

GO AHEAD



achieve.

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Leadership role tall task, good fit for Nafissa Maiga

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PARKLAND COLLEGE GO AHEAD



PREPARING YOU, THEN AND NOW

A message from the President

Dear District 505 Residents,

As a new tuition pledge at Illinois opens more doors for lower- and middle-income students to reach for a bachelor's degree, Parkland College stands ready to assist these students in preparing for that degree. We've been doing this for more than 50 years now, and we're still faithful to our mission.

We remain the area's top choice for students who:

- prefer smaller class sizes with more personalized attention
- desire vocational-technical training over philosophy coursework (although we offer the latter, too)
- want to become career-ready in one to two years
- need that second (perhaps even third) chance at academic success

We are, after all, our community's college, with the mission to engage all our community members in learning. With our doors open wide, we have been, and always will be, here to help all students GO AHEAD.

Tom Ramage

President



read ahead.

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

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Leadership role tall task, good fit for Nafissa Maiga

A tall, slender figure with clear a shy but ready smile, Nafissatou Maiga quickly earned the nickname “Shorty” from coworkers in Parkland College’s Student Life office.

The sophomore engineering student from Bamako, Mali, Parkland’s first student trustee from Africa, is no stranger to remarks about her 6’4” frame wherever she lives, whether in the U.S., France, or Belgium where she was born and raised.

“I am never offended by the ‘how’s the weather up there?’ or ‘you should play basketball’ remarks, because I’ve heard that for so long,” she said. “People respond in the same way; I find it funny because it keeps reminding me how similar we all are.”

At home, though, she’s just Nafissa, not even the tallest member in her family. “At Parkland, everyone accepted my ‘atypical’ appearance in a way that reminded me a lot of home,” she remarked.

While becoming Parkland’s student trustee last April was exciting, it was a comfortable fit for Maiga, as she has been actively serving since coming to Parkland in 2015. She is a student government senator, peer mentor, president of the International Student Association, and a member of the school’s science, astronomy, and sustainability clubs. She is a student worker for both Student Life and the Chemistry Lab.



“PARKLAND HAS SOME OF THE BEST TEACHERS AND MENTORS I’VE EVER HAD.”

NAFISSA MAIGA
Parkland College Student Trustee

What did not feel as comfortable, however, was the public speaking aspect of this new role; still, she’s managing even that. “One of my first tasks as student trustee was presenting Dr. Ramage on stage during commencement, and that was a little stressful for me because I’m not a native English speaker,” she said. “I still enjoyed having to get out of my comfort zone.”

As the student voice on the Parkland College Board of Trustees, Maiga attends every board meeting and serves as the college’s student representative for off-campus events. She also gets to attend special leadership events, bringing back what she learns from them to the campus.

“I got interested in the student trustee position because I wanted to know how some of the decisions at Parkland were made,” Maiga explained. “Sitting on the board is helping me learn a lot more about the college. Running for student trustee is something I’d encourage a lot more students to do.”

With plans to attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in fall 2019, following in the footsteps of her older sister, Maiga hopes to land a career in environmental engineering or urban planning.

“Parkland College has been a great experience for me,” she said. “I’ve become a stronger and more social person, and Parkland has some of the best teachers and mentors I’ve ever had. I’m really glad I chose Parkland because I think—and hope—that I’ll graduate as a better person.”

NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT: **Precision Agriculture**

Parkland program no. 2 among two-year schools

Parkland College’s Precision Agriculture program has been named no. 2 among the nation’s community colleges by PrecisionAg.com, who released its Top 20 Two-Year Colleges list in September.

Parkland College offers the most comprehensive Precision Agriculture associate’s degree in the state of Illinois. Students learn technologies such as precision hardware and software systems, through industry-backed curriculum. With a 20+-year history of precision agriculture education, Parkland College has built a strong regional reputation with employer partners eager to hire Parkland graduates. Call 217/351-2481 or visit parkland.edu/PrecisionAG for more information.





