

GO AHEAD



achievements.

SUCCESS STORY > **page 2**

Same Dream, New Direction for St. Joseph-Ogden Graduate Riley Knott

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

PARKLAND COLLEGE
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**QUALITY EDUCATION—
REST ASSURED**

Vice President's Letter

Dear District 505 Residents,

How will Parkland College continue providing top-quality education to you, the members of our district, for another 50 years?

You probably have great answers for what it would take, such as support, dedication, or innovation. Naturally, one that comes readily to my mind is accountability.

The Higher Learning Commission holds Parkland College accountable for how well we instruct our students. This past semester, the commission approved our midterm (five-year) Assurance Argument. After it reviewed our reported strengths, challenges, goals, and vision, the HLC determined that Parkland College continues to meet all of its criteria for accreditation. In fact, we've been earning the HLC's stamp of approval for 40+ years.

We know that, like the HLC, you also expect a high standard of excellence from this institution. From instructional curricula to faculty and staff to student services, Parkland College remains committed to meeting your expectations. Please rest assured of that.

Seamus Reilly

Vice President for Institutional Advancement





Myles Boatright

read ahead.

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

EDITOR
Hilary Valentine

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Rebecca Grosser

WRITER
Ruthie Counter

PRESIDENT
Dr. Thomas R. Ramage

PHOTOGRAPHER
Brad Leeb

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

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STUDENT SUCCESS: SAME DREAM, NEW DIRECTION



**“IT’S A GREAT PLACE TO
GET STARTED.”**

RILEY KNOTT
Parkland Pathway to Illinois student

Same Dream, New Direction for Riley Knott

Growing up in rural St. Joseph, Riley always envisioned going to the University of Illinois, and all of her college plans centered around that dream. Then she got the letter. She was not accepted.

Of course, she’d always known that Parkland was here. Most of her friends planned to attend Parkland, and her father is Parkland Trustee Greg Knott. So after bouncing back from her initial disappointment, choosing Parkland was a logical choice.

After graduating from St. Joseph-Ogden High School, Riley applied for and was accepted into the Parkland Pathway to Illinois program

and began studying at Parkland in fall 2017, majoring in agriculture, with a plan to transfer into agricultural communications at the University of Illinois.

Fully expecting Parkland to be just like a slightly bigger high school, she was in for a big surprise. “I thought I would see all the same people I saw at St. Joe,” Riley said. “But there are so many different people here, and so many different classes to choose from. I didn’t realize all Parkland has to offer.”

Riley found the Parkland faculty and staff to be friendly and helpful. “The teachers really want you to understand and are always available to

answer questions.” She gives a shout out to math professor Kevin Hastings and English professor Lauren O’Connor for how enjoyable they made their classes.

Riley was a stellar member of FFA while in high school, earning Illinois FFA State Degree with poultry, floriculture, and vegetable for her record books. She still keeps a flock of about 30 chickens. She credits her high school ag teacher, Katie Duitsman, for helping her focus in on her career goal of seed sales, after spotting Riley’s aptitude for quick thinking and problem solving.

STUDENT SUPPORT:

Year-round Pell Grants Available Summer 2018

Parkland College students eligible for the Pell Grant may be able to receive a third disbursement of the award, based on a recent Department of Education announcement.

Students who already received a full Pell Grant during the fall and spring semesters may now qualify for “Year-round Pell” and thus receive a full Pell Grant during the summer semester as well, the DOE reported.

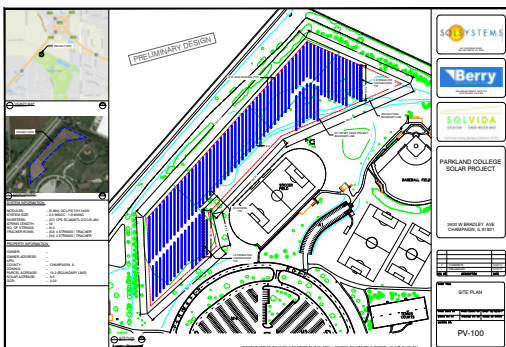
Year-round Pell allows students to receive up to 150 percent of a regular grant award over the course of the academic year, so that they can continue taking classes in the summer and finish their degrees faster than they would otherwise. With careful planning, Pell Grant recipients may take advantage of this new regulation to earn their degree faster.

