

**GO
AHEAD**



achieve.

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Degree predates diploma for Will Vavrin

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

PARKLAND COLLEGE
GO AHEAD



**HOW WILL YOU
GO AHEAD?**

Interim Vice President's Letter

Dear District 505 Residents,

People have dreams of what may be possible in their lives, but taking concrete steps to achieve those aspirations is sometimes a challenge. For many of you, these first steps include finding out about college and making plans to start, steps that are sometimes fearsome because there are many unknowns.

Parkland College has a team of faculty and staff ready to help you to begin the journey to earning a college credential. Its new branding tagline **"Go Ahead"** is a call to you to take those initial steps. It also assures you that you will find a welcome filled with good information and timely assistance to get you started toward achieving your dreams.

GO AHEAD. Dream. Call us, email us, or simply drop by. You can be what you hope to be; Parkland College is ready to help.

Pamela Lau

Interim Vice President for Academic Services



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

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STUDENT SUCCESS: Dual Credit



“THE BEST REASON TO TAKE DUAL CREDIT IS HOW YOU APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED FOR THE FUTURE.”

WILL VAVRIN
St. Thomas More and Parkland
College class of 2016

Degree predates diploma for Will Vavrin

Champaign teenager Will Vavrin graduates from Parkland College this May. About a week or so later, he will graduate from high school.

The High School of St. Thomas More senior isn't sure why he began taking Parkland dual credit classes in spring 2013, having begged his somewhat reluctant father for the opportunity.

“I think it started as a source of enjoyment and challenge for an overachieving freshman who didn't see the future positive outcomes of it,” Will explained. “My parents were concerned that I would not find any time for fun activities, but I was able to do music and drama events,

Science Olympiad, even cross country. I always allocated ‘fun time’ with friends.”

Dual credit courses allow high school students age 16 and older—or motivated 15-year-olds like Will—to take classes that work simultaneously toward a diploma and a college degree or certificate. Classes may be taken entirely at the students' high schools or, as in Will's case, entirely at Parkland's campus, or both.

After applying to Parkland, students must take course placement tests. For Will, this meant taking Spanish, English, and math assessments. He tested out of trigonometry and several Spanish classes, propelling him toward early degree completion.

Once assessed, students can register for classes. Will's favorites were photography and anatomy. Attending Parkland made for a longer school day than usual, he admitted. "Some classes ended late at night and I was tired from a full day; days would sometimes be 18 hours long due to high school and Parkland commitments."

He said the long days were worth the effort, though, in part because he took his dual credit classes at Parkland. "Parkland's campus is nice and I felt safe there; it had an openness to it unlike a high school building. I enjoyed the interaction with the older students and their perspectives."

Parkland's dual credit has made Will all the more eager to earn a bachelor's degree.

"The best reason to take dual credit is not necessarily about the material, it's about how you apply what you learned for the future," he added. "It has given me a feel of what college will be like in the future and is helping me refine my future interests."

GET AHEAD:

Sign up for Dual Credit

To participate in the Parkland College Dual Credit program, talk to your guidance counselor about the program and the course(s) you would like to take. For more information, visit www.parkland.edu/dualcredit or call the dual credit office at 217/353-2663.



*Celebrating 50 years
of student success*

Help the Parkland Foundation Recognize Our 50 Top Grads

Do you know an outstanding Parkland College alumnus? Help us celebrate Parkland's 50th anniversary by nominating him or her!

Parkland will highlight 50 outstanding alumni in promotions during 2016 and 2017, to celebrate 50 years of student success and service to our communities. Nominate someone you admire for this honor by sending his/her name, contact information, and a brief description of outstanding achievements to foundation@parkland.edu. Please submit your nomination(s) by October 1, 2016.



SERVICE LEARNING:

GARDEN HILLS HOMEWORK CLUB

GO AHEAD SERVE



**“THIS EXPERIENCE
HAS CHANGED ME.”**

GORGEOUS JONES
Sophomore,
Business Administration

Gorgeous Jones finds tutoring ‘elementary’

MOVE AHEAD: Get Involved with GHHC

The Garden Hills Homework Club was co-founded in fall 2007 by Parkland Professor Brian Nudelman and Lauren Smith of Champaign Unit 4 Schools to serve at-risk youth in the Champaign area.

Before volunteering, a Unit 4 Volunteer Application and Background Check (free) must be on file. These forms are available on the Service Learning page at the My.Parkland student portal (Student Resources tab). You can print, fill out, and return these forms to Room C231. You may also stop by Room C220 to pick up the paperwork. Those interested in volunteering should contact Jordan Hall, Service Learning volunteer coordinator, at jdhall@parkland.edu or 217/353-3303 or Nudelman at 217/351-2534.