PHOTO PROVIDED

HANDS-ON LEARNING: HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION CAREERS TRAINING PROGRAM

State program a boon for two local residents

Story by Elise Doody-Jones, HCCTP manager

In just under four months, local residents Frankie Hernandez and Dylan Trimble transformed their lives.

Last winter, they decided to join the Highway Construction Careers Training Program at Parkland College. HCCTP, a state program administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation, offers free training in the highway construction trades to women, minorities, and disadvantaged individuals, but the program is open to anyone.

On the day before Hernandez and Trimble officially graduated, I spotted them working on Mattis Avenue and stopped to talk. While an apprentice's pay is good, they said, their employer decided to give them over \$7/hour more than they expected. "We are getting the full rate of pay," Hernandez said. Trimble nodded. "It's awesome," he said, referring to either the pay or the job, or both.

One of the seasoned workers stepped out from the shade of a nearby tree and added, "These are good guys. We're glad to have

them." In fact, if you had just passed by the crew, you would never have guessed who the new guys were. They were focused, working, and part of the team.

So how did Hernandez and Trimble get here? Like many HCCTP students, each story is different, but they both wanted to make a lasting change. Hernandez had attended an orientation class that informs potential students of the program's expectations: show up on time and do your best. A high school diploma or equivalent is required, and students must pass a drug screening test, be at least 18, and have an interest in construction.

During their first six weeks, Hernandez and Trimble learned math-specific skills for the industry, life skills, construction site safety, equipment training, and flagger training. For the following nine weeks they had general construction and skilled trades training, including stick welding, plumbing, electrical, and sheet metal work.

"The math skills really helped me," Hernandez said. "I improved a lot in that area so I could do my job." Trimble had a different takeaway. "I like the big machines," he said, laughing.

STEP AHEAD: HCCTP ORIENTATION

Interested in joining the Highway Construction Careers Training Program? Attend a FREE orientation session at the Community Education office, 1315 N. Mattis Avenue in Champaign. Upcoming sessions are Jan. 29 at 2 p.m. and Jan. 30 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Call 217/351-2235 for more information or sign up at parkland.edu/HCCTP-apply.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: ENGLISH FOR CNA PROGRAM

Language class advances immigrants to health careers

Patients often say they have to go to the toilet using terms a nonnative English-speaking caregiver might not recognize. But locally, one Parkland College professor is helping new English learners grasp the nuances of medical language in a free class that debuted this fall.

“An 85-year-old may say one thing for urination; a five-year-old will say another,” explained Christina Havenland, who leads the new English for Certified Nursing Assistant class offered through Parkland’s Adult Education department. “A tough old military vet may use another, less polite, word, while a church secretary may have yet another very euphemistic word! An immigrant CNA needs to know the whole range of language he or she would encounter on the job.”

Language comprehension is even more crucial when discussing symptoms, added Havenland, a Humanities associate professor who teaches reading. For example, nearly 80 phrases can be used to describe pain. “If a patient says she feels a ‘nagging tenderness,’ a medical professional without sufficient language training could misunderstand either the relatively rare word “nagging,” or could misunderstand “tenderness” as being a positive emotion instead of a type of physical soreness,” she said.

Funded through a federal English language education grant and the Illinois Community College Board, enrollees receive 96 hours of training in the culture and language skills they need for success in Parkland’s regular Certified Nursing Assistant course. Once they attain their industry-recognized credential, students can then work in the community as a CNA.

Havenland said the program helps combat the nationwide shortage of certified nursing assistants by allowing immigrants to more quickly practice medical skills they may already have acquired in their home countries. “Some of these adult learners are already professionals with degrees and credentials in their native countries,” she said. “Completing our CNA course serves as an entry point for them to pursue more advanced nursing credentials offered by Parkland, such as our Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) and Registered Nursing (RN) degrees.”

For more information on the ECNA program, contact Parkland College Adult Education at 217/351-2580.