According to the new regulation, any Pell Grant received over the summer will be included in determining the student’s Pell Grant lifetime limit.

To be eligible for the additional Pell Grant funds, a student:

- must be enrolled at least half-time (6 credit hours) during the summer term
- must be maintaining satisfactory academic progress

Students who have been awarded Pell Grants for the 2017–2018 academic year are encouraged to contact the Financial Aid office at 217/351-2222 or finaid@parkland.edu for assistance with summer 2018 financial planning.



So, majoring in agriculture at Parkland and the University of Illinois only made good sense for Riley, who found a comfortable and nurturing environment at Parkland. “It’s a great place to get started and learn good study skills,” Riley said. “I like the small classes. I will be prepared to transfer.”

And as for her dad? He couldn’t be happier that Riley landed at Parkland. “He knew how good Parkland would be for me,” she said.

SUSTAINABILITY:

New Large-scale Solar Array

Parkland College will further reduce its carbon footprint and save on energy costs with an eight-acre solar energy array.

Under a 25-year contract with Parkland College, SolSystems, LLC, of Washington, D.C., will design, install, and operate a two-megawatt solar energy field on campus property that would reduce the school’s electricity costs by about \$25,000 per year, with that figure increasing in future years. Groundbreaking on the new array is expected to occur in fall 2018.

The large-scale photovoltaic system further diversifies the college’s sustainability strategies. A signatory to the Presidents’ Climate Commitment, Parkland College created a Climate Action Plan to map out the route to carbon neutrality by 2060 and established a goal of 10% of campus energy to be derived from clean (low carbon) sources by 2015. The campus has engaged in several energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts to date, including two previously installed photovoltaic arrays, LED exterior lighting, room occupancy sensors, a geothermal heating and cooling system, and two buildings designed to the LEED Silver certification level.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: PROJECT READ

Free drop-in tutoring in reading, math, ESL for adults



Free drop-in tutoring sessions for adults in reading, basic math, or ESL services is now available through Parkland Adult Education's Project READ program.

Sessions take place weekly at four locations around Champaign and Urbana:

- Urbana Free Library (Mondays 9:30–11:30 a.m.)
- Parkland College Center for Community Engagement, Room C134 (Wednesdays noon–2 p.m.)
- Wesley Food Pantry, 1203 W. Green St., Urbana (Thursdays 5–7 p.m.)
- Champaign Public Library (Fridays 9:30–11:30 a.m.)

Project READ also invites community members to train as tutors for volunteering at these drop-in sites. Email ProjectREAD@parkland.edu or call 217/353-2662 for more information. Project READ is funded by the Illinois State Library.

CAREER TRAINING: NEW COLLEGE-AWARDED AVIATION CERTIFICATES

Since last fall, the Institute of Aviation has added to the number of career certificates Parkland College awards, with these 6-credit-hour flight certificates:

Private Pilot. Prepare to be certificated under FAA rules as a Private Pilot. Become proficient at single-engine aircraft operations, cross-country flying, responding to air traffic control, and a wide range of different airport operations.

Instrument Rating. Certificated Private Pilot students can receive an FAA certificate as a Private Pilot with Instrument Rating. Become proficient at flying a single-engine aircraft without reference to outside visual cues, thereby completing a flight safely if the weather deteriorates while en route.

Commercial Pilot. A certificated Private Pilot student with Instrument Rating can become certified under FAA rules as a Commercial Pilot with this training. Become proficient at operating

a complex single-engine aircraft, to fly for compensation or hire in a variety of different flying jobs including aerial photography, skydiving, aerial advertising, and more.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). The Federal Aviation Administration announced that drone operators will have to pass a UAS (Unmanned Aerial System) aeronautical knowledge test as one of the requirements for flying drones commercially.

As an authorized Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) testing authority, the institute had already been issuing Private Pilot, Instrument Rating, and Commercial Pilot certificates on behalf of the FAA. Now, students may earn them as Parkland College-awarded credentials as well.



CURRENT AND FORMER WPCD
DJS REUNITED FOR THE 40TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

**GO AHEAD
REACH**

WPCD Notes 40th Anniversary

Parkland College's 88.7 WPCD FM is celebrating being at Parkland for 40 years.

The radio station has been a staple within Parkland that has helped advance students onto professional careers within the field of broadcasting for decades. One of the most emphasized points about the station is the hands-on experience students get.

