

GO AHEAD

Interview



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Bill Taylor's college dream "never too old"

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

PARKLAND COLLEGE GO AHEAD



YOUR SUCCESS IS OURS

Vice President's Letter

Dear District 505 Residents,

When you step in the door at Parkland College, you will find knowledgeable and welcoming faculty and staff who are committed to your success. Whether you are here to take a class or two, train for a new career, or prepare for transfer, count on us to help you have a well-rounded student experience here.

You will find the following housed in Student Services, ready to assist you from admission to graduation.

- admission and registration
- assessment testing
- new student orientation
- academic advising
- personal and career counseling
- disability accommodations
- financial aid and scholarships
- student life activities
- international student assistance
- socialization, study, and dining spaces
- student employment
- degree audit assistance
- commencement

Call us or stop by, knowing we offer the support you need to GO AHEAD.

Mike Trame

Michael R. Trame

Vice President for Student Services





DANIEL ITO and Crane Cloud

read ahead.

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

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**“YOU’RE NEVER TOO OLD TO
LEARN SOMETHING NEW.”**

BILL TAYLOR
Sophomore,
General Studies

Bill Taylor’s degree dream “never too old”

*Why does Bill Taylor of Mahomet plan to earn his Parkland College degree at age 71?
Because he has always wanted it.*

His wife Sharon, a retired nurse, also looks forward to Bill’s graduation day (expected May 2018), but for a different reason.

“I’ll cut my hair for the ceremony,” Bill explained, with a wry smile and a tug on the five-year growth he can now easily pull into a ponytail. “I haven’t cut it since I retired.”

A native of Boston, Bill almost went to college shortly after high school. He planned to enroll at Parkland once his brief tour at Chanute AFB ended in 1970 but decided instead to continue with a new sales job he had landed at an area car dealership. That decision led Bill to a 41-year career in sales; he retired from the WDWS-AM sales staff in 2011.

While he never regretted his career decision—he simply had a knack for selling things—Bill did regret one thing.

“My son (a college professor) once asked me, ‘Dad, how would you assess your life?’” he remarked. “I told him I’ve had a great life: I’ve been married 49 years, had two great kids, always made a good income, and now am retired. But the one regret I had was that I didn’t have that ‘sheepskin’ saying I went to college.”

That very evening, Christmas 2015, Bill’s son helped him complete his Parkland College application, and by March 2016 he was taking his first online classes for a General Studies associate’s degree: History of American Music, English, and psychology.

Bill used computers professionally and loves organization, so he has navigated online classes well and is maintaining a nearly straight-A GPA. He enjoys communicating with his professors and classmates via the Web. Online learning also gives Bill the flexibility to continue golfing, his favorite pastime. But he makes a point of getting all his homework done first—something his golfing buddies tease him about from time to time.

“They say, ‘why are you going to school now?’” Bill says. “But I feel you’re never too old to learn something new.”

GET AHEAD:

ADULT RE-ENTRY SERVICES

Parkland’s Adult Re-entry Services, located in the Admissions and Records Office (U214), helps busy adults find a convenient way to finish their college degrees. Guidance is provided through the development of individualized learning plans, which outline exactly what is needed and which courses are necessary for degree completion. Several four-year universities offer advanced degrees that can be earned by taking courses through Parkland or online. For information, call 217/353-2666 or e-mail adultreentry@parkland.edu.

ADULT LEARNERS: AFTER GED, A CALLING DISCOVERED

Busy mom unlocks flair for photography



*Story excerpt taken from 9/28/16 Parkland Prospectus article:
“Profiles of Parkland: Michelle Wright”*

Photography major Michelle Wright found herself at a crossroads in life a few years back. The mother of three realized that her children weren’t too far away from completing their high school years, which for her posed a bit of a problem. “I could not have my kids graduate before I did,” she said.

Wright grew up in a small town near Peoria before moving with her family to Normal just prior to her freshman year in high school. By the time she was a junior, Wright dropped out for personal reasons. At age 35, she decided to get her GED.

