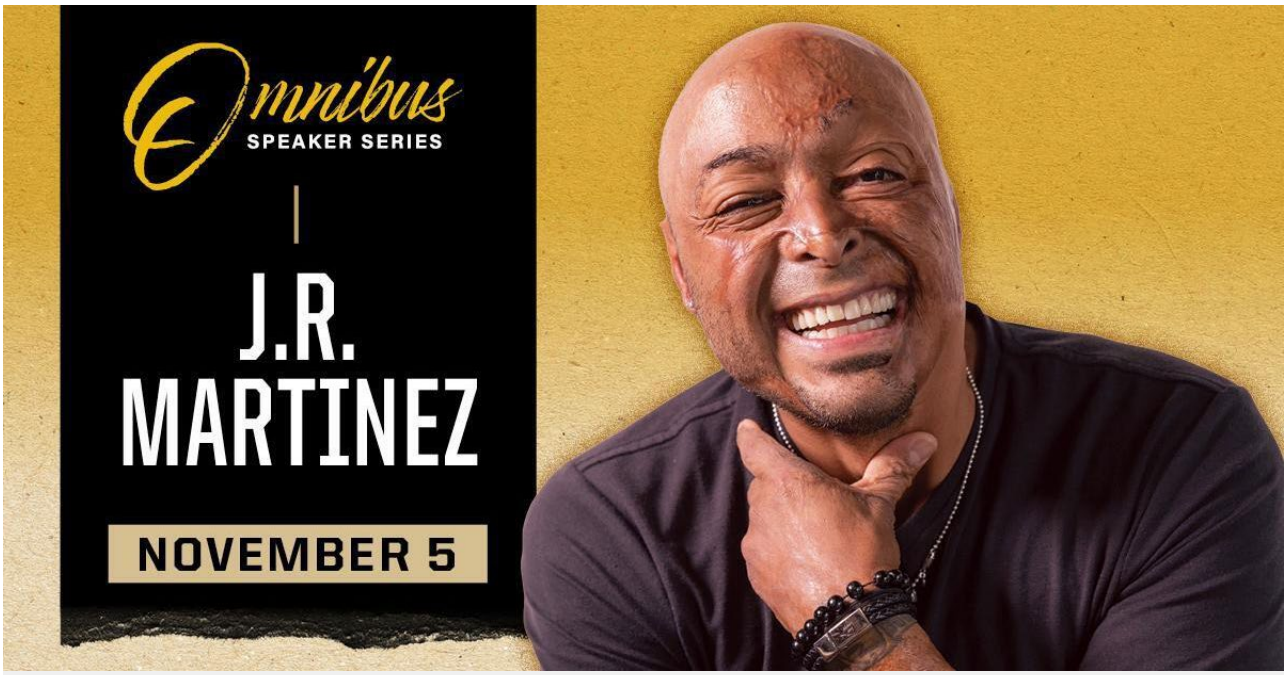


For Faculty and Staff October 22, 2026



Tickets for J.R. Martinez Omnibus Appearance Now Available

Actor, best-selling author, motivational speaker, and advocate J.R. Martinez is the next guest in Purdue University Fort Wayne's Omnibus Speaker Series on Nov. 5.

Deployed to Iraq in March 2003, his Humvee hit a roadside bomb in Karbala, trapping him inside the burning vehicle. Martinez survived with smoke inhalation and severe burns to 34 percent of his body. During his recovery, Martinez found a new purpose after a nurse asked him to speak with a fellow burn patient. Realizing the positive impact his story had on others, he began visiting patients daily, a path that launched his career as an internationally acclaimed motivational speaker. He wrote the *New York Times* bestselling memoir *Full of Heart: My Story of Survival, Strength, and Spirit*, about how he turned his personal tragedy into inspiration for others.

