

**GO
AHEAD**

achievement.

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Crystal Bates' hurdles no match for spirit, support

GROW. BUILD. CREATE. FOCUS. CARE. **SUCCEED.**

PARKLAND COLLEGE
GO AHEAD



50 YEARS OF STUDENT SUCCESS

Foundation Director's Letter

Dear District 505 Residents,

Fifty years ago this fall, students lined up at a temporary Student Services building in downtown Champaign, eager to enroll at the newly established community college for Illinois' District 505, Parkland College.

Those freshmen of 1967, and hundreds of thousands of students since, have taken to heart the college's charge to GO AHEAD: Many have established themselves as productive, innovative citizens of the world. They give back to their communities in meaningful ways and still make Parkland's faculty and administrators proud to have been a part of their professional success.

In recognition of Parkland College's golden anniversary, we are shining a spotlight on 50 of our illustrious alumni. We have highlighted a few of them here, in the pages that follow. You can read more about all of them at www.parkland.edu/50years, where you will also find ways to keep Parkland's spirit alive for future generations of students.

Ellen Schmidt

Executive Director, Parkland College Foundation



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Go ahead is a biannual publication for the residents of Parkland College District 505.

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**THE MISSION OF PARKLAND COLLEGE IS
TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY IN LEARNING.**

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**GO AHEAD
ENGAGE**

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT: STUDENT TRUSTEE



**“I HAVEN’T JUST
INVESTED IN
A PARKLAND
DEGREE.
PARKLAND HAS
INVESTED IN ME.”**

CRYSTAL BATES
Sophomore, Psychology
Parkland College Student Trustee

Crystal Bates’ hurdles no match for spirit, support

Crystal Bates considers her election to the Parkland Board of Trustees as one more victory in a life full of physical and academic challenges.

The divorced mother of three and Navy veteran from Tolono has faced financial hardship and learning challenges from PTSD and bipolar disorder while reaching for her Parkland psychology degree, which she expects to receive in May 2017.

Yet Crystal, a 2012 Urbana Adult Education grad, has been outmatching her hurdles through sheer determination and the care of Parkland support services, including Counseling

and Advising, the campus Food Pantry, and understanding instructors.

“Life happens, and there’s nothing you can’t overcome if you try,” she explained. “It doesn’t matter where you start, only how you finish. And Parkland College isn’t just a school. It’s a family, especially when you reach out and make those connections.”

Crystal joined Parkland Student Government, and “everything changed.” By 2015, she had made the dean’s list and was helping organize the new Parkland Students for Sustainability Club. When Student Life director Tom Caulfield recommended she apply for the student trustee role last spring, she was ready.

“I haven’t just invested in a Parkland degree; Parkland has invested in me,” Crystal said. “Through this new position, I have gained leadership training and access to great leaders at the college, preparing me to earn my bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Eventually, I want to help military families as a counselor.”

The Parkland College Board of Trustees meets in regular session monthly (except in August) at 7 p.m. in Room U325; meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact Nancy Willamon at nwillamon@parkland.edu or 217/351-2533.

FREE CAREER TRAINING: Business Training and Community Education

Boost from state helps train those in greatest need

Area residents can obtain free career training in select Parkland College Business Training and Community Education programs, thanks to new support from the state.

Six certificate programs have been approved to receive funding through the Illinois Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA):

FOOD SERVICE SANITATION

MEDICAL BILLING

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

FAST TRACK DIETARY MANAGER

MEDICAL CODING

TRACTOR-TRAILER DRIVER (CDL) TRAINING

Most programs can be completed in one semester and will prepare students to take the corresponding certification exams. Each related career should have long-term growth through 2022, ranging from 6.78% to 14.93% locally, according to the Illinois Department of Employment Security.

Those who may qualify should attend a WIOA orientation at the Illinois WorkNet Center, 1307 N. Mattis Ave. Champaign on Mondays at 2 p.m. or Wednesdays at 10 a.m. For more information on these or other classes, contact Parkland College Business Training and Community Education at 217/351-2235 or www.parkland.edu/btce.

CRAIG ROPPEL
CDL student,
Parkland College Business Training
& Community Education



NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS: INTERACTIVE DESIGN

GO AHEAD LEARN



PROFESSOR PAUL YOUNG
WITH DESIGN STUDENTS

Students create interactive UX for web, mobile

One of the fastest-growing trends in the marketing communications industry is using digital media design to create interactive user experiences on websites and devices such as tablets, e-readers, and smartphones. A new career program at Parkland this fall is giving students the tools to land jobs that fit the industry trend.