Soon after earning her GED, she realized that she hadn’t just completed something but rather had just started something new. She enrolled at Parkland College and began her pursuit of a degree in fine arts. Her studies have become a new passion for her.

“My major is photography; I think it chose me,” Wright said. “Everywhere I look, I see a picture.” Michelle also recently decided to pursue a second degree in graphic design; she plans to graduate from Parkland with a dual major.

Last semester, she received a Merit Award for work that had been accepted into the juried student art show at Parkland’s Giertz Gallery. She also had two photos selected for inclusion in Parkland’s *Images* magazine. “It felt amazing,” she said.

Wright has some advice for others who may be starting their college studies later in life. “Learn to accept the chaos. Remind yourself that it will be over in a few semesters.”



CAREER FOCUS: **LAND SURVEYING PROJECT MANAGER**

What makes Parkland is a top trainer for surveying? Here are some reasons from program graduate and Army veteran Jim Harpole, project manager at JLH Land Surveying Inc. in Plainfield:

Strong foundation, ideal environment.

The Land Surveying AAS program gave me the strong foundation I needed to succeed in my career, thanks to its wide range of topics and challenging curriculum.

Real-world experience. I benefited from the program's many off-campus projects, like creating topographic surveys for the Monticello Railway Museum and establishing the photogrammetric control network for Champaign and Piatt counties. We even did the property boundaries for a few Habitat for Humanity projects.

Reaching out, giving back. The program reaches out to high schools; supports the

Boy Scouts of America by hosting a surveying merit badge; and assists with Illinois sectional and state agricultural mechanics competitions. Parkland also works with the University of Illinois' Engineering program, which accepts CIT 255 Engineering Surveying course credit from Parkland.

Helpful faculty and staff. Every instructor I had during the two years I spent on campus was always approachable and willing to set aside their time to assist me in understanding the coursework. As a student veteran, I was especially pleased with the service I received from the Financial Aid and Veteran Services office. I had a great experience while at Parkland.

PROGRAM EXCELLENCE: **SURVEYING TECHNOLOGY**

College wins NCEES Surveying Education Award

Parkland College has earned a national award for its instruction in land surveying.

The school's Construction Management: Land Surveying program received the 2016 Surveying Education Award from the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying. Program faculty are using the \$10,000 prize to improve recruitment efforts and build public awareness about the surveying industry.

"It is a great honor to receive this award and be counted among some of the top names in the surveying education community," said Parkland Construction Management Program Manager Todd Horton.

Now in its inaugural year, the annual NCEES Surveying Education Award recognizes 10 surveying programs across the country that best reflect the organization's mission to advance licensure

for engineers and surveyors in order to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The award jury considers criteria such as student outcomes, student involvement, outreach, and recruitment.

Parkland's AAS degree and certificate programs in Land Surveying prepare graduates either to become survey technicians, to transfer into a baccalaureate program, or to add surveying training to their baccalaureate degrees. The only Illinois community college that offers 24 credit hours of surveying courses, Parkland College has been approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation as satisfying the educational requirements for land surveyors-in-training.

PROGRAM EXCELLENCE: SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

Program earns NBSTSA Merit Award

The Surgical Technology program received the award from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting for achieving a 100 percent graduate pass rate on the national certification exam for surgical technologists during the 2015–2016 academic year. Graduates passing the exam to become certified surgical technologists (CST) demonstrate an understanding of the basic competencies for safe patient care in the operating room.

“The national pass rate for this exam is around 70 percent; for the last five years, Parkland College has achieved a 100 percent rate,” said Carolyn Ragsdale, director of the program. In addition, Parkland’s graduates have achieved a 100 percent job placement rate.

The CST exam is the only fully accredited examination by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies for surgical technologists in the nation. Certification as a surgical technologist exhibits professional pride, the desire to be recognized for mastery of surgical competencies, and most importantly, an ongoing commitment to quality patient care.

Parkland congratulates the Surgical Technology graduates earning this honor and the faculty members who train them.



BECAUSE YOU CARE: CAREERS IN SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

WHO HIRES PARKLAND SURGICAL TECH GRADS?