To earn extra credit points in a freshman English course, Gorgeous Jones agreed to volunteer 12 hours of tutoring at the Garden Hills Homework Club, a service learning project at Parkland. The grade incentive lasted one semester; Gorgeous lasted longer.

“Eventually, the students and I started to open up to each other, and I had gained their trust,” said the Business Administration major, who expects to graduate in May. “I knew I had to come back the following two semesters—I just fell in love with tutoring.”

The afterschool club’s volunteers serve as mentors and tutors for 3rd- through 5th-grade students at Garden Hills Elementary School. Most GHHC students live in a neighborhood known for higher rates of crime and poverty than others in Champaign. Although she grew up in a different Champaign neighborhood, Gorgeous was well-equipped to handle tutoring in such an environment.

“I am a black student and most of the students in the club are African American, so we mostly came from the same background,”

she remarked. “I felt more comfortable than scared when I started, as I knew I was once in their positions.”

Observing a disproportionate number of black tutors to GHHC students also kept her coming back. “I felt that the students could benefit from seeing someone similar to them tutoring, and it gave me a chance to be a role model.”

Handling the various attitudes students display at club sessions has given her greater patience and creativity with younger children. “Now I can think of different approaches to help individual students master their material without just giving them the correct answers,” she said. “This experience has changed me.”

Gorgeous advises future GHHC volunteers that perseverance with students is the key to success.

“Have patience with the students, show up consistently, and treat them with dignity, and they will eventually open up to you,” she said. “Once they have opened up, tutoring them for the rest of the semester will be a lot easier.”



PHOTO: REBECCA ROSSER

“I WANT TO GIVE BACK TO THE NATURAL WORLD.”

RICHARD ZABEL
 Sophomore,
 Horticulture: Landscape Construction,
 Design, and Management

↑
 RICHARD ZABEL WITH
 KAIZAD IRANI (L),
 HORTICULTURE PROFESSOR

REAL-WORLD APPLICATIONS: HORTICULTURE

FORGE AHEAD: Careers in Horticulture

Ready to design, build, and maintain attractive, functional private and public spaces? Parkland offers the following AAS degrees and certificates in horticulture to help you reach your professional goals:

HORTICULTURE AAS

HORTICULTURE: FLORAL DESIGN

CERTIFICATE

**HORTICULTURE: LANDSCAPE DESIGN,
 CONSTRUCTION, AND MANAGEMENT
 CERTIFICATE**

Overall employment of landscape architects and grounds maintenance workers is projected to grow 5 and 6 percent, respectively, from 2014 to 2024, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This is about as fast as the average for all employees. Nationally, landscape architects earned a median wage of \$64,570/year in 2014, while the median hourly wage for grounds maintenance workers was \$11.93.

Landscape Students Design Veteran Memorial Garden

On Veteran’s Day 2015, horticulture professor Kaizad Irani’s Introduction to Landscape Design (HRT 116) class impressed their client, 1st Sgt. Michael Freed of the Illinois Army National Guard, with their designs for a soldier memorial garden to be built in Roberts, Illinois.

Sgt. Freed approached Irani last summer after hearing about the work he and his Parkland horticulture classes had done on the World Trade Center Memorial Project, the Urbana Labrynth, and the St. Jude Children’s Hope Garden. Professor Irani was excited to offer this real-world once-in-a-lifetime experience with his landscape design students.

On November 11, three student design teams—Fox Trot Platoon, American Phoenix, and Brody’s Bunch—presented their designs. Sgt.

Freed and many of the presenters were nearly moved to tears by this incredible opportunity to recognize and memorialize the first 19 American soldiers killed in the line of duty from December 2008 to September 2009.

Each design had great aspects, Irani said, so they will all be incorporated into one final cohesive design. Plans are in the works for a fall 2016 horticulture class (HRT 119, Landscape Construction and Maintenance) trip to Roberts to begin installation. Other Parkland disciplines, including construction technology, will also attend, to assist with the hardcape elements of the design installation.

Horticulture: Landscape Design, Construction, and Management is a rewarding hands-on field that incorporates creativity, business skills,

botanical knowledge, and love of gardening and plants. Parkland’s program typically includes real-world landscape installations both on Parkland’s campus and elsewhere. This is a popular program for returning adult students, like Richard Zabel of Paxton, pictured above, who participated in the Veterans Memorial Garden project, and plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree working towards a career as a wildlife officer for the National Park Service. Congratulations are also in order: Richard and teammate Scot Jean recently won second place in the wood construction category at the National Association of Landscape Professionals Student Career Days competition.

GO AHEAD DREAM

IN-DEMAND CAREERS: Hospitality

RETURNING TO COLLEGE
WAS A “LEAP OF FAITH” FOR
HOSPITALITY STANDOUT
TIFFANY FRY.



