

October 28, 2026



Donversations: How to Survive the Midterm Slump at PFW

Welcome to the very first episode of Donversations, a student-hosted podcast featuring real Mastodons and real conversations about life at Purdue Fort Wayne.

Midterms can be overwhelming, but you're not alone. In this episode, host Capree Hardy, a marketing and psychology student at PFW, shares practical strategies for managing stress, staying organized, avoiding burnout, and finishing the semester strong.

You'll also hear from Buck Jordan, director of student success and advising for the Doermer School of Business, who discusses registration, academic resources, career services, advising support, and habits that can help students succeed.

In this episode:

- Time management and calendar tips
- Avoiding burnout during midterms

- Campus dining and student resources
- Getting involved and building connections
- Tutoring and academic support services
- Counseling and wellness resources
- Registration reminders and advising insights
- Career Development Center resources and Handshake

Whether you're a first-semester student or preparing for graduation, this conversation is packed with practical advice to help you finish the semester with confidence.

LISTEN TO THE PODCAST



Mastodons Host Boilermakers in Front of More Than 10,000 Fans

In front of a crowd of over 10,000, the Purdue Fort Wayne men's basketball team played host to the Purdue Boilermakers in an exhibition contest at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum on Thursday, Oct. 22.

The 10,141-strong crowd was the second-best for a Mastodon game in program history and the best ever in an exhibition contest. Purdue topped the Mastodons 92–62.

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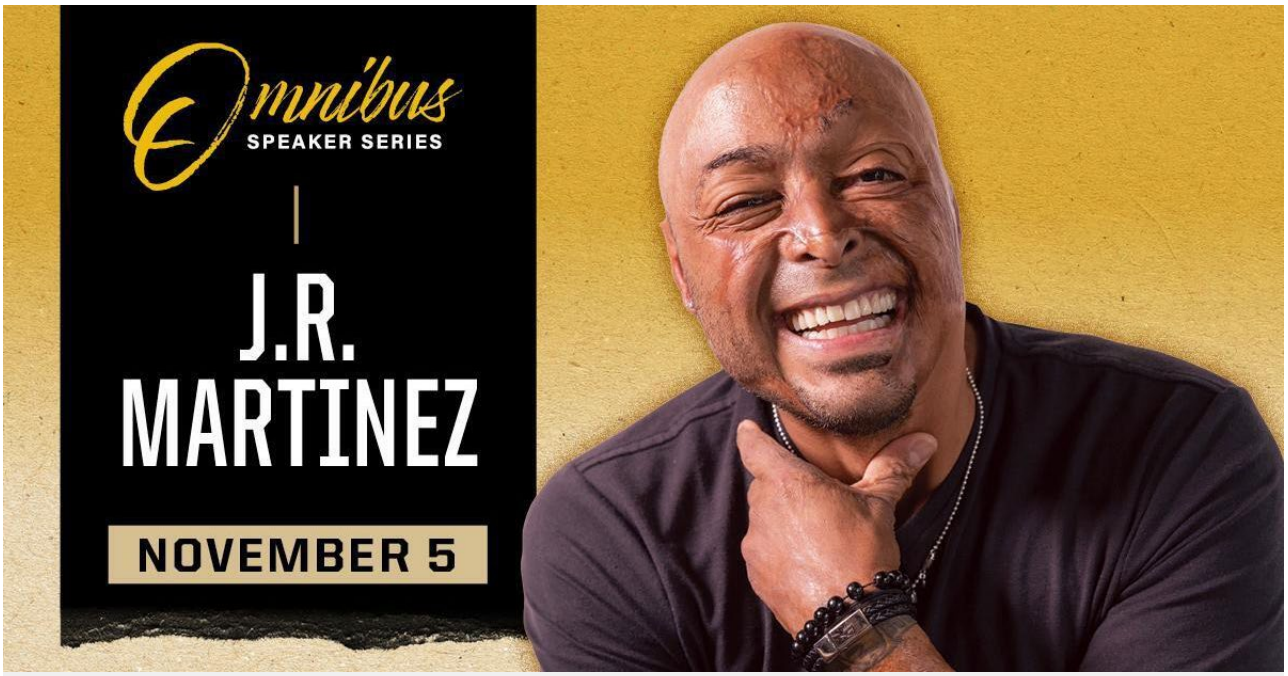
PFW Invites Campus Community to Help Crush Hunger Through Annual Food Drive Competition