Mayo Clinic, that’s who! While many surgical technology and other health professions grads go to work for our many fine local healthcare providers, opportunity also knocks elsewhere. Mayo Clinic and other health companies have all recently sent recruiting teams to talk to Parkland’s surgical tech students.

HOW MUCH DO SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS EARN?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national median salary was \$44,000/year. The job outlook is strong—Parkland graduates report 100 percent job placement.

**GO AHEAD
EXPLORE**

RYAN MILLS, Sophomore
Champaign Central grad 2015

GLOBAL PARKLAND: Dining Abroad in China



Study Abroad coordinator Jody Littleton asked Ryan Mills, a Parkland study abroad student, to send her some reasons why students should study abroad in China. The first reason to go to China, according to Ryan? Food!

“Who doesn’t like food? Imagine eating at your favorite Chinese restaurant almost every day but ten times better. The food is fantastic and very affordable.

“Get ready to put the fork down and pick up the chopsticks. If you get tired of Chinese food, there is always Pizza Hut, Burger King, McDonald’s, and KFC to feed your inner American. All these chains actually taste way better in China than they do in America.

“Eating at a restaurant with friends is different than back in the states. Part of the culture in China is to share everything you have with others, especially the food. When you order food, you don’t get a single dish for yourself, you share all dishes with the people at the table, get a little piece of everything, and split the fare evenly. It’s awesome.”—Ryan Mills



WANT TO TRY CHINESE FOOD IN CHINA YOURSELF? YOU CAN!

Anyone can study abroad; people of all ages and backgrounds go on these trips. There are 10-day, 4-week, and 15-week programs available at a variety of times in the academic year. Multiple programs in various countries are available every semester, including Costa Rica, France, England, India, Morocco, Spain, and more. Contact study abroad coordinator Jody Littleton via email at jlittleton@parkland.edu for more information.



STAERKEL PLANETARIUM: Dave's Solar Eclipse Tips

An eclipse of the sun will occur August 21 as the moon covers the sun for about 2.5 minutes.

Staerkel Planetarium Director David Leake says while District 505 residents will only be able to see a partial eclipse, viewing the total eclipse is possible if they travel south towards the moon's shadow, near Carbondale.

"The best place to view the eclipse is in southern Illinois, so we're all heading that way," Leake said. "You could watch it from central Illinois, where 93 percent of the sun will be covered by the moon. Ninety-three percent is a lot, but it's important to note that 7 percent of the sun can blind you! So you must take precautions."

Some safe viewing methods include mylar glasses, a pinhole projector, a pegboard, a No. 14 welder's glass, or a projection method using a telescope or binoculars. Eclipse viewers should never look directly at the event without a visual aid.

For specifics on how to view the upcoming solar eclipse, or how to join the eclipse viewing trip to southern Illinois, visit Leake's blog post "Night in the Middle of Day" at blog.parkland.edu.



PARKLAND ATHLETICS: Cobras Sports Success

The year of the SNAKE! #CobraProud

The 2016–17 season has truly been an amazing one for Cobras athletics.

By the numbers:

- **FIVE** trips to Nationals: volleyball (#1), men's soccer (#6), women's soccer (#5), men's basketball (#5), women's basketball (#8)
- **TWO** first-ever national appearances: men's and women's soccer
- **FIVE** Region 24 titles
- **FIVE** M-WAC titles
- **TWO** district championships
- Combined record **148 WINS** and 18 losses
- **ONE** National Coach of the Year: Cliff Hastings, volleyball
- **THREE** M-WAC Coaches of the Year: Cliff Hastings, volleyball; Chris Jackson, women's soccer; Anthony Figueroa, men's basketball
- **SIX** teams with 3.0+ average grade point average
- **FIFTEEN** athletes with 4.0 GPA

Watch for a few more regional/national appearances? Spring sports—softball, baseball, and golf—have all started out strong.

GO COBRAS!

**GO AHEAD
SUCCEED**

**“FOR THE EDUCATION YOU
RECEIVE, PARKLAND IS
WORTH IT.”**

**DANIEL ITO,
'08 Parkland student, Business
'11 U of I graduate, Finance**

PARKLAND PARTNERS: University of Illinois students find Parkland success

Hundreds of University of Illinois students take Parkland College classes each year to shorten the road to their Illinois degrees. Uni High grad Daniel Ito shares how Parkland helped him achieve his educational goals.