Through web design and web development courses and using the latest technology, students in the 65-credit-hour Interactive Design AAS degree will leave with a diverse portfolio of marketable media projects, including responsive websites, mobile apps,

e-books, and web animation. Meanwhile, the new Interactive Design certificate option stresses the practical side of UX: technical competency with HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and other web development tools.

Paul Young, Parkland's Graphic Design program director, said the new program "consists of a solid foundation in design principles, art and design history, drawing and typography, followed by portfolio-building studio courses that enable students to put theory into practice. Our courses are grounded in visual literacy, creative problem solving, and current technology."

The program includes an internship class and a portfolio seminar, where industry professionals interview Interactive Design students and evaluate their work on conceptual thinking skills, craftsmanship and functional execution, application of design principles and professional typography, understanding of web development issues, software proficiency, and verbal presentation skills.

"These are the same criteria the marketing communications industry uses when hiring potential employees," Young said.

HIGH TECH FOR HIGH SCHOOLS: PRECISION AGRICULTURE

NSF grant helping Parkland advance training

Local high school seniors are studying the basics of satellite farming this fall in a new Parkland course created with funds from the National Science Foundation.

Introduction to Precision Agriculture (AGB 110) introduces students to precision ag technologies, including applications, terminology, data management, and software, as well as to career opportunities in this rapidly growing high-tech field.

Students completing the online course earn an hour of college credit toward Parkland's Precision Ag Technology AAS degree, the only such program in the state, according to Jenni Fridgen, Parkland Agriculture program director.

Parkland won a \$200,000 NSF grant earlier in April to begin its PACE (Precision Ag Curriculum Enhancement) project. The project will expand Parkland's precision ag

curriculum to 1) align with industry needs; 2) expand precision ag education opportunities at high schools; and 3) update agreements between Parkland and four-year universities for precision ag.

For more information on AGB 110 and related information for high school students, contact Parkland's Dual Credit office at 217/353-2663 or dualcredit@parkland.edu.

LIFE CHANGING: ADULTS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Sandy Williams works plan to spur career

After 30 years working in retail management in the Champaign area, Sandy Williams decided it was time to advance her career by updating her business skills.

"With all those long hours and overnights, I was ready for something new and more reasonable," the Iowa native said. She moved to part-time work and began majoring in business management at Parkland College.

Sandy is no stranger to the campus (she's been a member of the Parkland Concert Band for 26 years), but she did not realize how much she has to offer as a nontraditional-aged student.

"The instructors and classmates have all been helpful, despite my being older than most everyone," she remarked. "I enjoy getting involved in activities offered on campus to meet others and learn more. I am a peer mentor for iConnect and participate in Christian Fellowship meetings, the Garden Hills Homework Club, and the Business Club."

Sandy expects to graduate from Parkland in December 2017 but is already considering pursuing a bachelor's degree to work in professional development. "A position that encourages or develops people would be my dream job."



SANDRA WILLIAMS
Student, Business
Management

**GO AHEAD
EXPLORE**

PARKLAND BLOG WRAP-UP:

News Around Campus

Parkland highlights, from state funding to archaeological digs

Want regular in-depth stories about all things Parkland? Visit blog.parkland.edu or “Like” Parkland’s Facebook page to see when new blog entries are posted.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMANDA BUTLER

2016 BUDGET CATCHUP DUE TO STATE SUPPORT

Parkland has received \$1.8 million for the first half of fiscal year 2017, July 1 through December 2016. The funds are being used to cover MAP financial aid grants that students received for the spring 2016 semester.

FALL MEANS... FAFSA!

New federal guidelines have changed the opening date to apply for the Federal Student Aid application from January 1 to October 1, using income information from 2015 tax returns.

A SNAZZY NEW ROOM

Go inside one of Parkland’s brand new Innovative Learning Labs, funded by a Title III grant, and designed by faculty to be modern, collaborative, versatile, and... awesome!

ALUMNI HELP MARK 50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH ART EXHIBIT

Giertz Gallery invited former art students to show their creativity and talent and celebrate Parkland’s golden

anniversary by participating in the Parkland College 50th: Art and Design Alumni Exhibition, September 26–November 5.