Purdue University Fort Wayne is once again teaming up with colleges and universities across northeast Indiana to tackle food insecurity through the annual **U Can Crush Hunger food drive**. Running Oct. 26 through Nov. 6, the friendly competition challenges campuses to collect nonperishable food items and monetary donations to support students, individuals, and families facing hunger throughout the region.

Now in its 12th year, U Can Crush Hunger brings together seven institutions: Purdue Fort Wayne, Indiana Tech, Indiana University Fort Wayne, Ivy Tech Community College, Manchester University, Trine University, and the University of Saint Francis. Organizers hope to collect a combined 125,000 pounds of food and donations during the two-week campaign.

At PFW, students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to donate nonperishable food items and toiletries in Walb Student Union outside of the Herd Hideout or make monetary contributions throughout the campaign. Donations collected through the drive on campus will stay right here to stock **The FRIENDS of the University Pantry**, directly supporting our students and campus community.

READ MORE



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 are now ready to claim. 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**.

Hear from Devon Clunis, Canada's First Black Police Chief

Join us today for an inspiring conversation with Devon Clunis, who made history in 2012 as Canada's first Black police chief when he was appointed to lead the Winnipeg Police Service.

Clunis later served as Ontario's inaugural Inspector General of Policing and now works as an international consultant, speaker, author, and leadership practitioner. He will share insights from his career and his people-first approach to leadership, community well-being, and unity in diversity. Pizza and refreshments will be provided.

LEARN MORE

Registration for Spring Classes Starts This Week

Early registration for Purdue Fort Wayne's spring 2026 semester opened Monday, Oct. 26, for degree candidates, graduate students, seniors, and military affiliates—another major step toward their degrees. This process is a great way to secure the classes and times you need well before the new term.

For the next four Mondays, early registration opens at 8 a.m. for these groups:

- Nov. 2: Juniors, honors students, student-athletes, and students with disabilities
- Nov. 9: Sophomores
- Nov. 16: Freshmen and others

Students are strongly encouraged to connect with their advisor to ask questions and ensure everything is still on track.

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

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Today, 7:30–9 p.m.

Haunting Harmonies Orchestra Concert

Enjoy the first orchestra concert of the academic year as PFW Director of Keyboard Studies Dr. Hamilton Tescarollo performs the *Totentanz* (Death Dance) of Franz Liszt with the orchestra. You'll also enjoy other haunted harmonies by composers Dvorak, Bizet, Offenbach, Holst, and Dvorak. Costumes encouraged...

OCTOBER

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Thurs., 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

All healthy, eligible individuals are invited to donate blood at our blood drive because the need for blood never goes away. Please review the eligibility guidelines before signing up. Those who register to donate will receive a $10 Amazon gift card...

OCTOBER

30

Fri., 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Campus Candy Crawl

Get into the spooky spirit at SAB's Campus Candy Crawl! Stop by anytime from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. as you head across campus for a full day of trick-or-treating and Halloween sweet treats...

NOVEMBER

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Tues,, 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Talent Tuesday: Meet Your Next Employer

Connect with employers who are offering internship positions and part-time and full-time positions that you wouldn’t get the chance to know about otherwise...

Mastodon Moments

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



Headmaster Isabel Nuñez welcomes you to the School of Education faculty hallway, transformed into Harry Potter's wizarding world. Happy Halloween!

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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.

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