In Fiscal Year 2019 (FY ‘19), approximately 40% (\$161,595) of the total cost of the Parkland College Adult Education and Family Literacy Program is provided through federal funds under Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

CHRISTINA HAVENLAND >





PHYLIS WILLIAMS

GIVING BACK: HORTICULTURE

Phyllis Williams designs garden for missing UI scholar

It would be one of the most daunting challenges of her career: Design a memorial garden dedicated to missing Illinois scholar Yingying Zhang. But Phyllis Williams knew what she had to do. She had to draw on her arsenal of Parkland College Horticulture training. After all, she was one of ‘Kaizad’s kids.’

A Champaign County Master Gardener since 2009, Williams hesitated after receiving her organization’s request last summer. It felt risky to create a memorial fitting enough to honor the Chinese graduate student, feared dead after being kidnapped from the Urbana-Champaign campus over a year ago. Zhang’s story was international news, and the garden would be the first of its kind.

But Williams realized that HRT 256, the Landscape Planting Design class she had taken with Horticulture program director Kaizad Irani last spring, held more relevance than ever before. In fact, his class had prepared her for just this moment. That semester, Irani, a world traveler, had chosen Chinese gardens as the class focus.

“I thought, ‘Well, this is why I took the class—this is it—and so, step up and be brave,’” said the longtime Urbana resident and UIUC retiree from Paris, Illinois. “I felt like I had the tools to say, ‘Yes, I’m going to work on that project.’ My toolbox had been packed.”

A collaboration of the CCMG, the Chinese Students and Scholars Association, and other student groups at Illinois, the 600-square-foot memorial garden sits at the corner of Goodwin and Clark in Urbana, just behind the spot where Zhang was last seen.



Construction began in September with the pouring of a concrete platform to hold a granite bench; the platform also contains the handprints of the student builders. “It’s quite emotional, and the students really seem to like that element,” Williams said.

Two other ideas contributed by fellow Master Gardener and Parkland landscape student Christine Nordholm, are the garden’s color palette of white and green and its winding walkway of disappearing steps. White is a mourning color in Chinese culture, while green symbolizes purity. The walkway into the garden includes large grey pavers that start out covering the path but become scarce as they lead visitors toward the bench and platform. “By the time you get just over halfway on the path, you’ll run out of all but a couple pavers, and then you’ll get to the pad,” Williams explained.

Irani said he was impressed with Williams' design, which includes plantings favored in Chinese gardens: a weeping cherry tree and a white azalea; various types of junipers, hydrangeas, and hostas; boxwoods; and more. "You have a little bit of color and year-round interest; I thought, 'I couldn't have done any better at all,'" said the professor, who began Parkland's Horticulture program 17 years ago and is set to retire this spring. "This is your goal: you want students to build upon your teaching and take it to a whole other level, and she has."

For Williams, it was Irani's training that brought her Master Gardener skills to the level she needed to compete for landscape design proposals like Zhang's garden. "I've learned a lot from the Master Gardeners—botany, plant care, integrated pest management," she said. "By the same token, I felt like, 'there's a design element I need to bring to bear.' I really wanted to help plan for success. So, I took Kaizad's classes. Parkland is so accessible."

LICENSING LEADERS:

Health career grads outshine peers in exams

Parkland College is tops for training! Our Health Professions division's Class of 2018 earned perfect scores on regional and national certification exams.

- Thirty-five students from Parkland's Dental Hygiene program completed the Clinical Board Exam by the Central Regional Dental Testing Services agency. The exams were evaluated, with Parkland receiving a 100 percent pass rate. The majority of the scores were over 90 percent, and 10 of the students earned perfect scores.
- Massage Therapy program graduates posted a 100 percent pass rate on their first attempt at the Massage and Bodywork Licensing exam, placing them ahead of their collegiate peers in the state and national pass rates for first-time licensing exam takers (74.1 percent and 72.9 percent, respectively).
- Surgical Technology's July graduates achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the National Board exam. All graduates who sought employment are employed in area hospitals and beyond, with full-time benefits and pay of \$18-\$25/hour.