BUSINESS TRAINING, COMMUNITY EDUCATION JOIN FORCES

Parkland College’s two departments joined forces in July, positioned to be a self-sustaining “one-stop” that meets the continuing educational needs of the Parkland district.

PARKLAND STUDENTS DIG DEEPER INTO ARCHAEOLOGY

As part of an intense six-week field school, Parkland College students examined the Collins Archaeological Complex, a Native American site more than 1,000 years old near Danville, and its relationship to the Mississippian civilization who built the city of Cahokia near East St. Louis, Illinois.



Cobras Volleyball a smashing success

Coming off a perfect 57-0 record to achieve the NJCAA national championship in 2015, this year's Cobras volleyball team is 38-2 so far this season and has wrapped up the #1 seed for the Region 24 Tournament. In addition to volleyball success, the Men's Soccer team is currently ranked #4 and Women's Soccer is #9 as they head into regional competition this fall.

As proud as we are of our athletes' successes on the field and court, we are prouder still that they maintain top grade point averages and find time for service projects.

GO COBRAS!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Ruthie Counter

If I could do this—someone who doesn't do physical labor, nature, or bugs all that well—you certainly can.



A PARKLAND PLUMBING CLASS PAID BIG DIVIDENDS FOR ALUMNA RUTHIE COUNTER.

I took a plumbing course (CIT 114) at Parkland College in 2006 and have saved hundreds of dollars in potential plumbing repairs ever since. It wasn't easy being the only female (or 40+ year old) in that two-hour evening class. I surely earned the "Most Worn Out" award from cutting, reaming, and soldering pipe after a full day's work! But I hung in there, learned a lot, and smiled all the way to my A grade. In the end, it was worth it, because that one class has made all the difference in my confidence about home repair.

Since taking the class, I have not only changed supply lines and valves on my home toilets myself, but I've also been able to confidently say "no thanks" to plumbers who've suggested that I replace entire faucet units when all that was needed to fix the leak was a new washer or packing. Such triumphs encouraged me to buy a really good home repair book. I have since fixed non-plumbing-related areas of my home, too, including replacing the springs and cables on my garage door, buying and installing new insulation, and laying flooring.

Now, that's pretty good savings from a one-semester, affordable class with a schedule that was flexible enough for a young working mother of two.

**GO AHEAD
SUCCEED**

ACCENT ON ACHIEVEMENT:

Parkland Pathway to Illinois

**“DECIDING
TO ATTEND
PARKLAND
COLLEGE WAS
ONE OF THE BEST
DECISIONS I
MADE.”**

**CAROLINA JIMENEZ,
2013 Parkland College graduate**

Veterinary doctorate ahead for Carolina Jimenez '13

A STEP AHEAD: PARKLAND PATHWAY SIGNUP

Recent Illinois high school graduates and GED recipients are eligible to apply for the Parkland Pathway to Illinois program. All application materials must be submitted between February 15 and April 15 for entrance into the program the following fall. Those who apply before March 15 receive priority consideration.

An Information Open House for the Pathway program will be held at Parkland on February 12, 2017; more information will be available at www.parkland.edu in January.

For more on eligibility, available Illinois majors and concentrations, program requirements, and a program enrollment checklist, visit www.admissions.illinois.edu/Apply/Pathways/parkland-about.

Carolina Jimenez knew she wanted to become a veterinarian, but she did not know which road would lead her there.

As it turns out, that “road” began with the Parkland Pathway to Illinois.

In the Pathway program, qualifying students begin college at Parkland and seamlessly transfer to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. As they prepare to transfer, Pathway program students can integrate their experience as full-time Parkland students while using resources and classes at Illinois.

“Deciding to attend Parkland College was one of the best decisions I made,” the Urbana resident said. “Not only did it provide an affordable and great education, but also a sense of community and support.”

After earning her AS in General Studies at Parkland, Carolina received a fellowship with National Science Foundation and conducted research projects every semester at Illinois. She graduated from the UIUC in 2015 with a Bachelor’s in Animal Sciences and a minor in chemistry under the James Scholar Program (the undergraduate honors program). This fall, she began the second year of her doctorate in veterinary medicine at the UIUC.