PHOTO: JONNY ASHIKVAN

Hospitality a Bigger (and Better) Fish to Fry

**“I HAVE CHANGED
IN SO MANY WAYS...
MOST OF ALL, I
BELIEVE IN MYSELF
MORE NOW THAN
EVER BEFORE.”**

TIFFANY FRY
Sophomore,
Hospitality

Early motherhood may have halted Tiffany Fry’s plans to complete her Parkland education 24 years ago, but it never stunted her dreams of doing so.

Back then, the one-time Cobras track standout chose dedicating her life to raising her new son, and later, his brothers, over academic pursuits. The two decades of life away from Parkland only sharpened Tiffany’s career passion; upon returning, she knew just what she wanted to study: food.

“Over the years, I realized my deep passion for food—not just the consumption of it but the way it is prepared,” Tiffany remarked. “This came about because I got married and relocated to Louisiana. There, I learned the true definition of cooking from the heart and soul by watching and asking questions from the best, my (then) mother-in-law.”

Deciding to go back to school was a “leap of faith,” however, she admitted, as she had to leave an eight-year management job to do so. “Facing your fears head-on is the best way; the challenge is yours to make, but you have to want it enough to take it on. I did, and I have been successful.”

Now Tiffany, a straight-A student, expects to graduate from Parkland in May with degrees in Restaurant Management and Culinary Arts Management plus several Hospitality certificates including Hotel/Motel Management. She called the two-year journey to get where she is today “incredible and eye-opening at the same time.”

“I have changed in so many ways,” she explained. “Thinking outside the box has been good for me: I never would have cooked or tasted some of the foods that I have while in this program. That was a huge task for me, as I was set in my ways on what I liked. Most of all, I believe in myself more now than ever before. Parkland has given me the tools to analyze, prioritize, and apply the necessary skills to make the proper educated decisions I didn’t make before.”

With her post-graduation sights on a position as a food and beverage/banquet manager or director, Tiffany ultimately hopes to own her own restaurant and bar—“nothing fancy, just something that is my own.” She feels equipped to the task now, both because of her personal traits and her new Parkland training.

“I know I am a people person, so this industry was just what I was born to do; it took me some time to get here, but nevertheless, I’m here and I never gave up,” she said. “My Parkland instructors were real people, meaning they have lived life and seen the struggles that go on with juggling school, work, family, etc. They are understanding, and as long as you communicate with them they will do what they can and will go above and beyond to help you.

“If you choose this program, the only way you will not make it and graduate or earn your certificate is because YOU choose not to.”

LOOKING AHEAD: Careers in Hospitality

Parkland offers the following hospitality industry AAS degrees...

CULINARY ARTS MANAGEMENT
HOTEL/MOTEL MANAGEMENT
RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT

... and certificates:

FOODSERVICE
FOODSERVICE ASSISTANT
FOODSERVICE SANITATION
HOTEL/MOTEL MANAGEMENT

Well-trained hospitality industry employees are in demand worldwide in hotels, restaurants, tourist attractions, theaters, amusement parks, casinos, and related public venues. In addition to local employment, Parkland graduates have reported getting jobs with Disney, at Hilton hotels in Florida and Singapore, and at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

ACCENT ON STUDENT SUPPORT: Scholarships

Need help paying for Parkland College’s fall semester classes? Applying early to Parkland, and then vying for one or more scholarships still available through the Parkland College Foundation, can put a significant dent in the tuition bill, says Director of Enrollment Services Tim Wendt.

“With the recent state budget cuts, MAP grants are becoming scarce, so students need to take greater advantage of funds that are just sitting there, waiting for the right student to apply,” Wendt said.

Students will find scholarship applications at the my.parkland.edu student portal. Once they select “Scholarship Search” under the Student Services tab, they will be directed to a listing of all currently available scholarships. Selecting “eligible scholarships” from the drop down menu provides a list customized based on available scholarship criteria. While scholarships are listed all year long, primary application

periods are March 15–April 15 for fall and October 15–November 15 for spring.

“Most scholarship applications require you to write an essay, but don’t be intimidated! Our Center for Academic Success offers a Writing Lab that is open and available to new and current students,” Wendt said. For more information, visit D120 or login to my.parkland.edu.

Several reputable online resources feature scholarships as well:

- Fastweb (fastweb.com/)
- CollegeBoard (collegeboard.org/)
- Federal Student Aid Gateway (federalstudentaid.ed.gov/)

Finally, Wendt encourages prospective students to apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, available online at FAFSA.gov.

**GO AHEAD
HEAL**



WORKFORCE BUILDING:
Spirit of Nursing Conference

**Program Founder Leaves Legacy
of Nurse Education**

Sister Julia Moriarty would be proud of Parkland College’s latest effort to keep alive her legacy of regional nursing education through the school.

A brand new seminar, “The Spirit of Nursing Conference,” makes its debut at Parkland’s campus on May 20, set up with support from the late Sister Julia herself.