PHOTO BY SCOTT WELLS

**GO AHEAD
VISIT**



CAMPUS CONNECTIONS: BETSY'S BISTRO NOW OPEN

Board of Trustees approves contract with Hendrick House

Parkland College's student services chief remembers the moment he was sold on having Hendrick House Dorms of Urbana as the school's new food service provider. It was his students' reaction to the vendor during a spring visit.

"They raved and raved about that experience," Vice President for Student Services Mike Trame said about the group of Parkland students who toured other Champaign-Urbana sites that Hendrick House operates in, including the University of Illinois' Newman House and Carle at the Fields. With its focus on freshly prepared food using local ingredients whenever possible, Hendrick House has served University of Illinois students for 70 years.

"After seeing Hendrick House's offerings, our students seemed to think the company would understand what Parkland College students would want in a cafeteria: diverse and quality food for a reasonable price," Trame said. "They seemed happy with the choice, and if they're happy, I'm happy."

Betsy's Bistro at Parkland opened this fall semester in the Student Union cafeteria. Parkland College trustees approved Urbana campus foodservice provider Hendrick House Dorms as Betsy's Bistro at Parkland under a five-year contract in July.





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PLAN AHEAD

FOR THESE LATE FALL/SPRING EVENTS!

PARKLAND THEATRE

The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940

Nov. 8–18, Harold and Jean Miner Theatre
A comedy about murders, secret identities, and the Golden Age of Broadway, this is a modern classic in the vein of Clue. Call 217/351-2528 to reserve tickets.

Come Blow Your Horn

Feb. 7–17, Parkland Second Stage
This hilarious comedy launched the career of its internationally famous playwright, Neil Simon. Call 217/351-2528 to reserve tickets.

GIERTZ GALLERY AT PARKLAND COLLEGE

2018 State of the Art: Photography

Nov. 12, 2018–Feb. 2, 2019

Draped and Bundled: Paintings by Leah Joo

Feb. 11–Mar. 26

HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL FESTIVAL CONCERT

Friday, Feb. 1, 5:30 p.m.
Harold and Jean Miner Theatre
First annual choral festival open to area high school students, conducted by Frank Gallo, director of Parkland College Chamber Singers.

MUSIC ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

Jazz Ensemble

Monday, Nov. 26
7 p.m. • Parkland Second Stage

Wind Ensemble and Chamber Singers

Sunday, Dec. 2
3 p.m. • Harold and Jean Miner Theatre

Guitar Ensemble

Wednesday, Dec. 5
7 p.m. • Parkland Second Stage

Parkland Pops

Saturday, Dec. 8
1 p.m. • Parkland Second Stage

Concert Band and Orchestra

Sunday, Dec. 9
3 p.m. • Harold and Jean Miner Theatre

Chamber Singers and Wind Ensemble

Sunday, Mar. 3
3 p.m. • Harold and Jean Miner Theatre

Orchestra and Concert Band

Sunday, Mar. 10
3 p.m. • Harold and Jean Miner Theatre

KALER SCIENCE LECTURES

Staerkel Planetarium

“The 2018 Volcanic Eruption on Hawaii: Causes and Consequences of a Natural Disaster”

Dec. 7, 7 p.m.

“Spiderman vs. Spiders: Marvel vs. the Real World”

Feb. 1, 7 p.m.

“Chasing Tornadoes: It’s not what you think!”

Mar. 1, 7 p.m.

PARKLAND COLLEGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

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

Personal Development Classes

Starting Jan. 2019
New Year, new you! Try a fitness class, explore arts and crafts, cooking, and so much more.

Professional Development Classes

Starting Jan. 2019
Explore new career options and earn certifications.

PARKLAND COLLEGE CLOSED

Nov. 22–25; Dec. 24–Jan. 1; Jan. 21; Feb. 21; Mar. 22

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***REGISTER NOW
for spring classes!***

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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