"I could talk theory in the classroom until I become blue in the face, but the students can't get real experience without actually doing a shift or making a spot," said Adam Porter, a professor of communication at Parkland who teaches its broadcast announcing courses.

Parkland College did not initially have a radio program, but as time progressed it was obvious that the college would benefit students by incorporating broadcast technology into its curriculum.

"You don't just decide to create a radio station, so there must have been some real thought and commitment to bringing it to a reality," said Deane Geiken, radio director of WPCD.

While talented members of Parkland's staff helped make WPCD a reality, it has been the students who have given it its breath. The radio shifts are filled entirely by students, allowing them to explore their creativity and abilities.

"I hope the station can be a place where they always feel welcomed, and where they always feel like they belong," Porter said.

Geiken has had a unique perspective on this, being both a former Parkland student and now the radio director.

"I started as a student at WPCD in the '80s; in that time, the station used a pair of turntables to play the vinyl records (both 33 and 45 RPM) that were part of our format," he said.

The process during his time was a bit more involved, as there had to be someone at the station for it to be on the air. The station had to be turned on early in the morning and at the end of the day turned off. Today, the system runs entirely off automation.

"News was gathered from the 'ticker,' which fed a sheet of paper on a regular basis of the most updated news articles. The students had to gather it, sort it, and turn it into a full five-minute news program for the 9 a.m., noon, and 4 p.m. hours," Geiken said.

The station has been improving over time, not only in terms of technology, but also in the public eye, according to Porter.

"From what I have seen and heard, the station is getting better and better, from both a listener and student perspective," he said.

"The format is great, the music is fresh and constantly updated, the students get to play an integral role in the station, and the classes are extremely hands-on."

Excerpt reprinted from the Dec. 6, 2017 Prospectus News

MILESTONES

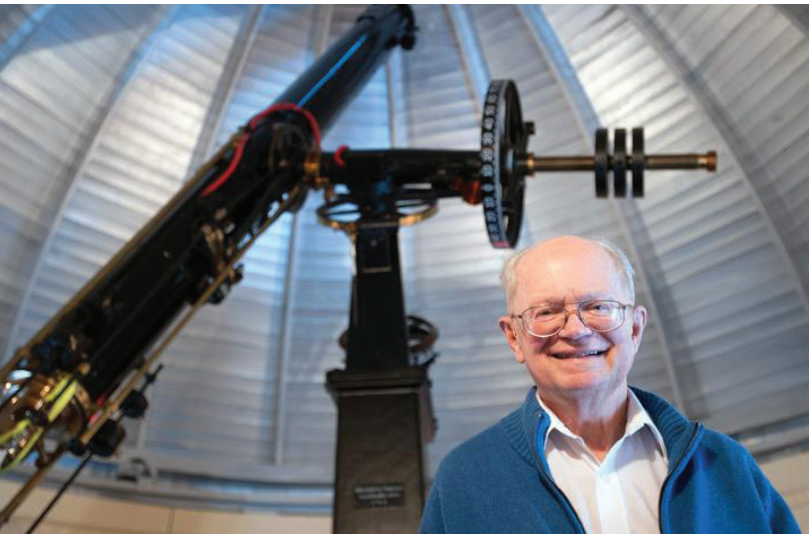
40 YEARS: WPCD 88.7 FM

30 YEARS: Staerkel Planetarium

10 YEARS: Black Student SUCCESS Project
Parkland Pathway to Illinois

PLANETARIUM, NOW 30, GIVES NEW NAME TO SCIENCE LECTURES

Celebrating its 30th year this academic semester, the William M. Staerkel Planetarium at Parkland College also celebrated one of its longest-serving supporters, astronomer James B. Kaler.



JAMES B. KALER

During the spring 2018 semester, the planetarium announced it has renamed its popular World of Science lecture series the “James B. Kaler Science Lecture Series” in honor of the retired UIUC astronomy professor and distinguished science author.

“This is something I have wanted to do,” planetarium director David Leake said. “When I inherited the series during my early days at Staerkel, I was given instructions, ‘Call Jim Kaler first!’ And I did,

every year. Jim never turned me down. He became a fixture in the series and, nearly every year, he sold the place out.”

Leake added that Dr. Kaler most likely gave his last talk for the newly named series this past December.