“She passed away last year, and there was money set aside at the Presence Health Foundation in her name to be used for continuing education for nurses,” said Diane Cousert, Parkland Health Professions’ assistant dean of nursing and faculty affairs.

Designed to provide area nurses annually with support, inspiration, and professional development, the Spirit of Nursing Conference will highlight the robust nursing profession in the rapidly changing healthcare environment. Conference proceeds will go toward the Sister Julia Moriarty Nursing Scholarship at Parkland.

“Topics at this conference and future conferences will be kept global to appeal to all types of nurses, not just specific disciplines,” Cousert said. “Sister Julia always put patients first and believed in treating the whole person—mind, body, and soul. She believed that nursing is founded in service to others and that healing the sick is a noble and highly professional calling.”

In the late ‘60s, Parkland asked Moriarty to help establish the college’s nursing program, which was first accredited by the National League of Nursing in 1971. A member of the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, she had come to Champaign-Urbana in 1942 to finish her nursing training and serve at the local Catholic hospital (now Presence Covenant Medical Center), staying nearly 50 years.

“SISTER JULIA BELIEVED THAT NURSING IS FOUNDED IN SERVICE TO OTHERS AND THAT HEALING THE SICK IS A NOBLE AND HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL CALLING.”

DIANE COUSERT,
Assistant Dean, Parkland College
Health Professions

“Colleagues who taught with Sister Julia typically remark that she was well beyond everyone else in her thinking and vision for what nursing should be, and how nursing can positively impact the whole community,” Cousert remarked. “She was loved and respected by colleagues, coworkers, and patients. Her kind and warm spirit touched all who knew her.”

Parkland’s new conference promises to continue spreading her spirit to future generations of nurses in District 505.

STAY AHEAD:

The Spirit of Nursing Conference: Emerging Topics in Nursing

Presented by Presence Covenant Medical Center and Parkland College

Friday, May 20 | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. | Harold and Jean Miner Theatre at Parkland College

The 2016 Spirit of Nursing Conference will be held in honor of Sister Julia Moriarty, founder of Parkland’s nursing program and a 46-year employee of Mercy Hospital (currently Presence Covenant Medical Center). Proceeds will support the Sister Julia Moriarty Nursing Scholarship.

Conference topics:

The Changing Landscape of Healthcare | Four Generations in the Workplace
End of Life Decisions | Life Skills for the Nurse

Registration is \$49; advance registration is required. Visit parkland.edu/nursingconference to pay by credit card or by mail with a check, or call 217/351-2235 to register by phone. The deadline to register is May 13, 2016.

PLAN AHEAD

FOR THESE UPCOMING ACTIVITIES!

Parkland Music Events:

Chamber Singers and Orchestra, Tuesday, May 3, 7 p.m., Harold and Jean Miner Theatre
Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, Thursday, May 5, 7 p.m., Harold and Jean Miner Theatre
Parkland Guitar Ensemble, Wednesday, May 11, 5 p.m., Parkland Art Gallery Lounge.

Parkland College Automotive Alumni Event

Saturday, May 7, 6–9 p.m.
Parkhill Applied Technology Center
Reconnect with former Parkland Automotive program alumni and instructors. Ticket (\$20) includes dinner and cash bar; RSVP to cmurphy@parkland.edu by April 29.

Graphic Design: Parkland College Student Juried Show

May 9–28, Giertz Gallery

Summer Fitness Classes @ Parkland Community Education

Start late May 2016
Keep those early-year resolutions going with popular favorites like PiYo, Zumba, Boot Camp, Core and More, and Flow Yoga. Visit www.parkland.edu/schedules for the noncredit class schedule and call 217/353-2055 to register.

College for Kids Classes

Session 1: Monday–Thursday, June 20–30
Session 2: Monday–Thursday, July 11–21
Your children will enjoy summertime fun in these hands-on enrichment classes. Visit www.parkland.edu/collegeforkids to register or call 217/353-2055 for more information.

Parkland Premiere: Campus Visit Day

Monday, July 11, 10 a.m.
Prospective students and their families can get to know Parkland by visiting the campus, meeting faculty and staff, and learning about the Pathway to Illinois program, payment options, college majors, and more. Email shartman@parkland.edu to register (free) or for more information.

Study Abroad Opportunities:

International Field Experience in Germany, July 25–August 5. Deadline to apply: June 1. Call Don Bergfield at 217/351-2406 to register.
Experience Cuba Study Abroad, May 22–30, 2017. Deadline to apply: February 1, 2017. Contact Jody Littleton at jlittleton@parkland.edu or 217/351-2532 to register.
A Taste of France: Fundamentals of Nutrition, June 5–14, 2017. Deadline to apply: February 1, 2017. Contact Jody Littleton at jlittleton@parkland.edu or 217/351-2532 to register.



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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.

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GO AHEAD**

