music Industry Center Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

September 1 | 11 a.m.

DSB Open House

September 8 | 10 a.m.

Faculty and Staff Parking Passes Coming Soon

Faculty and staff parking passes will be available in the coming weeks. University Police are working with West Lafayette to implement a new ticketing system. No parking tickets will be issued until passes are available and the new system is fully operational. Additional information will be shared soon.

On the Job

Check out the new faces in new places.

New Hires

- Jennifer Gosse, coordinator of student activities | Student Life
- Cody Harlan, assistant director of sports medicine | Athletics
- Madison Miller, senior library assistant

Transfers

- Tanner Dailey, groundskeeper | Grounds

In a Snap

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



The Doermer School of Business is hosting a senior delegation from Uzbekistan this week to help design their national escrow, mortgage, and project finance systems. A reception was held on Tuesday to welcome our international guests and network with professionals from the financial services industry, business leaders, faculty, alumni, and community partners.

News Center



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Athletics



Ripples



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

Inside PFW is produced each Wednesday 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.

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