Parkland College is proud to be a leg of Carolina’s journey toward her career goal. ***Go ahead!***



PHOTO PROVIDED

NOTABLE ALUMNI: **Steve Eisenmann**

LIGHTING TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AT SONY PICTURES

IMAGEWORKS, VANCOUVER, CANADA

Studied Art and Computer Science
classes at Parkland from 2001 to 2007

His most memorable at Parkland “happened while waiting to take some placement exams. I was planning on taking the collision repair degree at the time. While waiting to take the tests I picked up a course catalog laying on a table. I thumbed through and landed on a page that had 3D animation courses. I immediately decided this was what I wanted to do. The rest is history.”

PLAN AHEAD

FOR THESE LATE FALL/SPRING EVENTS!

Student-Parent Information Night (SPIN)

Thursday, November 10, 6–7:30 p.m.
Student Union

Get your questions answered about college life, how to apply, paying for college, Pathway to Illinois. Includes \$250 scholarship drawing.

Two Small Pieces of Glass: The Amazing Telescope

November 11, 12, 18, and 19, 8 p.m.
Staerkel Planetarium

While attending a star party, two teenage students learn from a female astronomer how telescopes have helped us understand our place in the universe. Tickets: \$6 adults, \$5 students/seniors/kids, sold at door.

Artemis Bridge Simulator

November 12, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Staerkel Planetarium

Gamers—command your own starship under the dome! Serve on one of five duty stations to win; 2-hour time slots for ages 13+. \$10 per person, \$50 for team of 6, and \$2 for viewers only. Pre-register at 217/351-2567.

2016 State of the Art: Drawing Invitational

curated by Shelby Shadwell. November 14–February 4, Giertz Gallery
Reception: Thursday, November 17, 5–7 p.m.; gallery talk at 6 p.m. by Shelby Shadwell.

Parkland College Offices Closed

November 24–27: Thanksgiving
December 23–January 2: Winter Break
January 16, 2017: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 23: Professional Development Day
March 24: Spring Holiday

A Charlie Brown Christmas

December 1–11
Harold and Jean Miner Theatre
Call 217/351-2528 to reserve tickets.

World of Science Lecture Series

Staerkel Planetarium
December 2: “Cosmic Dust,” Dr. James Kaler, UIUC
February 3, 2017: “Seeing Beneath the Ground: Geophysics and Recent Archaeological Explorations and Discoveries in Illinois,” Dr. Thomas Loebel, Illinois State Archeological Survey
March 3: “Observing the Worst Winter Storms East of the Rockies,” Dr. David Kristovich, Illinois State Water Survey
April 7: “How the Universe Began,” Dr. Joaquin Vieira, UIUC

Parkland Business Training and Community Education

Visit www.parkland.edu/btce for a listing of all noncredit classes; call 217/353-2055 to register.
Starting January 2017
Workshops for the “Maker” in You!
CU Woodshop: Intro to CNC Router, Intro/Intermediate Woodworking, Intro to Woodturning; Traditional Handcrafts, Seasonal Floral Design, Painting, Jewelry Making
Fitness Classes
Try one of our early morning, daytime, or after-work classes: interval training, cycling, core, yoga, Pilates, more.

Become an Extraordinary Leader

Develop and improve your leadership skills to help move your organization and people forward through Parkland’s Leadership Certificate Series. Starting April 2017
Career Changing Workshops
Thinking about making a change? Join nationally published author and trainer Rick Galbreath for career changing strategies that really work.

2017 Edu-Tours

The Natural History of Cuba, May 22–30, 2017
Sample France, June 5–14, 2017

Homecoming:

Works by Alicia Henry

February 13–March 28, 2017

Giertz Gallery

Reception: Thursday, February 16, 5–7 p.m.

Kazam!

Intrepid Inspector Ingrid of Interpol and the Crimson-Caped Killer Caper

February 9–12, 2017

Parkland Theatre’s Second Stage

26th Annual Student Production. Call 217/351-2528 to reserve tickets.

Parkland College Art & Design Student Juried Exhibition

April 10–May 6, 2017

Giertz Gallery

Reception: Thursday, April 13, 5–7 p.m.; awards ceremony at 6 p.m.

PARKLAND COLLEGE
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FOR SPRING SEMESTER.**

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credit and noncredit options.**

Go online at
www.parkland.edu/schedules
or request printed schedules by calling 217/351-2200
or visiting parkland.edu/contactus.

Parkland College ensures equal educational opportunities are offered to all students regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, gender expression, disability, sexual orientation, veteran/Vietnam veteran era, age, or religion, and is Section 504/ADA compliant. For additional information or accommodations, call 217/351-2551.

**PARKLAND COLLEGE
GO AHEAD**