Two classes shy of a full-semester transfer from the University of Michigan to Illinois, Daniel Ito chose Parkland College to fill in the gaps in his education and graduate on time.

A Champaign native, Daniel had known about Parkland since his youth as a College for Kids student on campus. As a spring 2008 freshman, he was back, this time taking microeconomics and macroeconomics courses.

“Being a business student, I guess I just appreciated the cost effectiveness of it,” Daniel said about his Parkland experience. “The quality of learning wasn’t sacrificed for the cost.”

So Daniel took other Parkland classes after entering the UIUC in fall 2008, such as music appreciation, introduction to psychology, and Japanese.

“Many of these classes were online, which required a different mindset for me,” he said. “I learned time management because I was on my own schedule rather than sitting in a classroom, and I enjoyed them.”

Daniel graduated from the University of Illinois with a BS in finance in 2011. A few months later, he moved to New York and worked for two years in mergers and acquisitions for a multinational accounting firm.

Since returning to the Champaign area, these days Daniel focuses on art, freelance video production, and working on his own peace project, *Crane Cloud*, through which he has folded more than 4,000 origami cranes for peace. He believes his Parkland experience as well as volunteer opportunities in New York helped him better discover the kind of life he wants to live.

“If I’m doing work that’s not really helping others and I’m not really happy myself doing it, then what’s the point, really?” he asked. “Figuring out what you’re really passionate about learning, without the pressure of having to pay back a lot of school loans—that was a major benefit of coming to Parkland.”

PARKLAND BLOG WRAP-UP: **News Around Campus**

Visit blog.parkland.edu to see stories like these from the campus perspective.

PUBLIC SAFETY'S SAFE CAMPUS BLOG SERIES

Throughout 2017, the Parkland College Department of Public Safety is releasing a weekly public safety blog post, with topics covering crime prevention, disaster awareness, weather-related driving, and other areas. These messages are the department's latest effort to provide a safe and secure campus environment conducive to learning.

SEVILLE, SPAIN STUDY ABROAD: CHRISTOPHER BARNES

Christopher Scott Barnes loved his semester abroad in Seville, Spain, and posted video blogs about his travels.

RACING TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE: KYLE BEMOUNT IS GOING PLACES FAST!

Rantoul native Kyle Bemount earned his associate's degree in Industrial Technology in 2011 and is on the fast track to success building race cars.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE GARDEN HILLS HOMEWORK CLUB

Parkland's flagship service learning project turned 10 years old in 2017 and marked the occasion with an open house on campus in March.



PLAN AHEAD *FOR THESE SPRING AND SUMMER EVENTS!*

PARKLAND BUSINESS TRAINING AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION:

Visit www.parkland.edu/btce to register for noncredit classes.

Summer Fitness Classes

Starting late May 2017

Time to try one of our early morning, daytime, or after-work classes: interval training, core, yoga, Pilates, water aerobics, more.

College for Kids

Summer enrichment program for students 8–13.

Two sessions: June 19–29 and July 10–20

New class times: 12:45–2:45pm and 3–5pm

New classes: iPad Art; Amazing Apps; How Things Work; Drones; Gardening; much more!

Chamber Singers and Wind Ensemble

Thursday, May 4, 7 p.m., Harold and Jean Miner Theatre

Concert Band and Orchestra

Sunday, May 7, 3 p.m., Harold and Jean Miner Theatre

Guitar Ensemble

Thursday, May 11, 7:30 p.m., Second Stage Theatre

Graphic Design: Parkland College Student Juried Show

May 15–June 1, Giertz Gallery

Giertz Gallery Art Expedition: Frank Lloyd Wright's Emil Bach House

June 1–2

Laser Shows at the Staerkel Planetarium

May 5–6

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**GO AHEAD
GET STARTED**



**REGISTER NOW
for summer and fall
classes!**

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.

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GO AHEAD**