“Jim has a gift of being able to take difficult astronomical concepts and relate them to a general audience,” Leake remarked. “Though his research was important, he never forgot the public outreach aspect. It was very important to him and something I always admired.” One of the series’ most prolific presenters, Kaler gave between 20 and 25 talks over the years, Leake estimates.

Kaler came to the University of Illinois in 1964 after earning his PhD from UCLA. He has published over 120 papers and authored nearly 20 books, his latest being “From the Sun to the Stars.” In 1989 he gave an astronomy update presentation to delegates at a planetarium conference in Champaign only to be invited back each year for the next 20 years. Kaler won the prestigious American Astronomical Society’s Education Prize in 2008 and has an asteroid named after him.

The lineup of speakers in the James B. Kaler Science Lecture Series is available at parkland.edu/planetarium. The talks are open to the general public and the cost is \$2 per person at the door.

PARKLAND PATHWAY TO ILLINOIS: A DECADE OF SUCCESS

For a decade now, hundreds of students have started at Parkland College through the Parkland Pathway to Illinois Program and graduated successfully from the University of Illinois.

Parkland Pathway to Illinois is a two-year program where you attend Parkland College for your general education classes but can also take one class a semester at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The program gives you the benefit of small classes with dedicated faculty from Parkland combined with the enormous opportunities available at a world-class institution like the University of Illinois. Plus, your tuition will be based on your Parkland residency rate. Parkland Pathway really is the “best of both worlds.”

Contact Parkland’s Admissions Office at 217/351-2482 or by email at admissions@parkland.edu with any questions about Pathway to Illinois.

At the end of your two years in the program, you are guaranteed a slot into the junior class in your major as long as you have maintained the college GPA for transfer.

Selection for each Pathway program’s session begins mid-February. Parkland College usually holds an annual information session on the program at that time, for high school juniors, seniors, and their parents to learn more. Along with an overall explanation of the program, counselors from each of the UIUC participating colleges, with their Parkland College counterparts, answer attendees’ questions.

BLACK STUDENT SUCCESS PROJECT TURNS 10

Ten years ago, Parkland College counselor Donna Tanner-Harold saw many African American students on campus struggling with college and decided to give them a safe place to find support.

She created the Black Student SUCCESS Project, today one of the most popular workshop series on campus.

“I was concerned that the retention, graduation, and transfer rates of black students lagged behind other groups,” said Tanner-Harold, who serves as the project’s director. “Research shows that academic and societal integration are critical to the persistence of college students, and so the BSSP has the goal of increasing black students’ connections to and involvement with Parkland College faculty, staff, and peers and the Champaign-Urbana community.”

Founded through a Parkland innovations grant in 2008, the Black Student SUCCESS Project offers students social, academic, and personal development workshops and activities, with topics as diverse as campus policing, relationships, parenting skills, time management, and race relations.

The project has been noted for its positive influence on students and has become an integral part of Parkland College’s student services. One such student, Villa Grove High School graduate Myles Boatright, believes the program’s topics and networking opportunities have made him more culturally aware.

“One session that meant the most was when the police came in and students got to ask them questions; I felt the tension in there,” the second-year Nursing major remarked. “The parenting workshop was also great for single moms and dads who may need help. There’s a huge stereotype around black fathers.”

Although the Black Student SUCCESS Project is designed for black students, students from all backgrounds can attend. Tanner-Harold noted that the project has been particularly successful with students who live outside District 505.

“Black students from Champaign-Urbana know the area, have familiar places to go, friends and family to visit, and things to do; black students from the Chicago area don’t,” she said. “The Black Student SUCCESS Project has provided a sense of community within Parkland and ways for these students to connect with the college and with each other.”

MYLES BOATRIGHT

The project has enjoyed its own marks of achievement. In October 2013, the Black Student SUCCESS Project was recognized as a “best practice effort” by the National Council on Student Development. In addition, Tanner-Harold presented on the work of the project at the NCSD’s national conference in Tampa, Florida.

“When the black culture improves, we all improve; there’s a mutual benefit going on,” Boatright said. “And that’s what’s remarkable about the Black Student SUCCESS Project. Donna wants us as a group to be helped. All the groups or workshops have been very well presented and structured, and we all get along.”

Ten years later, the Black Student SUCCESS Project is still seen as a safe place helping minority students get to know one another and the college campus better, develop leadership skills, and learn a great deal outside the classroom, Tanner-Harold added.