Martinez will take the Auer Performance Hall stage at 7:30 p.m. to present "Facing Adversity with Optimism and Resilience." Tickets were released today. They are free, general admission, and available on a first-come, first-served basis through the **Schatzlein Box Office** or PFW's **online ticketing platform**.



Help PFW Defend the Title and Crush Hunger

Purdue University Fort Wayne is proud to defend its first-place title in the annual northeast Indiana U Can Crush Hunger campaign. Running from Oct. 26 through Nov. 6, this good-natured collegiate food drive directly supports local food pantries and combats food insecurity ahead of the holiday season. While the goal is to keep the traveling trophy at PFW, the ultimate victory is ensuring our community stays fed and supported.

Options for donating:

- Place nonperishable food items in the donation bins located in the first-floor Herd Hideout hallway in Walb Student Union beginning Monday, Oct. 26. These items will help stock the **FRIENDS of the University Pantry**.
- Make a secure donation online through the **Community Harvest Food Bank**. Each dollar donated is enough to purchase four pounds of food. Online donations collected through this option will be split evenly between the Pantry and the Community Harvest Food Bank Farm Wagon program.
- Organize a collection in your department or office.

Contact Eric Manor at **manore@pfw.edu** to schedule a campus food collection or donation drop-off.



Mastodon Minute: A New Era for PFW Women’s Basketball

In the latest installment of Mastodon Minute, head coach Kate Peterson Abiad previews the upcoming season, talks about her team, and shares what excites her about the road ahead. The episode also highlights how student-athletes across the university engage in community service and strengthen their relationship with the Fort Wayne community.

WATCH VIDEO



Get Game-Day Ready at the Pre-Game Party!

Join us tonight (Oct. 22) at Expo IV in the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum before Purdue Fort Wayne takes on Purdue! Doors open at 4:30 p.m. for free food and drinks, games, and a spirit station. A cash bar will also be available.

The party is free and open to Purdue Fort Wayne students, faculty, staff, and community members. Festivities wrap up around 6:30–6:45 p.m., so you can head into the arena. Bring your Mastodon pride and get ready to cheer!

Volunteers Needed for the Experiential Learning Summit

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming Experiential Learning Summit: Connecting Students and Community on Friday, Oct. 30, in the Walb Student Union International Ballroom.

The summit brings together students, faculty, and community partners to explore hands-on learning and build meaningful connections. Faculty, staff, and administrators can help welcome participants, support event logistics, and ensure the day runs smoothly.

Review the available shifts and sign up for a role that fits your schedule on the SignUpGenius page. All volunteers are invited to join the event for lunch from 12:30 to 1:25 p.m.

For questions or additional details, please contact Michele Shawver at **shawverm@pfw.edu**.

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

Good to Know

Staff and Faculty Appreciation Event is Oct. 27, 28

To show their appreciation for everything you do, the Mastodon Campus Store is offering an exclusive 25% discount on all apparel and gift items to faculty and staff on Oct. 27 and 28. Whether you're looking to refresh your campus wardrobe, pick up official gear, or find the perfect gift, now is the perfect time to shop.

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.

OCTOBER
27
Tues., 2–3 p.m.

What Does Civic Engagement Look Like Beyond Election Day?

This panel discussion will explore the many ways individuals can stay involved in their communities beyond election day. Panelists representing law, voter education, local government, neighborhood engagement, and student leadership will share their perspectives and experiences...

OCTOBER
27
Tues., 3–5 p.m.

Learning Hungry: Film Screening and Community Discussion

Join The FRIENDS of the University Pantry at Purdue Fort Wayne and the Fort Wayne Food Insecurity Nutrition Network for a free screening of Learning Hungry, a compelling short film from the broader Working Hungry docuseries...

In a Snap

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



Taking a study break right under the watchful eye of the Mastodon! Two students hang out and enjoy the incredible autumn weather right next to the campus statue in Alumni Plaza.

News Center | Inside PFW Archive | Athletics | Ripples

UPDATE YOUR PLATE!



LEARN MORE

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 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.

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