“A number of students have stayed in contact with me after transferring and have remarked how the program has contributed to their success,” she said.



FACULTY EXCELLENCE: KINESIOLOGY

CHRIS WARREN WINS 2018 TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD



The Professional Development Subcommittee for Faculty at Parkland College has awarded its 2018 Parkland Teaching Excellence Award to Chris Warren, associate professor and program director of Kinesiology.

Since joining the college faculty in 2004, Warren has expanded the Kinesiology curriculum to include four transfer pathways; helped develop the Certified Personal Fitness Training program; and helped oversee the development of Parkland's training and athletics facilities, according to Christina Beatty, committee chair.

“By students and colleagues alike, Chris is known to be a dedicated and encouraging teacher who has high expectations for himself and those around him,” Beatty remarked. “Students say he creates a fun and engaging classroom environment where they look forward to attending class, and challenges them both personally and professionally.”

In addition to classroom teaching, Warren assists trainers and clients at Parkland's state-of-the-art fitness center, monitoring athletes' training to assure their well-being. This extracurricular involvement leads to strong relationships with students.

“Their gratitude for Chris's mentorship is reflected in the many thank-you notes and updates he receives from graduates of his programs,” Beatty said.

OUTSTANDING STAFF GOLD/GREEN AWARDS WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO PARKLAND COLLEGE'S 2018 OUTSTANDING STAFF AWARD RECIPIENTS!



Kris Murray, Secretary, Accessibility Services
Gold Award (5+ Years of Service)

The caring, supportive face of the Office of Accessibility Services, Kris is especially recognized for communicating with students who may be frustrated, nervous, or scared in a respectful and positive manner, and for truly caring for all of the people she interacts with. She emphasizes building a rapport with each person she serves and genuinely cares about helping them to be successful.

In the spring semester of last year, Kris was the only full-time employee in Accessibility Services, an office that serves over 500 students. She kept the office running with limited staff, always keeping the needs of our students as her primary focus. Kris has a vast knowledge of courses, instructors, the campus facility, and IT processes, and works closely with other departments to make sure that students' educational needs are being met. She continually works to keep current with ADA compliance issues, technology for student accommodations, and resources within the college and community.



Sarah Hartman, Admissions Advisor, Admissions and Records
Green Award (<5 Years of Service)

Often the first contact at Parkland for prospective students and parents, Sarah greets each individual with a friendly welcome and takes pride in going above and beyond to ensure students' questions are answered and they leave her office with a positive impression of the college. Within Admissions, Sarah has organized department Professional Development Day activities, creating breakout sessions to help educate the staff on new procedures and train on new software, and even designing skits to improve customer service skills.

In addition to her work in Admissions, Sarah is an Equal Employment Opportunity rep, a PCA Senator, is on the Job Evaluation Committee, works with the Parkland Gives365 group, and has served on the Policy and Procedures Management Team and the SOAR Vision Committee. She is a member of the Illinois Association for College Admissions Counseling (IACAC) and the IACAC grants committee. She has been recommended as a candidate for the 2018 Champaign Emerging Community Leader program, a group of young professionals who commit their time, talent, and treasure to get involved in the community and group volunteer projects.



PLAN AHEAD

FOR THESE SPRING AND SUMMER EVENTS!

PARKLAND BUSINESS TRAINING AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION:

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

Summer Fitness Classes

Starting late May 2018

Time to try one of our early morning, daytime, or after-work classes: core, dance, yoga, Pilates, back exercise, more.

College for Kids

Summer enrichment program for students 8–13.

Two sessions: June 18–28 and July 9–19

Class times: 12:45–2:45 pm and 3–5 pm

New classes: Dragon Next Creations, Be an Architect, Animation in Space, Vex IQ Robotics, much more!

MUSIC ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

Concert Band and Orchestra

Sunday, May 6, 3 p.m., Harold and Jean Miner Theatre

Guitar Ensemble

Wednesday May 9, 6 p.m., Second Stage

Parkland Pops

Saturday, May 12, 1 p.m., Second Stage

Graphic Design: Parkland College Student Juried Show

May 14–30, Giertz Gallery

Bus Trip:

Chicago Ethnic Grocery Tour

May 9

Visit www.parkland.edu/btce Register to register.

Spring Prairie Skies at Planetarium

Fridays, 7 p.m. (closed May 25)

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for summer and fall
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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**

